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## Contact Us

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

## A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Greetings, TARA.

For TARA, the first half of 2023 was fantastic! We did a lot of great stuff. We had some great meetings, good breakfasts, three VE sessions where a bunch of new hams were made or upgraded (including a new VE), a ham over-landing trip, a Cub Scout presentation, and two Field Days. Also, the Bear Valley Springs Emergency Radio Team has started meeting to prepare to serve our first served agency, the BVS Police. I hope we can have a great second of 2023, but it will be hard to beat the first.

With summer heating up, we will have to be careful with our next outdoor plans. We got a suggestion of going to the coast, but it looks like the coast is all booked up. The mountains may be the answer to that. Also parts of Tehachapi are not too bad at times. Another way to cope with summer would be to plan something indoors, like a workshop of some sort where our newer hams (and I) can see some of the more interesting modes implemented.

73, Dan

**EDITORS' Note:**

For the August newsletter let's discuss your Phone activities. Whether you operate AM, SSB, FM, DMR or other digital-voice modes, describe your station and a favorite QSO.

Please share your experience by sending a paragraph or more describing activity to [w6qpa@ac6ee.org](mailto:w6qpa@ac6ee.org)

73 ...Ray [W6QPA](#)

## Field Day Recap

I thought we'd present the recap as an Association summation and then individual perspectives of those that sent in a submission. — Ray W6QPA

### TARA Summary

#### Ray, W6QPA

At High Country Park, 6100 ft elevation, the Association deployed:

- two HF SSB Phone stations, staffed principally by Dick Brown, W6SLZ and Keith Graves, NE7R on generator power
- an HF CW station principally staffed by Ray Gretlein, W6QPA running on solar and battery
- an HF digital station principally staffed by Dave Burnell, KM4OGV running on battery power
- a VHF FM/SSB Phone station operated by Will Perry, WA6LDQ running on solar/battery
  - a GOTA (Get-on-the-air) VHF station supervised by Micah Martin, KN6VUT running on battery power

Contributing to FD success are:

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Dick and CJ Brown (W6SLZ) | Keith and Lois Graves (NE7R & W7LAG)   |
| David Burnell (KM4GOV)    | Dave Walter (WA5GUL)                   |
| John Dyer (KM6DXY)        | Dan and Valerie Mason (AB6DM & KK6WLQ) |
| Will Perry (WA6LDQ)       | Ray Gretlein (W6QPA)                   |
| Micah Martin (KN6VUT)     | Ed Gordon (KD6RPJ)                     |
| Steven Lee (KN6ZGI)       | Adam and Connie Rocke (KG6QDZ)         |
| Mark Waller (WA7KBY)      | Rick Kannard                           |
| Howard Krawitz (AH6TX)    | Neil Record (KM6KOQ)                   |
| Dylan Durst (KN6QOQ)      |  |

Field Day Operators

|                        |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dick Brown (W6SLZ)     | Keith and Lois Graves (NE7R & W7LAG) |
| David Burnell (KM4GOV) | Dave Walter (WA5GUL)                 |
| Dan Mason (AB6DM)      | Ray Gretlein (W6QPA)                 |
| Will Perry (WA6LDQ)    | Micah Martin (KN6VUT)                |
| Ed Gordon (KD6RPJ)     |                                      |

These operating positions were housed in two tents (A two-room family sized tent and a one person backpacker tent) and a screen-sided pop-up.



Power for the two HF phone stations and the 'kitchen' were provided by three 2KW generators



The other stations were powered by solar and battery.

Antennas were Dick's, W6SLZ, 42ft mast (aka the 'Rocket Launcher') with tri-band beam atop; A 40 Meter vertical with raised radials; a 20 meter dipole, a back packer vertical for 15 meters, a two meter ground plane and a 2 meter j-Pole.



**Results:** Operating under the club call AC6EE, we logged 480 QSO's on 3 HF bands plus 2 meters, covered 48 CONUS States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, plus Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Cuba. Pretty cool! We're still reviewing the submission for accuracy, at this point we're going to be claiming 2380 points.

