

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

March 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, March 10th
SKYWARN

Lee, KF6POI, will speak about this cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and hams.

Thursday, April 14th
Annual EARS Auction

Get ready 'cause here it comes. Art McBride, KC6UQH, will once again do the honors. Mark your calendar now!

WHAT'S NEW AT earsclub.org

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

- ➡ A report on the EARS display at the Escondido Public Library.
- ➡ Local ham radio ads. (Post yours for free!)
- ➡ Info on a 116 year old telegraph office in Escondido.
- ➡ The latest SANDARC report from Sam, N6SD, has info about the ITU coming to Harbor Island in May.

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

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Most toys wins, then what? - p. 4

Sybil Albright, W6GIC, SK - p. 4

EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 10	EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Mar 15	Field Day Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Mar 19	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am
Mar 22	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at N6UKO
Mar 26	VE Testing 9 a.m.
Apr 9	I Love A Clean San Diego
Apr 14	EARS Annual Auction 7:30 p.m.
Apr 16	EARS Monthly Breakfast 8:30 am
Apr 16-17	Special Olympics Basketball
Apr 26	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 30	VE Testing 9 a.m.
May 28	Valley Center Western Days Parade
Jun 25-26	Field Day
Sept 9-11	SW Division Convention, Riverside



EARS is on display all this month at the Escondido Public Library at Kalmia and 3rd Avenue. Check it out on the right as you enter.
-- photo courtesy Sam, N6SD.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by John, W9EN

Albert Hammond wasn't kidding when he wrote those lyrics; "It pours, man it pours". He may not have been referencing precipitation, but those words seem no less prophetic this year. It almost makes me feel like I'm at home in the Mid-West with all the thunderstorms and tornados.

As some of you already know, our very own Curt Lawrence (K6LEM) has informed EARS of the potential to acquire lease to one of the remaining buildings from the San Pasqual Elementary School. The facility could provide EARS with a permanent place to:

1. conduct monthly meetings,
2. conduct VE Testing,
3. house a club station,
4. hold club sponsored contest activities,
5. introduce new members to the hobby of amateur radio.

There have already been discussions, both pro and con, regarding this particular facility. Some have expressed that the location may be too far away from Escondido proper to effectively hold our monthly membership meetings. However, it would provide EARS an excellent site for a club station (100 ft tower anyone?).

EARS does not have all the specifics yet from the State of California (i.e. cost). Until we know more, it is difficult to assess the feasibility of this prospect. That being said, I am still interested in the opinions of the General Membership regarding this opportunity in specific and the construction of an EARS Club Station in general. In particular, I would be very interested in knowing:

1. Have you ever belonged to a club that had a club station?
2. How was the club station used?
 - a. Field Day
 - b. Contests
 - c. Emergency Services
 - d. Meetings
3. Was the club station available for member use 24/7?
4. Were newly licensed members able to use the club station?
5. Was the club station a welcome benefit or a maintenance burden to the membership?

I'm personally excited about the prospect of a club station. However, we would really appreciate your feedback; like Dirk said at last month's meeting, "this is your club", and you should have a voice in its activities. Please feel free to e-mail or call me with your thoughts; jbelstner@yahoo.com, (760) 751-0326.

Thanks, and have a great March! 73, John

EARS Club Officers for 2005

President

John Belstner, W9EN, 751-0326
w9en@amsat.org

Vice President

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

Secretary

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

Officers at Large*

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

Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303
wb6uhf@arrl.net

Past President

Nick Uran, KK6TV, 749-8734
kk6tv@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 4.

AWARDS AND QSLING - PART XIII

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

I recently gave a presentation at a PARC meeting and thought the following information might be of value to EARS members:

SOURCES OF DXCC, IOTA, WAS AND OTHER AWARDS INFORMATION

DXing

DXing 101x, by Rod Dinkins, AC6V

The Complete DX'er, 3rd Edition, by Bob Locher, W9KNI

DXing on the Edge, The Thrill of 160 Meters, by Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

The Mobile DXer, by Dave Mangels, AC6WO

Secrets of Ham Radio DXing, by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

Low-Band DXing, by John Devoldere, ON4UN

The DX Magazine published by N4AA @ \$22.00 per year

Islands on the Air (IOTA)

RSGB IOTA Directory, 40th Anniversary Edition. Contains complete IOTA rules and a list of qualifying islands and island groups. May be ordered from the Island Radio Expedition Foundation (IREF) for \$20.00 A must if you are going to participate in the IOTA awards program

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

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.

Worked All States (WAS)

The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs, 8th Edition and rules downloaded from www.arrl.org.

