



# *The Short Circuit*

APRIL 2019

since 1927

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The April meeting of the United Radio Amateur Club will be held SATURDAY, April 6th with the *First Saturday Breakfast*, 8 am at the Think Café (302 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street) in San Pedro.

**Program:** David Ziskin, AG6E, is now retired (unless the Navy calls) and currently involved with the Iowa, the Lane Victory, teaching the occasional STEM class, and - of course - RPA's and AUV's, which are areas of specialized robotics. He has even been known to operate amateur radio, but very rarely these days. He will be speaking about a trip to Antarctica.

## **Special Event Stations: April**



### **W6RO aboard the Queen Mary to Celebrate 40th Anniversary in April**

The 50-member volunteer crew of the *Queen Mary* **W6RO** Nate Brightman Wireless Room will mount a month-long special event in April to mark the 40th anniversary of the station's opening on the museum ship in Long Beach, California. Launched April 22, 1979, W6RO was the first of what has grown to more than 100 Amateur Radio stations based on museum ships around the world. Crew members work tirelessly to keep W6RO on the air and make as many contacts as possible during April. Station manager David Akins,

N6HHR, has set a goal of 1,000 logged contacts during the 30-day event.

A commemorative QSL card [will be available](#) with an SASE. Founded by Nate Brightman, K6OSC (SK), W6RO is the club station of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach. Brightman served as station manager for 34 years until his retirement in 2013. Brightman died in 2016 at age 99.

### **Other Special Events: April 2019•**

• **04/13/2019 | 16th Annual Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival** Apr 13, 1600Z-2100Z, W5BMC, Franklin, LA. Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service. 14.280 14.260 7.280 7.260. Certificate. Jackie Price, 708 Front St., Morgan City, LA 70380.

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- **04/13/2019 | USS Midway Museum Ship Special Event: Doolittle Raid Apr 13, 1600Z-2300Z, NI6IW**, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Ship. 14.320 7.250; PSK31 on 14.070. QSL. USS Midway (CV-41) COMEDTRA, 910 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101.
- **04/20/2019 | San Jacinto Day Special Event Apr 20-Apr 21, 1500Z-2300Z, K5T**, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club. 14.265 14.074 14.035 7.215. QSL. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, 167 CR 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. All contacts will be confirmed via LoTW. QSL requests must include SASE. [www.w5nac.com](http://www.w5nac.com)
- **04/20/2019 | Vermontville, MI, 78th Maple Syrup Festival Apr 20-May 4, 0100Z-0100Z, WK8H**, Vermontville, MI. Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Harmon. 446.200 MHz PL 74.4 HZ 145.560 MHz 147.080 MHz PL 100 HZ IRLP NODE 4868 446.200 MHz. QSL. Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Harmon, WK8H, 172 E. Second St., Vermontville, MI 49096. Enjoy the original Michigan Maple Syrup Festival on the Amateur Radio frequencies and IRLP node 4868. [srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net)
- **04/20/2019 | Vermontville, MI, 78th Maple Syrup Festival Apr 20-May 4, 0100Z-0100Z, W8S**, Vermontville, MI. Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Harmon. 446.200 MHz PL 74.4 HZ; 145.560 MHz; 147.080 MHz PL 100 HZ; IRLP Node 4868 446.200 MHz. Certificate. Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Harmon, WK8H, 172 E. Second St., Vermontville, MI 49096. Enjoy the 78th original Michigan Vermontville Syrup Festival on the Amateur Radio Frequencies. [srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srharmon1974@sbcglobal.net)
- **04/27/2019 | Fishing for Freedom Apr 27, 1100Z-2200Z, W4F**, Powder Springs, GA. 5th District of Georgia, American Legion. 7.275. Certificate. W4F- Fishing for Freedom, American Legion Post 294, 3282 Florence Road, Powder Springs, GA 30127. Fishing for Freedom is an event sponsored by the 5th District of Georgia, American Legion. It is a day where we have camaraderie and fishing for our Wounded Veterans. [georgiafishingforfreedom@gmail.com](mailto:georgiafishingforfreedom@gmail.com)
- **04/27/2019 | Operation From the Highest Point in Arkansas Apr 27, 1400Z-2200Z, K5M**, Paris, AR. Razorback Contest Club. 14.250 14.040 7.200 7.040. QSL. Don Banta, 3407 Diana St., Springdale, AR 72764. [k5db@cox.net](mailto:k5db@cox.net)  
..... <https://ke2yk.com/special-events/>

## **Can Indoor Antennas Work? Yes!**

**... Dan Romanchik KB6NU**

Recently, a reader asked:

I am studying your “No Nonsense” book as I prep for the Technician test. I am also learning CW. I am going to buy a Yaesu FT 450D as my first radio, and I want to use an indoor antenna as my first antenna. What do you recommend for CW?

I replied:

To be honest, I’ve never had a lot of luck with indoor antennas. Don’t let that dissuade you, though. I have worked many hams with indoor antennas. Just recently, for example, I worked a guy who was using a [Buddipole](http://www.buddipole.com/) (<http://www.buddipole.com/>) inside his apartment.

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If you have an attic, you could easily install a dipole up there. The [ARRL web page on indoor antennas](http://arrl.org/indoor-antennas) (<http://arrl.org/indoor-antennas>) notes:

“Attics are great locations for indoor antennas. For example, you can install a wire dipole in almost any attic space. Don’t worry if you lack the room to run the dipole in a straight line. Bend the wires as much as necessary to make the dipole fit into the available space.

“Ladder-line fed dipoles are ideal for attic use—assuming that you can route the ladder line to your radio without too much metal contact. In the case of the ladder-line dipole, just make it as long as possible and stuff it into your attic any way you can. Let your antenna tuner worry about getting the best SWR out of this system.”

There are plenty of remote tuners now, too. You could install a doublet with elements as long as you can make them, connect them directly to the remote tuner, and then run coax to your shack.

I have also worked guys who have used Slinky antennas inside a house. The advantage of using a Slinky is that it is electrically longer than a wire of the same length.

An attached garage might also make a good location for an indoor antenna. VE3SO, who I’ve worked several times, uses a [magnetic loop antenna installed in his garage](https://www.kb6nu.com/magnetic-loop-antenna-at-ve3so/) (<https://www.kb6nu.com/magnetic-loop-antenna-at-ve3so/>).

If you do a web search for “indoor amateur radio antennas,” you’ll get many more ideas. Here are a few that looked promising to me:

- [Indoor antenna for 7 Mhz](http://www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/37/indoor-antenna-for-7-mhz) (<http://www.iw5edi.com/ham-radio/37/indoor-antenna-for-7-mhz>)
- [An Indoor Reduced Size Rectangular Loop](http://hamuniverse.com/kl7jrindoorloop4010.html) (<http://hamuniverse.com/kl7jrindoorloop4010.html>)


Another option might be to load up your gutters! I’ve worked a couple of guy who use gutter antennas, including [WA8KQQ](https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-gutter-antenna-rac-contest-161-countries-worked/) (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-gutter-antenna-rac-contest-161-countries-worked/>) and [K3DY](https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-computer-virus-club-net-gutter-antenna/) (<https://www.kb6nu.com/operating-notes-computer-virus-club-net-gutter-antenna/>).

This blog post garnered a couple of interesting comments. *K2MUN* wrote, “For many years I’ve used an attic mounted off-center fed 40 meter dipole. With an automatic antenna tuner and a 4:1 balun I’ve worked lots of dx with both qrp and, more easily, 100 watts! Certainly, outdoors is much superior but an attic is a nice location in bad weather making playing with your antenna a pleasure :-).”

John, KD0JPE, said, ‘If you have an attic available, check out the following 6-band coax trap-based antenna: <http://degood.org/coaxtrap/>. I constructed one of these 9 years ago and have had great results with it.

The bottom line is that indoor antennas can definitely work. They may take more work to put up than outside antennas, but as the saying goes, “Any antenna is better than no antenna.”

## ~ April 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> URAC 2M Roundtable; 8 pm, 145.510 Simplex.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> First Saturday Breakfast and membership meeting: 8 am, Think Café, San Pedro
<b>7</b> World Health Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> URAC 2M Roundtable; 8 pm, 145.510 Simplex.	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Tax Day (Taxes Due)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> URAC 2M Roundtable; 8 pm, 145.510 Simplex.	<b>19</b> Good Friday	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Easter 	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Administrative Professionals' Day	<b>25</b> URAC 2M Roundtable; 8 pm, 145.510 Simplex.	<b>26</b> Arbor Day	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

## 2019 URAC Executive Board

PRESIDENT  
Sam Lollar  
K1SL

[k1sl@arrl.net](mailto:k1sl@arrl.net)



VICE-PRESIDENT  
John Linder  
KC6JHV

[kc6j hv@k6aa.org](mailto:kc6j hv@k6aa.org)



SECRETARY  
Janet Meek

[janme711@hotmail.com](mailto:janme711@hotmail.com)



TREASURER  
Gary Forister  
N6HMR

[n6hmr@k6aa.org](mailto:n6hmr@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Larry Fadden  
KK6TXN

[kk6txn@k6aa.org](mailto:kk6txn@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Steve Mandich  
K6NT

[k6nt@k6aa.org](mailto:k6nt@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Homer Meek  
K6HKT

[k6hkt@k6aa.org](mailto:k6hkt@k6aa.org)



DIRECTOR  
Ivan Mikulich  
KB6ATT

[kb6att@k6aa.org](mailto:kb6att@k6aa.org)



PAST-PRESIDENT  
Doug Dowds  
W6HB

[w6hb@aol.com](mailto:w6hb@aol.com)



NEWLETTER  
EDITOR  
Scotty Butler  
K6ZNL

[k6znl@arrl.net](mailto:k6znl@arrl.net)

WEBMASTER  
Bruce Sperka  
AD7MM

[bsperka@gmail.com](mailto:bsperka@gmail.com)



**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTES \*\*\***

**K6AA Station** We can still use more operators for our K6AA station. See Doug, W6HB, and or Scotty, K6ZNL, for training and checkout.

Check out the special events page on [k6aa.org](http://k6aa.org) for the latest from arrl and e-ham net.

**Additional Calendar Notes****Club Roundtable**

Held weekly on  
Thursdays at 8pm  
145.510 Simplex

**Club Meeting**

Held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month in conjunction with our ...

**No Host Breakfast**

Held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 8:00am. Location: Think Café on 5<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro

**“VE/CE Session for Amateur and Commercial Licenses**

Monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday **by appointment**. Go to <http://k6aa.org/licensing-exams/>

If no one schedules an exam, there won't necessarily be an exam team or exam material available.



The Museum is at the Foot of 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

