



November 2021 Volume 42, Numbers 11

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

Welcome to another edition of The Readout!

I want to start of this month's newsletter by saying, this is your club, and it is only as successful as you want it to be. We are a volunteer organization and as such, it needs the participation of its members. Unfortunately, COVID put a screeching halt to this as seen in the decline attendance of weekly SARA net and face-to-face member meeting. And I am no exception.

The good news is monthly meetings are starting to meet which, means our involvement is essential. If we want our club to be successful, we need to participate.

With this in mind, I hope you all took Jason, KA6TIO words to heart in last month's newsletter and considered your own level of activity. If you heart and desire to serve our club (which is essentially serving your community), leads you in that direction, I would hope you would consider increasing your commitment to the club. Truly, it doesn't need to be much. Perhaps it's checking in more often on the weekly nets or attending more meeting. If you feel like stepping it up a notch you can take one of the Net Control duties on Tuesday nights. I considered this and took the first and fifth Tuesdays of every month. Or, if you really want to make a difference, you can consider on of the officer, board, or coordinator positions which will be vacated at the end of December. Nominations for these positions will take place at our Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> member meeting and elections will be held at our December 21<sup>st</sup> member meeting. Either way, your participation at these two meetings is vital. I hope to see you all there!

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

Next General Meeting: Face-to-face. Tuesday, Noverber 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm

# A Message from the Club President Wally, KK6CPN

Once again it sure was nice to be able to meet in-person last month. One item we had a lengthy discussion one was the low battery power when PG&E shut the main lines down. The membership all agreed, when this happens again, we should limit the use of the repeater during this time. The Morning Net shortened or canceled as well as the Old Geiser's Net (maybe use a Manteca or Stockton Repeater) and the Afternoon Net.

Remember we will be taking nominations for Officers. Mark, WB6BJN and my positions will need to be fill and the other positions as all are always open.

As I have mentioned over the past several months, we are looking for someone to take over as Field Day Coordinator, if you might be interested, please let the board know. If this position can't be filled, we might not be able to have a Field Day.

I want to thank Lucian for putting on another fine presentation for the October meeting. If you would like you like to make a presentation just let me know.

We a small turnout for last month's meeting so, we have extended the raffling off a 10-meter Realistic radio donated to the club by Scott, N6CIC to the November meeting.

That's all for now.

73 to all. Wally, KK6CPN

## Minutes from September face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352 www.saraclub.net October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Club Meeting Minutes (Conducted at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Minutes: OCT face-to-face meeting

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Lucian, KF6NPG Everett, KN6NQN Randy, KF6RJS Richard, W6DU Cheryl, KK6GJM Robin, KG6ZYQ John, W6PY Paul, W6UHF Wally, KK6CPN Vicki, KJ6RCV Jason, KA6TIO David, W6DAH Mark, WB6BJN Charles, AA6YV Robert, KD6BNY Scott, N6CIC Linda, W6MUT

Visitors: None

President Wally, KK6CPN called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and welcomed everyone. There were 17 members and no visitors in attendance. Wally had everyone introduce themselves and then led the pledge of allegiance.

## 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 30<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### Joining SARA:

We are currently taking membership applications for 2021.
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.

### Reading of Minutes Secretary Lucian, KF6NPG

The minutes were included in the READOUT and had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Scott, N6CIC and second by Randy, KF6RJS to accept the minutes as printed in the READOUT. The motion was passed without opposition.

#### President: Wally, KK6CPN

Wally said his report was in the READOUT. He asked that everyone be thinking about upcoming elections and the Field Day coordinators position. He asked for members to step up for these positions. Club officer and board member positions will be up for nomination at the November meeting. If anyone is interested in these positions, please contact him at kk6cpn@yahoo.com.

He will be raffling off a Radio Shack 10-meter 25-watt mobile radio with power poles that was donated to the club by Scott N6CIC.

#### Vice President: Mark, WB6BJN

Mark said that he was preparing for his move to Tennessee. He had good news for the weather forecast for our area. There was a storm front coming in for the weekend and we could get a one to three inches of rain and there would be up to two feet of snow in the mountains.

### **Treasurer: Vicki, KJ6RCV**

Vicki, KJ6RCV read the treasurer's report and a copy will be attached to these minutes and will be included in the READOUT. Motion to approve by Everett, KN6NQN and second by Randy, KF6RJS. Motion was approved without opposition.

