



SIERA BEACON



Carson Valley, NV

January 2022

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

SIERA Assembles a New Board



SIERA has a new Board by acclamation: front row from left, David Granish KI6EWK, Jim Marshall K6LR, Don McRoberts W3DRM, Ed Terlau KG7ZOP; back row from left, Chuck Gervie KI7PGI, Mel Hogan WE6EYD, Mary Lou Gervie W1FE, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, and Jim Sanders AG6IF. Jeff is Secretary, Mary Lou is Treasurer, and Ed is Vice President. Jim Sanders remains as President. Thank you to Debbie and Bob Williams N7XYL ad K7VOC and David DeAngelis K1SCN for your years of service to SIERA. They held Treasurer, Director, and Secretary positions on the Board. And thank you, Ben Echevarria N7BBE, former Vice President, for your many services to SIERA.

Dues are due again and there are some changes. If you joined SIERA since September 1st, your dues will apply to 2022. All members paying before that date will need to renew their memberships for the coming year. Check <https://www.cvhams.com> for further details and to download the membership form.

Although COVID restrictions have curtailed a lot of our favorite activities, we still have a vibrant club. More people are showing up for our Fourth Saturday Breakfasts at the Taildragger Café in Minden. We now have a full Board with three new members. And our repeater, NV7CV, which your dues maintain, is still a vital organ in local communications. It serves a wide area for the benefit of travelers and recreationists as well as for local hams just passing the time with rag chews. NV7CV also came in really handy, along with the TARA 147.240 repeater, during the Tamarack Fire, which closed highways and forced evacuations of local hams. Through the past two years when we couldn't meet in person, NV7CV was our venue for monthly meetings. We also keep everyone informed through the CVHams.com, The Beacon, and the SIERA Facebook page, which costs nothing to the members. Your dues, primarily, go to maintain the NV7CV repeater on Leviathan Peak. And thank you, Jim Marshall K6LR, for keeping it properly maintained these past few years.

2022 promises to open a lot of our events again, if the Good Lord's willin' and the forests don't burn down. We encourage you to come to our next meeting in February and let the Board know what you'd like to see happen with SIERA this next year.

Because our January 1st Board and General meetings fall on New Year's Day, the meetings are cancelled. Happy New Year everyone. See you in February and hear you any time on the NV7CV repeater 147.330MHz.

DCART Deactivates, What's the Future of EmComm for SIERA Hams?

During the December 7th SIERA VHF Net, Jim Marshall K6LR announced that DCART will be deactivated January 1, 2022 because of declining participation of current members and the inability to recruit new members. Thank you to all DCART members who served over the past years to bring this valuable service to Douglas County. Ron Sagen, manager of the 911 Dispatch Center, promised that the W7SR station and the CM11 RV station would remain intact and usable should emergencies warrant the reactivation of DCART services.

When asked whether DCART would join another group, such as Search and Rescue or CERT, Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ commented in an email: "Our DCART organization has been able to train and participate in events and incidents/emergencies over many years. We have even been the poster child for radio organizations. Right now, with the COVID situation, we have not been able to train together or just be with each other. So we have not been able to discuss situations that lead to disorganization. All of us have work and family situations that are different now because of COVID." During COVID, DCART members



were still able to use the W7SR station for DCART nets, but only as solo operators rather than in groups.

Sheila added, "Lately, Dave O'Hara KB7DWO and I have been trying to plan for exercises and meetings and have had almost no response. We had a couple of ZOOM meetings with only two or three or five participants. At our last meeting at 911, there were three of us. Almost no one has sent us any ideas, proposals, offered to help train or volunteered for net control. We do not have a working, trained resource base to assure our 911 Emergency Services Director, Ron Sagen, we can respond to County/State emergencies. Ron has given us a beautiful station and an umbrella to be able to respond to emergencies. We are not prepared anymore to put our action where our words are.



"Some years ago, we exchanged conversations and meetings with the Douglas County Search and Rescue. It was personally gratifying to have a look at such a great organization. S&R requires complete immersion with their training and response even for just communications. Many of us were too old then to commit to the intense training needed.

"Our area CERT Team has no interest in Amateur Radio participation. They are a group that offers great personal and neighborhood training for emergencies. Check them out for good emergency preparation training.

"SIERA was started as a way to be an emergency response group. DCART grew out of our group as Federal and County emergency response operations requirements came to be regulated and more formal. Formal affiliation with our County is needed to have the required training and expertise needed for today's County emergency operations. A government agency risks losing FEMA disaster reimbursement monies if it cannot document volunteers' training. One thing national requirements include is basic ICS training - available online."

With that said, SIERA hams can still operate during emergencies, as they did during the Tamarack Fire last summer. During the TARA Christmas party, Paul Gulbro thanked Sue Cauhape KI7CTT and Garth Grugal KC4M for their service on the linked NV7CV/TARA repeaters at that time, thus helping him inform Death Ride participants that the event was cancelled and not to deploy to their assigned positions. Garth has related many times how he almost confiscated a ham's equipment during a situation when Garth was a police officer. The guy was getting in the way of first responders. Hams don't need to deploy to an situation in order to help, though. Just tune in to your local repeater and help net control disseminate information. And make sure that information is factual and not rumor. As for who's net control in ad hoc situations like this, the rule is that the first operator to get on the air is NC. Don't let that deter you from stepping up and using your radio skills to help in emergencies. Just be prudent.

Net Controls Needed For Tuesdays' VHF/HF Nets! Contact Don McRoberts W3DRM at: dmcroberts@outlook.com

K7DUY's 120-foot Dipole

Those listening to the NV7CV repeater regularly have undoubtedly heard Bill Holmes K7DUY talking about his efforts to raise a proper antenna to work HF, etc.

Bill had 150-foot pine trees at his previous location allowing him to erect a "V" wire beam up 100+ feet. It had two wires in a "V" configuration with each wire 1,400 feet long. It worked the world.



Moving to Carson Valley was an antenna challenge, so he constructed a 120-foot antenna called a "T3FD" (terminated three-wire folded dipole) using one inch wide Electric Fence Poly Tape. The tape has seven aluminum wires running through it, although stainless steel wire is available.



Using a Cottonwood tree and a 30-foot tower he just put up, the antenna ends are nicely positioned East/West. A 600 Ohm ladder line feeds the antenna at center then goes to a Balun {600 Ohm : 52 Ohms}, then coax into the shack.

After the first December windstorm, he learned how rugged the beast is, especially on his hillside QTH near Ruhenstroth. To date the antenna has been tested by WIND and SNOW and has held up without any damage. On the air tests have successfully

contacted Europe, South America, Asia and USA stations with 100 watts. It may be a new antenna design for Bill, but it originated in 1948 by the US Navy and has been used on embassies for its broad band characteristics.

Thanks, Chuck Gervie K7PGI, for the photos of Bill's antenna setup.

Station Envy!

While Chuck was out and about, he also visited the ham shacks of Bob Williams K7VOC and Jim Sanders AG6IF. After taking pictures of this impressive setups, he shared them with the Beacon to stir up a little station envy.



Bob K7VOC, a station in a closet.



Jim AG6IF, nine radios in use and counting.

Join Jeff Cauhape K7BCV and all the gang for The Watering Hole, every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330/240MHz. Questions and Answers about anything Amateur Radio.

The Dec. 8th Watering Hole discussed propagation ... again. It's a perennial topic. Anyway, Jim Sanders AG6IF and Garth Grugal offered some handy website tools. Jeff Cauhape K7BCV found the URLs online and shared with commentary:

VOACAP Online for Ham Radio: www.voacap.com/hf/

"I think this web page gets used heavily because there is so much it can tell you. Best to sit down with a big cup of coffee to spend time getting familiar with it."

The Maximum Usable Frequency or MUF map for the world: www.prop.kc2g.com

"This page does one thing and does it well. It presents the MUF as a color-coded topo map. You can tell at a glance which bands are usable from any point to any other point."

Time and Date: www.timeanddate.com

"This page supposedly shows you the gray line, but I don't see the link. It does have a LOT of info about date and time related issues. However, for the gray line you could just go to VOACAP and it's right there."

Real-Time HF Propagation Predictor: hamwaves.com/propagation/en/index.html

"Wow. Going to take awhile to learn all the resources available here."

This Week In Tech (Twit): <https://twit.tv/shows/this-week-in-tech>

"This website has podcasts about various technological subjects and issues which may be of interest to hams."

Raspberry Pi: <https://all3dp.com/2/amateur-pi-raspberry-pi-ham-radio-internet-radio/>. "It's a list of cool Raspberry Pi projects for amateur radio operators."



A big thank you goes to Paul Gulbro WA6EWV, president of TARA, for hosting yet another great Christmas Party at the Carson Valley Inn. CVI always sets a sumptuous feast for these holiday gatherings, especially the chocolate cake. And Paul does an excellent job of MCing with humor and stories of how the local ham community pulled together during the wildfire season.

After cancelling last year's party, and after we've all survived this crazy year too, it was a celebration that needed to happen, no matter what. It was good to see everyone again in-person and catch up on what's been going on with our amateur radio community. It's been especially important to attend this cheery gathering because SIERA hasn't planned its usual post-holiday bash for January 2022. Perhaps the new Board can come up with a plan to bring us all together again in a festive celebration between now and our busy summer schedule. At our February meeting, let's bring some ideas for the new Board to consider. It's time to come out from hiding. 73s.

From David DeAngelis K1SCN:

Happy New Year!

Traditionally, the start of the New Year provides an opportunity to set new goals for the coming year. You may be considering upgrading your license class, or expanding your station to include HF capabilities, or moving a VHF antenna, or even adding new gear to your existing station. Personally, I always felt that the planning aspect of operating a station is just as rewarding as the actual operation.

In the coming year, it would appear that Solar Cycle 25 will provide opportunities for making some very interesting contacts. In fact, just in the past week, it would appear that long-range contacts on ten meters have been possible. (In the interest of total disclosure, I don't have an antenna for ten meters at the moment, so my information comes from various DX cluster and PSK Reporter listings.) For the technician operators out there, you might want to start planning to add ten-meter capabilities to your station. In the last cycle, ten meters was very usable for about five years.

To welcome in the New Year, here is some food for thought:

The Radio Amateur's Code

Reprinted courtesy ARRL

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners, kind assistance, cooperation, and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

-adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928. Reprinted courtesy ARRL.

The DX Code of Conduct

I will listen, and listen, and then **listen again** before calling.

I will only call **if I can copy** the DX station properly.

I will **not trust the DX cluster** and will be sure of the DX station's call sign before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will **NEVER tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSX slot.**

I will wait for the DX station to **end a contact** before I call.

I will always send **my full call sign.**

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval. I will **not** call continuously.

I will **not transmit** when the DX operator calls **another call sign**, not mine.

I will **not transmit** when the DX operator queries **a call sign not like mine.**

I will **not transmit** when the DX operator requests **geographic areas other than mine.**

When the DX operator calls me, I will **not repeat my call sign** unless I think he copied it incorrectly.

I **will** be **thankful** if and when I do make a contact.

I will **respect my fellow hams** and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

About half of the DX code of Conduct items are actually not only guidelines, but in fact are part of the FCC Part 97 regulations.

The DX Code of conduct was originally written by an American radio amateur, Randy Johnson (W6SJ)(SK), and is published on the web by James Shryne (N6DHZ).

The DX Code of Conduct can also be found on the Northern California DX Club web page at: ncdxc.org/dx-code-of-conduct/

For a more detailed look into operating ethics you can consult: www.arrl.org/operating-ethics, then follow the link on that page to "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" for a 68-page pdf that is a comprehensive guide for on-the-air procedures.

Still FOR SALE to a new ham or anyone wanting to upgrade:



This complete radio station is still available: a "Like New" ICOM IC-718 HF transceiver, an Astron 35 amp power supply, LDG antenna tuner, antennas, microphone, headset, SWR meter. All to be sold together. Great for a starting Ham, or ????. SIERA is asking \$750.00 for the entire station. Contact: Jim Marshall, at k6lr@arrl.net



Don't forget to check out the SIERA website on www.cvhams.com for lots of information and reference material. This includes a comprehensive list of nets throughout the area and upcoming events.

How Resonant Circuits Work

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjYGb0QvuxQ>



15 (OK, 16) Handy Items for Your Antenna Box!

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

ARRL Club News for December 2021:

Check out what other amateur radio communities are doing with the ARRL newsletter.

<http://www.arrl.org/club-news?issue=2021-12-21>

An Important Message from ARRL:

On Tuesday, December 28th, 2021 at 9:24 AM

From ARRL Headquarters > > Newington CT December 28, 2021

SB QST ARL ARLB032 ARLB032 ARRL to Oppose Forest Service Administrative Fees for Amateur Facilities.

The US Forest Service is proposing to implement a statutorily required annual fee for new and existing communications use authorizations to cover the costs of administering its authorization program. ARRL plans to vigorously oppose the imposition of the proposed fees on Amateur Radio.

The Forest Service proposal results from requirements set forth in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka "the Farm Bill"). Specifically, section 8705(c)(3)(b) of the Farm Bill directs the Forest Service to issue regulations that require fees for issuing communications use authorizations based on the cost to the Agency for maintenance or other activities to be performed by the Agency "as a result of the location or modification of a communications facility."

The Forest Service is responsible for managing Federal lands and authorizes the use and occupancy of National Forest System (NFS) lands for communications facilities that provide communications services for adjacent rural and urban communities. The Agency said in its proposal that it administers more than 3,700 special use authorizations on NFS lands for infrastructure that supports more than 10,000 wireless communications uses at 1,367 communications sites.

According to the Forest Service Notice published in the December 22, 2021 issue of the Federal Register, revenues from the proposed fee, "would provide the funds necessary to support a more modernized, efficient, and enhanced communications use program," and will "cover the costs of administering the Agency's communications use program." Costs, as laid out in section 8705(f)(4) of the Farm Bill, may include expenditures for such things as "on-site reviews of communications sites, developing communications site management plans, hiring and training personnel for the communications use program, conducting internal and external outreach for and national oversight of the communications use program, and obtaining or improving access to communications sites on NFS lands."

ARRL encourages Amateur Radio licensees to file comments opposing the imposition of the proposed administrative fee on Amateur Radio users. Comments must be received in writing by no later than February 22, 2022. Comments may be submitted online at the Federal Rulemaking Portal at: <https://www.regulations.gov/> or via USPS mail to Director, Lands & Realty Management Staff, 201 14th Street SW, Washington, DC 20250-1124, and must include the identifier "RIN 0596-AD44."

Elecraft Radio Facebook Group



This Facebook group posts questions and answers as well as equipment reviews, etc. in a very casual way. Here's one discussion:

Steven DiPirro

My "ham shack" is actually in my family room where I only have 110v outlets. Has anyone used a 110v to 220v power converter to run the KPA1500, and if so, are the converters noisy in terms of RFI? If this works, are there recommended converters for ham radio stations? And, yes, I know it would be better to wire a 220v/20A circuit, but that would be extremely difficult here. Thanks.

Jim Weatherford

I doubt you could get enough power from a single 110v circuit for the KPA1500. I can say for sure the KPA500 works well on a 15A 110v circuit. The power converters use 2 out-of-phase 110v outlets to create a 220v/20A circuit. I'm currently running a KPA500 on 110v.

Wayne Price

I doubt that you will find a 110 to 220-conversion solution. I ran 220 the full length of the house, around the back and up to the second story. With the right guy doing it, it wasn't that expensive.

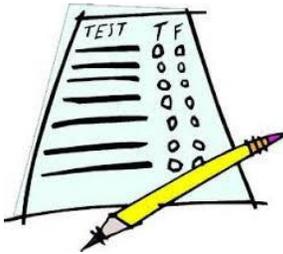
Joseph M. Durnal

The only one I've ever experienced was noisy, and it wasn't even used for radio equipment. I think you know the right thing to do here. There is a reason why it is a 220v power supply. Most home wiring won't support it on 110v.

Steven DiPirro

The power converters I've been looking at use two out-of-phase 110v outlets to create a 220v/20A circuit that, in theory, would support the KPA1500. I'm just wondering if that's the case in practice or if it's just not a workable solution. I have a friend who is a licensed electrician, has done such work for me before, and knows the layout and situation here. He audibly groaned when I asked about putting 220v in this room. So it

seemed worth investigating the power converters, although finding two outlets that are out-of-phase would not be so easy either.



Taking Licensing Exams During the COVID Era

Licensing exams through SIERA are still suspended for the time being, but Jim Sanders AG6IF plans to hold a specially scheduled exam session before the end of the year. Stay tuned for information about that. Meanwhile, here are some online resources and exams available in Reno.

SNARS schedules exam sessions at the REOC in Reno. Just click on this link for more information and registration: <https://snars.org/exams/>

eHam.com has study questions and quizzes

hamstudy.org is highly recommended because it helps you understand the whys and wherefores of amateur radio instead of encouraging you to just memorize answers.

There is also a wide selection of licensing books on Amazon. One of the more expensive as well as the best resource is the *ARRL General License Manual*.

Ham Test Online <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com/study.jsp>



SIERA Fourth Saturday Breakfasts 8 a.m. at the Taildragger Café, Minden-Tahoe Airport

Nets Available in Carson Valley and Beyond:

The SNARS Noon Net daily on 147.150.

Daily Carson & Eagle Valley net, Mon-Sat, 6 p.m. on 28.435 MHz USB

BARC Nightly Net, 8 pm on 146.655MHz 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 147.330/147.240MHz. The fourth (and fifth) Mondays on 147.270/147.240MHz.

TARA Net, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.240MHz.

SIERA VHF/HF Nets, Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. on 147.330/240MHz; 8 p.m. on 3982KHz.

Plumas County Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., on 145.470MHz.

W7DEM Net, Wednesday mornings on various frequencies. Check this website for details:

<https://www.carsoncityares.org/WedNets.html>.

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

The Watering Hole, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330.240MHz,

"questions and answers pertaining to amateur radio."

SKYWARN at 7 p.m. Wednesdays 441.650MHz.

NV ARES Net Thursdays at 7 p.m. Echolink conf server NV-GATE 152566
IRLP Western Reflector Ch 8: 9258

SNARS Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030/147.150MHz
(SNARS Linked Repeaters: <https://snars.org>)

Lyon/Churchill Area Emergency Radio Communications Net, Fridays at 6 p.m. on
147.345MHz.

RARA Rural Amateur Radio Assn., Fridays at 8 p.m. on 147.180MHz 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. 146.760MHz pl 123

National Traffic Service Net, Sundays at 6:15 p.m. on 3945kHz

Lyon County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net, Sundays at 7 p.m. on
147.345MHz.

Consider Donating to the Food Closet

The Food Closet serves the critical food security needs of thousands of Carson Valley residents each year. Money and/or surplus garden produce is welcomed. You can set up a monthly plan or make a one-time donation. Contact them at info@thefoodcloset.org.



SIERA Board Meeting Minutes December 4, 2021

Board members in attendance:

Officers

President	Jim Sanders
Vice-president	Ben Echavarria (absent)
Secretary	Jeff Cauhape (acting)
Treasurer	Debbie Williams

Directors

Bob Williams
David Granish
Jim Marshall
Mel Hogan
Don McRoberts

Meeting called to order at 12:05 by Jim Sanders

Treasurer's Report - accepted with correction

Ending balances:

Checking	3473.73
Savings	4076.44
	=====
Total	7550.17

Bob also brought it to the Board's attention that the trailer does not have a dedicated HF antenna, and if the trailer needs to be deployed in an emergency, we should rely on loaners. Board in general agreement, this topic to be looked into further.

Meeting closed at 12:58

* Board Member Elections Held During General Meeting

Election Started at 13:35

Jim Marshall read the required pre-amble before the vote was taken. All positions had only 1 candidate each, so the vote was held by acclamation. Jim read the slate of candidates and then a vote was taken by acclamation for each candidate individually.

Here is the slate accepted by the club members:

Officers

President:	Jim Sanders
Vice-president:	Ed Terlau
Secretary:	Jeff Cauhape
Treasurer:	Mary-Lou Gervie

Directors

Chuck Gervie
David Granish
Jim Marshall
Mel Hogan
Don McRoberts

Note:

Prior to the announcement Ed Terlau and Chuck Gervie decided to swap positions with the Board's approval.

Election ended at 13:45



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