

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Feb 2007

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, February 8th
Radio Astronomy Receiver Design

Thursday, March 8th
Microprocessors - History, Design and Uses

A complete list of planned programs for the entire year can be found at www.earsclub.org. Mark your calendar now. Thanks to Steve, W6TAN!

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.

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EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 8 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Feb 16-18 Yuma Hams Expo

Feb 17 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Feb 24 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Feb 27 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mar 8 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Mar 17 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Mar 20 Field Day Planning, 7 p.m.

Mar 27 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mar 31 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Apr 12 Annual Club Auction

Apr 14 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Apr 17 Field Day Planning, 7 p.m.

Apr 24 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Apr 28 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Apr 27-29 Visalia DX Convention

Visalia International DX Convention from Harry, W6YOO

The 2007 International DX Convention will take place April 27, 28 & 29, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California. It is expected to draw visitors from around the world and will feature programs from recent DXpeditions and contest operations.

The Convention theme this year is, "Elmering New DXers is Job Number One!" Accordingly, a portion of the programming will be devoted to helping new DXers learn about how to be noticed in a pile-up, snag a "new one" and get that elusive QSL card.

Current information and registration forms are available on the Convention web page, which can be found at www.dxconvention.org. Additional registration information can be obtained by contacting Convention Registration Chairman, Dick Letrich, W6KM, via email at dlw6km@aol.com.

If you're interested in DX or DXing, the Visalia International DX Convention is *the* place to be. We hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

I want to start out this month's column by reminding club members that our dues are due. Actually, overdue at this point. Konrad informed the Board that a number of members have still not paid, though he was told they would send their renewals in soon. This is similar to last year and similar to other non-profit organizations such as ours. Folks are busy and simply forget to take a few minutes out of their day to take care of matters such as this. Even me... I've been late in paying my renewal dues in the past. In fact, once at a club meeting (during a time I was President of the Club), Konrad shamed me into giving him some of the little bit of cash I was carrying in my wallet. So, the moral of the story is, if you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do it now. Doing so helps Konrad with his duties and helps keep the club running smoothly.

Next I have some very exciting news. The plan for the February meeting is to have a presenter who will be telling us about a very exciting topic - Radio Astronomy. I say this is the "plan" because Steve has had a little trouble getting in touch with the presenter, so this may end up being the program for March. If Radio Astronomy falls through, our own VP, Steve, W6TAN, will teach us about basic microprocessor design. In any case, a very interesting program awaits those who come to our meeting this Thursday. Take note also... We will have refreshments and snacks at the meeting. Instead of arriving in time for the 7:30 p.m. start, plan on arriving between 7:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. for some social time prior to the start of the meeting. We are also planning to have some demonstrations for folks to discuss and comment on.

The last item I want to mention is the upcoming Annual Auction which will be in April. Now is the perfect time to start looking through your garage and/or ham shack for items that have sat around too long. Remember, the auction is always fun and is an important fundraiser for our club. Monies from this event help us keep the club repeaters operating properly and provide funding for our social meetings. I hope to see you at the meeting this Thursday.

73,
Dirk / N6SUN

EARS Club Officers for 2007

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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 XXXII

by Harry, W6YOO

Well, the December and January DXpedition groups on the Lakshadweep Islands have come and gone. The QSL cards for the December operation are already in the hands of the "Deserving" and I suspect the cards for the January operation will soon be the talk of the town.

I was zeroed out in December as the propagation gods did not smile on Southern California; however, things improved in January and I was able to score CW contacts on 30 and 40 meters by going long path about 0130 UTC. As far as awards go, I needed VU7 on CW, any band, and my only previous contact had been several years ago on 20 meter SSB. I had no luck on RTTY which would have given me the three conventional modes.

Speaking of modes, I am sure that, unless you have been living in a cave, cut off from the outside world, you are aware that as of midnight February 23, 2007, the ability to send and receive Morse code will no longer be required to qualify for an Amateur Radio license in the United States of America. On Saturday, February 24th, we will be testing in Escondido and for the first time I will be leaving the CW test tapes, tape players and earphones at home.

Thus ends an era almost a century in length. If you are a no-code Technician license holder on that Saturday morning you will gain, with no further action on your part, access to SSB on 10 meters, from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz and CW access to portions of 10, 15, 40, and 80 meters. If you hold an unexpired CSCE for General and/or Extra you may bring it into a test site for an upgrade to the higher license class. Any questions? Email me at: w6yoo@cox.net.

