


## JUNE CLUB MEETING

### When & Where

- Date:** [Friday, June 19th, 2015](#)
- Time:** Socializing at 7PM  
Meeting starts at 7:30PM  
*Guests are welcome to join us!*
- Place:** Covington School - Gymnasium  
205 Covington Rd, Los Altos, CA  
*(near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Rd)*
- Snacks:** Cookies and coffee will be served
- Post-Meeting:** Denny's on Mathilda in Sunnyvale

### Woot Woot!

Field Day  
is here!



2015 ARRL FIELD DAY  
HAM RADIO

Details on pages 4-7



### Raffle Prizes

We will have a great selection of Raffle Prizes as well as the CASH Wish-You-Were-Here Prize.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Wouxun KG-UV8D 2m/70cm Dual Band HT 5W/4W (.5W audio)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** CountyComm GP-5 SSB General Receiver LW/AM/FM/HF (2.5-30MHz)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** ARRL Repeater Directory 2015-2016

**Wish-You-Were-Here Prize:** A CASH prize awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2015 dues.



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.fars.k6va.org/events/calendar](http://www.fars.k6va.org/events/calendar)

\* Visitors are welcome at all FARS events! \*

*FARS is an amateur radio organization in the southern San Francisco Peninsula area serving residents of Los Altos, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and several other communities.*

## JUNE

**19** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

**27-28** **FIELD DAY 2015**

*Come join FARS for this on-the-air event!*

*Guests welcome!*

*Details on pages 4-7*



## JULY

8 FARS Board Meeting, Los Altos, 7:30PM

11 [Electonics Flea Market](#), De Anza College, Cupertino, 5AM

12 [BARC Meeting](#), Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.  
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*

**24** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

## AUGUST

8 [Electonics Flea Market](#), De Anza College, Cupertino, 5AM

12 FARS Board Meeting, Los Altos, 7:30PM

12 [BARC Meeting](#), Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.  
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*

**28** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

## UPCOMING

**9/25** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

10/3 [California QSO Party](#), aka "CQP"  
*Fun on the air!*

10/17 [Pacificon 2015 Amateur Radio Convention](#)  
*Forums, exhibits, banquet & more!  
New location – San Ramon, CA*

## ***FARS Membership***

**Joining FARS**  
and  
**renewing your**  
membership to FARS  
provides:

\*

Much needed  
**support** for your club  
activities,

\*

Qualifies you for the  
**CASH**  
Wish-You-Were-Here **Prize**  
awarded at each  
membership meeting,

\*

Plus you'll receive  
a **FARS Relay**  
to your email each month!

***Join us!***

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mikel KN6QI

**Membership Meeting.** Our next membership meeting is scheduled for June 19th and our talk is to be announced. We will also talk some about the upcoming Field Day and how members can participate.

**Field Day 2015 is only a week away** on June 27-28. FARS is planning to operate in the 3A category with 3 HF stations SSB/Voice (80-10 meters), CW/Digital (80-10 meters), Low Band (160-80 meters). We plan a VHF station (6m, 2m, 70cm), and an HF GOTA station (20-10 meters). We also have our BBQ on Saturday, June 27th. Don't miss that.



See the

This is a great opportunity to experience amateur radio on HF. Even though it is a "contest," it's low-pressure. There are lots of people on air without a lot of experience and mistakes are expected and tolerated. Get on air and try something new and have fun. We have control operators there to help you stay out of trouble. But we need you to come up and participate.

We need help from FARS members for setup (Friday, June 26th), take down (Sunday, June 28th), and operating (Saturday-Sunday). Also, please sign up for the BBQ on Saturday, so we know how much food to buy. Information and signups are available on-line our out web site at: <http://k6ya.org/events/fieldday>. You may also signup at our upcoming meeting on Friday, June 19th.

There is also some limited space for those who would like to camp out at the site Friday/Saturday evening. Check with Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE for details. Information and sign-ups are available at the upcoming meeting or on-line at <http://k6ya.org/events/fieldday>. Please support FARS by participating in Field Day.

**Electronics Flea Market on July 11th.** This is the second Saturday of July and the sponsor is South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub. There is a flea market each month March through September. See [www.electronicfleamarket.com](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com).

