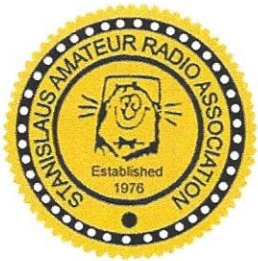


THE Readout

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

S.A.R.A.



WD6EJF

WWW.SARACLUB.NET

145.390 – PL 136.5



February 2020 Newsletter

Next general meeting is:

Tuesday February 18, 2020 at 3705 Oakdale Road
Modesto, CA 95357. Meeting begins at 7:00PM.

There is an informal meet and greet at Perko's
3500 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA 95357

Club members begin to arrive between 5:30pm and
6:00pm and usually sit in the back-dining room. All are
welcome to attend.



From the desk of the Readout editor:

Welcome to another edition of the SARA club READOUT.

It is hard to believe another month has gone by and it is time for another edition of the READOUT. I am sorry that this month's edition is coming out so late but I had some things going on that kept interrupting my plans. Look for a new and improved version of the newsletter next month. John K6JRO has volunteered to become a coeditor. He has some great ideas and a new format that will make our newsletter even better. A big thank you to John for stepping up to help out.

It is that time of year again and we are onto the Community Event season. Our first event is the Snelling Road Race on Saturday February 22, 2020. They will be on the main repeater from about 7am to 3pm. If you have the time listen in on the activity. Hopefully, those who are working this event will send me some photos for the newsletter. I have included an article about working community events. All it takes to work an event is a willingness to serve, an HT with extra battery, and a mag mount antenna (for some events).

If you have any ideas for presentations or other club activities please contact any club officer or board member and let them know. YOUR club is only as good as ALL the **members** make it. The results of the presentation topic interest list have been included in this edition.

If anyone has information that they want included in the Readout please submit to the editor at kf6npg@aol.com. Please try and have the information or articles to the editor by the 5th of each month.



Message from the Club President Wally KK6CPN

I hope everyone had a happy beginning to the new year. Our club meeting is tomorrow evening and I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. We are beginning to work our Community Events with the Snelling Road Race this weekend. I encourage everyone to get involved and work one of the events. If you are new, we can put you with an experienced ham who will guide you through. The events are fun and are a great way to showcase amateur radio to the general public. We are working on presentations for the club meetings and I hope to give you an update at this month's meeting.

We are taking membership dues for the 2020 year. I encourage everyone to renew their membership as this helps to support club activities and the club repeaters. If you know someone who is a regular user of the club repeaters ask them to join the club.

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

January 21, 2020

(conducted at OES 3705 Oakdale Rd)

MINUTES

1/21/2020 Meeting notes

Meeting called to order at 19:00 by President Wally.

Sergeant at Arms Danny W6DMC led the pledge of allegiance.

Introductions were made.

The minutes from December 17, 2019 were accepted as published in the January READOUT. Moved by Bill AEJ and John K6JRO seconded.

President Wally KK6CPN said that the club would be raffling off a Wouxon KGUVD1 ht. This included antenna, charger, and roll up J pole antenna. \$5.00 per ticket. The proceeds will help with rent and equipment maintenance. He is also working on a location for a club swap meet.

Vice President Mark WB6BJN had no report.

Treasurer Vicki KJRCV gave the Treasurer's report and it is attached to the minutes. John K6JRO made a motion to approve and Bill AE6J 2nd it.

Sergeant at Arms Danny W6DMC reported treats are in back and raffle tickets are available at break. \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Board report – No report from the board members.

Equipment/Mt. Oso: Paul W6UHF reported that 220 repeater is still under repair. Still doing some adjustments for the new 440 repeater. Also still working on coordinating with /Rays Radio to install new antenna.

ARES – Lucian KF6NPG reported the ARES Training would be on Saturday February 1, 2020. Training on ARES Connect and DMR/Dstar/mobile hotspots.

