

**HAPPY  
St. Patrick's  
Day!**



# The "Chew"

**SEVENTY-TWO**



“Where  
Choosy  
People

Choose  
to  
CHEW!”

**NEWSLETTER March 2021**



## Attention Boat Anchor Owners...

While sitting at my lawyer's office, in the process of selling my QTH, I read a table

book entitled "Laughable Laws." One law directly applies to most of us.

*"That old radio may not work anymore. It may just be junk. But in Claypool Arizona, for some unexplainable reason, a person isn't allowed to "willfully destroy an old radio." Any person caught doing this is subject to a fine of \$1 and a possible sentence of one day in jail."*

*You've been warned ! (hihi)*

**Passing....  
Edward Eves - KC2HRZ**

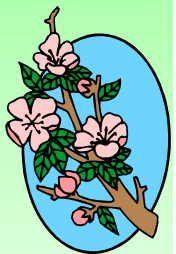
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Ed passed away on January 29, 2021, in Florida from complications of a massive stroke. While he had limited air time on the Chew, he was a major presence on the Rooster Roster and various up state New York and Canadian St. Lawrence area nets for decades. Ed also was a driving force, helping out tremendously when we held our annual end-of-summer bashes in the Kring Point State Park. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his XYL Peggy and the entire Eves family. Funeral information is pending.



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**Passing....  
Dennis Dittiacur - WB8RUW**

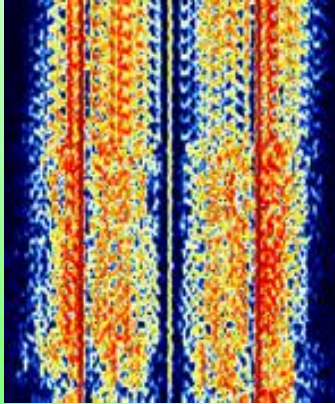
It is sad to announce the passing of a longtime friend to many on the 7.272 Ragchew net. Dennis Dittiacur - WB8RUW, succumbed to the effects of the corona virus.

Condolences may be sent to his family:  
8834 ROBINHOOD CIR  
WESTERVILLE, OH  
43082-9644



~~~~~  
What's  
That  
Sound?

This month, Randy-KB3IFH brings us an interesting website that most everyone on amateur radio will find enlightening.



This website catalogs all those crazy sounds you hear on the band with an audio clip and a screen grab of the waterfall image you might see. If you have a rig that displays a waterfall image or watch the waterfall on the hundreds of world-wide SDR sites, you will readily see the various sounds described in the site. The site also identifies what the sound is and possible location of the generation point, i.e., Russia and China.

Here's the link for the HF band:  
<https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/HF>  
On this website there are also additional links covering other bands too.



# Mysterious Eyes...

*A few days ago, after a post-midnight bathroom break, I glanced into my darkened Brooklyn radio shack. What, to my surprise, was that pair of lightly glowing eyes glancing back at me? My heart jumped, though when I put on my eye-glasses, I saw the source of the light.*

*In earlier Chew issues, I've written about my work, doing a dial and meter light bulb change-out on my tuners and amplifiers. MFJ made a quick change LED bulb kit which simply snapped into the rear of certain meters. The early linear amplifiers had grain-of-wheat incandescent bulbs buried deep inside the meter case itself, making internal LED conversions all but impossible. I devised an easy way to do an external conversion, and these new LED bulbs have done an admirable job of lighting the meter faces. Apparently MFJ used these incandescent bulbs in their 12-17 volt lighting and relay circuits as a bleeder resistor to the power supply too.*

*When I installed the new LED's, the current draw was so minuscule, and resistance so high, the filter caps kept the bulbs dimly lit for hours.*

*So, if you find your meters looking back at you on a dark evening, even when turned off, now you know why.*

Loby-WA2AXZ



# Volunteer Monitoring Program

For years the "Official Observers" have watched the ham bands to ensure FCC rules of operating were adhered to, as well as citing good operators for their efforts on the amateur bands.



Times have changed, and the new Volunteer Monitoring Program has been initiated to continue the good works of their predecessors. Today, sadly, portions of certain bands have devolved into the bad old CB days. There is a new site established with guidelines to follow where any ham can report violations. Ultimately, ARRL is aware that misbehavior continues on various bands, just as it always has.

As Riley Hollingsworth said many years ago, "Don't engage with it. Just turn the knob!"

To view the various details involved with the new program, check out: <http://www.arrl.org/volunteer-monitor-program>

# K1R is Coming!

*Our 17th annual celebration will kick off the weekend of May 1 and 2, 2021. As always, new collectable QSL cards have been designed for the gang to proudly display in their shacks. Full details in the April Chew issue!*



# 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!

# Volunteers Wanted!



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

# Goods and Services:

**Need QSLs or Eyeball Cards ???**

**KB3IFH QSL Cards**

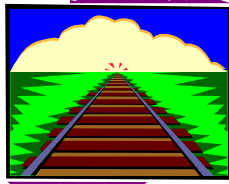
[www.kb3ifh.homestead.com](http://www.kb3ifh.homestead.com)

**72chew.net**



# A One-Track Mind...

One of my friends and a fellow power/transit historian is Professor Cunningham, formerly of CUNY (City University of New York). While not a ham, Joe was an early TV/radio repairman and later, a teacher of advanced physics, electronics, and power systems.



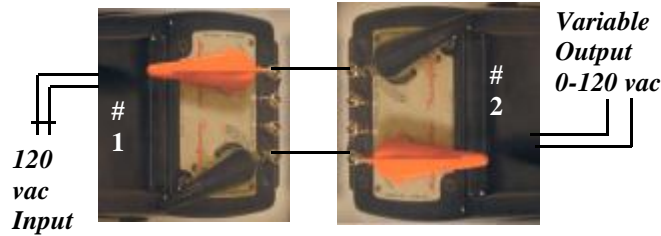
Living in a city apartment has limited his hands-on repair work, though from time to time, he digs into an old boat anchor just for the fun of it. A few weeks ago he was given a vintage green-screen oscilloscope. As Joe's young nephew is getting into electronics, he decided to get the old scope working, before he gave it to him.

We hams, along with most repair people, know that one does not take a boat anchor and plug it directly into the wall outlet. If we do, most times the old capacitors fail, blow up and take a few other components with them. If we are lucky owners of "variacs," it is just a simple matter of plugging into the unit and slowly bringing up the line voltage, giving components a chance to energize and at times, self heal.

I came from the poorer side of the tracks and learned to use a simple light bulb in series with the line cord to accomplish the same slow energizing of parts. Joe had neither, but a light bulb went off in his head. Both Joe and I have a passion for Lionel trains. Christmas was over and all trains were carefully stowed away when Joe came up with this idea of making his own variac. Taking two small 90 watt Lionel train transformers, he wired the secondary together where one transformer would step down the voltage between 0-18 volts AC while the other would take the 0-18 volts AC, and



step it up to 120V line voltage. Using the first



transformer on the lowest setting, he would bring up the voltage so that the voltage on the output of the second transformer was below 50 volts. He plugged in the scope and slowly brought up the voltage on the first transformer until the tube filaments began to glow. After an hour or so, he again brought the voltage up until a faint green trace on the scope CRT was visible. After another hour, the voltage was brought up to full 120 volts and he had one nicely working oscilloscope.



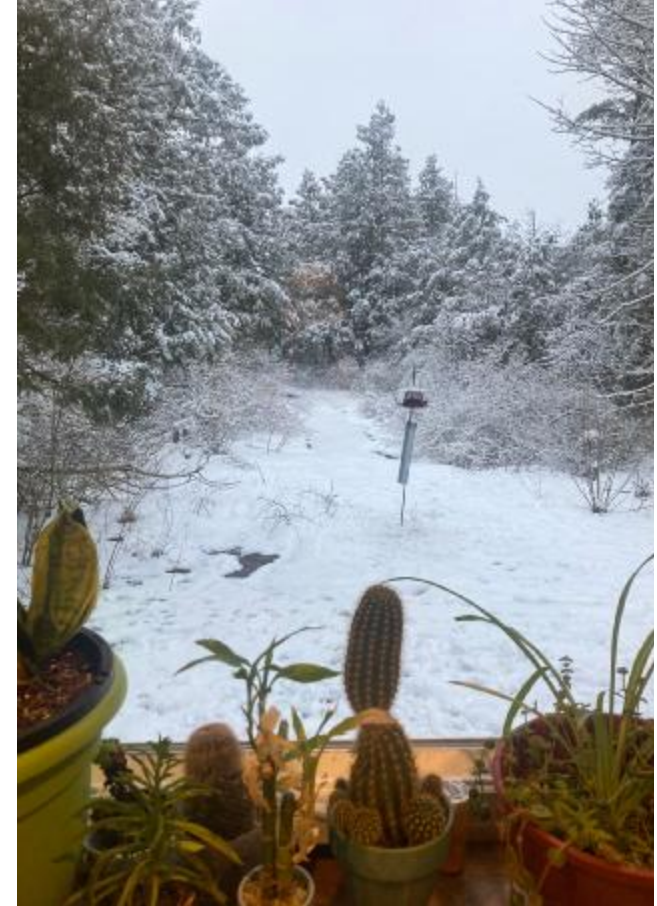
## The Last of the Boxes!

*While I am still in the process of moving, the last boxes containing tools and other necessities were loaded up in the second U-Haul, then schlepped to the new Wisconsin QTH. I reclaimed my Ham-M and TR-44 rotators from our radio club and will give them a new home on the tower that is still buried in the snow. Bare walls are the only thing that is left and the clock is ticking for me to say a final goodbye to Brooklyn.*



*Loby-WA2AXZ in the almost empty QTH.*

# Snow? What Snow?



Julie-KC2ZTG sends us a winter view from her kitchen window in upstate New York. While the cacti are basking on the warm side of the glass, the pine trees covering the path to the family's rear yard are heavy with snow. Being March, this view will change very soon.

72Chew.net