

The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, Inc.  
Since 1927 and now a 501(c)(3)

# The Milliwatt

ARALB Letter

W6RO KE6LB



September 2018

ARALB Web Site: [www.aralb.org](http://www.aralb.org)

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

[ARALB Facebook Group \(Members Only\)](#)

Editor: [Bob NC6Q](#)

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## Editor's Note

There are many items in this month's Milliwatt! A big *Thank You* to all the contributors!

Be sure and watch the 11 minute **video** on **McBride High School contacting the International Space Station**. It's pretty neat. Click the link in the article below.

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## Meetings -- changed due to Labor Day

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

Date: Friday, Sep 7, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

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

3150 E. 29th Street

Long Beach, CA 90806

The next **ARALB Board Meeting**: ([map](#))

Date: Monday, Sep 3, 2018

Time: 7:00 pm

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

3150 E. 29th Street

Long Beach, CA 90806

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### **Friday's Speaker: Phil Minch K6MUG**

**Topic: Logbook of the World (LoTW)**

After many years of procrastination, I was first licensed as KI4MUG in 2005. While using an MFJ-9420 10 watt, no frills transceiver and an attic dipole, I stumbled on the Texas QSO party and the contest bug bit me. It was thrilling to make long distance contacts with that limited setup. I changed my call in California so the DX stations wouldn't be confused. The MFJ is sitting idle in a closet now, replaced by a Yaesu FT-450D, but I still haven't put the big bucks into my equipment and with limitations on antennas I make the most of it.

One of the first things I did after getting my license was to join ARRL, where I learned about Logbook of the World. Logbook of the World is an ARRL service for maintaining and confirming amateur radio contacts and for credits toward awards such as DXCC and Worked All States. All done by Internet. It is a multifaceted suite and for those who haven't tried it, I will present an introduction to its use and value to the amateur community.

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## Mark Your Calendars

August 27, Board Meeting 7pm at Long Beach Red Cross

September 3, Labor Day

September 7, General Meeting 7pm at Long beach red Cross- Guest speaker Phil Mitch the topic is LoTW

September 15, Testing and Ready Long Beach <https://www.readylongbeach.org>

January 19, 2019. Installation Banquet It's not too soon to make plans and save the date.

April 1, 2019, W6RO 40th Anniversary



## McBride High in Space

### YouTube Video!

Recently published on YouTube is a great documentary about McBride High School's amateur radio contact with the International Space Station. The entire McBride Radio Club was involved as were fellow ARALB members Devon KF6KEE and Wyatt AI6V.

Click and watch the video. You'll like it!

McBride High School and the International Space Station ISS: <https://youtu.be/eIFwj4trQ4E>



## Piglet's Corner--Tales of a Baby Ham

by Heidi KD6ZSE

### Catalina Water Ski Race

This month I was invited to help with the Catalina Ski Race. This was the 70th year of the race. Each team consisted of a driver, an observer and a skier. Teams had the option to have one or two skiers. The switch is made at the turn-around at Catalina Island. The skier must cross the finish line to score.

Hams are recruited/volunteered to assist with communications. There are five teams of hams. Gus N6GUS was at the Catalina turn around, Endaf N6UTC and Heidi KD6ZSE were located at the Queen Mary to monitor the finish line at the stern of the Queen Mary. The same Queen Mary where our W6RO is located. At the announcer stand was Becky KJ6VSL and Bill KI6JAB. At the control station was Martin N6NTH, John KK6GSS, Sibyl KA6RXX and Jeff KM6CND.

The weather and water conditions for the race were fantastic. As the clock got closer to start time you could hear the engines rev and roar. There was a variety of engines competing in the race--everything from race engines to outboard motors. The crowd was excited and thrilled. The race started and you could see from the beginning the difference in speed and gusto. Helicopters were flying in the air over head and people cheered. It took about 30 minutes for the first boat to reach the turn-around and about thirty minutes later the winner skier crossed the finish line! Boats tooted their horns and people cheered. Hams helped log times and keep tabs of the boats. Our communications came in handy when one out the 48 boats racing did not make it to the Catalina turn. It was a happy ending though and the boat and crew were safely located.

If you ever have the opportunity to help with this event, I would recommend it.

For more information on Catalina Ski Race check out the sites below:

Long Beach Boat and Ski Club on Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Nonprofit-Organization/Long-Beach-Boat-Ski-Club-294311907439808/>

Catalina Ski race info and results visit:

<http://www.catalinaskirace.net/about/>

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## Talk and Tell Net

By Robert Hartwig N7RAH

As many of our long time members might remember, the ARALB used to have a weekly net. This net was cancelled due low attendance and interest.

Well, there is a new net in town and the ARALB is part of a coalition of ham groups on this new net. These will include ARALB, Red Cross, LB CERT, ARES, and the LB VA Hospital.

It will be on the Long Beach Yacht Club Repeater (KF6QPU)

Monday Nights at 7pm-8pm

146.805-600 pl tone 162

Everyone is welcome and it will include Bulletins on Community Events, Emergency Preparedness and Safety, Ham Radio Tech Talks, Elmer Hour for New Hams and more. In short something for everyone.

For further information and to submit bulletins etc., contact Mark Chug KK6SMD at [mchung@prodigy.net](mailto:mchung@prodigy.net).

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## In Case You Missed It Last Month...

### From Radios to Rockets

by Heidi Bender KD6ZSE

Our guest speaker for the August meeting was Mark, KD6NOT. The title of his presentation was, "Radios to Rockets." He shared with us how his knowledge of ham radio gave him insight to some professional projects.

The presentation covered RF power, antenna gain, transmitter/receiver height, interference and how to avoid it, modulation, and weather including space weather. He caught the audience's attention with first slide that read "there are 20 charts with math calculations for antenna gain." Luckily that was the ice breaker.

The presentation was well organized and intended for each level of ham from technician to extra. Judging from the feedback from the audience, each person learned something new.

Ham club meetings offer a great way to stay connected and learn new things about our hobby.

Interesting sites to visit:

Space Weather Prediction: <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

Kennedy Space Center: <https://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/>

Kwajalein Radio Club: <http://www.qsl.net/v73ax/>

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Andy Hansen HB9CVQ

## Hams from the IEEE EMC Symposium Visit W6RO

by David Akins N6HHR

Club station W6RO aboard the Queen Mary was quite busy the week of July 30 to August 3. The International Electrical and Electronics Engineers Association (IEEE, that's "eye triple-ee") held their Electromagnetic Spectrum Compatibility Symposium in Long Beach. As you might expect, quite a few of these engineers are radio amateurs. Their representative contacted us several months in advance to coordinate special evening hours for them to visit the Wireless Room. Nine W6RO crew members stepped-up to volunteer extra time each evening during the week to accommodate them.

A total of twenty IEEE engineer/hams visited W6RO that week! And, ten of them took a chair and got on the air. Some made only one or two contacts on two meters. But several others got serious on the HF bands. The most impressive to me was Andy Hansen HB9CVQ (from Switzerland), who put on the headphones and cranked-out a dozen CW contacts at 28 WPM on our new Icom IC-7300! Andy, and the others, will receive our very nice Guest Operator Certificate in the mail.



## Better Safe Radio

Use Coupon Code "ARALB" to Save 7%  
on your entire order of \$100 or more!

by Endaf N6UTC

BetterSafeRadio (<https://BetterSafeRadio.com>) is a local Long Beach mail-order emergency radio store & programming/consulting service operated by ARALB member K6LED (Mark Lindsey). BSR caters to the SHTF Emergency Prepper, Amateur Radio EmComm, Commercial, and Public Safety markets.

Mark currently offers high-quality import radios & accessories, and with his ReadySafeGo™ service, he charges, programs and tests every radio sold - No DOAs!

Home of the infamous Long Beach Neighborhood Safety Radio, an FCC Certified MURS or GMRS radio with LBPD, LB Fire & NOAA Weather channels designed just for Long Beach safety/emergency use.

Use Coupon Code "ARALB" to Save 7% on your entire order of \$100 or more!

### General Company Description:

Discounted Commercial-Grade TERA, Wouxun & AnyTone Part 95 GMRS MURS NOAA, Part 90 LMR & Part 97 HAM Amateur Emergency Two-Way Radios, Accessories, Custom Programming & Personal Consulting for Preppers, Families, Recreation, Business, Industry, Neighborhood Watch/Safety, Private Security, CERT, ARES, RACES, REACT, CAP, MARS, Government, Public Safety & SHTF Survival Prepping.



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 [n6hhr@arri.net](mailto:n6hhr@arri.net).

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