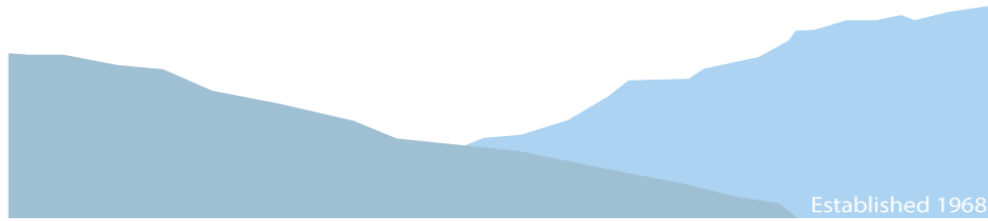


CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

JANUARY 2014

PRESIDENT'S VOICE

It's the Start of another year – The Board of Directors for 2014 is as follows:

Mike, N7MSK	President	2 year term
Don, N2MOO	Vice-President	2 year term
Tony, N7ACM	Treasurer	2 year term
Scott, KC7STV	Secretary	1 year term
Jim, KD7DPW	Board Member	2 year term
Dave, KF7EGU	Board Member	1 year term
Jim, W6US	Board Member	1 year term

We will have a lot going on this coming year. The Nevada State Convention, Field Day, lots of training programs (check the web site for listings), special events/races all summer long; we are planning to have a special events station to celebrate the 150th year of Nevada Statehood; presentations at the monthly club meetings, Swap meets, VE exams, and whatever else presents itself.

The Tech committee, chaired by John Byerly, N7ROJ is developing a work plan and a budget over the winter for the maintenance that needs to be done, including upgrades to some radios, repeaters and antennas. There will be a repeater on Winnemucca Mtn. as soon as a site is obtained. We have the radio equipment to go up there now. This will provide us a link to Elko which will enable I-80 radio coverage from Elko to Reno.

By the time you read this, we will have a D-Star station for all to use. There will be a D-Star class offered soon to get everyone up to speed on using this mode properly.

In January there will be a training class for all of our Control Operators. It will provide continuity among all the CO's so that uniform messages are being sent out to users, and will provide a forum for Q & A's.

Also in January the Nevada State Convention planning committee will be working with the Virginia City Chamber and EOC to finalize some details for the 5/30 – 06/01 convention. At that time we will have more info that we will start using for advertising the convention.

Please let Board Members know of any concerns, ideas, suggestions that you have so that we can work on them to continue to improve your club.

SNARS meeting January 4



Jack's Restaurant, 7671 South Virginia Street starting at 0730. Breakfast will be available.

Aaron Kenneston, Washoe County Emergency Manager from the EOC will speak on Local Government Emergency Preparedness and the role of Amateur radio operators.



SNARS, P.O. Box 7727, Reno, NV 89510

Membership: \$25 Individual, \$40 Family

OFFICERS 2014

President.....	Mike Katz.....	N7MSK
Vice President.....	Don Seibert.....	N2MOO
Treasurer.....	Tony Marcin.....	N7ACM
Secretary.....	Scott Brink.....	KC7STV
Director.....	Jim Rosima.....	KD7DPW
Director.....	Dave Miles.....	KF7EGU
Director.....	Jim Shepard.....	W6US

STAFF 2014

By Laws Review Committee.....	KE7HLR
Call Sign Badges.....	KB7GNA
Club Public Information Officer.....	KF7IAW
Control Operators Manager.....	N7TGB
Cracklin' Static Editor.....	WB2AWQ
Digital SYSOP.....	K7JN
Meeting Greeters.....	AE7OX
History Archivist.....	KF7KTC
SK Estate Advisors.....	KB7IWT
Station Licensee for KR7ENO.....	WB2AWQ
Control Operators FOR KR7ENO.....	WB2AWQ
Station Licensee for W7TA.....	K7JN
Control Operators for W7TA.....	K7JN
Tech Committee Chair.....	N7ROJ
Chief VE Examiner.....	NN7K
Membership Chairman.....	N2MOO
Awards Chairman.....	KB7ZBN
Program Chairman.....	N2MOO
Web Master.....	N7ACM & KG7DLF
Facebook Page Administrator.....	N7ACM & KG7DLF

CRACKLIN' STATIC PUBLICATION

E-mail..... **holden7471@msm.com**

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size or line spacing may be required in order to publish this Newsletter.

Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

Cracklin' Static is e-published in Adobe PDF Format. It may be enjoyed at the SNARS web site.

Amateur Radio License Testing 2014

SNARS, Third Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Testing will be at the REOC located at 5195 Spectrum Blvd., Reno

..... Bill Nichols.. NN7K

SIERA CLUB: Silver State Charter High School, 788 Fairview Dr, Carson City..... 3rd Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November

.....Dale Anderson, kv7s@charter.net

Elko Area: Third Saturday of January, April, July, October. 11:00AM, Northeast Nevada Regional Hospital, 2001 Errecart Boulevard, Elko, NV

.....Joe Giraudo, N7JEH n7jeh@arrl.net

SNARS Repeater System Frequencies

Linked System --- Reno, Carson Area

146.610 (-) PL 123.0

443.075 (+) PL 123.0

Lovelock & Black Rock area

146.925 (-) PL 123.0

Mt Rose Linked System

147.030 (+) PL 123.0 Virginia Peak

147.150 (+) PL 123.0 Mt Rose

147.210 (+) PL 100.0 Peavine Peak

444.925 (+) PL 100.0 Peavine Peak

444.875 (+) PL 100.0 Lobdelle Peak

GSR Linked System

147.300 (+) PL 123.0 Grand Sierra Resort

444.825 (+) PL 123.0 Mt Davidson

IRLP: 7873, Echolink:WA7DG/R (581256)

Rag Chew 147.390 (+) PL 100.0 (no link)

52.580 (-) PL 114.8 (no link or features)

Packet 145.050

APRS 144.390

D-Star 444.625 (+) N7NDS B, N7NDS G

The Name of the Game

Jim Shepherd, W6US (nvjims@gmail.com)

Test Equipment

All hams should have some test equipment as it will be needed...

The first piece of equipment that you should consider is a good handheld digital multimeter. Fluke is the leader in good quality gear, and they are rugged and will last a lifetime with a little care. There are some others that are good, but there is a lot of junk available on the web and through discount retailers. Meters should be at least accurate to a hundredth of a volt under 50 volts, and a tenth of a volt above. Even if you don't plan on checking anything more than your handheld batteries, the insulation and ratings on the meter should be good to 600 volts for your safety. The meter should be able to display negative voltages if you end up with the red probe on the negative and the black on the positive—most handheld batteries do not have the polarity marked on the contacts. Auto-ranging is a big help when you are testing components on the ohm scale. Auto turn-off is handy for preventing dead batteries, as it is easy to leave the meter on by accident. Other features that may be included include audio frequency counters, capacitance meters, and amp meters. These will run from about \$40 up into the hundreds of dollars depending upon features.

A good in-line SWR meter is probably the second piece of equipment found in most shacks. A cross needle meter type showing both forward and reflected power makes tuning radios to their antennas very easy. It should be usable for frequencies from 1 MHz up to 500 MHz to allow use on HF and VHF/UHF systems. Some do this with separate input/outputs for HF and the higher frequencies, and other have internal circuitry to make them work. It should have a sufficient power rating for the radios you are using. With these units you are looking at relative power levels between the forward and reflective power—they are usually have $\pm 20\%$ accuracy on their power readings. You are more interested in peaking your forward power and hitting a minimum on the reflected power. For more precise power measurements, a dedicated power meter like the Bird 43 with the appropriate slugs can be used, but they will run \$4-500 with a couple of slugs used on Ebay... The cross needle meter will run \$50-100.

