

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
A California Non-Profit Organization

October
2007 Edition

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Bob McClard, W6OWH
Vice President: Don Fair, KB6RHJ
Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Ron Murdock, W6KJ
David Wainer, WD6SCD
Steve Sweetman, K6YCS

UPCOMING EVENTS

October	6-7: Saturday-Sunday California QSO Party 9: Tuesday Club Meeting 19-21; Fri.-Sun., Pacificon Ham Fest 17: Wednesday, Board Meeting	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City San Ramon Marriott Leo's Residence K7PPM	7:00 PM 7:00 PM
November	3: Saturday, VE Testing 3: Saturday, LOVE Ride Radio Support for "Lake Oroville Endurance Ride"- Contact Paul, N6XVL 11 Sunday, Veteran's Day Parade; 13: Tuesday, Election of 2008 Officers	Cornerstone Evangelical Church Contact Paul, N6XVL St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
December	11: Tuesday, Christmas Party Potluck and Prize Drawing 17: Monday, Board Meeting	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City Herb, W6HBU's Residence	6:00 PM 7:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS - Continued

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. - Weekly net with swap shop and help sessions on the local repeater (146.085 minus-PL=127.3).

Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. - Butte County ARES net on Chico repeater (146.850 minus-PL=110.0).

Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM - YSARES Net on the local repeater.

Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. - Coffee and donuts get together. Location varies. Check on the Monday night net.

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM - the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Net on the local repeater.

US ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS AT SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

So there I was, on a peaceful Saturday morning, sitting peacefully in my camp chair, high above Lake Tahoe. Suddenly there was the commotion of a human body flailing through the brush. This person was in a hurry, and I had been waiting hours for him to arrive. He was only the first of 22 competitors to come my way.

On Saturday, September 14, 2007, the U.S. Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) competition got underway with 30 competitors attempting to find five transmitters in the shortest possible time. The course was shaped roughly like a pork chop, in fairly thick brushy, forested terrain at Camp Concord near South Lake Tahoe. Some transmitters were as close as 700 meters, others about 1600 meters apart.

Imagine a track meet cross country event over

broken terrain with all the forest wildlife present, (we did encounter a bear), and thirty competitors carrying radios and antennas, charging around trying to find the transmitting stations, and do it before someone else. If you have that image, you have a decent idea of how ARDF operates.

You have to be in decent physical condition, and know your equipment capabilities and limitations. I was serving as a race marshal at transmitter number 3.

You can see in the photo at the left the basic equipment. First the competitor dressed for brush crashing, equipped with a finger mounted RFID stick on his right hand in which he also grasps a map board depicting the local terrain. In his left hand he carries a three element 2 meter yagi to which is attached a radio receiver and an attenuator. By listening to the correct one minute transmission, he can zero in on the transmitter and eventually find it. Once in the immediate vicinity, perhaps 30 yards, he or she can see it clearly marked by a flag mounted just off the ground. The RFID stick is inserted into a time clock-like device, and the competitor races off to find the next transmitter. There is no time for celebration, no arms thrust in the air, no joyous shouts of triumph. He or she must get on with it, find the next transmitter or the finish line. It all has to be done in three hours. This competitor is Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, of Goleta, CA.

My own participation as race marshal was limited to photography during the actual run. Once the three-hour period was up, I took the transmitting station apart and returned all materials to Camp Concord's dining hall. (Did I mention it was all up



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hill to my car, with both hands full of gear? I used to be in better shape!)

Saturday night we enjoyed a nice tri-tip supper and an awards ceremony. I got to help hand out the awards for the 2-meter competition.



