

SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

October 2016

Why we exist:

Driving home from Reno after doing errands, Dorothy Ubele, N7MXA, heard a badly broken signal on the 147.33 repeater. She wanted to tell the person his signal was unreadable, but didn't since she was mobile. Fortunately, someone else spoke up. A motorcyclist had gone off the road near the Ebbetts Pass Cow Camp. Several people had climbed down to the biker and found him injured and having difficulty moving. The HAM requested that someone call an ambulance because cell phones wouldn't work in that area. Another HAM relayed the information to the Alpine County sheriff. Within minutes, an ambulance and CHP officer were on the way to the scene. Cell phones have become ubiquitous, but Ham radio is still invaluable, especially in our mountainous and remote locations.



Next Meeting: Saturday, October 1, at 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville. Austin Cathey, KE7DZY, will show and tell us about his "bug-out" kit. This will be a great follow-up to Shiela's DCART talk last month.

Also, we will elect new officers fairly soon. Be sure to attend this meeting to nominate either yourself or someone else for any of these positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Public Information Officer.

September Meeting: Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, gave us a rundown of DCART's role in supporting the Douglas Co. 911 Call Center during disasters. Because of government liabilities for volunteers, Sheila urged us to join DCART formally in order to be covered by County insurance. To do this, volunteers must all be fingerprinted, have a background check, and receive Incident Command training. This can be done free of charge online. You can read more details in the General Meeting Minutes at the end of this newsletter.

< **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 <

Just for the Ladies: There's sedition afoot -- the desire among some of the female HAMS to start a Women's Chat Net where all the ladies can gab without bothering the menfolk. If interested, please attend the October 1st General Meeting to meet with the instigators of this revolution and figure out a time when everyone can listen and talk. It's open to all women HAMS within radio reach.

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.*"

National Traffic Service Net is every Sunday at 6:15 p.m. on 3945KHz.



Next HAM exam: The next local HAM licensing exam will be **9 a.m., Saturday, November 19**, at the Shepherd of the Sierras Church, behind Best Buy on Topsis Lane. You'll get another chance to take the test in December. Also, if you would like to take a class or join a Ham Cram to help you in your studies, please contact Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, at j_cauhape@yahoo.com. If you plan to take the exams, please contact Dale Anderson, K7VS, at k7vs@charter.net.

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>

SIERA General Meeting Minutes, September 3, 2016

Called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Introductions: Chuck and Kim Farnham from SNARS Fallon and John Bigler, Nevada Section Representative of ARRL. (Kim later emailed a copy of the SNARS newsletter to Sue Cauhape who then forwarded it to Don McRoberts for the SIERA website.)

Sean McKimmey was welcomed as SIERA's newest member. He has joined our VHF nets as a guest for several weeks and is now officially on the roster.

Meetings minutes read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ending balance from July 2016, \$8051.74; deposits from exams, membership dues, and interest: 51.07; withdrawals .00, Ending Balance for August 2016: \$8102.54. Report was read and approved.

Announcements:

We still have SIERA caps (\$15) and badges (\$5) available.

Ed Terlau brought HSMM (High Speed Multi-Media) equipment to show everyone during the break.

Business:

State Paperwork/Bank Change:

(From the Board Meeting: Deb Williams needs to get paperwork to the Nevada Secretary of State. It will cost \$50 a year to file papers. An "Agent/Contact Person" is required. It was suggested that the words "Current President" or "President Emeritus" be used instead of the actual name of the current president. Other possible agents suggested were "Agent in Perpetuity" and "see President." It was suggested we get clarification in November about this issue. It costs an additional \$60 for any changes to these forms, making it a total of \$110/year if we used the name. Also, the State won't accept using "SIERA" in this blank.)

Discussion about the State paperwork ensued. It was asked if the State would object to a "semi-permanent Agent. Deb will also ask if "see President" is acceptable. If not, Ben Echevaria volunteered to be the agent.

Jim Marshall will bring cookies for next month's meeting.

Jim Marshall suggested we have a "Special Event Station" during community events, perhaps using our trailer as a transmitting point of interest. We could even send QSL cards to any contacts made during an event. Chuck Farnham and John Bigler told of several such events they tried to do, including nets between Indian Reservations, mines, railroad museums, and even brothels. There was quite a spirited discussion about their proposal of "Brothels on the Air" (BOTA).

J.D., Jim, and Tom Tabacco will make a list of possible Silver State Events.

The meeting broke for an extended social time from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m.

DCART and SET Exercise, Sheila Clement, Emergency Services Coordinator for Douglas and Alpine counties, presenter

Since the days that SIERA was formed, it was vetted through Carson City to be part of the emergency services. They were involved in search and rescue as well as ride-alongs. In those days, it was easy to respond to emergencies by showing up with a radio. Because of governmental liabilities, there are a lot of things we can no longer do.

These days, HAMS can respond under the umbrella of DCART, which is part of ARES and under the direction of Ron Segan of the Douglas County 911 Call Center. Federal Rules now require people to be finger-printed and submit to a background check in order to join DCART; but they will then be covered by Workman's Comp. They also need to go through special training and exercises.

As DCART members, we can activate as a team to support the 911 dispatch, although some members may be assigned to assist the Red Cross or Salvation Army.

September is Emergency Preparedness Month. There will be a Simulated Emergency Training (SET) exercise this month that can involve club members. Sheila wants more SIERA members to join DCART officially so they can take part in the SET.

The exercise itself will be a "reverse 911 call-out" through the Douglas Co. Call Center. Director Ron will then have a tally of how many he could reach and how many would be available for help in emergencies, such as an earthquake. HAMS can practice using packet radio and even work from their home bases as net controls.

We will use the NV7CV repeater, 147.330 and 146.550. If the repeaters are down, we will use Simplex. Douglas County will also be including Alpine County in this exercise.

It's best if HAMS receive Incident Command training, which is available online through FEMA. We can google "Emergency Management Institute," but Sheila recommended we take the free Kentucky ICS 100, 200, and 700 classes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.



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. Please send it to: scauhape2002@yahoo.com.

73s everybody!