

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

April 2009

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 9 Annual Club Auction

With Art, KC6UQH, as auctioneer, this event looks to be another great evening of bargain hunting. See Doug's article for a summary of the rules or see the complete rules on the website, earsclub.org. Starts early! Sellers 6:00 p.m. Buyers 6:30 p.m. Note that new for this year, seller's register for a \$3.00 fee at check-in - this replaces the 10% of sales previously charged.

Also, please bring canned or pre-packaged food items for the Salvation Army (see Doug's article.)

Thursday, May 14 Quiz Night by Steve, W6TAN

Sharpen your pencils and get ready to reach into the depths of your memory.

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 9	EARS Annual Auction, 6 p.m.
Apr 18	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Apr 21	Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.
Apr 25	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Apr 28	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 14	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
May 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
May 19	Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 26	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
May 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



From right, Jeff, AE6GM, John, N6EP, and Steve, W6TAN, install a 2 meter antenna at the home of Major David, KG6QDS.
- photo courtesy KI6SBL.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi all,

As some of you may know, my mother is visiting from the U.K. at the moment, so I thought I'd share some of my ham experiences with you while doing the 'tourist-guide' stuff. If you remember, I did a similar thing a while back when my brother-in-law (Julian) was visiting - when we did a mini road trip to Yosemite National Park.

This time, the trip was to Palm Springs, as my mother had asked to go for a ride on the aerial tramway. The tram reaches a height of about 8500 feet, and I thought that this would be a great opportunity to see what could be heard (and worked) on my trusty VX7R. I tried to get into the EARS repeater, but no such luck (I didn't really think that I would - but you never know with these things :-). I also tried to get into the Palomar repeater(s), and into the Keller Peak repeater. Unfortunately, I failed in those attempts too! While scanning around, I did hear a couple of other repeaters, but I didn't know what the PL tones were, so I didn't manage to access them either (I did try 107.2 - just in case).

For those of you who have never been on the cable car ride to the top of Mount San Jacinto State Park, it's a most beautiful quiet place. There are many really nice walks at the top, and at the moment, there's still quite a bit of snow around... Nice!

I've included a photograph so you can see what it's like. If you ever get the chance to visit Palm Springs, I would thoroughly recommend taking a trip up to the top on the tram... And don't forget to take your radio - I'm sure you'd do better than I did! Oooo - Now there's a thought - I wonder if they would ever let us do a Field Day expedition up there?

Now on to a different subject... I mentioned in last month's President's corner that there was a monthly special event station set up on the USS Midway - N16IW. Unfortunately, I've recently heard that this is no longer the case. It seems that some high-ranking admiral somewhere did not approve of all of the new-fangled radio gear being operated by mere hams, and 'requested' that all of the modern MARS-modified amateur radio equipment be removed, and replaced by the original equipment purely as a static display. I'm not sure if this is going to be a permanent scenario, but what I do know is that Robert Kitson, K16SBL, will be giving a short presentation on the Midway's radio room and equipment at the club meeting in May (prior to the EARS quiz). It will be interesting to find out what is going on for sure.

Well - that's all from me for now... Everyone have a great month, and hopefully see you at the club auction.

Cheers for now,

Steve (W6TAN).



The view from Mount San Jacinto.
- photo courtesy W6TAN.

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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.

FREE ADS -- by John, N6EP

The economy is tight and people and businesses are counting their pennies. But EARS ads are FREE! Submit your want ad or your business card now.

HAM RADIO OUTLET

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

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ALL EARS Advertising Policy

All EARS accepts ads free of charge at the Editor's discretion. Ads should be of interest to Ham Radio operators in the Escondido area. This includes personal ads, ads for Ham Radio related businesses and for member's businesses.

All ads are accepted at the Editor's discretion and on run on a space-available basis.

E - V - E !!!

-- from the ARRL Letter

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet. According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Guelzow said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus. This was the first German success to receive echoes of other planets. In addition, this is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections)."

The EVE experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the well-known 'HI' signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

For receiving the EVE reflections, Guelzow said that the team used a fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis with an integration time of 5 minutes. "After integrating for 2 minutes only, the reflected signals were clearly visible in the display," he said. "Despite the bad weather, signals from Venus could be detected from 1038 UTC on until the planet reached the local horizon."

Guelzow explained that with the EVE reflections, the high power amplifier "has therefore passed this crucial test as a final key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. By receiving generated echoes from Venus, the ground and command station for the Mars probe has been cleared for operational use and the AMSAT-DL team is now gearing up for building the P5-A space probe. AMSAT-DL wants to show that low-budget interplanetary exploration is possible with its approach."

Development, design and construction of this first German Mars mission have been achieved by AMSAT-DL and its partner organizations, Guelzow explained. "Already a third of the total project costs were performed. More work shall follow during the mission. AMSAT-DL would like to demonstrate that their approaches to low-cost space missions are feasible." — Information provided by AMSAT-DL.

FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS

-- by John, N6EP

This year, EARS members are asked to order their Field Day items individually from the ARRL. This includes T-Shirts, pins, hats and other items.

The ARRL website has a page for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, hats, pins and other supplies. According to ARRL, all of the items are available for ordering now; many of the items are already in stock.

Visit www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-0515.

The T-Shirts are \$12.95 each, pins are \$5 each and the hats are \$9.95 each.

For more details, please check out the ARRL website given above.



