

ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

November 2004

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army building at 1303 Las Villas Way, in Escondido. Come early and chat!

Thursday, November 11th Antenna Design

Everything you ever wanted to know about antennas and more. Just ask!

Presented by Art McBride, KC6UQH.

Saturday, December 11th Annual Christams Party

Once again taking place after EARS helps at the Christmas Parade, this annual event is a great chance to socialize with all the great folks in EARS.

This year's party will take place at the home of John and Lynn Belstner. The party starts at 4 p.m. and should last to 7 p.m.

Bring a single (approximately) \$5 gift to get in on the gift exchange. This is one of the highlights of the evening so don't forget your gift.

There will be lots of finger food. Also, there are raffle prizes, including gift certificates from Ham Radio Outlet and cash prizes. Please bring a donation of \$7 per person to help defray the costs. All members of the family are invited. You won't want to miss this fun time.

IMPORTANT

The December, 2004, issue of All EARS is the last one which will be mailed. After that, All EARS will only be available by e-mail or from the EARS website. If you are not receiving All EARS electronically, please contact John, WB6UHF, or Marvin, WB6PKK, with your e-mail address.

EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 11	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Nov 20	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Nov 23	Board Meeting 7 p.m. at W9EN
Nov 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Dec 11	Escondido Christmas Parade
Dec 11	EARS Annual Christmas Party
Dec 23	Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Dec 31	First Night Escondido
Jan 8	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.

That's why they call them Dues!

All memberships paid through 2004 will expire on December 31 and are now DUE!

Please send in your renewal now to ensure your continued membership in EARS. Use the form on Page 6 or just drop off cash or check (check preferred!) at the next meeting.

While you're at it, why not renew for multiple years and save our Treasurer (and yourself) some work!

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PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

The end of the year is upon us and there is still plenty to keep the EARS member occupied.

First, on New Years Eve there is First Night Escondido. It is a non alcohol New Years Eve celebration. Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, is coordinating the event so if you would like to help out let her know. The shifts start around 4 p.m. and run until midnight.

December 11th, starting also around 4 p.m., is the Annual EARS Christmas Party. John, W9EN, and his wife, Lynn, are our hosts. There is a five dollar (or so) gift exchange, raffle prizes (including gift certificates courtesy of Ham Radio Outlet!) Lots of great food and holiday cheer, and the traditional passing of the gavel the the next president (assuming our last president is able to locate the gavel!). Suggested donation is seven bucks per person for our Christmas party. If you have been to any of our previous parties, you know this is a great deal! All of the seven bucks goes to the food budget.

Of course, our Christmas Party follows the Escondido Christmas Parade. Konrad, N6UKO, is coordinating this event, so if you would like to help out let him know. The holiday parade always starts out with an excellent breakfast provided by the Jaycees.

Our November meeting features Art McBride, KC6UQH, and Antenna Design 101! With all the finagling I have been doing lately with my 40 meter dipole I am really looking forward to this meeting. Art usually talks in centimeters, Gigahertz and BIGahertz but its all relative! November is also our yearly membership meeting where we vote on the 2005 Club Officers. Our nominating committee really came through this year with an excellent slate of officers.

The Field Day results have been posted on the ARRL Web site as well as the EARS web site. Take a look at them if you haven't already. We have really been improving year to year in spite of a declining sun spot cycle. Everyone deserves a pat on the back for such a great job. Every year we seem to have more participants. Hopefully next year will be the best ever, as was this year!

Thats about it for now, hope to see you at the next meeting, the Christmas Party and everything in between.

73, Nick, KK6TV

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
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Emergency Services Coordinator

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Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303
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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.

FCC APPROVES BPL

from the ARRL (bulletin ARLB032)

The FCC has released the full BPL Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 that it adopted just two weeks ago. While extolling the purported benefits of broadband over power line technology, the 81-page document also declares the FCC's intention to "protect licensed services from harmful interference."

"We recognize that some radio operations in the bands being used for Access BPL, such as those of Amateur Radio licensees, may occur at distances sufficiently close to power lines as to make harmful interference a possibility," the FCC conceded. "We believe that those situations can be addressed through interference avoidance techniques by the Access BPL provider such as frequency band selection, notching, or judicious device placement."

Notches would have to be at least 20 dB below applicable Part 15 limits on HF and at least 10 dB below on VHF. The FCC called the ability to alter a system's operation to notch out transmissions on specific frequencies where interference is occurring "a necessary feature for resolving interference without disrupting service to BPL subscribers."

The FCC declined to reduce the Part 15 radiated emission limit for BPL systems. It maintained that emissions from BPL systems are very localized and at low enough levels to generally preclude harmful interference.

The FCC said while it had no evidence before it that BPL operation would significantly contribute to background noise levels, it seemed to put some of the onus on Amateur Radio licensees to take steps to avoid power-line interference—and, by inference, BPL interference—in advance.

"In addition, because power lines inherently can radiate significant noise emissions as noted by NTIA and ARRL, good engineering practice is to locate sensitive receiver antennas as far as practicable from power lines," the FCC said.

In a footnote, the FCC admonished ARRL that in cases where its members experience RF noise, "such noise can often be avoided by carefully locating their antennas; in many instances an antenna relocation of only a relatively short distance can resolve noise interference."

BPL operators would be required to avoid certain bands, such as those used for life and safety communications by aeronautical mobile or US Coast Guard stations. The FCC R&O makes clear, how-

Proposed Club Officers for 2005

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w9en@amsat.org

Vice President

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Secretary

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Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560
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ever, that similar rules will not apply to the Amateur Service.

"We similarly do not find that Amateur Radio frequencies warrant the special protection afforded frequencies reserved for international aeronautical and maritime safety operations," the Commission said. "While we recognize that amateurs may on occasion assist in providing emergency communications," the FCC added. It described typical amateur
(continued next page)

GET ON THE AIR WAY OUT THERE

by Tony, KG6SXY/NNN0AFE

(continued from last month's All EARS)

An inexpensive electrical cord caddy allowed me to coil up the wire antenna without having to worry about knots and tangles when it came time to lay it out again. The key for me was to start coiling both sides of the antenna from the center connector by turning the cord caddy and not simply winding the wire around a stationary cord caddy. One thing I hadn't thought about until I got the antenna set up at Vail Lake was how to support the antenna without losing the use of my car until the antenna was taken down again. That's another puzzle to solve before I head out into the field again.

Aside from the shelter, I learned that I could easily get a portable station up on the air in a little over half an hour once I found a place to set up. I had a small



problem on Friday night; fifteen minutes before the Friday night traffic net, everything powered up and appeared to be working aside from the fact that I couldn't even hear static. I ended up checking into the traffic net from my mobile rig instead with the vertical antenna on the car. It had been a long day so I decided to leave the problem for the morning and spend the evening getting to know NNN0JKZ and NNN0EVM. It was the first time we met face to face and we all had a great time sharing past experiences until it was time to turn out the lights. In the morning it only took a few minutes to realize my mistake from the night before. I had forgotten that the squelch knob on the FT-897 works in the opposite direction to the volume knob and I hadn't thought to check it after setting everything up. Another lesson I learned from my first field experience was to bring a copy of all the manuals for the

equipment you have with you. I made sure I packed a binder that had all the equipment manuals along with the reference materials we always use to refresh our skills.

You can never have too much practice and even then, there will always be something you didn't think of or you will forget something simple due to exhaustion when you arrive on the scene. It's hard to describe every little thing you need to worry about when working in the field. The best way to learn is to get out there and try it for yourself. There are plenty of people to offer advice and lend a hand, all you have to do is ask.

If you haven't had the chance to head out into the field with other operators and get a taste of portable operations, you don't know all the fun you're missing out on. It's a great opportunity to get to know the operators you frequently talk to on the nets and you always come away with new ideas about things to try next time. The next time you hear about a field day or field exercise, you owe it to yourself to come out and join in the fun. You can bet I'll be doing everything I can to participate at every opportunity. There's always something new to learn.

FCC APPROVES BPL (continued)

operations as "routine communications and hobby activities."

The Commission reiterated its belief that BPL's public benefits "are sufficiently important and significant so as to outweigh the limited potential for increased harmful interference that may arise."

Among other specific provisions, the FCC's new rules mandate certification of BPL equipment instead of the less-stringent verification, a public BPL database—something the BPL industry did not want—and mechanisms to deal swiftly with interference complaints. BPL systems will have to incorporate the ability to modify operation and performance "to mitigate or avoid potential harmful interference" and to deactivate problematic units, the R&O says.

Further, the new rules spell out the locations of "small geographic exclusion zones" as well as excluded bands or frequencies—concessions made primarily at the insistence of the NTIA, which administers radio spectrum for federal government users—and "coordination areas" where BPL deployments at any frequency must be "precoordinated by BPL operators." They also detail techniques to

(continued next page)

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART IX

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

This month I would like to introduce you to an organization that holds a unique spot in Amateur Radio. It is not the American Radio Relay League or the Quarter Century Wireless Association. It is the Ten-Ten International Net, Inc. This organization was formed here in California many years ago with the idea of holding on to one of our bands that was threatened. We had lost the 11-meter band to the "Good Buddies" of CB and it was sincerely believed that 10 meters would soon follow. "Use It Or Lose It" was the war cry, and thus was born Ten-Ten or Ten-X or X-X. What came of all this was an organization now numbering some 70,000 enthusiasts who have banded together to hang on to 10 meters by demonstrating that even when the band is "dead", there are hams using it, either across town or across the country.

To become a member of Ten-Ten, you get on 10 meters and work as many other hams as you can, asking each one if he has a Ten-Ten number. You write down his call in your log, including his name, location, and Ten-Ten number, and when you have collected ten such numbers, you are eligible to apply for your own. You can find an application form at www.ten-ten.org. You can also learn more about the history of the group, awards, certificates, chapters, contests, and so on. My ten-ten number is 8237, or as given over the air: eighty-two dollars and thirty-seven cents.

The group sponsors a number of contests during the year, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. One such contest is a sprint held on October 10th for ten hours. The group has its own QSL bureau, an elected Board of Directors, and an annual convention that will be in Arizona in 2005. There are nets on daily sponsored by Ten-Ten Chapters such as "Steel City", "Bounty Hunters", and the "South Texas Light Horse Brigade". The organization also publishes a quarterly newsletter. And awards! Oh my, do they have them! The catch is, qualifying contacts must have a ten-ten number. So, for Worked All States, you must find fifty stations in fifty different states, with ten-ten numbers, and... you must work them all on 10 meters! Check them out. I am a Life Member and got my ten-ten number over thirty years ago.

As some of you might know, I am QSL Manager for N6WB, W6PT, 3D2XX, YJ0XX, FK/N5XX, ZL/N5XX and others. Something I have noted of late is receiving QSL cards for two or more of the calls I manage, in a single envelope with a single envelope for return. The problem with this is that I may have blank cards for 3D2XX; however, the YJ0XX is an

ongoing operation and the cards have yet to be ordered. Accordingly, the individual is going to have to wait until I have the new cards on hand before I can send both out. Therefore, send QSL requests for ONE call, in ONE envelope, with ONE SAE or SASE thus making it easier on the manager. Be sure to include adequate postage for the return.

73,
Harry, W6YOO

FCC APPROVES BPL (continued)

measure BPL emissions from system equipment and power lines.

The FCC said it expects "good faith" on both sides in the event of interference complaints. Shutting down a BPL system in response to a valid interference complaint "would be a last resort when all other efforts to satisfactorily reduce interference have failed," the FCC said.

ARRL officials are studying the R&O and considering possible responses. The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) already has authorized filing a Petition for Reconsideration. The EC also authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to "prepare to pursue other available remedies as to procedural and substantive defects" in the BPL proceeding.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page at <http://www.arrrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>.

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:

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The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$720.89 in the checking account and \$1335.67 in the savings account. We have one new member.

2. Nick, KK6TV, contacted Art, KC6UQH, and confirmed he will present the November program on Antenna Design.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported the repeater is working but the packet is down and in work. Marvin also passed out copies of the updated Club handout sheet for review by Board members.

4. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that the 100 mile run was successful and there is a RACES meeting on the first Monday of November.

5. Sam, N6SD, reported there are two candidates for Convention Chairman in 2006, Pat Bunsold and Mike Maston. The date is not firm but will probably be the last weekend of September or the weekend after Labor Day. The San Diego Fair for next year will run from June 10 to July 4 but is closed Mondays (13, 20, and 27 of June).

6. Dirk, N6SUN reported the nominating committee has selected a slate of officers for the next election (see page 3). Before the voting, nominations from the floor will be accepted for anyone else that is interested in serving on the board.

7. Nick, KK6TV, reported there has been no update from last Board meeting on the shirts. He also reported the website has been updated and he can add any announcements requested.

8. A budget of \$240 and a suggested donation of \$7 was proposed for the Christmas Party. Dirk, N6SUN, will approach HRO for gift certificates and the club will provide two checks for Ladies Only for the amount of \$25. A vote was postponed until next Board meeting.

9. Sam, N6SD reported he has written and mailed a thank you letter to Captain Strickland.

10. Konrad, N6UKO, will attend the JC Christmas Parade meeting and attempt to resolve the conflict between our parade entry and the street sweepers.

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, 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. To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website and click on Yahoo Groups in the site map. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, e-mail 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.

SANDARC - EARS is a member of the San Diego Amateur Radio Council, an association of San Diego area Amateur Radio clubs. Among other things, SANDARC runs the local Volunteer Examiner program (SANDARC-VEC), and manages the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention when held in San Diego every fourth year. See www.qsl.net/n6oph.

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 are available at www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html, 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.

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