

## January Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, January 23, 2008

**Time:** Socializing at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm, Presentation at 8 pm

**Place:** Michael's at Shoreline

**Topic:** What Will the Real ET Be Like?

**Speaker:** Seth Shostak, SETI Institute, N6UDK

**Summary:** Dr. Shostak updates us on the latest developments in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Seth Shostak, N6UDK, has a B.A. in physics from Princeton and a Ph.D. in astronomy from Caltech. He did research in radio astronomy at several observatories before joining SETI. He has published numerous articles in professional journals as well as a number of popular magazines. He is the host of the SETI Institute's weekly radio program on science. He is also responsible for many outreach activities for the SETI Institute.

Sign-ups for the Banquet must be received no later than Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. To meet this deadline, sign-ups by regular mail should be posted no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign-ups may be done online by Paypal or credit card through noon on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>.

## December Meeting Report

Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX, filled in for the scheduled speaker and showed slides and information on his trip to Phi Phi Island. He showed Ham Radio gear that they used, the mountain they had to climb, scenes of the city (no cars?), the repeater that the local club uses, and scenery from the island. He also showed his scuba video in the waters around the island. You can see more information about this trip in the December 2008 Relay <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/relay/Relay0812.pdf>



**Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX**  
December Speaker (File Photo)



**Lorraine and Rob**  
Raffle Winners

Rob Riley, KI6INR, won both the first and second raffle prizes! First prize was a Heil "The Traveler" dual headset with boom mic. Second prize was a Powerwerx Battery Tender Jr. Third prize, an ARRL 2008 Handbook, was taken home by Lorraine Wilson, W1AR. The Wish You Were Here number for Bjorn Liencres, KN6IW, was chosen. Unfortunately, Bjorn was not present to claim the prize.

## President's Corner



**Membership Meeting.** Our next regular membership meeting is Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm ( see the FARS website for info <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>). There will be no regular January meeting due to the banquet.

**Board Members Past.** I want to thank our departing board members for their years of service to FARS: Rob Riley, KI6INR has served as a director and as secretary for the past three years; Kristen McIntyre, K6WX for serving 3 years as a director.

**Am-Tech Day.** The January Amateur Radio Technology Day has not been scheduled at this time, so watch the web site ([www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/)) or the email list ([www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/)) for the date and program information.

**FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2009.** The banquet is scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Michael's at Shoreline. This is the same great venue as last year. We need to have your sign-up by January 19<sup>th</sup> at the latest. This means if you are mailing your sign-up, you need to get it into the mail by January 15<sup>th</sup> to be certain it reaches us by the 19<sup>th</sup>. However, you can still sign-up on-line on the FARS web site until noon on January 19<sup>th</sup> at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet>.

The program is "What Will the Real ET Be Like?" with Dr. Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute. Dr. Shostak updates us on the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (project SETI).

**There will be great raffle prizes at the Banquet:** We have approved \$1,200 in raffle prizes for the banquet, so there are lots of great prizes to win. See later in this Relay for more information on the prizes.

**Banquet sign-ups** are available on line at the FARS web site ([www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet)). You may sign up by sending in the paper form (available at the website and in this Relay) with a check or use PayPal with the on-line sign-up form. Sign up now! You can also renew your membership for 2009 if you have not already done so.

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

- de Mikel, KN6QI

## Upcoming Events

- Jan 23 Winter Banquet at Michael's at Shoreline
  - Jan 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC
  - Feb 5 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
  - Feb 27 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
  - Feb 28 8:00 AM, [CQWW 160 Meter SSB Contest](#)
  - Mar 5 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
  - Mar 14 [Electronics Flea Market](#) hosted by [SCCARA](#)
  - Mar 27 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), 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>>

## CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI  
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK  
Treasurer: David Cooper K6WA  
Secretary:  
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE  
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler, K6XXX  
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, K6MDH

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Peter Chow AF6DS, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Nimit Hongyim K6XOX, Charlie Morrin KI6FX, Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM.

Station Trustee: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE  
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.

Contact the FARS board of directors 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 \$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, K6MDH  
Mail: P.O. Box 2248  
Santa Clara, CA 95055  
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)  
Email: [mark.af6do@gmail.com](mailto:mark.af6do@gmail.com), At FARS meetings.

## CQWW Contest

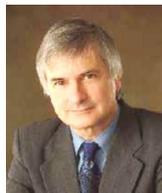
FARS Radio Officer Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, is organizing a crew to work the CQWW 160 Meter SSB contest from Maryknoll in Los Altos. Contact Phil if you would like to participate.

## FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet

The FARS / PAARA annual banquet takes place on Friday evening, January 23, 2009. The Foothills Amateur Radio Society and the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association ([www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)) team up to put on this special ham radio event. The banquet will be held at Michael's at Shoreline in Shoreline Park in Mountain View. Reservations are required.

**Topic:** What Will the Real ET Be Like?

**Speaker:** Seth Shostak, SETI Institute



**Speaker Information:** Dr. Shostak updates us on the latest developments in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence.

Seth Shostak, N6UDK, has a B.A. in physics from Princeton and a Ph.D. in astronomy from Caltech. He did research in radio astronomy at several observatories before joining SETI. He has published numerous articles in professional journals as well as a number of popular magazines. He is the host of the SETI Institute's weekly radio program on science. He is also responsible for many outreach activities for the SETI Institute.

**We plan to have over \$1100 in raffle prizes!**

## Banquet Sign-up

You may print the form in this Relay or from the website at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banqsignup>. Fill it out and mail along with your check for payment. We must receive your sign-up by January 19th. Last minute sign-ups must use the on-line form.

You may register online with a PayPal account or a credit card at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/bq-signup> to make your payment. To register, you need to provide at least your name and email address. On-line sign-ups will be accepted until noon on January 19th.

**Schedule:** 6:00pm - Open Bar (No Host)  
7:00pm - Dinner  
8:00pm - Presentation  
9:00pm - Announcements, Awards, Raffle

## Menu

Choice	Menu Description	Price
Beef	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$ 40
Chicken	Breast of Chicken, Florentine	\$ 31
Fish	Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$ 36
Veg	Vegetarian Brochette w/ Wild Rice	\$ 27

Each entree is served with seasonal greens, fresh vegetables, potato du jour, french rolls and coffee. We selected an ice cream parfait for dessert. The above prices listed above include service and taxes.

We have a NO HOST BAR for soft drinks, wine, beer, etc.

*[The banquet is open to anyone who wants to attend. Note that unlike our regular meetings, attendance at the banquet is by reservation only and prepayment of fees is required. Our arrangement with the restaurant does not allow us to accept walk-ins.]*

## **An Informal History of FARS de Paul Zander AA6PZ**

The recent passing of Stan Kuhl, K6MA, marked the end of the "first generation" of FARS members. For the benefit of the newer members of the club, I will off a brief summary of some of the old club members.

I moved here in the fall of 1970. With some plan ahead and use of the college ham station, I made various HF contacts with the Bay Area. Within a few days, I had a landline call with Jerry Starkey, K6LIJ inviting me to a club meeting. He and George Raven, K6OG picked me up. Good thing because I barely knew how to get from Mountain View to Palo Alto in the daytime. Jerry had a degree in mechanical engineering. For many years, he maintained the club storage yard for antennas and towers and was really helpful in how to put them up, how take them down and various ways to hold things together.

K6 "Old George", had a unique function at the annual Field Day's. He never operated, but he always showed up on Sunday morning. When everyone else was tired, he made short work rolling up all of the coax cables, power cords and guy wires. George also knew everything there was to know about repairing antenna rotors. If your antenna wouldn't turn, George could either fix it or tell you how to fix it yourself.

As speaker at a club meeting, George told about his work with Bechtel and the Bolivian government to build a new copper mine, and smelter connect by a railroad. Ironically they had to pay a high price for copper to build the project and by the time it was finished, the world price for copper had plummeted. With the recent skyrocketing of copper prices, I hope the project is finally a financial success.

The 1984 Olympic Games used Stanford University for some of the soccer games. We had a special events station at the Red Cross with the phonetics, Kilo-six-Olympic Games.

Jim Lomasney, WA6NIL, was a soft spoken fellow, but he published a number of articles in QST. He also had an endless supply of jokes that were so dumb you had to laugh.

Sy Stein, WA6ROM, was a medical doctor with NASA. I still remember his banquet presentation, "The Other Side of the Moon." He described many things invented for the space program that had down to earth applications, for example, dental fillings.

Bob Stein, W6NBI, often seemed a bit argumentative, but his intent was to provoke some real brain activity. Last December, I went to the estate sale at his house. In a workroom off the garage, a portion of one wall was covered with certificates from the FARS home brew contest, including many for first place. He also left a large collection of electronic parts neatly sorted into cigar boxes. I am sure Bob enjoyed the original contents of the boxes as much as the parts he stored in them. Bob published a number of technical articles in Ham Radio Magazine.

