

April 2015

Two months until Field Day!

Volume 45, Number 4

www.fars.k6ya.org

APRIL CLUB MEETING

When & Where

Date: [Friday, April 24th, 2015](#)

Time: Socializing at 7PM
Meeting starts at 7:30PM
Guests are welcome to join us!

Place: Covington School - Gymnasium
205 Covington Rd, Los Altos, CA
(near Foothill Expressway and El Monte Rd)

Snacks: Cookies and coffee will be served

Post-Meeting: Denny's on Mathilda in Sunnyvale

Who & What

Presentation:
**Amateur Radio
at the
American Red Cross
of Silicon Valley**

Speaker:
George Williams, N6NKT



American Red Cross
Silicon Valley Chapter



Raffle Prizes

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

- 1st Prize:** GP-5/SSB FM Stereo/MW/SW-SSB DSP Receiver
- 2nd Prize:** RIGblaster Nomic Transceiver Computer Sound Card Interface
- 3rd Prize:** DBJ-1 Dual Band VHF/UHF Base Antenna (144-148 and 440-450 Mhz)

Wish-You-Were-Here Prize: A CASH prize awarded to a member who is present and has paid their 2015 dues.



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.

APRIL

- 24** **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
24-26 **Henry Coe State Park Backcountry Weekend**
Volunteer amateur radio operators will be supporting this event

MAY

- 9 **Electronics Flea Market**, De Anza College, Cupertino, 5AM
10 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*
13 Board Meeting, Los Altos, CA, 7:30PM
15-17 **Dayton Hamvention**, Dayton, Ohio
22 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

JUNE

- 13 **Electronics Flea Market**, De Anza College, Cupertino, 5AM
14 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*
19 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM
27-28 **FIELD DAY 2015**
*Come join FARS for
this on-the-air event!
Guests welcome!*



JULY

- 11 **Electronics Flea Market**, De Anza College, Cupertino, 5AM
12 **BARC Meeting**, Panera Bread, Cupertino, 3PM
*Bay Area Radio Builders Club. Sponsored by FARS.
See the website / Yahoo Group for details.*
24 **FARS Club Meeting**, Covington School, Los Altos, CA, 7PM

UPCOMING

- 10/3 **California QSO Party**, aka "CQP"
Fun on the air!
10/17 **Pacificon 2015** - Forums, exhibits, banquet & more!
New location - San Ramon

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. Thank you.

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 April 24th and our talk is "Amateur Radio at the American Red Cross of Silicon Valley" with George Williams, N6NKT. George talks about our local chapter of the American Red Cross, its service area, and how amateur radio is used as a part of its emergency communications system. See bottom of this page for details.



See the

Field Day 2015 is only 2 months away on June 27-28. FARS is planning to operate in the 3A category with 3 HF stations SSB/Voice (80-10 meters), CW/Digital (80-10 meters), Low Band (160-80 meters). We also plan a VHF station (6m, 2m, 70cm), and an HF GOTA station (20-10 meters). Reserve that weekend and the preceding Friday (for setup) and look for signups this month. In addition to the radio activity, we have our BBQ on Saturday, June 27th. There is some space for those who would like to camp out at the site Friday/Saturday evening. Check with Phil Hawkins, KA6MZE for details.

Electronics Flea Market on May 9th. This is the second Saturday of May and the sponsor is West Valley Amateur Radio Association. There is a flea market each month March through September. See www.electronicfleamarket.com for full details.

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 website 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

A P R I L M E E T I N G

Amateur Radio at the American Red Cross of Silicon Valley

Did you ever wonder where our local chapter of the American Red Cross is located, what the chapter does, what geographic area it serves, or what emergency communications capabilities it has?

George Williams, N6NKT, will tell us about the in's and out's of our local Red Cross - including describing the facility's evolving emergency communications operations center.

George William, N6NKT, was first licensed 1987. After a few years on UHF/VHF, he took his first "micro" Xpedition to Horton Creek Park in Inyo County as part of the California QSO Party. There the HF bug bit him hard.

