

Valley Ham News

July 2013

A publication of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL approved, Non-Profit Organization

President's Desk....

Greetings from my desk to you as President and acting editor for the VHN. Let me begin with a big thank you to Russ KB6YAF and his predecessor Herb W6HBU for their work and efforts as editors of this fine rag. I use the term "rag" affectionately because I helped set type and printed off many a copy of the Williams News out of Williams, Arizona as a printer's apprentice many years ago.

Herb and Russ did a fine job, often without thanks and all too often with little response for their efforts. I thank them. Our club thanks them. And now, I beg your patience as I work on putting my first edition out. It won't have the pizzazz of Russ's work, but I'll make an effort to improve.

Our 1st Annual Yuba Sutter Hamfest was a rousing success and we are looking forward to next year. More on that in this issue. Field Day was another success story for the YSARC. Not sure if we'll get much in this issue, but plan to fill next month's issue with Field Day pictures and stories.

Your leadership made the decision to hold our club meetings at the 2 Bit's Cafe through the rest of the year. While some want to have a potluck from time to time, I
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think we can do that on a Saturday. Additionally we plan several presentations, including soldering class, Yagi repairs and Fox Hunting.

Back in April, we were asked to take down a rather extensive antenna farm with 4 standing towers each holding two HF Yagi antennas. I'll go into this in further detail in coming issues of the VHN, but we are making this material available to club members first on an approved donation basis.

The club will retain up to two towers and perhaps one or more of the Yagi antennas. What isn't wanted by club members will be offered to those outside the club. More on this along with a list in the near future. Our Hamfest and Field Day have kept us very busy.

Coming up Soon:

July 2 – Club Meeting at the 2-Bits Cafe. Gates open at 5:30 PM. Door Prizes, food and lots of hams to rub shoulders with!

July 13 – VE Test Session at 715 King Ave. in Yuba City 9 AM
Contact LeRoy KJ6DKM

A note to those of you who can't make our meetings and activities. A word of greeting to you. You are in our thoughts and thank you for being a part of our club. Ed.

Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, Ca. 95992

President:

Lonnie Moore KI6ZYY

Vice President:

Mike Eby KM6EBY

Secretary:

Larry Witcher KE6LAW

Treasurer:

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KI6CSN

Bob McClard N6BOB

June McJunkin N6JEY

Shari Goforth-Eby

K6AVW

Steve Albrecht KJ6VCF

VHN Editor:

Lonnie Moore KI6ZYY

Repeater Trustee:

Dave Gartner WD6AXM

VE Liaison:

LeRoy Smith KJ6DKM

Monthly with YSARC:

1st Tuesday – Club Meeting

3rd Tuesday – Board Meeting

4th Tuesday – Deadline for
submissions to the editor

Each Monday – YSARC Net @
19:00 on the WD6AXM repeater

(146.085 + / PL 127.3)

Please join us!!

1st Annual Yuba Sutter Hamfest A Big Success

Members of the Yuba Sutter ARC came together Saturday June 1st to provide the first annual YS Hamfest. It was held at the American Legion Hall in Linda. These folks cooked up a very nice breakfast. They came prepared to serve 30 and ended up with four times that many. Great job. They also cooked up a pile of hot dogs for later in the morning. Gates opened at 6 AM for vendors and 7 am for buyers. 10 vendors set up shop and the buyer parking area quickly filled up.



Mike KM6EBY set up his sound system to announce door prize winners and play some tunes.



The first four vendors set up at the crack of dawn. Hamfests are a service provided to the ham community. Here we can buy and sell things precious only to a ham in the same way others attend flea markets.

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(left to right) Ellie KJ6KZP, Paul N6XVL, Ellie's friend Breanna, Bob KJ6JFW, Bob N6BOB and Chris KJ6VCG.

Marsha KI6CSN, Ellie KJ6KZP & Breanna took care of door prize ticket sales. Paul N6XVL took care of talk in traffic. Bob KJ6JFW, Chris KJ6VCG, Warren KK6CGU and Jason KK6EJD took care of buyer parking. Mike KM6EBY did a bang up job with announcements and music. Quite a few stopped by the club table offering qudos on the music. Shari K6AVW handed out the prizes. Stan KN7ZYZ and Marilyn kept track of buyer traffic and brought the tables. Bob N6BOB created the signs directing people to our site. Clara N6VRH took care of the vendors. Kevin KJ6TXZ arranged for the safety cones. Ron W6KJ and Russ KB6YAF packed in the goodies for the club table. Thank you.



