

VALLEY HAM NEWS

September 2015

Y-S ARC Web Page: <http://www.ysarc.org>
Y-S ARES Web Page: <http://www.ysares.org>

**P.O. Box 1169
Yuba City, California 95992**

September 2015

Editors: Curtis R. Sylvester-José, KF6VFP
Marsha L. Sylvester-José, KI6CSN
Telephone: 530-743-3003
E-Mail: Curtis at kf6vfp@arrl.net
Marsha at ki6csn@arrl.net

Webmaster: Ted Herman, KN6TED
Chris Price, KD6CP

CLUB OFFICERS

Pres.: Dave Gipson, KC9EI
Vice Pres.: Ted Herman, KN6TED
Secretary: Jo Anne Murdock, N6YLO
Treasurer: June McJunkin, N6JEY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Elder, KC6PPX
Kathy Burns, N7WVW
Chris Price, KD6CP
Mike Sangria, AG6IP
Bob McClard, N6BOB
Herb Pucket, W6HBU

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

LIAISONS

ARES: Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ
ARRL SM: Ron Murdock, W6KJ
VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

UPCOMING EVENTS

03-04 Oct – CA QSO Party.
06 Oct – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting at
the Yuba County Library.

16-18 Oct – Pacificon.

20 Oct – 6:00 P.M. Board Meeting

02 Nov – 7:00 P.M. Club Meeting at
the Yuba County Library.

07 Nov – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715
King Ave. Yuba City

17 Nov – 6:00 P.M. Board Meeting

Monday nights at 7:00 P.M. – weekly
net (146.085+) PL 127.3 with swap shop
and help sessions.

Monday nights at 8:00 P.M. – Butte
County ARES net, 145.280 MHz –
offset, PL 110.9

Tuesday nights at 8:00 P.M. –
GEARS Club net, 146.850 MHz – offset,
PL 110.9

Thursday nights at 7:00 P.M. –
weekly ARES net.

Third Thursday of each month at
7:30 P.M. – the ARRL Sacramento
Valley Section (VHF) Net, on club
repeater followed by an HF Net on 3987
KHz LSB.

Other nets (From the GEARS
Radiator Newsletter)

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Sac Valley Net, 7:00 P.M., 2nd Wed of the month 146.850 MHz – offset, PL 110.9

440 Wed. Night Net, 8:00 P.M. each Wednesday, 440.650 MHz.

Golden Bear Net, 7:00 P.M. daily 3975 kHz.

Willie net, 8:00 P.M. Mondays, 1930 kHz.

CA Traffic Net, 3906 kHz nightly at 6:00 P.M. for traffic listing and 6:30 P.M. for roll call.

Club repeater: 146.085 MHz out, 146.685 MHz in, PL 127.3

CLUB STORE

The club has the following items available for purchase at cost.

1. Marine grade white RG8X coax, 13 feet. Cost is \$0.41/foot.
2. RG8X Black coax, 320 foot reel. Cost is \$0.41/foot.
3. PL295 coax connectors, 57 each. Cost is \$1.99 each.
4. RG8X reducers, 40 each. Cost is \$0.69 each.
5. Power Pole connectors, 119 red/black pairs. Cost is \$1.00 per pair.
6. 12 guage red/black wire for power connections, 25 feet. Cost is \$1.00/foot.
7. Coax wrap, 2 rolls. Cost is \$4.00 per roll.
8. LMR 400 coax, 40 feet. Cost is \$0.90/foot.
9. RG8X strain relief boots, 14 each. Cost is \$0.50 each.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items contact the club store manager, Curtis (KF6VFP) at (530) 743-3003 or on the air.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at the Yuba County Library at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed for board and officer positions during the upcoming 2016 year.

So far we have volunteers for:

Board Member, Chris Price, KD6CP and Kathy Burns, N7WVW.

To have a full roster we need 5 board members, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer or a Secretary/Treasurer.

If you are willing to serve please let Chris Price or Kathy Burns know.

Remember, this is your club. It does not exist nor run without you. You are the sparkplugs that make this a great club. Please volunteer and bring your great ideas.

VE TEST RESULTS AND TEST SESSION

At the September 5th VE session

Fifteen exams were given. There are two new technicians, two new general and one new extra. Brian Naglee (KK6WIJ), Richard Beaver (KK6WIK) became new technicians. Marvin Thomas (KK6WIL) became a general by passing technician and

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general exams. Randall Blankenship (KK6VIB) upgraded to general. Alfred Dunning (KK6VOS) upgraded extra by passing the general and extra exams.

