



# Amateur Radio Operators Serving the 65<sup>th</sup> Covina Christmas Parade



Photo by Greg KI6GIG

Tri-County



GERC



A joint ham radio community-service activity of  
The Tri-County Amateur Radio Association &  
Glendora Emergency Response Communications

2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

# Passing the Torch

Amateur radio communications for the Covina Christmas Parade began under Mark Hayden, N7YLA of the Glendora Emergency Response Communications (GERC). Last year, he passed the torch to Bruce Bolton, AG6YS past president of the Tri-County Amateur Radio Association (Tri-County, aka TCARA ).



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



Mark  
N7YLA

Bruce  
AG6YS



Photos by Greg KI6GIG

## Parade Orientation Meeting

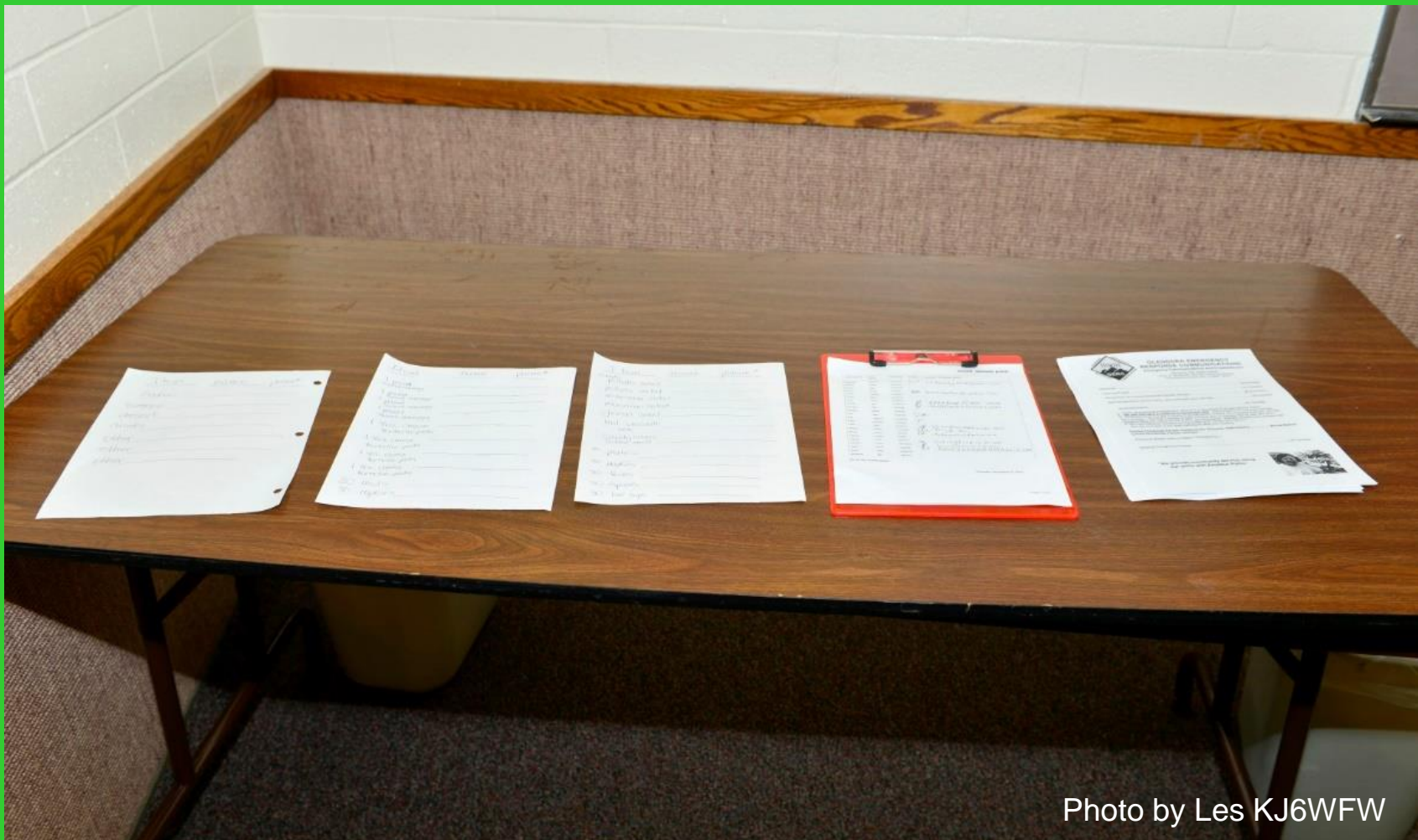


Photo by Les KJ6WFW

The latest updated critical contact information is collected via a meeting sign-in log. This includes emails and cell phones.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



# Parade Orientation Meeting



Photo by Les KJ6WFW

Bruce AG6YS, past president of Tri-County Amateur Radio Association assumed the role of Overall Amateur Radio Coordinator from Mark N7YLA of GERC. This year marked the formal joint operations of Tri-County & GERC hams for the Covina Christmas Parade.





## Parade Orientation Meeting

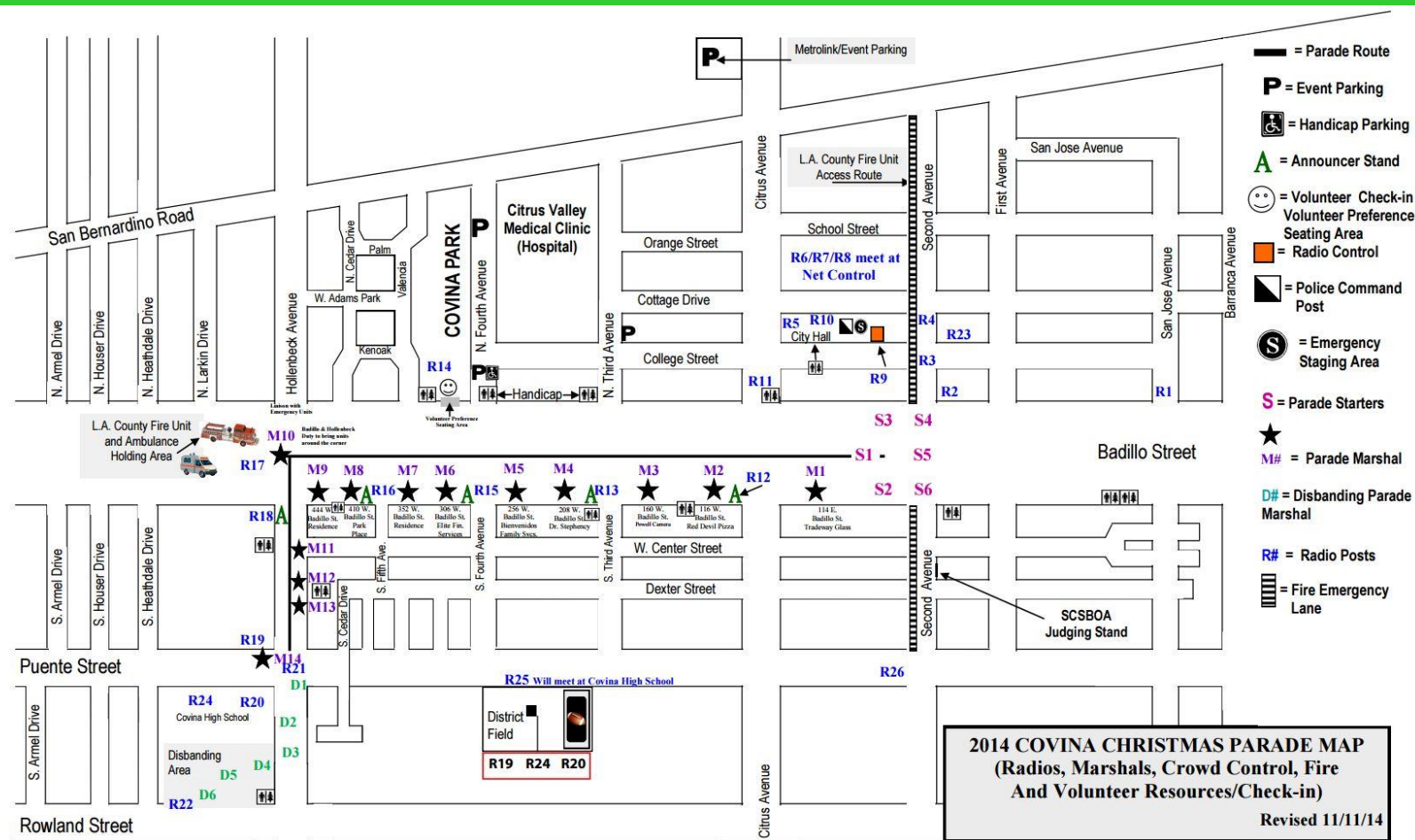


Photo by Les KJ6WFW

There are 25 parade stations needing ham operators. Bruce AG6YS briefs the hams on the overall parade organization, logistics, schedules, parking, and requests for the pot luck.



# Parade Map



The parade map is adapted from 2014, but changes were possible so the map wasn't finalized in time for the orientation meeting.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



# Parade Orientation Meeting



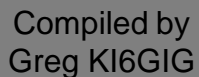
Photo by Les KJ6WFW

All hams are observers and NOT parade officials.  
Net Control Dennis KI6NQG briefs the hams on frequencies,  
Net protocols, and general parade operating procedures.



