



Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah,
Happy Kwanzaa,
Happy Festivus..



No matter which holiday you observe, enjoy it to the fullest, with family and friends at home, and friends on the airwaves!



Have a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year too!

From "Taz," mascot of the Chew!



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER December 2022

**When you work with trains,
It's Christmas all year 'round!**



I, Loby-WA2AXZ, have been building model train layouts as well as working on "real" trains for over 50 years. Many a QSO has centered on Lionel trains, as well as ham radio. Last month, a new check-in, Ron-N8TAW, told us he too was a model railroader.

Ron made a layout using realistic tracks. Due to limited space, he compressed the layout to the end of his basement. Two levels were built for his small layout that stretches 20 feet. The trains are set in a



Santa Fe Southwest theme. Most buildings are scratch built using cardstock. Trees are made with dowels, wire and ready made foliage. The track is Atlas O gauge with 7 switches using "Tortoise Switch Machines" all controlled by Lionel Cab-1 controls and a vintage KW Transformer powering all. The engines and rolling stock are of the Santa Fe line, displaying a mining operation at one end and a small Western town at the other. One thing about trains is that work is never ending. Improving scenery and changing track directions which provides a great time for those with a bit of engineer in their blood.



**SPECIAL
\$ALE...
AISLE 4 !**

Little Kilian and Grandpa Loby rolling around Walmart, checking out the Black Friday sales. We went through the toy aisle and Kilian put a lot on his list to Santa. Was he naughty or nice? Hmmmm.

A Christmas Ham

By Loby-WA2AKZ

'Twas a night before Christmas
and all through my shack



The tubes were
a-glowing...
I was making
contacts

The antenna was tuned and
rotated 'round
Facing the south, the noise
level to drown

I sat in my old chair,
earphones on my head
I stopped spinning the dial,
now what's being said?

Two old codgers were at it...
they were
making a
scene!

Which rig was
garbage and
which was a
dream



Down the band I slid like
snow on the fly



With nothing
else heard,
40 meters I'd
try

With the snap
of a switch,
align grid and
plate

Setting the filters, HEY...
there are my mates!

The "RAG CHEWERS" were
there, talking en masse
Each taking turns,
their
greetings to pass
One by one listing
their holiday
wishes



Of rigs and amps and satellite
dishes.

With a broad smile, the radio I
keyed

I checked myself in, what else
would one need?

Then all of a sudden, a sizzle
and spark

The lights blinked twice and
then all was dark.

A glow in the
back of the rig's
getting brighter
My heart sinks to
the floor, the
transformer's
on fire!



Pull out the plugs... smoke's
filling my nose
I turn on the spray from a close
garden hose.

Open the windows, fling open
the sash
I toss out the rig to the ground
with a crash
Stench from the smoke fills
my poor head
Then all of a sudden, I wake up
in my bed

What could have caused such a
terrible nightmare?
Was it the beer, the nuts or the
ham ill prepared?

But my shack is intact and
snow lightly falls



73's to my
friends,
Merry Christmas
to all!

Watch out for those Left Turns!

Bill Burgess-VE3CRU/W8, east of Cleveland Ohio, was speaking with a few of us the other day and started describing his mobile operation. He is using several 10 GHz Yagi antennas and a satellite dish for his transmission and reception needs. Bill sent us a photo of



his impressive mobile operation. That is Bill on the roof carefully aiming the antenna array. Watch out for those low hanging branches too!

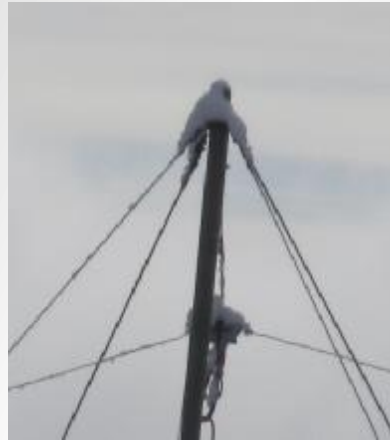


Snow on the antenna?

The week before Thanksgiving the Mid west and Northeast states were gripped in an unusual storm pattern. Bone-chilling cold from Canada blew across the area, bringing temps down into the single digits. At the Loby QTH we observed 8 degrees, which was a record low for my area. Lake effect snow dumped over 72 inches of the white

stuff on many towns and villages on the eastern side of the Great Lakes.

I had about 6" of the stuff making the yard look like a snow globe. On close inspection, snow coated the Alpha-Delta antenna block which, at low temps, didn't affect performance on 40 and 160 meters. And to think we have only 3 months more to endure!



K1R cards are still available!

Send your SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope)

To: Bob Lobenstein—WA2AXZ
1539 Golden Drive
Hubertus, Wisconsin 53033-9790

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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72chew.net



As we approach the end of another year, Loby and I want to reach out to you and express a heartfelt *Thank You* for your participation in the 7.272 Ragchew Net.

“Thank you for all you do for the Chew!”

Thank you for being there, whether as an occasional or regular check-in. Thank you for coming on board with maybe just a brief check-in or a long and interesting QSO. You are very much appreciated and welcome here on the Chew. By checking into the Chew, you are bringing enjoyment, a sense of connection, smiles, and laughter to multitudes of people across the continent and beyond.

During this past year, Loby and I have brainstormed about how to get more net control operators active on the Chew. Together we have come up with some good ideas that are now paying dividends as we move into winter. Also, there have been quite a few new stations checking into the Chew. With the winter months ahead of us and hams staying indoors to keep warm by the radio, we expect to add to the popularity of the 7.272 Ragchew Net as well as pick up more net control operators.

As you know, the 7.272 Ragchew Net celebrated its 18th anniversary this past May. As we look forward to the 19th anniversary in 2023, we have the highest hopes to celebrate that anniversary with a schedule filled with net control operators who are busy throughout their shifts bringing smiles and laughs to the fellow hams that they chat with on the air.

May you and your families and friends have a joyous holiday season. May you be healthy and safe. And may you never forget that because of you...

It's Always A Great Day On The Chew!

Thank You and Happy Holidays,

Loby, WA2AXZ

Walt, KB3LGO

