



SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

April 2017

Safety Day: Come join SIERA and many other local safety and health organizations at Lampe Park on May 13 from 10-2. We'll be setting up a booth and showing off our trailer station. Contact Jeff Cauhape, j_cauhape@yahoo.com if you want to help. Or just come and hang out.

Our Neighbors in Plumas County:



While researching the Summer Activities, we met Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, contact for the Plumas Co. HAMS. He's at the far left. Behind him is Warren, AF6PO; then Nora, KJ6CUG; Eldon, KF6JJW; Michael, KJ6WLR, our Red Cross Lead for southern and eastern Plumas County; and Liz, KF6JUY.

When Bob Miller, WA6MTY, of Reno ARES, invited the Plumas County HAMS to work the Gran Fondo bicycle race in Sierra Valley in 2014, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, started connecting Northern California and Nevada HAMS. Gran Fondo hasn't happened for a few years, but Larry's club has pitched in with other Nevada events, such as the Tahoe 200. Also, Larry has helped out at the Reno EOC many times. Since he used to be the local Director for Disaster Services for Red Cross, that segued easily. His favorite

event was the Equestrian Patriot Endurance Ride, a 50- & 100-mile 24-hour event he worked with his lady friend, Nora, KJ6CUG, who is also an equestrian.

Currently, John, W1RK, and Larry are setting up a station in the old Loyalton hospital. Sierra County had a communications blackout back in February. No land-line phones, internet, or cell phones. Not even 911. John, who lives in Calpine, started putting together a HAM station as backup. In time, the station will connect all local hospitals and the Northern Nevada Hospital Net.

Larry is the Trustee for their repeater on Mt. Hough, 145.470 -123.0, which is the last remaining in operation of the three the club used to have. It's an open repeater and their Net is Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. We're invited to pop in if you can hit the repeater!

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR 2017: Carson Valley, Tahoe, Reno, Plumas Co.

Reno 5000-1, 4/30/17, Dolan Auto Group, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@gbis.com
Silver State 50/50 Race, 5/20/17, Silver State Striders, Steve, KS6A, ks6a@sbcglobal.net
Indian Valley Century Bicycle, 5/27/17, Plumas ARC, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, dltrrotter@sbcglobal.net
Lost and Found Gravel Grinder, SBTS, 6/3/17-6/4/17, Plumas ARC, Brian, KJ6EAC, brianv@psln.com
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride, 6/4/17, TARA, Paul McAfee, KI6OCB, paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Pony Express Re-Ride, 6/5/17-6/15/17, Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, j_cauhape@yahoo.com
FIELD DAY, 6/24-6/25-17, SIERA, Bob Williams, ka6voc@gmail.com
Reno 5000-2, 6/25/17, Dolan Auto Group, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@gbis.com
Death Ride, 7/8/17, TARA, Paul McAfee, KI6OCB, paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Tahoe Rim Trail, 7/14/17, Tahoe Mtn Milers, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@gbis.com
Round Valley Walk/Run, 8/5/17, Plumas ARC, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, dltrrotter@sbcglobal.net
Running With The Bears, 8/19/17, Plumas ARC, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, dltrrotter@sbcglobal.net
Reno 5000-3, 8/17/17, Dolan Auto Group, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@gbis.com
Tour de Tahoe, 9/10/17, TARA, Paul McAfee, KI6OCB, paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com
Reno Air-Races, 9/12/17-9/17/17, WC-ARES, Rick Russell, KF7KEM, dc-russell@charter.net
Edible Pedal 100, 9/17/17, Sunrise Rotary Club, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@glis.com
Grinduro SBTS, 10/7/17-10/8/17, Plumas ARC, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, dltrrotter@sbcglobal.net
Indian Valley Lead Peepers TBD, Plumas, ARC, Larry Trotter, KI6YUK, dtrotter@sbcglobal.net

15th Annual Tour de Tahoe - Bike Big Blue, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 9/10/17, 800-565-2704
 OR registration@bikethewest.com

Las Vegas to Reno Off Road Race, 8/4/17-8/15/17, Best in the Desert Racing Assn., Keith, KC7HT, kc7htkeith@hotmail.com

Nevada Day Parade, 10/28/17, NV AREA NW DEC., John Abrott, KD7NHC, jabrott77@gmail.com, cell 775 790-1739.

And Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV, included this heads up:

TARA's Annual Christmas Meeting, Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 5:30 p.m. at the Carson Valley Inn. Sez Paul: "Yea, I know, not summer activities, but it does sneak up on you."



Speaking of the Pony Express ...

Here's a link to a PDF schedule of the Pony Express stops. If you're interested in a great adventure and the chance to participate in this historical re-enactment, contact Jeff Cauhape, j_cauhape@yahoo.com. The Northern Nevada Pony Express Assn. really appreciates our assistance.

[http://www.cvhams.com/pony_express/Time Table for PEX 2017.pdf](http://www.cvhams.com/pony_express/Time_Table_for_PEX_2017.pdf)

General Class to be Offered Soon

We're almost halfway through the Technician's class. Later this summer, Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, would like to follow up with a General Licensing class. If you are interested or know anyone who might be, contact him at j_cauhape@yahoo.com.

Next Meeting: April 1, 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd. in Gardnerville. Gordon Moseley will be the presenter. Don't be a fool and miss it.

Bits and Pieces:

Our newest HAMs:

Dale Anderson, KV7S, reports that Donald Hudson passed the Technician's exam and Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV, acquired his Extra license. Congratulations to both of you for this achievement.



And we have a new member of SIERA: James Dahl, N6JFD. Welcome to the club, James. There are fun times ahead.

The Saga of Jim Marshall's Antenna, Barn

Jim Marshall, K6LR, finally received his county permit for his tower. This could have been a simple project, but the County held the tower hostage because Jim's RV garage was built without the proper permits. Sound familiar?

Now the tower doesn't touch the garage, but one of the guy wires is about eight feet away. The tower itself is 34 feet away. Nonetheless, the powers-that-be want to make sure an RV garage meets the architectural standards for the neighborhood: properly pitched roof and eaves with a design that matches the house. Who knows, it may even need to be painted the same color. Jim's metal building just wasn't up to spec.

Being a clever man, Jim renamed the garage a barn. One neighbor is now storing her horses' hay in the barn, and another is keeping his bulldozer in there.



David Granish, KI6EWK, (left) helped mentor Douglas High School JROTC students win the American Legion Air Rifle Tournament in January. David says the kids were really excited about the Tournament. Two of them, who are still DHS students, want to compete again next year. (Photo by Amanda Ford, special to the Record-Courier.) For the complete story online, check out: <http://www.recordcourier.com/sports/jrotc-competes-in-legion-shoot/>

After moving to Carson Valley from SoCal, David didn't have a problem finding another American Legion in Nevada as there are several throughout the state. His choice, AL Post 4, The Capitol Post, sponsors high school students in many national activities, including rifle and oratorical competitions, and Boys and Girls State.

To support veterans, David attended a Legislative hearing concerning a Veterans' Home to be built in Reno. "Not all (Vets) choose to be members of Vet groups. I don't think many Vets fully understand the need to be involved and don't think that their voices or votes matter. I think this is a holdover from when many of us came home during or after Vietnam and were treated as second-class citizens. All that has changed, but much must be done to protect today's Vets and ensure that tomorrow's Vets never have that experience or have few benefits to protect their health and welfare."

Happy Birthday Natalie Sherrick N7JKM

Support SIERA'S Many Communities Activities:

It's not too late to renew your membership in SIERA. 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, P.O. Box 2348, Minden, NV 89423-2348.

ARRL VEC Licensing Exams: SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday in 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: May 20th.**



HAM Cram: Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV, president of TARA, announced a HAM Cram set for April 29, at the Barton Hospital in South Lake Tahoe. Contact Paul at WA6ewv@juno.com.

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.

Plumas County Net, Tuesdays at 7 p.m., on 145.470.

