

FARS/PAARA Annual Banquet

Date: Friday, January 21, 2005.

Time: Open Bar at 6 pm, Dinner at 7 pm, Presentation at 8 pm.

Place: Michael's at Shoreline

Speaker: Trey Garlough, N5KO

Topic: "Contesting in the Galapagos"

Trey has been on many DXpeditions and claimed the new single operator, all-band world record in the 1999 CQ WW CW contest. The presentation promises to be informative and entertaining.

December Meeting Report

At the December meeting, Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, who is a small aircraft pilot, explained how radio is used to navigate the skies. The presentation spoke of several methods used for communication and navigation. It is amazing how many antennas are in place on an airplane.



Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE



Bob Golder, WA2CFN

Bob Golder, WA2CFN, carried away the raffle prize (VX-150 handheld) at the December meeting (two meetings in a row). The "Wish You Were Here" number for Doug Smith, KG6RZK, was chosen. Unfortunately, Doug was not present to receive the prize.

Upcoming Events

Jan 15 FARS Ham Radio Day
Jan 21 FARS/PAARA Banquet
Feb 3 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
Feb 25 7:00 PM, Club meeting, Covington School
Thursdays 8:00 PM, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL
See more events, [FARS Calendar](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)
<<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar.shtml>>

Presidents Corner

Happy New Year to all. As we start this New Year, our hearts go out to those many thousands of unfortunate people on the rim of the Indian Ocean hurt by the Tsunami. I encourage everyone to help out as they can. Be sure that any money you give is given to reputable aid organizations that will use money responsibly.

Winter Banquet. This is your last chance to sign up for the FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet to be held at Michael's at Shoreline on Friday, January 21, 2005. The program is "Contesting in the Galapagos" by Trey Garlough N5KO. Get your reservation in by January 17 to be sure to have a seat. Don't wait until the last minute to sign up. Look for the sign-up sheet on the FARS web site and in this edition of the "FARS RELAY."

Program. No meeting this month. Our next regular meeting is February 25th.

HAM DAY January 15 is our next HAM DAY, check the FARS web site (www.fars.k6ya.org) for details on the new location or subscribe to the FARS Announcement list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) to make sure you get the notice in email.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Dave Cooper, Rob Goodson, Phil Hawkins, Ruth Lacey, Steve Leander, Mikel Lechner, Steve Stearns, Howard Takaoka. Visitors: Ron Green, Martin Liberman, Frank Weiss

President Lechner called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. A quorum was present. The president welcomed new board members Rob Goodson and Steve Leander, announcing that the November 19, 2004 election had been certified by the Secretary, Ruth Lacey. President Lechner then placed Ron Green's name in nomination for the Board vacancy that was not filled by the Nov. election. The motion was seconded by Howard Takaoka. Voice vote in favor was unanimous. The minutes of the November Board meeting were reviewed and accepted with corrections. Treasurer Dave Cooper reported that the current bank balance was \$7,189.17. Expenses for Ham Day #2 were \$45.05 since he was able to use items left over from Ham Day #1. So far, there have been 11 banquet reservations and 11 membership renewals. Howard Takaoka reported that the first prize for the banquet is an IC 706 with a free mounting kit. The second prize is a Yaesu FT 800 dual band mobile radio. Total cost of prizes: \$1,157.76. Howard asked for approval of the extra expenditure over the Board's original figure. President Lechner moved to approve the extra expenditure to be split between PAARA and FARS, with FARS' share \$578.88. Ron Green seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Dave Cooper reported on Ham Day #2. There were 67 attendees. He projected an average expenditure of \$50 per future Ham Day. President Lechner moved and Rob Goodson seconded the setting of Ham Day expenses at \$75 for the January 2005 Ham Day. Approved by unanimous voice vote. The question was raised about provision for a rainy Ham Day. Several ideas were proposed.

