



SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

February 2018

SIERA Post-Holiday Party a Great Success

Some forty SIERA members and guests assembled Saturday, January 6 in the Black Bear Diner in the Carson City MAX casino. The food was good, the service rapid and friendly, and the relatively small size of the venue actually contributed to the atmosphere by sitting friends close together.



Bob Williams K7VOC

Mixed raffles added interest to the event. One choice was to buy raffle



Jim Marshall K6LR

tickets for a money pot, with half of the collected funds kept by the club, and the other half won in the raffle. N7BBE Ben Echavarria's son, Isaiah KG7NHY, was the winner of this raffle — prompting his Dad to inform him that this meant Isaiah would be picking up the lunch tab!

The other raffle choice was to deposit one or more ticket stubs in the bag next to one of a dozen donated items— giving the ticket holder the chance to “bid” on those items of most interest to them. The end result was that each of the happy raffle winners received something that they were delighted to have. Even those who were not successful in the raffle enjoyed celebrating with their friends.



Thanks to the good spirits of the collected company and the hours invested by Debbie N7XYL and Bob K7VOC Williams to secure the location, and organize the raffle donations and tickets. Now, we can look forward to this time next year!

(Thanks to Cathy Carney, KI7NIR, for this report.)

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

Beat Those Disappearing Sunspots Blues

If you read the article "The Weakest Solar Cycle in 100 Years" that was featured in the December issue of the SIERA Beacon, you will appreciate that the diminishing number of sunspots will make HF communications more challenging. Fortunately, technology has progressed since the last solar minimum and HAMS now have a variety of choices for communicating in marginal conditions. Once you have interfaced and configured your station for digital transmission, you can use any mode you wish. Don't let the lack of sunspots stop your DX hunt. Go digital! With digital, 100w is too much. Turn the power down to work DX! Get twice the points in contests for half the work!

For our February meeting, David DeAngelis K1SCN and Greg Moore KG7DMI will demonstrate HF digital in use, focusing on PSK and other modes. Bring your questions and your curiosity and please plan to join us.

Jim Marshall Goes Digital

After procrastinating for over a year, I finally got my Yaesu FT-1000mp configured for digital modes. When this transceiver was manufactured, the only digital modes were packet, RTTY, and CW. It took a lot of non-intuitive "user" mode configuring to get it to play on the newer digital modes. After downloading and configuring WSTJ-X, my first contact was N1RKT, in Derry, New Hampshire. My output power was 1.78 Watts on 20 meters. Of course, my 10-element Log Periodic antenna helped! Configuration was Win 7 computer driving a Timewave Navigator sound card interface to the packet input on back of the transceiver.



Jeff Cauhape's Technician's Licensing class, offered through the Western Nevada College Community Education Department, will run from January 31 to April 11, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

To Register go to www.wnc.edu

Select *Academics*, then *Community/Continuing Education*, then *Carson City*. Select *HAM Radio* under “SELF” category.

Check out Jeff's new website: www.k7bcv-radio.tech for updates about the class and some great videos and articles.

Ham Radio CubeSat Launch Success

CubeSats carrying amateur radio payloads were among the 31 satellites successfully launched on January 12 at 0359 UT on the ISRO PSLV-C40 mission from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India.

Read more about this at: <https://amsat-uk.org/2018/01/13/ham-radio-cubesat-launch-success/>

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 Topsis Lane. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. **The next exam: March 17th.**

Contact: Greg Moore at KG7DMI@frontier.com for more information.



Jamie Dahl, N6JFD, of South Lake Tahoe is SIERA's newest Extra, having earned this upgrade at the January VEC exams.

Also, Dean Anderson, KI7TRC, of Crystal Bay, earned his Technician's license. We invite him to check out SIERA sometime soon.

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.

Happy Birthday to February SIERA Members

Ed Goldberg KE7EAA
Gordon Moseley KC7CA



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.
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 (Bishop) Nightly Net, 8 p.m. on 146.940 pl 103.5
 (website: <http://www.n6ov.com/newsletter.html>)
Plumas County Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., on 145.470.
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.
Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030 or 147.150 depending on your location.
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.

There are no minutes for a January 2018 meeting because we were all partying hearty at Big Bear Diner.

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