**Support FARS with membership.** Membership dues are our main source of support, helping FARS put on programs and other activities. Membership is only \$20 (\$10 youth rate for applicants under 18) for the year. Look for a membership form on the back of this newsletter, or check on-line on our website at <http://k6ya.org/membership>.

**FARS is a California 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation**, so donations and membership dues are tax deductible with the California Franchise Tax Board and the Internal Revenue Service. Note that donations to our raffles are also considered gifts, so they are generally deductible as well. Consult your tax advisor for details.

## PHOTO TIME: Previous FARS Field Days!

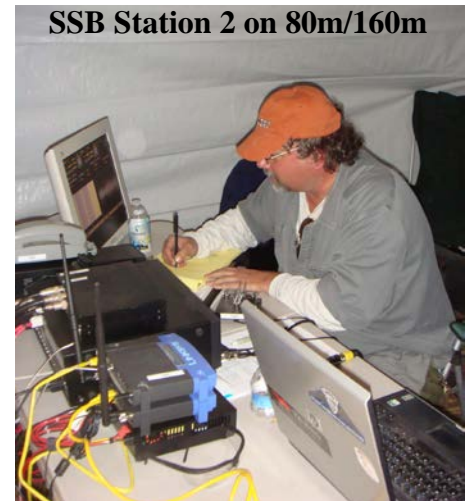
2 Towers and a Balloon



SSB Station 1 on 15/20m



SSB Station 2 on 80m/160m



# FIELD DAY IS HERE!

You are invited to join:

## FARS Field Day 2015

June 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

**What better way to spend Field Day than on an actual field! :-)**

The soccer field at the Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos will become our operation headquarters for this annual event. **Located only minutes from the intersection of 280 and Foothill**, the site has a nice bit of elevation and a spectacular view looking down over the Bay Area.

We'll meet at Maryknoll at 11am on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> to start putting the stations together. **\*Your help on Friday would be greatly appreciated for setup!\*** Directions on the next couple pages. It's quite a sight to see the towers being raised! Especially when you get to do the little dance while holding one of the guy lines as each tower is brought vertical, ha! Come on out!

**Operating will be a blast this year.** The qso's will continue for 24 hours starting Saturday at 11am. FARS will be entered in the **3A category**, with "3" representing the number of counted transmitters (we get freebie transmitters as well) and "A" representing our power class. For power FARS will be pulling from multiple generators, and we're also hoping for a stint on solar panel. This will be a true test of operating "out in the field" as is one of the primary goals of this event.



**What:** Amateur Radio Field Day 2015  
**Who:** FARS & Guests, plus hams all over the USA and Canada  
**When:** **Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Setup:** Friday 11am  
**Operate:** **Saturday 11am to Sunday 11am**  
**BBQ:** Saturday around **5:00pm**  
**Takedown:** Sunday 10am to approx. 2pm

**Signing up online is easy!**

Link: [www.fars.k6ya.org/events/fieldday](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/fieldday)

You can also sign up at the FARS meeting on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Our goal is to have fun!**

It does not matter how many qsos you make.

## FARS STATION LIST FOR FIELD DAY

### • GOTA Get-On-The-Air Station

- For non-hams (*bring your friends and family!*), for newly licensed hams with no HF experience (*this is a great opportunity!*), as well as for hams who have only a little HF experience (*check with Dave W6DLF to see if you qualify*)
- A coach / control operator will be available at all times
- HF bands

### • HF 20/40m SSB Station

- HF bands, primarily 20m and 40m

### • CW / Digital Station

- HF bands from 10-80m
- Morse code, RTTY and PSK

### • HF 80/160m SSB Station

- HF bands 80m and 160m
- Transmit via a high-flying vertical antenna lifted by a large helium balloon!
- Receive via an awesome you've got-to-see-this 300 foot Beverage antenna!

### • VHF / Satellite Station

- Operation on 6m, 2m and 70cm

# WHAT IS FIELD DAY?

From the ARRL

[www.arrl.org/field-day](http://www.arrl.org/field-day)



**Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!**

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

## **\*\*\* Interested In Operating at FARS? \*\*\***

FARS has open operating positions for phone, CW, and digital (RTTY, PSK31).

