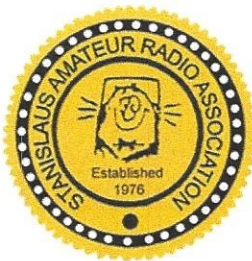


THE **Readout**

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

S.A.R.A.



WD6EJF
WWW.SARACLUB.NET
145.390 – PL 136.5



January 2020 Newsletter

Next general meeting is:

Tuesday January 21, 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.



Ernie W5NH

From the desk of the Readout editor:

Welcome to another edition of the SARA club READOUT.

We had a great Christmas meeting and there were some excellent desserts shared by all. We had a welcome visit by one of the SARA charter members, Ernie W6NH. It was great to see him and catch up. He and his wife travel around the country and he will often check into the SARA net on Tuesdays via echolink. SARA Club members; Paul W6UHF, Pat KG6JXZ, Patrick KG6AZZ, Mark N6ARP, Vincent KM6IRY and Ed KF6FIR went to the club repeater site to do some maintenance work. The new Yaesu UHF repeater was installed and it is up and running. There was some work completed on the mesh network as well. The 220 repeater was taken down so some repair work could be made on that equipment.

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. A list of suggested training topics is included in this edition. Please take a look at the list and number them in the order you would like to see them presented. If you would like to add a topic there is a comment section on the form. So far only one form has been sent in and we would like to see a lot more. You can send the form in via e-mail to Mark N6ARP at n6arp@arrl.net or fill it out and bring to next week's meeting. Thanks to Russ N6JTA for passing along the article about the ham's working during the power outage in Mendocino County.

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 Merry Christmas and a Happy beginning of the New Year. Our first meeting of the year is next week and I hope to see a large turn out to kick off the year. Please take the time to look over the presentation form and let us know what you would like to see for presentations at club meetings. 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. Thanks to Vicki KJ6RCV for taking the minutes last month. I look forward to seeing everyone next week.

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

December 17, 2019

(conducted at OES 3705 Oakdale Rd)

MINUTES

12/17/19 Meeting notes

Meeting called to order at 19:02 by President Wally.

Danny led the pledge of allegiance

Introductions were made

Wally read the minutes in Robin's absence

Mark Lemmons made a motion to approve and Bill Danforth seconded

Lucian announced the SARA club presentation survey is on the web

Wally reported looking for someone with contacts to a church or large parking lot for a swap meet

Vicki gave the Treasurer's report. JRO made a motion to approve and UXA 2nd it.

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

Board report – Bill reported 193 days to Field Day. Tom reported be aware of heavy traffic. Paul reported the new antenna replacement for Mt. Oso is here and just waiting to schedule the install with Ray, everything is ready to go.

ARES – Lucian reported the ¼ meeting is in the newsletter events. Make sure you are up to date.

Mark gave a weather report. Looks like we can have a wet pattern in the next couple of days. As we go into Christmas the east coast is getting higher temps and dry which opens the storm door for us. The first of the new year appears to be a dry scenario. Snow in the Sierra around Christmas.

Lucian reported on Community Events:

- Bill will sub for Wednesday voice net and Patrick will backup if Bill gets called out
- Read the Christmas story in the Readout
- Fusion Repeater will be put in on 1/11/20 if weather is good
- Raymond waiting for a call out to Mt. Oso so he doesn't have to charge us. Paul and Lucian will help Raymond install the new replacement antenna.
- Events in Readout – Snelling Road Race on 2/22. Robert the Farmer will help out.
- Survey page is the last page of the Readout. Will bring to the next meeting and Patrick will put on the website.

12/7 Ham Cram – John reported 25 participants took one test only. 19 passed the Tech, 3 General upgrades and 4 did not pass. Next Ham Cram is 2/15.

Wally reminded everyone the deadline to pay dues is 4/1/20.

Bill Danforth made a motion to approve and John Otte seconded the new Officers for 2020 as follows:

- President - Wally
- Vice-President - Mark Lemmons
- Secretary – Lucian
- Treasurer – Vicki
- Sargent at Arms – Danny
- Board members – Bill, Brendan, Tom & Paul

Wally made a suggestion that starting in 2021 there should be a two-year commitment for President and Treasurer so the two-year State forms and reports don't need to be resubmitted every year.

