

President's Corner



Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 25th at 7 PM. The program is “**Tools and Tips for Transmitter Hunting**” presented by Don Ferguson, KD6IRE. Don describes the tools and techniques used by amateur T-hunters to locate RF emission sources.

Am-Tech Day. The next Am-Tech Day is scheduled for March 19th. Check the website (k6ya.org/amtechday/) or the email list (k6ya.org/mail/) for the latest news and information. At February's Am-Tech Day Kristen McIntyre K6WX talked about her experience programming and using PSK31 on her iPad.

Electronics Flea Market. The next electronics flea market is scheduled for March 12th. The host and beneficiary of this flea market is the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA). For all the details check out www.electronicfleamarket.com.

Dues reduced for 2011. The FARS board has reduced the membership dues for 2011 to \$15. Use your \$5 savings to 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.

FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2011. The Banquet was a great success. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped organize the event. I also want to thank PAARA, especially Kristen McIntyre K6WX, for helping organize this event and arranging for our program speaker. Thank you to Kevin Weiler K6XXX for handling the paper sign-ups, and Richard Baldwinson N6ATD for handling the money and prizes. Nimit Hongyim K6XOX, Peter Chow AF6DS, Rebar N6DB and Tanya Rebarchick KI6TAR handled raffle ticket sales and winners. Dona Kerns KI6DAR and Carrol Kerns KG6YPH helped with the sign-in desk. Thanks to anyone else I've neglected to mention who helped out.

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

de Mikel, KN6QI

February Club Meeting

Date: Friday, February 25, 2011
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)

Speaker: Don Ferguson KD6IRE
Topic: “Tools and Tips for Transmitter Hunting”
Summary: Don Ferguson KD6IRE will describe the tools and techniques used by amateur T-hunters to locate RF emission sources. Don will show and demonstrate antennas and other tricks such as the use of beams, loops,



body fade, attenuators, waveguide tubes, Doppler DF, phase interferometers, TOA (time of arrival), antennas and special receivers – all to locate a hidden “Fox Box”, a low power transmitter.

Don Ferguson KD6IRE
Photo © Don KD6IRE

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.

February Raffle Prizes

The prizes for the raffle at the February meeting are:

First Prize: Tigertronics Signalink USB Interface with 6 Pin Cable



Second Prize: Powerwerx Battery Tender Junior



Third Prize: Comet SMA 2M/440 Flexible 17” Antenna

Upcoming Events

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

- Feb 25 7:00 PM [Club Meeting](#), Covington School
- Mar 3 7:30 PM Board Mtg at the Los Altos Town Crier
- Mar 12 5:00 AM [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College
- Mar 19 9 – 6 PM [Am-Tech Day #75](#), SLAC Natl Accelerator
- Mar 25 7:00 PM [Club Meeting](#), Covington School

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 K6YL
FARS Board: Robert Flemate KE6TFU
Mark Hardy K6MDH
Barbara Neuhauser AE6RM
Peter Chow AF6DS
Charlie Morrin KI6FXY
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 K6YL
PO Box 51985
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com
Also available at FARS meetings.

Amateur Radio Technology Day (#75)

Saturday, March 19, 2011

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Radio* *Food* *Friends* *Fun

*Am-Tech
Day !!*

Volunteers are appreciated: **9:00 AM**
Setup – 7:15AM **6:00 PM**
Breakdown – 6:00 PM



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

Photo © Joanna K6YL

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 info; 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 **4/23 in Los Altos** and 6/4 in Fremont. Pre-registration required.

www.amateur-radio.org – The Sunnyvale VEC has upcoming test sessions on 3/12 in Sunnyvale and 3/19 in Redwood City. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations.

<http://www.pdarrl.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 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, and 4/16. 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 3/12, 4/12, 5/14 and 6/14. Walk-ins welcome.

