



Membership Meeting. Our next regular meeting is Friday, December 17th at 7:00 PM.

Am-Tech Day. No dates yet for Am-Tech Day in 2011, but keep watch on the website for an announcement (k6ya.org/amtechday/) or the email list

(k6ya.org/mail/) for the date and program information.

December Club Meeting

Date: Friday, December 17, 2010
Time: Socializing at 7 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM
Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos
(near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Rd)

Snacks: Cookies and coffee will be served.
Questions: Bring your hardest radio questions. The mysterious Dr. Know-It-All reveals all answers.

Pre-Meeting Dinner: 6 PM at the Beausejour Restaurant, 170 State St., Los Altos. Great "Prix Fixe" dinner menu.

FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011. The Banquet has been scheduled for Friday, January 21st. PAARA joins with FARS once a year to put on this fabulous fete. Our speaker is Jerry Griffin, K6MD, a medical doctor with over 40 years experience in the US Army and Army Reserve. During his service, he operated DX in three different war zones.

We will have a fabulous dinner, a great speaker, and ~\$800 in raffle prizes. Sign-ups are now being accepted for the banquet. You may sign-up online or the old fashioned way on paper. More details and sign-up information can be found at (k6ya.org/events/banquet).

December Raffle Prizes

The prizes for the raffle at the December meeting are:

First Prize: Dual Band HT – Wouxun KG-UV3D 2m/70cm 5W/4W (.5W audio), includes 1700mAH Li-ion rechargeable battery and stand charger



Second Prize: Battery Tender Jr – battery charger for 12V SLA and other 12V lead acid batteries

Upcoming Events

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

- Dec 17 7:00 PM [Club Meeting](#), Covington School
- Jan 6 7:30 PM Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Jan 21 6:00 PM [Winter Banquet](#), Michael's in Mtn View
- Jan 22 8:00 AM [BAEARS Ham Cram](#), San Francisco
- Feb 3 7:30 PM Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Feb 25 7:00 PM [Club Meeting](#), Covington School
- Thurs 8:00 PM FARS Net, 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL
- Weds 11:30 AM Luncheon, Fresh Choice, Mtn View

Dues reduced for 2011. The FARS board has reduced the membership dues for 2011 to \$15. The board felt that due to our good financial situation and to help those who are feeling the pinch in the current recession that a dues reduction of \$5 was appropriate. Use your \$5 savings to help pay for the banquet, purchase raffle tickets, or put it in your pocket and be \$5 richer. If you've already renewed for 2011 at \$20, you may request a refund. Or simply leave it as a donation.

Board of Directors Election, November 19th. Our November meeting was our annual membership meeting. Kevin Weiler, K6XXX and Mark Hardy, K6MDH were each elected to another 3-year term on the FARS board.

New Treasurer. The FARS board has elected Richard Baldwinson, N6ATD to treasurer replacing the outgoing treasurer. We thank Richard for taking on this important duty.

I also want to thank the outgoing treasurer, David Cooper, K6WA for his 6 years of service as treasurer for FARS. It's a big and important job with a lot of work to do and he handled it tirelessly.

FARS RELAY (Newsletter) Changes. You may have already noticed that we have a new editor of the FARS RELAY. Joanna Dille, K6YRU has taken over from Mark Hardy, K6MDH. Congratulations and thanks Joanna for taking on this important function.

I also want to thank Mark Hardy, K6MDH for his 9 years of service as the newsletter editor. He always managed to get it out on time and kept it interesting. Thanks Mark. Enjoy the extra free time!

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

de Mikel, KN6QI

Happy Holidays !!



CLUB INFORMATION

www.fars.k6ya.org

President: Mikel Lechner KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns K6OIK
Treasurer: Dick Baldwinson N6ATD
Secretary: (open)
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler K6XXX
Relay Editor: Joanna Dilley K6YRU
FARS Board: Peter Chow AF6DS
Robert Flemate KE6TFU
Charlie Morrin KI6FYX
Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM
Dave Cooper K6WA
K6YA Trustee: Phil Hawkins KA6MZE

Contact the FARS Board of Directors at fars-board@svpal.org.

