



# Happy Anniversary!

All because of you!

Looking back over the 10 years of operations on our rag chew net, it is interesting to note that all too many ham radio nets and associated organizations fold after barely a few years. Members drift away and lose interest while the group stagnates and does not bring in fresh, new members to keep things lively and up to date.

When Russ-K1LRB, John-W8LWX and I speak on the land line, we muse about the group's motto: "Our organization without organization" Over our history, there has been a string of dedicated managers at the helm, diligently working behind the scenes, to ensure things run smoothly on our daily nets.

Our rules we do maintain are simple: no dues, no membership numbers, no stringent regulations or protocol other than common courtesy and an interest to throw some topic on the table for the rest of us to "chew" upon.



# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where Choosy People

Choose to CHEW!"

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

~ 2004 ~



### Founders of the 72 rag chew.

- K1LRB - AA2XK
- WA2ISC - W2LEI
- NI2W - N2COM
- AA2T - K3SEA
- and W2CSQ

Silent key founders:  
W2LKS and W3ICX

Our many volunteer Net Control Stations take center stage as each day, from all points in America, we welcome everyone into the net for a relaxed, friendly chat.



And then, there is you! Our members are the lifeline of the 7.272 Ragchew Net. Just checking in, speaking with the NCS or contacting friends makes us special.

Thank you to everyone, from our founders to the most recent check-in.. You have made the 7.272 rag chew net one of the friendliest, most informative and longest lived on the 40 meter band.



*Our first banner, circa 2005, embracing the nightly Supper Club (now merged into Night watch) on 7.244, the evening 40m 1721 group (now on 160m) and of course, our 7.272 Ragchew Net.*

72chew.net



# The Beginnings of the 7.272 Ragchew Net.

*As recalled by several of our founders.*

The 72 Chew has grown tremendously over the past 10 years. How did it come about? What were its beginnings? As with any group's formation, each member has his own memory. Like the American Revolution, we started after a handful of dissatisfied hams got together.

There was another long-lived group on 40 meters which, in being polite, will not be mentioned here. This group fostered Field Day operations, daily nets and other events run under strict guidelines. Unbeknownst to the members, politics within that organization had reared its ugly head.

Two groups were fighting for control of the club. The eventual winner, a very popular amateur and one of our founders, John-W2LKS (now a sk) including several other members of the group had their memberships cancelled and were cast out of that group.

A meeting of the ostracized members was held in May of 2004 at a hotel in North Wildwood, N.J. Even the mayor of Wildwood dropped in and spoke a few words of encouragement to boot! Russ (K1LRB), John (W2LKS) and Rich (AA2XK) proposed a new net dedicated to rag chewing.

During the old group's activities, members who wanted to speak on the side with others would QSY to 7.272. Since there was no net activity on that frequency, the gang decided to make this the new home frequency and call the new assembly of hams the 72 Rag Chew Net. The attending group voted unanimously to adopt that moniker, and thus was born "The Chew".

Russ-K1LRB after being nominated by George-W2LEI became our first net manager and the first Monday, after that fateful weekend, our 7.272 Ragchew net began.

Ten years later, we have had thousands of check-ins and since a list was formed, we now have almost 200 regulars. A late afternoon-early evening group of 72 Chewers formed the "Supper Club" which ultimately morphed into the nighttime "Night watch Net" Several others from the morning Chew moved to 160 meters—1.871, where each night we continue the friendly talk hosted by Tom-KC8QGJ. All of this good will and expansion was due to a handful of hams getting together with a simple plan, making an open net as easy to be part of and friendly to all.

By the way, the other unnamed net which had expelled members in the first place, finally realized the error of its ways. Most of the "politicians" have lost interest and have left that net and now, what now remains is a fine service to the ham radio community. Although the break-up of that group 10 years ago was painful, the end result is a more rigorously defined service net, while the Chew provides a more loosely run organization devoted to friendly ragchewing -- a win - win situation for ham radio, and a great place to enjoy the hobby.

## Our 10th anniversary token of appreciation.

*"Don't let anyone give you a wooden nickel... so we'll give you a wooden silver dollar sized token instead."* Everyone that requests our special anniversary QSL card will also receive our commemorative 7.272 10th anniversary token. Each one has a heads, with the Ragchew net logo, and a tails with our mascot the Taz! The token will be affixed to the QSL card so you can leave it there and proudly display it or remove it from the card and use it for a novel coin toss.

*I am using a vintage 1885 Morgan silver dollar to show the size of our tokens, and no, I don't know who put a "22" bullet hole in it either.*



## Memorable Moments...

Some of the first photos I have in my collection are from the initial get-together of the 72 Ragchew Net at the 2005 Dayton Hamvention. From 2005 through 2009, a large number of friends got together, though after the financial crunch, many scaled back activities at Dayton. The first of our annual dinners began in 2005 at the Dayton Spaghetti Warehouse. This res-



taurant featured a full-sized trolley inside as well as an open space for diners to enjoy. Reservations were made and to our surprise, over 85 members of the "Chew" showed up, filling the place to capacity.







above: Full house at the "Warehouse," 2005  
right: Scott-KG4WEL mixes up a few gallons (yes gallons) of margaritas for the gang at the KOA campground. 2006  
Below: A small sampling of the 80+ members at the



annual 72 Chew dinner at the Amber Rose in 2006.  
Below: 2007 at

the annual Thursday evening meeting at Holiday Inn North.



Our third anniversary cake. Cakes like these became a tradition at the large annual dinners.

The Friday evening picnic at the Dayton KOA, hosted by Tom-KC8QGJ for the 1721 group and members of the 7.272 Ragchew net. On average 100 friends show up annually for Randy-KB3INO's cooking!



These are but a small sampling of the thousands of photos taken by me and others over the past 10 years. With the participation of you and future members, the 7.272 Ragchew Net will continue for another successful decade.

### *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. In addition, if you have anything to sell, swap or trade or offer other goods and services, let me know and I'll publish it in the next issue of "THE CHEW".

Please, e-mail your stories, tech info and photos to Loby at [wa2axz@arrl.net](mailto:wa2axz@arrl.net)  
*Many thanks!*

## Goods and Services:

### **KB3IFH QSL Cards Dayton—2014**

Stop by and visit Randy-KB3IFH (right) and his dad, Randy Sr.-KB3INO (left) in the North Hall booth #0190. Say hello and rest your feet. I'll have extra chairs in the booth along with water, snacks, and maybe even something a little harder if that's your preference.



We'll be listening on 147.390 simplex as everyone from the 72 Chew and the 17/21 Group does every year.

Feel free to look through

the many designs we offer and update your QSL's.  
73 Randy KB3IFH

**KB3IFH QSL Cards**  
[www.kb3ifh.homestead.com](http://www.kb3ifh.homestead.com)



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