

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

May 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, May 14
Quiz Night by Steve, W6TAN

Get ready... put on your thinking-caps, and sharpen those pens and pencils!



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

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.

June 11 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
June 20 Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
June 16 Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.
June 23 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
June 27 VE Testing, 9 a.m.
June 27-28 Field Day!



Above: tension builds as auction goes await the start of activities at last month's Annual Auction meeting.
- photo courtesy W6TAN.

Left: searching for goodies before the start of the auction.
- photo courtesy K16SBL.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi All,

Now that my visitors from the UK have gone, I've been able to devote some of my time playing Ham Radio once more (at least as far as EARS is concerned). There's a few things that I'd like to mention this month, so I hope you're sitting comfortably!

First up, there was last month's club auction. What a turn-out! From what I was told, we had about 60 members and guests in attendance, and for once everything that was brought along to the auction was sold. There was nothing left to take back home! The club took in about \$950, and by the time we had paid everyone what was owed to them - we made around \$460!

Many thanks to all who came along and supported the club, especially all those who helped with the organization of the auction, and those that spent a lot of time running around. Two people in particular I would like to say special "Thanks!" to are Art McBride, KC6UQH, auctioneer especial, and Dennis Baca, KD6TUJ, President of PARC, who provided the video camera services... Super job - Thanks guys!

The next club meeting is on May 14th, and as I'm sure you know by now, it's time once again for the annual EARS quiz. So, get ready... put on your thinking-caps, and sharpen those pens & pencils! As in previous years, we will be arranging ourselves into small teams of 3-4 people. Start thinking about who you want to sit with, and who will be the team captain. Also, think about a fun team name... There should also be some teams from the Palomar, Fallbrook and ROARS clubs just for some added competition.

Suitable prizes will be awarded to the winning team members, and this year - there will be 'prizes' for the team with the least points too! There are more details on the EARS website - so go take a peek if you haven't done so already.

Also this year, prior to the quiz, Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, will be giving a short presentation about the current operations of the radio room aboard the USS Midway. It should be very interesting... and you never know, there maybe a question or two about the Midway in the quiz. So make sure you pay attention to Robert!

One other item which you should find of great interest, is that to try to entice more club members to the monthly meetings, the board members agreed to hold an 'Opportunity Drawing' - similar to what is done at other clubs in the area.

Our first item of opportunity is a great little Yaesu VX-6R tri-band handi-talkie. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5, and 15 for \$10... So make sure you bring plenty of spare change. Further details of the drawing, and rules, etc., can also be found on the EARS website. It looks like its going to be a great evening's entertainment, so we hope to see you all there!

The next item that I would like to mention about is the EARS Sunday night NET. It has been suggested that we change the format of the NET. The reason being is that the current check-in list has about 30+ check-ins, but on average, there are only about 15-16 people who check in. This means that if your name is towards the end of the list, it could be a while before your name is called.

The new format calls for check-ins for each category (board members, general members, guests etc.) The check-ins are then processed in the order in which they are received. This saves the NET controller calling for check-ins who aren't there. We'll try this format for the next few weeks to see how it goes. So get your PTT fingers ready if you want to get an earlier check-in!

The last thing I'd like to mention about is the new EARS mailer. Most, if not all, of you should have received a few e-mails from earsmail@earsclub.org. If you also subscribe to message notifications from either the Yahoo! or Google groups (or both), then you will have also received identical messages from each. The main reason we have done this is to save the EARS club officers some time, and some wear-and-tear on their fingers when sending messages to club members.

Also, there are some members who subscribe to Yahoo! messages - but not Google (and vice-versa). There are also members who do not subscribe to either group, as well as non members who are not on the member roster (and only subscribe to one of the message groups). We wanted to make sure all of the EARS membership (and guests) are aware of all club activities & events that are planned - and this was one way of doing it.

Don't worry, we promise to keep the numbers of e-mails we send to a minimum... We don't want to be accused of spamming!

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

Cheers,

Steve, W6TAN.

EARS Club Officers for 2009

President

Steve Venner, W6TAN, 760-737-0755
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k6daf@yahoo.com

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Historian (non-elective)

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w6yoo@cox.net

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*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.

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.

K6DAF'S RAMBLIN'S

-- by Doug, K6DAF

What a great time we had at the auction last month.

Since it was my first auction I was pleasantly surprised at how easy things flowed. I think that is because we had such great volunteers who stepped up and offered their help in making it one of the most successful auctions we have had.

