

CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

FEBRUARY 2015

---PRESIDENT'S VOICE---

We made it past the hectic holidays.... Now is time to mark up your calendars with our major events for 2015. We will get those listed next month when some of the event dates are confirmed.

Our DMR repeater project is a success! We have a little over \$2,000 in the fund that came 100% from donations. ☺
We will begin the process of getting the required items to get the repeater up and running on the Peavine site.

At the club meeting on Feb 7, we will have members of the DMR/NORCAL group presenting info on DMR equipment, operations, capabilities, etc. and time for questions from the members. If you are interest in the DMR system, this is a must make meeting....

May 1-2-3 is the Nevada State Convention (NVCON) being held at the Boomtown facility off West I-80, next to Cabela's. This promises to become a major event for us. Anticipated attendance will be in the 300+ person range, with many more that don't register for the conference, but want to attend the swap meet and to visit the exhibitor area.

The Winnemucca Mtn. repeater installation is waiting for the free time of Pat, John and others to make the final station installation.

The New Hams Information net sponsored by SNARS will be changing frequencies effective Sunday March 1, 2015 – still at 1300 every Sunday of the year. It will be moving to the linked repeater, **147.150** located on Mt. Rose. The New Hams Net will follow the Western Nevada Noon Net that starts at 1200 on the 147.150 frequency. We did this to expand the coverage to more hams and encourage more of the newer hams to participate.

I'm interested in hearing from the members as to what kind of programs and talks you find of interest at our monthly club meeting. Please let me know of people, topics, or any other resources you know of – Thanks

73 – Mike, N7MSK

BREAKING NEWS – K7VY.....(from radio_pack)

Beth Grant, wife of Gary just called to inform me that Gary passed on this morning at Renown Hospital in Reno. There are no funeral arrangements yet at this time but I will post as soon as I find out. It deepens me sadly for I got Gary and we started the Radio Pack Club while he was still working at the University quite a few years ago! We did a lot of things together and will be missed not only by me but by the Ham Radio Community! Think Gary was well known by hams world wide. Erv KB7IWT

SNARS meeting February 7



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

Members of the DMR/NORCAL group will be presenting info on DMR equipment, operations, capabilities, etc. with time for discussion



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

Membership: \$40 Individual, \$50 Family

OFFICERS 2014

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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 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

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

Rare DX

In the next couple of weeks, a very rare DX station will be on the air, KP1. Navassa Island, a small wildlife sanctuary and lighthouse outpost between Haiti and Jamaica, will be on the air for the first time in 22 years. It is an unincorporated American Territory under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The DXpedition will be using the call K1N due to a quirk in the FCC regulations requiring a Post Office address in that jurisdiction, and since there isn't one, they can't issue a KP1 callsign. The crew will be using the shorter 1x1 callsign to speed up the CW contacts.



Navassa Island, 35 miles west of Haiti, and 100 miles south of Guantanamo Bay Cuba

They will be operating on 160M to 6M, with CW only on 160 and 12M, and SSB only on 10M. Like most DXpeditions, they will be operating split, listening up or down a few KHz from their transmitting frequency. Up to date information can be found at <http://www.navassadx.com/>. Listen to the operators as they will be giving specific information as to the split. Also, when they ask for stations in a specific area, ie East Coast, Europe, Asia, etc, please stand by—they will be calling for West Coast or 7's shortly and giving us a better chance.

If you have never worked split operation on HF, this will be a learning process. Before you try to get into the pile-up, a good read of your radio's manual to learn the settings for your rig, and some practice sessions with either local stations or some other DX stations will let you into the fray... Just give your callsign once using the standard phonetics on SSB is the best way to be heard. Be quick on giving your callsign—you want to be able to hear them calling you, or another station, back when you release the mic button. If you are hearing only the last couple of words, you are taking too long giving you callsign.

Depending upon your radio, working split will depend upon how far up or down the DX station is listening. Most radios have a RIT/XIT control (Receiver Incremental

Tuning/Transmitter Incremental Tuning) that will let you move up to about 10 KHz... Set your receiver on the DX station and you can adjust the XIT to the desired offset. The DX station will use the RIT to receive the calling stations and keep their transmitter on their calling frequency.

