

August 2024

In This Issue

- From of the desk of the editor.
- President's message
- Minutes from June Face-to-face meeting
- Weather report
- Treasure report
- ARES report
- Ham Cram information
- ARRL EC-001
- Featured Article
- Field Day
- Swap Shop
- Community Events

President's message

Next General Meeting: Face-to-face: Tuesday, August 20th 7:00pm



Volume 45, Number 8

From the desk of *The Readout* editor John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of The Readout!

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through August. While the summer is still here, every now and then we do get hints of cooler weather but, summer is not done! Please remember to stay hydrated and keep your batteries charged.

We have some updates in this month's newsletter. The ARRL has revamped their EC-001 course. If you are an ARES member, please check this out.

In our Nets section I have added Zach's KI6KQO, All Modes Net which meets on the first Thursday of the month.

If you have any suggestions for articles or if you would like to publish an article, please reach out to me at k6jro@arrl.net.

73 de John, K6JRO

A Message from Club President Mark Price, N6ARP

Greetings to the Readout followers.

Hi, August is upon us and there are only four more meeting after this month before the end of the year. But the summer weather will continue to be a challenge, hopefully we will see a more normal temperature range, in the 90's. Please remember to stay hydrated, if you feel thirsty then stop and drink some water.

The officers and the board are always looking to make the club a destination for local Hams, both at our web site and our club meetings. If you have any idea that you feel would enhance our club, please talk to one of the officers or board members.

The next big event comings up October 18th-20th is Pacificon @ the San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA https://www.pacificon.org/

Another reminder is that Tuesday 8/20 is our face-to-face meeting at the County Office of Emergency Services. The meeting begins at 7PM but, come early and meetup with other club members for some socializing. Lastly, thanks again for being a supporting member of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association, and please point any Hams you know to our website https://www.saraclub.net/ and encourage them to become a member.

Thanks

Mark – N6ARP

Minutes:

July face-to-face meeting

Minutes from the July face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

July 16, 2024 Club Meeting Minutes (Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ Mark, N6ARP Richard, W8AAL Scott, KN6RKY Robert, KD6BMY Randy, KF6RJS Cheryl, KK6GJM Patty, W6PV John, W6PY Paul, W6UHF Kevin, KE6ZFY

Scott, KN6OOV Richard, WE6V Richard, W6DU Jason, KA6TIO Vicki, KJ6RCV Scott, N6CIC Lucian, KF6NPG Eva, KM6BIP Roy, KK6OQP Ed, KF6FIR Brent, KJ6MRG John, K6JRO Candy, KN6VMI Jason, KN6HAG Scott, WB3KJX Gene, W6QFU Brendon, NK6M Brian, KN6QFF Elias, KN6GZW Manuel, N6MTM

President Mark, N6ARP, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and asked Scott, KN6OOV, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 31 members present according to the sign-in sheet. Mark asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Reading of Minutes: Secretary Scott, N6CIC, reported the Readout with the minutes that had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. Dick, W8AAL asked if the list of future club presentations could be included in the Readout. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lucian, KF6NPG, with a second by Ed, KF6FIR. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

Vice-President Scott, KN6OOV, reported that club members should be careful powering radios with lithium batteries. If the battery can't take the power required by the radio it can destroy the internal control board. He had an example of this happening.

Treasurer Scott, KN6RKY, read the current treasurer's report. A copy is attached to the minutes and will be included in the next Readout. He noted that we now have 78 members in the club. John, K6JRO, made a motion to

Write for The Readout:

If anyone has information that they want included in *The Readout* please submit to the editor

k6jro@arrl.net.

Please try and have the information or articles to the editor by the 30th of each month. accept the report. After seconds by Scott, WB3KJX, and Robin, KG6ZYQ, the club approved the treasurer's report.

Sergeant at Arms Herb, W9CMX, was not present.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, reported he has received no equipment complaints, and the repeater system is working as it should. The 440 repeater has been repaired and Mark, N6ARP, and I went to Mt. Oso on July 1, and installed the repeater. It is working very well with good reports from users. Next time I am on Mt. Oso I will adjust the squelch tail for a longer time-period. The digital mode sounds like squelch sound. To block this on your analog radio you can set your radio to CTSS (tone on both receive and transmit).

We are still working on finding a tower climber to repair the VHF antennal bracket. Thanks to Derrill, W7LTM, a person from the Mariposa club is interested in doing the work, but I still do not have a commitment from him.

The electric bill is down this month, and I will continue to monitor the electric usage. PG&E is asking the CPUC for another rate hike next year despite their huge profits. The committee continues to evaluate solar charging; however, plans are on hold until the costs of repairing the VHF antenna are determined.

The new batteries we installed are working well. We still have plans to rewire the 440 rack, and we are working on brush removal. There was a request to adjust the ARDEN mesh antenna to allow better coverage towards Ceres and Turlock. This antenna is low on the tower and can be reached with a tall ladder.

Board Members: Randy, KF6RJS, Jason, KA6TIO, and Richard, W8AAL, were present: Jason gave an update on Field Day. An article on Field Day is in the current Readout. All the participants favorably received the Lake McClure site, so we plan on going back there next year. Sites are going fast as that will be the same weekend as the Lake McClure fireworks show. Jason will report on Field Day scores next month. Randy, KF6RJS, gave an update on the weather-it is going to be hot.

ARES: Ed, KF6FIR, reported on the meeting held last Saturday. Lucian, KF6NPG, gave a presentation on sources of information. Also, the group did Winlink training. The next two meetings will be held on August 10 and September 7.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG, reported the final event of the year will be the Walk for Alzheimer's, to be held on Sept. 14 at Graceada Park in Modesto. Lucian requested more volunteers, and Brian, KN6QFF, John, K6JRO, and Brendon, NK6M, immediately stepped up to the plate.

Old Business: None

New Business: Currently split-the-pot funds go to Field Day costs. However, our equipment costs keep going up as do our electricity costs. A new solar array could cost \$4000. For the year, 2025-2026 it was proposed to allocate split-the-pot funds to the equipment fund and to the general fund in a 1:1 ratio, Lucian, KF6NPG, made a motion to this effect with a second by John, W6PY. The club approved the motion.

Joining SARA: We are taking membership applications for 2023. One-year dues are \$30.00 for individuals, or \$45.00 for a family. To join, fill out the registration form in this newsletter and bring it to any SARA meeting. A question was raised as to whether the club could take advantage of the ARRL grant program. It is designed to enhance the ham community and to promote STEM education. It is not to be used for equipment or general funds. It would have to be coordinated with a school- 7 and 8 grades or high school.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$198. Brendon, NK6M, was the lucky winner of \$98. Congratulations Brendon.

Presentation: John, K6JRO, and Brendon, NK6M, gave a presentation on logging software. Although the FCC no longer requires hams to keep a log, there are good reasons to do so:

- As a record in case of an interference complaint
- For personal history
- As a resource for contacts
- For contest participation

Logs can be on paper or electronic depending on personal preferences. The log contains operational data and the date and UTC time.

For contests and home operating John and Brendon use N3FJP's ACLog, which has a one-time cost and is updated annually. Another popular logging software that requires a fee is Ham Radio Deluxe. There are also several free logging software programs: NIMM Logger+, WriteLog, Logger 32, and DXKeeper.

Meeting Adjourned: John, K6JRO, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8;51 PM, with a second by Scott, KN6RKY. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 (7:00pm to 8:00pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

Minutes by Scott, N6CIC, Club Secretary.

Weather Report, Randy, KF6RJS

Weather report from Randy, KF6RJS

The following report was filed by SARA club weather officer Randy, KF6RJS. Data was collected from his home QTH in North Modesto:

So far this year I have had 15 days over a 100+. The hottest day I had was 108.0 on July 1. I don't know if we will get anymore 100 days. And I had my 1st rain fall of the year on 8/3 - 0.05" inches.

