

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Sept 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, September 13 ARRL Dignitaries

We have a terrific meeting planned this month.

Our program will be Mitch, K6BK, our new Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Cammarano, KG6R, who will provide a Power Point presentation on ARES. There will be a Q&A session and a Show-and-Tell with a Winlink Go-Kit.

As a bonus, Dick Norton N6AA, the current Division Director, plans to stop by later to speak to us for about 10 minutes about Division Happenings. Dick is running for reelection as Southwestern Division Director.

Come early and bring a friend!



Jo, KB6NMK, Jeff, AE6GM, and Curtis, HC3CH, surround Konrad, N6UKO, at the Grape Day Parade. EARS provided communications, for the parade again this year. Good job, Konrad!

-- photo courtesy Nick, KK6TV.

EVENT CALENDAR

Sept 13 **EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
Sept 15 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 25 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 29 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Awards and QSLing, Part XXXIX - p. 3

Photos of Last Meeting - p. 4

Come Fly With Me - p. 4

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,

Last month I wrote about how Megan passed her Technician class exam. This month, I want to share with you Megan's recent radio activities. If you listen to the EARS Sunday Evening Net, you have heard her check in. Gary, KA6OCA, was her first contact... For those of you who came to last month's meeting, you saw her and her friend Elyse there. Well, Megan asked me recently, "Isn't the club meeting coming up soon?" I said yes. She said, "Good, I want to go." Of course, I did tell her that it isn't every meeting that we have click circuit kits on tap... Maybe we should bring one of those to every meeting... Anyway, Megan has been checking into sideband nets, D-Star nets, and even the Six-Shooters net on Friday night. She not only earned her license, but she uses it as well. What could be better than that?

Here is a follow up to last month's mini-review of the Yaesu VX-3R. In short, it turned into a VX-7R. Tom at HRO allowed me to try out three other units in the store. I experienced too many variations in the radio. Two that I tried out were comparable, though one clearly was more sensitive than the other. A third one I tried exhibited a squeaky type noise on receive. In my mind, that was too much deviation across the five VX-3R's I tried... I finally decided to exchange it for another VX-7R. Megan's VX-3 seems to be okay, though it has the weird charging issue.

This month, the family rode the Pacific Surfliner to Los Angeles... Unfortunately it was during that very hot spell we had though I think it was a few degree's cooler than Escondido. I have to tell you that it is a great way to travel. I think that was the first time I had been to Los Angeles and arrived very calm and relaxed... I was also able to play radio on the train. Riding on the Pacific Surfliner, I was able to operate the 220 MHz Condor system (yes, it still exists), 145.220 on Santiago, and the Keller Peak repeater on 146.385.

The very next week, while Spencer and I were making our way home from Cruisin' Grand, we stopped by to watch our friends at the switching yard near the Hawthorne feed store. However, this week they approached the car and offered us a ride in the train. Long story short, Spencer and I rode in a 1973 Diesel Electric train and helped the engineer move empties to the west end of the track and deliver two cars filled with wood to Pine Tree Lumber. We rode the rails until about 12:30am. The train operators make heavy use of radio equipment to

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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 XXXIX

by Harry, W6YOO

Once you have been successful in making the QSO, the next trick is getting your hands on that little postcard sized piece of paper called a QSL card that acknowledges the fact that you and the other station did, in fact, carry on a contact, regardless of how brief. As outlined here in this column, QSL cards are exchanged by mail or through the bureau; however, there are exceptions.

For example, on more than one occasion, I have received the QSL in person. At the 2005 DX Convention in Visalia, Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, handed me my QSL from the December 2004 DXpedition to Andaman Island in person! You might recall that she was the leader of the DXpedition that switched over to EMCON mode following the disastrous Tsunami. One time at an EARS meeting, I received a QSL for a VQ9 Chagos Island contact from the operator who was home on leave from the military that has a base on the island. Once a Swedish doctor and his wife stopped by for a visit and presented me with a card from a prior contact.

All of these "eyeball" exchanges are memorable but the one that will stick in my mind for quite some time occurred just the other day. It was shortly after 10:00 a.m. and I was acting as NCS or a MARS net when the doorbell rang. As my wife was not at home, I quickly got someone on the net to take over so I could answer the door. On my front porch was a well tanned stranger dressed in shorts, a short sleeved shirt, unbuttoned to the waist and an "Indiana Jones" hat perched on his head. In his outstretched hand were a QSL card and my unmailed SASE. He introduced himself as Galen "Tusti" Tustison, W4WET, and presented me the card. It was for a RTTY contact on March 24, 2003 from T30ONM from the island of Tarawa in Western Kiribati.

