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U.S. Mail:

TARA

P.O. Box 134

Keene, CA 93531

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Hello, TARA friends!

ARRL Field Day 2025, or Summer Field Day as we call it, has come and gone. I would like to thank all the members who put in lots of work to pull off a superb one. There were many of you. We got several visitors, both hams and ham radio curious, who enjoyed visiting us, and said they learned much. I contacted several participants and visitors to make sure they learned what they wanted to know about Field Days and encouraged them to come to our other activities.

Some of us have already started the debriefings and have made some observations. I believe our future Field Days, both Summer and Winter, will continue to improve.

There were about 4 other Field Day groups operating near us, including the Sierra Amateur Radio Club (SARC) who included an article about ours in their The Airwaves newsletter. Nice newsletter, by the way.

Looking forward to the next Field Day.

We will be gathering for breakfast this Saturday, July 12th, 8:00 AM, at Village Grill.

Our next VE session will be on August 9th, 11:00 AM, right after our P-Dubs breakfast at 8:00 AM.

If are interested in a certain meeting presentation subject or a special ham activity, contact me at 661-203-8398 or better imprezaspeed@yahoo.com.

73,

Dan - AB6DM

Hospitality

Valerie Mason – Hospitality Chairperson

Another Summer Field Day is behind us. Thank you all for all the weed whacking, set up, running Field Day, tear down and haul away of all the stuff afterward. Many hands make light work.

I experienced digital for the first time, I believe. Thank you, Zach, for your patience in training me 😊 . I got 3 contacts I believe in all, on 2 stations.

Meals, food and water worked out well. Thank you to all who added something. We will bring anyone's stuff to the club meeting that you may have left for others to borrow. Thank you for letting us borrow it.

See you at the next breakfast at Village Grill, 2nd Saturday at 8 am - this weekend. Mulligan Room breakfast last Saturday of the month. Please reserve your spot with me.

'73 All
KK6WLQ

Valerie Mason

Tehachapi Takes the Airwaves: Field Day 2025 Recap

From our Public Information Officer, Micah Martin, KN6VUT



Zak – W9UOI our Field Day Organizer

June brought not just sunshine, but serious radio energy as the *Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association* proudly hosted **Field Day 2025**—the Ham Radio Superbowl—at High Country Park in Bear Valley!



Dan - AB6DM and Dave - WA5GUL

The excitement began well before the big day, with volunteers rallying for site prep starting on Saturday, June 21st, affectionately dubbed Weed Wack Day. With weed trimmers in hand, we cleared space for an expanded parking area, anticipating a great turnout.





Final preparations continued on Friday, June 27th, with welcome signage installed, our demonstration station assembled, and finishing touches made to ready the site for a weekend to remember.



On Field Day—Saturday, June 28th
Visitors poured in, completely filling our newly expanded parking area at High Country Park.

Wow did Tehachapi show up!



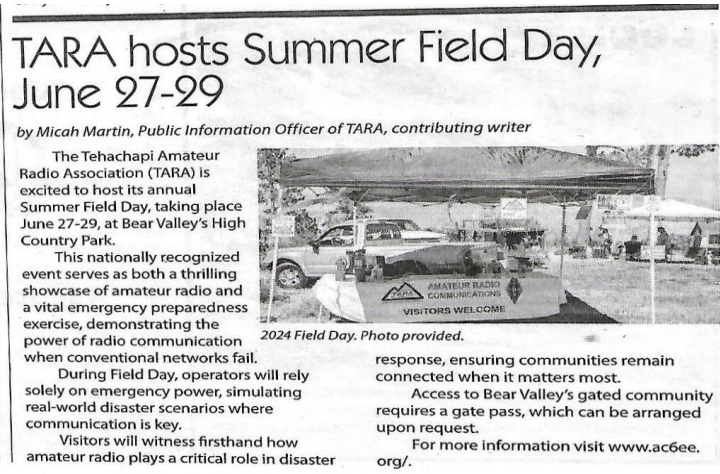


Their interest and enthusiasm echoed the strength of our signal! We were honored to welcome special guests including ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section Manager Steven (KK6JTB), as well as Francina (KN6LOA) and Sandy (KJ6VRW) from the *Sierra Amateur Radio Club* in Ridgecrest.



Thanks to our club's ongoing outreach and community involvement, we earned recognition and support from many local organizations and businesses:

- **The Loop**, **Tehachapi News**, and the **TehachaPod** podcast amplified our impact across the region.
- **Big Five Sporting Goods** generously offered a gear discount and a donation.
- **Sim Sanitation** supplied us with two porta-potties and a hand-wash station, keeping everyone comfortable throughout the event.



