

# ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

September 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, September 10 "Shack Attack"

A tall Ham is giving a presentation.  
To show off some Ham's Shack Station.  
With pictures galore,  
It won't be a bore.  
So come see his PowerPoint creation.

Presented by Robert Kitson, KI6SBL (shown below).



## EVENT CALENDAR

<b>Sept 10</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</b>
Sept 17	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Sept 19	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Sept 26	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.</b>
Oct 15	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Oct 17	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Oct 31	VE Testing, 9 a.m.

## 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.

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Howdy peeps,

Let's see now - what's been happening this past month...

Well, first there was the EARS picnic at Rod McLeod Park. Gina and I were a little late in getting to the site to reserve our normal spot. We actually got there at about 7:30 in the morning, only to find someone already setting up at the site at the top of the hill! So we had to 'make do' with one of the lower sites. I actually felt it was a better spot - as we were a little further away from the children's' play-area, and the associated noise. And there was still plenty of shade under the trees for all.

As in previous years, we set-up an HF station for people to play with - although it nearly never happened... While I was stringing the wire antenna though the trees, I was paid a visit by a park ranger asking what I was doing. When I told her, she asked if I had permission. I said that I didn't know that I needed any - as we've been doing the same thing for several years, and had never needed permission in the past. At this point - she started getting very 'official', and basically said that I couldn't continue unless we had authorization from Escondido city. I explained what amateur radio was all about, and that this was a public relations exercise, but she had her ear-flaps closed, and didn't really want to know.

Fortunately for us - she contacted her supervisor, who then gave us permission, but he basically said that in future years, we needed to get written permission from the city before doing anything like this.

Ho hum...

Anyway, the antenna got strung-up, the generator got started, the radio got turned on, and the bands went dead. There was some activity early on at about 10:00 am, but by the time people started arriving for the picnic - they had pretty much gone bye-bye. Ah well - there's always next year... Just remember to get permission from the city!

Another traditional event that takes place at the picnic is the treasure/fox-hunt. This year was no exception thanks to Sam, N6SD, who did his thing once again. From what I understand, there were a few more contestants this time. And for once, Dirk, N6SUN, didn't win. That honour went to Dick and Rusty Kalkofen, K6KAL & KI6SMT.

Well done guys!

Anyway, I'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who turned up. We had some great food, great weather

(not too hot this year), and lots of fun. All-in-all, we had about 40 members, their family & friends in attendance. I'd also like to say a special thanks to Gina, KI6UQP, for arranging the food, to Jeff, AE6GM, for doing the cooking, and to John, N6EP, for transporting the BBQ.

As far as operating is concerned, I've not been doing too much except for playing in a couple of contests - namely the IARU World Wide Contest & the NA QSO party. I didn't do very well, but I did better than I expected. I only managed about 80 contacts in each, but then again, I only operated for a few hours, and I have that little wire antenna. However, I had a lot of fun trying.

So now onto the coming month... The next club meeting will be a 'Shack Attack' featuring Robert Kitson, KI6SBL. Robert will be giving a presentation about club members, their shacks, equipment and their antennae. You will be able to see how your set-up compares to other members', and how they operate. Remember... size doesn't always matter! It sounds like it'll be 'a-bit-of-a-larrf', so hope to see you all there.

Coming up next month (October) is the California QSO Party. EARS is once again hoping to take part, but would like some volunteers to help out, both with setting-up and tearing-down, plus we need operators. We have been 'loaned' a new 50' crank-up tower - which Konrad, N6UKO, is currently trying to mount to the trailer. If all goes according to plan, we will try to have the same sites at Dixon Lake as last year.

If, for whatever reason, we don't get the new tower mounted to the trailer, then we have been given permission to operate at Konrad's place. Let's see what happens...

I'm hoping to arrange a QSO Party planning meeting for Tuesday, 15th September, so if you think you can help in any way, please try to attend. Alternatively give me a call or e-mail.

### 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.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER (cont'd)

by Steve, W6TAN, President

At this point in time, I would also like to put out a call for a few EARS members to form a nomination committee for next year's club officers. We are looking for 3 club members (volunteers) who would be willing to help out. The volunteers should NOT be from the current committee, and they should NOT be interested in becoming a member of the committee. If you are interested, then please e-mail me - and I will give you further details.

I mentioned last month that I'd received comments that the EARS Sunday Net has become a little boring. I also mentioned that I'd had a couple of suggestions to make it more interesting - one of which I would be trying when it was next my turn.

Well, by the time you read this edition of AII EARS - it should have happened. Please let me know what you thought. If you missed it, then you will have to wait until it's my turn to run the Net again to find out what it was all about!

While on the subject of the Sunday Net, I would like to remind people once again to try to keep your comments focused on your events of the week, and not get into side conversations with other members of the family while your microphone is still keyed. As I said before, it is not good operating practice.

If you have nothing else to say, then please pass it back to net control to allow the next person on the list to have their turn, or more importantly, to allow others to break-in with emergency traffic.

Finally, I said last month that I would be doing a 'Member Spotlight' section in AII EARS. Well, I've done it - so enjoy!

One last thing before I close this month - I saw this on a posting on a message board, and thought it was funny: "My Wife gives me 100% sound advice...99% sound, 1% advice!"

73 everybody, and may your god go with you.

Steve W6TAN

## 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.

## 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@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

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

### Property Manager

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

## HAM RADIO OUTLET

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## PHOTOS FROM THE EARS PICNIC

-- from Steve, W6TAN



Harry, W6YOO and Jerry, W6JAC, take in the day.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.



Jeff, AE6GM, awaits the foxhunt.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.



Jo Ashley, KB6NMK.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.

