

May 2013

Only one month until Field Day! Join us!

Volume 43, Number 3

www.fars.k6ya.org

MAY CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: Friday, May 24th, 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.

Raffle Prizes



We will have a great selection of Raffle Prizes as well as the CA\$H Wish-You-Were-Here Prize.

1st Prize: Alinco DJ-V57T 2m/70cm Dual Band HT
5W (.25W audio)

2nd Prize: Diamond SRH77CA SMA 2M/440cm HT
Antenna

3rd Prize: 2013 Northern California Repeater Director

Wish-You-Were-Here Prize: A CA\$H prize awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2013 dues.
APRIL MEETING = **\$35 !!**

Presentation

Strange Electromagnetic Phenomena

Steve Stearns, K6OIK

Steve K6OIK presents Part 2 of "Novel and Strange Ideas in Antennas and Impedance Matching." Steve presented Part 1 in February.

In Part 2 he describes vortex waves. These waves have strange properties which some communication engineers hope to exploit for multiple access communication. Steve describes the electromagnetic properties of vortex waves, including properties that are unknown, counter-intuitive, or just plain strange!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fars.k6va.org/events/calendar

Visitors are welcome at all FARS events!

MAY

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 FARS Board Meeting, Los Altos Town Crier, 7:30PM
14 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
21-23 ***** FIELD DAY 2013 *****, Maryknoll Soccer Field, Los Altos, CA
This is the big annual event!
It's Amateur Radio Field Day across the country!
Setup Friday the 21st
Operating Saturday 11AM to Sunday 11AM
Potluck dinner Saturday evening
You're invited to JOIN US!
Details on pages 9-10

UPCOMING

7/13 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
7/26 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
Don Anastasia AA6W presents SATELLITE TRACKING
8/10 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
8/23 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
9/14 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
SPONSORED BY FARS – SAVE THE DATE
9/27 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
10/5 [California QSO Party 2013](#), Los Altos, CA, 11AM
An excellent opportunity to get on the air! *Details at www.cqp.org*
10/12 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
10/25 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
11/22 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM
12/20 [FARS Club Meeting](#), Covington School, Los Altos, 7PM

FARS Membership

Joining FARS
and
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!

Join us!

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

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

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

Mikel KN6QI

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is on May 24th and our program is to be announced. In addition we will be recruiting operators and volunteers for Field Day, so be sure to show up for that.

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 21-23 and we need volunteers to plan, organize and operate Field Day. This is a big event for FARS and we need a big showing from the membership to make it happen.

We are now signing up operators and volunteers for Field Day. You can sign up at the next two meetings or you have the ability to sign up online at the FARS website at www.k6ya.org/events/fieldday. We need help setting up the site Friday morning and afternoon on June 21st, and then takedown on Sunday afternoon. Of course there will be plenty of opportunities to operate one or more of the stations, so be sure to sign up for that.

Field Day is always a great event, a lot of fun, and don't forget the BBQ on Saturday. Mark your calendar!

Volunteers Needed. We need a couple of people to help out on the board of directors for FARS. It only requires one evening a month to participate, so it's not hard to do. No experience is required, just a willingness to help out. Contact myself if you are interested. (kn6qi at arrl.net)

Tax Deductible! 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



P H O T O T I M E : April Meeting Raffle Prize Winners

Congratulations to last month's raffle prize winners!

Prizes for the April meeting (left to right) –

NARCC 2013 NorCal Repeater Directory

Wouxun 2m/440 Dual Band HT (KG-UV3D-2)

ARRL 2012-2013 Repeater Directory

Arrow J Pole Antenna (OSJ-146/440)

ARRL 2012-2013 Repeater Directory

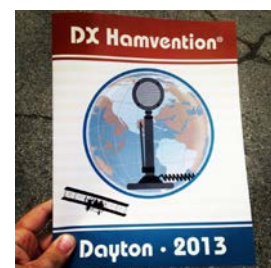
Unfortunately the selected recipient was not present to collect the \$25 CASH Wish-You-Were-Here prize. Therefore May's WYWH prize will increase to **\$35** !



DAYTON HAMVENTION 2013

REPORT

Nearly 25,000 attended Hamvention 2012, and I bet 2013's number was even higher. This annual event was held May 17th to 19th at the usual location in Dayton, Ohio. If you've never been then you should consider checking out this amazing event!



**Next year's Dayton Hamvention
has been announced!**

The dates are
**Friday May 16th through Sunday May 18th
of 2014**

www.hamvention.org



Photos © the ARRL on Facebook

DAYTON HAMVENTION 2013

REPORT cont.

I understand it rained only briefly Saturday morning, after which the fog and chill soon cleared to a lovely weekend. That's good news because the flea market is a significant aspect of the Dayton Hamvention experience. There's a high probability you'll find what you're looking for as there were 731 vendors !!



The Hara Arena as seen from a launched balloon.

Photo © www.hamvention.org



DAYTON HAMVENTION 2013

REPORT cont.

The Hara Arena in Dayton is an exhibition complex containing multiple buildings, and Hamvention is held in the three largest buildings which connect for excitement at every turn. In addition to the impressive list of 245 exhibitors, there were also dozens of forums covering every topic you can imagine, including – Power-Line Interference; DX; SSTV; MARS; Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Center; Fox Hunting; Homeland Security Training; QRP; and even Bicycle Mobile! And while all this goes on don't forget to check your raffle tickets for one of the \$80,000 in raffle prizes. Whoa!



Photos © Dayton Hamvention



MAKER FAIRE 2013:

REPORT

Maker Faire is not specifically ham radio related, but it is a festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness that easily lends itself to the members of our hobby. Once a year this event comes to the Bay Area and we have a chance to explore and enjoy the fun, this year was April 17th-18th.



From the Maker Faire website: “Part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. All of these “makers” come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned.”

Photos © Maker Faire on Facebook

In 2012 over 110,000 attendees and 900 makers attended Maker Faire Bay Area, and this year was expected to top those numbers. At the May FARS meeting we’ll hopefully hear a report from someone who attended.



Interested in more information?

Check out www.makerfaire.com/bayarea

IDXC 2014

65TH Annual International DX Convention

NOTICE

Next year's DX Convention has been announced!

The dates are **Thursday April 3rd through Sunday April 6th**
and it will remain at its new location at the [Visalia Convention Center](#).

HOTEL INFO:

Interested in booking a hotel for your stay in Visalia? The following hotels are taking reservations:

Comfort Inn - Downtown	559-738-1700	<i>Already taking reservations</i>
Hampton Inn	559-732-3900	<i>Already taking reservations</i>
Lamp Liter Inn	559-732-4511	<i>Already taking reservations</i>
Holiday Inn	559-651-5000	<i>Already taking reservations</i>
Comfort Inn – Airport	559-651-3700	<i>Already taking reservations</i>
Marriott	559-636-1111	Will take reservations starting May 28th @10:00 AM

**The hotels
fill up fast!**

*** When you book your Hotel reservations be sure to tell them you are attending the 2014 IDX Convention at the Visalia Convention Center.

Details:

www.dxconvention.org

*The International DX Convention
has been proudly sponsored alternately by the
Southern California DX Club (SCDXC) & Northern California DX Club (NCDXC)
for the past 64 years.*



Photos by N6TV



YOUR FIELD DAY 2013 GUIDE

Field Day is almost upon us. Take this opportunity to get on the air in a huge event without the pressure of a contest. Bring your friends and introduce them to Amateur Radio and a chance to experience it first-hand.

The ARRL Field Day 2013 is the biggest annual event for FARS as well as many other amateur radio clubs.

