

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>

P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, California 95992

July 2003

Editor: Curtis R Sylvester-José, KF6VFP
12472 Krosens Road, Marysville, CA 95901
Telephone: 530-743-3003
E-Mail: CurtJose@aol.com

Webmaster: Herb Puckett, W6HBU
712 King Street, Yuba City, CA 95991
Telephone: 530-674-3648
E-Mail: firtree1@pacbell.com

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Mike Colvin, W6CUJ
Vice President: Art Nelson, W6ARN
Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley,
KC6JPP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Russ Decker, KB6YAF
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Curtis Sylvester-José, KF6VFP
Thomas (Robby) Robinson, N6PGK
Marvin Lemburg, KE6JNT

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be at Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak on Jul 19 at 9:30 a.m. Come join us for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. before the meeting.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 12 – VE Testing Session.
July 19 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Board Meeting.
July 23 – 7:30 p.m. at Yuba City Police Department Training room, Skywarn training for those interested.
July 26 – Club Barbeque at Pete Visalli's in Dobbins.
July 28 – Skywarn sectional organization training.
Aug 16 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and Board Meeting.
Sep 6 – VE Testing Session.

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

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. - the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (UHF) Net.

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

VE EXAMS

The next VEC session will be July 12 at the Evangelical Free Church in Yuba City starting at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. Four to

five VE are needed for the testing. So far three people have signed up for testing.

If you are going to test, please preregister with Clara Ansley (KC6JPP).

BOARD MEETING MINUTES JUNE 21, 2003

We met for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Kalico Kitchen.

Present: President: Mike Colvin-W6CUJ, Vice President Art Nelson-W6ARN, Secretary/Treasurer: Clara Ansley-KC6JPP. Board Members: Robbie Robinson-N6PGK, Herb Puckett-W6HBU, Lee Sheffield-KC6MCI, Paul Johnson-N6XVL, Curtis Sylvester-Jose-KF6VFP. Members: Deane Coats-NR6A, Grace Kelley-KB6CIQ, Walter Kelley-K6CPI, Larry Ward-KN6LE, Dan Flores-WB6PKB, Tricia Wilkerson-KG6PNC, Leonard Wilkerson-KG6PND, Manna Whelchel-KG6PNE, T.J. Jamison-NE1CQ. Guests: Alan Padgett- N6RNP and Agnes Puckett.

A motion was made by Art Nelson, seconded that the minutes of May 10, 2003 be approved. The minutes were not read as members had received them via their Newsletter and e-mail. Motion was passed.

A motion was made by Herb Puckett, seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Motion passed. It was then discovered that the Treasurer had made an error. The Beginning Balance was changed on her report. It will be so shown in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Beginning Balance brought forward from May Report was shown as \$2,342.48; should have been \$2,284.98. Receipts Deposited: \$58. Total: \$2,342.48. Bills: \$58. Checking Balance: Checkbook: \$2,301.00 (Bank Statement: \$2,303.42). The bank could not find their error, and the checkbook has balance each month; so I am, therefore, going with the checkbook balance until and if the error is found. Checkbook Balance: \$2,301.00 less

Repeater Balance: \$660 and VE Balance: \$100.56 leaves a Club Balance of: \$1,540.44

Old Business: Most of the meeting was taken up on discussing Field Day: types of radios, frequencies, antennas, power supplies needed (generators, solar panels).

Card tables are needed. If you have any item that you think may be of help for this event; contact Larry Ward (KN6LE) or T.J. Jamison (NE1CQ) via the repeater or land line.

The Club will have a Barbeque on Saturday night and possibly an ice cream social. Members are to bring their own meat, and a food favorite to share; you own utensils and plates. The Legion is having a Barbeque on Friday night for graduates of members families.

Setup will take place on Friday, time 12:00 p.m.. Again Larry or T.J. will have to be contacted. Larry has to work until 10:00 p.m Friday. We will be setting up the equipment on the West side of the building on Friday, and on the East side early Saturday morning.

REMINDER: There will be a Club picnic at the home of Pat and Pete Visalli - W6HKB in Dobbins on July 26. Again members are to bring their choice of meat, and their favorite dish to share, plus utensils and plates. Club will furnish sodas.

New Business; Mike Colvin showed the cap and vest that the ARRL has for ARES members can purchase. Most ARES members stated they did not like these and to continue looking for a suitable cap and/or vest to use. Secretary Clara Ansley stated, for the new members, that she believed we were still able to order name tags from Recognition Products in Chico for less than \$10.

The next regular Club Meeting will be held at the Red Cross facility on June 25, and they will be discussing what takes place during the Field Day event for those who have not participated prior to this time.

Manna Whelchel (KG6PNE) spoke about a 60 foot, free standing tower that Yuba County is putting up. They are asking for

advice on types of antennas to install on the tower.

