

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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**YSARC Web Page:** <http://www.ysarc.net>

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

May 2023

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## **CLUB OFFICERS**

Pres.: Chris McLain, KK6VZD  
Vice Pres.: Steve Shepard, KN6IJD  
Secretary: Linda Maas, KK6SOZ  
Treasurer: June McJunkin, N6JEY

04 Jul – Independence Day  
04 Jul – Board Meeting  
08 Jul – VE Session  
08 Jul – Fox Hunt  
18 Jul – General Meeting

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joe Visalli, N9BD  
Paul Hyatt, W6PNH  
Robert Kelly, K6VNR  
Bud Myers KK1BUD  
Ryan Mather K6RCM

01 Aug – Board Meeting  
12 Aug – Fox Hunt  
15 Aug – General Meeting

## **REPEATER TRUSTEE**

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

## **LIAISONS**

ARES: Neil Bossard, N6CNY  
ARRL SM: Carol Milazzo, KP4MD  
VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

## **Local Nets**

**YSARC Net:** Monday night at 7:00 P.M. (146.085+) PL 127.3 with swap shop and help sessions.

**Butte County ARES Net:** Monday night at 8:00 P.M. (145.290-), PL 110.9

**GEARS Club Net:** Tuesday night at 8:00 P.M., (146.850-), PL 110.9

**ARES Net:** Thursday night at 7:00 P.M., (146.085+) PL 127.3.

**YL Net:** Sunday nights at 2000, (146.970- MHz) PL 123.0.

**ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (VHF) Net:** Third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M.: on the WD6AXM repeater followed by an HF Net on 3987 kHz LSB.

**OARS Net:** Sunday night at 8:00 P.M., (146.655-), PL 136.5.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

02-04 Jun – SeaPac Convention  
06 Jun – Board Meeting  
17 Jun – Fox Hunt  
17 Jun – Kids Day  
20 Jun – General Meeting  
24-25 Jun – ARRL Field Day

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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Other nets (From the GEARS Radiator Newsletter)

**Sac Valley Net:** 7:00 P.M., 2nd Wed of the month (146.850-), PL 110.9

**440 Wed. Night Net:** 8:00 P.M. each Wednesday, 440.650 MHz.

**Golden Bear Net:** 7:00 P.M. daily 3975 kHz.

**Willie Net:** 8:00 P.M. Mondays, 1930 kHz.

**CA Traffic Net:** 3906 kHz nightly at 6:00 P.M. for traffic listing and 6:30 P.M. for roll call.

**California TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club) net:** Sunday at 1:00 P.M. weekly on 7278 kHz.

## **FCC PROPOSES 60 METER BAND CHANGES**

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 6 ARLB006  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT April 28, 2023  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB006  
ARRL006 ARRL Advocates for Radio Amateurs as FCC Proposes Changes to 60-Meter Band

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is seeking comments about changing the secondary allocation available to radio amateurs on 60 meters. The FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on April 21, 2023, that deals with the band. In a prior petition, ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio, urged

protecting the existing use of the band by amateurs when adding a new allocation adopted internationally.

Currently, radio amateurs in the US have access to five discrete channels on a secondary basis: 5332 kHz, 5348 kHz, 5358.5 kHz, 5373 kHz, and 5405 kHz. Users of these channels are limited to an effective radiated power (ERP) of 100 W PEP.

The FCC proposes to allocate 15 kHz of contiguous bandwidth between 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 15 W EIRP (equivalent to 9.15 W ERP). This allocation was adopted at the 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15).

The federal government is the primary user of the 5 MHz spectrum. The government's manager of spectrum use, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), has expressed support for implementing the allocation as adopted at WRC-15. Doing so would result in amateurs losing access to four of the five discrete channels, and power limits would be reduced from 100 W ERP to 9.15 W ERP. However, it would provide access to a new contiguous 15 kHz band that includes one of the current five channels.

In 2017, ARRL petitioned the FCC to keep the four 60-meter channels that fall outside the new band, as well as the current operating rules, including the 100 W PEP ERP limit.

The ARRL petition stated, "Such implementation will allow radio amateurs engaged in emergency and disaster relief communications, and especially

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

---

those between the United States and the Caribbean basin, to more reliably, more flexibly, and more capably conduct those communications."

ARRL said that years of amateur radio experience using the five discrete channels have shown that amateurs can coexist with primary users at 5 MHz while complying with the regulations established for their use. The petition also stated, "Neither ARRL, nor, apparently, NTIA, is aware of a single reported instance of interference to a federal user by a radio amateur operating at 5 MHz to date."

