



SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

June 2018

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

June 2 Busy Day: Swap Meet, General Meeting, Moving Wall

This is going to be such a busy day, the SIERA Board decided to merge a couple of these events and also support the third. Here's the schedule:

- **Northern Nevada Swap Meet**

early in the day at Brad's six-acre property on 1780 Minden, NV. (From downtown turn onto Buckeye and go until East Valley Rd. Cross East Buckeye becomes Benton and the right until it turns with a jog left and there's Bobcat Ct. and ladder fire truck will be landmark.) You can bring your stuff to sell at the swap meet. Then stick around for the meeting.



will be held at Hollander's Bobcat Ct., Minden, NV. Turn onto East Valley where you follow it to Sawmill. At Brad's hook up your stuff to sell around for

- **SIERA General Meeting** will be part of the swap meet to some degree. Same time, 1 p.m., but NOT AT THE CHURCH. Oh, and **you'll need to bring your own chairs.** We'll make a few announcements; maybe talk about some issues and concerns then everyone can hang around and gab and buy stuff.

OR

- You can move on down the road a couple of blocks to visit the **Moving Wall Special Event** at East Side Cemetery on Buckeye. This will be a good time to connect with other visitors to the Wall as well as participate in the Special Event Jim Marshall K7LR has worked hard to arrange. Since the cemetery closes at 5 p.m., that may be the end of it for most people, but Jim hopes enough operators will stick around to make contacts until 8 p.m. The Moving Wall event itself starts after a parade through town on Thursday and goes through Sunday. Our NV7CV trailer station will be parked there all four days. We will need people to help set up on Thursday morning and break the station Sunday afternoon; and operators to work the radios throughout the four days. The announcement on the ARRL website is here: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>

It's going to be a full and fun day, so we hope you can make it.

Safety Day a Big Success

About a dozen children worked the two-meter SIERA trailer during Safety Day. Justin Bero, with Jeff Cauhape K7BCV and the son of one of Hams Eric Bero, was the oldest of them. The talk to Brad Smith WT6B, Paul Gulbro WA6EWV, AG7BY, David DeAngelis K1SCN, as well as a few

For the HF radio, we used K7VOC Bob Williams' antenna pole that supported a 14-gauge insulated on the frame of the truck and using 100 watts of simple, yet Jim Marshall K6LR reached a Ham twenty miles south of Tokyo, Japan that morning set up for the day.

Seventh Area QSO Party:

Eight SIERA Hams set up camp at Burnt Cabin last month for the 7th Area QSO Party. Seven actually worked the radios while the eighth sat on her belle derriere and knitted back at camp.

As predicted, sunspots disappeared and hindered propagation. Even before the contest began, the ICOM 7000 radio quit tuning the VFO manually. It could still be controlled by CI-V (computer), so digital operation would be unaffected, but phone mode would be tricky if possible at all. As soon as Jeff Cauhape K7BCV sat down, he found the ICOM 706 wouldn't tune the G5RV antenna at all and showed infinite SWR. Some quick diagnostics found a broken connection inside the radio at the radio/tuner connector. The 760 wasn't usable and we were now down to one radio.

Despite these problems, the team made 168 contacts equaling 8493 points. Because the NV7CV trailer straddled the junction of Nye, Lander, and Churchill Counties, any contact would earn both stations nine points for digital and six points for phone.

The QSO party itself started at 6 a.m. Saturday and went to midnight; however, Greg Moore KG7DMI and Subrina Vinton KI7OAL furnished a BBQ that started the weekend festivities on Friday night. Mary Nunn KI7VGI did a great job as head burger flipper!

The exercise tested the SIERA trailer radios to the fullest extent. Our newest Hams, Sabrina, Justin Nunn KI7VCJ, Mary Nunn, Sharen Yee KG7DAO, and Mike Yee KF7UGW all learned how to make digital contacts and log them on the N1MM software.

Late that night, digital being dead, they moved to phone mode. Greg made a couple of phone contacts to find out if it would work. Then Mike took over, making his first phone HF contacts ever. Mike really got into the zone, scoring the most contacts for the whole team. When the computers heated up, Mike and Greg swapped out computers.



radio in the shown here our newest children got to Jon Hoffman mobile Hams.

fiberglass wire grounded power. It was so who lived after we got all

Summit, NV



The VFO broke, forcing them to click on the band plan to get as close to calling stations as possible, sometimes having to click back and forth many times to get within usable range. One thing that worked great was Greg's 12v second

monitor. Built from a broken laptop screen, it worked great. The extra screen space was just what the digital station needed. At an informal discussion before breaking camp, Greg suggested putting the computers on risers to get airflow around them, and maybe adding computer fans to circulate the air.

Thank you Greg and Subrina for hauling the trailers and Sani-Huts to the site as well as coordinating the whole event. While only eight people made it out to the desert, there were several SIERA members calling on the NV7CV repeater to check in with them. It was a huge success and a great test of our trailer, the equipment, and these Hams' abilities to solve problems.

And thank you, Greg, for installing formica on the counter top. It makes a huge difference in comfort for the operators as well as looking great.

Greg's notes: Thank you to everyone who helped set up antennas and the trailer, and also helped in breaking everything down. Mary did a great job as official burger flipper. Thank you for stepping up. The food and margaritas were great! I hope every one enjoyed the BBQ as much as Subrina and I did. Many hands make light work.

It seemed everyone had fun and enjoyed getting on the radio. This was a great place to camp and work events. Now that we have a cleared area to set up our station, I'm sure we will return for other events. The Nevada QSO party is in October. We even found another road in that's shorter, more direct and just as smooth. Not that the road we used was bad.

Bob Williams K7VOC has done a great job building the club trailer. It works really well. The club should really use it more. The solar had no problem keeping up with one radio and two computers. I had some trouble getting APRS to beacon. I had it working fine at home, but then I touched one wrong thing and it stopped. I did get it going again once I had a moment to look at it. I also had my car radio set up next to the trailer as a cross band repeater. I set up my radio so as not to a drain on the trailer batteries, keeping all the power for the party radios. A 100w solar panel kept the car battery topped off all weekend. This way we were able to work the Leviathan repeater with a handy talky. Handy in deed!



(Counter-clock-wise from upper right) Greg and Subrina take the morning shift; Greg, Sharen, Mike, and Justin discuss the plan; Subrina staying warm with a s'more; Jeff takes his turn at the computer; and Jeff, Justin, Mary, Sharen, and Mike report for duty.



Campfire(less) discussion:

While sitting around eating s'mores and drinking QSO Party, Justin Nunn asked if SIERA had bumper of us suggested he bring this up at the next meeting. slogan you'd like to offer, let us know. Jeff proposed candidate for a SIERA slogan. ***HAM radio, because users need heroes.***



margaritas at the stickers. The rest If you have a this as a cell phone

© Can Stock Photo

Fun and Cheap Electronics Kits

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV did some poking around on line at Fry's and Amazon and found a list of interesting kits to help people learn soldering and other skills needed for building and repairing radio equipment. Each of these kits could be finished in a single sitting if the student worked directly with a mentor. SIERA members have discussed having hands-on sessions during our General meetings. These kits could be purchased by members and brought to meetings to be assembled there. Then all we would need is the mentor to elmer them. Anybody interested in being the elmer?

