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# ALL EARS

The Official Bulletin of the

Escondido Amateur Radio Society—N6WB



January, 2015

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## January, 2015 EARS Events

### Thursday, January 8, 2015

EARS Monthly Regular Meeting

### Tuesday, January 15, 2015

EARS Board Meeting

### Saturday, January 17, 2015

EARS Monthly Breakfast

## EARS Membership Update

The EARS membership at the end of 2014 was an impressive 160, which included Life membership, paid membership & the complimentary membership given to those passing their amateur radio license tests at the SANDARC test center in Escondido.

As you know - EARS membership runs from January to December, so now is the time to renew your membership for 2015 (*Life members can ignore this*).

EARS annual membership renewal is just \$15, and is very easy to do...

You can just hand over your check or cash to our secretary Robert Kitson, KI6SBL at one of our regular meetings (*don't forget to include your completed renewal form & make sure that your call-sign is clearly legible*).

Alternatively, you can pay by Paypal - just transfer the membership funds to [paypal@earsclub.org](mailto:paypal@earsclub.org), or you can do it the old-fashioned way and mail your completed application form along with your check to:

**EARS**, PO Box 3243, Escondido, CA 92033

To make life easier for our treasurer, please consider paying for more than one year at a time, or becoming a life member.

Our current membership for 2015 onwards stands at 71, of which 58 are life members. I have not seen any renewals so far this year, so come on folks - **it's that time... the dues are due!**

Cheers, Steve.



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

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



## From the Club President

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Maybe there were some new radios under the Christmas tree for some of us.

December was a busy month for the club. On the morning of December 13<sup>th</sup>, we supported the Escondido Christmas Parade providing communications throughout the parade route. Over 30 amateur radio operator volunteers monitored each intersection and relayed any problems and other information to net control. After a winter storm hit the area during the hours before the parade, the weather cleared just before the start, giving way to sun and warmth.

To the right are Harry W6YOO and Don KK6IGC driving Harry's mobile ham shack at the rear of the parade.



Right behind Harry's truck (to the left) was John Musselman, N6EP, in his car decked out for the holidays.

Later in the day, we had our annual club Christmas party at the Belstner's residence. It was a great opportunity for hams to eat, drink, and exchange gifts. Thanks to John and Lynn Belstner for providing an excellent home for our annual party.



One memorable moment of the party was our club recognition of Harry Hodges, W6YOO. Harry is our club historian, our mentor, and cornerstone of the amateur community. He has tirelessly contributed to many amateur radio organizations and the volunteer examiner program. The club board wanted Harry to know how much we appreciated his years of service to amateur radio and so we presented him with a plaque thanking him for all his support.

Harry W6YOO receiving his plaque at the EARS Christmas party.



The first opportunity drawing for the year will be for anew Alinco DJ-500 Dual Band VHF/UHF FM Transceiver. This is a 5 watt HT for the 2 meter and 70 cm bands. Thanks to Tom Lettington N6TFL for donating this radio to the club.

For the contesters in our club, the month of January is a busy month that brings us the North American QSO Party CW contest during the weekend of January 10<sup>th</sup>,



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the North American QSO Party SSB on the weekend of January 17<sup>th</sup>, and the CQWW 160 meter CW contest on the weekend of January 24<sup>th</sup>. For VHF enthusiasts, the ARRL VHF contest is the weekend of January 24<sup>th</sup>.



As of the writing of this article, our 440 MHz repeater is off the air. The transmitter has failed and will not produce any output. We will try to get the unit repaired and back on the air as soon as possible.

Happy operating and 73's,

Mike KF6SJ



## Vice President's Thoughts

This year's Christmas Party was well attended. A good time was definitely had by all, as the empty bottles of wine and pictures of Mike (KF6SJ) drawing on John's (AF6UA) forehead can attest to. The last billiard ball dropped around 10:45 PM. It was really fun for me to catch up with folks that I haven't seen in a while. We were able to catch an FO-29 satellite pass early in the evening with a footprint that easily covered Hawaii. The only stations on the bird were in California and Arizona, however. But, it made for a good demo and hopefully inspired some new (or renewed) interest in satellite communications.

Because it has been a few years since I've been the VP, I've been brushing up on my etiquette by watching YouTube clips of Joe Biden. I think I have the role under control now. We'll see how things go at the January meeting.



This year's technical program lineup is 3/4 full. September, October and November are still open. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about or know of a presentation that would be of interest to the EARS community, just drop me a note and I will try to schedule it in.

January's speaker will be Ryan McCourt from TrelisWare Technologies in Ranch Bernardo. Ryan is a Communications Systems Engineer and will be presenting some of the interesting work being done at TrelisWare regarding Military HF Data Communications. That's right HF! The Military has been focusing on SatCom and other wideband communications channels for some time now. There is a renewed interest, however, in "Technology Denied" communications systems over the last few years and HF is prime spectrum for just that purpose.

You will be amazed at how many bits can be crammed in a few kHz of bandwidth depending on the time of day. Hope to see you there!

73 and Happy New Year!  
John W9EN



Not Shown in  
Actual Size

### 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 and will be sold at EARS functions.

See Rob Kitson.

### 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!".



## CQ Field Day

I have already begun planning for Field Day this year.

I already have the SSB, CW/Digital, and VHF/UHF Band Captains. While these men are going to be great Band Captains, we need to think about Field Day 2016 and beyond. Thus, I am asking the newer members of EARS to consider becoming a Shadow Band Captain for any station. This way we will have trained Band Captains going forward.

I am still looking for a GOTA Station Band Captain. If you would like to be the GOTA Station Band Captain this June, please contact me as soon as possible. Contact information will be at the end of this article.

At this point, I still need a Tower Manager, who is in charge of making sure the antennas and towers get to the site and get up in the air. I also need a Food Captain, who is in charge of organizing the Friday night dinner, the Saturday and Sunday breakfasts, the Saturday lunch, and the members dinner Saturday night—this is not as hard as it sounds...

We will also need operators and loggers for both the CW and SSB stations. If you would like to operate, log, or both, please let me know. If you are new to ham radio, logging is a great way get the hang of it. We will have a short logging and operating class the Saturday of Field Day weekend before all the fun begins.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Field Day Chairman for EARS once again.

**Vivian W6NWF**

FieldDay@earsclub.org

Cell/text anytime: 760-715-2876

**FIELD DAY 2015**

**June 26, 27, 28**

## 2015 EARS Field Day T-Shirts

Order your 2015 EARS Field Day t-shirt **TODAY!**

Email Your Size to: K16SBL@earsclub.org

Price will be determined by quantity ordered. They will not be more than \$25.00.

## Board Talk

Each month All EARS will be asking a question to be answered by our Board Members in hopes to start a conversation. This month we asked:

### What is the most important non-radio piece of equipment in your Ham Shack?

My most important non-radio piece of equipment in my ham shack is my chair. It needs to be comfortable so that I can sit for hours without tiring.

The second most important item would be my foot stool. I like to have my legs stretched out while sitting in my shack.

73's and thanks,

Mike KF6SJ

My most important non-radio equipment (*going with a strict interpretation of "radio"*) in my shack is my current balun. My 80m and up doublet (*ladder line fed dipole*) can work 80m through 10m fairly efficiently when used with an antenna tuner, current balun, and ladder line, but the current balun keeps my shack a friendly place. It keeps the current on my ladder line equal and opposite which keeps it from radiating. Gone are the days of keying down and having non-ham electronic equipment in the shack turn off. The door no longer opens up to reveal an upset XYL that can't hear her TV show because my voice is coming through the TV speaker system as loud as the dialogue.

That current balun sits unseen, but is a hero around my house.

Matt N6EAJ

## Board Talk *continued*

**What is the most important non-radio piece of equipment in your Ham Shack?**

My comfy chair.

John N6EP John Musselman, N6EP

**Now it's your turn. most important non-radio piece of equipment in your Ham Shack and we will share it in the February, 2015 issue.**  
KI6SBL@earsclub.org

## VE Testing

A SANDARC Volunteer Examiner team administers license examinations on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at:

**LDS Church** 2255 Felicita Road Escondido, CA 92026

For more details, see:

[http://www.earsclub.org/ears\\_ve\\_sessions.html](http://www.earsclub.org/ears_ve_sessions.html)

Contact Harry, W6YOO, at (760) 743-4212 or [w6yoo@amsat.org](mailto:w6yoo@amsat.org) to schedule an appointment.

## 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.



## EARS Elmer List

*Compiled by Steve Venner, W6TAN*

Here is the current list of those kind souls who have volunteered their Elmer services:

1. Harry Hodges, W6YOO
  - *Award programs such as WAC, WAS, DXCC, VUCC, IOTA, etc. to include card checking.*
2. Matt Tucker, N6EAJ
  - *General electronics (analog), power supplies, audio, batteries.*
  - *PSK31 and similar digital modes.*
  - *Operating and setting up the computer/radio interfaces.*
  - *Basic antennas (VHF for home or car), HF dipoles and multi-band doublets/antenna tuners.*
3. Mike Hightower, KF6SJ
  - *HF and in particular, digital modes of PSK31 and JT65.*
4. John Musselman, N6EP
  - *HF, electronics, contesting, "other"...*
5. Marvin Munster, W6MJM
  - *Emergency Power Sources, Batteries, Solar, etc.*
  - *DC Cables and Hook-Up*
  - *Coax Cables and Connector Assembly*
  - *DC Power Distribution*
6. Ron Pollack, K2RP
  - *Antique and tube equipment (boat anchors)*

## EARS Monthly Breakfast

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

**J and M's Family Restaurant**

1215 East Valley Parkway, CA 92027

(760) 745-3710

[www.jandmsrestaurant.com](http://www.jandmsrestaurant.com)

# EARS Membership Application

## EARS Membership Application and Renewal Form

\*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, Con-tests, 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 on 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.

**8-Jan**

Military HF Data Communication  
Ryan McCourt

**12-Feb**

Broadband Ham Network (BBHN)  
Gene, WB9COY

**12-Mar**

Over-the-Horizon Radar  
Bill, K1CT

**9-Apr**

Club Auction

**14-May**

Amateur Satellites and AMSAT  
Patrick, WD9EWK

**11-Jun**

Field Day Planning  
Vivian, W6NWF

**9-Jul**

RFID Techniques and Applications  
Adam Blair

**15-Aug**

EARS Picnic  
Rod McLeod Park

*From John Beltsner, W9EN*

***Tentative 2015 EARS Schedule***