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

SIERA 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.

When all else fails: Amateur Radio, Fridays at 10 a.m. on 147.150.

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

The SNARS Noon Net daily 147.55.



General Meeting, March 4, 2017:

Called to order: 1:05 p.m.

Introductions: Subrina Vinton, John Bigley, ARRL Regional Rep., Las Vegas; Chuck Farnham, Fallon;

Minutes: February Minutes read and approval with amendments. Tom Tabacco moved to approve and Brad Smith seconded.

Treasurer: Ending balance for March 2017: 7870.79; Withdrawals: American Family Insurance \$206.00; total =206.00. Deposits: Membership dues 80.00; total = \$80.00; Interest Earned: .07; Ending Balance for March, 2017: \$7744.86. See attached for details. Parker McCarty moved for approval and everybody seconded.

Announcements:

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

Business:

Technician's Class: Jeff Cauhape said that nine people attend the class and it should be finished in time for the May exams. He asked if anyone was interested in taking a General Licencing class afterward and four stated their interest.

He also talked about the club buying radios to loan to new HAMs for six months. Chuck Farnham said radios can be purchased for as little as \$18/\$20 each on amazon or EBay. Jeff will check this out. J.D. Fowler said that replacement batteries can be purchased from BatteriesAmerica.com more cheaperly than having them refurbished at Batteries Plus.

Scout Merit Badge: Jeff asked if anyone was interested in teaching a Boy Scout Merit Badge class. Caroll Massie said she would be interested. Parker McCarty suggested we should push the Scouts a little further to join SIERA.

Safety Day: Jeff asked for volunteers to participate in Safety Day in Lampe Park, May 13 from 10-2.

Special Event Stations: Jim Marshall said that after talking to John Bigley and Chuck Farnham, he learned that Special Event Stations don't need a historical significance to be registered with ARRL to have a special call sign or be listed in their magazine. John further suggested that we contact other railroad museums in Nevada to make a Railroad Museum Weekend Special Event. Tom Tobacco will check on arranging this with the Carson City museum.

Pony Express/Field Day: Jeff Cauhape gave everyone a head-up that the Pony Express Re-Ride and Field Day are coming up in June. The Pony is June 12-15 and Field Day is on the last weekend. Jeff will be emailing everyone to check for interest and assign positions.

Book Donations: Sue Cauhape reported that a group of SIERA women took George Uebele's books to the Minden Library and encouraged the members to check if they've actually put them on the 620 shelf.

John Bigley offered to donate \$150 worth of books to SIERA to donate to the Minden Library from ARRL.

Changing Banks: Debbie Williams will research and open a new account at a local credit union. Three signatories from the Board will need to go with her.

NVCON: John Bigley reported that SNARS cancelled the Northern Nevada radio convention in lieu of the ARRL Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention in Las Vegas later in March. He encouraged members to take advantage of this huge convention. (It has been advertised in the Beacon for the previous two months.)

Trailer Improvement: Bob Williams proposed several improvements and cost estimates to put solar power and radios in the trailer. Ideally, the trailer ought to have one stand-alone station for EmComm. He will bring a complete budget to the Board.

ARRL Update: John Bigley informed us that our information on the ARRL website has not been updated since 2007. Jim Marshall, ARRL Liaison, will update that.

Cookies: Billie Jo McAfee provided cookies for the next meeting.

Tom Tabacco moved that the meeting adjourn. Parker McCary seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.



Did you attend the Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention in Las Vegas? Do you have a technical issue you'd like to talk about? Did you make an intriguing contact? Or have you found a way to work around HOA's and other local regulators?

If you want to tell everyone about your HAM radio experience or technical interest, please send your news and photos to the Beacon:
scauhape2002@yahoo.com

If you're looking for Vintage (or modern) HAM radio, audio, or military equipment, go online to **HAMANDHIFI.COM**. They will bring their truck to you to buy or sell, but be warned. They don't give top dollar when buying your stuff. Worth a peek, maybe.