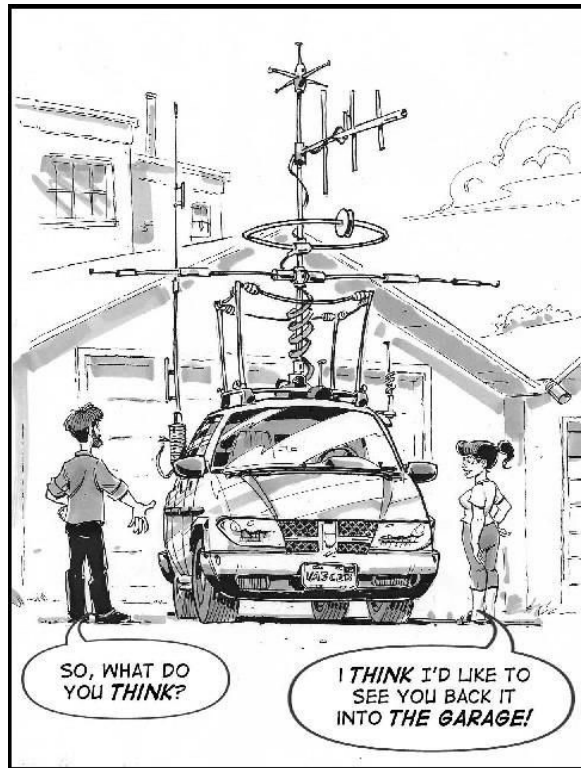




Goat Notes
March 2021



Fun Fact: The first national ham radio society appeared to be the “Wireless Institute of Australia” which was formed in when 50 people came together, in March 1910, to form an organization to promote the use of wireless.



ISS Space station:

When I got back into Ham Radio, I was intrigued on how much the hobby had advanced in my time away. One aspect that really piqued my curiosity was listening to the ISS space station. So, I took to the internet to find a few tricks. Here is what worked for me so far. Keep in mind I've still not been able to make "contact", but it sure is fun to try. My kids and I have a blast listening to the chatter from above.



There are only certain times that you can hear the space station during its pass. To check the local area for pass times, visit spot the station ([Website](#)) You can select the area that you are in by inputting your zip code in the search box. The map will show a waypoint marker that you can click on for the selected area. Once you click on the marker, it will display the times and dates that you will have the best window to see and hear ISS during its fly by for that given week. You can also sign up for email notifications from them to inform you when a pass will occur. Remember the amount of time to communicate with the ISS is limited, 10 min at best during a good pass. So, you will have to be on your toes if you want to make contact.

So how do I listen? Well short answer is tuning your radio to 145.800 squelch all the way down and listening in on the frequency during the window for the pass. My first attempt at this I had my HT connected to my Tram 1480 dual band antenna on my roof. This returned very poor results. So, I quickly disconnected that antenna and went back to the rubber ducky that came with my Hand Held. I could hear very faint chatter at this point. By turning my radio sideways so the antenna was parallel to the ground it improved the results 100-fold. Also keep in mind that because the doppler shift, you will need to tune to different frequencies as the ISS climbs. You'll know when to switch frequency when the audio gets bad.

The following frequencies are currently used for Amateur Radio ISS contacts (QSOs):

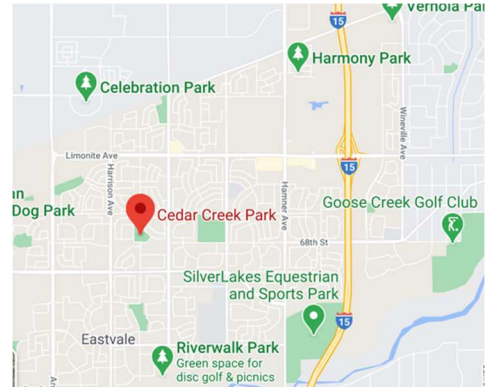
- Voice and SSTV Downlink: 145.80 (Worldwide)
- Voice Uplink: 144.49 for ITU Regions 2 and 3 (The Americas, and the Pacific and Southern Asia)
- VHF Packet Uplink and Downlink: 145.825 (Worldwide)
- UHF Packet Uplink and Downlink: 437.550
- VHF/UHF Repeater Uplink: 145.99 (PL 67 Hz)
- VHF/UHF Repeater Downlink: 437.80



Field Day June 26 – 27, 2021

(Plan “A” Location: Cedar Creek Park, Eastvale, CA)

During these times we are all hopeful that we can get field day kicked off without a hitch. You can read about any updates for field day by checking the GOTA hams website. [Link](#) As a reminder, there are some openings for volunteer positions for field day 2021. If you would like to inquire about volunteering please reach out to Kathi via email kd6caf@gmail.com



Bonelli Bluffs San Dimas Field day 2020.

From what I can see on the GOTA Hams website, it looks like Dave nailed it with 276 Digital contacts and scored the GOTA Hams 552 points.

GOTA Hams Filter Sponsors

We would like to thank those members that are going to be the filter sponsors for field day 2021. Your donation is very much appreciated.

Dave	1 Filter
Bruce	1 Filter
Mark	1 Filter
Ken	1 Filter
Jack	1 Filter
Miranda	1 Filter
Jose and Emilia	1 Filter



Based on the email traffic, Dave K6EV has put in a tremendous amount of time with the required documents for locking in our space at Cedar creek park in Eastvale. We all thank you Dave for your hard work.



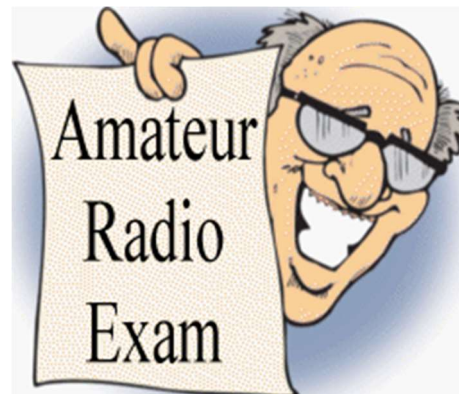
Monthly Members meeting on Zoom

Here is a screen shot from our monthly zoom members meeting that was held on 2-9-2021. It's always great to interact with new members and be able to put a face to a call sign. During this meeting we voted to change the by-laws and allow our new net control coordinator Shawn K6CT the privileges to vote. I was pulling for you the whole time Shawn. By the way you are doing a fantastic job as the net coordinator. You are always so welcoming when we hear you on the air!



As a reminder all members and guest are welcome to join the monthly zoom meetings. If you need the link please email Kathi @ kd6caf@gmail.com. I would like to personally welcome all the new members to the GOTA Hams group. And our newest upgraded General **Maribel Gershman KN6HSW** on her upgrade. Congratulations!!!!

Lisa Hager – KM6GDM,
Roberta Bowen – KN6MWW,
David Wood – W6OOD,
Mark Carey – AG6ZR,
Stephanie Brizuela – KM6TKT,
Roger Zelaya – KN6ZEA,
Tyler Zelaya – KN6NFB,
Bob Murphy – WA6SFY
Jennifer Luciano- KN6NLI



Buying Ham radio equipment:



When I first got back into Ham radio my first purchase was a new handheld. Yes, I went on Amazon and acted out of impulse and got a two pack of Boa-feng radios. The driving factor on this was merely because the replacement battery on my old FT-530 was more than a new radio on amazon. In hindsight, it was still a good decision as they are great radios to have as backups. I use them daily during my commute to and from work. However, I still want to get my hands on an FT3DR one of these days and have the latest and greatest.

I have found a few great sites for ham radio equipment during my searches. One of my favorite websites is <https://www.dxengineering.com/>

The layout and features of their website make it very easy to navigate and compare items. They also have access to many of the manufactures. DX engineering hands down has a ton of informative information on their website also. One major aspect of their website that I like is the accessories listed under each item have images and MFG part numbers. As where other sites may only have the make and models of said accessories with no images. But beware, with all those options at the click of a mouse, things can add up quickly. They also have a required parts tab.

When I was looking to purchase my FT-991A I did a lot of price comparison. I found that Amazon was probably one of the worst places to even attempt to purchase one. Or for that matter any named brand piece of ham radio equipment. I found that Amazon was not price competitive to other distributors. During this process I was advised to check out www.randl.com a company out of Ohio. I have ordered a couple different things from them including my FT-991A and a new hustler 6BTV antenna. The reason I'm mentioning them is because there was no tax added to my purchase and free shipping. This was a great way to save a few bucks on a \$1,000 + radio.

In the past I have also looked at used equipment on Facebook marketplace. My only concern with that is you really don't know what you're getting. This is probably a common concern when buying used equipment online. Which leads me to the following. The GOTA Hams have a sell or swap radio link on their website. ([Click](#)) If you have something that you want to part with, this would be a good place to start.