**Sign up to gain experience and have fun working the radios, picking out call signs, and logging the contacts!**

The exchange is fairly easy:

**“K6YA 3 Alpha Santa Clara Valley”**

(where 3 Alpha is our entry category – 3 for # of counted transmitters and A for power)

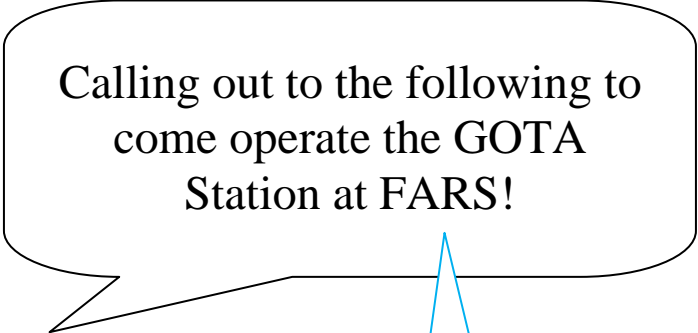


# WHAT IS THE FIELD DAY “GOTA STATION” ?


## A BIT OF CLARIFICATION

We have a station for every type of operator!  
It doesn't even matter if you're not licensed!

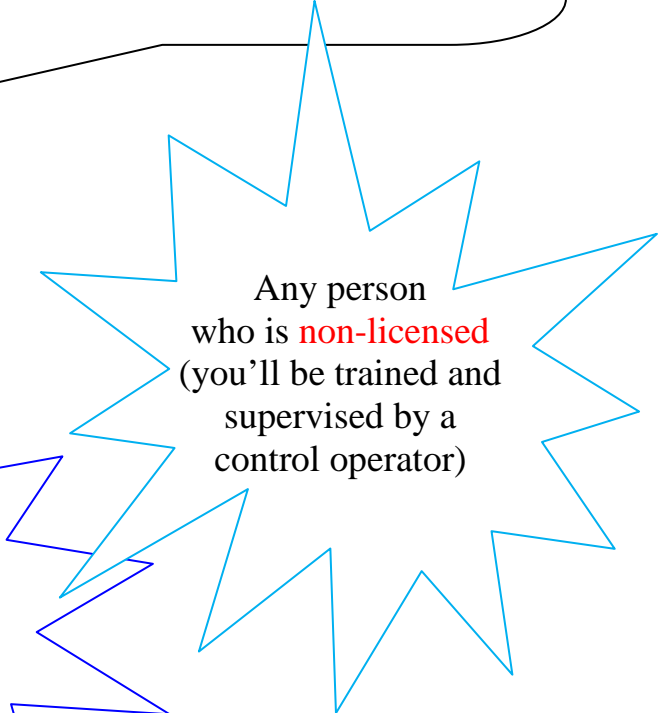
**“GOTA” = Get On The Air**



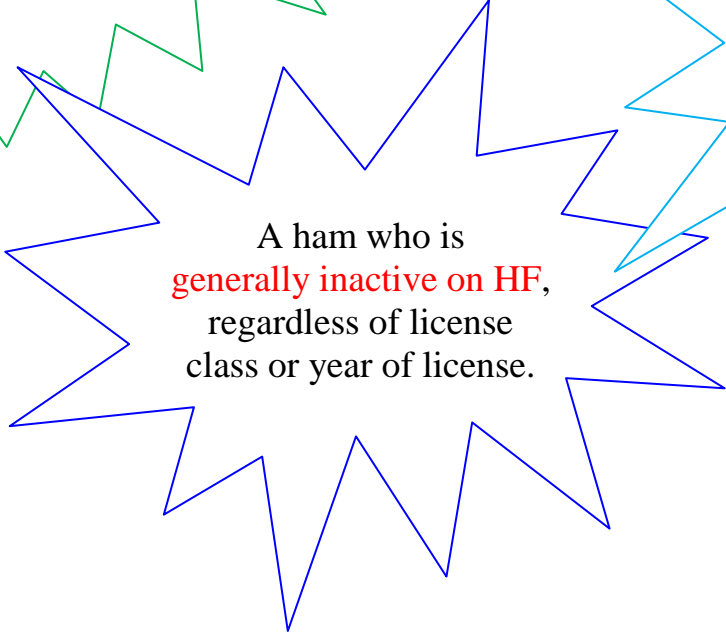
Calling out to the following to  
come operate the GOTA  
Station at FARS!



