

# SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

March 2017



There was a time when the wives of SIERA members weren't invited to the monthly breakfasts. Sharon Grissom, wife of Bob Grissom, WA6RYG lobbied for their inclusion. Since then, women have played many roles in SIERA, earning their tickets and operating radios during special events. On February 17, Dorothy Uebele, N7MXA, invited SIERA women to join her for lunch in her beautiful home. Some said they'd like to have a women's group in SIERA. Above from right is Dorothy, Jeremie Cathey KE7IYP, Natalie Sherrick N7JKM, Phyllis Hogan KD7DKJ, Debbie Williams KC6RIC, Anita Marshall, wife of Jim K6LR, and Julie Cameron, wife of David Granish KI6EWK. **Thank you, Dorothy, for your hospitality and support of SIERA.**

## **Technician's Class in Carson City**

Nine people attended the first session of the Technician's Licensing class. Jeff Cauhape K7BCV displayed his radios, home-made antennas, and other equipment. Bob Williams, K7VOC, answered our call on the 2m over the repeater. One person was pleased to learn how to apply HAM radio to his plans to cruise the Pacific Ocean. Others learned how to set up stations for their general enjoyment. And we've just begun to explore the endless possibilities of amateur radio.



## **HAMs Report on Storm Response at General Meeting:**

**Presentation: Joe Turek, Ben Echavarria (CERT), Tom Tabacco, (Lyon County Amateur Radio Emergency/Search and Rescue), and Sheila Clement (DCART), flood response in recent storms**

Joe and Ben are members of CERT and were called out during a recent flood emergency to open and service a shelter at the Douglas County Community and Senior Center on Waterloo. The main concern was evacuating residents from a mobile home park on Centerville Rd. because the creek running adjacent to the park had overflowed. Some homes had water up to the floor level, but no homes were flooded inside.

After evacuating the residents to the shelter, Joe and Ben registered them. There were cots and food available, but some residents decided to find rooms at the CVI casino. Joe said he learned about all the concerns of accepting people into the shelter in order to maintain a safe and calm environment. The Douglas County Animal Shelter brought their trailer to offer space for pets, although some residents were allowed to confine their lap dogs in cars. In all, there were no complaints about the shelter from residents.

Ben pointed out that one problem was the flooding near Lampe Park that hindered efforts to get to the shelter. When he turned onto Waterloo, his Prius "sunk in the flood waters." Also, the reason for the creek flooding near the mobile home park was due to a sluice gate that was closed. Once that was opened, the water drained quickly. He also said that China Springs students made the sandwiches for the shelter. There was fruit in quantity.

Ben reported that the Emergency Command Center (EMC) was set-up at the County Road Fire District Center next to the library. Communications comes through channels according to Incident Command routines. CERT training gave him a good foundation for IC work. While DCART was not called out to assist the 911 Call Center, CERT realized how important HAMs are in emergency response.

Tom reported that Lyon County Search and Rescue set up a station at the Emergency Operations Center. He was at the high school coordinating sand bag delivery.

At 6 p.m., Gov. Sandoval declared a state of emergency and the Red Cross arrived. S&R handed the operations off to them, took the food and left. They coordinated non-emergency traffic. There was approximately \$5M in damage, mostly to roads. The flow in the Carson River went from 4k cfs to 10k cfs.

Sheila is the coordinator of DCART, and the emergency coordinator for ARES in Douglas and Alpine Counties. While DCART was not called out to assist the 911 Call Center, Ron Sagen called Sheila, asking how many HAMs are available at a moment's notice to either set up a station at the Call Center or work from their home stations. She polled members and many said they could deploy. She said that from DCART training, they could participate ably.



**Next Meeting: March 4th, 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd. in Gardnerville. Gordon Moseley will be the presenter.**

## **SIERA Donates Books to Library**

After the luncheon at Dorothy Uebele's, a contingent of SIERA women carried boxes of George Uebele's books to donate to the Minden Public Library. At the last general meeting, it was suggested we beef up the library's collection. Jon Hofmann told the meeting that there are three books about HAM radio in the library and he is studying all of them. Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, helped Dorothy sort through dozens of technical books to determine which to keep and which were so arcane or out-dated, they could be thrown away. SIERA is grateful to Dorothy for her generosity and desire to make these books available to the community. You might visit the Minden Library and check to see if the library actually added any of them - somewhere on the 621/622 shelves.

## **Support Your Local HAM Club**



SIERA thrives on your dues as well as your active participation. There's a great momentum building in SIERA that promises to give you more of what you want. Also, whenever you tell us what you would like to see SIERA do, the club gets that much stronger and more vital. Besides helping our communities, we can have more activities that are just plain fun, like Fox Hunts, Swap Meets, classes, and so on.

Those who earn their first Amateur Radio License from the FCC at a VE exam session can get a complimentary membership for one year. An individual membership is only \$24/year. The rate for two members of the same household is \$32. Additional members of that same household join for \$8/each. HAMS under the age of 18 are free. Please send your checks and applications to Debbie Williams (KC6RIC), at P.O. Box 2348, Minden, NV 89423-2348.

## **Bits and Pieces:**

Apologies to Ed Terlau, KG7ZOP, for the misidentification in the group photo of prize winners in the February Beacon.

**We've lost Cliff WA6YZG and Lou KJ6HOA Olmstead.** Growing tired of shoveling snow and chaining up to drive anywhere, they have moved to Placerville, CA. Who knows? Maybe we can still pick them up on the NV7CV repeater. Anyway, good luck to them in their new home.

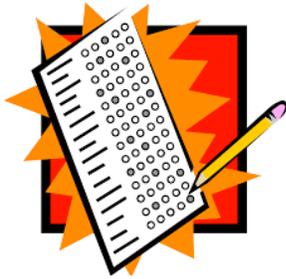
**We would like to wish** Leroy Clement, KA7UIS, a speedy recovery from his shoulder surgery. We also hope J.D. Fowler, AD7CD, will be fully recovered from his long bout with laryngitis. And Natalie Sherrick, recently had eye surgery. Thank you, Mike, NZ7G, for driving her to Dorothy's luncheon.

**For those without Facebook:** check out the video from the SIERA page.

- [https://www.facebook.com/SIERA-282008572132940/?skip\\_nax\\_wizard=true](https://www.facebook.com/SIERA-282008572132940/?skip_nax_wizard=true)

**Safety Day:** Contact Jeff Cauhape if you want to participate in Safety Day in Lampe Park, May 13 from 10-2. We'll be setting up a booth, showing up our trailer station and joining other groups in promoting safety.

**HAM Cram:** Paul Gulbro, president of TARA, announced that there will be a HAM Cram, April 29, at the Barton Hospital in South Lake Tahoe.



**ARRL VEC Licensing Exams:** SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday in 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-Togethers**

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

These gatherings are growing steadily and are a lot of fun. During the February breakfast at the Taildragger Café, we had to keep adding tables to accommodate everyone. The wait staff was friendly and kept those coffee cups brimming. Jethro's also greets us with big smiles and serves some really good lunch time special and great BBQ. Come 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.

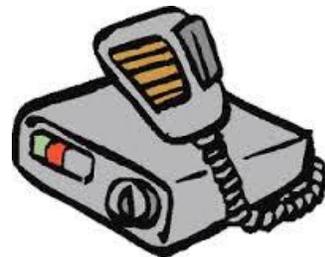
**State Skywarn Net** Wednesday at 7 p.m. on 441.650.

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.



**These are just a few of the many nets available. For a more comprehensive list, check out the SIERA website at [cvhams.com](http://cvhams.com).**

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**Check out Don McRoberts' <http://www.carsonvalleyweather.com/> for the most complete current information and more.**

## **General Meeting, February 4, 2017:**

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

**Introductions:** Jaimie Dahl N6JFD, SLT, his son, Jeremiah Dahl; and Paul Gulbro, TARA president from SLT. Jamie has expressed an interest in participating in the Pony Express communications team

**Minutes:** Dec. Minutes read. Ben Echavaria moved that minutes be approved. Brad Smith seconded. There were no January minutes because of the Post-holiday.

**Treasurer:** Ending balance for January/February 2017: \$8,164.25; Withdrawals: Secretary of State, \$110.00; Jethro's Lunch, \$478.50; Shepherd of the Sierra Church, \$150.00; Bob Williams reimbursement for raffle prizes, \$495.00; Bob Williams reimbursement for trailer registration, \$172.00: total = \$1,406.10. Deposits: Membership dues, \$379.00; VE Exams, \$56.00; Raffle tickets, \$149.00; 50/50 Raffle tickets, \$43.50; Jethro's lunch tickets, \$485.00; total = \$1,112.50; Interest Earned: \$0.14; Ending Balance for January/February, 2017: 7870.79. Parker McCarty moved that the report be approved and Brad Smith seconded.

Because the officers for 2017 were approved by the membership attending the meeting of Dec. 3, 2016, SIERA is now registered with the State of Nevada. Jeff Cauhape said that now we need to find a new bank or credit union.

**Membership:** As of this meeting, there are 33 people who have paid their dues for 2017, including those who have paid three years in advance. Lou and Cliff Olmstead have moved to Placerville, CA.

## **Announcements:**

Jeff Cauhape announced that SIERA hats (\$15) and patches (\$5) are still available.

## **Business:**

1. **Safety Day:** Jeff asked for volunteers to participate in Safety Day in Lampe Park, May 13 from 10-2.
2. **Special Event Stations:** Volunteers were sought for a Special Event Station at the Railroad Museum in Carson City during the 4th of July. Parker McCarty volunteered. Dave DeAngelis and Jim Marshall said they will furnish QSL cards for the event.
3. **The Technical Preparation class** will start Wednesday, February 22, from 6-8 p.m., in the basement room of the Brewery Arts Center, Carson City. The manuals are available through ARRL and amazon.com, but Jeff Cauhape said that the books are cheaper through amazon.com, where they are also available as Kindle books.

J.D. Fowler and Ed Eggert offered to teach a CW class if anyone is interested.

4. **Book Donations:** Dorothy Uebele said that she would like to donate George's books, antennas, and other equipment to SIERA. She also needs people to come over some day and help her disconnect it all.

Ed Eggert suggested we start a lending library for the club. Parker McCarty suggested we put the books in a box that can be brought to the meetings, etc. Bob Williams said that that would pose a problem of where to keep the books between meetings. Even keeping them in the trailer would be impractical. Dorothy urged us to donate them to the Minden Library where they would be easily available for anyone. Jon Hofmann said that at present there are only three amateur radio books in that library and he's borrowing them all at the moment. The library's collection could certainly be expanded.

Dorothy offered to take the books to the library. Jim Marshall will contact the ARRL to see if they donate books for such libraries. (He later emailed that the ARRL doesn't donate books, but they can be purchased at discounts for clubs.)

5. **Indian Hills HAMS:** John Lafrano, GID for the Indian Hills neighborhoods, asked Jeff Cauhape for contact information of HAMS in Indian Hills, Sunridge, and Jacks Valley to help coordinate emergency communications. It was suggested that he also include these HAMS to help with internal communications as well as external. Also, Greg Moore, who was not at the meeting, was mentioned because he has expressed interest in EmComm. It was suggested that Sheila get his number and tell him about DCART.

6. **Weather Website:** Ed Eggert announced that Don McRoberts' "Carson Valley Weather" website is up and can give all manner of information, both local and worldwide coverage.

7. **HAM Cram:** Paul Gulbro, president of TARA, announced that there will be a HAM Cram, April 29, at the Barton Hospital in South Lake Tahoe.

8. **Membership Reminder:** Bob Williams reminded everyone once again that membership dues are due again. He will bring the trailer to the next meeting to encourage people to re-up or join.

9. Bob Williams will take Austin Cathey's place as coordinator for the Post-Holiday party in 2018.

10. Jim Marshall said he will give a talk on digital communications at the next TARA meeting, second Saturday in March at 1 p.m., in the Zephyr Cove Library.

11. Ed Eggert asked Bob Williams if he would give a presentation on radon remediation and the test kit. Bob declined.

We adjourned for a five-minute break before the presentation. (See on second page of this Beacon.)

Brad Smith moved that the meeting adjourn. J.D Fowler seconded.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 p.m.



**Please share your news and photos with the Beacon by emailing [scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com)**