VALLEY HAM NEWS

March 2018

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

P.O. Box 1169
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March 2018

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CLUB OFFICERS 2018

Pres.: Chris McLain, KK6VZD
Vice Pres.: Kathleen Squires, KM6BDQ
Secretary: Linda Maas, KK6SOZ
Treasurer: June McJunkin, N6JEY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018

Joe Visalli, N9BD
Kevin Conde, K1KMC
Neil Bossard, N6CNY
John Rogers, KI6UDF
Mark Peters, KA6FFM
Herb Puckett, W6HBU

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

LIAISONS

ARES: Andy Boone, KJ6IYM
ARRL SM: Carol Milazzo, KP4MD
VE Liaison: LeRoy Smith, KJ6DKM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

07 Apr – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, Sutter High School Career Center

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

21 Apr – Bike Around the Buttes

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

05 May – 3F Bike Ride

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

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

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

17 Jun – Kids Day

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

23-24 Jun – ARRL Field Day

03 Jul – 7:00 P.M. General Club Meeting, Sierra-Nevada Room, Caltrans

Building, 703 B Street, Marysville

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

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

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

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

01 Sep – 9:00 A.M., VE Test, 715 King Ave. Yuba City

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

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

19-21 Oct – Pacificon

YSARC Weekly Breakfast

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

Local Nets

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

Monday night at 8:00 P.M. – **Butte County ARES net** (145.280–), PL 110.9

Tuesday night at 8:00 P.M – **GEARS Club net**, (146.850–), PL 110.9

Thursday night at 7:00 P.M. weekly – **ARES net** (146.085+) PL 127.3.

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.

Saturday night at 8:00 P.M. – **OARS Net** (146.655-), PL 136.5.

Other nets (From the GEARS Radiator Newsletter)

Sac Valley Net: 7:00 P.M., 2nd Wed of the month (146.850–), 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.

Sunday at 1:00 P.M. weekly on 7278 KHz - California TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club) net.

CLUB STORE

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

1. PL295 Coax connectors, 91 each. Cost is $1.84 each.
2. RG8X reducers, 68 each. Cost is $0.64 each.
3. Power Pole connectors, 45 red/black pairs. Cost is $1.00 per pair.
4. RG8X strain relief boots, 5 each. Cost is $0.50 each.
5. 10 AWG Red/Black Power Zip Cord, 1 spool 22 foot. Cost is $1.38 per

foot.

6. RG8X Black Coax, 1 spool 210 feet, 1 spool 210 foot feet. Cost is $0.39 per foot.

7. BNC Female to SMA Female Adapter, 6 each. Cost is $3.50 each.

8. SO-239 bulkhead connector. 3 each. Cost is $2.65 each

9. RG-213 Coax cable, about 385 feet. Cost is $0.50 per foot.

10. LMR 240 Coax cable, 298 feet. Cost is $0.25 per foot.

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.

REPEATER OPERATING TECHNIQUES

First off, if you are new to using repeaters, take a few minutes to just listen to the repeater output to hear how the local hams use their repeater.

When you are ready to transmit on the repeater, listen to see if it is quiet. If it is then press your radios talk button and give you call sign. For example, KF6VFP or KF6VFP listening or KF6VFP monitoring. Then release the talk button. Whom ever is interested in talking with you will come back to you and you are off and running with your repeater contact.

If you wish to talk with someone specific over the repeater, then give their call sign followed by yours. For example W6KJ, this is KF6VFP calling or W6KJ, this is KF6VFP. The other person, if they are monitoring will come back with your call sign and you are in business..

To join a conversation already in progress, or to make a short contact during a conversation in progress, wait until break during the transmissions and give you call sign. The station that transmits next will usually acknowledge you and you can join the conversation or allow you to make you short contact, for example contact someone and then move to another repeater or simplex frequency to continue you conversation. For those of us already talking on the repeater, it is a good idea to pause for a few seconds to allow someone an opportunity to give their call sign. Here is this area it is common to say “break” if you wish to break into a conversation. However, on other repeaters using “break” indicates an urgent or emergency call that needs to get through. The ARRL handbook indicates that the term “break” should only be used on a repeater to indicate an emergency. So, if you hear “break” stop, listen and help.

