

May 2014

Only one month until Field Day! Join us!

Volume 44, Number 4

[www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)

## MAY CLUB MEETING

### When & Where

**Date:** Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.

### Presentation

**Presentation:**

**Maxwell's Equations  
in 45 Minutes**

**Speaker:**  
**Kristen McIntyre K6WX**

See page 4  
for details



### Raffle Prizes

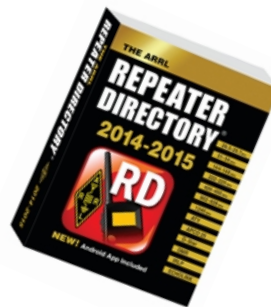
We will have a great selection of Raffle Prizes as well as the CASH Wish-You-Were-Here Prize.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** Wouxun KG-UV3D-2/UHF  
2m/440 Dual Band HT

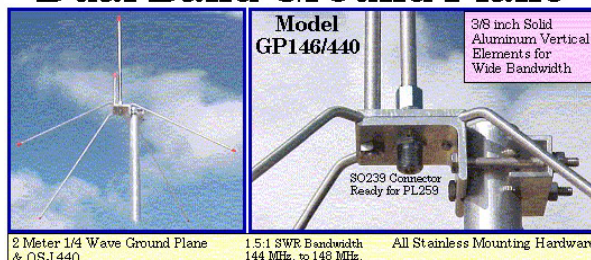
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Arrow GP-146/440  
Dual Band Ground Plane Antenna

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** ARRL 2014-2015 Repeater Directory

**Wish-You-Were-Here Prize:** A **CASH prize** awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2014 dues. (now \$30!)



### Dual Band Ground Plane



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.fars.k6ya.org/events/calendar](http://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.*

## MAY

23 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM  
TOPIC: Maxwell's Equations in 45 Minutes" by Kristen K6WX

## JUNE

8 **Radio in the Park**, Agnews Historic Park, Santa Clara, 9:30am-12:30pm  
Sponsored by FARS

8 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
Bay Area Radio Builders Club  
See the website / Yahoo Group for details and to confirm the date.

11 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM

14 **Electronics Flea Market**, DeAnza College, 5AM

20 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

28-29 **Field Day 2014**, Maryknoll Soccer Field, Los Altos, CA  
*This is the big annual on-the-air event! Details on pages 13-14.*  
*FARS setup Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> and operating Sat 11AM to Sun 11AM*  
*Potluck dinner Saturday evening. Join us!*

## JULY

9 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM

12 **Electronics Flea Market**, DeAnza College, 5AM

13 **Radio in the Park**, Agnews Historic Park, Santa Clara, 9:30am-12:30pm  
Sponsored by FARS

13 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
Bay Area Radio Builders Club  
See the website / Yahoo Group for details and to confirm the date.

18 **ARRL National Centennial Convention**, Hartford, CT  
A 3-day celebration w/ forums, exhibits, flea market, banquet & more

25 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

## UPCOMING

8/3 **Radio in the Park**, Agnews Historic Park, Santa Clara, 9:30am-12:30pm  
Sponsored by FARS

9/13 **Electronics Flea Market** – **Sponsored by FARS! \*\*Fundraiser\*\***

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 **Pacificon 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](mailto: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 May 23rd is “Maxwell’s Equations in 45 Minutes” with Kristen McIntyre, K6WX. Avoiding a highly mathematical approach Kristen takes an intuitive approach to understanding Maxwell’s equations and how they relate to electromagnetic radiation (radio waves). See page 4 for details.



See the

**Field Day 2014 is only a month away.** Mark your calendars for June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>! FARS is planning to operate in the 3A category with 3 HF stations – SSB/Voice (80-10 meters), CW/Digital (80-10 meters), and Low Band (160-80 meters). We also plan to have a VHF station (6m, 2m and 70cm) and a HF GOTA (Get On The Air) station (20-10 meters). Reserve the Saturday and Sunday for some operating and fun, as well as the preceding Friday (setup). Sign-ups will be available at the May and June FARS meetings and we’ll be looking for our members’ help to put the event on the air.

**Henry Coe Backcountry Weekend** was rained out, but thank you anyways to those who volunteered to help out. A partial list of FARS members includes: Dave Flack W6DLF, Dave Crocker W6VYC, Steve Stearns K6OIK, Daniel Rahamim KJ6SEE, Bruce Riter KE6EEX, and myself Mikel Lechner KN6QI. See pages 9-10 for a write-up.

**Support FARS with Membership.** Membership dues are our main source of support, helping FARS put on programs and other activities. Membership is only \$20 (\$10 youth rate for applicants under 18) for the year.. Look for a membership form on the back of this newsletter, or check on-line on our web site at <http://k6ya.org/membership>.

**Next Electronics Flea Market on June 14<sup>th</sup>.** Flea markets are scheduled on the second Saturday of each month during March through September. I expect to see many of you there! Full details at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>.

**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.

**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

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## R A F F L E   P R I Z E   W I N N E R S   F O R   A P R I L

Congratulations!

Cheers to the following winners!

**1<sup>st</sup> Place -- Rick N6DQ**

Wouxun KG-UV3D-2/UHF 2m/440 Dual Band HT

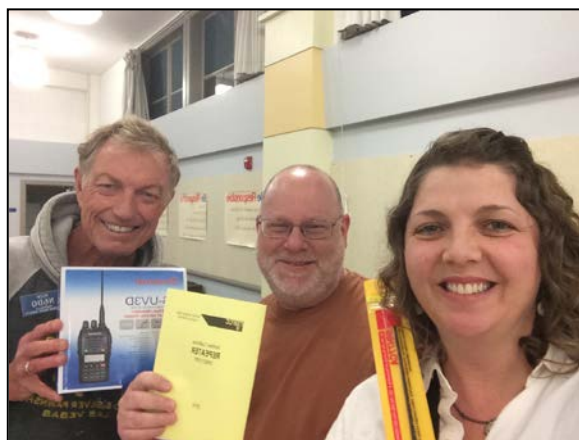
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- Joanna K6YL**

Diamond SRH77CA HT Antenna 2m/440

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place -- Mikey NE6RD**

NARCC 2014 NorCal Repeater Directory

**WYWH Prize** – Unfortunately Peter Chow W0NG was not present to receive his \$25 for the Wish-You-Were-Here prize. Doh!





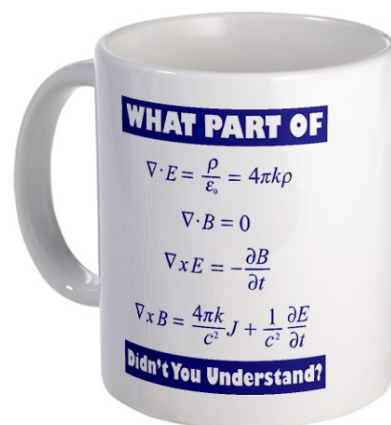
# FARS PRESENTATION FOR MAY

## Details

**When:** Friday, May 23rd, 2014  
**Speaker:** Kristen McIntyre K6WX  
**Presentation:** Maxwell's Equations in 45 Minutes

**Summary:** Maxwell's Equations are mysterious to many, but they are really a beautiful work of mathematical art that is at the heart of radio. The mathematics seems impenetrable without advanced calculus, however, there is another way to look at it: visually. Kristen K6WX will take you inside a Gaussian surface, around a curl, and away from a divergence so that you too can see how these four simultaneous differential equations combine to bring the world of radio to life. You will learn the meaning of Maxwell's Equations in about 45 minutes.

**About the speaker:** Kristen McIntyre K6WX, has been interested in radio since she was 5 years old. She started in Amateur Radio in 1979 getting her ticket while at MIT. Kristen has worked in many diverse areas from analog circuit design to image processing to starting and running an ISP. She is currently working at Apple in Core OS and spent many years at Sun Microsystems Laboratories, where she was researching robustness and emergent properties of large distributed computer systems. She is a long time denizen of Silicon Valley and has worked at or consulted for many of the usual suspects. Kristen is an active ham and loves to chase DX on HF with her Elecraft K2, which she built while visiting her mother in Florida. She is an ARRL Technical Coordinator for the East Bay Section, president of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA), and is active in many local clubs.