George now has over 181 countries confirmed via LoTW and QSL cards, and he has three DXCC awards – CW, Phone, and Mixed. He is also active in SOTA: Summits on the Air.



MAKER FAIRE 2015 – VE SESSIONS

Spread the word!

This year's SF Bay Area MakerFaire will be held May 16-17 and will feature two **Amateur Radio Test Sessions** for the Technician Class license. This is a first! Please spread the word so we can welcome new hams into our incredible hobby.

WHEN: May 16 and 17 at 7:45AM

WHERE: Maker Faire at the San Mateo County Event Center

SESSION WEBSITE: <https://mfhamtest.wordpress.com/>

IMPORTANT INFO: Tests are available by appointment only (no walkins) and each day is limited to 30 people.



HOW IT WILL WORK:

The test sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday in the morning, before the Maker Faire opens. A guide will meet you at either the East gate or West gate promptly at 7:45am on both days.

You will be able to take the Technician Class license test only – no General or Extra Class tests will be given. If you don't pass, you will not have the opportunity to re-take the exam on the same day. (But of course you can retake the exam on the following day at the Maker Faire, or at another VE session on a different day.)

Upon arrival at the test site everyone should please fill out all forms. We will verify all your paperwork before you start.

We will then hand you your exam and you can start taking your test. You will have about an hour to finish the exam. Please note that we will be required to have the test site cleared by 10:00am.

When you finish, please sit quietly and wait for the Volunteer Examiners to grade your exam. We will ask that you sit and wait until 10:00am when the Maker Faire opens. We suggest that you bring something to read.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Study! A good place to start is the [ARRL Technician License study materials](#).
- Connect with other Maker Hams. Go to www.makerfaire.com and click "Check Out The Program for Maker Faire Bay Area 2015", then click "Meet The Makers". Browse By Topic and click "Ham Radio" – there are several Maker Ham groups at the event who will want to meet you and congratulate you on passing your test!
- Additional helpful hints can be found at <https://mfhamtest.wordpress.com/>

WHAT YOU ARE EXPECTED TO BRING:

- A government-issued photo ID: Driver's license, passport, or military ID.
- \$15 cash (exact change please), or a check or money order made out to "ARRL VEC".
- Additional requirements can be found at <https://mfhamtest.wordpress.com/>

See you at Maker Faire 2015!



HENRY COE BACKCOUNTRY WEEKEND 2015

Information

This year's Henry Coe Backcountry Weekend will be held the weekend of April 24-26th, providing easy access to the remote and beautiful east side of the park which includes the Orestimba Wilderness.

Henry W. Coe State Park is the largest state park in northern California!

Barely an hour's drive southeast of San Jose, Henry W. Coe State Park protects and preserves 87,000 acres of scenic hills and mountain ridges. This wild largeley undeveloped park welcomes backpackers, equestrians, mountain bikers, day-hikers, and anyone seeking solitude in a nearly untouched setting.

** Ham volunteers will be providing communication support for this event **

** Look for a report and photos in the May FARS Relay **

More information on this event can be found at <http://coepark.net/pineridgeassociation/component/eventlist/details/70-2015-backcountry-weekend>.

Mississippi Lake @ Henry Coe State Park

Photo taken by KN6QI at Backcountry Weekend 2014



ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET 2015

Sponsored by ASVARO

The Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

www.electronicfleamarket.com

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

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

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



DIRECTIONS

From the Peninsula:

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

From the East Bay:

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

From Gilroy/Morgan Hill:

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

Enter the Campus from Stelling Road:

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

Support your local non-profit electronics organization!

SCHEDULE 2015

Saturday, Mar. 14	Hosted by Foothills Amateur Radio Society (FARS)
Saturday, Apr. 11	Hosted by Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (SVECS)
Saturday, May 9	Hosted by West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA) ***Next!***
Saturday, June 13	Hosted by Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)
Saturday, July 11	Hosted by South Peninsula Amateur Radio Klub (SPARK)
Saturday, Aug. 8	Hosted by Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)
Saturday, Sep. 12	Hosted by Southern Peninsula Emergency Communications System (SPECS)

See you on May 9th !!

