

**A happy,
blessed
fruitful,
healthy and
prosperous
New Year !**



**The Sun can't change
its spots...**

Bob-NW3M, sent this little article in showing clear photos of the sunspots, boiling across the sun. He states:



"One of the guys in the local astronomy club shot these images of the sun today (December 1, 2025) with the parade of sunspots coming into view. It should be an interesting week on HF. Have been listening to some strong trans-equatorial 10M FM (29.600 MHz) QSOs this afternoon while driving around Waldorf, MD."

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER January 2026



So, the next time band conditions are a little weird, you can blame most of them on these little buggers....

Clear the stage...Here comes the stripper!

Now before you get out that old recording of David Rose's "The Stripper," understand that this is not that kind of stripping. (hihi)

Our friend and fellow NCS, Chad-KB1HPV has once again busied himself in the wood shop. Chad jokes about working there during the cold months, keeping warm by a nearby wood stove. He states that it comes in handy as it burns all of his woodworking mistakes! Chad was recently commissioned by a neighbor to strip down and refinish chairs to an old kitchen set. He discovered at least 4 layers of different colored paint applied over the past many decades. He got to work using a chemical stripper that proved disappointing. The bulk of work was done using a heat gun, homemade scraper and sandpaper, as he had to painstakingly remove embedded paint in the nooks, crannies and turnings of the pieces.

After multiple passes, using fine files, then sandpaper, the original wood shown through just like the first day they were made.



The owner is now working with Chad to decide what the final finish will be, and no doubt, like all of Chad's projects, they will look gorgeous.



Climbing "Bill Jacobs" Ladder...

For a few years Bill-KB1PKS, was in pain, walking with a stick, and almost unable to transverse the Dayton Hamvention buildings

and fields. A few months ago Bill went into the hospital for a hip replacement, and from that point began a recovery period. He underwent physical therapy and as things improved, he started climbing the ladder. Bill joked with the therapist that he had to learn to get back on a ladder as he need to climb up his to fix his antennas. I am happy to report that Bill is back home, on air and continuing his therapy. He is watching the snow fall and chompi'n at the bit to get back into action in his antenna farm.

I wonder if Bill is wearing this special "T" shirt?

With Thanks to Neil "B" in Brooklyn

Santa, with a BIG HEART!



From Jim-KN4UDV:

"A Radio Net With a Caring Purpose"

I have a photo of my father when he was about the age that I am now. He had grown out the full white beard. I now bear a strong resemblance to that photo. My grandkids used to ask if that was a picture of me. With the full natural white beard, he would occasionally make appearances as Santa Clause. So along with his charming good looks, and an interest in radio, I inherited his Santa suit.

Two of my grandchildren receive regular therapy sessions at Family Services Center (FSC). They get speech and occupational therapy and autism behavioral analysis. My grandson has improved enough that he can calmly state "I need some help", instead of pointing at something and getting upset if he could not reach it.

The staff at FSC asked if I would come and pose as Santa for photos with the children (clients). It was an easy decision and I said yes. I arrived on the agreed upon day and time, in costume and in character. I even have a large red sack that I brought candy canes and kazoo's to give out. They had a bench for me to sit on and they would bring in the kids one at a time to sit beside me for a photo. Some of the kids were excited and cooperative and they smiled for the camera and they enjoyed getting a candy cane and it was all good. As you might imagine, though, some of them due to their symptoms were not comfortable meeting a stranger and even apprehensive about getting close enough to sit beside the guy in the red suit. Take for example even my own grandkids can get upset if there is a change in their schedule or routine. My grandson, Jasper was fully OK with getting his photo because he recognized it was just Pop-pop in different clothes.

Due to the privacy rules of HIPPA I can't tell you names or show photos of the clients. But I can show you Santa. However many of the staff members were interested in having a photo with Santa. I was impressed that the staff at FSC have their own full time radio net. They have hand held's in the commercial radio spectrum. It gives them quick and easy communication across 2 floors and 8 rooms. The receptionist has a radio at her desk and she can relay information about a phone call to the staff. They are never further away than the Push-To-Talk button from help if it is needed.

73, and a MERRY CHRISTMAS! Jim-KN4UDV

Passing: Joan Wilbur

We sadly announce the passing of Joan, XYL of our NCS, Ed Wilbur-WB1CEI. She passed right before Christmas. She and Ed were at several of our gatherings over the years.

Condolences may be sent to :

EDWARD H WILBUR 92 GAY STREET, PO BOX 547
SHARON, CT 06069

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 Lobby 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, Lobby-WA2AXZ.

**Goods and
Services:
NEED QSLs OR
EYEBALL**

CARDS ???

KB3IFH QSL Cards

www.kb3ifh.homestead.com



A squirrel with brown fur and a white belly is standing in a snowy landscape. It is wearing a bright pink knitted beanie with a large, fluffy pink pom-pom on top. The squirrel's face and paws are dusted with snow. The background is a soft-focus winter scene with snowflakes and a blueish-white sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**CHRISTMAS
IS OVER...**

BRR...

FREE SPIRITED

**THIS
WHITE
STUFF CAN
GO AWAY
NOW!**