

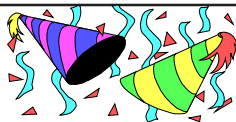


# HARBOR BEAM

## Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

January 2006

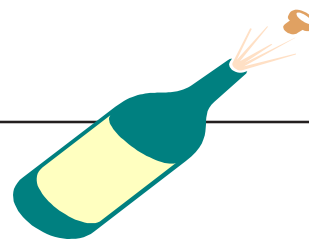
146.970 / 441.950



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## ► The Front Page

### News & Events

Last month, we held our annual Christmas Party. We had a great turn out, and everyone had a good time. Good food and friends, what could be better?.....

It's a new year and we have lot on the table for this year. Our annual Hamfest in March. Field Day in June, and VHF QSO party in September, not to mention all the public service events we will have. We are already planning for these events. This year we will have surprise. It is our goal to make these events better and more enjoyable then last year. Anyone having any ideas on these events is asked to please e-mail the club. It is never to early to start planning. Also if you have a event that other club members might be interested in, let us know about it.



### MEETING NOTICE:

**The Michigan City Amateur Radio will hold it's next meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:30pm. We meet at Queen of All Saints School, Barker and Woodland Ave.**

**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.**

**Saturday Morning Breakfast is held at Mulligan's on US 20 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.**



### AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

Each year our club selects one of it's members as the Best Ham of the Year. At our Christmas Party this award was award to Ron and Rowena Stahoviak. They recieved so meny nominations this year the selection was easy to make. With out Ron and Roe, we would not have a Hamfest. I guess you could say, they are the Hamfest. They also maintain the repeater site by mowing the grass, and trimming trees. We even have seen Roe picking up apples off the ground that have falling.

Congradulations Ron & Roe  
Best Hams of the Year

# Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

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## A New Year is Here

A new year is here and annual club dues are now due. Club Dues are \$12.00 a year, \$6.00 for students. Your dues help support your club's activities and events, as well as the Harbor Beam News-Letter.

This is your hobby. This is your club. Please help support it. Please get your dues in as soon as possible.

January and February we will be up dating our membership records. Our club prints out our membership lists to all new club members as a part of the club's welcome package. We will also publish our club's membership in March's edition. We will also be updating the Harbor Beam mailing list. As you pay your dues, please also update your information. When you pay your dues, on a piece of paper, please included your name, call sign, current mailing address, and your e-mail address. The club can provide you a club e-mail address that redirects incoming e-mails to any valid e-mail address. For example, our President can be reached at [n9zip@w9ly.org](mailto:n9zip@w9ly.org). Let us know if want a club e-mail address.

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## BRAIN TEASER!

WHEN IS

23:59:60 UTC?



Answer on page 5

## January's City Wide Siren Results

This month Amateurs reported all early warning sirens in Michigan City were functioning normally. Thank you, [KB9WZI](#), [N9DSN](#), [KC9GFO](#), [KA9PGA](#), [K9ET](#), [WD9BDW](#), and [N9ZIP](#) for time and efforts. With out you we can't do all that we do.

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## SKYWARN SPOTTER TRAINING

LaPorte County will hold it's annual Spotter Training on Wednesday Febraury 22nd at 6:30pm. This class will be held at the Michigan City, City Hall and is open to the public. Mark your calandars.

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## SATURDAY INFORMATION NET

The Saturday information is held every Saturday at 9:00am on 146.610.

Also the wet net is held every morning on 146.610 for your rain / snow reports.

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## 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.

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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).

## AMATEUR WORD OF THE MONTH

### K-Index

A three hourly index of geomagnetic activity relative to an assumed quiet day curve for the recording site. K index values range from 0 -very quiet- up to 9 -extremely disturbed.



### THE FOX

One of our goals this year, is to help spread the knowledge from older experienced amateurs to those who may new to the hobby. In keeping with this goal, our club will bringing back Fox Hunts as soon as the weather gets warmer. Not only are Fox Hunts fun to be apart of, but they allow us to experiment, learn and grow within our hobby. The basic concept is simple. Everyone starts from one place in search of a hidden transmitter. Who ever finds it first wins. John Phillips, KA9PGC has agreed to be our clubs Fox Hunt Chairmen. His goal is start the season simple and expand from there. Anyone who has ideas or suggestions should contact John. It's been a number of years since our club last had a Fox Hunt. A Fox Hunt is just one way for you to have fun with your hobby. As soon as the weather get warmer, we will publish when our first Fox Hunt will be and the basic ground rules for the first hunt.

### NEW AMATEUR REPORT

Jerry L Way, WB9PJH  
311 W 14th St  
La Porte, IN 46350

Alan V Tietz, KC9IGJ  
343 LITCHFIELD RD  
KINGSFORD HEIGHTS, IN 46346

## AREA HAMFESTS

### MCARC SPRING FLING

March 25th, mark your calendars.

### CANADIAN HAMS TO LOSE 220-222 MHz

Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz subband on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts."

### ARTICLES FOR SALE

Do you have some thing to sell, or looking for something to buy? The Harbor Beam offers space to place your ad. The Harbor Beam reaches more then just our club members. Any one with internet access can read the Harbor Beam and see your ad. After all the price is right. Submissions should be e-mailed to the club a week before the next club meeting.

### VANITY CALLS

The FCC has announced that routine processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications resumed Wednesday, January 4, 2006. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) suspended vanity processing in September as an indirect result of its hurricane-related extensions of certain regulatory and filing deadlines.

### A Christmas Surprise

At the club's annual Christmas party, club members presented club President Ken Osborne, N9ZIP with an Outstanding Amateur award. This award was presented by club Vice President Todd Miller, N9RKY on behalf of the membership for outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio. Needless to say, Ken a.k.a Zippy was totally surprised and at a lost for words. The only words that comes to mind is Thank-you. This award really means alot.

## APRS

### aka The Automatic Position Reporting System

Last month we reported on a new APRS Digipeator being installed at the repeater site. Some of our members might be wondering what APRS is all about. This month we will give you quicky over view on APRS.

APRS is set of shareware/freeware programs that are available for DOS, Windows, Macintosh, Unix, PalmOS, and WinCE operating systems. By a large majority, most APRS users like UI-View32, especially when combined with Undertow Software Precision Maps v7.0. While most APRS applications require a shareware fee, UI-View32 can be registered as freeware, and the maps CD is about \$50, while others like using WinAPRS. If you don't already have a copy of APRS, the first thing you'll need to do is decide which version you want to run, then download it. Remember, most of these programs are shareware software. Each version of APRS is fully functional. If you decide you like it, then look up the registration information and send in your shareware fee to the respective author. MacAPRS is \$50, and WinAPRS is \$60. Each version of APRS has a basic map set that includes worldwide, continental USA, and regional maps. These go down to some detail, but to get better detail you'll need to download maps for the version of APRS you are operating. Next you'll need to interface a TNC (Terminal Node Controller) and a radio with your computer. If you're an old timer with packet communications, you already have your gear installed. Finally, you'll need to set your radio to transmit on the APRS frequency of 144.39 MHz.

Saying all that what is APRS?

APRS is advanced form of packet radio. It is software based, and very easy to use. Mobles with APRS and GPS units interfaced together

can transmit their exact location along with showing there direction of travel and current speed. But it does not stop there. APRS allows you send and recieve text messages as well. With all the e-mail and cell phones this may not seem important. But then, why do we still talk on Amateur Radio? If phone lines go down, e-mail stops and cell phone don't work APRS will still be sending messages.

APRS is also connected to the internet in meny locations through out the country and around the world expanding the reach of APRS, making the network stronger then the old packet radio network.

APRS users can also recieve up to date weather bullentins. While this may not be important for home stations, but for the traveling moble stations and weather spotters this can be very valuable.

If you want experiement with APRS with out any cost, all you need is the shareware software for your computer and a internet connection. Let it run, open the world map and how meny amateurs around the world use APRS.

For me, when I first got started with APRS, the fun was trying to see how meny contacts I could make around the world. Sounds like a HF user for the first time. Now I have APRS QSO's with a few new friends. Like repeator communications, there are dead spots in the country. But un like repeator communications, each APRS station is another link in the network making it stronger. You may not be able to reach a digipeator, but a APRS operator a few miles away can. Therefore you run your packets through your neighbor. This is the network.

The Michigan City Amateur Radio Club sponsors a digipeator at the repeater site. Not only does serve the Toll Road, but it covers Northern Indiana and South West Lower Michigan. For more information on APRS you can contact Ken N9ZIP at [n9zip@w9ly.org](mailto:n9zip@w9ly.org).

## JUST FOR FUN

If you have internet access and you would like to see APRS stations in our area, use the following url:

<http://db.aprsworld.net/datamart/search.php>

Enter the call sign N9ZIP-15

(our digipeator) in the search box and a map showing our repeaters location will appear.

On the bottom of the map click on Nearby Stations and other APRS in the area will show up.



### WHEN IS 23:59:60 UTC?

It is when a leap second is added to keep the clocks synchronized with the Earth's rotation, as it occurred 12-31-05. The second is the base unit for modern time keeping. The second was previously defined based on the Earth's rotation, but because modern atomic clocks are more accurate than the Earth's rotation the definition was changed in 1967. A second is currently defined as being the duration of 9,192,631,770 periods/oscillations of radiation from a Cesium-133 atom at the ground state. The Earth is rotating slower and slower over time, while the atomic clocks are not slowing down. On one average day the difference is around 0.002 seconds, which means around 1 second in 500 days. In order to synchronize the atomic clocks with the Earth's observed rotation, the atomic clocks are occasionally instructed to add an extra second – the leap second. Leap seconds are inserted so that the difference between the UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) and UT1 (mean solar time - observed Earth rotation) is kept below 0.9 seconds. Leap seconds are inserted at the end of June or December as an additional second after 23:59:59 UTC (Universal Time Coordinated). The additional second is the 61st second of the last minute of the month, and it is written as 23:59:60 (or 11:59:60 PM in 12-hour format). The second is inserted at the same time all over the world

- the actual local time will therefore depend on the time zone. Only regions in the UTC time zone will add the second just before midnight, for time zones east of UTC, the second will be added the next day (first day in January or July), for time zones west of UTC, the second will be added earlier on the same day as for UTC. day as for UTC.

The second was inserted like this, in the UTC time scale, and corresponding times elsewhere in the world. (2005-12-31 means December 31, 2005, and 2006-01-01 means January 1, 2006).

UTC Date	UTC Time	Local time	world-wide
2005-12-31	23:59:57	Corresponding times	
2005-12-31	23:59:58	Corresponding times	
2005-12-31	23:59:59	Corresponding times	
2005-12-31	23:59:60	Leap second added	
2006-01-01	00:00:00	Corresponding times	
2006-01-01	00:00:01	Corresponding times	
2006-01-01	00:00:02	Corresponding times	

## NOW YOU KNOW!

### CQ ISS - CQ ISS

The best time to catch International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, on the air from NA1SS is during a weekend. Now about halfway through his six-month duty tour, McArthur already has more than 300 casual contacts in his log, and he's eager to up the count. "Weekends seem to be Bill's favorite time to operate," says Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO. "The weekend has few scheduled activities, so the crew may operate anywhere from 0800 until 2200 UTC." But Ransom says McArthur also operates in his free time on weekdays, and that includes his lunch hour, scheduled around 1200 to 1400 UTC. "Bill has occasionally operated in this time during the week," he told ARRL. The NA1SS worldwide voice and packet downlink frequency is 145.800 MHz. In Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas, and the Pacific), the voice uplink is 144.49 MHz.

# AMATEUR RADIO NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

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## ECHOLINK SAVES A LIFE

Echolink has helped to save the life of a United Kingdom ham radio operator. This, according to a posting on the QRZ.com website which describes the recent incident in detail. It began on December 29th when Reg Rapson, KC8YCZ, in Deckerville Michigan and Stephen Smith, WA4VWV, of Pawcatuck, Connecticut received an urgent relay over the Missing Lynk Echolink interconnect from J. E. Caldwell, G4WDI that simply said "Help." It seems that Caldwell was suffering a heart attack while talking on the radio from his home. KC8YCZ says that the group had the paramedics dispatched to G4WDI's Q-T-H. Several operators on Missing Lynk who were located in Indiana, Arizona and Washington were directly involved with the rescue. Late word is that G4WDI is recovering nicely from the ordeal. (QRZ.com)

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The FCC has sent a letter to a repeater trustee regarding the on the air language used by some of the systems users. Receiving the notice was Jeff Jurenka, KD6GDB, of Santa Monica, California who the FCC identifies as the trustee for the K6HOG system. The complaint against the K6HOG alleges language violations and lack of control of the repeater. The FCC says that repeaters and every other type of Amateur station must have a control operator to ensure compliance with Commission rules. The letter did not elaborate on the exact nature of the language content that the complainant found to be objectionable. (FCC)

Sago, West Virginia where the lone survivor of a coal mine explosion appears to be a ham radio operator. According to news reports, Randal McCloy Jr, KC8VKZ, is in critical condition and receiving Oxygen Therapy in a Pennsylvania hospital's Hyperbaric Chamber. An explosion early Monday, January 2nd trapped the 26 year old McCloy and 12 other miners more than two miles inside a mountain. The blast also released toxic carbon monoxide that prevented rescuers from reaching them for more than 40 hours. Only Mr. McCloy survived but doctors fear that he has suffered damage to his heart, kidneys, lungs and possibly his brain. He is listed in critical condition and is expected to remain at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh until further notice. The bodies of the other 12 men were removed from the mine on Wednesday, January 4th. Lighting is believed to have caused the blast.

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## Northern Indiana Ham on National Radio

On Jan. 8, 2006 Amateur Radio was given coverage on the National Talk Show "Talking With Heroes." Emery McClendon, KB9IBW was one of the guests on the hour long show, and answered questions about Amateur Radio, and the role of ARMAD / Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. The show highlights organizations that support the efforts of our military members and veterans.

Great Job Emery