



November 2025 Volume 46, Number 11

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Next General Meeting: Face-to-face: Monday, November 17th 7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of The Readout.

It seems that fall is now in full force and winter is right around the corner. I would like to remind everyone that the Central Valley and foothills can experience rapid changes; thus, vigilance for upcoming rain is essential.

With this being said, I would like to encourage everyone to monitor your equipment when storms come in such as securing outdoor items and discontenting your antennas when necessary. For your highly valued antennas, you might want to consider a lightning arrestor. For ARES members make sure your go-boxes are ready and be sure to keep your batteries charged for possible call outs.

As a reminder, our club meetings will be switching back to the second Tuesday of the month for December. I would like to thank all of your for making this adjustment in your schedule and for making the last several months work on Monday nights.

Also, with respect to our December meeting, it will be our annual dessert potluck so be sure to bring your favorite dessert to share. This meeting will also be our annual elections and while all of the officers and board members have agreed to serve for 2026, there are still opportunities for you to serve in leadership roles. If you do have a desire to serve as an office or board member there is always the opportunity to shadow us during 2026 for the elections in 2027.

Finally, we are in need of a Field Day coordinator. Field Day is, arguably, the most important club activity we do, and its success is dependent on a passionate coordinator. So, if you do have aspirations for being involved in a leadership position, this is the perfect place to start.

73 de K6JRO John Otte SARA Club President Readout Editor

Minutes:

OCT 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 October face-to-face meeting

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

www.saraclub.net

October 20, 2025

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

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Attenuance (via sign in si	neet)	
Brendon, NK6M	Scott, KN6OOV	Robert, KD6BNY
Dick, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Scott, WB3KJX
Ed, KF6FIR	Robin, KG6ZYQ	Gene, W6QFU
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Roy, KK6OQP
Lucian, KF6NPG	Richard, WE6V	Randy, KF6RJS
Mark, N6ARP	Richard, W6DU	Eva, KM6BIP
Adam, K6ALR	James, KK6ILV	Jim, KE6FNS
Vicki, KJ6RCV	Scott, N6CIC	Brad (no call-guest)
Jason, KA6TIO	Joel, KD6DTS	

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 twenty-five members present according to the sign-in sheet, and one guest. 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 were no corrections and Mark, N6ARP, made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Ed, KF6FIR. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President John, K6JRO, welcomed back our Sergeant at Arms, Robin, KG6ZYQ. The November meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 17, but the December meeting will be on Tuesday, Dec. 16. So, we are back to Tuesday meetings starting in December. 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 new TID radios are out at \$59.99.

Vice-President Brian, KN6QFF, not present.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, presented the monthly treasurer's report with an ending bank balance of \$11,485.92. Our PG&E bill was less due to a rebate. We received \$113.72 as our half of the profit from the Stan-Joaquin Picnic and Hamfest. Jason, KA6TIO, made a motion to approve the report, and after a second by Adam, K6ALR, 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.

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 GMRS repeater has been programmed and the duplexer tuned to the new frequency. Thanks to Nate, the SR 911 technician, for help with that. 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 frequency will be RX 462.550 and TX 467.550 with a PL on both of 136.5. As soon as I get the controller programmed and it is on the air, I will let everyone know.

The electricity bill was lower last month (\$18.84) due to the energy credit. There were three power outages so far in October. The first was on Friday, October 3, for about two hours, the second on Sunday, October 12, for two-and-and-half hours, and the last on Monday, October 13, for about four-and-one-half hours. The batteries kept the equipment going.

We will be shopping for the miscellaneous equipment needed for the first stage of the solar installation next week. Installation work will take place on November 1, 2025. A work crew is ready to go. The power to the repeaters may be turned off and on during that day.

You are reminded to be sure and vote for the ARRL bill to eliminate HOA provisions against amateur radio antennas. Also be sure to vote for the Pacific Division Director. There will be an estate sale of ham radio equipment on October 24-25.

ARES: Ed, KF6FIR, reported there were eleven participants for the Great Shakeout on October 16. On Saturday, October 18, we had our SET (Simulated Emergency Test) at Coffee Park. Five stations participated in the drill.

Community Events: No report.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present, Dick, W8AAL, reported that voting for the Pacific Division Director was easy, but you do need to type in the full internet address. He had a QSO with a station in Argentina via Echolink. Scott, KN6OOV, has ordered materials for the solar project.