The EARS display at the downtown Escondido Public Library at 2nd and Kalmia. The display was set up by Kurt, N6MD, and Steve, W6TAN.

- photo courtesy W6TAN.

K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S

-- by Doug, K6DAF

Well, time flies and spring has sprung and summer is right upon us. This is the time of year that has a lot of exciting events for the EARS club. Upcoming events to stay tuned for are: the Annual Auction in April, Field Day in June and the Annual Picnic in August. So we have many great opportunities to enjoy our hobby of Ham Radio and be with all of our Ham buddies. So please stay connected with our many ways of info-passing like our monthly meetings, our newsletter, website, Yahoo and Google group emails and our Sunday night net. There really is no reason to say I didn't know of an upcoming event with all these channels of communications available to us.

Now moving to current events. April the 9th will be our Annual EARS Auction. Time to clean out your shack for two reasons - it makes the place look better and gets the XYL off your back and to make more room for all those treasures you are going to be bringing home. We have changed one item this year concerning seller's fees. In the past we have charged a small percentage which becomes a burden at checkout time. This year we will be charging a \$3.00 fee for each seller at the time of check-in. Hopefully this will speed up the evening's processing time. We have posted the auction rules on the website so please check them out prior to attending the auction.

Following are the times for the event:

Open time for volunteers 5:30 p.m.

Seller check in 6:00 p.m.

Buyers 6:30 p.m.

Auction will begin 7:00 p.m.

Our auctioneer will be Art McBride, KC6UQH, this year. Art has donated his time for the EARS Club many years and we really appreciate his time. Volunteers are greatly needed for the event. I have several folks that have stepped up and indicated that they will be able to help at the auction but we do need additional help. Please email me at k6daf@yahoo.com if you can help the evening of the event. As stated above volunteer show-up time is 5:30 p.m. If you don't email me but can show up at 5:30 that would be great. I look forward to seeing you all on the 9th of April and bring lots of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ and plenty of stuff to sell.

I will have the order of hats to give out at the auction to those who have placed an order. If you were not able to place an order, you can call Print World of Escondido at 760-747-6443 and order directly from them. I will also have a jacket at the auction that has had the embroidery put on for those to see who are

interested. Since the logo has been digitized and paid for by the EARS club all you have to do is take your jacket, tee-shirt, or really whatever you want, to Print World and they will put the logo on for about \$25 per piece. The hats run from \$20-\$30 depending on what is put on.

I would like to put together a can drive for the Salvation Army at our auction. I would like to start this on a monthly basis at our general meetings but kick it off in a big way at the auction. With the economy down, the donations to the Salvation Army have also dropped but the folks in need have increased. So please bring along a bag of canned goods to the auction to kick this event off. I know the Salvation Army will appreciate any items that we gather but mostly the folks receiving them will be grateful. I will have some type of container at check in for collection of the canned goods.

Well, I have rambled on long enough. Hope to see you at the auction and hope to hear you on the air.

73, Doug, K6DAF

CRUISIN' GRAND UPDATE

-- from Doug, K6DAF

Last Friday was our first Crusin' Grand and I would like to keep all of you posted on the status of future Friday Nights.

Last year when the streets were closed, we had a role to play in the event. We were posting members at different static locations to report problems, availability of parking and crowd monitoring. With the new format this year, that being 'open streets', our role has diminished greatly. Our intent was to shadow Steve, the event organizer, and to monitor the types of cars that were being parked and to let Steve know if a pre '74 vehicle was parked on Grand. After discussion with Dirk, we do not see our role continuing in this manner. With the new format, we do not really see a need for radio communications at the event, and with the time commitment that is required and the members required for each night, we felt it was better to not do a weekly involvement.

Now with that said, we are going to propose to Steve that on the large nights - Nitro Nite, Fire Engine Nite and some of the other special nights - we could play a more valuable role and that will be discussed with Steve in the near future.

So, for now Fridays are open, but please visit the event as it was a great time had by all.

73, Doug, K6DAF

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Vivian, W6NWF

1. Doug, K6DAF, reported that there was a great turnout – 37 people - at the last meeting. The April program will be the auction.
2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported savings of \$924.44, a CD with \$ 2132.38 and checking of \$2168.05. Liability insurance is due by 1 May 2009, \$322.00.
3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that there were 3 renewals. Steve, W6TAN, reported 80 paid-up members. Konrad has been updating information on the roster on the website.
4. Orange County will not be having a convention this year. There will be an extra day at the Santa Barbara ham convention, but don't know if that is official yet.
5. Steve, W6TAN, reported on new functionality which will be added soon to the website.
6. Steve, W6TAN, said that we had the first Field Day meeting and all is ok. Steve additionally said

that T-shirts should be ordered now, rather than waiting. T-shirts can be ordered at the ARRL website. Marvin, W6MJM, will do the dinner for Friday night. \$300.00 was authorized for food.

7. Doug, K6DAF, placed the orders for the EARS hats and they will be ready at the next meeting. Doug K6DAF will also have a jacket to show, with the logo on the back. He reports that it looks very good.

8. After discussion, it was decided that there will be a \$3.00 fee charged to all sellers at the auction instead of the 10%, except for donations to the club.

9. Doug, K6DAF, stated that he will arrange a canned food drive the night of the Auction.

10. Konrad, N6UKO, stated that the Salvation Army can use more donations. It was discussed that EARS could make a yearly donation during the Holidays, as well as continue making donations of turkeys.

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.