

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

July 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!

Saturday, July 15th EARS Annual Picnic

Once again at Rod McLeod park, 11 a.m. Family and friends are invited. This is in place of the regular meeting.

There will be a T-hunt after lunch. Remember to bring your own chair. The club will provide burgers and condiments. Bring a side dish if you wish.

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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, 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

Jul 14 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jul 15 EARS Annual Picnic
Jul 24 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jul 28 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Aug 9 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Aug 18 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Aug 25 VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Aug 28 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.



Who are those guys who show up at every Field Day?
Dennis, WA6IQY, shows us the finer points of relaxing.
-- photo courtesy Harry, W6Y00.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

Thank you to everyone who participated in Field Day. It is an effort that requires a good deal of planning and energy to execute. As far as I'm concerned, Field Day was a great success. Thanks to John for organizing another excellent Field Day operation. Regarding the voice station, the equipment performed well and I want to thank all of the operators who arrived for their shifts and in some cases worked double shifts. Thank you also to everyone who provided equipment for the club to use. Without the radio's, generators, and vehicles we wouldn't have much of a Field Day.

I can also report to you that I worked the Amateur Radio booth at the San Diego Fair. I worked a 2:00 to 6:00 afternoon shift and met a number of hams who came over and pounded out their call signs on the straight key (they can't resist). One individual I met asked me to put a request in the newsletter... He is looking for a RF engineer to design a very low power special purpose transmitter for a commercial application. It sounds like a very interesting project. If you want to learn more about this, please contact me for details and his phone number. Thanks to Sam and Harry who worked a shift and also to Dana, KI6FHX, who worked a double shift on a Saturday.

Remember that instead of the regular meeting this month, we have our Annual Picnic at Rod McLeod Park in Escondido on Sunday, June 15th from 11:00 until 3:00 p.m. Sam will be setting up a hidden transmitter hunt. Bring a dish to share and don't forget to bring a handheld so you can participate in the T-hunt! I look forward to seeing everyone there.

73,

Dirk

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EARS Club Officers for 2007

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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 5.

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXXVII

by Harry, W6YOO

It seems hard to believe but I am beginning my fourth year writing this column! I know it is a cliché; however, "Where has the time gone?" If you can recall when you were a child you couldn't wait to become a teenager, then to become twenty-one and once you had reached fifty you would try desperately to put on the brakes and slow time down. As nothing seems to work you may as well relax and enjoy the ride.

Field Day, or the "Nationwide Emergency Communications Exercise" has come and gone. As N6KI would say: "A good time was had by most." I had fun and I hope that I was able to contribute in some small way to the club's overall score. Speaking of scores, W6PT, operating at the Navy base on Point Loma in the 1A category made one thousand, nine hundred and sixty-five QSOs in the twenty-four hour period, mostly on CW. Who said that Morse is dead? Although I know CW and at one time passed the twenty words per minute exam for Extra class, I just don't have the skills required to operate CW at contest rates.

Sometimes one finds out about a special event QSL in odd places, to wit: The Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Operators North Society (BEARONS) will run a special event station under their club call, W7FLY, to commemorate the rollout ceremony for Boeing's newest commercial jet, the 787 Dreamliner. Expect activity on 8-9 July, on 20, 40 and 80 meters. QSL via KN7T. [TNX VA3RJ]

This announcement was made in an Italian DX bulletin based on a submission by a Canadian ham. Go figure! Anyway, I managed to work them and will soon send off for a card. In this case it was announced that no SASE was required but taking no chances I'll include a first class stamp on my return envelope.

We are going to start a new feature for this article. If any of my readers has a question concerning awards, QSLs, contests, and the like, please send me your question to w6yoo@cox.net and I'll do my level best to get you an answer by return email and will publish the information in the next All EARS as well for the benefit of all.

One such question received ad hoc concerns Zones, CQ and ITU. For your information, Escondido is in CQ Zone 3 and ITU Zone 6. And I will toss in a bit more, we are in grid square DM13. So post this bit of trivia somewhere handy so you will have it at your fingertips when needed. Some of this may be

required as part of the exchange during a contest.

According to the propagation gurus, we may experience rock bottom in this sunspot cycle some time this July. They really won't know for sure until some six months after the event; however, it means that we will begin to see the band conditions improve over the next few years. Keep your fingers crossed!

