



THE VALLEY HAM NEWS



"The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"

A California Non-Profit Organization

Aug 2011



2nd Largest 10 Meter Beam in the World !

We all have admired those big beam antennas stacked on big towers, but did you know that one of the largest antennas was built right here in the Yuba Sutter area? Yes, you read that right. I didn't say "Bought", I said "Built". It's true!

Keith Edwards, WB6GCL built his own 10m beam and tower! As far as we know, there is only one other larger beam than his. Just how big is it? The boom of the antenna is 60 feet long which supports 12



elements. Along with his homemade 10m beam is a 7 element Wilson 15 meter beam supported by a 40 foot boom up at 60' feet. Above that is a Hy-Gain 40/20/15/10 Vertical at 65 feet. All of this is supported by his homemade tower. Yes, Keith even made his tower. The base hole for the tower is 4'x4'x8' deep with rebar added for strength. The

base of the tower is made of 2 7/8" production tubing made for gas wells. The tower itself is made from 1" black pipe. The base of the tower is hinged to be able to tilt over for maintenance. The beams are rotatable by means of a

W W I I aircraft propeller pitch control motor that has a ratio of 90:1 gear reduction. Keith said there is another

ham in Southern California that has a 10 meter beam with the main boom at 90 feet long. It is unknown if it is a commercially built antenna or a home brew one. Keith says his antenna is the 2nd largest one in the world.

Look for more photos of Keith's antennas in future newsletters!

73, Russell Decker, KB6YAF

YSARC

PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President

Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

Vice President

Andy Boone, KJ6IYM

Secretary

Meg Burgin, KI6TLS

Treasurer

Clara Ansley, N6VRH

Board Members

Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Barry Barnes, KE6LW
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Russell Decker, KB6YAF

VHN Editor and Webmaster

Russell Decker, KB6YAF

Repeater Trustee

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday: Club Meeting
3rd Wednesday: Board Meeting

(Check the minutes for details on the Club and Board Meetings)

All newsletter submissions are due on or before the 4th Wednesday of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 3rd - Wed. @6pm - **YSARC BBQ & Ham Radio Workshop** - Meg Burgin's QTH in Live Oak, CA - 6pm

Aug 17th - Wed. 7:00pm - **YSARC Board Meeting** - Place TBA

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday Night Net - (7 PM) - Weekly net w/swap shop (146.085 + PL 127.3)

Monday Night Net - (8 PM) - Butte Co. ARES Net (146.850 - PL 110.0)

Tuesday Night Net - (7 PM) - YSARC ARES Net (146.085 + PL 127.3)

2nd Wednesday - (7 PM) - ARRL Sac Valley Net



MEG'S MINUTES

A regular Board of Directors meeting of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club was held at the QTH of Herb Puckett, W6HBU. The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Moore - KI6ZYY at 1905-hours. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Club Officers present: President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY, and Secretary Meg Burgin, KI6TLS. Vice President Andy Boone, KJ6IYM and Treasurer Clara Ainsley, N6VRH were both absent.

Board Members present: Barry Barnes, KE6LW; Russell Decker, KB6YAF; Herb Puckett, W6HBU; and Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI.

Guests introduced: Ramona Traub, and Art Cremer, KJ6LVR. Art is a new Extra who had expressed an interest in becoming more involved with YSARC.

Officers Reports: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. There was no Treasurer's report.

Herb Puckett, W6HBU shared his concern about possible future surgeries to repair and/or replacement of a knee and/or a hip. He may be missing a couple of future board meetings. Likewise, Barry Barnes, KE6LW shared information that he has been diagnosed with a tumor on his pancreas and will be receiving treatments at Stanford University Medical Center. This is his second bout with a cancer. He may be missing some future meetings. Both Barry and Herb will be added to our club member's prayers.

Under Old Business: President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY reviewed the last VE session and the invaluable help from the Oroville Club. He stated that YSARC needs to develop their own pool of VE's. Russell Decker, KB6YAF suggested that YSARC do something to reciprocate their service to YSARC; perhaps a breakfast or lunch for the VE's. Decker also suggested that a certificate be made for those hams who passed their exams. Board members recalled that club memberships were once gifted to new and advancing hams.

New Business: The Board approved making the YSARC trailer and antenna available to the Ham Nation Museum in Petaluma for August 19-20. Bob Heil, K9EID, Leo La Porte, and Gordon West, WB6NOA are planning the grand opening event. They would like to have a fully functioning station for the opening. The August 3rd Membership Meeting will be a Tech Night and Pot Luck dinner at Burgin's QTH. (The Meadows will provide burger's and hot dogs with home made buns made by Burgin.) Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI will send out an email message to all members with details of the type of work stations that will be available for the evening.

President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY reported that the Western Placer Club is suffering from dwindling membership. Dave Gartner, WD6AXM has installed a new repeater for them. They will need help with ticket sales, ground and crowd control at the Lincoln Ham Fest at McBean Park September 10th; the club will rent a space for members to sell their ham related items. VE's will also be needed for the exam session. Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI suggested a club camp out at the California QSO Party as a Special Event Station October 1&2 at Walker Ridge, near Clear Lake.

Unfinished Business: Appointment of someone to fill one open Board of Directors position is still in the stage of discussion. President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY would like for others to step in to help with Net Control on Monday nights. The club will be looking for new officers for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer for the 2012 year. It was agreed that officers and board members need to be selected from the active club membership.

Ramona Traub served a delicious cherry cobbler to the Board for refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 2030-hours.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER...



Hello from the shack of KI6ZYY. Well, we made it through another Field Day intact. I hope you had as much fun as I did. I don't think our cat "BU" got as much out of it as we did though. We had lots of people show up, help set up, operate, prepare food, consume food, kick back and relax a bit as well as sharing their gear and expertise. In short, Field Day was a success.

On a personal note, one of my recent antenna projects was a flop. A collinear for 1.25 meters had been on my brain for some time and finally took physical shape a few weeks ago. It was made from recycled TV antennas. It didn't turn out at all until I removed the collinear elements. No problem. I'll just keep thinking on it until I figure where I messed up. Reminds me that failures tend to come just ahead of successes.

What have you been doing with the hobby lately? Chasing an award, finishing that home made tuner project, getting a neighbor interested in radio, working on upgrading, developing your Elmer skills? Let us know. We can make it the subject for a Monday Net. Letting others know what you've been doing can get others excited about it too. We surely need some excitement during these hot summer days.

Our next club meeting will be a good one. We will have a Potluck at Meg's QTH at 6 PM. The program will be a Ham Workshop. We'll have several stations set up to help you with installing PL-259 coax connectors as well as Anderson Power Poles. I plan to bring a battery or two along with charging systems, battery control box, and a radio or two. Let those who are interested in running on emergency power see how it can be done. We are working on getting a flyer out to all club members with email listings. Come and join us.

"Honing" our heritage with CW continues on 146.420 FM simplex at 7:30 pm Sundays & Tuesdays. A big thank you goes out to Lee, KC6MCI. His patience and teaching skills are wonderful. He certainly knows how to make learning CW a lot of fun. You are welcome to listen in and join us (if you dare.....)

Take a moment to look around and thank all those who help make this club work. I'd like to start with a thank you to Meg Burgin, KI6TLS. Meg has done a great job as Secretary part of last year as well as this year. Meg allows us the use of her beautiful facility in Live Oak for board and club meetings as well as the last two Field Days. Most of you don't know it yet, but she is making the hamburger buns for our August club meeting. I've only scratched the surface here, but thank you Meg.

Thank you & 73 Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....

1. YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!
2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!
3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!
4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!
5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, " IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"

You might be hard of hearing too!!

YSARC ARES NEWS...



On Saturday July 9th members of the Yuba Sutter ARES (YSARES) team set up a communications display at the 2nd annual "Emergency Preparedness Fair" at the Willow Glenn Restaurant in Willow Glenn, CA. The local Fire Department, Yuba County Sheriff, the American Red Cross, and others, set up information booths. We had several people as well as a group of Boy Scouts come by and ask questions about our ARES group and were very interested in becoming part of the Ham Radio Community. The Boy Scouts made some radio contacts thanks to Steve, K6TAZ. They had a good visit.

Hal Stocker, a local county supervisor from District 5, stopped by for a chat. He was glad to know that there is an organization like ours to help when emergency communications are required. Dominique Smith was the organizer for the Fair. The YSARES group was invited back for next year's fair. Eleanor, KI6CSO (EC) and Steve, K6TAZ worked in the booth for the Yuba Sutter ARES. Paula, KI6UDG and John, KJ6ICI, two local hams, joined us and added their expertise.

73 Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ



THE AUGUST YSARC MEETING INFO...



Our August meeting will be a BBQ & Ham Radio Workshop at the QTH of Meg Burgin, KI6TLS at 6:00pm. Her address is 11476 Larkin Rd. Live Oak, CA. Hamburgers & homemade buns will be provided. Please bring a side dish or two.

At the Ham Radio Workshop after the BBQ, different stations will be set up to help with Anderson Power Pole installations, soldering/crimping PL 259's onto RG-8X Coax to make jumpers, engraving/labeling of equipment, a battery charging station demo, and more. A small fee will be required for the cost of the connectors and coax.

Did you get this Flyer that was emailed to our YSARC membership? If not, please update/verify your email address with Meg Burgin, KI6TLS, our YSARC Secretary, or Lonnie, KI6ZYY

WEBSITES...



- www.arrl.org - This is the website to the American Radio Relay League
 - www.ysarc.org - This is the club website. It contains information about the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
 - <http://aprs.fi> - This is a 'Google Maps' site that contain all of the APRS activity.
 - www.qrz.com - Look up call signs, take practice ham radio exams, and much more.
 - <http://rettysnitch.org> - This website explains what those two weird things are on the front page of the VHN
 - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YSARC/> - This is the URL to the YSARC Yahoo Group Site. Sign- Up !!!!
 - <http://hamslife.com/> - This is the ham radio blog of Bill, WA6OHP
 - www.quartzfest.org - The official website of the "Quartzfest" held on the last week of January
 - <http://www.wunderground.com/> - A very cool weather website
 - <http://www.apple.com/itunes/> - Download "iTunes" so you can subscribe to "Ham Nation" podcasts
 - <http://www.heilsound.com/amateur/> - Heil Microphones and Headsets for the radio amateur by Bob Heil
 - <http://www.gordonwestradioschool.com/> - Gordon West, WB6NOA Radio Schools and training
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- YSARC Treasurer - Clara Ansley, N6VRH claraansely@openrange.net
- YSARC VE Testing Coordinator - Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI leesheffield@comcast.net

HAM RADIO "FUNNIES"...

"Electricity originates inside clouds. There, it forms into lightning, which is attracted to the Earth by golfers. After entering the ground, the electricity hardens into coal, which, when dug up by power companies and burned in big ovens called 'generators,' turns back into electricity...where it is transformed by TV sets into commercials for beer, which passes through the consumers and back into the ground, thus completing what is known as a "circuit"Dave Barry

Three brothers ages 92, 94, and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. He puts his foot in and pauses. He yells down the stairs and says "Was I getting in or out?"

The 94 year old yells back "I don't know. I'll come up and see." He starts up the stairs and pauses. Then he yells, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old HAM is sitting in front of his HF rig and listening to his brothers. He shakes his head, picks up the mic and says "I sure hope I never get that forgetful." He knocks on wood for good measure. He then yells into the mic, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see.... who's at the door. "OVER"

Two elderly hams had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures on the ham bands. Lately, their activities have been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me....I know we've been friends for a long time....but I just can't think of your name and your call! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember them. Please tell me what they are." His friend glared at him. For at least three minutes he just stared and glared at the gray haired old man.. Finally he said, "How soon do you need to know?"