

# THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

June 2009

## YSARC

PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President: Russell Decker, KB6YAF  
Vice President: Roger Hahn, KI6COM  
Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE  
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP  
Board Members Pat Fulmer, KI6ZX  
Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
Ron Murdock, W6KJ (Interim)  
Vacant  
Teeje Jamison, NE1CQ



The Food Table at Field Day 2007

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday nights at 7:00 PM – Weekly net with swap shop and help sessions on the local repeater (146.085 Plus-PL=127.3)

Monday nights at 8:00 PM – Butte County ARES net on Chico repeater (146.850 minus-PL=110.0)

Tuesday nights at 7: PM – YSARC ARES net on the local repeater

Wednesdays at 9:00 AM – Coffee and Donuts – the location is announced on the repeater around 8 AM

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM – the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Net on the local repeater.

Daily at 12:00 Noon – Social gathering at Jack in the Box or other local Fast Food eatery. Check the local repeater for location of the day.

Don't forget Field Day!! The picture at the left shows only one of the attractions of the event. This year Field Day will take place at the W6BO QTH south of Yuba City.

It can be a fun weekend, and with the whole country participating, there will be plenty of stations on the air. There will be lots of activity no matter what the conditions. See Pat, KI6ZX, for all the details.

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## YSARC BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY May 20, 2009  
W6HBU Residence, Yuba City CA

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1908 hours by President Russell Decker.

The Club started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** President Russell Decker KB6YAF; Treasurer Clara Ansley, KC6JPP; Secretary Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE.

**Officers unavailable to attend;** Vice President Roger Hahn KI6COM

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Pat Fulmer KI6ZX; Teeje Jamison NE1CQ; Interim appointed Board Member Herb Puckett W6HBU.

### Guests recognized:

Ron Murdock W6KJ, Section Manager

The Secretary Manna read the minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2009. TJ made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Pat seconded the motion. M/S/P

The Treasurer Clara has returned. We were all so glad to see her. She read the Treasurer's report as of April 20, 2009. The Club balance was \$1,974.67. The report was accepted as read.

### Old Business:

1. Field Day: First, the club is expressing its' gratitude to W6BO for extending his residence to all for this year's Field day June 26, 27, and 28. He requests NO DOGS be brought to his property during this event.

Pat KI6ZX is our unofficial Chairman for 2009 Field Day. He is going to contact "Ben-Toilet" in Gridley to make arrangements for Field Day. He is also going to purchase hamburgers and chili beans and buns at Sam's Club. So remember to bring your favorite dish to contribute and share.

Let the record show that Herb has contributed \$25.00 toward the 'port-a-potty' expense.

2. Club Status w/State of CA: Our status is that we are now current and all up to date with the California Attorney General's Office. The club received a settlement check dated April 2, 2009, in amount of \$1.54 !!, from Settlement Administration in reference to the Class Action lawsuit against Corporate Compliance Center,

Reimbursement checks for SAG wagons for Bike Around the Buttes on April 18, 2009, will be in the mail shortly.

3. Sacramento Valley Hamfest YSARC VE volunteers: Saturday September 12, in Lincoln is this second annual event. ALL VE's who are available - please show up to help. Be there by 8am; Testing at 9am. Location is Lincoln High School.

4. Website reworking: TJ said that he has received the new software book to assist in this effort.

5. Board Members/Loss: Doug KG6BGU, has resigned due to health issues.

TJ made the motion to make Herb W6HBU, a permanent member for the balance of the year. Pat seconded the motion. M/S/P.

TJ nominated W6KJ as a Board member. Herb seconded the motion.

Russ nominated Barry KE6LW.

Ken W6KEN is going to be contacted also relative to interest in serving on the Board.

Russ brought up the point that Roger KI6COM has missed 3 meetings in a row. We are concerned.

Russ said he will contact Roger to check his status and desires.

As Doug is not a Board Member henceforth, Herb was elected to be added as a signer on the Club's business checking account.

### New Business:

1. June Club Meeting - D.S.B.S.: Pat is going to ask Bob Olsen W6BO if he would be interested in being our auctioneer at the June 3, Club meeting.

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2. Selling unused Club equipment: LOOK, Look, look for that stuff you can sell. Spring is almost over – clean out your stuff NOW !

