

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

June 2006

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bob McClard, W6OWH
Vice President: Curtis Sylvester-Jose, KF6VFP
Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Wainer, WD6SCD
Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Howard Fairbanks, W6AIL
Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.
Every Wednesday except the third Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. - Coffee and donuts get together. Location changes weekly.
Third Wednesday of each month, Breakfast at the Country Waffle Restaurant in Yuba City. 9:00AM
Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM - the ARRL Section Net on the local repeater.
Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. - weekly ARES net on the local repeater.
June 10 Breakfast - 10 a.m. Country Waffle.
June 17 Radio Kids Day

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May, 2006

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- June 24-25 Field Day - LaPorte Lee Sheffield is going up, and will welcome others to join him. It takes about 1 hour and 45 minutes to get up there. This is a dry camp: no water or restrooms. These you have to provide for yourself. If you want further information give Lee a call.
- August 23 Board Meeting - 7 p.m. at the home of Howard Fairbanks in Oroville.
-

UPDATES AND ADDITIONS TO ROSTER

ADD:

Allen Mills, K6SRF, G
1609 Larry Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Bill Spoto, WD6BFR, G
15733 Shannon Way
Nevada City, CA 95959

Bill McJunkin, N6FAB, A
300 S. Lawrence Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991-5712
530-673-3859
mcjunkin@sbcbglobal.net

June McJunkin, N6JEY G
300 S. Lawrence Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95991-5712

Bill Duncan, WA6OHP, X
3587 Frakes Way
Yuba City, CA 95993
530-751-1740
goodlife@veriuni.com

Dottie Duncan, KI6YQ, A
3587 Frakes Way
Yuba City, CA 95993

Eleanor Knox, KI6CSO, T
1420 Mirada Avenue
Yuba City, CA 95993
530-751-9590

Michael Sexton, KI6DKJ, T
1551 Valley View Drive
Yuba City, CA 95993
530-671-0164
msexton45@comcast.net

Change:

Kathryn Van Eckhardt to
Kate Van Eckhardt

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YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

MAY 4, 2006

We met in the home of President Bob McClard. His wife, Jeanne, supplied delicious home-made cookies; and coffee was available for those that wanted it.

Present were: President Bob McClard, Secretary/Treasurer Clara Ansley, Board Members: Lee

Sheffield, David Wainer, Manna Whelchel, and Howard Fairbanks. Guests were: Karolyn Fairbanks, Ron Murdock and Pat Fulmer KI6ZX.

Minutes of the April Board Meeting were approved after being corrected. Corrections were: Checking Balance was incorrectly typed, should have been \$2,318.14 and Riley Hoillingsworth, Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement with the F.C.C.

Manna Whelchel stated that she had contacted the new Hams that had been members of the Tech Class either by radio or mail. There was not much feed back from them.

Ron Murdock stated that there are many Hams in the area. Many are previous club members.

It was reported that there were less than 20 members present at the last club potluck dinner held at St. Andrews. They did raise \$44 from the Raffle Sale. A raffle drawing, for a radio, will be made at our Christmas Dinner. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. So if you would like to be a winner just get with Dave Wainer for tickets.

Secretary Clara Ansley reported that she had gotten a favorable approval from Repeater Trustee Dave Gartner, KD6AXM, about our proposed letter to

be sent to any individual who is misusing the Repeater. The following motion was made and passed at our April Board Meeting:

"If anyone is heard using vulgar and/or obscene language, failure to properly identify themselves as required by Regulations, causing any harmful interference or general misuse of the Repeater, will be spoken to on the first offense. On the second offense a letter over the signature of the Club President, will be sent to the offender, stating what has taken place, to include the time and date of said offense. Copies of the letter will be sent to the offender, the Repeater Trustee, Riley Hollingsworth - S.C.A.R.E, and in the files of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club".

MEMBERS PLEASE MAKE NOTE !!!!! If you are planning on going out of town, don't make this information known on the radio. There could be someone listening who could take this opportunity to separate you from your belongings. This has happened to one of our members, and he had quite a loss. So just take CARE !!! Whether or not you know it, messages can be copied from the radio to a P.C.

It was mentioned there was a possibility that Club Member Sean Murphy might consider becoming The Club Newsletter Editor and webmaster. If you recall, Herb Puckett tendered his resignation from these two responsibilities a month or so ago. This Club owes Herb a BIG THANK YOU for doing these jobs and doing them so well for a long time.

CLUB EVENTS:

June 10 Breakfast - 10 a.m. Country Waffles.

