

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

April 2006

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army building at 1301 Las Villas Way, in Escondido. Come early and chat!

Thursday, April 13th EARS Annual Auction

Here comes the big one! Get ready to turn tons of junk (er, valuables) into a few bucks... or vice versa.

Note these special times:

6:00 p.m. Seller Registration

6:30 p.m. Buyer Registration

7:00 p.m. Auction Begins

This year's auctioneer will once again be the master of things electronic, Art McBride, KC6UQH.

Forget eBay! How could anything be more fun than the camaraderie of joining your fellow hams for this annual EARS event.

See you there!

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.



An elephant baby is born! See the article on page 5.
-- photo courtesy DF2BO

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EVENT CALENDAR

Apr 13 **EARS Yearly Auction**
Apr 15 EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Apr 18 Field Day Planning Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 26 EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Apr 29 I Love A Clean San Diego
Apr 29 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

May 11 **EARS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.**
May 13 Pacific Crest Trail 50 Mile Run
May 16 Field Day Planning Meeting 7 p.m.
May 20 EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 23 EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
May 27 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Jun 24-25 **ARRL Field Day**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

A recent article I read online discussed that researchers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) are predicting that the next sunspot cycle will be 30-50% stronger than the last one and begin as much as a year late. The scientists expect the cycle to begin in late 2007 or early 2008, which is about 6 to 12 months later than a cycle would normally start. Cycle 24 is likely to reach its peak about 2012. I read about this on QRZ.com.

While we will have to wait for improving sunspot activity, one thing you can look forward to this week is the EARS annual auction on Thursday. The auction will take place at the same location as last year. We will hold the auction in the gym of the Salvation Army building at Centre City and El Norte. Talk in is on 146.880. This is a great event from many aspects.

One, it is a chance for the club to raise some money to fund on-going projects and events. Two, it is an opportunity for you to sell some of your excess equipment (and some of the stuff you bought at the auction last year). Lastly, it is an opportunity to find some real bargains and neat stuff. I hope to see you there!

Another bit of good news. This year for Field Day, we have reserved the Semi-Circle at Lake Dixon. This is where we were two years ago. If you're interested in coming to the planning meetings, they are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Salvation Army Building. Come and share your ideas for this year's Field Day.

73 for now,

Dirk

SHIRLEY HICKS, N6KKL, SK

by Roger, KB6DQO

Those of you who have been around may remember my mother, Shirley, N6KKL. She became a silent key on April 4th. She first got her license in 1984 and was a member of the EARS club for many years. She was not a very active operator but was really proud to have the license.

EARS Club Officers for 2006

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darcpa@sbcglobal.net

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Membership

position is vacant

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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 6.

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXII

by Harry, W6YOO



April 21, 22 & 23 2006

This is the month that many award chasers have been waiting for. It's Visalia time! And what is that you may ask?

Well, every year, during the month of April, there is held in Visalia, California, the International DX Convention, sponsored on alternating years by the Northern California DX Club and the Southern California DX Club.

There are usually some six to seven hundred in attendance to rub elbows with other DXers and to see presentations about expeditions to the far flung corners of the world. These may have resulted in a QSL card which moved the recipient another notch up one of the status ladders in the DXCC, WAZ or IOTA programs. This is the 57th running of the convention and if you have never been you have really missed something. For further information see www.dxconvention.org

One such expedition will be going on during the midst of the Visalia Convention. It will be part of the FIRST EVER Hamfest on Andaman Island, VU4, one of the really rare DX spots in the world. One result of the last expedition on Andaman in December, 2004, when the Indian team switched from DXpedition mode to Emergency Services mode because of the devastating Tsunami, was to convince the government of India of the value of Amateur Radio.

In recognition, there will be a convention in Port Blair and, will wonders never cease to happen, foreign operators will be permitted to operate! So, starting on April 18 and going through April 25, listen for VU4AN. Andaman Island counts as a separate DXCC entity and also as IOTA island group, AS-001. This will be only the second operation from VU4 in

the past twenty years!

