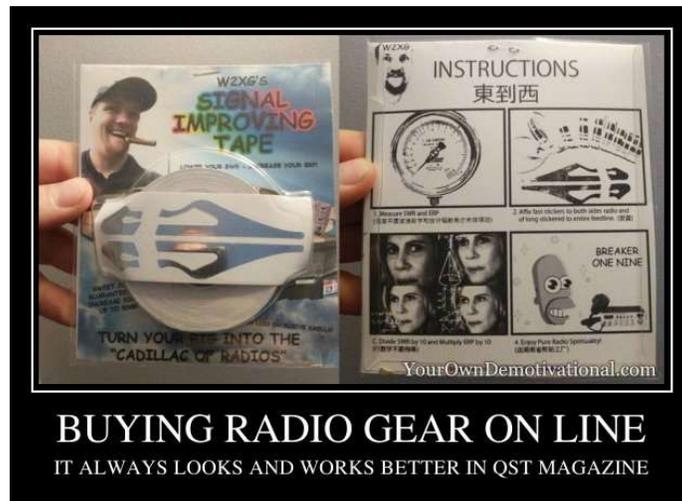




Goat Notes October 2020



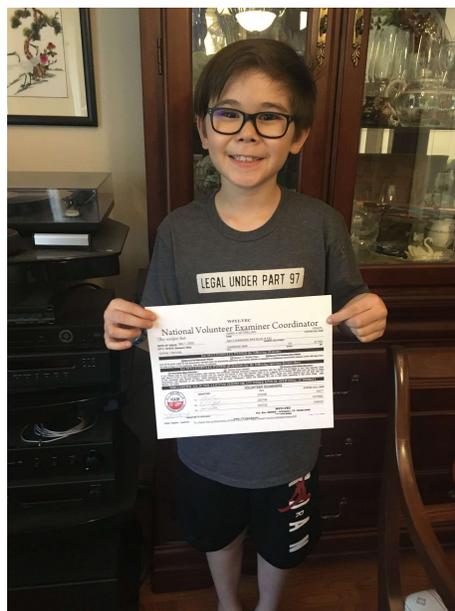
And the National Adventure continues

Welcome to October Goats. Who would have thought back, WAY back in February we would still be operating under these conditions. Although some things have improved, like the TP situation for example. All though restrictions are still in a fluid state, at least we have not had an earthquake in quite awhile, OH WAIT.....check that, we just had one about a week ago as of this publication. I had an enjoyable trip to Utah to visit my kids and grandkids. It was my granddaughter's second birthday. Utah is a wonderful state, but I found it strange that in Salt Lake City, or the surrounding areas, there were no ham radio stores. We at least have HRO, where you can go see and hold most radio related items,

not so in the BeeHive State. I know most folks now get their gear online, I like to see an item before I spend such a large amount, and in our hobby that just about covers it all. I did see some interesting antenna farms in the areas north of the city so that was an encouraging sign. I mention the earthquake and fires to bring up thoughts and ideas for our communication capabilities and ability to endure a natural disaster. The thought of having to “bug out” or evacuate gives one pause. Simple things like spare eyeglasses and a list of medication are things to consider. Our resident engineer, Dave K6EV gave us an outstanding presentation on battery power and how it pertains to Ham Radio operation. As usual Dave backed up his power point presentation with clean and precise instruction. This is the start of an going informational seminar, that will be posted on our website WWW.GOTAHAMS.COM. It’s worth a look and download for your personal ham radio notebook. Thanks Dave.

One thing that has been brought to my attention this month is my moving away from a physical notebook and my dependence on “The Cloud” and internet sites for my reference library. I am currently experiencing router/internet problems. Long story short, always have a low-tech alternative to these machines. OK Goats enough with that let’s get to it.

CONGRATULATIONS



The youngest Goat is now our youngest General. Congrats James KN6IPL. According to his Dad, John, AC6FJ, James was feeling constrained by his Tech license and felt the tug of expanded privileges on HF. After some studying young James , with the elmering of his Dad and Shaun K6CT, James passed his examination with flying colors. Job well done, I hear the young General is looking for the next ticket. OK Dad the kid needs his own shack and IC7300, can't be sharing with the Ol'man forever.

HAPPY HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER FOR LOCAL MARINE CORPS FAMILIES

Every year my family gathers gifts and take them to a contact we had at Camp Pendleton for the guys in the barracks who would be on base for the holidays. When our son was in, we would invite some Marines to spend the holidays with us. These were some of the best holidays we ever spent. We felt that having them here was almost like he was with us, although he was usually deployed during the holidays. Our point person retired and we were at a loss this year.

Enter Craig KM6EIC (an old Devil Dog himself). His wife is part of a ladies club that has a program that we can all donate to. Below will be the letter that explains all the particulars. Thanks to Craig and his wife for thinking of those families. I hope you can contribute even a small amount. I know these young Marine families will appreciate this thoughtful gesture. They give so much for our country and would never ask for anything themselves. Thank you sir and your wife and her club for granting us this opportunity.

