



# THE **Readout**

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

March 2020

Volume 41, Number 3

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## WD6EJF

[www.saraclub.net](http://www.saraclub.net)

145.390 - PL  
136.5

## Next General Meeting:

MAR 17, 2020

\*Canceled\*

## From the desk of *The Readout* editor Dr. John Otte

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

Newsletters are valuable components to any organization. It is the primary way information is disseminated when members are unable to attend meetings. However, they represent a tremendous amount of work and require effort from lots of people.

*The Readout* has been in publication (off and on) since the mid 1970s due to members who understand the value of newsletters. With this in mind, I would like to thank Linda Ridenour, W6MUT and Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG. Over the past 13 years, these two have been responsible for the publishing and distribution of this newsletter. In short, I have big shoes to fill and I appreciate the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

I hope you enjoy the new format. It builds on the work already done by Lucian, KF6NPG. It will include the traditional information with my own touch, in particular, research articles on amateur radio and other related topics. For example, this month I will focus on CORiD-19, Coronavirus.

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](mailto:k6jro@arrl.net).

73 de John, K6JRO

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## A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I want to thank everybody who attended last month's meeting.

With this new strain of virus going around I have decided to cancel the March meeting. Instead, we will have our regular net on 145.390. We will resume in April unless I get a directive from OES.

Please take care of yourself.

Wally, KK6CPN

## 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](mailto:k6jro@arri.net).

Please try and have the information or articles to the editor by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## Minutes from the February meeting

Meeting called to order at 19:01 by President Wally, KK6CPN.

Danny, W6DMC, led the pledge of allegiance – Randy, KF6RJS, made a motion to approve and Scott, N6CIC, seconded it.

Introductions were made.

Wally read the minutes of the January meeting in Lucian's, KF6NPG, absence. Wally reported that he will be traveling next month and will not be here for next month's meeting. He announced a Wouxun radio will be raffled during the break.

Vicki, KJ6RCV, gave the Treasurer's report. John Bohling, W6PY, made a motion to approve and Scott, N6CIC, seconded it.

Danny reported cookies and coffee are in back and raffle tickets are available at break. \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Danny also announced Natalie and Alex will be selling girl scout cookies at break.

Board report – Bill, AE6J, reported 130 days to Field Day and we still need a plan for getting Mark's gear up to the site.

Patrick, KG6AZZ, reported the 2M and 440 radios on Mr. Oso are fully operational. The 220 is still down, the 2M is working decent in the dry weather, and there is no date yet for the new antenna work. There is a new Fusion 440 repeater that was donated, and the donors paid \$600. A new Bridgecom 220 is \$1,200.

ARES: Wally reported there are some new members.

Mark, WB6BJN, gave the weather report. It is dry and does not look good. Historically, February is the peak of the raining season but no rain in sight. We can still get good rain in March and April that would help with the fire season.

Wally reported on Community Events:

- Snelling Road race is this weekend and all slots have been filled. Wally e-mailed out the action plan. Net control will be running by 6 am. The repeater will be in lock mode from 7 am – 3 pm during the bike race. The backup frequency is 446. 000.
- The results for the survey are out and listed in the Readout. Thanks to Bill, AE6J, and Scott, N6CIC, for volunteering to do presentations. We will have a presentation in March.

Split the Pot was a total of \$45 collected – Brent, K6JMRG, won \$23.

Radio Raffle won by Mel, W7EOV. \$105 was collected.

New Business:

- John, W6PY, announced he is taking down two antennas and asked if anyone wants them for free. Bill, AE6J, said he will take the UHF/VHF one.
- Wally reported there was a question about the WIN System on the SARA Facebook page and the WIN System is non-operational right now.
- Discussion about other systems in California and Nebraska.
- Danny announced we received a \$25 donation for field day from an anonymous donor.

Patrick, KG6AZZ, gave a very informative impromptu presentation on the club's repeater system:

- The site is located on Mr. Oso just west of I-5 at an elevation of 3,000 feet with a good view of the valley. The terrain to the west helps block the bay area noise.
- Patrick listed the different frequencies and radios stationed on Mt. Oso and located in two separate buildings, and that there is also a low-level repeater that covers the Modesto area that is hooked up to an antenna formerly located at the Doubletree, but now located at OES, the club's meeting site.
- Patrick answered a question about solar. Don't currently have it.

Mark, N6ARP, reported 27 took the Ham Cram tests and 23 passed. One is going to retake it.

Wally adjourned the meeting at 20:09.

