

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
January 2000

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NEXT CLUB MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

There will be no regular Club Meeting in January. The next meeting will be the Annual February Potluck Dinner.

Date is February 8. Be there at 6:00PM, and we start eating at 6:30PM. Location is tentatively at Lindhurst High School in Olivehurst.

Watch this space next month for further details. Also watch the Editor's Web Site and check into the Monday Night Net to get the straight scoop.

Any club business will take place after we eat. We are working on getting a representative from CDF to give a short talk on Fire Prevention and answer questions from the floor.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Curtis Sylvester Jose, KF6VFP
Vice President: Russ Decker, KB6YAF
Secretary: Jean Knox, KF6EIN
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Art Nelson, KF6UEV Bill McJunken, N6FAB
Herb Puckett, W6HBU Ernest Royat, KB6VHW
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI

REPEATER LICENSE TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will occur after the Club Breakfast at the Country Waffles Restaurant in Yuba City. The date is Saturday, January 22, and the time will be approximately 9:30AM after we finish breakfast.

Breakfast will start at 8:30AM. Bring the family and enjoy a good breakfast with your fellow club members.

We look forward to seeing you there.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Herb Puckett-W6HBU after a great breakfast at Country Waffles. 17 members and guests attended. This was Herb's last meeting as president, and he turned the gavel over to Curt Sylvester-Jose at the end of it. Other Board members present for the meeting were Clara Ansley-KC6JPP, Russ Decker-KB6YAF, Ron Murdock-W6KJ, Ernie Royat-KB6VHW and Jean Knox-KF6EIN.

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The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The financial report was given by Clara and approved by the board. Beginning balance 10-22-99 \$2,945.87, Receipts \$706.90, Disbursements \$962.48, Repeater and VE balance \$611.64, Club balance \$2,078.65.

OLD BUSINESS

The meetings for the year 2000 will be as follows: February 8, May 9, and Nov 14, potluck dinners to be held at Lindhurst High School at 6:00 PM. The annual picnic will be held at the Forbestown Community center and park on August 12 at noon. The Christmas party will be at the American Legion hall in Linda on December 12. Ernie-KB6VHW will try and arrange a CDF speaker for the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

We received new member Dave Slack-KF6VFQ into the club at the breakfast.

The next breakfast and Board meeting will be on January 22 at Country Waffles, at 8:30 AM. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Knox-KF6EIN, Secretary

THE PREZ SEZ

Welcome one and all to the 21st Century. Like you, I am glad that y2k bug didn't bite - at least not hard.

Before I go any further I'd like to thank Ron (W6KJ), Herb (W6HBU), and Barry (KE6LW) for helping me to get my license this last year. Also I'd like to thank Ron and Herb for being my Elmers and helping me throughout the year. Finally, thanks to all the officers and board members for all the hard work last year. I look forward to working with the new board and officers this year.

The big news this month is the licensing restructuring. I'm sure many of you heard it on the

repeater like I did. It's good to see that kind of discussion going on and the overwhelming positive slant it got. For those who haven't heard the new structure is three classes - technician, general and extra, each having a 5 wpm requirement. For those of you like me who are no code technicians it means we have to pass the 5 wpm by April 15th. So lets get busy and get it done. If you want more detailed information on the restructuring there is a 70-page Adobe Acrobat pdf file that can be downloaded from:
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt98-143r.o.pdf>.

A new technicians class is starting up this month. Please encourage anyone you know who is interested to attend. My goal is to get as many of these new hams as possible active in the club. Any suggestions on how we can do this are welcome.

Before I start to ramble further let me call it quits for this month.

73,

Curtis - KF6VFP
email: curtsj@yuba.net

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

I wonder if I could get away with that as the content of the Newsletter? I very much doubt it. The phone would ring off the hook, the radio would melt down and there would be slings and arrows galore. (Makes it sound important, doesn't it?)

It looks like the deed will have to be done, and right now the brain is not on the Newsletter track. There is the new Technician Class and the January 8 VE Session to think about, as well as all the other things going on at W6HBU these days.

I also need to get out of the "Presidential" mode. It's strange how such things become a habit, even though we profess relief that someone else has the reins of the machine known as YSARC this year. Incidentally, Curt got called to work and

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missed his first Monday night net as President. Oh, well, food and roof and family rightfully come first.