An oscilloscope is probably the next piece of equipment to grace your bench. There are two types in common usage, the CRT and the digital display. Most of us who work in the analog

world prefer the CRT displays. Those who have to backpack one up the hill to a repeater site like the digital displays as they will usually have the capability to run on 12 volts DC and weigh a whole lot less. There are tons of excellent used o'scopes available on Ebay and at swap meets for very reasonable prices. HP, Tektronix and Agilent are the best makers, and new they may run thousands of dollars—on the used markets they can be had for under \$200. A lot have plug in modules that allow you to expand their use into the UHF frequencies and even turn them into spectrum analyzers. You can use them to check your modulation, measure AC peak to peak voltages, look at waveforms and many other useful tests. Besides, having one running in the shack hooked to your audio looks impressive to visitors...

Antenna analyzers are also a popular addition to your shack. The MFJ units are inexpensive and provide good results. If you are going to build your own antennas they are the best way to tune them without putting a signal out on the air. A number of club members have these units and some are willing to help you check your antennas. The next step up is something like the Anritsu SiteMaster which costs a few thousand dollars.

Signal generators cover a wide class of test gear. They can produce signals from audio up into the microwave frequencies depending upon the units. They can produce various waveforms from sine to square waves and even pulses. They can mix frequencies, like putting audio on RF signals and do all this at a range of signal levels. Again, used equipment can be found on the secondary market for pennies on the dollar.

A dummy load is also useful for working on transmitters without putting a signal out on the air. Most low cost units are optimistic on their power ratings, so get one that is about twice as big as the wattage of your transmitter. I have a Bird 2500 watt continuous duty unit that will take a keyed down legal limit transmitter all day long.

Then there are multipurpose units like service monitors that combine a number of different functions into one box. These units are highly desired by the techs that work on the mountaintops and run several thousands of dollars used.

As you progress in ham radio, and especially if you like to build things, you will develop a collection of test equipment for troubleshooting, tuning, aligning and testing your equipment.



Fluke Digital multimeter



Workman SWR meter



Tektronix CRT oscilloscope



MFJ antenna analyzer



60 watt dummy load

SNARS and D-STAR (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio)

New D Star users will need to register themselves and equipment in order to use our GW and DS Reflector REF014 and the other parts of the system. We should promote the use of the registration site that has been used for N7ARR GW. Registration there will allow the use of N7NDS , N7ARR and other GWs worldwide. A single registration covers all. Multiple registrations cause problems for the user. If you are currently registered that is all you need. The “Personal Information” part should be modified as you add or change equipment.

Go to <https://n7arr.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do> to register (also called obtaining a “license”) for use of all Gateways and Reflectors. Let Kent W7AOR know by e-mail w7aor@narri.org that you completed the first part registration; the registration site does not notify me a registration is in progress. Log back in to complete the final step after you receive an email from me saying your registration is approved. The final step is completing the Personal Information section. If completed correctly the registration site will tell you are done and to go enjoy D-Star. [Click here for assistance with registration](#)
Kent W7AOR

Editor’s note: The D-Star repeater, N7NDS B and N7NDS G is on 444.625 (+). More info and training is being worked on and will be presented at a later date. Stay tuned!

BOB DAVIS AWARD

SNARS has two awards for local hams; the NEW HAM OF THE YEAR, and the Bob Davis Award. These awards have not be given for the last couple of years. Names were solicited for both, but no nominations were submitted for the New Ham of the Year, so that award will not be presented again this year. Several candidates were nominated for the Bob Davis Award, however, and the choice was difficult.

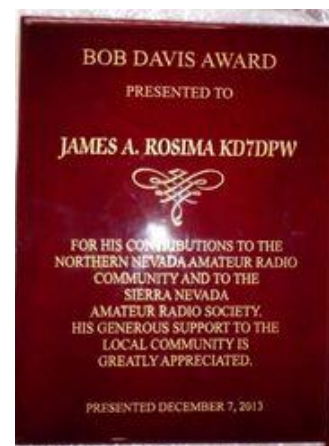
The Bob Davis award is presented to an Outstanding Radio Amateur for his or her contributions to the Amateur Radio community. The criteria is as follows:

- Has been a licensed Amateur Radio Operator for five years or more.
- Is considered the epitome of an “Elmer,” with a record of being helpful to one and all in the Ham Radio community.
- Is active in the Ham Radio community, as evidenced by participation in the several clubs, ARES/RACES, or in other activities.
- Has demonstrated excellent radio etiquette, and has considerable knowledge of operating procedures.
- Has an outstanding reputation in the Ham Radio community, as evidenced by positive comments made by various local Hams and has shown strong leadership in the Ham Radio community.

