

MARCH CLUB MEETING

When & Where

- Date:** Friday, April 26th, 2013
- Time:** Socializing at 7PM
 Meeting starts at 7:30PM
- Place:** Covington School, 205 Covington Rd, Los Altos
(near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Rd)
- Snacks:** Cookies and coffee will be served.
- Questions:** Bring your hardest radio questions.
 The mysterious Dr. Know-It-All reveals all answers.
- Post-Meeting Snacks:** Denny's on Mathilda in Sunnyvale.

Presentation

**My First DXpedition:
 3D2C Conway Reef 2012**

George Williams N6NKT

When George N6NKT decided he would go on his first DXpedition, he chose the 3D2C DXpedition to Conway Reef – September 24 to October 5, 2012. George will talk about his adventure with "newbie" twists, his walk-aways, and how he could have better prepared for his first DXpedition. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about how to plan for your own first DXpedition. It is a different and fun aspect of amateur radio.

Raffle Prizes



We will have a great selection of Raffle Prizes as well as the CASH Wish-You-Were-Here Prize.



- 1st Prize:** Wouxun 2m/440 Dual Band HT (KG-UV3D-2)
- 2nd Prize:** Arrow J Pole Antenna (OSJ-146/440)
- 3rd Prize:** ARRL 2012-2013 Repeater Directory
- 4th Prize:** NARCC 2013 NorCal Repeater Directory

Wish-You-Were-Here Prize: A **CASH prize** awarded to member who is present and has paid their 2013 dues.
 APRIL MEETING = \$30



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

Visitors are welcome at all FARS events!



Photos of 3D2C are from
April speaker
George N6NKT

APRIL

- 10 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
My First DXpedition: 3D2C Conway Reef 2012 – by George N6NKT

MAY

- 8 Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
11 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
12 [BARC Meeting](#), Los Altos Public Library, 6PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club
17-19 [Dayton Hamvention](#), Dayton, Ohio
Nearly 25,000 attended last year!
24 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM



JUNE

- 8 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
9 [BARC Meeting](#), Los Altos Public Library, 6PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club
12 Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
14 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
22 [Amateur Radio Field Day 2013](#), Los Altos, CA, 11AM
Details to come soon!



UPCOMING

- 10/5 [California QSO Party 2013](#), Los Altos, CA, 11AM
Details at www.cqp.org

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!

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

Email your FARS newsletter editor at Joanna.K6YL@gmail.com or K6YL@ARRL.net.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mikel KN6QI

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is on April 26th and our program is "My First Expedition: 3D2C Conway Reef 2012" with George Williams N6NKT.

Board of Directors. We still have a couple of openings on the FARS Board of Directors. If you are interested in getting more involved in the activities of FARS you might consider joining our board. The board has the important functions of directing and organizing the activities of the organization. This is your chance to develop leadership skills and influence how things are run. If you are interested, talk to me or any board member to find out more.

Field Day is coming up the weekend of June 22-23 and we need volunteers to plan, organize and operate Field Day. This is a big even for FARS and we need a big showing from the membership to make it happen. So mark your calendars, and volunteer to help with one of our stations at Field Day this year. It's always a great event, a lot of fun, and don't forget the BBQ on Saturday.

Time to Renew Your Membership. We are well into April, so it's past time for you to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is only \$20 for the year and supports all of our activities including our monthly programs and our radio operating events. Look for this membership form on the back of this newsletter, or on the FARS website at <http://www.k6ya.org/membership>.

Note that we now have a youth rate of \$10 for membership for those under 18 years of age. Take advantage of this new youth rate if you qualify.

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. Note that donations to our raffle are also considered gifts, so they are generally deductible as well. Consult your tax advisor for details.

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

de Mikel KN6QI



PHOTO TIME: March Meeting Raffle Prize Winners

Congratulations to last month's raffle prize winners!

From left to right in the photo—

Steve K6OIK won the MFJ RFI chokes.

Dick N6ATD took home the Powerwerx multimeter.

Mikel KN6QI is happy to now own the new version of the ARRL Repeater Director.

Ralph AG6Q won the 1st prize Diamond 2m/440 Mobile Antenna and Mag Mount.

Don KA6DFS took home an ARRL Repeater Director.

Unfortunately **Patricia Walberg KG6HRJ** was not present to collect the \$25 CASH Wish-You-Were-Here prize. Therefore next month's WYWH prize will increase to **\$30**.



