

# ALL EARS

146.880 - PL 107.2

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

October 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, October 14th Emergency Power and the GO Bag

Marvin, WB6PKK, will tell us how to be prepared to connect to anyone's power source without a lot of hassle. Don't be caught "*Short*" with your "*Power Down*" and be ready to go on a moments notice with a well stocked "GO Bag".

Do you have everything you need to get out and go without searching for everything you need? At least have a list as it pertains to your communications situation.

This will be followed by a general discussion of our relationship with SATERN and the club responsibilities.

### Thursday, November 11th Antenna Design

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

Presented by Art McBride, KC6UQH.

## EVENT CALENDAR

<b>Oct 14</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Oct 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Oct 26	Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Oct 30	Annual Ham Radio Roundup 8 a.m.
Oct 30	VE Testing 9 a.m.
<b>Nov 11</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b>
Nov 20	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Nov 23	Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Nov 27	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Dec 11	Escondido Christmas Parade
<b>Dec 11</b>	<b>EARS Annual Christmas Party</b>
Dec 31	First Night Escondido

## IMPORTANT

### NEW MEETING LOCATION NEW MEETING DAY

EARS has a new meeting location! Starting with the September, 2004 meeting, we will meet each month at the Salvation Army building at 1303 Las Villas Way. This is located at the southwest corner of Centre City Blvd and El Norte Parkway.

Due to the change in location, it was necessary to change our meeting day as well. The EARS meetings will now be on the second Thursday of each month.

## 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.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Awards and QSLing, Part VIII - p. 3**

**From the "Way Out" - p. 4**

## PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

A few weeks ago, in anticipation of the California QSO Party, I finally started working on my RFI problems. After installing four split toroids on the AC line with four turns each and another three on the antenna cable for our living room TV, I was able to eliminate all interference. I was very happy during the CQP to hear no complaints about RFI. At least until 9:00 p.m. when the VCR was turned on. Guess I'll work on that problem before the next contest.

About a year ago, I actually started collecting QSL cards. I figured it was about time to get a little credit for those QSOs. About two weeks ago, I decided to check out the ARRL's Log Book of the World. This never really appealed to me too much. A printed QSL looks much nicer hanging on the wall in your shack for all to see. A digital certificate is required to upload your log files to the LOTW server. I must say the digital certificate involves a few steps to get it working, one which involves receiving a password via US mail after you request it via e-mail.... and so on. I uploaded my CQP log to the LOTW server. Immediately I received an e-mail stating I had three confirmed QSO's. A check a few hours later confirmed seven QSOs. They currently support the DXCC and are in the process of adding WAC, WAS with more to follow. It costs nothing to upload your logs and you need not be an ARRL member. If you use your confirmed QSLs towards an award there is a charge of around 20 cents per QSL. It is a little expensive but it sure beats spending over 70 cents for a SASE for a QSL you may or may not get back, and even then you may not even apply it towards an award, but it does look cool hanging on the wall of your shack. If you haven't tried it, give it a try, it costs nothing to try!

EARS is finally getting into the swing of things with the new location and meeting days. Marvin, WB6PKK, promises an interesting presentation for our October meeting on setting up an emergency "go kit". There will also be a discussion on SATERN. SATERN is the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. We hope to eventually set up a club station which will primarily support SATERN.

Don't forget October 30th is the Ham Radio Roundup. This is an ARRL/SANDARC function and is your chance to see what other clubs and agencies are up to. It is also our chance to showcase EARS. I plan on setting up a table there. If you

*(continued on page 3)*

## 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.

## AWARDS AND QSLING - PART VIII

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

This month we are going to look at a rather esoteric award that is sponsored by CQ Magazine, the WPX award for working as many call sign prefixes as you can.

As we all know, Amateur Radio call signs are divided into two parts, the prefix and the suffix. In the case of my call sign the prefix is W6 and the suffix is YOO. The prefix usually denotes the country of origin of the call sign issued. For example the U.S. issues call signs beginning with W, A, N, or K; however the prefix AM is Spain and AY is Argentina even though most common is EA and LU respectively. The US probably has the lion's share of the prefixes because we have W, A, N, K, WA, AA, NA, KA, WB, AB, NB, KB and so on with each followed by any number from 1 to 0.

There are 335 current DX entities, each with a rash of standard prefixes, special prefixes, contest calls, and special event call signs. A QSL card must confirm each of the prefixes you collect. There are a number of rules to be followed, e.g. all QSOs must be made from the same country, all call letters must be in strict alphabetical order, completely shown and all entries must be legible.

Certificates are available beginning with Mixed Mode 400 prefixes, CW or SSB 300 prefixes. Honor roll begins with 600 prefixes and the WPX Award of Excellence begins with 1000 mixed mode or 600 in either CW or SSB. All applications for WPX certificates must be made on Form CQ 1051A obtainable from CQ magazine by sending a SASE or by going to the CQ Magazine web site and downloading in PDF format. The application fee is \$6.00 for subscribers, \$12.00 for non-subscribers. The complete rules for the WPX Award may be found at the CQ Magazine web site as well.

