

ALL EARS

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Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

September 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, September 9th RACES

San Diego County RACES Operation. Presented by Terry Runyon, K3PXX.

Thursday, October 14th Antenna Design

Everything you ever wanted to know about antennas and more. Just ask! Presented by Art McBride, KC6UQH.



Danny, AE6MB, enjoys Midnight Madness in downtown San Diego.
- photo courtesy KK6TV

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 and on 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

Sept 9	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Sept 11	Grape Day Parade
Sept 18	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 a.m.
Sept 18	I Love A Clean San Diego
Sept 25	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Sept 28	Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Marvin's
Oct 14	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
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.
Dec 11	Escondido Christmas Parade
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.

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PRESIDENT'S KORNER

by Nick, KK6TV

Well, it's the end of summer and EARS seems to be going strong. Our next meeting will be at the Salvation Army building. I am really looking forward to finally having a decent meeting place. My Fathers Pizza and Emanuel Faith have both been great hosts but a stable location is really needed. It has been a shame that, with all of the great guest speakers John has lined up, some of them have had to cancel due to meeting location changes. Hopefully, now we are back on the right track.

As I write this, I am sure some of you are returning from the Southwestern Division ARRL Convention near Phoenix. Perhaps someone will write a wrapup for All EARS as I am anxious to hear the details. Don't forget that the 2006 Convention will once again be held in San Diego. Escondido is still a possibility for the location. If you have any ideas as to possible locations let our SANDARC reps know, Tony, KG6SXY, or Sam, N6SD, so they can feed your ideas back to SANDARC.

Well, I had a great time at the picnic. John, W9EN, with the help of his wife, Lynn, did a really great job with the logistics. John, KG6DVE, as always, was a great cook. All the side dishes everyone brought were really great. My problem was I was so busy talking all of a sudden I noticed all the food was gone! I got plenty to eat, though! I believe we had at least 35 attendees including a few new faces. Jim, KE6MRX, treated us with a demo of one of his BIG model rockets. We had several people participate in the T-Hunt with Dirk, N6SUN, finding it first... followed by Jo, KB6NMK, Danny, AE6MB, and Sam, N6SD. I think Dirk is getting too good at this!

After the picnic... later that same evening... several of us headed to San Diego for the 31st annual Midnight Madness Bike ride. This was a 20 mile fun bike ride through San Diego at midnight. The ride started near the Star of India, then we took in Shelter and Harbor Islands then headed along the coast towards Rosecrans, through Old Town and then back through Downtown San Diego to the County Administration building by the Embarcadero. Since we all seem to be at different riding levels, 2 meter simplex helped us keep in touch through most of the ride. Those who participated were Danny, AE6MB, Steve Venner, W6/GOTAN, John, W9EN, and his wife, Lynn, Dirk, N6SUN, Jo, KB6NMK, my daughter Jen, and me. I truly enjoyed it, the scenery was great, lots of the riders wore costumes, there bikes up with all kinds of lights and there were lots of different types of bikes.

(continued on next page)

EARS Club Officers for 2004

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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.

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

(continued)

I don't know how many people participated, but my tag number was 1721. I would guess there were at least that many people there. REACT was also there providing communications using one of the Downtown San Diego repeaters. It was kind of nice being a participant for a change instead of a volunteer. I will definitely do this again next year. Consider joining us!

I have started working on our Club Field Day DVD. So far it appears we have around 700 photographs. This DVD will feature slide shows of 2000 through 2004 EARS Field Days. It also may feature some video. It should be playable on home dvd players as well as PCs with DVD players.

Oh well, looking forward to our next meeting on RACES. See you there!

73, Nick
kk6tv@arrl.net

HAM RADIO ROUNDUP

by Harry, W6YOO

San Diego Section Manager Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, has asked me to help get all hams to come out to our Annual ARRL Roundup Hamfest at Hilltop Community Park, 9711 Oviedo Way, San Diego, October, 30th, 2004 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For info, contact Tom, KC6NXZ, 619-561-6678 or Pat, WA6MHZ, 619-593-1111.

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

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

IS MARS RIGHT FOR YOU?

by Tony, KG6SXY

Do you find yourself looking for more ways to prepare for emergency communications? Do you enjoy getting out in the field and learning how to be a self sufficient field operating station? Have you just wanted to try something new and exciting with a variety of opportunities to learn, grow, and gain practical experience? Navy-Marine Corps MARS can offer you this and more whether your interests lie in base station operations, mobile deployment, running a net, handling traffic, or mentoring others.

