

EARS MEMBER HANDBOOK

EDMOND AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

SINCE 1957

A SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB OF THE ARRL



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EDMOND AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

Edmond, OK

Welcome to membership in the Edmond Amateur Radio Society (EARS). We are a group of Amateur Radio operators (hams) who are dedicated to supporting our community, our hobby and our fellow hams. Through your club participation, EARS becomes **your club**.

We support our community by dedicating our repeaters and club station to the support of Edmond Emergency Management and participating in weather nets, parades, walks, emergency siren tests and other communications support activities.

We support our hobby by providing a forum to deal with local, regional and national Amateur Radio issues and by participating in local, regional and national events. Your participation in our meetings will make us a better club.

We support our fellow hams through our repeaters and club station along with the fellowship of both business and social meetings to provide a structure to address both individual and group needs. Join in! The opportunities for participation are endless.

Some facts about the club:

History: Our club began with a few Amateur Radio operators meeting at each other's homes in the 1950's. The group expanded through helping others interested in Amateur Radio to obtain their operator licenses. The organization, as we know it, began in 1959.

Club members first met at the Union Bus Station on Second Street in Edmond where the railroad underpass is currently located. Over the years, the club station has been located at the bus station on Broadway, old Edmond Town Hall, the Central State College (now U.C.O.) Physics Department, and its current location in the Edmond Community Center.

Five original charter members brought the club into existence, one of them giving it the name EARS. In 1957, the club became incorporated for the first time. In 1986, a group of club members designed the logo as seen on the front of this handbook. In the year 2000, the club's call sign of KC5ORP was changed to the vanity call K5EOK (Kilo Five Edmond Oklahoma). EARS attained 501(c)(3) non-profit status in 2007. The club has maintained ARRL Special Service Club status for a number of years.

Our club handbook began in 1995 as a one page document and grew as the club services expanded. At one time, the repeaters offered auto-patch, allowing members to call the repeater on their radio and patch into a phone line. With the advent of universal cell phones, the need for this service diminished and is not offered at this time. The handbook had a full set of use instructions for this important service in that era. Members are encouraged to offer input for revisions of this handbook.

Club membership has grown from the five charter members to a high of 150. In recent years, membership has remained in the neighborhood of 100 dues paying members. Annual dues for an individual are \$25.00, a family of 2 or more is \$35, and students are \$12.50.

The club station is located on the second floor of the Edmond Community Center, room 217 in the southeast corner of the building. Space is available for class and meetings. Members can

request access to operate the station with the club UHF, VHF and HF rigs. A licensed Extra can show up to function as control operator so members with a Technician or General License can operate K5EOK with the license privileges of the Extra licensed control operator.

Club government is by a Board of Directors who carry out the day-to-day business of the club and report to the club members. A president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer are the club officers. Officers and board members serve one year terms that begin in January. For more details, see the Constitution and By-Laws.

Business meetings are combined with Board meetings each month in the club station on the second Tuesday of the month.

Dinner meetings are informal and are held during the third week of even numbered months at 6:00 p.m. The vice-president has traditionally chosen the restaurant. All club members and their families are welcome at these events. Dinners are social events and have no organized program. Family members don't have to worry about a presentation they won't understand. Everyone is there to eat and enjoy the company of others.

The Monday Night Information Net is held at 8:00 every Monday night on the linked repeaters. VHF is 147.135, positive offset, no tone. UHF is 443.425, positive offset, no tone. The EARS Net Manager directs net activities and has various club members serve as Net Control. Traffic includes amateur radio activity in our area, EARS news such as parades, siren tests, classes and special event stations, All hams, whether EARS members or not, are welcome and are encouraged to check into the net. If you are interested in the EARS nets, contact the Net Manager.

The Route 66 10-10 Net is held after the Monday Night Information Net at 28.390 on the 10 meter band. The frequency was chosen because it is available for use by all license classes. Net Control takes check-ins, then does a round robin as members discuss whatever is on their minds or ask for information about their ham station. New Zealand and Australia have checked in, as have many states from around the country.

