

# Valley Ham News Jan. 2014

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

## President's Desk....

Good day to one and all! I feel that some introductions are overdue. My Name is Mike Eby and I'm a recent recruit to this area from the Bay Area. We, ( my wife Shari and myself) moved up here three and a half years ago after I retired from AT&T after 30 years on the job. She was a life long native up here, so the transition has been pretty easy for both of us.

I received my license in 2007, and got my general ticket here about 2011, joining YSARC in the summer of 2010. Shari got me started in the hobby with emergency services in both Alameda, and Oakland. I belonged to both local radio clubs (ARCA & ORCA) .

I put up my first NVIS 40 meter antenna while experiencing health problems with a call to Lonnie asking him how I could do it myself and get my HF rig going so I wouldn't go mad in bed during my recovery. I think this kind of shocked him. Ever since then the antenna farm has been growing with plans now for a tower in the near future.

For the near future, I'd like to see more antenna parties (which makes for lots of happy new and experienced hams) and workshops like our recent soldering class. I learned a lot, along with many other people. Perhaps we could have a workshop building copper 2 meter J poles, and some more presentations on things like working satellites. I recall hearing Ron, W6KJ, making more than 250 contacts! Maybe a class building antennas for "fox hunting"

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and doing some of that. Please let me know if you have any ideas for more club fun and presentations. Drop me an E-mail!

Thanks for reading this and I'm looking forward to a fun year with all of the members of YSARC.

73,

Mike

## December Club Meeting

Our December meeting came off without a hitch.



Foreground: LeRoy KJ6DKM chats with Paul N6XVL (facing away)

Background: Shari K6AVW, Stan KN7ZY, his wife Marilyn KK6GNL, Curtis KF6VFP, his wife Marsha KI6CSN and Lonnie KI6ZYY.

Marsha KI6CSN and Bob N6BOB, volunteered to take over the job of providing door prizes for our monthly meetings as well as the Christmas drawing and prizes for our hamfest in June. My thanks to them.

Each year, we try to have a radio of some sort for our Christmas drawing and this year it was a Kenwood TM-281A two meter mobile rig. It was won by Claire KI6VWG and his wife Ellen. Couldn't have gone to a nicer couple. We hope they get it installed soon and enjoy having a nice radio like the KW TM-281A.

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## Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

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

### President:

Mike Eby ----- KM6EBY

### Vice President:

Steve Albrecht ----- KJ6VCF

### Secretary:

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Ted Herman ----- KN6TED

Curtis Sylvester-Jose ----- KF6VFP

Don Elder ----- KC6PPX

### VHN Editor:

Lonnie Moore ----- KI6ZYY

### Repeater Trustee:

Dave Gartner ----- WD6AXM

### VE Liaison:

LeRoy Smith ----- KJ6DKM

## Monthly with YSARC:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday – Club Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday – Board Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> 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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**(December Club Meeting continued)**



Don KC6PPX with Claire KI6VWG who won the radio and a handbook.



Curtis KF6VFP, Don KC6PPX, Ellen (holding the Kenwood) wife of Claire KI6VWG and LeRoy KJ6DKM.

These monthly meetings give us a chance to tell stories and laugh about that contact that got away. They also give new people a great resource. These new people can ask questions and learn a lot just by rubbing shoulders with the more experienced among us.



Albert N6YCK, Lee KC6MCI, Don KC6PPX, Wilma KE6ZCR, Marilyn (Don's wife) and Shari K6AVW, all meeting, greeting and talking radio.



Radio Enthusiasts around the room with Frank KB6KYK in the fore-ground as our visitor.

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Lee KC6MCI (center) is holding a very large straight key. At a club meeting many years ago, it was set on the floor while several took turns trying to send readable code using their left feet. Albert N6YCK (left) and Wilma KE6ZCR listen as Lee tells the story.



Curtis KF6VFP listens as Lonnie KI6ZYY makes his pitch.



Bennett K6CEL and Ron W6KJ exchange pleasantries.



Paul N6XVL who does such a great job coordinating our participation in the Veteran's Parade in November each year.

Hope you had a good time at this meeting. We certainly did and always do.

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Chris KD6CP, Lonnie KI6ZYY, Lee KC6MCI, Marsha KI6CSN and Ted KN6TED. Lots of discussion going on in this picture.

Special thanks to Matthew AC6MF for providing all the pictures for this article. Great Job. (Ed.)

**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.*

Eleanor Knox KI6CSO has inspired this editor with her tenacity toward learning more about this hobby. She has probably taken more training for Emergency Communications than anyone else I know. Eleanor is well prepared to serve in the event of any emergency.

She took on the job as the Emergency Coordinator for the Yuba Sutter ARES for quite some time. She served in this position as a Technician and soon realized the need to hold a General ticket. Preparation began and soon she earned that ticket. She then began putting a station together to allow her to access the HF spectrum.

Each year in April, Eleanor has stayed on her feet for more than 8 hours while providing communications at Rest Stop 1 for Bike Around The Buttes. This year was no exception as Eleanor stayed busy. It is my opinion that Rest Stop 1 is the busiest rest stop for the entire bike event. Quite often, the entire area including Pass

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### A Character (continued)

Road is blocked with bicycles and riders during the early hours of the ride. Finding Eleanor in this sea of humanity can be a challenge, but her "Communications" vest helps. This year she showed up with a head phone / boom mic for her HT rig. It worked like a dream.

My hat is off to Eleanor KI6CSO. Thank you for the example you set. There is much more to this ham and the work she does to improve her abilities, so I'd encourage you to get acquainted with this hard working ham.



This is Eleanor KI6CSO on April 17, 2010 at almost 7 AM at a pre-event meeting for Bike Around The Buttes.

### In the Area...

Quite often, you'll find hams doing things you wouldn't think possible. Here you'll find one example of this.

A relatively small percentage of hams are interested in Morse

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Code or as we like to call it, CW, or Continuous Wave. Learning the code has always been a challenge for many of us. Having said that, a few take it a step beyond.



How about several steps beyond? Lee KC6MCI has built a homemade paddle and mounted it in his pickup.



Here is another look at how it fits in the cab. Many would assume Lee would pull over along the road to make use of this device, however he can both send and receive while moving.

Difficult? I'd guess it was for Lee at first. I know it was for me when I began doing mobile CW. I left Lee's house toward Yuba City one day while trying this for the first time. I couldn't keep more than two words in my head at a time and soon I pulled over and grabbed a tablet. After about ten minutes of this, Lee wanted to know how far I'd gone.

Of course he knew I'd stopped based on how much I understood

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of his sending. He laughed and encouraged me to keep trying. Soon Lee & I were doing mobile CW at every chance. Now, we can go back and forth with entire paragraphs at a speed exceeding 20 wpm.

While there are a few that condemn this activity, I have found it to be quite relaxing and it has opened my mind and made CW that much more enjoyable. To those willing to try it, I think you'll find it less distracting than using a microphone. Thank you Lee for sharing this aspect of the hobby with me.

For those who think we are nuts, you are welcome to your opinions. You'll find I don't agree with you. Pilots pounded brass for years with a key clipped to one leg and they took copy with pencil and paper. I wiggle my broken hack saw blade paddle and take copy in my head.

Take a few pictures and share some aspect of the hobby that you enjoy with us. Something in your shack, on your roof, in your vehicle or your go kit.

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### Contact Us...

Mailing information is located at the top right of the first page. Our web site is located at [www.ysarc.org](http://www.ysarc.org) and we welcome your visit there.

Membership applications can be found on our web site.

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