Awards

The K1BV DX Awards Directory, 2005 Edition, A world wide listing of over 3313 different Amateur Awards from 125 DXCC countries. Order from K1BV QST, CQ and Worldradio magazines.

Bulletins

The Daily DX, published by Bernie McClenny, W3UR, delivered by email @ \$49.00/year.

The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin, weekly but free delivered by email to subscribers.

The 425 DX Bulletin, weekly but free delivered by email to subscribers.

DX Clusters and Web Sites

telnet ucsb dx.ece.ucsb.edu 7300

www.dxscape.com/www.html

www.oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs

www.ac6v.com Award winning site. If you can't find it there it doesn't exist!

www.arrl.org Center of the Amateur Radio universe. Rules, forms, u-name it!

www.cq-amateur-radio.com A wealth of information on contests and awards

www.wr6wr.com Great first-person articles

QSL Bureaus

Information about using the ARRL Incoming and Outgoing bureaus can be downloaded from www.arrl.org.

WF5E runs a private QSL Bureau. Information at www.qsl.net/wf5e

There are also a number of internet reflectors that deal with awards, QSLing, DX, Contests, and on and on. Far too numerous to list here.

Go to www.ac6v.com and wander about. You'll be amazed what's out there.

73, Harry

THAT OLD JUNE MAGIC

by John, WB6UHF

All members of EARS are encouraged to dust off their camping gear, bring the sunscreen and bug spray out of storage, and start getting involved with planning for Field Day 2005.

The first planning meeting for this year's outing will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 6:30 p.m. Meet us at Filippi's Pizza Grotto on Grand Avenue at Broadway - all members are invited to take part.

Field Day, for those who are new to the hobby, is the annual disaster preparedness drill for Amateur Radio operators. EARS will once again be setting up our station at Dixon Lake. This year's dates are June 25 and 26. Set up is on the 24th.

Planning meetings will be held monthly from now until then on the first Tuesday following the monthly Club meeting.

At the first planning meeting, we will be looking for volunteers (and reaffirming traditional assignments) to be station captains and antenna meister, as well as other important obligations such as head cook, official greeter and so on.

We will also be looking for volunteers to earn bonus points for EARS by making satellite QSOs, for demonstrating non-traditional modes, for passing traffic from the FD site, and so on.

Also, an important rule change for this year's Field Day gives special bonus points for having young persons (18 years or younger) make contacts. We'd like to find a volunteer who will work with local schools or youth groups to invite them to participate on our GOTA station.

Speaking of GOTA, if you haven't been on the air at a Field Day in a few years, you are eligible to operate the "Get On The Air" station which we will be setting up especially for you.

If you're an old hand and would like to offer any ideas for improvement, or if you think we can do something differently, this will be an important meeting for you to attend. This is the meeting where all the basic decisions about the operation will be made.

So bring your enthusiasm, suggestions and appetite to this coming meeting and we guarantee a fun time for all from now until the end of June!

HAM RADIO ESTATES

by your EARS Board

DON'T LEAVE YOUR SURVIVORS UNPREPARED

It is an undisputable fact: None of us is ever going to get off this world alive. Realizing this, many of us go through estate planning, living wills, and powers of attorney; however, much of this deals in generalities, not in specifics.

We heartily recommend that you take the time now, while you are in possession of all your faculties, to decide what you wish to happen to all your Amateur Radio equipment after you're gone. Your spouse may already have a ticket and will use the equipment, or your children may have their tickets and will use the station after your demise. Or, what is most probably the case, your survivors are not hams and will wish to convert your shack back into being a guest bedroom. Whatever the case, it is never too late to plan.

Let our club help your survivors to keep the varmints away from your door. Decide whether to donate your radios to the club for use in supporting schools or whether you would like to have the club sell off the equipment at market prices and turn the proceeds over to your family. Whatever you decide, inform your family now! Let them know that they can contact any member of the Board and we'll come to the house, inventory the equipment, assess its value, and attempt to sell it at no cost to your survivors. Or we can accept it as a donation with appropriate recognition. Do your family a favor, do it now! Don't wait for the vultures to show up at your door.

SYBIL ALBRIGHT, W6GIC, SK

by Mike, N6OPH

It is with heavy heart that I must announce the passing of Sybil Albright, W6GIC.

For those of you who don't know her, she and her husband, the late London Albright, W6SLF, founded SANDARC in 1958. She was the prime mover and shaker in the San Diego Amateur Radio hobby for a great many years. Those of you who knew her will realize that her wisdom and commitment to Amateur Radio will be missed.

Our 2006 Southwestern Division Convention will be dedicated to her and a special tribute page will be included in the convention's program book.

