



THE Readout

STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

September 2025

Volume 46, Number 9

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Next General Meeting:
Face-to-face:
Monday,
September 15th
7:00pm

A Message from Club President John Otte, K6JRO

Welcome to another edition of *The Readout*.

As we turn the calendar to September, we are reminded that prevention, preparation, and community resilience are the cornerstones of our mission. September is Emergency Preparedness Month, a time to reflect on how our ham radio community can strengthen the bonds that keep our neighbors safe when every moment matters.

In times of crisis—whether natural disasters, public safety events, or unexpected outages—our role as licensed operators, volunteers, and trusted communicators is more vital than ever. Our discipline, patience, and teamwork enable us to provide reliable emergency communications when traditional systems falter. This month, let's recommit to:

- Training and practice: Participate in drills, nets, and hands-on training with local emergency management partnerships. Expand your knowledge of Winlink, mesh networks, and APRS, and ensure your gear is field-ready.
- Readiness at home and in the club: Review emergency kits, backup power options (e.g., batteries, solar), and communications plans for family, club, and community events. Create or update contacts, neighborhood maps, and resource lists so we can mobilize quickly.
- Public service and collaboration: Seek opportunities to assist local agencies, hospitals, EMS, schools, and community organizers. Our preparedness is most effective when we work in concert with established plans and responders.
- Safe, inclusive outreach: As we build resilience, we also strengthen the social fabric of our hobby. Welcome new licensees, encourage mentoring, and promote accessible, responsible, and ethical operating practices for all.

Mark your calendars for Pacificon, returning to San Ramon Friday, October 10-Sunday, October 12. Pacificon is produced by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club and held at the San Ramon Marriott, 2600 Bishop Drive. Pacificon is more than a convention—it's a convergence of leadership, education, innovation, and hands-on learning.

Additional information and registration can be found at www.paciticon.org.

73 de K6JRO
John Otte
SARA Club President
Readout Editor

Minutes:

AUG 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@arri.net.

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

Minutes from the August face-to-face meeting

Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 4601 Modesto, CA 95352

www.saraclub.net

August 18, 2025

Club Meeting Minutes

(Meeting held at 3705 Oakdale Road Modesto, CA)

Attendance (via sign in sheet)

Tim, KG6TAI	Scott, KN6OOV	Lucian, KF6NPG
Dick, W8AAL	Cheryl, KK6GJM	Scott, N6CIC
Michael, AG6AX	Eric, KO6HYL	Richard, WE6V
Scott, KN6RKY	John, K6JRO	Ed, KF6FIR
John, W6PY	Paul, W6UHF	Brendon, NK6M (guest)
James, KK6ILV	Brian, KN6QFF	Wally, KK6CPN
Mark, KI6HOB	Eva, KM6BIP	Robert, KN6VMS
Vicki, KJ6RCV	Roy, KK6OQP	Scott, WB3KJX
Jason, KA6TIO	Mark, N6ARP	Robert, KD6BMY
Randy, KF6RJS	Gene, W6QFU	Manuel, N6MTM
Patty, W6PV	Sandy, W6FY432	Jim, KE6FNS (guest)

President John, K6JRO, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were thirty-one 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 were no corrections or additions. ED, KF6FIR, made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second by Mark, N6ARP. The club approved the minutes unanimously.

President John, K6JRO, no report.

Vice-President Brian, KN6QFF, reminded members not to push the button on the front door of the building when they want to enter. The button is for emergencies only. Just bang on the door and someone will come and open it.

Treasurer Scott Johnson, KN6RKY, presented the monthly treasurer's report with an ending bank balance of \$11,428.01. Jason, KA6TIO, 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, was not present. Scott, KN6RKY, stated there will be a 50:50 raffle at the break. A shortwave radio and a

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.

Baofeng HT will be raffled, plus some coax and wire donated by James, KK6ILV. Eva, KM6BIP, passed out cake at the beginning of the meeting in celebration of their wedding anniversary. Congratulations to Eva and Roy!

Club Trustee Lucian, KF6NPG, made a trip to Mt. Oso on July 24, with Mark, N6ARP, and Scott, KN6RKY. The tower looked good, and all the repeaters were working well. There were two unplanned power outages. The first was on July 19 for about nine hours. We noticed the Battleborn battery lost power sooner than expected. We checked and its charge was only 10.8 volts with the powergate showing full charge. We charged the battery and reset the powergate and now it seemed to be operating properly. The second power outage occurred on August 8, and it lasted about 12 hours. This time the Battleborn battery held its charge.

