

Valley Ham News

Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

July, 1997

VHF QSO ACTION: CANCELED

Due to a last minute lack of participation and no interest in traveling to Four Trees by myself, I did not go to the high site where we had planned to work the June VHF QSO Party. Better luck next time? 73, W6KJ

June Board of Directors Meeting

On June 25, the board of directors met at the Yuba City Police Station Training room at 7 p.m. Present were President Ron Murdock, W6KJ, Vice President Barry Barnes, KE6LW, Treasurer, Clara Ansley, KC6JPP, and board members Herb Puckett, W6HBU, Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI, Tom Robinson, N6PGK, and visitor, Wilma Sheffield, KE6ZCR.

Clara presented the Treasurer's Report: there is \$3,912.79 in the club's checking account. Of that total, \$479.00 is allocated to the repeater. The VE team has a balance of \$235.66, leaving \$3,190.13 for a Club balance.

Diablo Communications, the site management company for the repeater site at the top of South Butte, has tendered a new, much more expensive rental contract for the use of our repeater site. They require an additional \$1,800 over and beyond the money we now pay as a flat rate electricity fee. Dave, WD6AXM, our repeater license trustee, is in contact with Diablo and will also contact Lee Otterson, agent for the owners of the site, to see if we can get this new fee eliminated.

A bit of history, as I understand it. Loyd Wilbur, now W1CX, and a resident of Vermont, was granted access for ham radio on the South Butte location over 15 years ago by Mr. Otterson, a long time personal friend.

Loyd, in turn, granted access to the YSARC initially for a repeater, and later for the KE6LW-1 Packet Digipeater. We paid no rent or even a fee to reimburse for electricity until a few years ago, after a site audit by Diablo Communications. At that time we negotiated an annual fee to take care of the electricity. That has been going on for about three

years. This new rental fee is probably the result of the acquisition of Diablo Communications by another entity.

We don't, at this time, know much more about the fee issue except that at present funding levels, assets, dues, etc., we can't pay that kind of rent, and we have to respond by June 30. Dave, WD6AXM, is handling this for us.

The program for the July meeting will be a review of Field Day, 1997. President W6KJ announced he will not be present for the next Board of Director's Meeting. They all said, "Who cares?" The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Submitted by Ron, W6KJ.

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING will be held Tuesday, July 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Training Room of the Yuba City Police Station, on Poole Blvd., Yuba City. A VE session precedes the meeting, so please be sure the testing session is complete prior to entering the room.

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING will be held July 23, in the Training Room of the Yuba City Police Department, on Poole Blvd, in (you guessed it) Yuba City. The meeting convenes at 7 p.m. Be there if you want to see how this club conducts its business.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ron Murdock, W6KJ

Vice President: Barry Barnes, KE6LW

Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Galbraith, KB6WID Jerry Whitney, WA6ZZK, Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI, Tom Robinson, N6PGK, Tony Ramos, KF6CXL, Herb Puckett, W6HBU.

PREZ SEZ

THIS MONTH, and for the next two months, I will be newsletter editor too. Herb, who normally handles this duty (and well, may I add) is escorting a pine tree down the calendar, and all the other things that go with it. Normally, I would wait a few days to put the newsletter together, like after Field Day. Can't hold to that schedule this time, as my own plans make it too difficult.

Soon we will be off to the coast and then Oregon. I said, "Sure", when N7OKM asked if I would be coming up to the Coos Bay swap meet, and then found out it was smack dab in the middle of our vacation period. Too bad! Tough duty but somebody has to do it.

Being the newsletter editor isn't too bad. If other people would write and send me articles for the newsletter, it would be even easier. Lee has one this month. I think he is tired of the jammers and intruders on our repeater, but I don't agree that closing the repeater is the solution to our problem.

If Dave, WD6AXM, has no success talking us out of the new rental fee for the repeater site, a lot of our problem may go away anyhow. A lower level site would make intentional interference with local area communications more difficult. While I don't want to lose the great site we have now, it may all be a moot point.

As we discussed at the BOD meeting, the repeater allows newcomers to get on the air and have a reasonable chance of communications success with a small investment. You can get your ticket and talk all over the Sacramento Valley through our repeater, and we don't even require membership to use it. It is quite a change from the way things were before repeaters were the rage. When I started in VHF in 1969 with a Heathkit 2 meter AM "lunchbox" and a ground plane antenna, the activity was limited and so was the range. Still with just a few watts, I was able to reach out 50 miles in some directions, and I would have been able to help out in an emergency--conditions of service permitting.

The repeater is, by agreement, not to be used for long winded QSOs at commute time. If you make contact, and can move off the repeater to a simplex frequency, please do so. If the repeater is otherwise quiet, feel free to use it, but leave frequent pauses so other stations can get in if needed.

Another item of repeater protocol is the in-and-out during a break. Lets say you need to get someone, and a QSO is in progress. Say "Break", and your callsign, and when recognised, make your call briefly, wait briefly, and if you don't make contact with the station you are calling, back out and thank the other ops for the break.

73 for now. Ron, W6KJ

The Valley Ham News is published once each month by the YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, PO BOX 1169, YUBA CITY, CA, 95992. If you have a gripe with anything presented herein, feel free to respond with your opinion, in writing. We don't promise to print it, but you never know.

" PROPOSAL FOR A CLOSED REPEATER "

I don't know about anyone else, but I am getting darned tired of listening to the interference from the jammer that we all have been hearing for the past year on the Yuba - Sutter repeater (146.085) and would propose a vote from the Yuba - Sutter Amateur Radio Club's Members to make the 146.085 machine a closed repeater.

As a closed repeater, it would still allow members only to have access to the repeater, but it would also keep unwanted interference off the frequency.

Those operators who now have access to the repeater and are not members of the Yuba - Sutter Club will have to, in the future become members of the club in order to use it.

I think the present members of the club would be willing to have a closed repeater so as to keep the jammers from using it and interfering with normal Amateur use.

I don't think that future members to the club would have any problemwith belonging to a closed repeater , they may even relish the idea of a closed repeater, especially the ladies in the ham community. cont→

Ben Franklin said a lot of things, but you won't find them in here. This is news about our club, and if you want to see more of it, write some.

As you know, the jammers can be quite vulgar with their obscene language and remarks and it is very embarrassing to even listen to, to say the least.

I know that the idea of having a closed repeater is not a very popular one to those who are not supporting it, but to those that are supporting it with membership fees every year are entitled to have use of it without the constant jamming, vulgarity and yes, even racial slurs that we all have been hearing on it.

It would seem that we are not ever going to catch the responsible person or persons that have been doing the jamming on our repeater so lets do what we can do. Let's not even allow an interfering station to get in on the repeater to begin with.

I know that it is sometimes hard to make the club's meeting for whatever reason, especially when school is out, but I am interested in your opinion on this subject of a closed repeater, so when you receive this newsletter, please check one of the spaces below this article if you are in favor or not in favor of having a closed repeater.

Please mail the questionnaire to KC6MCI, Lee Sheffield. My address is on the club roster.

This will in no way be an official vote. This is just a survey of your opinions. However, the results will be offered to the next board meeting, which by the way is open to all members of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club. Thank you, KC6MCI, Lee Sheffield

YES, in favor of a closed repeater _____
NO, not in favor of a closed repeater _____
Your callsign. _____

MONDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL STATIONS

Once again we need stations to conduct the net control function of the Monday Night net on the WD6AXM repeater. Our Monday night net is for training and informational purposes, and as the 1997 Flood Emergency demonstrated, our training and preparedness were put to good use.

Being net control is no big deal, and if you need a copy of the script and can't download it from the KE6LW-1 packet radio BBS, then contact Clara, KC6JPP, and she will get a copy of the script to you. After a while you can do it from memory, without reference to a script.

We would like to have a net control station scheduled for each week, but with changing work hours, and vacation schedules, problems arise. For instance, Mike, KQ6MJ, who has taken one night a month since the beginning of the year, is on his way to London, England, for a semester of higher education. It is doubtful that he can be our net control and be there at the same time.

Please volunteer to be net control. You never know when the next emergency might find you in circumstances where YOU are the logical choice to handle this function for us.

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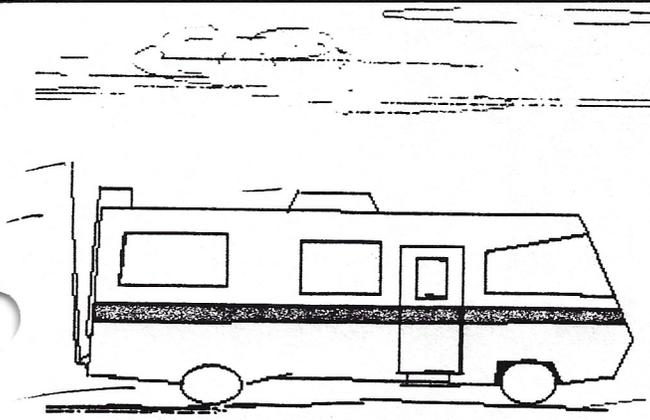
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(916) 723-7366
(916) 723-7368

Quad A's Electronic Supply

Samuel E. Ansell
W6GPOM



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) _____

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:

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**YUBA SUTTER
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**
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