

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE YUBA-SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A California Non-profit Organization

PO Box 1169

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

JANUARY, 1990

Edited by Herb Puckett, W6HBU

712 King Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991

Telephone 916-674-3648

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## Next Board of Directors Meeting

The January Board Meeting will be held on January 24, 1990, at Russ Decker's home. Time is 7:30 PM, and address is 1227 Kathleen Way, Yuba City.

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## Next Club Meeting

The next Club Meeting will be on January 9, 1990, at Gray Avenue School.

This will be a "show and tell" where you can show off your new toys from the "Jolly old Gent". The meeting will also include a general round-table discussion of each attendee's history in the Hobby and a "swap, sell, give-away" session for your excess gear, etc. . We hope to see each of you there.

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The Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club holds a regular net for members and guests each Monday evening at 7:00 PM on WD6AXM/R, 146.085/685. See you there.

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## NET CONTROL STATIONS—JANUARY 1990

Once again this month, NCS duties will be by means of INVITATION, COERCION, SHANGHAI, or other means  
See WB5FIX, W6HBU or KB6YAF to volunteer.

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## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Russ Decker, KB6YAF  
Secretary: Bill Corey, N6VPI

Vice Pres: Kristen McClard, KB6RHL  
Treasurer: Jack Craig, K6ZMA

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Pea, KB6YAD  
Jim Giarda, WA6RZA  
Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

Ron Murdock, WB5FIX  
Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
Bob McClard, WA6OWH



## SOAPBOX--ITCHES AND GRIPES--SOAPBOX

I am concerned about the number of unattended, automatic digital stations on the high frequency bands. Their operation under special temporary authorizations from the FCC has proven that they tend to interfere with stations operating nearby, because they begin transmitting regardless of the ongoing contacts in progress. While the FCC STA under which these unattended HF packet stations operate did not (could not) grant exclusive operating privileges on the authorized frequencies, the STA operators have adopted that attitude. A common practice among SSTV operators on 20 meters is to interfere with any SSB station trying to use an empty SSTV calling frequency, and HF Packet takes it one step further - they start up regardless of the operations in progress--but being unattended, they are not even aware of the interference caused. If they could publish their operating schedule and leave time for others to use the frequencies, it would be a lot easier to accommodate their operations.

In each instance when I have reported the interference they cause, either the station contacted fails to acknowledge the report, or he replies with a snotty, holier-than-thou rude-gram.

Unattended HF packet may have something going for it. It does free the owner-operator of such a station to pursue other activities while his computer controlled station sends countless messages countless places. (It does not follow that all these messages need to be sent or should have been sent in the first place--many BBS sysops are filtering them out entirely.)

When a local VHF BBS handles incoming/outgoing traffic on one of

a few planned VHF frequencies, we all benefit. But on HF, the available spectrum is too limited to grant exclusive or primary operating privileges to so few people for so little benefit. When these people aren't even present during their station's operation, it doesn't strike me as fair or even desirable to continue the experiment. If robot operation is in the future of ham radio on the HF bands, the concept needs to be fully explored. Just because something "can" be done doesn't mean it has to be done.

Recently, ARRL moved to get a rule change to allow this activity to be codified on the HF bands. It smacks of railroading, given the unresponsiveness of the STA operators to reports of interference they create. Why can't this concept be examined in the light of day?

73, Ron, WB5FIX

## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

We have survived the Holiday Season and the beginning of the New Year, and now it's back to work.

Hope everyone had a good Holiday and that the "Jolly Ole Gent" smiled upon you. Also, we take this opportunity to wish each of our captive audience a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your new Officers are now in place, and the first day of the New Year saw their first meeting to organize (plot?) the doings of the Club for the next year. A hazy outline of each month's meeting worked out, and hopefully after the January Board meeting, we will have something to publish in the next issue of the Newsletter. There are some good ideas in the schedule; so



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stay tuned.

Don't forget that DUES ARE NOW DUE. Be sure to renew early to avoid the rush later.

Also, don't forget the January Club meeting. This will consist of a "show and tell" of your latest toys, some general round table eyeball QSO's and a "swap - give away - buy or sell stuff and junk" night. See the Presidents message in this issue.

We have a Novice Class coming up in January, starting on January 11. As this is written, we don't know exactly where it will happen, due to several problems. Most of them, of course, revolve around dollars. The schools, faced with financial problems of their own, have instituted schedules of costs for use of school facilities. We have a problem finding fault with that, and we understand where the School Districts are coming from. But it still makes for some real problems which have not as yet been ironed out. Other arrangements are in the works, and if possible, we will have the latest word by deadline for the Newsletter. If not, contact Ron, WB5FIX, for information and to let him know if you have or know of a candidate for the class.

Your Editor has been enjoying 220 MHz. on the new Dual Bander, and we can report that the N6QMM repeater is alive and well. We can work it with full quieting with 5 watts into a J-pole on the roof here in Yuba City. At the present time, it is almost like a private system; since there are few stations locally on 220.

We read with some misgiving Ron's contribution this month. We have heard others voice the same complaint about interference with the ARRL Bulletins by the unattended stations on Packet. It seems to your Editor that either

the Packet station or ARRL should be able to move slightly and take care of the problem. What's really disturbing is the apparent attitude of the Packet Operators involved. These people seem to go berserk when someone questions their operation. There is apparently no room in their world for compromise or tolerance of the other guy.

Many years ago, there was a problem of this sort on 75 meters between the Mobileers in the San Francisco area on 3995 KHz and a weekly Civil Defense Net on 3992 KHz. This was in AM days, and it was recognized that selectivity of the mobile receivers was not the best. Even so, the actions by some of the people involved was as bad or worse than that being experienced in the Packet thing. There was no room for compromise or "give and take" on the part of some of the mobileers. The result was high-powered fixed stations attempting to wipe out the CD Nets, and there was bad feeling all around. Strangely, the thing apparently died a slow death. I don't remember any lasting effects; so cooler heads apparently finally prevailed and the problem became manageable. Let's hope the Packet thing is resolved in something approaching this manner.

Since there was no Board meeting during the December Holidays, there are no Meeting Minutes this month. We promise to have a suitable report next issue.

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Bits and Pieces of Trivia---  
Thanks to Russ, KB6YAF

Lothar was Mandrake the Magician's giant partner. (Comics-long, long ago.)  
(Your Editor remembers. Do you?)



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## Editor's note:

The following was lifted off the local Packet BBS. While somewhat lengthy, it may act to improve your vocabulary. This is in line with the lofty ideals of this fine publication.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* "GLOSSARY" \*  
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ANALOG- Horsd'oeuvre, usually made with cheese and covered with crushed nuts. Served at all staff parties.

APPLE- Typically, a device used to seduce men. Usually equipped with display screens and/or worms.

BAR CHART- A list of places to go when it's miller time.

BINARY- Possessing the ability to have friends of both sexes.

BIPOLAR- Refers to someone who has homes in Nome, Alaska and Buffalo, New York.

BIT- Similar to nibble. Commonly eight nibbles to a mouthful. See byte.

BPI- A 1960s term used to describe unmentionable parts of the anatomy, as in "you bet your bpi."

BUG- Small living things that small living boys throw on small living girls.

BYTE- A mouthful as in "How many bytes in a Big Mac."

CASSETTE- A very small petite cass (usually achieved through exercise).

CPU- A juvenile way of telling your dog he missed the paper.

CHARACTER DENSITY- The number of very weird people in the office.

CHIP- Any number of small crunchy objects often served with onion dip.

CLOSED LOOP- A method of execution no longer in vogue except in Iran.

CODE- Virus lasting about three to five days, accompanied by sore

throat, runny nose and fever.

COMMAND- Statement presented by a human and accepted by a computer in such a manner as to make the human feel as if he is in control.

COMPILE- A heap of decomposing vegetable matter.

CONVERSATIONAL MODE- Describes the typical office the day after a major sporting event.

CRT- A movie about a little alien who forgets his telephone number and must write home.

CURSOR- An expert in four-letter words.

DEBUG- The act of placing shoe leather against a small creeping creature.

DOWNTIME- Coffee breaks, lunch, or Friday mentality in the office.

DUMP- The EPA's answer to health.

ERROR- Something only humans can commit.

FIFO- Common name for a dog.

GIGO- A movie industry acronym referring to the numerous "Gidget Goes..." movies i.e., GIGO Hawaii, GIGO surfing, etc.

HARDWARE- Typically, boots, leather and chains. Contrast with software.

INTERFACE- The opposite of "Get-outtamy-face."

K- A term used in employment ads to disguise how much they are really willing to pay.

MEGAHERTZ- A very large car rental company.

NETWORK- The occupation of a fisherman.

ON LINE- A statement shouted by tennis judges in response to serves being called out.

OUTPUT- What people who talk backwards do to their cat.

PROGRAM- What commercials try to do to us.

RAM- A male sheep.

REAL TIME- Here and now, as opposed to fake time, which only occurs there and then.

ROM- A RAM after a delicate opera-



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tion.

SEMI-CONDUCTOR- A person hired to lead an orchestra before he has graduated from director's school.

SOFTWARE- Typically silk nighties, nylons, garter belts. Contrast with hardware.

TERMINAL- What most people have to be before consenting to see a doctor.

TRANSISTOR- A sibling, opposite of transbrother.

VACUUM TUBE- A derogatory term. See "bubble memory."

Copied from Siemens's PG-685 Maintenance course which I recently attended.