June 17 Radio Kids Day

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August 23

get up there. This is a dry camp: no water or restrooms. These you have to provide for yourself. If you want further information, give Lee a call.
Board Meeting - 7 p.m. at the home of Howard Fairbanks in Oroville.

It was suggested that those attending the Wednesday Get-Together, to get their donuts and drink and meet at Sam Brannon Park on Gray Avenue. The Donut Shop is too noisy.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by:
Clara M. Ansley

Presidents Message

Next month will see use of the new Technician question pool. I would encourage all of you to go to the ARRL.org web site and review the new question pool. Some will complain about the "dumbing down" of the questions but I think the Question Pool Committee is getting real with what entry level exam questions should cover and how the vocabulary should be phrased.

Having read the new questions, answers, and foils and comparing them with the old, it is clear that the emphasis has shifted from theoretical to practical. No longer do the questions cover every authorized activity authorized by the Technician license to those activities most likely to be used by a new ham. For example, there are no more questions about EME (Earth Moon Earth). Now what new ham would consider starting out with EME? Maybe a radio astronomer would, but that leaves out most others. On the plus side for the new questions is the inclusion of questions about Echolink and IRLP, two popular internet repeater-linking networks that many a new ham is likely to use.

The phrasing of the questions has been simplified.

Gordon West, the well known ham radio teacher and winner of this year's Dayton Ham of the Year, helped to rewrite the questions in easier to understand English. Fred Maia, W5YI was involved in proposing new questions too. Here is an example of an old question: "What is the minimum safe distance for a controlled RF radiation environment for a station using a 17-element Yagi on a five-wave length boom on 144 Mhz at 100 watts as specified in Figure T0-2?" Tough to understand the old style of question isn't it? Many potential licensees would just give up before even trying to pick the correct answer.

A clearer way to ask a similar question from the new pool is: "What factors affect the RF exposure of people near an amateur transmitter?" Also, good news is the reduction from 59 questions on RF exposure to only 11 possible question, from which only one will be on the Tech test. I always thought these questions seemed endless and confusing to new hams.

The criteria for the new pool included goals of keeping questions on a high school reading level, and eliminating those dealing with obsolete technology and adding questions relating to digital communications, APRS, repeater linking and satellite communications. A "Special Operations" section now includes questions on operating away from home, hidden transmitter hunts, contesting, and special events stations. These reflect activities a new ham is likely to do rather than try Moon Bounce. Of note, all of the diagrams, tables and component symbols have been eliminated in favor of direct questions and direct answers.

Finally, the whole format of the pool has been reorganized with the addition of three new sections on "station setup and operation," "emergency and public service operations" and "radio waves and propagation," while reducing the number of questions from 511 to 396. Again, check them out for free at the ARRL.org web site under exams. I welcome the new changes, and I hope you will too. Let me hear from you. Reminder: This Saturday June 11th at Country Waffle at 10 AM we have reserved a place for a Club

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breakfast and gathering of the faithful hams. I checked and they have Oatmeal too for the light eaters.

Elsewhere in this newsletter check out the Field Day fun up in the cool fresh air near La Porte about 1 ¼ hrs away. Hope to see you there.

73

Bob W6OWH

For Field Day

COME FOR THE FUN!

Even if you don't have a radio or antenna to bring, come anyway, and get to mingle, make new friends, and have a chance to use some of the gear other hams have set up. Bring your family and friends!

STAY TO OPERATE

We provide the place, but you provide the radios, antennas, and food for yourself. There are very few rules but remember no open fires or AC available.

LEAVE ENRICHED

Come and just mingle with the crowd, and you'll surely find another ham that can teach you about operating in general or about the latest cool thing. I always do.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Graduations (except one) are over, grad and birthday celebrations (except one) are over, my son is back home in Merced and the Old Dad is once again alone in the house. Silence is back, and with an overdue newsletter to do, it's time to get to work.

As you all know, this is my last regular effort at this task. Sean, KI6BKL, will assume the duties after a 3-month vacation for the newsletter, making the next issue due in September.

As with any task, there have been ups and downs as Editor. Obviously, there have been more ups than downs. I very much appreciate the many expressions of thanks for the almost 20 years of my tenure at the task. I also appreciate the support and help of the Presidents, Officers and board members down through the years. I am especially thankful for the encouragement of Clara, KC6JPP. Clara, you had a way of making me laugh when it felt like the whole world was collapsing down around my ears. And when the whole thing threatened to come apart, it was Ron, W6KJ, who got me going again with "Are we having fun yet?". Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you also to all the members who have taken the time to comment on the job, both pro and con, as things went along. Many of those comments and observations have been responsible for improving the quality of the Valley Ham News.

