

The VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

E-Mail: ysarc@cwnet.com

Y-S ARC Web Page: <http://users.cwnet.com/ysarc/>

Y-S ARES Web Page: <http://www.ysares.org>

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February 2003

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CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice President: Art Nelson, W6ARN
Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

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REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be at ?? in Yuba City on February 22 at 8:30 a.m..

Bring your suggestions, gripes and offers to help as well as your appetite.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 11, 6:00 p.m. – Poltuck at Lindhurst High School, multipurpose room, 6-8 p.m.

Feb. 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Club meeting at Yuba County library community room.

Feb. 22, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Board Meeting.

Mar. 1 – VE Session.

Mar. 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Club meeting at Yuba County library community room.

Mar. 22, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Breakfast and Board Meeting.

April 5 – MS Walk-A-Thon

April 12 – Bike Around the Buttes.

Every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7:00-9:00 p.m. classes for Technician license continues.

Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. – weekly net with swap shop and help sessions.

Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. – weekly ARES net.

MINUTES

We met for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Coco's Restaurant in Yuba City. Present were: President Mike Colvin-W6CUJ; Secretary-Treasurer Clara Ansley-KC6JPP; Board Members: Herb Puckett-W6HBU, Thomas

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Robinson-N6PGK, Marvin Lemburg-KE6JNT, Lee Sheffield-KC6MCI. Members: JoAnne Murdock-N6YLO, Ron Murdock-W6KJ, Dean Coats- NR6A, Larry Ward-KN6LE, Paul Johnson-N6XVL. Guest: Lenore Laustalot-KA6UBI (Dean Coats mother). The Board Meeting began at 9:30 a.m. The minutes of the Board Meeting held on December 21, 2002 were approved; as was the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (corrected from what was reported. 1 deposit omitted) Checking Balance: December 21: \$2,350.85. Receipts: 4 Deposits: \$351.95. Dues: KN6LE, W6LSD, W6YLH/ N6RQP, W6EO, KG6FDM, KC6MCI/KE6ZCR, KB6WID, K0TVT, N6PSC, W5VKU, KR6AK: (206.00), Donation: (\$2.00), Books for Class: (\$119.95), VE:(\$24.00). Bills; (803) Copy City-Newsletter: \$12.97, (804) Postmaster- Olivehurst-Postage: \$14.80, (805) Thomas Robinson-refund of Christmas dinner reservation: \$10.00, (806) VEC ARRL: \$16.00, (807) Evangelical Free Church-VE donation: \$50.00. Total: \$103.77. Checking Balance, agrees with checkbook and bank statement: \$2,599.03. Less Repeater Balance: \$660 and VE Balance: \$118.46. Club Balance: \$1,820.57. A motion was made by Lee Sheffield, seconded by Robbie Robinson that Clara Ansley be repaid \$21.45 for a computer ink cartridge - motion passed.

Ron Murdock reported that we had two candidates at our VE session on January 11; one passed his Tech exam; and the other one upgraded to Extra. Ron also reported on the Tech class being held at the 3 Rivers Red Cross building. There are ten students; and they are on the 3rd chapter. There have been 2 - 4 instructors present. T.J. Jamison has been helping. Ron stated that the facility is working out very well.

President Mike Colvin spoke on the club meeting held on January 10 at the Yuba County Library. There were 8 present. This included 3 students from the Tech Class and Jettie Hill-W6RFF ARRL Section Manager. He gave the club a new copy of the ARRL Handbook, which we will give away. The next meeting at the Library will be the second Friday

in February. The club will be giving away some ham software that was given to us by the Ham University for allowing us to include them on Web Site. We also have 8 subscriptions to the WorldRadio, which will also be given away. We are planning on having a Valentine Potluck on February 11. A site has not been determined at this date. President Mike will contact Russ Decker KB6YAF about our having it at Lindhurst High School.

President Mike reported that there were about 25 hams on the ARES list. Arthur Craigmill K6ALC is the CDF Liaison and is also the Foothill AEC. President Mike and others will meet with the OES Coordinator and Sheriff of Colusa County as they want to be included in the ARES program in our area as they do not have enough hams in Colusa County. So the local ARES would cover 3 counties.

The ARRL Section Net will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Jettie Hill wanted to move from Sunday evenings as he felt more hams may become interested if the net was not held on a weekend night.

Nuestro School in Sutter County wants to establish a station that would be connected with the ARISS system, so that their students could communicate with the astronauts.

New Business: A motion was made by Lee Sheffield, seconded by Ron Murdock that we allow President Mike Colvin to send postcards to all hams in the area - motion passed. President Mike wants to try and see how many more hams we can interest into becoming involved in ham related events. An article, to hams, will be sent to Channel 6 for inclusion on their Community Bulletin Board.

Our Club will be involved in the Community Organization Day to be held at The Mall in Yuba City on January 25, from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Much discussion took place concerning the equipment and antennas that could be used. These items will be set up beginning at 9:00 a.m. Tables and chairs will be provided. If you want to volunteer for a couple or more hours, give President Mike Colvin a call. It will be appreciated.

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Bike Around the Buttes will take place on April 12, from approximately 7 a.m. until ?. The routes will be the same this year as last. If you want to help contact Herb Puckett, W6HBU.

President Mike stated that Dave Thorn, Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator was interested in setting up a command post at the 3 Rivers Red Cross facility. Equipment is available. We want the Red Cross be responsible for digging the hole, rebar, cement and setting up the antenna. A motion was made by Ron Murdock, seconded by Clara Ansley that President Mike Colvin to assist in getting the command post set up - motion passed.

Being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by, Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP, Secretary/Treasurer

BIKE-AROUND-THE-BUTTES

It's about that time again. The annual Bike Around the Buttes is coming up. Herb Puckett (W6HBU) is leading the way and looking for volunteers. Needed are folks to man each of the rest stops and drivers and vehicles for the swag vehicles as well as net control. If you would like to volunteer let Herb know during the Monday night net. I sure he can use some help in planning and setting up our efforts for the Bike Around the Buttes on April 12th.

ARES NEWS

The Y-S ARES group met at the Three Rivers American Red Cross offices on Saturday, January 4 to prepare for a simulated emergency test of its communications abilities.

Following a workshop session for those wishing to convert their power connections to Anderson Power Pole connectors, the group was called into action at 11:48 AM. The scenario was a widespread power outage in the

Yuba-Sutter area with repeaters also inoperable. A net was convened by Ron Murdock W6KJ on the Y-S emergency simplex frequency at 147.45 MHz.

Operators on the emergency net included Ron Murdock W6KJ, Teeje Jamison KG6HNT, Paul Johnson N6XVL, Marvin Lemburg KE6JNT, Herb Puckett W6HBU, Russ Decker KB6YAF, Lee Sheffield KC6MCI, Mark Vyka K6MEV, Dennis Hively KD6DFY, and Michael Colvin W6CUJ.

Fixed, portable and mobile stations were all represented. Marv KE6JNT and Paul N6XVL were posted to Fremont Hospital to check out the operation of Fremont's 2M antenna. Russ KB6YAF set up operations at Lindhurst High School. Net Control operated from the parking lot of the Three Rivers Red Cross Chapter. Dennis KD6DFY operated from Loma Rica mobile, and Mark K6MEV operated his HT while doing his postal deliveries in Yuba City. Net control was able to maintain contact with virtually everyone.

Lee KC6MCI took the South Butte Road to the west side of the Buttes to see if simplex operation was possible from that location. It wasn't. In the event of an emergency in Colusa Co., a South Buttes Road operating position would potential provide reasonably good simplex coverage of the Colusa County area, but contact with Sutter Co. would have to be conducted through a repeater.

Michael W6CUJ traveled from Live Oak to Knight's Landing, testing simplex operation the whole way. South of Central Gaither School, contact was lost with Net Control, but KC6MCI was able to maintain contact all the way to Knight's Landing from his fixed station location in Sutter. His 4-element cubical quad antenna did a marvelous job.

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a "postmortem" debriefing of the SET. It was determined that durable J-pole antennas should be made for some of the fixed locations from which ARES is likely to operate, such as the Red Cross offices, and that twinlead J-poles should be made for portable use. A construction project to accomplish that goal will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Mike Colvin (W6CUJ)

IRLP DIRECT CONNECT PROCEDURES 1

Would you like to talk to a ham in England or Australia using your 2 meter handheld. How about a friend in another state. You can, via the internet. The new rage for the internet is Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) which digitizes a voice input and then uses internet protocol to send the voice packets to the distant end where the voice is reconstructed. Two methods that I know of allow radio amateurs to make use of the technology. Echolink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP).

