



December 2025 Volume 46, Number 12

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Next General Meeting: Face-to-face: Monday, December 16th 7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of The Readout.

As we wrap up another active year in our hobby, the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association reflects on a year of growth, learning, and community. This year our members stayed connected through the airwaves, logbook by logbook, and demonstrated what makes Amateur Radio so enduring: ingenuity, service, and a welcoming spirit.

As we look upon December let us reflect and give thanks for all the club members have done. I would like to thank the officers and board members for service and dedication. I would also like to thank our trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, Mark, N6ARP and the small army of members who helped make our solar project a reality. Without your dedication this would have never happened. Of course, we must also thank the county who allowed us to use their grant. Also, I would like to thank our out-going Field Day coordinators Jason, KA6TIO and Vicki, KJ6RCV for all their hard work over the last several years.

With this being said, we need a Field Day coordinator. Field Day is, arguably, the most important club activity we do, and its success is dependent on a passionate coordinator.

Finally, the current slate of officers with be presented and voted on:

President: John Otte, K6JRO

Vice President: Brian Esser, KN6QFF Secretary: Scott Griffin, N6CIC Treasure: Scott Johnson, KN6RKY Sargent-at-arms: Robin Axton, KG6ZYQ

Board members:
Dick Aal, W8AAL
Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM
Scott Daniels, KN6OOV
Mark Price, N6ARP (past president)

73 de K6JRO John Otte SARA Club President Readout Editor



Minutes:

NOV face-toface 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 November face-to-face meeting

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

www.saraclub.net

November 17, 2025

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

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

	,	
Scott, KN6OOV	John, W6PY	Paul, W6UHF
Dick, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Scott, WB3KJX
Ed, KF6FIR	Robin, KG6ZYQ	Gene, W6QFU
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Roy, KK6OQP
Lucian, KF6NPG	Randy, KF6RJS	Joel, KD6DTS
Mark, N6ARP	Richard, W6DU	Eva, KM6BIP
Adam, K6ALR	James, KK6ILV	Jim, KE6FNS
Vicki, KJ6RCV	Scott, N6CIC	Tim, KG6TAI
Jason, KA6TIO	Patrick, KG6AZZ	Eric, KO6HYL
Wally, KK6CPN		

President John, K6JRO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and began the meeting by asking Robin, KG6ZYQ, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 28 members present according to the signin sheet. John asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Reading of Minutes: Secretary Scott, N6CIC, the minutes from last month's meeting were presented to the membership in the READOUT prior to the meeting. There was one correction. The call of Mark Carter is KI6HOB, not KI6HOV as erroneously stated in the Presentation summary. Scott, KN6OOV, made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by James, KK6ILV. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President John, K6JRO, stated the December meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 16 and it will be a dessert potluck. For election nominees, all the officers and board members have agreed to serve again in 2026, but we need a Field Day Coordinator for 2026. The Board approved increasing the solar project to \$2500.

Vice-President Brian, KN6QFF, not present.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, presented the monthly treasurer's report with an ending bank balance of \$9,953.38. Expenses of \$1,671.37 were higher this month due to funds spent on the solar project. The Board approved increasing funds for the solar project from \$2000 to \$2500. Mark, N6ARP, made a motion to approve the report, and after a second by Randy, KF6RJS, the club approved the Treasurer's report.

Sergeant at Arms Robin, KG6ZYQ, stated there will be a 50:50 raffle at the break and she has brought various snacks to share at the break. Tim, KG6TAI, donated a tracker scanner with antenna to be raffled.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, reported the Mt. Oso repeaters (145.390, 440.225, and 224.140) are working well with no reported issues. No problems have been reported with the downtown 145.110 repeater. The

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. GMRS repeater (462.550) is ready to go and will be installed shortly. The PI is 136.5 on both receive and transmit. Lucian will let everyone know when it is operational.

Lucian summarized work on the solar system in the Presentation below.

ARES: Wally, KK6CPN, reported that ARES events for 2026 have been scheduled.

Community Events: Wally, KK6CPN, noted the event dates for 2026: Snelling Road Race, 2-28-2026, Copperopolis Road Race, 4-4-2026, Regalado Road Race, 5-30-2026, Walk to End Alzheimer's, 9-12-2026, CQP 10-4-2026, and Pacificon on October, 16-18, 2026.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present, Dick, W8AAL, reported on flooding tonight on Sisk at Pelandale coming off the 99 Freeway.

Weather Officer: Randy, KF6RJS, reported on the rainy weather forecast. There were 28 lightning strikes in our area today.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Break: There was a 15-minute break. The evening's split-the-pot raffle winner was John, W6PY. Split-the-pot generated \$130 with John donating his half back to the club. Thank you, John! The scanner and antenna raised \$135, and the winner was Eric, KO6HYL.

Thank you to all members and guests who donated equipment, and who continuously participated in our monthly fund-raising raffles. Your generosity is appreciated.

Presentation: Lucian, KF6NPG, gave an excellent presentation on work to complete installation of the solar equipment on Mt. Oso on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Those who participated were the following: Mark, N6ARP, Scott, KN6RKY, Ed, KF6FIR, Lucian, KF6NPG, Scott KN6OOV, Adam, K6ALR, and Paul, W6UHF. Managing the auger was a two-man job and it took half of the day to dig the holes and cement them in.

The following tasks were completed:

- Cleaned the building.
- Refilled the rodent bait traps.
- Completed the solar panel frame and installed the panels.
- Finished installing the solar equipment in the building and the wiring of the panels to the equipment (thanks to Scott, KN6OOV who had prepared and wired the equipment).
- Connected batteries to the solar equipment and connected the communication equipment to the solar system.
- Checked the tower and secured guy wire buckles.

The solar system is now generating power! There are additional tasks to be completed:

 Finish cutting down and chopping up large brush at the back of the building.

- Install a jumper to connect the last two solar panels and adjust some settings to the solar equipment.
- Install two more support poles for the panels.
- Set up remote monitoring of the solar equipment (we have the capability within the system).
- Install the GMRS repeater.
- Install the Battleborn battery with the packet equipment for back-up power.

Solar Equipment Project Cost Summary:

- Victron Solar System-\$4,376-includes six 400-watt panels.
- Three Dakota Lithium 48-volt, 96AH, 4608 WH batteries-total \$8,630.
- Courtesy Stanislaus County OES Homeland Security Grant-\$13,006 (Thank You!).
- Miscellaneous equipment purchased by SARA Club-\$2,200.
- Total overall costs-\$15,206.
- Estimated man-hours from start (planning) to finish-150 hours or more.

How will it affect our electricity bill? We expect it to cut our electricity costs by one-half to two-thirds to around \$25-30 per month. We should start to see modest savings in November and greater savings in December.

Many thanks to Lucian and the SARA Club members who participated in this project from the beginning to its completion!

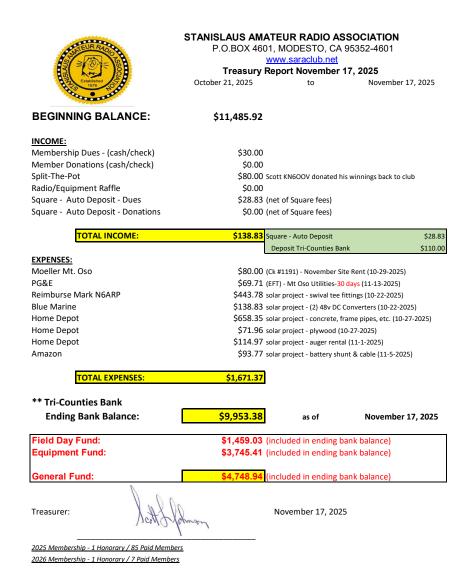
Meeting Adjournment: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at about 8:30 PM after a motion by Dick, W8AAL, and a second by Randy, KF6RJS. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 (7:00 pm to 8:00 pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

Minutes by Scott, N6CIC, Club Secretary.



Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the November meeting



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:

Due to hardware issues, there will be no weather report this month.

Everybody have a great week. 73's. God Bless.

73 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS. Weather Officer

ARES

Wally, KK6CPN Emergency Coordinator, Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County ARES Report

Hello everyone



Hello everyone! Well, 2025 is almost over and we are getting ready for the 2026 events. I will be asking for volunteers in the months to come. I had the opportunity to assist in the Ham Cram on December 9 and my hats off to Mark N6ARP and John K6JRO for setting up the class, Lucina KF6NPG, Scott KN6RKY and

Ed KF6FIR for monitoring the class. On December3rd after our ARES simplex check ins we the SARA 440.225 Repeater and it worked great. I would like to remind all SARA members you are welcome to come to the second Saturday of the month ARES meeting and training.

For now, that is all for now Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

For now, that is all, 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

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

Swap Shop: Ham Radio related equipment for sale

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. If interested please contact Mark Carter, KI6HOB at carter1956@att.net

Comet M-24B mag mount antenna with BNC connector - \$40. If interested please contact Mark Carter, KI6HOB at carter1956@att.net

Below is equipment for sale from Chip, W7AIT. His terms of sale are:

- 1. CASH IN \$20 BILLS
- 2. AS IS, NO WARRANTY
- 3. YOU PICKUP
- 4. YOU DISCONNECT CABLING, UNINSTALL, UNSCREW RACK MOUNTED ITEMS
- 5. ***CALL ME AT 209-857-2755 IF INTERESTED***.
- 1. TM-281 65 WATT, 2 METER SINGLE BAND, FM TRANSCEIVER
 WITH 136-174 MHZ FM RECEIVER, 200 CHANNEL MEMORIES, PL259
 ANTENNA CONNECTOR. COMES MOUNTED IN STEEL HAMMOND
 CUBE CHASSIS WITH A SAMLEX 13.8 V DC METERED POWER
 SUPPLY. PRICE \$200.
- JET-STREAM JT220M, 220 MHZ, 50 WATT, FM TRANSCEIVER
 WITH EXTRA FEATURES. COMES WITH KEYPAD MICROPHONE, DC
 POWER CORD/CABLE. YOU ADD 13.8 DC VOLT POWER AND 220
 MHZ ANTENNA. PRICE \$100.
- 3. KEN-WOOD TM-981, FM, 15 WATT 902 MHZ HAM BAND
 TRANSCEIVER. COMES WITH PTT MICROPHONE AND DC POWER
 CORD/CABLE, PL259 ANTENNA CONNECTOR. YOU ADD 13.8 DC
 VOLT POWER AND 902 MHZ ANTENNA. RADIO SOFTWARE HAS
 ALREADY BEEN MODIFIED FOR 902 HAM FREQUENCIES. PRICE
 \$160.
- 4. ROLLS AM / FM MONITOR TUNER, RACK MOUNT, WITH RDS DISPLAY. BUILT IN POWER SUPPLY. NEEDS ANTENNA WITH F MALE CONNECTOR AND EXTERNAL AUDIO AMPLIFIER WITH SPEAKER SIMILAR TO FOSTEX RM-3 STEREO AMPLIFIER WITH SPEAKERS. PRICE \$40.
- 5. <u>DENON SOLID STATE RECORDER MODEL DM-F650R. BUILT IN POWER SUPPLY.</u> YOU ADD AUDIO LEFT / RIGHT INPUT / OUTPUT CABLES AND AC POWER CORD. **PRICE \$300.**
- 6. ELECRAFT XG-3 RF SIGNAL SOURCE, HAM BANDS, 160 TO 2
 METERS, 0 DBM MAXIMUM OUTPUT. BATTERY POWERED, 9 VOLT
 BATTERY. WITH RUBBER DUCK ANTENNA. PRICE \$60.
- 7. <u>DELL DESKTOP TOWER PC QUAD 17 PROCESSOR WITH</u>
 <u>MECHANICAL DISC DRIVE 1 T BYTE</u>. PRICE \$60. 2 EACH. WILL
 <u>SELL ONE EACH \$60 OR 2 EACH \$120</u>.
- 8. SOLID STATE AUDIO RECORDER, W / EXTRAS, PONOVO M/N V75, 32 GB STORAGE. PRICE \$20 FIRM.
- 9. TVI FILTERS, BENCHER YA-1, 1,500 WATT, 1.8 TO 30 MHZ PASS BAND, 70 DB REJECTION ABOVE 35 MHZ. 4 EACH. WILL SELL INDIVIDUALLY. PRICE \$40 EACH, FIRM.

10. SAMLEX SEC 1235MR2, 13.8 VDC 30 AMP POWER SUPPLIES, 2
EACH MOUNTED IN RACK MOUNT PANEL. YOU PROVIDE 2
EACH AC POWER CORDS AND 2 PAIR #10 FUSED RED BLACK
POWER OUTPUT LEADS. PRICE \$240.

Featured Article

Featured Article: A Ham Radio Operator's Night Before Christmas

T'was 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, Tech-Pluses, Took their HTs 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 Packet Cluster,

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 looked slightly mean.

So I thought for a moment, That it might be Wayne Green.

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, Re-soldered 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 would not 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?!" (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 hours that 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 two month's rent!

He made final adjustments, And left a card by the key: "To Gary, 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 a ham might expect, "Merry Christmas to all, And to all, good DX."

©1996 Gary Pearce KN4AQ



Community Events

Community Events:

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 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings 9:00am to 9:30am.

The Ladies Chit Chat net has moved to every Thursday 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 (temporarily) the third Monday (except July where it will be the second Monday) 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

2025 SARA Club Officers and Board Members

Officers:

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

Board Members:

Richard Aal, W8AAL Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM Scott Daniels, KN6OOV Mark Price, N6ARP (past-president)

dick_aal@comcast.net kk6gjm@samobil.net kn6oov@arrl.net 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 jrottejr@yahoo.com 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 Members	ship
NAME: ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)	_ CALLSIGN:	
ADDRESS:	CITY:	
ZIP: PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail:ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS AT SAMI	E 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 and is the same for all methods of paym	(if paid by cash, check, or mo	ney order). Family Dues are \$45
Note: Bring membership form to SARA 95352-4601 April 3, 2021		o, P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA
	TEILIATE	