The Dummy Load

The Official Newsletter of the Tehachapi Amateur Radio Association

In This Issue

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  P.O. Box 134
  Keene, CA 93531

A Word

Dan Mason, AB6DM, President

Greetings, TARA friends!

The days since our October meeting have been a busy time for TARA.   We have had several events and been quite productive.   It has been a lot of fun.   And, this has been in addition to our many regularly scheduled events.

One addition to our calendar is the Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce Luncheon that take place I believe on the second Tuesday of the month at 12 PM.   At least one or two of our members have started to attend since we became a member of the chamber.   We are getting more and more recognition in the community through this, and it looks like we will get some donations. I think this is now a regularly scheduled event now.

Our last VE session was again fruitful with three new hams getting their Tech license.   One of those almost passed his General.

Of course we participated in the Great Shakeout, and John KM6DXY ran a net which many of you called into.   This is regularly scheduled, but annually.

Next, our people attended the East Kern Career Expo (Mojave Air and Space Port), where they greeted several young people and also a representative from NASA who asked for our help with a STEM radio project.

Then there were two Halloween events, the "Ghoulden" Hills Trick or Treat Event and the Downtown Business Halloween Treat Trail.   Our team worked hard on a really cool Area 51 themed featuring Dave the alien.   Lots of families visited our

booth, received candy, and got pictures taken with Dave.

We also had yet another team that made it up the arduous trail to the undisclosed location of our main club 2 meter repeater , newly dubbed "Area 51 and a Half", to install the fresh batteries you all donated to.   The repeater is all set power-wise, and it will easily survive the winters for years to come.

Finally, your TARA President, Vice President and Public Information officer went to Tehachapi City Hall to be on the Tehachapod show where we had a really fun and recorded discussion with Key Budge.   He helped us to convey what amateur radio is and all the things we as TARA are doing with it.   The publication date is TBD.

Whew! That's a lot.   However, we have lots more coming.   Looking forward to things like the Ridge Rally, the December Christmas party/meeting at Don Pericos, a 10 meter dipole antenna build party, Winter Field Day, and more.

Stay tuned.

73,

Dan - AB6DM

EDITORS' Note:

For December we'll be looking for your portable operating experiences in the Portable Roundup edition. Please describe any SOTA, POTA camping, mobile (auto, air, pedestrian, bicycle, skate board...) operations you've enjoyed this year. Describe your station and any memorable QSO you had.

 Send them to w6qpa@ac6ee.org by 30 November.

 73 ...Ray [W6QPA](#)

"My Craziest Antenna"

Dan Mason, AB6DM

My Craziest Antenna story happened on (and just before) the 2022 ARRL Field Day.   Dick W6SLZ had taught John KM6DXY and I, AB6DB, how to make a 40/15 meter vertical wire antenna.   It is very straightforward and easy to build, and just requires some tuning by slightly changing the length of the vertical wire and/or the four counterpoise wires.

Wanting to learn yet more about this design, I read several articles about antennas like this until I stumbled upon one by a very wise, old Elmer whose article seemed to ring true for me.   He said to cut 5 or more 33 foot wires and set it up with the counterpoises about 4 feet or so off the ground.

Now Dick and his posse were going to operate Field Day out of a far distant location, and I would run the official TARA Field Day at Brite Lake.   I planned to launch both my 80-10 EFHW and my own copy of this 40/15 vertical at this event.

What was crazy about this antenna was that I showed up at Field Day with a big roll of lamp cord, some crimp-on lug, a borrowed (thanks Dick) aluminum SO-239 connector plate, and tools.   Everyone at Brite Lake asked me, "Where's the antenna, Dan?"   I said, "We are building it right here, right now."   They were in shock!   I said, "Gut up, soldiers; we're pulling this off!"

We cut a few 33 foot lengths of lamp core, peeled them apart, and crimped on some lugs.   The hard part was erecting the 40 foot fiberglass military pole kit.   We guyed that pole in two places after having attached our vertical to the top.   Then we attached the vertical to the SO-239 connector and the counterpoise lugs to the plate, then attached the other ends to 4 foot PVC poles placed over rebar rods pounded into the ground.

