



In This Issue

- A Word
- Editor's Note
- From the Secretary
- My Summer Hamcation
- ARRL Calendar
- TARA Calendar
- Reference Information
 - Local Repeaters
 - Club Repeaters
 - Officer's/Committees
 - Meeting & Club info
 - Membership Application

Contact Us

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

Note that words or phrases underlined and blue text are links to web addresses; black underlines text are bookmarks in this document.

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Hi, TARA friends!

Welcome back from summer vacation, if you had one. Besides Field Day, we continued to have meetings including Zoom, still ran the Just Because Net on Wednesday nights, and still got together for most of our regularly scheduled breakfast gatherings, just in case any of you were stuck at home. We also conducted a couple VE sessions where new hams were made, yay! Valerie and I didn't really get out over the summer, so we enjoyed the activities with you. We are still working up a couple extra curricular activities for the months ahead. That being said, read on to find out what some of our members were up to (radio wise) over the summer.

EDITORS' Note:

The theme for October's newsletter is a "Favorite QSO". So, dig into the nostalgia for memories and share one of your favorite or most memorable QSO's. Whether it was your first QSO, a celebrity, a special event, or ... tell us of this special QSO.

From the Secretary

Valerie Mason, KK6WLQ

My summer was busy with Field Day and National Night Out events.

Field Day is a ham radio event that we set up radios away from home and people come to visit, learn about ham radio, and even get on the radio. (Ed. — see the AC6EE web site for the [Field Day 2022 – Photo Album](#))



Left to right are Dan (AB6DM), Joe Litz (NZ6Q), Kristen McIntyre (K6WX), Dave (WA5GUL) and Carl (N6RNC)



We were visited by both ARRL Pacific Division Director Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, and ARRL San Joaquin Valley Section Manager John Litz, NZ6Q. They flew to Tehachapi Airport in Kristen's Cirrus aircraft.

Thank you to all who helped set up and tear down, and to all who got on the air and made contacts.

National Night Out we had a few people come by and visit. It was slow at first, but then picked up about an hour in. Great talking to several people.

Breakfast at Gracian's Grill, 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:30. Mulligan Room breakfast last Saturday of every month at 8:00. Please let Valerie KK6WLQ know you are planning to attend Mulligan Room as I need to turn in # of people by 15th of month every month for staffing for our table. Thank you.

Humor

Laura Sherrod — KI6EOG

An elderly man in Florida had owned a large farm for several years.

He had a large pond in the back, fixed up nice: picnic tables, horseshoe courts, and some apple and peach trees. The pond was properly shaped and fixed up for swimming when it was built. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the pond, as he hadn't been there for a while, and look it over. He grabbed a five gallon bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One woman shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave!" The old man frowned, "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond naked." Holding the bucket up he said, "I'm here to feed the alligator."

Moral: Old men can still think fast.

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

You may have heard this one already, but in case you haven't :

Who Makes the Coffee??

A married couple were arguing about who should make the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

How I spent my Summer Vacation

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

This summer we traveled quite a bit. And of course one of those trips landed on the 4th weekend of June — “ARRL Field Day”. Field Day weekend found me in Stockton, Missouri for my brother-in-law’s wedding. I almost didn’t take any radios, but decided I might be able to squeeze in an hour or so throughout the weekend.

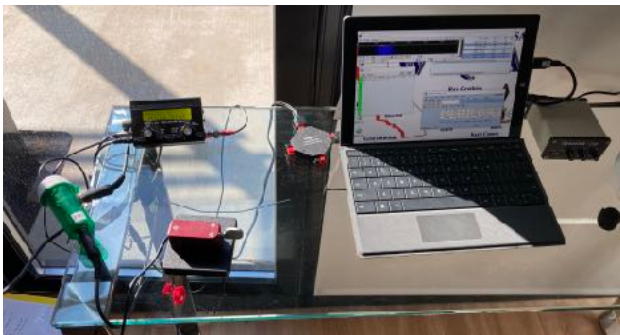


The HF station in three bags and solar panels (not shown)

I took my HF portable station which consists of:

- QRPLabs QDX 4-band digital transceiver (<https://www.qrp-labs.com/qdx.html>),
- QRPLabs QCX-mini CW transceiver built for 20 meters (<https://www.qrp-labs.com/qcxmini.html>)
- Bioenno Power solar panels (<https://www.bioennopower.com/collections/solar-controllers/products/80-watt-foldable-solar-panel-for-charging-power-packs-bsp-80>),
- Home-brewed solar battery bank (Bioenno LiFePO₄ 144 watt hr battery, charge controller, power meter, fuses and USB and Anderson connectors)
- SOTABeams Band Hopper III 40-30-20 meter linked dipole (<https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/band-hopper-iii-three-band-linked-dipole/>)
- SOTABeams telescopic mast (<https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/tactical-mini-compact-ultra-portable-6-m-19-6-ft-mast/>)
- Microsoft Surface tablet (windows 10) running N1MM+ logging, WSJT-X Digi-mode (FT8, FT4) software
- American Morse Equipment compact single lever paddles (<http://www.americanmorse.com/minib.htm>)
- Headphones, misc. coax, and power distribution cables

The operating position was in a bedroom of the AirBNB we rented. I used two modes, only running one at a time, CW and FT8/FT4.



CW Station – QCX-Mini



FT8/FT4 Station – QDX is behind the iPad

The antenna is a serial-linked-dipole that I deploy as an inverted vee. I've used this often in the last few years, it's always a snap to put up.



This year however, a different “snap” occurred. One of my dipole lines got fouled in the grass and I snapped the mast while hoisting it into position! The photo on the left shows a plug I carved out of a tree branch I found on the ground near by. With some additional small branches and copious



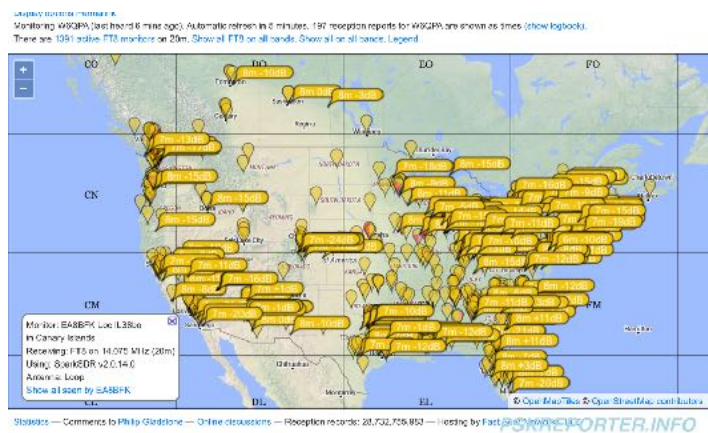
amounts of duct-tape I had a splice that held for the weekend.



A shout out to the folks at [SOTABeams](#) in the U.K. They stand behind their products, in this case the “[Tactical Mini](#)” mast. I went to their website and found that they have replacement sections of their various telescopic masts. If a section breaks they’ll replace it free, you pay shipping!

In the short time I operated I didn't set any QSO rate records, however, I made one CW and five

digital contacts. Based on ARRL Field Day Scoring criteria, being portable, RF power ≤ 5 Watts (QRP) and using solar and battery power, I would have been able to claim 260 points. I also learned more lessons about operating portable (raise the mast with care and bring more duct-tape) and gained more confidence on CW operations (even though I only made 1 CW QSO). Most of all I had fun!



FT-8/FT-4 shine in weak signal work. With 4.7 watts I was copied coast to coast from Missouri

John Dyer — KM6DXY

What did I do during my Summer Vacation or Hamcation? It might be easier to say “What Didn’t I do...” Let’s go with the premise that our Hamcation starts on Field Day weekend. If that is the case, then my Summer Hamcation started off with a BANG!

While most club members participated in Field Day in one form or the other, member turnout at the club location was a little light. This made setup a little more challenging, but we made it work! We were able to set up a 20m antenna as well as a 40m antenna and were on-the-air operating on-time. The guest turn-out was great and we even had a couple of special guests from the ARRL that flew in and joined us for a short time. *(Ed. — See the “[From the Secretary](#)” section for details on the visitors.)*

The big news was that I participated more than usual chasing contacts with the help of Dave (WA5GUL). I forget my contact count but let’s say it was a lot more than all my previous years combined.

As most of you probably already know, a lot of my focus has been on “Emergency Preparedness”. To this end, I joined a program in the Tehachapi Valley called CERT. CERT stands for “Community Emergency Response Team”. This is in addition to my participation in the B.V.S.E.R.T. or the Bear Valley Springs Emergency Radio Team where I am also one of the Net Control operators.

Since joining CERT, I have become a member of the Board for FORCERT (Friends Of Ready Community Emergency Response Team) which is the 501c3 organization that supports most of the local CERT teams. I have been an active team member and Board member, including opportunities to work directly with the Kern County Fire Department planning for a CERT event in October. I have also assisted team leadership by acting as a trainer or assistant trainer during several of their training sessions.

One might ask “What does that have to do with Ham Radio?”. Well, that is a good question with a simple answer. Good radio communication skills and planning for CERT are not too different than that of amateur radio. I am assisting the team with the development of a CERT Communications Plan that includes everything from a “Neighborhood Radio Watch” program to communications with other CERT Teams as well as local government agencies, including Kern County.

Part of the plan will include getting CERT Team Members to get their GMRS licenses and promoting the idea of going beyond GMRS to get an amateur radio license. This will include classes on preparing to take the Technician Class exam and practical exercises on the use of radios, programming them, and how they can use their radio skills to communicate as needed in the event of an emergency.

Needless to say, I’ve been busy. My wife accuses me of being busier now than I was when I was working in Bakersfield. My response is simple. I’d rather be busy than bored and I enjoy being part of helping the community in planning and preparing for an emergency. Radio Communication is a critical part of that work.

Stay Cool, Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

Dan Mason — AB6DM

For not getting out of our region, I actually was active ham radio wise. As I wrote earlier, I really enjoyed Field Day and our normal activities. But one of the things that made Field Day stand out for me was that I actually constructed and deployed a good HF antenna from scratch with the help of the TARA Field Day crew, Dave (WA5GUL), John (KM6DXY), Carl (N6RNC), Joe (KJ7PUL), and Valerie (KK6WLQ). Thank also to Dick (W6SLZ) for the loan of some important parts. The antenna is a 40/15 meter vertical made of 18 ga wire, then hung on a 40 foot military fiberglass pole. It was cut to 33 feet, and has 4 each 33 foot radials suspended horizontally about 5 feet above the ground. I made most of my Field Day contacts with this antenna hooked to my Yeasu FT-450D. The photo on the right is a picture of part of the deployment.



Another cool thing I got to be part of was reconfiguring the local Western Intertie Network System ([WINS](#)) node managed by Dick (W6SLZ). The WIN System is a network of inter-connected amateur radio repeaters where you can talk to many other hams all over the Western states, and even Hawaii and Australia. Our local node can be reached at 440.625 MHz (+) PL 100.0. The node consists of a 440 repeater with a digitizer and a microwave relay that send packs across the valley to a location with internet access. The packets spread over the WINS and come out on all the other repeaters in the system, and vice versa.

This node had to be reconfigured when a tree on private property grew up in the path of the microwave relay. So far, the solution was to get a better set of microwave antenna systems, and relocate the one at the repeater site to a better location. The crew involved was Dick (W6SLZ), Dave (WA5GUL), Will (WA6LDQ), and myself. I appreciate being involved as I learned a lot of new skills.



WINS equipment rack at W6SLZ repeater site



Microwave link is the round dish center-top of the photo

So, as a capper, I made a TARA general meeting presentation of the current crop of Handi-Talkies (HTs) worth having. It was very enlightening for both me and a couple of our members. It covered radios from \$25 to \$650, LoL! Many surprises, with some having compelling features, each with their own merits, and not always expensive.

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 2022

- 10-12 September VHF
- 17-18 10 GHz & Up - Round 2
- 7-18 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up

October 2022

- 10-12 Collegiate QSO Party
- 17-18 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
- 7-18 School Club Roundup

November 2022

- 5-7 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW
- 19-21 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone
- 12-13 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz

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 2022

- 7,14,21,28 – 19:00 PST (PDT 16, 23, 30) “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 1 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 – 19:00 PDT, Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 10 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at [Gracian Grill](#)
- 24 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 September.

October 2022

- 5, 12, 19, 26 – 19:00 PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 — 08:30 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at [Gracian Grill](#)
- 13 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 29 — 08:00 PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 October.

November 2022 (Time Change November 6)

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 19:00 PDT/PST “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3 – 19:00 PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 10 – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 12 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at [Gracian Grill](#)
- 26 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 November.

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 (WIN System node)
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

ARRG Linked Repeaters				
Cummings Mountain (7,800')	444.425	100 Hz Tone		

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@arri.net
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	w6wbt@arri.net
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	rcgretlein@me.com
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 134
Keene, CA 93561