



August Meeting

August 23, 2002 - 7 PM socializing, meeting starts at 7:30. Directions to the meeting are later in the newsletter.

July Meeting Report

Brad Wyatt, K6WR, spoke on "Internet Controlled Amateur Radio." An article by K6WR on "Remote Controlled HF Operation over the Internet" can be found in the November 2001 QST on pages 47 and 48. K6WR shared experiences working remotely controlled HF stations using the Internet. Brad only has a computer with Internet connection at his QTH -- no radios, antennas. Brad was the ARRL Pacific Division Director from 1994 - 2000.

At the July meeting, the number for Bruce Riter, KE6EEX, was chosen for the "Wish You Were Here" prize. Unfortunately, Bruce was not at the meeting.

Secretary's Report

The FARS board held its monthly meeting on the evening of August 6, 2002. Members present were Mikel, KN6QI, Jack, WA6YJR, Frank, K6FCW, Omri, AA6TA, Larry, W6OD, Herb, KF6BKL, Mark, KG6GRR, Steve, K6OIK, and Martin, KD6WJW. Among the items that were discussed were membership renewal issues, potential candidates for next year's club officers, and exploring the possibility of establishing a remotely operated club station.
- Martin, KD6WJW

Upcoming Events

- August 23 7:00 PM Club meeting, Loyola School
- Sept. 3 7:30 PM Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier
- Sept. 14 Dawn Flea Market, Foothill College
- Sept. 27 7:00 PM Club meeting, Loyola School

See more events, [FARS Calendar](#)

CC&R Bill Attracts Additional Cosponsors

The bill now in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions--CC&Rs--in erecting antennas has gained additional cosponsors. Freshman Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act" on May 14. The measure--HR 4720--would require private land-use regulators--such as homeowners' associations--to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities. Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR) and Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) signed on as original cosponsors of HR 4720. Since its introduction, the bill also has attracted additional cosponsors--Rep J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ), Rep Patrick Tiberi (R-OH), Rep Patsy Mink (D-HI), Rep Ken Calvert (R-CA), Rep Rick Boucher (D-VA), Rep Joseph Hoeffel (D-PA) and Rep John Duncan Jr (R-TN). Visit the US House of Representatives "[Write Your Representative Service](#)" Web page for information on how to contact *your* representative. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress--whether or not they are supporting this legislation--to copy ARRL on their correspondence--via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

(From the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/06/27/2/>)

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CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer: Frank Weiss, K6FCW
Secretary: Martin Liberman, KD6WJW
Radio Officer: Omri Serlin, AA6TA
Training Officer: (open)
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy KG6GRR

Board Members: Jack Eddy WA6YJR, Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, David Cooper KE6PFF, Frank Weiss K6FCW, Herb Davidson KF6BKL, Howard Califf KE6PWH, Mark Hardy KG6GRR, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO.

Station Trustee: Stan Kuhl, K6MA
FARS Web Page: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

FARS announcement mailing list is moderated, so you cannot reply directly to the list: fars-announce@svpal.org

Also, note you can contact the FARS board of directors at fars-board@svpal.org

To subscribe/unsubscribe, send a message to: majordomo@svpal.org

In the e-mail message (in plain text) put one of:
unsubscribe fars-announce YOUR-EMAIL-ADDRESS
subscribe fars-announce YOUR-EMAIL-ADDRESS
(e.g. Subscribe fars-announce dwilkes@svpal.org)

Club meetings are held at 7 PM on the fourth Friday of each month except January (Winter Banquet); and sometimes there are changes for June, Nov. & Dec. Annual membership \$20, family \$25. Club badges are \$5.75. Visitors are always welcome! Directions on the back page. Talk-in: N6NFI (145.23-, 100 Hz) or W6ASH repeater (145.27 or 224.36).

The FARS *Relay* is the official monthly newsletter of the Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Contributions to the newsletter from members, family, and guests are earnestly solicited! Contributions subject to editing and/or compression. ASCII files via Internet or diskettes preferred; but all readable forms welcome.

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At FARS meetings.

Bamboozled

By Jon Rudy, DU9/NONM
August 5, 2002

I have always moved a lot in my life. I have a motto "Home is where I hang my antennas." So, when we moved into our rented house in tropical Philippines, I was delighted to discover 40-foot coconut trees in our small yard. I always have my eyes open for antenna possibilities wherever I go. This new location looked fit for a ham.

"Yes!" I thought out loud as my wife eyed me with one of those I-know-what-you're-thinking looks. For 14,000 pesos a month we got four coconut trees, 6300 square feet of lot ... and, oh yes, a house.

The longer I looked, the more I wondered just how I would go about hanging antennas when the coconut trees were on only one side of our small 70-by-90 foot lot. Slopers, Inverted-Vs and wire verticals were all possibilities that came to mind. Yet I had my heart set on a G5RV-type antenna that would yield all bands between 80 and 10 meters with one antenna.

For 160 I planned an inverted-L. Both of antennas would require elevating the wires diagonally across the real estate we had been allocated. So I had a coconut tree on one corner, but what could I use to raise the other side? As I scanned the skyline, I noted many 100-plus foot tall towers that held commercial antennas. Installation of one of those seemed out of the question on a rental property, not to mention out of my price range.

The Bamboo of Inspiration

An idea dawned on me after my wife came home with a bamboo chicken coop. For \$3, she had picked up a three-foot-square box for Lucky and Beatrice, our Chinese chickens. A group of artisans who live near the Bolton Bridge in Davao City use bamboo to make all manner of things, including some pretty tall ladders. I had seen bamboo used as scaffolding on multi-story buildings in China. Could a tower be made out of bamboo, I wondered? I dreamed up a bamboo tower design that would reach 42 feet when placed in the opposing side of the lot. It would span the needed 100 feet for the antennas.

I visited the Bolton Bridge and talked to Nick and Edwen--two bamboo fabricators--to inquire about the possibility. Being new to the southern Philippines, I am only beginning to learn Cebuano, the local dialect. I took a drawing of my tower and gesticulated, drew in the dirt and made models out of sticks to convey my idea to them. I indicated the individual bamboo poles used in the tower would have to be very straight and that crosspieces would be needed. They were intrigued by the job and thought it was possible. We agreed on the price (\$35) and that I would pick it up in a week.

The Finished Product

When the week was up, I could hardly wait to see my tower. I stopped at the bridge on my way home from language school and was taken to the open workshop area where my beautiful tower lay. My first thought was: This is huge! How am I going to get this thing home? My second thought was: Bamboo is supposed to be light and strong. Why is this so heavy?

Edwen and Nick informed me that the bamboo was still green and therefore very heavy. I purchased two additional 35-foot poles to act as stays when I erected the tower.

I arranged with Edwen and Nick to transport this monstrosity to my place. I looked around for the truck and found none in sight. I was approached by a man who pointed to his tricycle as he informed me he was the one to transport the tower and poles. I was skeptical. How could this much weight and length fit on a motorcycle-powered tricycle? He assured me that he had taken more than a dozen 40-foot poles once and had no problem. I was still leery, but when all of my purchases were piled on top, and the trike loaded with six men, we took off.

Driving down a busy street with bamboo sticking way out front and back would have been comical if it didn't seem so dangerous. Thinking back, the extra men were used as ballast to keep the trike on all wheels. It took four of us to get it into the carport of the house for storage until I could figure out a way to put it up.

The Antennas Rise

Some of our friends who were in town for a while wanted to come stay overnight. I co-opted them to help me raise the behemoth skyward. It is common knowledge among my friends that they are welcome to stay at our house. The only compensation I require is a little help on my latest antenna project. It took two tries, but we finally righted the antenna. Another half-day's worth of work securing the tower, and I was ready to hoist the main sail ... the G5RV. The inverted L followed shortly.

This kind of project was more work than I imagined, but it has taught me a few things. Bamboo is strong, relatively lightweight, plentiful (in some places) and a renewable resource. In the Philippines the price is right, too.

From the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2002/08/05/1/>
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PLEASE fill out the membership form whether you are a new or continuing member. Neatness counts.

FARS 2002 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Date _____

Name(s) & Callsign(s) & Class (E-A-G-T-N-None): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone _____

Fax (H or W?) _____

Packet BBS Address _____

Internet (e-mail) address _____

ARRL Member(s)? Yes/No (if yes, who?) _____

Preferred modes: HF-SSB/HF-CW/VHF/UHF/Packet/HF Digital/Satellites/ATV/QRP/Other: _____

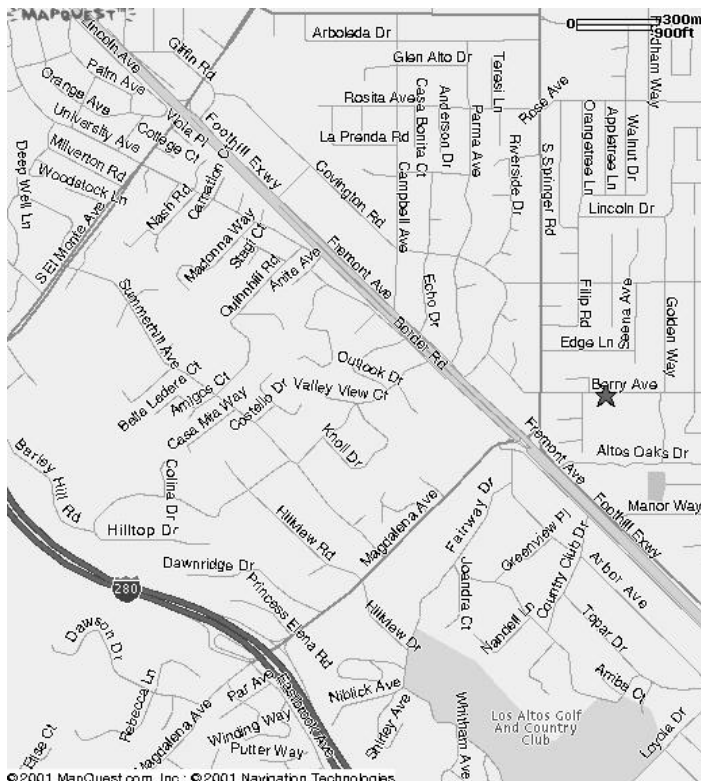
(Please indicate any areas in which you are willing to Elmer new hams)

Special topics of interest /Suggestions for club meeting speakers:

Dues: personal: \$20; family: \$25. Send check or Money Order payable to FARS to:

Frank Weiss, K6FCW 109 Stratford Court Mountain View, CA 94040

Please note: Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.



How to get to meetings:
(Visitors always welcome)

Our meetings usually will be held at the Loyola School gym room (directions below) on the fourth Friday at 7 PM for the code practice/socializing and 7:30 PM for the regular meeting. There may be changes in the meeting dates for January, June, November, and December.

DIRECTIONS:

Loyola School is at 770 Berry Avenue in Los Altos, between Springer Rd. and Miramonte Ave.

FROM FOOTHILL EXPWY take the Rancho shopping center exit and go east (toward El Camino Real) on Springer one short block; turn right onto Berry; watch for the school parking lot on your right. Walk past the office and turn right. The gym is the first building on your right.

FROM I-280 take the Magdalena Av. exit and go east (towards Foothill Expwy). Cross Foothill Expwy onto Springer; then follow directions as above.

FARS RELAY 8/02
C/O Mark Hardy
2998 Jerald Avenue
Santa Clara CA 95051-2928

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD

MEETING
FRIDAY 8/23/02
At Loyola School in Los Altos