Bill Robinson, WB6OML, was one of the many Field Day activists. Many years, Bill and I set up the station for 15 / 40 meters SSB. (We let the serious contesters have 20 meters.) One year there was an unofficial contest to build the biggest 40 meter antenna. Before there was EZNEC, I used a computer program to design a 4 element Yagi. Bill figured out how to stand up two 50-foot push up "TV" masts with a 16-foot "boom" at the top of each. Each end of the booms held up the middle of an inverted VEE. Not to be outdone, Dick, N6ATD, designed a 5 element

log-periodic also supported by several push-up masts for the Novice station.

That same year, Walt Reed, W6ASH, designed and built a full size, cubical quad antenna for 40 meters. Walt worked at Rantron and made the arrangements for the club to have Field Day at the place above Crystal Springs Reservoir.

Walt was the prime mover behind emergency preparedness. He lent me my first 2 meter rig. It was portable, approximately a 1 ft cube, with a carrying handle on the top and a Civil Defense sticker on the side. It required 120 Volt power; used AM; and could only operate on the frequency of the crystal plugged into the front panel. By today's standards, it might seem awkward or even primitive. However, every Monday evening at 8:00 PM local time, there was Walt calling the SPECS net. In the 1960's, Walt was net controller for the world-wide net supporting Project Oscar.

Stan K6MA, was a serious DX-er. For years and years, he worked virtually every DX-pedition and had contacts with almost every country on the DXCC list. The few missing entities either had absolutely no ham activity, or had just been added to the list.

At the annual FD, we always counted on Walt and Stan as the stalwart CW operators. Some years FARS had 2 CW stations; some years FARS only had one station with Stan and Walt teaming up. Either way, visitors were always welcome. Even while making contacts at 2 or sometimes 3 a minute, they would also talk with the other hams in the shack. If you lingered more than a few minutes, you would find yourself in a chair and copying from their notepads into the official log book. Those were the days when all ham licenses had a Morse code requirement. Even if you had actively ignored code once you had your ticket, you soon found the rapid bursts of dots and dashes starting to form letters in your head. The keyer was actually sending CQ and K6YA. Before long, under the guidance of Walt or Stan, you might find yourself sending, and even copying the call signs of the other stations.

These are just some of the many club members who got FARS off to a good start. Here are some other bits of club history.

I was told that the club originally wanted to be named Mountain View ARC. However a group in SoCal had already picked that name. There was also the unofficial name of Foothill Amateur Radio Technical Society, which I will not abbreviate. Guest speakers were always welcomed and treated with respect, but there was no mercy if the presentation had technical errors.

I have seen pictures of some early Field Days near Moody Road where there is now a Junior College. In 1970, FD was on a knoll off Summerhill Road. Today there is a house that looks down on El Monte. There were several years at the fog-swept Rantron site, alternating with the warm field at Maryknoll. The club has also operated from Mountain View Shoreline Park, and a few other places. There is nothing cast in stone, but there is a strong preference for Maryknoll, both because we can get permission to do what we want as well as it being convenient to get to..

Well the FARS club has seen a lot of changes over the years. Solid state equipment, major changes to the FCC license testing, more interest in VHF and emergency preparedness, less interest in 40 meters and chasing DX. The meetings have changed to different days of the week, and moved to various locations. Just the same, a lot of hams show up for a combination of social interaction, learning new things, and planning future activities. The future of the club looks as bright as it ever was.

## Winter Banquet Raffle Prizes

### \$1200 in prizes will be raffled at the Winter Banquet:

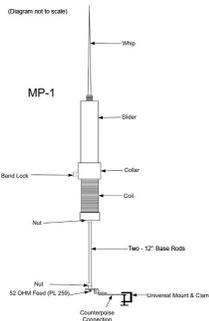
The Yaesu [FT-450](#) is a compact yet superb HF/50MHz radio with state-of-the-art IF DSP technology configured to provide World Class performance in an easy to operate package. (from [www.yaesu.com](#))



The [LDG Z-100](#) will tune with 0.1 to 125 watts (50 watts on 6 meters), making it an excellent choice for almost any radio or operating style. Power can be removed from the tuner once you have tuned. Additionally, when the tuner is not tuning, it draws nearly zero amps. Operating range is 1.8 to 54 MHz and will tune a 10:1 SWR (3:1 on 6 meters) down to 1.5:1 or less. It will tune almost any coax fed antenna including dipoles, beams, and verticals (from [www.ldgelectronics.com](#)).



