

# ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

February 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, February 12 PAPA and D-STAR

Cecil Casillas, WD6FZA, owner/operator of the PAPA System, will be talking about the PAPA System and D-Star.

### Thursday, March 12

Part 1: The New Digital TV system (tentative).  
Part 2: Understanding and Mitigating WiFi Interference, by Vince Sheetz, W6CD.

### Thursday, April 9 Annual Club Auction

### Thursday, May 14 Quiz Night by Steve, W6TAN

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming meetings!

## 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

Permission is given to copy any article contained in All Ears when not otherwise copyrighted and provided proper credit is given.

The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**Feb 12** EARS Monthly meeting, 7 p.m.  
Feb 20-21 Yuma Hamfest  
Feb 21 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.  
Feb 24 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Feb 28 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

**Mar 12** EARS Monthly meeting, 7 p.m.  
Mar 17 Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Mar 21 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.  
Mar 24 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
Mar 28 VE Testing, 9 a.m.



Gina, Mrs. W6TAN, has been a fixture in the Club. Now she has her own Ham identity: K16UQP. Congratulations!  
- photo courtesy W6TAN

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Echolink Revealed - p. 3  
Podcast, Don't Broadcast - p. 4  
EARS Repeater Policy - p. 5

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hello everyone,

Well, this month has been quite busy for me... or at least it has seemed that way! I've finally managed to finish a small DIY project in the downstairs bathroom which I've been working on (on-and-off) for about 4 years. It actually started as an additional side project to another tiling project which is still ongoing!

Anyway, as far as my amateur radio activities are concerned, I haven't been doing too much. A few weeks ago, Father Christmas brought me a late Christmas present - an Icom ID-800 D-Star radio, so I've been playing a little with that. It's a great little radio, but I'm not sure about D-Star operation yet... Maybe I'll be convinced at the next club meeting (Thursday, 12th Feb).

In the meantime I decided that my 'shack' could do with a bit of a tidy, as there were radios all around the room (some of which I've not used for a few years). Now they're all in one place and working again. On the front page of this All EARS, there's a picture of the new tidied desk along with Gina, KI6UQP, pretending to operate. One day I'll convince her to do it for real (Hmmm - did I just see a pig fly past the window?)

Some of you may have noticed that I've also been tidying the EARS website. I've been trying to make it more compatible between the different web browsers out there, and to make it a little easier to maintain and update. Unfortunately, this meant disabling the member log-in. Most of the functionality has now been restored, and I've added a few more extra links etc. It should be easier to navigate, and I think it looks a bit cleaner too. Please feel free to have a play, and if you have any issues or comments, please e-mail them to me... I'm always open to suggestions.

By the time you read this, all of the original functionality should have been restored, and then I'll be working on the extra stuff that I've been meaning to do for a quite a while.

The other thing that has been keeping me busy is Echolink. For a while now, the lap-top that controls Echolink has been getting incredibly slow. It's been taking almost 30 minutes to boot up, and with Windows pushing updates every week requiring a reboot - it was getting very frustrating. Also, it didn't have enough memory installed for running Windows 2000, and so the swap file on the hard-drive was continually being accessed / increased. About two weeks ago, I decided to do the decent thing, and I put it out of its misery! John Belstner, W9EN, very

kindly built another machine, but it was a desk-top, and was too big to fit where I wanted to put it - so I had to look for an alternative.

I had a spare laptop which I use for Field Day operation, but it was also quite old, and I wasn't too sure if it would be up to the challenge. However, when I attempted to set it up today, I found that the external microphone socket didn't work - so I couldn't use it after all! Ho hum... I finally resorted to using the laptop that I use in my shack, for controlling the station etc., so it's only a short-term solution. At least Echolink's back up-and-running for now. If you normally use Echolink, please try it out...

It should be performing better than before, as it's now connected directly to my router (it was originally in my garage connected via a wireless link). It's also a faster laptop, and the antenna is in a better position. It might need a little tweaking, so please do let me know if you have any problems.

Well, that's all from me for this month... Everyone have a great month, and hopefully see you at the next meeting.

Cheers for now, Steve, W6TAN



In case you've wondered what the Echolink station looks like, here it is, in position in its new home.