Next, I borrowed an antenna analyzer from Carl N6RNC, and would you believe, the thing was almost perfectly resonant on both 40 and 15 meters!   No further tuning required.   I am told that it may need tuning if we took it to some other location, but the thing worked awesome all Field Day this time.

Thanks, Dick, for introducing me to this antenna.

Mike Hardee, AC6PC

The weirdest or strangest antenna I have ever had...

I was licensed in 2016 as a Technician. I wanted to get on the air quickly and participate on TARA's net, but my rubber duck on my BaoFeng F8-HP wasn't going to make the trip to the repeater. Also, I live in a valley surrounded by ridge lines. Dick (W6SLZ) and Keith (NE7R) called it "the hole". I decided to see if I could make one. Not original, but I looked on line and found what seemed to me an easy project.

I found it on KV5R's website and it was pretty easy to construct. Here's the link for the project:

https://kv5r.com/ham-radio/2-meter-sleeve-dipole/

I used RG58 for the coax and connected it to my BaoFeng. (Maybe I should have used LMR 400?) It worked really well for me. I could pick up the KERN repeater system and W6SLZ's repeater came in but it was scratchy. I'm sure I came in scratchy, but I was on the air and talking

to folks. In order to help get some more gain, I fixed a loop on the top of the antenna and hoisted it up the tallest tree I had. That really helped too. So that's my wildest antenna.

Ray Gretlein, W6QPA

I was in my second round of being a HAM in 1996. I was working a contract in Chandler AZ for our company. The company had rented a couple of apartments which we used for our week long stents on the customer site in lieu of hotel rooms. Since I had excess time in the evenings I decided to bring my [Index Labs QPR-Plus](#) along with an MFJ (I think) manual antenna tuner. The apartment management would not allow me to string any antenna to the nearby tree from the second floor balcony as I had originally planned. In a moment of desperation, I decided I'd simply string the 40 meter dipole around the ceiling and at the floor. Running 5 watts I wasn't concerned about RF exposure, so I even set my operating position on the nightstand next to the bed sort of between these two poles of the antenna. Using receiver noise I tuned the antenna tuner to get the tuner close, then with an inline SWR/power meter I keyed up and finished tuning. As I recall I was able to get the match to less than 1.5:1. I keyed up and sent CQ a few times and got a call from N0PLV in Raytown, Missouri. He gave me a 339 (no, my memory is not that good … I'm looking at the QSL card and the log book). I continued with that antenna arrangement for a few more months with moderate success.

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?

Window-line re-routing project

Mike Hardee, AC6PC

I first set up my G5RV antenna years ago, with Dick Brown's (W6SLZ) invaluable assistance. The best place to set up my antenna was to string it between two tall oaks out in a pasture north of the shack. It involved installing a 9:1 balun at the antenna feed point, then using 243 feet of window line to get to my shack, then another 9:1 balun (to convert 450 ohm window line to a 50 ohm line) before the LMR 400 coax entered the shack and connected to my rig. The window line was strung through the fields on fence poles, reached across a small ravine with two other trees supporting it, then two more fence poles outside the shack, one supporting the second balun and the other bending the window line around the corner to reach the shack. My wife called it the Beverly Hillbillies set up and it did look jury rigged, like it was designed by Rube Goldberg, but it worked. I really didn't think through on how to best protect the baluns from the weather and how it would look aesthetically; I just wanted to get the feed line into the shack in the most expedient manner and get operating.

Now many years later and after seeing the set up from the vantage point of my next door neighbor's property one afternoon during their house warming party, I came to two realizations:

- 1) The poles set up to hold the window line looked pretty wonky,
- 2) My wife (as always) was right.

So I resolved to re-route the set up once and for all while getting the baluns (somewhat) protected from the weather. This involved removing the last two poles behind the shack and re-routing the window line under the eaves of the structure into the shack. The problem was, as always with window or ladder line, how close could I bring it in under the eaves of the structure without coming too close to any metal or metal gutters that could cause interference.