Any person  
licensed since the  
previous year's  
Field Day,  
regardless of  
license class!



Any person  
who is **non-licensed**  
(you'll be trained and  
supervised by a  
control operator)



A ham who is  
**generally inactive on HF**,  
regardless of license  
class or year of license.

Questions? Feel free to contact the  
GOTA Station Captain –  
Dave Flack W6DLF – [W6DLF@arrl.net](mailto:W6DLF@arrl.net)

# ADDITIONAL FIELD DAY DETAILS

Field Day 2015 is almost upon us. Take this opportunity to get on the air in a huge event without the pressure of a contest. Bring your friends and introduce them to Amateur Radio and a chance to experience it first-hand.

## OBJECTIVE:

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions... and to have fun!

## OFFICIAL START TIME:

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM

## FARS LOCATION:

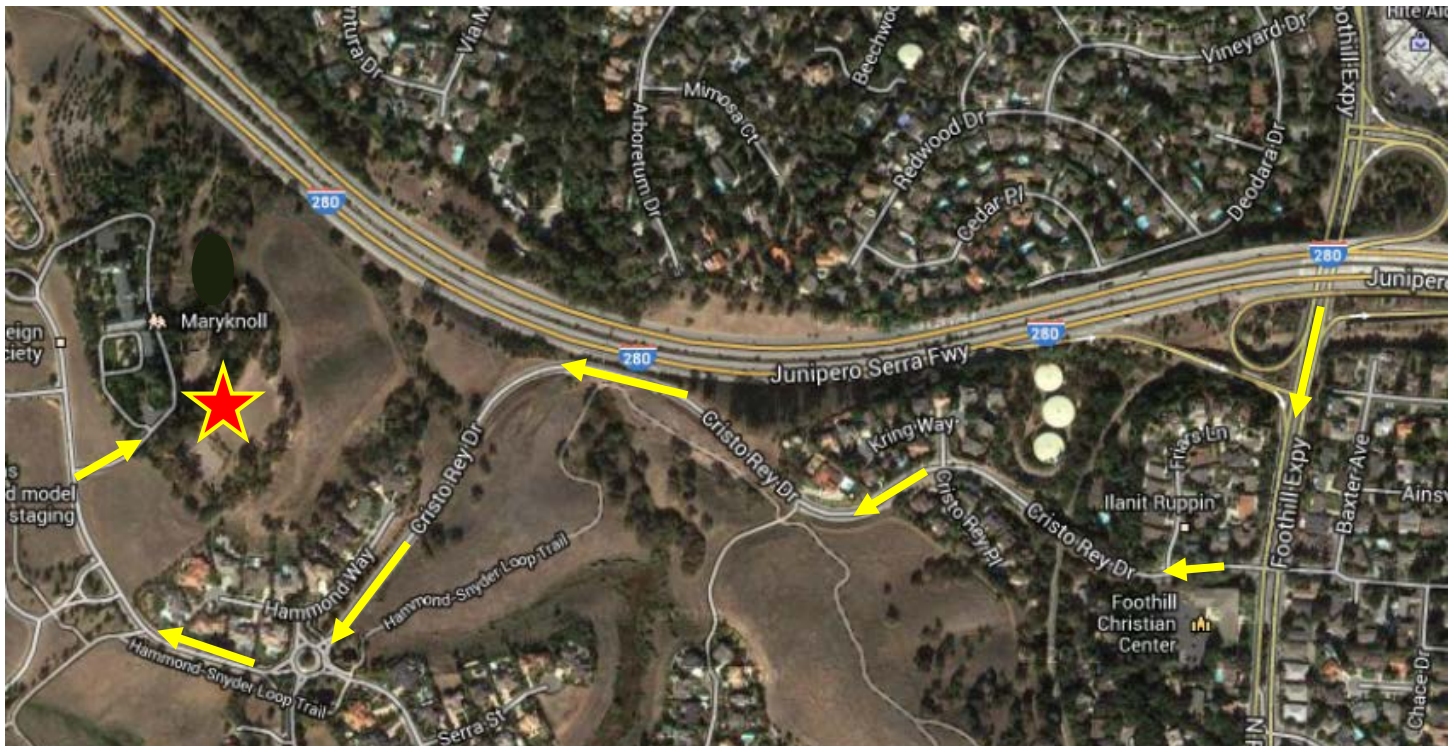
The Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos (on the soccer field)  
23000 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA  
(near Rancho San Antonio Park).

