



FARS

FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

January 2011

Volume 41, Number 1

Happy New Year!!

www.fars.k6ya.org

January Winter Banquet

Date: Friday, January 21, 2011

Time: Socializing and Open Bar (no host) at 6 PM,
Dinner at 7 PM, Presentation at 8 PM,
Announcements & Awards & Raffle at 9 PM

Place: Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N. Shoreline Blvd.,
Mountain View, CA (see page 5 for directions)

Registration: [Due by 12 noon on January 17th](#).

Details: See pages 5 and 6.

January Winter Banquet Raffle Prizes ~ \$800

The prizes for the raffle at the January banquet are:

Kenwood TM-V71A 2M/440
mobile radio with Echolink

Yaesu FT-2900R
2M mobile radio

Diamond X-30A
2M/440 antenna

Battery Tender Junior
battery charger

Daiwa CK-201
2 post coaxial switch

Diamond SRH77CA
SMA 2M/440 portable antenna

J-060VT soldering iron

HOR8X/6U 6 foot RG-8X
cable with silver connectors

RG-8X/U Mini-8 coax

Coax seal

PL-259 silver Teflon connectors

Dogbone end insulators



President's Corner



FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2011. The Banquet is 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 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. The two top prizes are a Kenwood TM-V71A mobile radio and a Yaesu FT-2900R mobile radio. Sign-ups are still 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).

Am-Tech Day. The next Am-Tech Day is scheduled for January 29th. Check the website (k6ya.org/amtechday/) or the email list (k6ya.org/mail/) for the latest news and info.

Membership Meeting. There is no regular meeting in January, since that's when we have our Winter Banquet. Our next regular meeting is Friday, February 25th at 7 PM.

Dues reduced for 2011. The FARS board has reduced the membership dues for 2011 to \$15. 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.

New Board Member. At the January board meeting, the board elected Joanna Dilley K6YRU to fill the seat vacated by David Cooper K6WA. Joanna has already taken on the role of newsletter editor and has been doing a great job!

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

de Mikel, KN6QI

Upcoming Events

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

Jan 21	6:00 PM	Winter Banquet , Michael's in Mtn View
Jan 22	8:00 AM	BAEARS Ham Cram , San Francisco
Jan 29	9 - 6 PM	Am-Tech Day #73, SLAC Natl Accelerator
Feb 3	7:30 PM	Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
Feb 25	7:00 PM	Club Meeting , Covington School
Mar 12	5:00 AM	Electronics Flea Market , DeAnza College
Thurs	8:00 PM	FARS Net , 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL
Weds	11:30 AM	Luncheon, Fresh Choice, Mtn View

CLUB INFORMATION

www.fars.k6ya.org

President: Mikel Lechner KN6QI
Vice President: Steve Stearns K6OIK
Treasurer: Dick Baldwin N6ATD
Secretary: (open)
Radio Officer: Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Training Officer: Kevin Weiler K6XXX
Relay Editor: Joanna Dilley K6YRU
FARS Board: Robert Flemate KE6TFU
Mark Hardy K6MDH
Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM
Peter Chow AF6DS
Charlie Morrin KI6FXV
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

Palo Alto, CA 94303

joanna.K6YRU@gmail.com

Also available at FARS meetings.

Amateur Radio Technology Day (#73)

Saturday, January 29, 2011

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Radio* *Food* *Friends* *Fun

*Am-Tech
Day !!*

Volunteers are appreciated:

Setup – 7:15AM

Breakdown – 6:00 PM

9:00 AM

6:00 PM



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

Photo © Joanna K6YRU

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.

