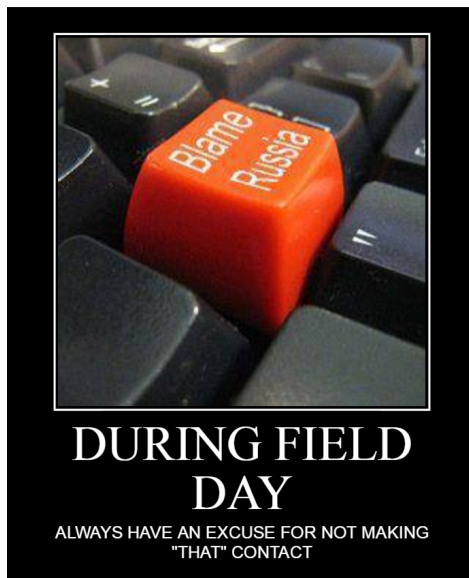




GOAT NOTES

AUGUST 2019



Field Day Wrap up and Beyond

Well Field Day 2019 is in the books- The GOATA Goats took to the field in style and with a can-do attitude. We completed a bunch of contacts as far away as Florida and Texas. Kathi submitted our results to ARRL and it shows we had a great time (For a complete rundown on the stats refer to our website gotahams.com).

Prior to Field Day, our secretary Kathi, KD6CAF sent some photos and GOTAhams tokens to Dave Casler wishing him a great Field Day with his local radio club. Dave responded with a typewritten letter (yep Dave is Old School) ask permission to post those photos on his page. Of course Dave!, you have been a great friend to Kathi and I since we met at Quartzfest and the best advocate we could have hoped for. Thanks for all you've done to promote GOTAhams and the kind words you've had for Kathi and I. Looks like we are hitting our stride.

to visit Dave Caslers website ["dcasler.com"](http://dcasler.com) [click here](#) and check out his YouTube channel for some in depth ["Ham Radio Answers"](#)

Our monthly meeting was held at Casa Jimenez in Claremont as usual. We had a great turn out and even met some new friends. The Sutterland family showed up and shared their story about meeting the club at Field Day, John S. AC6FJ said that he had attended past Field Days that were not inviting, and how the GOTAhams all welcomed his Family and had projects to offer his son James, offered them food and refreshments, allowed them to "Get On The Air" and basically treated them not as outside onlookers but embraced them as fellow hams. Personally I was quite touched by that story and extremely proud of what we are building in this fledgling club.

Seems Kathi has received a request from another club in the Setterlund who saw our website and were pleased with what we are doing, and would we please send them a QSL card. Sending and receiving QSL cards is an old tradition of the Amateur Radio Service, one which we are going to heartily embrace. So far we have no QSL card BUT Jack KM6UNQ advised us that he was already on it , and that he was working on an old school QSL card for the club. Chris KI6AMK is also working on a design of his own. Thanks guys we can hardly wait to see the results of your endeavors. One thing about the GOATS is we never have to ask twice for volunteers to complete a task- usually someone is already on it- It's like our club's super power.

One thing that stood out for me was the two earthquakes that shook Southern California. Thank goodness we were spared (save a broken coffee cup here in Covina) of any major damage. The area around Ridgecrest and Trona we not so fortunate. I know the area from my off roading days. It was a wakeup call for us

to take stock of our disaster preparedness. Having completed CERT training last year I have had a different attitude and have adjusted accordingly- Just something to think about. We will have an article next newsletter about this most important subject.

This Month's SPOTLIGHT is our own President- Ken KCWOK, without whom this club would not have come together in the way it has-

Bruce was the recipient of a visit from the Propagation Brothers- Chris KI6AMK and Scott KG6ABF. They got Bruce fixed up and on the HF airwaves. The story is below.

Lots to get to so let's just get to it-

SPOTLIGHT



This month's spotlight is our own President Ken KC6WOK. I was looking for a picture of Ken, then I thought of asking him for a picture then I came across this one. I think it pretty much captures his aura and I use that term because somehow it

fits. This man is always working and always there for us and we are fortunate to have him.

I first met Ken at my first meeting in a different place. He was like the welcome wagon and I understood that he and Kathi along with Mark KM6AHY were the heart and soul of that group. When these folks were discussing creating a new club from scratch- I jumped at the chance to be a part of it.

So here we go - Ken is quite an articulate writer so in his own words here is this month's spotlight.

What got me started in "Ham Radio"?

As long as I can remember I was interested in what makes things work? If there were wires involved YIPPEE all the better so electricity and electronics (as it existed in the 1960's) not just interested me but "drew me in" My parents told many stories of me taking things apart, putting them back together? Not so much.

