

# ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

April 2005

## 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, April 14th Annual EARS Auction

Auction starts at 7:00 p.m. (half an hour early). Sellers please show up at 6:00 p.m. to register. Buyers may register at 6:30.

Clear out your closets and covert junk into cash and cash into treasure. Art McBride, KC6UQH, will once again do the honors as auctioneer.

Note the auction will take place in the Gymnasium.

## WHAT'S NEW AT earsclub.org

If you haven't visited the EARS website lately, here's what you're missing:

- ➡ Need a map to the Auction? Get one now.
- ➡ Cool EARS gear for sale.
- ➡ Schedule of net control operators. You can volunteer, too, for your turn.
- ➡ Build a NO-COAX 2.4 GHz WiFi antenna in less than an hour.

Check out this and more now at [www.earsclub.org](http://www.earsclub.org)!

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## EVENT CALENDAR

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Apr 14</b>    | <b>EARS Annual Auction 7:00 p.m.</b>     |
| Apr 16           | EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am           |
| Apr 16-17        | Special Olympics Basketball              |
| Apr 19           | Field Day Planning Meeting               |
| Apr 26           | EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Marvin's    |
| Apr 30           | VE Testing 9 a.m.                        |
| <b>May 12</b>    | <b>EARS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.</b>   |
| May 17           | Field Day Planning Meeting               |
| May 21           | EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.        |
| May 24           | EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.                |
| May 28           | VE Testing, 9 a.m.                       |
| <b>May 28</b>    | <b>Valley Center Western Days Parade</b> |
| <b>Jun 25-26</b> | <b>Field Day</b>                         |
| <b>Sept 9-11</b> | <b>SW Division Convention, Riverside</b> |



Get ready for the annual EARS Auction. Art McBride, KC6UQH, shown at last year's auction, will again serve as auctioneer.  
-- photo courtesy Marvin, WB6PKK.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by John, W9EN

This past week, I had the opportunity to visit Ft. Hood, TX, specifically the Army's Operation Test Command (OTC) Headquarters. The company I work for was awarded the contract to upgrade the data radio communications system that OTC uses to conduct their battle training and test exercises. The system keeps track of troop and vehicle movements during the exercise as well as resolving Real Time Casualty Assessments (RTCA) during simulated battle (laser tag). High powered lasers illuminate a target up to 5 km away. That illumination triggers an exchange of radio messages containing information about the weapon type and target vulnerability. An application written by the Army Material Systems Analysis (a group of people that spend all their time blowing things up) processes this data and determines the amount of damage incurred by the target.

The reason I bring this up, is that the communications upgrade my company is designing does not necessarily rely on any established infrastructure (towers, repeaters, etc.). Like the vehicle safety communications project I was involved in previously, much of the radio networking is "Ad Hoc". Like the packet radio protocols we are all familiar with, ad hoc networking techniques pass traffic from one user (or node) either directly, if possible, or by relay through other users. Various protocols have been developed to address different problems (i.e. latency, high mobility and battery operation) but the underlying principles are similar.

The concept of Ad Hoc Networking is becoming a hot topic in both military and commercial circles, from battlefield communication systems to agricultural sensor networks. Removing the dependency on infrastructure is concept that is embraced by our RACES and ARES community, yet much of our emergency communications activities rely a repeater or two (somewhere) being operational. One alternative would be to design portable infrastructure platforms that can be placed anywhere as backup. However, I would challenge that such a solution would be sufficient on its own. I smell a next-generation packet radio design coming soon.

On a totally different subject, the club is looking for a few good operators who would be interested in rotating through the Net Control position for the EARS Sunday Evening Net. This is an excellent opportunity for newly licensed operators to get their feet wet in net operations and for Ol' Timers to spread their wisdom in a forum that would be uniquely their own. There is a signup sheet on the

website ([www.earsclub.org](http://www.earsclub.org)). Just e-mail our Webmaster (Nick/KK6TV) with your preferred date(s) and you're in. My Sunday schedule has not allowed me to participate for the last few months, but I am making an effort to change that. The net is a great place to get updates on club activities.

See you there!

73, John

### EARS Club Officers for 2005

#### President

John Belstner, W9EN, 751-0326  
[w9en@amsat.org](mailto:w9en@amsat.org)

#### Vice President

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839  
[darcpa@att.net](mailto:darcpa@att.net)

#### Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096  
[n6sd@arrl.net](mailto:n6sd@arrl.net)

#### Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 743-8826  
[n6uko@aol.com](mailto:n6uko@aol.com)

#### Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212  
[w6yoo@amsat.org](mailto:w6yoo@amsat.org)

#### Officers at Large\*

All persons with an asterisk (\*) plus:  
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 741-2560  
[kb6nmk@amsat.org](mailto:kb6nmk@amsat.org)  
Tony May, KG6SXY  
[kg6sxy@arrl.net](mailto:kg6sxy@arrl.net)

#### Newsletter Editor

\*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303  
[wb6uhf@arrl.net](mailto:wb6uhf@arrl.net)

#### Past President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734  
[kk6tv@arrl.net](mailto:kk6tv@arrl.net)

#### Historian

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212  
[w6yoo@amsat.org](mailto:w6yoo@amsat.org)

#### Membership

\*John Magnone, KG6DVE, 745-6819  
[kg6dve@amsat.org](mailto:kg6dve@amsat.org)

#### Property Manager

\*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223  
[wb6pkk@amsat.org](mailto:wb6pkk@amsat.org)

## AWARDS AND QSLING - PART XIV

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

Last year, we discussed special QSLs and Certificates that were to be awarded for contacting the Indianapolis Motor Speedway special event station, W9IMS during three major racing events. The first of these events was the Memorial Day 500-mile extravaganza followed by two other events later in the year. Well, the first of the QSLs finally arrived and were worth the wait of some ten months. What took so long you ask? Here's the answer provided by W9IMS: "Thanks for your patience! Production of W9IMS QSL cards took a good deal of time longer than originally anticipated due to *complex negotiations required with racing teams and sponsors (italics added)*." In any case, the cards are well done with excellent shots of the speedway and the cars on the track. They'll be doing it again this year and further information may be found at: [www.w9ims.com](http://www.w9ims.com)

Speaking of QSLs, this coming Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Jerry and I will be at the International DX Convention and for a couple of hours during the afternoon I will be checking QSL cards for DX awards. This happens every year as a goodly number of ARRL appointed card checkers also attend the convention. As there is an ARRL DXCC program representative from Headquarters there, we can check cards for 160 meters as well as cards over ten years old. This is an advantage for attendees who just fill out the appropriate forms, have their cards checked, the forms signed by the checker and hand carried by the ARRL representative to Newington, and the individual carries his cards home without risking them to the vagaries of the US Postal Service.

### 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)

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

By the time you read this, the Polish Special Event Station, SP0PAPA, will have finished operations. Actually, it was a number of Polish stations, all using the same call and all operating around the clock on all bands 6 through 160 meters. I am sure there will be a very attractive QSL commemorating the death of the Pope who, as you know, was Polish. Unfortunately, I never heard a signal strong enough to attempt a contact, although, for a time, SP0PAPA had a fair signal on 30 meters. But the "East Coast Curtain" was impenetrable with my 6BTV vertical.

The bands have been really poor lately with low signal strengths, high noise levels, and erratic paths from Escondido to the DX location. The recently completed Kerguelen Island Dxpedition, FT5XO, is a case in point. Although it was a multi-station operation, on the air 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, our area seemed to be an "RF black hole". I did manage to work them on 20, 30, and 40 meters, mostly skewed path but they were inaudible on the other bands. CW, SSB, but no RTTY.

Oh well!

I still haven't received my Andaman Island (VU4) cards although many of the "deserving" have received theirs. Hopefully, they will be in my mailbox before we take off for Visalia this coming weekend. It is an all time new one for me and of the current 335 DX entities, it is number 335. It will not put me on the "Top Honor Roll" as my Yemen card, 7O1YGF, doesn't count. The German team was there, they had permission, they couldn't get proper "documentation" as the various Yemen governmental agencies were feuding and if and until that is resolved I'll still be one shy of "having 'em all.

As the old saying goes: "Some you win, some you lose, and others get rained out."

73, Harry

### 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.

## VALLEY CENTER WESTERN DAYS

by Nick, KK6TV

Howdy Y'all.

Valley Center Western Days is coming up on May 28th and once again EARS will be providing communications. With its western theme, you can expect saloon girls, barroom brawls, outlaw gun fights, runaway horses and other typical parade activities.

As you can imagine, it is a very different and interesting parade. So, spend your Saturday May 28th helping out. If you would like to attend with your family, I will make sure you get a good spot to view the parade. Support will begin around 8 a.m. and continue until the parade ends around noon. The Palomar Amateur Radio Club once again has allowed us use of one of their Palomar Mountain repeaters for this event.



Last year's Western Days Parade. EARS will be providing communications again this year.  
-- photo courtesy Nick, KK6TV.

The parade begins at Cole Grade and Valley Center Road and works its way down Valley Center Road to Old Road, a bit past Fat Ivors.

We will meet at Pepperonis afterwards for pizza and refreshments! Also featured is a sanctioned rodeo on Friday and Saturday as well as a beer garden with live country bands, and some food and display booths at the community center. So get out your cowboy hat, boots and spurs (all optional) and spend May 28th helping out!

Drop me an e-mail to [kk6tv@kk6tv.com](mailto:kk6tv@kk6tv.com) or give me a call, 760-749-8734!

## PASSINGS

### KC6QXU

With deepest regret I must report to you that our friend Joseph P. Banando, better known as Joe, KC6QXU, became a silent key, Saturday March 5th, 2005.

Joe held the 10-10 # 59560 and the VP #2474. He was a member of some 40+ Chapters. He attended several 10-10 Conventions and Paper Chaser gatherings in Nevada. Many of us will recall signing his T-shirt at these events. He was an avid 10-10 Contester. He also participated in Emergency Radio services locally. He will be missed by many of us.

Joe, was a retired grocery supervisor. He also raised Orchids and showed them at the Del Mar Fair each year. He was ever proud to show you his photos of his beauties.

The family suggests donations to the American Cancer Society.

73's de Dick NC6V

### K6HAV

It is with much sadness that I have to report the death of one of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club's most ardent supporters over the years. He served as the Scope editor from almost the beginning of the Scope and was a valued board member. He also served in many "unofficial" capacities which helped the club immensely. He and Pat ran the club's testing program for many years.

Ralph Crossman, K6HAV, was 84 years old and died February 28th in Salt Lake City. Pat Crossman, N6INN, his wife, is 71 and seems to have some problems but was well enough to take care of Ralph to the end. She does not know if she is going to remain in Salt Lake City or whether she will return to this area at some time in the future. Their address is wrong in the FCC database. It is 1034 E. Harrison Ave, Salt Lake City, UT, 84105.

The Palomar club would not be what it is today without the tireless effort of Ralph and his wife Pat over the years. He was a Marine to the very end!

73,  
Stan

W9FQN@Juno.com

## San Diego Fire Seeks Ham Volunteers

by Barbara Ayers

### City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department seeks Ham Radio Operators to Support their Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Departmental Operations Center (DOC) and field specialty teams

The San Diego City Fire Department is seeking Amateur Radio operators to staff their EOC/DOC and to support field specialty teams responding to San Diego disasters. The mission will be to support the fire department by taking non-emergency radio traffic off the public safety radio bands and offer greater real-time feedback from the field to the City and County during an emergency.

