

## June Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2009

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

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

**Topic:** To Be Announced

**Raffle Prizes:** First Prize Yaesu VX150 2 meter hand held with 1400 mAh battery and stand fast charger. 2nd Prize: ARRL 2009 Handbook. 3rd Prize: ARRL 2009 Repeater Directory.

The club offers refreshments (great coffee, great cookies) and technical advice at the meeting: Bring your questions for Dr. Know-It-All and get great answers. Be sure to attend for an enjoyable evening.

**Pre-Meeting Dinner:** There is a pre-meeting dinner at 6:00 pm for those who would like to attend. We meet at the Beausejour Restaurant, 170 State St., Los Altos. There are Great Early Bird specials.

## May Meeting Report

Steve Stearns, K6OIK (FARS Vice President), talked about "Antenna Modeling for Radio Amateurs." He discussed several programs that can be used in Antenna Design, including EZNEC ([www.eznec.com](http://www.eznec.com), ARRL version on the ARRL Antenna Handbook CD), 4NEC2 (free, do a web search for 4nec2), WIPL-D Lite (web search for wipl d), FEKO LITE (free, web search feko). Steve reported that the main method of modeling used by amateurs is the method of moments, MoM. He talked about how to run modeling software and discussed the capabilities. Steve gave a live demonstration of running the EZNEC software and showed the steps in antenna system design, including exporting the data to a file and modifying it to a standard format used by circuit modeling programs.



**Steve Stearns, K6OIK  
May Speaker**



**Dick, Carrol, Robin, Clark  
Raffle Winners and WYWH**

There were three prizes at the May meeting. The first prize was a Diamond SX-200, SWR & Power Meter (1.8-200 MHz, 5/20/200 W), which was won by Robin Yee, KI6YTA. After Dona Kerns, KI6DAR returned the second prize (Maha MH-C800S 8 cell SmartCharger), it was won by Clark Murphy, KE6KXO. Dick Baldwinson, N6ATD, won the 2009 NARCC Northern California Repeater Directory. The Wish You Were Here (WYWH) number for Carrol Kerns, KG6YPH, was chosen. Carrol was present to claim the prize of \$35. He is also in the picture above.

## President's Corner



**Membership Meeting.** Our next regular membership meeting is Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm). This is a week earlier than usual since Field Day is the fourth Friday in June. More details and directions to the meeting are at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>.

**Electronics Flea Market.** The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> and hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association.

**Am-Tech Day.** The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>. We are into our fifth year of Am-Tech Day at SLAC. There is always a lot of activity and interesting programs, so be sure to check it out.

Check 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.

**Maker Faire** (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/makerfaire>). By all accounts amateur radio at Maker Faire was a big success. FARS partnered with the ARRL and several local amateur radio clubs to present different aspects of Ham radio. On display we had APRS (Automatic Position Reporting System), PSK31, SSB Voice. There was also a demonstration of ATV (Amateur TV) and even a working amateur DTV television system.

I want to personally thank Michael Pechner who organized this event and got so many people involved. Even though FARS had approved a budget to support the event, Michael's horse-trading managed to put on the event without spending a penny from the budget. And of course, thanks to everyone who participated and made it all work. We are definitely doing this again next year!

**Amateur Radio Field Day** is just a couple of weeks away on June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers for this event and will have sign up sheets at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Field Day is our biggest operating day of the year. We will have 5 radio stations set up to operate over weekend, so we need operators to keep those stations on the air. We will also need volunteers to set up and take down the stations. Members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of Field Day. This is also a good opportunity to bring your friends to experience ham radio and get a chance to operate our GOTA station.

There's no need to wait for the meeting. You can sign-up on-line at the FARS web site at

<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/fieldday>.

**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

- Jun 19 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Jun 27-28 ARRL Field Day, Maryknoll
- Jul 2 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Jul 11 [Electronics Flea Market](#) hosted by [WVARA](#)
- Jul 24 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Jul 25 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC NAL
- 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,  
Gerry Horn K6TXD, Charlie Morrin KI6FXY,  
Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM.

K6YA 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@sypal.org](mailto: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](mailto: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, 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.

### Free Graphical Resistor Values Calculator

You likely already know the resistance band colors, but this is still a nice (and free) tool. This tool calculates resistor values using a graphical selection of the color codes: you change the band colors and the resistance value is calculated automatically. <http://www.dannyg.com/examples/res2/resistor.htm>

### Radio Locator

If you have not had an opportunity to check out this website, it is a nice tool for finding radio stations. There are also links to coverage maps. From the website: "Radio-Locator [is] the most comprehensive radio station search engine on the internet. We have links to over 10,000 radio station web pages and over 2500 audio streams from radio stations in the U.S. and around the world." <http://www.radio-locator.com/>

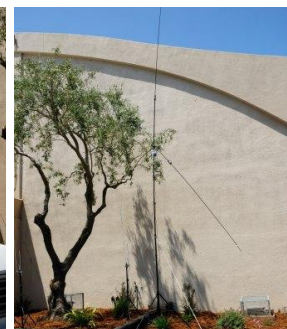
### Microwave Antenna Information

The following is a link to microwave antenna information from Paul Wade, W1GHZ. While it is geared to microwave antennas, it has some general information on antennas and has a lot of interesting information <http://www.qsl.net/n1bwt/contents.htm>

## Pictures from the Maker Faire



Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ (on the right in the photo), talks at the Maker Faire with another person. Michael organized of the Amateur radio presentation at the Maker Faire.



King's Mountain Emergency Communications van (left photo). An Antenna set up at the Maker Faire (shown at right).



Bill Dale, N2RHV-ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Manager (wearing the blue shirt in the left photo), talks with others (apparently HAM radio can start at an early age). Carol Randall, W6GEM, talks with Rudy Kelly, KI6VNU, at the Maker Faire in the photo on the right. (Original Photos found at <http://dbcurtis.zenfolio.com/makerfaire2009ham>, thanks to Dan Curtis. Website address thanks to Michael Pechner.)

### June Raffle Prizes



Compact yet ... rugged, the VX-150 2-meter handheld ... provid[es] exceptional receiver performance along with clean, clear transmit audio. Built to withstand the rigors of outdoor use, the 16-key VX-150 is constructed inside a die-cast aluminum housing, with a large, high-output speaker delivering commercial-grade audio. [An] illuminated keypad provides easy viewing during nighttime operation (from [www.yaesu.com](http://www.yaesu.com)). ARRL Handbook and Repeater directory pictures from [www.arrl.com](http://www.arrl.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.

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.

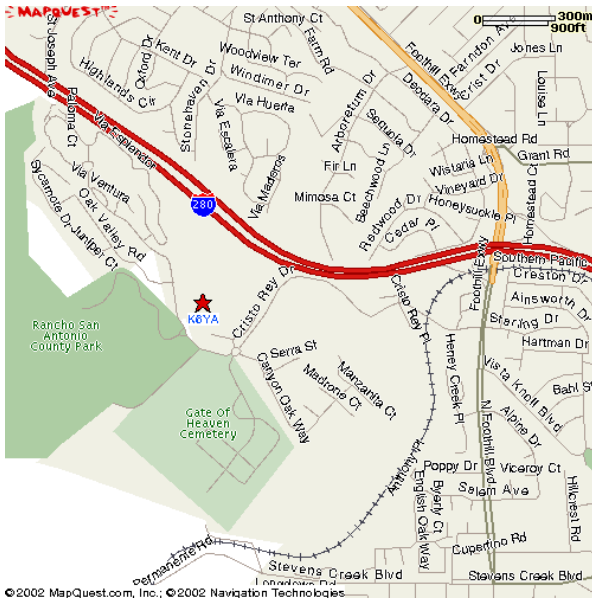
## Directions to FARS Field Day 2009

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:1452710044).

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.



FARS RELAY 6/09

FARS Meeting  
FRIDAY 19 June 2009  
Covington School