



# SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

December 2019

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

## **Election!**

This is a big one, folks, because a few of our officers want to give someone else a chance to guide this club. Jeff Cauhape K7BCV is stepping down after seven years as President and Cathy Carney KI7NIR has travel commitments that will hinder her ability to continue as Secretary. We would like to thank both of these talented Board members for their hard work and dedication to SIERA's success.

It's time, however, for new voices, ideas, and energy on the Board. There are also about a dozen people in SIERA who perform multiple jobs. Some, like Jim Marshall K6LR, seem to thrive doing several tasks on behalf of SIERA and DCART. There are some, like Debbie Williams N7XL, who whispered in The Beacon's ear that she would like to pass the Membership job to someone else. She enjoys being Treasurer and is very good at it, but if anyone would like to do Membership, she would really appreciate it.

We now have over 70 members, all capable people who could take one of the many jobs available that keep SIERA a vibrant and successful club. We don't want to burn out the dozen or so people who do so much to serve the needs of our members. So, please attend the December meeting to vote for your new Board and hopefully help us with the pileup of tasks.

## **Background for non-incumbent nominees**

President: Jim Sanders, AG6IF

Jim obtained his license in 2011. He was president of his Ham club in California where his focus was on training (in addition to numerous technical interests). He has made available on his website a book he created which includes answers to questions most frequently asked in the Ham classes he taught. He worked for two years with a local school to make Ham-related radio information available to students.

Director: Don McRoberts, W3DRM

Don has been a SIERA member since 2006. He was active in SIERA, TARA, DCART until he became chair of the board for a local food bank. They have just completed construction of a new 10,000 square-foot food bank. He is now able to contribute time to SIERA (where he was formerly a board member), along with doing additional work on our web page (which he is currently responsible for).

Director: Mel Hogan, WA6EYD

Mel Hogan initially became a ham at age 15 in Southern California, eventually earning an advanced license. CW has always been a keen interest for him. He had an electronics-related career in the military (now retired), and is currently putting up a new tower. He was formerly active in SIERA, and wishes to once more be active, now that his battle with cancer has been resolved.

Director: Sue Cauhape, KI7CTT

Sue was unable to be present at the meeting. She publishes the Beacon newsletter, is our archivist, and was secretary for several years.

Secretary: Nominee yet to be determined

**Next Meeting: The December 7th General Meeting, 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd., Gardnerville.** David DeAngeles, K1SCN will give a 20-minute slide presentation titled: "A Vanity and DX Call Sign Primer: a light-hearted commentary on call signs heard/decoded." Also, we will be electing the new Board for 2020. This is an important not-to-be-missed meeting.

### And it's Dues Time Again



Because we have issues with our repeater, especially when the CHP finally informs us of any rental we need to pay to keep our repeater on Leviathan Peak, we need to raise our dues this year. We've been skidding by and a bargain price of \$24/individual and \$32/household for years now. This year, dues go up for the following:

Individual		Household	
1 year	\$30.00	1 year	\$38.00
2 years	\$48.00	2 years	\$62.00
3 years	\$65.00	3 years	\$84.00

BUT ... and it's a generous but ... if you pay your dues before the end of 2019, you can have another year of SIERA membership at the old prices. How can you possibly resist? So, send your checks and any changes to your call, address, email, phone, etc. to SIERA, P.O. Box 2348, Minden, NV 89423 or pay Debbie directly when you attend the December meeting.

### There's Always Something, Especially with Repeaters.

Always the hard worker tweaking and perfecting our repeater and the DCART W7SR station at the 911 Dispatch Center, Jim Marshall K6LR has been dealing with some interesting problems at both. After checking the NV7CV repeater on Leviathan Peak before impending snowstorms closed the road for the winter, he reported: "Repeater is in good shape. Very good sensitivity on the receive input. Full power out at the transmit output, and transmit frequency was off by 35 Hertz... Not bad for 147,330,000 Hertz. Wasn't far enough off to even worry about."

Jim hardly had a chance to recover from any effects of altitude before there was a strange beeping sound interfering with NV7CV. It was so annoying, and tended to shut down the repeater from use, that some SIERA members simply turned off their radios. Jim soon learned what the problem was.