So...tune up your rigs, point your antennas in the right direction, study your propagation charts, get up in the middle of the night if need be, and if you're very lucky, you'll add Andaman Island to your cache of QSL cards. QSLs go to the National Institute for Amateur Radio (NIAR), Hyderabad, India. See www.niar.org. I am sure the pileups will be huge.

73,

Harry, W6YOO

50 MILES ANYONE?

by David Doan, KC6YSO

The Pacific Crest Trail 50 Mile Run will be on Saturday, May 13. The Run will begin and end at the Boulder Oaks Campground and follow the Pacific Crest Trail. Aid Stations will be at Fred Canyon, Dale's Soup Kitchen, Todd's Cabin, and Penny Pines.

With two operators per shift, this means at least 16 operators. This event normally uses 75 meter SSB, though I plan to check out the sites for VHF coverage as a backup.

The event is longer than the Lake Hodges 50 K, but hopefully, the weather will be better! If you are interested, please contact me at

kc6yso@amsat.org, 619-286-4888
Thanks! This should be a lot of fun!

David, KC6YSO

CONVENTION SIGNUP DEADLINE

by John, WB6UHF

Don't forget to register for the 2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, coming September 22-24, 2006.

Early bird registration ends **April 30**, so sign up now. Use the registration form on the next page.

This year's Convention will be in San Diego at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel. For more information, including seminar times, speakers, program and hotel information, visit www.sandarc-conv2006.org.

2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Amateur Radio Convention September 22, 23 & 24 San Diego, California

San Diego Marriott Mission Valley
8757 Rio San Diego Drive Phone (619) 692-3800



www.sandarc-conv2006.org

HAM Radio
Helping All of Mankind

Registration Form

Please list additional Attendees - ALL ATTENDEES MUST BE REGISTERED

No charge for Children 16 or under when Accompanied by a Registered Adult

How did you find out about the Convention?

☐ Radio ☐ Web search ☐ Ham Club ☐ News Paper ☐ Other _____

Call Sign: _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Kids Adults Call Sign Name (please print)

Early Bird Dated before April 30, 2006 \$15.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____
Convention Pins Included (Limited Supplies)

Pre Registration \$17.50 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

At Door Pass \$20.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

Accompanied kids under 16 year Free

DX Breakfast \$20.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

Banquet Tickets Dinner ☐ Beef ☐ Chicken 40.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

Convention Lunch 20.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

2006 Convention Pins \$ 5.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

2002 Convention Pins \$ 5.00 @ _____ ea. = \$ _____

QSL Card Checking

Make Checks payable to: Web Form ver 10.1



SANDARC Convention

C/O R. Boehme W6RHV
10340 Everell Pl.
Santee, CA 92071

Staff Use Only

Registration _____
Date _____
Amount _____
Check # _____
Pins given _____
Receipt _____
Signed up _____
Other _____
Other _____

A BABY ELEPHANT IS BORN

by DF2BO (thanks to Nick, KK6TV)

This is meant to generally inform you about the realization of the newest OptiBeam Yagi, the OB804020. This baby of an elephant consists of three interlaced monobanders, separately fed, on a 16.6m (55 foot) long boom:

-> 2el on 80m, element length = 23.5 meters (77 feet), active boom length = 12.40 meters (41 feet)
-> 3el on 40m, element length = 14.6 meters (48 feet), active boom length = 12.3 meters (40 feet)
-> 5el wide spaced OWA on 20m, full sized, active boom length = 15 meters (49 feet)

The elephant weighs in at 180 kg (roughly 400 pounds). Already the square boom which has a side length of 12cm (5 inch) participates on that weight with 65 kg (143 pounds). I had designed the antenna shortly after the OB4020 was realized and after I had sold it several times, finding out that antennas cannot be big enough for some hams. By my usual email correspondence I discovered that some hams definitely had interest in such an antenna, but where could I test install it? Our factory court would not be big enough, and especially the tower would not handle that thing, being too low anyway.

