



THE **Readout** STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

SEP 2020

Volume 41, Numbers 9

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President's message,
Wally, KK6CPN

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

September is National Emergency Preparedness month and if you have never considered it or need further advice, this is the month to do it! This year has been extraordinary. California has been plagued with shelter-in-place and shutdown orders for months. On top of this, we have had a heat wave which lead to an unprecedented fire season. In fact, our local area has been hit hard with unhealthy air quality making it dangerous just to step outside.

This month's featured article was supplies by Lucian, KF6NPG and comes from the Department of Homeland Security. It provides exceptional advice on emergency preparedness especially in light of COVID-19. I hope you find it useful.

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

73 de John, K6JRO

A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I hope everyone had a good Labor Day. Not much is going other than all these fires in California burning over two million plus acres. We will still be having our monthly meetings via Zoom until the OES give us permission to return to their facility.

As I have mentioned over the last couple of months it is time to start thinking about our elections for 2021. This will be my last year as your President and it has been a pleasure serving our Club.

Please take care of yourself, wear your mask and maintain social distancing.

Please take care of yourself.
Wally, KK6CPN

Minutes, AUG Zoom

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@arrl.net.

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

Minutes from the AUG Zoom meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association
August 18, 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	Random Guy	Clarence iPad
Bob WA6ZLO	John K6JRO	Wally KK6CPN
Scott N6CIC	Richard WE6V	Paul W6UHF
Robin KG6ZYQ	Roy KK6OQP	Patrick KG6AZZ
Zack KI6KQO	John N6JCS	Derrill W7LTM
Chris ??????	Mark N6ARP	Vicki KF6RCV
Jason KA6TIO	Brendon NK6M	Linda W6MUT
Robert KD6BNY	Randy KF6RJS	Cheryl KK6GJM
Mark WB6BJN	Bill KN6DAM	Eva KM6BIP
Marty KG6QKJ		

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

July minutes were sent out to the membership prior to the meeting via e mail. Motion to approve by Robert KD6BNY and second by Robin KG6ZYQ. Minutes were approved.

President Wally KK6CPN

Wally said this was his last term as president. Club members should be thinking about next year's officers. If anyone is interested in serving as a club officer or board member, they should contact him at
kk6cpn@yahoo.com

Vice President, Mark WB6BJN

VP had 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 Lucian KF6NPG and second John N6JCS. It was approved.

Sergeant at Arms Mark N6ARP: Mark did not have anything to report.

Board Members: Brendon NK6M and Paul W6UHF

No report from Brendon or Paul. Tom K6KQR and Bill AE6J were not present.

Equipment/Mt Oso: Patrick KG6AZZ

Nothing has changed. The fire is not a danger to our equipment at this time. Wally asked Paul about the status of the tower being re-guyed. Paul said he still needed to schedule with Raymond at Ray's Radio.

ARES: Lucian KF6NPG

The next ARES meeting is Saturday September 5, 2020 from 1000 to 1200. The meeting will be held over ZOOM. The training will be on battery and backup power in the radio shack and a discussion on signal link and direwolf. An e mail will be sent out to ARES members with the meeting Zoom link.

Weather: Mark WB6BJN

Hot weather was coming.

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.

Pacificon 2020 has been canceled. There may be a virtual conference.

Ham Cram: John K6JRO

Our next Ham Cram is scheduled for Saturday August 15, 2020. We will be doing a test only session. We had 4 pass the technician and 2 passed all 3 tests (Technician, General, and Extra). 1 person failed the technician test. Everyone followed the safety protocols. John said there was no August READOUT due to his work schedule. He will be working on the September READOUT.

Un-Finished Business: None reported.

New Business: President Wally KK6CPN asked about setting up a virtual ham swap similar to TCARES. Members could list items for sale. Perhaps they would make a donation to club for the equipment fund. Patrick KG6AZZ said this was not possible at this time due to the web site platform. He is working on moving the web site to a new platform that is more user friendly and would accommodate this and other updates to the web site. It may take him a while to do this as he is short on time.

