

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

February 2010

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, February 11

GPS, Geocaching and Amateur Radio

Part 1 will be a 20-30 minute presentation and discussion by Jeff Murdock AE6GM on GPS basics.

Part 2 is a follow-up presentation by Robert Kitson KI6SBL which will be about Geocaching, involving the use of GPS receivers, and how radio amateurs can get in on the fun.

Thursday, March 11

EARS Quiz Night

presented by Steve Venner W6TAN

Thursday, April 8

EARS Annual Auction

Mark your calendar now and grab all your precious treasures - at least the ones you dare to part with.

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

Feb 11	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Feb 18	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Feb 20	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Feb 27	VE Testing, 9 a.m.
Mar 11	EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Mar 18	EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
Mar 20	Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
Mar 27	VE Testing, 9 a.m.



Take a trip to the Valley of Fire with our now retired and globe-trotting ex-President Steve Venner W6TAN and his wife Gina KI6UQP. Story on page 5.
-- photos courtesy W6TAN

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Robert, K16SBL, President

Time for ACTION!

I was teasing my wife, Vivian, this morning. I told her no one has volunteered to be Field Day Chair yet for this year's Field Day. She replied, with a smile on her face, "You can do it." I told her I did not know enough about Field Day to be the Chair and then proclaimed my zinger. I said with the straightest face possible, "I guess we will just have to cancel Field Day this year." I smirked inside, but you would think I told her we were going to cancel Christmas.

My joke was not funny at all. The reality is, Field Day is one of the, if not *THE* core purpose for any ARRL supporting club to exist. Field Day is EARS' time to shine. At Field Day we work together as a team to practice our emergency communication skills and introduce to non-hams what amateur radio is all about. We have many stations for ham operators to play with and one station called GOTA (Get On The Air) where visitors to our Field Day site can literally get on the air and get a feel for what amateur radio is all about.

This year, EARS will take over 5 sites up at the Dixon Lake Camping Ground from Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27, 2010. We set up on Friday and make sure our rigs are running well. Then Saturday, at 11am sharp, we start calling "CQ CQ" and hope to contact thousands of other hams nationwide. We log every contact from each station and submit it to ARRL to see how we stacked up against hundreds of other ARRL clubs who did the same.

The members who have been in EARS forever know all of this. Even the members who have been in less than 3 years understand the importance and fun of Field Day. This year, we have many new members who may have not heard of it, or do not understand the importance of it. Hopefully this description will inspire our new members to get excited about Field Day and rekindle the spark for the elder statesman of EARS.

Now that you're all excited about Field Day, it is time for you to take action. If you have been to numerous Field Days and would like to Chair this year's Main Event, the time is now to contact myself and Doug K6DAF. We have to start planning sooner than later. If you would like to be a part of the committee, please contact me as soon as possible. We encourage ALL members to participate on the Field Day Committee.

EARS Board in Action!

The EARS Board has been working feverishly to secure a 501(c)(3) status for EARS. We met this past Thursday as a committee to address some questions the IRS posed. Once we provide satisfactory answers to their questions we should obtain the 501(c)(3). I would like to thank Dirk Reschly N6SUN for taking the lead in this process.

EARS Radio Room Available

We will be making the EARS radio available for anyone who wants to practice on a radio but does not have rig of their own yet. The room will be open from 1 to 3pm on every fourth Saturday of the month. This schedule coincides with the Escondido VE Sessions. It is our goal to allow the newly licensed operators to have an opportunity to learn about EARS while using one of our club resources.

ATTENTION ALL EXTRA CLASS OPERATORS – Please let Doug or myself know if you have free time to offer to the Radio Room. We would like to open the room more often, but need Extra Class Operators to do so.

In Closing

We have many things going on for our members and prospects. I am sure I forgot to mention one or two things in my article. Please check our website often (www.earsclub.org) to see what is happening. Steve Venner W6TAN is doing a great job maintaining our site and keeping it current.

That is it for now. Please enjoy everything we are offering and contact me if there is anything we can do to make your EARS membership the best it can be.

73's

Robert J. Kitson,
2010 EARS President

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 9.

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER

by Lionel, VK6DC

It has been very hot down under and one night did not go below 37c at midnight and was still 32c at 4 am. They had the hottest low on record in Melbourne. It was 44c during the Day.

I have some information that may be of interest to your members.

1. The VK 80/75 meter allocation are 3.5 to 3.7 and 3.776 to 3.800 MHz. 160 meters is 1800 to 1875 kHz. On 50 MHz, there are restrictions. VK7,3,2,4 has 50 to 50.30 MHz at 100 watts. The other call areas can use 50 to 52 MHz with up to 400 watts. These restrictions are due to TV channel 0 stations still on air in VK2 and 4.