I don't anticipate any big changes in the Valley Ham News this year. I received some good comments about the pictures in previous issues. Also a request for more of them in future issues. Thanks to those who commented. We appreciate the comments and suggestions. Unfortunately, I have no pictures for this issue, but check back here next month. Maybe we'll find time during the test session to show you how hard the VE's really work at these sessions. For sure, there will be pictures of the February Potluck.

There are various pictures on the Editor's Internet Web Page. Not all of them are club-oriented, and they change as time goes along. Take a look once in awhile. I hope to find some of the infamous pine tree to show. Haven't had the time to do more than a quick scan of a few for the week of January 3.

Surely everyone by now has heard of the restructuring of the Amateur Service. It spawned a sudden rush of studying for some of you, and there will be people taking tests earlier than previously planned. I wonder if this will have the effect that the infamous "Incentive Licensing" was supposed to have those many years ago? I hope so. Your Editor, along with many others, lost privileges in that fiasco brought on by ARRL. It was, in your Editor's opinion, a big mistake and it cost them a significant number of members. A big surprise was the short lead time until the new regulations go into affect. April 15, 2000, means many people in the Ham publishing industry will work a lot of overtime. It will be tough on the people responsible for the new question pools and the setting up of new examinations and associated computer software. For your Editor who is also VE Coordinator, it means that there will be more tests and then in April, a throwing out of the old and getting to know the new tools of the job.

If you don't have the latest information on restructuring, listen to the bulletins on the Monday Night Net or log on to your Editor's Web Page.

There are links there that will take you to ARRL and FCC sites where you can read the latest releases of information.

UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM INFORMATION

The magic day is February 16, 2000. If you don't have a license ID number by then, you can't do business with FCC. That includes any action on your license or an application for a new or upgraded license.

The ID number is a 9-digit number usually beginning with the letter "L". This is linked to your ham call if you have one, and it must appear on every 605 form sent to FCC. Until February 16, your Social Security number must appear on the 605 form.

Information and registration forms are available on the Internet or you may submit a Form 606 to FCC. Form 606 is about 15 pages long. Registering on the Internet takes about 10 minutes and then it's done. It makes sense to use the Internet. Instructions and links are on the ARRL and FCC Web Sites. There are also links to these sites on your Editor's Web Page. That address (URL) appears on top of page one of each issue of the Valley Ham News. It's there for your use, so feel free to log on.

MORE TEST DATES AVAILABLE

The Yuba Sutter Amateur Club holds regular test sessions on the odd-numbered months throughout the year.

We anticipate several additional test sessions this Spring due to both the Technician Class and to people wanting to get tests out of the way before April 15.

The dates of these additional sessions will be published in this newsletter and on the Monday

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night net. They will also be on the Editor's Web Page as the dates are firmed up.

We are on the Church calendar at present as follows: January 8, February 5, March 4, April 8, May 6, July 8, September 9 and November 9. The dates in February and April are tentative as this is written. Special sessions may be run to accommodate people who work on weekends or otherwise cannot make the Saturday dates.

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The list of frequencies and a Question and Answer sheet are included with this issue. Thanks, Dave, we appreciate your work and time spent to put the information together.

MORE ON RESTRUCTURING

I had occasion to talk with ARRL this morning (January 5), and of course, the subject of restructuring came up.

Apparently ARRL is getting MANY orders for the General and Extra class study books. The lady said that orders jumped immediately after the announcement last week. I was also told that Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, their head of the VEC department, had over 600 E-Mails on his computer Monday morning. To compound things, the VEC department had only four people on duty Monday instead of the usual seven. Needless to say, it was described as a "real zoo" back there.

If you're in the market for study material, we can recommend The Radio Place as a good source of information and books. 'Course, five will get you ten that they are now out of stock, but I'll sure bet they have more on order. Maybe they are part of the rush at ARRL. In the humble opinion of your Editor, ARRL puts out about the best written material around (available at The Radio Place), though the W5YI Group also does a good job.

CABLE TV CHANNEL INFORMATION

Have you ever wondered why your TV connected to cable sometimes goes crazy on Channel 18 when your 2 meter transmitter comes on? We have the answer here. Dave, WD6AXM, has compiled a detailed list of channel allocations and the carrier frequencies for the Picture, Color and Sound signals. Remember that these frequencies are the cable channels, not on-the-air frequencies you would receive with an outside antenna.

The tables also show the Amateur bands affected by leakage when things go wrong in the local cable system. A defective connector or a crack in the aluminum cable jacket can raise all kinds of heck with a lot of radio services. Dave says it really doesn't take much of a fault in their hardware to do bad things because of the signal level required to push the various channels through the distribution system.

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FACT SHEET

September 1997

CABLE TELEVISION FACT SHEET CABLE SIGNAL LEAKAGE

Q: What is signal leakage?

A: Signal leakage occurs when the frequencies transmitted within a cable system are not properly contained within the cable plant. Leakage may be caused by loose connectors; cracked or unterminated cables; and damage caused by accidents, such as cars knocking over poles supporting cable wires.

Q: What frequencies are used by cable operators?

A: Cable television systems transmit the same frequencies within their cables as a multitude of licensed over-the-air users. These over-the-air users include TV and radio stations, police and fire safety services and aeronautical radio services, among others. It should be noted that cable operators are the secondary users of these frequencies, therefore they must not interfere with the licensed over-the-air users who are the protected (primary) users of these frequencies.

Q: What problems can signal leakage cause?

A: Cable signal leakage can interfere with any of the radio services that happen to be using the same frequencies as the cable operator within the vicinity of the cable system. Such interference, especially on the safety-of-life radio services, can disable the communications of safety personnel or airplane pilots. When such interference occurs, it can endanger the lives of the public and hamper the rescue efforts of safety personnel.

Q: Can signal leakage interfere with aircraft navigational and communications equipment?

A: Yes, there have been several documented cases of interference to aeronautical communications between airplanes and air traffic control.

Q: What are the FCC's rules governing signal leakage?

A: The FCC has set maximum individual signal leakage levels for cable systems. As a further prevention, the FCC requires cable operators to have a periodic on-going program to inspect, locate and repair leaks on their systems. In light of the potential for catastrophic harm which may be caused by a cable system interfering with aeronautical navigational and communications radio systems, the Commission requires more stringent regulations for cable systems that use aeronautical frequencies.

Q: Does the FCC require me to use the coaxial cable provided and installed by the cable operator?

A: No. However, a cable operator may choose not to connect to cabling that does not meet system signal leakage integrity standards and therefore, may cause signal leakage problems to the cable operator. The coaxial cables used by the cable operator generally contain additional protective shields to prevent signal leakage.

Q: Can I hook up a second set myself?

A: In terms of the signal leakage rules, yes, but since the cable operator is responsible for leakage from the wiring, the operator can either refuse to connect to it or terminate service if the hook up causes signal leakage problems.

Q: Does a cable operator need to come into my home to monitor for signal leakage?

A: Generally no. Cable operators can use equipment to locate the general vicinity of a leak. However, sometimes to pinpoint a leakage source for subsequent repair, they may need access.

Q: Am I required to let the cable operator into my home to monitor for and repair signal leakage?

A: No. Homeowners reserve the right to deny access to their premises. However, the cable operator can disconnect service to you if the leak cannot be repaired without such access.

Q: Can my cable operator terminate my service because of signal leakage?

A: Yes. The FCC requires cable operators to repair signal leakage in excess of our standards. The cable operator may discontinue service until the problem is remedied.

Q: Is the cable operator responsible for repairing the signal leakage on subscriber-owned equipment?

A: No.

Q: Is signal leakage harmful?

A: The frequencies used by cable operators are the same frequencies that already exist in the air. The power levels used in a cable system are also low. Therefore, it is highly unlikely that the signal leaking from a cable plant is harmful.

