

Happy Valentines Day...



And have a Happy
Groundhog Day
too!



~~~~~ Fun in the Snow... part-1

It may be February, but across the nation, we are still in the grips of winter. Jim-KN4UDV sends best wishes from his chilly QTH in Colorado. The kids, on a bright sunny day built frosty the snowman. No upstanding snowman would be complete without his carrot for a nose.



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER February 2026

Fun in the Snow... part-2

Jerry-KC2UT lives in Syracuse NY, the snow belt of the north east. After a single days snowfall of over 75 inches, everyone got to work digging out.

Step #1: Try to get out of the house. The snow was still falling and at the 48 inch level, he opened his door to be greeted to a wall of fresh lake effect snow. This is why many keep snow shovels on the *inside* of the house.



Step #2:
Work your way to the garage and start up that old faithful snow blower. Carve yourself a path from the street to the front door.



Step #3: Find your car...



Every vehicle looks the same, buried under a mountain of snow. The trick is to get the really long handled brush and scraper. and begin

the arduous task of clearing every foot of snow from the hood and roof. You can then attempt a start the car, then drive to the store to buy the obligatory milk and bread.

So gang, the next time we hear of people complaining about their area being locked up, with schools and businesses closed due to a 2 inch snowfall, think of our friends east of the great lakes. They should be dug out by the July 4th celebrations!

Speaking about Ice....



Ed-WA2AMS was subjected to a winter ice storm that built up on his antennas and ladder lines. Living near lake Erie in Bemus Point, NY, he along with his neighbors are subjected to the incessant lake effect storms. The photo above shows a layer of ice that was deposited on his ladder line as well as his antennas. Thankfully nothing broke under the weight so he is still on air.

*** The week of January 18 severe storms hit most North American states. More stories on winter snow and ice damage coming....

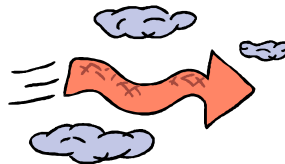
Here's Chad Atkins...



KB1HPV, our very own resident guitarist has a few nice hobbies. Between ham radio and wood working, he picks up his guitar, practicing his moves on the strings. He is getting better every day, and while strumming "Stairway to heaven" he says he is not up to Keith Richards level... yet.

Take a breath:

As Net Control Operators, we do a great amount of listening. Weak stations we might have missed or battling interesting band conditions, that moment before we speak is the difference between a great QSO and a missed opportunity. Do not be in a rush to hit that transmit button. Take a few moments, even swallow a swig of coffee, and just maybe, there is a station out there wanting to make contact.



CONGRATULATIONS to the 160m 1721 net.



On January 27, 2026 there was an on air celebration for our evening 160 meter net.

For 24 years, after Tom-KC8QGJ-sk founded the group in 2002, it has graced the airways on 1.871

We meet each evening around 8:30 pm-est and enjoy a great roundtable chat... until the gang gets tired of speaking. Hihi



"Hells Biker"

Bill-KB1PKS sends in this note about his Dad, Bill Jr, a WW-2 veteran and member of the Greatest Generation! "You might get a charge out of a picture of my 99 year young Dad fooling around at his assisted living? Last June one of the workers at Dad's assisted living let him wear his leather jacket and sit on his motor cycle for a fun picture. Of course one of his



friends lent him a cigar for the picture and everyone got such a charge out of seeing him as a "Hell's Biker" he made the cover of his assisted living weekly activities newsletter. I can see it in his face that he really wants to start her up and let it rip!"

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@arrrl.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, Loby-WA2AXZ.

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A Very Busy KB8RBB

Gregg-KB8RBB doesn't let the grass grow under his feet, and recently he was a busy bee in his shack. One thing we all dread is the fact that every once and a while we decide to clean up and rebuild the shack and move things around. Gregg reports: "I recently re-

built my shack. The reasoning was to have better efficiency and most of all, a place for my two big RCA receivers. I bought the

1944 RCA CR-88 (Gray radio on the right) at Dayton Hamvention 3 years ago. It worked! 80 years old and sounded great. The 1941 RCA AR-88 (Black radio) is from the COIL LAB at the RCA factory in Indiana and was found on Facebook Marketplace for 150.00!!! It worked too, but I did a full restore last winter.

These radios weigh 100 lbs each. So they needed a proper rack to mount them in, so back to FB Marketplace where I found these console racks for 60 bucks each. I had a countertop from the kitchen island from our house in Cincinnati which the builder deemed "blemished". So with a router I cut a big notch in each end for the racks, used some aluminum angle and bolted it all together. Once the desk was built I set about mounting gear and grounding everything to the station ground. WOW! That knocked a lot of noise down!!



My setup is as follows...

Knock-off of a Neumann U-47 condenser mic into a Symetrix 528 voice processor, feeding a Behringer mixer, which feeds a Rane Distribution Amp. Audio is sent through a matching transformer to lower the audio from line level to mic level then and sent to my Yaesu FTDX3000 and FT710. The mic is controlled through two heavy duty foot switches...one for keying each radio. This setup works really well for me!"

Now, in between all of this work, Gregg found the time to restore a vintage 1920's spring suspended microphone. "I found this little 1920's Gibbs Carbon Button Mic on Facebook Marketplace. After driving 40 miles I found it had been dropped and the ring was not only broken but looked Like Humpty Dumpty! Very egg shaped!! With a bit of ingenuity,



a vice, a torch and some silver solder I was able to resurrect it. Please note the gold hue in the first photos was all nicotine. It came off to show a nice nickel silver underneath...which I may buff out when time permits. Either way it is a nice companion for my old Crosley Cathedral in the living room. Even Mrs. Jones approves. LOL!"

73 to all...

Greg Jones - KB8RBB
Columbus, Ohio



On to Orlando!

Ken-W3XAF reported in that he will be attending the Orlando "Hamfest" Hamcation. The doors open from February 13th through the 15th this year.



Randy-KB3IFH will be in booth# 17 in the main hall, once again showing off the great QSL cards and other ham related items he makes. If you are a northerner, and wish to defrost in the Florida sun, stop by and meet up with Ken, Randy and others.

This is the Brooklyn Italian Groundhog. When they asked if he saw his shadow he replied:

"I didn't see Nuthin!"

