

CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

NOVEMBER 2014

---PRESIDENT'S VOICE---

Club officers: The nomination period ended on Oct. 1, 2014 – The ballots will be sent out in October and should be returned before the December membership meeting where they will be counted and the new BOD members will be announced.

On November 1, SNARS will be in Carson City doing the recreation of the sending of the Charter for our statehood. There will be plenty of time for you to get down there and see the booth and activities that we set up. The booth and the Emergency communications van will be positioned in front of the statue of Adolph Sutro located in the area just South of the Capital building. Come down and join us and watch the parade also.

Tony, N7ACM and Mike N7MSK attended the Pacificon Amateur Radio Convention in Santa Clara with a booth advertising our 2015-NVCON scheduled for May 1-2-3, 2015. We handed out a lot of our brochures and talked with a lot of people --- Lots of interest from the crowd. We also talked with the vendors that were there and got commitments from some and lots of interest from others. We will be doing a lot of follow up with them. We also signed up a few new members to the club.

Mark your calendar for the Annual holiday dinner that will be done on Saturday 12/20/2014. It will be at Pinocchio's at their Sparks location (4820 Vista Blvd) starting at 5pm. Lots of raffle prizes, great food, and good times. Invite your non ham friends and hams that you know that may not be club members. Signup and other info will be sent out shortly.

SNARS meeting November 1



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

Gary Grant, K7VY (NV Section Mgr) and Ray Maxwell, W7TAP (OO Coordinator) present "Official Observer" a program about what the OO is for, why it exist, how it operates, etc. and time for questions.

We will follow this up with a program on the "Control Operator" program, explaining the differences and duties at another meeting.



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
 Secretary.....Rob Dunbar.....NB6C
 Director.....Scott Brink..... KC7STV
 Director.....Dave Miles.....KF7EGU
 Director.....Jim Shepherd..... W6US

STAFF 2014

By Laws Review Committee.....KE7HLR
 Call Sign Badges.....KB7GNA
 Club Public Information Officer.....
 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.....KE7VSR
 Control Operators for W7TA.....KE7VSR
 Tech Committee Chair.....N7ROJ
 Chief VE Examiner.....NN7K
 Membership Chairman.....N2MOO
 Awards Chairman.....
 Program Chairman.....N2MOO
 Web MasterN7ACM & KG7DLF
 Facebook Page Administrator.....N7ACM & KG7DLF
 Events Coordinator.....WA6MTY

CRACKLIN' STATIC PUBLICATION

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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@arri.net

SNARS Repeater System Frequencies

I-80 Linked System (W7TA)

Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 146.610 - 123.0 Not Linked, Stand alone
 Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 443.075 + 123.0
 Lovelock, Black Rock Desert (Toulon Peak) 146.925 - 123.0

Mt Rose Linked System (W7TA)

Reno, Sparks (Virginia Peak) 147.030 + 123.0
 Carson City, Tahoe, Truckee (Mt Rose Knob) 147.150 + 123.0
 Reno, Sparks, North Valleys (Peavine Peak) 147.210 + 100.0
 Yerington, Wellington (Lobdelle Peak) 444.875 + 100.0

IRLP/EchoLink System (W7TA)

Reno, Sparks (GSR) 147.300 + 123.0 Connected to/Status: Idle

Standalone Systems, Ragchew Repeaters (W7TA)

Reno, Sparks 52.580 - 114.8
 Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Dayton (Ophir Peak) 147.390 + 100.0
 Reno, Carson, Dayton (Mt. Davidson) 444.825 + 123. Reno,
 Sparks, North Valleys (Peavine Peak) 444.925 + 100.0 Off the air
 Reno, Sparks 927.1125 - 114.8

Digital Systems (W7TA)

Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 145.050 - RNO Carson City, Tahoe, Truckee (Mt Rose Knob) 145.050 - ROSE Lovelock, Black Rock Desert (Lobdelle peak) 144.390 - TOULON

Portable Repeaters (KR7ENO)

Portable System 147.000 - 123.0 Special events only

C4FM Digital Repeater - YAESU

Reno, Carson, Dayton (Mt. Davidson) 444.825 + 123.

D-Star

Reno-Sparks (low level) 444.625 + D-Star Repeater, N7NDS
 Reno-Sparks (low level) 146.405 D-Star Hot Spot

The Name of the Game

Jim Shepherd, W6US

nvjims@gmail.com

Sweepstakes!

No, you won't have some celebrity carrying an oversized check and a bouquet of balloons ringing your doorbell, but you will have fun. The ARRL Ham Radio Sweepstakes are this month. There are actually 2 sweepstakes, the weekend of November 1 is the CW Sweepstakes and the weekend of November 15 is the Phone contest. These are separate contests so you do not need to work both.

