



GOAT NOTES SEPTEMBER 2020



ANTENNA TUNER? I DON'T NEED NO STINKIN' ANTENNA TUNER

Welcome to September

Well it's back to school, time to get to their play offs and the start of High School sports and...oh not so fast. Yup we are still in semi-lock down conditions, Who would have thought, well reality is what it is and here we are. So with that in mind let's see what is going on with the herd. This month's SPOTLIGHT is Craig KM6EIC, yup this guy has made quite the leap into Ham Radio and we are glad to have him in the club. We have an overview from Dave K6EV on "off grid" battery options and instruction, hopefully this time without the graphics (sorry Dave that there was a funny). Then an article about remote testing by way of Shaun K6CT, who is our resident VE. So let's get to it Goats.

SPOTLIGHT



This month's spotlight is Craig Borchard, KM6EIC. Craig is a modest man who has led an amazing life, here he is in his own words, take it away sir.

I grew up in Upstate New York, outside of Rochester. My Dad worked for Eastman Kodak Company as a Senior Project Engineer. After High School I got drafted and did a 13 month and 2 week walking tour of Southeast Asia. When I left, I went to Alaska for a few years to cool off, then back to Rochester to finish college. That is when I met my wife of 42+ years who mostly puts up with me. Then after that, it was “go west young man” to work for my brother-in-law. Here I am. I would like to thank the Gota Hams and John/AC6FJ for my interest in Ham Radio. It is the best club with the friendliest and most helpful people I found in Ham Radio that gave me the incentive to go beyond Technician to General, then Extra.

What did I tell you modesty and a man of few words. Well we want to just say that Craig was in fact a Combat Marine and for that we collectively offer our thanks. He also did a tour of duty as an Alaskan State Trooper chasing speeders and Kodiak bears. Here is another Goat who went from Tech to General and then on to Extra at a blistering pace. Pretty good for a guy that says he hates to study- Good job sir. For me it is a personal honor to have another Vet, and true gentleman in the herd with us. You can hear Craig’s gravelly and friendly voice just about every night on the air, at our roundtable net. Semper Fi Craig.

REMOTE TESTING

For those like me, who had a tough enough time finding the testing location, here is an overview of the newly instituted “Remote” testing. Well maybe not so new as

James KN6IPL, was one of the first to complete the process a few months ago. Looking back now, it was impossible to believe this function of the testing process would be necessary, let alone being refined and possibly being a permanent facet of our hobby.

Our own Shaun K6CT is one of the Volunteer Examiners. After a test of his skills and aptitude, Shaun was accepted into the testing cadre. According to Shaun, the process is pretty simple as he explains below.

When someone indicates that they wish to apply for a Ham Radio license I am contacted and respond by sending this email to the applicants.

“The directions about testing are on WB5QNG.org

Payment by Zelle(arb@rtsi.com), Venmo(arb@rtsi.com), Cash App (\$AllanBatteiger) or Paypal(paypal.me/wb5qng) is required before the test session will begin. If you are using a company paypal account, email me the info so I can locate your payment. You will need a Driver's License or some form of picture ID that you can hold up to the camera so all VE's can verify your identity.

Applicants will find and select a testing date and time on ham.study. Once registered with their FRN number, a session PIN number will be generated. This PIN number will be used to log in and begin the test.

To help things run a bit smother. Please have your Driver's license or Government ID ready when you sign into zoom. We use multiple "breakout rooms" to test in. This makes testing go a bit faster since we can only test one person at a time in a room. When you are admitted to the test session if you have a "Join room" pop up please click on it. It will take you to the assigned testing room.

I will send a zoom link out about 5 min before the main session begins. You will be in a waiting room till it is your turn to take an examination. When it is your turn we need you to slowly pan the camera around to show us the room and desktop so we can see there are no helpful materials or people around. You will

need to leave your microphone open during the test. We will walk you through steps to allow your computer to be shared with the VE's. Please have all other windows on your computer closed. No one else can be in the room. During the course of the exam, the VE's will be able to constantly monitor the applicant via zoom video and what the applicant is doing on his computer screen.

