

February 2014

See you down the log

Volume 44, Number 1

www.fars.k6ya.org

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: Friday, February 28th, 2014

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 CASH Wish-You-Were-Here Prize.

1st Prize: C.Crane WiFi Internet Radio
16,000+ stations worldwide, clean clear audio,
can also use an Ethernet connection



2nd Prize: Koss SB45 Communications Headset

3rd Prize: Diamond SRH77CA 2m/440/40cm HT Whip
Antenna

Wish-You-Were-Here Prize: A **CASH prize** awarded to a
member who is present and has paid their 2014 dues.



Presentation

**Transistor Radios –
How They Work
and How to Make Them**

Speaker: Ron Quan KI6AZB

If you are a serious radio builder or merely an electronics tinkerer, you will find Ron Quan's talk interesting.

Ron will cover these topics (following his book's organization):

1. How a book on transistor radios was written
2. Conventional AM transistor radios
3. Low power superhets
4. A low power regenerative radio
5. Fun with reflex TRF and reflex superheterodynes ("superhets")
6. Double reflex superhet ... a two transistor superhet that drives a loudspeaker
7. One transistor superhet



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.

FEBRUARY

- 28 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
Transistor Radios – How They Work and How To Make Them
Speaker Ron Quan KI6AZB

MARCH

- 8 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
9 [BARC Meeting](#), Los Altos Public Library, CA, 6PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.
12 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
28 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

APRIL

- tbd [BARC Meeting](#), Los Altos Public Library, CA, 6PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club
See the website / Yahoo Group for the date.
9 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
12 [Electronics Flea Market](#), DeAnza College, 5AM
20 [ARRL Rookie Roundup Phone](#), 1800 UTC – 2359 UTC
A great opportunity for new operators to get on the air and practice operating. "Rookies" are those licensed in 2014, 2013 or 2012.
25 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

UPCOMING

- 6/28 **Field Day 2014**
Come join FARS for this on-the-air event!
7/18 [ARRL National Centennial Convention](#), Hartford, CT
A 3-day celebration w/ forums, exhibits, flea market, banquet & more!
9/14 [ARRL VHF Contest](#), 1800 UTC Sat – 0259 UTC Mon
Fun on the air!
10/4 California QSO Party, aka "CQP"
Fun on the air!
10/10 [Pacifcon Amateur Radio Convention](#), Santa Clara, CA

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

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

Mikel KN6QI

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting on February 20th and our program is "Transistor Radios - How They Work and How to Make Them" with Ron Quan KI6AZB. Ron talks about his recently published book and covers the design of simple radio receivers and the theory of operation. Should be very interesting to those like building electronics and those who want to understand better how they work.



FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2014. The banquet was a big success and well attended. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially those who helped to make it happen. Thanks to our speaker Wayne Burdick for coming and making such an interesting talk.

A special thank you to Kristen McIntyre K6WX, PAARA President, for arranging for our speaker and helping with the introductions. Getting a speaker is one of the most difficult tasks and her help is greatly appreciated. Thanks to PAARA for joining us in putting on the Winter Banquet and making the event even bigger and better.

Thanks to Richard Baldwinson N6ATD for handling the raffle prizes, buying them, schlepping, and handling the raffle.

Thanks to Doña Kerns KI6DAR, Peter Chow W0NG, and Marty Wayne W6NEV (PAARA) for handling check-ins.

Thanks to Carrol Kerns KG6YPH, Bob Bynum WB2URF, Jim Thielemann KI6KVV (PAARA), and Darryl Presley KI6LDM (PAARA) for handling raffle ticket sales.

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 raffles are also considered gifts, so they are generally deductible as well. Consult your tax advisor for details.

Time To Renew Your Membership. Well we are into February, so it's time for you to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is only \$20 (\$10 youth rate applies for applicants under 18) for the year and supports all of our activities including our monthly programs, and our radio operating events. Look for a membership form on the back of this newsletter, or check on-line on our web site at <http://k6ya.org/membership>.

Electronics Flea Market starts March 8th. The Electronics Flea Market begins its 2014 schedule on March 8th and runs through September 13 this year. There is no market in October this year since it conflicts once again with Pacificon on the same weekend. I expect to see many of you there. Full details at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>.

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Email Notices. Subscribe to the FARS Announcement List (<http://www.fars.k6ya.org/mail/>) to receive reminders of FARS activities and other news.

de Mikel KN6QI

Excellent turnout at the FARS & PAARA Winter Banquet 2014!



Photo (c) Mark Hardy

WINTER BANQUET 2014

with the
Foothills Amateur Radio Society
and the
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Thank you to everyone who attended the banquet in January.

And **congratulations** to all of the prize winners!



FARS President Mikel KN6QI



PAARA President Kristen K6WX



Speaker Wayne Burdick N6KR

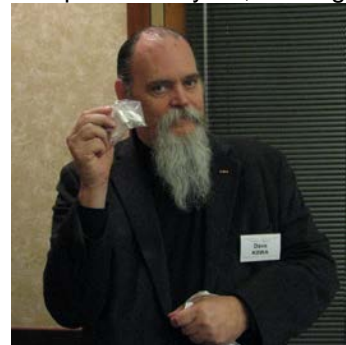
First round of winners! There were over \$1500 of banquet raffle prizes this year, starting with Bongo Ties and PL-259's.



17.) Lloyd KD6FJI



16.) Rob KC6TYD



15.) Dave K6WA



14.) Kristen K6WX



Located at Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View, the restaurant provided a great location for dinner and presentation.

WINTER BANQUET 2014

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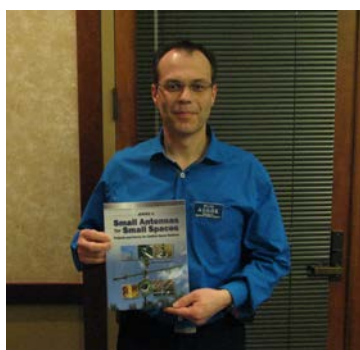


**Speaker Wayne Burdick N6KR
shared “The History of Building Elecraft”
at January’s banquet.**

Wayne is a co-founder of Elecraft, and principle designer of the Elecraft K2, K1 and KX1 transceivers. He also created the Wilderness Radio kits (NorCal 40A, Sierra, and SST), refinements of his popular NorCal QRP Club designs. Wayne and his co-founder, Eric Swartz WA6HHQ, have both been inducted into the QRP Hall of Fame, and jointly received the ARRL’s Technical Excellence Award for their transceiver designs.



13.) Joel KD6W



12.) Wilko AG6DK



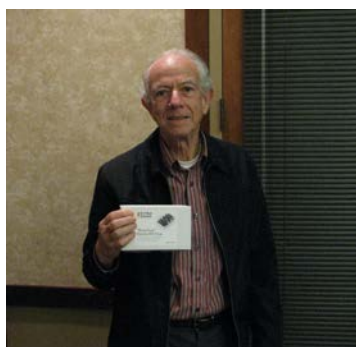
11.) Darryl KI6LDM



10.) Nancy & Dick N6ATD



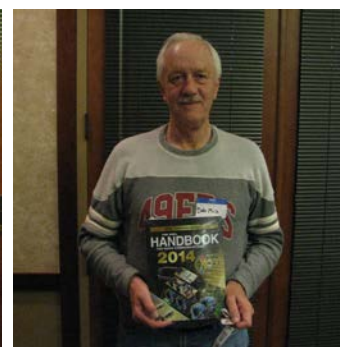
9.) Darryl KI6LDM



8.) Ben AD6JA



7.) Wilko AG6DK



6.) Bob KF6ABC

WINTER BANQUET 2014

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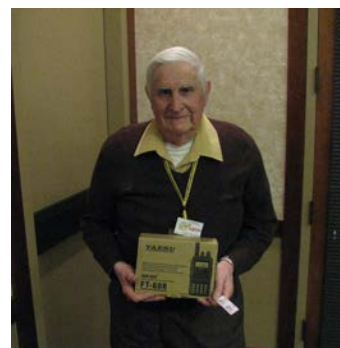
John KF6YXN
5TH PLACE



Harry AI4ZI
4TH PLACE



Nancy & Dick N6ATD
3RD PLACE



Carrol KG6YPH
2ND PLACE



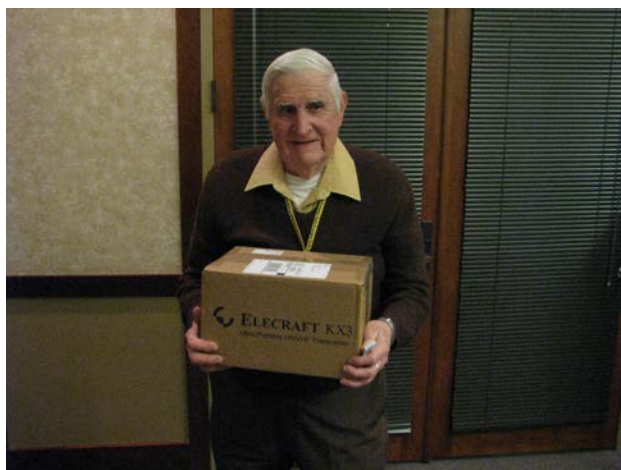
WINTER BANQUET 2014

continued



WINTER BANQUET RAFFLE PRIZE LIST

- 1.) Elecraft KX3
- 2.) Yaesu FT60R
- 3.) C.Crane Wifi Internet Radio
- 4.) Signalink Computer Trans. Interface
- 5.) Diamond NR770HB 2m/440 Mobile Antenna w/MFJ 5 Hi-Flux Mag Mount
- 6.) ARRL 2014 Handbook for Radio Amateurs
- 7.) West Mountain Radio COM SpeakerS
- 8.) Evil Mad Scientist Three Fives Kit Discrete 555 Timer
- 9.) MFJ Wideband DC-1GHz Antenna Switch
- 10.) KOSS SB45 Communication Headset
- 11.) Diamond SR77CA SMA 2M/440 HT Whip Antenna
- 12.) ARRL Small Antennas for Small Spaces
- 13.) MFJ 288Y Single-ear Mobile Headset
- 14.) Bongo Ties
- 15.) PL-259 UHF Connectors, Silver Teflon
- 16.) Bongo Ties
- 17.) PL-259 UHF Connectors, Silver Teflon



