



MERRY
MERRY



**Christmas - Hanukkah
Kwanzaa - Festivus?**

To all of our fellow hams, their families, Friends and pets, enjoy the best this season brings. The happiest, and most Peaceful and prosperous New Year, 2020 to all!

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER December 2019

Our Future Events

2019 was a banner year for not only our 7.272 Ragchew net but our associated nets including: the 160m "1721 Group," the Rooster Roster, the Canadian 3.730 group and many others.



Our two major events at both Dayton and Kring Point have been well attended and growing. Once again, for 2020, we already have the Dayton-Xenia hamvention locked in at the KOA campground for May and just about everything is set up for our annual end of summer bash in September.



It is never too early to make plans, so, if you want, start making your camping arrangements early, and the motel reservations too for that matter, and join us for a great pair of annual events. More information will come in an upcoming issue of "The Chew."

~ K1R ~

Our group has been evolving over the past few years. We used to have the K1R New Year's, Chew Birthday, July 4th, and Labor Day on-air events. Over the past two years, interest in the many events has waned. We will continue to have our annual Birthday K1R celebration with QSL cards to commemorate the day. As things pick up on the net, we will reconsider and probably bring back some of the other events.

72chew.net

What were they thinking?

Over the past almost 50 years, I have worked on many types of antennas, each with its own quirks of construction though, Here's an interesting thing I have found on my 160m stick. Any good ham or electrician, for that matter, knows how to solder. Clean the material, apply flux, add the correct measure of heat and solder, then watch as the solder flows into the connection. Usually we solder similar materials, copper into copper, though soldering into brass, steel or iron works well too.

One evening I noticed a fluctuating SWR on my 160m antenna during our nightly 1721 round table net on 1.871MHz. I switched out the resonator with a spare I keep for my camper and did some tests. I saw



Spare 160m Resonator before modifications.

a high resistance between the top and bottom of the resonator caps where there should be an almost 0 ohm reading. I stripped away the outer covering to see a nice copper-looking coil of wire soldered into a steel ferrule. Upon closer inspection, I saw that, no, there was no copper in those coils, only aluminum wire coated with a copper looking insulating jacket. The solder joint was shaking around in the hole of the ferrule as soldering an aluminum wire to a steel pin plainly just does not work!

With most equipment now made in China, I could see why they thought they could get away with this. Yes, it worked well for a few months but, corrosion takes place then you are off the air. I stripped the end of the wire, then tapped a small screw into the top and bottom of the resonator mount. Using two



brass screws and washers, I bathed all in a copper conducting paste that resists corrosion. The result is a new, more durable connection.

Once again I was on air. This same modification was performed to my three remaining 160m antennas. Anyone with a Valor or RF Engineering hamstick may want to check things out if problems like this occur.



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.

Your special events coordinator and behind-the-scenes chief cook and bottle washer wishes everyone a blast this Christmas season.
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 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



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



KB3IFH QSL Cards
www.kb3ifh.homestead.com

72chew.net

A Christmas Ham

By Loby -WAZAXZ

'Twas 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
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 "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, 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?
But my shack is intact and
snow lightly falls
73's to my friends,
Merry Christmas to all!



From
Riley (L)
Bobby (R) and
Grandpa
Loby -
WAZAXZ