FARS Member Badges

Badges Seeking Owners

John Bahun N6API * Michael, KG6CHX *
Randy Cook KI6EAA * 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 * Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY * Rob Lupo
KG6SKA * George Savage K6TSR * Bob
Bynum WB2URF * Curt Hutchings KG6WLO *
Gwendolyn, no call

Available for pick up at the next club mtg

2011 CQ World Wide 160 Meter DX Phone Contest

THIS WEEKEND February 26th and 27th is the CQWW 160 meter phone contest. For the past two years FARS has participated in this contest with great success (1st in our class for California, Low Power).

Since this is a 160 meter contest, operation for this event will be held all night from sunset to sunrise. We will be participating from the Maryknoll Residence soccer field (our usual Field Day site), using a 300 foot receive Beverage antenna and a vertical transmit antenna.

If you have an interest in participating please contact Phil Hawkins KA6MZE by phone at (650) 279-7803 or by email at ka6mze@yahoo.com. During the contest he can be reached on the 145.270 (-) 100Hz pl W6ASH repeater.

Help in setting up and tearing down is always appreciated, AS WELL AS OPERATING! The event is also a learning experience, so consider joining us to see what it's like operating on "top band" during a contest.

Rain or shine we'll be there!

More information to be presented at the February FARS meeting.

Thank-You

Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE
FARS Radio Officer
Amateur Radio Station Trustee, K6YA

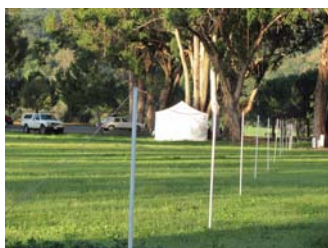
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 26th SUNSET
(setup @ 11 AM – help appreciated)
to
Sunday, Feb. 27th SUNRISE
(tear down @ 8 AM – help appreciated)

QTH: Maryknoll Residence – Soccer Field
23000 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos
(Across from Ranch San Antonio Park)

Photos from the 2010 CQWW 160m Phone Contest:



Phil KA6MZE
Photos © K6YL



Beverage Antenna

Operating News:

Isn't it fun when you come across a new **Special Event** station? The first week of February Peggy Sue was



Photo © W5B's QRZ Page

operating on multiple bands under **W5B**, the Buddy Holly Memorial Special Event Station commemorating the 52nd anniversary of "The Day the Music Died".

Peggy Sue Gerron K5PSG was a high school sophomore when cast into the international spotlight by Buddy Holly's release of the namesake song that climbed to the top of the Billboard Charts.

The **ARRL's 2011 DX CW Contest** took place Friday February 18th through Sunday February 20th. If you're interested in making international contacts this was an excellent opportunity. Dave Wolfe AE6XV proved this by Working All Continents in only 11 minutes from Am-Tech Day using the N6T special event call sign.



Photos © K6YL



Photos from Am-Tech Day #74

Dave Cooper K6WA will be providing a more detailed write-up of Am-Tech Day #73 (January) and Am-Tech Day #74 (February) in next month's FARS Relay.

Got DX? Finding a new DXpedition on the air always looks good in the log, and it can be a challenge as well



as a joy to break through the pile ups. **VP8ORK** recently activated the South Orkney Islands on all HF bands 160m through 10m using numerous modes (SSB, CW and RTTY).

Are they in your log?!

K6LY Swap Meet

Saturday, March 5th

8 AM – 2 PM

Monterey Moose Lodge

555 Canyon Del Rey, Del Rey Oaks, CA

Held in place of RadioFest 2011 which was cancelled

www.radiofest.org

BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Session: Saturday, April 23rd

8 AM

Los Altos, CA

Close to home!