We updated the mesh and found a bad wall plug that was causing an issue with the internet connection from TARC Oso. The plug will be replaced on the next trip.

In preparation for the solar installation, we built a shelf for the new battery system. We removed the old duplexer cabinet (40 years old), which we planned to scrap but instead the Calaveras Club said they could use it. It will need to be tuned.

We set out the solar panel frames to get an idea of the solar panel footprint. All the equipment for the solar panels was brought up except for the panels themselves to avoid damage. We are reviewing the installation instructions to plan for the installation (likely in October with cooler weather). We plan to rent an auger for the installation. In two more weeks, we will go back up to Mt. Oso with Scott, KN6OOV, to review the electrical panel.

Brent, N5NPD, donated his GMRS repeater to the club. It is a Bridgecom repeater with ARCOM controller, duplexer, GMRS antenna and 25 feet of coax all contained in a rolling cabinet. To protect the tower, we will install an 8- to 10-foot metal pole behind the building for the antenna. I have been looking at a frequency and I think I have located one. The repeater will be installed on Mt. Oso once I have programmed it and the controller and tuned the duplexer. Thank you, Brent, for your generous donation to the club!

ARES: Wally, KK6CPN, reported on the San Joaquin Section Emergency Preparedness event to be held on September 20 at Ensen Park. ARES will have an information booth, and SARA is welcome to have a booth as well. The event times are 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Those who participated in the Perfect Storm exercise will receive a certificate of participation. Greg, KO6GIL, has agreed to take on the ARES position of Chief Information Officer. This is a needed office so thank you Greg!

Community Events: Wally, KK6CPN, reported the next event is the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 13. We have positions filled.

Board Members: Mark, N6ARP, Dick, W8AAL, Cheryl, KK6GJM, and Scott, KN6OOV were present, Dick, W8AAL, reminded everyone of the upcoming Stan-Joaquin swap meet to be held on Saturday, September 6, in Ripon. Dick is purchasing paper plates, napkins, and plastic cutlery for the swap meet. Scott, N6CIC and Mel, W7EOV will do the barbecuing. Mark, N6ARP, said he will keep the Calaveras Club in the loop on the swap meet.

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

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

Break: There was a 15-minute break. The evening's split-the-pot raffle winner was Richard, WE6V. Split-the-pot generated \$70 with Richard donating his half minus \$5 back to the club. Thank you, Richard! Mark, N6ARP, won the radios, and Gene, W6QFU, won the coax and wire. The equipment raffles raised \$95 for the club.

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

Presentation: Scott, N6CIC, gave a presentation on FT8, one of the very popular modes in the WSJT-X suite of digital programs for amateur radio. FT8 is effective for worldwide communication using modest equipment and low power levels. Below are the key software components needed for FT8 (all are free).

- <https://wsjt.sourceforge.io.wsjt.html> for wsjtx software
 - **Read the Manual First!** wsjt-x 2.7.0 User Guide
 - **Download the Software.** wsjt-x 2.8.0-win64.exe
- Gary Hinson ZL2IFB Helpful Hints ver. 2.32-go to k4pyr.com
- JTAAlert 2.80.x works with WSJTX to give states & countries
 - <https://hamapps.com>
- Computer Clock Must be Synchronized with the World Wide Web
 - Check <https://time.io>
 - Connect to an NTP server
 - Dimension 4/Meinberg
 - Use GPS time or JTSync if no Internet

Meeting Adjournment: John, K6JRO, adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM after a motion by Dick, W8AAL, and a second by Randy, KF6RJS. The next meeting will be on Monday, September 15, 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:

Hello to everyone.

This summer has been okay. We have had 7 days of temperatures at 100 plus. My hottest day was 102.2 on September 2nd. I also had 0.06" of rain and I had 311 lightning strikes. I had 301 that morning and 10 more that night. I think that is the most lightning strikes that I have had. Monday,

Treasure's Report, Scott, KN6RKY

September 15th thru Saturday 20th: Temperature is going to be 88 to 97 for highs and 62 to 66 for lows. Everyone have a good week.

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

73 Randy Spindler, KF6RJS.
Weather Officer

Treasure report from the August meeting



STANISLAUS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

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

www.saraclub.net

Treasury Report August 18, 2025

July 15, 2025 to August 18, 2025

BEGINNING BALANCE: **\$11,650.05**

INCOME:

Membership Dues - (cash/check)	\$60.00
Member Donations (cash/check)	\$10.00
Split-The-Pot	\$71.00 Brent KJ6MRG
Radio/Equipment Raffle	\$20.00 Dick W8AAL
Square - Auto Deposit - Dues	\$28.83 (net of Square fees)
Square - Auto Deposit - Donations	\$48.25 (net of Square fees)

TOTAL INCOME:	\$238.08	Square - Auto Deposit	\$77.08
		Deposit Tri-Counties Bank	\$161.00

EXPENSES:

Moeller Mt. Oso	\$80.00 (Ck #1186) - August Site Rent (7-28-2025)
PG&E	\$81.17 (Ck #1187) - Mt Oso Utilities-30 days (8-11-2025)
Accelerant National Insurance Co.	\$249.00 (EFT) - Equipment Insurance (8-1-2025)
Exact Hosting (formerly eNom)	\$49.95 (EFT) - Domain Renewal (saraclub.net)

TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$460.12**

**** Tri-Counties Bank**

Ending Bank Balance: **\$11,428.01** as of **August 18, 2025**

Field Day Fund:	\$1,459.03 (included in ending bank balance)
Equipment Fund:	\$5,022.07 (included in ending bank balance)
General Fund:	\$4,946.91 (included in ending bank balance)

Treasurer:

August 18, 2025

2025 Membership - 1 Honorary / 82 Paid Members

2026 Membership - 1 Honorary / 3 Paid Members

Member Paid Donations (for goods / services)

Mark (N6ARP) Domain Renewal (STANARES.org) \$23.19

ARES

Wally, KK6CPN
Emergency
Coordinator,
Stanislaus County

Ham Cram

John, K6JRO Ham
Cram coordinator

Swap Shop

Stanislaus County ARES Report

Hello everyone



September is Emergency Preparedness Month and, as such Stanislaus County ARES will be involved in the Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 20 at Enslen Park. I will provide further information as I get it. Also, 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 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: *National Preparedness Month: Preparedness Starts at Home*

FEMA's Ready Campaign has observed National Preparedness Month since 2004 to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies. The month is a great time to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared.

Preparedness Starts at Home, the 2025 theme, focuses on getting back to the essentials of preparedness. In addition to sharing the tips, messages and graphics you can find on [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov), there are four key actions you can take to prepare for any disaster you may face:

Know your risk

- Know what could happen where you and your family live. This helps you figure out what you need to do to stay safe. You can explore various disasters and emergencies on [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).
- **Make a family emergency plan**
 - Making a plan early helps you reduce stress and save time and money. Follow [four easy steps](#) and create a free [Family Emergency Plan](#) quickly and easily with our fillable form.
 - Disasters are costly but preparing for them doesn't have to be. Taking time to prepare now can help save you thousands of dollars and give you peace of mind when the next disaster or emergency occurs. Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)'s [low and no-cost tip page](#) to see how you can be better prepared without spending a lot of money.
- **Build an emergency supply kit**
 - Having enough food, water and medicine can help you stay safe and comfortable until help arrives. Having what you need can also prevent injury and damage to your home.
 - Build a go-bag with all the essentials you might need, so you don't need to scramble in an evacuation situation. Find a list of supplies at [Build A Kit](#).
- **Get involved in your community by taking action to prepare for emergencies**
 - Emergencies can happen fast, and emergency responders aren't always nearby. You may be able to save a life by taking simple actions immediately. You can learn these steps when you take a first aid class through many organizations in your community..
 - Join a Community Emergency Response Team program and get trained on basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.
 - Take a free online independent study course through [FEMA's Emergency Management Institute](#) or a [CPR course through the](#)

Community Events

[American Red Cross](#) to learn more about how to help your community become more prepared.

Read the Trump Administration [Presidential Message on National Preparedness Month](#).

Information reprinted from <https://www.ready.gov/september>

Community Events:

September

Saturday 6th ARES Meeting 10a-12p

Monday 15th SARA Meeting 7p-8p

October

Saturday 18th ARES Meeting 10-12p

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.

Officers and Board Member

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

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

