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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!

Just a couple points:

You've probably heard that the FCC will be charging a new \$35 license application fee starting April 19, 2022. Since that news first came out, the FCC has clarified exactly what license activities are being charged. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply **ONLY** to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. FCC will **NOT** charge for future upgrades and administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees, therefore, will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign.

If you're considering a license upgrade to get additional privileges, rest assured, it cost nothing more than your normal \$15 VEC fee for your test. So don't hesitate to upgrade.

Next point ...

This month's Dummy Load theme is ARRL Field Day preparation. My submission for this topic is coming up as you read on later, but what I'd like to do is to explain what Field Day is as per the ARRL. The 2022 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26.

Reading some articles at the ARRL web site, you'll see things like "Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to

demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event" and "Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!"

Everyone has different favorite aspects of Field Day and so may want to focus on a narrower scope of the included activities, and that's okay. As an amateur radio club, we are called on to be an ambassador of the "art and science". We try to get Field Day points by attacking as many activities involved with representing amateur radio to the public as we practically can. Ideally, that's what should go into our clubs preparation. We'll see how much or little of the ideal comes out, but it will be fun in the very least.

EDITORS' Note:

May will focus on **Portable Antennas**. Please share a few paragraphs (and photos) describing your portable antennas.

Please email your contributions to AC6EE@arrl.net by 30 April 2022

73 ...Ray W6QPA

RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

It's that time of year when our radio thoughts shift to outdoor activities like FIELD DAY! With many COVID restrictions being lifted around the country, more of us are willing to venture out for a true Field Day experience.

When I first became a ham the concept of Field Day was very exciting. The idea of combining some of my favorite activities with amateur radio was a, somewhat, romantic notion. Camping was always fun and the thought of combining my new hobby with that activity thrilled me. Of course, the equipment we lugged out to the field weighed a lot more than it does today and we actually erected towers for the weekend so it was a lot more work than I had imagined. Then after operating for most of the night with only a couple hours of sleep, and then tearing it all down afterward I was quite exhausted when I returned home Sunday evening. Because of those early memories Field Day is always a nostalgic trip back to my youth.

Dan and Valerie are heading up the planning this year for TARA's Field Day. Please support them by volunteering to help with the many pre-Field Day preparations as well as the setup teardown and operation on Field Day weekend.

Field Day can be many things too many hams. So, whether you enjoy the camaraderie, the food, the camping, making lots of contacts (via vhf, hf, digital, phone or CW), making a satellite contact, promoting amateur radio, receiving one of the Field Day messages, hosting local elected officials, EMCOMM professional and/or the press at your field day site; plan to get out, get on the air and join the fun.

We have also been working on an “On the Air” game to get hams out of the house and on the air for some ham radio fun. We should be ready for a first playing of the game early in May. Look for a direct emailing for announcements, so that you can make plans to get out and get RadioActive.

73 – Let’s Get RadioActive!

From the Secretary

Valerie Mason, KK6WLQ

Reminder, please let me know if you may be coming to breakfast at Mulligan Room in BVS on April 30 at 8 am. Reserved seating for staffing restaurant and we need to get people outside of BVS a gate pass set up before then. Contact us (Dan Mason or me) by the 21st. Thank you.

Field-Day Preparations

AB6DM — Dan Mason

I’ve been privileged to participate in several of ARRLs Field Days, and to have been trained and guided by a lot of great Elmers during those. Most have been as a club and a couple have been just me and my wife, KK6WLQ Valerie. Here's my take on ARRL Field Day preparation.

As an amateur radio club, the vision has usually included four primary elements:

- 1) Set up radio **operations** on emergency power in a location away from our homes.
- 2) Achieve some degree of **public outreach**.
- 3) Participate in the **informal contest**, making a decent number of contacts.
- 4) Have some fun and **fellowship** doing all this with our ham radio family. The ARRL awards clubs points for a huge amount of activities, utilizing all sorts of skills both technical and diplomatic. We will attack some number of these, covering the four points mentioned above. The most important thing is that we have fun doing them. Just remember, just do whatever you get done, and don't stress the rest.

