

Happy
July 4th!



Back in 1776 a group of individuals came together to form a new nation dedicated to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Since that auspicious day we've grown to a diverse country, over 300 million strong. Take the day to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize the sacrifices of life and limb to keep our people free and enjoy the freedom of faith which serves as a strong backbone of our ideals.

Now That's A Tower!



Bob-KC3VO's antenna farm in Breezewood, Pa.
Photo by Jay-K3JAY

The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER

July 2014

On June 16th while working our sister net on 160m (the 1721 group 1.871) I met up with a couple of gentlemen, Bob-KC3VO and Jay K3JAY in Breezewood Pa. During the conversation it was revealed that Bob had bought a communications tower and building from the phone company. The tower, at almost 300 feet still contained the horn reflectors used for mass telephone relay communications

Jay stated that "there were no horns or dishes left on roof of the building but aiming feed horns or antennas is as easy as sitting in a lawn chair with a cold beer in one hand and small yagi in other. Point it up there and the signals peak when you got it right." There is also an array of wire antennas that allow ham operations on various frequencies too. No wonder they get S-10+ reports while running barefoot!

Our 10th anniversary
token of appreciation.

We are well into our 10th anniversary year, celebrating our fine organization without organization. Dozens of anniversary QSLs and tokens have already been mailed out covering our special anniversary event. Now we open up to everyone wishing a token and anniversary card.

When you request our special anniversary QSL card you will also receive our silver dollar size, 10th anniversary commemorative 7.272 "Slug" (token). Each one has a heads, with the rag chew logo, and 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.



Founders of the 7.272 Ragchew.

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

Silent key founders:
W2LKS and W3ICX

72chew.net

Here's an interesting article from ED ~ WA2NDA

USA Today - Asbury Park Press June 5:

HAM HEARS MARIJUANA BUZZ IN COLORADO

A few years ago, retired electrical engineer Tom Thompson W0IVJ noticed it was getting harder and harder to hear his friends across the country talking to him on their ham radio sets.

So Thompson built a portable antenna system so he could walk his neighborhood and track down whatever was interfering with his radio transmission. The culprit? Marijuana grow operations, whose powerful grow lights can emit interference blocking radio broadcasts on the ham and AM spectrums.

The first grower he encountered wasn't pleased to know Thompson, now 73, could tell exactly what was going on. "He said 'what are you going to do, call the cops?'" Thompson said. "And I said, well no, it's a federal matter."



With 22 states and the District of Columbia allowing medical marijuana, and Colorado and Washington permitting recreational use, there's been an explosion in the number of people growing their own pot, much of it indoors. With that growth has come increasing interference from the grow lights, which suck down huge amounts of electricity to shine upon budding marijuana plants. Growing pot indoors is usually more secure and gives the grower more control over light, water and insects, which results in higher-quality plants commanding a premium price.

The interference problems from one type of system have gotten so bad that the amateur radio association, ARRL, filed a formal federal complaint on behalf of the country's 720,000 licensed ham operators. The problems are worst in Colorado and California, said Sean Kutzko, an ARRL spokesman.

The interference is caused by what are known as "ballasts," electronic systems controlling the grow lights. Unless they're properly shielded, the ballasts can throw off a wide range of interference. For ham radio operators in the area, it's like trying to have a conversation during an intense thunderstorm. "We're not concerned about what people are using the grow lights for," Kutzko said. "But we're seeing numerous cases ... and that's causing us a problem. We just want to make sure the manufacturers are in compliance with FCC laws."

The Federal Communications Commission has the power to regulate anything that interferes with licensed radio transmissions, such as ham sets, but also cell phones and AM radios. It often sends letters to people suspected of causing interference, and also can send agents out to knock on doors, Kutzko said.

In a statement, FCC spokeswoman Kim Hart said she couldn't address the specific complaint filed by AARL, but said the FCC is aware of the problems caused by certain grow lights. Thompson said he's also tracked down interference from traditional halogen lamps and even a neighbor's camcorder.

Thompson said he recognizes that federal regulators probably have better things to do than force marijuana growers to change their lights, so he found his own solution: He created a \$20 cable shield he gives out to anyone whose operation is interfering with his radio.

"If I can track this down, anybody can track this down," he said. "If I listen long enough, I can tell when they turn the lights off ... you can tell exactly when the harvest is."

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

Many thanks!

Goods and Services:

KB3IFH QSL Cards



Randy-KB3IFH makes great looking QSL cards, and other printed matter. If you want to update your cards, order business or eye-ball cards or have other printing requirements, contact Randy.

73 Randy KB3IFH

KB3IFH QSL Cards

www.kb3ifh.homestead.com

Ps.

Randy reports on a new lightning web site for the group to check out.
<http://www.lightningmaps.org>



Heard on air...

An old Polish Proverb.

Every time you feel yourself getting pulled into other people's nonsense, repeat these words.



NOT MY CIRCUS

NOT MY MONKEYS



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