Larger splits, like the ones used on 40m to talk to other hams in foreign countries who have voice allocations in our CW bandplan, are usually done with your SPLIT control. The exact setup is different between radios, so you will have to consult your manual for the correct method.

Needless to say, don't call the DX station that is working split on their transmitting frequency. They will never hear you and you will only be making QRM for everyone else who is trying to work the station.

A lot of hams will try to get a contact on all of the bands and all of the modes. This is in excess of 20 contacts for the Navassa DXpedition... They will be trying to give priority to first time contacts so more hams can get a contact. If you have worked KP1 on a band or mode on previous DXpedition, they are requesting that you do not call again. Likewise, don't call them again to see if you are 'in the log'. These activities just take time away from others who haven't made a contact at all. The website will be updated frequently, and it is planned to allow you to check the logs. Be patient, as they don't have a good internet connection.

To get a QSL card, you will need to send a SASE with your QSL card, and they would appreciate a "green stamp" or two to go toward their expenses... They will also be uploading to the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW) and another system when they get back.

In 2009 this DXpedition group went to Desecheo Island KP5 and made 115,787 contacts in the two weeks they were there and it resulted in the island virtually dropping off the most wanted list. They hope to do better on Navassa Island this month. As of 1/30/14 they are staged on Jamaica and waiting for the weather to cooperate before starting the helicopter airlift to the island.

This is a great opportunity to get a 'rare one', especially since working into the Caribbean is easy from this area. Give it a try!

THE NOVICE RIG ROUNDUP

Every so often a new contest or event comes about. I enjoy the contests which are more of an event than simply a contest. Think Straight Key Night and Field Day for the two biggest ones. Some others are the Antique Wireless Assn events and the Classic Exchange, both of which are primarily for folks with older radios. The most recent contest to come along is the Novice Rig Roundup.

A little history – in 1951 the FCC created a beginners' class license called "Novice". It had severe restrictions – a maximum of 75 watts input to the final amplifier stage, crystal control only (no VFOs allowed), it was good for only one year, not renewable, and operating was limited to a very small portion of the 80 meter CW band and a tiny bit of the old 11 meter ham band, plus a small phone segment on 2 meters. Power on 2M was limited to just 5 watts. A little later, the FCC added small portions of the 40 and new 15 meter CW bands. Along about the early 70s, the FCC granted Novices the right to use a VFO, and power was eventually raised to 250 watts input. As incentive licensing progressed, and the Amateur population grew and evolved, the Novice class of license gradually faded, ultimately being done away with. The basic tenets of the Novice license were sort of blended into the now seriously evolved Technician class. Existing Novice licenses were made renewable, but were no longer available to new licensees.

The 50s and 60's were the heyday of the Novice class: The Novice CW sub-bands were crammed full with operators. The radio manufacturers responded: Heathkit had no less than 7 Novice transmitters, plus a Novice transmitter/receiver in one package, over two decades.



Heath HW-16 Novice Transmitter/receiver circa 1967

Lafayette Radio, Allied-Knight, Hallicrafters, Eico, WRL Globe, Johnson, and others had a variety of Novice oriented radios, all coming in at an entry level price, offering something between 25 and 75 watts, some offering "phone" operation (using low-cost screen grid modulation) for when the Novice eventually moved up to a General. Many smaller manufacturers, often "one-hit-wonders" sprang up in these times, most passing as

quickly as they came to be. Some Novices rolled their own, a simple transmitter being a relatively easy construction undertaking.

Many of the Novice radios from those days 50-60 years ago still remain, most just collecting dust, but some still serve their masters. So with the revival of interest in older radios of late, it comes as no surprise that the Novice Rig Roundup will make its grand entrance the week of February 7th to the 14th, on 80, 40, 15, and 2 meters. The Novice Rig Roundup celebrates that era. Scoring preference goes to crystal control, 75 watts input limit, and built before 1978. Full details on this low pressure "contest" can be found at www.novicerigroundup.org

You don't need a vintage Novice rig to operate, but those who use this older gear will be in the most demand.



