

K1R Still Underway...

As of the posting of this newsletter, our 20th anniversary celebration is continuing until Sunday May 5, 2024.



This year, our 20th anniversary, according to a bridal registry, is the china anniversary. So how better to show it than with our mascot, the Taz, crashing through a pile of china dishes?

All you need do is chat with one of our NCS's, then send Loby-WA2AXZ a self-addressed, stamped-envelope, and please, note your full name and call sign!

**Bob Lobenstein-
WA2AXZ 1539**

Golden Drive

**Hubertus, Wisconsin
53033-9790**

Your personalized card will be prepared and immediately sent out so you can show it off in your shack.

Have a fun time, and thanks to all of our dedicated Net Control Operators working tirelessly to keep our net vibrant.



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



“Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!”

NEWSLETTER May 2024

On Camel Watch...

W4WEL-Scott is a busy fellow. In addition to his on the air gigs as NCS on the Chew, he spends time helping out on a farm. Water buffalo, alpacas and camels round out the critters he cares for. One female camel is about to give birth, so for the past few weeks, Scott has given us updates. As of this writing, still no baby camel but, when the little one makes an appearance, the grand announcement will be made on the chew. Hey Scott, how about naming the little one “Taz?”

72chew.net

Where were you on April 8th?

By KB3LGO-Walt

On Monday, April 8, 2024, I was running my 11am shift on the 7.272 Ragchew. I was fully planning on getting in my car and cruising up I-79 to Meadville, PA to photograph the solar eclipse from within the path of totality. Meadville is about 90 miles north of my QTH. I intended to wrap up my shift right at high noon and jump into my car to make the 1.5 hour drive in time to see and photograph the entire eclipse.

While I was running my shift, a good friend of mine sent me a photo of I-79, heading North. I couldn't believe it. It was a parking lot of bumper-to-bumper traffic. So were some other nearby roads. So, I immediately switched to Plan B. There is a large, sprawling county park, Hartwood Acres, about 8 miles from my home. I decided to head out there instead. Hartwood Acres was practi-



cally empty; just a few people walking dogs. I set up my camera on a tripod and sat back in my portable zero gravity chair.



I had recently purchased a special solar filter for my camera from B&H Photo. The sales people made it known that there were no returns on these filters, fearing people would use them for the eclipse and make up a story that the filter wasn't what they really wanted.



The sky was very overcast. As I waited for Sol and Luna to put on their show, more people arrived and set up chairs. But it was not by any means crowded. Shortly before 2pm, the sky cleared and remained that way throughout the afternoon.

It turned out to be an absolutely beautiful afternoon and I took 290 photos of the celestial dance between sun and moon. It turned out to be a very surreal event as the sunlight changed to having a gray, polarized look to it.

Then I noticed that it was chilly; the temperature had dropped four degrees.



Sadly, where I was located, I was not able to see totality. I was able to see 97% coverage from Hartwood Acres.

Once old Sol re-emerged into full view, I began to dismantle my camera and tripod. What a peaceful and relaxing way to spend the afternoon!



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



NOTE***

Postage going up July 1st.
Time to stock up on "Forever" stamps before the price hike to 73 Cents a stamp!

Can you identify this?



These little rolls of fun were the backbone of code practice until the 1980s. Their origins date back to the 1870s when this fellow, Tom Edison, invented a paper tape vote recorder that ultimately evolved in to a ticker tape machine on the trading floor for many a Wall Street financial firm. A version of this was developed for telegraphers to both record and transmit Morse Code messages, via wire, all over the world. During the World Wars, where communication was vitally important, the U.S. government recruited hams to make up the foundation of the Army Signal Corps. More and more men were needed to help in this war effort, so schools were set up to train new inductees in the Code. I discovered this while reading my dad's 1943 ARRL Handbook. Even though amateur radio was shut down, first during World War 1 and once again in the second war, hams kept up to date on events, equipment and the challenges we faced in the communication field.

A big player in this effort was McElroy Corp, which set the standard for Morse Code training and ultimately world wide transmission/reception of Morse signals.



They manufactured everything from a portable backpack unit that was set up in the field of battle, from the European theater to the steamy hot islands in the South Pacific, to monster fixed desk units that filled a room.

My dad, a trained optician,

was drafted into the Navy where they really didn't need opticians. He was assigned to a school to become a operator/electrician's mate where he learned code, and how to tinker with radio equipment in the field. While not becoming a ham, he was always working with radios and TVs and this little kid was always by his side.

I started listening, as an SWL, to various international stations and got hooked into listening to the ham bands. As time passed, I started working the ARRL code practice sessions where upon I was able to copy over 20 words a minute. In the late '60's when I thought I was competent enough to take my test, I headed to the FCC office on Washington Street,



Manhattan, now under the footprint of the World Trade Center complex.

The officials, at the time, had a strict sequence in which to take a test. You first sat at a table with a form to copy the code. They fired up an old McElroy tape machine and I started writing down what I heard.

Now after getting my speed up to over 20-wpm, I found that there was too much time between the 13-wpm test transmission to copy things accurately. I blew my first attempt at getting a license by one letter, E! And I remember that word I missed to this day; "litigation." Somehow I swapped an I for an E, and the men giving the test at that time, did not let this one letter mistake slide. I had to return a month later when I tempered my speed and; passed the written test. And here I am today, 53 years later.

Loby-WA2AXZ

~~~~~ W4WEL Shack Work...

After the devastating fire at his original Georgia QTH, Scott has been busy rebuilding his shack, piece by piece, at his new home.



Sporting a new desk, here is a view showing his placement of radio gear and computer screens to monitor just about any band.

Great job Scott! Now get back to those water buffaloes and pregnant camels! (hihi)

NEWS FLASH.....

MFJ Closes its doors, May 17, 2024!

Letter posted by MFJ Founder, Martin F. Jue—K5FLU (April 25, 2024)

April 25, 2024

Dear Fellow Hams and Friends,

It is with a sad heart as I write this letter.

As many of you have heard by now, MFJ is ceasing its on-site production in Starkville, Mississippi on May 17, 2024. This is also the same for our sister companies' Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage and Vecronics.

Times have changed since I started this business 52 years ago. Our product line grew and grew and prospered. Covid changed everything in businesses including ours. It was the hardest hit that we have ever had and we never fully recovered.

I turned 80 this year. I had never really considered retirement but life is so short and my time with my family is so precious.

I want to thank all of our employees who have helped build this company with me over the years. We have many employees who have made MFJ their career for 10, 20, 30, 40 and more years.

We are going to continue to sell MFJ products past May 17, 2024. We have a lot of stock on hand. We will continue to offer repair service work for out-of-warranty and in-warranty units for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a special thanks to all of our customers and our dealers who have made MFJ a worldwide name and a profitable business for so many years. You all are so much appreciated.

Sincerely Yours, 73s
Martin F. Jue, K5FLU

