



THE *Readout*

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

DEC 2020

Volume 41, Numbers 12

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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*!



To echo Wally and Lucian, it is amazing that we have reached the end of the year—and what a year it has been! To date, there has been 26,744 positive cases of COVID-19 in Stanislaus County and 473 deaths. The stay-at-home and lock down orders have kept us apart and prevented us from participating in our normal activities. Be that as it may, despite all of the abrupt change in our lifestyles there has been one constant: our ham radio nets. Our nets have continued to run,

uninterrupted and has, at least for me, enabled me to maintain some sense of normalcy. My profound thanks for Mark, WB6BJN Net Control for the Morning Traffic and Information Net; Randy, KF6RJS Net Control for our SARA Club net and the various NCS for the ARES net and the Friday Space Net. While I am not always able to check in or listen, the routine of these nets has provided much needed stability.

To all of you I wish the warmest of blessings this Christmas season and hope to see you all in 2021!

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

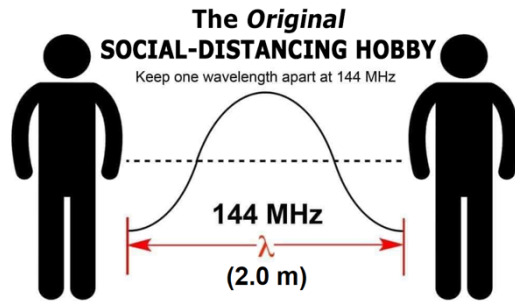
A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year which I hope as we all do that 2021 will be a better year.

Remember to get your election ballot returned to Lucian if you haven't done so yet and let's get our dues rolling in.

I have not heard anything on the new proposal on the new FCC Ruling to charge Hams \$50.00 for new and renewals as of this time.

We just learned over the that we have another Silent Key Loren Foster, AA6LF our condolences go out to the family.



Our next Monthly Meeting is December 15, at 7pm via Zoom at which time we will announce the election results.

Please remember to start sending in your 2021 dues if you haven't already payed them.

Please take care of yourself.
Wally, KK6CPN

Minutes: OCT
Zoom meeting

Next General
Meeting:
Zoom Tuesday,
NOV 17th

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.

Minutes from the NOV Zoom meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

November 17, 2020

Club Meeting Minutes

(conducted over ZOOM due to COVID19)

Attendance (the best I could do by check in on ZOOM. No roll was called)

Lucian, KF6NPG

John, K6JRO

Richard, W6DU

John, NZ6Q

Wally, KK6CPN

Scott, N6CIC

Paul, W6UHF

Dan, WL7COO

Robert, KD6BNY

Roy, KK6OQP

Patrick, KG6AZZ

Zack, KI6KQO

Derrill, W7LTM

Simon, KF6FBA

Mark, N6ARP

Vicki, KF6RCV

Robin, KG6ZYQ

Jason, KA6TIO

Rick, KF6TEZ

Davona, KF6TSY

Randy, KF6RJS

Cheryl, KK6GJM

Brendon, NK6M

Mark, WB6BJN

Bob, WA6ZLO

Eva, KM6BIP

Byron, KN6DSO

Danny, W6DMC

Ed, KF6FIR

President Wally, KK6CPN called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

October minutes were sent out to the membership prior to the meeting via e mail in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Scott N6CIC and second by Robin KG6ZYQ. Motion was approved.

President: Wally, KK6CPN

Wally reported that Lloyd Chambers KC6HLM has donated some of his amateur radio equipment to the club. Mr. Chambers is elderly and has let his license expire. He wanted the club to have his equipment to raffle off to make money for the club or use as the club sees fit. Wally is testing the equipment and will provide a list.

Vice President: Mark, WB6BJN

Weather will be cooler and possibility of some rain.

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.

Treasurer: Vicki, KJ6RCV

She gave a treasurer's report and a copy will be attached to these minutes and will be included in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Mark WB6BJN and second by Scott N6CIC. Motion was approved.

Sergeant at Arms: Mark, N6ARP: Mark did not have a report.

Board Members: Paul, W6UHF and Brendon, NK6M

No report from Paul, W6UHF or Brendon, NK6M. Tom, K6KQR and Bill, AE6J were not present.

Equipment/Mt Oso: Patrick, KG6AZZ

Patrick said the new duplexer was working fine and had no further report.

ARES: Lucian, KF6NPG

The November training went well. The next ARES meeting is Saturday December 5, 2020. The training topic has not been selected by Pat KG6JXZ.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG

No community events are scheduled at this time. The next SARA Club meeting is Tuesday December 15, 2020 and will be conducted over ZOOM. A link will be sent out before the meeting.

Ham Cram: John, K6JRO

John was not present for a report. Our next Ham Cram is scheduled for Saturday February 13, 2021. For now, we are planning on a test only session. Testing will be at 10:30am, 1:00pm and 2:30pm. At this time, we have 5 registered to take the technician test. You can sign up at the Stanislaus ARES web site, www.stanares.org. Scroll down to bottom of the page to find the registration information.