## PHOTOS FROM THE APRIL PRESENTATION

Ed Fong WB6IQN spoke on  
The Evolution of Handheld Radios from Walkie Talkie to Modern HT



At the FARS April meeting Ed WB6IQN shared his fascinating 50-year relationship with the “walkie talkie”. Evolution has taken us from 3-transistor walkie-talkies that went a little further than you can shout, to today’s full featured dual-band HT’s using SDR architecture and costing only \$35.

Rohan KG6LXV (photo above center) also gave a short talk on “APRS and Smart Phones” in preparation for his presentation at the big Dayton Hamvention held just last weekend (May 16-18th). We hope you had a great trip Rohan!



# RADIO IN THE PARK

Fun in the sun!

Radio in the Park is still a fairly new event, and on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> we hosted #3 with success. Twenty people showed up to this FARS-sponsored operating event at Agnews Historic Park in Santa Clara, to play with radios and antennas and enjoy good company. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> month for this event, and two more are scheduled! All hams and even non-hams are welcome to join us. Bringing your own equipment is not required!

**Future Dates for Radio in the Park:** June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 13<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Time:** 9:30am to 12:30pm



Signage on Lafayette at Palm Drive



A great group on a beautiful day in the park



Vic AB6SO and Cliff K6CLS enjoying coffee and radio.



Dave AA6XV and Rick N6DQ operating CW



A well organized Go-Kit!



Another FT-857, this one modified.



The YL's! KK6HAF, KI6PUO, K6YL



# RADIO IN THE PARK

## Continued

Thank you to FARS for sponsoring these events! Come and join us at the next event in June!



**\*\* Antennas \*\***



**\*\* More antennas \*\***



**And of course  
antenna  
analyzers !!**



## RADIO IN THE PARK Continued

Operating portable at an event such as Radio in the Park provides excellent experience with preparation of the necessary equipment, providing your own power source, and understanding how antennas in close proximity react with each other. This experience can be applied to Field Day, the California QSO Party, and of course emergency situations.



Above: Mikey NE6RD's impressively portable setup – Yaesu FT-857, Buddipole, and accessories.



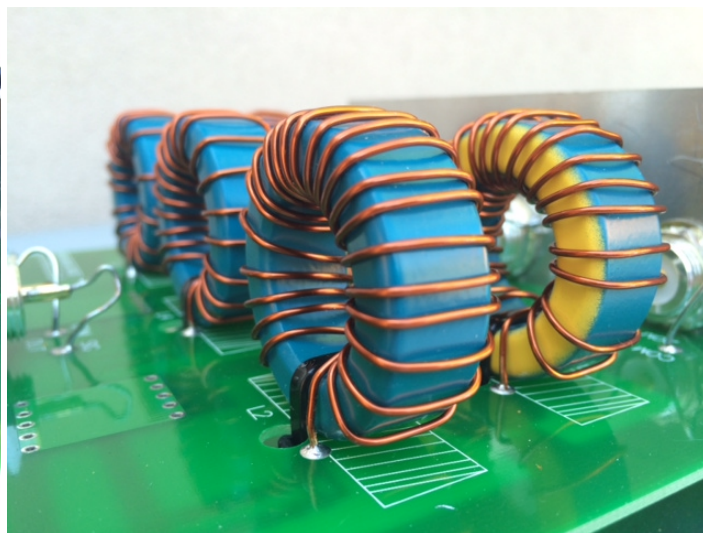
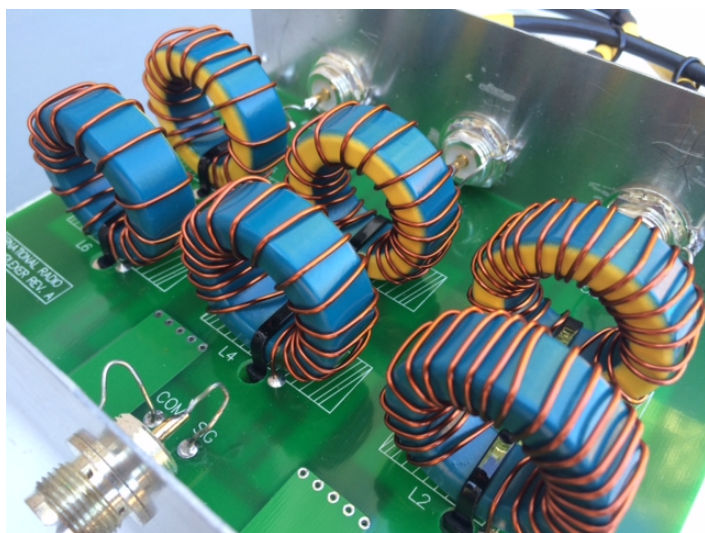
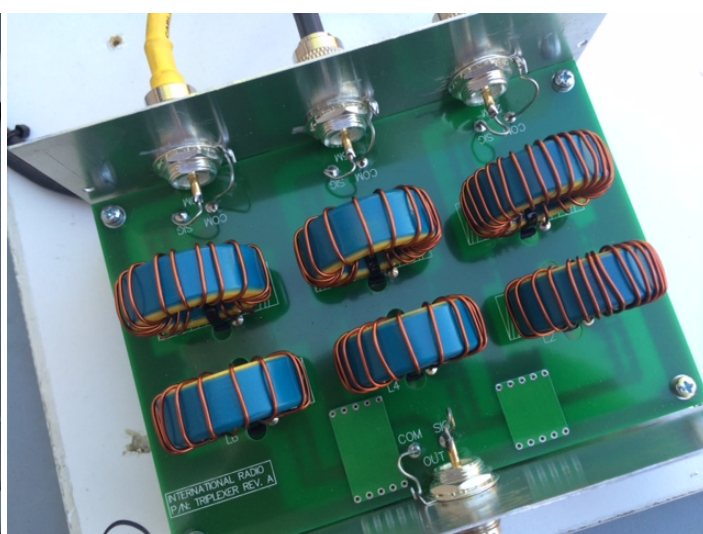
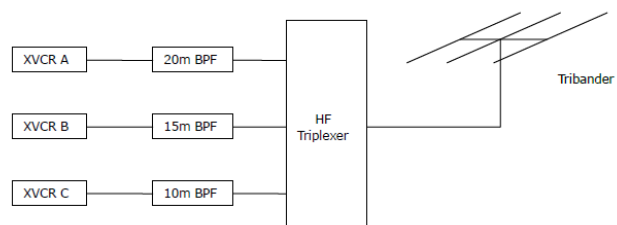
# TRIPLEXER

