



HARBOR BEAM

Michigan City Amateur Radio Club

September 2005

146.970 / 441.950



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

WEBPAGE: <http://w9ly.org>

EMAIL: w9ly@w9ly.org



► The Front Page

News & Events

COMMENT DEADLINES SET IN FCC "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING

The deadline to submit comments on the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, is October 31. Reply comments are due November 14. The NPRM&O, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes.

Comment deadlines are established by the NPRM&O's publication in the Federal Register, which occurred August 31.

To file on-line comments on the FCC NPRM&O in WT Docket 05-235 or to view others' comments in the proceeding, visit the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/> and follow the instructions for filing comments.

Interested parties also may submit comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>.

This is your hobby,
let your voice be heard.

MEETING NOTICE:

The next club meeting will be Wednesday, September 21st. 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

CLUB ELECTIONS

The Michigan City Amateur Radio Club will hold it's annual election of officers at the November meeting. Any club member who would like to serve the club by being a club officer or board member can e-mail the club for more information. Also if you know of someone who you feel would make a great officer or board member, let us know. This meeting a nominating committee will be formed to seek out candidates.

This is your club. Amateur Radio is the common thread that brings us together. Our club has grown over the past few years, and that is because of you. With out you, our club would not be here. With out you, we would do what we do. Each of us has different interests in the hobby. It is because of this which makes us what we are today.

In October's News Letter we will publish our current officers and board members. November will publish a list of candidates.

AMATEUR WORD OF THE MONTH

RST

"Readability, Strength, Tone"; a system by which a received signal quality is graded, and a signal report is given. "Readability" is judged on a scale from 1 to 5, and "Strength" and "Tone" are judged on a scale from 1 to 9. "Tone" does not apply to a "phone" (voice) signal. A very high quality CW signal is "599" (pronounced "five nine nine"), and such a phone signal is "59" (pronounced "five nine").

August City Wide Siren Results

This month Amateurs reported all early warning sirens in Michigan City were functioning normally. Thank you for time and efforts.

ARES NEWS

Indiana is requiring all First Responders and EMA offices to have their personnel complete the NIMS 700 Course. Information indicates that all ARES personnel that respond to the EMA offices must complete the NIMS 700 course by October 1, 2006. Some are requiring it by October 1 of this year. It is expected that this requirement will include anyone who would respond to a NIMS incident as a liaison for ARES to complete this training. This is an external requirement of us and not something we have a lot of choice in if we want to continue to participate. These courses are available online and through local EMA training programs at no cost, just time. Links to some NIMS resources and the FEMA training are: <http://www.nimsonline.com/> <http://www.fema.gov/nims> also: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp> To be fully NIMS certified, it is recommended that the IS100, IS200, and IS700 courses be completed. This is a nationally mandated training and Indiana ARES is not unique in this area.

ARES members are asked to photocopy their certificates, two copies. You can give them to Ken N9ZIP, and he will see to it that they are on file in LaPorte's and Michiagn City's EMA offices. If you have any questions contact Todd Miller N9RKY or Ken Osborne N9ZIP or E-Mail the club.

NOTE: IS 100 & IS 700 is required, IS 200 is optional for LaPorte County.

HIGHER VANITY CALL SIGN APPLICATION FEE NOW IN EFFECT

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received by the FCC on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260618A1.pdf, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

LET THE SELLER BEWARE!

The ARRL again cautions anyone selling Amateur Radio and related equipment via Radios On-Line or QST Ham Ads (or via on-line auction sites or other advertising media) to beware of so-called "advance fee fraud" (or 4-1-9) payment schemes <http://www.secretservice.gov/alert419.shtml> aimed at ripping you off. We continue to receive reports from ARRL members who have received responses to their ads from individuals offering to overpay for goods via bank check with instructions to deduct the cost of their item(s) from the overpayment (typically quite substantial) and return the "change" to the buyer or another individual. The "bank check" is bogus, however, and the seller ends up holding the bag. This is a well-known scam. There's additional information on the Scam Victims United Web site <http://www.scamvictimsunited.com/>. Remember: Transact carefully, and protect yourself from fraud!

To the right, is 8 year old Haley Miller (center) making a few contacts during VHF Contest. One the right is WA9YNE and on the left is N9ZIP.

VHF CONTEST

Last weekend members said good bye to summer, by camping out, grilling and playing on the radio in the ARRL VHF contest. This year we had two rigs in operation covering 6M, 2M and 70CM bands. While band conditions were not that great, we still made a few DX contacts. Everyone had great time. KA9PGC made a new DX contact on his powerless radio all the way from MA. We also may have a new amateur soon. Haley Miller, age 8, operated 2 and 6 meters during the contest, and made some contacts. Afterwards she said it was fun, and she would like to do more.

HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR EGGS COOKED?

It seems that our events our becoming more and more eventfull. At Field Day we had a heavy down pour that took us off the air for a hour. At the VHF contest, during breakfast, one of the grills started on fire caused by a leak in the propane connection. With flames shooting everywhere, our Volunteer Fireman ran for cover. With the eggs still cooking, Todd Miller N9RKY took a ice chest with water tossing it on the flames while Ken Osborne N9ZIP reached in and closed the gas valve. The eggs were moved to another grill and breakfast was served. Why ruin perfectly good eggs. Some of our members ran so fast, we are thinking in entering them in next 5K race. Thanks to some quick thinking, they prevented the propane tank from exploding. Zippy will now be refered to as "Hairless", untill the hair on his arm grows back. Now I know why Todd is our Emergency Coordinator.



MORE PICTURES FROM THE VHF CONTEST



John Phillips, KA9PGC tunes in DX radios stations while Haley Miller listens in on the headphones.

On the right, Dan K9RQ and Ken N9ZIP are busy working the radios. Others were just waiting for turn.



To the left is our operating tent and beams.



**CQ CQ CQ Contest....
Below is another picture of Halley Miller working 6 meters.**



Above is the grill and table that caught on fire. Hey, only Burger King grills on a open flame! We would have had a picture of the fire, but he was busy putting the fire out.

Photos by Todd & Barb Miller



John said he likes his eggs cooked over a roaring fire.