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- 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,

Year #1 of a two year stint for our current officers is almost done. We're already arranging our Christmas party. Speaking of which, though we're collecting a nice group, I hope more of you can join us. With the input I have from you so far, it looks like we're favoring either Jake's Steakhouse or Big Papa's because they each have a separate banquet room (as well as great food). It's not too late to put in your two cents.

I like what we've been able to do this year, things like Ham Radio Breakfasts, VE sessions, hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting, the TARA Just Because Net, supporting car and bike races, getting incorporated, becoming a California charitable organization, and hopefully soon becoming a 501.c.3. It is my hope that we will have an in-person TARA club ARRL Field Day in 2022.

Stand by for more...

## RadioActive!

### Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

I have always been envious of CW operator who can copy code in their head, at 20+ wpm, while carrying on a conversation with a visitor in their shack.

Remembering back to when I was struggling to pass the 5 wpm code test a gentleman came into the session to take his 20 wpm code test, for his Extra Class license. Evidently he passed with

ease at 100% copy. He was testing in a back room so I could only hear bits and pieces of what was going on, but it was evident that he tested at higher speeds as a challenge. He had been a Navy radioman, and had boasted being able to copy code much faster than 20 wpm. From what I could determine from my seat he was up over 30 wpm before errors crept into his copy. It may have been closer to 40 wpm since I wasn't in the room, and as they say memory is the first thing to go.

I have heard many hams say that you can't teach CW in a classroom, however the story above is an indication that it can, and what follows supports that.

**More evidence supporting classroom CW training.** For the CW receiving drills in Navy Radioman school the characters are sent at 20 words per minute, with longer intervals between characters and words, decreasing the beginner's overall speed. As training progresses the interval time is decreased thus increasing the overall CW rate. Evidently fleet broadcasts were sent between 18 – 20 wpm and during Radioman "A" School students practiced between 15 - 20 hours per week. Students were encouraged to use off-duty time to achieve these hours of practice. <sup>(1)</sup>

From the information I found on the internet it appears that in the late sixties Navy Radioman "A" school was approximately 10 to 11 weeks long. This included radio repair and other subjects besides CW training, and by the end of A school students had to achieve 12 wpm. A student could request Radioman "C" school a maximum of seven weeks with a requirement of reaching intermediate CW speeds of 18 wpm for sending and 24 wpm for receiving in order to graduate. <sup>(2)</sup>

I also found a claim on one website that a student attending the Coast Guard's, 5 month, Radioman "A" School broke the school record of 40 wpm at 99% accuracy. <sup>(3)</sup>

So maybe CW **can** be taught in a classroom.

Maybe in retirement I will find the time to increase my CW speed to the point I can enjoy the CW mode.

Note: If hyperlinks below don't function cut, and paste the URL into your browser

## References

<sup>1</sup><https://wb3gck.com/2018/11/10/u-s-navy-morse-code-training/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.netmeister.net/~cpaige/10RADIOAC.htm>

<sup>3</sup><https://rogerwendell.com/coastguard.html>

## Other References

"Learning Morse in the US Navy" - by Hans K0HB - from *Morsum Magnificat* May/June 2000  
[https://www.navy-radio.com/morse/training/training-Morsum Magnificat Issue 69 May-June 2000.pdf](https://www.navy-radio.com/morse/training/training-Morsum_Magnificat_Issue_69_May-June_2000.pdf)

## Videos for your entertainment

Here is a YouTube Video about Navy Radioman School <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQKMwTATmGc>.

Technique Of Hand Sending (1944)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nVkJr0GyJPI>

**Meanwhile Let's get on the air and get RadioActive!**

**EDITORS' Note:**

In December we'll focus on your portable operations with "Portable Roundup" — Please describe any Summits On The Air (SOTA), Parks On The Air (POTA), camping, or mobile (Auto, Air, Pedestrian, Bicycle, Skate board...) operations you've enjoyed this year. Describe your station and any memorable QSO you had.

