



THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

"The Voice of Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"

A California Non-Profit Organization

OCTOBER 2011

W6WPF Gets A New Antenna Farm Makeover!

Allen Hill (W6WPF) decided it was time to move his ham shack from an out building into his house. Members of YSARC gathered at his home in Gridley, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011 after our weekly club breakfast at the 2 Bits Cafe in Yuba City. We began by moving part of his shack into the house and finished with a site survey to see where we could hang antennas.



The following Saturday found us there again. LeRoy Smith (KJ6DKM) arranged for Don Stafford (N0DON) to bring his 24' bucket truck. He was in the air when we got there, taking down the old turn stile and 10 meter dipole antennas. While there, he removed a lot of damaged limbs and did a bit of trimming here and there. The truck ran

out of gas at one point, leaving Don stranded high above until we could get more gas and get the truck restarted.

Whew! We rebuilt the mail box supports after cutting a hole in the mount plate to put a 2" by 21' pole in the mail box post. This pole will support one end of a G5RV with the other end supported by a pole mounted to a corner of the parking structure.

Additionally, we dropped the TV mast after making sure the rotor worked. The plan was to mount a 5 element 2 meter quad to the rotor with a 2 meter J-Pole mounted above the quad. The G5RV was to be hauled up just below the rotor. (Continued - Page 5)

YSARC
PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA
95992

President

Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

Vice President

Andy Boone, KJ6IYM

Secretary

Meg Burgin, KI6TLS

Treasurer

Clara Ansley, N6VRH

Board Members

Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Barry Barnes, KE6LW
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Russell Decker, KB6YAF

VHN Editor and Webmaster

Russell Decker, KB6YAF

Repeater Trustee

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st Wednesday: Club Meeting
3rd Wednesday: Board Meeting

(Check the minutes for details on the Club and Board Meetings)

All newsletter submissions are due on or before the 4th Wednesday of the month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 5th - Wed. @6pm - **YSARC Dinner Meeting at 2 Bits Cafe in Yuba City**

Oct 19th - Wed. 7-9pm **YSARC Board Meeting** - Lee's QTH in Sutter

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Monday Night Net - (7 PM) - Weekly net w/swap shop
(146.085 + PL 127.3)

Monday Night Net - (8 PM) - Butte Co. ARES Net
(146.850 - PL 110.0)

Tuesday Night Net - (7 PM) - YSARC ARES Net
(146.085 + PL 127.3)

2nd Wednesday - (7 PM) - ARRL Sac Valley Net

MEG'S MINUTES

YSARC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of September 21st, 2011

A regular Board of Directors meeting of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club was held at the QTH of Clara Ansley, N6VRH. The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY at 1900-hours. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Club Officers present were: President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY; Vice President Andy Boone, KJ6IYM; Secretary Meg Burgin, KI6TLS and Treasurer Clara Ansley, N6VRH.

Board Members present were: Barry Barnes, KE6LW; Russell Decker, KB6YAF; Mike Eby, KM6EBY; and Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI. Absent was Herb Puckett, W6HBU.

Guest introduced was: Ramona Traub.

Officers Reports: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. The Treasurers Report was approved as updated and presented. Clara requested that she be notified immediately when the Club's ATM card was used so ledger entries would accurately reflect the bank statement. Otherwise, she has to rework both the Treasurers Report and the bank statement reconciliation every month. VE Coordinator, Lee Sheffield – KC6MCI reported that nine exams were taken on September 10th and six had passed.

Under Old Business: President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY commented on the success of the last membership potluck meeting and the HAM NATION presentation given by Russ Decker – KB6YAF. The September 10th Sacramento Valley HAMFEST was discussed. While YSARC filled a lot of voids in preparations for the big day, it appears that our efforts were wasted. It was the consensus of those at this board meeting that YSARC will limit their commitment to next years SV HAMFEST to the VE Exam session only. An antenna party was held on Saturday, September 17th at the QTH of Alan Hill, W6WPF. Several club members helped to move Alan's shack into his house and did a site survey in order to put up a new antenna for him. Work will continue on Saturday, September 24th.