This year’s recipient is Jim Rosima.

Jim has been active in amateur radio for many years in Reno and has developed an outstanding reputation in the community, as evidenced by strong leadership and positive comments from the ham radio community. He is the immediate past chairman of WADG and took an active role in the merger of WADG with SNARS. He has worked tirelessly organizing amateur radio communication teams for many of the public service events in the Reno/Tahoe area. He is very active on the local repeaters, and as a repeater owner, he is always ready to step forward to lend a hand to “elmer” a new ham in the methodology of IRLP and other internet modes.

(The BOB DAVIS AWARD was presented to Jim at the December 7th SNARS meeting)



RENO HAMS HELP TO RAISE \$240,000 IN DONATIONS AND 180,000 LBS OF FOOD TO AID THEIR NEVADA NEIGHBORS!

Nestled against the Sierra Nevada mountains, Reno was once more being punished by Mother Nature with a blistering freeze.

The recent cold spell is only one of the worries which Nevadans have been contending with. Nevada has been the hardest hit state in the ongoing recession. The state has suffered the most home foreclosures and has had the highest unemployment rate in the nation for most of the past decade.

Last Friday, most of Washoe County was hunkered down against the cold. But not the members of the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society (SNARS), one of Nevada's two ARRL Special Service Clubs.

The cold would not stand in the way of these ham operators. They were on a mission, teaming up with the local CBS Television affiliate to raise food and money to aid their fellow Nevadans.

This is the twenty first year that KTNV has sponsored the annual "Share Your Christmas Drive-By Food Drive".



A SNARS member sorts food products for distribution to the needy



Organizer Jim Rosima KD7DPW and Washoe County EC Bill Martin WA6MTY keeping watch over a smooth running operation.

(As reported in the Nevada Amateur Radio Newswire – N7UR - <http://www.nevadahamradio.com/>)

THE NEW HAMS & INFORMATION NET

The New Hams Q&A Net on 146.610. The net is held weekly at 1300, every Sunday afternoon.

The purpose of this net is a Q&A and information net for newly licensed hams and all hams wishing to ask question about different aspects of Ham Radio. It will give new hams in particular a venue for getting on the air in a controlled net moderated by a ham with more experience. The net will be open to any interested ham. Questions will be answered and discussed by the more experienced hams listening on the Net.

For those in the North Valleys who may be out of the range of the 146.610 try using the 443.075 (+/123). It works from Lemmon Valley.

Weekly nets on the SNARS repeater systems

Western Nevada Noon net (daily, 12:00 PM)

147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0

The Morning Net (Monday – Friday at 10:00 AM)

147.300 + 123.0

Bishops Storehouse Net (Monday nights at 9:15 PM)

147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0

North Western Nevada ARES Net (Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM)

147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0

State SATERN Net (Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM)

147.300 + 123.0

State SKYWARN Net (Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM)

147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0

Northern Nevada Preppers Group Net (Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM)

147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0

State ARES Net (Thursday nights at 7:00 PM)

147.300 + 123.0

SNARS New Ham Net (Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM)

146.610 - 123.0, 443.075 + 123.0, 146.925 - 123.0



NAME THAT RIG



(See pg 7 for the answer)

ARES NEWS DECEMBER

I would like to thank all SNARS members that have joined ARES to become trained to support their community with backup emergency communications.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

Bob WA6MTY

WA1KPD OLDE TYME RADIO CALENDAR

Carl Nord, WA1KPD, Killingworth CT, has been making up an Olde Tyme Radio calendar each year. It is available for download at no charge for anyone interested. It's a nice little item to decorate your shack if you are so inclined. Go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~chnord/wa1kpd.html> and click on the big link at the top of the page. (I especially like the sign in the December photo...)

