

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVI

August 2005

Number 8



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave.

Next meeting:

August 11th, 2005 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022
The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

kc6qls@cox.net or by post

1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.qsl.net/wa6bgs>

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
KC6JCW	Stogie	From the President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting minutes
	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6LKK	Erich	WAMO Report
W5COM	Tom	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	The A.R.E.S Connection

Cal's Antennas



Thanks Cal for sharing the antennas. Send us photos when you get them up and on the air.

2005 Officers

President	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439
Vice-President	KG6QCO	David Cyr	328-0246
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KF6WXA	Susan Kochel	445-6067
Past President	WA6MHZ	Pat Bunsold	593-1111

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WAMO	W6LKK	Erich Bennett	401-7332

Would you like to be in the next HAM Spot Light?

The Counterpoise is looking for Staff Writers for Tech Talk, Band Condition Reports, new equipment reports, and other articles of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

Please contact KC6QLS Paul at:

kc6qls@cox.net



From The President
"Stogie"
KG6JCW



Hello fellow members. In the last month we have had a successful field day. Even though there were two different groups at the camp, we were able to operate with no interference from the Shriners and we did not interfere with them. In fact we probably had the most CW contacts (41 on 40 meters) in recent years while the band was playing. This would not have happened if we had not made special arrangements with several operators to run CW while the band was playing inside the lodge. For all the antenna problems, one put together wrong initially, and one nonfunctional, we were successful. Our operation was able to make contacts on five bands (6, 15, 20, 40, and 80) and two modes for 812 points along with 750 bonus points for a total 1562 points. We had about 70 people participate over the course of the event including the setup day (Friday). I would like to thank Chet Smith for making this event possible and the San Diego Six Shooters for running the 6 Meter station. Well done to one and all.

Stogie KG6JCW
ECARC President

AI60	FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC Financial and Estate Planning
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Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
14 July 2005



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club president Michael "Stogie" Panger, KG6JCW at 1900hrs.

SECRETARY'S: Report as published in the *Counterpoise* was approved as published.

TREASURER: Susan, KF6WXA gave her report. It was approved and filed for audit.

PRESIDENT: Panger, KG6JCW reported on the recent field day operation. He thanked all of the participants as well as members of the Six Shooter club. Pat, WA6MHZ displayed two 1946 vintage 2-meter handhelds. Chet Smith, K6VM also addressed the group and expressed his appreciation for the club's attendance at field day. Chet also announced that Bill Snell, KB6EB is the liaison between the lodge and the club. For help or information, we would need to contact him. The ARCEC has been invited to have exclusive use of the campsite for the 2006 field day. The board of directors recommended that the club purchase an A4S Cushcraft antenna for about \$500. The club president will be authorized to obtain prices and report back to the club and then request authorization to purchase.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Chairman Rich, N6NKJ announced the names of candidates that need to have their pictures taken for their ARES badges. There were nine routes for the Red Flag Patrol during 4 July 2005. Next monthly breakfast for ARES will be 13 August. Also there are still courses available through the ARRL for emergency operations.

WAMO net control operator: Mike, KG6TDP stated that the nets have garnered at least 15 contacts for the Weds and Saturday nets.

Cal, KG6FBV, offered the program. His topic was about two specialty antennae that he built from the ARRL Handbook.

After the break, the business portion of the meeting continued.

WELCOMING: Chairman Mike, AE6CQ reported that 35 members were present at this evening's meeting.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairperson Ann, KC6TBG announced that there are 293 members of the club.

SANDARC: report was given by Len W5WFW. He reported that the attendance at the fair by all clubs was poor. Ann Rios, KC6TBG has been appointed the convention forum speakers chairman. The next convention meeting would be held on 20 July at the Sizzler restaurant at Aero Drive and Murphy Canyon starting as 1900. Dinner would be served after 1800hrs. Mike, N6OPH will be attending the NCVEC conference in Gettysburg, PA on 22 July. Mike, N6OPH and Mike, N6IEF both received letters of appreciation from the FCC for their work on the ITU UWB conference radio station. The conference was held in May at the Sheraton Harbor Island hotel.

NEW BUSINESS: It was moved and seconded that a committee be formed to investigate the possibility of purchasing a new or used antenna for the next field day. The committee members are Mike, N6IEF, Pat, WA6MHZ, Susan, KF6WXA and Rich, N6NKJ. The chairman for this committee is to be Susan, KF6WXA.

There being no further business before the general membership assembled, the meeting was adjourned at 2035hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael P Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

710 Joke Image



**From The VP
Corner
KG6QCO David**



Hi fellow Members:

We have our annual general elections for our upcoming year of club officers. I would like some discussion at the upcoming meeting in August to reflect on this item, so our elections will go smoothly in the process, and not be a fiasco as our last election was. So let's put our heads together and set our nominations.

I would like to put condolences for the people of London England and our thoughts with them. Also, take care with the rising temperatures down here in Southern California. Be on the lookout for suspicious activity so we do not have another firestorm this year with all the fuel out there.

73 to all

David KG6QCO
ECARC Vice President

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 10:00 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 9:00 am Salvation Army 643 Third Ave Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 10:00 am Escondido Chamber of Commerce 720 north Broadway Escondido

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

WA6BGS Nets

David Cyr:	KG6QCO	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

10 Meters: 28.480

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

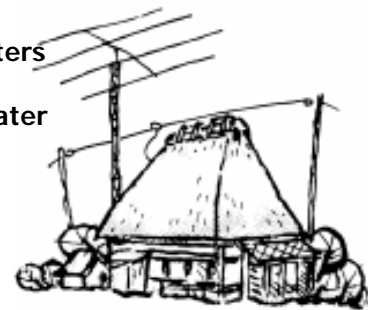
WA6BGS Repeaters

2 Meters SANDRA Repeater

Output 146.265 "Otay"

Input + Split

PL 107.2



224.080 – 107.20 PL

445.900 – 141.30 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.

Club Attire

***** Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes *****

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.

Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.

Calendar of Events August 2005

August 2:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
August 6:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
August 6:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
August 11:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
August 13:	ARES Meeting, 8:00 am
August 18:	SANDARC Meeting 7:00 pm
August 20:	Simulated Emergency Test
August 20:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
August 20:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.qsl.net/wa6bgs

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file maybe up to 1.5 mb at times.

W6NXS Hank Wayne
Owner

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San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No. Date Paid:
Check ()	

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays August

August 1	KG6IDE	George	Gross
August 3	KC6YSO	David	Doan
August 4	WA6MHZ	Pat	Bunsold
August 4	KK6NF	Mike	Bailey
August 10	N6SZO	Joe	Corones
August 11	KK6NH	Leslie	Day
August 12	N6HHU	Phillip	Fish
August 12	KD6HVZ	Jim	Green
August 12	KG6KVF	Elaine	Gerbrand
August 14	K6ICT	Ken	Harvey
August 14	KG6JCW	Stogie	Panger
August 17	KF6YB	Oscar	Quintanilla
August 17	N6EVE	Evelyn	Miller (L)
August 18	N6WUQ	Jim	Rogers, Sr.
August 19	N6YJO	Chuck	Behnke
August 19	KD6VKZ	Ed	Ebbert
August 22	N6DVJ	Johnny	Hart
August 23	KC6NXZ	Tom	Caudle
August 23	KF6UOZ	Craig	Matheny
August 24	KE6BZD	Ron	Mahoney
August 25	KO6AB	Jerry	Miller, Jr.
August 26	KM6YF	Tom	Borg
August 29	KF6ROE	Ed	Pyne
August 30	KG6QPN	Rich	Klitzke
August 31	KE6TAM	Gerald	Miller, Sr.

Jokes "710 Car part Missing"

A few days ago I was having some work done at the local Ford Dealership. A Person came in and asked for a seven-hundred-ten.

We all looked at each other and another customer asked, "What is a seven-hundred-ten?"

They replied, "You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine, I have lost it and need a new one." They said that they did not know what it was but this piece had always been there.

He gave them a piece of paper and a pen and asked them to draw what the piece looked like. They drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote 710. He then took them over to another car, which had its hood up and asked, "Is there a 710 on this car?"

They pointed and said, "Of course, it's right there."

Continued Page 3 for Image

Word Search "Famous Hams"

F O 5 G J 5 R L K 7 U G A K U
 7 N K 3 D H O S T W 6 A C K 5
 P 6 B T 3 8 W B 4 K C G T K V
 I Y 2 Z H R W F U K B 6 Q L J
 L O G H H O V K 2 B L L N O U
 O S S 0 D T E 2 G 7 L A P W D
 T K D Q H C K Y 7 P I F L 6 3
 N E W S M A N I K C W L 9 F S
 K C 6 L 9 G I K I E A 7 K Z 6
 W 8 0 Y U G 5 T 7 B F O L Z R
 B H B E S L A U E U W G L K O
 4 6 B J H M J S 2 B T 8 2 J T
 K H J F E 7 A 5 6 2 D Y N N A
 C K I H Y B G A E P U F 6 N N
 G C T Y 2 J C H E D U 1 L 3 E
 6 A N N O U N C E R U L Q L S
 M 6 K B 6 L Q S L 3 I X R O 7

This is a tough one. All calls and jobs in *ITALIC* are in the Word Search.

<i>F05GJ</i>	ARLON BRANDO	<i>ACTOR</i>
<i>G3TZH</i>	TONY DOLBY,	BROTHER OF THE DOLBY
<i>K7UGA</i>	BARRY GOLDWATER (SK)	<i>SENATOR</i>
<i>KB2GSD</i>	WALTER CRONKITE,	<i>NEWSMAN</i>
<i>N6LQR</i>	JEANA YEAGER,	VOYAGER '86 <i>PILOT</i>
<i>KB6LQS</i>	DICK RUTAN,	VOYAGER '86 <i>PILOT</i>
<i>KB6OLJ</i>	PAUL J COHEN,	<i>MATHEMATICIAN</i>
<i>N6FUP</i>	STU COOK[S],	<i>BASEBALL PLAYER</i>
<i>N6YOS</i>	RISCILLA PRESLEY	<i>ACTOR</i>
<i>NK7U</i>	OE RUDI,	<i>BASEBALL PLAYER</i>
<i>VK2BL</i>	RAHAM CONNELLY,	RADIO <i>ANNOUNCER</i>
<i>W6FZZ</i>	SAMUEL F.B. MORSE III	
<i>W6OBB</i>	ART BELL	RADIO <i>HOST</i>
<i>WB4KCG</i>	RONNIE MILSAP	<i>SINGER</i>
<i>WB6ACU</i>	JOE WALSH,	<i>SINGER</i>
<i>WB4KCG</i>	RONNIE MILSAP	<i>SINGER</i>

Last Months Word Search

T T M K U S R E I F I L D M A
 O A C E O N I T A R E P O Z N
 L A A U O E U S J N X I S X T
 P S I N H S N I E S T C S T E
 S B F S R R E M K R S I E N
 L Y L T E M A W R J A O T C N
 M E T E R S T L Q A P E I H A
 E P H U M C S T X E A E V I D
 T I A C L E A O T O N E E I E
 S E L D A K Y U L E L H W C E
 V A H R I N R N O T R F Y A N
 S N T S C O A X T C O L Y N D
 E T U H E S T K O A Z W U L N
 T I N K I L O W A T T S E U A
 R Q E L T Y I L E W T K H R H
 W I F E L E S S H A N I Q L S
 G A W T E U R E K A E P S P F



This month, the ARCEC spotlight shines on Chet Smith, K6VM, WAMO #188. Chet has quite a story to tell. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1919 and was always interested in electronics. He built his own radio crystal sets and other equipment, and became a radio amateur (W9TRC) at the age of 13 (after bootlegging for a few years). He demonstrated his skills in "show and tell" programs in high school and joined the Naval Communications Reserve in 1937.

When Chet became a part of the active United States Navy in 1940 as a seaman, his electronics skills served him well. He went to Navy "A" and "B" schools and became a radio operator. He was at his typewriter copying naval communications on the US GRANT on December 7, 1941 when the message came: "This is no drill—Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor." The ship turned around and headed for Pearl, to pick up casualties. The ship's next assignment was to carry American troops to Alaska, where the Japanese were invading the Aleutian Islands. After the American forces had taken the island of Kiska, Alaska, Chet (by this time a first class petty officer), was selected to go ashore and collect Japanese electronics radar equipment. He brought back the first boatload of electronics gear for delivery to electronic laboratories in Seattle, where it was analyzed.

By the time the war had ended, Chet had advanced to Chief Petty Officer and was sent to various Navy schools for additional training. While at Corpus Christi, Texas, he was selected as Avionics Warrant Officer, and, 2 years later, commissioned as Ensign Naval Electronics Officer. Further assignments brought him to Olathe, Kansas; Port Lyautey, Morocco; and Rota, Spain.

In 1964, Smith (by this time a Lieutenant Commander) was assigned to the Bureau of Naval Weapons, Washington, D.C. as Administrator for Electronic Programs. In this position, he worked with tech reps and naval stations around the world, and was awarded a Presidential Citation for monetary savings. While in Washington, he lived in nearby Arlington, VA. When he first moved into his apartment, he set up his hifi gear and began listening at full blast. However, this didn't set well with his neighbor upstairs, who started to hammer on the radiator pipes. He met his neighbor—Bea—a few days later, at the mail box.

They both apologized, and soon became best friends. He learned that she worked for the Navy, too—as Technical Editor for the Office of Naval Research. In 1966, Chet left for Vietnam, where he was aviation officer in Project Jenny, a naval airborne television program. He was there during the Tet offensive, and was promoted to Navy Commander. All this time, he kept in touch with Bea through tapes and letters. When he returned from Vietnam in 1968, they were married. Following their wedding, they traveled to Paris, France where Chet was attached to NATO. During their 3 years in Paris, they traveled throughout the NATO nations setting up conferences and training programs for emission groups and airborne electronic organizations. In 1970, after 31 years of active service, Chet retired from the Navy. He says he and his wife "took a chance and swung the compass." The needle pointed to El Cajon, California, where they are enjoying the sun, the diversity, and the life that Chet believes is a "perfect paradise."

As a Ham, Chet keeps his station in an attempt to provide the "camaraderie and warmth" that communication gives to people everywhere. While he was in the Navy, Chet helped keep morale high for sailors, soldiers, and civilians by enabling them to contact family and friends—to deal with business, or just let their loved ones know they were OK. During his tour in Morocco, there were several earthquakes, and Chet's radio station helped support disaster relief efforts and save lives. He was able to supply similar assistance while in Kansas City throughout a tornado. All in all, to people everywhere, the comfort provided by radio communication is nothing short of gratifying.

Chet wants to encourage the current and next generations to get involved in Ham Radio. He says, "It is not just a hobby that teaches basic engineering and emission, but it brings people together. It brings students together with seniors and Hams into the classroom. It's a wonderful welding agent." With such words, how could anyone refuse the temptation? This month, the ARCEC spotlight shines on Chet Smith, K6VM, a new Life Member of the El Cajon Club with an old love for radio.

Tassy Rios, Staff Writer

MAZE

Please See Page 8 for the Maze.

The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul



This month I would like to talk about BPL. I am not personally against BPL; I can see the good in it. I am just against the interference it has caused at other test cities. Amateur radio and commercial radio communications are very important during a disaster, and we cannot have any interference at the time of the important communications that we provide to mankind.

Broadband over power lines is here in San Diego County. The test will most likely be in the Kearny Mesa area. As reported at the July SANDARC meeting, San Diego Gas and Electric has the equipment in place and has started the baseline testing. I would suggest that you read the article called BPL in the ARES Alert dated August 2005, which can be found at www.qsl.net/sdgarrl We need to get a baseline from 2 to 30 MHz. Also check higher if you feel the need.

We need to get some data together to help support the issue that we are against BPL because of its interference to our frequencies. For the non engineers, I made a simple excel form to input data. If you wish to have a copy of it, please e-mail at kc6qls@cox.net and I would be happy to send one to you. On my form I have the following: date, time, frequency, mode, noise floor level, and notes. In the notes section I would input if a QSO was going on and any sounds that you might hear.

For the engineers, do what you do best. Submit your noise floor baseline and/or sound bites or any other data that you think may be helpful to our cause.

It was also reported at the SANDARC meeting that Richard Norton N6AA our Southwestern Division ARRL Director has put together a top team of Engineers to address this issue. I will be forwarding all the collected data that I gather to him, and anyone else that can use the data to help us out in our quest of no interference from BPL.

Please help in any way you can, or we may be sharing our bands with BPL forever.

Paul Rios KC6QLS

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Things to keep in mind

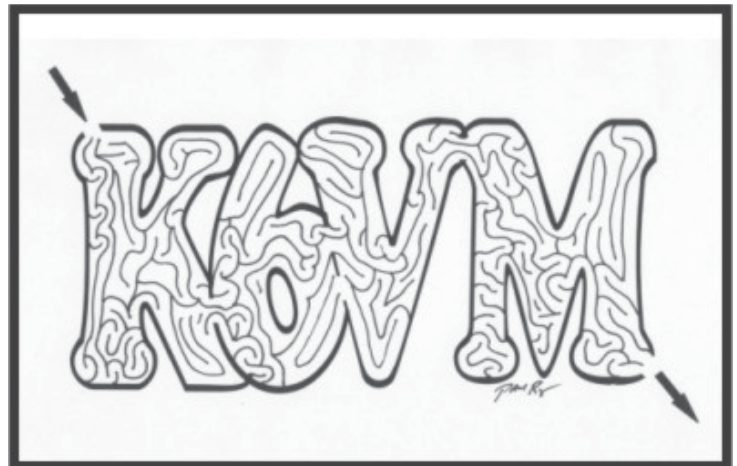
What you put into the club is what you get out of it. So Volunteer often and you will see the rewards do come back ten fold.

*Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector
To sign up visit:*

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>
You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

New Members

Thank you to those who renewed this month.



SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

CREST RADIO MUSEUM

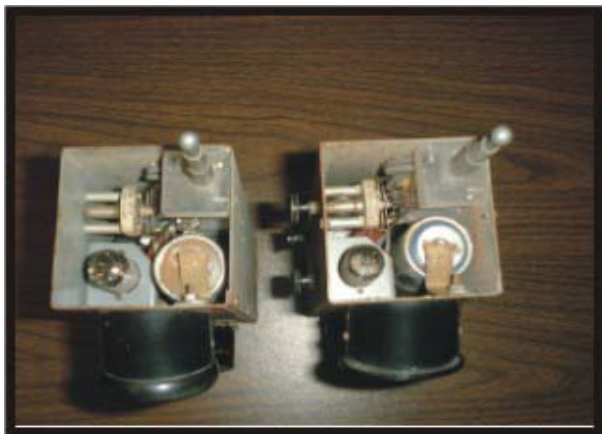
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ

This months photos of some items from our past. We hope you enjoy. Some of you may remember working on one of the rigs or may know someone that might have.

2 meter HT



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The A.R.E.S Connection

From Rich, N6NKJ



Greetings to all,

I am very pleased to announce that Susan Kochel, KF6WXA, is the new Emergency Coordinator for El Cajon.

Susan will take over for me when I am out of town, or not able to do the job of the D.E.C.

She will also have other duties, such as calling people to respond to any callouts we may get, and helping with the SET that is planned for August 20th. What is a SET? It stands for Simulated Emergency Test; and we are going TO NEED A LOT OF PEOPLE TO help in this drill. So please, let Susan or I know if you are available to help out.

Another event coming up is the San Diego 100 mile run, which is scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22, and 23. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Dennis at ka6duh@arri.net I want to thank Frank Ratty, WA6YWC, who was the E.C. before Susan, and thank him for all his hard work, and dedication in his role of E.C; thank you Frank.

As all of you are aware, the last two weeks have been HOT! And with hot dry weather, and the 1600 + lightning strikes that we had, the fire danger is VERY HIGH. So all of you who are in ARES, don't be surprised if you're called on to help out during a wildfire.

So until next month, stay safe, have fun, and enjoy life.

Rich, N6NKJ

From The Membership Chair

Club name tags are ready for pickup at the August 2005 meeting for the following new members:

WAMO

# 1634	Joe	KG6IMC
# 1635	Michael	KG6UEQ
# 1637	Allen	KG6QMG
# 1645	Frank	KE6HQU
# 1646	John	VA1JG
# 1648	Mike	KG6TDP
# 1649	Rod	WI6M
# 1650	Candice	KG6WNW
# 1652	Lee	KG6UQA
# 1647	Craig	KF6UOZ
# 1044	Carol	AB6CY
# 1045	Roy	KR6RG
# 735	Eric	N6SUB

A Dying Hobby?

I have heard it said at more than one meeting and at more than one club: "Ham Radio is a dying hobby". Yet, from my attendance at different club meetings and listening to different nets, it seems to me that Ham Radio is alive and well. Perhaps participation could be better, but folks these days are busy and they do what they can.

As the new membership chair, I would like to see more participation at club meetings and events. I would like to reiterate that the ECARC welcomes Amateur Radio Operators, their families and friends, and encourages people of all ages to join in the fun of getting a "Ham Ticket" and talking to others around the globe.

For those members who attend our meetings regularly, thank you! For those of you who have not attended a meeting in a while, I invite you to come join us. And please bring a friend to see what our hobby is all about. Growth starts with us, with a smile, with a "welcome," and with our enthusiasm we share our hobby.

Ann Rios, KC6TBG
Membership Chair

Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul

Here is the first installment of an article that was printed about 10 years ago in an other amateur radio newsletter. The author of this column has given me permission to reprint them for the counterpoise. So I hope you enjoy the first one of twelve.

"A Heart Warming Ham Oddesy in Arizona"

Turmoil and change have shaken the ranks of our hobby in recent years. Controversy over incentive licensing, the role of the code, and concern over the dwindling ranks of our hobby have caused angst and sown the seeds of division among hams, young and old. Now, with the decline of Cycle 23 upon us, it is time for a healing catharsis for our hobby, with "Chicken Noodle Soup for the Ham Radio Operator's Soul".

Our story begins high in the mountains north of Flagstaff, Arizona, one lazy Sunday afternoon in October of 1962. The drama which would unfold this day, began in the Mount Coronado National Recreation Area, a favorite area for local residents. That afternoon, a group of family members from Flagstaff drove up to the "Wilderness Range Campground", unaware their family outing that day would touch many lives and bring Amateur Radio into the national spotlight.

Sharing the crisp autumn air with his family this day, little Johnny Colpitts, barely 10 years old, played a game of "hide and seek". Amid the noise and activities of a family gathering, little Johnny slipped out of camp, and disappeared into the wilderness.

Frantic family members drove the 25 miles down a winding mountain road to call for help at the Ranger Station. Search teams were dispatched and one of the most massive search and rescue operations in Arizona history was launched. Joining the search was a group of ham radio operators who were in the Wilderness Campground area for a weekend contest. Utilizing their ham HF station at base camp to keep in contact with hams supplementing communications with the Forest Service, the frantic search to find little

Chicken Noodle Soup Contiued

Johnny Colpitts cast Amateur radio into the national spotlight as an anxious nation watched and prayed.

The search took a turn for the worse, as an early October snowfall hampered the three week old search. After conditions improved enough to permit search and rescue crews to resume their work, hopes were again raised, only to be dashed when Little Johnny failed to appear after two long months of the most intensive search and rescue effort Arizona had seen in nearly three decades.

All hope had been given up, when strangely enough, that spring another group of hams happened across what was reported to be a wild "dog-boy", sighted in the same "Wilderness Camp" area where little Johnny had been lost the previous October. Reports of a young boy, walking on his hands and feet, piqued the curiosity of area rangers. Investigators combed the area and discovered the young Colpitts, taken in by a pack of wild, yet kindly dogs.

Incredibly, little Johnny Colpitts was unharmed, except for slight mal nourishment. Apparently the young Colpitts had been adopted by the pack of wild dogs and had survived exposure to the elements by hiding out in their cave. Young enough to rebound from the trauma of being separated from his family, Johnny steadily recovered from the psychological effects of his ordeal. After a period of re-adjustment, young Johnny was pronounced healthy and completely recovered from his long and harrowing ordeal and was reunited with his family.

The group of hams who had played a part in the rescue of the young Colpitts had developed a friendship with the young boy and his family. This friendship which would later develop into a lifelong avocation for young Johnny. Staying in touch with the Colpitts family, the hams nurtured Johnny's interest in electronics and ham radio. At age 15, young Johnny received his Novice license and eventually upgraded to General, earning the call sign K9GUY.

As a young man preparing for college, his interest in radio stayed with him. Upon graduation from high school, Johnny Colpitts was accepted into the Electrical Engineering program at Northern Arizona University. After four long years of study and dedication,

Continued And Hams In Action

dedication, Johnny Colpitts graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, after a nearly fatal brush with fate a decade earlier.

Today, John Colpitts is the CEO of a well known Fortune 500 company which produces the sophisticated machinery used in the production of miniaturized electronic components. Proof that with a hard work, a can-do attitude and the love and support of a caring family, the human spirit can overcome almost insurmountable adversity.

Editors note: Unfortunately, our story took a tragic turn as this newsletter went to press. Reuters News Service, dateline Kenosha, Wisconsin. John Colpitts, Chief Executive Officer for Granutrine Corporation, was taken into custody by Sheriffs Deputies, after he was arrested in his neighborhood "...snarling and growling at neighbor's cats and chasing cars". We will keep our readers updated as this story continues to unfold.

"Morris Code AZ6CW"

Hams In Action

ECARC Secretary Mike Maston, N6OPH, and ECARC member Mike Lebo, A6IEO, recently participated in the SANDARC sponsored ITU UWB Conference held at the Sheraton Harbor Island San Diego in May 2005. At the conference they ran a booth, communicated with HAMS internationally, and met HAMS from around the world. The purpose of the event was to promote amateur radio, and they reported they enjoyed the opportunity to do just that. Both received letters of appreciation from the FCC and likewise the ECARC recognizes their efforts and participation at this event.

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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2005? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



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