



THE **Readout**

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

October 2024

Volume 45, Number 10

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President's message

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

October is here which means Fall is here! This generally means cooler weather and, after the summer we have had, cooler temperatures would be welcomed indeed! October is also the time of The Great California ShakeOut. Always the third Thursday in October, The Great ShakeOut is scheduled for October 17th at 10:17am. This is a time for people to participate in earthquake safety drills at work, school, and home.

Currently, there are 10.1 million people registered for this event and counting. For more information, check out The Great California ShakeOut website: <https://www.shakeout.org/california/>

Also, don't forget that this is *your* club, and we cannot run it without your help. Randy, KF6RJS and I are soliciting interested members for officer and board member positions. If you are considering stepping into a leadership role, please let me know. They are not difficult. All they need are passion and dedication to the hobby we all love.

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, October is upon us and there are only two more meeting after this month before the end of the year. Club elections are not that far off. A nominating committee (John-K6JRO and Randy-KF6RJS) has been appointed to solicit member to run for the club offices. 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.

Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Tuesday, October 15th 7:00pm

Minutes:
SEP 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@arrl.net.

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

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 October 18th-20th is Pacificon @ the San Ramon Marriott, San Ramon, CA <https://www.pacificon.org/>

Another reminder is that Tuesday 10/15 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 from the September face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

September 17, 2024

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ	Scott, KN6OOV	Brendon, NK6M
Mark, N6ARP	Richard, WE6V	Matthew, KM6VLG
Richard, W8AAL	Richard, W6DU	Patrick, KG6AZZ
Scott, KN6RKY	Jason, KA6TIO	Elias, KN6GZW
Robert, KD6BMY	Vicki, KJ6RCV	Gene, W6QFU
Randy, KF6RJS	Scott, N6CIC	Candy, KN6VMI
Cheryl, KK6GJM	Lucian, KF6NPG	Paul, W6UHF
Ed, KF6FIR	Robbie, KN6VOG	John, K6JRO
John, W6PY	Brian, KN6QFF	
Marilyn, K6KUH (expired)-Guest		
Elias (no call)-Guest		

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 26 members, and two 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 Dick, W8AAL, with a second by Robin, KG6ZYQ. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President Mark, N6ARP, deferred to New Business.

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.

Vice-President Scott Daniels, KN6OOV, noted that today's presentation will be by Paul, W6UHF on D-Star and next month the presentation will be by John, K6JRO, on the California QSO Party.

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. A \$1000 donation was made to the club's equipment account by the Renaissance Charitable Foundation. It was noted that annual dues are due beginning January 1. John, K6JRO, made a motion to accept the report. After a second by John, W6PY, 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. There was a repeater outage on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2024. Mark, N6ARP, and Scott, KN6RKY, went up to Mt. Oso and found loose Anderson power pole connections. They replaced several sets and power was restored. The electric bill was \$88.53, which is close to last month's bill. The electric bill has been relatively level over the last three months. However PG&E was just granted another temporary rate increase which could raise the average bill by \$5.13 per month. This is on top of two other temporary increases in the last 15 months and a permanent increase in November 2023. These increases are driven by the fires they cause and updating of the power lines.

Future projects in the works include plans to implement solar charging, rewiring of the 440 rack, installing an exhaust fan in the building, and adjusting the squelch tail on the 440 repeater.

Board Members: Randy, KF6RJS, Jason, KA6TIO, and Richard, W8AAL, were present: Randy, KF6RJS, gave an update on the weather-it is going to cool down and then get hot again.

ARES: Ed, KF6FIR, reported the next meeting will be on Saturday, October 12 beginning at 9 AM. It will include a review of the Great Shakeout exercise. The simulated emergency drill went well with testing of Winlink and other modes. Pacificon-2024 will be held on October 18-20 in San Ramon.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG, reported the Walk for Alzheimer's, held on Sept. 14 at Graceada Park in Modesto, went very well with about 250 participants. Thanks to the following SARA club members who assisted in the event: Lucian, KF6NPG, Cheryl, KK6GJM, Scott, KN6RKY, Wally, KK6CPN, Paul, W6UHF, Brian, KN6QFF, Brendon, NK6M, John, K6JRO, Ed, KF6FIR, and Randy, KF6RJS.

Old Business: None

New Business: President Mark, N6ARP, reported that Randy, KF6RJS, will head a nominating committee to seek candidates for officer and board positions for 2025. John, K6JRO, will assist Randy on the committee. President Mark then read the duties of each officer as stated in the by-laws.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$120. Richard, WE6V, was the lucky winner of \$60 and he returned it to the club. Thank you, Richard!

Presentation: Paul, W6UHF, gave an excellent presentation on D-Star with demonstrations of its capability. D-Star or Digital Smart Technologies was developed by the Japanese Amateur Radio league in the late 1990's to allow users to connect with other users worldwide in digital voice and data mode. Only Icom and Yaesu sell D-Star capable radios. D-Star has advantages over analog AM and FM signals in that it uses less bandwidth and is higher quality at the same signal strength. The system has the capability of linking through repeaters together locally and through the internet via reflectors.

Advantages of D-Star are that you can use voice and data at the same time, with your GPS location and call sign being automatically sent. Stations can link worldwide through reflectors, and it can be valuable for emergency communications. In order to use D-Star amateurs need to register their call sign on the world-wide D-Star network.

Paul demonstrated D-Star connections using a Raspberry Pi hotspot (rather than tying up a repeater) connected to his cellphone to access the world-wide system. In doing so very clear contacts were made with stations in New York and Texas. To access a reflector you have two choices-either a D-Star repeater or a hotspot. D-Star can also use HF nets. The Icom IC-705 is a D-Star capable radio for HF, VHF, and UHF bands with a maximum power output of 10 watts.

Meeting Adjourned: Mark, N6ARP, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15, 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:

Not much going on. Loving the cool weather. We might have a chance of rain on Wednesday. 20 to 30% chance of rain. I had 21 days of 100 plus. My hottest day was on 7/7 - 108.0. I don't think we will get anymore 100 days. Just cooler weather and I hope that we got some rain soon. The only day that I had rain was 8/3 0.05".

73
Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

Treasure report from the August meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report September 17, 2024

August 21, 2024

to

September 17, 2024

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$7,612.86

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$45.00	
Split-The-Pot	\$105.00	Scott (N6SVA) donated his half back to club
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$1,005.00	Adam & Joel Reed; Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$0.00	(net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00	(net of Square fees)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$1,155.00	Square - Auto Deposit	\$0.00
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$1,155.00


EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00	(Ck #1168) - September Site Rent (8-30-24)
PG&E	\$88.53	(EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (9-14-24)
AMBA	\$249.00	(EFT) - Annual Equipment Insurance (8-21-24)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$417.53

** Tri-Counties Bank			
Ending Bank Balance:	\$8,350.33	as of	September 17, 2024

Field Day Fund:	\$1,523.71	(included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$2,299.67	(included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$4,526.95	(included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer  September 17, 2024

2024 Membership - 1 Honorary / 83 Paid Members
2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 5 Paid Members
2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 1 Paid Members

ARES

Ed, KF6FIR
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report

Hello All,



Our ARES members met on Saturday, October 12. The meeting was ran by Lucian, KF6NPG and covered The Great Shake Out of 2024. This annual event will occur this Thursday 10/17 at 10:17. Stanislaus County ARES members will participate by filling out the "Did you Feel it" WinLink form. Please see the "Featured Article" for more information. Our next ARES meeting will be Saturday, November 9th.

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 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 items for this month.

Featured Article: The Great California ShakeOut: Thursday, October 17th at 10:17



Join millions of people worldwide each year in practicing a “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill and other earthquake safety actions. Most people participate on International ShakeOut Day (**the third Thursday of October**), but you can hold your drill on any day of the year!

Everyone, everywhere can participate: individuals, families, schools, community groups, and other organizations can practice separately or together, even in multiple locations through videoconferencing. Learn more at [ShakeOut.org/howtoparticipate](https://www.shakeout.org/howtoparticipate).

How to Participate

Plan Your Drill:

- Register at [ShakeOut.org](https://www.shakeout.org) to be counted and get updates.
- Learn earthquake safety at [ShakeOut.org/dropcoverholdon](https://www.shakeout.org/dropcoverholdon).
- Get a drill narration from [ShakeOut.org/broadcast](https://www.shakeout.org/broadcast).
- Hold your earthquake drill and discuss what you learned.

Get Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Secure items that might fall or be thrown during earthquakes.
- Create or update personal or family disaster plans.
- Organize or restock emergency supply kits.
- West Coast: learn about earthquake alerts from [ShakeAlert.org](https://www.shakealert.org).
- Visit [EarthquakeCountry.org](https://www.earthquakecountry.org) to learn more about preparedness.

Share the ShakeOut:

- Talk to neighbors about preparedness and safety.
- Promotional materials are at [ShakeOut.org/resources](https://www.shakeout.org/resources).
- Encourage friends, family, co-workers, and others to participate.
- Share photos and videos of your drill using #ShakeOut.

Community Events

Community Events:

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 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

Officers and Board Member

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 .

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.tcares.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