Next VE session will be held on July 12. As of this date we have 3 participants. Herb has downloaded and prepared new sets of tests for Element 2.

The July Board meeting will be held at the Kalico Kitchen on July 19; and on August 16th at the same location. We hope to see a lot of you there.

Clara Ansley (KC6JPP)
Secretary/Treasurer

EDITORS RAMBLINGS

Summer time is upon us. Many of us are going on vacations, visiting family and friends or just seeing the sights. If you would like to share your experiences in the newsletter, just email me at the address above with your input and I'll be happy to include it.

For others summer is our peak work period. For me this is true and I'll be leaving for Tacoma, WA to work again from late July to the first part of September. I'll still be doing the newsletter, it'll be a little more difficult as I'll have to email it to someone to print and take to the copier; but, it's do-able.

Whichever it is for you - have a wonderful summer. 73's.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

MINUTES OF THE BIKE AROUND THE BUTTES CRITIQUE

Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
Critique Bike Around the Buttes June 4, 2003

We met at the home of Herb Puckett - W6HBU at 7:00 p.m. The following were present: Ron Murdock-W6KJ, Paul Johnson-N6XVL, Lee Sheffield-KC6MCI, Mike Colvin-W6CUJ, Tricia Wilkerson-KG6PNC, Leonard Wilkerson-KG6PND, Michael Hardesty-

KG6PNG and Clara Ansley-KC6JPP.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Route Signs;
2. Radio Discipline;
3. Site for Trailer.

1-A. The Diabetes Society needs to come up with a better design for their signs: ones that can with-stand the rigors of wind and rain, not paper ones.

1-B. If possible, with approval from the County, mark the roadway with some type of material, that will wear off; especially on all 90 degree turns. There is a need to do all that is possible to keep riders from getting lost, as happened this year.

1-C. Notify those manning the Rest Stops, that they should inquire of the Communications volunteer, if the route is clear, so that they can vacate their area.

2. RADIO DISCIPLINE;

2-A. Several times when Net Control was called, there was no answer;

2-B. Runners;

2-C. Amount of talking on radio;

2-D. Site of and number of people in trailer.

SOLUTIONS:

1. The main problem with Net Control is lack of DISCIPLINE. We need to have 2 Operators present and in CONTROL at all times. Next year it is planned that we have 3 Operators: 2 Experienced and 1 Trainee. If Runners are used, they will be hams, using handheld radios on 70 cm., if possible.

2. There is too much extemporaneous talking on the radio. We realize that is only human nature for people to want to talk. However, the need, for us, at this event is to be able to reach Net Control in case of an EMERGENCY that involves a rider, or if Headquarters is to be notified that a Rest Stop needs more supplies. SAG volunteers are the ones closest to any emergency, since they are on the move. Rest Stop volunteers should have a pad and pen, on which they can note number of riders that have passed, clothing color of last known rider, etc in case you are

VALLEY HAM NEWS

July 2003

asked for this information by Net Control. The photographer did cause some of the interruptions this year.

3. It is felt, by those who have worked the Bike Around the Buttes for many years, that it is best for the trailer to be near the building, so we can be close to the facilities and can get things done faster. If we were to be else-where we would probably have to use a generator. It was agreed there were too many people coming and going from the trailer this year. However, this is very disruptive for those trying to man the radios. We know a lot of this was caused by those wanting to get in out of the weather. But we could just as well have eaten our lunches inside the building. Volunteers are expected to check in at the trailer on arriving in the morning letting Herb or whomever is in charge that you are available for your assigned position; go into the building and check in there, getting your lunch pass and t-shirt. Then at the end of the day, you are to checkout at the trailer; returning any material that you used.

IT TAKES THE COOPERATION OF ALL OF US TO MAKE OUR EFFORTS GO AS WELL AS POSSIBLE.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, we are a couple of days away from Field Day 2003, and the Dog Days of summer have begun. It looks as though we are in pretty good shape for Field Day, thanks to the organizing of TJ NE1CQ and Larry KN6LE. We will have at least 6 xcvs in the field, with a good variety of mostly longwire antennas to boot. We will be operating as a Class A site, and should be able to claim quite a few extra points for advertising, visiting dignitaries, digital operation, and non-traditional operating modes. I am personally hoping that quite a few of the generally public

will show up.

A potluck barbeque is planned for Saturday at 6PM. There will be chicken provided. Bring a dish to share and other meat to barbeque, if you don't care for chicken. Water and other beverage will also be provided.

Speaking of barbeques--the annual YSARC barbeque will be held on Saturday, July 26 at 12 noon at Pete W6HKB Visalli's house in Dobbins. Driving instructions will be given later on the club web site. Bring something to barbeque and something to share with the rest of us. We always have a great time at our picnics.