- photo courtesy W6TAN

## EARS Club Officers for 2009

### President

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

### Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF  
k6daf@yahoo.com

### Secretary

Vivian Wentworth, W6NWF  
w6nwf@arrl.net

### Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 760-743-8826  
n6uko@aol.com

### Emergency Services Coordinator

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212  
w6yoo@amsat.org

### Officers at Large\*

All persons with an asterisk (\*) plus:  
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 760-741-2560  
kb6nmk@amsat.org  
Ron Rosson, N6XT, 760-749-1239  
n6xt@sbcglobal.net

### Newsletter Editor

\*John Musselman, N6EP, 760-747-5303  
n6ep@arrl.net

### Past President (non-elective)

Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 760-743-5839  
darcpa@sbcglobal.net

### Historian (non-elective)

Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212  
w6yoo@cox.net

### Membership

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

### 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 8.

## WANTED

-- by Vivan, W6NWF

I am in search of a Kenwood AT-250 Automatic Antenna Tuner. Please contact me at W6NWF@arrl.net or 760-715-2876.

Thank you very much, Viv Wentworth, W6NWF

## 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

Equipment  
Tech Support  
Repairs  
Books  
HF  
VHF  
UHF  
All Mode  
Packet  
GPS  
Scanners  
Antennas

## The San Diego Union-Tribune.

### ROBERT J. KITSON ACCOUNT MANAGER

robert.kitson@uniontrib.com

800 W. Valley Parkway, Ste. 114,  
Escondido, CA 92025  
o: 760-737-7519  
f: 760-737-7560

SignOnSanDiego.com

## 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.



## HAMS AND PODS

-- from Martin, M1MRB

Dear Fellow Amateur,

I want to tell you about a new free Podcast (broadcast), by amateur operators for amateur operators—The ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast.

If you don't know what a Podcast is, it's an audio file which has been compressed into MP3 digital format. These files can then be played on a MP3 Player, a computer, or some CD players that can read this format direct from a disc.

My son Colin and I have decided to record a fortnightly Amateur Radio Podcast called ICQ Podcast. The aim of the podcast is to help new entrants to the hobby like Colin to learn and understand the technical detail to attain their licence, while providing experienced operators with a combination of news, reviews, opinions, upcoming events, features and reports. **The podcast is recorded for amateurs and including amateurs.**

Previous episodes have covered topics including operating on holiday in Cyprus, an introduction to building an 80m SSB Kit and microphone modifications and new product re-views. We have also hosted roundtable discussions reviewing 2008 for Ham radio and a newbie roundtable discussing their enjoyment of their new hobby. We are looking for other contributors to become involved. If you are interested, please e-mail [info@icqpodcast.com](mailto:info@icqpodcast.com)

If you would like to find out more, please visit our website at [www.icqpodcast.com](http://www.icqpodcast.com) or search iTunes for "icqpodcast" (or add to iTunes - <http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=284922000>) and download an episode or two.

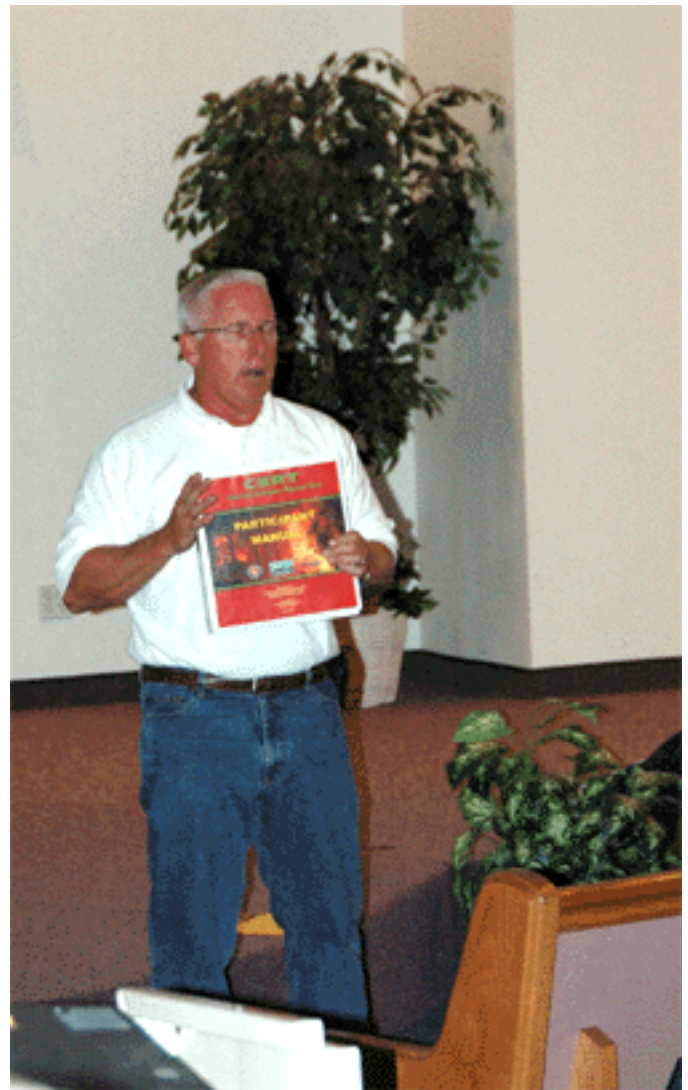
Thank you for your time.

Martin Butler, M1MRB

## ERRATA

-- by John, N6EP

Konrad's wife, Diane, was incorrectly identified in the January All EARS, and incorrectly promoted to the ranks of hamdom. Sorry, Diane!



The January Club meeting featured Chuck Milks, KI6SBV, Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Escondido, talking about the Escondido CERT program.  
- photo courtesy W6TAN.

## IMPULSE ELECTRONICS

[ImpulseElectronics.com](http://ImpulseElectronics.com)

West Mountain Radio

RIGrunners  
RIGblasters  
PWRcrimper  
Power Meter  
Powerpole Connectors  
Power Cable  
Coax Cable  
Coax Connectors  
Coax Adapters  
Custom Cable  
AGM Batteries  
Battery Accessories  
Fuses and Holders  
Terminals and Splices



(866) 747-5277

[sales@impulseelectronics.com](mailto:sales@impulseelectronics.com)



*Note - this policy was approved by the EARS Board of Directors at their January meeting.*

# Escondido Amateur Radio Society

## Repeater Rules

The EARS Board of Directors do not believe that it is necessary to establish an extensive, rigid set of rules, regulations and policies for the use of the Club repeaters since this would tend to minimize the enjoyment derived from Amateur Radio in general. However, we do expect users to follow some simple, common sense rules.

As licensed operators, you are already aware of the required FCC Rules and Regulations. All repeater users are expected to follow FCC Rules and Regulations at all times when using our repeaters. In addition, all users of the EARS Repeaters are expected to follow these simple rules:

### **1. Identify your station.**

Identify your station every ten minutes during your QSO and at sign-off, as per FCC regulations.

It is not mandatory for you to identify when first coming on the air, however for ease of operation and courtesy to the others on the frequency, please ID when coming on the air.

Operators should also announce their call sign before transmitting any touch-tone commands or accessing EchoLink.

### **2. Allow stations to break the frequency and keep transmissions short.**

Please leave a short pause between transmissions for the purpose of allowing other stations to break in.

Also, keep your transmissions short. If you get too long winded no one else can get in, plus you might time out the repeater, which could and should be embarrassing. The time-out is three minutes.

Please only break in when there is an emergency, when you have something to add to the conversation or to contact another station and move to another frequency.

Use simplex wherever possible, freeing the repeater for necessary uses.

### **3. Emergency and Special Event communications have priority.**

Please allow any breaking station with an emergency to take over the use of the repeater.

Any special event approved by the EARS Board has priority use of the Repeater. Use of the repeater for a Special Event should be cleared in advance through the EARS Board and Repeater Trustee.

#### **4. Keep it friendly and do not engage in soap boxing.**

Conversations on the Repeater should be friendly ones. Do not make them negative commentaries on institutions, groups, or people. Avoid discussions on inappropriate subjects including politics, sex and religion! Don't use the repeaters to "put people down."

Soap boxing is when a user carries on a conversation on the repeater that is a thinly disguised broadcast. The subject is generally to "put down" an institution, group, or an individual for as wide as possible an audience. This is very objectionable to other repeater users and listeners. Using the club's repeaters as a platform for soap boxing is not allowed.

#### **5. Our repeaters are "G-Rated" 24 hours a day.**

Our rule is simple: **absolutely no obscene, indecent or profane language at any time.**

#### **6. No broadcasting.**

Amateur Radio is not a broadcast medium – 97.113(5)(b) makes it illegal to broadcast to the general public.

Any broadcasts which may be allowed under the FCC Rules, such as QSTs, must be approved in advance by the EARS Board before being transmitted on the Repeater.

#### **7. If you hear stations jamming or interfering do not make any comment.**

If you can override the interference, continue with your conversation. If you cannot continue, sign off the repeater in a normal manner.

#### **8. Using EchoLink.**

Identify BEFORE using EchoLink – Wait a few seconds for stations to reply to your request BEFORE dialing your connection.

If you open an EchoLink connection, please stay on the air and available to shut it down. If you are heading towards the outskirts of the repeater system range make sure to close the connection BEFORE you fall out of range.

Try not to bring up EchoLink and just listen. People may need to use the repeater and not know that they are also broadcasting to a repeater in Siberia. It is also not polite to the Hams in Siberia.

#### **Regarding these rules**

We tend to assume that everyone knows these generally accepted rules. But, that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule. Activities that may be an irritation or even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. It's probably best for us to be clear about the rules we really

think are important.

We understand that everyone slips once in a very great while, no matter how hard they try. But, we expect all users of the EARS repeaters to do their very best to follow these few simple and obvious rules of repeater conduct.

Also, please note that all repeaters have rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. And, users who refuse to comply with the repeater's rules can be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater trustees.

Rule 97.205(e) says, "...Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible." There are no qualifications – ifs, ands, or buts – to this rule. This isn't just the right to close a repeater. In fact, the ARRL says, "...a repeater does not have to be listed as being "closed" in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* in order to have a limited access." (Source: *The ARRL's FCC Rule Book*) The terms "open" and "closed" don't appear in the regulations at all! Listing a repeater as "open" means you don't have to be a member in order to use it. But, you still must follow the rules of the repeater.

Repeater rules and regulation can be changed by the Repeater Trustee and the Club Board. Users will be notified of changes.

Here is our policy: the EARS repeaters are open for all to use, ***provided you follow the club's rules in using them.***

Nothing could be fairer. The ARRL says it clearest of all.

**"A repeater is *not* a public utility - you don't have a "right" to use it! When you are using someone else's repeater you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!"** (Source: *The ARRL's FCC Rule Book*)

We wish for everyone willing to abide by these simple rules to freely use our repeaters. We welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the repeaters of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society. 73!

## January BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Vivian, W6NWF

1. John, N6EP, reported that the FCC has contacted ARRL to ask for help with the change to DTV. John will get the information to Robert, KI6SBL, to send out a press release that EARS can help answer the public's questions.
2. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that we have received lots of renewals. Steve, W6TAN, reported two new members and two more he thinks will join.
3. Steve, W6TAN, reported that he has improved the layout and functionality of the Club website.
4. The Board approved a document with Repeater rules. It will be published in the newsletter.
5. A raffle was discussed and approved, if logistically possible. The raffle will be done by ongoing ticket sales at each meeting until the prize is covered.
6. Steve, W6TAN, reported that all Club programs have been scheduled, except for the November meeting. Other local Clubs have been notified of our schedule.

7. The Club will put a display in the Escondido library during April and May. Kurt, N6MD, will be in charge of this. Kurt would like to collect items for the display at the March meeting. The emphasis will be on new and "cool" equipment and technologies.
8. Dirk, N6SUN, has been working to see how EARS can help with the AMGEN Tour of California bicycle race which will take place in Escondido on Sunday, February 22.
9. Major David Ebel, KG6QDS, asked for help putting up an antenna at his house. The Board members agreed to help.
10. Jeff, AE6GM, agreed to be the Field Day coordinator again this year. the first planning meeting will be March 17.
11. Marvin, W6MJM, reported that the Yuma Hamfest is coming up. Information is at [www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org).

## 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](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.