

## June Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, July 28, 2006.

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

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

**Speaker:** Joel Wilhite, KD6W

**Topic:** Operating your Ham station off the Grid

Solar panels, generators and battery banks can free your station from dependence on commercial power. KD6W will describe how to power a full size station, whether for field day or at home when commercial power fails.

We will be raffling off one of the following grand prizes at this meeting (winner's choice): Diamond D220 VHF/UHF mobile antenna, MP1 Super Antenna mobile 7MHz - 440MHz

The club offers Anderson Power-pole crimping service and refreshments 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

Jim Peterson, K6EI, talked about field day experiences: operating QRP resulted in 25% fewer contacts, there is a lot of interference running 22A, and a balloon mounted antenna. The band captains also spoke about their plans for field day (see their photograph later in this Relay).



**Jim Peterson, K6EI**



**Dave Cooper, KE6PFF**

Dave Cooper, KE6PFF, won the raffle and took home the Yaesu VR-170 radio. The Wish You Were Here number for Mark Hardy, KG6GRR (Relay Editor), was chosen. Mark was present and took home the \$20 prize.

## Upcoming Events

- July 28 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Aug 3 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Aug 5 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC, 8AM-9PM
- Aug 12 [Electronics Flea Market](#), De Anza, 5 am to Noon
- Aug 25 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Sep 22 7:00 PM, [Home Brew Contest](#), 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) <<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar>>

## Presidents Corner

**Club Meeting.** July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The meeting is at our usual location at Covington School, 205 Covington Road in Los Altos.

**Am-Tech DAY.** The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for Aug 5<sup>th</sup> at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Check the FARS web site ([www.fars.k6ya.org/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/)) for the latest details and changes. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list ([www.fars.k6ya.org/mail](mailto:www.fars.k6ya.org/mail)) to get an email reminder.

**Thank you everyone who helped out at Field Day 2006.** I want to especially thank our Field Day captain Phil, KA6MZE for all his efforts organizing Field Day this year. I want to thank our Field Day station captains, Barbara, AE6RM, Paul, AA6PZ, and Phil, KA6MZE, for organizing each of our stations. Barbara did an outstanding job with the GOTA station. We worked 150 contacts on the GOTA station. Thanks to Pink, KG6ILA for handling the NTS traffic. Thanks to Dick, N6ATD for his invaluable experience. And I want to thank all of you who came out and helped out in so many ways to make Field Day a success.

Thanks to the folks at **Maryknoll** for allowing us use of their field again this year. We had several visitors from the residence who stopped by to visit with us and observe our operation. We enjoyed their company and hope to see them next year.

**Flea Market.** The next Electronics Flea Market (hosted by the [SCCARA](#)) is at De Anza College on Saturday Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. Check [www.asvaro.org](http://www.asvaro.org) for details and directions.

**Home Brew:** The September meeting is our homebrew contest. Start working on our projects now for presentation in September.  
- de Mikel, KN6QI

## FARS Board Meeting Minutes 5/4/2006

**Present:** Mikel Lechner (KN6QI), Dave Cooper (KE6PFF), Phil Hawkins (KA6MZE), Dick Baldwinson (N6ATD), Ron Green (KG6RLG), Kristen McIntyre (K6WX), Barbara Neuhauser (AE6RM), Rob Riley (KG6HVW)

Meeting started 7:40 and adjourned 9:15pm

Pink Foster (KG6ILA) and Kevin Weiler (KG6YYW) were elected members of the board.

The Financial Statement was given by Dave (KE6PFF), Treasurer. Income was \$567 this month (\$236 from raffles and \$331 from membership and badges). Expenses totaled about \$950, which includes raffles prizes, equipment, an antenna analyzer, Am-Tech Day, and other expenses.

A discussion on whether there should be a family membership, which would require a change in bylaws, was tabled for future discussion and resolution.

Our cost for badges has increased. A vote was taken and the badge fee was raised to \$8, effective immediately, to cover costs.

**Field Day:** Phil (KA6MZE) is captain for this year's Field Day and gave a report. The 145.27 Mhz repeater will be used for talk-in / coordination. Discussion on what is available and what is needed. Needs: more signups for operators and info booth.

Mikel (KN6QI) reported that one can now log into the web site to gain members-only information. Access to the club roster will be added soon.

- de Kevin, KG6YYW

## FARS Board Meeting Minutes 6/1/2006

**Present:** Mikel Lechner (KN6QI), Dave Cooper (KE6PFF), Phil Hawkins (KA6MZE), Dick Baldwinson (N6ATD), Pink Foster (KG6ILA), Robert Flemate (KE6TFU), Ron Green (KG6RLG), Kristen McIntyre (K6WX), Rob Riley (KG6HVW), Kevin Weiler (KG6YYW), Mark Hardy (KG6GRR)

Meeting started 7:40

**Possible new talks:** Joel on battery power ins and outs. Pink on NTS in digital modes. Kristen on the Physics of propagation.

**Field Day:** Phil (KA6MZE) gave a progress report. Discussion about antenna siting and publicity. Discussion about a proposal from Phil for a 160 meter antenna using a balloon. After discussion a vote was taken and up to \$100 was approved for the balloon antenna project. Still need operator signups.

The Financial Statement was given by Dave (KE6PFF), Treasurer: Current balance is \$7183.45 as of 6/1/2006.

Dave (KE6PFF) reported on Am-Tech Day.

Discussion about techniques for avoiding RF interference when operating multiple nearby stations.

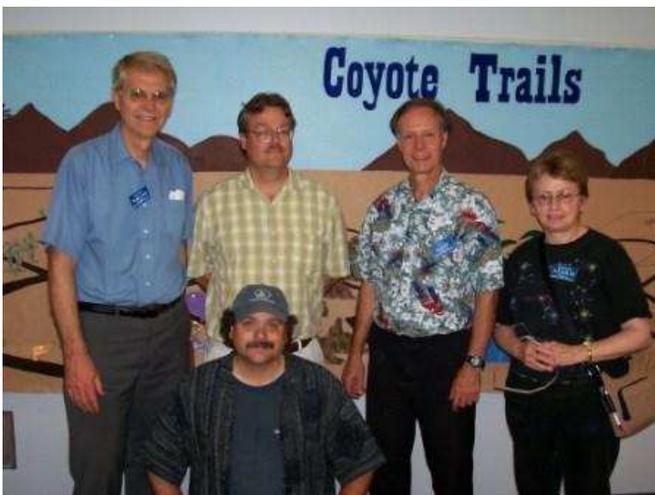
Adjourned 9:10pm

- de Kevin, KG6YYW

## FARS Field Day 2006

FARS held its field day at the Maryknoll Seminary again this year. Multiple antennas and rigs were setup and FARS operated in the 2A category. The barbecue came off on Saturday afternoon.

Special thanks go to the Field day coordinator, the band captains, and the barbecue organizer:



Left to right standing:

Peter, WA6VAQ, Barbecue organizer

Mikel, KN6QI, CW/Digital station

Paul, AA6PZ, SSB/Voice station

Barbara, AE6RM, GOTA station

Kneeling:

Phil, KA6MZE, VHF/UHF/Satellite Station and Field Day Coordinator

## FARS Field Day 2006, Coordinator's Report

**MF 160 meters, a novel experiment for FARS:** The 160 meter effort of erecting a 135 ft vertical antenna by a 6 ft diameter balloon went off with a "BIG POP!!!" After filling the balloon and securing it to the antenna, the balloon failed. We used a home-made adapter, made from a plastic bottle to fit the large neck of the balloon, to connect the antenna to the balloon. The bottle had a plastic screw cap with a metal eye screw in the center to secure the antenna wire to the balloon. While attaching the antenna, the balloon popped, leaving us surprised and dismayed. To rectify the situation, Dick Baldwinson, N6ATD, Paul Zander AA6PZ, and I discussed what to do. Dick decided that the best idea was to turn our 80 meter antenna into a 160 meter sloper using the antenna matching network that Paul had made and a balun which Dick had made from coax wrapped around a plastic cylinder (bucket). At any rate, with much fussing over the antenna matching network and the coax balun, we were able to get the sloper operational with a decent SWR at 1.9 MHz, decent enough for my LDG tuner to do the rest. So we had a sloper at 45 degrees with four radials of 50 feet each. As soon as the antenna was deployed, I connected the antenna to my FT-840 HF radio that was used for the GOTA station. On went the radio! I tuned it and looked at the S meter; I was greeted with S7-S9 noise indication, not very encouraging. In scanning the band, in which there was little activity, I heard a couple of people rag-chewing and after LOOOOOOONG transmissions between the two rag-chewing stations (4 to 5 Minutes keyed down) I quickly jumped in with "CQ Field day CQ Field day K6YA." One of the guys in the rag-chew said, "I heard a station calling CQ field day!!" This station replied to me and gave me an S6 report from North of Sacramento and we passed exchanges. With my spirits lifted a little, I scanned the band around a little more and ran into some AMers in a Rag-chew, and called CQ to them while still on LSB!! Well one of them came "down" to me on LSB and gave me a report of solid S9 and his QTH was in Oregon!!.... Not bad! Even the (the Oregon station) was impressed. At this point, knowing the antenna worked, we went back to my VHF station to make more contacts on USB two meters. So where was the problem?? We had a faulty sub-standard balloon (party quality by the looks of it). For next year, I now have in possession a bonafide 6 ft weather balloon from Edmund Scientific. This balloon has a much narrower neck!! Lesson learned: don't go by advertisements alone!!!

**VHF/ UHF (6 and 2 meters plus 70 cm):** The majority of the VHF/UHF contacts were done on 6 meter side band (50.125 MHz). The contacts were as far away as West Texas and Montana with a fair amount of contacts in Arizona and New Mexico. All these contacts were clustered between 1500 and 1600 UTC. Thanks sporadic E!! As for two meters, the majority of the contacts were side band (USB) clustered around 144.200 MHz. Surprisingly, there were very few FM contacts this year in relation to years past. I think this is attributed to more of the rigs out there that are multi- mode, multi-band rigs and the increasing popularity of two meter SSB

Those were some of the experiences and experiments for FARS Field day 2006. Special thanks to Dick Baldwinson N6ATD and Paul Zander AA6PZ. 160 meters would not have happened without them.

- 73 de Phil Hawkins (KA6MZE)

## FARS Field Day Photographs



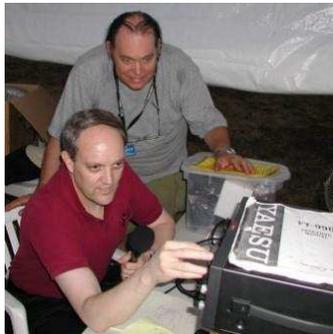
**Setting up the 160 M**



**CW Station**



**GOTA Station**



**SSB Station**



**SSB Antenna**

## CLUB INFORMATION

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

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Pink Foster KG6ILA Ron Green KG6RLG, Kristen McIntyre K6WX, Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM, Rob Riley KG6HVW, Kevin Weiler KG6YYW.

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 submit announcements 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).

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 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)  
Email: [kg6grr@arrl.net](mailto:kg6grr@arrl.net), At FARS meetings.

## FARS Membership Form

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

**FARS 2006 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 Exp Date(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.

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

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

David A. Cooper, KE6PFF  
270 Redwood Shores Parkway  
PMB 41  
Redwood City, CA 94065-1173



How to get to FARS Club meetings (Visitors always welcome)

Meetings are 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 Northeast. 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.,** 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 above at point (A).

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

## FARS Meeting – FRIDAY 7/29/06 – Covington School