These are found at www.frys.com under "electronic kits:"

Velleman 1 Amp Lithium Battery Charging Boards (2)	\$5.69
Velleman Electronic Christmas Tree (16 blinking lights)	\$9.99
Velleman Christmas Tree - Blue LED Version	\$12.99
Velleman MadLab Wonky Wire	\$12.99
Velleman MadLab Lie Detector Kit	\$12.99
Velleman MadLab Bagpipes Kit (8 tones)	\$12.99
Velleman MadLab 1-2-3 Electronic Kit (peg game)	\$14.99
Velleman MadLab Junior Theremin Electronic Kit (synthesizer)	\$19.99
Velleman MadLab E-lock Electronic Kit	\$29.99
Velleman MadLab Electronic Kit - Micro Marquee	\$34.00

At Amazon:

Elenco Auto-Scan FM Radio Model FM-88k	\$17.99
Elenco AmeriKit Learn to Solder Kit (alarm / siren)	\$17.99
WHDT5 - Digital Electronic Clock Kit Soldering Practice	\$8.99
Elenco 0-15V Power Supply Soldering Kit	\$19.91

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **The Moving Wall, May 31-June 4**, at the East Valley Cemetery on Buckeye.
- **Northern Nevada Swap Meet, June 2**, at 1780 Bobcat Ct., Minden, NV
- **The Pony Express Re-Ride, June 22**. Tom needs early morning base stations. Contact him at smokey@pyramid.net
- **Field Day, June 23-24**, at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.
- **Alpina Death Ride, July 14**.
- **Tahoe Rim Trail 2018, July 20**.
- **NVCon, July 20-22**, Boomtown Casino Hotel, Reno, NV.
- **NV QSO Party, October 12-14**.

For more details about these events, check previous Beacon's on www.cvhams.com

For Sale: From Curt Lueck KG7TVC clueck52@gmail.com

Icom IC718 HF Transceiver, ser. #2204516. In good working condition. Includes mic. \$450.00. Bought used in good condition from Ham Radio Outlet in 2015 and only used slightly for six months before my antenna blew down. Moved several times since, in rentals, etc. I never did get it set up again.

- Astron RS-35w Power Supply, ser. #8801593. Worked great with the above radio. \$100.00
- MFJ 17754 Dipole Antenna, 40/20 meters. New in package, never used. \$35.00
- Radio Shack Power/SWR Meter, 3-30 MHZ. Great condition, hardly used. \$ 35.00
- MFJ 392B Headphones. Great condition, only used a couple of months. \$ 20.00
- Homemade 80 meter dipole antenna w/coils. Never used, tested or tuned. Sell for cost, \$20.00

A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada is home to more than 8,900 specially trained and licensed amateur radio operators, who by virtue of their service in providing emergency communications, disaster relief, and support of public events, have demonstrated their value to the welfare of the citizens of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, these amateur radio operators provide such service, equipment, and expertise, without compensation, solely in the interest, and to the benefit of the citizens of the State of Nevada and the world; and

WHEREAS, for more than a hundred years, amateur radio operators have shown their dedication to emergency preparedness, disaster response, community support, and technical exploration; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's amateur radio operators continue in their commitment to promote and encourage young people in the pursuit of educational and career opportunities in the fields of science, engineering, and technology; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada extends appreciation for the licensed amateur radio operators and the role they play in the safety and security of the Silver State and in the promotion of education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim June 2018 as **AMATEUR RADIO MONTH IN NEVADA**

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capital in Carson City, Nevada this 30th day of April, 2018.

Brian Sandoval, Governor

For the full article from Southgate Amateur Radio News about this proclamation:

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2018/may/nevada-governor-issues-proclamation.htm#.WvCN99Mvynd>

DCART NEWS

DCART Webpage: http://webpages.charter.net/douglas_dcart/

Emergency Exercise Report

In lieu of DCART's regular monthly meeting on May 21, we held an exercise at the 911 Call Center to test all our equipment systems. Here is Shiela Clement's report:

"We all had our adventures trying to enter an ID for the Reverse 911 phone call. The wrong message process must have been programmed into the system. Our 911 Director will return to the office the 29th so we will have to see then.

Dispatch was really busy with the thunderstorms, so our staff experienced a busy environment with our exercise. Upon check-in, we usually ask for home or field availability and HF capability. Last night, we knew most had disconnected their antennas for the thunderstorms and were at home. We did not try to have our HF resources come up on 3965 (State ARES plan) with any messages or contacts.

We did not have enough resources or knowledge to experiment with our Fusion set-up this time. We tried packet operations peer-to-peer between a couple of members and between CM11 and 911. The W7SR software malfunction and the Rawe Peak lightning strike disabled our usual packet operation.

I am guessing we all worked with the frequency change operations at home and learned a lot. Next meeting will be an opportunity to talk about the exercise some more."

Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Alpine and Douglas Counties

Report from Jeffrey Brown jebrown@douglasnv.us

Last week Dale Anderson, Don Gerard and myself replaced ALL the antennas except for the long-wire at the dispatch center with new equipment and LMR400 coax, along with grounding. They are as follows

Top Vertical antenna Diamond X-300 dual band

Mid mounted antenna Diamond X-50 dual band

Fusion link UHF Commercial 3 element yagi pointed at Heavenly (mounted on pipe at NW side of building)

New coax run for the HF to the radio desk

Currently the HF has NO antenna connector at the radio desk as we do not have any UHF connectors. We use N type connectors here, so if someone has an extra one and is proficient in installation on LMR400 cable have at it.

There is still some work to be done with grounding the coax shields as they enter the building at the entry panel, that I will hopefully try to accomplish by the end of the week.

Big thank you again goes out to Dale for showing up and helping us get the Ham equipment replaced and tested, and for helping out with some of the public safety cut overs as well.

Submitted by Jeff Brown K5BLS
Public Safety Communications Technician
Douglas County

More About the Sun:

In keeping with our continuing coverage of solar activity, here are two links that may be of interest:

<https://spaceweatherarchive.com/2018/05/01/sunspots-vanishing-faster-than-expected/> --
submitted by Dave DeAngelis K1SCN

<https://www.domesticpreparedness.com/resilience/cascading-consequences-electrical-grid-critical-infrastructure-vulnerability/> -- submitted by Sheila Clement, KA7AJQ

From: "ARRL Web site" <memberlist@www.arrl.org>

ARLB011 Amateur Radio Parity Act Language Inserted in National Defense Authorization Act May 11, 2018 at 12:49:27 PM PDT

ARRL is praising the work of US Representatives Joe Courtney (D-CT), Vicky Hartzler (R-MO), and Mike Rogers (R-AL) for their successful efforts in securing language in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 that aids in the survival and growth of Amateur Radio by giving radio amateurs the right to install an outdoor antenna at their residences with the approval of their homeowners associations. This language - text from the proposed Amateur Radio Parity Act (HR 555) - formed the basis for the Courtney-Hartzler-Rogers Amendment to the NDAA.

The amendment, offered by the bipartisan trio and accepted by the House Armed Services Committee

by voice vote, will ensure that Amateur Radio operators will continue to play a vital role in disaster communication, when called upon. Amateur Radio has long-standing relationships with the Department of Defense through both the Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) as well as spectrum sharing.

The Armed Services Committee passed the NDAA by a 60-to-1 voice vote after a 14-hour markup that ran well into the night. The bill now awaits House floor action. The Senate will begin its markup of the NDAA during the week of May 21.

Excellent Radio Repair Source for Old Radios

Burghardt Radio Repair <http://www.burghardt-amateur.com/>

Jeff Cauhape K7BCV has had good success dealing with this small independent radio repair shop. They service Yaesu, Icom, Alinco, Drake and Kenwood, and others. Because they are so popular and the word is getting out, they're backed up about six weeks right now, but they do dependable work for reasonable prices.

Happy Birthday to:

Chuck Cummings



ARRL Licensing Exam: 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 Hwy 395. Bring a photo ID, a copy of your license if you're upgrading, and \$15. Contact: Greg Moore at KG7DMI@frontier.com for more information.

The next Licensing exam: July 21st.

At our May exam, we got two new extras, two new generals, and four new technicians. Congratulations to all of you. Here is the list:

Thomas Howard - KI7VNE moved up to Extra.
Eric Udell - KN4MCE also moved up to Extra.
Eric Bero - KI7WHH moved up to General.
Christine Banshaw-Walters - new technician
Richard Walters - new technician
Tyler Beranger - new technician
Anastazina Rudolph - new technician
Mathew Henderson - new technician

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 Tail Dragger Café at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.

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.

SIERA VHF Net, Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330.

SIERA HF Net, Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on 3982kHz.

Brad Smith's (WT6B) Watering Hole, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330,

"discussing questions and issues pertaining to amateur radio."

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

BARC (Bishop) 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.

SNARS Hospital Net, Fridays at 10:00 a.m. on 147.030 or 147. (SNARS Linked Repeaters: <https://snars.org>)

ARES HF Net, Saturdays at 7 a.m. on 3965kHz.

RARA, Rural Amateur Radio Association, Saturdays 7:30 a.m. on 3965kHz

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

The SNARS Noon Net daily 147.15.



General Meeting, April 28, 2018:

Called to order: 1:05 p.m.

Introductions: Mike Yee KF7UGW and Sharen Yee KG7DAO, Justin Nunn KI7VGJ and Mary Nunn KI7VGI, Manfred Noder and Guenther Noder K8QJO (Michigan). Manfred is Guenther's son visiting from Germany. Guenther recently moved to Brookdale Senior Care and joined SIERA. Intros included each person describing how they use radio and what their interests are.

Treasurer's Report: for May 2018

Checking Account Starting balance: **\$2467.90**

Withdrawals:

Post Office 102.00

Greg Moore 12.17

Brochures 267.75

Total Withdrawals \$ 381.92

Deposits:

Membership dues 101.00

Ending Balance for Checking Account: **\$2186.98**

Savings Account Starting Balance	\$5068.88
Dividend Earned	.00
Ending Balance:	<u>\$5068.88</u>
Grand total of both accounts:	\$7255.86

Membership: No change

Business:

NVCON: J.D. Fowler is coordinating a booth at the annual NVCON at Boomtown, July 20-22. He needs people who will sit at the booth. He asked that a poster or something showing SIERA activities be made. Sue offered the video on the Facebook page instead, and a large-screen desktop computer to show it.

Pony Express: Tom Tabacco still needs Hams to follow the Pony from Grubbs Wells to Overland Pass West. Contact Tom at smokey@pyramid.net

The Moving Wall: This Special Event at East Side Cemetery still needs operators for the four days. Contact Jim as K6LR@arrl.net.

Field Day: Bob reported about the improvements to the trailer that will be used at the event at the Minden-Tahoe Airport. A sign-up sheet was available for people to operate radios as well as set-up and break camp. The 24-hour event officially runs from 11 a.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday.

7th Area QSO Party Campout: Greg Moore encouraged SIERA members to participate in a QSO party campout that will straddle the corner where Nye, Churchill, and Lander counties. The camp will be set up Friday May 4 at GPS coordinates Greg printed out for anyone interested. The contest is Saturday May 5. He and Subrina Vinton will host a BBQ Friday evening and assures people that any vehicle will be able to set up camp. He will also arrange for porta-potties.

Hats/Badges: \$15 for hats and \$5 for badges.

Classes: Everyone passed the Technician's exam given as the final. New classes start in June. The Tech starts June 6th and runs eleven weeks and the General starts June 4th and runs twelve weeks. Sign up on the WNC Community Education website.

BREAK

Presentation: Instead of a formal talk, those present shared in a Watering Hole Live, having their questions answered by others in the group.

Cookies: Cathy Carney will supply refreshments for the next meeting on June 2.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45



If you have photos and/or can write a short description of whatever you're doing, send it to the Beacon at scauhape2002@yahoo.com. We'd all like to hear about your adventures and discoveries with amateur radio.