

June Club Meeting

Date: Friday, June 18, 2010 (a Week Early due to Field Day)

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: Al Scott, Besser Associates

Topic: RFID tags

Summary: RFID tags are showing up everywhere, from anti-theft devices to U.S. passports to the credit cards of the future. Eventually they will replace bar codes on consumer products. Al Scott of Besser Associates will explain the different kinds of RFID tags, their antenna and circuit technology, the digitally encoded messages they can send, frequencies, power levels, and communication ranges. Al will also cover what applications different tags are good for. This will be an entertaining and education meeting. Learn all about RFID tags.



About the Speaker: Al Scott is a RF and wireless technologies expert with 40 years of experience in RF equipment for satellite communications, radar/ electronic warfare and cellular phones. He has worked with the US Navy, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Hughes, Sylvania, Teledyne and Varian. He established the Microwave Training Institute to train RF technicians. He has trained over 5,000 managers, engineers,

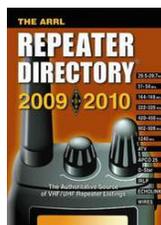
technicians about RF principles and testing in small class settings. Mr. Scott received his BS in Physics from Stanford University and his MS in Physics from California Institute of Technology. He has written several electronics textbooks and numerous technical articles.

The club offers refreshments (great coffee, great cookies). Bring your questions for Dr. Know-It-All and get great answers.

Pre-Meeting Dinner, 6pm at the Beausejour Restaurant, 170 State St., Los Altos. There are Great Early Bird specials.

June Raffle Prizes

The prizes for the June 18th meeting are as follows: First prize is an Icom IC-V80 2 meter 5.5 watt handheld with loud receive, 2nd Prize is a MFJ-392B Headphones, 3rd Prize is two PL259 Silver Teflon Coax Connectors. The raffle will also include an ARRL repeater directory. Photos from manufacturers' websites.



President's Corner



Membership Meeting. The next regular membership meeting is Friday, June 18th at 7pm. See k6ya.org/meeting for more details.

Donation. The Milpitas Amateur Radio and Electronics Society made a \$500 donation to FARS at the last membership meeting on May 28th. The check was presented by Bill Dale, N2RHV. The terms of the donation say the money is to be used towards Maker Faire and Am-Tech Day activities.

Am-Tech Day. The next Am-Tech Day is scheduled for July 24th. Don't miss out! There will be food, radios, and hams. Check the web site (k6ya.org/amtechday/) or the email list (k6ya.org/mail/) for the date and program information.

Flea Market Roundup. On the Electronics Flea Market just completed last weekend, FARS grossed about \$4000. After expenses of ~ \$2000, we should net nearly \$2000. A more detailed report will posted to a future edition of the RELAY. Note that these numbers are preliminary estimates.

Thanks to everyone who helped out and made the flea market a success. I especially want to thank Peter Chow, AF6DS for organizing the event. Peter did have a lot of help from others including: Richard Baldwinson, N6ATD (supplies); Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ (Red Cross logistics); Sven (ice man) Jensen, Rich Stiebel, W6APZ (donuts); Ron Green, KG6RLG (gatekeeper), Gerry Horn, K6TXD; and many more I neglect here. Thank you all!

Electronics Flea Market. The next electronics flea market is July 10th. The host and beneficiary of this flea market is Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System. Check out www.electronicfleamarket.com for all the details.

Field Day. Field day 2010 is less than two weeks away. This year's Field Day is scheduled for June 26th and 27th. Take this opportunity to get on air in a contest without the pressure. Bring your friends and introduce them to Amateur Radio Field Day and a chance to experience Ham radio first hand. Be sure to sign up to operate one or more of the stations during field day. Sign up to operate on the FARS web site. While you are there, sign up for the BBQ as well.

Email Notices. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list (k6ya.org/mail/) to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news. de Mikel, KN6QI

Upcoming Events

- June 18 7:00 pm, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
 - June 26-7 ARRL 2010 Field Day
 - July 1 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
 - July 10 [Electronics Flea Market](#), hosted by [SVECS](#)
 - July 23 7:00 pm, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
 - July 24 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, 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, K6MDH
Mail: P.O. Box 2248
Santa Clara, CA 95055
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)
Email: mark.k6mdh@gmail.com, At FARS meetings.

