

# THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

**The Voice of the Yuba  
Sutter Amateur Radio Club**

A California Non-Profit Organization

**November, 2005**

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## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Chris Levi, KG6TTN  
Vice President: Ron Murdock, W6KJ  
Secretary: Tricia Wilkerson, KG6PNC  
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Johnson, N6XVL  
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI  
Howard Fairbanks, W6AIL  
Leonard Wilkerson, KG6PND  
Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE

## REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 5, 9:00a.m., VE Session

Nov 5, Communications support for Lake Oroville Vista Endurance Ride. See Paul, N6XVL.

Nov 8, Potluck, election of officers and Board Meeting. Marysville Methodist Church at 8th and D Streets in Marysville.

Nov 12, Communications support for Veterans Day parade. See Paul, N6XVL.

Dec 13, Tentative date for Annual Christmas Party and board Meeting. Marysville Methodist Church at 8th and D Streets in Marysville.

Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. - Weekly net with swap shop and help sessions on the local repeater.

Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. - Butte County ARES net on Chico repeater.

Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. - coffee and donuts get together. Location changes weekly.

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.ra - the YRL Sacramento Valley Section (VHP) Net on the local repeater.

Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. - weekly ARES net on the local repeater.

Second Saturday of each month: Breakfast at the Eagle's Nest in Marysville.

## NEXT VE EXAM

The next VEC session will be November 5th at the Cornerstone Free Evangelical Church in Yuba City starting at the usual time of 9:00 am. Four to five VE's are needed for the testing. Contact Herb (W6HBU) if you can help out.

Please pre-register with Clara Ansley (KC6JFP) if you are going to test, or if you know of someone who is going to test have them pre-register. As always, walk-ins are welcome, but those who pre-registered will be given priority.

Herb Puckett(W6HBU)

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be after the November

meeting and potluck at the Methodist Church in Marysville at 8th and D Streets.

Bring your suggestions, gripes and offers to help as well as your appetite. The election of officers for next year will take place at this meeting. Don't forget that nominations from the floor are accepted for officers and board members.

## BOARD MINUTES

Saturday, October 8, 2005 Eagle's Nest Restaurant, Marysville, CA

The meeting was brought to order at approximately 9:45am. As there was too much noise inside dining area of said Restaurant, our Board meeting was moved out to parking lot surrounding a pick-up bed. Weather was perfect. Those in attendance at this Board meeting were as follows: Club Officers: Ron Murdock and Clara Ansley. Board of Directors in attendance were as follows: Lee Sheffield, Howard Fairbanks and Manna Whelchel. Tricia and Leonard Wilkerson were unable to attend. Other club members in attendance were: Herb Puckett, Editor and Webmaster, David Wainer, James Lewis, Curtis Sylvester-Jose, a ham hopeful' Frank Picatte and Clara's granddaughter Brenna.

It was determined that the SECOND SATURDAY of every month, the YSARC meeting will be held at the Eagle's Nest Restaurant, Marysville, CA.

The minutes of the meeting of September were accepted as read.

Clara reported the Club checking account balance as of the end of September 2005, to be \$1,400.12, after correction of an error in last month's figures.

Ron reported that on Friday, October 7, 2005, he had met with John LeBeau, Community Services Director of Sutter County. Ron relayed that there will be another Sutter Co Community Services Director meeting on November 17, 2005, at which John LeBeau will be in attendance. John will report events of meeting to Ron. PACIFICON is next weekend - October 14, 15, and 16, 2005, at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel.

On Saturday, November 5, 2005, at 9:00am there will be a VE session at the church across the street from Herb's house. The standard team of monitors is needed.

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Also, on Saturday, November 5, 2005, is the LOVE RIDE, at Lake Oroville vicinity. Please notify Paul if you are able to participate.

On Tuesday, November 8, 2005, there will be the annual Potluck dinner AND election of officers for calendar year 2006. This potluck dinner will be held at the Marysville Methodist Church in Pioneer Hall, This meeting place is courtesy of Curtis, (and our club's donation) who has made the arrangements and secured same for the second Tuesday of November, December, February 2006, and May 2006.

Nominated for:

President - Bob McClard

Vice President - Curtis Sylvester-Jose

Treasurer - Clara Ansley

Secretary - Tricia Wilkerson

Nominated for Board Members

Howard Fairbanks Herb Puckett Lee Sheffield David Wainer Manna Whelchel

Leonard Wilkerson was not in attendance at this meeting.

Friday, November 11, 2005, is the Veterans' Day Parade, in downtown Marysville. If you are available, please notify Paul, if you can assist with the events of the day. I believe he stated one should be there no later than 9:30am at the old UCB parking lot - directly west of the Marysville Force Dept at south east corner of intersection of 6th and D Streets.

The tentative date in December for the YSARC Annual Christmas Party is the SECOND Tuesday, December 13, 2005, at the Methodist Church in Marysville, at 6PM.

