



DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: Friday, December 19th, 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.

Who & What

Presentation:
**Electronics
from the
Ground Up**

Speaker:
Ron Quan KI6AZB

Details on page 3



Raffle Prizes

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

1st Prize: Kenwood TM-281A 2 meter 65 watt base/mobile transceiver

2nd Prize: Tram BR1180 2m/70cm dual band mobile whip antenna with Tram BR317R mag mount

3rd Prize: Book – “Electronics from the ground up” by Ronald Quan

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

It's that time of year!

**FARS
Membership
Renewals**

Renewing your membership to FARS provides much needed support for your club activities.

Thank you and 73.

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.

DECEMBER

19 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
One week earlier than usual due to the holiday

31 **ARRL Straight Key Night**, 4PM PT
(January 1, 0000 UTC – 2359 UTC)

24 hours dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSO's, preferably with straight keys or bugs.

JANUARY

11 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*

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

23 **FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet 2015**
Michaels at Shoreline Restaurant, Mtn View, CA, 6PM
Join us for this exciting annual ham radio event!
*Presented by the Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)
and the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA).
It is be open to anyone who wants to attend, but reservations
are required. Signups are now open on the FARS website!
\$1600 in raffle prizes!!!*

FEBRUARY

8 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*

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

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

UPCOMING

3/14 **Electronics Flea Market** starts up again!

4/19 **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 2015, 2014 or 2013*

May **Radio in the Park** starts up again!
Stay tuned for details.

FARS Membership

Joining FARS
and
renewing your
membership to FARS
provides:

*

Much needed
support for your club
activities,

*

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

*

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

Join us!

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

Email your FARS newsletter
editor at K6YL@ARRL.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Mikel KN6QI

Membership Meeting. Our next membership meeting is scheduled for December 19th and the talk is "Electronics from the Ground Up" with Ron Quan KI6AZB. Ron has published a second book of interest to hams. In this book he covers electronics with hands on experiments to guide the reader through an understanding of components, circuits, and practical how to directions. This program is great for the "novices" but still interesting for the old hands.



See the

FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2015. We are joining with PAARA to host this popular annual event scheduled for January 23rd, 2015. This event is open to anyone who wants to attend, but reservations are required. Our speaker is Rich Seifert KE1B who has a lot of experience combining DXpeditions with vacations. He talks about how to plan, organize, and simply enjoy adventures in new lands. It's not all radio.

We are convening the banquet at Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View (located next to the golf course in Shoreline Park). The pricing for the banquet includes an 18% gratuity, 9.75% sales tax, and \$2 to cover other expenses including PayPal, speaker's meals, supplies, etc. The meal choices and prices are: Prime Rib (\$47), Broiled Salmon (\$40), Chicken Florentine (\$35), or Vegetarian Brochette with rice (\$30). Each meal includes a dinner salad, water/coffee/tea, and a chocolate mousse desert. Additional beverages are available at the no-host bar.

We have \$1,600 in raffle prizes starting with an Elecraft KX-3 plus several more prizes (to be announced), so bring some cash for tickets and take home one of these gems.

We are currently accepting sign-ups for the banquet on-line or by mail-in form. Sign up today and put the date (Jan. 23) on your calendar. Details at <http://k6ya.org/events/banquet>. See you there.

Board of Director Elections and Annual Member Meeting. At our November meeting (our annual member meeting) we re-elected Richard Baldwinson N6ATD and Charlie Morrin KI6FX to new 3 year terms. Thank you!

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.

