

# The VALLEY HAM NEWS

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
A California Non-profit Organization

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Y-S ARC Web Page: <http://users.cwnet.com/ysarc/>

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

P.O. Box 1169  
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April 2003

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## CLUB OFFICERS

**President: Mike Colvin, W6CUJ**

**Vice President: Herb Puckett, W6HBU**

**Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Ernest Royat, KB6VHW**

**Russ Decker, KB6YAF**

**Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI**

**Curtis Sylvester-José, KF6VFP**

**Thomas (Robby) Robinson, N6PGK**

**Marvin Lemburg, KE6JNT**

## REPEATER TRUSTEE

**Dave Gartner, WD6AXM**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be at Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak on April 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Bring your suggestions, gripes and offers to help as well as your appetite.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 5 – MS Walk-A-Thon

April 8, 6-10 p.m. – YSARES/YS Animal Disaster Response Group joint training session

April 11, 7:00p.m. Club Meeting

April 12 – Bike Around the Buttes.

April 19, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Board Meeting, Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak.

April 26 – Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) Hamfest, Sanoma

May 31 – EMCOMMWEST 2003 an ARRL Pacific Division Operating Specialty Convention in Reno NV.

June 28 and 29 – Field Day.

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

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. - the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (UHF) Net.

Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. – weekly ARES net.

## BIKE-AROUND-THE-BUTTES

Again this year there will be a 100-mile

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ride along with the shorter rides of 17 miles and 40 miles from previous years.

The 100-milers will start in the south portion between 7:00 and 7:15AM. This means those of us working the southern portion of the 100-mile ride and NCS will be there at 7:00AM.

The other events run officially from 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Realistically, we will need to be ready to start at approximately 7:00AM. All bikes should be off the course by 4:00PM.

The riders will be identified by colored wrist bands with a different color for each route. If you see a rider without a wrist band, he or she is not part of Bike Around the Buttes. Colors will be posted here, or at the latest they will be available at NCS the morning of the event.

There will be a Net Control Position at the Headquarters Location in Sutter, seven Rest Stops and seven SAG Vehicles available at various times. We are estimating that 20 to 22 people will be needed to fully staff all locations and the SAG vehicles, as well as provide for relief at lunch time. If we lack volunteers, the event can be handled by 15 to 17 people.

Standby and relief people, if available, will fill in at lunch and do other duties as required. These will be mostly the people who work the early shift south of Highway 20. They are supposed to be finished by about 11:00AM.

We will furnish both operator and vehicle for the SAG vehicles this year. This means a pickup or van capable of hauling one or two bikes as well as the riders. SAG Vehicles cruise the course and give assistance to bikers in event of a problem. This might be such things as mechanical breakdown, a spill, a medical emergency or sometimes, a biker too pooped to pedal. In most cases, the SAG people will bring the biker to the nearest Rest Stop or in to the Headquarters location. In case of medical emergency, an ambulance would be called from Headquarters. In all cases, the Sag Vehicles will maintain communication with

Headquarters at all times. If you work a SAG and you have a camera, bring it along. The organizers have asked that the SAG workers take pictures if possible in event of an accident. There will be accident reporting forms for all the SAG units.

Net Control will be in the RV trailer at Headquarters. This is located at Acacia Avenue and Butte House Road in Sutter. From Highway 20, go North on Acacia Avenue until you pass the High School and then look for Butte House Road going to your right. There will be many vehicles and bikes in the area, so you shouldn't miss it.

**REPORT TO NET CONTROL WHEN YOU ARRIVE!!!** We will have any late information for you at that time, and we need to know who is present and when they arrived. You will then be directed to the sign up desk to sign in with the organizers and get a T-shirt and your meal ticket/name badge. This is needed for lunch. If you don't eat their lunch, please turn in the badge for next year.

Primary Frequency will be the 146.085 WD6AXM repeater on South Butte. Backup will be 147.450 Mhz Simplex. If something happens, such as a jammer or other problem, we will immediately go to the Simplex frequency. Listen for "We don't have to put up with this garbage!" from the Net Control Station. This will be the signal to go to Simplex. Net Control will monitor 147.450 at all times. Net Control will also monitor 223.440 Mhz for incidental use or communication not related to the event.

For the new operators --- the hardest thing to remember about an event such as this is to stay available at all times and STAY OFF THE AIR UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. Remember that your chatter could completely cover a weak mobile in a SAG Vehicle trying to report a life-threatening medical emergency. If you want to carry on idle conversation on another frequency, no problem, as long as you continuously monitor the assigned frequency from your assigned

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location or function. Ideally, you should have a 25 to 50-Watt mobile rig in case we go to Simplex, but handhelds using high power and good antenna installations have worked. This means a 12-volt adapter and an external antenna, preferably something like a 5/8-wave unit. We will check each location and mobile as we get into the operation to keep track of communication capability with Headquarters in Sutter. There have been a very few cases where we have found a dead spot on the route. Usually, you will be able to work the nearest other station on Simplex even with a handheld. That station can then relay your traffic in an emergency.

If you are working south of Highway 20 (The start of the 100 miles), please be at Headquarters no later than 7:00AM. For the rest of the course, please be at Headquarters no later than 7:30AM. Last year, we were done with everything at about 4:00PM. Most of the locations were finished well before that, however. The last sweep by a SAG vehicle will finish at 4:00PM.

Maps will be available to show you the location of the Rest Stops and the route of the various courses. SAG Vehicle coverage is as directed by the ride officials. This information is shown on the maps.

\* Headquarters Control (Tactical Call "Control") will be located at the north end of the Sutter Youth Building at the intersection of Butte House and Acacia Avenue in the town of Sutter.

\* Rest Stop #1 (Tactical Call RS1) will be at the intersection of West Butte Road and Pass Road west of Sutter.

\* Rest Stop #2 (RS2) will be at the intersection of West Butte Road and North Butte Road northwest of the Buttes.

\* Rest Stop #3 (RS3) will be at the intersection of Township Road and Pennington Road west of Live Oak.

\* Rest Stop #4 (RS4) will be approximately 1/4 mile south of the Country Vet Clinic on East Butte Road between

Sanders and Nuestro Roads.

\* Rest Stop #5 (RS5) will be at the very south portion of the 100-mile route at Coles Road and Progress/Reclamation Road.

\* Rest Stop #6 (RS6) will be in Meridian at the Lions Building at Central Street and Meridian Road.

\* Rest Stop #7 (RS7) will be at the East end of the Bike Path toward Yuba City at Hooper Road. The organizers have indicated that Rest Stop #7 will not require a radio operator. They will depend on a cell phone if we don't have enough people to staff it.

The Rest Stops will be provided with portable toilets, food and water for all participants. This includes us as volunteers.

Tactical calls for each of the SAG Vehicles (SAG1, SAG2, SAG3, etc.) will be assigned when they leave Headquarters Saturday morning.

Remember to identify with your call at the end of each total exchange (not each transmission). Incidentally, in events of this type there have been cases where the Rest Stops are not exactly as shown on the maps we get. If you get to the assigned location and see nothing, it may be up or down the road as much as a half mile. Don't panic. Check up and down the road and call Headquarters if you can't find it. It'll be out there somewhere.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

## ARES NEWS

YSARES and the Yuba-Sutter animal disaster response group will have a joint training session on Tuesday, April 8, from 6-10PM (1800-2200) at the Yuba City Police Department Training Room, 1545 Poole Sr., Yuba City.

The training will involve learning about the Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS), and will be conducted by Kelly

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Purdom, Director of the Office of Emergency Services for Yuba County.

There will be other sessions scheduled for those who are unable to attend this one. However, some future classes will require this as a prerequisite, so every effort should be made to complete this necessary training as soon as possible.

To pre-register for the SEMS training please contact Ginny Pashke at [lostoaak@jps.net](mailto:lostoaak@jps.net) or call 674-1190. If you already have completed SEMS training, and can provide verification of that, you need not attend, but are welcome to come.

Michael Colvin (W6CUJ)

## MINUTES

We met at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak.

Present were: President: Mike Colvin-W6CUJ, Vice President: Art Nelson-W6ARN, Secretary-Treasurer: Clara Ansley-KC6JPP. Board Members: Russ Decker-KB6YAF, "Robbie" Robinson-N6PGK, Lee Sheffield-KC6MCI, Herb Puckett-W6HBU, Paul Johnson-N6XVL, Marvin Lemburg-KE6JNT. Members: Grace Kelly-KB2CIQ, Walt Kelly-K6CPI, Teeje Jamison-N1CQ, Larry Ward-KN6LE, Tricia Wilkerson-KG6PNC, Leonard Wilkerson-KN6PND, Manna Whelchel-KN6PNE, Howard Fairbanks-WB6AIL, Deane Coats-NR6A, Carol Nelson-KF6VBT. Guests: Carolyn Fairbanks, Debra Decker, Bob McClard-WA6OWH and Dan Flores-WB6PKB.

The minutes of the February Board meeting were read. A motion was made by Herb Puckett, seconded by "Robbie" Robinson that Minutes of February 22, 2003, be accepted as read. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance: 2-22-03: \$2,317.61. Receipts Deposited: \$238.00. Total: \$2,555.63. Bills:

159.17. Checking Balance: agrees with bank statement: \$2,396.46. Less Repeater Balance: \$660.00 and VE Balance: \$122.48. Total: \$782.48. Club Balance: \$1,613.98

A motion was made by Herb Puckett, seconded by Russ Decker that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

Secretary Clara Ansley reported that she had not received an answer to her letter concerning the letter from the Justice Department about the Dissolution of the Club, which was in error.

Swap Meet: After much discussion about possible places where we could hold one with G.E.A.R.S. Most places that we have found are too expensive. Tricia and Leonard Wilkerson will check into the Live Oak Community Hall, and the Moose Hall in Gridley. No one seems to be interested in heading up a Swap meet, so we may table it. If you are interested let us know.

MS Walk: Club Chairman, Paul Johnson, stated that he has 10 volunteers for this event but could use a couple more. He will be attending the final meeting on this event this afternoon.

Bike Around the Buttes: Club Chairman, Herb Pucket, gave the names of who will be working each station. A few more are needed to fill in from noon on, so those at the rest stations and SAG's can come in for lunch.

Field Day: Club Co-Chairmen are Teeje Jamison and Larry Ward. We will send a request to ARRL that we be sent the Field Day Packet. There will be Special Stations, during Field Day, this year. More about this will be in the next couple of newsletters.

ARES: A motion was made by Marvin Lemburg, seconded by Paul Johnson that ARES information be put out during the ARES Net on Thursday evenings. Motion passed.

Friday Evening Club Meeting: April 11, Yuba County Library. There will be a program

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on QRP at the meeting.

Secretary Clara Ansley stated that there needs to be someone responsible for taking minutes during this meeting, as she had made it known prior to having these meetings that due to her involvement in a couple of other organizations, she would be unable to attend them.

## New Business:

A motion was made by Clara Ansley, seconded by Art Nelson that the Club reject our paying for an added amount on the Club's insurance to cover the cost of any loss due to terrorism. Motion passed.

Secretary Clara gave several copies of the Sea-Pac Hamfest; an ARRL CD and several WorldRadio Subscriptions to President Mike Colvin.

Russ Decker stated that he has some plexiglass, good for insulators, available.

We had a Round Robin of giving our names and call signs, so we can get to know one another better.

Our next Board Meeting will be at the Kalico Kitchen on April 19. Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.

Clara Ansley (KC6JPP)  
Secretary/Treasurer

## EIGHT NEW HAMS

At the conclusion of the Technician Class, eight candidates took the Element Two test for the Technician license. Patricia, KG6PNC; Leonard, KG6PND; Manna, KG6PNE; Mark, KG6PNF; Michael, KG6PNG; Chris, KG6PNH; Paul, KG6PNI; Teddy, KG6PNJ. At least one person "aced" the test, with a perfect score. Watch the repeater for new calls when FCC issues the licenses.

These are the new names and calls that will be showing up in the area as the graduates of the Technician Class of 2003 make their

way to the air waves. Eight of the original ten people stayed with it and each passed the exam at the first attempt. One of the dropouts was due to an injury. This has been the best yet, in terms of success rate and number of students.

Welcome, people, to the hobby. Our congratulations for working so very hard and for getting that important piece of paper. We look forward to talking to you on the air, and we welcome your questions when you need assistance. That is what we "old timers" are here for. You will know how to reach us when you receive the club roster, to be sent out soon.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

## VE SESSION RESULTS

At the March 1 Test Session in Yuba City, there were two candidates. One took and passed the Technician exam, and the other successfully passed the General exam. Upon learning he was a new General, he attempted the Extra element. He easily passed the element, and is now a new Extra Class ham. Our congratulations to these happy hams!

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Aloha, Hope everyone is doing fine. I haven't had much time to spend on my radio while I am here in Hawai'i. I did however get to meet a couple of local ham's who gave me information on which repeaters to listen to here (146.880, negative offset) and have participated in one of their weekday nets. It's amazing how you are an instant friend because you share the same hobby. I just walked up, gave my name and call sign and was welcomed. They also told me about their

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local web site that gives information about them and the various repeaters here in the islands. Because of all the mountainous terrain, a mobile rig is almost a necessity if you want to communicate. Handheld radios just don't have enough power. Look for an article from their web site in this newsletter.

Aloha! and 73 for now.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

## MS WALK-A-THON

The 2003 MS Walk will occur on Saturday, March 5. Paul, N6XVL, is the ramrod for the event this year. He will need a total of 8 to 10 people. This will include 3 or 4 SAG vehicles. Paul estimates that the event will take about three hours. The start and end point is the Feather Down Shopping Center in west Yuba City.

Paul presently has five volunteers. Contact Paul on the WD6AXM repeater to volunteer and to get more information.

Paul Johnson (N6XVL)

## RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB<sup>1</sup>

Scotty, the engineer on the original Star Trek series, was always fond of saying "How many times do I have to tell you...use the right tool for the right job!" As an amateur radio operator involved in emergency communications, do you know what are some of the right tools of the trade? Let's take a look.

**Mobile Radios** While we like the convenience of a 3 or 5 watt walkie, nothing beats the transmitting distance and the receiver qualities of a 50 watt VHF mobile or a

solid HF transceiver. A rubber ducky and a handie talkie really won't cut it for most emergencies that rely on direct simplex communications on level terrain over distances greater than about two to three miles. And a mobile radio has better intermod rejection than a handie. Living and working in Honolulu, we know what a miserable, frustrating time we get from intermod signals.

**Antennas** If you're insisting on using a rubber duck antenna, you're in big trouble. A rubber duck is really a rubber coated dummy load. To get better performance, you'll need something you can attach to a coax cable and get the antenna closer to a window (if you're inside a sealed air conditioned building) or outdoors to radiate your signal better while you're safe and comfortable inside.

For walkies, a collapsible quarter wave or half-wave "hot-rod" antenna is a start. You can also use a ribbon j-pole antenna. But for mobile radios, you need something that will dissipate 50 watts continuous and many of the commercial walkie antennas are designed for about 5 watts. A regular quarter wave ground plane, mobile magnetic mount antennas -- these are good, portable antennas that are small enough to be used to radiate through a window in a office building or school cafeteria being used as an evacuation shelter.

If you are using a fixed based station, do not be so quick in getting the highest gain vertical antenna you find. Gain is obtained by sacrificing the antenna's radiation pattern. Rather than choosing a 7 dB vertical that slams your signal 100 feet into the building next door, selecting a 3 dB vertical gives an omni-directional antenna with a boost in gain but still allows sufficient radiation from the side lobes to rise over mountains, condo buildings or bend around other obstructions.

A handy item is a portable three or four element beam. A 6 dB gain is worth a four times increase in transmitter power. More importantly, the four times increase in received signal is very handy for pulling out marginal

<sup>1</sup> <http://home1.gte.net/rhashiro/am-radio/articles/tools.htm>

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signals. As an example, check out the 146-4 "Back Pack" beam from Arrow Antennas ([Members.aol.com/Arrow146/146-4bp.html](http://Members.aol.com/Arrow146/146-4bp.html)).

**Coaxial Cables** Let's face it. Without feedline, it's mighty hard to get a signal from your radio to the antenna. You would like to position the antenna near a window if you're high above the surroundings, or at least higher than the surrounding obstructions to get the signal out.

If you had a chance, hauling 50 or 100 feet of RG-8U would be an ideal medium loss HF, VHF and UHF feedline cable, but it's mighty bulky and heavy. Using RG-58U is smaller and lighter, but the losses at VHF and UHF starts to cut into your operations.

A compromise is RG-8X, which has the bulk of RG-58U but has loss characteristics close to that of RG-8U. The only "drawback" is that the reducers used with PL-259 coax connectors are the UG-176 variety (for 75 ohm RG-59U) rather than the standard 50 ohm UG-175 for RG-58U but that's a small inconvenience.

**Headphones and Other Accessories**  
Little things make a big difference. Using headphones and a boom mike will cut out the background noise in a busy, cluttered environment and will also keep your audio from blasting around an already noisy room.

To speed operations, you may want to also include a foot switch to key your radio with your foot to leave your hands free for writing messages and adjust the radio.

Something as simple as a clipboard ensures you'll have a smooth hard surface to write down messages clearly and legibly no matter where you are.

So, there you have it. A quick run through some simple things that make a big difference in responding to emergencies. Now, it's your turn to be like Scotty and say: "Use the right tool for the right job!"

Ron Hashiro (AH6RH)  
EARC (Emergency Amateur Radio

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Club) newsletter "Wireless Dispatch"

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## SANOMA VALLEY HAMFEST

Hi, I am Jim Hill, K6UUW, and I would like to invite you and your club members to the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) hamfest on April 26th in beautiful Sonoma.

Activities include a swap meet, VE session, breakfast, AO-40 demo, and a lot friendly folks.

Go to our website, [www.VOMARC.com](http://www.VOMARC.com) for more info and a map or e-mail me.

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## CLUB MEETING

Our next general club meeting will be on April 11 at 7:30 p.m. The topic that night will be QRP equipment and operation.

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) \_\_\_\_\_

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Family Member (Living in the same household only)

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

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

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$18.00 (\$18.00 per year)

Associate Dues: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$4.00 per year)

Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer Electronic Copy of Newsletter (Y/N)

The newsletter can be viewed online at <http://users.cwnet.com/ysarc/>. By selecting this option you'll receive an email telling you the new newsletter is online.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club**

c/o Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

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