



# Tom Taormina, K5RC ARES Emergency Coordinator Storey County NV



## The Ham Radio Operating Event of the Century The ARRL Centennial Celebration W1AW/7 NEVADA

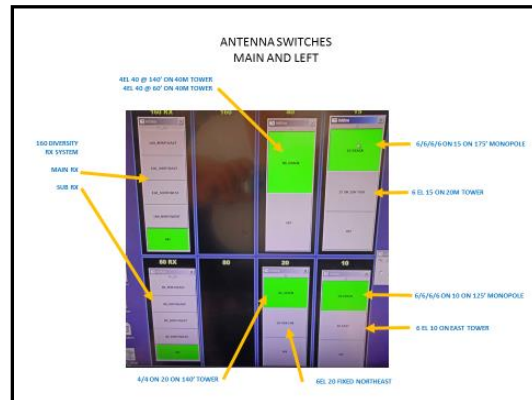
I am certain that no one at Headquarters, nor any of us who signed up to be host stations, imagined the overwhelming success of the Centennial on-the-air celebrations. We are fortunate that four months of operations had transpired, giving us a reference for the demand we should expect, the massive pileups and the band/mode chasers.

The strategy for our May and October operations was to use the three operating positions at the Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN<sup>1</sup>, inviting as many enthusiastic operators as possible.



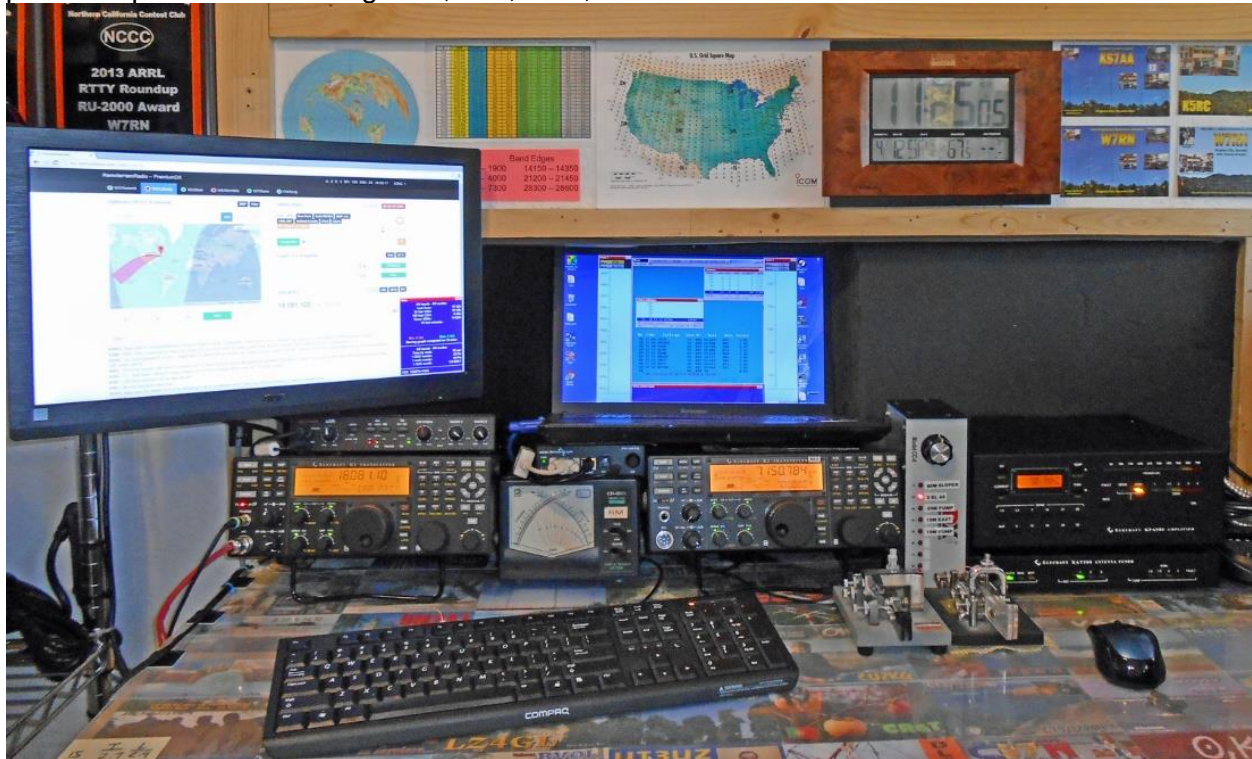
The main station consists of two operating positions. Both have Elecraft K3's setup in SO2R mode so two bands are active at a time at each position. They feed six single band amplifiers and "first one wins."

Antennas and rotators are controlled by Green Heron software on touch screen monitors, one at each position.



<sup>1</sup> The Comstock Memorial Station is a Nevada 501c3 public foundation dedicated to advancing the state of the art in Radiosport.

