

The Voice Of The Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club

A California Non-profit Organization

P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, CA 95992



October 1995

Club Officers

PRESIDENT Paul Johnson, N6XVL
VICE PRES Hugh MacDonald, N7OKM
TREASURER Clara Ansley, KC6JPP
SECRETARY Randy Smith, KC6MUS

Board Members

Russ Decker, KB6YAF
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Ron Murdock, WB5FIX
Tom Galbreath, KB6WID
Dave McElyea, KE6HRO

Repeater License Trustee

Dave Gartner WD6AXM

Newsletter Editors

Randy Smith KC6MUS
Nate Walls KD6HNR

Original Newsletter Design

Dave Hollen KD6DHM

Next Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be at the Yuba City Police Department on October 10th, 1995 at 7:30 P.M. Scheduled is nominations of club officers for next year. Please Attend!! See you there!

Next Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on October 25th, 1995 at 7:00 P.M. in the Yuba City Police building on Poole Boulevard.

Club Net

The Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club holds a regular net for members and guests each Monday evening at 7:00 P.M. on the WD6AXM (Trustee) repeater. The input frequency is 146.685 MHz and the output is 146.085 MHz. If you wish to be a Net Control Operator, contact: Hugh, N7OKM; or Paul N6XVL.



Amateur Testing

The next test by the YSARC VE testing team will be held November 14th, 1995 at 5:30 P.M. till the start of the meeting. Contact Homer, KB6EJ at 673-0868 for more information. You will need to preregister for the tests!!!

Contact us online:

Nate: KD6HNR@KE6LW
Randy KC6MUS@KE6LW and
rspress@syix.com

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Minutes of the Last Board Meeting

Present were:

Paul N6XVL
 Dave KE6HRO
 Clara KC6JPP
 Hugh N7OKM
 Cathy KE6LNT
 Ron WB5FIX
 Ken KN6WZ
 Stormy NG7X
 Cathy N7WDW
 Randy KC6MUS

Volunteers needed: Cathy, N7WDW, had a request for people to help with the Christmas Parade. She needs about 35 radio operators to help out. The radio operators will be doing radio comms only. The radio operators will be needed at 4:00 PM, December 2nd. POC Cathy N7WDW OPEN

Christmas Party: Paul, N6XVL, reported that the Christmas tree will be up at the legion hall for our Christmas party. The board also voted that \$160.00 be allocated for the party for food, drinks and prizes. POC Cathy KE6LNT CLOSED

Motor home: The club motor home will be moved to a location in Yuba City. It is hoped that the motor home will sell quicker in this location. OPEN

Club Officers: It is almost time to elect club officers for next year. People interested in becoming a club officer should attend the next meetings. Nominations will be held at the October meeting. All positions are open to all club members. The who are interested in running so far are:

President - Ron WB5FIX
 Vice President - Hugh N7OKM
 Secretary - OPEN
 Treasure - OPEN

Board - Cathy KE6LNT
 Board - Ken KN6WZ
 Board - Dave KE6HRO

Please attend if you are interested in running!

Club Dues: Clara wishes to remind everyone to get your club dues in early to beat the Christmas Crunch!

Items for club calendar:
 Third Saturday in March for the club swap meet

April 20th - Bike Around The Buttes

Minutes submitted by Randy KC6MUS

Amateur Auxiliary Success

By Lance Halle KC7FVY
 Official Observer Arizona Section

NEWSFLASH: FCC issues Notice of Violation to unlicensed operator or malicious interference on Amateur repeaters.

That was part of a bulletin I recently posted in Phoenix, Arizona. It is the first step, with the Notice of Apparent Liability and subsequent enforcement action to follow. It was made possible because members of the Local Interference Committee and Amateur Auxiliary personnel assisted by the Amateur community, followed carefully the guidelines laid out in the training manual. It wasn't easy, and involved several hundred man hours and countless nights away from home. Here's how it developed

For 3 to 4 years, no one remembers exactly how long, Phoenix has have put up with profane and vulgar language and interference on the local

nets. The cause of the problem was identified long ago and FCC was notified. But it seemed every time they were in town, the problem went away. The Amateur community knew who the culprit was, and even occasionally where he lived, although he moved frequently. What was lacking was a coordinated effort. Even the person causing the interference knew that, as he was heard on 11 meters saying, "I don't worry, the dumb hams always tip me off," when another CBER asked him about getting caught

We created a Local Interference Committee (LIC) as described in the ARRL Amateur Auxiliary Training Guide. Our Committee consisted of a Chairman, and 4 members who were selected based on their technical expertise, professionalism, exemplary operating practices and willingness to become OOs. Home location was a factor as we wanted to divide the metro area into zones. We were careful to avoid any "colorful characters" or those who might have an ax to grind or wanted in as a "power trip." The Training Guide became our policy and procedure manual.

