

CLUB STATION  
K6SON

# Short Skip

The Newsletter of

Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

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<http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com>

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REPEATER STATION  
W6SON

Volume 43, Number 3

March 2018

## Is Solid State Technology Responsible for Hams Living Longer Lives?

By Brian Torr, N6IYY

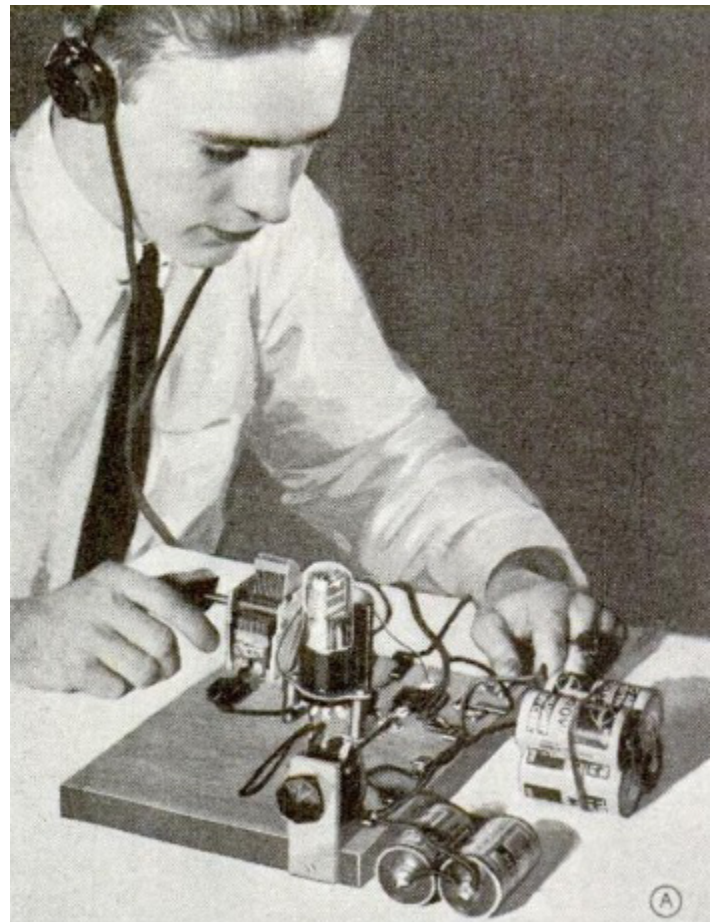
I asked myself this question several years ago. I had been in the final stages of amassing the parts necessary to build a 40 meter CW transmitter described in "Radio for the Millions". This book, a compilation of articles from Popular Science, was published in 1943. My father bought the book when he was in high school. I had read the article entitled "Two-way Radio Station Costs \$18 to Build" many times over the previous decade, but it wasn't until about 2000 when I was getting serious about actually building the transmitter (see the May, 2001 Short Skip for a picture of the final product).

As I scrutinized the transmitter schematic, I noticed that the switch connected one side of the AC line to ground. As a result, if the switched side of the AC line were neutral, the chassis would be hot when the switch was off! If the AC line cord were not polarized, and the switched side of the AC line were hot, then the chassis would be at or near ground potential when the transmitter was turned off, but the chassis would be hot when power was turned on!

In short, either way you plugged the transmitter in, you could kill yourself!

Now, how about the companion receiver? You guessed it! Same story! In fact, almost half of the 77 projects in the book had this configuration. The others either used a transformer in their power supply, batteries (many of which could still give you a jolt), or did not require power at all (crystal radios, for example). Only one transformerless, ac-powered project, the "All-Wave Receiver for Radio Amateurs" put the switch on the ungrounded side of the AC line. But even that would only be safe if the line cord was polarized and the outlet into which it was plugged was also polarized and wired correctly. Polarization was not all that common in the 1940s.

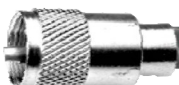
But that's not all! Looking over the receiver schematic for the two-



1942 One Tube "Beginner's Special" Receiver

way radio station, I noticed that the B+ line (approximately 110 vdc) connected to the high-impedance headphones. Well, that would be OK as long as the headphones are well-insulated.

[Continued on page 5...](#)





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2018

We are getting into the Public Service season and we still do not have a Chairman for this committee. In order to reduce the workload for this position, I have changed the responsibilities to "coordinator". The only thing required is that the coordinator make sure that there is a comm boss, etc. and coordinate any support from the club. No hands on work is required for each event. I am hoping that one of our fine members will step forward at our upcoming membership meeting.

John KE5RI

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## The Making of a General Part 2

This month's overview of the *General Class Licensing* requirements will again be based upon the *A.R.R.L. General Class License Manual, Eighth Edition*, Chapter 4, pages 4-1 through 4-15 inclusive.

We begin with an more in depth reintroduction to Ohm's law and power law, take the time to work all of the sample equations until the become almost second nature. Also make use of the PIE charts to help reinforce your understanding of Ohm's law.

An additional term that should be covered is **VA** which is another expression for the term WATTS which is part of power law. In some cases equipment manufactures may list the power consumption of there products in VA rather than in watts, again this is an additional term to add to your lexicon.

