

SEPTEMBER 2019

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JOHN PHILLIPS**

**SECRETARY:
BOB RUSSELL**

**TREASURER:
KEN OSBORNE**

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

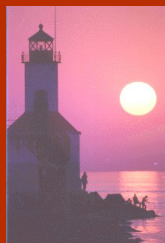
**TRUSTEE W9LY:
DAN SHEETZ**

**TRUSTEE K9JSI:
TODD SABOFF**

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THIS ISSUE:**

**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

Every year since 1998, the third weekend of August Hams around the world set up stations to put Lighthouses and Lightships on the air. Out of about 400 locations, 291 are registered to participate in this event. Michigan City Lighthouse Museum is listed as US0079 as its radio ID. Operations last 48 hours and ends on Sunday at 3pm local time.

This year The Laporte County Amateur Radio club because of bad weather operated only 24 hours under the callsign W9LY. Weather affects not just portable operations also how the radio signals travel. Either you are aided by it or it shuts down communications. This year was difficult. 4 years ago, it was easier to work Europe than State side contacts. This is not the only activity on the air. You never know what you will be up against. Its a contact sport.

3 stations were set up by Troy Harrison KC9E , Ken Osbourne N9ZIP, John Phillips KA9PGC, Bill South N4SV, and Travis Taylor KC9TWX. Operations were not limited by just those operators. We had a club showing with out of town visitors.

Meeting Notice

Our next club meeting is Monday September 16th
at 7:00pm at the Tower Site. Our summer picnic
Starts at 6:00pm.

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 interview Curt AC9HO.

When did you get your first ticket?

I was licensed in 1994 my junior year in high school with the call sign N9ZNJ. I was into CB radio at the time, and had never heard of ham/ amateur radio until that point. When I was told what all could be done with ham radio I was hooked. Of course the person telling me about it didn't even know the extent of what all could be done with ham radio since he was new to it himself, but he knew enough to get me interested .

Who was the first amateur you knew?

Who inspired you to get your ticket?

Questions 2 and 3 are going to be put together since the first amateur I knew and who inspired me to get my ticket is the same person. So the answer to both those questions is my electronics teacher John Jones N9YHJ (If I remember correctly) from high school. He brought in his first HT and for the life of me I cannot remember what make or model it was. I think it may have been an Icom but not sure about that. So I went up and asked him "what the heck is that thing"? That was my introduction to ham radio. Over the next few days we talked almost through the entire class just about his radio and ham radio in general. I told him that i want to get my license and he was able to set me up with an old computer that had a study test installed on it. He even let me take it home to be able to study and after a month or so I went to the Red Cross in South Bend and took my test and passed. The first ham I met after I took my test while sitting there waiting for the results was Dennis N9KIX. He was one of the first people I talked to on the radio once I got one.

Who was your mentor or elmer?

My mentor/ elmer was again my electronics teacher because after I got my license that is all we talked about in class. During the summer break I got as many books and magazines as I could get my hands on the learn about radios and ham radio in general. It wasn't easy to find things when you didn't know where to look since the internet was in its infancy at the time. Matter of fact I didn't even know about the internet yet. When school started John gave a stack of magazines that he acquired during the summer break. He also told me that he had the approval the get an antenna and a radio to use in the school and wanted me to pick them both out. I was so honored to have that responsibility and it kept me from having to do class work HI HI! I am almost positive that the radio was a Yaesu FT-2500M that I had picked out and for the antenna I have no idea. To me then the radio was the most important part so the antenna was secondary for me. Now not so much! We made a few contacts on the La Porte repeater but not enough to even get the radio warmed up. The antenna was mounted on top of a cage that stored tools and things inside the classroom. So needless to say it didn't get out very far. Years after I had my license I was just starting a family and wanted to dive into radio with both feet again. I was on the Michigan City repeater and threw my call sign out there. After about a min someone came back and it was Ken N9ZIP! So actually Ken was also a mentor because the first time we talked he talked me into coming to the next club meeting I think at a library in Michigan City. I had never been to a club meeting until that meeting and I went probably for the next 5 or 6 years. I did a lot with the club including being hamfest coordinator for one year which was very fun and a lot of work. I got into skywarn and did all the events the club was involved in that I could. I learned a lot through those years so if not for Ken inviting me that night I am not sure where I would be now with radio. Of course I am not on the radio or active in the club as much as I once was but I hope to change that in time.

