

# Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club



# Valley Ham News

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THE VOICE OF THE YUBA-SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A California Non-profit Organization

PO Box 1169

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

JUNE 1988

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Next Board of Directors' Meeting: The June Board Meeting will be held on June 22, 1988, at dave's home. Time is 7:30PM, and address is 2650 Pepper Street in Sutter.

Next Club Meeting: The meeting this month will be at the Methodist Church at 627 B Street in Yuba City. Date is June 14, 1988, and time is 7:30PM. Herb Hartman will discuss antenna phasing. This is an outstanding program!!! Be sure to be there.

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The Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club holds a regular net for members and guests each Tuesday evening at 7:00PM on WD6AXM/R, 146.085/.685. See you there.

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## NET CONTROL STATIONS--JUNE, 1988

June 21---by invitation

June 28--by invitation

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## CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:Larry Badger, WA6ISR

VICE PRESIDENT:Roger Mason, KA6BBF

SECRETARY:Don Caskey, KB6RHM

TREASURER:Jack Craig, K6ZMA

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Engle, N6QWU

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

Bud Peters, K6HDE

Jim Giarde, WA6RZA

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

Bob Mortensen, KF6OR

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THE PREZ SEZ

Well, another month has flown by so fast it hardly seems to have happened.

June marks Field Day and Jim, KB6NMY, is working hard to pull things together for the finest event we've ever had. If you haven't already done so, mark your calendars now for the LAST WEEKEND OF JUNE, JUNE 25 AND 26. We'll be up in the High Sierras, in a private clearing in the forest off Highway 20 above Nevada City, about a mile below White Cloud campground. Look for Milepost marker 28 and hang a left. Be sure to bring your own water supply. The only mineral provided is DIRT. The site is just off the highway and you can drive in (couch potatoes take note, you don't have to hike in). On-the-air operations begin at 11 a.m. Saturday and conclude 24 hours later.

For those of you looking for KE6LW-1, Barry's packet mailbox, and KE6LW-2, the club's packet digipeater, tune over to 145.070. The mailbox has become part of a state RACES packet forwarding system and the digipeater has been moved over to .07 to facilitate north-south links. If you are trying to get into the NWE-1 mailbox in North Highlands on .09, you can go through BANNER outside Nevada City.

IN CONCLUSION:

Did you realize that God created computers before he created man? It's there in the Bible, the Book of Genesis. Take a look. You'll see the earth, including all flowers and trees was created before man. How thoughtful for God to already have an Apple waiting for man when he was created. Unfortunately, man didn't know how to use the program and suffered the first disk crash in history.

73s, LARRY

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\*\*\*\*\* PACKET CORNER \*\*\*\*\*

I know we promised NET/ROM for this month but in the meantime we have a new PBBS in operation. The new system is KE6LW-1 on 145.070. This system has full forwarding capabilities and is tied into the NCNET system.

This month, I will try to cover some of the simple commands and how to sign on to the system.

At sign-on you will receive a brief sign-on message, then a prompt to enter your name. After you receive the ">" prompt type N (your name); (Don't forget the space.) then press enter.

Example:

N Tom <enter>

To list the messages on the system type L then enter.

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To read a given message type R then the message number.

Example:

R 26 <enter>

To send a message type S then the callsign of the person you want to send the message to.

Example:

S W6HBU <enter> (Don't forget the space)

You will then receive a prompt for a message title. This can be anything up to 26 characters. After you enter the title you will receive a message prompt. You may now enter your message.

When you have completed your message, send a "/EX" or a control Z on a separate line. You will then come back to the list/read mode. To sign off send a B and the system will automatically disconnect.

Messages addressed to "ALL" will not leave this system. If you wish to send a message out, for instance, to the NCNET system you must address it accordingly. You do this as follows:

S ALL @ NCNET <enter>

Then enter the title, message, and end the message in the regular manner. To send a message to a particular mailbox do it in the same manner.

S W6HBU @ KG6XX <enter>

This sends the message to W6HBU and it will be forwarded to KG6XX automatically.

The system forwards once every hour and receives forwarded traffic once every hour. Unfortunately mail is forwarded via 2 meters and the system is tied up while forwarding. Forwarding usually only lasts from 5 to 10 minutes, depending on the size of the messages.

There is a users file in the mailbox and it can be read by using the following format:

D USER.DOC:0 <enter>

It is quite long but does give a full explanation of user commands and how to make them work.

