



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

November 2019

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

Critical Election Coming in December!

The next two months are crucial for SIERA. It's election time. We need a new President and two new Directors for the Board. Also, Cathy Carney, our secretary, needs someone to sub for her when she's traveling.

SIERA currently has 79 members, all talented people with lots to give in many ways. Don't be modest. You can serve SIERA on the Board or as a volunteer. Complete job descriptions are listed at the end of this Beacon.

Nominating Committee: If you know someone who would be great on the Board, or if you would like to serve on the Board, the Nominating Committee, Jim Marshall K6LR, Mike Whitten KI7NIP, and Ed Terlau KG7ZOP, are awaiting your suggestions. Let them know at the November meeting.

Next Meeting: The November 2nd General Meeting, 1 p.m. at Fire Station No. 12, on North Sunridge and Hwy 395.

Nevada QSO Party Expedition to Eastern Nevada

Submitted by Dave Thompson AG7TX

A few weeks ago, Greg KG7D asked if I would be interested in an expedition for the NV QSOP. His wanted to activate White Pine and Lincoln Counties at the county line south from Ely, Nevada. Of course I agreed to go.

On Thursday 10 October, Greg KG7D, Subrina KI7OAL, Diana KJ7GVY, and I headed east. The drive out to the site required seven hours. The original campsite was not satisfactory, but after a little scouting, Diana found an alternative location on the county line a few hundred yards east from the original site.



We set up camp and enjoyed the evening together. Thursday night was quite cold with a minimum temperature of about 11F. Diana wins the IRON WOMAN award for tent camping without complaint.

I setup a new station power system. A 160w Renogy panel was used with a Genasun 10 solar charge controller to keep a pair of 80Ah AGM batteries charged. It was the first time out for this system and it worked better than expected. The Elecraft K3/P3 transceiver/panadapter, a station computer, and a number of other devices were powered and/or charged with this system.

Friday morning, all stations were setup and tested. Three mesh nodes were setup, connected to station computers, and were able to communicate between campsites/stations. The mesh nodes are repurposed home WiFi/Routers that are reflashed (reprogrammed) with the BroadBand-HamNet (BBHN) software. The BBHN software uses the amateur portion of the 2.4GHz band for communication between mesh nodes.

When powered up, each mesh node identifies itself with the owner's call sign and looks for other mesh nodes within range. If found, they connect to form the mesh and permit traffic to be passed between nodes

to other nodes. This network is used by N1MM+ and permitted a shared logging system using N1MM+. A talk window also allowed text communication between operators. We used this utility a lot during the contest.

Operations began Friday evening. By the end of the NVQSOP, we made more than 300 contacts. We broke down and stowed the stations, then held a group party at the KG7D/KI7OAL campsite Sunday evening. We broke camp the following morning and returned home to Carson City.

Survey Results

Recently, all SIERA members received a Survey to complete. Only about a dozen actually turned in theirsurveys. Here are the results as compiled by Greg Moore KG7D. Thank you, Greg, for your work on this.

Many thanks to all who completed and returned the SIERA Survey. Your input will help your elected leadership to best serve all members as the Board plans activities in the coming year. Below is a brief summary of the results. Please contact Greg Moore, KG7D, for more complete details at kg7dmi@frontier.com.



Demographics

¾ men, ¼ women: the majority (40%) between 70 and 80 years old, followed by 30% being between 50 and 60 years, and 20% being 60-70 years old (plus a few outliers at either end of the age spectrum.)

Licenses

55% hold Extra Class licenses, and 41% hold General Class licenses

Experience with various Ham activities

The interest in, and experience with, a variety of Ham activities is spread all across the spectrum. Two-meter Rag Chewing was the only activity that over half (54%) admitted to having a lot of experience with.

Traveling to a Ham event of interest

A few people (20%) could not travel at all, or would travel only if the event was within an hour of where they live. The rest of the choices were fairly evenly divided (about ¼ each) among people who would travel 2 hours, 4 hours, or 6 hours to attend a Ham event.

Interest in Camping

A quarter would not camp at all; a quarter would camp only in campgrounds, and half own self-contained units and would be willing to camp anywhere.

4-wheel Drive

¾ have a 4-wheel drive vehicle; ¼ do not.

Involvement with Existing SIERA Services

- 86% said they attend monthly meetings (Note: a skewed result, as 2/3 of the returned surveys came from people who completed the survey at a meeting.)
- Our Facebook Page is used frequently by a quarter of people, and never used by ¾ of people (not surprising, given the age-distribution of member.)
- 95% read the Beacon often or occasionally
- Our Web page is often used by over 60%; 22% either didn't know about it, or never used it.

What Ham Radio activities do Members want SIERA to focus on?

Members were asked about what type of Ham activities they wanted SIERA to focus on in terms of Emergency Communications, Public Service, Contesting, QSO Parties, HF Rag Chew, 2M Rag Chew, Travel Communications within a group, Building radio equipment, Using Morse Code, and Supporting Youth Events. What was most interesting about the results is how much the answers were spread over every choice—suggesting that members have very diverse of interests and experience! The results that earned 50-55% were requests for emergency communications, public service, and building radio equipment. But every other choice also received over 30% of people requesting SIERA to focus on it.

What Club Events do Members want SIERA to focus on?

When asked which Club events members wanted, the results were also spread out, with some areas receiving more support than others. 60% were interested in Field Day; 50% supported Discussion nets and Roll Call nets; Pony Express and QSO parties picked up 36% of votes, Contesting was supported by 31%. Lowest on the list was Fox Hunts and Eating/Talking together opportunities (27%)

Where do you want to meet?

2/3 wanted to remain at our current location in Gardnerville. 1/3 preferred moving to a location in Carson City.

Suggestions for future SIERA Presentations

- Anything related to radio and electronics
- Anything done by someone who is knowledgeable, passionate, and articulate
- Antenna Building and Tuning
- Antennas: types, location, gain, human absorption
- Setting up and Operating Digital Modes
- How vacuum tubes work
- Restoring Old Ham Equipment
- The art of making QSOs on HF: what to talk about, what not to talk about
- Tutorial on CW
- Tutorial on Signal Reports
- Overview of emergency radio groups and how they work (e.g., ARES, DCART, RACES, Red Cross)
- Going portable and mobile

Suggestions for Future SIERA Activities

- Mini-Tech Day
- Antenna tuning
- Portable ops
- Building radio-related equipment
- Raspberry Pi
- Arduino equipment
- Outreach to young people through SNARS
- VHF nets
- Field Day
- Supporting young people through Scouting or HS science clubs
- Supporting young people through the community college
- Operating a Field Day on the Capitol Mall
- Add online store to Web.



Thank you, Nevada Day Parade Communications Team, for your support.

Greg Moore KG7D, Subrina Vinton KI7OAL, Mike Whitten KI7NIP, Hailee Whitten KI7WHI, Ben Echevarria N7BBE, Mel Hogan WA6EYD, Ed Terlau KG7ZOP, Diana Moore KJ6GVI, Daryl Haines KE7HD, Karen Haines, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, Tom Tabacco KE7NCJ, and John Abbrott KD7NHC.



JOTA 2019 Boy and Girl Scouts Jamboree On The Air 2019

Submitted by Greg Moore KG7D

Most hams say they first were introduced to amateur radio as a kid. It may have been many years later before amateur radio became an active part of their lives, but the seed had been planted when they were young.



Scout and Girl Scout, radio related events.

Back in January of this year, Subrina Vinton – KI7OAL and I took part in a ham radio event at Cabela's in Reno. This event was the first of many to come, organized by the newest ARRL Youth Coordinator, Barry Bettman – K6ST. The goal was to introduce kids and parents to amateur radio. We got lots of kids pounding out their names on Morse code oscillators and just as many talking on the radio. No one left without a smile and a certificate. We quickly found that while the kids liked the noise and playing with our "toys", many adults, both with and without kids wanted to know more about how to get into amateur radio. We were also approached by a Boy Scout Master and his daughter, who was a Girl Scout. They wanted to know if we would help with future Scouting, both Boy

July 2019: NVCON Reno, Nevada. Over 25 Scouts earned their Radio Merit badges. Barry and I assisted licensed amateur radio operator and Scout Master Shawn Stoddard – KG7VUI in getting all his Scouts their Radio Merit Badges. This included several hours of classroom time as well as practical experience on talking on the radio, and a fox hunt.

This brings us up to the weekend of Oct 19, 2019. Shawn invited us to again join with the Scouts. Shawn's daughter, Casey, was trying to meet the requirements to her Girl Scout Gold Award Project by organizing a local event, that would be in conjunction with Jamboree on the air, a world wide amateur radio Scouting event.

The event was held at High Desert Montessori School in Sparks. SIERA members David Thompson – AG7TX, Subrina Vinton – KI7OAL, and I, as well as several SNARS members, joined in and helped out. The setup included the Washoe County ARES truck, a Winlink Station, VHF, DMR, CW, and HF stations. Kids from the smallest Cub Scouts to young adult Eagle Scouts as well as non-Scouts, had a great time pounding out Morse code and talking on the radios to other kids and Scouts. Required exchange included Name, Scout rank, QTH, and other hobbies they enjoyed. Many contacts were logged and certificates were given for making contacts. Before stepping up to the radio, each Scout was prepped. Everything was explained. Then they were given a sheet of paper and told to write their name vertically down the left side. Next, with a list of NATO Phonics, they were to look up each letter and write the word next to the letters of their name. Once on the radio, each child would give his or her name and spell it out phonically. A list of exchanges was handy at the radio. It included suggestions for talking to other Scouts, other kids, or adults.

One of the older Scouts, an Eagle Scout, listened intently to the instructions. Then took the microphone and started calling CQ. "CQ CQ CQ this is Jamboree on the air, special event station, Kilowatt Seven Sierra calling CQ". It took several calls to get a response, but with a few minutes he had made several contacts. With a smile from ear to ear he told me this was one requirement to getting his Radio Merit badge.

ARRL Youth Coordinator Barry Bettman – K6ST is a Reno / Sparks local. You can find his contact information on QRZ or in any QST magazine.

This was the 6th Youth radio event this year. Actions speak louder than words! Have some fun and get involved!

Alienstock

Robert Nelson WA3PAD and his crew from Las Vegas joined other hams at Alienstock in Rachel, NV last month to assist law enforcement and emergency stations deal with what was expected to be 400K people storming Area 51. Here's his story:

Storm Area 51 AAR

I set up at the D-Day Park in Rachel, NV and was operational early afternoon on Wednesday, September 18. We shut down about 0800 on Sunday, September 22. I set up two dipole antennas on 3965 KHz and 7280 KHz and one 100-foot long wire with auto tuner for HF. I set up one J Pole antenna on a 15-foot pole for VHF and a beam antenna on another pole for UHF. The Alamo VHF repeater worked well for us and the UHF repeater also worked well for us when it was operational.



We set up three local HF radios, one for 3965 KHz, one for 7280 KHz, and one for Digital communications on a number of frequencies using the long wire antenna. We used a fourth radio located in Las Vegas that was operated using an Internet link from Rachel. We didn't know if there would be LTE available to provide an Internet connection, but it worked throughout the entire operation and we used that radio both on HF and on VHF in the Las Vegas area.

We used one 110-watt VHF radio on the Alamo repeater and one 30-watt UHF radio on the UHF repeater. We had the capability to print messages using a local printer and had planned to use it if we received traffic on the ICS forms, but that was not needed throughout the event.

For Wednesday we operated during the daylight. From Thursday on, the four of us, N7ZEV, KC7IIT, K7KSG, and I WA3PAD operated round the clock. I operated during the daylight and then from about two through about eight in the morning.

HF band conditions were poor. We did use the one HF radio on 3965 KHz voice in the area and to Las Vegas. I made some checks on the 7280 KHz frequency and was able to talk to Dudley KK7IF in Tucson, AZ, but was not able to make any Nevada contacts due to propagation. We made extensive use of the radio on the long wire in the Winmor and ARDOP modes and were able to make both peer-to-peer contacts and Winlink contacts at almost any time of the day or night.

We used the U19 (446.025 MHz) frequency for an intercom both when driving up in caravan and around the campsite in the D-Day Park. Most of our traffic was check-ins, however at night when we could see headlights, we did some reporting of vehicular traffic in the area.

Several law enforcement elements used the D-Day Park and we had a good relationship with them. There were also medical facilities in the park and we had some contact with them, but not much.

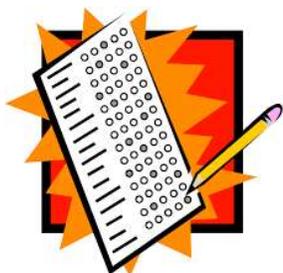
Beside radio work, we assisted law enforcement personnel in repair of a State-owned automobile and we assisted a medical unit in repairing or replacing a coaxial connection.

