

July Club Meeting

Date: Friday, July 22, 2005.

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: Steve Stearns, K6OIK

Topic: Understanding HF Propagation and Prediction

We'll review the interesting propagation effects that govern HF band behavior, then launch into what propagation prediction programs do. Understanding how different programs work is necessary to being able to use such programs as operating aids. Imagine two neighbors, each of whom must decide what clothing to wear outside today. Neighbor A consults an encyclopedia to look up the climate of San Jose in July. Neighbor B consults a newspaper for today's weather forecast. Neighbor C looks at his outdoor thermometer. Similarly, different propagation prediction programs work by different methods, with different degrees of predictive accuracy. Come learn what freeware and shareware tools are available and what they can do.

The club also offers pre-meeting code practice, Anderson Power-pole crimping service, refreshments, and raffle prizes at the meeting. Be sure to attend for an enjoyable evening.

Don't forget to bring your questions to Dr. Know-it-all.

June Meeting Report

Chris Verbil, N5CV, spoke on technology for location based services associated with cell phones and new services that the technology makes possible.



Chris Verbil, N5CV



Del Harbold, K6JPX



Del Harbold, K6JPX, carried away the raffle prize, a Yaesu VX-150. The "Wish You Were Here" number for, Jack Eddy, WA6YJR, was chosen. Jack was present at the meeting and collected the cash prize.

Jack Eddy, WA6YJR

Field Day. First, I want to thank everyone who helped out in Field Day. We could not have done it without you. I would like to mention some of those who helped out so please forgive me, as I'm sure to have neglected a few.

I want to thank Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE for all his work putting together Field Day this year. Kudos for a great job!

Some of the others who deserve a mention include (in no particular order):

Paul Zander, AA6PZ, captained the SSB station and fixed the KT-34 antenna. Richard Baldwinson, N6ATD, fixed the KT-34 antenna and coordinated the safe lifting of antenna towers. Ron Green, KG6RLG arranged the rental truck, drive, and did much heavy lifting. Martin Liberman, W6WJW, was there for setup, takedown, and the Field Day Report. Robert Flemate, KE6TFU, helped with setup, takedown, and the information booth. Peter Griffith, WA6VAQ, organized the Saturday BBQ, food and beverage, and Sunday breakfast. Thanks to Maryknoll Seminary for putting up with us each year. Jack Eddy, KA6YJR, provided tents, tables, etc. Paul Lufkin, K6PML, provided a generator, tables, and more. Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO, organized restroom facilities. Sig Rich, KG6HRU, provided storage of the FARS radio gear and arranged for visits from Los Altos city officials. Charles Arney, KF6CUU, stored antennae and towers. Dave Cooper, KE6PFF, handled NTS traffic. Ruth Lacey, KG6RZG, helped setup and takedown. Michael Chalup, WA2FUF, provided his ICOM IC-706 for 6 meters and assembled the 6-meter log periodic antenna. John Mezak, K2RDX, copied the W1AW Field Day message. Many others came up and volunteered to do whatever was needed to get towers up, assemble tents, run cables, log contacts and operate radios to make Field Day happen.

Am-Tech DAY. The July Am-Tech Day has been rescheduled for July 23rd. The August Am-Tech Day is unchanged for August 6th. Check the FARS web site (www.fars.k6ya.org/) for the latest details and changes. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) to make sure you get an email reminder.

Flea Market. The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for August 13th. Check www.asvaro.org for details and directions. The Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System is hosting this Flea Market.

FARS is scheduled to host the market in September, so mark your calendars to volunteer to help out on September 10th.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

Upcoming Events

Jul 22	7:00 PM, Club meeting, Covington School
Jul 23	8 AM to 9 PM, AM-Tech day , SLAC
Aug 4	7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
Aug 5-7	Pacific Northwest DX Convention
Aug 6	8 AM to 9 PM, AM-Tech day , SLAC
Aug 13	6 AM to noon, Electronics Flea Market
Aug 20	Intro to HAM Radio class
Aug 26	7:00 PM, Club meeting, Covington School
Sep 10	Electronics Flea Market hosted by FARS
Thursdays	8:00 PM, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL
See more events, FARS Calendar < http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar >	

