

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

November 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.

Thursday, November 12 Annual Meeting and DVD Presentation

Election of next year's Officers, followed by a DVD presentation from the collection of Harry, W6YOO.

Saturday, December 12 Escondido Christmas Parade and EARS Christmas Party

Once again, EARS will be on hand to provide communications for the Escondido Christmas Parade and once again Konrad, N6UKO, will be organizing our effort.

Then, the annual EARS Christmas Party will be held in the early p.m. of the same day. And, once again, again, it will be held at the QTH of John, W9EN, and Lynn Belstner in Valley Center. More details in next month's All EARS.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**CW from Yosemite?? - p. 2
New Cycle - P. 4**

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.

EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 12	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Nov 19	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Nov 21	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Nov 28	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
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.

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 next meeting, 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 all,

As I write this month's President's letter, once again Gina and I are in 'our' cabin in Yosemite National Park, and we have yet another visitor from the UK (Gina's brother Julian). He always enjoys this trip. As is now the way - we once again brought the radio gear with us.

I was planning to take part in the November Sweepstakes, but after setting everything up I realised it was the CW contest this weekend, not the phone contest... Doh!

Anyway, it gave me chance to spend a bit more time with my B-I-L, and do a bit more hiking (I need the exercise).

Although I didn't take part in the contest, the good news is that I managed to get the antenna set up the way I wanted (not too much trouble with the trees this year), and have managed to work a couple of new DX entities - TI8II (Costa Rica) & E51JD (Cook Island)... all on 15 mtrs!

DXCC here I come!

Hopefully once I finish this letter, the band will still be active, and I can bag a few more. If not - there's always tomorrow!

This month, I was planning on doing a report of my trip with my mother to Valley of Fire (N Las Vegas), but I've been very busy at home trying to get some DIY tasks completed in between our visitors. I'll attempt to get it done for next month, so watch this space...

Last month's meeting was a very interesting presentation on the Anza Borrego State Park volunteer program by Fred McDavitt (KI6VBQ). We had quite a turnout with about 35 members and guests in attendance... I hope everyone who turned up enjoyed it as much as I did!

We also started the next opportunity drawing, and this time it is for the new Yaesu FT7900 dual-band mobile radio + separation kit.

As for November's meeting, I'm sure you know by now that we will be holding our Annual General Meeting - where you get to vote in the club officers for next year.

Prior to the voting, we will be having a 'fun' review of the EARS activities that took place throughout the year for those that missed them, and after the official business, we will be having a DX / IOTA video presentation from Harry, W6YOO.

Further details can be found on the EARS website (www.earsclub.org), and as it states we are still looking for someone to fill the position of Vice President.

If you think you would like to take on this fun position please contact John Musselman, N6EP, for further details.

Well, that's all from me for this month. Hopefully I'll have a bit more interesting to say next month - especially as it will be my last one as president of EARS!

Cheers all, and see you at Novembers meeting,

Steve, W6TAN

PS: Don't forget - the membership dues for 2010 are now due!

NEW MEMBERS --by Steve, W6TAN

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

Joanne Mettrick - KI6YFK
Bruce Woods - KI6YFH
Ted Hopkins - KC2LRH

WELCOME ABOARD!

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(866) 747-5277 sales@impulseelectronics.com

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.

HANDYMAN WORK

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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.

WANTED

--by Carolee, KI6ZEK

Wanted: Yaesu 5Watt 2m 440 hand held & 2m 440 mag mount antenna. I'm a New Ham operator, I don't have money but I am a Nationally and California State Licensed Massage Therapist and would like to do (2) 90 minute massages valued at \$127.50 each in trade for the above listed equipment.

Contact Carolee A Ferguson, KI6ZEK, at:
caroleehhp@gmail.com or 760-271-6424.

EARS Club Officers for 2009

President

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

Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF
k6daf@yahoo.com

Secretary

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

*Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, 760-715-2876
rkitson2001@yahoo.com

Property Manager

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

HAM RADIO OUTLET

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

5375 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego
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THE LAST ANALOG CYCLE

by Ward Silver, N0AX

From the ARRL Contest Update, October 1, 2008

As I was soaking up Phil VK6APH's excellent seminar on Software-Defined Radio at last weekend's TAPR Digital Communications Conference, I was marveling at the inroads digital technology has made in the thoroughly analog kingdom of RF. Many receivers connect the antenna directly to the input of an A/D converter and nevermore is the analog signal seen until it resurfaces as audio somewhere far downstream for our biological eyes or ears to comprehend. Ah well, no one has digitized propagation yet, although if they had, it would certainly be a '0' at the moment.

Where were we at the beginning of Cycle 23? In the mid-1990's, the VK0IR expedition was astounding DXers around the world that signals from the sub-Antarctic Indian Ocean could be heard at the bottom of the solar cycle. The hottest rigs of the day were pure analog with DSP functions just beginning to appear as audio processing gadgetry. Digitizing the RF spectrum was pretty much a pipe dream outside of military and academic labs. A heavily modified Drake R4C was the top dog in strong-signal amateur receiving.

Enter cellular telephony. Once the province of the hefty "bag phone", what proved to be insatiable consumer demand created economies of scale that drove innovation and miniaturization to a degree unimaginable only a few years before. Within ten years, a handheld 2 GHz phone could fit in a pocket, take pictures, surf the Web (another nascent technology as the cycle turned), and act as a broadband data terminal. Opening up the phone, one would see only a square IC with a whole lot of hair-thin leads and an epoxy block or two of RF circuitry. Thus RF enters the digital age. Limited only by digitization rate, number of bits, and the cleverness of programmers and FPGA vendors, the radio's largest components will soon be the displays that produce digits and characters large enough for our eyes to discern. Unless humans begin to develop built-in data interfaces, anyway.

Certainly, antennas will evade the digital juggernaut for the foreseeable future, but even amplifiers are being carried home on analog shields. High-power FETs with faster and faster switching speeds are appearing. Soon, instead of arguing about the merits of a vacuum tube in class-AB1 or AB2 operation, the discussion will turn instead to the merits of different magnetic configurations for Class E, F, G, H, Q, X, or Z switchmode amplifiers. Essentially, our amplifiers will become very fast switching power supplies!

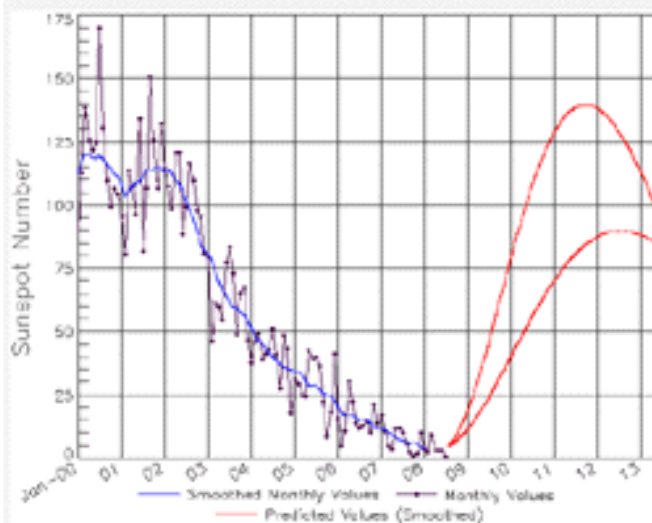
So will Cycle 24 be the last cycle for analog radio technology? Given the rate of change we've witnessed over the course of Cycle 23, I'm betting that analog radio will be largely found on the same shelf where the 6L6 and modulation transformer now reside. To be sure, there will always be a home for analog technology in amateur radio, but it will no longer be the subject of cutting-edge product reviews and late-night post-meeting discussions before contest season.

With the certain knowledge of the coming changes, it is at our own peril we ignore them. It's time to start paying attention to those tutorial articles, demonstrations, and new product reviews. Radio-the-technology won't displace the enjoyment we receive from radio-the-art. As Cycle 24 emerges, opening bands long closed, we'll find new call signs on the air from unexpected places. Just as surely, we'll also find and enjoy new technology creeping onto our operating desks, replacing equipment long used, bit by bit.

73, Ward N0AX

The Current Sunspot Cycle

The current solar cycle appears to be making a double-bottom, but it is never possible to be sure that additional low points will not be reached prior to an upturn. Whether or not that occurs, the odds are high that the general sunspot cycle trend will be upward for the next several years.



Is it getting better, yet?

Regarding solar conditions, there's nowhere to go but up! Red lines show current best- and worst-case predictions for the upcoming Cycle 24.

-- photo courtesy smeter.net.

CORRECTION

-- by John, N6EP

In the CQP pictures last month, I incorrectly identified one of the participants. He is Emmett Logan, KJ6CLP, and was photographed just as he'd made his first HF contact with a guy in Florida (under the guidance of Vivian, W6NWF).

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Robert, KI6SBL

1. Doug K6DAF stated that Fred did a great job on the presentation at the last meeting.
2. Steve W6TAN reported the opportunity drawing prize cost \$272.00, and we have already taken in \$132.00. We are looking to reach \$325.00 before the drawing takes place.
3. Doug K6DAF reported the November meeting would have the officer elections for 2010 and a DVD presentation by Harry W6YOO.
4. Harry W6YOO discussed the success of the Earthquake Drill at 10:15 that morning. Over 3 million people participated. Jo KB6NMK was at the Salvation Army for the event.
5. Robert KI6SBL reported that letters sent to new licensees in the North County area pulled in 5 new members overall. We are currently at 113 members.
6. Steve W6TAN stated we can now put 2 phone numbers for each person on the member roster. He will continue to work on other website functions.
7. It was decided if Rob KI6SBL can get a new Club

banner for under \$75, he is to get it.

8. Steve W6TAN stated we did not do the Palomar College Health Fair because he did not think EARS fit with the fair's theme of Breast Cancer Awareness.
9. Membership in TASMA discussion will continue at next board meeting.
10. The new Ham training class did not happen in September due to Salvation Army building availability. Steve W6TAN will start the classes in January 2010 if the building is available.
11. Steve W6TAN reported the California QSO Party went well with 1031 contacts being made.
12. John N6EP reported that the Nominating Committee has all positions lined up except Vice President. The elections will be held during November's meeting prior to the main presentation.
13. Steve W6TAN announced the 2009 Christmas Party will be at John and Lynn Belstner's home in Valley Center and that EARS will be working the Christmas Parade. Konrad N6UKO will organize it.

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 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.