

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

The official bulletin of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society – N6WB February 2012

February's meeting details

February's presentation will be given by Rusty - AF6WF, Ellen - N6UWW and Gayle - K6GO on the topic:

"A YL DX-pedition to Curaçao PJ2 Land".

Rusty, Ellen, Gayle and three other YL's operated PJ2T in the Caribbean in 2011.



We're certain there will be more than a few interesting stories shared, so come early to grab your seat!

We hope to see you all there!

EARS Event Calendar - 2012

- Feb 09 Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 16 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 18 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- Feb 25 [VE Testing](#)
- Mar 08 Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Mar 15 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 17 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- Mar 31 [VE Testing](#)
- Apr 12 Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Apr 19 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 21 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- Apr 28 [VE Testing](#)

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Welcome to February's ALL EARS

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



Hi everyone,

I thought I'd take this opportunity to introduce you to some new 'technology' I came across the other day.

I was operating my radio, and I noticed that there was a little light flickering on-and-off.

When I looked closer, I saw that it said C.A.T.

Now I thought that this stood for Computer Aided Transmission, but it appears that this is not the case, as can be seen in the photo below:



Whatever will they think of next?

A
Digital
Operational
Gadget
perhaps?

Best 73,
Steve, W6TAN.

President's Corner

By Robert Kitson, KI6SBL



If We...

I noticed lately at every Board Meeting or any discussion on improving something for EARS the conversation starts with "If we..."

"If we had a volunteer to run an Elmer Program we could help more new members."

"If we researched things a little more we could get better insurance or raise more money."

"If we promoted more of what EARS has to offer we could have more members."

There are no truer words in any non-profit organization because it takes volunteers; the "we" in "if we", to do the work needed to be done so all members of EARS can better enjoy our great society.

If we had a volunteer to run an Elmer Program we could help more new members reach their amateur radio goals...

Board members, including myself, have been approached by numerous new members to help them learn something new or raise an antenna.

In the HAM world, these volunteers are called Elmers.

Noticing EARS currently had no developed way of helping members find Elmers, I asked on the Sunday net and in an EARS Reflector email for people to send me their thoughts on an Elmer Program.

I have already received some great ideas. One suggestion was to have an Elmer list available in the members section of the website. Another suggestion was to have an Antenna Team of EARS members who are willing and knowledgeable to be available when an antenna needs to be raised.

I will be bringing these suggestions to the February board meeting. In the meantime, if you have an idea or want to take lead on either of these projects, please send me an email.

If we researched things a little more we could get better insurance or raise more money...

This was proven true when we got a 5% cut in our insurance rate at Marsh just by calling them up and asking questions on our rates.

While we saved money on insurance it still never hurts to raise more money. To that end Vivian has purchased a book called "Grant Writing for Dummies."

This is an amazing book with many great ideas on how EARS can raise money. I am going to compile a number of the book's recommendations and present them at the February board meeting.

If we promoted more of what EARS has to offer we could have more members...

"Public relations" is a critical part of any non-profit organization. I believe in it but I have failed miserably at it for EARS. I am looking for volunteers to help us find ways to get the word out about EARS. If you know how to contact television stations, radio stations or anything about social media please contact me. If anyone knows another way to get the word out, please share that as well. It would be great if a member wanted to tackle the role of EARS PR Director - please let me know if you are interested.

"EARS" is a great organization - one I am proud of to be a member and it's President.

In January we had a fun meeting of videos. We then had a very productive board meeting where our 2012 budget was finalized. That Saturday we had a wonderful EARS Breakfast. A fellow member bought me breakfast - now there is a trend I would not mind see sticking.

Just kidding...

We have an amazing society with a powerful future. I am looking forward to see what's next.

73,
Robert J. Kitson, KI6SBL
2012 EARS President

Program Director's Report

By John Belstner, W9EN



January's Presentation:

A big thank you to Joe - KONEB for his presentation at January's meeting. After 35 years of being a ham, I've never been to Dayton. I'm making an

effort to go this year just to see Joe wearing that "Cat-in-the-Hat" outfit.

February's Presentation:

February's presentation will be given by Rusty - AF6WF, Ellen - N6UWW and Gayle - K6GO on the topic "A YL DX-pedition to Curaçao PJ2 Land".

