

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

May 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, May 12th DXPedition to Gambia

Our speaker for May will be Escondido resident Terry Dubson, K6JL (formerly W6MKB). He will be talking about the DXpedition to Gambia, West Africa. Terry is a tremendously entertaining speaker and this looks to be a very enjoyable program.

WHAT'S NEW AT earsclub.org

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

- ➡ EARS at the San Diego Fair.
- ➡ Upcoming license classes around San Diego.
- ➡ All the latest news from SANDARC (Thanks to Sam, N6SD).
- ➡ Proposed antenna ordinance in Poway.
- ➡ Schedule of net control operators. You can volunteer, too, for your turn.

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

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EVENT CALENDAR

May 12	EARS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 17	Field Day Planning 7 p.m. at Harry's
May 21	EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 24	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Jo's
May 28	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
May 28	Valley Center Western Days Parade
Jun	Last Field Day Planning 7 p.m.
Jun	EARS General Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Jun	EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jun	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at
Jun 25-26	Field Day
Jun	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Sept 9-11	SW Division Convention, Riverside

FIELD DAY PLANNING by John, WB6UHF

This coming Tuesday, May 17, we will button up our plans for this Year's Field Day. The meeting will be at the home of Harry, W6YOO, at 7 p.m. All members who are interested in helping out are invited to attend.

Due to a schedule mishap, we will be at a "slightly" different location for this year's event. We will still be at Dixon Lake, but at a different set of campsites. We will be using the campsites which are located just beyond our usual site on Semicircle Drive. If you just drive to the usual place, you will find us to the immediate right.

Oh well, it is, after all, a drill in preparedness!

At the meeting, we will be finalizing the assignments for who will bring what, what equipment is being used, operating plans, and so on. And if you want to spend time on the air, better let the band captains know now.

Hope to see you at the planning meeting.

73, John, WB6UHF

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by John, W9EN

"UWB" is not the cable network that shows reruns of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

Back in March, our SANDARC representative, N6SD, mentioned that the organization was asked to provide an operational Amateur Radio station for an ITU (International Telecommunications Union) convention held in San Diego May 18 – 27. The convention is the Fifth ITU-R Task Group 1/8 International Meeting on Ultra-Wideband (UWB). The question was then raised by several, "What is Ultra-Wideband?"

Ultra-Wideband (UWB) is a fairly new term used to describe a fairly old technology. Proven feasible nearly 50 years ago by Dr. Gerald F. Ross, UWB is a form of spread spectrum communications. Unlike most spread spectrum techniques you might be familiar with (i.e. Frequency Hopping or Direct Sequence Spreading), UWB does not modulate a carrier in the classical sense. Instead, it is an **extremely** short RF pulse; sometimes as short as a single cycle at the excitation frequency. Depending on the frequency of use (2 – 7 GHz), the pulse duration ranges from tens of picoseconds to a few nano-seconds. It is because of this technique that UWB is also known as a "base-band" or "impulse" technology.

So how is information sent with such a technique? Information is coded in the precise timing of the width and spacing of the pulses; like **really** fast CW (try copying this in your head while driving). What kind of data rates can be achieved? Like most complex waveform techniques, there is a tradeoff between distance and SNR; the closer you are the higher the data rate. With current semiconductor implementations, data rates up to 500 Mbps can be realized at about 5 meters dropping to 100 Mbps at 10 meters. This compares favorably to the current flavor of 802.11 which will achieve 54 Mbps at a few meters distance.

There are some interesting advantages to UWB. Unlike conventional carrier modulation techniques with waveforms that require a high duty cycle (some as high as 100%), UWB pulse durations are extremely short relative to the pulse inter-arrival times. Waveform duty cycles are typically small fractions of a percent. Peak-to-average power ratios can be quite large as well, making cheap semiconductor implementations feasible. UWB is also virtually multipath immune. By using these extremely short pulses, the reflected path arrives well after the end of the direct path. This makes UWB well suited for mobile environments where fading and multipath can be troublesome.

The obvious disadvantage to UWB is ironically its ultra wide bandwidth. Keeping power levels down below

the noise can be challenging and interference can be a problem, especially for other wide band applications such as GPS.

Several companies here in San Diego are delving into UWB technologies. Currently, the market focus has been on "cable replacement" similar to that of Bluetooth. But, with "the need for speed" ever increasing, I predict UWB applications will soon expand.

73, John

EARS Club Officers for 2005

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AWARDS AND QSLING - PART XIV

by Harry Hodges, W6YOO

So, let's assume you have been chasing DX, have been sending out QSL cards right and left, some direct, some via the bureau, and have confirmed a few more than one hundred DX entities, what now?