The :0 after USER.DOC tells the system which drive the file is on. There are several files available to the user. If you type W then enter, the system will list the files, which drive they are on, and the space left on the disk. When you see a file you want to read such as "J-POLE ANT" you download it in this manner:

D J-POLE.ANT:1

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D is for download, J-POLE.ANT is the file, :1 tells the system which disk it is on. By the way, it is a pretty good antenna and the file draws a picture with all the dimensions.

There is a directory system for packet mailboxes at WD6CMU. It is a data base that lists home mailboxes of all packet users that check into it.

If you wish to make KE6LW-1 your home mailbox you let WD6CMU know and mail for you originated anywhere in the country will arrive at KE6LW-1 via the forwarding system. It is also an ideal system to find the home mailbox of a friend across the country to send him/her a message. Here's how it works.

Lets say you want to list KE6LW-1 as your home mailbox. You send a message to WD6CMU in this format.

S WP @ WD6CMU

Msg title > QTH

Msg: W6HBU QTH KE6LW-1

End with the /EX or control Z.

That's all there is to it. Anyone wishing to find your home mailbox can query WD6CMU and know to which mailbox your mail must be sent. If you wish to find the home mailbox of a friend across the country you can QUERY the data base in this manner:

S WP @ WD6CMU

Msg title > QUERY

Msg: (callsign) QTH?

DE (your callsign) @ KE6LW-1 (or your home mailbox)

Example using calls:

S WP @ WD6CMU

Title:  
QUERY

Msg:  
W6HBU QTH?

DE K6HDE @ KE6LW-1

End in the regular manner: /EX or control Z

The data base is run every 15 minutes and that is the longest it will take for your reply to be on the way back. Be sure and enter

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the DE (call) @ (Mbx) line. This will speed up the reply.

Well that's about enough typos for one month...(Right Herb?)..

The new mailbox is there to serve the users. If there is anything I can do to have it better serve you please let me know.

Until next month...and...WHO KNOWS WHAT???

73....Barry...KE6LW

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YUBA-SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Minutes of the May 25, 1988 Board of Directors' Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Larry Badger, WA6ISR.
2. Officers present: President Larry Badger, WA6ISR; Vice President Roger Mason, KA6BBF; Secretary Donald Caskey, KB6RHM; Treasurer Jack Craig, K6ZMA.  
Board Members present: Jim Giarde, WA6RZA; Dave Gartner, WD6AXM; Bud Peters, K6HDE.
4. Guests present: Jim, KB6NMY.
5. Treasurer's report: \$1890.47 is in our account.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Correction to the April Board of Directors' Meeting minutes. The dates for Field Day should be 25 & 26 June 88.
  - b. Field Day: Jim, KB6NMY, the Field Day chairman, has 15 members confirmed and many still undecided about participating in Field Day. There will be at least 5 radios available and 1 backup.
  - c. 2-meter Repeater: The 911 autopatch system is making steady progress. One option available in the autopatch unit, is the ability to assign account numbers to help prevent unauthorized use and to track calls made. In Sacramento a person has been jamming the autopatch unit on 146.625 Mhz. He has been making unauthorized calls and become a nuisance.
  - d. Digipeater: Barry, KE6LW, has been offered a forwarding mail box system similar to the WA6NWE-1 system in Sacramento. There are 2 possible problems: 1) the system is part of RACES, 2) it would be necessary to use 145.07 Mhz. Due to the close proximity of the present digipeater, it would be necessary to change the frequency over to 145.09 also. There are, however, many digipeaters available on 145.09. More details on this later.
  - e. Meeting Place: The site Roger, KA6BBF, had in mind for a cooler meeting place during the summer, is already booked up. The board is looking at some other sites.

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f. ARRL Section Meeting: The Board is awaiting word on holding the ARRL Section Meeting in the Yuba-Sutter area.

7. New Business:

a. The June program will be on antenna phasing.

b. The Club has been asked to provide help to Explorer Scouts on Amateur Radio. We are waiting for more information.

c. The next board meeting will be June 22, 1988 at 7:30 PM at Dave Partner's house in Sutter.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. CASKEY

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EDITOR'S SOAPBOX

One of the things that comes with the territory when one acts as an Editor of a newsletter is the opportunity occasionally to lecture the captive audience from the soapbox. This, then, is your Editor's shot at that privilege. We hope you each read the following and take note or heed, as the case may be.

One day recently we received a phone call from out of town requesting that the caller's name be removed from the club roster. It seemed that the irate member had overheard his call on another repeater when a club member remarked that the .085 repeater was being "tied up" by the aforementioned irate member. Given the circumstances as explained by the irate one, it is your Editor's opinion that what was heard was an attempt to allow the irate one normal use of the repeater and meant nothing more.

This was conveyed to the irate one, but he insisted on having his "just reward" in severing all relations with the local club and its repeater. In a moment of cowardice your Editor referred him to the club treasurer who (I think) has control over such things as rosters. In retrospect, it may have been appropriate to have suggested that the irate one call each person on the roster to advise that his name should be blanked out. (The roster had been published at the time.)

After much thought, it is your Editor's personal opinion that this is a severe case of "out of joint nose" syndrome.

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Please----- . Remember that when we let such emotions rule our actions there is, in the long run, only one loser. Sadly, that loser is the person who can't get his nose back in joint.

So don't you be a loser. Take it easy---cool off a bit before you uncork your emotions.

New subject-----

We have many people on the repeater these days, and the machine is really getting a workout. It's a fine machine and of course, it's there to be used. Please remember that in our eagerness to talk or to call our friend, it is very easy to forget to LISTEN FIRST!!! Always listen to make sure that you are not talking over a QSO in progress. Remember that sometimes some of us don't come back quickly during a QSO.

It may be that the delay is for possible emergency traffic or a break-in station. This is the time to let them know you're there and would like to use the machine. I have yet to hear of a refusal to yield for a quick call to go Simplex or to another machine if need be.

Also, be sure to pause occasionally when you have the machine, so that your friends may break if necessary.

Remember, do unto others -----.

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#### EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

We still don't have any takers on the invitation for first contact tales. Well, like everyone else, your Editor had a first contact, but we have never considered it an earthshaking event. Anyway, here goes with our first contact.

The date was September 11, 1949. We had received the Class B license a few days previously, but did not have the equipment ready. I seem to remember that work interfered even back then. The receiver was a rather delapidated Surplus BC-342 recently purchased for \$50.00. The transmitter consisted of a 6F6 crystal oscillator driving another 6F6 in the final. Power input was a rock-crushing 6.5 watts. The antenna was a half-wave doublet strung from two convenient trees in the back yard. I seem to remember that it was up about 15 feet at the highest point.

Oh, yes. The rig was rockbound on 7010 khz. (kilocycles in those days). I had only one crystal, so there I remained. It needs to be remembered that even back then, that portion of forty meters was High Speed City, and though I could copy 13 WPM, copying speed suffered mightily due to first-contact shakes.

I decided that my best chance would be to answer a CQ, because then I would know he was slow enough for me. Remember that this was before transceivers, and that we always "tuned the band" after a CQ.

After several false starts, a strong station was heard calling in the clear, and when he signed, I did it. W6VF W6VF W6VF de W6HBU

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W6HBU W6HBU K K K K.

Wonder of wonders, he came back!!! Now what do I do? I can't remember anything about the QSO, but the log shows his name and QTH as "Loux in San Francisco". I wasn't sure of the name, but didn't have the courage to ask for a repeat. I still have his QSL card, which shows the operator's name as "L. Giannini".

I never heard him again, but "Louis Giannini, W6VF", is listed in my 1987 edition of the Callbook.

The thing that brought all this to mind occurred recently when an old "boat anchor" came home to roost. Many years ago, I had given a like-new BC-342 to a friend's son who was interested in radio. The friend has passed on and the son is now an adult living out of state. His mother returned the radio, thinking perhaps some other young person might get some use out of it.

Nostalgia set in, and we powered it up to see what it would do. Well, it didn't do much, except give out a suspicious odor of burning parts. This was followed by a sound resembling a high-powered rifle shot in the shack. Strangely enough, the radio started working after the explosion, with sound from the speaker and a cessation of the odor.

It seems there was a leaky capacitor (condenser in those days) across the 300-volt power supply. When the capacitor exploded, the short disappeared and the set got with the program. Other things were wrong, but they were minor compared to the initial problem.

I have toyed with the idea of recreating that first station, and I now have the receiving end of it. I may yet do it, as that original 7010 kc. crystal still resides in the junk box at W6HBU.

Sadly, I won't be able to use that crystal with my present license, as it is no longer legal for me to transmit on 7010 khz.

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UNPAID ADVERTISING

Jim, K6HVM, called the other day. He has been asked to dispose of some equipment, and he has the following for sale:

- 1 each AEA Model MBA-RO Reader (reads Morse, Baudot, ASCII)-----\$100.00
- 1 each AMECO Model PLF Receiver Pre-amp-----\$20.00

Jim says he will negotiate if you call him at 743-3004.

Editor's note: The folowing appeared in Internal Medicine News and is courtesy of N6COW, Dr. John Kroes in Grass Valley. John especially likes paragraph 5.

Your Editor wonders about the last paragraph of the article. That's enough to make a new Novice reconsider his choice of hobbies.

## Radio Operators May Be at Risk of Death From Myeloid Leukemia

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Amateur radio operators may have an increased risk of death from acute myeloid leukemia, multiple myeloma, and possibly certain types of malignant lymphoma, says Dr. Samuel Milham Jr., of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services.

The excess mortality from these causes may be due to exposure to electric and magnetic fields, Dr. Milham says.

A survey of the causes of death in 2,485 male amateur radio operators in California and Washington between 1979 and 1984 revealed that 43 had died of malignant neoplasms of lymphatic tissue other than leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, or lymphosarcoma/

reticulosarcoma. Of these, 21 were due to multiple myeloma. The 43 deaths represented 38.1% more than the expected number from neoplasms of "other lymphatic tissue."

Leukemia was the cause of 36 deaths, compared with 29 expected for the general population. The excess was limited to the acute myeloid and acute unspecified cell types; this finding agrees with that of other studies, which have suggested an increase in acute myeloid leukemia in electrical workers, Dr. Milham says.

Overall deaths among the amateur radio operators was 28.6% lower than the expected number of deaths from all causes of men in the United States. The radio operators had a 30% lower

rate of death from circulatory disease, and 50% fewer deaths from respiratory disease.

The low mortality from malignant and nonmalignant respiratory disease suggests that this particular group of radio operators may have a lower rate of cigarette smoking than does the general population in the United States, Dr. Milham says (Am. J. Epidemiol. 127:50-54, 1988).

In addition to electric and magnetic fields, these men are also exposed to electric shock, soldering fumes, and degreasing agents. Further, about one-third of them work in occupations such as television repair or electronics, which also expose them to magnetic and electric fields, Dr. Milham says.

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Bob, WA6OWH, sent some material along last month which didn't make it into the newsletter. Some of that material appears below. Sorry about the delay, Bob.

JANUARY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS....

	<u>January</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>
No. VEC's:		*76	*76	*60
<u>No Testing Sessions:</u>		266	288	253
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
ARRL:	50.0%	48.3%	32.4%	
W5YI:	13.5%	24.0%	44.7%	
DeVRY:	6.0%	5.9%	6.3%	
CAVEC:	8.8%	8.0%	1.6%	
Others:	21.7%	13.8%	15.0%	
Year-to-Date Sessions:	266		288	253
<u>No. Elements Admin.:</u>	4211		4386	4409
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
ARRL:	53.4%	55.8%	49.7%	
W5YI:	14.9%	22.2%	31.7%	
CAVEC:	7.0%	6.0%	.5%	
DeVRY:	4.1%	4.4%	3.9%	
Others:	20.6%	11.6%	14.2%	
Year-to-Date Elements:	4211		4386	4409
<u>No. Applicants Tested:</u>	2945		2939	2599
	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	
ARRL:	54.6%	58.6%	42.3%	
W5YI:	17.2%	20.2%	32.8%	
CAVEC:	5.8%	5.3%	.7%	
DeVRY:	3.1%	4.6%	4.5%	
Others:	19.3%	11.3%	19.7%	
Year-to-Date Applic:	2945		2939	4409
Pass/Upgrade Rate, All:	62.6%	61.3%	63.3%	
Pass/Upgrade Rate, W5YI:	63.1%	56.3%	56.9%	
Applicants per Session:	11.1	10.2	10.3	
Appl. per Session/W5YI:	9.3	6.7	9.2	
No. Elements Per Appl./All:	1.4	1.5	1.7	
No. Sessions Per VEC/All:	3.5	3.8	4.2	

\* = The FCC considers ARRL, W5YI, and DeVry to be 13 VEC's each since VEC's are appointed on a regional basis. The 13 regions are: Call sign districts 1 through 0 plus: Alaska (11) and Carribean (12) and Pacific Insular areas.(13)

[Source: FCC, Washington, D.C. 20554]