

July 2011

Volume 41, Number 7

See you down the log!

www.fars.k6ya.org

July Club Meeting

Date: Friday, July 22nd, 2011

Time: Socializing at 7PM, Meeting starts at 7:30PM

Place: Covington School, 205 Covington Road, Los Altos
(near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Rd)

Speaker: **Jim DeLoach, WU0I**

United States Foreign Service

Topic: "Amateur Radio in Ethiopia"

Have you ever wanted to be that rare DX station and be on the other end of the pile-ups? Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be in a country where you can count the number of amateur radio operators on your fingers and toes, instead of being yet another Silicon Valley Ham? Come hear Jim DeLoach, a United States Foreign Service Officer recently returned from Addis Ababa, talk about Amateur Radio in Ethiopia! Ethiopia should be Ham Radio paradise, but shipping and import constraints, high noise levels in this crowded third world city, and most importantly suspicious and unmotivated local officials make hamming a challenge. Learn how Jim overcome these obstacles, what it was like to be that rare DX station for a change, and how the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society (EARS) club station, ET3AA, and its founder Sid, ET3SID, have played a critical role in keeping Ethiopia on the air!

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 fixed price dinner menu.

Post-Meeting Snacks: Denny's on Mathilda in Sunnyvale.

July Raffle Prizes

The prizes for the raffle will be:

First Prize: **Yaesu FT-60R HT**

2M/440 with wide receive

Second Prize: ARRL Repeater Directory

Third Prize: Two dogbone antenna insulators



The FARS RELAY President's Corner

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 22nd. We'll hear a report of amateur radio in Ethiopia.



Amateur Radio Field Day took place June 25th & 26th and was very successful this year. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this important and exciting activity, including setup, take down, and operation of the stations! It was great to share the event with family and friends, especially the fabulous BBQ potluck dinner. I always look forward to the smoked salmon after I have had my hamburger fresh off the grill (thank you Ron!).

I also want to thank our Field Day captain Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE, and our station captains: Paul Zander, AA6PZ (HF/SSB), Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE (HF 80/160), Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX (VHF/Satellite), and Michael Pechner, NE6RD (GOTA). I filled in as captain for the HF CW/Digital station.

Richard Baldwinson, N6ATD, reported that he and Paul Zander, AA6PZ, managed to develop a pile-up while calling K6YA on the 40-meter band on Saturday evening. He remarked that this was the first time in the past few years that they were able to get a pile-up going, and it was both fun and exciting. In addition Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX, successfully worked one of the satellite passes during Field Day to earn the 100-point bonus for that mode.

We managed to keep all the stations pretty busy all day Saturday and late into the evening. Also, several new faces showed up which is always gratifying.

Am-Tech Day. No word yet on a new location for Am-Tech Day. We are still looking for a new location. Check the website (www.fars.k6ya.org/amtechday) or the email list (www.fars.k6ya.org/mail) for the latest news and information.

Electronics Flea Market. The electronics flea market held on July 9th was hosted by FARS. Thanks to the volunteers who set up, cleaned up, and staffed this event we were able to earn important funds for the club. Thanks also to Michael Pechner, NE6RD, for heading this event. The next electronics flea market is scheduled for August 13th and will be hosted by SVECS. Check out www.electronicfleamarket.com for all the details.

de Mikel, KN6QI

The Wish-You-Were-Here prize is a **CASH** prize awarded each meeting to a member who is present and has paid their 2011 dues. Are you on the list for the drawing?

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
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 to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news. Browse www.fars.k6ya.org/mail, click on Subscribe/Unsubscribe and follow 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 require approval by the 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. With membership you'll receive the monthly FARS Relay, and you'll also qualify for the monthly CASH Wish-You-Were-Here drawing at each membership meeting.

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 Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com
PO Box 51985 Also available at FARS meetings.
Palo Alto, CA 94303 Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.

**What can YOU do
to help protect and preserve
spectrum and privileges
for all amateur radio operators?**

SUPPORT YOUR NATIONAL SOCIETY →



**The Amateur Radio Relay League
(ARRL)**

www.arrl.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

Visitors are welcome at all events!

