



SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

May 2019

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



Ed Eggert, K3VO: Radio Controlled Airplanes

Submitted by Cathy Carney, photos by Sue Cauhape

Ed introduced us to the possibilities and excitement of using radio-controlled vehicles, sharing his fascination with a radio-controlled glider he saw as a young man. He demonstrated his personal model glider, built by hand from balsa, using plans first published in 1938, and showed that it is fully operational.

His early planes used radio controllers from Heathkit, who had purchased from RC Modeler magazine the rights to develop and sell radios to control the gliders. When young Ed needed \$129 to get what he needed, he published an article for RC Modeler magazine in order to earn the money, and then painstakingly assembled it. Later he went into business helping others obtain and use models, to earn money to support his hobby.

Times have changed. Today, those kits are not available. Instead, one option is to buy an Almost Ready to Fly (ARF) plane (1/4 scale) from Vietnam and Japan, at \$2500. Or, if you have the time to earn a special license, and are willing to spend \$3,000-\$5,000 for each motor, you can have a 1/4 scale model jet.

Some memorable points along his journey between then and now include watching hawks glide alongside his model plane; enjoying advances in control capabilities made possible by transistors/ICs; and exchanging Li/Cd batteries for miniature gasoline engines for power. Currently, he is excited about the dock being built for the new pond in Gardnerville, which will make launching model boats possible. (Boats are available from Dumas products along with some planes: www.dumasproducts.com. Ed invited other SIERA members to get into radio-controlled boats so we could hold regattas on the pond. Any takers?



Our next General meeting will be held Saturday, My 4th, at 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church, 1375 Centerville Lane, in Gardnerville. Jim Marshall K6LR will give a talk about WSPR, a digital mode amateur radio. Sharen Yee will provide the cookies. Thank you for both for your contributions.

Safety Day is on the Way: May 11

For the third year, SIERA will join other emergency agencies in Douglas County to showcase our response capabilities to the public. It's a great opportunity to introduce young people to amateur radio. In the past, families have brought their children to our booth and trailer, but only the kids had the courage to hold the mic and talk to Paul Gulbro WE6EWV in Tahoe.

We need volunteers, though. This event only lasts about six hours, including setting up the exhibit at 8 a.m. and taking it all down after the festivities end at 2 p.m. If you don't want to help set up or break down, feel free to visit Lampe Park in Gardnerville on Saturday May 11. It's always fun just to sit in the sun or under the pop-up and tell stories about your adventures with amateur radio.



Pony Express: June 17-19. All the follow slots have been filled. Now Tom needs HAMS to work as base stations. If you're interested, email Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ at: smokey@pyramid.net.

Field Day: June 22-23 at the Tahoe-Minden Airport. This is a huge event that tests our abilities to set up a station in a remote site and transmit to as many stations across the country as well as Mexican and Canada without the benefit of repeaters. We'll need operators throughout the 24-hour period. David Granish KI6EWK will be coordinating this event and you can reach him at: ki6ewk@arrl.net OR david.granish@gmail.com

Death Ride: July 14 in Markleeville, CA. Paul Gulbro WE6EWV stations himself in the TARA van as net control for this exciting bicycle tour over Monitor, Ebbetts, and Carson passes. To join the fun as a rest station radio contact, email Paul at: wa6ewv@juno.com



Alta Alpina Challenge:

Two representatives from the Alta Alpina Challenge bike ride spoke with us at the April meeting and invited us to provide radio support. This year, the Challenge will be from 3:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on June 29: hence not in conflict with either the Pony Express Re-ride or Field Day! The group has core members who are HAMs and will be staffing the intersections, but they could use additional volunteers at rest stops. Hams with bikes are also invited to bring their bikes and

sample some of the terrain. For more information, visit www.AltaAlpina.org/challenge or call 8777.845.2453.

Honda Portable Generators Recalled Due to Potential Fire Hazard

American Honda has announced that it's voluntarily recalling some 200,000 of its portable generators sold in the US due to a potential fire and burn hazard. The recall includes the EU2200i, EU2200i Companion, and EB2200i generators. The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says the affected portable generators can leak gasoline from the fuel valve. Users should stop operating the recalled generator and contact an authorized Honda dealer for a free repair. Honda is also contacting users directly. For more information, [visit the CPSC website](http://www.cpsc.gov). A similar recall has been issued in Canada.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/honda-portable-generators-recalled-due-to-potential-fire-hazard>

More from Ed Eggert K3VO:

Ed Eggert's letter to the editor has appeared on the E Ham Net website. Here's the letter. If you want to view and maybe add to the comments, here's the link:

<https://www.eham.net/articles/42490>

G5RV Antenna

Ed Eggert (K3VO)

We just read about why techs are not on the air. Some say they need HF. I hate to say this but the hobby has been dumbed down.

When hams buy a terrible antenna like the G5RV instead of making a simple dipole the hobby is in trouble. Hey when I was kid of 12 we not only made antennas but our transmitters and had a lot of fun and learned something.

But back to the G5RV. It was developed in the days of tube transmitters with pi net works that tuned the ant. We did not have SWR bridges or antenna tuners. It was a decent antenna on 20 but not very good on the other bands. Not too long ago The Dr is in QST also found it to be terrible. Think about this. The G5RV requires coax, open wire feed line plus a balun to make a poor antenna plus it is over 100 feet long.

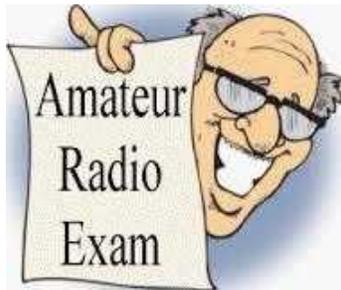
My good friend Lew McCoy, W1ICP (SK), check old Handbooks for his articles on SWR and antenna tuners said the following to me as did The Dr is in. hang as much wire as you can feed it with 450 open ribbon line to a 4 to 1 balun then your antenna tuner and you will have a very effective dipole that will load all bands. One does not even have to

measure the wire to formula. So if you have a G5RV get rid of the coax. One does not need that matching network.

Old timers will tell you the G5RV is a very good dummy load Today new hams do not try to do anything but buy what see they see in ads... Ask old timers for advice and help on making simple dipoles even ground planes for HF and VHF. Read the antenna section of the Handbook. I use PVC pipe from the hardware store for insulators. Antenna wire is available from many sources. Spend less money, learn something and get a better antenna.

K3VO on the air since 1954

Ed has other letters on eHam. Check out their website at: www.eham.net



ARRL Licensing Exam: SIERA offers licensing exams on the third Saturday of every odd month at 9 a.m. at Station 51 Fire Station, 777 South Stewart St., Carson City. Bring your photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. (You'll need to pay \$15 each time you take the test, so come prepared.) Contact: Greg Moore KG7DMI at KG7DMI@frontier.com for more information.

The next Licensing exam: May 18th.

Be sure to check the expiration date on your license to make sure you don't miss renewing with the FCC. If it expires, you will need to take the exams all over again. Also, whenever you move, notify the FCC of your new mailing address.

FCC has ULS Troubles

Getting your new ham license will take a little while because the FCC's Universal Licensing System is having technical difficulties. Please be patient. They're working on it. From their website: <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/system-notifications>

Weekly Application Database File Incomplete

[Less](#)

Effective: April 29, 2019

System: Universal Licensing System (ULS)

A technical problem prevented the system from creating complete versions of the weekly license database files. We are looking into the problem and expect to have these files recreated and available no later than COB Tuesday.

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV is taking a hiatus from teaching his Technician and General Licensing classes at Western Nevada College. If anyone is interested in teaching classes, please let us know at the Beacon so we can get the word out. scauhape2002@yahoo.com

Trade for Help with Antenna:

Ed Goldberg KE7EAA has a Yeasu FT-901 DM HF radio to trade to someone who can help erect an antenna for him. Because it is difficult for him to climb ladders and walk on uneven or rocky surfaces, he needs someone who can do this for him. He will trade the Yeasu for this help. It has a D-104 Lollipop mic and two extra final tubes. He has seen this radio on eBay priced at \$375. Contact him at: ke7eaa@icloud.com

DCART News:

2019 April Alpine/Douglas ARES Comment:

DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) members had their monthly meeting at Fire Station 12 to share home station and mobile capabilities as well as get acquainted with our membership. Jim, K6LR and Jeff, K7BLS, pulled cable and readied attachments for our 911 new office and ham radio station. Doug, KA7FOO, came down from Reno, to offer an FLdigi class at the Nevada Division of Emergency Management/National Guard facility.

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Alpine and Douglas Counties

From Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT, ARRL Sacramento Valley Section
Section Emergency Coordinator, www.sacvalleyares.org

Some links that I have posted that may be of interest.
All links on www.sacvalleyares.org as well as:

<https://www.facebook.com/ARRLSacramentoValley>
https://twitter.com/ARRL_SV

* FCC Petition RM-11831 Threatens Digital Operations Like Winlink
https://winlink.org/content/fcc_petition_rm_11831_threatens_amateur_digital_operations_winlink

Winlink is IMPORTANT For Emcomm Read and act.
https://winlink.org/content/fcc_petition_rm_11831_threatens_amateur_digital_operations_winlink

* Amateur Radio Open Message Monitor
All messages sent or received by amateur radio gateways are freely accessible right here. Help the amateur radio community police itself. Search and view; report it if you spot a violation.

https://winlink.org/content/amateur_radio_message_viewer

Log into your Winlink account, and you will see a link on the left, or go to the home page and click on the link to Amateur Radio Open Message Monitor

* The Quick Guide to VARA FM with Signalink on Windows has been updated to reflect major recent changes.

https://winlink.org/content/vara_fm_quick_setup_vara_fm_modem_and_signalink

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WITH SIERA HAMS

8 a.m. breakfast every fourth Saturday at the Tail Dragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

11:15 a.m. lunch every Wednesday at Jethro's on Kimmerling in Gardenerville.



Nets Available in Carson Valley and Beyond:

The SNARS Noon Net daily on 147.150.

Daily Carson & Eagle Valley net, 6 p.m. on 28.435 MHz USB

BARC Nightly Net, 8 pm on 146.655 pl 131.8, ragchew and pre-check-in at 7:30 p.m.

DCART Net, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on 147.270.

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.

Plumas County Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., on 145.470.

Brad Smith's (WT6B) Watering Hole, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330,

"questions and answers pertaining to amateur radio."

SKYWARN at 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

NV ARES Net Thursdays at 7 p.m. Echolink conf server NV-GATE
152566 IRLP Western Reflector Ch8:9258

SNARS Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030 or 147.150
(SNARS Linked Repeaters: <https://snars.org>)

RARA Rural Amateur Radio Assn., Fridays at 8 p.m. on 147.180 pl 123

ARES HF Net, Saturdays at 7 a.m. on 3965kHz (+or- QRM).

RARA, Rural Amateur Radio Association, Saturdays 7:30 a.m. on 3965kHz

New Hams Net, Sundays at 1 p.m. 146.760 pl 123

National Traffic Service Net, Sundays at 6:15 p.m. on 3945kHz

- High Stability temperature compensated master Oscillator installed.
 - Dual receivers, offers split operation for DX contacts
 - Internal Antenna tuner installed.
 - Yaesu DNR (Dynamic Noise reduction), Plus IF shift and Contour controls.
- Has been my "daily driver" for 7 years. Works perfect. Look up reviews on EHAM.

Personal Repeater: Dale Yanz AJ6IX has his own repeater that he invites everyone to use. It's located at 444.450MHz with a plus offset and PL 107.2. His Echolink code is AJ6IX-R node: 244875.

SIERA General Meeting Minutes for April 6, 2019

Call to order

1:06 p.m.

Membership

28 Members and guests were present.

Treasurer's Report for April 2019

Checking Account

Starting Balance 2409.73

Deposits: \$158

Withdrawals

Nevada Secretary of State, annual registration of not-for-profit SIERA <50>
American Family Insurance, Liability Insurance for SIERA <206>

Total Withdrawals <\$256>

Ending Balance \$2311.73

Savings Account

Starting Balance 4070.85

Dividends 0.17

Ending Balance 4071.02

Grand Total 6382.75

Field day

David Granish, KI6EWK has agreed to be this year's Field Day coordinator. It will be held June 22/23, at the Minden Airport. This location offers plenty of parking and room for RVs, a restaurant, public restrooms and plenty of open space. Last year, we were among the top entries within Nevada state. Please sign up (or contact David at David.granish@gmail.com if you were unable to be at the meeting), to give him an idea of who will be participating.

Safety Day

Ben Echavarría, N7BBE has volunteered to coordinate the participation of SIERA in this year's Safety Day on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lampe Park, Gardnerville. Setup begins around 8:00. To participate, please contact Ben at **Ben E Echavarría@msn.com**. The interactions with other exhibitors and attendees is always interesting and enjoyable. Last year a blind girl used our radio: she was quite comfortable talking on the air, and inspired those watching with her confident use of the equipment.

Fldigi

Even though WINLink is currently used by many emergency groups, Fldigi is a more robust strategy for communicating in natural disasters. Being digital, it can get through when voice cannot, in addition to being able to pass ICS forms and transfer files.

Doug Abrahamson is an experienced trainer, willing to teach a Fldigi class in Carson City. The date is not yet set, but it will be on a Saturday in May or June, 12:00-6:00 p.m. Ten SIERA members indicated with a show of hands their interest in attending such a class. If you were not at the SIERA meeting, but would be interested in learning Fldigi, please contact **Jim Marshall, K6LR**, jmarshall1945@yahoo.com.

Pony Express

Volunteers are still needed who have 4-wheel drive capabilities, for the section going across the playa from Sand Mountain. Contact **Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ,** smokey@pyramid.net.

Presentation by Ed Eggert K3VO.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:08.

Check us out on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SIERA>

Our Facebook page is another way to reach out to other hams and tell them about SIERA. If you have a news item to share, send it to scauhape2002@yahoo.com. Also, tell your friends about SIERA and the Facebook page. The Beacon's range is local. Facebook goes out to the world.



Our Facebook got some good numbers this week:

Our posts reached 108 people, an increase of 116%.

Ninety-seven people reacted or commented on posts, an increase of 234%

Remember, send your photos and news to:
scauhape2002@yahoo.com.