



October 2002

Volume 32, Number 10

### October Meeting

**October 25, 2002** - 7 PM socializing, meeting starts at 7:30. Directions to the meeting are later in the newsletter.

**Speaker:** Pink Foster, KG6ILA

**Topic:** Traffic Handling for Beginners

**Abstract:** One fun aspect of the amateur radio hobby is traffic handling. Harkening back to the hobby's roots in telegraphy, amateur operators organize into nets for the express purpose of passing along short text messages, popularly known as "radiograms." In today's connected world, short text messages can be sent in the blink of an eye, but that was not always so and might not always be so in the future. In the event of a wide area disaster, amateur radio will always remain the first and best means of reliable communication. Come and learn from KG6ILA about the rules and procedures for proper message handling.

### September Meeting Report

At the September meeting, we had our annual home brew night. Four projects were presented, which conveniently matched the number of prizes. See projects descriptions and pictures later in the newsletter. Half the first place prize (\$20 of the \$40 prize) was donated to "*Wish You Were Here*" to increase the size of the pool. A link to information on the first place entry, "The Tape Measure Beam," can be found on the FARS website or at [http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm)

At the September meeting, the number for Patricia Walberg, KG6HRL, was chosen for the "*Wish You Were Here*" prize. Unfortunately, Patricia was not in attendance.

### Secretary's Report

The FARS board held its monthly meeting on the evening of October 1, 2002. Present were Mikel, KN6QI, Mark, KG6GRR, Howard, KG6GRO, Jack, WA6YJR, Omri, AA6TA, Dave, KE6PFF, Herb, KF6BKL, Frank, K6FCW, Dick, N6ATD and Martin, KD6WJW. The payment of several outstanding bills was approved. Budgetary issues were discussed, including a possible increase in the club's liability insurance. There was more discussion of incorporation as a non-profit organization. A committee may be formed to examine this in more detail.

- Martin, KD6WJW

### Presidents Column

**Elections.** Well it's that time of year again, time to choose between the good, the bad, and the ugly. Well, at least that's what these campaigns seem to bring out. It's also nearing time for the FARS club (not nearly so exciting) elections. This month marks the close of nominations for club officers. While many of the current officers and board members have agreed to stay on another year, we still have one very important opening. We could really use a training officer for 2003. Rich Stiebel, W6APZ did quite an excellent job in 2001 of putting together a training class that brought over 60 news hams into the hobby. A new training officer would greatly benefit from the work that Rich has already done organizing a syllabus for the class. Most of the work would be organizing the next class. There are many members in the club who will volunteer to help put on the class. It only takes that one individual to step up and get the ball rolling. The club will help make the class a success. Be sure to attend the November meeting for the club elections!

**Banquet.** We are planning our 2003 FARS Winter Banquet. As usual we expect this popular event to be well-attended. The banquet is scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at Michael's at Shoreline (same place as last year), so mark your calendars. We don't have definite prices yet, but they should be around \$30/person. PAARA (the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association) will also attend for a joint affair of both clubs. They have joined with us the last few years and made this an even more special event. We always have excellent turnout for this event, and everyone has a great time. Look for the signup information in next month's *RELAY*.

- de mikel, kn6qj

### Upcoming Events

- |         |         |   |
|---------|---------|---|
| Oct. 25 | 7:00 PM | Club meeting, Loyola School                     |
| Nov. 5  | 7:30 PM | Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier             |
| Nov. 22 | 7:00 PM | Club meeting, Loyola School<br><b>Elections</b> |
| Dec. 3  | 7:30 PM | Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier             |
| Dec. 20 | 7:00 PM | Club meeting, Loyola School                     |
| Jan. 7  | 7:30 PM | Board Meeting                                   |
| Jan. 17 |         | <b>Winter Banquet</b>                           |

See more events, [FARS Calendar](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml)  
<<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml>>

## CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI  
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK  
Treasurer: Frank Weiss, K6FCW  
Secretary: Martin Liberman, KD6WJW  
Radio Officer: Omri Serlin, AA6TA  
Training Officer: (open)  
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy KG6GRR

Board Members: Jack Eddy WA6YJR, Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, David Cooper KE6PFF, Frank Weiss K6FCW, Herb Davidson KF6BKL, Howard Califf KE6PWH, Mark Hardy KG6GRR, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO.

Station Trustee: Stan Kuhl, K6MA  
FARS Web Page: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

FARS announcement mailing list is moderated, so you cannot reply directly to the list: [fars-announce@svpal.org](mailto:fars-announce@svpal.org)

Also, note you can contact the FARS board of directors at [fars-board@svpal.org](mailto:fars-board@svpal.org)

To subscribe/unsubscribe, send a message to: [majordomo@svpal.org](mailto:majordomo@svpal.org)

In the e-mail message (in plain text) put one of:  
unsubscribe fars-announce YOUR-EMAIL-ADDRESS  
subscribe fars-announce YOUR-EMAIL-ADDRESS  
(e.g. Subscribe fars-announce [dwilkes@svpal.org](mailto:dwilkes@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, Nov. & Dec. Annual membership \$20, family \$25. Club badges are \$5.75. Visitors are always welcome! Directions on the back page. Talk-in: N6NFI (145.23-, 100 Hz) or W6ASH repeater (145.27 or 224.36).

