

### December 2023

### In This Issue

- From of the desk of the editor.
- President's message
- Minutes from NOV Face-to-face meeting
- Treasure report
- ARES report
- Ham Cram information
- ARRL EC-001
- Featured Article
- Swap Shop
- Community Events

Next General Meeting: Face-to-face: Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm



Welcome to another edition of The Readout!

THE



It's hard to believe that we find ourselves at the end of another year! Anthony Oettinger, linguist and computer scientists pioneer famously said, "times flies like and arrow; fruit flies like a banana." This quote is both witty and philosophical because we hold time in such high regard with the appearance of getting faster as we get older.

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

As we continue through the Christmas season, I hope you use this time to reflect and give thanks

for positive aspects of our lives.

Like 2022, 2023 saw changes in our club. We lost members thus dear friends to the passage of time and others through the passage of geography and 2024 will be no different. In fact, Charles Dickens summed this up in his classic *A Tale of Two Cites*, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." I say this because I will be losing a dear friend this year to the passage of geography.

Be that as it may, as a club, we do have a lot to be thankful for! The upgrades to our repeater system continued this year and we are truly thankful for this! We should all feel excited for our slate of officers who will be taking over in 2024. Thank you to the officers who are staying in their positions, to the new officers who are coming on and to the one who served. This is a very active club, and our success would not be possible without your commitment and hard work. I would like to thank each one of you for your devotion to the hobby we love so much!

To all of you I wish the warmest of blessings this Christmas season and look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

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

Volume 44, Number 12

#### **President's** A Message from the Club President message, Zack Pelham, KI6KQO Zack, KI6KQO Greetings Membership, I want to start this month's message by saying thank you to all the Officers and Board Members for their support in 2023. Without their hard work the club could not have made improvements to the equipment in the repeater shack and the club acquiring 501c3 status. These are improvements that will surely benefit the club into the future. A big thank you to Elias and his Boy Scout Troop for updating the repeater shack foundation. This will help protect our equipment moving forward. Hopefully you can come join us for the meeting this month and bring your favorite Christmas dessert. As this year comes to an end please join me in reflecting on all the things we have to be thankful for. Merry Christmas and 73, Zack, KI6KQO SARA Club President Minutes from November face-to-face meeting Minutes: **Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association** NOV face-to-face P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352 meeting www.saraclub.net November 21, 2023 Club Meeting Minutes (Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA) Attendance (via sign in sheet) Robin, KG6ZYQ Scott, KN600V Craig, KN6TQX Mark, N6ARP Richard, W6DU Derrill, W7LTM Paul, W6UHF Brent, KJ6MRJ Ed, KF6FIR Write for The William, KN6DAM Scott, KN6RKY Jason, KA6TIO Readout: Brian, KN6QFF Robert, KD6BNY Vicki, KJ6RCV If anyone has Randy, KF6RJS Scott, N6CIC Jon, KN6ZJK information that Cheryl, KK6GJM John, K6JRO Brendon, NK6M they want included Bill, AE6J Zack, KI6KQO Gary, WA6UXA in The Readout Elias, KN6GZW please submit to the Jason, KN6HAG Robbie, KN6VOG editor Herb, W9CMX Dick, W8AAL Charles, AA6YV k6jro@arrl.net. President Zack, KI6KQO, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and welcomed everyone. There were 30 members according to the sign-in sheet. Zack reported that the tentative date for the joint Stockton Club-SARA Club Please try and have hamfest is on April 27, 2024, in Manteca. the information or articles to the editor Zack welcomed the new Field Day Coordinators, Jason, KA6TIO, and Vicki, by the 30<sup>th</sup> of each KJ6RCV, and stated that they will be reporting to the Board on their month. recommendations for a 2024 Field Day site.

**Vice-President Mark, N6ARP,** stated that three more presentations are needed to fill the program for 2024. Especially a presentation on logging software would be appreciated.

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**Reading of Minutes Secretary Scott, N6CIC,** reported the Readout with the minutes that had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections and a motion to approve was made by Bill, AE6J, with a second by Robin, KG6ZYQ. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer Scott, KN6RKY,** read the current treasurer's report and a copy is attached to the minutes and will be included in the next Readout. There was no discussion. John, K6JRO, made a motion to accept the report. After a second by Bill, AE6J, the treasurer's report was approved.

Scott reported that the Club's 501c (3) application was approved by the IRS and now donations and dues are tax deductible. Our annual reporting requirements remain the same.

The club's new Square Payment system is up and running on the web site. Randy, KF6RJS, and Cheryl, KK6GJM, used it to pay their dues and the transaction went smoothly. A \$30 membership fee nets the club \$28.83 and a \$45 family membership nets the club \$43.39. Scott also has set up a Square reader on his iPhone for direct payments. This system is in testing as he works out how best to identify each transaction.

If you have not done so, please give Scott your contact information so he can keep an updated list of club members. The club needs your email address in order to send you the monthly Readout and other announcements.

**Sergeant at Arms Vicki, KJGRCV,** said there were cookies and water available during the break. She said there would be a 50/50 split of the pot for tonight's meeting during the break. There will also be a raffle for a 2-meter transceiver donated by Herb, W9CMX.

She announced that she will not be running again due to planned travel, and she listed the duties that the Sergeant at Arms performs-buy and setup refreshments, coordinate with the Club Secretary on attendance, handle the 50-50 raffle and drawings, maintain order, and get reimbursed for her expenses.

The Club thanked her for her service.

Board Members: Randy, KF6RJS, Richard, W8AAL, and Jason, KA6TIO, were present: They had no reports.

**Equipment/Mt Oso: Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, and Club Technician Patrick, KG6AZZ were not present. Paul, W6UHF,** reported the repeater equipment is working well. The Equipment Committee met to review projects. The Eagle Scout project is complete. The committee is now looking at solar to charge the batteries during times of power outages. The committee is looking at updating the antenna drop at Patterson Fire and at the S/O-these are ARES projects. A trip is planned on Dec. 9 to Mt. Oso to do general maintenance.

Lucian is working on changing all the club trustee licensee information into his name.

#### 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. **ARES: John, K6JRO** reported the next meeting will be on Saturday, Dec. 2. All members are encouraged to attend as ARES leadership for 2024 will be decided.

**Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG** was not present.

#### Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$117. Zack, KI6KQO, was the lucky winner, and he donated his \$59 back to the club. Thank you, Zack! The winner of the raffle for a Kenwood TM-271A 2-meter transceiver with mic and power cord, donated by Herb, W9CMX was Jon, KN6ZJK. Congratulations Jon!

**Nominations for Club Officers and Board Members:** the following nominations were received and recorded by President Zack. Voting will take place at the December club meeting.

#### **Officers:**

President-Zack, KI6KQO Vice-President-Mark, N6ARP Secretary- Scott, N6CIC Treasurer- Scott, KN6RKY Sergeant at Arms-Herb, W9CMX

#### **Board Members:**

Randy, KF6RJS, Past President Dick, W8AAL Jason, KA6TIO Bobby, KN6SDD

**Old Business: None.** 

#### New Business: None.

**Meeting Adjourned**: John, K6JRO made a motion to adjourn and Gary, WA6UXA seconded. Zack adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 (7:00pm to 8:00pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. Please bring desserts to share. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

Minutes by Scott (N6CIC) Club Secretary



### Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

# Treasure report from the November meeting

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**BEGINNING BALANCE:** 

P.O.BOX 4601.		
	w.saraclub.net	
Treasury Re	port Novemb	er 21, 2023
October 18, 2023	to	November 21, 2023
\$8,414.66		

INCOME: Membership Dues - (cash/check)

Split-The-Pot Square - Auto Deposit - Dues Square - Auto Deposit - Donations Donations

\$195.00 \$60.00 Brent (KI6MRG) won \$60 \$101.05 (net of Square fees) \$48.92 (net of Square fees) \$75.00 Zach (KI6KQO) - 501(c) filing \$479.97 Square - Auto Deposit

TOTAL INCOME:	\$479.97 Square - Auto Deposit \$149.9		
	Deposit Tri-Counties Bank \$330.0		
EXPENSES:			
Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1151) - November Site Rent (11-1-23)		
PG&E	\$73.57 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (11-10-23)		
AMBA Liability Insurance	\$373.70 (EFT) (11-7-23)		
Jason Jackson / Elias Jackson	\$607.15 (Ck #1150) - Eagle Scout Project (10-17-23)		

TOTAL EXPENSES:

Ending Bank Balance:	\$7,760.21	as of	November 21, 2023
Field Day Fund:	\$1,034.32	(included in ending ban	k balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$2,072.11	(included in ending ban	k balance) *
* includes \$100 earmarked for a second LiFePo battery	on Mt. Oso		
General Fund:	\$4,653.78	(included in ending ban	k balance)
Treasurer JAH Johnson			November 21, 20

\$1,134.42

2024 Membership - 1 Honorary / 17 Paid Members 2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 1 Paid Members 2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 1 Paid Members

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### ARES

John, K6JRO Emergency Coordinator, **Stanislaus County** 

# Stanislaus County ARES Report



ARES met on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Officer reports were given. ARES meeting dates were chosen for 2024. ARES will begin meeting on the second Saturday of the month starting on January 13, 2024. Additionally, Ed Hannah, KF6FIR will be talking over as the emergency coordinator for Stanislaus County. I will remain on as one of Ed's assistants and take over net coordination from Steve, N5QC. Thank you both for your service to the ARES

organization.

As always, if you have packet capability, please consider checking into the ARES WinLink Wednesday net on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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@arrl.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.

WWARRLORG

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

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

ARRL EC-001

course



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.



# Raffle Item

# Raffle Item: Anytone mobile radio AT-77UV II

There will be a raffle item for next week's meeting.

This is a 25-watt 2 meter/440 radio with free programming software, programming cable, and a dual band mag. mount antenna. The radio has been programmed with the local area frequencies.





# Swap Shop

# Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

### The following items are for sale from Bill, AE6J:

Yaesu FT-857D with LDG Tuner and Signalink USB (For digital modes) - \$750 Kenwood TS-590S - \$900

Contact Bill (AE6J) atki6hnv@gmail.com if you are interested in any of the above.

### Featured Article

# Featured Article: A Ham's Night Before Christmas

By Gary Pearce, KN4AQ with creative licensing from John, K6JRO (*reprint from the December 2022* Readout)

'Twas the night before Christmas, And all through two-meters, Not a signal was keying up any repeaters.

The antennas reached up From the tower, quite high, To catch the weak signals That bounced from the sky.

The children, Technicians, Took their HT's to bed, And dreamed of the day They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones, I plugged in the key, And we tuned 40 meters For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged By a signal with power. It smoked a small diode, And, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones, And with all she could muster Logged a spot of the signal On the DX PacketCluster,



While I ran to the window And peered up at the sky, To see what could generate RF that high.

It was way in the distance, But the moon made it gleam – A flying sleigh, With an eight-element beam,

And a little old driver Who drove in dismay, So I thought for a moment That it might be Bill, AE6J.

But no, it was Santa, The Santa of Hams, On a mission this Christmas To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower, Then stopped in his track, And he slid down the coax Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid Behind stacks of *CQ*, This Santa of hamming Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk Of paper and parts, And filled out all my late QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid, Took a steel rod and pounded It into the earth Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings, Resoldered connections, Cranked down modulation, Installed lightning protection.



He neutralized tubes In my linear amp... (Never worked right before – Now it works like a champ).

A new low-pass filter Cleaned up the TV. He corrected the settings In my TNC.

He repaired the computer That wouldn't compute, And he backed up the hard drive And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep In the bag that he brought, And he pulled out a big box. "A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom? A Yaesu, for me? An Elecraft, TEN-TEC Or Flex, could it be!" (If he thought I'd been bad It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station! How could I deserve this? Could it be all those weekends I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up And in record time, quickly Worked 100 countries, All down on 160.

I should have been happy. It was *my* call he sent. But the cards and the postage Will cost a month's rent!

He made final adjustments, And left a card by the key: "To John, from Santa Claus. Seventy-Three."



Then he grabbed his HT, Looked me straight in the eye, Punched a code on the pad, And was gone - no goodbye.

I ran back to the station, And the pile up was big. But a card from St. Nick Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final Came over the air. It was copied all over. It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed What an old ham expects: "Merry Christmas to all, And to all, good DX."



# Community **Events**

# **Community Events:**

December Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> ARES meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> SARA meeting 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 136.5 224.140 - 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 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Merced ARES has a weekly net on Mondays at 7:00pm 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.

San Joaquin Valley Section ARES Net every Sunday at 7:00 pm on the TARC repeaters.

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

### Officers and Board Member

# 2023 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

**Officers:** President: Zach Pelham, KI6KQO Vice President: Mark Price, N6ARP Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY Sergeant at Arms: Vicki Peitz, KJ6RCV

zsp1919@icloud.com mark99price@gmail.com scottandalene@msn.com sliefjohnson@gmail.com vptigger@gmail.com

### **Board Members:**

Jason Peitz, KA6TIOka6tio@gmail.comRichard Aal, W8AALdick\_aal@comcast.netBobby Hale, KN6SDDkn6sdd92@gmail.comRandy Spindler, KF6RJS (past president), kf6rjs@yahoo.com

Club Trustee: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG

Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO Community Events: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG Stanislaus County ARES: patd@kg6azz.net k6jro@arrl.net kf6npg@aol.com

kf6npg@aol.com

Emergency Coordinator: John Otte, K6JRO k6jro@arrl.net \*Nominations are held every November with elections in December\*







AND SONOLS		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	<ul> <li>(negative)</li> </ul>	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	<ul> <li>(negative)</li> </ul>	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 Stockton www.w6sf.org TCARES www.tcares.net

TARC www.w6bxn.orgCARS www.calaverasars.orgManteca www.facebook.com/groups/k6man TARC www.w6bxn.org Lodi www.lodiarc.net

### STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA) MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check One	e: New Member Renewir	ng Member Family Members	ship
NAME: ARRL Me	mber:(Yes) (No)	CALLSIGN:	
		CITY:	
ZIP:	PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail: ADDITIO	NAL FAMILY MEMBERS A	AT SAME ADDRESS:	
NAME:		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-n	nail		
NAME:		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-n	nail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-n	nail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-n	nail		

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

