

# *The VALLEY HAM NEWS*

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

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

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

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## CLUB OFFICERS

Pres.: Curtis R. Sylvester-José, KF6VFP  
Vice Pres.: Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
Secretary: Tricia Wilkerson, KG6PNC  
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leonard Wilkerson, KG6PND  
Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE  
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI  
Paul Johnson, N6XVL  
Ron Murdock, W6KJ

## REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

## LIASANS

ARES: Mike Colvin, W6CUJ

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 1 - Membership renewal  
payments due.  
Jan 4, 1800-2400 UTC - Kids Day  
Jan 10, 9:00 a.m. - VE Session.  
Jan 17, 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast and  
board meeting.

Feb 10, 6:00 p.m. - Potluck.  
Mar 6, 9:00 a.m. - VE Session.  
Apr 3 - MS Walk-A-Thon  
Apr 17 - Bike Around the Buttes.

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

Tuesday, Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
starting January 6, 2004 until February 26,  
2004 - Technician Class.

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.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be at  
Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak on Jan 17 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.



## *VE EXAMS*

The next VEC session will be January 10th at the Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church in Yuba City starting at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. Four to five VE are needed for the testing. Contact Herb (W6HBU) if you can help out.

Please preregister with Clara Ansley (KC6JPP) if you are going to test, or if you know of someone who is going to test have them preregister. As always, walk-ins are welcome, but those who preregistered will be given priority.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

## *BOARD MINUTES*

This year's Christmas potluck was a great success; all who were able to attend had great fun in their discussions and of course the usual good-natured ribbing of one another. The food was outstanding, our chefs and carvers, Ed: N6VRH, Bill, N6FAB and Richard Barlage, for the night really out did themselves with the delicious prime rib.

After our great meal, Art: W6ARN, the VP for 2003, gave a brief rundown of the years club activities and of all the fun that we had doing them. He then introduced the incoming president Curtis: KF6VFP.

Ron had prepared a letter draft to be sent to Ken: K6LYT and Char: KI6LY Nudson thanking them for the very generous donation to the club of various ham gear, which included; 2 FT207R, one FT208R, one Icom IC02AT, and one Realistic HT202 2M transceivers, power supplies, and accessories. There were also some HF antenna items.

There was a short board meeting of both the outgoing board members and the incoming following the meal. Our new

president, Curtis: KF6VFP, presided over his first meeting.

Curtis made a motion that we ask Mike: W6CUJ to act as club liaison between YSARES and YSARC and attend board meetings in a non-voting status to keep the board informed on the happenings of the YSARES. Herb seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

The topic of the local LDS using the repeater for a net was discussed, it was decided that there were still too many unanswered questions and concerns to make a decision at the time. The board will be asking that a representative from the LDS group attend the next board meeting to hopefully address all concerns and questions to allow the board to make an informed vote at a later time.

Ron made a motion that the club front 10 of the new Tech books for the class that is set to begin on Jan. 6, 2004. Ron would purchase the books and be reimbursed by the club. Herb seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Clara made a motion that Herb: W6HBU, Paul: N6XVL, and Clara: KC6JPP be on the club checking account, this motion also passed unanimously.

The next board meeting will be Jan. 17, 2004 at Kalico Kitchen.

Our next potluck is scheduled for Feb. 10, 2004. It is hoped that a volunteer can be found to do a demo of Echolink, IRLP, ARS, or one of the other various methods of Ham Radio at the pot luck. Anyone who is interested in being the volunteer contact the club president, Curtis: KF6VFP.

Submitted By,

Tricia Wilkerson, (KG6PNC) Secretary



## TREASURERS REPORT

12-09-2003	Opening Balance	\$2257.24
<b>Deposits</b>		
11-05-2003	Dues	\$165.00
11-05-2003	Christmas	\$94.00
11-05-2003	Donation	\$2.00
11-28-2003	Dues	\$30.00
11-28-2003	Christmas	\$30.00
12-01-2003	Dues	\$18.00
12-02-2003	Dues	\$36.00
12-08-2003	Dues	\$72.00
	Dep. Sub-total	\$447.00
<b>Expenses</b>		
852	Liability Insurance	-\$456.72
853	Copy Center	-\$9.87
854	Postmaster	-\$14.80
855	Albertson Christmas Dinner Supplies	-\$453.00
856	American Legion - Hall Rental	-\$100.00
	Exp. Sub-total	-\$834.39
12-09-2003	Checking Balance	\$1875.85
	Repeater Balance	-\$677.00
	VE Balance	-\$148.56
11-3-2003	Ending Balance	\$050.29

Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP  
Treasurer

## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Well, this newsletter is a hard one to write, especially with one hand. As many of you have heard I fell and fractured my right upper arm near the shoulder. However, I didn't have to much writing, many of you were kind enough to send me emails with the material for this newsletter. Thank you.

Till next month,  
Curtis (KF6VFP)

## PRISIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! Hope your holidays were fun and relaxing.

I hope this new year will be as busy as last year with perhaps more activities added to make the club more responsive to members wants. Some have expressed an interest in having more general meetings than just 4 potlucks a year with an activity or demonstration at each. If this is an interest then I am looking for a committee of two or three to manage this activity and do the planning. Also, I am looking for a volunteer to act as the ramrod to line up a net controller for the Monday night nets.

To date we have 4 potlucks coming up and 4 parades, walks or rides to provide communication support, the California QSO party, and field day. We will be needing volunteers to act as POC's or two to three person committees to plan these activities.

It is my hope that the cub has something for everyone and all enjoy themselves.

73's  
Curtis (KF6VFP)



## THE TRUTH ABOUT ELECTRICITY..

Here's some important stuff you should know before you race out and plug in your Christmas lights!

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Today's scientific question is: What in the world is electricity? And where does it go after it leaves the toaster?

Here is a simple experiment that will teach you an important electrical lesson: On a cool, dry day, scuff your feet along a carpet, then reach your hand into a friend's mouth and touch one of his dental fillings. Did you notice how your friend twitched violently and cried out in pain? This teaches us that electricity can be a very powerful force, but we must never use it to hurt others unless we need to learn an important electrical lesson.

It also teaches us how an electrical circuit works. When you scuffed your feet, you picked up batches of "electrons," which are very small objects that carpet manufacturers weave into carpet so that they will attract dirt. The electrons travel through your bloodstream and collect in your finger, where they form a spark that leaps to your friend's filling, then travel down to his feet and back into the carpet, thus completing the circuit.

**AMAZING ELECTRONIC FACT:** If you scuffed your feet long enough without touching anything, you would build up so many electrons that your finger would explode! But this is nothing to worry about unless you have carpeting.

Although we modern persons tend to take our electric lights, radios, mixers, etc. for granted, hundreds of years ago people did not have any of these things, which is just as well because there was no place to plug them in. Then along came the first Electrical Pioneer, Benjamin Franklin, who flew a kite in a lightning

storm and received a serious electrical shock. This proved that lightning was powered by the same force as carpets, but it also damaged Franklin's brain so severely that he started speaking only in incomprehensible maxims, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Eventually he had to be given a job running the post office.

After Franklin came a herd of Electrical Pioneers whose names have become part of our electrical terminology: Myron Volt, Mary Louise Amp, James Watt, Bob Transformer, etc. These pioneers conducted many important electrical experiments - - Among them, Galvani discovered (this is the truth) that when he attached two different kinds of metal to the leg of a frog, an electrical current developed and the frog's leg kicked, even though it was no longer attached to the frog, which was dead anyway. Galvani's discovery led to enormous advances in the field of amphibian medicine. Today, skilled veterinary surgeons can take a frog that has been seriously injured or killed, implant pieces of metal in its muscles, and watch it hop back into the pond just like a normal frog, except for the fact that it sinks like a stone.

But the greatest Electrical Pioneer of them all was Thomas Edison, who was a brilliant inventor despite the fact that he had little formal education and lived in New Jersey. Edison's first major invention in 1877 was the phonograph, which could soon be found in thousands of American homes, where it basically sat until 1923, when the record was invented. But Edison's greatest achievement came in 1879 when he invented the electric company.

Edison's design was a brilliant adaptation of the simple electrical circuit: the electric company sends electricity through a wire to a customer, then immediately gets the electricity back through another wire, then (this is the



brilliant part) sends it right back to the customer again.

This means that an electric company can sell a customer the same batch of electricity thousands of times a day and never get caught, since very few customers take the time to examine their electricity closely. In fact, the last year any new electricity was generated was 1937; the electric companies have been merely reselling it ever since, which is why they have so much time to apply for rate increases.

Today, thanks to men like Edison and Franklin, and frogs like Galvani's, we receive almost unlimited benefits from electricity. For example, in the past decade scientists have developed the laser, an electronic appliance so powerful that it can vaporize a bulldozer 2000 yards away, yet so precise that doctors can use it to perform delicate operations to the human eyeball, provided they remember to change the power setting from "Vaporize Bulldozer" to "Delicate."

Thanks to Ron (W6KJ) for this fun email.

### *ARES NEWS*

Season's greetings!

Even though I have been away from the local ARES scene for the last few weeks, a lot has been happening. We had a total of 6 people who played a role in the EMSA drill on November 13: Ron W6KJ, Michael KG6PNG, Curt KF6VFP, Manna KF6PNE, Paul N6XVL, and me. We provided communication for Rideout Hospital, Colusa Hospital, Yuba Co. OES, and Yuba Co. Social Services. Official traffic was passed to the MAR Region III EMSA office in Redding via HF, and Paul received their reply to us. Though a small number of people were able to commit the

time, since it was on a week day, our turnout was reasonable.

Reports from observers outside our area applauded the way our part of the drill was conducted. There was little or no off-topic conversation during our net. I want to thank all who participated, as well as those of you who kept the repeater frequency clear for our traffic.

In other news, Art Craigmill is working on the GPS project of mapping Yuba Co. levees. He intends to have a practice session sometime after January 1st.

Yours truly has been very involved since the 1st of December with the anticipated arrival of a new national Red Cross resource coming to the Central California Zone: one of 9 Emergency Communications Response Vehicles (ECRVs) that have been donated to the American Red Cross by the Ford Motor Company and the UAW. Valued at around \$300,000 each, the ECRVs are equipped with the latest in communications technology. Rather than list all of the equipment and capabilities here, go to [http://emcomm.org/red\\_cross/](http://emcomm.org/red_cross/) for a pictures and a complete description of the vehicle. While you are there, see a seasonal use of the ECRV at [http://emcomm.org/red\\_cross/christmas.htm](http://emcomm.org/red_cross/christmas.htm).

I spent from December 6 to December 15 in Austin, Texas at the Disaster Services Technology Integration Project warehouse at an ECRV Train The Trainer training. During the training class some time was spent explaining what is probably going to be a new role for hams working in Red Cross disaster response. The national Red Cross organization is planning to increase the use of the Red Cross low-band frequency, 47.42MHz. The ECRVs can be used to create an ad hoc repeater at that frequency using the JPS switch and autopatch, which will also allow



UHF and VHF HTs operating on Red Cross UHF and VHF frequencies to cross-band repeat on 47.42MHz. The projected result of this would be less reliance on strictly amateur radio frequencies for tactical Red Cross radio operations. Instead, hams would be used as net control operators on Red Cross frequencies, and as trainers of non-hams in radio procedures.

The primary purpose behind the ECRV is to enable delivery of advanced wireless telecommunications systems (computer networks, IP telephones, etc.) to get Disaster Operations Centers at Level 4 and 5 (and probably some Level 3) disasters up and running ASAP. Once the initial assignment is completed, ECRVs typically do other disaster communications jobs, including ones involving ham radio. Enhanced satellite Internet capability will take over a lot of the DWI work that hams once did for the Red Cross.

Of course, there will be an increased need for hams who are Red Cross DSHR certified (easy to qualify for in Communications--some of the YSARES members could already qualify) to be driver-operators of the new ECRV fleet. The training course for the ECRVs includes traditional ham radio communications and much more: setting up mobile satellite Internet capabilities, WAP (Wireless Access Point) computer networks, IP phones, public safety radio operations, the JPS switch, etc. All of these systems are onboard the new ECRVs, which will be placed in 9 locations around the US: Falls Church, VA; Atlanta, GA; Louisville, KY; Kansas City, KS; Chicago, IL; Houston, TX; Phoenix, AZ; Spokane, WA; and, last but certainly not least, Sacramento, CA. Driver-operators will be certified to operate the ECRVs after taking a training course that covers the operation of the vehicles and their systems. Further, they must be available to deploy on a 4-hour notice for a period of 5 days up to 3 weeks.

The ECRVs have already been deployed in this year's hurricanes and at the Southern California fires.

Each ECRV is equipped with a hydraulically operated 52-ft. mast, which can handle a number of antennas.

Amateur radio gear onboard includes an Icom 706 MkII G, Kenwood TS-2000, an SGC HF whip, an NVIS antenna system, Mosley TR-33 Jr. beam, and an SGC Smart Cube 500-watt amplifier.

The national Red Cross is anxious to get the vehicles out to hamfests, amateur radio club meetings, hamventions, etc. Some have already been to Dayton and other ham events, but those activities will increase.

So, change is in the wind. Amateur radio emergency communications involving the Red Cross will probably remain pretty much as they have been in smaller disasters, but our responsibilities will be shifting with respect to larger disasters. Hams will no longer simply be local responders. There will be a need for highly trained and disciplined amateurs from beyond their local areas to respond to larger events.

If you are interested in getting training on the ECRV, please contact me. The Zone is looking to form a 16-person team of ECRV driver-operators. If you can't be involved in responding to disasters out of state or for long stretches of time, there are other roles available for you to play with the equipment. Just call.

Michael (W6CUJ)

### *TECHNICIAN CLASS*

Coming in January and February the next technicians class. This year the class will be held at the American Red Cross Center, 2125 East Onstott Road, Yuba City

Do you know of anyone interested in becoming a ham. Encourage them to attend and then become their Elmer. Help your hobby to grow. Have them contact Ron Murdock (W6KJ) at (530) 674 8533.



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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