

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

June 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, June 9th
AMSAT**

Paul Williamson, KB5MU, of AMSAT will be discussing satellite operation. He is one of several command stations for AMSAT-OSCAR 16 and the author of several computer programs for satellite users, including the new release of *InstantTrack* and the associated utilities that go with it.

WHAT'S NEW AT earsclub.org

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

- ➡ A new Yahoo group tracks wildfire incidents.
- ➡ Roundup of the Valley Center Western Days Parade.
- ➡ All the latest news from SANDARC (Thanks to Sam, N6SD).
- ➡ Vote on your DXpedition preference.
- ➡ Buy cool EARS stuff.

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

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EVENT CALENDAR

Jun 7	Field Day Planning 7 p.m. at Konrad's
Jun 9	EARS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Jun 18	EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jun 25-26	Field Day
Jun 25	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Jun 28	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at
Jul 14	EARS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Jul 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jul 26	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at
Jul 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Sept 9-11	SW Division Convention, Riverside

FIELD DAY PLANNING

by John, WB6UHF

This coming Tuesday, June 7, we will finalize our plans for this Year's Field Day. The meeting will be at the home of Konrad, N6UKO, at 7 p.m. All members who are interested in helping out are invited to attend.

We will be going over our plans and making sure everyone knows their role. We still have some odds and ends to be nailed down, so please plan on attending.

If you want to operate and haven't yet talked to one of the band captains, do so now. The band captains are:

Steve Alborn, KE6PY, Station 1

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, Station 2

Steve Venner, W6/G0TAN, and John Belstner, W9EN, VHF/UHF

Tony May, KG6SXY, and Tom Martin, KG6RCW, GOTA

Hope to see you at the planning meeting.

73, John, WB6UHF

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by John, W9EN

How many of you have experimented with digital communications in Amateur Radio? There are a number of popular modes that I'm sure you've already heard of: RTTY, ASCII, PSK31, BPSK63, AMTOR, FSK16 and PACKET (HF, VHF, UHF).

All of these modes are geared toward data transfer or "keyboard to keyboard" chatting. Within the last few years, however, interest in digital voice communications on the ham bands has increased.

The use of digital voice for military and commercial applications has been around a long time. The main driving force behind these technologies has been security and resource efficiency. Wire-line carriers can multiplex hundreds of digital voice calls on a single cable; digitized voice can be easily made secure by encrypting the data packets with any of a number of algorithms. Amateur Radio applications, however, have not embraced digital voice technology until recently.

With the myriad of vocoders (Voice Coders) being developed for cellular telephone applications, it was just a matter of time before one or two of them became common place on the ham bands.

The JARL (Japan Amateur Radio League) collaborated on the development of the D-STAR system. ICOM has introduced this as the next generation digital amateur radio system. D-STAR is a system that provides both digitally modulated voice and high speed data over the air. Several of the new ICOM VHF and UHF radios now offer D-Star as an option (see www.icomamerica.com/amateur/dstar/DSTARHistory.asp).

Charles Brain, G4GUO, and Andy Talbot, G4JNT collaborated on an HF digital voice scheme that uses a vocoder and modulation that result in a bandwidth consistent with SSB. AOR in Japan has commercialized their system (see www.aorusa.com/ard9000.html).

To learn more about these and other developments in digital Amateur Radio techniques, I highly recommend attending the *ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference* to be held September 23 – 25, 2005 in Santa Anna, CA (www.tapr.org/dcc.html).

See you there!

73, John

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.

EARS Club Officers for 2005

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kg6dve@amsat.org

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AWARDS AND QSLING - PART XIV

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

There are awards chasers and there are *AWARDS CHASERS!* As if there weren't enough awards and "wallpaper" to chase, what with some 3313 awards from 125 countries, CQ Magazine has come up with **THREE** more! What's a body to do?

Well, for starters, go to the CQ Magazine web site at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. There you can find out all about the three new awards:

The CQ DX Field Award
The CQ DX Marathon
The CQ iDX Award

CQ Magazine is attempting to revive a lagging interest in DXing by instituting these three new awards.

The first of these is to work and confirm a contact in each of the 324, 10x20 degree Maidenhead Grid Fields into which the world is divided. To get all of them will be a neat trick as 54 are entirely water and 8 consist of ice with no land underneath. So listening for maritime mobiles and polar expeditions will be a must.

The second award, the Marathon, begins January 1, 2006, and will be a scramble to see how many different DXCC entities and CQ Zones you can work during the year. At present the maximum is 335 DXCC and 40 Zones. There are two classes of entries: "Formula", that is QRP or 100 watters with wire antennas, and "Unlimited", which is legal limit and beams or stacks.

Third, and so far last, unless CQ Magazine comes up with a new twist, is the CQ iDX Award. That's not

a misprint; there is a small "i" in front of the DX. Basically, it is working DXCC where at least "one end" of the QSO must be on a radio. The other end may be on a computer using Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP. That is so the "newbie" may experience the concept of DXing before he/she goes out and buys an HF rig and necessary antennas.

As far as QSLing these various contacts, protocols are still being developed. In some cases, the submission of an electronic log will be sufficient. And ARRL's Log Book of the World may figure into the mix. Complete logging and QSLing information will be posted on the CQ Magazine web site. Start now by reading the complete rules, deciding which of the awards you are going to chase (maybe all of them) and determine your strategy. You know how much time you have to devote to the effort and what your station/computer capabilities are.

And speaking of QSLs, my IOTA count is now 731 islands confirmed.

73, Harry

FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS

by Harry, W6YOO

To all who ordered ARRL Field Day Tee Shirts and Pins - They have arrived! It turns out that California sales tax was added, which will amount to \$1.00 per shirt. So, your price is: Shirt \$13.00 plus shipping \$1.00 plus tax \$1.00 or total of \$15.00. That's still a five dollar saving if you ordered individually.

I'll be gone June 3-12 on vacation; however, Jo, KB6NMK will bring those not yet picked up to the club meeting on June 8.

You can also pick up at Friday breakfast on June 17 and 24 at K&S Cafe or third Saturday breakfast on June 18 at Westside Cafe or at Field Day site on June 25-26 but I would hope that all had been distributed before then.

VC WESTERN DAYS ROUNDUP

by Nick, KK6TV

I just want to thank everyone for your help at Valley Center Western Days last week. I think things went really well and have heard no complaints and nothing but compliments!!! I posted a brief article on the EARS website. If you have any comments or complaints about how to do things differently or better next year feel free to post a comment on the web site or e-mail me directly.

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.

SPACESUIT SATELLITE PROPOSED from the ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT, Jun 3, 2005—Plans are on the fast track to deploy a surplus Russian *Orlan* spacesuit this fall as a non-traditional satellite.

Dubbed "SuitSat," the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project could become the most unusual Amateur Radio satellite ever orbited. Now, an ARISS-US proposal will provide an opportunity for schools to participate in the SuitSat enterprise. To be launched during a spacewalk, SuitSat will carry an Amateur Radio transmitter that will send voice greetings to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Russia's Bauman Moscow State Technical University.

Other message possibilities remain under discussion. ARISS got permission from the ISS Program Office in May to go forward with delivery of the SuitSat project, and schools now will have the chance to take part through what's being called "School Spacewalk." ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the idea is to have schools around the globe provide a page of artwork that will fly inside SuitSat.

"The ARISS team has received permission to include a special compact disk onboard this spacesuit with school artwork included," Bauer said. As a result, participating schools will have an opportunity to 'fly' their artwork as part of the spacewalk."

Schools that want to get onboard must act fast, however. ARISS wants a single 8-1/2 by 11-inch page of artwork that "uniquely represents your school" by June 15—so time is tight. Schools may deliver their artistic contributions electronically in JPEG format, with the file size not to exceed 2 MB. No other file formats can be accepted.

"This could be an artist's representation of the school, a list of student names, student signatures, a school science project summary or a school mission patch," Bauer explained. "This artwork should be primarily developed by the students. The goal is for you to use your imaginations." Hard-copy artwork can be mailed to School Spacewalk, c/o AMSAT, 850 Sligo Ave, Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4703. JPEG images using the naming format <schoolname_location.jpg> may be e-mailed to schoolspacewalk@comcast.net.

A summary of the "School Spacewalk" project is available on the AMSAT Web site.

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 127.3. 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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