

# 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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August 2003

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## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Colvin, W6CUJ

Vice President: Art Nelson, W6ARN

Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

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 August 16 at 9:30 a.m. Come join us for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. before the meeting.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 9 – 7:30 am to 4:30PM Anderson Radio Club SWAP Meet and VE Session at Anderson river Park in Anderson

Aug 13 – 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. ARES training at American Red Cross center on Damage Assessment.

Aug 16 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Board Meeting.

Sep 6 – VE Testing Session.

17 Sep – 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. ARES training at American Red Cross center on Damage Assessment.

4-5 Oct – California QSO Party.

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 Net.

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

## VE EXAMS RESULTS

On 12 July, 2003 five people tested. We gave one Element one (Code), three Element two (Technician) and one Element three (General). The element one candidate failed, and all the others passed. As a result

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there was one upgrade and three new Technicians from the session.

The next test session will be September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

## BOARD MINUTES JULY 19, 2003

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES: JULY 19, 2003

Members and guests enjoyed breakfast, at the Kalico Kitchen, prior to the meeting.

Present were: President: Mike Colvin-W6CUJ, V.President: Art Nelson-W6ARN; Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley; KC6JPP. Board Members: Paul Johnson-N6XVL; Curtis Sylvester-Jose-KF6VFP; Herb Puckett-W6HBU, Robbie Robinson-N6PGK, Lee Sheffield-KC6MCI. Members: Deane Coats-NR6A, Betty Robinson-KC6LEB, Howard Fairbanks-WB6AIL, Ron Murdock-W6KJ, Jo Anne Murdock-N6YLO, Dan Flores-WB6PKB, Tricia Wilkerson-KG6PNC, Leonard Wilkerson-KG6PND, Manna Whelchel-KG6PNF. Guests: Karolyn Fairbanks and Agnes Puckett.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Colvin.

The minutes of June 21, 2003 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Checking Balance: 6-21-03: Checkbook: \$2,301.00, Bank Statement: \$2,303.42. Bank cannot determine why they are claiming more in checking than does our checkbook; I am going with the checkbook balance. Receipts Deposited: 7-2-03 Dues: WB6VHW \$18, Repeater donations: WB6VHW \$2 and N6RNP \$15: \$35, 7-14-03: Dues: KE6VUC/KG6KJG \$36, VEC \$60. \$96. Total: \$2,432.00. Bills: (838) Copy City-newsletter \$17.96, (839) Postmaster Olivehurst-40 stamps \$14.80. Total: \$32.76. Checking Book Balance: \$2,399.24; less Repeater Balance: \$677 and VE Balance: \$120.56. Total: \$797.56. Club Balance:

\$1,608.68

Old Business: There were between 300 and 400 contacts made during Field Day. A letter of Thanks will be sent to the American Legion for allowing us to use their facility for this event and for helping with what they could.

We had good coverage in both the local newspaper and television.

Newsletter Editor, Curtis Sylvester-Jose would appreciate having input from members as to their reaction to Field Day.

Herb Puckett stated that he felt that we should have a "band-master" to make certain that each radio being worked is on a different frequency than the others to prevent any interference between any radio. The QRP radio interfered with 40 meters.

ANOTHER REMINDER: The Club is having a picnic at the home of Pete Visalli and his wife Pat July 26. Participants are to bring the meat they want to barbecue; plus their favorite dish to share; their plates and utensils.

This is a really neat place to have a picnic; and the Host and Hostess are GREAT. Directions, are on the Club Web Site, on how to get there.

New Business: California QSO Party will be held in October.

Several sites, in the mountains, have been checked out: Four Trees and a site near Little Grass Valley Lake, both in Plumas County. Pictures of these sites are on the Web Site. A site on Harmony Ridge, Nevada County, was suggested and will be checked out. More will be reported later.

The Club recently lost one of its long-time members, Paul Mellinger NI6P. His failing health and not coming down to the area, was the reason of his not renewing his club membership this year. Dennis Hively, KD6DFY, and his wife Brenda recently lost their son Gordon. Our condolences and sympathy go out to these two families on their losses. While here for the funeral, Brenda's father had a heart attack and is in a local hospital. We hope for a speedy recovery for him.

Club members should begin thinking of who they want for Club Officers for 2004.

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Secretary/Treasurer Clara Ansley stated that she would really appreciate someone to take the Secretary's position as she is going to be even more busy as she is a member of the Yuba County Grand Jury for 2003-2004. However, she further stated that she would again do both if absolutely, no one, would accept the position.

ARES: There will be a Sky Warm meeting in the Training room of the Yuba City Police station on Wednesday, July 23. A second meeting will be held on Monday, July 28, 10:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. with the National Weather Service Office on El Camino Avenue, Sacramento.

Three Rivers Red Cross will hold two sessions on "Damage Assessment" one on August 13 and the second on September 17.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:00 a.m.

Clara Ansley (KC6JPP)  
Secretary/Treasurer

SK

One could say Paul Mellinger, NI6P, was a very fortunate man. He lived in interesting times. He achieved great things, any one of which would have made most men happy. And he was one of us. He was first licensed as W8PWW in 1936.

Paul was a member of our club from the early eighties until a few years ago, even though he and his wife Margaret, N6IBE, had moved to Auburn in the mid 1990's. Each year at field day, he was our backbone CW operator. CW was his favorite mode, though he also would work rtty. He was a superb CW op and took great pains to make his operation successful. I remember that he had each lead of his keying paddle made with shielded cable. He was also a member of FISTS, member number 3153, a CW society of Morse Code aficionados.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Paul graduated from South High School, attended

Youngstown College, and then joined the USNCR. Before WWII started you could find Paul operating from the radio room of the USS Ramsay, a four stack, 'high speed', mine laying destroyer based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As the United States entered WWII, Paul gained entrance to the Aviation Cadet Corps. He was commissioned and graduated in March, 1942. First chosen as a pilot instructor for twin engine aircraft, he served at Williams Field, AZ, teaching young pilots how to fly the P-38, etc. Paul then flew combat sorties in Europe with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, in the 359<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron of the 356<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group flying P-47 Thunderbolts. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. His outfit operated from Martlesham Heath, in England, from 5 October 1943 until 5 November 1945.

After the war, Paul went to work for Lockheed Aircraft. He worked eight years in Japan in the company's T-33, P2V7, and F-104J manufacturer's programs. In 1964, he transferred to the program which brought him to Beale AFB, and consequently to us. He served as Lockheed's chief 'tech rep' for the famed triple sonic SR-71 reconnaissance plane. As with any Lockheed employee, you would never hear Paul talk about the program he managed at Beale when he was not at work.

The SR-71 program was always 'cloaked in secrecy', and a good part of that was fostered by the serious people who worked in the program. Paul retired in November, 1987. But it was in this capacity that I first met Paul in July, 1983, and Margaret, who was the office manager for Lockheed at Beale.

As part of my duties, I met Paul the first week I was on base. We had bought our home from another Lockheed employee, and I guess that is how Paul found out I was a ham. As I recall, once Paul was satisfied I was really a neophyte to reconnaissance, he proceeded to engage me in a conversation about ham radio. You could tell he was really into this hobby of ours.

Paul R. Mellinger, NI6P, became a silent key June 25, 2003, at the Kaiser Hospital in Sacramento. He was a fortunate man, but

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those of us who got to know him and call him friend, were very fortunate. My only regret is that I didn't meet him sooner.

73,  
Ron (W6KJ)

## EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Summer rolls on and boy is it hot. 102 today and 106 forecast for tomorrow. Luckily I'll be leaving for cooler weather in Tacoma, Washington shortly. Hope all of you have ways to beat the heat.

I've been reading with interest the 5 part article in WorldRadio about one ham's experience in the World Trade Center disaster. It makes me think that I have a long ways to go before I'll be as proficient and as capable as he is. Someday, perhaps I will, but in the meantime I'll just keep practicing this wonderful hobby of ours and gaining new skills and experiences.

Enough rambling for this month. See you next month from Tacoma.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Field Day 2003 at the American Legion in Linda was a real hoot! There were 12 operators and a total of 5 transmitters (including the GOTA station). Propagation was particularly bad this year, so the number of contacts made was far fewer than we had anticipated, but the enthusiasm of some of our newer operators was good for all of us to witness. With all of the bonus points we garnered, our score was still only a paltry 1528 points for 151 QSOs. As we were finishing our packing up on Sunday, an Appeal Democrat reporter showed up. The result was a great front page article with out the photo op!

The annual YSARC picnic is this

weekend (Saturday, July 26) at Pete Visalli's (W6HKB) house in Dobbins. I remember fondly last year's picnic, and eagerly anticipate repeating the experience. I hope that the temperature will be a little cooler this year.

Last night (Wednesday, July 23), ten people attended the NWS SKYWARN training program at the Yuba City Police Department Training Room. Kathy Hoxsie, KC8CLO, from Sacramento's National Weather Service office, took us through the basics of how to report severe thunderstorms. I was surprised to learn that there are an average of 6 tornados in the Sacramento Valley every year. Most pass through so quickly that no one ever even sees them.

We are approaching the active part of the fire season. This year could be a very busy one for emergency communications, which involves everybody, not just ARES and RACES participants. So monitor the repeater often.

The Three Rivers Chapter of the Red Cross will be sponsoring a couple of identical classes in Damage Assessment to help ARES members get ready for the fire season. The first will be Wednesday, August 13 (6-9:30PM) and the second will be held on Wednesday, September 17. Typically, hams doing damage Assessment for the Red Cross are sent out to the site of a wildland fire to assess damage to property so that the Red Cross can begin to provide aid. Hams will then call their reports in to the chapter office from the field. This kind of work is in addition to usual emergency communications that we provide.

Till next month,  
Michael Colvin (W6CUJ)

## FOR SALE

Digital Rascal Plus with 8-pin mike connector wired for Kenwood radio. \$50.00. Contact Robby (N6PGK) at 530-742-4000.

## FIELD DAY

Thought's on Field Day from Ron Murdock (W6KJ).

My idea of field day is an organized communication effort to demonstrate our collective skills and preparation. That is not what we did this year, but we were not organized as such either. Some stations were set up as a 'build it once we start' effort. Some came pretty much ready to go. At least one was intended to try out a new radio. All these efforts were accommodated, and no one is to 'blame', but our score should be the measure of our success, not our lack of success.

We could not, again, sustain a 24 hour operation. Sometime around 1 a.m. we all had had enough and went to sleep. We had all been there to set up, and we were tired. I think we can do better by scheduling operation and operators around the clock, like we'd have to do in a real emergency situation. If we don't have enough operators, then we should tailor the number of stations to the number of operators. We should not be trying to figure out what class we operate as at ten minutes to start time. This should all be worked out in advance of driving on to the site.

We managed to interfere with each other because stations were set up too close, and to operate on frequencies too close to other stations. 40 M and 20 M are always the biggest point areas, but no real effort was made to harvest those frequencies of the most contacts available. This was partly to allow digital and qrp operation, yet this operation did not result in a significant number of contacts. There are other opportunities to try out new modes and gear before field day.

N6XVL and I were the only ones to arrive with the 35 foot mast kits, but there are at least five in the local area that could have been used. Where were they? Wouldn't we borrow them if there were really an emergency? I believe the club should solicit equipment of this type, that it should be used and returned to the owner intact, and that it

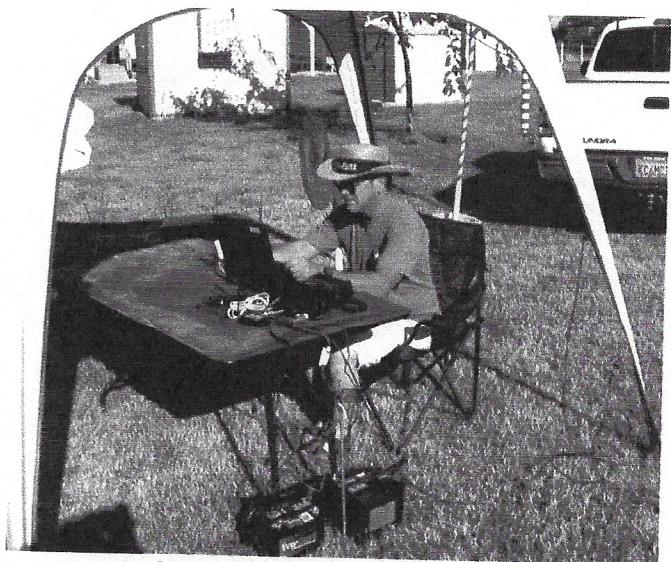
would have made a difference.

Site survey must include plans for antenna and station placement. Maybe we didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings so we just set up wherever it 'looked good'. The results will tell how well we did. I bet we can do better.

The photo's that follow were provided by Ron. Thanks, they are greatly appreciated.



Ron's (W6KJ) Field Location



Lee (KC6MCI) on Packet