



THE **Readout**

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

December 2024

Volume 45, Number 12

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Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Tuesday,
December 17th
7:00pm

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!



Another December, another year. It seems that December is always a month of reflection; reflection on the year past and reflection on the year to come. Harvey Mackay, businessman, author and syndicated columnist is quoted as saying, "Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back." I stated in the December 2023 *Readout*, "2023 saw changes in our club. We lost

members thus dear friends to the passage of time and others through the passage of geography and 2024 will be no different." Well, it wasn't.

With this being said, we do have a lot to be thankful for! I would like to thank all of people who helped this club throughout the year especially those of you who kept our repeaters operating, working events, and serving as officers, board members, and for our Trustee, Lucian, KF6NPG. This year he took on a huge responsibility and we are extremely grateful that he did.

With regards to the future, the current slate of officers will be presented and voted on at our December meeting on Tuesday, DEC 17th. They include:

President: John Otte, K6JRO
Vice President: Brian Esser, KN6QFF
Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC
Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY
Sargent-at-arms: Robin Axton, KG6ZYQ

Board members:
Dick Aal, W8AAL
Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM
Scott Daniels, KN6OOV
Mark Price, N6ARP (past president)

Thank you to the officers who are staying in their positions, to the new officers who are coming on and to the one who served. This is a very active club, and our success would not be possible without your commitment and

President's message

hard work. I would like to thank each one of you for your devotion to the hobby we love so much!

As we continue through the Christmas season, I hope you use this time to reflect and give thanks for positive aspects of our lives. To all of you I wish the warmest of blessings this Christmas season and look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

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, Merry Christmas and a Happy New as this will be the last READOUT for 2024. Thank you to all the club members for making the SARA club the "GREAT" group that it is. Club elections will be held right after you see this current addition of the READOUT at the December meeting. And just a reminder that the December meeting is our "Bring Your Favorite Desert" to share.

The nominating committee (John-K6JRO and Randy-KF6RJS) is still soliciting member to run for the club officers. Now is the time as President John F Kennedy said, "Ask not what your club can do for you, but what can you do for your club." We are always looking for people interested in bringing new energy and ideas to the club.

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 coming up in January 2025 is Winter Field Day January 25th & 26th. Check the web site at <https://winterfieldday.org/>

Another reminder is that Tuesday 12/17 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.

And just a personal note. Thanksgiving it seems has given me a new lease on life. On Monday 11/25 they determined that 2 of my arteries were blocked and on Wednesday they did by-pass surgery. All is well and I am recovering from the 6.5 hour procedure. I know that it will be a process, and I have to just go slow.

Thanks
Mark – N6ARP

Minutes:

NOV face-to-face meeting

Write for *The Readout*:

If anyone has information that they want included in *The Readout* please submit to the editor
k6jro@arri.net.

Please try and have the information or articles to the editor by the 30th of each month.

Minutes from the November face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

November 19, 2024

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ	Scott, KN6OOV	Vicki, KJ6RCV
Mark, N6ARP	Patty, W6PV	Scott, WB3KJX
Paul, W6UHF	Richard, W6DU	Kevin, KE6ZFY
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Roger, W6PKB
Robert, KD6BMY	Brendon, NK6M	John (Guest)
Scott, N6CIC	Brian, KN6QFF	Jake (Guest)
Lucian, KF6NPG	Eva, KM6BIP	Elias (Guest)
Derrill, W7LTM	Roy, KK6OQP	John, W6PY
Jason, KA6TIO		

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 22 members, and three guests present according to the sign-in sheet. Mark asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Reading of Minutes: Secretary Scott Griffin, N6CIC, reported the Readout with the minutes that had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. There were no changes or corrections. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Eva, KM6BIP, with a second by John, W6PY. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President Mark, N6ARP, noted next month is the holiday meeting, so please bring a dessert to share.

Vice-President Scott Daniels, KN6OOV, noted that today's presentation will be by Mark, N6ARP, on DMR following the nominations for club officers and board members.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, read the current treasurer's report. A copy is attached to the minutes and will be included in the next Readout. Lucian, KF6NPG, made a motion to accept the report. After a second by Robin, KG6ZYQ, the club approved the treasurer's report. Scott reported the club now has 84 paid members, and he is accepting dues payments for the year 2025. One can also go to the web page to pay dues. He noted that the split-the-pot funds will go 50% to the equipment fund and 50% to the general fund in 2025.

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. At Mt. Oso there were two Public Safety Power Shutdowns since our last meeting. One

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.

on October 17 for almost two days, and one on November 5 for almost 24 hours.

Patrick, KG6AZZ, and Lucian went to Mt. Oso on Saturday, November 2. We thank Mark, N6ARP, and Scott, KN6RKY, for having painted the building door grey. The building was fairly clean, and mouse droppings were swept and the mouse bait topped up.

It appears the battery for the two-meter repeater will provide service for about 24 hours under normal use. We expected longer service. We have also learned the 440 repeater did not work under battery power.

The following electrical work was done while Lucian and Patrick were on site. We thank Scott, KN6OOV, for providing wire, zip ties, and labels for this work:

- Repaired battery connections to the 440 repeater which now works on battery power.
- Installed a Rig Runner power distribution box in the 440 cabinet.
- The 440, 220, and 6-meter repeaters will work off the Rig Runner attached to the Battleborn battery.
- Additional connections were added to the controller which is now powered by either the Battleborn or Dakota batteries.
- All connections were labeled, and tabs were placed on critical connections to keep them tight.
- The Powergate charging the Dakota battery will not allow a full charge. Next visit we will bring a laptop for some adjustments.

The electricity bill at \$76.15 was a little lower than last month possibly due to a shutdown and shorter billing days. It appears our power costs have stabilized in the \$70-80+ range.

Future Projects:

- Solar charging plan with a target for next spring (see the proposed plan on the web site).
- Removing unused equipment, and hauling brush off the site.
- Installing an exhaust fan in the building.
- Testing of the linked 2-meter and 220 repeaters to get more traffic on 220.

Board Member: Jason, KA6TIO, was present: no report.

ARES: the next meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 14, and plans for 2025 will be discussed.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG, reported on the following events for next year:

- Saturday, March 1, Snelling Road Race, 10 operators needed.
- Saturday, March 29, Copperopolis Road Race, 8-9 operators needed.
- Saturday, June 7, Regalado Road Race, 8 operators needed.
- Saturday, September 13, Walk to End Alzheimer's, 5-8 operators needed.

Robert, KD6BMY, volunteered to work at every event.

Old Business: President Mark, N6ARP turned the meeting over to John, K6JRO for the nominating committee. The following are the nominations for officers and board members:

- Secretary, Scott, N6CIC
- Treasurer, Scott, KN6RKY
- Sergeant-at-Arms, Robin, KG6ZYQ
- Vice President-no nominations
- President-no nominations
- Board member-Dick, W8AAL
- Board member-Cheryl-KK6GJM
- Board member-John, K6JRO

Further nominations will be accepted at the December meeting followed by the election. Members are urged to consider the open positions of president and vice president.

New Business: new member, Roger, W6PKV, introduced himself and gave some background. He has been licensed since 1952; he is a physicist/nuclear physicist and worked at Stanford University. He was present on the Marshall Islands for the atomic tests. He is an avid CW operator and DXer and had a station in Redwood City. Welcome Roger!

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$58. John, W6PY, was the lucky winner and he returned his half to the club. Thank you, John!

Presentation: Mark, N6ARP, gave an interesting presentation on DMR-Digital Mobile Radio. DMR was developed by the European Telecommunication Standards Institute with the objective of digital voice communications. It has several benefits:

- Two simultaneous voice conversations on a single repeater
- Improved audio performance
- More efficient use of the radio spectrum (12.5 KHz channel width)
- Text messaging
- Longer battery life
- Compares favorably or is more advantageous than other digital voice modes, e.g., DStar, Fusion, NXON/DIS, and P25 Phase II

DMR utilizes Talk Groups, which are virtual radio channels assigned by geography or language. All radios must be registered with a 7-digit DMR ID. Currently there are 6,578 repeaters worldwide and 4.360 million registered radio ID's worldwide.

Mark will post his presentation on the SARA Club website: www.saraclub.net.

Meeting Adjourned: Mark, N6ARP, adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024 (7:00pm to 8:00pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. Don't forget to bring a dessert. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

Minutes by Scott, N6CIC, Club Secretary.

Treasure's Report,
Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the November meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O.BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report November 19, 2024

October 16, 2024 to November 19, 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$8,451.59

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$0.00
Split-The-Pot	\$69.00 Scott (N6CIC) donated his half back to club
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$20.00 Manuel Miguel (N6MTM)
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$260.97 (net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00 (net of Square fees)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$349.97	Square - Auto Deposit	\$260.97
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$89.00

EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1170) - November Site Rent (9-30-24)
PG&E	\$76.15 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (11-13-24)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$156.15

**** Tri-Counties Bank**
Ending Bank Balance: \$8,645.41 as of November 19, 2024

Field Day Fund:	\$1,712.71 (included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$2,334.67 (included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$4,598.03 (included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer:  November 19, 2024

- 2024 Membership - 1 Honorary / 85 Paid Members
- 2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 11 Paid Members
- 2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 3 Paid Members

Member Paid Donations (for goods /services)

Lucian (KF6NPG)	\$33.88	mouse bait
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**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:

I am happy that we are getting rain. We need it! Last year we ended at 15.52" of rain. As of right now we have had 2.20" of rain. We will see if we can catch up to 15.52". Tuesday the 17th thru Friday the 20th partly cloudy. The next change of rain is Saturday the 21st thru Monday the 23rd rain possible 20 to 40 percent. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless.

73
Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

ARES

Ed, KF6FIR
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report

Hello All,



First I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas (and if you do not observe Christmas, then Season Salutations). I hope you all get to spend time with loved ones this season.

At the last meeting we announced some staffing changes and made plans to activities for the coming year. As usual, just a reminder to please be safe and keep your batteries charged.

73
Ed Hanna, KF6FIR Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.



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 second 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

Swap Shop

Featured Article

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.

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

No items for this month.

Featured Article: A HOLIDAY POEM FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE ARRL

'Twas the night after the Sweepstakes Contest and all thru the shack the rig
was turned off and the key was slack.

The antenna rotor had made its last turn, The tubes in the linear have long
ceased to burn.

I sat there relaxing and took off my specs, preparing to daydream of
armchair DX, When suddenly outside I heard such a sound I dashed out the
door to see what was around

The moon shone down brightly and lighted the night - For sure, propagation
for the low bands was right.

I peered towards the roof where I heard all the racket, And there was the
ARRL guy in a red, fur-trimmed jacket.

I stood there perplexed in a manner quite giddy.
Just who was this stranger - di di dah dah diddy?

He looked very much like an FCC guy, Who'd come to check up on some
bad TVI.

I shouted to him, "OM! QRZ?"
"Hey you by the chimney, all dressed in RED! "

I suddenly knew when I heard the sleight bells jingle,
The guy on the roof was KRINGLE from the ARRL.

He had a big sack full of ham gear,
Which was a big load for his prancing reindeer.
Transmitters, receivers, for cabinets and racks,
Some meters and scopes and a lot of Co-AX.

He said not a word 'cause he'd finished his work.
He picked up his sack, then he turned with a jerk.
As he leaped to his sleigh, he shouted wid glee,
And I knew in a moment he'd be QRT.

I heard him transmit as he flew o'er the trees "CFO FOREVER to all, and to
all SEVENTY-THREE."



Community Events

Community Events:

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 3rd 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 2nd 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 mark99price@gmail.com
 Vice President: Scott Daniels, KN6OOV kn6oov@arrl.net
 Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC scottandalene@msn.com
 Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY sliefjohnson@gmail.com
 Sergeant at Arms: Herb Fullerton, W9CMX herb2114@icloud.com

Board Members:

Jason Peitz, KA6TIO ka6tio@gmail.com
 Richard Aal, W8AAL dick_aal@comcast.net
 Bobby Hale, KN6SDD kn6sdd92@gmail.com
 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS (past president), kf6rjs@yahoo.com



Club Trustee: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG
kf6npg@aol.com

Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ patd@kg6azz.net
 Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO k6jro@arrl.net
 Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG kf6npg@aol.com
 Stanislaus County ARES:
 Emergency Coordinator: Ed Hanna, KF6FIR ed@kf6fir.net

***Nominations are held every November with elections in December**



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.tcaries.net

Lodi www.lodiarc.net

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA) MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check One: New Member ___ Renewing Member ___ Family Membership ___

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____

ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

ZIP: _____ PHONE: Home _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS AT SAME ADDRESS:

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ ARRL: (Yes) (No)

e-mail _____

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ ARRL: (Yes) (No)

e-mail _____

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ ARRL: (Yes) (No)

e-mail _____

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____ ARRL: (Yes) (No)

e-mail _____

TOTAL DUES PAID: _____ Date: _____

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

