

HAPPY *Valentines Day*
from Mr.
and Mrs. Taz
2025!



The Chew

and you...

This month on the Chew you will find a bit of a mish-mosh of topics and stories. I thank everyone for sending in the ditties to include in this issue. I ask all readers to submit stories, photos, tech tips or anything you think the gang will enjoy reading. You'd be amazed in how interested our readers are.

Rising from the sawdust:

Chad-KB1HPV is a very busy guy. Between spending time on the air with the 7.272 Ragchew group, and practicing his guitar, he is back in the wood shop turning out a few gems along the way. Chad refers



to this item as "Ze Sitting Bench" or simply a place to rest your hiney!

The stain is minwax special walnut. "Will some one please tell me what is so special about it?" Chad sanded the finish smooth using 220 grit paper. Giving the piece three coats of poly, sanded betwix coats with more 220 grit. The finish is outstanding. Chad states It is not a bad birthday present.

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



NEWSLETTER February 2025

What's better than a new puppy?

Becky and Chris-W4CVG show off their new pup, "Tootsie",. The little fur ball is training to be a guard dog someday, though I doubt it will be a hair larger than she is in the photo now. She is just squeeze-ably cute!



Passing:

Faye Conrad, KBI of
"Gene" N8MEC

April 1, 1948 January 4, 2025



Faye was a devoted homemaker and an incredible mom who always put her family first. She loved being at home, keeping her house tidy and cozy for everyone. She was also the manager of her family's bluegrass band, a role she embraced with pride, often promoting them or selling recordings and merchandise. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, her beloved husband of almost 60 years, Morgan "Gene" Conrad-N8MEC, whom she married July 3, 1965; her children, Rodney E. (Judy) Conrad of Youngstown, Benedict Conrad of Youngstown, and Tonya (Josh) Ankrom of Masury; her grandchildren, Dustin Paul Conrad and Abigail Ankrom; and her great-grandchildren, Jackson and Hyland Conrad.

Faye was a fixture at our "Super Secret" birthday parties we held at Ray's-KB3HQV house for our late friend Tom-KC8QGJ. Truly, she will be missed!

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W4WEL-Scott's winter antenna farm...



For those who think it doesn't snow in the south, take a good look. Scott, lives near Atlanta, Georgia and he has been walloped by several unusual snow

storms this winter. Scott has strung several wires in the air which may be difficult to see but be assured when you zoom into the photo, there is a spider web of antennas he uses daily. Below is his outdoor remote antenna switch setup. He installed an in line disconnect switch to prevent lightning from getting back into his house. The works are protected under a feed bucket, keeping everything dry from rain and snow.



Welcome Max, KC3ZYF!

A few weeks ago, some friends of mine informed me that their son had recently gotten his ham radio license. I told them that I would be happy to help him get his shack set up and help him get familiar with on-air operations. I soon received a text from their son and I invited him to stop at my home for some on-air experience and to discuss what he needed to get his own station set up. Last Saturday morning, the young man, Max, arrived at my QTH. I thought



that there would be no better way for him to have his first QSO than to have him check in with Loby, WA2AXZ, on the 72 Rag Chew. I made the initial check in then turned the mic over to Max, who made his first ever ham radio transmission as KC3ZYF. He and Loby had a cordial conversation.

Then, true to form, several other hams wanted to welcome Max to the airwaves. KB3USB came on board with a kind greeting. W6SFG also had some kind words for Max, as well as informing him to check out his QRZ.com page for small space antenna information. Rick, W8RNE, dropped by with his big signal from Cleveland to welcome Max to the ionosphere. Afterward, Max and I spent plenty of time talking about station setup, with a strong focus on feedlines and types of antennas. It was a great way to spend a Saturday morning. When Max left my place, I made sure he was carrying copies of the ARRL's RF Safety handbook, RFI book, stealth antenna handbook, and the venerable black and green 1970 Antenna Handbook. I also forwarded Max photographs of a number of email printouts that I had received from my elmer,

WD8PNL (SK), Ron. Those date back to 2004 and were invaluable to me in getting established on the air. A few days ago, Max texted me a picture of a little package he received in the mail this week. Loby sure knows how to make a good impression on a new ham. Max will be back at my QTH this Saturday for more on-air experience and discussion about getting his own shack up and running.

Walt-KB3LGO



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.



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72chew.net



"A Lunch, Far, Far Away"

Part-1 By Jim-KN4UDV

I live in Colorado Springs, CO. Would it make sense to drive all the way to Watertown, NY just for lunch with the hams of the Rooster Roster net? Well that is just what I did. Call me crazy but let me explain.

I got word that one of my sisters that lives in North Carolina was going to visit my mother in Victor, NY in early December. My brother told me that if I could get there on December 14, it would be the first time in ten years that all my siblings and my mom and I would all be in the same place at the same time. I thought that was a good idea and I started making travel plans.

