

Valley Ham News Oct. 2013

A publication of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, an ARRL approved, Non-Profit Organization

President's Desk....

Greetings from my desk to you as President and editor for the VHN. The upcoming election reminds me of our club's need of members willing to serve in leadership roles as well as a long held memory.

Lot of things I remember about that day. The 20 gauge shotgun I was carrying seemed a bit heavy after lugging it over a mile along a dirt road along one edge of the field then up along a dirt berm about 10' high between the farmer's field and an arroyo. I kept thinking my father's 12 gauge was probably lighter.

As we quietly walked, we could see quite a number of sentinel quail in the upper branches of the thicket of mesquite and ironwood trees to our left. They were urging caution to those below and we could easily hear them scurrying about. My father gave the quiet sign as we eased up to the edge of the dike.

He held his gun at the ready while taking a long breath of air. Then he made a loud and long sound with his lips that reminded me of what happens after eating a bowl of beans. Suddenly, the sound of thousands of wings beating the air drowned out his bleat as the sky turned black with twice as many quail. We did expect some quail to jump up, but did not expect the sky to turn black. We were both speechless at the spectacle and neither of us got off a shot nor found ourselves disappointed.

Looking our list of board candidates over brought this story to mind with a big smile. Since I've been involved with this club in

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2009, we have had to actively beat the bushes to find candidates willing to run for the various offices. Each year approaching the November elections, we didn't know if we'd have enough people to fill the vacancies.

This year is a bit different. We have a large group interested in running for the 5 board positions. I'm glad to see all this interest in serving the club and it's members. Either we've done a good job for 2013 and have a lot of people wanting to continue this work or just the opposite. Come support the club and cast your vote.

October Club Meeting

Thanks to Mike KM6EBY and his bright idea of a costume party for our October meeting, we had a great time. Things started off quietly, then blossomed into a bunch of silly folks having a good time. Pictures follow:



Herb W6HBU, Bennett K6CEL, Ellie KJ6KZP, Russ KB6YAF (fore-ground) & Bob N6BOB.



Wilma KE6ZCR, Lee KC6MCI, Shari K6AVW, Herb W6HBU & Chris KJ6VCG

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Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, Ca. 95992

President:

Lonnie Moore ----- KI6ZYY

Vice President:

Mike Eby ----- KM6EBY

Secretary:

Larry Witcher ----- KE6LAW

Treasurer:

Clara Ansley ----- N6VRH

Board Members:

Marsha Sylvester-Jose --- KI6CSN

Bob McClard ----- N6BOB

June McJunkin ----- N6JEY

Shari Goforth-Eby ----- K6AVW

Steve Albrecht ----- KJ6VCF

VHN Editor:

Lonnie Moore ----- KI6ZYY

Repeater Trustee:

Dave Gartner ----- WD6AXM

VE Liaison:

LeRoy Smith ----- KJ6DKM

Monthly with YSARC:

1st Tuesday – Club Meeting

3rd Tuesday – Board Meeting

4th Tuesday – Deadline for

submissions to the editor

Each Monday – YSARC Net @ 19:00

on the WD6AXM repeater

(146.085 + / PL 127.3)

Please join us!!

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(Oct. Meeting continued)



Udell Smith, Paul N6XVL, LeRoy KJ6DKM, Clara N6VRH & Keith WB6GCL



A very nice cake made by our favorite waitress, Kim who has a cake shop on the side

Until this point, the meeting was pretty normal. Then the crazy folks began to show..... Lots of grins and giggles for the crowd at the expense of the crazies.



Matthew AC6MF with something growing out of his head.

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Mr. Bill N6YWZ, Shari K6AVW, Stan KN7ZYZ, Marilyn KK6GNL, Lonnie KI6ZYY & Mike KM6EBY



Same line up as above.



Shari K6AVW as an SO-239. A lot of work went into this costume.



Lonnie KI6ZYY as a phased Yagi array with Ted KN6TED who appears to be normal.

Pictures by N6BOB, AC6MF & KI6ZYY. Thanks for all submissions.

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Bob N6BOB, Marilyn KK6GNL and Lonnie KI6ZYY



Lonnie KI6ZYY, Lee KC6MCI, Wilma KE6ZCR, Russ KB6YAF, Stan KN7ZYZ, Marilyn KK6GNL & Don KJ6HZN



Dick N7RC helped carry this Silvertone antique radio/phonograph combination in for display prior to the special drawing for this great piece. Here he turns it on to make a little background music for our party. Dick ended up with the winning ticket and took this home with a big smile.



Don KC6PPX did a great job taking care of the door prize drawings. Thank you for this Don.

Hope the pictures tell the story for this meeting.