Email Announcements: 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@svpal.org. The list is moderated and messages will be posted as approved by the list moderator.

Meetings: FARS 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 November & December (for holidays). **Visitors are always welcome!** Directions on the website as well as in this newsletter. Talk-in: N6NFI (145.23-/100Hz) or W6ASH repeater (145.27-/100Hz).

Membership: Annual FARS membership is \$15. A club badge is \$9.

Newsletter: The 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! Photos, operating news, articles, etc. can be submitted to the editor at any time. Contributions are subject to editing and/or compression.

Newsletter Editor:

Joanna Dilley K6YRU
PO Box 51985 joanna.K6YRU@gmail.com
Palo Alto, CA 94303 Also available at FARS meetings.

Interested in CW?

The **CW Rookie Round-Up** is this weekend, December 19th! You may operate as a Rookie if you were licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010, though non-Rookies can also be contacted for points (and their elmering is always appreciated). The exchange is your call sign, your first name, two-digit number of the year first licensed ("check") and State, Canadian province, Mexican call area, or "DX". See www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup.

Straight Key Night again takes place New Year's Eve. Time for some old fashioned fun! For details see www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.

FARS Weekly Net

FARS members meet at **8:00 PM each Thursday evening** on the N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz. The 100Hz PL is off for the net. Non-members are welcome to check in.

The purpose of the net is to keep club members informed about club activities; to exchange other club-related information; and to socialize.

This net is open to all interested hams.

9AM Talk Net

This is an informal net which meets at **9:00 AM weekdays** on the N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz.

www.9amtalk.net All guests are welcome.

CQ Young Hams...

This net meets at **2:00 PM on Saturdays** on the N6NFI repeater, 145.230-/100Hz. N6NFI is available via EchoLink during this time.

Talk with other young hams about radio, ham activities, about what excites you or presents a challenge. Check-in to ask questions, learn more about our great hobby, make friends, and have FUN! Our purpose is to encourage young hams to become more ham-radio-active and to educate them while making new friends and having fun.

Contact Ryan, [K3SFG](http://www.k3sfg.com) for more information.

Kid's Net

This net meets at **7:30 PM on Tuesdays** on the WA6TEM repeater, 147.855-/100Hz. All operators are encouraged to check into the Net, especially amateur radio operators under 18 years old.

Ready to Upgrade Your License?

www.baears.com – This group holds "ham crams" 4 times a year, with the next one on 1/22 in San Francisco. Pre-registration required.

www.amateur-radio.org – The Sunnyvale VEC has upcoming test sessions on 1/8 in Sunnyvale and 1/15 in Redwood City. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations.

<http://www.pdarrrl.org/vec/vecscv/> –The Silicon Valley ARRL VE holds test sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8AM to 11AM at the Saratoga Fire Station. Upcoming sessions are 12/18, 1/15 and 2/5. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations.

November Meeting Report

Howard Califf [W6HOC](#) delighted the group with his display of "Holiday Treats for Radio Amateurs".



Just in time for the holidays and increasing sunspot numbers, Howard showed the group the latest and greatest in new and fun amateur radio gear. Everything from station accessories to tools and antennas were on display.

Howard Califf W6HOC, November Speaker
(file photo)

Notice the new FARS banner in the photo below! Thank you to Mikey NE6RD for having it made.



Left to Right: **Bernard, Steve, Joanna and Rudy**
November Raffle Winners
Photo © Mikel KN6QI

Congratulations to the raffle prize winners from the November meeting!

Joanna K6YRU won the Fluke Model 115 True RMS Multimeter



Rudy KI6VMU took home a MFJ Mod-1722 Ultralite Dual Band 144/440 Mhz Magnetic Mount Antenna

Steve K6OIK won a NIFTY Amateur Radio Band Plan

Bernard KI6TSF took home two prizes, an ARRL Repeater Directory and a bag of insulators

Ed Fong WB6IQN was chosen for the Wish-You-Were-Here drawing... but unfortunately he was not present to collect the cash prize. Doh!

Operating News:

The ARRL's 2010 SSB [Sweepstakes](#) took place November 20th-21st and several FARS members took the opportunity to have some fun on the air. Remember, taking part in contests does not require submission of your log file, that is optional!

Keith KG6ZJI and Byron KG6UOB operated SSB from Keith's QTH in Mountain View. Of particular enjoyment was eating turkey while operating, as well as contacting Joanna K6YRU while she was making contacts from K6SU up at Stanford. Keith used an Icom 706 Mark IIG at 100 watts along with his G5RV Junior dipole antenna. Byron used his Icom 706 and his portable Super Antenna MPI, in combination with N3FJP "AC Log" logging software.



Byron KG6UOB Keith KG6ZJI
Photos © Byron KG6UOB and Keith KG6ZJI

A lightning storm threatened many that weekend, something we're not used to in the Bay Area, and both Keith and Byron had to disconnect at one point rather than risk damage to their rigs, or worse. John K6JK's operating station was also shutdown for over an hour due to the storm. All were able to pick up the fun again later that day.

Joanna K6YRU and Dave AA6XV also operated Sweepstakes, though the storm jack-knifed the antenna mast at N6DQ's station where Joanna spent some time operating. Some MacGuyvering got them back up and running but it was quite a scare.



Joanna K6YRU Dave AA6XV
Photo © Rick N6DQ Photo © Joanna K6YRU

AMATEUR RADIO – TECHNOLOGY DAY

December 11, 2010

[Amateur Radio – Technology Day \(#72\)](#)
SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

A beautiful sunset over Am-Tech Day.
Can you spot the dipole?



Photo © Joanna K6YRU



Photo © Kit Blanke WA6PWW

An open 10 meter band during the ARRL 10 Meter Contest provided for some additional excitement at December's Am-Tech Day, though shifting band conditions were also a challenge.



The **K6YA** Get-On-The-Air Station, ready for some QSO's during Am-Tech Day

Photo © Joanna K6YRU



Mikey NE6RD, Joanna K6YRU, and Kit WA6PWW

Photo © Kristen K6WX



Dave Wolfe AA6XV making both phone and CW contacts during the 10m contest

Photo © Joanna K6YRU



Gordon KI6UH busy at work engraving name tags, desk plaques, license frames, etc.

Photo © Joanna K6YRU



Dan Curtis N6WN, *File Photo*
Am-Tech Presentation: "HamNet Control"

A formal presentation in the Panofski Auditorium this December was provided by **Dan Curtis N6WN**. Dan presented a program he wrote to overcome learning disabilities and to enable him to serve as a Net Control Operator for the 9 AM Talk Net (www.9amtalk.net). HamNet Control is a tool for those unable to remember call signs, scribble fast enough, or recall all the conversation topics. The use of his program assists one to be a Net Control Operator without fear, cold sweats, or a clenched throat.

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the set-up and tear-down of this event!



FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011



When: Friday, January 21st, 7PM
 Where: Michaels at Shoreline (Mtn View)
www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet

Raffle!

The FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011 is scheduled for Friday evening, January 21, 2011. The **Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)** and the **Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)** are presenting this annual ham radio event and fete. This event is open to anyone who wants to attend, but [reservations](#) are required.

PRESENTATION:
Gerald (Jerry) Dieter Griffin
MD, PharmD, K6MD

Jerry, who is a medical doctor, has served over 40 years in the US ARMY and US ARMY Reserves. He has been deployed to war zones three times (twice to Iraq and once in Kosovo). He has been active in amateur radio since 1958 and has 329 confirmed DX countries. He was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2008. At age 70, he is still active in immunology research.



View from Michaels at Shoreline
 Photo © Joanna K6YRU

Banquet Sign-Up – *Must be received by Jan. 17th*

Paper Sign-up – You may print and complete the attached form, and mail along with your check for payment. All mailed sign-ups should be posted by Thursday, January 13th to arrive in time. Last minute sign-ups should use the online form. You may also bring your form and payment to the December FARS meeting.

On-line Sign-up – You must logon to the FARS website and have a PayPal account or a credit card to make your payment. All online payments are handled by PayPal. Online sign-ups must be completed and paid by noon on Monday, January 17th, 2010.

- 6:00 PM - Open Bar (No Host)
- 7:00 PM - Dinner
- 8:00 PM - Presentation
- 9:00 PM - Announcements, Awards,
Raffle

- Dinner Selections:
- Roast Prime Rib of Beef \$42
 - Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc \$37
 - Breast of Chicken, Florentine \$32
 - Vegetarian Brochette w/ Wild Rice \$28

Don't forget the raffle!

FARS / PAARA 2011 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP

January 21, 2011 at Michaels at Shoreline

Deadline for signups for the banquet is January 17, 2011. Mail no later than January 13th.

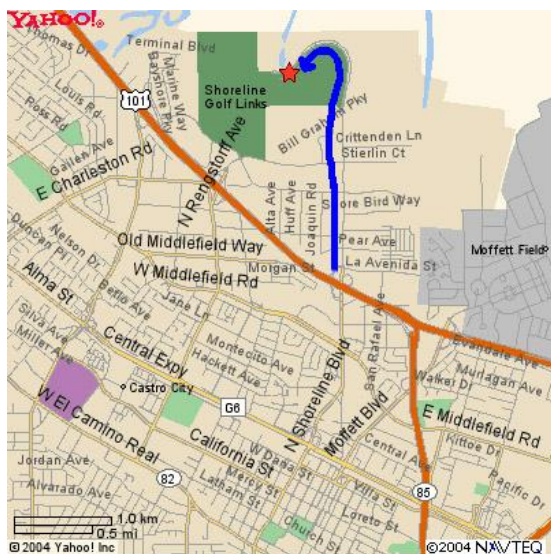
<u>Name & Call</u>	<u>Meal Choice</u>	<u>Amount</u>
You _____	_____	_____
Email _____		
Guest1 _____	_____	_____
Guest2 _____	_____	_____
Guest3 _____	_____	_____
Guest4 _____	_____	_____
	Membership Dues	_____
	Total	_____

You may renew your FARS membership for 2011 or become a FARS member at the same time you sign up for the banquet by including a [membership form](#) and \$15 [\[regularly \\$20\]](#) dues with your banquet sign up.

Choice	Menu Description	Price
Beef	Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$ 42
Fish	Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$ 37
Chicken	Breast of Chicken, Florentine	\$ 32
Veg	Vegetarian Brochette w/ Wild Rice	\$ 28

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

FARS
 c/o Kevin Weiler
 14341 Liddicoat Circle
 Los Altos Hills, CA 94022



Directions

The easiest way to find Michael's is to take highway 101 to Mountain View. Exit onto Shoreline Blvd. (aka Stierlin Road) north (towards the bay). Follow for about 1 mile until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park. Alternatively, you can exit onto Amphitheatre Parkway from 101 and follow it north/east (towards the bay) to Shoreline Blvd. Turn left (north) onto Shoreline and follow until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park.

Enter the park through the gate, which will be open. Follow the road (~3/4 mi.) in a wide left curve around the park. Look for a sign pointing left for Michael's. Take a left turn and enter the parking lot. The building next to the parking lot is Michael's.

TALK-IN via the N6NFI 145.230-/100Hz repeater or the W6ASH 145.27- /100Hz repeater.

FARS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Note that the dues for 2011 have been reduced to \$15. You may also renew online by logging onto the FARS website, then using PayPal to pay.

<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/membership> Date: _____
PLEASE fill out the form for all new/renewal members.

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

Mailing Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

ARRL Member? _____ Email: _____

Preferred modes: (e.g. HF-SSB/CW/VHF/QRP/Other): _____

I'm willing to Elmer new hams with: _____

Special topics of interest / suggestions for club meeting speakers: _____

Dues: \$15 per year. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. New membership applications accepted later in the year may have their dues prorated (see dues schedule). Please include \$9 for a club badge if desired. Your call sign and first name as it appears above will appear on the badge. Renewing members should provide at least their name, call, and the date. Also include any info that may have changed. Put "N/A" where you wish to remove (or not provide) info.

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

FARS c/o Michael Lechner, 436 Memphis Drive, Campbell, CA 95008



How to get to FARS meetings (*Visitors are 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.