

## Summer 2020, Three Months Of Disappointment!

Well gang, the lazy hazy and all too crazy days of summer, 2020, are just about behind us. The Corona Virus threw a knife in the heart of many plans, starting off with the



cancelled Dayton-Xenia Hamvention, along with all of our planned parties and gatherings. Almost all local ham radio gatherings and flea markets were shuttered and now our 17th Annual Kring Point-end-of-summer, party has flowed down the mighty St. Lawrence Seaway.

Even though I personally made new reservations for our members, in Dayton and Kring Point for the upcoming 2021 season, there is no firm guarantee that anything will be open and restored to some semblance of normal operations.

Each day, each week and each month brings new ups and downs with this virus and we can only look forward to a better year.

I ask everyone reading this to keep your eyes and ears open to events that may affect our future gatherings. Please send whatever you discover to me, Loby-WA2AXZ.



72chew.net

# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where  
Choosy  
People

Choose  
to  
CHEW!"

**NEWSLETTER** September 2020

## A visit with one of our founders: Rich-AA2XK

Almost 17 years ago a group of nine great hams, dissatisfied with the group they were originally involved with, gathered at a diner to begin a great new net, the 7.272 Ragchew. Rich-AA2XK was part of that group. Rich has served as NCS for many a year since but time and age have caught up with him. He had to step back from his daily radio activities.

Early in August, 2020, the Northeast experienced an unusual tropical storm that brought down thousands of trees, blacking out thousands as power lines were ripped down.

Rich's QTH in Commack, Long Island, wasn't immune to the damage. Branches fell, lights went out and sadly, his main HF wire antenna came down.



On Sunday, August 23, I went out to help get him back on air. The legs of the wire dipole antenna set up for 40 and 80 meter operation came down, and whipping wind had ripped out the connectors on the coax. I set up my soldering station and installed new PL-259 connectors and fashioned a strain relief to help prevent future damage. Rich and I went into his shack and started, with low power into the antenna, and it tuned up well. Our first contact was his old friend on the "Chew" John-W8LWX in the Carolinas. Seeing that it worked, we headed back out to finish the job.

As Rich can no longer climb ladders, I went up and re-routed the antenna ends in the old tree on his lawn. With a pull of the rope, up it went.

AA2XK Continued:

I am happy to say that Rich was smiling from ear to ear at the fact that he was able to get back on air to speak with his friends. Enjoy my friend! *Loby-WA2AXZ*



# AROOOOOGA !

Larry-KA9RNQ and his "Tin Lizzie," a Ford Model T, makes the rounds of his neighborhood to the enjoyment of all.

This beautifully restored car is



something to behold and drive. With its planetary transmission, a forerunner of modern automatic transmissions, the challenge for the driver was to synchronize his feet, using three pedals, to make the vehicle go forward and reverse. There was also a large lever on the left side which had three positions. Pulled back, the parking brake is applied. In middle, the transmission is in neutral and fully foreword was high gear. By the way, there was no gas pedal to operate. Levers on the steering column caused it to go whatever speed you desired. It is reported that the top speed of these Model T was almost 45 MPH. One achieved that "breakneck" speed as long as they had the wind at their back and were traveling downhill. I guess Larry has to use a handheld, as the vehicle only runs with a magneto ignition system and used acetylene gas headlights.

*Happy motoring Larry!*

## 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](mailto:wa2axz@arrl.net)  
*Many Thanks!*

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### **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

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## Who invented the Superheterodyne ?

<https://antiqueradios.com/superhet/>

*Written by Alan Douglas*

Bill-KB1PKS sends along this interesting link to a great historical story of Armstrong, pictured right, and early pioneers in radio. The work of discovery, improving circuitry and, at times, dealing with the unscrupulous nature of RCA, make this a truly fascinating read.



Grab a cup of coffee, download the article, and enjoy!

## Goods and Services:

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# THAT SINKING FEELING....

