



THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

"The Voice of Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"

A California Non-Profit Organization

September 2012

Club Elections Are Around The Corner - Get INVOLVED!

Yes, club elections are once again approaching! I know many of you have served the YSARC in one capacity or another, but relatively few have served on Board of Directors or as an officer. Of those who have served, several have served at least two consecutive terms or more. I know it is all too easy to come to meetings, events, etc., sit back and watch stuff happen, but it takes people and planning to make that happen. At this writing, YSARC has openings for it's leadership, but don't let that word "leadership" scare you. "Leadership" can be simply donating a little over 2 hours a month attending a board meeting. "Well, would if something comes up like a family emergency or something?" No problem, we understand. That kind of thing happens once in a while. "I've never been a President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer". Well, at some point, neither has the current officers! "But my plate is way too full!" We all have felt that at some point in our lives. With all of this being said, the club needs volunteers. Would you consider placing your name on the November ballot for an office? a board position? Please keep in mind that if we don't have people volunteering for these positions, we could very well be headed for extinction. I know, "worst case scenario", but I've seen it where the club has been dangerously headed in that direction in the past. On the positive side, thanks to the efforts of our VE team, our current officers and board members, we have seen many new hams not only come into the hobby, but become club members as well. If you are a new ham, or club member, I urge you to "give it a shot". Throw your hat into the ring. If you are elected to the board or to an office position, congratulations. If not, remember, there are many, many things you can do to advance this hobby in our local area. If you love this hobby, please consider this as a way of giving back to ham radio. I would like to see many people do a little, rather than have a few do everything! Go to ysarc.org and click on the "Membership List" - Now, as you can see, we have a lot of members! How many members have served the club in some way? It doesn't take much, just a small commitment. As in the old TV commercial...."Try it, you'll like it" !!!

.... de Russell, KB6YAF, Editor and Webmaster

YSARC
PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President
Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

Vice President
Andy Boone, KJ6IYM

Secretary
Larry Witcher, KE6LAW

Treasurer
Clara Ansley, N6VRH

Board Members
Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Mike Eby, KM6EBY
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Marsha Sylvester-Jose, KI6CSN
Jeremiah De La Ossa, W6DLO

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

Sept. 5th - Wed. @5:30pm **YSARC Meeting at 2 Bits Cafe in Yuba City**
 Sept 8th - Sat. @7am - Noon **WPARC Ham Fest@McBean Park - Lincoln, CA**
 Sept 15th - Sat. @2:00pm **GEARS Steak Bake - Jensen Park - Willows, CA**
 Sept 19th - Wed. @7:00pm **YSARC Board Meeting - QTH - TBA**
 Sept 29th - Sat. @8:00am **YSARC Ham Cram - 815 King Ave - Yuba City, CA**
 Nov. 11th - Sun. @11:00am **Veteran's Day Parade - Downtown Marysville, CA**
 Oct. 12-14 (www.pacificon.org) **PACIFICON - Santa Clara Marriott Hotel**

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

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS...

BLAH
BLAH BLAH
BLAH BLAH

“On The Road Again” is probably the best description for the KB6YAF/KI6ROW household. Deb managed to get a few days off from her job, so we hooked up the “Big Silver Ham Shack” to the back of the pickup and headed back to Olympia/Lacey, WA. We are in the process of finding retirement property in the great Northwest. Being Airstream owners/enthusiasts, we have gravitated to this area because of the Land Yacht Harbor there which supports the RV lifestyle. The Land Yacht Harbor also has residences for those who have put down roots. We were also looking to get out of the big heat wave that hit Northern Ca. When we did get to Olympia, they were experiencing a small heat wave of their own although not the triple digit heat of NorCal. As normal, I always look upwards wherever I am to notice those telltale wires, antennas, and pieces of gleaming aluminum. I did see several towers plus a few verticals and dipoles with multi-element beams at the Land Yacht Harbor, so ham radio is alive and well there. It was also good to note that seeing those antennas means no problems with HOA's and their distain for visible antennas! - my kind of place!!