Well, you may qualify for the premier DX award: The ARRL DXCC Certificate. How do you apply, where do you get your cards checked, and should you risk them in the mail?

First of all, if you have been chasing DX for only a short time it is unlikely that you have any QSLs over ten years of age and it is also unlikely that you have any QSLs for 160 meters, both of which must go to ARRL DXCC Desk for checking. And you are still nervous about entrusting your hard-earned QSLs to the United States Post Office.

Well, you are in luck! There is something known as DXCC Field Checking where you take your cards to a Field Checker. There are two in the San Diego Section: Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, who lives in Crest and the author, Harry Hodges, W6YOO, who lives in Escondido.

All you need do is make an appointment, bring your cards and application forms, and be prepared to sit and fret while one of us "checks" your cards. For complete rules, go to www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.

What does a "Checker" check for? Among other things we look to see if the card has the call sign of the sender and, more importantly, whether your call sign appears in the "Confirming QSO with" block. This block may also say "To Radio" or something

ALL EARS

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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:

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

similar.

I once received a card from an obvious "newbie" who entered under "Radio" ICOM 706. Nowhere on the card did my call sign appear and therefore the card was useless. There must also be some indication of the QTH of the sender, e.g. "Federal Republic of Germany", "Japan", etc.

Next is date and time (preferably in UTC), the frequency or band, mode as in two way SSB or CW, signal report such as 57 or 579. It is also nice if the individual includes his county or other political subdivision, CQ Zone, ITU Zone, and Grid Square – unnecessary for DXCC but desired for other awards.

Also, there should be a signature, initials, stamp or some such of the sender.

Finally, we look at the entire card for any signs of tampering such as changing the call sign to yours rather than the true one. If everything is to the Checker's satisfaction, he signs off on your application, returns your cards to you and mails the application (which included a list of all the cards checked that were satisfactory) to ARRL.

It is up to you to provide the envelope and stamp and of course to pay any fees to ARRL that are required.

As I mentioned last month, I was hoping to receive my VU4 Andaman Island card before taking off for the International DX Convention.

Didn't happen; however, I received it personally from the VU4 team leader Bharathi, VU2RBI, who was at the Convention and she filled out the cards and handed them out to the deserving who were attending. What a remarkable woman and it was a real thrill to meet her.

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.

FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS

by Harry, W6YOO

Hi All,

The EARS Board has authorized me to take orders for ARRL Field Day Tee Shirts and Pins. Here is what the Tee Shirts look like:



The cost of Tee Shirts to individual club members will be \$14.00 each which will include shipping. Pins will be \$5.00 each.

If you wish to order a Tee Shirt and/or a Field Day Pin, please reply to w6yoo@cox.net and give me your name and call sign, number of Tee Shirts desired with sizes required and/or number of Field Day Pins desired.

I will collect these individual requests and put in a consolidated order to ARRL on May 16 thus insuring delivery well in advance of Field Day. I will charge them on my Credit Card and would expect payment by cash/check upon delivery to the individual. As soon as the items arrive, I will advise and deliveries will be made at club functions, Friday morning breakfasts, third Saturday breakfasts, club meetings, board meetings, or you can come by my house and pick up.

With your cooperation this should go very well and each order will save \$6.00 shipping charges. I think it would look rather spiffy if all of us at the Field Day site were decked out in these Tee Shirts. Don't forget to order one for your XYL and your kids.

So, if you wish to be included in this order, please get your Email to me PRIOR TO MAY 16.

73, Harry

SAN DIEGO FAIR

from Skip, KD6RFQ

San Diego County Fair
Fair dates 10 June-4 July 2005

Dark days June 13, 20, 27, 2005

The Fair is a chance to show the public what our hobby and emergency service is about. The Fair will run 25 days. There will be two radios, one HF, and one tri-band. A general license is nice because they operate the HF and fill out the QSL cards and SANDARC will send them out. All for free.

There will be three shifts per day: 1000am-200pm, 200pm-600pm and 600pm-1000pm. The Fair will be closed on Mondays, except July 4.

Things to do: have some fun, interact with other hams that stop by, recruit for your club or other clubs those are closer to them. Hand out pamphlets, yours, and other clubs, too. In addition, have some fun at the fair. See the fair with family and friends, before, or after your shift. Show up early and stay all day: However, be on time for your shift.

Reminder: we are always talking recruiting, recruiting now is the time to do it. So sign up now. See your club scheduler now. Or ask your club president.

EARS WEBSITE WINS AWARD

by John, WB6UHF

It has been announced that the EARS website, www.earsclub.org, has won a W5WWW "Best of the Web Award".

