

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

Web Page: [www.ysarc.org](http://www.ysarc.org)

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## MAY 2007 Edition

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Antenna Saturday is coming May 12<sup>th</sup>.**

If you are interested in building your own antenna or getting one analyzed then you want to be there. One of the most satisfying aspects of amateur radio for me is building my own "Homebrew" antennas not only for myself, but for other hams as well.

It is very gratifying to hear a fellow ham say, "I got my antenna from KC6MCI and it sure works great".

I've made many dipole antennas, quad antennas for both HF and VHF bands, J-Poles and motorized multi-band mobile HF antennas, but I must admit, all of the antenna designs that I have made were not my own. Most of which were taken from calculator programs on the internet and some were just copied from other manufacturers. However, building them has been and still is a great hobby and pastime for me and it still amazes me that something I built myself with just a little bit of wire can allow me to talk to someone on the other side of town or the other side of the world.

Since 1990 I think I have only purchased four factory made two meter vertical antennas for mobile use. All others have been "Homebrews".

One of my favorite homebrew antennas is the "DK3". It is a motorized multi-band HF mobile antenna that operates from 10 through 80 meters and without the use of tuner.

The original design is by Don Johnson (W6AAQ). Other manufacturers build them as well such as High Sierra. It is also called a screwdriver antenna since it is powered by a cordless screwdriver inside the antenna. I'll have one disassembled and on display at Antenna Saturday.

Below are a few antenna design websites:

<http://www.commparts.com/antutorial.htm#2mjpole>  
<http://www.commparts.com/JPOL4EVER.html>  
<http://www.hamuniverse.com/jpole.html>  
<http://www.commparts.com/antutorial.htm#designqd>

Submitted by Lee KC6MCI

Directions to the training/meeting site:  
Hwy 65 to McGowen then west to Rose,  
Turn south (left) on Rose and go to the end  
then turn left on Mage. It is on the left side.

<b>MAY</b>	5	Saturday, <b>VE Testing</b> 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
<b>JUNE</b>	9	Second Saturday, <b>Club Breakfast Meeting</b>	Location TBA	9:00	AM
	16	Saturday-Kids Day, show a kid ham radio			
	23 & 24	<b>Field Days</b> (Saturday and Sunday)	Location TBA		



<b><u>JULY</u></b>	7	Saturday, VE Testing	EV Free Church	@ 700 Washington Ave., YC	9:00 AM
	21	Club Picnic, Saturday		Location TBA	11:00 AM
<b><u>AUG.</u></b>	11	Saturday, Club Breakfast		Location TBA	9:00 AM
	22	Board Meeting		Location TBA	7:00 PM
<b><u>SEPT.</u></b>	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
<b><u>OCT.</u></b>	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,	<b>Pacificon</b> Ham Fest-Bigger/Better		@ San Ramon Marriott	
	24	Board Meeting	Wednesday	Location TBA	7:00 PM
<b><u>NOV.</u></b>	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
<b><u>DEC.</u></b>	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**

Have you ever wondered if the overall number of hams in the USA is growing or shrinking? Well, here are some of the statistics from the ARRL ham radio statistician Joe Speroni.

1. The total number of Amateur Extra licensees is up 1649 from March 2006 to March 2007, while the General population grew by 2668.

2. The total number of Technician licensees dropped by 1632 during the same period.

3. His figures also show that the grand total of all Amateur Radio Station licenses has declined by more than 12,800 over the past two years – to 655,048 at the end of March. The drop may open up some of the better personalized calls for you. Easily check out available calls on <http://www.vanityhq.com/>. You may find the call you have always wanted.

**The ARRL VEC is still seeing a heavy volume of license applications and**



this has stretched the amount of time it takes for an application to proceed from examination session to license grant. "I think we're looking at eight to **ten days** from the test date," Somma allowed. A staff of **seven full-time** and three part-time employees handle the "incoming exams" from Amateur Radio exam sessions across the USA. As a point of interest David, WD6SCD, just received his new general and it took about 14 days from test date to arrival. Remember the club May test session is on the 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM in case you want to upgrade. If you are a new VE please let Herb, W6HBU, know you would like to attend and help.

**On April 21<sup>st</sup> about 36 members** of OARS and YSARC met at the Gold Country Casio for a fine joint lunch and informal chat. It was good to chat with some of our Oroville members and OARS friends. NE1CH, Tee Jay took pictures for your enjoyment which I hope are printed elsewhere in the VHN and on the web. Thanks Tee Jay.

