



FARS

FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

The FARS Relay

September 2014

Volume 44, Number 8

See you in the California QSO Party on October 4th and 5th!

www.fars.k6ya.org

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: Friday, September 26th, 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. *(new coffee pot!)*

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:** C Crane WiFi Internet Radio with clock, alarm & 99 memory presets
- 2nd Prize:** Diamond NR-770HB 2m/440 Mobile Antenna with MFJ-335BS 5 HiFlux Magnet Mount
- 3rd Prize:** Evil Mad Scientist XL741 Discrete Op-Amp Kit, build a working transistor-scale replica of the classic and ubiquitous analog workhorse
- 4th 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 **\$45!**)

Who & What

*** Homebrew Contest ***

This is your time to shine!

Come on out and show 'n tell!

**Ca\$h Prizes
to the
Top 4
Presentations**

Share your ham radio project with us!



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.

SEPTEMBER

- 26** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
Homebrew Night – CASH PRIZES!

OCTOBER

- 4-5 **California QSO Party**, aka “CQP”
Fun on the air!
Details at www.cqp.org as well as on page 7.

California QSO Party

- 8 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
- 10-12 **Pacificon Amateur Radio Convention**, Santa Clara, CA
A San Francisco Bay Area amateur radio convention you won't want to miss
Details at www.pacificon.org as well as on page
- 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!
- 19 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.
(This month the meeting is on the 3rd Sunday due to Pacificon.)
- 24** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

NOVEMBER

- 9 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.
- 12 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
- 21** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

UPCOMING

- 12/19 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
- Jan. **FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2015**
- 2/28 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

FARS Membership

Joining FARS
and
renewing your
membership to FARS
provides:

*
Much needed
support for your club
activities,

*
Qualifies you for the
CASH
Wish-You-Were-Here **Prize**
awarded at each
membership meeting,

*
Plus you'll receive
a **FARS Relay**
to your email each month!

Join us!

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

Email your FARS newsletter
editor at 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 September 26th and this meeting is about you. It's our Annual Amateur Radio Homebrew Contest and this is your chance to show an amateur radio project that you have worked on in the past year and have not shown at a previous FARS Homebrew Contest. We are offering the following prizes for the best projects (as determined by our audience): 1st - \$40, 2nd - \$30, 3rd - \$20, and 4th - \$10. All participants are winners at this meeting. See page 4 for details.



See the

FARS Electronics Flea Market Fundraiser on September 13th. Thanks to everyone who helped out on this event. We had a great turnout and had a very good result to help fund the activities of the organization. We could not do it without your help and it is appreciated. I especially want to thank Richard Baldwinson N6ATD, Paul Zander AA6PZ, and Steve Stearns K6OIK, who stepped up to fill in for me during my absence.

I also wish to thank Rich W6APZ (donuts), Michael NE6RD (gate), Dona KI6DAR (sales), Fred AE6QL (transport), Joanna K6YL (sales), and Rick N6DQ (sales). Thanks also to the many others, not named here, who did a lot to make it all work. See pages 5-6 for photos.

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 18th.

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 is Covington School in Los Altos (same QTH where we hold our membership meetings). We need a few more volunteers, so 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

J A M B O R E E O N T H E A I R (J O T A)

A FARS-Sponsored Special Event for Local Scouts



Please join us at Covington School on Saturday 10/18 for this event!

Volunteers are needed to help elmer numerous scouts in this incredible hobby, as well as setup the tower trailer, hex beam, and radio stations. **It'll be so much fun!**

"CQ Jamboree" "CQ JOTA"

