



THE **Readout** STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

July 2020

Volume 41, Number 7

In This Issue

- From of the desk of the editor.
- President's message, KK6CPN
- Minutes for June Zoom meeting
- Treasure report
- Ham Cram information
- ARES report
- Featured Article
- Community Events

**President's message,
Wally, KK6CPN**

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

Our local ham community was stunned by the passing of two of our active members: Manuel (Manny) Tsompanas, W6RUF and Russ Richards, N6JTA. Both of these men will be sorely missed.

The term "Silent Key" is an expression used out of respect for a deceased amateur radio operator. The term originated with telegraph (CW) operators and continued with early wireless and then amateur radio operators. Traditionally, the term come from the Morse Code prosign *SK* which means "end of transmission." Today, hams continue this time-honored tradition by recognizing that those who have passed will never be heard on the air again and therefore, *silent*. This month's featured article will honor Manny, W6RUF (SK) and Russ, N6JTA (SK) whose keys are now silent.

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

73 de John, K6JRO

A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I hope everyone had a good Field Day and make a lot of new contacts. As most of you know we lost two members in June; Manuel Tsompanas, W6RUF and retired Stanislaus Fire Warden/County Fire Chief Russ Richards, N6JTA.

Stanislaus EOC is still active and has not given us full access to the building so our July 21 meeting will be via zoom at 7pm.

Once again is you have not submitted your dues please do so. Your dues go to the overall running of our organization.

Please take care of yourself.
Wally, KK6CPN

Minutes, June Net

Next General Meeting: Zoom

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.

Minutes from the June net meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association
June 16, 2020
(conducted over ZOOM due too COVID19)
MINUTES

Attendance (the best I could do by check in on ZOOM. No roll was called) Lucian, KF6NPG; Tom, K6KQR; John, W6PY; Jay, W6WEZ; John, K6JRO; Wally, KK6CPN; Walt, KI6PBL; Bambi, KI6YQL; Paul, W6UHF; Robin, KG6YQL; Roy, KK6QQP; Danny, W6DMC; Lindsay B; Brian, KM6JAG; Derrill, W7LTM; Patrick, KG6AZZ; Mark, N6ARP; Vicki, KF6RCV; Jason, KA6TIO; Brendon, NK6M; Linda, W6MUT; Davona, KF6TSY; Rick, KF6TEZ; Patty Bohling

President Wally, KK6CPN called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

May minutes were in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Tom K6KQR and second by Jason KA6TIO. It was approved.

President Wally KK6CPN

Wally confirmed that the Board met on June 6, 2020 and due to all of the COVID-19 health concerns and restrictions the club sponsored field day was cancelled. He hopes everyone has a safe and fun Field Day on their own. Wally advised that until further notice that the club meetings would be held over ZOOM. He said that some clubs were trying to have face to face meetings but had to follow social distancing and the wearing of masks. They usually have to limit attendance to no more than 20 depending on the size of the room. The room we meet in would not accommodate 20 people if we followed the social distancing guidelines.

Vice President, Mark WB6BJN

VP was not in attendance and there was no report.

Treasurer, Vicki KJ6RCV

She gave a report and a copy will be attached to these minutes and will be in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Robin KG6ZYQ and second by John W6PY. It was approved.

Sergeant at Arms Danny W6DMC. No report.

Board Members: Tom K6KQR, Brendon NK6M and Paul W6UHF

No report from Paul or Brendon. Tom gave a weather report. He said the next few day will be over 100 degrees and encouraged everyone to stay hydrated.

Equipment/Mt Oso: Patrick KG6AZZ

Nothing has changed. He still hears the "crackle" on the repeater and believes it is caused by the wind.

ARES: Lucian KF6NPG

The next ARES meeting is Saturday July 11, 2020 from 1000 to 1200. It was moved due to the holiday. The meeting will be over the air on the 145.390 repeater. Still working on July presentation.

Weather: Mark WB6BJN

Not present. No report.

Community Events: Lucian KF6NPG

All of the community events are cancelled through October. Next Event is Golden Hills Century which is in October. A list is in the READOUT.

Ham Cram: John K6JRO

Our next Ham Cram is scheduled for Saturday August 15, 2020. We are in a holding pattern to see what happens with the current COVID19 restrictions and he is looking at options. We do have 8 preregistered for the class.

Un-Finished Business: None reported.

New Business: None

Presentation: None

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Jason KA6TIO and second by Danny W6DMC. Adjourned at 7:20 P.M.
Minutes by Lucian KF6NPG, Club Secretary

Treasure report from the March net meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601
www.saraclub.net
Treasury Report May 19, 2020
4-21-20 to 5-18-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$8,350.65** (Previous Balance \$8,369.74)

Bills Paid:

Bureau of Reclamation	\$ 100.00 (Ck #1044 – Renew contract application 4-29-20)
USPS	\$ 13.00 (Debit card – postage and stamps 4-30-20)
Moeller Mt. Oso:	\$ 80.00 (Ck #1045 – May site rent 5-3-20)
Rays Radio	\$1,000.00 (Ck #1046 – Install antenna 5-6-20)
PG & E	\$ 66.09 (Ck #1047 – Mt. Oso utilities 5-18-20)

Total: \$1,259.09

INCOME:

Dues	\$ 120.00
Field Day Donation	\$ 20.00 (W6QFU)
Equip Fund Donation	\$ 100.00 (Anonymous)
Install Antenna Donation	\$1,000.00 (Anonymous)

Total: \$1,240.00

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 140.00 (5-1-20)
Tri-Counties Bank	\$1,100.00 (5-14-20)

BOTTOM LINE:

Total Income:	\$ 1,240.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 1,259.09

Field Day Fund:	\$ 846.88 (included in account balance)
Equipment Fund	\$ 720.00 (included in account balance)

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$8,350.65 as of 5-19-20**

Treasurer

Vicki Pety

May 19, 2020

ARES

Pat, KG6JXZ
Stanislaus County
Emergency
Coordinator

Stanislaus County ARES Report



ARES continues to drill on HF fieldwork. Four months in a row we have been working on deploying and utilizing our gear from our home stations. Recently we had a multi-county exercise that we facilitated and participated in. ARES continues to work with the league to learn how to incorporate virtual ham testing. New information will be out in the coming months.

We are currently focused on equipment upgrades and exercises. Working on developing a seminar series of training in a variety of areas for our team. We anticipate returning to our regular meeting schedule in the fall provided all goes well with COVID.

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 information 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

COVID-19 Restrictions

Due to COVID-19 there will not be an all-day cram. Instead, we will provide testing only. Three testing sessions will be offered: 11:00am, 1:00, and 2:30pm. To maintain social distancing, each testing session will be limited to six people. All individuals in the building will have to wear a mask. All registered individuals will need to bring the following:

- A valid identification, preferably CDL (California Driver's License)
- Cash or check for \$15 for the testing session, check preferred and payable to Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association (SARA).
- 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 have any questions please email John Otte, K6JRO at k6jro@arrl.net.

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

John Otte, K6JRO

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: Silent Keys



Services for Manny Tsompanas, W6RUF were on Friday June 26, at 11am PST at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Modesto, CA. He was laid to rest on Monday, June 29 at Lakewood Memorial Park in Hughson, CA. Manny was active member of ARES.

Russ Richards, N6JTA was a retired County Fire Warden and Assistant Director of Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services.

He was a long-time member of the SARA club and Stanislaus ARES. Lucian, KF6NPG wrote, "Russ was a very nice person and a great friend to Amateur Radio. He was an

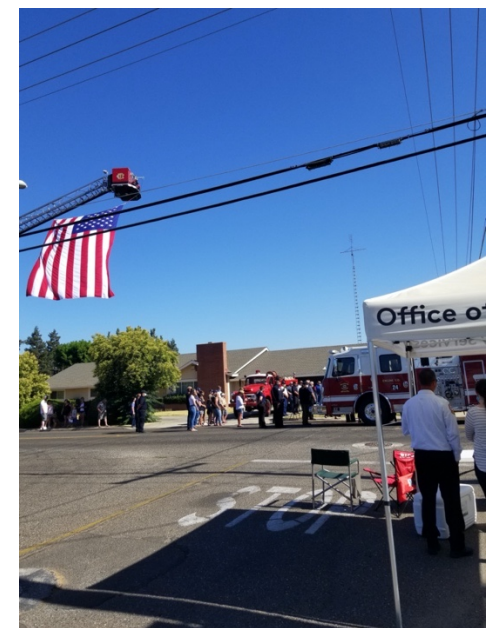


advocate for Amateur Radio's value and service to the community. He was instrumental in helping the Club and ARES to receive grant funding to update our equipment. Due to his efforts we have one of the finest and best equipped ARES room around." There is no doubt



that Russ had a long-lasting impact on people. Richard, WE6V wrote, "Russ and I grew up together and have been lifelong friends. I remember as a youngster Russ and I would sneak out of church and set up in a out of the way room and try to make contacts. I should say Russ did as I could not pass the code test for a license. I will miss him, he was a great man of upmost integrity."

A traditional fire service procession to honor Chief Richards was observed on Friday, July 3rd. It included color guard, pipes and drums. A celebration of life has been scheduled and will be hosted via Zoom. Photographs from the procession have been provided by Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG.



In Memory of Our Silent Keys

My chair is sitting empty.
My call's no longer heard
My radio rests quietly.
From it comes no words.
On my shack door is a message.
That reads "From Me to Thee"
My frequency's much higher now
I've become a Silent Key
Judy Hudson KC9CCJ

Community Events



Community Events:

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.

Officers and Board Members

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

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