The HF Elmer Net is held the first Monday of each month at 7:15 p.m. on the EARS repeaters. A brief report on current DXpeditions is followed by operating tips for the HF bands. Subjects cover the entire spectrum of operating, station construction and maintenance. The monthly program may cover AMSAT operation, antenna construction, station maintenance or how to operate on a traffic net. Any subject of interest can be requested and a presentation will usually follow within a month or two.

EARS is an ARRL Affiliated Club. The ARRL is dedicated to protecting our rights as Amateur Radio operators through lobbying and representation before the Federal Communications Commission. The Club affiliation is in part because of our club's ARRL activities but also because no less than 51% of the club members are ARRL members. The actual number is consistently in the 75% range. We encourage all EARS members to be ARRL members.

EARS is an ARRL Special Service Club. By reason of the services EARS provides to the community and its members, we have been able to earn the distinction of being certified as a Special Service Club by the ARRL. It is a distinction we are proud of and, as of this writing, EARS is the only Special Service Club in central Oklahoma.

EARS is a member of CORA, the Central Oklahoma Radio Amateurs. CORA is an organization of area Amateur Radio clubs that produces the annual Ham Holiday show. Each July the show brings vendors and a ham oriented flea market together with educational programs and a banquet featuring a prominent national speaker. CORA also provides a group liability insurance policy for repeaters and stations of member clubs. EARS members volunteer to help put on this great show. For more information on Ham Holiday check out their website at www.hamholiday.org

EARS, through its members, is active in OKDXA. The Oklahoma DX Association sponsors the Oklahoma QSO Party and helps members get those elusive DX entities into the logbook. OKDXA helps fund DXpeditions to far flung places. Through individual member donations, it provides radio equipment to remote and less fortunate areas of the world.

Community service is the foundation of EARS involvement in our community. Our mission is to support the City of Edmond Emergency Management . The EARS Emergency Coordinator is the liaison between our club and the City. Club members are on 24 hour call to support the Edmond Emergency Management, whether it be storm spotting, damage assessment after storms or other needs. Contact the Emergency Coordinator if you wish to participate in storm spotting on the weather nets.

Parades are another facet of our community service involvement. Each year EARS members handle the task of getting parade entries into the right order and into the start of the parade in the proper sequence. Although sometimes it seems like “herding cats”, it’s always a lot of fun. Each year, EARS works the Oklahoma City St. Patrick’s Parade, Edmond’s Liberty Fest parade and fireworks, the U.C.O. Homecoming parade, The Stockyards City Cowboy Christmas Parade and Edmond’s Christmas Parade of Lights.

Siren tests are conducted by the City of Edmond on the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting. These emergency sirens alert the community to severe weather and other civil emergencies. EARS members inspect each siren for physical damage and then monitor the siren during the test for proper operation. A Siren Net is operated and members check in with their reports of physical condition or damage, before the sirens are sounded. Then a roll call by the net control confirms proper operation or the need for repairs.

The EARS Allen and Bertha Watson Memorial Scholarship is handled by the ARRL Scholarship Foundation. EARS members have provided the ARRL an endowment for presentation of a \$500.00 annual college scholarship to an amateur radio operator in Oklahoma, or in the Southwest if an Oklahoma applicant is lacking.

A Technician Licensing Class is conducted each year, usually starting in September. Classes are held at the club station, at the Edmond Community Center. Experienced hams in the club teach the course using the ARRL Licensing Manual as a text. These hams educate attendees in amateur radio etiquette and operating procedure as well as prepare them to pass the VE test. Many of the class instructors are ARRL Registered Instructors and have access to the latest ARRL teaching resources to enrich the class experience.

A General Licensing Class is offered each spring at the club station, beginning in March. Instruction helps licensed Technicians advance to the next license level. Many students have self-studied for their Technician License and find the General Class gives great information on operations and is often used a spring board for more self-study in getting an Extra License.

An ARRL VE (Volunteer Exam) Session is held on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the club station. Licensing tests are administered by Volunteer Examiners certified by the ARRL. Anyone seeking a license or license upgrade can test at these sessions. Advance notice is strongly suggested as occasionally no one gives notice of wanting a test and no session will be held. On the other hand, if one person wants to test, testing will be held that month.

REPEATER OPERATIONS FOR EARS MEMBERS

EARS supports and maintains two repeaters.