**The main Club Meeting for May 12th is at Don's KB6RHJ QTH.** Members can build a dipole from the "ground up", including these steps: measuring, cutting, soldering and tuning. This will be fun for all. They will go through all the steps with the able assistance of some of our experienced antenna builders as guides. Builders will be able to take home a tuned dipole and will only have to attach coax and antenna supports. So if you are a new general or Tech that wants to get ready for 6 meters or are a soon to be general then please come. We have planned an educational and fun time for all. Don't miss this event. **(Parts have been donated JUST FOR YOU.)**

The Yuba Sutter ARC will participate in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) 2007 Field Day event on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup>. You can download a copy of the 2007 Field Day Rules (PDF), or the complete 2007 Field Day Package (PDF).

John L. Gaffey, WS1EA has written a helpful primer for organizing your own Field Day event.

YSARC will likely operate in the 2A category, with two HF radio stations on emergency power at a temporary location near the Sutter County Airport at the Ag helicopter area. We plan to have four operating radio stations:

- HF station operating Single Sideband (SSB) voice;
- HF station split between operating CW (Morse Code) and PSK31/RTTY (keyboard);
- VHF/satellite station (not counted in category number);
- GOTA (Get On The Air) station (not counted in the category number);

Our GOTA station will be open to be operated by new hams and anyone who wants to try their hand at operating an amateur radio station. Non-licensed visitors are also welcome to operate the station under direction of our GOTA station captain.

We will likely have demonstrations of other amateur radio communication modes including APRS (Automatic Position Reporting



System), APRS allows wireless tracking of the location of objects in a region. Thanks to Lee, KC6MCI for setting up and operating the PSK 31 station at the YSARC Field Day last year and Pat KI6ZX for operating CW.

### **Schedule for Saturday June 23, 2007**

**12:00pm** Visitors were welcome until 7pm.

**5:30pm** Barbecue, bring a side dish and join us.

**7:00pm** Visitors depart.

I look forward to seeing you all at the month's activities and please offer to help with Field Day. There are opportunities for all on and off the air. The set-up Saturday morning is fun and very educational as we try to get antennas as high and effective as possible. FD is a team effort. We hope to have a band/music for evening entertainment. Yes, we will have free time as we will take turns operating the station. We always have room for late night operators- nite owls. Leo, the VHN editor, is the contact person to sign up for you favorite band and time. See you on the air and stay Radio Active.

73 Bob W6OWH

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

For this month, the treasurers report is separately attached to the news letter.

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

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### **MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING YSARC BOARD MEETING- April 2007 Manna Whelchel's Residence**

The monthly Board Meeting was brought to order about 7:30 PM.

**Officers in attendance:** Bob McClard, President W6OWH; Don Fair, Vice President KB6RHJ; Manna Whelchel, Secretary KG6PNE. **Officers absent:** Clara Ansley, Treasurer KC6JPP.

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

**Our interim Newsletter editor** Leo was in attendance and volunteered to be the Field Day contact person as well. Thanks Leo.

**The secretary Manna**, read the minutes of the last meeting which was held at Ron's residence. Don made the motion to accept minutes as read. David seconded. M/S/P.



Herb reported on the current payment for the Web site and the efforts to get our account credited. At this time we have a copy of the canceled check so the payment issue is taken care of - in the continuing saga of our domain name and web-site payment.

We are looking forward to hearing Clara back on the air and offer any help she may need.

Herb has some antenna work that he wishes to be done. Get ready to help put up a push up mast and small antennas. Fall was suggested as a good time

**Our September Meeting has a special guest** with a power point presentation to show us how we can use the WinSystem. Harry Miller, W6HFM, will be here on Tuesday, September 11, at St Andres Presbyterian Church. His topic will be the **WINSYSTEM** which has repeaters in the United States and in 3 countries. The system uses linked repeaters on the 70 cm band and the internet.

**Are antenna's a MYSTERY to you????** We will do something to de-mystify this for you. Don is hosting an antenna Saturday on May 12, at his house in Marysville. Come and make your own tuned Dipole antenna for 40, 20 or 6 meters. You will leave with a free antenna and the knowledge of how to make a dipole antenna. All licensed club members are welcome at no charge for the material or knowledge. What a deal. As an added point of interest Lee, KC6MCI, will bring his screwdriver HF Mobile antenna and dismantle it so all can see just how it's made. Please bring your portable antenna's if you would like them to be checked out for resonance and low SWR. Don's QTH is located at: 2291 Mage Avenue, Marysville. This event will be from 9am to noon.

