



# SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

January 2018



## **Join SIERA for One Last Holiday Bash, January 6, 1 p.m. at the Black Bear Diner in the Max Casino, Carson City**

Some people celebrate Twelfth Night on January 6th, so why shouldn't we? Our post-holiday party includes lots of great raffle prizes, food, and fun. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. in the banquet room of the Black Bear Diner in the MAX Casino, Carson City. (Doors open at 12:30.)

There's no pre-registration as in past years. You can order what you want, split an order between two people, and pay your own check. Bring plenty of cash to buy raffle tickets, though, because there are going to be some goodies to bid on.

**Also, TARA members, please join us for all the fun and camaraderie. We had such a good time at your party in December. Let's bring in the New Year together.**

**Here's a little post-Christmas video shared on Facebook by our friends in BARC:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ailFghtEKsc&feature=youtu.be>**

**[The New Rogue's Gallery...er...2018 SIERA Board Members](#)**



Jeff Cauhape  
K7BCV  
president



Ben Echavarria  
N7BBE  
vice president



Debbie Williams  
N7XYL  
treasurer



Sue Cauhape  
KI7CTT  
secretary/PIO



Bob Williams  
K7VOC  
officer



Tom Tabacco  
KE7NJ  
officer



Jim Marshall  
K6LR  
officer



Greg Moore  
KG7DMI  
officer



David Granish  
KI6EWK  
officer

**The next meeting will be held February 3rd at 1 p.m. in the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Ln., Gardnerville, NV.**

**This is just a subtle reminder that its time to pay 2018 membership dues. Checks are preferred: \$24/individuals and \$32/families. Please give your checks to Debbie Williams or mail them to SIERA, P.O. Box 2348, Minden, NV 89423-23423**



k2201317 www.fotosearch.com

With all the swap meets and estate sales going on lately, there's always the chance for buyer's remorse. SIERA wants to remind everyone that, although all equipment is tested before it is offered for sale, **SIERA cannot guarantee these purchases, and all sales are final.** Remember, these items are used equipment. Some may even be considered antiques. Also, what is operational on the tester's bench may not mesh with the buyer's station. Furthermore, NOTHING should be tuned under full power or various components will burn out. Think of it this way: these radios are like little old ladies as brittle as teacups; not frat boys in a mosh pit.

## **New Technician's Class Coming in 2018**

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV is developing a Technician's class for Western Nevada College in Carson City for \$45. Details are still being worked out, but let your friends know it's coming soon. The 1.5-hour-a-week class will include more hands-on activities and will run 8-10 weeks. By taking the VE Tech Exam as a final, students will walk away with a Technician's license and a firmer grasp on how to operate and set up a station.

**Check out Jeff's new website: [www.k7bcv-radio.tech](http://www.k7bcv-radio.tech) for updates about the class and some great videos and articles.**

**ARRL VEC Licensing Exams:** SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday every other month at 9 a.m. in the Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church behind the Best Buy on Topsie Lane. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. **The next exam: January 20th. Contact: Greg Moore, [KG7DMI@frontier.com](mailto:KG7DMI@frontier.com).**

## **Happy Birthday to December and January SIERA Members**

Jeff Cauhape	K7BCV
J.D. Fowler	AD7CD
Ed Goldberg	KE7EAA
Paul Gulbro	WA6EWV
David Granish	KI7EWK
Curt Lueck	KG7TVC
Ed Goldberg	KE7EAA
Gordon Moseley	KC7CA



## **Let's Shake Up the New Year with Some New SIERA Events**

Greg Moore KG7DMI is antsy for SIERA to sponsor some radio events. Here's what Greg suggests for anyone wanting to organize an event through SIERA:

**What do you do that's radio related? Want to organize an event? Just speak up. SIERA members are more than willing to help you work out the details. It's easy with the following information:**

1. Event?
2. Date?
3. Venue?
4. What help do you need to coordinate the event?
5. The club radio trailer is self-contained and ready for use thanks to Bob K7VOC.

These events take time and effort to set-up, so start the process early, often a year ahead. The more complex the event, the more time and coordination are needed. Some HAMs have been doing recon already to find hilltops, parks, parking lots, and dry lake beds for suitable venues.

**Suggested events to sponsor as a club:** Events in Red are on the calendar.

**SIERA Girls on the Air (GOTA), TBD:**

**New hams on the Air, TBD** - Possibly August 25-26

**ARRL Rookie Roundup - April 16:**

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

New hams (licensed in the last 3 years) make contact with more experienced hams.

**The 7th area QSO party - May 5:**

<http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=about7QP>

**ARRL June VHF Contest - June 10:**

<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

**Pony Express Ride - June 21- 24 (Nevada section)**

<http://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/current-ride/>

Update coming soon. <http://www.cvhams.com/>

**ARRL Field Day - June 24-25**

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

**Nevada QSO party** - returning October 13-14

These are just a few ideas that are already in the works and can be discussed at upcoming meetings. Don't be afraid to suggest others you are interested in adding to this list. The world is out there. Let's make contact!

## **DCART NEWS**

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) has been the public service communications program of the ARRL since 1935. Occasionally the program updates procedures to make sure it meets the needs of partners at all levels, adjusts to changes in the Amateur Radio Service, and incorporates lessons learned from emergency and disaster activations. The last major update occurred more than 40 years ago.

In 2015, the ARRL board of directors created the Public Service Enhancement Working Group to study the ARRL's public service offerings and recommend improvements. The group focused on training, volunteer management, field organization positions, and mission. Recommendations were vetted through a peer review group of field organization volunteers and prepared for implementation.

The first step is group identification. Currently, there is no way to identify ARES groups or their associated volunteers with a searchable unique designator, which makes reporting and accountability difficult. Beginning January 1, 2018 ARES groups will need to sign up for their unique ARES identification number. This number will be used by the ARES Connect system and provide ARES groups with benefits. Once ARES groups receive their identification numbers they will be eligible for benefits, including:

1. ARES book sets (great for the EOC or Red Cross radio room)
2. New ham referral
3. Early access to the annual ARES Report
4. Email forwarding, which will provide ARES groups that have a club call sign with a uniform "callsign@arrl.net"



## **BARC Just Keeps Working On It:**

John Shepherd AD6NR reports the Antelope repeater is fixed! Due to a temporary improvement in propagation (ducting?) between Silver and Conway December 16th, all six repeaters linked with reasonable signal levels and audio quality, proving proof of concept! The relay via Mark W6WWA's QTH did not work as John AD6NR had hoped. They need to get the Conway/Silver UHF link working to be successful. Work is continuing, and they are looking for a better relay point

A crew from Mono County fixed the noise problem on Antelope by replacing bad solar panels and corroded connectors. A 50dbm noise floor was reduced to 3dbm. Antelope now appears to be working well to the south. Now there is coverage for at least part of the Owens Valley up to Mono County/Topaz/CC to the north. That is good news, but they cannot link to Antelope from Silver. Transmitting on 146.39 to Antelope while listening on 146.34 did not work.

One very interesting thing was that UHF propagation from Conway to Silver was dramatically better on Saturday! John talked to Steve WC6R, Bob WA7VOC and several others via the Leviathan repeater using the Silver, Mazourka and Mammoth repeaters. All six repeaters were up and linked! There was that "hiss" John thinks is on one of the links, but quieting at his end was about 70% - not perfect - but completely useable. John believes this was created by a very distinct inversion layer across the

northern end of Owens Valley at about the 8,000-foot level. The layer was quite visible coming down Sherwin grade Saturday afternoon. Ducting may have been a contributing factor. He is learning that propagation plays a much bigger role in VHF/UHF FM radio than he imagined.

## BARC & SARC in the Park or SARC & BARC in the Park

Here's a great example of what Greg is talking about for a club-sponsored event. In fact, two clubs have merged their talents to arrange this picnic.

Bishop/Ridgecrest Hamfest, Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Lone Pine Town Park (Spainhower Park) at north end of town along Hwy 395.

## So Who's Jamal Faulconer?

Whoever he is, he's left an interesting legacy: Here's a link to a slide show presentation he did explaining how repeaters function. He's also included some panoramic photos of repeaters on Leviathan, East, and McClellan Peaks. Perhaps he did this as a school assignment. A Google search came up with nothing, so if anyone knows who Jamal is, let us know. We'd like to thank Jamal for posting this slideshow on the Internet. And thanks to Greg Moore for sending Jamal's link to share on the Beacon.

<http://slideplayer.com/slide/1633561/>

## **FOR SALE: YAESU FTM400XDR/DE mobile radio.**

Never installed, includes manual and RT Systems programming software. \$500.00.

Contact Tom Tabacco at [smokey@pyramid.net](mailto:smokey@pyramid.net).



## **FOR SALE: Alpha 87a fully automatic linear amplifier.**

Low hours, 1.5 kw+ tube amplifier, will easily do 2 kw. Switched external fan installed, has latest firmware for "Alpha Max" and Alpha remote. Connects via RS-232 to USB cable, with alpha remote software (included). Also includes a dust cover with alpha embroidered logo. Asking \$3,200.

Also: \$800 for a brand new set of Eimac tubes, still in boxes. These are spare tubes to use in this amplifier.

Sixty watts drive produces 1500 watts. It's a bullet proof amp that requires no set-up even when changing bands. Great for contesting. Will deliver up to 100 miles from Minden NV. Contact Jim Marshall at [k6lr@arrl.net](mailto:k6lr@arrl.net)

**Breakfast and Lunch Gatherings** 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 3982.

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

**BARC Nightly Net**, 8 p.m. on 146.940 pl 103.5

(website: <http://www.n6ov.com/newsletter.html>)

**SKYWARN** at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and the **NV ARES** is 7 p.m. Thursdays. Both operate on the EchoLink conference server NV-GATE: 152566 EchoLink 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.

**ARES HF Net**, Saturdays at 7 a.m. on 3965.

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

**The SNARS Noon Net** daily 147.15.

**Hospital Net**, Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on the SNARS linked repeaters.

<b>147.150</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson, Fallon</b>
<b>147.210</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Reno, Sparks</b>
<b>444.125</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>Reno, Sparks (coming soon)</b>
<b>147.030</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>Sparks, Spanish Springs, Fernley</b>
<b>146.925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>Lovelock, Fallon</b>
<b>146.670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>Winnemucca (NNARS Supported)</b>
<b>444.875</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Yerington, Smith Valley</b>

### **General Meeting, December 2, 2017:**

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

**Introductions:** Chuck N6CWC, Jerry KC6QNC, Joel KK6ZUP, John KD7NHC.

#### **Treasurer:**

Checking Starting balance:	\$1921.98
Withdrawals (badges)	<13.39>
Deposits	275.00
End balance:	<u>\$2183.59</u>

Savings Account Balance	\$4567.85
Dividend Earned	.19
Ending Balance:	<u>\$4568.04</u>
<b>Grand total of both accounts:</b>	<b>\$6751.63</b>

**Membership:** Sean Wiesel KI7QER

Debbie Williams announced that dues for 2018 are coming due in January. Checks are preferred over cash. Members need to fill out a form for any changes to their information. It's \$24 for individuals and \$32 for families.

### **Announcements:**

**Technician's Class:** Jeff Cauhape is developing an extended class for Western Nevada College the Community Education Dept. in Carson City, NV. Greg Moore will give the VC Technician's Exam in lieu of a final exam so that class members will obtain their licenses and, hopefully, join SIERA. The Board members and visitors suggested Jeff contact 4X4 clubs, Girl and Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Mormon Church, Sheriff/Fire Dept., gun stores for posters, and local ranchers.

**Linked Repeaters:** Paul Gulbro is trying to get the 147.24 repeater linked in with BARC's system of repeaters running down Hwy. 395.

**Field Day Results:** NV7CV came in first in Nevada for a two-way station. We got 1422 points for 2017, way up from 990 in 2016.

### **Business:**

The members approved the slate of Board members for 2018 by voice acclamation. The new Board members are: Jeff Cauhape, president; Ben Echavarria, vice president; Debbie Williams, treasurer; Sue Cauhape, secretary/PIO; Bob Williams, David Granish, Greg Moore, and Jim Marshall, officers.

Post-Holiday Party: The membership okayed a 50-50 raffle to be included with the prizes during the post-holiday party, January 6 at 1 p.m., Black Bear Diner in the MAX Casino in Carson City.

**Jeff Cauhape called for a break and was surprised when Sue Cauhape brought out a sheet cake to celebrate his 60th birthday, which falls on December 2nd. She also noted the other December birthdays and will publish them in the Beacon.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:32 p.m.**



**If you have photos and can write a short description, send them to the Beacon. We'd all like to hear about what's going on with SIERA members. [scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com)**