

## The READOUT

YEAR 11 NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1988

### Field Day



**Niles Garden School** 

Manteca

Saturday-Sunday

11am-12 pm

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

#### ... THE READOUT FACTS...

READOUT is the official publication of the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association Inc. "SARA" P.D. Box 4681, Modesto, CA. 95352. Entered as third class mail at the U.S. Post Office Modesto, CA. 95352. Contributions to READOUT are always welcome and may be submitted to the editor, Bob Pinheiro, NASZLO at 1221 Mist Flower Ct . Modesto, CA. 95355. SARR owns and operates two F.M. repeaters. 145.39 MHz (-) located on Mt. Oso, 22 miles SW of Modesto at an elevation of 3,370 feet. Our 220 MHz repeater operated on 223.68 MHz (-) and is also located on Mt. Oso at an elevation of 3.500 feet. Both repeaters are equipped with an autopatch for the use of SARA members. SARA owns and operates a Packet Digipeater. WD6EJF-1, also located on Mt. Oso at 3,500 feet. Frequency is 145.01 MHz. SARA conducts an informational net on both repeaters each Thursday evening at 800 pm with the exception SARA meets the third Tuesday of of holidavs. each month at the Stanislaus County Administration building at the corner of 12th and H streets in downtown Modesto. begin at 730 pm. SARA is incorporated in the State of California, is an affiliated club of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and Stanislaus County RACES. Dues are \$20.00 per annum and \$10.00 for students up to sophomores in college. Dues are pro-rated for newly joining members from the date they join. ARRL memberships and OST renewals may be made through the club with a \$2.00 commission retained by SARA.

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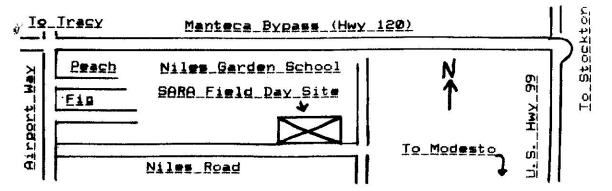
#### 1988 SARA FIELD DAY EXERCISE NEAR MANTECA

#### Denny Dugal, WG6P

For the first time in several years, SARA will sponsor an attempt at Field Day. The big event takes place on the last full weekend in June, which just happens to be June 25 and 26. The place will be the Niles-Garden School grounds on Niles Rd. 4 miles South of Manteca (see map). This site was obtained by N6OCV and KJ6DL. It is close in to all areas served by SARA, so everyone should be able to get there. The official start time is 1800z on Saturday. For those who don't know, that is 11:00 am PDT. We will need to set up stations beforehand, so please try and be there starting at 8:00 am.

There will be space for campers, so bring 'em on down! Restroom facilities will be at the school. This should be a very exciting attempt at holding a Field Day. I want to personally invite everyone down, if only to just visit, although we will need lots of operators. If you have never done a Field Day, be sure not to miss this one. I plan on being there as early as possible to help set up and also to help all that I can to assist the people who wish to operate.

Lets all come out and join in the fun of this very exciting day for SARA. Bring your own food and liquid refreshments. Oh yes, because this is a school, alcoholic beverages must be kept under wraps, so please use discretion. If you have any questions call me at 571-9046. And we'll see you at FD 1988!



#### HONEY, I HEAR THE PHONE RINGING!

#### By Rich Lawton, N6GB

We were working in the yard the other day when my wife Velma said, "I hear the phone ringing, but it sounds like it's up on top of your tower!" Well, we don't have a phone on top of my 100 foot tower. In the first place, I'm a CW man! Ain't no way you gonna get me to put a phone on top of my CW tower. Looking up we saw a buff-colored bird sitting on the boom of my 20 M yagi. It was a bit larger than a robin, but with a long beak. It lets out a shrill call that sounds like a KW Amtor station on FEC mode. Then it starts pecking on the boom which sounds like the old Ma Bell ringers. Well, this clone must leave immediately. I don't take to birds ringing my bell. I threw a rock (left-handed), and it hooked away and missed. I ran inside turned the rotor and it flew off only to return in a few minutes. Hm-m-m!

