

SIERA BEACON

News and Views of the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

April 2016

SIERA Elects(?) New Board Officers



Here's the Rogue's Gallery of officers on our 2016 Board: Tom Tobacco, J.D. Fowler, Isaiah Echevarria, Ben Echevarria, Jeff Cauhape, Daryl Haines, Deb and Bob Williams. Sue Cauhape is behind the camera and Billie Jo McAfee was home with the flu.

April Meeting: Please join us for the general meeting on the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. in the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Ln., Gardnerville, NV. This is your chance to meet those HAMs you talk to on the nets. Also, you get to bring your ideas and concerns to help improve SIERA. And bring your HAM buddies or aspiring wannabees too.

March Meeting, David DeAngelis K1SCN and Jeff Cauhape K7BCV showed us all the digital modes available to HAMs.

The April 2nd meeting: Jeff Cauhape will talk about our packet radio setup and where we are now with it, what's available and what we can do.

HAM Breakfast: Join us for breakfast at the Tail Dragger at the Minden-Tahoe Airport, April 23 at 8 a.m. Another chance to meet some HAMs.

New HAMs and Upgrades: Congratulations to Deb Williams KC6RIC for upgrading her license to General and to Sue Cauhape (?) for earning her Technical ticket. The next local HAM exam will be Saturday, May 21, at the Shepherd of the Sierras Church, behind Best Buy on Topsie Lane.

New Storage Trailer: Tom Tobacco KE7NCJ, J.D. AD7CD, and Bob Williams K7VOC worked on the configuration of the trailer last Saturday. They took some measurements and taped out a floor plan for workstations and shelving. Now Tom's going to load the information onto a CAD program. They'll tell us all about it at the April 2 meeting. Anyone interested in helping them with this project would be welcome.

The Pony Needs HAMs: There will be a lot of empty spaces along The Pony Express Re-Ride route if we can't inspire more adventurous HAMs to provide radio coverage. Out in the hinterlands, riders really appreciate HAMs following them during nighttime hours. Usually The Pony is held when the moon is full, but if it's cloudy or the trails are particularly dicey, our physical as well as radio presence is essential to their safety and success. So, anyone who wants an adventure as well as doing public service, call Jeff Cauhape at 775-224-6836.

New SIERA Caps: New SIERA caps will be available for sale at the next meeting, \$15 a piece.

National Traffic Service Awareness: Recently, Jeff Cauhape introduced himself to his neighbors as a local HAM and handed out a flyer informing people that, in the event of a catastrophic emergency where they needed to contact relatives outside the area, he was available to pass along information through the National Traffic Service. He was very pleased with the response and surprised to learn how many knew people who were HAMs. He encourages others in SIERA to do the same in because, while the NTS exists and works well, most people don't know how to contact it. That's the weak link in the system.

More Classes(?): There's been talk about offering more classes to people wanting to get their licenses. Also, when Jeff Cauhape talked about the NTS at the last meeting, he suggested that a class be given. If anyone is interested in teaching a class or teaming up with someone, call Jeff.

Well, that's all for this month's Beacon. If you have news and photos, email Sue Cauhape at scauhape2002@yahoo.com.

73s to everyone. Hope to see you at the next meeting. Deb Williams promises to bring some really good cookies.