

# Podunk Hollow News

The official Newsletter of the Egyptian Radio Club, Incorporated  
September 2007

## TRIBUTE

I am a bit late with this issue of the club newsletter; but I have been working on a new membership certificate for the club and trying to match the one that Pat Riley, W9PAT, had done. I am amazed at the trickery and manipulation that Pat did with Microsoft Word, Publisher and FrontPage. My hat is off to our late newsletter editor and publisher; a dear friend who is being sorely missed. I do, so much, wish Pat were still here and doing his excellent job with the Podunk Hollow News. Rest in Peace, my friend.

I, WA9BRQ, have finally achieved the courage to call this newsletter the **Podunk Hollow News**. Up to now, I have been reluctant to use that banner because I did not feel that I measured up to the standards that W9PAT had set in the two years he was editor and publisher. Many people do not know that in the last year of his work with the "PDHN" Pat was paying the entire bill for the newsletter. He bought the paper, ink, printing and the postage. I am doing the same; because in reality, the club cannot afford this endeavor.

The name "Podunk Hollow" has been with this club since its inception. All of you have seen the drawing by Gil, W1CJD, of the "shack at Podunk Hollow" that appeared on the cover of QST. The Egyptian Radio Club has been very proud of that picture and has displayed a copy of it for years. The original hangs in the headquarters building of the ARRL in Newington, CN.

We have much to be proud of and must carry on with reverence to the past and fervor to achieve even greater heights in the future. This news-letter will touch on some of the events that are in the future of the Egyptian Radio Club; hope-fully before the end of the current year. Some members of the club will be helping with a "Fly-in" at the St. Louis Regional Airport at Bethalto on September 29. A slow speed CW net will be run on 146.79 and the club has personalized Coffee Mugs available for those wish to purchase one. Also, HF operating tips.

## NAME THE PHOTO



### "HAMster at the mike"?

You give us your thoughts on an appropriate caption for the photo. The winning entry will be judged by the owner of the furry little rodent.

## MUG FOR SALE



These coffee mugs are for sale by the ERC. If you wish your call sign on the mug, and for prices, please contact Marsha Wilson, KC9KTS at [kc9kts2007@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9kts2007@yahoo.com) or on the .79 repeater.

## CW OPERATIONS

In many ways, the CW net operations are very similar to voice net operations. There is a net control station (NCS) that is in charge of running or controlling the net and all stations that check into the net are expected to abide by the rules of the net and instructions from the NCS. The NCS will send the net "preamble" at the beginning of each net session. This preamble identifies and describes the net and its objectives. The NCS usually asks for emergency and priority traffic from any station right after the preamble is sent. Next the NCS transmits any QST broadcast information intended for receipt by all net stations. Then the NCS opens the net for stations wanting to check in. A list of stations checking in is logged and each station is given their turn to send whatever information they have for the net.

CW nets make full use of "Q" signals and other abbreviations that help achieve a faster throughput of information. You should get familiar with the most often used Q signals or you will be confused and lost right away and not know when to check in. Q signals are a three character combination of letters beginning with the letter Q. If the Q signal is sent followed immediately by a question mark it is intended as a question. If not followed by a question mark it is intended as a statement. Some of the often used are as follows:

**QNF** = The net is free. Usually sent at the end of the net session letting all stations know this session of net operations is finished.

**QRL** = The frequency is busy.

**QRL?** = Is the frequency busy?

**QSP** = Relay is wanted or is heard.

**QSY** = Change frequency

**QRX** = Please stand by.

**QRX 2** = Please stand by 2 minutes.

**QNI** = Check in to the net

**QNC** = Information follows for the net.

**QNO** = I am leaving the net

**QSL** = Confirm or Yes

**QST** = General Call to all amateurs

**QTH** = Location

**QRT** = I am done transmitting and leaving the air.

Some common net abbreviations are:

**/M** = Mobile station

**AGN** = Again

**CUL** = See you later

**BCNU** = Be See'n You

**GA** = Go Ahead or Good Afternoon

**GE** = Good Evening

**R** = Correct

**C** = Correct

**N** = No or not correct

**NIL** = Nothing heard

**DN** = Down (used with QSY).

**DN2** means QSY down 2 KHz)

**TU** = Thank you

**73** = Good bye and best wishes

**88** = Hugs and kisses

There are many more abbreviations used in CW and most will be obvious when you hear them.

Hpe to CU soon. Best 73 and BCNU

## 146.79 CW NET



Get your keys and your ears tuned up because K7RMJ is planning a Slow Speed CW net on the 146.79 Repeater this fall. Of course, the net will have to be conducted in Simplex mode because the repeater timer would cause many problems. You need a key and an oscillator that feeds your audio input on your radio. Work out the details and join us on CW.

W9AIU de K7RMJ

## NOTES ON HF

I've been meaning to write up something for the news letter for folks who are new to HF or are planning to get on the HF bands soon. No, I am not setting myself up as any kind of expert. Instead, I thought it might be helpful to share some things that might make HF a little easier to get along with. The following information is available in ARRL publications and their web site. There is a document called "The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide" that is very helpful in finding other hams to QSO with based on the mode they want to operate. Anyway, feel free to use any or all of this in the news letter. I hope it helps.

Let's start with the basics of HF propagation. There is a new crop of operators on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. HF propagation is governed mostly by sun spots. Hundreds of years ago, Scientists discovered there are dark blotches on the sun that increase and decrease in number in an approximate cycle of 11 years. Ham radio came along and found that HF propagation of radio signals also varies with the same 11 year cycle as the sun spots. The more spots you have, the better the propagation will be.

Propagation also changes with the changing seasons. It has nothing to do with the temperature or weather. It has everything to do with the suns radiation striking the upper atmosphere of earth and ionizing layers of atmosphere. The more ionization you have the better the propagation will be. Yes, it changes from morning to night as well because the earth shadows the suns radiation at night and the ionosphere changes altitude and thickness.

80, 40, 15, and 10 meter HF bands have different characteristics because the different frequencies of radio waves are reflected at distances that depend on the altitude and density of the ionosphere layer they reflect from.

80 Meters (3.5 to 4.0 MHz) is sometimes called the king of nighttime HF bands during low sunspot activity. During the day most of the radio waves will be absorbed by the "D layer" of the ionosphere. During the winter 80 meters is much better for long distance propagation because the atmospheric noise levels are down considerably from during the summer months.

40 Meters is another band that tends to open during the late afternoon and nighttimes. During the winter months you will hear a lot of foreign

broadcast shortwave stations coming in very strong from Europe and other distant lands. This should change within the next few years as the broadcast stations move off 40 meters to other frequencies. Even with the foreign broadcast and summer lightening crashes of noise, 40 meters is a fun DX band.

15 Meters is not open a lot during sunspot minimums. However, if you listen carefully at sunrise you may hear openings to Europe. You might hear openings to Asia in the evenings at sunset too. This is often called "Gray line propagation". When the sunspot numbers are high you will find 15 meters to be excellent for long duration openings to distant countries around the globe.

10 Meters has a lot of properties similar to VHF bands. It is almost a mix of HF and VHF. Many hams are fascinated by this band and spend most of their operating time on 10 meters. You can check into the 10-10 net every Wed-nesday evening at 7:00PM on 28.420 MHz and join the hunt for 10-10 club numbers. Our club sponsors this net and they welcome any and all hams to check into the net.

10 Meters is the highest frequency HF band and you will find several different types of propagation. "Sporadic-E" propagation allows short and often unexpected contacts from 1500 to 3000 miles away. Different types of "Scatter" propagation will allow contacts of 400 to 800 miles regardless of sunspot activity. When sunspots are high during the peak years of the sunspot cycle, 10 meters will allow long distance skywave contacts just about any time.

I hope you find this info helpful.

73's de K7RMJ... Frank

## SECRETARY NEWS

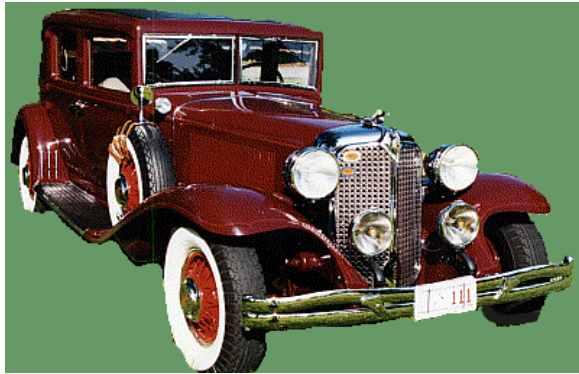
The books are balanced; the club has \$3667.04 as of September 1, 2007. We have 39 members and the club seems to be on a turn-around.

A questionnaire will be mailed to all members within the next two weeks. There will be a postage paid envelope enclosed for return of the questionnaire. Please, EVERYONE respond, as we need to know in which direction to proceed.

# FLY-IN

## AT ST. LOUIS REGIONAL AIRPORT IN BETHALTO

On September 29, 2007 a number of old military aircraft and antique automobiles will be on display at the St. Louis Regional Airport at Bethalto, IL. Nolan Zobrist, KA9VKC; Marsha Wilson, KC9KTS; Frank Shears, K7RMJ; Mark Wilson, KC9IJX; Pat Walkup KC0ZIW; Bill Bell, W9BEL and a number of other Egyptian Radio Club members will be presenting a ham radio demonstration as it was done during WW2 and as it is today.



Frank, K7RMJ, will be demonstrating Morse code and I am sure attracting a number of on-lookers. What a wonderful way to demonstrate ham radio. After all, Morse code is what peaks the interest of people when they talk about Amateur Radio. Frank can do slow speed CW and very high speed CW; many people will want to watch that. Who knows, they may even be so interested as to join the Egyptian Radio Club.

Marsha, KC9KTS, will be handing out bottled water to those who need a good cold drink on what may be a very hot day. With their interest piqued by the CW and their thirst salved by the cold water, we may generate a lot of good will.

The Armed Forces Museum in Alton will be conducting two drawings with the proceeds to be used to support their facilities at #2 Cut

Street in Alton. Tickets will be \$5.00 per ticket for each drawing.



This event will attract many people to the airport. Club members are encouraged to attend and may help with the club sponsored display of ham radio at the event. The club will be moving the club trailer to the Airport site at 5:00PM on the 29<sup>th</sup> and will begin setting up tables loaded with information, antennas for the radio operations and picnic cooler to keep the bottled water iced down at 7:00AM Saturday morning.

If anyone wishes to help with this club sponsored event, please contact Marsha Wilson at [kc9kts2007@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9kts2007@yahoo.com), or contact her on the 146.79 repeater.

