



SIERA BEACON

I HATE BEING
SEXY
BUT I'M A
HAM RADIO
OPERATOR
SO I CAN'T HELP IT

Carson Valley, NV

June 2020

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

Brad Hollander's Annual Tech Garage Sale is postponed until **August 22** and it will conflict with our Saturday breakfast. (We at the Beacon have faith that we'll be able to meet for breakfast by then.) Since Brad N7RCA likes to have vendors and buyers show up at OH-dark-hundred, you'll probably be finished with the sale in time to come to the Tail Dragger and brag about your new-found treasures. It's going to be a fun day. Stay tuned for more information in the August Beacon.

Meanwhile, an article about Brad was in a recent issue of the *Record-Courier*. Here's the link: <https://www.recordcourier.com/news/local/inventor-tries-ozone-to-sanitize-vehicles/>

Field Day 2020: Learn and Adapt!

Field Day is NEVER cancelled. The very purpose of Field Day is to test hams in setting up a remote off-grid, off-repeater station to work during a large-scale emergency.

ARRL
**FIELD
DAY 2020**
www.arrl.org



SIERA will still set up our NV7CV station in the large parking lot at the Minden-Tahoe Airport on Saturday **June 27**. Crews will get there around 8 a.m. to set up. Operators will fulfill pre-arranged two-hour slots for using the radios in the SIERA trailer. N1MM logging computers will keep track of contacts and is easy to learn and use. CW may be available if anyone wants to do that.

The difference, of course, will be implementing social distancing rules. So, operators will report to the trailer, work their shift, then leave the area. No pop-ups, no chairs, no refreshments, **NO PUBLIC CONTACT**. It will just be us, folks. Maybe rules will relax enough by this time so we can invite local dignitaries. And, of course, hand sanitizers and wipes will be available and their use strongly encouraged to clean keyboards and mics. If you want to wear masks or other face coverings, that's your choice.



Field Day 2020 won't be the party it usually is, but we'll be testing our disaster skills as we should. And we can be proud that while so many other events are being cancelled, ham radio operators will continue to hold Field Day and even some virtual ham festivals and conventions throughout the remainder of the year.

Check the Board Meeting minutes for further details on Field Day. 73s everybody. Stay healthy, safe, and sane!

June 6th on the NV7CV repeater 147.330mH. Board meeting at Noon; General meeting at 1 p.m. We'll be finalizing the details for Field Day 2020.

Got An Abundance of Zucchini?

Often we start our vegetable gardens with great plans to grow our own food, can or freeze it for future use, and perhaps share with our neighbors. But when the garden produces so much food that our neighbors are avoiding eye contact, it's time to think outside the immediate neighborhood and contact the Carson Valley Community Food Closet.



Our friend, Don McRoberts W3DRM, is the head honcho there and has spearheaded the growth and efficiency of the Food Closet to provide food for our community. Because of problems with the food supply chain as well as more families needing food because they've been shut out from their livelihoods for a couple of months, there is no greater need than right now. So, when you start harvesting your garden's bounty, take the excess to the Food Closet in Gardnerville. And if you'd like to contribute right now but don't have produce yet, they can always use monetary donations. In fact, you can arrange to make monthly tax-deductable donations by mail. They will greatly appreciate any help you can offer in these critical times. Tell them SIERA sent you. Here's a link that will give you more information:

CVCFC Garden Donations: <https://www.cvhams.com/cvcfc.php>



The Pony Express Re-Ride will enter Nevada at Woodfords on **August 27th**. For once, The Pony won't conflict with Field Day. Don McRoberts W3DRM has posted the handbook for participants on <http://www.cvhams.com>. If you have any questions, contact Tom Tabacco at smokey@pyramid.net.

Alta Alpina Challenge Bicycle Race on June 27.

According to the latest word from Sheila Clement KA7AJQ, this bicycle challenge ride over Kingsbury, Luther, Carson, Ebbetts, and Monitor Passes is still on the calendar. And the scheduling gods are laughing because it's going to be the same day as Field Day. Sheila has been trying to find operators for this event who aren't already committed to Field Day. The 911 Dispatch Center is now open for us to use the W7SR station with only one person at a time, but masks are required and temperatures will be checked as we enter the building.



