

# CRACKLIN' STATIC



## **SIERRA NEVADA** Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

**RENO, NEVADA**

**FEBRUARY 2014**

### **PRESIDENT'S VOICE**

You should be aware by now that the tech committee along with other members of the club were up at the Ophir and Davidson repeater sites to install improvements and additional repeaters. Davidson now has a 900 repeater and a 220 repeater that will expand our range and includes improvements that will provide D-Star capability.

Big thanks to all that participated!

We are moving right along with the planning of the Nevada State Convention. Final costs are coming in that will provide us with the info we need to complete the budget. We are working on the details of the convention and starting to get commitments from vendors, speakers, presenters, entertainment, etc.

The 2014 working budget for the club will be presented to the Board at the February meeting for their suggestions and for approval. It will be published on the web site once approved.

At the January Board meeting, the resignation of KD7DPW was accepted. At the special meeting held prior to the BOD meeting, Jennifer Martin, KG7DLF was voted in to fill the seat on the BOD.

During the Board meeting, a letter from Scott, KC7STV requesting he be replaced on the Board as the secretary – but to remain on the Board – was accepted. At that time Jennifer was appointed to fill the position of Secretary by the President.

The membership meeting is Saturday Feb. 1 @ Jacks on South Virginia St. We will have a program and there will be a door prize --- Meeting starts at 0730, breakfast will be served as people get there, many of which are there by 0700.

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.

73 -- Mike  
N7MSK

# SNARS meeting February 1



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

There will be a presentation by the Northern Nevada Prepper Group - Rob McKeivitt K9RVM, and Ken Barbarella K7KBJ



**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.....	Jennifer Martin.....	KG7DLF
Director.....	Scott Brink.....	KC7STV
Director.....	Dave Miles.....	KF7EGU
Director.....	Jim Shepard.....	W6US
<b>STAFF 2014</b>		
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
Events Coordinator.....		WA6MTY

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nvjims@gmail.com))

## Ham Radio Safety

Not too long ago, the average new ham started his on-the-air experience with a homebrew rig. There was a power supply that provided 200-600 volts DC to the tubes and the radio had a lot of exposed components that were hot. It was stressed in all the classes, by Elmers, and in the construction documents about the dangers of this high voltage and the “one hand rule” was drilled into all hams. As their stations progressed, amplifiers with several thousand volts, open wire feed lines and other hazards increased, and they had a continuing education in electrical safety.

Then came affordable transistors, and the voltages dropped into a range that were intrinsically safe from shock hazards. Generated RF could still give nasty burns, but the only real hazard were the 120 Vac household power, a direct short across the power supply, and the heat generated by that short. Hams started their career with a battery powered handheld radio which presents very minimal hazards unless it is grossly misused. Concern was registered with the distracting use while operating a motor vehicle which resulted in our current law here in Nevada.

Once it was discovered that antennas worked better the further they were installed above the ground, the race was on for heights. Initially, antennas were attached to existing structures, and we started to see falling injuries. A fall from the roof of a single story house will be at least 8' and will result in serious injury or death. Unfortunately, the height of the roof is a little low for most antennas, and they need higher supports. Trees are good, and they can be rigged without having to climb, however sending lines over their tops have hazards for those downrange. The area behind the tree should be cleared and guarded while the line is being strung.

Ground erected pole supports are another way to get some height. There are two major hazards that need to be considered. Contact with powerlines is a fast way to earn a listing in the Silent Keys column in QST. Virtually all new antennas come with a warning sticker advising of this hazard, yet every year people ignore this and pay the penalty. Never install an antenna closer to the powerline than the antenna is tall without an installed guy that will prevent it from falling in the direction of the powerline. The other hazard is the pole falling on you.

Towers are the Cadillac of the antenna supports, and the hazards increase. Tilt over towers allow you to work on the antennas at ground level which is much safer. Crank up towers should only be worked on in the fully lowered position and all the climbing rules apply as these are still 10-20 feet tall when down. Guyed or self supporting towers will require climbing and these present hazards to those on the ground as well as the climber. These safety rules apply to work on mountain top repeater sites as well as to home installations.

All people who are in the drop area, an area with the radius equal to the height of the tower, will wear a hardhat unless they are in an enclosed space like a building or a vehicle with a hard roof. Hard hats are very inexpensive and every ham should have one. Besides tower work, they can help identify you as an emergency worker during a communications incident. If you go to a repeater site, always bring your hardhat as there may be loosened hardware on the tower or ice in the winter that can fall at any time as well as the chance that you may be asked to help as ground crew for a tower climber or even transit the drop zone on your way from the shelter to your car. Besides that, birds like to perch on antennas--- need I say more?

