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Contact Us

- Via [Facebook](#)
- Via WWW.AC6EE.ORG
- U.S. Mail:
TARA
P.O. Box 134
Keene, CA 93531

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Greetings, TARA.

Since the theme this month is about your favorite ham radio activities, I'll just mention a few coming up for our club.

Every month, you can join us for ham radio chat (and other subjects) at either of our two breakfast gatherings, the weekly Wednesday night Just Because Net, the weekly Sunday night BVS ERT Net, and our monthly general meeting in town. Also, we host semi-monthly VE sessions at the Tehachapi Salvation Army.

Coming up on Saturday, May 13, is a road trip to the Burro Schmidt Tunnel. After that will be ARRL Field Day the last full weekend of June.

We are also planning a road trip to McIver's Cabin in the Sierras, and possibly another to the Reward Mine, in the Eastern Sierras. Dates are TBD.

We will also support comms at the Ridge Rally rally car race in early December in the region of Jawbone Canyon/Kelso Valley. If there is a bicycle ride/race in our vicinity, we will certainly support that too.

Then after we finish the year, we will do our second annual Winter Field Day. It was fun and not too cold, actually.

Interspersed throughout the year are radio ops contests and hamfests you can do with friends or solo.

As you can see, there are lots of opportunities for your future favorite activities! 73, Dan

EDITORS' Note:

For the June newsletter the focus is your Net Activities — What Nets do you participate in? Do you check in to the daily Mission Trails Net (one of the oldest continuously operating nets); an emergency preparedness net like the BVSERT or an Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) net; or a general topic net like the TARA Just Because Net? Whatever your favorite nets might be introduce us to your favorite by sending a paragraph or more describing your favorite activity to w6qpa@ac6ee.org

Favorite Ham Activities

Working Satellites

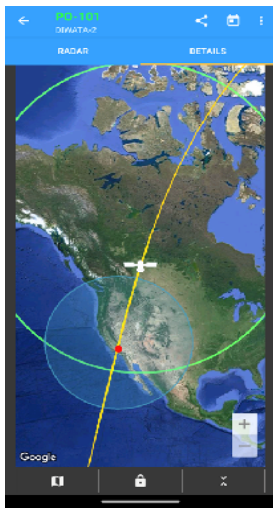
Micah Martin, KN6VUT

Hello everyone!

As anyone on the weekly “Just Because” Net knows, I keep having new Ham activities that I dive into, then add a little bit of previous knowledge to my Ham activity of the moment.

Right now, I’m fascinated with working Ham satellites.

I use a couple of old cell phones to track and aim my antennas, as well as record the audio because the communications, even using phonetics, is so fast, I can’t keep up.



My favorite app for Satellite tracking is ISS Detector Pro. There is a free version, but I splurged the \$2.99 to get rid of the ads. It’s available for iPhone and Android.

This app not only shows the ISS, but you can choose which amateur satellites, miscellaneous satellites, planets, stars, or other things to track.

This app shows a map with a footprint of the satellites’ coverage, as well as a “RADAR” that uses your phone to find the right direction and angle to aim your antenna.

Using a Baofeng UV5r Handheld I have been able to pick up conversations of people using the satellite repeaters. I usually use two radios, one to transmit, the other to listen to see if I’m hitting the repeater.



Since building my Yagi has been on my to-do list since



right after I got my license , I'm using a J-Pole for transmitting, and a long 'Tactical' antenna for receiving.

The ISS as well as some satellites have Digipeaters for APRS, so you can send an APRS signal as well as a short message, through the satellite, and show it was received and forwarded from ISS or another satellite.

The ISS as well as some satellites will, on some occasions, send SSTV images. I'm excited to receive some.

The *MKA ORBICRAFT-ZORKIY* satellite is scheduled to send SSTV images from May 7 through May 13.

When the International Space Station is directly overhead, the signals are loud and clear with a handheld whip antenna. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to make contact *directly* on a satellite. There was one that had "Not Heard" reports, but I was outside and thought I'd try anyway. I believe I was activating the satellites' repeater, when I called out, the static stopped on the receiving radio for a moment. I tried calling several times, and each time the static dropped like the repeater activated for a moment. I'm counting it and gave myself my own QSL Card.

As I hear or don't hear communications I report them to the AMSAT status page. Someone looked me up on QRZ as he was "working the Bird" and asked about my equipment. He gave me some pointers and a lot of information that has helped me.

You can find current information on active satellites at <https://www.amsat.org/> , here is a link to the Wikipedia page <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AMSAT>

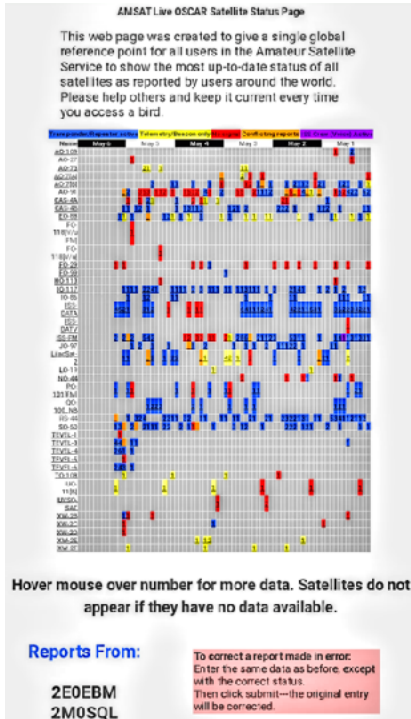
For satellite information, I also use <https://www.nzyo.com/satellites/?c=18> AMSAT is helpful and was easy enough to start following and understanding. The site includes the following pages-

1. ARRIS - Amateur Radio on the International Space Station
2. Communication satellites, here's a link. <https://www.amsat.org/two-way-satellites/>
 - A. FM Repeater satellites (my favorite so far)
 - B. Transponder Satellites
 - C. Digital Satellites
 - D. Re-entered or inoperative.
3. Satellite frequencies and CTCSS codes.

AMSAT is kind of a one stop shop to find current satellites. I find the site is pretty convenient and I have shortcuts to a couple of their pages on my phone to check up to the minute status. There is a page with a user supplied status for the 'Birds'. The page shows people reporting they are working the satellite or have "Heard". Updates will also show not working or "Not Heard" or "Telemetry" only. Here is a link to the status page. <https://www.amsat.org/status/>

ARRIS also has a page for the status and a schedule of when the ISS's Ham and or digipeater will be turned off and back on. <https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html>

The next thing in satellites I'm looking into is downloading the images from weather satellites and also decoding the telemetry of the satellites. As I understand it, I need to purchase a device



called an SDR or Software Defined Radio and build a special antenna to receive and decode these different transmissions.

Here is a [link](#) to an Amazon listing for the SDR .

I hope this is of interest to some people!

73!

Nets, Fellowship, Contests and Public Service

Dan Mason, AB6DM

When Ray emailed us for articles about “Favorite Ham Activities,” he listed the possibilities of assembling kits or building your own design, rag-chewing, contesting, DX’ing, Fox hunts, QRP’ing, portable operation (SOTA, POTA, IOTA), public service or... I thought to myself that I love to do ALL those things. Problem is, I can't do them all, or at least not often. I have actually gotten to at least try those things, but some are once then put on the back burner. The things that get the most of my time and I enjoy are as follows: The Just Because Net, the BVS ERT Net, the Western Kern County ARES Net, watching ham radio YouTube videos, the two ham radio breakfasts, VE sessions, Summer and Winter Field Day, the International DX Contest, now overland radio trips, rally race comms support, and bicycle race/ride comms support. That's a bunch of stuff!

