

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

Aug 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!

Sunday, August 17 Annual Club Picnic

The annual picnic at Rod McLeod Park! The Club will provide the main dish (hamburgers and brats). Members should bring their own drinks and a side dish to share, if so inclined. Remember to bring your own folding chairs as well.

There will be a T Hunt, so bring your hand-held, etc.

Also, Steve, W6TAN, is setting up an HF station and would like some volunteers to help man it.

Family members are invited and encouraged to attend.

A map to Rod McLeod Park is on the website, www.earsclub.org.

See you there!

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

Aug 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Aug 17	EARS Annual Picnic
Aug 26	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Aug 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Sept 3	PARC Monthly Meeting
Sept 11	EARS Monthly Meeting
Sept 20	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 23	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 27	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



At the July meeting, Ron Pollack, K2RP, showed off some of his babies, fully restored radios from the 1950's.
- photo courtesy N6EP

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi everyone,

This month has been quite an interesting month for me...

To begin with, we had the vintage radio presentation by Ron Pollack, K2RP. On display were some superb examples of names like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Johnson, Heathkit, Drake, and Collins etc. - all in prime working order!

Ron also discussed the momentous technical and regulatory changes during this decade. Unfortunately, due to logistical reasons, we were unable to arrange for a practical demo...

For those who couldn't make it, there are a few photographs on the EARS web site, www.earsclub.org.

Next, there was the Julian Star Fest at the beginning of August. This was the first event of its kind in Julian, and from what I gather it was the largest event in California. There were about 1,000-1,500 people who attended throughout the weekend.

Basically, amateur astronomers from all over Southern California, and other parts of the 'States (even Arizona) spent the weekend camping out under the stars, looking up at what the heavens have to offer.

Some were just visual observers; others more serious spent the night taking long exposure images of very remote objects that we can't see by eye.

My role in this event was not just from an astronomical perspective, but also from providing emergency communications if it were ever needed (I got drafted by Kurt, N6MD, as assisting the CERT team).

I was allocated the Beer garden, and I was to ensure that no one under 21 entered, and no one took beer outside. Although I was not officially allowed to drink while on duty... I did occasionally have to make sure that the beer was of suitable quality ;-)

The other highlight for me was shortly after we had arrived and had set up the tent. My wife Gina and I were sitting down waiting for the sun to set. All of a sudden my wife screamed... Just a few feet away was a rather nice example of a furry eight-legged beast monster heading straight towards her!

So being the man that I allegedly am, I jumped to the rescue, and moved it out of harms way. Needless to say, she didn't sleep that well that night!

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EARS Club Officers for 2008

President

Steve Venner, W6TAN, 760-737-0755
sbvenner@cox.net

Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF
k6daf@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jane Hull, W6YAK
jhullsmhs@aol.com

Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 760-743-8826
n6uko@aol.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
w6yoo@amsat.org

Officers at Large*

All persons with an asterisk (*) plus:
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 760-741-2560
kb6nmk@amsat.org
Ron Rosson, N6XT, 760-749-1239
n6xt@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor

*John Musselman, N6EP, 760-747-5303
n6ep@arrl.net

Past President

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 760-743-5839
darcpa@sbcglobal.net

Historian

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
w6yoo@cox.net

Membership

*Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, 760-730-3657
cozy765@pacbell.net

Property Manager

*Marvin Munster, W6MJM, 760-747-2223
w6mjm@amsat.org

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WISE WORDS

by Ron, KC6VHU

Editors Note - Last night, I was tuning around 40 when I heard a raspy CQ. I answered the guy so I could tell him his signal was really bad. So was his sending, and I struggled to understand what he said. But after we were done I had the pleasure to check him out on QRZ. Here is his eloquent take on the purpose behind our hobby:

I received my first Amateur Radio licenses in January of 1991 at the age of 49.

As a kid in the mid-west I had a radio shack in the Wash House, an outbuilding where the women folk did laundry; it was filled with old Atwater-Kents, Philcos, Crosleys and whatever else I found in the junk yards. I'd go there at night and sneak cigarettes. I could bring in WSN in Nashville, Tennessee, XERF Del Rio, Texas and other far off stations.

I could bring in some DX (foreign stations) on 41 meters and some hams on 40. The ariel was a run of wire I thumbtacked to the peak of the house roof some 20 feet away and nearly 16 feet high. The ground was a ten-penny nail stuck in the dirt behind the Wash House.

We lived on the wrong side of the tracks (railroad tracks in small towns often divided the rich from the poor, the "wrong" side of the tracks was the side of town where the soot from the coal burning locomotives blew. Us kids would talk to the CB&Q yards (Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad) and listen to the old guys sending code. They could hold a regular conversation while the telegraph beat out messages on a Prince Albert Can and, when necessary, would jump back to the key without missing a beat. They told us kids about "whistle talk"... the meaning behind what the trains were saying as they whined and whistled through the night.

We could tell when old Number 8 was passing through town, the "Creole" and we knew the moans of the "Panama Limited", the City of Miami and New Orleans as they blew across the prairie towards places that we would never see. But, being children, perhaps we saw them more clearly than anybody. The old guys gave us weak, retired switchman's lantern batteries and taught us how to make telegraphs out of nails wrapped in wire and pieces of tin snipped out of old soup cans. They showed us how to make series and parallel circuits-- the battery tester was our tongues--when they burned we knew we had enough juice!

At the library I read about grounds and antennas. I found a run of copper pipe in the junk yard and came

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Anyway, it was great fun, and something that I would most certainly do again next year.

So now on to this month... This Sunday, the 17th, we will have the EARS annual summer picnic at Rod McLeod Park. There is some information on the EARS website for those who need details on how to get there.

We will be having the T Hunt as normal, and in addition, I will be attempting to set up a demo radio station on 40/20/15 for those that want to play, and to introduce the world of amateur radio to members of the public.

It should be a lot of fun... Hope to see you all there.

Finally, as some of you probably know, EARS is once again going to take part in the California QSO Party. This will be the first full weekend in October (4th & 5th, with setup on the 3rd). It's almost as much fun as Field Day, but not on such a large scale.

If you feel like participating, please contact Steve Albarn, KE6PY, or myself. There is a kick-off meeting on Tuesday 19th at 7:00 p.m., at the Worlds' Best Pizza in Escondido. Feel free to come along and join us: www.worldsbestpizza.com

That's all from me for now - have a fun month!

Cheers,

Steve, W6TAN

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home and drove it down into the dirt almost three feet; I retired the ten penny nail and replaced the skimpy little wire I had on it with an automobile battery strap-- another junk yard find. Reception improved dramatically.

I didn't know exactly what to do about the antenna. There were no covenants and restrictions, but I dared not stir up ma or grandma. They indulged my curiosity to the point where the Wash House was now more than fifty percent radio shack. You can argue at law with some success, but ask any judge you know and he'll tell you: don't mess with mom or grandma.

One early evening, me and Jerry Smith got back to my place from fishing, we dropped our cane poles on the ground and went into the Wash House. The women were gone, so I moved the old russet colored couch out from the wall and produced a near half-pack of Camels, Jerry and I each took one and moved the couch back.

Sitting there, smoking, listening to some penny whistle station in Paducha, Kentucky fade in and out, Jerry said, "you know, aeriels are supposed to be up high, I read that in a book."

"Well I can't get no higher than the house, thats as high as there is high around here."

"Well there's trees dammit, commeer!"

We went outside and examined the terrain, picking up his fishing pole Jerry pointed at the old Box Elder in the North Yard. We didn't have enough wire for that run. But the fishing pole was inspiration itself, and two fishing poles taped together would be even higher. We scrambled up the roof and untacked the aerial and somehow manifested a two fishing pole mast above the sixteen foot roof. It wasn't pretty but it was almost dark and we could take it down in seconds if we had to.

Back on the ground, Jerry made another suggestion. "The book said Grounds work better in moist, salinated soil."

It took me a while to get his drift and when I did I blushed. "You mean?..."

"Yeah, that's what I mean." Moments later we had poured a box of Morton's salt around the ground rod and stood there, hunchbacked, peeing over it.

Now just how much all of this owes to science I cannot say, but that evening Jerry Smith and I heard stations from Oklahoma City to Denver to Cincinnati (as I suppose you know, the correct pronunciation is "Sinssinata"). In weeks that followed we would move the aerial just to see what effect it had.

A lot of kids in our scout troop studied for their Ham radio Novice Ticket. Understand, this was the internet of the fifties, the cutting edge! I learned

Morse code without too much trouble and made up tunes with it on our old piano after hearing Beethoven sending the letter V". (dah-dah-dah-DAH!). The rest of the exam was too daunting, the math, the necessity to draw schematics, antenna theory.

It was at the piano that I learned about the frequency of vibrations, for example, the note A vibrates at 440 cycles/Hertz. I followed the audio frequencies until they disappeared into the radio frequencies, kilo-hertz, megahertz-- something always reaching upwards.

That's how I got interested in radio. I still fool around with aeriels, but its been decades since I've peed on a ground rod. Years passed, interests and demands changed, I all but forgot about radio.

Then, at 48 years old I found an old CB at Goodwill for \$8. Truth is, I was over-budweisered at the time.

I took it home, slapped the mag mount antenna on the refrigerator, sat down at the kitchen table and started talking-- I didn't know from rules.

When somebody came back I panicked! My God, this thing works! We said a lot of nothings. The only thing I knew about CB was that you were supposed to say "good buddy" and "over".

So I said Good Buddy and Over over and over.

Cutting to chase, omitting everything else, I passed the FCC exams up to Amateur Extra Class in short order.

Mathematics, logical thinking, abstract thought, was never my strong suit. To say that I was an under-achiever in those areas would be a kind statement.

My renewed interest in radio was different, it gave me a context for the math, a "why". And as I plowed through the exams, mathematics became interesting, beautiful, even-- and not so difficult. Not that it was a free ride, bit it came to hold relevancy.

After earning my Extra Class license, I eyeballed the commercial GROL license (formerly the First Class Radio Operator License) and in the year 2000 I passed that exam. Less than a year later I sat for the coveted Radar Endorsement and passed that one also. Excepting an addendum here or there, this is as high a ticket the Commission grants.

There is no bragging here. Its more to say that when there is a reason for knowing something, and a desire to know it, it becomes more possible.

The algebra, geometry and trig that was presented by, mostly, stupid teachers in high school only terrified me and did not assist the cause for learning. Amateur radio, on the other hand, gave me reason to wish to know, to become familiar with an order of laws that directly affects our lives.

CLASSIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

information provided by Jane, W6YAK

1. Doug, K6DAF, reported that Ron Pollack, K2RP, will give a presentation in July including a practical demonstration on vintage/antique radios.

2. The picnic will take place on August 17 instead of the August club meeting. The club will provide Brats and hamburgers, and condiments. Attendees should bring their own drinks and a sidedish. Location: Rod McLeod park.

3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported slightly less than \$2000 in the checking account, \$861 in savings, \$82 in checks to be deposited.

4. Marvin, W6MJM, reported that ECHOLINK is now operating at Steve, W6TAN's, house. Jeff will contact 220 SMA about coordination. Marvin will contact SCRBBA regarding 440.

5. John, N6EP, would like earlier submittals for the newsletter. New deadline should be a week before the meeting.

6. Doug reminded us of the discussion at the last board meeting regarding the purchase of Club jackets. He found a deal at a shop in San Marcos. We can purchase 12 jackets for \$40 per jacket...logo on back and front, yellow/black, nylon fleece lined, drawstring on bottom, snaps, embroidered.

7. Steve reminded us that due to a scheduling conflict at the church the next Board meeting is at Steve's house, July 22.

8. Steve reported he got a phone call from Salvation Army Major David Ebel who will relieve Capt. Strickland on July 17. Both Major Ebel, KG6QDS, and wife are Hams. Major Ebel is interested in helping EARS set up the SATERN station.

9. Steve presented Jane's draft letter to the City Council. Members made recommendations for changes. Jane will redistribute the modified draft for further comments.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Call _____ Class _____

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Phone No _____ Date of Birth _____

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Member of the following organizations?

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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 8:00 a.m. at Scripps Memorial Hospital, Nobel Room, Schaetzel Building, 9890 Genesee Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037. Park in the first lot to the right after the guard shack. Parking is \$2.00 and is antenna friendly. If interested, go to www.sdgares.net or contact Steve Early, Section Manager, 619-461-2818, or ad6vi@arrl.org.

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.