

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

Web Page: www.ysarc.org E-Mail: ki6bkl@arrl.net

APRIL 2007 Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL	7	Possibility: Saturday, MS Walk.	Contact Paul, N6XVL, for details	
	14	Saturday, Bike Around The Buttes	Contact Herb, W6HBU	
	21	Joint Club Meeting with OARS for lunch	@ Gold Country Casino	NOON
	25	Board Meeting Wednesday	@ Manna's QTH	7:00 PM
MAY	5	Saturday, VE Testing session		9:00 PM
	12	Antenna Building Saturday	@ Don's QTH, Olivehurst	9:00 AM
	20	NHRC SWAP Call-in Freq, 145.19Mhz	Pl 162,2	7:00 PM
	23	Board Meeting	@ Steve's QTH (N6YCS)	7:00 PM
JUNE	9	Second Saturday, Club Breakfast Meeting	Location TBA	9:00 AM
	16	Saturday-Kids Day, show a kid ham radio		
	23 & 24	Field Days (Saturday and Sunday)	Location TBA	
JULY	7	Saturday, VE Testing EV Free Church	@ 700 Washington Ave., YC	9:00 AM
	21	Club Picnic , Saturday	Location TBA	11:00 AM
AUG.	11	Saturday, Club Breakfast	Location TBA	9:00 AM
	22	Board Meeting	Location TBA	7:00 PM
SEPT.	8	Saturday, VE Testing EV Free Church	@ 700 Washington Ave., YC	9:00 AM
	11	Club Meeting , Winlink Program	@ St. Andrew PC, YC	7:00 PM
	26	Board Meeting Wednesday	Location TBA	7:00 PM
OCT.	6	Cal QSO Contest? Great DX Fun		
	9	Tuesday, monthly meeting with <u>Program</u>	@ St. Andrews PC, YC	7:00 PM
	12 thru 14,	Pacificon Ham Fest-Bigger/Better	@ San Ramon Marriott	
	24	Board Meeting Wednesday	Location TBA	7:00 PM
NOV.	3	Saturday, VE Testing @ EV Free Church	700 Washington Ave. YC	9:00 AM
	3	Saturday LOVER (Lake Oroville Ride)	Contact Paul, N6XVL	
	13	Second Tuesday, Election Of Officers , & Pie!	@ St. Andrew PC YC	7:00 PM
DEC.	11	Christmas Party Potluck & Prize Drawing	@ St. Andrew PC YC	6:00 PM

Weekly Activities:

Monday Night YSARC Net – 7:00 PM on WD6AXM Repeater. 146.085 (out), 146.685 (in) PL 127.3.

Wednesday Morning Gathering. Local eateries and arranged weekly during Monday night net.

Thursday nights YSARES Net at 7:00 p.m. on WD6AXM repeater.

Other Activities:

ARRL SECTION NET: Second Wednesday night each month, at 7:00 PM on WD6AXM repeater.

No-so-daily, 12:00 (noon-ish) – **Lunch Bunch**. Details arranged daily on WD6AXM repeater.

Remember to use 443.85+ repeater (PL 127.3), the Voice of the Sutter Buttes. See The Valley Ham News for updates.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Submitted By
Bob McClard W6OWH

The Month of April begins with a day of public service for our club members with about 17 people helping provide much needed communications for The Bike Around the Buttes on Saturday April 14th. This is a great chance for newcomers to bring out their new/used rigs and antennas for a day of public service. This has been an annual club supported event for about 20 years. Springtime in the Buttes is a wonder time and members will enjoy the drive and chance to be a part of an event that draws about 1000 bicycle riders from all over northern California. We help with sag wagon duties and pass traffic to other volunteer helpers. The lunch and shirt help make it a pleasant day. The repeater makes it possible to have contact on all 3 courses at all times. Herb is heading up this event and if you wish to volunteer phone him at 674-3648 or contact him on the Monday Night Net. There should be more about this event elsewhere in this newsletter or check the club web site. (ysarc.org)

We had fifteen new hams pass or upgrade licenses on March 3rd. When you hear some of the new calls jump in and greet them with a friendly hello, how was it taking the test, and do you know about our Monday and Thursday night nets. We always have room for more. Throw out the welcome mat. Those first few contacts will be set in their memories FOR LIFE. It is our responsibility to make them pleasurable and fun so they will want to come back on the air. It can be very uncomfortable to get on the first few times... intimidating to be sure so don't embarrasses them if they make a small faux pas. (I have heard old timers correct new hams in a tactless manner and the hams have not been heard on our system again. I have heard this happen three times in the past year and this should not happen again.)

Our membership reaches from South Sacramento to Redding, west to Arbuckle and east to Grass Valley covering most of the Sacramento Valley. The reason for the club membership covering the Sacramento Valley is that we have the best technician (WD6AXM), location (Sutter Buttes), and equipment giving our repeater an RF footprint second to none in the Sacramento Valley. So remember when you just key up and don't say anything or do say something you are impacting an area the size of some eastern states. The repeater ties nearly 100 of us together with a bond of expectation and fun. The club is like a person with a heart and the repeater is the heart of this great Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club. Each action we do affects all the other parts. Part of keeping the club healthy is being respectful of others at all times. This is a fun hobby and we all need to do our part to keep it that way.

Is this only a repeater club like some other clubs? If you check out the Schedule of Events elsewhere you will see that we are much more. If you like to socialize, work mobile, DX, VHF, UHF, contest, perform public service, operate Field Day, or make antennas you will find others in our club to share with you. Today I saw this: Jerry and Melinda drove to the Jack-in-the-Box with three other Lincoln hams in tow to share his antenna design with us and introduce us to Stu, Nikki and Fred. (Hope I got that right). I brought Chuck KI6IND of Penn Valley along and we had an enjoyable two hour visit sharing antenna information. Stu showed us a solid new mobile mount on his truck made with Jerry's help. Jerry had a 20 meter Bazooka he draped out in the parking lot for all to see. This is just one example on one day of all the fun we share in a club. Keeping it fun is all our responsibilities. Thank you, David WD6SCD, for your gift of bringing people together in a joyous way. You make good things happen. Also, thank you to all the board members and officers who help make my job as your President one of great satisfaction.

I'm still getting up to speed on all the things going on behind the scenes. Did you know the club has a trailer with a tower for Club use? Did you know your board was asked to submit a volunteer for the Sutter County Grand Jury? Did you know two or three of our board members have served on the Grand Jury? Did you know one of our members owns a helicopter that he uses in agriculture spraying?

Remember we meet with the OARS club on Saturday April 21st at HIGH NOON at the Gold Country Casino, Oroville. We have done this before and all had a great time. We meet at the Buffet upstairs inside the new Casino. This is a smoke free dining area. This gives our club an outreach to our northern members. The cost for complete lunch with drink is about seven dollars. Hope to see you there.
73 Bob W6OWH

TREASURER'S REPORT

YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT

MARCH, 2007

CHECKING BALANCE: FEBRUARY, 2007

\$2,592.12

RECEIPTS DEPOSITED

3/5	DUES: KI6BKL/KI6CSM - \$22; VEC - \$210; RETURN CASH: \$41	\$ 273.00
3/7	VEC:	28.00
3/12	DUES: KG6PNH	18.00
3/27	DUES: W6HUK/K6RQC (Jose/Rae Cosea); KI6IND (Chuck Murphy) N6YZP (Mark Parker); KE6ITK (Michael Lesnewsky)	76.00

TOTAL \$ 2,987.12

BILLS:

1068	PIP - newsletter	\$ 23.62
1069	CASH - return of money for change for VEC session:	40.00
1070	POSTMASTER - Olivehurst - 40 stamps	15.60
1071	ARRL VEC:	238.00
1072	CWNET - web site fee	121.88

TOTAL \$ 439.10

CHECKING BALANCE: checkbook/bank statement agree

\$ 2548.02

Less Repeater Balance \$690.80
" " V.E. 125.10

TOTAL: \$815.90

LESS: \$ 815.90

CLUB BALANCE:

\$1,732.12

SUBMITTED BY: CLARA ANSLEY KC6JPP TREASURER

We are unable to provide the YSARC Club Roster with The Valley Ham News this month. It will be distributed with next month's newsletter. You may go to the club web site at ysarc.org to print a hard copy for immediate use.

QST-QST-QST Check-in Monday Nights at 7:00 p.m. with YSARC!

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

YSARC Board Meeting

March 28, 2007

Meeting brought to order at 7:10PM

Ron Murdoch's Residence

Officers in Attendance: Bob McClard, President W6OWH; Don Fair, Vice President KB6RHJ; Clara

Ansley, Treasurer KC6JPP; and Manna Whelchel Secretary KG6PNE.

Board Members in attendance: Ron Murdoch W6KJ; Herb Puckett W6HBU; Steve Sweetman K6YCS; David Wainer WD6SCD. Members absent: Lee Sheffield KC6MCI.

