

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

February, 2011

FEBRUARY MEETING

High Altitude Balloon Projects

EARS will meet at 7:30 pm, Thursday, February 10, 2011 at the Salvation Army building at 1301 Las Villas Way, in Escondido.

EVENT CALENDAR

- **Feb 10 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
- Feb 17 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Feb 19 EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- Feb 28 VE Testing

- **March 10 EARS Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
- March 17 EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- March 19 EARS Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- March 28 VE Testing

About ALL EARS

All Ears is 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:

Steve Venner, W6TAN
w6tan@earsclub.org

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **2011 Club Officers – p. 1**
- **President's Corner – p. 2**
- **From the Program Director's Chair – p. 2**
- **Local Students Speak to Astronaut – p. 2**
- **Membership – p. 3**
- **Emergency Services and YOU! – p. 3**
- **Kit Building and T Hunting – p. 3**
- **Opportunity Drawing Update – p.5**

A special EARS thank You to Steve Venner for his great contributions to this issue.

EARS Club Officers for 2011

President

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

Vice President

John Belstner, W9EN
w9en@arrr.net

Secretary

Teri Bloom, W6TRB
feisty5ft@dslextreme.com

Treasurer

Konrad Wallenda, N6UKO, 760-743-8826
n6uko@aol.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

Fred McDavitt, W6PBR, (760) 737-6837
mcdavitt_fred@cox.net

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

Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, 760-741-2560
kb6nmk@amsat.org

Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF
760-715-2876

Past President (non-elective)

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

Historian (non-elective)

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

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor

Steve Venner, W6TAN
w6tan@earsclub.org

Property Manager

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello All,

They've been having some horrendous weather back east this year. And it just reinforces the idea that winter is a time to hunker down inside, read a good book and avoid the outdoors. I imagine back east that means getting plenty of time on the radio if you're a ham.

In California, we don't believe that winter should shut us down. And that extends to our hobby, too. Thanks to Terri, W6TRB, we had a really fun program in January. Hope you had a chance to either come to the presentation by Joe, K0NEB, about kit building, or to the hands-on workshop the following Saturday, where we did some of the same. If you came to the workshop, you might have also ended up on a video being shot by Dave Bell, W6AQ, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the ARRL.

And if that's not enough activity for you; or too indoors, a few hardy hams also managed to make it to the Hamster Hike in the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on the 23rd. The weather was *to die for* and not a spot of snow was observed! We hope to have more of these in the future.

Coming up this month, we have another excellent program. This month's presentation will be on high altitude ballooning, given by Rick Miller, AI1V. I'm assured that this means putting ham radio way up in the sky, and I'm anxiously looking forward to the details at the meeting. Sound like a ton of interesting.

Remember, all these fun activities are open to all the members of EARS, which brings us to an important point. Are you a member? Are you sure? Dues are due at the start of the year. So, if you haven't coughed up yet, you may be in jeopardy of losing all the privileges and honors of being a part of EARS. Don't let this scandalous fate befall you! Hack it up now.

Looking forward to hearing you on the air!

73,

N6EP, John
2011, EARS President

From the Program Director's Chair

February 10 Presentation:

This month's presentation will be given by Rick Miller (AI1V) on High Altitude Balloon Projects in Amateur Radio. Rick Miller, PhD is a Senior Systems Engineer at Argon ST in Fairfax, VA. Rick holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is an active member of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group K4LRG. Rick has been

key to several of the K4LRG High Altitude Balloon projects over the years. Hopefully Rick will have some ideas on how to increase the coverage of our 2-meter machine.

March 10 Presentation:

In March, we will have Patrick Stoddard (WD9EWK) speak to us about his unique satellite operations. Anyone who has "Worked the Sats" over the last few years I'm sure has heard Patrick's voice. Patrick was originally licensed in 1977 near Chicago. Before discovering the satellites, he worked HF and obtained RTTY WAC, WAS, and DXCC. Having only been active on the amateur satellites since late 2005, Pat's satellite log now has almost 10,000 QSOs with contacts from Arizona, 12 other US states plus Washington DC, Canada and Mexico. Patrick has confirmed satellite QSOs with over 400 different grids in all 50 US states and a dozen other countries as well as having transmitted from 57 different grids. Patrick has earned satellite WAS, satellite VUCC (pending) and has earned a few other satellite operating awards from AMSAT.

