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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.

National Night Out on August 1st was a huge success for TARA. We set up two booths, one in town and one in BVS. We got to schmooze both Chiefs' of Police, and now we may be able to gain the TPD as another served agency in addition to the BVPD. We also got a bunch of kids on the air as well as meeting a few local hams who didn't know we existed and were so active. We will get at least a couple new members from this. Thank you all who helped at one of the booths or checked into the net.

The board, along with Dick Brown, W6SLZ, has been brainstorming how to replace the batteries in our most important repeater, the W6SLZ repeater. It runs on just solar and batteries with no commercial power available. We believe the batteries will not make it through next winter. We have been trying to secure grants to pay for the batteries, but those efforts will not bear fruit until after the weather prevents us from getting up to the repeater. In the meantime, the board has voted to buy the batteries ASAP and install them in October. We will also give the repeater site other needed TLC for the winter. We will still pursue grants to recapture that cost and to fund other projects. We are also setting up a mechanism, like Go-Fund-Me, to get donations.

In other news, the board has decided to join the Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce. This will improve our name recognition in the community and open up opportunities for us.

We have a handful of public events coming up we would like to attend to generate more TARA love in both Tehachapi and Bakersfield. We will let you know about each in time and beg for personnel support.

73, Dan

EDITORS' Note:

For the September edition we're featuring "Summer Adventure" stories. Please share "What I did last summer" by sending a paragraph or more describing your HAM vacation/stay-cation experiences (or outings where HAM radio tagged along).

Send them to w6qpa@ac6ee.org by 12 September.

73 ...Ray W6QPA

Mode of the Month — Phone

Dan Mason, AB6DM

I have three phone mode OSOs that stick in my mind. One happened while operating from the High Country Park in BVS, the same place as our recent Field Day. We were operating on 20 meters, scanning the band, and stumbled upon a special event station at the Indianapolis 500 race. They told us that we could get a certificate if we also made contact with the special event stations at three major races, those being the Grand Prix, Indy 500, and NASCAR 200 at the brickyard. This peaked my interest in special event stations.

Another phone OSO I enjoyed was on actually on the Bird Springs 2 meter FM repeater. I took my family on a road trip to show the kids the site where we provided radio comms for the High Desert Trails rally car race. Our trip would take us North up the Hwy 14, West on Jawbone Canyon Road, then North on Kelso Valley Road to Hwy 178, and on and on. While on Kelso Valley Road, I hit up the Bird Springs repeater for giggles and was surprised when someone actually returned my call. What was interesting was that it was my good buddy Arron Ray, then KG6OVR (now N4ARY). As it turns out, he and his daughter were conducting school science project research many, many miles from us to the East (El Paso mountains), on the opposite side of the mountain ridge where The Bird Spring repeater lives. Who would have thought that two Tehachapi hicks would have an unplanned OSO like that!

The third OSO was at the 2023 International DX contest. Some of us made a team to work the contest. We would have an operator, a logger, and multiple supervisors in the room. I was not the one on the radio at the time, but was there when we made contact with what could only be an operator in North Korea. We were floored! To this day, I wonder if that guy is still alive after contacting the West. Maybe it was Kim Jong Un as he can do whatever he wants, LoL!

On the Bench

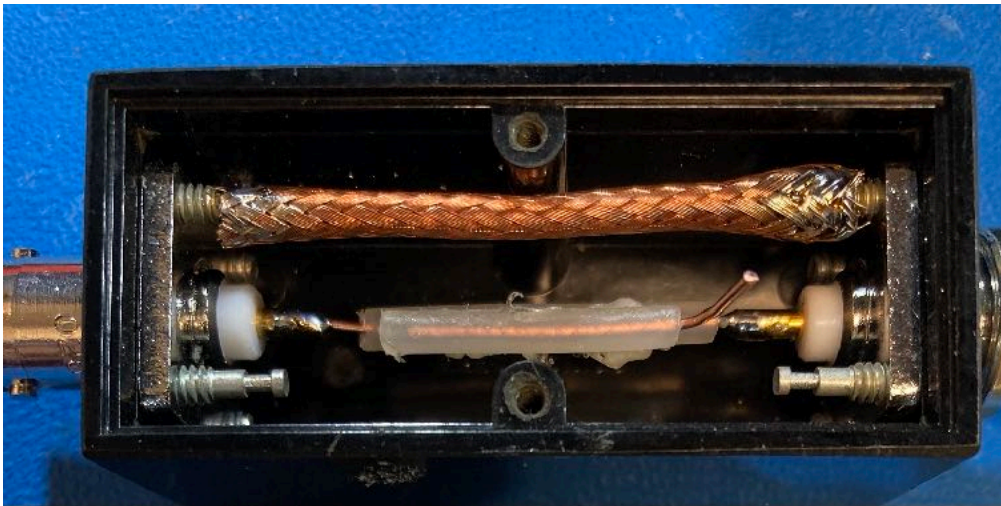
This is a semi-regular column for members to share the off-the-air aspects of their ham radio activities. Using a sports metaphor, on-the-bench refers to a player not currently active in the game. So, applying that in a ham radio context, what is “On-the-(work)bench” in your shack?

