

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

February 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, February 10th The Origins of "Ham Speak"

Rodney Dinkins, AC6V, will relate the origin of Ham Speak — ham radio's many terms and jargon. Rod is webmaster of the award-winning web site www.ac6v.com. He is also an accomplished author of some well know Amateur Radio books, including *AC6V's FM 101x - Using FM Repeaters*, *AC6V's DX101x - HF and Six Meters DXing*, and *DXing 101x*.

WHAT'S NEW AT earsclub.org

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

- ➡ The latest SANDARC report from Sam, N6SD, has info about this year's San Diego Fair, planning for the 2006 Southwestern Division Convention in San Diego, and more.
- ➡ Local ham radio ads. (Post yours for free!)
- ➡ An update on the Peter I DXpedition, which has been delayed until the middle of this month.
- ➡ Info and links to a new website, *Tuck's 5 Nine 9*, run by Tuck Miller, NZ6T.
- ➡ Links to the latest articles and news from ARRL.
- ➡ Up-to-date schedule of club activities and operating events.
- ➡ Latest propagation reports and weather alerts from NOAA.

Check out this and more now at www.earsclub.org!

EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 10	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Feb 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am
Feb 22	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Feb 26	50K Run at Lake Hodges
Feb 26	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Mar 10	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Mar 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am
Mar 22	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Mar 26	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 9	I Love A Clean San Diego
Apr 14	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Apr 16-17	Special Olympics Basketball
May 28	Valley Center Western Days Parade

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

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

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by John, W9EN

I had to be reminded that February is upon us and it is time for another edition of All EARS. It would seem that a February Super Bowl has adversely affected my sense of time.

An opportunity has befallen the club recently that may sound insignificant at first but after careful examination reveals a greater responsibility and potential reward for our membership and hobby.

Last month you may have heard or read that our very own Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, was approached by a faculty member from the Heritage Schools with a request: to provide some type of presentation regarding Amateur Radio for the Science students at Heritage beginning with the 3rd Grade.

The request didn't necessarily stop there; a more open ended proposal involving multiple presentations tailored for the grades through High School was discussed. Assisting one or more faculty members with the training necessary to obtain their license and helping Heritage setup their own Club station was also discussed.

This is an awesome opportunity for the club to revitalize its membership; one that I strongly feel we should follow through with. However, it's an undertaking that requires the involvement of more than just one or two members. If we are to set up a lasting relationship with Heritage Schools, we need the assistance and commitment of the entire membership.

If you enjoy mentoring and don't mind speaking to a small crowd, Jo would like to hear from you! If you are uncomfortable speaking in the front of the room but still would like to help, this project will require many types of skill sets. Just let any of the board members know if you are interested in being part of this project. Once we get a better understanding of the scope of this request, more information will be provided.

I'm excited about it; it could be a lot of fun and very rewarding.

Have a safe February!

73, John

EARS Club Officers for 2005

President

John Belstner, W9EN, 271-8012
w9en@amsat.org

Vice President

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839
darcpa@att.net

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Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096
n6sd@arrl.net

Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 743-8826
n6uko@aol.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212
w6yoo@amsat.org

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All persons with an asterisk (*) plus:
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Past President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
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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 4.

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART XII

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

The year 2004 was not as productive, DX-wise, as I would have hoped. The sunspots counted were fewer and fewer as we approached the bottom end of the 11-year cycle. Over the past few years, I had been adding about 100 islands yearly to my IOTA count but during this past year I added fewer than 25. Hopefully, during 2005, I can stretch my count to over 750 which is the next plateau in IOTA awards, the Plaque of Excellence, which has been awarded to slightly over 200 hams worldwide. I now have credit for 720 islands so 30 more are doable.

As far as DXCC and the Challenge award, I didn't progress much last year as well. The award starts at 1,000 band-countries with endorsements at 1,500, 2,000 and 2,500. I am at 1,960, so I need 40 confirmations to reach the next level. Unfortunately, band conditions and now the lack of a high performance antenna are restricting my DX chasing. The good news is the Force12 C-3-E has arrived and assembly has begun. I am hoping to have it up on the tower before the end of the month. I dearly miss my quad which served me well since 1987. The problem with quads is that they are high-maintenance, the wire loops break, the UV exposure weakens the spreaders, and when 70+ m.p.h winds come through, it's all over.

As some of you might know, I am QSL manager not only for N6WB, our EARS club call, and W6PT, the club call of the San Diego DX Club, but additionally for N5XX, Clark Straw, who with his wife is a world traveler aboard his 50-foot sailor, the Final Straw. Last year, Clark was in New Zealand, several islands in the Fijian group, and a couple of islands in the Republic of Vanuatu and finally New Caledonia, before sailing on to Australia. Clark spent a good deal of time on the radio, primarily operating CW which generated hundreds of QSL requests for 3D2XX, YJ0XX, and FK/N5XX. Whatever mistakes can be made in requesting a QSL, I have seen. Is it frustrating for the manager? You betcha!

Some tips to insure that you get your QSL. First, be sure you have the date and time of the QSO correct! Use Universal Time Coordinated (UTC), which used to be called Greenwich Mean Time, or GMT, not PDT, CST, or whatever. Please, if you are in the USA, send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE); don't expect me to provide it. Lastly, if you make a mistake, don't write over it! Throw the card away. If a card is to be used for an award, corrections might make the card ineligible. Lastly, be patient, I try to get replies out by the next day's mail; however, I do have a life and I may be off on my own DXpedition for a week or two.

A WORD FROM THE (WEB)MASTER

by Nick, KK6TV

I would like to remind everyone that once you have created an account on the EARS website you have the ability to post news articles. I encourage anyone with something of interest to the club to give it a try. The more content we have the more interesting it makes the website. The content editor gives you the ability to preview your post before it's posted. You can also pick the date for the news to expire and be removed from the Web site. You also have the ability to comment on any posted news, so feel free to share your thoughts!

I have also added a classified ads section and I know a few of you out there have items for sale so get them posted on the web site! If someone is interested in an item they can e-mail the seller directly from the web site.

I have added a calendar with EARS activities, as well as ARRL and other contest activities. The main page lists scheduled activities for the next week and month. Clicking on the activity gives you a description of the activity as well as a contact person, e-mail, web link etc....

Registered user now have a chat box available. I'm not sure if anyone will use this but it's there if you wanna try it.

RSS news feeds have been added showing NOAA weather alerts for California as well as propagation reports and ARRL news. Recent weather information from Miramar MCAS is also shown.

When you create or edit your User Account you can select to be notified via e-mail if any news or other information is posted on the site. You can also be notified by a message whenever you log into the site. This has the potential to replace our current Yahoo groups page.

The photo album seems to have some bugs but it is no problem to view the photos. Currently, there are 17 photos on site which are randomly shown on the main page.

Past issues of All Ears are available for downloading as well as Art, KC6UQH's, Antenna Fundamentals presentation. More of past meeting presentations will be added soon.

Please let me know what you like or don't like about the site. Is there something you think should be added or removed? If you find any problems with anything on the website, don't hesitate to drop me a line at nick@kk6tv.com.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$1265 in the checking account and \$1336.50 in the savings account. There are 86 paid-up members, including 25 life members.

2. Dirk, N6SUN, presented a list of possible programs for the year and asked for requests. The February program will be by Rod, AC6V on The Origin of Ham Terms and Jargon.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, suggested changing the repeater antenna with a commercial 8 bay loop but he needs help in tuning it to our frequency. John, W9EN will see if he can help. Dirk, N6SUN, volunteered to approach the city manager about getting the 440 equipment donated to the club. Sam, N6SD, is submitting an updated list of club equipment to be insured.

4. Harry, W6YOO, reported on upcoming events. For details, go to the EARS website.

5. John, WB6UHF volunteered to be the 2006

Southwest Division Convention Vendor Services Chairman.

6. Jo, KB6NMK, reported there has been no progress in training at the Heritage Charter School since Jim Mc Donald, the principal, has been very busy. Jim wants to become a ham and to get his teachers to become hams and to introduce technology to all the students and set up a station at the school. Sam, N6SD donated some training books and training materials to help in teaching code.

7. Sam, N6SD, asked for help with a banner and photos for the Library display. Harry, W6YOO, suggested everyone with material for the display bring it to his house at the next Board meeting and lay it out for a dry run.

8. Marvin, WB6PKK, was authorized to get 500 printed and folded club brochures for \$70 plus tax.

9. Nick, KK6TV, reported that the Valley Center Western Days Parade will be May 28th.

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 _____

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Red Flag _____

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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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