

## National Radio Silence Day 100th Anniversary

During 1896 when Nikola Tesla mused to the press that he heard signals from Mars on his early radio receiver, (remember that Tesla was the inventor of radio, well before Marconi,) scientists and astronomers became curious if anyone was really out there.



While radio broadcasting was in its infancy, a proposal by many scientific institutions to the government was accepted to have one short period of one day of radio silence. Notices went out all over the United States and foreign governments were invited to participate in this event. At the appointed hour between August 21 and 23, 1924, all radio transmissions from the giant KDKA, NBC transmitters, and all amateurs went silent. Around the globe, special receivers and telescopes were tuned in and listening to hear if Marvin the Martian was trying to call us and make contact.

On that day there was no conclusive evidence that ET was trying to phone home, but it was the only day in radio history, when across the board, no transmissions of any type emanated from the earth.

Today we have certain research programs in place like SETI, Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, diligently scanning the skies, listening in on almost every frequency in the spectrum. Thanks to modern day electronics, the ether is chock full of signals from earth including: the 1912 Morse code SOS from Titanic, W.C. Fields '20s and -30s radio broadcasts, I Love Lucy television broadcasts of the '50s, to the last broadcast of WCBS AM radio, made just last month.

# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where  
Choosy  
People

Choose  
to  
CHEW!"

**NEWSLETTER** **October 2024**



Today scientists are using sophisticated computer programming to suppress the noise, enabling them to listen in to hear if we are truly alone. So far, using their sensitive technology, they still have not heard a word from

Mars or any other galaxies for that matter. I am sure with all their enhanced receivers they probably can go back in time and pick up Orson Wells original Halloween broadcast of War of the Worlds. Below are two of many web sites about the 1924 National Radio Silence Day.

<https://longstreet.typepad.com/thesciencebookstore/2015/01/radio-signals-from-mars-1924.html>  
<https://www.iflscience.com/in-1924-the-us-turned-off-their-radios-to-search-for-life-on-mars-73323>

"The Truth Is Out There!"



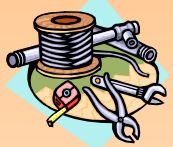
HAPPY HALLOWEEN

to all of the good little Boys  
and Ghouls on the Chew.  
*Alastor the Radio Demon. (Hush Hotel)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIfUfwAqOf0>

## Fall Antenna Maintenance...

The cool breezes of fall are soon to give way to the hard, freezing gales of winter. It's time to spend a few hours outside, checking up on your antenna system. Are the guy wires/ropes secure? Is there any fraying of the materials warranting replacement? Are pipe and base supports of the tower secure? Are the coax cables and antenna rotator wires intact and sealed against the wet snowy weather coming? Are the ground rods still effective, or do they and attached cables need replacement?



Make up a simple checklist, grab a cup of coffee and walk around looking at anything that could fail. The last thing any ham wants to do is go out in a snowstorm to repair the antenna system to get back on air. I suggest to all hams that if they have room, install a vertical antenna on the roof or property as a secondary backup. Hopefully we will be chatting to all from the warm side of the Andersens.



## Garage Band Ham

While poking around for some new artists and music on Bandcamp, I stumbled upon this artist. What caught my eye was the title of the album. The

intro track is a short collection of CW and digital mode signals. I can see why the album is selling for just \$5, and I think that might be overpriced, but that's just my opinion.

Give it a listen: [https://thedukeofsurl.](https://thedukeofsurl.bandcamp.com/album/ham-radio)

[bandcamp.com/album/ham-radio](https://thedukeofsurl.bandcamp.com/album/ham-radio)

73, Bob, NW3M

## Who's that bug in the pool?



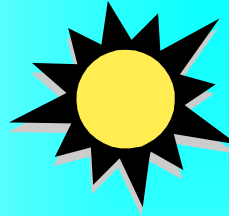
*Ladybug? Cat noir?*

No, just me, Loby sitting in my tire-tube float, coffee cup in hand, pretending that I'm floating down the Mississippi.