The third station was designated as the “guest” station. It is a K3 and KPA-500 amplifier. This position operates 160 through 6M, CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK.



The rig on the left is a K3/0 that is used for the Remote Ham Radio network and was not used during W1AW/7.

The antenna system was:

|            | Main Stations                       | Guest Station        |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>160</b> | ¼ Wave Ground Plane                 | ½ Wave Sloper @ 175' |
| <b>80</b>  | Dipole @ 130'                       | Dipole @ 70'         |
| <b>40</b>  | 4 over 4 on 140' tower              | 2el @ 125'           |
| <b>30</b>  |                                     | Dipole @ 140'        |
| <b>20</b>  | 4 over 4 on 140' tower, 6el @ 40'   | 5el @ 40'            |
| <b>17</b>  |                                     | Dipole @ 140'        |
| <b>15</b>  | 6/6/6/6 on 170' Monopole, 6el @ 30' | 6el @ 40'            |
| <b>12</b>  |                                     | Dipole @ 140'        |
| <b>10</b>  | 6/6/6/6 on 125' Monopole, 6el @ 40' | 6el @ 40'            |
| <b>6</b>   |                                     | 7el @ 40'            |

The operators included locals, guest ops and members of the NCCC, and ranged in skills from WRTC competitor KH6ND to 10 year old KG7HBY. The philosophy was to afford everyone an opportunity to operate at their own skill level and to provide “Elmer’s” at all times for those who were just learning or advancing their operating skills. The core control operators were: K5RC, WX5S, K7NV, KH6ND and KH2TJ.

The operators included:

K5RC, K6JEB, K6NV, K6ST, K7NV, KD6WKY, KD7KUJ, KD7QXO, KE4TZ, KF2T, KG7HBY, KH2TJ, KK6EOR, KK7YW, KM6CQ, KM9R, KQ1N, KQ6DV, KU6F, KU7Y, N6GTO, N6RNO, N7AC, N7YQ, NW6P, NZ6Q, WB6JAD, KJ6PKU, W6SX, W6UQZ, W7IND, W7NIK, W7SK, W7YKN, WK6I, WX5S and K7AFO in the kitchen.

We also participated in the 7QP and had W1AW/7 NV stations operating from Carson City, Nye, Storey and Washoe Counties. We are hoping to have set an all-time (unofficial) QSO record in that contest. We were competing in our own category, so there was no unfair advantage to other multiop entrants.

Special Moments included:



Ten year-old KG7HBY operated his first special events station and maintained rates of more than 100 per hour. He is flanked by his dad, KD7QXO, who provided encouragement and quickly had to sit back while Sam was comfortable with copying calls.

A group made the trek from Northern California they included:



KI6PKU, who was a last minute addition, got thrown into the fray in his first "contest."



NZ6Q and AE6J had to struggle using a mobile rig with a hand mic after we managed to blow up the front end of the Guest K3. We also lost two of the six Emtron amps and the KPA-500 was pressed into service on 160 and 15 meters.



Among the NCCC members was our secret weapon Saraj, KU6F. She had control of the rate flogging tool to keep the boys on task.

More of the NCCC crew included N6RNO and KD6WKY.



Among the signs on the monitors is a reminder: "This is not a contest. Get over it."

Also among the NCCC stalwarts is, NW6P (left) who was our cheerleader and inspiration. Tom is recovering from a nearly fatal stroke and encouraging NZ6Q who is operating using a prosthetic arm, a hand mic and logging all at the same time.





I was amazed at how many we could get in the shack at one time and how many sets of headphones we needed!

And, of course, what operating event would be complete without the need to do antenna work! KH6ND and K7NV of Tower Busters provided needed repairs.

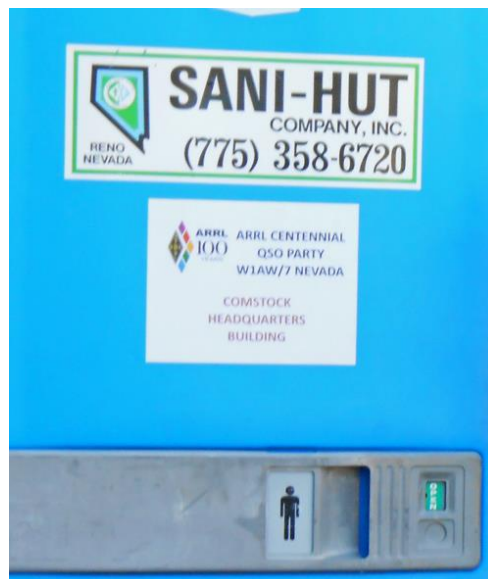


KH6ND fixing a broken linear loading line on a 4 el 40 @ 140'

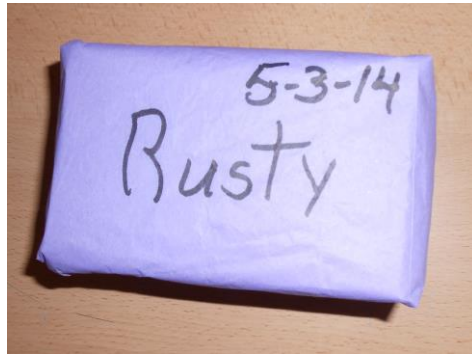
While K7NV provided instruction on the proper use of the sanitary facilities.



