



THE **Readout** STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

APR 2023

Volume 44, Number 4

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**Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Tuesday, April 18th 7:00pm**

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

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*!

The rains are slowing down, the snowpack is melting and Field Day is around the corner—are you getting ready?

For me, contesting is one of my favorite ham related activities and Field Day is the highlight and one way you can get ready is by joining other on-air events.

This year the ARRL is engaged in a year-long operating event recognizing volunteers. The event was announced in the January 2023 issue of QST (see attached) and is celebrating a year-long operating event honoring all ARRL volunteers.

In the same spirit as the 2014 ARRL Centennial Celebration, and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven only by QSOs uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW). You can visit vota.arrl.org for more details.

So, brush up on your operating skills and work some VOTA! By the way, I'm a Diamond Club Life Member which is 25 points!

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.

73 de John, K6JRO

President's
message,
Everett, NQ6C

Minutes:
MAR face-to-face
meeting

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.

A Message from the Club President Everett Young, NQ6C

Greetings!

It's time to think about a place to have field day at. If anyone has an idea, please tell the committee or me know.

Please be aware of the weather, the wind and lighting, for your antenna and personal health.

Thank you.
Everett, NQ6C

Minutes from March face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

March 21, 2023

Club Meeting Minutes (Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

John, W6PY	Randy, KF6RJS	Everett, NQ6C
Richard, W6DU	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Paul, W6UHF
Patty, W6PV	Brent, KJ6MRG	Carl, KJ6RDD
Scott, KN6RKY	Mel, W7EOV	Brendon, NK6M
Jason, KA6TIO	John, K6JRO	Robert, KD6BNY
Bill, AE6J	Scott, KN6OOV	Bobby, KN6SDD
Gene, W6QFU	Craig, KN6TQX	Eva, KM6BIP
Scott, N6CIC	Zack, KI6KQO	Roy, KK6OQP
Robbie KN6VOG	Mark N6ARP	Mark W6SXA-Guest
Richard, W8AAL	Arthur, KN6SSP	Vicki, KJ6RCV
Scott, WB3KJX-Guest		

President Everett, NQ6C called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone. There were 29 members, and two guests according to the sign-in sheet. Everett had everyone introduce themselves and Vicki, KJ6RCV led the pledge of allegiance.

Reading of Minutes Secretary Scott, N6CIC

The minutes were included in the READOUT and had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. There was one minus \$5.00 correction to the February Treasurer's report, and otherwise there were no corrections or questions about the minutes. Motion by Bill AE6J and second by Richard W8AAL to approve the minutes. The motion was passed without opposition.

Vice President Zack, KI6KQO

Zack read a list of subjects and presenters through August. Below is a list of currently scheduled presentations.

Joining SARA:

We are taking membership applications for 2023. 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.

- April-KN6GZW Elias-Eagle Scout repeater shack foundation (Note only if access to the site is possible)
- May-AE6J Bill-Proper Radio Procedure
- June-Field Day band plan
- July-Field Day Results
- August-N6ARP Mark-Go Box/Go Bag
- September-N6CIC Scott-Working Ham Radio Abroad
- October-TBD
- November-Club Nominations
- December-Elections and Christmas Celebration

Treasurer Scott, KN6RKY

Scott read the current treasurer's report and a copy is attached to the minutes and will be included in the next READOUT. This included the \$5.00 correction from the February report. John, K6JRO made a motion to accept the report with the \$5.00 correction. The motion was seconded, and it passed without opposition.

Sergeant at Arms Vicki, KJ6RCV

Vicki said there were snacks and coffee available during the break. She said there would be a 50/50 split the pot for tonight's meeting at the break.

Board Members: Jason, KA6TIO, Randy, KF6RJS, and Bobby, KN6SDD were present and had no reports. **Richard, W8AAL** asked if anyone had lost or damaged antennas due to the storm. Several responded yes.

Equipment/Mt Oso: Club Trustee Leroy, NV6S and Club Technician Patrick, KG6AZZ were not present.

Paul, W6UHF reported that the 145.390 repeater is down for an unknown reason. The 440 repeater is operational, and Patrick has EchoLink connected to it. However, its antenna is pointing down due to the storm and therefore Paul advises using your maximum power when connecting to it. The 220- and 6-meter repeaters are fully operational as is the low level 145.110 repeater located in downtown Modesto. The digipeater is also operational and not on battery power.

