



GOAT NOTES

December 2019



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah

And Seasons Greetings- Where did the year go? Seems we just were baking in the summer heat of Field Day now here we are at Christmas. This has been a wonderful time spent with you all. I think this would be a good time to reflect on all we have accomplished in such a short span of time, so in that light the “GOAT HERD” (that’s us btw) will be this month’s SPOTLIGHT.

The Goats were not idle even during this holiday season. We had a couple of fine stand-ins for Jack KM6UNQ, who was out of state on a small road trip to Texas to visit his son, as our tuesday roundtable net. Kathi KD6CAF, Chris KI6AMK and Mark KM6AHY took turns and did a right nice job, thanks guys.

The GOATS set up the welcome wagon at the last Clairmont swap meet of the year. As usual we made a lot of contacts and have become the GO-TO place at the event. Looking forward to continuing this tradition next year as well.

Goats in the field three times this month, after the swap meet with Radio in the Park at San Dimas Canyon Park, and a special T-HUNT event at Bonelli Park. We even had time for a radio in the park day and soldering in the field exercise.

In between these events we had our monthly meeting at Casa Jimenez in Clairmont- The Goats grazed on some of the best Mexican food in the area. Chris gave a great presentation on CW and also let us see his own CW keyer he rescued and returned to service. The rig was a 1940's straight keyer and brought back to life by a true craftsman, Thanks for sharing Chris. A lively Q nA and "Live" roundtable was handled by Chris also. Good times.

OK Goats , let's get to it

SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



Our first meeting with our official ARRL Club Certificate
L-R Bruce, Vic, Bob, Kathi, Ken, Vilma and Mark missing was Jack KM6UNQ

It gives me great pleasure to look back on our time together. We started this club on the kitchen table at Ken and Kathi's house. We Ken KC6WOK, Kathi KD6CAF, Mark KM6AHY, his wife Vilma and I (Vic KM6RWB) became disenchanted with our old club status and discussed if we could form our own club. We looked at ARRL and what they required of the bare minimum for a club. We had all the officers we needed and we were able to satisfy the bare bones that

ARRL needed and we hashed out our basic rules and constitution and with a nervous pen set to paper we committed to bring this club to life.

I don't want to sound too dramatic, BUT, now I know how the founding fathers felt. Failure was never a thought and electricity was in the air. We hashed out basic core values and what we really wanted this club to be. A Place where social interaction was a prime goal. We decided that this would be a family oriented club that just happened to communicate with radio, and that ham radio would not be a bar to club participation. We also decided that although we had a president, we would involve the entire club and use their input in all matters relating to the operation of our club, no secret board meetings and no "guys up front of the room" entirely dominating the proceedings, and any idea would be heard out and worked on where possible. Lofty goals and we were sure that if given a chance this experiment in how a club could function, we could flourish where other clubs were in fact going under.

After awhile we chose a club name that would tell the entire band plan who we are and what we do- GOTA HAMS- Get On The Air Hams, yup that's us and our motto "Stay Radio Active" completes the attitude we wanted to express.

Our Hospitality (see I spelled it correctly this time) chairperson Vilma and our Secretary Kathi found us a place to hold our meeting at the Casa Jimenez. We were such a small group, that even after an aggressive (insert smile here) recruitment campaign we could fill a booth on the far side of the restaurant

It was a GREAT start and we were off and running. We received our official ARRL club certification and our first club call sign. Through the efforts of our Vice President Mark we got our vanity call sign, and it is a good one, Now WG6OTA was on the air.

The following months, we attended and participated in Winter Field Day, the ARRL Rookie roundup, we planned and conducted a quite successful National Field Day at East Shore RV park. Quite an accomplishment for a startup club. We

learned so much about antennas and propagation from some of our new guys like Chris and Scott KG6ABF, and old friends and operators like Bruce KM6WBI and James W6FRQ and Grace KM6LJL, to name a few, but we learned so much more. We learned that we liked each other, we could work well together and that having fun is more important than just piling up contacts, as the most important contacts were the ones we made sitting NEXT to them radios.

So this month's SPOTLIGHT is all about our club and our members, friends and family. You folks have made this one of the best experiences I have had the honor of being a small part of and for that I thank you and look forward to what the next year brings.



My how we have grown - what a great group

IN THE FIELD EVENTS

In addition to our spectacular debut at Field Day 2019, the goats have been active in the field every month at least once perfecting our skills in Ham Radio craft, antenna tuning and general fellowship. Every event has been fun for everyone who attends and a learning experience to say the least. Many clubs boast of “Field Day” well we have a field day at least once a month.



Vic looks on as Ken instructs Mark on the fine art of soldering



No power? No problems for Goats in the field, Thanks Ken



This is Ken's "field" soldering kit-can you imagine what his home kit is like?