The Engineer's Guide to Digital Signal Processing

The world of science and engineering is filled with signals. **Digital Signal Processing** is the science of trying to understand these types of data. This free eBook is a guide to understanding DSP! The guide features:

- Over 500 graphs and illustrations,
- Classic DSP techniques: Convolution, Recursion, Fourier Analysis, and more
- New applications: audio and image processing, neural networks, data compression, and more
- Clear explanations
- Easy to use Digital Filters

See <http://www.dspguide.com/pdfbook.htm>.

May Meeting Report

Charlie Morrin, KI6FXY, brought his robot "friend." Charlie talked about the robotics competition, which has new and different rules every year. He showed the planning and construction of the robot. The competition was at San Jose State and pits teams made up of three robots against each other. Each robot is made by a different group, so you cooperate with two different robots in each round of the competition. Each match lasts about three minutes, so they finish quite quickly. The presentation was informative and very interesting and fun.



The Robot



Charlie, KI6FXY, Describing the Robot
(Photo from Joanna Dille, KI6YRU)



**Michael Fagan, KI6RKZ
Charlie Morrin, KI6FXY
May Meeting Speaker**



**Kit, Joanna, Jimmy, Dick, Phil
May Raffle Winners
and WYWH**

The first prize, a LDG Z-100Plus 0.1 -125 watt Memory Antenna Tuner, was taken home by Kit Blanke, WA6PWW. Jimmy Price, W7UAL, won the 2nd prize, a Pkg. of 10 Anderson 30 amp Powerpoles. 3rd prize, 2- Silver Teflon PI-259s, was won by Dick Baldwinson, N6ATD. 4th prize, two Van Gordon Dogbone End Insulators was won by Joanna Dille, KI6YRU. ARRL Repeater Directories, 5th prize, were won by Ray Egan, W6FQY (not shown), and Jimmy Price, W7UAL. The Wish You Were Here (WYWH) number for Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, was chosen. Phil was present to claim the prize of \$10.

June Flea Market

FARS sponsored the June electronics flea market at DeAnza College on June 12th. It was a successful flea market, thanks to the help of many volunteers who provided their time and resources. These folks put in long and unusual hours to make it all come together.

The proceeds from the event netted the society about \$2000 (more information in a future Relay), with the sale of vendor tickets, donuts, coffee, sodas, and water. It was a hot day and bottled water sold out near the end of the flea market.

There was a dozen or so donuts still left over, as was as sodas.

Thanks goes out many people! Jeff Shimbo and Peter Chow for Red Cross loaded the truck on Friday. Early risers, Ron Greene (2am) and Joanna Dilley (4am), sold Vendor tickets. Tom Cascone provided the Red Cross food booth equipment and drove the truck (4am). Sven Jensen brought 200-300 lbs. of ice. Dick Baldwinson, Dave Cooper, and Maynard Stevenson acquired the drinks and sundry items. Rich Stiebel provided the donuts, Mikel Lechner provided the cash for the booth, with Gerry Horn changing some bills. Tom C., Mikel L., Gerry Horn, Bob Cortez, and Peter Chow helped erect the tent. The following volunteers help with sales at the booth: Gerry Horn, Bob Cortez, Lee Carlton, Carol Randall, Toshi Sugiya, Edison Fong, Kevin Weiler, Paul Zander, Mikel Lechner, Peter Chow. Both Bob Cortez and Toshi Sugiya showed up to help without prior sign-up - so their unexpected help is greatly appreciated.

Kevin, Paul, Mikel, Edison and others helped with the teardown and cleanup efforts.

Joanna Dilley took photos of the food booth.

Peter Chow helped get volunteers and provided coordination of the flea market, with Mikel helped with last minute details.



Kevin guards the cash box while Mikel looks on



Toshi examines some gear with Kit, Lee, and Paul



The Food Tent



**Antennas at the Flea Market
(Photos thanks to Joanna Dilley)**

Thank You to Flea Market Volunteers

As the coordinator of the FARS sponsored June flea market at DeAnza College, I would like to personally thank all the volunteers to helped and provided their time and resources to make it happen and be a success. Many folks put in long and unusual hours, and also handled last minute details.

