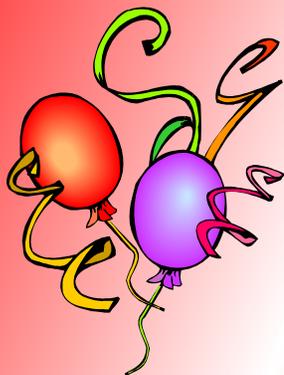


K1R ~ New Year's Three-Day Weekend Special !

To celebrate a new year we will be operating the K1R call on Saturday, December 30; Sunday December 31; and New Year's Day, Monday, January 1.

We will be staffing the positions with our regularly scheduled hourly Net Control Stations from 8am to 12 noon Eastern time. Volunteers are needed to take the hourly 12 noon and beyond positions. If you would like to volunteer for a prestigious high-paying position with all the benefits that apply (hi hi), send an e-mail to Loby at wa2axz@arrl.net.

As always, a new 2018 certificate will be sent to all Net Control Stations and offered to all participants. Makes great wallpaper for your shack!



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER December 2017

Robert W. Lokenstein—WA2AXZ Newsletter Editor

*To all our friends and their Families:
we wish you the Merriest of the Christ-
mas season, the Happiest Hanukkah
and
Kwanzaa,
and a most
wonderful
New
Year-
2018*



Proposed 2018 "Chew" Events

Discussions are underway to have another gathering of friends and family somewhere below the Mason-Dixon line.

Each year we hold the traditional May gathering at Dayton, then the September party on the Canadian border. These events are, at times, too far for friends in the southern areas of the country to attend.

In March there is a large hamfest in Charlotte, North Carolina where many friends of the Chew attend. We are thinking of setting up a gathering of friends to help celebrate there too.

As is said in Brooklyn...

"WHADDDAYA THINK ?"

Input from our members helps keep things fresh and interesting for the group. Whatever suggestions or comments you have are truly appreciated.

Contact John-W8LWX and Loby-WA2AXZ with your ideas today.



72chew.net

TERRY AND THE GOLD MINE

Each year Terry-KC8OEX heads out to the old gold mine to try his luck at panning for gold. This year proved eventful as he was drenched with heavy rain and, well, read his account below:



“MY GOLD MINE TRIP WAS NOT A TOTAL LOSS THIS YEAR, BUT I DID HAVE TO CUT IT SHORT DUE TO STORMS & TORNADOS. ON TUESDAY THE TORNADOS HIT IN MY AREA,

CHEROKEE COUNTY, AND JUMPED OVER TO WILKES COUNTY.

SIX PEOPLE GOT HURT AND MUCH DAMAGE OCCURRED, BUT THANKFULLY, NO LOSS OF LIFE. I MYSELF EXPERIENCED A DRIVING-

HORIZONTAL RAIN FOR ABOUT 1 HOUR.

I WAS THINKING, AT THAT TIME, WHERE I WAS GOING TO LAY DOWN AND TAKE A NAP. I DECIDED TO TAKE A LONG CHAIN AND LINK UP MYSELF AROUND A BIG TREE IN THE CREEK BANK. THAT GRAND SCHEME ENDED AS THAT AREA SOON TURNED INTO A RUSHING RIVER.



HERE ARE A FEW PICTURES WITH MY SEVENTEEN GRAMS OF CLEAN GOLD”.



Better luck next time, Terry!

LIGHTNING-2, LOBY-O

Part 2

Back in the April Issue I showed everyone what happens to ground cables when hit by lightning. I thought I had fixed everything until, on Halloween, I received a second scare. While installing a new TV antenna, I



made it my usual check to see if all the ham and TV cables were ok. I found, on the TV RG-6 cable a blast mark and the cable almost burned

through. TV's were still working but that cable was on its last legs. That cable was replaced with a new one and all is working fine. This little event made me appreciate the fact that, we hams are not only the target of TVI complaints, but Mother Nature as well. (hihi)

Noise? What Noise?

Over the years more and more of the new style decorative lighting, mostly from China, has come on the market to adorn homes and businesses across America. Beginning with Halloween and continuing through Christmas, you can actually see, on your “S” meter, the increase of the background noise level

as holidays take hold.



Do a little experiment and note the back-

ground noise on each of the bands you operate. As December 25th draws near, you should be able to note an increased hiss-rhythmic popping and howl from the decorations flashing on and off and motors operating reindeer heads and cheap “wall wart” power supplies making the season bright.



If anyone wants to know what Loby looks like during Christmas,

HO
HO
HO !





**A
Christmas
Ham**
By WA2AXZ

'Twas the night before Christmas and
all through my shack
The tubes were a-glowing... I
was making contacts
The antenna was tuned and
rotated 'round
Facing the south, the noise
level to drown



I sat in my old chair, earphones on my
head
I stopped spinning the dial, now what's
being said?
Two old codgers were at it... they were
making a scene
Which rig was garbage and which was
a dream.

Down the band I slid like snow on the
fly
With nothing else heard, 40 meters I'd
try
With the snap of a switch, align grid
and plate
Setting the filters, hey! there are my
mates!

The "72 Chewers" were talking en masse
Each taking turns, their greetings to pass
One by one listing their holiday wishes
Of rigs and amps and satellite dishes.

With a broad smile, the radio I keyed
I checked myself in, what else would one
need?

Then all of a sudden, a sizzle and spark
The lights blinked twice, and then all was
dark.

A glow in the back of the rig's getting brighter
My heart sinks to the floor,
The transformer's on fire!

Pull out the plugs... smoke's filling my nose
I turn on the spray from close garden hose.
Open the windows, fling open the sash
I toss out the rig to the ground with a crash

Stench from the smoke fills my poor head
Then all of a sudden I wake up in my bed.

What could have caused such a
terrible nightmare?
Was it the beer, the nuts or the ham ill-
prepared?
To my delight the shack is intact and snow
lightly falls
73s to my friends,

**Merry Christmas to all,
and to all a good night!**



Goods and Services:

KB3IFH QSL Cards

If you are in the market for new and
impressive QSLs and eyeball cards, contact
Randy and see how a new set of cards will
look for you.

**KB3IFH QSL
Cards**

www.kb3ifh.
homestead.com or
kb3ifh @ arrl.net



WANTED...

**YOUR STORIES,
PHOTOGRAPHS, TECH TIPS,
HAPPENINGS AND FUNNIES.**

The 7.272 Ragchew Newsletter, "The
Chew" is made possible by contributions
of materials by our members. We rely on
the stories and pictures from the members
to keep all of us up to date, impart infor-
mation we can all use and, of course, to
raise a smile and a chuckle or two.

Take a few moments to jot down interest-
ing stories and send them to your editor.
If you find a new "Taz" photo that can be
used for future certificates and QSLs, that
too is greatly appreciated. Please, e-mail
your stories, tech info and photos to Loby
at wa2axz@arrl.net *Many Thanks!*