FARS will be participating in the 3-A category again this year, with stations setup for 24 hours of operating:

- **HF station** operating Single Sideband (SSB) voice on 10/15/20/40m
- **HF station** operating CW (Morse code) and other digital modes like PSK31 and RTTY (keyboard) on 10/15/20/40/80m.
- **HF station** SSB voice on 80/160m (Beverage antenna!)
- **VHF/Satellite station**
- **GOTA (Get On The Air) station**

SETUP: Friday, June 21st at 11am

OFFICIAL START TIME: Saturday, June 22nd at 11am

POTLUCK DINNER & BBQ:

Saturday, June 22nd around 5:30pm

Always has lots of good food and good people

Bring a side dish to share with others

TAKEDOWN:

Sunday, June 23rd at 11am

SIGN-UPS:

Sign-ups for all aspects of the FARS Field Day are available:

- 1.) At the upcoming FARS meeting (June)
- 2.) By emailing Phil KA6MZE at sputnik@pacbell.net
- 3.) On the FARS website (requires login) →
 - **Sign up for Friday Setup here:**
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdcrew>
 - **Sign up for Sunday Takedown here:**
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdcrew>
 - **Sign up for the Saturday Potluck & BBQ here:**
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdbbq>
 - **Sign up to Operate here:** We need operators!
<https://www.fars.k6ya.org/cgi-bin/fdop>

OBJECTIVE:

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

FARS LOCATION:

The Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos (on the soccer field)

23000 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, CA

(near Rancho San Antonio Park).

This is the same Field Day site that FARS has used in years past.

GPS coordinates 37°19.962' N by 122°04.919' W



DIRECTIONS:

- Take Interstate 280 towards the Los Altos / Mountain View border.
- Exit onto Foothill Expressway and head south (~1/4 mile) following signs to Rancho San Antonio.
- Turn RIGHT onto Cristo Rey Drive (first light).
- Follow Cristo Rey Drive until you reach a traffic circle (~3/4 mile).
- Take the SECOND EXIT from the circle marked with a small brown sign that says Park. This is the continuation of Cristo Rey Drive
- Go shortly past Rancho San Antonio Park entrance (on the left) and then turn RIGHT into the Maryknoll (private) driveway.
- Pass through the gate, take an immediate RIGHT into the paved area, and park next to the Eucalyptus trees.



GOTA Station

(Get On The Air) for non-hams, newly licensed hams, and even longer-term hams with no HF experience (ask Phil KA6MZE if you qualify in this last category – email sputnik@pacbell.net).
Photo © Peter AF6DS (2010)



Visitors are welcome to join us!

www.fars.k6ya.org



What is Field Day?

From the ARRL

www.arrl.org/field-day



Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

*** Interested In Operating at FARS? ***

FARS has open operating positions for phone, CW, and digital (RTTY, PSK31).

Sign up to gain experience and have fun working the radios, picking out call signs, and logging the contacts!

The exchange is fairly easy:

“K6YA 3 Alpha Santa Clara Valley”

(where 3 Alpha is our entry category – 3 for # of counted transmitters and A for power)

What is a GOTA (Get On The Air) station?

GOTA is for those with little or no HF experience.

Inquire with Phil KA6MZE if you qualify.

The exchange will be under a different callsign. (The GOTA station will be the only station under a different call sign.)

That call sign is to be determined but the exchange will still be easy:

“CALLSIGN 3 Alpha Santa Clara Valley”

All stations on Field Day will be limited to 150 watts.

FARS will be running all operations off of generators.

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:**

June 8th @ 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 6/8, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 6/15, 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 6/1
- Saturday 6/15

Tri-City VE Group Exams, http://www.sbara.org/tricity_ve.html –

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 6/11, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 7/13, 9 AM
- Tuesday 8/13, 6:30 PM



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)

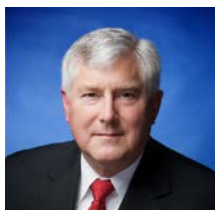
PO Box 5153, Redwood City, CA 94063

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).