**The topic of non-club groups using our repeater was discussed.** This was a continuing discussion from the March Board meeting and it was decided that any request should be brought to the attention of the Board for discussion in reference to each particular situation. Ultimately this information will be talked over with Dave Gartner. Ron moved that **non-club groups wishing to use the club repeater need to have a representative present their proposal at a club Board meeting before the event**, as this should go through the Board first. Herb seconded this motion. M/S/P. Passed unanimously.

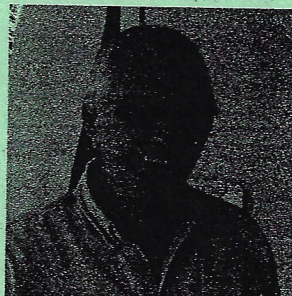
**Field Day discussion:** The Club should place a Notice in newspaper inviting all hams as well as non-hams and friends and interested parties to see our FD site and what amateur radio is all about. The FD location is going to be at the Sutter County Airport by the Helicopter area where there is a large grassy field, trees, water, and facilities to make for a pleasant FD experience. We are planning to supply burgers, hot dogs, and beans for the Saturday night dinner. This is a pot luck so please join us with a favorite dish to share or just show up and make a donation.

**The MAY Board meeting is at Steve's**, N6YCS, QTH up Hammonton Smartville Road on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM. He makes the effort to come to our meetings so we will make the effort to visit his QTH. Thank you, Steve, in advance for hosting  
As the meeting business was concluded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Manna Whelchel, Secretary, KG6PNE

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## WHO AM I



I was first licensed in late 1989 but I have not been real active until a year and a half ago.

I am interested in increasing my code speed; my favorite mode of operation is single sideband. I use a GAP multi-band antenna.

Continued on next page



### Answer to March Who Am I (cont.)

The "Who Am I" for last month was Curtis KF6VFP. Curtis was our past President, Vice President, and current keeper of the membership roster. He can be spotted at the Y.C. Racket Club working out when he is in the state

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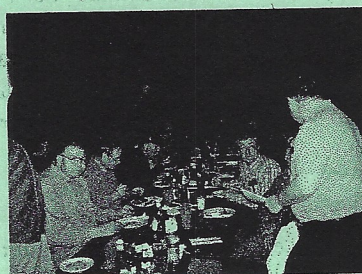
### **JOINT OARS/YSARC LUNCHEON AT OROVILLE GOLD COUNTRY CASINO**

The luncheon meeting at Gold Country Casino in Oroville was a success. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend. I understand that it was good food and good conversation. Those I talked to wanted to have the luncheon again next year.

"TJ" NE1CQ and Steve K6YCS provided the following pictures:



Bob W6OWH talks with Bob of OARS  
about the 2 repeaters located at his QTH



The Luncheon Group Bob



Howard W6AIL

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### Can anyone hear me?

By Don KB6RHJ

Now that the code requirement for any Ham license has gone away we seem have an epidemic this spring of up-grade fever upon the ham community. After the up-grade now what will you do with it? It is time to up-grade to HF! But what frequency and what antenna do you want to try?

I asked a few of the more experienced hams at the Wednesday coffee and donuts last week and here are their thoughts. When I asked what their favorite frequencies this is what they said. W6OWH-Bob likes 17 meters. He called it the friendly frequency. W6OTW- Sid likes 80 meters because he has friends on that band. K7PPM- Leo favors 40 meters. KC6MCI- Lee likes 20 meters for PSK 31. W6KJ- Ron likes 20 meters and when it is open 10 meters. W6HUB- Herb likes 40 meters because he can work it most of the time. So much for a consensus on frequencies, what about antennas?

I asked the same experienced hams about the antennas they use and again I got mixed answers. W6HUB-Herb's favorite is a beam for 20-15-10 meters. W6KJ- Ron likes his 4 element quad. W6OTW- Sid uses wires. W7XRX- Ted uses a wire for 20 meters. K7PPM- Leo uses ham sticks and inverted "V's". KC6MCI-

Lee likes quads. W6OWH- Bob likes his Windom but does have a beam.

So there you have all the info you need to get going full speed on HF.

