

Harbor Beam

August 2026 Edition

President's Message

Fellow club members,

What a summer it has been! Between the Tailgate HamFest, Field Day memories still fresh in our minds, and the recent derecho that reminded all of us just how important amateur radio can be, there has been no shortage of activity around the club.

I want to thank everyone who turned out for the Tailgate HamFest on July 18th. The turnout was fantastic and it's great to see the event growing year over year. A special thanks to Chris West KE9EQR for his outstanding work on the concessions... those pulled pork sandwiches were a hit!

Our thoughts go out to everyone still dealing with the aftermath of the August 11th derecho. If there is anything the club can do to help, please reach out.

Our next meeting is September 14th, and it's an important one... we'll be holding elections for the 2027-2028 officer positions. Make sure your voice is heard and come out to vote!

73 de KC9DJP

Rich Oberle KC9DJP, LPCARC Club President

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Mark your logbooks! Here is what LPCARC has on the schedule in the weeks ahead. All monthly meetings begin at 7:00 PM local time at the La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1480 Boyd Blvd, LaPorte, IN. Check lpcarc.org for any last-minute changes.

Date	Event	Location
September 14, 2026	Monthly Club Meeting + Elections	La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church
October 12, 2026	Monthly Club Meeting	La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church
November 9, 2026	Monthly Club Meeting	La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church
December 14, 2026	Monthly Club Meeting	La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church

Tailgate HamFest Recap

The second annual LPCARC Tailgate HamFest on July 18th was a great success! Turnout was more than double last year's event, which is a fantastic sign for the future of this growing tradition.

The Tailgate HamFest was the brainchild of John Phillips KA9PGC, who got the ball rolling with last year's inaugural event and has been the driving force behind making it a club staple. Thanks to John's vision and leadership, the event continues to grow and we hope to see it become a large annual event

that generates revenue the club can invest back into its equipment, infrastructure, and activities. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen: John Phillips KA9PGC, Bob Smith N9ROM, Hayden David KD9HAY, Thomas Thomasino KE9ALK, Chris West KE9EQR, and Curt Yeater AC9HO. Your time and effort are what make events like this possible.

A big thank you to Chris West KE9EQR for taking on the concessions for the club and serving up those outstanding pulled pork sandwiches. Thanks also to Thomas Thomasino KE9ALK for pitching in and helping Chris keep everyone fed throughout the day. The food was a hit and we're lucky to have members willing to put in that kind of effort. If you enjoyed the food at the Tailgate HamFest, you're in for a treat... Chris already has big plans for concessions at the Cabin Fever HamFest in February 2027!

The ARRL generously provided three coupons to give away... two \$25 coupons and one \$50 coupon. Tickets were distributed at the door and a drawing was held for the winners. One note for next year: we'd like to find a better way to announce the winners so nobody misses out on the excitement. If you have ideas, bring them to the next meeting!

Financial results from the event will be reported in the September edition once all outstanding bills have been settled.





Welcome New Member!

Please join us in welcoming Mike Carlino AD9GY to the club! Mike joined during the Tailgate HamFest on July 18th. Welcome to LPCARC, Mike... glad to have you!

Officer Nominations

At the August 10th meeting, nominations were taken for the 2027-2028 officer positions. The election will be held at the September 14th meeting. Here are the nominees:

- President: Rich Oberle KC9DJP
- Vice President: John Phillips KA9PGC, Travis Taylor KC9TWX
- Treasurer: Curt Yeater AC9HO
- Secretary: Stacey Donnelly KD9ZGJ
- Board Members (2 positions): Josh Lain KE9BBB, Hayden David KD9HAY, Mike Curly N9OKA, Travis Taylor KC9TWX

Note that Travis Taylor KC9TWX has been nominated for both Vice President and Board Member. Should he be elected to both, he would choose which position to serve in.

All members are encouraged to attend the September 14th meeting at the La Porte Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1480 Boyd Blvd, LaPorte, IN, at 7:00 PM to cast their vote!