The Secretary Manna read the Minutes of the last Board Meeting held at Herb's residence. Ron made the motion that the minutes be approved as read and Clara seconded. M/S/P

Clara read the Treasurer's report. Members and new members are sending in their dues. Yeah!! The Club current balance is \$2,548.02. Ron made the motion that the Treasurer's report be approved as read and Herb seconded. Printed elsewhere in the VHN. M/S/P

Bob read the mail: 1. The Club received a questionnaire from Superior Court of CA, County of Sutter, re an invitation to be on Grand Jury. No one present was interested in serving. Three had served prior years. 2. The Club received a bill from the DMV for trailer registration. Ron said the club had a trailer which is up at Pete Visali's place. The trailer has a tower that could be used for field day and other club uses. 3. Bob read a letter from Sid Padrick - N6OTW: He has a new computer and radio programming capabilities for Yaesu FT 170 and FT-2800. Club members are welcome to contact him if they would like to program their rigs. He has made the offer to have this equipment available to club members for no charge. Bob W6OWH has a similar program and free programming offer for the Icom handheld ... IC T7H.

VE Session, March 3rd: 15 of 17 passed! March 3rd with 15 passing. Herb reported the VE session ran out of General exams. As far as we know, all test takers have received their licenses. Herb stated that there is a lot of enthusiasm going on now in the ham radio field.

BOK KAI report: Ron. There were six ham operators there. All felt a few more operators would have helped. He said the parade was temporarily stopped due to a rope falling off a wire. We had bands, clubs, horses, fire engines and a dragon to make for an entertaining parade. Working the staging area was preferable to working the barricades. We had no unruly drivers to deal with.

FIELD DAY INFO: Bob, Pat and Dave went to look at the 2007 site and felt it was great. Dave said Mark's ag spraying area is open to us for a Field Day site. We can set up poles, trailers, tents and run generators without disturbing anyone. Mark is very open and willing and enthused to have the Ham club field day there on his property. Ok to BBQ; There are mowed lawns; helicopter pad for setting up equipment. Ron made the motion to approve the expenditure of \$50.00 for supplies. Herb seconded. M/S/P. Members to bring the potluck stuff..... yum!

BOB made the announcement that Leo will be the interim Newsletter editor. When sending articles to Leo for the newsletter, save in Rich Text format, or Word Perfect. When sending photo's please send as jpeg compressed. Again, FEEL FREE to submit an article or picture to Leo. (address: k7ppm@hotmail.com)

Thank you Sean for your past diligent work on The Valley Ham News and continued presence as our web page editor.

Discussion re Domain name and web site hosting: Our web site was down for a few days but is up and running again. Our check was received for the annual web- hosting fee but seemed to be not credited as paid. We expect the issue to be resolved soon.

Club Trailer: Steve brought up topic of a Club trailer that we have had for years. This was a surprise to many board members and officers. It has been stored at Pete's in Dobbins for about 5 years. Before that it was at Robbie's. Ron made a motion that we: 1) move and store trailer at Steve's place; 2) Have Secretary send thank you note to Pete for his storage of our trailer; 3) Trailer to be used for Field Days and other events. Herb seconded the motion. M/S/P

Much discussion re Bike Around the Butte's Saturday April 14th: 1. The use of the Red Cross Emergency Communication Vehicle was discussed and it was decided Herb would bring his trailer as a comm. base.

2. Herb would like to see people use actual mobiles with higher power. Handheld rigs have limited range with their lower power and can be difficult to copy at times. He has mobile rigs and mag-mount antennas to lend just for this special event. If in need, contact Herb or a quick call to HRO can bring that shiny new mobile tomorrow... Hi Hi.

YSARC Repeater: There was a discussion relative to organizations wishing to use the YSARC repeater for an extended period of time for a purpose other than open communication. This was a follow-up on the discussion Don brought up at the February Board meeting. No consensus was reached so the discussion was tabled till next month.

Meeting adjourned approx 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted, Manna Whelchel

WHO AM I



I live in the foothills and often travel to far off places to work, like Hawaii or Asia. I am good with computers. I join the lunch bunch when I'm in town. My wife is a ham too and she likes animals. I am friendly and good natured.

Find out next month who I am.

Answer to March Who Am I

Old timer Sid Padrick N6OTW of Linda.

He started in radio with the military in 1942. He was assigned to several locations installing radio stations. He spent six years on the African Continent. Now a very active retired senior. His station is a model of organization and efficiency.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This is my first effort with The VALLEY HAM NEWS. I have agreed to this effort on an interim basis, and if it works out for me I will make this a long term effort. I can use assistance. If you are interested or have experience, please contact me. With the wealth of experience in this club, members with specific amateur radio related interests, are encouraged to submit an article (or articles!) to be included in the newsletter.