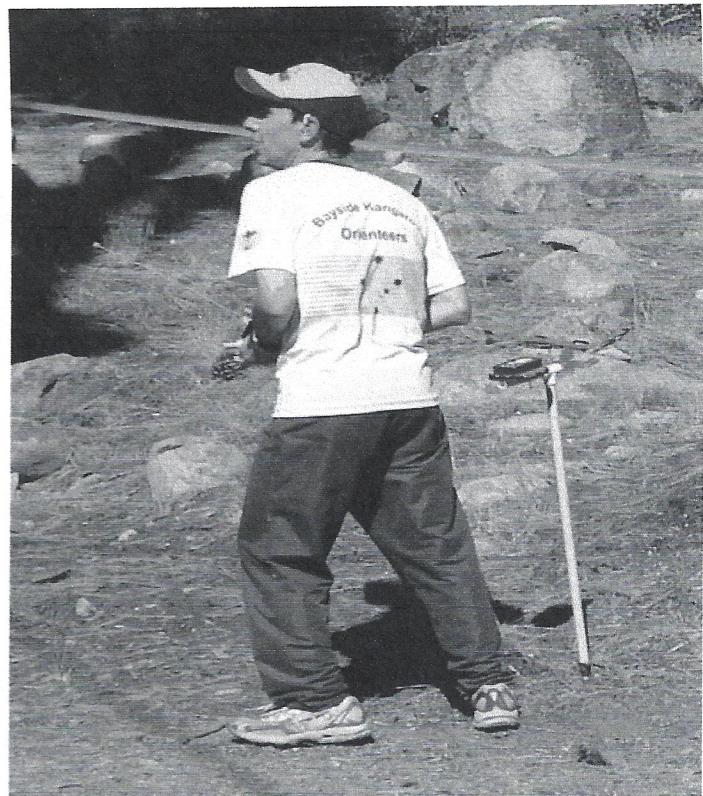
The striped ribbons are all attached to medals for the US competitors, and the solid purple ribbons (and medals) are awarded to the international competitors. On Sunday, the first finisher was Brian Ackerly, VK3YNG. Sunday was a repeat of the exercise of Saturday, but the transmitters and equipment were all on 80 meters. DF loops were carried and used by competitors in this event, and yes, the receivers had to be 80 meter capable.

Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club (BARC) and the Los Angeles Orienteering Club (LAOC) sponsored the competition. Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, was the meet director (or chairman), Joe Moell, K0OV, handled publicity, and Bob Cooley, KF6VSE, was the course setter.

Due to airline reservations, and a late start resulting from transmitter glitches, many competitors on Sunday had to finish the event and get on the road. I cannot say how the awards were handed out on Sunday, as I also had to leave. But I can tell you that this group of radio enthusiasts is skilled and able. If you think you can pull one over on them by hiding a transmitter, think again. I believe they would find it.

73,

Ron Murdock, W6KJ
Section Manager Sacramento Valley



Photos by Ron, W6KJ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A few weeks back, club members said goodby to the ham behind the W6BBC station, Stormy (ROY) who is relocating to Oregon. He left behind a wonderful station there at the Linda Bible Baptist Church. His daughter will be keeping things warm there. Listen for her on 40 meters in the afternoon. He will be joining our friends from Lincoln, Pat and Ted who also have relocated to Oregon. By the way, check out Pat's mobile HF station on her walker in the October issue of QST page 87. Very cool. Ted bought a new Icom IC-7000 at Pacificon last year so he had to find a place to mount his old IC-706 and what better place than on Pats walker with a 7 AH gel cell battery providing the power. How cool is that?

Put on your hearing protection as David, WD6SCD and his friend Kevin and son-in-law Steve are up in the hills shooting anything that has horns and looks like a deer or just target shooting. Those big rifles are mighty loud so some of our foothill

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ams may hear a bang now and then as the hunters clear out the extra bucks from the population. Good luck hunters and just maybe we will have a taste of buck stew this December at the Christmas party.