Break – Christmas treats were enjoyed by all. Danny made Mexican hot chocolate.

Split the Pot was a total of \$102 collected – John Bohler won \$51 but donated back \$50.

Looking at having a Winter Field Day on 1/25 and 1/26 at Robert the Farmer's place.

We need to have a plan for transporting Mark's gear up the hill for the June Field Day.

New Business:

- John Bohling shared a story about Field Day 25 years ago when he used a sling shot to set up his antenna in a tree and it missed and dented his new car
- Ernie is looking for a home for a radio
- Mark Lemmons gave a reminder for a.m. net. If scratchy then use 440 linked to 2 meters.

Wally wished everyone a Merry Christmas and adjourned the meeting at 20:12



SARA Christmas Desserts

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: _____

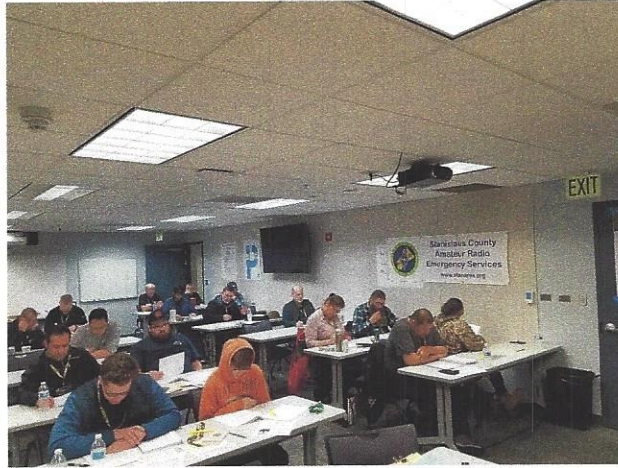
One-year membership dues are \$30.00, Family Dues are \$45

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

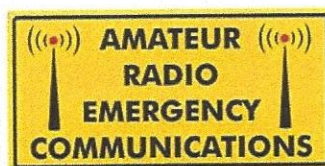
www.stanares.org

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 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.

The next Stanislaus County ARES meeting will be **February 1, 2020** at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. There will be ARES officer reports and Digital voice training on DSTAR and linking to DMR. Please bring your DSTAR and DMR radios.



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.



Reprinted from **The Ukiah Daily Journal**

By **RACHEL EBEL** |

PUBLISHED: November 12, 2019 at 3:56 pm | UPDATED: November 13, 2019 at 3:02 pm

During the Public Safety Power Shutoff in late October, many commonly used communication systems were greatly affected. The licensed amateur radio or “ham” radio community saw a sharp rise in participation at this time. When an event or local disaster such as wildfire takes place, the ham radio network becomes a vital method of communicating locally and countywide to deliver and receive information about what is going on.

Rick Azarnoff KK6PZA is a retired computer technician and has been a licensed ham radio participant for the last five years. Azarnoff remembers being exposed to ham radio a little bit as a child growing up. Five years ago, he started to listen to ham radio after finding out about inexpensive radios that you could plug into your computer. After that, he searched online to find out more about ham radio and found a test to become licensed.

Each week Azarnoff takes part in local and countywide check-ins called “nets.” During different parts of the week at scheduled times, other ham users will show up on the air. The nets are available for people with ham radios to listen, but to be able to respond or call-out, you must have a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission. The countywide nets utilize five different signal repeaters that are connected like a party-line and placed at various mountain-tops in Mendocino County. The repeaters elevate the strength of the signals received so they can be heard all over the county.

“The point is to help to create a roster and to see who is out there and if they are legitimate,” says Azarnoff.

During the PSPS, Azarnoff spent a lot of time checking-in on local and countywide frequencies to report and listen about conditions of the fire, emergencies, and weather conditions. Though a power source is needed to operate the radios, many were kept going with generators and large batteries. At his home in Redwood Valley and a location in Ukiah, Azarnoff has a variety of antennas that also help give him more visibility.

“When the power goes out, there is a pretty immediate countywide check-in to see how extensive it is,” says Azarnoff.