Finally, the use of ham jargon is not necessary on a repeater. Just use plain everyday language and you’ll do fine.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP THRU THE CLUB

Need to renew your ARRL membership? Are you aware that if you renew thru the club, the club gets to keep a portion of the ARRL dues?

Want to join ARRL? Join thru the

club and the club gets to keep a portion of the membership fee.

To join ARRL or renew your membership thru the club, complete the ARRL application (a copy can be found at: https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Membership/ARRL-Membership-Application.pdf), attach a check or cash to your application and turn it into the club secretary or treasurer. They will deduct the portion of the dues ($2 for renewal, $15 for new membership) the club gets to keep and send the rest into ARRL.

TECH NOTES

This months tech notes is the first of several parts about grounds. Every station has a variety of grounds. You'll have a green wire safety ground at your wall outlet, perhaps a RF (radio frequency) ground for your radios, chassis ground, signal ground, and lightning protection ground to name a few. We'll start by talking about the Green Wire Safety Ground (also called AC ground).

The AC Ground is the one found on all of your household outlets. It is also called a Green Wire Safety Ground because the wire that goes to the circular contact of the outlet has green insulation. Figure 1 shows the usual configuration found in the majority of homes. In industry it is known as a NEMA 5-15S and the matching plug as a NEMA 5-15P. NEMA stands for National Electrical Manufacturers Association and is the industry body that has developed and approved this standard. The "5" indicates which configuration this is, the "15" the maximum amperage the socket or plug can handle and the "S" and "P" indicate socket and plug respectively.

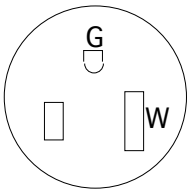


Figure 1 NEMA 5-15S

You'll note on the figure the "G" and "W." The "G" indicates which contact the green wire is attached to. The "W" indicates which contact the white (return) wire attaches to. The remaining contact has the black (hot) wire attached to it.

If you are going to install a new outlet in your ham shack, make sure you wire it as above and that the circuit meets the National Electric Code which dictates the size wires, breaker size and grounding. The table below shows how many amps different size solid copper wires can handle. Since the plug or socket is rated at 15 amps, the wires must also be able to handle 15 amps. Hence a minimum gage wire of 12 AWG is required. If your equipment will pull more than 15 A then use a different configuration socket that is rated to handle the current. Using a different configuration prevents you from accidentally plugging in lower power equipment into hi power outlets and frying your equipment.

Table of Single Wire Size and Capacity

Wire Size (AWG)	Diameter (inches)	Current Capacity (A)
6	0.162	80
8	0.128	60
10	0.102	40
12	0.081	30
14	0.064	25
16	0.051	20
18	0.040	18

Note: AWG stands for American Wire Gage.

If you were to take off the cover to your breaker panel you'll see 2 wires coming in and three wires going out to the outlets. The 2 incoming wires are from the power transformer and each provides 1 phase of 115 Vac. To get 220 Vac for your dryer, stove, etc. the circuit is wired across both phases. These wires are the black wires for 115 Vac or black and red for 220 Vac in your household circuits. The white and green wires are tied together at the breaker box and in turn tied to a ground rod. Some older homes might have the green and white wires tied to a water pipe. This is not a good idea since the galvanic action between the galvanized pipe and copper wire could corrode the pipe and make a hole in your pipe.

When you wire a switch in the circuit, be sure to put the switch on the hot (black) wire. While you'll be able to turn equipment off/on with a switch wired to the white (return) lead; however, in the off condition your equipment will still have 115 Vac in it.

At your equipment the white and black wires provide power to the equipment with the black wire tied to the equipment switch.

3F BIKE RIDE

The 3F Century Bike ride has three routes, 100 mile, 100 km (metric century) and 38 mile. Riders begin and end their route at the Colusa county fairgrounds. The event is on Saturday, May 5th with the riders starting at 6:30am. Proceeds benefit youth activity programs in the Colusa Unified School District.

As a community event we have the opportunity to provide support by providing communications for the event organizers and on the routes for the riders with SAG vehicles.

An HT is all that is necessary for most communications although a mobile radio may be necessary for some of the northern SAG routes. We provide a base station at the fairgrounds for net control, an operator at each of the rest stops and several SAG routes.

There are no special requirements for rest stop operators. SAG operators would need a vehicle that can drive back and forth on an assigned route and potentially carry bicycles and riders to the nearest rest stop or even back to the fairgrounds. Usually, this is a pickup truck, but I've done SAG routes in a car with a bike rack.

To effectively accomplish this support, 12 or more operators are required. I currently have four confirmed

(including myself) and three unconfirmed. The net control is effectively handled, but there are open spots on rest stops and SAG routes.

Mark KA6FFM

To volunteer or for more information contact Mark at KA6FFM@gmail.com.

SIERRA FOOTHILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Loomis Hamfest 2018, March 17.

SFARC's test bench. Antenna's used: a portable MFJ 2289 on the left-hand side.

Antennas on the corners of the test bench: 2-meter j-pole and a 220-meter.

On a brisk Saturday morning we were met with hot cocoa and coffee.

Swap and shop.

BIKE AROUND THE BUTTES

The "Bike Around the Buttes" is a bike ride fund-raiser for the Yuba Sutter Children's Type 1 Diabetes Support Group. It is a "ride", not a race. There are 3 courses: 17.5 mile, 40 mile, and 100 mile. The event starts at the Sutter Youth Center at the corner of Acacia and Butte House Roads in Sutter, CA. and typically runs from 6:30am to 5:00pm. Most bikes should be off the course by 4:00pm however, some rides may go a bit longer.

Our job as ham radio operators is to provide emergency communication for the event at all of their rest stops as well as roving communications on each course, referred to as "SAG" vehicles. We coordinate all of this communication through "Net Control", so all event traffic goes through the Net Control Station.

Usually 20 people or more will be needed to fully staff all locations, as well as some "standbys" to provide relief at lunchtime. The standby and relief people will fill in at lunch and do other duties as required.

Net Control - White pop-ups next to the Youth Center will act as 'net control' headquarters. There will be a minimum of 2 net control hams.

Rest Stops - "Rest stops" are fixed locations. Ham operators drive to their assigned location and provide radio communications. All rest stops will be provided with portable toilets, food and water for all participants. This includes us as volunteers.

SAGS - Ham radio SAG vehicles are ones capable of hauling one or more bikes as well as the riders. The event planners provide first aid kits, bicycle pumps, and SAG signs for each SAG vehicle. SAG Vehicles cruise their section of the course and give assistance to bikers in event of a problem. This might be such things as mechanical breakdown, a spill, a medical emergency or sometimes, a biker too pooped to pedal. In most cases, the SAG volunteers will bring the bike rider to the nearest Rest Stop or back to the event headquarters. In case of medical emergency, an ambulance would be called from net control. In all cases, the SAG Vehicles will maintain communication with net control at all times. If you work as a SAG, the event organizers ask that you carry a camera to document accidents or situations. There will be accident reporting forms for all the SAG units.

For those of you helping out and any others who want to help at the last minute:

1. **REPORT TO NET CONTROL WHEN YOU ARRIVE!** - Please check in by 6:00am. We will have any late information for you at the time, and we need to know who is present and when they arrived. Official sign-ins will be at the Net Control RV. A name badge and your event T-shirt will be issued then. Your name badge is needed for lunch. If you don't eat their lunch, please turn in the badge for next year.

2. **Event Frequency**: 146.085+ (127.3 PL), the WD6AXM repeater. Remember, YOU MUST MONITOR THIS FREQUENCY AT ALL TIMES. If you wish to chit-chat on another frequency, you will have to bring a second radio to do so, but BE AVAILABLE when called on the primary frequency!
3. **Simplex frequency**: 146.460 MHz. If something happens, such as a jammer or other problem, we will immediately go to the simplex frequency. Net Control will monitor the simplex frequency at all times.
4. **Remember**....Less is better when it comes to radio use so, only use the radio for necessary event traffic.

Even though snacks and water is provided at the rest stops, you might consider bringing your own.

Course maps are provided by the event coordinators and are available in the Youth Center.

Recommended equipment is:

1. A 25-50watt 2m mobile radio (preferred) or....
2. A 2m handheld transceiver **using external power & antenna** - This means a 12v adapter and an external antenna, preferably something like a 5/8-wave mag-mount.
3. Always bring your radio's instruction manual with you to this event in case you need to program it.
4. You might want to bring a 'backup' radio in case your primary radio quits.

Position	Name	Call Sign
SAG 1	Dan	KM6RHC
SAG 2	Neil	N6CNY
SAG 3	Andy	KJ6IYM
SAG 4	Curtis	KF6VFP
SAG 5	Rosalyn	KK6SOV
SAG 6	Sheryl	KK6DCN
SAG 7	Dan	KM6RHC
SAG 8	Mark	KA6FFM
SAG 9	Mark	KM6RGW
SAG 10	Chris	KK6VZD
SAG 11	LeRoy	KJ6DKM
SAG 12	Kevin	K1KMS
SAG 13	Mark	KA6FFM
Rest stop 1	Ted	N6TBC
Rest stop 2	Kathy	KM6BDQ
Rest stop 3	Linda	KK6SOZ
Rest stop 4	Eleanor	KI6CSO
Rest stop 5	Bill	WA6OHP
Shadow 1		
Shadow 2		
Net Control	Mike	KK6ISQ
Net Control	Manna	KA6ETB

We still need 2-6 volunteers.. If you have never worked the BATB, volunteer, ride along with someone or help at a site – we will be happy to show you the ropes. A map showing the BATB routes is at the end of the newsletter. To volunteer contact John Rogers (KI6UDF) at KI6UDF@gmail.com, phone (530) 301-2354.

John (KI6UDF)

GENERAL CLASS STUDY GROUP

A general license class study group

will begin in May. We will meet at my house 1 day a week to go over the material you studied. I have room for up to five people. Days and times to be decided later.

To sign up please contact me at KF6VFP@arrl.net.

Please let Curtis (KF6VFP) know.

YSARC APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 03 April – 7:00 p.m. General Club Meeting will be held at the Caltrans Building in Marysville. Kevin Conde (K1KMC) will be giving a talk about digital radio.

VE TEST SESSION

At the March 3rd VE session 18 exams elements were given; 7 technician, 7 general and 4 extra class exams. Seven became new technicians and four upgraded to general. Congratulations to Dale Haymore (KM6RHB), Daniel Weber (KM6RHC), Vandal Myers (KM6RHA), Joseph Oates (KM6RGZ), Dave Slacks (KM6RGY), David Heslop (KM6RGX) and Mark Wright (KM6RGW) who earned their technician license. Congratulations to Robert Martin (KJ6WE), Devyn Hall (KM6PNR), Christopher Meredith (KM6OGC) and Ricardo Fuentes (KG6ABH) who upgraded to general.

The next VE session will be 9:00 A.M., 7 Apr 2018 at Sutter High School Career Center. 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.

EDITORS COMMENTS

✓YSARC's web page is: **ysarc.net**.

Past and current issue's of the VHN are available on this website.

Click on the upper right-hand icon on the homepage to join the club's **Facebook** page.

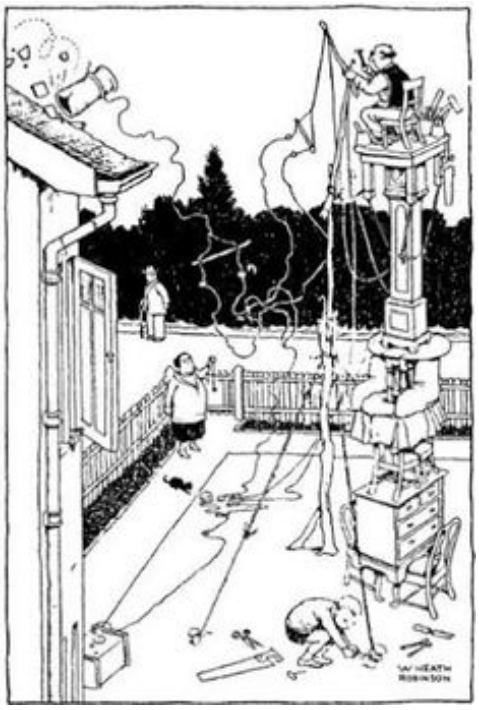
✓Send your ham related articles and pictures to share in your VHN. Pictures of ham shacks, antenna projects, antenna parties, field day, Bike Around the Buttes, etc. are appreciated KI6CSN@arrl.net or KF6FVP@arrl.net

✓If you have any ideas of what you'd like to see in this newsletter, please let us know.

✓Do you have something to sell? Send us the information and we'll include it.

Field Day is 22-23 June. It has been suggested YSARC meet at Sutter High School for Field Day. Come to the next general meeting to share your ideas.

Marsha, KI6CSN



Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Feb 21, 2018

Caltrans, Jody Jones Room, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901

Meeting called to order by President Chris McLain KK6VZD at 1906 hours.

Officers and Board Members present unless noted:

President: Chris McLain KK6VZD
Vice President: Kathleen Squires KM6BDQ
Secretary: Linda Maas KK6SOZ
Treasurer: June McJunkin N6JEY
B M: Joe Visalli N9BD
B M: Mark Peters KA6FFM
B M: John Rogers KI6UDF
B M: Kevin Conde K1KMC - absent
B M: Neil Bossard N6CNY

Members and guests present: none

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept Jan 18, 2017 board meeting minutes as amended, Joe/Neil, passed. Motion to approve new member Walter Hammontree N6HNS, Joe/Mark, passed.

Treasurer's Report: June presented the Financial Report for Feb 21, 2018. Motion to move $323.64 from Christmas Drawing Fund to Special Event Fund, Joe/Mark, passed. Discussion about reinstating Club Meeting Prize Drawing on a quarterly basis (3+ Christmas Drawing), Joe volunteered to take this on. Motion to approve Financial Report, John/Neil, passed.

Old Business

- Club equipment insurance – Joe presented a list and cost estimate to replace the crank-up tower, Mosley Tri-band antenna, and the solar panels. With a $50 deductible it would cost $163.32 to insure through ARRL. Will wait to verify list is complete before purchasing.
- 3F Century Bike Ride, May 5. Mark has 3 or 4 volunteers so far.
- Bike around the Buttes, April 21. John needs a few more volunteers. Gretchen, of Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance, will let us use her motorhome again.
- Marysville Historic Faire was Feb 10. Only one ham was able to attend due to late notice. Discussion of whether to do this event if there is no parade and we're only "manning" the barricades.
- Club Banner – Printworx lost our old banner and offered to make a new one 72"x20" for $68.31. Motion to approved the expenditure of $68.31 for 6' banner, Joe/John, passed.
- Beale Air Show, April 27-28. Chris needs to know ASAP who's going to be able to help out. Friday volunteers especially needed.
- Field Day, June 23-24. Discussion of possible Sutter H.S. location. Still need info on Y-S fairgrounds.

New Business

- Discussion of a possible joint club event with the new Paradise Amateur Radio Society (PARS).
- Trailer Training – discussion of the need for others, besides Joe, to be trained in the set-up of our trailer & tower. Possibly at Bike around the Buttes.
- Segmented antenna mast donated to club by Jo Anne. Bundle of 9 aluminum poles. Need guy wire rings.
- Solar panels – Neil has 3 batteries for it, but they are super heavy, need 2 men to lift them.
- Motion to allow Curtis to spend up to $200 for Club Store supplies, Neil/John, passed.
- Scout Expo at Beale Air Base Oct 20 – they would like us to expose the scouts to Amateur Radio. Our involvement would likely be Saturday only.

Upcoming Activities

- Next VE session – March 3.
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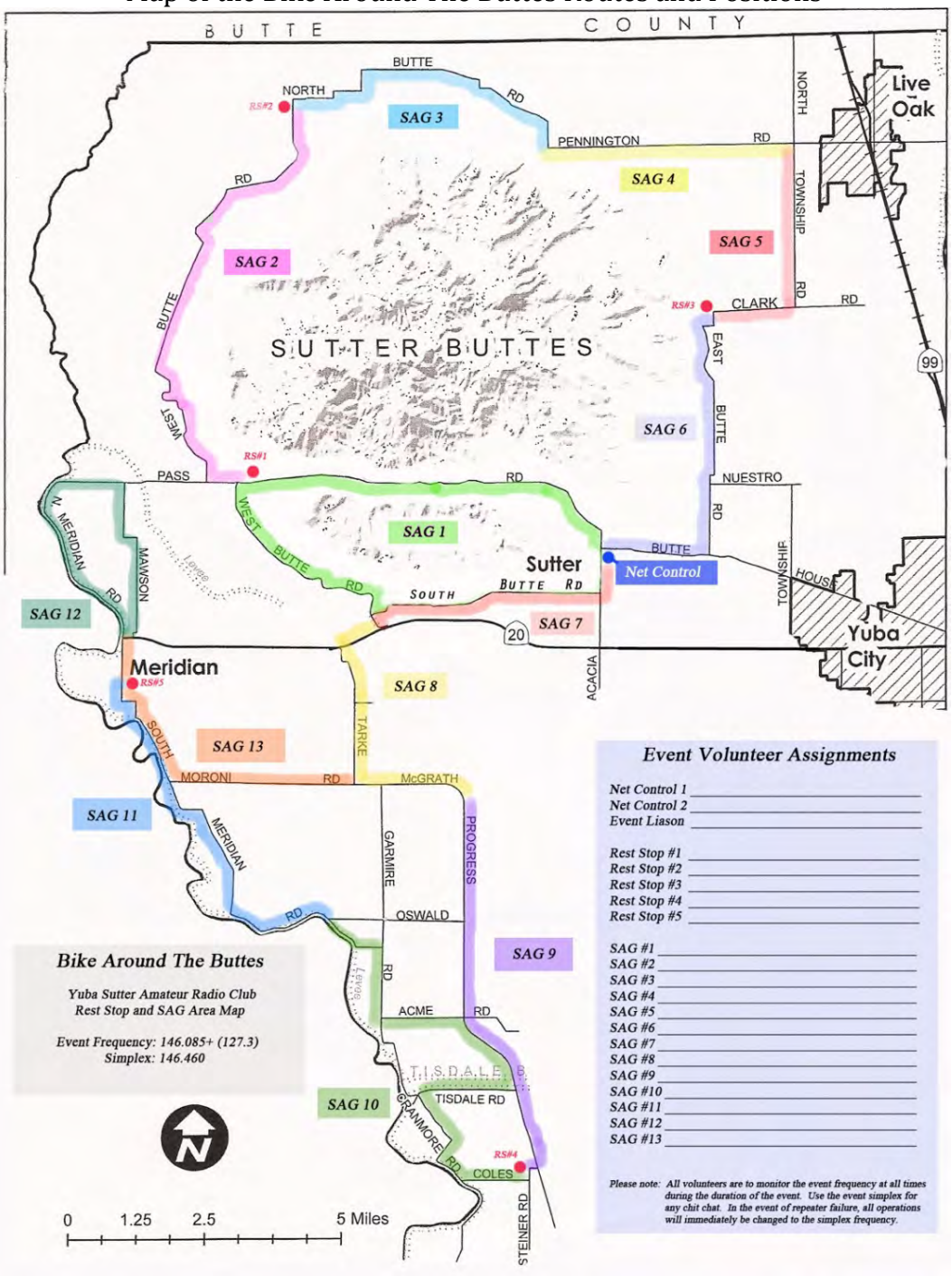
Upcoming General Meetings

- Tues, March 6

Upcoming Board Meetings

- Wed, March 21

Motion to adjourn at 2050 hours, Joe/Mark, passed.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Maas KK6SOZ, YSARC Secretary

Map of the Bike Around The Buttes Routes and Positions