

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

June 2015

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**Y-S ARC Web Page:** <http://www.ysarc.org>  
**Y-S ARES Web Page:** <http://www.ysares.org>

**P.O. Box 1169**  
**Yuba City, California 95992**

**June 2015**

Editors: Curtis R. Sylvester-José, KF6VFP  
Marsha L. Sylvester-José, KI6CSN  
Telephone: 530-743-3003  
E-Mail: Curtis at [kf6vfp@arrl.net](mailto:kf6vfp@arrl.net)  
Marsha at [ki6csn@arrl.net](mailto:ki6csn@arrl.net)

Webmaster: Ted Herman, KN6TED  
Chris Price, KD6CP

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## **CLUB OFFICERS**

Pres.: Dave Gipson, KC9EI  
Vice Pres.: Ted Herman, KN6TED  
Secretary: Jo Anne Murdock, N6YLO  
Treasurer: June McJunkin, N6JEY

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Don Elder, KC6PPX  
Kathy Burns, N7WVW  
Chris Price, KD6CP  
Mike Sangria, AG6IP  
Bob McClard, N6BOB  
Herb Pucket, N6HBU

## **REPEATER TRUSTEE**

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

## **LIAISONS**

ARES: Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ  
ARRL SM: Ron Murdock, W6KJ  
VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

07 Jul – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting at  
Yuba County Library 303 2nd Street,  
Marysville  
11 Jul – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715

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King Ave. Yuba City  
21 Jul – 6:00 P.M., Board Meeting,  
American Red Cross Building, Yuba City

04 Aug – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting  
Location to be determined  
18 Aug – 6:00 P.M., Board Meeting,  
American Red Cross Building, Yuba City

01 Sep – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting  
Location to be determined  
05 Sep – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715  
King Ave. Yuba City  
15 Sep – 6:00 P.M., Board Meeting,  
American Red Cross Building, Yuba City

16-18 Oct – Pacificon

Monday nights at 7:00 P.M. – weekly  
net with swap shop and help sessions.

Monday nights at 8:00 P.M. – Butte  
County ARES net, 145.280 MHz –  
offset, PL 110.9

Tuesday nights at 8:00 P.M. –  
GEARS Club net, 146.850 MHz – offset,  
PL 110.9

Thursday nights at 7:00 P.M. –  
weekly ARES net.

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Third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. – the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (VHF) Net, on club repeater followed by an HF Net on 3987 KHz LSB.

Other nets (From the GEARS Radiator Newsletter)

Sac Valley Net, 7:00 P.M., 2nd Wed of the month 146.850 MHz – offset, PL 110.9

440 Wed. Night Net, 8:00 P.M. each Wednesday, 440.650 MHz.

Golden Bear Net, 7:00 P.M. daily 3975 kHz.

Willie net, 8:00 P.M. Mondays, 1930 kHz.

CA Traffic Net, 3906 kHz nightly at 6:00 P.M. for traffic listing and 6:30 P.M. for roll call.

Club repeater: 146.085 MHz out, 146.685 MHz in, PL 127.3

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## ***VE TEST RESULTS AND TEST SESSION***

The Next VE Test session will be on July 11th at 715 King Ave. Yuba City at 9:00 A.M. VE's are needed to administer the exam. The elements for Technician, General and Extra class will be offered. If you are planning on taking an exam you will need two forms of ID, at least one of them must be a picture ID. A fee of \$15.00 is required. A calculator may also be used as long as it has had all of its memories cleared and there are no built in or preprogrammed formulas.

If you are upgrading to a higher class

you need to bring your license and a photocopy of the license.

If you take an exam and pass, you can take the next higher class exam for no additional cost. If you do not pass and wish to try again an additional fee will be required.

Good luck to all who are taking exams.

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## ***PRESIDENTS CORNER***

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Field Day was a resounding success for a multitude of reasons, #1 being it was a Club/Team effort. Planning, prepping, moving equipment to, setting up, assembling antennas, coordinating bands, operating, preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals, tearing down, packing away, policing the grounds, AND doing it together as a group of friends. When you stand back and think about everything that transpired you just have to smile and say, "Wow!"

I'll leave the real reporting of Field Day to Curtis and Marsha but can't help but add my personal comments as well. I am particularly pleased to report some of our newest members attended AND make radio contacts too. THAT was the number one thing I really wanted to see happen. It did and makes me smile. People stayed in tents, trailers, RVs, some going home at night and returning the next day too. (Brenda and I consider it a vacation for us.) Saturday's carry-in supper swelled the number to nearly 40 vehicles on site, most with multiple antennas. By request, we even had

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Karaoke going too. How about that!

We set a high bar for future Field Days but I am confident they will only get better in time. As such I am asking each person to send me their suggestions as to what we can do better so we can plan accordingly. I will suggest to the board that we create a standing Field Day committee, with emphasis on the committee, meaning more than one person. Chris Price KD6CP put on an excellent Field Day and would be the perfect choice for next year if he wishes to tackle the job again. Whether Chris accepts my nomination or it is someone else, let's start planning now while the events of this year are fresh in our minds.

Lastly, recognition. It would be difficult to point out one individual over another; so I won't. I am simply proud of the entire Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club. Let's do it again next year.

Dave KC9EI

Let's Do It Together!

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## FIELD DAY, 2015

On Saturday, June 27-Sunday Jun 28. the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club participated in the ARRL Field Day at the Sutter County Airport, Yuba City, CA.

Friday, club members met and setup antennas for the big event. There were two crank-up towers with Yagi antennas, a J-pole, and a dipole fan antenna. Smokers and BBQs were set out in preparation breakfast and dinner.