Multi-band Auto-sensing Low Pass Filter – Update

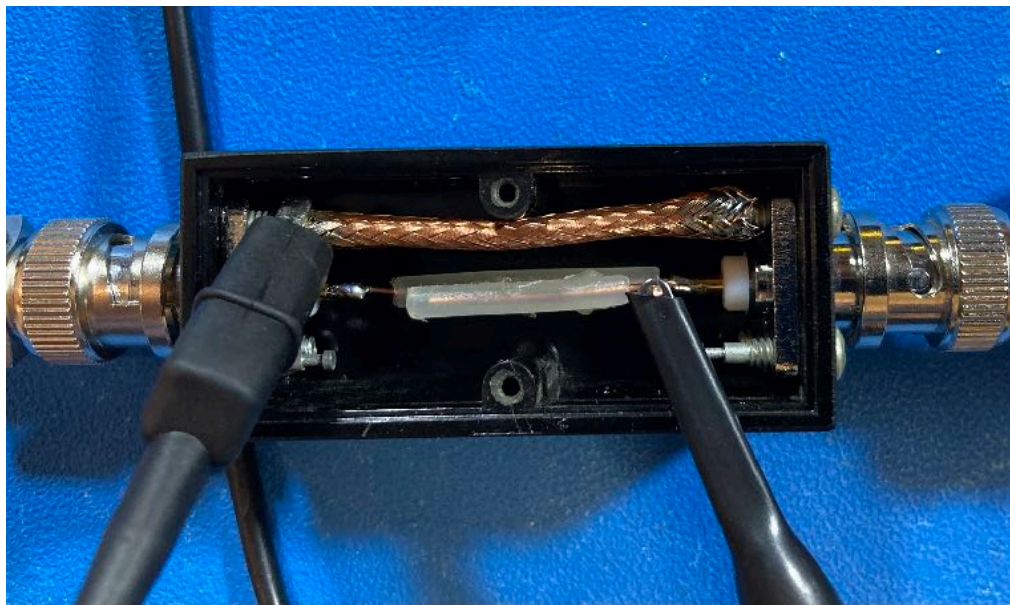
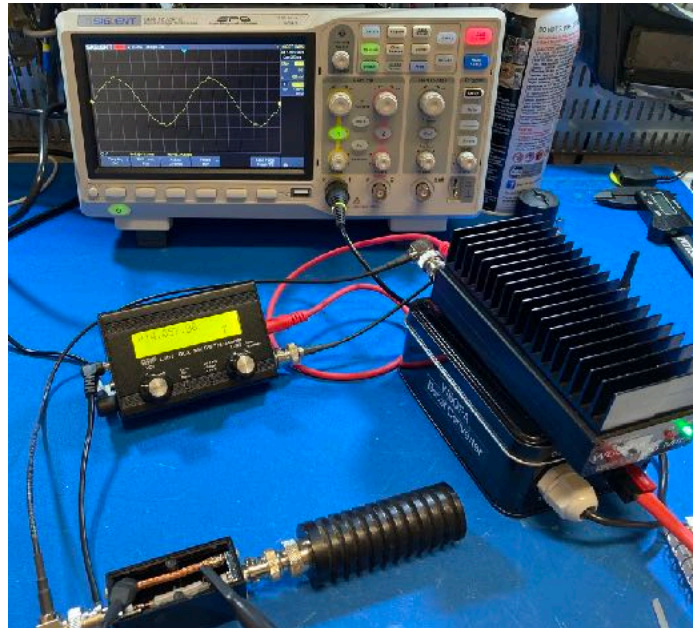
Ray Gretlein, W6QPA

In the [June newsletter](#), I described a project to create an auto-sensing low-pass filter to let me build a multi-band outboard power amplifier. I haven't made a lot of progress. However ...

