

Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club



Valley Ham News

THE VOICE OF THE YUBA-SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A California Non-profit Organization

PO Box 1169

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

AUGUST 1988

Edited by Herb Puckett, W6HBU

712 King Avenue

Yuba City, CA. 95991

Telephone 916-674-3648

Next Board of Directors' Meeting: The August Board Meeting will be held on August 24, 1988, at Larry's home. Time is 7:30PM, and address is 1581 Lisa Court in Yuba City.

Next Club Meeting: The meeting this month will consist of a tour of the Appeal-Democrat and its electronic technology. See the President's message in this issue.

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.

NET CONTROL STATIONS--AUGUST 1988

August 2---KB6YAD, Tom August 9---KB6YAD, Tom
August 16---KB6YAD, Tom August 23---W6YLH, Bill
August 30---Open for a Volunteer

CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:Larry Badger, WA6ISR VICE PRESIDENT:Roger Mason, KA6BBF
SECRETARY:Don Caskey, KB6RHM TREASURER:Jack Craig, K6ZMA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Engle, N6QWU Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Bud Peters, K6HDE Jim Giarde, WA6RZA
Dave Gartner, WD6AXM Bob Mortensen, KF6OR

+++++VALLEY HAM NEWS+++++

August 1988

Editor's note: The following was passed on by Randy, N6QMM. As you may be aware, Doug Engle, N6QWU, is on a Mission for his church.

Dear YSARC,

Well, I'm out here in training and having a lot of fun. As some of you may know, I came out 2 1/2 weeks early for a family reunion. I had time to kill, so participated in a Triathlon here in Utah. I have to hand it to all of you; they were not half as organized as we were for the Bok Kai Parade.

I took part with my mobile and hand-held. It was fun.

Utah Lake is 30 miles long and about 10 miles wide. First part of the Triathlon is swimming, then bicycle riding, finishing with running. I was on the lake in a boat. We had to save a lot of swimmers because of the 4 to 5-foot swells. During the bicycling, I traveled to my station for the running portion of the race. We were working hand in hand with the police and dispatched them to some calls because we had better communications.

I hope everyone is respecting the repeater because it is a great asset to the community.

Hope Field Day was fun for all.

sincerely,
Douglas B. Engle (N6QWU)

PACIFICON 88

Don't forget the Pacific Division ARRL Convention this year. It will be in San Jose on October 14,15,16, 1988, at the Le Baron Hotel.

Pre-registration is \$12.00 each, with the banquet costing \$22.00 each. After October 11, this goes to \$15.00 and \$25.00 according to the flyer received by your Editor.

Pre-register by August 15 the receive three opportunities on the Pre-Registration Awards; by September 15 two opportunities; and by October 11 for one opportunity.

Wouff Hong will be held immediately after the banquet. Admission to this great event requires ARRL membership and you must be licensed.

For details write to:
Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
PO Box 6
San Jose, CA 95103.

August 1988

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMAND
EAST COAST TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
FREDERICK, MARYLAND 21701

SCCCI-G

10 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Technicians

SUBJECT: Shocking Truth About Electricity

1. Theory

a. Most electricity is manufactured in power stations, where it is fed into wires which are then wound around large drums.

b. Some electricity, however, does not need to go along wires. That used in lightning, for example, and in portable radios. This kind of electricity is not generated, but is just lying about in the air, loose.

c. Electricity makes a low, humming noise. This noise may be pitched at different levels for use in doorbells, telephones and electric organs.

d. Electricity has to be grounded. That is to say, it has to be connected to the ground before it can function, except in the case of airplanes, which have separate arrangements.

e. Although electricity does not leak out of an empty light socket, that light socket is nevertheless live if you happen to shove your figure in it when the switch is on. So if it is not leaking, what else is it doing?

f. Electricity is made up of two ingredients, negative and positive. One ingredient travels along a wire covered with white plastic, and the other along a wire covered with black plastic. When these two wires meet together in what we call a plug, the different ingredients are mixed together to form electricity.

g. Electricity may be stored in batteries. Big batteries do not necessarily hold more electricity than small batteries. In big batteries the electricity is just shoveled in, while in small batteries (transistors) it is packed flat.

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Shocking Truth About Electricity - continued

2. General:

a. A light switch controls a small clamp or vise which grips the wires very hard, so that the electricity cannot get through. When the switch is flicked on, the vise is relaxed and the electricity travels to the light bulb where a bit of wire, called the element, is left bare. Here, for the first time, we can actually see the electricity, in the form of a spark. This spark is enlarged many hundreds of times by the curved bulb, which is made of magnifying glass.

b. Why, is our next question, do these light bulbs have a limited life? As any schoolboy knows, heat converts oxygen into moisture. When all the oxygen in the light bulb has become liquefied in this manner, it naturally quenches the electric spark.

c. I have not yet touched on fuse wire. It has always amazed me that an industry which is so enterprising in most respects--the invention of color electricity for use in traffic lights and the harnessing of negative electricity for refrigeration are two examples that come to mind--should still, 200 years after James Watt invented the electric kettle, be manufacturing fuse wire too thin. I pass on a hint for what it is worth. There is available from hardware shops a sturdy wire used mostly for making chicken runs, and this is far more durable than the stuff sold by electricians (who must, I appreciate, make a living). By using chicken wire I now have a fuse box which--even when the spin-drier burst into flames because of too much electricity having been fed into it--has for six months been as impregnable as the Bank of England.

d. But why have fuse wire at all? I completely understand that the fuse box is the junction at which the wires leading from the power station join, or fuse with, the wires belonging to the house, and that these two sets of wires have got to be connector somehow. But what is wrong with a simple knot?

e. In some respects, I reiterate, my knowledge is imperfect. I have not yet explored the field of neon signs--how do they make the electricity move about? And the pop-up toaster--how does it know when the toast is ready? What is the difference between electricity and electronics? Is electronics just the smart word to use now? How can an English computer speak French, which requires a different voltage? Logic would answer these questions, too, and many of a more technical nature, but the light over my desk has just gone out. A valve blown somewhere, I expect.

Kil O. Watt

Editor's note: the above is courtesy of Ken and Char, K6LYT and KI6LY.

August 1988

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

It looks like August is shaping up to be another one of "those" months. Everyone is either on vacation planning vacation, or just recovering from vacation. To add to the confusion, we have the Yuba-Sutter Fair and then the Prune Festival. Then it's get ready for Back-to-School.

At the Board meeting in July there was not a quorum, thus no business could be conducted. A date for availability of the picnic area in Sutter narrowed down to August 20 ONLY, as all other dates in August are taken or otherwise not to be had. Wouldn't you know our Auctioneer is not available that Saturday. As this is written President Larry is scratching his head over the situation, but it now appears that we will experience another delay for the thing.

Incidentally, Larry is squeezing Club business in among other responsibilities such as extended work commitments, the Fair and "other duties as required".

Your Editor is selfishly looking forward to vacation in parts of both August and September. We will be in and out of town during this period, which makes our availability for Club activities somewhat questionable. The September issue of the newsletter will get out, though probably with help from a part-time assistant Editor.

It appears to your Editor that the club officers could use some help from time to time, so why not call President Larry if you have some spare time to help? It's for sure he could use it! (Of course you have to catch him near a phone first!)

We had hoped to have an article from Tom, KB6YAD, in this issue, but it still needs some work. It covers construction of a charger for your HT battery set, and preliminary results look very good. Tom has been using it for some time, now, and he says it works well. It's a design that gives a rapid charge to start and then tapers off to a trickle charge. This allows it to be left on the battery pack continuously. We hope to have it in the newsletter in an upcoming issue. Meanwhile, give Tom a call on the repeater if you're interested now.

The list of local Packet users continues to climb. It seems every time we look at the list there are more people on it. Barry's mail box is getting a real workout. If you're not on yet, consider it. You are missing ARRL Bulletins and DX Bulletins from Ron, WB5FIX, swap notices, weather reports, but probably most important, it's an excellent way to catch the guy or gal who may not be around when you are.

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COMMUNICATORS DON'T ALWAYS COMMUNICATE

Bill, KG6GB, can testify that even though Hams are supposed to be communicators, we sometimes get the message clobbered in transmission. It seems that the item in last month's Board meeting minutes concerning return of Bill's dues money (that never happened, by the way) was the result of a breakdown in communication among the officers and the Board.

Bill was not unhappy and had no desire to terminate his membership. At the first gathering of a quorum of Board members the mistake will be officially rectified.

You know, the crazy thing about this episode is that no one knows how it actually happened. You can bet that we learned from it, and it won't happen again.

Anyway, Bill is still a member in good standing in the Club, with all the rights to fame, notoriety and glory that come with such membership.

THE PREZ SEZ

Work, vacation, family commitments. Wow! What a summer it's been. Your President has been involved in all of the above. Compounding his problems has been a visit by Murphy. The mobile died several weeks ago and just in the last few days went back on the air. Added to that was the untimely death of both battery packs for the HT.

Even your board of directors has had problems this summer with vacations and demanding employers. We failed to get a quorum at the last board meeting. The next board meeting will be Aug. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at your prez's house, 1581 Lisa Court, Yuba City.

Since you are reading this now and the meeting for August was supposed to be Tuesday, Aug. 9, you'll notice it's gone past. The August meeting was put off until Tuesday night, Aug. 16, for a tour of the Yuba-Sutter Appeal-Democrat at 1530 Ellis Lake Drive, Marysville. Some of you may already know your president is the City Editor at the A-D. Technology has invaded the modern newsroom like few other industries. We deal daily with graphics computers, word processing terminals, page layout terminals and various types of lasers and earth satellites. Don't miss this tour. Find out what Lou Grant didn't tell you. We'll gather in the lobby of the A-D and the tour will start at 7:30 sharp. If you haven't been there, take E Street north to 14th Street where it becomes Ellis Lake Drive. Continue north. You'll see the A-D on your left. See You there.

73s,

WA6ISR, Larry