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## Contact Us

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

## A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Hi, TARA friends,

So our Dummy Load theme topic this month is "What did I do over my ham radio summer". Additionally, it's National Emergency Preparedness Month. So I'll combine them, and bring up some things we did besides doing comms at the Gorman Ridge Rally (see the article below. ed.)

73,

Dan Mason

AB6DM

## RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

We have a great turnout of Ham volunteers for the T-Town bicycle ride on September 25th. Last Saturday most of our volunteers were able to turn out to do radio checks from each location we will support the day of the ride. We tested with the Bear Mt. Repeater, a simplex frequency and then the Cub Pk. Backup repeater (thanks to Dick W6SLZ) with HTs and mobile radios. This information will be useful for all of us on the day of the ride.

I know the theme this month is what I did with ham radio this summer. Well, other than Field Day and a Special Event Station I was not real active on the air this summer. What I have been active with is planning for those events, the upcoming T-Town Ride and working with Ray (W6QPA) doing

some planning and research for a special event station related to the Tehachapi loop (more about this to come).

So, since we are on the subject of events in the community, I will talk a little bit about the importance of Public Service to our Tehachapi Community, and our club.

Public Services is not just emergency communications it is also supporting community events with safety communications. The Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook states; “The main difference between a disaster and a public service event is that one is planned and the other is not.” It goes on to say that “Public service events have been characterized as “planned catastrophes” in that they both involve large numbers of people and a great deal of chaos.”

For communities like ours, without annual weather disasters, this type of Public Service is extremely important for establishing the relationships and trust with possible served agencies in our community. Events like the T-Town ride, the Gran Fondo, downtown parades, and other community events give us opportunities to interface with potential served agencies and the public, allowing us to demonstrate our capabilities, professionalism, earn their trust and share our knowledge. The more of this type of Public Service our club does in the local community the more chance we will have of building the relationships we need in order to provide emergency communications for more served agencies in the future.

Participating in the chaos of a community event is more like working a real disaster than most practice drills or nets. It gives you a chance to see how you will handle the unpredictable fast pace, while dealing with distractions, other volunteers, officials, and the general public who think that their traffic is the most important; Real situations that can make difference.

**So let's get on the air and get RadioActive!**

### EDITORS' Note:

While the theme for the month was ham vacation experiences, it turns out that several of our members worked on off-grid power for use on their next ham vacation. So, enjoy learning about solar/battery power systems, as well as some of our vacation adventures.

The theme for October is “Mode of the Month — Digital” — whether it is PSK, Packet, RTTY or Weak signal modes (FT 8, FT4, JS8 to name a few). But I’m not choosy or restrictive to the topic so Please, PLEASE, send in whatever you’d like to share including showing us of your digital setup and an interesting QSO.

## Notes from the Secretary

Valerie Mason —KK6WLQ

Don't forget breakfast at Gracians Grill on Saturday the 11th at 8:30. Please inform Valerie KK6WLQ if your coming so I can give them a # if it's more than we had last time. It was a great breakfast. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Breakfast for Mulligan room for Sept we will update at the meetings, so please keep up with info.

And a bit of humor offered by Laura Sherrod, KI6EOG

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him "how do you expect to get into heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St Peter says, "for heaven's sake Dylan, come in or stay out!"

## Summer adventures

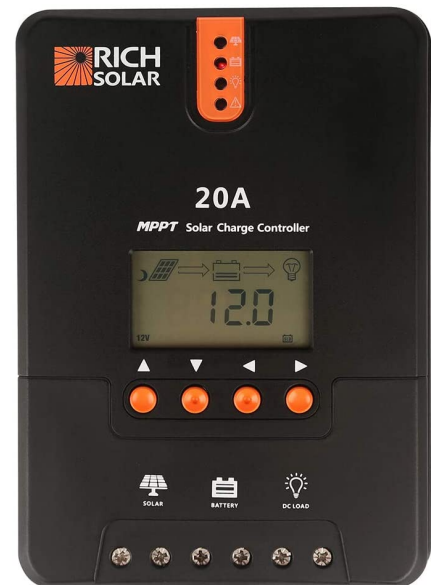
### Summer of Preparing

#### Dan — AB6DM

One part of emergency preparedness is having electrical power to run critical systems when your power goes out in a disaster. We at this house have experienced quite a few Public Safety Power Shutoffs. One of those killed all the stuff in our fridge and freezer. In response, we (KK6WLQ Valerie and I) got ourselves a Honda EU2200i generator which now powers the fridge and freezer when the grid power goes out.

So then we figured that we had better start learning about solar power since we can't run on only one little generator forever. What if we run out of gas? So to get started, we got a Rich Solar 20A 12V DV charge controller and an All Powers Flexible 100W solar panel.

We then used this to charge all spare car batteries and a gel cell. This thing has some limited use, and really needs an inverter, but we learned a lot.



Next I learned of these devices called "Solar Generators" or so-gen for short. A so-gen is an all-in-one packaged unit of a solar charge controller, an 110VAC inverter, various other outputs (12VSC, USB, etc.), and a battery all driven by solar panels, but optionally pre-charged by a wall outlet. They come in all sizes from little 200W units to monstrous 3000W ones.



So to start, we got the Generark HomePower ONE Series 1000W so-gen with two Solar Power One 100W foldable solar panels. Now we can run quite a few more things, just short of a microwave oven (unless it was very small), and it's easy to carry and transport.

Then, I figured we should get another little Honda generator to couple with our first one to run a 30A outlet. Well as it turns out, California just outlawed Honda generators due to emissions! I called places in Nevada and Washington, but there's been a run on the Honda Companion. So based on the only product review by a ham for a current offering, and still small enough for Valerie and I to pick up, I got two WEN 56225i 2250-Watt Gas Powered Portable Inverter Generators and one WEN 5642i 30-Amp 3600-Watt Parallel Connection Kit for Inverter Generators, all for less than the price of one Honda EU2200i Companion. I'll try them with ham radios and let you know.



Anyway, now we're on a kick to get more and more off grid power for emergencies and camping.

## Best Laid Plans

### Ray — W6QPA

Our summer camping trip took us on an 18 day soirée through Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and Montana. This was not intended to be a HAM focused trip, however, being ever hopeful, I packed my portable HF station comprised of an Elecraft KX3 transceiver, PX3 Panadapter, keyer paddles, small Windows PC, SOTABeams Band-hopper III portable antenna into a repurposed back pack camera bag.







The home-brewed 12 volt (LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery) solar-recharged power pack and solar panels were carried separately.

One of the people we were traveling with is also a ham so we used 2 meter (me a Kenwood TH-D74) in the vehicles to stay in touch. The HF rig was along just in case we had some idle time our hands .

The reality was that we filled all the time ... there was no idle time! So the HF gear was never setup. The one Ham experience of the trip was a Summits on the Air (SOTA) contact I made while driving north on Highway 99 south of Sacramento. I had a QSO with Bob, KN6IWN who was atop Mt Lola, just north of Donner Summit where he was activating SOTA summit W6/NS-III. He was at the peak of Mt Lola at 9,143 ft. Our QSO was on 2 meter simplex with my 5 watts making the trip. He has a brief YouTube [video](#) of his operating site at the peak.

## **KK6OZH — Solar/Battery powered Go-Box**

### **Travis — KK6OZH**

After seeing the portable Go-Box that Charlie, K4CMF, had at the 2019 Field Day, I was inspired to build one of my own. I'll admit that I haven't built anything like this since I built robots in high school, and certainly nothing with with electrical. I had several ideas on how I would build it using things I had and things I had to buy. It wasn't until around (what would have been) Field Day 2020 when I finally bought all of the parts to start the project. My original plan was to build in it a .50cal ammo can. I soon realized that was way too small, and so I found a larger, 20mm style ammo can at Tractor Supply Co that I was going to put it in.

Work and life got crazy, so the project ended up getting put on hold again, and I started to pick it back up again around (once again, what would have been) Field Day 2020. My wish was to have it done by then so that I could use it and get the club some emergency power points. Alas, I was unable to start it until July 2021. I started by measuring out the 20mm ammo can, dry fitting all the parts where I thought they would go, and created an acrylic faceplate to hold all the switches I planned on putting in. After creating the faceplate, I started realizing that building all of the equipment into one box was going to be more work than my skill was capable of. I scrapped the plan, and ended up with something like what you see in the pictures today.



In the Pelican brand radio box (something I had sitting around), you'll see a 2m mobile radio (Anytone AT778-UV), 2 switches (one for main power and one for LED strip lights), and an antenna post. Under that is a fuse block to keep everything safe and wired up.

The battery setup is a 12v, 35ah lead acid battery that I have wired to a solar controller. The solar controller is mounted to an acrylic box that the battery sits in. I can currently power the battery and radio with a 100w solar panel (seen in the other picture while testing it out from the back of my truck), which seems to be more than enough to keep the battery charged while using the radio. As you can see, the battery setup was in a strong duffle bag.



However, with all projects, they always evolve, and this setup is all now in a large Black and Decker toolbox that I've had for years. I'll be using this setup for the 'Not-as-Gran' Fondo AKA T-Town Ride in late September, so I'll know much more about how well it works then. Feel free to let me know if you have questions! 73, KK6OZH

## 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>

### 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

## November 2021

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- 6-8 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW
  - 20-22 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone
  - 20-21 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
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## 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.

### September 2021

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- 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

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- 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

### November 2021

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- 3, 10, 17, 24 — 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 4 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 11 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Mountain Aire Estates Activities Center
- 13 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 27 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Secretary Valerie by November 14th

## Reference Information

Local Repeater Information				
TARA APRS Digipeater	144.390	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	145.58	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/TARatehachapiamateurradio/">https://www.facebook.com/TARatehachapiamateurradio/</a>



Club & Other Websites	
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:ab6dm@arrl.net">ab6dm@arrl.net</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	Valerie 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 & FaceBook maintenance	John Dyer	KM6DXY	<a href="mailto:km6dxy@gmail.com">km6dxy@gmail.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.

Member Annual Dues: \$25.00/year

Additional Family Member: \$12.50/per person

## Membership Application

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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