SNARS CLUB CALENDAR for JANUARY

05 Jan 2014 | 0730 SNARS Breakfast Meeting
Jacks Cafe, 7671 S Virginia St, South Reno
Join us for our Breakfast meeting. All SNARS members and guests are welcome!

08 Jan 2014 | 0600 SNARS Tech Committee Meeting
Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd.
The SNARS Tech Committee meets monthly to go over the status of system projects, issues and other topics related to the SNARS repeater and digital systems.

15 Jan 2014 | 1800 SNARS Board of Directors Meeting
Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd.
The monthly board of directors meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month. All members are welcome to attend.

29 Jan 2014 | 1800 Ham Radio Workshop
Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd.
TBA

The SNARS Ladies

We had 9 for the ladies luncheon this month (December). Everyone had a good time and we are looking forward to our next month's gathering.

For January, we will be going to the Olive Gardens in Sparks at the Legends. We will be there on Jan 8th at the usual time of 11:30.

Thank you,
Yvonne Maxwell
W7YMM

SNARS CLOTHING

We still need a couple of orders of SNARS apparel. The manufacturer requires a minimum of 12 articles per shipment. If you've been contemplating ordering some SNARS apparel, now is the time! We can't order unless we have 12 pieces. Remember, this is with the new SNARS logo.

Download the order form now at <http://snars.org/data/uploads/forms/snarsapparelorderform.pdf> or use the form attached to the mailing of this newsletter. Questions? Contact Sharon Tueller W7SRN. Her info is on the order form.

Name That Rig – The Gonset Communicator III was introduced in the mid 1950s. It was actually a separate transmitter (6 watts out, crystal controlled) and receiver hooked up to transceiver, on 6 or 2 meters, AM only. It could run on either 110VAC or 6/12VDC with a built-in

dual power supply. Affectionately called “Gooneybirds”, the Gonset Communicators in four iterations found wide use in early Civil Defense operations as well as on the Ham bands.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
REOC, Thursday, December 19, 2013

A. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1825L

1. Board Members Present:
SNARS: N7MSK, K7SJW, KE7VSR, N7ACM, N2MOO, KD7DPW, KF7EGU.
2. Guests Present: W6US, N7ROJ

B. Adoption of Agenda

1. Additions or Deletions. none
2. Vote to adopt: By: N7ACM Second: K7SJW Motion Carried:

C. Reports

1. Chair: (N7MSK) – directed to other reports.
2. Vice Chair: (K7SJW) – none.
3. Secretary: (KE7VSR):
 - a. Current membership – 205
 - b. Ballot results: duly reported in the corporate minutes to be published in the monthly club newsletter:
 - i. Ballot count:
Scott, KC7STV and Tony, N7ACM did a count of the ballots at the membership corporate meeting. The results of the count are: 86 Ballots received
Katz 64
Siebert 59
Marcin 58
Rosima 55
Brink 44
Shepherd 25
Miles 15
 - ii. Katz, Siebert, Marcin & Rosima to serve a 2 year term on the board of directors.
 - iii. There was a majority vote in favor for the adoption of the updated SNARS By-Laws.
4. Treasurer: (N7ACM):
 - a. Bank Balances:
 - i. Checking \$4989.87
 - ii. Savings \$3235.66
 - iii. WADG \$3806.88
 - iv. Paypal \$331.11
 - v. TOTAL \$12,363.52
 - b. A budget forecast outline was presented; details (\$) will be entered as the various committees submit their info. A complete budget will be presented at the Jan 2014 BOD meeting.

D. Committee Reports

1. W7TA, K7JN: none
2. Tech Committee:
 - a. The missing equipment saga has been dealt with.
 - b. Consolidated equipment list needs to be created for records.
 - c. The tech committee is in the process of identifying maintenance costs for the budget and expansion costs/plans for consideration.
 - d. Control Operators:

- e. The rules & policy for the control operators will be ready for 29 Jan.
 - f. The 29 Jan training session for control operators is mandatory; those who do not attend will be de-authorized as control operators.
 - g. Steve Kometz has been working on the 6M rig and is almost ready to go back into service.
 - h. The D-star rig is almost ready also.
3. Nevada State Convention Committee: N7MSK:
- a. NVCON is officially approved ARRL convention.
 - b. Mike wrote to Joe regarding the transfer of funds. Joe has changed his publicly stated intention and now requires a budget to be submitted. This will be done shortly.
 - c. An update on persons, activities & costs to be dealt with & correct info to be published in Jan 2014 once written references & contracts are in place.
 - d. Some of the old EMCOMMWEST personnel are on board to assist with the NVCON.
4. Education:
- a. Being coordinated with ARES for the ham crams.
 - b. A review of what the education committee has planned for the up coming year.
 - c. If anybody has an idea PLEASE submit them.
5. Events:
- a. Jim, KD7DPW reported that we do not get a lot of advance notice of requests for support for the race events but we do know approximately when they are going to happen. The first request may happen in Feb for late Mar or early Apr.
 - b. It was suggested that a list of volunteers be made up and training class be developed to standardize the operation.
 - c. There was discussion of SNARS providing safety vest (like ARES) for the volunteers.

E. Other Business:

Installation of New Board:

After nominations and voting the new officers of the Board of Directors are:

Mike Katz – President

Don Seibert – Vice President

Scott Brink – Secretary

Tony Marcin – Treasurer

F. New Business:

1. Steve Kometz has donated time & money to all the clubs in this area, his tireless efforts and support should be recognized.

Moved by: Mike, Seconded by: Don, passed unanimously that “Steve Kometz be given a Honorary membership, a plaque stating so, and a small gift certificate.”

2. WD8JQN (Ernie Cameron) has suggested that we run a special event station for/on Nevada Day. Moved by: Tony, Seconded by: Dave, passed unanimously. We will get information from the State and put together a committee to form the activities for the Special Events Station.
3. Field Day 2014: Peter is in possession of laptops and some routers to build a field day mesh network for the field day logging software. A physical location is not yet secured.

G. Motion to Adjourn: By:N7ACM Second: KD7DPW Motion Carried:
Meeting adjourned. Time: 1949L

Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

4th Quarter Corporation Meeting

AGENDA

Saturday, 7 December 2013

7:30am, Jack’s Restaurant, Reno, NV

Welcome (Chair)
Sign -In Sheet

- I. Call to Order (Chair) Time: 0700 - light turnout due to the weather.
1. Board Members Present: N7MSK, K7SJW, N7ACM, N2MOO, KB7ZBN, K7PTT.
2. Additional Present: 28
- II. Adaption of Agenda (not done)
1. Additions/Deletions:
2. Approval By: 2nd:
- III. Reports
1. Chair: (while the ballots were being counted)
 - Mike, N7MSK talked about the newly approved repeater policy and repeater guidelines, there were no negative comments from the membership.
 - Also brought the members up to date on the progress made in the planning of the NVCON (Nevada State Convention).
 - There was an update on the repeater system insofar as maintenance done and the receipt of the D-Star repeater that will be installed and hooked up as soon as the weather permits.
2. Secretary (none) (absent with a broken leg)
3. Treasurer (none)
- IV. Committee/Appointment Reports
1. W7TA, K7JN (none)
2. Tech Committee, K7JN: (none)
3. Website, (none)
- V. Old Business: (none)
- VI. New Business
Ballot count:
Scott, KC7STV and Tony, N7ACM did a count of the ballots. The results of the count are: 86 Ballots received
- | | |
|----------|----|
| Katz | 64 |
| Siebert | 59 |
| Marcin | 58 |
| Rosima | 55 |
| Brink | 44 |
| Shepherd | 25 |
| Miles | 15 |
- Katz, Siebert, Marcin & Rosima to serve a 2 year term on the board of directors.
- The vote on approving the updated by-laws: Yes = 78, No = 2
- VII. Motion to Adjourn
By: 2nd:
With no further official business scheduled the meeting was adjourned at 0750.