www.baears.com/

Electronics Flea Markets 2011

Saturday 5 AM

3/12 hosted by PAARA 7/9 hosted by FARS !!
4/9 hosted by SPARK 8/13 hosted by SVECS
5/14 hosted by SCCARA 9/10 hosted by WVARA
6/11 hosted by SPECS 10/8 hosted by SVCARC

www.electronicfleamarket.com

WEDNESDAY Amateur Radio LUNCHES

11:30 AM

Fresh Choice in Mountain View, CA

Weekly FARS Net

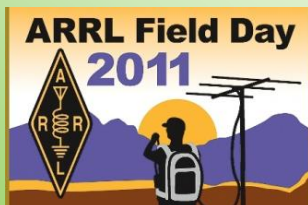
Thursdays @ 8 PM

N6NFI Repeater 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL

Field Day 2011

June 25th – 26th

www.arrl.org/field-day



The single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather to operate.

Save the date !!

62nd Intl. DX Convention

REGISTER NOW!

April 15-16-17, 2011

Visalia, CA

www.dxconvention.org



[Click here for list of the \\$45K+ Raffle Prizes!](#)

Dayton Hamvention 2011

May 20-22, 2011

Dayton, OH

www.hamvention.org



Since 1952

"For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe."

Do you know the QTH?



***** URGENT REQUEST FOR LETTERS *****

Reprinted from the ARRL

As you may have read, Rep. Peter King has introduced the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" and the bill has been assigned HR 607. The story about the Bill's introduction can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>.

The League supports spectrum for Public Safety need, but opposes HR 607 because of the inclusion of the 420-440 MHz spectrum as part of a spectrum swap.

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, has asked that the Divisions activate the Grass Roots Program by having our Members contact their local member of the House of Representatives asking them to oppose HR 607.

A sample letter can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>.

Print the letter on the last page of this newsletter !!

Your Representatives can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/contacting-your-congressional-representatives>.

[Anna Eshoo = US Representative for CA](#)

Because of delays in mail to Congress, **you should send the letters, addressed to your representative, but mailed to the ARRL's Public Relations office, Chwat & Co.** Chwat will sort the mail and distribute it directly to each Rep's office.

John Chwat
Chwat & Co.
625 Slaters Lane, Ste 103
Alexandria, VA 22314

Or by FAX 703-684-7594

It is imperative that the letters reach Congress as soon as possible. Please read about the bill and the threat of our losing more frequencies for amateur use.

73,
Jettie Hill, W6RFF
ARRL
Pacific Division Legislative Chair
w6rff@surewest.net

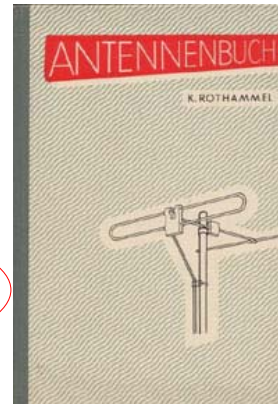
**LETTERS
COLLECTED AT THE
FEBRUARY MEETING
FOR MAILING**

FARS Relay
Have a photo, article, or operating news to share?
Please contact Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com.

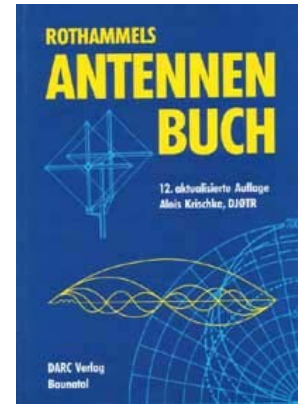
QST QST QST QST QST

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.





REPORT: FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011



The annual Winter Banquet was held Friday evening, January 21, 2011, hosted by the **Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)** and the **Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)**. Thank you to Jerry Dieter Griffin K6MD for his presentation on his time in the US Army and US Army Reserves, having been active in amateur radio since 1958 with 329 confirmed DX countries.

**PRESENTER:
Gerald (Jerry) Dieter Griffin, K6MD**



Photos © Peter Chow AF6DS



Photos © Peter Chow AF6DS and Joanna K6YL



REPORT *continued*: FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2011



Photos © Peter Chow AF6DS and Joanna Dilley K6YL

Congratulations to the Raffle Prize Winners at the Banquet!