President Lechner announced that the December 17 meeting will feature Phil Hawkins speaking on "Aircraft Radio Navigation." This was followed by a brief discussion of possible future meeting topics. The meeting was adjourned by President Lechner at 9:05 p.m.

- de Ruth Lacey, Secretary

FARS / PAARA 2005 Winter Banquet

The FARS / PAARA annual banquet will take place on Friday evening, January 21, 2005. We are again teaming up with [PAARA](#) (Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association) to make this an even bigger event. By popular demand we are returning to Michael's at Shoreline:

Where:	Michael's at Shoreline 2960 No. Shoreline Blvd Mountain View, CA 650-962-1014
When:	6:00pm - Open Bar (No Host) 7:00pm - Dinner 8:00pm - Presentation

The program is "Contesting in the Galapagos" by Trey Garlough N5KO. Trey was first licensed 1974 as WN4KKN. To say he is an "avid contester" would be an understatement! Trey claimed the new single operator, all-band world record in his 1999 CQ WW CW contest performance. While he particularly excels at CW contesting, he can often be found dabbling in SSB and RTTY contests as well. He has been on many famous DXpeditions. Even the casual contester will certainly find Trey in his logbook under many call signs.

Note that unlike regular meetings, attendance at the banquet is by reservation only. To attend this event, fill out a Banquet Signup form and include payment for the appropriate amount. You should renew your FARS membership if you have not already done so.

Raffle Prizes

We are planning to raffle nearly \$1,000 in amateur radio gear. The raffle prizes include an Icom IC-706 MkIIg and a Yaesu FT-8800R. Tickets may be purchased at the banquet, so be sure to bring some extra cash. No purchase is required to enter, but your donation is much appreciated to cover the cost of the prizes.

We have decided on the following menu choices:

Menu Choice	Price
Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$37
Breast of Chicken Florentine	\$30
Broiled Salmon Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$32
Vegetarian Brochette	\$25

Each entree is served with seasonal greens, fresh vegetables, potato du jour, and French rolls. For dessert we have an ice cream parfait. Prices include all taxes and tips.

We will have a NO HOST BAR for soft drinks, wine, beer, etc.

Don't Miss it! This is going to be a fun time for everyone, so let's make it a big turnout. See you there! For reference you might want to print out a copy of the [Banquet Flyer](#) (from the FARS website) which includes a map.

CLUB INFORMATION

President:	Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President:	Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer:	David Cooper KE6PFF
Secretary:	Ruth, KG6RZG
Radio Officer:	Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
Training Officer:	Mike Zensius, KG6GUE
Relay Editor:	Mark Hardy, KG6GRR
FARS Board:	Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Rob Goodson N2RAG, Steve Leander KV6O, Ron Green KG6RLG.
Station Trustee:	Stan Kuhl, K6MA
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 also submit an announcement to the FARS Announcement at fars-announce@svpal.org. The list is moderated and messages will be posted as approved by the list moderator.

The FARS board of directors may be reached 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 \$6. Visitors are always welcome! Directions in this newsletter. Talk-in: N6NFI (145.23-, 100 Hz) or W6ASH repeater (145.27-, 100 Hz).

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:

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Wave of Destruction, Wave of Salvation (From the Washington Post)

By Rama Lakshmi, Page D01, January 02, 2005

PORT BLAIR, India -- About one month ago, Bharathi Prasad and her team of six young ham radio operators landed in this remote island capital with a hobbyist's dream: Set up a station and establish a new world record for global ham radio contacts. In the world of ham slang, it was called a "Dxpedition."

"It is a big honor to come to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and operate. There is no ham activity here because it is considered a very sensitive area by the Indian government," said Prasad, a 46-year-old mother of two from New Delhi.

In fact, the last ham activity in these scattered islands in the Bay of Bengal, 900 miles east of the Indian mainland, occurred in 1987, when Prasad set up a station in Port Blair and made 15,500 calls. "I had always wanted to come back and break that record," she said.

