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Contact Us

- Via [Facebook](#)
- Via WWW.AC6EE.ORG
- U.S. Mail:
TARA
P.O. Box 134
Keene, CA 93561

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!

The year 2022 is winding down, even if summer isn't. Besides that, the terms of our current officers are winding down as well. This is when we start putting out the call for people to run for office. We have at least three (probably four) people who need to take a break from being an officer. We have two people who are interested in serving in office. I would like to encourage you all who have not served this last term to offer up your time and talents to help keep TARA running. I'll collect the names and keep you posted on the campaigns as they develop. We will vote by both email and optionally at our Christmas party in December. The Christmas party IS our December meeting.

Our VE Session program (testing for people to get licensed) continues to do well. This October, we had 4 candidates who were each successful. Two got upgrades to Extra, one got his new Technician, and one double-tapped for Tech and General. I congratulate each of these hams.

In the news: what was formerly called the Gorman Ridge Rally (car race) is being moved from the Hungry Valley Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) area to the former site of the High Desert Trails Rally around the Kelso Valley. Some of us will be supporting communications at the rally as hams. Please consider signing up as a volunteer at www.rallydata2.com. If you're a returning volunteer use your password from the previous rallydata website; if you're a new volunteer, you'll create a new password. Be sure to put in your T-shirt size, as all volunteers get lunch, dinner, and an event shirt!

EDITORS' Note:

For the November newsletter the topic will be Digital Modes. Whether it is PSK, Packet, RTTY or Weak signal modes (FT 8, FT4, JS8 to name a few). Tell us of your digital setup and an interesting digital QSO you've had.

As Dan, said the two year term of the officers expires this December. If any of you would like to take a turn at editing the newsletter, please let Dan or me know. I will run a transition session to familiarize the new editor with MailChimp and associated tools I've used.

73 ...Ray W6QPA

From the Secretary

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

I don't have any particular QSO's, so in general I like being able to talk to other countries on the ham radio. I'm looking forward to communicating with ISS someday too.

Don't forget the Mulligan Room breakfast count to me by this Friday 10/14/2022; preferably at the club monthly meeting this Thursday 10/13/2022.

Humor

Laura Sherrod — KI6EOG

Beauty parlor: A place where women curl up and dye.

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh? "Hmmm, sounds fishy".

Memorable QSO's

Dylan Durst — KN6QOQ

As a fairly new ham, I don't have too many memorable QSOs, but I certainly appreciated making a couple in June of this year at TARA's Field Day setup at Brite Lake here in Tehachapi. With the help of the local club's incredible effort on setup of HF gear, I was able to make 2 QSOs, one to Washington State and another to the Northern East Coast of the United States. Other than having good company and equipment available, it was also a great place to bring my family to see what was going on!

Dave Walter — WA5GUL

One of my favorite QSOs occurred on December 6, 1967. Licensed in 1963, I was a relatively new ham eagerly

seeking those "different" call signs known as DX. With most of the bands open around the clock, I had adopted 10 meters as a favorite. While scanning the 10 meter frequencies, I came across a pile up calling GB5QM. I determined it was the RMS Queen Mary cruise ship heading to the United States from Britain with a final destination of Long Beach, California.



With an elevated heartbeat and sweaty hands, I called "GB5QM this is WA5GUL Whisky Alpha 5 Golf Uniform Lima". To my surprise, my call was acknowledged. This was in the days of amplitude modulation and I was running 90 watts with an EICO 720/outboard modulator/Hallicrafters S-40A/inverted vee at 50'. There were many "Big Guns" on the bands running 1 KW or ?.

The Queen Mary also has a special interest to me since it was converted to troop transport during WW II and my father was one of its "passengers". The Queen Mary was the first maritime mobile station operated by Americans to be licensed by the British General Post Office.

Once in Long Beach, the radio room remained available for hams to operate (as W6RO) by appointment until 2020. Significant safety repairs leave its re-opening date and floating life uncertain.



Phil Dolber — W6WBT

I know this month is supposed to be about our favorite QSO but, all I could come up with a most fun operating experience, and a most memorable QSO.

Most memorable would have to be my first QSO with someone I didn't know using a home built 15-watt CW only transmitter, a modified aircraft receiver I borrowed from my uncle, and a random length antenna running out my window up to the top of an Italian Cypress (about 25' high).