Mark WB6BJN gave a weather report. Looks like we will have below normal rain for the next 90 days. We may have more fog as well.

Lucian KF6NPG reported on Community Events:

- Events in Readout – Snelling Road Race on 2/22.

Ham Cram – John K6JRO reported there were 15 registered for the Ham Cram on February 15, 2020

Break/Raffle

Split the Pot was a total of \$72.00 collected – Jason KA6TIO won \$36 but donated back \$31.

The radio raffle collected \$100.00 and Richard W6EV won the radio.

Field Day: Bill AE6J reported 158 days until field day.

Unfinished Business; None

New Business: None

Presentation: None

Meeting adjourned: 8:04pm



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report January 21, 2020

12-18-19 to 1-20-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$7,474.22 ** (Previous Balance \$6,662.28)

Bills Paid:

John Otte	\$ 321.70 (Ck #1030 – Reimb. Ham Cram costs 12-17-19)
Sam Gardali	\$ 120.00 (Ck #1031 – DStar Mt. Bullion power 12-26-19)
Moeller Mt. Oso:	\$ 80.00 (Ck #1032 – January site rent 1-1-20)
US Postal Service	\$ 92.00 (Ck #1033 – Annual PO Box rental 1-11-20)
PG & E	\$ 55.96 (Ck #1034 – Mt. Oso utilities 1-18-20)

Total: \$ 669.66

INCOME:

Split Pot:	\$ 101.00 (John Bohling, W6PY, donated back \$50.00)
Dues	\$ 650.00
Ham Cram	\$ 730.60

Total: \$ 1,481.60

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 1,171.60 (12-27-19)
Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 310.00 (12-27-19)

BOTTOM LINE:

TOTAL Income:	\$ 1,481.60
Total Expenses:	\$ 669.66

Field Day Fund:	\$ 737.88 (included in account balance)
Equipment Fund	\$ 420.00 (included in account balance)

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$7,474.22 as of 1-20-20**

Treasurer

Vicki Perry

January 21, 2020

Joining S.A.R.A.: We are currently taking membership applications for 2020.

One-year membership dues are \$30.00 for individuals, or \$45.00 for a Family.

To join S.A.R.A., fill out this registration form and bring to any S.A.R.A. meeting or mail to: P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, Ca., 95352-4601.



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC. 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 SAMEADDRESS:

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

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

TOTAL DUES PAID: _____ Date: _____

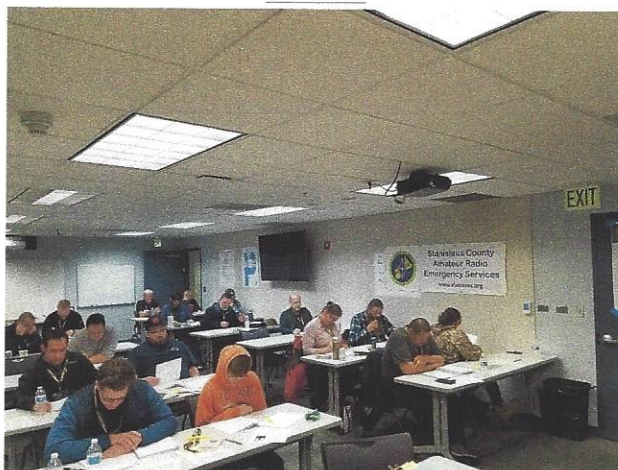
One-year membership dues are \$30.00, Family Dues are \$45

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



Ham Cram Information

Study for new amateur radio license or upgrade your current license
Sponsored by SARA and Stanislaus County ARES



When and Where?

February 15, 2020

3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA

Registration opens at 7:45AM and the study session begins promptly at 8:30AM

Test begins at 4:00 PM

Please bring the following:

- A valid identification, preferably CDL (California Driver's License)
- Cash or check for \$25 for the Ham Cram study and testing session, check preferred and payable to Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association (SARA).
 - If you are attending the test only session at 4:00pm the cost is \$15.00
- If you are upgrading your license, please bring a copy of your current license as well as the ORIGINAL.

Sign Up

Please send the following information to hamcram@stanares.org

Full name, Address, Phone, Call Sign if you have one

If you're interested in the all-day Cram (study session) or Test only? Any other comments.



The Stanislaus ARES Report

www.stanares.org

The Stanislaus County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is composed of FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty under Federal regulations, Amateur Radio public service communications are furnished without any compensation of any kind. ARES® personnel are prepared to respond during emergencies by a continual training program, and by maintaining their radio equipment and other response items in excellent condition. The team consists only of those who want to help, and who are dedicated to staying prepared to render radio-communications assistance during emergency conditions.

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 every 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.

The next Stanislaus County ARES meeting will be **March 7, 2020** at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. There will be ARES officer reports and continuing with digital radio training. Please bring your DSTAR and DMR radios and hotspots.



ARRL EC-001 Emergency Communications Course

If you need to take the ARRL Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) Stanislaus ARES can help. The EC-001 workbook is out of print, however The Indian River County ARES has all of the study information (including test and answers) posted on their web site. Recent amateurs who have taken the test have printed out the test questions and answers and have studied like they would for a ham cram. Pass rate has been about 100 percent. ***The ARRL has updated this course. There are some content differences, however members who have used this to prepare for the challenge exam have been successful.***

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

Go to www.ircares.org This is the web site for the Indian River County ARES. Once you are on the web site click on the training and reference tab. Then click on the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications (EC-001) tab. That will take you to the course information.

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 Pat KG6JXZ at kg6jxz@charter.net, or 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 on line. From what I can see there is no charge to take the course or exam. You have to take the course before you can take the exam.

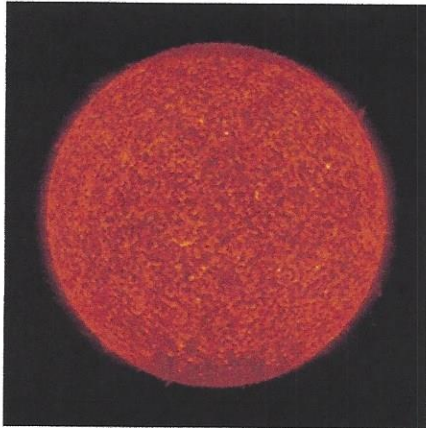
You cannot take the challenge exam on line.



The K7RA Solar Update (reprinted from ARRL Letter 2-13-2020)

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: No sunspots appeared during the reporting week, February 6 - 12. Average daily solar flux declined by more than 1 point to 71.1. Average planetary A index increased from 6.7 to 8.3.

Predicted solar flux for the next 45 days is 72 on February 13 - 20; 73 on February 21 - 22; 74 on February 23 - 29; 72 on March 1 - 3; 71 on March 4 - 11; 72 on March 12 - 18; 73 on March 19 - 20; 74 on March 21 - 27, and 72 on March 28.



Predicted planetary A index is 5 on February 13 - 16; 8 on February 17 - 20; 5 on February 21 - 24; 10 on February 25 - 26; 5 on February 27 - 29; 8 on March 1 - 3; 5 on March 4 - 22; 10 on March 23 - 24; 5 on March 25 - 27, and 8 on March 28.

Sunspot numbers for February 6 - 12 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0, with a mean of 0. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 71.3, 70.8, 72, 70.6, 70.2, 71.1, and 71.6, with a mean of 71.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 15, 15, 6, 7, 5, 6, and 4, with a mean of 8.3. Middle latitude A index was 13, 11, 4, 5, 4, 6, and 4, with a mean of 6.7.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) K9LA's Propagation Page.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. [Monthly charts](#) offer propagation projections between the US and a dozen DX locations.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

What is a SAG?

Or

SAG and the Amateur Radio Operator

By

Lucian Thomas KF6NPG

What is a SAG? The first time I heard someone ask me that I looked down at my stomach to see if my tummy was sticking out from under my shirt. I am sure some of you have a similar story about the first time you heard that term. SAG---Safety and Gear or some may refer to it as Safety and Support, but then that does not match the acronym. Whatever you call it a SAG is a vehicle (whether a car, pickup, motorcycle or bicycle) that provides support to the participants of some kind of event, usually a charity walk, run or bicycle ride or race. Often the mode of transportation is provided by one of the volunteers with the event and the amateur radio operator

rides along to provide the communication link for the organizers of the event and to assist with any emergencies that may arise.



SAG Vehicles

As you can see SAG vehicles come in all shapes and sizes and are usually equipped similarly. Often, they will have some sort of identifying signs that simply state "SAG" or in the above example there is the radio club sign and a sign indicating the vehicle has emergency communications on board. Other equipment in the SAG itself could be (depending on the event):

- First Aid Kit
- Route Maps
- Ice chest for water
- Bicycle tire pump that uses presta or schrader valves
- Bicycle tire tubes
- Patch Kit
- Cell phone (to be used in addition to the amateur radio service)
- Bike Rack
- Broom
- Magnetic Signs
- Magnetic flashing light (usually a yellow or amber color which indicates caution)
- Energy bars

One of the challenges for the SAGS is to remain spread out along the route. It is important for the event participants to see the SAGS so they feel secure if an emergency arises or if they need some sort of help. Being familiar with the event and the route will help in preparation for the SAG driver's participation in the event.

The radio operator is an essential member of the SAG team. He or she can assist with watching the participants on the route and looking at the route map for direction. Two sets of eyes are always better than one. On some of the more challenging sections of the events the driver must keep his or her attention on driving the vehicle and the radio operator can focus on the event

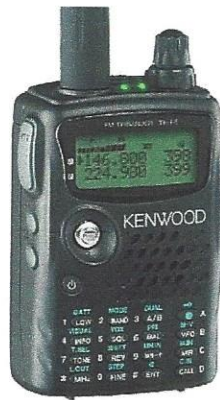
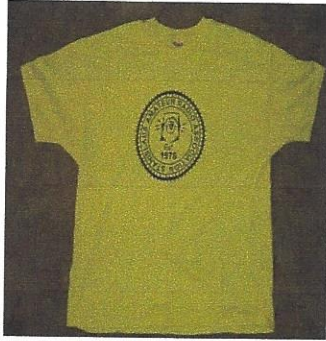
participants. The radio operator that is assigned at the rest stops also plays an important part in the success of the event. They can monitor the participants as they come into the rest areas to see if there are any signs of distress. They can relay traffic from the participants in regards to any trouble on the route so assistance can be directed to that location. The most important thing the radio operator can do is to practice proper amateur radio procedure and maintain a calm and professional demeanor as they relay information to net control.

A professional appearance is a must as the radio operator will be representing the particular radio club that he or she is a member of. Also, in many of the events there is also an ARES presence. We want to make sure that amateur radio is well represented as this reflects on our professionalism and garners respect for the amateur radio community. Equipment, depending on the particular event, can range from small single band handie-talkies to high power mobile radios with independent battery power available. The following is an example of some equipment that you may want to have with you when working an event:

- Route Map or Event information
- An IAP (Incident Action Plan) if available
- Snacks and Water
- Sunscreen and appropriate clothing for the weather conditions
- Club T-shirt
- Reflective Vest
- Ball cap
- Cell phone
- And the most important equipment of all, the proper radio equipment
- Programming information for your radio(s)
- Identification badge (club badge or ARES or CERT as circumstances dictate)

The following pictures show some of the suggested equipment to have when working an event.





Of course, as amateur radio operators, the most important equipment for us is the radio equipment. Ideally if working as a SAG you would want to have a dual band 50-watt mobile radio with a mag mount antenna and an independent external battery for power. Dual band radios are very useful especially if there is a cross band repeater in use necessitating the use of one of the bands (usually 440) to access the cross-band system. The radio's high power and a magnetic antenna give the operator the most flexibility in their communications function. Although a dual band handie-talkie with a cigarette lighter power source along with a magnetic antenna can be an effective communication tool if the operator does not have a portable mobile unit. Be prepared with extra batteries in case the vehicle cigarette lighter is not working.

Every amateur radio operator should seek out and participate in these types of events. They bring amateur radio to the attention of the public and provide support for many charitable and community events. By participating in the events, the amateur radio operator has the opportunity to sharpen their communications skills, familiarize themselves with and test their equipment. The events are controlled nets. We have the opportunity to discipline ourselves to work in this environment so that we can be effective when we are needed most---in the time of emergencies such as an earthquake, flood, fire, or anything else that comes to mind.

Thanks for taking the time to read this article and I hope that you have found the information within useful. I did not address net control duties in this article and plan to write a follow up article soon and address the function of this important position.

73's
Lucian KF6NPG

Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club's - W6EK.ORG

Loomis Hamfest 2020

Saturday, March 21st

First Swap of the Year - Rain or Shine

Historic Loomis Train Depot 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road, Downtown Loomis

6th Annual Loomis Hamfest
Meet & Greet Everyone - Visit
the ARRL Booth - Door Prizes
Hourly - Fusion, DStar, DMR
Workshop - Free Parking

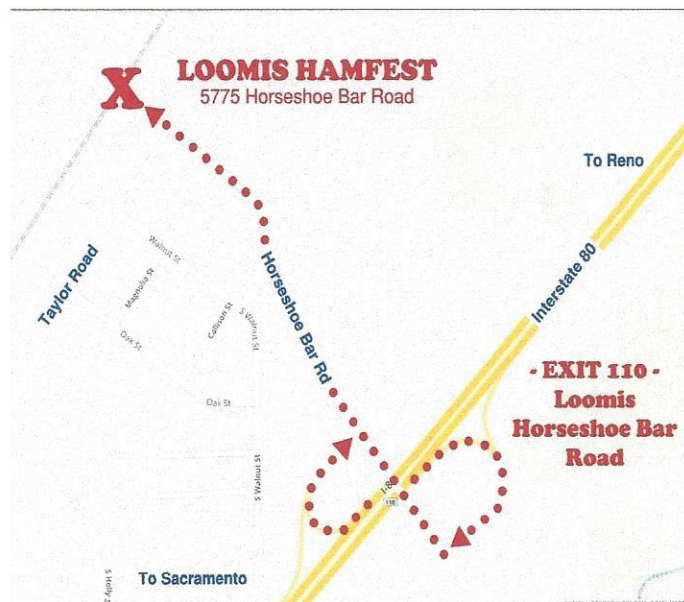


Elmer Tours - Test Bench - Hot
Coffee and Donuts - Taylor's
Lunch Deal - SFARC Club Table

Buyers 7 AM - Noon
Sellers 6 AM

Grand Prize @ 11 AM

SFARC is an ARRL Affiliated and Special Service Club. ARRL is the National Organization Representing Amateur Radio Operators. Stop by the ARRL Booth and visit with Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD, Sacramento Valley Section Manager.



Talk-In - W6EK 145.430 PL 162.2 Hz - Talk-In

COMMUNITY EVENTS



February

Saturday 1st ARES meeting 10a-12p

Saturday 15th Ham Cram 7:30a to 5p

Saturday 22nd Snelling road Race Henderson park Snelling, CA 7a-4p (depending on assignment).

March

Saturday 7th ARES meeting 10a-12p

April

Saturday 4th ARES Meeting CANCELED

Saturday 4th Turlock Road Race 7a-3p (depending on assignment) Turlock Lake 22600 Road La Grange

Saturday 11th Copperopolis Road Race Hunt Road and Milton Road

Saturday 18th MS Walk 8a-12pm Beyer Park

Saturday 25th March of Dimes Walk Beyer Park

May

Saturday 2nd ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Saturday 9th Ride for Mom 7a-4p (depending on assignment) Johnsen High School

Saturday 16th Modesto Criterium 7a-3p

Sunday 17th Modesto Road Race Salida Area 7a-12pm

Sunday 31st Regalado Road Race 7a-12p





LOCAL NETS

S.A.R.A. operates several repeaters.

These are located on Mt. Oso in Patterson, CA:

145.390 – pl 136.5

51.800 – pl 136.5

224.240 – pl 136.5

440.225 +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 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) has several nets as well:

Morning commute and Beer and Pizza Net Monday through Friday 6:30am to 7:00am 147.030 + pl 100 or 447.700 + pl 94.8.

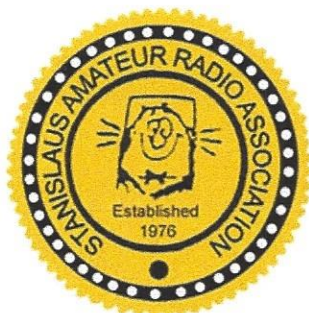
Weekly club net every Tuesday (except the 2nd Tuesday) at 7:00pm on the above repeaters.

DMR round table net every Monday at 7:00pm on the TARC regional talk group. Brandmeister TG 310658 which is linked to the W6BXN DMR repeaters.

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 8:00pm on the TARC repeaters. They have a monthly meeting the third Wednesday at 6:00pm at the Merced County Health Department, 260 East 15th Street Merced, CA.

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



2020 SARA Club Officers and Board members:

President	Jim Walsh KK6CPN	kk6cpn@yahoo.com
Vice President	Mark Lemmons WB6BJN	wb6bjn@samobile.net
Secretary:	Lucian Thomas KF6NPG	kf6npg@aol.com
Treasurer	Vicki Peitz KJ6RCV	vptigger@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms	Danny Cortez W6DMC	cortezdanny51@gmail.com
Board Member	Paul Owen W6UHF	w6uhf@aol.com
Board Member	Tom Brawley K6KQR	ki6kqr@sbcglobal.net
Board Member	Brendon Church NK6M	brendonchurch@me.com
Board Member	Bill Danforth AE6J	ki6hmv@gmail.com
Committees/Workgroups:		
Club Technician	Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ	patd@kg6azz.net
Readout Editor	Lucian Thomas KF6NPG	kf6npg@aol.com
Community Events	Lucian Thomas KF6NPG	kf6npg@aol.com
Stanislaus County ARES Emergency Coordinator	Pat Mandas KG6JXZ	kg6jxz@charter.net

2020 SARA CLUB PRESENTATION SURVEY

Here is the information I gathered from the survey last night and other comments. DMR received 12 votes and the Club repeater system was next with 8 votes.

This column had 2 or more votes

These are suggested Topics

	TOPIC		TOPIC
1	DMR - repeaters		SSB Nets
2	Club repeater System		6 Meter - The Magic Band
3T	Programming Raspberry Pi		How to operate System Fusion
3T	DSTAR - what is it?		Packet Radio
4T	What is MESH / ARDEN		Ideas for Setting up Ham Shack
4T	HF - DX		Put Presentations on Web Site
4T	HF - Sunspot cycle		FT-4 How to use
4T	Go box ideas		Yaesu Fusion - Wires X
5T	Batteries - best for hams		Beginners guide to VHF/UHF
5T	Log book of the world		Other Digital modes (hardware/Software)
6	Valley linked repeaters		Time sync on computers
7	Winlink		Operating in other counties
8T	FT-8 What is it? How to use it		
8T	Solar Power for field deployment		

Bill - AE6J would do would presentation on 1. Time sync of computers, 2. Operation in other Counties, 3. Chasing DX/Contesting

Scott - N6CIC could present on HF-Sunspot cycle and SSB Nets

Thanks to Mark N6ARP for managing this survey and tabulating the results.