

# SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

January 2017

Our next meeting will actually be our Post-Holiday Party, Saturday, January 7, from noon to 3 p.m. at Jethro's on Kimmerling in the Ranchos. We will also be inviting TARA members to join us. Price is \$15 per person and raffle tickets will be sold for some great prizes. Please RSVP to Austin Cathey (KE7DZY) by Dec. 31, either by radio or email: [tailwind@msn.com](mailto:tailwind@msn.com) so that Jethro's can get a head count.

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

Thank you, TARA, for regaling us in style at your Christmas party. Delicious food, good friends, and some nice door prizes. Ben (N7BBE) and Isaiah Echavarria (KG7NHY), both members of TARA and SIERA, won a DMR 2-meter radio and a \$50 check respectively. We hope to see some TARA members join us for our post-holiday party at Jethros.



## **Cha-ching! Dues are Due!**

It's that time again, folks. SIERA thrives on your dues as well as your active participation and so far, we haven't raised the rates. An individual can get a year's membership for only \$24. A family can include spouses and kids for only \$32. We haven't put any limit of the number of family you may include, but please don't force us to bring out the DNA swabs. If you're a brand new HAM or if you've upgraded your license, you get a year's membership FREE! If you're part of a family, your free membership will reduce the family rate to only \$8 for the year. Please send your checks and applications to Debbie Williams (KC6RIC), at P.O. Box 2348, Minden, NV 89423-2348.

## ***NVCON 2017 ARRL Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention***

March 31-April 2 at the Eastside Cannery Casino and Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Register online before January 31 to be eligible for the "Early Bird Raffle." Featured Attractions include major equipment manufacturers and distributors in the Exhibit Hall; presentations and speakers, plus an ARRL Forum on Sunday; ARRL VEC License Testing; huge tailgate/swap meet, raffles and door prizes all day Saturday and Sunday; and a banquet Saturday night. You may even see Elvis! For more information and registration, go to [www.NVCON.org](http://www.NVCON.org).



## SilentKeys

The Beacon is sorry to announce the passing of George Uebele (WW7E), on Monday, December 5, 2016. George and his wife, Dorothy (N7MXA), were founding members of SIERA.

George worked for Hughes Aircraft during his professional career, designing many patented inventions for their Space Communications. For SIERA, he served as Treasurer, Repeater Trustee, VEC Exam proctor, and newsletter editor with Dorothy for many years. He published two handbooks for SIERA, one for the Board officers and one for new members. Most days, he monitored the radio and would call 911 for anyone who needed road assistance.

Both he and Dorothy worked the Death Ride on Carson Pass and the Pony Express Re-Ride at Roberts' Ranch for over twenty years. Brad Smith (WT6B) said that George encouraged him to do *The Watering Hole*.

As a volunteer for the Sheridan Hills fire station, he met SIERA's first president, Bob Grissom, during a fire on Kingsbury Grade. Bob asked George to be the club's treasurer. You could say that George was the "soul of SIERA" based on all his contributions to the HAM community in this area.

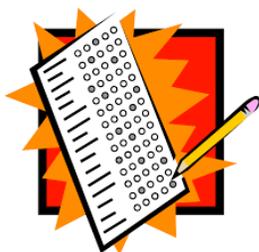


SIERA was formed from members of TARA who lived in Carson Valley. Their biggest goal at that time was to put up a repeater on Leviathan Peak. TARA members in Tahoe made quite a stink about another club because, according to George, they were afraid the SIERA people would leave TARA. That never happened. Both groups have been vital for decades.

When the Uebele's arrived in Carson Valley from southern California, George bought a Heath Kit and built a weather station. He reported weather conditions to the National Weather Service until he died. Dorothy plans to continue that service.

The last time George checked in on the VHF net was Nov. 22nd. We will miss hearing his voice every Tuesday night. Our deepest sympathies go to Dorothy and his children, Charles, Susan, and David. Because George didn't like funerals, there are no plans for one.

The photo above shows the couple at the Pony Express Re-Ride picnic in 2012 at Lampe Park.



**ARRL VEC Licensing Exams:** SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 9 a.m. in the Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church behind the Best Buy Store on Topsy Lane. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15.  
**The next exam: Saturday, January 21st.**

### **Breakfast and Lunch Get-Together**

- 11:15 a.m., every Wednesday at Jethro's.
- 8 a.m., every fourth Saturday at the Taildragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

The December breakfast will be on Christmas Eve morning. We'll still be there if you want to join us.

### **Nets Available in Carson Valley and Beyond:**

**DCART Net** Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on 147.270 and 441.250.

**TARA Net** Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.240.

**VHF Net** Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330.

**HF Net** Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on 3982KHz.

**State Skywarn Net** Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 441.650.

Brad Smith's (WT6B) **Watering Hole** Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on NV7CV 147.330, "*discussing questions and issues pertaining to amateur radio.*"

**State ARES Net** Thursdays at 7 p.m. on 441.650.

**National Traffic Service Net** Sundays at 6:15 p.m. on 3945KHz.

**The Noon Net** daily 147.55.

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### **General Meeting Minutes, December 3, 2016:**

**Called to order:** 1:06 p.m.

**Minutes:** October Minutes read. Ben Echavarria moved that minutes be approved as read. Jere Schultz seconded. There were no November minutes.

