



**Happy
Birthday
America!**

July 4th, 1776 - 2025

**Do Not Be
Discouraged!**



I guess that many of us working behind the scenes, and as Net Control Operators, have noticed disheartening things happening around the bands. The most challenging thing for us during the past few weeks has been the influx of solar storms, clamping down on most all bands, disrupting communication all around. This was a QRZ snapshot of a "good" day, with most of the bands we use in poor or, just plain closed!

I also noted on June 10, all bands were in either poor shape or closed completely. *What a bummer.* As July rolls around we can only hope to see better band conditions for us on the "Chew" I think it was wise of us to suspend the daily 11a-12n nets, until things straighten out to where our NCSs and get more than a handful of checkin's.

Finally, poor conditions on the Chew aren't new. Back in our early years our founder, Russ-K1LRB instituted a dual NCS per shift operation.



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



**"Where
Choosy
People**

**Choose
to
CHEW!"**

NEWSLETTER

July 2025

This enabled a relay between different parts of the country which resulted in a good number of check-in's. IF our NCS's can help out fellow NCS's it is appreciated by all participants on frequency.

So, during your regular nets, **PLEASE** ask your checkin's if they would like to help out the Chew?

I am still looking for great volunteers to fill up our pool of NCS and as summer progresses, we can add more names to our organization-without-organization!

They can contact me at either:
wa2axz@arri.net or call me at **347-583-3612**



To add insult to injury...

Wild forest fires are sweeping through the Canadian north, causing extremely poor air quality from the border to Texas. I know



that many elderly friends are sequestered indoors, waiting for this scourge to pass.

Many of us have seen reddish brown skies during the day, and thanks to these massive solar storms, most of us got snookered out of seeing a beautiful aurora display.

Mornings and

evenings did bring a fine display of blazing red skies, thanks to the layer

of smoke in the atmosphere. There is a great website to track this smoke event:

www.firesmoke.ca



Nice bumper sticker given to all visitors at the Dayton Hamvention Icom exhibit.

TESLA WAS RIGHT

CQ-Field Day-CQ-Field day!

While our regularly scheduled net on Sunday June 29, 2025 was on hold, I know that many of us were on air giving away or collecting points during the 2025 ARRL Field Day



activities. Across the amateur spectrum, the CQ call was heard, and many hams enjoyed the group gathering of clubs to not only enjoy operations, but get to know fellow hams on scene.

If you have any stories or photos of your Field Day activities, send them into the Chew for upcoming publications of the Chew!

Loby's K2IRT crew doing satellite contacts on the roof of the Hammels-Wye Substation, on Jamaica Bay-Queens, NY.



A new Computer Scam?

After watching the morning's news, all I can say is what's next? We all receive junk mail on our computers, and even though we may have SPAM filters running in the background, occasionally a few do get through. I guess we all have had enough of these e mails and hit the **UNSUBSCRIBE** tab on the bottom or last page. Well, hackers continually invent new ways of getting into your computer,

via the back door, using these now seemingly innocent **UNSUBSCRIBE** tabs. Depending on the site, this will open the door of your hard drive and drain your information directly to the hacker. *Ain't Technology Wonderful?*

Joel-KM4NOU reports that: "this is nothing new, as this issue has been floating around in the background for years, and certainly isn't newsworthy for those in the know. The best thing to do is never click a link in email unless you are sure that the link is reputable. Float



your mouse over a link, and (depending on what email you use and your operating system) it will show you the embedded link before you click. It may be frustrating not to "unsubscribe" but is usually better not to. Just delete. Clicking a link gives the server at that link a command to send HTML, XML, scripting languages, and more, to your browser which it parses and processes. Carefully crafted responses can escalate privileges in the browser and then allow a great actor to send arbitrary code to your computer. Your wall of defense then becomes your anti-malware software. However, these are far from perfect, and cannot protect against all threats.

I dealt with this type of stuff 15-20 years ago as the manager of a university info security office. I've also been the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) of a private software company.

I have a graduate degree in computer science and have written (and hardened) more code than I care to remember. I'm long retired but the problem is still there, and escalates daily."

So, the next time you get an e mail from medical firms touting miracle cures to just about any annoying advertising e mail you get, hit the dump or erase button, and think twice about the **UNSUBSCRIBE** button before hitting it... you may regret your actions.

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## 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](mailto:wa2axz@arrl.net)

*Many Thanks!*

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Volunteers Wanted!

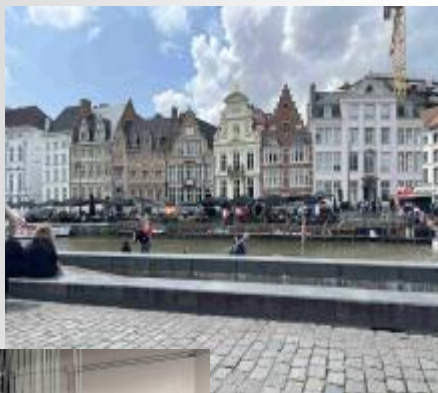
I am still looking for some great individual to become our next **Net Scheduler**. Working behind the scenes, you'll set up the weekly schedules and ensure the open positions are covered when emergencies arise and regular NCS's step away. In addition, If you would like to be one of our Net Control Stations on a regular schedule or as an occasional fill-in, please contact your "**temporary**" net scheduler, Loby-WA2AXZ



Cruisi'n along with Joel-KM4NOU

Joel was away from the Chew for a few weeks, enjoying a nice cruise through Belgium, Netherlands, Iceland and Norway.

View of the city along the river in Ghent, Belgium.



Below, the mechanics of the Ghent



carillon. Hundreds of pegs inserted in the drum, like a music box, plays the sweet sounding bells in the belfry.

Cruising the picturesque backwater canals of the city in Ghent.



Enjoying a light lunch and raising a few during the microbrewery visit, and enjoying Folklore talk. Leirvik Norway



Joel and his XYL, Jan, cruising the fiord in Norway. The relaxed smiles speak volumes!



Touring the beautiful Westfjords, Isafjörður Iceland. There are many other great vacation photos that I'm sure Joel wouldn't mind sharing with the gang. Many Thanks Joel !

From the desk of Joan Regen...



Behold:

I invite you to my world of books, please go to:
WWW.JOANSBOOKSHELF.COM and browse around the site. Then please click the contact button on the top menu and select reader. Leave me a message to receive literary updates.

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**MORE EXCITING NEWS TO FOLLOW.**  
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I look forward to getting to know you as readers.

Joan Regen, the author

To view a recent pod cast:

<https://eden5695.podbean.com/e/623-summer-writing-challenge-wk2-interview-with-joan-ramirez/?to-ken=7a931d5dba2a731171be7b1ee2c64b59>

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