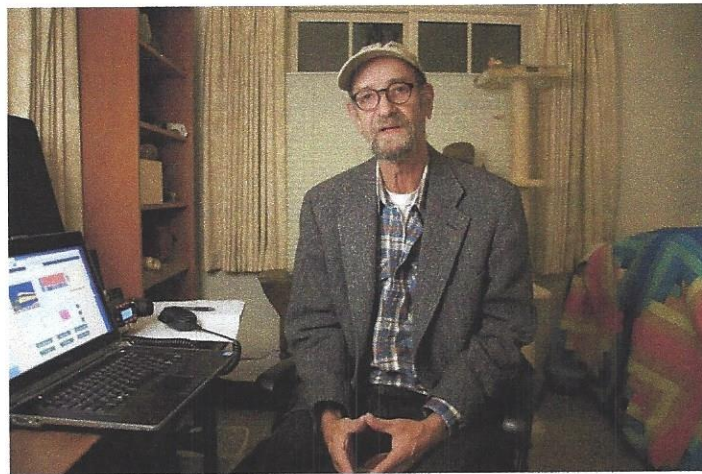
Along with having the ham radio serving as a helpful resource during emergencies, it also entertains and enjoys a social aspect.

“It’s definitely a multi-faceted hobby,” comments Azarnoff.

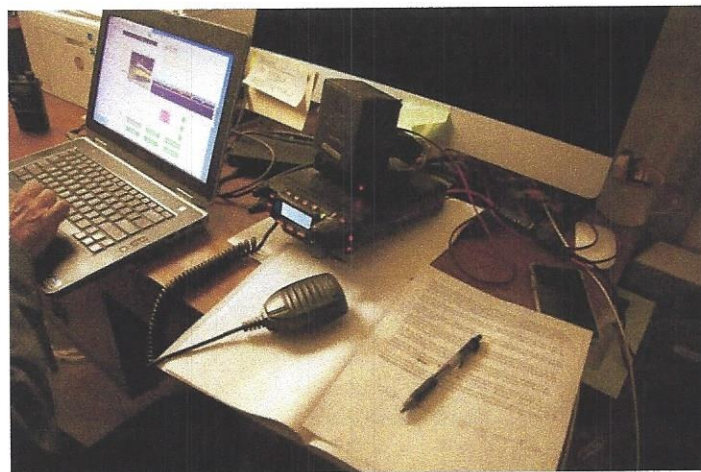
He recalls some of the interesting feats of being able to make contact with hams as far away as Hawaii and Minnesota. He has also found many other programs and applications that are available through the computer. Recently, Azarnoff has also been experimenting with being able to receive and send photos through the radio frequencies.

“We are fortunate to have an active local ham community, many of whom meet-up regularly,” concludes Azarnoff.

For more information about ham radio and acquiring a Technician Class license, which is the first ham license, visit the Amateur Radio Relay League website. The Willits Amateur Radio Society, which is a countywide group, also has a website and a Facebook page for those interested in getting involved.

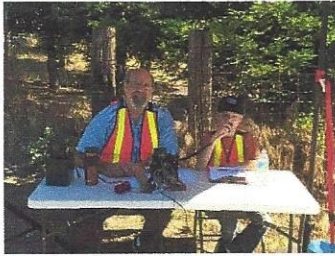


Rick KK6ZPA



Ricks' Station

COMMUNITY EVENTS



January

Saturday 4th ARES meeting 10a-12p
Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th Winter Field Day

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



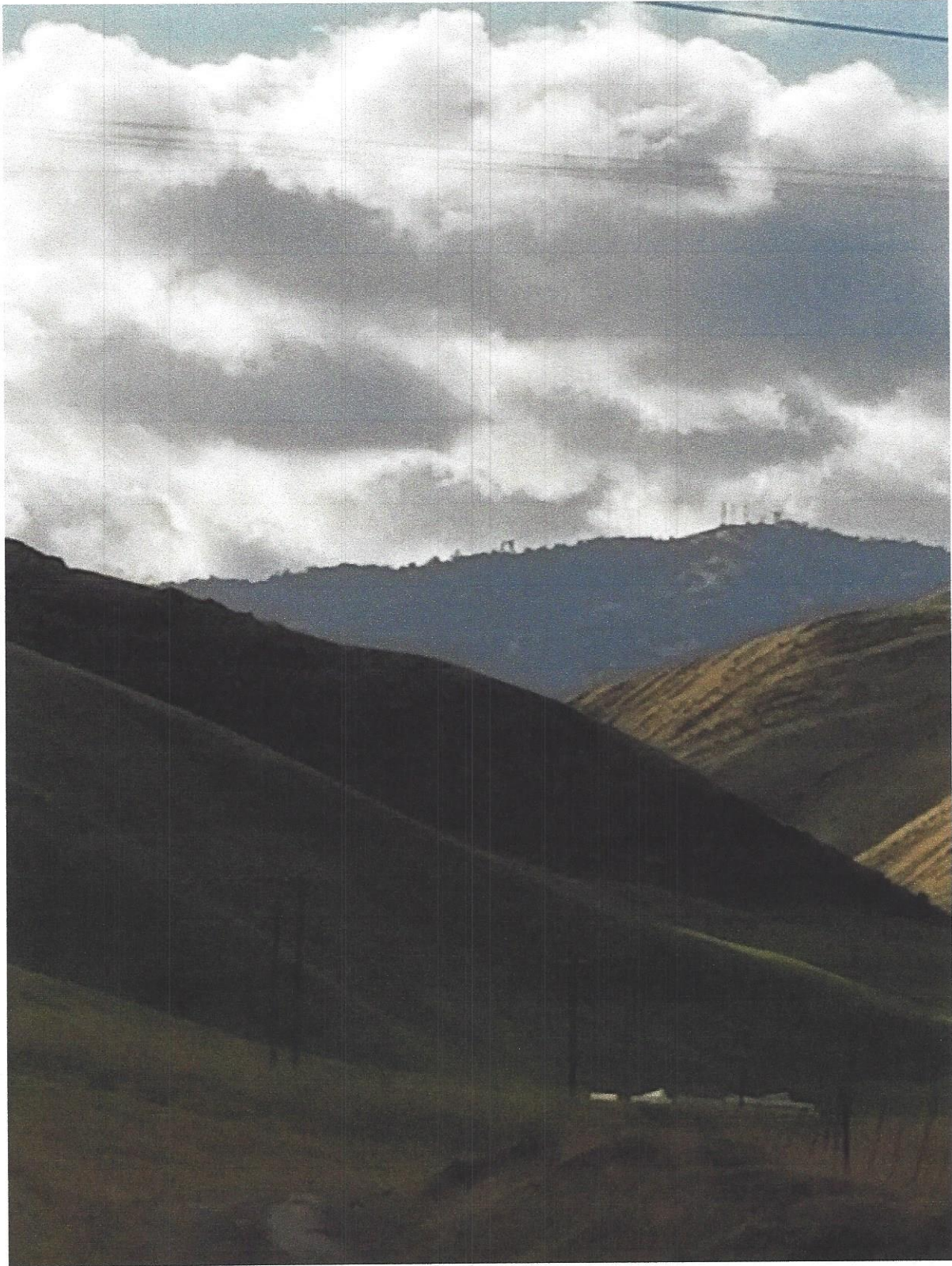


The Mount Oso work crew

Vince KM6IRY, Mark N6ARP, Pat KG6JXZ, E KF6FIR, Paul W6UHF, and Patrick KG6AZZ



The new Yaesu UHF Repeater



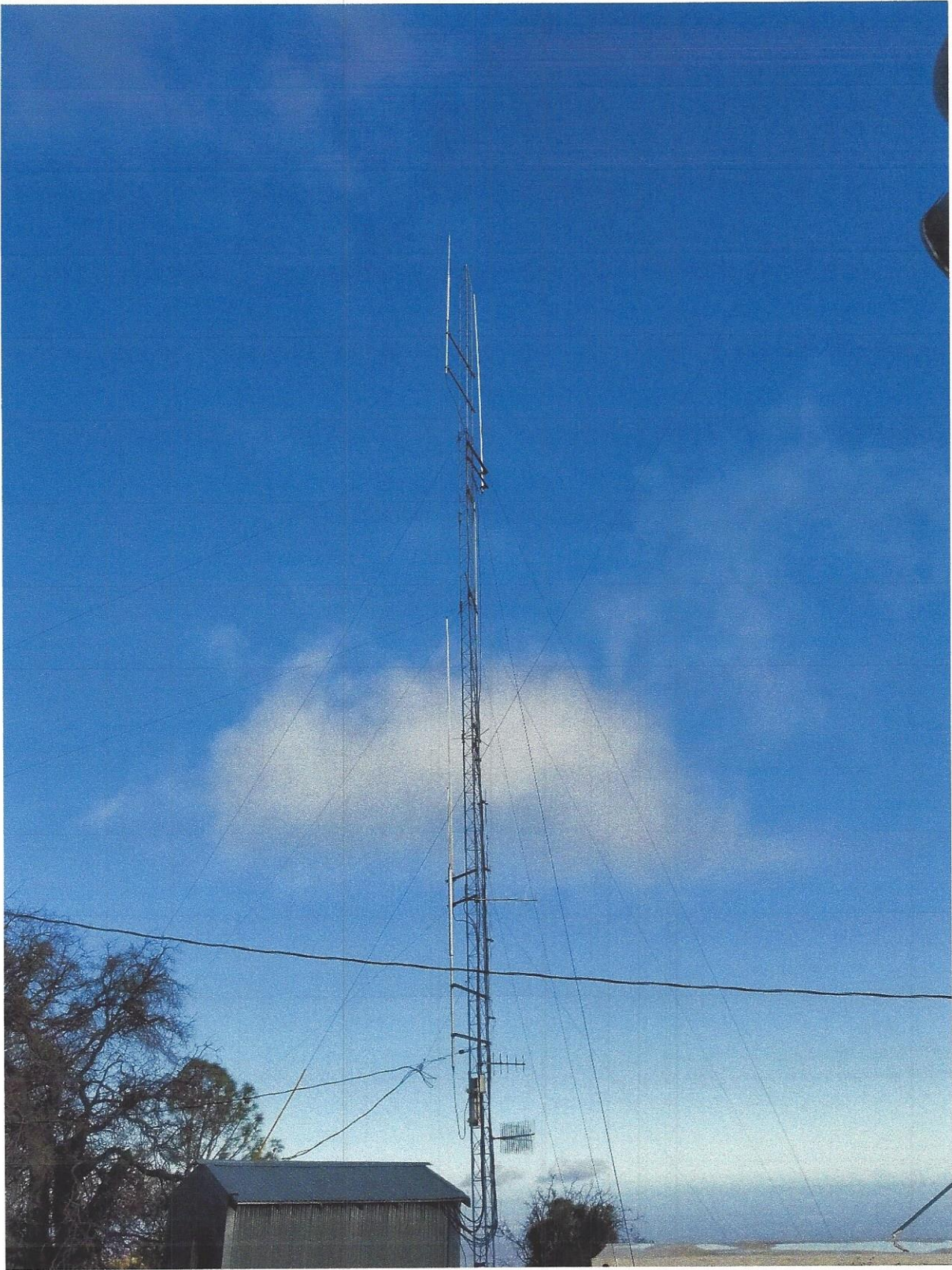
View of Mount Oso from the valley entrance gate



Vince KM6IRY



Ground Supervisors, W6UHF, KF6FIR and KG6JXZ



Repeater shack and tower



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.

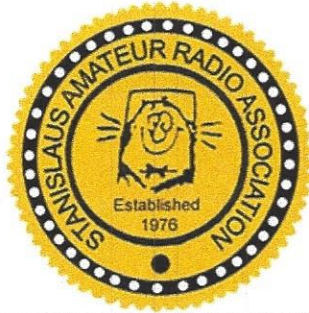
Weekly club net every Tuesday (except the 2nd Tuesday) at 7:00pm on the above repeaters.

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

We would like to start having a program presentation as part of the SARA club monthly meeting. To begin the planning process, we would like to survey the club members as to possible topics of interest. Below are a few ideas to get your mind thinking of possibilities. Please add any other topics that you might also be interested in. We're also looking for presenters. If there is a topic that you might be interested in speaking about, please let me or any of the club officers know.

We're interested in any and all input you can give us. N6ARP@ARRL.NET

| TOPIC | TOPIC |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| HF - DX | Club repeater System |
| HF – Sunspot cycle | SSB Nets |
| Valley linked repeaters | Batteries – best for hams |
| Go box ideas | DMR - repeaters |
| DSTAR – what is it? | What is MESH / ARDEN |
| FT-8 What is it? How to use it | Programming Raspberry Pi |
| Solar Power for field deployment | |
| Winlink | |
| Log book of the world | |

COMMENTS: