

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Sept 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, September 21st
K7C DXPedition to Kure Island

IMPORTANT NOTE - This month's meeting will be on the THIRD Thursday due to remodeling at the Salvation Army Building!

Come see a video on the DXPedition to Kure Atoll, the northernmost Hawaiian atoll, Sept-Oct, 2005. The expedition team was an international group of highly experienced radio amateurs and field scientists using the callsign K7C,

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

by Steve, KE6PY

For those of you interested in the California QSO Party, we are meeting at Filippi's Pizza Parlor on Grand Avenue at 7 p.m., September 12th to plan.

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, 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

Sept 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 21	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Sept 22-24	ARRL SW Division Convention
Sept 26	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Oct 12	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Oct 13-15	Miramar Air Show
Oct 21	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Oct 24	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oct 28	VE Testing, 9 a.m.

CONVENTION THIS MONTH!

by John, N6EP

The ARRL Southwestern Division (Southern California and Arizona) holds a Convention each year. The location rotates and this year the show will be here in San Diego.

The dates are Sept 22 through 24 and the place is the Mission Valley Marriott. Visit www.sandarc-conv2006.org for details.

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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

I sure enjoyed seeing everything at the Annual Picnic in August.

Now, in a typical year, September, October, and November would bring normal meetings with the Christmas Party in December closing out the year. However, this is not a typical year for EARS. With the recent addition of the tower trailer to our list of assets, one of our members, Steve, KE6PY, has suggested that the club head up again to Dixon Lake for a mini Field Day of sorts.

The date is October 6th and 7th, which is when the annual California QSO Party (CQP) will be happening. Steve will be holding a planning meeting at Fillippi's in Escondido on September 12 at 7:00 p.m. Come and join us for the planning and have some pizza.

Yes, this year EARS members will have the opportunity to play radio, stay up all night, camp out and barbecue not once, but twice in a year. Sounds like fun to me! Even if you don't come to the planning meeting, please come and visit us at Dixon on October 7th and 8th.

The next exciting event to be getting ready for is the ARRL Southwest division Convention. The date for this event is September 22nd through the 24th. I won't be able to attend all of the convention, but my plan is to make it down there for at least two days (between soccer games and other events on the calendar). They have a great website, and in fact, it plays one of the easy listening country music tunes from the folks at www.hamband.com in Denmark. The video titled "Come and Join Us on the Airwaves" is a must see. I will post this to the reflector later.

Lastly, I would like to extend a big thank you to all who turned out to help Konrad with communications at the Grape Day Parade. You guys sounded great!

73, Dirk

TRAFFIC YOUR THING?

from Marvin, WB6PKK

Interested in traffic handling and emergency communications? Visit the website below for an organization dedicated to this only:

www.wrrl.org

EARS Club Officers for 2006

President

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

Vice President

Steve Venner, W6TAN, 737-0755
sbvenner@cox.net

Secretary

Sam Bradsher, N6SD, 747-9096
n6sd@arrl.net

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
kb6nmk@amsat.org

Ron Rosson, N6XT, 749-1239
n6xt@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, N6EP, 747-5303
n6ep@arrl.net

Past President

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

Historian

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

Membership

Roger Hicks, KB6DQO, 741-3375
hicks@cox.net

Property Manager

*Marvin Munster, WB6PKK, 747-2223
wb6pkk@amsat.org

SIGN UP FOR MIRAMAR AIR SHOW

from Harry, W6YOO

If you are going to be in town October 13-15 and want to help at the Miramar Air Show, go to this website and fill out the form.

www.sdgarrl.org/Miramarapp.asp

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXVII

by Harry, W6YOO

There is an old philosophical question: "If a tree falls in the woods and there is no one there to hear it, does it still make a sound?"

I have been reminded of the question by a discussion that has been going on on one of the DX reflectors for the past few weeks. It revolves around the argument that it doesn't matter whether you have the ARRL DXCC Certificate on the wall. If you worked them that's all that matters.

For example, one DXer says: "I've worked 337 different countries (the current total) but have never sent away for a QSL card. I know I worked them so that puts me at the top of the Honor Roll."

The second DXer says: "I've worked 337 different countries and I have collected all 337 cards but have never submitted them to ARRL but I am still at the top of the Honor Roll."

