

## Welcome our new Net Scheduler and Webmaster

Ken-W3XAF has been a longtime net control station and one of the original members of the Chew. He has volunteered to pick up the mantle of "Net Scheduler" in our Organization without Organization



Ken has been "radio-active" for decades in the U.S. Air Force as well as many of the national and international nets he is involved with around the globe. I know that everyone wishes Ken well and will help him out as he sets up our NCS schedule.

Joel-KM4NOU is our new webmaster keeping our 7.272 Ragchew alive and visible on the internet.



Joel does computer sites for various organizations and has volunteered to help keep 72chew.net updated.

Together, these fine gentlemen along with others behind the scenes work together to make things on the Chew

more pleasurable. I know we will all welcome them and give them help along the way.

# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where  
Choosy  
People

Choose  
to  
CHEW!

**NEWSLETTER** December 2018



Ever wonder what  
Loby does  
during  
Christmas?

Not only Christmas,  
but every 365 days a  
year. Bring kindness  
and cheer to everyone.  
That is the true mean-  
ing of the holiday.  
WA2AXZ



## Happy Festivus!

Seriously, to each and everyone, no matter which holiday you and the family observe, enjoy it to the fullest and have the best blessings of the new year-2019!



And now, I am  
babysitting a cat!

My basset hound now has a little friend to play with. I find that this Christmas I am watching my daughter's 14 year old Himalayan cat. While "Lupin" hasn't tried to climb the tree, I find that the hound, "Prints," keeps him at a respectful distance.

Loby ~~~~~

**Volunteers**

**Wanted!**

If you would like to be one of our Net Control Stations on a regular schedule or as an emergency fill in, please contact our net scheduler, Ken-W3XAF at: [w3xaf@darcl.de](mailto:w3xaf@darcl.de)



72chew.net

## Reminiscing about the 811 amps.

Many of us run a little fire in the wires to get over noise brought to us by poor band conditions. Amps over the past 70 years or so are equipped with the venerable 811 tube. The 811 was designed in the 1930s as an RF amplifier and when used in the older boat anchors, they were employed to step up power levels before going into the massive 4-400A and 500-Z tubes. Since the inception of Ameritron and other manufacturers, the 811 has continued to be used in the base units of one thousand watts and less. Therein lies a problem. Many of us have had interesting failures with amps, blowing filter caps and having tubes flash over. Since I try to repair my own "stuff" after the warranty, I got a close up look into the AL-811 amps I own. After rebuilding the power supply in the amp a few times I noticed that Ameritron and others really stress components to the limit. There are four-450v caps in series making the 1800v needed for operation.

Since there is no room for surges or spikes, these caps, associated bleeder resistors and rectifier diodes blow sky high when they give up the ghost. I had yet another blowout this past summer and found that new and larger 525 volt caps were being sold by Ameritron. I bought and installed new ones and now there is a 200 + volt cushion that may prove what the doctor ordered.



Now, let's discuss the 811 tube. There are many hams who have successfully changed their amps to the 572B tubes so, I did a little research as to the benefits and drawbacks. First of all I hit the engineering spec book to get an eye opener.

The 811 tube has a max plate voltage rating of 1250 volts with a maximum power rating of 25 watts. The three-tube 811 amp runs at 1800 volts and boasts of a 600-watt output. HUMMMMM.... Talk about stressing components to the max!

Now with these new Chinese and Russian tubes being sold, it now dawns on me why so many fail within the first few hours of operation.

The 572B tube is a wholly different animal. Plate voltage is rated at 2700 volts and wattage rating is 160+, WOW! I bought three new tubes, then cried when I paid for them, and installed them without any modifications. There are some amps that use a grounded grid through a resistor/choke that has to be removed or changed. Check out the cheat sheets on the internet for details. Looking at the new tube, the plate is not thin pressed steel, as in the 811, but a heavy carbon construction,



thus the higher capacity of the 572 tube.

After installing the new tubes it was suggested that I let them bake for an hour without plate voltage applied. I popped the caps and insulated them on a wooden ruler while the tubes burned in. After this pre-conditioning, I powered up the amp and it works very well. In fact it is running so much cooler than the original 811 installation. I know now that, as the past few months have passed, no smoke, no unusual operations are to be reported so, I can suggest to fellow hams who are not afraid of digging in to the circuits, make the power supply beefier with the new capacitors and spend a few more \$\$\$ for the 572B tubes. You will be pleasantly surprised at what you get.

Loby-WA2AXZ

## [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. Please, e-mail your stories, tech info and photos to Loby at [wa2axz@arri.net](mailto:wa2axz@arri.net) Many Thanks!

## Goods and Services:

If you or a fellow ham need anything special to buy or have anything to sell or trade, list it here in the Chew!

e-mail Loby at [wa2axz@arri.net](mailto:wa2axz@arri.net)

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*NEED QSLs OR EYEBALL CARDS OR HOW ABOUT LITTLE SIGNS AND CUPS, PLAQUES ETC???*



**KB3IFH QSL Cards**  
[www.kb3ifh.homestead.com](http://www.kb3ifh.homestead.com)

72chew.net

# A Christmas Ham

**I**'was a 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  
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 "RAG CHEWERS" were  
there, 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 a close  
garden hose.



Open the windows, ting  
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?  
But my shack is intact and  
snow lightly falls  
73's to my friends,  
Merry Christmas to all!