Rusty, Ellen, Gayle and three other YL's operated PJ2T in the Caribbean in 2011. I'm certain there will be more than few interesting stories shared.

Gayle - K6GO ("The leader of the Pack")

Gayle holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is an active member of the San Diego DX Club <http://www.SDDXC.org> where she is currently serving President.



According to Gayle, her two most fabulous life experiences involve amateur radio. Her first was part of a YL DXpedition to Montserrat, before the volcano erupted, July 25-30, 1993. Her second was when her

students talked to an astronaut aboard the space shuttle STS 70 on July 18, 1995. Gayle was first licensed as KC6SQ and has previously held the call signs of KC6YDQ and KM6WF.

Ellen - N6UWW

Ellen holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is an active member of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (PARC), the San Diego DX Club (SDDXC), the Southern California Contest Club (SCCC) and the YL DXpeditions Club.



Ellen was originally licensed (KC6BIZ) as a result of seeing how much fun her Dad (K6QJP - SK) and her brother (KM6EK) had with radio on a family vacation. She got involved in providing communications at off-

road races down in Mexico which combined her love of the outdoors with camping and radio. Ellen love's public service communications and has quite the memorabilia collection to prove it (her favorite is a Tournament of Roses jacket). She met the man of her dreams through the off-road races and the rest is history. She even convinced Wild Bill to get his ticket and now he's WB6BFG. In addition to the off-road races, both Ellen and Bill enjoy contesting (for which they blame their addiction on Dennis - N6KI). Ellen's most memorable ham radio experiences involve chairing the PARC Field Day team to victory in 5A category (mid-90's???) and participating in CQWW DXpeditions (2008 @ HQ3Z, 2009 @ GJ2A).

Rosemary "Rusty" - AF6WF

Rusty holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is an active member of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society (EARS), the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (PARC) and the San Diego DX Club (SDDXC). She is also a SANDARC VE as well as an ARRL VE.



Rusty is a retired Quality Control Inspector with a few years of IRS employment under her belt. She was first licensed as KI6SMT and

was mildly interested in contesting, but now is learning the techniques to become a "real" contester with Dennis - N6KI as Elmer. You can see Rusty on YouTube as operator for the NX6T contest station operating from W6HCD shack in Bonsall, CA.

March's Presentation:

March's presentation will be an encore presentation of "Lithium Batteries" given by Michelle - W5NYV. There is rumor of shenanigans, though it may only be a rumor.

Michelle - W5NYV

As a Life Member of the ARRL, Michelle holds an Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is an active member of the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (PARC) where she currently serves as Treasurer.



Michelle enjoys thinking and doing, but not necessarily in that order. She has an MSEE degree from USC in Information Theory and enjoys working with software-defined radios, digital signal processing and field-programmable gate

arrays. Michelle actively participates in amateur microwave activities, edits the PARC Scope and serves as an ARRL volunteer examiner.

Opportunity Drawing Update

By Teri Bloom, W6TRB



Just before the presentation by Joe Eisenberg KONEB at January's EARS meeting, we had sold enough tickets to hold the drawing.

The lucky winners were as follows:

- Tom Lettington, N6TFL was drawn first and selected the Powerwerx 30 Amp Switching Power Supply
- Mark Bales, KJ6KGI was drawn second and took the Powerpole crimp tool.

Congratulations to you both!

As for the next drawing - we will have three prizes on offer:

- A [Wouxun KG-UV3D Dual Band Two-Way Radio](#), plus car charger & USB programming lead.
- A \$25 HRO Gift Certificate.
- US Luggage Carry-All.

Tickets for the next opportunity drawing will be on sale at the EARS general meetings and other EARS events.

Technical Committee Report

By John Belstner, W9EN



Jeff - AE6GM, Marvin - W6MJM and John - W9EN spent January 2 at the club repeater sites (Hubbard Hill and Coronado Hills).

The following was accomplished:

- FriendCom Link Radios changed from narrow band (12.5 kHz) to wide band (25 kHz) in hopes of better audio quality.
- Adjusted RC-210 controller audio levels at both repeater sites. Audio quality between N6WB 2m and AE6GM 1.25m repeaters is pretty good now.
- Port forwarding settings restored on the Salvation Army Building wireless router to restore EchoLink connectivity.

Pending work:

- Connecting the N6WB 70cm into the RC-210 controller.
- Replacing the SignalLink USB Audio interface with a RigBlaster Nomic to improve EchoLink audio quality.
- Investigate a new home for the EchoLink PC and radio due to unusually low MTBF.
- Adding a preamp to the N6WB 2m repeater receiver to improve sensitivity.
- Replacing the N6WB 2m repeater antenna with the 8-bay dipole antenna.

Yuma Hamfest

By Roger D. Hunt, K7MEX



Hello EARS members,

We are asking other amateur radio clubs to assist us in getting the word out about the 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention, to be held

in conjunction with the Yuma Hamfest.

This event is only a couple of weeks away, being held Friday and Saturday, February 17-18, 2012 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma, Arizona.



We hope you will assist us by getting the word out to your club membership and other hams in your community by announcements at club meetings, newsletters, radio nets or simply word of mouth.

Now in our eighth year and one of the largest hamfests in the ARRL's Southwestern Division, the Yuma Hamfest is one of the few multi-day convention-style hamfests held in Arizona.

We feature commercial exhibitors and vendors, tailgating, on-site RV camping, free parking, seminars held in parallel tracks in two separate buildings, amateur license testing, DXCC card checking, antenna clinic and transmitter hunt, our famous "Buzzer BBQ" dinner, grand prizes worth \$10,000, great hourly door prizes, a hospitality area, the "Country Store" consignment sales area, and much more.

Unlike many division-level conventions, admission will be only \$5, tailgating spots are \$20 for the weekend, and we offer a food concession manned by a professional chef.

Our now-famous "Buzzer BBQ" dinner is only \$10 and has sold out for the last two years.

We are giving away an iPad 2 as a registration prize to someone just for attending.

You should mark the third weekend of February on your calendar and plan on attending the Yuma Hamfest and 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention!

Please check our website at www.yumahamfest.org for more information.

If you prefer, you can contact us directly at info@yumahamfest.org or by phone at 928-305-1034.

We are also taking proposals for seminars at this time, and welcome volunteers to assist us in putting on the Convention. Please contact us in either case.

Roger D. Hunt
K7MEX
Director, Yuma Hamfest

OzarkCon 2012

Information provided by Teri Bloom, W6TRB



OzarkCon 2012 is now on our radar screen.

It will be held April 13 & 14 in Branson, MO at the Stonecastle Hotel and Conference Center, the same

location as last year.

This will be the ninth consecutive year for the conference and the fourth year in the Branson venue.

Online pre-registration will open February 1st, look for an announcement from Webmaster Dave Martin, K5DCM.

Please visit our website for many many more details:

<http://www.ozarkcon.com>

I hope to see you at OzarkCon 2012 in Branson, MO on April 13 and 14.

73,
Terry, WAØITP

International DX Convention

Information provided by Steve Venner, W6TAN



The 63rd Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Southern California DX Club will be held at [The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center Visalia](#) April 20, 21, 22, 2012.

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost DX convention.

If you are a DXer or interested in any aspect of ham radio you need to be at Visalia.

Top DX operators from around the world will be there. Meet the big guns from the US, Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania. Meet the people on the other side of the mic or key. Shake hands with the person you have had that 'sked' with for the past 10 years. Renew friendships. Don't forget your YL! We have planned another great [Saturday Tour](#).

Bring the kids, there is even a prize for the youngest ham at the convention.

Please see our website for more details:
<http://www.dxconvention.org>

Elmers Required

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



By now, you should have heard about the proposed EARS 'Elmer Program' from Robert Kitson K1G5BL regarding EARS Elmers.

One suggested option for this program is to have a list of EARS members who are willing to stand as Elmers for other EARS members.

This information would be stored in our database, and be available to other EARS members (once they have logged into the members' only section of the EARS website).

To allow me to implement this, I need you to let me know if you are willing to stand as an Elmer, and if so – what would be your area(s) of expertise.

It could be things like kit building, contesting, emergency services, antenna building, electronics theory, Morse code and many other things...

What we could then have is a link/button which would display a list of those EARS members who are listed as being Elmers, and what their area of expertise is.

Additionally, there could be a function which would list the specialties available, and then the EARS members could select which one(s) they require. The function would then display a list of EARS Elmers with those specialties.

So if you would like to take part in the EARS Elmer program, please e-mail me with your areas of expertise, and I'll do the rest: w6tan@earsclub.org

Best 73,
Steve, W6TAN.

Current EARS Membership

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



There were three new members joining EARS this month:

Steve Knight, K6SJK
Greg Englestad, KJ6SQM
George McClelland

Welcome aboard!

The current EARS membership as of 7th of February 2012 is:

- Life: 51
- Paid: 50
- Total: 101

The Dues are still due!!!

You still have time...

All you have to do is fork over your \$15 to our treasurer Teri Bloom (W6TRB).

Alternatively mail it in, or bring it to the next club meeting.

USS Midway Visit

By Teri Bloom, W6TRB



Joe Eisenberg, KONEB from CQ Magazine was flying in from Nebraska for a presentation to my favorite ham club – the Escondido Amateur Radio Society!

I wanted to arrange something different for him to do while he was here, other than the San Diego Zoo, Lego land, and Sea World... the usual places for tourists.

After all, Joe is a ham!

Once a month on the second Saturday the USS Midway volunteers operate the radios. So I contacted the USS Midway to see if we could volunteer to operate the radios. I sent an email to the general information for the Midway and very soon received back an email from Joe Garza who was very informative about the opportunity.

On Saturday, Jan 14, 2012 the special event was to commemorate the first nuclear ship underway in 1954 and also the US Navy Seals in 1964.

He arranged for us to meet him at the entrance and gave me his cell number, with a warning that reception was iffy at best, due to the metal of the ship.

We contacted one of the volunteers outside the ship and they contacted Joe via walkie-talkie and soon we were meeting Joe at the entrance to this magnificent museum.

We introduced ourselves and were led across the length of the ship, then to the elevator, up to the flight deck and to the tower.

We then ducked into a doorway, down the steep ladder, over the high thresholds, to the right, left and right again, past a few rooms, and then stepped into the radio room.

It's a small room, three desks pressed up against the bulkheads, radios set up as efficiently as possible, one set on 40 m, one on 20 m, and one was being used for MARS practice communication.

Volunteers were already at the stations, talking to other testers, making notes, logging contacts. Joe and Hal Hinesley introduced us to the others.

With the issue with the cell phone reception, one of the volunteers was trying to set up an antenna just for the phones. He handed me the length of cable and I followed him around, dropping line close to the bulkhead, out of the way of foot traffic. Soon we were at a location to temporarily set up the antenna, calling back for others to check the bars on their phones. We then went back; I was coiling up the cable and then dropping it along a different path. Still not enough bars for the cell phones. I went back and Joe KONEB was already on one of the Elecraft K3's, calling out on 20 m.



I walked to the next room where there was an Icom D-Star set up and with a bit of instruction and the script I was soon talking to others in Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Texas, England, and San Diego... all over.

D-Star is great!

After a few hours, Joe & I left and took a self-guided tour of the ship. We also played on the flight simulators, then back to the radio rooms. After about another hour or so, contacts were winding down, the bands were fading in and out except for D-Star, so it was time to leave.

If you at all think this sounds like fun, please contact Joe Garza at jgarza@san.rr.com or Hal at halh@aol.com and volunteer for a wonderful day aboard the USS Midway!

Teri, W6TRB

General Information

EARS Club Officers for 2012:



President
Robert Kitson, KI6SBL
(760) 715-2876
ki6sbl@earsclub.org



Vice President
John Belstner, W9EN
w9en@arrl.net



Secretary
Vince Sheetz, W6CD
w6cd@earsclub.org



Treasurer
Teri Bloom, W6TRB
w6trb@earsclub.org



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Fred McDavitt, W6PBR
(760) 737-6837
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Officers at Large:



Jeff Murdock, AE6GM
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cozy765@pacbell.net



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mike@hightower.com



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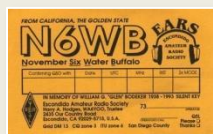


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About ALL EARS:



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.

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

Non-elective:



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Harry A. Hodges, W6YOO
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Steve Venner, W6TAN
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w6tan@earsclub.org

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.net

General Information cont'd

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:

Spires Restaurant,
1215 East Valley Parkway (near the intersection with Ash).

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.