When you send out your QSL, make sure that your address is complete on your enclosed SAE or SASE. If sent domestically, make sure you have enough postage on the SASE. Never, but NEVER, expect the other station to send you a QSL if you don't supply postage unless you have agreed to exchange QSLs in advance. A VT or RI station gets lots of QSL requests, a CA station almost never. Do the math! If you are sending internationally, don't forget to include "USA" on your SAE because outside the country, that is part of your address!

If you have them, affix a USPS Label 19B sticker to the SAE (DX only). That's the current official Air Mail label. You can get them free for the asking at most

post offices, assuming of course that the clerk is not in a bad mood.

There are at least three CQ WW WPX contests each year in CW, SSB, and RTTY. All provide the opportunity to collect more prefixes.

Until next time for more awards and QSLing info,  
73 de Harry, W6YOO

## PRESIDENT'S KORNER (continued)

would like to spend a little time at the EARS booth let me know, no experience necessary.

As of the last meeting, I am very happy to say that the nominating committee is well on its way to having a full slate of officers for the EARS 2005 Board. I think Dirk, N6SUN, Harry, W6YOO, and John, WB6UHF, have done an excellent job as the nominating committee. If they approach you, consider serving on the Board. Its a great group of people and well worth the time to support the "EARS effort".

The EARS website is finally getting updated. Thomas, KG6INL, has been very helpful in allowing me to update the content. If you notice anything you think should be changed or needing an update, please let me know.

And... don't forget the Christmas Parade in December and the Christmas Party. We have also been asked to support First Night on New Year's Eve.

73, Nick [kk6tv@kk6tv.com](mailto:kk6tv@kk6tv.com)

## 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](mailto: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 bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

## GET ON THE AIR WAY OUT THERE

by Tony, KG6SXY/NNN0AFE

There's nothing like getting out there and trying it yourself to really understand what it takes to get a station on the air as fast as possible. After the first field exercise I attended, I had a much better feeling for what it would take to set up a station on my own, but at that point I had only assisted in setting up a portable station under the guidance of NNN0AGN/K6GVM. You can learn a lot from helping someone else set up the gear that they bring to a scene but you learn so much more by sitting down and trying to pull all the pieces together on your own.

The first problem I knew I had to consider was the size of my vehicle. Everyone else I'd seen arrived at the first field exercise in big trucks or recreational vehicles and I wasn't sure how I was going to be able to fit all the gear I needed into a Honda Civic so I could



be just as comfortable operating for several days in a row. One thing I knew for sure, it was not going to be practical to operate out of the car for more than a few hours. Trying to set up digital capabilities so I could operate comfortably for long periods of time was also going to take a lot more space. It was pretty clear that I needed to find a shelter that would fold down small enough to fit in my car and yet be big enough to give me room to spread out. After talking to a few people, I knew I wasn't going to settle for a shelter with a pile of parts that needed several people to set it up. If I was going to do this right, I had to find things that I could set up on my own.

An instant canopy turned out to be the right solution. They fold down small enough to just fit in the back of my car with the back seats down and can be set up

by one person if you take your time. There are a lot of choices out there and some of them are much heavier than others. This is not something you're going to backpack into some remote location, but as long as you can drive it to where you need it, it works just fine. You can always pack a lightweight tent for those times when you need to get a little further off the beaten path. It definitely pays to test everything you're going to use long before you need to use it in an unfamiliar location. Trying to set up the instant canopy for the first time took me hours and hours of struggling with how to open and close the shelter without someone else to hold the



opposite side and without amputating any critical body parts in the process. The rest of equipment for personal comfort like collapsible tables and chairs, ground sheets, lighting, sleeping bags, and other basic camping equipment were easy enough to track down. It helps to talk to people that have done this in the past and can point you to places where they've already found good deals. I never realized how handy bungee cords could be until I started staking down the canopy to prevent the wind from leaving me exposed in the middle of the night. It's a lot easier to hook a few bungee cords together than to have the right length of rope on hand to reach the tent stake you just spent fifteen minutes pounding into the dirt in a place where you finally managed to avoid all the buried rocks.

Now that the basic living and operating environment problems were solved, I needed to worry about the actual station and how I was going to move from base station operations to portable operations with the least amount of trouble. My first HF rig was a Yaesu FT-897. I had originally planned to survive with just one rig, moving it from the car, to the house, to portable operations. Well, all it takes is a couple of trials just moving the rig from the house to the backyard to realize how impractical that is and I



ended up putting an Icom 706MKIIG in the car and buying a Kenwood TS-2000 for home. It's a lot easier to pick up and go when you already have a separate rig waiting in the sidelines but there's nothing wrong with packing up your base station to go somewhere, it just takes a little longer. In fact, I found it quite educational just moving my rig from the front of the house to the backyard to check into a few nets. It's so easy to leave a cable behind and the first time you do it, you realize that a major problem in the field is going to be powering your equipment. A deep cycle battery and a portable generator go a long way to making your station more flexible in where it can be deployed. Don't forget to bring a fire extinguisher and a long extension cord.



