

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Aug 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!

Saturday, August 19th EARS Annual Picnic

At Rod McLeod Park, starting at 11 a.m. Everyone needs to bring their own chair. The club will provide burgers and condiments. Bring a side dish if you wish.

The T Hunt will start at 1:00 p.m.

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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, N6EP, Editor
n6ep@arrl.net

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

EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 19	EARS Annual Picnic, 11 a.m.
Aug 22	EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
Aug 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Sept 4	Coronado Beach Patrol
Sept 14	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sept 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 26	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Oct 13-15	Miramar Air Show

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY by Steve, KE6PY

I am trying to drum up interest in a club effort for this year's California QSO Party, the weekend of October 6-8. It starts at 1600 UTC Saturday and ends 2200 UTC on Sunday, 30 hours total for multioperators.

I've reserved 2 adjacent campsites at Dixon Lake with electricity, sites 17 and 18, so we don't have to mess with generators. We've got the nifty trailer-tower, and why use it just for Field Day?

It's a mixed mode contest and as far as I'm concerned, operators at any skill level can participate, phone or cw.

Comments? Who's game?

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

Since I just got back from vacation, for a change in pace, I'll tell you a little about my trip to Iowa. If you want to know more, just ask me at the EARS Annual Picnic on August 19th.

My vacation started by riding my bike across Iowa. This is the third year I've participated in the Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. This year was about 475 miles, then I rode another 35 after the ride. So, in all I logged over 500 miles in Iowa over eight days. This ride proved that Iowa is not flat. There were many hills to climb in the first three days. The first three days were over 70 miles each day, included many hills, and a couple days had headwinds. In all, I climbed 17,100 feet over the seven days.

What do I do on this ride you might ask? You spend a lot of time on the bike... That's a given. But other than that, I visit with friends I've made over the years and make new ones, visit museums and other unique sites in the small towns along the route, eat a lot of food (do you know how many ways there are to prepare pork...), endure occasional hot and humid weather and sometimes rain, see a lot of tractors, hear a number of good bands, visit the fellow Kiwanis Clubs who serve breakfast, lunch and dinners as fundraisers, play a washboard bass, and best of all ride with Lance Armstrong!

I actually would have left Lance alone, however, I wanted to share with him my concern for Lung Cancer. I kept my comments brief and told him that I was honored to meet him. His goal is to raise the awareness and funding for cancer research. I hope he is successful in his endeavor to increase the funding at all levels for cancer research. He announced that he will ride the entire week next year.

The weather was good overall. The one night of intense thunderstorm activity, I stayed with my cousin in Polk County. That was good luck on my part. The folks in the tents got quite a light show. Many slept in the local high school gymnasium. In the morning, she made the comment that she was surprised by the strength and duration of the storm and she's a lifelong resident of Iowa. A few of the days were quite humid. Otherwise, the weather was normal for a July in Iowa - just plain hot.

The second part of the trip was to complete the planning for my dad's graveside service. It was a nice service and about 50 people attended. We had lunch afterward where we were able to visit with any

family and friends.

Later in the second week, I drove a recently restored 1948 Ford 8N 65 miles to Hamilton, IL. Most people trailer their tractors to the local threshing shows... However, this group of antique tractor owners I met like to drive their tractors. It took us 6 hours of driving time to get there. I had to keep pinching myself...

(continued on page 3)

EARS Club Officers for 2006

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AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XVI

by Harry, W6YOO

As we discussed last time, there are ongoing changes in the various awards programs and, as we learned, the citizens of Montenegro voted to separate from Serbia and become an independent nation. This action produced a new DX entity bringing the total of current entities to 336.

Now there arrives a new player on the field; to wit: Swain's Island. This island had been part of the Vanuatu group; however, in 1926 it was moved politically to be a United States protectorate as part of the Samoan group, KH8. A recent disturbance in the force, otherwise known as the IARU, allowed Swain's to become a separate entity by virtue of distance from the parent, i.e. American Samoa, thus bringing the new number of DXCC entities to 337.

Will there be other new ones? Stay tuned!