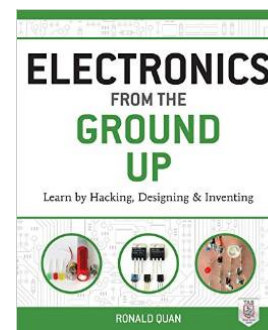
de KN6QI

DECEMBER MEETING

"Electronics from the Ground Up" by Ron Quan KI6AZB

Ron Quan KI6AZB has done it again -- written another top selling book. You may remember he spoke to FARS in February about his book, "Build Your Own Transistor Radios", McGraw-Hill, 2013. Now he's come out with a sequel: "Electronics from the Ground Up", McGraw-Hill, 2015. The book is massive at 526 pages. It is a book of do-it-yourself experiments through which the reader will discover and learn the inner workings of electronics through innovative experiments. Experiments progress from basic electricity to circuits for RF and communication systems:

- Batteries, lamps, and flashlights
- Light emitters and receivers
- Diodes, rectifiers, and associated circuits
- Transistors, FETs, and vacuum tubes
- Amplifiers and feedback
- Audio signals and circuits
- Oscillators, AM and FM signals and circuits
- Video basics, including video signals
- Video circuits and systems



FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2015

Raffle!

When: Friday, January 23rd, 6PM
Where: Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline (Mtn View)
www.fars.k6va.org/events/banquet



The FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet 2015 is scheduled for Friday evening, January 23, 2015. The **Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)** and the **Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)** are presenting this annual ham radio event and fete. This event is open to all who want to attend, but [reservations](#) are required.



\$1600 in Raffle Prizes!



***** FIRST PLACE RAFFLE PRIZE *****

Elecraft KX3 Transceiver

160-6 meters (2m with optional KX3-2M module)
Operates in all modes: SSB, CW, DATA, AM, FM
10 W PEP (100 W with optional KXPA100 amp)

At only 1.5 pounds, the KX3 provides base station-type performance from an ultra-compact package that's ideal for mobile or external battery portable work.

View from Michaels at Shoreline
Photo © Joanna K6YL

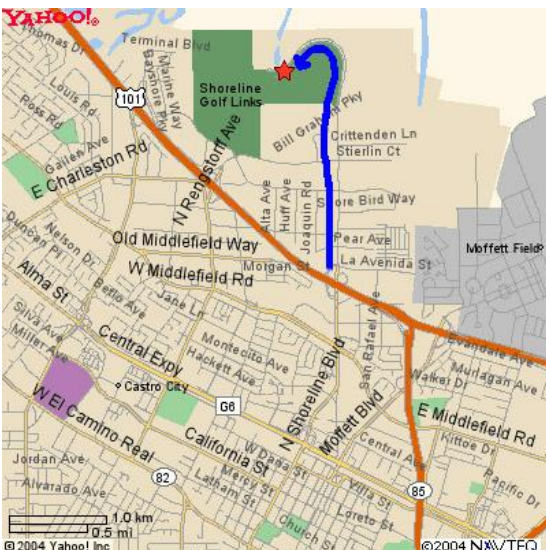
6:00 PM - Open Bar (No Host)
7:00 PM - Dinner
8:00 PM - Presentation
9:00 PM – Announcements & Raffle

Directions

The easiest way to find Michael's is to take highway 101 to Mountain View. Exit onto Shoreline Blvd. (aka Stierlin Road) north (towards the bay). Follow for about 1 mile until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park. Alternatively, you can exit onto Amphitheatre Parkway from 101 and follow it north/east (towards the bay) to Shoreline Blvd. Turn left (north) onto Shoreline and follow until you reach the gate for Shoreline Park. Enter the park through the gate, which will be open. Follow the road (~3/4 mi.) in a wide left curve around the park. Look for a sign pointing left for Michael's. Take a left turn and enter the parking lot. The building next to the parking lot is Michael's.

TALK-IN via the N6NFI 145.230-/100Hz repeater or the W6ASH 145.27- /100Hz repeater

*RSVP by 6 pm on Jan. 19th
Sign up form on last page.*



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, January 24th
8 AM
San Francisco, 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 Jan 11th

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

PRESENTATION for the 2015 FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet

Plan, Organize and Enjoy a DXpedition

by
Rich Seifert KE1B



Rich (KE1B) and Anna (W6NN) have raised Holiday DXpeditioning to an art form. Over the past 4 years, they have traveled to numerous destinations in the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, and coastal Africa in search of fine food, great beaches, and massive pileups. Rich will explain the logistics involved in arranging their excursions, along with a detailed look into his "DXpedition-in-a-Box" portable station.

