



HARBOR BEAM

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

October 2005

146.970 / 441.950



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

WEBPAGE: <http://w9ly.org>

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► The Front Page

News & Events

During last month meeting a nominating committee was formed to seek out candidates for club Officers and Board Members for the up coming year. Elections will be held next month. This month we are publishing our current officers and committee chairpersons. Even if you don't want to serve as Officer or Board Member we could use you as committee chairperson. Any current club member who would like to run for a office is asked to please e-mail the club. Your e-mail will be forwarded to the noninating committee.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President - Ken Osborne, N9ZIP
Vice President- Todd Miller, N9RKY
Secretary - Phil Geoffrion, WD9BDW
Treasure - Troy Harrison, KC9E
Club Trustee - Dan Vanderplough, K9RQ
Board Members: John Phillips KA9PGC
Wayne Dudley, WA9YNE

Committee Chairs:

Internet - Barb Miller, N9VLT
Field Day - Todd Miller, N9RKY
Repeater Operations - Dan Vanderplough, K9RQ
Hamfest 2006 - BRIAN SALZER, KB9HMR
Hamfest Reservations - Ron N9TPC
News Letter - Ken Osborne, N9ZIP
Weekly Information Nets - Todd Miller, N9RKY
Membership - Open
Activities - Open
Tower Cleaning - Ken Osborne, N9ZIP
VE Testing - Bob Lyles - K9ET

MEETING NOTICE:

The next club meeting will be Wednesday, October 19th. at 7:30pm.
We meet at Queen of Saints School,
Woodland Ave & Barker.

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.

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.

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.

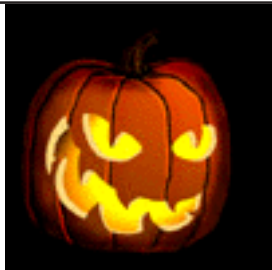
SATURDAY INFORMATION NET

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 reports.

THINK RAIN!!

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club



TRICK OR TREAT

Michigan City Mayor Oberlie announced that Trick or Treat for Michigan City will be Monday October 31st from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. While no formal net will be in operation, we ask that if you are driving during this time period, to use extra caution, and report any vandalism you may observe. Once again, local amateurs along with police will be on patrol trying to wake up the dead.

Remember, children wearing masks may have limited vision and may not see you when you are driving. Be sure that you see them when driving.

Beetle Juice

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AMATEUR WORD OF THE MONTH

DTMF

"Dual Tone, Multiple Frequency"; a tone that is actually comprised of two different tones sounded at the same time. It is what you hear when you use the pushbuttons on a standard non-pulse telephone in the U.S. It is also a common way to send analog numeric information, since each numeral between 0 and 9 has its own separate tone (and also # and *, and in the case of some radios, A, B, C, and D).

October City Wide Siren Results

This month Amateurs reported all early warning sirens in Michigan City were functioning normally. Thank you for time and efforts. Without you we can't do all that we do.

One Day Amateur Technician Course

Cass County R.A.C.E.S. group is having another Only One Day Class on November the 5th at the Cass County E.O.C. 911 center. The cost is \$20.00 per person which includes all classroom materials, lunch and snacks. The class will run from 8:30 AM till 4:00 PM Michigan Time with the test session immediately following the class. For more information, please go to WWW.W9AMR.COM/CCR/. The registration form and associated information is on the web site. If you know of anyone that is interested in getting their Technician's Class License, please pass this information along.

OUR NEWS LETTER ON-LINE

Our club's news letter is available on line by visiting our website. Also our News Letter is e-mailed to members the weekend before the next club meeting. To decrease the cost of printing and mailing to the club, we ask the members who receive the News Letter via mail to send us their e-mail address. Due to the cost of printing, the mailed versions are generally shorter in length than the e-mailed versions. The full version is posted on the webpage. We also have been made aware of some of our e-mailed versions are not making it to our members. If you do not receive your News letter by the Monday before the meeting, let us know. To date, no e-mails are bouncing back.

Dead line for submissions to the News Letter is the Friday before the meeting. Submissions can be sent to the club's e-mail address.

2006 HAMFEST

At the last meeting we selected a date for the 2006 hamfest. This is our main source income for the club. With out this event, we could not sponsor club events such as Field Day, and the VHF QSO party to name a few. This year BRIAN SALZER, KB9HMR came to the call and is our 2006 Hamfest Chairmen. Brian will need a lot help. Thanks Brian for stepping to the plate.

AMATEUR RADIO VANITY PROCESSING FALLS VICTIM TO HURRICANES

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has suspended the processing of Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. A WTB staff member, speaking to ARRL on background, said the FCC halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for hurricane-affected licensees in certain states could adversely impact the vanity system. The WTB staffer pointed out that the filing extensions announced this month also apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period."

"Because these extensions apply to the grace period, it could affect vanity processing," the WTB staffer told ARRL. "We stopped processing when it came clear that some call signs could be affected." No decision has been made on when vanity processing will resume.

On September 1, the FCC extended until October 31 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between August 29 and October 30 for licensees in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana affected by Hurricane Katrina. On September 24, it extended until November 21 all filing and regulatory deadlines falling between September 20 and

November 20 for licensees in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Rita.

The WTB staff member emphasized that the FCC intended the deadline extensions to apply only to licensees who have been directly impacted by the storms. "These are not statewide extensions," the staffer said.

Under Part 97, Amateur Radio licensees have two years from the date of license expiration to renew their tickets without having to retest or risk losing their call signs to a vanity applicant. The staffer confirmed that WTB had disabled the "auto-termination" feature of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) so that it will not automatically cancel licenses that have not been renewed by the end of the grace period.

"We can't assume based on address who might be affected," the staff member explained, "so we're not auto-terminating anything at this point."

In the meantime, the FCC is encouraging radio amateurs to continue filing vanity applications as they normally would. "Everything will be held in queue."

ARRL Newsletter



ARRL ANNOUNCES 2005 TOY DRIVE FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

In the wake of unprecedented hurricane devastation in the Gulf Coast region, the ARRL has announced it will again sponsor a toy drive to brighten the holidays for youngsters left homeless or displaced as a result of the storms. Country singer and ARRL member Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, has agreed to serve as honorary chairperson for the 2005 toy drive. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, is urging the Amateur Radio community to pitch in.

”Last year, hams from all over the country brought smiles to children during the holidays,” Haynie said. “We made a lot of friends, and we did a lot of good. No one expected that we would need to do it again so soon, but the recent hurricanes’ destruction changed the plans of a lot of people.”

Last year, individual radio amateurs and clubs across the US joined together to collect new toys for youngsters affected by a series of four hurricanes in Florida. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, says the 2004 effort was a success beyond anyone’s wildest dreams, and there was no question in his mind about doing another toy drive for the latest hurricane victims.

”Not only can it be done, it really must be done. It is simply the right thing to do,” he said. “We are asking hams from all over the country to begin gathering new toys for shipment to Memphis, Tennessee. ARRL Delta Division Vice Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, has secured a receiving warehouse and is recruiting ham volunteers there.”

cont.

Ham radio clubs and individual amateurs should send new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls aged 1 to 14 to ARRL Toy Drive, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd—Suite 12, Memphis, TN 38117-7125. Plan mailings and shipments to arrive prior to Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 24, for distribution over the holidays.

”Just as we did last year, we are asking the donors to please put a QSL card into the box with the toy,” Pitts added. Non-hams are encouraged to join this effort too.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

Is your ARRL membership coming due? Or due you finally want to join the ARRL? Either way, if you process your renewal or application through the club, the club keeps a portion of the membership fee. No extra cost to you. Renewing is simple, at any club meeting we have applications forms. Simply make your check payable to the club (MCARC) and we handle the rest. It’s that simple.

What a great way to help support our club and ARRL at the same time.



Local Amateurs Help Raise Money For The Red Cross

Last month the American Red Cross held a 5K walk - run in LaPorte to raise money for their relief fund. The Red Cross had a good turn out of runners, and Amateur Radio was there providing communciations. Jim KB9MAS was observed in a police car. Actually he rode with the lead car giving reports to race officials. Todd N9RKY served as net control, and Andrew KC9DZV followed the race to pick up any one may need a ride. This is what Amateur radio is all about. Helping others any way we can.

ARES SET TEST

Saturday, October 1st was busy day for local Amateurs. Not only was it the county wide siren test but it was also ARES SET test. This year the Simulated Emergency Test was based on various power outages in the county. Todd Miller N9RKY LaPorte County's Emergency Coordinator served as the Incident Commander. Jim KB9MAS and Brian KB9HMR was operating inside LaPorte County's Emergency Operations Center. Ken N9ZIP was stationed near Michigan City's 911 center while other Amateur radio operators were sent to locations through out the county. Todd did a outstand job this year. He was able to set up a HF rig, and get on the air for the ARES HF Net running battery and generator power from a remote site in less the an hour. During the drill interefrance from a other station was heard on one of the repeators which added a extra twist. Amateurs were providing communications for the EOC's, Red Cross, NIPSCO, EMS and local fire stations.

These drills are important for all Amateurs to take part in. To meny Amateurs say, I've done that before years ago, I don't need the practice. That thinking can be futher from the truth. Since the events of 911 the way

Amateurs are used during a emergency has change. The basic structure has change through out the country, so that all repsonders, including Amateurs operate under the same guidlines and ground rules. While it may be true that you know how to pass traffic, after all you done it for years, these drills keeps our organizational skills fresh, and up to date with the rest of the country. While this years SET test had very good re-sponse from Amateurs in the county, we still need to have everyone take part. ARES goal is 100% particapation. Is a one or two hours a years to much to ask?

SKYWARN NEWS

While summer is gone, and we start thinking about winter, and spring training classes. Next year, a basic spotter class well be held in February in Michigan City. No Winter Weather Class will be held in LaPorte County this year.

LaPorte County Skywarn's Web Page has moved to <http://www.w9ly.org/sky.html>

Even though it was dry summer, the National Weather Service, Emergency Management would like to thank all of you for service this year. Plans are already in the works to make our county even better.



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.