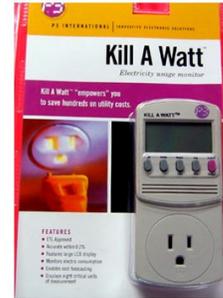
[MP-1](#) SuperAntennas MP-1 Antenna - 40-6M Portable travel antenna. It covers QRP to 300 watts.



[HTSS](#) HEIL HTSS Traveler - Single Side Headset boom microphone.



The [Kill-a-Watt](#) has a large LCD display and will count consumption by the Killowatt-hour, same as your local utility. You can calculate your electrical expenses by the day, week, month, even an entire year. Also check the quality of your power by monitoring Voltage, Line Frequency, and Power Factor. (from [www.p3international.com](#))



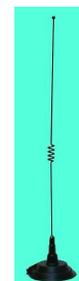
The [Battery Tender Junior](#) is much more than a trickle charger. It has a brain. It's lightweight, compact, and fully automatic; very easy to use, especially in small spaces. It will keep your battery fully charged so that it is ready to go when you are! (from [www.powerwerx.com](#))



PS-8 - [Red-Dee-2 Connect Powerpole Splitter](#) is designed to provide a low loss, high current, power distribution. Any Red/Black pair can be an input with 7 other output pairs. (from [www.powerwerx.com](#))



The [MFJ-1724B](#) is the worlds best selling dual band 2 Meter/440 MHz magnet mount mobile antenna! The antenna handles 300 Watts PEP and has 15 ft of coax with a PL-259 Connector. (from [www.mfjenterprises.com](#))



**FARS 2009 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.

**FARS/PAARA 2009 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP (January 23, 2009 at Michael's at Shoreline)**

Deadline for signups for the banquet is January 19, 2008.

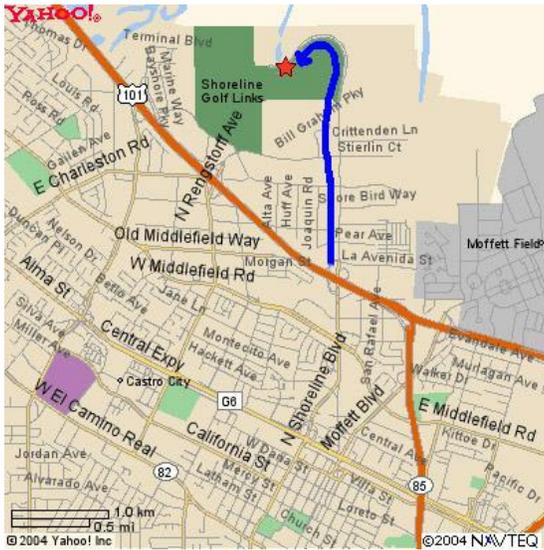
<u>Name &amp; Call</u>	<u>Meal Choice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
You _____	_____	_____
Email _____		
Guest1 _____	_____	_____
Guest2 _____	_____	_____
Guest3 _____	_____	_____
Guest4 _____	_____	_____
	Total	_____

This form may be used for membership renewal, banquet signup or both.

**Send your check payable to FARS, to:**

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

<b>Choice</b>	<b>Menu Description</b>	<b>Price</b>
Beef	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$ 40
Chicken	Breast of Chicken, Florentine	\$ 31
Fish	Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$ 36
Veg	Vegetarian Brochette w/ Wild Rice	\$ 27



## Directions

The easiest way to find Michael's is to take highway 101 to Mountain View. Exit onto Shoreline Blvd. (aka Stierlin Road) north (towards the bay). Follow for about 1 mile until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park. Alternatively, you can exit onto Amphitheatre Parkway from 101 and follow it north/east (towards the bay) to Shoreline Blvd. Turn left (north) onto Shoreline and follow until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park.

Enter the park through the gate, which will be open. Follow the road (~3/4 mi.) in a wide left curve around the park. Look for a sign pointing left for Michael's. Take a left turn and enter the Parking lot. The building next to the parking lot is Michael's.

**TALK-IN** via the [N6NEI](#) (145.230-; 100Hz PL) repeater or the [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL) repeater.

# FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet FRIDAY 23 January 2009 Michael's at Shoreline