It seems that Tusti has held several calls: 3D2CT, 8P6DX, 8Q7DD, /TF, /VS6, and others. He loves to travel and do one man expeditions to exotic places around the world. He lives near Ramona, has a ranch, an airstrip and three private aircraft that he flies about the country. The suffix of the T30 call is "Old Nasty Man", honoring his Uncle Bob who introduced him to Ham radio while Tusti was a teenager. We had a nice long chat in my shack and I never did get back to my Mars net.

There is a rare one "on the air" as I write this: 3B7C from Saint Brandon Island in the Indian Ocean. They came on the air on September 7th and will be there until September 30th. They are on 24/7 on all bands and modes. The beam heading from Escondido is 14

degrees. The QSL Manager is G3NUG. Their website is www.3b7c.com complete with a log checker. So far I have made one contact on 30 meters at 0221Z. So go to the website and find all about the operation including times and frequencies that you have the best chance of a contact. If you are fortunate enough to make it: Congratulations! Heaven only know when this opportunity will come around again?

73, Harry

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(cont'd)

avoid mishaps. The train operator asks for permission to proceed, the dispatcher authorizes the move, then the train operator repeats the dispatcher's authorization, then lastly, the dispatcher confirms the train operators understanding... Interesting listening... Since I had my VX-7R with me, I began searching for their frequency. I asked what it was and I was told 5757. But I said, 57 what? I asked how many Megahertz and they just looked at me and shrugged their shoulders. So I looked at the antenna on the roof and it was just about the length of a 2 meter antenna. At home the next day, a little research on the internet revealed the following information: The railroad frequencies are channelized and are numbered 2 through 99. So, when they say, 5757, it means transmit on channel 57, receive on channel 57, or simplex. By the way, Channel 57 is used at the Escondido station and it translates to a frequency of 160.965. The Sprinter is scheduled to be operational in December 2007. This is great news for students... Imagine, 8 minutes from Escondido to Cal State San Marcos or 14 minutes to the Palomar College station.

Hope to see you all at the meeting this Thursday. Come early and visit with the other club members.

73, Dirk

HAM RADIO OUTLET

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

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Jo, KB6NMK, Kathy, K6VC, and Dirk, N6SUN, show Dirk's daughter Megan and Megan's friend Elyse how to build circuits with an Electronic Snap Kit at the August meeting
 -- photo courtesy Carl, WU6D.



Of course they say that if you put a monkey in front of a typewriter, eventually he will write all of Shakespeare's sonnets.
 With apologies to Steve, W6TAN
 -- photo courtesy Carl, WU6D.

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MIRAMAR AIR SHOW COMING from the ARES website



In 2005, 58 ARES Responders and in 2006, 65 ARES Responders volunteered at the 3 day Miramar Air Show. This is a biggest event ARES all year

We are there in case of a major incident which is our primary directive but we were also there to help with Lost Children and Other Emergencies.

We took a very proactive approach and made our presence felt.

We covered 8 hospitals and mounted foot patrols throughout the show area and the results were very positive.

We worked closely with RACES in reuniting 46 lost children, 4 major medical emergencies and an oil spill in 2005 and 44 lost children in 2006.

For me, the really rewarding search was when in 2005 we did an extended grid search for a 4 year old boy that had been lost for 2 hours. We found him and the tears of joy from his grandfather were a sight to behold.... and in 2006, we mounted an extended search for a lost 4 and 6 year old accompanied by a downs syndrome adult.. When we found them, even the Marines stood up and applauded our search teams.

ARES Responders MADE A DIFFERENCE.

Because of our visible impact over the last 2 years we can expect to have more public safety responsibilities this year...

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.sdgares.org.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Sam, N6SD

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported he found it is legal to use one copy of WriteLog on multiple computers during a contest but they should be deleted from all but one afterwards. He will investigate other logging programs. Also, the website has been updated and the database now contains info from 2005 and will be updated.

2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported the following balances via E-mail. Checking \$2447.69, Savings \$717.08.

3. Marvin, WB6PKK, reported he has been working on the controller program and needs to find out how to interface with the 440 machine. He will inform TASMA of our upcoming antenna change.

4. Harry, W6YOO, reported ARES has been called out about 12 times this year. Miramar will hold a mass casualty drill the third week of September in preparation for the Air Show on October 12, 13 & 14. For the latest information go to www.sdqares.org.

5. Dirk, N6SUN, reported he is working on the Club tax free status and hopes to be finished soon.

6. Sam, N6SD, presented two options for the SATERN station, one with secure locked doors and drawers and one without. The board approved up to \$400 for the design without locked doors. There will be locks on the drawers.

7. \$110 was approved to secure two sites at Dixon Lake for the weekend of the CA QSO party for the use of club members who wish to participate.

8. Dirk, N6SUN, asked if there is a way to improve the coverage of the 220 repeater belonging to Konrad, N6UKO. In the past the coverage was much greater than at present. Marvin, WB6PKK will check it out.

9. The location of the Christmas party was discussed.

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.