

K1R 10th Annual Labor Day Weekend Special Event

August 30th-31st and September 1st

Once again hundreds of fellow hams around the globe will be joining in on our annual special event. This year's event is very special as it denotes our 10th anniversary doing these events.

A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers who stepped up and became Net Control Stations—a rewarding and prestigious position to be in. There may be

a few afternoon NC. openings so contact Loby-WA2AXZ and settle in for a great afternoon of radio.

Please remember to send in your SASE for our commemorative

certificate! Send your large 9x12 envelope (if you do not want the certificate folded) to WA2AXZ - Bob Lobenstein 1958 East 36 Street Brooklyn, NY 11234.



New Book Coming Soon

History buffs will recognize the name Frank Sprague as being the Father of Electric Traction. His son, John, went on to found Sprague Capacitors, a staple in every American-made piece of ham and electronic gear from the 40s thru the 80s. A biography about John and Sprague Capacitors is about to be published and details will be forthcoming in the next issue.

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER September 2014

2004—2014

Our 10th anniversary year.

Founders of the 7.272 Ragchew.

K1LRB - AA2XK - WA2ISC -
W2LEI

NI2W - N2COM AA2T-K3SEA
and W2CSQ

Silent key founders:

W2LKS and W3ICX



What to do about Ronald McDonald?

Imagine waking up each morning, peering out of your front windows to be greeted with the eerily smiling face of this fellow.



Well, this is what Terry-KC8OEX sees.

This inflatable advertisement for hamburgers may have a second use. It was suggested that Terry get a bottle of helium, blow up the balloon and use its floating form for a really great high-flying long-wire antenna.

A win-win for ham-radio and of course for hamburger sales too!



72chew.net

New way to GIVE US A HOLLER!

Spammers never rest, so we are no longer putting our e-mail addresses on our website. Instead, we now have a "**Hollerin' Form**" which still gives you a quick and easy way to e-mail us without exposing us to spam.



You can find a link to the Hollerin' Form at the bottom of every page of the website. You can also get to it by going to "About Us" and clicking on "Give Us a Holler!"

The form has a drop-down menu for selecting the recipient of your message. Just pick the right person, fill in the other boxes, and hit the "Let 'er Rip!" button.

We have deactivated the old e-mail addresses for the Scheduler (scheduler@72chew.net) and Webmaster (webmaster@72chew.net). If you use those addresses now, we'll never get your message! Use the Hollerin' Form instead, or look us up on QRZ.com.

Goods and Services:

KB3IFH QSL Cards

Randy-KB3IFH makes great looking QSL cards, and other printed matter. If you want to update your cards, order business or eyeball cards or have other printing requirements, contact Randy.



73 Randy KB3IFH

KB3IFH QSL Cards

www.kb3ifh.homestead.com



"The plate has how many volts on it again?" (Thanks Bill-WA2DVU)

A note from your editor ...

Our monthly newsletter "THE CHEW" contains information about the activities and participants in the 7.272 Ragchew Net. We rely on contributions of stories and pictures from the members to keep all of us up to date, impart information we can all use and, of course, to raise a smile and a chuckle or two. If you find a new "Taz" photo that can be used for future certificates and QSLs, that too is greatly appreciated. In addition, if you have anything to sell, swap or trade or offer other goods and services, let me know and I'll publish it in the next issue of "THE CHEW". Please, check out my call on QRZ and e-mail your stories, tech info and photos to Loby-WA2AXZ

72chew.net

Does anybody know what time it is?

By John-W8LWX

There are always two questions. Always the same questions. First question: "Wouldn't it be easier to just buy a watch?" Every ham has heard this same question in a different form:



"Why get a ham radio license when you can just use your cell phone?" Or: "Why go fishing when you can just buy fish at the grocery store?" If you understand why you fish and why you talk on the radio, you understand why I built a 23.5-foot analemmatic sundial in my back yard, outside the hamshack window.

Second question: "Does it keep good time?" That one's a bit trickier. Answering it makes you sound like a lawyer: "*It depends on what you mean by 'good' and 'time.'*" For this precise location, it keeps time as well as the Universe itself. If there's a higher standard than that, I don't know what it is. Your watches and clocks keep only an average of that time, which is why it used to be called *mean* time. They are highly regular and that's why you like them. But here, at this spot, *time is not regular.*

Does anybody know what time it is? Continued...

By the standards of the Universe, your fancy clocks and watches are wrong more often than they are right.

There are many different types of sundials, all determined by the mechanics of the Universe and simple geometry. In an analemmatic dial, the gnomon (the part that casts the shadow) is perfectly vertical and shows the time by casting a shadow onto a calibrated ellipse, the precise shape of which depends on the latitude where the sundial is built. This is a bit different from the type that most people are used to (known as a horizontal dial), which uses a fixed, sloping gnomon that casts a shadow onto a circle.

For the information and formulae required to lay out my dial, I relied on *Sundials: Their Theory and Construction*, by Albert E. Waugh (Dover Publications, 1973). You can still find it on Amazon for under \$10; look for ISBN 0486229475. I'd recommend it to anyone.

The most visible part of the sundial, the 8-foot-



diameter circular concrete dais surrounding the gnomon sockets, is largely unrelated to the sundial's function.



It provides some decorative features, like our street address, cut from treated lumber and sunk into the concrete, as well as the curvilinear graph

displaying the Equation of Time (EOT), used to calculate the difference between sun time and clock time for any given date. Apart from that, the driving force behind the circular dais was that our entire backyard was on a slope. We were just tired of not having a level place to put our lawn chairs.

The ellipse is a concrete trough, still not quite finished. The original idea was to sink a big galvanized tub at each end of the elliptical trough to make two matching pools. Water would bubble up from the west pool, run over and flow down the trough into the east pool, where it would be pumped underground back into the west pool. This was to be a metaphor for Time, which is in infinite supply but keeps running away from us and down the drain, leaving us wondering where the hell it all went. This feature, alas, is yet to be completed.

Every week or so, we move the gnomon to the next socket in the dais in order to ensure an accurate reading. At the summer solstice, the gnomon is at the far north end; at the winter solstice, at the far south; and at the equinoxes, in the center.



Moving the gnomon is a ritual that binds us to the seasons, here on our one little cog in the gigantic grandfather clock of the Universe.

The point where the shadow falls on the ellipse is real time -- *i.e.*, how far along we are in the one-day trip from one sunrise to the next. The EOT is consulted to add or subtract minutes to get standard clock (mean) time, which pretends that every day is the same length. In fact, the interval from one sunrise to the next is not always the same, and the failure of our clock time to account for this fact results in an error that accumulates, thus necessitating the adjustment. This accumulated error is also exacerbated or ameliorated (depending on the time of year) by the changes brought on by the earth's tilt. The net effect is the sinusoidal EOT graph. Whether this is an error in the sundial or an error in the concept of uniform clock time is entirely a matter of perspective.

The North American Sundial Society (NASS) keeps a registry of all known sundials on the continent -- maintained, at least as of 2011, by a fellow ham, Larry McDavid, W6FUB. If you go to the NASS website, sundials.org, you'll find mine listed as #709. There are much larger dials owned by corporations, colleges, and so forth; but last time I checked, mine was the largest individually-owned sundial east of the Mississippi and the second-largest individually-owned sundial in North America. There's a guy with a bigger one, a horizontal type, somewhere in Oklahoma. I like mine better.