And speaking of awards.....well, that is what this article is about. The new K1BV Awards Directory has been published and I have a copy in my hot little hands. This is the Twentieth Anniversary edition and it lists over 3,253 Amateur Radio operating awards from 122 DXCC countries! Wow, think of all the excuses you can present to your XYL as to why you don't have time to take out the trash because you only need two more countries to qualify for the "Catch 22 Award" from the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (HARTS).

And just a reminder, the deadline for ARRL DXCC Honor Roll updates is March 31. Don't be late if you want to see your call in the August edition of QST.

Chasing awards can be enjoyable but it shouldn't be all consuming. I am only a few JA cards short of qualifying for the JARL "Worked All Prefectures" award. A prefecture is akin to one of our counties. I suppose that if I were a died-in-the-wool contester, on every weekend, I might have made it long ago; however, I work JA stations when I hear them but I am not obsessive about it.

As Albert used to say: "It's all relative", and as some other DXers say: "It's not a matter of life and death, it's much more important than that." It's all a matter of perspective. Enjoy your time on the air, be courteous, don't be a "LID" and remember that what you may say over the air might be heard by small children, so watch your language.

73, Harry

YUMA HAMS EXPO

--from Marvin, WB6PKK

Yuma County Fairgrounds, Feb 16,17, 18
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona
Presented by YARHO
(Yuma Amateur Radio Hamfest Org.)

Amateur (Ham) Radio Equipment, Computers, Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), Family Radio Service (FRS), Satellite Communications, Commercial Mobile Radio, Cellular Telephone, Internet Service Providers, Digital Satellite TV, Broadcast TV & Radio, RC Aircraft, Boats, Cars

Check the website for current schedule of activities and seminars, www.yumahamexpo.com

VE Testing for New Hams and Upgrades

Gates open 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15 for setup, dawn Friday, Feb 16 thru 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb 18.

BUZZARDS's (Road Kill) Bar-B-Q Saturday Night

Desert Intertie Network System Talk-In — 146.840
(-) PL 88.5 Hz

Contact YARHO Chairman Jack Koeckes, KC7DUU, kc7duu@arrrl.net

PLEASE NOTE: Listed activities and times subject to change or cancellation without notice. We are proud to have the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona (ARCA) as a sponsor of our event. Our Hams Expo is an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) sanctioned event.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported he will present a talk on microcontrollers for the March program. There will be a speaker for antennas used in astronomy for Feb.
2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported \$541.42 in savings, \$888.19 in checking and \$1229.62 in a CD. There are 29 life and 44 paid members for a total of 73.
3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported he hasn't had time to work on the 8 bay antenna and he will find out the cost of buying a phasing harness.
4. Harry, W6YOO, reported the ARRL is moving to the incident command system (ICS). All area hospitals now must have amateur radio equipment.
5. Jeff, AE6GM, was volunteered to send club introduction letters to new hams in the area.
6. Dirk, N6SUN will be a primary delegate and Ron, N6XT will be a secondary delegate to SANDARC.
7. Harry, W6YOO, now has all the keys required to get into the radio room at the Salvation Army.
8. Ron, N6XT, moved, and John, N6EP, seconded that Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, be appointed as an officer at large. The motion passed on a voice vote.

9. Dirk, N6SUN, reported the trailer tower needs work. John, N6EP pointed out that using the trailer tower is much easier and safer. Konrad, N6UKO, will check out what has to be done.
10. John, N6EP, reported Field Day planning will be on the 3rd Tuesday of March, April and May.
11. Dirk, N6SUN asked for some goals for 2007. It was decided to have show-and-tell from 7:00 on meeting nights. Harry, will do the first in March.
12. Dirk, N6SUN, suggested we use bulletins from Amateur Radio Newline on our Sunday net. Ron, N6XT will check to see if it is OK to do this.
13. Sam, N6SD, will no longer be doing the Library Display after this year. Inputs for this year's display should be ready at the next board meeting.
14. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that the city has sold the 440 repeater to the club for \$1.
15. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported the Yuma Hamfest will be held on the 17th & 18th. He also announced he will not be available for the annual club auction.

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 Scripps Green Hospital, 10666 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla. An all you can eat breakfast buffet is served for \$7.00. The monthly ARES training session follows the breakfast meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the hospital's auditorium and normally lasts approximately one hour. Join ARES by visiting www.sdgares.org. There are no dues. San Diego ARES is an IRS 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible. Volunteer responders are always needed.

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 - A SANDARC Volunteer Examiner team administers license examinations on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the LDS Church, 1917 East Washington Avenue, Escondido, 92025. Contact Harry, W6YOO, at (760) 743-4212 or w6yoo@amsat.org 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.

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One Source Realty 