Under New Business: President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY discussed plans for Club activities and membership meetings for the remainder of the year. Plans are progressing for camp out and California QSO Party as a Special Event Station October 1 & 2 at Walker Ridge, near Clear Lake. Unfortunately, that is the same weekend as the ARRL Encomm. Ron Murdock, W6KJ mentioned that this conflict has occurred in the past and California would be doing Encomm at another date TBA. As a sidebar, a possible YSARC entry in the Veteran's Parade was proposed by Meg Burgin, KI6TLS. She felt it would be good exposure for the club. After much discussion, the idea will be put to the membership on Monday Night Net, providing the behind the scene support is adequately determined, and there is interest from members, an entry in the parade may be considered. Pacificon will be held in Santa Clara October 14 & 15. Both Ron and Russ reminded members to include captions and ID people for photos that are forwarded for newsletter purposes.

Under Unfinished Business: Mike Eby, KM6EBY was unanimously approved to fill the vacant board director position for YSARC. He commented that he was honored to be asked and was looking forward to being more proactive about supporting HAM Radio and working with the other board members on into the 2012 year. Barry Barnes, KE6LW reported that it was going to take a lot of work and money to restore the Tax Exempt status for the club. Working through the bureaucratic maze is going to be time consuming and he feels that he is up to the task. He said it would be helpful if the Club's historic documents were located. The board unanimously approved the purchase of a second hand Epson video projector which would be used for club presentations. President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY will take custody of the projector. President Moore led a discussion regarding 2012 club officers and board of directors. (Although the leadership position was not discussed, Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY has lots of plans for 2012, so this secretary assumes that Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY is eager and willing to continue serve as club President for another term). Andy Boone, KJ6IYM will continue to serve as Vice President. He will also serve as Program Chairman. Meg Burgin, KI6TLS cannot continue as Secretary – a replacement will be needed. Clara Ansley, N6VRH will continue to serve as Club Treasurer. Barry Barnes, KE6LW is willing to continue on the Board as Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI. Russ Decker, KB6YAF will continue as VHN newsletter editor but he would like to be replaced on the board. Moore had talked to Alan Hill, W6WPF, and Alan would like to serve on the board next year. Moore reported that the Club store has sold all of it's inventory, so additional coax, connectors and reducers will be reordered. Participation in next years SV HAMFEST led to a proposal made by President Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY, to organize a more local HAMFEST next spring. OARS, GEARS and GARS may be more receptive to this idea. Moore asked Andy Boone, KJ6IYM to scout an appropriate location and make a list of jobs that will need to be filled. A lot of things will need to happen quickly in order to get an announcement into the ARRL QST magazine in December. Clara Ainsley and Ramona Traub served something creamy, chocolate and delicious for dessert and the meeting was adjourned at 2045-hours. The October Board Meeting will be held at the QTH of Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI.

Respectfully submitted by Meg Burgin – KI6TLS, YSARC Secretary

CLARA'S CALCULATIONS

September 2011

Deposits \$117.00

Bills..... \$ 54.00

Balance..... \$ 3,418.25

Special Accts

Repeater..... \$610.30

VE \$172.53

Christmas Drawing... \$176.44

Memorial..... \$ 65.10

Store Sales..... \$ -93.94

WEBSITES...



- www.arrl.org - This is the website to the American Radio Relay League
 - www.ysarc.org - This is the club website. It contains information about the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
 - <http://aprs.fi> - This is a 'Google Maps' site that contain all of the APRS activity.
 - www.qrz.com - Look up call signs, take practice ham radio exams, and much more.
 - <http://rettysnitch.org> - This website explains what those two weird things are on the front page of the VHN
 - <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YSARC/> - This is the URL to the YSARC Yahoo Group Site. Sign- Up !!!!
 - <http://hamslife.com/> - This is the ham radio blog of Bill, WA6OHP
 - www.quartzfest.org - The official website of the "Quartzfest" held on the last week of January
 - <http://www.wunderground.com/> - A very cool weather website
 - <http://www.apple.com/itunes/> - Download "iTunes" so you can subscribe to "Ham Nation" podcasts
 - <http://www.heilsound.com/amateur/> - Heil Microphones and Headsets for the radio amateur by Bob Heil
 - <http://www.gordonwestradioschool.com/> - Gordon West, WB6NOA Radio Schools and training
 - <http://twit.tv> - Leo Laporte's Netcast/Podcast website. You can watch live!
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CALIFORNIA QSO PARTY

This year is the 45th running of CQP and we are shooting for a record number of California operators to put the state on the air! This is a great contest even for the casual contester as California is THE DX everyone else wants to work! It's a great opportunity to capture Worked All States or dig out new countries for the DX'er.

