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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,

This one will be exceptionally short. All I want to say is, speaking for myself, feel free to meet me at the Village Grill in Tehachapi for breakfast every 2nd Saturday of the month at 0830 hrs. The Village Grill has welcomed us to meet like we used to, as many of us as we want, in the upper room. I will, if possible give a heads up to the management about anticipate number of attendees just in case, so please contact me at ab6dm@arrl.net if you know you're coming. In these times, please abstain if you have an elevated temperature or symptoms of a contagious illness.

At this point, the Mulligan Room has a few restrictions that makes it difficult to do a breakfast group as large as we used to. They would have to schedule additional staff to accommodate us, but we can not seem to guarantee the attendance. I'll keep apprised of their stance as time goes on.

Maybe see you at the Village Grill on June 12th at 0830, right?

Till next time,

73,

Dan Mason - AB6DM

RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

Although it might not be my favorite amateur radio activity, emergency communication is certainly one I am passionate about.

One of the silver linings of the last year plus has been the opportunity to attend meetings and training that would have required more travel than I could normally manage in a year. I have attended many virtual meetings, training sessions, webinars and lectures on the subject of emergency communications and preparedness.

Many of the presenters have been from the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, where there are multiple emergencies each season. Most of these presenters talk about served agency/ham radio relationships that go back many years and have lead to ham radio volunteers being used in most incidents in the area including minor ones, as well as other community events they man their ECO's for. Hams have had a chance over the years to prove themselves as dependable and professional in all aspects as volunteers. The relationships have grown to the point that the served agencies rely upon ham volunteers as alternative communicators, and know they are capable of operating other COMM, electronic, computer and network systems as well. These served agencies have also learned of the other capabilities that hams bring to the table because of their careers, professions and other volunteer experience. Because of these relationships the ham volunteers are respected and utilized a lot more.

My takeaway from many these lectures leads me to the conclusion that if our club wants to be involved in emergency communications in our community we need to pursue more community service opportunities here in Tehachapi in order to build these types of relationships. We were off to a good start with our relationship with Tehachapi C.E.R.T.

Our success, providing communications for C.E.R.T., at the Gran Fondo a couple of years ago was a good foot in the door. We got the attention of all the first responder agencies that were in the city EOC that day. Because of how everyone conducted themselves on the air that day and the amount of traffic we passed we were perceived as very professional. We also pleased our C.E.R.T. customer/served agency making their jobs easier and helping them look good in the field.

Then COVID hit taking away those types of opportunities over the past year or so. Now that the light at the end of the tunnel might not be an oncoming train, the club should prepare to take advantage of Community Service opportunities that present themselves or that we can create.

Though it's true that many of our community events have been functioning for years without the benefit of amateur radio. We need to creatively market our club and our services to those who run these long time events.

Most of these webinars, lectures and training I attended (whether from the point of view of the volunteer or the served agency) emphasized the importance of the amateur radio operator volunteers professional behavior and appearance, the importance of relationships and how one bad experience can destroy a long standing relationship, or the potential of a future relationship.

We not only need to overcome perceptions created in the community from past experiences with amateur radio operators. We also need to overcome the public's image of amateur radio operators portrayed by Hollywood as socially inept basement dwellers and prima donnas. We need to commit to showing the community how they can benefit from our services.

In closing I thought sharing some of the final bullets from AUXCOMM (Auxiliary Communications) training might punctuate some of the points about a volunteer's: commitment, training, who they work for, and the value of volunteering for other community events.

First, for those unfamiliar with the term AUXCOMM, simply put AUXCOMM is the term used by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for all communication volunteers; including amateur radio operators. It is referenced in the National Emergency Communication (NECP) 2014, "...volunteer organizations such as community emergency response teams and auxiliary communications volunteers (e.g., amateur radio operators; also called Hams) play key roles... Today, nearly all the States and territories have incorporated some level of participation by amateur radio auxiliary communication operators into their TICPs and SCIPs; this allows them to quickly integrate the operators into response efforts, which can strengthen communications and operations during incidents of any scale."

A major part of AUXCOMM training is learning to fill out and use the various Incident Command System (ICS) forms and logs hams will use during incidents and drill for their served agency. It teaches where AUXCOMM fits into the ICS organization given the type of incident, and it also emphasized the importance of relationships not just between hams and their served agencies, but also between the local, state, and federal agencies; and with other volunteers.

Now the bullets

- The only thing voluntary about auxiliary communications is when you first join, and later if you decide to quit. Everything in-between is a commitment to serve the public safety and emergency management community
- Make sure all auxiliary personnel have taken care of their families in advance of an incident
- Agreements and coordination with voice and digital modes of communications must be made for interoperability and deconfliction prior to any event (for this, written Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are required)
- Regular and frequent training should take place between volunteers, agencies and states
- Auxiliary communicators are there to serve government agencies and the community, not themselves or their amateur radio organizations
- Volunteer for other non-emergency EOC events: festivals, sporting events, training exercises, concerts, parades, weather spotting, etc.

Be safe and get RadioActive!

EDITORS' Note:

Thanks to all of you for sharing your "Favorite HAM Activities" with us.

The theme for June is "Network Activities." Please consider introducing us to any Nets in which you participate. Please send a few paragraphs describing the Net and perhaps a link to any websites by May 30. ...Ray W6QPA

Favorite HAM Activities

VHF/UHF Rag-chews

Neil Record — W6GRA

I will give you three of my favorite activities.

My favorite Ham Radio activity is monitoring and talking on the Kern System, which I'm sure most of the Club members are familiar with. For those who are not, the Kern System is a series of 70CM repeaters, connected via the Internet. The Kern System has a very wide coverage area, including most of the San Joaquin Valley, the Antelope Valley, parts of the Central Coast, and obviously the Tehachapi and Frazier Park areas. For more info, go to Kernsystem.org

Another activity I enjoy are the Wednesday night Just Because Nets that we have on the W6SLZ repeater. These Nets have allowed us to stay in touch with each other, share ideas, and to exchange information and get answers to questions.

Finally, although it's not a Ham Radio activity, I have been a "Scanner Addict" since I was a teenager. I enjoy monitoring the law enforcement channels, and the fire channels when there's any fire in the Tehachapi area.

Hanging-out with fellow Hams

Dan Mason, AB6DM

"When the COVID bites...When the mask stings...When I'm feeling sad, I simply remember my favorite things...And then I don't feel so bad." (Apology to Julie Andrews and Oscar Hammerstein.)

Most of my favorite ham radio activities involve hanging out with other hams. Whether it's Field Days, TARA breakfasts, DX contest parties, hamfests, camping at a rally car race, TARA meetings, or whatever, spending quality time with likeminded people is what I like most. I've learned so much about radio and even other stuff. Despite this so-called pandemic, I'm grateful to have still have gotten together with some of you, and even at least heard many of you on "The Just Because Net." I look forward to more of all that.

Community Assistance

Vallerie Mason — KK6WLQ

I've been a ham radio operator for I believe 3 years. I like participating in events like bike rides and car races where my husband and I help with communication to help get riders and drivers from start to finish safely. Great practice on our radios to be ready for an emergency situation. The event organizers have people in spots along the route to keep an eye on who gets thru that spot to make sure they made it that far in case something happens and they need to be found. And to make sure they have help if needed. We have met some nice people and learn to work together for a positive cause.

QRP Low Power Operation

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

I enjoy many aspect of HAM radio. I enjoy building kits, tinkering with antennae and most of all the camaraderie and opportunity to learn from fellow hams. 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 small-light weight 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. Running SSB at 5 or even 10 watts is not very satisfactory. However, running narrow band modes such as CW, FT8, JS8, JT64 really makes QRP possible. The spectral power density of a CW signal over SSB is a roughly 20 dB increase. So, my CW or digital signal, has a received strength similar to a 100 watt SSB signal. Of course there is a price ... the speed of communication is significantly reduced. However, I still have fun. Operating at 5 watts or less with simple wire and compromise antenna like a magnetic loop, I've been able to work stations all over the US and many DX. The best so far is a December 2017 contact with ZL2IFB in New Zealand. I used FT8 at 2.5 watts into a mag loop antenna at 3'. 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>
- Five Days in May QRP Conference <https://www.qrparci.org/fdim>

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>

May 2021

- No ARRL Contests

June 2021

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

July 2021

- 10 -11 IARU HF World Championship

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.

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)
- 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](#)

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/TARatehachapiamateurradio/
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	KK6WLQ	val3mason@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	db24130@sbcglobal.net
Web Page maintenance	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@gmail.com
FaceBook Maintenance	Travis Para	KK6OHZ	mightyspeedbimp@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