

## October Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, October 28, 2005.

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

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

**Speaker:** Edison Fong, WB6IQN

**Topic:** Dual Band J-Pole Antenna

**Summary:** Edison will talk about his design of dual-band J-pole antennas for the 2-meter and 70-cm bands. The antenna, featured in *QST* in February 2003, has a coaxial trap that divides the radiator section of the antenna and gives an improved radiation pattern on 70 cm. The DBJ-1 is sheathed in a PVC tube, while the DBJ-2 is an unsheathed, roll-up version.

**Speaker bio:** Edison Fong, WB6IQN, teaches electrical engineering at UC Berkeley.

The club also offers Anderson Power-pole crimping service, refreshments, and a raffle prize (*Garmin eTrex GPS or Yaesu Radio*) at the meeting. Come out for an enjoyable evening.

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

## September Meeting Report

At the September meeting, FARS held its annual Home Brew Contest. Hans Neumann took first place of six entries, all very interesting. See more information later in the Relay.



**Hans Neumann, KE6TGA**



**Herb Vanderbeek, WY6G**

Herb Vanderbeek, WY6G, won the raffle and took home the Yaesu FT-2800 radio. The Wish You Were Here number for Jeff Furman, AD6MX, was chosen. Unfortunately, Jeff was not present to claim the prize.

## Upcoming Events

Oct 28 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School  
 Nov 3 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier  
 Nov 5 8 AM to 9 PM, [AM-Tech day](#), SLAC  
 Nov 17 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School  
 Jan 20 6:00 PM FARS/PAARA [Winter Banquet](#)

*You can sign up for the banquet online at*  
<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/banquet>.

Thursdays 8:00 PM, FARS net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL  
 See more events, [FARS Calendar](#) <<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar>>

## Presidents Corner

**Club Meeting.** October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. This month's program is **A portable dual band J-pole antenna** by Ed Fong. A typical 2-meter J-pole actually performs poorly on 70cm, but Ed fixes this problem with his design. This meeting is held at our usual location at Covington School, 205 Covington Road in Los Altos.

**Am-Tech Day.** The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> at our usual location (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center). Check the FARS web site at [www.fars.k6ya.org/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/) for the latest details and changes for Am-Tech day. You can subscribe to the FARS Announcement list at [www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) to make sure you get an email reminder.

**Flea Market.** The Electronics Flea Market is on hiatus until March 2006!

- de Mikel, KN6QI

## FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2006

The FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet has been scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 6pm. Dinner will be served at 7pm and the program will begin around 8:30pm. We plan on having around \$1000 in raffle prizes, so bring a few extra dollars for the raffle.

We are again teaming up with [PAARA](#) (Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association). We have made reservations at Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View (same place as last year). A sign up sheet is available on line at the FARS web page (click on Banquet). We also have an on line sign up page where you can pay with PayPal or a credit card. As usual only FARS or PAARA members (and their guests) may attend the banquet.



**Speaker.** Robert Schmieder, KK6EK is our featured speaker for the banquet. Thanks to Jim Rice, K6AK for arranging for the banquet speaker. Bob is a physicist, with more than 80 technical publications, 2 patents, and numerous popular articles. He is the author of five books. He

is the owner and operator of a research vessel, the Cordell Explorer. Founder and Expedition Leader of Cordell Expeditions, a nonprofit research group begun in 1977. The group is responsible for the creation of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, which was designated entirely on the basis of results from Cordell Expeditions.

He is a Fellow of the Explorers Club and current Chairman of its Northern California Chapter. He has been listed in almost every Who's Who in the world.

Licensed since 1962, he now holds an Extra Class license. Bob is a phone man, and he likes to operate 10 through 80 meters.

He is active in Islands on the Air (IOTA), having activated five New Ones: Farallons, NA-178; Guadalupe, NA-179; Roqueta, NA-183; Northern California Group, NA-184; and Central California Group, NA-187.

Other calls he has held are XF1/KK6EK, VP8CPK, 4K1/KK6EK, CE0/KK6EK, VK6EKK, and VK0EK.

- de Mikel, kn6qi via Jim, K6AK

## Field Day Scores

The Club Field Day score was 4028 points on 1097 QSOs, as can be seen in the tables below. FARS came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2A category of the Santa Clara Valley section out of 8 entries in the class. FARS' score was enough to gain 8<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Santa Clara Valley section out of 31 entries and 349<sup>th</sup> out of 2202 entries in the entire ARRL field day.

### Scores for 2A category in the Santa Clara Valley section

#	Call	Score	Cat	QSOs	#Part	Club
1	K6SA	5,486	2A	1,574	10	Saratoga Amateur Radio Assn
2	W6UQ	4,662	2A	1,435	18	San Mateo Radio Club
3	<b>K6YA</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Foothills ARS</b>
4	W6UW	1,982	2A	485	17	Santa Clara Cty ARA
5	WA6TOW	1,798	2A	290	20	Coastside ARC
6	AC6P	1,718	2A	394	10	
7	WR6HMB	1,520	2A	379	18	Half Moon Bay ARES
8	<u>N6JNE</u>	1,234	2A	122	57	SARES

### Top 8 scores in the Santa Clara Valley Section (31 total)

#	Call	Score	Cat	QSOs	#Part	Club
1	<u>W6YX</u>	21,796	6F	7,250	35	Stanford ARC
2	K6MI	10,705	1AB	947	6	Chew's Ridge Gang
3	K6BJ	8,180	6A	2,188	47	Santa Cruz Cty ARC
4	W6OTX	6,378	4A	1,939	132	Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn
5	W6YE	6,104	8A	1,290	33	West Valley Amateur Radio Assn
6	K6SA	5,486	2A	1,574	10	Saratoga Amateur Radio Assn
7	W6UQ	4,662	2A	1,435	18	San Mateo Radio Club
8	<b>K6YA</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>2A</b>	<b>1,097</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Foothills ARS</b>

### Computer Safety Website

The federal government has a new computer safety web site that is excellent. Be sure to bookmark it and use it!

<http://onguardonline.gov/index.html>.

### Web Site with Links to Disaster Prep Kits

This website has links with [suggestions for stocking your disaster prep kits](http://www.windsofchange.net/archives/005071.php) (<http://www.windsofchange.net/archives/005071.php>).

-de Paul, AA6PZ

### Manuals Available

Manuals are available for a Kenwood 940. If any one wants them contact Paul AA6PZ [aa6pz@arrl.net](mailto:aa6pz@arrl.net) or 650.941.7821

## 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.

### Special Award

At the Pacificon dinner, the president of ARRL, Jim Haynie, the keynote speaker, presented a special award in the form of a plaque to Pinkney Foster, KG6ILA, for outstanding service to the Amateur Service. Congratulations to Pink.

### Interesting Article on Amateur Radio

Below is a link to a nice article on using ARES/RACES ham radio resources in the fire service  
[http://firechief.com/mag/firefighting\\_amateur\\_power/](http://firechief.com/mag/firefighting_amateur_power/).

## FARS Home Brew Contest

FARS home brew contest brought out six very interesting entries. First place took home a \$40 prize. Second place won \$30, third place \$20, and fourth place \$10. The projects were well done and well presented. Congratulations to all the presenters!



**Hans Neumann, KE6TGA**  
**First Place, Keyers and Technology**



**Arv Hamer, WA6UUT**  
**Second Place, Keyer**



**Herb Vanderbeek, WY6G**  
**Third Place, Dish based Transceiver**



**Dell Harbold, K6JPX**  
**Fourth Place, Dual-pole Antenna**



**Steve Leander, KV6O**  
**High Amp Power Supply**



**Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO**  
**Unknown Yellow Box**

## Secretary's Report (Sept. Board Meeting)

Thursday, Sept. 1, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Conf. Room, Los Altos Town Crier, 138 Main Street, Los Altos

Present: Dave Cooper (KE6PFF), Ron Green (KG6RLG), Phil Hawkins (KA6MZE), Ruth Lacey KG6RZG), Mikel Lechner (KN6QI), Steve Stearns (K6OIK) and Howard Takaoka (KG6GRO). Absent: Richard Baldwinson (N6ATD), Robert Flemate (KE6TFU), Rob Goodson (N2RAG), Mark Hardy (KG6GRR) and Steve Leander (KV6O).

President Lechner called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Treasurer Dave Cooper reported on current bill payments. A withdrawal of \$350 for change for the Flea Market was approved unanimously.

Dave said that winter banquet reservations at Michael's in Mountain View had been made for Friday, January 20, 2006.

Phil Hawkins announced that the Radio Contest would be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2 with two stations: VHF and HF. He is looking for a suitable location.

Phil will talk with Charlie Arney about his request to remove some FARS equipment stored on his property. A new location is needed. Since we are losing much of our storage space, the Board discussed the need to dispose of old, unused equipment.

The 2005-6 budget was reviewed and approved unanimously.

Steve Stearns announced the October meeting program: the j-pole antenna. Ideas for future programs were proposed.

A discussion was held about setting up a FARS radio station at one of the local schools. A committee was formed to find a new location for the club station. Phil will chair a committee to research this idea with Dave, Howard and Mikel as members.

Saturday, September 17, is a regular Am-Tech Day. However, Saturday, October 8, will be the first anniversary celebration of Am-Tech Day as well as an ARRL special event. Dave gave the Board more information on cable TV advertising. The charge is \$25 for 25 words for four weeks. A motion to conduct a one-time trial to gauge response was unanimously approved. A motion to continue Am-Tech Day through 2006 was unanimously approved.

Steve suggested that FARS increase the variety of prizes available at the monthly meeting. A brief discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned by President Lechner at 9:40 p.m.

Ruth Lacey, Secretary

## Lead Free Solder Creates New Hazards

For many years, electronics has been held together by solder consisting of alloy of tin, lead, and sometimes other metals. Now, the European Union has passed regulations prohibiting lead in electronics in 2006. There is a lot of good, but there is a big new problem.

Tin metal can grow metal whiskers, sometimes as long as 10 mm. With the decreasing size of electronics, that is a lot of potential for short circuits. No one understands how the whiskers form, but somehow the lead in "traditional" solder inhibited the process. There are a number of documented failures caused by tin whiskers including pace makers and military electronics. Some of the failures have been observed after 20 years of service.

For more details, google on "tin whiskers."

-de Paul, AA6PZ

**FARS/PAARA 2006 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP – FARS Members and Guests**

January 20, 2006

Name & Call	Meal Choice (B, C, S, V)	Amount
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Membership Dues (see below)		_____
	Total	_____

<u>Menu Choice</u>	<u>Price</u>
Roast Prime Rib of <b>Beef</b>	\$38
Breast of <b>Chicken</b> Florentine	\$31
Broiled <b>Salmon</b> Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$33
<b>Vegetarian</b> Brochette	\$26

**FARS Membership Form**

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

**FARS 2006 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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member(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 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 [N6NFI](#) (145.230-; 100Hz PL) repeater or the [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL) repeater.

# FARS Meeting

## FRIDAY 10/28/05

### Covington School, Los Altos