

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

**November
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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

UPCOMING EVENTS

November	3: Saturday, VE Testing	Cornerstone Evangelical Church	9:00 AM
	3: Saturday, LOVE Ride		
	Radio Support for "Lake Oroville Endurance Ride"- Contact Paul, N6XVL		
	11 Sunday, Veteran's Day Parade;	Contact Paul, N6XVL	
	13: Tuesday, Election of 2008 Officers	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City	7:00 PM
December	11: Tuesday, Christmas Party	St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 1390 Franklin Road, Yuba City	6:00 PM
	Potluck and Prize Drawing		
	17: Monday, Board Meeting	Herb, W6HBU's Residence	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

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(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.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Bob McClard, W6OWH, at the home of Sharlene and Leo Gilman.

Present besides the President were: Treasurer Clara Ansley, KC6JPP; Board Members: Herb Puckett, W6HBU; David Wainer, WD6SCD; Ron Murdock, W6KJ; Steve Sweetman, K6YCS; Guests Leo Gilman, K7PPM; and Web Master T. J. Jamison, NE1CQ. Absent were: Secretary, Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE; and Board Member Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI.

A motion was made by Steve Sweetman and seconded that the Minutes of the September 19, 2007, Board Meeting be accepted. Motion passed.

David Wainer reported that the group that puts on the LOVE Ride in Oroville have checked communications and have determined that they can do them on simplex, but not on Repeater 147.045.

Clara Ansley, KC6JPP, made a motion which was seconded that the Newsletter Editor be allowed to put a condensed version of the Treasurer's Report in the Newsletter, thus saving space. Motion passed.

It was reported that Ron Murdock and Herb Puckett submitted their contacts for the California QSO Party.

EVENTS: 11/3; VE Tests-Conerstone Evangelical Church-9:00 AM. 11/3-11/5 sweepstakes. All HF bands, Stations all over the globe. More info on the ARRL web site. 11/11; Veteran's Day Parade-meet in parking lot of Bank of America-D street, Marysville at 9:00 AM; if you want to volunteer contact Paul Johnson, N6XVL. 11/13 Club Elections.

Much discussion took place on how to send pictures to the Web Master for inclusion on our Web

Site. Newsletter to be kept in PDF or HTML form to send to Web Master.

Herb Puckett, W6HBU, stated that we would take \$100.00 from the VE Fund to give as a donation to the Cornerstone Evangelical Church for their allowing us to use their facility for our VE tests.

Ron Murdock, W6KJ, made a motion, which was seconded, that we will give \$75.00 for Bob McClard, W6OWH, to rent the large room, without kitchen, for our Christmas Party. Motion passed.

Ron Murdock stated that the Club's DVD Tech Course has been loaned to the Lincoln group for a class and will be returned to us in time for our Tech class. Ron will notify Clara of the dates for the Tech Class and she will send for the necessary Insurance form that is needed.

Discussion took place as to how we could interest more Tech class members to upgrade. It was noted by several that Techs have spoken of their upgrading if they could attend a General Class. Herb Puckett, W6HBU, and Leo Gilman, K7PPM, both said they would be interested in helping with that class if given. More thought will be given to our Club doing this.

There will be a combined Board Meeting of the 2007/22008 Board at the home Herb Puckett, W6HBU, on December 17, 2007, at 7:00 PM.

Our thanks to Sharlene, KE6ROZ, and Leo Gilman, K7PPM, for their allowing us to use their home for our Board Meeting and providing us with delicious cookies and coffee.

Minutes taken by Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your YSARC Board met October 17 and a list of officers and board members was presented. The names should be listed elsewhere in this paper.

The election is Tuesday November 13th at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as listed on the Club Activities list since. The floor will be open for nominations from the floor and Don KB6RHJ will conduct the election. Following the election we will have a Fox Hunt with a rendezvous at a local dining place.

Pacificon was Great Success. A number of local hams went. Paul N6XVL, Don KB6RHJ, Leo K7PPM and Barry KE6LW plus Bob W6BO were seen by me. Bob was a lucky winner at the Saturday night QRP group meeting of a new IC-703 QRP rig donated by HRO plus a nice portable MP-1 antenna donated by Vern W6MMA of Lincoln. Ron and I spent 3 days there attending numerous forums. The HF pack forum Saturday was great. Over 200 hams jammed onto the room and there were a number of prizes for lucky hams.

A new type of Lithium nanno phosphate battery was introduced with extremely low internal resistance allowing it to put out very high amperage. This small less than 2 pound battery was able to power a new HF radio (the K3 by Elecraft) to nearly 100 watts on CW or Phone. This is new ultra light battery technology makes high current power available for hams and other users like portable power tools. I'm sure we will hear more about this fantastic technology in the future.

Deer hunting has shut down for this year and Lee KC6MCI, Dave WD6SCD and Steve K6YCS are back home. You will have to ask them how they did.

The annual Christmas party and drawing are coming up Tuesday December 11th. We can have another potluck or have a party at Ruthy's Restaurant in Yuba City for \$15 using their nice buffet. We can discuss this at the November meeting. A few have said they would rather not cook but others like the quiet open space of the Church. It is up to you.

The CQWW DX contest November 24-25 was great with DX world wide out looking for contacts. This was an easy way to get some DX. I worked a few new countries: Antarctica and Galapagos Islands and hope you did too.

The Monday night net has grown with our new members checking in at a high rate. I kept a list last Monday and we had more than 40 members and guests.

Wow. See you at the meeting and hope to hear you on the air.

73 Bob W6OWH

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY, VERSION 1

CQp (aka. California QSO Contest) pushed my operating skills to the maximum and I was left mumbling in the operating chair, "Wow, wow" when it was over.

This Old Timer was full-throttle for this year's CQp, a contest that challenged listening and recording skills, moving between microphone, VFO knob and keys on the keyboard, search and pounce (SP) technique, and calling CQ. The intensity of the Cal QSO Contest makes time fly by. We (W6HBU, KG6RHM and I) operated a local net on 2 meters simplex to encourage each other and compare stations worked and frequencies used.

My operating goals were 1) Complete at least 100 QSO's; 2) Operate as much of the 30 hours as possible with some time out a family swim at the new Yuba City pool and a birthday party at my home; 3) Make a clean sweep of all 58 multipliers and work all 50 states. The home station consists of an Icom 746 Pro, Ameritron 411H amp, new Bazooka 80 meter dipole, new 40 meter loop, and Cushcraft TA-33 10, 15, and 30 meter beam at 35 feet. Since I was using resonate antennas no tuner was needed.

I checked propagation a few hours before the start and zero sunspots signaled the bottom of the cycle. Sunspots or not, I was determined to operate but, which band to start? I listened on 10 and 15 and heard no stations so settled on 20 meters with the fixed beam and saved 40 and 80 for when 20 meters shut down or was worked clean. Signals during pre-contest warm-up suggested decent conditions despite the propagation numbers.

I slowly began the contest at 9 AM and used HP technique. I just could not seem to get into a rhythm. Finally in the afternoon I had a run of about 50 contacts on 14.305 Mhz. Wow, what a great feeling to have all the USA calling me... my little station. I have been on the end of many pile ups and just was a little guy in the pile. Well, this time stations wanted me in Sutter County. Like I was the DX. What a great feeling. Station after station identified and I picked them off. I tried to work the little guys in the pile up too. I asked one weak station how long he had waited for his turn and he replied

over 15 minutes. I told him I knew how it felt to wait and call over and over. Even France was worked.

Twenty meters had erupted from a quiet band into a full blown roar with solid QRM filling the band up to 14.320 MHz. So the plan was to call CQ and then move on to HP after things slowed. I had to just stop and take a walk or drink water every hour or so as the pressure was very intense in a great way. Nearly all hams worked were very friendly and polite waiting their turn for the contact. This was really nice.

Forty meters provide a few contacts but nothing like 20. Late in the evening 80 meters was busy then dried up. Did I mention that in the evening I was getting requests to go operate mobile in Colusa County as NO ONE had worked Colusa. I was stunned that hams would ask me to do that. Then I realized that testers across the USA were like me trying for a clean sweep and that would be impossible if the county was not on. At about 11 PM, Pat KI6ZX, and I packed up my portable gear and headed off to set up a station in Colusa. We found a quiet spot and set up an 80 meter dipole about 20 feet off the ground and made contacts for about three hours. The county sheriff came by and asked if we were trying to contact UFO's. I gave him a quick explanation and he was satisfied. Lucky for us. We returned home about 3:30 AM when the bands all seemed dead and we were too.

After church Sunday I went back at it and picked up another 100 contacts. I achieved well over my goal of 100- Q and worked 48 states and 53 multipliers. Not quite a clean sweep but better than last year. As my Air Force friends say, "Always aim higher." Next year I will.

Bob, W6OWH

CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY, VERSION 2

W6EO participated in the California QSO Party (CQP) this year representing Sutter County from Tom's farm located on the banks of the Sacramento River near Robbins. Four operators participated, which in addition to me, included N6EM, WJ6O and KG6PIX.

We worked 47 of the 50 states, all providences in Canada plus the Yukon Territory. Only Rhode Island, Mississippi and Montana were missed. W6EO in Sutter County is located in an old converted tank-house in the center of my 500 acre farm. For CQP we operated on 160, 80/75, 40, 20 and 15 meters. Approximately 2/3 of contacts were made using CW and 1/3 on SSB. A hundred watts were used fed into a tribander beam at 30 feet, 80 meter doublet at 55 feet, 40 meter doublet at 40 feet and a 160 meter vertical loop over a ground in land which I soaked with water for 12 hours before start of the contest.

In the CQP, Sutter is a rare county sought by CQP participants all over the country. With pile ups in answer to CQ's, it is like being rare DX and really a fun contest. Our final claimed score is 105105.

Tom, W6EO

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We had about 25 members attending and Harry did an outstanding program on the WinSystem. He even brought along a portable 440 antenna on a small tripod and we worked the system using his HT going to his Pilot Hill repeater about 70 miles away connected to the internet and over 50 repeaters. Good for 5 watts or so. People checked in from all over California, Arizona, and Texas and a few other states. If you weren't there check out the WinSystem on line. Just Google it and then operate.

As if that wasn't exciting enough he also gave a power point program followed with a trip out side to a waiting Red Cross ECRV. It had a tower over 50 feet tall coming out the roof with a strobe light flashing. Crammed full of all types of high tech gear it made an impressive site. I remember working on it 3 years ago to get the beam antenna up and working. The computers, phones, and internet connections are all part of the vehicle. Most impressive.

Bob, W6OWH

THE STORY OF ANOTHER MOBILE TRAILER

Well, fellows, I was asked to do this.....so here it is.....the best I can remember with the small details...?? I had this setup for approximately some 20-25 years...or more the best I can remember. It was always a lot of fun to be out in the mountains using trees for antenna hangers and just sit and enjoy talking to hams in almost every state.....!!

Note:

By the way, wife Bev went with me on most all occasions and did the cooking for all of the visitors. Also, on most occasions, other hams would come and offer help in operation.

This is the story of how I had my emergency communications mobile equipped:

Toyoto 1/2 ton P/U.....1976 model with utility trailer approximately 4.5 x 8 ft.

Equipped with the following:

- 1: Started with the following: Yaesu FT-101 ---- Later FT101EE ----- Later Icom 728.
- 1A: Equipment included 500w all band amplifier....but only used if needed.
- 2: Two 100 amp deep cycle batteries.
- 3: 35amp, 13.5v generator.....made by myself....Approximately 6 hours operation, one gas fill.
- 4: 3KW Generator, 120/240ACalso had 13.5vac output.....Japanese make.
- 5: Power cables: could be used with onboard or with commercial power if available.
- 6: Antenna -
160-80-40-20-15-10M.....Multi-Freq....All on one feedline.....no tuner needed.
- 7: 30 ft. Antenna pole....mounted on inside of P/U bed.....had ladder on board.
- 8: Pulled antenna up with halyard.....one person.
- 9: Lot size required for operation on all bands.....including 160M.....at least 300 ft wide.

- 10: If on smaller lot, legs of the 160m antenna could be folded back at 90 deg angle.
- 11: If system was used near a home or building with commercial power, would use if it was permissible of owner....which I did use on occasions.
- 12 Under normal circumstances, no help in installation was needed or required.

Designed for one-person installation and operation.

BY: Sid Padrick - N6OTW

TREASURER'S REPORT

Condensed; full version available

Checking Balance: September, 2007	\$2,498.48
Receipts Deposited:	22.50
Total:	\$2,517.98

BILLS: \$ 368.63

Checking Balance to Date: \$2,148.35

LESS	Repeater Balance:	\$ 690.80
	VE Balance	\$ 141.10
	Memorial Balance	\$ 71.00

TOTAL: <\$ 902.90>

CLUB BALANCE: \$1,246.45

Submitted by Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP

NEXT YEAR'S SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Steve Sweetman, K6YCS
Vice President: Don Fair, KB6RHJ
Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP
Board of Directors: Herb Puckett, W6HBU; Russ Decker, KB6YAF; Leo Gilman, K7PPM; Pat Fulmer, KI6ZX; Bob McClard, W6OWH
More info later in this issue.



