



January 2021

Volume 5, Number 1

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### Contact Us

[Visit us on FaceBook](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

[www.ac6ee.org](http://www.ac6ee.org)

#### Mail:

Tehachapi Amateur Radio  
Association (TARA)  
P.O. Box 1681  
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681

## A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Dear TARA members,

I'd like to start off by giving a huge kudos to the last set of TARA officers! John and his crew did a fantastic job with TARA for these last two years. They overcame a lot of complications caused by COVID and social distancing. They, as all hams should, leveraged technology to maintain club participation by utilizing our new web site, <http://www.ac6ee.org>, as well as Facebook, Zoom, and our new Wednesday night "Just Because Net". Many things changed in amateur radio this last year such as virtual hamfests, remote VE sessions, ARRL Field Day being scattered (but it still went off), Losing the 3.5 GHz band, and FCC license fees going up.

I don't know what the next year or two will have in store for us, but I do know that we will meet any challenge with resilience, and find new ways to thrive. I'm glad that we will have Phil and Dick back on the board for this next term as they bring a lot of great club experience. But more than that, all of our TARA members contribute to the club and we are ever a tight-knit group. I shall endeavor to maintain our current momentum and maybe even increase it as we get better at "The New Normal" (I hate that term).

Please don't forget to attend the Zoom meetings, check out our website and our Facebook, and also please call into the Just Because Net on the W6SLZ repeater on Wednesdays at 7 PM. We will use all of these to keep you in-the-know on TARA happenings and amateur radio stuff in general.

73,

Dan Mason – AB6DM  
TARA President for 2021-2022  
661-203-8398

**Suggestions or  
Comments**

**Via Mail:**

The Dummy Load  
Attn: Ray Gretlein, W6QPA  
P.O. Box 1681  
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681

**Via eMail:**

To: [w6qpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6qpa@arrl.net)  
Subject: The Dummy Load  
Newsletter

# Radio Active!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

## Activities for 2021

Happy New Year! Let's make this a better Ham Radio Year!

One of my main functions as First VP is club activities. This includes the club programs, motivation for field day, community service and a lot more. However, COVID 19 has put a real damper on club activities. We have tried to get the word out for the few virtual events that have popped up. Some of these have been very well presented. But as a club we really haven't had much going on. We did start a new net dubbed "The Just Because Net". We have had some pretty good participation and some great conversations. It's very informal and all hams are welcome to participate and are encouraged to change the subject. We get check-ins from around Tehachapi as well as, Bakersfield, Arvin, Mojave, Rosamond and Lake Isabella. This is great but I don't think its enough. We could be doing other activities that lend themselves to distancing such as an in-car T-Hunt. I need help! I work full time plus and I don't always have the time to come up with the ideas, do the planning and preparation for every activity the club does. Let's start with ideas for activities we can do at a distance and on the air. Maybe a clever on the air activity or game. Make up a version of Ham Radio Bingo or a Ham Radio Poker run. Let's see if we can incorporate other activities into an on the air activity. We all have other interests besides ham radio so, let's see if we can combine them. Send your ideas to your club officers, bring them up in our zoom meetings or during the weekly "Just Because Net".

We want to hear from the membership and local hams to see what we as a club can do to better to serve our community of ham radio operators. So, speak up, tell us what you want in a local amateur radio club that would get you involved.

Let's get on the air and get radio-active.

Phil W6WBT 1<sup>st</sup> VP

# W6GRA Go Box

Neil Record, W6GRA

It's a portable, battery powered, dual band "Emergency" radio that I assembled. And it actually works!

I wanted to put together an emergency, battery powered dual band radio that I could grab and go out the door with. Everything, except the antenna, fits inside the box. I had to install some padding around the battery, and do some other cutting and fitting to get everything in the box. The Diamond antenna is really too big for the intended purpose, but it's what I had laying around so that's what I used. That's what the other plastic tube is for. A shorter antenna would be easier to deal with.



Here's what I've got:

- B-Tech UV-25X2 dual band mini mobile radio, 10W-25W power.
- Motorcycle battery, I forget what brand.
- Short jumper with battery clamps at one end, cigarette lighter on the other end.
- Diamond NR770 antenna, with Diamond mag mount base (Sold separately).
- Volt meter to measure current level in battery.
- Plastic case to house everything, about the size of a 50 caliber ammo can.
- Telescoping plastic case to hold the antenna. (I taped it together with duct tape).



So, obviously you open the box, assemble the parts, connect the radio to the battery, and start transmitting. I've used the radio twice just to make sure it works. Just need to make sure the battery is always charged up and ready to go.