Part one is Operations:

First you need a location to operate from. We tend to use Brite Lake Aquatic Recreation Area (park) because it has a pavilion that provides shade, picnic tables, restrooms, trees to string up antennas, nice temperatures, and is publicly accessible. To do this here, we will have to reserve the spot. This could be the case for other venues as well.

For setting up operations, the foundation is electric power, preferably without ANY shore/grid power. We always have at least portable generators, but we often have batteries and even solar power. Easy peasy, right? Easy except for when we accidentally generate RFI/EMI. We've conquered that before though. We get more points for making it challenging. We will make a list of what power equipment is being brought by whom.

Then you need some actual radios and antennas. We always get at least a couple good volunteer HF radios and sometimes even a GOTA station (Get On The Air, a whole other subject). We've had several antennas show up including yagis and portable towers, wire dipoles, end-fed half waves, and even verticals. All have had some success. The trick is to have ways to elevate the wire antennas. We've used trees, portable masts, and even hydraulics masts on retired TV news vans. The final thing is to isolate the radios and antennas from each other because you can cause damage due to transmitting on bands that have a harmonic relationship. I hope to get band pass filters to prevent this. Again, we make a list of components.

Part two is public outreach:

The ARRL wants to promote amateur radio to both prospective new hams and to city governments with possible served agencies, such as police/fire departments, hospitals/Red Cross, and to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) groups. That being said, they award points for several ways of doing that, such as publishing a newspaper ad, inviting government officials, setting up an information booth, getting on social media, getting new people on the air, and more. We decide which of these things we want to accomplish, then assign people to get them set up.

Part three is the Informal Contest:

This part is the favorite for some people because you're actually enjoying the radios. Just like any other ham radio contest, we try to get as many contacts as possible in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. We will probably have two stations operating simultaneously and we will operate under our club call sign AC6EE. Everyone who wants, gets lots of operating time. I highly encourage any new hams to take advantage of the opportunity to experience this as I always learned a lot from it. No pressure, just have fun.

Part four is ham radio fellowship:

No matter how big we go or how well we perform, we always have a great time doing it together. One of the best parts is that we get our families and new hams together to enjoy the outdoors, cobbling together our operation, having a couple potluck meals (we plan those too). Maybe we meet new people who are checking out ham radio. In any case, we get to enjoy doing some radio, teach each other a few skills and tricks, and enjoy some great experiences.

KK6WLQ — Valerie Mason

We get literature to give out and host a table to show different areas where Ham Radio/Amateur Radio can be used. We set up a net to basically do a demo on using the Ham Radio equipment. We have a sign up sheet for people interested in learning more about the radios and how to get licensed and use the radios.

Humor

Laura Sherrod, KI6EOG

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm, a mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he asked with a tremor in his voice, "Mommy, will you sleep with me tonight?" The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug..."I can't dear," She said "I have to sleep in Daddy's room." A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice: "The big sissy."

Valerie Mason, KK6WLQ

Q: Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?

A: The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!

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>

April 2022

- 10 Rookie Roundup – Phone

May 2022

- Nothing scheduled

June 2022

- 4-5 International Digital Contest
- 11-13 June VHF
- 18 Kids Day
- 25-26 Field Day

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.

April 2022

- 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, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.

- 30 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 April.

May 2022

- 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)
- 7 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 12 — 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 14 — 14:30 PDT — VE Session at the Salvation Army Community Center, 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA 93561.
- 28 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 May

June 2022

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 — 19:00 PST (PDT 16, 23, 30) “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, Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 11 — 14:30 PDT — VE Session at the Salvation Army Community Center, 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA 93561.
- 12 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill
- 26 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 June 2022.

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

Local Repeater Information				
Tehachapi Repeater	444.225	100.0 Hz TONE	KG6KKV	Overlooks Bakersfield
DMR Digital	442.675	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K7RET	Brandmeister, Bakersfield, CA The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Cummings Mountain
DMR Repeater	447.120	Offset: -5.00 ColorCode: 1	KR6DK	Brandmeister, McKittrick, CA The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Double Mountain This repeater is permanently linked to the KR6DK analog repeater system.
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	http://www.ac6ee.org
TARA Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/TARatehachapiamateurradio/
Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC)	http://www.k6ox.club/index.html
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 & 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 on Zoom and in-person meeting site is now Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.

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