



# HARBOR BEAM

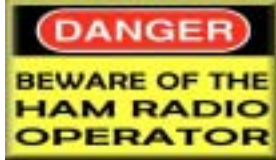
## Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

March 2008

146.970 / 441.950

Echolink Node: 19301

What's  
new?



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

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

## ▶ The Front Page

### News & Events

In this addition we have in depth look at DTV conversion. Over the next few months we hope to explore this issue. If you have over the air DTV, we would like a signal report for the Harbor Beam.

Field Day is around the corner.

Volunteers needed for siren testing.

US & Cyber Warfare

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## ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW PAST 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.

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### MEETING NOTICE:

The Michigan City Amateur Radio next meeting is March 19th @ 7:30 pm at Queen Of All Saints School, Woodland and Barker, Michigan City.

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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.

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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. For more information contact Bob Smith N9ROM or Ken N9ZIP.

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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.

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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).

# Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

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## MONTHLY SIREN TEST

April 1st, LaPorte County 911 Center will now be handling all dispatch communications within LaPorte County. This includes the monthly siren test. Even with this merger, LaPorte County and Michigan City Early Warning Sirens will still be on two separate systems. The Michigan City system is now connected via phone lines from the 911 Center to the transmitter in Michigan City. Because of this monthly nets will still be on 146.610 (county wide) and 146.970 (Michigan City). Now, more than ever, we need volunteers to monitor sirens each month to ensure they are working. If the phone service goes down for Michigan City, the sirens can still be activated locally, and at the transmitter which is located at one of the fire stations.

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## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



The above picture is Morgan. This was taken at Field Day as she sat by the fire drying out after down pour from a thunderstorm that came from no where. Morgan and her dad Curt join us every year at Field Day.

## CLUB HISTORY REVISTED



With the weather getting warmer, comes public service events. The above photo taken at the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon. This picture was taken around March 2004.

Who is that guy on left anyway?

If you have any old photos, send them to us.

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## LOCAL UPGRDAES

Bill Carter AB9QU EXTRA  
Rich Oberle KC9DJP General

Congratulations



## FIELD DAY 2008

OK, it is March but plans for this year's Field Day are in the works. We only have three meetings before this year's event. Advance planning and suggestions are posted on the Yabba Dabba Do forum. If you have any ideas or suggestions, you can post them on the forum or send us e-mail at the club's e-mail address.

This year's question is: How can we make this year's event even better than last year's?

Our new opinion poll on Yabba Dabba Do is about Field Day. It's a great way to tell us what you think.



### AG9S Monster Tower

This local tower is something you don't see everyday. It is a piece of local history. So when the YL's complain about your simple setup, show them this picture. They'll be glad that only have what you have.

Photo submitted by K9RQ



## YABBA DABBA DO!

In last month's opinion poll the results are in. The poll was, "What is your favorite snack?" Local Amateurs responded as follows:

Hostes HO HO's 50%

Hostes Ding Dong's 20%

Hostes Cup Cakes 30%



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. Just another service from MCARC.

In case you may not have noticed, the weekly Thursday night nets (held on the W9LY system) are now on 146.970, 441.950 and Echo Link. During the nets both repeater systems are linked together which allows you to check in from either band. Because of a short delay in keying up both systems, please key up for one second before talking. Now old friends who have moved away can check in and keep up on what is happening locally. Generally the link is kept open, for a while, after the net for those on Echo Link wanting to QSO afterwards.

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)

## DTV “FACT OR FICTION ?”

With less the year till analog TV is nothing more the memory, we as amateurs may be asked by others what this all means. There is a lot of confusion out there. There are those you are trying to make a fast buck to have you buy what you don't need. We hope we can clear up what this all means.

Many unscrupulous or uninformed, TV dealers are touting UHF TV antennas as HDTV antennas. The truth is, there is **no** difference between a traditional TV antenna and a HDTV antenna. As long as the antenna covers the entire TV broadcast bandwidth, including VHF (channels 2 - 13). Most stations are currently broadcasting digital/HDTV signals on the UHF (14 - 69) Frequencies. On February 17th 2009 many of these digital/HDTV channels will begin broadcasting on the VHF (2 -13) frequencies. To insure the reception of all free over the air HDTV channels after this transition, make sure the antenna you have is suitable for both VHF and UHF TV reception. F.C.C. TV Channel Number Destinations Are available at [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1082A2.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-06-1082A2.pdf)

For example channel 2 (Chicago) will be on channel 11. Channel 11 will be on channel 47. Channel 7 will stay on Channel 7.

**FICTION** Special TV antennas are necessary to receive the new over the air HDTV/Digital signal.

**FACT** HDTV/Digital signal is and will broadcast on the same channel frequencies that traditional analog television has been broadcasting on for years.

**FICTION** all HDTV/digital signals will be broadcast on the UHF(Ch.14-69) frequency band.

**FACT** Nearly every television broadcasting market in the U.S. will have at least one or more VHF(Ch.2-13) and UHF(Ch.14-69) HDTV/digital channels.

**FICTION** I will need to replace my current TV antenna to receive over the air HDTV.

What do you need to get my local over the air HDTV channels?

Certainly not an HDTV antenna but you will need a TV antenna. A TV with a digital tuner or a set top digital tuner for your current analog TV to convert the digital/HD signals to analog. The TV antenna is crucial to your viewing enjoyment. Any amateur knows the old saying, you can have great antenna and a crappy radio and sound like a million bucks, or a great radio and a crappy antenna and sound like crap. The same goes for over the air TV reception. **In the past if your antenna system performance was sub par you still could watch TV, the picture may be somewhat snowy but you could watch it. Digital/HDTV reception is different then analog, with digital reception you either get a crystal clear picture or you get nothing at all.** People have a tendency to purchase the smallest TV antenna they think they can get by with. When the performance is less then perfect they said, oh well I guess that's the best I can do. If consumers continue this practice and purchase TV antennas that are not sufficient to receive a strong signal they will be very disappointed and be forced to purchase another TV antenna. Bottom line, digital/HDTV reception is all or nothing, don't scrimp on your TV antenna.



