



FARS

FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The FARS Relay

August 2013

How can we help you enjoy this incredible hobby?

Volume 43, Number 6

www.fars.k6ya.org

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: Friday, August 23rd, 2013

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

Guests are welcome to join us

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.

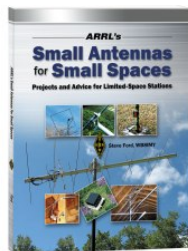
1st Prize: Yaesu FT-60R HT

2m/70cm with 5w output

2nd Prize: ARRL's Small Antennas for Small Spaces

3rd Prize: ARRL 2012-2013 Repeater Directory

Wish-You-Were-Here Prize: A **CA\$H prize** awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2013 dues.
(August Meeting = \$10)



Presentation



**Island & Light House
On The Air**

**By Joanna K6YL
& Rick N6DQ**

CQ CQ

In mid-August, Rick and Joanna went to East Brother Light Station for a romantic weekend get-away and to celebrate birthdays, and of course, they brought radio gear with them! East Brother Light Station is located in San Francisco Bay. It counts both as a lighthouse and an island in the US Islands program.

Joanna and Rick will give an overview of several related awards programs. Islands on the Air (IOTA), Lighthouse, and US Islands (USi). They will talk about their adventure, their equipment setup and contacts. This promises to be a fun and entertaining presentation.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar

* Visitors are welcome at all FARS events! *

FARS is an amateur radio organization in the southern San Francisco Peninsula area serving residents of Los Altos, Palo Alto, Mountain View, and several other communities.

AUGUST

- 23 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
Island & Light House On The Air! With K6YL & N6DQ

SEPTEMBER

- 8 **BARC Meeting**, Los Altos Public Library, CA, 6PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club
- 11 Board meeting
- 14 **Electronics Flea Market**, DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM
SPONSORED BY FARS – SAVE THE DATE
Volunteers will help make this fundraiser a success
- 27 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
Home Brew Night – CASH PRIZES!

OCTOBER

- 5-6 **California QSO Party 2013**, Los Altos, CA, 11AM
An excellent opportunity to get on the air!
Details at www.cqp.org
- 9 Board meeting
- 12 ~~**Electronics Flea Market**, DeAnza College, Cupertino, CA, 5AM~~
This Flea Market cancelled due to conflict with Pacificon
- 11-13 **Pacificon 2013**, Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, CA
A San Francisco Bay Area amateur radio convention you won't want to miss
- 13 **BARC Meeting**, Los Altos Public Library, CA, 6PM
- 25 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

NOVEMBER

- 10 **BARC Meeting**, Los Altos Public Library, CA, 6PM
- 13 Board meeting
- 22 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

UPCOMING

- 12/20 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
- Jan '14 **FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet**

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 K6YL@ARRL.net.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mikel KN6QI

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is on August 23rd and our program is “**Island and Lighthouse on the Air**” with our own Joanna K6YL and Rick N6DQ. They spent a few days at East Brother Light Station for a romantic weekend get-away, and of course, they brought radio gear with them! East Brother Light Station is located in San Francisco Bay. It counts both as a lighthouse and an island in the US Islands program.

Note that next month is our Homebrew Contest meeting, so everyone is encouraged to bring a project to share with our audience. We are offering prizes to the top four presentations of \$40, \$30, \$20 and \$10. Each participant has about 10 minutes to talk about their ham radio project.

Electronics Flea Market sponsored by FARS is scheduled for September 14th. We need about 10 more volunteers to fill out the assignments needed to make this activity a success. It's an important fundraising activity for FARS that brings in around \$1,500 to help us fund our activities during the year. It also enables us to purchase equipment for our meetings and our radio activities, such as Field Day.

Board Members Needed. FARS needs help to organize, plan, and run our various activities. We could use another two members for the board of directors who meet once a month to plan activities and generally run the organization. If you can spare one evening a month, please consider joining the board and helping FARS. It's also an opportunity for you to develop your leadership skills and get us involved in new and interesting activities. Contact myself or any board member to find out more.

de Mikel KN6QI

PHOTO TIME: FARS July Meeting

Congratulations to the July prize winners! *(listed left to right)*

Mikel KN6QI won a useful LED Work Light

Ray W6FQY also won an LED Work Light.

