

# VALLEY HAM NEWS

February 2010

## THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

*"The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"*

A California Non-Profit Organization

February 2010

### YSARC

PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President: Russell Decker, KB6YAF  
Vice President: Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY  
Secretary: Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE  
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, N6VRH  
Board Members  
Herb Puckett, W6HBU  
Barry Barnes, KE6LW  
Teeje Jamison, NE1CQ (Webmaster)  
Nancy Strong, KI6INC  
Paul Johnson, N6XVL  
Repeater Trustee, Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

February 3, 7:00 PM; Valentine's Day No Host Dinner

February 17, 7:00 PM; Board Meeting, 7:00 PM;  
Location TBA

March 3, 7:00 PM; Briefing by USAF on Pave Paws  
Radar. (Tentative)

March 6, 9:00 AM; VE Exams at 715 King Avenue,  
Yuba City (Cornerstone Church)

March 17, 7:00 PM; board Meeting; Location TBA

March 20, 9:00 AM; Antenna Saturday at the American  
Legion Parking lot in Linda.

### 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.

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Every First Wednesday: Club Meeting  
See the minutes for details.

Every Third Wednesday; Board of Directors' Meet-  
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Again, see the minutes for details

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## Manna's Minutes

### **YSARC BOARD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY January 23, 2010**

**N6VRH Residence, Olivehurst CA**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1905 hours by Vice President Lonnie Moore. The Club started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Vice President Lonnie Moore KI6ZYY; Treasurer Clara M. Ansley N6VRH; Secretary Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE.

**OFFICERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Russell Decker KB6YAF

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Paul Johnson N6XVL

**BOARD MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND:** Barry Barnes KE6LW; Teeje Jamison NE1CQ; Herb Puckett W6HBU; Nancy Strong KI6INC.

**SECTION MANAGER IN ATTENDANCE:** Ron Murdock W6KJ

**Recognition of Guests:** Bob McClard N6BOB; and Ramona Traub

**Secretary's Report:** Manna read minutes of meeting of Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

Amendments and corrections as follows:

- 1) March 20 Antenna Saturday @ 0900, at American Legion in Linda area.
- 2) October PACIFICON in San Ramon, CA on OCTOBER 17 & 18, 2010.
- 3) Randy NQ6M, has a friend who has asked if he could put on an informational meeting in reference to IRLP.

Clara made the motion to approve said minutes as amended. Lonnie seconded. M/S/P

**Treasurer's Report:** Clara submitted the Treasurers report as of January 2010 for the YSARC . The current club balance is \$1, 818.15.

### **New Business:**

Ron stated that as a result of his visit out to Beale Air Force Base on Friday, January 8, 2010, and if it is mutually agreeable by all, there will be a briefing by a Squadron Commander of PAVE PAWS. This briefing is tentatively scheduled for the YSARC monthly Club meeting on Wednesday March 3, 2010.

As there was not a quorum, and in the event a vote was needed to be taken, Ron spoke with Nancy and received her authorization; Lonnie spoke with Herb and received his authorization.

Lonnie submitted that our Club have a Valentines' Day dinner/meeting for our Wednesday, February 3 club meeting. He suggested that we bring our spouses and significant others. This event will be held at Perko's at 7PM.

It was suggested that the Club Web-Site needs to have some updates. Among them are to fix the broken links; update new call-signs; list membership.

For the months of April or May it was suggested we have a 'ham shack' safety informational meeting; and/or a power point meeting presentation.

April is Bike Around the Buttes month. It is to be on April 17. Paul instructed all to contact Russ first and him second.

Also in April on the 24<sup>th</sup>, is the M-S Walk. There will be a one-mile route walk and a five mile route walk. Please inform Paul if you are available. SAG vehicles are needed. Starting and ending point will be Sam Brannan Park on Gray Avenue. This walk should be over by noon.

Saturday, May 22, is tentatively scheduled for practice for Field Day exercises. A check on locations is now underway: Lincoln School; Lincrest

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School; Franklin School were suggested. The exercise will be held between 9am to 3pm.

Saturday and Sunday, June 26 & 27, is when Field Day is officially scheduled. The tentative plan for the location is at Bob W6BO and Janet's QTH, which has great space and beautiful views.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2058. Ron moved that the meeting be closed. Bob seconded the motion.

Refreshments in the form of a yummy cobbler with whipped cream and coffee were provided by Clara.

Remember, the next Club meeting will be at 1900 on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at Perko's Restaurant and bring your Valentine.

Remember, it is MEMBERSHIP DUES time....

Respectfully submitted,  
Manna Whelchel, Secretary, KG6PNE

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## *THE PREZ SEZ*

As I have read in several club newsletters lately, I repeat the following..."Where has time gone?" Here it is 2010. Many years ago, I sat down thinking into the future contemplating things like my retirement, when I would pay off my mortgage, how many grand kids would I have and when would I see them graduate from high school. I thought..."Wow, that's way into the 21st century!" Wait a minute. It IS way into the 21st century, I AM retired, my mortgage is very close to being paid, I have several grand kids, but they are still little. Whew, there are still some things I can look forward to.

Speaking of looking forward to, I know our club is going to have a lot to look forward to this year. Already, we have had a great January meeting in

which many of our members brought their latest projects to share and Ron, W6KJ showed the club his wonderful new Flex3000 software-driven HF radio. As I sit here and reflect on the presentation of that fine piece of technology, I just wonder what the reaction to our founders of the hobby would have said. I think they would have been just as amazed and in awe as I was as I viewed the computer screen and all of its controls.

On a different note, it is great to see the "building-bug" biting hard. Although it is great to sit in the old shack and "ragchew" for hours on end, or sit and check into net after net after net, one of the truly satisfying parts of this hobby is to build something. A word of caution here: When you start building a project, it can be highly addictive, extremely contagious, and sometimes frustrating!! If you are building from a kit, and it works the first time, the feeling of satisfaction is overwhelming. So much so that you'll most likely order and build another and so on. If someone else sees what you are doing, and sees the excitement, they too will want to jump in and give it a whirl (the part that is contagious). I have also seen many projects started and not completed or just set aside because of problems or snags. Don't give up. Ask for help!

It has been overheard that once something is doing the job correctly, leave it alone, spend most of your time ON THE AIR and not in "the lab (ham shack)" All's I can say is that I am glad Henry Ford didn't just sit back in his new invention, driving around all day, day in and day out. Henry Ford went back to the drawing board and tinkered around making improvements for the next model. Although there is much to be said about the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" saying, there is much more to be said about the "Now, let's see if I can improve on that" saying.

Next week, the YSARC is going back to a tradition from yesteryear. We are going to meet at Perko's Restaurant in Yuba City for a "Valentine's Dinner" at 7pm in lieu of our meeting at the

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Yuba County Library. It is going to be a no-host type dinner where we show up at Perko's, meet in their side room, and enjoy the fellowship of each other. I certainly hope to see everyone there. It would be so nice to see an over-flow crowd!!

73's de Russell, KB6YAF

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## ***EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS***

This has not been the best of months for your Editor. Over the holidays and thus far into January, I have had three issues of the common cold. When I was young and in my prime, a cold meant "stay in bed two days and then back to work". Now it means as much as two weeks to recover, and then mope around for a few days. This year, there were two colds back to back and then another after a pause of a week or so. No flu, so I guess the shots took care of that. I appear to be ready to rejoin the living world at present, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Even with sickness, the Holidays were kind to the old Dad. I hope yours were too. Hopefully, the jolly old gent filled your stockings with goodies to make your amateur Radio life more enjoyable.

This issue marks the first of a new year. The club will distribute the Newsletter via the internet. Like everyone else, we felt the need to back off on expenses. Postage and printing of the Newsletter got the cut. There was an increase in dues to \$20.00 per year. That's a \$2.00 increase for the first time in many years. Things look good at present, so we'll see how it goes as the year progresses.

We lost another club member late in 2009. Bill Mock, KN6VB, is now a silent key. Bill was active on HF for the most part, and enjoyed chasing counties on the various county hunters' nets. His widow has tasked the club with disposing of his equipment, per his wishes. Your Editor was asked to handle the details with the help of Ron, W6KJ,

on pricing. She has requested that all contact be with W6HBU. She's having a tough time with all the things that need doing. Please don't call her to inquire about the equipment. We have placed the list on the Monday night net, and a list with pictures appears in this issue of the Newsletter. Bill took good care of his equipment, and most of it still looks like new. She says everything was working when Bill last used the station.

Is your "Go Box" ready? We have had lots of rain lately, but there has been no flooding danger as yet. Lake Oroville was shown on TV the other night, and it still has a long way to go to get to the top. Of course, with a large snow pack, a "Pineapple Express" warm storm could cause a lot of headaches. As KE6LW says, "Work off the top half of your gas tank, and keep your batteries charged." We never know when the alarm will sound.

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## ***ESTATE SALE***

Following are the items for sale from the Estate of KN6VB:

YAESU FT1000MP MkV 200-Watt  
Transceiver with power supply....\$1,400.00

Ameritron AL811H HF Amplifier.....525.00

MFJ 989C HF Antenna Tuner.....200.00

YAESU ROTOR with control box.....150.00  
Note: the rotor is mounted on the tower and must be removed. Tower is not included in sale.

VERTICAL HF ANTENNA.....75.00

2-METER VERTICAL ANTENNA.....30.00

RADIO SHACK SWR/PWR BRIDGE.....15.00

ROYCE 2-098 SWR BRIDGE.....15.00

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There are also two 2-meter handheld transceivers. Their condition is unknown.

Yaesu FT-411 with Yaesu MH-12 mic/spkr, PA-6 DC Adapter and an FNB17 Battery. The battery is dead and we could find no charger

Yaesu FT-416 with MFJ-285 mic/spkr. No battery or charger.

Prices negotiable on the HT's

If you are interested in any item please call W6HBU at 530-674-3648 for more information. We can test the equipment at W6HBU to determine that it is in working order. As in all cases of this kind, there is no guarantee once you have bought the item. Also, all items are on a first come, first sold basis

Following are a few pictures taken by KB6YAF.



MFJ 989C



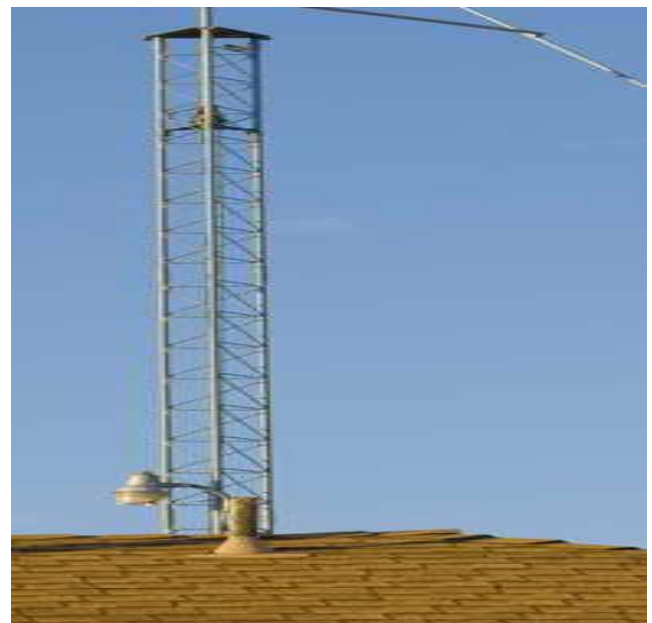
Yaesu Rotor Control



FT1000MP MkV



Ameritron AL811H



Rotor Mounted Within Tower