



## In This Issue

- A Word
- RadioActive!
  - Editor's Note
- Portable Antennas
  - Alpha & Super Antenna
  - End-fed Half Wave
  - Sturdy Portable Mast
  - Simple Center Loaded
  - Ham-Stick mount
  - Packable Portables
- High Desert Rally Ends
- 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](http://WWW.AC6EE.ORG)
- Mail:
 

TARA  
P.O. Box 1681  
Tehachapi, CA 93581

## A Word

### Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Greetings, TARA friends.

We have another great newsletter for you this month featuring portable antennas. Portable antennas are an important part of EMCOMM, but also for outdoors ham recreating, or even being able to sneak in an OP around the HOA or XYL who doesn't want to see that thing in the air around the house. You'll see a few good examples of portable antennas coming up, but I'd like to address one great opportunity to deploy late this June, and that's the ARRL IRU 2 Field Day happening June 26th-27th, 2021. Normally, we run our club Field Day deployed out in the "field". With COVID, some of us are running our Field Day at home, though some will be deployed away from home, socially distanced. Either way, you can and should run your Field Day just as if you were away from your normal QTH as much as it is possible, using off-grid power and a portable antennas.

That all being said, I'd like to encourage you all to participate in Field Day, with any equipment, whether you're alone or in a group. If you've never set up for a Field Day operation, please get in touch with any of the veteran hams or Elmers in the club for help. And, do it now because the day always creep up on us and we're rarely prepared the way we'd like to be. The ARRL Field Day web page, <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>, has lots of info. Also, please call into the 7 PM Wednesday night Just Because Net on the W6SLZ repeater (146.700, negative offset, PL of 123) to ask the group.

Till next time, 73, Dan Mason - AB6DM

# RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

This month's Dummy Load theme is portable antennas. This should get us thinking about Field Day. I know this will be another strange Field Day year, as the club is still not physically gathering. However, I encourage you to consider participating in Field Day this year as individuals or in small safe groups. We don't know yet what venues will be open in June so be flexible and creative.

At the very least we can operate from our home stations. Provisions in the rules allow us to operate our regular home station, and earn competitive points.

May I suggest getting more adventurous and set up a station in the yard with emergency power and maybe an antenna you build from an idea in this month's Dummy Load, something pulled from the internet, or maybe a dipole from the antenna handbook.

Even more adventurous members might get together in a small COVID trusted group and venture out to a somewhat remote location and set up their Field Day operation.

Still more adventurous, members might join in with a larger group and social distance for a larger Field Day operation.

Whatever you chose to do for Field Day a good performing antenna is essential so enjoy the articles in this month's Dummy Load. Hopefully they will inspire you to try something different. Be sure to document your antennas and Field Day operations to share in the Dummy Load.

A little change in subject: If you have an idea for an on-the-air activity, a game, a different type of net, something new and different please speak up and maybe we can form a committee to outline the rules and organize your on-air event. You can submit any ideas via email to [ac6ee@arrl.net](mailto:ac6ee@arrl.net) or bring them up in the monthly meeting.

Be safe and get RadioActive.

## EDITORS' Note:

Thanks to all of you for sending in your experiences with "Portable/Transportable Antennas". The theme for May is "Favorite Ham Activities" — Whether it's building, rag chewing, contesting, DX'ing, Fox hunts, QRP'ing, portable operation (SOTA, POTA, IOTA), working satellites, public services or ? Introduce us to your favorite HAM related activities. Thanks in advance ... Ray, W6QPA



# Portable/Transportable Antennas

## The Super Antenna & Alpha Antenna

Neil Record — W6GRA

**The Super Antenna** comes with a short tripod, which I found needs to be elevated in order to connect the coax to the bottom of the assembly. Or you can use another tripod that's taller, and it also comes with an assembly that you can connect to the railing of a deck. It comes with ground radials, which attach to the tripod, a "Whip" antenna you see, and also a telescoping one.



The tuning coil is adjusted by using the laminated card, and you slide it up/down to match the band you are working. I've only used it a few times and it works OK for short/medium distances. It would probably work better for someone who has more experience with HF than I do, and is willing to experiment with it.



**The Alpha Antenna** is a taller antenna/tripod. I have not used this antenna, but assume it performs about like the Super Antenna. The tripod is very sturdy and adjustable. The antenna collapses into several sections about 18-20" long. It comes with ground radials and also equipment to "Guy" the antenna down. It also comes with a 40' section of coax, which Alpha states must be used, or else the antenna will not work properly.



**Both antennas are easy to set up.** The Super Antenna is smaller and easier to store/transport, and I like the tuning coil so you can adjust to whatever band you are working. I suspect the Alpha antenna might perform better because it's taller. It definitely needs to be guyed because it is very top heavy, and will tip over with just a little breeze.

Let me know if you have any questions, but that's about what I know.



## A Sturdy Mast Mount for Portable Operation

Will Perry — WA6LDQ

Finding a suitable and sturdy method of setting up a vertical mast for portable operation can be problematic with several guy wires, stakes in the ground, etc. This is not an original idea by any means, but here's a simple inexpensive method to support a temporary mast for portable or Field Day operation.



A few short pieces of 1" x 4", 1" x 6", a couple hinges, a short piece of pipe, a pipe flange, and some hardware will do the trick.

Simply lay the mount on the ground and drive your vehicle over it on one end. This will easily support a small 2 Meter beam and one end of a sloped dipole, or a vertical wire for HF. I use the surplus military fiber-glass sections for my mast. The mast is assembled on the ground and slid over the 1 foot piece of pipe and hoisted up with the hinge assembly and pushed down onto the 3/8" bolts. The wing nuts are then screwed down firmly. Telescoping masts are popular today and they can be used also.



## MyAntennas End-Fed Half Wave for 80 through 10 Meters

Dan Mason, AB6DM

I love portable antennas and have a few including a Chameleon P-Loop and Chameleon MPAS system. My favorite is by a company called MyAntennas (ran together) and the antenna is their EFHW-8010 (End Fed Half Wave, 80 to 10 meter bands) as seen in QST magazine a few years ago. Since then, they've make both a 1Kw and a 2Kw version. I run barefoot so the original work for me. I've deployed this thing away from home in the mountains several times, at two different club field days, and eve at home last year for the first COVID style Field Day. It's made QSOs both all over the Western hemisphere and in NVIS configuration. At 132 feet long, I've stretched it between trees, with one end tethered to a rock, and with one end hoisted on my portable military mast. I've even run it from my upstairs bathroom window to a stake in the ground in my front yard. A lot of older hams don't like EFHW antennas, but this one works for me with the recommended 75 feet of feed line attached. I lay my feed line on the ground carefully with none of it crossing any other part. Sometimes I add in a common mode choke. I've used this antenna on a Icom IC-706MkIIg, a Yaesu FT-891, and a Yaesu FT-450D, all with good success. I've since gotten the 64 foot EFHW-4010 just to deploy easier, sacrificing 80 meters, but the jury is still out on that one.





## A Simple Center Loaded Antenna for Portable Operation

Will Perry — WA6LDQ

I needed a portable antenna that was compact, easy to construct, easy to carry, and simple to set up. The idea of utilizing the Hustler coils that I've collected over the years for mobile operation seemed like a good way to go. They work very well for mobile operation, have a high Q, and can be readily adjusted for low SWR.

The problem of using them in a portable situation is mechanical support and the lack of a suitable ground plane. I decided that a tripod mount would be the simplest method for support and adding radials at the base would be the answer for a ground plane. The entire antenna can also be hoisted up on a tree limb. Wolf River Coils makes a similar antenna package for portable operation and includes a single coil with an adjustable slider to tune each HF band. They sell the various parts separately so I ordered the aluminum hub for the tripod legs.



I cut several 24"x 3/8" diameter aluminum rods for the tripod legs and the mast.

This would allow all the pieces to be transported in a carrying case only 25" long and 3" in diameter. I had a friend thread each end of the rods to 3/8-24. This is the standard thread size for HF mobile antennas and mounts. Three 30 foot long pieces of wire are connected to each base leg for the required radials. Wing nuts are used on the tripod hub for fast assembly. A Hustler coil of whatever band can be screwed into the 54" mast. The antenna has not been sent to the RF Testing Lab yet but results will be forthcoming in a later newsletter.



## A Hamstick Mount for a Portable Dipole

Will Perry — WA6LDQ

Many of us have seen the various brackets available for holding two Hamsticks on a mast that work quite well as a shortened dipole. This is a mount I built that will support up to 5 Hamsticks on one mount. This will allow operation on 3 different bands without changing Hamsticks. Setup is quick and easy and no radials are required. I had a small aluminum project box that had thick walls and was perfect for this application. Standard mobile mounts were installed on each side of the box allowing 2 band operation with 2 separate dipoles. All mobile mounts are insulated from the case and all wired together inside. Later I added another mount on the top of the box also. That will allow operation on a third band as a vertical. The mast would have to be metal for the added vertical to operate properly.





## Camping / Hiking Antennas

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

I've worked QRP portable, off and on, over the last 25 + years. I'm always looking for another portable, packable, light weight antenna to try. My latest two are the SOTABEAMS Hopper III and the QRPGuys 40 - 30 - 20 meter vertical.

The **SOTABEAMS Hopper III** is a "linked" dipole that I use as an inverted-vee to cover 40-30-20 meters. Their Tactical Mini pole is a 6 meter long carbon-fiber mast I use for the support. With these two items I have 3.2 pound package that fits my backpack well. With it I've worked DX in Japan as well as Portugal on 10 watts.



With the **QRPGuys tri-band vertical**, I use the same SOTABEAMS Tactical Mini mast as above for the vertical support. This antenna requires radials and is base loaded with a kit-built "match" to select the desired band. This package weighs in at 3.4 lbs. My first use was on 30 meters, a few weeks ago, running 10 watts using FT8. My first contacts over a 3 hour period included DX in Venezuela, Asiatic Russia, Canada and a number of CONUS midwest and east coast stations.



# High Desert Rally

Kris & Christine via Dick Brown, W6SLZ

We want to announce that the High Desert Trails Rally is not going to run in 2021 or beyond. Regardless of the impact that the pandemic has had on our event and other rallies, getting an event like this "spun back up" takes an incredible amount of effort. At this point, after carefully considering our situation, we'd like to focus on other rally projects moving forward. We are both proud of the work that we did for over 10 years while running this event in Ridgecrest. We're proud of the volunteers that came back year after year to help us. We're also sad that we won't see all of our rally friends the first weekend in May.

Our advice to current and future rally teams: Go and run as many events as you can, because they may not be around in a few years. As competitors ourselves, we have had this happen to us - planning to compete at "(Example) Rally next year" then seeing it was no longer on the calendar. It takes hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours of work to secure the roads and make them safe for an event like this to happen. Continued participation going forward is key to the survival of rally.

Sincerely,

Kris & Christine



## 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>

### Apr 2021

ALL ARRL HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS  
CANCELLED

- 18 -- Rookie Roundup – Phone

### May 2021

No ARRL Contest

## 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 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](mailto:ac6ee@arrl.net), stating your name, callsign (if any), and interest in the Club, and we will send you the Zoom meeting invitation link.

### April 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)

### May 2021

- 5, 12, 19, 26 — 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 13 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)

### 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)

## 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	<a href="http://www.ac6ee.org">http://www.ac6ee.org</a>
TARA Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/TARAtchapiamateurradio/">https://www.facebook.com/TARAtchapiamateurradio/</a>
Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC)	<a href="http://www.k6ox.club/index.html">http://www.k6ox.club/index.html</a>
Bear Valley Springs Emergency Response Team (BVSERT)	The website is being refurbished.
Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club (KCCVARC)	<a href="http://www.w6lie.org">http://www.w6lie.org</a>
ARRL	<a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>
West Kern County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (WKCARES)	<a href="http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html">http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html</a>

Officers & Committee Chairs			
Office/Committee	Name	Call	Email
President	Dan Mason	AB6DM	<a href="mailto:impresaspeed@yahoo.com">impresaspeed@yahoo.com</a>
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	<a href="mailto:w6wbt@arrl.net">w6wbt@arrl.net</a>
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	<a href="mailto:w6qpa@arrl.net">w6qpa@arrl.net</a>
Secretary	Vallerie Mason	KK6WLQ	<a href="mailto:val3mason@yahoo.com">val3mason@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	<a href="mailto:db24130@sbcglobal.net">db24130@sbcglobal.net</a>
Web Page maintenance	Dan Mason	AB6DM	<a href="mailto:impresaspeed@yahoo.com">impresaspeed@yahoo.com</a>
FaceBook Maintenance	Travis Para	KK6OHZ	<a href="mailto:mightyspeedbimp@yahoo.com">mightyspeedbimp@yahoo.com</a>

## 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](mailto: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 as follows:

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