



# HARBOR BEAM

## Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

January 2007

146.970 / 441.950

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# Jan

## ► The Front Page

### News & Events

It's a new year. Last year was filled with fun, excitement. This year our plans are to have just as much fun, if not more. As with every January, your club dues are now due. Dues will remain unchanged, \$12.00 a year and \$6.00 for students. Dues can be paid at the meeting or mailed to the club's P.O. box.

# What's new?

This year is going to bring some major changes to the club. This year we will not host Hamfest. As sad as that sounds, small Hamfests are a dying breed. With high cost of gas, attendance has been steady dropping each year. We will bring to the club a new major project. Details will be forthcoming. With this project, we hope to really expand our club in ways we could only imagine. As with any project, we will need your help, and as much help as possible.

### MEETING NOTICE:

The Michigan City Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting January 17th at 7:30pm. Meetings are held at Queen of All Saints School, Woodland Ave & 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 **Jenny Rae'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 its members and those interested. Inquiries 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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## 2006 MCARC Amateur of the Year

**Troy Harrison, KC9E**

This year Troy was selected, because of his dedication to the club, for all of his time, and hard work. Last year Troy took on a major undertaking for the club. As his role as Treasurer he computerized all of the club's financial records. Along with his wife, together they have prepared many of the documents needed for the Club's 501 c. This year he was planning to run for the office of Vice President. Because of the amount of work that still need to be done as the Treasurer, he chose to remain in that office to finish the job.

No one asked Troy to do this. He simply saw a need and did what needed to be done.

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### NAME THIS AMATEUR



If you can name this Amateur, you win. The winner should watch their mail.

Last month we stumped everyone, and no one won.

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### AMATEUR RADIO IN THE MOVIES

*Contact* (1997 film) starring [Jodie Foster](#) playing *Dr. Arroway*, opens with the heroine operating a ham radio transceiver as a child, using the callsign W9GFO. She later becomes a researcher working in [SETI](#).

Who knows maybe our own KC9GFO might make it in the movies.

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### The Christmas Spirit

Last month we held our annual Christmas party. We had 27 members and guests attend this holiday event. Everyone one had a great time. Some how spending the holidays with friends is almost as good as spending them with the family. This year Ken Osborne, N9ZIP donated a few door prizes for this event.

In keeping with the Holiday Sprit, club members voted to donate five hundred dollars to Queen Of All Saints Church to help repair thier failing heating system. For the past few years, Queen's has donated to the club a room to hold our monthly meetings. Members felt it was a good chance for us to give something back.





### *Radio Wave Propagation*

**Backscatter:** A useful form of propagation which mostly occurs when the maximum usable frequency (MUF) rises above 30MHz. During these conditions, when radio waves reach the ionosphere (usually the F2-layer), they are reflected towards the earth's surface at a larger detectable continuum of angles than usual. In other words, a detectable fraction of a radio signal is now reflected at a very sharp angle back into region just surrounding the transmitting station but usually beyond the range of ground wave communications (i.e., blind zone). Therefore, backscatter signals are heard within a radius of 2000km from the transmitting station. Backscatter signals are generally weaker than the normal reflected radio waves and during periods of low solar flux, only radio stations using directional antennas can produce readable signals. However, during periods of very high solar flux, even small stations using 10 Watts and vertical ground plane antennas may produce readable signals. Backscatter signals are generally very stable and rarely influenced by QSB. Finally, backscatter signals are easily recognized as a "hollow" or "barrel-like" sound originating from the expected blind zones of a radio station.

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### SKYWARN NEWS

March 13th, Basic Severe Weather Spotter Training for LaPorte County. Times are 3:00 pm and 6:30 pm at PNC.

This year we will announce new pilot program for non-amateurs to send us weather reports. Traditionally when you think of Skywarn you think of Ham Radio. This year we hope to involve the public more.

**FCC cites a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to ID:** The FCC's Philadelphia Field Office has issued a formal Notice of Violation to a Pennsylvania radio amateur for failure to identify in a timely manner. The Commission released the NoV to Andrew Ban, KB3GRK, of Feasterville, on December 20. The notice says that on September 12 and 13, 2006, an agent of the FCC's Philadelphia office monitored KB3GRK's transmissions on 439.850 MHz and observed that the operator failed to identify for nearly one hour in one instance and for more than 20 minutes in the second. §97.119(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules requires stations to identify "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication." The FCC has advised Ban that he must submit within 20 days a written statement addressing the alleged violations and action taken to preclude recurrence. The issuance of an NoV appears to be a departure from the FCC Enforcement Bureau's typical practice of addressing such alleged infractions with an advisory letter.

The two MCARC repeaters have safeguards to help prevent this from happening. One, the repeater will ID every ten minutes during a QSO. This could act as a reminder for us to also ID. Secondly the repeaters will time out terminating the transmission if you QSO too long.

While this is not a problem in our area, we wanted to remind everyone that the FCC does listen in from time to time.

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Give us your  
Feedback

Visit us on the web at: <http://w9ly.org>

Or E-Mail us at: [w9ly@w9ly.org](mailto:w9ly@w9ly.org)