JULY

22 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

AUGUST

4 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
13 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
26 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

SEPTEMBER

1 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
10 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
23 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

OCTOBER

6 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
8 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
Last flea market for 2011!
14-16 [Pacificon 2011](#), Santa Clara Marriott Hotel
21 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

NOVEMBER

3 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
18 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

FARS Membership Dues Reduced for 2011

Payment of dues for 2011 supports the club and provides you with current membership status – you'll qualify for the **CASH** Wish-You-Were-Here prize awarded at each membership meeting, and you'll also receive the FARS Relay in your email each month.

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 is a California 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, so donations and membership dues are tax deductible with the California Franchise Tax Board and the Internal Revenue Service.

REPORT: July's Electronics Flea Market *Hosted by FARS*

July's Electronics Flea Market at DeAnza College was a significant fundraising opportunity for FARS.

The Flea Market is operated by ASVARO, and each month is hosted by a different group. For July it was FARS' turn to shine! Michael Pechner (NE6RD) stepped up to organize this event, and thanks to his hard work and the strong support of a wonderful group of volunteers this flea market went off without a hitch.

The volunteers:

- Showed up the Friday prior to collect supplies from the Red Cross in Palo Alto
- Arrived between 4am and 5am on Saturday to sell spaces to the vendors and setup the snack tent
- Manned the sale of coffee, donuts, sodas, etc.
- Rounded up the vendors at 1pm as the event closed
- Broke down the snack tent, cleaned up the parking lot, and returned supplies to the Red Cross



Mikey NE6RD, our event organizer.



Staffing the food tent



Take down and clean up



Loading up the Red Cross truck

Thank you to:

Bernard KI6TSF
 Charlie KI6FXY
 Chris KJ6IVM
 Clark KE6KXO
 Dick N6ATD
 Doña KI6DAR
 George N6NKT
 Gerald K6TXD
 Jake N6EWS
 Jerry K6GAC
 Joanna K6YL
 John KF6YXN
 Kevin K6XXX
 Lee KG6EPQ
 Lou WA6QYS
 Mikel KN6QI
 Mikey NE6RD
 Nimit K6XOX
 Paul AA6PZ
 Ramsey KE6TFZ
 Randy K6RGS
 Rich W6APZ
 Rolf N6NFI
 Ron KG6RLG
 Seth KF6UZX
 Stuart Chessen
 Svend KF6EMB

*And anyone else
 I may have
 accidentally left off
 the list*

The morning started out cool, prompting donut & coffee sales.



Then the sun emerged and ice cold sodas and water were hits.



Duplexers for sale!



And Gordon Yee from QRZ Engraving.



FARS members at work earning valuable money for the club.

When is the next Electronics Flea Market?

August 13th

Hosted by SVECS

(Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System)

OPERATING REPORT: Field Day 2011

June 25th-26th, 2011

ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day

www.arrl.org/field-day

From Saturday morning through Sunday morning the exchange “K6YA 3A Santa Clara Valley” filled the airwaves via multiple modes. Located again this year on the soccer field at the Maryknoll Residence, FARS’ Field Day QTH on an incredible hill overlooking the SF Bay Area took advantage of elevation, direction and takeoff angle to rake in the qso’s.

Our three HF transmitters were joined by a VHF/Satellite station as well as a Get On the Air (GOTA) station for round-the-clock action during this 24 hour event. We covered 70cm, 2m, 6m, 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m, 80m and even 160m.

Operating from a temporary location powered from generators, solar power and batteries (with no tie to the power grid) qualified us for the ‘A’ category.

A large number of people turned out and enjoyed wonderful weather, good people, and exciting radio fun.

Field Day is an excellent test of RF-cleanliness between the numerous stations, resilience in the face of less than optimal conditions, and a rig’s ability to integrate with a variety of independently-supplied external components and people, all on short notice.*

Thank you to the operators, volunteers, and also the others who did not operate but provided equipment, food, encouragement, spousal consent and other valuable considerations.

Thank you also to Maryknoll Residence for again allowing us the use of their soccer field.