Shrieking the Amtor FEC mode, she gives me another Ri-i-ing. After several more rings, it gave up only to return the next day with more of the same. Gotta do something quick or my bell-ringing beam will become radar tinsel. Ah-h-h! Bright timeel.....bright idea. Quick, a trip to the Pine Grove Drug Store to pickup two very real-looking plastic snakes about two feet long with all the appearances of being ominous and squiggly. They were in the same box as the giant spiders toys... for weirdo kids, I guess. Armed with lacing twine and diagonals, plus the two snakes stuffed in my shirt, I donned my safety belt and headed for the view at the top of my tower. I looked for any kind of damage and found none. I proceeded to tie one of the plastic snakes to the rotating mast about four feet above the boom of the 20 M beam where the boom guys attach to the mast. Attempts to tie the second snake were in vain when it wriggled from my grasp and fell to the ground. Excellent test, because it didn't break. It will be my back-up snake in case the first snake gets it's bell rung. Results: FANTASTIC! My first string snake has done his job. No more Ma Bell Clone ringers. If it comes back, I might try the giant spiders.

(Thanks Amador County ARC Newsletter, May 1988)

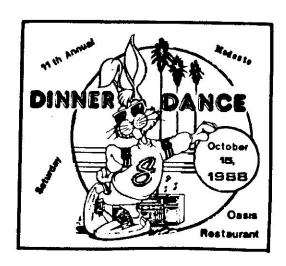
Only time will tell, but so far it appears that the interference problem on our 2 meter machine has been solv-In early April, SARA engineers moved our Station Master antenna from the top of the tower and side-mounted on the Eastside of the tower. Putting the tower between the antenna and the source of the interference appears to have sufficiently reduced the second harmonic signal from the offending system to prevent it from getting into our receiver. For over a year we have been bothered by the second harmonic of a paging system also located on Mt. Oso. Their second harmonic fell only 10 Kc's from our input frequency (144.79 MHz) and was strong enough to break the squelch and cause the problem. Since the change, the interference has stopped. Let's hope it stays that way!

#### AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

As of May 1, 1988 the following call signs had been issued by the FCC . EXTRA- AAGIG. ADVAN.-KJ6GH. GEN/TECH-N68AL. NOV. -KB6YAQ.

For the first time since liability insurance rates went out of sight, we have managed to obtain a one million dollar policy covering the club and all it's mem-The policy cost just over \$600.00 and was obtained through the ARRL insurance program. The club had been continuously covered until two year ago when liability rates #Kyrocketed beyond reach. Although the current rate is excessive. it's better to be safe than sorry.

DO YOU KNOW what the acronym LASER stands for? Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.



#### By Judd, KF6QI

I still recall my first Field Day. In January 1958, I was assigned to the MP's in Goeppingen, West Germany. Each month Headquarters U.S. Army Europe, conducted an alert to test the Army and it's ability to respond to an invasion of East German forces. was cold, near 0, with a 4 am fog and frost to chill the We had responded to a bones. 3 am alert and were awaiting our return to our company when a not so smart, not so 2nd Lieutenant sharp. approached our point and dispatched myself and nine other MP's, three jeeps (one under tow), one empty trailer (that was to hold our food, water. pas, tentage and thirty days of ammo) to a point approximately 30 kilometers distant to establish a communications point on three mountain tops. to know that He didn't want food, water. we didn't have tentage DAS. (tents and that two of equipment) and our three radios were in the shop and that we had but one antenna. About 10 kilometers and thirty minutes later, my neep fell into a heap never to run again. That left one

jeep and the trailer. Upon orders. I left the two jeeps and two men to the elements. Packing SEVEN men. myself weather gear into and cold jeep and trailer was a the task. Somehow we made it to our first point atop a 9,000 foot frozen pile of ice. Upon arrival the front wheel fell off our jeep. I now had jeeps and two three sick sick men from riding in our And, a radio open trailer. it was to cold that decided to work and went south for the winter. One man walked down the mountain and managed a phone call (he spoke German) to our company. retrieved the next We WEYE morning. Upon returning to company we found that the ALERT had been called on day and the poor the wrong fellow who had dispatched us had been placed under house And to make things arrest. we were not to have worse. responded to the alert at Now you know why I failed to make contact on my first Field Day.

(Thanks to the SPLATTER. Kern Co-Central Valley ARC)

## DX NOTEBOOK ||||

#### By Tom Farr, WJ60 & Denny Dugal, WG6P

Hello again DX fans! What a great, time the International DX Convention was in Visalia. attending from the local area: WG6P, WJ6O, NA6J, WU6I, really enjoyed themselves. Excellent slide shows. code copying contest, door prizes, good equipment displays, fine eats, and all the DX palaver you could handle. Try and make it next year if you By press time the Kingman Reef/Palmyra DXpediis history. Very successful sojourn to activate some rare real estate for the DX community. As predicted in this column, they were very workable and their operation was a bin SUCCESS in all phases of the activity. Hope to have some pictures to share at a future date from pal JASDQH. Aki. really smoked the contacts out on CW. The bands have been acceptable, propagationwith some disturbances from flares on the sun. Some good European openings noted the late evenings, VK/ZL following them. As we move into summer, expect lots of ragchew type DX opportunities with the boys from "down

under". A lucky happenstance saw Benin, in West Africa, come up in the form of TY98I, Baldur, DJ981. mostly on CW. This was followed two weeks later TYOLD and TY1LCI. celebrating the "Lions Club International". Standby for magnificent opportunity at the end of June if the Lynx DX gang. pulled off the very successful SORASD operation have a can little They have permission, a callsign, 4W1EA. and the rigs and tickets to activate YEMEN!. Man. if this one Does. look for D2. Angola from the same group later in the year. They really seen to be able to twist right political arms HI HI. More details in next month's notebook. Note "E" stamps are for "domestic" use only, sending DX cards. Two American flag 22 centers and a generic 1 cent stamp will send a normal envelope, a return addressed envelope, and a green stamp with your QSL to anywhere in the world via Air Mail.

(Continued on page 9)

Some of you may be planning to participate in Field Day activities this year. If you do, it's possible that when you drop off for a few Z's that you may be rudely awaken by a fellow operator SNORING. Quite possibly it may be the other way around and he/she for you. may coming looking In any event we thought you might like to know a little about snoring. Bo. we More research. Here's did SOMe what we found out. Snoring is a major symptom of sleep apnea. Studies have been consleep patducted monitoring and it has been terns discovered that breathing stops for periods actually 30 90 ranging from to more. The seconds. sometimes the maturation OXVEEN in blood can sometimes dip below These periods of non-70×. breathing are called sleep This condition can apnea. lead to further health probincluding hypertension and cardiac arrhythmia. In children. sleep apnea MAV result in learning disabilibehavioral problems, and failure to thrive. Snoring itself is a symptom of an obstruction type airway problem and can range from mild

and infrequent while lying on your back, to severe obstruction type which can actually endanger your health. Severe cases usually occur in any sleep position: lying vour back, side, on stomach. It can be totally unnerving to your bed partner and sometimes even to This heroic type neighbors. snoring actually interferes with the person's depth of may lead to sleep which fatigue during the chronic day and requiring short maps to function. Falling asleep while driving or on the job. this person may become a hazard to himself or others. Common causes of upper airway obstruction in children be enlarged tonsils or can adenoids, allergy with nasal obstruction and obesity. Causes in adults include nasal deformities, obstruction caused by the soft palate or the base of the tonby swelling of mugue and COUS membrane which causes the airway. narrowing of Allergy and congestion from ingestion can also alcohol cause swelling of the tissue and subsequent obstruction. To alleviate symptoms, proper medical surgical treat--

ment can be instituted after examination by a doctor. One such surgical procedure is call Palattopharngoplasty. The one day procedure is performed in the hospital under general anesthesia. Other effective treatments are now available for snoring including prescribing anti-histamines, elevating the front of the person's bed and changing sleep positions.

(Thanks to Dr. Douglas D. Harris, MD at Gould Medical Group for this information.)

Good luck on the bands and remember that "UP" means the DX station is working "split". He is calling on one frequency and listening another (Duplex). carefully and you can spot where he is listening. Park your transmit VFO there, and wait until he asks for the next contact. Don't call when he is transmitting! He can't hear you HI HI! Good luck and see ya next time. 73 DE Tommy, WJ60 and Denny, WG6P SK CL.

#### A FRIVOLOUS GAL...

#### Dear Friends:

I have become 89 years old since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life since then. Frankly, I have become quite a frivolous gal! I'm seeing gentlemen everyday! As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of Then he leaves and I go to see bed. John. Then Charley Horse comes along and while he is here, he takes a lot of my and attention. When he leaves. Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day. I am really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

# On The Agenda.

May 17, 1988 meeting of The SARA was called to order by VP. Bill. WA60HP. 33 members and guests introduced themselves. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved as read with one correc-N6OCV. gave tion. Treasurer the treasurers report. ginning balance \$2051.64. Two deposits totaling \$149.34. Bills of \$829.19 were paid, including \$625 for liability insurance. Ending balance of Old business: \*1.371.79. bus trip discussed. Tahoe Cost would be \$16.50 per person. Contact WASDHP or NSDC8 WOSP asked if interested. for a report on the status of proposed club station. is in the club station \$140 Field Day: WG6P said fund. sites are being looked two Garden School in Niles at. Manteca and a site near Valley Springs obtained by KB6-BJH. At the school site no alcoholic beverages are permitted. There is plenty of shade and room to string antennas. Tom. WJ60. said we effort to should limit our two stations so that there is no interference. WG6P moved and ZLO seconded to go to Niles Garden School. Approved. WJ60 moved that WE USE the club station WD6EJF for Field Day. KI6DC seconded and approved. Raffle: Bill, OHP, reported that Dann. KB6TTY, is looking for donations, some have been offered. The next class license SARA June 28, from start Tuesday 7-9 pm and each Tuesday thereafter at County Center 3. Contact Phil. WDOFFX, if interested. 523-9018. New A club picnic was Business: discussed for this summer. Motion by WG6P and seconded by Bill. WB6SHE. Approved. WAGDHP. will chair event. Site to be selected. Date will be August Phil, BJH, reported 88. annual Valley that the Springs PowHow for rock hounds is held each year on the Snider cattle Ranch-Phil suggested that the club could set up a booth. Neil, N6LAB volunteered to look in moved that the to it. NV68 proposal be resubmitted at the next meeting. Marge. KB6DYM, announced that on Saturday May 21, TARC, would be hold their annual equip (See On the Agenda Page 15)

The club's first two meter repeater frequency was 146. 73 MHz when it came on the air in 1976. It has had five different homes since It's first home was in the Channel 19 TV building on Oso 18 miles 8W of Modesto at about 3,300 feet elevation. In early 1977 the repeater was removed from Mt. Oso when a disapreement bethe original owner. tween WASMNM and the club forced it off the hill. The repeater was then purchased by the club and efforts to put it back on Mt. Oso were stalled by a lawsuit filed by feuding landowners on Mt. Oso and the adjacent lowlands. The repeater was then installed temporarily in the garage of Tim. WB6UJD. in east Modesto. (elevation 40 Feet). On June 4, 1977, the club secured a mite (150 feet) at low level the Reed Center in downtown In November 1977 Modesto. the club received permission to install the 2 meter repeater in the newly built transmitter building of KHOP-FM located on Black Butte near Tracy. On December 3. 1977 fifteen members of the club spent the entire day moving the repeater from the Reed Center to Black Butte. Beams were mounted at about

the 300 foot level on the 340 foot KHOP tower next to the building. The crew included. WAGDEC. WDGCMI. WEDYF, WASDOF, WEDIN, WDS-CEV, K6JF8, WA6ZLO, WD6CYZ, WAGGWY, KGAYL, WGKU, WGERE, On July WAGDYF and KGLRJ. 10, 1978 the club's solid state Spectrum 2 meter repeater was put into service. On October 15, 1978 the club changed frequencies to 145.39 when the newly created sub-band became available. The vote to make the move came at the June 1978 meeting of SARA. December 23, 1979 Phelps Dodge Station Master vertical antenna was installed on Black Butte replacing the beams. On January 2, 1983 our 220 MHz repeater was put on the air from Mt. Oso. October 15, 1983 the 2 meter repeater was moved back to Mt. Dso following settlement of the lawsuit. During the time the repeater was off Channel 19 moved Mt. Oso. their transmitter across the valley to Bear Mtn. near Angeles Camp. Their building was taken over by KUDP. SARA obtained a new site on the north peak of Mt. Oso at 3,370 on the eastern slope just below the peak where it is today.