The "beeping" sound was a result of Paul Gulbro WA6EWV programming the Angel's roost site controller. He didn't realize the programming produced a Loop via linking transmitters that was on the input of our repeater. When Paul found out about it, he profusely apologized for the problem. The crazy part was that due to the system being locked up, Jim was unable to disable the repeater from home. Brad Smith WT6B did the watering hole on 147.24mH.

Jim said, "it was a good exercise for me to get my DFing gear together and actually use it. It took about 85 Db to knock it down on my Alinco mobile. The strongest signal was in the Johnson lane area near a school about .5 miles away from me. Going north and south, the signal dropped by about 20 Db, about 5 miles in either direction. When I was with County of Sacramento, we called RF PFM..."Pure Friggin' Magic!"



Paul later wrote that he wanted to fill in the details a bit more: "First, I offer my apologies to SIERA members for the snafu. It was due to my programming efforts with the linking systems between TARA's two radio sites. It had nothing to do with the 147.33 repeater except the end result of the East Peak link radio being activated with the program "glitch."

The specifics for this "glitch" are somewhat complicated but involved a duplicate link code between the two TARA sites. That "Glitch" has now been mitigated AND "Time Out Timers" added to automatically shut down the link should it

ever happen again. It now should not be possible for this to reoccur, but hey, it's "Murphy" at his finest!

Again, my sincere apologies to SIERA and all involved. And, the link between the SIERA 33 repeater and TARA's 24 repeater is now "Back to Normal!"

And of course, the DCART Simulated Emergency Exercise alerted us to another little "glitch." The frequencies didn't line up with what was listed on the clipboard. Definitely a tiny albeit irksome dilemma. It didn't take Jim long to ferret out the culprit. Jeff Brown K5BLS had inserted another frequency in the list without putting the numbers in proper order. A good secretary could've caught teeny oversight ... maybe. But Jim's a master trouble-shooter. And SIERA's technology is in good hands.

---

## **Shared on Facebook's SIERA page**

Dorothy Uebele N7MXA and her husband, George WW7E, were founding members of SIERA nearly 30 years ago. For many of those years, Dorothy treated her family to this recipe for stuffing. She shared it with her radio buddy, Natalie Sherrick N7JKM, who shares it with us now. (I know this is too late for Thanksgiving, but there's still Christmas.)

### **Vegetable Turkey Stuffing**

2 Bunches of Spinach—washed and spun, cut into large pieces  
1 Bunch of Celery  
1 Yellow Onion  
1 ½ Large Carrots  
1 Bell Pepper  
3-4 Fresh Bunches of Parsley  
1 Tsp. Spice Islands Poultry Seasoning or Sage  
½-1 Tsp. Thyme  
1 Tsp each Salt and Pepper  
Giblets and Neck (raw) of Turkey(not liver)  
½ Cube of Butter  
1 Egg, beaten  
½ Can Canned Milk  
1 Box Cubbin's Bread Dressing (crumbs), 12 oz.

Put 1<sup>st</sup> 9 ingredients through a food chopper. Boil neck and giblets. Put meat through a food chopper of finely chop.

Place all into a kettle and simmer for 10 minutes. (Don't scorch)

Add butter, egg, canned milk, and bread dressing.

Place in a baking dish 3"-4" deep. Put "pope's nose" or a chunk of fat from inside the turkey on top of dressing.

Bake 1 to 1- 1/2 hours at 325—350 degrees.

You can grind veggies day before and store in refrigerator.

Thank You, ladies, for your generosity in sharing this holiday legacy.

**TARA Christmas Party at CVI Sunday Dec. 8. Bar opens at 5 p.m. dinner at 6 p.m. \$20 at the door. Contact Paul Gulbro WE6EWV for reservations: wa6ewv@sbcglobal.net**

**SIERA's Post-Holiday Celebration will be held Saturday January 4th from noon to 3 p.m. as our regular meeting. Donated items will be for sale and members are encouraged to bring their own items to add to the treasure pile, including books.**

---

## When QSL Cards were King

Submitted by Ed Eggert K3VO

Since the first ham contact, the final courtesy of a new contact has been the QSL card. Nowadays some QSL via the Internet. In doing so, you miss one the best parts of the hobby. Some go to great ends to send out a neat card. Back in PA, I sent out a picture card of an Amish farmer cutting hay.

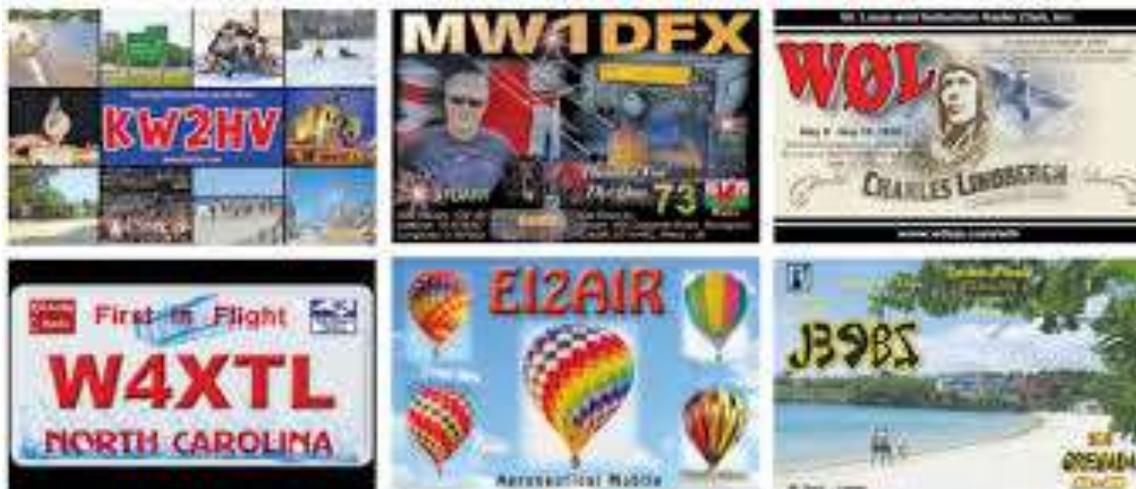
The best picture cards are made by UX5UO in Russia. You do have to order a large quantity, as I recall 1000. He has a neat web site. For you cheapskates, and most Hams are cheap, there is a company in CA called Cheap QSL's. They sell for as little as \$9.95 for a 100. He does very nice work and very quickly.

Some people hang the cards on the wall or use a scrapbook. You can get plastic holders that are neat for hanging on a wall.

So now you are collecting cards. What good are they? Well, if you want a worked-all-states certificate from the ARRL, you need to submit proof of the contacts. So you submit QSL cards. Want to be a member of the DX Century Club. Once again you submit cards to the League. In the old days, to get the address of a contact, you needed to buy a call book, which was not cheap and quickly obsolete. Now you just use the web sites of QRZ or QTH.

Now if you are chasing DX, you should get in touch with a QSL bureau. In 7 land, it's in Oregon run by a club. They will collect cards sent to you then forward them to you. They have a web site, *7th area QSL bureau*. Hams all over the world send their cards in bulk to the ARRL which sorts and sends them to the bureaus all over the US. You always use the Bureau for the district your call is. I register with the third Bureau as I am K3VO. If you have a 6 call, you use their bureau.

For out-going cards, you can send your cards to the ARRL out-going bureau. They charge \$1.15 an oz. plus \$7.00 handling fees, so make sure you have a bunch to send out. It used to be a few bucks for a bunch.



## A Little About HAM Jargon

Submitted by Ed Eggert K3VO

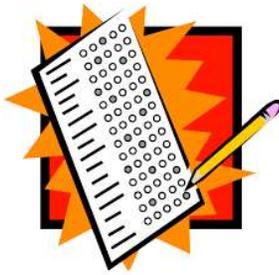
You will often hear a ham say QSL after each transmission. This is really poor operating procedure. There is a name for such an operator and its called a lid. Don't ask me how that name got started, but it's been around for ages. So avoid being known as a lid. LOL

Many of the words used in ham radio today are from the days when we used CW, Morse code. For example, QSO *that's a contact* QTH *where you are located*. QSL the card we send confirming a QSO. You do not ever say QSL at the end of a transmission. XMTR is a transmitter. You will find this on QSL cards. To say what your equipment is, RCVR is a receiver, XTSR is a transceiver. WX is the weather. XYL is a married women operator. YL unmarried. 73s *saying good by at the end of a contact* 88s *Love and kisses*. OM is a male operator.

Shack is where you have your station. Sky wire is your antenna. ANT also your antenna. Elmer a mentor for new hams. Lid a poor operator. HI is laughter Poor operators will say this during a phone contact Good example of a lid. LOL

QSY means *lets change frequency*. Ladder line is transmission wire used to feed your antenna rather than coax. Cans are ear phones. In the old days, a mill was a typewriter used to copy code. Rag Chewers Club *have a contact over 30 minutes* and the ARRL will give you a certificate. WAS *worked all states*. WAC *worked all continents*. DXCC *worked over 100 countries*. Again ARRL will issue a certificate. WAZ *worked all zones*. CQ is a general call saying you would like to have a contact with anyone. QST or Q Street is the ARRL monthly magazine. QSY is the ARRL tech bulletins.

It would be worth your while as a new operator to purchase the ARRL operating manual. It used to be fifty cents, now costs \$24.95. Look on E Bay for a used copy. -- Ed K3VO



**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: January 18th. The follow-up new hams workshops are cancelled until further notice.**

Greg KG7D has been getting lots of compliments about the VE sessions. Here is one he received and shared with the VE team. (Diana Moore KJ7GVY, Ken Freeman, Bryce Leinan KI7NIK, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, Ben Echevarria N7BBE, J.D. Fowler AD7CD, Bob Williams K7VOC, Jamie Dahl K6JFD, Guenther Noder KU8B / Linda, David Thompson AG7TX, Jim Sanders AG6IF, and Anthony Grandstaff.)

Hi Greg: I wanted to thank you for running such a great testing session. Having been through two already with SNARS, I must say they need to take a lesson from SIERA. I was never greeted like your crew did, nor did I ever receive some swag like your bag that you handed out. Especially for new hams that was quite a nice touch for the session. And your timely follow up was appreciated. I may have to join SIERA if that was any indication of how your club runs. Put in a request to modify my call sign to a 2X2. I thought I should do something to celebrate being an Extra! Thanks again, Phil Caterino KJ7ISP

**And Diana Moore KJ7GVY responded:** Thank you for sharing this with us Greg. I totally agree with Phil about welcoming, swag, and communication!!! I remember how, after passing my technician and general exams last May, that the VE team members stayed and answered all my questions and then even made some great suggestions as well! All of this was so helpful as I really had no idea about the practical aspects of running a radio. Which is beyond theory and book learning. That practical knowledge was very timely because I needed to use a handheld at a Father's Day event a few weeks later. At that event, because I was licensed, I was asked to be the Carson Indian Colony CERT Team radio operator and gave updates and messages from my post to ops command. Thank you for the privilege of serving on the VE Team! Diana KJ7GVY



## **DCART Checks Out Their W7SR Station in Annual SET**

Over a dozen local DCART members tested the W7SR station's equipment at the Douglas County 911 Dispatch Center during a recent SET (Simulated Emergency Test). Reno, Carson City, and Lyon County also participated in their own SETs and contacted each other during this exercise.

DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) has the mission of assisting the 911 Center during large-scale emergencies, such as earthquakes by relaying information to dispatchers. This is especially helpful if the telephone capacity is overwhelmed or cell phone towers are dysfunctional. This has happened in many communities during storms and wildfires.

During this SET, Ben Echevarria N7BBE, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, David Granish KI6EWK, and Mel Hogan WA6EYD worked VHF, HF, and packet radios in the newly constructed station at 911 while others deployed to various field locations. Sheila Clement WA7AJQ monitored the SET and Leroy Clement KA7UIS tested hospitals in Carson City from their home in Jack's Valley. Stephen Goble KW4TA at the Community Center, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV at Carson Valley Medical Center, and Kirby Mays KI7ZVX at TRE tested repeater and simplex frequencies for reception. The SET gave the team an opportunity to amend glitches in their systems and train operators to perform well in what could become a chaotic environment.

## **After Action 2019 November 16th SET report**

Submitted by Sheila Clement KA7AJQ

DCART members trained by establishing the SET scenario as a simulated power outage and fielding members to the 911 and CM11 stations, DEM, Topaz, CVMC at Gardnerville, Douglas Community Center, and from home locations. A CTRMC operator checked in from the communications room there. Topaz cannot be reached on the 147.270 linked system. We exercised our frequencies plan and put in a few scenarios. Our Net Control was stationed at our 911 station. These are findings we will consider for our next exercise or incident:

- 911 radio frequencies list now matches the actual radio programming
- I suggest you make another column to the left and write the channel number on your radio
- Note the TAC designations so you can change smoothly if needed during an incident.
- Know your own radio operation, especially switching to simplex. Good to preprogram.
- Future exercises will be designed and scripted more thoroughly with expected actions noted.
- Operations and duty guidelines at the 911 and CM11 stations will be refined
- Binders and flash drives will be kept up to date.
- Computers may need repairs.
- ICS forms use can be clarified and practiced.
- Reverse 911 Call Outs and messages will be refined.
- Coordination with the SIERA group and use of their repeater 147.330 for operations especially to reach the Topaz area will be used.
- Net controls
- Consider not using headphones so two net controllers can coordinate logging traffic and messages.
- Consider traffic and incident flow to determine assignment to our other planning frequencies with net control..
- Consider CM11 resource needs and assignments.

## **A New ARES Group in the Tahoe Basin**

Please welcome Michael Cullen, KM6UWG as the new Emergency Coordinator for the Tahoe Basin. An ARES group in the Tahoe Basin is a welcome addition to our section. Supporting Tahoe Basin Agencies during the wintertime when the passes get closed is difficult.

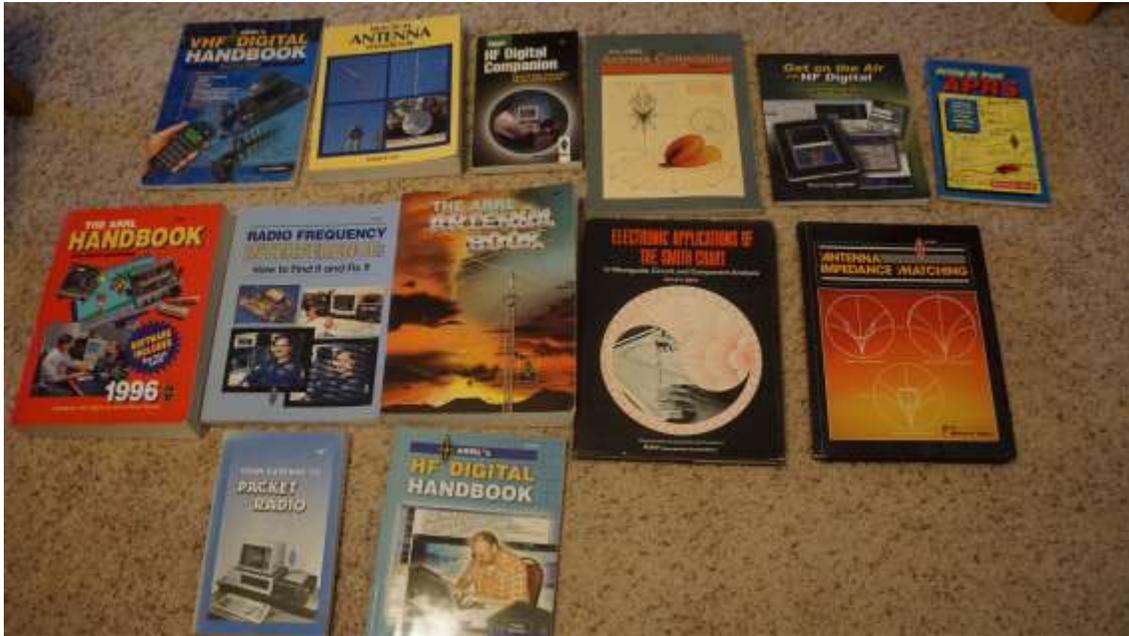
## **ARRL Self-Guided Emergency Communication Course EC-001-S is Now Available On Demand**

---

ARRL's EC-001-S online "Introduction to Emergency Communication" course is now available to students in an on-demand format, allowing students to register for the course and begin work at any time. This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer.

In response to the great course demand and to expand access to EC-001, ARRL developed a self-guided version of the course, EC-001-S, which launched in June. This version of the course is designed for those who prefer to work independently and who do not need guidance from an online

mentor. EC-001-S was previously offered only during specific sessions along with the traditional mentored version. The course opened for general enrollment on November 6.  
**Visit** the ARRL Online Course Registration page for more information and to register.



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



### **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

**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 November 2, 2019

### Call to order

1:06 p.m.

### Membership

Twenty members and one guest were present (out of 79 members).

### Treasurer's Report

#### **Checking Account**

<b><u>Starting Balance</u></b>	<b>1819.23</b>
Deposits	
Donation from disbanding of Rural Amateur Radio Association (RARA)	103
Withdrawals	0
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	<b>1922.33</b>

#### **Savings Account**

<b><u>Starting Balance</u></b>	<b>4072.04</b>
Dividends	.17
<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>	<b>4072.21</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5994.44</b>

**Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ** added to the treasurer's report by explaining the origin of the \$103 check that the Rural Amateur Radio Association (RARA) sent to SIERA this past month. Many years ago, rural Nevada Hams created that association. RARA recently disbanded and divided their remaining funds among seven groups in Nevada who had provided support in the past. RARA continues to have their net each Saturday at 7:30 a.m. (following the 7:00 ARES).

### Board Report

#### **Promoting membership interaction**

To encourage conversation among old and new members, Ben Echavarria, N7BBE, acting President, encouraged all who did not have a nametag to contact Debbie Williams, N7XYL,

treasurer, who would provide a temporary one. She will refer members who want a permanent engraved nametag to Accolade trophies.

### **Dues Change for 2020**

The Board reviewed the 2020 membership dues of local groups (CARES \$20; TARA \$25; SNARS \$40) and the financial needs of SIERA and decided to raise the base rate for SIERA membership to \$30, effective January 1, 2020. Debbie Williams, N7XYL, treasurer, will accept membership checks with updated application through Dec 31, 2019 for the year 2020 at the current rate. The new base rate of \$30 will be in effect for checks received after Dec 31. This change will be forwarded to the Beacon Editor and the Webmaster.

### **Nominations for December's vote for new board members**

Jim Marshall, K6LR, the chair of the nomination committee, stressed that any person interested in serving on the Board should contact him, as all positions are only for a one-year term. Voting will be done at the December meeting.

### **Post-Holiday potluck**

The Post-Holiday celebration will be on the first Saturday of January (January 4) at 12:00 (instead of the 1:00, the usual starting time for the General Meeting. It will be a Potluck, using the same meeting area, and attached kitchen, as our usual meeting place—the Methodist Church on Centerville Lane—from noon to 3:00.

A separate table will be set up with books and equipment for sale that have been donated to SIERA. Members are encouraged to bring their own items to add to that table.

### **Presentations**

#### **by Jim Marshall: High Frequency Communication.**

Jim covered some important (and sometimes over-looked) points to keep in mind when using HF.

“CQ” it is an invitation to talk.

Good topics to share at the beginning of a contact include

- local weather
- annual precipitation
- elevation
- how long you have been a Ham
- Signal report (S1 to S9)
- Your name
- Your location

Good topics to AVOID include

- Politics
- Religion

If the person in conversation mentions "when he retired," or "when I was working," you may ask "So, what kind of work did you do," or something similar, just to continue the conversation. However, do not hog the conversation. Nothing more boring than someone "droning on" for a couple of minutes.

#### **by Jim Sanders and Dave DeAngelis: QRZ**

So many have a computer in their shack that checking out QRZ.com to get information about your current contact could help the conversation. (Dave pointed out the importance of keeping current your own QRZ page, for that very reason). The built-in Logbook allows you to keep track of countries/grid squares/that you have accrued. Go to them and enter in information about yourself. It also gives you a way to adjust your antenna.

#### **Next month's presentation**

**Don Miller** will share a slide show on solid-state chip fabrication, a field he has worked in for years.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

---

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

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

The text "HAPPY HOLIDAYS" is rendered in a bold, red, serif font. The letter 'A' in "HAPPY" is replaced by a green Christmas tree. The letter 'O' in "HOLIDAYS" is replaced by a green wreath. Another green Christmas tree replaces the letter 'A' in "HOLIDAYS".