

Be Not Afraid...

Summer is here with a vengeance, causing a lot of us to sit back in our air conditioned abodes, seeking relief from the stifling heat. I know that most all of our Net Control Stations are doing their best, fighting solar storms, thunderstorms and every type of interference known to man and ham radio. I know it's not easy though YOU are out there, day by day, keeping the Chew alive through the summer heat. I personally thank everyone for being there and keeping our nets on track.

With that being said, I am still a staunch proponent of using the remote SDR sites available to everyone. These "Kiwi" sights, over 600 around the globe are a fantastic resource for NCS's to use.

<http://kiwisdr.com/public/> is the web site where you sign in, open the world map and select any of the sites you think may help you during your net.



From my QTH in Wisconsin, I use SDR's in Vermont, NY State, Michigan and North Carolina to get me through my hour. Give it a try and give your ears a rest as you can hear and converse with stations that may not be making your home receiver.



The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER August 2026

FUNNY SUMMER SIGNS...

If a parsley farmer is sued,
can they *Garnish* his
wages?



A yawn is a *Silent Scream*
for COFFEE!

They say that money
talks.
Mine only waves
goodbye!



From Chad and his KB1HPV wood shop...

Yes, our version of Norm Abram has been busy this summer, beating the heat in the shade working on a new project. He picked up a couple of rattan seat chairs that needed much love and attention. This pair was well worn needing



good reinforcement of the joints, painting and re-weaving of the

seats.

Chad got busy cleaning and painting the chairs, the hit the store to find just the right material to make the seats, strong enough for anyone's behind (*hihi*).

One by one, the weaving process done by hand, resulted in strong, great looking seat pads. I wonder how good he is weaving blankets?



When Smoke Gets In Your Eyes...

The summer heat is unbearable *BUT*, couple the heat with heavy smoke from Canadian and Minnesotan wild fires, it is downright dangerous! For the past few weeks, at times, the entire northern half of America has been covered in a heavy haze of smoke. Warnings and advisories were issued to stay indoors, away from the smoke. Many doctors are telling anyone that has to walk or work outside, dig out those old Covid N-95 masks, as these are effective in filtering out the bad particles in the air.

I follow the fires on the Canadian fire site: www.firesmoke.ca



Here, you see the origins of fires and the number of fires burning. In addition, it has a 24-hour

forecast showing where the smoke will be.

Now something is different about this cloud, as I have discovered that several of my over-the-air TV stations have faded out. It seems as though this cloud contains particles, consuming TV and Radio signals. For several days band conditions on both 40 and 160m have been miserable at best. Hang In there as winds will come and blow all this out to sea.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor...

In our case it is Hams Helping Hams!

Earlier this year an appeal was put out for anyone to please help out one of our long time member's and Net Control Operators.

Terry-KC8OEX was suffering from severe heart problems to start with, and during one of his check ups, doctors found he had advanced cancer in his chest. To get the continuous treatment he requires, he needs to drive back and forth to the hospital many times in a week. As he cannot work, money is very tight.

John-W8LWX set up a fund for terry, and we are asking our fellow hams, if you can help out, Please send John a check, and he will make sure Terry gets the money to keep him going.

JOHN C STEINBERGER-W8LWX

65 PARK BLVD

WINSTON SALEM, NC 27127-2000

Heart felt to each and everyone that can help!

Summer Radio Giggles:

While poking around You Tube, I found a fully restored 1930 short with the two masters of mayhem, Laurel and Hardy. In the film "Hog Wild," Hardy has an argument with his wife as she complains the radio is not working. Of course Hardy enlists the help of Laurel to install a wire dipole antenna on the roof. The rest is a series of mishaps and belly laughs that we could apply to our own antenna installation stories today. Watch it through to a typical depression era ending. Google this restored short and get the popcorn ready!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bnxc1zGD1sg&t=3s>



A note from your editor, Loby...

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@arri.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



Memories of NYC's Radio Row, by Bob Walker

Retired Chief Engineer of Metro North Railroad

Oh my, the discussion and photos of the glory days of Radio Row in this video brought back many memories of a classic NYC neighborhood. As the radio hobby developed the crystal sets of the turn of the century morphed from those using Galena crystals as the rf detector, to the crystal diodes like the popular Sylvania 1N34A which is still produced today. The advent of vacuum tubes opened up a whole new world of radio technology, starting with the big glass vacuum tubes with 4 prongs on the base, followed by the 8 prong octals and the miniature 7 and 9 pin tubes after WW2. The final tubes marketed before transistors took over the industry were the GE Compactrons produced in the early 1960s with a 12 pin base which had as many as three tubes inside its glass shell. They were not very successful and were used for a few years in color tvs and little else. Millions were made by all major tube manufacturers and much of that inventory is still out there. In their aftermarket years many vendors sold them for \$1 each as they found a new purpose as tubes for am radios and audio amplifiers for hobbyists. GE even made a book with circuits for hobbyists to construct various devices using these tubes. In recent years the fact that these tubes found a new purpose after their original use was long gone, and so many were still available, new production of 12 pin sockets was reborn in China and are still available.