This time, Prasad set up an antenna in her hotel and turned Room 501 into a radio station. She made more than 1,000 contacts every day and said she operated "almost all day and all night, with just three hours of sleep."

In the early hours of Dec. 26, while the other hotel guests were fast asleep, Prasad's room was crackling with the usual squawks and beeps. At 6:29 a.m., she felt the first tremors of an earthquake. The tables in her room started shaking violently. She jumped up and shouted, "Tremors!" into her microphone. Then the radio went dead. She ran out and alerted the hotel staff and other guests.

But with that one word, she had alerted the world of radio hams, too.

Within a few hours, the extent of the damage was clear to everyone in Port Blair. But the tsunami had knocked out the power supply and telephone service of the entire archipelago of 500 islands, leaving the capital virtually cut off from the rest of India.

Undaunted, Prasad set up a temporary station on the hotel lawn with the help of a generator -- and put the city back on the ham radio map.

"I contacted Indian hams in other states and told them about what had happened. The whole world of radio hams [was] looking for us, because they had not heard from us after the tremors," she said later. "But I also knew this was going to be a big disaster. I immediately abandoned my expedition and told all radio operators to stop disturbing me. I was only on emergency communication from then on."

While news of the death and devastation caused by the tsunami in other parts of India was quickly transmitted around the world, the fate of the Andamans and Nicobars was slow to unfold.

Prasad kept broadcasting information about the situation to anyone who could hear her radio. Over and over, she repeated that there was no power, no water, no phone lines.

On Monday morning, she marched into the district commissioner's office and offered her services. "What is a ham?" he asked her. After she explained, he let her set up a radio station in his office, and a second one on Car Nicobar, the island hit hardest.

For the next two days, as the government grappled with the collapsed communication infrastructure, Prasad's ham call sign, VU2RBI, was the only link for thousands of Indians who were worried about their friends and families in the islands. She also became the hub for relief communications among officials.

"Survivors in Car Nicobar were communicating with their relatives in Port Blair through us," she said. When the phone lines were restored on Tuesday, Prasad's team in Car Nicobar radioed information about survivors to her team in Port Blair, whose members then called anxious relatives on the mainland to tell them that their loved ones were alive and well.

Prasad also helped 15 foreign tourists, including several from the United States, send news to their families. Offers of relief aid poured in from around the world through her radio, and she directed them to government officials. She also arranged for volunteer doctors to be sent from other Indian states.

Now she has become so popular in the islands, and in the ham world, that she said she has been affectionately nicknamed the "Teresa of the Bay of Bengal."

When the earthquake occurred, Prasad's worried husband called her from New Delhi and asked her to return home immediately.

"He reminded me that I have two children to look after back home," she said, laughing. "I told him that as a ham radio operator, I have a duty in times of disaster."

Under India's strict communications laws, a ham cannot leave home with his or her radio without going through an elaborate bureaucratic process to obtain permission from various ministries.

Prasad said that after her first expedition to Port Blair, she spent 17 years begging and badgering officials before she was allowed to return.

Now she hopes her work in the aftermath of the tsunami will ease the path for other hams in India.

"She looked like a simple housewife when she checked in," recalled Ravi Singh, the hotel manager in Port Blair. "But now I marvel at the courage she has shown."

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<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/admin/emailfriend?contentId=A41861-2005Jan2&sent=no&referrer=emailarticle>

Silent Key

FARS is saddened by the passing of Stephen J. Loring, KN6BV, who died at his home November 30, 2004. He was 87. He was born March 17, 1917 and moved to the bay area in 1946 after being discharged from the Army. He retired from the Army reserves in 1977 as a Lt. Colonel. He worked 20 years as a dental x-ray technician and 10 years in a hardware store. He was a member of EMARC (became FARS) and was licensed in an EMARC class. He was one of the original members of the 10 o'clock (now the 9 AM) net. Steve participated in many of the club activities and was ready to help make them a success. He was a good friend will be missed.

- de Arv Hamer, WA6UUT