

# ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

October 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, October 9 Emergency Power

Marvin Munster, W6MJM, will give a talk on where to obtain power for your emergency communications operation and what is needed to maintain your power needs.

### 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.

## 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

<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting</b>
Oct 18	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Oct 25	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Oct 28	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting</b>
Nov 15	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Nov 25	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Nov 29	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



EARS participated in the California QSO Party this past weekend from Dixon Lake.  
- photo courtesy N6EP

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi all,

Well, it's that time of the month again... The meeting in September was another great success - We had about 26 members & guests in attendance, and for those who missed it - we had not one, but three guest speakers!

First up was Chuck Milks, who gave a very interesting short presentation about the operations of CERT, and what people can & should do about emergency preparedness. It was thought that 15 minutes was not really enough time for Chuck to do his thing, so the intention is to schedule Chuck for a full hour sometime next year. Based on Chuck's short version - it should be a good show!

While on the CERT topic, it was also commented that there are very few EARS members who are also members of CERT. At Clubs like ROARS, Fallbrook & PARC - the majority of their membership are CERT trained. If you are interested in becoming CERT 'certified' - contact our very own Jo Ashley (KB6NMK) for more details. Note that the next CERT training class starts Oct 14. Classes will held on Tuesday & Thursday evenings for 3 weeks, with the last class a full Sat, and this will be a drill.

Next up was another short presentation by the Salvation Army's Major David Ebel - who talked about the up and coming Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services classes. The next class will be on Critical Incident Stress Management, and this will be on Monday & Tuesday, October the 13th & 14th. Contact Major David directly for more details (760) 745 8616 x103

Finally, we had the main program about the Global Hawk Unmanned Aircraft System. The presentation was given by Bob Fritz (WD6S) and was very much enjoyed by all those in attendance. It was very interesting to see the comparisons Bob made between the Global Hawk, and its competitor - the Predator Drone... For one thing, the Global Hawk is huge. For example - the wingspan is about the same size as a Boeing 757! Bob also provided some souvineers to take away. If you missed the meeting, contact Bob. Ask him nicely, I'm sure he'll be able to provide you with some goodies!

As far as October's presentation is concerned - this will be given by our very own Marvin Munster (W6MJM) - who will be speaking about emergency power. See Doug's ramblings for more details. That's all from me for this month... Hope to see you all at the next club meeting (Thursday 9th Oct).

Cheers, Steve (W6TAN).

## EARS Club Officers for 2008

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## YOSEMITE EXPEDITION

-- by Steve, W6TAN

So what have I've been up to I hear you ask...

Well, if you remember my last month's letter, it was written while I was on a mini road-trip from Las Vegas to Yosemite. We made it to our cabin in Yosemite as planned, and as I mentioned in my last letter - I had taken some radio gear with me, including a portable dual-band wire dipole antenna for 40 and 20 meters. One of my intentions was to work any EARS members who were listening.

As we arrived quite late, the first order of the morning of the first day was to attempt to put up the antenna. This presented quite a challenge, as - if you look at the photograph of the cabin - you will see that it is surrounded by huge pine trees with branches going



A cabin in Yosemite makes for a great ham shack.  
- photo courtesy W6TAN

off in all directions.

Trying to throw a support line up in that mess was very difficult. Part of the problem was that the lower shorter branches were dead and quite brittle. They couldn't take the weight, and just kept breaking when trying to pull up the antenna.

Also, it's amazing just how quiet it is in the forest early in the morning... It's very difficult to throw a weighted object up a tree without it making a loud crashing sound when it hits the ground. I also wondered what the neighbours thought about this strange Englishman repeatedly trying to throw a lump of metal attached to a piece of string up a tree. Must have looked very funny.

Anyway, after several attempts (and several strong mutterings), I managed to get it high enough so that the branches would support the weight. The photograph of the BALUN will show you what I had to contend with, and where it finally ended up. It's up



A close look at the antenna feed point.  
- photo courtesy W6TAN

about 30'- 40'.

The next obstacle was to stretch out and tie down the ends of the dipole. Again, because of the number of lower branches, it was difficult to get the antenna reasonably straight. I tried (& tried), and eventually managed to 'weave' something that resembled a twisted letter 'W'. I thought that this would be the best I can do - so decided to live with it.

To my surprise, when I measured the SWR - it was pretty flat across both bands ( $< 1.3:1$ )... what a result! After connecting it up to the radio and ATU, I also found that I could bring it in on 15 and 10



Steve, W6TAN, right, and his brother-in-law listen around the bands and check out the antenna.  
- photo courtesy W6TAN

meters, too. Unfortunately, it was too short for the ATU to match it on 80 meters, but "Hey! - Beggars can't be choosers..."!

So just how did it perform? Well, besides hearing a myriad of US station, we also heard Mexico, Argentina, The British Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Alaska. I was very happy.