The Northern California Contest Club, sponsors, CQP, have developed a number of awards to encourage folks to join the contest. These include awards for the top operator in the YL, Youth, and New Contester categories.

The contest runs the weekend of October 1st and 2nd. The full rules can be found at:

<http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html>

THE YSARC OCTOBER MEETING

The YSARC Meeting will meet on Wednesday, October 5th at the “2 Bits Cafe” located just south of the Yuba City Mall on Rocca Way. The doors will open to the YSARC members, their families, and guests at 5:30pm. The only thing you will need to bring is an appetite!

W6WPF ANTENNA FARM MAKE OVER - Continued

However, all that will have to wait until next Saturday. The 30' mast had a major bend in the top section and had to come off the roof for repairs. Thanks to: Don - N0DON, LeRoy - KJ6DKM, and Udell, Allen - W6WPF and Marilyn, Lee - KC6MCI, Lonnie - KI6ZYY and Ramona, Mike - KM6EBY and Larry, KE6IJE.

Allen and Marilyn provided nice sandwiches and beverages for lunch. We got a lot accomplished, had a lot of fun and several of the group learned a lot in the process.

Lee, (KC6MCI) picked up Pat, (KI6ZX) the following Saturday. Pat had a nice mobile CW QSO with Lonnie, (KI6ZYY) which thrilled the three of us. Pat & Lee were north bound on Hwy 99 while Lonnie came around the north side of Sutter Buttes into Gridley during the contact on 144.051 in CW mode. We showed up just before 8 am and found Marilyn had bacon, eggs, biscuits & OJ ready and waiting. After breakfast, LeRoy, KJ6DKM and Udell showed up to help. We put the mast & VHF array on the roof first thing. Erecting the mast was much easier than the take down, but we did have to rework all the guy wires. Coax cables were custom made on the spot. Hoisting the G5RV took several tries in order to get it around the guy wires and tuning it is a breeze. Lee made up a handful of coax jumpers using cable with .502 jacket. Some of you will know how much fun that was.

All in all, we had a great time, learned, taught and enjoyed each others company. My thanks to all who showed up to help. An even bigger thank you to Allen, W6WPF and Marilyn for letting us come. These kind of activities give us a chance to learn, show off our skills, build relationships, solve problems, build on the ham community, get around a meal and have fun. If you would like to get involved in the next antenna party, let us know via the Monday YSARC Net. Throw an email to one of us. Mine is ki6zyy@yahoo.com

An update on Herb, W6HBU.... Many of you know that Herb had hip replacement surgery in Yuba City. He is recuperating at the Lincoln Meadows Care Center in Lincoln, CA. Herb is doing well despite one set back when he had to have his hip reset because of a fall. He is receiving Physical Therapy almost on a daily basis. Herb has had a lot of friends visit him, so if you would like to visit, don't hesitate. Go south on Hwy 65. Turn right at the McDonald's, go over the RR tracks, head west for a few blocks. You will see the sign “Lincoln Meadows” on the right. He's in Rm 132

More Photos of W6WPF's Antenna Make Over...



Don, N0DON donated the use of his bucket truck to clear the way for the G5RV antenna wires, while Allen, W6WPF displays a big smile knowing that soon he will be able to operate on the HF bands!



Lonnie, KI6ZYY is skillfully using his “blue wrench”, which is also called a “cutting torch” in laymen’s terms, to weld up a support for the mailbox and one end of the G5RV antenna. We’ll call it a success because nothing caught fire!

Photo Credits:

Front page photo - Lonnie, KI6ZYY

Page 6 photos - Lee, KC6MCI