2 = Here's a useful website if you want to QSL direct to any VK station. The A.C.M.A "Australian Communications and Media Authority" has a site. To get details of any licenced radio service in VK, when you go on change the left hand box from Clients to Licences and type in the VK callsign. The URL is http://web.acma.gov.au/pls/radcom/register_search.main_page

73 Lionel VK3NM/VK6DC
:-)

YUMA HAMFEST

by John N6EP

The sixth annual Yuma Hamfest and Emergency Preparedness Show will take place February 19 and 20, 2010, at the Yuma County Fairgrounds at 2520 E. 32nd Street in Yuma, AZ.

The Hamfest includes Icom and Yaesu exhibits this year, as well as hourly drawings, seminars, tailgate sales, and the Saturday evening "Buzzard Bar-B-Q". Sounds yummy!

Grand prize drawings will be for a Kenwood TS-2000, a Kenwood TM-D710A, an Icom IC-7200, a Yaesu VX-8R, a Hi-Q 3/80RT and an MFJ-269.

Talk-in is on 146.840(-), PL 88.5 Hz.

A number of EARS members will be attending. Ask around at our next meeting if you want more information.

More info at www.yumahamfest.org.

EARS Club Officers for 2010

President

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

Vice President

Doug Ferris, K6DAF
k6daf@yahoo.com

Secretary

John Musselman, N6EP, 760-747-5303
n6ep@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:
Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, 760-730-3657
cozy765@pacbell.net
Dirk Reschly, N6SUN, 760-743-5839
darcpa@sbcglobal.net
Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF
w6nwf@arrl.net
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 760-741-2560
kb6nmk@amsat.org

Newsletter Editor

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

Past President (non-elective)

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

Historian (non-elective)

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

Membership

Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF
w6nwf@arrl.net

Property Manager

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

NEXT PARC MEETING

March 3: Robert Langenhuisen, PA0RYL/W0SDR will tell us about saving the oldest steerable radiotelescope in the world from demolition.

K6DAF'S RAMBLINS

by Doug, K6DAF, Vice-President

Well, 2010 is here and we are ready to get started on EARS' exciting program schedule. I hope you all have had a chance to check out the schedule on the web site. We have some new and interesting topics for the year. Here is the schedule as we have it.

Feb 11th -

Pt1: GPS Basics - by Jeff Murdock AE6GM.

Pt2: Geocaching, GPS and the ham radio operator - by Robert Kitson KI6SBL.

Mar 11th -

Pt1: SANDARC 2010 Overview.

Pt2: EARS 2010 Quiz night - by Steve Venner W6TAN.

Apr 8th - Club auction.

May 13th - Emergency Services review.

Jun 10th -

Pt1: President's Half-year Report - Robert Kitson KI6SBL.

Pt2: Open.

Jul 8th - Open.

Aug 8th - EARS Picnic (Rod McLeod park).

Sep 9th - 'Shack Attack' 2010 - by Robert Kitson KI6SBL.

Oct 14th -

Pt1: Scary ham stories - by Robert Kitson KI6SBL.

Pt2: Open.

Nov 11th -

Pt1: 2010 review.

Pt2: 2011 Officer election.

Pt3: Video, Harry Hodges (W6YOO).

Dec 11th - EARS Christmas party.

As you can see, most of the year is booked but we do have some openings and if you have some suggestions about topics please let one of the Board members know and we will try to accommodate your request.

For February, we will be talking all about GPS - from its beginnings to where it is today and how GPS can relate to Amateur Radio. If you have a GPS receiver please bring it to the meeting. I know many of you are Geocachers. If you would like to know about

Geocaching come on down to the meeting. Here is a short description of Jeff's AE6GM talk:

The presentation will be how GPS works, from when the signal leaves the GPS satellite till when your position appears on the screen. We will use simple math to explain how your position is determined. We will define terms like WAAS, RAIM, DGPS, DDOP, VDOP, C/A Code, P-Code, Y-Code, M-Code and anit-alisasing. We will also touch on a little of what the future may hold for GPS

Rob KI6SBL will then follow up with a presentation on how GPS relates to Amateur Radio in today's scheme of things.

We are having a can drive at each meeting to support the Salvation Army. The Army needs food all year long, not just at the Holidays, so please bring a few items each month and deposit in a container as you come in. If each of us brings a few items each month that's about a 1000 items a year - which will go a long way to meeting the Salvation's Army's requirements for food. This is one way of showing our thanks for the many things the Salvation Army supports us with.

Till we met on the air, 73

Doug
K6DAF

AY, MATEY!

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

Harald Bradner, KE6JE.