I realized I would be in Upstate New York right around the date of the Rooster Roster Lunch Bunch of December 12. The gears started turning in my head. If I could drive for three days to get to my mom's, then I could easily drive three hours further to get to Watertown. It was raining on Tuesday the 11th, the evening I arrived.

The morning of Wednesday the 12th I received a warm North Country welcome in the form of a blustery lake effect snow storm. It was a slippery ride from the hotel to the Grand Buffet Chinese restaurant. There I met three of the regular Rooster Roster net control operators for lunch: KC2UOQ, KD2DXJ, and K2LAG.



LtoR:

**Meg KD2DXI,
Larry
K2LAG,
Jim
KN4UDV**

I was pleased to meet these folks that I have talked to on the daily net. Now I had the image of a face to go with the names.

LtoR:

**Ray's wife Kate
(no callsign) ,
Ray KC2UOQ,
Bill D2DXJ with
his head down.**



**Bill KD2DXJ
and his wife
Meg KD2DXI**

Now a little bird, (maybe a rooster,) told me that a certain net control operator from Wisconsin might be going to January's Lunch Bunch. This thing might be catching on.

"A Lunch, Far, Far Away"

Part-2 by Loby-WA2AXZ

Yes, Jim was correct. This little snow bird did take a trip from Freeze-your-knees, Wisconsin to New York to meet up with friends in the north country. I made a plan to do quite a few things while traveling back east, starting with our "Lunch-Bunch" meeting in Watertown, then trekking to the NYC area to meet up with many friends, my sister, Ann, finally to a Power Department Old Timers dinner with friends from my work QTH. I had expected heavy snow as I rode to Watertown but the lake effect snows tapered, giving me clear

sailing. On January 16th, the group from the Rooster Roster and Seaway nets met up at Cracker Barrel for a great lunch.



LtoR: Loby-WA2AXZ, John KC2MBB, Bill-KB2DXJ, Vincent-KE2DOS, Ron-VA3RSB and his daughter, Larry-K2LAG, Mike VA3MPM, Jeff-VE3KY, Kathy and her XYM Randy-KC2OJU

It was great to catch up on old times as I have been visiting the area for about 17 years. We discussed the reactivation of our annual Kring Point end of summer Ham gathering along the St. Lawrence. Mike-VA3MPM and his Canadian contingent have graciously taken up the mantle, and on September 20, 2025 the gang will once again have a great party in the park. I have always wanted to see what the area looked like in winter, so after the lunch, I went up to the park to look around. Guess what? The

place was covered in snow! The Islands which looked beautiful in late summer, as the sun set were surrounded with ice from the main channel of the seaway.



It was fun to see the frozen wasteland, especially the pavilion, once brimming with life, waiting for the warmth of the sun to return.



Everyone is invited to Kring Point State Park this September 20th for the party but stay a while to truly enjoy the magnificence and sights of the area. [Next stop: NYC!](#)

I left Brooklyn about four years ago as my entire family decided that the area was failing and it was truly time to head out. I got back to scope out the neighborhood to find things were not going well at all. I used to go to Gateway National Park-Floyd Bennett Field to walk along the sea shore and run nets from runway #24. NYC and the feds decided to use this vast open space to build dozens of shelters for the illegal migrants flooding the city.



After these were built, they discovered that due to the strong sea winds, they could not heat these shelters so they again moved

all the people back into the hotels in Manhattan at taxpayer expense. I ran to the city to check out my Power Control Room that I spent oh-so many decades in, operating the power system for the NYC Subway. Sitting at the IRT System



Operators desk, I felt as though I had never left.



Today the system is being upgraded to full computer control operations, something that my dear friend Charlie-N2JZA-

sk and I started decades ago. The new system is truly impressive and I will again visit there when it is finished in 2026 or so. Finally, after a stop at St Patrick's Cathedral, I went to the steak house to meet up with the "Old Timers" of the power department, and for hours we all reminisced of great times we had. Yes I miss my friends in Brooklyn though I made the right decision to leave when I had the chance. More photos & stories to come, Loby...



Goodbye little Tweebe...

Bill-KB1PKS reported to the gang that his little pet Parrotlet, Tweebe, passed on January 8, 2025 This little "bluebird of happiness" graced Bill's radio shack for 14 years, often becoming the topic of discussion on 160 meters.

These Pacific Parrotlets are the smallest in the parrot family, and to show how tiny they are, here is a photo of Bill scratching him below his beak.

This little one spent a lot of time keeping Bill company as the nighttime "1721" group chatted on.

He usually perched upon the log sheets



hopping around for another scratch on the head when Bill made log entries. The photo below dates back when Bill got him 14 years ago.

No, there are not two birds in the photo but Tweebe eying himself in a wall mirror. Yes, we all will miss Bill's little friend.

