

November 2024

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President's message

Next General Meeting: Face-to-face: Tuesday, November 19th 7:00pm



Volume 45, Number 11

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

Welcome to another edition of The Readout!

November is the beginning of election season for the SARA club, and we need your help! Presently, we still need a President and Vice-President to round out our slate of officers. We are all united by our love and passion for amateur radio. So, please consider a leadership position within the club. The current slate of officers with be presented at our November meeting on Tuesday 19th and elections will be held at our December meeting on Tuesday, DEC 17th.

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

A Message from Club President Mark Price, N6ARP

Greetings to the Readout followers.

Hi, November is here and there is only one more meeting after this month before the end of the year. Club elections will be held at the December meeting. And just a reminder that the December meeting is are "Bring Your Favorite Desert" to share.

The nominating committee (John-K6JRO and Randy-KF6RJS) is soliciting member to run for the club officers. Now is the time as President John F Kennedy said, "Ask not what your club can do for you, but what can you do for your club." We are always looking for people interested in bringing new energy and ideas to the club.

The officers and the board are always looking to make the club a destination for local Hams, both at our web site and our club meetings. If

you have any idea that you feel would enhance our club, please talk to one of the officers or board members.

The next big event comings up in January 2025 is Winter Field Day January 25th & 26th. Check the web site at https://winterfieldday.org/

Another reminder is that Tuesday 11/19 is our face-to-face meeting at the County Office of Emergency Services. The meeting begins at 7PM but, come early and meetup with other club members for some socializing. Lastly, thanks again for being a supporting member of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association, and please point any Hams you know to our website https://www.saraclub.net/ and encourage them to become a member.

Thanks

Mark – N6ARP

Minutes:

OCT face-to-face meeting

Minutes from the October face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net October 15, 2024 Club Meeting Minutes (Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ Mark, N6ARP Paul, W6UHF Scott, KN6RKY Robert, KD6BMY Randy, KF6RJS Cheryl, KK6GJM Ed, KF6FIR John, W6PY Guest Scott, KN6OOV Elias, KN6GZW Richard, W6DU John, K6JRO Brent, KJ6MRG Scott, N6CIC Lucian, KF6NPG Robbie, KN6VOG Manuel, N6MTM

Brendon, NK6M Jason, KN6HAG Mel, W7EOV Kevin, KE6ZFY Gene, W6QFU Adam, K6ALR Joel, KD6DTS Derrill, W7LTM Elias (no call)

President Mark, N6ARP, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and asked Scott, KN6OOV, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 26 members and one guest present according to the sign-in sheet. Mark asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Reading of Minutes: Secretary Scott Griffin, N6CIC, reported the Readout with the minutes that had been e-mailed out to the membership prior to the meeting. There were no changes or corrections. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ed, KF6FIR, with a second by Robin, KG6ZYQ. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President Mark, N6ARP, put the Pacificon agenda on the screen. He noted that a link to the ARRL ENCOMM study modules is in the Readout. The Great California Shakeout drill will be this Thursday, 10-17-24, at 10:17 AM. For the December meeting please bring desserts and put a note on them if they contain nuts to alert members with allergies.

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.

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. **Vice-President Scott Daniels, KN6OOV,** noted that today's presentation will be by John, K6JRO, and Brendon, NK6M, on the California QSO party.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, read the current treasurer's report. A copy is attached to the minutes and will be included in the next Readout. Lucian, KF6NPG, made a motion to accept the report. After a second by John, W6PY, the club approved the treasurer's report.

Sergeant at Arms Herb, W9CMX, was not present.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, reported he has received no equipment complaints, and the repeater system is working as it should. PG&E will shut down power to Mt. Oso starting on Friday, October 18 and continuing to Saturday, October 19, due to fire danger from expected high winds.

Board Member: Randy, KF6RJS, was present: Randy, KF6RJS, gave an update on the weather: on Thursday and Friday there will be a wind advisory.

ARES: Ed, KF6FIR, reported on the Great Shakeout exercise. Pacificon-2024 will be held on October 18-20 in San Ramon.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG, reported there are no more events until next year.

Old Business: President Mark, N6ARP, reported that the nominating committee, under Randy, KF6RJS, and John, K6JRO, is looking for candidates for the positions of President, Vice-President, Sergeant at Arms, and Board members. Please let them know if you are interested.

New Business: Jason, KN6HAG, noted the comet will be visible on the western horizon early in the evening. Randy, KF6RJS, needs a 10-meter vertical if anyone has one available.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$69. Scott, N6CIC, was the lucky winner of \$35 and he returned it to the club. Thank you, Scott!

Presentation: John, K6JRO, and Brendon, NK6M, reported on their field operation for the California QSO Party. Their site was a spectacular location at 8141 feet elevation at Coral Hollow on the south side of Bear Valley. This is 2000 feet higher than the old field day location at Black Springs Road.

In general, band conditions were poor, possibly due to the extreme activity on the sun (CME's or coronal mass ejections), but nevertheless they were able to work 43 of the 58 California counties. The following were the number of QSO's on each band:

Band	<u>QSO's</u>
40 m	73
20 m	286
15 m	<u>44</u>
	403

DX contacts were to Slovenia, Alaska, Hawaii, and Newfoundland.

Meeting Adjourned: Mark, N6ARP, adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024 (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.

Teasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the October meeting

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION P.O.BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601 www.saraclub.net Treasury Report October 15, 2024 September 18, 2024 to October 15, 2024 **BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$8,350.33 INCOME: Membership Dues - (cash/check) \$45.00 Split-The-Pot \$120.00 Richard (WE6V) donated his half back to club Member Donations (cash/check) \$15.00 anonymous Square - Auto Deposit - Dues \$28.83 (net of Square fees) \$0.00 (net of Square fees) Square - Auto Deposit - Donations TOTAL INCOME: \$208.83 Square - Auto Deposit \$28.83 Deposit Tri-Counties Bank \$180.00 EXPENSES: Moeller Mt. Oso \$80.00 (Ck #1169) - October Site Rent (9-30-24) PG&E \$27.57 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities (10-9-24) **TOTAL EXPENSES:** \$107.57 * Tri-Counties Bank Ending Bank Balance: \$8,451.59 as of October 15, 2024 Field Day Fund: \$1,643.71 (included in ending bank balance) Equipment Fund: \$2,314.67 (included in ending bank balance) General Fund: ncluded in ending bank balance) October 15, 2024 Treasurer: 2024 Membership - 1 Honorary / 85 Paid Members

2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 6 Paid Members 2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 1 Paid Members

Weather Report,

Randy, KF6RJS

Weather report from Randy, KF6RJS

The following report was filed by SARA club weather officer Randy, KF6RJS. Data was collected from his home QTH in North Modesto:

We are finely getting some cooler weather and rain. We had 0.26" on Monday. So far, we are at 0.43" this year 2024/25. Last year we had 12.47". We have a long way to go to meet it. Maybe beat it or come close. We will get rain Sunday and Monday. Then no rain till Friday the 22nd thru Monday the 25th. I hope that we have lots more rain. We need it. Pray for more rain.

73 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS. Weather Officer

ARES

Ed, KF6FIR **Emergency** Coordinator. **Stanislaus County**

Stanislaus County ARES Report



Hello All,

As winter begins with the weather getting colder and wetter, I would like to encourage you all make sure vour radio batteries are kept charged.

You just never know what the weather will bring. Last month the ARES group adopted the ARRL Task Book as

the guidelines for our certification levels. Next month we will go over the plans for next year's meetings/training.

73

Ed Hanna, KF6FIR Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus Co.



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

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 course

ARRL EC-001 Emergency Communications Course

Update

The ARRL Emergency Communications Course (EC-001) has been recently updated. However, if you have already passed EC001 then you do not need to take these updated classes.

Below is the web site to study for the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Course (EC-001). Everything is administered online and there is no fee:

https://learn.arrl.org/courses?pathPage=%2Farrl%2Fcourses%2F67044



Swap Shop

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

No items for this month.

Featured Article

Featured Article: Ham Radio Tech: What Do You Do with Excess Coaxial Cable?

By Mark Haverstock, K8MSH

When it comes to **coax cable**, most hams would agree that too much is better than not enough. Adding more cable on the fly is tough, especially when crawling around an attic or climbing a tower.

Now that you're prepared with plenty of coaxes, what's the best way to handle the leftovers after installation? Ask five hams and you'll probably get five different answers—possibly six if someone gets long-winded. Myths persist about the correct procedures, and not following established cable rituals creates bad juju (otherwise known as high SWR).

Let's cut through the pseudo-science and discover whether coiling, cutting, or creating free-range cable is the best solution Q & A style.

Q: I bought a 100-foot coax assembly, complete with connectors. Once it reaches my radio, there are 20 feet left. Is it okay to crush it in a ball and stuff it behind my desk?

A: Your coax deserves a little respect. Kinks in the cable might damage the coax by crushing the center insulation, which can force the center conductor closer to the shield and change the cable's impedance. Worst case, it can cause the center conductor to squeeze through the inner insulator and either directly short it or allow the signal to cross through to the shield more easily. Either scenario is bad.

Q: Are there any rules for properly coiling coax cable?

A: Coil it up like you would a rope. The only thing you need to be concerned about is that the coax cable isn't wound too tight, which might cause physical damage to the cable. One general rule is not to bend less than 10 times the diameter of the cable. A cable like DX Engineering's DXE-213U (see **DX Engineering's Coaxial Cable Reference Chart**) that is 0.5 inches in diameter should have a bending radius of no less than five inches. That translates into a **minimum** 10-inch diameter (2r = d), assuming the cable is secured in a fixed coil with tie wraps. I'd be generous and increase that figure by 50% to 15 inches.

Limiting the bend radius reduces signal degradation caused by conductor and dielectric stress. With a smaller bend radius, Ultraflex cables will have considerably more leeway.

Q: I've read on some radio forums that coiling coax is a bad idea. They say it causes inductance and high SWR.

A: There shouldn't be any measurable inductance just from coiling cable. Coiling cable doesn't add inductance and will not affect SWR. The coax cable shield isolates each turn from the next one. The only inductance created is on the shield itself, which only happens if common-mode currents are present.

When you coil the coax, it makes an RF choke—a good thing. It reduces common-mode currents on the outside of the cable.

Q: I don't want to coil my **RG-58 cable**. I'd rather run it around the perimeter of the passenger compartment of my vehicle, under the carpet.

A: No problem. You can even let your free-range cable roam through your trunk.

Q: I just bought a 2 meter mag mount antenna for my car with 16-1/2 feet of coax. I only need 11 feet. Is the 16-1/2 foot length better because it matches the antenna?

A: Mobile antenna mounts sold with coax (usually RG-58) for any frequency up to 900 MHz mostly all come with 12 to 18 feet of coax. That's enough to reach just about any part of a vehicle without running too short or costing you extra for coax that probably won't be used. It's not a magic length. Cable loss is negligible for 5-1/2 feet, so don't bother trimming it. Coil the excess and stow it under the seat.

Q: Considering signal quality and losses, what's really the best way to handle extra coax?

A: It's always a good idea to cut it to the length you need. If you get rid of the extra, it won't hurt. All coax cables have some amount of loss. The higher the frequency and the longer the cable, the more loss. But realize you can reach a point of diminishing returns and inconvenience.

Some hams (especially newbies) hesitate to cut the cable because of FCC (Fear of Coax Cutting). When you cut off the excess from a ready-made 100-foot cable, you now have two cables missing a connector—a scary thought. They're uncomfortable with preparing coax for the various connectors needed and fear they may get burned with sloppy soldering connections that don't work.

Fear not! Suppliers like DX Engineering can make cables the exact length you want without the hassle of doing it yourself. It's easy—go to the **Custom Cable Builder** tool at DX Engineering.com, choose your cable, length, and connectors. Carefully measure the length needed from your antenna to your shack, including turns, pass-throughs, and bends. Use sturdy string or paracord to trace your coax's exact path for better accuracy. Add an extra foot or two to easily pull out your transceiver to make connections on the rear panel.

Taken from On All Bands: An Amateur Radio Blog by DX Engineering

Community Events

Community Events:

November

Saturday 9th ARES Meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 19th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

December

Saturday 14th ARES meeting 10a-12p Tuesday 17th 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 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 All-Modes Net meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7PM. This net covers all aspects of Amateur Radio. All licensed amateurs are invited to check in and share their radio activities or other ham related items. Questions can be directed to Zack- KI6KQO, at email ZSP1919@icloud.com.

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.

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

2024 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

President: Mark Price, N6ARP Vice President: Scott Daniels, KN6OOV Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC Treasurer: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY Sergeant at Arms: Herb Fullerton, W9CMX

mark99price@gmail.com kn6oov@arrl.net scottandalene@msn.com sliefjohnson@gmail.com herb2114@icloud.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 kf6npg@aol.com

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

Emergency Coordinator: Ed Hanna, KF6FIR ed@kf6fir.net *Nominations are held every November with elections in December





No. 10 AN		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 Manteca www.facebook.com/groups/k6man Stockton www.w6sf.org TCARES www.tcares.net Lodi www.lodiarc.net

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION (SARA) MEMBERSHIP FORM



Check On	e: New Member Re	enewing Member Family Membership_	_
NAME:	ember:(Yes) (No)	CALLSIGN:	
ADDRES	S:	CITY:	
ZIP:	PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail:			
ADDITIC	ONAL FAMILY MEME	BERS AT SAME ADDRESS:	
NAME:		CALL SIGN:A	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-1	mail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-1	mail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-1	mail		
NAME: _		CALL SIGN:A	ARRL: (Yes) (No)
e-1	mail		

TOTAL DUES PAID: _____ Date: _____ Dete: _____ 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

