



SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

April 2018

"HAM radio is not a hobby. It's a way of life." - Carlos Beltran, XE1MW

New Hams On The Air

Please join Subrina Vinton KI7OAL and Greg Moore KG7DMI at 813 Amador Ct., Carson City, for radio fun and lunch from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Saturday, April 14. Please RSVP to VSubrina@hotmail.com

Due to many requests to include *all* new hams in Subrina's *Girls on the Radio*, it will now be *New HAMS on the Air*.

This will be a no-pressure time for new HAMS to learn how and gain experience in getting on the air. Learn computer logging, answering a CQ and perhaps even calling CQ, all in a QSO party format. We have the 7th Area QSO Party coming up next month, and Field Day in June. The Nevada QSO Party is coming later in the year. Be ready to jump in and have fun when the time comes.

Open to all inexperienced HAMS, no matter what class license you hold. No license yet? No problem, come join us anyway. We will be working under the club call sign NV7CV with Greg KG7DMI as control operator. This allows everyone to use full Extra class band privileges.



Contests in March and April:

March 4-5 ARRL DX Phone, <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

March 24-25 CQ WW WPX, <http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

April 15 ARRL Rookie Round up, <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

The General Meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on April 7th in the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Ln., Gardnerville, NV. Greg Moore will set up his N1MM logging system so we can all get hands-on experience with this software. See the next article for details.

Still logging with pencil and paper? Why?

A few years back, the club moved to computer logging for Field Day. Everyone found it easier, faster, and better than logging by hand. One of the reasons we use N1MM Logger is it's easy to use right from the beginning. The more you learn, however, the more complex it gets. In this computer age, most organizations simply won't accept a hand written log, and soon no one will. At the next meeting,

Greg Moore will be giving a short presentation on the use and capabilities of N1MM Logger. The second part, *with audience participation*, will be a demonstration on how easy it is to get started using N1MM logger. Greg will be using a simulated QSO party exchange. This is your chance to get a head start on the logging software to be used at future club events.

So be ready to yell out your call sign and get through the pile up!



The 7th area QSO party – Saturday - May 5, 2018

Here's your chance to BE rare DX!

We will be working a county line expedition at the only one spot in Nevada where Nye/Churchill/Lander counties come together in an easily accessible place. There's a large flat area perfect for camping with enough room to set up several antennas as large we want. Only 2 ½ hours from Carson, it's a day-trip for those who don't camp. The access road is graded dirt, perfectly suitable for passenger cars or large motor homes. Details will be discussed at the April meeting.

The area is east on Hwy 50, past Middle Gate Station. Here are the coordinates from WGS 84 Datum you can copy and paste into Google earth:

Nye / Churchill / Lander Marker	N39° 5.601' W117° 46.532'
7QP Camp	N39° 5.804' W117° 46.601'

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

For questions and to reserve your time on the radio, contact Greg Moore KG7DMI at KG7DMI@frontier.com



New Pony Express Coordinator

Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ is now organizing the Pony Express Re-Ride radio support and needs base stations, relay stations, and followers. He's got the eastern part of Nevada and bits of western Nevada covered. If you want to fill in a spot in central Nevada, contact Tom

by phone or email: 775-246-729 or 775-443-5523, or smokey@pyramid.net

The Moving Wall, a miniature version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, will be visiting Carson Valley during Memorial Day weekend, May 31-June 4. It is a poignant tribute to veterans of the Vietnam War. Following a parade through town, the Wall will be set up at East Valley Cemetery on Buckeye. SIERA will hold a Special Event, transmitting to as many stations across the country as possible, to show the public what we do. The sponsors of the Moving Wall are particularly pleased to have a HAM radio group join other community organizations for this event because of the work radio operators do in times of conflict and emergency situations. Jim Marshall needs volunteers to sit at the booth and operator radios in the trailer. Please contact him if you are interested at jmarshall1945@yahoo.com or 775-392-3734.

SNARS NevCon is coming to Boomtown July 20-22. J.D. Fowler AD7CD is organizing a booth to represent SIERA. If you are interested in participating, please contact J.D. at: jdad7cd@gmail.com or 775-410-1677.



Check out Jeff Cauhape's K7BCV website: www.k7bcv-radio.tech. He's always adding new videos, articles, and news.

He's also planning to teach a General class along with another Technician's class, possibly during the WNC Summer session. Further information will come to the Beacon.

Who Is Carlos Beltran XE1MW?

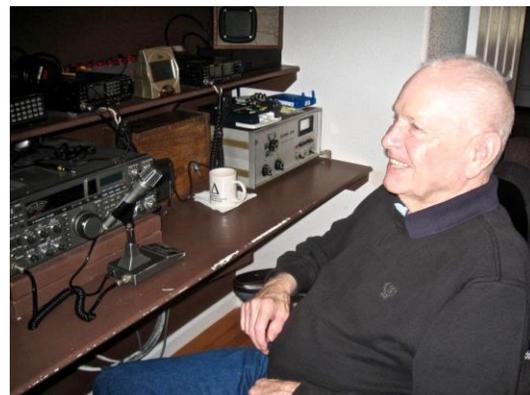
When David DeAngelis quoted Carlos Beltran XE1MW on the *Watering Hole* a few weeks ago, the Beacon just couldn't resist snatching up the quote for its masthead. *HAM radio is not a hobby. It's a way of life.*

But who is this Mexican HAM who so eloquently states what's in every HAM's heart?

A quick search on Google pulled up two possibilities: a retired Puerto Rican baseball player of great renown OR a cartel drug dealer arrested by Mexican police. So much for quick Google searches! Apparently, the only web presence XE1MW has is on listings of DX contacts during contests. Lots of them! Well, that's better than the other options. Perhaps we'll be able to talk to him during Field Day coming up in June.

Speaking of the Watering Hole ...

Brad Smith WT6B hosts the *Watering Hole*, a weekly discussion of everything and anything pertaining to amateur radio, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330. Participation in recent months has been yeasty, covering subjects from grounding antennas to sunspot effects on HF propagation. New HAMs will find this forum a valuable way to get answers to their most pressing problems.



Just among the veteran operators who regularly join the *Watering Hole* is hundreds of years of combined experience and knowledge in setting up stations, trouble-shooting problems, reporting on band conditions, or any arcane question that is buzzing through your brain. So, as WT6B admonishes us on the Tuesday VHF nets, "be sure to tune in to the Watering Hole and participate."



Tech in our Neighborhood

Jim Marshall K6LR shares his explorations into DX using the Yaesu System Fusion.

As many of you may have heard, I have been fairly active on 20 meters lately and have had some great success in landing many European and African continent stations. To name a few, I have recently gotten Kosovo, Belgium, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, etc., plus about 34 others, on SSB. Of course, I have an unfair advantage with a 60-foot tower, a log periodic antenna, plus upwards of 1500 watts of RF power. I realize many club members do not have the means or property to erect a tower and antenna or want to deal with Douglas County, in order to help get some of these contacts. But that's OK....



I have recently taken interest in some other modes of communications that allow users to reach foreign countries without a lot of power and/or antennas. These modes are low power digital alternatives to SSB and CW, such as PSK-31, FT-8, JT-65, Olivia, etc., as presented by Dave, K1SCN, last meeting. These are fun, not a steep learning curve, and don't require a big station.

Another mode that I have just gotten acquainted with is the Yaesu System Fusion, thanks to Jeff Brown, K5BLS. Jeff recently gave an overview of System Fusion at the last TARA meeting, and is giving an overview to our club in May.

Jeff and Churchill Amateur Radio Society (CARS) and others have been installing Fusion capable repeaters around our area. The nice thing about Fusion is that the repeaters will operate in digital modes or analog modes automatically. If you transmit analog FM with your VHF or UHF radio, it repeats in analog, just as our other repeaters do; however, if you transmit digital, using a Fusion capable (Yaesu) radio, the repeater will transmit digital.

So why do I care??? A fusion repeater, connected to the Internet via a WiresX interface, will enable the user to talk all over the world with a handi-talkie or mobile radio. This means with the investment of a few hundred dollars, you can talk all over the world! In fact, Jeff is selling tickets for a raffle for three, yes three, Yaesu FT-70DR hand-held radios for \$20.00 each, max of 60 tickets! Can't beat those odds!

Anyway, Fusion does not require a lot of extensive programming, as do other digital modes. Put in the repeater frequency, with PL and offset direction, and you are ready to go! The world waits at your fingertips!

(Check out nvcars.org for further information.)

Boys and Their Toys

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV was so impressed by Jim's Yaesu Fusion radio, he ran out and bought one for himself. (Actually, he ordered it from Ham Radio Outlet.) Amazement didn't stop with Jim's review. Jeff found the manual easy to decipher, so different from most manuals one gets with a new radio. Then, after talking on the new radio with Jeff Brown, K5BLS, he was blown away by the sound quality and reception. Over the weekend, he installed it in the jeep. Now, when you hear K7BCV on the radio before and after work, you won't hear that annoying clicking sound. By the way, does anybody want a used Kenwood 2-meter mobile radio?



Happy Birthday to:

Daryl Haines KE7HXD
Sean McKimmey KI7GJP
Terry Payne NV7TP
Bryce Leinan KI7NIK

ARRL Licensing Exam: 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 Topsy Lane. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. Contact: Greg Moore at KG7DMI@frontier.com for more information. **The next Licensing exam: May 19th.**



Congratulations to New Techs and Generals:

John Lapointe	KI7VND	Technician
Tom Howard	KI7VNE	General
Dennie Hartman	KI7VNF	Technician
Sean Weichel	KI7QDS	General
Fred Torres	KI7VNG	Technician
David Swanberg	KI7HDV	General
Joshua Demcak	KI7VQK	Technician

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 Tail Dragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

HELP WANTED: Our SIERA nets need more control operators. Being a Net Control Operator is a good opportunity to become familiar with our members and their calls and good practice for emergency operations. Contact Sheila, KA7AJQ, at smclfc@gmail.com to enlist for this important duty.

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.

SNARS Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030 or 147. (SNARS Linked

Repeaters: <https://snars.org/repeaters/analog/>)

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.



General Meeting, March 3, 2018:

Called to order: 1:05 p.m.

Introductions: Denny Hartman, who hopes to earn his license soon.

Treasurer's Report: for March 2018

Checking Account Starting balance: **\$2673.90**

Withdrawals: .00

Deposits:
Membership dues 149.00

Ending Balance for Checking Account: **\$2822.90**

Savings Account Starting Balance **\$5068.36**

Dividend Earned	.19
Ending Balance:	<u>\$5068.25</u>
Grand Total of both accounts:	<u>\$7742.55</u>

Tom Tabacco moved to approve and Ben Echavarria seconded.

Business:

Pony Express: Tom placed route maps and signup sheets on a table for people to commit to any of three different types of positions: base stations, relay stations, and 4X4 vehicles following the riders.

Classes: Jeff said that after the Technician's class is done, he plans to give a class for the General. He needs at least five interested in signing up for the class. By a raise of hands, he saw an adequate show of interest among current members.

The Moving Wall: Jim Marshall has gotten approval for a Special Event station during this Memorial Day weekend event at the East View Cemetery. We will have a booth and the trailer so that we can transmit to as many stations across the country. The cemetery will provide nighttime security. Jim Marshall is the contact for those who want to participate in this event.

The members agreed that we could use the NV7CV call sign for the event, but in an email after the meeting, Greg Moore suggested that special event 1X1 call signs are easy to get by going to: <http://www.1X1callsigns.org/>.

Meanwhile, the ESMP, who sponsor bringing the Moving Wall around the country, are selling 1/4-page ads for \$150. The membership unanimously approved this expenditure. Ben Echavarria will update and reprint SIERA brochures and Jim Marshall will provide the artwork for the ad. Sue Cauhape will assist in these efforts.

NVCOM: J.D. Fowler needs at least five volunteers to sit at a SIERA booth for the NVCOM, at Boomtown Casino in Reno, July 20-22. He also asked Sue Cauhape and Debbie Williams (during the Tuesday VHF net) to produce a poster to display at the booth. In an email to Debbie, Sue agreed to put together something for a flier to place on the booth table and show it to her for approval/ideas. Sue will have this ready for the next meeting.

VHF/HF Participation: Ed Eggert suggested net controls for these Nets encourage more participation from members by including a round table discussion or survey of members' radio capabilities. Also, sometimes those using EchoLink try to call in, so net controls need to allow as much as six-ten seconds for them to respond.

Presentation: David DeAngelis gave a presentation about solar weather and its profound influence upon the ionosphere. He displayed several graphs showing the up and down phases of sunspot activity, including the Maunder and Dalton Minimums, which had an effect on the weather and would have made radio transitions impossible. In keeping with the February presentation, he said that using digital modes would increase HAMS' ability to reach DX stations during poor conditions. He also handed out a list of websites with articles and graphs for further study.

Future Presentations: A list was provided for people to sign up to do presentations. Greg Moore will do a demo of N1MM digital logging software that we used at last year's Field Day. Jeff Brown will tell about his Fusion system that CARS has on their repeaters. June is open. Mike Whitten will do a presentation in July.

Cookies: Subrina Vinton will bring cookies for the April meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



SIERA members have submitted great articles about what they are doing. The Beacon loves this stuff. If you have photos and/or can write a short description of whatever you're doing, send it to the Beacon at scauhape2002@yahoo.com. We'd all like to hear about your adventures and discoveries with amateur radio.