

The READOUT

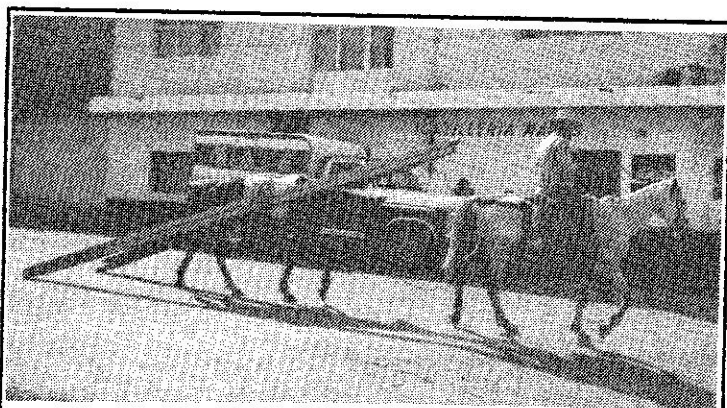
Year 13

Number 2

February 1991

Mañana Is Good Enough For Me

A trip to Mexico with Ernie, K6UVI and his wife Rita



Local Jacona citizen uses economical means to transport lumber to construction site nearby.

SARA Satellite DX Record

Tim, WB6UJD and Victor, KC6NSH have claimed the club communications distance record. At 0545 Hours GMT, 4 January 1991, KC6NSH and WB6UJD established a two way SSB contact via OSCAR 13.

The satellite was at that time above Ireland. At the time of the contact OSCAR

13 was at an elevation of about 35000 kilometers and at a distance of 40,527 kilometers from Modesto for a total signal path distance of 81,054 kilometers. Ground station distance was less than 14 kilometers between Tim's home in Modesto and Victor's in Salida.

**Next SARA Meeting is
February 19, 1991
730 pm. You're Invited!**

My wife Rita and I recently flew down to Mexico to visit some of her relatives. It was a VERY interesting and wonderful trip. We didn't spend our vacation seeing Mexico from an air conditioned room on the 41st floor of the Hilton in Guadalajara, nor did we see the sights from the comfort of a tour bus. Instead we lived in a dusty little town called Jacona with Rita's grandmother.

Jacona is in the Mexican State of Michoacan and is a three hour taxi ride from Guadalajara toward Mexico City. You can't believe how bad the roads are, or how the people drive down there.

Our taxi driver, Rita's uncle, went weaving in and out of traffic like a mad man and thought nothing of it since everyone else was doing the same thing. I leaned over to Rita, after a particularly dangerous pass on the right, and asked if people in Mexico had to get a driver's license in order to operate an automobile. She asked her uncle who busted out laughing.

We have gotten so used to pressurized water here in The United States, that we think nothing of it. There isn't any pressurized water down there. It's all fed by gravity from a big tank located on the top of each house. The water for those living in town is fed from an underground spring but is so heavily polluted that it can't be drunk. All drinking water has to be boiled before consumption or the parasites in it will make you sick. Even Rita's relatives boil their water before drinking it. We also drank lots of soda and mineral water as well. The house reminded me of a flat in San Francisco. It was multileveled with a courtyard in the middle with many tropical plants. The house is made of adobe and

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1991 SARA Officers

President

Oliver Borns KJ6YZ 551-5855

Vice President

David Grout, N6YHZ 576-8730

Secretary

Linda Franklin N6REB

Treasurer

AL Dionizio N6SAE 523-4485

SARA VHF Net

Thursdays @ 8 p.m. (Except
Holidays)

2 meters 145.39 MHz WD6EJF

220 Band 223.68 MHz WD6EJF

10 Meter 28,440 kHz USB

Tuesdays at 730 pm.

Contributions to *The READOUT* are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor by mail or via packet at N6REB-BBS on 145.79 MHz. The deadline for articles is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles regarding religion or politics are not accepted.

Editor

Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

1221 Mist Flower Ct.

Modesto, CA. 95355

209-523-5880

An ARRL affiliated club !

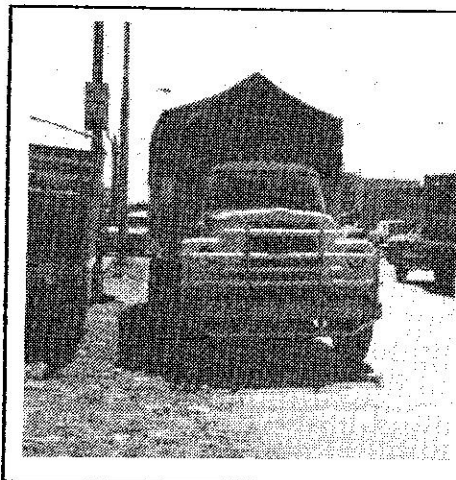
ARRL membership may be paid through SARA with the club retaining a \$2.00 commission. Please send your ARRL membership form along with your check made payable to "SARA". We will deduct the \$2.00 and send a check to the ARRL.

Mañana From page 1

covered with plaster so it really looked nice. All the wiring for the electricity was tacked to the outside of the walls and the light in our bedroom was a single bulb hanging from the wires.

The kitchen was modern with a gas stove, but the gas was brought in in big metal containers like my Dad's

after, we went to the market place (mercado) to purchase the food for the day. Since very few people in Mexico have refrigerators, they buy their food from open vendors daily. We went to our equivalent of a meat market (carneseria) to purchase beef for carne asada and saw the pieces of meat hanging from hooks from which



Farm animals are allow to roam freely and graze. They are most dangerous when they wander onto to roads at night. Buses, trucks and pickups protect themselves with large heavy pipe bumpers to minimize damage. Should a collision occur, the bumper also affords the driver a chance to drive away before the owner of the animal shows up and more likely than not, starts shooting.

welder. Because there isn't pressurized water, all the laundry is done by hand, and in cold water! Can you imagine washing a white shirt in cold water? The only washing machines that we saw were the old round style manual ones with the wringer on top. They were brand new and for sale in the appliance stores. Nothing modern like up here.

While we were down there, I think I ate every variety of food that the Mexicans could cook—including menudo soup. The first morning we were there, and every morning there-

the customer picks his cut. The one thing that I was struck with was how friendly the people in Jacona were. They were always saying "Buenos Dias" and really meant it-- even to strangers. Rita and I walked down several of the streets after dark and we weren't worried about being attacked at all. Even single attractive women did the same thing without fear at all.

We had a wonderful time and now I know why the mexican people say that mañana is good enough for them. 73, Ernie.

Canadian Antenna Restrictions

Amateurs in Canada are very concerned about a recent Dept. of Communications position on antennas and towers. The Municipal Consultation on Non-Broadcasting Antennas and Antenna Supporting Structures policy requires radio

amateurs to consult with their city or other land-use authority before erecting an antenna or tower. If they object, and the DOC agrees, its public impact is "significant", the antenna may not be installed.

December Minutes

By Linda Franklin, N6REB

Club Secretary

The December 18, 1990 SARA meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Phil, WD0FFX. There were introductions of 29 members and guests. Vice President Oliver, KJ6YZ introduced the evenings speaker Byron Smith, WA6YLB the ARRL San Joaquin Valley Sectional Manager. He spoke on the role of the ARRL Field Organization and field opportunities for amateur radio operators and the required qualifications. He explained page 8 of QST has the name and address of your ARRL Section Manager, and you may write or call him to express an interest in a field position. He will help you with your application.

A break was taken at 8:30 pm with the meeting resuming at 8:45 and the drawing for the evenings door prize, a stir-fry wok won by Bill, WB9CYB. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in *The READOUT*.

The Treasurer's report was then given by Treasurer Al, N6SAE. The General Fund Account: Beginning balance \$631.08. Six debits for \$443.59 and three deposits totaling \$718.00. Ending balance \$905.49. The Fund Raiser Account: Beginning balance \$2,371.00. One debit of \$1,605.00 and one deposit for \$24.00. Ending balance: \$790.18. N6SAE also reported the total of prepaid 1991 SARA club dues was 45 prior to the meeting, and that he has ordered the new 2 meter repeater which will be delivered to Chief Engineer, NV6S in four to six weeks. The Treasurer's report was approved.

