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Contact Us

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

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Hi all,

Well, that's it; another year come and gone at TARA. We managed to have some radio fun this year with stuff like an antenna build party, Field Day, VE sessions, breakfast fellowships, a rally car race, and the capper, a great December meeting and Christmas party. Our meetings have been getting better and better attendance with the December one being the biggest. We had 25 people (if you count the baby), and everyone had a great time! The Don Perico restaurant took good care of us.

During the party, we conducted only a little club business, but I did put out a final call of officers. As of right now, I'm continuing as President and doubling as 1st Vice, John Dyer is Treasurer and Secretary, and Ray is continuing with 2nd Vice doing a stellar job with the Dummy Load. We may re-vamp our bylaws to make more possible officer structures. We are ready to tackle the next two years with gusto, and already have some great things in the works.

I'd like to give a shout out to our departing officers, Phil Dolber W6WBT, and Valerie KK6WLQ. Thank you both for all your hard work. I'm sure I speak for the entire club in wishing you all the best, and that your time away is blessed.

We got several members renewed at the party, as well as one new member, David KM4OGV. Please, I encourage you if you have not renewed, please continue to support the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association with your membership.

73, Dan Mason, AB6DM

EDITORS' Note:

For the January newsletter the topic is "Projects". We're looking for any ham related projects you'd like to share whether it is plans, dreams or committed activity. Please share your plans for the year.

73 ...Ray W6QPA

Secretary's Corner

Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

Don't forget breakfast at Mulligan Room in BVS, sometimes it gets really busy for our group, that's great, just need enough spots reserved to hold us all. If you haven't told me your coming, I need you to contact me today! val3mason@yahoo.com and how many people you expect coming with you. Thanks. Live outside of BVS? Contact Dan or I for guest pass.

Portable Operations

Ridge Rally 2022 — John Dyer — KM6DXY

A significant portable operation is the club's support of the Ridge Rally 2022. The "Ham" team from the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association met at 0500 (that's 5:00 am) Saturday, December 3rd, at McDonalds for a quick breakfast. Our team included Dick Brown (W6SLZ), Dave Walter

(WA5GUL), Dan Mason (AB6DM), Valerie Mason (KK6WLQ), Joshua Dyer (KN6HWS) and John Dyer (KM6DXY). Carl Gehricke (N6RNC) worked in the Service Area of the event and provided a WiFi internet connection for the teams.



Lee Sorenson (N6STI) gives a "Pre-Briefing" briefing to the "Hams" that arrived early.

We arrived well before our 0700 (7:00 am) briefing and received a "pre-briefing" briefing from Lee Sorenson (N6STI). The weather was better than expected. Very little, if any, rain or snow. We expected and were prepared for the worst. Rain earlier in the week helped keep the dust down and visibility was great.

After the briefing, Paula Gibeault (N6OQQ), Carl Schmid (WA6BSV) and his wife Lauren, distributed I.D. badges, the competitor list, radio signs, the "OK / SOS" signs, and event t-shirts to everyone.

Having completed this task, the Hams lined up their vehicles behind Paula's White Toyota Tundra and made their way to their assigned locations (blockages or Start/Finish radio positions).

Dan and Valerie (AB6DM / KK6WLQ) worked Blockage 9 (Caliente) for Stages 4, 6, 7 and 12. Dick and Dave (W6SLZ / WA5GUL) worked "Stop" (Yankee) for Stage 4, "10B" (Yankee) for

Stage 6 and then “Start/Stop” (Fox) for Stages 7 and 12. John and Joshua (KM65DXY/KN6HWS) worked Blockage 12 (Padres) for Stage 5 and 6. After the completion of Stage 6, John and Joshua had to relocate to Blockage 5 (Bright Star) for Stages 8 and 11. They also had the additional duty of supervising (Overwatch) for Blockage 6 (Sageland).

Job Duties at each of the locations were fairly simple. Each blockage simply had to be able to maintain radio communication with their Comm Captain, ID with their callsign every 10 minutes as directed by their Comm Captain, communicate and log the passing of “Official” race vehicles, and log when the rally competitors passed their location. They did not need to report over the air when a rally car passed their location unless the vehicle appeared to be out of order. This could indicate that a rally car was passed, broke down or ran off the course.

While working Blockage 12 (Padres) during Stage 6, John and Joshua had a rally car break down right in front of their blockage. The Driver and Co-Driver of car #587, crewed by Driver Jerry Smith and Co-Driver Andres Bautista, did exactly what they were supposed to do. That is to say, they deployed the “Hazard” triangle reflector and then displayed the “OK” sign to let other rally cars know they were ok and to continue with their run. Joshua kept an eye on them as John contacted the Comm Captain with the situation and updated him as the situation progressed. Rally cars #560 and #374 passed by completing their run(s) before the 999 car and the sweeps arrived. Team 587 were able to correct the problem and complete the stage.



