



# SIERA BEACON

Carson Valley, NV

March 2022

**The SIERA meetings will be held Saturday, March 5th at the United Methodist Church on Centerville Rd., Gardnerville. Board at noon, General at 1 p.m. There will be discussions about upcoming events, changes in net frequencies, and lots of other issues facing SIERA.**

## **Forest Service Threatens to Charge Fees for Repeaters**

Jim Marshall K6LR is our NV7CV repeater trustee and has been corresponding ... intermittently ... with CAOES and CHP. As such entities have been dealing with turnover issues and other issues, Jim has kept SIERA up to date with the possibility that club repeaters will be charged fees to have their equipment installed on CA emcomm towers and facilities.



For a tense moment there, we heard they were planning to demolish the watchtower where our antenna is installed. Richard Walters, a SIERA member who has been stationed at similar towers during summers told us these towers are on the Historical Registry and cannot be altered or torn down. A sigh of relief ensued.

Meanwhile, we've instituted the Repeater Fund Jar for donations beyond our yearly dues, which go toward this coming fee charge and proposed new tower installation that would be expensive. Most recently, Jim received yet another missive from CA. Here are his latest remarks about this issue:

"Well, California is raising its ugly head again. For the last week or two, I have been in contact with CalOES and CHP concerning our presence at Leviathan. This is the second person at OES and the third for CHP, so am having to reinvent the wheel again. They (again) want to know what equipment we have up there and where on the new tower we want our antenna. I have provided them with the required information, and once again stated that we fall under

the umbrella of Douglas County Emergency services, even though our deactivation with DCART has taken place. (I did not divulge that information).

So far, there has been no indication that the site is in jeopardy, as they asked where we (SIERA) want the antenna to be mounted, nor any discussion of future costs. They estimate the new site will be constructed in the next two to three years, so no need to panic.

The emails have been very conciliatory and cordial. Just wanted to make the Board aware of all the discussions to date. All emails have been printed for future review."

Jim Marshall, NV7CV repeater trustee.

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## **ARRL Seeks Exemption from Proposed US Forest Service**

***Comment Period to be Re-Opened Through - March 31***

ARRL has filed comments with the US Forest Service (USFS) seeking an exemption for amateur radio facilities to a proposed new \$1400 annual administrative fee. The USFS proposal resulted from requirements in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka "the Farm Bill",) which directs the Forest Service to collect fees for issuing communications use authorizations based on the cost to the agency for processing the applications, maintenance, and other related activities. These fees would be in addition to annual rental and cost-recovery fees already being collected.

ARRL's comments can be found online at, <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FS-2022-0001-0749> .

On February 24, the Forest Service filed a Notice in the Federal Register that the comment filing window will be re-opened on March 1 and additional comments will be accepted through March 31. Any radio amateurs missing the first comment period or wishing to add to their earlier comments are encouraged to do so during this additional period.

"Although the discussion put forward by the Forest Service in its proposal focuses on commercial uses, the proposal would sweep within its requirements amateur radio uses that are solely noncommercial," ARRL said in comments filed on February 22. "Radio amateurs establish and maintain facilities at certain locations for public service purposes with no remuneration or reimbursement. Unlike broadcasters and commercial wireless and fiber providers, radio amateurs are uniquely barred by the terms of their federal licenses from receiving compensation of any sort."



"Non-commercial and uncompensated communication uses by radio amateurs within Forest Service areas long have served the public interest in many ways, among them by providing the means for otherwise unobtainable emergency communication capabilities in times of need," ARRL noted. "Amateurs perform this valuable public service without cost to taxpayers. The importance of these capabilities [has] been demonstrated repeatedly. The skills of amateur operators have served our country well with their carefully located equipment when enabling exchanges of possibly life-saving messages in difficult terrain during forest fires, extending communications assistance help during

hurricanes, and providing communications capabilities during search-and-rescue missions in remote areas."

ARRL stressed that equipment, maintenance, and other costs associated with amateur radio facilities on USFS lands "are borne solely by the volunteer radio amateurs themselves." ARRL continued, "Commercial applicants usually request more extensive use of the lands administered by the Forest Service, and these requests necessarily result in more complex issues having to be considered and resolved."

"It is foreseeable that many radio amateurs providing these services would have to opt to withdraw and cease their work," if not exempted from the proposed fees, ARRL said. "In many cases the most useful locations for needed coverage from their stations is uniquely on Forest Service lands. In short, the proposal to include volunteer uncompensated amateur service applicants with the commercial wireless service and broadcast applicants is grossly inequitable.

