



March 2007 Volume 37, Number 3

March Club Meeting

Date: Friday, February 23, 2007
Time: Socializing at 7 pm, Meeting at 7:30
Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos
Speaker: Jeffrey Pawlan, WA6KBL
Topic: "Winrad – A New Advanced Software Defined Radio Program"

Summary: Winrad was conceived to help weak signal communications such as EME and long distance VHF/UHF/microwave contesting. Now it is also used for HF as well. This talk will show the theory behind SDR and then demonstrate how Winrad can display and demodulate a band full of signals with a dynamic range of 100 dB or more. With the proper receiving hardware, it can make otherwise unhearable signals into armchair copy.

About the Speaker: Jeffrey Pawlan, WA6KBL, has been licensed since 1960 and holds an Extra Class license. He is on the HF honor roll, but his main interest and focus is microwave design and operation. He is a Senior Member of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society and also the Frequency Control Society. His webpage is www.pawlan.com which includes links to his ham radio page and to his computer controlled coffee roaster page.

Two great prizes will be raffled at this meeting: The prizes will be a Yaesu VX-2R ultra-compact dual band transceiver with wide band coverage. Output is 1 1/2 watt. The second prize is a package of 4 Powerex 2700mAh Nickel Metal Hydride rechargeable batteries.

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.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 23 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
 - Apr 5 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
 - Apr 14 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC, 8AM-9PM
 - Apr 14 [Electronics Flea Market](#), De Anza, 5 am to Noon
 - Apr 27 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
 - Apr 27-29 Visalia Int'l DX Conv, www.dxconvention.org
 - Apr 28 VOMARC Hamfest, www.vomarc.org/Hamfest.html
 - Apr 28 Radio License Study Session, Tech and General License w/exam, register at www.baears.com
 - 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

Membership Meeting. Our next meeting is Friday, March 23rd at 7pm. Our speaker is Jeff Pawlan, WA6KBL. Jeff will talk about **The Winrad software defined radio program**, software that helps with hearing weak signals.

Am-Tech DAY. The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for April 14th at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. For the latest details and changes, check the FARS web site (www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/). Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) to make sure you get an email reminder.

Membership. A new year is upon us, and now is the time to renew your membership for another year. If you have already renewed, we thank you. If you have not renewed remember that your membership entitles you our monthly newsletter, voting rights, and supports FARS educational programs and activities.

You may now update your membership information on-line at the FARS web site at <https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/r-edit>. You may also use PayPal to pay your membership fee, or print out the membership form and send it in with your check for \$20.

On-line Roster. The membership roster is on-line, so you can update your information on-line. You can also use the roster to find out how to contact other FARS members. You can also check to see if your membership is paid up for 2007!

Flea Market. Thanks to everyone who helped out with this month's flea market. Special thanks go to Ron Green, KG6RLG, Dick Baldwinson, N6ATD, Dave Cooper, KE6PFF, and Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO for handling supplies. As always, thanks to Tom Cascone, [KF6LWZ](#) and Paul Lufkin, K6PML of the Palo Alto Area Red Cross. The next Electronics Flea Market is at De Anza College on Saturday April 14th. Check www.electronicfleamarket.com for details and directions.
- de Mikel, KN6QI

February Meeting Report

Wayne Burdick, N6KR, co-founder of Elecraft spoke about outdoor ergonomics and the Elecraft KX1 transceiver. Wayne discussed the ergonomic issues of operating a miniature, hand-held HF transceiver. He described the KX1 rig and showed how it's used in different situations, including many innovations created by KX1 owners. See www.elecraft.com for more info.



Wayne Burdick, N6KR



Dave-KE6PFF, Terry-N6ZAG

Dave Cooper, KE6PFF, won the first place raffle prize and took home the Yaesu FT1802, 2M/50W mobile radio. Terry Ridgway, N6ZAG, won the second place prize of a radio speaker. The Wish You Were Here number for Gary Pedro, KF6FPU, was chosen. Unfortunately, Gary was not present to claim the prize.

Technician License Class

Chris Swartout, N6WCP, will be teaching a Technician Amateur Radio Class the last two Saturdays of March (the 24th and 31st, 8:30 to 5:00 pm each day) at the San Jose Police Communications Building. One can register for the class either via email to cas30@pacbell.net, or phone message to 408-272-6835 (press 2 and leave the name and an evening phone number). The License exam will be proctored by ARRL on 31 March at 5:00 pm. The class is open to anyone at \$35.00 per person (which includes all course materials and text), and the exam fee is \$14.00 per person.

Electronics Recycling

In this day and age, we all have some sort of electronics, whether its computer gear, televisions, telephones, or even HAM radio gear. When it comes time to dispose of that electronic gear, it is important to dispose of it properly.

The folks at GreenCitizen™ accept most gear. In the South Bay, the Silicon Valley Center is located at 4500 El Camino Real in Los Altos, 94022 (near San Antonio Rd). There's also an office in San Francisco at 591 Howard Street, 94105. The office accepts drop-offs between 10 AM and 6 PM Monday through Saturday and 11 AM to 5 PM Sunday. Computer monitors*, televisions*, laptops*, inkjet cartridges, cell phones and accessories, CDs and DVDs, and smaller batteries can be dropped off free of charge. Other items can be dropped off for a nominal fee. All this information and more can be found at their website, www.greencitizen.com.

* California Sourced Items

The Computer Recycling Center also has locations for electronics recycling. The local office in Sunnyvale (370 West Carribean Drive, 94089) accepts drop-offs 9am to 4pm Tuesday through Friday and 10am to 2pm Saturday. They accept computers and electronics, working or not, telephone, cellphone, office electronics, and more for free. There is a small charge for copiers and UPS. They do not accept kitchen appliances, chemicals, car batteries or curbside recycling items. This and more information can be found at their website, www.crc.org.

Fluorescent Bulb Drop-off

Fluorescent bulbs need to be dropped-off at locations that can properly dispose of them. They can be very dangerous if not disposed of properly. Go to the department of environmental health on the county website at <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/deh/> and select the "Hazardous Materials Compliance Division," and then the "Household Hazardous Waste Program." A link here shows a list of several hardware stores in the area that accept fluorescent bulbs for disposal. There are also links for other items at this same website.

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer: David Cooper KE6PFF
Secretary: Rob Riley, KG6HVW
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, 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, 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. 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 \$8. 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, At FARS meetings.

FARS 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Date: _____

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

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 \$8 for badge fee. **Please note:** Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

David A. Cooper
PMB 41
270 Redwood Shores Parkway
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 [N6NEI](#) (145.230-; 100Hz PL) repeater or the [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL) repeater.