

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Oct 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, October 11
To Be Announced**

Come out early to visit. Program starts at 7:30 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

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The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

EVENT CALENDAR

Oct 11	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Oct 12-14	Miramar Air Show
Oct 20	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Oct 23	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oct 27	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Nov 8	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Nov 17	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Nov 24	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Nov 27	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

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We are saddened to report the passing of Bill Mahaffey, W6EET. Bill was in ill health for a prolonged time. Here he is at this year's Field Day. Bill remarked that he wanted to come see "how it looks one last time."

-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Dirk, N6SUN, President

Hi All,

Well, there has been a lot in happening in Amateur Radio this past month. If you were watching for your Division Director election ballot, you probably won't be seeing one for this term. Carl Gardenias, WU6D, was disqualified for ethics violations. As such, the incumbent Dick Norton, N6AA, was by declared re-elected to the position by default. The ARRL plans to release an additional statement on Monday regarding this matter. Go to www.arrl.org for the latest updates on this story. There has been plenty of discussion heard on the air and seen on the QRZ site (www.qrz.com), as well as other places on the net. If you are concerned about not being able to exercise your vote, you should make your feelings known. Send an e-mail to hq@arrl.org

October also brought another CQP weekend. What a great time we had at Lake Dixon. This was a well executed event in all respects. We held several planning meetings, had excellent equipment on tap, a comfortable motor-home, and for dinner on Saturday night we enjoyed glazed Teriyaki chicken, orange rice, and chocolate chip pan cookies. I'll let Steve, KE6PY, tell us what the final score was, but I can tell you that it was better than last year, which is saying a lot considering we're at (hopefully) the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

The last news I have to share with you is on a sad note. Konrad, N6UKO, received a call from Tuula Mahaffey, N6FJF, Sunday night. She informed him that her husband, Bill, W6EET, had passed away on Friday. Konrad announced this on the Sunday evening net. As I was driving Vince, KI6CFW, home on Friday afternoon from the Dixon site, I was telling him about Bill, which got me to wondering how he was getting along. So, Bill is in a better place now; however, we who are left behind will miss him until we meet again. Bill was a great guy and *always* ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. He will be sorely missed by many. I called Tuula after the net and expressed my condolences and let her know that I would be glad to help her in any way if she needed it. I plan on bringing a card to the club meeting for members to sign. She said there will be a memorial service here in Escondido but a date wasn't known yet. Watch the reflector for updates on this.

See you at the meeting. 73,

Dirk

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 XL

by Harry, W6YOO

Years ago, there was the West Coast DX Bulletin and Hugh Cassidy wrote periodically about a "QRPer" with a very modest station who didn't understand the concept: DX IS! Now Paul Dunphy, VE1DX, has taken Hugh's place and this is one of his most recent articles on the subject:

One of the local QRPers called us on the phone the other day, and he was clearly upset. Usually he showed up in person and told us the news of the day, complete with arm waving, finger pointing and pacing back and forth. This time he didn't have the time to make his way up the hill. "Did you hear him?" he bellowed at us, and we thought we'd have to get out our handkerchief and wipe off the phone. "Hear who?" we bellowed back, "and stop shouting."

There was a moment of silence for this one had a complaint to lodge, and he didn't want us to hang up on him. "Did you hear that Big Gun in the next county work the guys on that DXpedition in Africa? The one I need for a brand new one overall, and the one I know he already has confirmed? That's the one. Did you hear it?!!" We took a deep breath and replied, "No, not really, but what is the problem? It seems to us they are going to be there for at least a week, and some of the reports say maybe two weeks. Everyone can't work them the first day."

The QRPer was not to be consoled at all. "Maybe so, Buster," he continued, "but here we are, at the very bottom of the solar cycle, and you know they are going to be tough. Really tough for us who need them." His voice was now starting to show a bit of contempt. "Why is it that those fellows who already have these countries, and some of them on four or five bands and modes, keep calling and working them when they know there are hundreds, and maybe even thousands of us who need it for a new one? Why?"

What could we say? Even during the Low Days of DXing, there will be those who get through early, and those who get through late, and some who do not make it at all. "This fellow who worked them the first day, is he high up on the DXCC listings? And does he have a beam and an amplifier?" "Right on both counts! How did you know?" "It's the first day of the DXpedition", we replied. "Only the top dogs are going to make it. And that has nothing to do with the solar cycle. What are you using?" "My multi-band vertical and 100 watts", was the reply, "and don't give me that stuff about beams and amplifiers beating out verticals and 100 watts, either! I know that. What I want to know is why the fellows with

the beams and amplifiers do it? They don't need it. Why don't they QRX and let us modest stations through?"

"They do it because they can," I replied slowly, in a neutral voice. "What do you expect them to do? They are DXers. They have spent years and years building up their stations, and when they started out, they had the same or less than you. They got sand kicked in their face by the Big Guns of years past. Now they are the Deserving, and remember the most important Eternal Enigma of DXing, 'Only the Deserving . . .'"

The QRPer snarled under his breath and continued on, "I've heard all of that before, and I don't understand it. It seems to me that if they were really true blue Hams, and followed the Amateur's Code, they would work stuff they already have. At least not until the last day or so. It's the same every time a rare one shows up. They all have to get in the log first. And if they work them on phone, then they have to work them on CW. And that's not good enough, either. Then they start again on another band, and another band. Everywhere I go I hear a wall of QRM. I'll never work them!" "Yes you will, son! Absolutely. You are a DXer. And DXers always work the DX. You just might not get them this time. But that one will come around again. They always do." We apparently had turned on a little extra oxygen with that comment, for the QRPer's voice shrieked through the ear piece like a cutting torch! "That might be 5 years! Maybe 7 or 8! Some help you are!" Bang and click, and there was nothing but a dial tone.

We walked out on the veranda and looked down across the valley and towards the distant hills. We recalled this same QRPer telling us just a few weeks ago that he was only a couple of years from retirement, and that he was entitled to a substantial severance package. We further recalled that he was planning to get a couple of towers with it and a few of those 4 and 5 element monobanders. He even said he'd have enough left over to get one of those overseas amplifiers with the tubes that were good for full legal power and maybe even a little more. We had to wonder, when he got the new station up and running, if he'd stand by and let the new guys with the 100 watts and the verticals and dipoles through first. As Albert had often said, "All things are relative, although some more than others." Somehow we had the feeling that he'd be in there with the rest of the high rollers, for as sure as DX IS!, there is nothing more rewarding than being the first kid in the neighborhood to log the DX. Especially when the flux is 65!

73/DX Paul VE1DX

UPCOMING LICENSE CLASSES

from Steve Early, AD6VI

Temecula

One-Day Amateur Radio "Technician" License Class

Saturday, October 20th, 2007

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with breaks and one hour lunch)

At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
32374 Pauba Road, Temecula, CA 92592

Everyone is welcome.

Please RSVP with Steve Early at ad6vi@cox.net or
619-461-2818, more information and exam registration.

Cost of Class: Free

ARRL VEC Testing, if available at 5:00 PM, will be \$14.

In deference to facility policy, please do not bring
coffee or tobacco into the building.

Chula Vista

One-Day Amateur Radio "Technician" License Class

Saturday, November 10th, 2007

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with breaks and one hour lunch)

At the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1590 E H St, Chula Vista, CA 91913

Everyone is welcome

Please RSVP with Steve Early at ad6vi@cox.net or
619-461-2818, more information and exam registration.

Cost of Class: Free

SANDARC VEC Testing, if available at 5:00 PM, will be \$5

In deference to facility policy, please do not bring
coffee or tobacco into the building.



A beautiful fall day at Dixon Lake makes the perfect backdrop
for the EARS entry in the California QSO Party.
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.



A Nick sighting!
We spotted KK6TV at the CQP operation at Dixon Lake.
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.



Matt, call unknown, left, and Steve, KE6PY, working on the antenna
setup at CQP. Steve did a great job running the operation.
-- photo courtesy John, N6EP.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there is \$2355.69 in the checking and \$1035.20 in the savings. Also there are two more life members and one more regular member.
2. Marvin, W6MJM, reported the new controller has been programmed for the 2m repeater but he needs to visit the site to get more info on the 440 repeater before he can continue.
3. Harry, W6YOO, reported the next ARES meeting will be the 6th of October, due to the Air Show the following weekend. There will be a County wide EMS drill on the 25th of October. The ARES meeting on the 10th of November will be a debriefing of the Air Show.
4. Dirk, N6SUN, reported he is gathering information for the 1023 application.
5. Sam, N6SD presented some changes to the SATERN station which were approved and will begin

work next month.

6. Dirk, N6SUN, reported he will head the nominating committee for this year's election of Board members.

We are looking to fill the posts of Vice President, Secretary, and possibly Treasurer.

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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. 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.