



www.earsclub.org

ALL EARS

The Official Bulletin of the

Escondido Amateur Radio Society—N6WB



September, 2015

In This Issue

Page Two

From the Club President

Page Three and Four

Windows 10: The Final Straw

Page Five

VE Testing

EARS Sunday Evening Net

EARS Pins

September Meeting Details

Thursday, September 10, 2015, 7:00pm

CA DOT Emergency Response Guide

Jeff Murdock, AE6GM

Our September topic will be presented by our very own Jeff Murdock, AE6GM. Every wonder what the 4 digit number on the side of a tanker truck means?

The Emergency Response Guide is used by First Responders to identify hazardous materials and how to deal with those materials. The guide contains information on toxicity, first aid, evacuation distances, cleanup and much more. It also includes information about blast radius for different types of explosives. While this is not a lesson on how to deal with hazardous materials, it is a lesson on how to make individuals aware of potential hazardous materials and how to locate the information on how far to evacuate from such materials.

A free pdf version of the Emergency Response Guide at:

http://phmsa.dot.gov/pv_obj_cache/pv_obj_id_7410989F4294AE44A2EBF6A80ADB640BCA8E4200/filename/ERG2012.pdf

2015 Nominating Committee

Every year EARS holds elections for it's board of officer's. We start at the August Board meeting by appointing 3 EARS members to form that year's Nominating Committee. This year the board appointed:

Roger Gagos, K6EQ

Jo Ashley, KB6NML

Rob Kitson, KI6SBL

These brave members are in search of the following openings:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Emergency Services Coordinator

Officer-at-Large

Officer-at-Large

Officer-at-Large

Officer-at-Large

Officer-at-Large

Each incumbent has expressed they would be willing to step down if there was someone else interested in their post. Please let the committee know if you're ready to take on an officer position. The committee can be reached at:

AlIEARS@earsclub.org

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 Wednesday of each month.**



From the Club President

I hope everyone that came to our annual EARS picnic last month enjoyed themselves. We were lucky to have one of the few cool days of this past summer.

Field Day Wrap-up:

We submitted our club Field Day final score. Counting our bonus, the total is 5,512. We had 700 HF CW contacts, 49 HF PSK31, 576 HF phone, 36 VHF/UHF, 1 satellite, and 20 on the HF GOTA station.

Comparing the previous years, our total scores were:

2015	5,512
2014	4,896
2013	4,044
2012	7,804
2011	6,490

I want to thank our Field Day Chair, Vivian one more time for putting up with us and making the **2015 Field Day Weekend** a huge success.

Summits On The Air (SOTA):

A couple of months ago, I was hiking to the top of Mt. Woodson and came upon a couple of hams near the summit. They were using an Elecraft KX3 into a dipole and were doing a SOTA activation. If you don't know what SOTA is, it is an award program to encourage portable operation in mountainous areas. Points are awarded for both the person on the top of a mountain making contacts and the person that talks to the station on the mountain. It combines the hobbies of hiking and QRP amateur radio. For anyone interested, more information can be found at:

<http://www.sota.org.uk/>

Below is a photo of Drew KB9FKO and Franklin KK6RBO on the summit of Mt. Woodson. We will hopefully have Drew give a presentation to our club about his SOTA activities.



Upcoming Radio Activities:

Our club supports the **Escondido Grape Day Parade**. This year it is on the morning of September 12th. If anyone has a 2 meter HT and would like to help, please let me know.

On the same weekend as the parade is the ARRL Southwest Division Convention on September 11-13 at the Torrance, CA Marriott.

Contests in September include the CQ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest, one of my favorites to work. The first weekend of October will have the California QSO Party. This is a popular event for CW and phone operators. It is one of the few times that everyone wants to work California stations.

