



# SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

May 2018

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



## **Brad Hollander's Annual Swap Meet, June 2nd**

Brad Hollander N7RCA is hosting his **Northern Nevada Annual Ham Radio Swap Meet June 2nd, starting at 7:30 a.m.** It's located on Coyote Ct. in Minden, NV. From Hwy 395, turn left onto Buckeye. When it T's with East Valley Rd., continue across East Valley and veer to the right until it T's again. Turn right, then a quick left onto Coyote Ct. He'll have his hook and ladder fire engine there for a landmark. If you want to

sell stuff, you can set up a table for free. Also, bring your own food and drinks as well as any interested family members. Otherwise, bring money. Lots and lots of money.

**The General Meeting will be held at 1 p.m. on April 28 in the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Ln., Gardnerville, NV. (Yes, it's a week earlier than usual.)**

**Some of you are already familiar with WT6B Brad Smith's "Watering Hole" on Wednesdays. We're going to take it LIVE and answer any and all questions you may have. Don't be timid. As Brad says "There are no stupid questions, only stupid answers."**



## **Seventh Area QSO Party May 5**

If you're wondering why we're bumping the General meeting up a week, Greg Moore KG7DMI and several other SIERA members will be partying out in the desert for the 7th Area QSO Party, **Saturday, May 5.**

Greg will set up a camp that straddles the corner where Nye, Churchill, and Lander counties meet; thus giving contestants three points a contact.

He also plans to arrive on the site Friday evening and hold a major BBQ for all participants. Hopefully, by 7:30 the next morning, everyone will be cogent enough to operate radios.

The chosen site is easy to get to for anything from sedans to big RVs. Here are the directions: Go east on Hwy 50. A few miles east of Middlegate Station (and the Shoe Tree) turn onto Hwy 722. Go through the mountains, over Carroll Summit. Just as you drop down into the valley, turn right on the first MAJOR dirt road. Turn left after going another 1/4 mile. Stay on that main road, about 15 miles. The county line marker is 1/4 miles due south of camp.

Also, for \$25, Greg can rent a porta-potty for tent campers and others who aren't "self-contained." Please contact him to RSVP in enough time for him to arrange the rentals. [thebiglord@frontier.com](mailto:thebiglord@frontier.com). Also, he can email the GPS coordinates.



**The Moving Wall**, a miniature version of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, is coming to Carson Valley **May 31-June 4.** Many SIERA members are veterans of this war and this wall is a beautiful tribute to their service and sacrifice.

Following a parade through town, the Wall will be erected at East Valley Cemetery on Buckeye. SIERA will be transmitting from our trailer to as many stations as possible to show the public what we do. 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 K6LR needs volunteers to sit at the booth and operator radios in the trailer. Contact him if you are interested in participating. [jmarshall1945@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarshall1945@yahoo.com) or 775-392-3734.

You can learn more about the Moving Wall project by going onto their website: [http://www.vvmf.org/twth?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3MWkldnB2gIVnLXCh2zFQ0jEAAYASAAEgLRlLvD\\_BwE](http://www.vvmf.org/twth?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI3MWkldnB2gIVnLXCh2zFQ0jEAAYASAAEgLRlLvD_BwE)

## **Safety Day May 19**

We had such a great time last year at Safety Day, we're going to do it again, Saturday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to noon at Lampe Park. Last year, we introduced a lot of young people to amateur radio. They were quite amazed that such a thing exists. Whoodathunk! So come join the fun for a couple of hours.

## **Coming in June:**

- **The Pony Express Re-Ride, June 22**
- **Field Day at the Minden-Tahoe Airport, June 23. Bob Williams K7VOC would love someone else to coordinate Field Day this year.**

**Also, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, will start two new classes at Western Nevada College. The General class will be June 4 and the Technician's class will be June 6. Both will go from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact Jeff at [cauhape@protomail.com](mailto:cauhape@protomail.com).**

# Tahoe Rim Trail 2018

Sponsored by the WC-ARES

Bob Miller WA6MTY 775-343-595

Website: <https://www.tahoemtnmilers.org/trter-endurance-runs.html>

## **All Races Start Saturday JULY 20, 2018 at Spooner Lake Nevada State Park**

5 a.m. - 100-Mile Start

6 a.m. - 55K & 50-Mile Start

### **TRT Run frequencies:**

Primary Repeater: 146.94 (-) PL 123.0

Secondary Repeater: 147.150 (+) PL123.0

Backup Relay: 146.550 (Splx)

HF : Voice : 3965KHz and 7280KHz

Digital : Packet : 145.090MHz, FIDigi : 3581KHz

**GMRS:** TRT Personnel will be using GMRS radios. If you have GMRS they are using Channel 1 Diamond Peak rx 462.050 pl tone 103.5 both tx and rx tone tx freq 467.050. Snow Valley PK same tx and rx frequencies but rx tone 103.5 tx tone 141.3  
We will have one of their radios at Spooner NCS.

**NOTE:** Be sure to print out the backcountry vehicle placard, any vehicle driving past the gates of the State Park **MUST** have this taped to the back window.

**For a full copy of the rules and regulations, email [scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com)**

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If you want to sit at the SIERA booth, contact J.D. Fowler at:

[jdad7cd@gmail.com](mailto:jdad7cd@gmail.com)  
or 775-410-1677.



**July 20 - 22, 2018**

Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, NV

- Friday Amateur Radio Academy  
DX, Contesting, HF Digital, VHF/UHF Digital
- Saturday Ham Swap  
Sell, Buy, Trade starting at 6am
- Table Talks  
Round table discussions with Subject Experts
- Radio Exams  
Tech, General & Extra Exams
- Amateur Radio Forums  
Presentations on Amateur Radio Related Topics
- Raffle Prizes  
Amateur Radio Raffle Prizes
- Exhibitors & Vendors  
Popular Amateur Radio Vendors and Exhibitors
- and more  
visit <http://nvcon.org> for more info

<http://nvcon.org>



### New HAMs and Upgrades

During the final session of Jeff Cauhape's Technician Class at Western Nevada College, ten people earned their Tech licenses and two visitors upgraded to Generals. All members of the class passed, including some who took the exam early yet stayed in the class to deepen

their knowledge. The star student of the day, however, is Hailee Whitten, KI7NIP Mike's sixteen-year-old daughter. According to Jeff, she finished the exam first and got the highest score. Mike told Jeff over the radio that her boyfriend is studying for his HAM license, too. It's good to see young people getting involved in amateur radio. Congratulations to all of you.

**Joe Sauve KI7WHL, Earl Walling KI7WHF, John LaPointe NI7VNO, Hailee Whitten KI7WHI, Michael Warren KI7WHE, Dwayne Hansen KI7WHG, Steven Micklus KI7GDS, Jacob Howard KI7WHH, Hunter Raun KI7WHK, and Eric Bero KI7WHH.**

**HELP WANTED:** Our SIERA nets need more control operators. This is one of the best ways to conquer that mic fright as well as learn everyone's call signs. Contact Sheila, KA7AJQ, at [smclfc@gmail.com](mailto:smclfc@gmail.com) to enlist for this important duty.

## **New Hams On The Air**

Subrina Vinton KI7OAL and Greg Moore KG7DMI hosted a fun and friendly HAMS on the Air QSO party earlier this month. About three dozen people showed up, new HAMS as well as veterans, to try out Greg's N1MM logging software. SIERA used N1MM during last year's Field Day and found it far easier to use than paper and even easier to learn. Basically, the operator simply puts in the contact's call sign, contact's name, and county code, and the software records it all, keeping track of duplicate contacts or those that can be repeated on various bands.

When not sitting at the computers, guests grazed on a buffet of potluck goodies from pulled pork sandwiches to cinnamon coffee cake. Many attending were graduates of K7BCV Jeff Cauhape's Technician's class. There were lots of new faces that we'll be seeing in the future. Thanks to Greg and Subrina for a great day. Unfortunately, we were all having so much fun, nobody thought to take photos. Sorry!



## **DCART NEWS**

DCART Webpage: [http://webpages.charter.net/douglas\\_dcart/](http://webpages.charter.net/douglas_dcart/)

### **From Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, ARES Emergency Coordinator, Alpine and Douglas Counties**

For March, the DCART/ARES total is 208 hours volunteered.

Our Douglas County Amateur Radio Team (DCART) studied Radiograms during our March meeting. KA7FOO, Doug, presented a very informative session. DCART members continue to enjoy special projects. Some of those follow.

KE7NCJ Tom is coordinating schedules and planning for the Pony Express Re-Ride support communications in June for the SIERA group.

K7BCV Jeff is finishing his technician class with WNC and may do a General this summer. His website is <http://www.k7bcv-radio.tech>.

KD7NHC John reports great fun with drone training for SAR in Lyon County.

Several members, N7XYL Debbie, K6VOC Bob, K6LR Jim, KJ6IX Dale, KJ7UK Dick, and KI6EWK David continue support for our packet radio operations, including for our own 911 station. They also work with the SIERA communications trailer.

KI7CTT Sue and N7BBE Ben co-ordinate information flow and training notes with SIERA (Sierra Intermountain Emergency Radio Association).

N7TNX Dave and KA7UIS LeRoy participate with the weekly Northwestern Nevada Hospitals nets at either our Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center station or the Carson Tahoe Specialty Medical Center and work their packet stations.

N7TNX works with the station at DEM. (Nevada Division of Emergency Management).

KV7S Dale keeps our 911 station working and works with county communications.

Our other members support us quietly in the background.

**During our April meeting**, we brainstormed about an upcoming emergency exercise we will be doing for our meeting on May 21. DCART members were assigned stations, either at the 911 Call Center, the CM11 trailer, or in position in the field or at home. A reverse 911 at 6 p.m. will call DCART members to deploy. SIERA members not part of DCART can volunteer to be base stations, however, because of insurance and other issues, they cannot be formally deployed. The main goal of this simulation will be to test all modes

available, including VHF, UHF, HF, packet, and EchoLink. We discussed the possibility of replacing one of the two-meter radios in the CM11 trailer with a Fusion radio.

**From: Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, ARRL Sacramento Valley Section**

### **Scenario: An earthquake strikes the Bay Area**

At 4:18 p.m. today, an M-7.0 earthquake will tear across the East Bay. The quake's epicenter will be just east of downtown Oakland along the Hayward Fault. Shaking will be felt across the entire Bay Area, and in many areas, it will be strong enough to destroy buildings, and render many vital lifelines useless. Up to 400,000 people will be unable to use their homes, 22,000 people will be trapped in elevators, more than 400 gas and electric fires will start, and East Bay residents could lose tap water for up to 6 months. In total, losses will likely exceed \$100 billion, and aftershocks will shake the region for years. Fortunately, this earthquake is not real, but rather a USGS scenario, dubbed HayWired, that will be presented to the public coinciding with the release of the scenario's second volume, on the impacts of a large magnitude earthquake on the Bay Area.

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Greg gets notices from FEMA. They are doing PrepTalks for emergency preparedness. This one is good. Worth watching: <https://www.fema.gov/PrepTalks/ripley>

### **PrepTalks: The Unthinkable - Lessons from Survivors**

In her PrepTalk, Amanda Ripley combines the inspiring stories of disaster survivors with research into how the brain works when confronted with unusual events. She explains why our instinctive response may be the worst possible reaction, unless we have had the experience and/or the training to help us act quickly during moments of great peril. Ripley provides advice on steps she says emergency managers can take now to help individuals be more decisive in emergencies.

Ripley is a journalist and senior fellow at the Emerson Collective. She has written and presented about disasters, education, and human behavior. Her bestselling book, "The Unthinkable: Who Survives When Disaster Strikes – and Why" has been published in 15 countries and a documentary based on the book aired on the Public Broadcasting System in 2012.

I read her book about 6 years ago it was terrific. It's one reason we have fire drills, earthquake, and active shoot exercises. Good information. The book is full of examples.

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## **Now for Something Really Scary!**

### **Does space weather threaten high-tech life?** <http://tinyurl.com/y7lzgty7>

The wired Earth of the 21st century is at the mercy of the volatile nature of the sun, says a scientist who studies solar storms.

*... Geomagnetic storms attack the lifeblood of modern technology: electricity. A space weather storm typically lasts for two or three days, during which the entire planet is subjected to powerful electromagnetic forces. The National Academy of Sciences study concluded that an especially massive storm would damage and shut down power grids and communications networks worldwide.*

This is serious stuff. Natural events like these do not stop happening just because it would be inconvenient for us.

There have been a number of congressional studies and task forces to look at the problem, but it seems that not being able to tell when it could happen has let a kind of paralysis to set in, and very little has been done at the national level.

So the smart thing to do is perhaps to widen your “natural disaster” preps by including a means of filtering water to make it potable, not just storing bottled water, and locating a place for a modest vegetable garden. Gardening is a skill that takes time to develop, even if you have been successful with a garden in a different environment.

Parting thought: numbers from congressional studies suggest that if a Carrington-sized event happened today, the loss of life in the United States alone would be between 97 million and 292 million dead, mostly from starvation. That’s between 30% and 90%, depending on time of year and baseline assumptions. - Submitted by Jeff Cauhape



## **Tech in our Neighborhood**

By David DeAngelis K1SCN

I will admit that I am sometimes easily amused. That may account for my first reaction to being exposed to Web SDR Radio.

What, you may ask, **is** a Web SDR Radio?

An SDR Radio is **Software Defined Radio**. In plain English that means that an **SDR** is a radio communications system that can be totally configured or defined by software. The software is used to determine the specification of the radio and what it does. The components that have been traditionally implemented in hardware, such as detectors, preamplifiers, mixers, are instead controlled by means of software on a computer. Think of it as any function that had a knob on a physical radio from the past now uses a computer to control those functions. In addition, all those bells and whistles you always wanted, or never thought of, can be available by using a software package of your choice: waterfall displays, spectrum analysis, filtering – whatever you desire to enhance your enjoyment of the hobby.

As you may be aware, Web-based radios have been around almost since the beginning of the Internet. Way back when, in those olden times, HAMs and SWL's (Short Wave Listeners) discovered that it was possible to interface a radio receiver to the internet and allow people to log in and listen to what was happening on the bands from locations all over the globe. What has changed is, believe it or not, the technology! It is still the same basic concept of connecting a receiver to the internet and inviting people in to listen. Now, however, with the enhanced capabilities of an SDR receiver, the experience is much more fulfilling. Those old radios could only listen to one frequency at a time. The SDR can listen to the whole band – or bands; and with the addition of a full-time dedicated server, many people can listen at the same time to many frequencies.

My first experience with a Web-based SDR came about as a result of a discussion on “The Watering Hole,” Brad's weekly round-table on the 147.33/93Mhz SIERA repeater. Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV had mentioned that he sometimes used a Web SDR to monitor the Tuesday night HF SIERA Net on 3982Khz. It had been his experience that by using the



W6DRZ Web SDR, located in Half Moon Bay, California, he was often able to copy stations that he could not hear very well at his home QTH. Intrigued, I was determined to give it a try. Not that I was having difficulties hearing anyone; I just wanted to see if my penny-whistle class signal could be heard at a distance on 80 meters.

After searching my desk for the scrap of paper I had used to jot down the information, I booted up the computer and typed in the address.

The front page of the website explained:

*The antenna is a TCI Model 530 Log-Periodic Antenna (omni, 6db gain, 1900 pounds, 92ft tower) formerly used by Maritime Radio Station KFS located in Half Moon Bay on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Four separate SDR receivers and sound cards are employed to cover the following ham bands: 160, 75, 60, and 40 meters. Note that this system accommodates multiple independent users.*

Now, we are talking a serious radio station here. I once built a wire LPDA antenna and it was the best antenna I ever owned, but it was only about 12 feet off the ground. Here is a commercial antenna at 92 feet. If I can't be heard here, I better hang up my headphones.

The interface was pretty straight-forward and easy to use, even if you have never experienced software rig control: click on a web-button to choose the band, the mode (LSB, USB, CW), a filter (wide or narrow), and the frequency could be entered directly by typing it or tuned by dragging a cursor control.

When the net came up, I carefully checked the analog S-meter on my ancient FT-990 and compared the signal strengths to the Half Moon Bay SDR. In general, the signals on the SDR were, on average, about 10dB or two S-units lower than the locally received signals. By my best guess, Half Moon Bay is about 200 miles away, so some path losses are to be expected. Also, understand that on that night every check-in to the net was at least a solid S9 at my home location, so an S-unit or two was no big loss.

It is reassuring to know that the signals on 80 meters can get out of our valley, climb the mountain range, and emerge into the greater world should the need arise in an emergency. I understand that there is another Web SDR located in Utah. It will be interesting to see how we do in an easterly direction.

Oh, by the way, I was able to copy my own signal. It looked like it was an S-9.

For a list of Web SDR's **and links** please consult:

<http://www.websdr.org/www.websdr.org>



## Happy Birthday to:



Austin Cathey KE7DZY  
Paul Christensen WE6TIL  
Jamie Dahl N6JFD  
Ben Echavarria N7BBE  
Ed Eggert K3VO  
Mel Hogan WA6EYD  
Michael Hughey KF7ZSP  
Subrina Vinton KI7OAL  
Paul Strople KG7DQG  
Dorothy Uebele N7MXA  
Richard Walters  
Debbie Williams N7XYL  
Gini Cummings KA6OOO

**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](mailto:KG7DMI@frontier.com) for more information. **The next Licensing exam: May 19th.**



### **Renewing FCC Licenses**

*Many complain there is no paper license from the FCC. When you renew and give them a e mail address they will email you a confirmation that it's been processed and a link that will allow you to print out your license. I just did it and it was painless LOL - Ed Eggert K3VO*

Renewing your license is easy. It's free and you have a year after your license expires to renew. Check the Membership listing on [www.cvhams.com](http://www.cvhams.com) to see if you need to renew your license. (You may also get a little email reminder from the secretary.)

### **A more secure email???**

Are you just a tad squeamish about who else is reading your emails? Jeff Cauhape found a more secure email service than Yahoo, Gmail, etc. Apparently, a group of scientists in Cern, Switzerland, where the particle exceleator is located, wanted a more secure email, so they developed their own: <https://protonmail.com/signup>

According to Jeff's research, your emails are encrypted by default unless you specify differently. (And why would you do that?) The very basic service is free on the assumption that you will like it and sign up for more paid services. The regular paid service is 4 Euros a month, paid for a year at a time. The website does the conversion between dollars and Euros.

The only downside that the regular paid service does not include email aliases for groups. The solution is to keep a list of email aliases in a text file and copy and paste them into the 'to' part of your email.

## **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.**

### **A Response to our Facebook Page:**

*Tune into the 805 every second Wednesday of the month for a short event put on by OES. It starts at 8:05 pm. KM6LQY out. - from Eric Boyett, Pollock Pines, CA*

Check out our page, "SIERA," for posts about activities and videos.

### **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, April 7, 2018:**

**Called to order:** 1:10 p.m.

**Introductions:** Chuck and Marylou Gervie, Jeff Hildebrand who is passing through from South Dakota, new HAMS Justin and Mary from Jeff's Tech class.

## Treasurer's Report: for April 2018

**Checking Account Starting balance: \$2822.90**

Withdrawals:  
    Carson Valley Methodist Church      300.00  
    American Family Insurance          206.00  
Total Withdrawals                       \$ 506.00

Deposits:  
Membership dues                         151.00

**Ending Balance for Checking Account: \$2467.90**

**Savings Account Starting Balance \$5068.68**

Dividend Earned                         .20

**Ending Balance: \$5068.88**

**Grand total of both accounts: \$7537.56**

**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: \$5068.25**

**Grand Total of both accounts: \$7742.55**

J.D. Fowler moved to approve and Greg Moore seconded.

### **Business:**

**New HAMS on the Air:** Subrina Vinton and Greg Moore are hosting a QSO party for all new (or old) HAMS who want help getting on the air with VHF and HF radios. Information has already appeared in the Beacon. Lunch is potluck.

**Northern Nevada Swap Meet:** Brad Hollander is hosting his annual swap meet, June 2 starting at 7:30 a.m. There is no charge for anyone who wants to set up a booth to sell anything. Bring your own food and drinks.

**NVCON:** J.D. Fowler is coordinating a booth at the annual NVCON at Boomtown, July 20-22. He asked that a poster or something showing SIERA activities be made. Sue offered the video on the Facebook page instead, and a large-screen desktop computer to show it.

**Pony Express:** Tom Tabacco said he's had good responses to his calls for volunteers to fill positions. So far, most positions for follow cars are filled except for the stretch between Dry Creek and Telegraph Canyon. He needs base stations. Our routes of the Pony will run June 22-23, which comes up on Field Day on June 23-24.

**Classes:** Jeff Cauhape said that the Technician's Exam will be given to his students in the WNC class this coming Wednesday. He plans to give a class for the General as well as another Technician's class starting around June 1. He needs at least five interested to sign up for each class.

**The Moving Wall:** Jim Marshall announced that we've gotten full permission to set up the trailer and information booth at the East Side Cemetery for the Moving Wall Special Event May 31-June 4. The cemetery is open from 8 to 4, but we will operate radios until dark, depending on the availability of operators. Jim asked for volunteers to cover the booth and radios for the four days. Also, he told members that SIERA will have a quarter-page ad in the program. If anyone wants to make a donation either to pay for the ad or to go to support the Moving Wall project itself, they can contact Jim as K6LR@arrl.net.

**Field Day:** Bob Williams reported that Field Day, June 23-24, will set up at the airport and will be much the same as it was last year, which was very successful. Greg suggested that we add CW operators if any are available. SIERA has keys or operators can bring their own. Also, more digital will be added. Both CW and digital operators will earn 2 points per contact for the club. Bob asked for volunteers to commit to two-hour time slots for operating radios.

**ARRL proposal:** Ed Eggert voiced his opposition to the ARRL proposal to grant more band privileges on HF to Technician's. He urged SIERA members to write to the ARRL to protect the current privileges and suggest that any extended privileges be digital instead of phone.

**Elmer Class/Watering Hole Live:** Ed inspired discussion about having Elmer classes during meetings, showing people how to put together radio parts, etc. Jim Marshall offered to teach "radio camps." Jeff will look for kits and other things that can be done cheaply and simply by new HAMs.

It was also suggested that the June meeting have a "Watering Hole Live," where people bring their questions for discussion and/or their radios for one-on-one help in programming and using them.

**7th Area QSO Party Campout:** Greg Moore wants to encourage SIERA members to join him for a QSO party campout that will straddle the corner where three counties meet, giving contestants more points per contact. The camp will be set up Friday May 4 at GPS coordinates Greg printed out for anyone interested. The contest is Saturday May 5. He wants to have a BBQ Friday evening and assures people that any vehicle will be able to set up camp. He also proposed arranging for porta-potties, \$25 each for the day, if there are enough tent campers coming.

Because this event occurs on the same day as our May meetings and several people wanted to go, it was suggested that we change the date to April 28, the previous

Saturday. When this is arranged, information will appear in the Beacon. Jeff moved and Ben seconded approval. All members agreed.

**Presentation:** Greg Moore demonstrated how easy it was to operate the N1MM logging software that SIERA used during last year's Field Day with great success. Those who have used it agreed that it was efficient and super easy to learn in just a few minutes. It takes all the work out of using paper and pen.

**Secretary's Update on Future Presentations:** A list was provided for people to sign up to do presentations and provide cookies/refreshments. Here is the schedule so far:

Because the May meeting will be shifted to April 28, Jeff Brown will not be able to give his talk on Fusion radios and their use on the CARS repeaters in Churchill County. The secretary offered August or September ... or any other month after that.

June 2nd is a busy day, including the General Meeting, a morning swap meet, and a big day for meeting the public during the Moving Wall Special Event.

While the Watering Hole Live was suggested for the June meeting, it will be held April 28 instead. The June meeting's presentation is open, but because that is such a busy day, the Secretary suggests the Board discuss options, perhaps focusing on the Moving Wall event as a substitute for the meeting.

Perhaps members could send the Secretary information about events that may fall on the General meeting days this summer so the Board can plan ahead.

Mike Whitten will do a presentation in July.

**Cookies:** Ed and Karen Terlau will provide cookies for the May (April 28) meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:40 p.m.**



**Proposed bumper sticker: *HAM radio, because cell phone users need heroes.***

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**Perhaps you noticed that this newsletter is thirteen pages long. SIERA members have done a great job submitting articles about what they are doing. Also, we're coming into the crazy, busy time of year.**

**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](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com). We'd all like to hear about your adventures and discoveries with amateur radio.**