Douglas Waltman, KI6WOF.

Teri Bloom, KJ6EDR.

Laura Quarantiello, KI6AOK.

WELCOME ABOARD!

ARE YOU REALLY A MEMBER?

All EARS memberships run through the end of the calendar year. If you haven't paid yet - you may not be a member of EARS anymore! Avoid this utter disgrace and pony up now.

TAN'S TRAVELS

by Steve, W6TAN

Hi everybody,

Welcome to the first in a new series of "TAN's travels". The idea behind them is that as you've probably seen in my past President's letters, I occasionally do a review of where I've been on my wanderings (and include some nice photos to boot).

To give John Musselman N6EP something to do, I thought I would continue the tradition once I'm no longer El Presidente (including when Gina & I are back in the UK).

So here goes...

As I mentioned in my recent AIEARS scribblings, my mother was visiting a couple of months back, and we ended up going to Las Vegas.



It might surprise some of you that we don't go to Las Vegas specifically for the gambling, but to actually go hiking. Having said that, if we get chance - the odd \$10 or so might find its way into the slot machines!

As far as hiking in Las Vegas goes, there are many areas to choose from: Red-Rock canyon, Valley of Fire and Zion National Park to name but a few.

If you're feeling really brave and adventurous - there's always Groom Dry Lake - an area 51 miles - oops, sorry - about 130 miles North of LV. I've been told it can be quite exciting to try to hike there. I must add it to my list of things to do.

Anyway, as my mother had already been to Zion NP, and Red-Rock canyon - we thought this time we would take her to Valley of Fire. The West entrance is about 55 miles North of Las Vegas - along the I15, after turning right at a huge firework shop (exit 75). This road continues about 22 miles before

actually entering the Valley of Fire proper. One thing to note while driving along this road is that every square foot of the desert - either side of the pavement is littered with expired fireworks. Yet there are well posted signs saying that it is illegal to let off fireworks because of the fire danger... Hmmm, go figure!

Anyway, once inside the park, there are many sights to see and places to go - some requiring a good deal of hiking. The road basically starts at the West entrance, and continues to the East exit, with a detour to the North somewhere in the middle. Driving in this direction, the first features which you come across are the Beehives & Arch Rock. These are unusual red sandstone formations weathered by the eroding forces of wind and water. It's a great place to spend a while, just wandering around - crawling in-and-out of the holes and caves. 'Survivor-man' would have no problems setting up a sheltered camp here!



A little further down the road is Atlatl Rock, which contains outstanding examples of ancient Indian rock art or Petroglyphs. They include a depiction of the Atlatl, a notched stick used to throw primitive spears. And in case you were wondering, the Atlatl was a predecessor to the bow and arrow.



The next stop on the tour is the petrified logs which are basically logs & tree stumps that were washed into the area from an ancient forest about 225 million years ago and then fossilized. All exciting stuff eh?



After the petrified logs (I didn't scare them – honest!), the tour takes a turn Northwards to Mouse's tank. This stop is the first chance to do some real hiking. Although the trail is only a half mile round trip, and not too strenuous, in the summer, the temperatures can easily reach over 110 degrees. Walking on soft sand is difficult at the best of times, so it's a very good idea to have plenty of water with you.

Mouse's tank was named after a renegade Indian who used the area as a hideout in the 1890's, and is a natural basin in the rock where water collects after rainfall – sometimes remaining there for months.

Although the main sandy trail ends at the tank after a ¼ mile or so, there are many trails which extend beyond – some of which are quite strenuous. Plus, they are quite long, not mapped in any way, and quite twisty. It would be very easy to get lost here.



Anyone who remembers the 'Colossal Cave' computer game from the 80's should remember the statement:

"You are in a maze of twisty passages all alike..."

Hike them at your peril!

Returning along the sandy trail from Mouse's tank back to the car park, you can see many more Petroglyphs high up on the canyon walls.

Continuing on the road Northwards after Mouse's tank, you approach Rainbow Vista which is a superb



panoramic overlook of multi-coloured sandstone formations.

This has to be one of the most photographed areas of Valley of Fire; unfortunately, photographs don't do it justice because it's just so huge. It's much better viewed in real life.

Anyway, at this point the road splits into two – with a dirt road going to the right to Fire Canyon & Silica Dome

From the vantage point at the end of the dirt road, there is an excellent view of the deep red sandstone of Fire Canyon, mixed with the unique geological features of Silica Dome.

Imagine something which looks like a huge chocolate & vanilla ice-cream - yummy!



Again, there are many many hiking trails here, and it would be very very easy to get lost.

Back from Fire Canyon, the dirt road rejoins the main road which then continues Northwards, winding its way for several miles through the valley of the Rainbow Vista.

