



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

August 2018

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

Repeater Down ... and Up Again!

From Jeff Brown K5BLS: The Leviathan site was hit by lightning on Friday, July 20. The strike apparently hit the Solar-charging array or very near it. Kind of eliminates the "lightning always strikes the highest point," doesn't it?



It took out a couple solar panels, all the charging controllers and the 12v power regulation system at the tower. Several 12v devices were incapacitated in the disbursement of voltage. Luckily, the charge controllers suffered the worst and are somewhat easy to replace...none-the-less costly.

The site will be down from time to time over the next several weeks while people make repairs to their equipment. East Fork Fire had some wiring issues with the UHF links but took care of that on Monday, August 23.

The SIERA NV7CV repeater appears to be fine, however while up at the site, we noticed that the Telewave antenna, while still working, is damaged and may not be able to be repaired without cracking the aluminum. Snow, wind and particularly ice have

damaged the dual bays on the antenna support. A Sinclair variant is available from Tescos technologies for about \$650. Otherwise, the Telewave is around \$1300.

We will be working with the California public safety communications department to correct the damage to the site as quickly as possible. Smoke from the California fires was horrible Monday, making it hard to breathe.

From Jim Marshall K6LR: The picture of the antenna shows the lower half of the two-element array. The aluminum on the loop is



cracked and broken at the weld. When Dale Anderson KV7S and I first saw it up close, only one side was completely broken and the other side was cracked but attached. During the removal of the element, the other side gave up also. We have a theory that one side of the element has been broken for some time, and when the wind is blowing, it intermittently makes contact with the element base, changing the characteristics of the antenna and producing the noise we hear on the repeater. No wind, no noise. So,



our choices are to see if Telewave will sell us just one element, repair the existing element, or purchase an entire new antenna. This last option would be very expensive.

The picture of the equipment, our repeater is the 3 components in the middle of the rack I.E. Kenwood repeater, Yaesu control station (UHF), and the Arcom repeater controller.

Next Meeting: August 4th at 1 p.m. in the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd, Gardnerville. Ed Eggert K3VO and Jeff Cauhape K7BCV will do a soldering demo and hands-on workshop. Other than that, it will be a great opportunity to socialize, meet 'n' greet our many new members, and enjoy the AC.



Carroll Massie Memorial

A memorial for Carroll Massie will be held Saturday, August 4, at 11 a.m. in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1201 No. Saliman Rd., Carson City. A reception with light refreshments in Friendship Hall will follow. Charlotte LaCombe offered this additional information about Carroll in an email to the Beacon:

Carroll travelled on Honor Flight Nevada to Washington, D.C. in September 2017. She was featured in a Jan. 10, 2016 Nevada Appeal article on women in the military written by Steve Ranson, retired editor of the Lahontan Valley News and current military editor for the Sierra Nevada Media Group. She was a wonderful lady, an active member of our congregation, and a good friend.

Dale Anderson KV7S is Movin' On

For many years, this soft-spoken man has been SIERA's repeater guru, maintaining and trouble-shooting NV7CV for several years. Now, Dale and his wife, Carol, are moving to Albany, Oregon, a small community near Eugene, to be closer to family. Their home of twenty years is sold and they will be gone by the end of August.



"I've managed to get rid of most of the ham stuff that has

been accumulating around here. It is unbelievable how much we have accumulated here in the last 20 years. I've lived longer at this address than any other place in my life time."

Dale recruited Jim Marshall K6LR to fill the hole in the air that he leaves behind. Jim has the knowledge and test equipment to maintain both the repeater and the W7SR station at the 911 Center. They went up to the repeater Tuesday, August 31, to do some alignments and take inventory of all our equipment. We're lucky to have a willing and able ham to step up as our new Trustee. Thanks, Jim. Your service to the community goes way beyond SIERA. Because of your stewardship of the NV7CV repeater, lives have been saved and recreation in the backcountry has been a lot more fun.



The Chicken Man

Those of you not familiar with the Death Ride may wonder why David Granish KI6EWK has a tiny rubber chicken dangling from his SIERA cap. It is a token of gratitude given to anyone who supports the Death Ride, either by passing out refreshments at an aide station or providing radio communications.

Hans Bernhardt, otherwise known as The Chicken Man, has toured the Sierras with the Death Ride for so many years he has become a legend, a man of mystery and intrigue, indeed an institution. It wouldn't be the Death Ride unless the Chicken Man was "spotted on the course," as Paul Gulbro WA6EWV would announce throughout the event.

One thing Hans reminds all of us is the Death Ride isn't a competition. It's a grand tour of the Sierra Alps in Alpine County. It's supposed to be FUN! And he's got to be the most positive person you will ever meet, passing around rubber chickens along with his delightful sense of humor. He told us that he does these rides because he loves beer and needs to work off his beer belly. That isn't his only goal. This year, he wanted to be the last bicyclist to arrive at Turtle Rock. Sorry, Hans, you lost that one by 22 bikers. Maybe next year!



Besides the Death Ride, Hans participates in many other fundraisers and community events. You can read all about them on his Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/hans.bernhardt.3>) You'll notice that every photo taken of this man shows him with his tongue hanging out. I guess that's his way of obscuring his identity with his typical crazy humor.



One of many local vendors catering to the needs of over 2500 bicyclists in the Ride. At most of these aide stations, youth groups are recruited to help. The teens at Pickett's Junction came from a facility that works with at-risk kids.

Thank you to all volunteers. It's fun to listen to the Death Ride on 147.33, but even more fun to support. There were a few injuries, a couple of lost boys, and a lot of people suffering from heat and altitude. One man fell off his bike and slid into the cliff, but nobody flew off the mountain this year. By the time bikers made it to Pickett's Junction all the weak and whining were weeded out. These folks were so high on endorphins they were almost giddy. While they were tired, none of them were spent.



A lot of them were seniors! One old man lay down under the radio station popup for a brief snooze, then jumped up five minutes later to finish the last stretch. When we told the bikers Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ was waiting for them at Carson Summit with ice cream, they sallied forth with renewed vigor. We told one bicyclist he only had nine miles left of the course.

He replied, "Don't tease me!" After pumping pedals for nearly 150 miles, what's nine more? That's Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ hanging out at Pickett's with Jeff Cauhape K7BCV before setting up his station on Carson Pass. The day before, he drove up and found the parking lot filled with horse trailers. Apparently, they all left so he could find plenty of room for his setup.

Mike Whitten's Backpack Radio

At the July meeting, Mike Whitten KI7NIP showed how he put together a backpack radio station for portable use. For his purposes, it had to be light and portable and bridge the gap between a mobile unit and a hand-held radio.

He found that HTs are good for portable operation as the batteries and radio circuitry are very efficient. He felt that the main issue regarding the reduced range is the antenna and output power, especially when operating simplex.

The completed backpack radio that he brought to the meeting was tested from the canyons west of Carson City and found that it reaches Carson Valley via 147.33 quite well. He can also reach other repeaters in the area.



He really likes his nine-pound backpack radio when taking the Sea Cadet unit he is attached to on field trips in the desert.

This backpack radio setup was built using a steel 100-amp breaker box a Btech UV-25X4 radio from Baofengtech.com. The main reason for using this radio is that it is very compact and extremely light. It also outputs 25 watts on 2 meters.

The radio currently has three antenna options. The first is a Smiley 270A telescopic whip antenna, the second is a Comet SS-680SB. This is a special “compromise” half wave that is a mere 27” long. Both antennas have springs to reduce the chance of breakage. The third option is a fiberglass telescoping fishing pole (13’ or 20’) or tree and a roll up Slim Jim antenna from N9TAX.

He has tried several brands of SLA/AGM batteries and found that they seem to output far less than the claimed amp hour rating. He also tested the Bioenno Power LifePO4 (Lithium Iron Phosphate) battery and found that they output at least what they claim. The testing was done using a “Powerwerx Watt Meter, DC Inline Power Analyzer”. Since the LifePO4 batteries are 50%-70% lighter, he decided to use the Bioenno 6ah battery for this project.

Here are the specifications for the 6ah battery used. As you can see, the battery has an operating temperature starting at -10°C(14°F). This could be an issue in very cold climates; it may be a good idea to keep some insulation around the battery if used in very cold weather.

Specifications (summary)

Dimensions	4.4 in. x 2.6 in. x 2.8 in. (108 mm x 64 mm x 69 mm)
Weight	1.6 lbs. (0.7 kg.)
Battery nominal voltage and capacity	12V, 6Ah
Charging Voltage	14.6V
Charging Current	2A-5A
Open Circuit Voltage Range	10-14.6VDC
Maximum Continuous Discharge Current	12A
Maximum Peak Pulse Current	24A (2 sec.)
Operating Temperature	- 10°C to 60°C
Protection: PCM/BMS	Overcharge, overdischarge, overcurrent, temperature, balancing
Terminal / connector type	Charge Connector: DC Plug Discharge Connector: Anderson Powerpole

He is working on other projects for longer hiking trips as weight reduction is critical. Due to this, he will be building a battery/"brick amplifier" setup for his HT. This setup will be built in a plastic box and use a very small shoulder bag from Amazon. Most of the parts for the backpack radio were purchase from Amazon, HRO and Home Depot.

Mike has plans to enhance this prototype version soon. There will be modifications to make it more reliable and easier to use. Once he is finished, he will supply the plans to anyone who is interested.

NVCon 'Best One Ever'

J.D. Fowler, AD7CD, has done nothing but rave about the 2018 NVCon held July 20-22 at Boomtown. There were lots of vendors and demonstrations, lots of good presentations on Fusion, etc. Clubs from all over attended, some from Oregon, Utah, northern California. CARS from Churchill County was there as well as SOAR (Sisters of Amateur Radio). Everybody's attitude was more positive this year, no complaining about anything. And J.D. loved the food and service at Boomtown, especially the grub at Mel's Diner.

As for our SIERA booth, we kept it simple with only a stack of brochures and the SIERA video looped on a laptop. J.D. said that some of the old members of SIERA dropped by to say hi, but he doesn't know if they'll rejoin the group. Nice to know they saw how much renewed energy and vitality is in the club these days.

Thanks to J.D. for organizing the booth and sitting there for two days. Also many thanks to Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ, David DeAngelis K1SCN, and Jim Marshall K6LR who manned the booth too. The only disappointment J.D. had was the lack of participation from SIERA members. While a few members attended the conference, Tom, Dave, and Jim were the only people who sat at the booth besides J.D. He says that SNARS may make Boomtown the regular venue for NVCon which will give us more opportunities to improve our participation.

Morse Code Anyone?

Ed Eggert, who volunteered to teach a class in CW, suggests that those who are interested in learning Morse Code go to Stephen C. Phillips' website and this specific page (<https://morsecode.scphillips.com/>) for a variety of applications that can help you. Ed hasn't set a date or time yet for the class, so watch the Beacon for further news on that.

Also, there's a nightly CW practice net is at 8 p.m. on 146.61Mh (-) PL123

Basic Radio Class

Jim Marshall wants to teach a class he calls Basic 101. There are over a dozen people interested in both Ed's CW class and this one, which will enlarge upon the most basic principles of amateur radio. If you have any questions at all about how radio works, Jim will let us know when and where this class will begin.

More on Morse

Google's Gboard keyboard now lets you communicate through Morse code on both Android and iOS - The Verge

On July 11, 2018, Google announced that it is bringing Morse code as an input method to Gboard for iOS. The company first integrated Morse code into the Android version of Gboard (in beta form) shortly after its I/O 2018 keynote. Alongside the debut on iOS, Google says it has made numerous improvements to the Android experience, too.

When activated, Morse code fills the keyboard area with two large dot and dash icons. As you tap the icons, word suggestions will appear at the top of the on-screen keyboard just as they do when you're using the QWERTY version. Google has [created a Morse Typing Trainer game](#) that it says can teach users Morse code in under an hour. You can play it on both mobile and desktop.

Tania Finlayson, an assistive tech developer who collaborated with Google, [wrote a blog post](#) about how the communication system has been "revolutionary" in improving her own life:

"Most technology today is designed for the mass market. Unfortunately, this can mean that people with disabilities can be left behind. Developing communication tools like this is important, because for many people, it simply makes life livable. Now, if anyone wants to try Morse code, they can use the phone in their pocket. Just by downloading an app, anyone anywhere can give communicating with Morse code a try."

Finlayson notes that Gboard for Android "lets you hook external switches to the device, so a person with limited mobility could operate the device." For more information, here's the link:

<https://www.theverge.com/2018/7/11/17561958/google-gboard-morse-code-communication-feature>

Watering Hole Follow-Up

By David DeAngelis K1SCN

Recently on *The Watering Hole* was the question "What's a pileup?" For those new to HF operating I offer the following:

From a purely economic perspective, there are three major factors that keep the ham radio equipment manufacturers in business. They are (not in order):

- Contesting
- DX'ing

-Award chasing, also referred to as "wallpaper" although, many awards can take the form of plaques rather than paper.

If most amateurs were content to just make contacts and "chew the fat" (in ham jargon that would be: "rag chewing"), the manufacturers would not stay in business long as there would be no incentive to upgrade the equipment.

There is a whole page in QST every month dedicated to contest announcements; and, some that are not announced in QST. These events appeal to the more competitive souls who often require the biggest and best in the way of equipment. In general, the more contacts you can make; the higher your score will be. Contests don't usually contribute to pileups, but they do make for congested band conditions - primarily on the weekends.

Many consider the premier award to be the ARRL DXCC Award that is presented to stations that confirm contact with at least 100 "countries." Countries is in quotations because you don't have to be an actual country to qualify. For example, the DXCC lists a "country" as entities separated from the "parent" entity by 350 kilometers or more of water. This makes Hawaii (KH6) a country or 100 Kilometers of land and qualifies Alaska (KL7) as a "country." There are presently 340 "countries" on the list which can be found at :[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2018_Current_Deleted\(1\).txt](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/2018_Current_Deleted(1).txt).

Chasing after these entities is the main instigator behind "pileups." For example, a group activated "Baker Island" (KH1) from June 27 to July 6 this year. This was the first time hams were granted permission to land on this National Wildlife Refuge in over ten years. So the high demand caused the calling stations to "pile up" trying to make the contact. Only the strong survive - - the loudest ones will get the contact --- hence the need for better equipment. By the way, according to their web page, KH1 logged about 70,000 QSO's.

While we are on the subject of defining technical terms...When a group of Hams travel to a place that is considered exotic because of its remoteness, it has access restrictions, or there are very few radio amateurs active from that place, it is called a *DX-pedition*.

There have also been questions on *The Watering Hole* about working split. Often a DX station will operate in a less congested part of a band, transmitting on 14.170Mhz, but listening on 14.200 to 14.225Mhz. This effectively spreads the signals from calling stations, and makes it easier for the DX to pick out the stronger signals. And, yes, although the DX station is transmitting the Extra portion; you **can** make the contact because **you** are not transmitting in the Extra portion.

If you want to decorate your radio shack with more than just QSL cards, award chasing is the way to go. I could not find a complete list of operating awards but https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/Ham_Radio_Awards/ [https://www.d](https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/Ham_Radio_Awards/) has many of them. People do like to find fancy decorations for their shacks, and participating in the two previously mentioned activities can contribute to collecting awards.

I should mention the existence of nets dedicated to assisting the pursuit of awards. There are many that have their own award structures as well as giving a boost to hams interested in achieving awards sponsored by other organizations. The most well known of those was probably the "County Hunters Net." They used to hang out on 20 meters and take check-ins from all over the country, especially from mobile operators, because that is the only way to work some counties, and when you are looking to collect 3000 of them, every little bit helps. According to their web page, they have suspended operations. (Boy, that was a surprise!)

OMISS (Old Man International Sideband Society) has been in operation since 1981 and is still in operation. For details check out <http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/>. They provide list-type operations on seven different bands and sponsor a once a year contest. YLISSB (YL International Single Sideband System) has been around since 1963. Although their main mission is to handle emergency traffic, they have an extensive awards system. They operate 365 days a year on 14.332Mhz and also have nets on 80, 40, and 15 meters. See <https://www.ylssystem.org/> for more information. You don't have to be a YL (young lady) to join. There are many more awards nets. These two are just samples.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with enjoying the pleasure of making a contact and talking with people in far-away places or even close-by places. Adding a challenge to your operating, though, can sometimes add some spice to the chase. I have always maintained that Ham Radio is a lot like fishing. What fisherman is not motivated to land a bigger fish? In my case, after "Worked All States" (ARRL award) and confirming over 200 countries, I was looking for a different challenge. Although *CQ Magazine* offers a Grid Award, you need to have a paper QSL card for them to recognize the confirmation. To my way of thinking, that certainly is a valid way to authenticate contact, however I felt that electronic confirmations were just as valid. So I have been pursuing confirmed Maidenhead Grid Square (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maidenhead_Locator_System) contacts on my own. No certificate involved. (Actually, I did print one for my own use.) There are over 32,000 grid squares on the planet, but I just wanted to fill my lower 48 state map. Then things got out of hand.

I hope that helps to make sense of what you might hear on the HF bands when you start listening. HF operating IS different from VHF operating.



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: Sept. 15th.

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.

DCART NEWS

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

Some DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) members participated with Alpine County's Tour of the California Alps (Death Ride) bicycle event with support ham radio communications July 14th. Tahoe Amateur Radio Association coordinated those communications. K7VOC and N7XYL staffed the Alpine Sheriff's Dispatch office about 18 hours that day.

The NVCon ham radio convention at Reno's Boomtown Casino Hotel was well attended and a great success. Many good presentations and vendors. It was great to meet area hams in person. Jeff, K5BLS, of CARS, and Douglas County Communications, gave a nice presentation on Fusion Radio. By the way, Jeff will be able to assist DCART with technical and legal issues for our McClellan repeaters as well as advise us on the Fusion radio part of our station there at 911 Dispatch. It looks like we will be able to have HF there in the future.

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Alpine and Douglas Counties

Carr Fire Communications Update:

It has been a hectic 4-5 days since the Carr fire started. I've been on the phone or sending/answering a couple of hundred emails trying to wrangle up operators to help. 10 - 12 hours a day easily. A major learning experience for all of us and lots of mutual assistance.

Winlink at Red Cross Shelters

For the Carr fire in Redding and Weaverville CA, there are no voice channels to communicate to the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center in Sacramento. Winlink to the rescue! Winlink allows the shelters to communicate with the DOC. Winlink has been a lifesaver. Some shelters can send data via telnet if they have internet (which come and goes in some places) or via RF using various KA-nodes to get to a gateway. Comms via winlink is working well now.

Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT
ARRL Sacramento Valley Section
Section Emergency Coordinator

Happy Birthday to:

Ed Terlau KG7ZOP
Brad Smith WT6B
Bob Williams K7VOC
Eric Bero KI7WHH



A Few More Nevada Nets

ARRL Nevada Section has a long list of nets you can listen to. Here are a few that are not in our regular list, but will be added:

Daily Carson & Eagle Valley net, 6 p.m. on 28.435 MHz USB
Friday RARA Rural Amateur Radio Asso. 8 p.m. on 147.180 (+) MHz pl 123
Sunday New Hams Net 1 p.m. 146.760 (-) pl 123

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, July 7, 2018:

Called to order: 1:19 p.m.

Introductions: Bill KA6HXT Woodfords, CA and Alexandra (Mike Whitten's friend)

Treasurer's Report: for July 2018

Checking Account Starting balance:	\$1653.70
Deposits:	
Membership dues	14.00
Transfer from Savings	1000.00
Withdrawals:	
QOS Party	250.07
Ending Balance for Checking Account:	\$ 2717.63
Savings Account Starting Balance	\$ 5069.31
Withdrawals	<1000.00>

Dividend Earned	.19
Ending Balance:	<u>\$4069.50</u>
Grand total of both accounts:	\$6789.13

David Granish and Ben Echavarria moved to approve and seconded.

Membership: No change

Announcements:

Death Ride, 7/14, two more slots open. Contact Paul Gulbro.

NVCon, 7/20-22 at Boomtown, J.D. Fowler still needs more people to sit at the booth.

Tahoe Rim Trail Run, 7/20 contact Doug Abrams to participate.

Chuck Gervie, KI7PGI earned his General license, but will finish Jeff's class.

Business:

Pony Express: Tom Tabacco reported that the Pony rider arrived in Woodfords, CA a half hour late, but we arrived at Ibapah, Utah on time. Sheila Clement was sick and couldn't provide base station coverage. Robert Nelson on Austin Summit was able to pick up simplex 146.52 from followers following the Pony over Basque Summit as well as the Fallon repeater 147.345 quite well. He relayed from Fallon to Overland Pass.

We need to talk about how to re-organize our coverage methods. He suggested we reduce the number of base stations, change how we use cell phone coverage, and put relays on Fairview Peak, Austin Summit, Overland Pass, and Telegraph Peak. Cell phones can update the Facebook and Nat'l pages.

Field Day: Greg Moore reported that SIERA earned over 900 points with the extras. All equipment was used, fully powered off grid by solar panels. Hardly used the generator. Didn't need band filters. David Granish and Subrina Vinton received the ARRL message. Digital was best to copy it. Several new Hams got on the radios. Thanks to all who came by to set up and break down the station.

HAM 101 and CW class Interest: Ed Eggert volunteered to teach a class in CW and Morse code. Jim Marshall wants to teach a basic HAM 101 class dealing with really simple subjects. He will call about meeting at the Minden Library for these classes. Those interested in both classes are: Jeff Cauhape, Cathy Carney, Mike Whitten, Mary Nunn, Justin Nunn, Subrina Vinton, Greg Moore, Sharen Yee, Mike Yee, David Granish, Julie Cameron, Jere Shultz, J.D. Fowler, Tom Tabacco, Ben Echavarria, Billie Jo McAfee, Jon Hofmann, Sue Cauhape.

Soldering Camp: the next meeting may present a demo and exercise in soldering. Jeff Cauhape is also interested in holding a more complex camp where those interested can build a simple transmit/receive radio.

Moving Wall: Jim Marshall reported that we were located 200 yards from a power station. High frequency was really low; noise levels were S7+. Cathy Carney worked the radios for 13-14 hours. Six people requests QSO cards which Jim had printed. Jeff

brought up the issue of the program ad for the participants. We paid \$150 for a quarter-page ad and got nothing more than a square inch logo on a page with other similar logos. Jeff asked Jim to check with the cemetery people where the money went. If it went to the Moving Wall organization, SIERA can consider it a donation to a worthy cause. If the cemetery pocketed the money, then we need to ask for a refund.

Alta Alpina: Bob and Debbie Williams reported that, for the entire day, there were only fifteen entries on the log at the W7SR station and they were mostly signal checks and reports. No injuries or accidents were reported. All the sag vans and other employees of the organization hold their own Ham licenses and covered the event well. SIERA was just a relay between the Alta Alpina folks and 911 Dispatch.

BREAK

Read about Mike Whitten's presentation about his light-weight backpack radios in this issue of the Beacon.



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.