

SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

February 2017

SIERA Post-Holiday Party at Jethro's BBQ Grill

We had a surprising turn-out for our post-holiday party January 7, although most people were expecting rain-mageddon to wash us away as it did in 1997. We anticipated 31 guests and all but three showed up. As usual, Jethro's BBQ Grill served delicious food in pleasant surroundings. We had some great prizes, including a Yaesu hand-held radio and a mobile radio as the grand prize. And for those of a gardening inclination, packets of wisteria seeds were given as favors. It was a great time to see the faces behind the voices and celebrate the New Year.



Jere Schult (K7BXB), John and Marilyn Abrott, J.D. Fowler (AD7CD), Ed Eggert (K3VO), Daryl Haines (KE7HXD), and Hunter Echavarria won prizes in the raffle.



Deb and Bob Williams selling tickets.
(KC6RIC & K7VOC respectively)



Austin (KE7DZY) and Jeremie Cathey
(KE7IYP), Anita Marshall, and Julie Granish



Dorothy Uebele (N7MXA) with Karen
Haines. Jim Marshall (K6LR) and
Dale Anderson (KV7S)



Ben Echavarria (N7BBE) joins the group.



Jeff Cauhape (K7BCV), Parker McCarty (KF5SVH), Brad Smith (WT6B), and
others braved the rain to make it a fun and lively gathering.

Next Meeting: February 4th, 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd. in Gardnerville. We'll be hearing EmComm/CERT call-out tales from Ben Echavarria and (hopefully) Dale Anderson and Joe Turek, and anyone else involved in providing emergency communications.



HAMs Respond to Storm Emergencies:

--ARES reacts to lost Public Service and 911 dispatch radio in NW Nevada--

The EOC's in Nixon and Sutcliff area lost 800MHz communications with 911 dispatch. Doug Abramson, KA7FOO, deployed to Nixon and maintained communications all night with Bob Miller, WA6MTY, at the REOC. The 147.18 repeater died again so they used 147.030.

From an article on the ARRL website:

Nevada ARES Standing Down as Flood Threat Abates (1/11/2017)

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers and emergency operations centers (EOCs) in Nevada are now standing down as the threat of additional widespread flooding damage diminishes. Over the weekend, ARES members in Nevada stood ready to support the disaster response effort. Recent heavy rainfall, sparked by a weather system ... caused flooding along rivers and forced evacuations in some areas of Nevada and neighboring California. ARES volunteers took up positions at the REOC as well as in Storey, Lyon, and Douglas counties. Under the direction of **Section Emergency Coordinator Glenn Hale, KB7REO**, ARES volunteers in the rest of Nevada's counties began monitoring emergency activations on HF, Echolink, IRLP, and DMR. Throughout the weekend ARES communicators remained on duty. On Sunday the fire station at Truckee Meadows experienced a power failure and lost communication. Washoe County Emergency Coordinator Bob Miller, WA6MTY, dispatched an ARES volunteer to the station to provide communication.

A statewide ARES resource net supported the response, with 60 meters and Winlink added to the toolbox. The statewide net included the California counties of Alpine, Mono, and Inyo, which operate by prior agreements within the Nevada Section as the Sierra East District because the Sierra Nevada mountain range makes it impossible for them to communicate with their own California sections.

ARRL Nevada Section Manager John Bigley, N7UR, praised the ARRL Field Organization volunteers for standing ready to support the flooding response. — *Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR/The Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire*

(<http://www.arrl.org/news/nevada-ares-standing-down-as-flood-threat-abates>)

A Day in the Life of EmComm

Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 1:19 pm, Glenn Hale wrote:

Comms are underway in NW District. IRLP repeaters in Las Vegas are currently not connected to 9258; we're working on the problem. 7280 has been Good and Readable to and from north to south. Some periodic QRM which is to be expected. W7DEM satellite station is loud and clear. So updates are being sent via KE7XO and KJ6IX mailboxes on RMS Winlink Tony W7XM has put Nevada DMR TG on priority up north. Best way to reach Reno and REOC is by DMR. Thanks to everyone for monitoring on HF and DMR. SKYWARN Activation on SNARS announced on DMR via WX7RNO. Send reports to WX7RNO on SNARS system. Traffic on Packet sent via Winlink RMS system.

1:58:54 pm, Doug Abramson wrote:

Hi Gang:

Operating from home, have night 12-hour shift. Need to get to bed for a few hours before reporting on duty. Some news blurps, may be dated.

Resource net is in operation. Skywarn has been activated. Flooding has started, about 2 hours earlier than forecasted. Though minor issues at this time. No report of flooding in downtown Reno yet. But ...So Virginia is closed at Holcum Ranch Lane, about 12" water. Toll Road (Steam Boat Springs) is closed. Red Rock Road has washing and mud on the road, Rancho Haven is blocked off. Some power outages. Galena Creek at Laramie Road is at top of the bank. Hwy 70 at Cal Pines is closed due to a slide. Lyon County SAR has been activated. W7DEM has just come on line about 15 minutes ago (on VHF).

2:34 pm, Glenn Hale to Doug Abramson

At 1500 L we will be testing 60M channel 1 5330.5

2:56 pm, Dale Yanz to Glenn Hale; Doug Abramson

Thanks Glenn. I did check my 60 meters out 20 over S9 noise level. Dave N7TNX is at W7DEM. I'm going to get some rest and be back in a bit

3:54 pm, Glenn Hale to Doug Abramson; Bob Miller, Dale Yanz

60M is working very well to Winnemucca, Ely and Bishop. Stations were S9 to me in Vegas. 40M was long with fades. I could not hear W7DEM but could talk to W7TKO in Winnemucca okay. Band conditions on 40 deteriorated at around 2:00 pm. Everything was much better on 60M. We are going to be switching to 3965 +/- QRM here after sunset

3:13:21 pm, Bob Miller wrote:

We don't have 60m at REOC

4:12:32 pm, Dale Yanz wrote:

STATION KJ6IX IS ON 5330.5 AT THIS TIME NOISE LEVEL DROPPED

4:17:48 pm, Glenn Hale wrote:
RGR we are back on 60M CH 1

5:48:50 PM, Glenn Hale wrote:

We are monitoring 3965 now. Stations were loud and clear. Las Vegas Nevada TG DMR time slot is occupied with TAC-310 net. If you want you can listen to Reno traffic on W7AOR Nevada TG; or wait until TAC net ends and then key the other sites with Nevada TG to reset.

5:57:10 pm, Glenn Hale wrote:

Status ops can be found on Twitter use #NVFlood17. Hearing DX on 3965 may have to move up 3 kc

7:05 pm, Glenn Hale wrote:

HF operations will be suspended for the overnight. No communications could be made with REOC and had no response from W7DEM. Band is very long with stations heard in Alabama on 3965. We will start again with 7280 monitoring in the mid morning. Over night monitoring will continue on Winlink RMS and DMR Nevada TG

Thanks, everyone.



Cha-ching! Dues are Due!

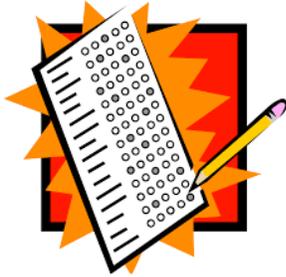
It's that time again, folks. SIERA thrives on your dues as well as your active participation and so far, we haven't raised the rates. An individual can get a year's membership for only \$24. A family can include spouses and kids for only \$32. We haven't put any limit of the number of family you may 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.

The Passing of a Friend: Richard Carl

Richard (Rick) Carl passed away unexpectedly following surgery this month. As a founding partner of A and C Precision Mechanics, he liked to hire HAMs because of their expertise and work ethic. Tom Tabacco (KE7NCJ) worked there. Carl also wanted SIERA's help to establish radio classes and/or clubs in local schools. Holding many patents for medical testing equipment, his death is a tragic loss to our community. His energy and inventive spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

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.



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: March 18th.**

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.

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.



Happy Birthday

Billie Jo McAfee (KI6ZHM)

Share your news with the Beacon by emailing scauhape2002@yahoo.com