

NEWS FLASH!

As I have just returned, May 28th, from my extended Dayton-Wisconsin vacation, extreme weather has hit the mid-section of America, causing flooding and tornadoes. Dayton was hit hard by several tornadoes causing a blackout affecting the entire city of 5 million people. According to local news, a twister came over the hill and severely damaged the abandoned Hara Arena, site of Hamventions for decades. I was at the arena a week ago and the place was a hulk, with doors and windows boarded up the exterior deteriorating badly. In addition, a



Hara Arena one week before the tornado.

tornado touched down in Brookville near the KOA campground and Rob's Restaurant. Luckily the tornado moved a bit north in the town sparing our rag-chew venues.

Thankfully there were no fatalities in the Dayton area and no doubt, with the blackouts and devastation, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, (DARA), fresh from Hamvention duties, responded admirably.

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The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



NEWSLETTER June 2019

Dayton Activities, 2019

Please forgive the lateness of this June 2019 issue. As I usually visit the Hamvention first, then trek to Wisconsin to see my family, I have just started this issue on May 28th.



Loby's campsite #79 before the crowd arrives.

I usually get into Dayton the Monday before Hamvention, and set up my camper at the KOA. This year I decided to bring my 811 amp and big 3kW tuner to do the Chew, then head to my son-in law's (KD9FCB) QTH in Wisconsin to continue 40 and 160m operations. As you see, my entire dinner table is taken up with radio equipment, which makes me thankful for the picnic bench when I have to eat. (hihi)



I make it a point each year to visit the new Hamvention site to watch the crews set up tents and other displays. This year, additional tents and food vendors will be on hand to cater to any whim a ham would entertain.



New, wide open tents to hold a myriad of vendors have been installed, giving a less cramped feeling when strolling to view the wares. The buildings were opened and display counters changed, here too, to give a great view of the tables.



View inside the "Tesla" building

After my walk through Xenia, I decided to make a side trip to the old Hara Arena. One again I was greeted by an abandoned hulk stuck in an interfamily squabble, rendering that once great facility useless.



A wasteland where the once great Hamvention flea market was held.

The Thursday evening dinner at Rob's Restaurant was, once again, well attended. It seems that nothing will keep hams and their families away from the buffet table where great food is served and great conversations were held at the dining table.



Our new commander, Ken-W3XAF, gave a hearty welcome to everyone and after a few words by Loby-WA2AXZ, everyone was off to fill their plates! I do admit that

after a full meal, I did visit the dessert cart. Please don't tell anyone (hihi)



We got back to the KOA campground and, while many hit the sack to get ready for opening day, several of us held a "Big Bang" party, in the rain, commemorating the end of a great television comedy series.



Friday morning, the long lines started forming at Xenia. Thankfully, the sun



made a rare appearance and kept things pretty dry during the weekend events. At the appointed hour, the gates opened and a great rush of humanity headed to the fair.

The first stop for many was the flea market to snap up freshly displayed goodies. If you had a list of needed things, walking briskly along the stalls usually meant that you would find that special item at a great price.



Randy-KB3IFH set up his booth displaying the fantastic QSL and eyeball cards he produces. He also makes signs, certificates, nameplates and dozens of



attractive items, personalized for your shack.



On Friday and Saturday at the noon hour, the group was called to the central area to take the annual group photo. We had a great turnout this year, though as soon as the photographs were taken, everyone was off again, checking out the new ham equipment as well as vintage boat anchors.

Meanwhile, back at the KOA, preparations for the Friday barbeque were underway. Volunteers set up the



...serving table, Loby fired up the charcoal grill while

others set up the tables. Another round of great food was the order for the evening. Here are a few of the photos taken at the barbeque. Members of the 7.272 Ragchew, the Canadian 3730 group, the 1721 net and the Rooster Roster had a ball!



On Saturday, everyone headed back to the "ham radio Mecca" to drool over the overly expensive "toys" and attend ARRL forums. Loby-WA2AXZ had a chance to speak with Mr. MFJ himself. Martin Jue founded the company in 1972 and is still going strong today. I doubt there is a ham



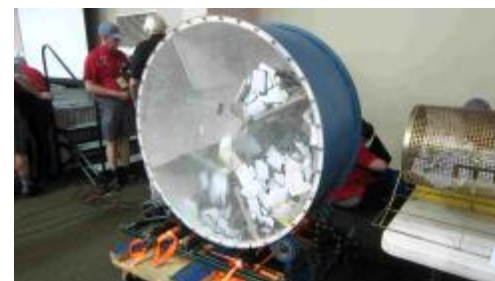
anywhere that does not have a piece of MFJ gear.



One side of the packed room.



Sunday was the last shopping day of Hamvention, and beginning at 1pm, all stalls closed and thousands gathered in the main assembly building to listen to the awards program and hope to win one of the BIG



prizes. Round and round the drum rolls as tickets are pulled

and winners announced. Bruce-WB2AFD won a door prize. I am happy to report my 20-year Hamvention losing streak is still unbroken. (hihi)



The saddest part of Hamvention is packing up, saying good bye to dear friends and having one last chat around the campfire. Fear not, as many of

us made reservations for May 2020, when the newest edition of Hamvention opens.

You have a year to plan, so make notes on your calendar and get ready for yet another great ham radio weekend.

Loby-WA2AXZ

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