



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

February 19, 2015

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM by Mike KF6SJ.

Mike Hightower, KF6SJ, President
Matt Tucker, N6EAJ, Secretary
Robert Kitson, KI6SBL, Treasurer
John McNelly, AF6UA, Emergency Services Coordinator
Jo Ashley, KB6NMK, Officer at Large
Bud Hennessy, AE6BH, Officer at Large
Roger Gagos, K6EQ, Officer at Large
Also present:
Vivian Wentworth-Kitson, W6NWF, Field day chair

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with a vote of six to approve and Jo KB6NMK abstaining.

III. Officer & Committee Chairman Reports

a. President's Report - Mike KF6SJ

Submitted via agenda.

The 440MHz DR-1X repeater is back up as of 2/13/2015 17:30, but not at 18:00.

I reviewed Quickbook pricing if the club was to purchase a copy.

PayPal fees.

Waiting for Yaesu System Fusion shirts.

Discussion:

Repeater: Although put up about six days ago, the repeater appeared to be down (low output power) as of tonight.

Quickbook: should we buy a copy? They are migrating to online. Mike would like to discuss with Dirk. Lower packages are \$9/\$10 a month. We discussed using an old version. Bud may have an older version available. Robert says Quicken is working out fine for him.

Paypal: The social security number for Paypal is linked to Teri for now. We could link it to Robert, but then next treasurer would need to switch over each time. Mike suggested we appoint a Paypal trustee that would do it long term. Mike will ask Dirk about doing this. There was not a vote on this, but the board seemed open to this. Paypal does not charge a percent or fee when members renew their membership.

Shirts: Yaesu contacted Mike about shirt sizes. When they come we may raffle them off at the meeting.

b. Program Director's Report – John W9EN

Submitted via e-mail.

An official thank you to Gene Swiech for his excellent presentation on Broadband Ham Network (BBHN). I was unfortunately on travel and missed Gene's presentation, but I was told it was excellent!

The March 2015 presentation will be given by Bill, K1CT on the topic of HF over the horizon radar (OTHR). Bill will describe the history of OTHR, who uses OTHR and why, and how the Ham can identify OTHR activity that might intrude on Ham bands. OTHR is of particular interest as it is very cost effective and several countries are building systems which ultimately might increase the interference we experience on the ham bands.

Some discussion is needed regarding the venue for our April Club Auction. To date, we have not located an adequate one.

The months of October and November 2015 are still open. I've received a few suggestions and pursuing those, but so far nothing concrete.

c. Treasurer's Report – Robert KI6SBL

Please see the last page for information about the checking account submitted by Rob.

The opportunity drawing for the Alinco radio at the January meeting brought in about \$100. One member gave \$75 to Robert. He is holding it as the person may give another \$75 so they can become a life member.

d. Secretary's report - Matt N6EAJ

Submitted by e-mail

I confirmed with Harry that he wanted to relinquish the job of repeater trustee and sent the trustee form to the ARRL along with a copy of the November EARS minutes to show that the board voted to approve me as the repeater trustee. I received the N6WB license listing me as the trustee and made copies of it so they can be placed on our repeaters next time we head up there. Harry also said the QRZ page for EARS (N6WB) could use an update and expressed an interest in passing on the job of club historian. Is anyone interested in volunteering to be club historian? I looked at QRZ.com and now understand how to transfer QRZ page management from one person to another. I will be working with Harry to transfer the QRZ EARS page management to me so I can update it and add a few pictures.

The corrected version of the EARS January board meeting minutes were sent out February 4th.

e. Technical Committee Report

No discussion

f. Emergency Services Coordinator Report – John AF6UA

John sent out an e-mail to all EARS members on February 13th about the upcoming CERT training sessions.

John may send out an e-mail about the Old Goat Run and opportunities for Ham volunteers.

g. Membership Report – Steve W6TAN/G0TAN

Submitted by e-mail.

Membership

After Rob's recent updates, the current membership (as of February 18th) stands at:

Life: 58

Paid (2015+): 41

Total: 99

We have 66 ARRL members, this is 70% of our total current membership - so affiliation is good. As we are still around 50 members short of last year's end-total, I will be pressing the big red button at the beginning of March to encourage the final few to rejoin.

h. Newsletter Editor's Report – Rob KI6SBL

Robert thanked the board members for their response to the board talk prompt.

i. SANDARC Report – Mike KF6SJ

Submitted via agenda.

Zac KJ6MLT and I attended the last SANDARC meeting on January 29th. The primary topic was regarding the new Policies and Procedures document for SANDARC. There is a special meeting scheduled for February 26th which I will be attending. This is a meeting to review the Policies and Procedure draft.

j. Webmaster's Report – Steve W6TAN/G0TAN

Submitted by e-mail.

The EARS website is up-to-date as far as it can be (March's program details, February's All EARS etc.) Just a couple of things to make it complete:

I need updated Opportunity Drawing details from February's general meeting (Mike/Rob).

September's program details for the schedule (John B). I'm three missing at the moment Sept, Oct & Nov. John's e-mail stated that he was still waiting for ideas for Oct & Nov, so I was wondering if September's meeting had been planned.

Other:

At the suggestion of Matt, I've disabled the Join EARS / PayPal functionality / place-holder until the EARS PayPal account has been changed to include Mike's & Rob's details, and Teri's details have been removed. Once the PayPal account has been sorted, then I will resume development of the functionality to join/renew EARS on our website.

I've made changes so that when attempting to login to the website and your membership has expired - it will give you a warning to say as much, and encourage you to re-join EARS! This now matches that of the 'View Members' functionality.

To enhance the security of our website, over the next couple of months I will be making several changes. During this time, the website may be down for very short periods of time. Specifically the changes include:

Directory structure changes

Default index.html

.htaccess for restrictive directory access

Potentially https for member login (see next bullet point)

Alternative to md5# algorithm for password encryption

File access via login only

Log file enhancements

It is recommended that all websites use https (rather than http) - should any of their pages use forms to log in. As ours does, do you think we should enable https security. As we do not have any membership information in our database, or any functionality which is particularly sensitive, it's probably not worth it. If we do want to enable https, then I need to arrange for a digitally signed certificate. Currently, Godaddy are offering them for £3.99 for the first year (it goes up to around £50 a year after that). What do you think?

Talking of monies, our Godaddy hosting will need renewing in August this year. Renewal costs will be around \$70/year. I normally do it for 3 or 4 years at a time. I will know exact costs nearer the time (including any discounts ;-). This needs to be allowed for in the EARS budget for 2015

I'm planning on changing (improving) the look of our website throughout the year, and to start using HTML5, so if there are any changes or functionality you would like to see added or improved - now's the time to let me know. More details coming soon.

Discussion:

The board doesn't believe https security is needed and we don't want to spend the money on it. Should we move the web page to a less expensive host? We discussed if it is worth the hassle. No decision was made.

Discussing Steve's question about improvements for the web page, Mike said a working Paypal button would be nice.

Mike and Jo had a discussion about the possibility of changing EARS memberships so they could start at any point in the year and last a year from the starting date. Vivian brought up that we might need a bylaw change as the membership starting in January may be part of the bylaws and need a vote to change the bylaws. Vivian also pointed out that our tax exempt status was based on our bylaws. Someone pulled up the EARS bylaws at the meeting and there is information about the dues that spell out the month the dues become due. No further action was taken.

IV. Old Business

Auction: Roger contacted Emmanuel Faith Church about renting their facility. They have several places that can accommodate 50-100 people. Roger later e-mailed (Feb 20th) a response from the church that said they don't have auctions or fundraisers on their campus.

Rob's church is \$25, but don't provide chairs or tables.

Mike suggested having the auction on a Saturday morning instead of the traditional Thursday night. John made a motion to have the auction on Saturday the 4th or the 11th. Jo seconded it. It passed with six approving and Rob abstaining.

Roger said he would ask Bob Brehm AK6R about being the auctioneer.

V. New Business

Bud e-mailed officers earlier in the month about a tower trailer for sale on Craigslist. The board decided not to pursue the trailer.

VI. Adjournment

Mike KF6SJ adjourned the meeting at 7:29PM.

VII. Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be 6PM, March 19th, 2015 at 900 Canterbury Pl, Escondido CA.

EARSChecking
02/19/15

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Reconciliation Summary

BANK STATEMENT -- CLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Previous Balance:			1,676.38
Checks and Payments	0	Items	0.00
Deposits and Other Credits	6	Items	399.76
Service Charge	0	Items	0.00
Interest Earned	0	Items	0.00
Ending Balance of Bank Statement:			2,076.14

YOUR RECORDS -- UNCLEARED TRANSACTIONS:

Cleared Balance:			2,076.14
Checks and Payments	2	Items	-330.65
Deposits and Other Credits	0	Items	0.00
Register Balance as of 02/18/15:			1,745.49
Checks and Payments	0	Items	0.00
Deposits and Other Credits	0	Items	0.00
Register Ending Balance:			1,745.49

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Uncleared Transaction Detail up to 02/18/15

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Category	Clr	Amount
Uncleared Checks and Payments						
02/18/15	1312	ROBERT J KITSON - MA...				-29.00
02/18/15	1313	MICHAEL HIGHTOWER - ...				-301.65
Total Uncleared Checks and Payments				2	Items	-330.65
Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits						
Total Uncleared Deposits and Other Credits				0	Items	0.00
Total Uncleared Transactions				2	Items	-330.65