

HARBOR BEAM

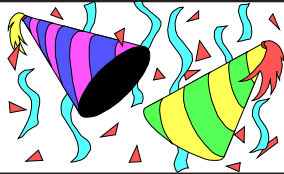
Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

January 2008

146.970 / 441.950

Echolink Node: 19301

What's
new?



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

WEBPAGE: <http://w9ly.org>

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

▶ The Front Page

News & Events

Now that the holidays are over, it is time for us to come together and get to work. 2008 should prove to be very exciting and as always, fun. Two of our fund raisers are just around the corner. We need your help if the club is to grow. Before you know it, Field Day will be here and we are already making plans, along with our end of summer party. We ask that you plan to attend each meeting in the months to come. Allot of information will be given at these meetings, but we can't do it with out you. Last year the club decided to move forward. Now is the time to buckle down and go to work. Just think what we could do as club if everyone donated a few hours rather then just let a few do all the work.

[H&R BLOCK Fundraiser page 4](#)

[SKYWARN Weather Net opened page 4](#)

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 January 16th @ 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 Jim KB9MAS 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.

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club



**2007 MCARC
Amateur of the Year**

**Todd & Barb Miller
N9RKY & N9VLT**

This year with several nominations received, Todd and Barb Miller was selected as this year's Amateur of the Year. Todd is our ARES's Emergency Coordinator, Vice President and Net Manager. Barb is the club's Secretary and Internet Chairperson. Have you wondered why our web pages look so great? It was Barb who designed the pages. They devote a lot of their time to amateur radio and the club. The award was given to them at our annual Christmas Party, Congratulations Todd and Barb.

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



And you complain your job? You should try changing these light bulbs for a living.

MCARC'S HALL OF FAME

2007 Todd and Barb Miller, N9RKY, N9VLT
2006 Troy Harrison, KC9E
2005 Ron and Rowena Stahoviak
2004 Ken Osborne, N9ZIP
2004 Dan Vanderplough, K9RQ

Who will step up and win this award for 2008?



New to Thursday's Nets

Recently our 2 M and 70 cm repeaters were linked together allowing traffic to be passed between both systems. Now you can check in to the Thursday Night Net held on the W9LY repeater from 2 M, 70 cm or via ECHO LINK.

There is a short delay in keying up both systems, so when you are checking in, key up for 1 sec before talking. This will allow all of your traffic to be passed to both systems.

The Thursday night net is now opened to the world.



CFL - Compact Fluorescent Lamps & RFI

Unlike conventional incandescent bulbs, the electronic circuitry (electronic ballast) in CFLs generate radio frequency interference (RFI). Depending on where they are installed, this may not be a problem, or it may be so severe, you will be unable to use CFLs near some applications. They will interfere with most radio receivers, particularly AM (Amplitude Modulation) radios. You may be able to mitigate this by moving the radio farther away from the CFL, and/or plugging the radio, TV or other device receiving the interference into a different outlet or branch circuit. CFLs will render some remote controlled devices inoperable. While CFLs complies with Part 18 of the FCC rules they may cause interference with radios.

Do not install CFL's near critical communication equipment or equipment operating between 0.45-30 MHz.

While they may save money on the electric bill, the RFI on your radio could increase wiping out your receiver. If you have a burglar/fire alarm system that uses wireless modules, such as motion detectors or door/window sensors or smoke detectors, the RFI generated by some CFLs might cause the alarm system to malfunction. Since this could create a dangerous situation, use CFLs with caution in these environments.



YABBA DABBA DO!

In last months opinion poll the results are in. The poll was, "I would like to see the following activities more persued."

Local Amateurs responded as follows:

- Fox Hunts 9%
- Repeater Network Expansion 13.6%
- Unique Experiments 4.5%
- Kit Building 4.5%
- Club Contesting 9%
- Club Socials 18.1%
- Elmering 13.6%
- Licensing Classes 18.1%
- Brat & Burger Cook Off 9%



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 received 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. We now have 24 members.

Again we had another great turn out for our annual Christmas Party. We had 20 members and guests attend and we had a great time. Getting together with friends any time of year is great, but getting together at Christmas helps make the holidays a tab more special.

Field Day is right around the corner!!!!

SHARE THE MEMORIES

The Harbor Beam is looking for Club History. If you have any old photo's of Field Day, former club members, Hamfest or club events from the past, send them to us. We would like to publish them here and share the memories. Our club has a long history and you can share that by e-mailing us.

BINGO ANYONE?

M.C.A.R.C.'s first fund raiser is right around the corner. As of press time, we have not received official notification from the state. The date we asked for is in February. Once we receive notification, our web page have all the details and a special edition of the Harbor Beam will be sent out.