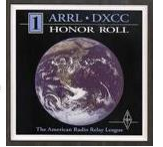
WB2AWQ homebrew Novice style transmitter and National NC-125 receiver

For myself, I have three such setups: A Millen 90800 transmitter with 25-30 watts out and crystal control coupled with an older National HRO receiver, a Johnson Viking Navigator transmitter with 25 watts out and built-in VFO or crystal control coupled with my ORIGINAL Novice receiver, a WW2 surplus BC-348, and a homebuilt 2 stage crystal controlled transmitter using a pair of genuine vintage 807 output tubes (the most popular small transmitter tube ever produced, even more than the widely used 6146). This transmitter could put **out** 100 watts, but will be limited to the Novice 75 watt input, (maybe 45-50 watts out) and will be coupled with a National NC-125 general coverage receiver, very popular with Novices in the day due to its low cost vs performance.

Check it out, if you have an old restored Novice rig sitting around, fire it up and relive those irreplaceable years. Even if you don't you can still work those great radios from yesteryear.



TOM TAORMINA, K5RC



SAVE THE DATE

THE WEST COAST CW ENTHUSIASTS' CONFAB

May 1-3, 2015 Boomtown Hotel Casino Reno NV

In conjunction with the ARRL Nevada State Convention, NVCON 2015, we are sponsoring a weekend event for all CW enthusiasts. It is especially dedicated to the members of FOC and CW-OPS, but it is also an opportunity to introduce another 400+ hams to the fun of CW.

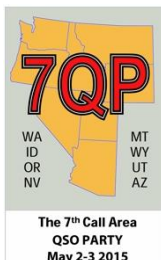
The events are being held at the Boomtown Hotel Casino. It is on the Nevada/California border on I-80. See <http://nvcon.org/> and <http://boomtownreno.com/>

Tentative Agenda

- Friday
 - CW Enthusiasts' Dinner
- Saturday
 - Special Event CW-Only On-Site Station K7RC for the 7QP Contest (Washoe County) www.7qp.org
 - Track Presentations
 - CW – You Are Missing Fun On the Air – Tom Taormina, K5RC
 - Free dB's – The World of Wire Antennas, Hank Garretson, W6SX
 - Field Day – The Gateway to Live Contesting, Hank Garretson, W6SX
 - 7QP Multiop at W7RN in Virginia City (Storey County)
- Sunday
 - Open House at the Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN www.w7rn.com

Registration will be via the NVCON Web Site. Stay tuned for that announcement. As a preview, Boomtown has given us room rates of \$29.98 and \$49.98. KOA has an RV park on site.

SPONSORED BY



EVENTS REQUIRING COMMUNICATIONS

(click on the appropriate contact if you can help or would like more info)

EVENTS 2015	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	CONTACT
Reno 5000 -1	4/12/15		Dolan Auto Group	wa6mtv@gbis.com
50/50 race	5/16/15		SNARS Ray W7TAP	w7tap@w7tap.com
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/7/15		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	paul.mcafee@att.net
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/15/15	6/25/15	SIERA	http://www.cvhams.com/contact.php
FIELD DAY	6/27/15	6/28/15	SNARS	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Reno 5000-2	6/28/15		Dolan Auto Group	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Death Ride	7/11/15		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	paul.mcafee@att.net
Tahoe Rim Trail	7/18/15	7/19/15	WC-ARES	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Vegas to Reno Off road Race	8/14/15	8/15/15	Best in the Desert Racing Assn	kc7htkeith@hotmail.com
Reno 5000-3	8/30/15		Dolan Auto Group	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Reno Air-Races	9/9/15	9/12/15	WC-ARES	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Tahoe 200	9/11/915	9/15/15	WC-ARES	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Tour De Tahoe	9/13/15		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	paul.mcafee@att.net
Sierra Valley Gran Fondo	9/13/15		Reno Cycling Club	wa6mtv@gbis.com
Edible Pedal 100	9/20/15		Sunrise Rotary Club	wa6mtv@gbis.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

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MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FIVE

PART 97 -- Telecommand of model Craft

97.215 – Telecommand of model aircraft.

An amateur station transmitting signals to control a model craft may be operated as follows:

- (a) The station identification procedure is not required for transmissions directed only to the model craft, provided that a label indicating the station call sign and the stations licensee's name and address is affixed to the station transmitter.
- (b) The control signals are not considered codes or ciphers intended to obscure the meaning of the communication.
- (c) The transmitter power must not exceed 1 W.