This **Dayton Hamvention** video shows the 2019 event and tells what's available this year in lieu of the LIVE event. It's 23 minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fly-65AOM1A&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR07NTXto6VPmW-4HoMQXGAnYddVy8sBgCJL9CYeGk46XEUqlzofrTDXF1U>

Solar Panels for Sale:

During the May 24th VHF net, Bill Holmes K7DUY announced he has ARCO M-52 solar panels to sell for \$10 each. They're 6 amps, 30 watts, 1'X 4', 12 lbs., and though they are 20 years old, Bill claims they are still in spec. If you're interested, call him at 775-265-0732 or email at hinterland001@gmail.com. There was quite a pile-up of interested hams after the net, but he may still have a few left.



Technician's License Webinar:

In May, Jim Marshall K6LR and four others put on a four-week webinar to prepare prospective hams to take the exam. A brainchild of Shawn Stoddard KG7VUI and Barry K6ST, the webinar used the KB6NU "No Nonsense Tech Study Guide:"

<https://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-no-nonsense-tech-study-guide-v1-1.pdf>.

It was held, using FreeConferenceCall.com service, every Thursday evening at 7 p.m starting May 21 and ending on June 11th.

Shawn is a Boy Scout leader and was instrumental in getting a bunch of Boy Scouts who were interested in ham radio, to get their tech licenses at NVCON last year. He came up with the idea to do a Webinar for a new bunch of boy scouts that now want to get their ticket. He contacted Barry, ARRL Youth Coordinator, and came up with a plan. Barry contacted Jim K6LR and a few others to see if they would be interested in helping with this webinar.

The other hams involved were Ed, KJ7DHY, and Dave, AG7TX. There was no cost for the webinar and minimum age was 13 years. It was hosted by BSA Venture Crew 154 and Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society.

<http://Crew154.org> <https://snars.org/home/>

If this webinar is successful, Jim would consider doing it again. Here's the class outline:

Course Tentative Outline

Session 1 May 21, 2020 7p-8:30p PT

1. Welcome and how to use the freeconferencecall platform and chat for questions during the class.
2. Introductions of the Hams and class participants.
3. Course Goal: Help you pass your Technician Class License Examination.
4. Introduction of KB6NU No Non-Sense Tech Study Guide.
5. What is amateur (ham) radio? (Pages 1-3)
6. Glossary orientation (Pages 90-91)
7. About Author (Page 92)
8. Assignment for next week (Electrical principles - Antennas and feed lines (pages 4-39)

Session 2 May 28, 2020 7p-8:30p PT

1. Welcome.
2. Short training segment, topic to be determined.
3. Discussion & Q/A on last week's assignment (Electrical principles - Antennas and

feed lines (pages 4- 39)

4. Assignment for next week (Amateur radio signals - Station equipment (pages 42-64)

Session 3 June 4, 2020 7p-8:30p PT

1. Welcome
2. Short training segment
3. Discussion & Q/A on last week's assignment (Amateur radio signals - Station equipment (pages 42-64)
4. Assignment for next week (Operating Procedures - Rules and regulations (pages 65 - 89)

Session 4 June 11, 2020 7p-8:30p PT

1. Welcome
2. Short training segment
3. Discussion & Q/A on last week's assignment (Operating Procedures - Rules and regulations (pages 65 - 89)
4. Preparing for taking your Technician Test.
5. Wrap-up & Closing.



Leviathan Repeater Update:

It has been almost a year since we heard from the owners (CHP) of our Club repeater (NV7CV) site on Mt. Leviathan. Just got word from CHP that "at some point," a new tower will be located there and the SIERA will have to sign a lease agreement with California Highway Patrol (Sacramento) in order to remain on site. A CHP leasing contact has been assigned, and I will be in contact with her in future updates.

I have no information as to the amount of the lease, nor when it might be enacted. In addition, installation of our antenna and Heliacx feed line must be accomplished by professional tower riggers. SIERA will be responsible for the costs associated with this installation. Tower riggers are charging between \$175 to \$250 per hour, and this will probably be marked up by the State of California. I estimate that two hours of time will be needed, plus the marked-up cost of the Heliacx, but that is only my estimate.

Just wanted to let the club know that the "free ride" is apparently over, and we will have to pay the lease on probably a yearly basis. Depending on the dollar amount of the lease, and I would assume site maintenance costs, we as a club will have to decide to either stay on Leviathan or move elsewhere. I sincerely hope we do not elect to move as Leviathan is a great location for all of Carson Valley, but costs to remain there may prove to be prohibitive. I will work with Ron Sagen, Director of 911 Douglas County Dispatch to see what we can work out when we get the dollar amount and whether we can fall under their lease. I will keep everyone updated as I hear more.

Jim Marshall K6LR, NV7CV Repeater Trustee.

THE TAILDRAGGER AND JETHRO'S ARE OPEN FOR DINING (with restrictions of course.)

Tail Dragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. 775-782-9500 (four at a table several feet apart.)

Jethro's on Kimmerling in Gardnerville. 775-265-2215 (no more than eight at a table.)





Portable Antennas for SOTA, etc. is an hour-long video presentation.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EkFR6BsQ7w&t=5s&fbclid=IwAR2dKVUAaRMLu0rGuSep1RrocnRARzsJu8cCqzTZe9c5FWFn9T_HJRhNz8I

2020 Hurricane Watch Net: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiiTS10kAGs> 11 minutes long.

ARTICLES: Ham Radio and the Titanic:

How Ham Radio Sunk the Titanic



<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Navigation/Community/Arcadia-and-THP-Blog/April-2018/How-Amateur-Radio-Sunk-the-Titanic>

Judge clears the way for salvagers to open up the Titanic and retrieve Marconi radio

https://www.geekwire.com/2020/judge-clears-way-salvagers-open-titanic-retrieve-marconi-radio/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=itkst&fbclid=IwAR2zSg5lIHjxfH1SQ7uvnckKS8Z7RcSHuSLFKXB5cSI1LciiltUq3IPpCJU

ARRL Licensing Exams:

While the May 16th exam has been cancelled, Greg may be able to arrange a private exam for you. Just send him an email: Kg7d@arrl.net.

Before COVID-19, VE exams were held at 9 a.m. on the third Saturday of odd months, at Fire Station 51, 777 S. Stewart Street, Carson City. When things reopen, bring your photo ID, \$15.00 cash or personal check (*we can't take cards*), and a copy of your current license if you are upgrading (*a reference copy from the FCC web site is acceptable. It doesn't have to be the Official copy*). Greg Moore KG7D also suggests you bring an extra \$15.00 if you want to take another test. There's also an informative Q & A session afterwards. Bring your new radios if you need help programming them.

The Watering Hole -- NEVER CANCELLED ... WOOHOO!

For many years, Brad Smith WT6B has held *The Watering Hole* every Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., on 147.33mH. Lots of hams check in, ask intriguing questions, and pool SIERA's vast amateur radio experience to help hams, both new and old, solve problems with their stations. It's a fun and informative half-hour even if you just want to listen to the chat.



The discussion continues:

For over a year, antennas have become a staple of conversation on the weekly Watering Hole. Brad WT6B and legions of other veteran operators in SIERA have offered lots of information about how to build, surreptitiously erect, and test a variety of antenna configurations. Oftentimes, Chuck Gervie KI7PGI brings up antenna issues during the Watering Hole sessions. At the beginning of May, he reported that his wife, Mary Lou, was listening to one particularly inspiring discussion and yelled up to him, "don't get any ideas." Well, in honor of her concerns, here's a cartoon that hopefully will show her that it could be worse.

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 147.330.

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.

CARS Fusion Net, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The local FUSION repeater is at 442.300.

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

DCART

Simplex Frequency Trial a Success:

After the June 1st DCART Net, Sheila Clement KA7AJQ asked members to switch over to Simplex frequency 147.420 to see how many people we could reach if a disaster emergency rendered the repeaters non-operational. With the help of relays, we were able to reach DCART members from Dayton to Tahoe Basin and from Ruhenstroth to Carson City. Sheila was very pleased with the coverage and also gathered information about what equipment members were using. There are other Simplex frequencies in DCART's emergency plan and these will be tested after upcoming DCART Nets.

SHEILA'S MONTHLY DCART COMMENTARY: Douglas County Amateur Radio Team (DCART) members will not meet in June. Rather we will work on verifying and testing our simplex planning frequencies. We will enlist Tahoe Basin ARES to help coordinate. The Alta Alpina Challenge Ride is still being planned for June 27 - same day as Field Day. Ride plans are subject to conditions and coordination with our Director of Douglas County 911 Emergency Services. Also a reminder that to activate our DCART Team, one must call the 911 non-emergency number (775-782-5126) to receive authorization from our Director, Ron Sagen, or the duty Communications Supervisor. Requesting agencies - such as the Red Cross- would contact our Director. We and our Director would evaluate our resources and our own status before deployment. I and other members would most likely be contacted informally first. The requesting agency would need to send a formal request for mutual aid with details to our Director. Our DCART 911 station may have one person there at a time. Contact our Director and make an appointment so we do not just show up. Nevada did not participate in the Red Cross exercise because no information or direction was received from our Chapter. Remember to check our sacvalleyares.org site for CA/Alpine info. They are participating in the Red Cross exercise and have Winlink updates.

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Alpine and Douglas Counties

SIERA General Meeting May 2, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 Virus outbreak, and exercising an abundance of caution, and following recommendations from the CDC and the State of Nevada, the Board meeting was held utilizing the NV7CV, SIERA 2-meter repeater. A Zoom session was also available.

Call to order 1:09PM

Seventeen members and one guest checked in using the repeater, those who were just listening and Zoom attendees were not tracked, but Jim Sanders, AG6IF, commented that he was seeing about five attendees on Zoom.

Treasurer's Report

Not shared over the repeater. Sent to board members by email and approved by email consensus.

Checking Account

Starting Balance	2375.73	
Deposit	.00	
Withdrawal	<130.00>	P.O Box

Ending Balance 2243.73

Saving Account

Starting Balance 4073.05

Dividends .17

Ending Balance 4073.22

Grand Total **6316.95**

FD Discussion

Board meeting summary:

The consensus was that with proper precautions the airport would be the preferred location. Overnight security would be provided by David Granish and Julia Cameron. Bob Williams' location and operating individually both remain viable options. A strict schedule with sign up should be required.

David Granish recommended two-hour shifts with the possibility open for people to work multiple shifts. Sign up procedure operation to be determined. Don McRoberts offered to collect the sign-ups and offered to publish the list on the website.

Comments and questions:

Tom Tabacco, KE7NCJ, commented that operators should not plan on socializing before/after their shift. Jim Sanders agreed and commented that this would not be a social event.

Jim Marshall, K6LR, asked for clarification on operating one or two bands?

Jim Sanders, AG6IF, would operate as a third in his mobile in addition to the two bands in the trailer. Set up would be either Friday or early Saturday.

Don McRoberts, W3DRM, asked for definite setup and tear down times.

AG6IF said that David KI6EWK would give setup/tear down details at a later time.

Paul Gulbro, WA6EWV, commented that using Zoom on a cell phone could make up for the lack of personal contact.

AG6IF called for volunteers to sign in for operating times.

Sue Cauhape, KI7CTT and Jeff Cauhape K7BCV requested 9PM to 11PM.

K6LR requested 8AM Saturday for setup and operating from 3PM to 7PM

K7VOC commented that having more than two transmitters on site could be a problem.

AG6IF suggested that operating as a 2A class was preferred so coordinating bands with the trailer will be necessary.

Sue asked about VHF/UHF simplex and Bob said he hoped to have the Diamond X50 antenna operational by then. Operational details would need to be worked out.

Presentation

AG6IF shared details of operating in the FT8 mode and shared screen shots on Zoom of actual operating conditions. PSK Reporter (<https://pskreporter.info/>) is a helpful tool to help you evaluate how well your station is working. FT8 can be copied reliably with signal levels well below the noise floor. JS8Call can support exchanging text information.

Updates

K6LR informed the club that the 7th Area QSO Party was in progress.

K7VOC reminded us that Mel Hogan WA6EYD donated a Morse code key to the club; CW would be a possible mode of operation for Field Day.

Bryce Leinen KI7NIK asked if anyone in the club was active on DMR. WA6EWV responded that the East Peak DMR was temporarily down.

Adjourned 2:13pm

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