I researched it extensively, asked many experienced hams what their thoughts were on it and came up with many answers; but nothing definitive. Internet research called for a range of distances from metal; 2 to 3 window line widths away from metal, 6-8 inches, a foot, staying away from wet wood and live trees, etc. Most hams I know that have much more experience than I said that it needed to enter the shack perpendicularly and away from any metal. I called the window line manufacturer and their answer was 6-8 inches. I called DXEngineering and asked them and their answer was 1 foot. I even asked Dave Casler (KE0OG) from the Ask Dave program and he never even answered me. So I went to the only definitive source (so I thought) that was available to me, which was the ARRL Antenna Handbook, volume 4, the section on transmission lines. Their answer was "a few inches". OK, what does that mean?

To me it meant more than 2 and probably less than 6 inches. I asked my wife and she thought the same. So I looked for electric fence wire stand-offs that were as long as possible. My wife found some on-line that were 9 ½ inches long with a good base that could be screwed into the wall, so we went for them. I figured that was a good compromise and enough of a stand-off that the window line wouldn't interact with anything.
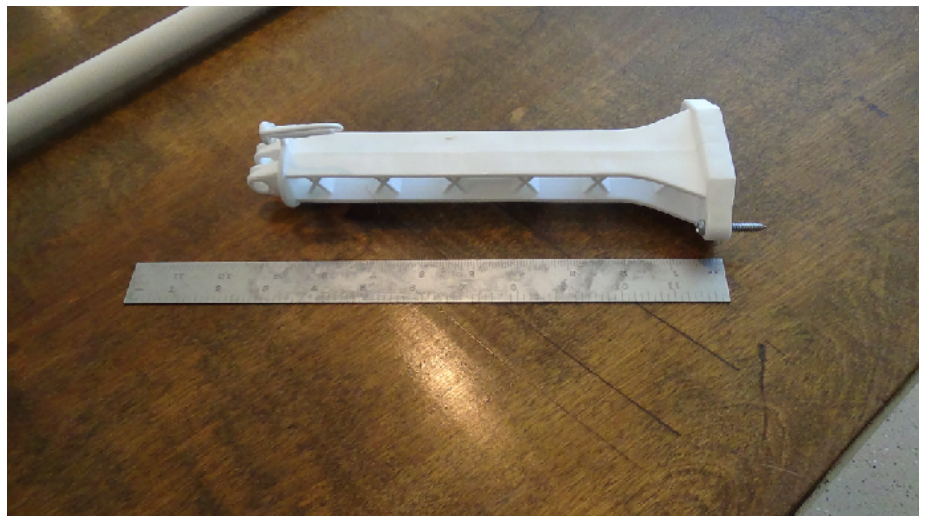
Then came the hard part … fixing in place the stand-offs under the eaves of the shack. After much grumbling, growling and words that I won't explain here, I got them all in and started to reroute the window line from the nearest tree to the eaves of the shack.

After that I needed to fix the second balun to the siding and run the coax into the shack.

After carefully tightening the leads of the window line to the balun, and some tests with Ray (W6QPA) we were set.

So that was my project. It was much easier writing about it than doing it, but I was pleased with the results. Many thanks to my wife who helped me throughout the re-route of the window line and put up with my grumbling. Thanks also to Ray (W6QPA) who helped me through the testing.

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 Layman's Guide to Digital Mobile Radio (DMR)

Tony Loera, K6GTA

Today's digital modes can be challenging to learn and understand, and most would agree that DMR is probably the most challenging. A part of the problem is that DMR was originally developed for use in commercial applications. It was never intended to be used and/or configured by end users. This leads to a problem where marketing terms and other jargon are utilized over more technical terms that we, in the Amateur Radio community, are used to.

Now, full disclosure, I am by no means any kind of expert on this subject matter, but what I lack in expertise, I make up for in real-world experience, so follow along for the Layman's take on Digital Mobile Radio.

So what is DMR? DMR is an encoding technique used in electronic communications for transmitting messages across radio waves. And just like a digital music file (such as an MP3) is more efficient than an Analog music file at reproducing sound; DMR, is more efficient than analog at carrying sound across a radio signal. This is what allows a single, 12.5 KHz wide repeater/hotspot channel to carry two independent channels of communication and station data. Another advantage of DMR is that you have total control of your traffic right from your radio. Users control what traffic is heard as well as where their traffic gets routed.

What do you need to get started? First, you need a DMR capable radio. DMR can be operated on any frequency between 30 MHz and 1,000 MHz, and because DMR is mostly Open Source, we have a number of options from a number of manufacturers to choose from. Next, you need someone or something to talk to. Just like with any Dual-Band Analog Radio, you can communicate with other stations several different ways. For simplex operation, two radios tuned to the same frequency is enough. For wide area communications, a Local DMR Repeater would be required, and for long distance and DX communications, we can use a hotspot or local repeater connected to one of the many DMR networks via the internet.

Finally, you need to make sure that each of the following items are understood/configured:

- **Codeplug:** This refers to the radio's programming. This is usually a single file that can be used by the radio's programming software to configure all of your zones/channels/talkgroups. You can either build one from scratch, or you can start with one that's already been configured.
- **Radio ID:** This is an arbitrary number of 1 to 8 digits that is used to identify a transmitting station. Though a unique ID number is not necessary to use DMR, it is required if you wish to use any of the Internet Linked DMR Networks such as Brandmeister.   Assignment of a Unique radio ID can be obtained from RadioID.net
- **Color Code (CC):** The Color Code has nothing to do with Color and instead is a number between 0-15. It works much like a CTCSS Tone, and helps prevent/filter unwanted traffic. And like a CTCSS Tone, the correct Color Code is required to be able to activate a repeater/hotspot/simplex radio.
- **Time-Slot (TS):** All DMR transmissions have 2 independent slots for communication, so you must select either Time-Slot 1, or Time-Slot 2 to operate on. For simplex operation, both radios must be on the same TimeSlot. In the case of a repeater, the repeater owner will designate what type of traffic is allowed on which TimeSlot.
- **TalkGroup (TG):** A TalkGroup is a numerical value that corresponds to a particular talk-group. Talk-groups can be thought of as the "destination" that you'd like your QSO to get routed to.   DMR networks offer a number of different "chat rooms" to suit both regional QSO's and interest based QSO's. For non-internet linked repeaters, we use TG:2 for local communications. For Simplex, we use TG:99.
- **DMR Network:**   Typically, internet accessible TalkGroups can only be accessed from repeaters/hotspots that are on the same Network. A TalkGroup on Network A will generally not be accessible from a repeater/hotspot that is on Network B. The 3 current major networks are Brandmeister, [DMR+](DMR+), and TGIF.

So, using the K6RET DMR Repeater in Tehachapi as an example, our first step would be to visit the repeaters information page. Because this repeater is linked to the Brandmeister DMR Network via the internet, we can see all of the repeater details right on the Brandmeister Website. We can see that the repeater transmits on 442.675 MHz with a positive offset.   We can also see that the Color Code is set to "1" and the repeater owner has specified that any local traffic is to use TimeSlot 2, while any dynamic traffic (user activated) is to be operated on TimeSlot 1. Assuming we want to communicate on the "California" TalkGroup, we would set our radio to transmit on Slot 1. Next, we could either go into our TalkGroup list and select "California," or we can manually enter the TalkGroup number (3106).

ⓘ Welcome to the K6RET Tehachapi DMR repeater

Repeater Info

Number	310675
City	Tehachapi, DM05kj
Country	🇺🇸 US
Website	Click here
Sysops	K6RET KI6HHU K6KGE
Hardware	MMDVM (Repeater)
Firmware	20181107_Pi-Star
Power (ERP)	20 Watt
Status	Slot 1 & 2 linked
Master	BM3103

Frequency Details

TX	442.6750 MHz
RX	447.6750 MHz
Shift	5.000 MHz
CC	1

Slot details ⓘ

Timeslot 1	🔒 310675
Timeslot 2	🔒 110688

Description

Welcome to the K6RET DMR Repeater, Affiliated with KERN Sytem (kernsystem.org) Color Code: 1 Time slot 1 for dynamic. Time slot 2 for 110688 and local.

