

Hello again all 7272 Ragchew members and NCS's!

I was recently asked why I have to use large font in all my e-mails, and am I shouting at all of you when I send you an e-mail with large font.

The answer is absolutely no, I am not shouting!

I was stationed in South Vietnam during 1965 and my body was exposed to a substance now called "Agent Orange." When my Air Force buddies and I saw this substance being sprayed all over South Vietnam, we called it "insecticide" and knew absolutely nothing about Agent Orange. Since I left South Vietnam, I have had skin cancer, thyroid cancer, and prostate cancer and my eyes have been severely damaged by Agent Orange. In other words: I can no longer read normal sized font.

This is why I have to use large font in all my e-mails. However, if I had to do it all over again, I would!

Our squadron's mission in South Vietnam was to fly South Vietnamese commandos into North Vietnam but only at night, of course. I slept in a very hot tent during the day. Over 50% of my fellow aircrew members never came back from their missions over North Vietnam. Even though I was wounded by a Viet Cong sniper in May 1965, I consider myself very lucky because I am still here with all of you today.

73s,
Ken-W3XAF



72chew.net

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER August 2020

Anniversary QSL cards
still available!

If anyone would like a personalized Chew QSL, all it takes is your self-addressed-stamped-envelope, sent to me, and a special QSL card will be whisked to your QTH.

Bob Lobenstein (Loby-WA2AXZ)
1958 East 36 Street Brooklyn, NY 11234



A Remarkable
Antenna Farm
Ray-KB3HQV



As I headed back home to Brooklyn, I made a final stop in western, Pa, to visit a good friend and retired Chew NCS, Ray and his XYL, Brenda. Ray lives on a mountaintop and, as evidenced by his antenna farm, he takes Ham Radio seriously. It makes me jealous as my yard is barely 18'x22' and I jump through hoops just to get on 40 and 160m.
Loby-WA2AXZ

The Road Home...

Last month I spent a good amount of time tooling around Wisconsin and boy, did I truly enjoy the fresh air and the clean sights. It was a far cry from living here in the “Rotting Apple” (NYC) On my way home I made it a point to stop by the Dayton KOA, to visit with a few friends and take a looksee around our old ham haunts. I first



stopped by John-N8SSE's QTH a few days before Field Day. John is barely a mile away from the iconic but no defunct, Drake manufacturing company.

John and his mom greeted me and we had a great morning visit. My Basset hound, Prints, made himself at home and



like all hounds went fast asleep. John showed off his shack with his new Icom 7300 and 500w Ameritron solid state amp. We made a few contacts on the Chew before wrapping up the visit, and me heading to my next stop, the Xenia fairgrounds.

We hams got to see it when the facility was converted to exhibition space, while the



racetrack area was turned into a great flea market. Here too, this was shut down to visitors thanks to the pandemic but the farm, livestock, and race horses still need attention. My Basset hound, Prints and I took a nice walk around the grounds to get some fresh air and see what we could see of



the place when hams are away. People were busy working inside the buildings, caring for cows and other farm animals while around the track, jockeys and trainers were busy running the race horses through their paces. It must be an exciting site when races are allowed to return, seeing these magnificent animals at full speed. For now, all was tranquil and quiet.

Lightning-1 Tree-0

Julie-KC2ZTG

I was walking the dogs Monday morning (July 13, 2020) and came across fresh shards of tree in the trail. Apparently not just one, but two trees, had parts of them blown off when the water in the trunks was changed to steam by the lightning. Wood shards and bark flew everywhere! Note the bark hanging on the tree branches..



“It’s a little one Elizabeth!”

Our resident wildlife photographer, Julie-KC2ZTG, sends us another great photo from her yard in upstate New York. This young “red fox” was strolling past her kitchen window when she snapped this



fantastic shot.

Many thanks Julie, and keep ‘em coming.

72chew.net

How the mighty hath fallen!

While in Dayton, I took another side trip to see what was left of the old Hara Arena. Last year, when I attended Hamvention in Xenia, I was curious to see what had happened to old Hara. The building was shuttered, slowly deteriorating and the field area was overgrown.

Over the past year, speaking with John-N8SSE and others in the area, we were updated as to what had happened with the old place. Time, Mother Nature, and politics have taken an all too heavy toll.

The story of Hara centers around a family squabble. The owners family members were



in a head-to-head court battle, as what to do with the property. During this time, Hamvention moved to Xenia and all shows and activities at Hara ceased. Vandals broke in and gutted anything of value from copper pipes to electrical wiring. Windows were smashed and sadly the rapid decline continued. Last summer there was a severe thunderstorm with multiple tornadoes touching down. Hara found itself in the way of a few of the funnels and here is the result.



The North Exhibit Hall, above, had a collapsed roof and all windows were blown out.



The rear of the Ball Arena had concrete block walls blown out and the concession area roof collapsed. I guess all this has sealed the fate of the old girl, but, I just had to stop by and take one last look at our old Hamvention haunt.



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. Without you, there is no Chew! Please, e-mail your stories, tech info and photos to Loby at wa2axz@arrl.net
Many Thanks!

Volunteers Wanted!



If you would like to be one of our Net Control Stations on a regular schedule or occasional fill-in, please contact our net scheduler, Ken-W3XAF

Goods and Services:

*NEED QSLs
OR
EYEBALL
CARDS ???*



KB3IFH QSL Cards
www.kb3ifh.homestead.com

72chew.net