



In This Issue

- [A Word](#)
- [RadioActive!](#)
 - Editor's Note
- [Favorite Ham Nets](#)
 - [W6WBT Net thoughts](#)
 - [W6SLZ Nets & Activity](#)
- [Origins of Cal Ham Plates](#)
- [ARRL Calendar](#)
- [TARA Calendar](#)
- [Reference Information](#)
 - Local Repeaters
 - Club Repeaters
 - Officer's/Committees
 - Meeting & Club info
 - Membership Application

Contact Us

- Via [Facebook](#)
- Via WWW.AC6EE.ORG
- U.S. Mail:
TARA
P.O. Box 1681
Tehachapi, CA 93581

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

TARA Friends,

The year is flying by, but we're getting some great stuff done! You'll be able to see some of it in this edition of the Dummy Load, and hear about it at our Zoom meeting on the 10th.

But right now, I want to address the Dummy Load topic of the month: What's your favorite net? I participate in a few nets, such as the Bear Valley Springs Emergency Radio Team on Sunday nights, the Monday Western Kern County ARES, and sometimes the Keller Peak Trivia on Sundays. But my favorite net is the TARA Wednesday night "Just Because Net". It's a less formal, though controlled net where everyone has several opportunities to talk about any ham radio subject or tech topic associated with ham radio (even quite loosely); get help, give help, or just stimulate some great conversation. So many hams have been helped or edified, and not just newbies, even the experienced hams. You never know what you're going to learn or be able to help with. If you're not tuning in, you're missing out. It's every Wednesday night at 1900 hours on the W6SLZ repeater (146.700 Mhz, negative offset, PL of 123), and runs anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Till next time,

73,

Dan Mason - AB6DM

RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

Since June's Topic for the Dummy Load is "What is your favorite Net?" I will try to stay on topic.

But first, I would like to remind everyone that Field Day is coming up the 4th full weekend in June. I encourage everyone to get on the air even if it's at you home station. I am getting together with other vaccinated hams and those who feel comfortable gathering safely.

Nets are a great way to get on the air and build confidence. It is also a great way to get you feet wet as a Net Control Operator. There are many types of Nets catering to many different interests, not just amateur radio. Many are intended to be an on the air social gathering (i.e. The Grub Graber's Net on the 2 meter Table mountain repeater). There are many Nets dedicated to passing message traffic and emergency communications. There are many nets that have nothing to do with emergency communications, however they do give operators a chance to get on the air and practice their operating skills in an informal environment that may expose you to how a directed net operates. This builds confidence in using general amateur radio protocols preparing you for the more structured training for emergency communications, and Served Agency protocols and requirements.

So, get on the air and get Radio Active.

EDITORS' Note:

Thanks to Phil W6WBT, Dick W6SLZ and Dan AB6DM for sharing their "Network Activities" with us.

The theme for July is "Mode of the Month — Phone (AM, SSB, FM, ...)" Please consider jotting down a description of your "phone" station (maybe a photo as well) and a memorable QSO you can share with our readers.

Favorite Ham Nets

On to the topic of Amateur radio NETS.

Phil Dolber, W6WBT

As far as my favorite Net, it has changed over the many years I have been a Ham. I try to participate in the Nets run by the clubs I belong to, and do enjoy the West Coast 40 Meter Swap Net on occasion. When my in-laws were retired, cruising on their sailboat, I dabbled in the Maritime nets, but never became one of the fixtures. And of course I participate in EMCOMM drills with the High Desert ARES group and Los Angeles County ARES for the EMCOMM activities that I support for my agency.

Here are some websites that show many, certainly not all, of the nets. If you hear a net in progress on a repeater listen to how it is being run and don't hesitate to check in when guests are invited to do so. Try to check in with the format you heard the members check in with while you were listening.

- Southern California Nets <https://nebula.wsimg.com/bofra982189873c97c8fa4ca8e0343dd?AccessKeyId=B328750CB88BD3F9FBBC&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>
- Pacific Radio Nets <https://www.noonsite.com/report/pacific-list-of-radio-nets/>
- DX Zone – Nets List https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/Nets/
- ARRL Net Directory Search <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search>
- HF Nets <http://ac6v.com/nets.php> Lots of Nets listed here.

Every time you get on the air you are supporting this great hobby by keeping the Amateur Bands active. Use Them or Loose Them! The more comfortable you are with your gear and operating it, the better operator you become.

Nets and Activities over the Years

Dick Brown, W6SLZ

Let me give you a little of my history of Amateur Radio as I look back to the many enjoyable times I have had thru the years.

I studied for my Novice test in 1949 and took the Amateur test and passed it in 1950. Shortly there after I studied for the Amateur General Test. My dad took me to Buffalo, NY to the FCC building to take the code test of 13 words per minute and if I passed I could take the General test which I did and passed. Was scared to death almost. With my dad also being a ham and licensed 1928 was able to operate high power on his station.