3. July/August Club Meeting locations and topics: Pat is checking relative to having the July meeting at his QTH. So listen in on the Monday nite net. And, for July, Ron W6KJ will give a “Flex” radio demonstration.

The next YSARC Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, tentatively at KI6ZX residence, in Yuba City. To be confirmed later....

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2021.

Respectfully submitted,  
Manna Whelchel, Secretary, KG6PNE

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## EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

Summer is here! The thermometer outside my kitchen window read 104 degrees the other day. As this is written it is a balmy 98 degrees there.

Your Editor has enjoyed two camping trips to the vicinity of the “Pine Tree” in the mountains thus far this year, one in the rain and one over the Memorial Day weekend when the weather was just about as ideal as it could get. This conjures up thoughts of Field Day and perhaps some trips to check out the HF conditions far from the power lines and other noise-producing conditions that might mask that rare one on the low end. You have not lived until you have experienced the noise-free conditions on battery power away from civilization and the ever present power lines. As long as mother nature cooperates and there are no thunder storms in your vicinity, the lack of background noise is awe-inspiring.

There will be more trips as the summer rolls on, though this year I don't anticipate any month-long stays in the mountains. The years have crept up on

me, and I don't feel comfortable these days alone without someone along to catch me when I fall down or trip over my own feet. I am simply not as adept at dodging rocks and tree roots as I once was. I guess one could say it's tough to grow old until we consider the alternative. Speaking of growing old --- this year three of my grand children will graduate from High School. In September, I will have five grand kids in college and one High School senior!

During the next several club meetings, there will be sales and drawings for quite a bit of gear of various types. Yes, some it can be used for boat anchors, but there will also be some pieces that will be a welcome addition to any shack. So clean out your junk box and contribute to the cause; then buy someone else's junk that is your treasure. This is all part of the effort to raise money for the new repeater. Remember: bring money.....

It occurs to me that perhaps we should be considering recruitment for a replacement Editor and VE Liaison person in the foreseeable future. While the old Dad may look good today, he may break down tomorrow. Incidentally, I have been Editor most of the time since November, 1985. VE duties have taken up much less time, but we still should be thinking about rotating the job. It's just one of those “good sense” things to do.

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## ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up.

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Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

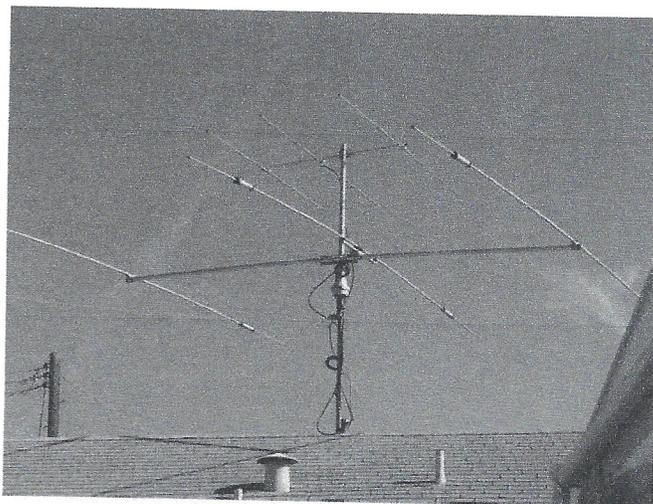
8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

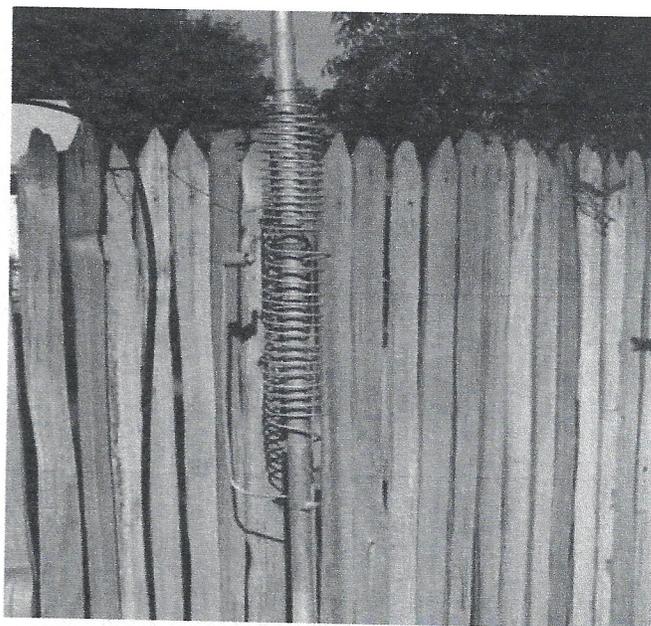
10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

From Bob, N6BOB



Antenna Farm #1



Antenna Farm #2

From Bob, N6BOB. Can you guess the stations?

