Foothills Amateur Radio Society
Relay

December 2002   Volume 32, Number 12

December Meeting

December 20, 2002 - 7 PM socializing, meeting starts at 7:30. Directions to the meeting are later in the newsletter.

Speaker: Dave Platt, AE6EO

Subject: IEEE 802.11 Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN)

Summary: Dave Platt, AE6EO, will talk about the popular 802.11 "wireless Ethernet" technology. Dave will describe the radio technology used in the physical layer (frequencies, modulations, and spectrum-spreading techniques) and higher layers focusing on implementation (the MAC) and security (WEP encryption, "wardriving", network breaking, and countermeasures). Dave will also describe the relationship between 802.11 and amateur operations in the 13 cm amateur band, and he'll show his nice collection of 802.11b antennas.

November Meeting Report

At the November meeting, Howard (KE6PWH) from HRO presented several radios. We also had our yearly elections and passed the budget for next year.

At the November meeting, the number for Jim Koski, KT6W, was chosen for the "*Wish You Were Here*" prize. Unfortunately, Jim was not in attendance.

Secretary's Report

The FARS Board held its monthly meeting on the evening of December 3, 2002. Present were Mikel, KN6QI, Frank, K6FCW, Dick, N6ATD, Howard, KG6GRO, Stefan, KG6MAO, Omri, AA6TA, Dave, KE6PFF, Mike, KG6GUE, Steve, K6OIK, and Martin, KD6WJW. Various bills were paid. There was an extensive discussion about the future of the flea market. It was decided to have, as soon as possible, a meeting of representatives from the participating organizations. A committee made up of KN6QI, K6FCW, and KG6GRO was formed to do this. KN6QI discussed the various issues associated with incorporation. KG6GUE discussed future licensing classes sponsored by the club.

- Martin, KD6WJW

Upcoming Events

Dec. 20   7:00 PM Club meeting, Loyola School

Jan. 7   7:30 PM Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier

Jan. 17   ***Winter Banquet***

See more events, [FARS Calendar](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml)
<<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml>>

Presidents Column

Incorporation. The club's Board of Directors has decided to incorporate the club. One of the primary reasons to do this is to provide legal protection to club's directors and officers. As an unincorporated association, club's Directors and Officers may be personally liable for any liability of the club. As a corporation, liability would be limited to the assets and insurance coverage of the club.

At the November club meeting, the membership approved expenses up to $500 to cover the costs of incorporating the club. At the December meeting, we will be asking the club for formal approval to go ahead with incorporation of the club. This approval allows the Board to proceed to file the papers to create the corporation sometime in late January or early February.

Flea Market. As was announced at the November club meeting, the Perham Foundation is merging with the History Museum of San Jose. One consequence of this is that the Perham Foundation will no longer be sponsoring the Flea Markets at Foothill College. This leaves the eight organizations that participate in the Flea Markets with a problem.

To address this problem, a meeting was called on December 12th at 7:30pm held at the Perham Foundation offices to discuss what if anything should be done about this problem. All eight groups were represented at this meeting. The outcome of this meeting was a decision to create a new organization to run the flea markets. This new organization is to be incorporated and run by the member organizations (including FARS).

In order to cover the expenses of this new organization, each participating organization will be required to submit funds to this new group of $750. This money is needed to complete incorporation and to pay Foothill College the up front fees for the use of their property for Flea Markets. We will be asking the club membership to approve the $750 to be disbursed by the club to the new organization sometime in early February.

Banquet. Tom Schiller, N6BT of Force-12 fame will be the speaker for the FARS/PAARA banquet. Now is the time to signup for the banquet and to renew your FARS membership. The banquet is always well received by the attendees so don't miss out. Thanks to Andreas, N6NU from PAARA for making arrangements for our banquet speaker. The banquet will be held at Michael's at Shoreline on January 17th, starting at 6:00 pm; dinner at 7:00 pm; program at 8:00 pm. Look for the signup form in this edition of the FARS RELAY.

- de mikel, kn6qi

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:	Mike Zensius, KG6GUE
Relay Editor:	Mark Hardy KG6GRR

Board Members: Jack Eddy WA6YJR, Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Herb Davidson KF6BKL, David Cooper KE6PFF, Howard Califf KE6PWH, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO, Stefan Goette KG6MAO.

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.

Here is how to reach the editor: Mark Hardy, KG6GRR
Mail: 2998 Jerald Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)
Fax: 408-243-0701
Email: kg6grr@arrl.net, At FARS meetings.

NTS via Packet

In connection with the fine National Traffic System (NTS) presentation at our October meeting by Pink, KG6ILA, it is worthwhile to point out that most amateur packet BBSs (Bulletin Board Systems) support NTS with special commands. To post an NTS radiogram use the ST (Send Traffic) command like this: ST zip@NTSxx where zip is the destination zip code and xx is the destination state postal code. The subject line should contain the code QTC followed by the destination city, area code, and telephone number prefix. The preamble (message no., HX code, priority, etc. as discussed by Pink) is put in the body of the message. The BBS will route the message to a (possibly) remote BBS based on the zip code.

To list a directory of NTS messages posted on your BBS, use the LT (List Traffic) command. To read an NTS message, use the usual R yyyy (Read message no. yyyy). If you choose to service a message, come back after servicing and kill the message using the KT (Kill Traffic) or K (Kill) command, to avoid duplicate servicing.

- 73 de Omri AA6TA

What is ARES?

Amateur Radio Emergency Services, or ARES, is the field arm of the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL). The League deals with all aspects of Amateur Radio, including legislation, licensing, and contests; the ARES branch specifically handles field communications, particularly during emergencies. When you hear in the news that Amateur Radio operators were part of a search and rescue operation, assisted in getting aid to a ship in trouble at sea, or provided communications for a Red Cross shelter, you're hearing about an ARES function.

ARES volunteers also offer a splendid community service by providing free administrative communications at planned events, such as air shows, parades, and bike rides. In addition to helping the community through such service, experienced and inexperienced operators alike can use such events to refresh and polish their emergency-response skills.

ARES operators provide their own insurance.

You become an ARES amateur radio operator by joining ARRL, but a "Ham" does not need to be a member of ARRL to participate in ARES. If you become an Emergency Coordinator (EC), you do need to join ARRL.

From http://www.scc-ares-races.org/whats_a.htm.

What is RACES?

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services, or RACES, is the communications branch of the Federal Emergency Management System (FEMA). When a governmental entity (that is, a representative of the City, County, State, or Federal government) requests amateur radio assistance, the response is through RACES. This is because governmental activation alters several aspects of disaster-response funding, including insurance coverage. Governmental requests usually involve a disaster or other wide-reaching emergency. When you hear in the news that amateur radio operator are assisting officials within an officially declared disaster zone, such as in the aftermath of a hurricane, earthquake, flood, you're hearing about a RACES function. RACES operators are covered in California by Disaster Service Worker (DSW) insurance. This is a variety of Worker's Compensation.

You become a RACES amateur radio operator by *signing up for DSW* and registering with your local RACES organization--or, in Santa Clara County, your local ARES/RACES organization. (The procedure for signing up for DSW is part of the ARES/RACES Policies and Procedures Manual.

From http://www.scc-ares-races.org/whats_r.htm.

Santa Clara County, California ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinators/Radio Officers

