

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

June 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, June 14th Quiz Night

Bring your best stuff to this trivia contest and be prepared to reach to the depths of your memory. Prizes to the winners!

Saturday, July 15th EARS Annual Picnic

Once again at Rod McLeod park, noon-ish. Family and friends are invited. This is an annual favorite summertime celebration. Mark your calendar now.

FIELD DAY PREPARATIONS

by John, N6EP

Calling all EARS members. The time is upon us! Only a week and a half to go before the biggest event of the Ham year - Field Day 2007.

Tell your kids or grandkids you won't be at their soccer games. Tell your wife to forget about her niece's wedding. We'll see you at the top of the hill at Dixon Lake the weekend of June 23-24.

There are plenty of ways to participate... you can operate the radios, you can help set up and/or take down, you can come to the Saturday Pot Luck, or you can just drop by to say hi.

The last planning meeting is next Tuesday the 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army building. Set up is Friday afternoon, June 22. Field Day starts at 11 a.m. June 23 and runs until 11 a.m. June 24.

See you there!

EVENT CALENDAR

Jun 14	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Jun 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jun 19	Field Day Planning, 7 p.m.
Jun 23-24	FIELD DAY
Jun 26	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jun 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
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.

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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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

This is the month that I write about the amateur operator's most exciting annual event - Field Day.

John, N6EP, is our Field Day chairman and many preparations have been made to date. I volunteered to be a band captain for the voice station. The voice station will operate from Marvin's Famous Pinzgauer and will have an Icom IC-7000 with a headset that has a boom mic. If you would like to sign up for a two hour shift, please let me know. I have quite a few slots still open.

We will be operating in the 2A category and will include a GOTA station and a VHF/UHF station. With all this going on, there are plenty of opportunities for operators. Come participate and be part of the FUN! Don't worry if you haven't operated a contest for some time or you feel "rusty"... Participation and training is what we are focused on!

This month, the meeting will be something special. I'm not sure we've ever done something like this... Leave it to Steve, W6TAN, to bring a bit of British fun our way... We will have a "Quiz Night" on Thursday. We will break up into teams of players (think family feud) and compete against one other. I understand that there will be prizes awarded. It should be a lot of fun.

Looking ahead, remember that we moved the Annual Picnic to July 15 this year though it will still be at Rod McLeod Park.

73,
Dirk

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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 XXXVI

by Harry, W6YOO

My goodness! How time flies when you're having fun. Seems hard to believe that I have been writing this column for three years! Anyway, that's what our editor, John, N6EP, tells me and I guess he keeps good records. I hope to be around to continue this for at least another three years. As I approach 80 years of age I am reminded that one should live each day as if it was his last.

Although it's a little late for this award this year, one can make plans for the Museum Ships Weekend next year. It is a 48 hour event and this year there were some 70 odd museum ships on the air. From the battleship USS Missouri in Hawaii to a German WWII minesweeper in Hamlin, Germany and many points in between, the volunteer operators on each of these many ships kept calling CQ and working as many as propagation would permit. If you manage to work 15 of these museum ships during the weekend, you can send your log to the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station. One would think this is not too difficult but with propagation as it is at the low of the sunspot cycle, it is. The certificate will make quite an addition to your wall.

There is a new twist with the operation of the ARRL Log Book of the World (LOTW). It seems that a recent DXpedition is rewarding generous contributors by sending partial logs to LoTW including only the contributor's call signs. I do contribute to these very expensive DXpeditions but I am not in any hurry to get my QSL card or listing on LoTW; however, I do not believe that contributing should get you preferential treatment. Smacks of a bribe don't you think?

W9IMS was on the air over Memorial Day weekend from the "Brick Yard" and will soon be on again around the 4th of July. They are on for three races a year: The Indy 500, the Brickyard 400 in mid June and the Grand Prix a few weeks later. You can get a rather jazzy QSL card for each of the events; however, if you work all three then a very nice certificate is available. Go to W9IMS on www.qrz.com for complete information.

Also, you should check out the Special Event page in the monthly edition of QST or CQ magazine. There is a panoply of special event stations on every weekend and it can be a lot of fun to collect the QSL cards and certificates

Lastly, those who follow the sunspots are predicting that the low point will occur sometime during mid-year, probably July. Then the downward slide in propagation will reverse gears and the Solar Flux

Index (SFI) will slowly rise, ten meters will open up on a daily basis, and we will be able to work the world on a wet noodle and all will be right with the world. However, as in past cycles, don't hold your breath!

Hope to hear you on the bands.

73,
Harry, W6YOO

FIELD DAY FOOD

by Steve, W6TAN

We are looking for a few good men (& women) to provide a little help with the catering for the Field Day food.

Friday night is taken care of, and is primarily for the benefit those assisting with the site setup. Marvin, WB6PKK, will be providing the grub and performing chef's duties (as he did a most excellent job last year).

It is intended that Saturday night's event will be a pot-luck.

Gina (my wife) has 'volunteered' to organise everything, but she needs to know who is bringing what in the way of pot-luck dishes, and who would be willing to spend a few hours slaving over a hot BBQ.

If you will be attending the event on Saturday night, and are willing to assist in any way, either by bringing something to share or to help with the cooking, please contact Gina - via email (agvenner@cox.net), or by phone (760-737-0755).

We are also looking for someone to prepare the breakfasts on Saturday & Sunday mornings, and to provide (go-get?) lunch & snacks on the Saturday.

Any offers ???

HAM RADIO OUTLET

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

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ARRL FILES APPEAL

from the ARRL Letter

The ARRL has filed a federal appeals court brief outlining its case and requesting oral arguments in its petition for review of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) rules. The League has petitioned the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to review the FCC's October 2004 Report and Order (R&O) in ET Docket 04-37 and its 2006 Memorandum Opinion and Order. In its brief filed May 17, the ARRL contends, among other things, that the FCC's actions in adopting rules to govern unlicensed BPL systems fundamentally alter the longstanding rights of radio spectrum licensees, including Amateur Radio operators.

"For the first time ever, the FCC has permitted new unlicensed devices to operate in spectrum bands already occupied by licensees, even if the unlicensed operations cause harmful interference to the licensees," the League said in stating its case. "The orders under review reverse nearly seven decades of consistent statutory interpretation and upset the settled expectations of licensees without so much as acknowledging the reversal, let alone justifying it."

The ARRL argues that the FCC's approach to adopting rules to govern BPL flies in the face of Section 301 of the Communications Act, which requires that operators of devices that emit radio frequency energy first obtain an FCC license. "For years, the FCC has consistently read Section 301 to apply to unintentional radiators, such as BPL devices, and has expressly embodied that interpretation in its rules," the League's brief recounts.

The Commission then compounded its error by asserting that BPL devices do not fall within Section 301 at all, the League said.

The ARRL contends that the FCC orders under review "jeopardize the license rights of ARRL's members and other license holders by authorizing providers of a new device — Access Broadband over Power Lines, or 'BPL' — to send radio signals across the electric grid in the frequencies the license holders occupy, but without having to obtain an FCC license."

...

The ARRL wants the appeals court to determine if the Commission acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner for not disclosing "significant information that potentially contradicts its key interference finding," the League said in its brief.

The League also has taken issue with what it argues is the FCC's "arbitrary and capricious" adoption of a BPL emission measurement standard that's unsupported by the record in the proceeding and ignores contrary evidence.

The ARRL brief asserts that, for the first time ever, the FCC "has authorized the operation of unlicensed devices that it concedes interfere with licensed devices" and has declared that such devices "may continue operating even where proven to cause interference."

The FCC, ARRL contends, has concluded that BPL's acknowledged interference risks are manageable, but it bases that conclusion — which ARRL calls "the linchpin of the challenged orders" — on FCC studies the Commission has declined to make public in unedited form.

The FCC's response to the League's brief is due July 2.

RADIO TRANSCRIPT

from the-jokes.com

This is the transcript of an ACTUAL radio conversation of a US naval ship with Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland in October, 1995.

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE FIVE DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.

Canadians: We are a lighthouse. Your call.

APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported he has made some progress on the database. To access it, log on with your call sign (in capital letters) for user name and password. Database and website is still in-work.

2. The program for June will be Quiz Nite presented by Steve, W6TAN.

3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported we have \$2,522.94 in the checking, \$541.78 in the savings, and \$1,229.62 in the CD.

4. Konrad also reported he discovered the cause of hang up problem with the tower trailer and he has painted the tower and repacked the wheel bearings.

5. Harry, W6YOO, reported ARES is having a raffle for members only with three nice prizes to raise money.

6. Jeff, AE6GM, reported he has contacted Roger,

KB6DQO, to get a copy of the form letter to introduce new hams to our club.

7. Dirk, N6SUN, reported volunteers are needed to man the SANDARC booth at the Fair. The Fair runs from the 8th of June to the 4th of July but is closed the first three Mondays and the first two Tuesdays. Contact Dirk, N6SUN for details and to sign up.

8. Dirk also reported that SANDARC held an election for the Chairmanship and Mike Maston, N6OPH won.

9. John, N6EP, reported most Field Day planning has been done and the next meeting will be 19th of June to determine last minute details.

10. Jo, KB6NMK, reported there is a plan to put a G5RV antenna and HF station at the Heritage Charter School.

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.

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.