



THE Readout

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

October 2025

Volume 46, Number 10

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Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Monday, October 20th 7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*.

Fellow Members, as we reflect on the past season, I am inspired by the resilience and camaraderie that define our club. Our volunteers have served our community, strengthened local emergency preparedness, and kept the airwaves active with thoughtful operation and outreach. A notable highlight is our ongoing participation in the ARRL's grassroots Campaign to Pass the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. This national effort underscores the critical role of licensed amateurs in public safety, providing a path to federal recognition and needed resources that help our communities plan and respond to emergencies. I encourage members to stay informed about the Act's status, engage with our congressional delegates, and share relevant local impact stories at club meetings and events. While we advocate, we also continue to build practical readiness through drills, station readiness reviews, and coordination with local agencies, ensuring Stanislaus County remains a capable voice in times of emergency: <https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>.

In the Pacific Division, the election period is underway, and I urge ARRL members to participate by reviewing candidate platforms and casting your ballots. Your vote shapes leadership and policies that affect our region's clubs, training, and advocacy efforts. As always, I'm grateful for your support, engagement, and the generous volunteer spirit that makes the Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association a strong, prepared, and welcoming community.

73 de K6JRO
John Otte
SARA Club President
Readout Editor

Minutes:

SEP 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 September face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

September 15, 2025

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Brendon, NK6M	Scott, KN6OOV	Robert, KD6BNY
Dick, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Scott, WB3KJX
Michael, AG6AX	Robbie, KN6VOG	Gene, W6QFU
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Ed, KF6FIR
Lucian, KF6NPG	Paul, W6UHF	Randy, KF6RJS
Mark, N6ARP	Richard, W6DU	Adam, K6ALR
Ed, KF6FIR	Vicki, KJ6RCV	Jason, KA6TIO
Scott, N6CIC	Joel, KD6DTS	
Annie, N6ACL (guest)	John, NZ6Q (guest)	

President John, K6JRO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and began the meeting by asking the members to join him in a moment of silence in memory of the assassinated Charlie Kirk. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were twenty-three members present according to the sign-in sheet and two guests. 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-Brendon, NK6M, is a member, not a guest. Scott apologized to Brendon, and Randy, KF6RJS, made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Ed, KF6FIR. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President John, K6JRO, reported on the Board meeting held earlier tonight. The Board approved expenditure for the installation of the solar system. A sign was placed on the front door asking members not to ring the bell but rather knock on the door. Robin, KG6ZYQ, is doing fine, and John Litz, NZ6Q, Pacific Division Director, is here tonight to give us a report.

Vice-President: Brian, KN6QFF, not present.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, presented the monthly treasurer's report with an ending bank balance of \$11,328.44. Mark, N6ARP, made a motion to approve the report, and after a second by Jason, KA6TIO, the club approved the Treasurer's report.

Sergeant at Arms Robin, KG6ZYQ, was not present. Scott, KN6RKY, stated there will be a 50:50 raffle at the break. An ARRL Handbook donated by Michael, AG6AX, a Baofeng HT donated by Randy, KF6RJS, and a VHF/UHF tuner, donated by Scott, N6CIC, will also be raffled.

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.

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, reported the Mt. Oso repeaters (145.390, 440.225, and 224.140) are working well with no reported issues. He is working on programming the GMRS repeater.

The electricity bill was \$92.45 for August. There were 32 billing days which accounts for the higher amount. It has been reported on the news that PG&E has completed some of their fire mitigation work which could mean a possible 2% reduction in our bill. Also, they should be issuing a \$50.00 rebate in October.

All the solar equipment purchased through the grant has been taken to Mt. Oso with exception of the solar panels themselves. Mark, N6ARP, Scott, KN6RKY, Scott, KN6OOV, and I made a trip to Mt. Oso to conduct a survey of the installation site and to prepare a check list of equipment needed to complete the installation. Scott, KN6OOV, has prepared the electrical diagram and Mark, N6ARP, prepared the equipment list. The estimated cost of the miscellaneous equipment needed for the installation is \$1500, but we requested \$2000 in case of unknown expenses. The Board approved our request for \$2000 at the earlier meeting tonight. Scott, KN6OOV, will use his corporate discount to help us reduce expenses. Thank you, Scott!

Scott, KN6RKY, and I did checks and maintenance of the equipment, and while trying to install an additional panel for our mesh system we discovered that the used radio had a bad cat five port. A new part was ordered and was received. There was an 8-hour power outage on August 8 due to a car hitting a power pole on Howard Road.

ARES: Ed, KF6FIR, reported on the Stanislaus County Emergency Preparedness event to be held next Saturday (September 20) at Enslin Park. We will have set-ups for FT8, DMR, Analog systems, and radio-in-a-box to show to the public. Everyone from SARA is welcome to come and participate.

Community Events: Lucian, KF6NPG, reported on The Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 13. Approximately 300 walkers participated with only one minor injury of road rash requiring a bandage. Thanks to the following who worked at the event: Lucian, KF6NPG, Cheryl, KK6GJM, Scott, KN6RKY, Mark, KI6HOB, Mark, N6ARP, Paul, W6UHF, John K6JRO, Ed, KF6FIR, Randy, KF6RJS, and Greg, KO6GJL. Randy walked 8000 steps (good going Randy!).

Lucian reminded everyone of Pacificon 2025 to be held October 10-12 in San Ramon. The deadline for on-line registration to receive a reduced rate is October 1. Yaesu will be there and there will be a W1AW/6 special event station. ARRL members should be receiving their ballots for Division Director soon, and he recommends a vote for John Litz, NZ6Q, for Pacific Division Director.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present, Dick, W8AAL, reported that the StanJoaquin Hamfest was a success. Member Eric, KO6HYL, helped us obtain the Ripon Grange Hall. Parking was no problem, and we cleaned up well afterwards. All agreed we should do it again next year. Dick, W8AAL, is taking a young, perspective ham to Pacificon and he hopes to take his test there.

Weather Officer: Randy, KF6RJS, reported on the weather forecast. The outlook for later in the week is variable temperatures.

John Litz, NZ6Q, Pacific Division Director: reported on the initiative by ARRL on the Land Use Act before Congress to give radio amateurs, who wish to put up an antenna, parity with residents in HOA's who put up satellite dishes. The ARRL has made it extremely easy to show your support. Simply enter your call sign in the automated form, and letters will be sent to your representatives in Congress.

Old Business: None

New Business: John, K6JRO, mentioned that 2026 is the 50th anniversary of our club! We will need to do something special to recognize our club!

Break: There was a 15-minute break. The evening's split-the-pot raffle winner was Vicki, KJ6RCV. Split-the-pot generated \$66 with Vicki donating her half back to the club. Thank you, Vicki! Robert, KN6BNY, won the ARRL Handbook, Robbie, KN6VOG won the Baofeng HT, and Dick, W8AAL, won the VHF/UHF Tuner. The equipment raffles raised \$100 for the club.

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

Presentation: John, K6JRO, gave an excellent presentation on his Greyline Flagpole Antenna for HF. Brendon, NK6M, and Jason, KA6TIO, helped him install it in his backyard. Verticals are popular but many of them require ground radials (16 minimum) and they may not be very efficient. The Greyline vertical is classified as a center-fed, electrical half wavelength, doublet. For a review of flagpole antennas see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJR2DaT7S6A>. John found the Greyline instruction manual to be difficult to follow. A remote tuner and a 1:1 current balun must also be purchased for connection from the coax to the 450-ohm ladder line feedpoint. After installation and testing John found it works best on 20 meters. It does not work on 80, 160, and 10 meters. Operations on 15 and 17 meters are questionable. So, it is still a work in progress.

Meeting Adjournment: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM after a motion by Dick, W8AAL, and a second by Randy, KF6RJS. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 20, 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.

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:

Monday to Friday it is going to be 72 to 77 for highs/ 52 to 55 for lows. This past Monday thru Wed we had some good rain. Monday, we had 0.95", Tuesday we had 0.27" and Wednesday we had 0.01". All together

Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

we had 1.20". So for this year we have had 1.40". Saturday thru Monday we might get some rain—30%-50% change.

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

73 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

Treasure report from the September meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O.BOX 4601, MODESTO, CA 95352-4601

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report September 15, 2025

August 19, 2025 to September 15, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$11,428.01**

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$30.00
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$85.00 AG6JX, anonymous
Split-The-Pot	\$65.00 Richard W6EV (donated his portion back to club)
Radio/Equipment Raffle	\$95.00 Mark N6ARP & Gene W6QFU
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$28.83 (net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$0.00 (net of Square fees)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$303.83	Square - Auto Deposit	\$28.83
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$275.00

EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1188) - August Site Rent (8-25-2025)
PG&E	\$92.45 (EFT) - Mt Oso Utilities-32 days (9-9-2025)
ServersFit	\$135.59 (EFT) - Mesh Equipment Mt. Oso (9-7-2025)
FTD	\$95.36 (EFT) Potted Plant for KG6ZYQ (8-19-2025)

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$403.40**

**** Tri-Counties Bank**

Ending Bank Balance: **\$11,328.44** as of **September 15, 2025**

Field Day Fund:	\$1,459.03 (included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$5,234.07 (included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$4,635.34 (included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer:

September 15, 2025

2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 84 Paid Members

2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 3 Paid Members

Member Paid Donations (for goods / services)

ARES

Wally, KK6CPN
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Ham Cram

John, K6JRO Ham
Cram coordinator

Swap Shop

Stanislaus County ARES Report

Hello everyone



trainings.

Well, another month has gone by. On October 5, our several of our ARES Members attended a Safety Faire at the Hughson Fire Department providing information on ARES and SARA to the public. Again I would like to remind all SARA members you are welcome to come out to the second Saturday of the month ARES meeting and

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 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@arrrl.net.

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.

Featured Article

\$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

Featured Article: *Recap of the Stan-Joaquin Picnic and Swap Meet.*

By, Scott Johnson, KN6RKY

The annual Stan-Joaquin Swap Meet, sponsored by the SARA Club and SDARC was held at the Ripon Grange Hall on Saturday September 6, 2025. The event leads were Dick Aal, W8AAL from the SARA Club and Joyce Marciel, K6QBQ from SDARC. There were 14 vendor tables and approximately 50+- lunches served with numerous SARA and SDARC club volunteers assisting. Our own Scott, N6CIC and Dick, W8AAL provided the culinary expertise for an enjoyable lunch. This year's event location, having reasonable parking and facilities, proved to generate favorable responses from both vendors and attendees alike.

After all expenses, the event netted each club \$113.72. Special thanks go out to SDARC for donating the drinks, ice and coleslaw and to SARA Club member Eric Lehman, KO6HYL for the generous donation for the use of the Ripon Grange Hall. A special thank you to Dick, W8AAL, Joyce, K6QBQ and all who volunteered, had a seller's table or attended. The event was pleasantly successful, and a good time was had by all. See you next year.

As a side bar:

Joyce Marciel, K6QBQ of SDARC heard that someone was selling cast iron pans at the swap meet. She was a bit busy during the event and didn't have an opportunity to look at the vendors tables. She is a collector and restorer of cast iron, so if anyone has some, even a bit rusty, she would be interested.

Scott, KN6RKY

Community Events

Community Events:

October

Saturday 18th ARES Meeting 9a-1p

Friday-Sunday (10-12) Pacificon San Ramon
Marriot

Monday 20th 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 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.

Officers and Board Member

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	axtonrbn@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	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 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