Jose KJ6WCX won 2 prizes! The Comet Mobile Antenna and the ARRL Handbook.

Plus Jose is holding the grand prize new Yeasu FT-252 radio won by **Graciela KJ6ANV**.

Bob WB2URF took home a new NARCC NorCal Repeater Directory.



Peter Griffith WA6VAQ would have won the CA\$H Wish-You-Were-Here prize except unfortunately he wasn't present. Doh! At the August meeting the WYWH prize will increase to \$10.





FIELD DAY continued !

A number of additional photos have been sent in, thank you!



FARS Field Day 2013

Continuing last month's Field Day report and photos, we have a few more photos to add to the collection. If any of the attendees have additional FARS Field Day photos to share please email me at Joanna.K6YL @ yahoo.com. Thank you!



The ever-valuable MFJ 259 analyzer is put to use by Phil KA6MZE.



The balloon's size is apparent when compared to this SUV.



Ready for the start of Field Day!
FARS operated under club call K6YA.



The MFJ 986 tuner was vital for tuning the balloon-lifted vertical long wire TX antenna for 160m and 80m.



Two of the five wild turkeys spotted on the grounds of the FARS Field Day location at Maryknoll Residence.

FIELD DAY

BLAST FROM THE PAST

FARS has been participating in Field Day since the late 1990's, and before that it was EMARC that carried on the tradition for numerous years. Did you know that FARS was previously known as EMARC? Yes! It was the Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (EMARC). Field Day is a long standing tradition for many hams and clubs.



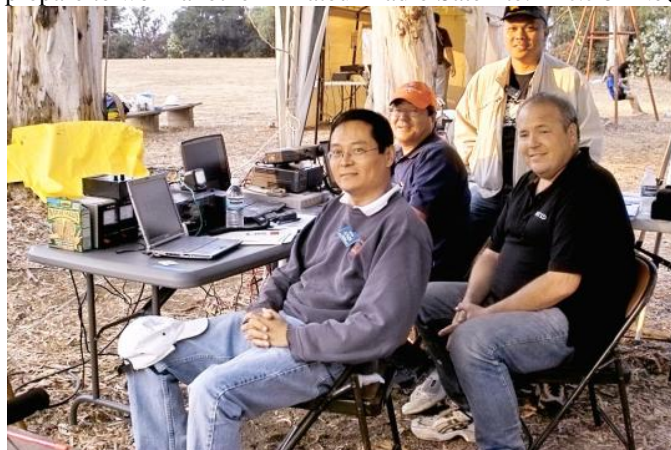
2002 – The Field Day Setup Crew. I love the flag on the SSB tower! And it looked great in the air, too. Photos online.



2001 – Paul Zander AA6PZ (left) and Phil KA6MZE (rt) prepare to work another Amateur Radio Satellite. Photo © KN6QI



2001 – Bob WB2URF (right) works 20m at the SSB station with Dennis KC6PUN (left). If I recall correctly, 2013's event was Bob's 48th Field Day! Photo © Mikel KN6QI



2008 – Satellite station crew, including Peter AF6DS and Jerry K6TXD. You should recognize the location again as Maryknoll Residence in Los Altos. Photo © Ed Fong WB6IQN.



1998 – We're glad we no longer have to lug around the large CRT monitors! This was in the days of EMARC. Photo © Harb Davidson



1998 – The field at Maryknoll is the same! (though the car and the darkened corners may give away the age of the photo) Photo © Herb Davidson

UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER: FARS HOME BREW NIGHT

What projects have you been working on that are related to amateur radio?

Projects both small and large are welcome at the FARS Home Brew Night in September. Winners will take home **cash prizes**, and all present will be take home a wealth of new information. *Come share with us!*

For example, are you looking for an inexpensive trick to mount your HT in your vehicle?

Ian Hopkins G4WUH taught me that a couple of old membership cards glued together can provide enough support for my radio without damaging my car's dash. (These are similar to credit cards, but without any banking/credit info.)



Photos © Ian G4WUH

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

Important Fundraiser for FARS

\$\$\$ **TEAM EFFORT** \$\$\$



FARS
will host the
Electronics Flea Market
on Saturday, September 14th
SAVE THE DATE!