The objective of the contest is to work as many hams in as many ARRL and Canadian RAC sections as possible. There are 83 combined sections, and working all of them is called a "Clean Sweep". The contest is held on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands, and you can work a station only once. Your score counts only the contacts made during your first 24 hours of operation.

The CW contest starts at 2100 UTC on Saturday November 1 which is 1400 Pacific Daylight Savings time, and ends at 0259 UTC on Monday, November 3 which is actually 1859 Pacific Standard time on Sunday evening. Remember that we change our clocks that weekend due to the end of Daylight Savings. The Phone contest starts at 2100 UTC on Saturday November 15 which is 1300 Pacific Standard time, and ends at 0259 UTC on Monday, November 17 which is actually 1859 Pacific Standard time on Sunday evening.

The exchange is a little complicated and changes with each contact. It consists of a consecutive serial number, a precedence letter, your call sign, a check number and your ARRL section designator. Most computer contest logging programs will generate the serial number. The precedence letter describes your operation: "Q" is used for single operator QRP, "A" is for single operator low power, "B" is for single operator high power, "U" is for single operator unlimited, "M" is for Multi-Operator, and "S" is for School Club. The check number is the last two digits of the year you were first licensed. My Phone sent exchange would be like this: "VE7JW I copy your 327 Bravo VE7JW 85 BC, please copy my 135 Alpha Whiskey Six Uniform Sierra 92 Nevada"

You can print out a list of all the sections and their proper abbreviations at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-sections-list>. This will help you enter the correct one into your logging program. This is the same list as we use for Field Day and I have laminated it back-to-back with the band plan <http://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations> to make a handy reference.

You are only allowed to work your first 24 hours on the air for credit. Breaks must be at least 30 minutes to count as time off. If you happen to work over 24 hours, don't worry and continue logging—those extra contacts don't count for you, but they might help some other ham get his Sweep. The big computer at ARRL will calculate your operating time from your computer generated Cabrillo formatted log. If you send in a paper log, you must indicate your off time.

In a change from earlier years, you must send in your log within 15 days from the end of the contest. They really would prefer that you email in your electronic log as they can be immediately loaded into their computer. All logs must be uploaded or postmarked by 0300 UTC on November 18 for the CW contest or 0300 UTC on December 2. For those who do not have a computer logging program, you can get one for free from <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=4487>. The N1MM program is one of the best around and the price is right!

Strategy? During the daylight hour concentrate on 10 and 15 meters if they are open. After dark 160, 80 and 40 will be your best bets, especially to get the contiguous states that the higher frequencies skip right over. 20 meters is usually good during the day and well into the darker periods. If you are breaking pileups and having everyone you call come right back, consider 'camping' on a frequency and calling CQ. Nevada is one of the rarer states, and especially early on and near the end, lots of hams will be looking for us as a multiplier. Listen to the pile-ups and if you are hearing the called station well, give 'em a try, especially if they are from one of the rarer sections. Northwest Territories, the Maritimes, Maine, Eastern Washington, Newfoundland, Maine and Nevada are some of harder to get sections. On 10 meters it is hard to get most of California, Oregon, and Idaho, so if you hear one, go for it!

Even if you are not serious about running the contest, this is a good opportunity to pick up some states for the Worked All States award as there will be lots of activity. If you are not interested in contesting, the WARC bands will be free of contest activity and will probably have some good DX as the DX stations are not part of the contest.

Complete rules and other information can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.



Jim's "modest" antenna for contesting in Winnemucca, to quote Jim: "Hy-gain 3 element 20-15-10 meter beam pointed east at 50' (It can be raised to 75') The crossarm that is sticking out below it with a halyard will have a 80 meter dipole oriented north and south that will also work on 40'. If it happens to load on 160, I'll try that! There is a 2m-70cm yagi on top so I can call in and get someone to deliver a pizza...."

"I'm running a Kenwood TS-590 @ 100 watts in my camper parked at the base of the tower trailer. I have shore power for this contest, but I could run the entire contest on solar and batteries."

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SNARS ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

SNARS will host the holiday dinner that we have looked forward to each year. Great food, lots of prizes, good conversation and fun meeting other hams and many of the people we hear and talk to throughout the year on the air.

This is for anyone that would like to attend – It is not specific to our club members. We have many friends that are not SNARS members, that live in nearby communities and that we enjoy seeing and talking to.

This year's event will be held **December 20**, and will be held at the **Sparks location of Pinocchio's Bar & Grill**. They are at 4820 Vista Blvd., Sparks (phone: 626-0101).

It will be a buffet style dinner with the following offerings:

- Applewood Smoked Tri-Tip
- Chicken Scaloppini
- Chicken and wild mushroom lasagna
- Meatballs
- Pesto Veggies
- Caesar Salad
- Pesto bread rolls.

There will be a no-host bar in our dining room - we will start at 5:00pm, with dinner starting at 6:00pm.

The price is \$25.00 per person and includes tax and tip.

We will get the reservation forms out to you shortly.

SNARS HELPS CELEBRATE NEVADA DAY, SESQUICENTENNIAL!

AT the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on November 1, SNARS will have a great display featuring a live demo of landline telegraph, Special Event Station N7V commemorating Nevada's 150th Anniversary of Statehood, informational displays on early telegraph and its importance to Nevada, the Washoe County ECOMM-1 truck showing off its emergency comms capabilities, and lots of ARRL handouts.



The new SNARS logo pop-up tent



Washoe County ARES ECOMM-1 truck

Set up on the Capitol grounds adjacent to Carson Street by the Capitol Building, near the Adolph Sutro statue, N7V will run 20 meters phone (14270+/-) from the ECOMM-1 truck, and remote 40 (7240+/-) and 15 meters (21370 +/-) phone up to Virginia City via K5RC/W7RN. The landline telegraph demo will use early telegraph keys and landline sounders to resend parts of the Nevada Constitution via this historical, and now unused, means. Visitors are also welcome to try their hand at sending some of the Constitution. Posters about telegraphy and how it helped Nevada gain statehood, and a very unique OMNIGRAPH, an early Morse training machine, will be on display. Besides trying out telegraphy, visitors will be able to tour the ECOMM truck, and sit in on operating the special event station.



Early telegraph sounder courtesy N7ZM



OMNIGRAPH courtesy WA7IRW

We'll set up in three tents plus the ECOMM truck, for this once in a lifetime display. Don't miss the parade, and for sure don't miss the SNARS display! Saturday, November 1, before the parade starts till late afternoon, Carson City! For details of N7V operation see: <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>
And type in N7V. Other info contact N7ACM amarcin@n7acm.com, or WB2AWQ WB2AWQ@arrl.net

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

* * * * *

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.

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LATE BREAKING- SNARS NV150 WEBPAGE

Here is the official special event station NV150 Webpage. Any additional news on the SNARS NV150 setup in Carson on November 1 will appear here!

<http://snars.org/nv150/>

SNARS CALENDAR

01 Nov 2014 | 0730

SNARS Breakfast Meeting
Dennys - 205 Nugget Ave, Sparks

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

12 Nov 2014 | 1800

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.

19 Nov 2014 | 1800

SNARS Board of Directors Meeting
Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd.

NAME THAT RIG



(C) 2009 by SMOOPY / www.rigpix.com

(Answer on pg 7)

The monthly board of directors meeting is held on the third wednesday of each month. All members Are welcome to attend.

SNARS LADIES

We had 11 ladies at our luncheon this month. Next month we will be at the Eldorado Hotel Casino for their buffet. We will meet at the usual time of 11:30 am on Wednesday, Nov 12th. All ladies are welcome, even if they don't have a ham license.

Yvonne W7YMM

ARES NEWS

October 4th at the monthly ARES training, Chris Smallcomb KD5KPZ from National Weather Service gave a Skywarn Training on how to report severe weather.

After 911 the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) instructed the nation's health districts to prepare for a pandemic and develop a program to medicate or inoculate their entire population within 48 hours. Over the last 6 year WC-Health has worked with the Rotary Clubs to hold a flu shot clinic as if it were a POD to train for such an event.

On October 9th, the Washoe County Health District coordinated and directed several local agencies in operating a small drive through POD (Point of Dispensing) exercise in inoculating a number of people with flu shots at the Livestock Event Center in a drive through POD. During the event ARES provided interoperable communications between FRS radios, Amateur Radio and 800 Mhz radios in the event of an emergency. Thanks to Bob WA6MTY, Doug KA7FOO and Randall AF7HD providing this link.

On October 16th Washoe County Local Emergency Planning committee participated in the Great Nevada Shakeout. After the shaking quit ARES was activated on a small scale where Randall AF7HD was deployed to Gerlach to attempt VHF communications between the EOC and the REOC. The local hospital Amateur Radio

Operators were invited to check in with simulated damage reports. Thanks to Bob WA6MTY, Doug KA7FOO, Rick KE7KEM and one hospital operator Larry KF7NJL of Northern Nevada Medical Center.

October 18th was the final Reno 5000 Halloween Fun Run at Dolan Auto Groups facility. Thanks to Bob WA6MTY, Doug KA7FOO, Ray,KB7GNA, Gordon WB6JAD, Darrel W7ADZ, Richard N7TGB, and Ken KE7BNX, to help with communications to keep the runners safe.

Because of the Nevada Day Celebration on November 1st I am moving the ARES training to Saturday November 8th at the Regional EOC (5195 Spectrum Rd. Reno) starting at 0930. Come on down to Carson City to get a tour of the WC-ARES Communications Truck ECOMM1. If you want to work the Special Event Station in ECOMM1, the HF Radio is a Yaesu 897

Saturday November 15th is the final One Day Ham Cram for 2014 at the Regional EOC starting at 0800. Anyone planning to attend to take their Technician or upgrade to General MUST contact me to be sure I have enough handouts.

73

BOB MILLER WA6MTY

Washoe County Emergency Coordinator
Amateur Radio emergency Service (ARES)

www.wcares.us

wa6mty@wcares.us

wa6mty@gbis.com

775 843-5952

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 6)

Affectionately called the "Benton Harbor Lunchbox" or the "Twoer", the Heathkit HW-30 2 meter AM transceiver put many budding hams (including Novices!) on two meters in the early and mid 60s. Crystal controlled transmit with about 5 watts out, a super-regenerative receiver, operation on 115VAC, external power supply, or 6 or 12V DC, along with an extremely affordable price – less than \$50 in kit form - ensured the popularity of this entry-level 2 meter AM rig. There were also 6 and 10 meter versions available.

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Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REOC, Wednesday, October 15, 2014

I. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1801L

1. Board Members Present:

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

2. Guests Present: KB7JZO, NN7K, KB7VT, W7TAP, N7SBC

II. Adoption of Agenda

1. Vote to adopt: NB6C Second: N2MOO

III. Reports

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

2. Secretary: (NB6C):

a. Current membership – 197

b. Nomination process we have 6 people who have been nominated. Ballots will be mailed out during month of October.

3. Treasurer: (N7ACM):

a. Bank Balances: Checking \$9,265.69
 Savings \$3,237.83
 PayPal \$3,001.27

b. Discussion regarding having outside auditor to review SNARS records for 2014. Last year there was an in-house done. Board will move forward in looking for a CPA firm audit records.

c. Discussions of expired memberships.

IV. Committee Report

1. Trustee (KE7VSR)

a. FCC has been notified regarding Kevin Deane. Done directly to the enforcement division this time.

2. Tech Committee (N7ROJ) Tech Committee

a. We have been participating in Beta testing the Yaesu Fusion repeater. Yaesu has given us the repeater, mobile and handheld radio. N7ROJ received an email from Yaesu offering to sell us another, upgraded repeater - DR-1X for \$500.00. W6US moved to purchase the DR-1X repeater, seconded by N7ACM. Motion passed.

b. Pat is feverishly working on the link radio for the Winnemucca site.

c. Purchased parts to better secure the tower on Ophir.

d. At the 610 repeater site, someone had broken the lock to the power panel and shut off the breaker. W6US went up and turned the power back on. When we get power from Dave Metz the breaker will be inside.

e. NV Energy had contacted N7JN to say they had lost the key to get in and read the power meter.

3. Education (N7ACM)

a. Week 3 of the technician class and week 3 of the CW class

b. New Ham workshop December 4th at REOC

V. Report on Nevada 150th celebration participation – N7MSK

- a. Celebration and parade will be Saturday November 1st. We will also have our normal Saturday morning monthly meeting. Working on signs describing the actual events that took place. There will be two tents one sending and one receiving.

VI. NVCON 2015 – We handed out many flyers at Pacificon advertising our convention. There are a few vendors that have said they will come. Right now we are estimating 300 people.

VII. Pacificon – The club had a presence at Pacificon and their event ran well. We had a table and advertised NVCON 2015

VIII. New Business / Other Business

1. SNARS sponsored annual Holiday dinner – The event will be held at Pinocchio's on Saturday December 20th at their Sparks location. Announcement will be sent out shortly.
2. Boy Scout Merit Badge – The club will be providing two – ninety minutes sessions for the Boy Scouts.
3. Awards to be issued for 2014 – There is list of members that have been picked. The list will be sent out with the ballots and members will vote on who will be club member ham of the year.
4. Discussion regard VE testing – NN7K brought up the issue that a VE/VE Coordinator does not have to be a club member. After discussion it was a consensus of the board that SNARS is not going change the way it works with the VE examiners

VIII. Motion to Adjourn: By: NB6C Second: W6US Motion Carried: Meeting adjourned. Time: 1931L