

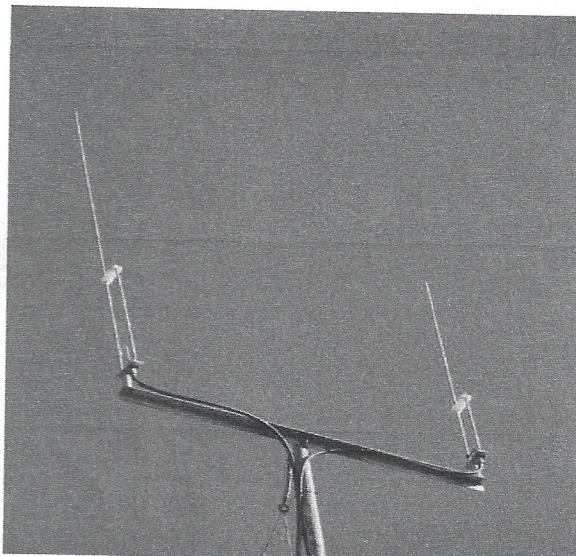
THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

July 2009

YSARC
PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President: Russell Decker, KB6YAF
Vice President: Roger Hahn, KI6COM
Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP
Board Members Pat Fulmer, KI6ZX
Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Ron Murdock, W6KJ (Interim)
Vacant
Teeje Jamison, NE1CQ



The antenna farm is located in Yuba City. The antennas are for 2 meters and 222 MHz, and are home-built.

Can you guess where they are located?

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday nights at 7:00 PM – Weekly net with swap shop and help sessions on the local repeater (146.085 Plus-PL=127.3)

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

Tuesday nights at 7 PM – YSARC ARES net on the local repeater

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM – Coffee and Donuts – the location is announced on the repeater around 8 AM

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

Daily at 12:00 Noon – Social gathering at ~~Jack~~ in the Box or other local Fast Food eatery. Check the local repeater for location of the day.

ATTENTION!!!

The club is looking to fill the positions of Vice President and 2 Board Member positions. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Russ, KB6YAF at 530-821-5882 or at kb6yaf@arrl.net

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

July 2009

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Summer is here!! The thermometer outside my kitchen said 101 degrees a few hours ago. The official temperature is probably in the mid or high 90's. At any rate, it is warm and the spring-like days are probably gone for awhile.

Your Editor has been busy lately, but not amateur-radio wise. June is the month of graduations, birthdays, anniversaries and other family occasions. At present, every one of my weekends is tied up until at least after July 17. It is probable that there will be other family events after that which will come up. In August, the latter half is occupied with deer season in the Chester area until after Labor Day. I don't see how I ever held down a full-time job!!!

It was for the above reasons that the Club went on vacation the last few years during the summer months. Your Editor is not alone with summer family obligations. It seems that everyone is busy all summer. Your Editor still votes for a Club Vacation during the months of July and August. I will miss Field Day because I will be at a family occasion in Merced.

The club is in general in a slump at present over and above time constraints on members. It seems that interest goes up and down as we go along through the years. Some of the inactivity could be related to the sunspot cycle, which is just beginning to show a little life after the bottom of the cycle... Your Editor was inactive for almost exactly 15 years in the 1970's and 1980's. When I came back into the hobby, all the gear left from the previous years was unusable, and the technology had completely changed.

We have been hearing Randy, N6QMM, on the repeater lately after an absence of about 10 years. Welcome back, Randy. Who else is out there just waiting for the proper push to get back into the hobby? We certainly need all the help we can get. Incidentally, Randy has changed his call sign to NQ6MM. He said he always wanted a 2 X 2.

Your Editor is back from Merced now, and Field Day is past. The club ended with over 30 people at the site at one time or another, even though it was like an oven out

there. There are a few pictures in this issue, and more have been posted on the Club Web Site, the YSARC YAHOO Group and on the Sacramento Valley Section Site. Look there for information on the various local clubs' Field Day efforts.

The July meeting consisted of a dinner in Gridley at the Black Bear restaurant. If you weren't there you missed a good meal and fellowship. There was quite a rehashing of field Day activities. The food was good and adequate and the prices were reasonable. It's a good place to eat.

THE PREZ SEZ

Field Day is over. Most of us in Northern California are home unpacking our gear, cleaning out the car, and glad to take a cool shower and clean up after enduring 100+ degree weather. Now it's time to do some debriefing. So, based on your Field Day experience, you have to ask what worked for you and what would you have changed.

First, what I found that worked well was creating a "Check list" Most of you have heard this before, but it does work. Many days before Field Day, I started a check list for items I needed for FD. I separated my check list into categories. First was the obvious: Radios/Op Manuals. List them. Second, was the Antennas/Misc. In this category, I listed dipoles, extension poles, clamps, tools, zip ties, cord, tent stakes, coax, barrel connectors, Analyzers, wattmeter, fuses, extra powerpole connectors, wire, ground wire, solar panels, batteries, generator, controllers, duct tape, tuners, and everything else that I could include in case something went wrong. Next were food & drink items and Personal items. And finally the ever-so-popular Misc. Items which for me included a small ladder, hat, bug repellent, tables, chairs, shade, clock, garbage bags, clean-up items, flashlight, paper & pens, paperwork including ARRL Field Day Rules, a sheet indicating the US Amateur Band Frequencies.

This 'check list' is not a complete check list by any means, but it did serve as a guide for what I needed. In my mind, I needed to bring everything I could

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

July 2009

I think of to set up a radio station and operate Field Day as if I were the only person who showed up, and there was no one else to borrow stuff from.

I would encourage you to use my list to formulate one for yourself. Each of us is going to come up with something different, but create one, on a computer if you can. Save it to a file where you know where it is. Pull it up for next year, view it, add to it, and subtract items if you must, but in any case: BE PREPARED!

The two areas that this radio amateur will have to work on is the ability to set up an emergency station within 30 minutes of arrival at your destination. If you count the fact that my vehicle IS an amateur station capable of transmitting and receiving on all HF bands plus VHF, then I have arrived. The second thing I have to work on is to be able to bear the extreme weather conditions. Every year that gets harder and harder to do!

I want to express my sincere and deepest thanks to Bob and Janet for opening up their home and property for our Field Day Operations. They went "Above and Beyond" to make our FD a success. I also want to thank Pat, KI6ZX who "Got the ball rolling" and to Bob, N6BOB, who was our "Spark Plug" of encouragement. Many thanks also goes out to Lonnie, KI6ZYY who as a new member, dove right in and helped set up the beam, operated radios, and provided his help in keeping things going. Adam, KB6VOM, brought his entire station from home which helped tremendously. Ken, W6KEN, provided entertainment with his Antenna "Potato Gun" Launcher plus his Arrow Antenna Satellite Station. It was nice to have visiting hams, Mike and Paula Herr from Ridgecrest, CA attend and operate 40m phone and CW. Mike made over 50 CW contacts alone!!

I know I am missing many who helped out in many ways to bring this year's Field Day to a very successful event. To those, I say Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! We had between 30-40 hams and guests in attendance. Lastly, I want to thank Meg, KI6TLS, for coming to her first Field Day. I believe she was the only ham that stayed the night.

Well, Field Day is the ham radio community's official kick-off of 'summer'.

There are many of us whose normal schedule is interrupted by trips, family outings and such. The YSARC will not be holding formal club meetings for July and August. It doesn't mean however that 'hamming' stops. We will still plan to meet at Sam Brannon Park every Wed. morning around 8:30-9am. We will still be chatting on the bands, working on ham projects, getting together for meals, etc. Please keep informed on any and all activities by checking in on the Monday Night Net, by accessing our website at www.ysarc.org, and by checking into the Yahoo YSARC group on the net. If you don't do this, you might be sitting at home wondering why no one does anything!! You'll miss out!!! Sometimes events like T-hunts, dinners, picnics, etc. are planned and communicated by all of the above. Stay tuned..... 73, Russ, KB6YAF

JUNE BOARD MEETING

The June board meeting was held at the home of Russ, Kb6yaf. Since there not a quorum present, no official business was conducted.

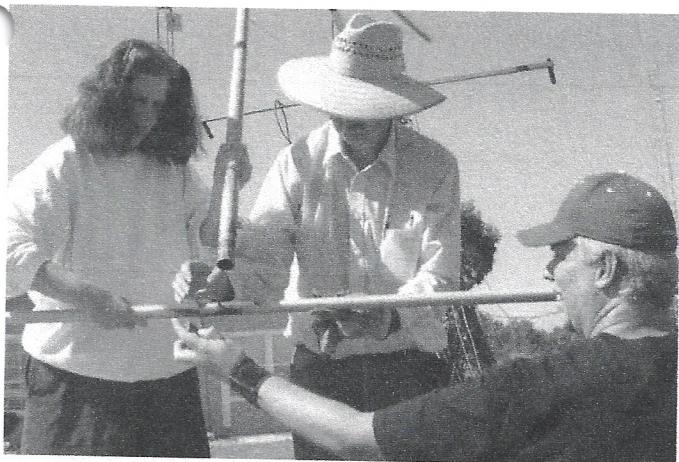
As noted above, there will be no board or Club meetings in July and August (with the exception of the Dinner Meeting on July 1 in Gridley).

DON'T FORGET THE NEW REPEATER FUND!

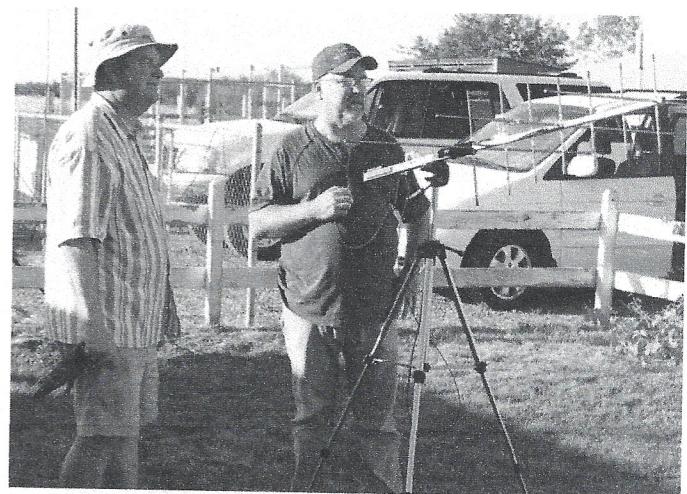
The club still needs donations for the new repeater. There is a pile of junk in your Editor's garage donated by Bud, K6HDE, to the club. There is a lot of junk mixed in with some good stuff. If you're interested in going through it, call the Editor at 674-3648. If we get enough responses, we'll open the door on July 12 after noon so you can go through it. If you have anything, you can use, you can leave a donation to the cause. I need to get rid of it. More info on the Net.

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

July 2009



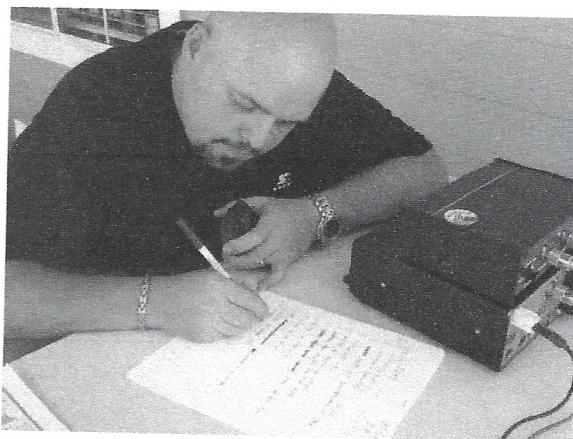
Janet, W6JND; Lonnie, KI6ZYY and Bob, W6BO assemble the club's Tri-Band Beam



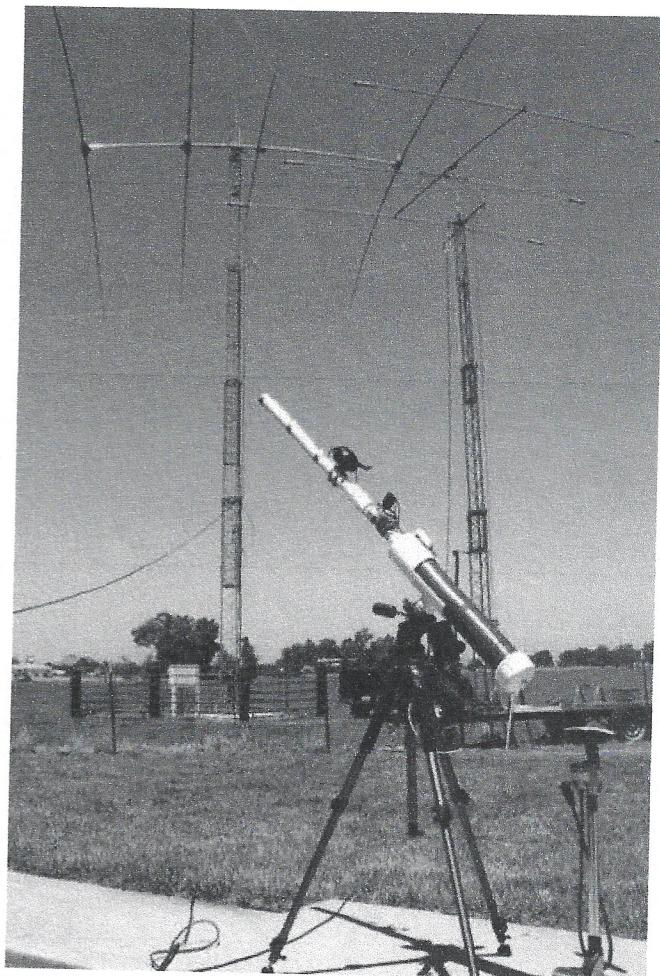
Bob, N6BOB and Ken, W6KEN align the satellite antenna



