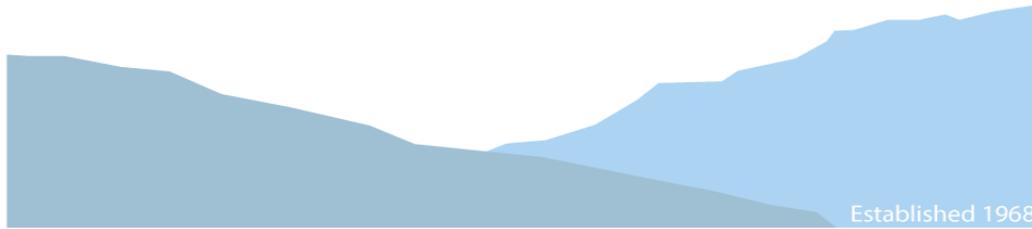


# CRACKLIN' STATIC



## **SIERRA NEVADA** Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

**RENO, NEVADA**

**JANUARY 2015**

### **----PRESIDENT'S VOICE----**

It's a new year....and it's going to be a GREAT year for SNARS.

We have three new Board Members; We have money in the bank; We have a lot of activities planned; We will continue to upgrade our radio system; We will have the 2015 Nevada State Convention at the Boom-Town facility: We will have the spring and fall swap meets,; We will have a Field Day activity; and we will more programs activities and events for our 215 members.

This is your club – Please help us be what you want us to be by informing any of the Board members of your ideas, suggestions, dis-likes and any other information that can assist us to move in a positive direction.

We need your help in planning and conducting the numerous events we are involved in. There is the Technical committee, the Control Operators group, planning for our swap meets, the 2015 Nevada State Convention, and a number of things that always pop up during the year.

Let one of the Board Members know of your interest and they will get you set up with the proper folks.

Club officers for 2015:

President: N7MSK, Mike Katz

Vice President: N2MOO, Don Siebert

Secretary: NB6C, Rob Dunbar

Treasurer: N7ACM, Tony Marcin

Board Member: KS6A, Steve Johnson

Board Member: N7ROJ, John Byerly

Board Member: KE6GIW, Judy Carlson

**73 – Mike, N7MSK**

## SNARS meeting January 3



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

Pat Sheehan, W7DED will do a presentation on the SNARS Control Operator program. Find out exactly what the CO's are doing, why, and how you can help.



### 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.....Steve Johnson.....KS6A  
 Director.....John Byerly.....N7ROJ  
 Director.....Judy Carlson.....KE6GIW

#### STAFF 2014

By Laws Review Committee.....KE7HLR  
 Club Public Information Officer.....  
 Control Operators Manager.....W7DED  
 Cracklin' Static Editor.....WB2AWQ  
 Digital SYSOP.....K7JN  
 Meeting Greeters.....AE7OX  
 History Archivist.....KF7KTC  
 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  
 Program Chairman.....  
 Web Master .....N7ACM & KG7DLF  
 Facebook Page Administrator.....N7ACM & KG7DLF  
 Events (ARES) Coordinator.....WA6MTY

### CRACKLIN' STATIC PUBLICATION

E-mail..... [holden7471@msn.com](mailto:holden7471@msn.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 2015

**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](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 Giraud, N7JEH [n7jeh@arri.net](mailto: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](mailto:nvjims@gmail.com)

## Some assembly needed...

Building ham radio gear has long been a big part of the hobby. In the early days, virtually all gear was homebrew. Along the way, construction of equipment has dropped off. A lot of hams hardly know what end of the soldering iron to use.

Heathkit used to be the major supplier of ham radios and test equipment in kit form. They were well documented with step by step instructions for their assembly, and if you followed the assembly manual, you usually ended up with a good piece of working equipment. There is still a lot of the assembled equipment showing up at hamfests and in the used market. Since you built it, you could service it. Unfortunately, interest in building gear dropped off as the prices fell on commercial equipment and more became available on the used market. The use of solid state devices also was a factor in its demise.

When printed circuit boards (PCB) started switching from discrete components to surface mount, a lot of folks gave up working on radios. That American Beauty soldering iron no longer could be used for construction. Complaints about failing eyesight and the difficulty of placing components that will fit in the upper loop of the “e” in this text also were heard.

Fortunately, a new breed of kits are showing up. They have all the surface mount components pre-soldered, and only the ‘through the hole’ components need to be soldered into place and the unit properly mounted into an enclosure.

There are a few outfits that are still making PCBs with through the hole components. The ID-O-Matic board by Hamgadgets is a good example of this type of unit, and if you have seen N7ACM’s little repeater with the two handhelds, you have seen this unit.