At the end of the road, there is a parking-lot/trail-head which leads off into the desert where there are amazing sandstone formations with brilliant contrasting colours.

There is another good hike here - descending into the White Domes area itself. The trail going down is quite steep, and tricky to negotiate in places, however, once at the bottom, there are the remains of an old film set!

This is where they filmed the 1965 movie called "The Professionals".

Besides many other Westerns, other notable movies have been filmed in this area, such as "One Million Years B.C.", "The Electric Horseman", and "Star Trek: Generations".



The track back up the canyon trail is quite strenuous, as you climb about 800 feet. Again, make sure you have plenty of water with you. Alternatively, you can take the easy trail out which is about 1 ½ miles longer but not as steep (we only found this out when we were speaking to a ranger at the car park).

From White Domes, the road leads back to the main East-West road.

Taking the Easterly way out – you end up driving past ‘The Cabins’ picnic area.

These historic stone cabins were built with native sandstone by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930’s as a shelter for passing travelers.



Home-sweet-home... Nice!

From here – it’s pretty much continuing on to the Eastern entrance, and back to Las Vegas. There are some other features to see, but you would really need to be camping out here to see them all, or, you would have to leave Las Vegas early in the morning, and you wouldn’t get back until quite late at night.

Although on this trip there were no ham-radio related activities, while driving through Valley of Fire, I could definitely see a need for some sort of portable HF communication set-up in case of emergencies.

There’s no cell phone coverage here, and VHF would be pretty much useless.

I suppose you could wait for a park ranger to show up... Assuming you lasted that long!

Well that’s it for this edition of TAN’s travels - I hope you enjoyed it.

Next month – It’s Agua Caliente Desert Hot Springs.

If I get chance, I’ll also be covering Calico Ghost Town and a local trip to Daley Ranch (by Dixon Lake) in the following months.

Cheers for now,

Steve W6TAN

MEET DICK BEYM NB6R by himself

In Janurary’s All EARS, Rob KI6SBL, asked members to send in a note about themselves. The following was submitted by Dick Beym, NB6R. Who else will drop us a note?

My radio fun is CW. I know my sending and copying is not high speed, yet it is great to have a QSO with contacts as far away as my bent dipole hidden attic antenna will reach. My rig is an Icom 718 using a low pass filter, a one memory keyer and a Bencher paddle. I send CW using the paddle wired for a lefty, but send right handedly. Don’t invite me to use your paddle unless you have it wired for left hand sending, hi hi.

I used to be a professsor of linguistics, so the code is an attractive format for me. I find that there is a special appeal and satisfaction in CW QSOs. At my age (88), I’m proud to feel that I’m not losing my grip on a most pleasureable hobby, In some ways, I’m still cutting the mustard (at least on CW).

NO MORE ADS by John N6EP

Due to EARS’ pending change of status to a 501(c)(3) organization, all advertising in All EARS has been suspended.

Don’t worry, your Club will not miss the income from the ads - there wasn’t any!

SUMMARY OF EARS BOARD MEETING FOR JANUARY

--information provided by John N6EP

1. There were 42 people at the January meeting. The opportunity drawing needs \$87 more to have the drawing. It was agreed that the meeting room acoustics were better with the portable PA.

2. Rob KI6SBL mentioned that the food drive continues for the Salvation Army and that he would put a note on the reflector and in the newsletter.

3. Konrad N6UKO reported checking is \$1627.29, savings is \$930.68 and the CD is \$2190.26. Also, we spent about \$190 more in 2009 than we took in. A proposed budget for 2010 was adopted.

4. Marvin W6MJM reported that he is still waiting for the 501(c)(3) to donate his antenna.

5. Doug K6DAF thanked EARS on behalf of the San Marcos Metro Net for the use of the EARS repeater. Harry W6YOO reported that the SATERN net on 20 meters is monitoring calls from Haiti.

6. Vivian W6NWF reported we started the year with 73 returning members.

7. Major David Ebel and his wife were given free membership for 2010 due to their tremendous help.

8. Steve reported on some improvements to the website. He was complemented on how nice the website has become.

9. There was a discussion of the changes needed to the Club brochure before the next printing.

10. Konrad N6UKO and Doug K6DAF are calling members who have not yet renewed.

11. Steve W6TAN reported that Echolink is running at Vivian W6NWF's QTH. There is some buzz on the audio.

12. Rob KI6SBL noted that we need a Field Day Chair.

13. Rob KI6SBL announced that he is working on a plan to have the EARS Club Station open after each VE session.

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. Get your Club Badge from Glaser Bailey, 2015 South Escondido Blvd, 760-743-5551.

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.