

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

April 2008

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, April 10 EARS Annual Auction

This is the big one! The annual "exchange of goodies." Once again, Art McBride will preside. See Doug, K6DAF's Ramblin's on page 4 for details.

6:00 p.m. - Sellers need to arrive and get signed in and start to place your items.

6:30 p.m. - Buyers need to sign in and get a bid number.

7:00 p.m. - Auction starts

Thursday, May 8 Modern Modulation Techniques

Presented by John Belstner, W9EN. We will explore a few of the latest Military and Commercial radio modulation techniques by relating to concepts we are all familiar with.

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

Apr 10	EARS Annual Auction
Apr 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Apr 22	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Apr 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Apr 29	Field Day planning meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 7	PARC Monthly Meeting
May 8	EARS Monthly Meeting
May 17	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 20	Field Day planning meeting 7:00 p.m.
May 27	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 31	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



EARS Prez Steve, W6TAN, presented the March talk "How Cell Phones Are Made". And to illustrate, he assembled one right in front of us. Easy, once he got the screwdriver to work. No, those aren't guards forcing him to do it.

- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi Everyone,

Well, I only have a couple of things to say this month...

The first is how much fun I had at the last club meeting. We had a superb turn-out with around 30-40 members and guests in attendance. All of you that I have spoken to since have said how much they enjoyed the 'show'. It must have been fairly interesting, as there were still around half-a-dozen people still there at 10:00 p.m.!

As far as the competition was concerned, it was a good larrff. Doug's ramblings has more details, and there are a few photos of the contestants in action on the EARS website. Anyway, thank you ever-so-much to all of you who came.

As for the next club meeting - well, that's the club's annual auction which I'm looking forward to. Hopefully I'll be there, as I'm currently on a plane winging my way to Mexico (again) for a few days. I'm planning to be back on Thursday afternoon - so as long as American Airlines plays the game - I will see you all there. Again, please see Doug's ramblings for the rules and other details on the auction.

I said last month that I was planning to write an article on the Queen Mary, unfortunately, work/studies has once again got in the way. Hopefully, things should be better next month... Keep watching the skies!

One final thing is that some of you may have noticed that you are able to log in to the member database on the EARS website. If you haven't tried this yet - please do so, and let me know if you have any problems.

Remember - use your callsign as your username and password (both UPPER-CASE). Once logged in, you can change them to what you want.

Also, check your own details in the database... just to make sure we have everything correct. With over 100 members, it's easy to make a mistake.

Well, that's it from me for now.

Best wishes,
Steve, W6TAN

EARS Club Officers for 2008

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HAM RADIO OUTLET

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AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XLVI

by Harry, W6YOO

From time to time, I am asked about mailings to QSL managers. I am going to pass on some tips from Roger Western, G3SXW, one of the busiest (and best):

1. Leave a gap in your outer envelope for the paper knife to slide in. Many envelopes are sealed right to the corners and the QSL manager is obligated to snip off the corner which might damage the contents.
2. Do not fold items within the envelope. They just have to be unfolded by the manager which takes time.
3. Don't pack one item within another item. They just have to be unpacked, just another time waster.
4. Please flatten out the corner of the bills and IRC's. Use clean notes if you can. Some are so filthy that surgical gloves are indicated.
5. Always send a reply envelope unless your intention was to have your card returned via the bureau. Write your postal address on the outside and don't forget your country as part of the address. (USA for us stateside folks.)
6. If you have multiple calls on your card, e.g. you and your YL, please check which one is requesting the card. If you are using computer labels, use the largest font you can, number 8 is very hard to read.
7. There is no need to wrap everything in another sheet of paper, it adds to the weight, not the security.
8. And lastly, never use staples or adhesive tape. Preventing items from shifting within the envelope is not necessary.

Thanks Roger!

As far as envelopes are concerned, I would recommend going to Staples and buying a carton of 500 Size 10 security envelopes and another box of 500 Size 9. Use the Size 10 for sending out your QSL and the Size 9 for the return. 99 and 44/100 of QSLs will fit into the Size 9. These are the standard sizes that most companies use to send out your monthly bills.

Always send enough for return postage. In the case of QSL managers located outside the USA, don't send U.S. stamps, they don't work in foreign countries. Send U.S. dollars, International Reply Coupons (IRC's) or stamps of the foreign country.

That's all for this time. 73, Harry

PARC UPCOMING EVENTS

by Dennis, KD6TUJ

May 9 Meeting - The History of Vacuum Tubes

Simple weekend HF antennas to get you on the air. The presentation will cover antennas that don't require years of skill or large sums of cash and yet still get you contacts and even some DX. The focus will be on vertical and wire antennas. Presented by Loren, AD6ZJ

Field Day

Palomar Amateur Radio Club has confirmed the location for Field Day 2008 to again be at the corner of Santar and Rancheros Drive in San Marcos. Field Day is scheduled to occur June 28 and 29.

Also note the unofficial goal is a repeat of last years Sig-a-lert condition on the 78 highway that is visible.

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 6.

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K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S

by Doug, K6DAF, Vice-President

Wow, what a great March meeting we had. Your Prez, Steve Verner, W6TAN, put on a fantastic show on everything you need to know about cellular phones.

Steve works with Nokia as a Quality Control Manager and does a lot of traveling to the different factory locations around the world doing his Quality Control stuff. Steve brought an array of items for us to look over and also had a great video presentation.

We also had a contest between three of our members Ed, K6DAF, Jeff, AE6GM and John, N6EP. Steve brought with him several bags of parts from exploded phones. Steve showed everyone how to put the parts together and make a completed phone. Final was when the battery went in and it powered up. Well the race was on for our three volunteers and it was a close race with Ed finishing first, Jeff finishing 2nd and John with a close 3rd. I know everyone enjoyed the competition, the presentation and the fellowship afterwards. I hear they did not get out until 10 p.m. So here's a round of applause for Steve and the presentation.

Well, I guess its time to dust off those antique radios in the shack and all those miscellaneous radio stuff you got laying around and get ready for the EARS Annual Auction. I know the year has flown by and it only seems like yesterday that we had the auction but believe it or not a year has come and gone. I know that in that year you have rearranged your shack more than once and are just hankering to rid yourself of all that stuff you never needed or thought you needed.

We will be having the World Renowned Auction Caller in the Amateur Radio World, Art McBride, KC6UQH, calling the auction. Art has done this before for the EARS club and also the PARC club auction so he is well versed in the terms and sayings of an auctioneer. We will need some volunteers help at the auction so if you have helped before and would like to do it again or if you never have helped and would like, please drop me an email with the position you would like or just show up at 6 p.m. for assignments.

Well, I have rambled enough for one month hope to see you all at the Auction on April the 10th and look forward to hearing you on the air..

Doug

K6DAF

AUCTION RULES

AUCTIONEER

1. The auctioneer will handle all communications with the bidder and has sole responsibility for the transaction.
2. The word of the auctioneer is the final decision.
3. The auctioneer may decide to sell a group of like items as a lot and distribute them between several buyers at the bid price.

SELLERS

1. All items to be sold will be registered with the "Sellers Registration Clerk".
2. Items will be listed with description, owners call or name, and a minimum bid, if requested.
3. If there are several items to be sold as a lot, a LOT TAG will be put on the additional items with the number of the original item. The original tag will be marked with the word LOT.
4. Sellers will not be able to remove their un-sold items until after the buyers have paid for and removed their items. All sellers will be required to remove all un-sold items.

DONATIONS

1. All items that are donated to the club will be marked with a tag marked DONATION.
2. The call or name of the donor will be placed on the card for the clubs information.

Reminder: The donor is responsible for the removal of the item if they are not sold. This includes items donated to the club, but not sold. **This is not a dumpsite.**

BIDDERS

1. All bidders are required to register and obtain a bidder number.
2. Bidders will be responsible for paying for the item that their number is attached to before removing item from the selling area.

PAYABLES

1. Sellers will be paid by mail. All sellers are encouraged to supply a SASE.
2. All others will be charged a \$0.50 handling fee for the envelope, addressing and stamp.

CASHIER

1. The Cashier will collect money for the items sold, and give the buyer a RECEIPT if requested.
2. The item number will be listed on the receipt.
3. Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks are preferred.
4. Items sold will be paid for before they leave the room.

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jeff, AE6GM

1. Doug, K6DAF, thanked Steve, W6TAN, for his great presentation "How a Cell Phone is Manufactured." Next month is the annual EARS Auction.
2. Steve gave Konrad's report in his absence. Currently there are 44 life members, 42 regular members and 5 renewals. Savings is \$861.07 and checking is approximately \$2074.79
3. Jeff, AE6GM, is still working on programming the new controller and trying to find some quiet time to program the Digital Voice IDer.
4. Harry, W6YOO, reported that ARES has split into two distinct groups (ARES and a Hospital support group). Both groups are still meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month. The Hospital group is meeting in the same place – Spectrum Building, while the ARES group will be meeting at the LDS Church in La Mesa.
5. Ron, N6XT, reported that planning for the 2010

Southwestern Division Convention is underway. There is currently a Logo contest – submit designs to Ron. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Four Points. In other SANDARC news, Imperial Valley now has a VEC. The SANDARC Legislative Chair is open

6. Steve, W6TAN, reported that he is currently working on some new functionality for the website. The online Roster will show all member data except member email addresses. Members will have the option to opt-out.

7. The next Field Day meeting is April 29. John, N6EP, has posted our Field Day club information on the ARRL website. This will help hams looking for a field day site in our area to locate us.

8. Ron, N6XT, will be the EARS representative to Western Days. Western Days is at the end of May

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 \$15.00
Family membership \$4.00
Lifetime membership \$150.00
Lifetime membership (family) \$38.00

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 7:30 a.m. at the offices of Sharp Healthcare Corporate, Spectrum Auditorium, 8695 Spectrum Center Court, San Diego, CA 92123. Catered breakfast is \$8.00. The monthly meeting begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. ARES is a service organization providing back-up emergency communications. If interested, go to www.sdgares.net or contact Jim Cammarano, SEC, sec@sdgares.net, or Asst. SEC for EMS, Teri Rowe, RN, ki6fkf@sdgares.net, for any additional information.

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.