

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
A California Non-profit Organization

PO Box 1169  
YUBA CITY, CALIFORNIA 95992  
MARCH, 1994

Edited by Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
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Telephone 916-674-3648

## NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next Club meeting will feature a talk by Barry, KE6LW, on the local Packet Bulletin Board. Time and date are 7:30PM on March 8. The meeting will be at the Yuba City Police Department facility on Poole Boulevard in Yuba City.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will occur on March 23 at 7:00PM at the Yuba City Police facility on Poole Boulevard.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board meetings. Be sure to let your officers and Board Members know your wishes and ideas.

Everyone is invited.

## CLUB OFFICERS

President: Paul Johnson, N6XVL  
Vice President: Nate Walls, KD6HNR  
Secretary: Hugh MacDonald, N7OKM  
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KB6YAF, Russ Decker  
W6HBU, Herb Puckett  
KB6WID, Tom Galbreath  
KM6AM, Jerry Haley  
N6XOP, Bob Anderson

## REPEATER LICENSE TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

## Minutes of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting February 23, 1994

The meeting was called to order by the President, N6XVL, Paul, at 1958 in the training room of the Yuba City Police Department.

Present were:

President: Paul, N6XVL  
Vice-President: Nate, KD6HNR  
Treasurer: Clara, KC6JPP  
Secretary: Hugh, N7OKM

Board Members:

KB6YAF, Russ; W6HBU, Herb;  
KM6AM, Jerry; KB6WID, Tom;  
N6XOP, Bob

Visitors:

KN6WX, Wade; KC6MUS, Randy;  
WB5FIX, Ron; Jay, KE6CTU; Dave  
McElyea

Treasurers Report: \$1,492.87 plus \$50  
in the repeater fund. A repeater dona-

tion was received from Norm, WA6ZFK,  
in Oroville.

Secretary's report: Some of the correspondence is getting behind due to a class schedule but should be caught up by the first week in March. Most notably will be the bill to Quad A's Electronic supply for the 1994 newsletter advertising.

Old Business:

Repeater Guidelines and Operating Procedures;

The Notice of Poor Operating Practice letter has been approved by the repeater trustee, Dave, WD6AXM; but there are a few revisions that need to be made between the repeater operating guidelines as originally published and the form letter. Randy and Hugh will work this out and bring the completed form to the next Board Meeting. An updated version of the guidelines will also be uploaded to the YCBBS for interested parties to

down load and study.

It is the consensus of the Board of Directors that they will stand behind and back (including a formal FCC complaint if required) any club member who TACTFULLY cautions anyone about maintaining proper decorum while operating the repeater. All operators are reminded that this repeater is heard in the living rooms of many homes and some are not HAM operators. Item Open  
POC: Randy, KC6MUS, Hugh, N7OKM

Bok Kai Parade and Festival: March 12th

KN6VB, Bill is taking charge for the club. He still needs 8 or 9 volunteers from the club. Get in touch with Bill to sign up. Parade assignments will be handed out at the March 8th Club meeting.

**April Meeting:**

The planned discussion on Fox Hunting has been canceled. Any one with ideas for that meeting should get in touch with Paul with their suggestion.

**May meeting and potluck at Colgate:**

Several members of the club went up and checked out the area. They reported that it looks good and there is adequate parking for 8 or more RV's for overnight camping. We will have the area for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The club will also have the use of a bunk house with several rooms as well as a kitchen and bath house. The meeting will be on Saturday and will be a pot luck and Barbecue.

**Hats and T Shirts:**

36 Club Hats were purchased by the club due to a momentary excellent price. A check in the amount of \$131.00 was drawn on the club account to pay for the items. A motion was made by Herb, W6HBU, Seconded by Russ, KB6YAF to approve the action in this case only. The members involved were cautioned that this will not be the case again without a special meeting of the Board. A motion was made by Clara, KC6JPP, with a second, by Russ, KB6YAF, to purchase 51 more hats if already on order or to spend up to \$50.00 ( payment for time and stencil production) to cancel the order if not already produced.

**Breakfast 19 March:**

The next club breakfast will be held at 0900 at Marcella's on Bridge Street in Yuba City. POC: Jay , KE6CTU

**Field Day:**

The June Field Day upper/QRP site will be Snow Mountain again this year. All QRP enthusiasts are requested to get in touch with the coordinator, Wade, KN6WX.

The Lower Site, High Power, is up in the air as Ed N6VRH, will be unable to coordinate at this time. A volunteer is needed to head up this effort.

**Bike Around the Buttes:**

The sign ups for the April Bike Around the Buttes event will be conducted at the March meeting. Approximately 18 club members will be needed for this annual event.

POC: Herb, W6HBU

**New Business:**

**Emergency Antennas At Rideout and Fremont Hospitals:**

Several club members recently checked out the operating condition of the emergency antenna drops at local area hospitals. They reported back to the Board on the condition of the drops. Ron, WB5FIX, and Russ, KB6YAF, checked the Fremont site and found the coax connector damaged and the antenna in need of sealing. They repaired the damage and advised that the antenna will be moved in April for remodeling. They also said that the connection is located in the Doctors' Mailroom.

Wade, KN6WX, checked out the connection and antenna drop at Rideout Hospital. The drop is located in the triage area and a ladder will be needed to get to the PL259 but the antenna has a good match. Although the top of the antenna has been damaged his 2 1/2 watt simplex signal was copied by a mobile at the Main Gate to Beale AFB. The match was found to be within operating limits.

Both hospitals are being remodeled and our antennas are going to be moved; however an amateur operator is in charge of the remodeling process and is attempting to look out for our interests during the evolution. Wade, KN6WZ is the point of contact for the club during this evolution.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Hugh, N7OKM

**AMATEUR SATELLITES:  
IN WITH BOTH FEET, OR  
JUST A TIPPY-TOE?**

Over the last two and half decades, I've tried many of the things ham radio has to offer. From morse to digital modes, I have put time, effort, and money--lets not forget that--into many areas of this hobby.

It is always fun to start a new mode or type of operation. The learning curve at the beginning is nearly vertical, and most of these things I've been

able to learn hands-on, which is the best for me.

To start, you need to know a little about the birds--the satellites placed in orbit for us by amateur organizations around the world. You also need to know that ARRL and AMSAT, both WANT us to get active on the satellites and both will help newcomers.

The equipment required must seem mind-boggling, especially to someone who is just starting out and has very limited bucks for the next radio-adventure. But it is important to note that skill and modest equipment can yield exciting results in satellite operations.

Computers are great aids but not required to track the birds. Packet can be used on some of the birds, both to read the downlinked telemetry and to store messages for downlink elsewhere. There are so many birds and options available you only need to choose a path, and use a little diligence to get contacts on amateur satellites.

Two Russian systems offer the easiest first step, and either can bring exciting new achievements. RS-10/11 and RS-12/13 are piggy backed on meteorological satellites in low- earth-orbit. They complement each other, so that when one is over head, the other is 45 minutes to an hour away. Both birds are in circular, near polar orbits so that they pass near us five or six times a day--3 north to south passes and 3 south to north passes.

RS-10 is a Mode A capable satellite, which means it has a linear transponder accepting CW or USB signals on 2 meters and retransmits them on 10 meters. RS-12 also has a linear transponder which listens on 15 meters and retransmits on 10 meters, or mode K. RS-12 listens in that part of the band which requires U.S. amateurs to have an advanced or extra class privilege to transmit. Anyone can listen.

To hear the activity, monitor 29.38 to 29.4 MHz (RS-10), or 29.41 to 29.45 MHz for RS-12. The majority of these operations are in SSB (upper sideband). Satellite passes close enough to hear the signals with a monitor receiver last about 12 minutes on average. You have to pay attention--the signals are rarely S9.

Several shareware computer programs are available that will allow a personal computer to track and predict operation times for our satellites. I found Instant Track, available through AMSAT, to be

the best for me. Without a computer, just listen for the beacons carried by each bird--29.357 MHz CW for RS-10, and 29.4081 MHz for RS-12. When you hear the beacons, you can hear the contacts going on--maybe even one of mine.

73, Ron, WB5FIX

HOW TO REPAIR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

1 Approach the ailing instrument in a confident manner. This will give the instrument the mistaken idea that you know something. It will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the instrument should suddenly start working you will be credited with its repair. Should this fail, proceed to step 2.

2 Wave the service manual at the instrument. This will make the instrument assume that you are at least familiar with the source of knowledge. Should this fail, proceed to step 3.

3 In a forceful manner, recite Ohm's Law to the instrument. (Caution: BEFORE TAKING THIS STEP, REFER TO A HANDBOOK TO BE SURE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OHM'S LAW.) This will prove to the instrument that you do know something. This is a drastic step and should only be taken if the first two steps fail. If this step fails, proceed to step 4.

4 Jar the instrument slightly. This may take anything from a three to six foot drop, preferably on a concrete floor. However, you must be careful with this step because, while jarring is the approved method of repair, you must not mar the floor. Again, this is a very drastic step. If it should fail, proceed to step 5.

5 Brandish a large screwdriver in a menacing manner. This will frighten the instrument and demonstrates the deadly "SHORT CIRCUIT" technique. If this step fails, proceed to step 6.

6 Add a tube...even if the instrument is solid state. This will prove to the instrument that you are familiar with

the design of the instrument. Also, this will increase your advantage and confuse the instrument. If this step fails, proceed to the most drastic and dangerous step of all, step 7. It is very seldom used and is the next to last resort if all else fails.

7 Ask your `better half` where you put the manual for the instrument. Then actually READ it. This might shock the instrument into actually working.

BUT IF THE OTHER STEPS FAIL THEN USE STEP 8.

8 THINK...! It is the most dangerous step of all! It is very seldom used, and is the LAST RESORT if all else fails.

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Editor's note: We are indebted to Jim, WATHQL, for the above treatise. Jim sent along a diskette with some Ham-related text files on it.

Jim apparently runs RABBIT-SOFT IBM SHAREWARE. Drop him a line at PO Box 1583, Williams, CA 95987. Include a dollar, and he'll send you a catalog.

CLUB HATS

Club hats are now available through Robby, N6PGK. The first twelve hats came out with a black logo on them. That problem has been resolved and the rest of the hats now carry the official Red logo. The people who bought the hats with the black logo on them at the Pot Luck dinner in February may return them for exchange if you prefer the red logo. Either is OK by me; I'm not going to trash the black logo hats and will have them for sale. The hats are \$5.00 each whether black logo or red.

I had to change vendors in order to get a good price in the quantity of 35 that we wanted.

I'll have the hats available for sale at the next Club Meeting. If you wish, call me on the Repeater to make sure I'm home. You are welcome to stop by and pick them up at my home.

73's, Robby, N6PGK

AMATEUR CALL SIGN LICENSE PLATES

The following was extracted from September, 1992 Valley Ham News by Robby, N6PGK:

Amateur Radio Call Letter License Plates are available to California motorists who are also amateur radio operators. At the time of application, you must submit a Form REG. 441, and surrender your current plates. The DMV says to expect a 60 day wait to receive your new plates.

To apply, the following requirements must be met:

- 1-Present your FCC license for verification. If applying by mail, include a photostat copy with your application.
- 2-License plates can only be issued to the class of call letters as specified on your FCC license.
- 3-Radio call letter license plates cannot be issued for trailers or trailer coaches.
- 4-The department will not issue more than one set of special plates for any licensed amateur radio station.
- 5-Fees Required; Amateur Radio Plates, Reflectorized; \$21.00 in addition to other regular fees upon original application; \$12.00 when reassigned to a different motor vehicle.
- 6-Specialized call letter license plates may be issued only when the licensee named on the FCC license is a registered owner or lessee of the motor vehicle.

Editor's note: We suggest you confirm the above information before sending anything to DMV. With all the recent changes in State government regulations, there could be changes.

BIKE AROUND THE BUTTES

April 16 is the big day. The event this year is a repeat of last year's operation. There will be a signup sheet at the March club meeting for your use. We will also try to have a few maps and information sheets available.

We hope to have things finalized by the Meeting date. We'll let you know there.

*ROSTER ADDITIONS*

James Barnes, KD6LIL 4431 Olive Highway, Oroville, CA 95966  
Phone 589-0803

John Smith, KE6EXP 400 N. Walton #A, Yuba City, CA 95993

Sam Taylor, KD6QDF Phone 533-8937

Larry Magneson, K6ZWI Phone 533-9549

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*TOWER WANTED*

Art, KB6RME, is looking for a tower. He's thinking of a self-supporting crank up/fold-over unit in the range of 40-60 feet high. Art can be reached at 916-458-9549 via phone or on the 224.456 repeater during the daytime.

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*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

NO COMMENT!!

Paul says that by the time we get the front page done with all the announcements, and then the minutes, he can think of nothing else to talk about.

Well, that has a lot of merit, though your Editor usually manages to come up with something most of the time. Anyway, we agree with Paul about the shortage of subjects, unless one is blessed with the gift of gab or full of something.

No problem. Paul, we got lotsa stuff this month -- even had to add an extra page to the thing.

Listen for Paul on the air. He can defend himself quite nicely there, thank you.

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*EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS*

As we noted above, our cup runneth over this month. Many thanks to all who contributed. Keep it coming, everyone. It sure makes the Editor's job easier.

It looks like Spring is sprung as we write this. Time to get on with that antenna project or get ready for camping or think about Field Day or -----?. Anything but stay inside.

'Course, we all know that this is only a temporary respite from the late winter and early spring weather. At least, it had better be, with the water situation what it is at present. We need more rain and snow, or that camping spot at Swamp Creek may not be available by August. It's the same old thing, it seems. We're never completely satisfied. We'll be grumbling about the heat later this year (those of us not up in the hills, at any rate), and also about the coming rain that we so badly need.

7366 Auburn Blvd., #3  
Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
(916) 723-7366  
(916) 723-7368

**Quad A's  
Electronic  
Supply**

**Samuel E. Ansell  
WA6POM**

AMATEUR CB SCANNERS SHORTWAVE  
CELLULAR COMMERCIAL

**The Radio Place**  
SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION

5675A POWER INN ROAD  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95824  
(916) 387-0730  
FAX (916) 387-0744

Along the line of camping, think about making the scene at Colgate late in May. It's a nice place for a weekend outing, and the facilities are excellent. If we can only get a few of the cooks in this group to come up with some of their excellent efforts, it will indeed be a weekend to remember. Couple good food with a possible mini Field Day, and we'll really have something.

Your Editor has been looking at the calendar and marking out dates and trips to various places in the Nevada desert and the wilds of outdoors thereabouts. The mobile antenna needs a permanent home on the pickup, and we can add some more wiring to the trailer for operation at Swamp Creek next August. There all kinds of things to do.

You know, the interesting thing is, that our favorite camp spot is under snow right now, and the nights are probably bitter cold for a fair weather camper like your Editor. It's still hard not to think of the cool days and nights of last August as we look out the window at the mild day today here in Yuba City, however.

Your Editor and Ed, N6VRH, took a jaunt up to the Susanville and Ravendale area recently. We saw lots of snow this side of Susanville, but out on the flat plains east of the Susan valley the ground was bare. We didn't stay to find out, but I'd lay odds it was colder than all getout that night. It's still nice, however, to look from the comfort of the pickup and imagine how nice it will be later this summer.

I do believe there is a lifetime of exploring to be done without getting more than two hundred miles from Yuba City. Anyway, while Randy and Dave put out the Newsletter this summer, your Editor will be checking out some of that territory.

APR 21 1968

NO 1198

MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
OTTAWA

TO:

[Redacted]

FROM: (100-100-100)

DATE: (18-01-68)

APR 21 1968  
NO 1198  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
OTTAWA

RE: [Redacted] [Redacted]

(This document is for the use of the recipient only)

CLASSIFICATION: [Redacted]

EXPIRES: [Redacted]

BY: [Redacted]

FOR: [Redacted]

REASON FOR EXTENSION: [Redacted]

DATE: [Redacted]

BY: [Redacted]

REASON FOR EXTENSION: [Redacted]

DATE: [Redacted]

Membership application: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

Type:

New

Renewal

Member Information: (Full Voting Rights and Privileges)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Callign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Family Member (Living in Same Household Only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Callisign: \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (18.00 per year)

Associate dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (4.00 per year)

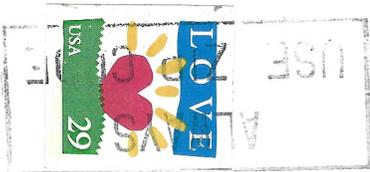
Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 1169  
Yuba City, CA. 95992

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

YUBA SUTTER  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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HUGH MACDONALD  
N7OKM  
220 1/2 HAZEL STREET  
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