

# VARA FM – Sound Card Issues 20250210 KK7SAB

## Unable to open COM6

The screenshot shows the Winlink interface for a session with KK7SAB. The main window displays the following text:

In: 0/0 Out: 0/0 BPM: 0/0 Initializing the VARA FM TNC...  
\*\*\* Launching VARA FM TNC: C:\VARA FM\VARAFM.exe  
Could not connect to VARA FM Command Port 8300 Connection failed: No connection could be made because the target machine actively refused it 127.0.0.1:8300

Two error dialog boxes are overlaid on the main window:

- RMS Express**: Cannot open VARA FM TNC command port 8300. Make sure VARA FM TNC is running.
- VARA FM**: Unable to open radio serial port COM6. May be in use by another application.

The main window also shows a message history with the following details:

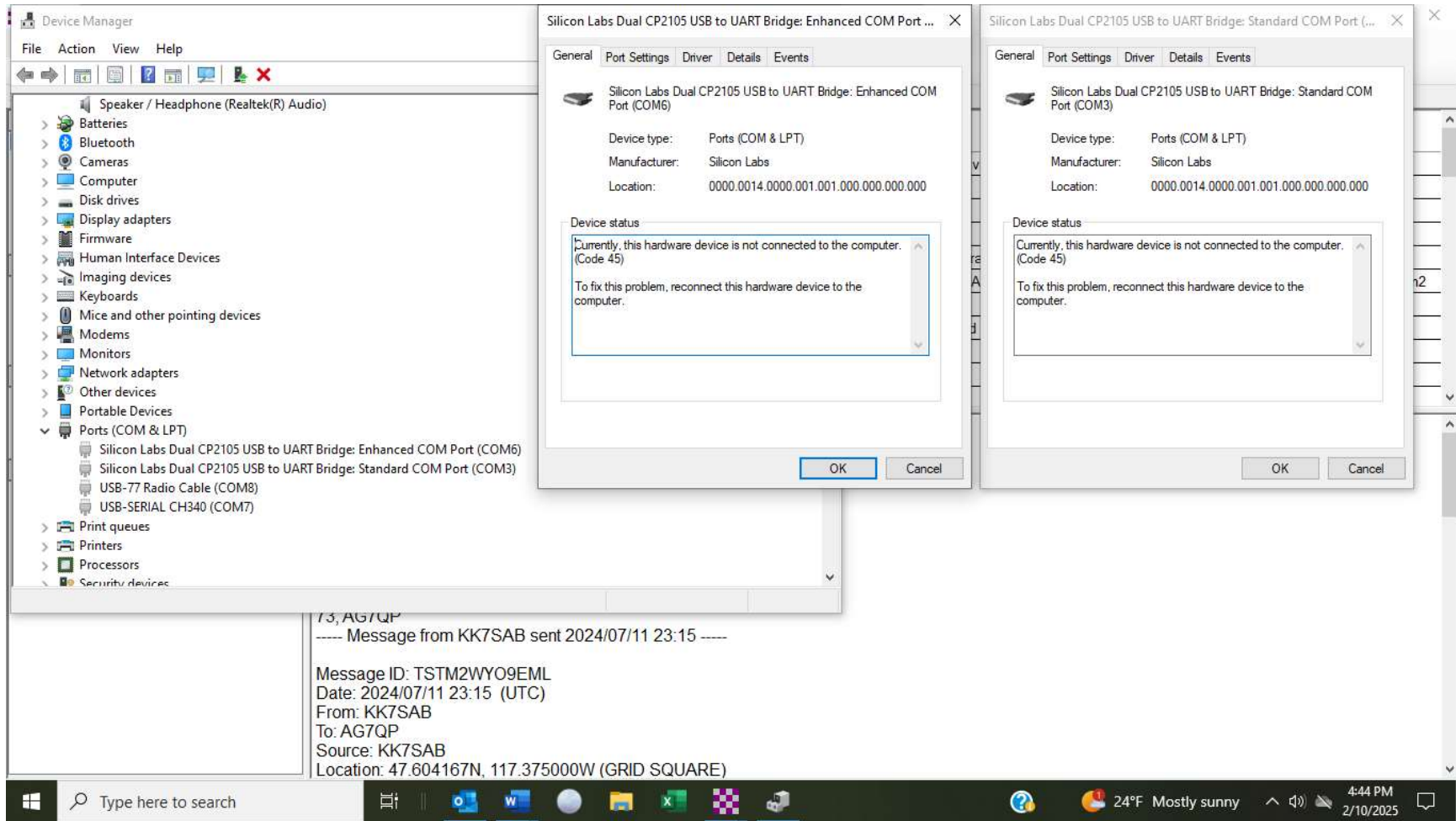
Message ID: V7FHHS0SQVG  
Date: 2024/07/15 22:40 (UTC)  
From: AG7QP  
To: KK7SAB  
Source: AG7QP  
Downloaded-from: Telnet:CMS-  
Location: 47.645833N, 117.291  
Subject: Re: Echolink access to Spokane ARES meeting?

