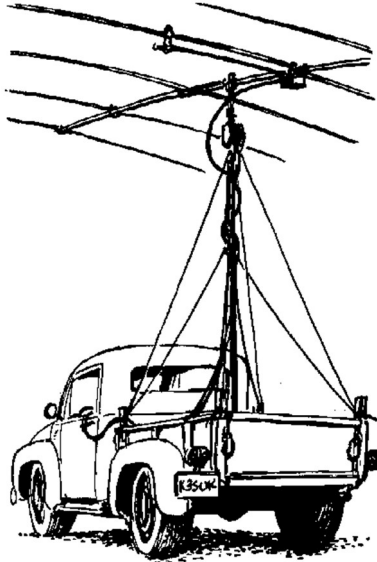




Goat Notes February 2021



The GOTA Hams are heading to Quartzite, AZ for Quartz Pause this month. From what we understand the events this year will not reflect what people have seen in the past. With the Covid-19, 20, 21 restrictions that are being presented, everyone is always encouraged to stay safe and keep your distance from others. From what I have seen during this pandemic, the desert seems to be a good place to isolate. We try to do it on the weekend locally when we can.

Quartzfest to QuartzPause 2021

In the cloak of darkness, two Gotahams motorhomes pulled off La Paz Road in Quartzite Arizona. Directions on the map said Mile marker 99, Road Runner BLM. Gotahams President Mark, KM6AHY and wife Vilma with Vice President Ken, KC6WOK and Secretary Kathi, KD6CAF arrived at Quartzfest 2021. This year the Covid-19 virus named the 2021 gathering of hams from all over the country QuartzPause.



Gotahams

Secretary Kathi KD6CAF with dog Bug and President Mark KM6AHY with dog Olive at Mile Marker 99-This year there were no planned activities or seminars



To promote physical distance, the big campfire pit was quiet but...
The Gotham's Tents and Antenna Farm attracted many curious passers.



Look at the size of that Antenna!



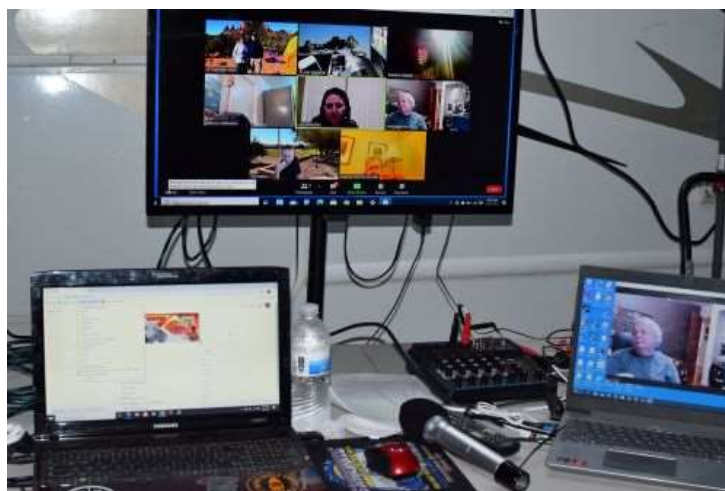
There was an Off-Road Trip to the Colorado River



Cast Iron Cooking



Gothams Vice Pres Ken, KC6WOK and Pres Mark, KM6AHY shows off their new Gothams Sweatshirt & wife (photo bombed) Vilma enjoying the night air



Zoom Chat with the Gothams



Vice Pres Ken, KC6WOK made contact on 20 meters N0JQX Salem, Missouri



Kathi, KD6CAF, relaxes during the beautiful Arizona Sunset



Saturday morning Swap Meet



Anthony Ferrara K7AJF & Judy K7JLF Antennas and other items available



Lynette Allen-Weed, KJ7DSE, passed her General exam during QuartzPause. She has Lemon Marmalade Jam for sale



Linda, of Bakersfield, CA sells Kern Co Fair Blue-Ribbon Winner Chow-Chow, Jams and Jellies



Before it was time to pack up from a fun week Dick Norton N6AA brought us the latest ARRL news.

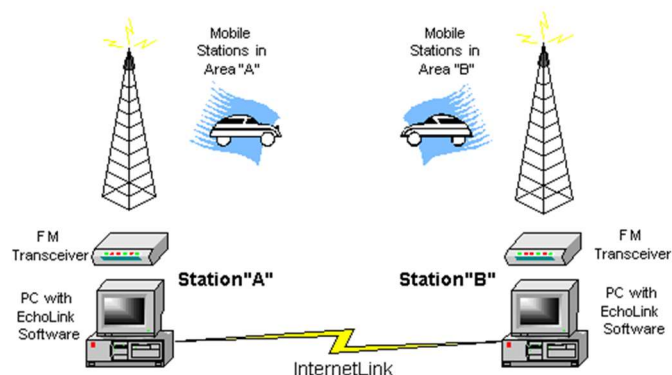
The Gotahams will be attending
Quartzfest 2022

Echolink

Echolink is a software program that works on both IOS Apple products and android OS. They also have a windows version for computer use and currently do not support MAC OSX. There is an alternative program called Echo Ham. But from what I can tell Echo Ham does not allow the user to connect a radio to the computer.