The relationship between frequency and wavelength will also be reintroduced with the speed of light 300,000,000 meters per second divided by frequency in megahertz will produce a wavelength in meters, with a meter being equal to 39.25 inches. At HF frequencies .25 inches has little or no significance, however at VHF frequencies and up that ¼ of an inch will be the difference between a so-so antenna and very good antenna.

A slightly more abstract concept that you as an Amateur Radio licensee of any class level will need a more than casual understanding of is Decibels of **dB** which describes the relationship between power or voltage in to power or voltage out. In order to manipulate the formulas associated with dB's a calculator that has LOG functions is required. As convenient as an I-PHNOE or smart phone device is they ARE NOT PERMISSABLE during the FCC exam. Do work

all of the sample equations listed on pages 4-3 and 4-4 and know the difference between dB POWER and dB volts; they are not even close to being the same.

**NOTE:** A basic Texas Instrument's TI something calculator with scientific and trig function will serve you well. Personally I pack a TI-30Xa.

With AC (alternating current) voltages or current four basic terms may be applied to quantify a particular voltage value. They are **Peak, Peak to Peak, RMS** and **Average** which describes the point on an AC waveform where the measurement is taken, see figure 4.2 and associated text for a more detailed explanation.

Two additional terms are also covered which are **PEP**, peak envelope power and **PEV**, peak envelope voltage. Both describe either an A.M. or S.S.B. modulated signal, again the associated text will add some clarity to the terms just mentioned.

Now you are about to embark upon the adventure of learning a new language and alphabet used will be "Common Schematic Symbols Used in Circuit Diagrams" figure 4.4 on page 4-8 to be exact. Proficiency in this language is acquired over time and practice, so do not be intimidated ... you will win just give it time.

Series and parallel circuits are the next item that you will become well acquainted with as your time in Amateur Radio grows. Again take the time not only to learn but [Continued on page 4...](#)

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## MARCH PROGRAM

### Technician Overview:

Chapter 4 Components and Circuits.

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## JOIN ARRL, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

The ARRL is the national organization of Amateur Radio. It represents Amateur Radio at International Conferences and before the FCC. Get the monthly QST magazine, insurance for your equipment and too many other benefits to mention here. Click <http://www.arrl.org/membership/>



If you are not getting the ARRL San Francisco Section news by e-mail and you are an ARRL member, be sure to subscribe under your Members Only information or go to this Web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/san-francisco>



## 2018 Club Officers

President	<a href="#">John Felton</a>	KE5RI
Vice President	<a href="#">Joe Fortuna</a>	K6AWA
Secretary	<a href="#">Steve Bouchard</a>	KK6VMZ
Treasurer	<a href="#">Aaron Marroquin</a>	KK6ZDB
Director	<a href="#">Fred Seitel</a>	AE6SF
	<a href="#">Jeff Tonelli</a>	KI6PBF
Past President	<a href="#">Iola Beckley</a>	KK6HRE

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SCRA Web site	<a href="http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com">http://www.sonomacountyradioamateurs.com</a>

## Short Skip Advertising Rates

Business Cards	\$12 per month
1st Quarter Column	\$13 per month
Each Additional Quarter Column	\$4 per month
Full page (one side)	\$35 per month
Pre-printed inserts (each)	\$35 per month

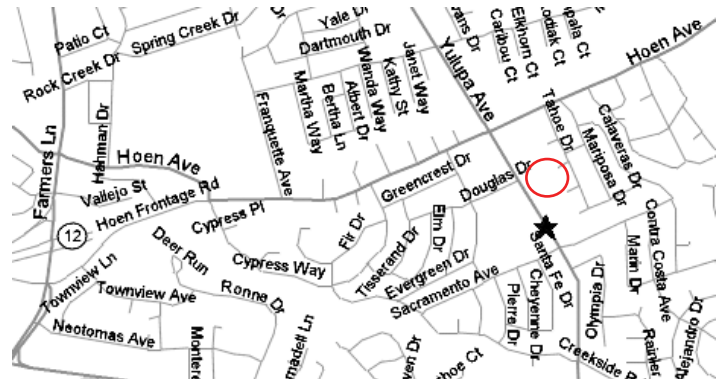
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## SCRA Club Meetings

The club normally meets the first Wednesday of each month, socially at 6:30 pm, program starting at 7:00 pm. Exceptions are holidays or other big events.

Meeting location:  
Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center  
2050 Yulupa Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA



All are welcome!

Please join us at our next meeting. Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible for membership. A membership application is included in this newsletter. For more information, contact any SCRA officer, director or member. Hungry before the meeting? Join us for dinner! We Meet at IHOP restaurant, 4th and Farmers Lane, Santa Rosa. People start showing up at 5:15 PM. No RSVP is required.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The SCRA Board of Directors will meet monthly on the Second Wednesday at the IHOP Restaurant, Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (in the Safeway/CVS Pharmacy center). All members are welcome to attend, no reservations necessary. Arrive around 5:15- 5:30pm for dinner. Meeting starts at 6:00pm.



## LOANER RADIOS AVAILABLE

The Club has a variety of radios available to members to try out and improve their skills. We have a Kenwood T590 SG HF radio; Yeasu FT 2900 2 meter mobile; Yeasu FT1D, an analog/digital 2 meter and 440mhz HT; Yeasu FT 60, a 2 meter and 440 mhz HT; and a TYT TH-F5 VHF 2 meter HT. Trying these out is an excellent way to learn some radio and test before you buy. Contact Joe, K6AWA, at [k6awa@yahoo.com](mailto:k6awa@yahoo.com) with your request. Joe will forward an information form to you by return email.

## UPGRADE TO GENERAL OR AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS

Get more privileges and enjoyment from your Ham Radio Hobby. [Mentoring assistance](#) is available. Contact Dave W6IBC, SCRA Education Chair, at 707-838-8155 or [w6ibc@arrrl.net](mailto:w6ibc@arrrl.net).

### Tuesday Night Net

The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs' net meets Tuesday at 7:00 PM on the SCRA repeater, 147.315, positive offset, PL 88.5.

All members and guests are invited to check in. The Net includes updates on SCRA activities, and News-line, the amateur radio community news service.

Anyone wishing to work as net control should contact lola kk6hre, at [K6SON@ARRL.NET](mailto:K6SON@ARRL.NET) for assignment. Script and logs are available on the Website at <http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/resources/net-script/>



### 10 Meter Net

There will be a net on 10 meters hosted by Joe K6AWA at 8:30pm (new time) following the regular SCRA net Tuesday nights. Set your dial to 28,403.00 SSB, USB. Please note that all license classes (including technician) are welcome.

...Making of a General continued from page 2

to understand how components in series and parallel configurations interact with each other, but as mentioned before work the formulas until you are comfortable with the concept.

The last item for this session will be transformers, which as the name implies transform or change things into some other value. Power transformers raise or lower voltages as needed to power your station. Matching transformers adjust impedance, whether at the audio or RF level to match one device to another, E.I. amplifier to speaker or transmitter to antenna.

One critical item that is not well addressed is the concept that transformers provide *ISOLATION*.

Transformer isolation is what keeps your local power company from frying you whenever you touch your transceiver and some other piece of equipment in your shack. Talk about an invisible life guard ... bet you never knew it was there.



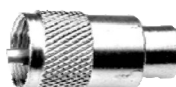
### Weekly SBARA Youth Net New Day and Time!

- For young people 18 and under
- Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

**Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!**

- SBARA Youth Net
- Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC
- N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)
- EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R

Steve Wilson KG6HJU  
South Bay Amateur Radio Association  
Fremont, CA  
[kg6hju@arrrl.net](mailto:kg6hju@arrrl.net)



## 2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Check the [Club website](#) for details

(Tentative schedule)

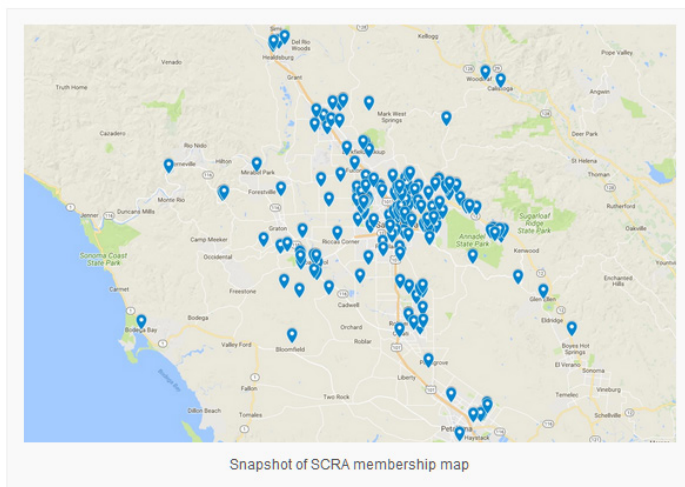
Sat 3/10 Fish Rock	Bicycle
Sat 4/10 VE Testing	Education
Sat 4/13 Family Expo & Camp Fair	Outreach
Sat 4/28 Human Race	Walk
Sat 5/05 Wine Country Century	Bicycle
Sun 6/10 Vineman	Bicycle
Sat 6/16 Terrible Two	Bicycle
Sat 6/16 ARRL Kid's Day	On the Air
Sat 6/23 Field Day (6/22-6/24)	Camping
Sat 7/21 VE Testing	Education
Sat 7/28 Ironman SR 70.3	Bicycle
Sat 8/12 Tour d'Organics	Bicycle
Fri 8/17 Mini-DX (8/17-8/19)	Camping
Sat 8/25 Tour de Fox	Bicycle
Sat 9/15 VE Testing	Education
Sat 9/22 Waves to Wine	Bicycle
Sat 9/22 PCAM (Wings over Wine Country)	Public Info
Sun 9/23 Waves to Wine	Bicycle
Sun 9/23 PCAM (Wings over Wine Country)	Public Info
Sat 10/6 Levi's GranFondo	Bicycle
Sat 10/20 JOTA (Jamboree On The Air)	On the Air
Sat 10/27 Bay Area Science Festival	Outreach
Sat 11/17 VE Testing	Education

Membership Map -New website feature

Click to try it.

## Membership Map

[Click here for an interactive online map of SCRA members.](#)



## 2018 PROGRAM LINE-UP

Iola and I are working jointly on a series of over view programs for the 2018 calender year that are intended to promote the idea of encouraging our recently licensed Technician Class operators to advance to General Class license. Also if any existing or returning General class operators want to get back up to speed on the latest license requirements they to would be more than welcome. As stated before this program is intended to be a brief overview taking 30 to 45 minutes to present during the first half of the general club meeting, with interested participants being teamed up with an mentor.

Based on the current A.R.R.L. General Class License Manual the monthly overview program will cover the following topics as listed below (Subject to change):  
 February: Chapter 2 Procedures and Practices and Chapter 3 Rules and Regulations.  
 March and April: Chapter 4 Components and Circuits.  
 May: Chapter 5 Radio signals and Equipment.  
 June: Field Day  
 July: Chapter 6 Digital modes.  
 August: Chapter 7 Antennas.  
 September: Chapter 8 Propagation.  
 November: Chapter 9 Electrical and R.F. Safety.

We will be looking for as many volunteers as possible to take on presenting each topic based upon their interest and skill set as well as mentors. So in a nut shell, "Come one come all please help make this program a success."

Jeff Tonelli  
KI6PBF

*...Longer Lives Continued from page 1*

But the photo showed the wires to the headphones connecting to externally-accessible studs on the earpieces! Imagine the operator wanting to adjust the headphones slightly, touching the stud that connects to B+ with one hand while the other hand is touching the chassis of the receiver which is at ground potential. ZZAAAAPPPP!!!

Connecting one side of the headphones to B+ was another common theme in many of the other receivers described in the book. I was tempted to send a letter or e-mail to Popular Science asking them if they had ever been sued as a result of injuries or deaths caused by using the projects described in that book. Although I did not expect to get a list of claimants, I would have felt better knowing that I had at least asked.

OK, so maybe the folks at Popular Science assumed that all of the projects were "use at your own risk".

*Continued on page 5...*

*...Longer Lives Continued from page 5*

Other publications probably handled these situations better. Right? Wrong!

In the 1956 edition of *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*, the One-Tube Regenerative Receiver has one side of the headphones connected to B+. But the Handbook does have this to say about the electrical shock hazard: "Some receivers eliminate this hazard by feeding the plate through an audio choke and coupling to the headphones through a capacitor, but in the interest of saving a few dollars this protective feature was not included." Well, at least we now have a dollar figure, not corrected for inflation, for a human life!

This receiver was also described in the May 1955 issue of QST. I also checked my next oldest copy of *The Radio Amateur's Handbook*, the 1965 edition, and by that time none of the projects used a transformerless power supply or had B+ running through the headphones. This was encouraging.

So, what does all this mean? It means that hams in the pre-solid state age, or for that matter, any electronics experimenters of that era, must have had a great deal of respect for the high voltages that were common to vacuum tube circuitry. The penalty for not respecting these high voltages was injury if not death. Those of us that grew up with solid-state technology don't think twice about touching components while the power is on, since the voltages are rarely anywhere near lethal. But try that on a vacuum tube radio and you can consider yourself fortunate to only be knocked across the room.

In summary, accidental deaths while working on solid state equipment are probably much rarer than while working on vacuum tube equipment, allowing more hams to live to a riper old age. So, I believe the answer to the original question is that yes, solid state technology may well be responsible for hams living longer lives.

Which reminds me of a saying that a previous owner typed on the title page of the manual for the Heathkit HW-16 CW Transceiver that I bought at a flea market over 30 years ago. It appeared right above the caution about the potential on the key being approximately 90 vdc. It read, "Note that there are old hams, and there are bold hams, but there are no old, bold hams".

Be careful out there!

73, Brian Torr, N6IY

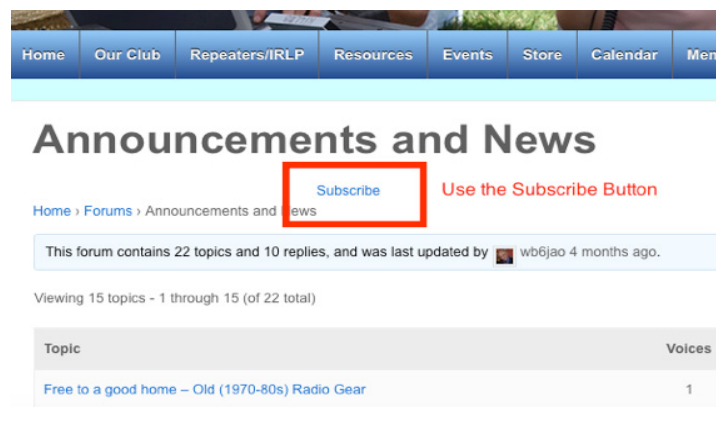


## SCRA Website Forum

So how many of you know that the SCRA website has a forum page? Its there for all members to use. There is a Section for Activities, Announcements and News, Public Service, and Technical Issues. To visit the site,

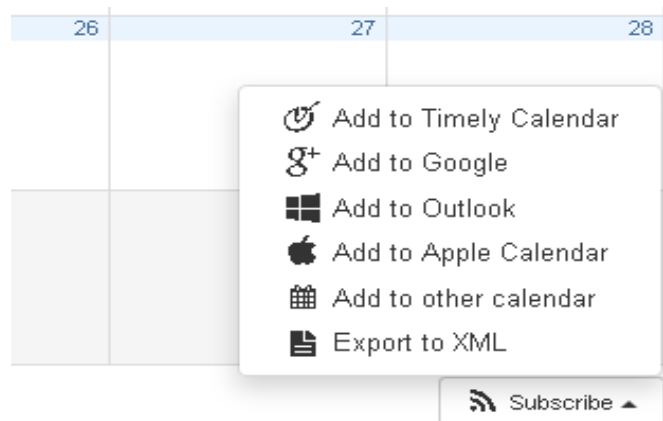
Navigate to the SCRA website,  
Log in as a member  
Click on Member Area, then [Forums](#)

While you are on the individual Forum pages, make sure to click on SUBSCRIBE. This will send you an email when a new question gets posted. Don't worry about your inbox getting flooded with junk emails. Only valid members can post to the site.



## How to Subscribe to the SCRA Calendar

Subscribe to the SCRA calendar and automatically import event dates into your electronic calendar(s). Go to the calendar page on the SCRA website and click the Subscribe button in the corner. Select the type of calendar you want to subscribe to. You will be taken to your sign-in page to finish adding the subscription.





## CONTEST CORNER

Short Skip is reprinting Contest Corral from the ARRL Contest page to give you an idea of what is going on this month. Short Skip is looking for someone to take over this feature. If you are interested please contact [shortskippeditor@gmail.com](mailto:shortskippeditor@gmail.com).

## Contest Corral

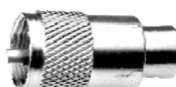
## March 2018

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests).

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits, and log submission information.

Start - Finish Date-Time Date-Time	Bands	Contest Name	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
3 0000 4 2359	1.8-28	ARRL International DX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, SP (W/VE) or power (DX)	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>
3 0000 10 2359	3.5, 7, 21, 28, 144	Novice Rig Roundup	CW	RST, QTH, name, class	<a href="http://novicerigroundup.com">novicerigroundup.com</a>
3 0600 3 0800	7-14	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	CW	RST, serial, suffix of previous QSO	<a href="http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup">qrp.ru/contest/wakeup</a>
3 1800 4 1359	1.8-28	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	Dig	State/province/canton, serial	<a href="http://krs.ho.ua/openrtty">krs.ho.ua/openrtty</a>
4 0700 4 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UBA Section (if UBA)	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
4 1200 4 1400	7	SARL Hamnet 40-Meter Simulated Emergency Test	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
4 1200 4 2200	3.5	NSARA Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county (if Nova Scotia)	<a href="http://nsara.ve1cfy.net">nsara.ve1cfy.net</a>
5 2000 5 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, Data	Dig	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
6 0200 6 0400	3.5-28	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, power	<a href="http://arsqrp.blogspot.com">arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
6 1900 6 2100	3.5	AGCW YL-CW Party	CW	RST, serial, name	<a href="http://agcw.org/index.php/en">agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
7 1800 7 2200	28	NRAU 10-Meter Activity Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.nrau.net">www.nrau.net</a>
7 2000 7 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	Ph	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>
7 2300 11 2300	7-14	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	CW	RST, eqpt type, eqpt year	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>
10 1000 11 1000	3.5-28	RSGB Commonwealth Contest	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
10 1000 11 1000	50-1296	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	Dig	RS, 6-char grid square	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
10 1200 11 1200	3.5-28, 144	F9AA Cup, SSB	Ph	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.site.urc.asso.fr">www.site.urc.asso.fr</a>
10 1200 11 1200	28	South America 10-Meter Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), CQ zone	<a href="http://sa10m.com.ar">sa10m.com.ar</a>
10 1200 11 2359	1.8-50	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or "none"	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
10 1400 10 2000	3.5-28	AGCW QRP Contest	CW	RST, serial, class, mbr or "NM"	<a href="http://agcw.org/index.php/en">agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
10 1500 11 1500	1.8	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">www.kkn.net/stew</a>
10 1500 11 2000	3.5-50	Oklahoma QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm">k5cm.com/okqp.htm</a>
10 1600 11 1600	3.5-28	EA PSK63 Contest	Dig	RSQ, EA province or serial	<a href="http://concursos.ure.es/en">concursos.ure.es/en</a>
10 1800 11 0559	3.5	Tesla Memorial HF CW Contest	CW	RST, serial, 4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.radiosport.org.rs">www.radiosport.org.rs</a>
10 1800 11 1800	1.8-50	QCWA QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Year licensed, name, SPC or QCWA chapter	<a href="http://www.qcwa.org">www.qcwa.org</a>
10 1900 11 1900	1.8-28	Idaho QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), county or SPC	<a href="http://idahoarri.info">idahoarri.info</a>
10 2200 10 2300	1.8-28	QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Sprint	Ph	RS, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.qrparci.org">www.qrparci.org</a>
11 0000 11 0400	3.5-14	North American Sprint, RTTY	Dig	Other's call, your call, serial, name, SPC	<a href="http://ncjweb.com">ncjweb.com</a>
11 0700 11 1100	144	UBA Spring Contest, 2 Meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA Section (if UBA)	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
11 1800 11 2200	3.5	WAB 3.5 MHz Phone	Ph	RS, serial, WAB square or country	<a href="http://wab.intermp.net">wab.intermp.net</a>
11 1800 12 0100	All	Wisconsin QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	County or SPC	<a href="http://www.warac.org">www.warac.org</a>
12 0000 12 0200	1.8-28	4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	CW Ph	RS(T), SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.4sqrp.com">www.4sqrp.com</a>
13 1700 18 1700	3.5-28, 144	CLARA Chatter Party	CW Ph	RS(T), name, SPC	<a href="http://www.clarayl.ca">www.clarayl.ca</a>
14 2000 14 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, CW	CW	RST, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
17 0200 19 0200	3.5-28	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	Dig	RST, serial, 4-digit UTC time	<a href="http://www.bartg.org.uk">www.bartg.org.uk</a>
17 1200 18 1200	1.8-28	Russian DX Contest	CW Ph	RS(T), 2-char oblast or serial	<a href="http://www.rdxcc.org">www.rdxcc.org</a>
17 1400 17 1800	144, 432	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	CW	RST, serial, power class, 6-char grid	<a href="http://agcw.org/index.php/en">agcw.org/index.php/en</a>
17 1400 18 0200	1.8-144	Louisiana QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), LA Parish or SPC	<a href="http://laqp.louisianaccontestclub.org">laqp.louisianaccontestclub.org</a>
17 1400 18 2359	All	Virginia QSO Party	CW Ph Dig	Serial, VA county or SPC	<a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling">www.qsl.net/sterling</a>
17 2000 17 2159	1.8-28	Feld Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, mbr, SPC, grid	<a href="http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub">sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub</a>
18 0700 18 1100	3.5	UBA Spring Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial, UBA section (if UBA)	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
19 0100 19 0300	1.8-28	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://qrpcontest.com/pigrun">qrpcontest.com/pigrun</a>
19 1800 19 2059	3.5-7	Bucharest Contest	CW Ph Dig	RS(T), serial, sector or country code	<a href="http://yo3test201x.blogspot.ro">yo3test201x.blogspot.ro</a>
22 0030 22 0230	3.5-14	NAQCC CW Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, mbr or power	<a href="http://naqcc.info">naqcc.info</a>
22 2000 22 2130	3.5	RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf">www.rsgbcc.org/hf</a>
24 0000 24 2359	1.8-VHF	FOC QSO Party	CW	RST, name, mbr (if any)	<a href="http://g4foc.org/qsoparty">g4foc.org/qsoparty</a>
24 0000 25 2359	1.8-28	CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	Ph	RS, serial	<a href="http://www.cqwwpx.com">www.cqwwpx.com</a>
25 0600 25 1000	50	UBA Spring Contest, 6 Meters	CW Ph	RS(T), serial, UBA section (if UBA)	<a href="http://uba.be/hf/contest-rules">uba.be/hf/contest-rules</a>
28 0000 28 0200	1.8-28	SKCC Sprint	CW	RST, SPC, name, mbr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
28 2000 28 2100	3.5	UKEICC 80-Meter Contest	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>
31 1200 1 1159	1.8-28	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	CW Ph Dig	RST(Q), 2-char oblast or serial	<a href="http://www.rdrclub.ru">www.rdrclub.ru</a>
31 1200 1 1200	3.5-28	UK/EI DX Contest, CW	CW	RST, serial, UK/EI district code, serial	<a href="http://www.ukeicc.com">www.ukeicc.com</a>

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. No contest activity occurs on the 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter bands. Mbr = Membership number. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. SPC = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column. Data for Contest Corral is maintained on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar at [www.contestcalendar.com](http://www.contestcalendar.com) and is extracted for publication in QST 2 months prior to the month of the contest. ARRL gratefully acknowledges the support of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, in providing this service.





...Contest Corner continued from page 7

For additional contest calendars and resources check:

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)

[SM3CER Contest Service](#)

[ARRL Contests Page](#)

[Contesting.com](#)

## **Field Day – An Opportunity to Strut our Stuff**

When the ARRL proclaimed the first “International Field Day” in 1933, the purpose given was: “Besides offering an opportunity to get out in the open in this fine spring weather, the real object of this contest is to test “portables” wherever they may be available. If successful we want to make it an annual affair.”

Nowadays, Field Day is on the fourth full weekend in June. So this year it will be June 23 and June 24.

But it is still a means of testing our ability to operate at sites away from our normal stations and working “off the grid”.

Perhaps most importantly, however, it gives us a chance to demonstrate these capabilities to the general public.

On top of all that, it gives us a chance to socialize. We can even camp out on Saturday night.

Which brings us to Field Day 2018. Although June 23/24 may seem like a ways off, it's not too early to start planning. Our first Field Day Planning Meeting will be Saturday, March 17, from 10:00am to 11:30am, at the Field Day site, Youth Community Park, 1725 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa (across the road from Piner High School). If you are interested in any aspect of Field Day, please join us. Bring your own chair.

Our first order of business will be to assign leaders to the various volunteer positions. Check out the Field Day website for the complete list (<http://sonomacountyradioamateurs.com/wp/events/field-day/>). You don't have to be a seasoned ham to be eligible. This is an event for all hams, regardless of skill level, to learn how to setup and operate HF and VHF stations in the field.

There will also be an Educational Activity on Saturday,

June 23, at 2pm. We are looking for ideas for what this activity will be, so if you have any suggestions, please let me know.

This year, we will be dedicating one station to operating digital modes. We will also have one station each dedicated to CW, SSB, VHF/UHF, and GOTA.

What's “GOTA”? GOTA stands for “Get On The Air”. It is an opportunity to introduce new hams, or even non-hams, to operating on the HF bands. Hams that have been licensed for several years, but have been generally inactive on HF are also eligible to participate.

There will also be a barbeque dinner Saturday evening, starting around 5:30pm,

This year we are also hoping to staff a “Tech Bench” where hams can come and get some help on things such as how to install Anderson Power Poles, simple radio checks, and mobile antenna installation checks. If you think you could help in this area, please let me know.

We will also be powering at least two stations from solar power.

As you can see, Field Day is an event-packed weekend. If you are looking to learn something, anything, about amateur radio, this will be the weekend to do it.

If you can make it to our next planning meeting on Saturday, March 17 at 10am, wonderful. If you can't make it, please send me an e-mail with any suggestions you may have or how you think you can help.

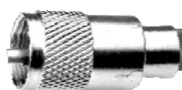
Let's make Field Day 2018 even better than last year!

Brian Torr, N6IY

Tel: (707) 575-5871 (home)

(707) 953-0377 (cell)

[n6iyy@arrl.net](mailto:n6iyy@arrl.net)





**SONOMA COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: February 7, 2018**

Savings: \$ 12088.35  
Checking: \$ 10027.39  
PayPal: \$ 2645.3

Total Accountability: \$ 24760.97

6:30pm – 7:00pm Social Time

7:00pm – 8:30pm = Meeting agenda items

1. Establish quorum; Introduce Board Members with five board members present. We had 51 members present.
2. New Members and Guests and guests present were: Randy KD9CAR, Tom AE6DBE, Bill KM6PAM, Ibrahim, Ryan, Mike NG6S
3. Net Control for February:
  - a) Feb: 13 Darryl KI6MSP
  - b) FEB: 20 Joe K6AWA
  - c) FEB: 27 Iola KH6HRE
  - d) Mar: 6 Brian N6IYY
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEW CALLS, UPGRADES, LIES AND BRAGS.
  - a) Aaron had contact with Kansa City Museum.
  - b) Darryl up graded radios and requested assistance with APRS.
  - c) Doug, Winter DX had contact with Connecticut.
  - d) Kathy obtained a new vehicle and requested assistance to set rig up in new vehicle.
  - e) Joe, Martin KJ6BQM bought radio in prep for future communication for Packet radio.
  - f) Dave, KI6UGB orienting scouts for Emergency Prep. With 2 HTs.
  - g) Ed, Mendocino National Park, Horse Mountain received 55 contacts, 35 confirmed to date.
5. PROGRAM: Jeff KI6PBF. Jeff introduced the theme for this years programs – The Making of A General - Future training and mentorship from Tech to General. ARRL General Class License Manual 2, to be used for mentoring. Hand out sign up for mentoring of students and mentors.
6. John, Tom Doyle KM6MLY willing to assist with Wireless Projects. Ph: 415- 252 -2726.
7. Iola's Birthday announced!!

10 MINUTE BREAK

General Meeting: Minutes of Previous Meeting as published in Short Skip motion by Iola kk6hre and seconded by Dan kk6viq.

**OFFICER AND CHAIRPERSONS BRIEF REPORTS –**

Treasurer's Report:

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 1) Activities: John KE5RI, requested ideas for field trips.
  - a. Suggestions: KPH Maritime, Bolinas; Night of Lights, July; Professional Radio Station visits. Hornet radio Club; Coast Guard Academy radio, ships, etc.; NSA Aimes Research, Future flights video screen simulation; SS Red Oak restored radio room.
- 2) Community Outreach: Darryl KI6MSP. Nothing to report
- 3) Education: Cornell W6IBC
- 4) Field Day: Brian N6IYY: Brian and Charlie plan Field Day meetings, some minor changes, plan once a month meetings beginning in March. Field Day explained to newer members.
- 5) Merchandise: Dan KK6VIQ = Dan encourages purchases.
- 6) Repeater Committee: Jack K6ROW. Repairs to be made while other repairs have been made.
- 7) Emergency Services: Nothing to report
- 8) Membership: Karen KK6GJW: No report
- 9) DX Team: Doug KF6LMB = Doug proposes \$ 17.00 per night Mendocino County for Mini DX on Sept. 17, 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>, Thursday thru Saturday.
- 10) VE Testing: Brian N6IYY = Session resulted in 5 test takers, 4 passed. Next will be April, location as yet unknown.
- 11) Radio Loaner Program: Joe K6AWA = Joe reiterates club to have very good equipment in the loaner program and encourages members to participate and offered assistance.
- 12) Book Lending Library, Iola encourages use.
- 13) Public Service Sign ups encouraged.

**Old Business: Ratification of Budget:**

1. Aaron explained budget of complete program. Bike Club donation of \$ 1000.00 dollars to SRCC will not be made at this time. More consideration at a later date.
2. Thanks to Trudie and Iola for snacks at meeting.

**New Business**

Questions and explanations of DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) radio. High usage in the Bay Area.

**Adjournment 8:48 P.M.**



**Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Club  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 14, 2018**

Call to Order: 1808

Quorum met: John Felton ki5re, Steve Bouchard  
kk6vmz, Iola Beckley kk6hre,

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made by Iola  
kk6hre, Seconded by Jeff KI6PBF, as amended the typo,  
DMR radios at \$ 4,000 as opposed to real price of \$  
400. Motion passed.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

PayPal: 2,698.22  
Savings: 12,088.35  
Checking: 9,671.84  
Total: 24,458.41

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

~ Jeff will collect "Tech to General" together to tie with  
Mentors.

~ Merchandise: Dan, Hats brought forth with club  
insignia, all within budget, no vote needed. Go  
forward, many approve without any needed vote.

~ Field Day: Brian. No gazebo as requested. Alternates  
to be considered as with Education.

~ Repeater: More to follow, going well, presentation  
when all information is gathered and presented.  
~ All sub groups near finish of assignments and goals.  
Nothing further to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Fish Rock Bike Event:  
Booneville, Mendocino county, Fred, AF6SF, March  
10. Fred to update.

**New Business:** Luther Burbank Art and Garden  
Center: Sign contract, \$ 100.00 per month. John  
KE5RI will sign and submit new contract.

Charlie: KX3 approved.

Adjournment: 1901 Hrs.

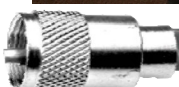
Condolences to those in the Dog House on this  
Valentines Day evening meeting! Aaron, your  
daughter loves you!

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Bouchard  
KK6VMZ



2018 Board of Directors:  
front row,  
Jeff RI6PBF, Director;  
John RE5RI, President;  
Joe K6AWA, Vice President;  
back row,  
Iola kk6hre, IPP;  
Fred AE6SF Director,  
Aaron KK6ZDB,  
Treasurer; and  
Steve KK6VMZ, Secretary.





## The Right Key

by Mike Von der Porten

As an Emergency Medical Technician, Sebastopol-trained CERT member and part of AECS, ACS and the SCRA emergency net, I thought I was pretty well prepared for the fires.

Joe's (K6AWA) net certainly kept us well-informed as the fires moved southwest out of Calistoga.

When it became our turn to evacuate, I went to turn off the gas. There are three meters I needed to turn off and I had gas valve keys by each.

Oops! One of the keys didn't fit!

Who knew that there are different sized lugs to be turned even for similar meters on residences in the same neighborhood?

I had a 3/8" key for a 1/2" valve!

Fortunately, I had a water valve key right there, too, and it worked on the gas meter.

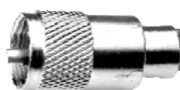
At the other location, I had a 1/2" key for a 3/8" valve -- that worked fine.

Checking online, I find there can even be 3/4" valves.

So, learn from my mistake and see if your emergency gas keys actually fit your particular meter!

73s,

Mike





Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.
PO Box 116, Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(Please print this, fill it out, and send it in with your check.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ New Application \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_
E-mail (if any) \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_

Please Send Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) No thanks

FAMILY MEMBERS, CALL SIGNS & EMAIL ADDRESSES:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO
3. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO
4. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ License Class \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Roster (Yes)\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Short Skip & Roster to my E-mail address ( )YES! ( ) NO

SCRA Dues: The renewal date for SCRA dues is January 1st. Dues are \$20/year for individual, \$30/year for families, and \$15/year for youth (under 18).

PRO-RATED DUES for new members only: Reduce standard dues rate by \$5.00 per quarter. (ie. Second Quarter, April – June \$15.00; Third Quarter – July – September \$10.00; Fourth Quarter, October – December \$5.00 to end of December of current year or \$25.00 through December of the following year)

I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

( ) Public Service Events ( ) Acting as club Net Control Station
( ) ARES Emergency Services ( ) Helping with VEC license exams
( ) Taking a Novice or Technician class ( ) Field day, other operating
( ) Teaching a Novice or Technician class ( ) Helping with Short Skip Newsletter
( ) Taking an upgrade class ( ) Other \_\_\_\_\_
( ) Teaching an upgrade class

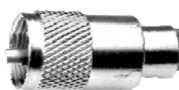
SCRA DUES: Individual \$20, Family \$30, Youth, under 18, \$15 + \_\_\_\_\_
Name Badge (complete info below) \$10 each Circle: Magnet or Clip attachment + \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge Information Fill in exactly as you want it to appear on your badge.
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_
Callsign \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

SCRA Patch \$5/ea + \_\_\_\_\_
SCRA T-Shirt \$11.50/ea Size: s m l xl xxl + \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to SCRA. Send to SCRA, Box 116, Santa Rosa, 95402)





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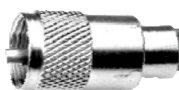
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## SHORT SKIP ARCHIVES AVAILABLE

Mike, AD6YB, has set up archives for past and present issues of Short Skip. They are available on the Website, log into Members Area, Short Skip, click on the first sentence. Mike has scanned in the old paper issues and it is really interesting to browse through them to see what those guys were doing. There are historical photos as well. An important record of our history and ham radio in general. Good Stuff.

[\(Click Me\)](#)

## DIDN'T FIND WHAT YOU NEEDED?

If you are looking for something more on a topic or your topic of interest hasn't been covered lately, let us know. Something you'd like to see in Short Skip?

Contact the editor, [shortskipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:shortskipeditor@gmail.com) or for general questions and /or suggestions, [k6son@arrl.net](mailto:k6son@arrl.net)

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## SHORT SKIP NEEDS YOUR INPUT

### SHORT SKIP ARTICLES WANTED

Dave, KI6UGB, our Short Skip editor is always looking for articles of interest. They can be technical, a good (or bad) experience that other members may learn from, hints or kinks that worked for you in solving a problem, or just about anything ham radio related. Send your contributions to Dave at [shortskipeditor@gmail.com](mailto:shortskipeditor@gmail.com)

