

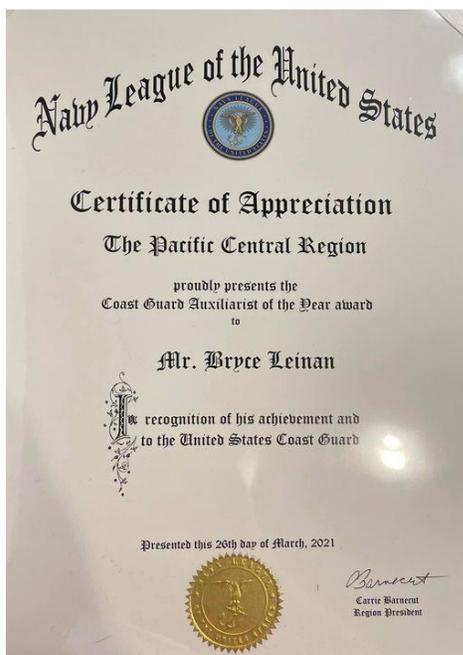


SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

April 2022

Bryce Leinan KI7NIK Earns Coast Guard Certificate of Appreciation



Shortly after Bryce Leinan KI7NIK earned his amateur radio license, he became Flotilla Commander of the Reno Flotilla 3 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Since then, he's been busy earning the Certificate of Appreciation of the Navy League, Pacific Central Region he received recently. His Coast Guard position has required Bryce to travel extensively to the northwest, taking him away from regular participation in SIERA activities.

However, he's been able to fit in a few net control stints as well as a hectic day at Pickets Junction serving the Death Ride. During the last hours of that Ride, several bicyclists were having trouble finishing the climb to Carson Pass. Bryce was there to communicate to emergency crews to pick them up for medical treatment.

True to Bryce's modesty, he shares the credit for the award with his whole team in this March 27th post from his Facebook page:

"Absolutely floored to win Auxiliarist of the Year from the Navy League last night at our D-Train for District 11 North. Proud of the work we've done in District 11 and District 11 North."

Coast Guard duties aren't the only activities filling Bryce's time. He does have a day job as IT database engineer for the State of Nevada. His co-worker at DTER, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, drew him into his Technician's class in 2017 and helped Bryce fulfill a CG radio requirement. Bryce received his Master of IT Management from Colorado State as well as an MA in Criminal Justice from the American Military University. In his spare time, he's also earned his Extra Class amateur radio license. Oh, and he's a deacon in the Living Stones Church in Carson City. No wonder we haven't seen Bryce at SIERA meetings.



Congratulations, Bryce, for your huge accomplishments over the years, and especially for this recent recognition of your hard work and achievements.

The SIERA meetings will be held Saturday, April 2nd at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd., Gardnerville. Board meeting at noon, General at 1 p.m. The Board will announce frequency changes to the Tuesday HF nets. The following Tuesday, roll call will occur on 3982KHz as usual, then move to another frequency to test that frequency. If that works well, the HF net frequency will change permanently.

Let's Start Planning for These Summer Activities

These events are coming up very quickly. Here's a list of SIERA favorites as well as a few we might consider adding to our community involvement.

- Genoa Western Heritage Days: April 29-May 1, Genoa
- Big Mama's Show 'n' Shine: May 21, Lampe Park, Gardnerville.
- Carson Valley Days, June 10-13, Lampe Park, Gardnerville.
- Pony Express: June 13-15 from Ibapah, UT to Friday's Station, SLT, NV.
- Field Day: June 25-26, at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. (A 24-hour event.)
- Alta Alpina: June 25, Alpine/Douglas counties.
- Death Ride: July 17 throughout Alpine County.



AND ... Mark Your Calendars: Brad Hollander's Ham Swap Meet, Saturday, June 4, 2022, Gardnerville, NV. It starts at 7 a.m. and the location is marked by Brad's ladder truck at the Bobcat Ct. entrance near the intersection of Benton Rd. and Sawmill off East Valley Rd. and Buckeye.

SIERA Treasurer Hit by Scammer

By Mary Lou Gervie, Treasurer

On the 22nd of March, I received an email from "Jim Sanders," who I believed was the SIERA Club President, requesting that I meet him "in order to make out a payment to a vendor." Originally, I thought this was a legitimate request. I answered stating that K7PGI and I could meet with him in town. The response was apparently not what "Jim Sanders" wanted to hear, because the next request was for me to send a money order

because the vendor was unable to cash a check. I responded that I needed a copy of the invoice.

It was the request for a money order in the amount of \$1,470 being sent to Scott Wells in Henderson Nevada that immediately raised a red flag in my mind. I checked the Board Minutes of the last meeting to see if anything had been approved by the Board. Seeing that nothing was approved, I checked with my husband (Chuck/K7PGI) to see if the Board had approved such an expenditure, as I had not stayed for the entire Board meeting. Since nothing had been approved, we both agreed I needed to check with other Board members.

After calling three Board Members I finally received a response from Jim Marshall/K6LR confirming that there had been NO approval for the purchase of equipment and that this likely was a scam. The scam was acknowledged by the legitimate president of the SIERA Club (James Sanders/AG6IF) that he was not the sender of the emails, and that he was aware of recent scamming activity, directed at SIERA Club, enough to cause Don McRoberts/W3DRM to remove some SIERA website "Contact Us" privileges from visitors to the home page.

It is interesting to note that in our January Board meeting, it was decided that any check in the amount of \$500 or more required two signatures. This is a great policy that prevents large erroneous payments. Apparently, there is also a requirement that the Board approve all purchases, but in my search of the Bylaws, I could not find such a policy. Something to think about in the future.

DCART Revisited

The emergency service organization, DCART (Douglas County Amateur Radio Team) disbanded for a lot of reasons, but one large reason has to do with the County's relationship with its volunteers. The County's HR decided it would be a swell idea to require all volunteers, regardless of the demographic they served, to agree to annual background checks.



(If you want to know why this is so onerous, check out Diana Ford's Letter to the Editor: <https://www.recordcourier.com/news/2022/mar/16/march-16-2022-r-c-letters-editor/>.)

At the March general meeting, Jim Marshall K6LR reported that there was so much blow-back toward these requirements they've paused to rethink the issue.

Jim also announced that Ron Sagen, the 911 Dispatch Center Supervisor, is retiring in the next year. Ron's leadership has been important for the installation of W7SR station at the Center and in supporting DCART's work. During last summer's fires, however, DCART was never deployed to assist in communications. That would've been the prime time to use DCART's resources, especially when the Tamarack and Caldor Fires severely impacted Douglas County residents.

When questioned about the future of the station, Jim assured DCART members that W7SR would remain intact after Ron leaves, and Jim would continue maintaining the equipment as he had done for the past several years. Should there be a need to use the station, Jim said those who still have their DCART badges can use them as ID to enter the 911 Dispatch Center.

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV took March off from The Watering Hole to attend a class. Thank you Jim Sanders AG6IF, Ed Eggert K3VO, Garth Grugal KC4M, and Bill Holmes K7DUY for hosting. The Watering Hole is held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330/240MHz. A round-table discussion about anything Amateur Radio.

By The Way:

Garth Grugal KC4M, who hosted The Watering Hole Wednesday March 2nd, has offered an MFJ Model 259C antenna analyzer for sale for \$250. He says it's in very good condition and the batteries were always removed when he wasn't using it. Garth can be reached at kc4mradio@gmail.com

ICOM complete radio station sells for \$750:



Joel Parker, KK6ZUP, who lives in the Holbrook Highlands south of Carson Valley, purchased the total HF radio station from Jim Marshall. It was donated to SIERA in the hopes that a new ham would be able to own it. Mission accomplished! Have fun with that station, Joel.

L0969 Communications Unit Leader (COML) April 11-14, 2022, Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno.

This course is designed for all state/territory, tribal, regional, and local emergency response professionals and support personnel with a communications background. It is designed to familiarize these professionals with the role and responsibilities of a COML under NIMS ICS and to provide hands-on exercises that reinforce the lecture materials. CISA and FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offer this course jointly as "L0969, NIMS ICS All-Hazards Communications Unit Leader Course."

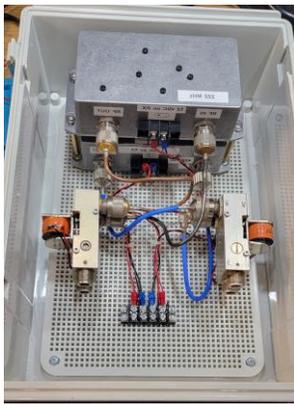


Under the NIMS ICS structure, a COML is the focal point within the Communications Unit. This course provides U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) approved and NIMS-compliant instruction to ensure that every state/territory has trained personnel capable of coordinating on-scene emergency communications during a multi-jurisdictional response or planned event. CISA instructors are approved by DHS and have had extensive experience as COMLs. Register for the course at: <https://www.nvntqs.net>

Don't forget to check out the SIERA website on www.cvhams.com for lots of information and reference material. This includes a form to fill out to update your information when you pay your dues.



From Facebook: David Buckwalter K3SK



K3SK: I played in the ham shack today. More specifically on the workbench. I finally got around to finishing up one of the two mast mount preamp assemblies I'm building. This one holds the preamps and the bypass relays for 222 MHz and 432 MHz. The one yet to be built will hold 2 meters and 23cm preamps and relays, after I build them.

Each of the preamp assemblies are similar. I used broadband high gain LNAs from China. This will allow for quick and low cost replacement if necessary, as they only cost about \$6 each. Each is then protected both on the input and output from high RF using high open port isolation (70db) 50-ohm relays mounted on circuit boards from W6PQL. Each preamp is then

followed by a band pass filter for the band it's being used for. The preamps are 12-volt versions powered at 9 volts using \$2 voltage regulators. The hope here is to reduce heat of the preamp semiconductor and increase the useful life of the devices. They are rated at 30db gain at 12 volts. Measured gain is ~20db at 9 volts.

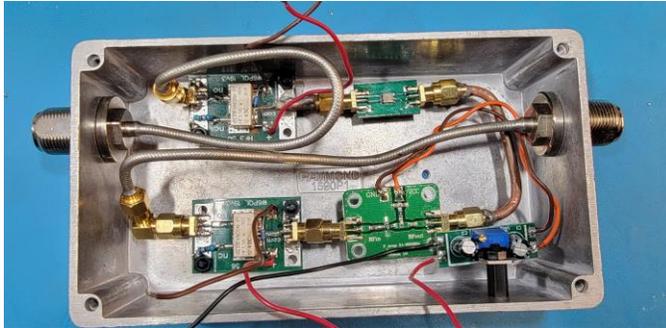
External to the preamp is the high power TX bypass relay. Default bypass is with no DC power to the preamp and relay, this will both protect the preamps in addition to the internal isolation relays as well as allow me to operated with preamps turned off.



Comments:

Chuck Schertle: Great work! How is the construction on the box? I really like the back plane installed in the box. Have you used these boxes before? If so, how is it holding up?

K3SK: Box is a new purchase. Not cheap, about \$60. It's just a little larger than I was looking for. I wanted to be able to have the coax connections inside so I don't need to waterproof them. The box is IP67 rated, which is supposed to be both waterproof and UV safe. Time will tell.



Chuck Schertle: Gotcha. I looked them up on Amazon and was looking at the cost. I can see some uses for this in my shack and would be interested in how this holds up. Primarily, I want to be able to put a Pi and SDR out on the antenna wire and just access it via SSH so I don't have a long signal length on the wire. 12 VDC is easy to get out there.

Editor's Note: This information is from David R. Buckwalter K3SK, in Farmville, VA. Former callsigns include N3BBH, KC3CL, VK8CL, KG4CL. He operates HF and VHF/UHF weak signal modes from Central Virginia Grid Square FM07. <http://k3sk.us> k3sk@buckwalter.co

Licensing Exams

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>



Join SIERA for breakfast on the fourth Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. at the Tail Dragger Café at the Tahoe-Minden Airport. COVID restrictions have been lifted.

Nets Available in Carson Valley and Beyond:

The SNARS Noon Net daily on 147.150MHz.

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

BARC Nightly Net, 8 p.m. on 146.655MHz pl 131.8, pre-check-in at 7:30 p.m.

Tahoe Basin ARES Net, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on 147.330/147.240MHz.

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.carsoncityvares.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.

SIERA Board Meeting Minutes March 5, 2022 (Amended March 19, 2022)

Meeting called to order at 12:04 by Jim Sanders

In Attendance:

Jim Sanders AG6IF, Ed Terlau KG7ZOP, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, David Granish KI6EWK, Mel Hogan WA6EYD, Jim Marshall K6LR, Don McRoberts W3DRM, Mary Lou Gervie, Chuck Gervie K7PGI.

Life Members / VIP Category for roll call?

A discussion was held regarding the need for a special category for hams that wouldn't be dues paying members, but kept on the roll call in recognition for other contributions they've made. Apparently bumping some folks off the roll call caused some ill will despite the rules being clear. Consensus was that removing them from the list was the right thing to do, but no clear alternative status was accepted for an alternative status.

Contributing, nonparticipating Members

This discussion revolved around the idea that some folks want to support a club in order to support a repeater they use, but have no intention of being an active member of the group. It was suggested that we had a choice to the membership form where folks can select to contribute any amount of money to support the NV7CV repeater without the expectation of being an active member. Don McRoberts will look into this.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as stated.

The Greater Nevada Credit Union seems to be ok now with SIERA being a non-profit group.

(Amended) A dollar amount of \$400 was agreed upon for the donation to the Church for the use of their meeting room. The donation will be paid in two payments of \$200 each.

Once in the first six months of the year, the second payment during the second six months of the year. (end amendment)

Membership

Membership renewals are complete. We have 71 paid members.

Insurance issues

Clarification: There is no form to fill out if we have an event; we just need to record in the minutes that the event will be done with the Board's approval.

Insurance & Pony Express

Gerry Miller is a member of both SIERA and the Pony Express organization. As long as someone is a member of both organizations, we are covered by the Pony Express liability insurance, provided that our participation is part of the planned communications support.

Field Day and the Airport

David KI6EWK will contact the airport and make sure that we still have the RV parking lot available to us for Field Day. There is some question about this as the RV parking lot seems to be used semi-permanently by some folks. We'd like some clarity on the situation. David will also determine who at the airport needs to see our insurance certificate.

EmmComm Coordinator

Jeff Cauhape is the EmComm coordinator.

* Alternative to 3982 kHz (75m band) for net.

I suggest we try 28.350 MHz in the 10m band. We should announce the test at the April club meeting. We could do it by having the regular roll call on 3982 kHz, then QSY to the 10m band and see who shows up. Take roll call again. Compare results. Do this every week for the month of April and ask the membership what they think.

* SIERA EmComm Plan

First draft has been presented at the February club meeting. A follow up was emailed to the board afterwards. Jeff will update the current plan again before the April meeting and then wait for the MOU with TARA.

Correspondence

TARA and SIERA will be working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding repeater use and cooperation during an emergency. It's expected that the SIERA EmComm Plan will need modification to better dovetail with TARA and the MOU.

Currently, SIERA is waiting to hear from TARA and to see the first draft

Meeting closed at 13:05

Letter of Resignation

To the Board and Membership of SIERA:

This month's Beacon marks six years that I've been editor of the SIERA newsletter. I've enjoyed producing the Beacon. It has broadened my knowledge of amateur radio and acquainted me with the members. There are a few issues, however, that are making it

more difficult for me to effectively produce the Beacon to the satisfaction of our growing and changing membership.

First of all, I've never felt technically competent enough to write articles that would satisfy the needs of many in the Beacon readership. That has not improved as I age. I struggle more each day to find the correct words to use. My intent in the past was to distill discussions from the meetings and The Watering Hole, but to me, radio jargon is like listening to someone speaking in tongues. It's always been that way and I can't get past it. Various members, such as David DeAnglis K1SCN, Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, and Jim Marshall K6LR, have helped tremendously by writing articles or being gracious enough to write brief explanations of their projects. All I had to do was clean up the grammar and spelling. Such members are the biggest reason for the Beacon's success.

Technical information can be found in national magazines and other resources, however. So for that reason, I've focused upon people stories, their projects and tech solutions, as well as how SIERA members affect the public and event participants who aren't involved with radio. In the past year, that's gotten me into trouble.

One event organizer was so upset by my inadequate reporting that a lengthy and rancorous back-and-forth email thread ensued. He now communicates through a relay. That's not going to work for me in covering the event from now on and is unfair to the relay person. That experience isn't the only clash, however.

I feel my relationship with SIERA members has become increasingly toxic. I know my behavior has sometimes been prickly and curt with some members. For this, I apologize. Because of that, I don't enjoy meetings nor monitoring the radio anymore. In fact, I've retired my radio station to avoid the temptation to pick up the mic and rip into someone. As one ham pointed out to someone I reamed, if she doesn't like what you're talking about, she doesn't have to listen.

Thus, being Beacon editor has become more difficult than necessary. I've hurt people's feelings and have overstepped the bounds by being vocal during meetings and other occasions.

Therefore, I am resigning with this issue of the Beacon. I thank the 2016 Board for giving me the opportunity to do the Beacon, the SIERA Facebook page, and serving as PIO. I thank all the Elmers for their patience and knowledge. I can forward my Beacon template, photos/clipart, and mailing list to the next editor if that would be useful. And I'm available for any consultation if needed.

73 to all.
Sue Cauhape KI7CTT
CLEAR



How many antennas can you find in this photo?