Fall is here and the California QSO contest is coming up on October 6th-7th. This is a chance to feel like DX with stations all over the US and Canada calling for Sutter County. We are one of the smaller counties in terms of hams. I worked a European country the other night who was actually calling CQ Sutter County so I bagged him. What a treat. So what are you waiting for? Tune up that antenna and check out the HF rig and be ready for the contest at 9 AM PDT (1600Z) October 6-7. Stations outside California can contact any California station for points and we count all 50 states and Canadian Provinces as Multipliers. Stations can be worked for points on phone and CW again on each band.

For more information on Cal QSO Party and a nice free logging program go to the www.cqp.org web site and get ready for a great contest. You don't have to submit a log so don't let that stop you from giving out Sutter County contacts to fellow hams.

Our club meeting Tuesday September 11 was attended by 20 hams with 6 from the town of Lincoln. Thanks for driving up guys. What a great bunch. We went around the room and each ham told of their first ham rig and the cost. Hams reported on radios from 1947 used military rigs to the latest from Yaesu and Icom. Refreshments included hot dogs and Manna's delicious home made cake. New member Dan Foat just tested for technician and has his new call KI6LTA. Listen for him. You can read more about the meeting elsewhere in the VHN.

Club membership stands at 103 which is fantastic. We are growing and continue to service the Sacramento Valley with a top notch repeater and an active club that strives to provide public service (like the up coming Vet Parade November 11@ 9 AM) and educational opportunities to our membership(like the antenna Saturday this spring). Our Monday night net continues to be a popular place for hams to check in and find out what's new in the Sacramento Valley. The ham help portion and swap continue be popular. Remember that on Friday at 7 PM you can hear the ARRL news on the repeater thanks to Ron W6KJ.

As you look over the Treasurer's Report (elsewhere) please note that we have started a new fund for Memorial or Sunshine fund. Clara is taking donations and your board and officers have helped start the fund. Thanks Clara for taking on the extra job.

If you would like to be an officer or board member for the club please let me or another officer or board member know. We have elections in November so your board is planning ahead. We have at least one name volunteered for each position so far except for President. Let me know if you would like to help or suggest a name.

I have not been on the air much the last month as I have been remodeling the shack with the help of my ham friends: WD6SCD, KI6IND and KB6RHJ. Those of you checking in on Monday night net could hear the echo from the bare walls. This project has been good for me just see all the stuff I have accumulated the last 47 years. I have collected things from my dad's shack and various sales. I found some things to give away and others to just toss out in the gray toter. What a feeling of freedom to have a more organized shack.

Hope to work you on the air in the next month and remember we have another club meeting Tuesday October 9 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church on Franklin Avenue, Yuba City. We have a program with Harry Miller giving a PowerPoint presentation on the Win Link system and all the usual fun. CU there.

Your board and officers are working on finding nominations for office next year. If you know of someone or would like to serve please let me know.

73,

Bob W6OWH

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

The last week has been a busy one for the old dad. It was decided that the old RG8X cable to the Windom and Tri Band Beam might hiccup at higher power from the new amplifier. We are in the process

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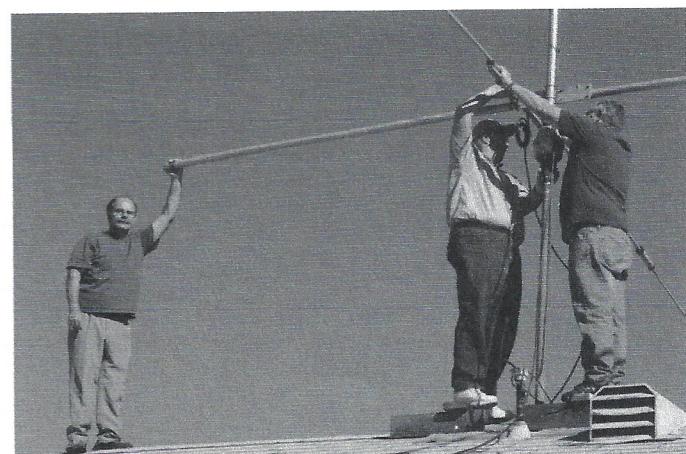
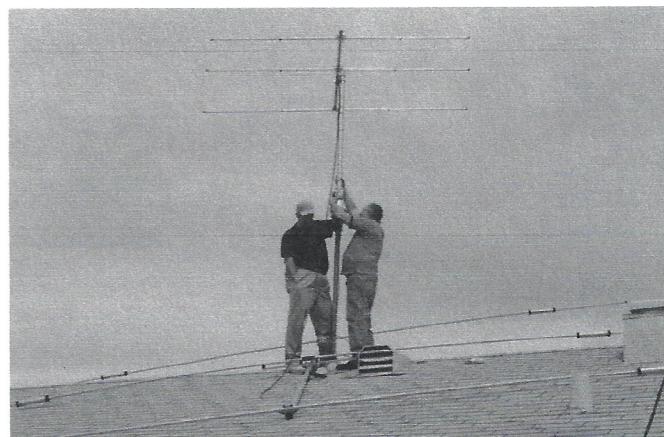
of going from 100 watts to about 600 watts max, so some revamping of the station was in order.

It is indeed an experience trying to procure RG213 or equivalent cable these days with the price of copper sky high. I finally bought a 500-foot reel of heavy duty cable and some good connectors. The plan was to replace all the existing cable and add a 6-meter atop the old tribander. I also built a 6-meter J pole antenna for use on the repeaters in the area.

That's when the trouble started. Once again, Murphy reigned supreme, and there were problems with the J Pole. It would match with a short half wave cable on it, but put the cable into the shack, and the analyzer went crazy. The J Pole still is not installed, and more work will be required. That's a project for a later day.

I am deeply indebted to several club members for two days on the roof and the overcoming of a bunch of obstacles. This when all the material and tools were available before we started. The 6-meter installation is still acting strangely, and I think it is related to cable length. The Windom and 10-15-20 meter beam works as before, and all is well with them. 6 meters is another matter. The frequency is higher, and things are somewhat more critical as to matching, cable length and other aspects of the system.

The idea behind all this is to be able work the California QSO Party with a little more power than the 100 watts out of the 756 PRO III. I believe that objective has been accomplished, but that's as far as we go at present. We'll report on the results next month. Below are some pictures of the roof crew at work. Again, I am indebted to the roof crew, as I fall down on a flat ground, let alone on a sloping roof.



Photos by Bob. W6OWH.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

Club dues are due by the first of January. If a new member joins after the first of June the dues will be prorated at the rate of \$1.50 per month. If a new member joins after the 15th of any of the six months their dues will be .75 for that month, and \$1.50 for remaining months. I would recommend that if you join after June that you might consider paying dues for the following year. Also, may I once again remind you that even though you sent an application when joining, I would appreciate your sending one when you renew your dues. I am asking this, of you, in order to keep our records up to date.

As of September 19, we have 103 members, and a majority of them now receive their newsletter via e-mail. This is saving the Club quite a

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bit of money. I have noted that several of you that receive your newsletter via snail mail also have an e-mail address. I hope that some of you may reconsider and join in receiving your newsletters electronically. Thank you members for your cooperation.

I want to WELCOME those of you who have joined our Club recently. We urge you to join us at our Board meetings and other events when they occur.

73,

Clara, KC6JPP

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 9 GENERAL MEETING

President Bob, W6OWH, called the meeting to order, and those present introduced themselves. At Bob's suggestion, there was a new twist to the self-introductions. Each attendee shared what they started within the way of equipment as a new Ham.

Everything from WWII Surplus material to shiny new solid state transceivers were listed. It showed what wide diversity of people and equipment was and is in the hobby.

Several members from Lincoln were welcomed into the group.

A luncheon in Lincoln was announced, and the several members from Lincoln assured all present that no one would get lost on the way to the restaurant. (Their directions were indeed easy to follow and everyone made it to the restaurant.)

Steve, K6YCS, sold raffle tickets, and after the smoke cleared away, Stu, WA6BTK; Steve, KA6ETB; David, WD6SCD and Eleanor, KI6COM, came away with prizes.

Our scheduled speaker was called away out of state, so our new ARRL Section Manager, Ron, W6KJ, enlightened us with a brief overview of his job and the geographical area of the Sacramento Valley Section. The Section runs from Amador County in the South to the Oregon border in the North, and from the Eastern of the Coast Range in the West to the Nevada Border in the East.

Announcements concerning upcoming meetings and events were made, and we adjourned at about 9:05 AM.

YSARC BOARD MEETING

Minutes
Wed., Sept. 19, 2007
Manna Whelchel's Residence

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

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

Webmaster TJ Jamison was also in attendance.

The secretary Manna read the minutes of our last Board meeting held at Bob's house. Herb made a motion to accept minutes as read. Clara seconded. M/S/P.

EVENTS:

November 11, 2007, Sunday is the Veterans Day Parade. Gather in Marysville at Bank of America parking lot @ 9am. Please let Paul know sooner than later if you are interested in participating.

Bob brought up the Cal QSO contest to get all motivated to think about 'setting up' some place. This event is on Saturday, October 6, 2007 for 24 hours.

The club will approach Don Fair about being a program coordinator for yearly Club events. There are usually about four events per year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Herb gave a report on the recent VE testing session. There were 4 candidates: 3 techs: and 1 extra. ALL

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PASSED. A couple came all the way down from Susanville to take the test.

Steve has taken over the drawings. We have had 2 drawings since he took over. Enthusiasm will start to build. Thanks Steve.

PACIFICON is coming up October 19, 20 and 21 in San Ramon: Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So much to see and do.

Lee is still under the weather with his cold. Herb will cover for him on Monday night net. We are all thinking of you Lee. Get better soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Maryann KE6EST, with LOVE ride (Lake Oroville Endurance) was in attendance at this meeting. David spoke with her about radio communications situations: Hearing vs. not hearing re white noise and dead spots and announcing over the repeater more often throughout any given event – that the repeater is in use for whatever event is underway. Much discussion and input followed. Herb made a motion that the user should reserve the 085 for true emergencies AND, as a last resort when the user cannot get through on another repeater or simplex. Ron seconded. M/S/P unanimously by the board. Jerry will act as liaison when informing Maryann of the club's decision.

Bob stated that the RFL group in Lincoln, as new members, would like to have a complete membership list of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club.

Bob shared appreciation with Clara about her Sunshine account.

Ron brought up the topic of Monday night net. The Net Control person for that night should announce at the beginning of the meeting and maybe more than once - what procedure he or she wants for the net that night so that all will be aware of the 'game plan'.

Bob brought up the slate of officers of Board Members and Officers for the upcoming 2008 calendar year.

Clara said she is including in the newsletter: Dues are due by January 1, of every calendar year. FOR NEW MEMBERS JOINING AFTER JUNE 1: membership dues will be prorated based on day of joining.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Manna Whelchel, Secretary, KG6PNE

YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2007 (Abbreviated Copy)

Checking Balance: August, 2007	\$2,330.26
Receipts Deposited:	324.50
 TOTAL:	\$2,654.76
BILLS:	 155.80
 CHECKING BALANCE:	\$2,499.08
Less Repeater Balance:	\$690.90
Less VE Balance:	141.10
Less Memorial Balance:	71.00
TOTAL:	 \$902.90
Less:	\$902.90
 CLUB BALANCE:	\$1596.18

Submitted by: Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP
Treasurer

Editor's Note:

Due to space constraints, we have an abbreviated copy of the Treasurer's Report this month. The unabridged copy is available for examination and will be made available at the next Board Meeting in October for perusal by interested members. It was this or go for an extra sheet with the attendant increase in printing cost and possibly a doubling of the postage on the mailed copies. Your Editor appreciates your forbearance.