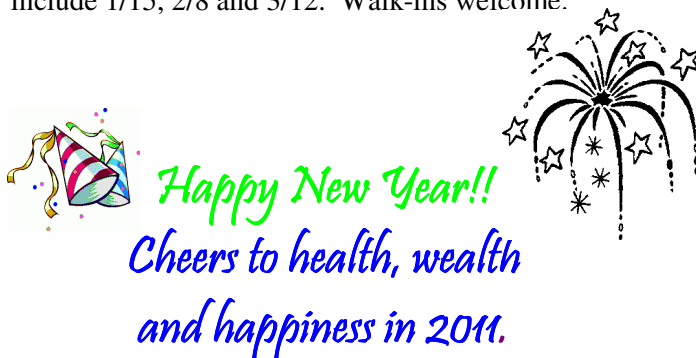
Ready to Upgrade Your License?

www.baears.com – This group holds “ham crams” 4 times a year, with the next ones scheduled for 1/22 in San Francisco and 4/23 in Los Altos. Pre-registration required.

www.amateur-radio.org – The Sunnyvale VEC has upcoming test sessions on 1/15 in Redwood City and 2/12 in Sunnyvale. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations.

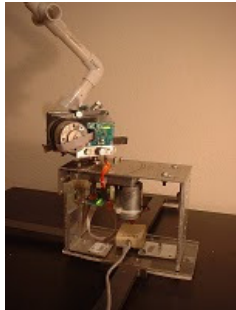
<http://www.pdar1.org/vec/vecscv/> – The Silicon Valley ARRL VE holds test sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from 8 AM to 11 AM at the Saratoga Fire Station. Upcoming sessions are 1/15 and 2/5. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations.

<http://www.sbara.org/> – The Tri-City VE Group holds test sessions at Hurricane Electric in Fremont each month, alternating between a Saturday morning at 9 AM and a Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM. Upcoming sessions include 1/15, 2/8 and 3/12. Walk-ins welcome.

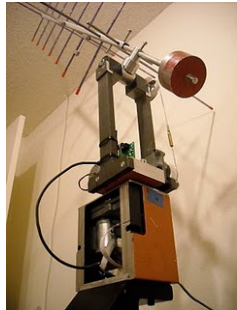


December Meeting Report

Nimit Hongyim [K6XOX](#) showed us how to do a lot with a little in his prize-winning project – an AZ-EL Rotor and Position Controller Interface for satellite tracking.



Version 1



Version 2

Photos © Nimit K6XOX

Through careful design, parts selection, and code integration, Nimit succeeded in making a highly functional, low-cost

project with impressive capability. Since winning the Home Brew Contest at the September FARS meeting, Nimit has upgraded his design from sheet metal constructed in his home (Version 1) to using milling and lathe machines at The Tech Shop (Version 2). His successful satellite tracking project will surely bring additional points to FARS at the next Field Day! :-)



Nimit K6XOX, Dec. Speaker
(file photo)



FARS Dec. Mtg

Photo © Joanna K6YRU

Congratulations to the raffle prize winners!



December Raffle Winners

Left to Right: Jerry, Byron and Frank

Photo © Joanna K6YRU

Jerry K6GAC won the Dual Band 2m/70cm Wouxun KG-UV3D HT



Frank K6FCW took home a Battery Tender Junior



Byron KG6UOB won a Radioshack 5/8 Wave 2M Mag Mount Antenna

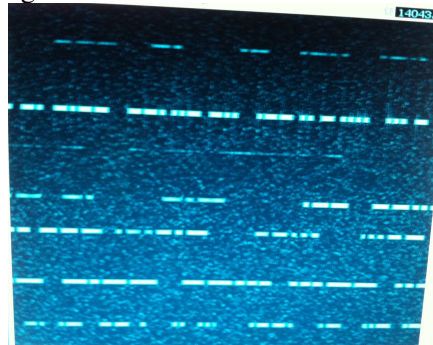
Karen Hardy KI6FGS was chosen for the Wish-You-Were-Here drawing... but wasn't present to collect the \$

Operating News:

If you turned on the radio on December 25th you could hear North Pole! KE7HOP/KL7 was heard on 14.200 Christmas morning, operating from North Pole, Alaska (yes Alaska, but it's still pretty cool!). Just outside of Fairbanks, North Pole has a population of 2200 and is "Where the Spirit of Christmas Lives Year Round."

The [ARRL's 2010 CW Rookie Round-Up](#) took place Sunday, December 19th. "Rookies" licensed in 2008, 2009 or 2010 put their CW skills to the test, thanks to other rookies as well as thanks to non-rookies who took the time to QRS and be contacted for points. One of our FARS members participated and made almost 50 contacts as a Rookie!

[Straight Key Night](#) took place on New Year's Eve, and again it was time for some old fashioned fun!



A shot of CW Skimmer from Straight Key Night.

You can almost read the CW.

Photo © K6YRU

FARS Takes 1st Place!



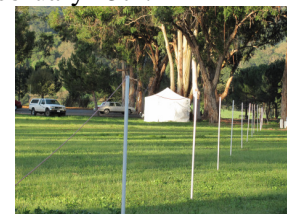
FARS recently received "wall paper"! We took 1st Place in the 6th Area during the 2010 CQ Worldwide 160m Phone Contest.

Photos © K6YRU

Thank you to Phil Hawkins KA6MZE for your hard work, as well as to MaryKnoll in Los Altos for the use of their soccer field (the same location used each year for Field Day). Be on the lookout for a 2011 repeat of [this event](#) the weekend of February 25th.



Phil KA6MZE



Beverage Antenna

FARS Member Badges

New members please be sure to pick up your FARS member badges at the next club meeting. The following badges are available for pickup. If your name or callsign is mis-spelled, please let us know so we can make corrections.

BADGES AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP:

(listed by callsign suffix)

John Bahun, N6API
 Michael, KG6CHX (*callsign?*)
 Randy Cook, KI6EAA (*old callsign?*)
 Russell Lait, AF6EQ
 Alex Tudor, KI6EQG
 Gary Pedro, KF6FPU
 Mark Yvanovich, K6FTF
 Frank Ingle, AF6GU
 Margie Rauch, KJ6GVY
 Joe Mallon, AF6HM
 Joani Yvanovich, N6JCY
 Tim Connelly, KI6LCQ
 Greg Miller, WY6P
 Don Steinbach, AE6PM
 Steven Elliott, W9RAL
 Roger Wildensten, K7RCW
 John Williams, KD6RW (*name/callsign?*)
 Rob Lupo, KG6SKA
 George Savage, K6TSR
 Bob Bynum, WB2URF
 Curt Hutchings, KG6WLO
 Gwendolyn, *no call*

*Badges
Seeking
Owners*



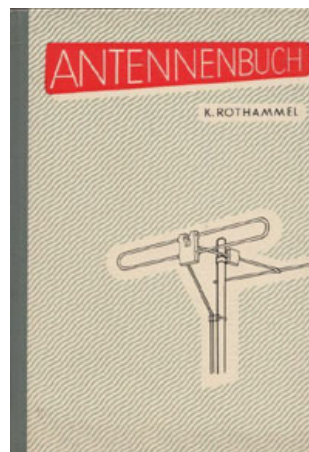
QSL Cards

FARS has received newly designed QSL cards for sending out on behalf of K6YA! In addition, QSL cards and SASEs have started coming in for contacts made under callsign N6T, our special event call used at Am-Tech Day #70 to celebrate the 6th Anniversary of the initial event (then called "Ham Day").

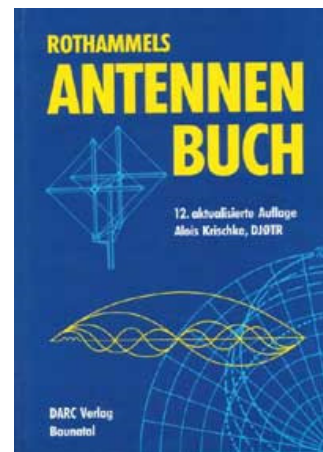
QST QST QST QST QST

Radio Amateurs in Germany have a huge encyclopedic antenna book as big or bigger than the ARRL Antenna Book. It is *Rothammel's Antennenbuch*, first published in 1959 and now in its 12th edition.