Below are photos from Joanna K6YL, Mikey NE6RD, Gerry WC60, and Robert KE6TFU. Thank you for sharing!



Setting up antennas for CW/digital (above) and SSB (below).



CW QSO’s in progress at the digital station Saturday evening.



The little lady below is a Pacific Gopher Snake (*Pituophis catinifer*), quite possibly the same one who visited us last year. After a quick photo shoot she was carefully moved to the side of the field. We’ll see you again next year!



OPERATING REPORT CONTINUED: Field Day 2011

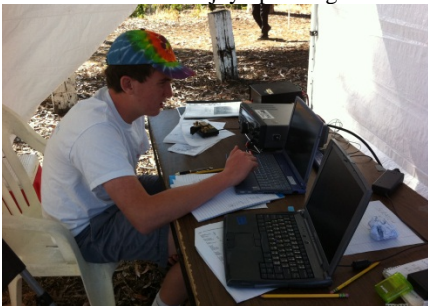
Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year 35,000+ amateurs gather to operate. When FARS' score is tallied you'll see an update in the FARS Relay, meanwhile I can say with almost certainty we beat 2010's score.



Mkey NE6RD coaches at the GOTA station.



Zeina and Luciano enjoy operating GOTA.



Chris KJ6IVM at the digital station.



A large helium balloon is launched into the air to support a vertical tx antenna for 160m.



Ron KG6RLG serves up BBQ during the potluck dinner Saturday night (above).



Chris K6GO operating CW in front of a fine looking FARS banner (below).



The sun has the power to show the hour. Hans KE6TGA demonstrates a sun dial created specifically for our QTH's latitude.



Paul AA6PZ and Dick N6ATD working SSB during fine weather Saturday evening.



The VHF/Satellite station captained by Nimit K6XOX brought in bonus points.



REPORT: FARS General License Course

The FARS General License Course completed its 6 weeks on June 23rd when students finally put pencil to paper.

As a result of the class, 25 students earned their General license, and 3 also passed their Extra! It is impressive to note that 5 of the class members didn't even have their Technician license prior to starting the class. Great work!



Testing underway. To pass the General they needed 26 correct answers out of 35 q's (74.2%). The total possible question pool was 400+ q's.

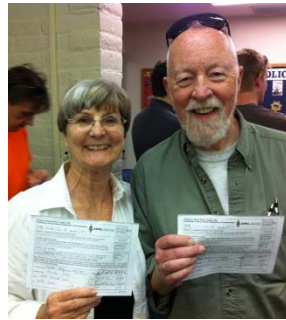
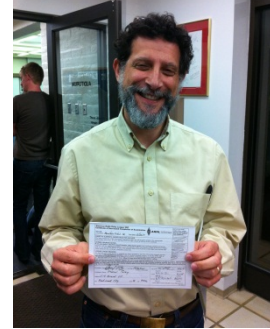
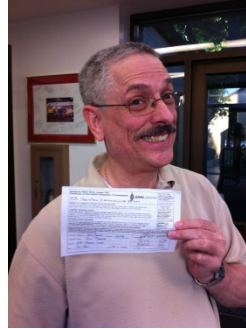


VE's from the ARRL VEC busy grading tests for 27 students PLUS 16 walk-ins, one of the largest testing groups they'd seen in a while.

With perfect timing the students earned their General licenses just before Field Day, and also just before the question pool changed.

Kevin K6XXX did an excellent job of organizing the students and instructors for this year's FARS General License Course. Thanks to the entire group we received very positive feedback.

A few of the many happy faces :-)



Thank you to the volunteer instructors who included Kevin K6XXX, Mikel KN6QI, Mikey NE6RD, Kristen K6WX, Peter AFDS, and Phil KA6MZE, along with host Joanna K6YL. Thank you!

JUNE MEETING REPORT

At the June FARS meeting we prepped for the fast-approaching Field Day and looked back on an impressive history of AmTech Day's, in addition to learning about antennas.

Congrats to the June raffle prize winners!

First Prize: Tigertronics SL-USB-8R Signalink Sound Card – Radio Interface

Second Prize: Maha MH-C9000 Wizard One Charger Analyzer

Third Prize: ARRL "Basic Radio, Understanding the Key Building Blocks"

Fourth Prize: ARRL Repeater Directory for 2011/2012



June Speaker: Dr. Jason D. Lohn Topic: "Automated Antenna Design and Optimization"

Current methods of designing and optimizing antennas by hand or computer are time and labor intensive, allow limited complexity, and require significant expertise and experience. Evolutionary design techniques can overcome these limitations by searching a design space and automatically finding effective solutions that would ordinarily not be found. Dr. Lohn discussed automated antenna design optimization that produced the "evolved" antennas that flew on NASA's Space Technology 5 (ST5) mission, the first ever artificially-evolved objects to fly in space. He also described the software tools that he and his colleagues developed to automate the design of these evolved antennas.

ARRL UPDATE:
Santa Clara Valley Section News for July 2011
By Phil Steffora, K6TT

As your newly appointed ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Manager (SM), this is my first opportunity to reach out to all the amateur radio operators in the SCV section to solicit your news, support, any items you think may be of interest to the ham radio community in SCV. ARRL announced my appointment on 31 May to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of our former SM, Bill Dale N2RHV. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bill for his four years of service as SM in the SCV section.

By way of introduction, I was first licensed in 1998 as KF6PEQ, and upgraded to General in 2006 and Amateur Extra in 2008. I have served as a Santa Clara Valley Assistant Section Manager since January 2009, and was Vice President of the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC) from 2009- 2011. I hold Worked All States, DXCC and other DX and contest achievements.

One of my first priorities as your new SM was a new Section website offering significantly advanced features for communicating news to the section. I secured the "santaclaravalley.org" domain name for our use and the new site went live shortly after I took the position. Please visit www.santaclaravalley.org to see the latest SCV Section News and Event Calendar, news from the ARRL, and other news feeds about DXing, propagation, etc. If your club meeting, net, or other activity needs publicizing, this is great place to do it so just contact me or my staff.

Section Manager (SM) - Phil Steffora, K6TT
Assistant Section Manager (ASM) – Tom Walsh, K1TW
Assistant Section Manager (ASM) – Michael Pechner, NE6RD
Assistant Section Manager (ASM) – Brandon Bianchi, NI6C
Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) - Lawrence W. Carr, KE6AGJ
State Government Liaison (SGL) - David C. Wolfe, AA6XV
Official Observer Coordinator (OOC) - Andrew Korsak, KR6DD
Technical Coordinator (TC) - Kit Blanke, WA6PWW
Section Traffic Manager (STM) – <Open - Can you help?>
Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC) - <Open - Can you help?>
Public Information Coordinator (PIC) - <Open - Can you help?>

www.santaclaravalley.org

*** New website! ***

Of course the biggest event of the year for our section occurs in June. Clubs from all over SCV have taken to the field to show off the very best of our hobby to the world. I am looking forward to receiving all your club reports on what you did for Field Day so I can highlight them here next month. Please send your report to directly to me at <k6tt@arrl.org>.

Be sure to checkout the Field Day section on the website (http://www.santaclaravalley.org/?page_id=480) for photos that were taken at clubs all over our section. We tried to make it out to as many sites as we could this year and were welcomed and treated extremely well. If you have more photos to share, please send them to us. Thank you to the following clubs for your hospitality:

San Mateo Radio Club, W6UQ, San Mateo
SC4 Amateur Radio Club, W6SCF, La Honda
Palo Alto ARA (PAARA), W6ARA, Menlo Park
Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES), K6KP, Cupertino
West Valley ARA, K6EI, Los Altos Hills
Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS), K6YA, Los Altos Hills
Stanford University Amateur Radio Club, W6YX, Stanford
Naval Postgraduate School ARA, K6LY, Monterey
Santa Clara County ARA, W6UW, Watsonville
San Lorenzo Valley ARA and SCC ARA, K6MMM, Bonny Doon



ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section
Section Manager: Phil Steffora, K6TT
k6tt@arrl.org



*Photos from K6TT's
QRZ page*



=SILENT KEYS=

It is my sad duty to report
the passing of
Doug Westover, W6JD,
Jim Lacalamita, WB6YAM,
Russell Coile, K6FVH
and
William Smith, K6DYX

NIGHT OF NIGHTS 2011

Night of Nights is an annual event held on the 12th of July by the Maritime Radio Historical Society (MRHS) to commemorate the history of maritime radio and the closing of commercial Morse operations in the USA. These on-the-air events are intended to honor the men and women who followed the radiotelegraph trade on ships and at coast stations around the world and made it one of honor and skill. Info: www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/events_nightofnights.htm

For a Night Each Year, the Airwaves Buzz With Morse Code

Article from The New York Times, July 13, 2011, by Jessie McKinley

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE, Calif. —

It has been a little more than a decade since the last of the nation's commercial Morse code radio stations officially went off the air, as new technology sank a system that had been a lingua franca of maritime communication since before the Titanic.

But like transmissions that continue to travel through the cosmos long after their original senders are gone, there are some things that refuse to die. And on Tuesday, several outposts of Morse code blazed to life again, if only for a night, with the help of a group of enthusiasts bent on preserving what they call “the music of Morse,” one key tap at a time.

The occasion was an annual radio reboot known as the Night of Nights, held every year on the anniversary of the last Morse code broadcast from a coastal California station in 1999, which included a traditional sign-off (“We wish you fair winds and following seas”) and more than a few teary-eyed former radio operators.

On Tuesday, though, some of those old key men were back on the job, broadcasting from the former headquarters of a marine Morse station in Northern California, KPH, and joined on air by two other stations outside Seattle and in Mobile, Ala., all to honor a system that linked the world long before the Internet, e-mail and Twitter.

“It’s just beeps in the air, but it just meant everything to people,” said Richard Dillman, a self-described “radio squirrel” who serves as president of the nonprofit Maritime Radio Historical Society (www.radiomarine.org) which sponsors the event. “And we are the only thing standing.”

Or buzzing, as it were, as more than a dozen volunteers assembled at KPH’s receiving and transmitting stations, two dusty but rock-solid structures that are now part of the Point Reyes National Seashore, northwest of San Francisco.

Closed in 1997, the station’s receiving headquarters is like a living time capsule, stuffed with communications relics, including Teletype machines, manual typewriters and rotary phones — and, of course, all manner of telegraphy keys, ranging from the versions like those used in Samuel Morse’s time to shiny new models favored by some modern-day ham operators. A dusty calendar from 1997 still hangs on the wall, as does a copy of the famous distress call from the Titanic.

Many of the station’s ancient machines were ablaze on Tuesday, spitting out clicks, whistles, white noise and — of course — dots and dashes. (Or “dits” and “dahs” as they were often known in the business.)

And at just past midnight Greenwich Mean Time, the first message, tapped out at breakneck speed by Mr. Dillman, was beamed into the air.

“On this date in 1999 the death of commercial Morse was announced,” it read. “But Morse still lives.”

Indeed, KPH had been shuttered, but not completely shut down. Jack Martini, a former manager at the station, said he had left the receivers on as both a sign of affection and — he hoped — of possible preservation.

“I loved the place,” said Mr. Martini, 72, who also spent years as a Morse code operator at KPH. “And it saved the receivers. You turn off the receivers, you get the moisture in there, and they’re done.”

And so it was that KPH was eventually reborn as KSM and began broadcasting in Morse a few hours each Saturday, a development that attracted the attention of other aficionados.

“We’re doing the radio equivalent of Civil War re-enactments,” said Bill Ruck, one participant on Tuesday.

Another of those drawn in was Dave Wolfe, 62, a longtime enthusiast who had served as a radio operator in the 1960s and early ’70s, at sea and on land.

“We had eight people in there, almost on roller skates,” Mr. Wolfe recalled. “You got paid, and reasonably well, for doing what was basically a hobby.”

Not that it was easy work. Operators during Morse’s heyday worked grueling shifts, staffing stations 24 hours a day as ships sent messages to shore and vice versa. Experts in the form said the secret was to never count the dots and dashes, but to listen.

“You had to think of it as a rhythm,” Mr. Martini said. “You had to kind of be a musician.”

Sure enough, on Tuesday night, the symphony of dits and dahs continued for hours at the receiving station, as amateur Morse operators from around the world chimed in to say hello. At the transmitting station, meanwhile, another crew staffed banks of refurbished and rescued devices, some dating to World War II and complete with glowing mercury vapor tubes.

“You’re running antiques,” said Steve Hawes, who staffed the control room. “But we haven’t had anything let off a giant bang or blow up in smoke yet.”

But as the night wore on, the one thing that was not heard was any commercial traffic, though Mr. Dillman said that occasionally a ship would still call in during the station’s Saturday hours, wondering how the station was still alive. But even if the ships did not call, he said, the die-hards at Point Reyes would continue to listen.

“Even if there were no ships out there, we’d be keeping the faith,” Mr. Dillman said, before adding, “Of course, it’s thrilling when they call.”

Notice quotations from FARS friend Dave Wolfe AA6XV, who still holds his commercial radio license.



UPDATE: HAM TV

HAM Nation is the new TWIT show about ham radio. Bob Heil, with various co-hosts and guests, will cover the excitement and importance of ham radio - from tossing an antenna wire in a tree allowing you to talk to the world, to the importance of ham radio operators in time of disasters. HAM Nation airs live each Tuesday at 6:00 PM PT. www.twit.tv/hn.

Episodes thus far have included soldering, code oscillators, Field Day, software defined radios (SDR), emergency operations, four-square arrays, and much more.

OPERATING REPORT: Stations and Events Spotted

K2USA

Independence Day Special Event Station

Fort Monmouth Amateur Radio Club

A tribute to our Serviceman and Woman past, present, future.

Breakdown for the 352 contacts:

U.S. Army, 72	U.S. Coast Guard, 10
U.S. Air Force, 51	C.A.P., 1
U.S. Navy, 42	F.A.A., 1
U.S. Marine Corp., 10	Non-service personnel, 165

K2L

Independence Day, 13 Colonies Special Event

Honoring the 13 original colonies and the independence of our nation in 1776.

NY-NJ-RI-GA-PA-NH-SC-VA-CT-DE-MD-MA-NC on air!

www.13colonies.info

The certificate is shown on the website and looks impressive.

N4S Special Event Station

The Final Space Shuttle Launch, STS-135 Atlantis

Operating from Florida until "wheel stop" at end of mission.

ARRL VHF QSO Party

Authorized frequencies above 50 Mhz (6m) were buzzing June 11th-13th! Your grid square was the exchange, with mobile stations activating hard-to-get squares. Do you know yours? www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php

RAC Canada Day Contest

Celebrating Canada Day on July 1st

An easy 24 hour contest during which everyone works everyone in celebration of Canada's birthday. As part of the unofficial exchange Americans wished Happy Canada Day and the Canadian's returned with a wish for a Happy 4th!

IARU HF Contest

Amateurs worldwide took to the air July 9th-10th to report their ITU zones in a short exchange. Contests like this fill the air waves! Do you know your ITU zone? Check out the map at <http://iaru.org/ituzonesc.gif>

HEADS UP: International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend August 20th-21st

The 3rd full weekend of August puts lighthouses on the air. See the official web site www.illw.net for a full list on entrants from over 40 countries.

The basic objective of the event is to promote public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and their need for preservation and restoration, and at the same time to promote amateur radio and to foster International goodwill.

Lighthouses are fast becoming an endangered species with the introduction of Global Positioning Systems and Satellite Navigation and the automation of the light source to solar power which has resulted in the withdrawal of management personnel (Keepers). It is hoped that this event will highlight this situation and help prevent further desecration of these magnificent structures all around the world.



So come and join us in the fun of the weekend!

UPDATE – Humbolt has confirmed that they have operators for every lighthouse within their county, and they're pushing to get the whole north coast involved. Interested in setting up a station at Point Reyes (Marin county), Point Cabrillo (Mendocino county), Battery Point and Saint George (Del Norte County)? There are also plenty of lighthouses south of the Bay Area that haven't previously been activated for this event. If you're interested check out www.illw.net or email Ty AF6TS at – af6ts at tcarver007 at yahoo.com.