Mike, WA6ARA and Paula, N6VGW at the 40-meter position



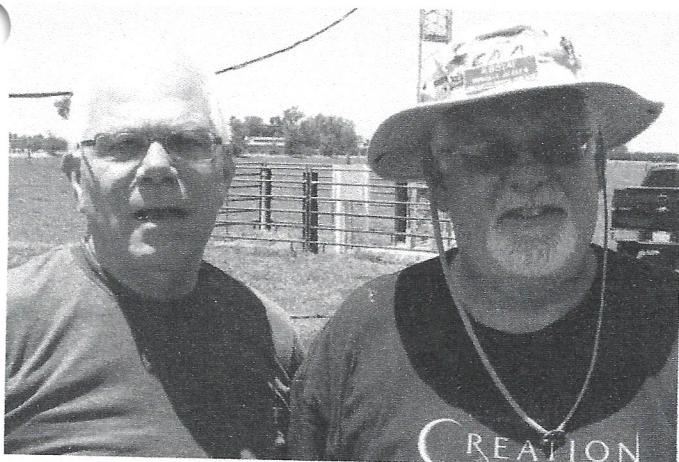
Adam, KB8VOM hard at work logging



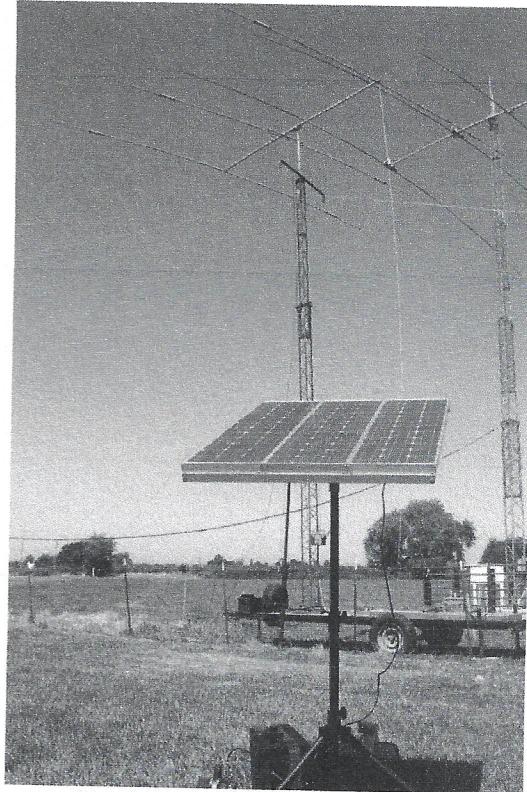
The bazooka (foreground), W6BO's Steppr (left) and the Club Tri-bander (right)

THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

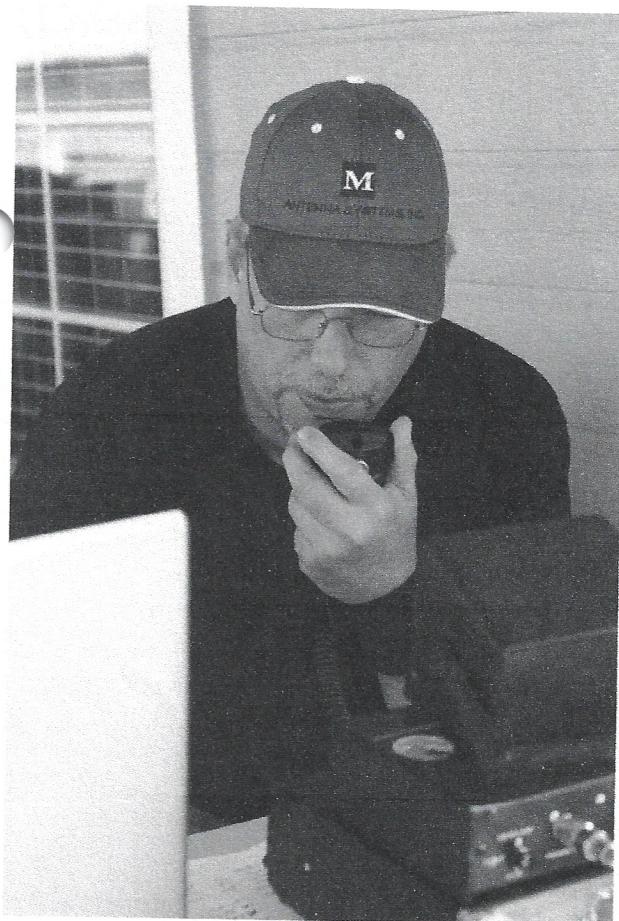
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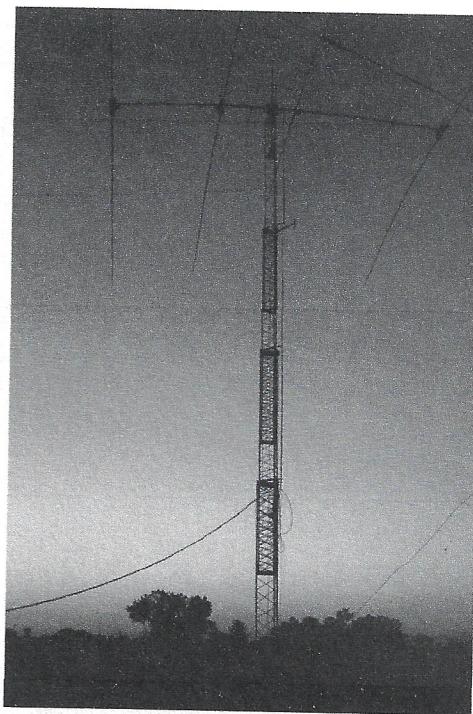
Cal, KI6NY, and Russ, KB6YAF



One of the solar panels in operation



Our host, Bob, W6BO



The end of a hot day

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

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