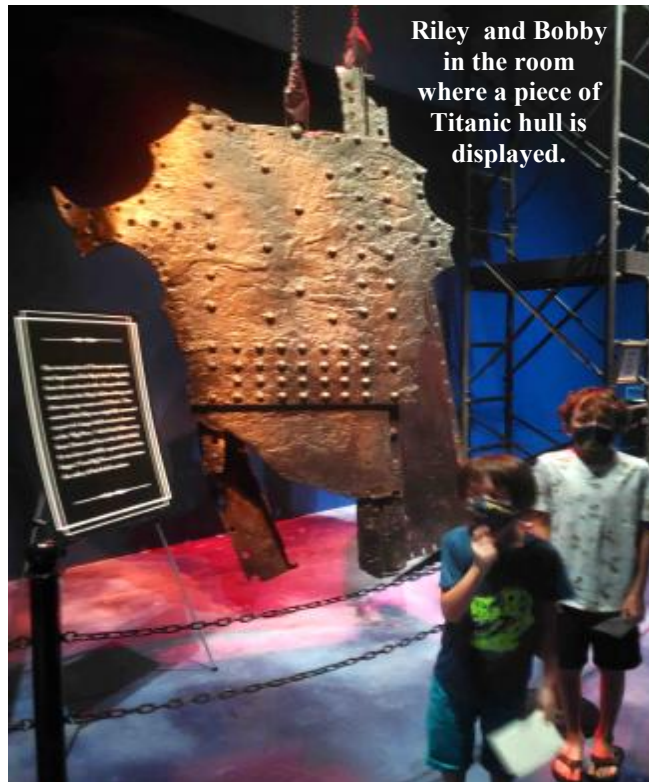


As the Corona Virus wanes in Florida, several of the major attractions have reopened. True, there are restrictions and distance requirements, but families once again can flee the confines of their homes and enjoy a breath of “hot” Florida air. After visiting Universal’s Harry Potter exhibit, my grandson, Riley, loving anything Titanic, asked to go to the special

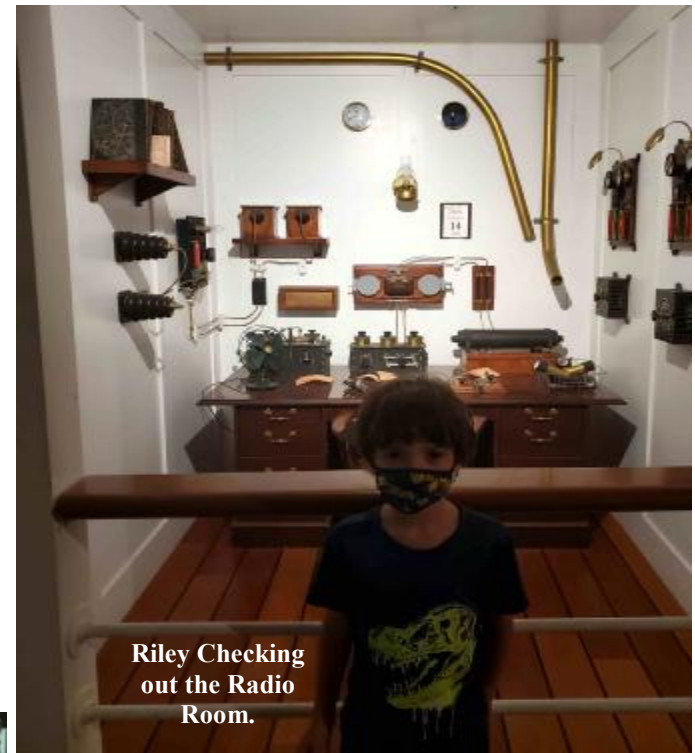


Titanic show. I went to see it while I was in Las Vegas, a few years ago, and it proved to be a fantastic visit. You enter via a full sized

recreation of the grand staircase. Each room reveals different aspects of life aboard the ship. Artifacts from the sea floor showing Titanic labeled dishware, luggage and passenger jewelry adds to the realism that hundreds of people lost their lives on this ship. The ship’s engine room telegraph, the device operated in the “bridge,” tells the engine room chief the speed the captain wants to go. To add to the dramatic scene, the room where actual plates of the hull are hung, are chilled to the temperatures the passengers experienced that deadly April evening.



Riley and Bobby in the room where a piece of Titanic hull is displayed.



Riley Checking out the Radio Room.

One of the rooms is a recreation of the Marconi Wireless room, located behind the main bridge of the ship. “Jack” Philips the senior operator perished as the ship went down. Both Philips and Harold Bride, who survived, stayed at their post, until the power went off, pounding out CQD “Calling all ships-ship in distress” and the newly adopted “SOS” to any ship that would come to their aid. Even though this was the most modern ship in the seven seas, note that instead of telephones, they were still using the “speaking” message tubes between the bridge and other critical locations to receive messages and send out important traffic. If this show opens in your area, it is definitely worth the visit.

Loby-WA2AXZ