



THE Readout

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

March 2025

Volume 46, Number 3

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Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Tuesday, March 18th 7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*.

As we transition into March, I want to take a moment to reflect on our recent activities and prepare for the month ahead. March is a pivotal month for us in Modesto, as we often experience variable weather, including the potential for significant rain. Historically, March can bring average rainfall of about 2 to 3 inches, with occasional storms that can affect our operations. This year, the National Weather Service has indicated a higher likelihood of rain events, which may lead to flooding in some areas. As amateur radio operators, it's essential that we remain vigilant and ready to support our community during these weather challenges.

In light of the expected rain, I encourage all members to ensure their equipment is in top condition. It's crucial to check that our antennas are securely mounted and capable of withstanding high winds and heavy rain and make sure that your batteries are topped off. In the event of power outages, our readiness to communicate can make a significant difference in coordinating emergency responses and providing critical information to the community.

Also, as we look ahead to Field Day, scheduled for the last weekend of June, I urge everyone to start preparing. March is the perfect time to start! Field Day is not just an opportunity for us to showcase our skills but also a critical exercise in emergency preparedness. The featured article this month by Jason, KA6TIO and Vicki, KJ6RCV will help you start the planning process. Field Day is a big event, and I encourage members to help where they can.

Finally, there is always time to join the club! If you are a new or old ham, you are always welcome to join us!

73 de K6JRO
John Otte
SARA Club President
Readout Editor

Minutes:

FEB 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.

Minutes from the February face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

February 18, 2025

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ	Scott, KN6OOV	Vicki, KJ6RCV
Richard, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Gene, W6QFU
Richard, W6DU	Robbie, KN6VOG	Ed, KF6FIR
Art, KN6SSP	Randy, KF6RJS	Paul, W6UHF
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Scott, WB3KIX
Robert, KD6BMY	John, W6PY	Wally, KK6CPN
Scott, N6CIC	Brian, KN6QFF	Lucian, KF6NPG
Doug, KG4MBU guest	Eva, KM6BIP	Eli (no call) guest
James, KK6ILV	Roy, KK6OQP	Manuel, N6MTM
Jason, KA6TIO	Mark, N6ARP	
Barbara (no call) guest		

President John, K6JRO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and asked Robin, KG6ZYQ, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were twenty-seven members, and three guests were present according to the sign-in sheet. John 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. Eva, KM6BIP made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Dick, W8AAL. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President, John, K6JRO, reported on the SARA Club Board meeting held earlier. The Solar Panel Committee is trying for an OES grant to finance the project. Dick, W8AAL, is our contact with the Stockton Club for the Stan-Joaquin annual picnic. John will ask him to contact the Stockton Club and to give us an update. The Board discussed Field Day funding, and John will brief Jason and Vicky.

Vice-President Brian, KN6QFF, announced that Lucian, KF6NPG, will give today's presentation on resources for the amateur radio operator. Paul, W6UHF, will give a report on his trip to Quartzite in March. We still need presenters for April and May. Topics of interest to club members are FT8, how to be a net control, and solar power. Other ideas are welcome.

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. Ed, KF6FIR, made a motion to accept the report, with a second by Vicki, KJ6RCV. The club approved the treasurer's report. He is accepting dues payments for 2025.

Joining SARA:

We are taking membership applications for 2025

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.

Sergeant at Arms Robin, KG6ZYQ, stated there will be a split-the-pot raffle at the break. Also, we will raffle a donated 2-meter/70-cm hand-held transceiver and mag-mount antenna.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, reported he has received no equipment complaints, and the repeater system is working as it should, apart from the 6-meter repeater and the 440 when in digital fusion mode. Lucian, Mark, N6ARP, and Patrick, KG6AZZ, went to Mt. Oso on February 2nd to check the equipment. Metal siding on the building had come loose and we repaired it. It was quite windy, and the tower equipment looked good.

We reset the 440-repeater and the digital fusion is now working. Power to the 6-meter repeater was on and the antenna looked good, but it was unknown why it was not working. It is 35-40 years old and has reached the end of its useful life and should be replaced. We checked the mesh and updated it. It was receiving signals and had a connection to TARC. We hope to have the mesh up and running at 3705 Oakdale Road soon. We have submitted the tower quote to OES. On February 12, Mark, N6ARP, and I did a quick check of the mesh equipment downtown. Visually the equipment and antenna looked good, but we will have to schedule a repeat visit with the SR 911 technicians.

We have an ARES grant opportunity through OES to purchase our complete solar system plus the 6-meter repeater. The total cost would be around \$8,000. We hope to have the grant application submitted to OES by the first part of March.

The electricity bill was a little lower at \$77.79 this month compared to last month. Our power usage has stabilized in the \$70-80 range. PG&E plans a power outage on Monday, February 24, from 9 AM to 5 PM for maintenance. This should not have an adverse effect on any of our operations.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present: Mark, N6ARP, noted that the Readout and meeting minutes are present on the website if you did not get an email. Dick, W8AAL, was in contact with Joyce at the Stockton club and she reported that the Stan-Joaquin picnic will be held in September, and they are looking at an alternative venue besides Northgate Park in Manteca. Scott, KN6OOV, brought several old power supplies for people to look at.

ARES: Wally, KK6CPN, reported on the SJV Perfect Storm Exercise to be held on March 5-7, 2025. All SARA Club members are encouraged to participate. Wally passed out an outline of the drill with instructions for participants who can respond either over a voice net or by Winlink. All the reporting data from SARA members will be collected and reported by Ed, KF6FIR.

Community Events: Wally, KK6CPN, reported the first two scheduled events are:

- Saturday, March 1, Snelling Road Race
- Saturday, March 29, Copperopolis Road Race

He has a full set of operators for both events.

Weather Officer Randy, KF6RJS, reported on the weather forecast.

Weather Report, Randy, KF6RJS

Old Business: John, K6JRO, noted the "All-Modes Net" needs a coordinator as Zack, cannot be net control after moving to Florida. John queried the club to see if there was a volunteer, and no one responded, so he discontinued the All-Modes Net.

New Business: None.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$115. John, W6PY, was the lucky winner, and he returned his half to the club. Thank you, John! John, W6PY, also won the raffle for the 2-meter/70-cm transceiver with mag-mount antenna, and he also donated it back to the club. A double thank you to John! After a follow-up drawing, Robert, KD6BMY, won the radio and mag-mount antenna. That raffle raised \$90 for the club.

Presentation: Lucian, KF6NPG, presented a valuable list of on-line resources available to amateur radio operators. He also showed some of the videos that a few of the websites offer. A complete list of websites and their addresses is available in the February 2025 edition of the Readout.

Meeting Adjourned: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM after a motion by Scott, KN6OOV, and a second by Wally, KK6CPN. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 (7:00 pm to 8:00 pm) 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 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:

Hello to everyone!

The weather for this coming week of the 17th thru 22nd: Monday thru Saturday we will see highs in the 61 to 65, and lows in the 40 to 41. Also expect some rain. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday rain likely possible 20%-50%. Wednesday and Thursday partly cloudy. Monday Thunderstorms likely 70%.

For the month of March we are at 0.84 inches of rain and year is at 7.35 inches. We still have time for more rain with the rainy season ending June 30th. Season total is 12.17". I hope that we can make it. I had 15.52" last year. Let's see where we end up this year.

73

Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the February meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report February 18, 2025

January 22, 2025

to

February 18, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$9,156.97

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$270.00
Split-The-Pot	\$65.00 Vicki (KJ6RCV) donated her half back to club
Radio/Equipment Raffle	\$105.00 Mel (W7EOV)
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$70.00
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$187.54 (net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00 (net of Square fees)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$697.54	Square - Auto Deposit	\$187.54
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$510.00

EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1174) - February Site Rent (1-30-2025)
PG&E	\$77.79 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (2-6-2025)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$157.79

**** Tri-Counties Bank**

Ending Bank Balance: \$9,696.72 as of February 18, 2025

Field Day Fund:	\$1,890.71 (included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$2,797.96 (included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$5,008.05 (included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer:

February 18, 2025

2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 65 Paid Members

2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 3 Paid Members

Member Paid Donations (for goods /services)

Lucian (KF6NPG), Mark (N6ARP)	\$86.00	Battery Backup/Power Supply - Gateway
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ARES

Wally, KK6CPN
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report



Hello everyone

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the ARES SJV Section Perfect Storm Exercise on March 5-8. The Snelling Road Race March 1, was a big success for Velo Promo and we did have some hic-cups with our frequencies we had for the Velo Promo radios and have since fixed the problems. At the end of March, we have the Copperopolis Road Race which we have filled all positions and would like to remind everyone you are more the welcome to come up and partner up with someone to learn how we do events.

For now, that all,

73 Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN, 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

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

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

No items for this month.

Featured Article

Featured Article: Getting Ready for Field Day!

By Jason, KA6TIO and Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV

2025 FIELD DAY

March 18, 2025 Update



ATTENTION SARA CLUB

With Field Day 2025 just a little over three months away, it's not too late to make your plans to attend. Below is an itinerary of the Field Day activities and information about the Lake McClure Point Campground site. We hope to see you there!

Planned Activities:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Saturday, June 28 Meeting	10:00 am	Orientation & Safety
	11:00 am	Radio Operations Begin
	5:30 pm	Potluck Dinner & Raffle
Sunday, June 29	11:00 am	Radio Operations End
	11:15 am	Debrief
	11:30 am	Tear Down
	2:00 pm	Vacate campsite unless other arrangements have been made

Lake McClure Point Campground Information:

- Address is 9090 Lake McClure Rd. Snelling, CA 95369
- Day use entrance fee: \$10 per vehicle, \$9 if military, disabled or senior. \$3 per motorcycle. Parking passes can be purchased at the gate or on-line at lakemcclure.com website the day of your visit by choosing **Park Passes** from the top menu.
- Camping fees (30-amp hookup & water), \$48 per night, \$45 if military, disabled or senior. Includes 1 RV & 1 vehicle. \$12 for max. second vehicle. Also allows up to 2 tents. Max. 8 persons per site.

Community Events

- All camp sites located in Loop C and Loop F are within the SARA Club Field Day perimeter
- Check in is after 4 pm but may check in earlier if site is ready (not guaranteed)
- Check out is before 2 pm
- Woodburning campfires are not permitted

Links to McClure Point Recreation Area are included below.

General Map and info: <https://www.lakemcclure.com/mcclure-point-camping-recreation/>

Virtual Tour (about 4 minutes in is where C loop begins and turns through F loop): <https://360.campgroundviews.com/h/mcclure>

Rates: <https://www.lakemcclure.com/park-camping-rates-at-lake-mcclure-lake-mcswain/>

Rules: <https://www.lakemcclure.com/annual-pass-and-camping-policy/>

Reservations are on a first come-first serve basis. Last we checked the F loop is full but there were spots still available in the C loop. We recommend you book your camp site as soon as possible. 😞

More to come as we plan. If there are any questions, you can email Jason and Vicki at: sarafdcoordinator@gmail.com

Thanks,
Jason KA6TIO and Vicki KJ6RCV

Community Events:

March

Saturday, 1st Snelling Road Race 7a-3p
(depending on assignment)
Saturday 8th ARES Meeting 10a-12p.
Tuesday 18th SARA Meeting 7p-8p
Saturday 29th Copperopolis Road Race 7a-3p
(depending on assignment)

April

Saturday 12th ARES Meeting 10a-12pm.
Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

May

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

June

Saturday 14th ARES Meeting 10a-12p
Tuesday 17th SARA Meeting 7p-8p
Friday through Sunday (28th - 29th) Field Day
www.arrl.org/field-day

July

Saturday 12th ARES Meeting 10a-12p
Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

August

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

September

Saturday 6th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 16th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

October

Saturday 18th ARES Meeting 10-12p

Friday-Sunday (17-19) Pacificon San Ramon
Marriot

Tuesday 21st SARA Meeting 7p-8p

November

Saturday 8th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 18th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

December

Saturday 13th ARES meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 16th SARA meeting 7p-8p



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.

Officers and Board Member

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

2025 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President John Otte, K6JRO

Vice President: Brian Esser, KN6QFF

Secretary Scott Griffin, N6CIC

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY

Sergeant at Arms Robin Axton, KG6ZYQ

jrottejr@yahoo.com

sixtyeight426@gmail.com

scottandalene@msn.com

sliefjohnson@gmail.com

axtonr@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Richard Aal, W8AAL

Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM

Scott Daniels, KN6OOV

Mark Price, N6ARP (past-president)

dick_aal@comcast.net

kk6gjm@samobil.net

kn6oov@arrrl.net

n6arp@arrrl.net

Club Trustee: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

kf6npg@aol.com



Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ

Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO

Community Events: Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN

Stanislaus County ARES:

Emergency Coordinator: Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN

patd@kg6azz.net

k6jro@arrrl.net

kk6cpn@yahoo.com

kk6cpn@yahoo.com



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

