2023 Stanislaus County ARES Annual Report

January Flooding (drone view by ARES member Patrick KG6AZZ of Old Las Palmas fishing access in Patterson, CA)

The Stanislaus County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (Stanislaus ARES) is composed of amateur radio operators who have voluntarily registered their capabilities and equipment for public service communications duty under federal and local regulations. Amateur radio public service communications are provided without any compensation. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members are prepared to respond to emergencies by a continual training program and by maintaining their radio equipment and other needed items ready for deployment. The local ARES team is made up of community members who want to help and who are dedicated to staying prepared to render radio communications assistance whenever needed.

For purposes of amateur radio organization Stanislaus ARES is associated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), The National Association for Amateur Radio. ARRL provides organization, support, and training in emergency communications and general amateur radio operations. Stanislaus ARES is part of the Pacific Division, San Joaquin Valley Section of the ARRL. Stanislaus ARES has a leadership structure and is led by the Emergency Coordinator (EC). The 2023 EC was John Otte K6JRO. The 2024 EC is Ed Hanna KF6FIR. The Stanislaus ARES organization chart is attached to this report.

Stanislaus ARES is closely associated with a local amateur radio club, Stanislaus Amateur Radio Association (SARA). SARA owns and maintains the amateur radio repeater system that is used by Stanislaus ARES for training and emergency response. SARA is a great resource for recruiting amateur radio operators to become members of Stanislaus ARES. Although not required, most Stanislaus ARES members are also members of SARA to support the operation and maintenance of the repeater system.

For the purposes of emergency deployment Stanislaus ARES is a volunteer organization under the direction of the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (Stanislaus OES). Stanislaus ARES members follow any required guidelines as defined by the Stanislaus OES to be disaster service workers (volunteers) for the county. Stanislaus ARES regularly reports to the Stanislaus OES on their training activities.

Stanislaus ARES maintains a radio room located at the Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Center. The amateur radio room is well equipped with up-to-date amateur radio equipment that can be operated on all amateur radio voice and digital bands. Most of this equipment is supplied by Stanislaus OES and they are a valued supporter of Stanislaus ARES. Stanislaus OES recently was awarded a grant from California OES to purchase a CODAN radio so they can participate in Shared Resources (SHARES) High Frequency (HF) radio program. This allows trained operators to participate in State and Federal radio nets* using restricted government frequencies. ARES members participate in this net along with the California Emergency Services Net (CESN) each Wednesday. These nets serve as a test of back up radio communications with the California OES Headquarters in Sacramento, CA.

*The purpose of a radio net is to provide a means for orderly communication within a group of radio operators. There are many forms of radio nets including, directed (or formal) and open (informal) nets. Directed nets are organized and coordinated by a net control station (NCS). Open nets are less formal and often have a round table type exchange of information. All of our ARES nets are conducted as directed nets with an NCS coordinating the communications.

Stanislaus ARES members participate in many training classes. Minimally they have completed the Incident Command System (ICS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses of ICS-100 (Introduction to the Incident Command System), IS-200 (Basic Incident Command System For Initial Response), IS-700 (An Introduction to the National Incident Management System), IS-800 (National Response Framework, An Introduction), EC-001 (The ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communication Course) and have a basic (Technician) Amateur Radio License.

Additionally, ARES members attend monthly meetings including a training topic and participate in weekly radio nets. Members also provide communications for community events such as:
- Snelling Road Race bicycle ride.
- Copperopolis Road Race bicycle ride.
- Regalado Road Race bicycle ride.

- Walk to End Alzheimers.

Not only do these events provide a community service, but they also serve as a training exercise for practice when operating under directed net protocols with NCS coordination.

Stanislaus ARES participates in the following radio nets:
- Weely ARES net.
- Weekly Packet net (this is a digital data net).
- Weekly CESN and SHARES HF nets
- Monthly Winlink Net. Winlink is a digital data net that can best be described as sending e-mail over the radio to an RMS gateway that can send the information to the cloud which can then be received by another radio operator accessing a gateway. These messages can also be sent directly radio to radio without the use of a gateway. This is a valuable resource as you can send data including pre-made forms and ICS forms. There are several RMS gateways in the area and Stanislaus ARES maintains a gateway in the ARES room. There are HF RMS gateways that can be used to send messages out of the area if the local internet is down.
- Monthly Simplex net (using radio to radio without use of a repeater).

Stanislaus ARES was activated in January 2023 and deployed by Stanislaus OES to assist in the response to flooding in the west side of the county. ARES was used for 4 days and provided six to eight operators each day to monitor flooded locations.

Although we were not needed this year, we have in the past assisted in providing back-up communications for Stanislaus County Hospital's redundant communications drill.

Stanislaus ARES members also participated in the national 2023 Shakeout earthquake preparedness drill.

During this past year Stanislaus ARES participated in the following training:
- Automatic Packet Reporting System.
- Radio to Radio winlink message practice.
- Preparing and Incident Action Plan (IAP) for an amateur radio event.
- Go-Box building (portable radio station) and battery needed for the build.
- SSTV (Slow Scan amateur radio TV).
- ATV (fast scan amateur radio TV).
- ICS (Incident Command System Review).
- USCG (US Coast Guard) communications.
- End of year review of activities and planning for next year.

The following is a table of Stanislaus ARES participation hours for the year.

Number of Active ARES Members	14
Net Participation Hours	796 hours
Emergency nets (January Flooding)	261 hours
Community Service Events	211 hours
Monthly meetings and training	290 hours
Monthly ARES officers' administration hours	480 hours
Total participation hours	2,038 hours

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Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator San Joaquin Valley
Assistant Emergency Coordinator Stanislaus ARES
January 24, 2024

2024 Stanislaus County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

Stanislaus County OES Agency Having Jurisdiction/ Served Agencies

NZ6Q
John Litz
San Joaquin Valley
Section Manager

WL7COO
Dan Sohn
SECTION EC

W6DQ
Dennis Kidder
ASST SEC

KF6NPG
Lucian Thomas
ASST SEC

W6UHF
Paul Owen
District North EC

KF6FIR
Ed Hanna
County EC

KF6NPG
Lucian Thomas
ASST EC OPS

N6ARP
Mark price
ASST EC TRNG

KG6AZZ
Patrick Dunbar
ASST EC Tech

KK6CNP
Jim "Wally" Walsh
ASST EC ADMIN

K6JRO
John Otte
ASST EC Net OFCR

OPEN
ASST EC PIO