Special thanks goes out to Art McBride, KC6UQH, for providing the excellent auctioneer duties. I was totally impressed with Art's knowledge of items. I don't think there was one item he did not know and was well versed to talk on. Another special thanks to Dennis Baca, KD6TUJ, PARC President, for providing the video help during the event. It was nice to be able to see the items pictured up on the wall in a large format.

Of course, a much appreciated thanks goes to the many EARS members who stepped up and provided assistance during the evening. Too many to list but you know who you are and a big thanks goes out to you.

We had a few different rules this year as far as sellers go. We used to charge a percentage of the selling price as a club fee which in the past became a troublesome calculation.

This year we charged a flat \$3 sellers fee when they checked in to sell and I think it was well received and certainly speeded up the check out process. Any thoughts for next year can be addressed to me at k6daf@yahoo.com. Please address all your thoughts, concerns and suggestions as they are greatly appreciated.

Our May meeting will be our annual EARS Quiz Night hosted by our President, Steve Venner, W6TAN. Please see Steve's article in this issue for the rules and happenings for the evening's events.

We also will have a short presentation by Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, on the radio room and current operations aboard the USS Midway.

Well that's it for the rambling this month. Remember Field Day is one month away so get ready.

Doug
K6DAF

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.

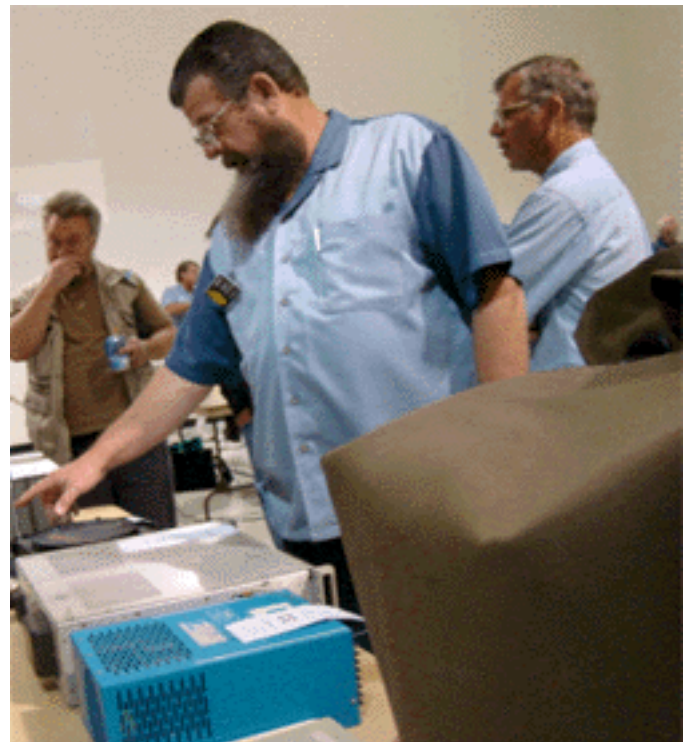
The ARRL website has a page for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, hats, pins and other supplies.

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.



Doug, K6DAF, checks out some goodies
at the club auction last month..
- photo courtesy KI6SBL.

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Vivian, W6NWF

1. Doug, K6DAF, reported that a minimum of 60 people attended the auction. Doug will create Certificates of Appreciation for EARS volunteers.
2. For the May program, Steve, W6TAN, will moderate Quiz Night. Robert, KI6SBL, will present a 10-15 minute picture presentation of the radio room on the Midway Museum before the Quiz.
3. Konrad, N6UKO, reports savings of \$927.26, CD \$2147.88 and checking \$2405.00.
4. Jeff, AE6GM, reported there were 2 new members recruited at the auction.
5. Ron, N6XT, did not attend last SANDARC meeting but he will be at the next meeting where they will discuss Convention 2010. Ron will be doing Vendor Services at the Convention.
6. Steve, W6TAN, commented on a bug Konrad, N6UKO, found in the website database. Steve fixed

the bug and another one as well. Steve will complete a For Sale / Wanted Section for members to post ads.

7. Steve, W6TAN, needs to restring the club station antenna due to roof repairs.
8. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that four people attended the last Field Day meeting. He stated Sam is once again allowing us to use N6SD. We acquired the same Dixon campsite as last year. Vince, W6CD, will be providing his trailer.
9. Steve, W6TAN, said that he would try to call for check-ins on the net rather than to go through the list.
10. Steve, W6TAN, will pick up a VX6R Yaesu tri-band handheld at HRO for the drawing. Once the drawing pulls in 20% over cost of the prize we will draw a number. It was agreed the Raffle Tickets will cost \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5.

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.