73, Harry

QUIZ NIGHT RESULTS

by Steve, W6TAN

Just to let you know that the Quiz Night held at the last club meeting was a major success. All those who turned up had a great fun time. I'm sure we'll be having the Quiz Night on a regular basis.

For anyone who is interested – here are the results (out of a possible 35 points):

1st place:

The Whiz Bangs (John-N6EP, Dirk-N6SUN, Ben-N6MUF) Score: 25 points

2nd place:

Intelligencia (Sam-N6SD, Ed, Peter) Score 23 points

3rd place:

GiggleHertz (Steve-KE6PY, Fred, Dick-NB6R) Score 19 points

Joint 4th place:

Team Harry (Harry-W6YOO, Gary-KA6OCA, An Other), The 3 Dunces (John, Frank, Jo-KB6NMK) Score 17.5 points

Note that the scores above have been corrected from the points given on the night – as the marking in some cases was a little dubious!!! It made no difference to the final results however.

Congratulations to all... Good job. If you didn't make the meeting, and you would like to try the quiz, go to the EARS website www.earsclub.org and follow the link in the news section (or go directly to www.earsclub.org/EARS_quiz.ppt)

If you want the answers – email me your attempt at the quiz, and I'll send you back your marked paper.

Best wishes & good luck,
Steve, W6TAN

FIELD DAY WRAP-UP

by John, N6EP

A special thanks to everyone who helped at the 2007 EARS Field Day at Dixon Lake June 22-24.

Space is short and I hope I don't forget anyone. Sam, N6SD, and Konrad, N6UKO, lead the set-up on Friday, assisted by Marvin, WB6PKK, and some of the subsequent operators. Then Marvin prepared the traditional "set-up supper". Great job, Marvin.

The band captains were the same this year - Steve, KE6PY on the CW station, Dirk, N6SUN, on the



Spencer, harmonic of N6SUN, operates the GOTA station.
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.

phone station, Steve, W6TAN, on the VHF/UHF station and Tom, KG6RCW, Tony, KG6SXY, and Dick, NB6R, on the GOTA station.

Thanks to operators Ron, N6XT, Dennis, WA6IQY, Harry, W6YOO, Ben, N6MUF, and Jeff, AE6GM, among others.

Thanks to all the locals who were able to come up to the site even if they didn't operate. I saw Gary, KA6OCA, Steve Harney, W6IHH, Fred Berry, N6PZT, John, KG6DVE, and John, W9EN.

And a special thank you to Bill, W6EET, who made an appearance Saturday morning. It was nice to



Ben, N6MUF, shows the proper technique for erecting a 20m Yagi. Is it this wire or the other?
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.

see you up at the site, Bill.

Steve (W6TAN)'s wife Gina arranged all the food and did a great job making sure the pot luck went off on Saturday evening. Gina, thanks so much!

And thanks also to visiting hams Curtis, HC3CH, John KY5OAO, David, AC6OA, and Bob, WD6S.

Again, it's great hams like these that make our Field Days such a success.

See you next year!



Antenna not working? Konrad, N6UKO, shows how to scamper up the tower and fix it.
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.

JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported the next meeting is the club picnic at Rod McLeod Park on July 15th.

2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$2522.94 in the checking, \$541.78 in the savings and \$1229.62 in the CD.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported the 8 bay antenna and mounting bracket are ready to mount but we still need a matching harness. The new controller is on order and should be here this week.

4. John, N6EP, reported the Field Day operation was a success despite poor propagation, local interference, and the inability to use the 20m beam.

Marvin, WB6PKK suggested the interference

problem my have been due to the stations not being grounded.

5. Marvin, WB6PKK, moved we purchase the latest copy of Write Log, John, N6EP, seconded and it passed on a voice vote.

6. Steve, W6TAN, reported the food and BBQ for the picnic are all set. Sam, N6SD will arrive early to reserve a spot and conduct the Transmitter Hunt.

7. After an extended, animated discussion concerning the lack of an up to date member roster that was available to the board members, it was decided that Steve, W6TAN, would create and maintain an Excel database on the website which will be available only to board members.

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 _____

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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. The price is \$8.00

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.sandarc.org.

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 \$8.00. 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, 5511 Maryland Drive, La Mesa, CA 91942-1519. You must include your FRN 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. See Harry, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.