

SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

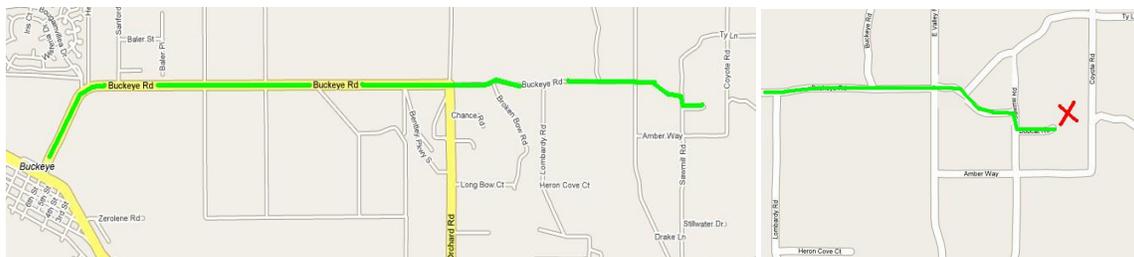
June 2016

Northern Nevada 11th Annual Swap Swap Meet

One of the biggest HAM radio events comes to Minden this Saturday, June 4th, from 7:30 a.m. to whenever.... It's held only once a year and offers a great buy, sell, or trade opportunities for HAMS and tech geeks in the area. According to the website at <http://www.n7rca.info/>, there will be lots of cool stuff, including but not limited to:

Collins Estate Sale: 100's of Collins radios and parts HP, TEKTRONIX, JOHNSON, ICOM, HALLICRAFTERS, 35 MM projectors, amplifiers, tubes, power supplies, marine radios, YEASU, Collins and other filters, tuners, towers, and more.

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV will be out there bright and early to sell some of his extra radio equipment before the Board and General meetings later that day, so drop by and see what he and all the other vendors have. If you want to join the fun with your own wares for sale, all are welcome. The spaces are free. Even RVs are welcome as this swap meet is on a six-acre ranch in Minden.



From Hwy 395 in Minden, NV, go east on Buckeye until it intersects with East Valley Rd. Then just cross East Valley and follow the signs to the end of Bobcat Rd.

Repeater Committee Meets:

Dale Anderson K7VS, Joe Turek AB7TJ, Ben Echavarria N7BEE, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, and Bob Williams K7VOC gathered to pass down information about our repeater, NV7CV 147.330. Up until the meeting,

Dale has been the exclusive repeater guru, but he shared historical as well as technical documentation so that the repeater can be maintained should anything happen to him.

Our repeater was established in 1990. George Uebele WW7E maintained it until 2009 when Dale and Joe carried it over a snow bank to install it on its current aerie perch on Leviathan Peak. It's been replaced four times, the most recent being a new Kenwood in 2012. Dale told the Committee it has a 20-year lifespan. The controller was replaced in 2015.

Dale keeps the manuals, and a memory stick with information about both items, on his HAM shack bookshelves, along with photo albums. One photo shows George and Dorothy N7MXA, on July 2005, standing atop the building, reinstalling a SCALA OB4 antenna he repaired.

While the State of California manages the facility, which is a cinderblock building which sits under a decommissioned wildfire watchtower. There are many agencies who have crammed their equipment into this tiny space, including Alpine, Douglas, and Mono counties. At this time, no more items will be allowed, although many of the agencies have placed spacers between their equipment to prevent others from squeezing stuff onto their shelves.

Solar panels power the site, storing energy in Batteries, with a generator backup. The power, though, has gone off occasionally. George and Dorothy told the Beacon that when the power went off once, George drove up to Leviathan Peak to turn it back on. While on site, officials investigating why the power was off found George fiddling with the equipment. He had some explaining to do, but convinced them he wasn't a saboteur.

(Editor's note: Because the Beacon's camera went on the fritz, photos of the Committee cannot be published. Sorry, gentlemen.)

Special Warning from KD7ZEV WCARES Technical AEC:

Subject: Baofeng Radio concerns - Technical Information Notice

Thanks to a recent question, posed by W7RKN, regarding concerns over the use of Baofeng radios, I have identified some concerns that should be disseminated to ARES and the general Amateur community.

Please be aware that some radios that are originally manufactured in China, or other nations, and sold into US channels via multiple sources;

such as on Ebay or Alibaba, are not shipped into the US with FCC compliant certifications. Only radios with FCC stickers or referenced compliance documents can be legally used.

Buyers need to be aware that they may be getting a non-compliant radio when purchasing them through these channels. Specifically, Baofeng radios have been found to be highly non-compliant at greater than 50% sample rates, with respect to generation of spurious emissions by US/FCC standards. [ref: i.imgur.com/AMeh8WZ.jpg[wcares.us]]

Another issue to be aware of is that some of the radios come programmed with National EMS Med channels in them. We have had many people with these radios get on these Med channels and interfere with paramedics talking to the hospitals.