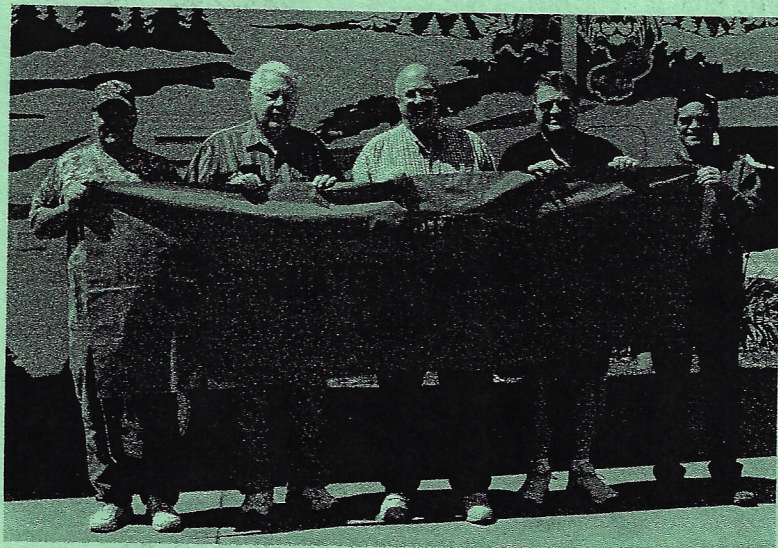
I think the most important thing is to get on the air and make some contacts which will very likely lead to some life long friends. Beams and towers can require some capital outlay while a wire is very inexpensive. The room you have for an antenna may decide for you. Don't forget that this is a hobby and it is ok for you to have fun. Contact any of the hams mentioned for advice about their favorites. One thing I have found out is that hams like to talk about radio.



## It was the most amazing thing.

**Saturday, April 14, we saved 34 people.**

Twenty-one of us ham operators, organized and led by Herb Puckett, W6HBU, saved 34 people. We can be very proud of this accomplishment. Far from a nice Spring day, the rain was almost constant, making the even a real trial for hundreds of dedicated bike riders.



Each year, when Bike Around the Buttes plays out, we have a certain feeling of having done something important. But this year, when you look at the figures, was something really special. As I walked away from Herb's trailer Saturday afternoon, one of the event organizers asked me how many we had rescued. "Thirty-four," I answered, "And we traveled 1,270 miles!"

Tom Galbreath, KB6WID, drove 160 miles, while Steve Sweetman, K6YCS, recorded a whopping 188. All SAG drivers, none of whom drove less than 89 miles back and forth over their assigned routes, witnessed very challenging conditions for the riders. It was very fortunate for them that we were there.

The top rescue driver was Bob Oden, K6RCO, of Oroville, bringing in nine dripping wet, cold, tired riders. Steve, K6YCS, brought in seven similarly beat athletes.

Tom, KB6WID, rescued 5, Marsha Sylvester-Jose, KI6CSN, in her first BATB as a SAG, rescued 3. Curtis Sylvester-Jose, her OM, covered the 40-mile route as a SAG driver while the rescues were taking place. Lee, KC6MCI, brought three back also, as did Bob, W6OWH, also a first timer as a SAG. Chuck, KI6IND, who was helping to man rest stop 4, assisted by picking up a rider with a disabled bike on the south loop of the 100 mile ride, so that the rider could be brought in by a SAG vehicle. Mike Cook, KG6TTM, had a grand total of four rescues, while Michael Hardesty, sporting his new call sign AF6AK, brought in two. Barry Barnes, KE6LW, brought in two and took over as net control (while driving his route!) when I left the NCS volume control down too long during an attempt at fixing one of our mobile rigs.

Rest stops were limited to just five this year, and were manned by Mike, AF6AK, relieved by Vicki Ball, KI6EDS; Sean Murphy, KI6BKL, had rest stop two; Eleanor Knox KI6CSO, had rest stop three, supported by David Warner, KI6FRR; and Chuck Murphy, KI6IND, and Mike Lesnewsky, KI6ITK, both of Penn Valley, had rest stop four on the south loop of the 100 mile course.

Michael Hardesty, after taking the initial stint at rest stop one, filled a vital role as a router, a job we hadn't even considered before, as bikers rode through poorly marked intended turns. Mike did this at two different places on the route. One of our backup operators, Tim Wells, W6TWI, of Paradise, filled this role at the end of Pass Road, keeping 40 mile riders from bothering Barry all the way over at Lovey's Landing.