Next we designed an "Interference Report" form and published it in local newsletters and distributed it at club meetings. The report solicited information about frequency, Signal strength, type of interference and listener's location. We also had several lines for the listener to enter his/her observations about who and where the interference was coming from. The form included a phone number, packet address, Internet address, and FAX number to use for submitting the information. It wasn't long before reports began coming in. A pin was put in the city map to indicate the location of each report with the color of the pin indicating if the sig-

nal was strong, medium or weak. If a heading was available, a string was tied to that pin to indicate the heading.

It didn't take many reports to localize the source of a problem. Once we knew the approximate area, the mobile DF units took over to pinpoint the source. On the subject of DF units, the Doppler type unit is highly recommended. Excellent units can be purchased for around \$500. These have the advantage of being able to lock on to a Signal as short as 150ms, and operate on any frequency you have a receiver for. There are also good home-brew circuits around.

The LIC operation was kept as covert as possible. If you tell someone "we found 'em," you will just drive your quarry underground and make your work mow difficult, or even adversely affect what actions get taken. Don't undermine your case by sounding like you am "out to get 'em" Keep it objective and professional

Once the quarry was located, the task of gathering enough evidence to make an actionable case began. Since the person was believed to be unlicensed, with the approval of our Section Manager, the plan was to collect evidence and present it directly to the FCC, as opposed to using OO advisory notices which are appropriate for Amateur to Amateur interference. Once again, the training manual was referred to, and the chapter on evidence gathering provided

the guidelines we needed. Following these guidelines, we made and documented tapes of the interference on both the repeater input and output frequencies, and other relevant frequencies. Multiple DF headings were taken during each tape session to support our claim of where the transmissions were coming from. At least one OO was present during each session to add further credibility to the evidence. Later each tape was replayed, and relevant sections quoted in our report of that day's activities. The tapes were then sealed in an envelope in front of witnesses. Each tape was given a reference number that tied it to a specific report.

Aver about 6 weeks of evidence gathering, we felt we had sufficient evidence to take to the FCC for possible action. We knew the subject well enough to predict with reasonable accuracy when and where he would cause trouble. A short summary of what we had (including some very predictable patterns) was presented to the FCC Engineer in Charge at the Arizona office. Based on that information, two agents were dispatched to the recommended location, and right on schedule our subject treated them to his form of "entertainment." They were able to obtain several DF headings, then knock on he door and confront him. Six weeks later the Notice of Violation was issued.

It is important to note that we didn't involve FCC resources until we felt we had

likely to get their attention if most of the field work had already been done. Also note that patience is important in these activities. It has taken about 6 months just to get the Notice of Violation. Now, that and the subject's reply get processed and a Notice of Apparent Liability (specifying fines and sanctions) may get issued.

The entire process may take a year, or two, or three, but our immediate goal has been served as of this point. The Notice of Violation has been sent and made public. The community knows who the troublemaker is, and he knows the FCC is now watching. The interference has stopped, and under the current circumstances, we feel it is very unlikely this person would risk such activities again.

Another positive result of this action is the deterrent effect it has had. The LIC watchdogs 20 repeaters, and interference on all of them is down to almost nothing. The community now knows what to do and who to contact if there are problems. The word is out that action can and will be taken. We hope that the presence of the LIC and an active OO program will insure continued enjoyment of the great hobby for a long time.

The above story was sent to me from Hugh, N7OKM. It shows how teamwork can make our hobby a better one.

Randy KC6MUS

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sufficient information for them to make a case against the subject. We were much more

Quad A's Electronic Supply

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(916) 723-7366
(916) 732-7368

Samuel E. Ansell
WA6POM

Membership Application: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

Type: New Renewal Repeater Donation

Member Information: (Full Voting Rights and Privileges)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Callsign: _____ License Class: _____

Associate Family Member (living in Same Household Only) ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Name _____ Callsign: _____ License Class: _____

Dues: \$ _____ 18.00 per year

Associate Dues: \$ _____ 4.00 per year

Total Enclosed:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to:
Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 1169
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