



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

January 2021

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



2021 Board Election

Yeah, we know, this is a photo from the 2020 Election meeting, the last one where we could meet in person. With the exception of David DeAngelis K1SCN (second from top left), the crew remains the same: Jim Sanders AG6IF, president; Ben Etchevarria N7BBE, Vice President; Don McRoberts W3DRM, Membership; Debbie Williams N7XYL, Treasurer; Jim Marshall K6LR, NV7CV Repeater Trustee; Bob Williams K7VOC, David Granish KI6EWK, and Mel Hogan WA6EYD as Directors. David's job as Secretary is open for anyone who would like to take it. The Board would like to thank David for his service to SIERA. Also, thank you to the 2020 Board members who have been creative and flexible in keeping SIERA business going throughout the shutdown.

Repeater Protocol Document 2021 Board Goal

The "new" Board will be working on a Repeater Protocol document that will outline guidelines for users of NV7CV. Here are a few of the items Jim Sanders AG6IF discussed at the December on-air meeting:

- In an emergency, use "break-break" only. If you want to join a conversation, say "break" and your call sign.
- After an earthquake hits, wait ten minutes before transmitting to other hams to allow for emergency traffic to use the frequency. After that, the first on the air will become net control.
- Our jammer is still broadcasting his/her/its favorite music on 147.330mh. Jim advises us to ignore jammers. Luckily, repeaters "reset" and shut off after someone has been transmitting for a few minutes. This keeps people from hogging the frequency. On that note, if you've been talking awhile during a rag chew, about three minutes or so, say "reset" and release the PTT for a few seconds. Then return to finish what you're saying.

The General meeting is at 1 p.m. January 2nd on NV7CV 147.330/240. Board meeting at noon. General meeting at 1 p.m. Topic for discussion TBA.

SIERA Member Responsibilities

While rummaging around some old files, The Beacon found a list of the many jobs that can be filled by SIERA members. Of course, many of these pertain to the pre-COVID days when we still held our meetings and events in person. It's posted here, though, to remind members what they can do to keep SIERA a vibrant and relevant club for hams.

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

Other positions and their responsibilities

Repeater Trustee

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

Volunteer Examiner Liaison (V.E.)

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

Field Day

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

Safety Day

Nevada Day Parade

Pony Express Ride

Organizing who goes where and what coverage is needed

ARRL Liaison

Updates ARRL general information for SIERA

Public Information Officer or Media Coordinator

- 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

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

QRZ.com Database

Updates and maintains the QRZ page and log book

Trailer

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

SIERA Librarian

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

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.

ARISS (Amateur Radio International Space Station Coordinator)

Membership Chair

- 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

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

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 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

Schedules/advertises Special Events through ARRL

VHF Net Control Roll Call Protocol

SIERA has over seventy members, which makes for a lengthy VHF roll call. Waiting a few extra seconds to allow the repeaters to link up also makes it harder to finish in time for the net control to start the HF net at 8 p.m. So, to accommodate this, most net controls will call only those who regularly check in first. After that roll call is done, the NC will call for any missed or late stations. This gives people the opportunity to make sure they will be included on the next week's roll call. When that NC asks for late or missed members, be sure to transmit your check-in so you can be called regularly. The VHF Net list is made up of SIERA members only. Visitors and frequent non-members will be called after the regular roll call. The HF Net, however, is open to all who call in regularly. If you check in at least three times, the Net Control will add you to the regular HF list.



TARA Christmas Gathering Goes ZOOM

Paul Gulbro WA6EWV couldn't allow a year to pass without celebrating Christmas with the hams. As usual, he invited members of both TARA and SIERA to attend, but the gathering needed to be virtual. ZOOM to the rescue!

Seventeen stations checked in, showing off their holiday backdrops and hoping to win prizes from the drawing. A \$50 cash prize was awarded to TARA member Mike Wall WM6K. Sheila KA7AJQ and Leroy KA7UIS Clement won a D787 DMR hand-held radio donated by Debbie Williams N7XYL. Tom Tabacco's 70-amp power supply found a home with Keiffer Bly KJ7LYB. The highlight of the evening was a video of a drone swarm programmed to do Christmas themed shapes. (The Beacon editor apologizes that she was having so much fun attending this party she forgot to take a photo of the ZOOM screens. So, Paul's photo of a previous TARA Christmas will just have to do. Ah, those were the days, my friends!)



QSL Card from Short Wave Station Received

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV received this QSL Card from a shortwave broadcasting station in New Zealand. "People tend to forget that most ham radio HF band transceivers can also be shortwave receivers. I caught a radio show, found their website and submitted a signal report. They weren't trying to reach North America, but the Pacific Ocean makes a pretty good reflector."



RNZ Pacific
1948-2008 Proud to serve the Pacific for 60 years
The Voice of New Zealand. Broadcasting to the Pacific.
Te Rau Hinangiri o Aotearoa. O Te Whanau-kai-A-Kiwa



QSL CONFIRMATION
To: Jeff Cauhape
Greetings from the South Pacific!
Thank you for your report on our transmission which we are pleased to verify.

Date: 2019-12-07 Time: 02:13 UTC Frequency: 15720 kHz

Our Thompson CSF 100 kw transmitter is located at Rangitaki, east of Lake Taupo, and is linked to our studios in Wellington, 340 kms south of the town Taupo.
For QSL response by airmail please see QSL information at <https://www.rnz.co.nz/international>
Best 73's
Adrian Sainsbury
Frequency Manager

Email Hacker Strikes Again

Sue (KI7CTT) Cauhape's Yahoo email was hacked AGAIN. All of her contacts, even those she purged years ago, have received desperate pleas for people to send money. If anything like this reaches you from scauhape2002@yahoo.com, DELETE IT. You should automatically suspect anything that involves requests for money or personal information anyway, no matter who the sender is supposed to be. DELETE IT. Sue's only email account is scauhape2020@protonmail.com

Jupiter and Saturn Meet the ISS

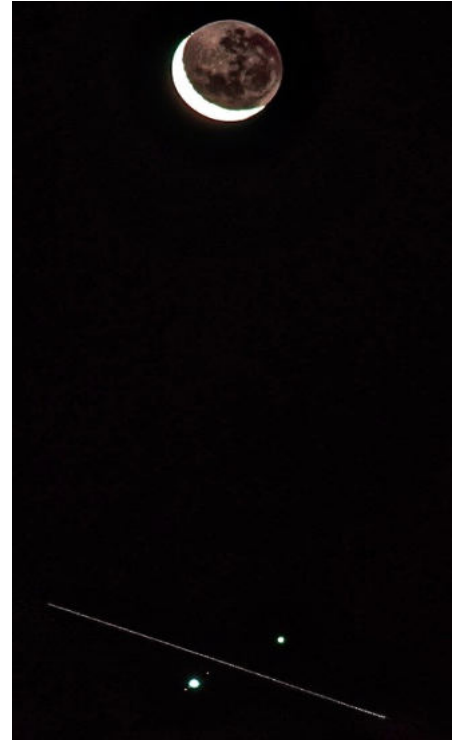
Chuck Gervie KI7PGI sent in this photo of the Jupiter/Saturn Conjunction. Of all the photos available on social media, this is one of the best. Here's what Chuck wrote to The Beacon:

"I just noticed in the photo of the International Space Station [ISS] passing between Jupiter and Saturn in syzygy – Jupiter is the lower one, that two of Jupiter's moons are visible - two red dots at two and seven o'clock!! Jupiter is closer than Saturn, and I can't see any rings. Jupiter has the largest number of moons of any planet in our solar system - about 79 moons by latest count – 53 named, and 26 waiting for names."

[The Moons of Jupiter - WorldAtlas](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-moons-of-jupiter.html)

<https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-moons-of-jupiter.html>

This link is an article with more information and beautiful photos of the moons of Jupiter.



The Dreaded Independent ARRL Field Day 2020 Analysis Article

This article concerns the scoring and problems that appeared with this year's very different Field Day events across the country:

<https://hvdnnotebook.blogspot.com/2020/12/arrl2020fdanalysis.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR1ro1kWzYgS48dqnFitlqGKhW5mYVLbEevsFdhheRTKWI2p0pGCUDy4-dA>

FCC Change:

Because the FCC is going digital in all its documenting procedures, hams are now required to furnish a current email address. All new licensees, of course, will do this when filling out their paperwork, but all hams should check their information on the FCC website and add or update their email addresses. For information on this and many other issues concerning the FCC and amateur radio, check out this FCC page: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireless/support/common-amateur-filing-tasks/common-amateur-filing-task-changing-address>

Amateur Radio Helps Communications Response to Nashville Bombing

Here's a link about how hams were part of the response to repair damage to communications in Tennessee after the Nashville bombing on Christmas Day.

<https://wcares.org/2020-dec-26-auxcomm-1400/>

The Watering Hole: Paul Gulbro WE6EWV has been serving as net control for The Watering Hole while Brad Smith WT6B has been recuperating from an infection that sent him to the hospital. He's getting better and is back on the air for rag chews during the day. Paul has been trying to find someone to take the Watering Hole. Last week, he tried again. After the usual round of crickets, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT said she'd like to give it a go, providing that everyone who tuned in understood she doesn't have the depth of radio knowledge that either Brad or Paul have. She had so much fun moderating the program she'll be back again each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330/240mh. To her great joy, there were plenty of people who could answer questions. Thank you, Paul, for filling in a huge gap.

Watering Hole Discussions:

Vanity Call Signs Want to get a new call sign and check if your favorite choices are available? Go on to <http://www.radioqth.net/>

Disconnecting during Lightning Storms

Garth Grugal KC4M warned us about disconnecting our radios during lightning storms. Disconnecting the coax is not enough. He had a lightning strike somewhere in his yard and *the current went through his ground wires right into his radios*. So from now on, he disconnects everything.



Don't forget to check out the SIERA website on www.cvhams.com for lots of information and reference material.

Don McRoberts has posted the updated roll call lists and schedule for the VHF HF nets for the first half of 2021. Thank you, Don.

DCART - Douglas County Amateur Radio Team

The ARRL's Learning Network offers Zoom meetings (recordings available after) on many topics that serve as important training opportunities. You sign into ARRL and go to the

Learning Network to learn of coming sessions and those now recorded. Important topics are scheduled.

Today I listened to the Ham Radio Operations during the Boston Marathon Bombing. I will be interested in your comments - especially those that might be incorporated into our own planning.

For holidays, I usually poll our membership to see who might be available. But these days, it is difficult to track everyone. So I will just say our response plan includes Reverse 911 phone calls and automatically tuning to the 147.330 for initial information. First on may establish net control operations to document our resource personnel to get started. We would check on 147.240 to see how they are doing and if it is appropriate, link the repeaters. If 147.33 should not be operational you will want to try our simplex 147.420. The 147.270 repeater will be mostly for DEM radio use and a good contact between DCART and DEM. 73 -- Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ

The network system taken offline last week at FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness has been returned to service. This allows individuals to apply online for FEMA Student Identification Numbers needed to apply for courses administered by FEMA and a number of its training partners. The Training Administration System that supports the online training application process is also restored. -- John Abrott KD7NHC, Nevada ARES Section Emergency Coordinator
Nevada State RACES Officer, ARRL OES

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 the following schedule: The first two Mondays on 147.330 linked with 147.240. The third Monday is Tahoe Basin ARES on 147.240 to be linked with 147.330. The fourth (and fifth) Monday(s) on 147.270 to be linked with 147.240

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.

W7DEM Net, Wednesdays at 9 a.m., various frequencies: Eagle Ridge 442.225 T156.7, Carson DEM 442.900 T156.7, Lake Tahoe 442.300 T156.7, and Smith Valley 440.050 T 94.8. (Refer to Nov. 2020 Beacon for details.)

Carson ARES Net: 9-10 a.m., check in anytime in that hour on 147.270mhz PL156.7.

Includes VHF

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

Don McRoberts, our SIERA webmaster for CVhams.com, has this chart with more nets than anyone has time for: <https://www.cvhams.com/nets.php>

DEM and Carson ARES Offers Convenient Multi-mode Check-ins

Because of COVID restrictions no longer allow the Carson ARES team to access the communications room at the Dept. of Emergency Management in Carson City (DEM), Diana Moore KJ7GVY monitors 147.270MHz from her Clinic Station under the auspices of EC Tom Seeley W4FLL from 9 to 10 a.m. (PL is 156.7.)



At the DEM, Winlink check-ins are welcome via Telnet, VARA, ARDOP, or PCTOR at any time. When the DEM radio room is unattended, Winlink messages are forwarded to a remote account and responded to as soon as possible. John Phillips KL7RI announced last week that Winlink gateway are up and working in Las Vegas, Carson City, and Reno 24/7 for 80m, 40m, and 20m.

Also, WX7RNO is working again for packet, Winlink, node and digipeater functions. There is also another new Winlink-only packet system in Truckee, CA: K6BIB-10 on 145.090MHz. It can be reached by the VPEAK node and VPK digipeater on Virginia Peak and the wA6EWV-5 node at Heavenly Valley. These two nodes make it accessible to a large area including the Tahoe Basin and locations in range of Virginia peak.

SIERA General Meeting December 5, 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.

Call to order 1:00PM

Attendance: 13 checked in

Last month's minutes

The November minutes were published in the December issue of The Beacon. Copies are available on the SIERA webpage.

Treasurer's Report for December 2020

The detailed Treasurer's report was presented to the Board and approved by email. Contact Debbie Williams N7XYL for a copy of the Treasurer's Report at n7xyl@ARRL.net

Business

Election Slate 2021

OFFICERS:

President: Jim Sanders -AG6IF

Vice President Ben Echavarria -N7BBE

Treasurer Debbie Williams -N7XYL

DIRECTORS:

David Granish -KI6EWK

Mel Hogan -WA6EYD

Jim Marshall -K6LR

Don McRoberts -W3DRM

Bob Williams -K7VOC

Jim AG6IF asked for volunteers to take the Secretary position and received no response. Yay or Nay votes for the slate are to be emailed to Jim AG6IF. Final results were reported via email on Dec 11, 2020. Results: 18 YEA and 0 NAY.

K7VOC reported that Brad, WT6B, is still in the hospital, but he is improving. He also reported that Don W3DRM has volunteered to take the Membership Chairman duties.

Jim, AG6IF, introduced the idea of drawing up guidelines for repeater usage, and initiating a club project to encourage foxhunting/direction-finding. AG7TX, Dale, volunteered to assist with direction finding.

KE7NCJ is looking for a buyer for an Astron RS-70A 57-amp (continuous) power supply.

Adjournment: 1:30PM

Remember, send your photos and news for the Beacon AND the SIERA Facebook page to: scauhape2020@protonmail.com