SDG&E Explores Offering Web Access from the San Diego Union-Tribune

By Craig D. Rose
STAFF WRITER
February 10, 2005

San Diego Gas & Electric is inching closer to a pilot project that would tap its electric grid to provide customers with high-speed Internet access.

SDG&E says it has a team at work defining the elements of a pilot project to provide high-speed access in the form of broadband over power lines, or BPL. The service could potentially reach all of the utility's 1.3 million customers.

The company had previously said only that it was studying the technology.

But SDG&E said it does not have a start date or even a target date for submitting its proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission, whose approval would be required to proceed with any pilot project using the regional power grid.

BPL would make dual use of SDG&E's electric transmission lines by having them carry high-speed Internet communications at the same time they deliver electricity to customers. Advocates say that among the advantages of BPL is its potential to provide high-speed access to all who are connected to the power grid. A spokesman for SDG&E also said the technology might save money for the utility's electricity customers.

"BPL has the potential to increase operational efficiencies and also has the potential to bring broadband to isolated areas," spokesman Ed Van Herik said.

The utility's broadband service would compete with offerings from SBC and local cable companies.

In two regions of the country where such service is offered by utilities, the electricity providers price their service substantially below that of the existing broadband providers.

A municipally owned utility in Manassas, Va., for example, charges customers \$27 per month for high-speed Internet access. A Cincinnati utility is charging from \$27 to \$39 per month, depending on the speed of the hookup.

These charges compare with \$40 monthly or more typically charged for high-speed access by SBC and cable operators in this region.

"(Utilities) deliberately price their service less than cable," said Karen George, a principal with Primen, a unit of the Electric Power Research Institute that

recently produced a report on the technology. "And they are getting some cable customers from their initial marketing."

George estimated that perhaps three dozen utilities are currently involved in pilot projects or testing of BPL. But SDG&E's project would be the first in California.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company, which serves the Bay Area, was exploring the possibility of a pilot project until AT&T, its partner in the project, bowed out last year as it retreated from consumer businesses. A spokesman for PG&E said the utility remained open to discussions with potential partners to continue the planning.

Southern California Edison, the state's other major utility, says the technology is promising. But because of technical challenges, it has no current plans to invest in BPL.

The PUC, meanwhile, recently issued a draft plan designed to expand broadband access in California, including the use of BPL.

"We just think it's crazy that California does not have a BPL pilot project," said Ross Lajeunesse, chief of staff for PUC commissioner Susan Davis, who is overseeing the effort to clarify the regulatory environment and encourage broadband projects.

Michael Shames, executive director of the Utility Consumers' Action Network, said he was "thrilled" by the prospect of BPL service coming to San Diego.

"The utility deploying its power lines to provide broadband access may be one of the best things SDG&E can give to the community," Shames said.

In addition to providing high-speed Internet access to areas without such service, BPL could allow a host of energy efficiency programs that would trim regional power use, he said. That includes such innovations as remote control of air conditioning.

Shames said California had lagged in deploying BPL because the state was preoccupied with the aftermath of the energy crisis. But he expects BPL technology costs to decline quickly, and he said such service should be regulated by the PUC.

"There is no easy way to (separate) this function from electricity service, he said. "It should be regulated and hopefully it will be regulated."

Craig Rose
(619) 293-1814
craig.rose@uniontrib.com

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that the auction is in April and the present meeting room is too small. Konrad, N6UKO, will inquire to see if we can meet in the auditorium for the auction.

2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there is \$1328.31 in the checking account and \$500 in the savings account and \$1000 in a CD. The cost for 500 club brochures was \$81. There are currently 88 members including 25 life members.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported that the Echolink is working. He also brought the club brochures to the meeting and left them with Harry, W6YOO.

4. John, W9EN, will contact John, KG6DVE, about becoming the Net Manager and training other net control operators.

5. Sam, N6SD, reported that SANDARC needs a technical chairman for the fair and a public relations chairman for the County. The SANDARC bylaws are being amended to have officers serve for two years

instead of one and to allow election by proclamation when there is only one candidate per office.

6. Jo, KB6NMK, reported she is having trouble setting up a meeting with the principal of the Heritage Charter School because of his busy schedule. Jo will see if a licensing class can be scheduled for students and adults.

7. The old San Pasqual Elementary School building may be available for the club to set up a station and use it for meetings. There was some concern as to how much it would cost the club and who is responsible for maintenance. Board members are encouraged to visit the site and inspect the facilities to see if we are interested in getting this building.

8. The club is invited to make a presentation to the Rancho Bernardo 2 meter club to encourage them to join our club.

9. John, WB6UHF announced that the first Field Day planning meeting will be held the 15th of March beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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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