

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

December 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.

Saturday, December 12 Escondido Christmas Parade and EARS Christmas Party

Once again, Konrad, N6UKO, will be organizing EARS to provide communications for the Escondido Christmas Parade.

Afterward, the annual EARS Christmas Party will be held at 4 p.m. at the QTH of John, W9EN, and Lynn Belstner at 27364 St. Andrews Lane in Valley Center. Spouses are invited. Bring \$7.50 per person to cover costs as well as a wrapped gift under \$10 to participate in the gift exchange.

More details are on the club website.

NEW MEMBERS --by Steve, W6TAN

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

John Tyson - N6WST
Terry Runyon - K3PXX (returning member)

WELCOME ABOARD!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Prez's Farewell - p. 2

HRO = Happy Re-Opening - P. 4

EVENT CALENDAR

Dec 12	Escondido Christmas Parade
Dec 12	EARS Christmas Party
Dec 17	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dec 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Dec 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Jan 14	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Jan 16	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jan 21	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan 30	VE Testing, 9 a.m.

THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM DUES

Yes, they're called dues because... well, because they're DUE.

All EARS memberships run through the end of the calendar year. Please pony up by the end of the year... or you can't ride the pony any more.

Mail it or bring it to the Christmas party, Thanks!

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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi everyone,

Well, this is it... My last president's letter! As most of you should know by now, the new club officers' for 2010 were elected at the meeting in November, and their 'ugly mugs' can be seen on the EARS website!

Robert Kitson (KI6SBL) will be taking over from me as President in the New Year, and, as per the EARS bylaws, I will be handing over the controls to him at the Christmas party on Saturday the 12th. I wish him luck... He'll need it!

As far as the Christmas party is concerned, once again, we have been invited back to John and Lynn Belstner's place at Valley Center. The party starts at 4:00 p.m. local time, and 'officially' continues until 7:00 p.m. or later. All club members and their family and friends are welcome, and as usual, food and drinks will be provided... all we ask is for a \$7.50 donation per person at the door to help cover costs.

There will be the normal door prizes, plus the 'Ladies-Only' prizes. This year, there will also be a special 'President's prize' specifically for those people who check-in to the Sunday evening EARS net.

Finally - we mustn't forget to mention the 'White Elephant' gift exchange. This is an enormously fun event, and for those that have never taken part - you are in for a real treat! Further details, including directions and rules / regulations of the gift exchange etc. can be found on the EARS website. Of course the big question on everybody's lips is - Who will get the EARS thong? You'll just have to turn up to find out!!!

We will also be selling Opportunity Drawing tickets throughout the evening - for those who have not yet had the chance to purchase any at the club meetings.

Hopefully, we'll see you all there...

Anyway, before I leave you, there are a couple of things which I would like to say...

The first is that I have really, really enjoyed my two years of being President of EARS, and it is with much sadness that I will be stepping down. When I was asked if I would like to be EARS president two years ago, I was a little concerned as to how much work it would be, but I was assured by our current past-president that it was an easy job (Lesson #1: Don't trust past-presidents!)

All I will say is that I'm glad I haven't been working for the past year - otherwise I wouldn't have had chance to do all of the things that needed to be done. There's a lot of stuff that goes on 'behind the scenes' so to speak, and at times it was like having a full-time job! Having said that, there were few things that I still wanted to do but didn't get around to doing them...

I managed to do one member spotlight (I had a few others planned). I wanted to organize some other non-ham related activities (hiking, social evenings etc.) At one point there was talk of a mini-DXpedition to Catalina Island. I wanted to add a puzzle page to the AIEARS magazine.

So there are a few things that didn't quite make it, and even though I won't be 'El Presidente' any more, I still plan to try and make at least some of the above happen in the near future.

Also, I still plan on still writing some articles for AIEARS - one of which will be called "TAN's travels"... Watch this space for more details.

The second thing I'd like to say before I go is that, as some of you already know (if not most of you), Gina and I will be moving back to the UK around March / April time. It is something that neither of us really want to do, especially as we have a home here, and so many good friends.

Unfortunately, because of US immigration rules and regulations, we are not allowed to work and funds are now getting very low (I've even had to put my Elecraft K3 purchase on hold!) Also we are currently unable to travel outside of the US and we desperately need to go back to the UK to see Gina's dad. Actually, we are allowed to travel outside of the US, but we would not be allowed to come back in, and that would not be good for our house (or our cat)!

We are intending to rent our house out while we are gone, but whether we will be back in a year or three (or 10) - that depends on the US immigration services.

We shall see.

Whatever happens, I will still be the EARS webmaster, and I will be trying to check-in to the EARS Sunday evening nets (at least once a month).

So with that, I would like once again to thank all of you for making the club what it is, and I hope you give Robert as much support as you gave me.

Cheers dudes (& dudettes),

Steve (W6TAN/G0TAN).

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

Treasurer

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

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
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Historian (non-elective)

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*Marvin Munster, W6MJM, 760-747-2223
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New EARS Club Officers for 2010

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Membership

Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF
w6nwf@arrl.net

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 5.

HAM RADIO OUTLET

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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HRO Grand Re-Opening by Steve, W6TAN

I'm sure that most of you knew that on Saturday, the 5th of December, HRO had a grand re-opening. The event started at around 10:00 a.m., and by the time Gina (K16UQP), Viv (W6NWF) and I arrived at around 11:00, the place was a-buzzin'!

There were representatives from all of the major Ham Radio manufacturers (Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood, RF-parts/Diamond, Comet/Daiwa etc.)



A nice surprise was that Bob Heil (K9EID) & Chip Margelli (K7JA) were also there doing live demonstrations of their audio equipment, and generally helping out around the store.

Now if only Joe Walsh (WB6ACU) had been there too...

As expected, there were quite a few EARS members in attendance, and at one point, I thought it was going to be an impromptu EARS club meeting. In the relatively short time that I was there, besides Gina & Viv - I saw:



John McNelly,
Dick & Rusty Kalkofen,
Giora Tamir (GT) & kids,
Pat & Mae Horgan,
Ted Hopkins.

I'm sure there will have been a few more EARS folks who turned up after we left at around 13:15 (after the main prize drawing).

Talking of raffle prize drawings, they were being held about every hour or so, with the main drawing taking place at 1:00 p.m. as I said. There were many many prizes being offered, and as luck would have it, Dick Kalkofen won a crimping tool (a \$60 value - which he said he would loan out for a small fee!), and one of GT's daughters won something, but I couldn't quite work out what it was...

I didn't see Harry (W6YOO) there, so I couldn't stroke his head for luck. I guess that's why I didn't win the main prize! Anyway, I've included a few photos of the event for those who couldn't make it.



One interesting thing was that in the UK also on Saturday the 5th - Martin Lynch & Sons (www.hamradio.co.uk) were also having their open-day/hog-roast:

Now let's see...

They have a BBQ/hog-roast, while HRO provides a few measly doughnuts. There's something wrong there somewhere... HRO - are you listening?!

Cheers,
Steve (W6TAN).

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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.

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Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

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Phone No _____ Date of Birth _____

E-mail Address _____

Date Licensed _____ Expires _____

Member of the following organizations?

ARES _____ ARRL _____

EVAC _____ MARS _____

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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 three repeaters in the Escondido area. The two meter EARS repeater is on 146.88 MHz with a PL of 107.2. The 220 MHz repeater is on 224.14 MHz (AE6GM repeater), minus offset, PL 156.7. The 440 EARS repeater is on 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.3. The two meter and 440 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.

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.

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.

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.