Ron (W6KJ) our ARRL Section Manager and JoAnn (N6YLO) stopped by Saturday morning as they made their rounds of field day sites through out Northern California. Club members and non-members stopped by and participated in making contacts.

The club operated 5 transmitters on battery or generator power. They also had a GOTA (Get On The Air) station that the public could use to make contacts.

Breakfast was served Saturday and Sunday morning. A feast of pulled pork, BBQ ribs, corn-on-the-cob, and all the fixings were served Saturday evening. Afterwards a karaoke station was set up for entertainment.

Information about the number of contacts made, bands they were made in, modes, the number of Field Day participants and states and countries contacted will be in the July newsletter.

Thanks to Chuck (KI6HK) who donated funds to help pay for the dinner even though he could not attend, Mountain Mikes Pizza in North Highlands (courtesy of Cindy (KK6OIO)) who donated chicken wings for the dinner and the American Red Cross for donating several cases of water.

Three photos from field day are posted below. More photos will be posted on the club website at [YSARC.org](http://YSARC.org).

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Set up of the YSARC club tower and Yagi.



Chris (KD6CP) and Kathy (N7WVW) making contact.



Don (KC6PPX) prepares a good meal.

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## **CLUB MEETING**

The club meeting was held on 2 Jun at the Marysville Library. Ron Murdock our Section Manager gave a talk and showed a short video about the

American Radio Relay League. The ARRL is responsible for licensing, education, training, advocacy, public service, and technology development.

The next Club Meeting, Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> will be at the Yuba County Library Conference Room, 303 2nd Street, Marysville. Doors will open around 6:30 P.M. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Visitors are welcome to come and join us.

Our monthly drawing will be held. The grand prize is a mag mount antenna. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Everyone who attends the meeting receives one free ticket. Everyone receives one free ticket just for coming.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Minhu Bui. He will be giving a talk on DX (Distance) communication.

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## **CLUB STORE**

The club has the following items available for purchase at cost.

1. Marine grade white RG8X coax, 13 feet. Cost is \$0.41/foot.
2. RG8X Black coax, 320 foot reel. Cost is \$0.41/foot.
3. PL295 coax connectors, 63 each. Cost is \$1.99 each.
4. RG8X reducers, 46 each. Cost is \$0.69 each.
5. Power Pole connectors, 119 red/black pairs. Cost is \$1.00 per pair.
6. 12 gauge red/black wire for power connections, 25 feet. Cost is \$1.00/foot.

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7. Coax wrap, 2 rolls. Cost is \$4.00 per roll.

8. LMR 400 coax, 40 feet. Cost is \$0.90/foot.

9. RG8X strain relief boots, 14 each. Cost is \$0.50 each.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items contact the club store manager, Curtis (KF6VFP) at (530) 743-3003 or on the air.

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## **TECHNICIAN, GENERAL AND EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL REVIEW**

From the Technician Class question pool:

T4A02 How might a computer be used as part of an amateur radio station?

- A. For logging contacts and contact information
- B. For sending and/or receiving CW
- C. For generating and decoding digital signals
- D. All of these choices are correct

The correct answer is D. If you have a computer in your ham shack you can use it to do all of these things. To log contacts you can use a logging program or create you own using a word processor or spreadsheet. To send CW and do digital modes you'll need a TNC or software TNC to interface between your computer and the radio.

From the General Class question pool:

G4B02 Which of the following is an advantage of an oscilloscope versus a digital voltmeter?

- A. An oscilloscope uses less power
- B. Complex impedances can be easily measured
- C. Input impedance is much lower
- D. Complex waveforms can be measured

The correct answer is D. An oscilloscope is a piece of test equipment that shows what the signal being measured looks like. Since you can see the signal you can do things like look for noise on a DC signal, view the shape of a waveform and measure its frequency, voltage peak-to-peak, etc. A oscilloscope; however, will not tell you the frequencies the signal is made of. With a multi-trace oscilloscope you can compare two signals, useful; for example, for aligning digital signals to the sampling clock to reduce errors.

From the Extra Class question pool:

E4C04 What is the definition of the noise figure of a receiver?

- A. The ratio of atmospheric noise to phase noise
- B. The noise bandwidth in Hertz compared to the theoretical bandwidth of a resistive network
- C. The ratio of thermal noise to atmospheric noise
- D. The ratio in dB of the noise

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generated by the receiver compared to the theoretical minimum noise

The correct answer is D. Every circuit naturally generates some noise. One type of noise is thermal noise that occurs from the random motion of free electrons in conductors and semiconductors. This noise is temperature dependent. That is the higher the temperature the more noise. As circuits amplify the signal they also amplify the noise as well as adding some noise to the signal. To determine the noise figure in dB measurements of the input power, output power and amplification at 290°K (17°C or 62.6°F). The formula is

$$NF = 10 \log \frac{P_{NO}}{AP_{NTH}}$$

where

NF = noise factor

$P_{NO}$  = total noise output power

$P_{NTH}$  = input thermal noise power

A = amplification gain.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

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## **NAME BADGES**

The club is looking into the possibility of obtaining name badges for members who want one. If you are interested please let a club officer or board member know so we can get an idea of how many.

The badges will have the club logo,

your call sign, name and Yuba-Sutter ARC on them. A magnetic strip will be used to secure the badge to your shirt.

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## **International Amateur Radio Union**

**Objective:** to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.

The second full weekend of July, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (**July 11-12, 2015**). Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period.

From the ARRL website.  
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

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## **EDITORS MESSAGE**

We apologize for June's newsletter being a few days late due to compiling Field Day results.

Please send your comments about Field Day, 2015 for next month's newsletter. If you would like to share your experiences email your comments to either of us. Don't be shy about sending in your comments. We will edit them if necessary.

Until next month, 73's.

Curtis (KF6VFP) and Marsha (KI6CSN)