

Valley Ham News August 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. Recent events in this country have me reflecting on a subject close to my heart. A young man dead and many shouting "Profiler" while pointing at the man claiming self defense.

I experienced profiling many years ago in 1976. I had been atop A-Mountain in Tucson, Arizona with a Cushcraft Ringo on a 20' push-up pole listening to 11 meter traffic. The pole was attached to my 1952 GMC and this was close to the peak of the eleven year sunspot cycle.

Yes, 11 meters, but I was interested in side band traffic on channel 16. "Shooting Skip" was not my cup of tea, but working those side band stations in southern Arizona after dark was a lot of fun and A-Mountain gave me a huge advantage in our group.

On the way back home, I stopped off at a Circle K for a soda to slake my thirst only to find it closed. A police cruiser pulled in behind me while another whipped in off the side street blocking my path. Two more skidded in and as I got out of that truck, I found myself looking down at least 6 shaking barrels.

Scared? No, but I was more than annoyed. I knew it wasn't against the law to talk to other people on 11 meter side band. And pulling into a parking lot to turn around wasn't a bad thing. When they wanted to search my truck, I denied them without a warrant. It took them quite some time to decide I wasn't the bad guy they thought I was. Two of them (next column)

handed my license back to me telling me to go home. Of course my back was up & I insisted they tell me what it was all about.

Turned out a white haired, bearded guy in an old orange pick up truck held up a Circle K in another part of town earlier in the evening. My truck was blue and I was having a tough time making a moustache show. I had been profiled. Wasn't much of a fit, but profiled just the same.

Reflecting on this incident so many years ago makes me want to avoid profiling all the more. The problem many of us have to deal with is the addition of so many new hams after the code requirements were dropped. Some of us began using the terms "Cber" & "No Code Ham" to reflect our ire toward these new hams that didn't have to learn the code like we did. While I understand the irritation, I am ashamed of this behavior.

To begin with, this is not the "Ham" way of doing things. Having studied and successfully passed several examinations to obtain our tickets, we should be holding ourselves to a higher standard. In addition, how do we attract new people to this great hobby if we are busy venting against what we may feel is an unfair situation?

We need to remember that not one of these new hams participated in any effort to have the code requirement dropped. Many of them had struggled with the code requirements and gave up until it was dropped. Many others just found the hobby after the code was dropped.

Can't we be big enough to
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Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

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Vice President:

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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!!

Coming up Soon:

Sept 3 – Club Meeting at the 2-Bits Cafe. Gates open at 5:30 PM. Door Prizes, food and lots of hams to rub shoulders with! Still working on something for a presentation

A note to those of you who can't make our meetings and activities. A word of greeting to you. You are in our thoughts and thank you for being a part of our club. Ed.

welcome these new hams with open arms? It isn't their fault and quite frankly, we need them in our ranks. True, many of them don't know as much as you do, but neither did you at that point.
73, Lonnie KI6ZYY

Field Day 2013

We decided to try a little altitude this Field Day and thanks to the efforts of Mr. Bill N6YWZ, we were able to set up at Collins Lake. We operated 3A again this year using solar and batteries. Several generators were on hand, but never fired up.

Andy KJ6IYM and Ted KN6TED were set up early with their 40 meter station. Don KC6PPX set up for breakfast with bacon and flapjacks. He did the same thing Sunday morning for an appreciative group of hungry hams. Marilyn Meadows, wife of Stan KN7ZYZ, made arrangements for lunch Saturday as well as the Saturday evening meal.



This is what it looked like in early May. (by KN7ZYZ)



Mike KM6EBY, Steve KJ6VCF, Don KC6PPX and Lee KC6MCI work together to assemble and raise the Mosley TA-33. (by KI6ZYY)



10, 15 & 20 Meter station ready to go although 10 turned out to be a complete bust. (by KI6ZYY)



Lonnie KI6ZYY busy attaching solar panel leads to 2 sets of golf cart batteries. (by KE6LAW)



Jason KK6EJD, Eleanor KI6CSO & Tammy KK6EJC looking on as Ted KN6TED and Andy KJ6IYM work their 40 meter station. Plenty of fore-thought went into this station. (by KE6LAW)

Antennas? The club's tri-band TA-33 handled 20 meters most of the time. Andy brought a very nice 40 meter dipole with a clever way to mount it. Ted brought a pair of mobile 40 meter ham sticks rigged up as a dipole. A Cushcraft R-7000 allowed Steven KJ6QEA and his grandfather Stan KN7ZYZ to play 15 meters. Bob KJ6JFW brought his Buddipole along to play with and we all had a great time. (next page)



Eleanor KI6CSO, Ted KN6TED and Andy KJ6IYM all having fun at the mic. (all by KE6LAW)



Russ KB6YAF looks on as Steven KJ6QEA works his magic on 15 meters. (by KE6LAW)



Marilyn and Stan (KN7ZYZ) Meadows are the grandparents of Steven KJ6QEA. (by KE6LAW)

Saturday was a hot day and we hit the sack to clear skies and a very bright moon. Sunday morning dawned with a few clouds which quickly covered the sky and kept the day gray and cool. While most of us were happy with the cool temps, the spotting rain as we began breaking down had me worried a bit. Speaking of breaking down, we had a great group for set up as well as tear down. Field Day is so much better with plenty of help. Thanks one and all.

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Here is a really nice shot of our Field Day site taken by Russ KB6YAF.



Mike KM6EBY (seated) and Clare KI6VWG behind one of the many solar arrays on site. Note the cloudy skies in this Sunday morning photo (by KI6ZYU)



Quite a few more showed up Sunday morning (KI6ZYU)

Any worries? Of course! I was afraid few would show at this new location. It was a bit out of the way and very few knew exactly where it was. Would this spot be big enough? What if the very dry grass caught fire? Would we have enough food and water on hand or too much? Would the promised clouds on Sunday dampen our solar arrays abilities to keep our batteries charged? Would we have enough help for

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set up and tear down?

Lots of people showed up. Enough to tramp the dry grass flat. The site was a bit small, but we managed to play radio without bumping too many elbows. The grass did not catch fire, much to my relief. The only problem we had with food, was not enough people on hand when the food was ready to eat. We laughed about it, but it was sad to see the efforts of so many go unused. The clouds sure did dampen my solar array, but those of Andy KJ6IYM, Stan KN7ZYZ and Bob KJ6JFW were large enough to keep up with demand.



Steve KJ6VCF (on right) is admiring the camp set up and station of Bob KJ6JFW (on left). Bob had quite a set up including shower water. (KI6ZYY)



Steve KJ6VCF & Clare KI6VWG pause to make sure we've picked up every bit of trash. Honestly, the only trash I picked up were a few things that blew in from below prior to our coming. Great effort on the part of our hams to keep this spot looking good. (KI6ZYY)

All in all, we had another great Field Day. A special thank you to Lincoln with Collins Lake for allowing us the use of this pretty spot and for supplying us with a porta-potty. Oh, and Bill N6YWZ, who made the arrangements with Lincoln, made a nice contact with a ham in the Cook Islands. Great Job Bill.

SK Service Project Update: As many of you know, we had an opportunity to assist the wife of an SK in April. We loaded two pickups with boxes, antennas, tower sections and more on three separate trips to a house on a hill in the area between Grass Valley and Colfax. A storage building had to be cleaned out along with many boxes from the garage. Most of the boxes turned out to be telephone related sets, wire and such. This went to e-waste.

Four standing towers were at the top of the hill. Each tower had two HF yagi antennas on them. Three of the four towers had at least one guy wire failure. They laid into the trees surrounding them, damaging the antennas. Each had to be made erect again so I could climb them to remove the antennas. This meant pulling each back into place with a cable come-along and reattaching a guy cable to the base of another tree. After filling both trucks with boxes and such on the first day, we dropped one tower and loaded 11 tower sections along with antenna components lying on the ground in the leaves. On the second trip, I took antennas off two towers and dropped those towers while Mike KM6EBY and Larry KE6LAW pulled coax and control wire from between the house and the hill. Mike and Larry had the toughest job with all that tangled coax.

We dropped the last tower on the third trip. It was the tallest tower and was the most difficult of the four to deal with. Each trip had both of us loaded to the gills. I've got to thank Mike and Larry for putting in so much hard work. The property had been sold and we only had a week to get it all out. I've got to thank Ramona (my better half) as well. She and Sue (SK widow) hit it off and it made it much easier on Sue to have someone like Ramona to talk to while the rest of us labored to clear the property. A few have asked why we didn't take more help with us and here is the reason. There wasn't room enough for us to bring more than two vehicles. The road in was a paved 8' lane going up through the trees at a steep angle most of the way. With Sue's car, two dumpsters and our two vehicles, it was a challenge to get turned around on top. In fact, I backed in from the main road on the last two trips to avoid turning around at the top.

