



LAPORTE COUNTY / HARBOR BEAM OCTOBER 2015



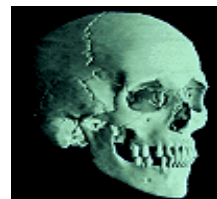
146.970 / 441.950 (W9LY)

DIGITAL/FM DIGITAL/FM

146.610 (K9JSI)

Echolink Node: 193001 (146.970)

WIRES-X #21421 (441.950)



WHO WE ARE

Communications:

Matt Lasayko, KC9KUD

Dave Kaufman NU9I

Repeater Committee:

Matt Lasayko, Ron Broviak

Dan Sheetz, Ken Osborne,

Todd Saboff, Dan Foster,

Dave Kaufman, Mike

Broviak, Curt Yeater

Internet:

Stan Vandiver

Mike Broviak, Todd Saboff

Field Day:

John Phillips

NEWS LETTER:

Ken Osborne

Activities:

John Phillips

VE TESTING:

Scott Tharp

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Barb Cave

MEMBERSHIP:

Troy Harrison

AMATEUR RADIO A BRIDGE TO FRIENDSHIP

President:

Brian Salzer KB9HMR

Vice President:

John Phillips KA9PGC

Secretary:

Barb Cave KA6OJX

Treasure:

Ken Osborne N9ZIP

Board Members:

Ron Broviak, WA9RON

Dan Foster, KC9GFO

Scott Tharp N9NKK

Trustee W9LY:

Dan Sheetz W9DWS

Trustee K9JSI:

Todd Saboff, AC9HQ

Tower Site:

Ken Osborne

John Phillips

Dan Foster

Bob Smith

Fund Raising:

Brian Salzer

Ken Osborne

Troy Harrison

Ron Broviak

MEETING NOTICE:

Next LaPorte County
Amateur Radio club
meeting is Monday
October 19th
7pm
@ THE KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS

**LAPORTE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 148,
Michigan City, Indiana 46361
WEBPAGE: <http://lpcarc.org>
EMAIL: info@lpcarc.org
FACEBOOK: [lpcarc](https://www.facebook.com/lpcarc)
A 501 (c) (3) Public Charity # 35-1390856



**ARES EMERGENCY
COORDINATOR:**

Dan Foster, KC9GFO

RACES OFFICERS:

Ken Osborne, N9ZIP

Dan Foster, KC9GFO

Ken Maynard, W8KRM

SKYWARN:

Ken Osborne, N9ZIP

In This Issue

**ELECTION OF
OFFICERS**

WIRES-X

JOTA

**MEETING
LOCATION**



FT1D

WELCOME



**TO
THE
LaPorte
County
Amateur Radio
Club**

lpcarc.org

LaPorte County / Harbor Beam

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WEEKLY BREAKFAST

Club members meet for Breakfast at

TOPSKILLET

1st Thursday of the month @ 8am

B&J's

All other Thursday's @8am

Both locations are in LaPorte

The LaPorte County / Harbor Beam is published on the Saturday, before the monthly club meeting, 12 times each year, as a service of the LaPorte County Amateur Club; for it's members and those interested. Inquires and submissions should be sent to the LaPorte County / Harbor Beam Editor at our e-mail address info@lpcarc.org.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At our next meeting we will have our Election of Officer for 2016. Nominations for offices have been recieved, but it's not to late. Nominations for office can be recieved up to the time of the election. Our club is growing. Come out to our next meeting and cast your voice, on how you would like to see move our forward.



NOMINATIONS FOR 2016 OFFICES

PRESIDENT:

Brian Salzer KB9HMR
Troy Harrison KC9E
Tim Krueger K9TMK

VICE-PRESIDENT:

John Phillips KA9PGC
Todd Saboff KC9HQ

SECRETARY: Barb Cave KA6OJX

TREASURE: Ken Osborne N9ZIP

BOARD MEMBERS ***

(VOTE FOR TWO)

Ron Broviak, WA9RON
Scott Tharp N9NKK
Dave Kaufman NU9I
Gary Cave WA6UOO

****Trustee W9LY: Dan Sheetz W9DWS**

****Trustee K9JSI: Todd Saboff, AC9HQ**

**** Vote yes or no to retain**

***** Vote for two, the third Board Member is
the Last Past-President**

MEETING NOTICE

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

ARE NOW AT THE

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN LAPORTE, UPSTAIRS

JOTA

Once again, the Boy Scouts of America has asked us to come to JOTA, set up a station and show the scouts what Amateur radio is all about. It is great event, where scouts can get on the air.

As with every year, we need your help. Even if you just bring a HT, scouts can talk to others.

This year JOTA is Saturday, October 17th at Potato Creek State Park. We need to be there at 8am South Bend time. They are a hour a head. We should be done around 3pm our time.

We need help with morse code practice. We need help with HT's.

This is really a fun event. Our youth is the next generation of Amateurs. Some of the scouts have their tickets. Others may find I'd like to do that.

When you arrive at the park, we will be towards the back, of the park. We'll be on 146.970 or 146.520 if you can't find us.

Please note, you will have to pay to enter the park.

COME ON OUT.....

JOIN THE FUN.....



December we name our Amateur of the Year.

Who would like to see this award go too?

WIRES-X

As you may know, WIRES-X is up and running on 441.950. Since we moved it, traffic has increased a lot. Not just traffic from other stations, but from local Amateurs using it. The number of stations linking to the room we are in has also grown. At any given time, there is 35 to 48 repeaters or local stations connected. You never know who may be on the local repeater. You will find a number of DX stations join the room from time to time. So if you can not work HF, this is a great way to talk to someone in another country and all you need is your HT or mobile radio. How cool is that?

While WIRES-X is new, every one seems to be getting the bugs out. Audio levels from others is much better. Unlike D-STAR or DMR digital formats you don't need to go out and buy a special radio to work WIRES-X. Our repeater does all the work. A lot of users of WIRES-X is using digital radios, but our repeater converts it analog.

Currently our repeater can not handle full digital and WIRES-X. We are waiting for a firmware upgrade, so it only supports analog. For local traffic, our repeater will support digital in and converts to analog out.

On the 146.970, our local repeater will support either full digital or analog.

You may have noticed a slight drop in coverage on both repeaters. This is because we dropped our output to 20 watts on both repeaters. With the increase in traffic and usage, we don't want to run the risk of the repeaters overheating. Down the road, we may add an amp.



YAESU FT1DR

Over the past couple of months, we have talked about our new repeaters. We talked about WIRES-X and digital. In this issue we'll talk about the FT1DR. Yaesu's first generation of analog and digital hand held. With the price tag down to it's lowest point, we bit the bullet. It didn't matter where you order it, all the prices were the same. Yaesu has several digital radios, on the market. We choose the FT1DR because, it had the push buttons, we were use to. The FT2DR has touch screen buttons. The first thing we noticed, the wall charger that came with the radio. It took about 5hrs to charge the battery. When it is charged, the radio shuts off the charger. Like any new radio, programming can be a chore. In talking with other users, the best programming software, on the market seemed to be G4FHQ's software, at <http://www.g4hfq.co.uk>

The software was only \$15.00. He also has software for other Yaesu radios as well. Like most of us, we didn't read the manual. Why should we, we had programming software. When you first turn the radio on, you need to enter your call sign. Then you need to down load the radio to the software before you can make changes. Sounds simple? Well, first we had to down load the driver for connection cable. That was found on Yaesu's web site. Then we tried to down load the radio to the software. Nothing happen! Like I said, we didn't read the manual. After repeated tries, I noticed a padlock displayed on the radio. Ok, I open the manual, and the radio was locked. Once I unlocked the radio, finding the correct comm port and downloading was easy. Entering your favorite channels was easy, using G4HFQ's software. Uploading was just as easy. The software, walked you through which buttons to push, on the radio and when. After the first couple of channels uploaded, we gave it test, and we hit the repeater.

The software also allows you to change all of the settings in the radio. The FT1DR has four power settings. 5W, 2.5W, 1W and 0.1 Watts. Depending on where you are, this could really save your battery life. Operating modes are FM Analog, AM Analog, and Digital Wide and Narrow. The radio uses a microSD memory card for back up of the programming, data, GPS log data, and messages recieved. Not just any mircoSD well work, you need to find which ones well work or your radio could lock up. It has AM/FM broadcast radio, Marine Radio, WX Channels and 89 shortwave broadcast channels. Did I mention it has built in GPS? It also has APRS.

When operating in the GM mode, if another Yaesu digital radio in near by, their call sign is display and the distance away is displayed. The radio can be used as flashlight for emergencies. It can also be passworded.

Once we uploaded the channels we wanted, we turned it on. The audio was low, so we turned the knob, on the top of the radio, thinking like most radios we could adjust the volume. Well that changed the channel we were on. OK, time to open the manual. To adjust the volume, you need to push and hold a button while turning the knob. The first first thing we notice was the sound, of the transmissions we heard. They were crisp and clear, and that was the FM Analog. When we made contact on the digital side, it blew us away. Now we know why others have said, once you hear digital, you don't want to go back to analog. It's like when you play music, going from tape to a CD.

The FT1DR can work as dualbander or a monobander. The monobander displays data, such as the call sign from the other radio. The data display was pretty cool. While we can't work digital on WIRES-X at this time, we can't wait for the repeater firmware upgrade to allow that.

Still, all in all, the FT1DR seems to be well built. Great audio, lots of features and once you get a handle on it, easy to use. It was worth waiting for.

AC9HQ'S SONG

I'm saying all the things that I know you'll like
Making good conversation
I gotta handle you just right
You know what I mean
We went to tower
Then showed you my radio
There's nothing left to talk about
Unless it's WIRES-X

You wanna get digital, digital
You wanna get digital
Let's get into digital
Let me hear your radio talk, your radio talk
Let me hear your radio talk

You wanna get digital, digital
You wanna get digital
Let's get into digital
Let me hear your radio talk, your radio talk
Let me hear your radio talk

I've been patient, I've been good
Tried to keep my hands off my radio
It's gettin' hard this holdin' back
If you know what I mean

I'm sure you'll understand my point of view
We know each other mentally
You gotta know that you're bringin' out
The Amateur in me

You wanna get digital, digital
You wanna get digital
Let's get into digital
Let me hear your radio talk, your radio talk
Let me hear your radio talk

You wanna get digital, digital
You wanna get digital
Let's get into digital
Let me hear your radio talk, your radio talk
Let me hear your radio talk

Digital, Digital
You wanna get Digital
Digital, Digital, Digital

Let's get Digital, Digital
You wanna get Digital
Let's get into Digital
Let me hear your radio talk, your radio talk
Let me hear your radio talk



AFTER THE MEETING

At our next meeting, Carlos and Ken
will be giving a presentation
on Fusion Digital Radio

They will have a couple
of digital HT's to pass around
so that you can hear
the digital quality.

Something Old

Something New

With a number of radios, on the market
with APRS built in,
W9LY will have a
APRS Digipeater at the tower site.
It should be in full operation
very soon.

Calendar of Events



GET ON BOARD
JOIN IN THE FUN
WITH AMATEUR RADIO

LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Calendar for 2015

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP **OCT** NOV DEC

Meeting	19	16	16	20	18	15	20	17	21	19	16	TBA
Location	LP	LP	LP	LP	TS	TS	TS	TS	TS	LP	LP	TS

LP= LaPorte Knights of Columbus TS= Tower Site, U.S. 35 & Schultz Rd.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

BSA JOTA
OCTOBER 17th
8am (South Bend Time)
at
POTATO CREEK STATE PARK

ANNUAL X MAS PARTY

CABIN FEVER HAMFEST 2016