

Faulty PL-259's

For the second time since moving to Wisconsin, I was the victim of cheap Chinese connectors, press fit on 8X cable. HRO is just down the road from me and I purchased another 100' of 8X cable for my new antenna installation. After a few weeks of operation, nothing! My ohmmeter confirmed no continuity from end to end. For a second time, now in the snow, I brought the entire cable inside and cut out these connectors and installed the good, old reliable, silver-teflon amphenol connectors.



Like the first connectors I changed a few weeks ago, I noticed that the cable manufacturer added a secondary foil shield that must be thoroughly scraped away from the



foam insulation, or you wind up with a shorted connector. After the final soldering was completed, and the 8X reducers screwed in, the ohmmeter reflected perfect continuity, and this cable is back in service allowing me to once again use my new Alpha Delta DX-LB antenna on 40-80 and 160 meters. *Loby*



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



NEWSLETTER February 2022

NEWS FLASH W3XAF RETIRES!

Ken, W3XAF, after over four years as our net scheduler, has retired due to health reasons. I know that we all owe him a debt of gratitude for doing a stellar job, keeping the Chew net positions filled.

Take care Ken, and thanks for a job well done!



A hearty welcome to our new Net Scheduler:

Walt-KB3LGO

Walt has volunteered to take up the mantle where Ken-W3XAF left off. He



has been a long time member on both the Chew and our 160m "1721" group.

Walt was also a long time SWL, (short wave listener). While tuning in on the

bands, before the establishment of the 7.272 Ragchew, he found the 1721 group. He states that enjoying the QSOs of Tom-KC8QGJ (sk) and the gang convinced him to get his amateur license and join in on the conversation each day. He got his ticket and has been radio-active ever since.

As we are always looking for great people to step up to the mike as fill-in or regular NCS's, I invite you to contact Walt, and enjoy the best and friendliest net on ham radio today.

Walt can be reached at:

WaltG399@gmail.com

We have joked about the Chew being an Organization without Organization, but that is far from the truth. With Loby-WA2AXZ, Joel-KM4NOU, John-W8LWX and now Walt, we are on a roll to a great future!

Taming Static Buildup.



No, I am not speaking about that static cling where socks stick to you, or your hair is up in the air, making one look like Einstein. This static I speak of is destructive to electronic components.

I am attaching a nice video made by a fellow ham showing what happens at the PL-259 coax end in your shack.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ukt351SpmdM>

Static, high voltages induced by weather or other factors, come down the feed line and if not drained to a safe level, causes havoc with your rig in the way of elevated static noise levels and also possible damage to the sensitive circuits within.

I read an article by Phil Salas-AD5X,

showing how to protect equipment and reduce noise. Installing a 3 meg-ohm, thick film resistor between the antenna and ground will serve well as a drain point at the antenna. If you run high



power, it is suggested that 2 or 3 resistors in series should be installed. I took the idea a bit further. I now protect both vertical and long wire antennas, by using a small aluminum project box, installing two SO-239's top and bottom, and installing one resistor from the center feed through conductor, to the box and shield ground.

This box was placed on the output of my antenna switch, thus protecting my equipment from spikes on all antennas. So far, for over the 10+ years of operation, all is well here in my shack.



The Ohmite Maxi-Mox MOX-1-123004F resistors can be obtained from Mouser Electronics: www.mouser.com

SHOW US YOUR SHACK!



Our newest member, Steve-N0HTD, shows off his Ten-Tec, an Omni VII and a Jupiter (the green screen) equipped shack, and proudly presents his twin grandchildren, Steve and Haley. Welcome aboard Steve and give the little ones a big hug from the gang!

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 as an occasional fill-in, please contact our net scheduler, Walt-KB3LGO.

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