

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

March 2004

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at the Emmanuel Faith Community Church, 639 East Felicita Avenue, Escondido, at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Come early and chat!

Tuesday, March 23rd GPS (Global Positioning System)

Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, will explain what's inside the black box called GPS. This presentation takes the mystery out of GPS, and presents some of the more exciting applications of the technology.

Tuesday, April 27th Annual EARS Auction

This is the big yearly event you've waited for. Art McBride, KC6UQH, will do the auctioneer honors.

Pull those boat anchors, white elephants, flotsam, jetsam and knick-knacks out of the garage and bring them down to trade for a different set!

Sellers will begin registering at 6:00 p.m. Buyers will start registering at 6:30 p.m. The auction starts at 7:00 p.m.

Note that the auction will be in a different location at the church. Look for the signs and/or talk in on 146.88.

Don't miss it!

Tuesday, May 25th DXing 101

EARS own, Harry Hodges, W6YOO, will present his popular introduction to DXing.

How to find 'em, how to work 'em, how to QSL 'em and what to do to get the awards you deserve after all that.

EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Mar 23	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Mar 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 6	Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 17	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Apr 24	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 27	EARS Annual Auction
May 15	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
May 16	Escondido Street Faire
May 25	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
May 29	Valley Center Western Days Parade
May 29	VE Testing 9 a.m.

Can You Find Your EARS???

Don't forget, EARS now meets at a new location due to renovation of the Chamber of Commerce building. Our new meeting place is:

Emmanuel Faith Community Church
639 East Felicita Avenue
Escondido

Come early if you not familiar with the area and we will guide you in on 146.880.

Note that VE testing has also moved to a new location at Fire Station One. See page 7 for details.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Make Your Field Day Plans Now - p. 3

Fair Times Ahead - p. 5

New Series on Awards - p. 5

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

So many things going on this month.

Have you checked into any of the CW nets yet? In an effort to encourage CW use among the club, we have been attempting a CW net every Wednesday night around 8 p.m. Your informal net controls have been Bill, W6EET, Mike, W3IJD, and myself. In an attempt to find a popular frequency or format we have tried 2 meters, 10 meters, and also the internet. Frequency is usually announced on the Sunday evening net, so tune in for info. Check in or, better yet, be a net control.

Get ready for Field Day. We had a great meeting at My Fathers Pizza and also celebrated EARS' 31st birthday with over 24 EARS friends. The pizza and salad were excellent and we also laid the framework for what is sure to be another great EARS Field Day. I am sure John, WB6UHF, will talk about it more.

Speaking of contesting, last July I made a few QSO's during the IARU HF World Championships. I didn't make a lot of contacts but did have quite a few multipliers so just for the heck of it I decided to submit my log. I have participated in a lot of contests but have never submitted a log. I was really surprised last week when I received a certificate in the mail from the IARU for First Place HF Phone for San Diego section. Needless to say I am really surprised! Now if I could just get into the 146.88 repeater I'll be OK!

I am sure many of you are looking forward to Jim, KE6MRX's, presentation on model rockets in July. This is the primer for a new EARS project I am very proud to announce -- The EARS Lunar Repeater project! We have the technology and the talent in this club - let's put it all to work! We are in the process of obtaining a research grant and workspace but due to current negotiations I can't comment any more except that complete details will be published on the EARS web site the first Thursday in April.

I am really looking forward to Jeff, AE6GM's, presentations of GPS technology on Tuesday. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

73 Nick

kk6tv@kk6tv.com

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
wb6ppk@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.

FIELD DAY 2004 PREVIEW

by John, WB6UHF

The first Field Day planning meeting took place March 9 (at the birthday party) and preliminary plans were drawn up for the big event.

Field Day 2004 will take place June 26 and 27 at the usual location at the "semi-circle" of campsites at Dixon Lake. The site has already been secured thanks to Roger, KG6DQO. We will once again operate 2A, using the call sign N6WB and if participation continues to grow, next year we will very likely end up in 3A.