The local weather ladies told us that for most of mid to late September, temperatures in my area north of Milwaukee will hover between 85 and 92 degrees. We seem to be in a

heat dome. This shot was taken on September 19 as the needle pointed at the 90 degree mark. Have no worries as we know that most all good things like this don't last, and Old Man Winter will be here all too soon. Negative 6 degrees will be here in a few weeks. At least for now, let me dream!

## What the Flux is going on ?



The latest newsletter from ARRL containing the K7RA propagation report, gives us a whole pile of unintelligible gobbledygook numbers. Most hams only know that when the band is good, they talk, and if the band is bad, we turn on the TV.

To aid in a better understanding of the numbers presented, ARRL posted an article, "Understanding Solar Indices"

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/0209038.pdf>

So, the next time when all seems lost while trying to get on the Chew, you'll hear that we had a "Class-5 full roaming vapor," (thanks *Ghostbusters*.) and understand the real numbers covering the solar event at hand.

## This Black Cat can check in anytime.

Mike-VA3MPM was adopted by this beautiful coon kitten, and they both share the mic when on the Chew. Little 8 week old Mister loves to sit on the power supply, keeping warm over the fan.

*Purrrrrr*



## My Local FCC Office?

I was driving through a sleepy little town in northern Wisconsin, early in July, when I saw this interesting building next to a McDonald's.



Looking closer at the sign I discovered it was a



branch of the Fort Community Credit Union.

No FCC license renewals to be had here! (*hihi*)  
Loby-WA2AXZ



## Volunteers Still Needed!

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. *Thanks.*

## Goods and Services:

NEED QSLs OR  
EYEBALL

CARDS OR OTHER  
HAM

PARAPHERNALIA ???

KB3IFH QSL Cards



# IT IS BALLOON!

James McClure-KN4UDV



An annual tradition in Colorado Springs is the Labor Day Liftoff, a massed launch of hot air balloons. It is a cheerful collection of colorful airships representing different themes and characters. More often than not, the weather cooperates with little or no wind and clear skies.

I have watched the balloons take off from Memorial Park for three years now. Last year one of pilots was able to hover motionless

over the park at about 300 feet for 15 minutes before climbing to a higher altitude and drifting slowly away with the Front

Range of the Rocky Mountains as a backdrop in the early morning light.



Recently my interests in aviation and ham radio have overlapped. A friend and fellow member of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (Derek K0ATV) shared that some of the balloon pilots are hams and they carry APRS gear on their balloons and in their ground crew chase vehicles. I have sat at the park with the APRS.FI application on my phone and watched where the balloon and ground crews went.



My grandkids enjoy the cartoon style character balloons. In the past, we have seen a Darth Vader and a Yoda balloon. This year we saw Horton the elephant from the Doctor Seuss book and Uncle Sam and a smiling monster.



The finale of the launch is when the Air Force Academy parachute team drops in to the park. 73 to all, Jim, KN4UDV

[Visit Jim on the Rooster Roster via EchoLink-WA2NAN-AC2GE](#) each day at 7:30 am EST.



# A trip to Newfoundland

Gus-AA4GH

This past summer Gus and his XYL, Pat, took a drive in their motor home to many villages all across Newfoundland, on the Atlantic ocean. Gus checked into the morning Rooster Roster, when he could, giving everyone updates, using the WA2NAN-EchoLink connection.



One stop was the beautiful Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, St. John's NL, the highest place on the island.

