



## GOAT NOTES

### DECEMBER 2020

#### **Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah**

Well here we are, and the holiday season is in full swing, such as it is. In all my 35 years (hey if Kathi KD6CAF can do it so can I hehehe) I've never seen a year like this. But for whatever it is? It is. We are still together as a club, and more importantly, as friends. I cannot express in words how much it has helped me to have gotten this deal so far.

Next month's newsletter will be our year in review, but suffice to say, this year started out with such promise and high hopes. What we evolved was a great video lounge and a most wonderful nightly roundtable.

We held our monthly meetings, had interesting speakers and still stayed true to our main credo of staying Radio Active.

This month we had to concede to the pandemic and cancel our Radio in The Park days. But we have plans to do a remote and even a clandestine radio day wherever. In case the FBI is monitoring- just kidding if they aren't stand by for a coded message regarding this event lol.

OK goats let's get to it.

## CONGRATULATIONS



Our newest Amateur Extra is our secretary Kathi KD6CAF. Kathi has been studying very diligently for the past year and finally decided she was ready to give it a whack. In typical Goat fashion, Kathi took the test at a secret location, masked up and kept a wave length's distance (that was the first test) from the other test takers. After about an hour. Kathi turned in the test paper and boom she was an Extra. All the hours and hard work paid off. This is quite a tough test, and my hat's off to all who pass this difficult milestone.

Kathi said she now has her eyes set on becoming a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. There is no doubt she will accomplish this in the near future, good luck Kathi.

## **THE NIGHTLY GOAT ROUNDTABLE**

This has been a great month for our nightly roundtable. We have had some great topics and our Tech night on Fridays, with Dave K6EV at the helm, has been a huge success. The topics have ranged from honoring our Veteran's on Veteran's Day to "What is the smelliest place you have ever been?" Talk about a wide range of topics, but we have such a good time, and the chance to bring a smile to our herd is priceless.

Jack. KM6UNQ is our coordinator for the net and we owe him a debt of gratitude.



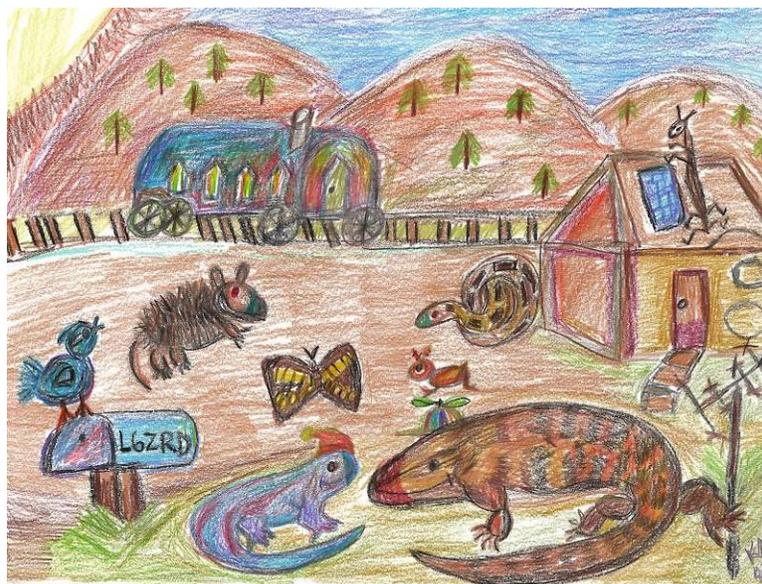
Seems like just about every night we meet a new ham who not only checks in but contributes to the fun. And we thank them also.

## **LIONEL THE LIZARD**

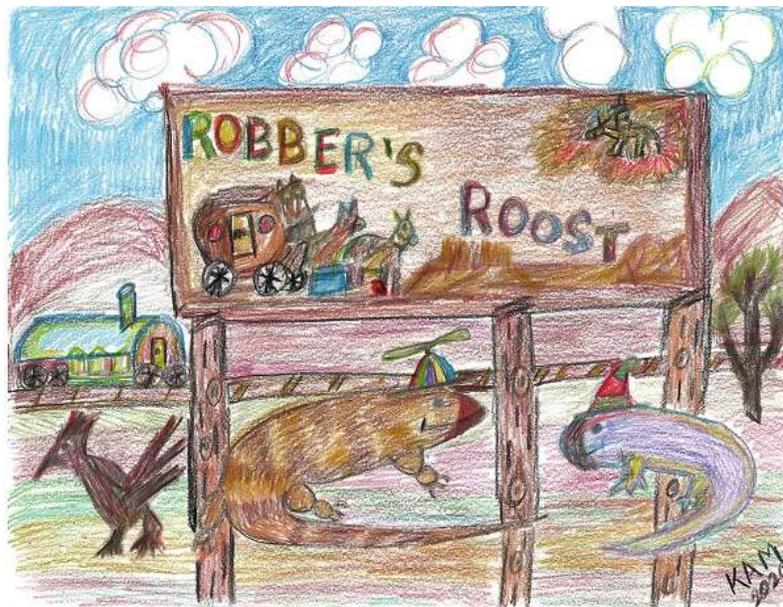
Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF



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.  
Lionel uses his long lizard snout to send out his message in Morse code to his friends. CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?  
He communicates with his friends Brownie Grasshopper, Buttercup Butterfly, Awesome Possum, Twigman, Sally Salamander and Gwen Gopher Snake using Zoom chat.  
Lionel received a message by Morse Code which said a Radio Swap Meet is scheduled Robber's Roost in Inyokern, California.  
Lionel and his friends gathered outside his house enjoying the sunshine and fresh air. The excitement was growing. Who would go to the radio swap meet? All the friends agreed Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander would ride the Railcar to the Radio Swap Meet.



When they arrived in the Mojave Desert, they explored the area and found out Robber's Roost is a desert oasis. Over 100 years ago unwholesome characters hid in the surrounding rock formations waiting for stagecoaches to pass and they robbed the travelers.

At the radio swap meet they bought a 2-meter Halo co-phased antenna and some ARRL antenna books. They saw a roadrunner and many Joshua trees.

When they returned home their friends were happy to see them and enjoyed hearing about their adventures in the desert.

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

## **Tips and Tonics for Healthier Radio Clubs**

### **By George Cox de WB6OEB**

**Successful Radio clubs are a joy to experience.** Easy to spot, they are populated by enthusiastic, gung-ho members who are involved with a full agenda of interesting things. They are generally at the center of most Amateur Radio activities in town.

Healthy radio clubs are vitally important to the future of Amateur Radio. It is the club that often provides motivation and support for fundamental activities as recruiting new hams, sponsoring radio classes, and doing volunteer testing. Clubs are often the best organizers and financiers of expensive repeater systems, hamfests and emergency communication programs, as well. What makes a radio club successful? What secrets enable them to keep adding members, providing interesting activities and offering interesting programs?

**Have Fun!** Most of us enjoy Amateur Radio because it's fun. We use it to escape from work and stress, and as long as it fills that need, we return to it again and again.

So, the first sign of a great radio club is that it is a fun place for hams to go. If it is fun, they will come, but if club meetings are long, boring and serious,

seldom creating a chuckle among the members, the future is dark. If, however, the business meetings are kept short it gives members an opportunity to socialize. A social club that enjoys Amateur Radio. Active clubs are healthy clubs.

In addition to building friendships and mentoring new hams, operating events are a good way to showcase Amateur Radio to the public and recruit new hams. If there is plenty of light-hearted and fun things on the program, and a warm welcome waiting, members and visitors will enjoy coming and will return.

While clubs must conduct business during meetings, most of the lengthy planning and details can be done by board members and officers.

**Give 'Em What They Want** Good clubs have good programs. Ask members to list their favorite program topics of interest ie. Palomar Engineers to learn about locating and elimination of RFI with ferrite beads and chokes or BioEnno Technology manufacturers of lithium ion phosphate LiFePO4 batteries for electronic and energy storage.

Find out who in your club has a skill, talent or specialized knowledge which will make a good program.

**Publish a Good Newsletter** A radio club newsletter allows a club to spotlight it's membership, promote its next meeting program while reporting a variety of important club news such as promote the members, plans for Field Day, nets, social events, hamfests and emergency drills. The club newsletter is also an informal history of the organization, and can include minutes of meetings, as well as, recognition of the volunteers who stepped up and made things happen. Volunteers are extremely important.

## DID YOU KNOW

Hams aren't the only ones using HF on a daily basis for reliable, long-distance communications. Airline pilots use HF frequencies from 2800 kHz to 22 MHz as their primary means of communication with shore stations during oceanic flights. These comms can be received by anyone with an HF SSB tuner and provide interesting data points for HF propagation. Aircraft are even sending PSK over HF!

I came across this site <https://www.defiel.com/free-survival-ebooks> [255 Free Survival Ebooks – Defiel](#) that has - well numerous interesting topics for books about prepping and basic survival- the U.S. Army survival guide is a great book for you library, as a matter of fact the Boy Scout Handbook , specifically the one from the 60's has just about everything you need to survive in the outdoors

## IN CLOSING

This has been quite a trying time, but there is a song I like to hear and it says “Every storm runs out of rain.” This particular storm seems to defy that , however, in my experience, there is always a new day, a new start and a new promise of better things to come, and believe me I, along with you, can look back and say “yeah this is tough, but I've been through tougher”. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and hoping for a Peaceful Christmas.

Stay safe, Stay Frosty and Stay Radio Active.

Till next year, this is Vic in Covina KM6RWB and 73 to my fellow Goats