

NOVEMBER 2019

**PRESIDENT:**  
**BRIAN SALZER**

**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
**JOHN PHILLIPS**

**SECRETARY:**  
**BOB RUSSELL**

**TREASURER:**  
**KEN OSBORNE**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**  
**SCOTT THARP**  
**TROY HARRISON**  
**DAN FOSTER**

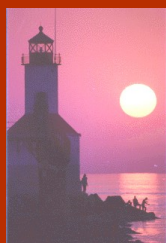
**TRUSTEE W9LY:**  
**DAN SHEETZ**

**TRUSTEE K9JSI:**  
**TODD SABOFF**

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**THIS ISSUE:**

**Club Stuff**

**Meeting**  
**Change**



# LAPORTE COUNTY

## HARBOR BEAM



146.970 / 441.950 W9LY

DIGITAL/FM PL 131.8 DIGITAL/ WIRES-X

146.610 K9JSI

### CLUB STUFF

It's November, Happy Thanksgiving.....

Our next club meeting is Monday, November 18th. This is our last scheduled club meeting for 2019. This month we will hold elections for Officers and Board Members for 2020. There is no meeting in December.

There still is time for nominations for the Ham of the Year award. Send us your nominations.

Our **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** is Saturday December 14th at 5pm. We will be at the tower site again this year. Members, Family and Guest welcome. Main course and soft drinks provided by the club. We ask that you bring a side dish, and BYOBs. We ask that you bring a wrapped gift, \$25.00 cap, for Steal a Gift. Gifts are placed under the Christmas Tree and your name is added to list. The first name, on the list, selects the first gift. After all the gifts have been opened, you can steal someone else gift, and trade for a donation of \$1.00, to the club.

2020 CABIN FEVER HAMFEST is right around the corner. Get your table reservations today. Spread the word, hand out flyers.

## Meeting Notice

Our next club meeting is Monday November 18th  
at 7:00pm at the Knights of Columbus, in LaPorte.  
We meet on the second floor.

# The Inside Page

It's that time we start thinking about who should win the Best Ham of the Year award for 2019. Every year at our Christmas Party we award a member with this award. If you would recognize someone for going the extra mile for the club, or for the hobby, that we love. Let us know. You can email your suggestions or let Brian know.



Club Dues for 2020 will remain unchanged. Dues will still be only \$15.00 for next year. Dues can be mailed to :

LPCARC, PO BOX 148, Michigan City, Indiana 46361. Dues can be paid at any club meeting, or dues can be paid at the Hamfest, in February. Our club has two sources of income, our Hamfest, and Dues. Did you know that a percentage of your dues is set aside, in a special account, just for repeaters maintenance and upgrades? So in other words, your dues does directly support our repeaters. Your dues helps to support club events such as, our summer picnics, Field Day, Light House Weekend and our Christmas Party.

Cabin Fever Hamfest is February 22, 2020. Now you may notice, that the date changed from the flyer that was sent out last month. Well..... You are correct. Do you a scheduling conflict at the Civic, we moved our date one week ahead. Our club always held our Hamfest on the last Saturday in February, but due to Leap Year there is a extra Saturday. That date was giving to someone else. So we moved to the 22nd. So if you look at the month of February with out Leap Year, the 22nd would be the last Saturday. That's the story, now you know.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS** — Below is the current nominations for officers. There still is time to nominate someone.

**PRESIDENT: BRIAN SALZER**

**VICE PRESIDENT: JOHN PHILLIPS**

**SECRETARY: BOB RUSSELL**

**TREASURER: KEN OSBORNE**

**BOARD MEMBERS: ( VOTE FOR TWO )**

**SCOTT THARP BILL SOUTH TRAVIS TAYLOR TROY HARRISON**

**TRUSTEE W9LY: DAN SHEETZ**

**TRUSTEE K9JSI: TODD SABOFF**

This has been a good year. New amateurs joining the hobby. Members getting together and rag chewing. The one thing that seems to be missing, the raw chew on the repeaters. Now this is not uncommon. Repeaters across the country have seen a decline in usage. If you want to chat with someone or just listen in, most amateurs have to turn to the HF bands. While the HF bands are still active, that leaves a large group of amateurs in the 2m band and above, not hearing anyone. Most repeaters, in the US, are located in the 2m and 70cm bands. The biggest reason for the decline, is cell phones. For you old timers, you may remember Auto Patch. Amateurs could make phone calls from their radios. Amateur radio, back then was in the forefront of innovation. The DTMF touch pads on our radios today, came from the usage of the Auto Patch. Back then, to buy a radio that had DTMF, cost more than a standard radio, but soon after it was standard on all radios. Cell Phones killed Autopatch, because everyone had a cell phone. So DTMF was adapted for programming your radios. Amateur Radio adapted. Yet, the decline in repeater usage had started. Long-standing traditions such as Weekly Nets, on the repeaters, started to decline and have faded into memory. With computers, cell phones, social networks and instant messaging, each one in its own way, drove a nail, into the usage of repeaters. Back in the day, if you want to message someone, you picked up your radio and called them and guess what? Everyone kept their radios on, and you talked to the person you wanted to contact. We as Amateurs have this great resource, in repeaters, yet so few use them.

So, what can Amateur Radio do about this?

The trend is now, for Amateur Radio to play catch up with technology. First was VOIP software. Echolink software used your computer to connect to repeaters or other Amateurs. Echolink is still active in many locations. Remote software allows you connect and control your HF rig when you are away from home. HF Digital Software allows you to connect your computer to your HF radio and make contacts when QRM is high, and voice can't get through. For 2m and 70cm, digital radios have come on to the market. Digital radios have combined the best of both worlds. Radio to radio transmissions gets through when QRM is high or signals are weak. Digital radios can make use of VOIP, something we have been doing for years, to contact others across town or around the world. Just think, Tech's can talk around the world, legally without upgrading to General.

Our club has analog repeaters, which are rarely used. We also have moved forward and have a digital repeater. The digital repeater is being used daily, by a good number of Amateurs locally. It is VOIP and it is generally connected to 80 to 130 repeaters across the country and around the world. If you just want to listen, great! But for those of you who want to talk to someone and ragchew, you toss out your call and someone comes back. When was the last time you tossed out your call on analog and someone answered? Yes, it does require a new digital radio. But just like Autopatch, if you wanted to use it, you needed a new radio. Prices have come down. Our club uses Yaesu C4FM digital. With Christmas around the corner, why not upgrade your radio. Get back on the air. Meet new friends and ragchew.

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING  
FROM LPCARC**

**LAPORTE COUNTY HARBOR BEAM  
LAPORTE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

# CABIN FEVER HAMFEST 2020

It's that time again, planning for 2020 HamFest is off and running. Plans are falling into place, and our Chairman is taking table reservations. Spread the word, pass out flyers. You can find a pdf flyer on our webpage.

**CABIN FEVER HAMFEST**  
**Saturday February 22, 2020**  
**7:00-1PM CST**

LaPorte Civic Auditorium  
Admission is still  
Only \$7.00  
Tables \$15.00

Visit  
<http://lpcarc.org/hamfest>

Or call for more information

219-851-2133



**HARBOR BEAM**  
LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 148  
Michigan City, Indiana 46361  
<https://www.facebook.com/LPCARC/>

The Harbor Beam is published  
Monthly for it's members and those interested..

Submissions and inquiries should be sent to:  
[info@lpcarc.com](mailto:info@lpcarc.com)

The LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club is open to anyone who want to learn about Amateur Radio. Our club supports three repeaters K9JSI 146.610, W9LY 146.970 (analog & C4FM Digital), 441.950 (analog & digital) \*\* Connected to C4FM Wires-X network on digital mode.

Club meetings 3rd Monday of each month 7pm.

Annual Events:  
Cabin Fever Hamfest  
Field Day  
Light House Weekend  
Christmas Party

We also have summer picnics before our meetings.



## Back Page Story Headline

### FEEDBACK



Have you visited our web page lately. We have new pages and updates. You can find it at [lpcarc.org](http://lpcarc.org)

Hint: look for the flashing icons to find the new pages.

### SATURDAY BREAKFAST

**Due to the Holidays**

**Saturday Breakfast  
Will not held.**

**We start up again in  
January.**

Mark your calendars:

Thursday Morning Breakfast  
every week

Annual Christmas Party

2020 Hamfest



Get out of  
your  
chair.....

Come out and  
join us.