The third DXer says: "I've worked 337 different countries, collected QSL cards from all the stations worked, submitted them to ARRL, and hanging on my wall is an ARRL DXCC Certificate that says Number 1 Honor Roll, therefore I am at the top of the Honor Roll".

Now, which one of these three DXers is correct? Well, the argument goes that if you worked them all and you know that you worked them all, it doesn't really matter whether you have the QSLs or the certificates. How do you feel about that? Does the tree make a sound? I, for one, like to see the QSL in my hand and the certificate on the wall. If everyone felt as the first two DXers then anyone could claim to have reached the summit but without a photograph of you standing there it doesn't really mean much.

QSL cards for the two newest DXCC entities, Montenegro and Swains Island are starting to arrive in the mailboxes of those who worked them and sent for the cards. I have received a Montenegro QSL (YU6DZ) and expect a KH8SI card soon; however, unless and until the German team who operated from Yemen as 7O1YGF submit documentation to the DXCC Desk at ARRL to accredit the operation, I'll still be one short of having worked them all. Of course, it is within the realm of possibility that some other group will go there, operate, and submit the proper documentation, and the propagation gods will smile upon me and I'll get a QSO. Is that being enough of a Pollyanna for everyone?

Still waiting for a QSL from long ago? Don't give up hope! I just received one via the bureau from 4K4POL (a Russian Arctic Island) for a contact on August 13, 1991. This island is ASIA Number 065 in the IOTA program and confirmed by only 13.3% of the IOTA participants. I have been waiting for the card for over FIFTEEN years!

Just remember the magic words: DX IS and CONTESTS ARE.

73,
de Harry, W6YOO

R.I.P. SUITSAT from the ARRL Letter

SuitSat-1 (AO-54) is history. The surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit turned satellite, which became one of the greatest public relations vehicles for Amateur Radio in years, re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere Thursday, September 7, at 1600 UTC some 1400 km south-southwest of Western Australia. The announcement came September 8 from Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO.

Bauer expressed thanks to "all who made SuitSat-1 the phenomenal event that it was." Launched February 3 during a spacewalk from the ISS, SuitSat-1's 2m signal was heard around the world, although at a much weaker signal strength than anticipated. Bauer also noted the "unprecedented press coverage" that included more than 9 million hits on the SuitSat-1 Website, www.suitsat.org, during February alone as well as several prominent mentions in the general news media.

"After SuitSat-1's VHF ham radio payload stopped transmitting earlier this year, AMSAT initiated a "Chicken Little Contest," for participants to guess when SuitSat-1 would deorbit. Winners and more information are on the AMSAT Web site www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/SuitsatContest.php.

Bauer said plans for a potential SuitSat-2 will be a discussion topic at the AMSAT/ARISS joint meeting in October.

Commented ARRLARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO: "This unique satellite lasted longer than anyone ever expected, making the ARISS team proud."

AUGUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$1458.27 in the checking account, \$540.59 in the savings account and about \$1200 in the CD. There are now 94 paid-up members.

2. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported he is waiting for information from the manufacturer for how to match the two 4-bay antenna sections to one feedline.

3. Roger, KB6DQO, reported he sent out six more letters to new hams and there were no new hams listed for this month.

4. Sam, N6SD, reported that the Convention treasurer said that signups are on track and we will probably break even. Five clubs helped at the SANDARC booth at the fair and Skip, KD6RFQ, spent many days operating the booth by himself. Paul, KC6QLS, is setting up a Public Relations website which will include upcoming training sessions.

5. John, N6EP, is Vendor Services Chairman at the Convention and if he needs help he will let us know at the next meeting.

6. Steve, W6TAN, reported John, W9EN, and his wife Lynn will host the Christmas party again this year.

7. Konrad, N6UKO, wishes to donate his 220 repeater to the club if the club can become tax-exempt. Dirk will fill out a Form 1023 and apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Konrad also reported there is a new owner of the site where his 220 repeater and the club two meter packet repeater are located.

8. Steve, KE6PY, has reserved two sites at Dixon Lake for the weekend of the California QSO Party. The Club will pay the fee for the site, but the operators will have to pay all other expenses such as food.

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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