

# THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

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

A California Non-Profit Organization

October 2010



## IS MORSE CODE ALIVE & WELL ?

When I first started studying for my amateur radio license, Morse Code or CW used to be one of the requirements for obtaining an amateur radio license. The entry level of "Novice" required that you copy 5 WPM (words per minute) besides passing the written part of the exam. Well, what about being able to 'send' 5 WPM? Generally, most people can 'send' faster than they can 'receive' (listen and copy it down).

Today, CW is no longer required in obtaining an amateur radio license. There are a great many people that believe that was a big mistake and wish it was still a requirement and will let you know at the drop of a hat, and so the argument begins.

I am thankful that I was one of those who had to learn it. I view it as having one more tool in my bag in order to communicate. Although I don't use that mode much anymore, I must admit that I need to take it out of the tool case and 'oil it up'.

If you are a ham that doesn't know much about the code and would like to learn about it, let us know. There has been talk about setting up some classes

on learning 'the code'. Is it scary? ...Yes. Does it take you out of your comfort zone? ...Yes. Would it be something you'd try if more people were involved? ..I hope the answer is "YES!"

Let us know if you would like to try this. The code classes could be at a location in the Yuba Sutter area, or it might just be on an FM simplex frequency. You will need a Morse code 'key' and oscillator or a 'paddle' and a 'keyer'

If you are interested, contact Lonnie, KI6ZYY at [ki6zyy@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6zyy@yahoo.com) or Lee, KC6MCI at [leesheffield@comcast.net](mailto:leesheffield@comcast.net)

Check out this video about Morse Code: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWdKgB5\\_CVU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWdKgB5_CVU)



*a typical "straight key"*



*Bencher "Paddles"*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 25 (9a-Noon) - **Transmitter Hunt (T-Hunt)**  
SAT. Bring your handheld FM HT's, any directional antennas, etc and meet at Sam Brannon Park in Yuba City this Saturday at 9am.

Oct. 6 (6 - 8pm) - **YSARC Dinner and Meeting**  
WED. Join us for dinner at 2 Bit Cafe 1272 Colusa Blvd. Yuba City at 6pm

### 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

### YSARC

PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

#### President

Russell Decker, KB6YAF

(Newsletter Editor)

#### Vice President

Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

#### Secretary

Manna Whelchel, KA6ETB

#### Treasurer

Clara Ansley, N6VRH

#### Board Members

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

Paul Johnson, N6XVL

Barry Barnes, KE6LW

Nancy Strong, KI6INC

Teeje Jamison, NE1CQ

(Webmaster)

#### 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*

---

# MANNA'S MINUTES

Sept 15, 2010 - YSARC Board Meeting

Called to order at 7:07pm

Officers & Board Members Present: Herb, W6HBU; Lonnie, KI6ZYY; Russell, KB6YAF; Paul, N6XVL; Nancy, KI6INC. Absent were: Manna, KA6ETB; Clara, N6VRH; Barry, KE6LW; Teeje, NE1CQ

Guests Present: Lee, KC6MCI; Ramona Traub

Treasurer's Report: none

Secretary Report: From Russell, KB6YAF approved & accepted (M/S/P)

## **Old Business** -

1. Fox Hunt - Saturday, Sept 25th at 9am Sam Brannon Park. Russell, KB6YAF will supply rules, etc. 9am - 12noon
2. Field Strength Test Day - We will have to find a suitable location big enough for the test (50-100')
3. Door Prizes - Ideas for prizes include: a roll of Dacron rope (Blue Collar Supply)/VOMS/anything from Harbor Freight/Electrical tape(wide) (OSH)/vinyl tape/gift certificates/flashlights
4. Antenna Help - Eleanor's quad is up and running. We need to schedule the rest of the people who need their antenna fixed.
5. SV Ham Fest Results - The event made \$765 of which \$255 will be given to YSARC to be donated to local charities. Last year YSARC donated to the Salvation Army and to Hands of Hope.
6. YSARC Store - The coax and connector order is planned in the next few days. If you need a transistors, - see Herb, W6HBU

## **New Business**

1. Next Club Meeting - Oct. 6th - A dinner meeting will be held at the 2 Bit Cafe in Yuba City at 6pm. They will open the restaurant just for YSARC.
2. Next Board Meeting - Clara, N6VRH's QTH on Oct 20th at 7pm
3. YSARC has been asked to work Veteran's Parade Nov 11th. Paul, N6XVL will be the liaison between Cindy (the organizer) and YSARC Volunteers to clarify our duties and procedures.
4. Lonnie talked to Glenn County people about having a ham fest for their area. More discussion to follow.
5. YSARC should sponsor a "special event station" - discussion about maybe a "Beckwourth" Special Events or Sutter Buttes Special Events - day to be determined.
6. Officers and Board Members ??? Discussion was held as to who will retire their positions and who would like to be considered for an office.

Meeting Adjourned - 8:48pm

## YSARC CLUB STORE

The YSARC Club Store is stocking coax, connectors, adapters, Anderson Power Poles, and misc. electronic components for its members. Prices will be set to replace the item and not for profit.

The store is a service for YSARC "Members Only" Sometimes you get into a ham related project and find that you are in need of some parts, etc. and would like to have them NOW. We've all been there. Now, the YSARC is starting to stock commonly used items. If you are a member and need to access the Club Store, please contact Barry, KE6LW at [ke6lw@comcast.net](mailto:ke6lw@comcast.net) or Lee, KC6MCI at [leesheffield@comcast.net](mailto:leesheffield@comcast.net)

## YUMMY STUFF - RECIPES FROM OUR MEMBERS

### "Z" Apple Cobbler

10 cups zucchini peeled, cored and sliced  
1 cup lemon juice  
1 1/2 cup sugar  
2 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp nutmeg  
1 spice cake mix  
1 cube butter, melted

Cook zucchini with lemon juice for 15 minutes

Add sugar, cinnamon & nutmeg. cook for 1 more minute.

Mix cake mix and butter together.

Put zucchini into 9X13 pan.

Add 2 handfuls of cake mixture into zucchini. Then sprinkle remaining on top.

Bake at 375 for 40 minutes.

*This recipe was passed to us from Ramona Traub who received it from Udell Smith. It was one of the deserts by Udell Smith at the YSARC August BBQ at Meg's house.*

## THE OCTOBER YSARC DINNER MEETING

Yes! We listen to our members!! We have had SO many great comments about our fabulous YSARC dinner meetings that we are going to do it again. Please copy down the info and put it into your social calendar.....

What: The YSARC Dinner Meeting

Where: **The 2 Bit Cafe** - 1272 Colusa Blvd (across the street south from the Yuba City Mall - They are opening up just for our group!!

When: **Wednesday, October 6th at 6:00 - 8:00pm**

*We will have a drawing for several door prizes.*

The ham radio community lost a good friend this month. Many 'old-timers' remember Rudy Smith, KC6MUR. Many hams remember Rudy working at The Radio Place in Sacramento on Power Inn Rd. Rudy always had a smile and a joke to tell. Back in the day where YSARC held its potluck dinner meetings at the Lindhurst HS cafeteria, Rudy would often bring the "latest and greatest" ham radio gear to display and to sell. He often would personally deliver ham radios and goodies to local hams that couldn't make the trip to Sacramento to pick it up at the store.

I was privileged to check out his latest cool gadgets at his ham shack. Rudy had one of the finest stations in Yuba City. Rudy usually ran the top of the line Yaesu gear. I never saw a hunk of coax or switch out of place. It was all well hidden that ran out to his tower and the beam. To this day, I don't know how he did it.

After The Radio Place closed its doors, Rudy reinvented himself by learning how to produce videos for commercial businesses. He worked as the media director for his church and devoted much of his time to that effort.

I was one of Rudy's "email" friends. One day he sent me a shocking email that he went to see the doctor about some odd symptoms he was experiencing. After a few tests, the doctors came back with the news that he had ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Rudy fought this horrible disease with courage and his faith. Rudy became a 'silent key' on Sept. 2, 2010.

Herb, W6HBU and I were headed to his "sofa" (the car) after lunch at Linda's Cafe, when I heard Bob, W6BO call WD6AXM on the repeater. There was no answer. Then he called N6BOB. No answer. Suspecting that he needed to talk, I answered him and asked him if he'd like to chat. Bob said yes, and told me that he broke down near the top of the

Sutter Buttes mountain on the 3-point turn and needed a tow truck. He told me that he thought the tranny on his pick-up went out. He said he had no cell phone service where he was. Using my HT, I told Bob I would drive right over to the tow service office which was only a couple minutes away. I walked in and told the person at the counter that I had a friend who was broken down in his pick-up on the Sutter Buttes and needed a tow. I also said that I was the only communication link to him via ham radio because his cell phone did not work. About that time the tow truck driver came in. I explained the situation to him. He would have to drive out to the base of the mountain and meet Bob's client who would meet him at the locked gate of the road to the Buttes. The tow truck driver left. I went inside the office and left my phone number with the office in case they needed to have communication with Bob on the mountain. I dropped Herb off at his house and headed home to my ham shack. I was in constant communication, via the repeater, with Bob, W6BO until the tow truck driver arrived. As it turned out, the tranny was not ruined. The tow guy figured out that the cable control to the transmission had failed. The driver got underneath the pick-up and put the truck in gear so that Bob could drive it out of the mountains. I met Bob at the local Ford dealer and gave him a ride home. Bob had mentioned that in all the years he had been an amateur radio operator, this was the first time he had to rely on ham radio to get him out of an emergency situation.

I am thankful that I was there to help. I am also thankful that we have a great repeater on the Sutter Buttes that services over 5000 square miles over the northern Sacramento Valley. Above all, I am thankful that Bob and his client got off the mountain safely and everything worked out well.

73 for now, Russell, KB6YAF

---

**From Colusa County...** Todd R. Hansen, reporter for the Sun-Herald in Colusa County approached Bill Duncan, WA6OHP about doing a story on Ham Radio after seeing Bill's ad concerning a Technician Class he was putting on in Colusa. Bill insisted on bringing in a few more hams to get a broader picture. Eleanor Knox, KI6CSO, renown for her efforts in EmComm, Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI, a good CW operator, and Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY, known for wanting to learn CW & Bill were present for the interview in Colusa. The article made the front page of the Sun-Herald on September 8, 2010. It can be viewed at [www.colusa-sun-herald.com](http://www.colusa-sun-herald.com).

Scott Marshall, the Colusa County Sheriff sent out an offer to hams in Colusa County and surrounding areas to join him in an effort to create an auxiliary communications group. They have been meeting the fourth Thursday of each month at the Sheriff's Office in Colusa. They will be forming up a net on Thursdays very soon using the 147.045 (pl 156.7) repeater. A communications exercise will take place on October 2, 2010 between Lett's Lake and a few stations in the valley. We will have more to report on this group in future editions.

# HAM HELP

**ANTENNA ASSISTANCE** - Any club member(s) who need assistance with their antennas, please contact Lonnie, KI6ZYY at [ki6zyy@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6zyy@yahoo.com) to make arrangements for a team of volunteers to come to your QTH and help with your antenna project. If you have the skills and ability to help repair antennas, etc. and would like to be a part of the "Antenna Assistance Group", please contact Lonnie and let him know that you are interested in volunteering!!

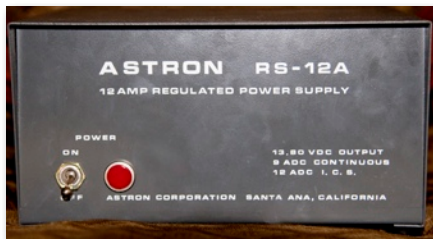
## HAM STUFF to BUY, SELL, or TRADE



### **FOR SALE: Yaesu FT 840 HF Transceiver**

100 watts out. Includes Mobile mounting bracket, mic, power cord and manual - Excellent Condition ... \$250

Call Russell at 530-821-5882 or email at [kb6yaf@arrl.net](mailto:kb6yaf@arrl.net)



### **FOR SALE: Astron RS - 12A Power Supply**

Good Condition ... \$40

Call Russell at 530-821-5882 or email at [kb6yaf@arrl.net](mailto:kb6yaf@arrl.net)



### **FOR SALE: Aluminum J-Pole Antenna for 144-148MHz**

Home Made using T6061 Aluminum and Stainless Steel Fasteners

\$30 Call Russell at 530-821-5882 or email at [kb6yaf@arrl.net](mailto:kb6yaf@arrl.net)

*Here are the rules: Any YSARC member can list a ham-related item(s) to sell, buy, or trade. Give a brief description of the item(s), an asking price, and a way to contact you (email address would be a good way). Please limit the amount of items to (4) per month. The items will be run in the YSARC newsletter. Please submit your listing on or before the 4th Wednesday of the month.*

# HAM HELP - CONTINUED

## SPECIAL REQUESTS...

**Vintage SSB Gear** - Bill Mekeel, K6LK in Kelseyville is looking for some vintage SSB gear. - call him @ 707-277-0536

**YSARC Board Members and Club Officers** - We are looking for some dedicated volunteers to donate their time and expertise in serving on the board or serving as an officer. If interested in placing your name on the November Meeting Ballot, please email Russell, KB6YAF at [kb6yaf@arrl.net](mailto:kb6yaf@arrl.net) or Lonnie, KI6ZYY at [ki6zyy@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6zyy@yahoo.com)

**Marysville Veteran's Day Parade** - YSARC has been asked to provide emergency communications for the parade on Thursday, November 11th in downtown Marysville. If you are interested, please contact Paul, N6XVL on the 146.085 repeater. He is usually listening in the morning.

## AND FINALLY....



**Herb, W6 HBU's "The Sofa"**



**Herb, W6 HBU and Russell, KB6YAF at the Rest Stop on Bucks Lake/Quincy Rd - Site of the Day 2 "Beckwourth Bike Ride"**

## Ham Radio URL's

ARRL - [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

Heil Microphones - [www.heilsound.com](http://www.heilsound.com)

Yaesu - [www.yaesu.com](http://www.yaesu.com)

Icom - [www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/](http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/)

Kenwood - [www.kenwoodusa.com/Communications](http://www.kenwoodusa.com/Communications)

QRZ - [www.qrz.com/](http://www.qrz.com/)

AES - [www.aesham.com/](http://www.aesham.com/)

Gordon West Radio School - [www.gordonwestradioschool.com/](http://www.gordonwestradioschool.com/)