Its 997 pages contain much that is different or not in other antenna books. It is published in German, not English, and is available only from the publisher DARC Verlag GmbH in Germany.



First edition, 1959



12th edition, 2001

The book costs 48.60 EUR, or about \$65 USD. However, shipping and handling from Germany are expensive, about \$40 per book when ordered individually. So we are considering a group purchase that would enable FARS members to obtain copies at a reduced shipping rate per book.

If you are interested in joining the group purchase and obtaining a personal copy of *Antennenbuch*, please send your name, phone number, email address, and a deposit of \$40 to Steve Stearns, K6OIK, P.O. Box 4917, Mountain View, CA 94040-0917. After all signups are in, Steve will send out a confirmation with the final price, which will be between \$65 and \$105 per book depending on the number of people who sign up.

Your book should arrive approximately three weeks after the order is placed. In addition to discovering new antennas, this opportunity is an excellent motivation to learn German.

FARS Relay

*Have a photo, article, or operating news
to share?*

Please contact joanna.k6yru@gmail.com.



FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011

Raffle!

When: Friday, January 21st, 7PM
Where: Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline (Mtn View)
www.fars.k6va.org/events/banquet



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 all who want 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.

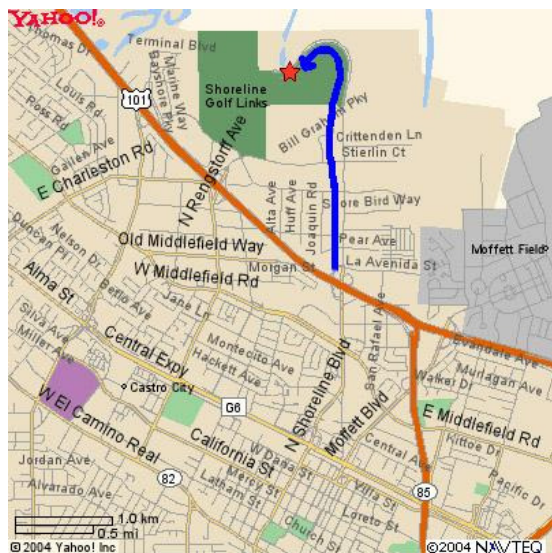


View from Michaels at Shoreline
Photo © Joanna K6YRU

*A dozen Raffle Prizes!
including...*



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



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.

RSVP by 12 noon on January 17, 2011

FARS / PAARA 2011 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP

January 21, 2011 at Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline

Deadline for signups for the banquet is 12 noon on January 17, 2011. Mail no later than January 13th.

You do not need to be a member of FARS or PAARA to attend this event.

<u>Name & Call Sign</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.

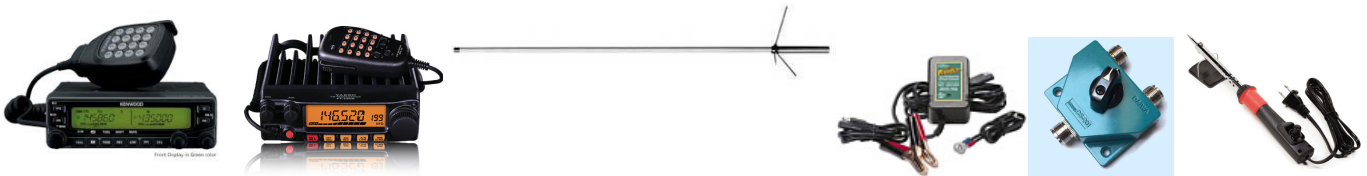
Send your check payable to FARS, to:

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

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

A dozen Raffle Prizes! including...



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

Paper Sign-up – You may print and complete the above 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 credit card or a PayPal account to make your payment. It's easy to register for a logon to the FARS website if you have an email address. All online payments are handled by PayPal. Online sign-ups must be completed and paid by noon on Monday, January 17th, 2011.

WEBSITE: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet>

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.