Congratulations to the new hams and those who upgraded.

The next VE session will be 7 Nov.

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.210, 147.150, 147.030

Public Contact: Anthony Marcin ,
W7XM

PO Box 7727 Reno, NV 89510

Phone: 775-453-4142

Email: info@renohamswap.com

YSARC CLUB MEETING

Oct. 6th., Tues. – 7:00 P.M. at the Yuba County Library.

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM will give a presentation about the Sutter Buttes repeater.

Our monthly drawing will be held. A Baofeng hand held radio is the grand prize.

Other prizes include, an Eveready handheld six-volt flashlight/lantern, coax wrap, a Husky seven pocket utility pouch with belt attachment, and more.

Up for discussion:

- November elections
 - Veteran's Day parade
 - Christmas Party
-

RENO HAM SWAP

Start Date: 10/10/2015

End Date: 10/10/2015

Location: Tamarack Junction
13101 South Virginia Street
Reno, NV 89501

Website: <http://renohamswap.com>

Sponsor: Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

TECHNICIAN CLASS

The club will again be sponsoring a technician class. Classes will be held at the American Red Cross Center, 2125 East Onstott Frontage Road, Yuba City, Ckassroom 1. It will be taught from 6:30 to 8:30 Monday and Wednesday evenings from Jan 4th thru Feb 29th.

There is no cost for the classes, however you will need an up-to-date manual. You can obtain a Kindle version from Amazon or order one thru the instructor.

The instructors will be Curtis (KF6VFP) and Ron (W6KJ).

Please get the word out to family, friends and anyone you know who is interested in getting their license.

More information can be obtained from Curtis at (530)743-3003 or KF6VFP@arrl.net (preferred method of contact).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is getting to be that time of year again when we remind everyone to renew their membership for 2016. Application form for renewal is available

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on the club website
(<http://ysarc.org/index.php/join-now>).

JT 9, JT 69 USERS'

Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, the developer of the popular WSJT "weak-signal communication" software suite is advising users to avoid what he called "unauthorized" versions of his software. He said problems could result by using these builds on the air, and any results that might be shared with the broader user community would be unhelpful.

"Third-party individuals -- ie, others not part of the WSJT development team -- have been compiling WSJT-X from the open-source code and making unauthorized 'releases' of their builds," Taylor said September 8 in a discussion of WSJT-X "fast modes" on his website. "I do not recommend use of these builds on the air. If you operate with one of these unauthorized 'rXXXX' code revisions in our experimental code branch, you have no idea what you've got." Subsequent observations regarding what does or does not work, he said, then become "worse than useless. [T]hey waste your time and ours."

WSJT-X implements JT9, which Taylor has described as "a new mode optimized for weak-signal communication on the LF, MF, and HF bands." Taylor said JT9 is about 2 dB more sensitive than JT65 while using less than 10 percent of the bandwidth. WSJT-X is an "experimental" or "extended" package. Plans call for the

eventual inclusion of other popular modes now supported in WSJT.

1. The ARRL Letter for September 24, 2015

RON MURDOCK (W6KJ) SECTION MANAGER

Ron Murdock, who has been our section manager for nearly 8 years is retiring from that position effective 1 Oct. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD, will be taking over for him.

Our thanks to Ron for the many years he has served the Sacramento Valley and a warm welcome to Carol.

TECHNICIAN, GENERAL AND EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL REVIEW

From the Technician Class question pool:

T1A01 Which of the following is a purpose of the Amateur Radio Service as stated in the FCC rules and regulations?

A. Providing personal radio communications for as many citizens as possible

B. Providing communications for international non-profit organizations

C. Advancing skills in the technical and communication phases of the radio art

D. All of these choices are correct

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The correct answer is C. FCC Part 97.1 says Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Notice that the rules say nothing about A or B.

From the General Class question pool:

G1B01 What is the maximum height above ground to which an antenna structure may be erected without requiring notification to the FAA and registration with the FCC, provided it is

not at or near a public use airport?

- A. 50 feet
- B. 100 feet
- C. 200 feet
- D. 300 feet

The correct answer is C. FCC Part 97.15a says Owners of certain antenna structures more than 60.96 meters (200 feet) above ground level at the site or located near or at a public use airport must notify the Federal Aviation Administration and register with the Commission as required by part 17 of this chapter.

From the Extra Class question pool:

E1B01 Which of the following constitutes a spurious emission?

A An amateur station transmission made at random without the proper call sign identification

B. A signal transmitted to prevent its detection by any station other than the intended recipient

C. Any transmitted bogus signal that interferes with another licensed radio station

D. An emission outside its necessary bandwidth that can be reduced or eliminated without affecting the information transmitted

The correct answer is D. FCC part 97.3(43) says *Spurious emission*. An emission, or frequencies outside the necessary bandwidth of a transmission,

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the level of which may be reduced without affecting the information being transmitted.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

PACIFICON

Pacificon, an ARRL Convention, will be held October 16-18, 2015 at the San Ramon Marriott 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, CA The Talk-In frequency will be on the Mount Diablo Repeater at 147.060 with a PL 100 Hz, call sign W6P.

Pacificon gives you three great days of activities for one low cost: A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics, a large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits, an outdoor Swap Meet, great QRP activities, a Youth Forum and great Youth Activities including electronics kit building and soldering classes, a One Day License Prep Class to prepare you to pass the amateur radio Technician license examination and get your first amateur radio license, a chance to hear about and discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders, a chance to win radios and other great prizes throughout the convention, and perhaps the best part - a chance to interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts to further (or begin) your own knowledge and to advance the hobby. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance (thru Oct. 5th) or \$30.00 at the door.

Website: <http://www.pacificon.org>

For more information contact: Misa Siemons (KJ6BUE), PO Box 31372 Walnut Creek, CA 94598; Phone: 925-945-8007 or email: misa@siemons.com.

EDITORS MESSAGE

The attached letter was being handed out to new hams at the last VE session. After reading it, we decided it would be good for us "old timers" to review. It reminds us of the standards we need to set as an example for those new to using our club repeater.

Curtis (KF6VFP) and Marsha (KI6CSN)

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GREETINGS TO ALL WHO USE THE WD6AXM REPEATER

That which follows is a written explanation for the standards that I have strived to maintain over the past 38 + years of operation. This is an attempt to have a written standard that can be shared with the newcomer to our hobby, as well as the seasoned operator, as it applies to this repeater. Most of these same rules are widely accepted and used on most repeaters in operation today. All of you help make our repeater what it is today and for that I thank You very much.

Why do we need rules at all for repeater conduct or etiquette?

No one likes a bunch of arbitrary rules, but when you have a shared resource, like a wide area coverage repeater they become necessary. We tend to **assume** (we all know what "**assume**" stands for) that everyone knows the generally accepted rules. But, that could be careless of us and unfair to those who want or need to have a clearer definition of our expectations and requirements. It can also create discord when repeater users offend others by unknowingly breaking some unwritten rule. Activities that may be an irritation or even a flagrant violation to one person might not be an issue at all to another. It's probably best for us to be clear about the rules we really think are important. It is not our intention to define every action allowed or disallowed but to provide some minimum expectations and guidelines for proper etiquette.

What gives the owner or trustee the right to tell someone how to operate?

All repeaters have rules. These rules often go beyond Part 97. And, users who refuse to comply with the repeater's rules can be told to stop using the repeaters. This is entirely at the judgment of the repeater owner or trustee. FCC Rule 97.205(e) says, " ... Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible." There are no qualifications, ifs, ands, or buts – to this rule. This isn't just the right to close a repeater. In fact, the ARRL says, " ... a repeater does not have to be listed as being "closed" in The ARRL Repeater Directory in order to have a limited access." (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book) The terms "open" and "closed" don't appear in the regulations at all! All repeater users must follow the rules of the repeater.

The ARRL states it clearest of all: "**A repeater is not a public utility- you don't have a "right" to use it. When you are using someone's repeater you are, in effect, a visitor in the licensee's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the licensee finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it !**" (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book)

Each repeater licensee / owner is responsible for the operation of their equipment. They must always meet the FCC defined rules, and may also implement a more stringent set of rules for the operation of their equipment. To use the repeater, you must follow the rules. There are repeaters with more lenient rules than ours. There are some which are much more restrictive. Beyond the FCC minimum requirements, it's up to

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each repeater owner / trustee to set their own operating rules. A repeater user needs to try to fit in. If you don't agree with these rules for the WD6AXM repeater or they don't suit your personal needs or style, we encourage you to go elsewhere. Anyone willing to abide by these simple rules are welcome to freely use our repeater.

Here are the minimum rules. They are pretty basic.

We understand that everyone slips once in awhile. But, we expect all users of the WD6AXM repeater to do their best to follow these few simple rules. Conduct on the repeater should be governed by common sense and courtesy. If you are not sure your actions are within the rules listed below, don't be afraid to ask.

- Always identify yourself according to the regulations. Basically that means at the beginning of your conversation, then every 10 minutes thereafter and finally at the end of your conversation. (Hint: The repeater is set to identify every 10 minutes of usage and one final time after 10 minutes of inactivity until it is used again.)
- Avoid lengthy transmissions. Give some pauses between transmissions. Let the repeater carrier drop. The repeater has a 3 minute timeout timer.
- Any kind of "Business" communications is not permitted, both by FCC rules and the repeater licensee. This includes coordinating business affairs and actions, as well as conducting actions that result in monetary gains or benefits to a business. The first question to ask yourself, "Is the person I am communicating with, related to my business or commercial affairs **and** is the information I am communicating have anything to do with my business or commercial affairs?" In some instances, personal family affairs could be construed as business affairs and should be communicated by other means. Health and Welfare is OK.
- Do not interrupt existing conversations unless you have something meaningful to add. If you would like to join the conversation, do so in a courteous manner.
- Yield existing conversations to recognized activities: RACES, Skywarn, Monday Night YSARC net, etc.
- Watch your language; our repeater is "G-Rated" 24 hours a day and family oriented. This includes the following:
 - Do not engage in political or religious soap boxing.
 - Conversations with sexual content or innuendo. They will not be tolerated.
 - Do not engage in any personal antagonisms.
 - Do not use CB lingo/language.
- Try not to use "Q" codes excessively.

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- Always yield the frequency to a breaking station (any station with urgent or emergency traffic). "Break" might also be used to ask to join an existing conversation.
- Listing of items for sale OTHER than ham related equipment is not allowed. Negotiations are to take place elsewhere, (i.e. landline or in person).
- If you hear stations jamming or interfering do not make any comment, ignore them. Do not interact, antagonize or acknowledge those interfering!

The WD6AXM repeater is open for all licensed Amateur radio operators to use, provided you follow the rules in using it.

Part 97, officially called Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 97 (47 CFR Part 97), is the body of rules that governs the Amateur Radio Service.

We welcome you and hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the WD6AXM repeater. 73!

ARES/RACES Volunteers Activate for California Wildfires

Radio amateurs responded to the ongoing wildfire emergency in California. Earlier this month, ARES volunteers in Amador County supported communications at a Red Cross shelter at the Jackson Rancheria Conference Center, which has been housing evacuees from the Butte wildfire in Northern California. ARES/Auxiliary Communications Service ([ACS](#)) volunteers were called out late on September 9. Amador County ARES Emergency Coordinator Daniel Edwards, KJ6WYW, had communications set up at the shelter by midnight and began contacting other ARES members and scheduling operators to work the shelter station 24 hours a day.

During the activation, members of Yolo County and Sacramento County ARES spelled the Amador County operators at the shelter. "This gave the Amador County members a break and for some time off to help their neighbors evacuate their positions," Sacramento Valley Section



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District 3 EC Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, told ARRL.

Edwards said 20 operators took part in the activation, with two operators per shift. The station at the shelter was active for 120 hours.

Bill Gustavson, K6BIL, who took part in the Amador County ARES response, said that at one point, with cell phone, Internet, television, and landline down, "my only source of information was ham radio. The radio was the only outside link to the world." He also said he was amazed to learn how many nonhams listen on scanners.

As some roads in the area reopened and evacuees were able to return home, Amador County ARES was released from supporting Red Cross shelter communication early on September 14. The Butte fire also extended into Calaveras County, in the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section.

"The heart of our county is burned," Calaveras Amateur Radio Society President Ken Sanders, AE6LA, reported, with much of the area under mandatory or advisory evacuation alerts. "We've had an informal net going since the beginning on our 145.170 repeater," he said on September 14, adding that he expected that activity to continue "for several days."



The perimeter of the Butte Fire on September 16, 2015.

Raging southeast of Sacramento in the Stanislaus National Forest region, the Butte Fire has consumed some 71,000 acres and was 49 percent contained as of September 17. The fire has destroyed more than 250 homes, and damage assessment continues.

Meanwhile, the 70,000+ acre Valley Fire west of Sacramento has destroyed nearly 600 homes as well as many other structures. ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ, said Amateur Radio operators coordinated by Charlie Porter, N6JOA, at the University of California-Davis have been collecting veterinary supplies for evacuated domestic animals and livestock. "These will be transported to

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Petaluma and other unspecified locations in Sonoma County by members of the Class of 2017 Veterinary Sciences Department," he told ARRL.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/ares-races-volunteers-activate-for-california-wildfires>