Echolink allows for registered hams to communicate radio to radio, radio to computer or computer to computer all via the internet. IRLP only allows radio to radio communications via the internet. Both methods work with repeaters that are hook to a computer on the internet. These are the nodes within the network that allow VoIP communication for hams. This article will look at IRLP connections.

First of all listen on your local machine for at least 15 -30 seconds before transmitting and then ask if the repeater is currently in use. Assuming all is clear, **identify your self** and give the node name or number you wish to call . Example: "VE3xyz for the Sydney node" - - then enter the ON code for the node and release your PTT. Your local repeater should come up with a carrier as it waits for the connection to be authenticated. This can take



KB6YAF Set Up at LHS

ARES members who were in the test met on the repeater later in the afternoon to do

1 <http://www.irlp.net/02-intro/frame.html>

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few seconds of dead-air so don't be concerned. When the connection is confirmed, the voice ID of the destination node will be transmitted back to you as well as your nodes voice ID to the other repeater.

NOTE: If your node is already connected to another node or reflector, a greeting will play saying; - "*your node is currently connected to...ID of the connection*") *In this case confirm if anyone desires the connection to remain up before dropping by using the OFF code..*

Once connected and after hearing the confirming voice ID, **wait** at least 15 seconds before transmitting as.....

**The repeater may be in use, and your entry may have occurred between transmissions.*

**The voice ID of your node is longer than the voice ID of their node, and the connection is not made until the ID is fully played.*

**Their computer may be slower, and hence take longer to process the connection than yours.*

Press and hold the microphone PTT for a second and then announce your presence and your intention such as you are calling someone specifically or just looking for a QSO with another ham in that city.

If no response is heard, announce your call and your intent to drop the link and then touch- tone in the OFF code. *Not a good idea to transmit touch-tone commands without first giving your call-sign. Not only is this courteous it is a regulatory issue in some countries who may be connected to the reflector.*

Some nodes are configured so you cannot connect to them if that repeater is active. In this case you will receive the message "*The node you are calling is being used locally*" If you receive this message wait 5 or 10 minutes and then try again.

If you stay connected to a node and there is no activity on your repeater for 4 minutes, the connection will time out and

automatically disconnect with a voice ID disconnect message on both nodes.

If you are interested in trying this out the N6ICW repeater at 147.195MHz is an IRLP repeater. To establish a link to a distant IRLP node send a request to the repeater for a node operator to open a link to the node you want to reach. The IRLP web page at IRLP.net has a list of nodes to help you reach the area you want.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lot has happened since I took over a President of the Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club, and I am still in the process of recovering from the shock!

One thing is certain: the YSARC is not a "one-man show." It takes a lot of effort on the part of many people to have an active club. I am very happy not to be doing this all by myself. I am grateful for those of you who have generously stepped forward to volunteer your time and effort to the cause, probably because you realized how much trouble we would all be in if everything were left to me! What's even more gratifying is that some who have volunteered their time are not the same ones whom everyone has come to count on. There is new leadership coming forward, but there is always plenty of room at the "top," so don't be shy.

As Herb W6HBU pointed out recently, the YSARC calendar is filling up! As I am writing this, the club is planning to participate in the Community Organization Fair to be held at the Yuba City Mall on January 25 from 10AM to 7PM. If all went well, by the time you read this, the Yuba-Sutter public should be somewhat better informed about amateur radio and its capabilities as a hobby and public service tool.

The next all-club event will be the "Get Acquainted" Potluck at 7PM on Tuesday, February 11 at the ~~Three Rivers Red Cross~~ offices at 2125 East Orsett Road in Yuba City.

The potluck will be held in lieu of the Tech class that is normally scheduled for that time

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and place. A mailing inviting area hams to the potluck is in the works. Several nice door prizes will be offered: a brand new copy of the 2002 ARRL Handbook, the last remaining YSARC club tee-shirt, a registered copy of the Ham University software, and lots of other goodies. Raffle tickets will cost \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

Ron Murdock W6KJ has offered to teach an Amateur Extra upgrade class following the completion of the currently running Tech class. If you are interested in moving up to Amateur Extra, contact Ron

The next regular club meeting is scheduled to be held on Friday, March 14 at 7:00PM at the Yuba County Library in Marysville. We will be demonstrating digital modes of operation.

