

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

June 2004

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Come early and chat!

Important Note About Next Meeting!

The meeting on June 22 will take place at My Father's Pizza at the corner of Broadway and Washington, at 7 p.m. **NOTE the earlier time!!**

There will be no formal program, just Pizza and last minute Field Day Plans. The previously scheduled program has been cancelled.

Tuesday, July 27th Model Rockets and Amateur Radio

Here are two hobbies which go great together. Imagine the possibilities... then come hear Jim Sullins, KE6MRX, tell you how to get into this exciting endeavor.

Saturday, August 21st Annual Club Picnic

Mark your calendars now for the annual Club picnic at Rod McLeod Park. Details to follow.



EVENT CALENDAR

Jun 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Jun 22	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Jun 25-27	FIELD DAY
Jun 26	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Jul 6	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at John's
Jul 17	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Jul 27	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Jul 31	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Aug 3	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Aug 21	Annual Club Picnic
Aug 21	Midnight Madness Bicycle Run

ALL EARS

The official bulletin of the
Escondido Amateur Radio Society

An e-mail subscription to All Ears is FREE! You don't need to be a member. Just drop a note to:

John Musselman, WB6UHF, Editor
wb6uhf@arrl.net

Permission is given to copy any article contained in All Ears when not otherwise copyrighted and provided proper credit is given.

The deadline to submit material for the next bulletin is Tuesday, July 13.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Roundup of the Roundup - p. 3

KG6SXY Goes to MARS - p. 4

Awards and QSLing, Part IV - p. 5

(Left) You're never too old to be a kid - as Harry, W6YOO, proves as he shows Amateur Radio to some local cub scouts.
Photo courtesy of W6YOO

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

Here it is, Field Day is just over a week away. The clock is ticking down. I am as unorganized as I am every year. I think about this stuff all year round but seem to get to it about two weeks before Field Day. Gotta get that hard drive installed and formatted and make sure WriteLog works. Gotta check out the rig, etc etc... Hope those of you who are interested can make it to our informal June Meeting which is an informal Field Day meeting. Come and enjoy some pizza or salad as we discuss those last minute Field Day items. Make an effort to get to Field Day and operate or, at least say Hi!

Last night, Danny, AE6MB, and I spent the night working at the San Diego Amateur Radio Council Booth at the San Diego County Fair. It was nice having a Kenwood TS570 to pass the time with, but at about 7:30 p.m. when the B-52s started their performance it was kind of hard to pull that rare 40 meter DX out of the noise. Even if we made the contact, it probably would have been more difficult to explain why "Rock Lobster" was playing in the background! Although there really didn't seem to be anybody interested in Ham Radio, it was still fun to enjoy the Fair. We did have a few children attempt to send some "cw".

I would like to thank Thomas, KG6INL, for all his hard work getting the Website going again. The renewal for the registrations recently became due. We decided to transfer them to a lower cost service and to drop *escondidoARS.org* while keeping the *earsclub.org*. After I got it transferred and after struggling for a few days trying to make everything work, Thomas discovers total DNS control at our new place actually meant no DNS! Thomas was able to arrange for use of another DNS server and quickly got everything going.

Hope to see you all at field Day.

WEBSITE CHANGES

by Nick, KK6TV

I've just renewed the URL for the EARS Web site. Since most people seem to use *www.earsclub.org* and to only pay for one domain, it was decided to let *www.EscondidoARS.org* expire.

If you are using *www.EscondidoARS.org*, it will expire and should become unusable in the next thirty days or so. *www.earsclub.org* is what you should use to access the EARS web site.

EARS Club Officers for 2004

President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
kk6tv@arrl.net

Vice President

John Belstner, W9EN, 271-8012
w9en@amsat.org

Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096
n6sd@arrl.net

Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 743-8826
n6uko@aol.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560
kb6nmk@amsat.org

Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303
wb6uhf@arrl.net

Officers at Large*

All Officers with an asterisk (*) plus:
*Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839
darcpa@att.net

Past President

Willie Peloquin, N8WP
n8wp@arrl.net

Historian

*Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212
w6yoo@amsat.org

Membership

*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819
kg6dve@amsat.org

Property Manager

*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6pkk@amsat.org

The Escondido Amateur Radio Society

is a non-profit organization of educational and social benefit to Amateur Radio operators and others interested in Amateur Radio in the Escondido area.

