

## September Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, September 23, 2005.

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

**Place:** Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

**Topic:** Home Brew Contest

Show and talk about your favorite ham radio project.



### Stephen, KV60, 1<sup>st</sup> Place FARS 2004 Homebrew Contest

Steve built a T-hunt transceiver and took home the first prize, out of seven entries, at last year's home brew contest.

The club also offers pre-meeting code practice, Anderson Power-pole crimping service, refreshments, and raffle prize (*Garmin eTrex GPS or Yaesu VX-170*) at the meeting. Be sure to attend for an enjoyable evening.

Don't forget to bring your questions to Dr. Know-it-all.

## August Meeting Report

Kristin McIntyre, K6WX, gave a presented software defined radio. The presentation covered what SDR is, how it's done, aspects of modulation/demodulation, adjacent signal rejection, power requirements and other topics. Software Defined Radio, or SDR, replaces analog radio components with digital signal processing. This talk explored several aspects of this emerging technology, which offers the promise of smaller, more flexible radios with characteristics not realizable with conventional circuitry. Many thanks to Kristin for this presentation.

Susan Thomas, KG6RZI, won the raffle and took home the Yaesu VX-170 radio.

## Upcoming Events

Sep 23	7:00 PM, <a href="#">Club meeting</a> , Covington School
Oct 6	7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
Oct 8	<a href="#">Electronics Flea Market</a> hosted by FARS
Oct 8	8 AM to 9 PM, <a href="#">AM-Tech day</a> , SLAC
Oct 14-16	<a href="#">Pacificon</a> , San Ramon, CA. <a href="http://www.pacificon.org">www.pacificon.org</a>
Oct 28	7:00 PM, <a href="#">Club meeting</a> , Covington School
	Portable dual-band J-pole, Ed Fong, WBI6QN
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>>

## Presidents Corner

**Club Meeting.** September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. This meeting is our annual homebrew contest and you are invited to bring your Amateur Radio project to the meeting to show and describe to the audience. We will be rewarding prizes to the best 3 presentations (1<sup>st</sup> - \$40, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$30, and 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$20). The audience decides the winners.

**Am-Tech DAY.** The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>. We will be operating the special event station N6T to celebrate the first anniversary. Check the FARS web site ([www.fars.k6ya.org/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/)) for the latest details and changes. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list ([www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/](mailto:www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/)) to make sure you get an email reminder.

**Flea Market.** SVECS is sponsoring the next Electronics Flea Market on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Check [www.asvaro.org](http://www.asvaro.org) for details and directions. This is the last Electronics Flea Market until March 2006!

- de Mikel, KN6QI

## Pacificon

FARS vice-president Steve Stearns, K6OIK, is giving two presentations at Pacificon 2005. On Friday, October 14, he will be speaking at the Pacificon Antenna Forum on strange new ideas in antennas and impedance matching. He will describe a novel impedance-matching method that gives unity VSWR over infinite bandwidth as well as amateur antenna designs that use amateur-made double-negative metamaterials. Another exciting thing on Friday will be Keith Snyder's talk. Keith spoke at FARS meeting this past February. Keith was modeling the skin currents and how they changed the patterns of antennas on vehicles, aircraft, and big ships, until Steve gave him a harder problem - Saratoga. Keith did a full electromagnetic simulation of the city of Saratoga's effect on Steve's antennas. Keith's supercomputer has 96 Gbytes memory, 12 Terabytes of disk, and 53 GFLOP/sec computation speed, but still, Saratoga took quite a while to analyze. Keith found Steve's elevation takeoff angles by an all-out numerical solution of Maxwell's equations that meshed the city!

On Saturday morning, October 15, Steve will give his famous short course on Smith charts and impedance matching, which covers single-frequency, multiple-frequency, and broadband matching. In previous years, he showed how to broadband match the K6EI half-square across the entire 40 meter band, and real time design of a two-frequency matching network for a GPS antenna that simultaneously matched the L1 and L2 GPS frequencies.

The Antenna Forum sells out early; so you need to register in advance. <http://www.pacificon.org>

## CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI  
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK  
Treasurer: David Cooper KE6PFF  
Secretary: Ruth Lacey, KG6RZG  
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE  
Training Officer: Steve Leander KV6O  
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, KG6GRR  
FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Howard Takaoka KG6GRO, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Rob Goodson N2RAG, , Ron Green KG6RLG, Mike Zensius, KG6GUE.  
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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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).

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 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.

## FARS VHF Hill-topping

I have reserved the parking lot up at Los Trancos Open Space Preserve for "Hill-topping" on 2 Meters , this will take place during the California QSO Party (<http://www.cqp.org/>) in which stations from with inside the state and beyond contest for the number of California stations the participates make contact with. We will be operating 2 Meter SSB with a directional antenna and running on battery power. Since it is VHF we will be operating height is everything, it is desirable to get as high as possible in order to increase the line-of sight propagation. If interested in joining me, please contact me at [ka6mze@arrl.net](mailto:ka6mze@arrl.net) or by phone at (650) 279-7803

### Specific details

**When:** 1 October 2005 from 12 noon to 9:00 PM

**Where:** Los Trancos Open Space Preserve, located on Page Mill Road approx. 1 mile East of Skyline Blvd. (Parking limited)

**Contest:** California QSO Party.

Set-up; 2 meter SSB w/ 5 element yagi on battery power

## K6YA radio station

As radio officer for the club, part of my charter is to find a place to which we could set up an HF/VHF /Satellite station for club use. If any of the membership knows of a small place to which we could set up a station (preferably at a public location such as a school) please contact me at [ka6mze@arrl.net](mailto:ka6mze@arrl.net)

## Radio equipment for loan

The club currently has a Kenwood TS-830 HF transceiver and a Yaesu FT 2500M 2-meter mobile transceiver that could be put on loan to any club member for approximately a 3 month period, the club also has various books, code tapes that members may borrow for limited periods of time. If interested contact me at [ka6mze@arrl.net](mailto:ka6mze@arrl.net).

-73, Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE

## FARS Membership Form

PLEASE fill out the form for all new/renewal memberships.

**FARS 2005 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Packet BBS Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member(s)/Expiration 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 \$6 for badge fee. Please write one check for both banquet and membership.

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

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

David A. Cooper, KE6PFF  
270 Redwood Shores Parkway  
PMB 41  
Redwood City, CA 94065-1173



How to get to regular meetings:  
(Visitors always welcome)

Our 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.** From Foothill Expressway, 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 as above at point (A).

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