

CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

AUGUST 2014

---PRESIDENT'S VOICE---

Time sure does fly when you're having fun.... It's August and we are looking at school starting shortly, more heat and thunderstorms and a number of Club activities.

There will be a fall Swap meet in September with the actual dates announced as soon as the arrangements are made. Start cleaning out your "surplus equipment" bin and get ready to get different stuff for the bin.

October will be the SNARS involvement in the States 150th anniversary of statehood. You will find more details in the near future at the web site, the Face Book page and the other lists and letters that are sent around.

We are starting the planning of SNARS participation in the 2015 Nevada State Convention. Locations and programs to be announced as developed.

Our repeater located on Winnemucca Mountain should be up by the time you get this (or very shortly after). We will announce when it's on the air and provide you with the frequency and PL required for using it.

The tech committee has been busy working on the repeaters taking care of "tweaking" and other needed maintenance.

We are planning on a number of informative and interesting presentations at the club meetings.

73 – Mike N7MSK

SNARS meeting AUGUST 2



7:30 AM Denny's, 205 East Nugget Ave, Sparks

Doug, KA7FOO will discuss the role of Net Control Operators, the procedures they use and why they are important to know.



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., be there at 9 AM sharp!

..... 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 Giraud, N7JEH n7jeh@arrl.net

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

Membership: \$40 Individual, \$50 Family

OFFICERS 2014

President.....	Mike Katz.....	N7MSK
Vice President.....	Don Seibert.....	N2MOO
Treasurer.....	Tony Marcin.....	N7ACM
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Director.....	Dave Miles.....	KF7EGU
Director.....	Jim Shepherd.....	W6US

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Control Operators Manager.....	N7TGB
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Meeting Greeters.....	AE7OX
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SK Estate Advisors.....	KB7IWT
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Control Operators FOR KR7ENO.....	WB2AWQ
Station Licensee for W7TA.....	KE7VSR
Control Operators for W7TA.....	KE7VSR
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Chief VE Examiner.....	NN7K
Membership Chairman.....	N2MOO
Awards Chairman.....	
Program Chairman.....	N2MOO
Web Master.....	N7ACM & KG7DLF
Facebook Page Administrator.....	N7ACM & KG7DLF
Events Coordinator.....	WA6MTY

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

Power

The one essential item to all of our radios is power. From batteries for handhelds to a custom installed 240 Vac line to run that legal limit final amplifier, we need power to run our radios.

Handhelds come with batteries, and most of these are rechargeables. Nickel-Metal-Hydrate, Nickel-Cadmium, and Lithium are the most popular chemistries for these batteries and they all require chargers that adjust the charging to fit the battery. Charging the wrong battery with the wrong charger can cause real damage, and in the case of Lithiums, it may cause a fire or explosion. Stick with your manufacturer's recommended charger for these batteries. A battery eliminator or external power supply may be used to run the radio if they are designed to provide the correct filtered power to the radio. The usual 'wall wart' charger that plugs into the radio to charge the battery does not have the filtering and you will have lots of hum on your signal. Some radios have 'clamshell battery packs' that take AA batteries, and these are good for situations where you will not be able to recharge normal batteries.

Mobile radios usually get their power from the vehicle's electrical system. That electrical system wasn't designed to provide beautiful clean power to the radio. Voltages vary from the low 11 Vdc range when the car isn't running, much lower while grinding the starter, to as high as 15 Vdc when the charging system is working hard. Besides these main voltages, there are other signals present—computer noise from the multitude of controls and systems, arcing noise from ignition and small motors, induction caused spikes from relays and solenoids, hum (whine) from the alternator, etc. The car battery helps smooth out these signals, and that is part of the reason why it is recommended to run the power lead directly to the battery, with a fuse of course. In some cases, you will have to add a filter on your power cable close to the radio. By the way, the only use of an automobile battery for power should be when it is installed in a vehicle. They are not designed for a long term discharge and recharge pattern that you will have trying to use it for just your radio.

Mobile radios are also a favorite for use in the shack. Usually they share a power supply with another radio or they have a power supply that is about the same size as the radio and mounted with a bracket to hold the radio. These power supplies need to be designed for communications use as they will have the necessary filtering to prevent hum and other noise from getting into your radio. Another system is to use a power supply with its output voltage set to the float voltage of a sealed deep cycle battery. The battery will provide surge current to the transmitter in excess of the rating of the power supply, and it will also give you some additional filtering as well as some power failure backup. The sealed deep

cycle battery needs to be designed for this sort of service, do not use an auto battery for this purpose. Also the power supply needs to be set up so it does not drain the battery when it is turned off.

Base station radios may also work on 12 Vdc, and they will usually take a 30 amp or bigger power supply to do the job. Most manufacturers make a suitable supply that has the same cosmetics as their radio so they look nice sitting on your desk in the shack. I use a 50 amp rack mount power supply that feeds all my radios so I can listen on one while transmitting on another one. Some of the base stations are set up to run on 120 Vac, and others, especially the old boat anchors and homebrew gear, need specialized high voltage supplies.

Eventually the siren song of "More Power" will entice you into buying a big legal limit amplifier for the shack. Besides the warm glow of the big tubes and no longer needing to run a heater in the winter, you will now (hopefully) break that pile-up and get that rare DX. You will really need to have an electrician bring a 240 Vac circuit into your shack as these things pull too much power for your already overloaded 120 Vac wall plug. While he is at it, have him run a couple more 120 Vac circuits to relieve the load on that wall plug. Hopefully you can prevent the lights from dimming in the rest of the house when you transmit. Don't forget to change out that bargain RG-58 to your antenna, it won't handle the higher voltages from that kilowatt amp.

Reliable power means reliable communications. In this area, power failures of more than an hour over a wide area are very rare. Charged batteries will usually carry you through the outage on the UHF/VHF bands. If you do live in the boonies where longer term outages are more common, investing in a backup generator can be helpful. Think in terms of keeping your refrigerator cold, the heater running, and the well pump on. There will be left over power to keep the ham gear running as a side benefit.

Finally, make sure your power is properly connected to your radios. You need to use the proper size wire for the length of the run and the needed current to prevent power loss. Heat generated in your power cord means less power out of your antenna. Proper fuses are needed to protect the equipment. Polarized attachment plugs like the Anderson Powerpoles™ can simplify adding and moving equipment from your shack to your vehicle or a portable operation. They are also available in different sizes and colors for use with other voltages than the normal 12 Vdc. Crimp-on ring or spade connectors allow secure connection to screw terminals without having that stray strand of wire risking a short. For the AC connections, use the proper grounded plugs.

Good power sources and good connections will help you put out a good signal.

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

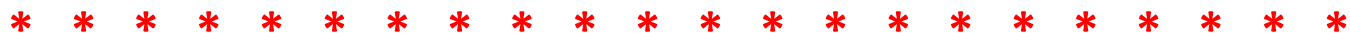


COMMUNICATIONS EVENTS

Below is the list of this summer's list of events that require Amateur Radio Communications. If you want to participate, email the contacts shown below.

Bob WA6MTY
 Washoe County EC

EVENT 2014	START DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ ORGANIZER	CONTACT	WEBSITE
Expedition Man	8/23/14			wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.expeditionman.com/
Tour De Tahoe	8/7/14		TARA	paul.mcafee@att.net	http://www.bikethewest.com/tour-de-tahoe/
Reno Tahoe Gran Fondo	TBD			wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.renotahoegranfondo.com
Tahoe 200	8/5/14	8/9		wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.tahoe200.com/
Reno 5000	9/7/14		Dolan Auto Group	wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.reno5000.com/Registration_home.php
Reno Air-Races	9/10/14	9/14		wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.airrace.org/
Sierra Valley Gran Fondo	TBD		Reno Cycling Club	wa6mty@gbis.com	http://svgf.org/
Edible Pedal 100	9/21/14		Sunrise Rotary Club	wa6mty@gbis.com	http://www.ediblepedal100.org/



SNARS MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

The membership roster is now available at the SNARS website. – If you see an error, or if an update to info is needed please let us know. Go to <http://snars.org/members> or on the home page click on the members tab at the top. You will also find the membership stats below the roster.

