

THE STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

NOV 2020

Volume 41, Numbers 11

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

Welcome to another edition of The Readout!

As many of you know, the FCC is proposing to implement a \$50 fee on amateur radio licenses and applications. The ARRL is intending to file comments in firm opposition to this FCC fee proposal. With the November 16 comment deadline fast approaching, the ARRL is urging its members to add their voices by filing opposition comments of their own. The FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) MD Docket 20-270 appeared in the October 15 edition of *The Federal Register* and sets deadlines of November 16 to comment and November 30 to post reply comments, which are comments on comments already filed. ARRL has prepared a *Guide to Filing Comments with the FCC* which includes tips for preparing comments and step-by-step filing instructions. I have attached them to this newsletter. Please consider adding your voice.

The holiday season is upon is and, with 2020 being what it has been, extra precautions should be considered. Please consider the suggestions outlined in this month's *Featured Article* published by FEMA.

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

President's message, Wally, KK6CPN

A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

I hope everyone is staying safe and wearing those masks and maintaining social distancing. 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 if you are interested in any of the positions on the board let us know. Currently those who have said they would be willing to stay on board unless you would like to run are V.P. Mark WB6BJN, Secretary Lucian KF6NPG, Vicki KJ6RCV and Sgt at Arms Mark N6ARP. Once will get the nominations for Officers Lucian will email you a ballot so you can vote and send back to him. We just learned over the weekend that we have another Silent Key Gene Sensanbagher, KI6DKF our condolences go out to the family.

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

Minutes from the OCT Zoom meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352 www.saraclub.net October 20, 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 Richard, W6DU Scott, N6CIC Robert, KD6BNY Zack, KI6KOO Tom, K6KQR Jason, KA6TIO Mel, W7EOV Mark, WB6BJN Bvron

John, NZ6Q Richard, WE6V Roy, KK6OQP Penny, KN6LKO Mark, N6ARP Rick, KF6TEZ Randy, KF6RJS Bob, WA6ZLO Brent, KJ6MRG

John, K6JRO

Davona, KF6TSY Wally, KK6CPN Paul, W6UHF Patrick, KG6AZZ Derrill, W7LTM Vicki, KF6RCV Vince, KM6IRY Cheryl, KK6GJM Eva, KM6BIP

President Wally, KK6CPN called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

September minutes were sent out to the membership prior to the meeting via e mail. Motion to approve by Scott, N6CIC and second by Randy, KF6RJS. Motion was approved.

President Wally KK6CPN

Wally said this was his last term as president. He said that club members should be thinking about next year's officers and board positions. If anyone is interested in serving as a club officer or board member, they should contact him at kk6cpn@yahoo.com. He also reminded everyone that the 2021 dues are coming up and encouraged everyone to continue their membership. Club membership forms can be found on the club website www.saraclub.net and in the READOUT.

Vice President, Mark WB6BJN

Weather will be cooler. We should have 60's and 40's in the evenings. He said that he intended to run for club VP again.

Treasurer, Vicki KJ6RCV

She gave a report and a copy will be attached to these minutes and they will be in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Mark, WB6BJN and second Mel, W7EOV. Motion was approved.

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

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.

Board Members: Paul W6UHF

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

Equipment/Mt Oso: Patrick KG6AZZ

Things look better up on the hill. A new duplexer was installed on the 145.390 repeater. Several users have given reports and they say repeater sounds much better. Seems like the crackle is less and he could hold the repeater with a 1/2 watt.

ARES: Lucian KF6NPG

The next ARES meeting is Saturday November 7, 2020 from 1000 to 1200. There will be a voice net check in for officer reports and general announcements. There will be a presentation on Winlink forms and signal link. We had 16 amateurs check into our Great Shakeout voice net and 6 amateurs sent in the DYFI Winlink earthquake reporting exercise forms.

Community Events: Lucian KF6NPG

No community events are scheduled at this time.

Ham Cram: John, K6JRO

John was not present. 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 Manager: John, NZ6Q

John talked about the FCC proposal to increase the fee to \$50.00 to obtain or renew an amateur radio license. He encouraged everyone to review the proposal and to send in comments. The amateur radio community is very much against these large increase in fees. For further information go to the ARRL web site www.arrl.org and enter license fee increase into the search section or www.w6sf.org for more information. He encourages everyone to post comments and they must be in by November 16, 2020.

Un-Finished Business: None reported.

New Business: Derrill, W7LTM said that the Larry's Tire Mart business will be closing at the end of the month and the property has been sold. If he does get a call regarding the big batteries, he will need a place to store them and someone with a forklift to unload them. Robert, KD6BNY said he would store them at his farm and his son has a forklift to unload them.

Presentation: There was a presentation by Lucian, KF6NPG on the installation of the new duplexer at the Mt. Oso repeater site.

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 <u>www.saraclub.net</u> Treasury Report October 20, 2020 9-15-20 to 10-19-20

BALANCE FORWARD: \$7,386.63** (Previous Balance \$8,014.1§

Bills Paid: Moeller Mt. Oso: Mercer Consumer PG & E

\$ 80.00 (Ck #1058 – October site rent 10-3-20)

\$ 479.75 (CK #1059 - Liability Ins. Renewal 10-3-20)

\$ 67.81 (Ck #1060 - Mt. Oso utilities 10-16-20)

INCOME: Dues:

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank

BOTTOM LINE:

Total Income: Total Expenses: \$ 0.00 \$ 627.56

Total: \$ 627.56

00.00

00.00

Total: \$0.00

\$

\$

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

** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$7,386.63 as of 10-19-20

Treasurer	Vicki Reity	October 20, 2020
	0	

ARES

Pat, KG6JXZ Stanislaus County Emergency Coordinator

Stanislaus County ARES Report



It is hard to believe that we are in November. I hope everyone has great Veterans day and Thanksgiving. It is nice that the weather has cooled down and hopefully we will get some rain. We had a great ARES meeting on Saturday. We had a review of Winlink documents that we may use during an activation and a very informative discussion on the use of the Tigertronics SignaLink.

We are in the process of planning training and other events for next year. We have reserved the rooms at the OES building but, we are probably going to be meeting over ZOOM and the radio for the next several months. If you have any ideas for training topics please let Pat KG6JXZ at kg6jxz@charter.net know and we can plug them into the training calendar for next year.

We do have all of our Wednesday nets covered through December 2, 2020. Thanks to all who volunteered to run the voice and packet nets. We have the rest of December to cover so please check your calendars as we will be asking for more volunteers on the Wednesday nets. Our next training meeting will be Saturday December 5, 2020. It will be a ZOOM meeting and we will put out the link on the Thursday before the meeting. Please be safe and have your go boxes ready and batteries charged.

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 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, NOV7th.



Featured Article

Featured Article: Stay Safe During the Holidays



The holiday season may look different for you and your family this year. Due to COVID-19, many people may celebrate the holidays virtually, have staycations, or have small socially distanced gatherings.

However, you decide to spend the holidays, please remember to practice holiday safety and share family and loved ones:

these helpful tips with your family and loved ones:

- Only use nonflammable decorations in your home or office.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Consider using batteryoperated flameless candles.
- Practice cooking safety_to avoid fires at home. Stay alert in the kitchen and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen.
- When you shop online for holiday gifts, be cautious, and shop with trusted retailers to avoid scams.
- If traveling, please follow the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If traveling by car, please note some places such as gas stations, rest stops, or hotels may be closed due to COVID-19.

For more information on holiday safety and the Holiday and Travel Safety Toolkit, visit www.Ready.gov. You will find tips, graphics, promotional content, and hashtags on holiday safety and preparedness that you can share with your networks.

This article was provided by FEMA Individual and Community Preparedness Newsletter November 5, 2020.

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:

- 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 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.



Community Events

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.

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 Vice President: Mark Lemmons, WB6BJN Secretary: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG Treasurer: Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV Sergeant at Arms: Danny Cortez, W6DMC kk6cpn@yahoo.com wb6bjn@samobile.net kf6npg@aol.com vptigger@gmail.com cortezdanny51@gmail.com

Board Members:

Paul Owen, W6UHFw6uhf@aol.comTom Brawley, K6KQRki6kqr@sbcglobal.netBrendon Church, NK6Mbrendonchurch@me.comBill Danforth, AE6Jki6hnv@gmail.com

Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar KG6AZZ patd@kg6azz.net Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG Stanislaus County ARES:



k6jro@arrl.net kf6npg@aol.com

Emergency Coordinator: Pat Mandas, KG6JXZ kg6jxz@charter.net

Nominations are held every November with elections in December

Preparing Your Written Comments (See second page for Steps to Submit an Online Filing)

ARRL will file comments with the FCC opposing their proposal to adopt a \$50 fee for each Amateur Radio License application. The fee would apply to applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests.

ARRL members are urged to file individual comments. The deadline to make your voice heard is November 16, 2020. The reply comment deadline — that is, the deadline for comments on comments already filed — is November 30. **Use this guide to help you prepare and submit your written comments to the FCC**. Remember to include your name and address within the document and save it with a filename and location on your computer where you can find it. When you are ready to file your comments with the FCC, use the step-by-step instructions on the second page of this guide.

For further information, visit http://www.arrl.org/FCC-Fees-Proposal.

Here are some points that can be used when preparing your written comments opposing the FCC proposal.

Public Service

Amateurs contribute to the public good. In many areas they provide an emergency communications backbone capability at no taxpayer cost. Consistently we have witnessed storms and natural disasters completely wipe out internet, cellular, and other means of communication. Radio amateurs often fill that void on an unmatched, flexible basis when needed. Recent examples of Amateur Radio Service readiness and response include the California wildfires and Gulf Coast hurricanes.