GFWC Federated East Valley Woman's Club
California Federation of Women's Clubs
Member: General Federation of Women's Clubs International

GFWC Federated East Valley Woman's Club is proud to be an active force in the General Federation of Women's Clubs International and committed to its mission to support our military women, men, and their families. Last year our small group of dedicated women was honored as one of the top performing Women's Clubs in the San Gabriel Valley.

We are proud to join a coalition of local women's clubs and support them in raising funds for the Making Spirits Bright program that coordinates the efforts of the Armed Services YMCA, to support needy Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms military families for the holiday season. This year the need is even greater, and the Diamond Bar Woman's Club asked for help with this project.

Sonja Reed, Diamond Bar Woman's Club 2nd Vice President, has been named an informal ambassador for the Twenty-nine palms Armed Services YMCA. The Twenty-nine Palms Combat Center, roughly the size of Rhodes Island, is home to 14,000 military families.

Supporting 14,000 young families is no small task and we need your assistance. With your donations and support the Making Spirits Bright program can be expanded to show our appreciation for many active duty military families.

To show our gratitude we are asking for donations in the form of a monetary gift. Your donation will be used to purchase gifts and bring well-deserved joy to military families during the holiday season. We need your help making Wishes Come True.

Please contact our project chairman, Pat Borchard, at peb1956@verizon.net for details or to make a donation.

As in anything that makes a difference, it always begins with a small group of dedicated grass roots individuals with a mission to effect positive change. With your support we can give back to the military families that have given so much to our nation.

Please make your checks payable to GFWC Federated East Valley Woman's Club and return to:

GFWC Federated East Valley Woman's Club
Pat Borchard, Chairman
Attention: Military Program
211 Gunsmoke Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Sincerely,

Clubmember

vGFWC Federated East Valley Woman's Club
California Federation of Women's Clubs
Member: General Federation of Women's Clubs International

BEHOLD, THE HUMBLE COAX

I came across this article and thought it interesting. Sometimes it's the things we forget is the stuff that keeps everything else going.

If you've ever used a spray can of WD-40, you might have wondered what the name means. It stands for "Water Displacement, 40th formula". In my time as a radio amateur I'd never stopped to think what the RG in RG-58 stood for. Turns out that it too has a meaning, "Radio Guide", though I have found some interesting alternative descriptions where the G stood for Government.

This radio guide, really a transmission line, gets a signal from point A to point B. Depending on how you construct that transmission line determines what you'll get at the other end.

Coaxial cable or coax is a length of cable made from several components. There's the outer layer or jacket, that protects the cable from electrical shorting, U/V deterioration and water ingress which causes all manner of problems. Inside that is an electrically conductive shield that forms one half of the transmission line, inside that is a dielectric, essentially a separator or insulator between the shield and the innermost, or central conductor, the core.

Each of these components can change. On the outside the first thing you might notice is the thickness of the cable. The next thing you might observe is how flexible it is. Below the outer surface other things can also be altered. For example, the core could be a solid copper wire, or it could be strands of copper. It could be aluminum, silver or even steel. It might not even be wire. Some coax like Heliax, used in broadcasting, uses a central conductive tube as the core with air as the insulator between the core and the shield.

The dielectric that separates the core from the shield can be made from different materials such as plastics, air, and even inert gas such as nitrogen and it comes in varying thickness. Similarly, the shield can vary in thickness, material and construction. There are also variations that have multiple levels of shielding, such as for example Quad Shield RG-6, common in satellite television and internet connections that has four layers of shielding.

Other aspects might not be nearly as obvious. If you're running coax down a power line it will need physical strength. If you are burying it in the ground it will need to be protected from water ingress. Temperature and heat dissipation are also considerations and if you're using the coax in a nuclear reactor, its ability to deal with radiation. More commonly if you need to run the coax around a corner, how tight it can be bent is another consideration.

As the materials and dimensions are changed, the characteristics of the coax changes. Each of these are documented and standardized.

The standardization is both a blessing and a curse. So many options and so much to choose from.

For example, if you compare RG-58 to RG-59 they look pretty similar. If you cut into them you'll notice that they're made from similar materials. If you put them side-by-side, you'll notice that RG-59 is thicker, by about 20%, conversely the core for RG-59 is thinner by about 20%, this also means that the dielectric is about 30% different in thickness. Consequently, connectors for one might fit on the other, but rarely work well.

These variations mean that while both types of coax are common and priced similarly, they're not interchangeable. RG-59 used to be common in satellite TV installations and is still used in CCTV, whilst RG-58 is common in radio communications.

If you made the decision to actually go out and buy RG-58, you'll come across many variations indicated by extra letters. For example, BC means Bare Copper and TC means Tinned Copper.

The final piece of the puzzle in this tangled offering of transmission line is that each manufacturer has their own way of doing and naming things in pursuit of market share. For example, the coax I installed recently is known as LMR-400, CNT-400, WBC-400 and several others.

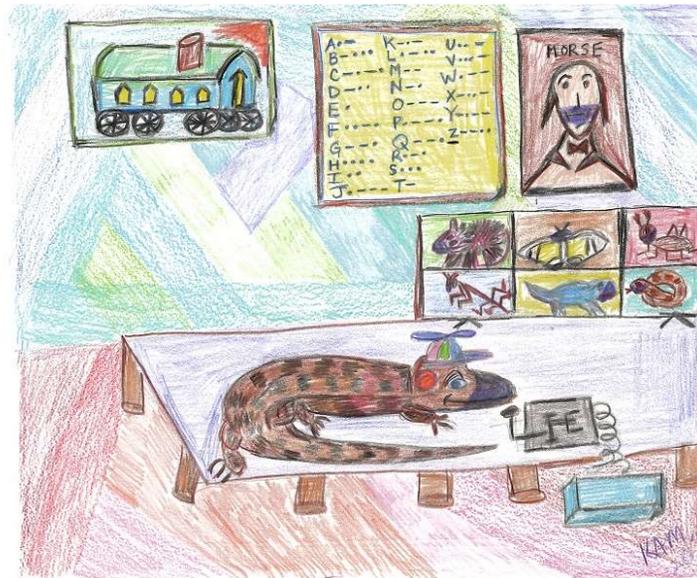
If the performance of your coax actually matters that much, I'd recommend that you spend some time looking at your options before handing over any money. All that behind the name of a piece of coax that runs between your radio and antenna.

Onno VK6FLAB.

LIONEL THE LIZZARD

Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

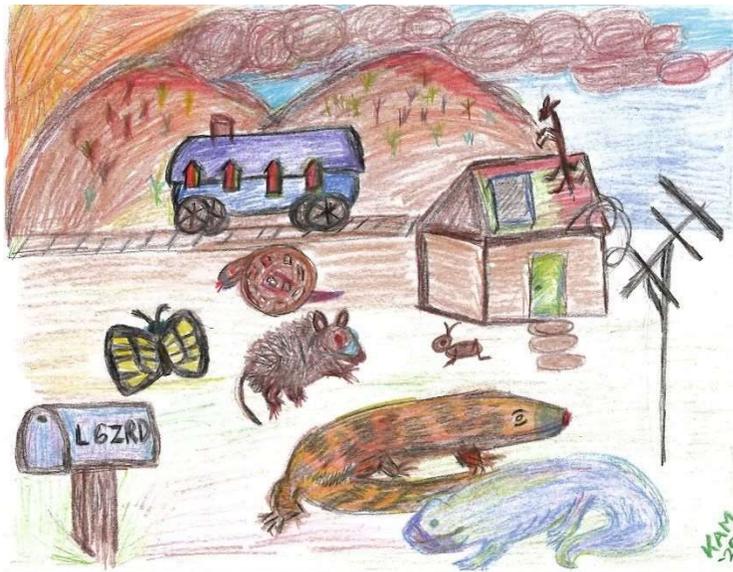
Lionel Lizard lives in the mountain foothills among evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. His home is an abandoned telegraph shack. On the wall hangs a tattered picture of Samuel Morse next to the Morse Code alphabet.



A colorful ornamental railcar sits outside his window. He rides the railcar with his friends to adventures far and wide.

While Lionel types out his message, CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel,

his friends Brownie Grasshopper, Buttercup Butterfly, Awesome Possum, Twigman, Sally Salamander and Gwen Gopher Snake talk on Zoom chat. As Lionel taps out his message he receives a message by Morse Code: Mountains on Fire. _ . _ . _ Must leave Home until Safe. _ . _ . _



Lionel and his friends pack an overnight bag and gather in his front yard. They crawl onto the railcar to escape the fire danger and wait until it is safe to return home. After the danger passes, they are very happy they were able to spend a fun time together. Lionel sends out a message telling about their big adventure and everyone is safe.

CQ, CQ, CQ, This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?



IN CLOSING

One thing I really missed while up in Utah was the nightly net. The great camaraderie that goes on during that roundtable is so very special. Like the intro says not only to keep our radio skills honed, but just to see how everyone is doing. The interesting stories and voices through the air, connecting us is like medicine for me, and I am sure my fellow Goats will agree. We can look forward to more strange times ahead, but one thing I am sure of is that come 8PM, QST QSTQST will mean that the Goats are on the air and for a brief time, all's right with the world.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it’s only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more so we may fear less.” Marie Curie

OK Goats until next month, Stay Frosty, Stay Safe and Stay Radio Active
73- KM6RWB- Vic in Covina