

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

May 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, 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.

CONDOLENCES from the EARS family

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to EARS Vice-President Doug Farris, K6DAF, who lost his father last week.

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

May 7	PARC Monthly Meeting
May 8	EARS Monthly Meeting
May 17	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 27	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 31	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Jun 4	PARC Monthly Meeting
Jun 12	EARS Monthly Meeting
Jun 14	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jun 17	Field Day planning meeting 7:00 p.m.
Jun 24	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jun 27-29	Field Day at Dixon Lake
Jun 28	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



Auction-goers study the goodies before the start of the auction last month. This year's auction featured lots of quality items and some really great deals. More photos on page 4.

- photo courtesy Jane, W6YAK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Awards and QSLing, Part XLVII - p. 3

Auction Photos - p. 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hello all,

Once again - not too much to say this month...

Lots of work and travel doesn't leave time for much else at the moment (certainly not much in the way of ham radio activities). Even my studies have gone out of the window. Having said that, on my way back from Finland recently, I managed to drop into my friend's ham radio shop in the UK (Martin Lynch & Sons).

For a while now, I've been hoping to get a glimpse of the new Icom IC7700 to see how it looked in real life rather than just drooling over the photos in the brochure. A few weeks ago, HRO had arranged to have the Icom rep in their store, to demonstrate the new radio. Unfortunately, by the time I got there (after work) the rep (and radio) had long since gone. Fortunately for me my friend has demo stock of all of the gear that they sell, including the IC7700... So I was in heaven for 10 minutes at least! All I can say is that it's one beautiful radio... but it is HUGE!!! Almost as big as the IC7800 (certainly deeper), and much bigger than the IC756 & my FT1000.

Apparently, when it arrives in its box it takes two people to lift it in and out of the car!!! So, now having seen it, do I want one??? - Yes, maybe, not sure. Will I get one??? - only if these numbers work out: 2 16 17 35 43 & 48. Actually, I'm really happy with my FT1000MP, so maybe in a few years time... However, I would definitely need a bigger desk :-)

Now on to the club meetings: Last month's auction was a great success - we had about 40-50 people in attendance. There wasn't as much equipment for sale as there normally is, but what was there was of much higher quality. As soon as I get chance I'll update the website with some photos.

As far as this month's meeting is concerned, it promises to be another very interesting presentation. We have our very own John Belstner (W9EN) giving a talk on Military and Commercial radio modulation techniques - by relating to concepts we are all familiar with. Sounds like fun!!! More details from Doug (K6DAF) as always.

That's all from me for this month... The article about the Queen Mary is still in the works, so keeping fingers crossed it should be with us next month. Hope to see you at the club meeting on Thursday (and remember to try out the member database on our website if you haven't yet done so).

Best wishes,
Steve, W6TAN

EARS Club Officers for 2008

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AWARDS AND QSLING, PART XLVII

by Harry, W6YOO

Let us just say that you are trolling for DX in the CW portion of the 17 meter band when you hear a faint CQ, CQ from a station that identifies itself as FO5RM which is a French Polynesia call sign. Well, first you check your DXCC record to see if you need him for credit on that band. Finding that you do, you check the beam heading and discover he is strongest via the long path. You swing the beam to the northeast and yes, he comes in noticeably stronger so you call "DE W6YOO, W6YOO K" and lo and behold he comes back: "W6YOO UR 599 K". In response you send: "TU UR 599 73 K" and he replies: "TU QRZ?" and into your log he goes.

Now comes the fun part, getting his QSL to confirm the QSO. But first, you look on the Packet Cluster to see if anyone else reported him. You find that only one other station spotted him and added the information that his name was "Allain". So next you go to the DX Summit to see if others have spotted him in the past and perhaps revealed a QSL route. No luck, only the one other spot previously noted. What next? The first place most people look is www.qrz.com where one can type in the call and get an address or directions to a QSL manager. There was NO record of that call sign. Hmmmmmm! Next I went to sort of a general search site: http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/dx_ss_routes.html, which gives you a large number of clickables such as the French FCC data base. No luck there either! Double Hmm!