## Annual Dues Are Now Due

Dick Brown, W6SLZ

T.A.R.A. annual dues for the membership year beginning on January 1, 2021 are now due. Annual Dues are \$25.00. They may be sent, via check payable to T.A.R.A., to Dick Brown, T.A.R.A. Treasurer. Send your payment and an application to either the club's Post Office Box or directly to Dick at his home address. The respective addresses are:

Tehachapi Amateur Radio Assn.  
P.O. Box 1681  
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681

T.A.R.A. c/o Dick Brown  
24130 Sorrel Ct.  
Tehachapi, CA 93361



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## ARRL CALENDAR of EVENTS



This page will be devoted to providing our members with events sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). We will review the calendar on their website monthly and update the list below. You may also find information on their website at:

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

### Feb 2021

***ALL ARRL HAMFESTS &  
CONVENTIONS CANCELLED***

*8-12 School Club Roundup*

*20-21 International DX - CW*

### Mar 2021

***ALL ARRL HAMFESTS &  
CONVENTIONS CANCELLED***

*6-7 International DX - Phone*

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## TARA CALENDAR of EVENTS



This page will be devoted to providing our members with events sponsored by or involving the participation of our club. We will review the calendar on a monthly basis and update you accordingly. All dates are subject to change.

### January 2021

***ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS CANCELLED***

*6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> – “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)  
14<sup>th</sup> – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)*

### February 2021

***ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS CANCELLED***

*3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> – “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)  
4<sup>th</sup> – 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)  
11<sup>th</sup> – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)*

### March 2021

***ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS CANCELLED***

*3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> – “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)*

*4<sup>th</sup> – 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)*

*11<sup>th</sup> – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)*

*13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> – QSO Today Virtual Hamfest see*

***<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>***

## LOCAL REPEATER INFORMATION

TARA APRS Digipeater	144.390	No Tone	KA6PTJ-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:	442.925 +	131.8 Hz Tone	KI6HHU	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>

Frazier Mountain	(8,000')	447.860-	PL 141.3	KK6AC - Jerry Garis
Cummings Mountain	(7,800')	442.925+	PL 141.3	KI6HHU - Lee Bouchard
Double Mountain	(8,000')	446.320-	PL 141.3	KI6HHU - Lee Bouchard

### ATTENTION:

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

- All dispatch for BVSPD will be handled by the Kern County Sheriff's Department
- KCSO Eastern Dispatch: 460.225
- KCSO East TAC: 460.125

## CLUB & Other WEBSITES

TARA <http://www.ac6ee.com>

TARA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/1576418139310668/>

AVARC <http://www.avarc.av.org>

BVSERT [https://bvsgencyradioteam.shutterfly.com\\_](https://bvsgencyradioteam.shutterfly.com_)

KCCVARC <http://w6lie.org>

ARRL: <http://ARRL.org>

WKCARES: <http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html>

## TARA Officers and Committee's

President:	Dan Mason	(AB6DM, imprezaspeed@yahoo.com)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Phil Dolber	(W6WBT, w6wbt@arrl.net)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Ray Gretlein	(W6QPA, w6qpa@arrl.net)
Secretary:	Vallerie Mason	(KK6WLQ, val3mason@yahoo.com)
Treasurer:	Dick Brown	(W6SLZ, db24130@sbcglobal.net)
Web Page:	Dan Mason	(AB6DM, imprezaspeed@yahoo.com)
Facebook:	Travis Para	(KK6OZH mightyspeedbump@yahoo.com)

## TARA 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 via email each month.

T.A.R.A. Member Annual Dues:	\$25.00/year
Additional Family Member:	\$12.50/per person

Club address: T.A.R.A., PO Box 1681, Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681

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## Membership Application

On the last page of this newsletter is a copy of our Membership Application. Please share this with any friends, family or neighbors that are either Hams or may be interested in Amateur Radio. Applications can and will be accepted at all club meetings. If you prefer, you may mail your application along with the applicable dues to the club Post Office Box as follows:

Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association (TARA)  
P.O. Box 1681  
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1681



# TEHACHAPI AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1681  
TEHACHAPI, CA 93581

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

<b>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b> (Check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00 / Year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$12.50 / Additional Family Member / Year	

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Call Sign		License Classification / License Held	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Extra	
First Name		Last Name	
Street Address			Apt. / Unit
City		State	Zip Code
Home Phone Number		Cell Phone Number	
(     )		(     )	
E-Mail Address			

Background	
Have you ever been convicted of a crime, felony, etc.? If so, please provide details below:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes    Details:	

Other Memberships	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARRL <input type="checkbox"/> ARES <input type="checkbox"/> RACES <input type="checkbox"/> CERT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	

Family Members in Household (Fill out only if completing a Family Membership)			
Call Sign	Class (T/G/E)	First & Last Name	Age

Amount Paid	Cash / Check	Date	Approval

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised October 12, 2017