## The inside of an Inrad HF Triplexer

We recently opened up our Inrad HF Triplexer to check it out so I took the opportunity to snap a few photos. This has been a very beneficial tool for our portable operations, allowing both my OM and I to each operate our own radio from the same multi-band antenna.

As stated on the Inrad website, “Three stations may share one 10M/15M/20M tribander simultaneously using a single feedline. (Note: additional bandpass filters may be necessary to protect receivers.)”

On the previous page you’ll see that the first photo shows our triplexer and filter setup, similar to Inrad’s diagram (at right).



For details see [www.inrad.net](http://www.inrad.net)

de Joanna K6YL and Rick N6DQ



# COE BACKCOUNTRY WEEKEND 2014

Mikel Lechner, KN6QI

## The Event

The Henry Coe State Park Backcountry Weekend is a special event that opens up the wilderness and backcountry of Henry Coe park to park visitors. On this one 3-day weekend, visitors are allowed to travel up the dirt road from the Bell Station entrance on the southeast side of the park and drive 10 miles into the park, right up to edge of the Orestimba Wilderness. This area is about 1½ days of hike from the park headquarters, or most of a day's hike from the Bell Station entrance. It's a big advantage to be right there. This opportunity is limited to this one weekend and by a lottery of the first hundred or so applicants. The entry pass is per vehicle, so bring the entire family. People come to camp, to hike, bike, see wildflowers, and enjoy that connection with nature.

## Amateur Radio

Amateur radio is used to provide communications along the Kaiser-Aetna road that runs from the Bell Station entrance all the way up to the Orestimba corral, where many of the visitors camp. We have a number of volunteer hams who help provide communication for the event. There is no cell phone coverage once you go a couple of miles past Bell Station, so amateur radio is the most reliable communication for the area during the event. I like to take my HT with me on the trails and check-in periodically via the repeater set up for the event.