Presentation: None

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Randy KF6RJS and second by Mark WB6BJN. Adjourned at 7:25 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 August 18, 2020
7-21-20 to 8-17-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$7,950.31** (Previous Balance \$8,443.57)

Bills Paid:

Moeller Mt. Oso:	\$ 80.00 (Ck #1052 – August site rent 8-1-20)
Mercer Consumer	\$ 342.39 (Ck #1053 – Equip Insurance 8-5-20)
PG & E	\$ 70.87 (Ck #1054 – Mt. Oso utilities 8-13-20)

Total: \$ 493.26

INCOME:

Dues: \$ 0.00

Total: \$ 0.00

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank

BOTTOM LINE:

Total Income:	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 493.26

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

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$7,950.31 as of 8-17-20**

Treasurer Vicki Ratz August 18, 2020

ARES

Pat, KG6JXZ
Stanislaus County
Emergency
Coordinator

Stanislaus County ARES Report



September is national preparedness month and I encourage everyone to take some time and check over their equipment and any safety plans they may have for themselves and family. Even though our ARES group has not been activated during this fire season you never know when an activation could occur. It is always best to be prepared.

We are planning a SET (Simulated Emergency Test) for Saturday October 3, 2020 (our regularly scheduled meeting time). This will allow us to test our equipment and readiness for a call out if one were to take place. Information on the SET has been sent out to all ARES members via e mail and voice nets. I encourage everyone to participate if they can.

It seems that as one fire is put out others start, and the smoke and haze never clear up. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many victims of the fires in our area and across the nation.

Lucian, KF6NPG Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.



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.



Website

Ham Cram

John, K6JRO Ham
Cram coordinator

SARA Website Update

Patrick, KG6AZZ has moved the SARA Club web site to a newer web platform. He has completed some updates and the web site looks great. It is still a work in progress and more updates are on the way. Please take a few minutes and check it out www.saraclub.net. Thanks to Patrick for his work on this project.

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?

February 13, 2021
Office of Emergency Services
3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA

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: 10:30am, 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@arrrl.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.

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

Lucian, KF6NPG

Featured Article: National Preparedness Month

Each September, National Preparedness Month encourages and reminds Americans to be prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses, and communities.

Homeowners, families, communities, and businesses can use this opportunity to find ways or help others understand more about preparing for disasters and reducing risks to health and the environment and as our nation continues to respond to COVID-19, there is no better time to be involved this September.

1. Get a Kit of emergency supplies.

Be prepared to improvise and use what you have on hand to make it on your own for **at least three days**, maybe longer. While there are many things that might make you more comfortable, think first about fresh water, food and clean air.

Recommended Supplies to Include in a Basic Kit:

- ✓ **Water** one gallon per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- ✓ **Non-perishable Food** at least a three-day supply
- ✓ Battery-powered or hand crank **radio** and a **NOAA Weather Radio** with tone alert and **extra batteries** for both
- ✓ **Flashlight** and **extra batteries**
- ✓ **First Aid kit**
- ✓ **Whistle** to signal for help
- ✓ **Filter mask** or cotton t-shirt, to help filter the air
- ✓ **Moist towelettes, garbage bags** and **plastic ties** for personal sanitation
- ✓ **Wrench** or **pliers** to turn off utilities
- ✓ **Manual can opener** if kit contains canned food
- ✓ **Plastic sheeting** and **duct tape** to shelter-in-place
- ✓ **Important Family Documents**
- ✓ **Items for unique family needs**, such as daily prescription medications, infant formula or diapers



Consider two kits. In one, put everything you will need to stay where you are and make it on your own. The other should be a lightweight, smaller version you can take with you if you have to get away.

2. Make a Plan for what you will do in an emergency. Plan in advance what you will do in an emergency. Be prepared to assess the situation. Use common sense and whatever you have on hand to take care of yourself and your loved ones.

Develop a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situations. **Consider a plan where each family member calls, or e-mails, the same friend or relative in the event of an emergency.**

It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an **out-of-town contact** may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Be sure each person knows the phone number and has coins or a prepaid phone card to call the emergency contact. You may have trouble getting through, or the phone system may be down altogether, but be patient. Depending on your circumstances and the nature of the attack, the first important decision is whether you stay put or get away. You should understand and plan for both possibilities. Use common sense and the information you are learning here to determine if there is immediate danger. **Watch television and listen to the radio for official instructions as they become available.**

Create a Plan to Shelter-in-Place. There are circumstances when staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and potentially contaminated air outside, a process known as sheltering-in-place and sealing the room can be a matter of survival. **If you see large amounts of debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is badly contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place and seal the room. Consider precutting plastic sheeting to seal windows, doors and air vents.** Each piece should be several inches larger than the space you want to cover so that you can duct

tape it flat against the wall. Label each piece with the location of where it fits. Use all available information to assess the situation. Quickly bring your family and pets inside, lock doors, and close windows, air vents and replace dampers. Immediately turn off air conditioning, forced air heating systems, exhaust fans and clothes dryers. Take your emergency supplies and go into the room you have designated. Seal all windows, doors and vents. Understand that sealing the room is a temporary measure to create a barrier between you and contaminated air. Watch TV, listen to the radio or check the Internet for instructions from local emergency management officials.

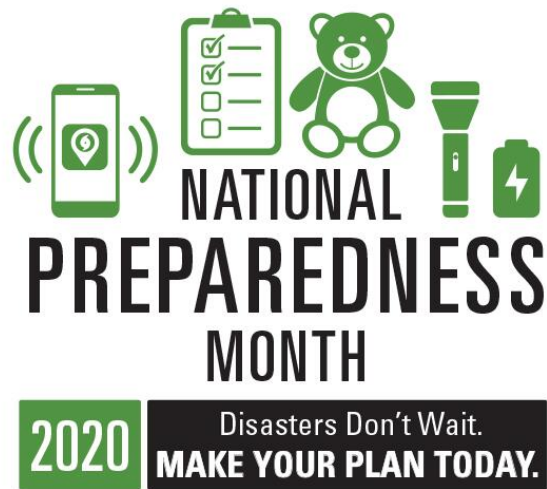
Create a Plan to Get Away. Plan in advance how you will assemble your family and anticipate where you will go. **Choose several destinations in different directions** so you have options in an emergency. If you have a car, keep at least a half tank of gas in it at all times. **Become familiar with alternate routes as well as other means of transportation** out of your area. If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. **Take your emergency supply kit**, unless you have reason to believe it is contaminated and lock the door behind you. Take pets with you if you are told to evacuate, however, if you are going to a public shelter, keep in mind they may not be allowed inside. If you believe the air may be contaminated, drive with your windows and vents closed and keep the air conditioning and heater turned off. Listen to the radio for instructions. Know Emergency Plans at school and work. **Talk to your children's schools and your employer about emergency plans.** Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency. If you are an employer, be sure you have an emergency preparedness plan. Review and practice it with your employees. A community working together during an emergency also makes sense. **Talk to your neighbors about how you can work together.**

3. Be Informed about what might happen.

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, such as assembling a supply kit and developing a family emergency plan, are the same for both a natural or manmade emergency. However there are significant differences among potential terrorist threats, such as biological, chemical, explosive, nuclear and radiological, which will impact the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these specific threats, you are **preparing yourself** to react in an emergency. Go to **ready.gov** to learn more about potential terrorist threats and other emergencies or call **1-800-BE-READY** (1-800-237-3239) for a free brochure. Be prepared to adapt this information to your personal circumstances and make every effort to follow instructions received from authorities on the scene. Also learn about your community's local emergency plan. With these simple preparations, you can be ready for the unexpected.

4. Get Involved in preparing your community.

After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step and get involved in preparing your community. Learn more about **Citizen Corps**, which actively involves citizens in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger and better prepared. We all have a role to play in keeping our hometowns secure from emergencies of all kinds. Citizen Corps works hard to help people prepare, train and volunteer in their communities. Go to **www.citizencorps.gov** for more information and to get involved.



Community Events

Community Events:

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:



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

