

LAPORTE COUNTY / HARBOR BEAM APRIL 2017



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

Repeater Committee:

Matt Lasayko, Dan Sheetz,
Ken Osborne, Todd Saboff, Dan
Foster, Mike Broviak,
Curt Yeater, Andy Baugh

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:

Scott Tharp, N9NKK

Dan Foster, KC9GFO

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

MEETING NOTICE:

Next LaPorte County
Amateur Radio club
meeting is

Monday April 17th
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

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:

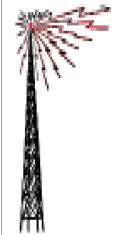
Ken Osborne, N9ZIP

In This Issue

NUMBERS

**THE
LOOP**

WELCOME



**TO
THE
LaPorte
County
Amateur Radio
Club**

lpcarc.org

LaPorte County / Harbor Beam

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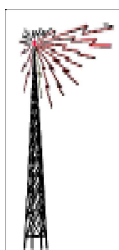
WEEKLY BREAKFAST

Club members meet for Breakfast at
**Grandma's
House of Pancakes**
502 State St, LaPorte
on Thursday's
8:00am

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.



2017 DUES
\$15.00

Our Mailing Address is:

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



CLUB DUES

It's April boys and girls, and if you have not paid your annual dues, they are past due. In order to keep from being dropped from the roles, please submit your dues. You can pay by mail or at the next meeting.

Support the club and help us continue to grow. All of suggestions we had to grow came from members like you. It's your club, it's your voice.

COUNT DOWN TO FIELD DAY

Just think, only two months till Field Day. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can make it better, let us know. Field Day is the start of summer for Amateurs. Mark your calendars, plan on attending.



MOWERS

Once again the mowers are fired up and mowing at the tower site has began. We are need of members who can help us mow. It takes one person about four hours to mow everything, and we have two mowers. If you can help, contact Ken N9ZIP for more information.

CLUB TRIVIA

In 1960, the LaPorte club was formed. One of our current Life-Time members was one of the original founding members.

Who is he?

STRANGE NUMBERS

Like most hams, we can spend hours listening to transmissions outside of the hambands. There is allot to listen too, from just about every corner of the world. Every now and then, you stumble across something and wonder, what is that?

The other day I stumbled on just that as I was tuning up and down the dial. What I heard was a generated voice repeating a set of numbers over and over. Once the series of number was finished, it started repeating them all over again. What I heard, on the radio, was something like, '4567 9034 7217 3920 5319'.

What I was listening to was a coded message, commonly refered to as a 'One Time Pad' or 'One Time Key'. It was widely used during the Cold War by spies, and is used today by drug cartels. The reason why it is used today is because the code has never been broken, even with todays computers. The code is simple to use. Each letter, in the message is assigned a number one through twenty six. If you add spaces and periods it is now twenty eight. If you start the numbering with, lets say 'G' is 1, 'H' is 2 ect., makes the code even stronger. To code the message, you use a number key like, 12 34 56, place the key under the message that has been converted to numbers. Using simple math, you just add the numbers together, generating a new set of coded numbers. The person on the other end, takes the coded numbers, places the key under them and subtracts the numbers to get the original number set.

They then convert the numbers back to letters, and they read the message. This code works so well, because the person receiving the number code has to know two things to decode it. One, which letter does the numbering start with and any added symbols or spacing. Two, the number key to preform the math. Both combinations are used only once for each message. Hince, 'One Time Pad'.

For example the word BOB could have a value of 02 15 02 - our key is 2170 16. So to generate a coded message it would look something like this.

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{BOB} = 0215\ 02 \\ + \underline{2170\ 16} \\ 2385\ 18 \end{array}$$

Our coded message is now 2385 18 to decode.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2385\ 18 \\ - \underline{2170\ 16} \\ 0215\ 02\ 02=B\ 15=O\ 02=B \end{array}$$

or BOB. You see in this simple message the letter B had a values of 23 and 18. The longer the message, the harder it gets because each letter could have many coded values. Once you decoded the message, the key used is trashed, because you only use it once.

FEBRUARY'S CLUB TRIVIA

Who built the first club repeater in 1970?

Adam Keller, W9EF - M.C.
Jim Conrad K9LHC and Gary Decker
K9WHF - LaPorte
**The second repeater was a Motorola
B53AKY-1100A built by
Glen Zook, K9STH

The winner should watch your mail.

THE LOOP

It has been said that history repeats its self. I guess that same can be said for our hobby. Recently the first amateur I ever really knew passed away, Bob Lyles K9ET/SK, and I started thinking about the stories he told, about our hobby. One of the stories was when analog radio first came out, and back then hams cried, I never use analog radio or side band, nothing can replace CW. Even today, some old timers only use CW on HF. As we all know, voice took over a wide portion of the HF bands and above. Then came 2 meter repeaters. Bob told me how some cried about them. The argument was, simplex is the only true communication. If the power goes out, you have no repeater. I'll never use a repeater.

Now I've been in the hobby long enough to remember autopatches. This allowed you make phone calls from your radio. At that time the W9LY repeater was at Swanson's tower site. The tower had GTE or LaPorte phone service. His house, near by had AT&T or Michigan City phone service. If you wanted to call from LaPorte to Michigan City it was a long distance phone call, and yes you were charged extra for it. So back then, the club ran a very long phone line from the tower to the house, just so the auto patch would have a Michigan City number. The K9JSI had a LaPorte number. The autopatch was a simple process, you keyed up your mic, entered a access code, unkey and you then heard a dail tone. You then keyed up, entered the phone, and your call was connected. Autopatches even had quick dial codes, and each member had a code for their home phone.

Guess what?.... Yes there were amateurs who complained about autopatches. It wasn't real radio. Phone lines could be cut, and we should never depend on them for emergency communications, but I do recall amateurs calling 911

on the autopatch during an emergency to call in a traffic accident.

The use of the autopatch grew, the FCC even relaxed the rules, to allow you to use the autopatch to order a pizza, if you wanted too.

Next came cell phones. Once again hard line amateurs cried out, I'll never use or own a cell phone, I have autopatch access, Why should I pay for something I can do for free over my radio! At the time it seemed like a valid point. Cell phones and service was expensive, and the autopatch was free. As cellphones got smaller and prices dropped, more and more amateurs owed them and the use of the autopatch slowly faded away. Most clubs dropped the autopatch to cut the monthly cost of the phone line.

That brings us to present day, and history is repeating its self again. Digital radio is new to most amateurs. While some amateurs have jumped in and embraced it, others argue it's not real radio, when you use modes like DMR or Wires-X. They relay on the internet. The internet can go down, and should never be used for amateur communications. If I want to talk to someone in Japan, I have my HF radio. That is true, but we know allot depends on if the band is open or not. So maybe you can make that call maybe not, but I admit that's half the fun of HF.

Now I'm not saying that HF radio will go away. It will always be there, but digital communications is just another tool for us to reach out to other amateurs, and those who share similar interest. It is natural for anyone to resist change. So history really does repeat its self.

What will come, in the years ahead? Who knows, but if it uses amateur radio, it will be fun to use.

Calendar of Events



**GET ON BOARD
JOIN IN THE FUN
WITH AMATEUR RADIO**

LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club Meeting Calendar for 2017

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

Meeting	23	20	20	17	15	19	17	21	18	16	20	TBA
Location	LP	LP	LP	LP	TS	TS	TS	TS	LP	LP	LP	TS

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

FIELD DAY

**LIGHT HOUSE
WEEKEND**

HESTON