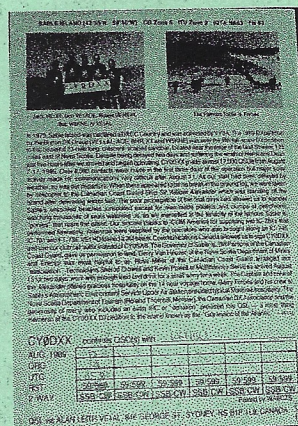
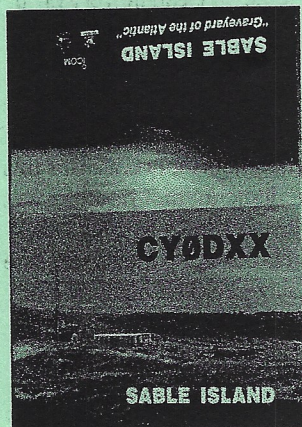
Clara Ansley, our angel, KC6JPP, took over at net control when needed, before leaving for a well-deserved evening with her daughter. Darrell Mefford, KI6DGW, of Magalia, acted as shadow for the event organizers, relaying information on riders and supplies to and from net control as required. Herb set up his RV, radio and antenna so we could control this event. I got to run the show. It was wonderful to have enough people who were ready to do what was needed, who came up with solutions rather than problems, and who seemed to have so much fun doing it. For amateurs, we did a professional job. If you missed it, there is always next year. There were a lot of grins at the end of this day, and nobody got hurt.

73, Ron Murdock, W6KJ



Herb W6HBU provided me with this QSL card from the 1989 Sable Island Dxpedition. The card is quite unique in that it folds with a picture on each flap of the outside, and inside there is information about the island and the success of the Trip. The island is 111 miles southeast of Nova

Scotia in the Atlantic Ocean. Sable island is known for its wild horses. The island was declared a DXCC country in 1775.



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#### 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

#### REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

Interim Editor: Leo Gilman, K7PPM E-mail: [k7ppm@hotmail.com](mailto:k7ppm@hotmail.com)

Webmaster: Sean Murphy, KI6BKL E-mail: [ki6bkl@arri.net](mailto:ki6bkl@arri.net)



TREASURER'S REPORT  
APRIL, 2007

CHECKING BALANCE MARCH, 2007: \$2,548.02

RECEIPTS DEPOSITED:

04-07: Dues: KE6LW-\$18, KI6AQO-\$18, N6OTW-\$18-KI6NY (Cornils)-\$18,  
Donations: KE6LW-\$2, N6OTW-\$2 - (\$4) \$ 76.00

04-17: Dues: KG6JOM - \$18/\$2 donation, Diabetes Donation for SAG-\$275,  
SAG rider donated \$20 \$ 315.00

TOTAL: \$2,939.02

BILLS:

1073 DMV - trailer license fee \$ 10.00

1074 Copy City: 30 newsletters - 70 rosters \$ 96.10

1075 Postmaster-Olivehurst: 100 stamps-\$39, 44-.24 cent stamps-\$10.56. \$ 49.56

1076 Thomas Galbreath: SAG 160 mi. \$ 32.68

1077 Lee Sheffield: SAG 121 mi. \$ 24.72

1078 Curtis/Marsha Sylvester-Jose: SAG 297 mi. \$ 60.67

1079 Bob McClard: SAG 144 mi. \$ 29.41

1080 Steve Sweetman: SAG 168 mi. \$ 38.40

1081 Voided

1082 Voided by mistake

1083 Robert Oden: SAG 89 mi. \$ 18.18

1084 (Voided) Michael Hardesty SAG 80 mi-returned money to be used for a  
partial dues payment of \$16.34)

1085 Michael Cook: SAG 99 mi. \$ 20.22

TOTAL: \$ 379.94

Barry Barnes drove 166 miles SAG for which he was to receive \$33.91. He  
generously donated this amount to the club. THANK YOU BARRY !!

CHECKING BALANCE: \$2,559.08

Less Repeater Balance: \$690.80

Less VE : : \$125.10

Total: \$815.90 Leas: \$ 815.90

CLUB BALANCE: \$1,743.18

Submitted By: Clara M. Ansley KC6JPP.



REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## Membership Application: YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Application Type: (Check one) ☐ New ☐ Renewal Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please Print)

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ List in Directory OK? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Associate Family Member Information (Living in the same Household only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please Print)

Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$18 per Year or \$36 for 2 yrs and saving your officers lots of work)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Associate Dues: \$4.00 per year or \$8 for 2 yrs)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total ☐ Check ☐ Cash

Would you Prefer electronic e-mail link notification of the Valley Ham News and printing it at home, thus saving the club about \$1.00 per issue or about \$12.00 per year? ☐ Yes(Thanks) ☐ No (Thank you)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print this Form or remove from Valley Ham News, then Fill it out, and Mail with your dues to:

Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Clara Ansley, KC6JPP 1943 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Olivehurst, CA 95961

VALLEY HAM NEWS  
Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
c/o Clara Ansley, KC6JPP  
P.O. Box 1169  
Yuba City, 95992

To: