



SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

September 2017



Bob Williams K7VOC and John Abrott KD7NHC



Mel Hogan WA6EYD and Austin Cathey KD7DZY

Dorothy Uebele N7MXA generously donated to SIERA \$551 made from our recent Estate Sale of George's radio equipment. Both founding members of the club, they produced the newsletter and maintained the repeater for many years. Mel Hogan WE6EYD and Jim Marshall K6LR helped Dorothy sort through all of his stuff. Then they cleaned and tested it until it looked like it was fresh from *hamradio.com*. They are going to sell two YEASU transceivers on eBay for \$900 and \$750.



Next Meeting: September 2, at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Road, Gardnerville, NV. Jamie Dahl will be giving his presentation on his JT-65 system.



A big thank you to: Don McRoberts W3DRM, Bob Williams K7VOC, David DeAngelis K1SCN, Dale Anderson KV7S, David Granish KI6EWK, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ, J.D. Fowler AD7CD, Greg Moore KG7DMI, and Mel Hogan WE6EYD. We hope we haven't missed anyone. That's quite a crew of helpers!

Later that day over the radio, Jim told Brad Smith WT6B how hot it was up on that tower. He became so exhausted and dehydrated that his muscles and grip gave out. "I really scared myself," he said. He

lowered his toolkit and called down for some water. Good thing he had so many SIERA friends to help him out with this epic project.

"I have to admit that I was one tired guy after the day, as I climbed the tower to remove the crane slings from the tower and mount the 10 element log periodic antenna to the mast after the crane lifted it up to me. I was so tired after being up there for about an hour that I forgot to connect the antenna coax jumper to the hard line. I just wanted to get down!"

Jim also wants to congratulate all his helpers for getting the job done in the allotted time. The crane company allowed for three hours: one for the road and two to do the job. Jim thanks everyone for their help and hard work to get this tower up for him.

Just FYI for future reference: During a conversation among the Cauhape's, daughter Valerie talked about climbing gear and sent this article for the Beacon: <https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/belay-device.html>. It's also possible to get certified in handling the belay rope for anyone climbing high objects (such as towers, ahem).

Check out Jim's photos and a photo montage posted to the SIERA Facebook page.



SilentKeys

Eighty-eight-year-old Duncan Insley WA6RRU passed away on August 18. He was a long time member of SIERA, joining the club in 1989 when he retired and moved to Carson Valley. He taught the Technician class for many years and participated in the Pony Express Re-ride. After suffering a stroke, he had to give up outside activities. Duncan became interested in radio when he was 12 years old. This life-long hobby led to a career in electrical engineering after he graduated from the University of Detroit. He worked on missile programs at the

Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake. After that, he worked many years at Lockheed in Sunnyvale on space programs. He is survived by his wife, Betty N7UAU, and a son who lives in Sunnyvale.



Bits and Pieces

Honor Flight: Carroll Massie NV7YL will join other veterans in an all-female Honor Flight to Washington D.C. September 22-25. Carroll spent her 3-1/2-year Army career transporting dependents of soldiers stationed in Europe to safety zones from endangered areas. Through the military, she was able to go to college, becoming a court reporter. She typed 300 wpm.



Another Swap Meet: We had such a successful time at the Estate Sale last month we've decided to do it again. This time we'll hold a swap meet at Jeff and Sue Cauhape's house, 2554 Nye Drive, 8 a.m. Saturday, September 9th. We will include unpurchased items from the estate sale as well as anything anyone wants to bring. Gates open for vendors to set up at 7 a.m. (and no earlier). Just bring your stuff and a table to display it. You can either keep the cash from your sales or donate it to SIERA.

And Dorothy has more goodies: A nice pair of Optimus STS-1000 3-way stereo speakers, 12-inch woofer, plus mid-range and piezo tweeter (22H x 14W X 14D), \$50.00 for the pair. Maxtor 160GB external hard drive, brand new, never used, \$20.00. Remember, the proceeds from the sale of these items go to SIERA. Contact Jim Marshall at jmarshall1945@yahoo.com.

Joe Turek's Equipment: As you can guess, Joe Turek accumulated a lifetime's worth of radio goodies. Dale Anderson KV7S, and Jim Marshall K7LR will sort it all and bring some of it to the Swap Meet on Sept. 9th. As that sorting process continues, more stuff will become available. Joe's son, Shawn, is still working out details for a celebration of life for Joe. The Beacon will report that information when it's received.

Are all those old magazines piling up? Austin Cathey KE7DZY had a great idea for anyone who has old amateur radio magazines laying around. He suggested they bring a couple to the meetings now and then and lay them out on the front table for anyone who would like to borrow or keep them. It's a way to share some good technical information from these vintage resources while making room in your ham shack.

Field Day Results: According to ARRL magazine, our Field Day scores were accepted on the first pass. We earned 1442 points, 400 from media work, and the remainder from extras such as using solar and generator power for off-grid transmitting. The solar panels ran the radios and Bob Williams' generator, that used about two-thirds of a five-gallon tank of propane, ran the lights. We had operators working the radios through the full twenty-four hours and even coaxed a few new HAMS to take a turn.

ARRL VEC Licensing Exams: SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday in 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: September 16th.**

OOPS! In last month's story about the Pony Girls, the Beacon reported that June Bennett N7OWV drove all the way to Tonapah to earn her Technician's license. It was actually her EXTRA license that she earned that day. That's why it was such a special trip for her.



Happy Birthday:

Brad Smith WT6B
Michael Whitten KI7NIP
Jere Schultz KF7BXX
Phyllis Hogan KD7DKJ
Julie Cameron
Sheila Clement KA7AJQ
Sue Cauhape KI7CTT

Upcoming Events:

Tour de Tahoe, 9/11/17, TARA, Don Heath, KE7RGK, d3heath@charter.net

Reno Air-Races, 9/12/17-9/17/17, WC-ARES, Rick Russell, KF7KEM,
dc-russell@charter.net

Edible Pedal, 100, 9/1717, Sunrise Rotary Club, Bob Miller, WA6MTY, wa6mty@glis.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.

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.

Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on 147.150.

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

The SNARS Noon Net daily 147.15.



Arlan Duwayne Robinson KA7ZAU has invited everyone to report in on the **Hospital Net**, Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on the SNARS linked repeaters. You don't have to be a hospital or a radio room to check in as a visitor. Here's the list of the repeaters:

Freq.	Offset	PL Tone	City
147.150	+	123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson, Fallon
147.210	+	100.0	Reno, Sparks
444.125	+	123.0	Reno, Sparks (coming soon)
147.030	+	123.0	Sparks, Spanish Springs, Fernley
146.925	-	123.0	Lovelock, Fallon
146.670	-	123.0	Winnemucca (NNARS Supported)
444.875	+	100.0	Yerington, Smith Valley



Because of the Estate Sale on August 5th, both the Board and General meeting business portions were cancelled; thus no minutes from those meetings. Some of us talked about not reading the minutes during the general meeting because they are posted in the Beacon which everyone receives. That leaves more time for presentations and socializing. We can discuss this further at the September meeting.

General Meeting, July 1, 2017:

Called to order: 1:02 p.m.

Introductions: June Bennett N7OWV, Cathy Carney KI7NIR, and Nancy

Minutes: June Minutes read and approved with corrections. Tom Tabacco moved to approve and everybody seconded.

Treasurer: Ending balance for June 2017: 5572.18; Deposits: .00; Withdrawals: .00; Interest Earned: .07; Ending Balance for May 2017: \$5572.25.

Announcements:

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

Radios: Cathy Carney KI7NIR is a new HAM and new member of SIERA. She borrowed one of the loaner radios today.

General Class: Jeff Cauhape will teach a General Licensing class beginning Thursday July 13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Carson City Library. It will last approximately thirteen weeks. So far, 10-12 people have shown interest.

Extra Class: two people have shown interest in an Extra class. Also, Ed Eggert reminded everyone that a CW class can be offered if there is interest. (J.D. Fowler mentioned a couple of months ago that he would like to offer a CW class, too.)

Field Day: J.D. Fowler thanked everyone involved with Field Day and said that it was "par excellence." Jeff Cauhape said that we earned 1442 points, 400 from media work, and the remainder from extras such as using solar and generator power for off-grid transmitting. The radios were totally run on solar panels and the lights were on Bob Williams' generator that used about two-thirds of a five-gallon tank of propane. He was really happy with the propane conversion unit he used.

Break for twenty minutes.

Business:

Pony Express/Field Day:

The rest of the meeting, we discussed the Pony Express and Field Day. Jeff Cauhape said the Pony went well. The newly-introduced cell phone alerts to the riders were really appreciated. The combination of cell phone and radio use succeeded. Because of that, next year we won't be using as many relay stations on mountains as in the past. Jim Marshall said that Brian Freitag's relay help was crucial when Jim and Don McRoberts couldn't connect by cell or radio while following the rider through a portion of the Ft. Churchill Rd. (A thank you to Brian was issued in the Beacon as well as on the SIERA Facebook page.) Jim suggested that Sue Cauhape mail a specific thank you to Brian. She will also put him on the Beacon list.

Field Day was a huge success. Operators transmitted throughout the full 24-hour period and found the trailer set-up to be very comfortable. We discussed various ways to provide additional shade outside the trailer to increase cooling. Also, roof vents and a rack to hold the ladder will be added.

Cookies: Ed Terlau brought cookies that his wife, Karen baked. Thank you, Karen. David Granish volunteered to bring cookies for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 p.m.



Jim Marshall's antenna tower is all set up now and ready to contact the world.

Send your news and photos to the Beacon at:
scauhape2002@yahoo.com