We were even featured on the ARRL *Field Day* Facebook Page, spreading Tehachapi's amateur radio spirit to a national audience.

To everyone who lent a hand, tuned in, or cheered us on: **Thank You** for making **Field Day 2025** a resounding success!



#ARRLFD with the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association TARA



EDITORS' Note:

The Dummy Load theme for August is - Do you have an amateur radio hotspot? How is it configured? What things are you doing with it?

We enjoyed and appreciated the articles submitted last month. You don't have to write a multi paragraph article to submit. It would be nice to have a few words from many of you about our theme for the month. If you have some thoughts for an article, send me an email with your phone number and we can build an article interview style with a few minutes on the phone.

The topics for September through December are not set yet! Any ideas?

In addition to your article on the topic above, we need your input on topics that you would like to see in future issues of The Dummy Load. Which aspect of Amateur Radio interests you. We would very much appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

Send them to kn6zgi@ac6ee.org by June 9, 2025.

73, Stephen, KN6ZGI

Your Favorite Mode

Ray Gretlein, W6QPA

My Favorite Mode

I enjoy operating HF and in particular CW and digital modes. I spend most of my on-air time operating at less than 10 watts SSB and less than 5 watts CW output to the antenna. This is referred to as QRP (and referred to as crazy by some). The low power of these transmitters makes home construction relatively simple and powering them for portable operations is easy from 12-volt batteries. As for operating, the difference between operating at 5 watts vs 100 watts is roughly 13 db. Since one S-unit is roughly 6 dB, my signal is just a touch more than 2 S-units lower. However, running narrow band modes such as CW and weak signal modes FT8, JS8 really makes QRP useable. The spectral power density of a CW signal vs SSB is roughly a 15 dB increase. So, my CW is received similarly to a 158-watt phone signal. Of course there is a price, the speed of communication is also significantly reduced.

However, I still have fun building and operating. Operating at 5 watts or less with simple wire and/or compromise antenna like a magnetic loop, I've been able to contact stations all over the US (48 States) and many DX (57 confirmed). The best so far is a December 2017 contact with ZL2IFB in New Zealand via FT8 at 2.5 watts into a mag loop antenna at 3' above the ground. That is 6650 miles or ~2660 miles per watt!

For more information on QRP, these websites may help:

QRP Amateur Radio International <https://www.qrparci.org/>

NorCal QRP Club <http://www.norcalqrp.org/aboutnorcal.htm>

QRP Fox Hunts <https://groups.io/g/qfox> and <http://qrpfoxhunt.org>

Four Days in May QRP Conference <https://www.qrparci.org/fdim>

Dan Mason, AB6DM

My Favorite Mode

Simply put, my favorite ham radio mode is any mode that broadcasts the human voice such as SSB, FM, or AM. You all know what those are, and are probably wondering, why does the guy who makes his living with computers and software does not embrace digital modes, like FT-8.

I spend too much time wrangling with computers and software. I want a more organic experience communicating over radio, at least as organic as I can with such an electronic device.

Besides that, I like socializing with actual people and hearing real voices. Don't get me wrong, I like digital modes too and believe we all should have some proficiency with them. I really should spend more time practicing digital modes, but I really enjoy hearing real people.

73,
Dan - AB6DM

On the Bench

This is a semi-regular column for members to share the off-the-air aspects of their ham radio activities. Using a sports metaphor, on-the-bench refers to a player not currently active in the game. So, applying that in a ham radio context, what is “On-the-(work)bench” in your shack?

Nothing this month. What radio projects are you working on?

The Operating Room

This is a semi-regular column for club members to share the on-the-air aspects of their ham radio activities.

Ray Gretlein, W6QPA

Field Day Fun

We had a camping trip planned with friends, one of whom is a ham. Our wives knew that we would be “playing on the radio” and had made plans to do things on their own for the Field Day duration. Then it all unraveled due to illness and family activities, by Field Day, I was on my own.

I thought I would pack a bit lighter this year as I was only operating QRP, with battery power with solar topping up the battery. The kit for this was simple:

[QRPLabs QMX 80-20](#) meter transceiver,

[Begali Traveler key](#), the [SOTABeams Band Hopper III](#) linked dipole, a [SOTA Beams Tactical-Mini](#) mast, a “solar power Bank” with a [Bioenno 12v 12amp/hr battery](#) I put together a number of years ago and 60 watts of [solar from Bioenno](#) .