The USS Midway, one of three ships in the Midway class, is now part of the Aircraft Carrier Museum in San Diego and is permanently docked at the Navy Pier. In the third quarter of 2004, Navy-Marine Corps MARS is planning to provide operators to return this station to the air using as much of the original equipment as possible. Since the Navy had a MARS station on board the Midway, the original callsign, NNN0CQQ, has been returned to active duty.

There is an active Navy-Marine Corps MARS station at the San Diego County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is just in the process of adding digital capabilities. You will find that Jean Luthi, KB2T / NNN0BST will happily give interested parties a grand tour of the communications facilities and expand on how all the agencies are tied together at the EOC.

Navy-Marine Corps MARS has recently signed memorandums of understanding with the Orange County and the San Diego/Imperial County chapters of the American Red Cross. The goal is to support all requests for HF long haul communications during exercises and in the event of real emergencies. Navy-Marine Corps MARS has an extensive digital network that will auto forward digital traffic around the world from stations set up throughout the United States and abroad. This is an excellent opportunity to get practical experience in the field.

This is a great time to get involved with Navy-Marine Corps MARS and partake in the excitement with the rest of us.

Please contact Phil, NNN0LFD@navymars.org, or myself, Tony May, kg6sxy@arrl.net, if you would like to learn more.

Feel free to visit <http://www.navymars.org> as well.

73, Tony

EARS ANNUAL PICNIC

by John, W9EN

The annual EARS Summer Picnic was held Saturday August 21, at Rod McLeod Park in Escondido. In the late morning of what was labeled "EARS Day", this second of three club-sanctioned activities started out early (about 8:30 a.m.) with our very own John, KG6DVE, staking claim to two trees, one bench and a grill.

When I arrived with the food and drinks around 10:30 a.m., there were several pairs of EARS waiting patiently. As is typical with carefully planned activities such as this, we soon realized that there were a few key items that had been forgotten (by me), like charcoal. In some e-mail exchanges a few days prior, there was discussion about a gas grill that was brought by an EARS member the previous year (ironically with an empty gas tank). I must have thought this was going to magically happen again



A great day in the park for the annual EARS picnic
- photo courtesy KK6TV

this year (this time with a full tank). Since Johnsonville Brats just don't taste the same raw, I quickly headed down to the Von's and grabbed a bag of Matchlight.

Our past President and previous picnic's wiener-heater, Willie, N8WP, was taken ill late in the week and unable to bless us with his expertise as chef. Stepping up to the griddle, John, KG6DVE, offered his services. The food was great, with salads and deserts of all types to complement. The Chili de Hodges was a HOT item too (as usual) and Terry, K3PXX, pulled a folding table out of his hat and provided much needed extra space for all the goodies.



Jim, KE6MRX, shows off his model rocket, the "I Haul".
- photo courtesy KK6TV

Usually you have to hunt before you can eat; but since this game was not edible, the hunters waited until they had a full stomach before proceeding. We're talking about a T-Hunt, of course (even though Sam, N6SD, and Danny, AE6MB, brandished antenna arrays that may have passed for some kind of shoulder mounted infantry piece). Nick, KK6TV, provided the Fox, which was an HT connected to a homebrew PIC controller that provided CW ID.



Sam, N6SD, and Danny, AE6MB, prepare to T-Hunt.
- photo courtesy KK6TV

Foxes usually bark, but this one had a distinctive chirp that compelled you to find it quickly and put it out of its misery. Dirk, N6SUN, was the first to bag his limit followed by others close behind. This must have been a "catch-and-release" type of hunt because long after the hunt was over I still kept hearing that chirp (maybe it was in my head).

(continued next page)

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART VII

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

What we are going to talk about this month are not really awards in the true sense, they are only confirmations that you worked a certain station. What sets them apart is that the station you worked is a SPECIAL EVENT STATION and as a reward for working it you get a special QSL card or a Certificate. Collect enough of these and you can literally paper your shack walls.

What makes a special event station? Well it is a station on the air to commemorate a date or an historical event. It may be the birthday of a city, the loss of a space shuttle, a festival or fair, the 6th of June, you name it. If you can get someone to sponsor it, get some operators and a radio and someone to spring for the QSL cards or certificates, away you go. You can request a special callsign for the event such as W1A, or W6Z, such call expiring at the end of the event.

