



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

October 2019

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



Thank you, 2019 Board Members: Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Cathy Carney KI7NIR, Jim Marshall K6LR, Debbie Williams N7XYL, Bob Williams K7VOC, and David Granish KE6EWK. They would all appreciate a hiatus.

SIERA Board Elections:

Our club has grown larger and more vigorous over the past few years, not only because we've had lots of new hams join who have contributed their energy and expertise to SIERA, but because we've had a great bunch of people on the Board. Now it's time to thank them all for their years of service to SIERA and give them a rest. With even more new and energetic people joining SIERA over the past year, we have many choices for the new Board that will be elected in December. All positions are open.

Also, the present Board has sent a survey to every club member to hear what you want SIERA to do in the future. We have all kinds of people interested in all kinds of amateur

radio activities, from back-country ops to ragchewing to supporting local events to assisting in emergency operations to ... well, you name it.

Hams can get involved in so many ways. Current Board members and volunteers have helped Secretary Cathy Carney assemble a detailed list of job descriptions, everything from Board President to coffee and cookie service. The list of people serving in these positions shows that the same people are doing most of the heavy lifting. Some have multiple positions. Breaking everything down, it would be easy for more people to become involved, taking the load of others and more individuals contributing to SIERA's success. Nobody needs to suffer burn-out. So please, consider volunteering for one of SIERA's many positions and jobs. And remember to attend the December meeting to cast your vote for the new Board.

Next Meeting: The October 5th General Meeting, 1 p.m. in the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd., Gardnerville

SIERA Editorial

Jim Marshall, K6LR
SIERA Board Member

Just wanted to say a few words concerning the ability of Amateur Radio clubs and the ARRL to attract new members and to create an environment that will encourage new Hams to join local Amateur Radio clubs and maintain membership. SIERA as a club has a large membership for such a small geographical area. The problem as I see it is that we, as a club do not seem to be able to attract individuals that have recently obtained their license, nor to maintain these new licensees as club members. For instance, in the last two meetings we only had less than a third of the members attending.

We need to encourage members to continue to come to club meetings or participate in club activities. The reasons for lack of participation are many. Perhaps we, as a Board and Club Members, are not providing incentive for new people to participate and stay active. We are not alone. The ARRL, now known as the National Association of Amateur Radio, has the same problem. Currently, The ARRL membership is only about 38% of the licensed Amateur Radio Operators. The ARRL, under new leadership is taking on this challenge to make itself more attractive to these Individuals. They are initiating Pod Casts aimed at the new amateurs to encourage them to get more interested in Ham Radio. They are also publishing books aimed at the "newbies" and geared towards answering questions a beginner may have. (BTW, if you are not an ARRL member, I encourage you to join. They are our only link towards working with the FCC and others for our interests. QST magazine alone is worth the membership.)

To this end as a club, the SIERA Board has recently sent out a survey questionnaire to help us determine what will make the club more attractive. I know, "Not another survey, and oh my gosh, this thing goes on forever!" But I encourage all of you to please take some time and thought and turn these back in as soon as possible. You are the Club! We as Board Members are not the club! EVERY member IS the Club and has a say in what we do. Let us as the Board of Directors and Officers, know what you would like to do and which direction(s) the Club should go.

Last, please to not hesitate to ask question. Any Question! There is no such thing as a dumb question! Any of us will do our best to get you the information you desire.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 11-13 SNARS QSO party, Contact as many hams in Nevada's seventeen counties as possible. For further information:

http://nvqso.com/?utm_source=snars&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=nvqso2019

Oct 18-19 Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) brings scouts and hams together around the world. Check out the website, www.scouting.org/jota/ and set up a ham station to introduce boys and girls to amateur radio in a fun and easy way.

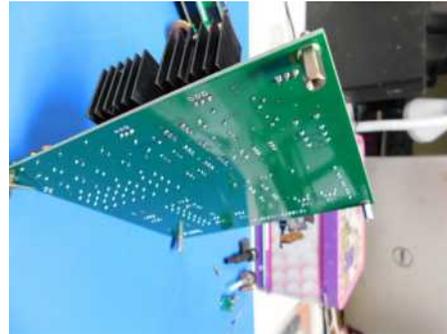
October 26 The Nevada Day Parade



Here's a fun little project that the Bishop Amateur Radio Club shared on its Facebook page.



Entire kit laid out. Blue cover is an anti-static mat. HF multi-band radio, QRP, SSB and CW. Lots of hams have created add-ons, including a small board to add digital capability.



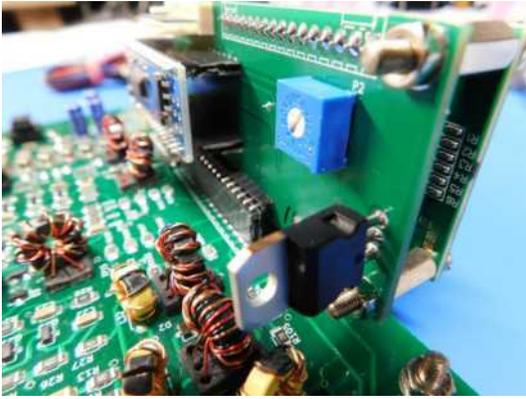
Step 1 - the feet are screwed on the PCB.



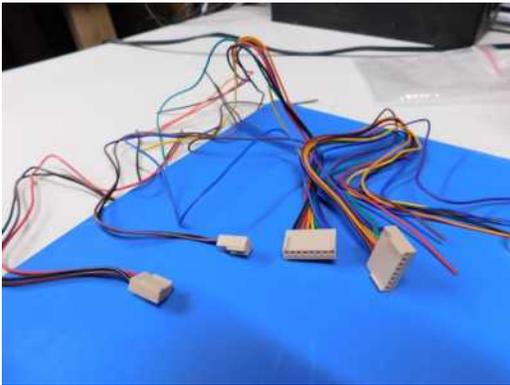
Rudiono on left, attaches into sockets on the display, shown on right. Main board in background.

Rudiono attached to display board.

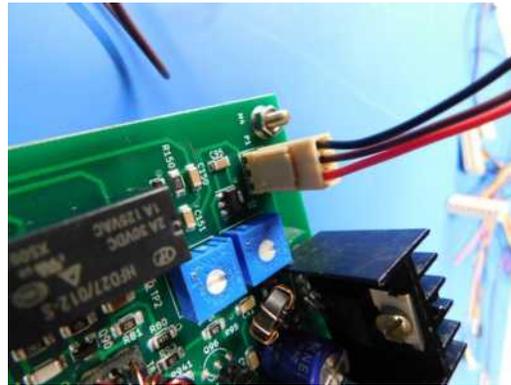




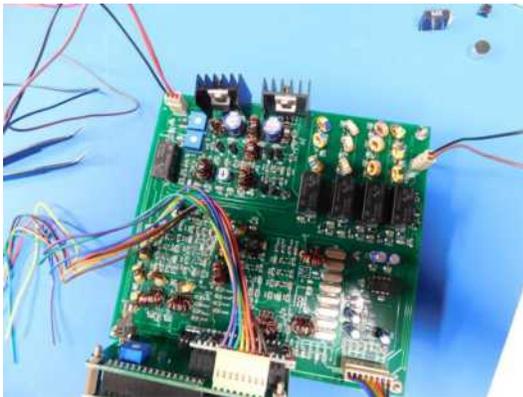
Close-up with the two boards attached with the black socket to main board.



Harnesses as supplied in kit.



Power harness attached to board.



Power harness at top left. Antenna harness top right. Display/control harness lower center. Audio harness is at lower right.

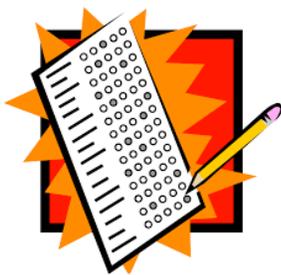
Yes, this is the metal box it goes into. It was either this or a Disney "Frozen" lunch box, too tempting for my Granddaughters to borrow for show and tell at school i.e. they would pile food atop the radio innards.





Radio sitting in lunch box. Sizing for where to drill for the display, knobs (on left) and the antenna BNC (two wires at lower right). Board will end up being mounted about 1 1/2" to left. LCD display will poke through the left side of the box.

(Editor's Note: We can't wait to see the finished product.)



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: November 16th.

After the Exam — Now What?

You may have noticed that nothing on the exam or in the manual gave any information about how to turn on that first radio, or even what kind of radio would be a good start. A new workshop David Thomson AG7TX and Greg Moore KG7D are giving can provide a fun and practical group activity to learn how to operate your first radio, be it a hand-held, a mobile, or one that remains in your home station. This workshop usually happens a few weeks after the exam. Since the last exam was on Sept. 21st, the next workshop will be held **October 5th at 9 a.m. in the Wilson Commons Park**, just a mile or so from Brewer's Mansion in Washoe Valley. The Beacon published a lengthy and detailed description from David Thompson on what this workshop would entail. Check the September Beacon for those details. Otherwise, bring your VHF/UHF radio(s), a snack and drink, and all your questions. You will be operating your radio out in the field. If you need further information about this workshop, contact:

David B. Thompson, AG7TX ag7tx@arrl.org or Greg Moore, KG7D kg7dmi@frontier.com

For Sale:

Equipment for sale Estate of Joseph Turek, AB7TJ

1. Alpha 76A HF 1.5 kw power amplifier. Operates all bands, 160 – 10 meters. Uses (2) 8874 ceramic vacuum tubes, oversized power supply providing 2200 volts DC at 1.5 amps. Forced air Centrifugal blower provides cooling of the tubes. One of the best amps Alpha made. Check EHAM Reviews. Wired for 220VAC. \$750.00
2. Cushcraft R7 Vertical antenna, 80 thru 10 meters, handles 1.5 kw. Does not require radials. (The current model Cushcraft R8 sells for \$568.00.) Asking \$75.00
3. CommTest 3100 Service Monitor Frequency range from 100 Khz to 1000 Mhz. Provides all signals and test functions required to test any HF, VHF and UHF transceiver. Test for power output, sensitivity, setting frequency, setting deviation, Sinad and much more. Sold for \$7,500 new. Asking \$450.00.
4. Icom R-7000 Vhf, Uhf all mode Receiver. \$75.00.
5. Icom IC-275 VHF All mode transceiver \$100.00
6. Icom IC-475 UHF All mode transceiver \$100.00

While all equipment above is fully functional, be advised that all Equipment sold "As is". No returns
Contact Jim Marshall, k6lr, at k6lr@arri.net, or 775-392-3734
(Above equipment being sold for Shawn Turek, Joe's Son).

DCART News:

2019 September Alpine/Douglas ARES Comment:

September saw several events for our area and some of our members participated. There was the Tour De Tahoe (bicyclists), Edible Pedal (bicyclists), Candy Dance and, of course, Alienstock. The Reno Air Races had mostly volunteers from Washoe. And there is preplanning for the October Nevada Day Parade. Ben, N7BBE, braved crowds and weather to meet our Douglas County Dispatch Mobile Unit, CM11, at Genoa last Saturday and Sunday for the Candy Dance. We have a ham radio station in their unit. As for Alienstock, a couple of our members put in a lot of hours right there at NV Division of Emergency Management. John Abrott, KD7NHC was deployed to Rachel. His time goes to another group. Two southern counties had declared emergencies so several EOCs were activated. An article about event preparations and happenings has been sent to QST. I guess we will have to wait a while for full information. Still, my observations from afar show tremendous participation by ARES members and great preparations by the Emergency Services in Nevada. Dave, N7TNX, LeRoy, KA7UIS, and Keith, KJ6JJN, from the hospital, not only do the Friday hospital nets, they meet and work with Jim, the Hospital Emergency Coordinator, to maintain the radios and plan for additional equipment. The station there has just received a new computer with Internet access. Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, ARES Emergency Coordinator, Alpine and Douglas Counties

AlienStock

BARC has written an excellent report about the Alienstock event in Rachel, NV and how hams are an essential part of EmCom operations there:

Bishop Amateur Radio Club

September 20 at 10:18 AM · Credit for the following to ARRL
Nevada ARES/RACES Members Deploy for “Storm Area 51” Event
09/19/2019



A social media joke early this summer setting up a “Storm Area 51, They Can’t Stop Us All” group now has spiraled into emergency declarations in two Nevada counties and spurred an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®)/Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) deployment of personnel and equipment. Some predictions say the “Storm Area 51” event will draw thousands, many possibly ill-equipped to be out in the desert environment, to the Nevada Test and Training Range, which contains the US Air Force facility known as Area 51. ARES teams plan to staff and support six incident-specific locations along the 50-mile event corridor known as Extraterrestrial Highway, from September 19 to September 24.

Secrecy surrounding Area 51 has long fascinated and inspired conspiracy theorists, who believe alien life forms recovered by the US military following UFO sightings in the 1950s are still being kept there. The events this week prompted stern warnings from the military to stay away from the site, and the FAA is reported to have closed the airspace above the area.

In June, 20-year-old Facebook user Matty Roberts called for crowds of people to rush Area 51 in the Nevada desert, to “see them aliens” that some believe are being held as prisoners there. Within days, more than 2 million indicated they were taking up Roberts’ rallying cry, and another 1.5 million expressed interest in doing so. At that point, Roberts declared that his initial post was just a joke. Multiple Facebook sites have opened since, promoting a huge music festival dubbed “Alienstock” in Rachel, a town of about 50 residents, and an Area 51 Basecamp in Hiko. Other UFO-inspired events are popping up along desolate Nevada Highway 375, Extraterrestrial Highway, effectively creating a venue more than 50 miles long, as no other roads exist into or out of Rachel. Reports say that hundreds of law enforcement officers and medical personnel will be posted, along with the Nevada National Guard.

Preliminary estimates of attendance have run as high as 100,000, and as low as 15,000. With virtually no local infrastructure, officials in Lincoln and Nye counties declared states of emergency. When the events were first announced in late August, Lincoln County Sheriff Kerry Lee, assisted by the Nevada Department of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (NDEM), found little time to prepare. Surrounding counties and agencies are pitching in with equipment and 350 personnel.

Lincoln County, where Rachel sits, has just 5,000 inhabitants. The county has just 20 law enforcement officers.

Emergency medical and fire protection services are nonexistent in Rachel. Volunteers staff a single ambulance, a fire truck, and a rescue vehicle. The nearest small hospital is 85 miles away, and the closest major hospital or trauma care is 150 miles away in Las Vegas. Rachel has just one business — a small bar/café/motel combination. Its

proprietor told the Associated Press, "It's happening. We already have people from all over the world."

Amateur Radio could play an essential role in the event. Lincoln County's 30 radio amateurs are either unable to deploy due to age or they're already deployed in some other emergency response role, so Lincoln County ARES Emergency Coordinator Charles Reifsnyder, AD7OY, has recruited ARES personnel from throughout the state to support operations. Back-up resources outside the area will remain on alert. — Thanks to John Bigley, N7UR

And Just for Laughs:

If you have a half hour where you have nothing more productive to do, check out this video made Friday Sept. 22, the opening day of Alienstock. A few hundred people managed to find Rachel that morning, but there were more media and law enforcement people there than actual participants. The vlogger made a follow-up video if this one blew your mind and you want to continue following this adventure.

RVerTV <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQPhk5TzzD8>



Silent Key: Helen "Jean" Duffy Raso

Sept. 14, 1919 to July 18, 2019

Jean and her husband, Bill, were early members of SIERA. If any of you have memories or stories you'd like to share about Jean, please send them to the Beacon, scauhape2002@yahoo.com, so that the editor can compile a proper obituary for her. Thank you.



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 Gardnerville.

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

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.

September 7th Board Meeting Minutes

Call to order

1:10 p.m.

Membership

21 members and guests were present (out of 73 members)

Treasurer's Report

(Jim Marshall, K6LR, shared this in the absence of Treasurer Debbie Williams, N7XYL)

Checking Account

Starting Balance_____	1925.23
Deposits Membership	34.00
Withdrawals	<140.00>
Ending Balance_____	1819.23

Savings Account

Starting Balance _____	4071.70
Dividends	.17
Ending Balance _____	4071.87
Grand Total	5891.10

Introductions and other sharing

Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, shared his strategy of wearing his hat and shirt (emblazoned with the SIERA logo) to invite questions from those he meets, and thereby promote interest in SIERA and ham radio.

Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ, announced that the Nevada Day Parade has all of its Ham radio volunteer slots filled.

Diana Moore, KJ7GVY, said High Desert Montessori Reno (www.hdmsreno.org) school is having a “Radio Day” on October 19.

John Abbott, KD7NHC, shared that a new repeater has been installed on Pine Grove in Smith Valley, at 146.880, PL -123.0. He encouraged SIERA members to try to hit it.

Daryll Haines, KE7HXD, who has been a member of SIERA since 2006, joined us for the meeting.

Board Report (Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, in Jeff's absence)

Ben reminded members that all positions are open next year—terms only run for one year. He described some of the board positions and duties, and promised a written description next month. He encouraged members to consider helping SIERA to grow by serving as a board member.

Update on Leviathan Repeater

In response to a member's question, Jeff Marshall, K6LR (the trustee of our Leviathan repeater), described its current situation. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) told us fourteen months ago that they planned to build a new shelter for various items, including our repeater, which is attached to a wooden structure on the lookout. The information that was sent last year to CHP was lost by them, so they have requested a re-submittal of documents. Jim is in communication with that new administrator, and will continue to keep them (and us) updated.

Survey

Greg Moore, KG7DMI described the membership survey to be distributed to all members present. The purpose is to learn what members can contribute to the club, and what direction members want SIERA to take. Time and pens were provided to members present at the meeting. After the meeting, a digital copy of the survey will be sent to all members not present, with the request that it be completed and returned to Greg no later than September 15.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Check us out on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/SIERA>



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