WD0FFX reported the Education Fund beginning and ending balance for December was \$622.65. WD0FFX also gave the report on the repeater system. The new 2 meter repeater has been ordered, and we also have some new equipment that's being worked on by LeRoy, NV6S to afford the club good access to 2 meters and our existing 220, with future access to 440 mhz as well. Phil reported the upcoming band plan for 220 will place us out of repeater band segment. That means we will have to change our 220 repeater frequency. Where we would be moving to would be at NARRC discretion. But, he added, we will have priority because we have been an existing machine, and over any new systems going up. So we will have priority on any spaces available. Possibly within a year we may know.

Phil extended an invitation from the Turlock Amateur Radio Club to SARA to attend their January 8, 1991 general meeting at the War Memorial Center in Turlock.

The guest speaker will be Tom Christian, VR6TC and his wife Betty, VR6BC from Pitcairn Island. Tom is the great-great grandson of Fletcher Christian of Mutiny on the Bounty fame.

Membership dues for 1991 will be increased from \$21.00 to \$22.00 after January 1, 1991. Members prepaying their dues before that date will pay the \$21.00.

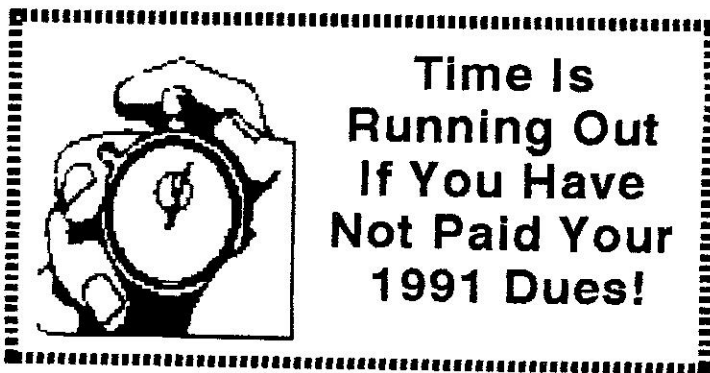
Phil also announced new classes for Novice, Technician and General class license will begin January 17, 1991 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Downey High School in room 51.

Jim, N6KMR sought approval of the club membership for the placement of a 10 meter HF digipeater on Mt Oso. It would not be accessible through 2 meters, strictly through HF to 10 meters and a digipeater on one frequency only, 28.103 in and out. The purpose is to give novices access to HF packet. Concern was expressed by WA6ZLO as to the upkeep and access up and down the hill. Jim said if it were necessary, he would only go when LeRoy made a trip up the hill.

A question was also raised about insurance coverage on the digipeater and Jim said he had coverage on the equipment. It was suggested by WA6ZLO that the club have Hart, N6TIV look into a "hold blameless" letter of non responsibility between N6KMR and SARA from a legal standpoint. All present agreed. A motion to allow N6KMR to go ahead and place the 10 meter digipeater on Mt Oso at the 2 meter site was seconded and approved.

The annual SARA club elections for the 1991 club officers was held and the results were: President, Oliver Borns Jr. KJ6YZ, Vice President, Dave Grout N6YHZ, Treasurer, Al Dionizio N6SAE, Secretary, Linda Franklin N6REB.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Secretary N6REB.



Freebanders Cited

For what seems to be the first time ever, the FCC made an organized mass "bust" of so-called "freeband" operators in the 25 and 28 MHz bands. The crackdown netted 144 violators on December 13 & 14, 1990. Personnel from all 35 FCC field offices were involved in the effort. The average fine imposed was \$1,000. Several were fined \$2,000 for repeat offenses.

Some operators refused to allow the FCC agents to inspect their stations which drew an additional \$600 in fine. The total amount of fines levied amounted to a whopping \$147,000. Unlike other FCC actions against illegal stations, no U.S. Marshals were involved in the effort and equipment was examined but not seized.

In most cases operators were identified by long-range direction finding, followed by close-in mobile DF by Field Operation Bureau vehicles. Operators included members of organized groups such as World Wide Sideband, Satellite, Alfa, Tango, Whiskey Jack, Unidad, Truckers, Eagles International and Old Timers.

The unlicensed transmissions came from all 50 states, including D.C. and Puerto Rico. The most active states were Florida, California, Michigan, Texas and Arizona. The equipment was typically modified CB or ham gear, often used with homebrew or illegally manufactured linear amplifiers. The most popular piece of equipment was the Uniden 2510 10-meter transceiver running 20-25 watts.

The FCC action targeted the leadership of heretofore mentioned groups. One prominent leader was heard to announce, "on the air", that his organization was closing down. He then asked for donations to help pay for the hefty fine levied by the friendly candy company (FCC).



NO, THAT'S NOT MY CURRENT ADDRESS, BUT I'M GOOD IN THE CALL BOOK!

Callbook Server

Northern California now has a Callbook Packet Server available from NØARY in Sunnyvale. If you are in the Sunnyvale area, you can connect directly to NØARY-1 on 144.93 and then type 'Q' for callsigns.

Outside the Sunnyvale area, send your request via your local BBS by following this format. After connecting to your local BBS type:

SP CALLBK @ NØARY.CA.USA.NA
(SUBJECT)- (The call sign(s) you wish information on)
(MESSAGE)- Leave this blank
Ctrl Z

You may asked for the name and address of more than one call at a time by using this format:

SP CALLBK @ NØARY.CA.USA.NA
(SUBJECT) WA6ABC
W6ABC
W7ABC
(MESSAGE) Leave this blank
Ctrl Z

The server can also search it's data base by name. For example let's say you are trying to locate an old friend that you use to work on 160 years ago. You remember his name, but have forgotten his call. Use the following format:

SP CALLBK @ NØARY.CA.USA.NA
(TITLE) SEARCH
BOB
SMITH
SAN FRANCISCO
(MESSAGE) Leave this blank
Ctrl Z

Should you have any trouble with your requests, drop a packet to the SYSOP Bob Arasmith, NØARY at NØARY. -Thanks NØARY

Please examine the mailing label on the back page of this newsletter. . If it says 1991 it means you have paid your dues. If it says 1990, you haven't, and this will be the last newsletter we can send you. Use the handy renewal form that appears on page 7 and mail your check or money order today.

Editor's Notes

By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

The club bylaws require removal from the membership roster those members who have not paid their yearly dues by March 1st of each year. If you fall into this category, this will be the last newsletter you will get and your name will be dropped from the roster. Please don't let that happen. Your support is vital. Please fill out the renewal for on page 7 and mail in your check or money order before March 1, 1991. Check the upper left corner of the mailing label on the back page. If it says "1990", then you need to send in your dues.

• Welcome to several new members of SARA. Christopher Santos, KC6PDD, is a student from Turlock. Darren J. Nunes, KC6PDJ, Turlock, is also a student who also has a disc jockey service. Nick A. Woten, KC6QMU, is another Turlock resident and is self employed. Konrad W. Hack, KC6PNM, Turlock, is a Technician first licensed in 1990 and also a student. Barbara A. Koch, WB0ZZR, Manteca. Barbara is a Technician first licensed in 1977. Tesibel Frey, KC6LVT, Manteca, is a Novice first licensed in 1990. Tim Vaughan, WA6KJL, Modesto is an Advanced Class operator first licensed in 1975. He is a teacher. Don Fullington, KK6SF, Salida. Don is an Advanced and a telephone power systems technician. Jim Shea, KB5FB, Modesto who is an Advanced first licensed in 1976. Also, welcome to Jim's wife Vickie as an associate member. And welcome back Lee Mackenzie, WS6Q, of Modesto. Lee is a Extra and is an announcer-engineer at KOOK/KBEE radio stations. Welcome back Rodney McDonald, WD6ACW, of Modesto. Rod is an electrician with Caltrans and has been licensed since 1977.

• The new code-free license Technician license will be available beginning February 14, 1991. The test will consist of 55 questions only which will come from the

current Novice and Technician pools. The Novice license will continue to be available to new applicants if they desire to take the 5 wpm code test. The code-free license privileges do not include the low bands.

• The SARA digipeater, WD6EJF-1, has been moved to 145.79 primarily to afford those members on packet outside the immediate Modesto area a way to reach the N6REB-1 BBS in Modesto.

• Tuolumne County has a new ham club. Tuolumne County Amateur Radio & Electronics Society, TuCARES, was formed last month with headquarters in Sonora. The club repeaters include W6FEJ, 147.945 and N6EUO 440.975. Their packet station is N6KFR-1 on 144.990 MHz. All operate from Mt. Elizabeth above Twain Harte. Congratulation to TuCARES and continued success.

• The Nippon Telegraph and Telephone company in Japan has announced a cellular phone that is believed to be the smallest in the world. It's a palm size unit that weighs only 8.1 ounces and has a 45 minute talk time on it's tiny batteries. Speaking of cellular phones, a group in California is lobbying for a ban on cellular phones by drivers in cars. They are worried about the driver's attention being diverted while driving possibly leading to accidents. If this goes through, can ham radios be next?

• Effective February 1, 1991, all phone companies in the state will drop installation and monthly charges for touch tone service. This is designed to open up services such as voice mail and other type services offered to the general public which require a touch tone phone to access. In addition, the Public Utilities Commission ordered phone companies to expand local calling areas from eight to twelve miles effective June 1, 1991. That's it for this month. 73, Bob.

On The Air Swap Meets

If you have something to sell or swap, there are several area nets that can help. You can also list items that you are looking for. While it's acceptable to list an asking price, actual negotiations should take place on the phone.

Monday 2015 Hrs 146.88 Stockton
Tuesday 2000 Hrs 147.195 Sacramento
Wednesday 1930 Hrs 146.73 Sonoma
Thursday 1930 Hrs 145.21 Stockton

Friday 1330 Hrs 7255 kHz WestCars
Saturday *0900 Hrs 149.49 Mt. Diablo
Saturday 0900 Hrs 145.21 Stockton
Saturday 1230 Hrs 7240 West Coast
Sunday 1230 Hrs 7240 West Coast

* Conducted only if there is a net control available.

-Thanks Sierra Foothills ARC

January 1991 Minutes

By Linda Franklin, N6REB, Club Secretary

The January 15, 1991 SARA meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by President, Oliver, KJ6YZ. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

President, KJ6YZ, presented the new officers and assured the assembly the officers would do their best to represent the club and accomplish any endeavors for the good of SARA and it's membership. He mentioned that the membership dues and renewals were due for 1991 and encouraged those who had not yet sent their dues in to do so and also recruit new members. He invited all to check into the 28.440 HF gathering at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays. Several SARA members and local hams meet there for a weekly get together.

Oliver also introduced Phil, WD0FFX, the Education Supervisor, Bob, WA6ZLO the Editor of the club newsletter The READOUT and LeRoy, NV6S the Chief Technical Engineer for SARA. Treasurer Al, N6SAE, gave the following report. The General Fund Account beginning balance was \$905.49 with four credits totaling \$1,033.00 and ten debits totaling \$290.97 and one debit for new checks totaling \$10.39. The January 15, 1991 General Fund Account balance is \$1,637.13. The Fund Raiser Account beginning balance was \$790.18 with one credit from the December 18, 1990 meeting raffle which totaled \$71.00 and one debit for \$441.63. The January 15, 1991 balance for the Fund Raiser Account is \$419.55. It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report and the motion carried. To date there have been 96 paid renewal and new memberships for 1991.

Vice President, Dave, N6YHZ, reported briefly on the meeting of the Turlock club presentation of Tom Christian, VR6TC, from Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific.

The minutes of the December meeting were read by Secretary, N6REB. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as read and the motion carried. LeRoy, NV6S reported things were progressing nicely and the crystals that had been on order since before Christmas had arrived and he's now starting to get things in shape. The new repeater hasn't arrived yet, but should be here shortly. The 10 meter digi is up and operating on Oso and the 2

meter digi has been moved to 145.79 MHz to support the REB BBS. The rest of the work is still in progress, but most of it is done other than getting the transmitter up and operating and getting the cavities and duplexers up and going for the 440 machine.

FFX announced the new classes for Novice, Tech, and General would begin Thursday January 17 at 6:30 pm at the Thomas Downey High School in room 51. The new codeless Technician instructions would also be included. Purchased were text books for Novice, Tech and General. The Novice and Tech questions and answer booklets for the new codeless Technician class were also purchased. \$210.00 has been spent for text books and materials for the classes.

A break was taken at 8:05 pm with the meeting resuming at 8:20 pm and the evenings raffle was held with N6KMR receiving a new 1991 repeater directory.

NV6S proposed the club begin thinking of fund raisers to replenish old repeater equipment, specifically, a new 50 amp power supply as presently we are using four different power supplies linked to the equipment and this causes problems with the voltages not being right going into the interface. The batteries also need to be replaced. Presently we have borrowed duplexers for the 440 repeater, but it would be advantageous for the club to have their own.

WA6ZLO suggested as a fund raiser we continue with the fireworks booths this year as it was very profitable last year. The suggestion of a fund raiser dance was brought forth by Nick, KC6QMU, who volunteered his disk jockey services. Also the prospect of another raffle was discussed and a motion to hold it before June of this year was made and seconded. Ernie, K6UVI made a motion to table the motion on the raffle and he would check into the cost of having a color tv as the raffle prize and make a report at the February meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. Respectfully submitted by Secretary N6REB.

FCC Changes 80M Novice-Technician Freqs

The FCC has amended its rules to relocate Novice and Technician Operator Class control operator frequency privileges in the 80 meter Amateur service band from 3700-3750 kHz to 3675-3725 kHz. This rule change will reduce the amount of mutual interference between U.S.

Amateur stations and Canadian Amateur stations and provide Novice and Technicians with more opportunities to improve their telegraphy skills. The January 10th announcement by the FCC did not indicate the effective date of the change.

SARA 1991 Dues

It's that time of the year. Time to keep the ship afloat by paying your 1991 dues. The financial pressure on our treasury continues to grow with many increases led by postage and printing costs and liability insurance. All of our yearly expenses are paid from the general treasury, so your support is vital. We have only had three dues increases since our club was founded nearly 15 years ago in 1976. The first rate was \$15.00 per year.

A few years back we increased it to \$20.00 and this past year to \$21.00. The aforementioned increased costs, as well as others, has forced us to increase the dues by another dollar this year for full and head of family memberships. The student and associate rates will remain the same. The new rates are as follows.

Membership Rate

Full Membership	\$22.00
Student to Sophomore in College ..	\$11.00
Associate (Unlicensed)	\$11.00
Family...(head of household)	\$22.00

For each additional member of the same household (living in the same home) \$11.00. The fourth, or more, members of the same family living in the same home are FREE!

Graduates of SARA license classes will be granted a free membership in SARA for the first year.

The dues for newly joining members will be pro-rated from the month they join.

Join In:	Pay:	Join In:	Pay:
January	\$22.00	July	\$11.00
February ..	\$20.25	Aug	\$9.25
March	\$18.35	Sept.	\$7.35
April	\$16.50	Oct	\$5.50
May	\$14.70	Nov	\$3.70
June	\$12.85	Dec	\$1.90

ARRL Memberships

SARA is an affiliated club of the ARRL. ARRL membership (new/renewals) can be made through SARA with the club earning a \$2.00 commission for handling. Make your check payable to SARA. We will deduct \$2.00 and send the ARRL a check for the difference.

Please be sure to include a membership application for new applicants. For renewals, include the mailing label from your last QST.

Rates are \$30.00 for full membership. \$24.00 for applicants 65 or older. Proof of age required. Special rates are available for Amateurs 17 or younger. Write to ARRL 225 Main St. Newington, Ct. 06111. Allow 5-6 weeks for delivery.

Membership & QST can not be separated. Fifty percent of dues is allocated to QST, the balance for membership.

1991 SARA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Date: _____

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____ Member Of ARRL? _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Business Address _____ Bus. Phone _____

Occupation _____ Date Of Birth _____

Class of License: (E) (A) (G) (T) (N) _ Year First Licensed _____

Calendar

Feb 16, 1991 .. VE Testing Merced 900 am
Feb. 19, 1991 . SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
Mar. 2, 1991 ... VE Testing Modesto 900 am
Mar. 19, 1991 . SARA Monthly Meeting 730 pm
Apr. 13, 1991 .. VE Testing Sonora 900 am
Apr. 16, 1991 .. SARA Monthly Meeting 900 am
May 18, 1991 .. VE Testing Turlock 900 am

SARA meets the thrid Tuesday of each month (except holidays) at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-level conference room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and interested parties are most welcome. SARA is an ARRL Affiliated Club and is affiliated with Stanislaus County and City of Modesto RACES. Repeaters WD6EJF operated on 145.39 MHz and 223.68 MHz. Informational nets are held each Thursday evening at 800 pm.

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This is it! Your last newsletter if you have not paid your 1991 dues. Mail your check today!