



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 Ram Node 145.07
An **ARRL** Affiliated Club



EARS Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2012

I. Call to Order

Robert Kitson, KI6SBL
Jeff Murdock, AE6GM, Officer at Large
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, Officer at Large
Fred McDavitt, W6PBR, Emergency Services Coordinator
John McNelly, AF6UA, Officer at Large
Mike Hightower, KF6SJ, Officer at Large
Marvin Munster, W6MJM, Officer at Large (+Property Manager)
Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Robert KI6SBL.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve June minutes by Jeff AE6GM and seconded by Fred W6PBR was passed with John AF6UA and Jo KB6NMK abstaining.

III. Officer & Committee Chairman Reports

a. President's Report - Robert KI6SBL

The following is presented to the Escondido Amateur Society Board from Leon Helms, N6VS (via email to Robert J. Kitson).

“The company I used to work for Hitachi Data Systems has a community action committee (CAC or HCAC) which makes donations to non-profits, but it must be for a specific project, that is not a capital improvement (like remodel the room where the radios are located). Anything involving Youth Development and/or Education will attract attention, so maybe the purchase of a number of HT's to be loaned to new hams or to be used for community support activities might work (not necessarily a good idea, just the first thing I could think of).

They want to receive a formal Request for Grant giving the details of the amount requested and how it will be spent. There has been enough turn over in the committee volunteers that I do not know most of them and would not be of any influence with the current committee. The local office is located in the Carmel Mountain area. They usually receive the corporate money around the first and middle of the year, soon give it away and have to wait until the next time.

Some of the projects I remember funding were a TV and cabinet with tape storage for use at a homeless shelter, many scholarships to YMCA summer camps, purchase of supplies for groups providing medical/dental care to the needy, sponsorship of a puppet in a drug education program. I am sure there were lots of others, but I never remember seeing a request from an organization like EARS, so I can't guess what the reaction will be - it will be dependent on the project I suppose. Don't be shy - the grants usually seemed to be 1 to 5 thousand dollars range - it does not have to be that large (but I suggest it be at least 3 or 4 hundred dollars) and greater than a couple of thousand will probably reduce the chances of it being accepted - they usually want to spread it around, rather than put all the available funds into a few large projects."

b. Program Director's Report – John W9EN

Our July 12th presentation was given by, Joe - N6SZO and Joe - KE6PHB on the topic of serious T-Hunting.

August 12 will be the EARS Annual Picnic at Rod McLeod Park. I suggest some type of Ham Radio promotional or educational event at the picnic so we can allocate club funds for the food. That way Fred won't get caught holding all the wieners again.

Our September 13 presentation will be given by one or more members of the PAPA System to discuss the latest goings on with D-Star. It's not all about Icom anymore which makes it exciting for experimenters.

c. Treasurer's Report – Teri W6TRB

No report was submitted.

d. Technical Committee Report

An additional 420 MHz link radio was installed on Mt. Whitney making the link between there and Hubbard Hill a full duplex link. This eliminated the current double courtesy beep issue on 220 MHz. Cecil - WD6FZA donated a mobile duplexer for this effort.

The regenerated DTMF tones are too low in deviation to be decoded by the EchoLink receiver. We will need to program the Hubbard Hill controller to pass raw DTMF tones directly to the EchoLink receiver.

Tasks that remain are...

Replace 146.88 repeater antenna and feed line.

Retune 146.28/88 duplexers and install preamp.

Connect the 440 repeater to the new controller.

Jeff AE6GM reported that the 220 MHz repeater power requirements were measured and that by adding appropriate batteries, the repeater could operate with nominal usage for up to 24 hours in the event of a power outage. There is currently no backup power for this repeater and the club would like to add such capability.

e. Emergency Services Coordinator Report – Fred W6PBR

At last Thursday's meeting, I had four new HAMs come up and ask me questions about CERT and ARES. When I finished providing them with email addresses, general training outlines and personal time commitments required to participate in an emergency services organization, the subject shifted to back yard HF antennas, digital communications and which of the new HF/6m transceivers is best, and why. I told them to check out the Elmer's list in All EARS. The truth is, I still have many of the same questions myself. With this all fresh in our minds, I toss out the following suggestion for consideration. The 30 to 45 minute period before each meeting, most of us stand around and tell lies to each other about the latest DX we made or contest we participated in, talk about family or which politician we would like to see boiled in oil. Why not have the Elmers reside in the four corners of the meeting hall from 7:00 PM to 7:20 PM and have them be available to answer questions? For instance, (NW corner) antennas, (SW corner) digital comms, (SE corner:) learn CW and (NE corner:) Emergency Comms. Let's face it, it is intimidating for a new Technician to try and break into a conversation with a group of Extras discussing the latest techniques in contesting when the new Tech has no idea what contesting even is. We could do the "Elmer's Corner" thing two or four times a year. What say ye?

After a discussion, Fred W6PBR suggested that we request that anyone with any Elmer questions send those questions via email to the club. The club will then route the question to the appropriate Elmer for a response.

f. Membership Report – Steve W6TAN/G0TAN

Current membership as of July 18th is:

- Paid: 73 (49 ARRL members).
- Life: 51 (35 ARRL members).
- Total: 124 (84 ARRL members).

This gives us 68% ARRL membership, so affiliation is good.

Still awaiting valid e-mail address for Robert Zelenack, K3QEP from Teri, so that he doesn't miss any ALL EARS, and so that I can send him his 'Welcome to EARS' e-mail.

g. Newsletter Editor's Report – Steve W6TAN/G0TAN

Thanks to Fred W6PBR and Vivian W6NWF, who supplied articles for July's ALL EARS, and to all those people who supplied EARS field-day photos. It was very much appreciated.

The cut-off date for articles for August's ALL EARS is Thursday, 2nd August.

h. SANDARC Report

Robert did attend the last meeting, but had nothing to report.

i. Webmaster's Report – Steve W6TAN/G0TAN

Monthly updates:

- July's ALL EARS added.
- Added approved board meeting minutes.
- Added 'approved' budget.
- Added July's program details (after Field-day).
- Added August's program details.

Next month:

- Add updated EARS membership brochure (still required from Marvin).

Ongoing:

- Fix bug in editing 'Wanted' ads.
- Elmer List.
- Emergency Services List.
- Auto license expiry notification.
- EARS event photos.

IV. Old Business

The annual EARS picnic is August 12th. Jeff AE6GM reports that there are no issues and the picnic planning is proceeding.

Field Day was a success! We had a total of 6,374 points. The total from last year was not available. The Field Day dinner cost \$143.44.

V. New Business

Robert will discuss with John N6EP the purchase of an additional tower and ask John for pricing. The club could use another tower.

John AF6UA made a motion to skip the August EARS board meeting. Fred W6PBR seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. Adjournment

Jo KB6NMK made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred W6PBR seconded the motion. At 7:44 PM the meeting was adjourned.

VII. Next Meeting

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 20, 2012. There is no August board meeting.