**ID-O-Matic IV board**

Aside from the kits, there are lots of other things that lend themselves to home construction.

Antenna matching systems can involve big coils, variable capacitors, connectors and other necessary components as well as the construction of appropriate enclosures. Construction is a mix of electronics and mechanical engineering and can be quite rewarding when you are able to match that homebrew antenna to your transmitter.

Speaking of connectors, the art of properly attaching various coax connectors to various types of coax is an essential part of ham radio. Mechanical attached connectors are the easiest to apply and are usually found on BNC or N connectors. The crimp-on connectors also are easy to install, but they need special tooling. Solder-on connectors like the PL239 need a high heat iron (American Beauty!!!) to properly solder the braid.

Antennas are another area that lends itself nicely to home construction. The popular J pole for 2 Meters is a favorite construction project. Wire antennas are easy to build and can give you very good results on the HF bands. Some of these are fed with open wire line, a feedline that you construct with spacers. There is a world of these sort of construction projects in the ARRL Antenna Handbook.

Woodworkers are not left out of the construction end of the hobby. Building a good desktop structure to house your radios and other equipment really looks nice in the radio room and is quite functional when you are operating. It will allow for good ventilation, hide the tangle of interconnections, and look impressive to your visitors. Besides, our editor is always looking for good pictures of our stations for the newsletter!

There are usually construction articles in QST and more can be found in the ARRL Handbook. Picking up ‘stuff’ at the swap meets will populate your ‘junk box’ and give you the materials to build something useful for your ham shack.

## 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

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## MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FOUR

### PART 97 ----- SUBPART E: Providing Emergency Communications

Emergency communications means “essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available” [97.403(b)]. This rule section in essence states when life or property are at risk, nothing in the Part 97 rules prevents the licensee from using Amateur Radio to try to obtain the help or relief needed. Part 97.405 goes further when it states that a station in distress should use *any means at its disposal* to “attract attention, make known its condition and location, and obtain assistance”

As FCC officials have stated, “In a real emergency – do what is necessary.”

\* \* \* \* \*

## NAME THAT RIG



(Answer on pg 5)

## NEWSLETTER STUFF WANTED....

Any organization’s newsletter is much more interesting when it contains articles, photos, and anecdotes from its readership, and **Cracklin’ Static** is no exception! We’re looking for it all – technical articles, construction, software hints, operating techniques, ham adventures, humorous Ham writing, shack photos, interesting QSL cards, you name it! Whether you want to do only one item or perhaps a monthly or quarterly column, we can accommodate you. The only requirements are that the

article or whatever be of interest to Amateur Radio and of course to SNARS members, family-rated, and that it not be derogatory toward anyone or any organization. If you have something you would like to publish, but perhaps you don't know how to "put it all together", call me, e-mail or text me, and we'll help get you on the right path. **Cracklin' Static** is YOUR newsletter, why not add your personal touch!

Howie WB2AWQ, Editor, Cracklin' Static  
[holden7471@msn.com](mailto:holden7471@msn.com), 787-8205 home or 846-6820 cell

## **Welcome to the these New SNARS**

### **Members!**

#### **December 2014**

Scott Beiser	KF7ONR
Mick Capsouto	W7MCK
Vincent Talancon	KG7PBS
Louis Calestini "Gino"	KG7POU
John Week	Pending Call Sign
Paul Kirkemide	Pending Call Sign

#### **November 2014**

Frank Bracken	KF6MSP
Dody Bracken	KG6UVX
Rod Case	KD7QXO
Keiko Case	KD7RJH
Sam Case	KG7HBY
John Linn	KG7NSW
William Mayberry	K7WBM
Geoffrey Cunnar	KG7PDE
Alphina Chung	KG7PDD

## **SNARS CALENDAR**

### **Breakfast Meeting – SNARS**

205 Nugget Ave Sparks NV  
Saturday, January 3, 2015  
7:30 AM - 9:00 AM PST

### **Technical Committee Meeting - SNARS**

Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST  
All members are welcome to attend the Technical Committee Meeting.  
Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno, Nevada

## **Board of Director's Meeting - SNARS**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PST

All members are welcome to attend the Board of Director's meetings.

Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno, Nevada

## **NAME THAT RIG (from pg 4)**

The National Corporation was a mainstay in Ham radio receivers for more than four decades. There were many models but the most famous, and arguably the longest-running production receiver was the HRO, with more than a dozen variants. Debuted in late 1934, the HRO revolutionized commercial radio receivers, and was the benchmark receiver for many years. HROs found use not only in ham radio but were widely used in WW2 as intercept receivers in such places as Pearl Harbor (the decoding of the Japanese plans to attack Midway), and Bletchley Park England (unmasking the German Enigma ciphers). This particular model, an HRO Senior built in late 1938 and sporting a military serial number, is part of the WB2AWQ collection.

The HRO-500, a far cry from the 1930s models, yet still sporting the classic National PW dial, pictured below was the last of the tube-powered HRO line, finally quitting production in the 1970s. The 500 was replaced by a fully solid state synthesized HRO-600 (it didn't have the PW dial) which never enjoyed much success. National went out of the commercial radio business in the 1970s.



# Section Manager Continues Recovery



ARRL Nevada Section Manager Gary Grant K7VY remains in a Reno rehabilitation hospital where he is undergoing therapy

\* \* \* \* \*

for an earlier diagnosed condition. Mr. Grant was transferred to that facility last week following several weeks of hospitalization at Renown Medical Center in Reno.

For anyone needing help with ARRL matters during his hospitalization and convalescence he asks that they contact the Assistant Nevada Section Manager - John Bigley N7UR at n7ur@arrl.net (from NevadaHamRadio.com)

Late update: Gary is at the Lifecare Center on Holcomb Lane Reno. He's gaining strength and hopeful he will be released later this week.

## SNARS LADIES

Well we had our luncheon on the 10th of Dec; it was a potluck here at my house. There were 9 of us and we had a lovely time. Next month our luncheon will be on Wed, Jan 14th at the usual time of 11:30 am. We will be going to Kimmie's Restaurant.

Thank you,  
Yvonne W7YMM

## ARES NEWS

(No ARES news this month! Bob is too busy playing with his toys from Santa.....)

73 BOB MILLER WA6MTY  
Washoe County Emergency Coordinator  
Amateur Radio emergency Service (ARES)

[www.wcares.us](http://www.wcares.us)  
[wa6mty@wcares.us](mailto:wa6mty@wcares.us)  
[wa6mty@gbis.com](mailto:wa6mty@gbis.com)  
775 843-5952

\* \* \* \* \*

# Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REOC, Wednesday, December 17, 2014

### I. Call to Order (N7MSK)

Time: 1759L

#### 1. Board Members Present:

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

2 . New Board Members: K6SA, N7ROJ, KE6GIW

### II. Adoption of Agenda

1. Vote to adopt: NB6C Second: N7ACM

### III. Reports

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

2. Secretary: (NB6C):

Current membership – 217

3. Treasurer: (N7ACM):

a. Bank Balances: Checking \$9952

Savings \$3,238

PayPal \$2,997

- b. Discussion regarding proposed 2015 budget. Some minor changes were made from the budget presented to the membership. These changes were for power at Ophir. Monthly dues will stay the same. Motion to adopt the 2015 Budget: W6US Second: KF7EGU. Motion approved

#### IV. Committee Report

##### 1. Trustee (KE7VSR)

- a. Kevin continues to be a problem and tech committee is acting when needed. FCC is less than forthcoming with action.

##### 2. Tech Committee (N7ROJ) Tech Committee

- a. We will have internet soon on Peavine thanks to Dave Metz. We will be able to control repeaters via internet very soon.
- b. Discussion of having tower safety climbing class open to club members
- c. Winnemucca is scheduled to be installed after the holidays

##### 3. Education (N7ACM)

- a. Just finished the technician class with 5 people that passed their exams.
- b. There are two new members to the education team with and now a total of 6 people.
- c. Upcoming Extra class geared toward the Extra class exam.
- d. New Ham workshop December 4<sup>th</sup> at REOC

##### 4. Events – (WA6MTY)

- a. Discussion regarding use of SNARS equipment at race events.

#### V. NVCON 2015 — N7MSK

- a. Eugene-KB7JZO is brought on to bring in vendors to the event
- c. Next step is finding someone to organize the presenters
- d. Bob Miller WA6MTY will setup and organize the ARES portion

#### VI. Installation of New Officers

- a. Board member KF7EGU, W6US and KC7STV are now relieved of their position and duties
- b. Members K6SA, N7ROJ and KE6GIW are now installed as voting board members with their position and duties

#### VII. New Business / Other Business

- a. SNARS sponsored annual Holiday dinner – The event will be held at Pinocchio's on Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> at their Sparks location. Don N2MOO is in charge of raffling off prizes.
- b. Motorola MOTOTRBO DMR – Donations are coming in to purchase the repeater system

#### VIII. Motion to Adjourn: By: NB6C Second: N7ROJ Motion Carried: Meeting adjourned. Time: 1841L