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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!

We have been working hard to alert you to, and even create a few opportunities throughout this year to get away from your respective QTHs (typically home based ham shacks) to operate out in the field as well as adding some spice to it. We have ARRL Field Day, the up coming TARA game (Phil is fine tuning), and we are probably going to support comms at the Gorman Ridge Rally car racing event. Besides all those, members have expressed interest operations where we adventure out on roads, dirt roads, even dirt trails to points of interest where we could do other types of radio operations.

There are a few interesting types of radio ops including Summits On The Air (SOTA), Parks On The Air (POTA), special event stations, special mores, or just plain operating for the joy of it in the many beautiful places within our region.

The type of trip we would take would be selected according to interest of people who are serious about coming with us.

There are so, so many great places to go around here, some super easy to get to and some more challenging. In any case, we have plenty of folks in the club with capable vehicles and experience who could take passengers if needed. But believe me, none of us want to break our cars or trucks.

We've already talked about neat places like McIver's Cabin, Borro Schmidt's Tunnel, Paiute Mountain Road, Sherman Ridge Road, Breckenridge Mountain area, and more.

If you're interested in such a ham radio adventure, check into the Wednesday night Just Because Net, or email me at ab6dm@arrl.org. And also feel free to suggest a trip.

EDITORS' Note:

In the June edition we will focus on **Nets**. Please share a few paragraphs describing your favorite Ham on-air Nets.

Please email your contributions to AC6EE@arrl.net by 14 June 2022

73 ...Ray W6QPA

RadioActive!

Phil Dolber, W6WBT, 1st Vice President

An amateur radio club can serve many purposes, needs and interests for its members and the community. If there is an interest you have or a need you see that could be filled by our club, we would like to hear from you. Keep in mind that we are currently a small club so your involvement may be the key to accomplishing a new goal. On the bright side the more diverse our club becomes the better chance we have of attracting new members which can lead to more activities.

What ever our activities are in the community we need to present ourselves and our club professionally. Our image and our relationships in the community can lead to more community service activities if we build trust within the Tehachapi communities and Kern County.

Now back to activities

Many of our operating activities take us out in the field and good performing antennas are crucial to the task. There are many antennas, modes, and bands we might work in a portable operation but I am going to stick to HF operations for my input for this month's topic of portable antennas.

I want to preface my opinions about potable antennas with - "There is No Perfect Antenna" - especially if you plan to work more than one frequency, and even more so, if you want to work multiple bands on the same antenna. So, get over the notion of trying to find that perfect antenna or you may never get on the air. Every antenna is a compromise. You would be best served if you start with a list of priorities which will turn in to your antenna requirements. Start by listing things like weight, sturdiness, ease of setup and tuning, bands you want to operate, home-brew or store bought, price point, and so on. You will probably come up with more items to list as you start your research and that's ok, but at some point, you will realize you need to compromise on some of these requirements to reach your specific antenna solution. Because... "There is No Perfect Antenna".

For my one or two ham portable outings, my list, prioritized from top to bottom, would look something like this:

1. Ease of setup and tuning

This is one of the more important items for a partial day or 1 day operation, as little time as possible would be spent on setup leaving more time for operating (important for Special event Stations and community service 1-day events).

2. Durability

Especially with respect to our local winds!

3. Bands: 40-10 meters

This list is based on wanting to work mostly daytime hours. So, if I am most interested in DX my compromise would be 20-10 meters for bands.

4. Weight

Weight is last if I don't have to pack it on my back. For this operation I don't plan to assemble the antenna very far from my car.

Based on past experience, and because I don't recommend experimenting on the day of the event, I would use one of the following antennas:

1. *MFJ 2980 Vertical*. This is a simple vertical wire antenna with a loading coil at the base with 4 ground radials. It uses a telescoping fiberglass pole, similar to a surf fishing pole, to support the wire and you can mount it directly on the ground or on a tripod. Either way it will require guys. I have modified the ones I use by bringing fixed coil tap points for each band out to a banana jack on the outside of the coil box for ease of changing bands. This is a very sturdy antenna. It has fallen over several time in high winds and never taken any damage. This was when using a tripod base and sandbags (only good for about 25 mph gust) it performs best in high winds with 4 guys.
2. My tried and true, home brew, Off Center Fed (OCF) Dipole. This would be my first choice if there are trees conveniently located.

73 – Let's Get RadioActive!

Portable Antennas

Mag Mounts

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

Theme for newsletter is Portable Antenna's, and my favorite is a 2m/440 dual band whip on a mag mount.

We've had a few, such as a Comet SSB-5NMO on a Diamond SPM35NMO magnetic mount with NMO receptacle, and others.

It's portable in that we stick the mag mount on any metal (not aluminum) surface at our house or even outside at places we visit, and on our vehicles to get signal for using our radio when we travel. This setup works well and we get pretty good reception. When we traveled to Washington through Oregon to see our son a couple of years ago, we tested all the listed repeaters on the way to see where we could get a signal from if we needed to in an emergency. All but one worked. Good to know.



HF Portable Antennas

Dan Mason — AB6DM

I love portable antennas. Except for 2 meter repeater work, most of my HF radio ops are done with portable wire antennas, out away from home. First, I would like to mention a couple portable antennas that I have that I've not got to use much, so the jury is out on them. Then I'll get into my favorites.



One of those in the first group is the Chameleon Antenna P-Loop portable mag loop antenna. Mine is the original version to which Chameleon has made some improvements. You have probably seen mag loop antennas made with tubes formed into a circle with a tuning box built into it (it's more complicated than that). This model is rather formed out of LRM-400 coax which you can detach and sort of roll into a more compact shape. They give you a mail carrier pouch to transport all the parts in.



They give you adapters to mount this antenna to a table/fence or on a camera tripod, though I recommend you ballast it really well. It hears pretty well, but I've not made many contacts with it yet.

Another antenna I have is the Super Antenna MPi.



In a nutshell, the MPi is a screwdriver antenna, whip included (or several options) that you, once again, mount on a table/fence or tripod. It too has a neat carrying bag. Now I have yet to deploy this antenna at all, so I can't say anything else about it.

Now on to the good stuff. I have two versions of the MyAntennas End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) wire antenna, the EFHW-8010 and the EFHW-4010.



The EFHW-8010 is 130 feet long and works on 80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10m, while the EFHW-4010 is 63 feet long and works on 40/20/15/10m. They both will do Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) on 40M or lower.

The EFHW-8010 was featured in ARRL's QST magazine (<https://myantennas.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/PROD-REV-MyAnt.pdf>)

David Casler became a fan, see these YouTubes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTqGUwwAHi8> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwEFiuM_M4s.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwEFiuM_M4s.

My experience has been great with these, especially with the EFHW-8010, at both field day and some of my other operations.

Camping / Hiking Antennas

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

I've worked QRP portable, off and on, over the last 25 + years. I'm always looking for another portable, packable, light weight antenna to try. Two favorites are the SOTABEAMS Hopper III and the QRPGuys 40 - 30 - 20 meter vertical.

The **SOTABEAMS Hopper III** is a "linked" dipole that I use as an inverted-vee to cover 40-30-20 meters. Their Tactical Mini pole is a 6 meter long carbon-fiber mast I use for the support. With these two items I have 3.2 pound package that fits my backpack well. With it I've worked DX in Japan as well as Portugal on 10 watts.



With the **QRPGuys Tri-Band Vertical**, I use the same SOTABEAMS Tactical Mini mast as above for the vertical support. This antenna requires radials and is base loaded with a kit-built "match" to select the desired band. This package weighs in at 3.4 lbs. My first use was on 30 meters, in 2021ß, running 10 watts using FT8. My first contacts over a 3 hour period included DX in Venezuela, Asiatic Russia, Canada and a number of CONUS Midwest and east coast stations.



Humor

Laura Sherrod — KI6EOG

A little girl asked her Mother if she could go out and play with the boys.... her Mother replied "no, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough" The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "if I can find a smooth one can I play with him?"

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

Jeb & Bubba (Tennessee mechanical engineers and ham radio operators) were standing at the base of a flagpole, looking up and trying to figure out the best way to make a 20 meter stealth vertical out of it.

A woman walked by and asked what they were doing.

"We're supposed to find the height of the flagpole," said Bubba, "but we don't have a ladder."

The woman took a wrench from her purse, loosened a few bolts, and laid the flag pole down. Then she took a tape measure from her pocket, took a measurement, announced, "Eighteen feet, six inches," and walked away.

Jeb shook his head and laughed. "Ain't that just like a woman!"

"We ask for the height and she gives us the length!"

Bubba and Jeb are currently working for the federal government designing totally invisible towers for long range communications.

They are experiencing great difficulty in seeing the tower sections and putting them together!

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>

May 2022

- Nothing scheduled

June 2022

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

July 2022

- 9-10 IARU HF World Championship

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.

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.

July 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 July.

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

Local Repeater Information				
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
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 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
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