

AUG 2019

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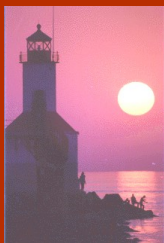
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**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

**Light
House**

**MEET A
MEMBER**



LAPORTE COUNTY

HARBOR BEAM



146.970 / 441.950 W9LY

DIGITAL/FM PL 131.8 DIGITAL/ WIRES-X

146.610 K9JSI

Light House Weekend

Lighthouse Weekend is around the corner.

August 17th & 18th We will be at the Old Light House, in Michigan City.

It's great time to sit, by the lake, relax, and play radio.

Not mention Pizza by the lake. Yum

Mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you are not sure when it is... it is next weekend. We'll also have our club meeting on Saturday, instead of Monday. When you come out, bring a chair, and bring a drink or two. Even if you are new to the hobby, or wanting to learn more about the hobby.

Come on out.



Our new stand well be put to the test.

Meeting CHANGE Notice

Our next club meeting is Saturday, August 17th at 7:00pm at the Old Light House. Our summer picnic Starts at 6:00pm. Arrive at 5:00 or call us in advance, so we know How much pizza to order.

The Inside Page

The past few months, we have been running series Getting To Know Our Members. We ask our members questions about the hobby, and they often share stories from the past. Our club has such a rich history. So we wanted to share that history with you. This month we interviewed Bill South N8SV.

When did you get your first ticket? While I was licensed in 1989, first at Novice then Tech, my interest in the hobby is decades older than that. I have been actively participating in Field Day continuously since 1974, and have been interested in the hobby since I was in my pre-teens. I tried, and failed, several times in my late teens and early 20's to get my ticket at the FCC office in Los Angeles, it wasn't till my late 30's that I finally got the ticket from the VE session at the ham club I belonged to in Virginia, hence my 4-land call N4SV. I owe this success to Gordon West (WB6NOA) and his famous CW and ham tech training tapes and books. Without these training guides I would have never mastered sufficient CW to get my ham ticket (although years of lack of use of CW and I have forgotten most of it unfortunately). It's all the many other aspects of the ham radio hobby that originally piqued, and now hold my interest to this day.

Who was the first amateur you knew? While I didn't have a ham "Elmer" till much later, when I was about 12 years old my junior high school electronics teacher was a ham, although I don't remember either his name or his call, his was the first inspiration I got for becoming a ham. Later in my late teens my college electronics teacher was also a ham, Hillis Brown (might have been callsign W6ALP). He ran the college ham radio club in Santa Monica, CA, and with him at the controls, I was able to work my very first HF contact using the club's Drake TR-4C HF transceiver.

Who inspired you to get your ticket? The seed was planted for me to become a ham much earlier when I was 9 or 10 by stories from my father about when he was a youngster listening to short wave radio and building a crystal radio in his "shack", which was an old abandoned small house trailer on the farm on which he grew up. His stories about stringing magnet wire for antennas and listening to foreign broadcast short wave stations are still fresh in my memories. However I also lived within a bicycle ride from Henry Radio in Los Angeles growing up as a kid, and my buddy and I would bicycle there almost every weekend, to drool on the old used "boat anchors" on the shelves; Hammarlund, General Radio, Hallicrafters, Collins, Drake, Gonset, you name it, we were in awe of all of them.

Who was your mentor or elmer? The closest thing I had to an "Elmer" was Harry Vourhauer, W4PVA. He was the primary "old timer" in the ham club I was just joining in Virginia in the late 80's, a true master electrical engineer, and also one of the club VEs. He pushed me when I went to my first VE session to take the tests, after passing the Novice written the 5 WPM code tests, to go ahead and take the Technician test. While I hadn't studied for it at all, I was lucky enough to squeak by and passed.

What was the first radio you owned? The very first radio I owned was a 2 meter FM HT, a Yaesu FT-411, soon followed by a Yaesu FT-101 EE for HF SSB work. I have owned a number of older radios I picked up along the way, but none hold the memories of those first two Yaesu radios.

Is there anything you enjoyed about the hobby but no longer use or miss? In the late 80's and early 90's I was a huge Packet radio enthusiast; I was the node SysOP and BBS OP for both my own multi-note VHF and UHF packet systems, but also for all the packet nodes of the club I belonged to. I hung onto Packet as long as possible, still promoting it well into the 2000's. But lack of interest in such a slow baud rate mode just made too many people leave to make it viable any longer. Several attempts to revive it by me and others in Virginia all petered out after a few months, however it is good to see groups of hams still using it for APRS.

What mode of operation is your favorite? That's a tough one as I enjoy many aspects of the ham radio hobby; I got into the hobby to do HF SSB DX, that was, and for the most part still is my first love. But in parallel to that I enjoyed using my VHF and UHF FM radios on both repeaters and FM weak signal simplex, and for Packet work. Later I did, and still do, a lot of VHF and UHF SSB contesting and weak signal work, as well as quite a bit of HF SSB contesting. However lately I have become very interested in Ham Mesh; this uses off-the-shelf 2.4 and 5 GHz Wi-Fi access points and routers, modified with special ham-written firmware, to stand up a high-speed digital network, primarily for emergency use, but with a lot of day-to-day ham applications. The latest versions of Ham Mesh, dubbed AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) use commercial-grade Wi-Fi access points and routers to increase range and provide additional facilities, like VoIP phone systems, text-based messaging, and about any other technology or application you might find on the Internet. Parallel to that interest, I thoroughly enjoy several of the digital voice and VoIP-based systems, such as DSTAR, Fusion, All-Star (Asterisk-based phone system modified for ham radio repeater linking and controller functions). I run both an AllStar node (28055) and a Wires-X Fusion room (40136) from my home QTH.

What is your favorite radio you owned? I have owned, and still do, many different radios, my fondest memories were of my first HF radio the Yaesu FT-101 EE, and later a Yaesu FT-757GXII. While I sold my original FT-101 EE (something I always regretted), I was able to locate a pristine FT-101 EE a few years ago, to add it back into my shack as a backup.

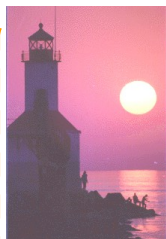
What is your favorite radio today? My latest purchase, an Icom IC-7300 is by far the best receiver and most feature rich radio I have owned, and currently is my main shack radio for HF, and most favorite. For VHF and UHF FM HT work the good old Kenwood TH-F6A tri-bander is the most versatile and one of the smallest, and I love to use it. For mobile FM and digital repeater and simplex operation I use the oldie-but-goodie Kenwood TM-742 and Icom ID-800H (for DSTAR work) or the Yaesu FTM-100D or FTM-7250D (for Fusion work), and an Icom IC-706 MKIIG for HF and 6 meter mobile SSB work.

Thanks Bill. If you haven't figured it out, Bill is transplant. Welcome to the area and the club. If you want to meet Bill and get to know him better, he'll be at the Light House Weekend.

We are looking for others to get to know better. If you would like to be interviewed or know someone you would like to get to know. Drop us a line.

.SUMMER PICNIC

Just before our club meeting, this month we'll be serving Pizza. Come on out and enjoy a picnic with friends.



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.

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

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

SATURDAY BREAKFAST

August 24th Breakfast
will be held at Chappy's
Stadium Inn 2323 Wa-
bash, Michigan City.

Breakfast time will be at
8:30am to beat the
crowds.

Good Food
Good Prices that wont
break the bank.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday Morning Breakfast
every week

Light House Weekend
August 17 & 18 2019



Get out of
your
chair.....

Come out and
join us.