



SIERA BEACON

News for the SIERA Membership, Carson Valley, NV

December 2017



Post-Holiday Party at Black Bear Diner January 6th

As per usual, our post-holiday party will replace the January meeting. Lots of raffle prizes, great food, and fun. Festivities begin at 1 p.m. in the banquet room of the Black Bear Diner in the MAX Casino, Carson City. (Doors open at 12:30.)

We're trying something different with the raffle this year. Baskets will be placed in front of each prize for you to put in as many tickets as you want. And there will be some real goodies to choose from. You'll just have to come to the party to find out what they are.

We chose Black Bear Diner because you can order what you want, split an order between two people, and have your own check. No sending a check to the treasurer by a certain date. We know how plans change.

Also, we want to extend an invitation to members of TARA to join us for our party, just as they have invited us to theirs.

TARA Christmas Party:

SIERA is invited to join TARA for their Christmas Party, Sunday December 3, at 5:30 p.m. at the Carson Valley Inn. Tickets are \$15 per person.

Next Meeting: December 2, at 1 p.m. at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Lane, Gardnerville. Linda Smith will bring her traditional December meeting cookies and Cathy Carney has also volunteered to bring refreshments. There will be plenty of goodies for our final meeting of 2017.



Joe Turek Memorial Service

A memorial service for Joe will be held Sunday, December 10 at noon at the Johnson Lane Volunteer Fire Station 6, on Stephanie Lane. Joe died in July from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident. He was actively involved in many volunteer programs, including DCART and CERT, and was a member of SIERA.



New Board Members for 2018

At the November meetings, members approved the new Board members for 2018. They are: Jeff Cauhape K7BCV, president; Ben Echavarria N7BBE, vice president; Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, secretary/PIO; Debbie Williams N7XYL, treasurer. Bob Williams K7VOC, Tom Tabacco KE7NJ, Jim Marshall K6LR, Greg Moore KG7DMI, and David Granish KI6EWK are directors. David Granish, Jim Marshall, and Greg Moore replaced vacancies left by Ed Eggert KV7S, Daryl Haines KE7HDX, and Isaiah Echavarria KG7NHY.

BARC Links Repeaters Along Highway 395

After three years of hard work and radio wizardry, BARC (Bishop Amateur Radio Club) has linked repeaters from Leviathan Peak south to Mazourka Peak. Tuesday, Nov. 21, John Shepherd AD6NR on Antelope and Mark Caton W6WWA at Crowley Lake talked back and forth as they tweaked the system to perfect this linkage. The goal is to provide radio coverage from Carson City to Olancho along Hwy 395.

During the afternoon, they received SIERA assistance with radio checks from Bob Williams K7VOC and Sue Cauhape KI7CTT. David Granish KI6EWK also responded as he and Julie Cameron W7EJC drove to in LA. Sue could hear them as they passed through Lone Pine, CA.

As this blessedly warm day neared sunset, John started suffering from the cold as well as altitude sickness. He had been trying to link up Mammoth with Silver Peaks for hours and was more than ready to go home. He still had a serpentine road to drive in the growing darkness. There were still a few things to solder and program before he could leave. At 3:50 PST, he called out his final message that he was done for the day and headed home.

Well done, gentlemen. This is a huge boon to travelers and recreationists of all kinds throughout this remote area. We will all be grateful for your diligence and expertise in getting this herculean task finished.

Here are the repeater frequencies: Leviathan 146.655 - 131.8; Conway Summit 146.880 - 131.8; Silver Peak 146.940 - 103.5; Antelope Peak 146.970 - 131.8; Mazourka Peak 146.730 - 103.5.

Bravo 3 turns the link down/off and Alpha 3 is up/on to turn off the link from the Carson Valley end.

Thank you, BARC, for your hard work to make this valuable system a reality.

Here is a webpage link with a comprehensive chart of frequencies:

<https://www.n6ov.com/repeater.html>

Nov. 22 email from John Shepherd AD6NR:

"I would very much like to thank all those that have been helping on this project! We are getting closer to providing good 2M repeater coverage along the US 395 corridor from Pearsonville to Carson City, but we are not there yet.

Even after considerable effort and support from many folks, both on and off the site we have not yet succeeded in connecting the three linked Mono County 2M repeaters to the two linked 2M repeaters in Inyo County.

Interference from an FM broadcast transmitter on Silver PK made it impossible to reliably access the Mono County repeaters via a UHF link from Silver to their UHF hub on Conway.

We have been unable to identify an immediately accessible intermediate site where we could install a UHF relay from Silver to Conway to work around that interference issue. An attempt to link from Silver to Antelope on VHF (essentially an in-band repeater) failed because the transmitter going to Antelope on 146.37 blocked the Silver Pk. repeater receiver on 146.34!

We are now working on connecting Silver to Antelope using an intermediate relay. UHF from Silver to the relay and VHF to Antelope. We have identified a potential site for the relay and are looking at others. Because snow will soon and close access to Silver Pk. our plan is immediately install the UHF link radio there and build up the relay as soon as possible.

We have successfully installed a link from Silver to Mammoth Mt! However, we will probably not be able to use the link to Mono county and the link to Mammoth at the same time."

John also included two detailed documents that we will forward to Don McRoberts for upload onto the website and will bring hard copies to the next SIERA General meeting.

Greg Moore KG7DMI has Elmer Bragging Rights

(from Greg's emails sent 10/30 and 11/1) *"As you know, last weekend was the CQ WW DX SSB contest, sponsored by CQ magazine. It's one of the biggest world-wide contests. As soon as we got home from the (Nevada Day) parade, Subrina (Vinton KI7OAL) jumped on the radio and started dialing around. As soon as I noticed what she was doing, I told her to get N1MM Logger open and get the contest set up. If you're going to dial around, it's only a matter of time until you want to work a station. So be prepared. It only took her a few minutes to get N1MM set up and working. Subrina was able to work Alaska, Hawaii, and Canada. Then she made her first real DX contacts, Jamaica, Chile, Russia, Germany and France! Things moved a LOT faster than the QSO parties she had been working, but she did get through the pile ups and make the contacts. I know I'm being foolish, but I really hope with Subrina working QSO parties and contests, more of the club, especially the women, will see it's easy and a lot of fun. And this is all her. I'm not pushing her at all! I didn't even suggest she work the contest. The truth of the matter is after the last QSO party, I told her no more working under my call sign. Its time she upgraded if she wants to use HF."*

Speaking of Upgrading...

Congratulations to our four new SIERA Generals: David Granish KI6EWK, Julie Cameron W7EJC, Sue Cauhape KI7CTT, and Michael Whitten KI7NIP. Be sure to tell your friends about this valuable service provided by SIERA for aspiring HAMs.



David Granish	KI6EWK
Julie Cameron	W7EJC
Sue Cauhape	KI7CTT
Michael Whitten	KI7NIP

Congratulations also go to new Technician and General licensees:

Douglas Jones
 Jerry Easley
 John Fansler - KE7USX

We hope they'll join us in SIERA.



ARRL VEC Licensing Exams: SIERA offers these exams on the third Saturday every other month at 9 a.m. in the Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church behind the Best Buy on Topsis Lane. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. **The next exam: January 20th. Contact :Greg KG7DMI@frontier.com.**

DCART Community Service

If you've ever wondered about how HMs benefit local communities, here's Sheila Clement's KA7AJQ run-down of activities.

"Douglas County Amateur Radio Team volunteers logged many hours for a wide range of activities including packet radio/RMS, NV ARES leadership meeting, Pacificon, DMR training, the Nevada Day Parade, local Search and Rescue operations and training, and State radio frequency coordination and planning. Lyon County, Ely, Elko, and Winnemucca along with other Nevada counties and cities have great coordination with search and rescue training and operations, and with local government officials. DCART member, (John Abrott) KD7NHC, of Lyon County had an emergency callout for a missing boater. KD7NHC participated in community public service events. Also, DCART members are working with State officials on frequency coordination plans. Other operations include antenna/repeater/packet mountain top repairs and local mentoring and assisting with Silent Key operators' estates."

By the way, Sheila has returned home for recovery from her recent knee surgery. We wish her the best in getting back to full capacity on her new knee. Take care, Sheila.



HF Bands and Sun Spots

There has been a lot of discussion about how degraded the HF bands are lately. Here's an article from *Sky and Telescope* that explores this issue.

Solar Cycles: <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/astronomy-news/the-weakest-solar-cycle-in-100-years/>

Here are some ARRL links Jeff Cauhape K7BCV thought you'd enjoy:

The ARRL Ares E-Letter:

<http://www.arrl.org/ares-el?issue=2017-11-15>

Audio pod casts from ARRL, "The Doctor is In:

https://www.blubrry.com/arrl_the_doctor_is_in/

Contest Information from Greg Moore KG7DMI:

The Contest station D4C made a video to promote contacts in an upcoming event. Even though the event is long over, the video shows why and how big stations work the world so easily. Big stations are perfect for your first contest contacts. It's almost a "How to" video on contesting.

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

Upcoming: December 9-10, 2017 ARRL 10 Meter all modes contest

Most action will be between 28.300 Mhz and 28.500 Mhz. **This portion of the HF bands is open to Tech license holders!!** Because we're at the bottom of the sun spot cycle, 10m isn't expected to be working very well. This means we will likely only be able to work the BIG contest stations. This is great if you're new to contesting or a new ham in general. The big stations are usually loud and can hear you no matter what antenna you're using.

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

Quartzfest is coming up in January. Anybody going?

<http://www.quartzfest.org/>

January 21 to 27, 2018 in Quartzsite, Arizona

"No other gathering in the world brings together so much "hands-on," demos and innovation in mobile antenna systems, mobile ham shacks, recreational vehicles, EMCOMM systems, off-the-grid living, alternative energy and radio education.

Come join in over a hundred technical seminars plus learning and fun for the whole family."

BARC & SARC in the Park or SARC & BARC in the Park

Bishop/Ridgecrest Hamfest, Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Lone Pine Town Park (Spainhower Park) at north end of town along Hwy 395.

Nets Available in Carson Valley and Beyond:

- DCART Net**, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on 146.655 pl 131.8
 - TARA Net**, Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.240.
 - Plumas County Net**, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., on 145.470.
 - SIERA VHF Net**, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330.
 - SIERA HF Net**, Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on 3982.
 - Brad Smith's (WT6B) Watering Hole**, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on NV7CV 147.330, *"discussing questions and issues pertaining to amateur radio."*
 - BARC Nightly Net**, 8 p.m. on 146.940 pl 103.5
(website: <http://www.n6ov.com/newsletter.html>)
 - SKYWARN** at 7 p.m. Wednesdays and the **NV ARES** is 7 p.m. Thursdays. Both operate on the EchoLink conference server NV-GATE: 152566 EchoLink and can go onto your smart phones, tablets and computers.
 - "When all else fails: Amateur Radio,"* Fridays at 10 a.m. on 147.150.
 - Hospital Net**, Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on 147.150.
 - ARES HF Net**, Saturdays at 7 a.m. on 3965.
 - National Traffic Service Net**, Sundays at 6:15 p.m. on 3945.
 - The SNARS Noon Net** daily 147.15.
 - Hospital Net**, Fridays at 10:30 a.m. on the SNARS linked repeaters.
- | | | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------|--|
| 147.150 | + | 123.0 | Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson, Fallon |
| 147.210 | + | 100.0 | Reno, Sparks |
| 444.125 | + | 123.0 | Reno, Sparks (coming soon) |
| 147.030 | + | 123.0 | Sparks, Spanish Springs, Fernley |
| 146.925 | - | 123.0 | Lovelock, Fallon |
| 146.670 | - | 123.0 | Winnemucca (NNARS Supported) |
| 444.875 | + | 100.0 | Yerington, Smith Valley |

Breakfast and Lunch Gatherings

11:15 a.m., every Wednesday at Jethro's on Kimmerling in the Ranchos.

8 a.m., every fourth Saturday at the Taildragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.





General Meeting, November 4, 2017:

Called to order: 1:07 p.m.

Introductions: John Bachelder KE6GEB and Richard Bigger who doesn't have his license yet. He's checking out the club for interest.

Treasurer:

Checking Starting balance:	\$1947.68
Withdrawals (badges)	25.70
Deposits	.00
Total	<u>\$1921.98</u>
Savings Account Balance	\$4567.22
Dividend Earned	.19
Ending Balance	<u>4567.85</u>
Grand total of both accounts:	\$6489.83

Announcements:

Dec. Meeting Snacks: Cathy Carney volunteered to bring cookies. (Linda Smith also brings her wonderful Christmas cookies as a tradition. We should have plenty of food.)

Business:

Nominating Committee: Bob Williams read off the slate of new officers for voice acclamation. All were accepted. The new Board members for 2018 are: Jeff Cauhape, president; Ben Echavarria, vice president; Sue Cauhape, secretary/PIO; Debbie Williams, treasurer. Bob Williams, Tom Tabacco, Jim Marshall, Greg Moore, and David Granish are directors.

Post-Holiday Party: Bob Williams proposed the three restaurants chosen from among six Bob and Debbie investigated for the party: Jethro's, the Overland, and Black Bear Diner. Black Bear Diner was overwhelmingly chosen as the best deal. The party will be held at 12:30 a.m. in lieu of the January 6th meeting. Members were also told about how the raffle will be handled - with baskets in front of each item so members could put as many tickets as they want in to win the prize.

Members were also reminded of TARA's invitation to join their Christmas Party, Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. at Carson Valley Inn. \$15 for person.

Trailer Update: Bob Williams has finished setting up a packet station for the SIERA trailer. All he needs to connect everything is some cables and coax for the TN. He already found a couple of things at Joe Turek's estate sale this morning. Jeff Cauhape asked him to come by and see if Jeff's cable collection has anything he can use.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 p.m.: David Granish moved and Parker McCarty seconded.

Tube of the Month

4CX35,000C/8349

The upper limit that an air-cooled tube can be made is about 50 KW in dissipation. After that, the heat gets too great and liquid or vapor cooling must be used. In commercial broadcast within the United States, the most powerful or clear channel AM stations are usually no more than 50 KW which requires a tube to be able to have an input of around 70 KW. A very popular tube for this application was EIMAC's 4CX35,000C which was introduced in about 1962. Maximum ratings are 20,000 volts at 15 amps so an output of 50,000 watts leaves lots in reserve. They were recommended for 100,000 watt output transmitters and a pair make an excellent modulator if you needed 200,000 or more watts of audio.

I was lucky enough to be given a pair of these 50-pound monsters that had been used in a Harris MW-50 transmitter at station WBZ in Boston. You really need those handles. The second tube is destined for the Tube Collectors Association Museum in Medford, Oregon if I can get it into the car.

Visit the museum at N6JV.com
Norm N6JV



Thanks, Jim Marshall K6LR for sending this to the Beacon.

Send your news and photos to the Beacon:
scauhape2002@yahoo.com