Three of the four band captain positions have already been assigned. Band captains are responsible for getting their station set up and, more importantly, for assigning operators to operating slots. So if you want to work Field Day 2004 and have not yet signed up for an operating slot, get on the horn now with a band captain and line up your participation. Each station has 12 two-hour time slots available. The last person to sign up has to operate 2m between 3 and 5 a.m., so call now, as they say on TV.

Dirk, N6SUN, has agreed to perform the duties of band captain for station two again this year. Station two will operate primarily on phone (with some CW) and will begin on 15m.

Unfortunately, we have received news that Gene, W6EEB, will not be able to attend this year, due to failing health. Gene has been a fixture at Field Day in past years, operating the VHF/UHF station. In his place, John, W9EN, has agreed to accept the position of VHF/UHF band captain. John is looking into putting a satellite station on the air as well.

Nick, KK6TV, will be working the job of GOTA band captain. This year, the GOTA station will use the snappy call sign N6SD (thanks, Sam!). The "Get On The Air" station should be an excellent opportunity for newbies and those just getting back into the hobby (and even non-hams) to pick up some operat-

ing time under the guidance of a master.

We still have an opening for station one band captain. Station one is primarily CW and will begin operation on 20m. If you want to operate on this station please contact me for now until a captain is assigned.

This year we will have a new captain, known as the Antenna Man. Konrad, N6UKO, has volunteered to be responsible for ensuring that all antennas and towers will get to the site and he will oversee the Friday work crew as they put them up.

Setup starts at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 25. EARS has been very fortunate to have a great core of volunteers who help with setup at each Field Day. If you don't plan on operating but you want to help out, be sure not to miss the fun on Friday evening. And by the way, casual operators are invited to get on the air Friday evening and Friday night before Field Day starts. You can take advantage of the big antennas without the pressure of the actual operating event.

John, KG6DVE, has agreed to once again perform the task of chief cook and bottle washer. So be sure to bring all your dirty bottles with you to the site. All persons who help with Friday setup will be rewarded again this year with a great steak dinner. This is one part of Field Day you will not want to miss - and your Field Day Chairman will not want to miss your help on Friday, either.

Parking at the site is somewhat limited and the Park rangers encourage everyone to carpool up if at all possible. We will have a plan in place by Field Day for some kind of shuttling from the parking lot up to the site. So look for more information later on. And keep in touch on the Club repeater when you come up to the site.

This year, we would like to invite all club members, whether they spend time operating a station or not, to Field Day dinner on Saturday at 6 p.m. This is a "semi" potluck, which means that the club will provide most of the food. You are encouraged to bring something, but if you can't just come out and enjoy. We are expecting a real sit-down EARS banquet which you won't want to miss.

So, mark your calendar and don't get left out of the fun. Field Day is the premiere operating event of the Ham Radio year. We will see you at Dixon Lake in June!

John, WB6UHF

ERRATA

(fancy latin word for screw-up)

The picture of Konrad in last month's All EARS claims he is hanging from a tower at Hubbard Hill. In fact he is hanging from a tower at Coronado Hills...

FCC PROPOSES BPL RULES

from the ARRL Newsletter, Feb 27

Editor's Note - Now is the time to make yourself heard on the BPL issue. Go to www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs, click on "Submit a Filing", enter "03-104" or "04-37" (without quotation marks but including the hyphen), then write directly to the FCC.

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page NPRM—in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37—proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems—in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL—"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc or as an Adobe PDF file at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <http://gulfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/.

AWARDS AND QSLING

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

Some years ago, I wrote a few articles for this newsletter, then called the Escondido Amateur Radio Society Newsletter, on the subject of Awards and QSLing. At the time they were well received, and as we are getting more newcomers into the ranks of HF operators, I have been asked to do it again. A lot has change in the past few years. New awards have come on the scene, electronic QSLs are en vogue, and the ARRL has introduced Logbook Of The World (LOTW) that may change the face of QSLing forever.

There are over THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (3,200) Awards available to Amateur Radio Operators worldwide, sponsored by more that ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) DXCC entities (formerly called countries) which is a great deal of wallpaper and something one could spend a lifetime collecting.

