



THE **Readout**

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

April 2020

Volume 41, Number 4

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WD6EJF

www.saraclub.net

145.390 - PL
136.5

Next General Meeting:

APR 21, 2020

Canceled

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

Under normal circumstances, this article would pertain to news and events in Amateur Radio. However, I am sure you will agree that we are not living in normal circumstances. In fact, the "normal" we were used to might never come back. The COVID-19 pandemic we are all experiencing will forever change the cultural attitudes of this country. The events of September 11th, 2001 forever changed the way air travel was conducted, and COVID-19 will do the same. However, I do not think that it is something we should fear. Afterall, one of the salient aspects of culture is it that it is adaptable. Culture is constantly changing, and this pandemic is no different.

It seems, at least for some of us, that life is moving a little slower these days. The stay-at-home "Shelter in Place order" which is been in place since the middle of March, has altered our lives in ways that we could never imagine: church services are online, primary and secondary education have stopped, restaurants are delivering or offering curb side pickup, bars, and movie theaters are closed. All concerts have been canceled and no sporting events. All of this has brought both the state and federal economy to a screeching halt!

As for the SARA club, this has drastically changed our events for foreseeable future (please see changes in the Community Events below)

In a press conference this week, Gov. Newsom extended the statewide stay-at-home order (which was set to expire on Sunday May 3rd) indefinitely. Working with the governors of Oregon and Washington, Gov. Gavin Newsom said he will reopen the California economy once six benchmarks have been reached. While President Trump provided a plan for reopening the United States economy at a state-by-state level, Newsom added that California would need to see a decline in the number of deaths, hospitalizations and patients requiring care in intensive care unit beds to begin the process.

As reported in *The Mercury News*, Newsom said, "We need to continue to not just bend the curve, but flatten the curve and then see these trend lines begin to decline substantially so that we can begin the process of toggling back and forth in terms of looser and in some cases more restrictive protocols to get back to some sense of normalcy."

Joining SARA:

We are currently taking membership applications for 2020.

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.

Write for *The Readout*:

If anyone has information that they want included in *The Readout* please submit to the editor k6jro@arri.net.

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

President's message, Wally, KK6CPN

According to *The Mercury News*, for the first time since the pandemic began, the number of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 in California hospitals has declined. Data reported by counties to the California Department of Public Health show that there are now 3,141 patients hospitalized with the coronavirus, which represents a 0.9 decrease in the total announced during Gov. Newsom's Wednesday press briefing.

Gov. Newsom reported that the number of patients in California ICUs increased by 1.4% to 1,191, but this number is not drastically different than the 1,175 patients who had tested positive for the coronavirus in ICUs around the state on Monday.

Data collected by *The Mercury News* shows that 27,036 people have tested positive for the novel coronavirus in California, which represents a 47.7% increase from the 18,309 people who had tested positive when Newsom briefed the press last Thursday.

However, this is not all bleak news. The data above does show that the spread of COVID-19 is slowing in California and the "curve" is flattening. Gov. Newsom thanked the efforts of California's residents saying, "You have successfully bent and arguably flattened the curve in the state of California," Newsom said. "We continue to need to maintain our vigilance, guided not by political decision-making, guided by data, guided by facts, guided by science, guided by health professionals all throughout the state of California."

If you have any suggestions for articles or if you would like to publish an article, please reach out to me at k6jro@arri.net.

Stay safe! Stay healthy!

73 de John, K6JRO

A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I want to praise everyone for staying in place and attending last months Net Meeting, as you know I was traveling across the United States for 18 days.

Stanislaus OES is still up and running so we will continue to have our monthly meetings on the NET and when hopefully we be able to get back to normal by June.

You may ask what's going on with Field Day, well at this time it has not been canceled but, it might be a little different than is the past. I will keep everyone updated as we get nearer.

As most of you know we have replaced the antenna of Mt. Oso on April 8th and it seems to have improved the air waves. Please take care of yourself.

