

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

May 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, May 10th Show and Tell

Our members own projects, stories and prized possessions. Bring yours, too...

Note - the SATERN presentation has ben moved to September

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

May 10	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 15	Field Day Planning, 7 p.m.
May 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 22	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
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.



Who is that guy with the funny accent and what's his story?
Get the skinny in his own words on page 4.
-- photo courtesy W6TAN

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

It has been an exciting month for the EARS club. To begin with, the auction was an absolute success! I am so pleased with the results. I want to thank those of you who brought items to sell, but donated the proceeds to the club. So, instead of the club receiving 10% of the final price, it received 100%. Further, there was a very nice variety of interesting items. There were HF, VHF, and UHF radios, handies, mobiles, test equipment, power supplies, antenna's, etc. I also want to thank all of those who came to bid on items that arguably, most of us don't really need... I had a lot of fun with the items I purchased... I enjoy buying the boxes of items to see what kind of surprises I have when I get home when I get to the bottom of the box. I even get to troubleshoot my bargain of a power supply! I'll have better details at the club meeting this week, but I believe the total received was just over \$450.00

Then, later in April, the City of Escondido expressed their appreciation for all that we do for the city. Back in March, I submitted a letter on behalf of the club to one of the council members requesting \$1,100 in capital funds to upgrade the repeaters on Hubbard Hill and to provide the Salvation Army with radio equipment. I thought that would be the end of it... Then I receive an e-mail from Ed Gallo saying it would be good for me to be there to speak on behalf of the request at the City Council meeting. Long story short, after two and a half hours of City Council meeting, our item comes up and John Witt from the City spoke on behalf of the request. Then Lori Holt Pfeiler, the Mayor (who knows me from Kiwanis involvement as well) welcomed me to come up to speak. As I'm walking to the lectern, she says to me "you don't need to say much" and then one of the council members says "be careful what you say." Tell me that wouldn't rattle you a little... I offered about half of my rehearsed statement (to keep it short) and after I finished and while I was heading for my seat, there was a motion, a second, and by the time I sit down I look up to see five yes votes (unanimous approval). The video is available on the City website. Go to www.escondido.org, then click on City Council & Commissions, then Broadcasts of City Council Meetings, then Live Video Streaming (hyper link). From there, select the April 25th afternoon session. You'll see our request on the left side. Bottom line, be listening for a new controller and antenna in the next few months!

I sent a thank you e-mail to the mayor and all of the council members. Their replies were all very appreciative. I'm running long on my column, but suffice it

EARS Club Officers for 2007

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to say that they are very pleased with us. The mayor said during the council session, "You do so much and it really doesn't take that much money so it's really really cost effective." The e-mail replies were along these same lines. So when you are volunteering, don't think no one notices! We are a highly appreciated group here in Escondido which makes me feel proud to be a member of this organization. You should be too!

73, Dirk

AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XXXV

by Harry, W6YOO

One aspect of this whole awards and qsling subject that I have been meaning to get around to is *Short Wave Listening*.

"What is that?" you may ask. Well, believe it or not, there are a whole bunch of folks out there who have no interest at all in *talking* on short wave, they just want to *listen*. Can you imagine that? Well it's true, trust me. These folks have all band radios and listen to foreign radio broadcasts, military frequencies, digital transmissions, Amateur Radio QSOs and so forth. Some of them keep logs of who they heard, when they heard it, on which frequency, signal strengths, etc. And on the other hand, some want documentary evidence that they did and will send out QSL cards hoping that those who they heard will authenticate that they did in fact hear and record the event correctly. The foreign broadcasters are pleased to receive these "report cards" which let them know where their signals are being received to include times and signal strengths.

Now, let us say that you, my reader, made a QSO with G4CAQ, an Amateur station in Jolly Old England, and your QSO is overheard by German Short Wave Listening Station DE1DXX. He sends you a card, either direct or via the bureau, reporting the call signs, time, date, signal reports given, etc., and says PSE QSL which means, he would like something to acknowledge that his report is correct. Your response, if typical, is "when pigs fly". Well, indulge me a little here. There are awards for SWLs as they are called and your card is as important to them as much as you getting a QSL from the recent Swains Island DXpedition to up your DXCC award statistics. So then the question becomes, "What is the best way for me to respond to his request?" Well, you can send something direct which unless

he sends you an envelope and postage, gets to be expensive, or, you can go "via the buro".