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A Character...

The purpose of this column is to say a few words about a ham who has gone above and beyond. It will not be an extensive bibliography, or go into great detail. Rather, a few observations to thank them and inspire us.



Russ KB6YAF and his wife Debbie KI6ROW.

I met Russ at my first encounter with the YSARC during the club meeting in April of 2009. He was conducting the meeting as President of the club. The meeting was held at the library in Marysville and about eight people were present.

In the following years, I found Russ had a lot of interests within the hobby as well as outside the hobby. Solar panels, fox hunting and building antennas are among his interests. He also put a lot of time and effort into club politics, serving as President among other offices and duties. I know he put a lot into the club over the years including taking care of Bike Around The Buttes, the Valley Ham News and the YSARC web site.

Seems Russ is always willing to help another ham. One evening after a board meeting, he asked me to drop by his place. We walked out into his backyard where he pointed out a vertical antenna on the ground. Asks me if I'd like to have it and if so, to take it home. He didn't know what it was or what was wrong with it, but freely gave it to me. Of course, I had a blast fixing it. Had to make the two parts that were missing and it has been in use at my place for several years. Oh, it was a Ringo Ranger II for two meters.

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Another time I stopped by, we stripped shielding off enough wire to build a 40 meter dipole then we built the dipole. I thought we were building it for someone else, but he sent it home with me. It ended up being the basic building block of my NVIS system. I still use his method of feeding a dipole to this day. Thanks again Russ.

A Soldering Class

September 21 was a good day for our second soldering class even if it did rain cats & dogs. Our focus for this class was putting PL-259s on RG8X with a little time spent on PC boards.



Lee KC6MCI with Claire KI6VWG looking over his shoulder.

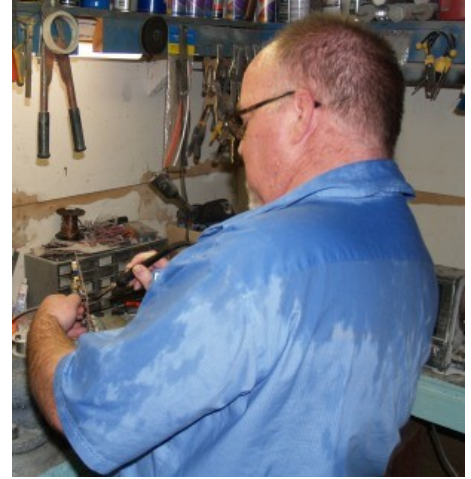


Curtis KF6VFP explaining the finer points to Marsha KI6CSN while Lee KC6MCI looks on.

This was another really great class thanks to Lee, his shop and his passion for teaching others. Pictures by Lonnie & Lee

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(Soldering Class continued)



Ken W6KEN illustrating technique on a pc board.



Ken W6KEN with Matthew AC6MF



Lonnie KI6ZYY, Ken W6KEN, Matthew AC6MF & Claire KI6VWG relaxing after the class

Upcoming...

80th ARRL November Sweeps
CW- Nov. 2-4
Phone- Nov. 16-18

Annual YSARC Club Meeting & Elections- November 5 @ 2 Bits Café @ 6 PM.

Veterans Parade- November 11
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November will be our biggest meeting of the year. The annual election for club officers and board members is an important part of what we do as a club. In addition, we have updated our bylaws and need the approval of our members on these important changes. Our Secretary Larry KE6LAW has been emailing important information to each of you in the days and weeks leading up to this important meeting. Please, plan on being there.

In the Area...

The Yuba Sutter ARC has been asked once again to provide communication support for the Veteran's Parade in Marysville on November 11. Paul N6XVL is the tail twister again this year. Ted KN6TED has stepped up to the plate to help Paul with a list of volunteers. Bring an HT and a willingness to help. See last month's issue of the VHN for details on what you'll be asked to do.

CQP 2013

by Bob N6BOB

How often do you hear stations around the world calling for California stations only? Well, once a year on the first weekend of October you have the opportunity to not only hear them but to work them. Such is the annual CQP contest sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contestants to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar. CQP contestants Bob (W6BO), Bob (N6BOB), Chris (KJ6VCG), and Janet (W6JND) shared duties at the W6BO station October 4th and 5th.

Stations outside of California, worldwide (DX), work stations only in California. The 58 counties of CA are the multipliers. California stations work all stations in or out of CA. The 50 US states and 8 Canadian provinces are the multipliers. We worked over 500 stations and netted 55 multipliers, missing from our multipliers were Vermont, West Virginia and Quebec. We got off to a casual start using the hunt and pounce technique and then calling CQ. We built up speed by afternoon Saturday. When contacts slowed down late Saturday night we went to bed and began operating again Sunday morning. Sunday was much slower.

One often hears that there is little activity on ten meters but we found otherwise. We had a steady run of contacts on both phone and CW on 10 meters. When it dried up we just shifted to 15 meters for another run and then on down to 20 meters where

pandemonium broke out. Stations were three deep and making it almost impossible to find a clean spot to call CQ. The world was calling CQP or CQ contest. We went down to 40 meters at night and worked a few more stations. DX worked included Russia, France, Germany, other European stations, New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Not to be left out was the great food for lunches and dinner that kept us going, prepared by Janet and Bob.

We all had a great time.
73's from the Bobs.



Bob W6BO having a great time with the California QSO Party this year.

ULTIMAX 8040

by Ron W6KJ

I recently had an experience with a new antenna. I use a 75 meter double bazooka on the entire 80 meter band. It is a commercial product and works very well. Double bazooka antennas were designed by MIT during WWII as a radar antenna, but have great use as ham radio improved dipoles. They are single band antennas and can with the use of a wide range tuner, be used on bands above the design frequency. By that I mean a 80 meter antenna can be used on 40 meters with an antenna tuner. My experience here shows that while that works, it doesn't give me great confidence on 40 meters compared to a real 40 meter antenna.

That is why, when I found a new design for 80 and 40 meters (using a high Q trap in each leg) I purchased one for use here at my home station. My 40 meter antenna is a full wave loop at about 1/4 wavelength above ground. It is fed just a few feet from the 75 meter double bazooka but separated in the horizontal plane enough so that the two do not detune each other. My plan was to have one antenna

for 40 and 80 meters and leave room for a trapped dipole on 160 meters.

The dual band antenna arrived from Ultimax Antennas in Ocala, Florida about a week after I ordered it on the Internet. It was a few days after delivery when I had a chance to put it up in place of the 75 meter antenna. My first impression was very good. It is a nice job of good, heavy duty components.

The first test was during pretty bad conditions mid day on 40 meters. Great signal report from one station showed it worked on 40. As shipped the antenna was resonant on 3650 kHz and while the bandwidth was narrow (300 kHz between the 3:1 points--my tuner automatically handles mismatches up to 3:1) I knew I could retune the antenna to a point closer to the places on the band where I normally operate. In fact, in short order I had the antenna tuned to a resonant point of 3755 kHz.

But then, while in automatic mode, I transmitted using 300 watts--the antenna is good for 1500 watts on SSB--and my amplifier went to fault. I could not find a way to use the antenna on either band because it showed a SWR 10:1, worse on the radio, but 10:1 on my AA 54 antenna analyzer. I called the manufacturer and he said to send the antenna back, minus the traps and the 80 meter part. He tested it, found 'something wrong' and sent back a new center portion which I connected to the parts I'd kept. Basically, I had the same experience as before but could tune the antenna with my tuner. It still had a bandwidth on 75 of 300 kHz between the 3:1 points.

I will keep the antenna for a portable operation not yet planned, tune it to the phone band on 75 and chalk it up to a nice idea, but no cigar. I need more bandwidth and will look for another way to get on 160.



73,
Ron, W6KJ

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Christmas Drawing

Tickets go on sale for the Christmas Radio Drawing during the November meeting. The radio is a Kenwood TM-281A two meter mobile rig with a front firing speaker. This rugged FM rig is MIL-STD-compliant and features up to 65 watt output. It also has weather alert and 200 memory channels.

Tickets will be sold at the following rates:

\$5.00 gets you six tickets.

\$20.00 gets you 25 tickets.

Please come and support our efforts to provide a nice Christmas Door Prize each year.

A Donation

Dave WD6AXM made arrangements for a donation of 10 almost new Motorola HT radios to the club. We plan to use these during each of our community service events including Bike Around The Buttes, the MS Walk (both in April each year) as well as the Veterans Parade in November. They will be available for our use during other club related events such as Field Day, CQP as well as emergency situations. Thank you Dave.

YSARES

Let us continue to support the Yuba Sutter ARES. This group holds a weekly net on the 146.085 machine each Thursday at 19:00 (7 PM) and we encourage all to participate.

The recent California Shake Out on 10-17-13 at 10:17 AM turned out to be a very successful event with lots of participation. Thanks to Steve K6TAZ EC

Contact Us...

Mailing information is located at the top right of the first page. Our web site is located at www.ysarc.org and we welcome your visit there.

Membership applications can be found on our web site.

Lonnie KI6ZYY

ki6zyy@gmail.com or ki6zyy@yahoo.com

Sincere apologies for this issue being late again. I'll continue to try to improve. Lonnie KI6ZYY