73 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS. Weather Officer

Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the June meeting

	P.O.BOX 46	MATEUR RADIO AS 301, MODESTO, CA 95 www.saraclub.net Report July 16, 2024 to	5352-4601
BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$8,340.08		
JNCOME: Membership Dues - (cash/check) Split-The-Pot Member Donations (cash/check) Square - Auto Deposit - Dues Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00 \$28.83	Dick Aal (W8AAL) donated his (net of Square fees) (net of Square fees)	1/2 back to club
TOTAL INCOME:	\$318.83	Square - Auto Deposit	\$28.83
EXPENSES: Moeller Mt. Oso PG&E Field Day Expenses (food/supplies) Repeater Repairs/cooling fans/cables TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$76.95 \$187.52	Deposit Tri-Counties Bank (Ck #1163) - July 2024 Site Re (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (7-12- (Ck #1164) - Vicki Peitz (KJ6RC (Ck #1165 - Lucian Thomas (K	24) CV)
** Tri-Counties Bank Ending Bank Balance:	\$7,926.64	as of	July 16, 2024
Field Day Fund: Equipment Fund: General Fund: Treasurer 2024 Membership - 1 Honorary / 77 Paid Membe 2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 5 Paid Membe 2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 1 Paid Membe	\$1,653.60 \$4,951.33	(included in ending bank (included in ending bank (included in ending bank July 16, 2024	(balance)

ARES

Ed, KF6FIR Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus County



This month we went over equipment in the ARES room to verify their readiness for deployment if needed. We also took suggestions on ways to improve their preparedness.

Next month we will be performing a SET (Simulated Emergency Test). Since such events take time, we will start our meeting on September 7th at 9:00am. We will be using digital communications for the test.

Ed Hanna, KF6FIR Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.



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ARES® operates under the authority of the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the Stanislaus County Assistant Director for OES. ARES® is organized under the auspices of the American Radio Relay League, the San Joaquin Valley Section Manager, and the San Joaquin Valley Section District Emergency Coordinator. Operational control is under the Stanislaus County OES.

If you are interested in joining Stanislaus ARES, go to the Stanislaus ARES website (www.stanares.org) and click on the Join ARES tab. There is formation on how to join and the membership forms to complete are available there. Please check in on the ARES voice radio net very Wednesday at 7:30 pm on



the 145.390 – pl. 136.5 S.A.R.A. repeater. There is also an unproto Packet radio net during the voice net on 144.910 via the SARA node. The monthly training meeting is at 10:00am on the first Saturday of the month at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. Meeting dates and times can change due to operational needs. Please check the web site for updates.

Ham Cram

John, K6JRO Ham Cram coordinator

Ham Cram Information

Due to low enrollment, the ARES organization will no longer be offering ham crams. Instead, we will offer material and guidance to anyone who wants to earn or upgrade their license. Information is available on the ARES webpage. Testing will be offered before the SARA club meeting at 6:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

If you have any questions, please email John Otte, K6JRO at k6jro@arrl.net.

ARRL EC-001 course

ARRL EC-001 Emergency Communications Course

Update

The ARRL Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) has been recently updated. However, if you have already passed EC001 then you do not need to take these updated classes.

Below is the web site to study for the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Course challenge examination (EC-001):

https://learn.arrl.org/courses?pathPage=%2Farrl%2Fcourses%2F67044

Once you complete this on-line study you can arrange with Stanislaus ARES to take the ARRL test. We generally give the test at a ham cram session or before or after the monthly ARES meeting. Please e-mail Lucian, KF6NPG at kf6npg@aol.com or John, K6JRO at k6jro@arrl.net to arrange to take the test. **There is a \$15.00 test administration fee payable to ARRL.**

You can also access the updated ARRL EC-001 course at the ARRL website. Go to www.arrl.org. Once there click on the licensing, education and training tab. Then click on the online course catalog tab and



look for the EC-001 course. It states that it takes about 45 hours to complete the course over 9 weeks. Once you complete the ARRL course you can take the exam online. From what I can see there is no charge to take the course or exam. You must take the course before you can take the exam.

You cannot take the challenge exam online.

Swap Shop

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

No listings for this month.

Featured Article: Field Day Scores

Featured Article





With Field Day 2024 in the history books let's take a look at how we did. We submitted the scores to ARRL on Thursday July 18^{th} . Preliminary scoring is as follows:

Entry received at: 2024-07-18 18:53:52 Call Used: W6ERE GOTA Station Call: (NONE) ARRL/RAC Section: SJV Class: 8A Participants: 30 Club/Group Name: Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association Power Source(s): Battery, Solar Power Multiplier: 2X Preliminary Total Score: 1,830

Bonus Points:	
100% emergency power	800
Public location	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
Safety officer	100
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	1,150

Score Summary:

CW Digital Phone Total Total QSOs 74 10 172 Total Points 148 20 172 340 Claimed Score = (QSO points x power multiplier) = 680

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

,	CW OSOs	Pwr(W)		gital s Pwr(W)	050	Phone s Pwr(W)
160m	1000	()	400	••••(••)	400	
80m					8	100
40m	25	100			109	100
20m	40	100	10	100	16	100
15m	2	100			20	100
10m	7	100			19	100
TOTAL	74		10		172	

We included this in the soapbox comments:

"A great time had by all attending. Our Field Day activities were at Lake McClure, McClure Point Campground in the Sierra foothills of California. It was a warm weekend, about 103 on Saturday. Attended by 30 people, 4 or 5 deer, 20-30 wild turkeys, a Blue Tail Skink, and a million grasshoppers! Radio conditions were so-so. We had stations up on 6 and 2 meters with no luck. Our 6 and 2 meter operators were a little disappointed not making any contacts. Our two operators that worked 40M phone and CW did the best. The rest worked pretty hard to get their contacts. Still, a successful exercise, a fun weekend, and great camaraderie. Our reservations have been made for the same area for Field Day 2025! Hoping our band conditions open up a bit more next year.

Thanks to all who attended, operated, and helped with the Saturday night dinner. It's a group effort and it wouldn't have been a success without your participation!

73 all,

Jason KA6TIO & Vicki KJ6RCV Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association 2024 Field Day Coordinators"

Look for the scores to be published in either the November or December issue of QST.

Questions? You can email Jason and Vicki at: sarafdcoordinator@gmail.com



Community Events:

August

Saturday 10th ARES Meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 20th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

September

Community

Events

Saturday 7th ARES Meeting 9a-1p (Simulated Emergency Drill) Saturday 14th Walk to End Alzheimer's Tuesday 17th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

October

Saturday 12th ARES Meeting 10-12p Friday-Sunday (18-20) Pacificon San Ramon Marriot Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

November

Saturday 9th ARES Meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 19th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

December

Saturday 14th ARES meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 17th SARA meeting 7p-8p



Local Nets

Local Nets:



S.A.R.A. operates several repeaters. These are located on Mt. Oso in Patterson, CA: 145.390 – pl 136.5 224.140 – pl 136.5 440.225 +pl 136.5 51.800 – pl 136.5

- Digital node 144.910, digipeater name "SARA".
- 145.110 pl 136.5 is a low-level repeater located in Modesto, CA.

All SARA nets meet on the 145.390 – pl 136.5 repeater except where noted. SARA Club net is every Tuesday (except the 3^{rd} Tuesday) at 7:30pm.

The morning traffic and information net meets Monday through Friday from 7:00am to about 8:00am.

The Geezer net (It is not about age; it is all about attitude) meets each weekday morning 9:00am to 9:30am.

The Ladies Chit Chat net every Monday at 8:00pm for YL's.

The All-Modes Net meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7PM. This net covers all aspects of Amateur Radio. All licensed amateurs are invited to check in and share their radio activities or other ham related items. Questions can be directed to Zack- KI6KQO, at email ZSP1919@icloud.com.

The Stanislaus County ARES net meets every Wednesday at 7:30pm. The Space net meets every Friday at 8:00pm

S.A.R.A. meets the Third Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA 95357. The club website is www.saraclub.net .

The Stanislaus County ARES generally meets the First Saturday of the month at 10:00am at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA 95357. Meetings can be changed due to training requirements please check the web site for current information. The web site is www.stanares.org.

Turlock Amateur Radio Club (W6BXN) weekly club net meets every Tuesday (except the 2^{nd} Tuesday) at 7:00pm on 147.030 + pl 100 or 447.700 + pl 94.8.

TARC meets the second Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander, Turlock, CA.

Merced ARES has a weekly net on Mondays at 7:00pm on the TARC repeaters. They have a monthly meeting the third Wednesday at 6:00pm at The Pizza Factory 3146 G Street #147 Merced, CA 95340.

San Joaquin Valley Section ARES Net every Sunday at 7:00 pm on the TARC repeaters.

TARC web site is www.w6bxn.org and Merced ARES is www.mercedares.org .

Officers and Board Member

2024 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers: President: Mark Price, N6ARP Vice President: Scott Daniels, KN6OOV Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY Sergeant at Arms: Herb Fullerton, W9CMX

mark99price@gmail.com kn6oov@arrl.net scottandalene@msn.com sliefjohnson@gmail.com herb2114@icloud.com

Board Members:

Jason Peitz, KA6TIOka6tio@gmail.comRichard Aal, W8AALdick_aal@comcast.netBobby Hale, KN6SDDkn6sdd92@gmail.comRandy Spindler, KF6RJS (past president), kf6rjs@yahoo.com



Club Trustee: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

kf6npg@aol.com

Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG Stanislaus County ARES: patd@kg6azz.net k6jro@arrl.net kf6npg@aol.com

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Hanna, KF6FIR ed@kf6fir.net *Nominations are held every November with elections in December*





WEIS NOW		Local Area Frequencies		
Name	Frequency	Off set	Tx Tone	Description
VHF Call	146.520	none	none	VHF Simplex
VHF Local	147.540	none	none	Local VHF Simplex
SARA Hi	145.390	- (negative)	136.5	SARA VHF Mt. Oso
SARA Lo	145.110	- (negative)	136.5	SARA VHF Downtown Modesto
MMC	146.355	+ (positive)	156.7	Memorial Hospital Modesto
TARC	147.030	+ (positive)	100.0	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Mt. Bullion
TARC	147.000	+ (positive)	100.0	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Turtle Dome Yosemite National Park
CARS	145.170	- (negative)	100.0	Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Fowler Peak
Stockton	147.165	+ (positive)	107.2	Stockton Delta ARC Sierra Nevada Mountains
Lodi	147.090	+ (positive)	114.8	Lodi Amateur Radio Club
Manteca	146.985	- (negative)	100.0	Manteca Amateur Radio Club Manteca Water Tower
TCARES	145.290	- (negative)	100.0	Tuolumne County Amateur Radio and Electronics Society Moccasin
UHF Call	446.000	No offset	No tone	UHF simplex
SARA	440.225	+ (positive)	136.5	SARA UHF Mt. Oso
TARC	444.700	+ (positive)	94.8	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Mt. Bullion
TARC	440.300	+ (positive)	94.8	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Kings Canyon Sequoia
CARS	441.0375	+ (positive)	151.4	Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Bear Valley (Mt. Reba)
CARS	441.875	+ (positive)	100.0	CARS Summit level Arnold linked to 145.170
Stockton	442.250	+ (positive)	107.2	Stockton Delta ARC Sierra Nevada Mountains
SARA	224.140	- (negative)	136.5	SARA 220 Mt. Oso
TARC	224.960	- (negative)	156.7	Turlock Amateur Radio Club 220 Mt. Bullion

As of January 27, 2023 CARS vhf frequency corrected, and Lodi added January 27, 2023 For further information please refer to each radio club's web site: SARA www.saraclub.net TARC www.w6bxn.org CARS www.calaverasars.org Stockton www.w6sf.org Manteca www.facebook.com/groups/k6man TCARES www.tcares.net Lodi www.lodiarc.net

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA) MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check One	e: New Member Rene	ewing Member Family Members	hip
NAME:	(\mathbf{V}_{a}) (\mathbf{V}_{a})	CALLSIGN:	
AKKL Me	mber:(Yes) (No)		
ADDRESS	5:	CITY:	
ZIP:	PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail:		RS AT SAME ADDRESS:	
ADDITIO	NAL FAMILY MEMBER	RS AT SAME ADDRESS:	
NAME:		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-m	nail		
NAME:		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-m	nail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-m	nail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-m	nail		

TOTAL DUES PAID: _____ Date: _____ Dete: _____ One-year membership dues are \$30.00 (if paid by cash, check, or money order). Family Dues are \$45 and is the same for all methods of payment.

Note: Bring membership form to SARA Meeting or Mail to: SARA Club, P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA 95352-4601 April 3, 2021