Enjoy, 73s de Pat, N0AZC

## QRM DE EL PRESIDENTE

Well, here I am an amateur radio operator of about 2 years and the President of the local ham club. It really doesn't seem any different from that of the Secretary, at least right now! I have vowed not to out-do the previous administration but to enhance the work that has gone on before me. Being new to this position, I will be relying on many club members for your support and expertise. I do want to start out by wishing all of you a happy new year and I hope all of your signal reports will be 599.

I have been having a lot of fun with my Kantronics KAM on our local packet BBS. Barry, KE6LW has put a lot of work into making the BBS a truly 'class act'. I hope to be able to secure another 2 meter radio in the future so I might remain on 'packet-status' 24 hours a day. I would appreciate any messages and comments via the system on how to make our club more effective for the community besides all of

its members.

Phil Kennedy, WB6AMO, is going to relocate his QTH to Oroville soon! He has been a good neighbor of mine for the last 2 years. I'm going to miss the times when I can drop-in for a friendly chat and the such, but Oroville isn't that far away! In any case, Phil will still be a 'local' with our club.

The club meeting 'program committee' met the other night at Herb Puckett's, W6HBU, to map out the year's calendar of events. I really think it is going to be a year of fun, learning, and involvement. Scheduled, are programs of DF'ing, potlucking, equipment checking, swapping, station equipment assembling, 'shack night' videos, old timers/antique radio times, emergency coordination talks, picnics, and potporri radio night! Now I know many of you, by reading this, will have a lot of questions about all of the mentioned meeting topics, but have faith, and hold on to your coax, because these meetings are going to be of interest to you all!

Well, it is about time to 'un-key' and let you finish the rest of this news-letter. By the way, don't forget to bring all of your 'swappable' ham gear to the January club meeting. If you want to sell it, that's fine. If you want to give it away, that's ok too!

73's de Russell Decker, KB6YAF

## BISCUITS

In addition to playing with the Ham Station and working again, we have been fooling with the shack computer. We are now the owner of a "Mouse" for use with the thing. Of course, there is precious little desk space to move the mouse, but



we've got one.

Computers are like refrigerators, garages, Ham shacks, and other places of habitation and recreation. There seems to be a rule or law that requires that the available material, equipment or whatever must expand to fill the available space. This is the case with the 20-megabyte hard disk here at W6HBU. The crazy thing is, we don't do that much with the computer. We now have about 5 percent of the disk left for additional storage. There is the probability that we will get a second 20 megabytes, but sure as anything, that, too will fill up. Such is life, I guess.

station.

We have been blessed this year with more than our share of new gear. It appears that more may be coming, and we look forward to the further enjoyment of its use on the air.

Hopefully, 1990 will see more countries confirmed, and maybe a few field day-type outings to enjoy the summer weather.

Has anyone made any New Year's resolutions? Here it is January 3 already, and your Editor just realized that we haven't made resolution one. Hmmm --- maybe that's for the better. For sure we don't have any to break.

Come to think of it, we did sort of resolve to lose some weight. That is an on-going thing for one such as your rotund Editor so it probably doesn't qualify as a true New Year's resolution.

Anyway, see you at the Club meeting or here next month.

**ANTENNAS:** TV - CB - AMATEUR  
ROTORS - MASTS  
TOWERS - POWER SUPPLIES

**COMPUTER ACCESSORIES:** PRE-MADE CABLES - HOODS  
SHELLS - WIRE BY THE FOOT  
DATA TRANSFER BOXES

**QUAD A's**  
Electronic Supply

7366 Auburn Boulevard  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

723-7366 or 723-7368

AUDIO/VIDEO  
CABLES - SPLITTERS  
MATV - SWITCHES  
TELEPHONE ACCESSORIES

SEMICONDUCTORS  
RESISTORS - CAPACITORS  
ELECTRONIC KITS  
MAGAZINES - BOOKS

HONEY

There are few things more enjoyable to a dyed-in-the-wool Ham than to get new radio gear for the

AMATEUR—CB—SCANNERS  
SHORTWAVE—CELLULAR  
COMMERCIAL

**THE RADIO PLACE**

SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION

GLENN STILWELL  
WR60

2964 FREEPORT BLVD.  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95818  
(916)441-7388







MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

TYPE: NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( )

MEMBER INFORMATION: (Full voting rights and privileges)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRL Member? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATE FAMILY MEMBER (Living in same household only)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

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DUES: \$ (18.00 PER YEAR)  
ASSOCIATE DUES (4.00 PER YEAR)  
TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail to: YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1169  
YUBA CITY, CA. 95992

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

YUBA-SUTTER  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1169  
YUBA CITY, CA 95992



HERB PUCKETT W6HBU  
712 KING AVE.  
YUBA CITY, CA 95991