In the NPRM, the FCC recognizes that Canada has already adopted 60-meter allocations and related rules that align with those proposed by ARRL. The Commission wrote, "Finally, we note that Canada has essentially implemented the same rules as ARRL has requested." The NPRM can be found online at, <https://www.fcc.gov/>.

The FCC proposed to allocate the 15 kHz bandwidth but stopped short of making a proposal on whether the existing channels should remain allocated to amateur radio and what the power limitations should be. They requested comments on their proposal and the related channel and power issues.

Comments will be due 60 days after the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, which is expected within the next two weeks.

ARLB006

## **SUTTER BUTTES DAY**

A ham shack made contacts at the 45th annual Sutter Buttes Day Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Activities included a parade and good food. The club had a booth with an HF and VHF Get on the Air (GOTA) stations.



KK1BUD and N9BD

Bud Myers (KK1BUD)  
Photo by Chris McLain (KK6VZD)

## **VOTE!**

Attention ARRL members. Let ARRL know what you think! A dues and general interest survey is available during the month of May.

- Login to your ARRL account.
- On the home page, click on DUES SURVEY.
- Answer thirteen questions.

## **SEAPAC CONVENTION**

The Northwest's Largest Ham

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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Convention" and the ARRL  
Northwestern Division Convention On  
the beautiful Pacific Ocean beach  
Seaside Convention Center - 415 First  
Ave, Seaside, Oregon 97138

Exhibitors include:

7<sup>th</sup> Area QSL Bureau/ WV DX Club  
ABR Industries  
Amateur Radio Digital Communications  
Amateur Radio Relay Group  
Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)  
Buddipole, Inc.  
Cat Tails Design  
Compudigital Industries  
Elecraft, Inc.  
Fast Track Ham Radio Education  
Flex Radio  
Gold Metals Ideas, Inc.  
Ham Gear  
Ham Radio Outlet  
Hip Ham Shirts  
ICOM America  
ICS  
Impulse Electronics  
Jpoles.com  
NW Radio/Hi-Tech Liquidators  
Oregon ACES  
Pacific Amateur Radio Guild  
PreciseRF  
PreppComm Amateur Radio  
QSL Concept  
Seaside Tsunami Amateur Radio  
Society  
Sunset Emprie (*sic*) Amateur Radio Club  
Tac-Comm  
Western Case  
Western Washington Amateur Relay  
Association  
Wired Communications  
Young Ladies Radio League  
Much more information is available

at: seapac.org.

## **CLUB STORE**

The club has the following items  
available for purchase at cost:

1. PL259 Coax connectors, 21 each. Cost is \$1.84 each.
2. RG8X reducers, 84 each. Cost is \$0.64 each.
3. Power Pole connectors, 105 red/ black pairs. Cost is \$1.09 per pair.
4. RG8X strain relief boots, 5 at \$0.50 each.
5. RG8X Black Coax, 1 spool 85 feet, 1-spool 100 feet and 1 coil of 125 feet. Cost is \$0.39 per foot.
6. BNC Female to SMA Female Adapter, 7 each. Cost is \$3.50 each.
7. Red/Black Power Cable, 45 feet. Cost is \$1.38 per foot.
8. LMR240 Double Shielded Coax, 500 feet. Cost is \$0.26 per foot.
9. RCA Male to BNC Female Adapters, 5 each. Cost is 2.00 each.
10. BNC Male Crimp 20 each. Cost is 2.00 each.
11. BNC Male-to-Male Adapter 3 each. Cost is 3.00 each.
12. SO-239 to SO-239 2 each. Cost is 2.00 each.
13. TNC Male Crimp 10 each. Cost is 2.50 each.
14. BNC Male to RCA Female Adapter 7 each. Cost is 2.00 each.

Also available are 25 Watt soldering

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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irons that can be checked out for up to 1 month. There is also a Power Pole crimper that can be checked out.

If you are interested in checking out a soldering iron, the crimper or purchasing any of the club store items contact, Curtis (KF6VFP) at (530) 743-3003, by email at [KF6VFP@arrl.net](mailto:KF6VFP@arrl.net), on the air, or at one of the club meetings. At most club meetings he has the club store available excluding cable.