Almost immediately, a DXpedition was assembled, headed up by JA1BK, a famous Japanese Amateur. Late in July, the group set sail from American Samoa and, after a couple of days of travel, arrived at Swain's Island and set up operations under the call sign of KH8SI. They started off on SSB and later added CW to the mix. The island is very small with a population of less than fifty. Propagation was not at all favorable and the pile ups were huge. Nighttime operation was a problem for them as their generators disturbed the sleep of the islanders. They did manage several thousand QSOs before they had to depart. Rest assured that there will be other groups following on to satisfy worldwide demand.

As an interesting aside, JA1BK, who is also going to act as QSL manager, asked that only one actual QSL card be sent with additional QSOs listed on the back of the card. Although I have sent cards out like that in the past, this is the first time in my memory that a manager has asked that it be done.

The number of QSOs made by the three major players in Montenegro, 4O3T, YU6DZ, and YU6AO, is approaching two hundred thousand, which is phenomenal. However, in checking the DX packet clusters, one or more seems to be on the air all the time on CW, SSB, RTTY, or PSK. See one of the new Montenegro QSLs by going to www.qrz.com, type in YU6AO and have a look.

Steve, KE6PY, has suggested that EARS do a Multi/Multi operation from Dixon Lake for the California QSO Party (CQP), 1600Z, October 7, to 2159Z, October 8, 2006. That's a wonderful idea and it

could provide more club members with contest experience. To learn more about CQP, go to www.cqp.org and read about the history, rules, awards, etc. It is truly a fun contest.

A number of years ago, we did an all female multi-single from my station using the call sign All California Six Foxy Ladies, AC6FY. It was a real hoot! The ladies ranged in age from 15 to I won't tell you but they had fun. And.... the nice thing is that all participants qualify for a neat T-shirt which is very distinctive. So if you would like to participate in this club activity, please let Steve know.

73, Harry

R.I.P. OLD FRIEND

by John, N6EP

WB6UHF is no more.

No, I didn't croak. But in honor of forty years on the air with the same call, and in anticipation of the upcoming sunspot cycle and the next forty years, I decided to take the plunge and get a vanity call.

FYI, WB6UHF was not a vanity call. I got it with the luck of the draw in September, 1966, as WN6UHF. It was too nice a call to just turn in when the vanity program started. But nothing is sacred and I wanted a change. I especially wanted something *shorter*!

Anyway, on a practical note, this is the last bulletin you will receive from wb6uhf@arrl.net. Next month's will come from n6ep@arrl.net. So, adjust your spam filters now, if necessary!

And see you on the air with the new call!

John, N6EP

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(cont'd)

I took my Kenwood F6A which provided up to the minute weather reports and an occasional QSO with local hams. I met a few hams on bikes along the trek across Iowa.

So, that's my vacation in a nutshell. I'd be glad to tell you more about it at the picnic. I hope to see you there.

73, Dirk

JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported he would like ideas on getting more of the membership to the meetings and involved in club activities. Club members will be asked for their input on having a possible club project and the type they would like.

2. Steve, W6TAN, reported he has renewed the website domain name for \$8.00. He is working on getting the club membership database on the website.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported the repeater is working and he needs to order the bracket for the new antenna. He will also need a drill and bit to drill a 1/2" hole in a telephone pole.

4. Harry, W6YOO, reported there are four ARES events upcoming:

A Simulated Emergency test will be held August 19th, the Lost Kid Beach Patrol is September 4th in Coronado, the Miramar Air Show is the weekend of October 13th -15th, and an EMS drill with area

hospitals participating on November 15th. For more information go to www.sdgares.org. The annual "I Love a Clean San Diego" is September 16th. For more information contact N6ZT at n6zt@arrl.org.

5. Roger, KB6DQO, reported so far he has sent 55 letters to new hams and has received a list of 5 more he needs to contact.

6. John, WB6UHF, reported he still hasn't heard about the status of our radio room at the Salvation Army building.

7. Jo, KB6NMK, reported an instructor for a Tech class is still needed at the Heritage Charter School.

8. Steve, W6TAN needs transportation for his BBQ to and from the picnic. He will buy the food, organize the picnic and secure the site.

9. All board members should e-mail a photo to Steve, W6TAN, for posting on the website.

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 any club officer.

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 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. There is a breakfast buffet for the low price of \$7.00. The monthly ARES training session follows the breakfast meeting and takes place at the Emergency Operations Center in Kearney Mesa. Training begins at 10:00 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour. Donations of cash or equipment to San Diego ARES are now tax deductible.

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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