Some years ago, EARS operated a special event station for the first, and what turned out to be the only, Escondido Avocado Festival. We operated from Kit Carson Park over a weekend, the city paid for the certificates and we had a lot of fun in the bargain. Lots of folks called in who remembered living in the Escondido area 10, 20, 30 or more years before and asked about landmarks that no longer existed.

Where do you find out about special event stations? Well, they are listed in QST, CQ, and Worldradio magazines. The callsign is given, the dates of operation, the frequencies and modes of operation, the QSL route, etc. For example, starting in May of this year, W9IMS operated from Indianapolis at various times for the Indy 500, the Formula 1, and the Brickyard 400 automobile races. A separate QSL was available for each event plus a nice certificate if you worked all three events. You can read about it at www.qrz.com/w9ims

In those cases where a certificate is offered and you would rather not have it folded, send an 8½ by 11 manila envelope as your SASE. You can fold it in thirds and it will fit in your No. 10 envelope. Don't forget to enclose your own QSL. Listen for the operator's instructions. You may get a QSL for your SASE but there might be a modest fee for the certificate in the event they don't have a generous sponsor.

With special event stations, be prepared to wait, wait, and wait some more for the response. They will wait sometimes to see how many requests they

receive before they print up the QSLs and/or certificates. I have waited up to a year for some and a few weeks for others. You just never know.

Next month we'll look at the CQ Magazine WPX award program and give some more QSLing tips.

73,
Harry, W6YOO

SATERN NET

by Harry, W6YOO

Just a reminder that the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) runs an HF net on a daily basis, Monday through Friday on 14.265 MHz with early checkins beginning at 1330Z and the net beginning at 1400Z until 1430Z.

The NCS and ANCS stations vary, depending on propagation conditions. This schedule applies during daylight savings time and will advance an hour when we return to standard time.

There is also a fellowship net conducted at the same time on Saturday morning. There is no net on Sunday.

Consider sending in your application to formally join SATERN (although that is not a requirement to participate in the net). With membership you will receive at no cost an excellent training manual and a number of patches to be sewn on a medium blue uniform shirt if you choose to purchase one from a local uniform shop.

EARS ANNUAL PICNIC (continued)

Everyone had a great time. As I am fairly new to the club, I did not recognize all the faces present; but many were familiar and it was good to see such a good turnout (over 35 in all). Even two of our ARRL Southwestern Division Director hopefuls blessed us with their presence. League politics has never really captured my interest but I enjoyed their conversation nonetheless (and learned a few things too).

A big THANK YOU goes out our cook, his second in command, and everyone else who made the 2004 EARS picnic a big success.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

Note - due to the change in meeting day, there were two Board meetings in August. This is the second.

1. The program for the next meeting will be San Diego County RACES Operations presented by Terry Runyon, K3PXX.
2. John, W9EN, reported by e-mail that he is working on the cables for the 220 controller. He hopes to have the duplexers tuned soon.
3. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that she was contacted by a representative of First Night Escondido and they want our help with communications this year.
4. John, KG6DVE, reported that there are no new members and the net participation is low, probably due to the summer season.
5. John, WB6UHF, reported that the publication date of the newsletter will move up to support the new meeting date.
6. Harry, W6YOO, proposed that we suggest to SANDARC that they get bids for the 2006 SW convention location from local Indian casinos.

7. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that the Midnight Madness bike ride was fun and there were interesting costumes with more than 1000 participants. However, the advertised 20 mile course was only 17½.

8. Members of the board reported the following comments they got concerning the picnic. John, W9EN, did a great job. Good location, fine weather, great picnic, had a great time, really enjoyed the T-Hunt. Things to remember for next year's picnic: Cook needs a bigger grill. Make a sign up sheet for dishes to bring to avoid duplications and cover all desires. Harry needs to bring a lot more Chili. Make sure there are lettuce, tomato, and mayo.

9. Loren, AD6ZJ, has been offered a 50' crank up tower for the taking. He will donate it to the club but we need to organize a tower party to lower and remove it. John, KG6DVE will contact Loren.

10. Harry, W6YOO, John, WB6UHF, and Dirk, N6SUN, have volunteered to be on the nominating committee for selecting nominees for the elections in November.

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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