This building also doubled as our Headquarters "facility":



On a more somber note, our parakeet, Rusty (yes, his namesake) expired. He is survived by parakeet Bill (yes his namesake), who apparently thinks that Rusty is still inside the mirror. Make any parallels from that your mind can conjure. He died of natural causes not related to W1AW/7.



We also encountered two trips to the ER (not serious) and 3 auto accidents (also not serious) and only minor equipment failures. With more than 40 people in and out during the week, the drama was actually minimal.

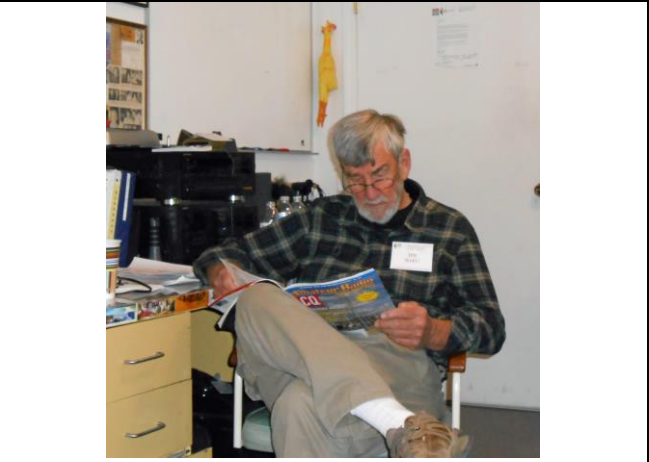


The last day, May 6. The white spots in the photo are snow. It snowed all morning. The image at bottom center is a mule deer (doe) crossing the driveway.

We concluded with a little over 30,000 QSO's and a memorable experience for all. It will take some time for WX5S to merge logs and come up with a final breakdown. Stand by for that tally.



PHOTO GALLERY



# W1AW/7 NV 2014

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## HAM RADIO GIRLS TURN THE TABLES ON NEWSMAN AT W1AW/7



Newsman Chase Stevens operates W1AW/7

Weekends are always big in Vegas. After a grueling work week there is no better way to unwind and blow off a little steam than a wild 48 hours in Sin City.

When you are a newsman for the cities only daily paper, the Las Vegas Review-Journal, you know that big weekends bring big news in the entertainment capital of the world.

So what big assignment would news photographer Chase Stevens draw for Saturday? Were Hollywood celebrities mis-behaving? Was a Senator or Congressman caught partying away on the tax-payers dime? Will it be a shooting? A horrible accident? A scandal in the making?

Nopel None of these. Chase Stevens is assigned to gather photographs of the Sisterhood Of Amateur Radio's (SOAR) operation of W1AW/7 for an upcoming story about amateur radio.

Stevens, a capable and likeable, young professional, was going about his business of capturing the images of the W1AW/7 operations when the SOAR girls suddenly reversed the roles and Stevens found himself, microphone in hand, as the voice of W1AW/7, while the SOAR ladies pointed the lenses of their cameras in his direction.



Several of the SOAR W1AW/7 team

The W1AW/7 station was a special commemorative operation of the ARRL headquarters station as a part of the year long ARRL 100 Centennial Celebration. The station was on the air during Saturdays running of the 7th Call Area QSO Party. The station joined similar operations in Amargosa

## W1AW/7 NEVADA NOW ON THE AIR!



W1AW/7 is now on the air from Nevada. Operations began this evening at 5:00PM. W1AW will have a temporary home for the next week in Nevada. As part of the ARRL 100 Centennial Celebration W1AW will be operating as portable seven in the Silver State.

Primary W1AW/7 operations will be from the Comstock Memorial Station W7RN in Virginia City Highlands. However, during next Saturdays 7th Area QSO Party, several satellite operations will also be on the air around the state.



W7RN

Nevada's contributions to the W1AW event is being coordinated by Tom Taormina K5RC. Planned operations are for 160-6 meters CW,SSB, RTTY, and PSK. Operator slots are still available. Contact Tom.

### You can be a part of W1AW/7 Operations in Nevada

The following County Operations will be on the air May 3rd.



W1AW/7 Nye County will be hosted by N7TP in Amargosa. Guests operators are welcome.



W1AW/7 Clark County is being hosted by the Sisterhood Of Amateur Radio (SOAR) and will be held at Amateur Electronics Supply (AES) 4640 South Polaris Avenue from 6:00 AM until Midnight. Everyone is invited to join the fun. CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK.