



THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

"The Voice of Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"

A California Non-Profit Organization

October 2012



The Sacramento Valley Ham Fest is a Success!

On September 8th, many brave ham radio enthusiasts got up at O'Dark Thirty in order to make it to Lincoln, CA before 6am to set up for the 5th Annual Sacramento Valley Ham Fest organized by the Western Placer Amateur Radio Club. The event was held at McBean park and was open to the public at 7am. Several of our YSARC hams were present as sellers and buyers. The weather cooperated with the event so everyone had a good time. The WPARC sold raffle tickets and gave away some good ham related items. The

sellers paid \$10 per parking spot in the sale area to display their items for sale.



Ron, W6KJ, our ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Manager was on hand, selling a few items out of his ham shack.



The WPARC's set up for the SV Ham Fest



Lee, KC6MCI displayed his ScrewDriver antennas next to KB6YAF's J-Pole display

YSARC

PO Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992

President

Lonnie Moore, KI6ZYY

Vice President

Andy Boone, KJ6IYM

Secretary

Larry Witcher, KE6LAW

Treasurer

Clara Ansley, N6VRH

Board Members

Herb Puckett, W6HBU

Mike Eby, KM6EBY

Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI

Marsha Sylvester-Jose, KI6CSN

Jeremiah De La Ossa, W6DLO

VHN Editor and

Webmaster

Russell Decker, KB6YAF

Repeater Trustee

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1st **TUESDAY**: Club Meeting
3rd **TUESDAY**: 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 2nd - Tues. @5:30pm **YSARC Meeting at 2 Bits Cafe in Yuba City**

Oct. 16th - Tues. @6:00pm **YSARC Board Meeting - @Larry's Home**

Oct. 13-14 - Sat/Sun. **YSARC Rummage/Yard Sale - @ 850 S. Barrett RD in Yuba City (Larry's Home- KE6LAW)**

Oct. 12-14 (www.pacificon.org) **PACIFICON - Santa Clara Marriott Hotel**

Nov. 11th - Sun. @11:00am **Veteran's Day Parade - Downtown Marysville, CA**

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

EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS...



I was very busy last week getting ready for a big Estate/Yard sale at my QTH. I can't remember the last time I had a sale. I think it was over 40 years ago though. In fact, I sold some items that I have had that long!! We also sold quite a bit of items from the estate of my parents who passed away two years ago. I know now why I have not had one of these sales for over forty years.....It's tiring! Luckily for the ham radio club, we still had quite a bit of stuff that didn't sell. I boxed up most of it and donated it to the upcoming YSARC yard sale for this month. I'd like to thank Larry, KE6LAW and Lee, KC6MCI for their help in moving those boxes and donated items to the storage for the sale. Lee filled the back of his pickup twice!! I think I have found some more items for donation, but I'll probably move them myself. Thanks Larry and Lee for going beyond the call of duty!!

The YSARC is still looking for people to donate to the Rummage/Yard Sale to be held in October. The Rummage/Yard Sale is scheduled for Sat/Sun. Oct. 13th and 14th, so if you have any items to donate, contact Larry, KE6LAW or Lee, KC6MCI. Try to make your donation that would be an easy sale to those who buy from yard sales. This will be the club's only fundraiser for this year.

As we are nearing the month of November, we are going to need people to step up to the plate and volunteer their time and effort in placing their name on the ballot for club officer and board member positions. I have a feeling that some YSARC members that are currently in office would like to see others in the club take a stab at these positions. If you can, let the board or officers know!

73 to all, Russell Decker, KB6YAF

NEW YSARC MEMBER!!

Congratulations to:

Everett Conness - KM6RO - Extra Class
our newest YSARC Member!

TIME DONATIONS

We need YSARC members to donate a few hours of their time to help with the club's Rummage/Yard Sale on October 13th and 14th. Please contact Larry Witcher, KE6LAW at 530-755-1249 or email him at

lawitcher@att.net

LARRY'S MINUTES ...



YSARC Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 15, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club meeting for the month of August, 2012 was held at the QTH of Clara Ansley (N6VRH) The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) at 1901-hours, who also lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Officers present were: President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY), Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW), Treasurer Clara Ansley (N6VRH). Absent was Vice President Andy Boone (KJ6IYM)..

Board Members present were: Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) , Mike Eby (KM6EBY). And Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN). Absent were Herb Puckett (W6HBU), Jeremiah DeLaOssa (W6DLO) and Dave Gartner (WD6AXM).

Guests introduced was: Ramona Traub.

Officers Reports: Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read by Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW). The treasurer's report was approved as read by Clara Ansley (N6VRH).

Under Old Business: President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the board that the board needs to start a list of possible candidates for Officers and Board members for the 2013 year.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the board that the Field Day drawing radio was donated back to the club for future drawings.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) Informed that a committee needs to be formed for the Yuba Sutter Ham Fest which will be held on the first (1st) weekend in June, 2013.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) again informed the board that the Technician Ham Cram review was a success.

The board and officer's were polled on changing the club and board meeting's days to Tuesday's from Wednesday. Marsha (KI6CSN) suggested that the starting time for both meetings should be 18:00. The club membership will also be polled for their opinion.

Under New Business: Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) has reported that the tax exempt status of the club has been completed and mailed. Confirmation for delivery from the U.S Treasury has been received.

The Technician Ham Cram/Review will be held August 25th at 08:00 at 715 King Avenue in Yuba City. President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) and the board thanked board member Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) for making arrangements to change the VE session. Board member Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI), Secretary Clara Ansley (N6VRH) and Ramona Traub have volunteered to work together to acquire the eats for the review.

Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) has completed the Research of the history and content of the club bylaws and typed them into a workable format for everyone to read. The board will in the near future be reviewing and amending them if necessary.

Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) has agreed to head a committee for the Rummage Sale which is to be held at his QTH. The date and time will be announced subsequent to the committee formation. An email will follow Polling the membership on items that may be donated and announcing the date when set. Board member Lee Sheffield has agreed to handle the advertising. The date cannot be set until Larry's garage can be cleaned and rearranged due to his recent move into the location.

The General Ham Cram/Review will be held September 29th at either 715 King Avenue in Yuba City, or the American Legion. President Lonnie Moore (K16ZYY) is preparing the study material and announce the location after he researches it.

A YSARC Hamfest was Voted on and approved for the first (1st) weekend of June 2013. President Lonnie Moore (K16ZYY) will research the availability of using the American Legion in Linda, and a committee will be formed to cover all aspects (ticket sales, parking, prize purchases, etc). Board member Mike Eby (KM6EBY) has volunteered to furnish the Public Address system.

Board member Herb Puckett's (W6HBU) daughter and the Hospice sent letter's to the YSARC for their kindness and donation

The purchase of a winch for the tower attached to the club trailer has not been completed. President Lonnie Moore (K16ZYY) is still looking for the best price on purchase.

Club activities for the next three to six months were reviewed. They are as listed, but not limited to the following:

September - The "SES" on Suter Buttes; Ham Cram/Review set for Sept. 29th.

October – Rummage Sale, unless sooner.

November - Start preparation for the June 2013 Ham Fest and club elections.

December – Possibility of another Antenna Saturday.

Club meetings for the next few months:

September - Possibly a Pot Luck at undecided location or 2-Bits café.

October - 2 Bits Café (?)

November - 2-Bits café (Elections for 2013)

December – Christmas Party and Radio Drawing at the 2-Bits Café

The September board meeting will be held at Herb Puckett's (W6HBU) QTH.

Ramona Traub served Peach cake for refreshments. The meeting was adjourned at 20:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Larry A. Witcher – KE6LAW, YSARC Secretary

ACTIVITY UPDATES.....

At last night's board meeting, it was voted on and approved that effective October 1, 2012 the club meeting days will be moved to the **first tuesday** of the month, **start time 18:00 instead of 19:00**. That makes Tuesday October 2, 2012 the first Tuesday meeting, which will be held at the 2 bits cafe. The club board of director's meeting has also been changed to the third Tuesday at 18:00. The board meeting will be held at Larry Witcher's QTH on Tuesday at 18:00.

Additionally, the club will hold a rummage sale at the QTH of the club secretary, Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) on Saturday and Sunday, October 13th and 14th. The location will be: 850 S. Barrett Rd, Yuba City, CA 95991. Donations for the sale will be accepted starting Wednesday, September 26, 2012. All donations should be delivered to the sale address. Larry can be contacted by email (lawitcher@att.net) or by telephone at 530-755-1249.

73, De **Larry** - KE6LAW
Larry A. Witcher

HAM NATION ON TWiT.TV MOVED TO WEDNESDAYS

“Ham Nation” is one of the TWiT network’s most popular shows has moved to Wednesday. It is shown live on the internet. If you would like to join the thousands of ham radio enthusiasts on Wednesdays in seeing the program LIVE, then type in: <http://live.twit.tv/> in your computer browser’s URL line. You can also join the “chatroom” during the show and interact with those watching the show, and even the show members!! If you would rather watch the show as a re-run, then go to: <http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation> and click on the episode you’d like to watch. It’s that simple. Be sure to turn up your volume!! “Ham Nation” is hosted by Bob Heil, K9EID (of Heil Microphone fame), Gordon West, WB6NOA, and George Thomas, W5JDX. Here are some screen shots of the program:



Opening Screen of TWiT’s “Ham Nation”



Bob Heil, K9EID hosts the program from Missouri



Gordon West. WB6NOA Co-Hosts with Bob Heil. Gordo televises his part from his shack in Costa Mesa, CA. He is the author of many ham radio study books. He also runs a radio school in SoCal.



George Thomas, W5JDX, hosts the “Smoke and Solder” segment of the show from Mississippi.

A Product Review of the MFJ Magnetic Loop Antenna

by Dan, KJ6RGX

Magnetic Loop Antenna MFJ-1788

September 2012



The MFJ-1788 magnetic loop antenna is a 36" inch diameter loop and operates 15 through 40 Meters continuously -- including the WARC bands! The antenna can handle 150 Watts.

The loop can be mounted vertical or horizontal. If mounted vertical MFJ recommends it be at least 20' feet above ground. My RV mount, shown in the pictures, is 18' feet and I found the noise floor (S8) unacceptable. When I flipped the antenna to horizontal the noise floor dropped to S1. I've seen pictures of this antenna mounted in an attic, and one where it was hung from a balcony using rope. The small size opens many possibilities for mounting locations.

This antenna does not require an antenna tuner, it comes supplied with it's own. The remote control unit goes between your transmitter and the antenna. It sends voltage via the coax to the small motor that adjusts the tuning capacitor. Because of this you cannot put anything between the remote control and the antenna, ie. an SWR meter.



The MFJ-1788 is a Hi-Q antenna, any change in frequency will require re-tuning. The best method is to transmit a low power (5w recommended) un-modulated signal and push one of the auto-band buttons. If the remote control finds the necessary sweet spot it will stop the motor and will light either the green or red LED lights. If the tuning capacitor reaches the end of it's allowed travel in one direction then you simply push the other button and the remote control will continue to search in the other direction until it finds the sweet spot. The motor takes about 40 seconds to go from one end of the capacitor range to the other. The tuning capacitor does not stop quickly so you will need to use the fine tune buttons to slowly, in very small nudges, adjust the tuning capacitor in the direction of the lit LED until the crossed needles show the lowest reflected signal and the highest forward signal.

The meter has a high and low range button that can be used while tuning at low power. There is also a lamp button that will illuminate the meter. The loop comes with a wall wart power supply that handles the built-in light and the voltage required to run the tuning capacitor motor.

The more I use the remote control to tune the loop the easier it becomes. I've learned that I can tune without transmitting by listening to the receive noise level and watching the S meter on my rig. I can get very close using this method. A few seconds of fine tuning and the antenna is ready to use. I am happy with the performance of the magnetic loop. It is easy to deploy on the RV ladder using a RV Flag Pole mount. I haven't had a chance to use it at my condo but don't expect any problems from the HOA. I am sure I can find a place to mount it that won't ruffle any feathers. The main thing is to mount the antenna as high as possible.

This antenna meets all my requirements. The small size means I can easily find a mounting location. I estimate the loop weighs less than 20 lbs. MFJ recommends that nothing should extend above the loop. Any metal near the loop will affect tuning.

For it's small size it does a good job getting my signal out. I've been able to work JT65 digital to many overseas locations including S. Korea, Italy and Germany. Working U.S. state has not been a problem either, allowing me to make contacts to Maine and Florida.

The down side to this antenna has to be the price. The retail price is close to \$500. But when space is limited or you have HOA restrictions, consider the magnetic loop.

HAM HUMOR

Two elderly hams had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures on the ham bands. Lately, their activities have been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards. One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me.....I know we've been friends for a long time.....but I just can't think of your name and your call! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember them. Please tell me what they are." His friend glared at him. For at least three minutes he just stared and glared at the gray haired old man.. Finally he said, "How soon do you need to know?"

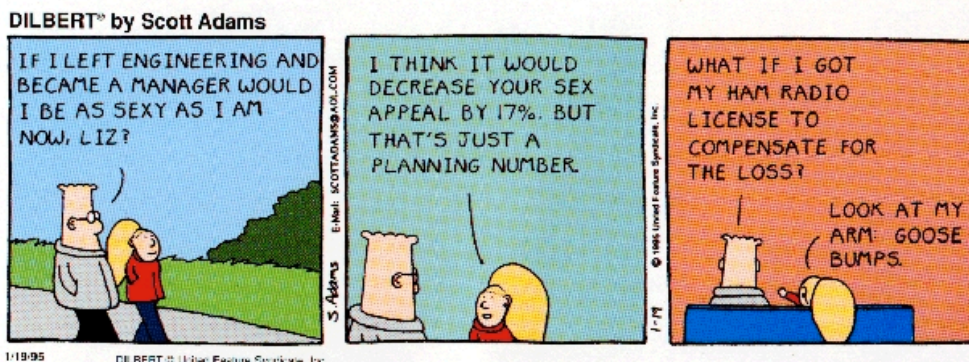
Ray & Bubba (Tennessee mechanical engineers and ham radio operators) were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up and trying to figure out the best way to make a 20 meter stealth vertical out of it. A woman walked by and asked what they were doing. "We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said Bubba, "but we don't have a ladder." The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the flag pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her pocket, took a measurement, announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches," and walked away. Ray shook his head and laughed. "Ain't that just like a woman!" "We ask for the height and she gives us the length!" Bubba and Ray are currently working for the federal government designing totally invisible towers for long range communications. They are experiencing great difficulty in seeing the tower sections and putting them together!

HAM RADIO HUMOR

Here is a little lighthearted ham radio humor courtesy of Dilbert and friends.
The question we must ask is: "Do you have the "knack"?"



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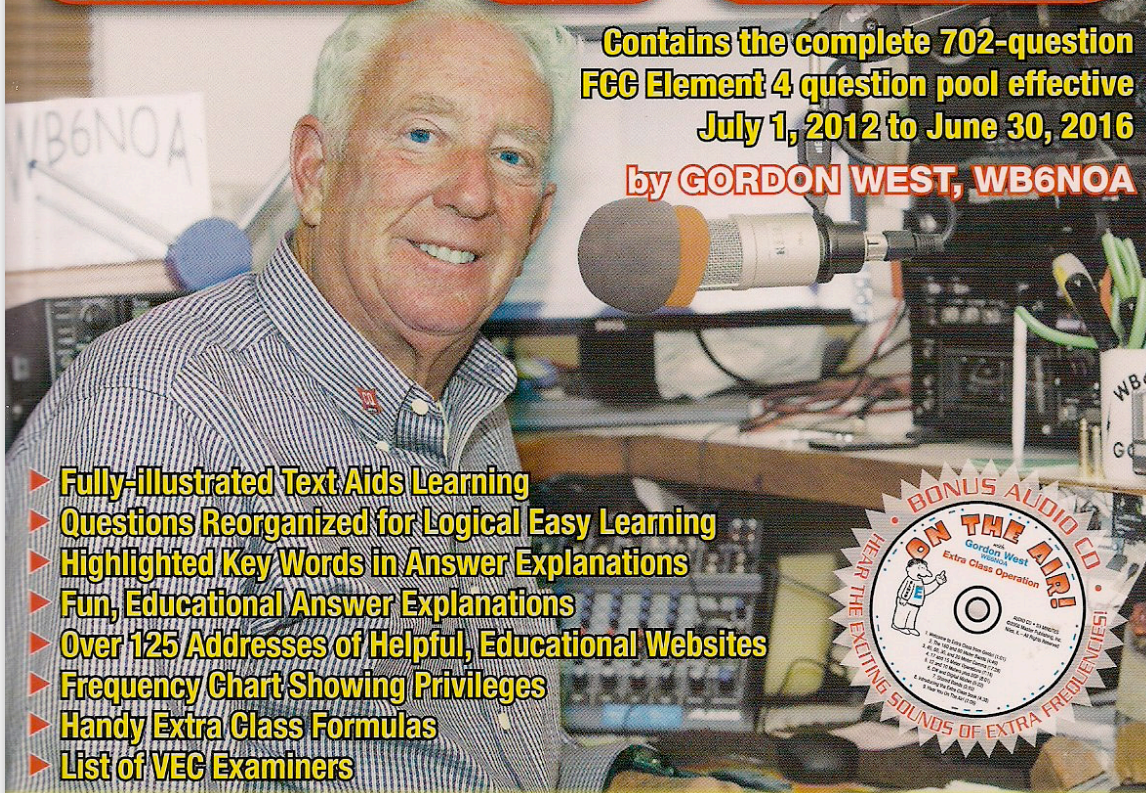
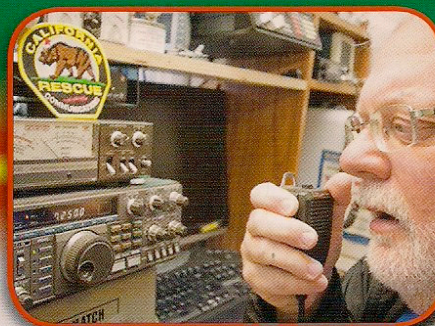
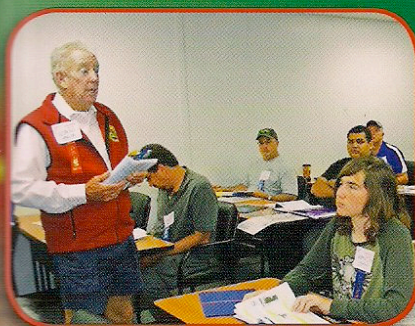
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This Editor wishes to thank Gordon West, WB6NOA for using two of my photos for the front cover of his new "Extra Class" License Class Preparation Book. Note the small center photo showing Shari, K6AVW standing next to her VW Bus, and myself at the HF Radio with microphone in hand. I strongly urge you to buy this book if you are planning on an upgrade to Extra Class!! Go to: www.w5yi.org or call the W5YI Group at 1-800-669-9594.

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