Some of Western Placer ARC's finest selling gear from Tom Attwood's estate. One more example of selflessness. Of course they enjoyed the Hamfest, but Tom's widow appreciated the help. Thank you Roger K6OU.

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Lee Sheffield KC6MCI has a close look.



Ron Murdock W6KJ sets up his table for the ARRL. Thank you Ron for your service. Clara Ansley takes a break after a busy morning of getting vendors registered.

In addition to being a service to the ham community, these hamfests give us a chance to catch up on old friendships, look at various equipment and dream about the possibilities. Experienced hams use a practiced eye to find that special paddle they have been looking for, a replacement for that rig they had in their first years as a ham or a hard to find filter for their venerable Kenwood TS-440s. New hams just stumble around in a daze, knowing almost nothing about what they are looking over and wishing they had more experience and knowledge. So, we make the effort to serve, make a difference and give more hams a chance to enjoy a good hamfest.

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Russ KB6YAF took this picture and the next. Here you see Shari K6AVW helping Mike with the drawing items. Marilyn Meadows (in the background) helped her husband Stan KN7ZYZ with counting buyer's vehicles coming in. Marsha KI6CSN (sitting) was in charge of door prize ticket sales. Mike KM6EBY (sitting) made announcements and played the tunes. Larry KE6LAW (seated at right) was our tail twister. Without his efforts, this would not have happened. Thanks one and all.



Last but not least, your club president, Lonnie KI6ZYY (right) working the club tables.

Field Day 2013

Wow, my favorite holiday of the year and this one was another great event for YSARC. Collins Lake was a new location for us and I was concerned about it being difficult for some to find. Stan KN7ZYZ and his wife Marilyn did a great job of preparing hand outs and windshield cards to help the Collins Lake staff with our group. Pics and more in next month's issue.



Herb Puckett W6HBU. Herb has put a lot into this club over the years. It would take several issues to even begin listing the things he has done for this club including acting as the editor of this rag for many years.

I'd like to tell of a selfless act on his part that helped me. In June of 2009, I was a brand new General. I had acquired a Kenwood TS-440s, but had no antenna and was not familiar with many of the choices out there. Bob N6BOB sent several files on how to build different antennas.

I chose one utilizing home made traps. It was a 6 band multi trap dipole. Herb called me on the .085 machine asking if I'd bring my traps by for inspection. After a good look, he handed one back to me with a question. "Do you know how to set these to resonance?" I did not of course, so he patiently showed me how to do so on one of the ten traps. Then he handed me the bag of traps and the grid dip meter telling me to take them home and set them accordingly. With Herb's initial push, I

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was able to complete the task, but sealing them to keep the coils in place was another thing. Ended up using glue, but I like to tell this story about a great ham lending his time, expertise and GDM to a new ham that needed and appreciated his help. Thanks again Herb. Perhaps we need to hold a class showing others how to do this. Let me know.

California QSO Party Oct 5 & 6

CQP can be a lot of fun. Almost as good as Field Day. In fact, we'd like to get together for CQP much as we did for Field Day. We are actively seeking a place a bit closer to home this time. We'd deploy the club trailer / tower and antenna along with a host of other antenna / mast / tower combinations. Food would be a must and over night camping.

In 2011, Lee KC6MCI, Sean K6SCM and myself, Lonnie KI6ZYY met in Williams in the wee hours of the first Saturday in October. From there, we wound our way west along Hwy 20, then north to Walker Ridge. It was still dark and we were in the clouds, so we elected to nap until day break.



Finally got light enough for us to see. Yes, that is a 30' irrigation pipe on my rack and Sean dubbed me "Don Quixote" for obvious reasons.

That gray in the background is a cloud heavy with moisture moving west to east. If you pointed your finger at the sky, it would "wick" moisture from the cloud and run down your arm. Once we got the irrigation pipe in the air, a small steady stream created a mud hole at the rear of my truck. Standing under a tree kept the moisture from wicking on you, but the tree "rained" on you. All this meant nothing however when the sun came out.

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Almost ready to erect the 30' irrigation pipe loaded with a DK3, a guy ring/ropes and two halyards for hoisting some dipoles in sloper positions.



The sun is finally out and three dipoles hoisted into place. Sean K6SCM is on my left tied into the 20 meter sloper.

Jerimiah W6DLO drove up and made good use of the 15 meter sloper for a time. Larry KE6LAW made the trip up and worked my station while I took a much needed break.

While working 10 meters, I stumbled across a 10 meter net from the area around Miami, Oklahoma that was just wrapping up. They let me check in and explain a little about the CQP. I made a contact with each of them for my log and while I was filling it out, one or more of them got on the local repeaters to put the word out. Soon, I had a pile up that lasted over 45 minutes, most of them from northeast Oklahoma, southeast Kansas, southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas.

One of these was from Joplin, Mo and I asked him if he would stick around until the pile up eased off because I'd like to ask him a few questions. After I fielded the last call, there he was. I asked him if he could tell me what it was like before, during and after the terrible tornado tore Joplin in half. Having

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walked the streets of Joplin, I knew there were lots of trees, houses and businesses with very few open spaces.

He mentioned the beauty of the place and how he worried about his son's family while he huddled in his underground shelter. When the noise subsided, he came out to find only his foundation still in place. He made it the two blocks to his son's house in a few minutes, but it took him 45 minutes to move enough debris to get his daughter-in-law and her child out of that basement closet. She was injured, but the grand baby was ok. His son was working in a nearby town and had to leave his car at the edge of the debris field and hoof it in, getting there about the time his wife emerged.

I asked him about amateur radio involvement in the disaster. He choked with emotion and pride as he told of the selfless work by hams in the surrounding area. With no home, transportation and only the clothes on his back, he pitched in to pull a shift or two.

When we signed off, the frequency remained quiet for a short time. Then one of the hams in the pile up called me and thanked me for asking and listening. This was followed by a chorus of thanks from many. I didn't realize so many had hung around to listen to this gripping story.



Sean K6SCM is busy keeping his log straight.



Lee KC6MCI is very busy on 40 meters.

Moving to October 2012, things have changed a bit. Wild fires have devastated the area leading up and around Walker Ridge, so we elect to work CQP from home this time. Ramona and I invited all who wanted, to come play CQP with us in Williams. Quite a few came by and I failed to get pictures of them all, but we had a good time in my little shack.

You'll hear more about CQP 2013 here and on the .085 machine. Hope to see you there.



This is a protruding rock outcrop. What is it called and where is it?

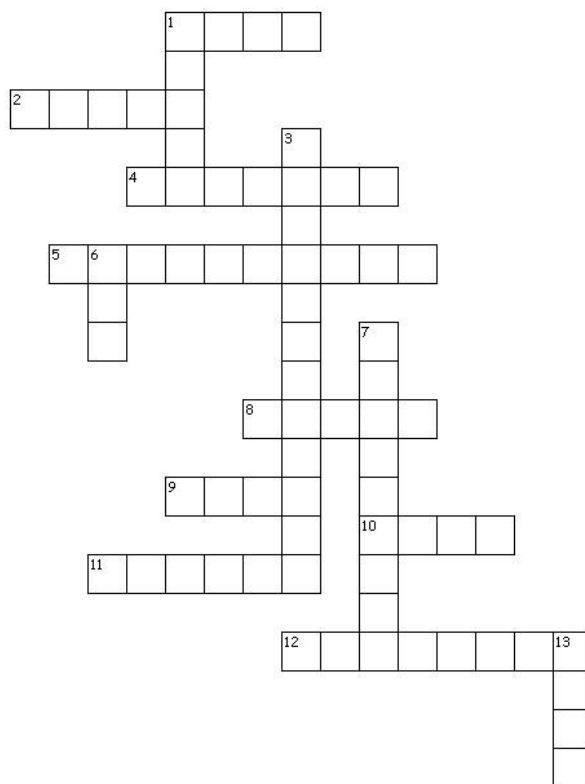
As your new editor, I welcome your input. I'm looking for ideas and ways we can use this great tool for the benefit of the club and our members. Please forgive my mistakes in this first issue. I'll work hard to improve. See below for my contact information.

Lonnie Moore KI6ZYY

ki6zyy@yahoo.com

Want to upgrade to General? When we have enough interest, we will put on a General class. It will take about 5 hours of classroom time. We'll take a number of breaks including lunch and conclude with the test session.

Antennas



Across

1. 4 sided Beam
2. Three sided
4. Off Center Fed
5. Parallel to the earth
8. Feed the long side?
9. Beam
10. Cloud burner
11. Center fed
12. Good DX antenna

Down

1. Beam with square reflector
3. Reflects
6. Windom
7. Multiple sections
13. Loose hanging circle

Enjoy this first attempt at a crossword puzzle. Answers next month.