Section Emergency Coordinator: Dan, WL7COO

Dan reported that there is an all section ZOOM meeting held the third Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. If interested please contact your Emergency Coordinator, Pat KG6JXZ, and he can forward you the meeting link. Lucian KF6NPG can also provide that information. There is also an all-section net held over the TARC repeater (147.030+ pl 100.0) every Sunday at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Section Manager: John, NZ6Q

John said reported that Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, ARRL Pacific Division Director, passed away unexpectedly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and fellow hams. Kristen McIntyre, ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director, has been appointed by the ARRL Board of Directors to fill the Pacific Division Director position. The Pacific Division Director in the past has held a division meeting with ARES and amateur radio club leadership. Most likely if a meeting is held it will be over ZOOM. John will let us know when the meeting is scheduled. The comment filing period for the FCC to consider the increase for amateur radio license fees has passed. Unknown when they will reach a decision. The ARRL will be monitoring.

Un-Finished Business: None reported.

New Business:

Vicki, KJ6RCV said she will now list members who have renewed their club membership at the bottom of the treasurer's report.

Wally KK6CPN said that he is looking into a club PayPal account. He said there is a small fee for every transaction that the purchaser would pay. He will have more information at a later time.

The following have been nominated to run for club officer or board member positions. President: Wally, KK6CPN; VP: Mark, WB6BJN; Secretary: Lucian, KF6NPG; Treasurer: Vicki, KF6RCV; Sgt. at Arms: Mark, N6ARP; Board members: Paul, W6UHF; Scott, N6CIC; and Brendon, NK6M. Ballots will be sent out to all club members via e-mail. There are spaces for write in candidates if needed. Please return as soon as you can but, no later than December 8, 2020.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Mark, WB6BJN and second by Robert, KD6BNY. Adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Minutes by Lucian, KF6NPG; Club Secretary



Treasure's
Report,
Vicki, KJ6RCV

Treasure report from the March net meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report November 17, 2020
10-20-20 to 11-16-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$7,575.92** (Previous Balance \$7,386.63)

Bills Paid:

Moeller Mt. Oso:	\$ 80.00 (Ck #1061 – November site rent 11-1-20)
PG & E	\$ 70.71 (Ck #1062 – Mt. Oso utilities 11-15-20)

Total: \$ 150.71

INCOME:

Dues:	\$ 240.00
Equip Donation – N6ARP	\$ 100.00

Total: \$ 340.00

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank	\$ 340.00 (11-3-20)
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BOTTOM LINE:

Total Income:	\$ 340.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 150.71

Field Day Fund:	\$ 846.88 (included in account balance)
Equipment Fund	\$ 820.00 (included in account balance)

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$7,575.92 as of 11-16-20**

Treasurer

Vicki Pety

November 17, 2020

2021 Memberships – 18 Paid to date

KA6GJN, KA6TIO, KC6KSN, KD6BNY, KE6QMS, KF6NPG, KF6RJS, KI6HOB,
KJ6LJN, KJ6MRG, KJ6RCV, KK6GJM, KM6VLJ, KO5QWC, N5QC, N6ARP, N6CIC,
N6JCS

ARES

Pat, KG6JXZ
Stanislaus County
Emergency
Coordinator

Stanislaus County ARES Report



I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that the end of the year is upon us. There have been many challenges to overcome with the COVID 19 health issues. There appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccines about to become available. Hopefully by the middle of the new year we can go back to having our in-person meetings. It will be great to see all of your smiling faces without having to look at a computer.

We are starting to plan out activities for next year. It is still uncertain how the community events will develop. We will keep you updated as we hear from the event organizers. If you have any training ideas or activities that the group can participate in, please let Pat, KG6JXZ know.

In November we had a review of how to use the ICS forms in Winlink and a great discussion on the use of the signal link sound card led by Patrick, KG6AZZ. For December we will have a presentation on VARA FM. This is a way to send digital traffic that is much faster than using packet. We are fortunate to have Richard, W6ABJ, the Merced County ARES EC, who is well versed in using VARA to lead the presentation.

Thanks to all of you for your participation in Stanislaus ARES. Even in this challenging year our group has been very active, and we hope to have a report detailing last year's activities in January or February.

Please have a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.
KF6NPG@aol.com



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, NOV7th.



Featured Article

Featured Article: *The Night Before Christmas—Ham Radio-style.*

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick."
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa, Diode!
Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
":Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.
His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,

And placed in it a large present for me.
When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"
-author unknow



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?

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:

ARRL EC-001 course

- 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 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



Community Events

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.

Community Events:

December

Saturday 5th ARES meeting 10a-12p via Zoom



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 .

Officers and Board Members

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

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

