



SIERA News



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MAY 2010

EMCOMMWEST2010 is now put to bed and was a successful venture for the participants and for SIERA. The event sponsors were kind enough to offer us a table in the vendors section. Since this area offers the most traffic, it was an ideal setup for us. Once again, SIERA joined with TARA to man the table and talk to the many participants coming by to chat. We defined ourselves from the other clubs by displaying our magnetic sign – one from each club. We also had our tri-fold brochure available for handout, as well as club membership applications. Three of the latter were handed to seemingly interested parties. Admittedly, we were a bit stingy with our brochure. These are a considerable expense to the club and the thought of somebody casually picking one up, quickly perusing it and dumping it in the nearest trash receptacle was more than this old heart could stand.

The exposure to SIERA and TARA was well worth the ef-

fort, not just with the participants but with the other clubs at adjoining tables. Attending members from both TARA and SIERA were quick to offer their time to man the table in shifts. It worked out well, with nobody left to do all the heavy lifting.

On the 15th, the many volunteers will enjoy an appreciation dinner. SIERA supplied the “grand prize” for their raffle – a Yaesu FT-250 HT. Great exposure for the club and further recognition of our place in the Amateur Radio community of Northern Nevada. Good public relations!

It would be difficult to quantify the true value to SIERA for our participation efforts. Those of us attending this function were left with the feeling it was a good effort and both SIERA and TARA are held in high regard by the neighbor clubs.

With the approach of summer, our minds turn to our

several local outdoor activities, primarily the bike rides and the Pony Express re-ride, which is right around the corner. From June 8th through the 12th, SIERA members (helped by some from TARA) will be busy following the pony folks across the state. No matter how many times you’ve participated in this adventure it always seems new, exciting and inviting. If you haven’t signed on, contact Will (KD7NIR) and get a fine location or route. This year Will has something new to offer participants. All those giving of their time and radio talent will receive a SIERA coffee cup. Sort of a volunteer commemorative. Of course, if you don’t wish to volunteer, you can still get a SIERA cup from Will. They’re only \$200 each. Perhaps better to participate and get one gratis.

Then, along with a large contingent of pony riders, SIERA will celebrate the success of the re-ride with our annual potluck at Lampe Park on the 17th of June. Once again,

great fun.

TARA asks SIERA members to participate in the June 6th running of "America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride". This, too, is a fine day in the sun, enjoying the balmy breezes of Lake Tahoe. See Don (W3DRM) to get on the list. You'll be glad you did.

SIERA has been asked, by TARA, to participate in the DEATH RIDE, on July 10th. This is the most celebrated bike ride in the west. Very active communications and great training. Contact Dick (KD7JMR) and get signed on.

SIERA REPEATER

The SIERA club repeater operates on 147.330 + MHz with an input PL of 123 Hz. It is located at the Leviathan radio site. This site is in Alpine County CA about 20 miles SSE of Minden and is at an elevation of about 8900 ft. The site is on Forest Service land and is managed by California Highway Patrol. It provides solid coverage into Carson Valley and much of Smith Valley to the east, Antelope valley to the south and Alpine County to the west.

The first SIERA repeater was a Uniden reconditioned commercial repeater that was installed at the site around 1988. It was replaced in 1990 with an ICOM RP1510. The next repeater was a Kendecom Mark 4CR which was installed in 1994 and is still in service. A backup Kendecom KRP5000B was purchased about 2000 but has not been put in service.

This site is used by several public service agencies including Douglas County Sheriff, Alpine County Sheriff and East Fork Fire District. We are indebted to the early founders of the radio club for gaining access to this site and keeping an active repeater on the air since June of 1988. George Uebele and others worked with Douglas County to reach an agreement on including the club and the repeater in their emergency communications plan, thus justifying the installation of the equipment at this public agency radio site. Since we are considered a part of the Douglas County emergency plan, the club has not had to pay users fees over the years.

In 1995, the site was given an overhaul which included an extensive solar panel array to provide power for all users.

The site is backed up by a propane generator.

We have been informed by CHP that a complete rebuild of the site is being planned. It will include a new building, tower and solar panels. We still have the support of Douglas County and anticipate continued operation under the existing agreement. In addition, Alpine County recognizes the service we now provide for the Death Ride and that we could provide for emergencies.

Many thanks to all members, past and present who have made it possible to put this repeater on the air and who continue to build public relations in our community for its service.

2010 CALENDAR

May 22	– Social Bkfst
June 5	– Meeting 1pm
June 6	– AMBBR
June 8–12	– PEX Re-Ride
June 17	– ReRide Potluck
July 3	– Meeting 1pm
July 10	– DEATH RIDE
July 23	– DR Dinner
July 24	– Social Bkfst
Aug 7	– Meeting 1pm
Aug 28	– Social Bkfst
Sept 4	– Meeting 1pm
Sept 12	– Tour de Tahoe
Sept 25	– Social Bkfst