After only 8 hours (insert smile here) Mark, Our Vice President shows off lighted pinwheel he soldered out in the field, not bad I couldn't do it

The Great "T" Hunt at Bonelli Park

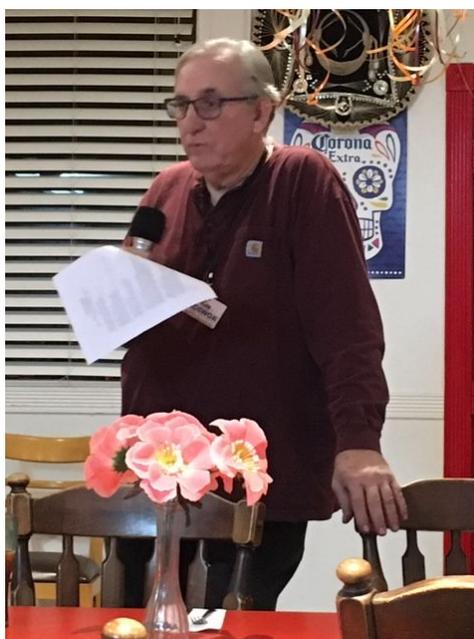
As if there wasn't enough event, GOTA HAMS help sponsor the event put on by a national group that specializes in Radio Orienteering. It's a fun event and the Goats were well represented and they hosted a well received hot dog lunch for all. A full report on this event is posted on our website (WWW.gotahams.com). If you missed this fun event, well as the Dodgers say "There's always next year".



Ken Helps out with assembly of “T” hunting antennas.

The Goats Gather

So our meeting took off on time and we were given a presentation by Chris and he showed off (and rightfully so) his refurbished 1940’s style straight key. Chris told us how he rescued this rig from the “other” swap meet near LAX. Chris also demonstrated his prowess with his straight key and man that was impressive. A Raffel was held and some pretty nice items were raffled off.



Our President called the meeting to order and on time. Looks like he has quite an agenda there.



Chris, sporting a new goatee, shows us his keyer



Chris demonstrates his rig and answers questions on it's operation.



Kathi's grandkids were our special guests this meeting.
We say welcome to Dakota and Sullen



Dave K6EV wins AGAIN, this time it's 90 degree coax connectors. I want to go to Vegas with this guy



Grace wins the coveted Ammo Can or To Go Box in progress- way to go Grace.



Dave wins the other connectors.



Scott , our beloved Quartermaster, is the big winner of the night with a Baofeng tripel band HT.

SWAP MEET AND OUTREACH

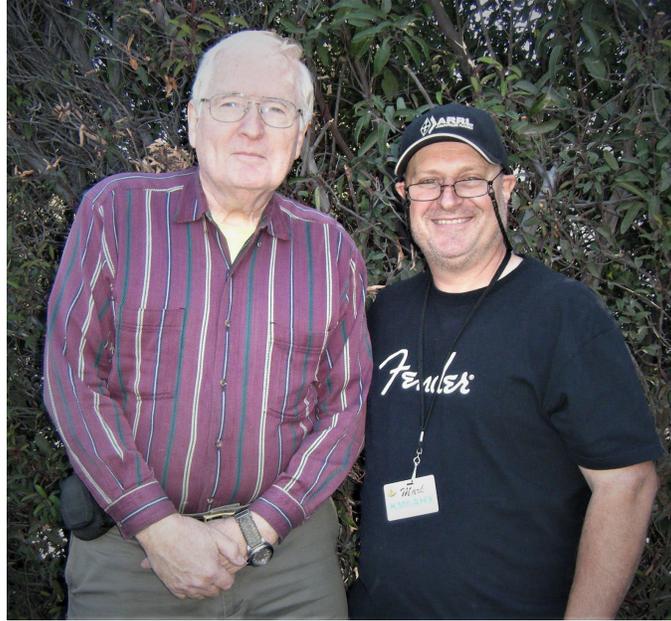
We now have become a fixture at the Clairmont Ham Radio Swapmeet (see our website for further information on this fun monthly event). It is usually the first stop folks make when arriving at the swapmeet. Coffee, donuts, handout radio literature and friendly exchange of ideas is what visitors find when they come to our space. We had had great success in recruitment and contacts. There is always something to see and find, if you have not been down you are surely missing a great event, and a chance to maybe find that one thing you need to get on the air, and that's what it's all about, and the coffee is the best in town.



Swap meet and greet. Vic, Ken Scott (caught in a RARE moment seated for a change) Ken and Bruce



Grace and Scott discussing her intention an upgrade to her radio situation. Scott giving sound advice, Grace looks like she may need more convincing.



Mark pictured with Joe K0OV, The man in the know and our connection to the T-Hunt. You can find out more info at his website <http://homingin.com/joemoell/ardfinla>

Lionel the Lizard

Lionel Lizard lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. He makes his home is an abandoned telegraph shack. He taps out his message on his Morse Code key. CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD
Lionel QSL?



In the telegraph shack a tattered picture of Samuel Morse hangs next to Morse Code alphabet and he has a colorful ornamental railcar outside the window.



One day Lionel was typing out his message when he got a response. It was his friends Joe Moell K0OV, April Moell WA6OPS and Marvin Johnston KE6HTS. They told Lionel there will be a Fox Hunt on Saturday, November 23 at Bonelli Park. He found his Transmitter Locating Antenna to take with him. While showing it to Sally Salamander she decided she would go with him.



After riding their to Bonelli park they noticed their friends had antennas out looking for the transmitter.



Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander stayed for Gotahams BBQ thinking about future adventures. When he arrived home Lionel continued to tap out his message CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

Thanks to Kathi for keeping us informed on what our club mascot is up to each month, and man is that the busiest Lizard in the world? I would have to say yes he is.

IN CLOSING

I would like to take this moment to remember all those that are close to us and those that are only separated from us by the miles, our first responders and those that support them. The distances are only in our minds but not in our hearts. This holiday season may we all be in a peaceful place and that next year will be better than last year. 73 Vic in Covina