There is a disparity in the amount of resources necessary to consider applications from radio amateurs as compared to that required by commercial applicants. Our best estimate is that there are fewer than 100 covered amateur locations, but those likely are unique and essential to covering forested areas in times of need, such as forest fires or lost hikers," ARRL said. "These dissimilarities in complexity and scope should be recognized in this fees proposal and amateur radio applications exempted."

## **May I Be So Bold ... Opinion**

By Sue Cauhape, Beacon editor

Traffic on the NV7CV repeater has picked up considerably with local hams having more rag chews and "watering hole" discussions. Using the repeater for elmering sessions is an excellent use of the frequency. Also, DXers have been going on NV7CV to inform others of activity on various HF frequencies throughout the day. As the sunspots increase and band conditions improve, the higher bands, such as 10 and 17 are more active with contests and DX contacts throughout the world. Could it be like the "good old days" that local hams reminisce about so often? Let's hope so. Also, NV7CV is reaching hams outside the confines of Carson Valley, folks like Jim W6QQT out in Mason Valley near Yerngton. That's one great thing about NV7CV. It radiates like a spider's legs as far as Fallon and deeper into that state to the west.

It serves recreationists and emcomm many times during the summer as well as assisting with large-scale events. A snippet of conversation between OHVers came over the frequency just the other day. One guy was warning another about the danger of something he was about to do on a hillside. Another good use of NV7CV. It shows how well the frequency works on repeater and simplex as well.

As you've already read with the above articles, our NV7CV may be in jeopardy of having to pay for its placement on Leviathan. We can hope the case put forth by ARRL will stop this injustice to ham services, but some government entities don't think logically or kindly when their own pockets are draining.

So, if I may be so bold, I'd like to suggest to all those who have discovered how useful and fun NV7CV can be, a donation or a yearly dues payment to SIERA would be a nice gesture and would support the maintenance and possible rents and fees that the club would need to pay. The yearly dues are as low as the price of a magazine subscription or lunch out with the guys. So even if you don't want to or can't be involved in SIERA activities, at least consider paying your dues for the use of the repeater.

## **Summer Activities Coming Up Soon**

With COVID restrictions being lifted in Nevada and even California, it looks like we can get back to participating in various local events as in the good old days before March 2020. Here are the dates of some of our favorites and a couple of new ones in early spring that we can start planning for. Not only do such events give hams practice in passing emergency traffic, they also give SIERA the chance to show off our communications trailer to the public and local government officials. And in case nobody's noticed, they're just plain FUN! We'll keep you posted on further details as they develop.



- Genoa Western Heritage Days: April 29-May 1 in Genoa
- Big Mama's Show 'n' Shine: May 21 at Lampe Park, Gardnerville.
- Pony Express: June 13-16 from Iapah, CA to Woodfords, CA
- Field Day: June 25-26, details to be announced
- Alta Alpina: not even on the docket yet
- Death Ride: July 17 throughout Alpine County.

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## **Want More Technical Information? Here's a Great Local Source:**

The Beacon is always interested in printing technical articles from SIERA members. For a long time, David deAngelis K1SCN contributed articles about all kinds of ham radio subjects. He has since stopped those valuable contributions. But if you want technical advice or information about radio, here is a list of links to websites about and by our president, Jim Sanders. Jim loves to impart his extensive radio wisdom to anyone hungry for such knowledge. He adds copiously to the Watering Hole discussions verbally, but his written work and YouTube videos offer a huge supply of information just at the click of the mouse.

That being said, anyone can submit articles about anything pertaining to amateur radio to the Beacon. Don't be shy. The Beacon editor KNOWS there is a lot of accumulative knowledge among SIERA members. Just email your article(s) to [scauhape2020@protonmail.com](mailto:scauhape2020@protonmail.com).

New Ham Radio License? Now What? By Jim Sanders AG6IF  
Available for \$1.99 on your kindle.

<https://www.amazon.com/radio-license-What-Sanders-AG6IF-ebook/dp/B00IB4AT1M?asin=B00IB4AT1M&revisionId=dcb93d93&format=1&depth=1>

For Jim's YouTube Videos, click on this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/JamesSanders>

Jim Sanders' LinkedIn page:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jamesdsanders>

**Jeff Cauhape K7BCV is taking 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 stepping up for hosting duties. Join the fun Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. on 147.330/240MHz. Questions and Answers about anything Amateur Radio.**

**BY THE WAY:**

**Garth Grugal KC4N, who hosted The Watering Hole Wednesday March 2nd, has offered an MFH 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](mailto:kc4mradio@gmail.com)**