Just at that time I was in contact with my friend EA3AKP who I know for many years already, Joan Canals from Gerona (near Barcelona). For some time he had a 3 by 3 combo for 80/40m from Force12 up on his 40 meter high tower (131 feet), but especially the 80m elements showed many mechanical issues and Joan was tired to repair them over and over again. He normally wanted me to build him a substitution, an OptiBeam 3 by 3 combo, but after a while I was able to convince him to purchase the OB804020.

The 5el on 20m would be an interesting comparison to his 4el Quad which he has for many years. And I told him that the OptiBeam 80m elements are so good that he would not really miss anything on 80m compared to the not so efficient elements from the Force12 beam. So Joan, my wife Diana and I decided to look into his order as our test installation simultaneously...

We managed to make some contacts, and even though the frequency range from 7.040 to 7.100 was just bang full of WPX testers we were heard



Getting ready to put up the new antenna for some tests.
-- photo courtesy DF2BO

extremely well in North America, and not only one station said that we were the loudest station on the band. Saturday morning we played a bit on 20m, comparing with the 20m elements of the 4el multi-band Quad which Joan has installed on one of his other three towers. The quad was considerably lower, and it was obvious that the five 20m elements of the OB804020 were extremely high compared to the conditions into the East Coast of North America. Sometimes the Quad was even a little better. But what a difference comparing to a KL7 and a VY1. On the quad the signal was watery and barely copyable, on the OB804020 it was two S-units louder and clear as a bell.

Joan enjoys having the two antennas for 20m now which will cover almost any type of propagation. We could not test much more as Diana and I had to leave, but Joan will continue. His first impression is fantastic, and he says that on 20m the 5el are as sharp as a knife.

Well, it was the biggest project which we at OptiBeam have ever realized so far. My special thanks go to Joan for buying this not really cheap antenna and for giving us the chance for this test installation. Last but not least I thank my darling Diana who has done an outstanding preparation by pre assembling and packing and who, this is no exaggeration, has pre assembled more than one third of this huge antenna on her own.

Yes, it sounds like "and the Oscar goes to...", but it was quite some project, and I am very thankful to all people who were involved into it.

Kind regards to everybody.

Tom, DF2BlueOcean

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported the website is up and running but there are still things to do.
2. Konrad, N6UKO reported by phone that we have 28 life members plus 58 paid up members.
3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported by e-mail that he and Sam, N6SD, assembled the 8 bay antenna and checked it out. A mounting bracket needs to be made before it can be installed at the site.
4. Harry, W6YOO, reported there are many events coming up that require communication operators. For details, visit the website at www.qsl.net/sdgarri.
5. Roger, KB6DQO, reported he has a list of new Hams in the area and has written an introductory letter and will mail them out soon.
6. John, WB6UHF, reported that Field Day planning meetings will be the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
7. Sam, N6SD, reported that the main topics discussed at SANDARC were the budget and the Legislative Oversight Committee. A decision on having a booth at the fair has not been made yet.
8. Jo, KB6NMK, pointed out that two students who recently trained to become hams and failed the test need to be tutored or they will be lost to ham radio.
9. John, WB6UHF, has an appointment with Capt. Strickland about sitting up a SATERN station at the Salvation Army building.
10. John, WB6UHF, reported that he and Anselmo, KD6PRV, visited the Tijuana amateur radio club. The Tijuana hams will be hosting a hospitality suite at the Convention and presenting a forum on how to get licensed to operate in Mexico.
11. Dirk, N6SUN, will visit US Bank to work out just what is required to take out a new CD.
12. Leon, N6VS, and family are now living at a motel due to a recent garage fire.
13. Steve, W6TAN and John, WB6UHF, will work out the details on how to restore the Club database back to the internet.

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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www.valueferret.com

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