Adobe Bluffs Elementary School Students Speak to Astronaut Caty Coleman

by John W9EN

I had the distinct honor and pleasure of being part of the efforts that went onto the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (**ARISS**) school contact this February 3 with students at the Adobe Bluffs Elementary School in Poway. About 2 years ago, Jim KI6ZUM applied to the ARISS program on behalf of Adobe Adobe Bluffs Elementary School. Lots of coordination was required on the part of Jim and their ARISS Mentor, Kerry N6IZW. About 6 months ago, Jim asked me if I would provide my station as their primary.

Twenty students were chosen to ask a question of Astronaut Caty Coleman. The day and time for the event was chosen to maximize contact time (*Thursday February 3*) and with the following conditions... AOS: 9:09:52, LOS: 9:19:50, MAX EL: 73 ... the students had nearly a full ten minute pass. Jim's daughter, Lauren KJ6KDZ was control operator for the event and held the microphone as each student stepped up and asked their question (*BTW, Lauren earned her license at age 9*).

Signal-wise there was a lot noise at the horizon, particularly with the preamp on. I suspect it may have been the abundance of florescent and/or sodium vapor lighting that was currently in use. That would explain why we did not encounter such noise during the dry run we had last month on an early Saturday morning. My own QTH uses almost exclusively CFL bulbs which I must turn off in order to use 6 or 2-meters. Whatever

the cause that noise unfortunately cost us nearly 20 seconds of contact time on each horizon. Only sixteen of the twenty students were able to ask their question and listen to the reply from Astronaut Coleman. Kerry commented, however, that seventeen is about average.

Several news agencies covered the event. In my opinion, the best written story can be found here.

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2011/feb/03/students-get-science-lesson-space/>

NBC 7/39 also had an excellent story as part of their 4:00 PM News broadcast.

EARS will have the distinct pleasure of having Jim KI6ZUM, Kerry N6LZW and hopefully Lauren KJ6KDZ present at the May 12 meeting. We will have the opportunity to find out more about the ARISS program in general and the work that went into scheduling this event in particular.

Well done Jim, Lauren and Kerry! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

Thanks and 73

John Belstner W9EN
Valley Center, CA DM13le

Membership

By Steve, W6TAN

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

Larry Olson, KJ6LFE
Gary Riddle, KJ6BXL
Mark Bales, KJ6KGI
Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB

WELCOME ABOARD!

Membership status as of
29th Jan 2011:

Life: 49
Paid: 42
Total: 91

NOTE: There are still 40 members from 2010 who have not yet paid their dues for this year. So don't be shunned as a scurrilous deadbeat, just fork over your \$15 to any club officer, or better still, mail it in now - Konrad is waiting to hear from you!

Emergency Services & You

By Steve, W6TAN

Hi all,

As you should have heard by now, we're in the process of updating our membership database to include details of those EARS members who are also active in some way with the various emergency services organizations.

So if you are involved with organizations such as CERT, RACES, ARES, SATERN, The Red Cross, MARS, SKYWARN, CAP, or FEMA - please email me as to which organizations you belong to, and if you belong to more than one - which of those organizations will you support in times of an actual emergency.

Many thanks,

Steve (W6TAN).
E-mail: w6tan@earsclub.org

Kit Building & T-Hunting

by Steve, W6TAN

Hi all,

As most of you know, January's meeting was a huge success with around 35 members and guests in attendance.

Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB's presentation was pretty lively, with a great deal of audience participation.

Joe covered topics such as soldering equipment & techniques, and about kit building in general - along with examples of the various types of kit available today (and even some from yesteryear e.g. *Heathkit*).

However, that was only the tip of the iceberg (or should I say *Eisenberg!*)

On the Saturday following Thursday's meeting, a large group people, including several children, gathered at the Salvation Army building to take part in the first 'Great EARS kit build-off'!

The kit is a circuit to turn your Handi-Talkie into a direction-finding receiver (for use in events such as *T-Hunting and the like*).

To make the event a little more interesting, we also had Dave Bell, W6AQ, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, from the ARRL to record the workshop on H.D. video. So if you were there, you might end up on TV! Apparently, the DVD will be coming out around September time, so watch this space.

**EARS Members
Do It On The
EARS Repeater
146.880Mhz**

How did it go?

Basically, those people who took part were given a plastic bag full of various electronic components, mechanical bits-n-bobs, and of course the much needed instructions.

We were given some brief instructions from Joe on how to start building the kit, and were then left to get on with it - Joe being on hand to provide help when necessary.

There were some issues with the Printed Circuit Board provided with the kit (a hole for mounting an I.C. hadn't been drilled). Also, the screws for mounting the battery holder were too big to fit in the holes on the PCB - Doh!

There were also additional parts required, but which were not included in the kit - things such as wire coat-hangers (for the antenna), solder terminals for mounting the antennae to the PCB, co-ax cable & connector to connect the circuit to the Handi-talkie, a paint-stick for use as a handle, and finally - the 9V battery to power the whole thing...

Such are the joys of kit-building!

The additional items were very generously provided by Teri Bloom, W6TRB.

In all, we ordered 16 kits, of which 13 were built on the day. 2 more kits were purchased after the event, and the remaining one was used as spare parts in case any of the others' were missing items.

Pictures of the kit builders in action are shown below:



After the kits were built, various members of the group assembled outside to take part in an actual T-Hunt exercise.

The 'treasure' was a little *Rockmite* transmitter provided by Sam Bradsher, N6SD - the same type as the ones we use at the EARS picnic. It was hidden by Sam while the rest of us were building the kits.



**Sam Bradsher
N6SD**

Anyway, the new treasure hunters wandered around the Salvation Army grounds looking for the treasure. Some got close, some went in the opposite direction, some got hopelessly lost! It's not easy if you've not done it before...

The problem comes when you get within about 5 feet of the transmitter... Unless you have more sophisticated equipment, the signal is so strong, you just can't tell exactly where it coming from.

Eventually, the treasure was found by Joe (*no surprises there then!*)





To sum up, everyone who took part in both the kit building and the T-Hunt (and I mean everyone) learned a lot, both from the kit-building activity, and the T-Hunt. They had so much fun, they all said that we should do this type of thing more often!

However, deciding on which kit to build next will be a challenge as there are so many good kits out there. The most popular suggestion is something from **Elecraft**.

The K3 perhaps?

You never know... but what we do know is that a great day was had by all!

Finally, **EARS** would like to say a big thank you to the following people:

- Teri Bloom, W6TRB, for arranging this great event, along with Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB.
- Dave Bell, W6AQ, and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, from the ARRL.
- Sam Bradsher, N6SD, for providing the 'treasure'.
- All those brave souls who provided tools / cookie-sheets for us to use.
- The kit builders and treasure-hunters.

Excellent job - well done all of you!

Cheers for now,

Steve,
W6TAN.

Opportunity Drawing Update

By Steve, W6TAN

Hi all,

For those of you who were at the last club meeting, you will know that the opportunity drawing was won by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, and Sam Bradsher, N6SD.

Joe was our presenter for the evening, and the interesting thing was that Joe actually joined EARS on the night - just so that he could take part in the drawing!

Joe was the first to be picked, and chose the back-pack from Bug-out-bagz. Sam was drawn next, and had no choice but to take the multi-tool.

Congratulations to both!

As for the next prizes to be offered - we are not too sure yet, as there there may be several. Some of the suggestions are a soldering station, a good Digital Volt Meter, Movie tickets, 2 nights camping at Dixon Lake, and a Handi-Finder kit like those built during the kit building event.

Maybe it will be all of them! See the club's website for the latest details: www.earsclub.org

Tickets will be on sale at the next club meeting on Thursday, February 10th. See Teri, W6TRB, to purchase them: \$1 each, 6 for \$5 or 15 for \$10.

Cheers for now,

Steve,
W6TAN.

ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIOS SOCIETY

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, call-sign, 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. Parking is available in the first lot to the right after the guard shack. Parking is \$4.00 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.

EARS PINS - EARS 2010 Board had EARS lapel pins made. They are yellow 1" circles with the EARS Logo in the middle. They are only \$5.00 each. Get yours today by contacting Rob Kitson; KI6SBL@earsclub.org.

ESCONDIDO AMATUER RADIOS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM

Name _____

Call _____ Class _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

E-mail Address _____

Date Licensed _____ Expires _____

Are you a Member of the following organizations?

ARES ☐ YES ☐ NO

ARRL ☐ YES ☐ NO

EVAC ☐ YES ☐ NO

MARS ☐ YES ☐ NO

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

You may also 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.