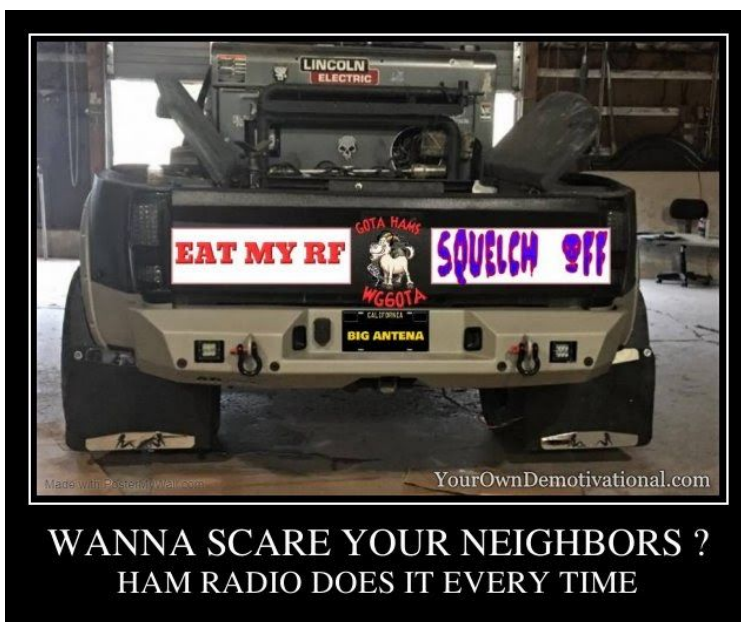




February 2020

GOAT NOTES



WANNA SCARE YOUR NEIGHBORS ?
HAM RADIO DOES IT EVERY TIME

Happy Valentines Goats

Hope everyone is having a sweetheart of a time keeping them new year's resolutions- yeah right- So we had a busy month in January There was our usual meeting, Swapmeet, Goats in the Par and on the Air and Winterfield Day 2020. If that wasn't enough we did our radio roundtable and I was even given the opportunity to give it a whack.

I once told my veteran friend that he was scaring the neighborhood with all his truck stickers from his political affiliation to his combat experience to his choice of plumbers. So I convinced him to really scare his neighbors he should put these stickers (seen above) on his truck. He didn't see the humor in my idea-oh well. I am sure Jack KM6UNQ would approve.

We have as our SPOTLIGHT Chris Argueta KM6S-One of the Brothers. Chris is a skilled operator and all around good guy.

We continue, this month, with our articles about getting ready for "The Big One" I went to a SiFi convention once (with my daughter of course) and the folks didn't like me calling them TREAKIES so in that same vein, PREPPERS is a term I'm not ready to use- whatever, just stay ready.

Lots of talk about Solar Power and GO-BOXES so we will start a discussion on that, and where the best place to get that type of information.

OK Goats let's get to it.

SPOTLIGHT



This month's spotlight is Chris Argueta KM6S. Chris, as I said is one of the propagation Brothers along with Scott KG6ABF.

These guys swoop in to a location, make a quick recon, plan and install such an antenna as to make anyone a proud and happy operator. I know because they did it for me. Thanks again.

Chris calls Ontario, California home for his base station. Chris is Married to Karen (also a club member currently going for her TECH license) Chris' family also includes two sons. Chris recently obtained his Advanced ticket and was even able to negotiate the labyrinth of the FCC system and obtain his new Vanity Call sign. Good Job on that one Chris.

Chris is a Marine (as my son constantly tells me, "There are no former Marines Just Marines ok got it) I tease these Marine vets, but we all know the respect they deserve- Thanks for your service Chris.

Chris has been in the telecommunications game for over 25 years, and was introduced (seduced?) into ham radio by his friend in 2005. Chris currently works for The City of Los Angeles Fire Department, in the communications shed.

Chris is a huge Yaesu fan(atic) and in fact that is all the equipment he runs, from HT's to HF. This guy likes radio so much he's even a DJ with quite a following and you can hear him on the net at <https://www.mixcloud.com/djchris73/>.

Thanks Chris for being part of our club and for being a good friend.



Chris and Scott

OUR MONTHLY MEETING

This is the first time I have missed a meeting, an old partner i have not seen in about 15 years came by and we got to chewing that rag. Before I knew it, the meeting was on going. I asked him to come with me, but then I had to explain what Ham Radio was about and that took the rest of the night. Although as he was leaving, he confessed, he was going to look into getting a license when he returned home to Florida. Looks like we may have converted another one.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

I read REDDIT for a variety of subjects like Ham Radio, Radio Control Cars and just funny stuff. One of the topics covered in “prepping” Here is some of the things one person made notes of during a power outage.

After a few times pressing the garage door clicker, I finally realized the power was out. I used my keys to get in another door and happily began setting up to use my recently installed transfer switch. Here are my observations and planned changes after living half a day on my generator.

1. Even during daylight hours, it was hard to fumble around in the dark garage and find the flashlight. I will add a few more conveniently located flashlights, both at my fence gates, and immediately inside the key-only entryways (we normally enter through the garage).
2. I have printed directions to myself stapled inside the garage, but found them hard to read in the aforementioned darkness (garage has no windows). I will print out additional copies which can be grabbed near the entrance door and stuffed into my pocket next time.
3. In my excitement, I got in a hurry and strained my back manhandling my "portable" generator to its enclosure outside. Note to self: slow down -- there's no real hurry here.
4. Although I'm pretty good about access and monthly generator tests, the Christmas season had allowed a collection of boxes and debris to gather in front of the generator, and I had to do a large scale rubik's cube exercise just to get to it. Not just access, but a load of crap in front of it that needed to be moved just to wheel it out. I will ensure this doesn't happen next holiday season. The good news is the cables, etc. were still on the shelf above it so no missing parts.

5. THIS IS THE BIG ONE: After everything was up and running for a while, I realized I was smelling exhaust and getting light headed. I jumped up and went outside to discover the wind had shifted and was funneling the exhaust into my (still open) garage and thence into the house. Even though the gennie was safely away from the house, a confluence of fence lines and a light wind had conspired to direct a lot of exhaust inside fairly quickly. I'm buying CO monitors for the house (today) and next time will ensure doors are closed as needed to keep exhaust flowing past the house. I will also monitor wind direction more closely next time. Don't know for sure, but this could have been worse had I been asleep.
6. After solving all the above, I decided to look on neighborhood social media to see if any info on the outage was posted. I found some posts talking about the guy "over there" who was running a generator. This is an issue I hadn't thought about. I realize it's impossible to keep the facts of your generating capability from your immediate neighbors, but be aware the info may spread much further than you think. Just food for thought in a long-term situation.
7. When the electric company workers arrived in the neighborhood, they also searched for the source of the noise. They wanted assurance (which I was happy to provide) that I was a on a legal transfer switch and not a suicide cord. I noticed them outside and pre-emptively went out to talk to them. It is remarkably hard to figure out exactly which house is running the genset.
8. Final note: I had tested everything in my house before by running the generator and turning various appliances on and off just to ensure they worked. Some things were different when left on for a while, and they were odd. One ceiling fan began making very unhappy noises and I turned it off. It's content to run on line power, but doesn't like the generator. Also, ALL the GFI breakers (in the fusebox) eventually tripped and wouldn't reset. Not a biggie, but this shuts down all outside lights and security cameras too. I'm researching a solution for this now.

Wow that's quite an article but he brings up some pretty valid points. Just something to get the mind flowing.

SOLAR / ALTERNATIVE POWER

Back in 1987, there was a black out in my Los Angeles neighborhood at Christmas time- the whole area was plunged into darkness for about a ¼ mile. No Christmas lights EXCEPT for this one house on my block. I went over to see how the heck this was possible. He had a small portable Coleman generator going full out. It was dirty, noisy and glorious in it's function. I had not seen a portable generator since I was in the service and never gave one a thought until, that Christmas. I went out and got one the following payday. Now there was not

any need for one (unless you count our many trips out camping) for many years, but when one of them big earthquakes came and knocked out power to my neighborhood, well I put out some Christmas lights and fired up that generator and was the envy of the area.

I have tried to keep my generator in working condition, but with bad health and bad timing that has not been possible and my “safety” equipment became inop. Which brings me to this topic.

When we run our activities, weather it be Swapmeet, In the Pak Radio days etc.- we usually work “off grid” Solar and or battery in combination.

“Where can we find this info Vic?” where else but our own website WWW.GOTAHAMS.COM of course. Did you know we have some pretty sharp cookies in our club on the subject of “off grid” power, by virtue of the way our stations are powered. Between Solar panels and go-boxes The Goats got it covered, very impressive bunch we have access to- Our President, Ken KC6WOK, Vice President Mark KM6AHY, Jack KM6UNQ and Chris KM6S have it down when it comes to off grid comms. Look up the articles on our website, write down your questions and at the meeting we can go over it further.

GOATS MEET AND GREET IN CLAIRMONT

As usual, before the sun came up, the goats were setting up the meet and greet at the Clairmont Radio Swapmeet. This time we tried something new. The Goat Lounge was established. We occupied two spots in order to have a place to meet our many new friends and greet some new ones. The not so easy ups were placed and the coffee was on the way.



The new lounge is installed



Lounge / antenna testing station- Yup we set up an HF antenna for the IC7300



Our president Ken KC6WOK and Jack KM6UNQ supervise the testing of a low power portable HF antenna, and it works just great.



Our Vice Prez Mark KM6AHY and our Hospitality Chief Vilma braving the chill to make sure everyone is welcome to the Goat Lounge-Thanks guys.



The world famous IC 7300 in action and the band was humming along, with Kathi KD6CAF in the background keeping the coffee pot filled- Thanks Kathi



Bioenno Solar Panel caught in the shade, no problem, the battery just kicked in

Goats in The Park and on The Air

In keeping with our mantra “Get On The Air” we gathered in the park as a practice for the real deal that is Field Day 2020.



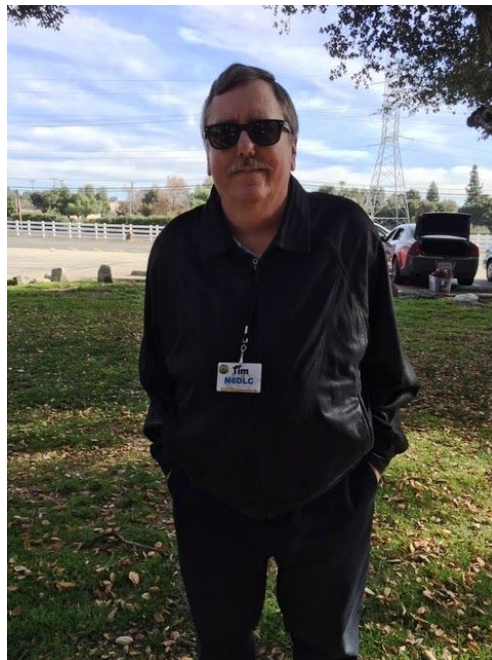
Grace KM6LJL and Ken do the “unboxing” of Grace’s brand new Heil headset. That is some pretty impressive gear, and worth every penny I know, I tried them.



Jack brought out his “GO-BOX” and we were soon on the air.



Grace and Jack making contacts on 20 meters and Grace seems happy with that headgear.



Tim N6DLC came by to lend an experienced hand, and although it was sunny, there was still a chill in the air



Bruce KM6WBI tries out Grace's headset and his approval is visible in that great smile. He liked 'em so much he got a pair himself- way to go Bruce

WINTER FIELD DAY 2020

Here we go again. The Goats signed up for and participated in Winter Field Day 2020. We set up bright and early on February 18th. Jack was there and was already set up when I got there, then Grace came by followed with the rest of the Goats. We set up three different HF antennas, Then Chris KM6S showed us his 2m/70cm to go box, when Scott KG6ABF arrived and set up his dual band antenna, the dual bander was also on the air. Thanks to Bruce, Jack, Chris and Ken we had all the bands and radio types covered.

At 1100 The day officially kicked off and we started to make contacts. Mark and Vilma also started up the BBQ for our lunch. Yup we NEVER go to a function without vittles, it's one of the best parts of our club.



Grace, Jack and Kathi working their radios and making contacts.



It's a family event. Chris' Mom and wife Karen were great cheerleaders in our contact making activities



Our BBQ crew-Mark and Vilma- Great job people.



Chuck KM6CEM made it in time to work the bands



Antennas? Oh yeah we got that covered also



Bruce brought his visitors from North Carolina to the event- talk about a family themed event



Our Winter Field Day footprint-everyone having a great time

Lionel The Lizard

Lionel is an alligator lizard. He lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. A decorative railroad car sits outside his telegraph shack. Lionel and Sally Salamander ride the railcar to adventures exploring new places.



He was sitting by his telegraph key sending out his message in Morse Code. CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL? Just then he received a message announcing Winter Field Day 2020.



Lionel had ordered a set of new Heil Headphones and hoped he would receive them before Winter Field Day. As he was thinking about his headphones he received a package by Blue Jay messenger. It was the special headphones he had been waiting for.



While Lionel, Sally and Awesome Possum admired his new headwear they thought it would be a good idea to attend the Winter Field Day since Sally was being “Elmered” by Lionel. She was very excited about making contacts with Hams far away.



Lionel and Sally attended Winter Field Day 2020 and made lots of new friends. They hoped to see their new friends again soon.

As they arrived home they couldn't wait for their next adventure having fun with Amateur Radio. Lionel went to his telegraph shack and started sending out his message:

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

The End

IN CLOSING

Well that certainly was a full month of activities. Hope everyone had had as much fun as I did. We have some new things on the horizon, but as always, if you have a suggestion or idea please let us know and we can act on it. See you at our monthly meeting, The second Tuesday of the month at our usual location Casa Jimenez, 921 W. Foothill Bl., Claremont Ca. AND on the air, Tuesday nights roundtable (except meeting night) on WA6FZH, 446.40 tone 103.5 at 7pm sharp. Tjat's it for this edition, so "STAY RADIO ACTIVE" AND till our next QSO- 73
from Vic in Covina