I do recall creating crazy useless devices that turned the lights on and off with wired remote controlled fashioned from old extension cords. When I was about 10 years old the next neighbor kids and I fashioned a crude wired telegraph system to communicate through morse code.

I did have another neighbor two doors away that was a well known Amateur Radio Hobbyist with a quite impressive tower and a room in his house devoted to Ham Radio (a "Shack" as I found out later) George was the Local 6 meter Guru well known in a local well known Ham Radio "Association" Now I know why we were not able to watch CBS channel 2 Sunday and Monday evenings, all that came through was George Dines checking in to his 6 meter net (c; Unfortunately, I didn't know or understand what an "Elmer" was or that most Hams wanted to pass on their love for the hobby.

In the 70s I did what everyone with a van or pickup did and installed a CB, being the "All in" type I had to have the test equipment, an SWR/Power meter, and study what makes these radios work right. So Amplifiers certainly entered that picture. Soon all my friends and their friends were looking to me to get CBs working right. Of course I did have that "Handle" the CB identifier name Crash, coined by my

friends describing my infamous driving skills. The CB hobby stuck with me through two marriages and in my Biker days came in handy as the “Comms” guy in our Security based motorcycle club. When Kathi and I moved to a very remote home in the Tehachapi mountains I erected a 40 foot Rohn 25G tower with a rotator and 11 meter (CB) 4 element quad beam antenna that let us talk amazingly far during an active sunspot cycle that I really did not understand at the time.

After going to work for Los Angeles Department of Water & Power I met a long time Ham, Rick Leyton WB6WFH, that was actively recruiting interested folks for an amateur radio class. I was certainly all in and along with several co-workers. Rick became a very good friend, Elmer and mentor. When we tested for our “Technician” Licenses, the “No-Code” was very new but Rick stated “I won’t create any Ham-Strung Hams” so we all passed the code portion at 5 wpm, all perfect copy! Most of us also passed the General questions test but none of us could copy at 13 wpm so we all became “Tech +” signifying we were code proficient.

I became very active on packet radio, this was still pre world wide web so communicating world wide on two meter packet was exciting! The MIR Russian space station was orbiting the earth with an automatic packet station on-board so logging on to that during its flyover was pretty cool with a 5 watt HT on a homebrew 1/4 wave vertical with a DIY packet controller and a 286 computer. My Elmer Rick maintained the San Fernando Valley Packet BBS, one of the most popular and active BBS’s in the LA area. So that was our email service.

All the new DWP hams and many of the old ones created a nightly round table on the Chatsworth repeater, that was also owned by a DWP power transmission supervisor. We talked to each other on our commutes home from work and after our swing shift was over. We held a monthly get-together in the back room of the Denny’s restaurant at Roscoe and the 405 in the San Fernando Valley. During one of those meetings that was attended by a large amount of listeners (we would fill the room that held 80+ people), we were made aware that our “Net” had a nickname, we were known as the “WOK & WOL Group.” The name came from the call sign of my call sign **KC6WOK**, and my co-worker, Matt Leigh **KC6WOL**.

Well as life usually goes work changed, I moved to a different department within the City of LA and was no longer on the same schedule as my Ham co-workers. I got busy, had a young family to raise and the radio hobby took a back seat to all of that.

20 years later I was talked into retirement and I was looking for something to do and with some extra coin from Vacation time payoffs etc. decided it was a perfect time to jump back into my radio hobby. It was nearing ARRL field day so I needed to find a local club, I found that Club, they seemed friendly and appeared excited about Field Day, we joined that club, reserved a spot at the RV park they were using and took our recently acquired 30 foot Class C motorhome as our base of operations. It wasn't exactly what we expected, a slightly disjointed attempt at Ham radio field work but it was enough for Kathi and I to formulate a plan to create our own Ham shack on wheels, and the GOTAhome was born! We bought a multiband Icom IC-7100 some antennas etc. we did try to be very involved in the activities of our new club, unfortunately the club did not want to be as active as what we had hoped. We searched for that active club but found many that had failed or were farther away than we cared to travel. We realized that if we couldn't find what we were looking for we would have to create it, GOTAhams was born and at this point the story is still writing itself. It is my hope that anyone reading this would like to join in My/Our continuing journey.

OK Ken you got it- As we go forward, with your dream, becoming our reality we look forward to many more good times ahead. We couldn't do this without you guys. And if I haven't said it before I thank you for all your "Elmering" help and friendship- it has truly been my pleasure and honor.