In 1957 and 17 years old it began to rain very hard in Western PA. Where the Allegheny River and the Conewango Creek come together is the town I lived in, Warren PA. There were about 15 local hams who all met on a Saturday evening as an informal net. The City of Warren contacted the Hams and ask us to come to the City Court House as we were needed to provide communications for all services; Police, Fire and City. The older Hams took over the operations and as a young ham I got to be a runner for the operations. Both taking and delivering messages

for the operators and there was no other means of communications. This lasted about a week as I remember. The water level was over 20 feet deep in down town.

After the operations ceased some months later I received the Public Service Award from ARRL in consideration of meritorious work in connection with Emergency Operations at Warren, Pennsylvania.

In 1960 I was married and transferred from my job in Pennsylvania to Winfield, Kansas. I joined the Navy MARS a couple years after moving to Kansas. In 1962.. The Vietnam War was going strong. I took hundreds and hundreds of welfare traffic messages and delivered them and also sent traffic back. During this time I ran many phone patches for the services all over the country. Many were from Naval Ships. This was a net I looked forward to many nights a week.

In 1967 I became a friend of the the Motorola service technician and he got me interested in 2 meter repeaters. Long story short, I installed the 2nd repeater in the state of Kansas on a 650' tower. The City of Winfield contacted our tiny club and ask if we could help them with Storm Watch. They provided us with space in the city/county command center and we started a net for Storm Watch. The club was contacted again about teaching Amateur Radio at the local JR College. I taught both the novice and general class licenses for about 5 years.(over 100 persons became hams) I became personal friends with 2 of the students. Both deputy sheriffs, they got their general license. I went on many Storm Watch patrols with them as we provided storm watch reports to the City, and County command center where hams manned the station. Kansas is Tornado Alley. (See SkyWarn and Hurricane Watch Net for other active weather spotting nets ... ed.)

Side note. While living in Kansas I learned to fly and logged about 5000 hours. Two meters is a lot of fun at 10,000 ft over the plains of the midwest

During this time in Kansas I upgraded to Advanced license. Again I had to drive about 250 miles to Kansas City to the FCC office building to take the test. I failed the 20 word per minute code test. So was able to take the Advanced test and passed it.

Was then transferred to California to take over the West Coast operations for the company I worked for. I saw the transfer coming as I had made over 500 trips from Kansas to California for the installation of Oil Field Equipment.

Between 1974 and 1999 I played with a few antenna's. I built a 5 element 40 meter beam and also a 3 element 75 meter beam. Both antennas were full size. (They Did work)

In 1999 I built a home in Bear Valley Springs and moved in. I did some work for Bear Valley and was able to get permission to install 2 repeaters. One on 2 meters and one on 440. This in turn started the Bear Valley Emergency Team in 2000. We were blessed by Bear Valley Springs letting us use the water pump sheds for repeater sites.

Jay Luster introduced me to the Mission Trail Net which was started in 1937, it is still in service today. Still handles welfare traffic. Associated with the Tehachapi club we managed to go to Bishop for about 10 years and set up a net for the Fall Century Bike ride. Which led to us being ask to support the nets for the Car Rallies.

Also enjoy contests. In 2016 was the year of the National Parks on the air. In total I believe I was involved with about 40 parks. Have only missed about 6-8 field days operations. From Fire

towers in Pennsylvania to Destruction Bay Yukon Canada. Trying to put a new state on every Field Day now. Operations this year will be from Loa UT at almost 9000'.

What ever your dream is Ham Radio can be included, Field Day, antenna's, Digital, hiking, or rag chewing take Amateur Radio with you.

It may save your life or someone else's.

Origins of California's Ham Call Sign License Plates

Excerpt from April Edition of Mission Trail Nets' "Blazer" Newsletter via Dick Brown, W6SLZ

CALIFORNIA AMATEUR CALL LETTER VEHICLE LICENSE PLATES

By DK Johnson, W6AAQ.. Adapted from Worldradio "Inside Amateur Radio" by Lenore Jensen W6NAZ

Fifty one years ago [now 2005] there were not many states issuing Amateur Radio call letter plates. The DMV and all law enforcement departments unanimously rejected the idea. Remember this was **B4** motor vehicle records and controls were computerized. Punch cards certainly were not in position to handle this conveniently.

In a most roundabout manner, a highway accident led to the California license plate matter being unexpectedly accelerated. Do you old timers remember this?

One evening, just after local sundown, during Mission Trail Traffic Net operation on 3854, a 75 meter mobile station broke in with emergency traffic. W6FYM and his wife were driving to their weekend cabin in the Sierra foothills. In the vicinity of Sonora they came upon an accident which had just occurred. A head on. A pickup truck and a Buick passenger car over the embankment. As W6FYM broke in, a Merced net member immediately phoned the local Sheriff to relay info to emergency groups in Sonora. **B4** 911 — right!

Vehicles stopped,--- people over the side to the wreckage. The Buick driver, injured but ambulatory. His wife, however, had been killed on impact. The pickup driver ejected but without severe injuries. Another - *remember* - **B4** wide use of safety belts and **B4** Airbags.

The mobileer used these phonetics: **W6** - Fat - Young - **Mortician**. He was moderately heavy, young and a licensed mortician. FYM took charge at the scene, directed first aid for the injured and arranged for an emergency vehicle to transport the deceased wife to the nearest mortuary.

As the husband of the deceased rode with our mortician friend to Sonora he heard the clean-up traffic being handled on the net. W6FYM learned there was a daughter living in Richmond but had no telephone. W6AAQ was on the net and personally knew a Radio Amateur deputy in Richmond. A phone call to the sheriff's office paid off at once. The deputy, who was on patrol, was dispatched to the



GOV. GOODWIN J. KNIGHT (seated) issued the first ham license plates bearing an amateur radio station call sign to Archie Waring of Oakland January 13, 1954.

daughter's home. She and her husband were transported to the sheriff's office enabling them later to talk to the father when he arrived in Sonora.

W6FYM and his xyl, Jean, stayed several hours at the mortuary until the daughter and her husband arrived to take care of her father and other details.

The gentleman whose wife was killed was so impressed with the assistance by the Radio Amateurs he decided on the spot to learn more and become personally involved with the fraternity. He was not just the average weekend motorist. He was the leading official of the current strong political party in the state of California.

During his immediate studies for the Radio Amateur exam he of course learned of the Amateurs desire for call letter plates and the opposition they encountered. He moved to Sacramento, and in addition to his other political duties, he registered as a lobbyist - all at his own expense. The strong Transportation and Law Enforcement committees -and perhaps some others- soon learned of this gentleman's clout. Horse trades - back room pressures and what not. In a few short months the involved committees realized their survival rested on not casting a single dissenting vote.

We will stop calling this person "he" -----

On 13 January of 1954, California Governor Knight presented the *first* California Amateur Radio Call Letter Plate to --- by that time a well know ham --- **Archie Waring, W6ACN.**

TRIVIA

Archie Waring was a blood relative of Fred Waring, the orchestra leader.

During WW I [one] Archie built wooden boats for the US Army. Many of them.

He was an accomplished machinist.

After WW I Archie built large wooden bridges in the Sierra. In the late 50s he gave W6AAQ a tour of some of the bridges still in operation

You old time Model T freaks remember the Ruxall -add on- rear end for the Model T? I saw and studied the patent.

Archie was listed as one of the inventors.

Always a true politician: When W6AAQ and W6HMD's #2 son was just old enough to be held by someone out of the family..... Archie would hold Gary [now KG6UN] as he gave his political speeches-----the infant successfully snatching and tossing the politico's glasses.

Being a long-haul Naval Aviator, a lot of compensatory time off was available. While Archie was arranging his move from East Oakland to Sacramento I

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>

June 2021

- 12-14 June VHF
- 19 Kids Day
- 26-27 Field Day

July 2021

- 10-11 IARU HF World Championship

Aug 2021

- 7-8 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
- 21-22 10 GHz & Up – Round 1
- 22 Rookie Roundup – RTTY

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. In-person events are returning, beginning with the “2nd Saturday Breakfast”. Other face-to-face events remain cancelled for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have not received a Zoom invitation via email or or if you are interested in membership and would like to attend as a guest, please send an email to AC6EE@ARRL.NET, stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the Zoom meeting invitation link.

June 2021

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 10 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 12 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at [The Village Grill](#)

July 2021

- 7, 14, 21, 28 – 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 1 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 10 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at [The Village Grill](#)

Aug 2021

- 4, 11, 18, 25 — 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 5 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 12 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 14 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at [The Village Grill](#)

Reference Information

Local Repeater Information				
TARA APRS Digipeater	144.39	No tone	AC6EE-3	APRS
BVS APRS Digipeater	144.390	No tone	WA6LDQ-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
Tehachapi Repeater	444.225	100.0 Hz TONE	KG6KKV	Overlooks Bakersfield
Tehachapi Simplex	145.48	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. They are linked together and more information may be found at <http://www.KernSystem.org>

KERN System Linked Repeater				
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

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/TARAtchachapiamateurradio/
Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC)	http://www.k6ox.club/index.html
Bear Valley Springs Emergency Response Team (BVSERT)	The website is being refurbished.
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			
Office/Committee	Name	Call	Email
President	Dan Mason	AB6DM	ab6dm@arrl.net
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	w6wbt@arrl.net
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	w6qpa@arrl.net
Secretary	Valerie Mason	KK6WLO	val3mason@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	db24130@sbcglobal.net
Web Page maintenance	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@gmail.com
FaceBook Maintenance	Travis Para	KK6OHZ	mightyspeedbump@yahoo.com

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 meetings are held at the Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center, 600 South Dennison Road in Tehachapi, Ca. Drive in the entrance and the Activities Center is straight ahead.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are meeting via ZOOM. Invitations are sent to members via email each month. If you have not received a Zoom invitation or if you are interested in membership and would like to attend as a guest, please send an email to ac6ee@arrl.net, stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the Zoom meeting invitation link.

Member Annual Dues: \$25.00/year

Additional Family Member: \$12.50/per person

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 if we are meeting in-person. 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 1681
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681