The VHF repeater is located atop the 400 foot former KCSC tower at the University of Central Oklahoma. Operation is on the frequency of 147.135 with (the standard VHF) positive offset of 600 kHz and no tone is required.

The UHF repeater is also located atop the KCSC tower and operates on the frequency of 443.425 with a (standard UHF) positive offset of 5.0 MHz, again no tone is required.

During nets, both repeaters are linked together. Both repeaters use the club call sign of K5EOK. Gary Stillman, AE5GS is the Trustee of the repeaters and the club station. When Nets are in operation, other use of the repeaters is not allowed. The EARS VHF repeater is a secondary, or standby, repeater for the Oklahoma Memorial Marathon Net.

Another UHF repeater, 443.150, 5.0 mHz positive offset with a PL tone of 79.7 is available for club use. This repeater is owned and operated by Curtis Foote, KC5GEP, and Steve Pierce, W5BIV.

A courtesy tone sounds at the close of each transmission into the repeaters. Please wait for the courtesy tone before you begin transmitting a response. A time out feature prevents the repeater from excessive transmission time and keeps them operational in the event of a stuck transmission key. The timer does not reset until the courtesy tone has completed. The repeaters

have different courtesy tones to identify the repeater in use for those who have dual band listening capabilities.

Problems with the repeaters happen from time to time. While we have achieved a high degree of reliability, problems do happen. If you notice a problem, please contact the Trustee, Emergency Coordinator, club officer or a Board Member by telephone. We need to know when malfunctions occur. Suggestions to improve services to our members are welcome. The trustee and Emergency Coordinator make continuous improvements to the repeaters. They are volunteers and changes in repeater operations must be considered in light of time and manpower available. The Trustee operates under FCC Regulations, with the approval of the EARS Board of Directors and within the limits of club funds.

Abuses of repeater privileges or violations of FCC Regulations could cost us our license to operate the repeaters and/or subject the Trustee, the club and the offending member to civil penalties. Please report all such abuse to the Trustee and/or a club officer or member of the Board of Directors by telephone at your earliest opportunity.

Small children and the idle curious sometimes find a handi-talkie, mobile rig or fixed station to be an irresistible plaything to make false emergency calls and other on-the-air violations. Please help your children and guests understand how to enjoy the use of ham radio without abusing its privileges.

Open repeaters: EARS repeaters are “open” for use by any and all licensed Amateur Radio operators, as long as the equipment is used in accordance with FCC Rules, regulations and club policy.

Emergency traffic has priority over all other repeater usage. A Weather Net or other Emergency Net has priority over other repeater usage. The repeaters are available for general use at all other times.

Please remember that EARS is your club. Your active participation is required for success of the group. If you have any suggestions about ways to improve your club, or would like to volunteer to serve in some capacity, please contact one of the club officers or present a proposal to the Board of Directors or an officer of the club. Know of a reason to set up a special event station? Let us know – you may not be the only person interested in such an operation.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND FUNCTIONS -

Board meetings - 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Edmond Community Center

Dinner Meetings - 3rd Thursday of even numbered months. Time and place announced on the Information Net.

Information Net - Every Monday 8:00 p.m. on EARS linked repeaters

Route 66 10-10 Net - Every Monday after the Information Net, 28.390

HF Elmer Net - 7:15 p.m. on 1st Monday of every month on the linked repeaters

Edmond Siren Test - Net starts 11:00 a.m. with condition reports, sirens operate at noon
Lunch follows at Johnnies on 33rd Street

Saturday Breakfast - Informal group - arrive 7:00 - 8:00,
Colby's Grill, 511 S. Broadway, Edmond

CLUB EVENTS -

MARCH - St. Patrick's Day Parade
General License Class starts

JUNE - Field Day (4th weekend of the month)

JULY - Edmond 4th of July Liberty Fest Parade and Fireworks
Ham Holiday

SEPTEMBER- Technician Licensing Class begins
Route 66 on the Air (special event)

OCTOBER - UCO Homecoming Parade
Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

NOVEMBER - Statehood Day Special Event Station (weekend nearest the 16th)

DECEMBER - Edmond Christmas Parade of Lights
Stockyards City Cowboy Christmas Parade
EARS Christmas Party and Dinner