Bingo is an event that everyone can have fun playing and if you are lucky, you can go home with some cash.

This event will require just a few members to run. Our main goal of this event is to raise funds for the club and to help prepare us for our second fund-raiser which is the Texas Holdem Tournament scheduled for late spring of 2008.

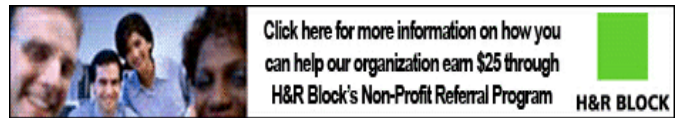
Stay tuned.....

Field Day 10 Years Ago

Below is a photo of Field Day 1998. Field Day was held at Heston. Back then, wire antennas ran from tree to tree and we even the boom of crane to give us height. Sling Shots and good arms was used to get the ropes as high as possible.



PAYING TAXES AND HELPING THE CLUB



While thinking of doing your taxes is something we don't like to think about. The banner above is now on our web site. If you, your family and yours friends, who did not use H&R BLOCK in 2006 can have H&R BLOCK prepare your 2007 taxes and H&R BLOCK will donate \$25.00 to the Michigan City Amateur Radio Club. This offer is valid for any H&R BLOCK office across the country.

When you visit our web site at <http://w9ly.org>, click on the banner. You will be shown a PDF file with full details and the coupon code that must be used in order for us to receive the donation. This is at no additional cost to those who have their taxes prepared by H&R BLOCK. Click the banner and print it out.

Spread the word to all of your friends and have them tell their friends. Everyone has to file their taxes, you can help the club at the same time.

SKYWARN NET OPENED

It was a couple of days before Christmas and while many were waiting for Santa to wake them up, during the night, instead were waken by weather radios sounding. On December 23 around 3:30 in the morning, a Gust Front rolled through the county. At 3:45 the temp. was 50 and measured wind gusts of 76 mph. With in the next hour the temp. dropped to 27. SKYWARN opened a weather net with damage reports of trees and powerlines down through out the county. As reports started to funnel in to the NWS, the NWS starting issuing warnings, to the east, in advance of the Gust Front. Even in winter, your reports do make a difference. Even in winter, we can have severe thunderstorms. Remember if you don't like the weather, just wait, it will change.

Understanding Radio Propagation Forecasts

Amateurs often talk about propagation index numbers, the status of the solar cycle and geomagnetic conditions. Why? What do the numbers mean? On many ham radio frequencies, especially on HF, these factors determine whether worldwide contacts can be made with very little effort (low power and a modest antenna) or radio blackout conditions exist (no contacts possible).

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) uses WWV and WWVH to broadcast geophysical alert messages that provide information about solar terrestrial conditions. Geophysical alerts are broadcast from WWV at 18 minutes after the hour and from WWVH at 45 minutes after the hour. The messages are less than 45 seconds in length and are routinely updated every 3 hours.

Solar flux is a measurement of the intensity of solar radio emissions with a wavelength of 10.7 cm (a frequency of about 2800 MHz). The value broadcast is in solar flux units that range from a theoretical minimum of about 50 to numbers larger than 300. During the early part of the 11-year *sunspot cycle*, the flux numbers are low; but they rise and fall as the cycle proceeds. The numbers will remain high for extended periods around sunspot maximum. Currently the SF is averaging around 77. Which basically means we are at the near bottom of the solar cycle and DX conditions are poor. As the SF number starts to rise, DX conditions improve.

The A and K indices are a measurement of the behavior of the magnetic field in and around the Earth. The *K index* uses a scale from 0 to 9 to measure the change in the horizontal component of the geomagnetic field. The *A index* is a daily value on a scale from 0 to 400 to express the range of disturbance of the geomagnetic field.

Space Weather describes the conditions in space that affect earth and its technological systems. Space weather is a consequence of the behavior of the sun, the nature of Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, and our location in the solar system.

Space Weather storms observed and expected are characterized using the NOAA Space Weather scales. The abbreviated table below shows the levels of activity that are included in the announcements and the associated terminology. The descriptor used to identify observed or expected conditions is the maximum level reached or predicted.

NOAA Space Weather Scales

Geomagnetic Storms

G5 - G1 EXTREME TO MINOR

Solar Radiation Storms

S5 - S1 EXTERME TO MINOR

Radio Blackouts

R5 - R1 EXTERME TO MINOR

Our web page now shows the current propagation index numbers. Good news, the SF is starting rise. Royal Observatory of Belgium said that Solar Cycle 24 has arrived. Come on 10 meters!