
VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

**E-Mail: ysarc@jps.net
Web Page: <http://www.jps.net/ysarc/>**

**P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, California 95992**

March 2001

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NEXT CLUB MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

The next regular club meeting has not at this time been scheduled. This will be done at the March 10 Board meeting. Details will be in the April Valley Ham News and on the Monday night net.

Stay tuned for the latest scoop.

CLUB OFFICERS

**President: Curtis Sylvester Jose, KF6VFP
Vice President: Bill McJunken, N6FAB
Secretary: Jean Knox, KF6EIN
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Art Nelson, KF6UEV Ernest Royat, KB6VHW
Herb Puckett, W6HBU Russ Decker, KB6YAF
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI**

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND CLUB BREAKFAST

The next Board Meeting and breakfast will be at the Legion Hall in Linda. Date is March 10, and time is to be determined. This is the location and date of the annual Swap Meet Saturday. We'll shoot for breakfast at 9:00AM, and the Board meeting will convene after breakfast.

We will continue the process of planning the club activities for the year at this meeting. We would appreciate your thoughts and input.

REPEATER LICENSE TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 10, 2001

Since the Willow glen Restaurant was closed due to snow, we decided to meet at the Kalico Kitchen.

Present were: Curtis Sylvester-Jose, KF6VFP; Clara Ansley, KC6JPP; Herb Puckett, W6HBU; Art Nelson, KF6UEV; Russ Decker, KB6YAF; and Ron Murdock, W6KJ.

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Guests: Jo Anne Murdock, N6YLO; Agnes Puckett and Debbie Decker.

After those present had their breakfast, the meeting began at 9:45AM.

Secretary Jean Knox, KF6EIN, was absent due to the snow, and their pickup being in the shop.

Treasurer's Report: Balance January 13: \$2,815.23. Receipts Deposited: \$187.00. Total: \$3,069.23. Bills: \$178.30. Checking Balance: \$2,823.93. Less Repeater Balance: \$613.00 and VE Balance; \$111.97. Club Balance: \$2098.96.

Old Business: Our Valentine Potluck will be held in the Lindhurst High School Cafeteria on February 13 at 6:00PM. The club will furnish the sodas and coffee. Herb, W6HBU, will bring his large coffee maker. Rudy Smith, KC6MUR, will bring several items from the Radio Place to show the members.

Herb Puckett Puckett, W6HBU, made a report on the VE Session held on February 8 for members of the Tech class. There were 10 elements given and 8 were passed.

The club's next VE Session will be on March 3 at the Evangelical Free Church.

Swap Meet: A motion was made by Herb Puckett, W6HBU, seconded by Clara Ansley, KC6JPP, that Ron Murdock, W6KJ, be allowed \$200.00 with which to purchase items for the raffle. Motion passed. Ron Murdock, W6KJ, will prepare the Swap Meet flyers and Clara Ansley, KC6JPP, will get them into the mail. It was decided that we would allow the sellers to sell any item, except no guns or junk.

Bike Around The Buttes: The ride will be held on April 21 beginning at 7:00AM. Most of the volunteers should be finished by 3:00PM. The course is the same as last year, with one addition and one more rest stop.

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When Cody Burbank, a student in the Tech Class, passes the Tech exam, he will be offered the use of the club's 2-meter radio. Ron Murdock, W6KJ, has a power supply he can use, and Curtis Sylvester-Jose, KF6VFP, has an antenna he can use.

Art Nelson, KF6UEV, stated that he had not heard from ARES since turning in his papers. Russ Decker, KB6YAF, stated that he had not sent the papers off yet.

The next Board meeting will be held following breakfast at the Swap Meet.

Being no further business, a motion was made by Clara Ansley, KC6JPP, seconded by Herb Puckett, W6HBU, that our meeting be closed. Motion passed. The meeting closed at 10:27AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara M. Ansley, Treasurer

IS IT 73, OR 73s?

You hear it on the air and often see it in E-Mails or notes.

It's used at the end of a contact and in the signature line of written communications. The old-timer is just as likely to use it as the new Ham.

73s really means "Best Regardses". Remember that the pro sign 73 means "Best Regards". It should not be used in the plural case.

Once in a great while, we will hear "Numbers to You". This is apparently used on CB in place of 73 or 88 (Love and Kisses).

I was reminded of this by one of our members who said he was the butt of several jokes when his license was new. He felt that a note was needed for the new operators among us, as well as those of us who have gotten into the habit of using the plural case.

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Greetings from the land of rain, wind, cold and dreary days and nights.

I guess the weather is the main topic of conversation these days. It's really good for the area, though, as we need the precipitation. It may be cold and wet now, but next summer (and it will come!) we'll appreciate the lower fire danger. It will even make it more pleasant under the pine tree in the mountains. Right now, I'll bet the pine tree is surrounded by several feet of snow, and the chill factor with or without the wind, is down in at least the teens.

Speaking of the favorite pine tree, your Editor plans to be in the mountains more than ever this summer. There is the energy thing with possible rolling blackouts, as well as the simple need to get out of the heat. It may be warm there during the day; but when the sun goes behind the mountain, it cools down and the sleeping is the very best.

This summer we hope to have some sort of semi-permanent antenna system up, so that the HF rig can be used more. The noon time net on 40 meters is always available, and the RV net is usable most mornings from the camp spot west of Chester.

When your Editor is absent, there will be the need for a substitute Editor. Ron, W6KJ, has done the honors in the past, but he will not be available this summer. Soooooo you, too, can garner all the rights, fame, notoriety and glory that comes with being Editor of this fine publication. Really, it doesn't take much time, and you certainly don't have to be an expert journalist to do it. If that were the case, your present Editor would never make it. I know we have several people out there who can do the job. Please give it some serious thought.

The 2001 Tech Class is just about history now, and we have three new Technicians and one new General class licenses as a result. We have one candidate still working on the Tech theory as this is written. The four successful candidates either had been licensed many years back, or are working in the communications field.

To date, we also have two new club members from the class. Terry, KG6FDL, has already checked into the Monday night net, and Bob, KG6FDO, is looking at equipment catalogs for both HF and VHF gear to exercise his new General license.

The two remaining new comers are Jerry, KG6FDM, and Philip, KG6FDN.

When you hear these calls, please make them welcome, and help them with answers to their questions.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Ralph, KE6UZX	20
Jean, KF6EIN	31

Happy birthday to all. If we missed you, or if the information is incorrect, let the Editor know. The data is from the QRZ data base on the Internet, thanks to Robby, N6PGK.

WHERE'S THE PREZ?

The Prez really produced this month. In fact, he provided so much material that it won't all fit in the newsletter. I hate to run it over several months, and I feel that none of the information should be cut out to make it fit.

Therefore, I will post it on the club web page in its entirety. I know that leaves out some of the members, but we have done this in the past with the article from Don, W6AAQ, about Standing Wave Ratio. Curt's article covers just about every connector you will ever run into around a computer, and it should answer many of your questions about the subject. You did have some, didn't you?

NO PICTURES???

No, there are no pictures this month, though I believe I may have promised some of the Tech Class. It turned out that the pictures I took were of the Club Potluck dinner. Ron, W6KJ, may have some of the class, but he's not here right now, and the newsletter is late already. I have elected to leave my pictures out, since I feel they are not up to the exacting quality demanded by this fine publication.

MORE RAMBLING

No pictures, no president's message for the mailed newsletter, so here I sit, with over half a page to fill up.

I know Curt would have talked about the upcoming VE Session on March 3 at the First Evangelical Church in Yuba City. Usual place, usual time of 9:00AM.

Also, don't forget the Club Swap Meet the following Saturday, March 10. It will take place at the American Legion parking lot on Riverside

Boulevard in West Linda. Please see the last issue for directions and more information.

The Board meeting will take place that Saturday, during or after breakfast at the Legion.

As this is written, I have disconnected the antenna connectors to the radio equipment, as the US Weather Service insists that there is a series of thunderstorms headed this way from Glenn and Tehama counties. It seems we have had this sort of alert more this winter than usual.

I always disconnect the equipment, though I don't know of anyone locally who has had a problem with fried gear from a thunderstorm. If you do, I'd like to hear the story. Maybe we could publish it.

That reminds me. We always need fodder for the newsletter. You know the sort of thing we use; so get your pencils sharpened and take a crack at it. It may not be a big thing for you, but maybe someone else will find it informative and interesting.

There was an item in the Board meeting minutes a while back to the effect that your Editor would be changing Internet providers. I checked it out this afternoon, and we will stay where we are for the foreseeable future. It seems that the local company I was thinking of, is not competitive for the high speed DSL circuits. The local company was Sutter Yuba Internet Exchange (SYIX.COM). I walked into their office and talked to a real live person. I was told truthfully what the situation is, and why they cannot really compete at present with the bigger outfits. I very much appreciate their honesty. There were no high pressure tactics, and I left with shake of the hand and a "thanks for considering us". So if you don't need or want the high speed service, or are too far from the main frame to get it, you might think about SYIX.COM.

The 2001 Club Roster will be mailed with your newsletter this month, or, if you have electronic delivery; it will be by a separate mailing. Like always, let the Editor know of any errors or omissions. I'd prefer E-Mail, though other means will get the job done.

Membership Application: YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Type: New _____ Renewal _____

Member Information: (Full voting rights and privileges)

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Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

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

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Total: \$ _____

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Newsletter can be viewed online at <http://www.jps.net/ysarc>. By selecting this option you'll receive an email telling you the new newsletter is online.

Signature: _____

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The voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

Editor's chance. July and August are months when Herb, the regular editor of these humble pages, is out exploring the wilderness as he loves and deserves to do. So here I am again, filling in for him.

We were at the beach the week before Field Day, and since that opportunity came up unexpectedly, we didn't prepare for, or participate in, the annual emergency type contest. The reason we had unexpected time off is that N6YLO finally retired. It was going to happen anyway a few weeks later, but conditions dictated an earlier date. So off we went to Bodega Bay. That is a three hour trip each way, and yes, gas is expensive, and it was all worth it. We had a nice parking spot at Doran Beach, nice weather compared to our lovely oven of a valley, and were ready to try again once we were home. And besides, we had another trip planned. Jo Anne plays bridge on the internet via several game groups. One of those, the Zone, had a convention in Las Vegas the second week of July. So off we went. The cat was boarded, the yard was given over to a lawn service, the mail held, the papers held, and for a week, we toured the places we had not seen for 30 years. We were never great fans of the place, but here was a

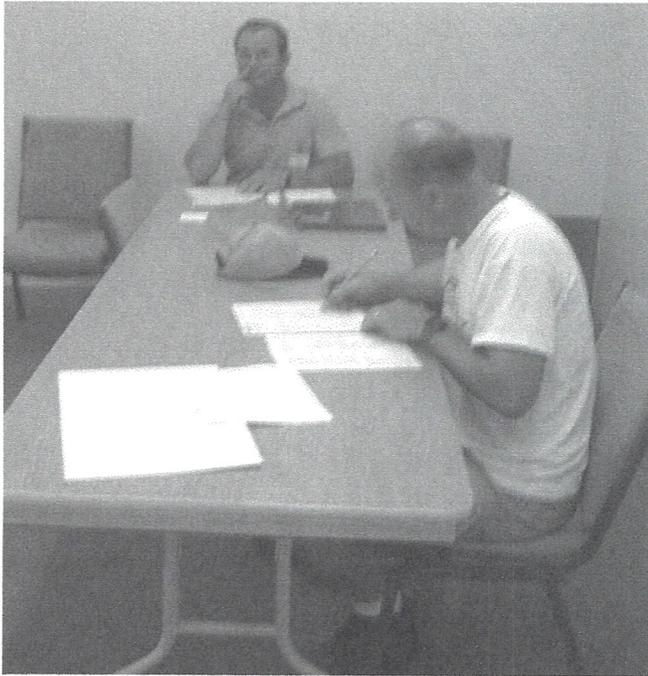
chance to get in a bridge tourney and let Ron do his poking around explorations. Jo Anne played seven sessions of bridge, was awarded a first place, met many of the people she plays bridge with via the internet, and had a wonderful time. I got the HARD HAT tour of Hoover Dam, the \$25 version! They give you the hard hat when it is over. Quite a tour. The temp was 107 F that day but I was inside most of the time.

At the outset of any tour of the dam, the guide will tell you that the dam's primary function is to control the Colorado River. It used to flood almost every year, bringing aperiodic death and destruction to the downstream folk and farm communities in Southern California and Arizona. They did such a good job of controlling the river, that only 12 drinking fountains are to be found in the entire dam complex. A dam drinking fountain is hard to find. And remember the temp at the dam, sometimes called the dam temperature, was 107! They do, however, sell bottled drinking water. I had no trouble finding a drink on the Strip in Las Vegas.

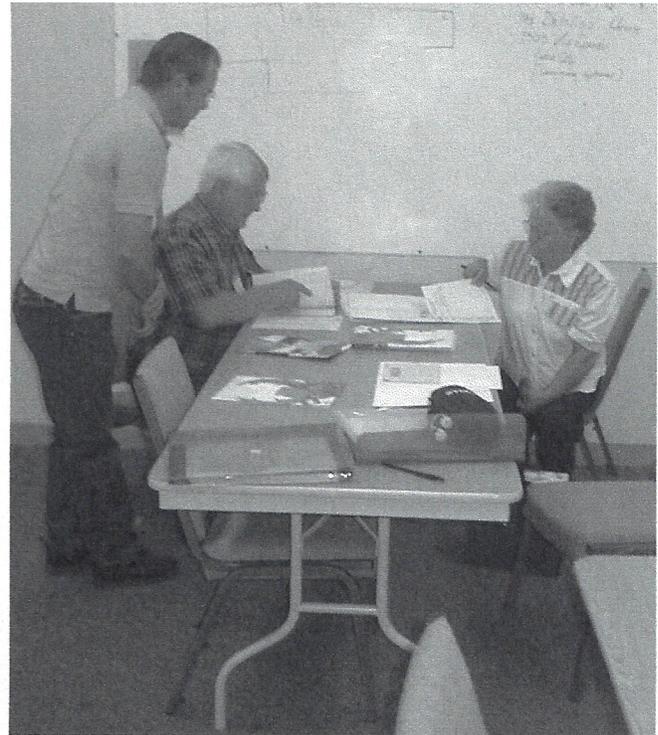
I also had no trouble finding Amateur Electronic Supply in Las Vegas, or Radio World out in Boulder City. That is the most friendly place. de W6KJ

The voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

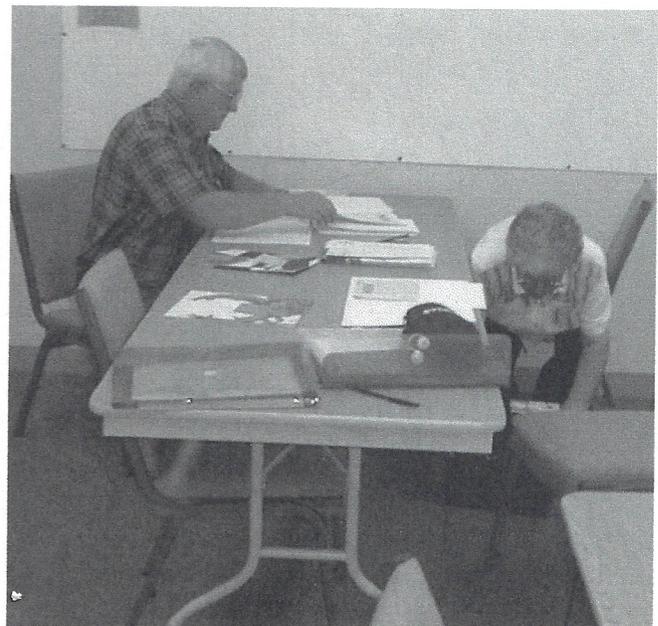
In order to demystify our VE test sessions here are some pictures supplied by Herb and Lee, taken at the last session.



Two examinees toiling at the table.



The work isn't over until all the papers are graded, all the documentation is secured, and the reports finished for inclusion in the package to our VEC. ARRL/VEC then looks at the completed package and sends the results electronically to FCC.



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Associate dues: \$4.00 p/year per additional member _____
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