



# BADLANDS POSSE

## 4X4 CLUB

NEWSLETTER

[www.blposse.com](http://www.blposse.com)



### Meeting Information

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Meetings are being postponed until January 8, 2011 at 0930 hrs. This will give everyone a holiday break and allow us some needed time off for family members who usually stop by this time of year. Upon our return we will be meeting at Rod and June's house for a potluck lunch. I want Rod and June to provide nothing except for the location and BBQ. They provided lunch every week during the float construction project and even when we worked on Steve's Jeep. Lets give them a break. Email me with food ideas. Keep an eye on that calendar!!! I Look forward to seeing everyone next year.



### Parade is a Success!

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Well after several months of planning and deciding what we were going to do for our first parade, BLP members were unleashed on a float design. The theme for Reedley's Electric Light Farm Parade was "A Story Book Christmas" Rod had a flat trailer with no sides that was just the right size. Bruce said that we should get some old election signs and recycle them for use for our float project. Steve G. was able to acquire several of these signs and that is when the real work began. The signs had to be repainted so that we could hide any unwanted printing and of course we needed to get them in the Christmas spirit with just the right colors. Over several weeks and several added meetings the whole thing came together. On December 2, 2010 we met up at Rod and June's place nice and early, well early for us and began final construction. We had three Jeeps and one float to put together. I had built a prototype fire display using red and yellow lights, a box fan and some plastic drop cloth. The unit worked well and we decided to just use it as is with very minor modifications. Rod had a lot of old bricks that we used to place in a circle around the fire pit and to hide the fan unit.

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It turned out nice. Belle and Dave got us a nice Christmas tree to add to the mix. Rod put a cool rustic looking rocking chair on board plus a bench and whamo, the float was looking good. The signs went on and then to light and power everything we used 12 volt DC to 110 volt AC inverters. We went with LED, (light emitting diode) lights because they use much less power. We had thought about using Rod's tractor to pull the float. This would have been nice because this is a farm parade but the fumes coming from the tractor were pretty bad. Rod felt that they were bad enough to cause an issue with the passengers on the float, (killing them). It was decided to use Rod's Jeep to pull the float and have his big blow up Frosty the Snowman riding tall in the back seat. This worked out great as anyone could see from looking at the front page of the Reedley Exponent! Yes! We made the front page! We won no award but wow, the front page. Well let me get back to earlier in the day. My Jeep was to be first in line so it got the Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer treatment. I put 7 strings of regular white LED lights around the exterior and one LED net light set across the hood. Blake decked out his rig while June worked on Rod's Jeep. We all pitched in on the float and it really came out nice. Sandy Jones read "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the kids on the float as it passed by onlookers down town Reedley. Rod had this cool music box that he hooked all the lights to on the float. The thing played music and made the lights on the float dance to the tune it played. Steve G. drove my Jeep because I was not available.

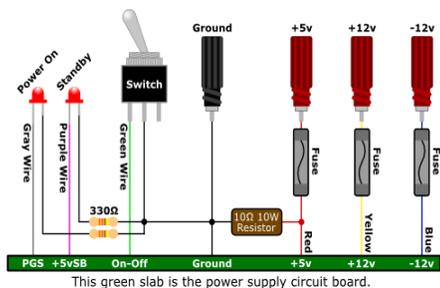
His Jeep was still down and I had my last night of tech week for the play I was in, (The Sound of Music). Blake was second in line and then Rod and June pulling the float. I was told by those who participated that everything went great. There were no problems with anything, not bad for our first time out. Not sure yet if we plan to do this again next year but it would be nice. Whatever we decide the main mission to get the word out about our Club was a success. Rod and I both noticed an increase in hits to our web page soon after the parade. Great job guys and Merry Christmas!

## Power Supply Project For Spectra Radios

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

I have been collecting parts and supplies to put together several power supplies for ham radio use. Using old power supplies recycled from old computers and even some new high power units found at swap fest and on Ebay, I plan to get our Spectra radios up and running. There are several sites online that show you how to turn your old computer power supplies into 12 volt DC or multi volt units for use with other items. I used one of these sites to obtain the info needed to conduct the build. I think it would be fun to do this at our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January, 2011. If we can get several units up and running we can get those who have a Spectra a way to use them as a base unit. If anyone has some old power supplies that are at least 11 to 12 amps at +12 V bring them to the next meeting. The Spectra radios are 30 watt radios that draw 9 amps when in use. Most power supplies can not handle their max amp output for any length of time. So a 9 amp supply is really not big enough even though the Spectra's use 9 amps. You need a little extra so you don't hurt the supply. Also, the supplies we will be using are 12 volt and not 13.8 which is what a vehicle puts out. It is a small difference but does mean you will not get the full 30 watts from your Spectra unless you use it in a vehicle. If you have

soldering irons and solder, (the kind used for electronics) bring it to the meeting. Here is the schematic we will go by using only the +12V connections.



## No Kill Shelters in Need of Help

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

BLP members Madison and Miranda Beck recently adopted a small dog from a no kill shelter. During the process they learned that the people who run these shelters are volunteers who incur a lot of out of pocket expense by providing food, medicine, shelter and various other items like shampoo and towels for the animals. Madison and Miranda thought it would be nice to get donations of the above listed items and then distribute the donations to the shelters. I felt that this would be another great community project that our Club could assist them with. They would do most of the work but with our guidance. If any members have old towels that are no longer in use or other items that could be donated for this purpose it help to would get them started. I could design fliers and help get the info out to the public. I would like the girls to run the show for the most part and be the leading members of the committee regarding this project. What does everyone else think about this. Do we even want to get involved? I think it is a great idea myself and it would teach them something about responsibility and get them more involved in the Club. It also gives the Club a great image. Let me know what you think.

## Facebook Page for the BLP?

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

I have been told by several people that it would be a good idea to get a Facebook page for not only myself but for the Club. Do any members have a Facebook page? Is it a good idea? Can it be used for a club? If so let me know. If it can get the word out even more that would be nice. I know nothing about Facebook and would like someone to show me around. If anyone wants to be in charge of a Facebook page for the Club, please help out. Maybe we can bring this issue up at our next meeting but email now if there is an interest. Comments regarding this issue are also welcome so let them fly.



## Chess Club News

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

I sent out an Email advising all that BLP member Madison Beck took 2<sup>nd</sup> place on November 13, 2010 at our Club's first tournament of the year. On December 4, 2010 she stepped it up a notch and took 1<sup>st</sup> place for K-3 grade. During the first tournament the Club, (Riverview Rooks, aka River Rooks) took home 1<sup>st</sup> place for team K-3rd grade and 1<sup>st</sup> place team 4-6th grade. Our second tournament we took home 1<sup>st</sup> place team K-3<sup>rd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place team 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are doing great this year. Our next tournament is here in Reedley at TL Reed School on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Anyone who is interested and would like to stop on by is of course welcome. It would show the team support from our Club. In other chess related news, I got our teams new equipment today! I am guessing at least 100 lbs. or more worth of bags, boards, pieces, clocks and score sheets. These items purchased from the grant monies from Sam's Club and the matching monies the school supplied. I used \$1,106.00 so far. The little that is left will be used for awards or something else chess related. We plan to add to the fund by using recycling monies obtained from our recycling program. The next time you see Madison, challenge her to a game of chess. She's starting to scare me. Good luck.

## BadLands Posse Snow Trip???

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Just wondering if anyone would be up for a trip to the snow to let the kids have some fun? I don't believe we could do any Jeep stuff but we could go somewhere for a pick nick and let the kids play in the white stuff. I know Steve G. has several grandkids and Steve M. has two boys plus my two rug rats. I say lets do it. Even though we won't be at a meeting for a few weeks we can send Emails or talk via the radio. Take care all and Merry Christmas.

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