There is no Echolink access to the ARES net.  
73, AG7QP  
----- Message from KK7SAB sent 2024/07/11 23:15 -----

Message ID: TSTM2WYO9EML  
Date: 2024/07/11 23:15 (UTC)  
From: KK7SAB  
To: AG7QP  
Source: KK7SAB  
Location: 47.604167N, 117.375000W (GRID SQUARE)

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COM Port info: COM6 not connected



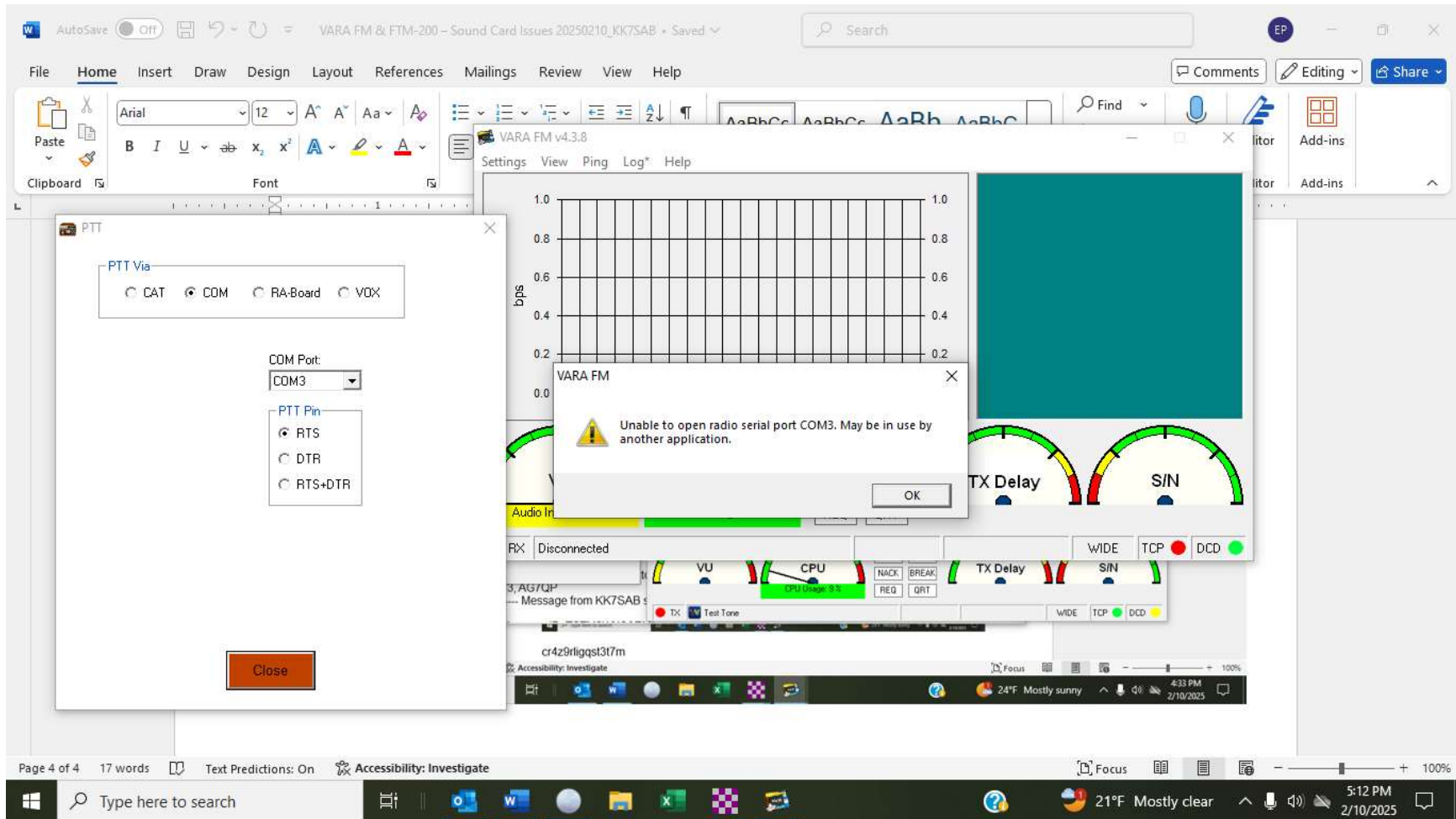
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## PTT Setting: Can't open COM6

The screenshot displays the Winlink software interface for user KK7SAB. The main window shows connection settings for a Direct connection at frequency 445.425. A PTT (Push-To-Talk) dialog box is open, showing 'PTT Via' set to COM and 'COM Port' set to COM6. The 'PTT Pin' is set to RTS. Below the dialog, a VARA FM v4.3.8 status window is visible, featuring a graph of bits per second (bps) and four gauges: VU (Audio Input: -84 dB), CPU (CPU Usage: 8%), TX Delay, and S/N. The status window also includes a 'DATA' section with buttons for ACK, IDLE, NACK, BREAK, REQ, and QRT. The system tray at the bottom shows the date and time as 5:09 PM on 2/10/2025, along with weather information (21°F Mostly clear).

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PTT Setting: Can't open COM3



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## No reaction to test tone

The screenshot displays the VARA FM v4.3.8 software interface. A 'SoundCard' dialog box is open, showing 'Digirig DR-891 (USB Audio Devic)' selected for both Device Input and Device Output. The Drive level is set to -15 dB. The main window shows a graph of bps (bits per second) over time, which is currently flat at 0.0. Below the graph are four gauges: VU, CPU (showing 9% usage), TX Delay, and S/N. The CPU gauge is highlighted in green. The interface also includes a 'Test Tone' button and various control buttons like ACK, IDLE, NACK, BREAK, REQ, and QRT. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 4:33 PM on 2/10/2025.