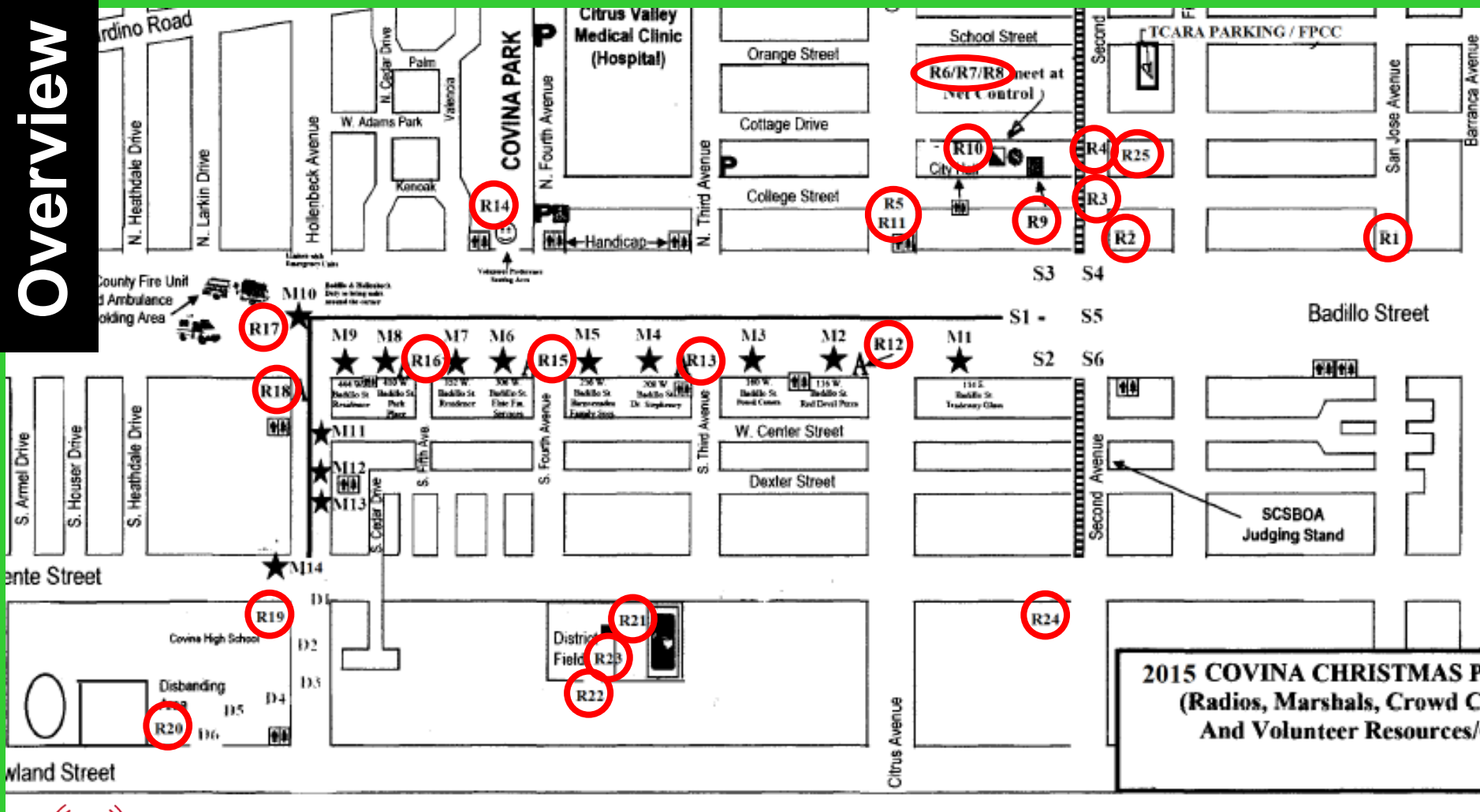


**About 20 GERC radio operators were assigned to shadow various parade marshals in the various staging areas and control points**





# Overview



The 25 stations covered the main parade route, staging areas, and security positions for the 65<sup>th</sup> Covina Christmas Parade.



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# City Hall Parking Lot



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Photos by Greg KI6GIG



# The Early Birds



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Richard KG6TRD, Steve Horstmann (Parade Control), Bruce AG6YS

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Parking the W6C Net Control Station



Bruce AG6YS guides Jim's KG6TQT motorhome in place.

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



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Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Net Control Station



Jim KG6TQT disembarks as Bruce AG6YS waits to begin.

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Net Control Station Shell



Bruce AG6YS, Jim KG6TQT, Richard KG6TRD

Photo by Greg KI6GIG





# TCARA Coordinator

The moment of truth  
arrives: Now I find  
out if I forgot  
anything.



Bruce AG6YS unloading his gear.

Photo by Greg KI6GIG





# Setting up



Station W6C begins to take shape.

Photo by Greg KI6GIG





# Boxes of mysterious ham goodies



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



## Powering Up the Check-in Desk

Bruce's secret formula ham radio fuel. Most people believe radios need electricity. But hams need "Bruce Juice."

I sure hope I remember the recipe.





# Testing the Bruce Juice

Nothing like a  
fresh cup of liquid  
ham power!





# Testing the Bruce Juice





# Testing the Bruce Juice





# Preparing the Check-in Desk



This can't be a real parade pass?!?! Heck anyone can make copies like this!





# Preparing the Check-in Desk

Now **THIS** is a  
**REAL** parade pass!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Bruce AG6YS

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Early Check-ins

I can't see what I'm signing

Don't worry. It's the same as last time.

I've heard that one before.



Richard KG6TRD, Bruce AG6YS, Jim KG6TQT,

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



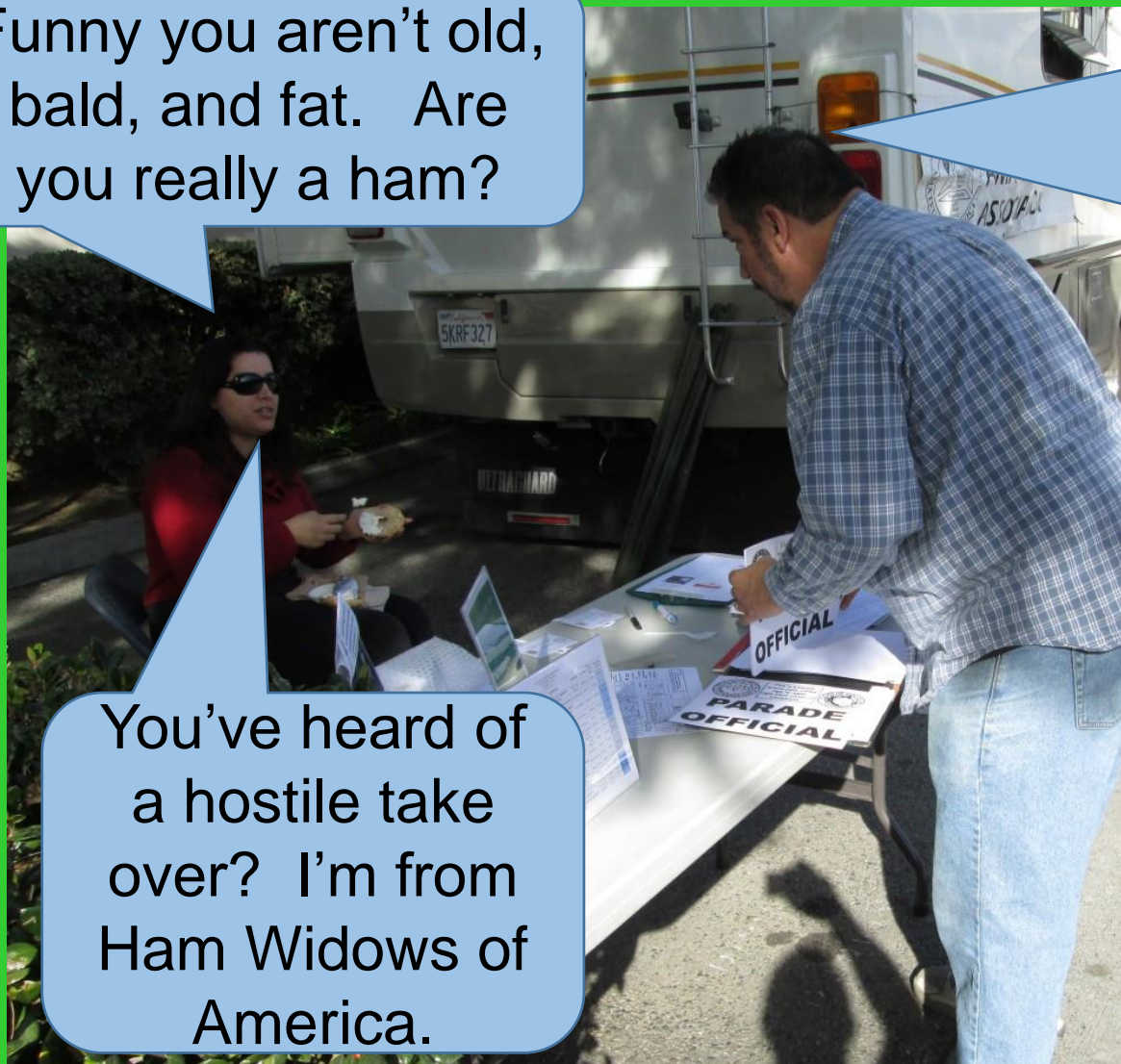


# Preparing the Check-in Desk

Funny you aren't old, bald, and fat. Are you really a ham?

Well, yes, I am....a ham. Who are you and why are you sitting in **MY** chair?

You've heard of a hostile take over? I'm from Ham Widows of America.



Natalie DM1WM "Don't mess once with me", Bruce AG6YS

Photo by Greg KI6GIG





## Check-in Desk Set Up

Can I put these down now?

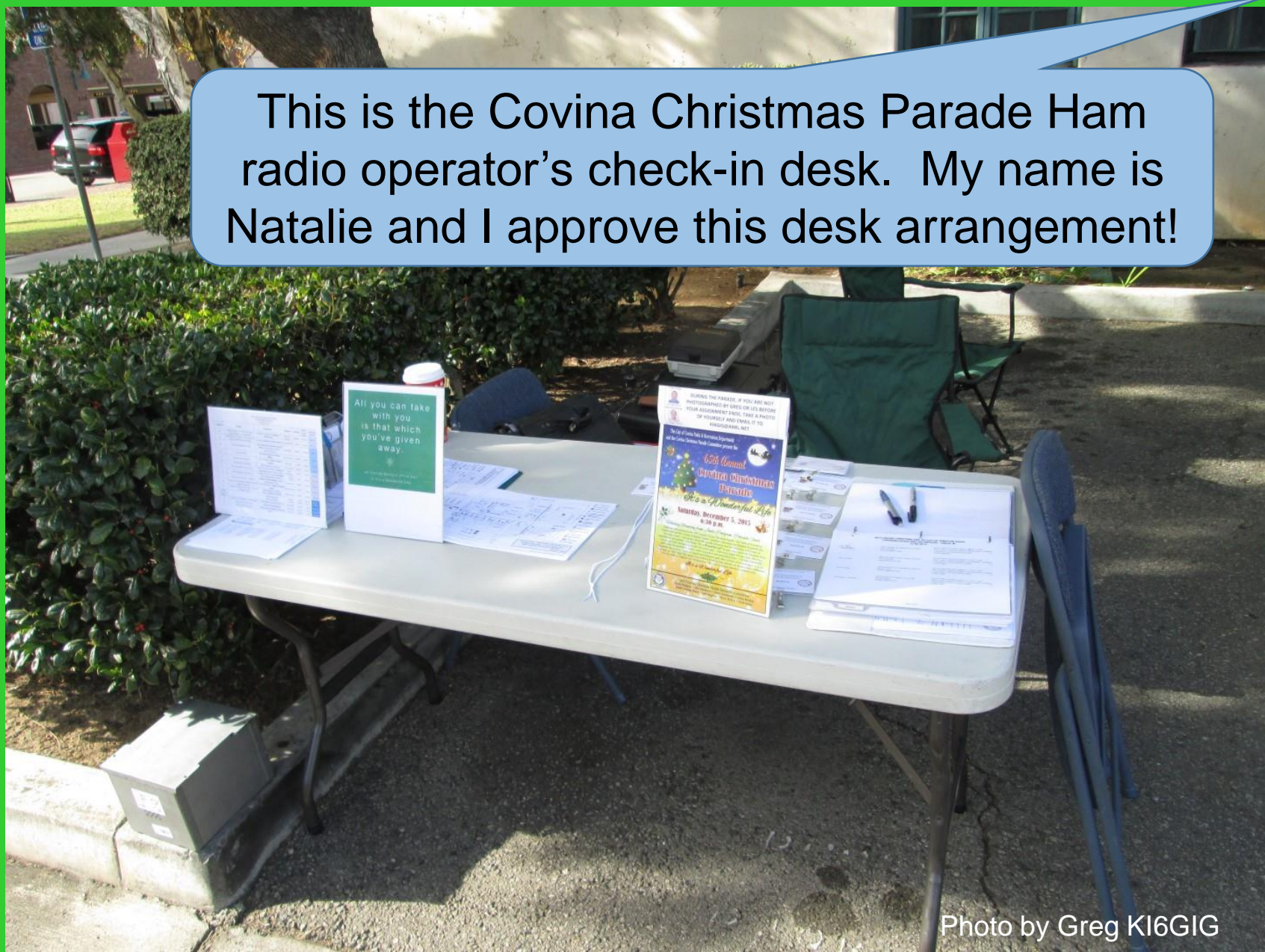
Not 'til I say so.  
A bit more to the left....ahh...up a little....a little more





# The Check-in Desk is Ready

This is the Covina Christmas Parade Ham radio operator's check-in desk. My name is Natalie and I approve this desk arrangement!





# Sign-in Log & Badges





## Setting Up the W6C Antenna

Contrary to what you read in the popular press that “size doesn’t matter,” in ham radio bigger, taller antennas tend to be better antennas.

Mark told them I was dependable and they could lean on me. I didn’t think they’d make me be the antenna brace.



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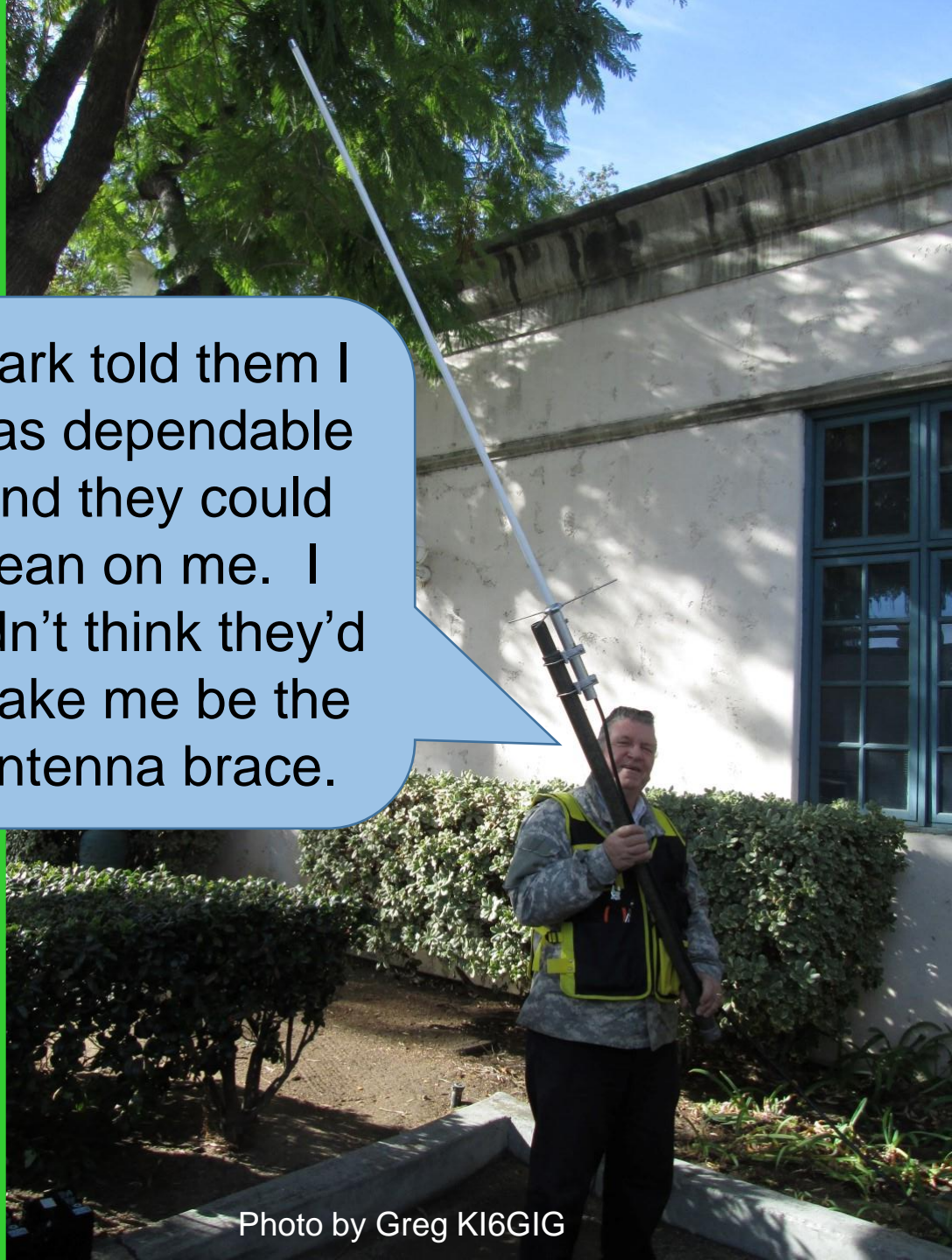


Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Set Up

## W6C Set Up

Richard  
KG6TRD  
& Jim  
KG6TQT  
set up the  
antenna.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photos by Greg KI6GIG



# Set Up

Slowly  
but  
surely  
the  
antenna  
is raised  
section  
by  
section.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



Photos by Greg KI6GIG



# Set Up

In the end, the successful raising of the antenna proves old guys can still get it up.



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Photos by Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Set Up





# Net Control Arriving



A key advantage of being the ham coordinator or Net Control is preferred parking at City Hall.





# Net Control has landed

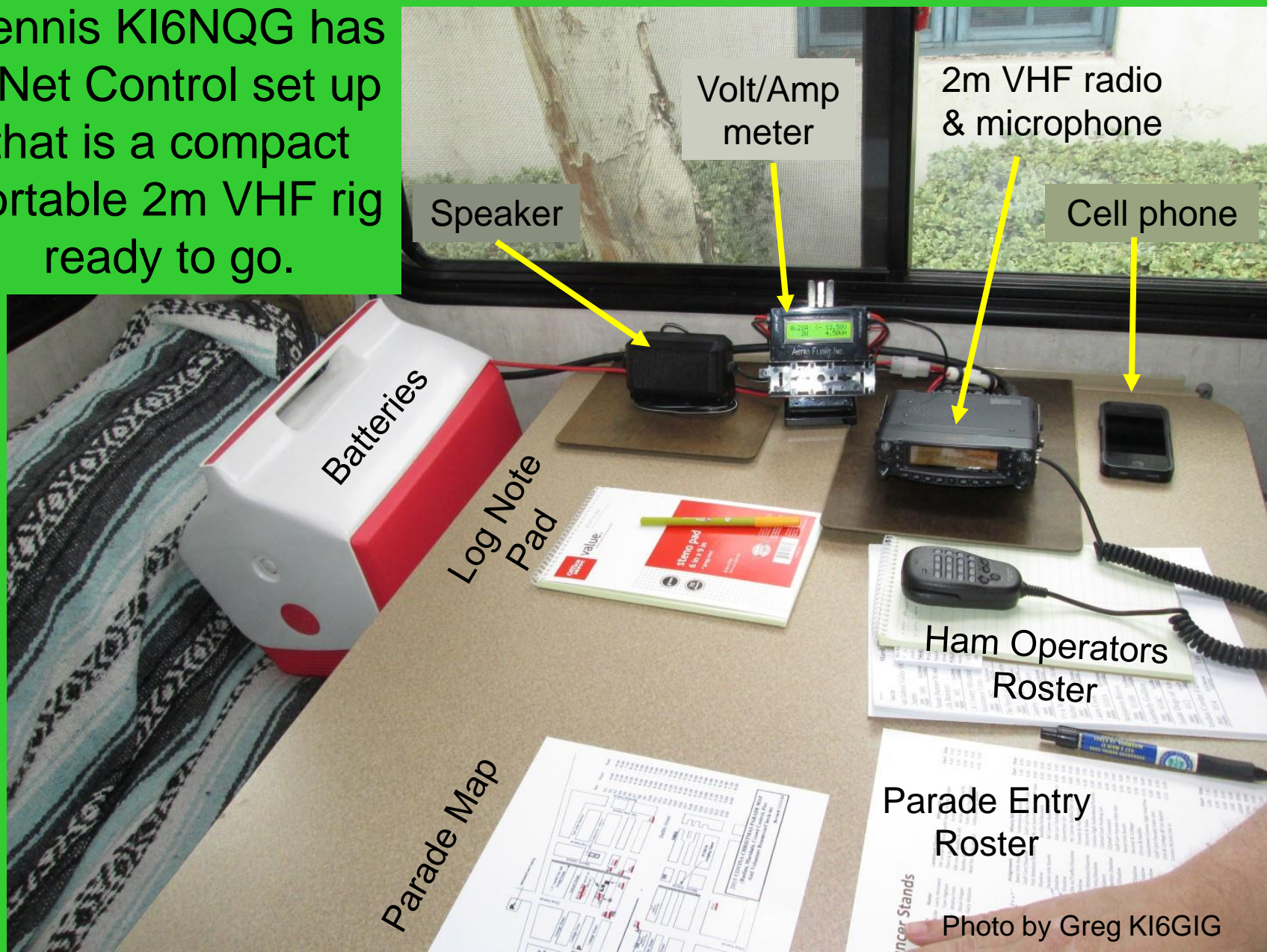
Hi. Is Natalie here?  
Oh hi Greg....you made it, too.





## W6C Net Control Ready

Dennis KI6NQG has a Net Control set up that is a compact portable 2m VHF rig ready to go.



