



BADLANDS POSSE

4X4 CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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Meeting Information

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

If you have been to any meetings lately then you know we have had trouble securing seating almost every week. N6RBO, Bob Beck Sr. has arranged for us to conduct meetings at Uncle Harry's Restaurant, 1201 G. Street in Reedley, Ca. 93654. The meetings will continue to be held on Saturday's at 0900 Hrs., 9:00 a.m. And will be held on the south side of the Restaurant under the canopy area. We will need to add \$2.00 to the pot for coffee per person. Look forward to seeing everyone there. No WiFi, Sorry.

Buck Rock Bound

By June Flores, K6jnz

What a wonderful way to spend a leisurely Sunday, but to make the trek to Buck Rock which is located in the Sequoia National Forest.

The gang consisted of Bob(N6rbt) & Eleanor(N6rnb) with their daughters in tow, Rod(N6jnz) and June(K6jnz) were accompanied by band-geeks Tyler & Tanya, and last but not least Tom(N6mqg) with ride-along pal Keith(N6sgw)

Tom led the pack uphill with Rod taking the rear. It was a rather short but scenic drive towards the Big Trees. Rod decided he would zip the windows off the jeep to get the full effect of wind blowing through his hair even though his head is shaved. However, Tanya was able to experience that literally! This was her first off-road adventure in the backseat of our Rubicon. Not knowing what to expect, she innocently just went with the flow and not once complained about the outdoor air-conditioning. Finding myself in the same situation over 7 years ago, I came prepared with hair clips, baseball cap, and scrunchie.

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Once she was able to anchor down her wavy locks with the clips, she was able to see where we were going.

Once we entered the park, we had to wait in line to get a pass. Bob and Tom already had already purchased their annual pass earlier in the year, so we decided it would be worth the \$30 for the year. Getting to Buck Rock was easy. The trail could have been accessible by most passenger cars, but why would you want to? Once at the gate, it was a mini hike to the look-out tower. This tower sat precariously on top of what looked like a giant pile of dry stacked bricks. An almost rusty steel staircase led up to the tower which is manned consistently by a member of the historical society. Rod, Tyler & myself, weren't as adventurous as the rest of the pack, so we stayed below. After all, SOMEONE needed to take pictures from the bottom! Incidentally, if you happen to get sap in a your hair...the recommended home remedy is put some mayo in your hair to loosen it from your hair then shampoo and repeat as needed.

We all agreed it would be a good time to stop and have lunch before heading for the dirt trail. Most of the trail was fairly easy, only a few difficult spots, but nothing that airing down couldn't fix. I must admit Tanya handled herself well for her first time off-roding. Everyone had a

blast including Critter and Beast (Bob's girls) Bob and Tom got a chance to do some Geocaching as well. We really enjoyed this trip, the weather was perfect, and the company was truly enjoyable. Can't wait for the next trip!

Chess Club Grant Approved!

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

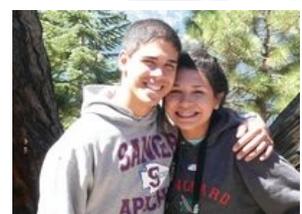
Great news!!! The Sam's Club Grant that BLP went after for The Riverview Rooks, "River Rooks" Chess Club was approved. Many of you know that I am the head chess coach at Riverview Elementary School in Reedley, Ca. During one of our meetings I asked June, K6JNZ if she knew anything about grants because our Chess Club was very much in need of new chess equipment. She said "Yes" and said that Sam's Club has grants available. June obtained the forms and I passed them along to Mrs. Friesen, the School's Principal. Mrs. Friesen was very excited about the possibility of obtaining new monies for the Chess Club. She had the paperwork completed by the next day so I returned the paperwork back to June who passed it along through the proper channels. Within a week the good news came back that we were to receive the funds, \$600.00. I later spoke with Mrs. Friesen who congratulated me and thanked Sam's Club, BLP and myself for a job well done. Mrs. Friesen then advised me that she would match the funds through another program to give the Chess Club a new total amount of \$1,200.00. WOW!!!! I will even be able to get the stuff on my wish list! The Club's chess equipment is in bad shape and this will fix that problem right up. I will even be able to get new chess clocks. AWESOME!!! I will keep everyone informed as to when the Riverview Rooks Check Ceremony will take place at the school site. I love Sam's Club! This is actually BLP's first community service endeavor and it went quite well. About 30 kids will benefit from this small amount of work. The Chess Club will be attending 5 tournaments this year and our home turf tournament will be March 26, 2011. It would be great if some BLP members can stop by to visit the kids. I know they would be excited to meet those who helped keep their Club going. If you can make it, bring some recycling goods for their new recycling program. See Ya all later and take care.

CARP Ham Radio Swap Meet

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

The meeting on September 18, 2010 was canceled so that members could attend the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers, (CARP) 1st Swap Meet Event. The event was great and although small it was still bigger and better than the Fresno Club's Ham Fest. Tom, N6MQG bought several items as did I. I picked up a 2 meter mobile rig that we may be able to use as the club's radio. I also got a broken IC-706 HF Rig. Yes the item is broken and Yes I paid \$20.00 for it but I am going to try and fix it. If I can't, I can get \$100.00 for it on E-bay BROKEN! All in all those who went had a really good time. After the event we did some Geocaching and I ended up getting 11 for the day, should have had 14 but oh well, 11 will do. CARP plans on doing more of these events and I look forward to going to them. My Dad, N6RBO was thinking we could join the group somehow and even do something like a Ham / 4X4 swap. It would take a lot of organization but there are a lot of guys out there now who do both and this type of combined event would cater to both sides of their personalities. Maybe we could even sell hot dogs, sodas and water. I am not sure if CARP would be interested but we can always ask.

Photos Area



Club Business

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Well, so far things seem to be falling into to place or like the Riverview Chess Club's grant, falling into our laps. I have continued to update the web page and have tried to make it the best that I can with what I know about web design. I am in the process of adding new items and removing things that we do not use or that have changed to something better. We will be adding a calendar so that events are much easier to view and the message board / forum is still in the works. Steve, N6SJM is very busy and will look at what can be done when time permits.

In regards to the Club calendar. I was thinking that we should also add to it items that are not Club related. An example would be Riverview's chess tournament schedule, birthdays, etc. This would help us plan BLP events much easier because we would see things that might conflict with each other. I do not think things like doctor appointments and such need to be displayed but it would be interesting to see if the concept is sound. Each member could be given the codes to access the calendar or better yet, only two or three members could have access. The information that needed to be posted could be e-mailed to one of those in charge and then posted by a system operator. Let me know what you think.

I have been doing some research on software for the ham radio related side of the Club. I have found some software that seems to be great and covers just about every aspect including regular logging, contesting and special events. I can obtain a package deal for the price of \$39.00. This would give me access to all of the available software from this company. I have asked if it can be installed on multiple computers and the answer is "YES" as long as the computers are mine. Individuals can also purchase versions for themselves. The software is even able to work across a network like the stuff Tom, N6MQG, My Dad, N6RBO and myself, N6RBT have used during Field Day Events. Each event we do can be saved as a file and keeping track for QSL'ing would be easy. The software even offers some Rig control for the most popular brands and models. The price is great and it was written by a Ham, N3FJP.

I will have the software installed on my computer by the next meeting so that anyone who wishes to check it out, can. If you want to see where I found it, check out this web site, <http://www.n3fjp.com> The guy has a lot to offer and again the price is right.

The Buck Rock Recon Trip was a great time as mentioned in the previous article. We were told that other ham radio clubs have used the area for special events but the tower itself was not available for use. For privacy concerns it is recommended that when we do our event we set up a small distance away from the tower, (lookout personnel live inside the tower during their stay). I was told that we can make contact with whoever is in charge and ask to set up almost under the facility. This would have to be ok with the facility manager and the lookout occupant at the time of our event. I was given a number to call, 565-3676 and was told the person in charge could be reached there. I will call once we decide upon a date for the event.

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We're on the Web!

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