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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

Wow, year #1 of the current officer's 2 year term went by quite fast! I hope we've done some good for TARA. I think we have. It really helped that we had strong committee members and chairmen who put in a lot of their own time. It's great that Tehachapi now has a team of VE's to help increase the ham radio ranks. We've even attracted testers from other cities. And it's great that we are still doing a few things as a club.

Good news...we did hear back from the agent we hired to help us file for incorporation, charitable organization, and non-profit status, telling us the feds have approved our 501.c.3! However, we are still waiting for the official note in the fed database and documentation in the mail. Stand by for that "official" announcement.

That being said, we now have to prepare ourselves for our first tax season. That tax filing will be shaped by exactly how much of our new status is cemented in writing.

As my emails as of late have said, we will be meeting at Kelcy's for dinner at 6:30 PM to fellowship and celebrate both the holidays and the success of TARA.

Wishing you and yours all the best for the holidays and year 2022.

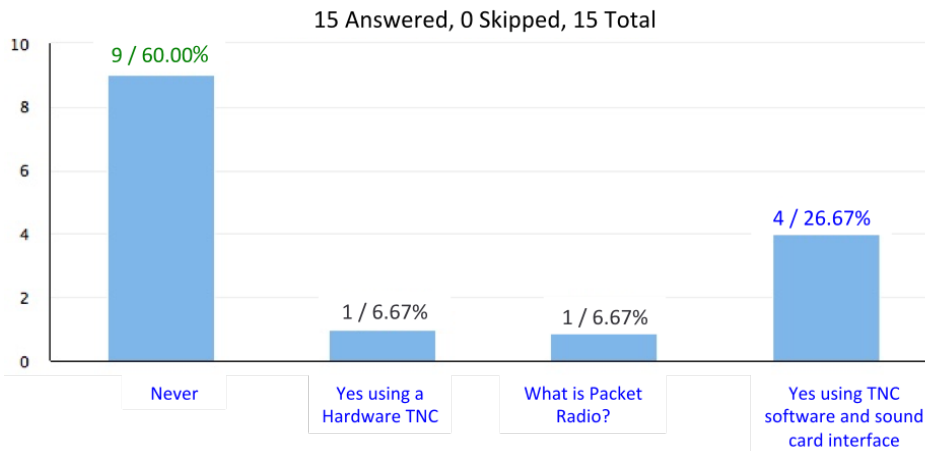
73,  
Dan

# RadioActive!

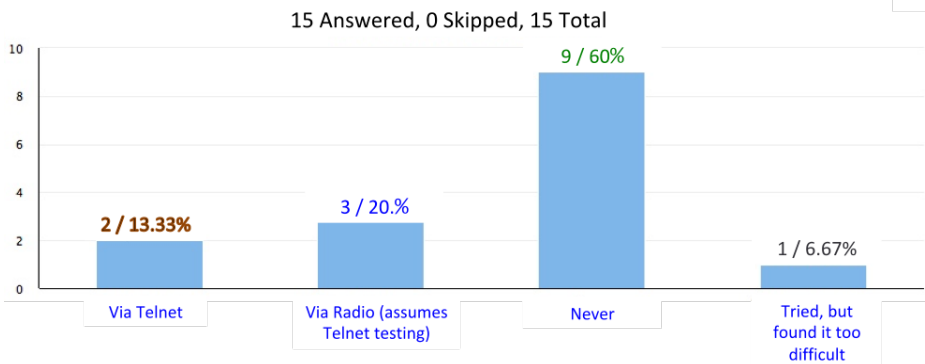
## Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

I recently sent out a survey to see how much interest we could generate in Winlink and other mainstream digital modes being incorporated into served agency emergency communications. I will let the survey and the results speak for them selves.