Additional Info on Lighthouses -- Are you logging your contacts with World Lighthouses on the Air? (WLOTA) Between 25 and 50 confirmed contacts (depending on mode and location) can earn you a nice diploma. For details see www.wlota.com/rulea.htm.

HEADS UP: ARRL UHF Contest August 6th-7th

Do you enjoy working UHF+ frequencies above 222 MHz?

This ARRL event coaxes an increased number of hams to the air. Perhaps you want to see how far your antennas can reach, or perhaps you even collect grid squares. Some people find this the perfect opportunity to mountain-top or even mobile as a Rover (so long as you know which grid square you're currently in).

Remember, just because you operate in a contest doesn't mean you have to submit your logs. Just enjoy the opportunity and have fun!

INFO:
Did you know?

“73” is a common term in amateur radio. We hear it on the air and we see it on QSL cards. But do you know what “72” refers to?

“72” is a form of radio shorthand that roughly translates as meaning “Best wishes QRP!” For additional interesting info on QRP operations see www.rogerwendell.com/qrp.html.

PHOTO TIME
And you thought your garage was full!

These photos were posted on Craig's List recently. Wow!



FARS Relay

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

Please contact Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com

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?

NEW QUESTION POOL FOR GENERAL TEST 7/1/11

What is a Passing Score you might ask?
Technician & General exams – 26 out of 35 (74.2%)
Amateur Extra exam – 37/50 (74%)

www.baeers.com – This group holds “Ham Crams” 4 times a year, with the next one scheduled for 9/24 in Redwood City. Pre-registration required.

www.amateur-radio.org – The Sunnyvale VEC has upcoming test sessions on 8/13 in Sunnyvale and 8/20 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 8 AM to 11 AM at the Saratoga Fire Station (must arrive before 11 AM). Upcoming sessions are 8/6 and 8/20. 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 8/9 and 9/10. Walk-ins welcome.

FARS Member Badges Seeking Owners

**Dan
KJ6OSD**

**Elise
KI6PUO**

Plus additional badges not yet collected...

Available for pick up at the next club mtg

BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Session: Saturday, September 24th
8 AM
Redwood City, CA
www.baears.com

Electronics Flea Markets 2011

Saturday 5 AM to 12 Noon

3/12 hosted by PAARA 7/9 hosted by FARS !!
4/9 hosted by SPARK 8/13 hosted by SVECS
5/21 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 on El Camino Real
in Mountain View, CA

Weekly FARS Net

Thursdays @ 8 PM
N6NFI Repeater 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL

ARRL Rookie Roundup 2011 on RTTY!

The objective of a [Rookie Roundup](#) is for newly licensed operators to experience competitive Amateur Radio. Experienced operators are also strongly encouraged to participate in order to help new operators – either on the air or in person.

This event is held in SSB, RTTY and CW.

RTTY is up next on [August 21st](#)!

During this event a Rookie will be defined as a ham first licensed in 2009, 2010 or 2011.

What is RTTY?

[RTTY](#), also known as Radioteletype, allows communication using two radios and a modulation technique such as frequency shift keying (FSK). Many ham radio operators enjoy using modern PCs and soundcard software or TNCs to take advantage of this fun mode.

Did you enjoy the contesting aspect
of Field Day?

Consider participating in the
2011 California QSO Party
(CQP)
October 1st-2nd, 2011

www.cqp.org



*All 58 CA
Counties will be
on the air!*

California stations
work all stations in or out of California
(with a bonus/multiplier for each of the 50 US states
and 8 Canadian provinces).

Stations outside of CA work stations in CA only
(with a bonus/multiplier for each of the 58 counties).

The ARRL Pacific Division Convention

Pacificon 2011
comes to Santa Clara, CA
October 14-16th, 2011

www.pacificon.org



**Tickets are already on sale, including to the
Sat. Banquet and Fri. Antenna Seminar!**

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.