The stores at Radio Row developed along with the technology and they acquired sources within the industry to buy closeouts of components and tubes that they sold at very good prices to hobbyists and neighborhood radio repair shops. I remember walking down the streets of Radio Row with their sidewalk displays of surplus goods for sale. Chief among them were vacuum tubes, mostly used and pulled from radios usually at 25 cents each. You had to go inside the stores to the counters to buy new tubes in boxes. There were B+, filament and output transformers too along with huge varieties of cylindrical capacitors with wax fillings. Metal variable capacitors with 1, 2 or 3 gangs of blades were there as well. These vendors kept up with advances in the industry too. Radio Row stores also were prime sources for WW2 radios and transmitters from the late 1940s through the 1960s when most of the surplus had been sold. Soon after they were introduced to the trade, these stores would soon stock new devices. With the introduction of transistors in the late 1950s, by 1961 hobbyist versions were available at every shop at Radio Row led by the Raytheon CK722 and the GE 2N107, two transistors specifically produced for the hobbyist market. These shops also offered "house numbered" general purpose PNP and NPN models, many under one dollar apiece. In the mid 1960s J. W. Miller introduced the adjustable ferrite loopstick antenna, the #6300, which was ideally suited to hobbyist crystal, vacuum tube and transistor am radios. These little sticks offered high Q performance far beyond what had been the standard with the antenna coils on the flat cardboard backs of tube radios. Like many other components the vendors of Radio Row found sources for these components minus the name brand label and offered them at great prices. At the height of Radio Row's prominence (1940 to 1960) those unlucky to live in the NYC area found similar bargains at nationwide mail order houses like Lafayette Radio, Allied Radio and particularly Olsen Radio.

Although Radio row was largely concentrated with electronics parts stores, the area also had other retail hallmarks that drew shoppers to the area. A big draw was The Pushcart Job Lots store on the corner of Reade Street and Church Street that featured surplus merchandise of all types at deep discounts. They became so popular that they developed into a mini chain with stores all over Manhattan. On Cortlandt street was the area's only department store called Digby's. It was a small version of a typical E. J. Korvette's and specialized in LP record albums. A few doors down was a widely loved clothing store called Century 21 that featured designer women's clothing. It too prospered and opened stores elsewhere in the area. A few blocks from Cortlandt Street, on Chambers St. off Broadway was the area's lone auction outlet featuring a fast talking barker offering the latest items acquired to the highest bidders. A few doors down was a branch of a popular appliance and electronics store called Davega. On the corner of Chambers and Broadway was the original Modell's Sporting Goods store. On Chambers St. near Broadway was the home of the New York Sun, a once great somewhat conservative leaning newspaper with the class look of the N. Y. Times but a slightly conservative slant. It folded some 30 years ago.

The demolition of the area for the construction of the twin towers essentially destroyed the retail businesses that were long term foundations of the area, both radio stores and others. A few of the original radio shops tried to stay in business by relocating to other areas. I remember one went to Bedford/Stuyvesant Brooklyn and one went to the South Bronx but neither lasted long. One actually went into a mail order business and with the advent of the internet became an online retailer. He didn't last long either as he adopted a marketing strategy different from what was used at Radio Row. His prices were astronomical as he had characterized all of his stock from his store as boutique or collector's items from a bygone era and charged prices accordingly, but he didn't last long either.

In the years following the loss of Radio Row, mail order, then online sales kept the hobby alive with stores like Lafayette, Allied, Mouser, Olsen and many smaller outlets providing hobbyist's needs. Sadly over the last 10 years few are left. In fact today anyone wanting to return back to build a crystal, tube or transistor radio is very limited in where to find the parts. Amplified Parts in Arizona stocks virtually all vacuum tubes ever made along with variable capacitors which are tough to find. Mouser Electronics can provide crystal diodes, capacitors, resistors and magnet wire to wind radio coils. The Electronic Goldmine is probably the last remaining online retailer selling surplus electronic parts at discount prices and publishes a daily sales flyer of its latest acquisitions. It was a great era while it lasted! **[Below is a video link showing the area up to and the building of the NYC-World Trade Center:](#)**

https://youtube.com/watch?v=CEEqp5QQQ4s&is=Skv7m1vEWMXUIH_C