

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

The official bulletin of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society – N6WB

May 2011

May's meeting details

The presentation for May promises to be one of the most interesting we've have had this year.



It will be about the amateur radio contact between The Adobe Bluffs Elementary School, and astronauts aboard the International Space Station, which took place this past January.

Our very own John Belstner, W9EN, was there 'lending a hand' (see above photo).

See his report on page 2 for more details.

EARS will meet at 7:30 pm, Thursday, May 12th, 2011 at:

The Salvation Army
1301 Las Villas Way,
Escondido.

EARS Event Calendar

- May 12 Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 19 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- May 21 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- **May 26 Field Day meeting**
- May 28 VE Testing
- June 9 Monthly Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- June 16 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- June 18 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- June 25 VE Testing

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Welcome to May's ALL EARS

By Steve Venner, W6TAN /
G0TAN



Things here in the UK are gradually getting sorted out – although both Gina & I are still working 25 hours-a-day, 8-days-a week, or that's what it seems like!

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to those club officers who regularly make contributions to cause. It's much appreciated.

Remember however, you don't have to be a club officer to submit articles for publication in ALL EARS.

If you think you have an interesting contribution for future editions, it will be gratefully received. Photos are also welcome.

As far as last month's issue is concerned, only one mistake was noted:

For field day, the CW band captain's call-sign was given incorrectly. It should have been KE6PY, not KE6YP... Sorry Steve!

President's Corner

By John Musselman, N6EP



Our program this month has to do with the recent contact that was made between a local elementary school and the International Space Station. Details are elsewhere in this issue. As for me, it sure makes

me think about what an amazing hobby this is.

Think about it - this isn't just one hobby but many. What else can you do?

Well...

We got a communication from Steve, G0TAN, regarding a BBC radio report on GB4RW. This was a special event station celebrating the Royal Wedding. (If you missed the radio show, it's on GB4RW's QRZ page.)

Then, how about this...

Saturday was to be the seventh Parachute Mobile jump. Yeah, use your imagination. The skydivers, AF6IM and KF6WRW, jump from 14,000 feet and after deploying their parachutes, make QSOs with as many hams as possible. Unfortunately, the jump had to be scrubbed due to high winds, but I'm sure they'll get back up there. No sense causing unnecessary splatter (Sorry about that...) [Ed - Groan!]

Balloon launches with ham radios, EchoLink QSOs, VLF communications made with super slow CW transmissions and signal viewing software...

Yes this is more than one hobby. And that doesn't just mean that there's DXing, ragchewing, contesting, home-brewing, etc. You not only can find your niche, you can find your niche within the niche.

As for me, there's always the local radio club to run, a contest here or there, radio hikes, Field Day antennas... maybe I'll even take up skydiving one of these days - I already have the radio part figured out.

73,
John N6EP

Program Director's Report

By John Belstner, W9EN



May 12th Presentation:

Our May presentation will be a tag team between Jim KI6ZUM and Kerry N6IZW.

Jim organized the ARISS - Adobe Bluffs Elementary School contact this past January. I had the distinct pleasure of providing the primary station for that contact.

Kerry is the area ARISS NASA mentor and was key in making sure all of Jim's "i's" were dotted and "t's" were crossed when it came to organizing the contact.

Jim and Kerry will introduce the ARISS program and walk us through the process of organizing this school contact with the astronauts on-board the International Space Station.

Jim is organizing another such event at a local San Diego area Middle School later this year. I'm looking forward to participating in that one as well.

June 9th Presentation:

The topic of our June presentation will be Antenna Design and Optimization with particular focus on Field Day. Dr. Frank Parks, NB1Z will be our presenter.

Frank is a colleague of mine and whiz when it comes to antenna theory.

If you have ever had any burning questions regarding the black magic of antennas, June 9th will be your opportunity to ask.

July 14 Presentation:

July is the month of the Rat, D-Rats that is. EARS will host Allen AK6AK who will demonstrate the reliable voice and data capabilities of D-Star as it applies to Emergency Communications.

In addition, Allen will share his secrets to making his equipment portable.

Membership

By Steve Venner, W6TAN / G0TAN



There were no new members joining EARS this month.

However, Matt Wilbur (NM6W) pony'd-up loads of money and became a life member.

The current EARS membership status as of 8th May 2011 is:

- Life: 51
- Paid: 58
- Total: 109

NOTE: There are still 29 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 - Teri is waiting to hear from you!

EchoLink Status

By John Belstner, W9EN



By the time you read this, the first step in the rather drawn out installation process will be complete. The EchoLink hardware has been installed at the Salvation Army Building.

However, repeater connectivity will still be off-line until the remaining equipment is installed at the repeater site.

Launch will coincide with the linking of our 440 MHz Repeater to the Hubbard Hill "Hub" along with a new 420 MHz link to the AE6GM Repeater on Coronado Hills.

I am currently updating the EARS EchoLink User Manual which will soon be available for download on the club website.

Be aware that access codes are changing in order to be compatible with the new repeater controllers.

Once complete, EchoLink will be accessible by any of the three repeaters.

Stay tuned for more info

Net Control

By Robert Kitson, KI6SBL



We have in place a solid schedule for our Sunday Night Net.

We start at 8:00pm and run an average 30 to 45 minutes.

We are always looking for Net Control volunteers, so if you're interested in becoming a Net Control volunteer, please drop me an email at:

KI6SBL@earsclub.org

We can never have too many volunteers for this ongoing EARS function!

The only complaint I still get is the lack of EARS Officers checking in. I am guilty of this as much as my fellow board members. So I ask each Board Member to do your best to check in and I will do the same.

Opportunity Drawing Update

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



The next opportunity drawing is planned to take place at the club meeting on May.

As for the next prizes – we have 5 to be offered:

- Model 400-047 20AMP Digital Multi-meter by Eclipse Enterprises Inc.
www.eclipsetools.com
- Model 902-092 Professional Tools Pro's Kit Soldering station
www.prokits.com.tw
- A Quarrow MT 13 handi-tool
<http://www.quarrow.com/QuarrowMT13.htm>
- Nifty! Ham Accessories \$25 Gift Certificate
<http://niftyaccessories.com>
- Handi-Finder Experimenter's Kit
<http://www.noard.com/noardhdf.htm>

Field Day Preparation Meetings

By Robert Kitson, KI6SBL



Our second meeting for this year's Field Day was another great success!

We had 10 members show up and each was given 1 attendance ticket to win a

\$25.00 HRO Gift Certificate at the Field Day Saturday night Pot Luck Dinner.

Field Day Meetings Schedule:

Thursday - May 26. The meeting will be at the Escondido Salvation Army facility at 6:30pm.

Band Captains:

The Band Captains have been determined. Please support these men as they each will need volunteers to work their bands (or the GOTA table) for the entire 24 hours.

Here is their contact information:

SSB

Captain - Vince Sheetz (W6CD)
vsheetz@email.com

CW

Captain - Steve Alborn (KE6PY)
scalborn@cox.net

VHF/UHF

Captain 1 - John Belstner (W9EN)
w9en@arrl.net
Captain 2 - Fred McDavitt (W6PRB)
mcdavitt_fred@cox.net

GOTA

Captain - John McNelly (AF6UA)
ears@mcnelly.org

Marvin Munster (W6MJM) will be organizing our Friday night meal for those who help set-up and the Saturday Night Pot Luck Dinner for all EARS members.

I will be handling the publicity and make sure we have an organized information table.

John Musselman (N6EP) will be our Antenna Manager. He will create the Antenna Party agenda

and be responsible for all Antenna decisions during the weekend.

Please support this annual event as best you can.

We had a great Field Day Weekend in 2010 because we had highly attended and productive planning meetings before it.

Let's make 2011 even better by attending all three 2011 planning meetings and the 2011 Field Day Antenna Party.

Also, we are confirmed for Friday, June 3 "Community Spotlight" segment from 10:30-11:00 a.m. to promote this year's Field Day.

Roger Gagos, who did a great job last year, has volunteered to be interviewed again.

There is a slot for 1 or 2 more EARS members to be interviewed, so if you're interested and able to talk about the benefits (or history) of Field Day from the EARS and/or ARRL perspective, please email me at:

KI6SBL@earsclub.org

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Rob Kitson, KI6SBL
2011 Field Day Chair
(760) 715-2876

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:
allears@earsclub.org

Permission is given to copy any article contained in ALL EARS when not otherwise copyrighted, and provided proper credit is given.

The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the 1st Thursday of the month.

EARS Auction Photos

By Jeff Murdock, AE6GM

The following photos of the EARS auction back in April were provided by Jeff Murdock, AE6GM:



The crowds begin to gather...



Teri, W6TRB & Tom, KG6RCW checking out the goods on offer.



Art, KC6UQH making a sale...

EARS Club Officers for 2011

President

John Musselman, N6EP, (760) 747-5303
n6ep@arri.net

Vice President

John Belstner, W9EN
w9en@arri.net

Secretary and Treasurer

Teri Bloom, W6TRB
feisty5ft@dslextreme.com

Emergency Services Coordinator

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

Officers at Large:

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

Viv Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF (760) 715-2876
w6nwf@arri.net

Marvin Munster, W6MJM, (760) 747-2223
+Property Manager
w6mjm@amsat.org

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 and Newsletter Editor

Steve Venner, W6TAN, 011 44 1483 473232
w6tan@earsclub.org

Summary of February's board meeting minutes:

By Teri Bloom, W6TRB



Special Presentation

The special presentation by the Boy Scout/Cub Scout leader to discuss how EARS can help the San Diego area Scouts establish a radio program did not show up.

Program Director's Report

- May's presentation will be about the ARISS - Adobe Bluffs Elementary School contact this past January.
- June's Presentation will be about Antenna Design.

Treasurer's Report

- The transition from Konrad N6UKO to Teri W6TRB has occurred.
- The check for the EARS Club Liability insurance has been written and sent.
- Income statement will be sent to the Board shortly.
- John, N6EP will ask Dirk, N6SUN to see when he can do an audit of the books.
- Current accounts:
 - Savings account balance: \$933.10
 - Certificate of Deposit: \$2,221.55
 - Checking account balance: \$2,225.09

The club auction cleared \$172.00 and also received membership renewals and two new members.

The opportunity drawing is scheduled for May's General Meeting assuming \$20 more tickets will be sold.

Technical Committee Report

No repeater work had been performed last month.

Emergency Services Report

Test and Evaluation of the City of Escondido's new Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) CERT communications suite took place on 5 April 2011.

Jo, KB6NMK advised dates of Escondido CERT meetings.

Fred, W6PBR wanted to see the transmitter room at Salvation Army to assess its' potential for CERT use.

SANDARC Report

- Robert Kitson, KB6SBL has been elected to the Secretary position at SANDARC.
- EARS need to send 2 new delegates to the SANDARC meetings.

Membership Report

Current paid-up members to 2011 and beyond (including life members): 108

Newsletter Editor's Report

Articles for publication in AIEARS should be provided by no later than May 5th.

Webmaster Report

- Monthly updates almost complete.
- Planned features for next month:
 - Add Emergency Services section to the EARS database
 - Continue with EARS event photos

PR Director's Report

An article for SANDARC's new board will be submitted.

Field Day Chairman's Report

Field Day is ready to go... but need operators! John, W9EN will get a schedule for satellites. Robert, KB6SBL will email time/date for upcoming antenna/coax party at Konrad N6UKO's house.

OLD BUSINESS

John, N6EP noted that ARRL sent notice of a different agent handling Liability insurance.

The Board feels strongly about presenting Konrad a plaque for his past services to the club.

A motion was made by Robert, KB6SBL to spend no more than \$100 for a plaque and gift for Konrad.

NEW BUSINESS

EARS historical items need to be situated at one location. Harry W6YOO, as Historian, will be approached for this honor for the physical items; John W9EP will research the use of Cloud, an internet storage option.

General Information

CLUB REPEATERS

EARS operates three repeaters in the Escondido area.

- 146.88 MHz, minus offset, PL 107.2
- 224.14 MHz (AE6GM repeater), minus offset, PL 156.7
- 449.24 MHz, minus offset, PL 127.3

The 2m and 70cm repeaters are local in nature and primarily serve the immediate Escondido area.

ECHOLINK

The 2m repeater is tied to the EchoLink system as node 2846.

See the Club website, www.earsclub.org for information on EchoLink.

There is also a listing of local EchoLink 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

These are free services that keep members up-to-date via e-mail.

To subscribe to either one of the reflectors, go to the EARS website and click on the Yahoo or Google Group links at the bottom of the main page.

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, so please contact any club officer with the updated information.

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 S. Escondido Blvd,
Escondido,
CA 92027
(760) 743-5551

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
(760) 747-6443

Just let them know you are a member of EARS.

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.

General Information cont'd

SUNDAY EVENING NET

EARS Sunday evening net is every Sunday at 8 p.m. local time. You can get the latest information on club activities there.

Just tune in to the club's 2m 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. The parking fee is \$4.00 and is antenna friendly.

If interested, go to www.sdqares.net or contact Steve Early, Section Manager, (619) 461-2818, or via e-mail at ad6vi@arrl.org.

SECTION NEWS

The latest happenings around San Diego are available at www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.htm, the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section.

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.

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.

Note: 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,
CA 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.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

*Call _____

*Last Name _____

*First Name _____

*Street Address _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

*Email _____

License Expires _____

EARS Family Members _____

License Class _____

First Licensed _____

Old Calls _____

Date of Birth _____

ARRL Member (Y/N) _____ Life Member (Y/N) _____

Amateur Related Interests _____

ARRL, RACES, ARES, SATERN, Red Flag, HF, VHF, UHF, Packet, EchoLink, D-Star, T-Hunt, ATV, Field - Day, Contests, Antenna Design, Equipment Building

Are you willing to run for a club office (Y/N)? _____

Note: Fields marked with a (*) are required.

A Telephone number is requested, but may be unlisted in the roster if you prefer.

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.

Checks please, it is safer than cash and you have a record.

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.