And now, a word for Sean. Never doubt that people read your efforts. Just when you think you're the only one that sees the Newsletter, make a mistake; and you will see how many people really do look at the thing. One other thing — don't worry about making a mistake. The comments have without exception been either on a note of humor or encouragement. This is a fine group of people and they are not here to tear you down. Listen to their comments and like me, you will profit from the experience.

To quote Ron, W6KJ, concerning my first effort at writing an article when he was Editor, "It's 73, but not 30." I hope from time to time in the future that there might be something from the "Old Dad" seen in these pages.

So —

73 but not 30

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TREASURER'S REPORT MAY, 2006

CHECKING BALANCE: APRIL, 2006

\$2,328.14

RECEIPTS DEPOSITED:

5/8 DUES: K6WWL (Estiolo) \$18, VEC \$42, Gas donation from the
Diabetes Society \$2.75, Donation K6WWL \$2 \$ 337.00

5/25 DUES: WD6BFR/KA6FUP (Spoto) \$22, K6SRF (Mills) \$18,
WA6OHP/KI6YQ (Duncan) \$22 \$ 62.00

5/30 DUES: N6FAB/N6JEY (McJunkin) \$22 \$ 22.00

TOTAL: \$2,739.1

BILLS:

1024	PIP - newsletter	\$ 23.16
1025	Postmaster - Olivehurst - 40 Stamps	15.60
1026	ARRL VEC	24.00
1027	Manna Whelchel - 150 mi. Bike Around the Buttes	28.40
1028	Steve Sweetman - 110 mi. " " " "	20.80
1029	Russell Decker - 104 mi. " " " "	19.66
1030	David Wainer - 100 mi. " " " "	18.90
1031	Mike Cook - 148 mi. " " " "	28.02
1032	Richard Stricklin - 30 mi. " " " "	5.60
1033	Ron Murdock - 120 mi. " " " " Donated to club(\$22.70)	30.45
1034	Tom Galbreath - 161 mi. " " " "	41.51
1035	Barry Barnes - 219 mi. " " " "	34.42
1036	Lee Sheffield - 181.7 mi. " " " "	8.26
1037	Clara Ansley - 44 mi. " " " "	16.24
1038	Herb Puckett - 86 mi. " " " "	

TOTAL: \$ 315.16

CHECKING BALANCE:

\$ 2,423.98

Less Repeater Balance: \$684.80

" VE : 115.10.

TOTAL: \$799.90

Club Balance:

Less: \$ 799.90

\$ 1,624.08

Clara M. Ansley, Treasurer

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Little Grass Valley Lake from near the Field Day Site



A view of the Field Day Site area

MORE INFORMATION ON FIELD DAY

After a great deal of map manipulating and burning of the midnight oil, I have decided not to include maps to the Field Day Site in the Newsletter. We are now up to seven pages not including the cover sheet. If we go too far, the cost of both postage and printing climbs and it is my opinion that the return does not justify the cost.

Maps will be available from Bob, W6OWH, David, WD6SCD, Lee, KC6MCI and others. They will be made available at the coffee and donut events as well as the Saturday breakfast on June 10. There will also be a talk-in on the WD6AXM repeater. This should assure that all who are interested can find the site.

Again, questions should be directed to Bob or Lee. They have all the information.

The pictures above do not do the location justice. If you have internet capability, please see the pictures posted there. They will be in color and will have much detail than those here.



Sean, Valerie, Bob and Roger at the May Potluck

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://ysarc.org/>. 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
1943 16th Street
Olivehurst, CA 95961

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at
Bob McClard's, Yuba City, CA.

Officers in attendance were as follows:

Bob McClard, President	W6OWH
Curtis Sylvester-Jose	KF6VFP
Manna Whelchel	KG6PNE
Missed Officer:	Clara Ansley KC6JPP

Board Members in attendance were as follows:

Lee Sheffield	KC6MCI
Howard Fairbanks	W6AIL
Herb Puckett	W6HBU

Missed Board Member:

David Wainer	WD6SCD
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Prior Board Members in attendance:

Ron Murdock	W6KJ
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Meeting called to order at approximately 7:16PM

Item 1: Bob stated that the raffle was going well. Good Job David and Thank You purchasers!!! A radio and a 2m/70cm dual-band Mag Mount 1/4 wave mobile antenna are available for the drawing plus other goodies as always.