City	Emergency Coordinator	Phone
Campbell	Barton Smith, N6HDN	(408) 379-2875
Cupertino	Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE	(408) 839-8798
Gilroy, ACS	Mike Chappell, KB6PDA	(408) 848-3988
Los Altos	Tom Smith, KD6SOJ	(650) 967-9548
Los Altos Hills	Richard Ellinger, KJ6NU	(650) 941-9429
Los Gatos	Tom Campbell, K6KMT	(408) 377-1845
Milpitas	Bill Dale, N2RHV	(408) 263-5325
Morgan Hill	Frank Fahrlander, N7FF	(408) 779-9311
Mountain View	Jerry Haag, KF6GAC	(650) 949-3827
NASA-Ames	Mark Allard, KD6CWM	(408) 267-3688
Palo Alto	Rich Hyde, KD6WYK	(650) 858-2829
San Jose	David Pratt, W6DSP	(408) 281-2482
Santa Clara	Howard Califf, KE6PWH	(408) 247-3465
Saratoga	Don Anastasia, AA6W	(408) 354-8838
Stanford	Kenneth Dueker, KB6BPM	(650) 208-2580
Sunnyvale	George Hopkins, K6GL	(408)245-8696

Winter Banquet

Mark your calendars. The FARS/PAARA annual banquet will take place on Friday evening, January 17, 2003. Once again we are teaming up with PAARA (Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, www.paara.org) to make this an even bigger event.

The banquet last year was a lot of fun. There have been terrific prizes in the past and this banquet will not be an exception.

For this year's venue we are returning to Michael's at Shoreline:

Where:	Michael's at Shoreline 2960 No. Shoreline Blvd Mountain View, CA 650-962-1014
When:	6:00pm - Open Bar (No Host) 7:00pm - Dinner 8:00pm - Presentation

Tom Schiller, N6BT of Force-12 fame, will be the speaker for the upcoming FARS/PAARA banquet. Thanks to Andreas, N6NU from PAARA, for making arrangements for our banquet speaker.

We have decided on the following menu choices:

Menu Choice	Price
Roast Prime Rib of Beef, au jus	$31.50
Breast of Chicken, Florentine	$26.50
Broiled Salmon Lemon Beurre Blanc	$28.50
Vegetarian	$21.50

Each entree includes "intermezzo" pasta and is served with seasonal greens, fresh vegetables, potato du jour, and French rolls. Coffee and cheesecake dessert are also included. Tax and tip are included in these prices. This is the same as last year.

We will have a NO HOST BAR for soft drinks, wine, beer, etc.

This is going to be a fun time for everyone, so let's make it a big turnout. See you there!

To attend the banquet, use the signup form below. Fill it out and mail it with a check for the full amount. You can also use this form to renew your membership. To just renew your membership, fill out the membership portion only.

Note that unlike our regular meetings, the banquet is for members only and their guests. Also note that you must make a reservation to attend this event by filling out the banquet signup and prepaying.

Note that you must renew your membership in order to attend the banquet.

FARS/PAARA 2003 Winter Banquet Signup

(January 17, 2003)

Name & Call   Meal Choice   Amount
                                               (B, C, S, V)

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

Membership Dues (see below)   _____

                                               Total   _____

Send your check payable to FARS, to:
FARS, c/o Frank Weiss K6FCW, 109 Stratford Court, Mountain View, CA 94040
You may combine your banquet total and dues into a single check.

FARS Membership Form

PLEASE fill out the membership form for all new/renewal members.

FARS 2003 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: _____

E-mail: _____   ARRL Member(s)? _____

Preferred modes: (e.g. HF-SSB/VHF/QRP/Other): _____

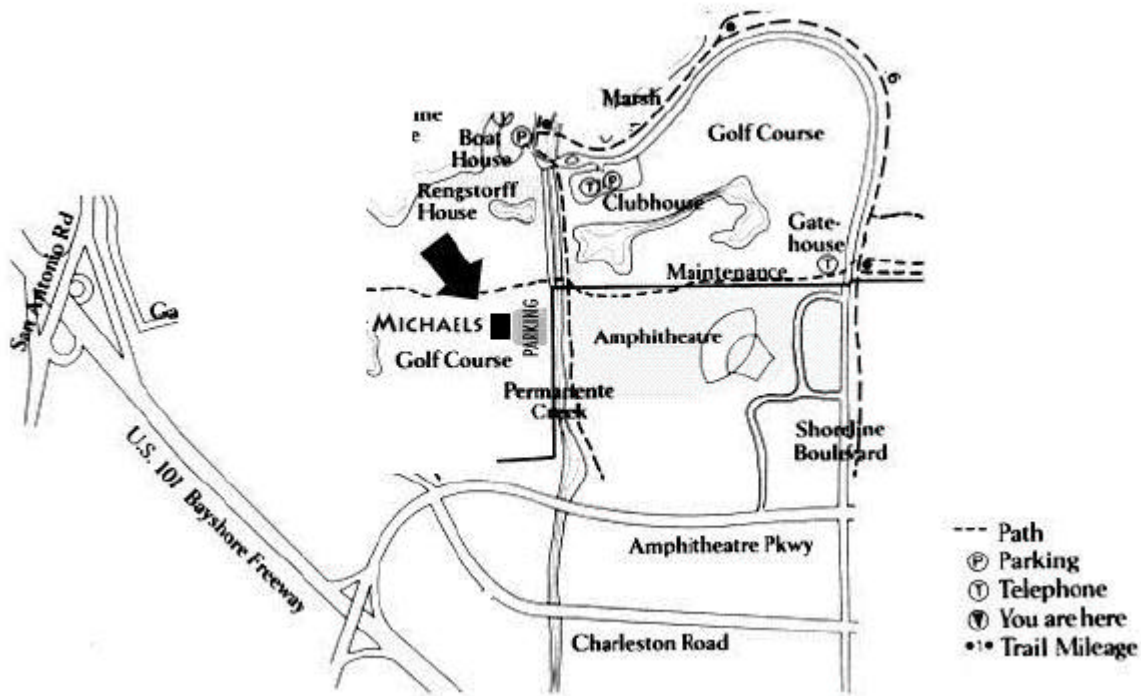I'm willing to Elmer new hams with: _____

_____

Special topics of interest / suggestions for club meeting speakers:

_____

Dues: personal: $20; family: $25.
Please note: Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.
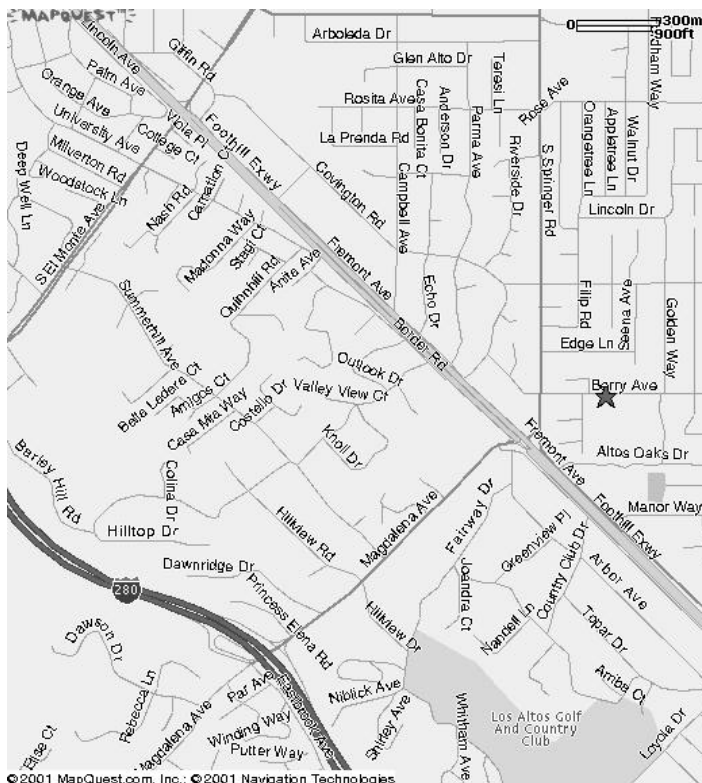Send your check payable to FARS, to:
FARS, c/o Frank Weiss K6FCW, 109 Stratford Court, Mountain View, CA 94040

Map to Michael's at Shoreline
2960 No. Shoreline Blvd
Mountain View, CA
650-962-1014
Take the Shoreline Boulevard Exit (North) from Highway 101

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.