



## GOAT NOTES JANUARY 2021



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

## WELCOME TO 2021

And not a minute too soon. Man what a year sheeeesh. The Goats started out with a big agenda and lots of plans. Well this horrible virus had other ideas. No matter what your personal opinion about the country's current situation, the result was the same. I don't have to repeat the different lockdowns and well, we finally had to give in on the side of caution, we closed down our Radio in the Park days. Even though it was for the best of the herd, it was still a bitter pill to swallow.

On the bright side we did build upon our radio skills. The Nightly Net was established. The VIDEO chat lounge was opened and we were able to stay connected. Most of all stay Radio Active. So without further adieu we look back on 2020.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

The Goats started out the year in fine form as usual. We established a Goat Lounge at the Claremont Swap Meet. The lounge was an immediate hit. We took over two spaces on the street side of the Swapmeet. Thanks to Ken KC6WOK and Kathi KD6CAF power was supplied at first via the GOTAHOME and then by solar power and batteries, it was quite something to see. With that power, coffee was brewed for anyone to come by and meet up with us. Mark KM6AHY and our hostess with the mostess Vilma made the best coffee at any swap meet anywhere. Some of the other Goats who were always lending a helping hand were Chris KM6S, with his wife Karen, provided me with the BEST donuts in the State, and Goats, believe me, I know something about donuts. Bruce KM6WBI and Jack KM6UNQ were also fixtures at the lounge. These folks provided information for our club, our hobby and are great Ragchewers in general.

Unfortunately, this activity came to a grinding halt, which became a recurring theme of 2020. The State of California issued a lock down and stay at home directive. But it was fun while it lasted, and fear not when the swap meet returns, the GOTAHAMS will be there.



Mark, KM6AHY & Vilma on a cold January morning at the GOTAHAMS lounge  
The Gotahome in the background supplying power.



The “Lounge” in action- this was the place to be for coffee, donuts and sharing of  
our hobby. This was a big hit.

## **Radio in The Park**

Now at the beginning we would meet at the swap around 6am, then go till about noonish, then meet up at San Dimas Canyon Park by 1pm, set up and basically run a modified Field Day. Antennas and radios would be set up and the Goats would “Get on the Air” We tested out equipment, antenna setups, and tried to make a few contacts. Also during that time we also had lunch, swapped stories and just enjoyed each other's company. That was the main thing for me. When we started this club we had decided, this would be a “social club” that happened to use radios. And every Park Day I believe we accomplished that. Here are just some of the activities that would be missed after April.



Grace KM6LJL, Jack, KM6UNQ and Kathi, KD6CAF working their radios





Chris, KM6S and Scott, KG6ABF



We got a new banner thanks to our Past President Ken, KC6WOK and  
New President Mark, KM6AHY





The Virus hits and this our new normal  
there's our Web Chief Tim, N6DLC (on the right)



### **The Goats last stand-**

We held our last radio in the Park day here at Las Flores Park  
October 2020



Maribel KN6HSW and her daughter Lizzy came by to take part in the fun



Bruce KM6WBI? Is that you?





Oh yeah that's Bruce all right.

## **The New Guy Takes Over**

This month our new editor Mike takes over, well here he is in his own words:

Hello and Happy New Year! My name is Mike Carlone (KE6LKV). I will be your new editor and historian for the GOTA Ham group. Vic has left some big shoes to fill in his absence. I will do my best to try them on for size. A little history about me. I was originally licensed back in 1994. At the age of 13 I was exposed to Ham Radio via my mother Jane (KC6MPS) who was involved in several Ham Radio groups at the time. We used to do communications for the Baker to Vegas relay race with the Bomb squad group. I remember so many fun and exciting days that we spent enjoying the hobby. From T-hunt's to field days it was never a dull moment. I recently got back into the hobby after years of not even thinking about it. I let my license lapse, so I had to re-test prior to getting back on the air. There are several reasons I decided to get back into the hobby. one main reason was the lack of things to do during this pandemic. I wish I would have done it in the beginning but needless to say, I was focused on other aspects of life. As soon as I retook the technician test, I was hooked again. A month later I decided to upgrade my privileges and got my general ticket. I decided as a keepsake I would vanity back to my original call sign. I have no intentions of changing that again. It has a sentimental value to me not to mention I didn't care for the new call sign that was issued.



I came across the GOTA hams nightly net one evening while sitting on my patio scanning the frequencies. I believe that Chris, KM6S or Mark, KM6AHY was the net control that evening. After listening in for a while they made a call out for any interested guest that wanted to check in. So, I decided it was time to get back on the air. I shot my new call sign out (KN6KUC) Mike in Ontario. I was warmly greeted by several members. The rest is history in the making. After I realized I was in the right place at the right time, I had met the best group to get involved in. I try to attend the nightly nets each evening when its permissible. I have two children, so I have to spread my time across the board. My wife Michelle, bless her! Tries to keep our boys entertained while I check in and participate in the nightly nets. I was fortunate enough to attend Radio in the Park and brought my younger son Landon. We had an amazing time. Landon really enjoyed the T-hunt that Tim, N6DLC brought out. This was Landon's first time being exposed to Ham Radio, Hands on. It really piqued his interest. We got home and for about a week or two he would take my other HT and listen in on the nightly nets from his room. He plans on getting his technician license, but we have a lot of other things to focus on currently. Distant learning has been really hard on both my kids as they are the social butterflies at school. Learning from home on a computer has its challenges. I truly hope to meet each and every one of our members at a Radio in the Park 2021 if possible.

## **Christmas Party 2020**

Oh man, what a GREAT party. Now, I know this may seem hard to believe, but I have been to a few parties in my day, but this Video thing was a blast.

Mark, KM6AHY was Santa and Kathi, KD6CAF was the game MC. Prizes were given out to include "Best Ceiling Fan" so that gives you a clue as to the range of Santa's list. Even though it was on video ZOOM, it was so good to see everyone. Ken, KC6WOK and Kathi, KD6CAF then went about delivering the party Swag Bags, house to house. Thanks people, it's things like this that make our club so special.



GOTAHAMS ZOOM Christmas party



And the rest of the herd looking great in their festive gear

# LIONEL the LIZARD

Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF



Lionel is an alligator lizard. He lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. A railroad car sits outside his telegraph shack. He sits at his telegraph key and uses his long lizard snout to send out his message; CQ CQ CQ, This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL?



Today he heard from the Gotahams. They are having their Annual Holiday Celebration and it would be on Zoom chat. Lionel Lizard and Sally Salamander gathered their friends together to celebrate the Holiday with them. They wore their masks to make sure they were being safe.



He decorated his shack with pine tree branches and twinkling lights.  
Everyone won a prize. They laughed and were happy they could share the special holiday together.



A few days later Lionel and Sally were outside with their friends enjoying the sunshine. Seemore BlueJay found 2020 Gotahams cups in the mailbox.

He used his mighty wings to fly them to his friends.

Lionel went into his telegraph shack and sent out a message telling everyone about the fun time they had at the Holiday party.

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

The End



## Ducks in a Pond by Marida Slobko KK6YJM

It's such a nice thing to do for residents of the retirement community: MAKE THEM SMILE!! So, building B has a puddle for a while after it rains.

Various B residents contribute ducks: soccer duck, mustache duck, Santa duck, nude duck, and the larger floating duck.

The rest of the B residents smile and enjoy.

Then being only human in a pandemic, we cheer to those less fortunate residents about how great B bldg is "B is for BEST!"

The End

## IN CLOSING

This has been, to say the least, one challenging year, We have had many hurdles to jump and we managed to hold it together, together. We had fun along the way. To borrow an old saying, we improvised, overcame, adapted. Thanks to the many efforts of everyone in the club, we even managed to welcome some new members into the herd. The nightly net turned from one where we helped each other find, of all things, toilet paper, but it was more than that, we were able to keep, in my case, a sense of normality and human contact. We had to move our monthly meetings to a video format and even that was entertaining as well as informative. Especially the night of Dave K6EV's battery presentation, when his graphics were pretty graphic, it was a classic, thanks Dave. Tim our very inventive "I'm not a webmaster" webmaster, took all our ideas for the website and made them a reality. We would not have such a successful website had it not been for the efforts of Mark, KM6AHY, Ken, KC6WOK and the usual cast of amazing folks. A shout out to James Jenson W6FRQ, who was also instrumental in our initial efforts at computer communications and found us an open repeater for our nightly net. Thanks to the owner of WA6FZH, for maintaining that open repeater for our use. Also, to our beloved Jack Sklar, KM6UNQ who is on the mend from open heart surgery, hurry back Jack we miss you, and the rest of the Goats who may be down, but not out, we await your return to the bunch. Many thanks for our past years board, most of whom will be returning, and a HUGE thanks to Vilma, our outgoing

Hospitality chairman. She was with us at the start of the club when we first met at Kathi and Ken's house and has been with us every step of the way. It has been a great experience getting to know her.

Welcome to our new president, Mark, KM6AHY, our new vice president Ken, KC6WOK, Dave, K6EV will continue in his capacity as program manager, Shaun K6CT will take over as treasurer until Jack can return. Thanks, Shaun, for stepping up, and to the heart and soul of our group, Kathi, KD6CAF. It can't be overstated the importance and inspiration this woman brings to us all. This newsletter, and all of our efforts spring from her enthusiasm and dedication. I am sure there are some folks I may have missed but we did this together and that I will not forget.

It has been my honor to have been your editor of the Goat Notes and God willing we will be moving to Utah before Spring, to be closer to our family. Mike, KE6LKV will now take over and I am sure he will be outstanding, and I personally thank him and wish him much success. Remember to stay safe, Stay Frosty and above all Stay Radio Active. This is Vic, KM6RWB in Covina 73 and God Bless you all.