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Greg KI6GIG

Parade Entry  
Roster

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Testing & Monitoring

Dennis KI6NQG testing the Net Control station rig and monitoring the parade frequencies for possible interference or use by others.



Log Note Pad





# W6C Set Up

With Net Control set up, Dennis KI6NQG steps out to help with the rest of the W6C set up



Where is Dennis when I need him?

Hmm...it's cooler in there!





## W6C set up



Jim KG6TQT  
rigs up LED  
lights for night  
operations

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



# Check-in Desk Set Up

Richard KG6TRD and Dennis KI6NQG look over the check-in procedures preparing to back up Bruce AG6YS if needed.



What fine print?

Oh come on Richard, there's always fine print! Right there!!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Ready to Go

Well before lunch, W6C is ready to go. Frequency monitoring verified the need to use an alternate primary frequency.



Ham radio  
operator  
check-in

Hospitality area

Net Control  
(Inside)





# A Brief Respite

A brief lull is a good time to review procedures and contingency plans.





# Harry KB6ULN, Station #14 checks in

After lunch, the first ham checks in early (a good practice to avoid traffic and parking problems).

This contract looks better than last year's!

Yes, it does.

Contract?  
What contract?  
Where's mine?

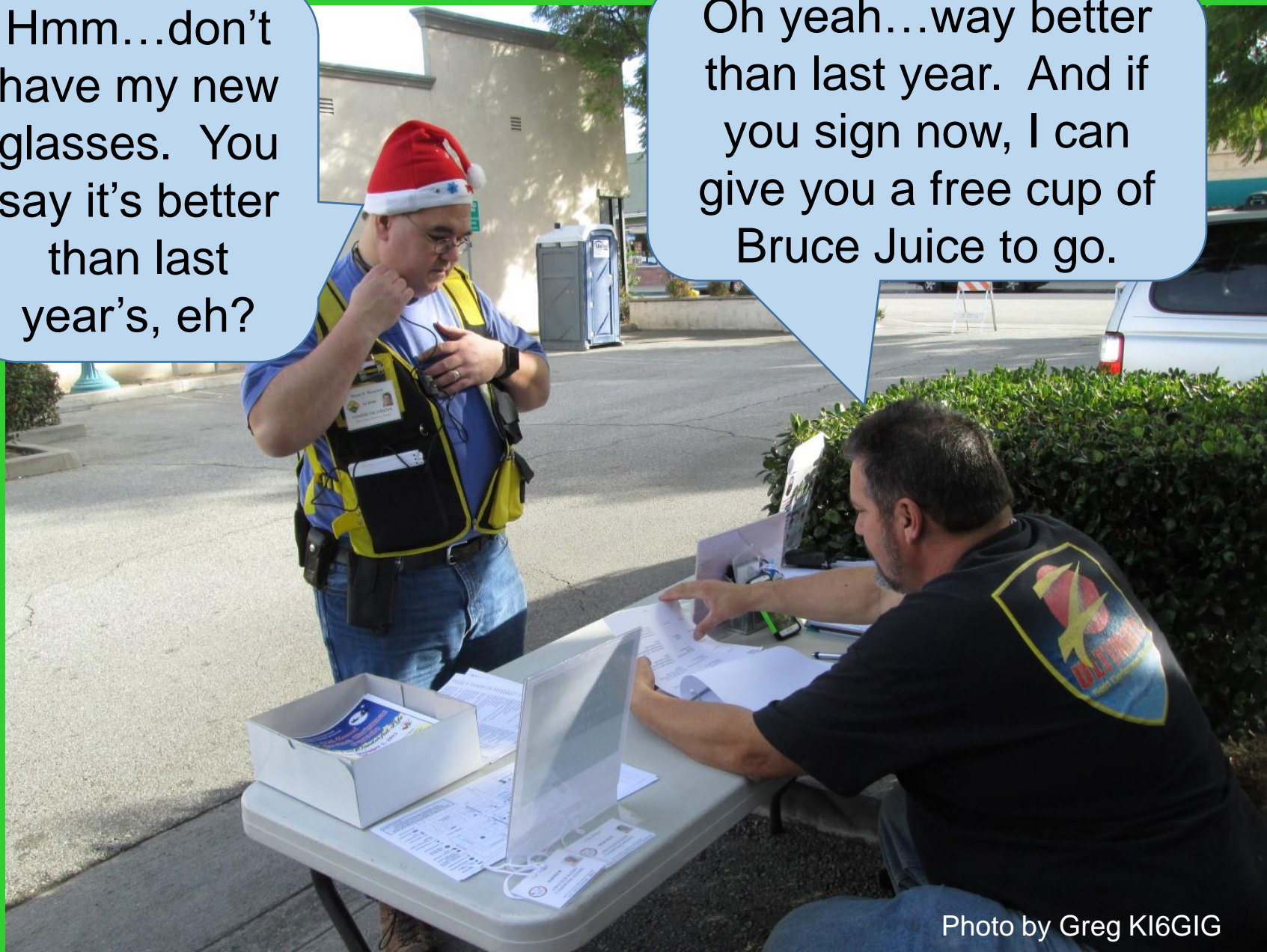




## Shane KC6PSH Station #22 signs in

Hmm...don't have my new glasses. You say it's better than last year's, eh?

Oh yeah...way better than last year. And if you sign now, I can give you a free cup of Bruce Juice to go.





# Time to reconnect

Oh, so you are here again?!

Yeah, Mark said he'd cancel my membership if I didn't come.

Oh you must have got the same email I did.

Ha, the email trick worked!





# “Sam” WB6NVD Station #20

Is this where I sign up for the free parade-meal combo package?



Aha! See, offer free food and they will come!





# Culver W6EI Station #2 arrives

And I am automatically entered in the free Alaska cruise contest if I volunteer for life to work the parade, right?

Yes sir. It's something Mark N7YLA put in place as a recruiting incentive just before he left.



Photo by Greg KI6GIG





## Reporting to Net Control

After checking in, getting your ID badge and vest, it is important to see Net Control of last minute updates.



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Hi, I'm Culver W6EI.  
Bruce said I should see  
you for details about the  
Alaska cruise trip drawing.



Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Getting Updates from Net Control



Howdy Culver. Yes, the entry is free once you've signed the life time parade volunteer form.

I thought that's what I did outside at the table.





## W6C Hospitality Hostess



Hi. My name is Gina, the XYL of AG6YS. Normally I am smiling, but this is my game face grimace because I just found out he volunteered me to do this again next year. Folks, all I can say is if you marry ham, welcome to the club of perpetual volunteerism.



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Photo by Greg KI6GIG

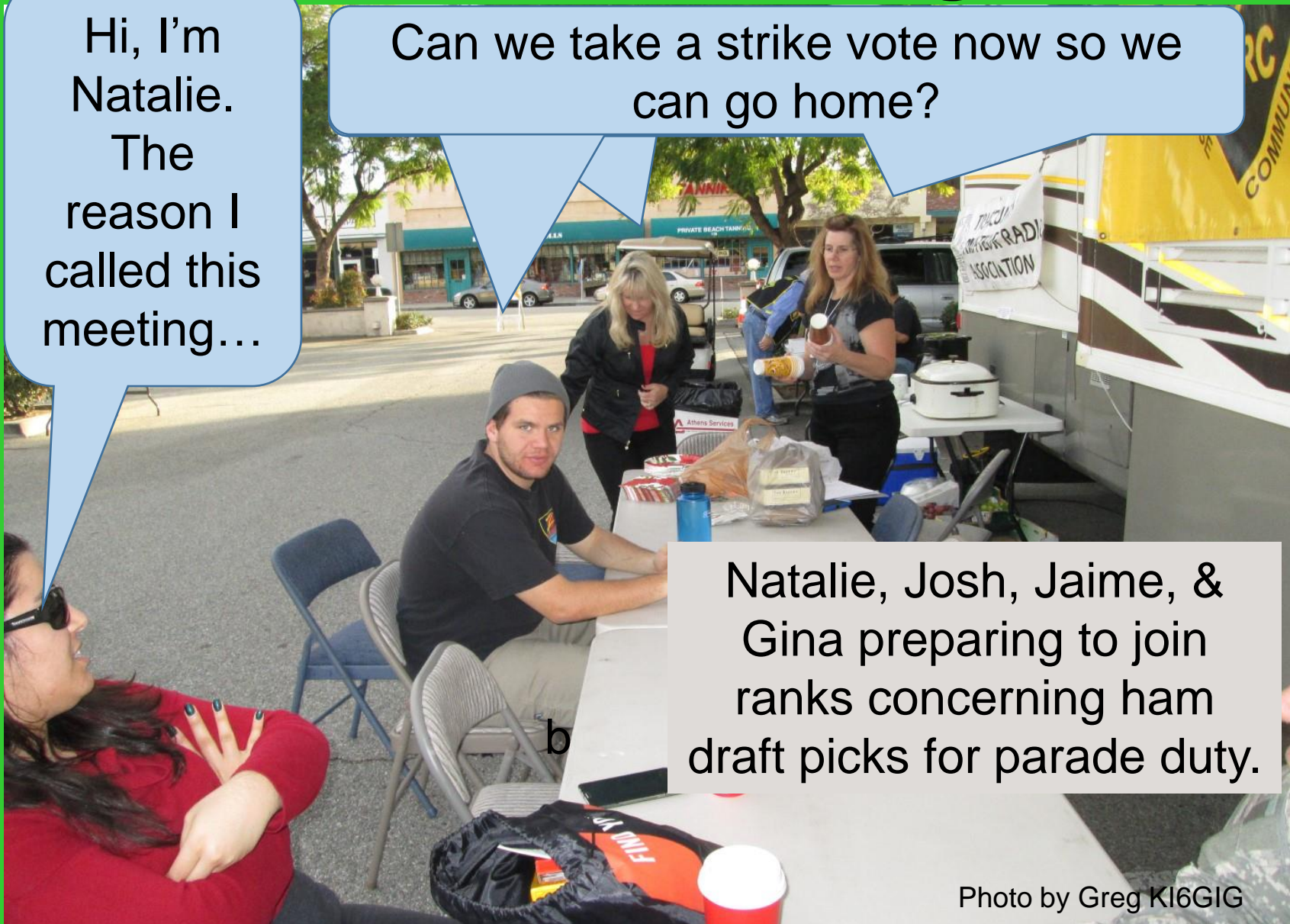


# Non-ham Volunteers meet to discuss unionizing

Hi, I'm Natalie.  
The reason I called this meeting...

Can we take a strike vote now so we can go home?

Natalie, Josh, Jaime, & Gina preparing to join ranks concerning ham draft picks for parade duty.





