



# HARBOR BEAM

## Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

### February 2008

146.970 / 441.950

Echolink Node: 19301

P.O. Box 148, Michigan City, Indiana 46361

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A 501 (c) (3) Public Charity # 35-1390856

What's  
new?

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### News & Events

At our next club meeting John Jones, Michigan City EMA will be our guest speaker.

Also Claudette Harrison will be a guest speaker at our next meeting. She will be talking about Amateur Radio and Tax deductions. Did you know that your radios maybe tax deductible? She will tell you how. Claudette works for H&R Block.

At this meeting we will update everyone on this years fund raisers.

At our meeting, we will also have coupons for \$25.00 off for having your taxes done at H&R Block.

## ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE!

Your membership dues of \$12.00 is now due, \$6.00 for students.

Dues can be paid at the club meeting, or mailed to our P.O. Box. Dues remained unchanged in 2008.

### MEETING NOTICE:

The Michigan City Amateur Radio next meeting is February 20th @ 7:30 pm at Queen Of All Saints School, Woodland and Barker, Michigan City.

ARES & SKYWARN Information Nets are on Thursday Nights at 8:00pm. Please check in and show your support, or even just to see if your radio still works. Nets are held on 146.970 the W9LY repeater.

### SIREN TESTS

Michigan City and LaPorte County conduct the Emergency siren test on the first Saturday of each month at 11:00am. LaPorte County wide net is 146.610, and Michigan City Local is on 146.970. Early warning sirens saves lives, and we need your help each month to assure they are working. For more information contact Bob Snith N9ROM or Ken N9ZIP.

Saturday Morning Breakfast is held at Memo's at 8:00am in the morning. Come and join some good friends and club members for breakfast. The numbers are growing, and seats fill fast.

The Harbor Beam is published the Saturday, before the next monthly club meeting, 12 times each year, by the Michigan City Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 148 Michigan City, Indiana 46361; for it's members and those interested. Inquires and submissions should be sent to the Harbor Beam Editor at our e-mail address [w9ly@w9ly.org](mailto:w9ly@w9ly.org).

# Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

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## 2008 Weather Spotter Class

LaPorte County Emergency Management, Purdue North Central and LaPorte County SKYWARN will be hosting our annual spotter class. This year it will be held March 14th. We have two classes, one at 3:00 pm and a second at 6:30 pm. Classes will be held at Purdue North Central in the LSF Building.

You know Spring is here when we host a class. With Spring comes the start of our severe weather season. This class is open to the general public. Spotters who did not attend a class last year should attend this year to keep current.

Mark your calendars, this is the only announcement in the Harbor Beam.

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## PICTURE OF THE MONTH

The picture below is from D&D Communications at 13444 L Street, Omaha NE. The customer complained of poor TX and poor RX. We've all seen the CBer's coathanger whips, and radio antennas, but this one probably takes the cake.



Photo & Story from Hamsexy.com

## CLUB HISTORY REVISTED



Michigan City Hamfest 10 year ago next month. Our Hamfest was held at the Michigan City High School for years. When the school was remodeled, we were forced to move because the open space we enjoyed was gone. In the above photo, two members sat in the hallway collecting admissions.

Send us your photo's, we would like to share them. When sending us a photo, please give a brief description of photo and the event.

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## It's Tax Time Again

Did you know, that if you have H&R Block prepare your taxes this year, H&R Block will donate \$25.00 to our club. We even have coupons for \$25.00 off.

When visiting our web site, click on the H&R Block banner and print the PDF file. Take the flyer with you to H&R Block and they will enter our donation code.

Also our club is 501 (c) (3). You can make donations to the club and you may lower your tax bill.

## SPRING IS NEAR

Before we know it, the weather will be warmer. The days are getting longer, and with that brings Thunderstorms and severe weather. While we have amateur radio to communicate and send weather reports, the long standing question has been, how can trained spotters and non-amateurs send weather observations in real time? Recently we came across a new software program that allows anyone to send weather reports.

<http://www.wxspots.com>

WXspots is free to download, easy to use, and meets the standards set fourth by the National Weather Service. While the NWS does not monitor this data, local NCS's and EOC's running weather nets will have this application running. Anyone using this application will have their report posted in real time. Urgent reports posted can be seen by the NCS's and the information can be sent out over the air, and relayed to NWS.

LaPorte County has over 60 trained Spotters, but only a fraction of them are Amateurs. May be you know someone who is interested in the weather, or may simply want to know what is happening locally. This is application may be for them.

Spread the word, share the link. This only works if it used and reports sent.

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**RACES will be having an informational meeting on Wednesday March 5th at 6:30 pm. It will be held at Michigan City, City Hall. All amateurs are welcome to attend and see what RACES is all about.**



## YABBA DABBA DO!

In last months opinion poll the results are in. The poll was, "What is your favorite on air activity?" Local Amateurs responded as follows with 24 votes:

**DXing 20.8%**  
**Contesting 0.0%**  
**County Hunting 0.0%**  
**Rag Chew 25%**  
**Traffic Nets 0.0%**  
**Weather Nets 20.8%**  
**ARES Nets 12.5%**  
**Weekly Nets 20.8%**



**What is your YABBA DABBA DO?**

Check out our new opinion poll. If you have not signed up yet, it is easy. Visit <http://w9ly.org/yabb> and register. We have recieved several polls from our members which will be listed in the next few months. Join and tell us what you think. No one but you will know how you voted on any poll. Just another service from MCARC.

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## IDHS/RACES STATE WIDE TEST

January 19th was the Semi-Annual state wide communications test. We had 13 check-ins for the local net. Contact with W9SEM at IDHS was made on BPSK31, 40M, 80M and EchoLink.

This was the first time IDHS had a state wide link up on Echo Link. 147.285 and 147.105 was linked state wide. KC9GFO was the NCS, John Phillips KA9PGC and Todd Miller N9RKY helped in making contacts with W9SEM.

John Jones, MCEMA thanks everyone who took part in the test.

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## Amateur Radio on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKd5hupXJVo&feature=related>

Submitted by Allen Jones W9DZ