



March 2018

ARALB Web Site: www.aralb.org

[ARALB Facebook Page \(Open\)](#)

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Editor: [Bob NC6Q](#)



Editor's Note

Your articles are welcomed for publication in the Milliwatt. Here are some guidelines:

- They should be of interest to ham radio operators and members of the ARALB.
 - They should be written out and submitted as text not picture objects or pdf files. (The text should be able to be Copied and Pasted.)
 - They should be written as you would like it to appear in the Milliwatt.
 - You should know they may be subject to editing for clarity and proper formatting.
 - An accompanying picture or two would be the best but not necessary.
 - It should be emailed to the editor at least 2 weeks before the Friday night club meeting (which is on the first Friday of the month).
 - If you have any questions about your article, ask the editor. Contact Bob NC6Q at bobgrubic@gmail.com.
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MEETINGS

The next Friday Night **General Club Meeting**:

Date: Friday, March 2, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: American Red Cross ([map](#))

3150 E. 29th Street

Long Beach, CA 90806

The next ARALB **Board Meeting:**

Date: Monday, February 26, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: American Red Cross [\(map\)](#)

3150 E. 29th Street

Long Beach, CA 90806

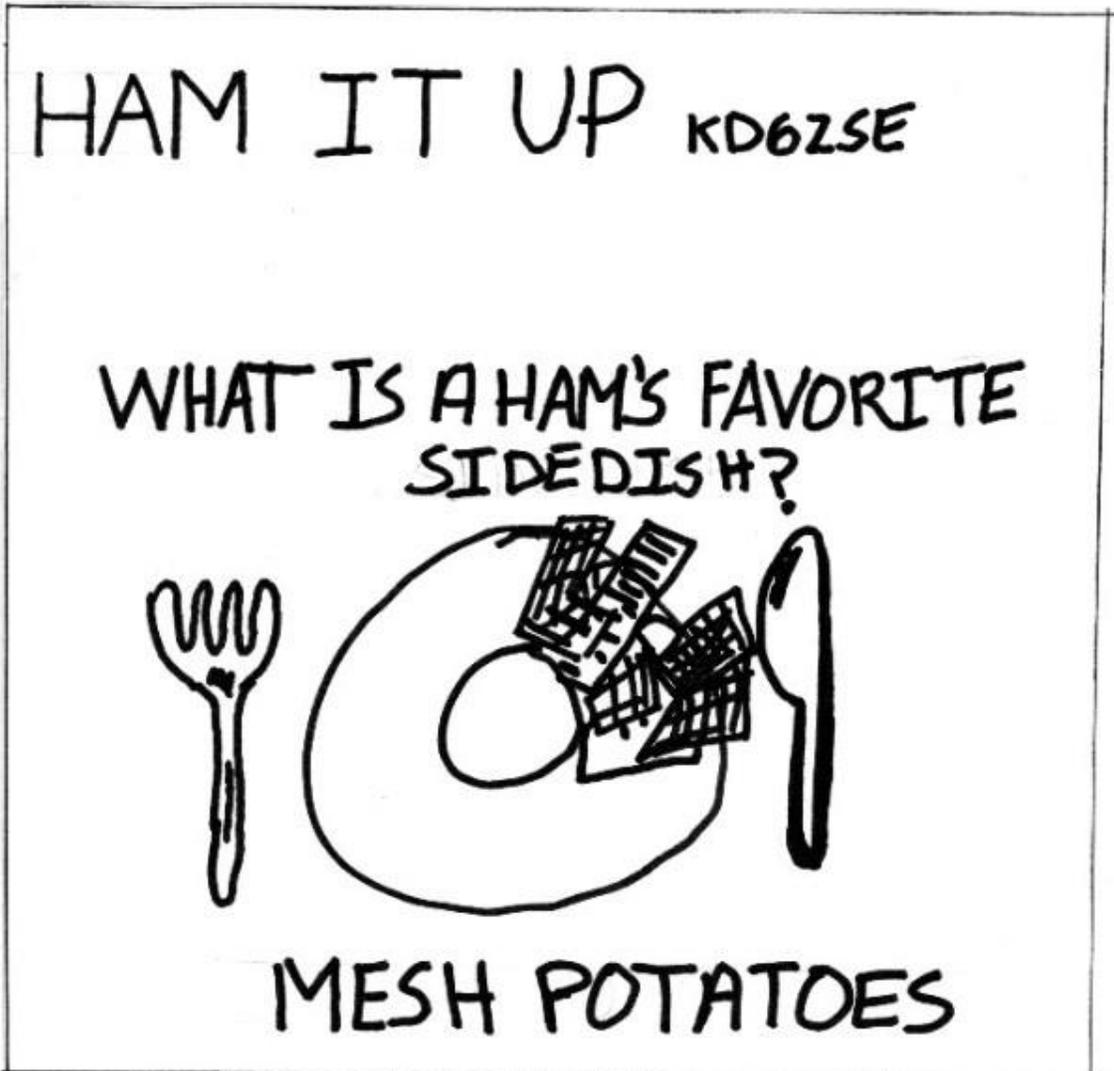


Packetman N6UTC

Guest Speaker

Endaf Buckley N6UTC

This month Endaf Buckley N6UTC will give a short talk on packet radio operations for the recent Avalon 50/50 Benefit Run which was held this past January over on Catalina Island.



Piglet's Corner--Tales of a Baby Ham

by Heidi Bender KD6ZSE

Mesh Networking

I recently upgraded my ham radio license from Novice to Technician. It seems that

having children and a family can take time away from your your hobbies. The kids are in college now and I have more time to learn about the hobby I enjoy. One way to learn more is to join a club. Clubs provide camaraderie, support, and information about ham radio.

At a recently ARALB club meeting, I learned about *mesh networking*. No, it's not a program to share a type a panty hose. It's a type of networking over radio waves to provide communication in various types of form with little investment and equipment requirements. It uses readily available *wireless access points*, commonly known as *routers*. You probably have one in your house now for your wifi. You might even have a few old ones lying around too!

Technically, a mesh network is a local network topology in which the infrastructure nodes connect directly, dynamically and non-hierarchically to as many other nodes as possible and cooperate with one another to efficiently route data from/to clients.

A mesh network can provide Voice over Internet (VOIP) communication, email, real time video, keyboard to keyboard communications, file transfers (Word, Excel, PDF), web applications, Field Day/contest logging, repeater control, linking, and administration. Just about anything!

With all the possibilities a mesh network can provide, it could be a plus in any local disaster or emergency. The mesh is out there!

Check out the other possibilities and information using the links below.

Introduction to Mesh Networks for Amateur Radio, Tim Howard, KE6TIM

https://www.scc-ares-races.org/mesh/preso/Intro_To_Mesh_Ham_v150302.pdf

Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network

<https://www.aredn.org/>

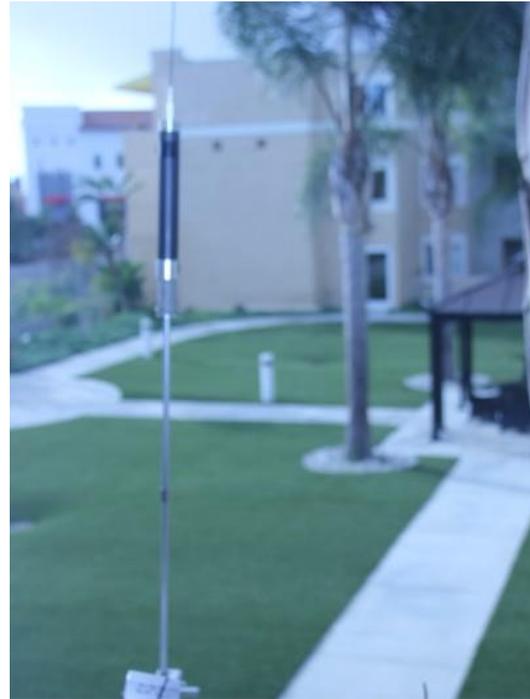
Orange County Mesh Organization

<https://sites.google.com/site/orangecountymeshorganization/contact-us/don-s-and-joe-s-bios>



President's Award

At the February 2018 meeting, past President Endaf Buckley, N6UTC, was recognized for his service to the club as president for 2016-2017.



My Apartment Ham Station

by Richard Kitchen KD6UNR

When I moved into my apartment, I originally had my amateur radio set up in my car. I decided to take it out of the car and put it in my apartment after about six months because I had to go out and find a spot to park whenever I wanted to get on the air. Oh, and, I have an underground garage parking.

I had previously made a go box for my equipment for Field Day. I found a table in the hall that had a pull out shelf. So I reinstalled my FT-857 transceiver back in the box, along with my MFJ-4215MV power supply. These two are both fastened down. On top of my FT-857, I placed my MFJ-939 auto tuner. On the left side of the box is my MFJ SWR meter. The setup that I have works great--except it does

not look neat.

For my antenna, I have tried various ones and am currently using a Super Antenna MP1-DX antenna which I have fasten to my balcony with a bracket that puts it out about 3 inches from the railing that it is fasten to. I also have a 2 meter mag mount antenna mounted on a metal table nearby.

When I first set it up, I had two problems which I have since solved. The first one was that to turn on the power supply, I had to reach to the back of the power supply, and the second one was when ever I had to disconnect my antennas and reconnect them I would have to get out my manual to figure out how to connect them back up.

The way that I solved the problems was by putting two 3 x 18 inch wooden board on the go box--one in the front and one in the rear. On the one in the rear, I mounted on the right side face out a female ac connector. On the inside, I have a plastic junction box with a duplex ac outlet. Coming out of the box and going to the front is an ac line cord which goes to a switch mounted inside a plastic junction box.

This is wired up so that the switch is in series with the plugs. For the antennas, I have mounted on the left side of the board in the back, two uhf feed-through connectors which are marked HF and VHF.

The switch on the front is mounted on a board

I have recently purchased an Acer 24-inch monitor and a Micro computer that I will be using with my logging software.

I have heard a lot of stations on 40 meters and 20 meters, although the only contact that I have been able to make was to Idaho. I have a unique situation in that my antenna is installed on the second floor balcony of a three story apartment complex. I have a building blocking my antenna to the east, as my apartment faces west. I am also blocked to the north by apartments, but I do have openings going from southwest to south. [A good case for using CW as it gets out where other signals can't. A good example of making the best of what you have. Way to go, Richard! -ed]



Be a W6RO Operator on the Queen Mary!

W6RO - The Nate Brightman Wireless Room aboard the Queen Mary - is the world famous club station of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach. We strive

to staff the station every day. There are a number of vacant shifts that we would like to fill. We need experienced hams who know HF operation and can represent amateur radio to visiting tourists. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least one regularly calendared four-hour shift each month. Interested persons are invited to contact station manager David Akins, N6HHR, at n6hr@arri.net.



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