

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

August 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. NO MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO THE CLUB PICNIC.

Sunday, August 9 EARS Annual Picnic

It's time once again for the EARS annual picnic. As normal, it will take place at Rod McLeod Park in Escondido from 11:00am until about 3:00pm. EARS will be providing the essentials (i.e. burgers, sausages, buns, relishes etc.) Soft drinks & water will also be provided (BYOB, BYOW).

Those wishing to bring something to share are welcome to do so. Some suggestions are chips/salsa, salads, deserts, or some other side-dish. Of course you can always bring something more exotic if you wish! Don't forget to bring your sun-screen & hat, and a chair to sit on.

CONVENTION TIME

-- by John, N6EP, and Marvin, W6MJM

The 2009 ARRL Southwest Division Convention will take place in Santa Barbara this year on August 15 at the Earl Warren Showgrounds.

The show will be run by the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (SBARC) who has stepped in to take over the show from its usual Orange County sponsors. Due to the last minute change of venue, the show will take place on one day only.

The convention includes free admittance to the adjacent Santa Barbara Home Show should you or your spouse care to attend that as well.

For more information, visit www.sbarc.org.

A registration form is also available at:
www.sbarc.org/HamFest2009.pdf

EVENT CALENDAR

Aug 9	EARS Picnic, 11:00 a.m.
Aug 15	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Aug 15	ARRL SW Division Convention
Aug 25	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Aug 29	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Sept 10	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sept 17	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.

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.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi everyone,

As usual, I have a few things to yak about this month...

The first is that by now I'm sure that you're all aware that Tom McDuffie, KM6K, passed away on 13th July - following a stroke while driving to work a few days earlier. Although my only dealings with Tom were through HRO, I always found him to be a very helpful guy (even though he didn't always give me the discount that I'd hoped for!) I and a few other EARS members went to his memorial service. To see so many people in attendance paying their respects certainly says something about the man. I counted about 200 in the chapel, and estimated at least another 100 in the main entry hall! I'm sure he will be missed by many many more. 73 Tom!

Next up is that I'm pleased to let you know that Echolink is now up-and-running again. The club had planned to purchase a new note-book computer to control Echolink, but between the time that we received board approval for the funding, and actually going out to get it - the price had gone up by about \$75. The good news is that I had a spare lap-top which had an audio issue. Well, after playing around with it for a while, I managed to get the audio working again, and now we "don't need no stinkin' new note-book"! So, if you feel like giving Echolink a go - please do so, and let me know if you have any issues... Just remember to follow the Echolink/ Repeater usage guidelines, which you can download them from the EARS website.

While mentioning the EARS repeater, you may have noticed that we now have a new schedule for the Sunday evening net controllers. We've done this to give Harry, W6YOO, a break - as Harry's been doing it regularly forever (or at least it seems that way!) Anyway, at the moment, we have myself, W6TAN, doing the First Sunday, Harry the second Sunday, Doug, K6DAF, for the 3rd Sunday, and Konrad, N6UKO, for the 4th. In the couple of months when there are 5 Sundays - then Robert, KI6SBL, will be doing the hono(u)rs. Robert is also back-up if the other net controllers can't make it for any reason. Now - should any of you out there like to have a go at being net controller, please feel free to contact me, and I'll add you to the list... It can be good fun!

As far as the Sunday evening net itself is concerned, I've unfortunately recently received couple of comments & criticisms. First is that that the Sunday net can be a little boring! Whaaaaat!!! We can't have that can we? So if you have any ideas on how to improve the Sunday evening net, we would love to hear from

you. I have already received one suggestion - which I will try to implement the next time it is my turn as net controller (6th Sept). I won't say too much about it now, except get your thinking-caps on, and get your pens/pencils & paper at the ready... all I will say is that it will be totally different to the way it is done now!

One other comment I received is that when it is your turn to speak - please try to keep you comments focused on your events of the week, and not get into side conversations with other members of the family while your microphone is still keyed. It has been pointed out that not only is this annoying, it is not good operating practice. If you have nothing else to say, then please pass it back to net control to allow the next person on the list to have their turn.

