



GOTAhams September Newsletter

GOAT NOTES

W6GOTA RPT: 449.160/PL 77.0 / Echolink Node 106963, All star Node 569430



Editor's Bit

Good day to you my fellow GOTAhams members. This is your very own Mark H., KN6LYX, and I bring you this edition of the GOTAhams monthly newsletter. As it stands I have now fully accepted my taking over the position of managing the newsletter. Please remember if you have any suggestions, improvements, or any constructive criticism please reach out to me through my email (85markj@gmail.com) so I can improve the newsletter to the desired result. Also, please continue to send me inspiration, improvements to your ham shacks, memorable places associated with ham radio, or new friends or family members joining the club. **Thank you, and God bless.**

I am hoping that everyone is enjoying the summer to the best of their ability, and a great thanks to everyone who provided pictures and other media for this month's edition of the newsletter.



For more information see the GOTAhams website: <https://gotahams.com>

Email Gary, the Club Secretary: 1gtke6cbw@gmail.com

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573677329942>

Join the Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/747704755629648>

September Events



Every night	7:30pm	Nightly Net
3rd Wednesday	6:00pm	Board Meeting
11th Thursday	7pm	Club Meeting
13th Saturday	12pm	Marconi Net
20th Saturday	10am - 3pm	Radio in the Park
24th Wednesday	6:15pm	Simplex Net
27th Saturday	1pm	VE testing

GOTAhams Club Meeting

At August's Club Meeting we were fortunate to have a presentation by Frank Karnauskas, Vice President of Development at AMSAT (The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation). He talked about amateur radio satellite operation. In this article I have some key points from his presentation.



To operate on satellites, you need an orbit prediction tool like; SatSat (Apple), GoSatWatch (Apple), ISS Detector (Android & Apple), or AMSAT Droid Free (Android). ISS Dec Detector is the most popular, it is free and tracks satellites, not just the ISS. There are also Desktop programs like SatPC-32 for Windows or Mac Doppler for Apple.

Antennas can be as simple as a handheld tape measure Yagi pointed at the satellite. An omnidirectional antenna can also work. Better results can be accomplished using a circularly polarized antenna array with a system to follow the satellites pass.

A 5 watt HT can be used to work the FM satellites but you will need full duplex to hear the downlink while transmitting to know if you are hitting the satellite. A dual VFO with more power is better and will allow you to work more satellites with other modes. Some other items you may need are a compass, phone (for tracking), and headphones (to avoid feedback).

Visit: <https://www.amsat.org/> for more information about satellite operation including the operational status of satellites, frequencies, modes, and the recommended book, "[Getting Started with Amateur Satellites](#)". The download is \$15 or the hard copy is \$30. You could also become an AMSAT member or donate to support amateur radio in space. GOTAhams thanks Frank Karnauskas and AMSAT for all the work they do and for presenting to our club all the information about satellite operation.

At our next Meeting September Club meeting we plan to have Tim Duffy, the CEO of DX Engineering, with a presentation on Grounding & Bonding. You can join the GOTAhams in person or from the comfort of your own location on the second Thursday of the month. We will be at EL RANCHERO Restaurant, 984 West Foothill Blvd, Claremont. If attending "in-person" at the Restaurant please come early (6:00 PM recommended) to order your food/drinks in order to allow you and others to finish eating and reduce interruptions/noise during our Hybrid meeting.



Radio in the park

At our last Radio in the park we had over 20+ members. We had 5 radio stations set up.



Joe, AK6MB was on his ICOM IC-705 and a Buddipole-mini antenna, making FT8 contacts in Arizona and Texas on 15m.



Dave, K6EV, was also doing some FT-8



Jason was using an I-Pad with a SignalLink USB to a Yaesu Radio to do FT-8.



Tim, N6DLC, was at the park with an Icom 1700 also doing FT-8.