RADIOFEST MONTEREY BAY 2013

REPORT

On Saturday, March 23rd hams traveled to Del Rey Oaks near Monterey for “RadioFest 2013”, an ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Convention. Sponsored by the Naval Postgraduate School Amateur Radio club, the convention hosted vendor booths, ham radio demonstrations, a swap meet, license exams, speakers, raffle prizes, as well as Parachute Mobile.



Location: Moose Family Center



The ARRL table keeps busy.



Photos thanks to the USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club on Facebook.



Keith W6POC works the table for the [USS Hornet Amateur Radio Club \(HARC\)](#). They hold monthly mtgs aboard ship, and operate from their radio room.



Geoff K6GSA with Leigh WA5ZNU, editor and contributor to ARRL’s new book, “[Ham Radio for Arduino and PICAXE](#)”. FARS’ Mikey NE6RD is a contributing author for this book!

ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP 2013:

REPORT

On Sunday, April 21st the airwaves filled with the sounds of [Rookie Roundup](#). This six hour event is for newly licensed operators to get on HF and experience competitive Amateur Radio. It's held three times a year – once each in Phone, RTTY and CW – and this April's event was on phone (next up is RTTY in August).

I was out of town in Visalia for the big DX convention on the weekend of Rookie Roundup, but I reached out to some of our previous Rookie Roundup participants as soon as I found out Rebar N6DB would be able to open up the Stanford station W6YX. It was last minute notice, but luckily Peter KJ6PUN and his father Keith KJ6PUO were available and excited to take Rebar up on the offer. Rebar also found a third rookie to participate, so it was going to be a fun shack with a lot of energy. (Yep W6YX can support 3 operators at the same time!)

During this event a “Rookie” is defined as a ham first licensed any time in 2013, 2012 or 2011. Peter and Keith were both licensed in 2011 so this is their last year of eligibility, oh dear. The third operator, Amanda KK6CWV, was just licensed in 2013 so she can enjoy this great event for a couple more years. Now Peter and Keith hold general class licenses so they can operate on the HF bands under their own call signs. Amanda is a technician, however, and would have been bored with access only to a small portion of 10 meters. Thus she made use of her control op and signed KK6CWV/W6YX. Another option would have been to just sign W6YX with her control op sitting next to her, but then Amanda wouldn't have enjoyed receiving her own QSL cards!



Photos by N6DB at W6YX

The three rookies at W6YX made a total of 447 QSO's. They all did an excellent job. Specifically, returnees Peter and Keith increased their scores from last year's Rookie Roundup, woo hoo! Congratulations rookies!

Now after 4 years of being a ham I'd still never operated HF-mobile. Well I'm happy to report that we quickly threw my Yaesu FT-857D into the vehicle in preparation for the Rookie Roundup, and on our way home from the Visalia DX convention on Sunday both Rick N6DQ and I managed to make contact with all 3 of the rookies, plus a few others who we could hear. ☺

Photo at right is a fun comparison to last year's Visalia roap trip during which Rick operated “iPhone-mobile” using his home station and some remote control software. Photo K6YL.



Contesting is one of the great activities of Amateur Radio. It boosts your technical knowledge and improves your radio operating skills - helping make you a better Amateur.

IDXC 2013 64TH Annual International DX Convention

REPORT

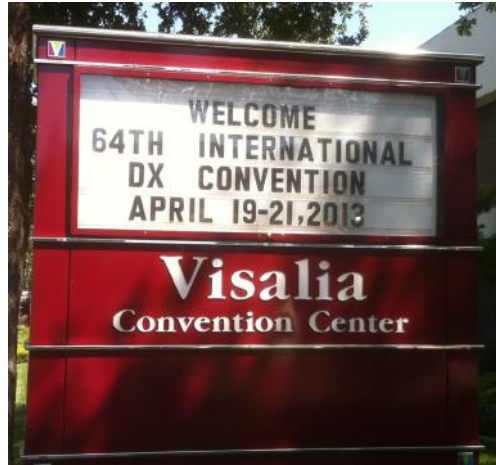
This year the DX Convention moved from a smaller hotel to the [Visalia Convention Center](#), and on this weekend of April 19th attendance broke all previous years' attendance records! **852** people showed up to this town south of Fresno and a whopping **\$50,000+** worth of prizes were raffled off. Hams came from near and far.



