



# Goat Notes

March 2020



## Welcome to March my fellow Goats

Tax season is upon us...again, it seems like this happens every year around this time. We had our monthly meeting and the opportunity drawing was a custom coffee mug, made by our President, Ken and our Secretary Kathi. Dave, and I were the big winners- I tell you that Dave is a lucky sonovagun. We also completed

another “Claremont Swap Meet - Meet and Greet” although it was rather chilly that did not tamper down the enthusiasm at this month’s gathering.

The weather has been mild and we have been fortunate to have had that good weather on our Goats on The Air in the Park at San Dimas Canyon, this month was no exception. We had some new folks join us and fun was had by all.

This month we will have an article on “HEADPHONES ” during Winter Field Day. This type of gear was quite the talk in the Goat Herd.

Our Spotlight this month is Bob Heil- which coordinates with our article this month- It’s great when a plan comes together.

Lionel the Lizard is up to a new adventure, so that’s always fun. So let's get to it.

## **SPOTLIGHT**



This month’s SPOTLIGHT is Bob Heil. A very interesting individual, a modern giant in the Rock and Roll field, Audio systems as well as a licenced Ham. Born in Illinois in 1940, Bob started out as an organist at the Fox theater in St. Louis. This taught Bob how to listen, tune and appreciate sound. In his teens he also became an avid ham radio operator, and began designing and building his own transmitters, amplifiers, and antenna systems. His call sign is K9EID.

In 1970 Bob was tapped by the Grateful Dead to rescue their concert, when their regular sound man was unable to work at the concert because of possible drug/police interaction. The equipment they had was not up to concert standard. A stage hand gave Jerry Garcia (The Dead Head himself) Bob's number. Jerry contacted Bob to explain the problem, not thinking a teenager would be able to actually help. Bob told him he could handle it, he did, the concert went off in excellent fashion and a certified rock and roll legend was born.

Bob went on to develop and improve on many amateur radio gear and components, to include a whole batch of headphones specially for ham radio operations.

So this month's spotlight is someone whose name is synonymous with our hobby and we thank him for it.

## **HEADPHONES**

Headphones, headgear, cans, earpiece- different names for a useful piece of radio equipment.

Although this type of hardware is not required, at times it's pretty handy and other times it's almost a necessity. From the time we were kids a set of "phones" was "really groovy", if you don't know that expression ask Bob KM^XXX, he's the groovy type. Anyway you know how great the music or whatever sounded and it was almost magical- well same thing with the headgear used for ham radio.

Headphones(et al) have been in use for as long as radio has been in existence. The ability to hear faint beeps and dashes was imperative to an operator. During the wars that America has been involved in – to be a radioman meant you had to get used to "Cans" made of hard plastic to today's dit dah folks using space age equipment. Not only radio operators use headgear, but audiophiles, video gamers, first responders and the list goes on and on. The common denominator is the ability to hear better in the enclosed system of device and speaker.

Even for people, like me, that are practically deaf, there is a benefit to headphones. The trade off may only be that you are not able to hear anything else except what is coming over the speakers in the headset. That problem is solved with an earpiece or single speaker headset as you will see.

This article is by no means scientific (or as some will say not deeply researched) but it's a start to get you thinking of what your own requirements, demands, or dreams are in relation to this gear set.

As stated the "basic" headphones of , say the 70's were bulky and over the ear with thick padding. The sound was great but after awhile were quite heavy.

The 80's brought us foam headsets that you could hear, well everything , not just the intended source-, they were light but in reality not very good.

The 90's to present gave us ear buds- some fantastic sound- some comfortable- some not so much- some inexpensive some out of this world.

Now how the heck does this fit in with our application? Well just about all the platforms described above could and have been adapted to ham radio. We are all familiar with the ear phone in the ear used by many of us during, for example the Covina Christmas parade. These earpieces plug into an HT which makes it quite usable in a crowded situation, for one side way type communication.

Then there are the headphone /boom microphone combo units. This type of headgear runs the spectrum from less than 50 dollars to over 1,000 dollars, such as those used by the LAFD and Air operations for the City of Los Angeles.

Some things to consider when looking at headgear are comfort, ease of use and durability. You may be wearing your headphones for an extended period of time, how comfortable they are while wearing your eyeglasses the length and type of cord and how they plug into your radio equipment. How well the sound is and the microphone clarity. If these particular headphones may have an adverse effect on your radio equipment (hash etc).

Several of our own Goats have contributed to this article and I thank them and they have provided a couple of examples of their headgear.

The bottom line, as with all your radio equipment, personal choice and budget will be the determining factors in your selection. Always remember “you get what you pay for” Good luck and if there are any questions please feel free to send an email, bring it up on our on air roundtable, or at the monthly meeting.



Thanks Mark- they seem very capable



These are the “phones” as used by Chris KM6S they are the Yamaha CM500, he recommends them.



The Heil Pro 7 - This is the winner of my survey for most desired headphones of the Goat heard, endorsed by Grace KM6LJL and Bruce KM6WBI.



Last thing- Murphy's Law says "If it looks stupid but it works, it ain't stupid"

## GOATS IN THE PARK

The day was bright and sunny, and still a bit chilly in the shade. The radios were set up and we had some new folks show up and a new loop antenna, provided by was installed and was working like a champ.



Working off that loop antenna Jack KM6UNQ, a visitor from Buena Park, Lee Waterman KM6PRE and Michael KN6ENV



Tim N6DLC is in the loop, and is checking it out-Thanks for the use of this Antenna Michael KN6ENV



Grace KM6LJL looks on as Jack uses his antenna analyzer to make sure it's tuned properly for his FT991A



Mark KM6AHY is making good use from his home built TO GO BOX



Getting ready for Field Day 2020 - I believe we got it covered but practice makes the day. Thanks Jack for bringing out your rig.



Grace KM6LJL discusses Digital radio with Steve KM6JQF an Amateur Extra we met at the Swap Meet.



Vilma and Kathi KD6CAF discuss the merits of a Wool Cap with a Pom-Pom vs a Beany Copter Cap.



Our President and Vice President-Ken KC6WOK and Mark KM6AHY show off our new Gotahams banner- man that thing really zings



And lets not forget Lionel and his friend Foxy the transmitter hunting Fox

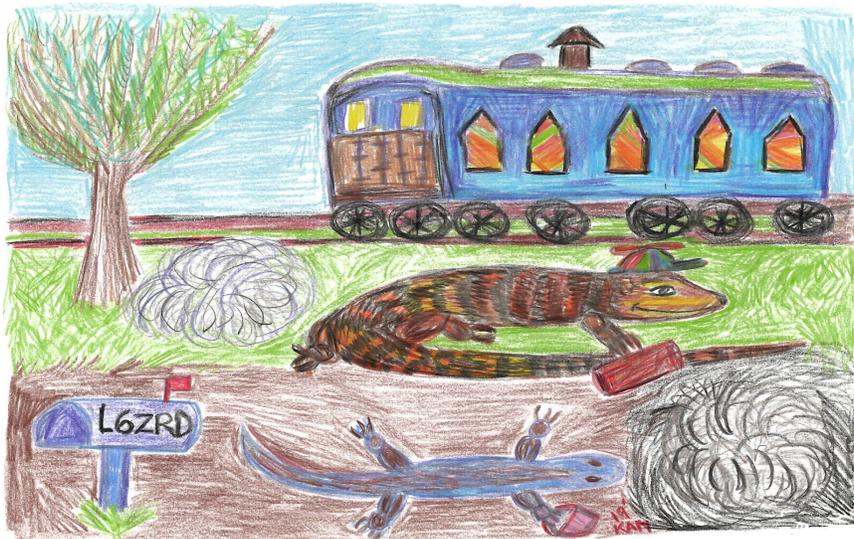
## LIONEL THE LIZARD

Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander live with their friends in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. They make their home in an abandoned telegraph shack. Lionel taps out his message on his old Morse Code key. CQ CQ CQ, This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?



Outside the window is a colorful ornamental train car Lionel used to travel to new adventures. The telegraph shack has a Morse code chart and an old picture of Samuel Morse.



One day Lionel was typing out his message, CQ CQ CQ, this is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL? He received a reply from Tri-City ACS, Amateur Radio training class. Lionel was helping Sally Salamander learn about Amateur Radio, they decide to ride to Tri-City ACS.



Sally and Lionel were studying for their Amateur License. Sally was beginning, Lionel was upgrading. David KI6UXO and Robert KJ6VGX reviewed the study book with them.

On test day Lionel and Sally only got half the questions correct but they would study harder and pass the test next time.

Lionel and Sally arrived home. Their friends Brownie Grasshopper and Awesome Possum were excited to hear about their adventure..

Lionel sent out the good news about Tri-City ACS.

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

## IN CLOSING

Another great month- we had lots of new folks coming to check us out, and that's a good thing. I contacted Bruce KM6WBI because he had missed the meeting AND the park-seems there was a death in the family and he had to travel to North Carolina to attend the services. He said he misses us and will be home soon. I also made contact with James W6FRQ- he said to say hello to everyone and that he has been very busy with his teaching duties, not to mention his Dad duties, but will

reconnect with us when time permits.- I told him Once a Goat Always a Goat and we will be here when he can make it back. Remember to check out the website, thanks to Tim it's up and running bigger and better, Thanks Tim. To the herd I say Stay Radio Active and see you soon 73- Vic in Covina