



HARBOR BEAM

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

SEPTEMBER 2007

146.970 / 441.950

Echolink Node: 193001



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

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News & Events

Last month recent storms ripped LaPorte County, two weeks, back to back. Once again Skywarn sprang into action. The Thursday night gave way to Skywarn nets. During the recent storm, 15 homes in the Michigan City area had minor to moderate damage. Large parts of the county were without power, some for days. September is national preparedness month. Ask yourself, if I was hit at home, am I ready? Do you mean to operate a radio if you should lose power and phone lines? What if you need help and your cell phone does not work? Your amateur radio could be your life line.

ARE YOU READY?

TEXAS HOLDEM

Our Texas Holdem fund raiser is moving forward. The organization committee decided to move the event back to be held around the first of December. This will allow us to get better organized. No firm date has been set. This event is going to be our main source of income. Our dues can't pay our annual expenses. Again we ask your help. The more help we get from our members, the greater our return will be. You can make a difference.

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MEETING NOTICE:

The Michigan City Amateur Radio Club will hold its next meeting **September 19th 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 and 146.610 on the first Thursday of the month.

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 save 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 its members and those interested. Inquiries and submissions should be sent to the Harbor Beam Editor at our e-mail address w9ly@w9ly.org.

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

TOWER PAINTING

Over the years, Danny W9DWS, the owner of our repeater tower, has been very good to us. Not only do we have repeaters located in one of the highest points in the county, the tower site has become our Field Day site for the past few years. At our last meeting the club voted to repaint the lower section of the tower. Also the LaPorte and Porter County Clubs are also pitching in on this project. It is our way of saying "Thank-you Danny".

Tower painting will be on the third Saturday of September (9-22) 10am. Afterwards we will relax with cook out. On the Friday before we hope to power wash the area to be painted.

We need your help. The more manpower we have, the faster it goes.

Thanks Danny for all that you have done for us.



Even if you can't help, come out for the picnic and enjoy the last days of summer.

NCS's Wanted

Net Control Stations are still needed for the Thursday Night Nets. Currently we have two and we could use one or two more. Our goal is have rotating schedule for the Thursday Night Nets.

Maybe you ran nets in years past. Maybe you are new to the hobby. Either way running a net is a great way to learn valuable skills in handling radio traffic. It is not hard to learn. For more information contact our net manager, Todd Miller, N9RKY - E.C. at n9rky@arrl.net.

Michigan City RACES News

Rostered Amateurs are still needed for our local RACES team. RACES is still in formation phase and soon we will be seeking local Amateurs to be rostered. There are many reasons why you should be rostered. You don't have to live in Michigan City to be rostered. Rich Oberle KC9DJP has been appointed as the training Officer. As an Indiana law enforcement instructor he will bring to RACES a degree of professionalism we did not have in the past. RACES will not replace ARES. The two will be working hand in hand. For more information visit: <http://www.w9ly.org/mcraces.htm>

PICTURE OF THE MONTH



Things that make you say "Oh %^\$%"

September Is National Preparedness Month



September is National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio operators are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the US Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness. Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves. This nationwide effort is to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Free preparedness resources are just a click away <http://www.ready.gov>

Powerful Thunderstorms Bring Damaging Winds to the Region

A stationary cold front combined with several upper level disturbances provided the focus for powerful thunderstorms Thursday and Friday August 23-24. Thunderstorms raced through sections of northern Indiana, southern Michigan, and northwest Ohio both days producing widespread wind damage in many areas. The first round of thunderstorms developed in western portions of Illinois on the 23rd and raced toward the region at speeds approaching 60 mph. The thunderstorms were responsible for widespread wind damage across Illinois and northwest Indiana including the Chicagoland area. By 4:00 pm CDT, the thunderstorms rolled into LaPorte county and subsequently produced widespread damage across LaPorte

and Berrien counties. A wind gust of 81 mph was recorded at the Michigan City Lighthouse as the thunderstorm complex took on a bowing/spear-head shape...a typical feature of thunderstorms that produce damaging wind. Numerous trees and power lines were reported toppled along with some structural damage to buildings. There were also a few reports of trees falling onto cars. Luckily no injuries were sustained. The thunderstorms also impacted the annual Michigan City Boat Show...coincidentally one year to the day in which thunderstorm winds of over 100 mph produced heavy damage to the area. The thunderstorms continued to produce wind damage as they pushed across southern Michigan and extreme northern Indiana through the evening.



For more photos visit:
<http://www.skywarn.w9ly.org/>

FCC TO LOWER VANITY CALL SIGN FEES SEPTEMBER 17

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program — from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year. Call signs issued prior to 1996 are not considered vanity call signs, even if the holder was able to request a specific call sign.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

ARRL Letter

Is the Hobby Growing?

ARRL membership will exceed 152,000 at the end of August. The number of candidates who took ARRL VEC exams from January 1 through July 30 nearly doubled between 2006 and 2007, from 16,954 to 32,373.

Source ARRL



Because some of our members have asked, we now have a web forum page for those who have ham related items for sale or want to buy. While we were at it, we added a general discussion groups also. These forums are part of our club's website, but you can access the forums directly or from our web site. It is simple to get on, on your first visit, select register and follow the directions. After you register our forum administrator needs to assign you a security level. After that has been set you will have full access to the forums. We also have a option poll in the General Section. For faster setup, e-mail the club at w9ly@w9ly to let us know you are registered and we will turn you on. You can visit our site at:

<http://w9ly.org/yabb>

This is great to share your interest in the hobby with other club members as well. There are tons of forums on the web but ours is centered around the club and it's members. Just another way to keep in touch.

MEMBERS

2008 MCARC ELCTION OF OFFICERS

At our next meeting, the floor will be open for nominations of officers for the upcoming year.

Currently your officers are:

President: Ken Osborne, N9ZIP

Vice President: Todd Miller, N9RKY

Tresurer: Troy Harrison, KC9E

Secetary: Barb Miller, N9VLT

Board Member: John Phillips, KA9PGC

Board Member: Dan Foster, KC9GFO

Elections will be held in October. In October's Harbor Beam we will announce those members who are seeking office. The Michigan City Amateur Radio Club is growing and we need members to step up and help keep it moving forward.

Nominations for 2008 will be taken up to the call for election in October.

This year Nominations for office can be posted in the MCARC General Forum site. If you know of a member who you feel would make a good officer for our club, feel free to submit there name.

You can register for access to MCARC Forums at <http://w9ly.org/yabb>

Things you need to know. For the office of Treasurer, responsibilities have increased over the past couple years. The Treasurer will need to learn Quicken Software. All of our records our now computerized. Also, you will need to know basic tax laws, what to file and when. The Treasurer may be responsible for large amounts of cash during our fund

raisers. If a new Treasurer is selected both the outgoing and incoming Treasurer will have 2 months to make the transition.

This is the first time we posted the responsibilities of the Treasurer's Office. Since we became a 501 (c) (3) the functions of this office has expanded from years past.

This is not to scare anyone from running for this office. It is not that hard of a position but it is a very important position.

We just wanted all members to have some idea what this office requires.

The only office that is not up for election is the office of Trustee. Our Trustee Dan Vanderplough K9RQ holds this office untill he resigns or is removed by the membership.

Our club has grown over the past few years. We hope by electing a strong board we can continue growing.

This is your club. You have voice in the direction our club takes in the year ahead. If you want to run for any office, you can toss your hat in the ring. Just e-mail the club and your name will be added to ballot. This year we had some new faces to the board. They brought new ideas and that helps us to continue to grow. Maybe you can be one of the new faces next year.

2008 should be an exciting year for our club.

VOTE EARLY

VOTE OFTEN

I forgot, this is not Chicago.