

VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, California 95992

May, 1997

Edited by Herb Puckett, W6HBU
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NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting will occur on May 13 at the Yuba City Police Training Room on Poole Boulevard in Yuba City. Field Day planning will be the main subject. There will also be video of a VHF contest and a previous Field Day by the Club.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will occur on May 28 at 7:00PM at the Yuba City Police facility on Poole Boulevard. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Come to the meeting to be sure that your voice is heard.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ron Murdock, W6KJ
Vice President: Barry Barnes, KE6LW
Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Galbreath, KB6WID
Jerry Whitney, WA6ZZK Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Tom (Robby) Robinson, N6PGK Tony Ramos, KF6CXL
Herb Puckett, W6HBU

REPEATER LICENSE TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 23, 1997

PRESENT: President Ron Murdock - W6KJ; Secretary Clara M. Ansley - KC6JPP.

Board Members: Herb Puckett - W6HBU, Robby Robinson - N6PGK, Tony Ramos KF6CXL, Lee Sheffield - KC6MCI, Tom Galbreath - KB6WID.

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Murdock W6KJ at 7:00pm at the Yuba City Police Station's Training Room.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Checking balance March 25: \$5,499.03. RECEIPTS: \$249.50. DISBURSEMENTS: \$949.23. Checking Balance: \$4,799.25. Less Repeater Donation Balance: \$479.00 and VE Balance \$216.91 Total: \$695.91; leaving a Club Balance of. \$4,103.34.

OLD BUSINESS: President Ron, W6KJ, stated that he did not find a fiberglass VHF Log Periodic Dipole antenna that the club

wanted to purchase at the last swap meet he attended. He will continue to look for one, for the club, at other swap meets. North Hills Radio Club will have a Swap Meet on May 18 at the Elk's Lodge on the corner of Hackberry and Cypress. (Get correct info from flyer).

NEW BUSINESS: Our club will have a breakfast, on Sunday May 11 at 9am, at the American Legion hall on Feather River Blvd, Marysville.

Robby Robinson N6PGK, asked permission to write a letter to the members of the American Legion Linda Post 807 inviting them to come out and see what we do during our Field Day exercise June 28th and 29th. We get points for every one that signs our guest sheet. He was told to go ahead with the invitation.

All gear, for our Field Day exercise will be put into place on Friday, June 27th. That evening, the American Legion has offered to prepare a steak dinner, at a nominal fee. If you would like to attend PLEASE notify Robby N6PGK, so that he can give a count of people to the Legion. They need to know the number of people in order for them to make their purchases. Legion

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members will be invited to our Home Made Ice Cream feast after the dinner.

Saturday, June 28th: we will have a potluck dinner. Bar-b-que will be available for those present to prepare whatever type of meat they want. Those present will bring a dish to share with others.

If a member has any type of gear that he is willing to bring for Field Day use: radios, antennas, generators, solar panels, etc. PLEASE NOTIFY Robby N6PGK.

Robby N6PKG will check with Ken Taylor KN6WZ about his picking up the club's tower and antenna on his flat bed trailer and take it to his home to see how it could best be set up to use for Field Day.

Herb Puckett W6HBU will check with the Forest Service to see about our using the paved area at 4 Trees for the June VHF QSO Party JUNE 14th and 15th.

A motion was made by Herb W6HBU, and seconded, that we allow \$200 with which to purchase the materials for the ice cream, gasoline for the generators and guy wire for the antenna for Field Day. Motion passed.

Our next club meeting will be Tuesday, May 13th at the Yuba City Police Station at 7:30pm. PROGRAM: Final plans for Field Day and videos of previous Field Days.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 28th at 7:00 pm., also at the Yuba City Police Station. Members are invited to attend.

A VE session will be held Saturday, May 3rd. (Contact Homer for correct information).

Being there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Submitted by

Clara M. Ansley
Secretary/Treasurer

FIELD DAY '97

June 28 11am - June 29 11am

Due to the interest that was shown and the comments that were passed around at and after the Field Day 96, Robby started the wheels turning for "Field Day 97". So cut out this page and make sure you store it in a nice safe place where you will be able to see it often and where you won't forget about it.

The Host Masters for Field Day 97 will be Robby, N6PGK; Paul, N6XVL; and Ed, N6VRH. If you have any

input get hold of one of them and let them know so we can include your concerns in on the planning of Field Day 97.

Essentially we are planing the same program as Field Day '96, except that we want 7 or so stations operating instead of 3.

The food will mostly be the responsibility of each individual to feed him or herself, but we have a few plans in addition. They are as follows:

Friday 27 June 97

Rv'ers and others show up after 3 pm and set up camp

American Legion Steak Night at 6 pm
YSARC Homemade ice cream at 7 pm

Saturday 28 June 97

YSARC Bar-b-que (bring ur own) 5-8 pm

Sunday 29 June 97

American Legion Breakfast 7 am

The club has a tower which hopefully will be in use for field day. Also, we have acquired 2 G5RV antennas for club use. There are other pieces of club equipment that I can't think of at the moment, but it will be there also.

I am in need of about 30 operators for field day 97. That isn't too many if you figure three shifts of 8 hours each. With 10 operators that's only 5 stations with 2 operators each working 1 hour on and 1 hour off. SO GET IN THERE AND VOLUNTEER!!

The stations so far are:

Station 1 Paul N6XVL	2-mtr ssb
Station 2 Marv KE6JNT	6-mtr ssb
Station 3 ED, N6VRH & Clara, KC6JPP	75/80-mtr phone
Station 4 Lee, KC6MCI	75/80-mtr cw
Station 5 Ron, W6KJ	40-mtr phone
Station 6 Wade, KN6WX	40-mtr cw
Station 7 Jerry, WA6ZZK	10/15/20-mtr phone
Station 8 Tom, KB6WID	10/15/20-mtr cw

Extra operators so far are;

Nancy, KE6JJZ - Robby, N6PGK - Tony, KF6CXL -
Barbara, KF6FBE - Tony Jr., KF6CIW - Jay, KF6CIS

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We will be a 3A station using W6KJ as a call sign

Unfortunately, we lost our Packet station. Jim and Nancy were going to run that for us but they have moved.

As you can see there will be a lot to do and will need a lot of operators to do it. This lay out is not hard and fast; just a guide to show what's needed. Hopefully we will be getting more Operators to add on to this list..

Well, for now that's it. You probably won't be hearing from me for quite awhile, so keep in touch. If you want to get on the list (and I hope a lot of you will), just contact Ed, Paul or Robby and we'll add you to the list. What's that? You don't know what you'll be doing June 28/29 of 1997? Well, join the boat. Neither do I, but I hope to be at Field Day '97. If not, then someone else can pick up the pieces and run with it...

Last year, the food was great and the field day was just dandy too... Let's do again better.

73, Robby, N6PGK

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THE PREZ SEZ

Greetings from the flat lands.

We are planning to operate the VHF QSO party 2 weeks before Field Day. A suitable site has been identified and we are taking necessary steps to secure permission to use this site and will plan a 24 hour operation to contact as many stations and different grid squares as we can. Why attempt this just before field day, you might ask? Well, both contests are scheduled to coincide with good weather, at least most places. There is also a winter VHF contest, and if this one draws enough interest, we may elect to do that

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

Quad A's Electronic Supply

Samuel E. Ansell
W6POM

one later. This club does have a large number of Technician class operators who have not yet operated in a contest, and this seems like a great way to introduce contest operation to those who have an interest. Contest operation is frustrating, demanding, and a good simulation of emergency conditions.

Field day and the VHF QSO party will dominate our meetings for the next few months. This is necessary because we seem to need "wheel reinvention" each year. Some clubs have a cadre of people who come up with new and innovative ways to get more contest points, but we have yet to find them. However, that would be nice....hint, hint.

Sites for these operations are important. Location, location, location. Field day is the last full weekend of June, and we will be in the parking area of the American Legion Post in Linda, where we have operated successfully for the last few years. For the VHF QSO party, we intend to go up to a parking lot in the Sierra foothills and operate from there. We need your support for both of these operations. Your equipment: radios, antennas, feedlines, and YOU.

Operating events are fine. They concentrate club activity over a few scheduled days so you can plan to be with us. But there are other things your officers and board members would like to present to the club. Let us know what they are. Please.

Jo Anne and I got to see California Gray Whales migrating northward last Saturday. Gee, they look just like the ones you see on television, except we were 600 feet up over the Pacific at Pt. Reyes lighthouse. What a kick. Hmmm...wonder if we could operate from there.
73, Ron, W6KJ

10 WAYS to Optimize Your Effectiveness in Public Service Events

*By Willam L. Continelli, AB2CA
RF Musings, newsletter of the Schenectady
(NY)
Museum Amateur Radio Association*

1) **Make sure your radio is in top operating condition.** Small problems (such as loose antenna connections, bad microphones, intermittent operation, etc.) may be just annoying during casual operation, but WILL cause major grief under the continuous/severe service of net/emergency operation. If your radio's not in 100% top shape, buy, beg, or borrow one.

2) **Don't operate your handheld with it hanging on your belt.** Using the radio while it's strapped to your waist reduces your effective radiated power by more than 10 dB. - that's a 90% reduction in power! Hold the radio in your hand, with the antenna in the clear.

3) **Regarding antennas,** those 3" rubber dummy loads may be cute, but you're throwing away 3-6 dB of power when using one. (If you're really into math, compute the loss of a 3" rubber dummy load used on a belt clip). A telescoping half-wave has a gain of as much as 10 dB over a 3" rubber duck and a quarter-wave provides a 4-6 dB improvement. Even a 12-15" rubber duck will boost your signal by 3-6 dB over the 3" ones. Remember that one dB can mean the difference in whether or not a critical message gets through.

4) **Have charged batteries and spare battery packs!** If you also have a dry cell battery case, fill it with alkaline batteries. Make sure you have enough batteries with you to carry you through, even on high power.

5) **Use headphones or an earphone** rather than a speaker/mike. Most earphones will plug directly into your HT. Low cost stereo headphones are widely available and will work perfectly with your HT using a mono to stereo adapter. The headphones also have the advantage of concentrating the communications in your ears, while partially shutting out the outside noise. Headphones will also prolong battery life by allowing the radio to operate at lower audio output. A speaker/mike is the worst thing you can use-it doesn't cut the outside noise, it doesn't save batteries, and where is that HT while you're using the speaker/mike?? (Hint-see #2!)

6) **Speak slowly and clearly** when transmitting! You may take pride in your ability to run your words together and mumble, but the station on the other end may be in a noisy environment and may not receive your message.

7) **Check out your ability to use simplex.** Even if the operation is being conducted on a repeater, there may be "dead spots," the repeater may go down, or, sad to say, there may be jamming. Even if you can only work the two or three stations closest to you, a message can still be relayed. To maximize your simplex range, please reread #2 and #3.

8) **Listen to net control** and direct all communication through him/her. Identify your station when calling net control and keep all communications direct and to the point.

9) **If you must leave the radio** or the area to which you have been assigned, first seek permission and acknowledgment from the net control station, make your "time off" as short as possible, and check back in with NCS immediately upon your return.

10) **Project a good image** to the non-hams around you that are part of the event/ emergency. This means acting professionally, using basic hygiene skills, etc.

Editor's note: The above is via Ron, W6KJ. Some good info there.

TAKE MOM TO BREAKFAST

Don't forget the club breakfast on June 11. Yeah, it's Mother's day, but if you have nothing else planned, take in the club breakfast at the American Legion Hall in Linda. Time is 9:00AM or thereabouts.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

There was a thing in the paper this morning about a canceled meeting 'cause some guy had a "schedule conflict". One would think that such things only happen in the working world, and the retiree has gobs of time on his or her hands. No way!!!! Your Editor has a severe case of conflictitis from now 'til October! 'Course, maybe it's more a lack of planning or trying to cram two pounds of activity into a one-pound calendar.

The trailer has a date this week for some minor routine maintenance work, the HF mobile antennas are working,

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the new mounts for the VHF antenna units will be mounted by the weekend and then it's off to the pine tree. Whoops! There is a Club meeting next Tuesday! It involves a video taken by yours truly of a VHF contest and a Field Day. We should be there to defend ourselves and answer questions. (No fair asking embarrassing questions!) We will also talk about upcoming Field Day and the VHF outing in June. Well, there goes another schedule.

Speaking of the VHF contest, it's the weekend of June 14-15. That's Father's Day. Hmmm --- good idea, ARRL. Your Editor **WILL BE** at a big family bash in the East Bay area on June 14!! Another conflict. Oh, by the way, there is another family reception in Woodland for two nephews who will graduate from High School that same June 14!

Somewhere in all this mess, there has to be a trip to Bend, Oregon, involving some special furniture. No Ham Radio, no camping, only go up there and get the darn thing. Oh, yes, there is a good possibility that the kitchen will get redone this summer - maybe in July. We can't leave town then, 'cause we may need the trailer for meals and cooking. Also, there will no doubt be many decisions to be made. Yes, the XYL can make all decisions, but she prefers that it be a cooperative thing; and we agree.

Don't forget the club breakfast on May 11. Darn!! Your Editor has been advised that there will be a brunch at the daughter's place in Yuba City that morning. Then to Sacramento Metro Airport to pick up a friend coming back from Alaska in the early afternoon.

While there is not as yet a hard and fast conflict during Field Day weekend, believe me; if that week or two is available, your Editor is out of here. I'll give you guys a contact or two from the mobile. Anyway, that's more than six weeks away, and many as yet unknown plans can be made and changed by then. Stay tuned.

Oh, I almost forgot! I received a thing in the mail a few days ago advising that I am being considered for a year of "Civic Duty" requiring four hours per week for the whole year!!! I know "someone has to do it", but why me? That particular activity has not been cast in stone, and will probably not occur, but the timing was rather ironic.

We have not discussed August, September or October. October looks good. The calendar is almost blank. September has two positives and only one conflict at present. August is almost as bad as July.

And they say that retired people have so much time on their hands with nothing to do!!!!

Let it be said most loudly, however; that most of our conflicts involve a family that is very precious to us. Also, your Editor is blessed with the luxury of growing old. Unfortunately, many are not accorded that privilege. So let us admit that the complaints are mostly in jest. They are really an acknowledgment of our good treatment by the weaver of the fabric of life. We are indeed fortunate, and no amount of griping can hide that fact.

VHF CONTEST, JUNE 14-15

The ARRL VHF QSO Party takes place on June 14-15 this year. This a typical contest where stations seek out a high mountain top and try to contact as many other stations on as many bands and modes as possible in as many "Grid Squares" as possible.

For the newer licensees, the world has been laid out in Grid Squares similar to the Latitude and Longitude grids worldwide. However, the Grid Squares are much smaller in area. They are used extensively in VHF, UHF and Microwave contest work. There will be more information and illustrations at the next club meeting.

Given enough interest, the club will have a station in place at Four Trees south of Bucks Lake for the contest weekend. The elevation is about 5000 feet. While it is not a clear mountain top, the VHF conditions are excellent from there. It is in the Plumas National Forest, and we are in the process of acquiring the necessary permit to park RV's there for the weekend. The Forest Service has been receptive to the idea, and they consider it a good use of the facility. This is because this is an "event", not just a social campout; and they remember our involvement in the Beckwourth Bike Rides in the area. We ran Net Control from this location on the second day of the ride.

There is a large paved area for parking, and a shelter and warming hut with rest room is at the site. The primary usage is for the snowmobile activities in the Winter snow season. The road from Oroville to Quincy is now paved all the way, so there are no dirt roads to contend with. There are a few steep grades, but probably no worse than the road to La Porte.

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Membership Application: **YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
Type: New _____ Renewal _____

Member Information: (Full voting rights and privileges)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Associate Family Member (Living in the same Household only) ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

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

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

Total: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to: Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
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Yuba City, CA 95992

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