Figure 1

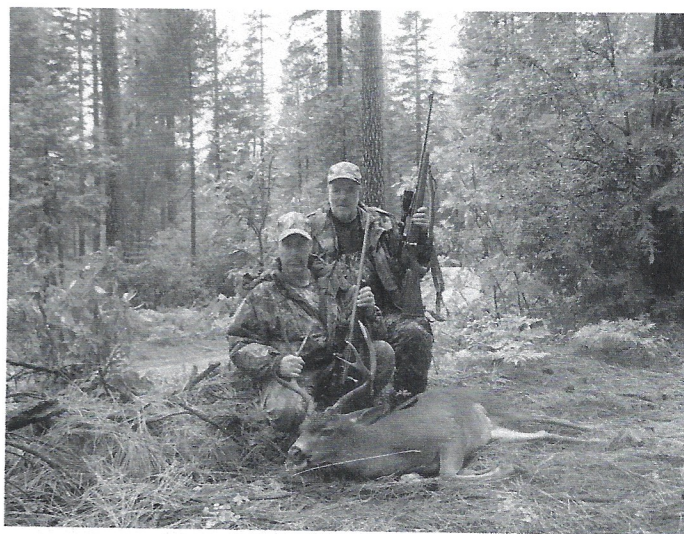


Figure 2

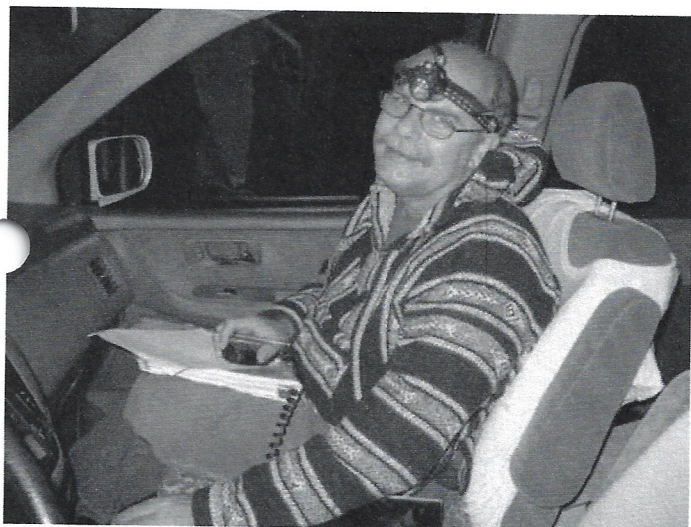


Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Figure 1: K6YCS Waiting for the big one.

Figure 2: K6YCS - First hunt, first shot, first deer.

Figure 3: KI6ZX at the CQP operating position in Colusa County – about 2:00 AM.

Figure 4: One of the antenna supports in Colusa County.

Figure 5: W6KJ at the W1AW operating position at ARRL Headquarters.

EDITOR'S GRUMBLINGS

Yes, this month it's grumbling, not rambling. Due to various E-mail and scheduling problems, the Newsletter is later than I would prefer.

However, there is ample evidence of Murphy at work at W6HBU and at KC6JPP. Clara has had E-mail problems (still not totally solved), and your Editor has spent most of Saturday, November 3, fighting the battle with the computer and software. Things have happened this month that I don't remember ever seeing before.

Most seem to involve insertion of pictures into the file, and their placement on the pages. It is always probable that Murphy lurks in the background, but this month he came out of the closet and really did a job on things.

Compounding this, we did not get the slate of newly nominated officers for 2009 into the newsletter until it was just about done. That meant that we cut something out, or add a sheet (two pages). I elected to add the sheet when the picture thing began to come under control.

Just as the final copy was ready to print, the printer ran out of black ink. No problem says I, 'cause I bought ahead for just this situation on a Sunday with a trip to the mountains with a couple of the grand kids. Murphy, in his benevolence, then came down hard. The spare ink supply was for the wrong printer! So here I sit, ready to leave for parts unknown as soon as the phone rings saying the kids are ready, with no printer. It looks like there will be a stop to buy ink, and the newsletter will be finished tonight (Sunday, November 4).

At this stage of the game, firing of the Editor seems almost to be a blessing. Oh, well, it can only get better (I hope!).

Along more pleasant lines, this is the weekend of the CW Sweepstakes contest. I had no intention of working the CW portion, but I did listen late last night, and the 80 and 40-meter CW bands were alive with signals. There several pileups heard. The people who say CW is dead and gone need to listen in to a contest of this sort. Maybe it will change a few minds. 20 meters was just about dead by the time I got around to listening – 10:00 PM or so – but the lower bands more than made up for it.

It is now Sunday night, after a pleasant day with the grand kids. I can now attack this thing with renewed vigor, and perhaps get it done this evening. This still puts a burden on TJ, who has to get thing on the Club Web Site as soon as possible. It is my fervent hope that this month has been an unusual one, and next time will be better.

Thanks to all who sent in material for the newsletter. It is really appreciated, and it makes the Editor's work easier. Keep it up. I keep saying that there are many stories out there, and Sid's account of his work years ago is an example. Pictures, stories and tales of years gone by are all welcome. Thank you in advance.

CLUB ELECTIONS ARE THIS MONTH

A short list of candidates for the upcoming Club Election this month appears earlier in this issue. The list is repeated here just in case you missed it. Remember that you can nominate candidates from the floor, and we encourage you to do that. As it now stands, there are just enough nominees to fill the needed slots. If you have an idea for another candidate for any of the positions, please nominate him or her. Just be sure you secure your candidates permission ahead of time. Don't spring your nomination on him or her out of the blue. That can be very disconcerting for someone who does not wish to be on the slate for election.

Here once again is the list as it presently exists::

President: David Sweetman, K6YCS.

Vice President: Don Fair, KB6RHJ.

Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE.

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