



LAPORTE COUNTY / HARBOR BEAM AUGUST 2015



146.970 / 441.950 (W9LY)
DIGITAL/FM DIGITAL/FM

146.610 (K9JSI)

Echolink Node: 193001

WIRES-X #21421



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
August 17th
7pm
@ THE TOWER SITE

**LAPORTE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

P.O. Box 148,
Michigan City, Indiana 46361
WEBPAGE: <http://lpcarc.org>
EMAIL: info@lpcarc.org
FACEBOOK: 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

**NOW YOU
KNOW**

NEW REPEATER

K9JSI REPEATER

HESTON

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.

CLUB DUES

Club dues for 2015 is only \$15.00. Your dues goes towards our repeaters and pays for our insurnace, which is our largest expense, for the club. Our fundraisers keep our dues low and support of activities. Your dues can be paid at any club meeting.

Your can also be mailed.
Our mailing address is...
LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 148
Michigan City, Indiana 46361
Support the club!
Support our repeaters!
Membership is open to all.



W9LY REPEATERS

With the new repeaters, up and running on the 2m and 70cm systems, we wanted to pass along some operating tips.

#1 When you key up, press the mic button and wait one (1) second before talking. If the repeater is connected to another repeater, it takes about one second to make the link, otherwise, the first part of your trasmission could be cut off.

#2 When you are done talking, wait one (1) second before you unkey your mic. When you unkey your mic, the repeater drops right away, and the last word of your transmisson might get cut off.

Both repeaters need to process the transmissions, so the one second key up and unkey rule seems to be just right. If you have radio where the PL is not on the receive, you well hear the last bit of your transmission after you unkey.

SO.....

PLEASE USE THE ONE SECOND RULE

LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

August 15th & 16th

Our news letter is being sent out early, because we wanted to remind you that next weekend is the Lighthouse Weekend.

What's That?

This is an Amateur Radio event were hams set up the radios, at lighthouses and try to contact as many light house as possible.

Thanks to John Phillips, KA9PGC we will be at the OLD LIGHT HOUSE, in Washongton Park, in Michigan City. It's real easy to find us, as you go over the bridge, entering the park, we just off to left.

We'll be setting up around 9am on Saturday and we run till about 9am on Sunday.

Come on out, enjoy the fun, playing radio outdoors.

WHAT TO KEEP UPDATE?

Our Newsletter only is sent out once a month. But our club is also on Facebook. There we post pictures, keep members informed whats happening, between our newsletters. For example, we when we schedule repeater outages, or we have issues. We post them to Facebook. It also lets others to give us feedback.

So if you want to keep up to date, check us out on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/LPCARC>



K9JSI REPEATER

The K9JSI repeater is back on the air.

We are legal again. Our license for the K9JSI was allowed to expire, so we had no choice but to shut it down.

Club Board Members and the Repeater committe jumped into action, and got the license renewed. At the last club meeting, club members elected Todd Soboff, AC9HQ as the new Trustee for the K9JSI repeater.

Congratulations Todd.....

HESTON

It's that time year again. Summer is almost over, kids going back to school, and Labor Day weekend is almost here.

With that, our club holds it's second fund raiser of the year. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday we will be at the Heston Steam show, cooking on the grill, and having fun.

Like our Hamfest, we need allot of help on all three days. We need help with taking orders, serving, cooking, and selling ice to other vendors. We have members who will be there all three days. We need your help, to make this work.

Our hours of opertation is as follows....

SATURDAY 8am SETUP

TENTS, GRILL ect.

The grill fires up at 9am we start serving at 10am. We close at 5pm

WE NEED MANPOWER TO SETUP THE FIRST DAY.

SUNDAY 9am SETUP

Grill Fired up at 9am

Serving at 10am

Close at 5pm

MONDAY same as SUNDAY

We need help at closing taring down and clean up.

So as you can see we need allot of help. During slow periods the can shop the flee market, ride the trains. Our rush period is generally 11am - 2pm, where we have lines of people. At our next meeting we be making work schedules.

Our Menu For Heston

Brats

Hot Dogs

Chili Cheese Dogs

BBQ Pulled Pork

The Pulled Pork is new this year. Our cooks have been working with it, and they got it just right. We'll also be using real chilli on the Chilli Cheese Dogs.

It's allot of fun but it's allso allot of work.

WE NEED YOU HELP!

**AT OUR LAST MEETING
OUR CLUB VOTED
TO NAME**

RICH DUGGER, WD9ARW

AS A LIFE-MEMBER

**CONGRATULATIONS
RICH!**

At our next meeting.....
It will be held, at the tower site.
Again we will cook out, starting at 5pm.
On the menu will be..

Hamburgers / Brats
Potatoe Salad
Pop

MEAL DEAL \$5.00
Sandwich \$4.00

When it's gone
it's gone

All proceeds goes to the Tin Can Fund.



KNOW YOU KNOW

We have awesome members. Last month we talked about the parallel dipole antenna. Glen Zook pointed out an error. Thanks Glen..... Well we know one person reads this. :)

A parallel dipole ("fan dipole") does NOT have to be harmonically related in terms of each segment attached to the same feed point. For example, segments for the 12-meter, 17-meter, and 30-meter bands can be placed, in parallel, with segments for the non-WARC bands.

Also, it needs to be pointed out that formulas, like $468/F$ for a half-wave and $234/F$ for a quarter-wave, only give an approximate length for the antenna. Actually, those formulas are for wire antennas made from 10-gauge to 12-gauge wire and take into consideration the "end effect" which physically shortens the length of the wire. Smaller diameter wire will be longer to achieve resonance and larger diameter conductors will be shorter. Attached is a graph that shows the percentage that the wire/conductor will vary due to the diameter of the conductor versus the wavelength of the signal.

In addition, proximity to the surface of the Earth, as well as nearby objects, will have an effect on the length of the antenna to achieve resonance. It is always best to start with a length that is somewhat longer than the predicted length and then "prune" the length, with the antenna in place, to achieve a "match" (minimum SWR, minimum reflected power, etc.) at the desired frequency.

When "pruning" an antenna, the test frequency should be slightly lower than the desired frequency. This is because the frequency, at which the antenna is resonant, is not known until the SWR starts to increase when testing the antenna. Since it is much easier to remove wire/conductor than it is to lengthen the wire/conductor, if the measurement point is slightly lower in frequency than the desired frequency, when the SWR starts to increase the actual resonant point will be very close to the desired frequency.

Where yagi antennas are concerned, it is often very difficult to accurately adjust for minimum SWR unless the antenna is actually installed, at the desired height, on the tower, mast, etc. However, there is a "trick" that works very well to adjust yagi antennas from HF through UHF. In a relatively open area, place the antenna reflector on non-conducting blocks, chairs, etc., between 2-feet and 3-feet above ground pointing straight up. Adjust the matching network, laying the antenna "down" if necessary, and then point it straight up again. When the antenna is permanently installed, the matching frequency will be extremely close to that achieved when "on the ground", well within any reasonable percentage of accuracy. Myself, as well as others, have tuned yagi antennas for bands from 20-meters through 70 cm and the frequency of minimum SWR moved from like 10 kHz on 20-meters to like 25 kHz on the 70 cm band.

Another thing to consider, where antennas are concerned, is the height above ground. Now, in most soil types, r.f. ground is not at the surface but is, on average, between 6-feet and 8-feet below the surface. There are exceptions especially in the State of Alaska where r.f. ground can be several hundred feet below the surface and like in the coastal regions of Florida where r.f. ground can be inches below the surface. But, in general, r.f. ground is between 6-feet and 8-feet below the surface.

Also, ground conductivity plays an important role in antenna performance, in tuning the antenna, etc.

Unfortunately, LaPorte County has miserable ground conductivity! Most of the county is in the 8-milliseimens / millimho range and the very northern portion is in the 2-milliseimens / millimho range. I have attached the segment of the FCC ground conductivity map that covers LaPorte County. I am very fortunate in that the area, in which I live, has the best ground conductivity in the entire United States including Alaska and Hawai'i. At one time, there were no less than 3-antenna ranges within 4-miles of my house. The old Collins Radio range was about 1-mile southeast of my house, the old Texas Instruments range was about 1-mile straight west of my house, and the still in use Electro-Space range is about 4-miles straight east of my house.

Glen, K9STH

Thanks Glen :)

We'll stop here, and pick up next month with this discussion.

NOW

YOU

REALLY

KNOW



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.

FOX HUNTS

LIGHT HOUSE WEEKEND

AUGUST 15th & 16th

Sat & Sun

9am - 9am

Old Light House

Washington Park

Michigan City

HESTON FUND RAISER LABOR DAY WEEKEND

JOTA