

October Club Meeting

Date: Friday, October 23, 2009

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

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos

Speaker: To be Announced. Please check the FARS website for forthcoming details www.fars.k6ya.org.

The club offers refreshments (great coffee, great cookies), great raffle prizes 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!

Pre-Meeting Dinner: There is a pre-meeting dinner at 6:00 pm for those who would like to attend. We meet at the Beausejour Restaurant, 170 State St., Los Altos. There are Great Early Bird specials.

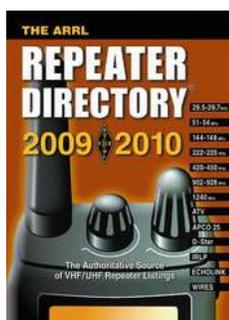
Upcoming Events

- Oct 23 7:00 pm, [Club meeting](#), FARS Homebrew Contest
- Nov 5 7:30 pm, Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
[Electronics Flea Market](#) Resumes March 2010
- Nov 7 8 am to 9 pm, [Am-Tech Day](#), SLAC NAL
- Nov 20 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/events/calendar>](http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar)

October Raffle Prizes

Prizes: The first prize will be a Larson Model KG-2/70CXPL 2Meter/440 On Glass antenna. Second prize is a MFJ-822 HF/VHF 300 watt 1.8-200 MHz X-Needle SWR/Watt Meter. Third prize ARRL Repeater Directory. There will also be an Icom Adventures of Zack and Max Calendar and a Yaesu World Map for two additional prizes. Pictures are from manufacturer's websites.



President's Corner



Membership Meeting. Our next regular membership meeting is Friday, October 23rd at 7pm.

Am-Tech Day. The next Amateur Radio Technology Day is scheduled for November 7th. We are into our fifth year of Am-Tech Day at SLAC. A new feature is movies at 7pm, so you might want to check that out. There is always a lot of activity and interesting programs, so be sure to check it out. Check the web site (www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday/) or the email list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/) for the date and program information.

Electronics Flea Market. The Electronics Flea Markets are done for this year. They will resume in March 2010.

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

de Mikel, KN6QI

September Meeting Report

The September meeting was the annual Home Brew Contest. There were eleven (11) projects presented at the meeting. All the projects were very interesting and show the inventiveness of the presenters and their capabilities. There were four prizes: First prize of \$40 was won by Peter Chow, AF6DS. The second prize, of \$30, was won by Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG. Andy Korsak, KR6DD, won the third prize of \$20. Fourth prize, \$10, was won by Ed Fong, WB6IQN.



Ed, Andy, Umesh, Peter
Home Brew Winners



Ed, Peter, Doña and Del
Raffle Winners

There were Four prizes at the September meeting. First Prize, a Yaesu FT-250 2-meter 5-watt handheld, was won by Peter Chow, AF6DS. Ed Fong, WB6IQN, won the 2nd Prize, a Maha MH-C9000 Wizard One Charger Analyzer. The 3rd Prize, an ARRL 2009 Repeater Directory was taken home by Doña Kerns, KI6DAR. The 4th prize, also a Repeater Directory, was won by Del Harbold, K6JPX. The Wish You Were Here (WYWH) number for Tom Smith, KD6SOJ, was chosen. Unfortunately, Tom was not present to claim the prize.

CLUB INFORMATION

President: Mikel Lechner, KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns, K6OIK
Treasurer: David Cooper K6WA
Secretary:
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler, K6XXX
Relay Editor: Mark Hardy, K6MDH
FARS Board: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD, Peter Chow AF6DS,
Robert Flemate KE6TFU, Nimit Hongyim K6XOX,
Gerry Horn K6TXD, Charlie Morrin KI6FXY,
Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM.

K6YA Trustee: Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
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 submit announcements to the FARS Announcement at fars-announce@sypal.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@sypal.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, K6MDH
Mail: P.O. Box 2248
Santa Clara, CA 95055
Voice: 408-243-0701 (Before 9 PM, preferred)
Email: mark.af6do@gmail.com, At FARS meetings.

