



## Have a safe and wonderful July 4th Holiday!

June was an extremely busy month, chock full of radio activities as well as basking in the after-glow of "Hamvention" As a follow-up, the Dayton Amateur Radio Club reported in excess of 33,000 attendees and is now getting ready for an expanded gathering for the 2023 post-covid activities. Here are a few additional photos of the 2022 Hamvention activities.

### One Last Look at the Hara Arena



# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where Choosy People

Choose to CHEW!"

### NEWSLETTER July 2022

Each year since the Hamvention was moved to Xenia, I have made it a point to stop by our old stomping grounds to check on the condition of the old girl. The building was severely damaged in a tornado back in 2020 and the decision was made to raze the entire structure. There is now nothing left of the building and everything looks like it has been turned back to nature. This was my last visit to see the place and now, it remains a memory, a good memory for all who spent many a year there for Hamventions past.



### Dayton Side Trips

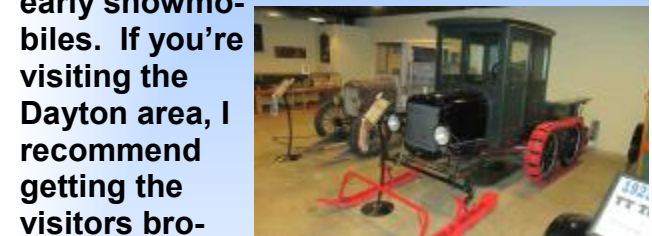
I usually get to the campground a few days early to set up the campsite and make final arrangements for our annual face-to-face gatherings. On the Wednesday before, I hit the road to visit different attractions in the area.

#### Model T Museum in Richmond, IN



Here in the rolling hills right off of interstate 70, only 30 miles away from the campground,

is the National Model T Museum housing some of the more iconic vehicles that put America on wheels. Ford made a record of 15 million cars, only to be surpassed by Volkswagen's Bug in the 1970s. Henry Ford, using the base chassis of the Model T expanded the car line by making speedsters, family cars, trucks and yes, early snowmobiles. If you're visiting the Dayton area, I recommend getting the visitors brochure outlining the many side activities that are truly pleasurable.





# Voice of America

The last time our gang was there was in 2016, and the VOA Radio Club have performed wonders with exhibit restoration.



This station, founded during WW-2 to fight Nazi/Japanese propaganda, beamed messages of hope and peace to the war torn areas



across the globe. Hitler himself hated VOA as he considered our talks of freedom to be lies! The post war "Cold War" made it necessary to continue operations to get the freedom message behind the Iron Curtain. The original control room, overseeing operations of the studios and high power transmitters was a 24/7 operation.



Crosley and RCA built several monster 500kW transmitters to blast the VOA signal world wide. This four foot high, water cooled power final, is but one of many in the transmitter banks.



This display shows the myriad of antennas in the rear antenna farm, each tuned for certain short-wave frequencies.



The switchyard contained dozens of high voltage switches directing the RF into selected antenna arrays. When time came for a band change, the transmitters were turned off and technicians would run out in the yard and set the switches into the proper position. The Chief Engineer would stand at the doorway with a stop watch timing the changeover to get VOA back on air in a timely manner. Visit [www.voamuseum.com](http://www.voamuseum.com) for further photos an interesting videos of the studios and transmitters in action.



## 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, Walt-KB3LGO.

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**72chew.net**



# Baluns Roasting in a Cable Fire...

(Sorry Johnny Mathis)

Just about every evening, right after the nightly 3.730 MHz net, Mike-VA3MPM stops by our 160m 1721 net on 1.871 MHz.

The massive storm that hit the Dayton Hamvention, rolled into north towards his neighborhood in Ottawa, and downed all of his antennas and plunged his neighborhood into darkness for a week.

Not being too upset, Mike set about re-installing antenna wires for 40-80 and 160m. He erected a 160m doublet using his reliable 6-to-1 balun at the feed point. During the weekend of June 11, 2022 Mike was on air transmitting, using around one kilowatt with his friends when he heard a snapping sound and smelled something burning. He exclaimed on air, as he shut down the station "HOLY SMOKES!" After saving his equipment, he started some



detective work. Mike had used 600-ohm open-feed wire from the shack to his balun, same type and length as before. The antenna wires were also sized for the job. Following the leads up into the 70 foot high feed

point, he spied his balun with material dripping out. HUMMM!

He dropped the wire to find that the balun had indeed fried and was done to a turn. He had another replacement balun and re-installed the good one, and now he is back on the air. The detective work continues as to why the old balun cooked. We should know, soon enough, the rest of the story.

## Ameritron Fix

I normally have two Ameritron 811 amps outfitted with 572B's: my amp on the 160m table, which is going on 20 years of age; and Tom-KC8QGJ-SK's amp on the 40 meter table, which is over 30 years of age. I decided to install a soft start circuit into Tom's vintage amp as at that age, anything could go wrong. I hit the switch in start, which introduces a 12.5 ohm 200W resistor in series with the 120VAC line. Once the tubes start glowing, I



short out the resistor and full voltage is applied. My 160m 811 amp is just turned on cold, and I hope for the best... until. On Saturday of Field Day I got on 160m at 7:30 PM EST to see what was going on, and when I hit my amp power switch, "CLINK" went the 15A inline fuse. Oh well, I dismantled the unit, changed the fuse and installed my external 17-ohm 1000W test resistor in line. (on the window ledge).

As you see, Tube #1 on the right side of the three tubes didn't look well at all. I guess the smoked coating in the glass along with the ring burn marks were a telltale sign of it going to the grave.



I pulled the 572 tubes and fired up the power supply section and had full 1800+ voltage and nothing was cooking. I installed three 811's



for a test. As I do not have a matched set, I installed what I had. In position #1 is my brown base GE tube, looking more light bulb than tube. It's happily glowing for the test, and was from my old 1953 Viking 500. It's almost 70 years old but works in a pinch.

I have a spare set of 572's, and three from DX engineering were questionable, as a few years ago one failed but I was unable to ascertain which of the three went bad. Using the highly scientific method of "EENY-MEENY-MINEY-MO" I plucked one of the three spare tube at random, plugged the thing back in with the test resistor and it lit. I did the same for the remaining tubes and all was OK. The plate caps were installed and now with full operating voltage applied, all looked well.

I fired up the rig and had a nice 160 meter QSO with Bill-KB1PKS and a few other Connecticut hams reassuring me the beast was back 100%.

One thing I did do was split the operation of the home-made soft start panel to run both of the amplifiers independently. So now each will no longer get the shock of full input voltage, but a gentle prod to wake up and get working.

73! *Loby* WA2AXZ/9