My favorite operating experience was a few years ago, maybe more. But first let me share what led to that experience. A few years prior my wife Sylvia's cousin got married on the Queen Mary. Part of the wedding package included a block of rooms at a discount rate. So, Sylvia and I decided to take advantage and stay the night on the ship. The next morning, we enjoyed a nice breakfast and discussed going on self-guided tour. Sylvia had picked up a brochure earlier at the desk describing the tour. It sounded interesting so we went for it.

We started the tour by entering the elevator on the main deck to go down to the lowest deck on the tour and make our way up. When we entered the elevator there was a gentleman riding the elevator down too. He was dressed in a work uniform and he asked if we were on the self-guided tour. Of course, we answered yes, and he suggested we checkout whatever we wanted to on the ship and if anyone said anything to us tell them we are on the self-guided tour and we got lost. What a great suggestion, we saw all kinds of things that weren't on the tour. Nobody questioned us however, we did come out a door that was obviously the start of a guided tour. There was a line and a rather officially dressed woman with a surprised look on her face as we came out. At that point we explored the upper decks coming across the radio room. It was not open, but you could see in and there was information to read saying that it was not the original radio room. I believe the original radio room had been adjacent to the bridge. There was a sign stating the station was managed by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach (W6RO). There was also a statement similar to the following (my memory is not so great). "Visiting licensed radio amateurs may operate our station at the discretion of the W6RO Control Operator on duty. When you are in Long Beach, call us on **145.510** FM simplex. This frequency is usually monitored when there is a crew member on duty at W6RO." Unfortunately, the Wireless Room was never open during our visit.

However, a couple of years later, maybe more, we made arrangements to stay on the Queen Mary while we were in Long Beach to celebrate my mother-in-law's birthday. Prior to that visit I

contacted one of the Directors of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach to find out in advance if the Wireless Room would be open any time that weekend. I got a thumbs up for Sunday morning along with instructions to bring my license. When I arrived Sunday morning I was greeted by David Akins (N6HHR) who was just unlocking the station. He checked my license, gave me some log sheets and sat me down at one of the stations. The station was equipped with a Yaesu FT-950, a tri-band beam and a Heil microphone. Using the W6RO call sign I started calling CQ. A station came back immediately, and so it went for a couple of hours, maybe less. The QSO's were plentiful, I don't recall how many contacts I made but I filled at least a log sheet, or maybe less. It was a fun time that I would recommend to any licensed amateur. Did I forget to mention it was the ARRL DX SSB contest weekend?

Note: The "maybes" are to make up for any embellishment on my part, intentional, or due to a memory lapse.

Links to Learn More

- The Queen Mary - Our Story – Amateur Radio <https://queenmary.com/history/amateur-radio/>
- The Wireless Installation <https://www.sterling.rmplc.co.uk/visions/wireless.html>

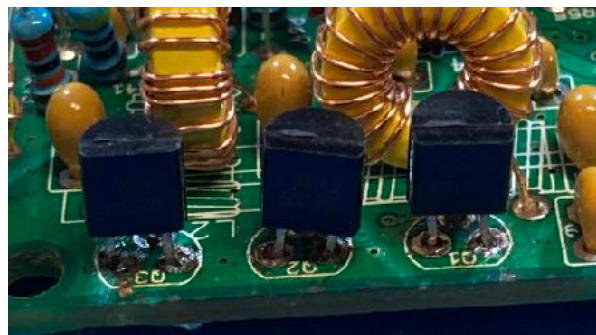
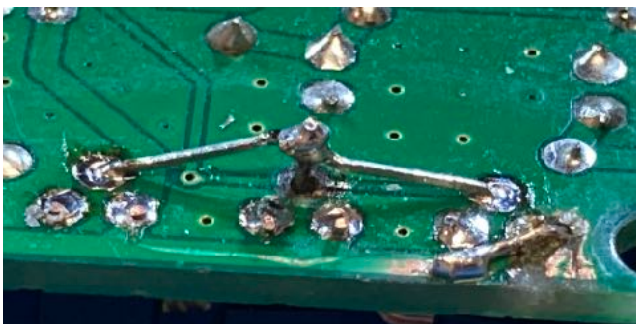
On the Bench

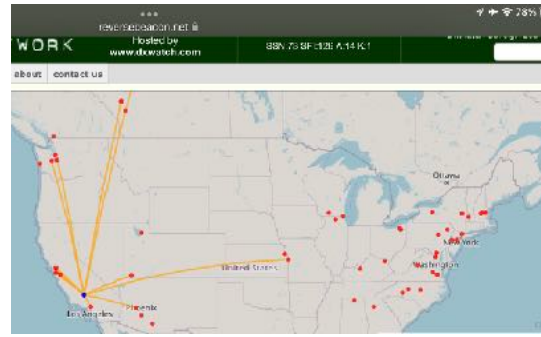
This is a semi-regular column for members to share the off-the-air aspects of their ham radio activities. Using a sports metaphor, on-the-bench refers to a player not currently active in the game. So, applying that in a ham radio context, what is "On-the-(work)bench" in your shack?

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

I have a small pile of projects "on-the-bench"; traps for a planned multi-band sloping dipole, several unbuilt radio kits and amplifiers (no not QRO ... only 50 watts ... I'm remaining within 10 dB to my QRP roots <grin>). But for this inaugural submission, I'll share a repair that started out as a salvage for spare parts. I was given a QRP Labs QCX Classic (out of production) CW transceiver on 40 meters to be used for parts due to blown final transistors and lifted traces on the printed circuit board.

I had just read an article on PCB trace repair using fine solder wick or coax braid to patch the trace. I also recently acquired a number of BS-170 transistors that are used as the final amplifiers. So, armed with an approach to repairing the traces, I decided to try a repair before I scrapped it for parts.





Turns out that the repair was a success! I didn't end up using any solder wick or coax braid for the repair. While it is not pretty, it does perform well, producing about 3 watts. Connected to a 30 Ft vertical antenna, the signal was copied 1356 miles away according to the Reverse Beacon Network website.

The Operating Room

This is a semi-regular column for club members to share the on-the-air aspects of their ham radio activities.

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

As I've mentioned in previous editions of "The Dummy Load" I enjoy QRP and CW. My CW, from the day I was first licensed, has never been good, however, it has improved over the past year or so thanks to two semesters of the CWOPS CW Academy (<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/>). I'm still not at the level I'd like to be. I'm using N1MM+ for logging which has an interface to FLDIGI CW Reader. With the CW reader as a safety net, I copy as much as I can in my head and glance over when I miss something. This arrangement along with the CW Academy training has raised my confidence enough to try my hand at the following events:

- K1USN Slow Speed Contest (SST) — <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html> — It is a very short exchange of your Name and State ... and it is all below 20 words per minute (WPM). That sure didn't sound like a slow speed to me before the CW Academy!
- CWOPS Tests (CWT) — <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/> — much like the SST but with no speed limit. Many of these ops are crazy fast (for me) running at 30+ WPM ... I don't copy many of them either ... it's a stretch-goal to say the least.
- Parks On-The-Air — <https://parksontheair.com/> — One of the difficulties in trying to improve my CW has been finding others to work. The POTA website has proven to be a good way to find others looking for a contact. Using <https://pota.app/#/> I can find park activators looking for a contact. I operate as a "Hunter" since I have yet to operate from a park. Again it is a limited exchange generally a signal report, your location and maybe a brief greeting.
- State QSO Parties — <http://stateqsoparty.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SQP-FAQs.pdf> — This is another brief exchange form of contact, usually a signal report and a county. If you're not located in the QSO Party State you send your state abbreviation instead of the county.

All of these QSO's provide me with CW experience but they are very brief exchanges, not a conversation or "Ragchew". They are very much like an FT8 exchange, yes a contact but not very satisfying from the social interaction standpoint. For "Ragchews" I've taken to dialing across the bands (30 meters mostly) on weekdays (when most of us operating might be retired) looking for someone sending CQ. I'll answer and occasionally get to practice a lot of random CW by finding someone looking for a conversation. Last week I came up on 30 meters and the frequency at power-up had a station calling CQ, that resulted in about a half-hour QSO. As soon as that QSO finished I tuned just a bit further up the band and came across another CQ and had another 30+ minute QSO.

That's what's been happening in my "Operating Room". How about yours? Please consider sharing your on-the-air activities by submitting something for next month.

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>

October 2022

- 1-2 [Collegiate QSO Party](#)
- 15-16 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 17-21 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2022

- 5-7 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)
- 12-13 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
- 19-21 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)

December 2022

- 2-4 [160 Meter](#)
- 10-11 [10 Meter](#)
- 18 [Rookie Roundup-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.

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.

December 2022

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

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

Local Repeater Information				
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

ARRG Linked Repeater				
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@arrl.net
1st Vice President	Phil Dolber	W6WBT	w6wbt@arrl.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