



Goat Notes  
August 2021



## Welcome to our newest GOTA HAM members

Joe Chaney KN6PAZ

Steve Combs KN6OXZ

Jim Eagon K6JFE

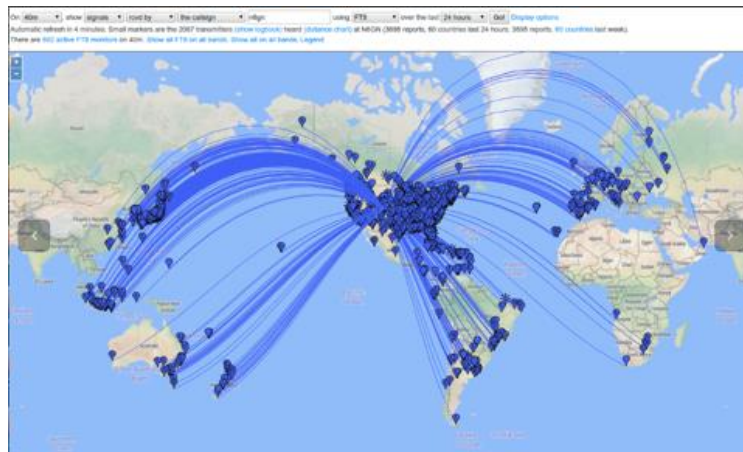
Erik Dlugajczyk KN6NRQ



## 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FT8

Many stations will take to the airwaves August 2 – 15, to celebrate the **4th anniversary of FT8**. All stations will use call signs with “FTDMC” or “FTDM” in the suffix. The activity also celebrates the 2nd anniversary of the FT8 Digital Mode Club. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. QSL cards will be available. This info was found on the AARL website!





### FCC Investigating Alleged “Jamming” on 40 Meters

Reports suggest that jamming stations have been deployed on the lower portion of 40 meters. The jamming appears to be coming from Cuba. The signals, spaced at regular intervals, exhibit a squishy, popping noise.

The apparent jamming showed up after anti-government protesters took to the streets in Cuba, followed by a government crackdown. So far, there’s no proven connection between the jamming and the protests, as evidence has been circumstantial.

DX spots suggest that Cuban hams are on the air on SSB but do appear rare on 40 meters. A lot of Cuban spots point to FT8 activity.

The jamming issue has drawn the attention of the FCC, which is looking into the matter, according to one tech publication.

Gotahams member Erik KN6NRQ thought this story, reprinted from ARRL news, might be of interest to the members. Thank you for your submission.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/8-meter-experimental-station-on-the-air-from-the-us>



## 8-Meter Experimental Station on the Air from the US

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07/29/2021

**WL2XUP** is an FCC Part 5 Experimental station operated by Lin Holcomb, NI4Y, in Georgia. It's licensed to operate with up to 400 W effective radiated power (ERP) between 40.660 MHz to 40.700 MHz.

John Desmond, EI7GL, reports that as of mid-July, WL2XUP was intermittently transmitting on Weak-Signal Propagation Reporter (WSPR) on 40.662 MHz (1500 Hz) for 2 minutes out of every 10, with an output power of 20 W ERP into an omnidirectional antenna. For FT8 check-ins and tests, an ERP of 100 W may be used. The band is affected by several propagation modes, including tropospheric ducting, sporadic E, transequatorial propagation (TEP), and F2 propagation. As Desmond notes, the 40 MHz band will open a lot earlier than 50 MHz and could be a useful resource for stations monitoring the transatlantic path.

A 2019 *Petition for Rulemaking* (**RM-11843**) asked the FCC to create a new 8-meter amateur radio allocation on a secondary basis.



The *Petition* suggests the new band could be centered on an industrial-scientific-medical (ISM) segment somewhere between 40.51 and 40.70 MHz. The spectrum between 40 and 41 MHz is currently allocated to the federal government and, as such, within the purview of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (**NTIA**).



ARRL member Michelle Bradley, KU3N, of Maryland, filed the petition on behalf of REC Networks, which she founded and described in the *Petition* as “a leading advocate for a citizen’s access to spectrum,” including amateur radio spectrum.

### **A word about Repeater Interference, Linking Issues and Radio Etiquette**

Thanks for Listening and “Get On The Air” ’73 Ken KC6WOK

Recently, there have been reports of “intermodulation” between repeater systems, Connection problems with Echolink etc.

Reporting these issues has its protocol and place, typically with repeater control operators, owners and groups dealing with coordination/interference etc. preferably through email, snail mail, phone calls.

During an active “Net” is certainly NOT the place for reporting or discussing these problems, “Net Control” is just that, the person controlling traffic during a net.

These operators have no control of the repeater or its functions.

Reporting interference during a net is highly disruptive, reporting “not being able to connect through EchoLink, Allstar, IRLP” is certainly not in the Net Controllers duties.

At this point, GOTAhams does not own, manage, or fully control any repeater systems. We depend purely on the generosity of other system owners.

This being the case we simply Thank the repeater owner and accept the problems as normal operation that may be dealt with as those system owners see fit.

Issues with other system interlinking, I-Linked connections not working or not being stable are just that, System issues and beyond our control.

