Press Release

For immediate release

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AMATEUR RADIO EVENT - Public Invited

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The Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS) will at the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area Thermalito North Forebay Park this Saturday from 11AM - 3PM to hold a Parks On The Air (POTA) training to teach licensed amateur radio operators how to participate in this worldwide game of radio tag. Unlicensed individuals seeking to learn about amateur radio are also encouraged to attend.

Parks on the Air® (POTA) started in early 2017 when the American Relay Radio League National Parks on the Air special event ended. A group of volunteers wanted to continue the fun beyond the one-year event, and thus, POTA was born. The activity involves an “activator” to be in a state or federal park using a portable radio and antenna to broadcast that they are in the park and “hunters” from around the world respond to them. The exchange between the activator and hunter can be done via voice, morse code or between computers digitally. Both the activator and hunter earn credits towards award certificates.

“It’s a great way for radio operators to practice in the field for fun and training for disasters that might require their radio skills to help the community or themselves”, said Jamie Johnson, the President of GEARS, “But more importantly it just a great way to enjoy amateur radio by getting outside”.

There are over 500,000 licensed radio operators around the world doing POTA.

“POTA in a way has brought life back to amateur radio due to its popularity and adding more activity to the “hobby of a thousand hobbies”.” Said Johnson

The training is free and all are welcomed to come. There is a $7.00 fee per car to get into the park.

The Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society (GEARS) was established on August 13, 1939, by eleven Amateur Radio operators from throughout the Northern Sacramento Valley.

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