Only properly trained personnel will climb towers. Tower climbing certification is a 2-4 day class taught by certified instructors. It spends most of the time teaching and practicing rescue of an injured climber. The proper equipment which includes a full body harness, hardhat, a fall arresting lanyard and a work positioning/fall restraint device, must be used when working above 4.5 feet off the ground. A second qualified climber must be present and have the rescue equipment available. Old “climbing” belts are for hanging on the wall in your shack, not for tower work. Hanging in a belt gives you about 5 minutes before you die due to the compression of your guts into your diaphragm restricting your breathing. Free climbing must never be attempted. The climber will have at least one piece of protection attached between their harness and the tower at all times, they are never unattached.

Due care is used to prevent items from being dropped, but it does happen. The climber will usually yell out, the size and weight of the item will determine the volume—a 16” adjustable wrench will be definitely be announced with greater vigor than a ¼” washer. Falling parts may bounce off the tower and land surprising distances from

the base. This is why there is a large “drop area” where hardhats are required. Climbers will intentionally drop items after announcing their intentions and aiming for a clear area, but beware of deflection off the tower. Ropes are the most common items dropped in this fashion.

Soldering is another hazardous activity in which we engage. While advancing age or poor genes have blessed some of us with having to wear glasses, everyone should wear eye protection while soldering. Shorts and flip-flops are not a particularly good fashion statement while using the soldering iron as drips and splatters do occur. Most solder that we encounter is lead based, so don't eat while handling soldered items and be sure to wash up after this

activity. Ask any older ham about the “American Beauty” soldering iron, and they will usually have some good war stories....

Finally, beware of tripping hazards. That tangle of coax and power leads on the floor of your shack, or the exposed radials around your vertical in the back yard can lead to a nasty fall. That ground rod sticking 18” out of the ground with the mashed over top can inflict painful wounds when you scrape your leg against it—put an empty plastic water bottle, plastic Champagne cork, or an old tennis ball on top of it.

Enjoy your hobby and Be Safe!

## 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



## Field Day 2014 HELP

The club has received a charitable donation of laptops for field day logging; to help make it better I need some old routers for a Mesh network, but they have to be specific models:

Linksys WRT54GS versions 1.0 to 3.0

Linksys WRT54GS version 4.0

Linksys WRT54G version 1.1 to 4.0

Linksys WRT54GL version 1.0 to 1.1

All routers should include their power supply (wall wart).

Direct your donation(s) to Peter DeBay KE7VSR; thank you.

## NAME THAT RIG



(answer on page 6)

### W1AW/7 operation from Nevada

(from radio\_pack, K7VY@netzero.net)

From: Tom K5RC <[tom@k5rc.com](mailto:tom@k5rc.com)>

Date: Sat, Jan 11, 2014 at 11:43 AM

Subject: W1AW/7

The Comstock Memorial Station will be hosting W1AW/7 in May and October. We are extending an invitation to hams all across NV to come and operate. We will be trying to keep 2-3 operating positions active for each 168 hour block, so there is plenty of opportunity for you to come operate, watch, heckle, etc.

We will be activating all bands from 160 to 432 and as many modes as possible. We will have Elmer's on hand to help new ops get their feet wet.

Please watch

[http://w7rn.com/main/page\\_w1aw7.html](http://w7rn.com/main/page_w1aw7.html) regularly for updates. Email me directly with the information requested so we can start filling up the schedules.

Please help us celebrate the ARRL Centennial.

(Editor's note, W1AW/X is running from all 50 states over the year as part of that celebration.)

**Contact Tom K5RC to get on the list to operate W1AW/7 from his**

**contest station in Virginia City (NV) Highlands.**

**Tom Taormina, K5RC**

**The Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN**

**Storey County ARES, KS7AA**

**Virginia City, Nevada On the Comstock**

**<http://www.w7rn.com/>**

## ARES NEWS

The Reno Tahoe Airport Authority is holding their FAA required Tri-annual airport emergency exercise.

Sometime in May (TBD) they will simulate an aircraft accident at the Southwest corner of the airport. Instead of an actual aircraft, they will use a bus to allow emergency responders to practice extricating victims, triage and they will be transported by RTC as if it were a real emergency, to some of the local hospital to test their mass casualty emergency plan. Amateur Radio will provide supplemental communications between the airport, airport EOC, and Regional EOC as well as between the hospitals and the REOC.

We are making progress on the restoration of our mobile communications command vehicle; formerly a TV satellite broadcast truck. Thanks to Chris K9RNO and his friend Darold Roy they painted the truck for us. After Eric's Mobile Glass installed a new windshield, the truck, license plate ECOMM1 is now in the possession of Washoe County Heavy Equipment Services and they are servicing the truck to make it reliable and safe for us to use. For more information check it out on [www.wcares.us](http://www.wcares.us) and our Facebook page.



## The SNARS Ladies

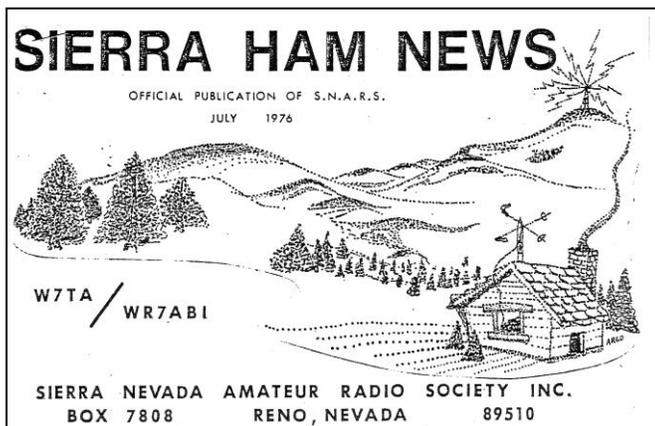
This month we had our luncheon at the Olive Garden in Sparks. We had 11 attendees and everyone had a good time.

Next month, February, we will be at the Los Compadres restaurant located on Disc Drive in Spanish Springs. We would like for everyone to bring their HT's so that we can learn how to use them, i.e., turn them on, tune in to a certain band, etc.

Thank you,  
Yvonne Maxwell W7YMM

## A LOOK BACK.....

I was handed a copy of the SNARS newsletter from July 1976. A different time, and a lot of work to publish a newsletter .....read on!



The logo from July 1976 – hand-drawn for sure.

Some tidbits from this newsletter:

- President was none other than Larry Oakley W7AAA.
- W7TA Trustee was Dave Quest WA7KQS.
- Same old Field Day complaints – not enough operators, no replacements, etc. etc. Overnite parking at the FD site, wherever it was, was a buck.
- Dues back then were \$5.00! And the club was in transition from dues as joined to dues on a single date.
- Every members name was listed with how much he/she owed. Sounds like a privacy lawsuit to me....
- Meetings were at Smorgey's (Buffet?) on Keystone at 4<sup>th</sup>. Dinner was \$3.21.
- The Christmas dinner was at the Holiday Inn on E 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- Ham radio was in the throes of revamping the licensing structure. There was still the Novice and Advanced classes as active, but with considerable changes. Code was still a requirement.



## Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REOC, Wednesday, January 15th, 2014

A. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1747L

1. Board Members Present:

SNARS: N7MSK, N7ACM, N2MOO, KC7STV, W6US, KF7EGU, KG7DLF

2. Guests Present: KI6TRK, KC7CKY, KG7BOG, NN7K, KF7KTC, AE7OX, K1LB, N7QVP, N7ROO, W7DED

B. Chair: (N7MSK) Announced Jim Rosima, KD7DPW, Resignation from SNARS BOD.

Moved to Accept Resignation: By: KF7EGU Seconded: N2MOO Motion Carried:

C. Adoption of Agenda

1. Additions or Deletions. none

2. Vote to adopt: By: Second: Motion Carried:

D. Reports

1. Chair: (N7MSK) – directed to other reports.

- SNARS had a CW net, on 3708Khz. (You DO know what CW is, don't you?)
- There was not one, but THREE newsletter workers. Thanks to computers, the job sure has been downsized!

A couple of gems from "The Lighter Side of the Law" as published therein:

- In Natoma Kansas, it is illegal to practice knife throwing at someone wearing a striped suit.
- In San Francisco you are forbidden by law to spit on your laundry.
- Indiana State Law forbids roller-skating instructors from leading their female students astray during lessons.

## SHACK PHOTOS

Still looking for more shack photos to post here. A few loose wires, or stuff out of place is OK! Send to:

[WB2AWQ@arrl.net](mailto:WB2AWQ@arrl.net)

**Name That Rig** –The Ten-Tec Scout 555 was introduced in 1993 as a low priced yet high performance basic radio. It had few of the bells and whistles of today's rigs. It was designed primarily for CW, with SSB as a second mode. 50 watts out high, 5 watts low, with plug-in band modules (160 thru 6 meters), the radio could be equipped only for the bands you intended to operate on. Almost universally liked for its portability and great CW performance.

2. Secretary: (N7ACM):

- a. Current membership – 208

3. Treasurer: (N7ACM):

a. Bank Balances:

- i. Checking \$4121
- ii. Savings \$3235
- iii. WADG \$3806
- iv. Paypal \$331
- v. Total \$11493

b. Other Business

- i. 2014 SNARS annual budget. Some 2013 items to be rolled to 2014. Final budget to be published in the next few weeks.
- ii. Change due date for members' dues. New June renewal proposed and discussed with members present. KF7KTC suggested quarterly renewals; N7ACM said no particular advantage to having renewal spread throughout year; easier to do if eliminating prorate handling. Motion to have actual join date be renewal period for all NEW members – Current membership will use the June 1, due date for the 2014 annual year.

Moved: By: W6US      Second: NC7ACM      Motion Carried:

**E. Chair:** (N7MSK) Announced Scott, KC7STV, submitted his resignation as Secretary but remains on the Board. Resignation letter read.

Jennifer, KG7DLF was appointed by the President to be the Board Secretary and will also assist with our Facebook & Website upkeep.

**F. Committee Reports**

1. Tech Committee: N7ROJ

- a. Work party will address 900 repeater and antenna relocation at Ophir/Davidson this weekend; Dave Metz will assist with internet/installation. Cable and other parts are in hand with the help of Pat, W7DED.
- b. Proposed tear out of Mt. Rose, 147.150, remote base system and to salvage old parts which can be reused on GSR. The repeater has been broken for many years. Motion to move forward with tear out.

Moved: By: N2MOO      Second: W6US      Motion Carried:

2. Education Committee: N7ACM

- a. January 29th: Control Operating Meeting. Mandatory for all hams who desire to be control operators.
- b. April 14th: Technician Class.
- c. Upcoming workshop TBD.

3. Trustee. No trustees present.

4. Events. N7MSK.

- a. Races. Bob Miller, WA6MTY, will be coordinating events instead of KD7DPW. A more formalized approach is desired; want new hams to become involved; should be under SNARS.

**G. Report on NVCON: N7MSK.**

1. Venues have been reserved (Opera House, Silverland Hotel); complete list TBD (including possible EOC). Some upfront deposits will be required. Some small details to be worked out before budget submitted. Room & RV rates have been determined; food TBD. Invitation letter sent to ARRL HQ/President to be a speaker at the event. Gary Grant/Mike met with Joe Giraud; Tony, Mike and Joe will be signatories on account; Joe wants to see budget.

Some hams have volunteered to assist with event jobs. VC Trolley will be provided at no cost, but tipping would be nice. Maximum available space TBD.

**H. New Business / Other Business.**

1. Nevada 150th Anniversary. N7ACM.

- a. A former aide to Dean Heller is trying to get DC to recognize the 150th birthday of NV. They would like to semi-recreate the constitution's transmission to DC by CW (preamble only) and have a special operation station during the day at the NV state capitol building; note that this is the same day as the ARRL anniversary. Possibly have special QSL cards made; special FCC call sign. N7ACM looking into.

I. Motion to Adjourn: By: N7ACM

Second: KF7EGU

Motion Carried:

Meeting adjourned. Time: 1832L

## Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

Special Membership Meeting  
REOC, Wednesday, January 15th, 2014

A. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1745L

1. Board Members Present:

SNARS: N7MSK, N7ACM, N2MOO, KC7STV, W6US, KF7EGU

2. Guests Present: KG7DLF, KI6TRK, KC7CKY, KG7BOG, NN7K, KF7KTC, AE7OX,  
K1LB, N7QVP, N7ROO, W7DED

B. Purpose: To fill position of resigned Board Member, Jim Rosima, KD7DPW.

1. Motion to fill position: By: N7MSK

2. KG7DLF nominated: By: N7ACM Second: N2MOO Motion Carried: All in favor

Meeting adjourned. Time: 1746L