



Our mascot, the “Taz” wishes everyone a  
 ಸಹರಾಭ್ಯುಚಕಗಣಿತಗಣಿತದ  
 ಉತ್ಸಾಹ!

I Love those  
 Touch Screens.

Nahhh, something might be wrong with the radio. It was a cold Wisconsin morning and I jumped into my Ram truck, fired up the hemi and started to turn on the heat. Everything, and I mean everything, is controlled on the radio touch screen. It was a learning experience with the new truck, but I knew how to make adjustments. I discovered with my advancing age, cold and dry fingers do not operate the screen well. In fact I had to actually pop a finger in my mouth to wet it to get the screen to recognize my commands. I am also seeing this same effect with my Icom-7300 and other touch screen devices. So the next time you or your elders have difficulty with a new fangled device, be it a microwave, television or other new piece of modern

# The “Chew”

SEVENTY-TWO



“Where  
 Choosy  
 People

Choose  
 to  
 CHEW!”

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electronics, it is not you. Well maybe it is because of our dry fingers on the touch pad.



## What is Randall-WV8RKL getting into now?

The next couple of pages will be dedicated to a fellow NCS that is truly busy as a bee. Most all of us have hobbies aside from ham radio, and now we look into Randall's activities off air. 1: Randall's Bees.

Randall has been an active keeper of hives for quite a while and when you have the opportunity to chat with him on the Chew, he freely opens up about his delicious hobby.



One little flower and so many bees!

Each hive is dominated by a queen bee, attended to by hundreds of her children. Many groom her and help her as she lays thousands of eggs in wax cells, for the next generation of worker bees. During daylight most of the hive is on the lookout for nectar

bearing flowers. As they land on the different blossoms, they not only gather up the materials that will become honey, but also cross-pollinate flowers, resulting in a bounty of food for us humans.



Bees head back to the hive, and swarm on the outside as they buzz inside to deposit nectar that soon will become honey. What a sweet hobby!



**2: Randall's Trees** His desire for sweetness continues. Everyone is aware that in late winter and early spring, maple trees are tapped and sweet sap is collected for tasty maple syrup. Randall has joined in making another delectably sweet liquid from walnut trees. These trees are tapped much in the same way the maples are, and the sweet sap flows into collecting buckets.



The almost clear sap is brought up to a frothy boil where water evaporates and leaves a golden syrup. Randall states that this was his first batch of walnut syrup and adjustments to the process will be made. Right now it is a 40-1 ratio for 1% sugar content and 80-1 for 2% sugar content.



As you see the sweet golden liquid is resting in the jar, ready for a few pancakes or other sweet delights. Randall, we salute you for being one of our net control operators and an overall sweet guy!

## Turning tables with Roger-AA8DF

Here is the round top table I built to learn how to cut a circle with a hand held router. It worked very well. This also gave me a chance to turn a center spindle too.

It stands 28" high and the top diameter is 18". My own design. Hey, life without a job is great, as many retirees know.

73, AA8DF-Roger



## Chad's Frame-up

From the woodshop of KB1HPV comes a nice frame for his XYL's Norman Rockwell puzzle. It now hangs proudly in the dining room.



## Bill's Secret Santa

Over the past few issues we highlighted KB1PKS-Bill and the restoration work he performed on his vintage radios. Bill had an old 1924 RCA "Radiola" UZ 1325 horn speaker with open coils. For weeks Bill had been fighting a crusty assembly to get to the coils to perform repairs. Each evening he would tell the gang of his progress and the possibility of just buying a replacement horn and putting the dead one on the display shelf.

One morning a box showed up on Bill's doorstep. Inside, to his surprise, was a 1925 Spartan horn speaker. With no notes or letters enclosed he found a name and e-mail. Bill sent an email to this fellow thinking that he was the benefactor. Bill received this nice response: "Glad you received the speaker and that it is apparently working. Just a heads up... do not contact the sender or send money to him for shipping. He will have no idea what you are talking about. Just enjoy the speaker. I hope it is in reasonably good shape. If you feel the need to do something, pay it forward by doing something nice for someone else."

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## Goods and Services:

NEED QSLs  
OR EYEBALL  
CARDS ???



KB3IFH QSL

Cards

[www.kb3ifh.homestead.com](http://www.kb3ifh.homestead.com)



## Secret Santa Continued....

Bill installed the speaker on his 100 year old Freed Eisemann Neutradyne radio.

Even though it worked, he still slaved away, freeing the open coils of the RCA speaker. Finally, with nudging in the proper direction, the horn and driver were separated. Bill removed the coils and sent them to a specialty shop that rewinds motors and coils.

After a couple of weeks in the shop, the coils were rewound with ultra fine #41 and #32 AWG wire. Bill installed the coils in the magnetic base and prepared to get the speaker fully assembled. The



screw base holding the driver coils, in these photos does not hold the speaker together. Engineers at the time



discovered if you move the coils up and down, nearer or further the metal sounding disk, tone and volume could be adjusted.

Right now the speaker is fully operational although, as seen in the completed photo, the outside is showing every bit of its 100-year-old status. Bill will continue buttoning up the drivers and install a more flexible wire in the base to allow movement of the coils to tune in a better sound. Once done the horn will be repainted with the original crinkle style black paint it was shipped with so many years ago.

Many thanks to Bill for sharing his passion for vintage radio equipment.



Bill made a short video showing the operation of the rebuilt 1924 RCA speaker. Tune in and enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4E17IqwK4Y>

## NEW From LEGO...



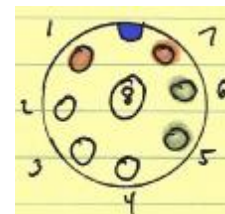
This is a parody of a Lego project, and presented as a real kit for the kids.

I'm sure that with enough blocks, one could make an identical station. Now lets get to work!

## When is a ground... not a ground?

A recent repair to my Icom 7300 highlighted a problem that many "new" Icom owners could face. I am an old timer, brought up in an era where when wiring a microphone we had one wire for push-to-talk (PTT), another dedicated

to the audio input from the mike element, and a common ground for all. This worked well for 100 years until the new micro processor, micro surface mount circuits took their place in modern radios. The following holds true with Icom and may very well apply to other rigs too. Here, on the typical 8 pin mic connector is the new Icom scheme.



Pin 1=Audio Pin 7=Isolated audio ground Pin 6=PTT ground and Pin 5=PTT.

In the olden days, the ground between pins 6&7 were case ground. Today, Icom has introduced an isolated ground for the audio circuit, not part of the case ground system. If for some reason when keying the PTT, if the PTT ground opens, the current could flow through this isolated audio ground, burning the micro sized components inside. This is what happened to my rig. So, if you like to use non-Icom mics, or even retrofit the old D-104 with a Heil conversion kit, check wiring thoroughly to ensure the audio ground, usually the shield, is not grounded to anything in the mic base. It must be isolated and insulated from all stray voltages. Loby-WA2AXZ

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## Volunteer NCS's Wanted



Recently we have had the good fortune of having an almost full roster of Net Control Operators. We are always on the lookout for great people to step up to the mic and help fill-in when openings occur. If you would like to help out, please contact our net scheduler, KB3LGO-Walt