



# SIERA News



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## EARLY REFLECTIONS

Granting I haven't tried very hard, but my early efforts to rummage around the many amateur radio frequencies surrounding San Diego have left me wondering where the community is, and how large it is. HOA restrictions, and the travails of moving and getting settled, haven't allowed any time to consider a home shack. So the effort has been confined to the truck radio.

Having sent an email off to the ARRL Section Manager asking for some input resulted in a fine and friendly response that laid out clubs and, thus, frequencies. I tried to sort through these and enter the most appropriate in the 8800, putting them in scan mode. Trying to remember to turn the radio on when on the way to Home Depot for something or other isn't working overly well. Guess I have my priorities mixed up. But I'm trying.

Having gotten my license in Gardnerville and pretty well limited my radio activities to Northern Nevada hardly qualifies me as an author able to suitably compare ham activities in different parts of the world. But, as the unenlightened say... "that lack of experience allows me to speak with reckless abandon."

In Northern Nevada the adage, with many variations, is "many frequencies – few operators". From what I can determine here, you can use the same expression. There's some degree of rag chew. About the same percentage both places. There's the same small group you can count on at 0600 getting together to talk about the weather, or the lack of others joining the chew, or how they can't wait for retirement or how one of them managed to talk to Cairo last night just as the sun set. I'll probably try to jump on that one

some morning, if for no other reason than to find out if it's Illinois or Egypt.

There's the group at 1800 getting together to talk about how the day went and, usually, to complain about the long commute and the traffic jams and how CalTrans is taking forever to get the diamond lane finished north of 56. That sort of thing. In between, there's the same silence or sometimes casual conversation. Oh, yes, I'm starting to bone up on my Espanol as well. Push 2.

There seems to be a number of social nets going, but my timing has been poor so I've only managed one of them. I checked in as a visitor, with the result that they just acknowledged my transmission. No friendly "Glad to have you check in, please do it again and join us for some fun". I had gotten used to that response on the .33 and .24. Doesn't seem to be standard fare here.

I made a couple calls to explore use of amateur radio for public service activities. Poway has a bike ride similar in length and duration to Death Ride. Ah ha, that's one I understand! Finally contacted the ride coordinator. He acted perplexed when I inquired about their use of amateur radio for communications. Communications? We use cell phones. Thank you anyway. Good day.

Looking at a number of radio club web sites allowed me to consider various monthly meetings. Most seem to be 30-40 miles away from where I now live, so am not sure if or when I may follow up on that. After all, as a country boy used to slow traffic and 15 car lengths between vehicles, this business of 80mph and 1 car length tends to keep me at home. I used to think that sort of driving was normal. It's actually insane. Of course, being old and retired does change your perspective some.

Speaking of web sites I can attest to the fact that, of the half dozen or so that have been invaded by me, none can compare to the fine

SIERA site. Most seem to require a bit of scrambling around to find some good information, while the SIERA site is intuitive.

At any rate, my early reflection is that amateur radio operators in Northern Nevada have it all over everybody else. Those grand bike rides, requiring radio operators, are unequalled. Things like BITD and Silver State Classic Challenge don't seem to exist in this part of the world. And, there's a suspicion that a grand event like the Pony Express re-ride would command attention from radio operators for miles and miles around.

The camaraderie available through SIERA, TARA and DCART may exist in the city but there's not much in common between an Escondido fireman, a TDY at Pendleton and a Pacific Beach surfer. It's friendship in the Carson Valley. It's an acquaintance in the big city.

Having all my ham knowledge concentrated in Northern Nevada left me with nothing to compare and with the feeling that it

must be the same everywhere.

Not so! What you have is the best, most enjoyable and most rewarding.

Hold it close to your breast and make the most of it. Don't hold back from participation in the various wonderful radio activities available to you. Especially those where you really perform a public service for the health and welfare of others. There's considerable satisfaction and enjoyment in so doing.

Too soon it may disappear.

### **2010 SIERA CALENDAR**

Oct 2	– Meeting 1pm
Oct 23	– Social Bkfst
Nov 6	– Meeting 1pm
Nov 27	– Social Bkfst
Dec 4	– Meeting 1pm
Dec 25	– Social Bkfst