



FARS

FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The FARS RELAY President's Corner

March 2012

Volume 42, Number 3

3 months until Field Day!

www.fars.k6ya.org

March Club Meeting

Date: Friday, March 23rd, 2012

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

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

"Rethinking Field Day Outside the Box" **Jim Peterson K6EI**

**Jim shares some ideas on how clubs
can boost Field Day innovation,
participation, and outreach
– and have more Fun in the process!**

Field Day weekend is
June 23rd to 24th !!



Snacks: Cookies and coffee will be served.

Questions: Bring your hardest radio questions.

The mysterious Dr. Know-It-All reveals all answers.

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

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is at 7PM on March 23rd. Our program is **"Rethinking Field Day Outside the Box"** with Jim Peterson K6EI.



General Class License Course. This is your chance to upgrade your amateur radio license to the general class. Get on the HF bands and enjoy long distance and worldwide communication. The course is scheduled for Thursday evening's starting on April 26th and continuing on through May 31st.

We cover two topics each evening and have the test on the last evening while the course material is fresh in your mind. Check out the FARS website at www.fars.k6ya.org/classes to find out more and to sign up. Thanks to our training officer, Kevin Weiler K6XXX, for organizing the course.

CQ World Wide 160-Meter Phone Contest. On February 25th was a success. Thanks to everyone who helped out with this activity. Thanks to Phil KA6MZE for organizing the event.

Electronics Flea Market. The next electronics flea market is scheduled for April 14th, 2012 from 5AM until 1PM. The sponsor for this flea market is the **Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)**. Note that daily campus parking permits have increased to \$3 per vehicle, so bring an extra buck. The flea market is a great place to find a bargain and it supports your local ham clubs. For all the details check out www.electronicfleamarket.com.

de Mikel KN6QI

Raffle Prizes

1st Prize: **Switching Power Supply**

Samlex America 13.8V
Model SEC-1235M
30-Amp Continuous
w/ Volt & Amp Meters



2nd Prize: **Heil Foot Switch**

Model FS-3
Single Circuit



It's that time of year!

FARS Membership Renewals

Renewing your membership to FARS provides much needed support for your club activities, qualifies you for the **CASH** Wish-You-Were-Here prize awarded at each membership meeting, plus you'll receive a **FARS Relay** to your email each month!

FARS activities incl. Field Day, the 160m contest in February, the California QSO Party, and more!

The reduced annual membership fee of \$15 has been extended through 2012. Put your \$5 savings in your pocket or use it to purchase raffle tickets.

The Wish-You-Were-Here prize is a CASH prize awarded each meeting to a member who is present and has paid their dues. It grows each month not collected!

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
Charlie Morrin KI6FXV
K6YA Trustee: Phil Hawkins KA6MZE

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

Membership: An annual FARS membership is \$15 and provides much needed support for your club activities, qualifies you for the CA\$H Wish-You-Were-Here prize drawn at each membership meeting, plus you'll receive a FARS Relay to your email each month! An optional club badge is \$9.

FARS Membership Dues Reduced for 2012 -- The FARS board has voted to extend the \$15 reduced membership dues through 2012. Put your \$5 savings in your pocket or use it to purchase raffle tickets.

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

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).

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.

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 (also Yahoo)
PO Box 5153 Also available at FARS meetings.
Redwood City, CA 94063 Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

Visitors are welcome at all events!

MARCH

- 23 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
"Rethinking Field Day Outside the Box"
Jim Peterson K6EI

APRIL

- 5 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
12 [BARC Meeting](#), Tech Shop Menlo Park, 7PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club (a FARS Spec Int Grp)
14 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
15 [ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB](#) – Try to get on!
20-22 [Intl DX Convention 2012](#), Visalia, CA
Very popular 3 day event just south of Fresno.
26 [FARS General Class License Course](#), Mtn View
** First night of this 6 week class **
27 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

MAY

- 3 Board Mtg, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
10 [BARC Meeting](#), Tech Shop Menlo Park, 7PM
12 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
18 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH
19-20 [MakerFaire 2012](#)
FARS is sponsoring a booth again this year
25 [Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
31 [FARS General Class License Course](#) – Test session!

JUNE

- 23 [FARS ARRL Field Day](#) – Come join us!
@ Marknoll Residences, Los Altos, a great QTH!

AUGUST

- 11 [Electronics Flea Market](#), ***SPONSORED BY FARS***
19 [ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY](#) – Try to get on!

OCTOBER

- 6 [FARS California QSO Party \(CQP\)](#), Los Altos
@ Maryknoll Residence (same location as Field Day)

DECEMBER

- 16 [ARRL Rookie Roundup CW](#) – Try to get on!

OPERATING REPORT: 2012 CQ WORLDWIDE 160M PHONE CONTEST

“K6YA five-nine
California”

The night of Saturday, February 25th FARS participated in this annual event, the [CQWW 160-Meter Contest](#). Our operation included a 300 foot Beverage antenna for receive (photo below) and a quarter wavelength (135 foot) sloper antenna for transmit. Phil KA6MZE spearheaded the event, now in its 4th year.



The objective of the contest was for amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many U.S. states, Canadian provinces, and countries as possible utilizing the 160 meter band.

FARS had a claimed score of 10,352 points, with 115 QSO's and 41 multipliers!

© Mikel KN6QI for some of these photos, thank you



A big thank you goes out to Maryknoll Residences in Los Altos for kindly allowing us the use of their soccer field, the same QTH used by FARS for both Field Day and the California QSO Party. Thank you to Phil Hawkins KA6MZE for your hard work each year on this contest. Thank you also to Phil's fellow volunteers and operators. This year the excellent crew included Clark KE6KXO, Kit WA6PWW, Keith KJ6PUO, Peter KJ6PUN, Mikel KN6QI, Jerry K6TXD, Rick N6DQ, and Joanna K6YL. Hopefully I have not missed anyone in this list. Our special guest not yet mentioned was Father Theisen, NC2E, who had just arrived at Maryknoll a week prior to the 160m contest and who had never before made a contact on 160m. We took care of that! Theisen was originally from Minnesota, but recently spent 38 years in southern Chile and is excited to get on the air from Los Altos.



Cheers to another successful 160 meter event in the log! The next event on the list is Field Day in June!

REPORT: RADIOFEST MONTEREY BAY 2012

Radiofest was held in Monterey on March 3rd, sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio Club (NPSARC). This ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Convention experienced perfect weather and was well attended.



Get Your General Now!

It's getting closer to the TOP of the sunspot cycle, and every day LONG DISTANCE CONTACTS are getting EASIER on MORE bands! Get your General and GET IN ON THE FUN NOW!

FARS General License Class – April 26th– May 31st, 2012

Dates: 6 two hour weekly classes starting Thursday April 26th and running through May 31st, 2012

Time: 7 pm – 9 pm on Thursday evenings

Location: Mountain View Fire Administration Building, 1000 Villa Avenue, Mountain View CA 94041

Cost: \$30 (\$25 for K-12 students, or seniors 65 or older), text book not included, exam cost is included!

This course will cover everything you need to know in order to pass the FCC General Class License Exam! Now's the time to pass that upgrade exam! Not only will you gear up to pass the exam, you'll also gain valuable general radio and amateur radio practice knowledge, see several demos, and other fun stuff. The exam is given as the last class session, and its cost is included in the course fee! There will be a maximum of 35 students so that everyone has a chance to ask questions. While a Technician class license is recommended, it is not required to take this course. Sign up now and reserve your slot!

(address any questions to Kevin Weiler, K6XXX at k6xxx@arrl.net)

Mail-in Sign-up Form

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Call:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Mail this form with a check for \$30 (\$25 for K-12 students, or seniors 65 or older) payable to FARS to:

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

Please write the call sign of the student on the check.

OR: Sign up via the Internet using at <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/classes>



**REPORT:
BAY AREA RADIO BUILDERS CLUB (BARC)**



Kristen K6WX gave an excellent talk at the February BARC meeting.

She covered the DC voltage basics of Kirchhoff's laws and voltage dividers, then talked about what a closed feedback circuit is. She showed us multiple circuits including how to use op-amps to build basic calculation components to add, subtract, multiply, divide, $\ln(x)$, differential and integral functions. Examples include an oscillator, comparator, function generator and a stereo amp.



de Mikey NE6RD

*Next BARC Meeting: April 12th @ The Tech Shop, Menlo Park.
BARC is a FARS Special Interest Group*



63rd Annual International DX Convention 2012

Sponsored by the SoCal and NorCal DX Clubs (SCDXC and NCDXC)

Friday, Saturday & Sunday -- April 20th to 22nd, 2012

www.dxconvention.org

**COMMERCIAL VENDOR BOOTHS (both vendor rooms are full!)
HAM RADIO DEMOS**

**SPEAKERS & SEMINARS ON ALL DAYS
DX FORUM & CONTEST FORUM**

**BBQ LUNCH
SELECTION OF DINNER PRESENTATIONS (sign up early!)**

QSL CARD CHECKING

NUMEROUS PRIZE DRAWINGS
The raffle prizes will top even the famed Dayton raffle prizes!

Location:

[The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center](#)
in Visalia, CA (just south of Fresno)
[Link to map](#)

**PHOTO TIME:
February Meeting Prize Winners**

Congratulations to the following: Steve K6OIK (left) won the Atomic Clock, Paul AA6PZ (center) took home the 1st place Tigertronics Signalink, and Ray W6FQY (right) was awarded the MFJ 300W Dummy Load.



Mark Hardy K6MDH was unfortunately not present and thus couldn't collect the monthly cash WYWH prize when his name was called during the Feb meeting. Doh!

Upcoming

**FARS
General License Course**

FARS is again offer a six-week General License course, same as we have the last few years with **great success**.

Beginning Thursday, April 26th

Test on Thursday, May 31st

Location: Mountain View, CA

See <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/classes>

ALSO SEE Page 5 FOR DETAILS.

FARS Member Badges

We're ready to take your order online or at the mtg.

Available for pick up at the next club mtg

FARS Relay

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

Please contact Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com

FARS Weekly Net

Thursdays @ 8 PM

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz

This net is open to all interested hams.

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

9AM Talk Net

Weekdays @ 9 AM

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz

This net is open to all interested hams.

This is an informal net that is very popular.

www.9amtalk.net

Ready to Upgrade Your License?

What is a Passing Score you might ask?

Technician & General exams – 26 out of 35 (74.2%)

Amateur Extra exam – 37/50 (74%)

www.baears.com – This group holds “Ham Crams” 4 times a year. Pre-registration required, sign up on the website. \$30

- Saturday 4/21, 8 AM @ Santa Clara

www.amateur-radio.org – The Sunnyvale VEC holds test sessions on Saturdays often alternating between Sunnyvale and Redwood City. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15

- Saturday 4/14, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 5/12, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale

www.pdarrrl.org/vec/vecscv – The Silicon Valley ARRL VE holds test sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Arrive between 8 AM and 10:30 AM to the Saratoga Fire Station at 14380 Saratoga Avenue. Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15

- Saturday 4/7
- Saturday 4/21

www.sbara.org – The Tri-City VE Group holds test sessions at Hurricane Electric in Fremont each month, alternating between Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. The address is 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Walk-ins welcome. \$15

- Tuesday 4/10, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 5/12, 9:00 AM

BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Session: Saturday, April 21st
8 AM
Santa Clara, CA
www.baears.com

Electronics Flea Market

Saturday, April 14th

Host: Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)

www.electronicfleamarket.com

FARS Email Notices

Easy to subscribe!

www.k6ya.org/mail

Receive reminders of activities and other news.

Weekly FARS Net

Thursdays @ 8 PM

N6NFI Repeater 145.230(-), 100 Hz PL

**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



MakerFaire 2012 is coming!

World's Largest DIY Festival

May 19th and 20th, 2012

San Mateo, CA

Maker Faire

<http://makerfaire.com/bayarea/2012/>

*Come celebrate MAKE magazine's
11th Maker Faire
and seventh anniversary
in the Bay Area,
showcasing creative and resourceful
people in the areas of
science and technology, engineering,
food, and arts and crafts.*

**FARS will again sponsor
a booth at the Maker Faire.**

Stay tuned for more info from Michael NE6RD.

Bay Area Radio Builders Club

"BARC"

A FARS Special Interest Group

Next Meeting: April 12th
TechShop in Menlo Park

We are a group of mostly Amateur Radio operators who want to gain a better understanding of the topics covered in the General and Extra class tests. We want to learn electronics, antenna theory, kit building, and kit design.

For more info join the Yahoo Group:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba_radio_builders/

FARS Membership Renewal Form

Note that the annual dues for 2012 has 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.