

Podunk Hollow News

The official Newsletter of the Egyptian Radio Club, Incorporated
January 2008



At long last, the 79 year old Egyptian Radio Club, W9AIU, can proudly display its call letters on an Illinois Vehicle License Plate. The plates arrived on 24 December, 2007; a fitting Christmas present from the Illinois Secretary of State or the Santa Claus of Amateur Radio. Along with the license plates, we received the title to our Enterprise Magna Van, our Emergency Communications Van.

As soon as the van receives its new smooth surface with new paint and lettering we will be equipping the inside with ham radios for all the amateur bands and commercial radios for the various agencies in and around Madison County, Illinois. We have just heard that KC9KY, Jack Leverich has a person waiting to do the paint job.

Not only will this van be used for emergency communications, it will be utilized as the main communications facility at the Egyptianfest and at Field Day. The top of the 39 foot telescoping mast is fitted with a removable plate that can be adapted for various antennas. We can equip one removable plate with VHF antenna; another with a nonconductive support for an inverted vee; and others with a small tri-band yagi antenna or other type of antenna, depending on the need. These can be changed in a matter of moments.

Our Emergency Communications Van can be ready to answer the call for emergency communications as quickly as a driver can be dispatched to the van. A short list of ERC members will be designated as drivers and accepted by the insurance company as qualified to drive the van. Our emergency communicators and will be available as soon as notified to go where emergency communications are needed.

SPREAD THE WORD, THE EGYPTIAN RADIO CLUB IS ON THE MOVE

EGYPTIAN RADIO CLUB CALENDAR

WEEKLY TWO METER NET

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT AT 8:00 PM

WEEKLY 10-10 NET

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT 7:00 PM

MONTHLY MEETING

FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

RED NECK ANTENNA CONTEST & POT LUCK

MAY 2008 EXACT PLACE AND
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

EGYPTIANFEST 2008

JUNE 8, 2008

FIELD DAY 2008

JUNE 28 & 29, 2008

HIGHLIGHTS OF JANUARY MEETINGS

There will be a change in Webmasters for the W9AIU.org web site announced soon. A change in the layout is being made as you read this and we hope to be presenting our best image to the Internet public. The new site is still under wraps but will be released soon and announced in these pages. Stay tuned.

The van has a donor of a new paint job. We are working very hard to have the van presentable and displayed at Egyptianfest 2008.

The ERC will have a table at Winterfest 2008, which will be held on January 26. Club members may place items to be sold if they put a firm price on the item. The people manning the table will not negotiate the price for you.

The club secretary will send a letter to Linda Bell, KB9VXL, thanking her for the fine work on our new pyramid emblem that will be used on the van, stationery, and all club publications.

The recent storm and high winds killed the digipeater antenna located on the Goshen Road water tower. A new Diamond 200 Dual Band will be purchased for replacement.

New changes have been proposed and read at the January meeting. These will be read, again, at the February meeting and if all goes well,

they will be voted upon at that meeting. Details in a separate article.

Details for the 2-meter Red-Neck Antenna contest have been announced and are published elsewhere in this issue.

Egyptianfest details are coming together. Frank Shears, K7RMJ, is our new board member and hamfest Chairman. Bill Dusenbery, N9OQK, is making tickets and they will be at Winterfest, Marsha Wilson, KC9KTS is the publicist for the event and WA9BRQ with the aid of Linda Bell, KB9VXL, have made the master for the flyers that will be distributed to anywhere that will allow them.

NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW

2008 MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

New membership certificates and membership cards will be made available to all members of the Egyptian Radio Club. The certificates will be for an indeterminate period of time; but the membership cards will expire each year. The certificates and cards will feature the new ERC pyramid and lettering done by Linda Bell, KB9VXL. Also, this year the cards will be a bit more durable than last year.

The lightning bolts have been changed from red to **blue** because the emblem will be used on the side of the **RED** Egyptian Radio Club Emergency Communications van. We thought of using white; but that wouldn't show up on the certificates or membership cards.

As you will see in the proposed changes to the present By-Laws there will be a discount dues structure for our senior citizens. You must be of the age 65 or over to take advantage of this. The new fee for senior citizens will be \$24.⁰⁰. For those wishing to avail themselves of this new feature, please wait until you receive final notice of the acceptance of the By-Law changes in the February issue of the Podunk Hollow News. Senior citizens may pay their annual dues as late as the meeting in March.

Those same proposals have a new classification of associate membership for licensed spouses of full members and those interested in becoming a ham. That class of membership will be \$18.⁰⁰. Again, please wait until these amendments are passed by vote of the membership before attempting to take advantage of them.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO ERC BY-LAWS

At this point, the editor will assume that all members have retained the copy of the By-Laws that were mailed in early 2007. This article will only reprint the proposed changes; you will have to reference your copy of the By-Laws to see what the present wording is.

For those who receive the Podunk Hollow News by U. S. Postal service, a printed version is mailed with your newsletter. The **underlined bold** portion is the changed wording.

Article 3 Directors

Section 2 Qualifications

Proposed

Voting members in good standing.

Article 4 Director Officers

Section 2 Qualifications

Proposed

Any **voting** member in good standing over the age of majority in the state may serve as Director/Officer of the corporation.

Section 4 Removal and Resignation

Proposed

Any Director/Officer may be removed, either with or without cause, upon written request submitted to the secretary/treasurer by 3 directors or 10% of the **voting** members in good standing at the time of the request, by a referendum vote in which 2/3 of the members in good standing vote for removal. Such action shall be governed by the procedures outlined in Article 13 section 8 of those bylaws. Any Director/Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board of directors or to the president or Secretary of the corporation. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Article 12 Members

Section 1 Determination and Rights of Members

Proposal

The corporation shall have only **two classes** of members. **These classes shall consist of Full membership with voting rights and associate members which have no voting rights.** No member shall hold more than one membership in the corporation. Except as provided in or authorized by the articles of in-

corporation, the bylaws of the corporation, or provisions of law, all membership shall have the same rights, privileges, restrictions, and conditions.

Section 2 Qualifications of Members

Proposed

Full membership, **with voting rights**, in the Egyptian Radio Club shall be open to all persons holding an Amateur Radio License issued by the Federal Communications Commission and those foreign licensed Amateurs having reciprocal licensing privileges.

Associate membership, **with no voting rights**, shall be open to the licensed spouse and unmarried licensed dependents under the age of 21 living in the same house.

Associate membership, **with no voting rights**, shall also be open to those unlicensed individuals having a bone-fide interest in amateur radio.

Membership shall not be denied to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental handicap, age, sex sexual preference, ancestry or medical condition.

Section 4 Fees and Dues

Proposal

- A. The annual dues payable to the corporation by **Full** members shall be \$36 **and by associate members shall be \$18.**
- B. **The annual dues payable to the corporation by Full members over the age of 65 shall be \$24.**

Article 13 Meetings of Members

Section 7 Voting Rights

Proposed

Each **voting** member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote by the members. Voting at duly held meetings shall be by voice vote. Election of Officer/Directors and Directors, however, shall be by written ballot as described in Article 13 section 8.

Article 10

Amendment of By-laws

Section 1. Amendment

Proposed

(continued on next page)

Subject to the power of the members, of this corporation to adopt, amend, or repeal the by-laws of this corporation and except as may otherwise be specified under provisions of law, these bylaws, or any of them, may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws adopted by the approval of the members of this corporation.

Any motion to amend, revise, or repeal these bylaws when directed by the Board of Directors or petitioned for in writing by no less than 20% of the Voting Members in Good Standing Shall be decided by written ballot as described below.

Proposed changes to the bylaws must be read at two (2) consecutive monthly meetings, posted on the corporation web site for at least one (1) month and must appear in at least one (1) ERC newsletter which is available to all voting members. If the proceeding rules are met, a written ballot can be taken at the monthly meeting of the 2nd reading of the proposed changes.

If a majority of those voting members present at the second reading vote in favor of the proposed changes; they will become effective on the date signed by all directors or incorporators under "ADOPTION OF BYLAWS" after Article 13 Section 9.

As explained at the top of this article, these proposed changes to the by-laws will not take effect until they have been voted on and accepted. I believe that vote will be taken at the 7 February meeting. They are voted on as a package; there is no picking and choosing. If the proposed changes are voted down, the present by-laws will continue until further changes or amendments are presented and accepted by the membership.

To cast your vote, yea or nay, you must be at the 7 February meeting of the Egyptian Radio Club at the SouthWestern Illinois College in Granite City. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

RED CROSS TO SPEAK AT MARCH 6 MEETING

We have a guest speaker for the March 6 ERC meeting who will speak on Disaster Preparedness. With the opportunity to have an Emergency Communications Van, we should become trained to operate this van, not only to drive and operate the van properly; but to become trained in the proper methods of emergency communications.

Al Bertram, Director of Emergency Service for the American Red Cross in this area has offered to speak to the Egyptian Radio Club on this subject. Al will detail how to prepare a family or individual disaster plan, a disaster supplies kit and an emergency preparedness checklist. This will prepare you to take care of yourselves and your families in any disaster, whether it is natural, technological or human-caused.

This presentation is 1 hour long and includes handouts to all in the audience.

Disaster Preparedness Presentations on:

TORNADOS

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS

EARTHQUAKES

RIVERINE & FLASH FLOODS

HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INCIDENTS

WINTER STORMS

HEATWAVES

**WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION/
TERRORIST INCIDENTS**

All of these presentations are provided free-of-charge. We hope that Al will be able to do another presentation at Egyptianfest 2008.

March 6, 2008

BE THERE

We all need the information

BUBBA'S

RED-NECK ANTENNER CONTEST

Ok Ya'all, heare we go with the instructyshuns for the Kontest.

The idear here is to see who can cun whip up the bestest antenner for 2 Meters FM at 146.52 MHz, and enjoy a good feed. Now, Bubba, relizes not everybody has the money ta buy one of them fancy store-bot antenners, or knows where ta get the parts. So, this here contest has been Bubba-fied. That means, you can use anything you can find to build yer antenner with the odder it looks the more points ya get...providin' yer nabors don't cvome after the club for the chain link fence that used ta be in their back yard or ballin' war that used ta hold their home up on blocks. It's considered unfair if'n ya get caught rippin' off yer naybor's stuff.

