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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

Hi, TARA friends,

As some of you know, Tehachapi celebrated National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3rd, from 5 to 8 PM, in at least two locations, Marx Park in town, and at Cub Lake in BVS, and perhaps others. TARA was there at those locations to show our police some appreciation. For those that aren't familiar with National Night out, here's a description from their web site:

"National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas and select areas celebrate on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more."

Also in attendance were several fire stations, civic organizations, clubs, and more. We talked to many people about the value and capabilities of ham radio, and even exchanged contact information with a few. Some people

came already interested in ham radio, wanting to get into it, and were glad to hear we are starting to conduct VE sessions. It's good we were there to represent ham radio and our club. Thank you Valerie Mason, John Dyer, and Carl Gehricke for joining me at this event.

73,

Dan Mason

AB6DM

RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

The Dummy Load theme this month is in step with September's National preparedness month. Although Ray W6QPA suggests an emphasis on our recent Field Day experiences as a demonstration of preparedness-in-action, any time we take to the field with our stations is a preparedness exercise. These impromptu, ad hoc, stations are possibly a better practice and demonstration because it is not a polished event like Field Day tends to be for most clubs. These types of activity tend to be more experimental when it comes to weight, antennas and emergency power as we try new solutions to each of these challenges every time we deploy. I know there are members of our club who would like to see more of these types of impromptu operations or "mini Field Days", as they call them, as a club activity. The only problem is no one else out there is participating in the activity like on Field Day. Meaning the number of contacts can be limited. After all the work of deploying a portable station a limited number of contacts might seem a bit anticlimactic for participants. Now consider incorporating this activity with a Special Event, some type of historical anniversary that can be commemorated. This may create more on the air activity for the event. This can be done without a QST announcement by self-spotting the event on the DX cluster and referring contacts to the club AC6EE QRZ page for QSL instructions for the event. This keeps it simple so the activity can still be somewhat spontaneous, as I believe is the original spirit of the "mini Field Day". An electronic QSL card can be created and sent via email eliminating the cost of both the printing and postage. This has worked very well for other clubs I am involved with and is surprisingly well accepted by participants. Only sending out a QSL cards to stations requesting one also minimizes the amount of log verifications and cards you will have to send, because only about 30 to 50 percent of the stations in your log will send a request. **So let's get on the air and get RadioActive!**

EDITORS' Note:

Thanks to Neil-W6GRA, Sylvia-KD6UUC, Phill-W6WBT for sharing their "Preparedness and Stories from Field Day 2021" with us.

The theme for September is "Summer adventures — your HAM vacation experiences (or vacations where HAM radio tagged along)" Summer is mostly over (I wish the temperatures agreed) so please share your vacation experiences where ham radio tagged along.

Please email your contributions to AC6EE@arrl.net by 31 August 2021

73 ...Ray W6QPA

Notes from the Secretary

Valerie Mason —KK6WLQ

- I'd say that the Gorman Rally was fun until we had to evacuate. Campout with fellow hams and an XYL was fun.
- National Night out was busy. Great conversations. We were busy almost the whole time.
- The breakfast 2nd Saturday of the month has been moved to Gracian Grill at 8:30 am. Just east and down the road to the right.

Preparedness & Field Day Stories

W6GRA Preparedness

Neil — W6GRA

First, let me set the stage. Our Internet, house phone, emails, and all communications (Except Ham Radio) goes through the Race Communications fiber optics cable. So when we lose power, we must depend on our cell phones, which are spotty at best. So my primary focus is to keep these communication devices powered up, along with the refrigerator in the kitchen.

I have two options to do this. A Generac model 2200, gas powered, generator, which is set up on my back deck. Then I have extension cords running into the house.



I also have two battery backup devices which will run my Comms for a period of time. At this point I want to make something very clear. We DO NOT run the generator unless at least one of us is home, AND awake. When we leave the house, or go to bed, we turn the generator off and plug the Comms into one of the battery backups. The larger battery (The yellow one), will typically power the Comms through the night, then I charge it in the morning after starting up the generator. The smaller, green, battery will run the Comms for maybe 3-5 hours, depending on how many devices we have plugged in. To further clarify, these batteries only power the Communication devices, not the fridge, which requires power from the generator. When the generator is running, I have cords running to the refrigerator, the television (Gotta



have my TV!!), and the communications described above.

I recently acquired another piece of equipment which has yet to be tried. Because it's been so danged hot for weeks, and my A/C won't run when the power's out, I purchased a Home model HME020396N portable evaporative cooler. I know it won't cool the entire house, but I'm

hoping it will keep the one room cool, where we spend most of the day. Time will tell. We are scheduled for power outages both today and tomorrow, so I should have the answer soon.

As a side note, we are on the list to have solar and a whole-home backup generator installed at the house. However, because of a lack of materials, a backlog at the County, and these businesses are incredibly busy, it will probably be several months before we get everything in place.

KD6UUC Field Day

Sylvia — KD6UUC

This was Field Day of 2021 at Dove Springs!



It was a very hot Field Day at Dove Springs, out in the desert. The food was good, the company was great. The wind blew. I



only made it until 11:30am on Saturday. It was just too hot. I got over heated and had to get back to Tehachapi. So we took down the tent and other gear, then off I went. Phil (W6WBT, pictured above) was home by 3:00. Would I do Field Day out in the desert again, NO!!!

A Special Event Station - An on-the-air activity as effective as Field Day for preparedness demonstration and practice.

Phil — W6WBT

Recently another club I am involved with hosted a special event station for the anniversary of Apollo 15. Planning took less than a week and we spent more time planning the location and the BBQ potluck than we did planning the station. A couple of short phone conversations are all it took to plan who would bring what equipment to deploy a simple SSB HF station for 40 through 10 meters. Beyond that other members and guest were given the ok to deploy other non-HF activities. Our station was powered by battery/ solar and the antenna was an end fed up about 40 feet. QSL cards and QSL instructions were carried out as described in the this month's

RadioActive column. We kept an electronic Log to keep logging simple. The computer was powered via an inverter connected to the battery. We spend more time with each contact for our Special Event Stations, because NASA anniversaries are very nostalgic for hams that were alive when they happened, so they want to talk a little more. We hear some great “where I was and what I was doing” stories. We meet others who worked the project directly, on sub assemblies and/or support activities. I even talked with one ham that referred to a person I had worked with many years ago. Quality rather than quantity is the norm, however we have been known to generate some serious pileups, so we work hard to make contact with all calling stations.

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>

August 2021

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

September 2021

-
- 11-13 September VHF
 - 18-19 10 GHz & Up - Round 2

Oct 2021

-
- 18-22 School Club Roundup
 - 23-24 EME - 2.3 GHz & up
-

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”.
- Starting on August 12 — the club meeting returns!!

August 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, Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center
 - 14 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill

- 28 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Secretary Valerie by August 15th

September 2021

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 2 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center
- 11 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 11 — 16:00 PDT, TARA VE Session, Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center
- 25 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Secretary Valerie by September 12th

Oct 2021

- 6, 13, 20, 27 — 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 7 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 14 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center
- 30 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Secretary Valerie by October 17th

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 Repeaters				
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/TARAtchapiamateurradio/
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@arrrl.net
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	w6wbt@arrrl.net
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	w6qpa@arrrl.net
Secretary	Valerie Mason	KK6WLQ	val3mason@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	db24130@sbcglobal.net
Web Page & FaceBook maintenance	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@gmail.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.

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