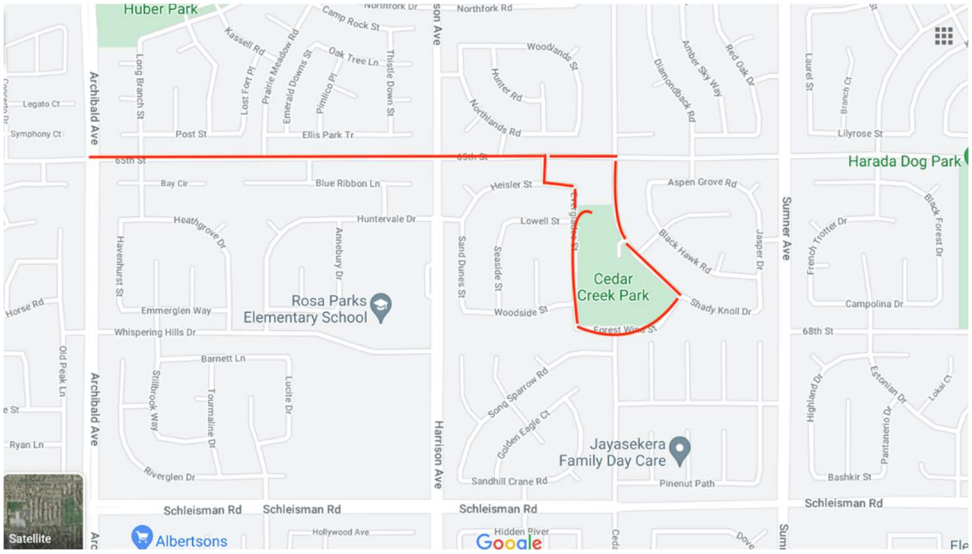
Goat Notes June 2021

Field Day June 25-27, 2021

After months of preparation and weekends of testing radios and antennas in the park, we are ready for Field Day 2021.
Remember to Save the Date:
Set-up Friday, June 25,
Amateur Radio's Open House and Get On The Air, Saturday, June 26
Pack up equipment & prepare for next year Sunday, June 27
Everyone Welcome for this really fun weekend.



We will be at Cedar Creek Park in Eastvale, CA.
There are a couple ways to enter the park. See location on map.
Bring a chair, hat, sunblock, food, snacks and/or cool drinks.
This is a residential community so please remember to drive SLOW.

Welcome to all our new members

Welcome to all our new members and guests.
If you ever need assistance with a ham related topic, please feel free to reach out to any of our club members.
We can get you paired up with an Elmer to assist you with just about any ham related issues.
Also, remember the Gotahams host a nightly net at 8pm.
Fridays is a Tech Net. So, bring your Tech topics up on the nightly net.

KM6SCA
ANDREW USMANI

KK6DH
DAVID HURLEY

K6OOF
JUSTIN NGUYEN

Typical first date for a Ham

Interesting facts about SOS. … _ _ _ …

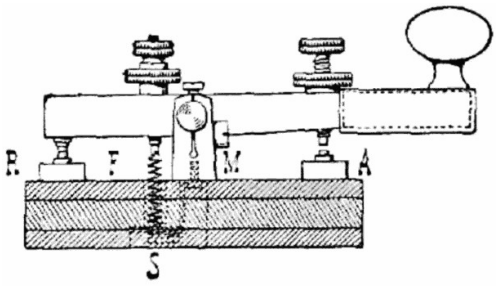
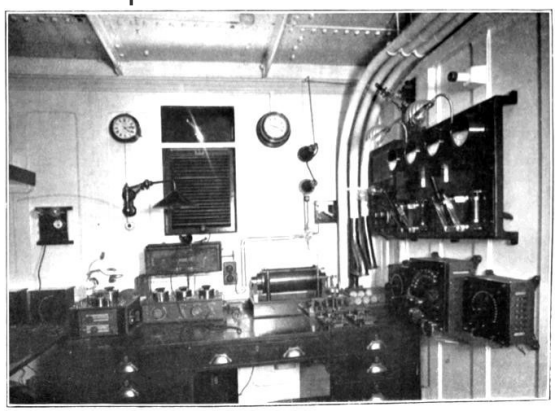


Fig. 6.