A few of the Amateur Radio Communications Volunteers:  
Mikel KN6QI, Dave W6DLF, Dave W6VYC, Steve K6OIK

## The Repeater System

In order to support communications, Sean W6MOW brings up his 70cm repeater system (KE6MOW/R). It is set up on top of one of the minor peaks along the Kaiser-Aetna road (about half way between Bell Station and Orestimba coral). The reason we use 70cm, is because the duplexer is quite a bit smaller than what would be required for a 2m repeater system. This keeps the system relatively small and portable. This is especially important, since all the equipment must be hand carried up the hill to where it's installed. Sean's repeater fits into a metal box about the size of a storage box, so it's relatively portable. That and a simple co-linear dipole are installed on top of a pole about 30 feet above ground (on top of the hill) and guyed by a few ropes. In addition to the repeater system, there are deep cycle batteries and solar panels (Walter Duncel, KD6VYV) that are brought up to power the system for four days. This system provides coverage along most all of Kaiser-Aetna road and into much of the surrounding area of the park. In fact I was able to make contact several times on a hike to Mississippi Lake and back to Orestimba corral.

## An Antenna for Bell Station

Since the 70cm repeater is a bit marginal at Bell Station, I was tasked with bringing up an antenna to improve the situation. I was allowed to borrow some FARS equipment along with some personal gear and set up a 2m/70cm j-pole at Bell Station. This was more than sufficient to resolve the signal problem even using an HT on low power. I had brought along the FARS 2m/70cm satellite beam, but quickly confirmed that the j-pole was more than sufficient for the job. That makes one less item to bring next year.



# COE BACKCOUNTRY WEEKEND 2014

## continued

### **The Event is Canceled due to Rain**

One of the risks of this event is that since it's a winding, up and down dirt road, any significant rain becomes a major problem. The road turns to mud. The weekend started out like an ordinary Bay Area spring weekend, warm with clear skies. However, we got quite a bit of rain on Friday morning and had to cancel the event. We made a trip down to Bell Station on Friday morning and it became clear that with the rain continuing throughout the day, the road was clearly going to become impassable. Since we were already in the park, we couldn't leave. We were terribly disappointed (;>) by this, but were prepared to stick around a couple of days, so why not?

### **The Hike in the Rain**

Well, here we are stuck in the park until at least Saturday. What are we going to do? Undaunted, Steve Stearns K6OIK suggests a hike over to Mississippi Lake and back (an 11-mile trek). I'm game, having made the trek a couple of times previously, and we are joined by Dave Crocker W6VYC. We start out with nice weather, but it soon turns to rain. We are hopeful that rain is momentary and break out our rain gear and continue on our way. Unfortunately, the rain continues almost the entire trip. When we arrive at Mississippi Lake, the rain relents for a bit while we take advantage of the restroom facilities and I make a communication check to Orestimba through the repeater. Then we start on the way back, this time via the Hartman trail. It's mostly downhill, but wilder and steeper than the trail up. It's bit treacherous in the rain, but we make good time. I tolerate some knee pain (downhill) on the way and we watch out for signs of hypothermia. By end of the hike, my boots have filled with water and I'm sloshing about inside my boots. After a couple hours of this it gets so damp under my rain parka, that I'm certain the moisture can't be good for my cell phone traveling in my pocket. Good thing it's long out of warranty.

### **The Way Out**

On Saturday, the rain relented and the road was passable by afternoon. We decided not to chance further rain and to head out of the park. On the way out we brought down the repeater antenna to make Sean's job of removing the system a bit easier. I collected the j-pole and other gear from Bell Station and headed on home. We managed to take some pleasure out of the situation and remember there is always next year.

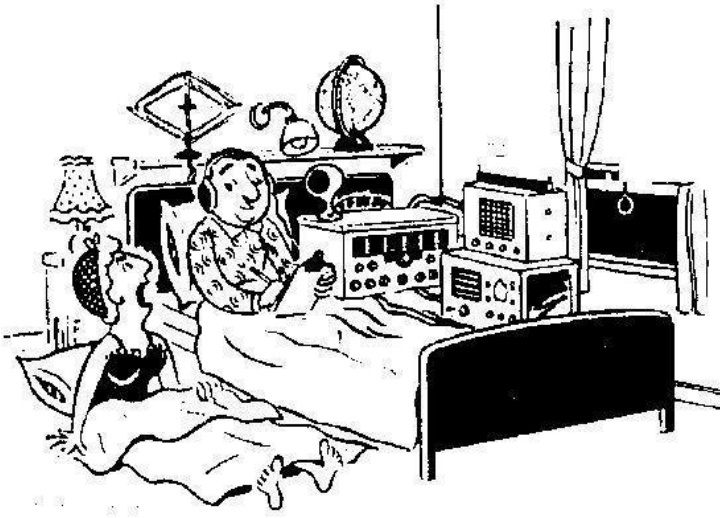
de Mikel KN6QI





## PHOTO TIME

Thank you to FARS members for some of these!



Are you a “Munsters” fan?

Which of the Munsters sometimes operated a Ham Radio?

- a.) Lily
- b.) Herman
- c.) Grandpa
- d.) Eddie

*See answer at bottom of page.*

[thepunthatyouwant.tumblr.com](http://thepunthatyouwant.tumblr.com)

**Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.**



The answer is b.) Herman.

Herman used the call sign W2XRL4 or W6XRL4.





# ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 2014

Sponsored by ASVARO

The Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

[www.electronicfleamarket.com](http://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 Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)	
Saturday, June 14	Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK)	<b>*NEXT ONE*</b>
Saturday, July 12	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)	
Saturday, Aug. 9	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System (SPECS)	
Saturday, Sep. 13	Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society	<b>*VALUABLE FUNDRAISER FOR FARS*</b>
Saturday, Oct. 11	Canceled due to conflict with Pacificon	

*See you on June 14<sup>th</sup> !!*



**FARS**  
FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

## YOUR FIELD DAY 2014 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 2014 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 27<sup>th</sup> at 11am

**OFFICIAL START TIME:** Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am

### **POTLUCK DINNER & BBQ:**

Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> around 5:30pm

Always has lots of good food and good people

Bring a side dish to share with others

### **TAKEDOWN:**

Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 11am

### **SIGN-UPS:**

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

- 1.) At the upcoming FARS meetings (May and June)
- 2.) By emailing Phil KA6MZE at [sputnik@pacbell.net](mailto: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](mailto:sputnik@pacbell.net)).  
Photo © Peter AF6DS (2010)



**Visitors are welcome to join us!**

[www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org)





## What is Field Day?

From the ARRL

[www.arrl.org/field-day](http://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**

## BAEARS Ham Cram

Next Quarterly Session: Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>  
8 AM  
Fremont, CA  
[www.baears.com](http://www.baears.com)

## FARS Email Notices

Easy to subscribe!  
[www.k6ya.org/mail](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.  
**The next meeting is June 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.**

**Location:** Panera Bread in Cupertino  
(20807 Stevens Creek Blvd)

Join the Yahoo Group:  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba\\_radio\\_builders/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba_radio_builders/)

More Info:  
[www.barbc.org](http://www.barbc.org)

## *Amateur Radio Field Day 2014*

**Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
to  
**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

*FARS will once again 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 6/7, 8 AM @ Fremont (exam starts at 4 PM)

### Sunnyvale VEC Exams, [www.amateur-radio.org](http://www.amateur-radio.org) –

Holds test sessions on Saturdays often alternating between Sunnyvale and Redwood City.

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

- Saturday 5/10, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 5/17, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 6/14, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale



### Silicon Valley ARRL VE Exams, [www.svve.org](http://www.svve.org) –

Holds test sessions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5/3
- Saturday 5/17
- Saturday 6/7

### Tri-City VE Group Exams, [http://www.sbara.org/tricity\\_ve.html](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 5/10, 9 AM
- Tuesday 6/10, 6:30PM
- Saturday 7/12, 9 AM

**CURRENT US AMATEUR RADIO BAND PLAN:** [www.arrl.org/band-plan](http://www.arrl.org/band-plan) ([click here for printable PDF](#))

Effective March 5, 2012

# CLUB INFORMATION

[www.fars.k6ya.org](http://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

Contact the FARS Board of Directors at [fars-board@svpal.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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 at arrl.net

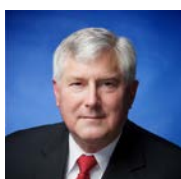
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



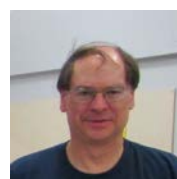
Phil KA6MZE



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).