Again, many thanks!

Peter, AF6DS

FARS Field Day 2010

The ARRL Field Day 2010 is from 11 am, Saturday, June 26th to 11 am, Sunday, June 27th at the sports field located at the Maryknoll Facility across the road from Rancho San Antonio Park. FARS will be participating in the 3-A category again this year. The stations and captains are as follows:

- HF station operating Single Sideband (SSB) voice on 10/15/20/40M captained by Paul Zander, AA6PZ,
- HF station operating SSB voice on 80/160 M captained by Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE,
- VHF/Satellite station (not counted in the category number) captained by Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX,
- GOTA (Get On The Air) station (not counted in the category number) captained by Michael Pechner, NE6RD, and
- HF station operating CW (Morse code) and other digital modes like PSK31 and RTTY (keyboard) on 10/15/20/40/80M. The station captain is TBD.

Setup for FARS field day is on Friday, June 25th at 12 am and takedown starts after radio operations end at 11 am on Sunday, June 26th. Don't forget the barbecue that starts around 5 pm on Saturday, June 26th, which always has a lot of good food and friendship. Please pre-register and bring a side-dish to share with others.

Pictures from Field Day 2009



Field Day 2009 Setup



Launching the Balloon, 2009

Sign-ups

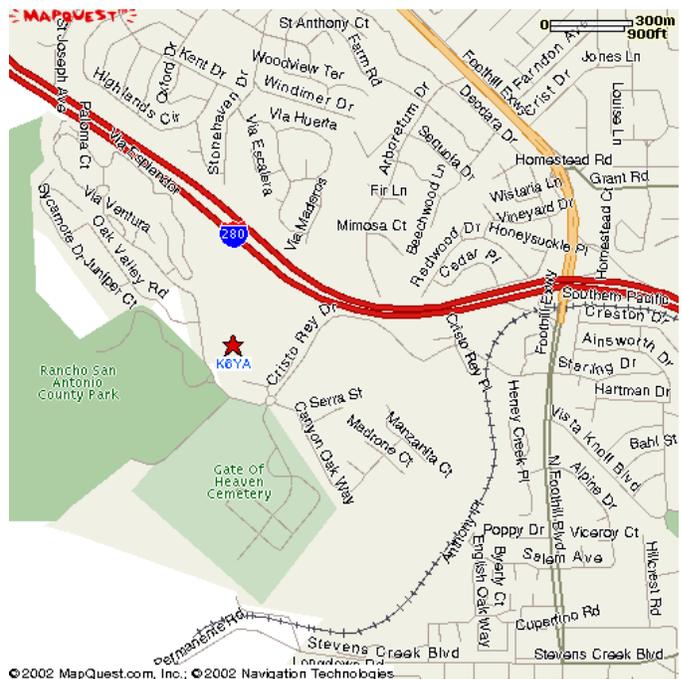
Sign-ups for all aspects of FARS field day are available on the FARS website (requires login) and at the upcoming FARS meeting. Sign-ups can be found at the following:

- Setup and takedown crews may sign up at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdcrew>
- Sign-ups for the barbecue may be done at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdbbq>, and
- Sign-ups for field day operation may be done at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdop>

Directions to the FARS Field Day Site

The FARS Field Day site will be the same as in years past. The Maryknoll site is in Los Altos near Rancho San Antonio Park. GPS users may enter 23000 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA or 37°19.962' N by 122°04.919' W to get directions to the site. The following directions will also take you to the site:

- Take Interstate 280 towards the Los Altos / Mountain View border.
- Exit onto Foothill Expressway and head south (~1/4 mile) following signs to Rancho San Antonio.
- Turn right onto Cristo Rey Drive (first light).
- Follow Cristo Rey Drive until you reach a traffic circle (~3/4 mile).
- Take the second exit from the circle marked with a small brown sign that says **Park**. This is the continuation of Cristo Rey Drive.
- Go shortly past Rancho San Antonio Park entrance and turn right into the Maryknoll (private) driveway.
- Pass the gate, turn right and park next to the Eucalyptus trees.



FARS 2010 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.