So, what does SOS stand for? Save our Ships, Save our Soles, Or Swiss on Sourdough? There is not actually a meaning set forth. So, I'll stick with Swiss on Sourdough.
Before SOS there was CQD, with the "CQ" translating to "general notice" and the "D" an abbreviation for "distress."
However, CQD was not a Universal Distress Call.
England used CQD, the U.S. Navy used NC (the International Code of Signals maritime distress flag signal), and Italy used SSSDD.
International Radiotelegraph Convention (1906)
The Universal Use of SOS was ratified at and went into effect in 1908.

Some may have seen in the past SOS used to signal help by writing SOS in the sand or making a rock formation to spell it out. SOS is widely used as the international way to signal for help. Have you ever noticed that some flashlights have an SOS mode? Well, some of them do, and now knowing this may help you in the event of an emergency.

1913 Marconi Operator Room on the *RMS Olympic*

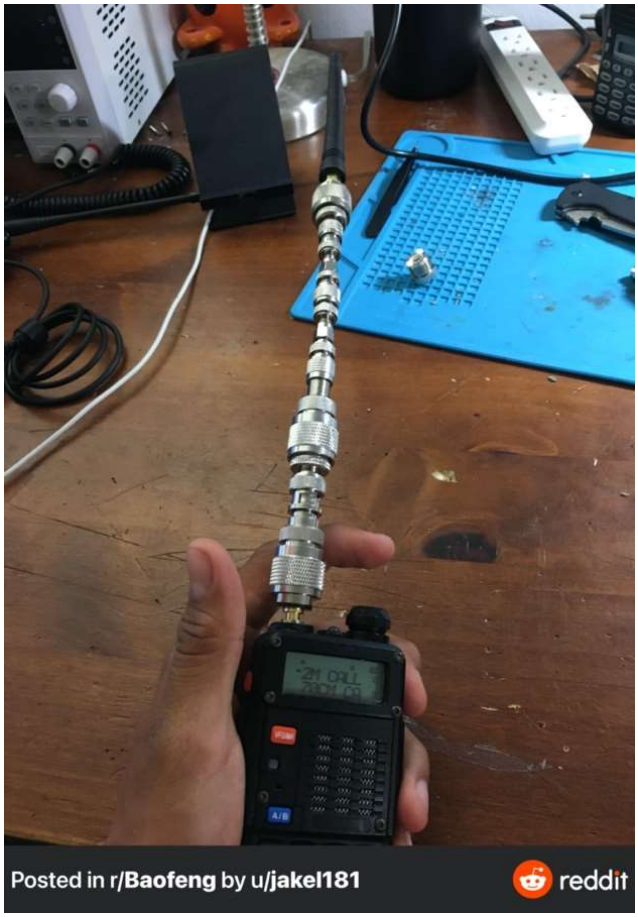


There are a few other variations to how SOS can be used

- SOS AAA – signals an attack by aircraft
- SOS QQQ – signals an attack of an unknown raider
- SOS RRR – signals an attack by a surface raider
- SOS SSS – signals a submarine attack

This information was pulled from the An Amateur Radio Blog by DX Engineering

Types of Coax Connections



With all the different types of connectors out there it can be really confusing.
I guess you can use what's available to you. LOL

Familiarizing yourself with Basic Electronics:

I recently purchased a Snap Circuit kit for my youngest child Landon (9 years old) to experiment with some projects. These things are really neat to experiment with. I would highly recommend grabbing one if you are interested in obtaining some basic electronics knowledge.
The GOTAhams will have some snap circuits available to experiment with during Field Day. So don't be shy, jump in and experience something new.