For back-up I also packed an Elecraft KX-3, an LDG end-fed antenna, LDG QRP Tuner, and assorted tools, connectors and 256 watt/hrs of additional battery just in case. In the



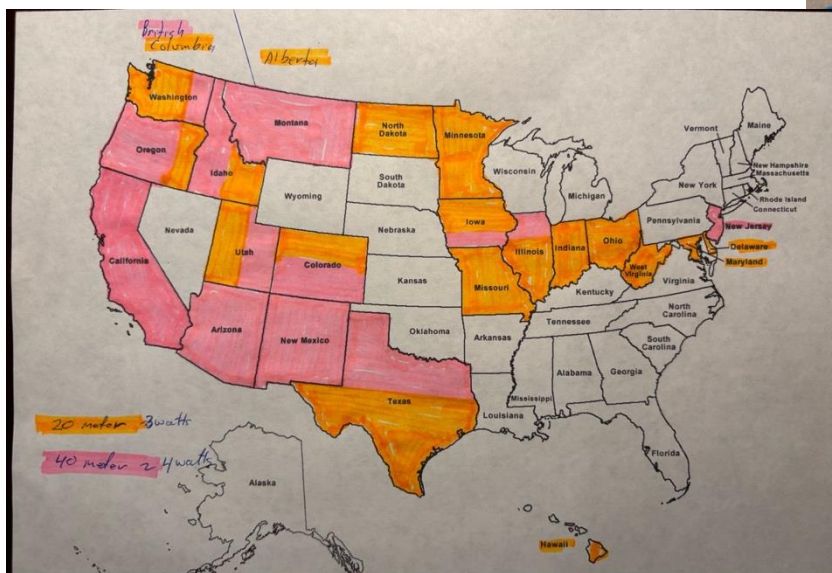
end, it wasn't lighter after all. Good news though, I never actually used anything but the primary setup since nothing failed this trip.



The operating position was in my trailer at KOA near Santa Margarita Lake.

For Field Day I operated exclusively CW, however, Friday evening I ran WinLink. I sent position reports, a few emails and checked a weather report. Wonderful tool, and it worked well at 4 watts connecting to a node in Wickenburg, AZ 360 miles away with good throughput.

The site provided enough space for my inverted Vee and was relatively quiet. It is also a relatively RF-quiet spot, so QRM/QRN were below S-2 levels most of the period. I'm now using sandbags to anchor the antenna ends. I switched to this after the club experience at Manzanar National Monument where we were not allowed to put anything in the ground. And many campgrounds frown upon using their trees. Plus, it is way easier to set these out than trying to drive stakes in many of the dry rocky locations I find to camp.



My reach was coast to coast -- 20 CONUS states plus Hawaii and Canadian provinces of BC and Alberta.

The QMX is definitely QRP. On 20 meters it produces ~3.5 watts (Orange highlighted map), on 40 meters ~4.2 watts (the pinkish highlight on the map).

Solar kept the battery full and powered the QMX and Surface. Overnight I used about 86 watt hours out of 144 available from my black battery box. I never used any of the 256 watt/hr from the other batteries I brought. Current demand with QMX in receive and the Surface maintaining 100% charge and running drew 460 mA. Transmit was ~1.4 A. For the whole event, the station used 174.4 watts.

I operated about 21 of the 24 hrs. I managed 66 QSO's. The QSO rate was poor at about 3 per hour. I probably worked a bit less than half of those I heard. Ended up working 21 CONUS States, Hawaii and two Canadian provinces, Alberta and British Columbia.



Score wise – My claimed score is 1010 points.

Band	QSO's	Points
	CW (2 points per Q)	
40	36	72
20	30	60
QSO Point total		132
Power Multiplier	5 =<5 watt max	5
Sub-Total		660
Bonus Points		
100% Emergency Power	100 pts per Xmitter	100
Natural Power		100
W1AW Bulletin	yes	100
Web Submission		50
Total		1010

Objectives for this field day were to improve my QSO Rate, and pick up the last two states, Delaware and Vermont, needed for Worked All States QRP. In the past several years, Field Days provided QSO with Delaware and Vermont, but operating under AC6EE I couldn't claim them. At the end of this Field Day I only made at 40% of my prior best. I did have a QSO with a Delaware station, so if he'll QSL the contact, I'll only need Vermont to finally complete Worked All States. Now on to Winter Field Day preparations

Tid-Bits

A collection of miscellaneous mostly amateur radio related items.

