



ESCONDIDO AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 3243 – Escondido, CA 92033
<http://www.earsclub.org>
146.88 PL107.2 (EchoLink Node 2846), 449.24 PL127.3, 224.14 PL 156.7
ESCN Net Rom Node 145.07
An **ARRL** Affiliated Club



EARS Board Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2011

I. Roll call

John Musselman, N6EP, President
John Belstner, W9EN, Vice President
Teri Bloom, W6TRB, Secretary
Fred McDavitt, W6PBR, Emergency Services Coordinator
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, Officer at Large
Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF, Officer at Large
Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, Officer at Large
Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, Past President

The EARS Board meeting was called to order by John, N6EP at 7:25 pm.

The minutes from last month's meeting were read, corrections noted.

II. OFFICER & COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

a) Program Director's Report

February Presentation:

I found Rick's High Altitude Balloon presentation to be both informative and entertaining. There was good audience interaction and lots of post meeting discussions. I mailed Rick a "Thank You" card and an EARS pin to express our gratitude.

March Presentation:

The March presentation will be given by Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK. Patrick is an icon of sorts within AMSAT; I've spoken with him several times via satellite and rarely was he in the same location twice. I expect his presentation on satellite operations will be equally as informative and entertaining as Rick's.

Patrick will be driving here from Phoenix for the weekend and hopes to make it in time for the pre-meeting dinner.

April Presentation:

I've already spoken to Art McBride, KC6UQH and he has agreed to again be our Auctioneer for the EARS Auction. We need to speak with Major David regarding tables and other accommodations. What did we do last year?

EARS Pins for Presenters:

I received ten pins from Vivian and have already distributed four of them (Joe Eisenberg, Bill Pasternak, Dave Bell and Rick Miller). Beginning in March, I will present the "Thank You" card and Pin at the end of the presentation and save myself some postage. Does the club want to include a regular budget item for the presentation of EARS pins to guest speakers?

EchoLink Hardware:

We have all new hardware for EchoLink. The plan is to install this new hardware in the SATERN shack at

the Salvation Army building. I need to speak with Major David yet regarding the Internet connection. The plan is for EchoLink to use the same UHF link to the repeater cluster on Hubbard Hill, allowing access from all three repeaters. Here is an inventory of the new hardware.

1. Dell small form factor PC with LCD monitor
2. Signalink USB Sound Card radio interface
3. Argent Data Systems UHF radio
4. Arrow UHF yagi

Respectfully submitted,
John Belstner, W9EN

John W9EN asked if a public address system was available for the upcoming auction. Robert KI6SBL said that Major David has it but we need to let him know when we need it so we have access and use.

Jeff AE6GM make a motion to give the EARS pin to the guest speakers and was seconded by Robert KI6SBL. The cost of the pins to be presented to the guest presenters was discussed. It had been originally thought that the pins were to be sold only. The board passed the motion unanimously.

Jo NB6NMK noted someone needs to let Michele W5NYV of SCOPE to know of our upcoming auction ASAP to make publication in SCOPE.

b) Treasurer's Report

Konrad N6UKO, was not present but gave his information to Jeff AE6GM: Checking account balance is \$2,258.97 and as the savings and CD are reported quarterly, no change in those balances.

c) Technical Committee Report

Jeff AE6GM and Konrad N6UKO moved the antenna back to the top of the tower. Receiving and transmitting should be much better.

Interference problems with a newly coordinate repeater in the Riverside County area was summed up in a letter Jeff AE6GM sent to the coordinating committee. Alternative sites for the repeater were suggested to stop the interfering frequency. The new repeater is causing interference to our coverage area in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, Del Mar, and Catalina.

The 2 m repeater – Jeff AE6GM, Konrad N6UKO, Marvin W6MJM and John W9EN went up on Sunday and worked for 6 hours install the new controller. There are still problems with the audio path in the new controller. Both Konrad N6UKO and Jeff AE6GM went back up on Tuesday & tried a few different ideas. They were unable to resolve the problems with the new controller and reinstall the old controller. They left before a full solution was tested and are planning to go back to finalize a solution to this problem.

d) Emergency Services Report

- Emergency Services Database: In progress
 - ARES: Nothing New
 - RACES: February meeting canceled
 - Escondido CERT:
 - FEMA Courses IS-100, 200 & 700 now required.
 - North County CERT HAM Net highly successful. Contact made will all participating CERTs. Net held 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Meet on Palomar Repeater 147.030, then shift to local simplex freqs.
 - Julian CERT is organizing a 24 hour earthquake drill on June 11&12, 2011. Looking to recruit 100 HAM licensed CERT members to participate. More details to follow.
 - EARS member Kurt Barnhart N6MD is heavily involved with the activities of SD North County CERT HAM net.
- Fred - W6PBR

Jeff AE6GM noted that if you are a CERT member and plan to go to the 24 hour earthquake drill you need your Program Managers approval to attend as this is not a sanctioned event and could have liability insurance issues.

Fred was also concerned with coverage of CERT people in Escondido, with clusters of coverage with no coverage elsewhere. Need to look into a mapping of CERT active people.

e) SANDARC Report

Meeting was missed but will be attended by Robert KI6SBL at next meeting.

f) Membership Report

Membership as of 02/10/10 was 97, including life members, with 62 being ARRL members
There are a few new members added between 02/10/11 and 02/17/11.

g) Newsletter Editor's Report

Many thanks to Robert for doing February's edition. Great job Sir!

Newsletter articles for March's edition required by 3rd March:

- John, N6EP
 - President's report
- John, W9EN
 - Summary of February's meeting
 - Details of March & April's meeting
 - Echolink status
- Teri, W6TRB
 - Minutes of February's board meeting
- Konrad, N6UKO
 - Treasurer's report
- Jeff, AE6GM
 - Repeater work (220 machine + Hubbard Hill) + photos
- Steve, W6TAN
 - TAN's travels + photos
 - Hamster Hike + photos
 - Puzzle page
 - Membership report (including new members)
 - E-mails from earsmail@earsclub.org
 - Members' "For sale / Wanted" section

h) Webmaster Report

Monthly updates (Note - due to move back to UK, not much of the work I had planned has been completed):

- * Meeting with Fred McDavitt to determine Emergency Services database
- * Updated details of latest opportunity drawing (still needs confirmation of prizes on offer)

New features:

- * None

Bugs fixed:

- * None reported

Planned items for next month:

- * Complete monthly updates
- * Add Emergency Services section to the EARS database
- * Continue with EARS event photos (maybe...)

Other:

- * None

III. OLD BUSINESS

Robert KI6SLB made a motion to give Major David a family membership to EARS, seconded by Jeff AE6GM. Motion passed unanimously

Teri W6TRB reported costs for EARS club t-shirts, hats, polo shirts and jackets. She needs to research other companies as getting the shirts personalized with the members Call signs is an issue with the companies she worked with. Jo KB6NMK will help by going to the printer we currently use, The Print Shop. They also embroider and they already have our EARS logo.

John N6EP reported the Hamster Hike went very well, contacts at the top of Mt Israel were made. As this one went so well and fun was had by all, another hike will be scheduled. A different location was suggested, Raptor Ridge across from The Safari Park was one of the suggestions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Net Control – the need for a Net Director or Net Manager was discussed. The need for scheduling & assisting a new person to learn how to be a Net Controller, to take Net Control when needed, more.

Robert KI6SBL volunteered for the new Net Director position and was appointed by our President John N6EP and will email an announcement to everyone.

Opportunity Drawing: our 2 night 2 site stay at Lake Dixon will soon expire. We need to go ahead and offer the site for a set price or auction it at our next meeting. John N6EP will email the offer to everyone and see if he gets any responders. He will also call the park ranger at the site to discuss.

Robert KI6SBL would like bio's from John N6EP, John W9EN, Konrad N6UKO, Fred W6PBR and from Teri W6TRB for future press releases. The bio's are to be Personal, business and ham info

V. Adjournment

John Musselman, N6EP adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

It was noted the minutes from last month had not been approved. John N6EP called the meeting back to order. The motion to approve the amended minutes by Jeff AE6GM, seconded by John N6EP and approved as amended by unanimous vote.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:40 pm

Minutes submitted by: Teri Bloom, W6TRB

Minutes approved by: