



THE Readout

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

April 2025

Volume 46, Number 4

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Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Tuesday, April 15th 7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*.

As we welcome the blooming month of April, I would like to take a moment to reflect on and thank all our members for their continued participation in our club activities. From our active members to Net Control Stations to our officers and board members we could not do the things we do without your continued support. Also, it's never too late to join and get those dues in.

Field Day (June 28-29) is only two months away! This is one of the most anticipated events of the year it's a perfect opportunity for all members to get hands-on experience with portable operations.

Field Day is also a good time to foster friendships and work on your technical expertise. It might not seem like it but, according to Ernie, W5NH, being a ham radio operator today is harder than in the past. Please read his commentary on the subject.

As always, I encourage all members to think about how we can give back to the community. Whether it's through participating in local events, providing communications support for bike rides and charity runs, or offering classes for newcomers, our involvement can make a significant impact.

73 de K6JRO
John Otte
SARA Club President
Readout Editor

Minutes:

FEB 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@arrl.net.

Please try and have
the information or
articles to the editor
by the 30th of each
month.

Minutes from the March face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

March 18, 2025

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Robin, KG6ZYQ	Scott, KN6OOV	Vicki, KJ6RCV
Richard, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Gene, W6QFU
Richard, W6DU	Robbie, KN6VOG	Ed, KF6FIR
Brent, KJ6MRG	Randy, KF6RJS	Paul, W6UHF
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Scott, WB3KIX
Robert, KD6BMY	John, W6PY	Wally, KK6CPN
Scott, N6CIC	Brian, KN6QFF	Adam, K6ALR
Ernie, N5NH	Eva, KM6BIP	Elias, (call pending)
James, KK6ILV	Roy, KK6OQP	Joel, KD6DTS
Jason, KA6TIO	Mark, N6ARP	Brendon, NK6M,
Brian AK6MA		

President John, K6JRO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and asked Robin, KG6ZYQ, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were thirty-one members present according to the sign-in sheet. John 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. Dick, W8AAL, made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by John, W6PY. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President John, K6JRO, congratulated Elias on passing his Technician test before the meeting. He noted that although we do not give study courses, we do administer tests. John encouraged members to write articles for the Readout.

Vice-President Brian, KN6QFF, announced that Paul, W6UHF, will give today's presentation on his visit to the Quartzfest ARRL convention. Wally, KK6CPN, will give a presentation on net control in April. In May, John, K6JRO, and Brendon, NK6M, will present on solar power and batteries, and in June Jason, KA6TIO, and Vicky, KJ6RCV, will discuss plans for Field Day. Speakers are still needed for the fall, and FT8 is a topic of interest to the membership.

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. Ed, KF6FIR, made a motion to accept the report, with a second by Randy, KF6RJS. The club approved the treasurer's report.

Sergeant at Arms Robin, KG6ZYQ, stated there will be a split-the-pot raffle at the break. Also, we will raffle a donated 2-meter/70-cm hand-held transceiver and mag-mount antenna.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, not present.

Joining SARA:

We are taking membership applications for 2025

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.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present: Mark, N6ARP, noted that the weekly SARA Club net needs more net controls. He mentioned that Ernie, N5NH, was one of the founding members of the SARA Club and is a faithful check-in to our weekly net. Dick, W8AAL, was in contact with Joyce at the Stockton club and she reported that the Stan-Joaquin picnic will be held in September, and they are looking at an alternative venue besides Northgate Park in Manteca. She is also checking whether parking at Northgate Park in Manteca might not be so difficult in September. There is a hamfest at Loomis this Saturday. Robbie, KN6VOG, asked if the club has a person in charge of media postings like on Facebook. The answer is NO, but the Sierra Foothills Club does have a Facebook page.

ARES: Wally, KK6CPN, thanked everyone who participated in the SJV Perfect Storm Exercise. Participation by SARA Club members was excellent and the exercise was a success. Wally encouraged more members to join ARES.

Community Events: Wally, KK6CPN, reported the next scheduled event is on March 29, the Copperopolis Road Race. He has enough scheduled operators, but others are welcome to participate.

Weather Officer: Randy, KF6RJS, reported on the weather forecast. There is a chance of more rain later in the week.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Break:

There was a 15-minute break. The Split-the-Pot raffle raised \$157. Brent, KJ6MRG was the lucky winner-congratulations Brent! James, KK6ILV, won the raffle for the 2-meter/70-cm transceiver with mag-mount antenna. Congratulations James!

Presentation: Paul, W6UHF: Paul gave an interesting presentation on his visit to the ARRL Quartzfest, held on January 18-24 near Quartzite, AZ. This is a boondocking event on a very large parcel of BLM land. The BLM fee is only \$5 for the event. Tents were also present, but most people had RV's. There is one hotel in town, but it is always sold out. It is possible to book a hotel in Blythe and to commute. For power you will need solar or a generator. You will need to bring your own water for the week, although refills are available in town. For a fee, a honey wagon service is available.

The daily seminars were announced by simplex and were excellent. The seminars were also presented on amateur TV. W7Q is the special event station, and it was constantly busy. Events were also placed on a Facebook page. In the evenings hams gathered around the fire pit, and one evening Jim Hertel, N6KMR dropped by. Jim is one of the founding members of the SARA Club along with Ernie, N5NH.

Paul really enjoyed the event and recommends it to everyone.

Meeting Adjourned: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM after a motion by Eva, KM6BIP, and a second by Roy, KK6OQP. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 (7:00 pm to 8:00 pm) and will be a face-

Treasure's
Report,
Scott, KN6RKY

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 18, 2025

February 19, 2025 to March 18, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$9,696.72

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$105.00
Split-The-Pot	\$115.00 John (W6PY) donated his half back to club
Radio/Equipment Raffle	\$90.00 Robert (KD6BNY)
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$0.00
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$86.49 (net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00 (net of Square fees)
Win Systems, Inc.	\$150.00 Annual Mt. Oso electrical power contribution

TOTAL INCOME:	\$546.49	Square - Auto Deposit	\$86.49
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$460.00

EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1175) - March Site Rent (2-25-2025)
PG&E	\$82.71 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities-32 days (3-11-2025)

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$162.71

** Tri-Counties Bank

Ending Bank Balance: **\$10,080.50** as of March 18, 2025

Field Day Fund:	\$1,890.71	(included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$2,945.96	(included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$5,243.83	(included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer:

March 18, 2025

2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 73 Paid Members

2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 3 Paid Members

Member Paid Donations (for goods /services)

Lucian (KF6NPG)	\$30.40	Roundup weed spray
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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:

Hello to everyone!

We ended the month of March at 2.13". Year total is at 8.88". Our seasonal total is 12.17". So, we are short by 3.29" and I don't think that we will make it. Last year we beat seasonal by 3.35". Last year we had 15.53". Monday the 14th thru Friday the 17th. 80 to 83 for highs. 53 to 56 for lows. The 14th thru the 19th 80's for highs and 50's for lows. Clear to Partly cloudy skies and no rain in sent.

73

Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

ARES

Wally, KK6CPN
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report



Hello everyone

Situation is normal in Stanislaus County, so I have no real report this month. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the Copperopolis Road Race. It was a beautiful day with no accidents and minimal flat tires.

73 Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN, 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 second 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

Swap Shop

**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.

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

Yaseu FT-817ND. HF/VHF/UHF all mode QRP Transceiver. Included is a LDG Z-100 automatic antenna tuner and bag????? \$350.00. If interested please contact John Otte, K6JRO at jrottejr@yahoo.com

Butternut HF-6V antenna with radials. This antenna covers 80, 40, 30, 20, 15, and 10m. I also have the components to add 17 and 12m. \$250.00. This has been my HF antenna for several years and still preforms well. I am selling to fund my upgraded HF antenna system. If interested please contact John Otte, K6JRO at jrottejr@yahoo.com

MFJ-986c 3 kW 1.8-30 MHz Roller Antenna Tuner. \$250.00. If interested please contact John Otte, K6JRO at jrottejr@yahoo.com

Featured Article: *It's Harder to Become a Ham Today Than 65 Years Ago*

By Ernie Rader, W5NH

How many times have you heard an old-timer complain that it was harder to become a "real" ham back in the day? You know the type—the ones who roll their eyes at today's newcomers, convinced that the hobby used to be "legitimate" only if you worked harder for it. Well, I am here to say they have got it wrong. Becoming a ham today is much more difficult than it ever was 65 years ago.

I was licensed in 1956. Back then, the process was straightforward. You learned Morse code at a manageable pace (5 words per minute), studied a bit of basic electronics, understood the fundamental concepts of ham radio, and then you took a test. Weeks later, you were issued a Novice class license. But here is the kicker—even with that license in hand, I still didn't feel like I was a "real" ham. It was just the first step.

Fast forward to today. A prospective ham needs to memorize hundreds of questions, all of which have multiple answers, and pass a test to get their

Technician license. That is right, hundreds of questions. And even after they have passed, they are still not really “in” yet. Sure, they have the license, but the real depth of the hobby? That is a whole other world they have only just begun to scratch.

Back in the 1950s, the biggest challenge was simply getting on the air. You could buy a transmitter, build a receiver, set up an antenna, and you were good to go. That was the essence of it—getting your equipment up and running and making those first contacts. The barrier to entry was not too high. If you were motivated, you could get there quickly. And that is what made it exciting—the simplicity of it. You got on the air and learned by doing. No complicated setups. No overwhelm. Just you, your radio, and the airwaves.

Today, it is a whole different ballgame. The moment a new ham gets licensed, they go out and buy a Baofeng or some other handheld radio, strap it to their belt, and look for a local ham club to join. They are hoping to find a group of people who will help them grow in the hobby. But too often, they are met with grumpy old-timers who look down on their inexpensive radios and treat them like they’re not “real” hams. The old-timers, who had to figure out everything themselves back in the day, seem unwilling to offer help to newcomers. “Why should I help them?” they think. “I had to learn the hard way and did it on my own.”

And so, the newcomer, feeling lost and intimidated, keeps their mouth shut, hoping to pick things up on their own. But instead of a welcoming atmosphere, they are faced with jargon and tech-heavy conversations that might as well be in a foreign language. Digital modes, CW nets, code plugs, ARES, Pactor, MARS, RACES, FT8, PL tones, nodes, remote control via the internet—on and on it goes. The complexity of the hobby has exploded, and the newcomer is expected to just know it all. It is enough to make anyone feel overwhelmed.

By the end of their first meeting, the newbie is likely to feel like they have just been hit by an avalanche of information. They came to explore a hobby they were excited about, but now they are questioning whether they can even keep up. The excitement they felt is quickly replaced with frustration, confusion, and a sense of being out of their depth. Many of them—disheartened and lost—walk away and never return to the hobby.

Here is the thing: it was easier to become a “real” ham decades ago because the path was simpler. There were fewer distractions, fewer options, and fewer hurdles. We learned things gradually, piece by piece, as technology and methods evolved. But today? Newcomers are bombarded with so much information, so many paths to follow, and so many things to figure out all at once. Instead of a gradual, step-by-step learning process, they are thrown into a whirlwind of confusion. The hobby feels less like an adventure and more like a mountain to climb.

I do not want to dismiss the progress that has been made in ham radio, or the new technologies that have come along. But the reality is that becoming a ham today is more than about passing a test, buying a radio, and learning to navigate a sea of confusing tech. It has, unfortunately, become less about mentorship, and more about self-directed learning. For many, it is just too much to handle.

Community Events

The bottom line is this: becoming a ham today is not just about memorizing answers and getting your license. It is about finding a community that's willing to help you, understanding an ever-growing landscape of new technology, and building your skills a little at a time. And, for a lot of newcomers, that journey is just too overwhelming without help.

Community Events:

April

Saturday 12th ARES Meeting 10a-12pm.

Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

May

Saturday 10th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 20st SARA Meeting 7p-8p

June

Saturday 14th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 17th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

Friday through Sunday (28th - 29th) Field Day
www.arrl.org/field-day

July

Saturday 12th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

August

Saturday 9th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 19th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

September

Saturday 6th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 16th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

October

Saturday 18th ARES Meeting 10-12p

Friday-Sunday (17-19) Pacificon San Ramon
Marriot

Tuesday 21st SARA Meeting 7p-8p

November

Saturday 8th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 18th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

December

Saturday 13th ARES meeting 10a-12p

Tuesday 16th 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.

Officers and Board Member

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

2025 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President John Otte, K6JRO	jrottejr@yahoo.com
Vice President: Brian Esser, KN6QFF	sixtyeight426@gmail.com
Secretary Scott Griffin, N6CIC	scottandalene@msn.com
Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY	sliefjohnson@gmail.com
Sergeant at Arms Robin Axton, KG6ZYQ	axtonr@hotmail.com

Board Members:

Richard Aal, W8AAL	dick_aal@comcast.net
Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM	kk6gjm@samobil.net
Scott Daniels, KN6OOV	kn6oov@arrl.net
Mark Price, N6ARP (past-president)	n6arp@arrl.net

Club Trustee: Lucian Thomas, KF6NPG
kf6npg@aol.com

Committees/Workgroups:

Club Technician: Patrick Dunbar, KG6AZZ	patd@kg6azz.net
Readout Editor: John Otte, K6JRO	k6jro@arrl.net
Community Events: Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN	kk6cpn@yahoo.com
Stanislaus County ARES:	
Emergency Coordinator: Jim (Wally) Walsh, KK6CPN	kk6cpn@yahoo.com





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.tcares.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