**This is an important opportunity
for the club to earn \$\$\$.**

***** Volunteers are needed. *****

Contact Mikel KN6QI

(kn6qi@arrl.net)

if you can assist with:

- Friday afternoon collection of supplies from the Red Cross in Palo Alto
- Morning ticket sales to vendors
- Setup of the snack tent
- Sales of coffee, donuts, sodas, etc (multiple shifts open)
- Kicking out vendors at 1pm
- Clean up



Thanks for your help!



Location: DeAnza College in Cupertino, Parking Lot B

Directions: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/directions>

INFO FROM THE JULY MEETING ON SATELLITE TRACKING

Thank you to Don Anatasia AA6W for an interesting and informative presentation on this facet of amateur radio.



Don's favorite current active amateur radio satellites:

- SO-50 Saudi SAT 50 FM
- FO-29 Fuji Oscar 29 SSB
- VO-52 Indian HamSat SSB CW
- ISS International Space Station FM / Data / ATV
- AO-7 AmSat Oscar 7
- Fox-1 Soon to be launched! (Nov 2014)

I located a full list at:

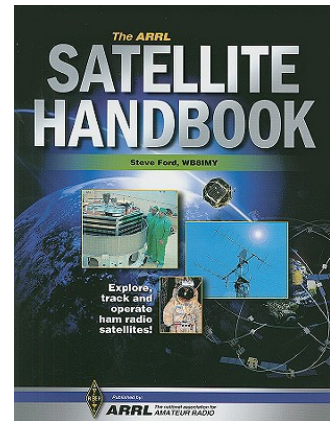
http://www.dk3wn.info/p/?page_id=29535

Don's software recommendations for calculating the tracks of orbiting satellites:

- Instant Track ([link](#))
- Nova for Windows ([link](#))
- SatPC32 ([link](#))

Additional Links:

- The ARRL Satellite Handboook ([link](#))
- AMSAT – Amateur Radio in Space – www.amsat.org
- Keplerian Elements –
These are the “inputs to a standard mathematical model of spacecraft orbits”.
For more information see: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/keps/>



Quiz yourself with questions from the test for an Amateur Radio Technician License:

What class of license is required to use amateur satellites?

Any amateur whose license allows them to transmit on the satellite uplink frequency.

How much power should you use to transmit when using an amateur satellite?

The minimum amount of power needed to complete the contact.

What is something you can do when using an amateur radio satellite?

Talk to amateur radio operators in other countries

Who may make contact with an astronaut on the International Space Station using amateur radio frequencies?

Any amateur with a Technician or higher class license.

What is a satellite beacon?

A signal that contains information about a satellite.

What should you use to determine when you can access an amateur satellite?

A satellite tracking program.

What is the name of the group that coordinates the building and/or launch of the largest # of amateur radio satellites?

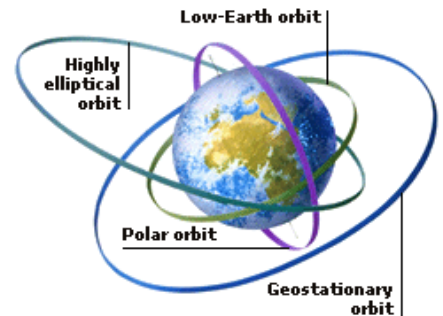
AMSAT

What is a satellite sub-band?

A portion of a band where satellite operations are permitted.

What do the initials LEO tell you about an amateur satellite?

The satellite is in a Low Earth Orbit.



Save the date!

