

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

July 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, July 13th
DXing 101

All the real skinny on how to find 'em, how to work 'em, how to QSL 'em.

Saturday, August 19th
EARS Annual Picnic

At Rod McLeod Park, starting at 11 a.m. Mark your calendar now.

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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, 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.

EVENT CALENDAR

July 13
July 15
July 25
July 29

EARS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m., at Jo's
VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Aug 19
Aug 22
Aug 26

EARS Annual Picnic, 11 a.m.
EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m.
VE Testing, 9 a.m.



Sunset illuminates the VHF/UHF station at this year's Field Day.
For more photos, see page 4.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hello all,

Another Field Day is now behind us. As the band captain for Station Two, I want to tell you that I had a great time setting up and operating the station. I had a lot of participation from club members and from what I can tell, both Station One and Station Two did very well given the condition of the bands. I'd like to personally thank everyone who played a part in Field Day this year. From setting up, cooking, operating, and tearing down. I especially enjoyed working with the new amateurs who operated the GOTA station. Mentoring others is personally very rewarding for me.

While I think this was one of the smoother Field Day's of recent history, I know there are areas where we can improve. As a band captain, I noted certain things that I would do differently. While the ideas are fresh in your mind, please jot them down to share with the club. Last year, Sam started a history file for the club and this would be great information for that binder. Submit your ideas to me via e-mail to me or bring them to a club meeting. Ideally, this document could be used as a checklist to help us quickly establish emergency communications stations in times of need.

Although not in time for Field Day, I read recently that a new sunspot came around and may begin to

GO BACK TO SCHOOL

by John, WB6UHF

Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, is looking for someone to teach a licensing class at Heritage K-8 Charter School on East Valley Parkway.

The class will be after school hours and begin about 2:45 p.m. starting August 14. The class can be taught once a week or more often as the instructor's time allows.

Would anyone be willing/able to volunteer their time to help Elmer some prospective hams? There are already two students who almost passed their tests and need just a bit more instruction to get their licenses.

If you are interested, please contact Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, at 741-2560.

affect the HF bands. Hopefully we'll have some good conditions for the contests in July. More contest information is available here: www.arrl.org/contests/months/jul

See you all at the next meeting.

73,

Dirk, N6SUN

EARS Club Officers for 2006

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Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 743-5839
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Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212
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Membership

position is vacant

Property Manager

*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6ppk@amsat.org

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXV

by Harry, W6YOO

If there is anything in the world that is constant, it is change. The laws change, the climate changes, and the rules for DXCC change.

There may be a reason for the latter. If the rules were rigid and the number of "entities" never changed, participants would soon become bored and go on to other pursuits. Fortunately, the rules committee at ARRL is aware and continually seeks to keep the DXCC program vital and interesting.

Sometimes, world events have an effect on the DXCC program. The most recent was Montenegro's vote to separate itself from Serbia and become a nation in its own right. The vote occurred, application for membership was made to the United Nations, and Montenegro is now a separate country and a new DXCC entity. We are still waiting for them to get their own prefix so until that occurs, they'll use YU6.

An international group is forming to send a DXpedition to Montenegro to put several stations on the air and give the "deserving" an opportunity to make contacts on several bands and modes. Their departure date has not been set so watch the DX bulletins. Oh by the way, the addition of Montenegro brings the total of current DXCC entities to 336!

For the uninitiated, the award of DXCC is made when an applicant can show through the presentation of QSL cards or through the medium of Logbook of the World, that he/she has worked 100 DXCC entities on the current list. The next award up the ladder is Five Band DXCC for working a minimum of 100 "entities" on each of the bands, 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters.

This in turn leads to another award known as the DXCC Challenge. If you manage the minimum entities for Five Band DXCC (5BDXCC) or that you have 500 entities across all bands, you qualify for the Challenge plaque at the 500 or entry level. With each additional 500 "entities" you add a medallion to the plaque until you reach the 2500 mark.

Each year there is also an award of the DeSoto Cup to the DXCC Challenge leader with medals for the 2nd and 3rd place in the standings. The Clinton B. DeSoto Challenge Top Scorer for 2005 was Bob Eshleman, W4DR, with 3,095 confirmed! My total for 2005 was 1,960 so as one can see, I'll be chasing after that cup for a very long time.

If you are interested in the DXCC program, complete rules can be found at www.arrl.org, or if you want

them in hard copy, you can buy the ARRL DXCC List for \$5.00 at Ham Radio Outlet (HRO).

73,
Harry, W6YOO



Jo, KB6NMK, operates the demonstration station at the San Diego Fair. Thanks to all EARS operators who assisted.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

HAM BAY WATCH from Harry, W6YOO

CERO and ARES have been asked by the Capt. Sean Carey of the Coronado lifeguards to assist them with rescuing lost children on Labor Day at the Coronado Beaches.

See www.sdgares.org/beach_rescue_patrols.htm for more information.

Depending on the Surf and the Weather, we expect to conduct between 10 and 20 searches during the day.

Contact ky6la@ky6la.com.