At this point in time our access to the Mt. Oso site is not possible due to hazardous road conditions. We don't have an idea when the road will be repaired so we can access the site. It should be noted that with battery power the repeater will only operate for 30 hours. Therefore, it is imperative that when power goes out, usage of the repeater should be limited. This unfavorable situation has raised the issue of whether more robust alternatives for powering the repeaters can be installed. A committee has been formed to study this issue and recommend a solution. Preliminary thought is being given to Lithium Phosphate batteries coupled with solar power. Committee members are John, K6JRO (chair), Paul, W6UHF, Mark, N6ARP, Patrick, KG6AZZ, and Everett, NQ6C.

ARES: John, K6JRO

John reported ARES is no longer in standby mode, although that could change at any time due to continued bad weather. The San Joaquin River is being monitored for any further problems. The next ARES meeting will be on April 1 and will include a simulated emergency drill using Winlink.

Community Events: Lucian KF6NPG was not present.

Field Day-Everett, NQ6C

Field Day will be on June 24-25. However, there is currently 12 feet of snow at the Black Springs Road site, and there is no guarantee the site will be cleared of snow by Field Day. President Everett announced he will hold a Board meeting to discuss possible alternative sites.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break.

Raffle/Split the Pot Vicki, KJ6RCV

Vicki collected \$110.00 for the split-the-pot raffle. Scott, N6CIC was the \$55.00 winner and he donated it back to the Club.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

John, W6PY invited Eva, KM6BIP to talk about winning the Quartzite FT8 challenge. Eva was able to make the longest FT8 contact to Thailand and was awarded a very fancy hard hat, which she modeled for the club, as well as other prizes. Congratulations Eva!

Presentation:

Mark Cloud, W6XSA, president of the Stockton-Delta Amateur Radio Club, gave a presentation on the uses and capabilities of NanoVNA (Nano Vector Network Analyzer) devices. These small units, which can be purchased for between \$55 and \$130, have the capability of analyzing antennas and antenna components such as cables and baluns that formerly required much more expensive equipment. It is critical in their use that proper calibration procedures be followed. User guides are on-line and there are numerous helpful YouTube videos. He passed out a guide to the important "Cautions" that should be adhered to when using these devices.

Meeting Adjourned:

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next SARA Club meeting is Tuesday, April 18, 2023 (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.

Minutes by Scott N6CIC, Club Secretary

Treasure report from the March meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601
www.saraclub.net
Treasury Report March 21, 2023
2-22-23 to 3-21-23

BALANCE FORWARD: \$8,758.93** (Previous Balance \$8,439.04)

Bills Paid:

Moeller Mt. Oso \$ 80.00 (Ck #1135) – March Site Rent (3-1-23)
PG & E ¹ \$ 17.11 (Ck #1134) – Mt. Oso Utilities (3-12-23)

Total: \$ 97.11

INCOME:

Dues \$ 225.00
Win Systems, Inc. \$ 150.00 Annual Mt. Oso electrical power contribution
Split the Pot \$ 42.00 Tom KJ6OV was the \$42.00 winner 😊

Total: \$ 417.00

DEPOSITS:

Tri-Counties Bank \$ 417.00 (3-20-23)

Field Day Fund: \$ 689.19 (included in account balance)
Equipment Fund \$2,279.23 (included in account balance)

**** TRI COUNTIES BANK BALANCE: \$8,758.93 as of 3-21-23**

Treasurer _____

March 21, 2023

2023 Membership – 62 Paid/Honorary - AE6J, K6JRO, K6SBO, K7RKU, KA6TIO, KE6QMS, KF6NPG, KF6RJS, KG6ZYQ, KI6HOB, KI6KQO, KJ6MRG, KJ6OVV, KJ6RCV, KK6GJM, KK6ILV, KM6SIO, KM6VLJ, KN6OOV, KN6RKY, KN6TDQ, KN6VOG, N6ARP, N6CIC, N6JCS, N6MTM, NV6S, W6DAH, W6MUT, W6PV, W6PY, W6QFU, W7EOV, W8AAL, WA6UXA, WA6ZLO, N5QC, KD5QWC, KG6AZZ, KE6ULQ, W5NH, KJ6EWD, KN6GJL, W6DU, AA6YV, W6UHF, WE6V, KN6SSP, KN6QQQ, KN6TQX, WB6BJN, KA6GIN, KA6BYR, WA6BFG, KN6YFO, KJ6RDD, NQ6C, KD6BNY, KN6SDD, KN6YHY, KF6TEZ, KF6TSY

2024 Membership – 4 Paid/Honorary – KI6HOB, N6ARP, NV6S, WA6ZLO

¹ Actual PG&E monthly bill was \$55.50 less "California Climate Credit" of \$38.39, net bill \$17.11

ARES

John, K6JRO
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report



ARES met on Saturday April 1st at the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Officer reports were given. Our training was provided by Lucian, KF6NPG and simulated a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) using WinLink with attention to peer-to-peer (P2) message handling. The incorporation of WinLink into emergency services cannot be overstated. Sending WinLink messages P2P requires a lot of subtle nuances and this training was very important. Thank you Lucian for putting this together.

ARES activation level has been lowered to Level 3: Status Normal which means we are no longer on stand-by. However, ARES members should continue to monitor the weather. In particular, ARES members that are eligible to be called out are encouraged to monitor Stanislaus County OEC social media for updates. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at my email below.

As always, if you have packet capability, please consider checking into the ARES WinLink Wednesday net on the 4th Wednesday of the month. This consist of sending in a WinLink forms to Lucian, KF6NPG. If you are new to packet and would like to start checking into the WinLink Wednesday Net, please contact Lucian. We also have a VHF simplex net on the first Wednesday of the month immediately following the ARES net.

John Otte, K6JRO Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.
K6JRO@arrrl.net



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

ARRL EC-001 course

Featured Article

Ham Cram Information

Due to low enrollment, the ARES organization will no longer be offering ham crams. Instead, we will offer material and guidance to anyone who wants to earn or upgrade their license. Information is available on the [ARES webpage](#). Testing will be offered before the SARA club meeting at 6:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

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 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 must take the course before you can take the exam.

You cannot take the challenge exam online.



Featured Article: *SARA Club and Stanislaus ARES Community Events*

By Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

The club and ARES have participated in two events: Snelling Road Race and the Copperopolis Road Race. The Snelling Road Race took place on Saturday February 25, 2023, from 7:00 am to around 3:00 pm. The following members assisted with this event; Wally, KK6CPN, Steve, N5QC, Mark, N6ARP, Brent, KM6MRG, Patrick, KG6AZZ, John, N6JCS, Paul, W6UHF, Mike, KM6MHT, Zack, KI6KQO, Robert, KD6BNY and Derrill, W7LTM. Wally reported that it was very cold and a little bit of rain. He believes he even saw a couple of snowflakes. The race went well and there were no injuries.



Wally, KK6CPN Net Control Station (NCS)



Zack, KI6KQO Keyes and Olsen



Mike, KM6MHT



KM6MHT station



John, N6JCS



Paul, W6UHF Keyes and Bledsoe

The next event was the Copperopolis Road Race on Saturday April 8, 2023, from 7:00am to 3:00pm. The event really takes place in Milton, CA. It started out a little cool and breezy in the morning but, turned out to be a nice Spring Day. We tried something new at this event and all of the radio operators had an APRS beacon at their position. This helped to outline the course positions on a computer-generated map. It turned out to be very helpful. The event went well, and we only had 3 riders suffer some minor scrapes and bruises. The following members assisted with this event; Lucian, KF6NPG, Wally, KK6CPN, Ed, KF6FIR, Patrick, KG6AZZ, John, K6JRO, John, N6JCS, and Scott, KN6RKY. This was Scott's first event and he said he had a great time. Thanks to all of the operators who worked these events.



Lucian, KF6NPG NCS



Riders waiting to start



Riders at the Start





Wally, KK6CPN at Felix



Ed, KF6FIR at Rock Steady Resort



John, K6JRO at Hogan Raid



K6JRO, Station



Riders at Hogan



John, N6JCS at Summit

Swap Shop



Wildlife on the course



Scott, KN6RKY at the finish



Riders at the finish line

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

The following swap shop related items was sent to Lucian, KF6NPG for distribution to the club of the sale of equipment from silent key Vernon Loard, K6KRN by his daughter Charlene Young. She wants to sell is equipment. The below information was provided by Charlene. I am sure she is open to reasonable offers. She also provided a few pictures of the equipment. Please feel free to contact her at youngchuck62@gmail.com

1) ICOM radio, model IC-7300	\$1,149 (new price)
2) Yaesu Transceiver, model FTDX3000	\$1,349 (used price)
3) Astron Amplifier, model RS35M	\$ 315 (new price)
4) Kenwood Power Supply, model PS430	\$ 255 (used price)
5) Kenwood Transceiver, model TS570	\$ 255 (used price)
6) TEK Power Supply, model TP50SW	\$ 169 (new price)
7) MFJ Versa Tuner, model MFK989	\$ 252 (new price)
8) Ameritron Amplifier, model AL811H	\$1,499 (new price)
9) Roof antennae, model ANT S 402 M	\$1,019 (new price)



Yaesu Transceiver, model FTDX3000



TEK Power Supply, model TP50SW



MFJ Versa Tuner, model MFK989

Community Events



Ameritron Amplifier, model AL811H

Community Events:

April

Tuesday 18th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

May

Saturday 13th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 16th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

TBA Hospital Redundant Communications Drill. Need 6 ARES OPERATORS

The Ride for MOM has been cancelled and retired. This event is no longer offered.

June

Saturday 3rd ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Sunday 4th Regalado Road Race 7a-12p Burchell Nursery 1200 California 120 (Highway 120/Wamble Road) Oakdale, CA 95361, need 8 operators

Tuesday 20th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

Saturday through Sunday (24th - 25th) Field Day www.arrl.org/field-day

July

Saturday 8th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 18th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

August

Saturday 5th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Saturday 5th Warnerville Time Trial 7a-12pm Willms Road East of Oakdale, near Knights Ferry need 5 operators

Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

September

Saturday 2nd ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Saturday September 17th Walk to End Alzheimer's 8a-12p. 5 operators

Tuesday 19th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

October

Saturday 14th ARES Meeting 10-12p

Friday-Sunday (13, 14, 15) Pacificon San Ramon Marriot

Tuesday 17th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

November

Local Nets

Saturday 4th ARES Meeting 10a-12p
Tuesday 21st SARA Meeting 7p-8p

December

Saturday 2nd ARES meeting 10a-12p
Tuesday 19th SARA meeting 7p-8p



Local Nets:



S.A.R.A. operates several repeaters.

These are located on Mt. Oso in Patterson, CA:

145.390 – pl 136.5

224.140 – 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 Ladies Chit Chat net every Monday at 8:00pm for YL's.

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) weekly club net meets every Tuesday (except the 2nd Tuesday) at 7:00pm on 147.030 + pl 100 or 447.700 + pl 94.8.

TARC meets the second Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Salvation Army 893 Lander, Turlock, CA.

Officers and Board Member

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.

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 Pizza Factory 3146 G Street #147 Merced, CA 95340.

TARC web site is www.w6bxn.org and Merced ARES is www.mercedares.org.

2023 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President: Everett Young, NQ6C
Vice President: Zach Pelham
Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC
Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY
Sergeant at Arms: Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV

kn6nqn@gmail.com
zsp1919@icloud.com
scottandalene@msn.com
sliefjohnson@gmail.com
vptigger@gmail.com

Board Members:

Jason Peitz ka6tio@gmail.com
Richard Aal, W8AAL dick_aal@comcast.net
Bobby Hale, KN6SDD kn6sdd92@gmail.com
Randy Spindler, KF6RJS (past president), kf6rjs@yahoo.com



Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ
Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO
Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG
Stanislaus County ARES:
Emergency Coordinator: John Otte, K6JRO

patd@kg6azz.net
k6jro@arrl.net
kf6npg@aol.com
k6jro@arrl.net

Nominations are held every November with elections in December



Local Area Frequencies

Name	Frequency	Off set	Tx Tone	Description
VHF Call	146.520	none	none	VHF Simplex
VHF Local	147.540	none	none	Local VHF Simplex
SARA Hi	145.390	- (negative)	136.5	SARA VHF Mt. Oso
SARA Lo	145.110	- (negative)	136.5	SARA VHF Downtown Modesto
MMC	146.355	+ (positive)	156.7	Memorial Hospital Modesto
TARC	147.030	+ (positive)	100.0	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Mt. Bullion
TARC	147.000	+ (positive)	100.0	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Turtle Dome Yosemite National Park
CARS	145.170	- (negative)	100.0	Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Fowler Peak
Stockton	147.165	+ (positive)	107.2	Stockton Delta ARC Sierra Nevada Mountains
Lodi	147.090	+ (positive)	114.8	Lodi Amateur Radio Club
Manteca	146.985	- (negative)	100.0	Manteca Amateur Radio Club Manteca Water Tower
TCARES	145.290	- (negative)	100.0	Tuolumne County Amateur Radio and Electronics Society Moccasin
UHF Call	446.000	No offset	No tone	UHF simplex
SARA	440.225	+ (positive)	136.5	SARA UHF Mt. Oso
TARC	444.700	+ (positive)	94.8	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Mt. Bullion
TARC	440.300	+ (positive)	94.8	Turlock Amateur Radio Club Kings Canyon Sequoia
CARS	441.0375	+ (positive)	151.4	Calaveras Amateur Radio Society Bear Valley (Mt. Reba)
CARS	441.875	+ (positive)	100.0	CARS Summit level Arnold linked to 145.170
Stockton	442.250	+ (positive)	107.2	Stockton Delta ARC Sierra Nevada Mountains
SARA	224.140	- (negative)	136.5	SARA 220 Mt. Oso
TARC	224.960	- (negative)	156.7	Turlock Amateur Radio Club 220 Mt. Bullion

As of January 27, 2023

CARS vhf frequency corrected, and Lodi added January 27, 2023

For further information please refer to each radio club's web site:

SARA www.saraclub.net

TARC www.w6bxn.org

CARS www.calaverasars.org

Stockton www.w6sf.org

Manteca www.facebook.com/groups/k6man

TCARES www.tcars.net

Lodi www.lodiarc.net

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA) 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)

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 \$30.00 (if paid by cash, check, or money order). Family Dues are \$45 and is the same for all methods of payment.

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

April 3, 2021



The ARRL Volunteers On the Air Operating Event



VOLUNTEERS
ON THE AIR 2023

**ARRL Director of Operations
Bob Naumann, W5OV, and
ARRL Radiosport Manager
Bart Jahnke, W9JJ**

2023 is the ARRL Year of the Volunteers. With that, ARRL will be holding Volunteers On the Air (VOTA), a year-long on-air celebration that recognizes the organization's abundant volunteer support and contributions. By using ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world), participants making contacts in 2023 will accumulate points, as well as contact new stations and make new friends all over the world.

From January 1 (0000 UTC) to December 31, 2023 (2359 UTC), hams can participate in the VOTA event, which will include special week-long activations by W1AW portable stations from all 50 states and most US territories. Each W1AW portable activation will begin on a Wednesday at 0000 UTC and end the following Tuesday at 2359 UTC, and each state will be activated twice.

Visit the VOTA online dashboard (<https://vota.arrl.org>) for a complete list of dates and stations to be activated.

Scoring and Awards

This is the second ARRL-sponsored operating event for which every member is worth at least one point (the first was ARRL's 2014 Centennial QSO Party). The event is open to all, and only ARRL members, appointees, and elected officials; HQ staff; W1AW; DXCC Card Checkers, and ARRL Affiliated Club call signs

Frequently Asked Questions

For additional questions not listed below, contact vota@arrrl.org.

Q Should I use a special CQ call to signify that I'm looking for Volunteers On the Air contacts?

A Nothing special is needed because casual, contest, or DX contacts qualify. Participants may operate as normal. Because ARRL members are worth at least one point, there will always be points to add.

Q Do I have to receive someone's ARRL position or abbreviation over the air in order to get point credit?

A No. If participants use LoTW, the point value will be determined by their contact partner's call sign.

Q Who should I contact if I think my call sign's point value is incorrect?

A Email us at vota@arrrl.org.

Q If I hold multiple appointments, do all the point values add up?

A No. Each call sign is worth a specific number of points, and that value will be of the highest corresponding appointment in the QSO Points Table (<https://vota.arrrl.org>).

Q If I'm a guest operator using a call sign other than mine at another station, does the other station receive my call sign's point value, or the point value of the call sign I'm using?

A The call sign in the log is the one that gets valued for points, so the call sign being used is the one that supplies and/or receives the points.

Q Can I contact DX stations?

A Absolutely. Many people who live outside the US are ARRL members (more than 7,000). Many DX stations will be actively chasing ARRL members and portable W1AW stations.

Q How do I know when W1AW portable operations from all the states and territories will occur? I want to contact each W1AW operation.

A There will be a schedule organized by week showing W1AW portable operations, which can be found at <https://vota.arrrl.org>. The W1AW/# portable operations are worth five points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes — participants are not limited to one contact. Additionally, participants may contact each state's first and second operations on all the band modes for points.

Q Can I make additional contacts with the same station on the same band and mode more than once for points?

A No. Except for W1AW portable stations, band and mode duplicates for the same station operating during the same week will not count for points. For example, participants may contact W1AW/2 in the first week of the New Jersey operation on 20 meters RTTY and 20 meters FT8. However, only one will be worth points for the digital contact.

Q Can I work the second weekly operation for a state or territory for points if I already worked the first operation?

A Yes. Participants may work the first and second weekly operations for each location on all the different bands and modes for points. Doing so means that participants are contacting different counties and grid squares during each operation.



are worth points. DX member stations outside of the US may count for points.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) — including EME and satellite operations — on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

All contacts must be uploaded to LoTW. Stations exchange call signs and signal reports common to the modes being used. Contacts do not have to be contest-style, and participants are not required to provide ARRL organizational information. The VOTA database will assign point values to all contacts within logs submitted electronically via LoTW.

Participant scores are the values of all the completed eligible contacts, as uploaded to LoTW. Eligible contacts may be made with the same station on each of the three mode categories. Points are assigned based on the level of volunteer, or ARRL representative or member contacted. For example, ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, may be contacted for 75 points on 20 meters CW, 20 meters SSB, and 20 meters digital, as well as on the other bands where multiple modes are used. Essentially, each station may be contacted on each of the mode groups on each band. There are no multipliers or bonus points.

See the Volunteer QSO Points Table at <https://vota.arrl.org> for the list of contact values.

Scores will be calculated daily (between 3:00 and 6:00 AM the following morning). Real-time score leaders by band and mode will be viewable on the VOTA dashboard, and certificates will be available to print or download (details will be announced on the dashboard after the event begins).

Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards can be enhanced by contacting the portable W1AW and volunteer stations (standard LoTW award tracking and application processes with credits and fees will apply).

The deadline for completing LoTW uploads from your 2023 contacts is February 10, 2024. A final tally of participation, as well as a summary, will be made in the weeks following the deadline. This deadline is not connected to WAS or VUCC awards.

Suggested Bands and Modes

Participants are encouraged to contact stations on each mode, but may not contact someone on three modes using the same frequency. Contacts are suggested to be made within the bands listed in Table 1 (some bands show suggested frequencies for modes that are not allowed in the US).

The VOTA system will automatically look for point-qualifying contacts from those submitted to LoTW, and apply them to each participant's points table. Contacts don't have to be matched in LoTW for points to be achieved — this is an honor-based event.

Table 1

Meters	CW (MHz)	Phone (MHz)	Digital (MHz)
160	1.800 – 1.843	1.843 – 1.900	1.800 – 1.843
80	3.500 – 3.600	3.600 – 4.000	3.525 – 3.600
40	7.000 – 7.125	7.040 – 7.300	7.025 – 7.100
20	14.000 – 14.150	14.110 – 14.350	14.025 – 14.150
15	21.000 – 21.200	21.110 – 21.450	21.025 – 21.200
10	28.000 – 28.300	28.200 – 29.700	28.025 – 28.200
6	50.000 – 50.125	50.125 – 50.500	Use normally accepted frequencies (50.310, 50.313, 50.318, etc.)
2	144.000 – 144.100	144.100 – 148.000	144.170, 144.174
1.25	222.000 – 225.000	222.000 – 225.000	222.000 – 225.000 (222.065, 222.074)
70 cm	420.000 – 450.000	420.000 – 450.000 (432.100)	420.000 – 450.000 (432.065, 432.074)
903 MHz and higher — one contact per mode			
Satellites — one contact per mode			

Leaderboard Reports and QSLs

In a similar fashion to the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase, ARRL plans to report leaderboard activity online.

W1AW portable QSL cards will not be issued for this event. QSLs will be automatically achieved if both contact participants upload their contacts to LoTW. As always, those who contact the W1AW HQ station during the year-long event are able to request a QSL card via SASE.