## EMINEDITOR'S NOTES IN COLUMN

#### By Bob Pinheiro, WA6ZLO

Welcome to new members Dave and Chris Loving. KB6880 and KB6SKB of Fair Daks (Near Sacramento). They have daughter Dana living in Modesto. Welcome to Stan Hamilton, NY6G. of Tracy Joins us for the first time. holds an Extra Class license and is retired. We1come to Bill Reynolds, KB6-WLH, of Ceres. Bill is also retired and 1.8 graduate of our recent BARA license Class. Welcome to Teri Dugal, KB6YBH, who passed her Technician test in May and is also a graduate of our recent BARA license class. Welcome Gene. W6EVQ, Tracy; back to Wes, NENUO, Ceres K68XF, from Dakdale and Dann Butterfield. KB6TTY Modesto. Congratulations to WB6VGH. Dave and Chas. KJ6CH who have upgraded to Extra\*s and Shirley Armentrout, NGRTU who upgraded to Advanced. New calls have arrived for Charlie, N6PZ8 and his wife Joanne. Charlie is now KJ6GE Joanne is N6SAH. BARA member Hugh, WSTWU, has moved to Sunnyvale. Good Luck Hugh! Best wishes to Lou. WASK and Jack, W60IN following recent surgeries. SARA member Max.

KA6CUJ has resigned as the Emergency coordinator for Calavaras County. He? s enjoying life cruising to Mexico. Way to 00 Chuck and Cheri Loveland, NW6G and KB6TYV, have moved Hill. Congratu-Greeley lations to Chet. WEXK, who has been promoted to Principal of the Chrysler School On May 24th. Modesto. Chet and Joe, WQ6W, traveled to Turlock and administered Novice examinations to graduates of Bob Hoskins, N6RSS. electronics class. Their final exam was passing the Novice test. Speaking of tests, the next VE test session for Modesto 15 scheduled tentatively late August. The next BARA license class will start on (Tuesday) 28th Tuesday thereafter from 7 to 9 pm. Contact Secretary KISYO. to sign up. Congratulations to the Turlock Amateur Radio Club on their 60th anniversary this Make plans to attend the SARA Picnic tentatively set for August 20th. site to be announced. Also, plan to attend or participate in the SARA Field Day.

#### CW SPEED RECORD CHALLENGED

One of the features of this years ARRL National Convenin Portland, Oregon. tion (Sept 9-11) will be an effort to establish a new speed record in International Morse code. During the convention. there will be an official challenge to the current record CW speed record of 75 wpm plus, which was set by Ted McElroy in the late 30's. Since the record was set there have been some changes in the way the code speed is measured, changes that actually lower the speed McElroy attained. The base word for speed measurement used in the late '30s was the word "TEST". This is considerably shorter than the word "PARIS", which is now the basis for speed measurements.

If measured by today's standard. McElroy's speed would have been somewhere in the mid to high 60's, rather that the 75 the he was credited with. Therefore, the challenge is even rigorous. The new champion (if there is one) will have to exceed McElroy's actual speed by at least 20% before the record can be recognized as being substantially higher than 75 wpm. If you would like to be a contestant, the eliminations will begin on Friday afternoon. September 9th with an official speed run beginning at 50 wpm. If you want to give it a try, call AL7W between 730 and 930 pm at 503 777-1032 in Portland.

#### 44 APPLICANTS TAKE MAY VE TESTS IN MODESTO

A total of 44 applicants took VE Exams sponsored by SARA on May 5th and 7th. An equal number. 22. took the exams on each date with a 45.4% pass rate on Thursday night and a 27.2% pass rate on Baturday morning. Congratulations to Shirley Armentrout. NGRTU and Walter Caton, KB6-GYC both of whom upgraded to Cliff Kachline, Advanced. KB6GLI, passed his 20 wpm

Extra code test and take the written later. Dave Grow, WB6VGH, upgraded Extra. Charlotte to an Farr, N6NML, (Tom, WJ60's mom) uppraded to General. Four Novice examinations were given on Saturday none of which passed. The VE's were W6XK, W86P, W86V, W86W, NV68, KJ6DL, NG6H, WJ60 and KI6YQ. The next test session will be sometime in August.