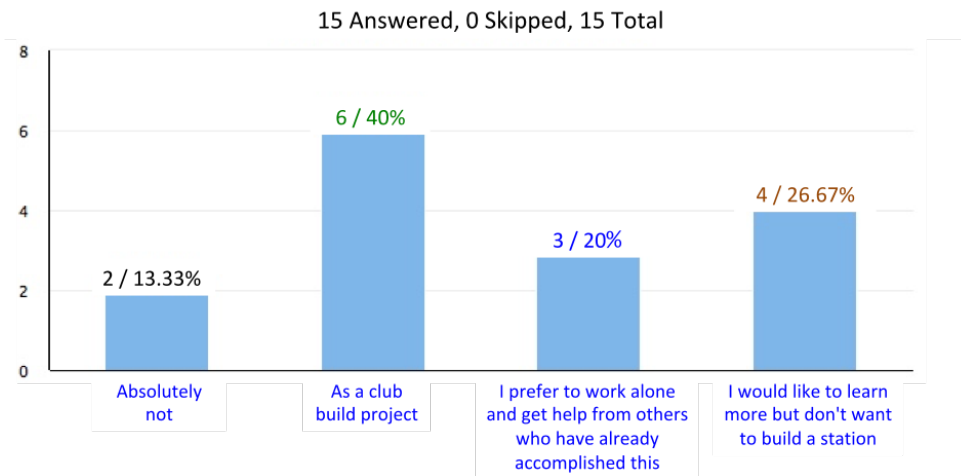
### 1. Have you ever done packet radio?



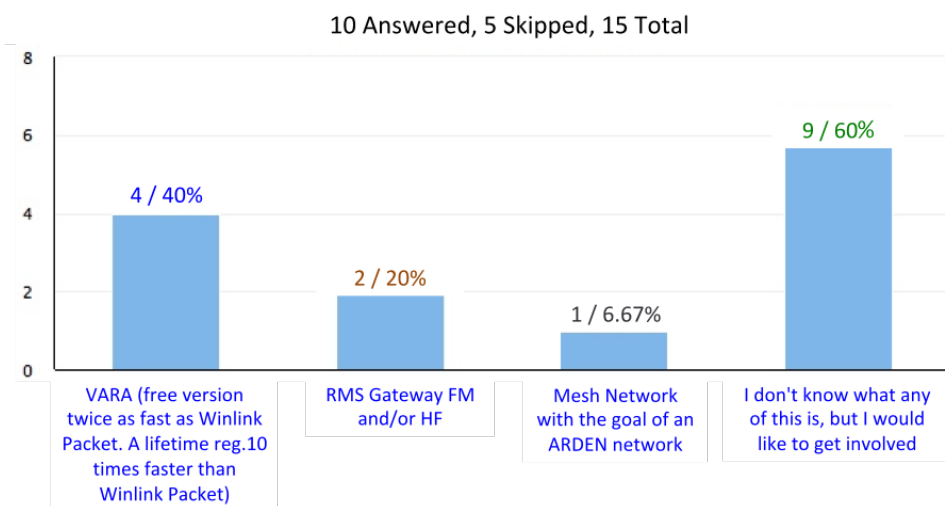
### 2. Have you ever tried Winlink using one of their email programs?



### 3. Would you be interested in setting up Winlink station?



### 4. Would you be interested in participating in a committee that would take the club to the next levels of Winlink and email over radio? If so, pick one or more of the following phases that interest you. If you have no interest make no selection.?



This is a very important capability for our club to offer a served agency. Setting up the software and the stations is only part of the challenge. Practice using it in simulated emergencies, drills and other club activities is not only paramount to our expertise, but it help ensures hardware, software and served agency electronic forms are operationally ready and up to date for an emergency. If we don't practice and drill we have nothing to offer a served agency.

Many new hams are attracted to the hobby for emergency preparedness however, they get their license by an HT, and spend little or no time on the air. The radio is put away in a go kit and that's that. So, when an emergency presents itself they truly aren't prepared. They may not remember how to use the radio, what frequencies would be useful and protocol, so they don't interrupt established emergency nets run by trained members of an EMCOMM group who drill regularly with an agency they serve. That's where our club comes in. We can help (Elmer) new hams, so that they will be ready, at the very least, to help their families and neighbors without disrupting other organized EMCOMM.

Thanks for participation in the survey.

The survey does not officially close until January 15, 2023. So you still have a chance to weigh in.

**EDITORS' Note:**

January's theme is *Projects* — *what HAM project(s) have had your attention in the last year and/or what projects are on your planning board.* Please share your activities with us, send a few paragraphs (or pages if you'd like) describing your HAM projects whether its building a station, assembling kits, work on antennas, rearranging the shack or ...

Please email your contributions to [AC6EE@arrl.net](mailto:AC6EE@arrl.net) by 31 December 2021

73 ...Ray W6QPA

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

## Tales of Portable Operating

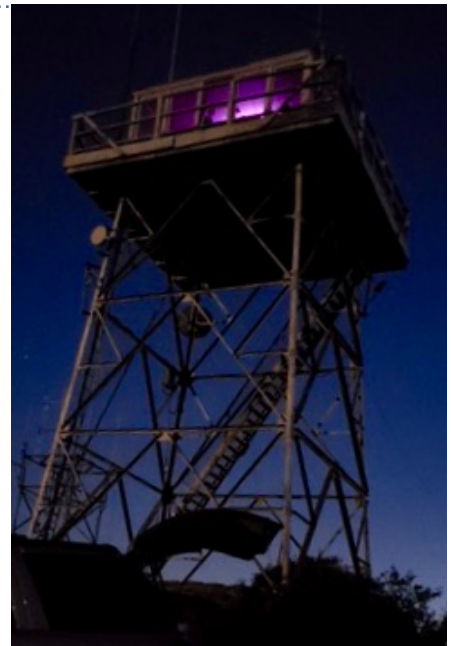
We asked for stories of your Portable Operating experiences and received the following collection. Thanks to all our contributors!

### K6GTA — Tony Loera

For this months "Dummy Load" I'd like to share a pair of outings in which I got to play radio for a bit. The first was a visit up to the Lookout Tower at Oak Flat.

While staying for the night I made several attempts to hit some of the repeaters up at Potosi Mountain in Nevada but had no luck. I was able however, to work 2 different satellites (SO-50 & AO-92) as well as hit two of the repeaters in San Benito Mountain at just over 120 miles away.

The following outing was at Redwood Meadows, in the Sequoia National Forrest. This was a really tough one because the campground is surrounded by hills as well as Giant Sequoia trees to the North, and fir, pine and cedar trees to the South .





With a small directional antenna and 7 watts of power courtesy of an Anytone 868 Radio, I was able to hit the Hub of the Kern system up on Frazier at just under 90 miles away (though very scratchy) as well as the K6KGE, DMR repeater up at Shirley Peak. I wasn't prepared to communicate into, but I was also able to hear the cross-band repeater aboard the ISS on this same trip.

For portable comm's I rely on my Anytone 868 Dual Band Radio, and for satellite operations I rely on a pair of Baofeng Radios each with its respective Monoband Antenna.

I hope to be able to get out with more of my radio gear next year, and hope to attend a Field Day for the very first time. Fingers Crossed!





## W6QPA — Ray Gretlein

This year's portable operation has been a bit limited. I'd like to blame COVID issues, but it is really just my lack of planning. The one portable trip of the last year, was to our son's home in Portland, OR. I took my "shack-in-a-bag" backpack, in which are: a) Elecraft KX-3, PX-3; b) QRPLabs QCX+ c) Raspberry Pi, display, keyboard; d) Signalink USB; d) American Morse Equip single-lever morse key; e) associated cables and power distribution items and test gear; f) SOTAbeams Band Hopper III. The loaded pack weighs in at about 20 lbs.

The SOTAbeams Band Hopper III is a very compact 20-30-40 meter dipole. I use it with their 17 ft mast as an Inverted Vee. As shown, it weighs in at 3 lbs 4 oz.



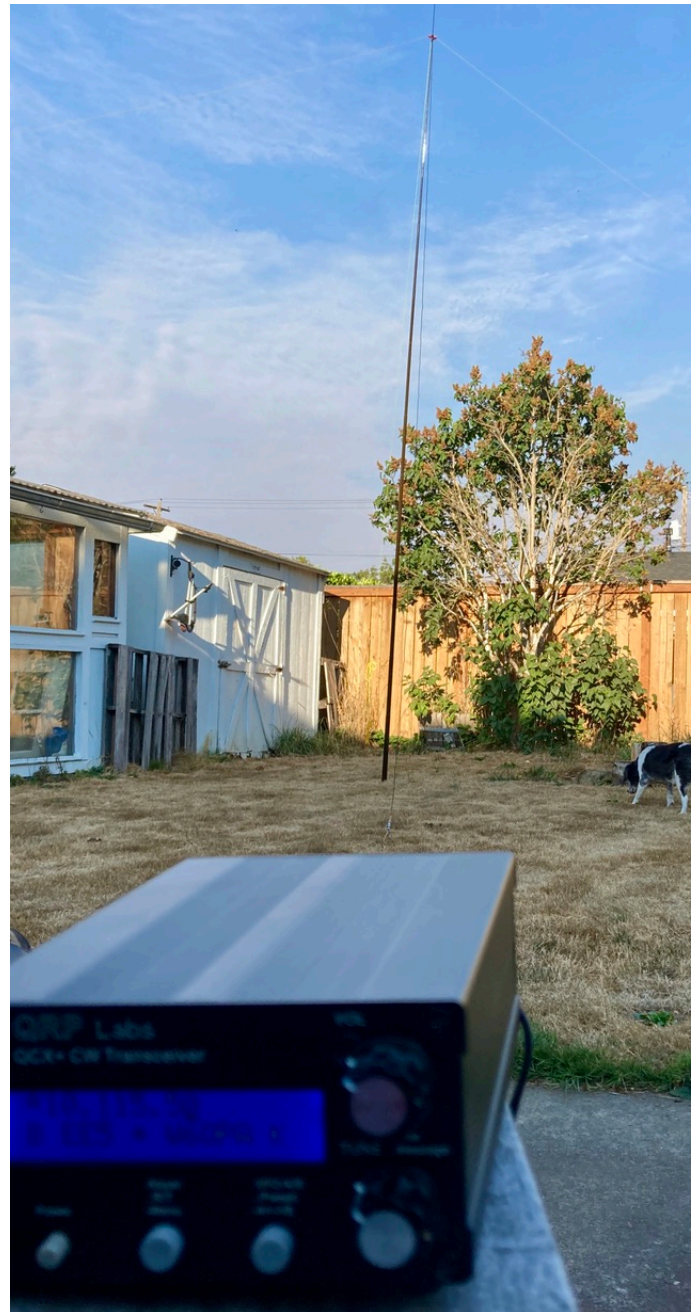
For power I use a home assembled solar-power-pack consisting of a Bioenno 12 volt, 144 watt-hr LiFePO<sub>4</sub> battery, a solar charge controller, power usage meter, and associated Anderson PowerPole connectors and a pair of USB sockets. A 60 watt panel provides recharge.





During our week long visit, I set up the antenna in the back yard and operated from an Adirondack chair under the beautiful September skies of the Pacific North West.

Contacts were CW and FT8. We even managed a QSO, albeit very brief, with Will, WA6LDQ on both CW and FT8.



## 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>

### 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

### February 2021

- 8-12 School Club Roundup
- 20-21 International DX - CW

## 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.

### 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 Christmas Party, Kelcy's, 110 W Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA 93561
- 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

## February 2022

- 2, 9, 16, 23 — 19:00 PST “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3 — 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 5 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 10 — 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 26 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Dick Brown by February 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>
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

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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

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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