## 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 7.

## IMPULSE ELECTRONICS

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON KE6FIJ

-- by Steve, W6TAN

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first in the 'Member Spotlight' series. This is where I get to choose an EARS member at 'random', and write a short article about them and their non-ham activities. So to get things going, the Member Spotlight for this month falls on...

EARS Life member - Ed Griggs, KE6FIJ!

Ed is originally from Missouri, and was a San Diego resident between 1959 and 1963. He returned here again in 1974, where he and his wife, Marlene, have been in the same house in Escondido ever since!



Ed Griggs, KE6FIJ, at his other hobby.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.

Ed has a BSc in Electronic Engineering which he received in 1974 from the Naval Post Graduate School, and he received a Masters Degree in Systems Management from USC in 1979. Ed officially retired from the Navy in 1982, but during his last year; Ed took to teaching various mathematics & electronic engineering courses at Chapman University. He continued to teach there until around 2002, when university politics got in the way, and he decided to really retire!

As far as his ham radio activities are concerned, Ed first became interested in amateur radio and elec-

tronics in 1955, but didn't get his licence until 1994. He has been an EARS member since 1997. Although he has an Extra class licence, Ed has no real interest in HF operation. His main ham radio activity is basically chin-wagging on VHF – whether it's on the EARS Sunday evening net or when he and Marlene are out-and-about in their RV.

So what are his other non-ham interests I hear you ask? Well, for those of you who also check into the EARS Sunday evening net, you will know that Ed has a passion for model railroads - to the extent that he has a wonderful 'G' gauge layout in his backyard. He's been working on the layout in his garden since about 1985, and it has evolved into what it is today (although as Ed says – it is, and never will be never finished!) Take a peek at some of the photos to see what it's like.

Ed runs the trains most days when he and Marlene are at home – usually in the evenings while enjoying a glass of wine by the BBQ! Ed's interests in model railroads first began when he was about one month old - when his father gave him a model train for



The scene in Ed's backyard.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.

Christmas. This was back in 1932. The good thing is that he still has it, and it's still working, although it's a little beaten-up these days!

Over the years, Ed's interest in model railroads obviously grew, and something that I didn't know until I went to do this interview was that after retiring from the navy in '82, besides teaching, Ed became a volunteer at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park, where to this day he looks after the main 'O' gauge exhibit. Because volunteers at the museum are only a few, the trains do not run to an official schedule, so Ed's duties are mostly with layout maintenance, and occasionally acting as tour-guide educating the public about the museum.

A couple of interesting little facts that I learned while talking to Ed was that first – in the model of the church graveyard – there is a little tombstone for each railroad museum volunteer who has passed away. Apparently, there are now more tombstones than the current number of volunteers!

The other interesting fact I gleaned was that because the wheels on locomotives & carriages are fixed (i.e. there is no differential between the left & right wheels), when they go around bends, the outer wheel would normally have to rotate at a faster speed as it has further to go. To get over the problem, each wheel is beveled by between 2 & 6 degrees (depending on the intended load & speed of the train). This allows the axle to float a little between the rails so that the outer wheel runs at a slightly larger diameter, and the inner wheel runs at

a slightly smaller diameter. All good clever stuff, eh?

Anyway, Ed can be found at the museum most Wednesdays and Friday evenings. On Friday evenings, the museum is not open to the public, so Ed spends his time performing the much needed maintenance on the various parts of the layout. If you would like more info on the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, take a look at their website: [www.sdmodelrailroadm.com](http://www.sdmodelrailroadm.com). Also, if you would like to help out at the museum, contact Ed for more details. If you've never been to the museum before, I've included a few 'behind-the-scenes' photos for you to see what your missing.

One last thing to note is that Ed is also caretaker of the model railroad exhibit at Grape-day Park here in Escondido. So when you're next down at the park, go have a wander around – you might find Ed there. He did say the he intended to be there during the Grape-day Parade coming up on September 12th.

Well, that's it for the first EARS 'Member Spotlight'. I hope you liked it. All that's left for me to do is say a big "Thank you" to Ed and his lovely wife Marlene for allowing me into their home to spend some time with them, asking some silly questions, and taking lots of photographs.

Next month it will be... Well, that would be telling wouldn't it... You never know - It could be you!

Cheers,  
Steve, W6TAN



Ed Griggs, KE6FIJ, and a colleague at work at the San Diego Model Railroad Museum in Balboa Park.  
-- photo courtesy Steve, W6TAN.



## AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Jeff, AE6GM

1. Steve, W6TAN, reported that enough tickets were sold at the Picnic to have the opportunity drawing at the next meeting.
2. The October and November Club programs have been swapped.
3. Konrad, N6UKO, reported the club checking account has \$2,103.63.
4. Robert, KI6SBL, reported that he sent out 143 letters to new hams regarding EARS membership. We currently have 107 members.
5. Steve, W6TAN, has upgraded security on the website and is looking into an e-mail reflector system.
6. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that he should have our IRS 1023 application, for non-profit status, done by the end of August.
7. Steve, W6TAN, reported that the laptop is fixed and that Echolink is up and running again.
8. Konrad, N6UKO, reported that we will help with

the Grape Day Parade. he still needs volunteers.

9. The EARS banner is still missing. Anyone who knows its whereabouts should let us know.

10. Nick, KK6TV's, daughter Jentry, KI6HFK, is Project Manager for the Palomar College Health Fair. The date has been changed to Oct 1. EARS may participate.

11. Konrad, N6UKO, has been added to the Sunday net control rotation.

12. EARS will look into becoming a member of TASMA.

13. Konrad, N6UKO, will contact Rob, WA3IHV, to check that conduit will be installed in the new hospital for ham antennas for the volunteers.

14. Steve, KE6PY, will not be coordinating EARS participation in the California QSO Party this year.

15. Volunteers are needed for the 2010 nominating committee.

## Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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.

**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.