

June Club Meeting

Date: Friday, June 20, 2008

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE

Topic: The Beverage Antenna

Summary: The earliest and most famous of all HF antennas was invented in 1921 by Drs. Harold Beverage of RCA and Chester Rice and Edward Kellog of General Electric. They called it the "Wave Antenna," but it quickly became known by its modern name - the Beverage Antenna. Join us as Phil, KA6MZE, explains this remarkable antenna. FARS is building a big one for Field Day, so this is your opportunity to learn how it works!

There will be three prizes for the meeting. The raffle prizes for the June meeting are 1st) a Yaesu VX-170 2-meter handheld, 2nd) prize a soldering iron adjustable from 25 watts to 60 watts, 3rd) prize a 2008 Northern California Repeater Directory.

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.

May Meeting Report

The May meeting speaker was Red Vernier, W6ALC. Red spoke about "Working DX from China." Red spoke about traveling to China, meeting HAM operators and others there, including [BA1CHZ](#), Lily Zhang, the first woman licensed in China (look up on QRZ.com). Red operated at the B7P contest station (largest in China, most awards) run at Fo-Shan Amateur Radio Club station and made 15 contacts to the US. 6-meters is a popular communicating frequency there. The sites and people of China are very interesting. Red also worked the KH6BB station on board the USS Missouri in Hawai'i (www.kh6bb.org).



Red Vernier, W6ALC
May Speaker



Rob, Pink, Steve, Paul
Raffle Winners and WYWH

First prize, a Rigblaster no-mic USB/serial soundcard interface, was won by Steve Stearns, K6OIK. Rob Riley, KI6INR, won second prize, a Grundig (Eton) American Red Cross FR-250 Portable Emergency Radio. Paul Roberts, KT6DX, took home third prize, a Maha AA/AAA Deluxe Battery Charger MH-C9000. The Wish You Were Here number for Pink Foster, KG6ILA, was chosen. Pink was present to claim the \$10 prize.

President's Corner

Membership Meeting. Our next meeting is Friday, June 20th at 7:00 pm (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>). The FARS Radio Officer Phil, KA6MZE talks about "The Beverage Antenna." Then on Field Day, come see a Beverage antenna in operation for our 160/80m station.

Am-Tech Day. The July Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th 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.

Field Day 2008 is scheduled for Saturday, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th. Our Field Day captain is Phil, KA6MZE and members are encouraged to contact Phil to volunteer and get involved in this year's Field Day. We are planning to operate in the 3A category with 3 HF stations, a VHF/Satellite station, and a Get On The Air (GOTA) station. We will have SSB Voice operations, CW, and PSK31. We also plan to have demonstrations of SSTV, ATV, APRS, and more.

Don't forget the BBQ on Saturday, bring a side dish and join us for hot dogs and burgers. Bring your family and friends and introduce them to amateur radio. We have plenty of operating positions, so come up and operate and get your friends and family to experience HAM radio in the driver's seat. Sign up on the FARS web site at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/fieldday>. Sign up for the BBQ, setup/takedown crews, or to operate one of the stations.

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

Flea Market. The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for July 12th and is hosted by the Palo Alto Area Chapter, American Red Cross. See <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/efm> for info.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

Upcoming Events

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
Jul 12	Electronics Flea Market , De Anza, 5 am to Noon
Jul 19	8 AM to 9 PM, Am-Tech Day , SLAC, 8AM-9PM
Jul 25	7:00 PM, Club meeting , Covington School
Aug 7	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 or you can sign up online at the FARS website <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/fieldday>. 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@svpal.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@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 \$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.

New California Cellular Phone Laws Go Into Effect July 1, 2008

Effective July 1, 2008, California joins several other states in prohibiting the use of handheld mobile phones while driving.

Amateur Radio is not cell phone, but that doesn't prevent an officer from stopping you and needing to explain the details to the officer. Here is an information page from the DMV:

<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/index.htm>

- de Paul, AA6PZ

Error Correction

The April 2008 Relay left out the source of the original code in the GMRS to HAM frequencies article - original code courtesy Lawrence Glaister, VE7IT. See <http://members.shaw.ca/swstuff/phoenix.html> for more information. We regret the error.

June Meeting Raffle Prizes

The raffle prizes for the June meeting are 1st) a Yaesu VX-170 2 meter handheld, 2nd) prize a soldering iron adjustable from 25 watts to 60 watts, 3rd) prize a 2008 Northern California Repeater Directory.



Yaesu VX-170 2-Meter Handheld Radio

The VX-170 is a compact, high-performance FM handheld providing up to five Watts of RF power, along with big audio output (700 mW) and unmatched protection against the elements!

Protected against water ingress to IPX7 specifications (submersion for up to 30 minutes at a depth of 3 feet), the VX-170 features long operating time, thanks to the supplied 1400 mAh NiMH Battery Pack.

The 16-key VX-170 includes direct keyboard frequency entry and direct DTMF input, along with quick, one-touch access to YAESU's exciting and fun WiRES-II™ VoIP Internet Linking system! (from the Yaesu website www.yaesu.com)

Field Day Experiences Nimit H, KI6JLD



I attended FARS Field day last year (2007) which was the first year that I enjoyed my first license as Technician. I got a General license on the day before Field day and I had a first chance to get on the air with a HF SSB station at Field Day. I spend almost the entire day and it was exciting and fun. I wish we could have Field day every month! One thing that I have learned in the club is about lending a helping hand and setting up the big Antenna tower on the setup day (Friday). I took the day-off to have a taste of the outdoor fresh air and be around the enthusiasm of fellow hams. It was good to be there with the many expert people on the Ham radio who give many suggestions helping to setup and make the Field day really work.

Field day is not a contest but it is treated like one. On how setup emergency operations and work on our gear so that should an emergency occur, we will be ready. What makes our field day fun is that a lot of the older members and new members or visitors who want to see, will come out - not to operate, but to reminisce and ragchew eye-to-eye. Of course they are really attracted by the free food and the ambiance of being around ham radio gear and by the view from the FD site - it was very nice to look down hill and see Fwy 280 from the top. We usually score somewhere in the lower middle of the pack, but I don't mind because the most important thing to me is to make sure we can get on the air and be effective and to get as many hams to come out, even if they don't get chance to be on the air. I hope this year will be more fun with the new category 3A and I will be VHF/Satellite station captain. The VHF station is an ICOM IC-910 for satellite and VHF 2-meter operation. We plan to operate on 6m, 2m, and 70cm. I will bring my APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System) station on site Saturday to demonstrate and explain APRS. Come and see us and join in!

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.

Directions to FARS Field Day 2008

To find the FARS Field Day site, take Interstate 280 towards the Los Altos / Mountain View border. Exit onto Foothill Expressway and head south. Make a right turn onto Cristo Rey Drive (first light). Follow signs towards Rancho San Antonio Park. Follow Cristo Rey Drive (~3/4 mile) until you reach Rancho San Antonio Park and turn right into the Maryknoll (private) driveway. Go past the gate, turn right and park next to the Eucalyptus trees. If you end up at the seminary building, you went too far. Go back to Cristo Rey drive and try again.

At the traffic circle you must pass through, follow the sign that says "Park" to find the correct exit to continue on Cristo Rey Drive.

Note that the entrance for FARS K6YA Field Day site is about 50 feet past the entrance to Rancho San Antonio Park. If you have a 2m radio, you can get talk-in directions on [145.27- \(100Hz PL\)](tel:1452710043).

Our Field Day operation is located in the large open field next to the parking area. Please do not disturb the Seminary residents located in the buildings northwest of our location. They have generously allowed us to use this location on their property for our Field Day operation.