Mode Distribution

| Mode  | QSO's | Percent of QSO | Points | Percent of Points |
|-------|-------|----------------|--------|-------------------|
| Phone | 276   | 57.5%          | 276    | 41.3%             |
| CW    | 113   | 23.5%          | 226    | 33.8%             |
| FT-8  | 76    | 15.8%          | 152    | 22.7%             |
| FM    | 15    | 3.1%           | 15     | 2.2%              |
| Total | 480   |                | 669    |                   |

Participant Recaps

Dan, AB6DM

Our ARRL Field Day at High Country Park was awesome! I really enjoyed seeing such a diverse array of equipment all running at once. Ray has reported that we got a significant number of points, but I'll let him explain. It was also great getting to explain amateur radio and Field Day to KERO 23 correspondent Corey O'Leary. Our Field Day was masterfully

executed. But most of all, I want to express my gratitude to the whole club for the many hands helping to get everything done, and also to all the folks who came in to hang out with us, learn about amateur radio, and share in the fellowship. I really believe we won at least a couple visitors over to amateur radio, and that we will see them again.

### Valerie, KK6WLQ

Had a great Field Day and great location. Thank you to the crew who came together to clear the area we used for field day. Many hands make light work, right? Thank you.

Then the set up. Had a few hands to set up antennas and radios and serving tables for coffee, food, drinks, and info.

Thanks to [Sim Sanitation](#) for the porta-potties. Made things much easier.

We had 13 visitors, including a friend of mine. Glad you came to visit. BVS PD came for a visit to see the radios. Thank you. Everyone who came loved the view of the mountains. The Ham Radio signals were good, as far as I know. Congrats to all those who made contacts! Change of location I think was a good thing for finding out what signals you can get where in an emergency.

Thank you again for all the help and food that was brought. Plenty of snacks, food, and drinks. Thank you! We had a great crew who all worked hard to make the event a success.

### Ray, W6QPA

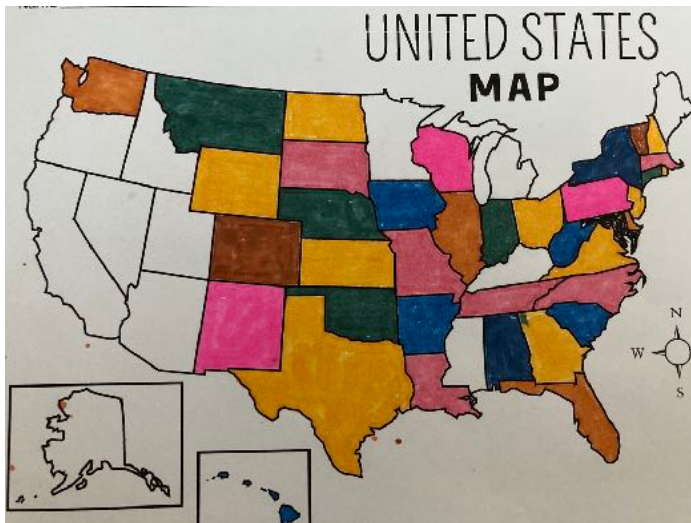
This year I set up my [QRP Labs QCX-mini](#) and a QRPLabs [“50” Watt amplifier](#) as the CW position for TARA’s Field Day operation. The “50” is in quotes because my particular configuration produced 32 watts due to DC power supply providing 19 instead of 22 volts. I also brought an Elecraft KX3 but never turned it on. Logging was done with a Microsoft Surface tablet on which I used N1MM+ logger. Dave WA5GUL took a turn running the position, too.



We operated on 20 meters exclusively. RF was fed to a [SOTA Beams Band Hopper III Linked-Dipole](#) through a 20m [band pass filter](#). I usually pitch the antenna as an Inverted Vee; however, Dick, W6SLZ, suggested I make it a slopping dipole by placing one end in a tree and secure the other to the “rocket launcher” tower with a rope he had connected to the top of the tower. This improved the SWR a bit and gave a little directionality over the inverted-vee.

All power was provided by two solar panels giving a total of 160 watts which powered the station, lights, computer, GPS receiver and kept a 144 watt/hr LiFePO<sub>4</sub> [Bioenno battery](#) charged. Power never reached a state that required operations to cease.

The CW station was powered-up for about 17 hours and actively operating just under 11 hours. In those hours 113 contacts were completed.



The CW contacts covered 49 ARRL Sections, 37 CONUS States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, 4 Canadian Provinces and Cuba.

This was my personal best score in a Field Day. Ironically, I also worked the last two states I need for the Worked All States certificate (Delaware & Vermont) but since I was operating as AC6EE I can't claim them ... oh well at least I've confirmed that there are Hams in those states ... however, they only seem to come out on field day!

## Will, WA6LDQ

I believe FD was a resounding success this year. The bands weren't that great but the fun and camaraderie was in abundance. It's always a pleasure to put faces with some of the new voices we hear on the air. I was determined to work only 2m and 6m SSB this year. The last time I had worked 6m was in 2000 on a patio in a condo we were renting in Stallion Springs. The rig was a [Tokyo Hy-Power HT tri-bander](#) with 2 watts on 6m SSB and 3 watts on 15m and 40m. This was one of several QRP rigs I had at the time. One CQ and I was into Colorado with a 579 signal report running 2 watts into a whip antenna. What a thrill!

Not so much at FD this year running 100 watts into a 58" 1/4 wave on my Honda. Well that's 6m for ya. Never heard one signal on SSB or FM. All the activity on 2m was FM on 146.52., No SSB activity in the 144.100 area. What a zoo, everybody on one frequency taking turns QRMing each other. I did manage to make 13 contacts, a couple in Kern County and the others in LA and Orange Counties running 40 watts into a 2m ground plane. I discovered that my 2m 4 element beam wasn't working. I'm suspecting it may have been a coax problem.

## Micah, KN6VUT

For Field Day I used my dual band Btech 25w mobile with a J-Pole hung from a tree branch.

The Bear Valley Springs location was great for 2m, I was amazed at the distance I was getting. I haven't finished putting my contacts together yet, but I picked up Los Angeles and Santa Barbara. I used the National Call frequency, which I checked, and, as per the ARRL, is allowed to be used for the Field Day contest.

I frequently think that Ham radio is either magic or sorcery!

Even though I've passed the tests, and learned radio and antenna propagation, sometimes, the correct answer on the test and the explanation go out the window for me when I actually put an element of ham radio into actual practice and see it working, It blows my mind!



I was impressed with how efficiently the group put up the big antenna. It was like an assembly line, just watching it go up was unbelievable.



## 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?

Will Perry, WA6LDQ

### Fiber Glass Mast Maintenance

Don't leave those military fiberglass mast sections laying outside in the sun. I did that and ended up having to sand and paint each one to eliminate those nasty itchy fibers. I spent a couple days on that project just before FD. After FD I decided to sand and paint several more and now have 10 sections completed. That will give me pretty close to a 40 foot mast that can be supported by the wheel plate under one of the tires on my car. I wonder how many more sections I could add before it would flip the Honda over in the event of a strong wind? If you use these type of mast sections be sure and use thumb screws or ring pins on each section to keep the mast sections from coming apart as it's being raised.

### Go Box Part Deux

Improving my go-box. Never really finished this project. The Icom IC-706MKIIG along with the LDG tuner and Bioenno 20 amp battery have been performing well for me over the past 2 yrs on SSB and CW but I never finished wiring the [Digirig](#) interface to work digital modes. I'm having some problems getting the Rx and Tx audio to show up on the USB port so will keep at it. That's about all that's happening on the bench right now. A future project will be another more compact go-box using my [Xiegu G-90](#) and a [12 amp Bioenno battery](#).

## The Operating Room

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

The operating adventures submitted this month are under the Field Day Recap. Watch for more stories here 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>.

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

### August 2023

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

### September 2023

- 9-11 [September VHF](#)
- 16-17 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)
- 9-10 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)

### October 2023

- 1-2 [Collegiate QSO Party](#)
- 16-20 [School Club Roundup](#)
- 28-29 [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.

### 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 Denny's 847 Magellan St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 9 August
- 12 — 1100 hrs PDT — VE License Exam Session Salvation Army Community Room 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA
- 26 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 23 August.

### September 2023

- 6, 13, 20, 27 - 1900 hrs PDT "Just Because" Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)

- 7 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Denny’s 847 Magellan St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 6 September.
- 14 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 30 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 27 September.

### October 2023

- 
- 4, 11, 18, 25 – 1900 hrs PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
  - 5 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
  - 14 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Denny’s 847 Magellan St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 5 July
  - 12 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
  - 14 — 1100 hrs PDT — VE License Exam Session Salvation Army Community Room 538 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA
  - 21 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 18 October
- 

## 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<br>145.580 | 123.0 Hz Tone<br>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 |         |                                |       |   |
|----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| <b>DMR Digital</b>         | 442.675 | Offset: +5.000<br>ColorCode: 1 | K7RET | Brandmeister, Bakersfield, CA<br>The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Cummings Mountain  |
| <b>DMR Repeater</b>        | 447.120 | Offset: -5.00<br>ColorCode: 1  | KR6DK | Brandmeister, McKittrick, CA<br>The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Double Mountain<br>This repeater is permanently linked to the KR6DK analog repeater system. |
| <b>Tehachapi Simplex</b>   | 145.58  | No Tone                        |       | Local Simplex   |
| <b>Tehachapi Simplex</b>   | 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 Repeater</u> s |         |               |        |              |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| <b>Frazier Mountain (8,000')</b>     | 447.860 | 141.3 Hz Tone | KK6AC  | Jerry Garis  |
| <b>Cummings Mountain (7,800')</b>    | 442.95  | 141.3 Hz Tone | KI6HHU | Lee Bouchard |
| <b>Double Mountain (8,000')</b>      | 446.320 | 151.4 Hz Tone | KI6HHU | Lee Bouchard |

| <u>ARRG</u> Linked Repeater       |         |             |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------------|--|--|
| <b>Cummings Mountain (7,800')</b> | 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  | <a href="http://www.ac6ee.org">http://www.ac6ee.org</a>   |
| TARA Facebook   | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/TARatehachapiamateurradio/">https://www.facebook.com/TARatehachapiamateurradio/</a> |
| Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club (AVARC)                  | <a href="http://www.k6ox.club/index.html">http://www.k6ox.club/index.html</a>   |
| Kern County-Central Valley Amateur Radio Club (KCCVARC)     | <a href="http://www.w6lie.org">http://www.w6lie.org</a>   |
| ARRL  | <a href="http://www.arrl.org">http://www.arrl.org</a>   |
| West Kern County Amateur Radio Emergency Services (WKCARES) | <a href="http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html">http://westernkerncountyares.org/index.html</a>                 |

| Officers & Committee Chairs         |                     |        |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------|--|
| Officer/Committee Chair             | Name                | Call   | Email  |
| President                           | Dan Mason           | AB6DM  | <a href="mailto:ab6dm@arrl.net">ab6dm@arrl.net</a>               |
| 1st Vice President                  | Dan Mason (Interim) | AB6DM  | <a href="mailto:ab6dm@arrl.net">ab6dm@arrl.net</a>               |
| 2nd Vice President                  | Ray Gretlein        | W6QPA  | <a href="mailto:w6qpa@ac6ee.org">w6qpa@ac6ee.org</a>             |
| Secretary/Treasurer                 | John Dyer           | KM6DXY | <a href="mailto:km6dxy@ac6ee.org">km6dxy@ac6ee.org</a>           |
| Technical Director                  | Dick Brown          | W6SLZ  | <a href="mailto:db24130@sbcglobal.net">db24130@sbcglobal.net</a> |
| Web Page & FaceBook Committee Chair | John Dyer           | KM6DXY | <a href="mailto:km6dxy@ac6ee.org">km6dxy@ac6ee.org</a>           |
| Hospitality Committee Chair         | Valerie Masson      | KK6WLQ | <a href="mailto:val3mason@yahoo.com">val3mason@yahoo.com</a>     |
| Public Affairs Committee            | Micah Martin        | KN6VUT | <a href="mailto:kn6vut@ac6ee.org">kn6vut@ac6ee.org</a>           |

## 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