

## August Club Meeting

**Date:** Friday, August 22, 2008

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

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

**Speaker:** Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX

**Topic:** Internet Telephone Service

**Summary:** Nimit, K6XOX, will describe and demonstrate how to use the Internet for telephone service. Internet telephony is growing in popularity due to low costs. It is made [possible by a communication protocol called VOIP, which stands for voice over internet protocol. Efficient digital speech compression techniques, such as IMBE or AMBE, together with VOIP are the backbone technologies behind Internet telephony. The beauty of Internet telephone service is that long-distance and international calls cost no more than local calls. Come hear Nimit describe this amazing new phone service and think about amateur radio applications.

**There will be two prizes for the meeting.** First, a Rigblaster nomic w/usb; Second, MFJ-842 140-525 MHz Cross-needle SWR/Power Meter.

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.

## President's Corner



**Membership Meeting.** Our next meeting is Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/meeting>).

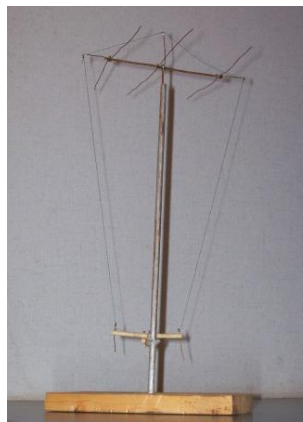
The September meeting is "Homebrew Night." We invite all Hams to show off their most recent amateur radio projects to our audience. Then the audience decides who gets the 1<sup>st</sup> (\$40), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$30), 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$20), and 4<sup>th</sup> (\$10) place prizes. Haven't got a project? You still have about 6 weeks to put one together.

**Am-Tech Day.** The September Amateur Radio Technology Day is schedule for Saturday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. 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.

**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 September 13<sup>th</sup> and is hosted by the South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub.  
- de Mikel, KN6QI

## July Meeting Report



The July meeting speaker was George Badger, W6TC, who spoke about radiating a "big signal from a small lot." He described 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. George presented much useful information, like ladder line helps with bandwidth problems and has smaller losses than coax cable at high VSWR. Noise is typically vertically

polarized, so it is best to have a horizontal antenna. George also provided measurements taken for various frequencies. In the W6TC loop antenna, horizontal components add for maximum current at the top of the loop and vertical components cancel. The model in the picture above shows the loop antenna over a three element antenna. Various connection methods were shown. George also talked about the SteppIR antenna that has motor driven elements controlled by a microprocessor and adjusts every 50 kHz from 20 to 6 meters ([www.steppir.com](http://www.steppir.com)). This talk was an elaboration and continuation of his article that appeared in QST, February 2008, on pages 37-39, <http://www.arrl.org/qst/>.



George Badger, W6TC  
July Speaker



Richard, George, and Bernard  
Raffle Winners

The first place raffle prize, the LDG Z-100 automatic antenna tuner, was won by Bernard Van Haecke, KI6TSF. The second place prize, a HRO 8X 3-ft patch cord with PL 259 connectors, was taken home by Richard Tsukushi, KA6IXN. George Badger, W6TC (our speaker), won the third prize, a Gordon West Technician Class License Manual. Bernard, KI6TSF, was also chosen for the Wish You Were Here prize of \$5 (that's three months in a row that the prize has been taken).

## Upcoming Events

- Aug 22 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School
- Sep 4 7:30 PM, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Sep 6 8 AM to 9 PM, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC, 8AM-9PM
- Sep 13 [Electronics Flea Market](#), De Anza, 5 am to Noon
- Sep 26 7:00 PM, [Club meeting](#), Covington School  
FARS Annual Home Brew Night!!
- Oct 2 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>>

## 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 K6XOX, 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.

### Computer and Electronics Recycling

The website at <http://www.earthcarerecycling.com/> provides information about recycling computer and electronics items. The business is located in San Jose.

### SCRs and Triacs

This article is an introduction by Tony van Roon, VA3AVR, to silicon controlled rectifiers and triacs. It has diagrams and explanations that might be of interest to many HAMs.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~antoon/tutorial/triacs/triacs.html>

## August Meeting Raffle Prizes

First prize is a Rigblaster No-Mic Rig to Soundcard Interface with USB. The kit includes the RIGblaster nomic, a 3-foot 8 Pin Round Circular Mic Cable, a 3-foot RJ45 Mic Cable, a USB Interface Cable, a 6-foot DB9M to DB9F Serial Cable, two 6-foot Mini Plug Audio Cables, an Owners Manual, and a free CD-ROM with software.



### Rigblaster No-Mic Kit

### MFJ-842

Second prize is a MFJ-842 compact VHF/UHF SWR/Wattmeter. It covers 140-525 MHz and has two selectable power ranges: 15 or 150 Watts. It has a 3" Cross-needle meter and reads forward/reflected power and SWR simultaneously. There is a built-in meter light (+12 VDC). SO-239 Connectors. 3 1/4 W x 3 1/4 H x 3 1/4 D inches.

### Trucker Antenna Boosts Connectivity

I found this article on the web by Scott Koegler about his trip across the country while striving to maintain connectivity. He tells about the antenna booster and how it worked. He hasn't lost connectivity in over 1000 miles. The article may be found at the following website <http://www.bmighty.com/mobile/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=209800094> to see the article.

### Transmission Line Calculator

Below is a link for a free transmission line calculator. I have not tried it, but its free – so the price is right. This is an Excel based tool that calculates various parameters for transmission lines, including capacitance and inductance per unit length. There are instructions that go along with the download.

<http://circuitcalculator.com/wordpress/2007/03/06/transmission-line-calculator/>

### Article on Tower Sector

The following article by Glenn Bischoff is about how some feel that a recent television report on towers was considered unfair by some. Interesting reading on a topic familiar to many HAMs.

<http://urgentcomm.com/commentary/newsletters/tower-climbing-safety-0801/>

**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 [N6NEI](#) (145.230-; 100Hz PL) repeater or the [W6ASH](#) 145.27- (100Hz PL) repeater.

# FARS Meeting, FRIDAY 22 August 2008 Covington School