**Also Still FOR SALE - a complete radio station for \$750:**



Complete radio station still: "Like New" ICOM IC-718 HF transceiver, Astron 35 amp power supply, LDG antenna tuner, antennas, microphone, headset, SWR meter. Great for a starting Ham. SIERA is asking \$750.00. Contact: Jim Marshall, at [k6lr@arrl.net](mailto:k6lr@arrl.net)

**ARRL Club Newsletter, Michael Waler W8Zy editor:**

This is a monthly newsletter that comes to your email box from ARRL. Below is the Welcome to this month's newsletter and a list of articles that may be of interest to individuals as well as clubs. To find these articles, click on this link:

<http://www.arrl.org/club-news?issue=2022-02-22>

**Welcome**

I have just returned from HamCation® and the ARRL National Convention in Orlando. It was a great opportunity to meet and talk with members from all over the Southeast. We had quite a team there with members of the Board of Directors and HQ staff. ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, and I took part in the Emergency Communication Academy on Thursday and were part of the overall team at HamCation Friday through Sunday. The weather was great most of the time. We did get a little rain on Sunday morning, but attendance was very good. It was nice to see a crowd out and about. Now we start getting ready for the Dayton Hamvention in May. In the clubs area of the ARRL booth, I was asking folks just what they would do to improve amateur radio. The answers were varied, but most boil down to a few things:

1. Outreach to the community around your club.
2. Work to build better relationships in the local schools.
3. Be a better mentor to new hams.
4. Offer new hams a free membership in your club for the first year.
5. Embrace technology, like gaming, to reach a younger crowd.

With that in mind I would like to ask all of you, what would you do to improve amateur radio. Send me your suggestions to me at [clubs@arrl.org](mailto:clubs@arrl.org). I will report back next month on some of the ideas.

Hamfest season is getting started and I know that clubs are starting to do activities. Please send me your stories so I can share them here.

73, Mike, W8ZY

- [Field Day is Coming-Start Planning Now](#)
- [Let's Talk About Grants](#)
- [Mistakes of 150 Years Ago](#)
- [SANTA CRUZ ARES Runs Another Successful SAFE Event](#)
- [Lewis and Clark Trail On The Air](#)
- [K1EIC Honored by the State of Connecticut for Service to Higher Education](#)
- [Submitting Info for This Newsletter](#)
- [How to Plan and Apply for an ARRL Hamfest or Convention](#)
- [Important Links](#)

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Here is a good video worth watching.

**Topic: Tactical Communications Operations**  
**Speaker/Presenter: Matthew Littleton, KN4SWB**  
**Fire Chird, Easley, South Carolina**  
**Emergency Management and Disaster Communications**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvHLYCgU4c>

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### **SIERA Board Meeting Minutes February 5, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 by Jim Sanders

In Attendance:

Jim AG6IF  
Ed KGZOP  
Jeff K7BCV  
David KI6EWK  
Mel WA6EYD  
Jim K6LR  
MaryLou  
Chuck K7PGI

#### Bank Actions

The board approved the move of our accounts to Greater Nevada Credit Union. The authorized check signers are: Mary Lou Gervie, Jeff Cauhape, Jim Marshall and Jim Sanders.

### Treasurer's Report

The hand-off audit from Debbie to MaryLou went well and no irregularities were found.

The cash in the repeater fund has been added to the checking account but will be tracked as a separate line item in that account.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as stated.

### Membership

Members are slow to renew, but this is normal and progress is being made.

### Registered Agent

Jim Marshall has become the "Registered Agent" for SIERA with the Nevada Secretary of State.

### Insurance issues

The board discussed what is and is not covered with our club's insurance policies.

-- ARRL insurance covers the equipment in the club trailer and the repeater hardware on Leviathan Peak.

-- Whoever is towing the trailer will cover the trailer itself with their personal auto/home insurance.

-- American Family covers personal liability for sanctioned club events, HOWEVER we need to specify ahead of time which events are club sanctioned and the address of the event needs to be documented with an insurance form.

\* To be club sanctioned, we need to record in the minutes that the Board has decided to sanction an event.

\* There is a form that needs to be filled out ahead of time describing the date and location of the event.

>> Where do we get the form? Do we submit this to American Family or do we keep it?

>> Jim AG6IF needs to provide this information for the classes that are scheduled.

### Donation to Church for use of meeting rooms

After much discussion we decided to increase the donation to the Church for the use of their facilities.

Points:

\* We will pay annually.

\* We will go back in our records and find out how much we paid the last year where we used the meeting room all year. (3 years ago?)

\* We will increase that dollar amount by some percentage.

When we know how much we paid last for a full year, we will decide what percentage to increase it.

### EmmComm Coordinator

Jeff Cauhape has agreed to be the Club's EmmComm coordinator.