Nevada's 150th Birthday Celebration

SNARS has been approved to participate in the Nevada Sesquicentennial celebration. Following is excerpted from the letter received from the 150th Commission office.

"I am pleased to notify you that the Morse Code Sending of the State Constitution to President Lincoln planned for October 31, 2014 has been approved as a "Signature Event" as part of Nevada's Sesquicentennial celebration."

This is a significant accomplishment. With the receipt of the above letter from the State Sesquicentennial planning committee, we have already taken steps to formulate our participation in the event by developing a reenactment of the sending of the State constitution to Pres. Lincoln, and to do this under a "special events call sign". We are also on the QST calendar for this special event....

We will organize a planning committee to develop the full program including the reenactment of the sending of the document to Washington DC to be signed by President Lincoln, making Nevada a State.

Details will be made available to club members.

Once we have the committee in place and plans are made, we will keep the membership informed as we progress with the planning process. If you are interested

in helping develop and implement this event, please let me know.

Mike, N7MSK



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.

* * * * *

Nevada State Conference – 2015

The SNARS Board has approved of moving ahead with the planning for the 2015 State Conference (NVCON-2015). We will be putting together a new planning committee to put this event together. Our first chore is to find a Venue.

I have put out an RFP to a number of locations in addition to VC, including Reno/Sparks, Incline Village, Minden & Carson. As these are returned Tom, K5RC, Tony, N7ACM and I will go over their responses, eliminate those we feel cannot do what we need and then visit each location and meet with the convention mangers.

Once a location is decided on, we will start the work of dealing with exhibitors, speakers, entertainment and so on. The full planning committee will be formed and meetings to organize will begin --- this entire process taking place by the end of August.

Stay tuned for progress reports as they come available.

Mike, N7MSK

ARES NEWS

This month was the Tahoe Rim Trail, July 18 through the 20th where SNARS provided communications for the event coordinators. Those of us in ARES used the event as training in preparation for an emergency. Quite an event, a two day back country foot race where some runners ran 100 miles over about a 32 hour event, brutal. Some of us were drenched from rain storms and experienced some near strikes from lightning. All in all an exciting weekend. This was the first time some of us participated. Thanks to Bob WA6MTY; Doug KA7F00; Arlan KA7ZAU; David N7TNX; Rick KF7KEM; Randall AF7HD; Ken KF7BNX; Steve KS6A; Dave KF7EGU; Robert , AC7FM; Alan KZ6B ; Victor KG7BOE; Blake N6BNS; Thomas, WA9ETO; Sam KG7HBY; Rod KD7QXO; Michael, NZ7G; Natalie N7JKM; for helping with this event.

There are more events that need help with communications support: Tour De Tahoe 8/7/14; Vegas to Reno Off road Race 8/13/14 8/16/14; Tahoe 200 9/5/14 9/9/14; Reno 5000-3 9/7/14; Reno Air-Races 9/10/14 9/14/14; Sierra Valley Gran Fondo 9/14/14; Edible Pedal 100 9/21/14; Ride With Legends 10/11/14 10/12/14. I will be sending out more information soon.

73
BOB MILLER WA6MTY
Washoe County Emergency Coordinator
Amateur Radio emergency Service (ARES)
www.wcares.us
wa6mty@wcares.us
wa6mty@qbis.com
775 843-5952

SNARS LADIES

This month we had 11 ladies for the luncheon at the La Fuente. We had a great time and we had a couple of new ladies join us. Next month luncheon will be on Wed, Aug 13th at 11:30 am. We will be going to Lilli's restaurant located at the corner of Kietzke and Grove Sts, right behind the Franktown carwash.

NAME THAT RIG

(Answer on pg 7)



SNARS CALENDAR

Aug 2014 0730
SNARS Breakfast Meeting
Dennys - 205 Nugget Ave, Sparks

Join us for our Breakfast meeting. All SNARS members and guests are welcome!

13 Aug 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.

20 Aug 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.

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 6)

Harvey-Wells made the TBS-50 in five iterations for several years from 1947. Rated at 50 watts input with a single 807 tube final, high level plate modulation, 160 through 2 meters, it enjoyed brief popularity before SSB took it (and Harvey-Wells by 1960) out of the radio market.

MORE FIELD DAY PHOTOS

Courtesy of N7UR – and his great NevadaHamRadio.com newsletter.

You can view more on John's website at:
<http://www.nevadahamradio.com/fd2014-snars.html>



Dave KF7EGU, Rob NB6C and Andrew KI6UOC handling phone duties



GOTA op Sam KG7HBY with Dad (and GOTA Coach) Rod KD7QXO working on a cable with WB2AWQ



The GOTA setup plus a phone setup



Rob NB6C's horse trailer and beam from aloft



Jon Fox KF7KTC manning 2M phone



Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REOC, Wednesday, July 16, 2014

I. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1759L

1. Board Members Present:

SNARS: N7MSK, N2MOO, KC7STV, N7ACM, W6US, KF7EGU, NB6C

2. Guests Present: N7ROJ

II. Adoption of Agenda

1. Vote to adopt: N7ACM Second: NB6C

III. Reports

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

2. Secretary: (NB6C):

Current membership – 159 Members have renewed their membership

3. Treasurer: (N7ACM):

Bank Balances: Checking \$14,468.53

Savings \$3,237.17

PayPal \$2,293.84

IV. Committee Report

1. Trustee (KE7VSR) No report

2. Tech Committee (N7ROJ) Tech Committee

a. Winnemucca Mountain– Ready to install just working out timing with NDOW

b. Mt Rose – N7ROJ went up to repeater site and aligned all the radios and grabbed the spare 2meter antenna for Winnemucca Mountain

c. 147.39 – Installed IRLP and Echolink to be moved to permanent location

3. Education (N7ACM)

a. Tech Class October 1st

b. Maybe hybrid General class

c. If General class works then will try with Extra

d. Discussion of upcoming ham class by KD7YIM

4. Events (WA6MTY)

No Report but Tahoe Rim Trail this weekend

V. Report on Nevada 150th celebration participation – N7MSK

1. Nevada 150th Special Event Station on October 31. N7MSK said we should get other clubs in the state involved. We need to get a committee started to work on this. There some volunteers that offered to send the CW message. W6US suggested a speaker be set up so people walking by can here the message being sent

VI. New Business / Other Business:

1. Legislative action Cell Phone bill. Tom Porada KK7YW reaching out to Ben Kieckhefer to work on a bill draft to exempt ham radio operators from operating ham radios
2. NVCON 2015 – Waiting for K5RC to return before starting discussions with venues. Looking to write up RFP to send out to venues. W6US suggested we contact the RSCVA as they have a program to help out with this. Looking at accommodating an event for 300 people. N2M00 brought up issue why are we not looking at the Grand Sierra Resort. The idea is to keep the convention with a small feel
3. From the floor
 - a. N7ROJ asked what is the club's policy on the use of the high level repeaters. Answer given was the high level repeaters are used for callings systems and extended conversations should move to other non-linked repeaters
 - b. Discussion on one of the repeaters was if SNARS would change Saturday morning meeting to another time say once a quarter for people that work during this time. It was mentioned the board meetings that are open to the public occur once a month on Wednesdays
 - c. Field day 2015 – KC7STV suggested we should create a planning committee for Field Day 2015. NB6C motioned that the club create a Field Day committee and KC7STV will be the chair. Seconded by N7ACM, motion passed
 - d. Club Picnic/BBQ – Dave Metz has offered to sponsor a picnic people who are interested. N7MSK will contact Dave to find out where and when he would like to have a picnic
 - e. Christmas Party – There is no one that will be organizing a Christmas party at this time – Carl, K5HK has resigned as the organizer.

VII. Motion to Adjourn: By: NB6C Second: N7ACM Motion Carried: Meeting adjourned. Time: 1910L