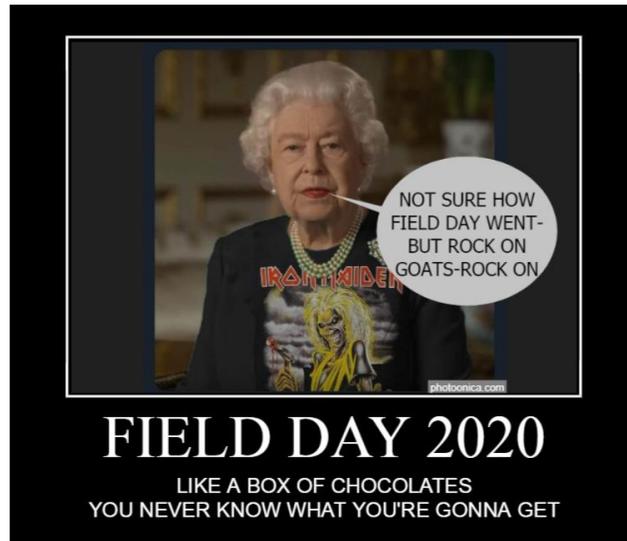




GOAT NOTES JULY 2020



Happy 4th of July Goats

Can you believe it is July already? As of this writing, Field Day 2020 is in the books, but how it turned out will be analyzed for years to come. The Bluffs at Bonelli where the Goats set up the main Field Day, location was opened at the last minute with numerous stipulations, as to size of the group and social distancing protocols in place. Sort of like Radio by appointment, very chic.

This Month's SPOTLIGHT is Shaun KN6FOW. An interesting man who just last month gained his EXTRA ticket, more on him in that segment.

A great read on the “lockdown” activities of our President Ken KC6WOK and our Secretary Kathi KD6CAF. Good use of time and effort at their place.

How about our somewhat limited return to Radio in The Park Days. yup as soon as it was possible the herd gathered in the San Dimas Park to shake off some of that rust and get back on the air.

Then an update on Jack's (KM6UNQ) Radio Shack, another quick peak at an ever-evolving station.

OK Goats let's get to it.

SPOTLIGHT



OK here is our Spotlight for the Month Shaun Luciano, one of our more athletic members, well less arthritic anyway.

Shaun was granted his Tech License on his Birthday November 12, 2019, then his General in December 2019, and Amateur Extra in June 2020. He's a busy guy with a Call Sign is KN6FOW, which was given to me with the Technician and he is currently looking to upgrade to a Vanity Call Sign. Shaun writes; Born and Raised in Torrance, CA but has lived in Eastvale, CA for the past 4 years & that's where the radio shack is.

Been with my better half, Jennifer, for 14 years. We have two beautiful daughters, Abigail 11, and Adelyn 7.

Other hobbies include Weightlifting, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts. I also enjoy playing chess (just about every day online).

I became interested in Ham Radio when figuring out how to keep in touch with family in an emergency. The City of Eastvale was putting on a Tech Class and tested at the end for the license. After passing, I immediately began studying to get my upgrade license. During the studying, the interest in the hobby side of it was sparked. The next venture is learning CW, that is an ongoing adventure.

I was fortunate enough to find the GOTAHams at the beginning of the year and have met amazing people that have been helpful, welcoming, and inspirational to a new guy.

And Shaun we are more than glad to have you with us. Shaun is a regular to the nightly GOTAHAMS net and Video Lounge.

Most recently Shaun and Chris KM6S hosted their own version of Radio in The Park in Rancho Cucamonga, and it turned out great and had a good turnout.

Looking forward to the next meeting in Cucas (do they still call it that?).

LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

Like a homework assignment I asked you to submit a story about your activities during the lockdown, well our President Kenny was no slacker. Here is his account.

What did I do on my “Covid-19” Vacation?

Vic asked what we did during our corona virus lockdown? This is my account

First, this all started as I was being released from the Hospital after a very invasive surgery, so I was going to be stuck at home for at least two weeks. Now everyone else is going to be stuck at home like me!

Well doing some quick thinking and some discussions with Jack KM6UNQ, the GOTAhams put together a nightly radio “Net” to keep folks connected and then with Kathi’s help and some quick internet research we found a easy to use video chat platform and started “practicing” with it to facilitate our monthly meetings.

The Zoom “practice” became a nightly video “Lounge” with a regular happy hour! That is all the things you already know.

Now for what else happened, with a cold and lonely Icom IC-7300 sitting on the table, no parks open to travel to, looking Sooo Saaddd I needed to get something done. After three weeks of recovery feeling much better Kathi helped me find some of my coax and a brand-new Bullet 55 antenna, I had hidden from myself. I decided to paint a handful of “Camo Poles” white to match the porch and awning, installed a clothesline pulley at the top of eight stacked poles and threaded the radiator wire through the pulley. Now I must get a para-chord over the roof (long path) preferably without getting on the roof (remember, Surgery?). I have a genius idea! The grandsons fishing pole has a casting practice weight! “Hey Kids Watch This” well countless casts later I get it over the roof, past the carport and into the opposite corner of the yard. Now for a terminator anchor pole? Well with the surplus stores closed I can’t get more of the Camo Poles! Well like any good “how can I make this happen?” I have an experimental telescopic “Hardware store” mast. The “Specs” are, outside (bottom) mast= 1 7/8” fence post, intermediate mast= 1 1/2” EMT, inside (top) mast= chain link fence top rail. With one-foot overlap (insertion?) this leaves me with about 26 feet of mast. Drilling holes in each overlap section and installing 1/4” all-threaded bolts keeps my sections secured in their extended positions, a 1/4” eye bolt installed near the top attaches another clothesline pulley and allows me to tension the antenna wire. Now with my antenna in the air, a coax run through the window and a counterpoise installed, I need a ground rod and buss bar for my little HF station. Well I know how this has gone for others, but I am sure my luck runs better than some of those stories. I drilled a hole through my porch dropped my 10-foot-long 5/8” copper clad grounding rod through the hole, drove it into the underlying dirt and oh boy, luck was on my side. The rod easily dropped to just a couple inches above the porch deck allowing for a clamp to connect a solid copper wire to lead into a 1/2” copper pipe that allows grounding of the rig, power supply, noise cancelling signal enhancer, Amplifier etc.

After all this I still have a high “noise floor” and I am trying to figure some things out. I discussed my noise issues with Scott KG6ABF and he asked how close the vertical section of my antenna was to the metal support for my awning?

My answer was “right against it. Scott recommended that I move it away by at least 8 inches. I cut some treated 2 by 4’s a foot long, fabricated some brackets attached them between the Camo poles and the metal support. Viola noise floor dropped by a couple “S” units. Thanks Scott, you came through again.

I now have a nice operational HF station although in an extremely high QRM area with power lines north and south, dual cell towers in view of my home etc. I am still capable of making contacts, listening to nearly all bands with the help of some of the capabilities of a Software defined radio and the incredible adjustability of its filters in the RF and AF sections allowing control of the RFI interference and the “hash” on the Audio portion.

This crazy single wire antenna allows super-fast and easy internal tuning to nearly flat SWR on most bands except 80 meters, but it is still under 2 to 1!

This all proves to me that for relatively little money you can have a practical HF station in terrible conditions and enjoy stretching your amateur radio legs in the General/Extra portions of the hobby.

And That is what I did on my Covid-19 Vacation! '73 Ken KC6WOK.

Thanks now that is what I call staying Radioactive. That is Kenny’s story, we would love to hear yours just send us an email at the usual spots.



Mighty fine-looking antenna Mr. President. Thanks for that report.

GOATS RETURN TO THE PARK

Gotahams return to Radio in the Park

Virus restrictions relax, Gotahams return to San Dimas Canyon Park, San Dimas and Heritage Park, Rancho Cucamonga with radios, antennas, and face coverings in hand.



James, KN6IPL helps Gotahams President Ken, KC6WOK tie a face covering. They brought radios, antennas and alternative power made contacts across the country.

Chris, KM6S, Shaun, KN6FOW and Tim, N6DLC at Heritage Park use Home Brew Dipole fed by a Ladder Line cut for 2 meters. Contacts made to Florida and Throop Peak, 9,142ft located in the San Gabriel Mountains, SOTA activation.





From Small to Tall

New Members, James, KN6IPL and Ed, W6ABW having fun at Radio in the Park.

Radio and Go Box at San Dimas Canyon Park tuned to a Radio Net in Reno, Nevada





Bruce KM6WBI (left) sets up his Alternative Power Bioenno Solar Panel L to R- Bruce; Jack, KM6UNQ; Ken, KC6WOK; John, AC6FJ; Craig, KM6EIC



73 from the Gotahams

l to r- (front) Ed, W6ABW; Craig, KM6EIC; James, KM6IPL; Ken, KC6WOK.

(back) Bruce, KM6WBI; John, AC6FJ; Tim, N6DLC.

Lionel The Lizard

Has taken the month off so young James has submitted his own story- Thanks kid, take it away.

A “Fin-tastic” Ham Tale

By James (KN6IPL)

Once there was a great white shark named “Gig.” Everyone was afraid of him because he was a big scary shark.



Whenever he tried to say hello to any of the sea creatures, they would scream, “Shark!” and run away.

He was also the only animal in the sea without a ham radio license. So, he studied and got his license and became call sign “SH6RK.” He then began making contacts and many friends on the radio. He knew Field Day was a day away, so found a radio club named The Shivers. They were going to meet up the next day and have many radio activities. At Field Day, The Shivers were surprised to see a great white shark. “Run away!” they all cried, there’s a giant shark coming!” Gig called out to them, “Don’t run away, I’m Gig, SH6RK. I’m the one you’ve been talking to on the radio.”



Then, everyone realized that Gig was not a scary shark, he was just another ham like the rest of them. They all learned an important lesson. Hams come in all shapes, sizes and scales. The End.

Thanks James, that was a good one.

The Jack Shack

Jack, our trusty Treasurer, always has a project going. This is the third time, and probably not the last, configuration of his station. Jack is constantly seeking to improve on the status of his shack, AND with the arrival of a new FLEX radio, Jack rearranged some things in order to make total use of his allotted space. Nice Job Jack let's see what comes next.





Yup good job Jack, good use of recycled pedestals, and everything fits.

CLOSING

Seems that some things are beginning to open up and that is a good thing. I for one have chosen to try and remember that the sun rises every day and that the night gives way to it, and I know that it's always darkest before that new dawn. We have all seen things that give us pause to wonder what the heck is going on, and all we can do is hang on hope for better days, we have been through worse. I had an old partner that used to say, "Any day this side of the grass is a good one", yeah I can understand that one.

Keep an eye on your SWR, look for them open bands, Stay Radio Active and EGBOK (Everything is Gonna Be OK). So, until next month, this is Vic in Covina KM6RWB 73.

P.S. Our greetings and a quick recovery to Scott KG6ABF, hope you are feeling better senior.

