



THE VALLEY HAM NEWS

"The Voice of Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club"

A California Non-Profit Organization

November 2012

The YSARC Rummage Sale Results

To the following people who donated time and various items for making our annual yard sale on October 13 and 14, 2012 a success.

We were very pleased to receive your generous donation's. Without club members like you, who open your hearts and wallets again and again, our organization could not function.

KJ6LVN – Stan and Marilyn Meadows, A special thank you for driving all the way from Forbestown with various items and several tables. He had to not only deliver, but come back and pick them up.

N6VRH – Clara Ansley, tables, various items and her valuable time all day on both days.

KC6MCI – Lee Sheffield, Tables, various items and his valuable time showing up at 06:30 to sort and set up tables on both days.

KJ6RGX – Dan Crooks, Helped with setting up tables and sorting items on Saturday.

KB6YAF – Russell Decker, Very large amount of items from his personal and parent's estate.

K6AVW – Shari Goforth-Eby, Signs.

K6CEL – Bennett Laskey, Very beautiful antique radio/phonograph.

N6BOB – Bob McClard, Various items.

W6HBU – Herb Puckett, Various Items.

KI6CSN – Marsha Sylvester-Jose, Making signs.

KI6ZYY – Lonnie Moore, Showing up at 06:30 on Saturday to help set up and staying all day.

Ramona Traub – Various items.

KE6LAW – Larry & "Twinkie" Witcher, Various items, furnish place for sale, and time all day Saturday and Sunday.

Please know that your commitment to the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club's annual yard sale has not gone unnoticed. Everyone on the board knows that this event could not have happened without your selflessness. Thank you so much for your time and donation's. The funds raised during the sale will go toward a good cause. You are really helping to make a difference in the YSARC. Thanks again for all you do.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Witcher
Secretary Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Editor's note: The YSARC Rummage Sale yielded \$285.11

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

Nov. 6th - Tues. @5:30pm **YSARC General Membership Meeting at 2 Bits Cafe in Yuba City**

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

Nov. 20th - Tues. @6:00pm **YSARC Board Meeting - Location TBA**

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...

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH



Some of you may know that we added a new alternate QTH for the KB6YAF/KI6ROW household. For quite some time now, we have been looking for property that will serve as a retirement residence. After traveling, making lists, doing the analysis, market research, etc, we have settled on buying a residence at the Washington Land Yacht Harbor in Olympia/Lacey, WA. I first was aware of this area when I learned that my best friend's mother resided there. Now, what makes this particular place special is that everyone who resides at the Land Yacht Harbor is an Airstream owner. Also, each is a member of the Wally Byam Caravan Club International (WBCCI), which is the

organization started by the inventor of Airstreams. There are several "Airstream" communities across the US, and the closest is in the great state of Washington. We also believe it is the prettiest. After meeting with the committee on leases and owners, we were accepted to become residents. It is also a gated community which offers a sense of security. One of the first things I noticed when looking at a place to buy there, is that they are "ham radio friendly". Yes, that was a big concern for me. Many gated communities and neighborhoods have very strict regulations on towers and antennas you are allowed to erect. Not so with the WLYH community. I have noticed there are two places with crank up towers and HF Yagi Beams! I can't even count the number of other antenna that include dipoles, verticals, etc. After buying our place, my neighbor across the street came over and introduced himself. Yes, he's a ham. His preferred mode of operation is CW! I also met another ham on my morning walk. He had a nice 2m vertical in his front yard plus a G5RV dipole on the side of his house. He gave me a lot of information about the many hams in the WLYH and the Olympia area. He even told me about a ham club in the Tacoma, WA. area that is so big, they purchased an actual 2-story house that their club uses for meetings which also serves as the club's ham shack, library, etc. What a great thing that is.

So, the question many are asking me....Are you going to move there and sell your house in Yuba City? The answer is.. we will maintain our current residence in Yuba City until Deb retires. When she does retire, we will plan to move to the WLYH. Our house in Yuba City will most likely be rented out with my brother Marty managing the property. Being a resident at the Land Yacht Harbor will also give us an opportunity to use our Airstream trailer more. Several residents at the WLYH are travelers or "snowbirds" that follow the good weather in the winter months and show up back at the Land Yacht Harbor in the coolness of the Pacific Northwest Summers.

For those of you wondering, Olympia is the capital of Washington. It's a good, solid day's drive from Yuba City. If you get a late start in the day, plan on making it a day and a half trip. Olympia is about 2 hours north of the Portland/Vancouver area, and an hour's drive (depending on traffic) from the Seattle area. On a clear day, which is rather rare there, you can see Mt. Rainier from the WLYH. For those hams traveling up the I-5 corridor, the 147.060 MHz repeater, located east of Chehalis, WA, is a great high level repeater that has a fabulous coverage of the Western Washington area. *(The photo above is the entrance to the Washington Land Yacht Harbor. The photo to the right is our residence.)*



73 to all, Russell Decker, KB6YAF

LARRY'S MINUTES ...



YSARC Board Meeting - Wednesday, September 19, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club meeting for the month of September, 2012 was held at the QTH of Herb Puckett (W6HBU). The meeting was called to order by President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) at 18:59-hours. Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN) 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), Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN) and Herb Puckett (W6HBU). Absent was Jeremiah DeLaOssa (W6DLO) and Dave Gartner (WD6AXM).

Guests introduced were: LeRoy (KJ6DKM) and Udell Smith.

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) again informed the board that the directors need to start a list of possible candidates for Officers and Board members for the 2013 year.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the board that Antenna Saturday was well attended and a success.

Committee's for the following were formed:

The Rummage sale committee: Lonnie Moore, Larry Witcher, Lee Sheffield and Mike Eby.

The June 1, 2013 Hamfest committee Lonnie Moore, Larry Witcher, Clara Ansley, Mike Eby and Marsha Sylvester-Jose.

Nomination Committee: Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY), Clara Ansley (N6VRH) Larry Witcher (KE6LAW), Mike Eby (KM6EBY) and Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI). Larry Witcher will serve as secretary for the committee.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the board that the Technician Ham Cram/Review held on August 25th was a huge success, and that all candidates passed with this VE session being the fastest on record. The candidates were well studied on the materials furnished.

Under New Business: Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) has reported that the club has received a confirmation letter from the U.S. Treasury on the nonprofit status, and it is under review.

The General Ham Cram/Review will be held September 29th at 715 King Avenue in Yuba City. It was voted on and approved that the club is providing a service to the community, and as a result will provide snacks and lunches to the volunteer's of club events, such as "ham cram/revue's". A \$5.00 fee will be charged for candidates of a ham cram for their lunches, which will be adjusted as necessary to cover costs. Acquisition and purchase of these food items will be the responsibility of one person on the appointed committee. A committee of one (Clara Ansley N6VRH) was formed for the purchase and preparation of snacks and lunches for the ham cram/revue's. The next ham cram/revue is to be held at 715 King Avenue, Yuba City, California on September 29, at 08:00..

Secretary Larry Witcher (KE6LAW) is heading a committee for the Rummage Sale which is to be held at his QTH on Saturday October 13 & Sunday October 14. Donations will be accepted as of Wednesday, September 13th. The committee consist of Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY), Larry Witcher (KE6LAW), Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN) and Mike Eby (KM6EBY).

Board member Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI) has agreed to handle the advertising, and Marsha Sylvester-Jose (KI6CSN) has agreed to handle the signage.

A YSARC Hamfest was Voted on and approved for June 1, 2013. Vendor's will be accepted at 06:00 and the general public at 07:00. President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) asked Clara Ansley (N6VRH) to ask Paul Johnson (N6XVL) to research the availability of using the American Legion hall in Linda on that date, and to see if they are willing to serve breakfast. A committee was formed to cover all aspects (ticket sales, parking, prize purchases, etc). Board member Mike Eby (KM6EBY) has volunteered to furnish the Public Address system.

A nomination committee was formed consisting of the following personnel: Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY), Clara Ansley (N6VRH) Larry Witcher (KE6LAW), Mike Eby (KM6EBY) and Lee Sheffield (KC6MCI). Larry Witcher will serve as secretary for the committee.

The board voted on and unanimously approved (after viewing the results of the poll on changing the club and board meeting's days to Tuesday's from Wednesday) changing the club's meeting days. The monthly general membership club meeting will be held on the first (1st) Tuesday of the month at 18:00, and the monthly club board meeting will be held on the third (3rd) Tuesday of the month at 18:00.

The purchase of a winch for the tower attached to the club trailer has still not been completed. President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) is still looking for the best price on purchase. All used avenues thus far have not worked out.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) discussed the upcoming California QSO Party, and encouraged all to participate.

A review of the club's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws has been put on hold until the next board meeting.

President Lonnie Moore (KI6ZYY) informed the board that Bennett Laskey (K6CEL) should be given a receipt from the club for the Field Day drawing radio that he donated back to the club for future drawings.

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

September – The General Ham Cram/Review is set for Sept. 29th.

October – Rummage Sale set for October 13th & 14th. CQP

November - Club elections & start preparation for the June 2013 Ham Fest.

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 October board meeting will be held at Larry Witcher's (KE6LAW) QTH.

Ramona Traub (was absent) prepared Lemon delight cake for refreshments. Clara Ansley (N6VRH) served the cake. The meeting was adjourned at 20:39 hours.

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

A Rusty Old Straight Key

This is about a ham I admire very much— George, K0DHI. George passed away a few years ago. He was a ham since the 50s and husband and father for over 65 years.

I came to know George through a CW class he was teaching. George was over 75 years old when he taught this class. My wife and I were both Technicians and wanted to upgrade to General so we thought this would be a great opportunity. I talked to a few of the local hams about George and they said he had taught CW in his basement for over 30 years. Most of the hams in the local club went through his class.

As it turned out my wife and I were the last two hams George taught the code. We could have learned the code on our own but wanted to be part of the group that learned the code in George's basement.

George never had a bad word to say about another ham. He was an avid DXer and participated in a DXpedition to Easter Island in the 70s. He was active in the local Amateur Radio club and was a true example of what a ham should be. George spent countless hours helping other hams.

It was and is an honor just to know him. We still include his wife in any social activities the hams participate in. Recently his wife decided it was time to sell George's equipment. Some of the local hams took an inventory and began to spread the word that the equipment was for sale. I made one purchase. An old rusty straight key that George used to teach his class. I own thousands of dollars worth of ham equipment but that old rusty straight key is my prized possession.

Jim Brown, NØWE

My First Contest...the 2012 CQP Contest

By KJ6RGX (Dan) <http://travelingrvwx.com> 9 October 2012

I received my technician license in September 2011 and my general ticket in March 2012. I've never worked a contest before and heard about the upcoming CQP contest while monitoring the local 2m repeater. I didn't plan to participate, unless I could work digital modes, but at the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club (YSARC) October meeting Lonnie (KI6ZYY) and Herb (W6HBU) convinced me that I should give it a try. What follows is my story of getting ready and working the contest.

The California QSO Party (CQP) is the premier state QSO party held every year on the first weekend of October. The Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has sponsored CQP since 1974.

I am not what you would call a "big talker" on the radio waves. I spend most of my time working digital modes. After many years of building, using, and fixing computers, I'm more comfortable using the keyboard to exchange information. It gives me more time to formulate questions and answers. Not that I can't talk on the radio, just that I'm more comfortable using the keyboard.

I had roughly 1 week to get ready for the contest. We were just finishing moving out of our RV into our condo. We spend half the year (summer) living in an RV motor home in various locations, and the other half of the year (winter) in our condo. So on top of getting moved out of the RV I also had to setup my radios and antenna's.

Bob (N6BOB) visited my QTH the Thursday before the contest and I proudly showed him my "shack" and computer setup. But tragedy struck hours later when my computer was somehow infected with a virus. The computer would boot, but within a couple of minutes it would lockup tight and I couldn't do anything with it. If I couldn't recover the machine I was going to lose everything.

Setting up the radio and antenna's wasn't a big deal. But I planned to use my computer to control my TS440SAT radio. Having never worked a contest before I had no idea what was in store for me. I knew I would keep a paper log in case something went wrong with the computer (always a good idea). I wasn't sure how much time I would have to log contacts. I had this vision of working hundreds of stations an hour. Silly I know, but with no experience I really wasn't sure what to expect. The fact I had never used any logging software added to my anxiety. And now my computer was sick with less than 24 hours to go before the start of the contest.

I had a difficult decision to make...spend precious time troubleshooting the computer in hopes of fixing it...or cut my losses and re-install the operating system and lose all my programs. I decided the best course of action was to re-install the operating system and get the logging software installed and communicating with my radio so I could work the contest. Not the best way to get to ready for a contest but the computer was back up and running and the logging software was installed and talking with the radio and I was able to get some sleep before the kick off of the contest programs. I decided the best course of action was to re-install the operating system and get the logging software installed and communicating with my radio so I could work the contest. Not the best way to get to ready for a contest but the computer was back up and running and the logging software was installed and talking with the radio and I was able to get some sleep before the kick off of the contest.

The contest started Saturday morning at 1600Z and my initial plan was to listen for an hour to see how it all worked. I wasn't sure what band I should start on so I did a quick scan on 10m and didn't hear anybody. 10m had been active the week prior, but I didn't hear anybody over the high noise floor.

I moved over to 20m and found tons of people calling California. Man was it exciting to hear all those stations calling California. I felt like a kid in a candy store. It seemed no matter where I turned the dial there was a station calling for California stations. I noticed right away that they were calling "California stations only please".

Since I wasn't sure how the logging software worked I decided to answer one caller so I could put something in the log and see what happened. My first contact was a station in Arizona. The logging program correctly showed I was working 20m SSB and when I entered the info the software showed I had worked the state of AZ and gave me credit for one multiplier. Very cool. I can see how a serious contester would appreciate knowing what multipliers they were missing allowing them to concentrate efforts to reach them all.

I decided to make another contact and save the log file. I wanted to make sure the software was able to save the data, and more importantly, I could re-load the log file. I didn't want to work for hours only to find the computer didn't save the data. My second station turned out to be Hawaii. Wow! I saved the log file, then shutdown and restarted the logging software and was able to load the log file successfully. Ok, I'm in business. Now to find more stations!

That's how it went for about an hour. Then I noticed a problem. I was entering a new contact in the log and I noticed the logging software clock wasn't showing the correct local or Zulu time. I thought oh oh, this could be a problem. I suspected the logging software

I discovered I had a couple settings wrong in the software, I told it my computer was set to Zulu time and my time zone offset was -7 instead of +7 hours. Once I changed those settings the program showed the correct times. I went back into the log and manually corrected the timestamps on the dozen or so contacts I had already logged. I'm glad I discovered the problem before I worked those hundreds of stations.

Now that I was fairly certain the logging software was working correctly I was able to focus on the contest and decided to start calling CQ myself. But what frequency? I discovered most of the band was covered with calling stations about 5kHz apart. So I started looking for a "hole" where I could start calling. I finally found a spot and sent out my first CQ. my first CQ.

I knew I would have to call CQ awhile before anyone "found" me. I figured most people were probably like me, tuning through the band looking for calling stations. So I called CQ every 10 seconds or so, then listened for replies. This went on for a few minutes until... a breeze came through the window and I felt a small blast of warm air, You guessed it...my radio was over heating. I suspected the fan wasn't working since I've never heard it. I touched the top of the radio and it was very warm. So I stopped sending CQ's and decided to stay off the air for a few minutes to let it cool down. After that I decided it best to not call CQ and concentrate on answering CQ calls. I knew it would affect my score but I didn't want to burn up my radio. The Kenwood TS440SAT radio was produced in the 80's and early 90's. It has a good size heat sink to disperse heat but it also uses an internal fan to dissipate heat build-up inside the radio. I have no idea what the limits are for the radio or if it has over-temperature protection, but I decided not to push my luck and find out.

Eventually all I was hearing on 20m were stations I had already worked. The logging software did a great job of showing me stations I had already worked. I didn't find out until later that I could work the same stations on different bands. A newbie mistake and something to remember for next year. I will have to figure out how to use the logging software to track the band so I will know if I worked them on the same or a different band.

I then moved down to 40m and did not hear any stations. I figure if I tune the whole band and don't hear anybody then it's time to move to another band. So I tuned up on 15m and discovered people everywhere. Wow it was busy. I jumped right in and started working stations.

I immediately picked up 3 multipliers for the Canadian provinces. Then I worked a station in Maine. I couldn't believe how good the signal was booming into my QTH. At first I thought they must be running huge power and beam antenna's to be coming in so clear and strong. I didn't think they would be able to hear me, running barefoot on a small magnetic loop antenna at a measly 10-foot above the ground. But I answered them anyways and they came back. What a rush, they could hear me!

As the day wore on I eventually got back on 40m and worked that band starting around 0130Z until I eventually tired out and went to bed. In the morning I had about 2 hours of time left until my 24 hours was up (single op stations are limited to 24 hours) so I fired up the radio and managed to add 3 more multipliers to the log before 0900Z signaled an end to my 2012 CQP contest.

In the end I managed 29 multipliers on 66 QSO's for a score of 3770. I had set my goal at 100 QSO's to qualify for the special category of new contester. Even though I didn't make the minimum my goal I gained valuable experience. And I had fun in the process. It doesn't get much better than that. process. It doesn't get much better than that.

I can't wait for next year!

Ham Cram Test Results.....by Lee, KC6MCI

Sept.29th Test results are as follows: Four examinees.

One Tech exam given and passed. Four General exams given and passed.

Total exams given: Five

73, Lee

Ham Cram & Test

On September 29, 2012 Lonnie Moore KI6ZYY lead a ham cram class for General Class Amateur Radio license at The Cornerstone Church in Yuba City, California with three Technician Class hams in attendance. The class started at 0900 and with a short break for lunch went through until testing time at 1500 local time.

At around 1430 hrs., Volunteer Examiners (VE's) began to show up. The team leader is Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI.

Clara Ansley, N6VRH, registered all those taking the test and took the money required for those who are going to test. She also did a little kitchen duties.

There was one drop-in non-licensed test taker who was not in the class thus there were three taking the General Class Test and one taking the Technician Class Test. After successfully completing the Technician Class Test he went on to take, and pass the General Class Test.

They say confession is good for the soul. I must confess to not naming the others who helped because if I did I know I would forget some and miss name others. But all who helped were appreciated.

...Bill Duncan, WA6OHP (www.hamslife.com)



Clara N6VRH doing a little kitchen duties.



Lee KC6MCI in the blue shirt standing to the right of the other two VE's standing up.



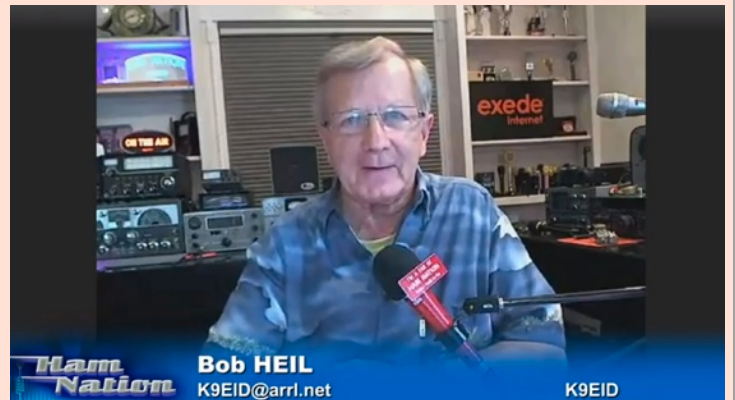
Lonnie KI6ZYY standing up. Those waiting to take the test are seated while the instructions are being read.

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.

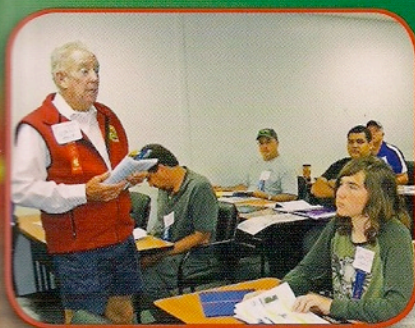


George Thomas, W5JDX, hosts the “Smoke and Solder” segment of the show from Mississippi.

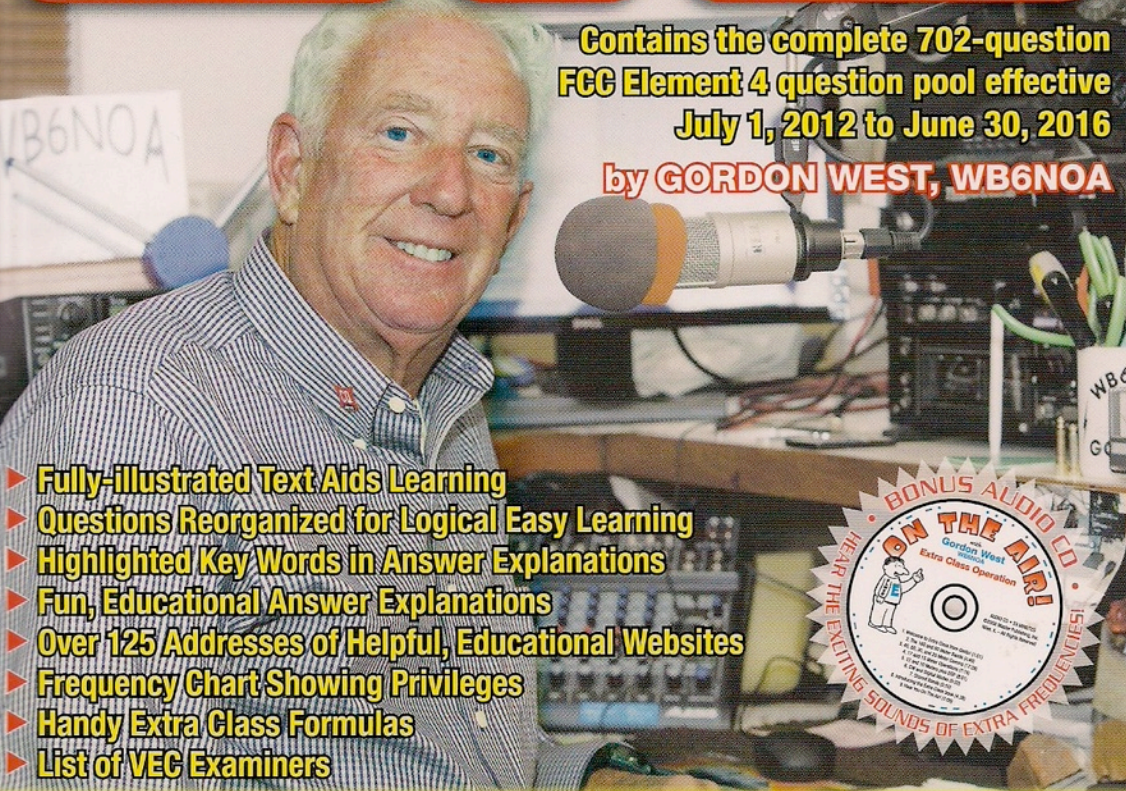
This Editor wishes to thank Gordon West, WB6NOA for using two of my photos for the front cover of his new "Extra Class" License Class Preparation Book. Note the small center photo showing Shari, K6AVW standing next to her VW Bus, and myself at the HF Radio with microphone in hand. I strongly urge you 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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