Lighthouse Weekend

John Phillips KA9PGC had planned to participate in Lighthouse Weekend at the Michigan City Lighthouse, representing LPCARC and hoping to welcome visitors and fellow activators. Unfortunately the event was canceled due to inclement weather before and during the event. We're already looking forward to giving it another shot next year!

Derecho Hits La Porte County

On Tuesday, August 11th, a powerful derecho swept through the La Porte County area leaving a trail of downed trees, broken power poles, and significant property damage in its wake. A week later, many residents are still without power.

Our thoughts go out to everyone affected by the storm. If you need help or know someone who does, please reach out however you can... whether that's a neighbor, a friend, or a fellow club member.

This kind of event is also a reminder of why amateur radio matters. When phone lines are down, cell towers are overloaded, and the power is out, ham radio operators are still on the air. It's not just a hobby... it's a resource. If you've been thinking about getting more involved in emergency communications, now is a great time to reach out to the club.

The storm also knocked out internet service at the concrete tower site. After investigating, Curt Yeater AC9HO traced the issue to a failed 8-port network switch. Since the APRS radio is currently offline, the router had enough available ports to handle everything without the switch. Internet service at the tower site has been fully restored and everything is back up and running normally.

Getting to Know EchoLink

If you've ever wished you could check in on the club repeater from across town... or across the country... EchoLink might be just what you're looking for. EchoLink is a free system that links amateur radio stations over the internet, allowing licensed hams to connect to repeaters and other stations worldwide using a computer, smartphone, or tablet.

To get started, download the EchoLink app for your device (available for Windows, iOS, and Android) and register your callsign at echolink.org. Registration requires proof of license and is a one-time process. Once approved, you're ready to connect.

The W9LY repeater is available on EchoLink as node 193001. To connect, simply search for W9LY or enter node 193001 directly in the app. From there you can transmit and receive just as you would on the air, making it a great option when you're away from your radio or when conditions aren't cooperating.

A few things to keep in mind: EchoLink is for licensed amateurs only, and all normal operating courtesies apply. Give a pause between transmissions to allow others to break in, identify properly, and keep it friendly.

Give it a try and say hello on W9LY node 193001!



On the Air Activity

Club Nets

LPCARC maintains the following regularly scheduled net. All are open to any licensed amateur:

- Wednesday Evening LPCARC Information Net, 7:00 PM Central, 146.970 MHz (-600 kHz, PL 131.8)

Repeater Status

The club currently sponsors and maintains the following repeaters, all open to any licensed amateur:

- 146.970 MHz (-600 kHz offset, PL Tone 131.8), W9LY, AllStar node 635952, EchoLink node 193001
- 441.950 MHz (+5 MHz offset, PL Tone 131.8), W9LY, C4FM/Wires-X capable
- 146.610 MHz (-600 kHz offset, PL Tone 131.8), K9JSI, analog only

If you notice a repeater issue, please report it to repeatertrustee@lpcarc.org.

Membership Dues Reminder

Annual club membership dues are \$20 per year. Dues for 2027 are now being accepted, with March 2027 being the deadline as outlined in the Club By-Laws. Dues can be paid at any club meeting or event.

Paying online is preferred as it makes record keeping easier for the club Treasurer. You can pay your dues online at lpcarc.org/Members/Members.html.

Around the Club

Thursday Breakfast

Join fellow members every Thursday morning at 8:00 AM at Mama T's Diner for coffee and conversation. All are welcome.

Sugar Bowl Breakfast

The first-Saturday breakfast at the Sugar Bowl in Michigan City remains on hold while the restaurant itself looks for a new location. We'll let you know as soon as they're settled somewhere new and we can get back to it.

EMA Siren Testing

LaPorte County EMA tests its warning sirens on the first Saturday of every month. The net opens at 10:30 AM on the W9LY repeater (146.970), with sirens activating at 11:00 AM. Dave W9DLP serves as net control. Volunteers are always needed to help monitor sirens around the county... reach out if you'd like to help.



Facebook Group

Stay connected between meetings on our Facebook group, "LaPorte County Amateur Radio Organization," at facebook.com/groups/496694052638376.

Harbor Beam is published monthly by the La Porte County Amateur Radio Club.

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