This section will return next month.

Humorous

Vallerie - KK6WLQ

Our daughter Ariella left us some jokes, so here they are:

1. What do you call a horse that likes to run around all the time?

Unstable.

2. What do pigs listen to?

Ham radio.

ARRL Contest Calendar

This page provides a summary of events sponsored by the ARRL, the national association for amateur radio. The most current information is on the website at:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>.

Another source for contest and on-the-air activity is WA7BNM Contest Calendar at

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

July 2025

- 12-13 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2025

- 2-3 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)
- 16-18 [10 GHz & UP - Roundup 1](#)
- 16-17 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)
- 17 [Rookie Roundup](#)

September 2025

- 13-15 [September VHF](#)
- 13-14 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)
- 20-22 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

October 2025

- TBD [Collegiate QSO Party](#)
- 11-12 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 20-24 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2025

- 1-3 [Nov Sweepstakes–CW](#)
- 8-9 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 15-17 [Nov Sweepstakes–Phone](#)

December 2025

- 5-7 [160 Meter](#)
- 13-14 [10 Meter](#)
- 21 [Rookie Roundup–CW](#)

TARA [Calendar](#)

This page is a summary of events sponsored by or involving our club.
All dates are subject to change. Please check the club Facebook and [website](#) for updates.

July 2025

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 1900 hrs “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30– 1300 hrs “Wireless Wednesday” at Taco Samich
- 3 – 1900 hrs, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 5, 12, 19, 26 – 1800 hrs, 10 Meter Technician Net every Saturday on 28.350 MHz
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – 1900 hrs, TARA Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – 1930 hrs, BVS ERT Net (ARES) (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)

- 10 – 1900 hrs, TARA Club Meeting Tehachapi Police Department, 220 W C St, Tehachapi
- 12 — 0800 hrs, TARA Club Breakfast TARA Club Breakfast at The Village Grill, 410 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 2 July.
- 22 – 1800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Meeting at the BVS Equestrian Center Lounge.
- 26 —0800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by July 14.

August 2025

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 — 1800 hrs, 10 Meter Technician Net every Saturday on 28.350 MHz
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 — 1900 hrs, TARA Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 — 1930 hrs, BVS ERT Net (ARES) (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – 1900 hrs “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – 1300 hrs “Wireless Wednesday” at Taco Samich
- 7 – 1900 hrs, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 — 0830 hrs, TARA Club Breakfast TARA Club Breakfast at P-Dubs, 20800 Santa Lucia St, Tehachapi, CA 93561 Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 1 August.
- 9 — 1100 hrs, VE Amateur Radio License Exam, 538 East Tehachapi Boulevard
- 14 – 1900 hrs, TARA Club Meeting Tehachapi Police Department, 220 W C St, Tehachapi
- 26 – 1800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Meeting at the BVS Equestrian Center Lounge.
- 30 —0800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by August 18.

September 2025

- 3, 10, 17, 24 – 1900 hrs “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3, 10, 17, 24 – 1300 hrs “Wireless Wednesday” at Taco Samich
- 4 – 1900 hrs, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 6, 13, 20, 27 — 1800 hrs, 10 Meter Technician Net every Saturday on 28.350 MHz
- 7, 14, 21, 28 — 1900 hrs, TARA Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 7, 14, 21, 28 — 1930 hrs, BVS ERT Net (ARES) (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 11 – 1900 hrs, TARA Club Meeting Tehachapi Police Department, 220 W C St, Tehachapi
- 13 — 0800 hrs, TARA Club Breakfast at The Village Grill, 410 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 1 September.
- 23– 1800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Meeting at the BVS Equestrian Center Lounge.
- 27 —0800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 15 September.

October 2025

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 1900 hrs “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 1300 hrs “Wireless Wednesday” at Taco Samich
- 2 – 1900 hrs, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 4, 11, 18, 25 – 1800 hrs, 10 Meter Technician Net every Saturday on 28.350 MHz
- 5, 12, 19, 26 — 1900 hrs, TARA Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)

- 5, 12, 19, 26 — 1930 hrs, BVS ERT Net (ARES) (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 9 – 1900 hrs, TARA Club Meeting Tehachapi Police Department, 220 W C St, Tehachapi
- 11 — 0830 hrs, TARA Club Breakfast TARA Club Breakfast at P-Dubs, 20800 Santa Lucia St, Tehachapi, CA 93561 Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 1 June.
- 11 — 1100 hrs, VE Amateur Radio License Exam, 538 East Tehachapi Boulevard
- 25 —0800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by June 18.
- 28 – 1800 hrs, BVS Emergency Radio Team Meeting at the BVS Equestrian Center Lounge.

Reference Information

Local Repeater Information				
BVS APRS Digipeater	144.390	No tone	AC6EE-3	APRS
BVS Repeater Backup Freq.	146.700 145.580	123.0 Hz Tone Simplex	W6SLZ	Open Machine
BVS Repeater	440.625	100.0 Hz Tone	W6SLZ	Open Machine (WIN System node)
Tehachapi Repeater (Cummings Mtn.)	442.925(+)	141.3 Hz tone	KI6HHU	On the KERN System
Tehachapi Repeater (Double Mtn.)	446.320(-)	151.4 Hz tone	KI6HHU	On the KERN System
Tehachapi Repeater	444.225(+)	100.0 Hz TONE	KG6KKV	Overlooks Bakersfield
Tehachapi Repeater	447.120(-)	67.0 Hz Tone	KR6DK	Linked to KR6DK Bilingual Repeater Network
DMR Repeater	442.675	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K6RET	Brandmeister, Bakersfield, CA The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Cummings Mountain

Local Repeater Information				
DMR Repeater	442.225	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K6GTA	Brandmeister, Located about halfway up Bear Mountain at about 3,200' coverage to west side of the mountain in Bear Valley Springs
Tehachapi Simplex	145.58	No Tone		Local Simplex
Tehachapi Simplex	146.54	No Tone		Local Simplex

In addition to the repeaters listed above the following repeaters, part of the Kern System, can be reached from locations throughout the Tehachapi area and much of the San Joaquin Valley. They are linked together, and more information may be found at <http://www.KernSystem.org>

<u>KERN System Linked Repeaters</u>				
Frazier Mountain (8,000')	447.860	141.3 Hz Tone	KK6AC	Jerry Garis
Cummings Mountain (7,800')	442.95	141.3 Hz Tone	KI6HHU	Lee Bouchard
Double Mountain (8,000')	446.320	151.4 Hz Tone	KI6HHU	Lee Bouchard

<u>ARRG Linked Repeaters</u>				
Cummings Mountain (7,800')	444.425	100 Hz Tone		

ATTENTION:

For those interested in monitoring dispatch for the Bear Valley Springs Police Department

- KCSO Eastern Dispatch — 460.225
- KCSO East TAC — 460.125

All dispatch for BVSPD will be handled by the Kern County Sheriff's Department

Club & Other Websites	
TARA website	http://www.ac6ee.org
TARA Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/TARAtchapiamateurradio/
Tehachapi-hams (email list)	https://groups.io/g/tehachapi-hams/
Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC)	http://www.k6ox.club/index.html
Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club (KCCVARC)	http://www.w6lie.org
ARRL	http://www.arrl.org
West Kern County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (WKCARES)	http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html

Officers & Committee Chairs			
Officer/Committee Chair	Name	Call	Email
President	Dan Mason	AB6DM	ab6dm@arrl.net
1st Vice President	Dan Mason (Interim)	AB6DM	ab6dm@arrl.net
2nd Vice President	Micah Martin	KN6VUT	kn6vut@ac6ee.org
Treasurer	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@ac6ee.org
Secretary	Joe Jacobson	KJ7PUL	kj7pul@ac6ee.org
Technical Director	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	db24130@sbcglobal.net
Web Page & FaceBook Committee Chair	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@ac6ee.org
Hospitality Committee Chair	Valerie Mason	KK6WLQ	val3mason@yahoo.com
Public Affairs Committee Chair	Micah Martin	KN6VUT	kn6vut@ac6ee.org
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Lee	KN6ZGI	Kn6zgi@ac6ee.org

Meeting and Club Membership Information

The Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association meets every second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM (except for July - no meeting). Our meeting site is the Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.

Member Annual Dues: \$25.00/year

- Individual Memberships: <https://square.link/u/Q38FHI5A>

Additional Family Member: \$12.50/per person

- Family Memberships: <https://square.link/u/Q38FHI5A>

The QR codes below can also be used to link to your favorite transaction application.



Square / SquareUp



PayPal



venmo

Membership Application

Download a copy of our Membership Application [here](#). Please share this with any friends, family or neighbors that are either hams or may be interested in amateur radio. Applications are accepted at all club meetings, or you may mail your application along with the applicable dues to the club Post Office Box:

Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association (TARA)
P.O. Box 134
Keene, CA 93531