

A Happy St Patrick's Day to All!

As a new month rolls around, March is truly a month of contradictions. Snow storms in the beginning followed with the sprouting of spring flowers at the end. Summer isn't far away!

DAYTON 2022

As the pages of the calendar fall away, the re-opening of the Dayton Hamvention is just down the road. This year I will once again hold our Thursday evening gathering at Rob's Restaurant. The Friday barbeque at the KOA campground is in doubt.

Many friends, as evidenced by the lackluster attendance at the Orlando Hamcation, decided to sit that event out. While the "Covid bug" is waning, many will not join in on the fun just in case. I am asking everyone that will be in Dayton this year, please let me know ASAP whether you will be with us at the Thursday evening dinner. I can then make arrangements.

The KOA is now under new management and this will be the first time I'll interact with them. So far it appears only a handful of us will be there. I guess we'll sit around the fire at campsite #79 and enjoy the evening. If you intend to be at the Dayton Hamvention, Please e-mail me so I can get a good head count.

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The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



“Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!”

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

ORLANDO "HAMCATION"

2022 marks the first year that the Orlando venue has been open since the onset of the devastating pandemic of Covid. This was my first year to go after two years of cancellations, so I was more than happy to leave my 4 degrees in Wisconsin, trading it for the



80's in Florida. Lines started forming early and thankfully the winter sun didn't come out to cook all of those eagerly waiting to get in. As the clock struck 9, the gates swung open and the rush was on.

I immediately headed to the flea market area to search for vintage goodies I collect. As I scooted up and down the rows,



I met up with a few good friends. John-KD4HHF, from the Corn Cob net (left) And Al-KE5ISO, from the Chew and Corn Cob net (right) Al bought a large and heavy amplifier that needed to be moved to his car. We loaded it up on my electric cart and schlepped the thing to the gate. What a beautiful boat anchor he will restore and place back on air.

Meanwhile, back at the tables, I was able to add to my antique microphone collection with a new-old 'Blue' snowball microphone. True, it is a modern rendition of old mikes. The interior has a high quality element that may serve well once converted for ham use.

Orlando Hamcation, continued

For the first time I saw that someone was selling a Hallicrafters SX-122. I still have mine on proud display as this was the receiver I practiced with, night after night in the late 1960's, learning code during the ARRL practice sessions.

Tubes of



was nice to sit and rest a bit in the rear RV area by the lake, surrounded with palm trees. Back inside the vendor's area, we



met up with our own Randy-KB3IFH, selling his QSL cards and other goodies. Joe-WB2JKJ, from the Classroom Net, joined in to show off his work on the net. Most of the



every kind, from deForest "audions" to modern 1920s Cunningham tubes, were presented in a nice display. After all the walking around the flea market area, it



major vendors had muted displays but just being able to view and buy equipment and parts was a joy for all hams, unshackled from the pandemic's clutches. Dayton next!



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@arrrl.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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HO.A. HELL !

A rant by Loby-WA2AXZ

I went to Florida in February for two major reasons: to be with my youngest daughter Maureen and two of my three grandsons, Bobby and Riley, and to see the Orlando "Hamcation" for the first time. Maureen fled the deteriorating State of New York to be closer to other family members in Florida, and go back to work in a state that didn't close down due to Covid.

Maureen got a condo unit in a nice gated community in Vero Beach. Sadly, most communities consist of elderly residents under the strict mandates of the Home Owners Association. To show how tight things are here, my grandsons are forbidden to play outside, and riding bicycles is a no-no! The pool is a display of aging tanned skin with no floats, tubes, beach balls or any fun pool things allowed. By the way, the pool closes when the sun goes down, robbing anyone thinking of having a night time gathering for a drink and a dip.

I got to Maureen's place before Valentines Day and set up my Icom 718 portable unit. I have the claw device which attached to the outside railing where I mounted my 40 meter ham stick. For three or so days I was able to check into the Chew and other 40 meter nets, although the incessant S-9+ noise level made me think I was back in Brooklyn. And then the fun started....

I drive a red Jeep Sahara with a few political stickers on the rear, the Hustler 40 meter bumper mount and antenna and, gasp, an American Flag affixed to the rear hatch window. Apparently, a few of the old "bitties" have taken exception to my Jeep, took pictures and sent it to the HOA. I was informed that it is illegal to display an American flag or any flag for that matter on the property. The stickers are affixed and since I am not painting my Jeep, they will stay proudly on the back. The antenna, well it's there and will stay there. period. Then they complained about my almost invisible ham stick. They demanded it be removed.

I decided to comply with most of their ridiculous demands and for the past three weeks, was limited to radio operations in the Jeep. I guess that most of these posh gated communities are controlled by the domineering hand of the HOA's and heaven help you if one blade of grass is too high or a bush does not meet to their liking. If one tries to light a small barbeque grill on their terrace, yes, the homeowner gets a fine!

When I was looking for a new home in Wisconsin the first question asked, Was it in a HOA community? If yes, I looked at other properties elsewhere. Today I live in a free state where I can proudly place an American flag in the air. A place where I constructed antenna arrays and no one said BOO!

My heart goes out to fellow hams who have stumbled into communities where restrictions are so severe, it is a constant challenge to stay on air. I can only state that this was my firsthand encounter with an HOA and am happy to say My daughter and grandsons will only be living here for a year, than move to a free part of the state where the kids can be kids and there are no HOA tattletales, hiding in the bushes, waiting to pounce on the unsuspecting homeowner! Grandpa Loby-WA2AXZ