I don't even know where to begin:

I came across these photos one day and was flabbergasted beyond belief. I don't even know where to begin with this. I know ham radio is an addiction, a good one at that. But this takes it to a whole new level. I'd be happy with 1 all band radio tucked in nice and neat in my truck. I do see one thing out of place in one of these images. I'm not sure if the Taco bell cup is playing an actual role in this setup. Being I love Taco Bell, I noticed it right after seeing the 30 radios.



QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo:

I wrote this down during one of the nightly nets. I'm not sure which member or guest mentioned it. FYI there is a virtual live Ham Expo on March 13th and 14th. They will have a "plethora" of things that you can do. From 60+ Guest speakers, to live virtual kit building, it seems they have all their basis covered. You can even virtually chat with your favorite Ham radio vendors to learn about the latest and greatest when it comes to your favorite ham radio brand or distributor.



<https://www.qsodayhamexpo.com/>



Members Spotlight for Antennas

With all the antenna options out there, I thought It would be a good idea to have our members post a photo with a small write up on what they are using. This will give other members ideas on potentially what they can do given limited space or maybe you have a spare acre or two to work with. No setup is eliminated by size or space. We want to see how you are getting on the air. Please feel free to email me directly at KE6LKV@gmail.com if you would like to submit a photo along with the following information.

1. MFG of Antenna
2. Space occupied
3. Bands used

Speaking of antennas:

Jack KM6UNQ may still have some J Pole antennas available for use if anyone is interested. The first antenna I built was a copper j-pole and it was very efficient for use with my Handheld back in the day.

Field Day Preparations

Gotahams Field Day Committee meets weekly to get ready for Field Day 2021. With approval of JCSD, Jurupa Community Service District, planning is going forward.



Gotahams Tim, N6DLC, Ken, KC6WOK & Kathi, KD6CAF went to Cedar Creek Park in Eastvale to test radio reception and antenna propagation.

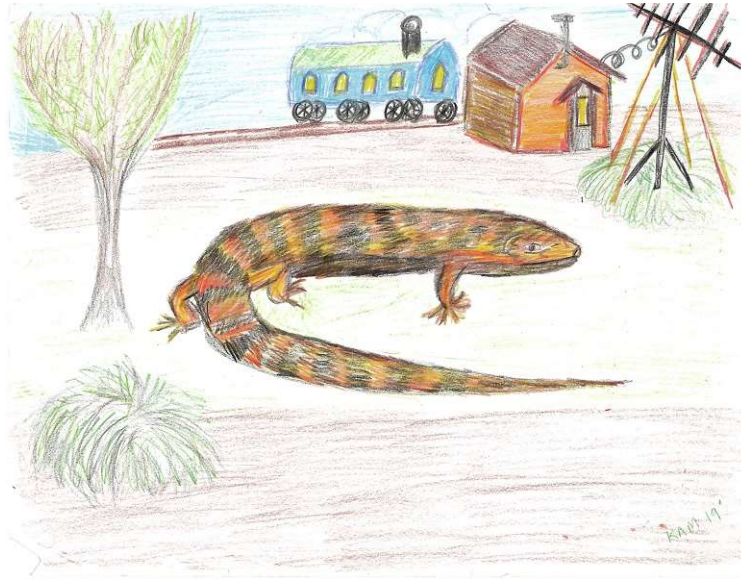
Local Eastvale residents walked by



They asked about Amateur Radio and the really big antenna



Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi KD6CAF



Lionel Lizard lives in the foothills among the evergreen trees and silver tasseled scrub bushes. His home is an old telegraph shack. An ornamental railroad car sits outside his back window. The walls of his shack have a tattered copy of the Morse Code alphabet and a photo of Samuel Morse.



He talks to his friends on Zoom chat and sends out his message using his long lizard snout.

CQ, CQ, CQ This is Lionel L6ZRD, QSL?

His friends were talking about a group going to a local park to test antennas with radios for Field Day 2021. He asked Sally Salamander if she wanted to go on an adventure. They climbed onto the railcar and traveled to the park to help plan Field Day.



They arrived at the park and had a fun afternoon with their friends.



When they arrived home, Lionel sent out his message announcing Field Day 2021.

CQ, CQ, CQ This is Lionel L6ZRD, QSL? The End