**Sergeant at Arms: Mark, N6ARP:** Mark was not present.

## Board Members: Paul, W6UHF and Scott, N6CIC. Brendon, NK6M and Bill, AE6J were not present.

Paul gave an update on the tower project. He said that a crew would be going up with Raymond from Ray's radio on Thursday to do the tower work and the installation of the new 220 repeater.

Scott, N6CIC donated a Radio Shack 10-meter 25-watt mobile radio with power poles to raffle off.

#### **Equipment/Mt Oso: Paul, W6UHF**

Refer to Paul's board report.

#### **ARES: Lucian, KF6NPG**

The October meeting was Saturday October 2, 2021 (10:00am to Noon). There were officer reports and general discussion. There was training on the Winlink DYFI (earthquake) reporting form in preparation for the Great California Shakeout information net on Thursday October 21, 2021 at 10:21 am. The next meeting is Saturday November 6, 2021 and will be a face-to-face meeting at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. We will be participating in a SET (Simulated Emergency Test) and the meeting will start at 9:00am rather than 10:00am.

#### **Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG**

No Community events are scheduled at this time.

Ham Cram: John, K6JRO (was not present)

The next Ham Cram is set for February 12, 2022.

#### **Un-Finished Business:**

None

#### **Old Business:**

None

#### **New Business:**

Secretary Note: I had to leave the meeting due to a family emergency and President Wally, KK6CPN completed the new business and meeting adjournment sections.

President Wally, KK6CPN talked about the emergency battery backup power on Mt. Oso. Due to the battery backup for our repeater being low is just over 24 hours it was discussed at length and the members agreed that when we go to battery backup that we limit the use of the repeater during this time. (i.e. Morning Net shortened or canceled, the Old Geiser Net and Afternoon Net be canceled or switch to another frequency).

#### Presentation:

There was a presentation on the SARA Club repeater system by Lucian KF6NPG.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

The next SARA Club meeting is Tuesday November 16, 2021 (7:00pm to 8:00pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA. Motion to adjourn by Jason, Ka6TIO and second by Robin, KG6ZYQ. Adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Minutes by Lucian KF6NPG, Club Secretary

## Treasure's Report,

Vicki, KJ6RCV

## Treasure report from the August meeting



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

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report October 19, 2021 9-21-21 to 10-18-21

BALANCE FORWARD: \$8,261.23\*\* (Previous Balance \$8,247.09)

Bills Paid:

Moeller Mt. Oso PG & E

80.00 (Ck #1088 - Oct. site rent 10-1-21) 85.47 (Ck #1089 - Mt. Oso utilities 10-8-21)

Total: \$ 165.47

INCOME:

29.61 (\$31 less \$1.39 Pay Pal fees) Donations- KF6NPG (3)

\$ 150.00

Total: \$ 179.61

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank

150.00 (9-30-21)

Tri-Counties Bank

29.61 (Pay Pal transfer posted 9-30-21)

Field Day Fund: **Equipment Fund**  \$ 946.88 (included in account balance)

\$1,811.30 (included in account balance. \$500 from GF)

\*\* TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$8,261.23 as of 10-18-21

Treasurer

October 19, 2021

2021 Memberships — 89 Paid to date AE6J, AF6AA, K6FVC, K6JRO, K6KQR, K6SBO, K6UWU, K7RKU, KA6BYR, KA6GJN, KA6TIO, KC6KSN, KD5QWC, KD6BNY, KE6QMS, KE6ULQ, KF6FBA, KF6FIR, KF6NPG, KF6RJS, KF6TEZ, KF6TSY, KF6UTB, KG6AZZ, KG6JXZ, KG6ZYQ, KI6HOB, KI6KQO, KIGPBL, KIGYQL, KJGCHN, KJGEWD, KJGF, KJGHHA, KJGLJN, KJGMRG, KJGRCV, KKGCPN, KKGGJM, KKGGJN, KKGILV, KKGOQP, KKGSFI, KMGARU, KMGBIP, KMGIRY, KM6JAG, KM6KMT, KM6NEZ, KM6SIO, KM6VLJ, KN6GJL, KN6HWE, KN6KOD+1, KN6MOK, KN6MOL, KN6NQN, KN6OOR, KN6OQW, KN6QBS, KN6QPK, KO6KL, N5QC, N6ARP, N6CIC, N6JCS, NK6M, NV6S, W5NH, W6DMC, W6DU, W6KZZ, W6MUT, W6PV, W6PY, W6QFU, W6UHF, W6WEZ, WA6UXA, W7EOV, W7LTM, W8AAL, WA6BFG, WA6KEC, WA6ZLO, WB6BJN, WE6V, WL7COO

2022 Memberships - 6 Paid to date AE6J, KI6HOB, KK6ILV, KM6SIO, W6PV, W6PY

2023 Membership - 1 Paid

AE6J

## **ARES**

Lucian, KF6NPG Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus County

## Stanislaus County ARES Report

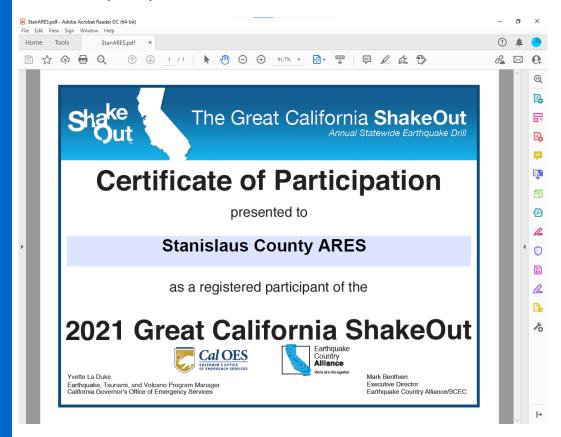


A signal link sound card has been connected to the Kenwood radio used for Winlink traffic in the ARES Room. This radio can now be used to send traffic either through packet or VARA FM and will be very useful in conducting operations from the ARES room.

In our November meeting ARES officers gave their reports and we confirmed our participation in the county

wide Healthcare System Redundant Communications Drill on Thursday December 2, 2021. We have five operators confirmed to participate. The drill will go from 0930 hrs. to Noon.

There were 18 stations that checked into the voice 2021 Great California Shakeout earthquake information net. Four stations sent in DYFI (Did You Feel It) Winlink earthquake report drill forms. Each operator was given a certificate of participation.



In preparation for the December Exercise, we had training on Winlink forms that we would use. ARES members were then sent out into the field to participate in a SET (Simulated Emergency Test) to practice sending in the Winlink forms. The SET was successful as all the forms were sent in by members in the field. At the end of the SET ARES members were secured to return home.

The next ARES meeting will be Saturday December 4, 2021. We will meet at the regular time of 1000 hrs. After the general meeting Pat KG6AZZ has asked that we have a workday to inventory ARES equipment.

Please keep yourselves and your families safe.

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.

## 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.



# **Next Ham Cram**February 12, 2022 Office of Emergency Services 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA

The COVID restrictions have been greatly reduced and will be following the California Department of Public Health and the Federal Center for Disease Control guidelines.

Therefore, for meetings of this size there is no social distancing required. Those who are vaccinated do not need to wear a mask. For those who are not vaccinated you should wear a mask. Anyone who feels the need to wear a mask for personal, medical, or safety reasons is free to do so.

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 the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).
- 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.

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



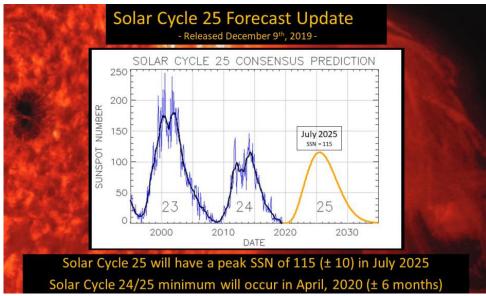
look for the EC-001 course. It states that it takes about 45 hours to complete the course over 9 weeks. Once you complete the ARRL course you can take the exam online. From what I can see there is no charge to take the course or exam. You have to take the course before you can take the exam.

You cannot take the challenge exam online.

## Featured Article

# Featured Article: What Can Hams Expect from Solar Cycle 25?

Posted by Wayne, KE8JFW on January 31, 2020. *On All Bands* an amateur radio blog hosted by DX Engineering



image/https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/

As we've written about before, the **Solar Cycle** is one of many things about Ham Radio that we wish we had more control over—right up there with our HOA boards and thunderstorms on Field Day.

A lack of solar activity makes working the bands from 14-28 MHz (20 through 10 meters) and 50 MHz (6 meters) a challenge. The amount of sunspots, and correlating solar activity, decreases or increases according to a predictable 11-year cycle. The next solar cycle (the 25<sup>th</sup> since they were first recorded in 1755) looms ahead as we enter the new year.

As with most things relating to Ham Radio, opinions on what we can expect from Solar Cycle 25 vary widely, so whether operators will be grumbling about a dearth of sunspots or happily filling log books with a ridiculous number of long-distance contacts is yet to be seen. The general belief among the scientific community is that we're in for another 11 years comparable to the less-than-stellar Solar Cycle 24—and we all know how much everyone enjoyed that.

Published December 9, a report on Solar Cycle 25 from an NOAA/NASA cochaired, international panel predicted "a peak in July, 2025 (+/- 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number (SSN) of 115. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be average in intensity and similar to Cycle 24. Additionally, the panel concurred that solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April 2020 (+/- 6 months). If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the 7<sup>th</sup> longest on record (11.4 years)."

Just for fun, we took a look back at predictions for Solar Cycle 24. Some camps predicted it would be the weakest cycle in more than a century; others

trumpeted the arrival of one of the most intense cycles on record. A May 2009 article on Spaceweather.com summarized what the experts at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction center anticipated:

"The panel predicts the upcoming Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a daily sunspot number of 90. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began."

By 2012—three years into Cycle 24—experts generally agreed that Hams wouldn't be jumping for joy over what they could expect for the next eight years. And they were right. Solar Cycle 24, which began in December 2008, peaked in April 2014 with a 23-month smooth sunspot cycle of 81.1. In 2019, the sun displayed no visible sunspots for well over 269 days—surpassing the number of blank days in 2008 (268) and making it the quietest sunspot year since 1913.

What lies ahead for Solar Cycle 25? We'll just have to get on the air and find out for ourselves. And remember, this may be a good opportunity to enjoy the many perks of UHF/VHF operation.



## **Tower Work**

## Tower Work:

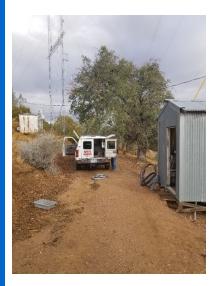
On October 28, 2021, a crew of SARA Cub members went up to Mt. Oso to do tower work with Raymond from Ray's radio. The crew was Paul, W6UHF, Patrick, KG6AZZ, Mark, N6ARP, John, W6PY and Lucian, KF6NPG. The work consisted of re-guying the club tower, attaching a brake tot the top of the UHF antenna, installing the new Bridgecom 220 repeater and, some general maintenance. As you can see from the following pictures it started out as cool and we did have a short rain shower. About 100:00 am the sun came out and it ended up a nice day. It was a long day as we stated pout at 8:00 am and we did not come down until around 5:00 pm. The hard work seems to have paid off. The 145.390 repeater has been sounding great even with the windy and rainy conditions we have been experiencing.



Starting out



The Crew: Paul, W6UHF, John, W6PY Mark, N6ARP and Patrick, KG6AZZ



Paul and John doing ground work



Raymond on the tower



Mark rolling out guy wire



New Bridgecom 220 repeater



Paul doing some ground work



New guy wire brackets

# Community Events

## **Community Events:**

### November

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> ARES Meeting IN PERSON 10a-12p Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> SARA Meeting IN PERSON 7p-8p

### December

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> ARES meeting IN PERSON 10a-12p Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> SARA meeting IN PERSON 7p-8p







## **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 .

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 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 and Merced ARES is www.mercedares.org .

## Officers and Board Member

## 2021 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
Treasurer: Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV vptigger@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms: Mark Price, N6ARP mark99price@gmail.com

#### **Board Members:**

Paul Owen, W6UHF w6uhf@aol.com
Brendon Church, NK6M brendonchurch@me.com
Tom Griffin, N6CIC scottandalene@msn.com
Bill Danforth, AE6J ki6hnv@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 ASSOCIATION (SARA) MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check One: New Member Ren	ewing Member Family Member	ship
NAME:	CALLSIGN:	
ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)	CALLSIGN:	
ADDRESS:	CITY:	
ZIP:PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail: ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBE	ERS AT SAME ADDRESS:	
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-mail		
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-mail		
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-mail		
NAME:	CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-mail		
TOTAL DUES PAID: Date One-year membership dues are \$30	e: 0.00(if paid by cash, check, or money	v order) \$31,00 if paid through
	s the same for all methods of payme	
payment by going to the club web s		•
2	ARA Meeting or Mail to: SARA Cl	ub, P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA
95352-4601 April 3, 2021		
April 5, 2021		