## HAMFESTS

### SEAPAC CONVENTION

SEA-PAC, ARRL Northwestern  
Division Convention

**Start Date:** 06/02/2023

**End Date:** 06/04/2023

**Location:** Seaside Civic and  
Convention Center  
415 1st Ave.

Seaside, OR 97138

**Website:** <http://seapac.org>

**Sponsor:** Oregon Tualatin Valley  
Amateur Radio Club, Clark County  
Amateur Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 145.49, -0.6 MHz, 118.8  
Public Contact: C Wayne Schuler, AI9Q  
PO Box 7263 Aloha, OR 97007  
Phone: 503-882-7388  
Email: [info@seapac.org](mailto:info@seapac.org)

SeaPac is a great convention with numerous informative classes and great prizes!

Marsha, KI6CSN

### SANTA MARIA HAMFEST

Start Date: 06/17/2023

End Date: 06/17/2023

Location: Newlove Picnic Grounds,  
Orcutt Hill  
Orcutt, CA  
Website:

<https://www.satellitearc.com/swapfest.html>

**Sponsor:** Satellite Amateur Radio Club  
W6AB

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 145.14 (-) PL 131.8

**Public Contact:** Robert Schrum,  
KN6RND

1532 Sheffield Dr. Lompoc, CA 93436-  
1235

Phone: 1-805-717-1699

**Email:** [rschrum1532@verizon.net](mailto:rschrum1532@verizon.net)

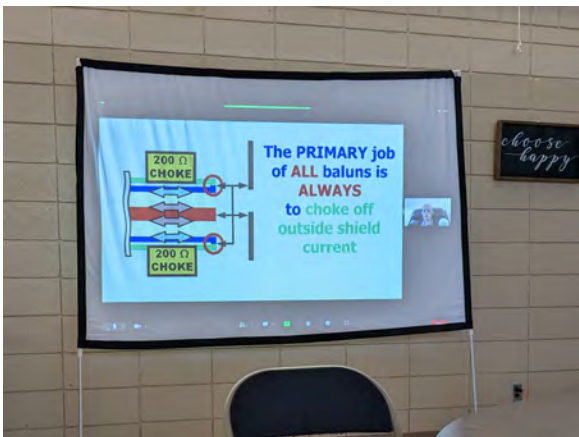
### GENERAL MEETING

At the last general meeting John Portune (W6NBC) gave a presentation via zoom on "An Easy to Build Inexpensive 'Snooper' Probe for Detecting and Solving Stray RF on Your Coax and in Your Shack." The slides for this presentation can be had at: [w6nbc.com/slides](http://w6nbc.com/slides)

In addition, there is a revealing, little-known, new view of baluns shown in the photo below.

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023



(Photo courtesy of Linda, KK6SOZ)

Club attendees will finalize field day preparations at the June 20th general meeting.

## **THOUGHTS FROM KC MEMORIAL RIDE SUPPORT**

Last weekend was the Kristina Chesterman Memorial ride and several club members assisted in providing radio support for the event. My story got a bit off-track as I noticed a slight lean in my truck that progressed to the point of having to pull over the winding road to a dirt shoulder, next to a young lady who appeared to be with the event. Then I met one of the senior comm team members who updated me on the comm plan changes and let to put out yet another logistics fire.

After half an hour was able to continue on to meet in the Stirling City vet check area and was instructed to proceed about 3 miles down a dirt road to the China Camp water stop. Much easier to read the rider numbers on the left flank of a horse than the frame of a

fast moving bicycle. Once several rider numbers (with time of arrival) were collected then we gave the updated list to the directed net.

The weather was pleasant, the view spectacular and all participants extremely appreciative of the comm team's help. Once the comm team determined that all riders had checked into China Camp, I was directed to return to Stirling City to wait for further instructions.

Even though I brought my various cheat sheets, including my Nifty guides, I still was unable to properly program my radios (HT and Mobile) for the VHF repeater they were using. I had the Simplex programmed, but that was only useful for small areas.

While I don't the size of the entire ride in comparison with Bike Around The Buttes, the KC ride is over much more remote and rugged area with many hills and small mountains in the way of line of sight radio paths. Once set up at Stirling City I did a test of my "portable" J pole rig to see if raising it to approximately 25 feet made in improvement but I was still unable to program for transmissions.

The were several additional water stops and the main camp (with the comm team pop-up) that I never even had the chance to visit, but I did recognize several of the roads that the stops were located at. By sheer luck I managed to find Ernie (KN6GTN) and get some help in programming with. Patrick (KN6RTH) was on the other side of the ride property so I was unable to meet with him.

Some key takeaways: When present with a list of tactical call signs and radio

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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parameters, it is considered imperative to use the call signs as the memory name. Also it unlikely that someone there will know more about your radio programming than you, so having a list of instructions is essential. Also, you may be in a remote area for several hours so providing your own chair, snacks and water is the only way to go.

I found it to a very interesting and unique opportunity to prepare for an emergency response. My go bag will never be caught unprepared again!

Steve Shepard (KN6IJD)

## **ARES NEWS**

Our Yuba-Sutter ARES Group participated in CalDART's annual exercise on May 13th. Those pictured: Gary KD6KIE (CalDART Ops manager Nevada county airport ), Randy KF6THK (Pilot), and Paul W6PNH (ARES team member).



Paul Hyatt (W6PNH)

## **GOOD NEWS**

The new repeater transmit antenna has been received and installed. The

new antenna has a higher wind sheer value and a 6 dB gain.



Dave (WD6AXM) installing the new antenna atop the Sutter Buttes. Photo courtesy of Ted Herman (KN6TED)

## **NEW GENERAL CLASS QUESTION POOL**

Effective July 1, 2023

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released the 2023 - 2027 General Class FCC Element 3 Syllabus and Question Pool to the public. The new General Question Pool is effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2027.

The new pool incorporates some significant changes compared to the 2019 - 2023 version. Its 432 questions

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

were modified slightly to improve wording and to replace distractors; 51 new questions were generated, and 73 questions were eliminated. This resulted in a reduction of 22 questions, bringing the total number of questions in the pool down from 454. The level of difficulty of questions is more balanced, and the techniques and practices addressed have been updated.

The pool is available as a Microsoft Word document and PDF online at,

<http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=369>.

The single graphic required for the new General Question Pool is available within the documents, or separately as PDF and JPG file formats.

"The newly revised pool must be used for General-class license exams starting July 1, 2023," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who is a member of the NCVEC Question Pool Committee. "New test designs will be available to ARRL Volunteer Examiners on that date. The ARRL VEC will supply its officially appointed, field-stocked VE teams with new General exam booklet designs around mid-June."

General class examination candidates preparing for their exams using the 9th edition of The General Class License Manual, and/or the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of ARRL's General Q & A are encouraged to test by, or before, June 30, 2023. New editions of ARRL licensing publications will be available in May, for exams taken on, or after, July 1, 2023.

## **MONDAY NIGHT NET CONTROL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

To date, John (KI6UDF) has the following hams volunteering for 2023. Net control positions are open for 2023.

We are urgently in need of volunteers for the last 6 months of the year. Please step up and volunteer. You can do a single net, several nets or a whole month. The choice is yours.

If you wish to sign up let John know. John can be contacted on the net or email him at KI6UDF@gmail.com.

Month	Name	Call
Jul		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		

Thanks to all who have volunteered.  
John (KI6UDF)

## **VE TEST SESSION**

The next VE session will be Sat. July 8, 2023 at 715 King Ave., Yuba City at 9:00 A.M. VE's are needed to administer the exam. The elements for Technician, General, and Extra class will be offered.

The exam requires two forms of ID. At least one of them must be a picture ID. A fee of \$15.00 is required. **Please Note: You must have a FCC Federal Registration Number (FRN) to take an exam and for any transactions with the FCC. You will need this number for the forms you'll complete. You will not be allowed to take the exam**



# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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without this number. A FRN can be obtained at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/commission-registration-system-fcc>

A calculator may be used as long as it has had all of its memories cleared and there are no built in or preprogrammed formulas.

Upgrades to a higher class also require two forms of ID. At least one of them must be a picture ID. Also, bring your license and a photocopy of the license.

If you take an exam and pass, you can take the next higher class exam for no additional cost.

If you do not pass and wish to try again an additional fee will be required.

**Also note: new licensing fees are in effect.** The fees will be the responsibility of the applicant regardless of filing method and must be paid within 10 calendar days of FCC's receipt of the application. For applications filed by a VEC, the period does not begin until the application is received by the Commission, a ULS file number assigned, and an email sent by the FCC directly to the applicant."

VECs and Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not collect the \$35 fee at license exam sessions. New and upgrade candidates at an exam session will continue to pay the \$15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual, and pay the new, \$35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system.

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 calendar days from the date of the email to pay. After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license or explanation of other action. The link will be good for 30 days.

Good luck to everyone taking exams!