Echolink is a known unstable system but FREE, Phone apps, laptops or outside links all have detrimental effects on its performance. An example is if you connect with your old android phone with an old version of the App and an unstable Cellular link you will be kicked off Echolink repeatedly.

Some repeaters like AE6TV allow a single active Echolink connection others allow more, it will show on the Echolink repeaters list, an example is **AG5BB-R Hobbs New Mexico [0/20]** showing 20 available connections with 0 presently connected.

I would like to ask that we PLEASE keep our nets Informational, Conversational, On Topic and Free of Complaints!



It is disruptive to the users, unfair to our control operators and unkind to the generosity of our system hosts.

We are in negotiations to acquire a local repeater system and these things take time but I can assure you we have been promised the machine and have started the financial and legal process for transfer of a fully installed, operational, coordinated repeater with full backup power. We will inform the membership as things progress.

### Upgraded License Class Club Member

Congratulations Edward Van Prooijen W6ABW/AG  
for obtaining his General Class License



### Blocks of Radio Frequencies

Different blocks of frequencies have different names, rules, and pros/cons. These are the most relevant radio types:

- Amateur “Ham” radio
- Citizen’s Band (CB)
- Family Radio Service (FRS)
- General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)
- Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS)

#### Amateur “Ham” Radio

*1.8 – 1300 MHz with gaps in between. By far the widest range of frequency options.*

#### Citizens Band (CB)

*26 – 27 MHz (HF), 11-meter band, 40 channels.*





## Family Radio Service (FRS) vs. General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS)

462 – 467 MHz (UHF), 22 channels

## Multi-Use Radio Service (MURS)

151 – 154 MHz (VHF), 5 channels

### Average ranges between two average handheld radios:

- Ham: 2 miles
- CB: 1 mile
- MURS: 1 mile
- GMRS: 0.5 miles
- FRS: 0.25 mile

### Average ranges between two average base station radios:

- Ham: 18 miles excluding HF communications.
- CB: 14 miles
- MURS: 10 miles
- GMRS: 9 miles
- FRS: *(No base stations due to fixed antenna and power limit laws)*

### W6TRW Swap meet will resume

The W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet will reopen on August 28, 2021. Starting in August, the Swap Meets will continue, as before, on the last Saturday of every month



Radio in the Park will kick off again on August 14, 2021

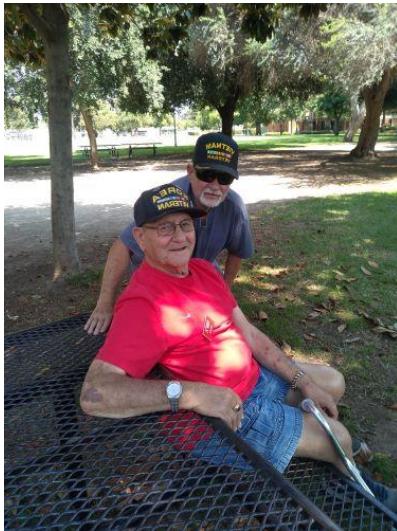
Photo Gallery



Gotahams get together for Radio in the Park at Cedar Creek Park in Eastvale, California







Gotaham George WB6OEB  
Chuck Banta N6FX  
Radio in the Park-  
Larkin Park, Claremont



TCARA  
President Bruce AG6YS  
and son Josh visit the Swap Meet

James Setterlund, KN6IPL  
Shows us yo-yo tricks





Gotahams President, Mark Arlotti, KM6AHY, serves coffee at the Swap Meet



Bob Brehm AK6R, Palomar Engineers, stops by for a cup of coffee and doughnut at the Swap Meet



Gotahams Group Photo  
(l to r) front-Jim KE6FVN; Bruce KM6WBI; Scott KG6ABF; Bob AK6R,  
(l to r) back-David KE6OPK; Ken KC6WOK; Ken N6PCD; Jim KR6JK;  
Jack, KM6UNQ, Steve KN6OXZ; Mark KM6AHY;  
Third row-Edward W6ABW





Gotahams Hybrid General Meeting at Casa Jimenez Restaurant,  
921 W. Foothill Blvd, Claremont  
Zoom chat monitor is set-up for Gotahams members and guests attending  
the group meetings from home.







Lionel Lizard L6ZRD by Kathi Mixon KD6CAF

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

On the wall of the telegraph shack hangs a Morse Code alphabet and an old, tattered picture of Samuel Morse. Behind the telegraph shack sits a colorful ornamental rail car. Lionel sits in his ham shack using his long lizard snout to type out his message in Morse Code.

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel, QSL?





He receives a message from his favorite Amateur Radio Club, the Gotahams WG6OTA.

They drove the winding roads to a repeater site high in the mountains of the  
Angeles National Forest.

Since Lionel was an excellent climber, he decided to go with the Gotahams to the repeater  
site and become an apprentice climber.

Lionel and his friend Sally rode the railcar to the repeater site.

Climbing the repeater tower was an experience Lionel will never forget.  
He was happy he could help and learn what to do during his next visit to the repeater site.  
When they returned home Lionel sent out a message to his friends telling the adventure  
in the mountains.

CQ CQ CQ This is L6ZRD Lionel QSL?

The End