What was the first radio you owned?

My first radio that I owned was the Radio Shack HTX 202 handheld. My parents saw that I was really into this radio thing and decided to help me out and get my first radio since I didn't have a job at the time. I used that radio for everything from a base station to mobile and everything in between. I took it everywhere and when I got my first job I was able to listen to the nets on the K9WZ repeater while doing dishes at the gas station I worked at. I then acquired a Commodore 64 computer and a TNC and connected the 202 to both. That was awesome being able to read the bulletin boards and see what's new and for sale. I left it running all the time for about a month and during that time I had received the space shuttle, I was so excited to see that on my screen. I even made a contact to someone in London and that message took about 4 days to get there and 4 days for one back to me. That was my first out of country contact which was super exciting but unfortunately I do not remember who it was or his call. My logs from that time are long lost in all the moves over the years. I almost forgot that the antenna I was using was the junk box J-pole that one of the members in the La Porte club designed. I built that antenna and loved every second of it. I had that antenna up for years at my parents house then for years at my first house I bought. It was a great antenna the SWR was always perfect never retuned not once all the years it was used. I was the net controller once a week for about a year maybe two so it was used a lot.

Is there anything you enjoyed about the hobby but no longer use or miss?

I actually miss having a radio connected to a computer running packet. I know packet is not as popular as it once was, but just having a radio connected to a computer doing FT8 or RTTY I think would be fun. Unfortunately with my schedule and not really having a ham shack at the house it makes it difficult to get something like that up and running. At some point in time though I will get a good shack going with a tower and all the antennas I will ever need.

What mode of operation is your favorite?

Since I have not tried any of the computer operated modes (except for packet) yet I will say that my favorite mode would be SSB. I was first introduced to HF during one of the field days at the tower site with the Michigan City club. After many years of being a tech I finally took my general so that I could get on HF with more operating space than the tech has. Since I didn't have a shack at home I made my shack in the Jeep that I was driving at the time. I bought an Icom 7000 since it could do all bands and all modes and I loved operating HF while mobile. I then decided to upgrade to the extra and that is when I got the call AC9HO. Once Yaesu came out the fusion I really liked that as well and had to install another radio in the vehicle. Even though fusion was fun it just didn't and will not take the place of HF for me. I like the fact that with HF it is truly radio to radio with nothing but air and distance between you and the person you are talking to. Knowing that while driving to get pizza I was talking to a gentleman in Russia (back when the bands would let you) on HF is something that blew my mind.

What is your favorite radio you owned?

I have to say that my favorite radio would actually be the set-up I had with the HTX 202 and the Commodore 64 computer. I know the radios I have now and many after the 202 are way better but I really enjoyed that set-up very much.

What is your favorite radio today?

My favorite radio right now would probably have to be the Icom 7000 because it is all band all mode and the only radio I have with HF. I am looking to get the FT-991A so that I can have EVERYTHING including fusion all in one radio. My current radio stock is as follows: Icom 7000, Yaesu FTM-400, Yaesu FTM-100, Icom 2720, Yaesu FT-2600, Yaesu FT1XD HT, Yaesu FT2D HT, and TYT MD-380. As you can see I have definitely drunk the Yaesu kool-aid Hi HI. The TYT for DMR is a good radio but the programming is no good. I was able figure it out to the point it wasn't too bad but the ease of use with system fusion made it so much more fun.

.SUMMER PICNIC

Just before our club meeting, this month we'll be serving Labor Day Burgers. Come on out and enjoy a picnic with friends. This is the last one for 2019.

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.

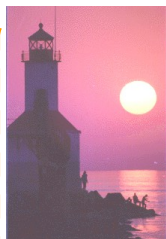
CABIN FEVER HAMFEST
Saturday February 29, 2020
7:00-1PM CST

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

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

**September 21th Break-
fast will be held at
Chappy's Stadium Inn
2323 Wabash, 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

Annual Christmas Party

2020 Hamfest



Get out of
your
chair.....

Come out and
join us.