TUCK MILLER RESIGNS AS SM by John, WB6UHF

Tuck Miller, NZ6T, has resigned as San Diego Section Manager, after suffering a very serious heart attack.

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, our former Section Manager, has been appointed to replace Tuck.

Thanks, Tuck, for a job well done!

FIELD DAY 2006 IN THE BOOKS!

by John, WB6UHF



Three year's of Field Day T-shirts, modeled by (l to r)
John, WB6UHF, Steve, W6TAN, and Ben, N6MUF.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Field Day such an enjoyable time!

Konrad, N6UKO, Sam, N6SD, Marvin, WB6PKK, and all the setup/teardown crew did a great job of getting the antennas set up. How about our new "tower trailer"? What a dream putting up and taking down the 20m Yagi. That, and the crank-up for the 15m Yagi made the setup alot smoother and safer.



Chowing down are Dirk's daughter, Dick, NB6R,
Roger, KB6DQO, Ron, N6XT, and Sam, N6SD.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

Thank you also, Marvin, for doing a great job with Friday dinner. Delicious tri-tip and great wine. A big thank you to everyone who brought food Saturday night, including Mrs. NB6R, Mrs. W6TAN and Mrs N6SD. It was a great help coming through on short notice.

The band captains were Dirk, N6SUN, on 15/40, Steve A., KE6PY, on 20/80, Dick, NB6R, on GOTA, and Steve V., W6TAN, on VHF/UHF. All made sure the rigs were up and running and that there were operators covering the timeslots.

Steve, W6TAN, and John, W9EN, did a great job on



Just how hot was it? The weather station at the VHF/UHF position has the answer. Note the humidity, too!
- photo courtesy W6TAN

the satellite contacts, including one dupe!

Dick, NB6R, did a wonderful job on the GOTA station, bringing ham radio alive for many youngsters and newbies who may not have even heard of radio before. Great job, Dick, helping make sure the kids had a good introduction to radio.

Thanks to new members Mark and Kathy, and new member Steven Currie, too. They worked the GOTA station for lots of contacts and learned just what Field Day is. Sorry, I still haven't learned your call signs!

Thanks to all the operators who were able to rack up the QSOs. Good to see Dennis, WA6IQY, and Bill, W6EET. We made a good effort on both CW and phone. I'll have the results in the near future when our entry is complete.

Nice to see some some rare club members and



John, W9EN, and Steve, W6TAN, operate the VHF/UHF station.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

friends. I saw Chris Bille, among others.

Thanks to Harry, W6YOO, for filling up a couple of time slots and for helping with publicity and copying the official FD message from W1AW.

Thanks, Jo, KB6NMK, Marvin, WB6PKK, and Steve V., W6TAN, for the loan of the generators. Next year fuel cells?

Thanks, Roger, KB6DQO, for filling in some of the



Enjoying the Saturday night dinner are John, WB6UHF (barely), Steve A., KE6PY, Konrad, N6UKO, Gena (Mrs W6TAN), and new member Steven Currie.
- photo courtesy W6TAN

time slots, and for helping with chores. Good to see Dennis back out there, and he promised to come to some club meetings, too. Ron, N6XT, good job on the radio again.

And, of course, thanks, Sam, for the use of your call sign. I hope we didn't besmirch your reputation too badly.

My apologies to those who I've forgotten or whose efforts I failed to recognize. Blame it on sunstroke and dehydration.

Every FD has its share of memorable moments. This year we had the drunken, stumbling guest in the GOTA tent (waiting patiently for his turn on the air while we stumbled to make an imaginary antenna change), the near catastrophe with the 20m Yagi (don't ask!) and the generally rotten band conditions.

Can't wait to see what next year brings. See you then!

JUNE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Dirk, N6SUN, reported the program for July will be DXing 101 by Harry, W6YOO. The Program for August will be the annual Club Picnic at Rod McLeod Park on Saturday the 19th. The website and database are in work.

2. Harry, W6YOO, reported that since ARES has become a charitable organization they have received several thousand dollars in donations with the goal of constructing a communications van. From now on, the ARES training will be held at the EOC center. Coronado has requested 2 meter operators to volunteer to help lifeguards on September 4th in locating lost children on the beach. This will allow the Lifeguards to concentrate on problems in the water. Contact Mitch, K6BK, in reference to "Beach Rescue Patrol".

3. John, WB6UHF, reported the Field Day went smoothly but the band conditions were lousy.

4. Sam, N6SD, reported the Technician study books were in and were turned over to the City

library for distribution to City branches and County branches. SANDARC is considering moving the Fair booth to the Infield next year but there are problems that need to be considered before a decision is made. The Legislative Oversight Committee will form a plan for fund raising at their next meeting and will continue to check out the tower issues in Poway.

5. Jo, KB6NMK, reported she still needs an instructor for the Heritage Charter School for an hour starting at 2:45pm.

6. Up to \$200 was authorized for the picnic. Sam, N6SD, will provide copies of the food lists from previous years. John, WB6UHF has a box of hamburger patties left over from Field Day and Marvin, WB6PKK has plastic utensils.

7. Jo, KB6NMK will host the next board meeting at her house July 25th at 7pm.

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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