

WE NEED



YOU!

Summertime has stretched our Net Control Station pool as many

friends have stepped back for vacations or other reasons, leaving holes in our NCS coverage. We have had many established NCS's volunteer for emergency coverage but, we truly need a few good "permanent" NCS's to keep the Chew on the air.

If you would like to be part of our crew, please contact Walt-KB3LGO (waltg399@gmail.com) and enjoy the best and friendliest net on ham radio today.

TREE-1 / W8MDC-0

This past July saw some humdingers of storms hitting many areas of the USA. On July 14 a monster thunderstorm hit Mike-W8MDC's QTH, leaving a path of damage in its wake. Mike had a large tree on his property and, as shown in the photo, the roots were no match for the wind. The tree toppled into Mike's and his neighbor's yard, narrowly missing the neighborhood distribution transformer and communication lines. All of Mike's antennas came down and Mike must now use a remote club station to stay on HF. Mike joked that he was

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where Choosy People

Choose to CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER August 2022

looking to have the tree taken down but estimates were high due to the tree's size. Now that the tree is down, he wonders: will he get a discount?



LIGHTNING STRIKE DESTROYS WA2NAN REPEATER!



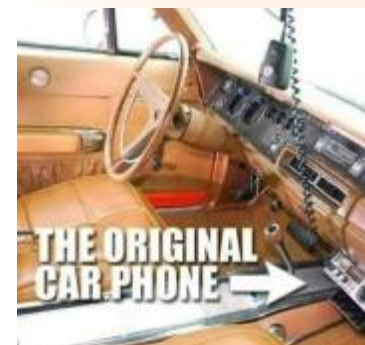
Mid-July saw all too many storms causing havoc with lives and emergency communications. Our friends in the North Country of the Thousand Islands, New York, suffered a catastrophic blow when a bolt of lightning struck the shack containing the WA2NAN repeater that most area hams rely on. The electronics were fried, the antenna and cables cooked including the 120/220v utility feed. We have used this repeater numerous times as many from the Chew participated in the annual end-of-summer parties at Kring Point.

If you could, please send a donation to: **KERRY BICKFORD—WA2NAN**
76 RTE 27 EXT OSWEGATCHIE, NY 13670
Any amount would be greatly appreciated!

There are two ongoing nets you can participate in on Echolink, via the WA2NAN and AC2GE links: the Rooster Roster, every morning at 7:30 am Eastern and the nightly Seaway net on the AC2GE machine at 7:30 pm. See ya on the radio!

The original car phone ?

A friend sent this to us last month and, yeah, I know it is CB, but the message is still there. If it weren't for the hams helping develop the communications technology, we'd still be using trunk mounted, tube powered units today. Can you hear me now?



All good things have to come to an end...



My two grandsons, Bobby and Riley, spent a good six weeks with Grandpa here in 9 land-Wisconsin. Florida schools closed for the

summer in late May and will reopen for another school year at the beginning of August. Now along with grandson #3, Kilian, it was non-stop activities between fairs, parks, train museums and other venues. We barely caught our breaths. In the morning when I did my duties as NCS, all three came into the shack to help

Grandpa Loby call out, looking for check-ins.

Riley loved to make calls and frequently

helped out on our nightly 160m "1721" roundtable net.



One day we stopped at the air and space museum in Oshkosh where we saw vintage planes and an old 1920s carbon microphone from an early control tower. There



were displays of old airplane radio equip-



Some days we went to arcades where my "three musketeers" loved playing all sorts of games.



During quiet times, Grandpa hit the suds. On a hot day, the welcome ice cold brew was refreshing.

There are hundreds of photos I'll spare you from viewing, though on July 14, it was time to board the plane and head home to Florida.

Now I know most of us have had to wrangle through the insanity of airports, and all three of us had to dump our lives into plastic buckets, and along with suspicious terrorist little old ladies, get X-rayed and pass through metal detectors, shoes off of course. We



passed TSA scrutiny, had lunch then the boys waited to board the flight home. One could tell they had visited Wisconsin wearing the obligatory cheese head hat. On my way out I turned to watch others in the TSA line when I saw this sign:



only government can mangle the English language for their own operations.



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.

Goods and Services:

NEED QSLs OR EYEBALL CARDS ???



KB3IFH QSL Cards

www.kb3ifh.homestead.com

72chew.net

When all else fails,

Ham Radio!

This morning, July 22, 2022, I hopped out of bed with a full plate of things I was going to do. I noticed my cell phone was in need of a charge so; I plugged it in, fully expecting to take it with me for my morning rounds.

After finishing my 9 am shift as NCS on the 7.272 Ragchew Net, I headed out to do some shopping at a few stores in town. I was in a bit of a hurry as first stop was the post office, then the barber to shear my gray locks. As I sat in the chair chatting with the barber, I noticed my belt was a little light on the left side. Oh Great! I'd left the phone at home. Rather than schlepping back to the home QTH, I decided to do my run-around without it.

I parked at the Walmart in town and as I entered the door, I felt guilty because I usually called my daughter first to see if she needed anything. I stopped at the store greeter to ask, "Is there a pay phone here?" The young girl, clueless, smiled and said, "You can find phones in Aisle 8 by the televisions." I smiled back and said "No, a pay phone... you know, the one where you put a quarter in and make a phone call."



She looked back at me with the blankest of stares as if I asked the question in Mandarin. After further explanation, I saw that this pretty young thing had never heard of nor seen a pay phone.



I went in and finished my shopping, knowing full well that if my daughter needed anything, I would have to head out again later in the day. I then went to Home Depot, Hobby Lobby, then to Arby's for lunch. At every stop I was looking for a pay phone. No matter where I looked, even at the gas station, none were seen anywhere. I guess we have become a completely connected and enslaved society where, when you are born; you get your Social Security ID chip and an implanted cell phone behind your ear.

Years ago ARRL issued a pin and banner proudly stating: "When all else fails... Amateur Radio!" I believe that when a large-scale disaster strikes, the general public will be hopelessly lost.



Back in Brooklyn a decade ago, after Hurricane Sandy destroyed much of the power and communication infrastructure, I and most all of the members of the Chew were still on air for days on generator power, carrying out duties as Net Control Stations. The amateur bands were active with normal and emergency communications. I still remember the faces of those poor lost souls, walking in the streets, looking at their phones, praying for a signal that was not to come.

We in the amateur radio community have enjoyed over - the-air communications for well over 100 years. Depending on the situation, a group of hams can sit around the rig, for hours and enjoy a great ragchew session. In times of emergency, such as large scale disasters and world conflict, hams band together to help fellow human beings by volunteering their time, equipment, and expertise in keeping information flowing.

Yes, I got home to find my fully charged cell phone waiting for me and it led me to write this little note of appreciation to all amateurs not hog-tied to their cell phones.



Loby-WA2AXZ