Assembling & Operating

Ray Gretlein, W6QPA

I’ve always enjoyed building ham equipment. Someday I hope to have learned enough to assemble something of my own design. In the meantime though, I’ve been assembling ham gear since the mid 1960s. Projects have ranged from a code practice oscillator, to my first HF rig, a Heathkit HW-16 (novice rig), a couple of Heathkit HW-17 2-meter radios for Civil Air Patrol frequencies, and the conversion of surplus aircraft radios to ham frequencies. About 20 years later I assembled LDG QRP antenna tuner and St Louis Vertical with a W6MMA tuning coil

antenna and an electronic keyer. Most recently I've assembled a number of QRP rigs, dummy loads, antennas and test equipment from [QRP Labs](#), [QRPGuys](#), [SOTA Beams](#) .

Once assembled, the thrill of making a contact with the devices you've just put together just can't be beat. So operating with these rigs has become a favorite activity as well as assembling them. I've begun to participate in CW QSO parties, and contests.

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?

APRS in a Handheld

Dan Mason, AB6DM

I wanted to get a serious HT with APRS and GPS to take my public service game up a notch. The Kenwood TH-D74A is out of production now, so I looked at the Icom ID-52A and the Yaesu FT5DR. I want to be able to organize the memory into groups for public service support, have APRS with GPS built in, and have a digital FM mode. Both of these check those boxes. However, there is a strong case for Yaesu's System Fusion (C4FM) here because I know a few people and repeaters with it. So I paid \$120 less and got the FT5DR.

Now starts the learning curve to make it sing the way I imagined. It turns out it's pretty easy as it has a good menu system with a touchscreen. I easily got a bunch of starter freqs/repeaters as well as APRS with GPS (AB6DM-7) running in short order. Lots more to do, and I have high hopes for this HT.

The Operating Room

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

First Satellite QSO!

Micah Martin, KN6VUT

I managed the contact on [Lilacsat-2](#) on 8 May 2023.

The reception was scratchy, so I had to listen a few times to get the callsign [ED: see his [Favorite Activities entry](#) for a description of the equipment]. As I was looking it up, it was the guy that had contacted me, and then my email went off, it was the guy who called me. He said I was clear and they kept calling me back, I only heard it at the end.

I told him he was my first contact and I was sending him my QSL. He said he had a QSL with a satellite on it and he would send me it!

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>

June 2023

- 3-4 — [International Digital Contest](#)
- 10-12 — [June VHF](#)
- 17 — [Kid's Day](#)
- 24-25 — [ARRL Field Day](#)

July 2023

- 8-9 — [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2023

- 5-6 — [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)
- 19-20 — [10 GHz & Up - Round 1](#)
- 20 — [Rookie Roundup - RTTY](#)
- 12-13 — [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

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.

June 2023

- 7, 14, 21, 28 — 1900 hrs PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 1 — 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 — 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 10 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at P-dubs 20800 Santa Lucia St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 7 June.
- 10 — 1100 hrs PDT — VE License Exam Session Salvation Army Community Room 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA

- 24 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 21 June.

July 2023

- 5, 12, 19, 26 – 1900 hrs PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 6 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at P-dubs 20800 Santa Lucia St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 5 July
- 8 — 1100 hrs PDT — VE License Exam Session Salvation Army Community Room 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA
- 13 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 22 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 19 July

August 2023

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 1900 hrs PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 3 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 10 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 12 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian’s Grill, 860 E Tehachapi Blvd. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 9 August.
- 26 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 23 August.

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)

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 and much of the San Joaquin Valley. They are linked together and more information may be found at <http://www.KernSystem.org>

<u>KERN System Linked Repeaters</u>				
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			
Officer/Committee Chair	Name	Call	Email
President	Dan Mason	AB6DM	ab6dm@arrl.net
1st Vice President	Dan Mason (Interim)	AB6DM	ab6dm@arrl.net
2nd Vice President	Ray Gretlein	W6QPA	w6qpa@ac6ee.org
Secretary/Treasurer	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@ac6ee.org
Technical Director	Dick Brown	W6SLZ	db24130@sbcglobal.net
Web Page & FaceBook Committee Chair	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@ac6ee.org

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, our meeting site is now the 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 93531