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY 2013

October 5th – 6th, 2013

www.cqp.org

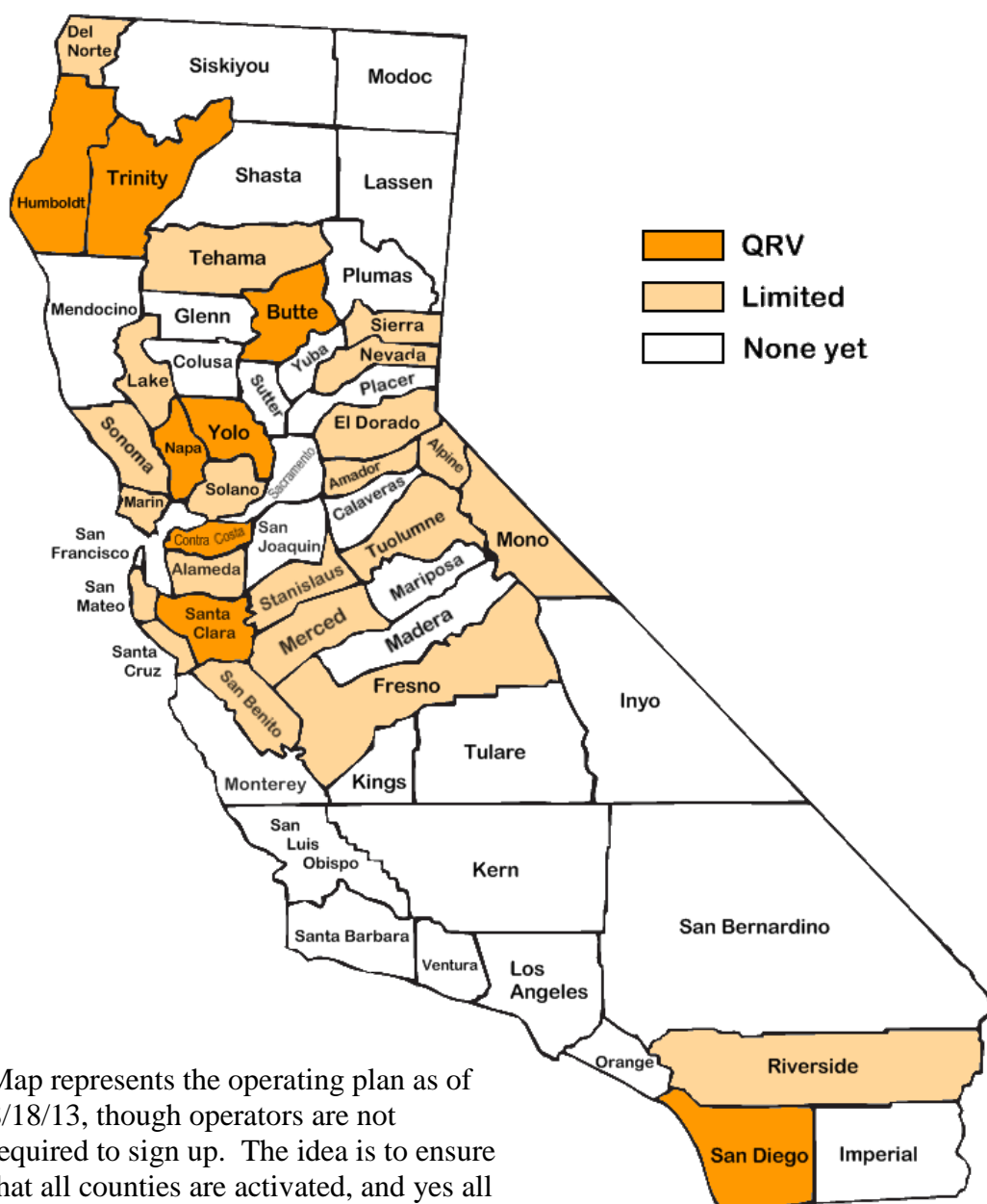
Save the date!

Did you enjoy the contesting aspect of Field Day? Then consider participating in [CQP](#) this October!

QRP, Low Power, High Power? SSB or CW?
CQP is a fun contest for all.

The California QSO Party is a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!
You'll represent California and help put all 58 counties on the air.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW.
You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit.



Map represents the operating plan as of 8/18/13, though operators are not required to sign up. The idea is to ensure that all counties are activated, and yes all 58 will eventually be marked orange.

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 California:

**Work stations
in CA only**
*(with a bonus/multiplier
for each of the
58 counties)*

Operating in this contest can be a part-time effort for enjoyment or a serious effort for points.

Logs do not have to be submitted, so participate at any level you are comfortable with.

Operate from home or think of a fun place to operate portable!

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at www.cqp.org.

ARRL NATIONAL CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

New!

July 17th – 19th, 2014

www.ARRL2014.org

Save the date!

Founded in 1914, ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. Today, with more than 160,000 members, ARRL is the largest organization of amateurs in the world. Join ARRL in celebrating 100 years of “Advancing the Art and Science in Radio.”

If you recall the ARRL National Convention for 2013 was held in concurrence with the Pacificon Amateur Radio Convention, and in prior years it was held at the Dayton Hamfest, but in 2014 it will move to Connecticut!

QTH: Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT

Join the celebration as ARRL hosts this once-in-a-lifetime National Centennial Convention in Connecticut. The convention center is conveniently located in Connecticut’s capital city of Hartford, ARRL’s birthplace, at the crossroads of New England and halfway between New York City and Boston. While attending the convention, enjoy a tour of ARRL headquarters and W1AW, the Hiram P. Maxim Memorial Station in Newington, Connecticut. The region also boasts a wealth of hotels, restaurants and other world-class attractions.

July 17, 2014 – Thursday

- All-Day Training Tracks: public service, technology, radiosport, and more!

July 18-19, 2014 – Friday & Saturday

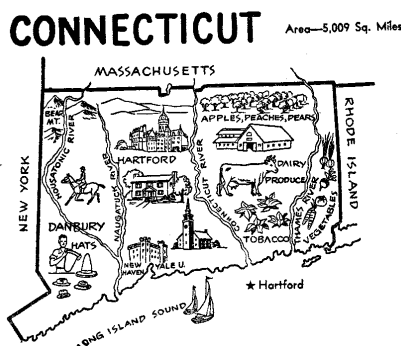
- Exhibit Hall featuring ARRL program representatives, Amateur Radio manufacturers, equipment sellers, and an indoor flea market
- Dozens of forums & presentations
- Friday Night Banquet

July 17-20, 2014 – Thursday through Sunday

- Tours of ARRL headquarters and W1AW

Registration opens late summer 2013.

More ARRL Centennial details to come.



ARES & RACES **Helpful Information**

Emergency communications are key to the successful handling of any disaster or emergency. As Amateur Operators, we can volunteer our time and skills to assist. There are numerous online resources you can utilize to learn more and study to become an ARES or RACES volunteer. This past month has served as an important reminder for us on just how important these volunteer organizations are.

What is ARES? *The Amateur Radio Emergency Service*

<http://arrl.org/ares>

What is RACES? *The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service*

<http://usraces.org/>

What are the differences between ARES and RACES?

<http://arrl.org/ares-races-faq>



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:**

September 14th @ 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/

More Info:

www.barbc.org

www.fars.k6ya.org/events/barbc

*FARS is sponsoring September's
Electronics Flea Market!*

Volunteers are needed.

*You can also help FARS just by
purchasing a donut and coffee!*

See page 7 for details.

*This is the last
Electronics Flea Market for 2013!*

ARRL Pacific Division Convention Pacificon 2013

Marriott, Santa Clara, CA

October 11-13th, 2013

www.pacificon.org



See you there!

The Arvid Hamer WA6UUT Memorial Lunch

Every Wednesday @ 11:30am
Sizzler Restaurant in Mountain View
(near Rengstorff)

All hams are invited to attend.

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 9/28, 8 AM @ Fremont (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 9/14, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 9/21, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 10/12, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale



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 9/7
- Saturday 9/21
- Saturday 10/5

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

- Saturday 9/14, 9 AM
- Tuesday 10/8, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 11/9, 9 AM
- Tuesday 12/10, 6:30 PM

CURRENT US AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN: www.arrl.org/band-plan ([click here for printable 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)
FARS Board:	Charlie Morrin KI6FXY
	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
	(open)
Radio Officer:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Training Officer:	(open)
K6YA Trustee:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Relay Newsletter Editor:	Joanna Dilley K6YL

*One more
volunteer
would be
much
appreciated!*

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 CASH 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

K6YL@arri.net

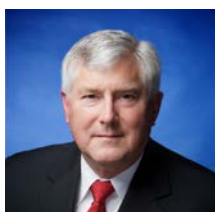
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FXY

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).

Prorated Dues for New Members July to September: \$10

Date: _____

Name: _____

Callsign: _____ Phone: _____

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

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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).