

March Meeting

Date: Friday, March 26, 2004.

Time: Socializing at 7 pm, Meeting at 7:30

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: Bob Vallio W6RGG

Topic: BPL and Other Threats to Amateur Radio

Bob Vallio is the Pacific Division Director of the Amateur Radio Relay League. He will talk about BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) and why it's a concern to amateur radio. BPL transmits high speed Internet data over electric power lines. Bob will also answer questions about what's happening at the ARRL.

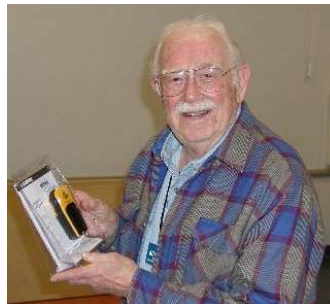
Be sure to bring your questions to submit to Dr. Know-It-All!

February Meeting Report

At the February meeting, Jim Peterson, K6EI, spoke about commercial HF antennas. He presented information which determined the most efficient antenna for various antenna types. Results of tests were very interesting. Detailed information may be found at www.ChampionRadio.com. Follow the "Publications" link to find articles at \$17 each.



Jim Peterson, K6EI



Sig Rich, KG6HRU

Sig Rich, KG6HRU, carried away the raffle prize, a Garmin GPS. Sig reported on the FARS net that he was enjoying the unit. The February meeting was sure Sig's night as he also won the "Wish you were here" prize. Sig very graciously donated the \$30 prize back to the club.

Go Kit

Now is a good time to take a look at your go kit and make sure that all needed items are there and in good order (or put together your go kit if you don't already have one). A good site for go kit contents may be found at our local SPECS website at

<http://www.specsnet.org/go-pak.htm> or at <http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/hamgear.htm>.

Presidents Column

Incorporation. FARS has received its Tax Exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service. FARS is now officially a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation and is exempt from both state and federal income taxes. The tax exemption covers from March 1, 2003 forward. In addition, contributions to FARS are tax deductible from that date forward.

This means that your dues and raffle donations are now tax deductible as well as any other donations of cash or equipment. Note that donations of \$250 or more require "substantiation," which basically means documentation from the charity (in this case FARS). As always, consult your tax advisor on tax matters.

Electronics Flea Market. The first Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale was a big success. Everyone managed to find the new location and most people had positive comments about the market. The next flea market is scheduled for April 10 and is sponsored by the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. Visit the ASVARO web site <http://www.asvaro.org> for detailed directions.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

Secretary's Report

The monthly FARS board meeting was called to order by the president, Mikel, KN6QI, at 7:40 PM on the evening of March 2, 2004. Present were Mikel, KN6QI, Frank, K6FCW, Howard, KG6GRO, Phil, KA6MZE, Dick, N6ATD, Steve, K6OIK, Mike, KG6GUE, Robert, KE6TFU, and Martin, KD6WJW. Flea Market handouts were given to those who had agreed to distribute them. There was a discussion of various Field Day issues. Steve, K6OIK volunteered to organize the event this year. Phil, KA6MZE, was elected Radio Officer. An additional director is also needed. Finally, there was a discussion of various financial issues. The club's budget year starts on March 1.

- Martin, KD6WJW

Upcoming Events

Mar 26 7:00 PM Club meeting, Covington School
Apr 6 7:30 PM Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier
Apr 10 Flea Market, see www.asvaro.com
Apr 23 7:00 PM Club meeting, Covington School
Thursdays 8:00 PM, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL
See more events, [FARS Calendar](#)

<<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml>>

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
 Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
 Treasurer: Frank Weiss, K6FCW
 Secretary: Martin Liberman, KD6WJW
 Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
 Training Officer: Mike Zensius, KG6GUE
 Relay Editor: Mark Hardy KG6GRR

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Herb Davidson KF6BKL, David Cooper KE6PFF, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO, Robert Flemate, KE6TFU.

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

Club members and non-members are encouraged to subscribe to the FARS Announcement list by browsing www.fars.k6ya.org/mail, clicking on Subscribe/Unsubscribe and following the instructions under "Subscribing to fars-announce."

You may also submit an announcement to the FARS Announcement at fars-announce@svpal.org. The list is moderated and messages will be posted as approved by the list moderator.

The FARS board of directors may be reached at fars-board@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 (for field day) and Nov. & Dec (for holidays).

Annual club membership is \$20. Club badges are \$6. Visitors are always welcome! Directions in this newsletter. Talk-in: N6NFI (145.23-, 100 Hz) or W6ASH repeater (145.27-, 100 Hz).

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.



ARES/RACES

If you are not already involved in your local ARES/RACES group, you can find the information you need on their websites or on the weekly nets.

The Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System may be found at www.specsnet.org. SPECS serves the communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale. SPECS operates the W6ASH repeaters:

SPECS Repeater W6ASH	
145.270 -	100 PL
224.140 -	100 PL
440.800 +	100 PL

The SPECS net is held every Monday evening at 8:00 pm local time on 145.270 repeater. Local city nets are announced during the main net and are as follows:

UHF repeater	440.8 + 100 Hz
Sunnyvale	145.17 - 94.8 Hz
Palo Alto and North	147.54 simplex 145.23 - 100 Hz
Mountain View	146.535 simplex
Los Altos	145.57 simplex
Los Altos Hills	146.745 - 110.9 Hz
Stanford	440.200 + 123.0 Hz

The Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System may be found at www.svecs.net. SVECS serves the communities of NASA/Ames, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale, and South County. SVECS operates the AA6BT repeater at 146.115, plus offset, 100 Hz PL and the N6NAC repeater on 444.625 Megahertz, plus offset, PL of 110.9.

The SVECS net is held every Tuesday at 8:00 pm local time on the repeaters noted above. Local nets are held prior to the main net at 7:30 or 7:45 pm local time on city frequencies as noted below:

Campbell	Simplex	146.565		
Cupertino	Simplex	147.570		
Los Gatos	W6PIY	147.390	+	151.4
Milpitas	KA6S	224.720	-	100.0
San Jose	W6UU	146.385	+	114.8
Santa Clara	Simplex	147.510		
Saratoga	K6SA	146.655	-	114.8
Sunnyvale	???	145.170	-	94.8
South County	WB6ZVW	442.500	+	100.0

Note that some of these frequencies may be superseded. More information on frequencies for Santa Clara County may be found at <http://www.scc-ares-races.org/freqinfo.htm>.

FARS Membership Form

PLEASE fill out the form for all new/renewal memberships.

FARS 2004 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: _____

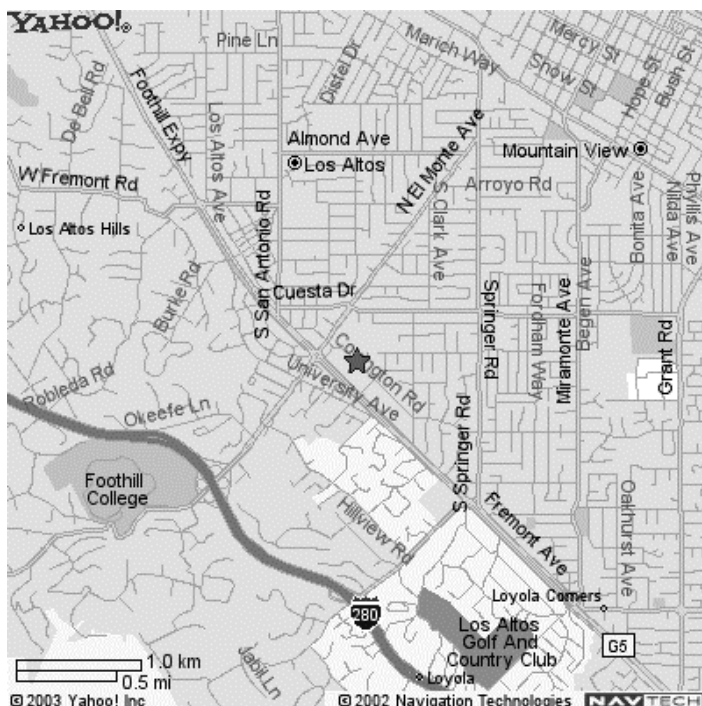
Special topics of interest / suggestions for club meeting speakers:

Dues: \$20 per year, new members add \$6 for badge fee. You may combine your banquet total and dues into a single check.

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



How to get to regular meetings:

(Visitors always welcome)

Our meetings will be held at the Covington Elementary School (directions below) on the fourth Friday. Socializing at 7 PM with the regular meeting at 7:30 PM. There may be changes in the meeting dates for January, June, November, and December.

DIRECTIONS:

From Interstate 280. take the El Monte exit (same as for the Flea Market) but go Northeast (rather than West to the college). Cross Foothill Expressway. (A) At the first traffic light turn right on Covington. (B) Immediately at the fork take the left street (Covington). Go about 1/10th of a mile. Turn left into the parking lot. The gym is the tall building to your right with red and white stripes.

From Foothill Expwy. From Foothill Expressway, take the El Monte exit and go Northeast; then follow directions as above at point (A).

From US101 or El Camino: take San Antonio Road west (to Foothill Expressway). Then follow directions as above at point (A).

TALK-IN via the [N6NFI](#) (145.230-; 100Hz PL) repeater or the [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL) repeater