



## GOAT NOTES

November 2020



### HAPPY THANKSGIVING GOATS

The holiday season is upon us. Most things at this time are really up in the air and indoubt, but one thing is certain, we are still trying to stay positive, and positively Radio Active. Our nightly roundtable net is going strong and we are constantly having new friends visit us as well as the regulars. The topics bring some lively exchanges and the stories are equally interesting. The Tec Night is popular and starting next month we will have questions taken from the net and showcased in the newsletter.

We were able to complete a Radio in the Park day and the details are here for you to read about. If you didn't make it no problem, our President Ken KC6WOK set up his laptop and launched a virtual meeting on the Goat Zoom Lounge. It worked out pretty sweet. OK Goats let's get to it.

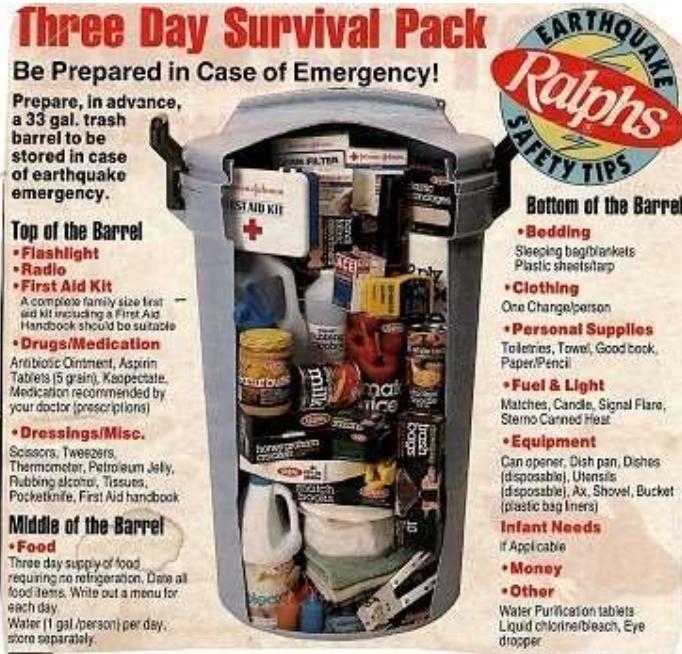
### Great Shake Out

Gotahams Maribel, KN6HSW; Edward, W6ABW; and Kathi, KD6CAF participated in the "Great Shake Out" on October 15 at 10:15am <https://www.shakeout.org/> Duck Cover and Hold On- they "checked in" using the WA6FZH 446.400 Johnstone Peak repeater.

It is never too early to prepare for an Emergency; First think survival basics: fresh water, food,

clean air, and warmth. Have an emergency supply kit customized to meet personal needs. As an example, fill a clean 33-gallon trash can with your kit so it is ready to use. Emergency Food Box (Family of 4 for 2 days)

2 cans tomatoes or pasta sauce	2 cans of meat (tuna/chili/chicken/spam)	
2 cans beans or 1 pound dry beans	1 box hot or cold cereal	1 jar peanut butter
3 cans of vegetables	1 package powdered milk	2 cans soup
1 can of fruit	2 boxes pasta or rice	1 box macaroni and cheese



[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov) [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)

## RADIO IN THE PARK



On Saturday, October 17th, the Goats gathered at Las Flores Park in La Verne. For the most part the weather was cooperative and not as hot as Barstow in August. The chosen spot was cool with shade provided by the trees lining the park.  
Las Flores Park in La Verne- a Great Day was had by All



Mark KM6AHY sets up 2 horizontal polarized Ham Stick antennas for 20MHz



#### THE MAIN COMS TABLE ESTABLISHED

The radio tables were set up, then antennas, then the solar panels which would provide backup power to the Go-BATTERY boxes that were provided by our President Ken - KC6WOK, Vice President Mark-KM6AHY and Bruce KM6WBI.



The solar panels were set and soon radios would be coming to life

Maribel KN6HSW showed up with her daughter Lizzy, Troop 2244, as well as, Girl Scouts Troop 1534, Violet, Emily, Emma, Sara and Isla. The girls were there to gain experience and information as related to their badges in communications.



Thanks for stopping by Girls



Another table was set up to keep social distancing, yes governor we are all 6' apart



Bruce KM6WBI set his gear up for FT8 operations



Mark and Ken make emergency power supply connector to Mark's new old HF rig



Tim N6DLC makes final adjustments on his Buddy Pole for 20m Operations and the J pole for 2m/70cm communications he might need more cones, Dave K6EV, says they help with propagation



El Presidente, Ken KC6WOK, getting ready to set up Goat Zoom Lounge, Kathi KD6CAF in the background not believing Ken is taking it easy for a change



Edward, W6ABW  
took over as Net Control later that night- Great Job Sir



Bruce, KM6WBI communicates with Jack, KM6UNQ  
on VHF to let him know what's happening at the park



Mark KM6AHY instructs the Girl Scouts in the preliminary steps in fox hunting



John KC6FJ came by with Mike KE6LKV and set up some fox hunting gear



John gives instruction on the fine points and theory of fox hunting it was the hit of the day, the hunt went well

### Santiago Peak

I thought this was interesting, we use these repeaters on , at least, weekly basis. Well few if any of us give them a second thought. I for one have never even see these repeaters up close. Well as I was going through some note when I was going for my General, I came across this video. it's from youtube and it's pretty breathtaking. Check it out it's pretty fun

<https://youtu.be/OgSiryf3f1w>

## Tales from the Tower by Ken Mixon KC6WOK

Charles Brewer NU6Z gifted George Cox WB6OEB a tilt-up/crank-up “lightweight” antenna



Unfortunately, living in the city came with problems. There are city restrictions and unfriendly neighbors not appreciating his antenna tower. This precludes many folks from erecting such a tower as a permanent addition to one's residence.

Looking for ideas and advice George reached out to fellow Gotaham Scott, KG6ABF, who came up with an innovative suggestion; “Mount it on a Trailer”. Scott reminded George, adding a tower to a trailer did not need a permit and it also gave the option of traveling with the tower! George questioned how he would approach this type of build but Scott kindly reminded George that Ken KC6WOK was a “Welder” (Thanks Scott?).



After a several phone calls, a plan was made to have the tower and beam. Everyone involved knew this would be a useful asset to have ready for “Field Day 2020”. George hurried over to Harbor Freight and purchased a kit trailer (on sale of course)

George didn’t waste any time dropping off the Kit (Puzzle) to Ken’s Mobile Home Carport (really, Build this at a Mobile Home Park?)

Well, I did assemble that trailer and it went back to George’s house to figure out exactly how I would mount a tower (collapsed length about 22 feet) on an 8-foot trailer so it could be legally towed behind George’s Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Realizing the “tilt-up” post was about 5 feet tall, I could mount it in the center of the trailer, adding some version of a “Saddle” for the mast at the front of the trailer allowing a short overhang to the rear and the top of the mast over the hitch and partially over George’s Jeep even allowing for travel with a rotator attached! With a mast sitting horizontal at nearly 7 feet has a benefit of installing a beam with just inches to spare from the ground.

We added a tongue jack to the front hitch and a trailer receiver to the rear allowing a rear outrigger that was a scrap bin find from Sunbelt Rentals (Ken’s former employer).

Several days of fabrication and “on the fly” eyeball engineering readied the support structure for the tower. Kathi, KD6CAF and Ken, KC6WOK followed George with trailer in tow to his QTH to install the waiting tower.

After arriving in North Glendora, we wrangled the trailer into a side yard and the three of us muscled the tower from its perch on sawhorses far into the back yard. Did I say Muscle? I meant Struggled! Looking for Ladders, Jacks, (a Magical Skyhook) we quickly realized we would need more help. A call went out to Mark KM6AHY, and within minutes Mark was on scene still dressed in his work clothes. Well with the Extra muscle and Few scary moments we got that tower installed atop George’s New Trailer.

We were within just days of Field Day 2020; of course, still sweating over our being allowed on-site at Bonelli Bluffs RV park. With the GOTAhomes they finally allowed us to set up our equipment in our reserved sites.

Covid-19 limits were assigned to our group. George WB6OEB and Craig KM6EIC, who had already landed with the newly constructed trailer and tower in tow, were sitting at a picnic bench

attempting to assemble a Hy-Gain Tri-Band Three Element Beam. Ken KC6WOK was welcomed proudly with “Look at this Cool Beam”



(that you need to assemble?). Well, working into the evening darkness and through most of the morning Mark KM6AHY and Ken KC6WOK continued to assemble, measure, tightening and install the antenna on a rotor which turned out to be too small for the giant array of aluminum elements installed atop the massive tower. George WB6OEB had not yet received the Rotator he had ordered specifically for the beam, so we had to make do with what we had available.

When we attempted to tilt the tower up, we realized the trailer was parked on uneven soil and the with a giant teetering tower “on-lookers” sat on the trailer for added stability. Finally, the tower and beam were fully vertical antenna about 25+ feet in the air but on a hill with a beautiful view of La Verne’s Brackett Field and LA County Fairplex due East. George attempted to first hook up the rotator to see if it had the torque to spin the massive Tri-Bander. Unfortunately, there was no joy with this attempt. Next, let’s try to “Crank this Bad Boy Up” another failed attempt, we would find out later the cable had been mis-strung and actually locked itself up when it was trying to lift the inner section.

Following Field Day, George and Mark were chomping at the bit to improve on our first design and its many flaws. With some additional shopping we acquired more trailer jacks, some towing receiver tubes, new trailer winches, a length of 2X2 in square tubing, cutoff saw, fabrication hand tools and Ken’s better welder. A Saturday in October was planned for an early morning start. Tools assembled shielding gas connected and since George had no available 220-volt outlets available we adapted his little dual fuel Generator to power the Wire Feed Welder.



“Eyeball Engineering” found the forward jack beginning to bend the tongue. We added a cross bar and moved the jack to center for balance and added much needed side jack stabilizers to act as outriggers.

Mark KM6AHY realized a perfect opportunity to cross connect our Side Receivers to the rear jack pocket for a much-improved base structure. Adding all four jacks with long 2X2 inch extension bars allowed for a base of 12 feet by 12 feet. We re-welded a broken cross bar which supported the tower saddle, pulled the tilt-up post back into vertical and added an angle truss to keep it in place. We did decide to replace the homebrew winches that DID NOT have locks, ratchets, gear reduction with some new 1000# trailer winches and a tilt-up winch. They were added at an easily accessible level to avoid the practice of climbing onto the trailer frame. Sunday, George WB6OEB and Ken KC6WOK installed the crank-up winch with proper rerouting of the cable through the tower. Now George can easily manipulate the tower without help, it is easily cranked up and down, stowed, jacks removed, connected to his trusty Jeep for some Field Ops!

Future improvements include a wire mesh deck allowing space for a generator, ice chest, etc. Some racks for the jacks and extensions, a tool bow on the tongue, and storage for disassembled tri-band beam elements. Wow, Very Ambitious! Also, for multi radio “Field Ops” we are discussing a Triplexer and Bandpass filters (lessons learned from Field Day...)

## Lionel the Lizard by Kathi KD6CAF



Lionel Lizard lives in the foothills among the evergreen trees and silver tasseled scrub bushes. His home is an abandoned telegraph shack and communicates using Zoom chat and his Morse Code key. CQ, CQ, CQ this is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?

He looked at his calendar and noticing it was October 15, Lionel decided to invite his friends over to his house so they will all be together for the Great Shake Out. At 10:15am the group said, Duck, Cover and Hold On. When the drill was over Lionel used his long lizard snout to let everyone know they made it through the Great Shake Out safely. CQ, CQ, CQ this is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

The Amateur Radio community along with Friends and Family Celebrated the Life of Gotahams friend, Clint Stone, KQ6NJ/SK



## **IN CLOSING**

During this time of year it's indeed time to give thanks, even for a year like this. Some of our herd have suffered loss and heartache, physical and medical difficulties. Some of us like myself will spend another holiday season far from our loved ones , but I also think that we should look upon our blessings. Simple things like the sun coming up on a mostly peaceful land, a cup of coffee, our nightly net where we can spend a few precious moments with our friends. Looking towards a time when we can get the herd back together and share real human contact. Yup even with the challenges we may encounter I'm glad to be right here, right now. With you folks. This is Vic in Covina, KM6RWB, reminding you to Stay Safe, Stay Frosty and Stay Radio Active-73 till next month

