

August Club Meeting

Date: Friday, August 28, 2009

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: John E. Hill, N6CRA

Topic: Antennas I Have Known

Summary: John Hill, N6CRA, has been involved with advanced antenna development during a long career. He will describe some interesting antennas that may be unfamiliar to many Radio Amateurs, most notably microwave antennas that operate above 1 GHz, such as the space shuttle antennas. He will also cover some antenna theory without invoking James Clerk Maxwell or his equations. You may remember John Hill from his presentation at Am-Tech Day last year (May, 2008).

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.

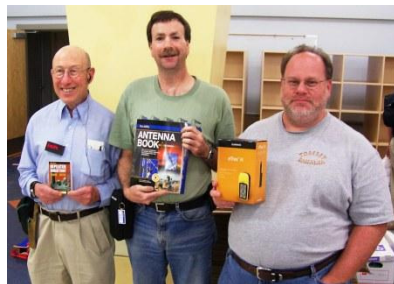
Pre-Meeting Dinner: There is a pre-meeting dinner at 6:00 pm for those who would like to attend. We meet at the Beausejour Restaurant, 170 State St., Los Altos. There are Great Early Bird specials.

July Meeting Report

Michael Wright talked about Amateur television (ATV) and the K6BEN ATV repeater system, which is located high in the eastern foothills of San Jose. Michael covered what is and what isn't ATV. He then reviewed instructions on getting started in ATV. K6BEN is a cross-band repeater for amateur television transmission. The input is on 1255 MHz. Repeater output is in the 70 cm band on the same frequency as cable channel 57, 421.25 MHz. More details are at <http://www.mfwright.com/k6ben.html>. Michael also described ATV in the field, UHF transmitters, Digital TV, antennas, and cables. Michael's ATV page is at <http://www.batnet.com/mfwright/atvsetup.html>



Michael Wright, K6MFW
July Speaker



Rich, Neil, and Michael
Raffle Winners

There were three prizes at the July meeting. First Prize, a Garmin eTrex H handheld GPS receiver was won by Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ. Neil, AF6NC, won the 2nd Prize, an ARRL 2009 Handbook. The 3rd Prize, an ARRL 2009 Repeater Directory was taken home by Rich Stibel, W6APZ. The Wish You Were Here (WYWH) number for Pink Foster, K7ILA, was chosen. Unfortunately, Pink was not present to claim the prize.

President's Corner



Membership Meeting. Our next regular membership meeting is Friday, August 28th at 7pm). John E. Hill, N6CRA whose talk is "Antennas I Have Known." More details and directions to the meeting may be found

at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>.

Next month's meeting (September 25th) is our annual home brew contest where we ask our member and everyone to bring in their recent amateur radio projects and experiences and share them with the audience. Don't miss this, since it's always fun and educational. There are cash awards for the best presentations as determined by our audience. If you don't have a project, come anyway to enjoy and help choose the best.

Electronics Flea Market. The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for September 12th and is hosted by the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. This is the second to last electronics flea market for this year.

Am-Tech Day. The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for September 12th. We are into our fifth year of Am-Tech Day at SLAC. A new feature is movies at 7pm, so you might want to check that out. 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/) or the email list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) for the date and program information.

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

de Mikel, KN6QI

FARS Homebrew Contest in September

It's time to dust off those projects and get them ready! The September meeting will be the Annual FARS homebrew contest. The projects presented at past homebrew contests have been very interesting and ingenious. The best projects will receive prizes. So, finish those projects and bring them to the September meeting to show them to your fellow HAMs and others. If you don't have a project, please come to watch the presentations and vote on the winners.

Upcoming Events

Aug 28 7:00 pm, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
 Sep 3 7:30 pm, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
 Sep 12 [Electronics Flea Market](#) hosted by [PAARA](#)
 Sep 12 8 am to 9 pm, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC NAL
 Sep 25 7:00 pm, [Club meeting](#), FARS Homebrew Contest
 Thursdays 8:00 pm, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL

See more events, [FARS 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, 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:
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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.

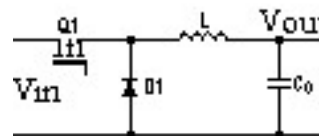
New Sound System

Perhaps you heard and saw the new audio system at the July meeting. It sounds great! We now have two lapel mics, one handheld mic (ordered separately) and two headset mics. There are two receivers that work independently on the two channels and an amp/speaker with 80 watts (as opposed to 15 watts on the old system). It has two independent line in jacks: one 1/4" jack for receiver and RCA jacks (L+R) for computer in. The system comes in a compact aluminum brief case and can be set-up in minutes. Each receiver has 16 channels to choose from ranging from 709 MHz to 808 MHz. More information can be seen at the following websites. <http://www.hisonic.net/HSU232L.htm>, <http://www.hisonic.net/HS687.htm>

Phil, KA6MZE

Free Switching Mode Power Supply Topology Guide

There are about a dozen main converter topologies used in practical power design. This guide provides a quick overview of both isolating and non-isolating converters, and provides a list of things you need to consider when selecting a topology for your power projects. <http://www.smeps.us/topologies.html>



August Raffle Prizes

By popular demand we have an unusual prize this month. First Prize is an APC Back-UPS, Mod BN1250LCD 1250VA/750 watts. 2nd Prize is an ARRL Book Hands-On Radio Experiments. 3rd prizes are ARRL Repeater Directories (2).

Article about FARS Field Day

Below is a copy of the article about the FARS Field Day that was in the Los Altos Town Crier on 24 June 2009. Thanks to Dick Baldwinson, N6ATD, for providing a copy of the article.

Local radio society to transmit around the world

Town Crier Report

The Foothills Amateur Radio Society is scheduled to demonstrate the capabilities of amateur radio during Amateur Radio Field Day 11 a.m. Saturday through 11 a.m. Sunday.

The society will set up its operation in a field at 23000 Cristo Rey Drive, next to the Maryknoll Residence near the Rancho San Antonio County Park near Los Altos.

The society will operate four radio stations during this period and attempt to make as many contacts as possible with amateur radio stations throughout North and South America, using voice, Morse code, radio teletype and digital packet radio.

There are more than 650,000 amateur radio operators in the United States and approximately 2.5

million worldwide.

The exercise in emergency radio communications begins with setting up radio stations under field conditions.

The amateur operators erect antennas, assemble radio stations and power electric generators to simulate actual emergency conditions.

Amateur radio operators frequently provide communications support during emergencies such as the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Visitors are welcome from noon to 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information, contact Phil Hawkins at 964-2040 or e-mail ka6mze@arrl.net.

For more information, call (800) 32-NEW HAM, write the American Radio Relay League at 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111 or visit www.arrl.org.

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.