

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE YUBA-SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A California Non-profit Organization  
PO Box 1169

YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992

MAY, 1989

Edited by Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
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## Next Board of Directors Meeting

The May Board Meeting will be held on May 24, 1989, at Jim Giarde's home. Time is 7:30 PM, and address is 1530 Eden Way, Yuba City.

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## Next Club Meeting

The next Club Meeting will be on May 9, 1989, at the Gray Avenue School in Yuba City. Time is 7:30 PM. This will be a DF Construction Night. Bud, K6HDE will talk about construction of an antenna that can be used in the upcoming Fox Hunt,

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

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## NET CONTROL STATIONS---MAY, 1989

May 8—Phil, WB6AMO

May 15—By Invitation

May 22—By Invitation

May 29—By Invitation

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## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ron Murdock, WB5FLX

Vice President: Bud Peters, K6HDE

Secretary: Russ Decker, KB6YAF

Treasurer: Jack Craig, K6ZMA

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Pea, KB6YAD

Ron Nash, WD5HHF

Jim Giarde, WA6RZA

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

Larry Badger, WA6ISR

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 15 was a beautiful sunny day and those of us who attended Antenna Saturday had a great time. Those of us who didn't probably did too. While our attendance was low, everyone who attended had a great time. Don, W6AAQ, was in fine form, keeping us all entertained, and dropping helpful hints on antenna design and installation. Don is hereby invited back to the Second Annual Mobile Antenna Party for 1990.

During the board meeting, April 19, we again took up a discussion of field day and the two site concept. You can blame me for this one. The site at WD6BFR's Hiway 20 property is a popular one with many in the club, and has been offered for club use again this year. For the many members who can't make that trip, a valley site has been tentatively selected—at W6RFB in Live Oak. We are invited there if nothing unforeseen comes up, and other valley locations are available if the Live Oak one folds. This flexibility will allow anyone who can spend a few hours with us to operate field day. We need a chairman for the Hiway 20 site, and if someone would like to be the organizer at the valley site please let me know. I don't usually recommend Wayne Green as someone to read due mainly for his self-serving, egotistical tirades of the moment. But in this month's 73 magazine, he hits the target on one of the main reasons for slow growth of our hobby. It is that too few people are concerned with bringing in new people to ham radio. Look at any enterprise that is dying out and you will find a similar factor. The next time someone approaches you regarding entry into Ham Radio, invest some time; don't just pass them off to a phone number. Show them your operating position or demonstrate what a repeater will do for

a portable or mobile station. Have enough basic information available to spark their interest further. The new person you bring in may be the most interesting ham we ever meet. I intend to run another novice class in the fall, and I would not mind competition. Perhaps the most effective method is one on one Elmering. No one of us can do it all, and that includes me. I don't even try to do it all; that is why we need your help.

73,  
Ron, WB5FIX

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## MAY PROGRAM

This month, Bud, K6HDE will present a quick construction project for direction finding. DF is a helpful skill when comes to identifying sources of interference. Later in the month we will put these skills (and the equipment project) to work with a rabbit hunt—sometimes referred to as a fox hunt. In any case, we will try to locate a low power, low down, volunteer portable transmitter. If all goes well, we should be able to demonstrate the discipline and technique of coordinated direction finding.

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## NOTES AVAILABLE

As a parting shot, Don Johnson, W6AAQ, sent the club two copies of "VHF Antenna Notes", by SK W6GD, Oliver Wright. While written in 1954, the material is as valid now as it was then. This paper is easy to read and understand and can help you decide you want to pursue a homebuilt vhf antenna design. Some of us prefer to take one out of the manufacturers box, and

others prefer the homebuilt variety. Whichever you like, this paper is a good one to shed light on the subject. We have two copies which can circulate at request. If you need your own copy, see your local xerox shop or contact W6AAQ direct.

73,  
Ron, WB5FIX

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EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

There are several instances in each of our lives that constitute a "significant occasion". Examples are such things as finishing school, the first day at a new job, our wedding day, the birth of the first child or grandchild and similar things.

Your Editor is approaching one of these significant occasions in his life. As this is written on May 2, 1989, we are two days away from retirement from CALTRANS (State of California Department of Transportation). This has been our livelihood for the past twenty-five years, and the workplace and friends will be missed. We now appreciate the comment by Ken, K6LYT, when we asked him how he felt on his first day of retirement. His comment was "I'm scared to death!".

We are, of course, fielding the usual questions both at work and in our contacts with friends and relatives. The following are some of the questions and our answers for the benefit of any curious readers.

What are your plans for retirement?

We plan to work diligently at being retired.

Will you work part time for the State a consultant?

Maybe.

Do you plan to travel?

Probably.

Where?

Darned if I know.

You must have some specific plans.

Not that I can think of.

What hobbies do you intend to pursue?

Ham Radio, Photography, Camping, Computers and Loafing.

Is that all?

No. Others will come along.

Will you continue as Editor of the Newsletter?

Yes, unless we have a volunteer to take it over. However, there may be months when we need a stand-in if we are away from home that month.

So there you have it—the plans are nil, the schedules non-existent and the hours flexible. (Isn't that what retirement is all about?)

We are indebted to Ron, WB5FIX, for a lot of the Newsletter this month. We call special attention to the Meeting this month and the upcoming Fox Hunt. These things can be a barrel of fun, and we can learn something in the bargain. Also, the comment about the W6GD antenna notes deserves mentioning again. We used to have a copy of some of that material, and it is a requirement that you have it if you're the least bit interested in VHF antennas. The "GD Beams" are simple to build and get going, and even a technical idiot like your Editor can make them work. We are still using an old resurrected GD Double-Extended Zepp on Packet.

It's strange that even with approaching retirement we should be busy, but that's the case. It seems that each weekend is booked up and week nights are taken up with something to do every evening. Maybe beginning next week there will be more time for the important things like loafing and such.

We missed the Antenna Saturday because of a family commitment, and we were out of town on business the night of

the Board meeting. Hmmmmm—we won't have that excuse next time, will we?

We need contributions to the Newsletter. How about some of your stories or other efforts. Scratch it down on paper or put it on the Mailbox and we'll do the rest. Surely you're tired of reading your Editor's output by now. Anyway, give it a shot.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Ron Murdock

Members/Guests present: Ron Murdock, WB5FIX; Ron Nash, WD5HHF; Jack Craig, K6ZMA; Tom Pea, KB6YAD; Jim Giarde, WA6RZA; Russell Decker, KB6YAF; Randy Stohlman, N6QMM.

Treasurer's Report: Jack reported a total of \$1769.66 in the club treasury.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) ANTENNA SATURDAY - We could have had a bigger crowd of people; however, it turned out just fine. In the future, we will probably offer this function to more clubs due to the excellent site. Many thanks to Du Johnson, W6AAQ, and Lindhurst High School for making this function a success.

2.) FIELD DAY - Our two Field Day sites will be as follows: (1) The Mountain Site - near Nevada City donated by Bill Spoto. (2) Our Valley Site - in Live Oak donated by Bill Harriman. Be thinking about which Field Day site you would like to work. We will have an organizational meeting about this soon.

3.) PBBS - Barry found the 'bug' in the PBBS. The problem had to do with the game port on his computer. With a slight modification, everything is up and working.

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) O.E.S. - The O.E.S. has budgeted money to purchase an antenna system. They have asked the club to lend their expertise in the selection. It was decided that a Ringo Ranger antenna with 100

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feet of coax would be the best buy.

2.) N6QMM 224.740 MHz Repeater - Everything is going fine on the repeater. We would like more people to use the repeater! New duplexers are being manufactured by Dave, WD6AXM; Doug, N6QWU; and Randy, N6QMM. They will be installed very soon.

3.) A NEW NET! - Tom Pea, KB6YAD, has spear-headed a new net on HF. The frequency is 28.350 MHz ( 10 meters) and it will run from 8:00 PM on after our regular 2-meter net each Monday Night. Let's all get on and support Tom in his effort!

NEXT BOARD MEETING: - Jim Giarde's on Wednesday 24 May 1989.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM  
 respectfully submitted,  
 Russell Decker, KB6YAF

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## MISCELLANEOUS THOUGHTS

We are once again faced with the "biscuit and jam" problem. That is, the biscuits and jam never seem to come out even.

Such is the case sometimes with the newsletter. We either have too much or not enough to fill out the page. In this month's case, we are over with material, so here we are, filling space at the last minute.

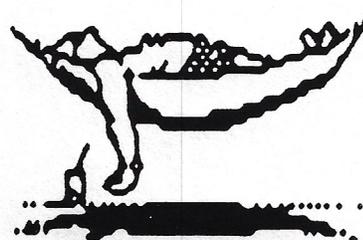
We hope to have the club roster published next month. For those of you on Packet, it is on the PBBS in the club directory. We had intended to get that done this month, but we ran out of time. It seems that the equipment here at W6HBU wants to print the thing in such a way that it is very hard to read. Also, it would take too much space due to

extra lines being inserted by the computer. We are still working on this, and should have it in shape in the next few weeks. More incompatibility—.

We haven't checked into the new 10-meter net yet, so don't know what kind of use the thing is getting. If you can hit 10 and have the time after regular net, we second the motion in the Board minutes about checking in. It sounds like a good idea and should help to increase activity locally. We are especially curious to see if some of the people not on VHF are showing up on the HF net. Anyway, see you there soon.

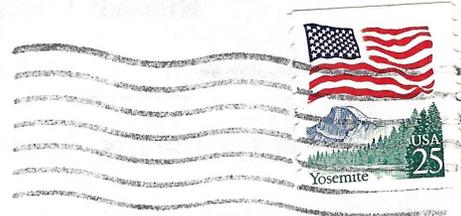
We had a visit from Tom, KB6YAD, the other evening. Tom showed up at our door packing this boat anchor he called a "RTTY TU". (A Teletype Modem to you modern types.) Upon close inspection, we determined that the thing had begun its life on our workbench more years ago than we care to admit to. As Tom put it, "The cat came back". It seems that many years back we built an improved model and gave the old one to Bill, W6YLH. It's not certain whether Bill ever got it on the air. Apparently Bill caught Tom in a weak moment and unloaded the anchor on him. Tom and your Editor finally decided the situation required further study, and when last seen, Tom was headed back home with the "cat" which still may have some life left. I guess the moral of all this is "Old Boat Anchors never die, they just come home to roost".

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