#### By Dennis Jones, NU60

Selection of a proper communications equipment physician can be difficult, as most of you reading this may have experienced. Recently, two of my radios decided to catch the electron flu. The virus that my radios caught was the type that I could not find a serum for. Looking through Radio Physician's Desk Reference (read QST ads), I came across a seemingly good sounding Health Clinic for my rigs. Dr. Robert Hall of San Jose, who lists his practice in all of the monthly OST personal ads seemed to have the clinic of choice. heard from other owners of previous patients and found his diagnoses and prescriptions were usually correct, and within fiscal rea-So, I sent the rigs to the clinic. After a tortuous period of two weeks, and not having heard from my radios. or their doctors, I called the clinic to find out what the prognosis was. "Well", the good doctor lamented. your Icom is fixed, it simply had a little congestion in its display driver and requlator areas. However, your

Kenwood had cancer of the dial chopper, and has had a chopperectomy. We are still awaiting a donor for transplant from the factory". I was happy to find out what was wrong with my rigs, and that they were being attend-A few days later, ed to. both of my radios hopped off the UPS Bus that they rode home on, and found their rightful places on the operating bench. Feeding the Icom rig some juice, sprang to life and spoke in DX, and Domestic tones as it always had ..... a sigh of relief. Now to check to see if the Kenwood could still speak repeater and packet. Feed a little juice, oh my, GASP WHEEZE CHOKE .... burp. Toes up for the Kenwood. A call to the Doctor. and a promise to immediately have the UPS ambulance take it back to the clinic. After a period of only a week, the Kenwood arrived home again on the UPS bus, ready for VHF action. After feed

(Continued on next page)

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#### (Continued from page 14)

ing the Kenwood some juice Center in Turlock. very carefully, it stood up invited to attend. Dr. charge for the second office club station. visit, nor for the drugs or tinuing to donate items for hospital room. It is nice this as well as these days to have a radio have a fund raiser. physician that can not only the new repeater vault bring life back radios, but has integrity as NV6S is working on the necwell. Check your Radio Phy- essary materials. sicians Desk Reference for asked about the existence of Dr. Hall next time you have a bank account which heart murmurs trying to oper- under the ate on your rigs, you may find treasurer. NSDCV advised that that you will treated as well the Educational Committee had as your rig.

#### · · · · · de Dennis, NU60 (Via Packet Radio)

DID YOU KNOW ..... that many of the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island are descendants of the nine British sailors in 1798. commandeered the Bounty. set the captain adrift and returned to Tahiti for the women who became their wives. The group later took refuge on Pitcairn. events were made famous in the 1932 novel, Mutiny on the Bounty.

ment auction at the Youth All were Break at yelled packet and 830 pm for refreshments. Denrepeater just as it could ny, WG6P, won the raffle. WG6P Hall did not spoke about the need for a We are contrying to Work on into our still in the planning stage. WAGZLO control of the their only bank account. ZLO pointed out that it was a the club's byviolation of laws if the treasurer didn't have control of it. Bill. OHP, will check into this. It was discussed last year and he thought a decision was made then. ZLD suppested that a change in the bylaws would be necessary to allow this arrangement legally. The need to account for funds donated to the education committee fund from the VE recoupment fund was also discussed. Respectfully submitted for the Secretary by Linnea Duncan, N6PMG.

## - CALENDAR -

June 21,	1988SARA Monthly Meeting730 pm	
Jun 25-26,	1988 Field Day 24 hrs	
June 28,	1988SARA Summer license classes	
	begin. 7-9 pm Tuesday nights.	
July 19,	1988 SARA Monthly meeting 736 pm	
Aug. 16,	1988 SARA Monthly meeting 730 pm	
Aug. 20,	1988 Sierra Hamfest in Reno All Day	
Sept. 9-11,	1988ARRL National Convention	
	Portland, Oregon 3 days	
Sept. 20,	1988SARA Monthly meeting730 pm	
	Program: Railroading with	
Magazine Make Horesternam	Jim Johnson.	
Oct. 15,	1988lith Annual SARA Dinner-Dance	
	Dasis Restaurant, Modesto630 pm	
SARA meets	the third Tuesday of each month (except holidays)	
at the Stanislaus County Administration Building at 12th and		
H streets in Modesto. The meetings are held in the lower-		
level confe	rence room starting at 730 pm. Visitors and in-	



terested parties are welcome .

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