

## July Meeting

**Date:** Friday, July 23, 2004.

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

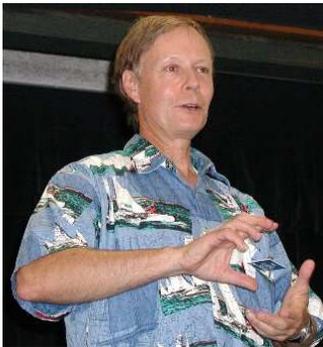
**Place:** Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

**Topic:** Field Day. There will be some discussion of field day plans. See [www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting).

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

## June Meeting Report

At the June meeting, final plans for the club activities for field day were reviewed. We heard about the stations that were to be set up and the dinner. Paul, AA6PZ, spoke of the work being done to the club antenna.



**Paul, AA6PZ**



**Mikel, KN6QI**

Mikel Lechner, KN6QI – Club President, carried away the Garmin GPS radio raffle prize at the June meeting. The “Wish you were here” number for Alan Childs, K6IPM, was chosen. Unfortunately, Alan was not present.

## Upcoming Events

July 23 7:00 PM Club meeting, Covington School  
Aug 3 7:30 PM Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier  
Aug 14 Flea Market, [www.asvaro.com](http://www.asvaro.com), FARS sponsored  
Aug 27 7:00 PM Club meeting, Covington School  
Oct 15-17 Pacificon, [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org)  
Thursdays 8:00 PM, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL  
See more events, [FARS Calendar](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/calendar)

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

## Flea market

Please plan on attending and helping at the next Flea Market, August 14. FARS is the sponsor and your help is appreciated. Contact Howard, KG6GRO, for more information.

## Presidents Column

**Field Day** was a big success. I want to thank all of you who participated and made it a success. I specially want to thank our Field Day captain Steve Stearns, K6OIK, and our station captains, Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, and Paul Zander, AA6PZ. Ron Green, KG6RLG, handled the rental truck. Omri Serlin, AA6TA, handled NTS messages for Field Day. Richard Baldwinson, N6ATD, helped out in many ways. Jack Eddy, WA6YJR, provided canopies and tools. Robert Flemate, KE6TFU, put together signs, brochures and a very nice information table. Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ, fed the hordes with burgers and dogs. Sig Rich, KG6HRU, and many others gofered. Thanks again to so many who came out and did whatever was needed. I apologize to anyone I have neglected to mention.

**Electronics Flea Market.** FARS is hosting the next Electronics Flea Market in Sunnyvale. Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO, is organizing the market for FARS and will need help. We need people to help out at 4 and 5am and a few to help out from 10am until cleanup. Please volunteer to help as this is a major fundraiser and helps FARS carry out its programs throughout the year. The flea market is scheduled for August 14. Visit the ASVARO web site <http://www.asvaro.org> for details and directions.

**Winter Banquet.** Mark your calendars for Friday, January 21, 2005. That's the date we've reserved for the banquet at Michael's at Shoreline. Again FARS will partner with PAARA to make this an even bigger event. We will begin taking signups with the October edition of the FARS Relay.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

## Secretary's Report

The FARS Board monthly meeting was held on the evening of July 6, 2004. It was called to order at 7:40 PM by the club president, Mikel, KN6QI. Other members present were Frank, K6FCW, Phil, KA6MZE, Robert, KE6TFU, Dave, KE6PFF, Mike, KG6GUE, Steve, K6OIK, and Martin, KD6WJW. Also present was Paul, AA6PZ. One motion was approved: a \$100 gift to Maryknoll. The club uses a large field and picnic area adjacent to the residence for its Field Day activities. Most of the meeting was a Field Day wrap-up. There was some discussion of holding a another similar (but shorter) event later in the year. The upcoming flea market to be sponsored by FARS was also discussed.

- Martin, KD6WJW

## Article in the News

There is an interesting article in the San Francisco Chronicle on BPL that quotes our club President, Mikel Lechner – KN6QI. You may need to copy the following link and paste it into your browser.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/07/18/BUGOJ7M9N51.DTL>

- de Frank, K6FCW

## Field Day Notes

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:kg6grr@arrl.net), At FARS meetings.

FARS field day was my second time seeing "the experts" at work and, as a first anniversary ham, was I impressed. This year, I was at the CW station, watching with reverent awe as Walt (W6ASH) sent and received code at 35-40 wpm using an iambic keyer (I'm still struggling with 5 wpm). He just went at it searching the frequencies and making the contacts --which included Florida, Alaska, and the Virgin Islands. He said it was "fun" and looked forward to the annual field day. I was lucky enough to be one of his assistants with the chance to log the contacts using PSK31, something else new for me. I can hardly wait till next year.

- Ruth, KG6RZG

Here are the highlights of the VHF/Sat field day operations

We made one satellite contact made via AO-07 to a Virginia Station, giving us the 100 bonus points. There were lots of QRM during the satellite contact due to a massive pileup, but a contact was made. Six meter contacts made things interesting this year due to sporadic E ionization. Due to this ionization, contacts were made to Eastern states and as far away as South Carolina, Mid west into Kansas with closer contacts into New Mexico and Colorado. All these contacts were done on the clubs 6 meter log periodic antenna up 20 feet fixed in a position aiming due East. These contacts were in brief windows of opportunity that appeared as unexpected strong sideband signals then just as fast faded quickly to silence in a wave like fashion, because of this phenomenon. No wonder six meters is called the "Magic Band.". Two meter contacts were made locally to the East Bay, Santa Clara Valley, San Joaquin Valley and San Francisco sections. Field day ended with Andy Korsak, KR6DD, attempting to get us bonus points for Natural power by using a hand crank, in desperation for the needed five contacts, Andy was yelling into the mic along with Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ, in pleas for contacts as people took turns cranking. Peter muttered into the mic something about needing contacts and eating baked beans (from breakfast) for energy. One well known (locally) 2 meter Field Day contester from the East Bay section, N6WG- November Six Wild Girl, stated on the air while hearing the commotion "Keep cranking and eat more beans you'll make those contacts.... three minutes left !!!" Though the natural power attempt was unsuccessful (Two out of a needed five contacts), it sure made for an amusing and memorable end to Field Day 2004.....Tnx Andy.

- Phil Hawkins -KA6MZE  
VHF/Satellite FD Captain

### Winter Banquet

Make plans now for the Winter Banquet which will be held at Michael's at Shoreline, same as last winter. The date to set aside is January 21, 2005.



## Field Day Pictures

Thanks to Mike Zensius for the field day pictures. See <http://homepage.mac.com/mzensius/PhotoAlbum5.html> and <http://homepage.mac.com/mzensius/PhotoAlbum6.html> for more pictures.



FARS Banner on the SSB tent



Antenna Setup



Final Adjustments to the Antenna



The Antenna's up



Phil's (KA6MZE) Satellite Antenna



SSB Operation



VHF/UHF Station



Digital Station



Solar powered operation