

HOW ARALB STARTED

In the 1920s, when the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach was formed, Long Beach was jokingly called "Iowa by the Sea" because of its many residents from that state.

The automobile had become accessible to the middle class and people from all over streamed to the beautiful Long Beach beaches..

The main shopping street was Pine Avenue, It stretched from the ocean to Sixth Street. The Poly High School students and supporters would celebrate victories by driving up this street honking and screaming . Traffic officers were stationed on small boxes located in the middle of the intersections.

Signal Hill wasn't a city. It was a hilltop surrounded by Long Beach. It drew people to it through its dog races, marathon dance contests, and talent shows. Japanese gardeners lived here amidst their truck gardens. THEN, oil was discovered.

Poly High School girls were restricted to wear uniforms of dark blue skirts and middie blouses.. The boys wore the dirtiest cords they could keep off of their mother's washboard.

Into this environment, in 1928, a group of boys and men interested in amateur radio met in the Gum Grove (Recreation Park or Tall Timbers) at 7th Street and Park Avenue to discuss forming a club. Thus, in time, the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach was formed. They met in their homes, in schools, in city offices, public parks, libraries, and in recent years the Signal Community Center and the American Red Cross building.