

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

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

March's meeting details



March's presentation will be an encore presentation about "Lithium Batteries" given by Michelle Thompson, W5NYV.

This is a repeat of Michelle's presentation which she gave at PARC

back in January earlier this year.

There is a rumor of shenanigans, though it may only be a rumor.

We hope to see you all there!

EARS Event Calendar - 2012

- 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 22 Field Day Meeting, 7:00 p.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 26 Field Day Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- Apr 28 [VE Testing](#)
- May 10 Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 17 Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 19 Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
- **May 24 Field Day Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**
- May 26 [VE Testing](#)

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Welcome to March's ALL EARS

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



Hi everyone,

We have a great article this month from John Belstner, W9EN, on the topic of High Altitude Ballooning.

I understand that there will also be a future EARS presentation on the same topic. It sounds as though it will be really interesting - I wish I could be there to see it. Maybe I will - if I win the lottery!

Also this month, we have an important update on Emergency Services from Fred McDavitt, W6PBR, and some very important information on Field Day from Viv, W6NWF.

With that, I hope you enjoy this edition of ALL EARS.

Best wishes,
Steve, W6TAN.

President's Corner

By Robert Kitson, KI6SBL



Hi all,

We had another great month. I am surprised each month by the number of volunteers we have.

I want to thank those who participated in our events. We keep moving forward, reaching new heights, and serving our community more and more each week.

If you want to volunteer for anything, need help in your HAM goals, or have a suggestion or question on how things are done - I can be reached at the following contacts:

E-mail: ki6sbl@earsclub.org

Phone: (760) 715-2876

Text: (760) 715-2876

73,
Robert J. Kitson, KI6SBL
2012 EARS President

Program Director's Report

By John Belstner, W9EN



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.

April's Presentation:

April is Club Auction month and our auctioneer this year will be none other than Art McBride KC6UQH.

Trust me, when it comes to surprises - this event never ceases to disappoint.

I know I'm looking forward to cleaning out my garage.

Our auction will again be held in the gymnasium at the Salvation Army Building in Escondido.

Stay tuned for more details!

Opportunity Drawing Update

By Teri Bloom, W6TRB



Just before the presentation by Joe Eisenberg K0NEB 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.

Field-day is-a-coming

By Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF



Ladies and Gentlemen of EARS:

The time for Field Day 2012 is soon upon us.

Therefore - the first Field Day Planning Meeting will be:

- 22 March 2012, 7:00 PM, at the Salvation Army Building in Escondido.



The Field Day Planning Meetings Schedule is as follows, at 7:00 PM at the Salvation Army Building in Escondido:

- 22 March 2012, Thursday
- 26 April 2012, Thursday
- 24 May 2012, Thursday
- 12 June 2012, Tuesday (Note DATE change)

I can be reached at EARSFieldDay@gmail.com or by cell/text at (760) 715-2876.

We also have a Twitter feed: EARSFieldDay

If you have any questions, or want to volunteer to help early, please contact me.

I hope to see you at the Planning Meetings!!!

Vivian, W6NWF
EARS Field Day Chairman 2012
EARSFieldDay@gmail.com
Cell/text (760) 715-2876
Twitter: EARSFieldDay

More Elmers Required

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



Last month, I mentioned about the proposed EARS 'Elmer Program'.

At the last board meeting, it was agreed to go ahead with the implementation of the

EARS website database proposal.

To allow me to do this, I need your help!

Firstly, at this moment in time, I have had only one response in my request for EARS Elmers.

If this is going to be the only response I get, then the Elmer program will be dead-and-buried before it even starts...

We have over a hundred members, so there must be more of you who would be willing to share your knowledge, and help out your fellow EARS members.

Actually, this is one of the purposes of EARS as specified in our Bylaws – you might want to take a peek at them some time!

So I'll ask the question again:

If you would be willing 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

Secondly, as part of the process of building the database, I need to get an idea of the different areas of 'Elmering' required – so if you're in need of some Elmering – please let me know also.

Finally, if for some reason the database proposal doesn't work out, then I have some other ideas which might - it all really depends what feedback I get from you. Watch this space for more details.

Best 73,
Steve, W6TAN.

High Altitude Balloon report

By John Belstner, W9EN



On Saturday February 25, the Mount Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.mchsarc.com>) successfully launched and recovered a near-space high altitude balloon.

The flight lasted 2 hours and 41 minutes, and reached an altitude of 100,000 feet.

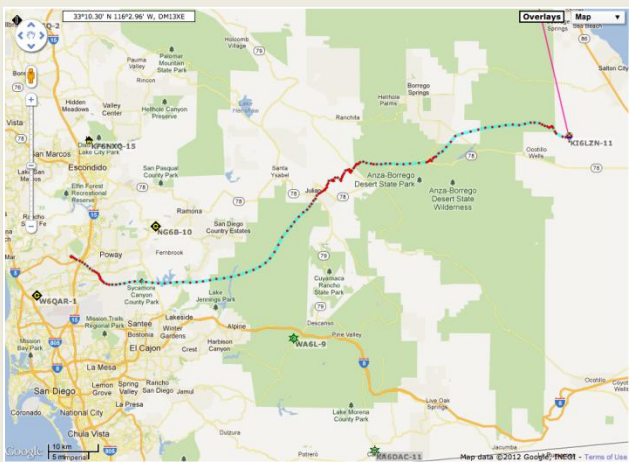


The launch was made from MCHS square and touchdown was approximately 5 miles east of the Ocotillo Wells airport.

The payload consisted of 4 video cameras, 1 still camera, and the following sensors: air pressure, internal temperature, external

temperature, magnetic compass, gyroscope, 3-axis accelerometer, and two GPS receivers.

9600bps telemetry data from all of the sensors and the still camera was received on the ground for almost the entire flight via UHF radio.



A VHF radio also constantly transmitted position, altitude, and temperature data via APRS for the entire flight.

Live photographs made by the camera while in flight were also received on the ground via UHF radio (a mere 20 milliwatts).



The payload was recovered by dirt bike riders in the Ocotillo Wells area. They happened to look up only because two Marine Corps jets were flying by at very low altitude near the descending orange colored parachute.



We were very thankful for their help in recovering the payload. They refused to take the \$100 reward money that was offered.

MCHS wishes to thank the mentors and friends that helped along the way. Their guidance helped to provide a great example of a successful engineering project.

Look for a presentation in the coming months with many more pictures and video!

Finally, A word of thanks from John Earnest - KG6EQU:

To the Boards of PARC and EARS,

I want to thank Ham radio in general, and Dave (WD6DRI), Gene (WB9COY), John (W9EN), Phil (KA9Q), and Jim McLaughlin in particular, for their help with the Mt. Carmel High School balloon project.

My students were thrilled with both the experience, and with all the work leading up to a successful event.

But none of this would have happened without our mentors. I certainly do not have the expertise or the experience to pull this off! The news article should have said more about their support.

I also want to thank Dennis (N6KI) for his years of support of the Mt. Carmel High School Amateur Radio Club.

Once again, ham radio shows that it is the best organization around!

Here's a link to the article if you missed it:
<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2012/mar/01/high-school-students-send-balloon-edge-space/?scquest>

*John Earnest - KG6EQU
Mt. Carmel High School*

OzarkCon 2012

Information provided by Teri Bloom, W6TRB



OzarkKon 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>

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>

Current EARS Membership

By Steve Venner, W6TAN



There were no new members joining EARS this month.

The current EARS membership as of 5th of March 2012 is:

- Life: 51
- Paid: 53
- Total: 104

Emergency Services Update

By Fred McDavitt, W6PBR



We have been in a particularly quiet period since the first of the year.

No local fires, earthquakes, floods, etc.

This is an excellent opportunity to review your emergency procedures and equipment. I know when I checked on my food supply I found three cases of food which were about to expire.

Time to go back to Costco!

Here are a few more items to check during this "down time:"

- Your "Go Kit" in general. Batteries, chargers, extra radios, comm plans, etc. Take everything out of the bag and check it out.
- First aid kit. Many items in your first aid kit have expiration dates. Replace them. Adhesive tape and Band-Aids lose their stickiness. Replace them.
- How about your emergency water supply? Got enough for two weeks? When will it expire?
- Do you have enough batteries for your flash lights and AM radio? When do they expire?
- When was the last time you started your emergency generator and ran it for 30 minutes with a load? How old is your gas supply?
- Is your solar generator still putting out 12+ volts? How about your deep cycle 12V battery, will it hold a charge?
- Is your ICE list up to date? (In Case of Emergency List)
- How about your briefcase or box of important family documents, do you know where it is? It took me 30 minutes to find mine.
- Anyone in your family need oxygen or insulin? Do you have a two week supply on hand?
- How about pet food, cat sand and/or pet meds?

- Your BBQ or camp stove won't do you much good without propane, got enough?
- How about a two week supply of toilet paper, paper toweling and trash bags?
- Do you have a small cash reserve stashed away in a sock drawer? Banks and ATMs will be down during an emergency.

It's difficult to update your emergency supplies 10 minutes after the "Big One" hits – **So Do It Now!**

On another topic, I am trying to encourage new HAMS and new EARS members to participate in at least one Emergency Service organization.

To help with this, I would like to hold Weekly VHF Nets for Emergency Services.

The following information provides the planned NET details:

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

San Diego

Sunday, 08:30 146.730 (-) 107.2

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Escondido

Tuesday, 19:00 146.880 (-) 107.2
(EARS Repeater)

Followed by 146.445 SIMPLEX as directed

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

North County and Back Country

Wednesday, 19:00 147.030 (+) 103.5
(ECRA Repeater)

Followed by 146.445 SIMPLEX as directed (on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)

San Diego County

Monday, 19:30 147.195 (+) 114.8

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

Fred McDavitt, W6PBR
(760) 737-6837

mcdavitt_fred@cox.net

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:

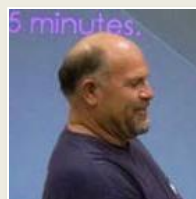
- FriendCom Link Radios changed from narrow band (12.5 kHz) to wide band (25 kHz) in hopes of better audio quality.
- Adjusted RC-210 controller audio levels at both repeater sites. Audio quality between N6WB 2m and AE6GM 1.25m repeaters is pretty good now.
- Port forwarding settings restored on the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

Pending work:

- Connecting the N6WB 70cm into the RC-210 controller.
- Replacing the SignaLink 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.

PARC Operating Day

By Dennis Baca, KD6TUJ



Palomar Amateur Radio Club will hold an Operating Day at Fry's Electronics in San Marcos on Sunday, March 18, 2012 from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM to demonstrate to the public.

We will encourage the public to use the radios and answer questions from them.

Dennis
Palomar Amateur Radio Club

OPERATING DAY

Sunday, March 18, 2012



FRY'S ELECTRONICS
150 South Bent Street
SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA 92069

9:30 AM to 5:30 PM

HOSTED BY PALOMAR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

www.palomararc.org

contact Dennis KD6TUJ (760) 672-0223

Come operate on the ham bands at Fry's
70cm, 2m, 6m, 10m, 15m, 20m



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



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

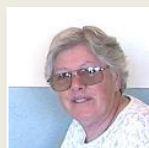
Officers at Large:



Jeff Murdock, AE6GM
(760) 730-3657
cozy765@pacbell.net



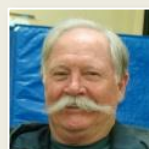
Michael Hightower, KF6SJ
(858) 613-9240
mike@hightower.com



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

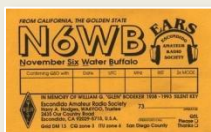


John McNelly, AF6UA
(858) 449-3326
ears@mcnelly.org



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

About ALL EARS:



ALL EARS is the official bulletin of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society.

An e-mail subscription to **ALL EARS** is FREE!

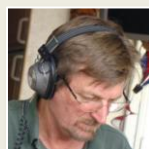
You don't need to be a member. Just drop a note to:

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:



Past President
John Musselman, N6EP
(760) 747-5303
n6ep@arrl.net



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



Webmaster and Newsletter Editor
Steve Venner, W6TAN
+44 1895 636099
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!".

SECTION NEWS

The latest happenings around San Diego are available at the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-diego>

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, so get yours today by contacting: Robert 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

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.

General Information cont'd

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

MONTHLY BREAKFAST

EARS members meet socially the third Saturday of each month at 08:30, at:

Spires Restaurant,
1215 East Valley Parkway.
CA 92027-2309

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.

Emergency Services

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.sdgares.net or contact Steve Early, Section Manager, (619) 461-2818, or via e-mail at ad6vi@arrl.org.

EMERGENCY SERVICE NETS

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) San Diego

Sunday, 08:30 146.730 (-) 107.2

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Escondido

Tuesday, 19:00 146.880 (-) 107.2

Followed by 146.445 SIMPLEX, as directed

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) North County and Back Country

Wednesday, 19:00 147.030 (+) 103.5

Followed by 146.445 SIMPLEX, as directed (on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays)

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES) San Diego County

Monday, 7:30 PM 147.195 (+) 114.8

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.