Once you have completed the exam It will be computer graded and if you pass a CSCE will be digitally signed and sent to you. The test result will be submitted the next business day for processing. Typically call signs are generated the next business day. You are encouraged to check the FCC website since as of mid-July the FCC is no longer emailing your call sign or call sign upgrades. A manual search is necessary.”

Easy Peasy. Some of the Goats have suggested that this procedure may be a bit more conducive to a positive testing experience. It seems quicker that is for sure. Thanks Shaun for this interesting article.

RADIO IN THE PARK

Saturday, August 22 Gotahams met at two local parks with solar panels, antennas and Go boxes to practice Emergency Preparedness.

One group went to Ronald Regan Park in Diamond Bar, CA



l to r- Mark KM6AHY, Aracelli, Karen, Chris KM6S, James KN6IPL,

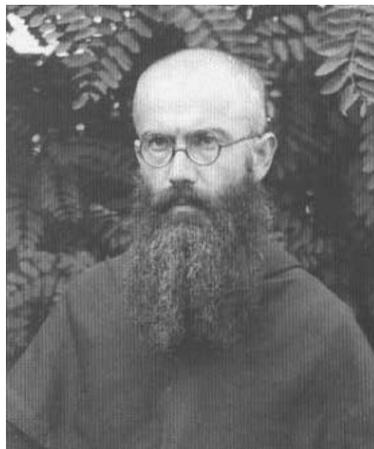
John AC6FJ, Kim KE6RXX, New York friends Lewis K2VGE, Craig KM6EIC,
Shaun K6CT & Tim N6DLC

A second group set-up Solar Panels, Go Boxes and Antennas at Las Flores Park in
La Verne, CA

Ken KC6WOK, Bruce KM6WBI, Edward W6ABW & Kathi KD6CAF



WHO KNEW

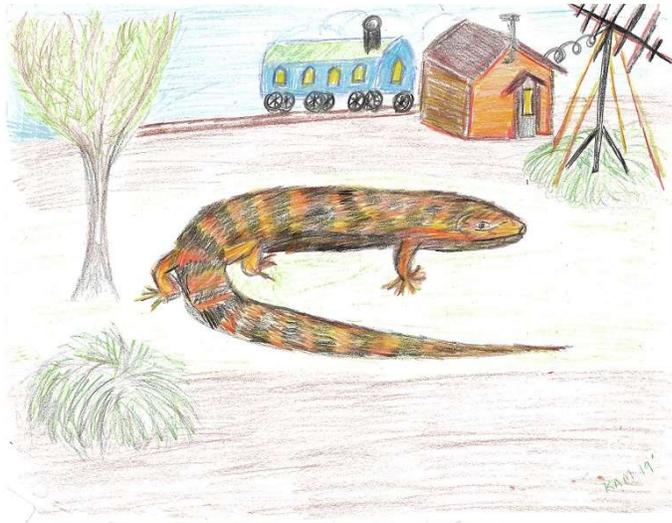


Sometimes I come across an article that says something and yet there is no further explanation and at this stage of the game my investigative skills are pretty much

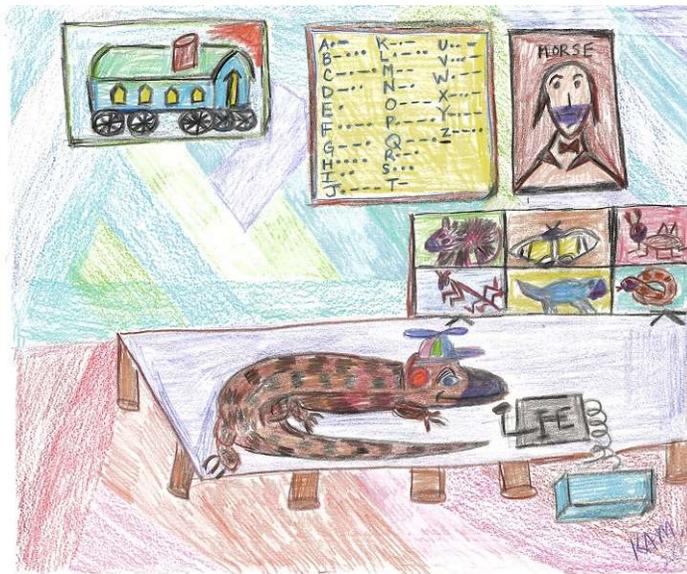
nill, except to find out what's for dinner. Did you know Ham Radio operators have a Patron Saint? Yup his name is **Maximilian Kolbe** (8 January 1894 – 14 August 1941), venerated as **Saint Maximilian Kolbe**, was a **Polish Catholic** priest and **Conventual Franciscan friar** who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of **Auschwitz**, located in **German-occupied Poland** during **World War II**. He had been active in promoting the veneration of the **Immaculate Virgin Mary**, founding and supervising the monastery of **Niepokalanów** near **Warsaw**, operating an **amateur-radio** station (SP3RN), and founding or running several other organizations and publications. So there you go- he did all that AND ran a radio station during the occupation. His day of feast is in August.

LIONEL THE LIZARD

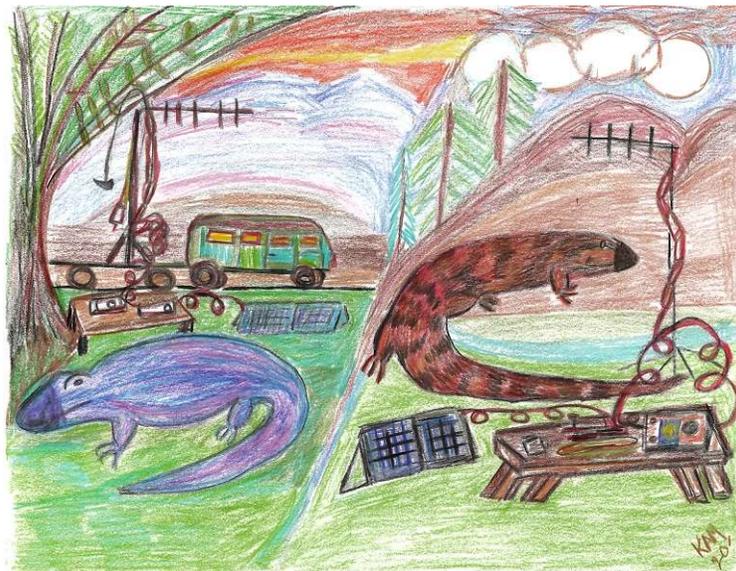
Lionel Lizard lives among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes in the mountain foothills. A decorative railcar sits behind his shack. He rides the railcar to his friends. new adventures with



He makes his home in an abandoned telegraph shack. An old copy of the Morse Code Alphabet and tattered photo of Samuel Morse hang on the wall. Lionel was on zoom chat with his friends typing out his message in Morse Code CQ, CQ, CQ This is Lionel Lizard L6ZRD, QSL?



He heard his friends talk about going to a local park where they would be setting up radio equipment, solar panels, and antennas for an Emergency Preparedness exercise. Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander traveled to two different parks sending out their signals CQ, CQ, CQ This is Lionel Lizard, L6ZRD, QSL?



IN CLOSING

At the time of this writing I will be in Utah, visiting my granddaughter on her second birthday. During these tough times I can only look upon her with high optimism for the future. I have to, for her, and our sake. We have a great and loving country, no matter what the news has to say and I know it seems dark right now, we all have seen darkness and then it becomes a little lighter and the problems all don't disappear, but at least we can see them a bit more clearer. I know it's not easy to stay positive, what with all the pain, sickness and despair, BUT the alternative is worse. We want to congratulate the Goats who celebrated marriages, promotions and just waking up to another day. Stay safe, Stay Frosty and Stay Radio Active,

This is Vic KM6RWB in Covina 73 and God willing we will chew that rag when I return.