**Grand Prize Winner
Carrol KG6YPH**

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 2014

Sponsored by ASVARO

The Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

www.electronicfleamarket.com

When: The Electronics Flea Market is held on the second Saturday (pre-dawn) of each month, March through September, 5AM to 12 noon.

Where: The market is located in the parking lot of De Anza College in Cupertino, near highway 85 and Steven Creek Blvd. (~ ¾ mi. south of I-280 on highway 85). GPS N37.3215 W122.0435

Note: Buyers enter free. Parking at the college is \$3 (in one dollar bills or quarters).



DIRECTIONS

From the Peninsula:

Take Highway 101 or 280 to Route 85 south.
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

From the East Bay:

Take Highway 880 south to route 237.
Take Route 237 west to Route 85.
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

From Gilroy/Morgan Hill:

Take 101 north to Route 85 north.
Exit east on Stevens Creek Boulevard.

Enter the Campus from Stelling Road:

From Steven Creek Blvd. turn south onto Stelling Road and enter on the right. Park in the open parking in lots B and C, obtain a day-use parking permit (\$3).

Support your local non-profit electronics organization!

SCHEDULE 2014

Saturday, Mar. 8	Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (SVECS)
Saturday, Apr. 12	Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA)
Saturday, May 10	Hosted by Silicon Valley Chapter, American Red Cross
Saturday, June 14	Hosted by Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)
Saturday, July 12	Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK)
Saturday, Aug. 9	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Saturday, Sep. 13	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System (SPECS)
Saturday, Oct. 11	Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society. <i>Canceled due to conflict with Pacificon</i>

See you on March 8th !!

FARS Member Badges

Place your order online or at the meeting.

Available for pick up at the next club mtg

BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Quarterly Session: Saturday, Apr 19th
8 AM

Mountain View, CA

www.baears.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: Usually the 2nd Sunday of the month
at 6pm. **The next meeting is March 9th.**

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

Next Electronics Flea Market

March 8th

**De Anza College
Cupertino**

5 AM to 12 Noon



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 4/19, 8 AM @ Mountain View (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 3/15, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 4/12, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 4/19, 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 3/1
- Saturday 3/15
- Saturday 4/5

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 3/8, 9 AM
- Tuesday 4/8, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 5/10, 9 AM

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 KI6FX Y Phil Hawkins KA6MZE Bob Bynum WB2URF Doña Kerns KI6DAR
Radio Officer:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Training Officer:	(open)
K6YA Trustee:	Phil Hawkins KA6MZE
Relay Newsletter Editor:	Joanna Dilley K6YL

New!
Welcome to the board!

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

K6YL@arrl.net

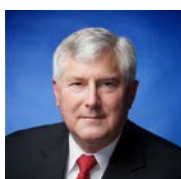
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



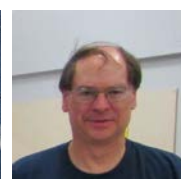
Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FX Y



Bob WB2URF



Doña KI6DAR

FARS New Membership / Renewal Form

The annual dues for 2014 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: _____ Phone: _____

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

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

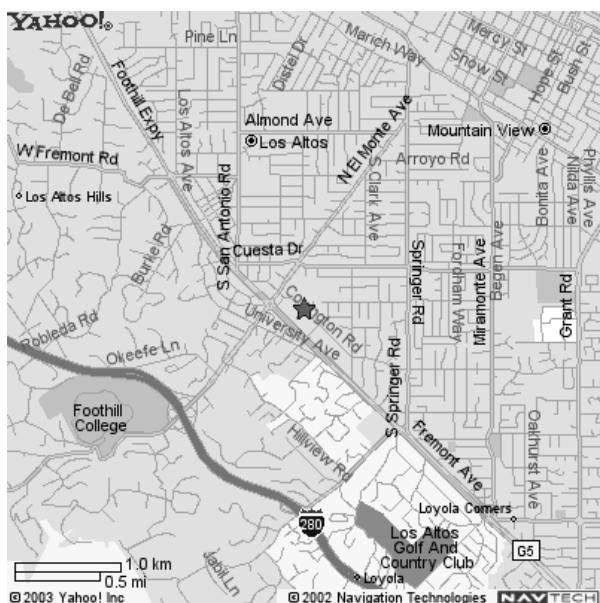
Special topics of interest / suggestions for club meeting speakers: _____

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

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

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

FARS, PO Box 112551, Campbell, CA 95011



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).