## James W6JDR Station #1 checks in

So the time share option is new for this year, right?

Yes, Mark thought returning volunteers deserved more perks for their repeated service.





# Larry KK6AOM Station #12

Bruce said you guys have great perks for working this parade.

Tom  
KI6YCC

Jim  
KG6TQT

James  
W6JDR



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Tom KI6YCC Station #13

Man this new guy Bruce is something else, huh?!.

Me too.

Wow, I was doing this before for nothing.

Well, Mark told him he had to get creative in recruiting more volunteers.

Ahem. Cough, cough!





# David AG6VH Station #3

This just sounds too good to be true!

Just sign young fella!

Who me? I'm just standing here.

Well sir, it is a limited time offer. Yes or no?





# Larry KE6EOL Station #6 (mobile)

Nope,  
Sorry.  
Nothing  
for the  
Electro-  
Kid

You must be  
new here. I  
made my  
reservation a  
year ago right  
after the  
parade!!  
Everybody  
knows the  
Electro-Kid!





# Rag Chewing before deploying

I'm telling you that new guy Bruce changed the terms of service. He says I don't get limo service to my station!

You're talking the wrong guy. I can't sign let alone read what I can't sign.





# Rob KE6YGF Station #7 (mobile)

Gosh, I'd like to win that one. Then I would have two identical trucks!

Later we'll have a drawing for that pick up truck over there.

I wonder if Mark told him we were using his truck for the prize?





## Preparing mobile Station #6

Wait 'til they see what this baby can do **THIS** year!



Basic set up includes flashing beacon & mag mount antenna (on a fiberglass roof), and a battery pack.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



## Preparing Station #6

Ok the Death Ray Deflector looks good. The dynamic armor plate is on. And those new heat shield shuttle tiles should do for tonight at least.

I wonder if the tires "tack" resistant"?





## Rob KE6TGF Station #7 (mobile)



Yipeeee!  
I get to  
drive  
until Amy  
gets  
here!

Rob's set up  
is made  
easier due to  
a flat roof.

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



# Florante KI6CEW Station #8



FOOD BANNERS

Why the banners?  
They are so far away  
from the food!!

Just luck of the  
draw, guy!





# Roue KJ6ZNH Station #16

Someone said this was the sign up desk for hamdate.com

Step right up young man. Have I got deal for you; free travel, meet new people....





# Bob KI6YCB Station #4

Where's the part about the free limo?

Don't worry, I am sure its all in there. Just sign here.





# Comparing Notes

Did you see the free limo clause in yours?

What limo? What about the Date & Mate package?

I told Mark this would happen





## Equipment Check

Darned! See, last year the limo homing beacon was in this pocket. That's how they knew where to get me. It's not here. So that means no limo for me this year!

Don't feel bad. I don't have one either. Guess the new guy doesn't like us.





## Dennis KI6NQG, W6C Net Control

The calm before the storm.

The Net Control logging assistant is vital help as the traffic volume increases through the evening.





# Visiting before deploying

Are you sure this isn't  
the weekend stolen  
car auction?

Stolen?!? They  
told me they  
borrowed these  
cars for tonight!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Hams deploying

Larry KE6EOL set up mobile station #6 and leaves to pick up Steve Horstmann, the Parade Controller.



Tom KI6YCC  
hitches a ride  
to Station 13,  
Announcer  
Stand #2.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photos by Greg KI6GIG

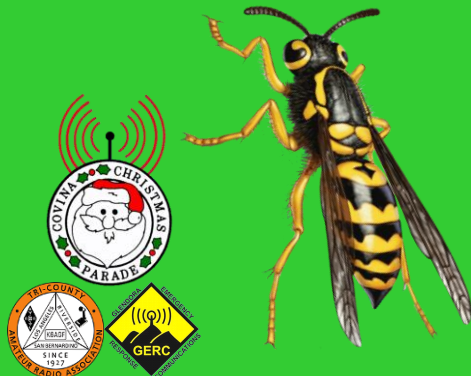


# Bruce AG6YS in official parade garb

As the official ham radio parade coordinator, Bruce AG6YS is entitled to wear an official parade committee **yellow jacket** (which comes with the sting of authority).



Bruce with his  
official yellow  
jacket



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photos by Greg KI6GIG



On the Air

# Net Control Goes On the Air

It's show time!

Net Control gives the parade net preamble.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# W6C Hospitality Team

I'm here so I wouldn't be a parade ham widow!

I'm here because my best friend might be miserable and misery loves company!





On the Air

# Culver W6EI at Station #2



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Photo by Greg KI6GIG



On the Air

# David AG6VH at Station 3



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Bob KI6YCB, Station 4 shadowing Robert Esquivel





On the Air

# Roy KG6RGD at Station #5, the intersection of Citrus Ave/College St assisting Parade PR



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



On the Air

# Rob KE6YGF, Station 7

Rob KE6YGF with his assigned official Amy,  
Parade Coordinator / Trouble Shooter



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



On the Air

# Florante KI6CEW Station #8 shadowing Jodi for the parade banners



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

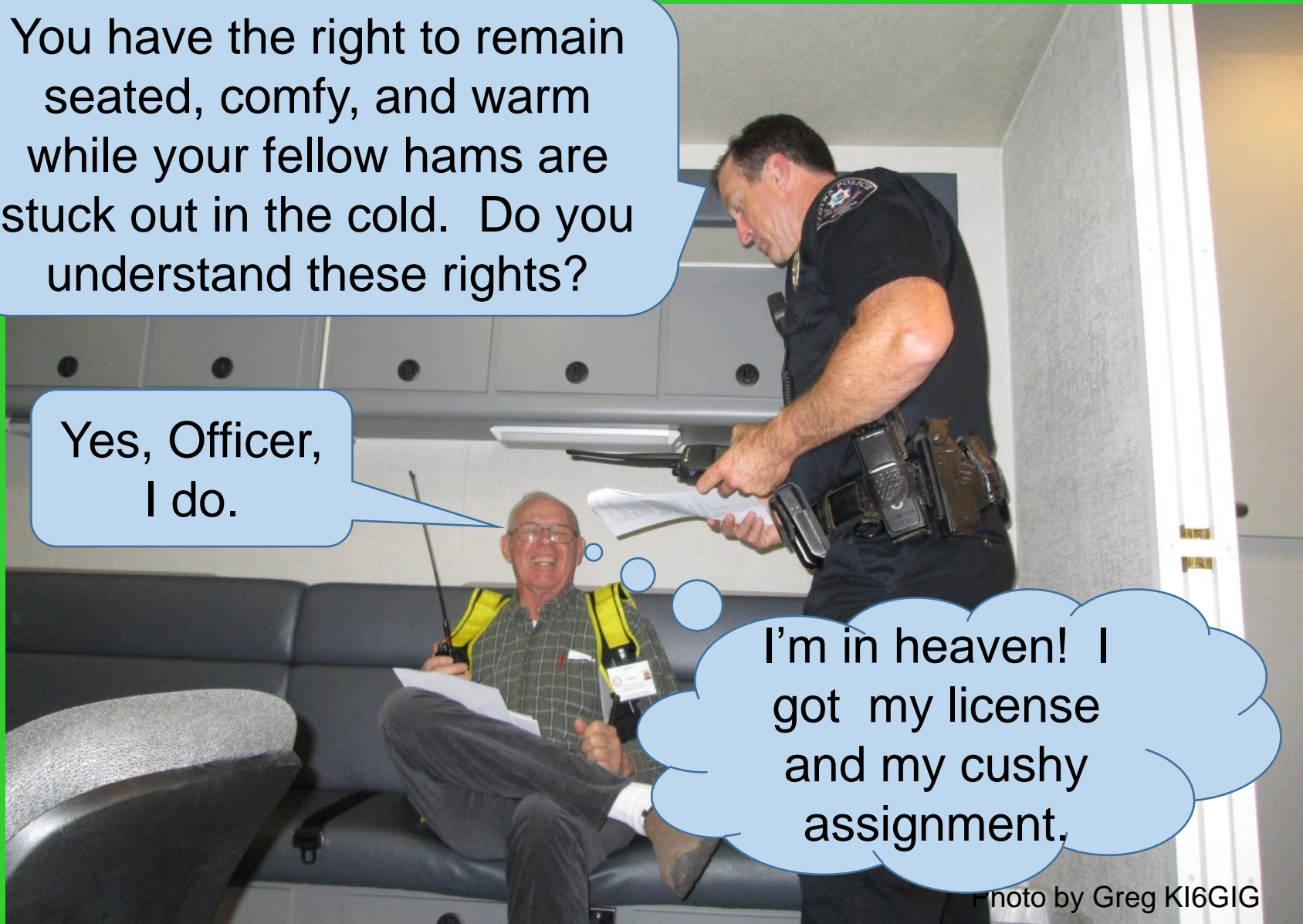
# Cliff KF6RFA, Station #9

## Police Liaison

You have the right to remain seated, comfy, and warm while your fellow hams are stuck out in the cold. Do you understand these rights?

Yes, Officer, I do.

I'm in heaven! I got my license and my cushy assignment.





On the Air

# Jim KG6TQT, Station 10 VIP Reception



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Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Larry KK6AOM, Station #12

## Announcer Stand #1

I know I got a really cool headed radio guy this year. Just look at him!





# Tom KI6YCC Station #13 at Announcer Stand #2

Wow! Look how strong those radio  
electromagnetic rays are? Any  
stronger and she'd fall out of her chair.



# Larry KK6AOM Station #12

I'm tough enough NOT to need  
silly snow flake head gear! I'm  
so cool headed, man!





On the Air

# Jessica KG6WFH, Station #15 at Announcer Stand #3

I could be wrong but that person has been following me around all evening!



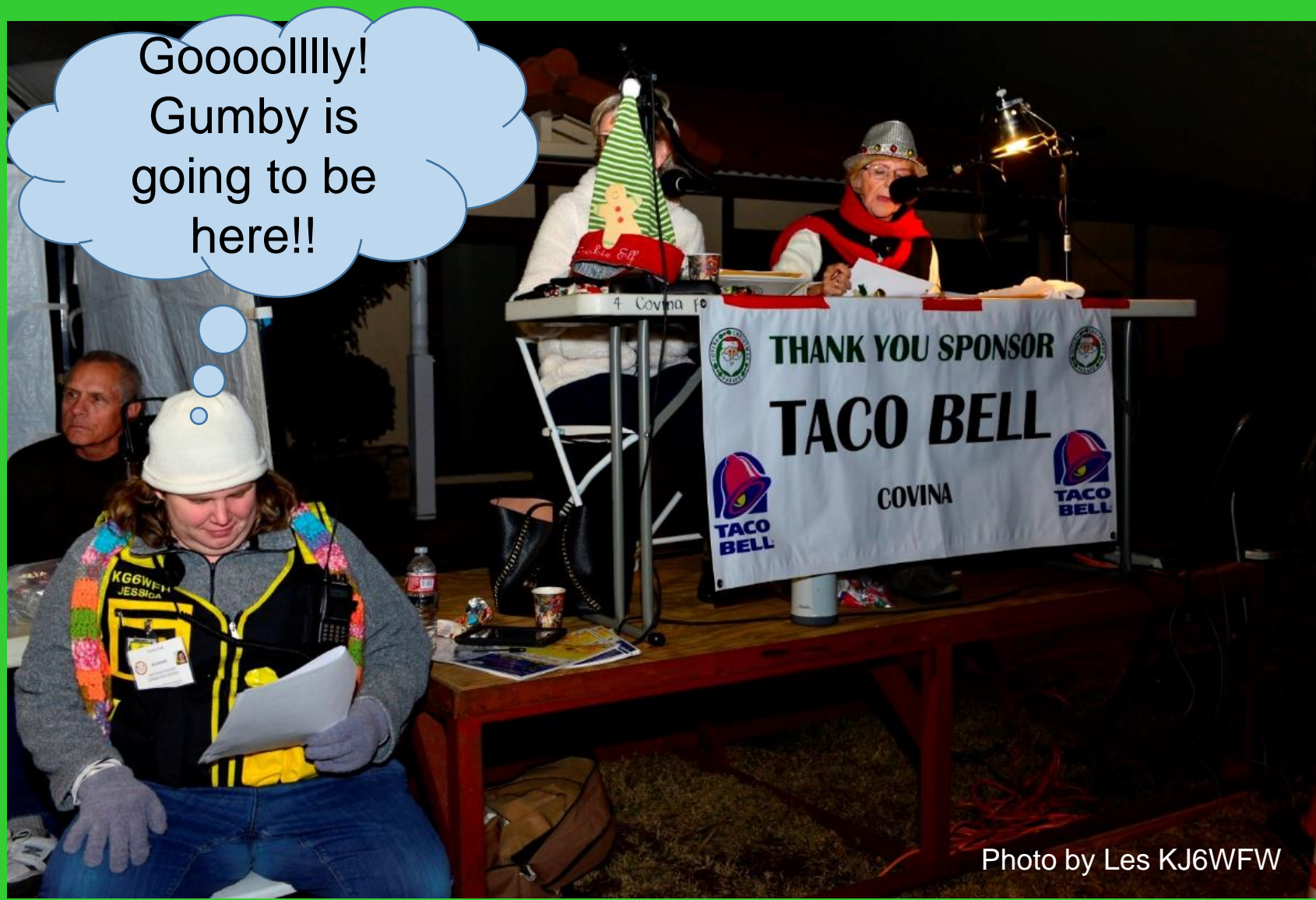
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On the Air

# Jessica KG6WFH Station #15

## Announcer Stand #3



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Les KJ6WFW



On the Air

# Roue KJ6ZNH Station #16 at Announcer Stand #4

Sure hope  
I don't  
look  
suspicious  
standing  
around  
here.

Who do we call to report  
suspicious strangers at  
our corner?



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

# Roue KJ6ZNH Station #16

## Announcer Stand #5

This will teach me to wait  
to the last minute to  
check hamdate.com





# Gary KF6RED Station #18

## Announcer Stand #5

This is the first time I've seen a radio ham have a message runner for back-up communications. These guys are soooo prepared! I'm impressed.



# Mike WA6ILQ, Station #17 with a parade marshal at the holding point for the EMT/Paramedics

This will teach me to wait to the last minute to check [hamdate.com](http://hamdate.com)

Where do they keep getting these handsome hams?



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Les KJ6WFW



# Mike WA6ILQ Station #17

## EMT/Paramedics Stand-by Position

I don't mean to be picky, but see, right here, it says LACFD and ambulance & I don't see them. I gotta tell Net Control something.

Picky, picky, picky.



# Mike WA6ILQ visiting Announcer Stand #5 a few short steps away from the EMT/Paramedic station

Excuse me, have you ladies seen an ambulance around here?





# Kent KD6BOO Station #19 shadowing Kelly Hearn

Experienced parade marshal, Kelly knows station #19 is a long way from Net Control and requires external antennas for improved contact.



Just trying to be helpful. It's teamwork.



# Kent KD6BOO, Station #19 on call

Net Control, 19. Negative, the cuties have not gone by here yet. I repeat, no cuties at station 19 yet.





# Larry KE6EOL Station #6 (mobile)

shadowing Steve Horstmann, Parade Control

I like having  
a chauffer  
for the  
parade!

I save a lot of flashlight  
batteries when the Electro  
Kid is with me!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Les KJ6WFW

# Richard KG6TRD at Station #11

## VIP Viewing Area



Flexibility is the key to successful ham operations. Richard was originally tasked for W6C set up / take down. He was pressed into service to fill a gap when a ham did not check in for Station #11 assignment.





# Meagan KJ6KLV Station #25 shadowing Sue Grey

This is Meagan's first parade with GERC. She got her ticket and radio 2 years ago but was never active. She dug out and dusted off her radio. Her first GERC meeting was for the parade.

She carried out her duties like a seasoned ham.

You're much better looking than the ham I got last year!

This is cool! A little chilly but not cold.



On the Air

# Roy KG6RGD Station #5

Net Control,  
Station 5; look  
what I found!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Les KJ6WFW



# David AG6VH at his post after the last car entered the parade.

Net Control, 3. There's no traffic here. Any chance to get a Lyft ride back to the food?



# David AG6VH near Station #4 with other parade workers for a rest after all VIP cars are gone.

I wonder  
if these  
are  
kosher  
hams?

They don't look  
like no ham my  
momma ever  
cooked.

I wonder if  
Net  
Control  
would  
mind if I  
invited  
them to  
eat? After  
all, 'tis the  
season...





# James W6JDR Station #1, heading home



OMG! Next year I'm bringing moon block! I just saw the red warning sign across the street!



# Bruce AG6YS ready to collect badge clips an vests.





# W6C Hospitality Hostesses shift to high gear feeding hungry hams

Is it gonna be like sharks in a feeding frenzy?

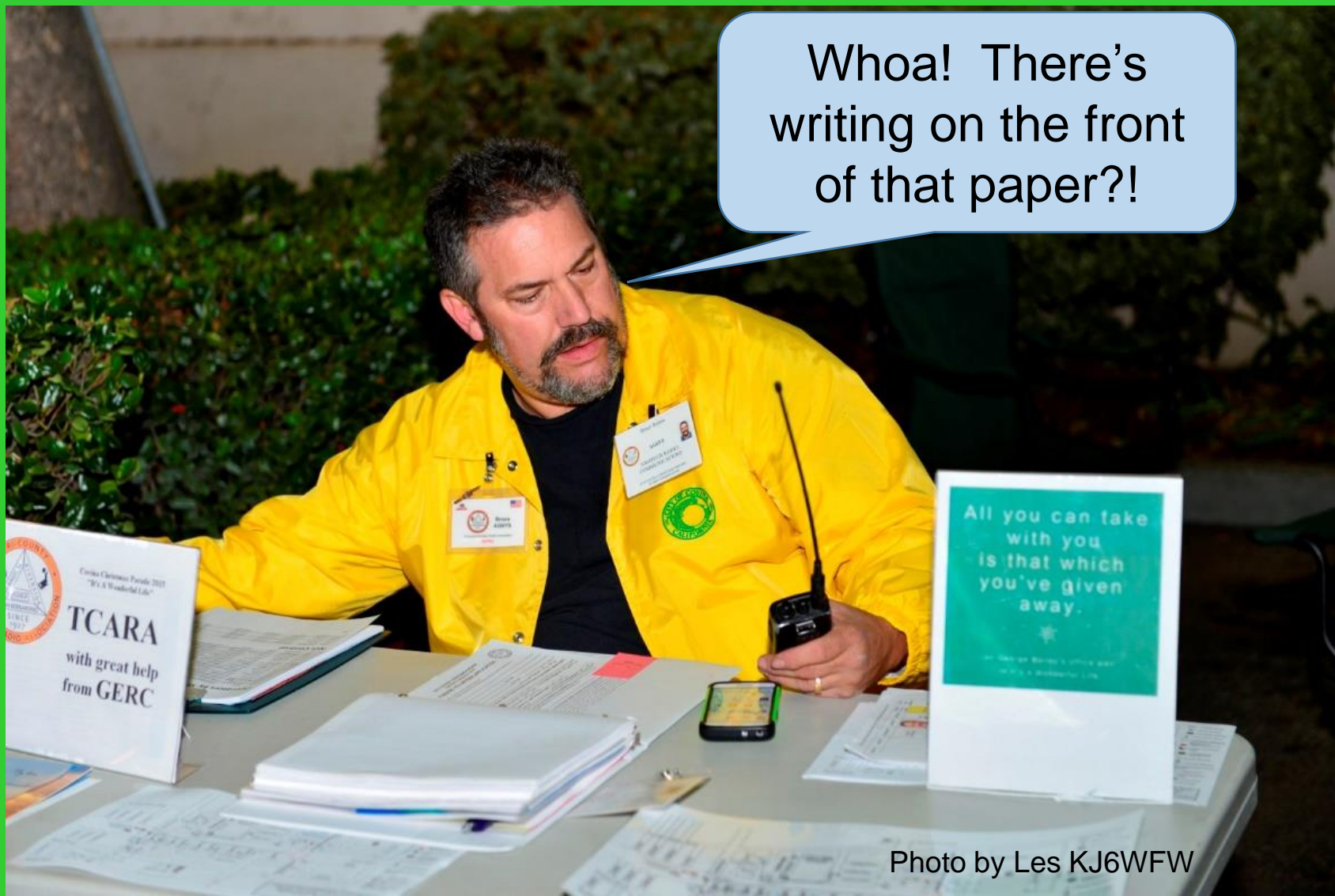
No idea, but I got the tranquilizer dart gun ready just in case.



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Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Les KJ6WFW

# Bruce AG6YS notices some details about the check-in desk





Stand Down

# Larry KE6EOL Station #6 (mobile)

released early returns to Net Control for hot soup.



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

# Les KJ6WFW

returns from taking photos along the parade route.

Yes folks, when you are cold and hungry this is the place to be. This is Les KJ6WFW reporting live from Net Control!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG



# Les KJ6WFW getting complete photo coverage of the hospitality service at Net Control

You'd think he hasn't seen food before!

I don't think I've seen food that flavor before!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

# Hospitality Hostess Gina (AG6YS XYL) & Jaime in action.

Bruce AG6YS kept in the dark

I didn't know I'd need my sunglasses at night.

Les  
KJ6WFW

Gina

Jaime

Larry  
KE6EOL





**Bruce AG6YS** calculating how much \$\$\$ he might lose if hams don't return the GERC vests.



# Hams at the feeding trough.

I can't believe he ate the whole thing!!

Gosh, that guy is so bright his mother probably calls him sun!

Geez, "glow boy" sure packs away the food!





Stand Down

# Bruce AG6YS still working when parade ends.

Be sure to return that name badge clip and safety vest or I'll gnaw your leg off! Arrrrrrghhhh!!!!

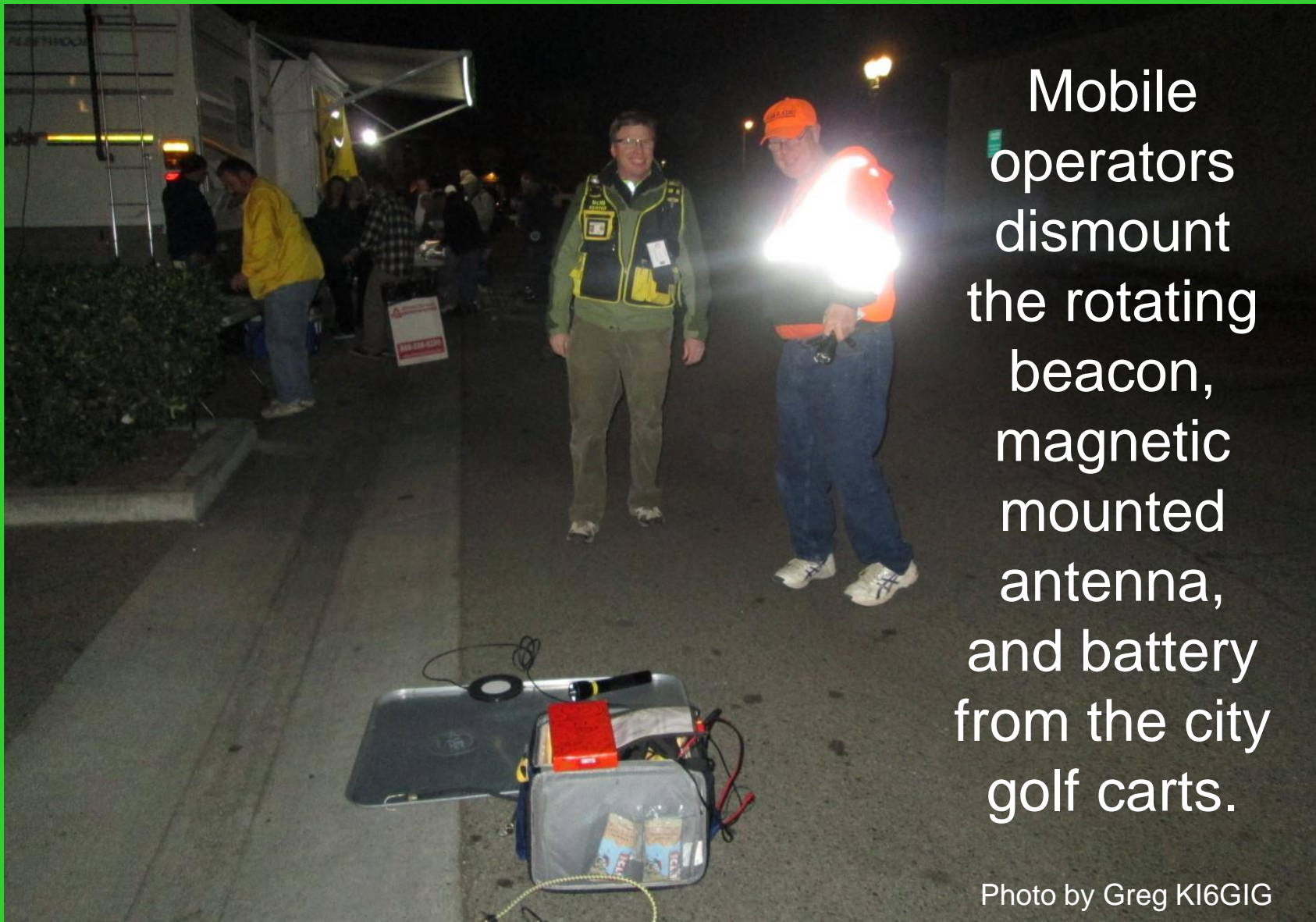
Bah humbug. Grumppff!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

Mobile hams **Rob KE6YGF & Larry KE6EOL** dismount their equipment from the city golf carts.

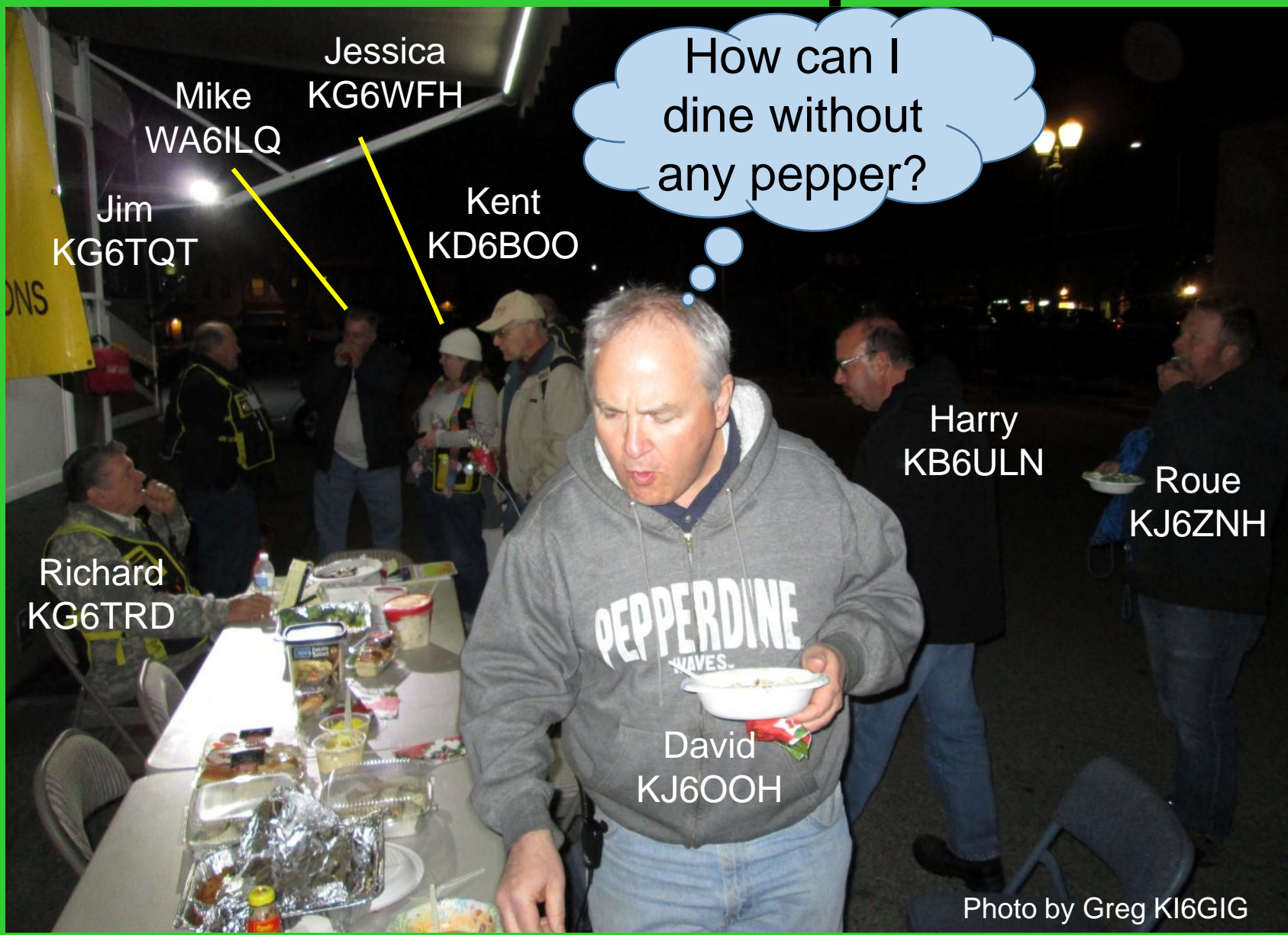


Mobile operators dismount the rotating beacon, magnetic mounted antenna, and battery from the city golf carts.





# Hams take time to eat and socialize after the parade.



# Warm food & the warm company of other hams.

Harry, watch out for the security cameras.

I don't care, this is good. I want more!

Jim  
KG6TQT

Mike  
WA6ILQ

Jessica  
KG6WFH

Cliff  
KF6RFA

Harry  
KB6ULN





# Warm food & the warm company of other hams.

Kent  
KD6BOO

"Sam"  
WB6NVD

Roue  
KJ6ZNH

Josh, son  
of AG6YS

If that security  
cam wasn't  
there I could get  
more cookies!



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photo by Greg KI6GIG

# Hams discussing refueling methods

Good thing I got back early! I'm on #72 now!!

Burp!

Harry  
KB6ULN

Cliff  
KF6RFA

Shhh. Don't tell anyone, but this is my 64<sup>th</sup> bowl of soup tonight!

Mike  
WA6ILQ

Shane  
KC6PSH

Jim  
KG6TQT





Stand Down

Net Control, 7.  
Can I have  
some more,  
please?

Some  
hams  
never get  
enough.  
They  
return year  
after year.



Photo by Greg KI6GIG



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG



Jessica KG6WFH



Jim KG6TQT



Kent KD6BOO



Tom KI6YCC



Richard KG6TRD



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG

Photos by Les KJ6WFW





# The 2015 Parade Ham Team

Ham Coord.



Bruce  
AG6YS

Hospitality.



Gina  
AG6YS-XYL

Net Control.



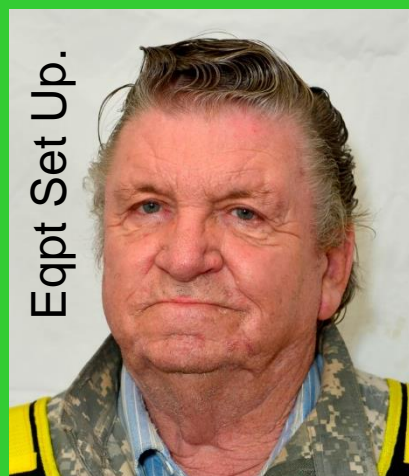
Dennis  
KI6NQG

GERC Liaison.



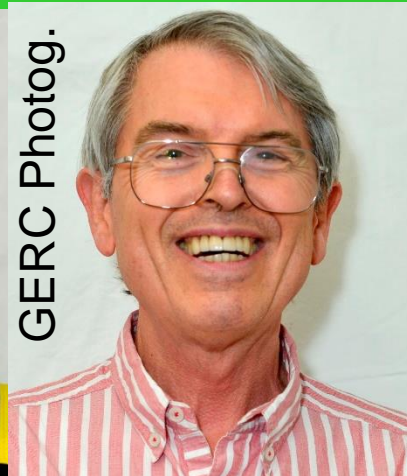
Jim  
KG6TQT

Eqpt Set Up.



Richard  
KG6TRD

GERC Photog.



Bruce  
AG6YS

TCARA Photog.



Greg  
KI6GIG

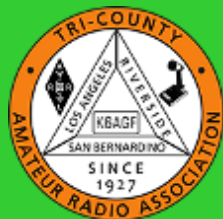
Station #1.



James  
W6IDR







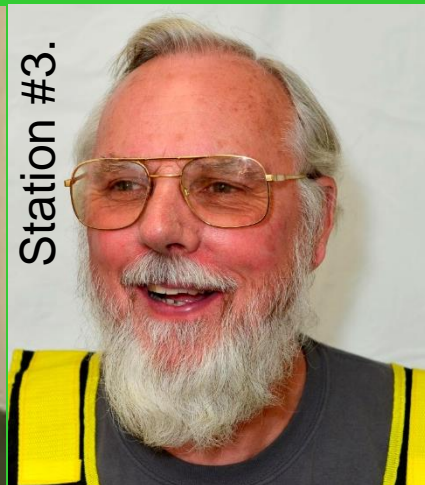
# The 2015 Parade Ham Team

Station #2.



Culver  
W6EII

Station #3.



Bob  
KI6YCB

Station #4.



David  
AG6VH

Station #5.



, Roy  
KG6RGD

Station #6



Larry  
KE6EOL

Station #7



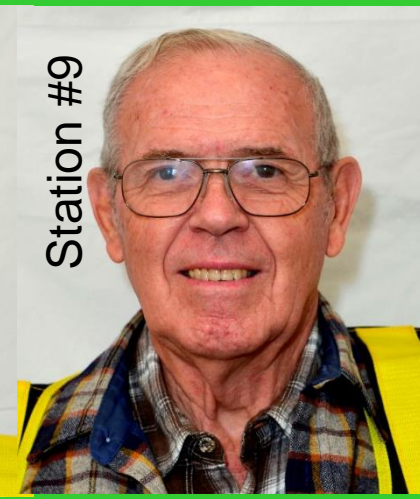
Rob  
KE6YGF

Station #8



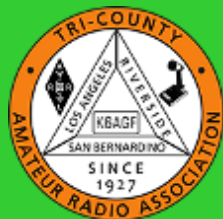
Florante  
KI6CEW

Station #9



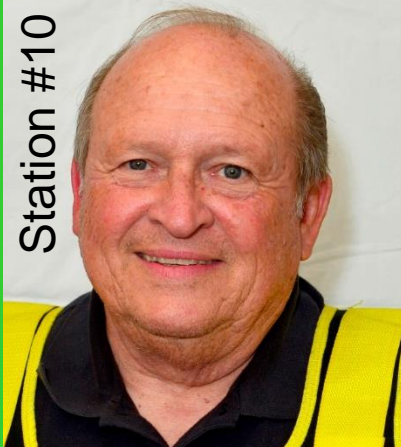
Cliff  
KF6RFA





# The 2015 Parade Ham Team

Station #10



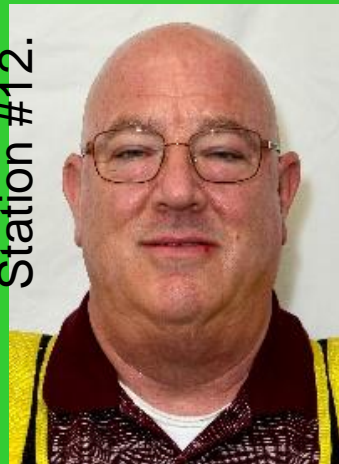
Jim  
KG6TQT

Station #11.



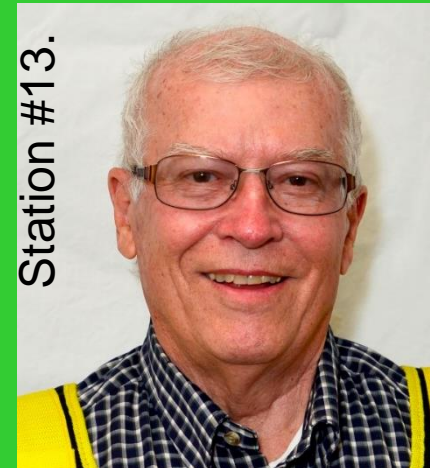
Richard  
KG6TRD

Station #12.



Larry  
KK6AOM

Station #13.



, Tom  
KI6YCC

Station #14



Harry  
KB6ULN

Station #15



Jessica  
KG6WFH

Station #16



Roue  
KJ6ZNH

Station #17



Mike  
WA6ILQ

# The 2015 Parade Ham Team



Station #18

Gary  
KG6RED



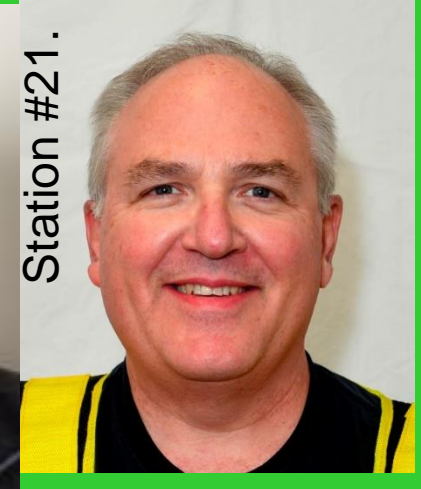
Station #19.

Kent  
KD6BOO



Station #20.

"Sam"  
WB6NVD



Station #21.

David  
KJ6OOH



Station #22

Shane  
KC6PSH



Station #23

Rick  
KG6HLA

Station #24

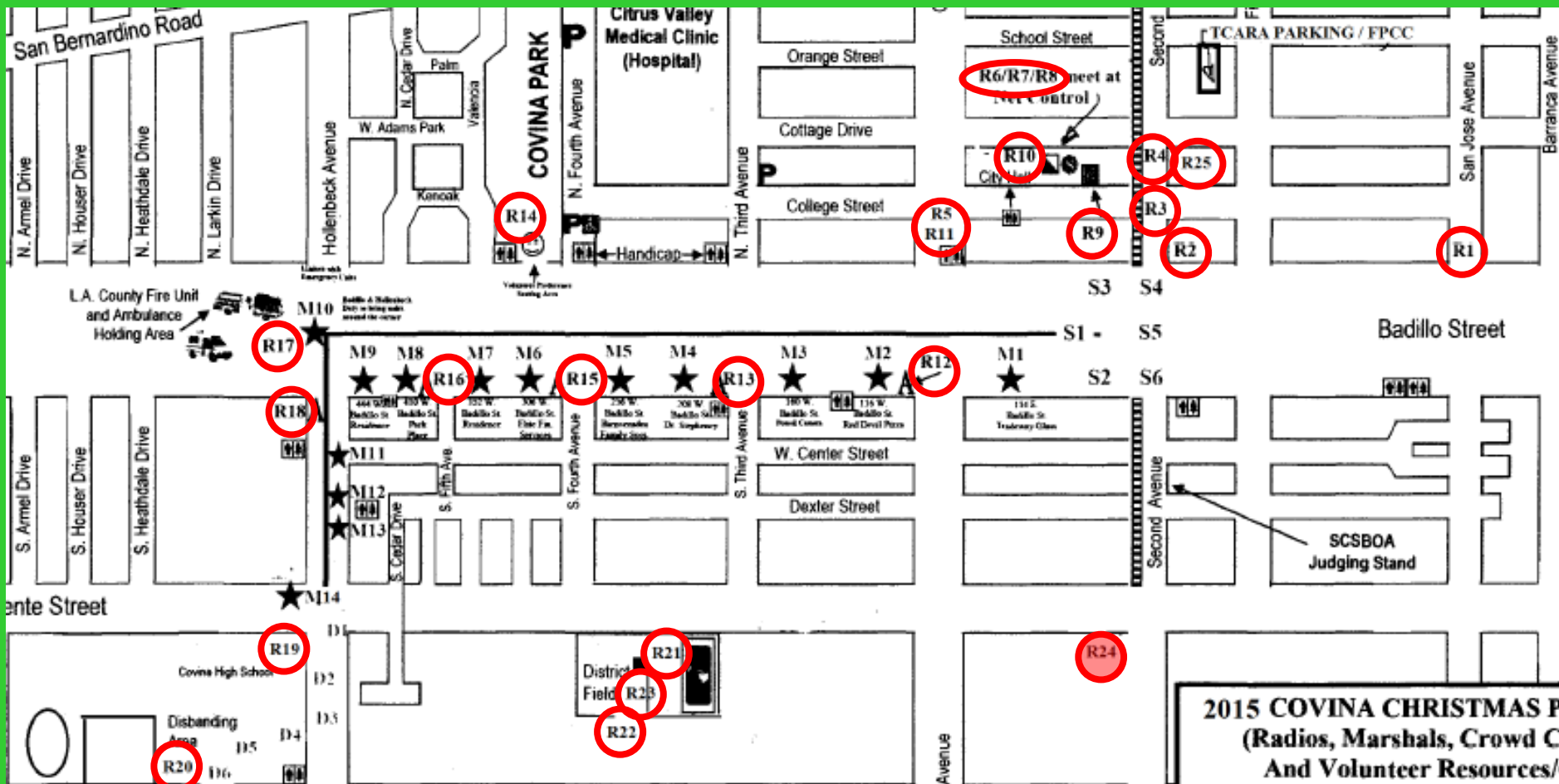
Station Scratched  
Ham out sick



Station #25

Meagan  
KJ6KLV





Of the 25 assigned stations:

- Station 24 scrubbed by parade officials (no ham available);
- 2 hams checked in late;
- 2 ham did not attend the event; 1 called out sick.
- 2 hams had equipment problems (1 stuck key 2 times, 1 dead battery part way through the event);
- 2 hams left their station without checking with Net Control



Compiled by  
Greg KI6GIG