Unfortunately, band conditions meant that I didn't have quite enough power to be fully heard by some of the more far away stations (e.g Argentina). I did, however, work a few U.S. stations in the deep South, and on the East coast. I also worked Hawaii and New Zealand. My brother-in-law was very impressed... There's a photo of him having a tune around the bands, while I identify the stations we heard.

The sad thing for me was that one evening I was listening on 80 meters, and both Gary (KA6OCA), and Tom (KG6RCW) were chatting with some guys up in Oregon, and they were all coming through 59+-. If my tuner had been able to pull in the antenna, it would have been great to have been able to work them. To make up for it, I called Gary on the phone, and sent Tom an email confirming the 'QSO's. Maybe next time I'll use a longer bit of wire :-)

All-in-all, we had a great trip, and a wonderful few days in Yosemite. So-much-so, Gina and I are going back to the cabin around Thanksgiving. I'll be taking the radio gear again, so - keep your EARS on... You might just be able to work a strange Englishman!

## K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S by Doug, K6DAF

Summer is fast going away and with it some great times that we had with your EARS family.

I was not able to make the meeting in September as we were out of town but, believe me, you were in my thoughts. Anyway, I did hear that we had a great presentation from Bob Fritz, WD6S, on a missile project he is working on. I am sorry I missed it as everyone that was there said it was very interesting.

We also had a guest speaker Chuck Milks from the city of Escondido Office of Emergency Preparedness who gave a brief update on the status of Emergency Preparedness for the City. We are hoping to have Chuck back early next year to give a more detailed account of the status of the Emergency Preparedness for Escondido. Now, for our October meeting Marvin Munster, W6MJM, will give a talk on Emergency Power. Following is a brief note from Marvin on his topic.

Marvin Munster, W6MJM will give a talk on where to obtain power for your emergency communications operation and what is needed to maintain your power needs. He will try to answer some of the following questions:

What are the power requirements and how to hook it up?

What size wire should be used?

What kind of connectors should be used to be standard with everyone else?

Where to get this power?

How to calculate the required load?

He will also touch on a GO BAG that every one should have if time permits.

Marvin is retired from Qualcomm where he was a Manufacturing Engineer in charge of the Wire and Cable Department for the Infrastructure Division. That Division turned out an average of 12 complete cell sites a day for Sprint. There was kind of a joke in his department that "For a wireless company, we sure used a heck of a lot of wire". Currently Marvin operates a web site selling Emergency Power related materials.

So, by all means, make sure you attend the meeting October the 9<sup>th</sup> to hear Marvin discuss Emergency Power.

A short note on Crusin Grand. I want to thank all who participated in the event this year. It was a huge success and I am sure we will be invited back by the Downtown Business Association next year. Now the big question is do we want to commit to an event that runs from April thru September every Friday nite. I guess that will be something we will discuss in future meetings.

Best to Robert, KI6SBL, and a speedy recovery.

Hear you on the air

Doug, K6DAF

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## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jane, W6YAK

1. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that the next CERT training class starts Oct 14. Call Jo for details.
2. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that the linear amplifier on the 220 repeater is broken, and has ordered new parts. It will be about 6 weeks before they arrive
3. Harry, W6YOO, reported the 'Golden Guardian' (earthquake drill) is scheduled to start on Nov 13<sup>th</sup> and running through Monday (17<sup>th</sup>). The majority of activity will be on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup>. ARES, RACES EMS agencies are all involved.
4. Harry, W6YOO, attended the last SANDARC meeting in place of Ron, N6XT, and reported that the 2010 convention will take place at the San Diego Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. Also, on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the FMRE (Mexican equivalent to the ARRL) will be holding their annual Convention at the Hotel Camino Real, Tijuana. For more details contact John, N6EP.
5. Steve, W6TAN, received a message from Major David Ebel that the radio room is clear and ready to go. Jo, KB6NMK, brought a (donated) Yaesu radio

(FT757GX) plus matching PSU & ATU.

6. Doug, K6DAF, reported the Grape Day Parade went well. He reported the last Friday Cruisin' Grand went well with 5 volunteers. Overall, DBA is pleased with EARS. Doug suggested that next year we will need a core group of volunteers.
7. The Christmas Parade will again take place the second Saturday of December (13<sup>th</sup>). Konrad will be looking for volunteers to help. John Beltsner, W9EN, offered his home for the Christmas Party again.
8. Doug, K6DAF, reported Robert Kitson, KI6SBL is convalescing at home. He will using his new portable, so give him a call on the EARS repeater.
9. Harry, W6YOO, would like to share the Sunday net duties. Harry will cover this Sunday, Oct 5, Steve will cover the next Sunday, Oct 12.
10. The Board will begin looking at a nominating committee. The election should be conducted at the November meeting. We will take nominations from the general membership in October.

## Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.arrl.org/members). The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at [www.arrl.org/arrlletter](http://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](http://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](http://www.sdgares.net) or contact Steve Early, Section Manager, 619-461-2818, or [ad6vi@arrl.org](mailto:ad6vi@arrl.org).

**SECTION NEWS** – The latest happenings around San Diego are available at [www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html](http://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](mailto: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.