

August 2014

*See you down the log!*

Volume 44, Number 7

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

## AUGUST CLUB MEETING

### When & Where

**Date:** Friday, July 22<sup>nd</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.



### Raffle Prizes

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

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** Oak Hills Research RFL-100  
Dummy Load Kit 100 Watt Continuous

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** Diamond SRH77CA SMA  
2m/440 HT Antenna

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize:** LED Worklight, 27 LED's, w/ Hanger/Magnet

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize:** NARCC 2014 NorCal Repeater Directory

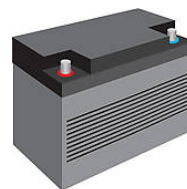
**Wish-You-Were-Here Prize:** A **CA\$H prize** awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2014 dues. (now **\$40!**)

### Who & What

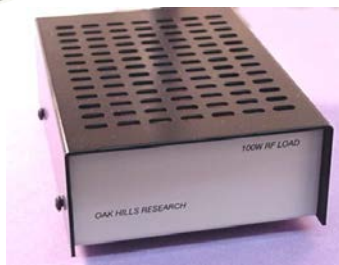
**Presentation:**

**Batteries –  
Getting Peak Performance  
and Long Life**

**Speaker:  
Charlie KI6FXY**



*See page 4 for details*



# 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.*

## AUGUST

- 22** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM  
Presentation: "Batteries – Getting Peak Performance and Long Life"  
Speaker: Charlie KI6FXY

## SEPTEMBER

- 10 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
- 13** **Electronics Flea Market**, DeAnza College, 5AM  
**SPONSORED BY FARS – SAVE THE DATE**  
**Volunteers will help make this fundraiser a success!**
- 14 **ARRL VHF Contest**, 1800 UTC Sat – 0259 UTC Mon  
*Fun on the air!*
- 14 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.*  
*See the website / Yahoo Group for details and to confirm the date.*
- 26** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

## OCTOBER

- 4 **California QSO Party**, aka "CQP"  
*Fun on the air!*
- California QSO Party**
- 8 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
- 10 **Pacificon Amateur Radio Convention**, Santa Clara, CA
- 12 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM  
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.*  
*See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*
- 18** **Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)**, Covington School, Los Altos, 10AM  
**SPONSORED BY FARS – SAVE THE DATE**  
**Volunteers will help make this event a success!**  
FARS will support local scouts in making contacts around the world on amateur radio!
- 24** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

## UPCOMING

- Feb. **FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2015**

## ***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 is scheduled for August 22<sup>nd</sup> and our talk is about batteries. Charlie Morrin KI6FXY will speak about the different types of modern batteries, covering advantages and disadvantages. He will provide tips on selecting batteries and how to keep them at peak performance, plus tips on safety. This is the talk that was originally scheduled for July. See page 4 for details.

**Final Electronics Flea Market for 2014 is on September 13<sup>th</sup>.** This is the second Saturday of September. Full details at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>. See you there!



See the

**FARS needs volunteers for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Electronics Flea Market.** This is an important fundraiser for FARS to support our activities, programs and radio events (Field Day, Radio in the Park). We need help to sell vendor tickets, and manage the food booth for the flea market. Contact Mikel Lechner, KN6QI if you can help out for a couple of hours on Saturday 9/13/2014. (kn6qi at arrl dot net)

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).** This activity for the Boy Scouts of America uses amateur radio to contact other scouts around the US and the world. The event takes place on the third full weekend in October, and this year that is the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

FARS is planning to setup a station on Saturday the 18th to support some of the local scouts so they can participate in this activity. We will use the N6DQ/K6YL hex beam and gear for the activity and need a few volunteers to help with setup, takedown, operating and other support. The QTH will hopefully be Covington, but could be moved to another nearby location. Please contact myself Mikel KN6QI or Joanna K6YL if you can help out.

This is a great opportunity to promote ham radio to our local youth, so please consider helping.

**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>.

**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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## THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS

### An international professional society for electrical engineering

The IEEE is divided into "Societies" that represent the various technical specialty areas of electrical engineering. Most of the societies have a chapter in the Bay Area that holds monthly meetings, and not only are they open to the public but the topics are frequently of interest to Radio Amateurs. Below are some url's that can be used to find out about these meetings, and in some cases you can even download speaker's slides from past presentations.

**For the IEEE monthly calendar for the entire Bay Area:** <http://www.e-grid.net/>

**Santa Clara Valley (SCV) chapter of the IEEE Signal Processing Society.**

<http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/scv/sps/> The Archives link has slides from some of the past talks.

**Santa Clara Valley (SCV) chapter of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society.**

[http://web.vtools.ieee.org/wibp\\_home/index/CH06085](http://web.vtools.ieee.org/wibp_home/index/CH06085) The Files link has past talks.