**Treasurer:** Ending balance for October 31, 2016: 8164.18; Withdrawals: .00; Deposits: .00; Interest Earned: .07; Ending Balance for November 30, 2016: 8164.25. J.D. Fowler moved that the report be approved as read and Ben Echavarria seconded.

**Membership:** No new members, but members need to pay their dues for 2017. Please refer to [www.cvhams.com](http://www.cvhams.com) for details. If a new HAM or upgraded licensee is part of a Family membership, their individual dues will be deducted from that family rate for the following year. Bob Williams moved that the report be approved as read and Ben Echavarria seconded.

## **Business:**

**Elections:** During the October meeting, Jeff Cauhape asked the membership if they would like to keep the officers as status quo unless someone wanted to be on the Board. They agreed by a hand vote. At that time, J.D. Fowler said he no longer wanted to be on the Board. Ed Eggert volunteered to take his place. Sue Cauhape would take Billie Jo McAfee's position as Secretary. The membership passed this slate by acclamation.

### **The Board Officers and Directors**

Jeff Cauhape, President, Pony Express Communications Coordinator  
Ben Echavarria, Vice President  
Sue Cauhape, Secretary and Public Information Officer  
Debbie Williams, Treasurer and Membership  
Bob Williams, Field Day Coordinator and Trailer Maintenance  
Isaiah Echavarria, director  
Daryl Haines, director  
Tom Tabacco, director  
Ed Eggert, director

### **Coordinators**

Dale Anderson, ARRL Exams Proctor and 147.330 Repeater Technician  
Don McRoberts, cvhams.com Website Master  
Sheila Clement, Nets  
J.D. Fowler, Beam Crew  
Jim Marshall, Special Events Coordinator, ARRL Liaison  
Austin Cathey, Holiday Banquet Coordinator

**Field Day:** Jeff reported that SIERA got 990 points for Field Day. While that puts SIERA at the bottom of the national standings, we are #1 among the three 2A Stations competing in Nevada. For next years Field Day, Bob suggested we make rosters for people to sign up either as Operators or Working Crew. We had plenty of helpers setting up this year, but we need more operators, especially during the night-time hours. The trailer worked great. In fact, one visitor from TARA was so impressed with our trailer that he asked TARA to get a trailer too. They already have a well-equipped van, though.

**Post-Holiday Party:** Our post-holiday part will be held on January 7, 2017 (in lieu of our regular monthly general meeting) from noon to about 3 p.m. at Jethro's on Kimmerling in Gardnerville, NV. TARA members will be invited to join us. Price is \$15 per person.

## **Announcements:**

Rick Carl, of A and C Precision Machining, needs a full-time assembly technician. Tom Tabacco held this position part-time, but doesn't want to do it full-time. It involves assembling test equipment to test the quality of seals for tubes, i.e. toothpaste tubes, etc. It will probably pay about \$15/hour. Rick especially likes to hire HAMs because of their breadth of knowledge of electronics and mechanics. This information was also announced over the weekly nets and in an email blast. A few people have already responded. Rick Carl's email was confirmed as richardcarl@cox.net.

Rick is also looking for a HAM to help him develop curriculum for a HAM class or club in local high schools. He already is building shipping container radio stations that can be moved on and off sites. Jeff said that such a class would fit into the new STEM curricula that schools are supposed to support. J.D. Fowler and Gordon Mosely said they were interested.

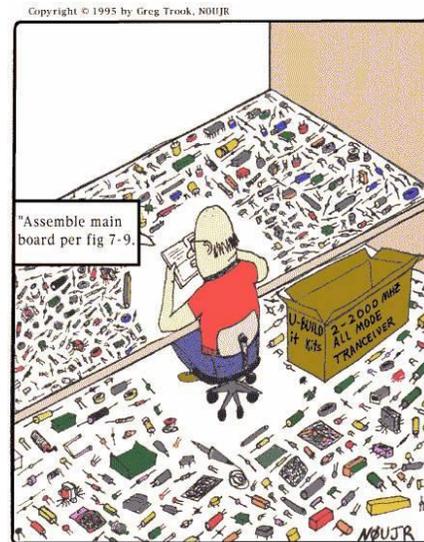
**Tech Talk:** Gordon Moseley's tech talk has been postponed until February. There will be no regular meeting in January because of the post-holiday party at Jethro's

A social hour ensued. Thank you, Linda Smith, for the wonderful Christmas cookies.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:42 p.m.

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Please help me assemble a Beacon that gives you interesting stories, relevant information, and news about fun stuff going on. Send your news items to: [scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com).



Kit fun.

***73s to Everybody and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!***