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## THE PREZ SEZ

We currently have \$2,500 of the \$5,000 needed to purchase a new repeater to replace the one we are currently running on the Sutter Buttes. It was said that if each member would donate \$50 toward the new repeater, we would generate \$4,200 which added to the \$700 already designated for repeater maintenance would more than meet our goal. In reality, there are many of our members who never use the repeater. There are members who have already contributed more than \$50. We have even had one person donate \$1,000!! However, we have many members who use the repeater who have not contributed at all. I guess if we didn't have a repeater on the Buttes, they would just QSY to another machine. I know, we are in tough economic times, but I've always maintained that if you want or need something bad enough, our creative minds would come up with 'a way'. With that said, our next club meeting is going to deal with generating more money for our repeater. Instead of coming and listening to person talk on a ham-related subject, we are going to have a 'mini-swap' more appropriately called "D.S.B.S" This means **Donate Something, Buy Something**. Please take the time to go through your ham 'stuff' that you can "donate" to this sale. Also, come prepared to "buy" something. This will not work if one of those elements is missing. We need donations and buyers. All monies generated by this sale will be placed in the repeater fund. Currently, we have over 80 members in our club. If only half of the membership participates both in donating and buying, we can come much closer in buying that new repeater. By donating and buying, that can help those in the club do their part in donating the \$50 asking price per member. You know, it's not like we purchase one of these items every other year! With this new repeater, we will satisfy the new equipment requirements that will be taking effect. Dave Gartner, WD6AXM can give you all of the technical data if you need. Oh, did I mention that we have not paid for labor it takes to keep the radios and gear working in tip top shape? I know that if the club was billed for that, our \$50 per member would look like a bargain! All of that is also donated by Dave. I can't say enough about

how he has helped our club through his time and effort. Thank you Dave.

On a lighter note....How are you doing with your comfort zones? Hmm? I'm talking about getting out of it. Well, here at the KB6YAF QTH, I have been out of my comfort zone. Let's see, last month I started with three items. The first was to build a 'kit'. I just received the kit in the mail after waiting over a month. In fact, it is not one kit, it is three kits: a transmitter, an amplifier, and a receiver. All are QRP. The second was to attend a hamfest. I did attend the EMCOMM in Reno, and yes, it was great. The third zone was to start practicing my CW. I am still working on that one!

I do want to hear from everyone on your 'comfort zone lists'. Keep up the good work and 73 de Russell, KB6YAF



Here is a picture of the finished receiver kit.

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NET CONTROL: NE1CQ

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 YSARC NET 146.085+ 7pm	2 YSARC ARES NET - 7 pm	3 <u>Coffee &amp; Do- nuts</u>  Club Mtg. - 7pm  "Donate Some, Buy Some" swap	4	5 ARRL Audio News - 7 pm	6
7	8 YSARC NET 146.085+ 7pm	9 YSARC ARES NET - 7pm	10 Coffee & Do- nuts  SAC VALLEY  ARRL NET - 7pm	11	12 ARRL Audio News - 7 pm	13 Club Breakfast -TBA in new- sletter
14	15 YSARC NET 146.085+ 7pm	16 YSARC ARES NET - 7 pm	17 <u>Coffee &amp; Do- nuts</u>  Board Mtg. @  TBA - 7pm	18	19 ARRL Audio News - 7 pm	20
21	22 YSARC NET 146.085+ 7pm	23 YSARC ARES NET - 7 pm	24 Coffee & Do- nuts	25	26 Field Day Set- up  ARRL Audio News - 7 pm	27 Field Day
28 Field Day Ends	29 YSARC NET 146.085+ 7pm	30 YSARC ARES NET - 7 pm				