

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020

January 2020

GOAT NOTES

Happy New Year Goats- hope everyone had a good holiday season- last newsletter we looked back on our first year, this time we look forward at the year to come. We have seen our club grow at a pretty good pace and hope to bring in new folks this year. In addition to regular news we are going to touch on topics that, unfortunately, may impact the way we have to communicate in the near future. I see that So Cal Edison, which covers a majority of us, is talking about rolling blackouts and “power downs” whatever that is. This is not a scare segment, just something to look at in the future, we do live in earthquake and fire areas after all. So then there is Radio in the park days and to use them as a good time to practice our skills at using the radios we will possibly be using at Field Day. Didi I say Field Day? Yup sure did- never too early to get acquainted with these rigs such as the IC 7300 and the Yaesu FT991. We are fortunate to have access to both these rigs.

Since these are the two most popular radios at this time (insert argument here) there is extensive information on these bad boys at our website (www.gotahams.com) here you will find interesting and informative articles as well as videos posted. It would be a good thing to view these topics, take notes and then when Saturday in the park, at our monthly meeting or even on our weekly roundtable, discuss the information or what have you at that time. No time like the present to get going on this, Field Day will be here before we know it.

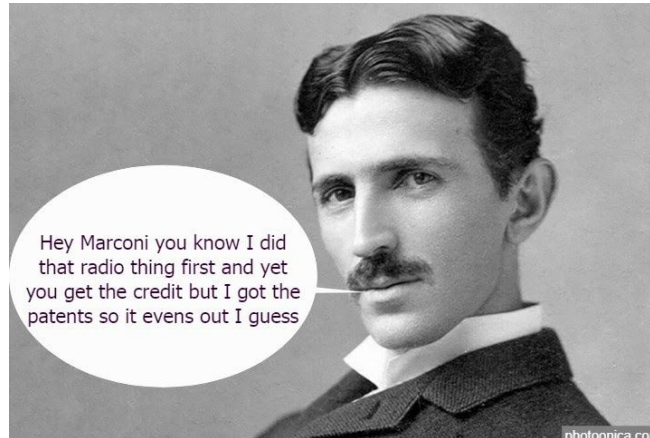
We always look forward to seeing more of the Gota Goats at the monthly swapmeet. It's a lot of fun and you just might find that thing you are looking for, and besides we have the best coffee around thanks to Mark KM6AHY and our Hospitality chairperson Vilma.

We also look forward to getting more of our members and family to qualify for their Ham License this year.

In addition to all this we look forward to run our raffles and other events during the year. So with the New Year in progress, let's get to it.



THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT



Ok just when you thought you had the Yaesu v.s. Icom debate settled, here is another question open to some debate....maybe.

This Month's SPOTLIGHT is on Nicola Tesla (July 1856 – January 1943). We commonly think of Marconi (25 April 1874 – 20 July 1937) as the father of radio. Well this is where the discussion begins. Marconi was famous for using “Radio” as a means of communication, and he even patented many inventions related to his “discovery”. Problem was Marconi was using equipment, such as an oscillator, invented and built by Tesla. Marconi was famous for building on what Tesla had started, but ran out of financial backing to proceed with. Marconi was lauded for his ability to send wireless signals across many miles and over the great Atlantic ocean. Marconi even set up a radio station in the Vatican for Pope Pius XI in 1939. Marconi received many honors and was even knighted in his adopted home of England.

As early as 1892 Tesla had created a basic design for, what we would now recognize as “radio” and in 1898 Tesla patented a type of radio controlled boat that could change direction through wireless means via his “radio set up”. Tesla's robot-boat was constructed with an antenna, which transmitted the radio waves coming from the command post where Tesla was standing. Those radio waves were received by a radio sensitive device called coherer, which transmitted the radio waves into mechanical movements of the propellers on the boat.

Tesla sued Marconi's company over the many patents related to "radio" and the battle lasted until six months AFTER Tesla's death when the United States Supreme Court dismissed Marconi's patents and awarded them to Tesla.

Although Tesla was never really recognized as the "Father" of radio Marconi was no slouch and should be remembered for all he did to advance Tesla's dream, so I guess you can say radio was born from the minds of many intellectual giants in the field But Tesla did it first. Tesla was a genius, an inventor, a futurist and a great American.

The Christmas Party- Goat Style

I attended the GOTAHAMS christmas along with the Goat heard at our usual meeting location. I took my wife and best friend Jan. We have not attended a Christmas party in about 15 years. Now we are planning for next year. Kathi KD6CAF, our secretary made the table decorations, our Hospitality Chairperson Vilma set up the desert table in her usual flair, and there was a TON of goodies, sweets and pies. Jan set out the decorations while our Vice President, Mark KM6AHY and our President Ken KC6WOK set up the screen for our visual entertainment.

The Goats began to fill up the room, the orders were taken and served and the party was officially underway. We went over the past years achievements and accomplishments. We had a slideshow of the Goats in action up and down the state. We shared stories and had a ton of laughs.

Thanks to Kathi and Ken all the Goats in attendance received a wonderful keepsake in the way of a coffee cup with our name and call sign on it. This is a gift I will long cherish, and look back on with happiness and pride.

Then on top of that we had a "white goat" gift exchange. I have to tell you there was nothing but great gifts and fun was had by all.

I have been to many parties and get Togethers for the holidays, but this one was one for the books Thanks to all that attended, and for those that were unable to make it- well God willing you only have 11 months to get ready.

Here are some highlights of the party.



Chris (the Goat formally known as KI6MAK) and JamesW6FRQ greet the heard at the goodies table.



Our own Christmas elf MarkKM6AHY displays his T-Hunt gear



Bob KM6OWV gets a triple band HT during Whit Goat gift exchange.



Vic KM6RWB and his wife Jan show off their coffee cups

CHRISTMAS EVE ROUNDTABLE

I was trying to come up with a witty poem for the Night Before Christmas but as I am still in a tamale semi coma you must forgive me. We started the web on time, sort of and I ran the net-just like Bill O'Reilly I did it live. It was my first time and I bumbled through it, but in typical GOAT fashion, I got 'er dun. We did two rounds and we had a great time...on the radio. Grace KM6LJL, was pretty much quarantined in her residence. Seems that the Grinch visited her community and brought the NOROVirus with him. They had to cancel all the community holiday events due to the nature of that particular virus. Grace is fine but it was not the holiday she anticipated. We all wished her words of encouragement and good wishes during these trying times. Here are the Goats that joined me, Tim Grace, Mike and Dave, in my first (and probably last- man that was a lot of work) time as the webmaster. Thanks for joining me again folks and we'll see you on the New Years Eve roundtable for sure.

UGLY SWEATER / RADIO IN THE PARK DAY

By Kathi

Gotahams WG6OTA gathered at San Dimas Canyon Park to celebrate the Holidays by wearing Ugly Sweaters, bringing a favorite dish to share and to Get On The Air.



Grace KM6LJL listens to conversations on YaesuFT 991 radio
She shows us the Ugly Sweater awards crafted by Kathi KD6CAF



Tim N6DLC and Mark KM6AHY set up paint pole antenna attaching MFJ
2240Ham Stick Dipole - Jack KM6UNQ and George WB6OEB set up Wolf Rivers
Coils Silver Bullet 1000 antenna.



Gotahams Treasurer, Jack KM6UNQ listens to ragchew on Yaesu 991A and IC 7300.



Mark KM6AHY shows off his go box which powered the radio, on left new member Michael Horgan, KN6ENV



Ugly Sweater awards won by husband and wife, Vilma, Hospitality and Mark, Gotham VP



And the Goats gather for the last time in 2019. It was another great outing. We will see everyone at the park next year.

STAY RADIO ACTIVE

OK so staying Radio Active means to be able to communicate in environments where other forms of communication may not be possible. Batteries and the ability to sustain them is something to think about. For those of us who have HT's (I'm sure that's a majority of us) Batteries are what makes that bad boy operate. Most of these units have rechargeable batteries that can last many hours in rec mode and that's a good thing, The FT-60 for example has an optional battery pack that can be as simple as just replacing the disposable AA batteries for that pack.

As demonstrated at the Christmas party Mark brought his "TO GO" box for off grid radio operations, Bob KM6OWV brought out his portable 12v powered Disco music box. At the Radio in The Park day- Mark and Jack KM6UNQ used their "TO GO" boxes to run the radios for the day. These boxes worked out well and illustrated the usefulness, and almost necessity of such devices.

Thanks to our friends at Bioenno (<https://www.bioennopower.com/>) portable batteries weight restrictions are a thing of the past, The fact that these batteries can be charged by solar as well as regular means make this almost a necessity. Dave K6EV is currently doing a study on batteries and their discharge rate and we are looking forward to his results.

Alternate power for your rig and shack is something you should consider and we will look into it during the coming year.



Jack working Radio off "TO GO" box

LIONEL THE LIZARD

Lionel Lizard lives in mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. His home is an old abandoned telegraph shack.



On the telegraph shack wall hangs the Morse Code alphabet and a tattered picture of Samuel Morse. Behind the shack sits a colorful ornamental rail car. He uses his rail car to go on fun adventures with Sally Salamander.

Lionel sits in his ham shack using his long lizard snout to type out his message in Morse Code. CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?

An invitation to an Ugly Sweater Holiday celebration at San Dimas Canyon Park came over the air waves. He remembers crawling around the rocks and tall grasses at the park when he was a little lizard. He hoped he would see his family when he arrived at the park.



So Lionel and Sally prepared to go to the park for a Holiday adventure.



Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander rode the railcar all the way to San Dimas Canyon Park. When they arrived they were met by family and friends, a perfect way to spend the Holidays. They carefully slipped on their sweaters and was surprised to win 1st Prize.



Lionel and Sally had a really fun day with family and they hoped to return again soon.

They were happy to return home and rest. The next day Lionel used his code key tapping a Holiday message with his long lizard snout, Hope you are spending the Holidays with those you love. Have a Happy and Healthy 2020.

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

The End

Thanks for good Ol'Lionel Kathy. OK so that wraps it up. If anyone has ideas or want to submit an article for the newsletter please do so, either at the website (www.gotahams.com) or by dropping me a line at skidrowvet@yahoo.com . Like Lionel says Have a Happy and Healthy New Year and Stay Radio Active. 73 Vic in Covina.

