

July 2008

Volume 38, Number 7

## July Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, July 26, 2008

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

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

**Speaker:** George Badger, W6TC

**Topic:** How to Radiate a Big Signal from a Small Lot

**Summary:** George, W6TC, will describe unusual wire antennas that radiate well but can fit in small backyards and that could even be useful at Field Day and Am-Tech Day. This talk is an elaboration and continuation of George's article that appeared in QST, February 2008, on pages 37-39.

**There will be three prizes for the meeting.** First prize: the LDG Z-100 automatic antenna tuner; 2nd prize: HRO 8X 3-ft patch cord with PL 259 connectors; 3rd Prize: Gordon West Technician Class License Manual.

The club offers refreshments (great coffee, great cookies) and technical advice at the meeting: Bring your questions for Dr. Know-It-All and get great answers. Be sure to attend for an enjoyable evening.

## June Meeting Report



**Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE**  
**June Speaker (file photo)**

The June meeting speaker was Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, FARS Radio Officer and Field Day Coordinator. He spoke about the Beverage Antenna. The earliest and most famous of all HF antennas was invented in 1921 by Drs. Harold Beverage of RCA and Chester Rice and Edward Kellog of General Electric. They called it the "Wave Antenna," but it quickly became known by its

modern name - the Beverage Antenna. FARS used a Beverage Antenna along with a balloon raised antenna for our 160/80m field day station.

The first place raffle prize, a Yaesu VX-170 2-meter handheld, was won by Toshi Sugiyu, KJ6Q. The second place prize, a soldering iron adjustable from 25 to 60 watts, was taken home by Keith Remillong KG6ZJI. Charlie Morrin, KI6FX, won the third prize, a 2008 Northern California Repeater Directory. The Wish You Were Here number for Dick Baldwin, N6ATD, was chosen. Dick was present to claim the (one month old) \$5 prize.

## President's Corner

**Membership Meeting.** Our next meeting is Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>). Our speaker George Badger, W6TC talks about **"How to Radiate a Big Signal from a Small Lot."**

**Am-Tech Day.** The July Amateur Radio Technology Day has been rescheduled for Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. William Dale, N2RHV, Santa Clara Valley Section Manager, ARRL talks about **"Santa Clara Valley Section Planning, Activities and Q&A."** As always, check the FARS web site ([www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/)) for the program schedule, directions, and the latest news.

**Field Day 2008** is over now and we had a great time. I want to thank everyone who helped. A special thanks goes to our Field Day captains: Phil, KA6MZE (overall and Low Band station), Paul, AA6PZ (SSB HF Voice), Nimit, KI6JLD (VHF/Satellite), and Ron, K6RJN (GOTA station). I also want to thank Ron, KG6RLG (truck), Peter, WA6VAQ (barbecue), Gerry K6TXD (NTS traffic), Martin KD6WJW (Field Day report), and Michael, K6MFW (ATV). I also want to thank everyone else who showed up, helped out, brought supplies and took care of so many important things. Your support makes it happen.

Be sure to check out some photos taken at the FARS 2008 Field Day on the FARS web site at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/fd2008/>.

**Email Notices.** Subscribe to the FARS Announcement list ([www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/)) to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news.

**Flea Market.** The next Electronics Flea Market is scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> and is hosted by the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. See <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/efm> for info.

- de Mikel, KN6QI

## Upcoming Events

Jul 25	7:00 PM, <a href="#">Club meeting</a> , Covington School
Jul 26	8 AM to 9 PM, <a href="#">Am-Tech Day</a> , SLAC, 8AM-9PM
Aug 7	7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
Aug 9	<a href="#">Electronics Flea Market</a> , De Anza, 5 am to Noon
Aug 16	8 AM to 9 PM, <a href="#">Am-Tech Day</a> , SLAC, 8AM-9PM
Aug 22	7:00 PM, <a href="#">Club meeting</a> , Covington School
Sep 4	7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
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>>

## Extreme design: SuitSat pushes engineers' limits

When engineers from Microchip Technology took a routine microcontroller inquiry, little did they know they'd be embarking on a multiyear space mission that would challenge every aspect of their earthbound engineering experience, while reconnecting them with the excitement and sense of exploration that led them to choose engineering to begin with.

This article can be found at the EE Times Website at the following link:

<http://www.eetimes.com/news/latest/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=208403999>

- de Paul, AA6PZ

## CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI  
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK  
Treasurer: David Cooper KE6PFF  
Secretary: Rob Riley, KI6INR  
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE  
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler, K6XXX  
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, AF6DO

FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Pink Foster KG6ILA, Nimit Hongyim KI6JLD  
Kristen McIntyre K6WX, Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM.

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.

Contact the FARS board of directors 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 \$9. 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 are subject to editing and/or compression. All readable forms welcome.

Here is how to reach the editor:

Mark Hardy, AF6DO

Mail: P.O. Box 2248

Santa Clara, CA 95055

Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)

Email: [mark.af6do@gmail.com](mailto:mark.af6do@gmail.com), At FARS meetings.

### Passing of Lois Takaoka

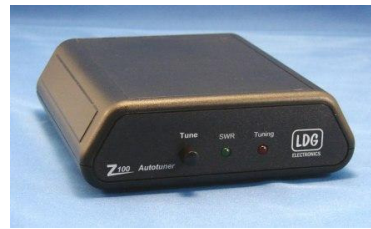
It is with sadness that FARS notes the passing of Howard Takaoka's wife Lois after a long battle with cancer. A memorial service for Lois was held July 8th in Palo Alto.

Howard has been an active member of FARS for several years, as well as RACES/ARES, and the local PANDA organization. FARS extends condolences and sympathies to Howard and his family.

-- Mikel Lechner, KN6QI

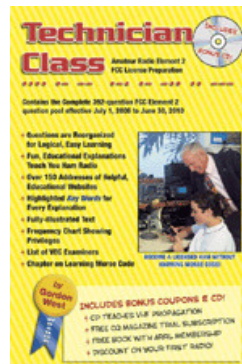
## July Meeting Raffle Prizes

First prize: LDG Z-100 Automatic Antenna Tuner; 2nd prize: HRO 8X 3-ft patch cord with PL 259 connectors; 3rd Prize: Gordon West Technician Class License Manual.



**The LDG Electronics Z-100** will tune with 0.1 to 125 watts (50 watts on 6 meters). Backpackers and QRP operators will appreciate the latching relays. Power can be removed from the tuner once you have tuned.

Additionally, when the tuner is not tuning, it draws nearly zero amps. The Z-100 features 200 fast memories which will decrease tuning time up to 95%! Operating range is 1.8 to 54 MHz and will tune a 10:1 SWR (3:1 on 6 meters) down to 1.5:1 or less. It will tune almost any coax fed antenna including dipoles, beams, and verticals. (Information and picture from the LDG website <http://www.ldgelectronics.com/>).



**Gordon West's Technician Class Book** based on the new Element 2 Question Pool effective July 1, 2006, valid through June 30, 2010 for license exam preparation. Complete study guide with answer explanations. Re-organized into logical study topic order with highlighted key words and all NEW helpful "HAM HINTS" by ELMER with hundreds of related resource website links. BONUS CD INCLUDED - All new audio CD on VHF Propagation.

Gordo teaches you everything you need to know about propagation above 30 MHz and how to use your Technician privileges to make DX contacts on the upper bands. Study with the Best! (Information and picture from the Gordon West website <http://www.w5yi.org/>)

### Field Day Experience



I provided the solar panel, which Mikel used for alternate energy contacts. The panel was about 4 feet long, 1 foot wide, and put out about 1 amp at 12 volts. Mikel used an HT for contacts, since my mobile at the 5 watt setting would blank out and reset on transmission.

The motor driven satellite antenna, provided by Phil KA6MZE, was pointed to the North star and was pretty much aligned after that. I assisted Nimit in getting our satellite contact the first couple of hours of Field Day.

Nimit's and my laptops froze on several occasions, possibly due to the gas generator that was in use, while we were charging our laptops. I suspect spikes or surges may have damaged my laptop, which I need to debug yet. I would recommend using surge suppressors when charging laptops when connected to generators.

Nimit and I helped with setup and take down of the event.

- Thanks and regards, Peter AF6DS





Dropping off the equipment



Setting up the Beverage Antenna



Testing the sideband Antenna



The CW/Digital Antenna



Connect the cables



Sideband Operating



The team finishes setting the guy wires



VHF/UHF Operation





GOTA Station



Sideband Operation



VHF/UHF Operating



Here goes the Balloon...



Sideband Operating



Up, up, and ....



CW Anyone?



The 160 m Antenna is up!

# FARS 2008 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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

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

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 Exp 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 \$9 for badge fee. **Please note:** Membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

David A. Cooper  
PMB 41  
270 Redwood Shores Parkway  
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.