



# SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

June 2017

**Joe Turek AB7TJ** was involved in a motorcycle accident on Monday, May 22 in Texas and suffered some broken ribs and damage to his spine and pelvis. He's recovering from surgery and is heavily sedated. As many of you may know, Joe is active in SIERA, CERT, and DCART. You can contact him at Joe Turek, 6th Fl, SICU, c/o Parkland Hospital, 5200 Harry Hinds Blvd., Dallas, TX 75234. Also, Dale Anderson KV7S has been in touch with him and giving us updates. Let's hope Joe has a speedy recovery and is back home and on the air soon.



## Practicing for the Pony

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Ken Head KE6STM, from Placerville, CA, and Ron Bell, NV District president of the Pony Express, practiced following the riders Saturday May 20. Ken is joining forces with SIERA because the California HAMS aren't supporting the Pony this year. He's looking forward to going as far eastward as the Utah/Nevada border. Last year was his first year following the Pony. Because he had such a blast, he's going to participate in any way he can. Meanwhile, we still need radio operators who are willing to work

remote relay stations or follow behind the Pony riders **June 12-14**. Anyone interested should contact Jeff at [j\\_cauhape@yahoo.com](mailto:j_cauhape@yahoo.com).

## Breakfast and Lunch Get-Togethers

11:15 a.m., every Wednesday at Jethro's on Kimmerling in the Ranchos.

8 a.m., every fourth Saturday at the Taildragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

**Safety Day:** While attendance for the CERT Safety Day was low, plenty of kids showed interest in working the radios with Bob Williams K7VOC. All day long, Bob valiently guided the kids in brief contacts with Tahoe HAM Don KE7RGK. The rest of us just hung out, talking to other interested visitors who declined the radio experience. Our newest HAM, Joel Flamenbaum KI7NAW brought his new Baufang hand-held to get some tips on working the blasted thing. He confessed that once he got his license, he realized just how much he didn't know. Elmers at Safety Day helped him learn to tune and try-out his radio. He's been calling in on the NV7CV repeater every since.

Former SIERA member Brad Hollander N7RCA also hung out with us. He's thinking about rejoining the club and is working out a special surprise for the HAM community which will be featured in an upcoming BEACON. Meanwhile, his annual SWAP MEET is coming up on Saturday June 17. Check the ad below for details or at [www.n7rca.info](http://www.n7rca.info)

## **Northern Nevada Annual Ham Radio Swap Meet**

**Saturday, June 17th from 7:30 a.m. to whenever.  
1760 Bobcat Court, Minden, NV**

**HP • Tektronix • Johnson • Icom • Hallicrafters • 35 Mm Projectors • Amplifiers •  
Tubes • Power Supplies • Marine Radios • Yeasu • Collins And Other Filters •  
Tuners • Towers • And More...**

### **What to Bring**

- Wife
- Friends
- Drinks
- Food
- Chairs
- Table for Swap

### **AGENDA**

- Swap
- Buy
- Sell
- Trade
- Have Fun!

**Spaces are FREE!**

In Minden, NV (20 miles east of South Lake Tahoe) on a six-acre ranch with lots of room for parking. RV's are welcome! From Hwy 395 in beautiful downtown Minden, turn left on Buckeye and go to East Valley Drive. Cross over East Valley where Buckeye magically becomes Benton Rd. here. Take the right fork and wind around until Benton stops at a T. To the right is Bobcat Ct. where you'll see the bright red fire truck. Follow Bobcat Ct. to the end.

**Next Meeting:** June 3 at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Road, Gardnerville, NV. Jim Marshall has volunteered to bring cookies.

**A big shout-out** to Jerry N7ER who helped Ron K6CPR dispatch a search and rescue team from Alpine County to rescue a kayaker who lost his kayak in the Carson River. Thank you to both of you for using radio to assist a person in need.

## **General Class to be Offered Soon**

As soon as The Pony and Field Day are behind us, Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, would like to teach a General Licensing class. If you are interested or know anyone who might be, contact him at [j\\_cauhape@yahoo.com](mailto:j_cauhape@yahoo.com)

## **Upcoming Events:**

**America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride**, 6/4/17, TARA, contact Paul McAfee, KI6OCB, [paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com](mailto:paul.mcafee6243@gmail.com)

**Pony Express Re-Ride**, 6/5/17-6/15/17, contact Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, [j\\_cauhape@yahoo.com](mailto:j_cauhape@yahoo.com)

**FIELD DAY**, 6/24-6/25-17, SIERA, contact Bob Williams, K7VOC, [ka6voc@gmail.com](mailto:ka6voc@gmail.com)

**Reno 5000-2**, 6/25/17, Dolan Auto Group, contact Bob Miller, WA6MTY, [wa6mty@gbis.com](mailto:wa6mty@gbis.com)

**Death Ride**, 7/8/17, TARA, Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV, [wa6ewv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wa6ewv@sbcglobal.net)

## **STILL WANTED: Personnel for Carson City Railroad Days**

SIERA's Special Event, CARSON CITY RAILROAD DAYS, is July 2-4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We need operators for two HF stations and a VHF station on 40 meters, 80 meters and possibly 17 and 20 meters. The object of this event is to log as many stations as possible and send QSL cards out to all the contacts.

Besides operators for all stations, we'll need set up and break down crews, and people to log contacts with a laptop running N1MM logging software. Of course, the most important of all is people to supply food and beverages. You can work as many hours and days as you want. Technicians and new HAMs are encouraged to join the fun and hone their skills on VHF *and* HF under another person's higher license. Email Jim Marshall at [k6lr@arrl.net](mailto:k6lr@arrl.net) to sign up.

## **Happy Birthday to:**

Mel Hogan	May 20
June Bennett	June 17
Mike Sherrick	June 13



**ARRL VEC Licensing Exams:** SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday in 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: July 15th.**

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

**DCART Net**, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on 146.655 pl 131.8

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

**Plumas County Net**, Tuesdays at 7:30 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.

**NV ARES Net**, Thursdays at 7 p.m. on the EchoLink conference server, NV-GATE: 152566.

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

**EchoLink** info is SKYWARN at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and

**NV ARES** is 7 p.m. Thursdays. Both operate on the EchoLink conference server NV-GATE: 152566EchoLink and can go onto your smart phones, tablets and computers.

*"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.



**Facebook Post from Jeff Cauhape:** "To make a long story short, I was talking to another ham radio operator up in Susanville. He was delivering free messages as radio-grams to people as a public service, and he described some of the strange reactions he gets from some people. Turns out quite a few people have not heard about ham radio - AT ALL - and suspect it's some sort of scam, or that ham radio is used by drug dealers and revolutionaries and they want nothing to do with someone calling them up to deliver a message from a friend or relative. Have we gotten to the point that ANYTHING out of the ordinary is scary and dangerous? What the heck has happened to us?"

## **General Meeting, May 6, 2017:**

**Called to order:** 1:02 p.m.

**Introductions:** Jerry Grandstaff K7ER, Anthony Grandstaff K7AMG and Chuck Weis N3WY.

**Minutes:** April Minutes read and approved with corrections. Jeff Cauhape moved to approve and Ben Echavarria seconded.

**Treasurer:** Ending balance for April 2017: 7798.92; Withdrawals = .00. Deposits: Don McRoberts/website : 41.94; United Federal Credit Union = 55.00; Postmaster for P.O. box = 94.00; Total Withdrawals: \$190.94; Interest Earned: .14; Ending Balance for April, 2017: \$7808.12. See attached for details.

Debbie Williams reported that SIERA moved its account from Bank of America to United Federal Credit Union. She is waiting for all checks to clear B of A before moving all remaining funds from that bank to the credit union. Jeff Cauhape moved to approve report and J.D. Fowler seconded.

### **Announcements:**

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

Tom Tabacco said he had a couple of items for sale at the meeting.

Jim Marshall said he would be the temporary club librarian of the books he rescued from the library sale. Jon Hofmann said he found two more books at the sale to add to the library.

Jeff said that there's SIERA radio hardware at his house that can be loaned to members.

Daryl reported that he can get books from the Carson City Library bookstore to donate to the SIERA library.

### **Business:**

**ARISS Project:** Sheila Clement needs help with the process of filtering information and the bureaucracy of putting this program together. (Refer to April Minutes for details.)

**Radios:** Ben Echavarria reported that Kenwood TH-K20-A hand-helds cost about \$124 each and are very simple to use. Jeff Cauhape moved that SIERA purchase four of these to loan to new Technicians who join SIERA. They will be on loan for six months only. Then the member has to purchase his or her own radio. Ben seconded the motion and Debbie Williams will order them.

Ed Eggert suggested we tell members who borrow radios that they should tune into the nets.

**Pony Express Re-Ride and Field Day:** Jeff Cauhape is still working on the scheduling details and will release the information to the membership soon.

**Trailer:** Bob Williams reported that he has one radio station set up, no lights. It's currently a mess with tools all over the place, but it'll come together in time for Safety Day.

**Field Day:** signup sheets will be at the June Meeting Jeff Cauhape volunteered to take care of the GOTA station. J.D. Fowler will put together a beam crew. They will be the only ones allowed to handle the beam. Bob Williams will go to Florence Fencing to get stronger poles for the beam.