A Voluntary, Non-Commercial National Resource

Unlike operators in other FCC licensed services, Amateur Radio Service operators by law — domestic and international — must not use their license for any pecuniary interest. Radio amateurs are prohibited from earning or charging any money for any communications activity. The expenses for their equipment, training, and other activities come out of their own pockets, with no opportunity for reimbursement or payment of any kind.

Technology

Amateur radio is a source of significant technological innovation that should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Youth and Education

The United States is experiencing a severe lack of RF engineers and expertise at the very time it is needed by the rapidly growing wireless industries. Amateur radio is helping to meet the deficit, but much more is needed and youngsters (High School and College-aged) are least able to afford licensing fees. RF knowledge and related digital expertise is needed to maintain US leadership in wireless industries. At a minimum, young people (below the age of 26) should be exempt from the proposed license fees.

Self-Regulating

Amateur radio is self-regulating: (a) Amateur examinations are written and administered by radio amateur volunteers. (b) Examination results and paperwork most often are submitted electronically to the FCC. Electronic submission could be required if there would be a cost savings to the Commission. (c) Amateur radio educational classes are conducted by volunteers who by and large do not charge fees or tuition for teaching. (d) The Amateur Service, in cooperation with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has a volunteer corps that monitors the amateur airwaves and has programs that work to prevent their misuse before FCC involvement might be needed. These amateurs also observe non-amateur signals both within amateur spectrum and outside it, and report unusual or suspicious signals.

Additional Suggestions

- Focus on the positive aspects and value that the Amateur Radio Service offers our nation.
- Avoid arguing that the fee will "kill" amateur radio. Rather, make pertinent arguments on why the fees would impair the public benefits of the Amateur Radio Service.
- Avoid ham jargon (QSO, worked, ticket, bird) in your comments, which will not be understood by FCC personnel administering this proposal. The fee proposals cover every FCC license and service across the board and the consideration was directed by Congress.



Steps to Submit an Online Filing (See first page for Preparing Your Written Comments)

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Prepare a document (PDF is strongly recommended, but the system will accept doc, docx, and some other file formats). Include your name and address within the document and save it with a filename and location on your computer where you can find it. When you're ready to file your comments, go to the FCC filings form from an internet browser on a computer or other online device:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings

Or, use the FCC Express Comment form to file short, typed-in comments (no document upload) at:

https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express

- 2 Select the first text box labeled **Proceeding(s)**. Type in **20-270**. This is the filing number. Be sure the pop-up box displays the title of the correct proceeding, and select it or press the ENTER (or Return) key. Once you've done this, 20-270 will be highlighted in yellow.
- 3 Select the box labeled **Name(s) of Filer(s)**. Type your full name and then press the ENTER key. You will need to press ENTER after you've typed it in. Once you've done this, your name will be highlighted in yellow.
- Skip the boxes labeled "Law Firm" and "Attorney" (unless applicable). Select the box labeled **Primary Contact Email** and type your email address. This box will NOT get highlighted. The filer's email address will not be made public by inserting it here. However, any information you include in your comments, including an email address, will be made public.

Select the box labeled **Type of Filing** and select "Comment" from the dropdown items. It is the first item.

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- 6 Skip the boxes labeled "Report Number," "Bureau ID," and "File Number."
- 7 Move down the list of boxes to **Address of** and select "Filer" from the dropdown items, as you are the filer of this comment. Then, type your address in the boxes labeled **Address, City, State** (select from dropdown), and **ZIP**.
- 8 Move to the **Upload Documents** box to upload your pre-written comments. By clicking on the hyperlink inside the box, you will be prompted to upload the document you saved with your comments. Go to the file folder and select the document. Then hit "Open" to upload the document into the FCC system. If you've done it correctly, it should now show the name of the document in blue below the Upload Documents area.
 - Click on the small **Email Confirmation** checkbox so that you'll get a confirmation of your submission. Then click on the blue **Continue to review screen**. This will allow you to review all the submitted information before you hit the Submit button. If you are satisfied with your entries, select the **Submit** button. If not, use the BACK button on your browser to return to the entry page and make any corrections or changes, then continue again to the review screen and submit.
- **10** There is a delay before your comments will appear on the FCC website. However, if you receive the email confirmation usually within minutes the comment has been successfully filed.

Congratulations! You're done and can exit from the web page.

ARRL the national association for amateur radio

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC. MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check One: New Member Renewing Member	Family Membership	
NAME: CALLSI	GN:	
ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)		
ADDRESS:	_CITY:	
ZIP: PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail:		
ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS AT SAMEA		
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
NAME:	_CALL SIGN:	ARRL:(Yes) (No)
TOTAL DUES PAID: Date:		
One-year membership dues are \$30.00, Family Due	es are \$45	

Note: Bring membership form to SARA Meeting or Mail to: SARA Club, P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA 95352-4601