Even the newer generators that run silent can give you a headache if they're sitting just a few feet away. It doesn't take long to see the benefit of having Andersen Power Pole connectors on everything as well. You still need to be careful about what you plug into what but the ease of moving from a switching power supply to a deep cycle battery by unplugging one cable and plugging in another is a big pay off. Another tip I heard from someone in the field was to put the same connectors on your ground wires making it easier to swap an earth ground with a counterpoise and with the right adapter cable it is possible to have multiple counterpoise wires connected without fumbling with the ground screw on the back of the radio in the field. The most important lesson I learned about packing up a mobile station is to keep all the bits and pieces for a particular rig together while in transit. If you know you can carry one or two boxes to the table and have everything you need to put that station together, you'll be on the air a lot faster than having to empty the entire vehicle and dig around to find that elusive adapter to plug your headset into the radio.

The last piece of the puzzle was to have at least one wire antenna. The one thing I knew for sure

was the more height, the better. You can't always count on having convenient trees or other objects around to hang a wire antenna so I had to find a solution that would let me put up an antenna with the least amount of trouble and be completely stand alone. I found a portable fiberglass flagpole that has a high wind rating and extends to 21 feet. It collapses down to five feet and fits nicely in the back of the car alongside the instant canopy. Combined with a base plate to park the car on, I would have an ideal support for the center of a dipole. I wanted to make sure the ends of the dipole were off the ground as well so I did a little experimenting and settled on a sharpened piece of rebar, a five foot PVC pipe with a one inch diameter and an inexpensive five foot wooden flagpole for each end of the antenna. The rebar goes into the ground, the PVC pipe slides over the rebar and the flagpole fits inside the PVC pipe. With a few holes drilled in one end of the pipe and a



few holes drilled in one end of the wooden flag pole, I could raise the ends of the dipole about nine feet off the ground with just a couple of zip ties. I had tried setting this up a couple of times at home but I was surprised at Vail Lake when it only took me sixteen minutes to put the dipole up in the air along with the feed line. The dipole I set up was the first antenna I made by myself with a big spool of wire, a little plastic budwig connector that provides a weather tight shell to go from a coax connector to the two sides of the dipole, and a lot time fighting with a soldering iron. When I first made the antenna, I was surprised that I could go from a simple coil of wire to an insanely knotted mess in the time it took me to walk from the garage to the backyard. This was not going to work well in the field if I couldn't find a way to keep the wire from getting tangled every time I had to move it.

*(To be continued next month)*

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO reported that there is \$857.95 in the checking account and \$1334.84 in the savings account.
2. John, W9EN, reported that Charlie, W6HIQ, isn't available in October, nor is Art, KC6UQH. Marvin, WB6PKK, volunteered to do the program.
3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the 88 repeater is working well. John, W9EN, and Konrad, N6UKO, reported that the 220 repeater repair and 220 link are in work and progressing.
4. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that there will be a 100 mile run on October 23rd and 24th and Dennis, KA6DUH, needs a lot of operators to help with communications. The club has been invited to join the end of the Holiday Parade with a float. Marvin, WB6PKK, volunteered his Pinzgaur.
5. Dirk, N6SUN reported that several Board positions were still open but after a discussion led by Harry, W6YOO, a tentative slate was announced. Dirk, N6SUN, will contact those involved and present the slate for next year by the end of October.

6. Nick, KK6TV, had a sample of the golf shirt but it had no pocket which several members wanted. Nick will see if other shirts are available.
7. When John, KG6DVE, checked on the tower that was offered to the club it was gone.
8. Nick plans on participating in the Ham Radio Roundup and has asked for help.
9. John, W9EN, and his wife have volunteered to host the annual Christmas party at their house.
10. Nick, KK6TV, is checking on getting access to our website so it can be updated on a regular basis.
11. Sam, N6SD, will write a thank you letter to the Salvation Army for our new meeting room.
12. Konrad, N6UKO suggested that we have a placard of thanks be made for the outgoing president. Harry, W6YOO will follow up on this.
13. Marvin, WB6PKK, has updated the club hand-out pamphlet and passed around a preliminary copy for review.

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.arrl.org/members). The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at [www.arrl.org/arrlletter](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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

743-2255  
662 ENTERPRISE STREET  
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

## **IMPACT Electronics**

**Your San Diego County Supplier**  
**(760) 747-5277 – (866) 747-5277**

Escondido [www.ImpulseElectronics.com](http://www.ImpulseElectronics.com)

**Your San Diego County Supplier - \$ Less than the Internet  
Power Products:**

Power Pole; Power Wire; Crimpers; AGM Batteries

**West Mountain Products:**

RIGrunner; RIGblaster; Accessories

**Coax Assemblies - Adapters - Coax Cable - Terminals**

**Harald Brandner, KE6JE**  
**Call me to buy or sell: 1-800-456-0188**



**Check the value of your home:**  
**[www.valueferret.com](http://www.valueferret.com)**

**Search the entire San Diego MLS:**  
**[www.homeferret.com](http://www.homeferret.com)**

**One Source Realty** 