Finally, also in the month of July ham radio is finally coming to the Sacramento Valley National Weather Service. Two very important meetings are taking place to help get amateurs involved in the NWS's Weather Spotter program called SKYWARN. Most other areas of the country have made use of amateur radio operators for years, but Sacramento has not--until now. The first meeting will be taking place at the Yuba City Police Station Training Room on Wednesday, July 23 at 7:00 PM. It will be an orientation and training about the SKYWARN program. Amateurs from all over the North Sacramento Valley have been registering to come. If you would like to attend this meeting, please let me know, since the training room can handle only 40 people. If there are more than that planning to come, I have another site nearby that I can move the meeting to.

On Monday, July 28 at 10:00AM there will be a section-wide meeting on SKYWARN held in Sacramento at the NWS offices on El Camino Avenue. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please let me know, since the NWS offices are in a secure building, and all visitors must be cleared through at the entrance.

Till next month, 73
Michael Colvin (W6CUJ)

EMCOMMWEST COVENTION

The EMMCOMMWEST (Emergency Communications West) Convention was lightly attended this year with only 100 attendees. It was held at the First Baptist Church in Reno, Nevada. Ron Murdock (W6KJ) and Mike Colvin (W6CUJ) from our club attended. Because of the light attendance, next year they plan on combining the convention with the Reno hamfest.

Speakers at the convention from the NWS (National Weather Service) spoke on Skywarn program. The ARRL spoke about the emergency communications course available as a distance learning course via the internet. The Salvation Army spoke about their SALTERN program and what they do during an emergency.

Also, offered was a VE testing session and door prizes. Neither Ron nor Mike won any of the door prizes. The Reno Salvation Army lunch wagon won the trophy for best emergency response vehicle.

Mike Colvin (W6CUJ)

REPEATER PROTOCOLS

It's that time again for all of us to be reminded of repeater courtesies. They are listed below in no particular order.

Do not use the term "**Break**" to break into a ongoing conversation to make a call or join the conversation. I am as guilty as others of this poor habit. Many of us here in the Yuba-Sutter area routinely do this when we shouldn't. "**Break**" should be save for emergencies. Instead, give your call sign between speakers to indicate that you wish to make a call or join them.

Speaking of which, those of us holding a conversation on the repeater need to pause for a second or two or three to allows others the opportunity to give their call sign. Also,

listen for a doubling, it may indicate someone needing to use the repeater. Some of the users to the repeater have been using it to make contact and then go to a simplex frequency when they can to avoid tying up the repeater. Thanks for the good example. I know I should follow it more often.

We all like to rag chew; we wouldn't be hams if we didn't like to talk; but keep in mind the priorities for repeater usage. The priorities for repeater usage (*ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs, 2002*) are: (1) Repeater operator control, (2) Emergency traffic and calls, (3) Mobile stations, (4) Fixed stations, (5) Special event nets and non-emergency nets, (6) Rush hour mobiles, and (7) General rag chewing.

Lastly, **NEVER** transmit without identifying. FCC rules requires us to identify at the end of our transmission and every ten minutes during the transmission. This is easy to forget, especially during a net. It is very easy; I've done it myself; to be conducting the net, taking check-ins, and then turn the net over to another person for; say, announcements or bulletins, and have your ten minutes expire while they are talking. A example for turning the net over to another without making this mistake might be "We will now hear from the official bulletins monitor. W6KJ this is KF6VFP turning the net over to you."

ARES NEWS

The ARES group of the club had a training session on 18 June. The training was held at the Three Rivers Red Cross center on Onstott Road in Yuba City. They took the second of three parts about what the Red Cross does during an emergency. During the session they discussed what they could do to support these operations. The first session was *Introduction to Disaster Services*. This session covered *Mass Care: An Overview*. The third session is tentatively scheduled for September and will cover Damage Assesment.

Members of the club who are interested in participating in ARES support of the American Red Cross are encouraged to take these courses so they better understand what the served agency does and how they operate.

DID YOU KNOW?

Besides the 2 meter repeater that everyone is familiar with at 146.085 MHz out/146.685 in (127.3 CTCSS tone) we can also reach other repeaters from the local area.

Some of them are:

The GEARS (Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society) repeater in Chico is at 146.850 out/146.250 in (110.9 CTCSS tone). This repeater also has IRLP capability.

In Sacramento the River City Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) has the most used repeater at 145.25 out/143.65 in (162.2 CTCSS tone).

In Vacaville the repeater at 147.195 out/147.795 in (123 CTCSS tone) has IRLP capability.

In Grass Valley the Nevada City Amateur Radio Club (NCARC) has a repeater at 147.015 out/147.615 in (151.4 CTCSS tone).

In Maxwell N6NMZ repeater at 147.045 out/147.645 in (156.7 CTCSS tone) can also be reached from the Yuba-Sutter area.

Finally the Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club (SFARC) has a repeater at 145.43 out/144.830 in (94.8 CTCSS tone).