Grounding Techniques

Grounding is often taken for granted - but how do you know when there is a problem with a circuit's ground? And what practices will ensure you construct a good ground?

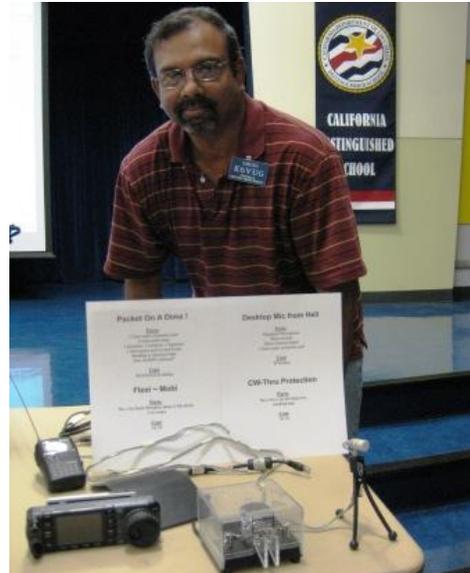
Download this guide for a primer on grounding:

- Grounding Terminology
- Grounding Configurations
- Shielding & Antennas
- PCB Examples

http://www.en-genius.net/includes/files/lpwt_041408b.pdf

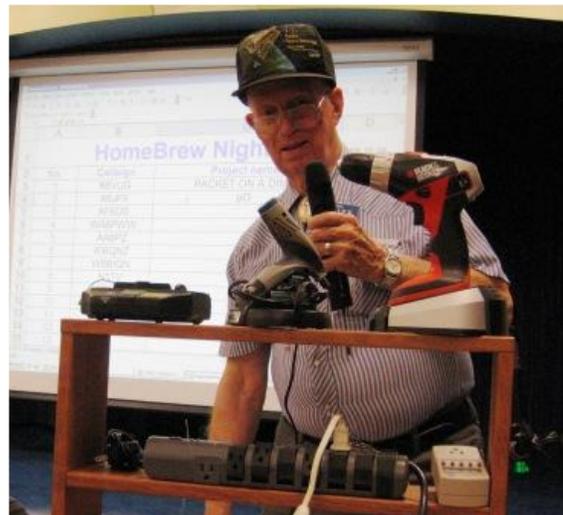
FARS Home Brew Contest

The annual FARS Home Brew Contest is a highlight of the year, and this year was no disappointment. It was a wonderful evening! Eleven projects were presented by local HAM radio operators. The projects are described below in the order that they were presented.

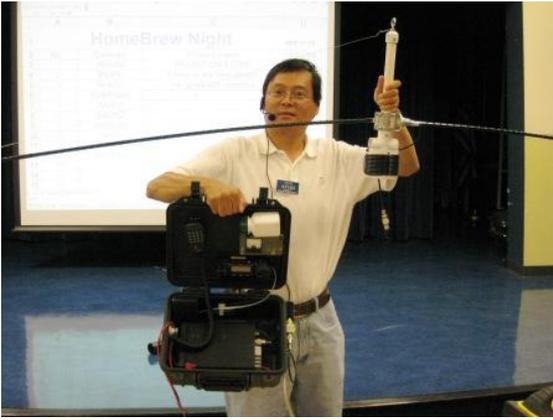


Second Place Winner

Umesh Ghodke, K6VUG, presented four projects: 1) Packet on a Dime (packet gear), 2) Flexi-mobi faceplate holder, 3) Desktop Mike, and 4) Morse key protector.



Del Harbold, K6JPX, showed a shelf with various power gear (chargers, power supplies, tools, power strip) which he called, "Power to the HAM People."