Now this is getting strange indeed. Did I blow the call sign? Well someone else spotted the call and I am pretty sure that's what I copied too. Could it have been a pirate or a slim? That's always possible as I have worked a few over the years. 9G1PP comes to mind, and there was a TT8 who was actually in New England. And then there was the (in) famous Romeo Stepanenko who claimed to be in North Korea as P5RS7 but was never there. Do a Google search using his name and you'll discover all sorts of shenanigans attributed to him. He is now in prison for fraud or something.

So what does one do next? Well, I for one will continue visiting the various QSL information sites, watch for the call sign (or one close to it) to pop up on the DX Clusters, upload the QSO to Logbook of the World, and finally send a QSL out through the bureau system. You just don't give up until you have that QSL card in hand or there is no possibility that you'll ever get it. Of course, in the meantime you listen for a station on the band and mode you need and work them thus starting the QSL process all

over again. As they say: "It's not a matter of life and death, it's much more important than that!"

Now let me tell you about OA4BHY/3 who is now on the air from a very rare IOTA, Isla Blanca, SA-074. No? Well maybe we will discuss that one next time.

73 and good DX,
Harry, W6YOO

PARC UPCOMING EVENTS

by Dennis, KD6TJ

May 7 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

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

Well I hope everyone had a great time at the EARS Auction. I was unable to attend so I do not have a writeup for the newsletter but I heard it was well attended and lots of great bargains. As soon as I get a final count we will put it in the next newsletter.

So lets look forward to our May presentation. John Belstner, W9EN, will be giving us the following presentation and it really sounds interesting.

Title:
Modern Modulation Techniques

Synopsis:
We will explore a few of the latest Military and Commercial radio modulation techniques by relating to concepts we are all familiar with.

- Outline:
1. Modulation (definition)
 2. Analog vs. Digital
 3. Analog Techniques
 - a. AM
 - b. SSB
 - c. FM
 - d. PM
 4. Digital Techniques
 - a. OOK
 - b. PPM
 - c. ASK
 - d. FSK
 - e. PSK
 5. Complex Techniques
 - a. QAM
 - b. QPSK
 - c. Multi
 - d. bps vs. baud
 6. Multi Carrier Techniques
 - a. OFDM
 - b. FMT

Well guys, this is going to be a short one for me as I have had a lot of stuff going on in my life this past month and I need to get my arms around a lot of things.

Look forward to seeing you at the May meeting.

73,
Doug Ferris, K6DAF

AUCTION PHOTOS

courtesy Jane, W6YAK



APRIL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jane, W6YAK

1. Konrad, N6UKO, called the meeting to order at 7:30 hrs. Konrad reported receipts from Auction: \$128.10 less \$25.00 (discrepancy). Konrad will be sending checks to sellers.

2. Doug has the May club meeting set up.

3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that our last bank statement (March 31) showed:

Checking: \$2074.79

Business savings: \$861.22

Deposits from membership \$75

Net deposit from Auction: \$103.00

Payment: Liability Insurance \$322.

4. Marvin, W6MJM, reported that Echo Link is off until he can find another place to put it.

5. John, N6EP, reported a pdf of the flyer could go up on the website. Deadline for submittals to ALL EARS is May 3.

6. The next Field Day meeting will be on Tuesday, April 29.

OUT IN THE FIELD

by John, N6EP

It's getting on toward summer and time to think about EARS participation in Field Day, the annual emergency preparedness and operating event.

This year's Field Day is on the weekend of June 28 and 29 and will once again be held at Dixon Lake.

There are some changes this year. The biggest change is that Jeff, AE6GM, is heading up the planning effort. If you want to attend, all you need to do is come on out. But if you are keen to be more involved with the planning, setup, operating, etc., please contact Jeff and let him know.

We are having a series of planning meetings. The May meeting date may change, so contact Jeff or ask around the repeater.

Whatever your interest - camping out, camaraderie, technical improvement, honing your operating skills, getting some sun - you are invited to be part of the fun.

See you there!

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.