

LAPORTE COUNTY / HARBOR BEAM MAY 2016



146.970 / 441.950 (W9LY)
DIGITAL/FM DIGITAL/ WIRES-X

146.610 (K9JSI) FM
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

Dave Kaufman, NU9I

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 May 16th
7pm

@
THE TOWER
SITE

**LAPORTE COUNTY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

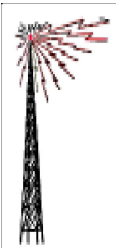
P.O. Box 148,
Michigan City, Indiana 46361

WEBPAGE: <http://lpcarc.org>

EMAIL: info@lpcarc.org

FACEBOOK: [lpcarc](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

**REPEATER
NEWS**

FIELD DAY

**WINTER IS
OVER**

**SPRING
CLEAN UP**

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
**Grandma's
House of Pancakes**
502 State St, LaPorte
on Thursday's

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

Your Club Membership Dues is now being taken. Your dues can be paid any club meeting, or by mail.



2016 DUES
\$15.00

Our Mailing Address is:

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



W9LY REPEATER

We have been telling you about the upgrades to the W9LY repeater system. Now we are starting to see the results. Phase two is now complete. This was the biggest phase of our project. We installed a new DB24 antenna on 146.970 repeater. We mounted the antenna above and away from the Microwave dishes. We also moved away from the National Weather Service's antenna, which has, in the past, gotten in to the front end from time to time. We owe a big thank you to our Trustee Danny Sheetz for the prime location, and hard line for the antenna. On our first day of operations, we had reports from the South Side of Chicago, Merriville, Gary from mobiles. We also had reports of HT's accessing the repeater, from inside QTH's that couldn't do it, in the past.

In short, our coverage for the 146.970 has increased. We want to thank those who spent a Saturday, installing the antenna, Dave, Andrew, Todd, Danny F., Ken, and Danny S.

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MEMORIES

With the 441.950 repeater being digital, some have said they are removing it from the analog radios. You just might want to keep it in memory. In the event of emergency or some other event, our NCS's can remote in and change it analog operations. If you don't want to hear the digital noise, on the 441.950 and the 146.970 besure you have your PL tones turned on.

Repeaters cont.....

The install took a bit longer than expected, but then again what doesn't?

Below is a few pic of the project.



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WINTER IS OVER

We know winter is over, when the mowers come out, and we start mowing, at the tower site. This year we started at the beginning of April. Our mowing team took the mowers out, got them ready, and hit the grass. Since then, as the days warmed up, we are having to mow about once a week, to keep up.

Spring Clean up is happening, and soon Field Day will be here. Yet, every year it seems like some goes wrong with our mowers. We have two riding mowers and this year both broke down. On one mower, we couldn't get it to shift, into any gears. It was like the trans was frozen up. Well in tring to work the gear box to losen it up, the gearshift lever broke in two. Tearing things apart, we found the trans shifted fine, it was just the lever had to much play to work. So a trip to mower grave yard, we found a lever, and now the transmission shifts like new.. Yippie!!!!!!

Now to pour salt into a open wound, as we started to mow, with both mowers, and our good mower suddenly shut off and smoke started comming from the front left corner. After the smoke cleared, we found fuel shut-off shorted, burning the wires. Again, back to tractor bone yard. They had the part and wiring. We instaled the part, connected the wiring, and it fired up.

The cost of the parts, for the two mowers, were donated by members of the club. But that's not the end of the story. The next week, we started mowing, and after 10 min of mowing, the deck belt broke , on the second mower. Now one would think, we would have checked that, but in all fairness, that was the first time, we had that mower running at full power with a full load, since we fixed the transmission. Oh well, off to the store we go.

The curse of the mowers continues. :)

Repeaters Cont.....

Shortly after our new antenna was installed, our two fusion repeaters came back from Yeasu. With in a couple of hours of FEDEX dropping them off, we were installing them, at the tower. Phase three had began. Now in dealing with the Fusion system and Wires-X, if past history tells us anything, something wouldn't work just right, the first time around. To our surprise, everything installed, as it should. Our repeaters were upgraded by Yaesu. On site, we had to upgrade the firmware of the HRI200 and the computer drivers, along with the program upgrade. When we turned everything on, to our surprise, it worked.

On the 146.970, with the new antenna, and the Fusion repeater, our coverage area, increased again. The Fusion repeater is putting out more power, and it has hotter frontend, so it hears more. On the 70cm side, our digital users report accessing the repeater with HT's from inside their homes.

Now, in the past, we talked about the Digital mode and Wires-X, and how good it sounds and what it could do, but when our repeaters came back, with the upgrades that we waited along time for, I have to say it blew us away. The quality of the audio improved, clear and crisp. It truly does sound like the person, on the other end, is in the room next to you. Our radios now have all the features, and we can access them. For example, if Wires-X is in one room and you want to switch to another, just a couple button pushes, turning the dial, on the radio, and boom the repeater switched rooms. Other users are starting to post news, pictures and audio files, which we can now access.

Our local digital users are learning how to use all the features, that they now have. I'm sure over the next few months, they'll be playing with sending text messages, paging other users, posting news, ect.

FIELD DAY

WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Just think, next month is Field Day Weekend.

Three days of relaxing, camping, sitting by the fire, and playing radio. Again we will be using the Field Day logger program. We'll have wireless internet access. So if you are planning to setup a rig, bring a laptop so that you can connect to the logging network. This really helps other to know who is on what band, so that we don't have two operators, on the same band.

Friday is the early bird set up. We'll have tents setting up in the afternoon and evening. For those who come out Friday night, we'll have the bonfire. We order out for pizza or something.

Saturday is Field Day setup and operations. Dinner is around 4:30 - 5:00pm.

Sunday we'll tear down around noon.

If you are planning to bring a camper, we suggest you come on Friday or very early on Saturday before 8am. When Field Day set up begins, you never now where those antenna wires may be placed.

We hope to see all of you out there.

Come on out and enjoy the fun.



ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

On Next Saturday
May 14th
9:00am
@
the tower site.

We need racks, chain saws, weed wackers

For those who come out,
we'll have
a cook out.

This is our annual clean up of the tower site.
Field Day is right around the corner.

We need your help

Plan on coming out.

FIELD DAY 2016

JUNE 25-26th

**LaPORTE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
INVITES YOU
CQ CQ CQ COME ONE COME ALL**

EVENT SCHDULE

**FRIDAY (24th) Early Campers - Pizza Party / Camp Fire
(all pitch in)**

SATURDAY (25th) Radio Setup 10am

CAR SHOW - Afternoon & Evening

EVENING COOK OUT (Bring side dishes)

SUNDAY (26th) BREAKFAST - TAREDOWN 12pm



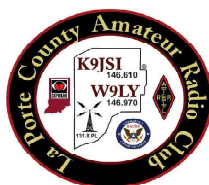
LOCATION: TOWER SITE US 35 & SCHULTZ ROAD

ALL TENTS & RV's WEST & SOUTH OF THE TOWER

RV's contact KA9PGC or N9ZIP for location

FIELD DAY CALL SIGN W9LY

Bring your own drinks for three days.



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	18	22	21	18	16	20	18	22	19	17	21	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.

SPRING CLEAN UP

9am

Saturday, May 14th

FIELD DAY

June 24th & 25th

LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

FOX HUNTS

HESTON

JOTA