The goal is to establish a City Fire department Ham network communicating the City and County EOC's and emergency responders in the field, increasing regional resources and communication in disasters. The City of San Diego seeks to establish a Ham operator team with a crew at the downtown EOC and ham field crews imbedded with first responders and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

The San Diego Fire-Rescue department has been training and developing CERT teams in communities throughout San Diego County to national FEMA standards. CERT civilian/fire rescue teams act quickly on the ground to initiate evacuations, triage, search and rescue, basic fire suppression and other vital roles as part of the City's ICS (Incident Command System) in a significant event. The emergency field crews and embedded ham operators will be incorporated into the Fire department's emergency response plans and EOC operations to increase communication regionally to all jurisdictions.

CERT teams respond locally to disasters, under direction of the Fire-Rescue department and augment existing City first responder teams. CERT volunteers survey neighborhoods and perform basic emergency response procedures, reporting to the fire department IC (Incident Commander).

With a shortage of emergency responders county-wide, these community crews speed up the response time, mitigate smaller problem areas and allow authorities to focus on broader issues. CERT crews are trained to ensure community safety and survival in the event of a large scale disaster, when emergency crews are overwhelmed and neighborhoods are on their own for days and weeks.

The development of trained CERT volunteer emergency response teams and increased county-wide

communication is a result of regional priorities by the San Diego Regional Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Task Force, led by Sheriff Bill Kolendar and San Diego Fire Chief Jeff Bowman. Developed in response to the Cedar fires and future disasters, these new initiatives empower the public and volunteers to take a role and responsibility for disaster preparedness and response, increase and standardize communications between all jurisdictions and fosters sharing of disaster resources.

Amateur radio is more important now than ever due to the world situation. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to give back to your community by supporting the San Diego Fire department, the City and County by donating some of your time and skills as a volunteer radio operator.

If you have an interest in helping contact:

Barbara Ayers,  
San Diego Fire-Rescue Department  
(619) 533-3075

or e-mail [cert@sandiego.gov](mailto:cert@sandiego.gov)  
Website: [www.certsandiego.com](http://www.certsandiego.com)

## DAH-DIT DAH-DAH-DAH... from optics.org

Finnish mobile phone maker Nokia is attempting to patent an optical messaging system by equipping handsets with a large light emitting matrix.

The backlit display, which can be color or monochrome, generates scrolling or blinking symbols that can be recognised at a distance of up to 4 meters.

Alternatively, the phone is equipped with a single high-power LED that can be modulated manually or automatically, for example using Morse code, and deciphered remotely with a camera-phone.

According to the firm, the device provides a new communication channel that does not pollute the RF band.

*(Editor's note - I swear this is not an April Fool's article. You can check it out yourself.*

*As far as what Nokia is thinking, I can only point out that schoolkids are some of their most active users. Maybe you can get away with optical Morse messages in Miss Crabtree's English class. What are the chances Miss Crabtree knows the code?)*



## MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that the next meeting will be the annual auction in the gymnasium with Art, KC6UQH, as auctioneer.
2. Konrad reported that there is \$1109.06 in the checking account, \$536.85 in the savings account and \$1000 in a CD. There are two bills due, \$7 for property insurance and \$327 for liability insurance. There is one new member, bringing the total to 89 members.
3. Marvin, WB6PKK reported by e-mail that everything is working except packet and he has all the auction paperwork prepared.
4. Harry, W6YOO, reported there are several nationwide exercises ongoing on the MARS net. The Baker to Vegas race is on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> of April.
5. John, W9EN, will ask John, KG6DVE, to start a net rotation.

6. John, WB6UHF, reported that the first Field Day meeting was held with some issues resolved. The call sign will be N6SD with N6WB as the GOTA station.

7. Sam, N6SD, reported that the ITU convention from 18 to 27 of May will need club support to provide operators.

8. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that she gave the principal of the Heritage Charter School some Technician Class study material and that she will try to get a room where we can hold a class on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m.

9. John, W9EN reported that the State hasn't responded regarding the San Pasqual site yet.

10. John, WB6UHF, made a presentation to the Rancho Bernardo two meter club, telling about our club.

## 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  
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