

# SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

September 2016



**Bill Massie, K7NHP**, became a Silent Key Tuesday, August 2, 2016. Funeral services, to be held at the Fernley Veterans' Cemetery, will be announced as soon as information is available.

Bill and his wife, Caroll - NV7YL, have supported SIERA for many years, serving as officers in several capacities. During the Pony Express Re-ride, they tracked riders between Grubb's Well and Overland Pass, calling their group

"The Massie Camp." They also worked our GOTA station during Field Day operations this year, as you can see in the photo above.

In the photo to the right, Bill tells tales of his years as a HAM and Nevada Highway Patrolman to visitors at Field Day; however his storytelling didn't stop there. As people gathered late in the day in the shade of Greg Moore's trailer, he really got revved up. Caroll had to tap him on the shoulder and pull his pant leg several times to remind him they needed to drive back to Dayton before the sun set. Bill was having far too much fun, to everyone's delight. It was good to see him rally with the excitement of working The Pony as well as Field Day. He planned to do it all again next year. Rest in peace, dear friend, and 73s.



**September Meeting: Saturday, September 3, at 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville.** September is Emergency Preparedness Month and responses to our email blast caught that spirit. Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, will lead a Round Table discussion about earthquake disaster response and DCART. This will be followed by an extended social period and general *rag chew*. Despite the fact this is the Labor Day weekend, we will hold the meeting as per usual.

**August Meeting:** Jeff Cauhape told us about High Speed Multimedia and got a few names of interested people who wanted to experiment with a meshed radio telephone network. Carroll Massie also attended and was able to receive a condolences card in person from all of us. We wish her well in the days and months ahead following the death of her husband.

## SIERA Nets:

**VHF Net** is every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on NV7CV repeater 147.33MHz, PL123.0.

**HF Net** is every Tuesday at 8 p.m. on 3982KHz.

Brad Smith's (WT6B) **Watering Hole** is every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on NV7CV 147.33, "*discussing questions and issues pertaining to amateur radio.*"



## The New Location for the Dayton Hamvention

D.A.R.A. officials announce Dayton Hamvention's new location for 2017, Don interviews Skyler Fennell, 2016 Young Ham of the Year, Hara Arena closes its doors, and more!

We invite you to read, add to, and amend our show notes at [wiki.twit.tv/wiki.twit.tv](http://wiki.twit.tv/wiki.twit.tv).

Submit your own video to Ham Nation at [HamNationVideos@twit.tv](mailto:HamNationVideos@twit.tv)

Thanks to Joe Walsh who wrote and plays the Ham Nation theme. Check out Ham Nation on [Facebook/facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter/twitter.com](https://twitter.com)!

Download or subscribe to Ham Nation at <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation> [\[wiki.twit.tv\]](http://wiki.twit.tv) Thanks to [Cachefly/cachefly.com](http://cachefly.com) for the bandwidth for this show.

**HAM Breakfast and Lunch:** 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.

And if once a month isn't enough for you, come to Jethro's on Kimmerling every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Again, friendly waitresses and HAMs, and awe-inspiring BBQ.

**Here's a complete index of all ARRL Newsletters:**

<http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue>

**and a link to ARRL contest updates:**

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/?issue=2016-06-15>

**The ARRL Letter for July 7, 2016:**

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2016-07-07> [\[arrl.org\]](http://www.arrl.org)



**Next HAM exam:** The next local HAM licensing exam, **9 a.m., Saturday, September 17th**, at the Shepherd of the Sierras Church, behind Best Buy on Topsy Lane. If you can't make this date, aim for November 19th.



Searching through clipart for the Beacon and finding this little gem, we thought of Carol Massie, now that Bill is a Silent Key. Instead of living the lonesome life described above, however, she joined Bill in the HAM shack and will continue to call in to five Nets. She told us all at the August meeting that HAMs are rarely lonely because they have friends all around the world.

## Ode to Silent Key

Bill Clarke, WA4BLC

Life for the wife of an Amateur Radio operator can be very lonely. Their husbands spend endless hours in seeming solitaire, talking to others like themselves via their radios. But someday:

### QRT

*The dials on your radio are unmoved, the speaker silent, and the ash tray clean for all time to come.*

*All those hours you sat in that old green chair, talking to unseen voices, filling the ash tray to overflowing.*

*You talked near and far, and had friends you never met. You traveled the world over from your chair.*

*Jealous of your fun, and bitter of your time away from me, I always knew where you were.*

*You've become a Silent Key now, gone on to meet those unseen voices from the past.*

*Yet in the stillness I can hear your chair squeak, smell your tobacco, and hear faint voices calling from afar.*

— Foundation for Amateur Radio ☐



## Remembering Silent Keys:

A week before Will and Phyllis Lewis died within days of each other last September, this photo was taken at their weekly luncheon at Jethro's. They were active in SIERA since its formation in 1987. For many years, they relayed rider progress for The Pony Express Re-Ride from atop Overland Pass West.

Will and Phyllis are sitting in the front seats of this photo. Behind them are Austin and Jeremie Cathey, next are Bob and Deb Williams, and way in the back are Brad and Linda Smith.



### **This Day in History August 20, 1911:**

**"First around-the-world telegram sent 66 years before Voyager II launch"** Here's the website link:  
<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/first-around-the-world-telegram-sent-66-years-before-voyager-ii-launch>

### **Ending On a Lighter Note:**

Bodhi was born to Randie and Cameron Farmer on August 11, 2016. Both Randie and Cameron used to be members of SIERA before kids and responsibilities complicated their lives. Cameron, in fact, served as President for a short time. Congratulations to you both. We hope you'll return to SIERA and bring big sister Matilda and Bodhi with you. This is the perfect time to introduce them to amateur radio.



Do you have a news item, a question, a suggestion, pictures and information about a HAM event? How about a review of that new piece of equipment you bought; or tell us about how you kludged a bunch of stuff into a workable antenna/tuner setup. Maybe you had a great radio adventure or contact that you'd like to tell everybody about. *The Beacon* would love to print it.

And, of course, there's always room in *The Beacon* for personal items as we've had in this issue. Keep us up-to-date on all that's going on.

Please send it to: [scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com).

73s everybody!