Please email your contributions to [AC6EE@arrl.net](mailto:AC6EE@arrl.net) by 30 November 2021

73 ...Ray W6QPA

## From The Secretary

Valerie Mason, KK6WLQ, Secretary

We had a net for "The Great ShakeOut" on Oct. 21st at 10:21. Thank you to all who participated, and some with several channels they were able and willing to transfer info on. We had 19 call in and 16 available. Good to hear a good group of people ready.

Reminder on breakfast :

Gracian's Grill 2nd Saturday of the month, so November 13th this month at 8:30.

Mulligan Room the last Saturday of the month, Nov 27th at 8:00 am.

Please contact Dick Brown at 661-889-6244 and leave a message with name and people in your party who are coming a.s.a.p. For example for Dan and I, I would call and say 2. Also, let him know if you are outside Bear Valley Springs because you'll need a gate pass. Need numbers by Nov 14th. People always ask to be added in last few days. If there's a possibility that you will come, it's better to have it reserved. It's easier than trying to make room when the restaurant starts getting busy. Thank you. We had a great turnout this last breakfast. I'm glad everyone was able to make it. Thank you for coming.

We have another license testing coming up, I believe Nov 13th at 2:30. Confirm with Dan and John D. If you have someone who wants to test, please let us know a.s.a.p. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving! Safe travels to those are are traveling.

## Mode of the Month — CW

We asked for stories of your CW experiences and received a nice collection. Thanks to all our contributors!

**W6SLZ — Dick Brown**

The CW contact I remember most goes way back to the early 1950's. My rig was a Hammarlund HQ129 receiver. The transmitter was a Misner Signal Shifter which had a 807 final which in turn drove a homebrew 813 to a total of 75 watts with link coupling for the Novice Class. Power supply was a pole pig transformer running backwards with a pair of 866 mercury vapor tubes. Loved the blue/ purple glow from them.

I had my license only a couple weeks and was on the air on 40 meters Crystal Controlled. I had called CQ and a non novice station came back to me. I asked him to QRS and when he came back to me he went even faster! I asked him to please please QRS and he came back even faster. My dad being a ham was in the other room listening to the conversations. He came in and told me to move and took over the conversation. He started out very very slow and at the end of the transmission was sending about 35 wpm. The station never came back. Wonder why? Dad could copy 45 wpm and read the news paper at the same time.

### **KOBGL — Dale Snider**

In 2001 K6WLC (SK) and I went back to the Dayton Convention, watched the Indianapolis 500 time trials plus picked his new Duramax pickup. On the return trip while driving across Illinois I heard W6DDB (SK), Bill Welch on CW (I was not driving at the time but did operate CW while driving in those days). W6DDB wrote articles for CQ magazine. He lived in Lancaster, CA and Ron K6WLC had me ask him to call AB6CF (SK) to check on his property. Bill refused.

### **WA6LDQ — Will Perry**

CW was the only mode I used as a Novice operator when I was 15 yrs old and living in Michigan. My older brother loaned me his Hallicrafters S-38B which was a very basic 5 tube superhet receiver. The S-38B and S-40 were popular inexpensive receivers in the day. I borrowed a transmitter from my high school friend (I was poor until I got two paper routes). The transmitter was a Heathkit AT-1 running about 30 watts connected directly into a long wire antenna with no coax. Hey, that's the way most of us beginners did it in those days using a pi-network in the final output. Tubes were not so fussy about SWR. I'll always remember my first contact with a ham in Indiana on 40 meters. Excitement filled the air as my brother, not a ham, was sitting next to me. The guy answered my CQ but at a faster rate than I could copy. I asked him to please QRS, (send slower) and he came back at about 4-5 wpm. Well, this was a little too slow but we had a great QSO and I was thrilled!

Another momentous moment operating CW was in the early 90's when QRP kits were getting very popular. The Small Wonder Labs were very compact transceiver kits that were built on a small 3"x5" PC board. The first one was just completed and it was a clip lead jungle sitting on my bench where I lived in Mt. Baldy, CA. Two clip leads ran off to a BNC coax on my 40 meter dipole to radiate the mighty 2 watts output, 2 clip leads to a 12v AA battery pack, and 2 more clip leads to the CW key. I turned it on and the earphones came alive with a CQ from a W7! I answered him and about fell off my chair when he came back to me from Arizona with a 589 signal report. My CW was pretty rusty but we had a great QSO and it was almost as exciting as that first contact as a Novice in 1955!

### **W6GRA — Neil Record**

I have very little experience with the CW mode, but thought I would share a story that might bring back memories for some of you, as it did for me.

Back in the mid 60's, my brother and I were in the Boy Scouts. I was probably 10 years old and my brother about 2 years older than me. Our father got us a pair of Official Boy Scouts Signaler devices. These were brown, rectangular shaped plastic boxes, with a CW keying device on top. They were powered by batteries, I don't remember what size, and they had a "Buzzer" inside, and also a small light bulb on top. The Signalers were connected by a long wire, so you could be in different rooms and send messages back and forth between two devices. Normally, when you pressed down on your Key, the buzzer would sound on the other device, as long as you were holding the Key down. Tap the Key for a short buzz, hold it down for a longer buzz. If you wanted to communicate in "Silent Mode", you could turn the buzzer off, and the light bulb on top would act like the buzzer, but without any noise. (Try a search for Official Boy Scouts Signaler, and you can still find these on eBay)

Those of you my age or older will remember that our parents made us go to bed by 8:00 or 8:30 (How Mean!) every night. So my brother and I would "Secretly" set up our signalers and send messages back and forth after the lights were turned out. And I'm sure our parents never discovered what we were doing, or noticed the wires running along the floor between our rooms! I believe that our father's purpose for giving us these signalers was so we could earn our Merit Badges in Morse Code, but I don't remember if either one of us ever did.

Of course this Late Night activity led to more bad habits. When I got my first transistor radio, I would put it under my pillow, and listen to rock & roll music until drifting off to sleep. Then, after joining the Sheriff's Explorer Program in the early 70's, I bought my first scanner. It had four (4!) channels, and you'll remember these early scanners used crystals that were specifically cut to the individual channel would wanted to monitor. So I would listen to the Bakersfield PD and Kern County Sheriff's Local channels.

Hope I didn't bore you with my story, and hopefully it brought back some fond memories.

## AB6DM — Dan Mason

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Well, here goes...

My CW story starts off sad, but later gets happy.

When I was a young boy, my Dad wanted me to learn CW. He gave me a chart of the Morse code and set me down by a receiver to copy code. Unfortunately, I didn't exactly take to it like a duck to water. In fact, as hard and long as I tried, I couldn't accurately copy the message to save my life. After hours of failure, my Dad got more and more frustrated with me until it got quite ugly. The situation escalated and I fell apart, with my Mom having to intervene. At that point, I had sworn off Morse code and anything to do with amateur radio.

Over the years, my Dad kept bugging me to get into amateur radio to which I said, "Not only no, but Hell NO!" He kept bugging me every couple years, and I held out, though he always touted the benefits of amateur radio. When I turned 50, my Dad sent me a Yaesu FT-60. I pulled it out of the box and held it in my hand, it's techieness singing a siren's song to the nerd in me. I called him on the phone and said, "Thanks for the gift, but what the hell am I going to do with this?" He said, "You don't need Morse code to get a Technician license." I replied, "Okay, I'll think about it."



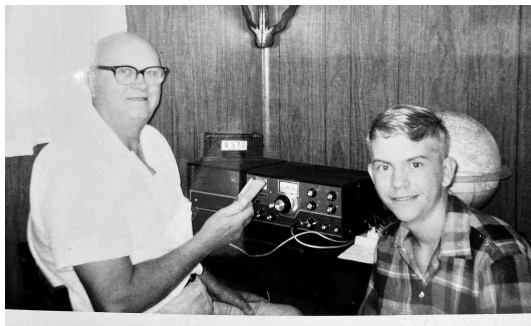
So I thought about, and did some research. I also looked up amateur radio clubs and found a name, John Carnakis. Most of you know John and about his passion for the art and science of amateur radio. He knew how to reach me and got me pumped. He showed me how to find a VE session to get my Tech. A couple of you were in my same session down in Bako.

After that, I ran headlong into this hobby, and you all know the rest. I still suck at CW, but I'm passionate about amateur radio.

## W6QPA — Ray Gretlein

### Why CW?

I have been fascinated by morse code for over 55 years. It began when my Uncle Walter, (W<sub>5</sub>HAV & later W<sub>4</sub>BHY(SK)) from Mississippi, visited our family in the summer of 1963.



Summer 1968 – Uncle Walter and 14 yr old me

During that visit he told me of “talking” to people all over the world through his Ham Radio station. I was fascinated, had lots of questions and he was a great story teller! The seed was planted! On his next trip West in 1965, he brought me a code practice oscillator and straight key. I received a Hallicrafters S-120 SW receiver for Christmas the previous year. We spent hours dialing the ham bands and listening to phone and CW. He'd translate the CW for me as we ‘eavesdropped’ on Hams around the world. He would copy effortlessly in his head while we talked and the code was in the background. Shortly thereafter I ordered a set of 45 RPM records and the book

promising to teach me morse code (I think this was the Ameco series). Unfortunately their method was not one that taught you to just hear the pattern, rather you identified the characters by essentially counting the dits and dahs.

Roll forward a few more years, I managed to get my code speed to 5 words per minute to pass the Novice test in fall of 1970 and was granted callsign WN6QPA. I've been in pursuit of code proficiency (defined as ... head copy like Uncle Walter demonstrated) ever since.

I'm now enrolled in the CWOPS CW Academy code training program trying to break all the bad habits from being self taught and learning what the CW Academy refers to as Instant Character Recognition i.e. hear the sound of a character (and even the words) and instantly know the character. I'm far from completing my quest of competency, but I'm also far better than when I started. See <https://cwops.org/cw-academy/> for more information.

### Most memorable QSO

In 1996, relicensed as a Tech Plus (meaning I got some HF privileges), I bought a used QRP-Plus all band transceiver by Index Labs. I set up a sloping 40 M/15 M Inverted Vee from the peak of the second story of our home and began working whoever I could. Working CW at about 10 WPM I had a few, mostly minimal QSOs. I liked rag chewing but didn't find many ops willing to do that at my speed. WA0DFF (SK), Carl in Bedford IA, was the exception! On 3 December 1996 he called me after I finished a minimal QSO, and proceeded to hang with me for over half an hour. We set up additional schedules and worked each other a number of times over the

following months. We established a letter-writing friendship, supplemented by CW QSOs whenever the bands allowed. He provided lots of operating tips and encouragement and nominated me for the ARRL Rag Chewers Certificate. Carl was a friend in the finest spirit of ham radio.

## 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>

### November 2021

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

### December 2021

- 3-5 160 Meter
- 11-12 10 Meter
- 18-19 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
- 19 Rookie Roundup-CW

### January 2022

- 1 **Straight Key Night**
- 1 **Kids Day**
- 8-9 **RTTY Roundup**
- 15-17 **January VHF**

## 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.

### November 2021

- 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 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 13 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 27 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Dick Brown by November 14th

### December 2021

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 19:00 PST “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 2 – 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 11 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill

## January 2022

- 5, 12, 19, 26 – 19:00 PST “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6 – 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 13 – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 29 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Dick Brown by January 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



KERN System Linked Repeaters				
<b>Cummings Mountain (7,800')</b>	442.95	141.3 Hz Tone	KI6HHU	Lee Bouchard
<b>Double Mountain (8,000')</b>	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:ab6dm@arrl.net">ab6dm@arrl.net</a>

Officers & Committee Chairs			
Office/Committee	Name	Call	Email
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	<a href="mailto:w6wbt@arri.net">w6wbt@arri.net</a>
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	<a href="mailto:w6qpa@arri.net">w6qpa@arri.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 on Zoom and in-person meeting site is moving to a new location, stay tuned for the announcement!

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