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 6th
8 AM
Fremont, 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 May 10th
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

AGENDA

for the next BARC Meeting 5/10/15

Bay Area Radio Builders Club

- Goal: homebrew the TAK-40 SSB/CW Transceiver (tak-40.wikidot.com)
- FAR Circuits boards are poor, but OSH priced the boards at \$195 for 3 sets of 4
- Jon's IF board is waiting for integration
- PCB and Ugly VFO's work, but Bob's N3ZI (pongprance.com) DDS VFO is better
- An LTSpice simulation of the VFO runs
- Digital board is getting closer to its first test; some IC's still have power trouble
- Daniel's PA board needs a couple of inductors to be finished
- See AA9LC-K9GTK TAK-40 construction notes at ARRLHBC Yahoo group
- TAK-40 10-watt PA is superior to the original per AA9LC& K9GTK
- Mocked-up front panel on a prototyping board is not working
- Replacements needed for the Wintek WD-C2401P LCD & homemade encoder
- PIC16F628 project that displays on an LCD works
- See QRP-ARCI FDIM 4 kits for \$35 at QRPme.com
- The DDS-60 Daughtercard VFO kit is available for \$45 from midnightdesignsolutions.com
- MST-400 40-meter SSB transceiver from OZQRP.com
- Graphical displays, such as 4D Systems uLCD-32PTU
- Ed LeBel's latest inventions

Please bring your own electronic projects
to BARC for **Show & Tell**.

The best way to learn is to **experiment** and
share your experiences.

HAM RADIO NETS – Getting On The Air

FARS Weekly Net **Thursdays @ 8 PM**

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz
This net is open to all interested hams.

The purpose of the net is to keep club members informed about club activities; to exchange other club-related info; and to socialize.

9AM Talk Net **Weekdays @ 9 AM**

N6NFI repeater, 145.23-/100Hz
This net is open to all interested hams.

This is an informal net that is very popular.
Check out www.9amtalk.net for more information.

READY TO UPGRADE YOUR LICENSE?

What is a Passing Score you might ask?
Technician & General exams – 26 out of 35 (74.2%)
Amateur Extra exam – 37/50 (74%)

BAEARS (Bay Area Educational Radio Society) Crams & Exams, www.baears.com –

This group holds “Ham Crams” 4 times a year for Tech and General licenses (Amateur Extra test available but no cram). A guided study consisting of six 45-minute reading periods, with breaks and lunch. They have a high success rate!
Pre-registration required, sign up on the website. \$30

- Saturday 4/18, 8 AM @ Mountain View (exam starts at 4 PM)

Sunnyvale VEC Exams, www.amateur-radio.org –

Holds test sessions on Saturdays often alternating between Sunnyvale and Redwood City.
Walk-ins only, no pre-registrations. \$15

- Saturday 4/25, 10:30 AM @ Redwood City
- Saturday 5/9, 10:30 AM @ Sunnyvale
- Saturday 5/23, 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 5/2
- Saturday 5/16
- Saturday 6/6

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

Holds test sessions at Hurricane Electric in Fremont each month, alternating between Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. The address is 48233 Warm Springs Blvd.
Walk-ins welcome. \$15

- Saturday 5/9, 9:00 AM
- Tuesday 6/9, 6:30 PM
- Saturday 7/11, 9:00 AM

Also see [page 8](#)
for details on
VE sessions
at the upcoming

Maker Faire

on 5/16 and 5/17
in San Mateo!

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

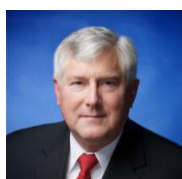
PO Box 399, San Carlos, CA 94070

Also available at FARS meetings.

Photos © K6YL unless noted otherwise.



Mikel KN6QI



Steve K6OIK



Dick N6ATD



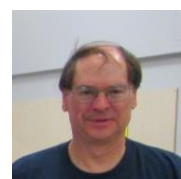
Phil KA6MZE



Joanna K6YL



Charlie KI6FX Y



Bob WB2URF



Doña KI6DAR

FARS New Membership / Renewal Form

The annual dues for 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)