

AMERICA



July 4, 1776—2026

The United States of America...



somehow-someway, between wars and internal and external strife, has survived. Let's celebrate our history and salute the work our founders did in 1776!

What's in a Tube name?

I finally found that Tom Blalock article about reactance control of stage lighting in it he old Roxy theater and in it the reference to the origin of odd tube names. A GE engineer, Albert Hull, had a hobby of Greek language so he coined the name Thyatron from Thyra which means door and tron which means instrument. He used the term door since the thyatron acts as a gate.

The Phanotron rectifier referenced the Greek phano which means "to appear" a reference to the blue glow in the gas filled tube.

The Kenotron rectifier was a high vacuum rectifier named for the Greek word Keno which means space - a reference to the vacuum

Finally, the Pliotron referenced the Greek word Pelion means more - a reference to its use as an amplifier.

Joe Cunningham



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where Choosy People

Choose to CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER July 2026

Passing:

One of our founders of the Chew:

RICHARD V HILLER-AA2XK

Richard was there with other founders at the beginning of the Chew, 22 years ago. He worked as an NCS for years before stepping away due to health problems. Sadly, we just found out about his passing in 2024. I have no other information to add but to all, remember to inform your families if you are ill or have passed, to notify friends in ham radio, to receive proper recognition.



Passing:



Randy Dorman Sr. KB3INO

May 29, 2026

Randy was one of our original members of the Chew and truly enjoyed chatting with the gang. For many years Both Randy Sr. and Randy Jr.-KB3IFH were fixtures at many hamfests, selling QSL cards and other ham related items at the KB3IFH QSL Card booth.

When the gang got together for our Dayton-Friday barbeques, he was often seen dressed in his apron and chef's hat making goodies for everyone to enjoy. He will be missed by all. Condolences maybe sent to: *Randy J Dorman, Jr*

4522 Foxtail Rd Hampstead, MD 21074



Gene Trittle WT2T

January 5 2026



Gene was an avid Ham Radio operator and was a member of the 7.272 Ragchew net, the Popcorn net, along with the Ellijay Amateur Radio Society. He enjoyed talking to people all over the world. He also enjoyed collecting guns and creating their own grips.

Gene loved to ride Motorcycles with his wife, Linda of 25 years. Gene was a retired Journeyman Ironworker for Local number 10 and a retired Boilermakers Local 83. He spent his career as a hard-working construction worker. Thanks to Scott-W4WEL for informing the group.

~ America's Liberty Bell ~

I was having an e-mail chat with the Son of a Silver Stacker (*Great daily coin show on You Tube*) As he outlined details of the new Liberty Bell-Jefferson quarter, my mind kicked into gear with this little true story... As luck would have it, I have a small connection to the Liberty Bell.



Back in the late 70's I brought my family to Philly to see the bell, and other historic sights around town. Entering the hall where the bell is on display, at that time, anyone could walk up to it and touch it. Like many curious visitors I flicked my finger near the crack hoping to hear a faint sound from the bell. After turning away, the hall was filled with a strong BOOOING! My little daughter, Keri, had crawled under the bell and had found the clapper freely swinging. She gave it a shove and, well, got the attention of everyone in the hall. The park service guards ran up to see what happened as I sheepishly explained what the four-year old had done. At least many of us had the good fortune of actually hearing the bell ring out. A few years ago I took another trip with my grandsons to see the bell. This time I saw it was cordoned off away from prying fingers. I did bend down to



New red mount to secure the clapper.

Clapper secured with a U bolt>>

see that they tied the clapper firmly so no little one could do what my daughter had done so many years ago.
Loby WA2AXZ

Bill sure has a "Clean" signal!

Bill-KB1PKS decided with his XYL it was time to rebuild his Connecticut QTH. He started construction, one bathroom at a time to at least give them one working bathroom as things progressed.

As contractors moved in to one main bathroom, they had to clear out everything to strip the walls bare. This included clearing out everything in the laundry room and removing the walls and ceiling for PEX re-piping to the bathrooms and kitchen. They moved everything out and placed the washing machine and dryer into Bill's shack.



