

VALLEY HAM NEWS

February 2017

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

P.O. Box 1169
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February 2017

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CLUB OFFICERS 2017

Pres.: Chris McLain, KK6VZD
Vice Pres.: Eleanor Knox, KI6CSO
Secretary: Linda Maas, KK6SOZ
Treasurer: June McJunkin, N6JEY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

Joe Visalli, N9BD
Kathy Burns, N7WVW
Manna Whelchel, KA6ETB
Matthew den Hollandar, AC6MF
Mark Peters, KA6FFM
Herb Pucket, W6HBU

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

LIAISONS

ARES: Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ
ARRL SM: Carol Milazzo, KP4MD
VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

UPCOMING EVENTS

04 Mar – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715 King Ave. Yuba City
07 Mar – 7:00 P.M. General Club Meeting, Sierra-Nevada Room, Caltrans

Building, 703 B Street, Marysville
15 Mar – 7:00 P.M. Board Meeting, Caltrans Building, 703 B Street, Marysville

04 Apr – 7:00 P.M. General Club Meeting, Sierra-Nevada Room, Caltrans Building, 703 B Street, Marysville
08 Apr – Bike Around the Buttes
19 Apr – 7:00 P.M. Board Meeting, Caltrans Building, 703 B Street, Marysville

02 May – 7:00 P.M. General Club Meeting, Sierra-Nevada Room, Caltrans Building, 703 B Street, Marysville

06 May – 3F Bike Ride

06 May – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715 King Ave. Yuba City

17 May – 7:00 P.M. Board Meeting, Caltrans Building, 703 B Street, Marysville

06 Jun – General Meeting

21 Jun – Board Meeting

24-25 Jun – ARRL Field Day

11 Jul – General Meeting

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08 Jul – VE Session
19 Jul – Board Meeting

01 Aug – General Meeting
16 Aug – Board Meeting

02 Sep – VE Session
05 Sep – General Meeting
20 Sep – Board Meeting

03 Oct – General Meeting
07-08 Oct – CA QSO
18 Oct – Board Meeting
20-22 Oct – Pacificon

04 Nov – VE Session
07 Nov – Election of Officers and
Budget Approval
11 Nov – Veterans Day Parade
15 Nov – Board Meeting

05 Dec – General Meeting/Christmas
Party
20 Dec – Board Meeting

Wednesday mornings – Breakfast
8:30 A.M. at Dancing Tomato in Yuba
City.

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)

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

EVACUATION PREPARATIONS

Sudden evacuations are a scary
thing. You, however, can make them
less stressful for yourself and your
family by doing some preparations
ahead of time. Here are a few
suggestions:

1. Have a bug-out-bag (evacuation kit)
prebuilt and ready to go. There are
numerous websites (including
FEMA) that give suggested lists.
Also, have a bug-out-bag for your
pets.
2. Have the deed to your home and a
scanned copy on a thumb drive and
your computer. FEMA requires it to

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be presented in the event of their assistance.

3. Photograph/videotape everything in your home, inside and out. This includes everything in your drawers, closets, boxes, etc. When an emergency occurs you need to have a list of every single inventory item in your home including draperies, utensils, underwear, socks - you name it. Put a copy on the thumb drive and your computer. Photos help when you file an insurance claim.
4. Take photos of you with your family members and pets and add to the thumb drive and your computer. If you get separated these will help you get back together.
5. Grab another item with your home address on it. If you do not have anything use a utility bill.
6. Keep every single receipt with you during evacuation for reimbursement from FEMA or insurance.
7. Call in all your medication refills now if you have down time while waiting.
8. Charge phones at all times. Charge you handheld radio.
9. Ensure all cars have gas. I recommend that you always keep your tank at least ½ full at all times. If an evacuation warning is issued then keep it at least ¾ full or top it off every evening. Then you do not have to worry about fighting with everyone else to get gas when evacuating. You can get out of town and gas up

later. Half a tank will get you 100 to 150 miles.

10. Call your credit card companies and your bank and let them know that you will be doing some out of the area transactions on your card so that the fraud protection does not block them.
11. Listen to you ham radio, TV and radio to stay aware of what is happening. You'll get a lot of information that can help you.
12. Put together a bug-out-binder that has a list of personnel information (medications, contact information of family, doctors, insurance, etc., logins and passwords, resumes, pet vaccine records), copies of vital documents (birth and marriage certificates, passports, social security cards, etc.), finance records, titles and deeds, wills, power-of-attorney, etc. You can also scan many of these documents and add them to the thumb drive and your computer.
13. Emergency cash in small bills. ATM and credit cards may not be working.

If you have to evacuate, try to do it early before the roads become a clogged. If you're using a thumb drive, use one that is encrypted.

CLUB STORE

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

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1. PL295 coax connectors, 34 each. Cost is \$1.99 each.
2. RG8X reducers, 18 each. Cost is \$0.69 each.
3. Power Pole connectors, 93 red/black pairs. Cost is \$1.00 per pair.
4. Coax wrap, 1 roll. Cost is \$4.00 per roll.
5. RG8X strain relief boots, 10 each. Cost is \$0.50 each.
6. 10 AWG Red/Black Power Zip Cord, 23 feet. Cost is \$1.38 per foot.
7. RG8X Black Coax, 350 feet. Cost is \$0.39 per foot.
8. 7 BNC Female to SMA Female Adapter, \$3.50 each.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items contact the club store manager, Curtis (KF6VFP) at (530) 743-3003, by email at kf6vfp@arrl.net, on the air, or at one of the club meetings.

evacuees could get fuel for their vehicles, where evacuation centers were being set up and road closures. "This became a critical need, as the thousands of people evacuated their houses with 1-hour notice. K6TAZ was operating from his house on a high hill in Yuba County. He was safe from flooding and housed 17 evacuees staying on his property." The net ran on and off from Sunday 4 pm until Wednesday 8 pm. Total operating time was 48 hours and 322 contacts were made. He had reports that the information he was relaying was more informative than the radio or television. Steve was also monitoring the press conferences and would give updated reports. He was in constant communication with the Governors office of emergency services in Sacramento.

Steve Sweetman (K6TAZ)

ARES REPORT

On February 12, Yuba/Sutter ARES Emergency Coordinator Steve Sweetman, K6TAZ, opened and managed a net to provide information and gather reports of road closures or problems during the Oroville Dam Incident evacuation. The net received reports from radio amateurs who were evacuating. Traffic was reported to be very heavy, with a trip that would normally take 20 minutes extending into a "3-hour stop-and-go ordeal." The net also gathered information on where

PRES SEZ

Greetings fellow amateurs!! I'm going to assume that, at this time, everyone has returned after the adventure of "The Big Evacuation". Don't know about the rest of you but even though my wife and I have returned to our house and relative normalcy some of our possessions and more important paperwork and mementos are still ensconced at my mother-in-law's house in Fairfield for at least the next couple of months. I want it to be really dry before I bring those things back. If for some odd reason we have to bug out again I don't want to worry about whether or not we left

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something important behind. I will say that this situation gave me a real good idea of the utility of having a ham rig (or two or three) with me to keep up to date on different aspects of this emergency. Once I found out that something was going on I grabbed one of my HTs and tuned into the club repeater so I could listen to whatever chatter was going on while we were prepping to leave. And when we finally finished our prep and left the house we already had a good idea what kind of traffic we were going to find so we could make a decision about the best way for us to get out of town. I felt much more in control in being able to monitor the traffic to and from K6TAZ/Steve as ARES Net Control (thanks for your dedication Steve) and hope that my being able to relay information back on road conditions as we encountered them was helpful to others. Steve wasn't the only one helping to keep us informed. He had some assistance from Yolo County ARES and Sacramento County OES that I know of and from others as well. Sorry I can't identify them by call sign but thanks for your efforts. Of course once we got past Vacaville the Coast Range Mountains blocked the signal but the radio communications we did have up till then was invaluable. I also learned the worth of having a good backup rig handy when necessary. Shortly before this event my primary mobile rig quit transmitting and I hadn't yet dealt with getting it repaired. So instead I grabbed my Motorola MaxTrac radio from my desk and set it up in my truck for mobile ops. The MaxTrac is not very flexible, It's not easy to program if you want to

make changes. But it was here when I needed it and reliable. It might not be a bad idea for to invest a little money in a similar rig if given have the chance. There are club members who know how to work with them.

Since "The Big Evacuation" has been a significant part of our lives lately I though we could benefit one another by having a round table at the next club meeting in March centered on our experiences. Lessons learned, prep tips for a future event, how being able to communicate was a benefit, radio etiquette during an emergency situation. Where did you go and what did you do? What would you do again, what would you avoid? Curtis has already given me some good ideas that are worth passing on. I'm sure we all have something worthwhile to share.

I have not been able to line up a presentation for the March club meeting but I thought it would be a good occasion for a "Tech' night. Time for those of us with some practical experience with routine ham tasks to share with others who might not yet have the experience. N6BOB is going to give a short "how to" on attaching power poles to equipment. I will have my laptop and a few programming cables available to program HTs for those that want it. I'd like to see someone with experience attaching PL-259 connectors to coax assist those who might need instruction or assistance. If anyone else has other ideas on what we can do please let me know. And I'm still recruiting presenters for future club meetings. Are you involved in an aspect of the hobby that

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others might want to know about? Please consider sharing your experiences with others. I'm still hopeful that we can have an antenna workshop sometime later this year, probably on a Saturday when it gets warmer and drier.

I have yet another plea for a coordinator for **2017 Field Day**. We already have a location available to us and I'm assuming that's half the battle. I'd be disappointed if another year passed us by without participating in this event. It's a great opportunity to share the broader experience of ham radio to those that are just getting their foot in the door. And to introduce the hobby to those unfamiliar with it. If you would consider it at all, even if you think you might need some assistance from an old hand please let us know. If you're an old hand that would be willing to assist someone with no prior experience please let us know.

Till next time, 73s to you all and I'll be listening for you on the airwaves.

Chris / KK6VZD

HAMFESTS

Mike & Key ARC Electronics Show

Start Date: 03/11/2017

End Date: 03/11/2017

Location: Washington State
Fairgrounds (Pavilion Expo Hall)
110 9th Avenue SW
Puyallup, WA 98371

Website:

<http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>

Sponsor: Mike & Key Amateur Radio

Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.82/22 (PL 103.5)

Public Contact: Michael Dinkelman,
N7WA
22222 148th Avenue SE Kent, WA
98042

Phone: 253-631-3756

Email: n7wa@arrl.net

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club
Hamfest

Start Date: 03/18/2017

End Date: 03/18/2017

Location: Historic Loomis Train Depot
Plaza
3640 Taylor Road
Loomis, CA 95650

Website: <http://w6ek.org>

Sponsor: Sierra Foothills Amateur
Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.43, 223.86 (PL 162.2)

Public Contact: Carl Schultz, WF6J
P.O.Box 6421 Auburn, CA 95604

Phone: 916-862-6802

Email: info@w6ek.org

Nevada State Convention (NVCON)

Start Date: 03/31/2017

End Date: 04/02/2017

Location: Eastside Cannery
Hotel/Casino Event Center
5255 Boulder Highway
Las Vegas, NV 89101

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

Sponsor: Las Vegas Radio Amateur

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Club

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 146.94(-) PL 100

Public Contact: Charles Shepard,
K7CBS

6229 Heather Mist Lane Las Vegas, NV
89108

Phone: 702-645-3739

Email: k7cbs@cox.net

demonstrations on attaching power poles, help programming radios and possibly attaching (soldering) PL-259s to coax cables.

Hope to see you all there.

CLUB MEMBER CA QSO RESULTS

California QSO Party (Oct 7-8, 2016) results:

N6BOB team of N6BOB (Bob McClard), W6BO (Bob Olsen) and KK6VZD (Chris McLain) - 1st Place Sutter County and 13th Place California in the Multi-operator, Single station, High Power category.

N9BD (Joe Visalli) - 1st Place Yuba County and 50th Place California in the Single Operator, Low Power category.

Also, new club member this year, W7DR (Dan Ramsey) - 1st Place Yuba County and 6th Place California in the Multi-operator, Single station, High Power category as part of the W6JAZ team.

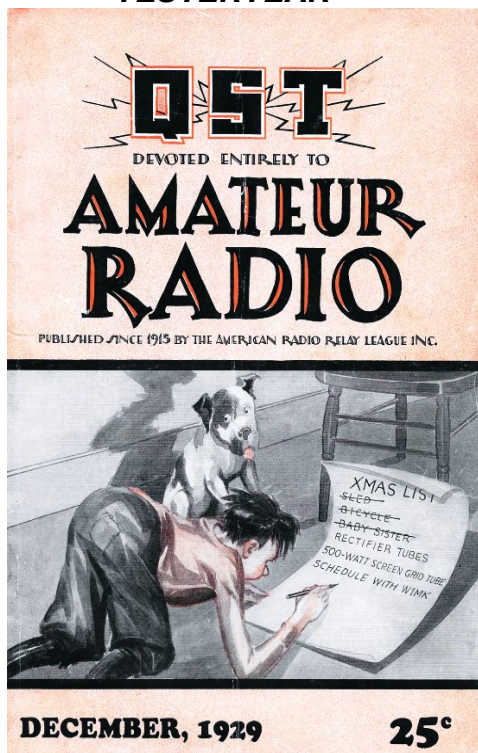
Chris McLain (KK6VZD)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is that time of year again when we remind everyone to renew his/her membership for 2017. The application form for renewal is available on the club website at:

(<http://ysarc.org/index.php/join-now>).

YESTERYEAR



GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be held Tuesday, 07 Mar. at the Caltrans building at 7 p.m.

This meeting will be a tech night with

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TECHNICIAN, GENERAL AND EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL REVIEW

From the Technician Class question pool:

T6D06 What component is commonly used to change 120V AC house current to a lower AC voltage for other uses?

- A. Variable capacitor
- B. Transformer
- C. Transistor
- D. Diode

The correct answer is B. A transformer is made of two or more inductors that share the energy stored in the magnetic field. This allows them to transfer energy from one inductor to another while changing the combination or voltage and current. Transformers are often found in power supplies such as “wall warts.”

From the General Class question pool:

G3B01 What dB change represents a two-times increase or decrease in power?

- A. Approximately 2 dB
- B. Approximately 3 dB
- C. Approximately 6 dB
- D. Approximately 12 dB

The correct answer is B. Decibels (dB) is a ratio of two powers. The formula (when measured in watts) is:

$$dB = 10 \log \frac{Power1}{Power2}$$

If you double the power you get:

$$dB = 10 \log 2 = 3$$

If you halve the power you get:

$$dB = 10 \log \frac{1}{2} = -3$$

From the Extra Class question pool:

E6D03 Which of the following is an aspect of the piezoelectric effect?

- A. Mechanical deformation of material by the application of a voltage
- B. Mechanical deformation of material by the application of a magnetic field
- C. Generation of electrical energy in the presence of light
- D. Increased conductivity in the presence of applying light

The correct answer is A. A piezoelectric material has the ability to change mechanical energy (such as pressure or deformation) into a electrical potential (voltage) and vice versa. A major advantage of a crystal used in a oscillator circuit is its frequency stability.

Curtis (KF6VFP)

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VE TEST SESSION

The next VE session will be 4 March at 715 King Ave., Yuba City at 9:00 A.M. VE's are needed to administer the exam. The elements for Technician, General, and Extra class will be offered. If you are planning on taking an exam you will need two forms of ID, at least one of them must be a picture ID. A fee of \$15.00 is required. A calculator may also be used as long as it has had all of its memories cleared and there are no built in or preprogrammed formulas.

If you are upgrading to a higher class you need to bring your license and a photocopy of the license.

If you take an exam and pass, you can take the next higher class exam for no additional cost. If you do not pass and wish to try again an additional fee will be required.

Good luck to everyone taking exams.

✓Club prize volunteers are needed. YSARC has the funds for prizes to be given away at club meetings and our annual Christmas party. Prize events need not be held at every meeting but can be every other month or every quarter, it's up to you. Let the board know if you are interested. Marsha, KI6CSN, has the ticket rolls and will bring them to the next YSARC meeting.

✓Send your ham related articles and pictures to share in your VHN. Pictures of ham shacks, antenna projects, antenna parties, etc. are appreciated KI6CSN@arrl.net or KF6FVP@arrl.net

EDITORS COMMENTS

We hope that all of you are back home safe after the evacuation this last month. Given all the confusion and panic I saw among the public a short article on preparing that you can do before another emergency occurs is included in this newsletter.

✓YSARC's new web page is: **ysarc.net** - click on the upper right-hand icon on the homepage to join the club's Facebook page. Past issue's of the VHN are available on our new website.

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The February board meeting was cancelled due to the evacuation so the January minutes have not been approved yet. The January minutes will be provided next month.