Convention Fun:

- Exhibitors
- Technical Sessions
- DX Academy
- Contest Academy
- Friday Night Dinners
- Special Event Station
- Saturday BBQ Lunch
- Saturday Night Banquet
- Sunday Breakfast

Photos by N6TV, N6DQ, K6YL



FARS Member Badges

Place your order online or at the meeting.
Available for pick up at the next club mtg

The next **Electronics Flea Market:**
May 11th @ DeAnza College
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

Bay Area Radio Builders Club

“BARC”

A FARS Special Interest Group

*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.*

Meetings: 2nd Sunday of the month, 6pm
Location: Los Altos Public Library

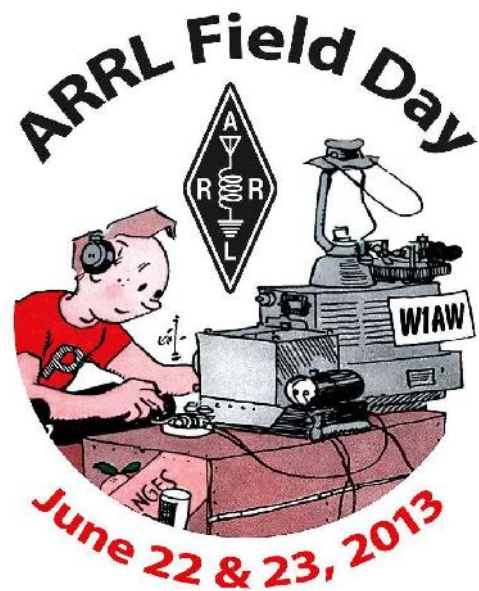
Join the Yahoo Group:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba_radio_builders/

Amateur Radio Field Day 2013

Saturday, June 22nd
to
Sunday, June 23rd

*FARS will once again be set up
operation on the Maryknoll
Residence soccer field in the
hills of Los Altos, so
SAVE THE DATE!*



Interested in volunteering
and/or operating?

Email Phil KA6MZE
at sputnik@pacbell.net

HAM RADIO NETS – Getting On The Air

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. Check out www.9amtalk.net for more information.

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%)

BAEARS (Bay Area Educational Radio Society) Crams & Exams, www.baears.com –

This group holds “Ham Crams” 4 times a year for Tech and General licenses (Amateur Extra test available but no cram). A guided study consisting of six 45-minute reading periods, with breaks and lunch. They have a high success rate! *Pre-registration required, sign up on the website. \$30*

- Saturday 7/13, 8 AM @ Redwood City (exam starts at 4 PM)

Sunnyvale VEC Exams, www.amateur-radio.org –

Holds test sessions on Saturdays often alternating between Sunnyvale and Redwood City. *Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15*

- Saturday 5/11, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 5/18, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City

Silicon Valley ARRL VE Exams, www.svve.org –

Holds test sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Arrive between 8 AM and 10:00 AM to the Saratoga Fire Station at 14380 Saratoga Avenue (in downtown Saratoga).

Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15

- Saturday 5/4
- Saturday 5/18

Tri-City VE Group Exams, 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

- Saturday 5/11, 9 AM
- Tuesday 6/11, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 7/13, 9 AM



CURRENT US AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hambands_color.pdf

Effective March 5, 2012

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: | (open) |
| Relay Newsletter Editor: | Joanna Dilley K6YL |
| FARS Board: | Charlie Morrin KI6FX Y |
| K6YA Trustee: | Phil Hawkins KA6MZE |

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

Membership: An annual FARS membership is \$20 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 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.

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, Redwood City, CA 94063

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FX Y

FARS New Membership / Renewal Form

The annual dues for 2013 is \$20. You may renew with this form or online by logging onto the FARS website and then using PayPal. <https://www.fars.k6ya.org/membership> Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. New membership applications accepted later in the year may have their dues prorated (see dues schedule).

Date: _____

Name: _____

Callsign: _____ Class: _____

Class (eg Technician, General): _____ ARRL Member? _____

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Ph: _____

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

Optional FARS Badge -- Please include \$9 if desired.

First Name for Badge: _____ Select: Clip / Magnet / Pin

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

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



DIRECTIONS TO FARS MEETINGS:

Visitors are always welcome.

Meetings are held at the Covington Elementary School 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.

From Interstate 280 – Take the El Monte exit Northeast. Cross Foothill Expressway. * At the first traffic light turn right on Covington. 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 – Turn Northeast onto El Monte, then follow directions as above at the *.

From US101 or El Camino – Take San Antonio Road west (to Foothill Expressway), then follow directions as above at the *.

TALK-IN via the [N6NFI](#) repeater (145.230-; 100Hz PL) or the [W6ASH](#) repeater (145.27-; 100Hz PL).