* * * * *

NAME THAT RIG



(Answer on pg 8)

Welcome to the these New SNARS Members for January!

Daniel	Dundon	KG7PBO
Brian P	Alexander	KG7PDC
Louis	Gabriel	KG7PJT
Rich	Gabriel	KG7PJR
Lily	Gabriel	KG7QGR
Morgane	Gabriel	KG7QGQ
Thomas	Barnes	N7OVC
Dan	O'Day	W8KHU
Erik	Andreasen	KG7QGV

Technical Committee Meeting - SNARS

Wednesday, February 11, 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, February 18, 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

WCARES Ham Cram

Saturday, February 21, 2015

8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

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

Contact Bob Miller WA6MTY wa6mty@wcares.us

SNARS CALENDAR

Breakfast Meeting – SNARS

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

VE Exam SNARS – ARRL Sponsored

Saturday, February 21, 2015

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

\$15 fee due at exam, walk-ins welcome.

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

Contact Bill Nichols NN7K nn7k@arrl.net

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 7)

The HG-10B was Heathkit's second iteration of their immensely popular HG-10 VFO (Variable Frequency Oscillator). In the fifties and sixties, many transmitters had only crystal control, so when a budding ham upgraded to his General class license, a

VFO was a natural accessory. The HG-10B was widely used with the HW-16 shown in an earlier article, to make a truly versatile transmitter/receiver combination. Known for its rock-solid construction, the HG-10B is still widely sought after by the old radio crowd.

* * * * *

ARES NEWS

No ARES news this month.....

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

SNARS LADIES

There were 9 ladies present at Kimmie's restaurant on the 14th of Jan. The next date is the 11th of Feb but no location as yet.

Yvonne W7YMM

* * * * *

Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

REOC, Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Board Members:

Mike Katz N7MSK, Don Siebert N2MOO, Judy Carlson KE6GIW, Steve Johnson KS6A

Membership Present:

Dave Miles KF7EGU, Jim Shepherd W6US

Call to Order:

18:03

Adopt Agenda First Steve Johnson KS6A, Second Don Siebert N2MOO, Approved by majority vote.

Reports:

Membership: 227 Members

Treasurer:	Balances	Checking	\$9,904.96
		Savings	\$3,238.48
		PayPal	\$3,206.04
	Total Funds		\$16,349.48

Committee Reports:

Trustee:

Discussion on Kevin is still banned from the system. Please do not talk to Kevin and remind the control operators. Please disable the systems if he is on the air.

Education:

Spring and Fall Technician classes have been scheduled and listed on the club website. The new hams workshops will be held each quarter.

Events:

Need a list of events schedule from Bob Miller.

W7XM will put together a system usage request form for use of the system and will send out to known net managers of the different nets.

Tech Committee:

John has a couple TKR850 repeaters to use for the link radio to Toulon/Winnemucca. John has the antenna done, Pat has integrated the controller to the repeater for Winnemucca. Ready to install when everyone has the time to schedule a run to Winemucca.

Pat removed the old GE Master II at Davidson. Feedline from 825 came loose and will need to be replaced.

All other systems are running ok. Waiting for the new Yeasu Repeater.

Will work with Dave Metts to finish the install at Toulon (moving of the box to a new rack area of the building)

NVCON Status:

Last meeting of the planning committee discussed the schedule for speakers and assigned George to head the committee.

Eugene is working with exhibitors this year. Tom is working with a few exhibitors and trying to coordinate with them to attend this year's event. Judy is working on the food menu for the convention.

New Business:

New Hams Net: Carl is going to resign at the end of February as the New Hams Net Manager. The New Hams Net will be moved to the 147.150 linked system as of March 1, 2015. Carl will name the new net manager soon.

DMR Project: The DMR NorCal Group will be present to address the club on February 7th Monthly Breakfast meeting at Dennys. The group will also meet on Friday to discuss the technical details with the tech committee members.

Public Remarks/Comments:

Gary Grant, K7VY is reported as being back in the hospital.

Swapmeet will be at the convention this year for the Spring.

Adjourn: 18:49 Jon Byerly N7ROJ, Steve Johnson KS6A, Approved by majority vote.