Combining lots of photographs from their travels, stories of their adventures in searching for exotic cuisine and fun, and insight into working the pileups from "the other side", this talk will show you a fun way to enjoy our hobby, and possibly encourage you to venture out on your own DXpedition.

Rich Seifert (KE1B) has been a ham since 1968, when he was first licensed as WN2DLJ in New York City. He obtained his Extra Class license in 1970. After moving to Massachusetts and changing his call to KE1B, he went QRT in 1982, focusing on his professional career. Although he didn't make a QSO for 25 years, he remembered to keep his license current. He rekindled his interest in the hobby in 2007, and has been very active ever since. Rich is primarily a DX'er and contester, but has been known to chew the rag and operate QRP from time to time.

Anna Sombor (W6NN) was first licensed in 2009 as KE1BYL, then obtained her Extra Class license and current callsign in 2011. She is primarily a contester and DX'er. She learned the code in the fall of 2010, and immediately won the first-ever CW Rookie Roundup, followed by a repeat win in 2011. She holds the all-time YL record for the California QSO Party, along with numerous other contest achievements.

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 1/24, 8 AM @ San Francisco (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 12/20, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 1/10, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 1/24, 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 12/20
- Saturday 1/3

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

- Future dates not yet listed, stay tuned

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

Effective March 5, 2012

CLUB INFORMATION

www.fars.k6ya.org

President:	Mikel Lechner KN6QI
Vice President:	Steve Stearns K6OIK
Treasurer:	Dick Baldwinson N6ATD
Secretary:	(open)
FARS Board:	Charlie Morrin KI6FXY Phil Hawkins KA6MZE 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

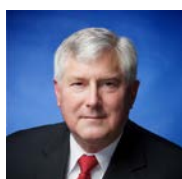
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



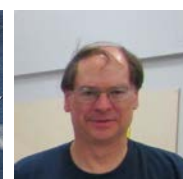
Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FXY



Bob WB2URF



Doña KI6DAR

FARS New Membership / Renewal Form

The annual dues for 2015 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 95011-2551



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).

FARS / PAARA 2015 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP FORM

January 23rd, 2015 at Michaels Restaurant at Shoreline

2960 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA

6pm Open Bar (no host) * 7pm Dinner * 8pm Presentation * 9pm Announcements & Raffle

Deadline for signups for the banquet is 6pm on January 19th, 2015. Mail no later than January 16th.

Please note you do not need to be a member of FARS or PAARA to attend this event.

<u>Name & Call Sign</u>	<u>Meal Choice</u>	<u>\$ Amount \$</u>
You _____	_____	_____
Email _____		
Guest1 _____	_____	_____
Guest2 _____	_____	_____
Guest3 _____	_____	_____
Guest4 _____	_____	_____
	Membership Dues (optional)	_____
	Total	_____

You may renew your FARS membership for 2015 or become a FARS member at the same time you sign up for the banquet by including a [membership form](#) and \$20 dues [\$10 for youth] with your banquet sign up.

Send your check payable to FARS to:

FARS
PO Box 112551
Campbell, CA 95011-2551

Dinner Selections:

Prime Rib \$47
Broiled Salmon \$40
Chicken Florentine \$35
Vegetarian Brochette w/ Rice \$30

\$1600 in Raffle Prizes!

*Including an Elecraft KX3 160-6m transceiver -
Well-respected, full-featured, all-mode, 10W PEP, weighing only 1.5 lbs.*

Banquet Sign-Up – Must be received by 6pm on Jan. 19th

Paper Sign-up – You may print and complete the above form, and mail along with your check for payment. All mailed sign-ups should be posted by Thursday, January 9th to arrive in time. Last minute sign-ups should use the online form. You may also bring your form and payment to the December FARS meetings.

On-line Sign-up – You must logon to the FARS website and have a credit card or PayPal account to make your payment. It's easy to register for a logon to the FARS website if you have an email address. All online payments are handled by PayPal. Online sign-ups must be completed and paid by 6 pm on Monday, January 19th, 2015.

WEBSITE: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet>