

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Jan 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, January 11th Peter One Island DXpedition 3Y0X - Antarctica 2006

Considered by some to be the DXpedition of the decade, this video presentation brings the danger and excitement right to you. See the helicopter flights, hear the howling storms and incessant wind and struggle along with the team as they erect shelters and antennas.

Hear the huge pileups as heard from the bottom of the world at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Watch the daring rescue of a team member and three ship's crewmen as they remove the last gear from the island.

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!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Awards and QSLing, Part XXXI - p. 3

Grid Yourself! - p. 2

First Thank You of the Year - p. 3

Now they're called Past Dues!

All memberships paid through 2006 expired on December 31 and are now PAST DUE!

If you forgot to renew, better bring your bucks to the meeting and beg forgiveness from Konrad.

While you're at it, why not renew for multiple years and save our Treasurer (and yourself) some work!

EVENT CALENDAR

Jan 11	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Jan 20	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jan 23	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan 27	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Jan 27	SATERN Training, San Bernardino
Feb 8	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Feb 17	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Feb 24	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Feb 27	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Happy New Year to All!

This year, I spent New Year's Eve with a lot of the club members at First Night. Thank you to those who volunteered to do your part to help make it the great event that it is. I don't know what the First Night organizers have in mind for 2008, but they did a great job this year.

Looking back, it's been a great year for our club. Collectively, we have provided many volunteer public service hours at numerous events, had some informative meetings, had a good auction, and best of all, had our picnic and Christmas party both of which were well planned and very well attended. Take a moment to reflect on all you have done to help the club over the past year. A volunteer organization is only as good as the contributions of its members. Looking ahead, I see 2007 as another great year for EARS. I thank you all for all you do for the club.

Speaking of club matters, I want to remind everyone that it is time to renew our memberships. Konrad had me over to his house to sign something, and while I was there he inquired about my renewal. Luckily, I had a check already prepared for him. He does a great job in the treasurer's position and I thank him for keeping the club finances so well managed (even if he doesn't do pie charts... inside joke).

The first meeting of the year will be on January 11th. Harry will be showing us the DVD from the Peter-One Island Dxpedition. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

73,

Dirk, N6SUN

GRID SQUARES MADE EASY

by John, N6EP

Ever wonder what your grid square is? Or need your latitude and longitude? Well, check out:

<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.html>

Laurent, F6FVY, has designed a website based on Google Earth that identifies the full grid square, as well as the latitude and longitude, of any point on Earth. The map defaults to France. Drag it over to the U.S. to get started. Then just zoom in and click on any point to see the data for that point.

(With some browsers, if you have pop-ups blocked, you'll have to press the Control key while clicking.)

EARS Club Officers for 2007

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@cox.net

Membership

open

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 6.

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXXI

by Harry, W6YOO

One of the problems a writer finds is that by the time an article is published, a lot can change. For example, when I wrote the article last month about the December DXpedition to the Lakshadweep Islands, VU7LD, I used the latest information available from the websites of the principals involved. No sooner was my article published in ALL EARS, the information changed. Bummer!

Instead of having two separate teams on the islands at the same time, one of the teams postponed its operation to the latter half of January. For the latest information see: www.vu7.in. This latest change puts a large group of experienced operators on four different islands within the Lakshadweep group, all on the air at the same time. Two different IOTA numbers are involved: AS-11 and AS-106. They will be using the call sign VU7RG. This one should be memorable.

Well, how went the December operation? The group, all Indian nationals, made some 57,000 QSOs, far fewer than they had hoped. Propagation was in a word: LOUSY. There were very few openings to our area and those that occurred were primarily LONG PATH and very weak. I need the Lakshadweep Islands on CW; however, with my best effort no joy. Maybe this month with the new group things will go better. If all goes well, they will be on the air beginning January 15th for ten days or so. This will be multi-national group similar to last year's operation from the Andaman Islands, VU4.

It appears that we are rapidly approaching the very bottom of the 11-year sunspot cycle when conditions should begin to improve, rising to propagation conditions as good as or better than in several previous cycles. I fondly remember prior cycles where 10 meters would open up and it was possible, during a DX contest, to work a hundred different DX entities in six hours or less. So, with CW disappearing as a license requirement, our Technicians might wish to begin taking practice tests for upgrade to General or even the Extra class license. See www.qrz.com. With an elevated Solar Flux Index (SFI), low power and dipole antennas will work wonders.

Don't forget, the International DX Convention in Visalia will be held the last weekend in April. If you haven't registered yet you can do so at www.dxconvention.org. I hope to see you there.

73, Harry

Contest Calendar for January 2007

January 13-14

- NAQP CW
- DARC 10-meter
- NAQCC Monthly Straight Key Sprint
- Winter Field Day
- Midwinter Contest
- Hunting Lions In the Air
- 070 PSKFest

January 20-21

- ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- NAQP Phone
- HA DX Contest - CW
- LZ Open Championship - CW
- International United Teenager Contest
- UK DX RTTY Contest

FIRST THANKS

--by Jo, KB6NMK

A big THANKS to all who braved the cold weather and came out to help First Night Escondido. A special THANK YOU to Rob, WA3IHV and Jacob, W6AEN who stayed for both shifts. We had a quiet evening with only one medical emergency and no lost kids or parents. I hope everyone had fun!

Happy New Year! Jo, KB6NMK

First shift

W6YOO in the Command Van
N6SD
N6XT
KG6SXY
KG6RCW
KI6DKQ
N6VS
W9EN
WA3IHV
W6AEN
KF6GOF
KB6NMK

Second shift

N6EP in Command Van
WA3IHV
W6AEN
N6SUN
K3PXX
KC6AMY
AE6MB
N6MD
KB6NMK

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported the Christmas Party will be hosted again this year by John, W9EN and his wife Lynn.

2. Steve, W6TAN, is asking for ideas to improve the turnout at the general meetings. A number of ideas were offered by board members.

3. Steve, W6TAN, reported the website is still in work and progressing.

4. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$750.85 in the checking account, \$541.25 in the saving account and \$1229.62 in a CD. He wishes to remind everyone that membership dues are due.

5. Harry, W6YOO, reported that there aren't enough trained responders in ARES to staff area hospitals in an emergency. He urged everyone who is available during the day to become trained.

6. Konrad, N6UKO, will pick up the keys to our room in the Salvation Army building Friday 1 Dec.

Steve, W6TAN, may have a nice work bench for the room.

7. Steve, W6TAN, reported we took top honors in our category in the California QSO Party. He suggested we have a Contest Chairman to announce future contests the club may want to participate in.

8. Steve, W6TAN, suggested we summarize all the action items from board meetings and attach them to the minutes. Beginning next month, the meeting chairman will summarize and forward to the secretary a list of action items each month.

9. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that First Night is a go and they need as many communicators as they can get. She also reported there will be a CERT class in Escondido some time in January. Contact Leon, N6VS, for details. Jo also reported there will be a SATERN training class in Escondido in January and that communicators are required for an orienteering competition in Borrego Springs for 3 days in January.

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.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3243
ESCONDIDO, CA 92033

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

HAM
RADIO
OUTLET

*Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday*

5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego
560-4900 or Toll Free 1-800-854-6046

Equipment
Tech Support
Repairs
Books
HF
VHF
UHF
All Mode
Packet
GPS
Scanners
Antennas

K & S CAFE

KATHLEEN J. ROBINSON

743-2233
662 ENTERPRISE STREET
ESCONDIDO, CA 92029

***IMPULSE* Electronics**

Your San Diego County Supplier
(760) 747-5277 – (866) 747-5277

Escondido www.ImpulseElectronics.com

Emergency Communications Power Solutions

Power Products:

Power Pole; Power Wire; Crimpers; AGM Batteries

West Mountain Products:

RIGrunner; RIGblaster; Accessories

Coax Assemblies - Adapters - Coax Cable - Terminals

Harald Brandner, KE6JE
Call me to buy or sell: 1-800-456-0188



Check the value of your home:
www.valueferret.com

Search the entire San Diego MLS:
www.homeferret.com

One Source Realty 