**If anyone has information that they want included in *The Readout* please submit to the editor at [k6jro@arrrl.net](mailto:k6jro@arrrl.net). Please try and have the information or articles to the editor by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

## 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](http://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.

The next Stanislaus County ARES meeting will be **Saturday April 4, 2020** at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. There will be ARES officer reports and training on the Mesh Network. Please bring your “mesh” related gear.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:kg6jxz@charter.net), or Lucian KF6NPG at [kf6npg@aol.com](mailto:kf6npg@aol.com) or John K6JRO at [k6jro@arrl.net](mailto: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](http://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: COVID-19: What you need to know!

By Dr. John Otte, K6JRO

There has been a considerable amount of information and disinformation circulating regarding the COVID-19 (Coronavirus- 2019). Coronaviruses are a class of respiratory viruses that can cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe illnesses like SARS and MERS. Be careful not to confuse this category of coronaviruses with the strain named "COVID-19" or "2019 novel coronavirus". The COVID-19 is just one type of coronavirus. So, don't be alarmed if you see the term "coronavirus" on your test results. Currently, only the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is testing for COVID-19 in coordination with Stanislaus County Public Health (SCPH).

According to the SCPH approximately 200 people in the county have been tested. At the time of this writing, two individuals have tested positive with 17 pending results and 8 negative. This is a rapidly changing event. When I first wrote this article, SCPH was reporting zero infected individuals. Two hours later, two cases were reported. It is reasonable to assume that the numbers will be higher once this newsletter is published.

Be that as it may, there is still an abundance of caution within the community. For example, many Bay Area colleges and universities are suspending face-to-face classes and shifting instruction to online formats. However, faculty and staff are still reporting to work on campus.

**Treatment:** Generally, most people with the common coronavirus infections recover on their own. So, there are no specific treatments for coronavirus infections. However, for patients who are more severely ill, hospitals can provide supportive care. Admittedly, this is a fluid situation and SCPH is continuing to learn about this novel coronavirus and treatment.

For additional information, please visit the website for SCPH:  
<http://www.schsa.org/publichealth/pages/corona-virus/>

If you are interested in information about the transmission of COVID-19 and the dynamics of the pandemics, I encourage you to visit the real-time map maintained by Johns Hopkins University:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Stay safe and use common sense!

**\*\*\*SCPH is prohibiting the gathering of 1,000 or more people indoor and outdoor effective Monday, March 16, 2020 through at least March 31, 2020.\*\*\***

## Community Events

### Community Events:

#### March

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> ARES meeting 10a-12p

#### April

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> ARES Meeting 10a-12pm 3705 Oakdale Rd, Modesto.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Turlock Road Race 7a-3p \*\*\***Canceled**\*\*\*

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Copperopolis Road Race Hunt Road and Milton Road

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> MS Walk 8a-12pm Beyer Park

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March of Dimes Walk Beyer Park



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.stanares.org) .

Turlock Amateur Radio Club (W6BXN) has several nets as well:

## Officers and Board Members

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA.

TARC web site is [www.w6bxn.org](http://www.w6bxn.org) and Merced ARES is [www.mercedares.org](http://www.mercedares.org) .

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## 2020 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

### Officers:

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| President: Jim Walsh, KK6CPN          | <a href="mailto:kk6cpn@yahoo.com">kk6cpn@yahoo.com</a>               |
| Vice President: Mark Lemmons, WB6BJN  | <a href="mailto:wb6bjn@samobile.net">wb6bjn@samobile.net</a>         |
| Secretary: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG      | <a href="mailto:kf6npg@aol.com">kf6npg@aol.com</a>                   |
| Treasurer: Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV        | <a href="mailto:vptigger@gmail.com">vptigger@gmail.com</a>           |
| Sergeant at Arms: Danny Cortez, W6DMC | <a href="mailto:cortezdanny51@gmail.com">cortezdanny51@gmail.com</a> |

### Board Members:

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Paul Owen, W6UHF     | <a href="mailto:w6uhf@aol.com">w6uhf@aol.com</a>               |
| Tom Brawley, K6KQR   | <a href="mailto:ki6kqr@sbcglobal.net">ki6kqr@sbcglobal.net</a> |
| Brendon Church, NK6M | <a href="mailto:brendonchurch@me.com">brendonchurch@me.com</a> |
| Bill Danforth, AE6J  | <a href="mailto:ki6hmv@gmail.com">ki6hmv@gmail.com</a>         |



### Committees/Workgroups:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ  | <a href="mailto:patd@kg6azz.net">patd@kg6azz.net</a> |
| Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO        | <a href="mailto:k6jro@arrl.net">k6jro@arrl.net</a>   |
| Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG | <a href="mailto:kf6npg@aol.com">kf6npg@aol.com</a>   |

Stanislaus County ARES

Emergency Coordinator: Pat Mandas, KG6JXZ [kg6jxz@charter.net](mailto: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