The Lakeside Amateur Radio Club is having a ham-fest on Saturday, October 3rd at the Lakeside Rodeo grounds. Gates are open from 7AM to 3PM and there is a \$5 per person entry fee. For more information, see their website at: <http://www.lakesidearc.org/sdhamfest/sdhamfest.php>

Happy operating and 73's,
Mike Hightower KF6SJ

Windows 10: *The Final Straw*

Richard Kalkofen, K6KAL

Well I guess it had to come to this. Windows 10 is being given away free, or so one would believe. But this may not be the case. After making a 'Full' backup on one of my laptops, I allowed the windows 10 update to proceed.

First off, it did not allow me to install the new version in a separate partition as many of the write-ups indicated. I believe this is because Microsoft considered this an 'Update' to my Win 8.1 install.

For the last month or so, I have seen a Win 10 icon on my tool bar, indicating that when Win 10 was ready, I would receive a 'Free' update. Removing this icon and associated installer is a pain as well, as it will continue to run in the background, pestering you to do the upgrade. There are several sites explaining how to remove the 'GWX', I will list later. (see note 1)

But for now, back to the Win 10 screw up.... er update. After the install, I found most of my preferences and settings were changed or removed. I located a web site to find those things I could change or modify, and found some gems of wisdom and warnings among the ashes.

There are many good things with Win 10, but the few real catches out weigh the good. For example, you are encouraged to have a 'Cloud Account' where they can store your configuration, should a restore be required. Oh by the way, this would also include any passwords you might have on your system.

Another downer, is they will assign your PC an advertisers ID, used to tailor marketing to you. This ID can not be removed, so get ready for lots of email and in-application ads you may not be interested in.

All this will be done with a connection to the internet, which MS requires to keep your software updated, (and monitor your usage and habits). For now automatic updates can not be turned off, and may slow your system during an update. If the updates are anything like past OS versions, you can expect 5-10 a week or more.

As of this writing, I'm sure there are hackers er... software engineers finding ways to 'Correct' (circumvent) some of these so called features, but for now I would suggest you 'WAIT' to install Win 10. (Maybe never....)

Many references on the MS sites also call this version of windows 10 as 'Win X'. This is ironic, as when windows was first designed (plagiarized) from early versions of Unix / Linux, there was a graphical windowing interface called 'X Windows'.

Well I believe this will bring the use of the Windows Operating systems for the Ham Radio enthusiast to an end when support for Win 8 runs out.

As for me, I am well on the way to converting to some version of Linux.

The following list are those versions I have been working with from time to time.

Ubuntu - the most well-known Linux distribution

openSUSE - a more bleeding edge version of Linux

Puppy Linux - Small lightweight. To run some of the windows based ham applications, I will be using various versions of WINE and other windows emulators for Linux, some new ones listed below.

Here are some excerpts from the internet on running windows applications on Linux.

Two Approaches, Five Programs

Emulation programs fall into roughly two groups: Those that require a Microsoft Windows license and those that don't. Programs that don't require a Windows license include the following:

Lindows, a \$99 distribution of Linux that will run some Windows applications directly. It's due to ship soon from San Diego-based [Lindows.com Inc.](#)

CrossOver Office 1.0.0, from [CodeWeavers Inc.](#) in St. Paul, Minn. This \$54.95 software package currently supports only Microsoft Office and Lotus Notes Windows applications.

Wine, free software that implements a Windows compatibility layer on top of Linux, is available from the [Wine Development HQ](#) Web site. But it doesn't support all Windows applications.

I focus here on two emulation software programs that require a Windows license:

NeTraverse Win4Lin 3.0, \$89.99 from [NeTraverse Inc.](#) in Austin, Texas

VMware Workstation 3.0, \$329 from [VMware Inc.](#) in Palo Alto, Calif. The company also offers a server version.

(Regrettably, VMware Express, the \$49.95 desktop version that I reviewed last time and runs one Windows 9x virtual machine at a time on Linux, has been discontinued.)

VMware vs. Win4Lin

Although the no-license options are getting better all the time, and new versions are about to be released, the products with the best compatibility with Windows applications still require a license for Microsoft Windows. Win4Lin and VMware Workstation aren't clones of each other, but they share certain qualities.

Both lack support for the DirectDraw and Direct3D Windows drivers that improve performance in graphical programs. That makes it impossible to play Windows games that are graphics-intensive. There are practical and technical reasons for this, not the least of which would be speed and incompatibility between these technologies and the graphical user interface Linux uses, called X Window System. If you want to play Windows games on your Linux machine, you'll either need to figure it out with Wine, which may work in some cases, or you'll have to dual-boot your machine.

That leads to the key difference between Win4Lin and VMware: the level of emulation. VMware is designed to create a complete virtual machine, and it performs very good hardware emulation. All devices are accessed through the underlying host operating system, and the file system may be a virtual drive that is contained in a file. It may directly access one or more standard File Allocation Table (FAT) 16 or FAT 32 partitions. However, all access to the Linux file systems is done through the [Samba](#) open-source file and print server software, which supports Windows clients. A "lite" version of Samba is included.

This is the clearest example of the VMware methodology. All access to the hardware is abstracted to the point where the guest Windows operating system layered on top of Linux can't distinguish between the real computer and the virtual machine. This is advantageous from a compatibility standpoint, but performance may suffer on slower computers.

Win4Lin takes an entirely different approach to emulation. It's more tightly integrated with the host operating system. For comparison, Win4Lin uses the Linux file system instead of creating a real or virtual FAT file system. It also makes certain parts of the install shared among all users of the machine. For this reason, there can be only one version of Windows installed on a Win4Lin machine. By contrast, VMware can have multiple Windows installations -- all different versions -- installed and running at the same time. However, Win4Lin files are directly accessible from Linux, even when the emulation isn't running. And it enjoys a performance boost from using the host operating system file services.

And the Winner Is ...

As with most things, the best choice depends on what you're trying to accomplish. If you need pretty good emulation on a slower computer, or if you just want better performance, Win4Lin is probably the way to go. If you need the best emulation you can get and multiple version support, and if you can justify the substantially higher price, VMware may better meet your needs.

Overall, I liked both Win4Lin and VMware. They both include understandable installation instructions, although Win4Lin would be better for a newer user: It has a graphical installation program and offers better support for the most recent Linux kernels.

On the other hand, VMware comes with a few Linux distributions that include the VMware product as part of the install. You have the choice of installing VMware on the distribution of your choice or using their prepackaged distribution.

Ultimately, my wallet makes the decision for me. Win4Lin is \$79.99 if you download it. VMware can be downloaded for \$299, or \$329 for the packaged distribution. Since the products compare so closely for my purposes, Win4Lin gets my business. *Bushong is a systems integrator and analyst in northeastern Ohio who uses Linux for everything from network infrastructure to servers to workstations. You can reach him at chuckb@systuff.com.*

Note of interest. Google search on '10 things to disable in win 10' and read some of the captions shown. Very disturbing.

Here is the link that started it all for me.

<http://windows.wonderhowto.com/inspiration/everything-you-need-disable-windows-10-0163552/>

NOTE 1: Here are several links for removing the Win 10 update icon.

<https://techjourney.net/disable-remove-get-windows-10-upgrade-reservation-notification-system-tray-icon/>

<http://www.thewindowsclub.com/remove-windows-10-app-icon-from-windows-8-1-7-taskbar>

<http://www.howtogeek.com/218856/how-do-you-disable-the-get-windows-10-icon-shown-in-the-notification-tray/>

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

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

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!"



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.

EARS Membership Application

EARS Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Life

*Last Name

*First Name

*Street Address

*City *State *Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

*Email

License Expires

EARS Family Members

License Class

First Licensed

Current Call Sign / Former Call Signs

Date of Birth

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

Amateur Related Interests (circle any interest)

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.



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