



# BADLANDS POSSE

## 4X4 CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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



## Meeting Information

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Meetings are at Uncle Harry's Restaurant, 1201 G. Street in Reedley, Ca. 93654, (well, some of the time) 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. The meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 0900 Hrs., 9:00 a.m. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the month is our official meeting and the one held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month is our general meeting. HOWEVER, we will occasionally hold meetings elsewhere. Check the website for up to date information and check that calendar just to be certain!!!

## BLP's Potluck & First Meeting of the Year

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

BLP's first meeting of the year came after about a month or so break from weekly meetings. During the meeting it was decided to only have meetings every other week. On the 1-22-2011 meeting we added that The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month would be the Club's official meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month would be the Club's general meeting. More on the 1-22-2011 meeting will follow this article. The Club calendar has been updated to show the new dates and times of the upcoming meetings. Only the locations have not yet been decided. The meeting portion which was held on 1-9-2011, (Potluck) was short and sweet. We did decide to not only go ahead with the Noah's Friends no kill shelter donations drive but that Madison and Miranda were to head up this event. We will continue with this drive to the end of February 2011. We have had several donations come in and I will post a list on our web page as more come in. Moving on I brought a chess set like the ones we helped acquire for the River Rooks Chess

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Club so everyone could see their quality. The sets are great and will last for years to come for the chess team. The potluck came after and it was great. There was tons of food and all of it was good. During the chow down Tom and I programmed two of the Spectra radios. We used the laptop supplied by Rod. I have configured it to work with the Spectra's and the repeaters. All in all everything went well and we even had two potential new members show up with their Jeeps. Carlos and Michael stayed long enough to join us for lunch and then showed off their Jeeps. I left sometime during the late afternoon but there were still several people there after I was gone. We will definitely have to do this again sometime, maybe even a pick nick in the mountains.

## BLP's 2nd Meeting of the Year

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

The 1-22-2011 meeting was a tech meeting but only 5 people were there. Tom was helping a friend and I think some stayed home because the fog was bad. Even with the lack of members available we made the meeting worthwhile. We discussed some needed changes to our website which have been done, (Links to local 4X4 clubs, Geocaching TB's now have their own page, meeting information was updated and Fall and Winter photos

have been added). The rest of the meeting was a power supply build for Rod's Spectra radio. We took an old PC ATX power supply and re-worked it for use to power the Spectra. Rod, Steve G. and myself all participated in the build. The supply came out great and we even had a successful test using it and his Spectra radio. Now all that is needed is setting up an antenna so Rod can go on the air as a base unit. That might be another tech meeting someday. We have several more units to build but we need power supplies. What is needed is PC ATX supplies that indicate at least 12A at +12V. This information is available on the side of the supply. The higher the "A" reading the better. The above info is good enough for the Spectra radio but if you plan to run a higher wattage radio you will need a higher amperage supply. Anyone who wants to build one let me know so we can plan for it. Steve G. is next in line but we can build more than one at a time. **LOOK FOR THOSE SUPPLIES!!!! DON'T THROW ANY AWAY!!!!**

## BadLands Posse Repeaters

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

As most of you know, the BadLands Posse 4X4 Club has two repeaters that Club member Keith Baerg is allowing us to use. These repeaters operate on the following amateur radio frequencies, 147.300, + offset, PL 141.3 & 444.825, + offset, PL 141.3. The repeaters were programmed using an old CW ID. Using the computer that Rod has supplied, Tom and I were able to reprogram them with our Club's call sign, W6BLP. They both ID via CW as W6BLP/R. The "R" indicates a repeater. As soon as we can we will send off the proper information so that the repeaters can be listed in the repeater handbooks. This information will make our repeaters known to all amateurs who use the book and may assist us in locating new members. I do from time to time hear others who are not Club members using the repeaters. They have a good coverage area and have the potential to become popular with other Ham's.



## Snow Trip

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

The Club had been talking about doing a snow trip for awhile but we finally set a date and went for it. The date was Sunday, January 16, 2011. Those attending were Rod, June, Tom, Tammy, Bob, Eleanor, Madison and Miranda. We all headed up the hill at different times but kept in touch via radio. We arrived at the little village in the park where you pay your entrance fee. This particular weekend in the park was free so the park was **PACKED!!!** Eleanor, the kids and myself found a not so busy area back behind the store and between the cabins in the village. We were already building a snowman when the others arrived. Rod brought a sled so that made the kids big time happy. Eleanor found us a little hill for the kids to play not to far away from where we built the snowman. The kids used the sled that Rod brought but Miranda was the one who was on it the most. She's the crazy one of the family. Well we played in the snow for awhile and then decided it was time to eat. That was fine with me since I was hungry when we first arrived. My feet were also colder than they have ever been. I only brought tennis shoes because I had no plans to be walking through all the snow I ended up walking through. I should have brought my hunting boots, (remember for next time dumb a\$\$). Rod and June took off up the hill a bit to look for a location that we could use for our pick nick. They found a spot that turned out to be the same spot I proposed to Eleanor about 18 years ago. It is just a closed road that is blocked by snow about ¼ mile up the hill from where we were. We all met up there and had our lunch. We had a great time and the kids and myself were beat. On the way back we stopped by the repeater site to reprogram the repeaters. We did not have the right codes so reprogramming was done the next day. The trip was nice though and I plan at least 1 or 2 more before all the snow is gone.



# Chess Club News

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

Just an update on the chess club. There is a tournament on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It will be at TL Reed School in Reedley and it starts at about 10:00 a.m. We have moved the BLP Club's meeting to the 6<sup>th</sup> for the Super Bowl Party so if your available, stop by to see the team. The tournaments last to about 5:30 p.m. This is when the awards are presented. Call my cell phone if you like. I will have my radio on sometimes but only when I'm away from the games being played.

On Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the River Rooks Chess team will host our last tournament of the year at Riverview School, also in Reedley. This tournament does not fall on a BLP meeting date and is being played on our home turf. Same times apply as above.

# Newsletter Help Please

By Freakshow, Bob, aka N6RBT

I know I have asked this many times but I do need help with the newsletter and even the calendar. The calendar is very easy to work with and at our next meeting I can give a little demo so you can all see just how easy it is. It would be nice if several members could log in to update it because you might have an opportunity to do a 4X4 run or some other information you would like to provide that is Club related. The sooner it gets posted the better. The newsletter is a lot of work for one person. I have no problem putting it all together and setting it up on the web for download or sending via email. The problem is coming up with all of the articles. I was thinking, what would be nice is if different people could write about items they feel comfortable with. June writes great stories about anything we do. Rod could write articles regarding mechanical items, Steve could write about Club business, Blake could write about nose picking and Tom, well Tom can't write. Just joking of course. Tom could keep us up to date on repeater status and other ham radio related topics. Blake could write about whatever, other clubs activities, etc. These are just examples. These are just the board members that I listed. I think

Any member who would like to contribute should be able to. All anyone has to do is let me know they want to help, write an article and email it to me. I can easily cut and paste it into the newsletter. This way everyone gets a chance to contribute.

Oh yea, please forgive any grammar errors or anything else I screwed up in this issue.

# Miscellaneous & Photos



**BadLands Posse**  
**4X4 Club**  
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None

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*We're on the Web!*  
*Visit us at:*  
<http://www.blposse.com>

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