So, you would not be able to setup a remote repeater natively. Here is the official website for Echolink. <http://www.echolink.org> There is detailed information on setting up your device and configuring connections. In a nutshell it gives users the ability to use their devices to connect with other hams across the globe over VOIP from the ease of your cellphone, tablet or windows based computer. Image below was taken from <http://www.echolink.org/>

Linking Example



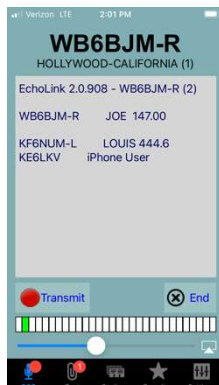
I'm not going to burden you with the setup procedure. However, if you need assistance with setting it up, I am more than willing to assist fellow GOTA members. Once you have the app loaded and your call sign verified here is a screen shot of what the screen may look like.



As you can see on the screen shot to the left, there are a lot of different things you can click on. At this point we will focus on nodes with the -R at the end of them. This indicates that that the node is attached to a repeater. I'm going to connect to WB6BJM-R for today's illustration.



Once you select the repeater in the step above you will be taken to this screen. At this point you have the option to Connect by pressing "Connect", or "add to favorites", Now here is a trick id like to share, just because you get this far does not mean you will be able to connect. The host server of each repeater node has the ability to accept or reject any user it wants to. Example: My repeater node is locked to only allow GOTA Hams users that I have added. Another thing is that even if the computer is running the users can connect. But if the radio attached to that node is off, it will be silent.



As you can now see I'm connected to the WB6BJM-R repeater. Some of the nodes are setup to where they show you the frequency that the node is running on. Some don't. You will most of the time see a list of members that are connected to the node as shown in the image to the left.



To “transmit” you need to press the red “transmit” button that you can see in the prior image. Once this button is pressed you will be taken to this screen that shows a meter along with the microphone. Just talk and then tap the screen to discontinue the transmission. Remember that you are using a VOIP so there will be a slight 1 – 2 second delay.

YACHT

There is a great group called Yacht “Young Amateur Communication Ham Team” which is geared towards young hams that holds nets on Echolink.

Sat. 7pm Central on **W8PIF-R** node **#481872**.

Gotahams Member Jose Marquez KN6LIJ passes Amateur Extra Exam

A special congratulations to Jose KN6LIJ for successfully passing the Extra exam. We truly hope you enjoy the extra band segment! Maybe one day I will catch you on FT8 when the winds prevail in our favor. Just kidding, but that was the one time I was able to make contact with Dave K6EV on 20 meters. We tried several times in the past and one day the winds were blowing hard in my area. So, I attributed the contact to the prevailing trade winds. ☺ Jose you are on the path to a very fun Hobby. I just hope the cartoon to the right is what you have in mind for the back yard.



NIGHTLY NETS AND ZOOM CHATS

The nightly nets are gaining a lot traction with new users and returning users. We encourage you to invite new Hams to join in, if they are looking to get on the air. The Zoom meeting held on 1-12-2021 was a great success. Mark did a great job outlining the go box power supply. And demonstrating with a video on how to use it to test trailer lights. I would encourage members to take a look at the GOTA hams website [LINK](#) to see his work once its posted. I went to the grocery store and noticed that Valentine's day is right around the corner. So, don't forget to get any gifts that may counter those radio purchases. Wink 😊



Amateur
anyone
date on
Total



radio licenses by
interested in the
amateur radio licenses being issues, please click link below.
count in the U.S is 772,494.

state: For
count to

[Report](#)

[includes FCC actions through Saturday, 16-Jan-2021](#)

I try to keep up on the news in hobbies that I have an interest in. Here is one that I found to be interesting. Not that any of our active members would even think of such an act. But here is the advisory.

DA 21-73

Released: January 17, 2021

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

WARNING: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. **Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.**

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting “communications intended to facilitate a criminal act” or “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.”¹ Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios “in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law.”² Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution.

Have fun out there and most of all, remember to stay “Radioactive” out there!

Gotahams Website

As a reminder, the GOTA hams have a website that has a mass amount of info available. I try to check it out weekly or sometimes daily if I forget the nightly topic. Mark, our new Mr. President was working on portable power pack post that is now live on the website. If you find yourself in need of detailed information on how to build one, this link is for you.

Thank you, Mark, KM6AHY, for making such a detailed and easy to follow outline on building one of these. I may have to take the leap and make a few in my spare time.

Note: These power packs can be used for other applications. Mark demonstrated that he uses one that he built for testing trailer lights while on the job. This is a major time saver for him and gives him the ability to quickly test the trailer lights on several units without the need to move a truck and connect it for testing purpose.

<https://gotahams.com/portable-power/>

Items Available

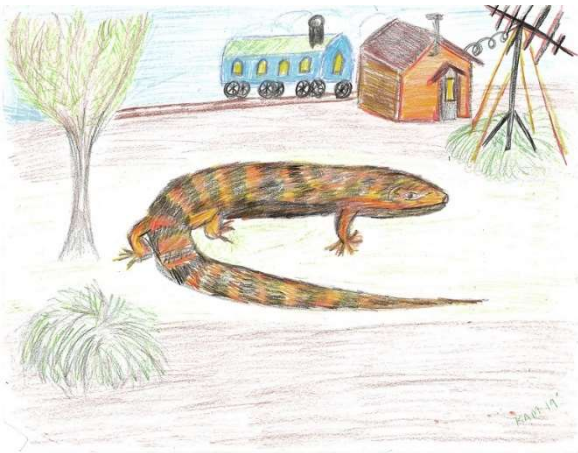
Dave Wilkie, K6EV, is offering two different LDG Automatic Antenna tuners that are now surplus to his station requirements. Contact Dave at d33wilkie@gmail.com with questions if you are interested. You can read about these tuners at HRO or <https://ldgelectronics.com/>

- 1) First is a well cared for **LDG-AT100 Pro II Automatic HF Antenna Tuner**, purchased new in December 2019 at HRO and includes the optional IC-PAC-6 ICOM cable, box, manual, receipt. In use for about 6 months. LDG's website indicates that they offer two year transferable warranties on their tuners if you have the original owner's receipt, so this item is probably still in warranty till December 2021. Covers 1.8-54 MHz with roughly a 10:1 tuning range. (About 6 to 1000 Ohms HF or 16 to 150 ohms on 6 meters). The AT100 Pro II is ideal for extended battery/portable operation because it uses latching type relays that only consume power for the relay coils during the act of switching. It consumes almost zero power once tuned to a given frequency. One limitation of this tuner is that LDG suggests reduced power for 100% duty cycle digital modes, perhaps 30W-35W. 50W digital is OK if the antenna mismatch is not severe. Rated at 125 Watts SSB/CW. Dave upgraded to the AT200 below when he decided to run a lot of FT8 in mid 2020. The price for the AT100 plus the IC-PAC-6 ICOM interface cable (good for 7300, 7610 and many others) is \$125 firm for GOTAhams/TCARA club members only, no shipping – local sales only, and no returns at this price. Will hand-deliver within 35 miles of zip code 91711.
- 2) Second is an **LDG AT200 Pro II HF Automatic HF Antenna Tuner**, purchased new in June 2020 at HRO and also including an optional IC-PAC-6 ICOM cable, box, manual and receipt. In use for about 3-4 months. Again, this is likely under warranty for another 17 months or so given LDG's policy. Covering 1.8 to 54 Mhz, this is rated for 250W PEP on SSB/CW and 100W digital, 6 to 800 ohm loads. 100 Watts on 6 meters with 16 to 150 ohm loads. It needs a little more DC power in operation (up to 0.75A while tuning, generally less). Dave ended up adding a linear amplifier in late 2020 and, in preparation for this, switched to a 2KW manual tuner early in Q4, so the AT200 has low operating hours. The price is \$160 firm for the tuner, cable, etc. to club members only for local sales only – no shipping and no returns at this price. Will hand-deliver within 35 miles of zip code 91711.

Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

Lionel Lizard lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes. His home is in an abandoned telegraph shack. A picture of

Samuel Morse hangs on the wall with the Morse Code alphabet. A colorful railcar sits outside the window.



Lionel uses his long lizard snout to send out his message;CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL?

Lionel looked at his calendar, January 2021. Time for Quartzfest 2021.

He heard this year it had been renamed QuartzPause because of the virus. No seminars, no activities, everyone needed to wear a mask staying physically distant. Sally and Lionel packed a bag, climbed on the railcar, and ready for a new adventure.



When they arrived at the Saguaro desert in Arizona, they wandered through the volcanic and quartz rocks. They met, Miss Bug and Miss Olive. The new friends explored the surrounding area joining in cast iron cooking, off-road adventure, and Saturday morning swap meet. It rained and was windy, but they still had fun. Lionel and Sally climbed on the railcar ready to return home.

Their friends were excited to see them and hear about their fun adventure in Arizona. CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL? The End



"Your father used to hold his charge a lot longer when we were young."