Dues are very affordable. Come join the fun! See the application form on Page 6.



*Dirk, N6SUN, pulls bicycle duty at the Valley Center Western Days parade. Great way to work a parade!
-- photo by Nick, KK6TV.*

WESTERN DAYS ROUNDUP

by Nick, KK6TV

I attended the Valley Center Western Days debriefing and just thought I would share some of the discussion as it pertained to us:

First, nothing but very positive comments were made concerning our help. A very big Thank You is extended to all the ham volunteers from the other parade committee members, volunteers, community, etc....

Second, there seems to be a communications void between the Sheriffs, the CHP, and parade volunteers. Also, law enforcement did not seem to be aware of their responsibilities. This is probably more the parade committees' fault than theirs. The Parade Committee agreed to address this problem next year.

Third, the Parade Chairman is investigating unauthorized parade participants, particularly the horse riders behind the fire engines.

Fourth, pedestrians, bicyclists, dirt bikers, etc, were riding up and down the parade route. We all did an excellent job trying to get them to stop, but about all we can do is ask. If they refuse, then it seems to me it becomes a law enforcement issue. Having the motor officers actively ride up and down the parade route was suggested.

Fifth, the Committee complained about their radios (not ours) not being able to talk the distance of the parade route. I made an open invitation to help anyone interested get their Ham license. The



*Konrad, N6UKO, and Marvin, WB6PKK, discuss the fine points of crowd control.
-- photo by Nick, KK6TV.*

bottom line though is they would like a few more Ham shadows for some of the committee members working in the staging area next year.

Last, there were some other problems: a thrown rider and runaway horse before the nursery, one of the Shriner cars had a wheel fall off, a second horse rider was thrown, and the ambulance at the end which was called to where a girl apparently fell while working with her horse inside a trailer. She was shaken up but not hurt.

Thanks again everyone for your help. Thanks everyone for your comments and feedback! I hope everyone had a good time working this parade and hope to see you next year (yes, we have been asked back!)



*Thomas, KG6INL, guards important facilities along the parade route. Thanks, Thomas!
-- photo by Nick, KK6TV.*

GOING TO MARS

by Tony May, KG6SXY / NNN0AFET

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have made my introduction to MARS a pleasurable and exciting experience. I'm a newcomer to amateur radio as well as Navy MARS and wanted to share my experiences with others who may be considering whether or not to get involved and what to expect when you take the plunge.

When I originally heard about MARS, I think I came to the same initial assumption that a lot of newcomers do. "They'll never want me, I'm not in the military and I'm not in a position to join the military." But sometimes it just takes meeting the right people before you completely write off the opportunity to get involved. Before I get into my experiences specifically with MARS, I think it will help to give you a little background on how I got introduced to and involved with Amateur Radio in August of 2003. I had never really known much about Amateur Radio but I was aware of its existence from time to time over the years. I just never took the time to take a really good look. A friend of mine whose father has been a ham for over a decade started prodding me about this great activity early in 2003. By August, I finally gave in and decided to see what this was all about, if for no other reason than to get him to stop hounding me so I could come back with a thumbs up or thumbs down based on my own research. He pointed me to www.arrl.net and I figured the best way to learn the fastest was to find a local club and meet a few people so I could get my questions answered face to face. It was a Friday that I started my search and I e-mailed two clubs in my area that appeared to be a reasonable distance from where I lived. The first person to write back to me in under half an hour was a very friendly gentleman, Harry Hodges, W6YOO / AAR9LX, who immediately invited me to attend their annual picnic the next morning. Harry was also very quick to encourage my involvement with Navy MARS when he heard I was considering sending in an application a few months ago. The more people I spoke to and the more I heard, the more I wanted to get involved for the emergency services aspect. I joined a Tech class so that I would have a solid exam date that I couldn't talk myself out of for not being ready.

In the Technician class, I met a few people that were already involved in RACES and it wasn't difficult to talk me into attending their general meeting two days after we wrote our exam on November 1, 2003. On November 3, 2003, I had been assigned my amateur call sign, KG6SXY, and headed to my first RACES meeting in the evening. My first night at

RACES was a whirlwind affair and I was swimming in too much information. But the most memorable event of the evening was meeting Jean Luthi, KB2T / NNN0BST. Jean immediately started fanning the embers of excitement about upgrading and getting HF privileges so I could help out at the EOC, operate on HF and potentially get involved with Navy MARS. All in a non-pressured way, of course. I was treated to a tour of most of the facility and a very detailed walk-through of the radio room. From that one meeting at the EOC, I knew I wanted to get on HF and have a chance to learn as much as I could from NNN0BST. I still remember that my main concern about upgrading was learning CW. I didn't realize at the time how much difference it can make to have someone lay out a study plan for learning CW in a particular sequence as opposed to just relying on tapes or CDs. CW has become one of my favorite modes, but I also realize the importance of having good, solid verbal skills in an emergency and plan to work on that over the coming months.

Now that I've been involved in various activities over the past half year, I know I have been very lucky to meet the right people from the beginning. It didn't take much to steer me towards operating on HF but as we all know, it's sometimes a balancing act to manage day to day living and expanding your skills at the same time. I had originally planned to upgrade to general around Christmas but I didn't manage to until March 27, 2004. I took the same approach I took the first time around. I committed to an upgrade class and even though there was no scheduled test at the end, I made sure I booked my exam before I could talk myself out of it for not being ready enough to pass. I had no real idea how much different it is to be on HF versus the experience you get when jumping on local repeaters but since my upgrade I've been on HF practically every day.

My first big event with Navy MARS was the Rolling Thunder exercise. I was invited down to the EOC in San Diego to spend the day with NNN0BST and see what traffic handling is all about. I sat next to the radio and aside from actually handling the microphone, I copied every message I possibly could and filled in pieces I had missed when other stations asked for fills. I had the opportunity to see how a message is composed and sent by following a set of instructions and examples in the manuals on hand at the EOC. I didn't realize then how much detail is laid out in the training materials we receive when we start out as a tango operator nor did I realize that there are so many opportunities throughout the week to get on the various nets and get real experience. Being that I hadn't spent practically any time on HF up to that point, I remember going home with the biggest headache from all the static and wondering how on earth anyone could get used to that and be

able to operate for any length of time, much less be able to pick out every word of a message being sent. It was a mystical but very rewarding experience. It was also informative to see how digital and voice traffic is assigned and handled in the same manner. Traffic assignments are still a big mystery to me but considering this is only my third day being actively involved with MARS, I know I have a lot more to learn and will likely continue to learn new things throughout my life with Navy MARS.

I didn't have much exposure to MARS after that, aside from the odd Monday night net at 1700h local time I managed to listen in on when I got to the EOC early enough. Being a person who loves to get involved, it's not hard to find yourself very busy, very fast. I had forgotten about filling out my application for Navy MARS until NNN0BST reminded me. After filling out all of the appropriate boxes and providing the required supporting documentation, I wasn't sure I would hear anything back for quite some time.

I was very surprised when I received a welcome letter in the mail the first week in June along with a training CD. Just a few days later, I received an invitation from Lyell, K6GVM / NNN0AGN, to listen in on the Sunday evening training net and to check in, if it was possible to wideband my radio in time. I was surprised again by the friendly manner in which I was treated and invited to ask as many questions as I needed in order to get my training off to a good start. I kept NNN0AGN on the phone for a few hours getting a lot of background information on MARS, what my training will consist of, and what to expect at each step along the way.

To be continued...

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART III

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

So far in this series, we have covered many of the major awards: WAC, WAS, DXCC, IOTA, WAZ, and Worked All US Counties. Are there more? Indeed there are. Some do not require many contacts, but those contacts are hard to come by. One such award is administered by HARTS, the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society, and is called the "Catch 22 Award". I am sure you remember the movie "Catch 22" but believe me there's no relationship. As far as the award is concerned it means going to the map, looking up the 22nd parallel of latitude and noting which DX countries it runs through. You will note that there are a total of 25 entities beginning with Hong Kong itself and traveling westward around the world through such places as Macao, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar,

Bangladesh, India, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt, Libya, Chad, Niger, Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico and Hawaii. Awarded in three classes: Class 3 = 15 countries; Class 2 = 20 countries; and Class 1 = All 25 countries. Difficult? You bet! Some of these places have few or no (that's zip, nada, zero) hams. Libya has NO active amateurs at the moment. He's attending school in Germany. Oh, by the way – you must have a QSL from Hong Kong as part of your application!

Now if you thought that one was tough, read the following statement: DIOS Y PATRIA HE AQUI EL ALMA DE LA MUJER COCHABAMBINA EL SECRETO DE SU HEROISMO Y SUS VIRTUDES MAYO 27, DE 1812. The award is called "The Heroines of the Coronilla" and is sponsored by the Bolivian Radio Club of Cochabamba. The award honors women of Cochabamba who thwarted an invasion while the men were otherwise occupied in Bolivia's War of Independence. You must work 89 foreign stations (none from your country) and using the letter following the number in the callsign to supply a letter in the above phrase. For example, G3DXX would supply a "D"; XE2NNN could supply a number 2. Use only one QSL for each letter or number. And yes, by the way, all contacts must be phone, not CW or RTTY.

Now, you have some feel for awards. There are literally thousands of them. Some are relatively easy and some are extremely difficult. And virtually all of them require a QSL card to confirm the contact that contributes to qualifying for the award. Not always will you have to send your QSL off to some distant place; however, you'll need them nevertheless. You may fill out a form listing all the requisite contacts, spread out the QSLs on your dining room table and have two licensed amateurs review your cards and sign the form certifying that they have seen the cards and that they meet the criteria.

After you've made a contact, what do you do about getting the card? LISTEN, LISTEN, and LISTEN some more. Listen to the DX station when you work him/her, and before and after. Listen a few moments before and after your QSO. Listen specifically for any instructions the DX has regarding QSLing. Sometimes different managers handle different modes or bands (such as six meters). Sometimes a guest operator (as in the recent 4U1ITU operation by K1ZZ) will QSL direct or have his/her own manager. More on QSLing next month but first a word of warning: Always, always, make sure the DX station has your call correct!

73, Harry

JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. The scheduled program for June was cancelled due to the lack of an appropriate meeting place. The June meeting will be held at 'My Father's Pizza' with the program being the final Field Day planning.

2. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that both repeaters are working well. The club has an old controller that Marvin was authorized to sell.

3. Jo, KB6NMK, reported there will be an ARES meeting on 12 June with a Red Cross drill afterwards. New ID cards are being made for trained ARES members.

4. John, WB6UHF reported the newsletter is going well and the articles by Harry, W6YOO, are appreciated.

5. John, WB6UHF reported that the Field Day logging program will be WriteLog. Nick, KK6TV reported that the Field Day T-shirts and pins are on order.

6. Tony, KG6SXY submitted the SANDARC report

by e-mail due to a bad sprained ankle:

The 2006 convention should be the 2nd or 3rd week-end of September and banquet tickets may be \$40 to cover costs.

Channel 51 will be airing a show on the Air Show and Field Day.

Jeff Zimmer, AB6NE will be holding a CW class in the El Cajon fire station that will run for 4 weeks starting the third week in July.

The new General Class question pool will go into effect on July 1st.

The Ham Radio Roundup may happen on a Saturday near the end of November at the HRO parking lot.

7. Nick, KK6TV, reported that 17 members volunteered 51 hours at the Valley Center Western Days Parade.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Call _____ Class _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone No _____ Date of Birth _____

E-mail Address _____

Date Licensed _____ Expires _____

Member of the following organizations?

ARES _____ ARRL _____

EVAC _____ MARS _____

Red Flag _____

Interests _____

Other _____

Membership Rates

One year \$13.00

Family membership \$3.00

Lifetime membership \$130.00

Lifetime membership (family) \$20.00

Mail this form with payment to EARS, PO Box 3243, Escondido, CA 92033, or give it to the treasurer or any other club officer at a regular club meeting.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. After July 1, membership to the end of the year is ½ the annual fee. Special rates apply for family membership for each additional licensed amateur radio operator in your immediate family and for lifetime membership.

For membership confirmation and auto-patch codes, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with this form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CLUB REPEATERS - EARS operates two repeaters in Escondido. The two meter EARS repeater is on 146.88 MHz with a PL of 107.2. The 440 EARS repeater is on 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.13. Both repeaters are local in nature and primarily serve the immediate Escondido area.

ECHO-LINK - The two meter repeater is tied to the Echo-Link system as node 2846. See the Club website, www.earsclub.org, for information on Echo-Link. There is also a listing of local Echo-Link codes in the members section of the website.

EARS WEB PAGE - EARS is on the Internet. You can read about upcoming activities, get links to other ham radio sites, read back issues of All Ears, or update your call or address. The site is updated regularly. Check it out at www.earsclub.org.

EARS REFLECTOR – is a free service that keeps members up-to-date via e-mail. Local news, gossip, “for sales” as well as reminders of all upcoming EARS functions are sent regularly to all subscribers. When you subscribe, you may also broadcast messages to all the other subscribers.

To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website at www.earsclub.org and click on Yahoo Groups in the site map. Or, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com> and follow the directions. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, email Nick, kk6tv@arrl.net.

CLUB BADGES - Let everyone know that you are a member of EARS and avoid having them guess what your name is. See Harry, W6YOO, to obtain a badge.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CALLSIGN - Please let us know if you change your address, callsign, telephone, license class, e-mail, etc. We want to keep our records up to date. Contact Marvin, WB6PKK, the keeper of the club database, or any club officer.

ARRL LETTER - The ARRL Letter, a weekly e-mailing of Amateur Radio related news, is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe for e-mail delivery, ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Website, www.arrl.org/members. The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at www.arrl.org/arrlletter, where it is posted each Friday after it is distributed via e-mail.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST - EARS members meet socially the third Saturday of each month at the Westside Cafe, on West Ninth Ave. at the corner of Redwood St. at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING NET is every Sunday at 8 p.m. local time. You can get the latest information on club activities there. Tune in to the club repeater at 146.88 MHz, negative offset and PL of 107.2, check in and say hi.

MONTHLY ARES MEETING – The San Diego Section ARES meets on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Giovanni’s Restaurant, southwest corner of Clairmont Mesa Blvd and Ruffin Road. Order your breakfast at the counter and it will be brought to your table in the meeting area. The monthly ARES training session follows the breakfast meeting and takes place at the Kearney Mesa Recreation Center, 3170 Armstrong Street (near Mesa College). Training begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour.

SECTION NEWS – The latest happenings around San Diego, as well as the monthly *ARES Alert* is available at www.sanarrl.org, the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWALS AND

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - To renew your license or supply the FCC with a change of address, use NCVEC Form 605 (obtainable from Harry, W6YOO). Attach a photocopy of your license and mail to SANDARC VEC, PO Box 2446, La Mesa, CA 91943-2446. You must include your Social Security Number. There is no charge for this service.

HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATES - All California hams may receive their call sign on their license plate. Use DMV Form REG17A. The cost is \$21.00 and is a one-time fee.

VE TESTING - is conducted in Escondido under the auspices of SANDARC at 9 a.m. on the last Saturday of every month at Fire Station One, 310 N Quince Street. Contact Harry Hodges, W6YOO, to schedule an appointment.

MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM - The US Army, the US Air Force, and the US Navy/Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) are looking for a few good men/women. If you would like to get on HF regardless of license, now’s the time. See Harry Hodges, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3243
ESCONDIDO, CA 92033

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

HAM
RADIO
OUTLET

*Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday*

5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego
560-4900 or Toll Free 1-800-854-6046

Equipment
Tech Support
Repairs
Books
HF
VHF
UHF
All Mode
Packet
GPS
Scanners
Antennas

K & S CAFE

KATHLEEN J. ROBINSON

743-2235
662 ENTERPRISE STREET
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

IMPULSE
ELECTRONICS

Power Cables
Coax Cable Assemblies
Coax Adapters
Coax Connectors UHF, N, BNC
Power Connectors - ARES & RACES

Marvin Munster - WB6PKK
(760) 747-5277
sales@impulseelectronics.com