Snap Circuits will be at Field Day 2021

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_rureiiKYQ

Snap Circuits Brick Structures

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddEPiReXRg0

Snap Circuits Discover Coding

FM Radio

Snap Circuit Junior

Snap Circuit Classic

N6USO Repeater antenna replacement, A GOTAhams adventure!

By Ken KC6WOK

The GOTAhams were contacted by Burton Brink N6USO, (LA County Sheriff retired) through our Facebook page. He was looking for assistance and someone willing to climb the tower to replace the Antenna on his N6USO 145.440 repeater which had been damaged in past storms.

Given short notice due to Burton's schedule, I asked for volunteers through our club and made phone calls. With it being midweek, Wed. May 26, many willing participants could not attend. The logistics left us with volunteer who were retired. We also needed reliable transportation to Glendora Ridge Road. The dirt road limited us to four-wheel drive vehicles due to difficult road conditions.

Gotahams member George Cox WB6OEB volunteered his time and vehicle, a Jeep Grand Cherokee 4WD.

I recruited a friend of my son, Riley Redman. He has experience as an apprentice electrician to climb the tower. Within a day of departure one of our new members, Andrew Usmani, KM6SCA, contacted me to assist with installing the new antenna.

Gotahams member Edward W6ABW also offered to help but we had limited space in the small 4-wheel drive vehicle, so he kept in touch with us by radio.

Visiting a "Hilltop" repeater site was a new adventure for the Gotahams team.

We met Burton Brink N6USO at the Mt. Baldy Rd/Glendora Ridge Rd access gate located near Mt Baldy Village. We continued to the US Forest Service access gate at an overlook viewpoint with a view of Claremont, Upland, and the Pomona Valley. When Burton attempted to unlock the gate, he found the lock had been cut off and someone replaced Burton's lock with a different lock. After many phone calls Burton received a return call

from a Forest Service patrolman responsible for the security gates. He said he was on the way and when he arrived the gate was finally opened. Finally, we were allowed to continue our journey to the repeater site. George W6OEB was a bit nervous about the “rustic” nature of the roads and asked me to drive to the repeater site.
Many storms had passed since the last visit and the brush was extremely dry which contributed to erosion and sluffing of rocks on to the road. Road maintenance had been slow which made the drive take longer than any of us had expected. Since we were riding in a small 4X4 loaded with four adults, tools, climbing equipment and test gear the ground clearance was not at all it could have been!

In several places Riley began clearing rocks to help our vehicle stay clear of road hazards. Although we could see the repeater antennas from Glendora Ridge Road, the journey over “Hill and Dale” took nearly an hour.

Upon our arrival at the site our climbers got their first view of the tower they would be climbing. I was tasked with assessing the tools and gear we would need and explaining their use and how to mitigate the dangers of the climb, including what and where the ground crew would be also the order of tasks Riley ascended the ladder first, using the dual tether harness as explained, the horizontal antenna mount was the third up at about 40 feet, after Riley tied off Andrew climbed the tower and proceeded to the damaged antenna. Burton and George began assembling the new antenna while I supplied tools to our tower crew.

Andrew proved to be a trooper on tower work. He enjoys the challenge and understands the importance of finding a comfortable position within the tower's structures. He found the antenna was mounted to a "swing arm" allowing the antenna to be brought closer for maintenance. Lowering the original damaged antenna was accomplished by Andrew tossing it to the ground. We were very careful while lifting the new antenna up the tower.

We tested the new Diamond X-300 antenna with a MFJ 269 analyzer before sending it up the tower for installation but there were some issues. After disassembly, adjustments, and re-assembly the antenna was ready to send up the tower to Andrew. With the new antenna up to tower mount level, Riley descended the tower due to exhaustion and some building Acrophobia. Andrew continued to mount and connect the Diamond X-300, descending the massive tower when the task was complete.

We did not have time to do a full test since Burton was working on a tight schedule and we were facing the long rigorous drive back. Burton did do some "over the air" testing with some operators down the hill. One test which did not go as planned was a radio operator Burton knew in the Whittier area. Burton is concerned that the Heliax feedline may have moisture internally and will need to be replaced but we will take care of it on our next journey to the tower on Sunset Ridge.

I have communicated with Burton Brink and told him the Gotahams would support him however we could to help keep the 145.440, 449.800 repeaters on the air. He recently invested heavily in a new transmitter and of course the antenna. Now it will require the cost of replacing a feedline and upgrading the antenna to a ruggedized commercial

grade monoband antenna. I did also offer to Burton that I would reach out to the membership of both GOTAhams and TCARA to help fund these repairs/upgrades.

Personally, although it was a lot of work, I had a wonderful time at the repeater and throughout the entire adventure, knowing that most Amateur Radio Enthusiasts will never get the chance to visit a remote high elevation repeater site. I feel very privileged even to be invited to the site and look forward to either going or arranging the help, tools, transportation in support of these very popular assets to the local Amateur Radio Community.

’73 Ken KC6WOK

Edward W6ABW’s new HF Shack

In the spirit of what GOTAhams was founded on, we recently offered

Edward W6ABW components of a HF station to help him Get On The Air with his available Technician privileges.

He was able to communicate on the HF net using 10 meters to accommodate our Tech level hams in light of the upswing of SunCycle 25.

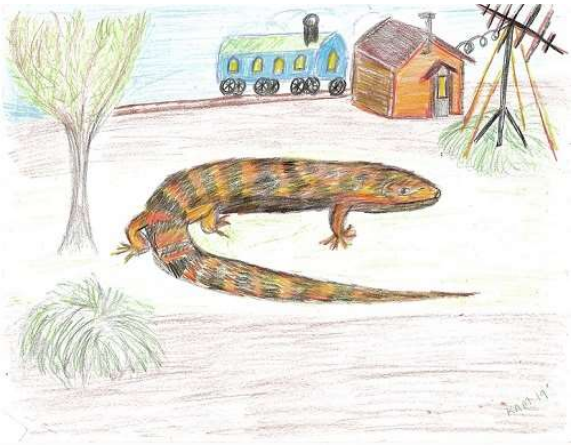
GOTAhams was gifted a Yaesu FT-757-GX transceiver with matching Yaesu FP-757HD Power Supply/Speaker by Dan Best WB6YDR of Chino.

Additionally, Tim Adams N6DLC is in the process of moving to his Arizona home and is disposing of some assets including his older radio gear. The Cushcraft R5 antenna which gave Tim years of faithful service was not going with him to Arizona.

Also, Tim had a box in his garage with a length of RG8 coax and a Yaesu FT-757-GX which allowed us to build a fully operational HF station getting Edward Van Prooijen “On The Air”! Now keep an eye out for a new weekly 10-meter net so all of us with HF stations can participate. Ken KC6WOK

Lionel the Lizard by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

Lionel Lizard lives in the mountain foothills among the evergreen trees and silver-tasseled scrub bushes.



He makes his home in an abandoned telegraph shack.
There is a tattered picture of Samuel Morse next to the Morse Code Alphabet.
A colorful ornamental railcar sits outside the window.

Lionel sends out his message using the telegraph key with his long lizard snout.
CQ, CQ, CQ This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL?

Today Lionel received a message from the Gotahams.
They were having their General Meeting at his favorite restaurant, Casa Jimenez.
Lionel gathered all his friends together, they climbed on the Railcar for a new adventure.

Lionel and his friends had a fun time at the meeting. They all decided to come back next month. When he returned home, he sent out his message to everyone telling them about the Gotahams Amateur Radio Club..
CQ, CQ, CQ, This is L6ZRD, Lionel, QSL?

Next Month Field Day 2021 Photos-
Goat Notes Editor Mike Carlone KE6LKV

Stay Cool!