FARS Field Day 2005



Barbecue at Field Day



SSB Station



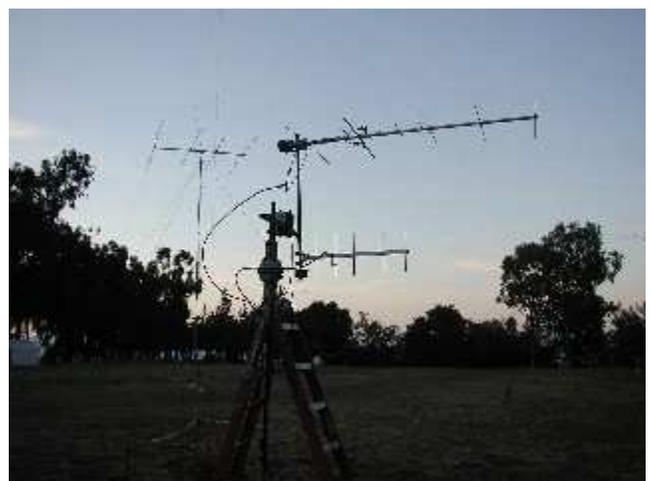
VHF Station



Digital Station



SSB Station



Antennas

Field Day Experience

FARS field day offered opportunities for everyone. My family and I arrived Saturday evening to catch the end of the barbecue. The gracious cooks served up some great hamburgers and there was good food all around. After the fine barbecue meal, we visited the several stations to talk with the operators and learn more about the equipment and the contacts that had been made. We ended up at the digital station where I talked my wife and daughter into doing some PSK-31 contacts (see picture in this newsletter). Neither holds a HAM license, but they took to the computers to make some contacts and log them. Under the tutelage of Mikel, KN6QI, FARS club president, they tuned to a frequency and watched the messages as the computer decoded the signal. Then came a turn to transmit and make a contact. They finished the contact and logged the result. Tuning and logging continued for a while. After, I was told that the experience was "very interesting" and that they "enjoyed" their time at field day. There will likely be another HAM license holder in the family soon. I guess I'll still have to take that dance class in return. Thanks to all for a great field day and for hosting my family and me.

- Mark, KG6GRR

Message from DEC/SEC about Field Day

I would like to thank all the groups that invited me to their Field Day sites this year. It took me 13 hours (0900-2200) and 300 miles, but I was able to visit groups from Prunedale to Half Moon Bay. I was very impressed with the professional operations I observed - it gives me great satisfaction (and comfort, as District Emergency Coordinator and Section Emergency Coordinator) to see such energy and technical know-how in operation.

I was able to visit Milpitas ARES, West Valley ARA, San Jose RACES, CDF-VIPs Morgan Hill, Naval Postgraduate School ARC, Santa Clara Co ARA, Santa Cruz Co ARC, Half Moon Bay ARES/RACES, Palo Alto ARA, Sunnyvale ARES/RACES, Foothills ARS, and Stanford University ARA. I have asked Phil Henderson, our keeper of the Santa Clara County ARES/RACES web site, to put the pictures I took at the various sites on our web site, so that you can see what the various groups set up for operation on Field Day - he has just told me that they are ready for viewing at <http://www.scc-ares-races.org>.

Congratulations to you all - you did a very good job!

Larry, KE6AGJ

District Emergency Coordinator - Santa Clara County, ARES
Section Emergency Coordinator - Santa Clara Valley Section, ARES

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer: David Cooper KE6PFF
Secretary: Ruth Lacey, KG6RZG
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
Training Officer: Steve Leander KV6O
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, KG6GRR

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Rob Goodson N2RAG, , Ron Green KG6RLG, Mike Zensius, KG6GUE.

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:

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Fax: 408-243-0701
Email: kg6grr@arrl.net, At FARS meetings.

Article about HAM Radio

The Palo Alto Town Crier published an article about HAM radio. Contact information for FARS was provided. See http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/morgue/2005/2005_06_29.radio29jd.shtml for more information.