This is the same Field Day site that FARS has used in years past.  
GPS coordinates 37°19.962' N by 122°04.919' W



## DIRECTIONS:

- 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 (on the left) and then turn RIGHT into the Maryknoll (private) driveway.
- Pass through the gate, take an immediate RIGHT into the paved area, and park next to the Eucalyptus trees



# ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 2015

Sponsored by ASVARO

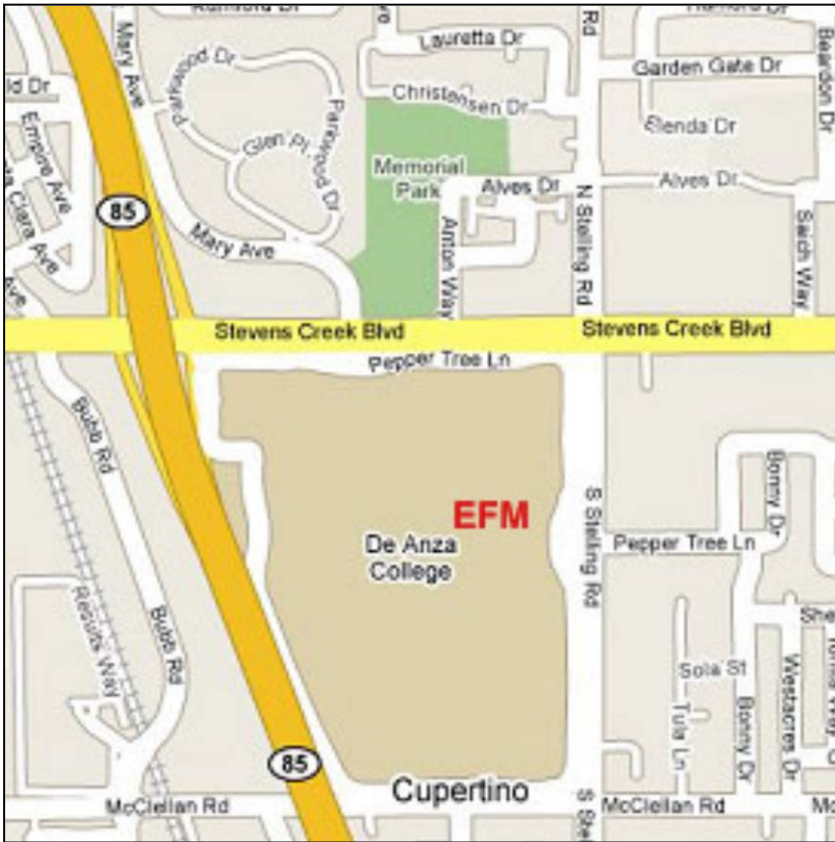
The Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

[www.electronicfleamarket.com](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com)

**When:** The Electronics Flea Market is held on the second Saturday (pre-dawn) of each month, March through September, 5AM to 12 noon.

**Where:** The market is located in the parking lot of De Anza College in Cupertino, near highway 85 and Steven Creek Blvd. (~ ¼ mi. south of I-280 on highway 85). GPS N37.3215 W122.0435

**Note:** Buyers enter free. Parking at the college is \$3 (in one dollar bills or quarters).



## DIRECTIONS

### From the Peninsula:

Take Highway 101 or 280 to Route 85 south.  
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

### From the East Bay:

Take Highway 880 south to route 237.  
Take Route 237 west to Route 85.  
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

### From Gilroy/Morgan Hill:

Take 101 north to Route 85 north.  
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

### Enter the Campus from Stelling Road:

From Steven Creek Blvd. turn south onto Stelling Road and enter on the right. Park in the open parking in lots B and C, obtain a day-use parking permit (\$3).

**Support your local non-profit electronics organization!**

## SCHEDULE 2015

Saturday, Mar. 14	Hosted by <b>Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)</b>
Saturday, Apr. 11	Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (SVECS)
Saturday, May 9	Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA)
Saturday, June 13	Hosted by Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)
Saturday, July 11	Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK) <b>***Next!***</b>
Saturday, Aug. 8	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Saturday, Sep. 12	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System (SPECS)

*See you on July 11<sup>th</sup> !!*



## FARS Member Badges

Place your order online or at the meeting.  
Available for pick up at the next club mtg

## BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Quarterly Session: tbd  
Fremont, CA  
[www.baears.com](http://www.baears.com)

## FARS Email Notices

Easy to subscribe!  
[www.k6ya.org/mail](http://www.k6ya.org/mail)  
Receive reminders of activities and other news.

## Weekly FARS Net

Thursdays @ 8 PM  
N6NFI Repeater 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL

## Bay Area Radio Builders Club

“BARC”

*A FARS Special Interest Group*

*We are a group of mostly  
Amateur Radio operators who want to gain  
a better understanding of the topics covered  
in the General and Extra class tests.  
We want to learn electronics, antenna theory,  
kit building, and kit design.*

**Next Meeting:** 7PM on July 12<sup>th</sup>  
**Location:** Panera Bread in Cupertino  
(20807 Stevens Creek Blvd)

Join the Yahoo Group:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba\\_radio\\_builders/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba_radio_builders/)

More Info:  
[www.barbc.org](http://www.barbc.org)

## AGENDA

from the last BARC Meeting held 6/14/15

## Bay Area Radio Builders Club

- Goal: homebrew the TAK-40 SSB/CW Transceiver ([tak-40.wikidot.com](http://tak-40.wikidot.com))
- 2 sets of 4 boards arrived from ExpressPCB for \$141
- Ed's TAK-40 front panel is working with the original \$1 LCD
- Jon's IF board is waiting for integration
- An LTSpice simulation of the VFO runs
- PCB and Ugly VFO's work, but Bob's N3ZI ([pongance.com](http://pongance.com)) DDS VFO is better
- Daniel's PA board needs a couple of inductors to be finished
- See AA9LC-K9GTK TAK-40 construction and 10W amp at ARRLHBC Yahoo group
- The Wintek WD-C2401P LCD & homemade encoder should be upgraded
- PIC16F628 project that displays on 16x1 and 16x2 LCDs
- Homebrew Cookbook from RSGB with receiver, transmitter and frequency counter
- See QRP-ARCI FDIM 4 kits for \$35 at QRPme.com
- Graphical displays, such as 4D Systems uLCD-32PTU
- Ed LeBel's latest inventions, such as his Raspberry Pi echolink interface with touchscreen display

Please bring your own electronic projects to BARC for **Show & Tell**.  
The best way to learn is to **experiment** and **share** your experiences.

# HAM RADIO NETS – Getting On The Air

## **FARS Weekly Net** **Thursdays @ 8 PM**

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz  
**This net is open to all interested hams.**

The purpose of the net is to keep club members informed about club activities; to exchange other club-related info; and to socialize.

## **9AM Talk Net** **Weekdays @ 9 AM**

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz  
**This net is open to all interested hams.**

This is an informal net that is very popular. Check out [www.9amtalk.net](http://www.9amtalk.net) for more information.

## READY TO UPGRADE YOUR LICENSE?

What is a Passing Score you might ask?  
Technician & General exams – 26 out of 35 (74.2%)  
Amateur Extra exam – 37/50 (74%)

### **BAEARS (Bay Area Educational Radio Society) Crams & Exams, [www.baears.com](http://www.baears.com) –**

This group holds “Ham Crams” 4 times a year for Tech and General licenses (Amateur Extra test available but no cram). A guided study consisting of six 45-minute reading periods, with breaks and lunch. They have a high success rate!

*Pre-registration required, sign up on the website. \$30*

- Saturday tbd, 8 AM @ tbd (exam starts at 4 PM)

### **Sunnyvale VEC Exams, [www.amateur-radio.org](http://www.amateur-radio.org) –**

Holds test sessions on Saturdays often alternating between Sunnyvale and Redwood City.

*Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15*

- Saturday 6/27, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 8/8, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 8/22, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City



### **Silicon Valley ARRL VE Exams, [www.svve.org](http://www.svve.org) –**

Holds test sessions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month. Arrive between 8 AM and 10:00 AM to the Saratoga Fire Station at 14380 Saratoga Avenue (in downtown Saratoga).

*Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15*

- Saturday 6/20
- Saturday 7/4
- Saturday 7/18

### **Tri-City VE Group Exams, [http://www.sbara.org/tricity\\_ve.html](http://www.sbara.org/tricity_ve.html) –**

Holds test sessions at Hurricane Electric in Fremont each month, alternating between Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. The address is 48233 Warm Springs Blvd.

*Walk-ins welcome. \$15*

- Saturday 7/11, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday 8/11, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 9/12, 9:00 AM

**CURRENT US AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN: [www.arrl.org/band-plan](http://www.arrl.org/band-plan) ([click here for printable PDF](#))**

Effective March 5, 2012

# CLUB INFORMATION

[www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)

President:	Mikel Lechner KN6QI
Vice President:	Steve Stearns K6OIK
Treasurer:	Dick Baldwinson N6ATD
Secretary:	(open)
FARS Board:	Charlie Morrin KI6FXY Phil Hawkins KA6MZE Bob Bynum WB2URF Doña Kerns KI6DAR
Radio Officer:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Training Officer:	(open)
K6YA Trustee:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Relay Newsletter Editor:	Joanna Dilley K6YL

Contact the FARS Board of Directors at [fars-board@svpal.org](mailto:fars-board@svpal.org).

**Membership:** An annual FARS membership is \$20 and provides much needed support for your club activities, qualifies you for the CA\$H Wish-You-Were-Here prize drawn at each membership meeting, plus you'll receive a FARS Relay to your email each month! An optional club badge is \$9.

FARS is a California 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so donations and membership dues are tax deductible with the CA Franchise Tax Board and the Internal Revenue Service.

**Meetings:** FARS 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 November & December (for holidays). **Visitors are always welcome!** Directions on the website as well as in this newsletter.

**Email Announcements:** Members and non-members are encouraged to subscribe to the FARS Announcement list to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news. Browse [www.fars.k6ya.org/mail](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/mail), click on Subscribe/Unsubscribe and follow 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 require approval by the moderator.

**Newsletter:** The 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! Photos, operating news, articles, etc. can be submitted to the editor at any time. Contributions are subject to editing and/or compression.

**Newsletter Editor:**

Joanna Dilley K6YL

K6YL at arrl.net

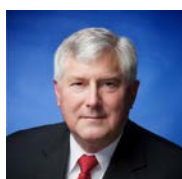
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



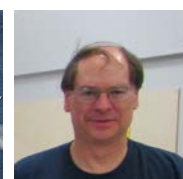
Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FXY



Bob WB2URF



Doña KI6DAR

# FARS New Membership / Renewal Form

The annual dues for 2015 is \$20. You may renew with this form or online by logging onto the FARS website and then using PayPal. <https://www.fars.k6ya.org/membership> Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. New membership applications accepted later in the year may have their dues prorated (see dues schedule).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Class (eg Technician, General): \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special topics of interest / suggestions for club meeting speakers:

## Optional FARS Badge -- Please include \$9 if desired.

First Name for Badge: \_\_\_\_\_ Select: Clip / Magnet / Pin

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

FARS, PO Box 112551, Campbell, CA 95011-2551



## **DIRECTIONS TO FARS MEETINGS:**

*Visitors are always welcome.*

Meetings are held at the Covington Elementary School 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.

**From Interstate 280** – Take the El Monte exit Northeast. Cross Foothill Expressway. \* At the first traffic light turn right on Covington. 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** – Turn Northeast onto El Monte, then follow directions as above at the \*.

**From US101 or El Camino** – Take San Antonio Road west (to Foothill Expressway), then follow directions as above at the \*.

**TALK-IN** via the [N6NFI](#) repeater (145.230-; 100Hz PL) or the [W6ASH](#) repeater (145.27-; 100Hz PL)