We need to spread the word to the ARES & Ham community of this concern and make certain that we do not interfere with these services or operate out of FCC compliance specifications.

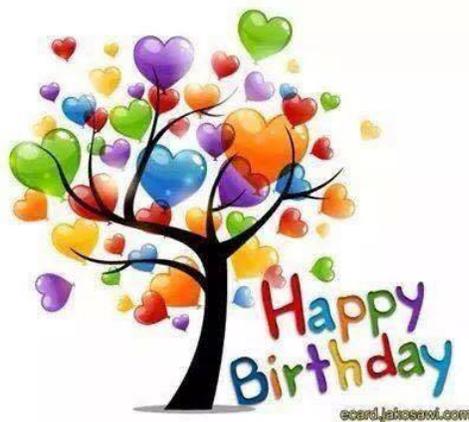
73'

~KD7ZEV WCARES Technical AEC - Board Member/Treasurer....and chief bottle washer ;)

Ben Echavarria

Deb Williams

Austin Cathey



General Meeting: Our general meetings are always on the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville, NV. Meet people you talk to on the nets and bring your ideas and concerns to help improve SIERA. Oh, and invite your HAM buddies and aspiring wannabees to join us, too.

May Meeting: Ed Eggert K3VO gave a talk about *Hams in the 50s* and David DeAngelis KI5SCN ran the projector for visuals. Thank you, gentlemen.

Also, the membership discussed purchases for the trailer, which is morphing from a mobile storage container to an emergency radio station with three operator positions. Thus, members okayed \$100 for three padded chairs and \$750 for two 35 Astron Linear power supplies and 2 LDG tuners.

June meeting: Saturday, June 4, at 1 p.m., Don Norton, from Computer Core, will tell us about his company, which recycles electronic equipment of all kinds.

Also, Dale Anderson K7VS was able to find some equipment from Will Lewis' estate that will save us a bundle of cash on the equipment funded during the May Meeting.

HAM Breakfast: The Tail Dragger at the Minden-Tahoe Airport always serves up the best breakfast and friendliest hospitality in Carson Valley. Come join us every fourth Saturday 8 a.m. It's another chance to meet some HAMs.

From the Archives: Did you know that Sharon Grissom, wife of the original SIERA president Bob Grissom, initiated the monthly breakfasts and insisted that wives be invited? The Grissoms had been active in a radio club in southern California before moving to Gardnerville. When SIERA was born in 1987, the group wanted Bob to be the first president. "I will only be president for one year," he said. Being a man of his word, he handed off the reins the next year.

This little bit of history was brought to you by Dorothy N7MXA and George WW7E Uebele, Dorothy assembled and gave The Beacon a complete set of SIERA newsletters they produced during twelve years at the beginning of the club. Each newsletter is six double-sided pages and includes stories about the members, technological advances, product reviews, events, and other items of interest. Dorothy said we could donate the complete set to the UNR Archival Library if we desired. Then she included several copies of the newsletter that were extras.

Upcoming Events:

June 16-18, Pony Express Re-Ride

June 25-26, Field Day

July 9, The Death Ride

Serendipity Strikes Again

After the HAM breakfast at the Taildragger last Saturday, Jeff and Sue KI7CTT Cauhape checked out the farmers' market on Billy's Road, off Johnson Lane. They couldn't help but notice the antenna array on one of the buildings. The market was closed at the time, but driving back out, they happened to meet Bill Barth of Bella Vista Farm taking down his flags advertising the market.

He told them he used to be a HAM in his youth but didn't renew his license 20 years ago. When moving to Minden, he set up his station, hoping to get back to it, but building his farm and its market has side-tracked that idea. He eventually wants to renew his license and join SIERA, so he's now one of our members-to-be, hopefully reading The Beacon, and will attend our meetings and breakfasts after the busy summer farming season. Welcome back, Bill.

Next HAM exam: Speaking of renewing or upgrading your licenses, the next local HAM VEC exam in our area will be **Saturday, July 21, at 9 a.m.** at the Shepherd of the Sierras Church, behind Best Buy on Topsy Lane. If you can't make this date, aim for the third Saturdays of September or November.

Here's a link to the ARRL Newsletter here: <http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue>

And here's the link to the SIERA website: <http://www.cvhams.com/>

Well, that's all for this month's Beacon. Please send your news and views to Sue Cauhape at scauhape2002@yahoo.com.

And to all you veterans, and there are quite a few in SIERA, thank you for your service to the United States of America. The Beacon realizes this is a few days late, but veterans deserve our thanks and respect every day of the year.

73s everybody!