Now we have this equipment to deal with. Tom's (SK) wish was for his antennas and towers go to a club that would make sure it went to good use. He didn't want it to be sold and resold to fatten up someone's wallet. He didn't want it to just sit along side someone's garage and go to waste. He wanted it to be repaired as much as possible and put to use by hams who would enjoy and get something out of it. In an effort to fulfill those wishes, we are making it available to club members first. What isn't spoken for in the first round or two will be made available to those outside the club. If you see something on the list you'd like, contact me to

have a look at the piece and then offer an amount you'd be willing to pay as a donation to the club for that piece.

The SK Service Project Committee consisting of Lonnie KI6ZYY, Mike KM6EBY, Larry KE6LAW and Lee KC6MCI will consider the offer. If we feel the offer is too low or too high, we will ask for another offer by that person. Please understand, we are not looking for the highest bid on any piece. Our effort is to get this gear back to use. Someone suffering financially would still have a good chance to bid successfully providing they can put it to use while we'd expect those who are in better shape to step up to the plate. Proceeds will go into the club coffers, but again, we are not expecting to be rolling in the green backs.

The club will retain some of the tower sections for use at Field Day and other functions. We will also retain the coax for the same uses. Much of it is damaged. We will stipulate that none of the tower sections be buried in concrete even partially. If you want to know why, please ask me. In addition, no more than 4 tower sections to anyone. We believe most of the tower sections are Rohn 25, but until we can confirm that, the tower sections will not be available. It is just a matter of weighing each 10' section and we haven't made that happen yet. Be patient with us please. This has been a large project.

All of the antennas are damaged in some way or another. Bent elements, a missing matching coil, a bent boom on one A3S and another A3S with a broken boom and driven element (an oak tree fell through this one) are a few of the problems. Most of the antennas will be fairly easy to repair and put back to use. A new piece of tubing here and there along with new trap boots will put several of them right. I believe aircraft quality aluminum tubing can be had at Blue Collar Supply in Sacto to replace most of the damaged pieces. Feel free to call me with questions about something that interests you. A Bencher Butternut will need a matching coil and possibly a door knob cap or two. I'll be using model numbers as much as possible on this list so you can search for info on the net. Manuals for most of these are readily available there.

1) XM-240	Cushcraft	40 Meter	2 element trapped Yagi	Bent tube and cap hat rods
2) A3S	Cushcraft	10/15/20 Meter	tri-band Yagi	Bent boom and one element end tube (gone)
3) A3S	Cushcraft	10/15/20 Meter	tri-band Yagi	Trap boots, bent elements & DE inulator
4) A3S	Cushcraft	10/15/20 Meter	tri-band Yagi	Massive damage to boom and elements. Parts only.
5) M Squared(?)		20 meter	Monoband Yagi	Missing parts, bent elements & very weathered
6) M Squared(?)		15 meter	Monoband Yagi	Missing & broken parts, bent elements and very weathered
7) Homebrew		20 Meter	Monoband Yagi	4 elements Bent elements will need lots of work
8) Homebrew		15 Meter	Monoband Yagi	5 elements Bent elements will need lots of work
9) 2 Meter		13 element	Cushcraft Yagi	Bent driven elements
10) 2 Meter		7 element	? Yagi	Bent elements. Has N connector
11) 2 M / 70 CM		3 element	Cushcraft Yagi	Good shape
12) 4BTV Hustler		10, 15, 20,	40 meter vertical	Missing cap hat radials (gone)
13) 30' Push Up Pole				Broken section clamps (gone)
14) HF2V Bencher		Butternut	40/80 meter vertical	Bent top section & missing matching coil
15) R5 Cushcraft		10/12/15/17/20	meter vertical	Needs to be cleaned up
16) 16 - 10' tower sections		Rohn 25		Clean and like new (Tower sections not available yet)
17) 3 - top tower sections		Rohn 25		Clean and like new
18) 1 - 5' tower section		Rohn 25		Clean and like new

August Club Meeting

A presentation by Tom Weatherly of the Batteries Plus in Yuba City high lighted the August meeting of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club. Tom displayed and showed several AGM (Absorbed Glass Mat) batteries along with some nifty LED lights.

We had good attendance including a contingent from the Western Placer ARC. Sure makes it fun when others join in.

Terry & his excellent team did another great job of providing great food & plenty of it. If you haven't been to one of our meetings, the desert assortment alone makes it worthwhile. Thank you Terry.

Meeting photos by Lonnie KI6ZYY



Tom Weatherly of Batteries Plus explaining an AGM battery.

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Too many in this shot to name them all, but Tom's back is to us as he speaks to the crowd.



Bennett K6CEL, Andy's father, Keith WB6GCL, Ted KN6TED (behind Andy) & Andy KJ6IYM.



Can you find yourself in this shot? Curtis KF6VFP & Don KC6PPX are in the foreground.

(next column)



(back row) Steve KJ6VCF, Tammy KK6EJC & Jason KK6EJD. (front row) Herb W6HBU, Albert N6YCK, and Paul N6XVL listen attentively to the presentation.

Lincoln Hamfest September 7

Hats off to the Western Placer Amateur Radio Club for putting on this great Hamfest once again. Check out their website wparc.org for the latest info and come be a part of this great event.



Roger K6OU announcing door prize winners.



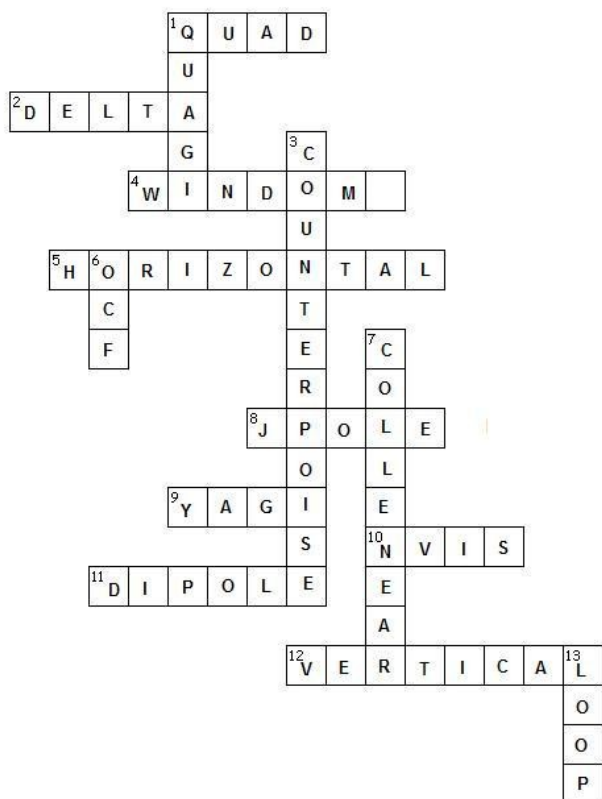
John K5JCH, Russ KB6YAF, Lee KC6MCI (behind his rack of DK3 antennas) & his wife Wilma KC6ZCR.

Just a few teaser photos I took at last year's event. Let us support this Hamfest. You'll have fun doing it.

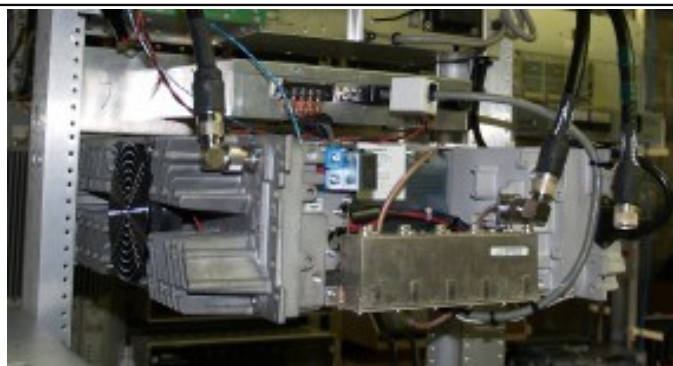
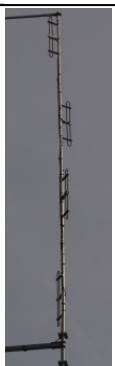
Photos by K16ZYY

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Didn't get any feed back on the crossword puzzle, so I'll discontinue that effort unless I hear from you. However, here are the answers from last month.



Only one person knew anything about the picture of Eagle Rock. It is located at the last switch back near the top of Sutter Buttes. With the afternoon sun behind it, it is quite a sight. Here is another shot of it.



I'll wrap this issue up with a few photos of our new repeater. Of course, it is a few years old now, but was new when I took these pictures. Our transmit antenna array consisting of 4 folded dipoles is on the left. Front of the new repeater in the middle picture. The old controller is above it. Last picture is of the back side. I've cropped these pictures to keep sensitive information blotted out.

I'll try to get more pictures of this sort of thing in coming issues as I continue to learn how to do this. I'm open to suggestions for ideas. Remember JOTA is coming up, Jamboree On The Air for the scouting program. Our participation in the California QSO Party is still in the planning stages. We plan to hold a number of antenna repair parties as these antennas are spoken for. Our efforts will be to put the antennas back in operating order and give interested hams a chance to help and or learn. We are looking for a place to hold a soldering class for those wanting to learn more about this subject. What kind of things are you interested in participating in?