BRUCE AND THE PROPAGATION BROTHERS



Bruce KM6WBI became a General Ham ticket bearer a few months ago and immediately got himself a Yaesu 991 radio set. Bruce had checked them out on line and when he saw fellow GOAT Jack KM6UNQ get one his mind was made up.

The radio arrived but, hummmm ...no antenna. Bruce took his radio to our picnic in April, and there were a couple of antennas there to hook up to. Since this is a 2m /70cm as well as an HF rig some contacts were made right there.

Field day came and Bruce brought out his 991 to play and get a good work out- that was quite impressive. I have seen the battle between the 991 and the IC 7300 on youtube but to see them up close and in Field Day conditions was a horse of a different color. At the end of the event Bruce was still without a way to use his rig at home. Enter the Propagation Brothers, a name well deserved when you get to know them.

Scott KG6ABF is quite the “Antenna Guy” and is very knowledgeable to say the least. Scott has spent a great deal of his adult life involved in our hobby and is a welcome addition to our club. Chris KI6AMK is a Comms Tech with the Los Angeles City Fire Dept (Hummmm another L.A. City employee- good man) and also has vast knowledge of all things relating to Ham Radio and communications in general.

Well Bruce mentioned to these guys that he was in need of some type of ariel and they didn't need to be asked twice. These gentleman arrived early at Bruce's house and assessed his location and situation. The men decided that a dipole type antenna would do the trick.

Bruce has the beginnings of a radio shack set up in his front room. Chris had to get under the house to make the proper connections. Not only was Chris experienced in this type of installation, but it was agreed that he was probably the one with the best chance to crawl up under the house and make it out without too much bodily damage. Bruce loaned Chris a pair of "Retired Gentleman's lounging trousers" also known as sweat pants and a long sleeve shirt.

Chris and Bruce set up the poles needed to string up the dipole and before too long the install was completed. The antenna is a Palomar Engineers "Bullet 80" EFLW, (End Fed Long Wire) Scott is an expert on this Antenna as he worked for Palomar-Engineers.

Thanks to Chris and Scott for their hard work and hope this is the start of a wonderful resource for the club. Here ia a pic of the antenna in action.



GOTA Hams SATURDAY IN THE PARK

I told you this was a busy month for the Goats. On Saturday the 18, the GOTA Goats were at the Ham Radio Swapmeet in Claremont bright and early. As usual coffee and donuts were available as well as an invitation to see how great our hobby can be with the right people and activities.

After several hours, the GOATS deployed to San Dimas Park for “Saturday In The Park” activities. The Gotahome was set up and the day was under way.

We had some visitors and even some old friends come by to see what’s up.



Jack KM6UNQ bought a Swap Meet tuner as Mark KM6AHY looks on



James , Mark and Bruce working on the website



Erecting Antenna Clint KQ6NJ Bruce KM6WBI Ken KC6WOK



Clint , Mark , Ken getting ready to pole vault or set up a temporary antenna base



Saturday In The Park



Gotahams Vilma Hospitality Chairperson and Bob KM6OMV with Joe at the Park



Laurie KM6EVR Paul KN6PH from the hill in Lake Arrowhead



Bob and Joe showskills

What better way to end up Saturday in The Park than with a dancing horse trying to get on the air. Check our new and improved website GOTAHAMS.COM calendar section for the next park day and other events.

Lionel The Lizard

Let's check in and see what our favorite lizard is up to this month

Lionel Lizard lives in the foothills of the mountains among the evergreen trees and silver tasseled scrub bushes



One bright summer day Lionel and Sally were cool & cozy in their telegraph shack. Lionel was tapping out his message CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

He had been sending out his message all morning and became tired so he decided to go outside for some fresh air.

Since it had rained recently there were puddles of water on the ground and water droplets on the tall green grass.

Noticing the sun was out Lionel and Sally scurried outside to warm up in the sun.



Sally scampered to a nearby puddle and splashed around getting her slimy skin really wet.

Lionel, Sally and Brownie went inside the telegraph shack to cool off.

Sally slithered under the shack to the muddy ground below and sat with Awesome Possum talking about their adventures.

Brownie saw the telegraph key and asked Lionel if he could check it out.

Lionel motioned to his Morse Code chart so Brownie started hopping on the key transmitting Lionel's message for him.

CQ CQ CQ this is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

The End for this month

Thanks Kathi for Lionel's adventures

Well that's about it for this month. The weather has turned hot in many areas, stay hydrated, keep track of your loved ones and that's to include your pets. Stay safe and remember to stay RADIO ACTIVE and 73 to you good folks.