K6RET

Last Heard (TG Filter)   Last Heard

Time	Master	My call	Destination	Options	RSSI	Duration
8 Hours	3103	🇺🇸 KN6NOC [Rick] (3177755)	👥 🔊 🇺🇸 PAPA Chat (31077)	TS1 DMR		1
2 Days	3103	N7LWB [Larry Bragg] (1107810)	👥 🔊 🇺🇸 PAPA Chat (31077)	TS1 DMR	★	1
2 Days	3103	N7LWB [Larry Bragg] (1107810)	👥 🔊 🇺🇸 PAPA Chat (31077)	TS1 DMR	★	0
2 Days	3103	N7LWB [Larry Bragg] (1107810)	👥 🔊 🇺🇸 PAPA Chat (31077)	TS1 DMR	☆	2
2 Days	3103	N7LWB [Larry Bragg] (1107810)	👥 🔊 🇺🇸 PAPA Chat (31077)	TS1 DMR	★	0

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 entries

Location

All that's left it to hit the PTT Button, and ID our station. This will activate the desired TalkGroup and allow all California traffic to flow through the repeater/hotspot.

Meet Our Members

This column will server to let each of us get to know other members. Over the course of the next two years we should be able to introduce the majority of the TARA members to each other.

Stephen Lee - KN6ZGI

My amateur radio journey began around 1974. I worked at a microwave test facility South of Bakersfield, California. Several of my colleagues were hams and encouraged me to get my license. One of my mentors, P. C. Wright, administered my exam and allowed me to use his Bencher key for the CW part. Shortly after, I was licensed as a Tech with the call WB6BTH. I operated on 2 M for a few years until family and work required all my time and resources. Now retired, I have a renewed interest in a hobby that has changed drastically with so many new facets to explore. I took the technician exam online while I was waiting for the club exam day and studying for the general. Since then, I acquired an HF radio at the Visalia DX Convention, built and put up an EFLW antenna. So far I have made a few FT8 contacts and checked into the Mission Trails net a few times. Now I am relearning CW and studying for Extra. Our local club has been a very positive experience with lots of support from many members.

Ray Gretlein - W6QPA

My Uncle, Walter Clement (sk) K4BHY introduced me to shortwave radio when I was about 10 years old. I was fascinated as we listened to these strange sounds (radio teletype, morse code) and voices from far away places like Vatican City, BBC Radio World Service from London and many others. Then he said we could talk too! He tuned to the HAM bands and said something silly into the desk mic "CQ CQ this is K4BHY calling CQ". After a few calls a voice answered back and I was hooked!!

I finally learned morse code well enough to pass the 5 wpm test and earned a Novice license in 1970 with a call sign WN6QPA. I built a Heathkit HW-16 CW transceiver, my Dad put up two telephone-poles with TV antenna masts on top and I strung a single band dipole between them at ~60 ft and was on the air. College, US Air Force active duty and early career days intervened, for the next 25 years I was off the air. I tested for Tech-Plus in 1993 and was awarded the call KE6TYH. I operated VHF with a Kenwood TH-22AT handi-talkie and QRP HF with an Index Labs QRP-Plus

transceiver for a couple of years. Then once again career and family pushed HAM radio to the background. I retired in 2013 and finally returned to the air with a vanity call W6QPA (the call I would have had if I'd upgraded from novice in time). In 2017 I got around to testing for General and upgraded. I now work mostly QRP HF CW and digital. The CW has been a long path, I took the CWOPS CW Academy program a couple of years ago and have finally unlearned and relearned CW enough to become more comfortable. I spend most HF time on CW first, then move to Digital modes (JS8, Olivia, PSK-31, RTTY, FT8) if I can't scare up a CW contact.

The station today consists of an Elecraft KX-3; multiple QRPLabs kits: 3 QCX mono-band CW transceivers for 20, 30, 40 meters with companion 50 watt amplifiers and a QDX multi-band digital transceiver; VHF/UHF is a Kenwood D-700 and Kenwood TH-D74 HT plus a Baofeng. Antennas are a 30 foot flagpole with an SG-230 antenna coupler for HF and a slot-antenna cut into a Dish-network satellite antenna for VHF/UHF.

I'm active in rag chewing, POTA and some of the slower speed CW contests. I'm enjoying tinkering with construction and repair of QRP radios and volunteering as the 'Y'-sorter for the ARRL 6th District Incoming QSL Bureau.

TidBits

A collection of miscellaneous amateur radio related items.

How did APRS get its name?

David Walter - WA5GUL

APRS is a digital communication system that sends packets of data via radio waves to exchange messages and information over short distances.

APRS was developed from the late 1980s forward by **Bob Bruninga**, call sign WB4**APR**, a senior research engineer at the United States Naval Academy. He maintained the main APRS Web site until his death in 2022.

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 2023

- 1-3   160 Meter
- 9-10   10 Meter
- 17   Rookie Roundup–CW

January 2024

- 1   Straight Key Night
- 6   Kid's Day - Jan
- 6-7   RTTY Round up
- 20-22   January VHF Contest

February 2024

- 12-16   School Club Roundup
- 17-18   DX Contest – 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 2023

- 2 — 2023 Ridge Rally - Jawbone Canyon, California,
- 6, 13, 20, 27 – 1900 hrs PST "Just Because" Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 7 – 1900 hrs PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 9 — 0830 hrs PST, TARA Club Breakfast Gracian Grill, 860 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 6 December.
- 14 – 1800 hrs PST, TARA Club Meeting & Christmas Party, Don Perico's 840 Tucker Road, Tehachapi CA.
- 30 —0800 hrs PST, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room. Reserve a spot with Valerie Mason by 27 December.

January 2024

- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – 1900 hrs PST "Just Because" Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 4 – 1900 hrs PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
-

- 11 – 1900 hrs PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 13 — 0830 hrs PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill, 860 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 10 January
- 16 — 12:00 PST Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- 27 — 0800 hrs PST, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room.. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 24 January

February 2024

- 7, 14, 21, 28 – 1900 hrs PST "Just Because" Net (W6SLZ VHF rpt, 146.70 - / 123.0)
- 1 – 1900 hrs PST, TARA Board Meeting, Via Zoom (invite via email)
- 8 – 1900 hrs PST, TARA Club Meeting, Tehachapi Police Department Conference Room, 220 W C St, Tehachapi.
- 10 — 0830 hrs PST, TARA Club Breakfast at Gracian Grill, 860 E Tehachapi Blvd, Tehachapi, CA Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 7 February
- 10 — 11:00 hrs PST, VE Amateur Radio License Testing, 538 East Tehachapi Boulevard
- 20 — 12:00 PST Tehachapi Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- 24 —0800 hrs PST, BVS Emergency Radio Team Breakfast at BVS Mulligan Room.. Reserve a spot with [Valerie Mason](#) by 21 February.

Reference Information

Local Repeater Information				
BVS APRS Digipeater	144.390	No tone	AC6EE-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				
Tehachapi Repeater	447.120	67.0 Hz Tone	KR6DK	Linked to KR6DK Bilingual Repeater Network
DMR Repeater	442.675	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K6RET	Brandmeister, Bakersfield, CA The location is in the Tehachapi Mountains near Cummings Mountain
DMR Repeater	442.225	Offset: +5.000 ColorCode: 1	K6GTA	Brandmeister, Located about halfway up Bear Mountain at about 3,200' coverage to west side of the mountain in Bear Valley Springs
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

KERN System Linked Repeaters				
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/
Tehachapi-hams (email list)	https://groups.io/g/tehachapi-hams/
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

Officers & Committee Chairs			
Officer/Committee Chair	Name	Call	Email
Web Page & FaceBook Committee Chair	John Dyer	KM6DXY	km6dxy@ac6ee.org
Hospitality Committee Chair	Valerie Masson	KK6WLQ	val3mason@yahoo.com
Public Affairs Committeee 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