U.S. CABLE TV CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Chan</u>	<u>BW(MHz)</u>	<u>Pix</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Hyperband</u>	<u>BW(MHz)</u>	<u>Pix</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Sound</u>
Sub-Band					AA(37)	300-306	301.25	304.83	305.75
T-7	5.75-11.75	7.00	10.58	11.50	BB(38)	306-312	307.25	310.83	311.75
T-8	11.75-17.75	13.00	16.58	17.50	CC(39)	312-318	313.25	316.83	317.75
T-9	17.75-23.75	19.00	22.58	23.50	DD(40)	318-324	319.25	322.83	323.75
T-10	23.75-29.75	25.00	28.58	29.50	EE(41)	324-330	325.25	328.83	329.75
T-11	29.75-35.75	31.00	34.58	35.50	FF(42)	330-336	331.25	334.83	335.75
T-12	35.75-41.75	37.00	40.58	41.50	GG(43)	336-342	337.25	340.83	341.75
T-13	41.75-47.75	43.00	46.58	47.50	HH(44)	342-348	343.25	346.83	347.75
T-14	47.75-53.75	49.00	52.58	53.50	II(45)	348-354	349.25	352.83	353.75
					JJ(46)	354-360	355.25	358.83	359.75
					KK(47)	360-366	361.25	364.83	365.75
					LL(48)	366-372	367.25	370.83	371.75
					MM(49)	372-378	373.25	376.83	377.75
VHF-Mid	<u>BW(MHz)</u>	<u>Pix</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Sound</u>	NN(50)	378-384	379.25	382.83	383.75
A-2	108-114	109.25	112.83	113.75	OO(51)	384-390	385.25	388.83	389.75
A-1	114-120	115.25	118.83	119.75	PP(52)	390-396	391.25	394.83	395.75
A(14)	120-126	121.25	124.83	125.75	QQ(53)	396-402	397.25	400.83	401.75
B(15)	126-132	127.25	130.83	131.75	RR(54)	402-408	403.25	406.83	407.75
C(16)	132-138	133.25	136.83	137.75	SS(55)	408-414	409.25	412.83	413.75
D(17)	138-144	139.25	142.83	143.75	TT(56)	414-420	415.25	418.83	419.75
E(18)	144-150	145.25	148.83	149.75	UU(57)	420-426	421.25	424.83	425.75
F(19)	150-156	151.25	154.83	155.75	VV(58)	426-432	427.25	430.83	431.75
G(20)	156-162	157.25	160.83	161.75	WW(59)	432-438	433.25	436.83	437.75
H(21)	162-168	163.25	166.83	167.75	XX(60)	438-444	439.25	442.83	443.75
I(22)	168-174	169.25	172.83	173.75	YY(61)	444-450	445.25	448.83	449.75
					ZZ(62)	450-456	451.25	454.83	455.75
					AAA(63)	456-462	457.25	460.83	461.75
					BBB(64)	462-468	463.25	466.83	467.75
					CCC(65)	468-474	469.25	472.83	473.75
VHF-Super	<u>BW(MHz)</u>	<u>Pix</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Sound</u>	DDD(66)	474-480	475.25	478.83	479.75
J(23)	216-222	217.25	220.83	221.75	EEE(67)	480-486	481.25	484.83	485.75
K(24)	222-228	223.25	226.83	227.75	FFF(68)	486-492	487.25	490.83	491.75
L(25)	228-234	229.25	232.83	233.75	GGG(69)	492-498	493.25	496.83	497.75
1M(26)	234-240	235.25	238.83	239.75	HHH(70)	498-504	499.25	502.83	503.75
N(27)	240-246	241.25	244.83	245.75	III(71)	504-510	505.25	508.83	509.75
O(28)	246-252	247.25	250.83	251.75	JJJ(72)	510-516	511.25	514.83	515.75
P(29)	252-258	253.25	256.83	257.75	KKK(73)	516-522	517.25	520.83	521.75
Q(30)	258-264	259.25	262.83	263.75	LLL(74)	522-528	523.25	526.83	527.75
R(31)	264-270	265.25	268.83	269.75	MMM(75)	528-534	529.25	532.83	533.75
S(32)	270-276	271.25	274.83	275.75	NNN(76)	534-540	535.25	538.83	539.75
T(33)	276-282	277.25	280.83	281.75	OOO(77)	540-546	541.25	544.83	545.75
U(34)	282-288	283.25	286.83	287.75	PPP(78)	546-552	547.25	550.83	551.75
V(35)	288-294	289.25	292.83	293.75	QQQ(79)	552-558	553.25	556.83	557.75
W(36)	294-300	295.25	298.83	299.75	RRR(80)	558-564	559.25	562.83	563.75

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OK, I goofed. I forgot I had some pictures from the Christmas Party. This is a last minute thing, so no captions.