This month, we'll start with two American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sponsored awards, one for working DX (foreign stations) and one for working stations in the United States. The first DX award that most folks qualify for is Worked All Continents (WAC). The requirements are to contact Amateur Radio stations on the six continents, North America, South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania, exchange at least signal reports and collect a QSL card from each, which will acknowledge the contact. You then fill out a WAC form, bundle it up with your QSLs and send it off to the ARRL. The fee is \$7.50 plus an SASE, and you must be a member of ARRL. Soon there will appear in your mailbox a handsome certificate suitable for framing announcing to everyone that you and your "peanut whistle" have spanned the oceans with your voice, CW, RTTY, SSTV, or whatever signal on whatever band.

The second award is not as easy as it sounds: Worked All States (WAS). The requirement here is to work and confirm by QSL a contact with an Amateur Radio operator in each of the 50 states of the good old U.S. of A. Look up the census of Amateurs and you'll see that in some states there aren't very many Hams and that not all of them are on HF (or on the air at all). North Dakota and Rhode Island come to mind. Anyway, the procedure is the same: Fill out the appropriate form, submit it with your fifty hard-earned QSLs to the ARRL along with a fee of \$10.00 and sufficient postage to return your cards. Many first time WAS awards are for mixed bands and modes; however, as you progress you might qualify for all SSB, all CW, or RTTY, or whatever. For these the difficulty level goes up.

Now for QSLs. I recommend looking in the back pages of any of the Ham magazines such as QST, CQ, and Worldradio for QSL ads. Many printers will send you samples for a dollar and an SASE. W4MPY is one such printer who does excellent work for a reasonable price. Or, you can do your own using your computer, some free programs, a printer and some card stock. The card MUST show your callsign, his callsign, the date, time in UTC, the band or frequency, the signal report, and that it was a two-way contact in whatever mode, e.g. 2xSSB and your signature. QSLs don't have to be fancy but many times reflect the personality of the sender. Sort of like men's wallets and lady's purses.

Next month we'll discuss more awards and the exchange of QSL cards.

ALL'S FAIR

by Skip Cline, KD6RFQ

San Diego County Fair, 11 June - 5 July, 2004

The Fair is a chance to show the public what our hobby and emergency service is all about. There will be two radios, one on HF. Operators are needed.

EARS will be providing operators on June 15. There are 3 shifts, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

In addition to helping at the Ham Radio booth, you can see the Fair with family and friends before or after your shift. Show up early and stay all day. So sign up now and receive FREE admission to the Fair. Contact Sam, N6SD.

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@arri.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, April 13.

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported \$1,333.20 in savings and \$1,177.50 in checking.
2. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the repeaters are working but he is still working on linking them up. He also reported that he is in the process of adding the new club equipment to the insurance policy.
3. Jo, KB6NMK reported that more operators are needed for the Baker to Vegas Law Enforcement relay run.
4. John, KG6DVE reported that the net is going great with one or more Echolink checkins almost every net.
5. John, WB6UHF, reported that he welcomes and will publish articles and announcements and public service requests for operators.
6. Tony, KG6SXY, reported that WA6BCC is looking for portable packet and 2 meter operators for the Special Olympics on March 27th and 28th. Sam,

N6SD, volunteered to be the club's San Diego Fair coordinator and June 15th was chosen as the date for EARS to be responsible for running the booth.

7. Harry, W6YOO reported that there is still a need for a 2006 convention chairman.

8. Sam, N6SD, resigned as training chairman for the club due to health problems. John, WB6UHF, volunteered to be training chairman and John, W9EN, volunteered to assist. John, WB6UHF, proposed that the club needs to do more to attract teenagers who are interested in technical stuff to become hams. He wants to hold classes and to have equipment to loan for young new members and wants volunteers to help teach and set up stations. His proposal was well received.

9. The Club's annual auction will be held on April 27th at the Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Building 6. There will be signs to guide participants to the parking area and the meeting room.

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 or www.EscondidoARS.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 Geovanni'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 training session follows breakfast at the County Office of Emergency Services (formerly called the “EOC”), 5550 Overland Avenue, at 9 a.m. If not attending breakfast, be sure to arrive at the back gate (Complex Street), not later than 0845 for access.

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

743-2233
662 ENTERPRISE STREET
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029