Item 2: A note to all Ham's re the Monday Night Net: When checking into the Net for Monday night meeting, your Call Sign and name should be the first words you say.

Item 3: Ron reported on the Red Cross Van: It is 99% done!!! Some soldering was done and it is looking very good. He requested that the van be used for events so that members will all become familiar with it.

Item 4: Ron also reported that the 2007 Ham Radio Operator's class will start the second week in January, which is the 9th and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday thereafter through the end of February. The class time will be from 7PM to 9PM. Any new ham may feel free to test when ready during that period of time.

Item 5: Bob brought up the topic of Badges for our new members. I believe the plan is to have the new badge option information on our Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club Membership Application form. Anyone who wants one may fill out that information. Then you submit your completed form to Clara Ansley, Treasurer, YSARC, and she forwards the badge information to Bob.

Item 6: November Club Elections Meeting: This meeting will be held Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at St Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1390 Franklin Road in Yuba City at 6:30, in Room 5. The meeting will consist of the voting and final ballot count election of YSARC officers for the 2007 Calendar year. FYI: 'Absentee' mail-in YSARC election ballots must be submitted to YSARC Treasurer Clara Ansley via mail or hand-delivered to her residence, by Friday, November 10, 2006. 'In-person' vote casting ballots are submitted during the duration of the November Club Elections meeting. Ballots will be available at the meeting. Nominations from the floor will be also be accepted at the meeting. If you nominate someone other than yourself check with that the person to determine they are willing to serve in that capacity.

The YSARC Officer nominations for the 2007 Calendar year are as follows:

Bob McClard	W6OWH	President
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found some on line and they are now here ready to be installed. It marks a sad day when there is not place to buy a simple part in town. Just try to buy a push up Mast for you latest antenna new and you will find that a tough search too. Like so many others in the Yuba-Sutter area searching for that special part for a rig or antenna I have found that most local outlets have departed- R.I.P. old friends. Even in Sacramento it is growing harder to find parts. Funny I didn't notice all the old friends drifting away at first but now it is reaching crisis proportions for the electronics hobbyist.

Put these Events on Your Calendar!

November 4 th	VE Testing upgrade or new license	9:00 AM
November 11 th	Support the Veteran's Day parade N6XVL contact	9:20 AM
November 14 th	Club meeting: Election of Officers and Fox Hunt	7 PM
November 15 th	Board Meeting, Country Waffles Restaurant, YC	9 AM
December 6 th	Annual Holiday Potluck (Christmas Party) & Raffle	6 PM

73 – Bob, W6OWH

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE: Yaesu FT-1802 2m Mobile



Members of the board and club officers still have their hands full - with raffle tickets for sale to this years Grand Prize drawing at the annual YSARC Christmas Party in December. Get a hold of David WD6SCD or any another board member or officer and purchase your tickets today for your chance at a Yaesu FT-1802 2m Mobile. Other raffle prizes, such as a mag-mount mobile antenna, etc. are also in the offing. Hurry, tickets are going fast! Six (6) tickets sell for \$5 sell or individually \$1 each. Such a deal for a chance to win a great mobile 2m radio and even more prizes!

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

CQP WEEKEND WAS LIKE ANY OTHER, except, there we were, three hams atop Oregon Peak, Myself, KI6COJ Steve, and N6LAI Jerry. We set-up for the day, dug in, masts up, dipoles strung, coax connected, powered-up and transceivers dialed-in. Things went together extraordinarily well. We were a curiosity to the CDF folks in the lookout tower. They just kind of looked at us, looked at the equipment, the shrugged and went about their routines. I don't think they could appreciate the whole perfect-match-zen-ham-DX-electron-RF-nirvana-tropo-e-on a clear day-in the woods state of mind that we were experiencing. We made some initial contacts on 2m and 6m, mostly local, and admittedly the world of 50Mhz and above was sadly quiet. W6HBU's loaner IC-746 was poised, and listening and worked outward into 20 over 9 reports from stations contacted on 6m and 2m, but the quantity of hams just wasn't on VHF. Just as I was about to kick the dirt and relent, all of a sudden, our HF window opened, almost explosively on 10m and 40m. At around 11AM DX stations from as far as Eastern Europe (Hungary) and hundreds throughout the continental U.S. began to pile-up. There we were, on that hill and talking en-masse to the rest of the U.S. and beyond. I was particularly impressed with Steve's lil pistol FT-110 and the 100w linear on the dipole, the primary HF rig. Big ears, and