

# ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

March 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, March 9th Batteries & Battery Charging, Part II**

Mark Ratcliff, KF6WTN, presents the second part of his series on Batteries & Battery Charging. Come learn about charging the different types of batteries.

### **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.

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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

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.



Thanks to Sam, N6SD, the EARS ham radio display is back! Check it out just inside the front door at the main library at Kalmia and 2nd Street. - photo courtesy N6SD

## EVENT CALENDAR

- |               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar 9</b>  | <b>EARS Monthly Meeting 7:30 p.m.</b> |
| Mar 11        | Lake Hodges 50K run                   |
| Mar 18        | EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.     |
| Mar 21        | Field Day Planning Meeting 7 p.m.     |
| Mar 25        | VE Testing, 9 a.m.                    |
| Mar 28        | EARS Board Meeting 7 p.m. at Harry's  |
| <br>          |                                       |
| <b>Apr 13</b> | <b>EARS Yearly Auction</b>            |
| 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.                    |

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

*By popular demand, we bring you Classic President's Corner - the greatest highlights of last month's column, repeated for your enjoyment.*

The club has some great events coming up in the next two months:

It's the perfect time to start planning for April's meeting! This is the annual club auction. Start looking now through your garage and/or ham shack for items that have sat around too long. This has always been a great fundraising event for our club and there are always plenty of bargains for buyers.

On the technical side, be watching for improvements to the 2 meter repeater soon. Marvin is working on a new antenna right now and looking into a better controller.

Lastly, there are plenty of emergency services activities to participate in. There is a 50km run on March 11th at Lake Hodgers, then the Pacific Crest Trail run on March 13th. And finally, the I Love A Clean San Diego event on April 29th.

Contact Harry or Jo for information on volunteering for these events.

73,  
Dirk

## SUIT SAT SILENT from the ARRL Newsletter

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1—designated AO-54—easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength.

Bob King, VE6BLD, in Alberta posted the last confirmed reception of SuitSat-1's voice audio, Saturday, February 18, at 0332 UTC. Richard Crow, N2SPI, in New York received the last confirmed telemetry, which indicated the battery voltage dropping precipitously to a low of 18.3 V before the novel satellite ceased to transmit.

## EARS Club Officers for 2006

### President

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

### Vice President

Steve Venner, W6TAN, 737-0755  
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### Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096  
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### 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  
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Roger Hicks, KB6DQO, 741-3375  
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\*John Musselman, WB6UHF, 747-5303  
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### Past President

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

### Historian

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 743-4212  
w6yoo@amsat.org

### Membership

*position is vacant*

### 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 XXI

by Harry, W6YOO

Every now and then something comes along that frustrates me. I am sure that my readers experience the same thing from time to time. My kids could spot this easily and would inquire of their mother: "What's bugging dad?"

Well, this time it's the lack of commonality in QSL card checkers. What do I mean by that? First of all, we have those appointed to check QSL cards for the ARRL's prestigious award, DXCC. Next, we have those who can check cards for CQ Magazine's Worked All Zones (WAZ). And finally, we have those checkers who can do cards for ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) and the VUCC award for working 100 grid squares on six meters and up. And, of course, there are others, but you get the idea.

For DXCC card checkers, the ARRL Section Manager may appoint one, and each DX club in the section may nominate one. Hence there are two in the San Diego Section, WA6MHZ and myself. For WAZ, CQ magazine appoints checkers by a system that I have yet to fathom. Lastly, WAS and VUCC checkers are nominated by ARRL Special Service clubs, a title that is very difficult to achieve.

The Palomar ARC earned the title in the early 90s but has allowed the designation to lapse. Of their two WAS and VUCC checkers, one is a Silent Key and the other moved overseas. Now there are no WAS and VUCC checkers within the San Diego Section. Accordingly, if you want to have your WAS or VUCC cards checked, you have to travel to Riverside or San Bernardino or package them up and send them off to ARRL Headquarters. Sending them by registered mail is the prudent way to go. It is expensive, but you are not likely to lose your hard won cards.

It would seem to me that if one is qualified as a DXCC card checker, he or she could certainly learn the rules for WAS and VUCC and be qualified to do them all. After all it's not rocket science!

As was mentioned here some time ago, CQ Magazine has introduced an award for working and confirming contacts within worldwide Maidenhead grids, of which many are located in mid-ocean. Since the 3Y0X team traveled many days across open ocean getting to and from Peter I Island, did anyone contact them while they were operating maritime mobile to nail one or more elusive grids? For some reason the thought never occurred to me.

Speaking of Peter I, I hope all of you were able to get

at least one QSO in their log. They had 22 operators, working all bands, including satellite and EME, during their stay. They made some eighty-six thousand QSOs which is amazing for being in the low of the sunspot cycle. I was hoping for 40, 80, and 160, having confirmed 10 through 30 from the 1994 expedition, but was successful adding only 40 meters.

The San Diego DX Club is responsible for putting on the DX Breakfast at the ARRL Convention in September and we are hoping to present the Peter I DXpedition as the program. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the convention registration form. Sign up now to get your early bird discount.

See you in the pileups. 73,

Harry, W6YOO

## EARS MEMBERS DISPLACED BY FIRE

by Harry, W6YOO

Leon and Peggy Helms' garage was damaged by fire Saturday, February 18.

No one was hurt but the family has been moved by the Red Cross to a local hotel until repairs are made. Both automobiles were destroyed plus the contents of the garage. The home has no power, water or gas until repairs are made.

Included are Pam, Peggy's sister, and Pam's daughter, Rose, who I think is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader.

It is primarily a serious inconvenience and things probably won't be back to normal for a few weeks. They have rental cars so transportation is not a problem. However, any offers of a sit down dinner, use of the laundry facilities, etc., I'm sure will be greatly appreciated.

## CONVENTION SIGNUP

by John, WB6UHF

Don't forget to register for the 2006 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, coming up September 22-24. This year's Convention will be in San Diego at the Mission Valley Marriott Hotel. Early bird registration ends April 30, so sign up now.

Download the form at [www.sandarc-conv2006.org](http://www.sandarc-conv2006.org) or get one from Harry or John.

## 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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.arrl.org/members). The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at [www.arrl.org/arrlletter](http://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](http://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](http://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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