



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

July 2018

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

Next Meeting: July 7th at 1 p.m. in the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd, Gardnerville.

Michael Whitten KI7NIP will give us a peek at his Compact lightweight portable UHF/VHF Transceivers. He'll do a short comparison to modern 5-watt HT's and current military and past military field radios. Depending on radio and battery selections, it will have near mobile power in units weighing 6-15lbs and can be carried in a backpack.

WHEW! What a Busy Month!

As the Beacon editor looks back on the month of June, it seems like a l-o-o-o-n-g time since it all started. There were at least four major events SIERA covered: The Moving Wall Special Event, The Pony Express Re-Ride, Field Day 2018, and the Alta Alpina Challenge Bike Ride. Have we forgotten anything? Lots of you provided reports and photos for these events, so here's a rundown of all the fun and festivities.



The Moving Wall Special Event Station

Jim Marshall, K6LR, who organized the Moving Wall Special Event, reported that upon quick review of the Logs, the event made 76 QSOs. While conditions were not advantageous for making lots of contacts, Jim believes that many more stations heard us and replied. Due to very high noise levels from a power substation 200 yards to the east, we were not able to receive them.

From left: Greg Moore KG7DMI, Jim Marshall K6LR, Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ, Bob Williams K7VOC, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, Dale Anderson KV7S, and Mel Hogan WA6EYD. Cathy Carney KI7NIR took the photo. She and Guenther Noder KU8B are featured in the profile photo on the SIERA Facebook Page working this event.

Thanks to all who helped set up and operate for the four days. It was a good chance for some of the new Ham's to get some "mike" time. Guenther Noder, KU8B, elmered by Cathy Carney, KI7NIR, made a few contacts. Guenther just set up his two-meter rig in his apartment at the Brookdale Assisted Living Complex and was delighted to be part of the event.

Jim thinks the event was a success despite lousy band conditions. We got good exposure for SIERA, and got quite a bit of interest. Many people would pass our booth where we would give them a tour of the SIERA trailer parked out-of-sight behind the bushes.

Jim will put together a log sheet to send of all members when it is finished. He received five requests for cards.

Pony Express Re-Ride Reports

From Ken Head KE6FTM - California to Shellbourne, NV

Brother Randy and I had a great time doing radio support following The Pony across California and Nevada. We had about 26 hours of the California leg and into Nevada; then at Genoa, we headed into Carson City to get a room. The next day, we caught The Pony at Cold Springs Station. There was a beautiful and moving memorial for long time Nevada Pony Rider and past National President Dale Ryan. Quite a gathering. The mail left Cold Springs on Hwy 50 East led by Petra Killer. After a few more handoffs, it headed away from the highway, over Basque Summit, followed by Jeff and Sue Cauhape doing the radio communications duty. We headed to Eureka and at Overland Pass to hookup with the Shellbourne Riders.



From left: Ben Echavarria N7BBE, Isaiah Echavarria KG7NHY, Jere Shultz K7BXB, and Daryl Haines KE7HXD greeted The Pony and Ken and Randy when they arrived Woodsfords.

The hospitality and food was awesome. If you left hungry, it was your own fault. Ice cream in the desert! You guys rock! You all surprise me every time. Overland Pass to Shellbourne Station was a total opposite from last year. No snow or mud this year, but the dust! Two feet deep at times. You would have thought a BOMB had gone off in a baby powder factory. At times total white out conditions, the ground like ice in some places, trying to stay out of the ruts. I couldn't see the side of the trail through the driver's window and had to stop several times to clear it. I think the windshield wipers polished out the mud scratches from last year.

We finally got Ham Radio Communications the last leg of the journey from a station on Telegraph peak. Thank you for being there. It was good seeing Shellbourne Station. It had been a long day and the end of the trail for my brother and I. The handoff was

made. A tire was changed on Gene Ockert's trailer. The only casualty that I know of was off to Ibapah. Gene and the Shellbourne riders.

Thanks again Nevada for the hospitality you are all great. These two radio operators have been treated with nothing but Respect and Appreciation. 73's to you all. That's Ham Radio talk for *Thank you, good thoughts, adios, and happy trails, see you on the other side till next year.*

Go Pony Go
Ken Head KE6FTM
and Randy Head KE6REY

Robert Nelson WA3PAD - Austin Summit

I was surprised at how well the 147.345 repeater worked all through Friday until I quit at about 3 am on Saturday. We did use HF on 3965 late at night along with the simplex frequency but the repeater was always there and in use. I could hit the SIERA repeater but only marginally. The 345 and Battle Mountain were full quieting and Eureka was noisy but usable. HF with some stations was good but was in the noise.



Bob Nelson's camp and antenna farm on Austin Summit, right next to the microwave installation.

George McCulley was loud and clear on 7230 a little while ago.

From the Austin Summit, I was able to work mobiles from where I picked up Jeff K7BCV and Sue KI7CTT in Edward's Creek Canyon well to the east and into the next Sections. I used mostly the two J-Pole antennas that you can see in the photos for VHF, one on simplex and the other on the repeater, the two dipoles cut for 3965 and 7230 KHz. The VHF radios are 110 watt Motorola MCS 2000 commercial radios. The two HF radios are Motorola Micom 3 commercial radios. The 19-foot vertical on the back of the camper shell was on a backup radio (Yaesu 857D). I didn't use it much, although it has an auto tuner so I can put it quickly on any HF frequency. The basic radio setup has two operating positions.

This was my first experience, but was a great experience, with the Pony Express Re-Ride and I hope to be able to help again in the future.

73
Bob WA3PAD
nelsonrk@ix.netcom.com

Jeff K7BCV and Sue Cauhape KI7CTT - Cold Springs to Railroad Pass

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, Justin Nunn KI7CGJ, and Mary Nunn KI7CGI followed the Pony section that went from Cold Springs to Railroad Pass over Basque Summit of the Desatoya Range. Jeff was looking forward to not having to set up camp and a station on some blustery mountaintop. Justin and Mary wanted to learn what was involved in following the Pony so they could participate next year.



In this canyon, cell phone as well as radio signals are intermittent. We used the 147.345 repeater in Fallon (thank you Churchill Co. hams) and Simplex 146.550. Reception on both of those frequencies surprised us. We were able to reach Bob Nelson WA3PAD in his Austin Summit station easily ... and loudly.

Because this section would run during the afternoon on one of the hottest days yet, Doug Jares assigned his riders to 1.5 mile legs. The support trailers would leapfrog ahead of them with fresh(er) horses at each transfer. This worked fine until the riders reached the old Pony Express station corral. This is where Alex and his little paint pony took over and rode the entire distance over the mountain to Smith Creek Ranch. Fifteen or so miles in all.

In this picture, Jeff Cauhape joins other photogs and guests to witness the transfer of the mochila at Cold Springs, NV. The rider was about to do a memorial ride honoring long-time Pony Express rider, Dale Ryan, who passed away a couple of weeks before the Ride. Dale was the Ride Capt. for the Carson segment of the Pony last year.

Most of the Montana gates at the cattle guards were open before he arrived. There was only one where he had to dismount to open and close it. Luckily, the open range cows and calves behaved themselves and stayed off the trail. At one point, both horse and rider paused to refresh where a stream crosses the road. Alex paid more attention to dowsing his horse than himself, however. Sue kept saying to herself, "Use your bandana, Alex, that's what it's for." He just kept dipping his hands in the water and patting his pony. Then they were off again over some of the rockiest footing on the track.

Just before arriving at the reservoir, the Pony past the encampment of a UNR nature exploration group. We waved and told them the rider was with the Pony Express. One woman chased after Alex for a quick photo or two. That's when Sue felt very proud indeed to be supporting such an awe-inspiring undertaking.

Nevada riders and hams pushed the mail through with less than an hour loss in time. In fact, riders across the country did very well, with hardly an injury along the whole route. The Pony Express delivered the mochila to St. Joseph on June 30.

Sue Cauhape KI7CTT

Field Day 2018 Wrap-up

Field Day 2018 looked to be the biggest and best yet for SIERA. Jeff wasn't the lone camper as in years past. We circled the wagons. Well, we circled the four RVs. Camping on site allowed us to eat, sleep, and work the radio's into the early hours of the morning, without having to drive home.



Subrina Vinton KI7OAL was our safety officer. 100 points there! Subrina held a safety meeting before setup, and was happy to report there were no injuries during or after the event. Subrina also provided a fire extinguisher and pointed out that's something we should have and that everyone should know where it is.

SIERA hams love hanging out at Field Day, just shooting the breeze. We had plenty of operators at the radios for the event.

When dinnertime came around we moved over to the BBQ for burgers and bratwurst. The Mai-Tai cocktails before dinner were also a hit. Good food makes for a better event.

David Granish and Subrina Vinton were the heroes of the weekend. They were able to copy the W1AW bulletin! On phone, and from W1AW HQ no less, not from the west coast relay! A first for SIERA Field day!! Extra 100 points there!

Iron man Jeff Cauhape was again the lone ranger. Starting his shift at just past midnight and working until 4:00 am, he racked up forty contacts. And this after helping out all day and following the Pony Express the day before. Then with only a couple hours sleep, he was back in the log at 6:45 am. Believe me, if you've ever worked a 24-hour contest, there's no one on the air at that time of day. Other than that couple of hours, we had both radios going the full time.

Alta Alpina Challenge Bike Ride

Thanks to David Granish KI6EWK, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, Ben Echavarria N7BBE, Jim Marshall K6LR, Bob Williams K7VOC, and Debbie Williams N7XYL for sitting at the 911 Call Center from about 6 am to midnight, monitoring the W7SR station.

This was a quiet event. Because the bike ride organizers have their radio licenses, all operators at the W7SR station had to do really was monitor the bike ride, waiting for the call for ambulances. Listening to the dispatchers was the exciting part of this gig. After all the other events this month, the Alta Alpina made for a nice breather for everybody concerned.

A Solo QSO Contest Point Winner

For 7QP, Jim Marshall K6LR made 129 contacts which totaled 7,923 points, which was good enough for Third place in SOLP category for the entire contest. Jim says this will give him incentive for next year to get First place!

And It's Still Going to Be Busy! Here's what's in July:

Death Ride, July 14. Paul Gulbro will talk about this at the next General Meeting and will hand out tee shirts to participants.

Tahoe Rim Trail 2018, July 20.

NVCon, July 20-22, Boomtown Casino Hotel, Reno, NV. J.D. Fowler is coordinating this event and needs people to sit at the booth.



SilentKeys

Caroll Massie NV7YL, 82, was found unconscious in her home June 30th and was taken to Renown ICU where she died Monday evening June 2. According to her daughter, Lisa, Caroll fell in the tub and dislocated her hip, lying there for ten days without food. When the postal carrier noticed she hadn't picked up her mail, he called the Sheriff for a welfare check.

Caroll was in the military and in law enforcement, where she met Bill Massie. She also served as a typist for the Nevada State Legislature, claiming a speed well over 100 wpm. Her Extra Class call sign was NV7YL - Nevada 7 Young Lady.

With Bill, she coordinated "Massie Land," a segment of the Pony Express Re-Ride that included Roberts Creek Ranch. She told the Beacon "nobody there speaks English. It's a Basque ranch at the end of thirty miles of dirt road north of Hwy. 50." She and June Bennett, 95, served the Ride together for many years. June followed the riders in a Jeep driven by one of her younger relatives while Caroll relayed messages on the HF bands. When other Hams following the Pony called her, she was always there to relay the message.



June Bennett and Caroll Massie

Two years ago, when Bill died a couple of weeks after Field Day, she told friends, "when you're a Ham, you're never alone." Unfortunately, she spent her last days very alone. It's a sad fate for many elderly people and shouldn't have happened to Caroll. She was very independent, though, and refused the help of friends offering to assist her. Phyllis and Mel Hogan, KD7DKJ/WA6EYD, had lunch with Caroll once a week and were very concerned about her deteriorating health. Funeral services will be announced later. Both Caroll and Bill are at the VA Cemetery in Fernley, NV. The Beacon thanks Phyllis and Mel for this information about our most recent Silent Key.

73s, NV7YL, rest in peace.



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 Hwy 395. 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: July 21st.

Happy Birthday to:

June Bennett N7OVW
Mike Sherrick NZ7G
Dennie Hartman KI7VNF
Andy Hughes KD7NHE



DCART NEWS

DCART Webpage: http://webpages.charter.net/douglas_dcart/

2018 May Alpine/Douglas Comment

DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) members participated in an exercise May 21 that began with a Reverse 911 member call out asking us to meet on our 147.27 repeater at 1830 hours. Some members staffed our Dispatch stations and others staffed our mobile Dispatch unit parked next to Dispatch. Other operators participated from home. Our goal was to exercise our call out procedures and our stations' radios as well as exercise our frequencies plan by calling members to several of our planning frequencies. We accomplished this.

Challenges

- Our 911 Reverse Call Out for DCART procedure had been programmed to call for an ID prior to receiving the message and we do not have such IDs. So members could not receive the information by phone. Will have to check out that process.
- Severe thunderstorms happened so Dispatchers were busy with flash flood and rescue calls including addressing the flash flood and debris that hit the Topaz Lodge. Our Plan calls for HF operators at home to use our State ARES frequencies for contacts and information. Those operators would then contact our 911 Dispatch station. Many of our operators disconnected their antennas, especially HF because of the lightning activity. We were not able to use HF.
- And as for packet - well a week previous, our Rawe Peak link for our recently rearranged configuration took a lightning hit and was down. Also our own BBS packet station computer at Dispatch had a fatal software glitch.

2018 June Alpine/Douglas Comment

Our DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) members participated with several area events this month: The Viet Nam Moving Wall Memorial, the Pony Express Re-Ride, Field Day, and the Alta Alpina Challenge ride in Alpine County. Also planning is taking place for the annual Tour of the California Alps/Death Ride in Alpine County.

The Churchill Amateur Radio Society hosted a Field Day at Lake Tahoe. Jeff Brown, K5BLS, our Douglas County Communications Tech, and President of C.A.R.S, and our 911 Director, Ron Sagen, have planned for our DCART Center to receive all brand new Yaesu Fusion radio equipment including an FT-991A in the coming year. The CARS repeater was an important resource during the early part of the Pony Express Re-Ride.

The Pony Express ReRide from West to East, June 21 to 23, across Nevada, was supported by pony followers, relays and base stations. The hotline was updated as well and texts were sent to participating parties. The SIERA (Sierra Intermountain Emergency Radio Association) has provided communications for the Ride from 1989 to 2018 (29 years). Many DCART members are also SIERA so we have a great interaction. One of our members and SIERA member, Tom, KE7NCJ, coordinated and planned this event's Amateur Radio communications part for this Re-Ride. John Abrott, KD7NHC, put in 58 hours and 1147 miles following the Pony to Ibapah, Utah. (Ed note: Petra Keller videoed John from Ibapah. That video was posted to the SIERA Facebook page.)

For Field Day, SIERA members put up stations at the Douglas County Airport. Many members rushed back from their Pony assignments to participate. The SIERA emergency communications trailer was a key feature. A lot goes into the trailer's maintenance and engineering.

June 30th, DCART supported the Alta Alpina Challenge Ride cycling event, mostly taking place in Alpine County. DCART members staffed our 911 station, W7SR, all day to facilitate any incidents into the 911 system that might happen in communications dark spots.

July 14 brings the "Death Ride" (Tour of the California Alps) cycling event in Alpine County. And the Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention (NVCON) comes to the Boomtown Casino Hotel in Reno, July 20-22 2018. nvcon.org

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, ARES Emergency Coordinator, Alpine and Douglas Counties

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.

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 3982kHz.
Brad Smith's (WT6B) Watering Hole, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330,
"discussing questions and issues pertaining to amateur radio."
Plumas County Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., on 145.470.
BARC (Bishop) 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.
SNARS Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030 or 147.150 +123 PL
(SNARS Linked Repeaters: <https://snars.org>)
ARES HF Net, Saturdays at 7 a.m. on 3965kHz.
RARA, Rural Amateur Radio Association, Saturdays 7:30 a.m. on 3965kHz
National Traffic Service Net, Sundays at 6:15 p.m. on 3945kHz.
The SNARS Noon Net daily 147.15.



General Meeting, June 2, 2018:

Called to order: 1:02 p.m.

Because Jeff Cauhape K7BCV and Ben Echevarria N7BBE were both unavailable, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT presided over the meeting.

Introductions: no new introductions

Treasurer's Report: for June 2018

Checking Account

Starting Balance	2186.98
Withdrawals	
Moving Wall Ad	150.00
Greg Moore Trailer Parts	126.40
Badges	133.88
Total withdrawals	410.28
Deposits	
Membership	177.00
Ending Balance	1953.70

Saving Account

Starting Balance	5068.88
Dividends	
4/30	.21
5/31	.22
Total	.43

Ending Balance 5069.31

Grand Total 7023.01

Membership: No change

Business:

Pony Express: Sheila Clement KA7AJQ is helping coordinate base stations. Ed Terlau KG7ZOP and Jere Shultz K7BXB will announce the need for operators on the 10-meter net. Those present who are planning to work The Pony met in a separate meeting after the General Meeting to confirm assignments and other information with Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ and Sheila.

The Moving Wall: While not discussed during the meeting, the event was in its third day in progress at the Eastside Memorial Park. There was a good response for to the call for operators. Cathy Carney KI7NIR proved the most diligent, putting in many hours and making most of the contacts. Before the General Meeting, she elmered Guenther Noder KU8B with the HF station and the two of them made a few contacts. They both attended the General meeting as Cathy provided refreshments.

Presentation: Brad Hollander W7RCA hosted our meeting on his property following his annual 13th ANNUAL ELECTRONIC swap meet. He brought us up to date on the progress of the remote station he is assembling for teenagers in memory of Rick Carle. Both Brad and Rick's widow, Lisa, want very much to make Rick's dream of this station come to fruition. Rick and other have had no success in installing a self-contained station at Douglas High School, even with Gordon Moseley's KC7CA help. So he decided to install a remote station on his property.

This will be accessed over the Internet, by cell phone or computer, so teens and elderly Hams could use the remote base.

He's trying to get through the County permit process to erect Rick's tower. The permits cost over \$700 for the tower installation. The base is over 4X4X8 feet. Several people have offered to help with the steel and base installation.

Help from SIERA for the remote base operation would be appreciated. This will be used for kids to learn about and operate Ham radio, and give Hams that had to move to elder care homes stay active.

He and Lisa are also trying to release Rick's call sign so that Brad can assign it to the memorial remote station. The call sign can be obtained two years after the person's death, but the family has first dibs. Lisa has assured Brad this is not a problem.

Another issue is that the County now wants THIS tower due to its size to be lowered when winds reach approximately 50 mph. Brad said the tower's probably going to be down most of the time anyway. Rick's original tower at his home was capable of being LOWERED remotely.

Brad also told us the history of some of his antique equipment, including his new fundraising ideas. One is to use his 85-foot ladder truck he purchased from the City of Alhambra fire department 29 years ago.

Last year, Brad founded the East Fork Fire Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization to raise money to purchase life-saving equipment for the EMT's and firefighters here in the valley. All Monies raised from this foundation are only for the purchase of life-saving equipment and not for any other reason or cause.

After Brad's talk, Gordon Moseley told stories of his early experiences with radio. As a teen, his first radio was a dispatch radio console. When he got it operationing, he called out and reached the county dispatcher. He was quite surprised.

Tom Tabacco motioned to adjourn and Sue Cauhape seconded.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 p.m.



SIERA members have been great sending in information about their events and news about other members. The Beacon appreciates any news items you have. It's easy to submit them, too.

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.