

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

January 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, January 8
Escondido CERT**

Chuck Milks, the Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Escondido and a former Escondido Police Lt., will outline the city's disaster preparedness programs and will touch on the CERT program in Escondido.

**Thursday, February 12
Escondido CERT**

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

**Thursday, March 12
TBD**

**Thursday, April 9
Annual Club Auction**

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

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming meetings!

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EVENT CALENDAR

Jan 8 EARS Monthly meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan 17 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Jan 27 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Jan 31 VE Testing, 9 a.m.

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



Marvin, W6MJM, shows obvious glee after receiving a very special gift at the EARS Christmas Party gift exchange.
- photo courtesy W9EN

THAT'S WHY THEY CALL THEM DUES -- reminder from Steve, W6TAN

Just a little reminder that it's time to dig deep into your pockets, and pay us some dosh - assuming you want to join again! The renewal form is on p. 5.

Cheers, Steve W6TAN.

PS: Dosh = English slang for money...

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hello every one,

Happy New Year to one and all...

As this is my first "Letter from the President" for 2009, I thought I would keep it relatively short this month - that way, it will give me something more to talk about in the coming months!

So, to begin with... for those that didn't make it to the Christmas party - it was a blast! We had about 24 members & guests turn up, with great food and drink in abundance. There was even a surprise visit by the EARS thong! Some photos of the event can be found in this edition of AIEARS, and on the EARS website.

As usual, Lynn Belstner & Gina Venner did a superb job of providing to our needs. A big thanks from the Club to both of them for their hard work. Also, a HUGE thanks again goes to John, W9EN, and Lynn for allowing us into their wonderful home... An excellent time was had by all those that came.

Next, onto January's program meeting. In case you haven't heard, it is going to be a full-blown version of the presentation that Chuck Milks' did a few months back on the topic of CERT and emergency preparedness in Escondido. More details can be seen in Doug's ramblings. It will be good so I hope to see you all there!

For the rest of the club meetings, please see the 2009 schedule on the EARS website. Most of the months have been filled, and if you have any ideas as to presentations you would like to see, please feel free to e-mail Doug, K6DAF, or myself. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

Finally, while still on the subject of club meetings, we have about 90 paid-up members on the club roster (at least we did for 2008), yet we only ever seem to have about 20-30 members attend the program meetings. We (the Board) are not sure why this is, so one idea to try to encourage more people to attend is to hold a bi-annual raffle.

The raffle tickets will only be sold at the club meetings, and the drawings will take place at the club picnic and at the Christmas party. You will have to be present to win. The full details of the raffle will be finalized shortly, and it is expected that we will start selling tickets at February's club meeting.

Well, that all from me for this month...

All the best,

Steve, W6TAN.

EARS Club Officers for 2009

President

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

Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF
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Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 760-743-8826
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Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO, 760-743-4212
w6yoo@amsat.org

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All persons with an asterisk (*) plus:
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Ron Rosson, N6XT, 760-749-1239
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Newsletter Editor

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n6ep@arri.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 5.

K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S

by Doug, K6DAF

Well, 2009 is here and good riddance to 2008. Let's hope and pray that 2009 is a better year than 2008.

We just had First Night at Escondido and had a great time. Dirk, N6SUN, was spearheading the event and did an outstanding job and thanks to you Dirk. Also, I want to thank the many EARS members who volunteered their New Year's Eve for the event. I don't know what the final member count was, but I would guess 20 or so. I spoke to the Escondido Police and they estimated the crowd to be about 6000, so it was a success. For those who did not make it, put it on your calendar for next year because for a \$10 pre-purchased ticket it was the best show in town.

We are starting to fill our calendar with the presentations for our General Meetings for 2009 and I think we have two or three months left to fill. So if you know someone or a subject matter you would like to hear about, let us know. For the January meeting, we will be having Chuck Milks, KI6SBV, the City of Escondido Emergency Services Coordinator, give us a presentation on the City of Escondido Disaster Preparedness Plans and what is in store for the 2009 year. Then, in February, we will have Cecil Casillas, WD6FZA give us a presentation on the PAPA System, a series of linked repeaters covering all of Southern California and D-STAR, a new and emerging digital radio technology.

Lets kick off 2009 by attending the January meeting on the 8th of January, 2009.

Lets put our EARS repeaters to work and hope to hear you all out there.

Doug
K6DAF

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.

A SITE WORTH KNOWING

-- by John, N6EP

Forgot that guy's call but you remember his name? Or maybe you remember the city he lives in and his first name, but nothing else.

You need to bookmark this page:

<http://callsign.ualr.edu/callsign.shtml>

That's the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Amateur Radio Club callsign server. It let's you search the FCC database by callsign (like QRZ), by partial callsign, or by any combination of first name last name, city, state, or zip.

You can, for example, look up all the active hams in Escondido. Or find all the U.S. hams with your same last name. Or find Joe in San Marcos.

This is a great resource. Have fun!

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

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.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTOS

-- from John, W9EN

The EARS Annual Christmas Party at the home of John, W9EN, and Lynn Belstner was a great time. Just check out these photos...



Steve, W6TAN, and Konrad, N6UKO, appear uncertain whether it's better to give or receive. Looking on, Konrad's wife Michele, N6WGR, and Ben, N6MUF.

- photo courtesy W9EN



Your Editor, John, N6EP, receives a great gift on behalf of his granddaughter - A dog that barks Jingle Bells.

- photo courtesy W9EN

NEW ONLINE HAM EXAMS

by Hamilton, KD0FNR

I just created a set of free online exam practice tests that I hope hams will find useful.

Within the practice tests, online study resources (Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc...) are provided for many of the questions. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which subelements are giving them the most trouble. You can see all the practice tests at:

<http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com>

Please let me know if you find it handy, or if you think of any ways to make it better. Also, if you think it's useful, please feel free to add a link to the practice exams at your site. Thanks!

73 de KD0FNR Hamilton Carter

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DECEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jane, W6YAK

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported 24 people attended the Christmas party. Three boxes of food and toys were collected and donated to Salvation Army.
2. Steve, W6TAN, reported the HF antenna at the Salvation Army building appears to be broken as a result of roofing repairs. Steve will look into it.
3. Doug, K6DAF, asked whether or not we receive monthly reports from ARRL on people who test in our area. Currently, Jeff, AE6GM, sends club info to North County residents who pass the exam. Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, volunteered to send application/invitation brochures to new potential members.
4. John, N6EP, proposed we begin offering free newsletter advertising (at the discretion of the editor). All approved.
5. Harry, W6YOO, reported two big items on SANDARC's table are the logo for the 2010 convention and a newly proposed San Diego City ordinance regarding antennas.
6. Steve, W6TAN, reported that Board members are now able to view and make changes to all member-

ship data on the club website. Currently, the general membership may view their personal data to verify that it is correct. John, N6EP, suggested that general members be able to make their own changes. Steve also would like photos of board members for the website.

7. Steve, W6TAN, reported the Christmas parade was cold, but fun.

8. Jeff, AE6GM, has come up with a proposed guide for how to ID on the repeater. He will put it out and asked for suggestions/changes. He also suggested we coordinate with CERT on use of the repeater in event of an emergency.

9. Steve, W6TAN, suggested we ask the treasurer to prepare a written annual summary statement of financial transactions.

10. Steve, W6TAN, suggested a raffle idea for club meetings as a way to increase attendance.

11. Harry, W6YOO, asked for more help from VE's. Testing is normally from 9 to 11:30 am, last Saturday of the month.

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.

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.