With the theme from "This Old House" playing in the background, all plumbing and electrical was pulled from bathroom #1 to make way for new plastic feed water and drain runs. Electricians brought up the room power up to code as the sheetrock installers came in to seal things up. With a new toilet, shower, floors, cabinets and vanity, all should be up to snuff.

Of course, the washer and dryer was moved out of his shack to take it's more appropriate position.



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

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.

Goods and

Services:

NEED QSLs OR EYEBALL



CARDS ???

KB3IFH QSL Cards

www.kb3ifh.homestead.com

72chew.net

The history of the RCA “Nipper”

The flesh-and-blood Nipper lived in late 19th-century England and earned

his name after trying to bite people’s ankles. His owner’s brother, Francis Barraud, immortalized the dog posthumously in the painting “His Master’s Voice,” which shows Nipper intrigued by the recorded sound coming from a phonograph horn. The Gramophone Company in London purchased a version of the image in 1899 and it was registered soon after for use in the United States. The “His Master’s Voice” trademark was acquired in 1929 by the company that became RCA. Albany’s Nipper, with a composite body over a steel frame, was placed by a crane atop the building in the late 1950s to advertise the location of an RCA appliance distributor. There were many Nipper statues made during his heyday, including a 1958 Nipper statue now at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore that’s 14 feet high and paired with a larger-than-life phonograph.

But Albany’s is bigger. It stands out in a skyline otherwise notable for a modernist state government complex adjacent to the state Capitol, which features a 44-story office tower and theater shaped like a giant egg. The beloved dog appears on socks, caps, stickers and shot glasses for sale downtown at



The Fort Orange General Store, where store owner Erica Cubello said the items are best-sellers. “He is kind of like our unofficial mascot here at Fort Orange, as well as the city of Albany,” said Cubello, who was wearing a Nipper hoodie.

The dog statue in Albany... Nipper still looks fresh after all these years. But the building below him has sat unused for at least a decade, with paint chipped off the front exterior. Nothing ever became of plans announced a decade ago to develop apartments and retail space in the newly purchased building. Foreclosure litigation has been going on for years and city tax documents show an attorney acting as a receiver. City officials are weighing landmark protections to preserve the warehouse and iconic rooftop dog. Lawyers involved in the litigation didn’t immediately respond to calls for comment. In 2024, the Historic Albany Foundation put the building on its list of places in peril. In March, the city put the red-and-white caution placard up on the building’s entrance. Times-Union columnist Chris Churchill soon after sounded the alarm in a piece headlined: “Nipper has our love, but needs more protection.” Albany Mayor Dorcey Appling’s office said she is working to add Nipper to the city’s list of historic landmarks, which could help protect the dog and the building from damaging changes. Separately, a state board last month nominated the warehouse district that includes Nipper’s building for state and national historic registers. That would make the building eligible for state and federal historic preservation tax credits. There is no serious talk of moving Nipper from his forever home, which would be logistically challenging and expensive. Besides, where would the roughly four-ton statue go? “There’s a whole redevelopment downtown. You could put him there. You could put him on the riverfront,” Macri said. “But he’s a big dog.”

America Celebrates with the BIG BOY!



Steam engine 4014 has been crossing the country, making stops for photos as well as tours of the train. This engine is one of twenty five, was built during World War-2 to haul heavy freight over the western mountains. Big Boy got his name when a worker in the American Locomotive company (ALCO) Schenectady plant, wrote boldly with chalk, on the smoke box front cover, “BIG BOY” This moniker is still seen in chalk today, renewed from time to time, due to wash-outs by weather conditions. Big Boy is the last of it’s brothers still under steam, able to roll around the country. Most others are in static displays at railroad museums across the land. This worlds largest steam engine weighs in at a mere 1,218,500 pounds and with tender , is 133 feet in length...WOW!

Rick W8RNE took this photo above.

He said: *“I took this when the Big Boy came through my “NE-Ohio” neighborhood...sat for 3 hrs to get this picture.”* Yes, a mighty blast from the steam whistle shows this is truly magnificent machine!