



# YOUR FIELD DAY 2012 GUIDE

**Field Day is almost upon us. Take this opportunity to get on the air in a huge event without the pressure of a contest. Bring your friends and introduce them to Amateur Radio and a chance to experience it first hand.**

**The ARRL Field Day 2012 is the biggest annual event for FARS as well as many other amateur radio clubs.**

FARS will be participating in the 3-A category again this year, with stations setup for 24 hours of operating:

- **HF station** operating Single Sideband (SSB) voice on 10/15/20/40m
- **HF station** operating CW (Morse code) and other digital modes like PSK31 and RTTY (keyboard) on 10/15/20/40/80m.
- **HF station** SSB voice on 80/160m (Beverage antenna!)
- **VHF/Satellite station**
- **GOTA (Get On The Air) station**

**SETUP: Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am**

**OFFICIAL START TIME: Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am**

**POTLUCK DINNER & BBQ:**

**Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> around 5:30pm**

Always has lots of good food and good people  
Bring a side dish to share with others

**TAKEDOWN:**

**Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 11am**

**SIGN-UPS:**

Sign-ups for all aspects of the FARS Field Day are available:

- 1.) At the upcoming FARS meetings (May or June)
- 2.) By emailing Phil KA6MZE at [sputnik@pacbell.net](mailto:sputnik@pacbell.net)
- 3.) On the FARS website (requires login) →

- **Sign up for Friday Setup here:**  
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdcrew>
- **Sign up for Sunday Takedown here:**  
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdcrew>
- **Sign up for the Saturday Potluck & BBQ here:**  
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdbbq>
- **Sign up to Operate here: We need operators!**  
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdop>

**Elmers & Coaches Available!**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

**FARS LOCATION:**

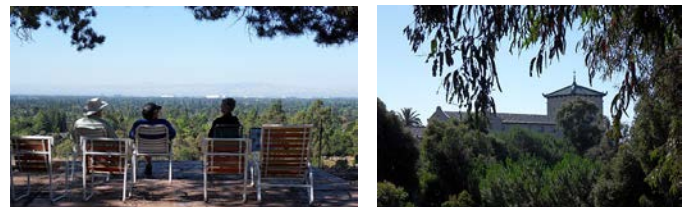
The Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos (on the soccer field)  
23000 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA  
(near Rancho San Antonio Park).

This is the same Field Day site that FARS has used in years past.  
GPS coordinates 37°19.962' N by 122°04.919' W



**DIRECTIONS:**

- Take Interstate 280 towards the Los Altos / Mountain View border.
- Exit onto Foothill Expressway and head south (~1/4 mile) following signs to Rancho San Antonio.
- Turn RIGHT onto Cristo Rey Drive (first light).
- Follow Cristo Rey Drive until you reach a traffic circle (~3/4 mile).
- Take the SECOND EXIT from the circle marked with a small brown sign that says Park. This is the continuation of Cristo Rey Drive
- Go shortly past Rancho San Antonio Park entrance (on the left) and then turn RIGHT into the Maryknoll (private) driveway.
- Pass through the gate, take an immediate RIGHT into the paved area, and park next to the Eucalyptus trees.



**Visitors are welcome to join us!**

[www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)



**GOTA Station**  
(Get On The Air)  
for non-hams, newly licensed hams, and even longer-term hams with no HF experience (ask Mikey NE6RD if you qualify in this last category – email [ne6rd@arrl.net](mailto:ne6rd@arrl.net)).  
*Photo © Peter AF6DS (2010)*



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## What is Field Day?

From the ARRL

[www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)



Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

**ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event** held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

### **\*\*\* Interested In Operating at FARS? \*\*\***

**FARS has open operating positions for phone, CW, and digital (RTTY, PSK31).**

**Elmers will be available for assistance picking out call signs, working the radios, logging the contacts, and understanding what to do!**

(For example, Joanna K6YL will coach on the HF phone station for as many hours as needed on Saturday afternoon and evening, and even Sunday morning, just let her know!)

**The exchange is fairly easy:**

**“K6YA 3 Alpha Santa Clara Valley”**

(where 3 Alpha is our entry category – 3 for # of counted transmitters and A for power)

For our **GOTA (Get On The Air) station**, which is for those with little or no HF experience (inquire with Mikey NE6RD if you qualify), the exchange will be under a different callsign. The GOTA station will be the only station under a different call sign. That call sign will likely be NE6RD and thus the exchange will be:

**“NE6RD 3 Alpha Santa Clara Valley”**

All stations on Field Day will be limited to 150 watts.

FARS will be running all operations off of generators.