FARS PRESENTATION FOR SEPTEMBER

Details

When: Friday, September 26, 2014

Presentation: **HOMEBREW NIGHT**

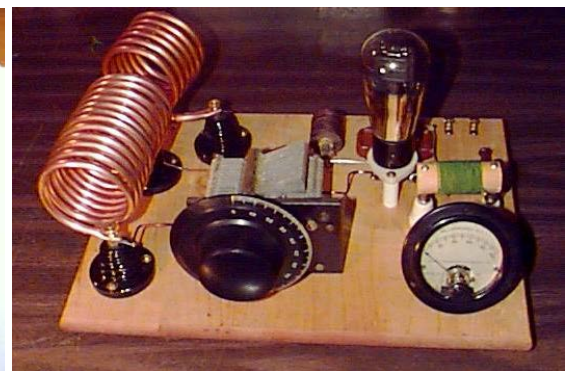
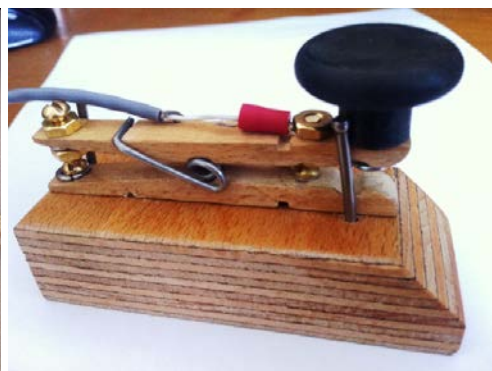
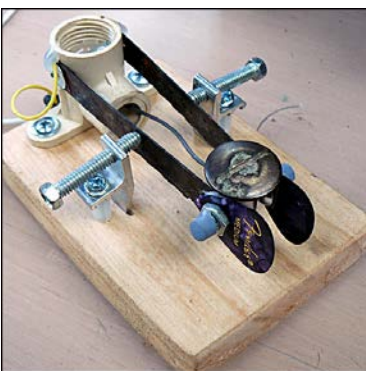
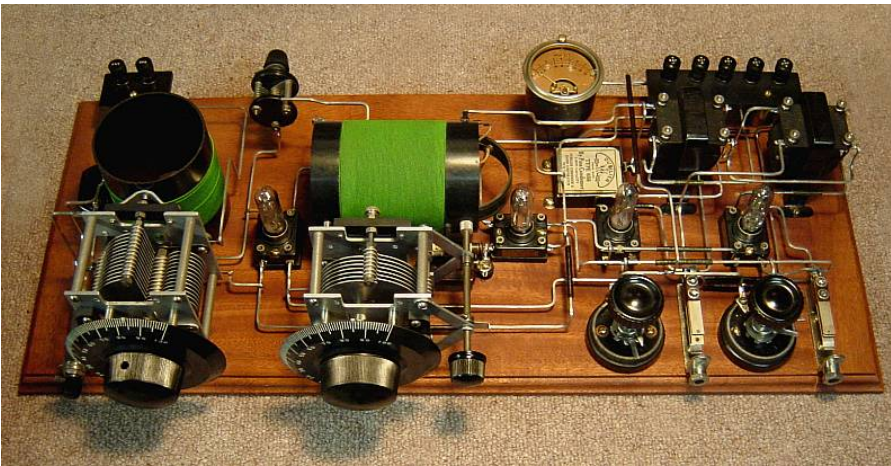
It's show and tell time!

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!

Ideas...



***** Show and Tell *****

*Small projects
Large projects
Incomplete projects
All are encouraged!*



FARS ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

Report & Photos!



*Thank you to the volunteers
who made this fundraiser possible!*



On September 13th FARS hosted the [Electronics Flea Market](#) at DeAnza College in Cupertino. This summer flea market is held once a month and is organized by [ASVARO](#) for the benefit of amateur radio organizations in the Silicon Valley. For the Foothills Amateur Radio Society the opportunity to host the event for one of the months results in a vital source of income, which could not be accomplished without dedicated volunteers.



Phil KA6MZE and Rick N6DQ helped load the trailer with equipment at the Red Cross Friday afternoon.



Mikey NE6RD and Mike KJ6ZOM manned the vendor gate bright and early Saturday morning.



Vendor turnout was excellent this month, and a cool morning helped boost sales of coffee and donuts.



Sales consisted of donuts, hot coffee, and cold drinks.



Toni KK6NQY and Rick N6DQ did a great job with sales.

Thank you to the volunteers! Rich **W6APZ** (donuts!), Dick **N6ATD**, Fred **AE6QL**, Mikey **NE6RD**, Seth **KF6UZX**, Joe **N3CKF**, Clark **KE6KXO**, Jerry **K6GAC**, Mike **KJ6ZOM**, Paul **KK6HWN**, Daniel **KJ6SEE**, Joanna **K6YL**, Rick **N6DQ**, Toni **KK6NQY**, Paul **AA6PZ**, Dona **KI6DAR**, Rohan **KJ6LXV**, Bob **K6RWY**, Svend **KF6EMB**, Bob **WB2URF**. *** YOU ALL ROCK ***

FARS ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

Report & Photos continued

Cheers to the team! This fundraiser was a success!

This year's Electronics Flea Market was one of the largest and most successful fundraisers FARS has ever had. There were 165 vendors and dozens of dozens of donuts sold, resulting in a net profit of about \$2700. Excellent!



Clarke KE6KXO handled the money throughout the early morning



Doña KI6DAR took over the cash box in the late morning, and even brought in tips!



Byron N6UOB and Keith K6ZJI stopped by to chat w/ K6YL and support the club.



The DeAnza parking lot was filled with vendors and buyers. A great turnout.



One of many vendors with a nice presentation.



Tools and more tools!
Perfect for your homebrew projects.



Rohan KJ6LXV helped sell donuts



The volunteer crew returned all of the equipment to the Red Cross Saturday afternoon, thank you!

Save the date!

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY 2014

October 5th – 6th, 2014

www.cqp.org

Save the date!

CQP is coming up and the airwaves will soon be filled with stations looking for California!

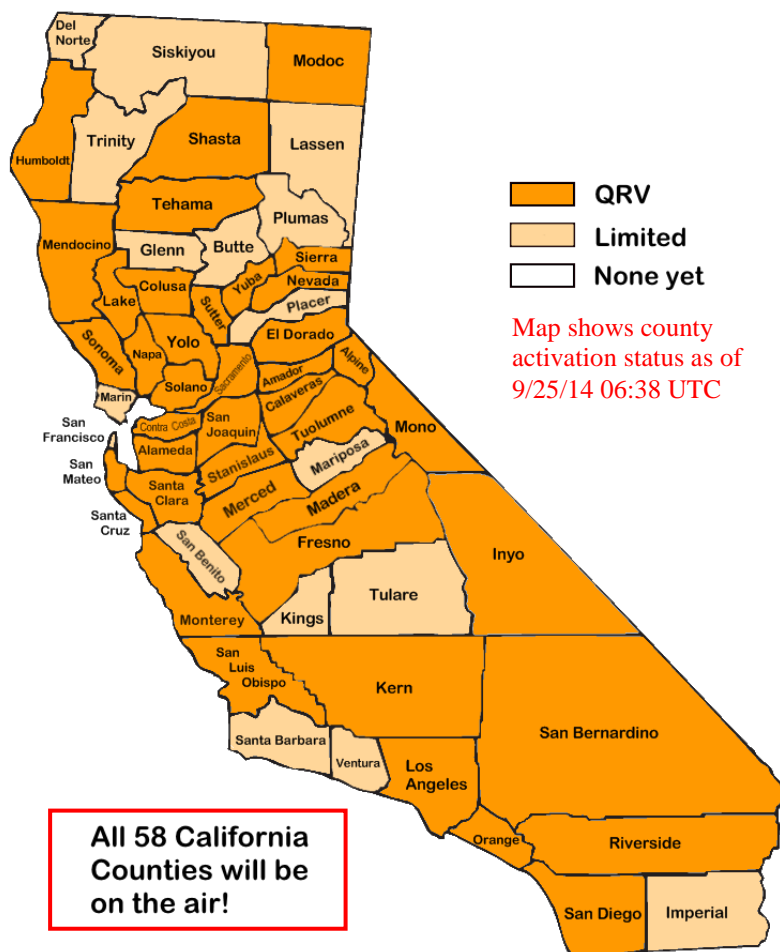
CQP is a fun contest for every type of station -- QRP, low power, high power, phone or cw.

If your QTH is in California then you'll represent points for anyone working the contest.

You'll also 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.



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.

The Exchange:

California Stations send QSO # and County.

Stations outside of California send QSO # and State (or Canadian Province or DX).

For a printable page of multipliers for the California QSO Party, click here:

http://www.cqp.org/pdf/cqp_mults.pdf

PACIFICON 2014

All the information you need

www.pacificon.org

October 10th, 11th, and 12th
Marriott Hotel in Santa Clara
2700 Mission College Blvd.