I will use this opportunity to thank the Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club Board Members for giving me this opportunity to serve you in this capacity.

Leo K7PPM

REFLECTIONS ON DIRECTION FINDING

Submitted By

Ron, W6KJ

Saturday, March 17th, had a dozen or so stalwart YSARC members out in Linda near the Fire Station at the old Peach Tree Mall. We gathered there for a scheduled event to introduce the club's existing direction finding gear, and demonstrate techniques for finding a transmitting station.

It has been over a decade since we started this effort. We used mobile tracking stations to find and identify multiple sources of interference, both intentional and accidental. Since then we have not had an active group of df'ers, and it is time that we get people active.

Many club members have equipped themselves with portable radios, attenuators, and antennas capable of quickly determining the direction of a transmitted signal. The club has four Agrelo DF Jr. Doppler direction finders to aid in this effort. Two of them are stored in my garage, and that is two too many. They should be deployed to members who can get them on the road in a hurry.



HERB AND THE GROUP ARE
TAKING IT ALL IN



RON STANDING BY HIS VEHICLE
WHILE PRESENTING DIRECTION
FINDING TECHNIQUES

The stuck transmitter is the most common offending signal source. It is in the same category as an accidental source, like a malfunctioning cable TV junction, or a repeater amplifier that has malfunctioned. These sources are capable of holding open our repeater with a signal on the input frequency sufficient to activate the Carrier Operated Relay and turn on the repeater's transmitter. A constant source will time out the repeater and require us to find the source. I call this a *compliant signal*. It is there long enough for us to eventually find it.

Jammers have bothered repeater operators around the country. Intentional jamming stations try to disrupt normal repeater operations for the same reason vandals tear down what others have built. Jammers are not capable of building anything themselves and so get there kicks by ruining or trying to ruin what others have built. This is a *non-compliant signal*. Besides jammers, there are some wandering signals that are unintentionally generated but still cause interference. These may or may not stay on the air long enough for searchers to find.

Most jammers know exactly what they are doing and so will vary their periods of transmission and move frequently to frustrate efforts of direction finding stations. What is required is discipline by the direction finders to field a team if necessary to locate and identify the offending transmission.

At this point, let me suggest a strategy. First determine if the signal is compliant or not. Second, if you have a directional vhf or vhf/uhf beam antenna for your home station, invest in a rotator than can be referenced to True North. (Line the antenna up with the North Star, Polaris, on a clear night when you can see both the antenna and the star. Then make sure your antenna rotor control indicates True North, 360 degrees.)

Third, take part in direction finding activity and learn the basics of this skill. It will come in handy, if only to entertain you and keep you in touch with new stations as they appear on our repeater. You can listen to the input of the repeater and figure out from which direction they are transmitting. If you have the rotor and antenna properly lined up, then equip yourself with a good local map (or set of maps) so you can get an idea where the bearing of a signal comes from and relay that information to another df'er.

Relay should occur off the repeater for obvious reasons. Other bands or means of communication should be used to relay this information, especially if overt jamming is suspected.

Even a hand held three-element yagi can be used to get a source signal direction if you can hear it at ground level. You may want to start in your back yard then progress to a more open area away from houses and tall buildings. Remember to note down the direction of the signal and the locations from which you are able to hear it. Time and signal quality is good information too.

The club will hold more direction finding events if there is interest. Nice weather is a plus for this as is daylight. It is nice to be able to see what you are doing.
73, Ron, W6KJ

A Note From Sid -- N6OTW

I now have a computerized program for the Yaesu FT 2800M, and for the Yaesu HT VX-170. If anyone withes to use either of these programs they are welcome to come over and use them as much as they like.....No charge of course. Call Sid at 742-6811. If he is not in, leave a message You can also reach him on his cell phone, 531-5059.

Thanks Sid for this very thoughtful offer.

2007 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

KB6RHJ Donald FAIR--had his Amateur Extra License

KI6IND Chuck Murphey--Note corrected last name spelling, correct e-mail address, and he is an ARRL member

N6EMF Wilson Head--Note first name correction

K7PPM Leo Gilman--Has his Amateur Extra License

2007 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bob McClard, W6OWH

Vice President: Don Fair, KB6RHJ

Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Murdock, W6KJ

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI

Steve Sweetman, K6YCS

David Wainer, WD6SCD

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Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

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