The D-Day Park worked very well. There was electric power. (We had both solar panels and Honda generators if we had not had AC power available). There were both restrooms and porta-pottys available. We received several meals and also had several meals on our own. All of us brought sufficient water for the event, but water was also available.

All in all, it was a very positive event and very good training, testing of equipment, and experience for all of us.

Epilogue

There were far fewer people attending the Alienstock event than we were prepared for, but there were still several thousand and their tents and vehicles kept expanding toward the fence of our compound in D-Day Park. My After Action Report is below as I submitted it to the ARES leadership. Keith (K7KSG) had a rooftop tent and Frank and Linda (N7ZEV and KC7IIT) had their motor home. I slept in the trailer top tent and I had the 0200 to 0800 watch so things were pretty quiet. We wound up helping some of the Law Enforcement folks repair a State vehicle that would have had to be towed if not repaired and we fixed a coax problem that one of the medical units had. Other than that we provided the ICP with traffic information and maintained constant radio communications with the other ARES units in Alamo, Hiko, and the ICP which was located along the highway. Nothing very exciting happened, but it was a good experience and good training for what could have been a big problem."



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?

Much effort goes into passing the Amateur Operator's License exams. Once that hurdle is crossed, the next step is to obtain a radio and begin operating. However, preparing for the exam doesn't prepare a new grantee for this. Therefore, the objective of a workshop given by David B. Thompson AG7TX and Greg Moore KG7D is to provide a fun and practical group activity aimed at those first operations.

The next "Where to Begin" workshop will be held **at 9 a.m. in the Wilson Commons Park**, just a mile from Brewer's Mansion in Washoe Valley. One or both of the instructors will be monitoring the SNARS repeater network if you need help finding the workshop. Please note that if bad weather is expected, this workshop might be moved or cancelled. Please email Dave and/or listen to the SNARS noon net, the SIERA Tuesday evening net, or the SIERA Watering Hole Net (Wednesday night) for news concerning the workshop. Email contacts are always welcomed: David at ag7tx@arrl.org or Greg at kg7dmi@frontier.com.

There will be some talking by the instructors, as much question and answer time as attendees want, some practical exercises, and time for small group/one-on-one discussions. Duration of the workshop is intended to be about 1-1/2 hours.

Bring a HT (handheld radio or radios), user manual for the radio, pen/pencil and notebook, plenty of water, a snack, sunscreen, questions to be asked/answered, and a good attitude. Be prepared to operate radios in the field.



CONGRATULATIONS TO Jim Marshall K6LR who reported this great news: "Just got VP6R, Pitcairn Island... True 5/9 signal. 21.285 up 5 to 10." That's got to be the Holy Grail of DX work. Jim, you've just proved that, despite the lousy sunspot situation, at least somebody's getting out there on HF.

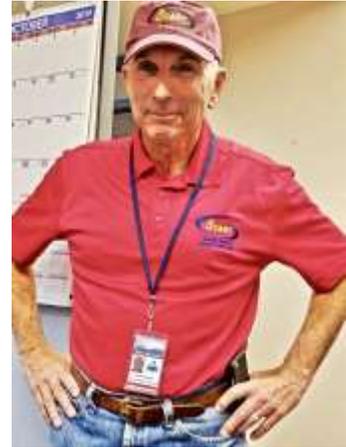
DCART News:

David Granish, KI6EWK, has researched having our DCART logo put on shirts and hats. The prices vary according to quantities ordered so please contact David with what you will order. david.granish@gmail.com

HATS: The hat is a brushed cotton twill hook and loop, maroon, one size fits all. The cost is \$7.50. The embroidery cost is tiered based upon volume. 1-3 hats is \$20.00/hat, 4-23 hats is \$15.00/hat. The total cost for 1-3 hats is \$29.59 (\$27.50 +\$2.09 Tax/7.6%) The total cost for 4-20 hats is \$24.21 (22.50 + \$1.71 Tax/7.6%)

The shirt: polo shirt. Cost of shirt \$\$7.00. Embroidery cost-Same as noted above for hat.

Other items may be substituted to meet quantity for embroidery volume amounts. An on-line catalog may be viewed at: www.graphicsfactory.biz. Screen printing is also available. Example of cost would be 1-11 items is \$18.00/imprint for ONE color.



David suggests checking out the catalogue or visiting the Graphics Factory next to Battery Plus on Carson Street. Reference the work DCART under Granish. Send David your item catalog numbers so he can calculate the end cost. Contact David with your questions. Check all this out by November 11 so we can order.

October DCART meeting

We planned for our November 16th SET (Simulated Emergency Training). There will be a 911 Reverse Call Out at 8 AM with a start for our part of exercise at 9 am. We pre-assigned locations around the valley or home as well as four members at the 911 W7SR station and the CM11 trailer

Other counties will also be mobilizing and we will check in with the Washoe County EOC. Our messages will be very carefully chosen to be non-emergency so that, should there be a misunderstanding, on-duty emergency crews will NOT be deployed. That has happened in past exercises.

We need to be trained and useful to demonstrate to emergency services and the community that we are good at what we do. And we have such a magnificent 911 station, we must make use of it. DCART members at the meeting were encouraged to practice and use our station any time.

Sheila, ka7ajq

YouTube Kerfuffle: Viral "Repeater" YouTube Causes Problems for HAMS

John Abrott KD7NHC (Nevada ARES Section Emergency Coordinator) has been fielding lots of questions from those concerned about the relationship between the California government and amateur radio repeater owners. He asks everybody to maintain a positive relationship with repeater site owners by not writing angry emails to officials. He included the following letter from the ARRL:

Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has *not* turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource, nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."



It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, because any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi but has not heard back.

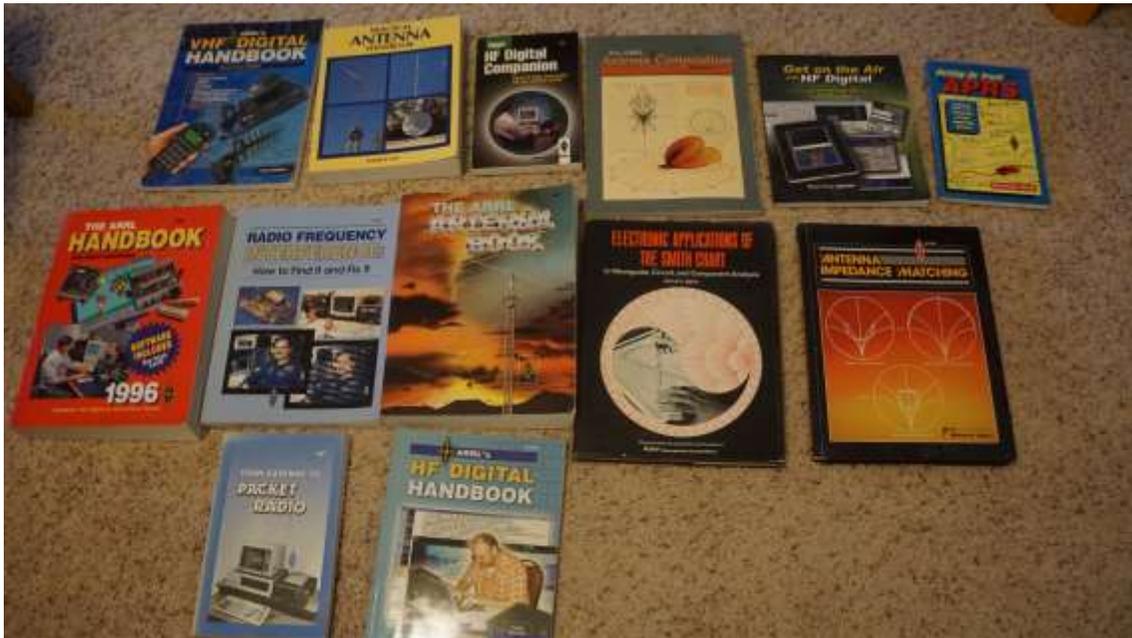
ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find 'that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,'" Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the [Sacramento Valley Section website](#). "What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates."

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Meanwhile on the local front, our repeater trustee, Jim Marshall K6LR, sends this bit of good news. "Richard Walters called me this morning with some important news. Mt Leviathan Fire Lookout is registered with the National Historic Lookout Register as a Historic Fire Lookout. Registry numbers US 282, CA16. I have confirmed the Historic Registration. I do not know how this affects us with CHP, but cannot hurt! I will follow up with a call to the Registry tomorrow to see if this helps our cause."

At the October meeting, we had quite a discussion about the possibilities surrounding our NV7CV repeater on Leviathan. It is currently attached to the side of the old fire lookout station and not on the tower that the CHP wants to replace. Richard informed us at the meeting that most of the old lookout towers in California have been registered as National Historic sites and cannot be torn down or altered. He said it practically takes a Congressional act to allow him to paint the lookout tower in which he works each summer in Plumas County. He later verified that NV7CV rests upon one such lookout tower. Perhaps we have an ace up our sleeve for further negotiations.



Did you know that SIERA has a library? Pictured are the books available for you to borrow by contacting Jim Marshall K6LR at: k6lr@arri.net.

Shared on the SIERA Facebook Page:

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



Build a Long-Distance Data Network Using Ham Radio

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/geek-life/hands-on/build-a-longdistance-data-network-using-ham-radio?fbclid=IwAR0mpAI8CDbeJksk5eXiX1rrrI6-EpvWTy8nd4Bjqsib1dwFqRBz0NzipAM>



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.

SIERA General Meeting October 5, 2019

Call to order: 1:12 p.m.

Membership

Twenty-three members and guests were present (out of 79 members)

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account

Starting Balance	1819.23
Deposits Membership	0
Withdrawals	0
Ending Balance	1819.23

Savings Account

Starting Balance	4071.87
Dividends	.17
Ending Balance	4072.04

Grand Total	5891.27
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Board Report

Debbie Williams, N7XYL, reported that we now have 79 registered members.

Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV, explained that a list of Board positions and Volunteer opportunities will be sent to all members. Please contact a board member if you want to work with someone currently in a Volunteer position, or to take on one of the vacant positions. If you would like to be included on the ballot for board positions, please contact one of the people on the Board nominating committee: Ed Terlau, KG7ZOP (Edterlau@yahoo.com), Jim Marshall, K6LR (k6lr@arrl.net), or Michael Whitten. KI7NIP (mwhitten@toast.net).

Introductions and other sharing

Location change for November 2 SIERA meeting

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ, reported that she had been successful in securing Fire Station #12, 3620 N Sunridge Dr. (Across from Home Depot mall) for our next meeting, since the usual church location will not be available. However, the station has requested that none of the presentation equipment be used.

Nevada Day Parade

Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ, reported that all positions are now covered for the Nevada Day Parade.

Leviathan repeater location

Jeff explained that the urgent request to lobby California to prevent decisions that would negatively impact the Leviathan repeater was based on incomplete information. Nonetheless, that request was a good first step, because it encouraged people to look at the situation and discover—and share—what parts were actually “fake news.” **Ed Terlau, KG7ZOP**, added that it was possible the repeater might be protected by being part of a historical monument, because it is strapped to the side of the lookout. Additional information, uncovered a few days later by **Jim Marshall, K6LR**, revealed that the Mt. Leviathan Fire Lookout is indeed on the National Historic Lookout Register as a Historic Fire Lookout: Registry numbers US 282, CA16. Jim will continue to monitor what kind of impact this registration may have on the fate of our repeater.

Sierra By-Laws

Don McRoberts, W3DRM. (our webmaster), has put PDF copies of our by-laws onto our website, to make it easier for members to download and review them. Please let any board member know of changes that you would recommend. If no recommendations are made, then at the next meeting the board will indicate that the by-laws (reviewed last in 2013) were reviewed and approved “as-is” in 2019.

Survey Results

Greg Morse, KG7DMI, described the results of the survey, completed by 16 of our 79 members. Read carefully this month’s Beacon for summary of the results. The members who have not yet sent their completed survey to Greg are encouraged to do so, in order to incorporate them into the survey results, and help guide the ongoing growth of SIERA.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Below is the listing of Responsibilities, mentioned in the first part of this newsletter, of the Board members and Volunteers.

SIERA Member Responsibilities

All SIERA members

- Help to set up the physical area at club-sponsored activities (chairs, canopy, trailer, etc.)
- Promote growth of other members by contributing Beacon newsletter articles, presenting at monthly meetings, offering classes, mentoring individuals interested in particular areas.
- Participate actively in their choice of club-sponsored activities, and provide support to other members who indicate interest in those activities.
- Submit items for the monthly board meeting agenda and the general meeting activities.

Board Members and Directors

- Lead by example in promoting communication among members by wearing their SIERA name badge to encourage personal communication; greeting, welcoming, sharing conversation with new, recent, and occasional members at monthly and meetings and other club activities.
- Represent SIERA in collaborating with other ham clubs and emergency organizations.

President

- Leads in the national and local communities as well as in SIERA, building partnerships with other radio clubs and with local community groups to further SIERA goals;
- Moderates both the board and the general meeting to ensure they begin and end on time and address the agenda items;
- Maintains a cooperative and welcoming environment for discussion and decision-making.

Vice-president

- Assumes the President's role in his/her absence

Secretary

- keeps a record of attendees at each general monthly meeting
- solicits recommendations for agenda items for the board and the general meetings, and drafts from them the agendas for those meetings
- records the activity at the board and general meetings
- drafts the minutes for the board meeting, and the report of the general meeting; distributes them for review by board members; submits the final minutes to board members for approval, and sends the final general meeting report to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the Beacon

Treasurer

- takes in funds and disburses them, at the direction of the board;
- maintains records of funds received and disbursed;
- maintains records of membership, based on those with dues up-to-date.
- Shares a report of the current financial situation at the Board meeting and the General meeting.

The Directors

- Guide the president and other officers in deciding the direction of SIERA
- Work on committees created by the president
- Take the lead in suggesting activities and options

Current SIERA Volunteers and their responsibilities

Repeater Trustee (Jim Marshall, K6LR)

Maintains Leviathan repeater. Coordinates with California Highway Patrol (CHP)

Volunteer Examiner Liaison (V.E.) (Greg Moore, KG7D)

Schedules and oversees exams. Lists VE exam sessions on ARRL.

Field Day (David Granish, KI6EWK)

Find location, determines kind of station and antennas, secures operators and set-up/take-down schedule

Safety Day (Ben Echavarria, N7BBE)

Nevada Day Parade (Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ)

Pony Express Ride (Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ)

Organizing who goes where and what coverage is needed

ARRL Liaison (Jim Marshall, K6LR)

Updates ARRL general information for SIERA

Public Information Officer or Media Coordinator? (Sue Cauhape, KI7CTT)

- Gathers information for, edits, and produces the Beacon newsletter. Makes a copy for Archives.
- Writes press releases for SIERA's changes, community events and contributions.
- Maintains a current email list.
- Manages the SIERA Facebook page, including answering messages and uploading interesting posts at least twice a week. (NOTE: IS THIS EXCLUSIVE, OR SHOULD OTHERS BE ABLE TO POST ON FACEBOOK?)
- Produces and distributes information, invitations to public figures, to advertise Field Day. Displays the Beacon archive (in a binder) and other materials on a table during that event. Work closely with the Field Day coordinator to cover all possible ways to build community outreach.

Webmaster (Don McRoberts, W3DRM)

Maintains and updates our web page at the direction of the president (and other members??)

QRZ.com Database (Greg Moore, KG7D)

Updates and maintains the QRZ page and log book

Trailer (Bob Williams, K7VOC)

Store, modify, maintain and make changes to trailer as needed.

SIERA Librarian (Jim Marshall, K6LR)

Maintains a list of print materials available for check-out to club members, makes the list available to club members, and tracks them.

Local Net Control (Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ)

In charge of VHF and HF nets on Tuesday night. Keeps call list and the preamble up to date, and publishes information on our home page.

ARRISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station Coordinator) (Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ)

Membership Chair (VACANT---these responsibilities are currently handled as necessary by Debbie Williams, N7XYL)

- Coordinates with the treasurer to keep records of paid-up members.
- Maintains the membership lists, sharing relevant data with the secretary and with those responsible for net control, website maintenance, newsletter distribution.
- Creates name tags for new members.
- Handles membership inquiries.
- Checks Post Office box regularly for applications and checks.

Equipment Manager (Jeff Cauhape, K7BCV)

Maintains a list of equipment available for check-out to club members (including the loaner HTs), makes the list available to club members, and tracks the equipment loaned out.

Hospitality (VACANT)

Forms a committee to organize the Post-Holiday Potluck every January. Brings coffee service items, which are presently stored in a plastic bin, to meetings and events. Buy replacement coffee, sugars, creamers, etc. (??? at personal expense???) . A signup sheet can be used to solicit members to bring cookies or other refreshments at their cost.

Archivist (Sue Cauhape, KI7CTT)

Stores SIERA's historical photo albums and past newsletters in plastic bins and makes them available for anyone interested in researching them. These may also be displayed during special events that are held inside.

ARRL Special Events (Jim Marshall, K6LR)

Schedules/advertises Special Events through ARRL

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