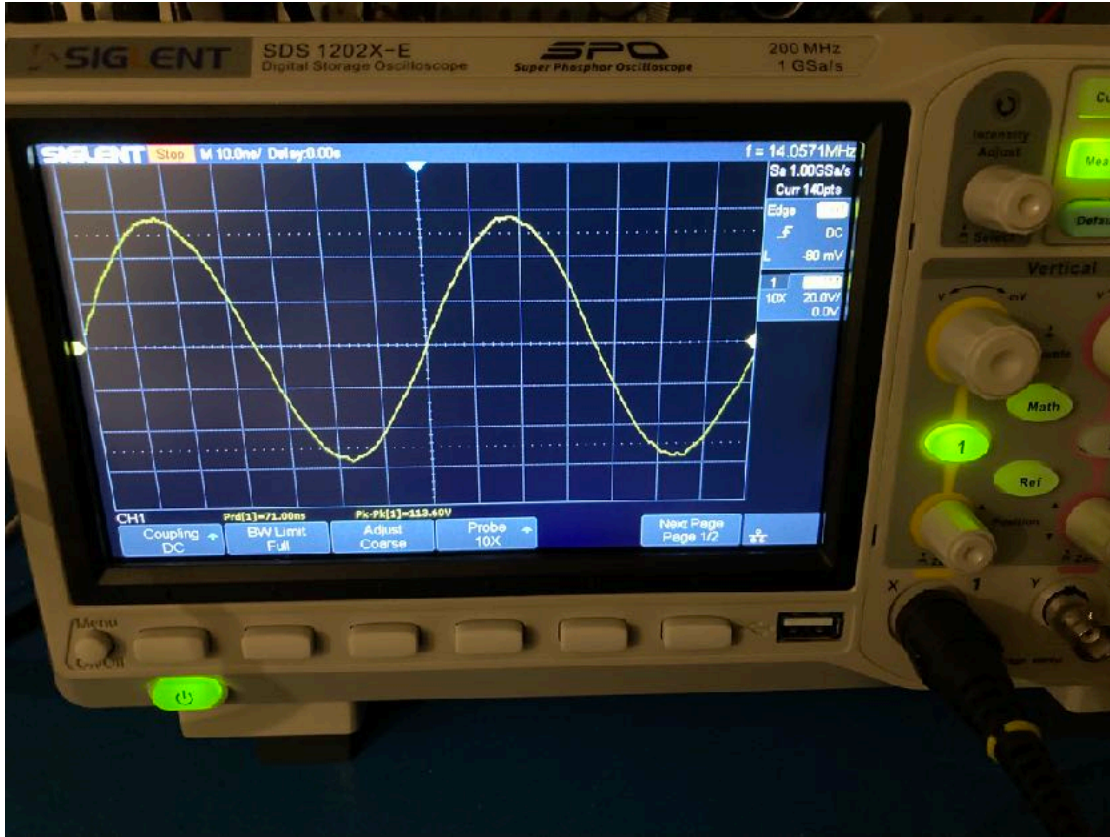
I have tested an RF-tap (aka Sense Wire in the previous article). My test jig is a small project box with BNC connectors on each end. I took a small length of coax, removed the shield, connected the center conductor between the center pins, and the shield between the BNC ground points. I talked approaches over with Will Perry, WA6LDQ. He suggested starting with a piece of wire close to the center conductor or encircling it. As shown in the image, my 'sense wire' runs parallel to the center conductor and is separated by roughly 2 thickness of the insulation.



I then connected this between the amplified output and a 60-watt dummy load.



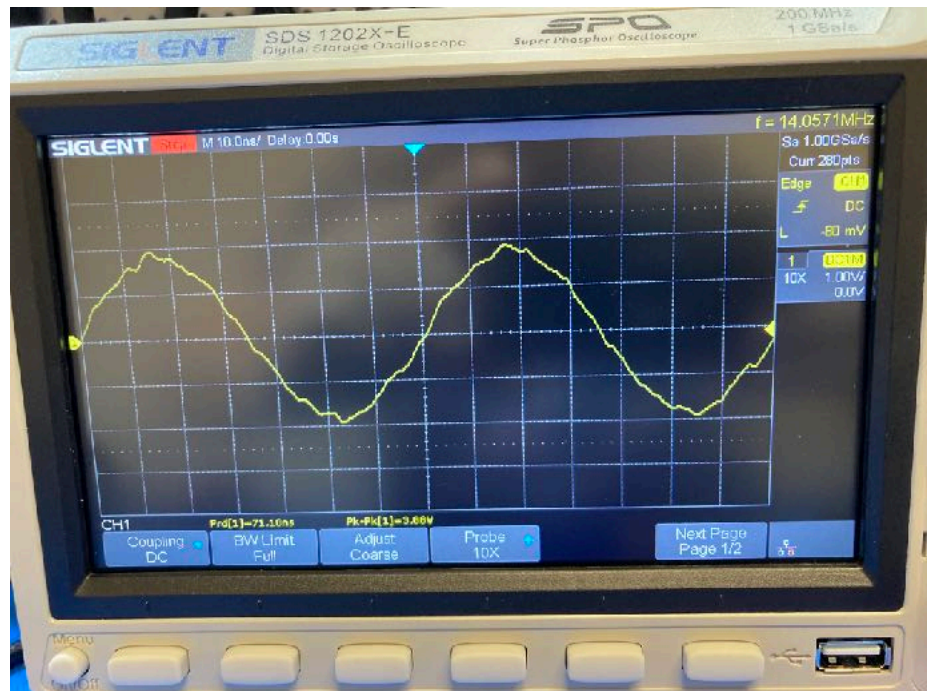
I connected the oscilloscope to measure the sample port and powered up the radio and amplifier.



However, the sense wire voltage is 3.88 V P-P or 1.94 positive going peak.

The counter specs show it needs = 2.31 V to respond as a high input value. So it looks like this may be a bit shy to reliably drive the counter chip.

Next step is to try a different sense wire configuration and try to couple 4.6 V P-P. Or perhaps just see if the counter will work with the 3.88 V P-P. Stay tuned!



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

Recovering from Field Day took awhile. I finally got the itch, and free time, to get back on CW a week or so ago. I'm fortunate to have a few HAMS to regularly rag chew with and build endurance. However, sending CQ often results in no response. So I decided I'd give a QSO Party "contest" a try. Saturday August 5 was the [North American QSO Party for CW](#). This is a 12 hour opportunity to find other HAMS looking for contacts too. It is not quite as satisfying, to me, as a rag chew but contesting is another aspect of our hobby that can be fun. I was able to operate for a little less than 3-1/2 hours out of the 12 hours. The rigs I used were two QRPLABS QCX-mini mono-band CW transceivers and companion amplifiers (one for each band). I ran ~32 watts feeding my 30' flagpole antenna.

With these home-assembled rigs I made 57 contacts: 26 on twenty meters, 31 on forty meters. The contacts covered 24 states, 2 Canadian Provinces (Alberta & Ontario) plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. All in all — good fun, and another personal best for QSO per hour!

W6QPA NA QSO Party Summary

W6QPA NA QSO Party Summary				
USA	State	QSO's	State	QSO's
	AR	1	MO	1
	AZ	3	MS	1
	CA	4	MT	1
	CO	4	NE	1
	FL	2	NM	1
	HI	3	OH	1
	ID	2	OK	1
	IN	2	OR	5
	KS	1	PA	1
	KY	1	TN	2
	MA	1	TX	6
	MN	1	WA	5
DX				
	Canada	3		
	Puerto Rico	2		
	Virgin Islands	1		
By Band				
	20 Meter	26		
	40 Meter	31		

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>

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](#)

November 2023

- 4-6 [Nov Sweepstakes-CW](#)
- 18-20 [Nov Sweepstakes-Phone](#)
- 25-26 [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 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

November 2023

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – 1900 hrs PDT “Just Because” Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 2 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 – 1900 hrs PDT, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 11 — 0830 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at Denny’s 847 Magellan St, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 8 November
- 25 — 0800 hrs PDT, TARA Club Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 22 November.

Reference Information

Local Repeater Information				
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 (Cummings Mtn.)	442.925(+)	141.3 Hz tone	KI6HHU	On the KERN System
Tehachapi Repeater (Double Mtn.)	446.320(-)	151.4 Hz tone	KI6HHU	On the KERN System
Tehachapi Repeater	444.225	100.0 Hz TONE	KG6KKV	Overlooks Bakersfield

Local Repeater Information				
DMR Digital	442.675	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K6RET	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

<u>ARRG Linked Repeaters</u>				
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
Hospitality Committee Chair	Valerie Masson	KK6WLQ	val3mason@yahoo.com
Public Affairs Committee Chair	Micah Martin	KN6VUT	kn6vut@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