

May Club Meeting

Date: Friday, May 23, 2008

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: Red Vernier, W6ALC

Topic: Working DX from China

Summary: China is a large country with a complex history and diverse landscape. Red Vernier, W6ALC, recently visited China and will treat us to a visual tour of the country as he describes his travel adventures.

There will be three prizes for the meeting. The three prizes this month are: 1st) Rigblaster No-Mic with USB; 2nd) Maha AA/AAA Deluxe Battery Charger MH-C9000; 3rd) Grundig (Eton) American Red Cross FR-250 Portable Emergency Radio.

The club offers refreshments at the meeting. Be sure to attend for an enjoyable evening. Get your name in the Relay: bring your toughest questions for Dr. Know-It-All.

April Meeting Report

The April meeting speaker was Peter Sheerin, K6WEB. Peter spoke about "APRS for Everyone." APRS is the automated packet reporting system. Peter covered all aspects of APRS: Equipment and software options, functions and capabilities, and the Findu.com website's many features and functions.



Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
April Speaker (file photo)
(File Photo)



Ron, Rob, Steve
Raffle Winners
(Courtesy Ken Ashe, KI6HLQ)

First prize, the Heil Handi Mic with HC-5 element, was won by Ron Nelson, K6RJN. Rob Riley, KI6INR, won second prize, a Rigblaster no-mic USB/serial soundcard interface. Steve Stearns, K6OIK, took home the third prize, a 2008 Northern California Repeater Directory. The Wish You Were Here number for Byron Beck, KG6UOB, was chosen. Unfortunately, Byron was not present to claim the prize.

President's Corner

Membership Meeting. Our next meeting is this Friday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>). Red Vernier, W5ALC will speak about his recent trip to China.

Am-Tech Day. The May Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Check the FARS web site (www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/) for the program schedule, directions, and the latest news.

Email Notices. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news.

Next Flea Market. The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for June 14th and is hosted by WVARA.

Field Day. The ARRL Field Day, "Ride the Waves," starts June 28th at 11:00 am and goes through the 29th. FARS is planning on being 3A this year with (obviously) three stations, along with a VHF/UHF/Satellite station and a GOTA station – so we will be ready for a lot of operators. FARS will hold its Field Day activities at the Mary Knoll site, where we have held them the last several years. We will set up for Field Day on the Friday before the contest begins, June 27th. Sign ups will be available at the Club meeting for set up, operating and for take down on Sunday after the activities are over. Don't forget the barbecue on Saturday!

- de Mikel, KN6QI

Upcoming Events

- May 23 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Jun 5 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Jun 7 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC, 8AM-9PM
- Jun 14 [Electronics Flea Market](#), De Anza, 5 am to Noon
- Jun 20 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Jun 28-29 [ARRL Field Day](#), FARS setup Jun 27
- Jul 10 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- 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>>

Field Day Sign-ups

FARS will have Field Day sign-up sheets at the Club meeting this Friday. We will be 3A this year, and will have even more opportunities to operate and log. Please sign-up for operating time slots and to help with set up on Friday and take down on Sunday. We will also take a count of how many will attend the barbecue on Saturday so that we can make sure to have enough to eat.

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer: David Cooper KE6PFF
Secretary: Rob Riley, KI6INR
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler, K6XXX
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, AF6DO

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Pink Foster KG6ILA, Nimit Hongyim KI6JLD Kristen McIntyre K6WX, Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM.

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@sypal.org. The list is moderated and messages will be posted as approved by the list moderator.

Contact the FARS board of directors at fars-board@sypal.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 \$9. 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 are subject to editing and/or compression. All readable forms welcome.

Here is how to reach the editor:

Mark Hardy, AF6DO
Mail: P.O. Box 2248
Santa Clara, CA 95055
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)
Email: mark.af6do@gmail.com, At FARS meetings.

May Meeting Raffle Prizes



Rigblaster No-Mic Kit

First prize is a Rigblaster No-Mic Rig to Soundcard Interface with USB. The kit includes the RIGblaster nomic, a 3-foot 8 Pin Round Circular Mic Cable, a 3-foot RJ45 Mic Cable, a USB Interface Cable, a 6-foot DB9M to DB9F Serial Cable, two 6-foot Mini Plug Audio Cables, an Owners Manual, and a free CD-ROM with software.



MAHA Battery Charger MH-C9000

Second prize is a Maha AA/AAA Deluxe Battery Charger MH-C9000. It has four independent slots, like having four charger-analyzers for AA and AAA NiMH / NiCD batteries. The large backlit LCD display digitally displays capacity, voltage, time and current. It is programmable with 29 selectable charging and discharging rates.



Grundig FR-250 Radio

Third prize is a Grundig (Eton), American Red Cross FR-250 Portable Emergency Radio. Be prepared and aware! This portable receives AM (530-1710 kHz), FM (88-108 MHz) and seven major shortwave bands. This radio can be powered from four different sources: 1) From the built-in rechargeable Ni-MH rechargeable battery that takes charge from the dynamo crank and from an AC adaptor (AC adaptor not included). 2) From 3 regular AA batteries (not supplied). 3) From the AC adaptor alone (AC adaptor not included). 4) From the dynamo crank alone, even with no battery pack installed.

FARS 2008 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 \$9 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.