Deb and I shoved off again last Thursday, but this time we pointed our 52 feet of vehicle eastward headed to the Churchill County Fairgrounds in Fallon, Nevada. We camped at the RV site there with the Sierra Nevada Unit of the WBCCI (Wally Byam Caravan Club International), the Airstream Club. There were about 8-9 other Airstream trailers there as well. When they saw my call sign on the pick up, they got excited that I was a ham radio operator. A few of the ladies also smiled big when I told them that Deb was also a ham. One lady even said, “Another lady ham!!” One gentlemen commented, before I knew that he was a ham, that if he knew I was coming, they would have monitored “52” which got my attention. I came to find out that most of them were licensed hams! This group even holds their own Field Day as Airstreamers/Hams!!! The people in this group were very friendly and told me that camping in an RV place was very uncharacteristic. Most of the time they “boondock” Now, for you non-RV types, “Boondocking” is described as finding a piece of ground in the middle of nowhere (usually) that has no “hookups” such as water, sewer, electricity, TV, etc. So, if you need it, you have to bring it. So, “Boondocking” just might happen one of these days, not as a matter of choice, but as a matter of necessity. If you have been keeping up with the news lately, you have been reading about all of the earthquakes happening in California, mostly down south. There will come a day where we will have a “Big One” hit that will take out a lot of the modern conveniences such as power, communications, TV, etc that we have come to rely on as common place. I urge each and everyone of you as ham radio operators to do some planning BEFORE this happens. I think most of you know that if the power goes out, all stores usher out their customers and lock their doors. It's not like you can go to Wah-Wah Mart and stock up. Realize there will be thousands and thousands of other people who will also be looking for food and supplies too! A few years ago, many of us in Yuba Sutter were without power for upwards to a week or more. Some people left to go out of town to stay with relatives. Many people stayed put and were in a world of hurt. So, what would you do? Do you have alternate sources of power? A gen-set? solar power? Do you have a water source? How about Food? Extra fuel? There are so many things to think about to survive. When the “Big One” hits, I hope you are able to get on the air and communicate. That's what we hams do, or should do!!Well, that's about all of my ramblings for now.

73 to all, Russell Decker, KB6YAF

LARRY'S MINUTES ...



YSARC Board Meeting - Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club meeting for the month of July, 2012, was held at the QTH of Larry Witcher (KE6LAW). The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) at 1910-hours, who also lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were: President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY), Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW), Treasurer Clara Ansley (N6VRH). Absent was Vice President Andy Boone (KJ6IYM)..

Board Members present were: Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI), Mike Eby (KM6EBY). And Jeremiah DeLaOssa (W6DLO). Absent were Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN), Herb Puckett (W6HBU) and Dave Gartner (WD6AXM).

Guests introduced were: Merlene Witcher.

Officers Reports: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read by Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW). The treasurer's report was approved as read by Clara Ansley (N6VRH).

Under Old Business: Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) has reported that the tax exempt status of the club will be worked on within the next few weeks.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) stated that the gift for Meg Burgin (KI6TLS) has been tabled for now.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) stated that the Scholarship subject has been tabled for now.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the Board and Officer's that the Technician Ham Cram held on March 10th was a huge success.

Under New Business: Allen Hill (W6WPF) has become an SK. The Board and club membership needs to replace his position and immediately start looking for 2013 Board members.

The board is looking at possibly August as a date for having an Antenna Saturday at the American Legion in Linda. Secretary Clara Ansley (N6VRH) will contact club member Paul Johnson (N6XVL) for the logistics and report back to the board.

Demand for another Technician Ham Cram/Review has grown. Mike Eby (KM6EBY) reported that he has polled the roster, and will forward the interested members names to President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) for dispensing study materials. Lonnie will work on preparing study materials for a General Ham Cram/Review. Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) will work with Leroy Smith (KJ6DKM) to provide a VE team.

Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) will enlist the help of Treasurer Clara Ansley (N6VRH) on the reinstatement of the club's non-profit status.

Researching the history and content of the club bylaws was again tabled until President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) can get them into a workable format for everyone to read.

The Kenwood TM-281A was won by Bennett Laskey (K6CEL) at the Field Day drawing. He immediately donated the radio back to the club for future drawings.

A committee will be formed for the Rummage Sale at the QTH of Secretary Larry Witcher's (KE6LAW), with date and time announced subsequent to the committee formation. An email will follow Polling the membership on items that may be donated and announcing the date when set.

This subject will also be brought up at the next regular meeting. All of the logistics, including advertisement will be handled by the committee.

The Sacramento Valley Hamfest which will be held September 18th will provide their own VE's for the VE sessions.

A YSARC Hamfest was again addressed. The board voted that a committee will be organized to pursue all aspects of the subject.

Butchie's Pool sent a thank you card for the club's donation.

The Board approved a refund of \$6.35 to Clara Ansley (N6VRH) for postage of letters to the California State Attorney General's office in the club's behalf.

The Board approved a donation of \$25.00 to Herb Puckett's son-in-law's memorial fund.

Secretary Clara Ansley (N6VRH) wants "money received from a current or new member mailed to her, thereby not having the check or money being lost by being handled from one person to another".

Enlistment of assistance with getting the door prizes arranged on the table will be sought for the club's monthly meetings. Vice President Andy Boone (KJ6IYM) will be approached to handle this.

The Board approved the purchase of a winch for the tower attached to the club trailer.

Club activities for the next three to six months were reviewed. They are as listed, but not limited to the following:

- August, Antenna Saturday in Linda on the 2nd or 4th Saturday
- September, The club will work on the "SES" (Sutter Buttes)
- October, left open
- November, Start preparation for the June 2013 Ham Fest
- December, left open

Club meetings for the next three to six months:

- August, 2 Bits Café
- September, Possibly a Pot Luck at Meg Burgin's (KI6TLS)
- October, 2 Bits Cafe
- November, Elections for 2013, 2 Bits Cafe

Merlene Witcher served pineapple/cherry dump cake for refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 21:08 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Larry A. Witcher – KE6LAW, YSARC Secretary

I am writing this article as a thank you to all amateur radio operators, especially to the members of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club Inc.

Many hobbies, interests, skills, have similarly been affected by technology. A radio ham no longer needs to know how a radio works or be able to build one in order to use it. Most motorists are now unable to do what used to be simple repairs. You can now make bread in a machine without knowing what yeast is. Most things we used to learn to get jobs done have been deskilled by technology and we have become a world of appliance operators without the necessity of knowledge of the task.

The Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club is blessed that we have many "OLD TIMERS" (Elmer's) that have extensive knowledge of amateur radio and are able to teach us many aspects of the craft. We "Hams" are lucky in that the hobby allows us to not only enjoy the comrade and fellowship of hobbyist locally and abroad, but to freely share our experiences and expertise with others.

When disaster arises and communication is needed, we are at the ready. When a fellow ham is in need of an antenna raised or help with some other issue, we are there, all at our own personal expense and time.

THANK YOU to all that take an interest in the kindness and fellowship that you emanate.

Larry A. Witcher, Secretary, YSARC

CLARA'S CALCULATIONS...



TREASURER'S REPORT - June 20, 2012

Checking Balance: May, 2012:			\$3,760.82
Receipts Deposited:			
6/2 Meeting Prizes: \$15.00; Radio Raffle: \$30.00			45.00
6/16 BAB Donation: \$245.80; Dues: Kate van Eckhardt: \$20.00			245.80
	MONTH'S RECEIPTS:		290.80
	TOTAL RECEIPTS:		\$4,051.62
6/6 ATM Ink Cartridge (LM)			42.85
	CHECKING BALANCE: This date:		\$4,008.77
LESS SPECIAL ACCOUNTS:			
Repeater:	\$ 690.30		
Drawing:	459.53		
Memorial:	165.10		
Office Supplies:	92.15		
Prizes:	29.59		
Store Sales:	242.41		
	\$1,679.08	Less:	\$2,328.97
Submitted By:	Clara M. Ansley N6VRH		

AUGUST 25TH VE TESTING RESULTS

Two Technician Ham Cram Review candidates.
Two new Technician Class Operators.
One walk-in upgraded to General Class.
Total: 3 successful examinees.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE...



I was reminded recently of the FCC definitions of the Amateur Radio Service and pulled it out of Part 97 to study it. In Sec. 97.1, we see the Amateur Radio Service as having a fundamental purpose expressed in five principles.

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Five principles. (1) Providing Emergency Comms, (2) Advancing the art of radio, (3) Improving the Amateur Service, (4) Bringing new people into the hobby and (5) Enhancing international goodwill. Makes me reflect on what the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club is doing with these principles.

Collectively as a club, I think we cover all five of these principles. Each of us may have a favorite or two. Lately, mine has been principle #4. With the help of many hams and non hams, I've taught three Ham Cram/Reviews. These efforts have brought 11 new hams into the hobby. People from all walks of life. A lot of work goes into each Ham Cram/Review which includes the VE Team, support crew and myself. Most importantly though is the work the candidates do to prepare themselves for this opportunity. I offer a heart felt thank you to all who participate. A big thanks goes to the YSARC Board as well for supporting these efforts. Another thank you to Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI for making arrangements for the class room as well as the VE sessions. Yet another thank you to Ramona for helping make the healthy snacks possible.

Regarding principle #1, YSARC provides training opportunities several times through the year. We provide comms for the Veterans Parade in Marysville each November as well as Bike Around The Buttes and the MS Walk both in April. These activities give us practice and allow us to bring new people in to "get their feet wet". Acting as net control for the Monday net certainly gives plenty of practice and participating in that net is fun, at least for me!

I think most of us enjoy principle 5. Some on their VHF rigs through the internet and many more on the HF frequencies. We find it a pleasure to chat with hams in Russia, Wales, Spain, New Zealand and on and on. And they find it a pleasure to chat with us.

How about principle #3? Could we say serving as an officer, board member or committee member would fit here? I think so. Amateur Radio Clubs improve the Amateur Service in many ways. We give new hams a foot hold; a chance to meet other hams and learn from them. We provide opportunities to give service to your fellow hams. We support learning activities. We bring hams together monthly to meet, eat and enjoy each others company. Come lend a hand. Find a committee to join or make a pitch for a committee you feel should be there. Help us further principle 3.

Now I touch on principle #2. How do we advance the radio art? I think most of us do this individually, by getting better at using our gear. Most of us do that by spending time on the air. Others, by helping others do the same. I think of advancing the radio art as a group of scientists huddled around a monitor and test equipment, working an advanced math problem, etc. However, how did these scientists get to be there? It took a lot of preparation, study and experience. A lot of what they do is beyond me, but I can say I have learned a lot from this club's core of experienced hams.

This reminds me of a conversation I had with an experienced ham who was not affiliated with any club. He felt he would learn and gain little by joining the local group. I helped him see the gain and learning would be in the other direction. What kind of difference could he make in the life of a brand new ham or even a ham with a decade of experience? I got started as a ham twenty years ago, yet 17 years after that start, Herb Puckett W6HBU introduced me to a grid dip meter and how to use it. That knowledge serves me well and I enjoy sharing it with others.


Ok, enough of my blathering for now. Thanks for helping me along the way and for giving me opportunity to help.

73, Lonnie KI6ZYY

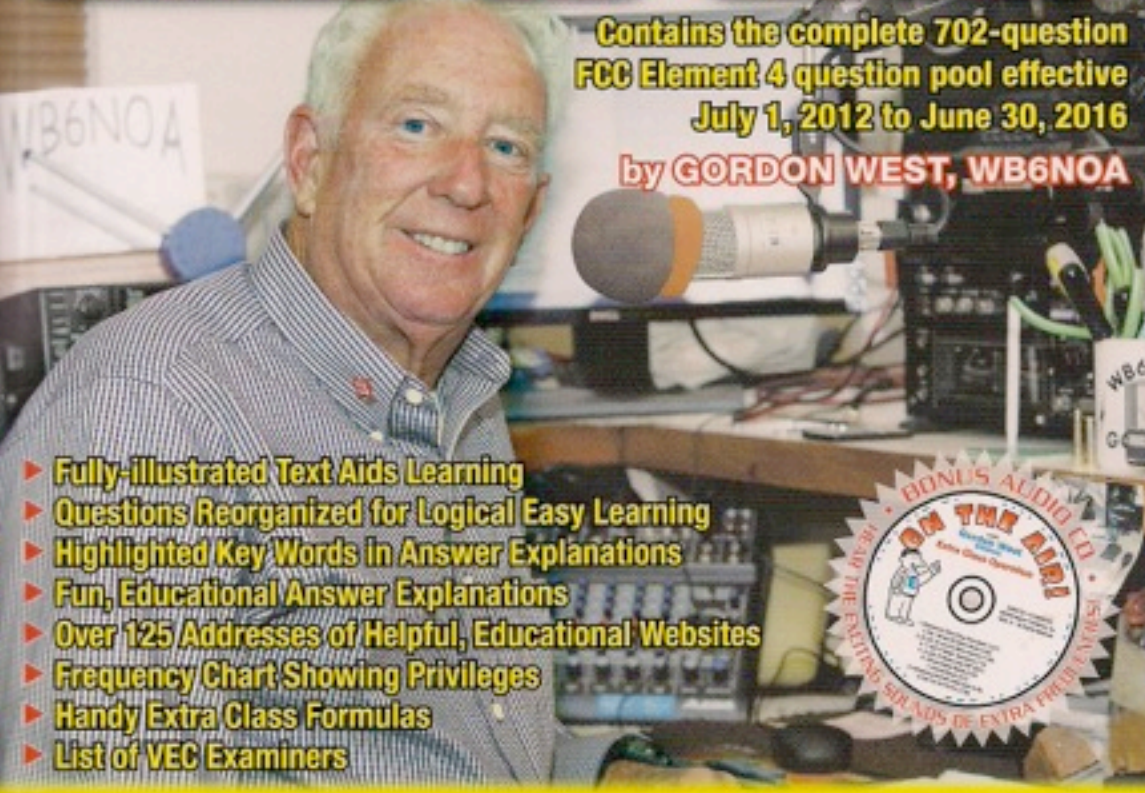
This Editor wishes to thank Gordon West, WB6NOA for using two of my photos for the front cover of his new "Extra Class" License Class Preparation Book. Note the small center photo showing Shari, K6AVW standing next to her VW Bus, and myself at the HF Radio with microphone in hand. I strongly urge you to buy this book if you are planning on an upgrade to Extra Class!! Go to: www.w5yi.org or call the W5YI Group at 1-800-669-9594.

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