**Santa Clara Valley (SCV) chapter of the IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society.**

<http://sites.ieee.org/scv-aps/home/> The Archives link has slides of some of the past talks.  
(Steve K6OIK's talk last April was the last talk for a while.)

# FARS PRESENTATION FOR JULY

## Details

**When:** Friday, August 22, 2014  
**Speaker:** Charlie KI6FX  
**Presentation:** Batteries, Getting Peak Performance and Long Life

Charlie KI6FX talks about the important subject of batteries. Batteries are everywhere in our lives and run all of our portable electronics. We rely on them to work reliably, keep us connected, and last for years.

Charlie talks about: battery safety, battery selection for ham applications, battery maintenance, and more. Learn how to make your batteries work better and last longer.

*(This program was originally scheduled for the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.)*



## FARS ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

September 13th  
DeAnza College



\*\*\* VOLUNTEERS NEEDED \*\*\*



This is an important fundraising activity for FARS, so come join us!

We will be selling donuts, coffee and sodas, it's fun! ☺

Early Morning Crew:	5am to 8am
Mid Morning Crew:	7am to 11am
Late Morning Crew:	10am to 1pm



If you can work one of these shifts, please contact Mikel KN6QI at kn6qi at arrl dot net.





# RADIO IN THE PARK

## Fun in the sun!

On Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> we hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> and final Radio in the Park for 2014. This is a FARS-sponsored operating event at Agnews Historic Park in Santa Clara, where we play with radios and antennas and enjoy good company. We plan to be back in the spring and summer of 2015!



SuperAntenna



Alex Loop Antenna



Portable SuperAntenna



Big batteries... check!



Newly released TARGETuner from West Mountain Radio



# RADIO IN THE PARK

## Continued

Thank you to everyone who came out on the beautiful day to play radio in the park. Look for us again in 2015!





# ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 2014

Sponsored by ASVARO

The Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

## LAST ONE

[www.electronicfleamarket.com](http://www.electronicfleamarket.com)

## FOR 2014!

**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)	
Saturday, July 12	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)	
Saturday, Aug. 9	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System (SPECS)	
<b>Saturday, Sep. 13</b>	Hosted by <b>Foothills Amateur Radio Society</b>	<b>*Valuable Fundraiser*</b>
Saturday, Oct. 11	Canceled due to conflict with Pacificon	

*See you on September 13<sup>th</sup> !!*

## 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, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>

8 AM

Redwood City, 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.*

**Next Meeting:** 3PM on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays)

**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:

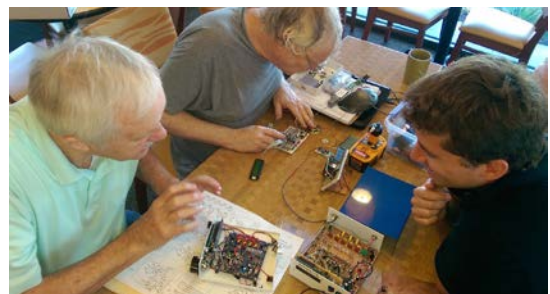
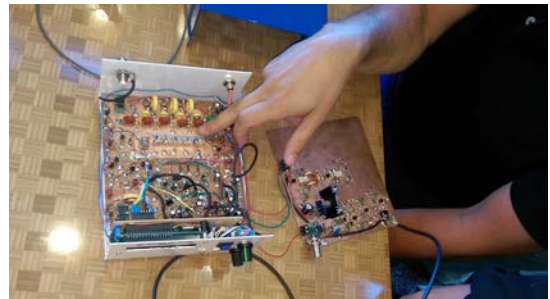
[www.barbc.org](http://www.barbc.org)

## Bay Area Radio Builders Club

### Quick report from the July meeting by Bob Mix.

On Sunday July 13th, 2014, we met to show and tell about our radio projects. Thomas demonstrated his Minima and RF386 Power Amplifier constructed Manhattan-style. Two Bobs displayed Minima projects. Two Daves shared their thoughts and one Dave demonstrated using an Android app called DroidPSK to receive PSK31. He can also transmit with RXTX. Don showed us the MFJ Cub CW Transceiver Kit.

Three photos Dave Flack took of our projects:





# 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 9/20, 8 AM @ Redwood City (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 9/13, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 9/20, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 10/11, 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 9/6
- Saturday 9/20
- Saturday 10/4

### **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 9/13, 9 AM
- Tuesday 10/14, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 11/8, 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

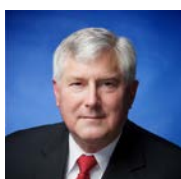
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



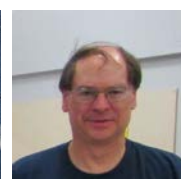
Phil KA6MZE



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).