The W5WWW website, which lists winning websites, states, "I congratulate these webmasters for their outstanding contributions to the Ham Radio community.....Ron/W5WWW".



Congratulations to Nick and to all of EARS. Keep up the good work!

BUSTED IN BELL

Department of Justice News Release

UNAUTHORIZED RADIO OPERATOR ARRESTED FOR JAMMING SEVERAL GOVERNMENT FREQUENCIES

May 5, 2005

A Bell, California man who was convicted five years ago of interfering with police radio transmissions was arrested this morning on federal charges of “jamming” radio frequencies being used by the United States military, the United States Coast Guard, and other law enforcement and public safety agencies.

Jack Gerritsen, 68, was arrested without incident at his residence by special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who received the support of the Federal Communications Commission. Gerritsen is scheduled to make his initial appearance this afternoon in United States District Court in Los Angeles.

The Federal Communications Commission has been investigating illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for the past four years. According to a criminal complaint filed in this case, an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen “often transmits his prerecorded political messages, and real-time harassment and profanity, for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies.”

Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with a police radio frequency, and he was sentenced to 38 months in prison. Gerritsen was released from prison on July 28, 2003, and soon after the FCC began receiving complaints about his activity on the airwaves, according to the complaint.

Because of his continued unlawful radio transmissions, the FCC issued three “notices of apparent liability for forfeiture” for a total of \$52,000. The FCC has received complaints concerning Gerritsen’s activities from Ham radio operators and various agencies, including the military, the Coast Guard, local police departments and the American Red Cross.

The complaint specifically alleges that Gerritsen:

- interfered with, or jammed, a radio frequency being used by the Bell Gardens Police Department on November 6, 2003;

- interfered with a radio frequency being used by the Los Angeles City Fire Department Auxiliary Communications during a training exercise on July 24, 2004;

- interfered with a Coast Guard Auxiliary amateur operator, who was assisting the Coast Guard during a search and rescue operation on October 29, 2004;

- interfered with American Red Cross radio transmissions on January 14, 2005, while the agency was preparing for disaster relief operations at the Prado Dam; and

- caused the cancellation of Army Reserve homeland security training events on March 10, 2005 when he interfered with the Military Affiliate Radio System.

A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license. The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison.

A criminal complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which received substantial assistance from the Federal Communications Commission.

ACHTUNG!

from Ben, N6MUF

I am back in Germany since May 3rd.

Please inform the gang that I will be QRV in the CQ WW CW WPX contest using the call HB0\DJ0YI from Liechtenstein.

Starting May 14th we will be QRV on all bands and all modes also using the call HB0\DL2SBY.

73,
Ben, N6MUF or DJ0YI

APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$1658.20 in the checking account. We received \$1055.50 from the auction and sale of club equipment and spent \$300+ for insurance. We now have 91 members.
2. Harry, W6YOO, reported there will be a state-wide SET around the 20th of August. To sign up for Red Cross training, contact KO6BU.
3. Harry, W6YOO, receives a list of new hams in the immediate area from ARRL. He will send each of them a club introduction letter inviting them to join.
4. John, W9EN, reported that the net rotation has been set up and most time slots have been filled.
5. John, WB6UHF, reported that due to a mix up in scheduling, we will have the four campsites just beyond our normal Field Day site. Also, it came to our attention that Steve, G0TAN's radio was damaged last Field Day. Dirk, N6SUN reported that a new case has been ordered and is on the way. Harry, W6YOO, volunteered to order "T" shirts and pins for club members for Field Day. The next Field Day meeting will be May 17 at Harry, W6YOO's.
6. Sam, N6SD, reported the club has signed up for

June 14th to man the SANDARC booth at the fair. So far two time slots are filled with one open.

7. Jo, KB6NMK, reported on our efforts to present a licensing class at Heritage Charter School. A 3:00 p.m. class time won't work, so John, WB6UHF, will see about a different time.

8. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported we made \$402.25 from the auction and that checks are in the mail.

9. Nick, KK6TV, reported he has upgraded the website software and is cleaning up the problems it caused. John, WB6UHF, suggested we set up a secure membership database on the website available to the board. Nick, KK6TV will work on it.

10. John, WB6UHF, reported the facilities at the Marriot for the 2006 convention are very nice.

11. Jo, KB6NMK reported there were problems with two vehicles so everyone and the equipment rode in Tony's car for the Baker to Vegas run. Everything went well in their sector and they had a good time.

12. Konrad, N6UKO, will contact the Chamber of Commerce about getting a meeting room at the same time and date as before.

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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