Weather Officer: Randy, KF6RJS, reported on the weather forecast. The outlook for later in the week is moderate temperatures, but we may have rain over the weekend.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Break: There was a 15-minute break. The evening's split-the-pot raffle winner was Scott, KN6OOV. Split-the-pot generated \$80 with Scott donating his half back to the club. Thank you, Scott!

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: John, K6JRO, gave an excellent presentation on participation in the California QSO Party along with Brendon, NK6M, Jason, KA6TIO, and Bill, AE6J. It was great to have Bill back from Mexico. Their setup was at the old Field Day site above Arnold. They borrowed Mark's (KI6HOV) Hexbeam and put up a 80-10 meter Windom antenna. The Hygain triband beam got wet and would not load properly. There was heavy rain upon arrival with up to three inches in total.

They made a total of 478 contacts by noon on Sunday. This included working all states except Vermont and 35 of the 58 California counties. The Hexbeam did well on 6-20 meters and the Windom on 80-40 meters. Our point total was 54,492.

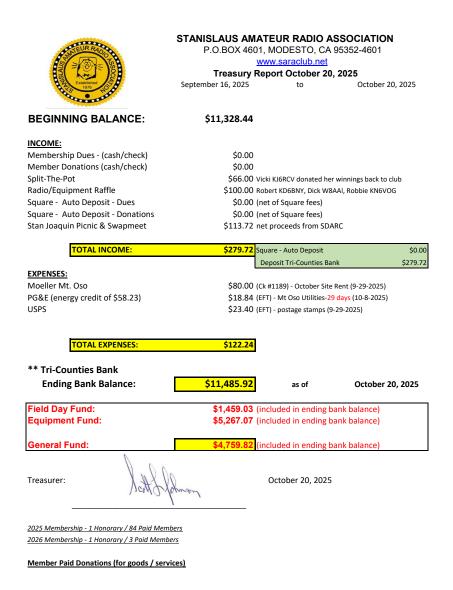
Meeting Adjournment: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at about 8:30 PM after a motion by Dick, W8AAL, and a second by James, KK6ILV. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 17, 2025 (7:00 pm to 8:00 pm) and will be a face-to-face meeting. The location is the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services, 3705 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA.

Minutes by Scott, N6CIC, Club Secretary.

Treasure's Report,

Scott, KN6RKY

Treasure report from the October 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:

Hello everyone. We are going to have a lot of rain coming. Temperatures for next week: Monday thru Friday 56 to 59 for highs and 45 to 49 for lows. Chance of rain 10 to 40 %. Monday thunderstorm likely; Tuesday partly cloudy; Wednesday thru Friday rain possible. For October we had 1.24" of rain. Seasonal rain fall total is at 1.49". I will have more storm totals at the meeting. Stay safe.

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



Well, another month has gone by. I want to thank Lucian for sending him our room reservation dates for the 2026 ARES/SARA meetings. I also want to thank SARA members who have volunteers this past year on various events. We have several events coming up in 2026 and I will be asking for volunteers in January.

Starting on December 3rd after our ARES simplex check ins we will also have check ins on the SARA 440.225 Repeater and everyone is welcome to check in. I would like to remind all SARA members you are welcome to come out to the second Saturday of the month ARES meeting and trainings.

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

Kenwood TS-430S HF transceiver for a ham friend who can no longer be on the air. The radio comes with a matching power supply, microphone, and optional CW filter. I have tested it, and it puts out 100 watts, and I made contacts on 20 meters. Asking \$350. Contact Scott at (661)-753-7144 or scottandalene@msn.com.

Featured Article

Featured Article: The Dropping of the TURDSID in Vietnam: Electronic warfare and surveillance in Vietnam.

By Jon Hoppe

I, K6JRO can remember as a child going to Hamfests with my father, WA4BOT and grandfather, WB4AMY and seeing what looked like poo being sold at the swap shops. Well, it was and it wasn't. Have two of them that I received from my father, and they do make a great novelty piece. However, this "novelty" piece played an important role for the U.S. military in the final years of the Vietnam War.



During the Vietnam War, the U.S, military developed small transmitters disguised as animal feces to monitor the movement of North Vietnamese troops along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Below is an article written by Jon Hoppe in the October 2021 issue of Naval History. I hope you find it as intriguing as I did.

Electronic warfare and surveillance are increasingly becoming topics of discussion. The nature of that type of warfare (and indeed combat itself) calls for a certain amount of creativity. To see but not be recognized or seen oneself begs for innovation and novel solutions to life-threatening problems. But even the most brilliant plans can be rendered moot if one builds an idea on a false assumption.

Such is the nature of the ingenious yet flawed TURDSID.

The short-lived TURDSID and other systems were developed in response to the critical but elusive nature of targets along the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Vietnam War. The difficulty prompted U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) officials to explore the application of new technology to the interdiction problem.

The systems they would explore and implement, the TURDSID among them, emerged from an earlier DoD effort to create an electronic anti-infiltration system across the width of the demilitarized zone in South Vietnam and into Laos. The effort became known as Operation Igloo White. The purpose of the operation was to interdict the infiltration of supplies and personnel occurring in Laos along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Igloo White was designed to accomplish electronically what had been previously planned for with the McNamara Line.

While the barriers of the McNamara Line would have required physical construction and troops on the ground, Igloo White had its own air force and depended on thousands of sensors on the ground. The operation lasted from late 1969 to the end of 1972 and was considered one of the most secretive, expensive, and successful operations of the Vietnam War. The method of the operation was to air deliver sensors from high-speed, specially modified Navy OP-2E Neptune antisubmarine aircraft traveling as fast as 600 mph. Missions were conducted first by the joint Navy/CIA Operation Muddy Hill, and later by elements of Squadron VO-67, nicknamed the "Ghost Squadron" for its clandestine activities, and more ironically for their participation in a secret war that neither the U.S. nor the North Vietnamese wanted to acknowledge was being waged next door to Vietnam.

The sensors were dropped in strings along trails, roads, and suspected routes of enemy infiltration. A string was the word used to describe the sequential emplacement by air of sensors in a line. As a vehicle or group of soldiers would pass by the sensors, they would sequentially report "hits," which would show the location and rate of movement of the enemy as well as differentiate between vehicles and personnel. The data would then be transmitted to EC-121R aircraft, and, later in the life of the program, to unmanned QU-22B Pave Eagle planes continuously circling overhead. These aircraft, in turn, relayed the data to the Infiltration Surveillance Center (ISC) at the U.S. Air Force Base at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, at that time the largest single structure in that country.

Inside the 200,000-square-foot ISC building, IBM 360-65 computers—at the time, the world's most powerful—recorded, stored, and processed the information received from the sensors. Intelligence analysts searched for patterns in the processed data, and sought to determine the speed, location, and direction in which the trucks or enemy personnel were moving. Once this was achieved, FACs in Laos conveyed the target information they received to attack aircraft pilots. According to one estimate, the time

between target acquisition and the delivery of ordnance was on average a mere five minutes, and in some cases, as short as two minutes.

The critical sensors at the heart of the operation had to remain unseen and camouflaged in order for the advanced network to function.

Thus, enter the TURDSID.

It is a small, battery-operated Seismic Intrusion Device (SID) consisting of a seismic detector (vibration sensor), a transmitter, an internal antenna, and a battery pack, all fit into a small rubber case disguised to look like the excrement of a dog. Because of their small size, battery life was no more than a few days. Its function was to cue a larger sensor nearby.

The outer casing was a specially-designed plastic polymer designed to disguise the sensor as dog droppings. It takes no large amount of imagination to figure out how the "TURD" prefix originated. The sensors worked as designed, and the device quite effective, but with one major flaw: There were no dogs running wild along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

On learning this critical, overlooked, information, the sensor was hastily redesigned (at great expense) to look like a piece of wood.

The story of the TURDSID reveals at least one very important lesson: There is no idea, however ingenious, nor any effort too expansive, to be undone by a small but overlooked reality.

Reprinted from https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2021/october/dropping-turdsid-vietnam

Community Events

Community Events:

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 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 Vice President: Brian Esser, KN6QFF Secretary Scott Griffin, N6CIC Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY Sergeant at Arms Robin Axton, KG6ZYQ axtonrbn@hotmail.com

jrottejr@yahoo.com sixtyeight426@gmail.com scottandalene@msn.com sliefjohnson@gmail.com

Board Members:

Richard Aal, W8AAL Cheryl Niles, KK6GJM Scott Daniels, KN6OOV Mark Price, N6ARP (past-president) dick aal@comcast.net kk6qim@samobil.net kn6oov@arrl.net n6arp@arrl.net

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

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 Ren	ewing Member Family Memb	pership
NAME:ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)	CALLSIGN:	
ARRL Member:(Yes) (No)		
ADDRESS:	CITY:	
ZIP:PHONE: Home	Cell:	
E-Mail:ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBE	RS 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 the same for all methods of payments	.00 (if paid by cash, check, or mor	ney order). Family Dues are \$45 and is
Note: Bring membership form to S 95352-4601	ARA Meeting or Mail to: SARA	Club, P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA

April 3, 2021