OK, so that's the 'unpleasantaries' out of the way - now on to my activities this month...

As far as ham radio is concerned - since Harry's great DXing 101 presentation at the last club meeting, I've been doing a little listening around the bands - more so than usual. In doing so - I managed to work Spain for the first time, and azakhstan too... Wahoo! I think this is more likely due to slightly elevated band conditions - rather than my antenna or operating skills, but hey! - Who cares... a DX contact is a DX contact! There were many more 'foreign' DX stations that I could hear (even some from my native country), but unfortunately I couldn't work them. I'm sure that that *WAS* due to my antenna... but in any case I was happy (at least I heard them!) I can't wait 'till the bands really open up!

Also since Harry's presentation - I also received my second-ever batch of QSL cards (via da 'BURRO'), and as he mentioned - some of them were from contacts that I made over 2 years ago! Wow! So, if you've not tried DXing before - don't worry about having a mega-antenna, or running mega-watts... just get out there and do it with whatever equipment you've got. I'm sure you'll like it, and have a lot of fun to boot.

My non-ham activities this month have been centered on Gina, KI6UQP. We thought it would be a nice thing to have a little short break away between her chemo-therapy sessions. Anyway, we ended up going to Palm Springs again, and this time did some hiking to some new places. We've been hiking in Joshua Tree many times before, but this time - we decided to try a new hike: Barker Dam. It was a relatively short hike - not too strenuous, and no water to speak of, but what was interesting was that there was a whole family of big-horned sheep in the area (8 of them).

We've been to many places where there were

PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONT'D)

by Steve, W6TAN, President

supposedly big-horned sheep around, but we've never seen them (at least not in the wild). These were in plain view, and not frightened in any way. Having said that – the male was huge... probably around 200lb, so I don't think he had anything to be frightened of! I've included a picture of the male - so you can see what I mean!



Look at the antenna on that fella!
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.

We also went to Tahquitz Canyon for the first time. This was significantly more strenuous than before, and longer (about a 2 mile round-trip). It was also very warm. The nice thing about this was that at the end of the trail, there was a lovely little waterfall & pool. The pool was about waist deep and really refreshing after the hot climb. The fun thing here was that there were some rather large fish in the pool which looked uncannily like piranha! Fortunately – they weren't, they were just harmless Sun fish. It didn't stop them nibbling at your toes though! I've also included a picture of the falls so should you ever get the chance to go hiking in Tahquitz Canyon – you'll know what to expect.

I already mentioned about Harry's presentation at the last club meeting. It was very interesting, and a lot of fun. This month - there is no meeting to speak of, as it's the annual EARS picnic at Rod McLeod Park in Escondido. Full details can be found on the EARS website, but just to let you know that the event starts at around 11:00am, and goes on until around 3:00pm. EARS will be providing the majority of the food & non-alcoholic drinks. If you wish to bring a side-dish to share, please feel free.

We're hoping to have the radio tent set-up as we did last year, so again, if any of you want to have a go at DXing – you can. We're also hoping to get Sam, N6SD, to do his thing with the treasure-hunt, but we're still waiting to hear if he will be joining us.

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

5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego
560-4900 or Toll Free 1-800-854-6046

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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.



The waterfall in Tahquitz Canyon.
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.

More details can be found on the EARS website.

Last month, I spoke of including a 'Member spotlight' article in All EARS. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, I haven't yet had time to go visit my 'victim'. I promise I'll do it for next month.

One person I do want to mention though is someone who some of you may have never seen or heard on the air, and that is John Belstner, W9EN. John was president of EARS a few years ago, but because of work commitments - he has been unable to participate in as many EARS activities as he would like. However, he has made many considerable contributions to the club - such as hosting the EARS Christmas party for the last 4 years, and to provide the original Echolink setup. Because of this and other contributions he has made over the years - the EARS board have decided to make him an honorary life member! Way to go John!

Well, that's all from me for this month - everyone have a great month ahead, and hopefully we'll see you all at the picnic on Sunday.

73, Steve, W6TAN

EARS Club Officers for 2009

President

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

Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF
k6daf@yahoo.com

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

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Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 760-743-8826
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Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
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Officers at Large*

All persons with an asterisk (*) plus:
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 760-741-2560
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Historian (non-elective)

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
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*Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, 760-715-2876
rkitson2001@yahoo.com

Property Manager

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

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 7.

MORE FIELD DAY PHOTOS

-- as credited.



Dirk, N6SUN, and logger, on the SSB station.
-- photo courtesy Marvin, W6MJM.



Viv, W6NWF, and Robert, KI6SBL, show how it's done to a GOTA guest. Good job, Viv and Rob!
-- photo courtesy Grace Amilbangsa.



Dennis, WA6IQY, operates the open night air.
-- photo courtesy Marvin, W6MJM.



Half the fun of Field Day is the great "spread", as Doug, K6DAF, well knows.
-- photo courtesy Marvin, W6MJM.



Jo, KB6NMK, helps a GOTA visitor.
-- photo courtesy Grace Amilbangsa.

DON'T BE SHY!

-- by Robert, KI6SBL

Attention all EARS members! I need to photograph at least 3 or 4 ham shacks to make my presentation in September AMAZING! Please contact me to set a time for me to come over. I can be reached at membership@earsclub.org or 760.715.2876

I am proud to announce that letters are now going to new HAM operators in our area on a monthly basis. This activity should help our club grow exponentially over the next year. If you have any suggestions to help me get the word out about our great club, please let me or Steve, W6TAN, know.

Robert J. Kitson, KI6SBL
Membership Chairman
Email: membership@earsclub.org



Steve, W6TAN, attends to a hot six meter band.
-- photo courtesy Grace Amilbangsa.



New Club member Grace Amilbangsa digs out one of her 70 or so contacts at the GOTA station.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

-- by Steve, W6TAN

The Escondido Amateur Radio Society would like to offer a very warm welcome to the following new and returning club members:

Gary Henry - KJ6ACM
Luke Smith - KL7LK
Mike Ryan - KE6EUM
John Belstner - W9EN (Honorary Life)

WELCOME ABOARD!

KB2GSD SK

-- from the ARRL Newsletter

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Walter Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes... In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two General class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "...His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest came on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard!' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

JULY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jeff, AE6GM

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported that \$60 was collected at the July Club meeting. Another \$70.00 needs to be collected before the drawing can take place. Tickets will be sold at the club picnic.
2. Konrad, N6UKO, reported the club account balances as: Checking is \$2537.09, Savings is \$929.21, and the CD is \$2173.77.
3. Jeff, AE6GM's, goal is to get the new controller finstalled by the end of August. Steve reported that Echolink was back on line. The price for laptops has climbed above the club's \$300 budget. So this purchase for Echolink is on hold.
4. Jeff, AE6GM, reports there are currently 105 paid members. John Beltsner, W9EN, was given a life membership in recognition of his significant dona-tions to the Club. A budget of \$100 was approved for rprospective new membership mailings.
5. SANDARC is no longer managing donations for the antenna defense fund. Donations should now be sent to the San Diego DX Club.
6. Steve, W6TAN, has completed the "Wanted Ads"

on the website.

7. Field Day total claimed points is 5,120 points.
8. EARS Brouchures have been updated and are ready for the printer. We are currently attempting to use up the brouchures before purchasing new ones.
9. The EARS Board Meetings will be moved to the third Thursdays of the month starting in August.
10. A rotation schedule has been setup for the net control of the Sunday evening EARS net.
11. Konrad, N6UKO, received a letter from the Escondido Historical Society. The Grape Day Parade will be September 12. Konrad will offer EARS services.
12. The EARS banner is missing. If anyone has seen it please let the board know.
13. Nick, KK6TV's, daughter Jentry, KI6HFK, is Project Manager for the Palomar College Health Fair on Sept 30th. EARS may be interested in partici-pating with a table to showcase EARS and a chance to reach the college crowd.

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 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.

EARS HATS, SHIRTS AND JACKETS - Hats, shirts and jackets are available with the EARS logo. Order them directly from Print World, 107 S. Andreasen Dr., Escondido, Ca. 92029 (Tel 760-747-6443). Just let them know you are part of the EARS club.