There us an entry fee, just like at the church turkey shoot and barn dance. It will cost ya 5 bucks to enter for each antenner you enter. Half the entry fee goes to the winner and half goes to to Bubba, and he PROMISSED to donate it all to the local Egyptian Radio Club folks.

Okay, now here are the rules...

1. Yer antenner must have a SO-239 at the feed point. This is so Bubba's helper, Ocifer Pat, don't have no trouble hookin' your contraption, er, ..I mean yer antenner up to the feed line. This SO-239 needs to be within a foot of whar you antenner attached to the mast because Ocifer Pat don't see too good from all the moonshine tasted when he was a youngun.
2. Yer antenner has to weigh less than whatever a piece of 2" diameter PVC pipe that is 10 fet tall (the mast) can hold up safely. This is so Ocifer Pat don't get chunked in his head when yer contraption falls off the mast.
3. Everybody's antenner gits tested by the same transmitter runnin' the same amount of power. The transmitter will be runnin' between 20 and 50 watts. The actual power will be determined later, but before contest day. Your antenner should be rigged up to handle

50 watts without melting any important parts.

4. Everybody's antenner has to e no closer than 7 feet off the ground. Too much droop and Gramps and Grannie might attack it thinkin' it's makin' fun of his stuff.
5. Everybody's antenner gets tested by the same receiver using the same receive antenner to test everyboyd's antenner. That wy thee's no rock fights from someone being accused of payin' off the receiver judge.
6. Points will be given for the receiver signal meter reading. The more signal reading the more points given to yer antenner. There will be no cheatin' allowed. Peepers, the receiver operator will be given an extra strong set of readin' glasses just for the contest. We got him the expensive ones (\$3 from the Wally World store).
7. Points will be given for how purdy yer antenner is. Remember, this is the part of the contest that Bubba judges hisself with able assistance from his side kick, Ocifer Pat.

OK, that's about all the rules we can think of for now. If there is any additional rules that need to be enforced, Ocifer Pat will rule on them and his word is final...even if Bubba and Wally are the only ones in the club who can understand him.

PS. There will, also, be a pot luck lunch. It will cost ya one dish of pot luck food to join in the potluck lunch. There was a rumor goin 'round that there was gonna be a road-kill recipe contest too; but Granny's Possum Belly Stew would beat all yer recipes so that was ruled out. It's just a pot luck lunch and as my buddy, Justin Wilson, may he rest in peace, used to say, "OOOOO WHEEEE dat shore is good.

Contact K7RMJ with any questions via email at cuban9@charter.net.



Are you trained and ready to operate in an emergency? Do you know all the necessary "prowords" and "phonetics"? If not, why not check in on the ARES training net on 145.29 on Wednesday evening at 7:30PM local time. W5DTR, Curtis Williams, is conducting training sessions for any and all ham radio operators; this is an excellent opportunity to brush up on your skills as an Amateur Radio Operator.

Remember the rules and regulations that you said you will abide by as an Amateur Radio Operator? Allow me to quote FCC Part 97 from Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations.



§97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

Now, I wonder how many of us are really ready to fulfill these rules. Honestly, I, WA9BRQ, know I am not. Although I have a background in USAF MARS and as a TRANSCON Traffic Agent, I realize that a lot of water has gone under the bridge since that time.

Curtis is awakening a lot of good memories and helping this old man to brush on his communications skills. Some procedures have actually changed since 1973.

What phonetics do you use? Are you using the ARRL and ICAO approved phonetics? Times do change and we, as amateur radio operators and hopeful emergency communicators need to be sure that we keep up with those changes.



Be ready when the big one hits. When? Who knows? Only God has that answer. The only thing that we do know is that the New Madrid Earthquake Fault is overdue in letting us know that is there.

Earthquake is not the only thing that can cause problems. Come to the March 6 meeting of the Egyptian Radio Club to learn more of what we need to be prepared to handle.

**USE THE APPLICATION ON
THE NEXT PAGE TO
RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.**



Egyptian Radio Club, Inc. W9AIU

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Your Full Name _____ Your Call _____

Your Address _____ License Class _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your Home phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Your email address _____@_____

Are you a member of the ARRL? _____ ARES? _____ MARS? _____

Class of membership desired: Full Associate Senior (circle one) If so, give call

I hereby apply for membership in the Egyptian Radio Club, Inc. and agree to accept and follow its By-Laws. Further, I agree to operate my Amateur Radio Station in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Communications Commission Part 97, of the United States of America.

Signature of applicant _____

EGYPTIAN RADIO CLUB DUES STRUCTURE

\$3.⁰⁰ per month
Payable annually at \$36.00 per year
or quarterly at \$9.⁰⁰ per quarter, in January, April, July, and October.

I am enclosing \$ _____ for my first year dues.

Sponsoring Member _____

Secretary _____ Dated ____/____/____