



BADLANDS POSSE

4X4 CLUB

NEWSLETTER

www.blposse.com



Meeting Information

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Meetings are now at Uncle Harry's Restaurant, 1201 G. Street in Reedley, Ca. 93654, (most of the time). The meetings are 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. HOWEVER, we will occasionally hold meetings elsewhere. Check the website for up to date information and click on the BLP calendar icon to view calendar. Some meetings are held at Rod and June's house and sometimes we hold events instead. So, check that calendar!!! I Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Posse Rounds Up With JK Project

By June Flores, K6jnz

What a fantastic way to make new friends while enjoying the great outdoors. Thanks to Ty's - ties with a local JK club the Posse met up with Ty and his dad Bob Toews who just acquired 4dr JK as well.

In attendance were posse members Bob-N6RBT and Bruce-KJ6AZP, Rod and June-N6JNZ and K6JNZ, and riding solo was Tom-N6MQG.

Just like a cattle drive, we herded our way up the 168 towards Prather and met up with members from the JK Project. We met up with Greg from Madera riding solo in his 2dr JK Rubicon, Kara and Darren from Visalia taking their 4dr JK Rubi out on her maiden voyage. After getting acquainted with each other and admiring each other's rigs, it was decided that since Kara had her Pepto at-the-ready, we should take a trail that would give Kara a taste of what off-roading would be like in her jeep. This would give her the opportunity to see what she could do with her rig and gain some confidence for future runs. The plan was to stomp through Red Lake before it closed for the season, but considering Kara's inexperience and nervousness we changed course and headed to Bald Mountain!!

What a glorious sight! 5 jeeps and a Nissan "Beast" trekking along the scenic highway... different makes, models, sizes - whose owners come from diverse backgrounds and walks of life... with stories of triumph that are told by each scratch,

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dent, and scrape on our rigs from each adventure on the trail....yes, it's a lifestyle....for those who enjoy the outdoors with friends, family, and good, clean fun.

Once we entered the green gates, we aired down and lightly treaded through the trail. Rod began creeping up the first granite boulder he could find, and those who could-did and those who couldn't 'didn't. Further into the trail, Kara was getting braver and braver. The scrapes heard from under her Jeep was not that of her belly pan...but those of her cajones that got bigger as she got braver.

Lunchtime was spent on the top of Bald Mtn. A little cool and wet, but an exquisite view of the soon-to-be puddles of Shaver Lake. Talk about having your head in the clouds? This we did, but not just our heads, but our jeeps too!! (Sorry Tom...your Nissan too).

Back down the trail and a few more obstacles along the way, we drove to the bottom of the hill to air-up and warm up. As we parted ways, we agreed that there had to be a repeat someday soon.

Looking back on that day, it made me proud to know that the Badlands Posse and the JK Project are two clubs who take full advantage of the gift of nature without abusing this wonderful privilege. All too often, we see wheelers acting irresponsibly and disrespecting others on the trail. They fail to realize that this environment is such a valuable resource that can never be completely restored once it has been destroyed.



Wouxun Radio Programming

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

When programming the Wouxun, (pronounced o shang) radio I discovered something that caused me some issues until I figured it all out.

I had decided to change some frequencies around and had my radio file saved and set for channel Number 10 and 125 when I turned the radio on. I changed some frequencies around in the saved software and deleted the channel number 125 frequency because it was moved to another location. I only modified the file I had originally saved and when I wrote to the radio, (the modified version) the radio went into another style mode, VFO, default settings or something.

Well it turns out the fix was this. I restored my settings from my back-up file. Before doing anything else I had to change my radio settings to frequencies I was not going to alter. I did not move channel 1 and 2 so I set my radio to those frequencies, (moved from channel 10 and 125). I then saved that file with a new name, (read from radio) then changed my frequencies around the way I wanted. I then wrote to the radio and everything was ok. I then changed the radio start up frequencies to the frequencies I wanted to appear after programming, (channel 10 and 110). I then saved this final file because it was working properly. I made an additional back-up copy as well.

So here is what happened. I originally used the file that had channel number 125 saved to start up when the radio was turned on. After I changed it in the software, channel number 125 was blank. My radio software was still set to add that channel as a start up channel but got confused because nothing was there now. The radio I guess decided to revert to original settings or something because of the software glitch that I had created. My fault! It was something I was not even thinking of. It took me a couple of hours to actually figure out what was going on. I made a lot of attempts to get it to work but never thought that I was telling the radio to start up on an un-programmed channel. There is nothing in the software to set what channel to have at start up. The software just remembers what channels you were on when you saved the file. When you re-load that file to your radio it will always go back to the channels set at the time of saving the file. I hope this information helps.

REMEMBER:

Always have a back-up file saved of your original settings before changing anything. It saved me.

The BLP Forum in the Works

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Just wanting to let everyone know that Steve Mitchell, N6SJM is still working on our forum. It has turned out to be a bit more difficult than we expected and an upgrade to our site or a change in software may be necessary. As soon as we know more I will post it here or via an e-mail.

Steve, KJ6BQN's Jeep Repairs are Underway!

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Well, I am probably not the one who should write this article because I know next to nothing about vehicle repairs. I do my best just getting parts and wrenches for those who do know what they are doing. I am just a radio / computer guy who is not even very good at those things. Oh yea, my writing skills are not that great either.

Steve's Jeep, the poor thing has been down for a while now. Used and abused and then just thrown to the side and left alone for so long. Well, it was about time that something was done. It was about time that someone stood up and said, "HEY, what the HECK is going on here???? Who is responsible for this atrocity??? Who allowed this to happen??? What were they thinking??? What has to happen for someone to make this right??? Where's the alter??? Where's the sacrifice??? WHERE'S THE BEEF??? Sorry, sometimes I get carried away.

Ok, as some of you know last Spring a small group of BLP members went up the hill to fetch a pail of water. Steve's Jeep fell down and broke it's crown and has been bedridden ever since. The prognosis was not good. Rod felt that the Jeep's transmission was in desperate need of repair. This seemed a good place to start anyway since that is where all the smoke and fire came from. Well I don't really know if there was actually smoke or fire but it does make for a better story. Read on, I may even add explosions, guts and goo to the mix.

It was decided that instead of having coffee meetings every week like we have done for the last several years. We should use some of those days to do trips and even use some to work on our vehicles or whatever else we could do as a club. We figured we should still make coffee available because after all these years, everyone is addicted to coffee. I myself can't wait to score some X-mas blend from Starbuck's when it becomes available.

Back to Steve's Jeep. It's broke. Bottom line, D-E-D dead! Turns out the flywheel, clutch plate, flux capacitor, throw out bearing, throw in bearing, Medulla Oblongata and starter are in technical terms, jacked! On October 30, 2010, Tom and I watched enthusiastically as Steve G, Blake, and Rod did all the work on the Steve's Jeep. The sweat poured over our brow as they worked furiously to save the old YJ. I remember a critical moment when I saved the day. A cry for help was heard from under the beast. Blake needed a wrench stat. It was a 2/14 or something like that and there I was to render aid. I grabbed a wrench and immediately handed it over to him. Not a F*%#n' screw driver you a\$\$h*&% was his response. I corrected my mistake and gave him the number 16 wrench. Knowing my math I realized 2/14 must mean 2+14 = 16, my work was done. I knew my work was done because Blake crawled out from under the Jeep and said, you're done, get the F&^# out of here. I must say it was an amazing feeling to have added my contribution to this endeavor. I can't wait until next week when I do my part again

for the cause. Viva la France!!!

All in all the day went well. The Jeep's transmission is out and awaiting new parts. As soon as those come in the reconstruction of the YJ will commence and that should be that. Not sure if there is anything engine related that needs attention but that will be a new chapter. When Steve's Jeep is ready for the road and trail again I will let everyone know. For now it is on the road or trail to recovery.

Chess Club News

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

On October 20, 2010 June Flores, K6JNZ arrived at Riverview School in Reedley Ca. To officially issue the monies provided by Sam's Club, (the grant) for the Riverview Rooks Chess Club. She arrived just in time for one of our regular practice sessions so everyone was there for the photo with the big check. The \$600.00 will be matched by a school program giving the Club \$1,200.00. This will allow the team, which I am head coach of to purchase new chess sets, clocks, instructional materials and so on. Thanks to Sam's Club and thanks to June and the BLP for all it did to make this possible.



BadLands Posse Repeaters

By Tom, N6MQG

As most of you hamsters know we now have a UHF and VHF repeater in place. Keith, (N6SGW) owner of the repeater machines; was kind enough to let Badlands Posse call the repeaters their own.

The trip to the repeater site was a nice windy road through the foothills above Dunlap. Once at the site, Keith, John (owner of the site) and I looked over the 75' tower. The tower is guyed very well. I was glad to see this because I was the one to have to climb the thing.

John explained what all the antennas were used for on the entire tower. When I asked about the 8 bay 440 antennas, Johns said they were not in use. I then asked about the 2 meter 3 bay antenna. John said it was not in use either. Keith and I couldn't believe it.

So I buckled up the climbing belt and climbed the tower. I got about 10' up and I locked in the hook above my head. John made a comment, "I see you lock in too." I told him I don't free climb anymore. The tower felt secure, it only swayed slightly but that is normal. I climbed about 30' to get a look at the junction of coax cables. I pulled on a few of the cables and Keith and John were able to locate the cables for the different antennas. I climbed down. I said to Keith,

"let's go get the 2 meter machine." We drove to the original site of the 2 meter repeater that was located at my family's cabin in Badger. We entered the repeater shack. The machine was still powering away. It is run by a solar panel connected to four 12 volt batteries. The repeater was not very strong but it served it's purpose. It was now time to power it down and move it to it's new location. We are going to call the new site, Miramonte. We unhooked all the coax from the repeater cavities, unplugged the repeater, and placed both the repeater and the cavities into Keith's truck.

We drove back to the new site and we hooked up the 2 meter antenna to the repeater. I turned on the repeater, it powered up without a hitch. I transmitted on my hand held. Bob (N6RBT) came back and said the repeater sounds great. Unbelievable, where was "Murphy"? So the 2 meter machine is working well.

Now for the 440 machine. A few weeks later we took another trip to the site. The original door needed replacing. Keith and I ripped out the old door frame and placed in the new door.

There seemed to be a problem with one of the 440 antennas. On the tower there are two 8 bay 440 antennas. One of the antennas has a 1 to 1 SWR. The other has a 25 reflected and 25 forward SWR. I climbed the tower to get a closer look at the coax. As I was climbing I ran into a freaky incident. As I was reaching my hands for grip, I was looking at the coax and not where I was grabbing the tower. I looked at my hand for a second and a cool looking spider was climbing on my hand. (Sorry BOB, I know you are rat phobic) I shook my hand and the spider fell. Not sure if it survived. Anyway, the weather started to turn stormy and there was lightening crackling in the area. I decided to descend.

Because of the one antenna throwing bad SWR's, we hooked the 440 machine and canisters to the one good 440 antenna. We powered the 440 up and there seemed to be a problem with the canisters.

We left the site and continued to try the repeater for about a week or so. The repeater was just not working well.

Keith and I decided to make a trip to the repeater. We tried to adjust the canisters, but had no luck.

I decided to try a 440 beam (Bob brought this antenna back to life) for our sending. It seemed to clean up the machine. I was going to climb the tower, but the weather was cloudy. I wasn't sure if lightening was going to roll in. I had the beam on a pole about 10' high. It just didn't seem to be high enough. I decided to use the 440 antenna with bad SWR's for the receive end, and the good 440 antenna for send. At this time it seems to work OK, but it is still "a work in progress."

When we have a nice day, we will have to take another trip to the site and clean up some of the antennas and coaxes on the tower and in the shack.

Miscellaneous & Photos

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

I just wanted to let everyone know that I now have the software and programming cable to program the Yaesu FT-2800M radios. I have experimented with it and it works great! The software is installed on my mini laptop so I can just take it right to the radio. No more bringing the radio to me for cloning. I also want to let Dave know that I read somewhere that it should work on modified radios as well.

I have also received the RIB, (Radio Interface Box) for programming the Spectra radios. I had been bidding on a cable on E-bay but got out bid at the last minute sometime during the night. I had hoped to get the pre-made cable at a reasonable price but that did not happen. Just so everyone knows, these cables sell on-line from anywhere between \$25.00 to \$50.00 for quality USA made versions. If you buy commercial cables it will be much higher in cost.

Dave, KJ6AZQ was telling me that we should just build our own and I agreed if the price was going to be too high to buy the E-bay version. Well, I looked on the web because there is a

great site that has lots of info regarding these radios. They do have a Spectra Low / Med power cable design available. There are very nice instructions on how to build it and includes a list of what parts are needed. I have most of what is needed already but I needed the 25 pin ends to complete the job. There is only a Radio Shack close by and we all know that Radio Shack, the (R & S stands for Really Sucks) has become a cell phone / toy store. I went there anyway and not believing it, I found two full 25 pin ends. I bought both. Now Tom, Dave and whoever else wants to help can. We just need to put a DOS box together, (I have that including DOS) and then install the correct software, (I have that also). This will allow us to program the Spectra's the way we want. I will advise everyone when we are set up. We also need to build regular radio cables for the units as well so that we can use the radios.

Power Supplies: If you have computer power supplies, save them. If they are good we can convert them to run the radios.

Last week I told everyone a Chinese company sent me a link to their web site boasting various 4X4 parts for sale at great prices. After hearing about problems with these types of parts I decided not to add the link to our web site. I think it better to purchase quality parts from a reputable dealer instead. Save time and money by doing it right and doing it once.



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