Jeff has two tasks to begin with:

1. Look for an HF band with less noise than 80m for the Tuesday night HF Net. The 10m band has been suggested.

I have attended the Eagle Valley / Carson Valley 10m net a couple of times this week as it is a good proxy for what we want to do. Ground wave on 10m is working well enough at night, and the band is less noisy.

On the next HF Net, we should ask people who attend if they can work 10m or not and see if we'd be missing anyone.

If we decide to move to the 10m band, I suggest we pick a frequency in the 28.300 MHz to 28.500 MHz range as this is also in the Novice/Tech segment of the 10m band.

2. Look at modifying the VHF net procedure to either include some simplex operation in to the procedure or replacing duplex repeater operation with a simplex net.

While using the REV button on a 2m radio is handy for hearing people who may not be able to reach the repeater well, it is not adequate for net control when the repeater goes down. The problem becomes apparent when you try to have three or more people try to communicate. When the repeater is not available, the only way to increase the odds of everybody hearing everybody else is to operate simplex.

### My suggestions:

1. First person to realize the net is down in an emergency switches to simplex and stays on 147.330 to act as net control. They should announce that they are operating simplex from time to time. This way, even people who have not switched over to simplex yet can still at least hear what is going on.
2. All SIERA members should store 147.330 as a simplex frequency in the memory of their radio BEFORE HAND.
3. We need one (1) additional simplex frequency to have stored as a backup in case we can't, or don't want to use 147.330. I need to research what we have used in the past.

### Correspondence

None.

Meeting closed at 12:55



## **Taking 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>

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



**Don't forget to check out the SIERA website on [www.cvhams.com](http://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.**

## **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.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).

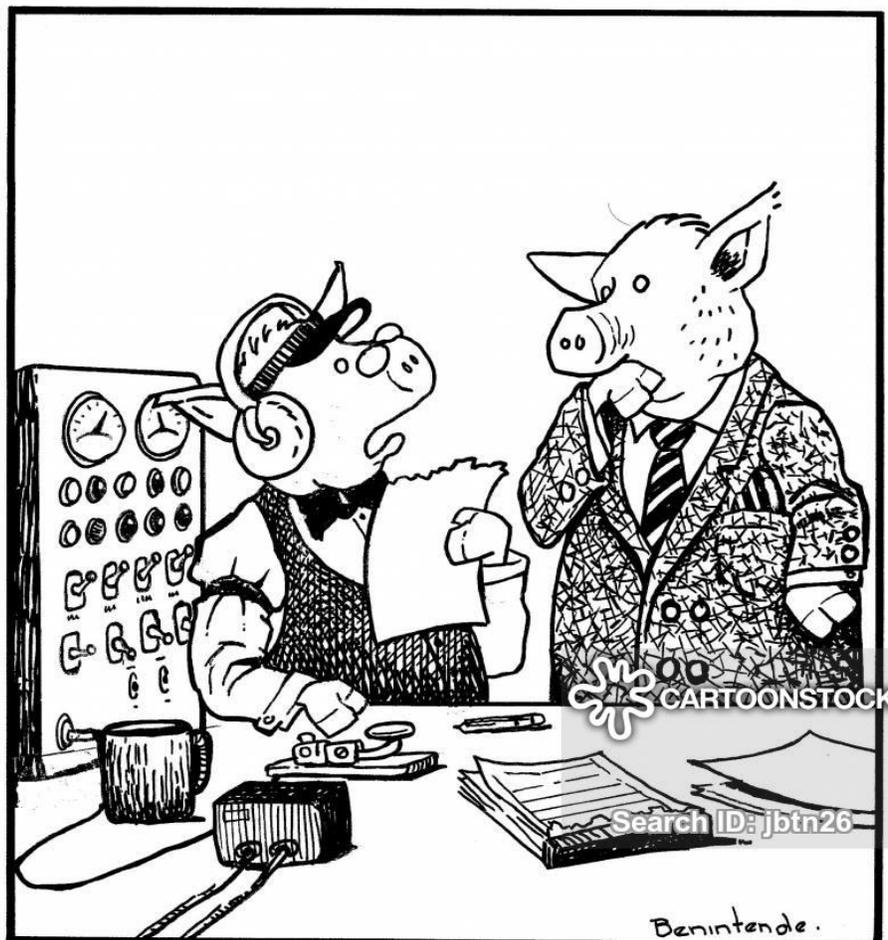
**RARA, (Rural Amateur Radio Association)**, Saturdays 7:30 a.m. on 3965KHz

**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.

**Remember to send your photos and news for the Beacon and the  
SIERA Facebook page to [scauhape2020@protonmail.com](mailto:scauhape2020@protonmail.com).**



"E...l...E...l...O."