The next question is: "What format do I use?" Well, look at the SWL card designed by W4MPY shown here.

You can order them from him or create your own if you have a print program. Your choice. As you see the first item is what country did the SWL report come from? In this case, Germany. What was the SWL station's identifier? In this case DE1DXX. You enter your call and the station you were in contact

with which might be W6YOO – G3CAQ. The rest of the information is self-explanatory and is extracted from your log, as 01 05 07 (May 1st of 2007), 1930 UTC (1230 p.m. PDT), 14.250 MHz and the mode which could be CW, SSB,

RTTY, PSK, then sign the card and send it on its merry way. It will suffice for any SWL award.

I hope all of you were able to work the very rare DXCC entity of Scarborough Reef, BS7H which just concluded its operation from there.

73,
Harry, W6YOO

AMATEUR RADIO WORLD WIDE

GERMANY
QSL BUREAU - COUNTRY

TO: SWL DE1DXX

This confirms your reception report of:

W6YOO In QSO with G3CAQ

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC TIME	MHz	MODE
01	05	07	1930	14.250	SSB

Thank you for your interest in Amateur Radio!

73, Harry Operator

A W4MPY QSL

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 7.

GETTING A BRITISH TAN

by Steve, W6TAN/G0TAN

Hi everyone.

As this is my first article for All EARS, and as most of you know – I'm not originally from this part of the world – I thought that it would be a good idea to tell you my story about how I got involved in Amateur Radio, and of some of the funny stories of things that happened along the way. Maybe it will encourage others to do the same!

So here goes:

In the beginning – There was light...

...and the light came from a 'just repaired' TV set!

I was about 12/13 years old at the time, and our 'new' TV had broken. It was an old black & white TV set – The sort you see in old horror movies, you know... the ones with an almost round tube (about 14 inches across), and when you turn them off – the picture reduces to a small white dot which seems to last forever.

Anyway – when the TV repair man came to fix it, I was very curious to see what went on inside the big wooden cabinet. I will always remember seeing all these wonderful electronic components, and wondering what they all did. I wondered why some components had lots of different coloured bands, and why some were covered in wax. I loved the 'hot electronic' smell when the TV got up to working temperature.

The TV repair man made many visits to our house, and each time he came - he took time to try and explain how things worked inside the TV (Yes – the TV was very unreliable). The TV repair man's name was Malcolm Cummings – who later became G8KPN (sadly now a silent key).

Seeing my new found interest in electronics – my grand-parents bought what was called a 'Philips Electronic Engineering Kit'. Basically, it was a peg-board with numerous spring clip contacts – allowing various components to be interconnected. With this kit, you could make all sorts of different types of circuits (Morse code oscillators, A.M. receivers, moisture detectors etc. etc.)

Although at the time – I didn't really know what I was doing, it was great fun seeing all of 'my' designs come to life.

About the same time, my mother started taking me to the Science Museum in London (South Kensington). This was a most wondrous place where one could see how things worked – just by the press of a button, or a turn of a handle. There was all kind

of activities & experiments for people of all ages – electrical / electronic, optical, audio, mechanical... I could go on and on. For a person of my age & interests - It was a huge learning experience!!! They even had a working amateur radio station – GB2SM. It was a big room full of battleship-grey radio gear (a complete Collins S-line setup – so I'm told).

Although I visited the museum on many many occasions, I never did get to see the radio station in operation. I think it was only operated at specific times of the day – usually during the week when I wasn't able to get there because of school activities.

Sadly, they removed the radio station in 1995 due to 'lack of interest'.

I re-visited the museum about 2-3 years ago – only to find that they've 'dumbed-down' most of the exhibits – especially for the younger generation.

That was a very sad day for me...

Anyway - it wasn't until I started studying physics in high-school, that I started realizing what all those electronic components really did. A small group of my fellow students & I frequently got together after school & at weekends, and we'd try and design electronic circuits on paper, and then try and build them in real-life. For some strange reason – none of my designs ever worked. To be honest – I'm not even sure what they were supposed to do!!!

We did however manage to successfully build an A.M. transmitter (~1.2MHz). It ran about 5-10 Watts, and was a single valve (tube) amplifier. One of my friends was big into music (mainly Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young etc.), and we used the transmitter to try and compete with the professional radio stations around at the time.

When we weren't playing music – we used to try and contact other 'pirate' radio stations. We were known as RADIO CABBAGE. Another local pirate radio station a few miles down the road was known as RADIO PEGASUS.

The operator of this station was a guy by the name of Martin Lynch (now G4HKS). We kept in touch for many years, and at one point we worked for the same company (Racal-BCC).

He is now the founder and owner Martin Lynch & Sons – The UK's largest stockist of amateur radio products: <http://www.hamradio.co.uk/>

...and we still keep in touch once or twice a year.

As far as the pirate radio operations were concerned – It wasn't too long before we were paid a visit by the men in black. Actually, I don't know what colour suits they were wearing – because fortunately for me - I wasn't at my friend's house at the time they came

a-breaking down the door!!!

Basically, officers from the Radio Licensing Authority (the UK version of the FCC) had been monitoring our transmissions for quite some time. They eventually found us, and confiscated all of our home-made radio gear. Fortunately for my friend, all they did to him was give him a slap on the wrist (a written warning), and told him not to do it again!!!

I suppose that all of this slightly illicit radio activity was my first venture into the world of radio communications and amateur radio, and so because of the recent events at the time, I decided that it would probably be best to follow the legal path, and try and get my ham radio licence.

So it was then that I made contact with a local ham – Bernie Page (G3KLK), who introduced me to the Ealing & District Radio Society – EDARS (G3UUP).

It was great club which met every Tuesday evening at the Northfields Community Centre in Ealing. It started at 7:00 p.m. until 10:00, and then adjourned to the local pub for some liquid refreshment.

Every week – there would be some sort of activity taking place... whether it be theoretical sessions, CW training sessions, operating practice, or just socializing & chatting. We had a separate permanent radio room attached to the main room – for those that just wanted to come along and use the club's facilities and operate.

While I was a member of the club - one of the highlights for me was taking place in the UK Field Day contest. Our club's site was in a remote field high on a hill in Brill, a village near Oxford – about 50 miles west of London. This was a major expedition for the club, and for me too - as it was my first time camping.

I had borrowed a huge frame tent (big enough for 10 people). Unfortunately, there was no ground sheet, and I didn't have a sleeping bag - so I just ended up sleeping on the grass when I actually managed to get some sleep. Most of the time I was helping with doing the logging (I wasn't licensed at the time, so I couldn't operate), and as there were no personal

computers at that time, all the logs were done manually on paper.

As this was a family event – there were many other children there, so when I wasn't logging, we all got together to play football (sorry - soccer), and other fun family games.

It was a most excellent weekend...

Another club activity that I helped out with was quite a few years later, and this was a BARTG RTTY contest. It was another fun contest, and I was amazed how all this electro-mechanical gear managed to keep working (actually it didn't – but that's another story). Again – there was no computers / sound cards around at the time. The gear we had was some sort of huge mechanical typewriter, with a home built interface to the radio. I remember using an oscilloscope to tune into the RTTY signals.

This was another weekend contest that actually took place in the club's operating room at the community centre in Ealing, and it took place shortly after I had met my wife (Gina)... So this was her first introduction to the wonderful world of ham radio!!!

Although we weren't camping for this contest – we did end up sleeping on the floor of the club room (and this time we had sleeping bags).

It was also while I was a member of the Ealing club that I met up once again with both Martin Lynch & Malcolm Cummings (remember the TV repair man?) This is when I found out that Malcolm had become G8KPN.

As far as my practical amateur radio activities were concerned, we had a monthly magazine in the UK called Practical Wireless. Each month it had several practical projects – many related to ham radio. One project that I decided to take on - was a 10 Watt Top-Band (160 Mtrs) A.M. transceiver.

This project originally spanned about 3 magazine-months, with some of the parts only available through mail-order companies. Fortunately, many of the components (including the case/chassis) were available from one of the many electronic component stores in Edgeware Road / Tottenham Court Road, West London.

Many a good Saturday was spent cycling up to the centre of London – coming back with arms-full of goodies (actually the goodies were in my backpack).

The funny thing was that while I was building it, some of the components became unavailable from the mail-order companies, so over a year later – Practical Wireless published apologies and issued revised designs using new available components.

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I never did get the transceiver fully working. This was mainly due to time. I had other higher priority activities going on in my life at that time (things like girls etc.)

I still have all of the instructions & parts (including all of the tubes), so maybe one day I'll get around to finishing it...

My first commercial rig was a Yaesu FT221R. It was just a 15 Watt, 2 Mtr radio which covered 144-146 MHz. It didn't take too long to modify it to cover 146-148 MHz (The police band in the UK). Many a fun evening was spent listening to car chases – wondering if any would end up in the local area. These days – the UK police frequencies are up at around 200 MHz, and they're encrypted – so you can't hear them on a normal F.M. receiver.

I bought the rig just before I was licensed. In fact, it was actually bought as an incentive to actually go and do the RAE (Radio Amateur's Exam).

So this I did and I actually got my first licence in 1978 (G8RPC). It was a Class-B licence, and I was only allowed to operate 144 MHz & above (we had no 6 Mtr allocation in the UK back then). To get my Class-A licence, I had to pass a 12 w.p.m. Morse test. At that time, I wasn't too interested in HF, so I didn't bother.

Besides, VHF was great fun back in those days...

Repeater services had just started, and the main one in the UK was GB3LO – The 2 mtr London repeater based at Crystal Palace, South London.

Because of the amount of radio traffic on this one repeater, it was split into 4 repeaters covering the London area: GB3WL, GB3EL GB3NL & GB3SL (the old site of GB3LO).

Take a guess what areas of London they covered...

There were also issues arising from the anti-repeater group. This was an underground group of 'licensed' amateurs who didn't agree with the idea of repeater communications. So very often you would come across repeaters being jammed by these guys. They were known as "Squeekies" – as they sounded

like some of the characters out of a classic Monty-Python sketch. They used to jam the repeaters by running high power into the input of the repeater so no-one else could use it... usually from a mobile station pretty close to the repeater site.

Back in those days – repeater activity was very popular (despite the problems with the ARG). These days – there's very little activity... at least in the London area.

Eventually, I bought my first HF rig – a Yaesu FT101EX just so that I could get a feel for what HF operation was like, and to see what I could actually hear (also as an incentive to take my Morse test).

I was working for a company which installed 2-way mobile radios at the time, and it was only then that I used it to talk to anyone. I had 'borrowed' my boss's call sign (G3SUN) just to see how far I could get (any relation Dirk?) My antenna was a 20 Mtr ½ wave dipole in the attic.

I was surprised that I could work both the US & Russia with ease... However, I only made two contacts that day – as I didn't want to get in to trouble with the authorities (plus I was having big TVI problems downstairs in the living room).

The sad thing is in fact, to this day – they are the only two HF contacts I have ever made in the UK!!!

Aaaanyway (sorry Garry)... I finally got my Class-A UK licence in 1993 (G0TAN), but I still never operated HF in the UK since using G3SUN. The main reason for this was that I was a little embarrassed - because I didn't have any QSL cards to send to confirm any of my contacts!!!

Also – mainly because of the general size of the properties where I lived in the UK - I was very antenna limited, and I didn't want to upset the neighbours with any TVI issues – I had enough of my own.

Finally - in 1999, I moved here to San Diego – and the rest is history as they say.

Well, that's my story (at least as far as I remember). I hope some of you found it a little interesting. Now it's time for someone else to tell their story... Any takers anyone???

73's & Very best wishes,

Steve.

HAM	Equipment
RADIO	Tech Support
OUTLET	Repairs
Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.	Books
Monday through Saturday	HF
5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego	VHF
560-4900 or Toll Free 1-800-854-6046	UHF
	All Mode
	Packet
	GPS
	Scanners
	Antennas

APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported we did very well at the auction with the club making \$460.50 and \$140 going to the sellers.

2. Harry, W6YOO, reported that ARES membership is at about 300. There were 12 Go Kits certified at the last ARES meeting. Each Go Kit is capable of operating WinLink on VHF and UHF. There will be a hospital emergency drill May 14 & 15.

3. John, N6EP reported the Field Day meetings are productive and the next one will be 15th of May. There will be a site inspection Sunday afternoon 29th of April.

4. Konrad, N6UKO, reported the liability insurance has been paid for another year and we have the new policy.

5. Dirk, N6SUN, reported the City will consider our request for funds at the City Council meeting on the 25th of April starting at 4pm. Dirk will be there.

6. Sam, N6SD reported we now have a trifold holder filled with club brochures on the HRO bulletin board and he will be on vacation out of town during the next board meeting.

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.