## DTV Cont.

The digital tuner can either be built into the TV or it can be a set top tuner that converts the digital signal to analog so your current analog TV will work. Many people believe you have to purchase an HDTV to get a TV with a built-in digital tuner, this is not true. **Digital TV's are now on the market that are simply analog TV's with built-in digital Tuners.** These TV's are not wide screen like HDTV's and they cost much less than an HDTV. The picture quality is not quite as good as an HDTV but it's better than an analog TV picture. So if your not ready to spend the money on a new HDTV you may want to consider a standard digital TV.

By law, beginning March 1, 2007, all television reception devices (including TVs, VCRs, DVRs, etc.) imported into the U.S. or shipped in interstate commerce must contain a digital tuner. Retailers may continue to sell analog-only devices from existing inventory, but must prominently display on or near the analog-only device a Consumer Alert label with this advisory:

### *Consumer Alert*

This television receiver has only an analog broadcast tuner and will require a converter box after February 17, 2009, to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products. For more information, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322) or visit the Commission's digital television website at: [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

Therefore, all television equipment being sold should contain a digital tuner, or should be identified at the point-of-sale as not having one. Be aware of this label and the limitations of analog-only devices if you are purchasing a new TV or other TV equipment.

It is important to understand that the DTV transition is a transition from analog broadcasting to digital broadcasting. **It is not a transition from analog broadcasting to High Definition broadcasting.** Digital broadcasting allows for High Definition broadcasts, but High Definition is not required, and you do not need to buy a HDTV to watch digital TV. A Standard Definition DTV (which is simply a TV with an internal digital tuner), or a digital-to-analog converter box hooked to an analog TV, is all that is required to continue watching over-the-air broadcast television. Digital broadcast television includes Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) formats. You can watch High Definition programming on a Standard Definition DTV (or on an analog TV hooked to a digital-to-analog converter box), but it won't be in full High Definition quality. It is also important to know that Standard Definition DTVs are comparably priced to similar sized analog TVs.



The government is offering discount coupons (up to 2 per household) for those who need to purchase a converter box for analog TV's. Simply visit the web site and request your coupons.

<https://www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx>

All of this is for Over The Air TV Reception. If you have cable or a dish you don't need anything else. With the cost of Cable and Satellite increasing, many are switching to over the air reception.

April we will in depth review on DTV reception for the area. You may be surprised.

## FCC DENIES PETITIONS TO BRING BACK MORSE CODE TESTING

The “R&O” amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the R&O that “one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators’ ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual’s ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.” The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is “to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy.”

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement “did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules.” The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so “it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license.”

Gordon asserts that “the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.” Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as “a ‘strategic reserve,’” because there is “no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments.”

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. “We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission’s decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency.”

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that “an individual’s ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition.”

In summary, the FCC said neither petition asserted “any grounds for reconsidering” the decision in the Report and Order. “We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees.”

ARRL Letter

## **The United States is in the Midst of a Cyberwar**

**The United States is in the midst of a cyberwar and is not prepared to deal with it, top Defense Department and intelligence officials acknowledged this week.**

**“Cyberwarfare is already here.... It’s one of our major challenges,” said Defense Deputy Secretary Gordon England at the annual National Community Service and Legislative Conference of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.**

**“I think cyberattacks are probably analogous to the first time, way back when people had bows and arrows and spears,” he said. “And somebody showed up with gunpowder and everybody said, ‘Wow. What was that?’” England made his comments the same day that the Pentagon released a report saying that the 2007 cyberattacks against its networks and those operated by other governments around the world “appear” to come from China.**

**During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing last week, Sen. John Thune, D-S.D., asked National Intelligence Director Michael McConnell if the United States was prepared to deal with threats against military and civil networks and information systems. “We’re not prepared to deal with it,” said McConnell, identifying both China and Russia as adversaries who are attempting to penetrate U.S. information systems and told the panel that a key threat facing this country is the “sophisticated ability of select nations and nonstate groups to exploit and perhaps target for attack our computer networks.**

**the United States was “in the midst of a cyberwar” and said there were 37,000 reported penetrations of government and private systems in fiscal 2007”.**

**McConnell also told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the ability of an enemy to enter information into systems and destroy data in financial, power distribution and transportation networks is the other threat that “concerns us a great deal.”**

**According to McConnell, U.S. military systems are better protected than those operated by civilian agencies or in the private sector. “So the question is, how do we take some of the things that we’ve developed for the military side, [and] scale them across the federal government? And the key question will be, how do we interact with the private sector?”**

**The military’s capability against cyberattacks and network penetration reflects the substantial investment the Defense Information Systems Agency has made in information systems security. DISA has spent \$493.3 million from its operations and maintenance account on information systems security and assurance in 2007 and 2008, including Defensewide secure network access card systems. The agency has asked for \$316.6 million in its fiscal 2009 budget. In addition, DISA spent \$69.9 million in procurement funds over the past two years, and has asked for an information systems security procurement budget of \$45.8 million in 2009.**

**These funds include support for a Computer Emergency Readiness Team Coordination Center, and computer systems that include firewalls for both classified and unclassified military networks, demilitarized zones to isolate Defense systems from the Internet and “honeypot” systems to lure attackers to fake networks away from real ones.**

**Source: [governmentexecutive.com](http://governmentexecutive.com)**