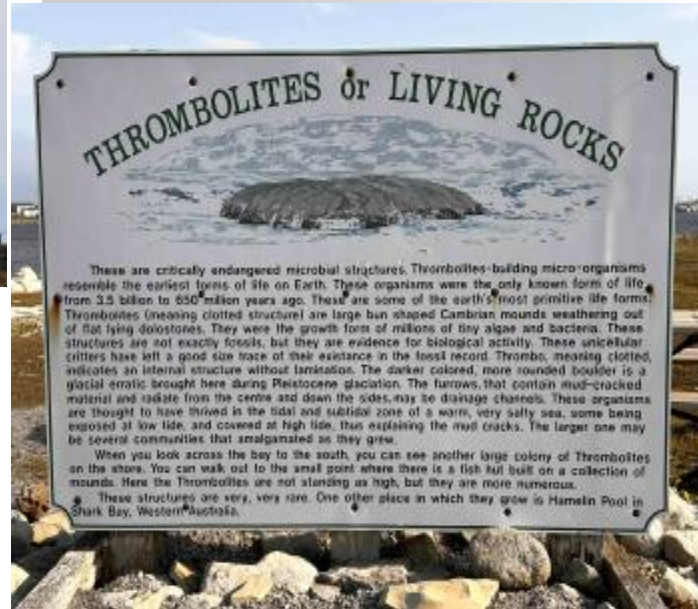


From this vantage point one can see the nearby town filled with colorful

homes. Now, who doesn't like puffins, the bird immortalized on Mary Poppins. Gus and Pat toured the cliffs where these colorful birds live. After taking a photo on the world's largest puffin chair, they trekked out to the island to see these creatures.



Nesting sites in the tall island grass held thousands of puffins, from hatchlings to adults. Visitors are careful not to go near these fragile sites. Speaking about fragile sites on the island...



These unusual creatures date back to 3.5 billion years ago and somehow survived the great cataclysm, 65 million years ago which ended the reign of dinosaurs.

Gus and Pat went to the tip of the island to check out a lighthouse still operating under automatic controls. It is located on the furthest westerly point of Anguille, NL. The view was spectacular as you look over the bluff to see what occurs with natural erosion.



Yes, there were wild moose on the loose.



At Hopewell Rocks, Pat and Gus walk under the eroded rocks, carved away over the centuries due to ocean currents on the beach at high tide.

Finally, after a full day, the sun sets over the ocean revealing this beautiful sunset over Rocky Harbor. 73, Pat and Gus



# **EXTRA... EXTRA... NEWS FLASH !!**

**Walt-KB3LGO**



On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, I was running my 11 am shift on the 72 Rag Chew. I had two checkins on my list when I heard N3DJI, Frank, give me a call. He would have been third on the list but he told me he had Brent on the phone. So Frank immediately went to the top of my list. Brent, KB8MQR, a beloved net controller on the 72 Rag Chew, has been dealing with health issues for many months now and has been unable to get on the air.

I was able to talk with Brent over the air using an improvised "phone-patch," with him being on Frank's cell phone. It felt so good to recite his call letters, K-B-8-M-Q-R, over and over again throughout the QSO. Brent's voice sounded strong and chipper. He told me that he needs to get some repair work done, as the length of coax to his antenna was damaged.

I told Brent that it was so good to hear him and talk with him again. And I assured him that his shifts are still available for him, whenever he is ready to take them. There are many friends of Brent's who have been asking about him. Additionally, I told Brent, as Frank had suggested, that Frank, Loby, and I, as well as others would work with him on the air until he is comfortable resuming his shifts on his own. Brent was very agreeable to this.

Loby, WA2AXZ, happened to be mobile and heard this QSO. He checked in with me and expressed his best wishes for Brent, which I passed along.



I then went on to thank Frank, N3DJI, for his great thoughtfulness in bringing Brent back onto the air this way. It was truly an honor and a joy to be part of this QSO. After I got done with a very emotionally moving QSO, I said into the mic, "That's what the Chew is about, right there." Next on my list of checkins was my good buddy, Rick, W8RNE. When

I went to Rick, I said, "Well Rick, it's going to be hard to top that one." ;-)

A hearty thank you to Frank-N3DJI for arranging this emotional get together with Brent! His thoughtfulness warms the cockles of our hearts, enabling the gang to hear and to speak with one great fellow, Brent-KB8MQR. Brent as well as all of our net control

operators, you are in our prayers.