Car #587 stopped at Blockage 12 (Padres). Photo Courtesy of Joshua Dyer (KN6HWS)

After completing their Blockage duties for Stage 6, John and Joshua (KM6DXY/KN6HWS) relocated, along with other Oakley stage hams to their new blockage locations on the Tower City 50 stage. John and Joshua were assigned Blockages 5 & 6 on that stage. This required them to relocate about 9.3 miles.

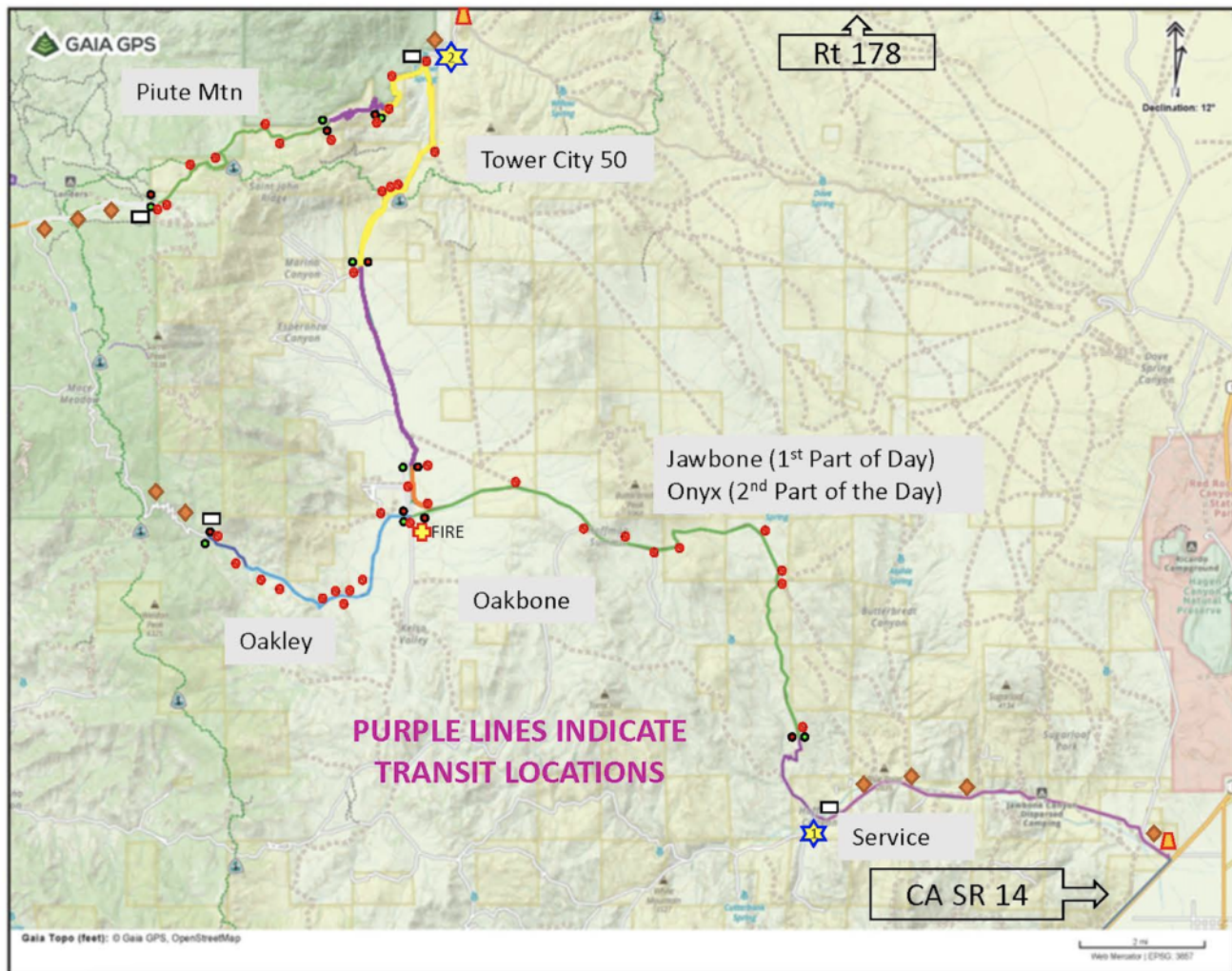
After setting up at their blockage, John and Joshua (KM6DXY/KN6HWS) had some more excitement during Stage 8. Rally Car #760 miscued their turn transitioning from Kelso Valley Road onto Piute Mountain Road (close to a “hairpin” turn). This caused them to overrun the turn and into the caution tape. They were able to back up and continue on course.



Needless to say, John and Joshua, with the encouragement of EOI, backed up no less than 100 feet more — just in case...

The night portion of the rally created the most challenge for the hams. The challenge had to do with identifying the rally cars as they raced by. The car numbers, and in some cases even the car colors, were difficult to see at night. Using ones headlights to help illuminate the rally cars could also distract or blind them depending on the blockage and block vehicle position. The night portion, however, went very well.

All in all, most stages started with 16 cars and finished with 16 cars. Everyone, organizers, competitors, and hams all did a great job! Without a doubt, hams from the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association, enjoy and look forward to participating in the rally. It gives them an opportunity to practice their radio skills in the field in support of a great event. As you can see in the map below, there is a great need for hams to help out and volunteer for the rally. It makes for a long day, but most certainly a great experience.



Overall Ridge Rally 2022 Stage Map

If you would like more information on participating in future Rallies, please feel free to contact us via any one of the methods listed on our webpage at [Contact Us](#) or <https://ac6ee.org/contact/> Check the TARA on-line photo album at <https://ac6ee.org/photo-album/> for event photos or click here for a [Slideshow](#).

Ridge Rally 2022 — Valerie Mason — KK6WLQ

We were set to help with a rally car race the next day and it was raining, and snowing at our house. Dan did the best he could on sealing the window to put a radio in the car for comm's (as they are called for the races) and setting up everything carefully against moisture from the storm to try to succeed.

We met with our team and stayed in communication in route the whole way to get to our meeting spot at Jawbone Canyon entrance. Got our shirt, badge and paperwork and were taken out to our stations. Finalized set up of radio communications there with others on the frequency and waited for race time. We communicate car # and time they go by our car/station so we can help track if they go off course. Safety for drivers. There were 19 cars in race and 14 finished. Pretty good finish. They run several day time runs and usually one evening/night time run. We communicate by radio the whole time to even hear what is currently going on and delays etc. Our team also usually keeps in communication on the way home to make sure everyone makes it safely out of Jawbone and back to Tehachapi.

Great way to practice radio relay skills. For these trips, you definitely should have 4x4 capable or all-wheel-drive vehicle for roads. Off road driving most of the way.

Ray Gretlein — W6QPA

Slim pick'ins under this topic for me this year. My only portable operations was for Field Day and that was an abbreviated effort while attending my brother-in-law's wedding in Missouri. It was fun and as usual; instructive. Once again I learned that I never have enough of the "right" tools or equipment. Not that I don't learn from previous experiences, it's just that I keep finding new ways to break things. This time it was the inverted vee mast that I've used for several years and never had a problem.

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



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’m beginning to look into the spectral purity of the QRP transceivers I’ve assembled. To make these measurements without overloading the monitor receiver (or a spectrum analyzer ... someday ... are you listening Santa??) an attenuator is needed.

I came across a reference to the Pacific Antenna’s 41db Step RF Attenuator (<http://www.qrpkits.com/attenuator.html>) in one of the QRP groups I follow. It is inexpensive quick building and useful.

The black square at the top of the photo is a 3D printed case (<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:3728178>) referenced on the Pacific Antenna page for the attenuator.



Assembly took a couple of hours. Finished attenuator is shown at left.

It can add up to 41 db of attenuation in 1 db increments by toggling 6 different sections on or off. They are each 20, 10, 5, 3, 2 and 1 db.

The Operating Room

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

Not much happening in our “Operating Rooms” (or at least at W6QPA) as the holiday season draws the focus from hamming. Perhaps next month our members will be able to share their on-air-adventures. Please consider submitting your on-the-air activities next month.

Humor

Laura Sherrod — KI6EOG

Tomorrow: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

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>.

Another source for contest and on-the-air activity is WA7BNM Contest Calendar at <https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

December 2022

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

January 2023

- 1 [Straight Key Night](#)
- 7 [Kid's Day — Jan](#)
- 7-8 [RTTY Roundup](#)
- 21-23 [January VHF Contest](#)

February 2023

- 13-17 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 18-19 [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 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](#)
- 31 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 December.

January 2023

- 4, 11, 18, 25 – 19:00 PST “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 5 – 19:00 PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 12 – 19:00 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 14 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at [Gracian Grill](#)
- 28 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 January.

February 2023

- 1, 8, 15, 22 – 19:00 PDT/PST “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 PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 11 — 08:30 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at [Gracian Grill](#)
- 25 — 08:00 PST, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 14 February.

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

Local Repeater Information				
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

<u>ARRG</u> 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/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	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 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