Herb suggested that Board meetings be held at homes as the once a month Club meetings are going to be held at the Eagle's Nest, in Marysville. Ron suggested that the Board meetings should rotate locations..... Ron and Herb and Curtis and Lee offered their homes for Board meetings.

As there was no further business, Ron made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Clara. This meeting of the YSARC was adjourned at approximately 0:14am.

## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

There is not much to report this month.

One bright spot was an antenna raising party at your Editor's home. The task was to get a little more elevation for the Windom Antenna in use on 40 and 80 meters. It was gratifying to see so many people show up with so little advance publicity. We had more than enough helping hands to get the thing up to about a minimum of 20 feet above the ground. Thank you to all who helped. It is appreciated very much. The antenna is getting good reports on the noon time net on 40 meters, and we were able to talk to an old friend in northwestern California on 75 meters the other evening with a good report. It is better than before, though the tuner is still required on some frequencies to make the thing work. Given all that, it is much better than was available previously. It replaced a 40-meter inverted Vee which was definitely a single-band device.

It looks like Autumn is here for sure. As I look out the window, I am greeted by grey skies and a wet pavement in front of the house. It's now definitely not antenna repair weather. If you don't have it up and ready for Winter, you might be stuck with whatever is up now.

I didn't get a written report from Ron, W6KJ, on the Pacificon this year. I guess that's because neither he nor Bob, W6OWH, won any of the big prizes (HI). That's unusual, as at least one of our members comes home with some sort of valuable prize. Ron made up for it at the Oregon DX Convention awhile back when he walked away with one of the main prizes at that event. The W7's and VE7's complained about the Californians spoiling some of their DX, but Ron came through and defended our honor. By the way, if you haven't seen Ron's antenna farm, it's well worth a trip out to his QTH just to look at it as you drive by. That multi-element multi-band Quad is very impressive. Ron says it is a definite improvement over the previous installation. Now we'll have to see if it stays up this Winter in the wind. I'm sure Ron doesn't want to think about that.

David, WD6SCD, is being heard on the repeater from Sierra Camp David up in the hills quite regularly. He

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must have a good location and a good antenna up there. He is at hunting camp where he has been looking for a legal buck to shoot at. At last report, he had not seen a horn yet, and the season hasn't too long to go. He is hoping the cold weather and rain will make them careless and he will get a shot.

Don't forget the second Saturday of each month. Breakfast is at the Eagle's Nest restaurant in Marysville. No official business, just some socializing. As you know from the minutes this month (You did read them, didn't you?), next year we will move the Board meetings to members' homes due to noisy conditions in the restaurants. It's just too hard to hear what is said. There will still be the Wednesday morning coffee and donuts or a breakfast somewhere. You will have to listen to the Monday night net to get the straight scoop. There's another reason to check in on Mondays.

## PICTURE THIS

Picture this. You're checking into the Monday night net, or the Thursday night ARES net. The net control station is about to ask for comments from the members of the net when suddenly a weak but readable station identifies and requests help moving some formal welfare traffic. Maybe it is from the affected area of the Gulf where we know all kinds of people have lost their homes and have had their lives disrupted. The traffic is going to a local phone number. Would you help? Could you help?

What is formal traffic anyway? Do you need a special license to take it? How do you pass it to the addressee? (By the way, that is the fun part. People receiving messages from distant places they are unable to reach by normal means are most grateful for the news you can pass to them.)

Formal traffic is the way this message traffic is passed. Any ham operator can relay, deliver, or originate formal traffic using their regular privileges. Message lengths are limited to twenty-five words or less. Periods at the end of a sentence are replaced with the word "X-Ray". The last sentence of a message just

ends; no X-ray required.

There is a place at the beginning of the message, in what we call the header, to tell stations relaying the message how important it is, and how to handle it once it reaches

destination. Destination in this case refers to the station operator who reads it or gives it to the addressee.

With the Internet being so pervasive, formal traffic handling has become a lost art. Why bother? Because there are situations all the time where an originator of a message cannot talk directly to the addressee of a message. If you have ever played the game of 'telegraph', where someone whispers a message in your ear, and you in turn whisper the message to the person on the other side of you and it passes around the room. The object is of course to have the last person get the exact message the first person passed.

That is how we want our messages to arrive exactly like they were sent. Formal traffic does that extremely well. It is not so mysterious as it sounds but even those of us who did it a lot in the past were beginning to feel the need for refresher training. So on October 22 some of us attended a class at the old McClellan AFB in Sacramento. The class was well organized and put on by the Amateur Radio reserve of the Sacramento Fire Department. They even fed us lunch.

There will be more on this each Thursday night. Check in for the discussion and training. You will find that formal traffic is not so difficult and it is a good skill to develop and maintain.

73, Ron, W6KJ

## BOB'S ANDERSON POWER POLE CRIMPING SERVICE

Just bring your power pole connectors and I will gladly strip the wires and crimp them for you. They are available at the RC hobby shop on Butte House Ave, Yuba City or I could provide them for \$1.00 per pair (includes tax, shipping/handling).

Bob W6OWH