Wally, KK6CPN

Treasure report from the March net meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report March 17, 2020
2-18-20 to 3-16-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$8,476.18** (Previous Balance \$7,731.18)

Bills Paid:

John Otte	\$ 372.12 (Ck #1038 – 2/15 Ham Cram reimb. 2-20-20)
Moeller Mt. Oso:	\$ 80.00 (Ck #1039 – March site rent 3-1-20)
Mercer Consumer	\$ 14.28 (Ck #1040 – Equip. insurance add 3-7-20)
PG & E	\$ 58.70 (Ck #1041 – Mt. Oso utilities 3-16-20)

Total: \$ 525.10

INCOME:

Split Pot:	\$ 22.00
Dues	\$ 348.00
Radio Raffle	\$ 105.00
Donation	\$ 25.00
Ham Cram	\$ 620.00
WIN System	\$ 150.00

Total: \$1,270.00

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 1,087.00 (2-24-20)
Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 183.00 (3-16-20)

BOTTOM LINE:

Total Income:	\$ 1,270.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 525.10

Field Day Fund:	\$ 826.88 (included in account balance)
Equipment Fund	\$ 620.00 (included in account balance)

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$8,476.18 as of 3-16-20**

Treasurer

Vicki Pertz

March 17, 2020

ARES

Pat, KG6JXZ
Stanislaus
County
Emergency
Coordinator

Stanislaus County ARES Report



EOC is activated for the Coronavirus, at this point no need for an ARES activation.

ARES continues on it's digital journey, spending time learning DMR, DSTAR and Fusion. No easy task, learning new radio protocols and systems, it's been fun and frustrating all at the same time. But, it is fun to collaborate and learn from our members. We have such a great group that shares all of the knowledge they have in any particular discipline. ARES will next embark on the build of a mesh network go kit and begin using the mesh network we have built. Clearly not your father's ham radio, from Tubes to know digital radio and mesh network, and yes the mesh has its own ham frequencies. So, the journey continues, come join us!

Stanislaus County ARES meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 AM at the EOC.

RS,
Pat, KG6JXZ



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.

Due to the State-wide Stay in Place Order, ARES meetings will be conducted on the SARA repeater until further notice. Please join us on 145.390 at 10am on Saturday, May 2nd.



Ham Cram

John, K6JRO
Ham Cram
coordinator

Ham Cram Information



Study for your amateur radio license or upgrade your current license. Sponsored by the SARA and Stanislaus county ARES.

When and Where?

August 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, and Call Sign if you have one.

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

ARRL EC-001 course

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.

Featured Article

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 online. 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 online.



Featured Article: Maintenance trip to Mt. Oso.

By Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

A crew from the SARA Club went to the repeater site on Mt. Oso Wednesday April 8th to do some maintenance on the 145.390 repeater. The major project was to replace the antenna for the 145.390. Raymond, from Ray's Radio was contracted to do the tower climb and antenna replacement. The old station master vertical antenna was replaced with a brand new Comscope DB 224-E 4 bay dipole antenna. New coax and connectors were also part of the project. The new antenna has an 8.1db gain and measured 1.25 to 1 VSWR after installation. Since the installation we have received very good signal reports. Once we had the old antenna on the ground, we could see a small crack at the base. This could have allowed water to enter the antenna. It was taken to Ray's shop and he thought he could repair it. If so, we will have a spare or perhaps it could be repurposed.

We also made some minor adjustments to the 440 repeater. The squelch was adjusted, and the squelch tail was lengthened. Since we were there, we also took the opportunity to spray the weeds.

Steve, K6KYA also joined us to work on the WIN system. He replaced the repeater and installed a new panel antenna. So, for those of you who missed the WIN system, it is now back on the air!

A big thanks to Wally, KK6CPN; John, W6PY; Paul, W6UHF; Steve, K6KYA and Raymond from Ray's Radio for all their work in completing this project.



Raymond and John W6PY



Wally KK6CPN



Paul, W6UHF; Raymond and John, W6PY



Steve, K6KYA (lower climber)



Raymond on the Tower



Ray's Van



New VHF antenna assembled



New WIN system Radio

Community Events

Community Events:

April

Saturday 4th ARES Meeting 10a-12pm. Voice Net

Saturday 4th Turlock Road Race 7a-3p (depending on assignment) Turlock Lake 22600 Lake Rd. La Grange need 15 operators. *****CANCELLED*****

Saturday 11th Copperopolis Road Race 7a-3p (depending on assignment) Hunt Road and Milton Road need 8-9 operators. *****CANCELLED*****

Saturday 18th MS Walk 8a-12p Beyer Park need 4 operators. *****CANCELLED*****

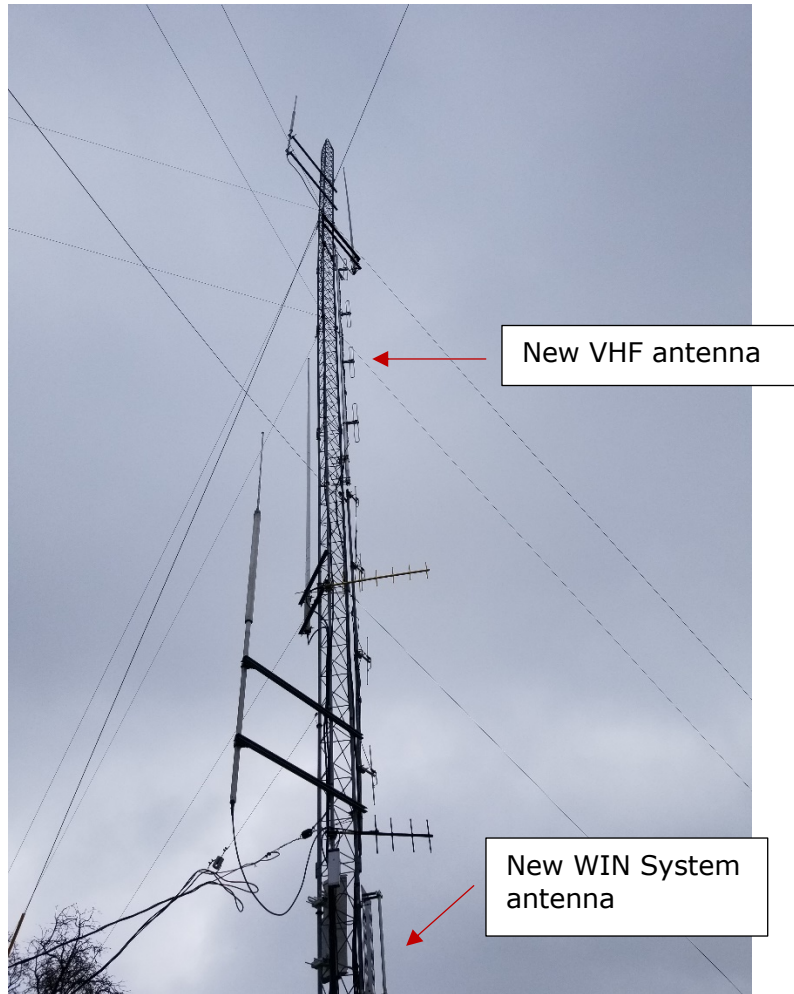
May

Saturday 2nd ARES Meeting 10a-12p Voice Net

Saturday 9th Ride for Mom 7a-4p (depending on assignment) Johansen High School need 10 operators. *****CANCELLED*****

Friday 15th March of Dimes Walk 8a-12p Beyer Park 4 operators **Date Change**
*****CANCELLED*****

Saturday 16th Modesto Criterium 7a-3p 4-6 operators needed.



Sunday 17th Modesto Road Race Salida area 7a-12p 6-8 operators needed.

Sunday 31st Regalado Road Race need 8 operators.

June

Saturday 6th ARES meeting 10a-12p.

Friday through Sunday (26, 27, 28) Field Day.

July

Saturday 11th ARES meeting 10a-12p.

August

Saturday 1st ARES meeting 10a-1p.

Saturday 15th Ham Cram 8a-5p.

September

Saturday 5th ARES meeting 10a-12p

Saturday TBA Rally in the Valley 7:30am- 3:00pm

October

Saturday 3rd ARES meeting 10-12p

Saturday ??? 6a-6p (depending on assignment) Assist LARK with Cycling 4 Veterans Bike Ride additional details to follow need 7 operators. **Web site for the ride is cycling4veterans.com**

Saturday 10th Stanislaus County Bike Club Golden Hills Century Knights Ferry 7a-4p need 5-6

Friday-Sunday (16, 17, 18) Pacificon San Ramon Marriot

November

Saturday 7th ARES meeting 10a-12p

December

Saturday 5th ARES meeting 10a-12p



Local Nets

Local Nets:



S.A.R.A. operates several repeaters.
These are located on Mt. Oso in Patterson, CA:
145.390 – pl 136.5
224.240 – 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 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 .

Officers and Board Members

2020 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

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 Members:

Paul Owen, W6UHF	w6uhf@aol.com
Tom Brawley, K6KQR	ki6kqr@sbcglobal.net
Brendon Church, NK6M	brendonchurch@me.com
Bill Danforth, AE6J	ki6hmv@gmail.com



Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ	patd@kg6azz.net
Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO	k6jro@arrl.net
Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG	kf6npg@aol.com
Stanislaus County ARES Emergency Coordinator: Pat Mandas, KG6JXZ	kg6jxz@charter.net

Nominations are held every November with elections in December

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 SAME ADDRESS:

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

