

FEBRUARY 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**

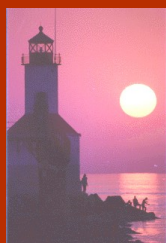
**TRUSTEE K9JSI:
TODD SABOFF**

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

HAMFEST

DUES

**MEET A
MEMBER**



LAPORTE COUNTY

HARBOR BEAM



146.970 / 441.950 W9LY

DIGITAL/FM PL 131.8 DIGITAL/ WIRES-X

146.610 K9JSI

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Boys and Girls, Moms and Dads, Amateur of all ages, it's Cabin Fever Hamfest time. Our Hamfest has been growing, and I've been looking forward to this event, since the last one. It is so much fun, seeing old friends. It is so much fun meeting a fellow ham, face to face, that you only talked too, on the radio. So many memories made over the years, and more too come. I can still recall the first radio I ever bought, at one of our hamfest. It was a ICOM 751A and I still have it today. So you never know what you might find.

But..... Just like anything that has grown, and become something we actually look forward too, we still can't do this with you. Yes, I said you. We need volunteers. Even if it's only a couple of hours, you are the reason why this event has become what it is today.

We need help Friday night for the early bird setup.

We need help in the concessions, by the way, is it's own profit center now.

We need help with VE Testing.

We need help at the admission table.

We need help with the talk in. Yes..... Hans still use the radio to communicate.

So come to our meeting, and be sure to sign up.

Meeting Notice

Our next club meeting is Monday, February 18th
at 7:00pm at the Knights of Columbus, in LaPorte.

The Inside Page

This month we meet
Dan Vanderplough, K9RQ

When did you get your ticket?

August 1968, as a 14 year old, I got my novice ticket, call sign WN9ZRA.

Who was the first amateur you knew?

I believe it was Roger Holloway. I went to school with his son Steve, who also became a ham. Also, I met Bob Lyles K9ET very early on as well.

Who inspired you to get your ticket, and did you have mentor?

While in junior high, I had been playing around with CB for a couple of years with my friend Don Parks, who's dad was a big time CB op in Michigan City. So I kind of got the radio bug. Then my brother picked up a shortwave receiver, and I used it to listen to the hams on 40 meters. That inspired me to get my ham ticket.

I joined the Michigan City Ham Radio Club, back when they met at the First Federal Savings and Loan building on Franklin Streets in the 1960's and learned a lot from all the local guys. I learned a lot from visiting guy's shacks, and especially from going out to field day every year. It was great to be able to run the kind of rigs that I couldn't afford myself as a teenager. Saturday mornings, I would go over to John Kelly's house. I think his call was WA9ZIJ. He had an incredible station of Collins gear and a great antenna system. We would get on the air and make some noise. Good memories.



What was the first radio you owned?

My first station was Heathkit DX40 transmitter which we had to run with crystals, no VFO. And a Army Surplus BC-342 receiver from WWII days. Antenna was a random wire, about 75 feet long. I was on the air a lot and I had a few crystals for 80, 40 and 15 meters. But I made about 90 percent of my contacts on 3.710 MHz CW, which was in the novice band back then. Novices could only run CW on HF. I've included a photo of the QSL card from my very first QSO with K9PGZ in Illinois. Now of course, 3.710 is in the phone band.

In '69, I made the trip to Chicago and passed the test for my General license. My call changed to WA9ZRA, which indicated that I no longer was a novice. Now I could add a VFO to my transmitter, and I gained the 20 meter band, which opened up the DX world to me. But I still mostly ran CW for many years, even after upgrading.

Then in 2004, I upgraded to Amateur Extra and was issued the call NA9N. I had that call for three years, then put in for and got the vanity call K9RQ, which I have kept, even after moving here to Florida.

Is there anything you enjoyed about Amateur Radio, but no longer use or miss?

No, I have been very active and am still today. Ham radio encompasses so many different activities that it never gets boring or stale for me. I have been actively involved with DXing, Contesting, VHF/UHF weak signal work, Satellites, QRP, Digital Modes, Repeaters, and rag chewing. I have enjoyed every minute of it. Since moving to Florida in 2010, I no longer have beams and towers, like I did in Indiana. So it's back to wires and verticals, like when I was starting out.

Dan's first QSO

What mode of operation is your favorite?

CW, although if you look at my log on QRZ.com you might find I do a fair amount of digital modes. I have been playing with the new JS8 mode lately. Jordan is working very hard to perfect that mode, and it's been fun to watch the progress.

What is your favorite radio you owned and what is favorite radio today?

I really liked the Icom 751A that I bought back around 1990. That was a great radio and a lot of fun to operate. I currently run an Icom 7300 which is a heck of a radio for the money. The technology is amazing compared to what I started out with as a kid.

Ham radio has been a constant in my life, and I never see myself giving it up. Like I said, there is something new to try all the time which keeps it fresh. I still like experimenting with antennas and new modes. I do think some people take hamming way too seriously, but to me it's a hobby. It is there to experiment, try out new ideas, have fun. I get pretty disgusted with some of the lack of courtesy I hear on the phone bands these days, but I suppose you are always going to have that. I really enjoyed spending time with the club members in Michigan City and La Porte. I enjoyed working on, and being the club trustee for the W9LY repeaters, and take pride in working to put our 440 repeater on the air. It was a great learning experience and loads of fun. And since moving down here, I do miss my ham friends up in Indiana.....but not the SNOW!

Dan is a Life Member of the club and still tosses his two cents in. :) At Field Day, Dan loved to drop a long inverted V from the tower. That puppy sure did get out.

LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club CABIN FEVER HAMFEST

Saturday, February 23, 2019

**LaPorte Civic Auditorium
1001 Ridge St.
LaPorte Indiana 46350**

Talk-In on 146.610 pl 131.8

Doors open 7:00 CST to 1:00pm CST



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

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 only.

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



Sometimes we forget about what goes on, behind the scenes. The Hamfest is a six month project. It just doesn't happen over night. This News Letter can take several hours to publish, and some times we work on news letters months in advance.

Our Vice President planning club events. Our Treasurer keeping the books, but one that is often over looked is our webpage. Stan Vandiver has maintained our web pages for years, and soon he'll be retiring. Stan is the reason why it looks so good.

Plans are in the works, to keep our webpage up and running.

So we want to take this time to say.....

**THANK-YOU
STAN**

You did an awesome job,

Mark your calendars:

February Meeting: Feb 18th

Cabin Fever Hamfest Feb 23rd

Thursday Morning Breakfast
every week

March Meeting: March 18th



Get out of your
chair.....

Come out and
join us.