## ***JUNE QSO AND OTHER CONTESTS***

03 Jun: Kentucky QSO Party; CW, Phone, Digital

03 Jun: ARRL International Digital Contest, Digital, no RTTY

12 Jun: ARRL VHF Contest; CW, Phone, Digital

15 Jun: NTC (Netherlands Telegraphy Club) QSO Party; CW

16 Jun: SARL (South Africa Radio League) Youth QSO Party; Phone

17 Jun: West Virginia QSO Party; CW, Phone, Digital

17 Jun: ARRL Kids Day; Phone

24-25 Jun: ARRL Field Day; CW, Phone, Digital

Many other contests can be found at:  
[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ContestCorral/2023/June\\_2023\\_Corral.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ContestCorral/2023/June_2023_Corral.pdf) and  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com>

Curtis (KF6VFP)

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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## **BOARD MEETING**

The next board meeting will be held on Tues., June 6th at 1900 (7 p.m.) via zoom. Details for the zoom meeting have been emailed.

## **COMMENTS**

✓ YSARC's web page is: **ysarc.net**. Past VHN's are available on the club's website. Check out more photos of fox hunts and public service events!

Thanks to our webmaster, Paul Hyatt, W6PNH.

Click on the upper right-hand icon on the club's homepage to join the YSARC's **Facebook** page.

✓ How many of you have checked out the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section

web page? There's lots of good information about what's happening with many of the different clubs in the Northern California area. Check it out!

<https://www.arrlsacvalley.org/home>

✓ Send your ham related articles and pictures to share in your VHN. Pictures of ham shacks, antenna parties, field day, Bike Around the Buttes, Fox Hunt, etc. are appreciated. Send them to [KI6CSN@arrl.net](mailto:KI6CSN@arrl.net) or [KF6FVP@arrl.net](mailto:KF6FVP@arrl.net)

✓ Send your "Ask Curtis" questions to [kf6vfp@arrl.net](mailto:kf6vfp@arrl.net)

✓ If anyone has ideas/suggestions for club activities that we can do online, in person or virtually please contact any club officer or board member or email your suggestions to [board@ysarc.net](mailto:board@ysarc.net).

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023



Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 4, 2023  
Held on Zoom platform, hosted by June



Meeting called to order by Chris McLain KK6VZD at 19:01 hours.

## Officers and Board Members present unless noted:

President: Chris McLain KK6VZD	Director: Joe Visalli N9BD
Vice President: Steve Shepard KN6IJD – absent	Director: Paul Hyatt W6PNH
Secretary: Linda Maas KK6SOZ	Director: Robert Kelly K6VNR
Treasurer: June McJunkin N6JEY	Director: Bud Myers KK1BUD
	Director: Ryan Mather K6RCM - absent

Members and Guests present: Claire Schloenvogt KI6VWG and LeRoy Smith KJ6DKM.

## Secretary's Report:

- Motion to approve minutes from March 7, 2023 as written, Joe/Paul, passed.
- Received a letter from Yuba Sutter ARES requesting funds disbursement.

## Treasurer's Report:

- Motion to transfer \$150.37 donation to ARES received via PayPal to ARES account, Paul/Joe, passed. PayPal fee was \$4.63 of the original \$155 donation.
- Motion to approve June's Financial Report for April 7, Joe/Bud, passed.

## Old Business

- All positions have been filled for April 15 Bike around the Buttes. Discussion of bike routes, weather contingencies, etc. Back-up frequency will be 146.460, the Yuba Sutter ARES simplex frequency.
- Grant Hunsicker KB6EC from Paradise will do a presentation on POTA for the April club meeting.
- Antenna building workshop on May 20 is at Curtis's house.

## New Business

- Decision to participate in Sutter Buttes Day on May 13. Motion to spend \$50 for space rent at this fundraiser for Sutter youth, Joe/Paul, passed. Could set up 10m HF station to allow technician use.
- The WD6AXM repeater antenna on the Sutter Buttes broke off in recent high winds. Motion to *approve expenditure of funds from the Repeater Account* and allow repeater trustee Dave Gartner to purchase a new Sinclair antenna, Paul/Robert, passed.
- Motion to reimburse Kevin Conde K1KMC \$448.98 for website costs, Paul/Bud, passed.

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

May 2023

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- *Discussion of transfer of ownership of domain from Kevin. Discussion of transfer of ownership of Paypal account from Kevin.*
  - Motion to adjourn at 20:08 hours, Joe/Bud, passed.

Additions to minutes prior to approval shown in italics.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Maas KK6SOZ, YSARC Secretary