We should know shortly when Jettie Hill plans to start his Wednesday evening Section Manager's Net on the WD6AXM repeater. The club has given its approval for him to use the repeater for his weekly net.

The MS Walk-a-thon will be occurring on Saturday, April 5. The MS Society has asked if YSARC would handle it. By the time you read this, I will hopefully have located a coordinator for this event.

Bike Around the Buttes 2003 is scheduled for the following weekend, Saturday, April 12. Herb Puckett, W6HBU, is heading up that effort. If you would like to be included in the list of operators, contact him soon, because the places get filled quickly.

Well, that's enough news for now. I am looking forward to the year ahead. As one of the "new kids on the block," it has been several decades since I was last involved in an amateur radio club. I am learning as I go, and I appreciate your support.

Michael Colvin (W6CUJ)

VE EXAMS RESULTS

We had two candidates. Both of them passed. One was an upgrade to Extra and the

other was a new no-code Technician. The first upgraded his license from General to Extra Class and the other is a new ham who qualified for his no code technician license. Congratulations to both.

CLUB POTLUCK

A potluck dinner will be held February 11 at ~~Three Rivers Red Cross offices at 2125 East Onstott Road in Yuba City~~ beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. The usual, bring your own service and a dish to share. Drinks will be furnished by the club.

Invitations to the potluck will be sent to all hams in the area, using the FCC's list of amateurs in Yuba and Sutter counties. Over 200 hams are licensed in the two counties.

Leaflets about the potluck meeting will also be distributed at the Yuba City Mall's Community Organization Fair on January 25. The Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club will join other community organizations that day in promoting its activities to the community.

A raffle of ham-related items will be conducted after the dinner. One raffle item was contributed by Jettie Hill K6RFF, Sacramento Valley ARRL Section Manager: a new copy of the 2002 ARRL Handbook. A club T-shirt and a pair of FRS radios will also be raffled.

EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Greetings from Tacoma WA. I am sittiing here waiting for any alarms indicating a circuit problem and trying to find ways to stay busy and awake. Completing this newsletter is one. Unfortunately, using my handheld to talk to local hams is not an option. No radios allowed in this facility.

It certainly has been a busy month. We are off to a good start for the new year. I hope the club can keep this up. It would be a good way to attract new members and get them involved in the club.

That's all for this newsletter. See you

next month.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

MS WALK-A-THON

The club has been asked to provide support for the annual MS Walk-A-Thon on Saturday April 5. Volunteers and a coordinator are needed to step forward and make this happen. We have always come through in the past and I am sure we will again this year. If you are interested in volunteering or acting as the coordinator, contact Mike Colvin and let him know.

ODDS AND ENDS

Resistor Color Code

Color	Significant Figure	Decimal Multiplier	Tolerance (%)
Black	0	1	
Brown	1	10	
Red	2	100	
Orange	3	1,000	
Yellow	4	10,000	
Green	5	100,000	
Blue	6	1,000,000	
Violet	7	10,000,000	
Gray	8	100,000,000	
White	9	1,000,000,000	
Gold	-	0.1	5
Silver	-	0.01	10
No color	-	-	20

The color code is given in the table above. The colored areas have the following significance.

A—First significant figure of resistance in ohms.

B—Second significant figure.

C—Decimal multiplier.

D—Resistance tolerance in percent. If no color is shown the tolerance is $\pm 20\%$.

Thus a 100 ohm resistor with a tolerance of ± 5 ohms (5%) would be color coded Brown, Black, Brown, Gold.

Battery Sizes

Batteries standardised by the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) have a clear, internationally valid designation. However, the use of this designation is voluntary, so it will not necessarily appear on every primary battery. Nevertheless, the manufacturer's designation and the battery voltage are always printed on the battery housing.

Due to their popularity, many designations - although outdated - have been retained. The ANSI (American National Standards Institute) designations e.g. are no longer officially valid - nor are those from JIS (Japanese Industrial Standard). Former ANSI terminology is now used only for size designations.

The main numbers used for the most common battery sizes are:

American number	International standard number
D	R20
C	R14
AA	R6
9V	6F22
AAA	R03