Doña Kerns KI6DAR celebrated winning the grand prize, a Kenwood TM-V71A 2M/440 Mobile Radio with Echolink

Bill Young K6VWO won the Yaesu FT-2900R 2M Mobile Radio

Bud Tribble N6SN took home a Diamond X-30A 2M/440 Antenna

Patricia Walberg KG6HRJ won the Daiwa CK-201 Coax Switch

Mikel Lechner KN6QI received a Powerwerx Battery Tender Junior

Patricia Walberg KG6HRJ won another prize, the Diamond HT SMA 2M/440 Antenna

Mike Gavin W6WZ took home 68 Feet of RG-8X/U Mini-8 Coax

Rebar N6DB (N6CCH at the time of winning) won the J-060VT Soldering Iron

Nimit Hongyim K6XOX received a Six Foot RG -8X Cable with Silver Connectors

Rudy Kelly KI6VMU took home Four Silver Teflon PL-259 Connectors

Steve Stearns K6OIK also won Four Silver Teflon PL-259 Connectors

Mikel Lechner KN6QI won another prize, Two Packages of Coax Seal

Dave Cooper K6WA was last but not least with Four Dogbone End Insulators



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 Mikel 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.

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
205 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Anna G. Eshoo:

As a voter in your district and as one of the nearly 700,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators across the nation, I ask that you oppose H.R. 607, the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" in its current form. H.R. 607 was introduced by Congressman Peter King (R-NY) and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 607 proposes to allocate the "D-Block" of frequencies (frequencies previously occupied by analog television) to be developed into an interoperable Public Safety wireless network. Earlier, it had been expected that the D-Block would be auctioned by the FCC for commercial use, but there is now substantial support for the allocation of the D-Block to Public Safety. H.R. 607 also provides for the reallocation of other spectrum for auction to commercial users, in order to offset the loss of revenue anticipated by the auction of the D-Block.

While I strongly support the work of the Public Safety officials who put their lives on the line for our safety, my opposition to the bill stems from the inclusion of the 420-440 MHz spectrum (the UHF 70-cm band) as part of a frequency swap and auction. Very little of this spectrum is allocated to Public Safety, and only in very limited areas. Rather, it is allocated to government radiolocation services on a primary basis, with Amateur Radio allocated on a secondary basis. The Federal government uses this band for critical defense purposes, including Pave Paws radars for detecting surface-launched missiles aimed at the United States, and for airborne radars used for drug interdiction. The Amateur Service carefully coordinates its uses of this band to insure compatibility. The two services have a very good record of sharing this spectrum successfully, putting it to good use for both military and civilian purposes in the national interest.

Amateur radio emergency communications rely heavily on our limited frequency allocations in the VHF and UHF radio bands. The loss of access to the 420-440 MHz spectrum would make it very difficult for us to maintain this capability and would mean we could no longer use numerous systems that have been constructed on our own time and at personal expense to provide this important communications support.

Amateur Radio operators across the country repeatedly demonstrate our commitment to public service and emergency communications. Through our work with FEMA and other Homeland Security activities, state and local Emergency Management offices, and numerous charitable relief agencies, volunteer Amateur Radio operators assist the first responders, doing so at no cost to the agencies we support. The role of the Amateur Radio Service as a partner to Public Safety in providing supporting public service and emergency communications necessitates our retention of full access to the entire 70-cm band.

We understand and support that Public Safety officials must have the spectrum they need to do their jobs. However, it is not necessary to do so in the ill-conceived manner proposed in this bill. Other pending legislation provides for this important goal to be realized without the proposed reallocation of non-Public Safety spectrum for commercial auction that is included in H.R. 607. I urge you to oppose H.R. 607 in its current form. Thank you for your consideration.

Print Name:

Signature:

Address: