

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

March 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, March 13 How Cel Phones Are Made

Covering several topics, including the general process(es) involved, things that can go wrong and what's done to prevent / correct them.

Also a couple of short videos will be shown, and various bits of hardware from the manufacturing process will be there for you to poke about with.

There will also be a small fun competition (and maybe even a prize or two for the winner).

Thursday, April 10 EARS Annual Auction

Mark this date and begin cleaning out those "skel-etons". Gotta make room for the new ones you'll bring home. Once again, Art McBride will preside.

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

Mar 13	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m.
Mar 15	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Mar 18	Field Day planning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Mar 25	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Mar 29	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Apr 2	PARC Monthly Meeting
Apr 10	EARS Annual Auction
Apr 15	Field Day planning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Apr 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Apr 22	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Apr 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



Once again this year, EARS has provided a display of ham radio at the central library in Escondido. If you're there this month, check it out.

- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hello everybody,

Well – there goes another month. At this rate, it'll soon be Christmas again!!! Anyway, I'm sure you'll be pleased to know that I've only a few comments to make this month - so here goes...

For those of you who made it to February's club meeting, you'll know that Vince Sheetz (W6CD) gave a splendid presentation on the topic of wireless data technologies. Not only was it very interesting, it was also very informative. I certainly learnt quite a few new things.

Unfortunately, we only had about 13 club members in attendance, plus 2 guests who actually joined EARS that evening. I would guess that this was because of the weather, or maybe because it was Valentine's Day. I hope so – because if it wasn't, then it would be very disappointing indeed.

The EARS board members put quite a lot of effort into arranging our club meetings, and we have to try to guess as to what topics people would like to see. We basically get very little feedback (if any) from our general membership, so we do what we think you want to see & hear about. **If it's not what you want – then please tell us...**

Now as for March's club meeting – if you subscribe to the EARS Yahoo groups reflector (EARSCA), or you've taken a peek at the club web site, you will probably know that I am planning to give a presentation on how cell phones are made. As always - I'll leave the details of the presentation up to Doug (K6DAF).

All I will say is that – It's not Valentine's Day, and the bad weather's behind us. Yes – it is the 13th, but it's not Friday - so we hope to see you **ALL** there. I guarantee that it will be lots of fun!!!

One final item before I get into my main story – is that we have our usual EARS display at the Escondido library. Gina & I went there yesterday, and it looks very good. I took a few photos, and they may be included in this issue of All EARS. Many thanks go to Jane (W6YAK), Sam (N6SD) & Kurt (N6MD) for putting it all together... Good job guys.

If you haven't seen the display before – I recommend that you go take a peek. It certainly seemed to be creating quite a lot of interest from the general public.

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AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XLV

by Harry, W6YOO

Wow! What a DXpedition!

I refer to the Ducie Island operation that concluded on February 27th with over 183,000 QSOs in the log. Amazing!



Ducie Island is a separate DXCC entity within the Pitcairn Island Group and the intrepid DXpeditioners coughed up several thousand dollars of their own money to put the island on the air.

And put it on the air they did, all bands, 10 through 160 meters, SSB, CW and RTTY. Only six meters did not open up but everything else did.

It was possible to work them on 20 band/modes, 10-160 SSB less 30 meters, 10-160 CW, and 17, 20, and 30 meters on RTTY. They were literally on everywhere, 24/7.

You can read all about it at www.vp6dx.com

And now, right on the heels of this record setting operation comes TX5C on Clipperton Island on the 30th anniversary of the first operation from there.

The team sailed out of San Diego and spent some six days at sea to travel the 1,500 miles almost due south arriving on March 7th.

Besieged with 110 degree weather and thunderstorms, the team was delayed in getting all stations up and running but now they are on the air with a vengeance from 10-160 meters and hopefully six meters might open up.

Read all about it at www.clipperton2008.org.

Read particularly about the novel way of QSLing that VP6DX has set up through PayPal and LOTW.

73, Harry



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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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

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So now onto my main story for this month:

Last weekend (1st/2nd March), I decided to take part in the ARRL DX SSB contest. I'd pre-warned the boss that I wanted to spend the weekend operating – so we didn't plan on doing anything else for the weekend. Because I'm fairly 'antenna limited' at my house (by choice), I decided 2 weeks earlier to put up an external 'temporary' 80m dipole - basically to complement my multi-band dipole I have in my attic.

Once I'd finished tweaking it to get the band coverage & SWR to where I wanted them – I tried it out that evening. To my surprise, I was able to hear quite a lot of activity at a time of the day where I wouldn't normally hear anything... on any band... I thought I was now ready for the contest.

This being the DX contest, I thought that I would be able to work a few DX stations, along with quite a few US stations. I'd set my goal to reach 100 contacts, but it wasn't until I'd read the rules which stated that I could **only** work DX station – no US. This put my goal in jeopardy, as I rarely work non-US stations. I thought that if I was lucky – I might reach about 10 contacts. Despite this low number, I still planned to go ahead with the contest.

I started at around 6 p.m. on the Friday evening. At that time there was not much happening on any band, and what made matters worse – there was an annoying buzzing noise on most bands (but mainly worse on 80m). At some times this noise was well over S9 – so there was no hope of me hearing any weak stuff. Up until about 11 o'clock, I'd worked about 2 stations.

At 11, the noise suddenly disappeared, and I could hear many more stations (mainly Hawaiians and a few stations from the Caribbean. I think I worked about another 10 stations - before calling it a night at around 2 a.m.

The following day I got up early, and started at around 8 a.m. The nasty buzzing noise was back, but was not as bad as the night before... probably at around an S5-S6. Throughout the day I managed to work about another 40 contacts – again, mainly from Hawaii, plus quite a few Mexicans, Japanese – and even some Alaskan station (yes – they are also considered DX).

Another annoying problem was that there were quite

a few stations that were relatively strong (S8-S9), and only running 100 Watts or so. Now I could hear them very well, but for some reason – they couldn't hear me at all. I put it down to my antenna in the attic not being very efficient. Either that – or they just didn't want to speak to some guy with a non-US accent!!!

The buzzing noise gradually got worse into the evening – again peaking well over S9. As I couldn't really hear anything above the noise, Gina & I decided to go out for dinner, and that I would continue after we got back. Well, we got back at around 9:30, and the dreaded noise was still there. I tried to make more contacts for quite a while – hoping that the noise would stop again around 11 (like it did the previous night). Unfortunately – 11 came and went, but the noise remained.

It eventually disappeared at midnight – just as my wife was going to bed. Hmm... This got me thinking. The previous night, she had gone to bed at 11 – the exact same time that the noise had stopped that night too. A bit too much of a coincidence me thinks. So I wondered could this noise be generated somewhere in my house??? It certainly seemed that it might.

A quick experiment found the cause. After turning back on several lamps in our family room – the noise didn't return. We turned the TV back on – still no noise. We went into the kitchen and turned on the main lights – still no noise. As soon as we turned the under-cupboard lighting for the kitchen cabinets – whoosh!!! S9 buzzing baby!!!

Now that we'd found the cause – Gina went to the land of slumber, and I went back to operating until about 3 a.m. Sunday morning. I made about another 10-15 contacts.

I started working again at around 10 a.m. but there was not really much new activity (for me at least). I put this down to my antennae, so I stopped operating at around mid-day. I made around 60 contacts in total – so I was pretty happy. I worked many countries that I've never worked before (some I've never even heard of). I had quite a lot of fun – although it was tiring... and above all - I learnt something.

I can't wait for the next one... Oh – wait a minute... Isn't that Field Day???

Well, that's all for now – next month, I'm planning to talk about the Queen Mary. In the meantime - see you at the next club meeting.

Best wishes,
Steve, W6TAN.

K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S

by Doug, K6DAF, Vice-President

We just had our February meeting and Vince Sheetz, KI6CFW, did an outstanding job of sorting and sifting thru the wild jungle of Wifi/Wimax. Due to the unseasonable weather and the fact that it was Valentine's Day our turnout was not that bad - I think we had 15 for the meeting. Vince works for Intel Solution Services West Region and has been involved with systems, security and infrastructure of Wifi/Wimax and using 802.11 technology. Vince's presentation was very informative and I know everyone learned something new about the upcoming technologies.

Get ready to learn all about your cellular phone, how it works, how it ticks, how it shines, how it plays music, how you watch TV, how to keep organized, and last but not least, how it makes a call. Our very own President Steve Venner, W6TAN, is finally going to expound on his favorite topic, **cellular phones**. I understand it may even be a hands-on workshop. I know, for one, I am ready to tear apart a cell phone to see how it works. So mark your calendars for March the 13th and plan on arriving a little early to make sure you have a seat and to socialize a little bit before the meeting.

As most of you know, I am new to this wonderful world of Amateur Radio, only having been licensed a little over a year. I always heard that you meet the nicest people on a radio and I have to agree. I have really enjoyed meeting all the EARS members and have really enjoyed the Board duties and I look forward to many years of Ham Radio to come. This brings me to my Ramblin point. Last night before the meeting I was talking to Ron, N6XT, and Jeff, AE6GM, and they were talking about antennas and capacitors and rotors and Steppirs, as Ron was very proud and excited about his new antenna farm. Of course, being new to the hobby I just smiled and nodded at the appropriate times (I think it was the appropriate times) since I had no idea what they were talking about. This brings me to an idea for a meeting. How about a talk about what your latest project is or what you are doing on the Ham bands or a favorite mode of communications. I would like to talk about D-Star and the latest developments in the digital mode. I have two meetings left to book for the year - September and October - and if I get enough interest we will book one of those meetings. Ron, I would like to hear more about your antenna farm and your DX'ing you were talking about. Drop me an email and let me know if you would like to participate, maybe a limit of 15 minutes per person.

Well, I have Rambled on enough and I need to start

getting ready for my Nashville trip this coming weekend. Have a great month and I look forward to seeing you all at the next general meeting the 13th of March and hearing you on the radio.

73,
Doug

FOR SALE

by Curt, K6LEM

I have for sale a 706 MKIIG ICOM radio with standard mike and Heil headset mike, and an MFJ 969 tuner, power supply, and a Hustler 5-band trap antenna (80-10 meter) and I will even throw in some coax, a package unit.

Contact me at KF6VHA@aol.com or 760-215-2656

PARC UPCOMING EVENTS

by Dennis, KD6TUJ

April Meeting - The History of Vacuum Tubes

Beginning with the Edison Effect and covering special tube types still in service today. Program ends with a comparison of the advantages of both tubes and solid state. Power Point Presentation: Rod, AC6V (SK) Presented by: Art, KC6UQH in Memory of Rod AC6V

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.

LIBRARY DISPLAY

by Harry, W6YOO and Jane, W6YAK

Jerry and I had an opportunity to pass by the Escondido Public Library yesterday to view the EARS display in the main entryway. Great! It is slanted towards the younger prospective Ham and I think it succeeds in this respect. Our Secretary Jane, W6YAK and Kurt, N6MD, should be congratulated. Well Done! Jerry and Harry, W6JAC & W6YOO

Thanks to Kurt and Sam, N6SD...Sam contributed background items, photos, hardware, books and EXPERIENCE. Jane, W6YAK

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jeff, AE6GM

1. Doug, K6DAF, reported that this month's presentation is "How a Cell Phone is Manufactured" by Steve, W6TAN. The September and October programs are still open. Doug suggested that club members present one of their pet projects (DSTAR, antennaa, etc.)

2. Steve, W6TAN, is working on a physical activity. Currently looking at a hike in April with a dinner to follow.

3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported there are 48 life members, 33 regular members and 26 past members that have not rejoined yet this year. There is \$2085.93 in the club CD. Savings is \$860.93 and checking is approximately \$1450.00.

4. Jeff, AE6GM, will be taking the new controller home to program it and to set up the voice IDer.

5. Harry, W6YOO, reported that training for Weather Spotter has been moved from March 8th to March 15th. Check the ARES website for details.

6. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that all CERT members will be getting the same style badge countywide. Escondido CERT has a new leader, Chuck Milks who is a retired police officer.

7. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that two new members joined at the last club meeting and one renewed.

8. Kurt, N6MD, is doing the library display with assistance from Jan, W6YAK, and Sam, N6SD.

9. The first Field Day meeting will be held March 18th, 7:00PM at the Salvation Army.

10. The suggestion had been made to Steve that EARS publish their program in the Palomar Club's newsletter. This has been done in the past.

11. It was suggested that EARS take up a collection to assist the ham in Palmdale who is currently fighting antenna restriction. Further investigate is needed since it is believed that the attorneys in the case are offering their services Pro Bono.

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 _____

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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.