First Place Winner

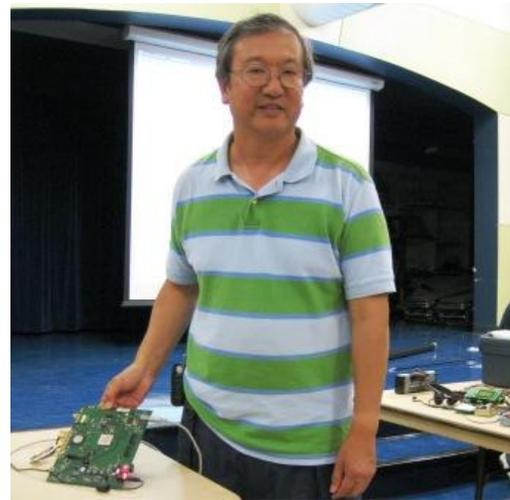
Peter Chow, AF6DS, showed a HF Go-Kit with antenna. It has a HF radio mounted in the case and a quick set-up 20-meter antenna made of two hamsticks.



Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ, presented several "Things I Built:" 1) Test generator, 2) pocket oscilloscope, 3) signal generator, 4) Rock-mite, 5) iambic keyer.



Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, built a 40-meter QRP radio. The Forty-9er radio transmits one-half watt CW on 40-meters.



Fourth Place Winner

Ed Fong, WB6IQN, presented a 0-3 GHz oscilloscope/spectrum analyzer with computer display. Emitted Signal energy could easily be seen on the display.



Paul Zander, AA6PZ, described the roof-mount vertical antenna that he installed as shown in the picture.



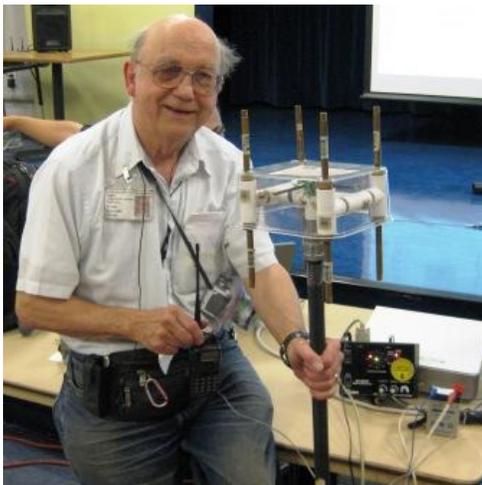
Ed Craig, N1TV, showed a no-leak 2-meter umbrella antenna. Looks pretty useful for the recent rains.



Rich Stiebel, W6APZ, presented a switch that he can use to go between a VOIP phone and the regular house phone.



Bob Cortez, KF6CXC, showed an interface to a Windows CE device that he purchased.



Third Place Winner

Andy Korsak, KR6DD, presented a Doppler direction finder for use in T-hunting, etc.

HF Go-Kit with Antenna

If folks are interested my HF Go-kit and Antenna entry in the September homebrew contest, they can find more details at my website:

<http://sites.google.com/site/rio4br/>

[HF projects section]

Peter, AF6DS

Forty-9er QRP Radio

More information for the QRP radio that was presented at the FARS Home Brew by Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, can be found at the NORCAL QRP website. It is titled, "NorCal QRP Club Forty-9er, A 40M Direct Conversion Transceiver with 9V."

<http://www.norcalqrp.org/files/49erOrigMnl.pdf>

Inductors: Step-by-Step Design

Need some pointers on inductor design? Download this free tutorial now! The tutorial covers:

- Inductor design constraints
- A step-by-step design procedure
- Illustrated examples
- and more!

http://ecee.colorado.edu/~ecen5797/course_material/Ch14slides.pdf

Tutorial on Programming a PIC Microcontroller

PIC microcontrollers can be confusing -- so let this free guide help demystify them! Download it now to learn more about:

- Choosing a PIC Microcontroller
- Integrated Development Environment
- Programming Language
- Compiler, Assembler, and Linker
- The "Burning" Process
- Breadboarding a PIC Microcontroller
- And more.

http://seniord.ece.iastate.edu/dec0604/index_files/tutorialDec0604.pdf

Tin Whiskers and Noise Rejection

The October 1st edition of Electronic design has an article about Tin Whiskers on page 38 titled, "Stubble Trouble-Beating Back Those Tin Whiskers." There is also an article on noise rejection on page 27. The e-magazine may be found at the following:

<http://electronicdesign.com/cluster/docs/products/29/17/ED091001.pdf>

FARS 2009 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.