



W6GOTA

# GOAT NOTES

## JUNE 2020

A vintage advertisement for Lafayette Radio. The top section is titled 'LAFAYETTE RADIO AMERICA'S ELECTRONIC HEADQUARTERS' and 'NOW! Give Your COVID-19 SURVIVAL SET'. It features an image of a survival kit and lists features like 'Carried in Brief to Meet or Guard While at Work', 'Simple to Use - Direct Read', and 'Regard and Reduce'. The price is listed as 24.95. Below this are two other products: 'LAFAYETTE 8-TRANSISTOR PORTABLE "WALKIE TALKIE" Portable Radio' priced at 39.95, and 'LAFAYETTE "MIGHTY-9" The Most Powerful 9-Transistor Portable Radio' priced at 25.88. A 'FREE!' offer is also mentioned at the bottom left. The entire ad is set against a black background with white and yellow text.

**A BLAST FROM THE PAST**  
WADDA YOU KNOW STILL RELEVANT  
JUST CHANGED UP THE  
CRISIS HEADLINE

## STILL HERE, STILL STRONG

No matter where you stand on the issue of this “crisis” one thing is abundantly clear, we are still here, and we will continue to be strong. We have been able, through Ham Radio, to keep connected and use our hobby as a lifeline. Too much? Maybe yes, maybe no but only an individual operator can say for sure. We have a great time nightly on the net and have just recently established a “Theme Night” on the roundtable. Thanks to our Net Co-Ordinator, Jack KM6UNQ, and others, a question is posed to the operators that have checked in to the net. So far, I believe it’s working just fine. We have a lot of interesting folks on the net so check in and check them out.

We have our first family “unit” on the SPOTLIGHT this month. The Setterlund family, John AC6FJ, Kim KE6RXX and their son James KN6IPL. It is an interesting bunch so give it a read.

We have some of the Goat herd who, although locked down during this crisis, have found ways to keep themselves occupied. From antenna building to shack renewal.

OK Goats let us get to it.

## SPOTLIGHT



We first met this family at Field Day last year. They saw our banner and since dad John AC6JF and mom Kim KE6RXX were already hams, it was a natural. Their son James was curious and made his first contact with us, at the GOTA station, with the help of James Janssen W6FRQ. I asked John to pen a few words and he sure did- a great family and we are happy to have them in our club. Without further ado, here are John, Kim and James.

Hello, we are the Setterlund family and we're proud members of the GOTAhams Amateur Radio Club. I'm John (AC6FJ) and my wife is Kim (KE6RXX) and our son is James (KN6IPL). I've been a public-school educator for 30 years and Kim

is a licensed clinical social worker and university educator and administrator. Our son James is an 8-year-old 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who became a Technician in April of 2020.

Last summer, I was looking for a near-by Field Day activity so I could share the experience with my family. As a licensed ham for over 25 years, I knew that to better involve my family in ham radio, I needed to connect with a club or group. My wife, who graciously studied and became licensed at my behest, did not really understand the scope of possibilities offered by the ham community with regard to social or educational opportunities. Without a doubt, the friendliest, most welcoming local group I could find online was the GOTAhams group. Lucky for us, their Field Day activities were happening at one of our regular mountain bike recreational areas in Bonelli Park.

We decided to include the GOTAhams Field Day into our mountain bike ride that day and are glad that we did. We were greeted warmly by every group member. Of note were the exciting activities prepared for children in which James enthusiastically participated. He also got a chance to work the UHF/VHF radio and make his first contact. He was hooked! Kim was impressed with the open and welcoming attitude toward visitors and of course, the great food! I was in nerd heaven, checking out the radios, antennas, and power supplies, and talking with the GOTAhams members. I even got to “Elmer” a couple of members with new radios identical to mine. We knew that as soon as our busy lives slowed down a bit, we had a new ham family waiting with open arms.

Little did we know how soon that would be as our lives were “slowed-down” for us in March of 2020. During that quarantine time, we began to check-in to the nightly “general welfare” net. The stress and uncertainty of the growing pandemic, and the supply shortages were no match for the safety and security of being able to visit daily with a group of people who genuinely cared about us and strived to live up to the mission of the GOTAhams, as well as that of Amateur Radio in general. When my wife told me how much peace it gave her to be able to connect nightly with this new group, when all other social support systems were so suddenly “cut-off,” I knew we were in the right place.

Now for some nerdy stuff: Our ham shack is a modest but effective one. The base unit is a Yaesu FT-991 (converted to a 991A) all band (HF,UHF/VHF), all mode

(analog/digital) radio that is actually used as a portable unit shuttling between our house in Diamond Bar (elevation 780') and our little cabin in Big Bear City (elev. 6800').

In Diamond Bar, the radio is connected to an end fed ½ wave (inverted L) 80-10meter antenna, and in Big Bear it is connected to a G5RV JR. hanging 40' in a pine tree in an inverted V configuration. For VHF/UHF, the Diamond Bar QTH has a Comet GP-6, 30-40' in the air, and the Big Bear cabin has a Comet GP-3 about 30' high which can hit just about every corner of Big Bear Valley.

My mobile 4x4 is outfitted with a Yaesu FTM-400 connected to a Diamond SG7900 dual band mobile antenna, and a CB radio (for off-road groups that do not use ham radio). The 4x4 is also wired to accept the 991A for HF DX-peditions with a Chameleon EMCOMM III Portable HF antenna.

The family stays in touch with a trio of Yaesu HT's. James favors his FT-70DR to call out "listening," on the local repeaters; mom uses an FT-2DR; and I use a FT-3DR.

When we are not "hamming it up," we love to travel, mountain bike, hike, play guitars, watch movies, eat great food, go to church and just be lazy at home or in the cabin. James loves to create origami, play soccer and basketball, solve puzzles (he can solve a Rubik's cube!), and photography; and he plays guitar for his church youth group on Wednesday nights. James and I have a YouTube channel dedicated to our mountain bike adventures called "Sons of Thunder MTB." We have subscribers from all around the world. In her free time, Kim enjoys cooking gourmet meals, reading, and writing. She has written articles in various academic publications, and recently co-authored her first book (an academic text for higher education). My other hobbies include photography ([breakawayphotography.com](http://breakawayphotography.com)), off-roading, scuba diving, playing guitar, and keeping my beloved family looking good on Zoom.

Our family would like to offer a sincere thank you to the GOTAhams founders, as well as the entire membership, for their unwavering support and companionship during these unprecedented times. What you offer is invaluable, and we are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community!

Thanks John for that wonderful article.

## **KEEPING BUSY DURING LOCK DOWN**

During this National lockdown, many of us have had to make major changes and with limited movement and access to our usual activities, I asked the Goats “Let’s see what you have been doing to keep busy during the lockdown” We have information that Chris, KM6S has been really busy, here is his story.

Hi guys,

Well, this situation was really an interesting but productive time for me.

One week into the quarantine and I was getting cabin fever! That’s when I decided to put up a 6-meter dipole. The mast was repurposed from two 10’ PVC pipes that were my original OCFD. The Current Balun is 1:1 if I remember correctly. My son put it up in about an hour. It took longer to drill the holes to secure Balun to the mast than anything else. The antenna came as a ready kit, Balun, dog bones and wires already installed. All you need do is install it. At 20’, the antenna has a flat SWR. I bought to have ready for the summer when 6 meters opens up. The antenna kit is made in the USA by a company called Frequency Devices, model number 6HWDB. The company is out of Ottawa, Illinois. I highly recommend it.

Well, a few weeks after setting up the 6-meter dipole I was feeling antsy again. I decided to relocate my Shack. The boss (XYL) did not like it in the living room anymore, so I moved it into what a normal person’s home might be their dining room. But in my case, I moved my shack to my home recording studio.

This was really a smart move (rare for me) because I was now directly inside of where I pounded an 8’ ground rod for my 2m/70cm antenna mast.

The ground rod would now not only ground the VHF/UHF mast, but my entire station as well. Relocating the shack meant tearing holes in my wall to pass coax and ground straps. Mama was not feeling that. So, I decided to build a pass through. With the remote assistance and supervision of K6EV, and my mom to

hold the wood as I drilled the holes, I built a window pass through. I think it came out pretty cool.

Around that same time, I put up an OCFD. This came from our friends in Carlsbad, AK6R and Palomar Engineers. The Super Bullet only needed the wires and mast to be added. I cut the wires, added the dog bones, bought cheap TV antenna aluminum masts, five 5' sections. The aluminum masts were a bad idea. They began to sag, and I felt it had to come down. Another obstacle happened, the SWR was too high on some bands on the OCFD; I believe this is because the legs were not high enough. What I realized was that I just did not have the horizontal real estate to hang a 40-meter, inverted V, OCFD. So, the whole thing had to come down. The original location for the OCFD mast was not ideal, but maybe that location could work something else. I decided to use my Palomar Engineers OCFD Super Bullet for Field Day.

I realized that I had an antenna that worked great on 20 meters and up, my EFHW Bullet, also from Palomar Engineers. What I needed was nighttime operation. I decided to build a dedicated mono-band dipole for 40 meters. The parts came from those notorious ham product peddlers that hale from Starkville, MS. An MFJ-918 Balun was used to feed the antenna legs. Right below it sits an RF choke, the MFJ-915. Six 5', steel, 16-gauge masts were used this time.

That got the MFJ hardware up into the air about 30'! After a little bit of trimming, I got the mono-bander almost flat, about 1.34:1 at 7.175 MHz Thanks to Jack KM6UNQ for letting me borrow his Rig Expert antenna analyzer.

Hanging the 40-meter mast almost killed me! The mast is heavy! I almost fell off the roof putting it up. It should be dubbed the Widow Maker! That's it, in between the VHF/UHF mast on the right and the 6 meter dipole on the left.

I think I am starting to attract the neighbors' attention. The same night the antenna was put up, I made contacts with BC Canada, Montana, and New Mexico.

Chris KM6S

KI6AMK - DEEP SOUL RADIO

Thanks Chris- man that is a lot of work- good job here are the pictures to Memorialize your accomplishment.





## Another Goat Upgrade

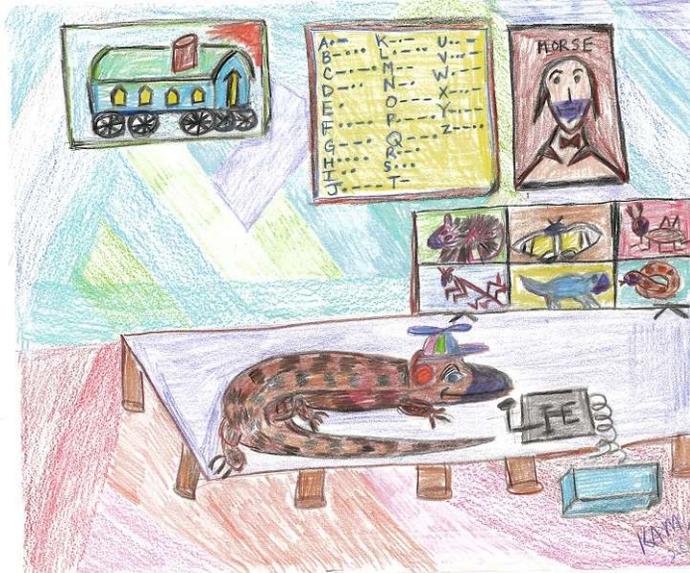


Congratulations to Shaun KN6FOW. Our favorite L.A. Essential Employee's completes his goal of becoming a Ham Radio Extra. This is quite an accomplishment. This is really a tough test to study for, but Shaun was able to, not only pass the test BUT pass it with a perfect score. That's the way to represent the club Shaun. The test was administered via ZOOM with several other test takers and the VE's looking straight at you. Talk about pressure. We salute Shaun's upgrade, his hard work and tenacity. Way to go Shaun,

## LIONEL THE LIZARD

Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

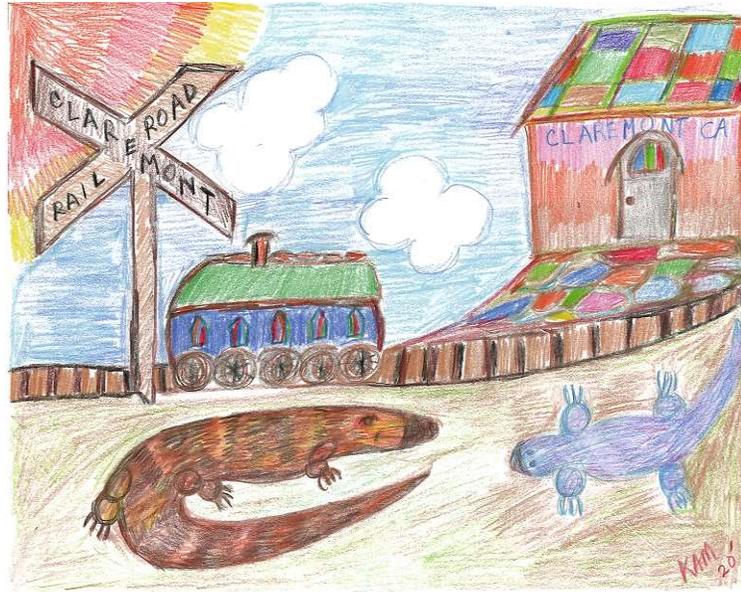
Lionel Lizard lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. He makes his home in an abandoned telegraph shack where a tattered picture of Samuel Morse hangs on the wall next to Morse Code alphabet. A colorful ornamental railcar sits outside the window.



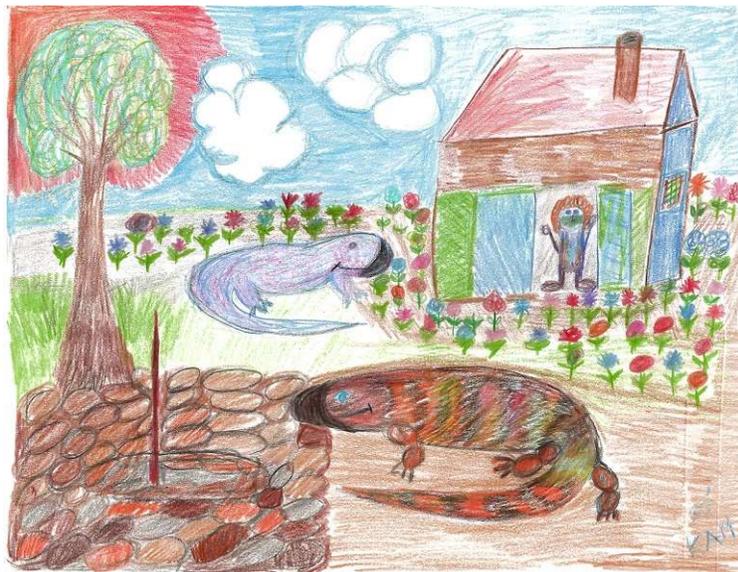
One day Lionel was enjoying a Zoom chat with his friends. They heard of a gigantic hole filled with rocks in a nearby town. He sends out his message using Morse Code with his long lizard snout. CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL?  
He received a message with information about a large, deep hole filled with rocks in Claremont.



Lionel and Sally climbed onto the railcar and rode to their next adventure.



After arriving in Claremont, they put on a face mask since the virus they had heard of was still in the air.



Lionel and Sally found the rock hole. It was large, round, and deep. A copper grounding rod was secured in the center. Lionel and Sally thought it looked fascinating and were happy they had made the journey to see it. Sally enjoyed smelling the beautiful flowers too. After Lionel and Sally returned home Lionel sent out his message telling everyone about the legend of grounding rod rock hole. CQ, CQ, CQ, this is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?  
The End

## **In Closing**

We have several great Goat stories for next month to include our own President, Ken KC6WOK, and a view of Jack's KM6UNQ's Shack in progress again. This has been a strange time in our nation's history, and no matter what side of this crisis you may be on rest assured, that the only thing that is sure is that the sun will rise and then set again and another day will pass, how we spend the time in between those events is up to us. I hope that you will spend some of that time with us, on the video chat or on the air nightly at 8 PM. Remember EBOK- Everything Gonna Be OK. Until next month, this is Vic in Covina 73 and Stay Frosty Goats.