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! Contributions subject to editing and/or compression. ASCII files via Internet or diskettes preferred; but all readable forms welcome.

Here is how to reach the editor: Mark Hardy, KG6GRR  
Mail: 2998 Jerald Avenue Santa Clara, CA 95051  
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)  
Fax: 408-243-0701  
Email: [kg6grr@arrl.net](mailto:kg6grr@arrl.net), At FARS meetings.

## Equipment Available

David Doudna (has the following items he would like to give away: 1) Heathkit IG-5280 RF oscillator with AC power-supply and original manuals; 2) complete Sprint Broadband antenna, modem, power-supplies, cables: see <http://www.sprintbroadband.com/equipment.html>. All of this was operational when last used. If any club members would like any of this, they can have it free for just picking it up from our home in Sunnyvale. [ddoudna@rahul.net](mailto:ddoudna@rahul.net)

## Home Brew Night

The September meeting was the FARS home brew night. Four projects were presented, each winning a prize.



Fourth place (\$10) went to Arv Hamer, WA6UUT. Arv presented an extremely useful wood block with attached clothespins. The block is very useful for holding items – the third, and even fourth, hand in many projects.



Third place (\$20) went to Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO. Howard made a portable battery holder to use with his HT. Howard found some ingenious parts that could be used to provide emergency power for his HT when the regular battery was low.



Norm Rehbein, W6IQX, took second place (\$30) with his home brew oscillator. The oscillator, carried in a cigar box, receives a HAM signal and retransmits on a commercial radio frequency. The retransmitted signal can be picked up using a commercial radio.



First Place (\$40) went to Mark Hardy, KG6GRR (that's me!). Mark made a 3 element YAGI antenna using PVC pipe and elements cut from a tape measure – titled the "Tape Measure Beam." It is light and rugged. Testing after the meeting showed the beam to be quite directional.

PLEASE fill out the membership form whether you are a new or continuing member. Neatness counts.

FARS 2002 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) & Callsign(s) & Class (E-A-G-T-N-None): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax (H or W?) \_\_\_\_\_

Packet BBS Address \_\_\_\_\_

Internet (e-mail) address \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member(s)? Yes/No (if yes, who?) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred modes: HF-SSB/HF-CW/VHF/UHF/Packet/HF Digital/Satellites/ATV/QRP/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

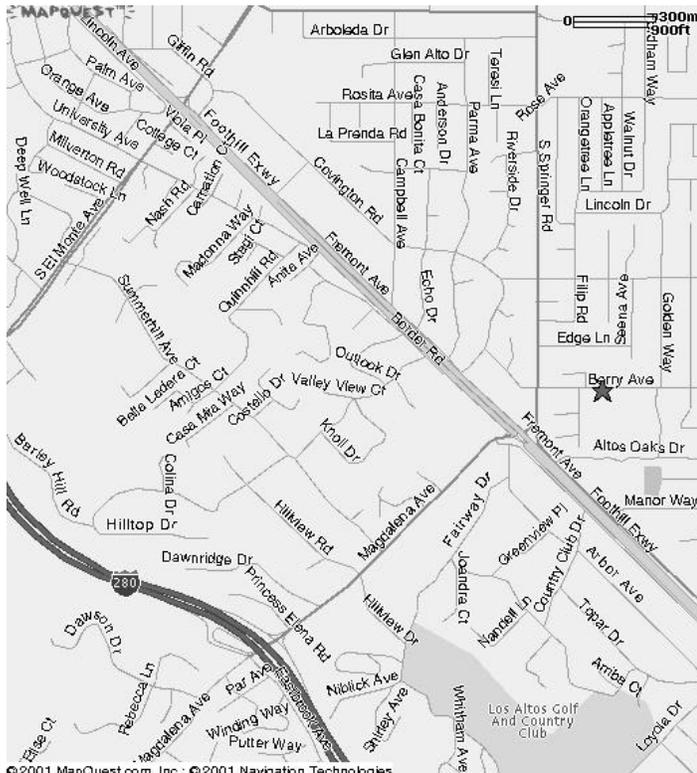
(Please indicate any areas in which you are willing to Elmer new hams)

Special topics of interest /Suggestions for club meeting speakers:

Dues: personal: \$20; family: \$25 - Prorated. Send check or Money Order payable to FARS to:

Frank Weiss, K6FCW 109 Stratford Court Mountain View, CA 94040

Please note: Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.



### How to get to meetings:

(Visitors always welcome)

Our meetings usually will be held at the Loyola School gym room (directions below) on the fourth Friday at 7 PM for the code practice/socializing and 7:30 PM for the regular meeting. There may be changes in the meeting dates for January, June, November, and December.

### DIRECTIONS:

Loyola School is at 770 Berry Avenue in Los Altos, between Springer Rd. and Miramonte Ave.

FROM FOOTHILL EXPWY take the Rancho shopping center exit and go east (toward El Camino Real) on Springer one short block; turn right onto Berry; watch for the school parking lot on your right. Walk past the office and turn right. The gym is the first building on your right.

FROM I-280 take the Magdalena Av. exit and go east (towards Foothill Expwy). Cross Foothill Expwy onto Springer; then follow directions as above.