



# SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

June 2019

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



## **This is Becoming a Tradition**

Once again, the June 1st General Meeting coincides with Brad Hollander's N7RCA **Huge Radio Electronics Swap Meet**. So, like last year, **SIERA will hold the meeting at 1 p.m. at Brad's place at 1780 Bobcat Court**, giving everyone plenty of time to peruse all the great stuff before the meeting. Bring your own equipment for sale, anything electronic: vintage items, modern gear, hi-fi. Brad has contracted with a local food truck vendor to offer lots of goodies. Also, Kirby Mays is bringing cookies for the SIERA meeting. So, pack up your pickup with sellables and tables. Bring your own chairs for the meeting. The Swap Meet begins at 7 a.m. and the General Meeting begins at 1 p.m.

Here's a link to Brad's maps to his ranch:

<http://www.w6thw.com/n7rca/directions.html>

**Remember: DO NOT COME TO THE CHURCH FOR THE MEETING and bring chairs!**

## **Presentation by Jim Marshall, K6LR, on WSPR**

submitted by Cathy Carney

Have you ever wanted to make some DX contacts without spending a lot of time scoping out the propagation patterns? Or you want to compare the stations reached on two different antennas.

Jim Marshall has the answer for you: WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter). Joe Taylor, a physics professor at Princeton, developed this software in 2008 to allow hams to send and receive very low-power transmissions (5 to 200 Milliwatts). WSPR can be set up to run in the background for hours, days, or weeks.

The only caveat is that your computer time remains within 1 second of the UTC (Universal Coordinated Time)—something that not all computers can automatically do. Apps such as Dimension 4 can be downloaded for free to sync computer time to UTC. WWV is the U.S. version of this universal time sync.

To compare two antennas, for example, a 560-foot loop versus an offset center dipole, you would run WSPR on them for three days and then compare how many stations were reached on each antenna. The one that pinged the most stations will best serve your DX needs.

Rather than relying on hams posting their information (as is true with beacons and similar tools), the map on the website below displays in real time the propagation information you need. For instance, Jim was able to get a spot from Iceland with only 200 milliwatts signal feeding his antenna.



<https://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/> is a good website to begin your exploration (WS for Weak Signal, JT honoring its creator: Joe Taylor, K1JT). <http://www.WSPRnet.org/drupal> is another useful URL.

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## **Safety Day Followup**



While general attendance at Safety Day appeared to be way down, we had a great turnout of SIERA members and guests at our trailer display at Lampe Park. We even had a repeat visit from our friend, Natalia, a blind girl who was the first in line to talk to Brad Smith WT6B on the trailer radio. (She's standing amidst the rogue's gallery to the left.) Throughout the day, we had HAMS, families, and local officials drop by to ragchew about amateur radio and SIERA. It was a beautiful sunny day with mild temperatures and everyone seemed to have a good time. What a

way to open our busy Summer Season. See below for upcoming events and contacts for your participation. We especially want to encourage all our newest members to join the fun for the Pony Express Re-Ride and Field Day.

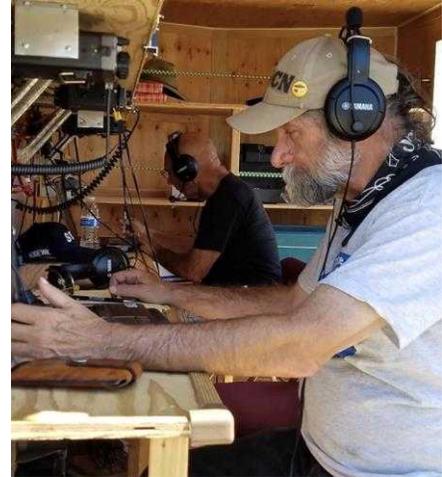
## **A Summer Full of Fun:**

**Pony Express:** June 17-19. We'll be talking about this event and Field Day at our June meeting. If you're interested, email Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ at: [smokey@pyramid.net](mailto:smokey@pyramid.net).

**Field Day:** June 22-23 at the Tahoe-Minden Airport. This annual ARRL contest tests our abilities to set up a station in a remote site and transmit to as many stations across the country as well as Mexico and Canada without the benefit of repeaters. We'll need operators throughout the 24-hour period. This is the big one, folks. This even is where SIERA shows the Carson Valley community what it can do. Besides, it's a whole lot of fun.

David Granish KI6EWK is coordinating this year's Field Day and you can reach him at:

[ki6ewk@arrl.net](mailto:ki6ewk@arrl.net) OR [david.granish@gmail.com](mailto:david.granish@gmail.com)



**Alta Alpina Challenge:** June 29: Sheila Clement KA7AJQ needs HAMs to staff the our 911 Center station beginning at 8 a.m. for 2-4 hour shifts to backup calls from Alta Alpine to 911. Anyone interested in spending a few hours in our brand new station can contact Sheila at: [smclfc@gmail.com](mailto:smclfc@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](mailto:wa6ewv@juno.com). Who knows? You just may meet the Chicken Man.



SilentKeys

During the VHF Net last Tuesday, June Bennett N7OWV announced that her grandson, Steven Rawson, KD7JRI, has died. He used to drive her through the Nevada wilderness to follow the Pony Express riders. She celebrated her 95th birthday during the last trip she did with him. We wish to extend to June our deepest sympathies for her loss.

## **John Shive: Similarities of Wave Behavior YouTube Video (28 min.)**

David Thompson, AG7TX, shared this URL to a YouTube video that will demonstrate wave behavior and John Shive's wave machines he invented to illustrate these behaviors in all spectra: sound, optical, mechanical, electronic, etc. Thank you, David.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DovunOxly1k&feature=youtu.be>

**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](mailto:KG7DMI@frontier.com) for more information.

### **The next Licensing exam: July 20th.**

**Congratulations** to our new and upgraded HAM licensees: Bill Stanley, Ed Boog, Anastazla Rudolph, Keith Baumann, Robert Plant, Diana Moore, Gregg Rossi, Karim Mekhid, Jeff Meehan, and Brian Sanders. SIERA members, Sharen and Mike Yee both upgraded to General and Extra respectively.

As you can see, we had a huge turnout for the May licensing exams. This is a service SIERA provides to the community, so tell your friends and family that they can get their licenses too.



Robert Plant, KI7OAL, and Guenther Noder, KU8B, at the May 2019 SIERA HAM exam in Carson City.

**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.

Here's the link to the [cvhams.com](http://cvhams.com) website membership listing. If your name shows up in red, you need to renew your license. This list is updated each year.

<https://www.cvhams.com/membership/SIERA%20Membership.pdf>

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### **DCART News:**

Eric Bero KI7WHH told us about ZELLO, which is an app hospitals used internally after the Las Vegas shooting to communicate when all the phones systems were clogged with traffic. It proved to be a valuable tool.

ZELLO is an app that can be downloaded free for anyone wanting to setup a group, such as a family or organization like DCART, to communicate by PTT voice during emergencies. All those included in the group will be able to hear the conversation, but when it's in private mode, the conversation is only among those members. It goes over wi-fi from your cellphone. You setup your account with only your name, email, and a password. (Denying all the ensuing pop-ups will not deny access to this app.) After you've finished setting up the account, you then invite all the people you want in your group by inserting their emails. They will receive the invitation and will then need to verify their emails to complete the setup. ZELLO is another way to stay in contact when other systems aren't immediately available.

Go to this URL: <https://zello.com/personal/download/>

David Granish KI6EWK found this tutorial for ZELLO:  
<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/zello-app-guide,news-25805.html>

And then there's goTenna: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GoTenna>  
And the goTenna ad URL: <https://gotennamesh.com/>

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Sheila Clement KA7AJQ filled us in on the progress for the new W7SR station at the 911 Dispatch Call Center. The cubicle arrived about a month ago, and Jeff Brown K5BLS is organizing and tuning all fusion radios and digital equipment to get us back up to speed with assisting Dispatch during emergencies. Jim Marshall K6LR is also helping with all the wiring and antenna hookups.

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**Here's a little story Jim Marshall K6LR found in the New York Times:**

A Mystery Frequency Disrupted Cars Fobs in an Ohio City, and Now Residents Know Why: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/04/us/key-fobs-north-olmsted-ohio.html?fbclid=IwAR0hvQe9LIUxCTginmGI0CdC17aM6vykR56zm7dOwqJoNxV88q9QzV0hcbc>

**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 KJ6IX 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 KJ6IX-R node: 244875.

**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](mailto: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.



## SIERA General Meeting May 4, 2019

### Call to order

1:04 p.m.

### Membership

Twenty-three members and guests were present, including new members **Emerson Ramirez (KN6BNW)**: Technician Class) and his father **Scott Ramirez (KM6SSK)**: General Class). Emerson accepted the offer made to all new members of using a loaner 2-meter radio for six months for free, with the option of then purchasing it.

### Treasurer's Report for May 2019

#### **Checking Account**

Starting Balance	<b>2311.73</b>
Deposits	0
Withdrawals (Post Office Box rent)	(118.00)
Ending Balance	<b>2193.73</b>

#### **Savings Account**

<b>Starting Balance</b>	<b>4071.02</b>
Dividends	.17
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>4071.19</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6264.92</b>

### May/June Activities

#### **Field day**

**David Granish, KI6EWK** provided a signup clipboard for members wanting to participate in this year's Field Day, June 22/23, at the Minden Airport. Contact David at [David.granish@gmail.com](mailto:David.granish@gmail.com) if you were unable to be at the meeting to sign up. David reminded members that people are needed for setting up and taking down the equipment, as well as staffing the radios.

## **Safety Day**

**Bob Williams, K7VOC**, encouraged members to come to this year's Safety Day on Saturday, May 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lampe Park, Gardnerville. Bob will bring the club trailer, with the computers. Setup begins around 8:00.

## **Alta Alpina Challenge (June 29) and Death Ride (July 14)**

The support arrangements for these activities are fairly well set. Any members interested in participating should contact the organizers directly through [www.AltaAlpina.org/challenge](http://www.AltaAlpina.org/challenge)

## **Pony Express**

We have sufficient field followers, but volunteers are still needed to staff the base stations (listening to reports from the field, and passing information on to Pony Express controllers). Contact **Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ**, [smokey@pyramid.net](mailto:smokey@pyramid.net).

## **Leviathan repeater**

Jim Marshall, the repeater trustee, has explained to CHP (California Highway Patrol) that this repeater is part of the equipment for the DCART 911 dispatch center, and is therefore necessary, and should not be eliminated when the changes are made to the area. So far, no immediate action is planned. (Ed. Note: Jim has been officially installed by the FCC as the Trustee for the NV7CV repeater. Now he can renew our license next October.)

## **Next Month's presentation**

In lieu of a presentation, the June meeting will focus on

- reviewing Safety Day activities, identifying successes and different strategies for next year.
- Planning for Pony Express re-ride (June 17-19) and Field Day (June 22/23)

## **Suggestions for engaging SIERA members that are not currently active**

Members shared a variety of thoughts, when asked how to engage some of the 60+ registered members who are not active

- Many options are possible; some would work better for some people than others, but something should be done.
- Perhaps put something on this topic in the Beacon.
- Ask 4 or 5 people (board members?) to divide up the membership and call each registered member.
- Stream the meetings.
- Over sixty newsletters are e-mailed to all registered members each month.
- Changing the time/day of the monthly meeting might accommodate schedules of people for whom the middle of Saturday is a poor time.
- Sending postcard/letters, remembering that strategy carries a financial cost.
- People vary in their preferences for communicating by e-mail, phone, letter, or Facebook.

## **Volunteering for Presentations and Refreshments**

The volunteers for bringing refreshments are

July	<b><u>Sue Cauhape</u></b>
August	No one
September	<b><u>Jim Marshall</u></b>
October	No one
November	<b><u>Dave DeAngelis</u></b>
December	<b><u>Debbie Williams</u></b>

The volunteers for presenters: **No one**

The suggestion for a presentation topic: **NOAA**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:42.

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## **Tube of the Month**

### **F-328A**

In the 1920s, the ham community was small and everyone knew who the “big guns” were. Dxing was popular, but the equipment was mostly home made especially for the higher short waves. QST would run stories about working Europe from W6 on 40 meters. Don Wallace, 6AM, was one of the most famous DXers of the day. When Don’s old triode (a UV206) was getting soft, he contacted 6EX in the San Francisco area. 6EX ran the National Radio Co. who made rectifiers and did some tube rebuilding. Don was sent a Federal F-328A that may have been rebuilt and an arc rectifier to power it. Don constructed a water jacket to cool the tube and had rubber hoses for tap water input. The output ran outside onto the driveway. The circuit was a Hartley oscillator and when conditions were good, the water came out steaming. This tube had a dissipation of 5 KW and there was much speculation as to the output power. I believe this rig was the origin of the expression “A California kilowatt”. The tube was damaged in the big earthquake of 1933 and was retired. About 45 years ago, I met W6AM at a convention and the conversation led to the water-cooled tube of 1927 that seemed to be one of Don’s favorite yarns.

Visit the museum Norm at: [N6IV.com](http://N6IV.com)



**Remember, send your photos and news to:**  
[scauhape2002@yahoo.com](mailto:scauhape2002@yahoo.com).