- The Great West Coast Amateur Radio Convention
- Largest west coast vendor show for ham radio gear
- More than 50 outstanding technical forums
- A sweet list of door prizes, including multiple radios
- Special Event Station W100AW/6 celebrating ARRL's 100th anniversary
- Great swap meet
- Exciting youth activities including a kit building booth plus forums
- Parking is **FREE** for convention attendees
- Youth aged 17 and under attend for **FREE**
- College students can attend for only \$5 (w/ student ID card)
- **GENERAL ADMISSION \$25 for all 3 days!** Reserve online by Oct. 5th (or pay \$30 at the door)

See you there!

Friday, October 10, 2014

6:00am - 6:00pm Registration & Will Call Desks Open
8:00am - 4:00pm **Antenna Forum** (registration required)
3:00pm - 6:00pm **Vendor Exhibits**



Saturday, October 11, 2014

6:00am - 5:00pm Registration & Will Call Desks Open
6:00am - 12:00pm **Swap Meet**
7:00am - 8:00am **Breakfast with Gordon West** (registration required)
8:00am - 5:00pm Technician Class One Day (registration required)
8:00am - 1:00pm Amateur License Testing (\$15 VEC Fee, pay onsite)
8:00am - 5:00pm **Forums**
8:00am - 5:00pm **Special Event Station W100AW/6**
9:00am - 12:30pm Legal Seminar (registration required)
9:00am - 5:00pm **Vendor Exhibits**
12:00pm - 1:00pm Parachute Mobile First Jump (approx)
2:00pm - 4:00pm Transmitter Hunt
6:30pm - 9:00pm **Banquet Dinner** (registration required)
8:00pm - 12:00pm Norcal QRP / HF Pack Zombie Night
11:45pm Wouff-Hong Initiation Ceremony (registration required)



Sunday, October 12, 2014

7:00am - 11:00am Registration & Will Call Desks Open
8:00am - 5:00pm **Special Event Station W100AW/6**
9:00am - 12:00pm Amateur License Testing (\$15 VEC Fee, pay onsite)
8:00am - 12:00pm **Forums**
9:00am - 1:00pm **Vendor Exhibits**
1:00pm - 2:30pm Annual ARRL Pacific Division Forum & **Grand Prize Drawing**



Take Action

With each earthquake we see headlines such as “Preparedness put to the test”. What we do to prepare now, before the next disaster, determines our quality of life after such an event. Think about where you are right now while you read this. If a disaster hits, what supplies will you have access to? What is the plan for contacting your family and friends? You should be prepared to survive on your own, without basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones. This means having your own food, water and other supplies. Being an amateur radio operator is just one important piece of the puzzle. Please ensure you are prepared!



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... tbd

8 AM

tbd, 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.*

Next Meeting: 3PM on Oct 19th

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

Join the Yahoo Group:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ba_radio_builders/

More Info:

www.barbc.org

The RST System

R = READABILITY

- 1 -- Unreadable
- 2 -- Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
- 3 -- Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 -- Readable with practically no difficulty
- 5 -- **Perfectly readable**

S = SIGNAL STRENGTH

- 1 -- Faint signals, barely perceptible
- 2 -- Very weak signals
- 3 -- Weak signals
- 4 -- Fair signals
- 5 -- Fairly good signals
- 6 -- Good signals
- 7 -- Moderately strong signals
- 8 -- Strong signals
- 9 -- **Extremely strong signals**

T = TONE (CW only)

- 1 -- Sixty cycle a.c. or less, very rough and broad
- 2 -- Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad
- 3 -- Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
- 4 -- Rough note, some trace of filtering
- 5 -- Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated
- 6 -- Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
- 7 -- Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
- 8 -- Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
- 9 -- **Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind**



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 tbd, 8 AM @ tbd (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 10/11, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 11/8, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 11/15, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City



Silicon Valley ARRL VE Exams, www.svve.org –

Holds test sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Arrive between 8 AM and 10:00 AM to the Saratoga Fire Station at 14380 Saratoga Avenue (in downtown Saratoga).

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

- Saturday 10/4
- Saturday 10/18
- Saturday 11/1

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

Holds test sessions at Hurricane Electric in Fremont each month, alternating between Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. The address is 48233 Warm Springs Blvd.

Walk-ins welcome. \$15

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

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 at arrl.net

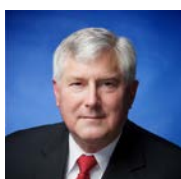
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



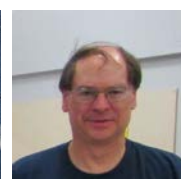
Phil KA6MZE



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).