

K1R New Year's Weekend Special !

Thirteen is an unlucky number for some, but 2017 marks our lucky thirteenth anniversary of the 7.272 Rag-chew. To celebrate a new year we will be operating the K1R call on Saturday, December 31, 2016 then ringing in the new year on Sunday, January 1, 2017. We will be staffing the positions with our regularly scheduled hourly Net Control Stations from 8am to 12 noon Eastern time.



Volunteers are needed to take the hourly 12 noon and beyond positions. If you would like to volunteer for a prestigious high-paying position with all the benefits that apply (hi hi) send an e-mail to Loby at wa2axz@arrl.net.

As always, a great certificate will be offered to all participants.

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To all our friends and their Families: we wish you the Merriest of the Christmas season, the Happiest Hanukkah and a most wonderful New Year-2017



# The "Chew"

## SEVENTY-TWO



"Where  
Choosy  
People

Choose  
to  
CHEW!

**NEWSLETTER** December 2016

Robert W. Lobenstein—WA2AXZ Newsletter Editor

## Being the boss has its perks.



Santa Loby & his crew  
in a substation by a  
27Kv breaker

During my 40-year career in the NYC Transit Power Department, I held just about every position from helper, sweeping floors, to General Superintendent in charge of operating the world's largest transit power system. Back in the late '70s I was a foreman of a power repair crew. At the same time I also had my first daughter, Keri. Each Friday I had to go from substation to substation, where crews were working, and deliver paychecks. I dressed up as Santa and gave each crew a very pleasant surprise. I also brought goodies to thank them for everything they did.

Christmas morning, before my little 3-year-old daughter awoke, I donned the Santa suit and sat on the couch. A rustling was heard



on the stairs, as a pensive little girl was astonished to see Santa in the room. Slowly she made her

way down and stood in the center of the living room looking at the presents under the tree and suspiciously looking at me. After a few moments she walked up to me and said, "You are not Santa, you are Daddy in a Santa suit... You look silly!"

The laughter that ensued was priceless as I gave her a big hug and then started distributing the presents. I can safely say that was one of the most memorable Christmases.

The photo is the actual photo taken of little Keri coming down those stairs.

Loby-WA2AXZ

72chew.net



# HO HO HO ?



## Can you find a future Net Controller in this photo?

Terry-KC8OEX (Santa's left knee) is busy telling Santa his list of goodies he wants to find under his Christmas tree.



## News from the 17-21 Group

Last night (November 19th, 2016) on the 160 meter 17-21 Roundtable once again the conversation turned to food.

It so happens that on my many trips to the United Kingdom over the years I took pictures of some dishes that I thought were extra yummy. Two that are tops on my list are the classic English breakfast and the famous English fish and chips with mussy peas!



First photo (left): Classic English breakfast has two sunny-side-up eggs (no such thing as eggs over easy in the UK), English bacon (which looks just like American spiral ham slices with extra fat), sliced fried tomatoes, a fried sliced mushroom cap (missing in my picture), and most important, baked beans (that look and taste just like American pork and beans).

Second photo (below): Fish and chips with mussy peas has the tender and mild deep fried breaded cod fish, nice and chunky beefsteak French fries and, most important, mussy peas. Note in the picture that mussy peas are not American style peas that have been whipped up like mashed potatoes, but big thin-skinned light green peas (the size of 25 cent pieces - American quarters). The skin on these peas is so fragile that most break when cooked and spill out the contents - thus the mussy texture. It is important that mussy peas not be overcooked or they will get like cement... and loose their great taste.



Bon Appétit and Cheers,  
Bill-KB1PKS

Okay, so let's say you're the shift supervisor at a big Chinese factory that makes fake Christmas trees for the U. S. market. And let's say it's 5 pm and you just found out that the entire day's production had all the "trunks" oriented the wrong way.

What to do? Easy -- just label the boxes "Upside-Down Christmas Tree - - More Room for Gifts Underneath!"

KJ4UYR-Janice spotted this one at the local Big Lots in 2006. As soon as she told me about it, we rushed back out to buy it. We've displayed it proudly in the living room each year since then, drawing lots of admiring comments from the neighbors and their holiday visitors.

We can only hope that the Chinese factory supervisor got a nice healthy bonus for his ingenuity! -- 73, John-W8LWX

# A Christmas Ham

By WA2AXZ



'Twas a night before Christmas and  
all through my shack  
The tubes were a-glowing... I was  
making contacts  
The antenna was tuned and rotated  
'round  
Facing the south, the noise level to  
drown

I sat in my old chair, earphones on my  
head  
I stopped spinning the dial, now what's  
being said?  
Two old codgers were at it... they were  
making a scene  
Which rig was garbage and which was  
a dream.

Down the band I slid like snow on the  
fly  
With nothing else heard, 40 meters I'd  
try  
With the snap of a switch, align grid  
and plate  
Setting the filters, hey! there are my  
mates!

The "72 Chewers" were talking en  
masse  
Each taking turns, their greetings to  
pass  
One by one listing their  
holiday wishes



Of rigs and amps and satellite dishes.  
With a broad smile, the radio I keyed  
I checked myself in, what else would one  
need?

Then all of a sudden, a sizzle and spark  
The lights blinked twice, and then all was  
dark.

A glow in the back of the rig's getting brighter  
My heart sinks to the floor,  
The transformer's on fire!

Pull out the plugs... smoke's filling my nose  
I turn on the spray from close garden hose.  
Open the windows, fling open the sash  
I toss out the rig to the ground with a crash

Stench from the smoke fills my poor head  
Then all of a sudden I wake up in my bed.

What could have  
caused such a  
terrible nightmare?  
Was it the beer, the  
nuts or the ham ill-  
prepared?  
To my delight the  
shack is intact and  
snow lightly falls  
73s to my friends,



**Merry Christmas to all!**



**Heartfelt  
thanks to:**

Andy-KC3GHK and  
Donald-N9RFJ for their  
kind donations to the  
7.272 Ragchew operating  
fund.



Goods and Services:

## **KB3IFH QSL Cards**

If you are in the market for new and  
impressive QSL's and eyeball cards,  
contact Randy and see how a new set of  
cards will look for you.

**KB3IFH**  
**QSL Cards**  
www.kb3ifh.  
homestead.com



## **WANTED...**

**YOUR STORIES,  
PHOTOGRAPHS, TECH TIPS,  
HAPPENINGS AND FUNNIES.**

The 7.272 Ragchew Newsletter, "The  
Chew" is made possible by contributions of  
materials by our members. We rely on the  
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.

Take a few moments to jot down interest-  
ing stories and send them to your editor.  
If you find a new "Taz" photo that can be  
used for future certificates and QSLs, that  
too is greatly appreciated. Please, e-mail  
your stories, tech info and photos to Lobby  
at [wa2axz@arrl.net](mailto:wa2axz@arrl.net) *Many Thanks!*

**Heard on the radio.**

**"Money Talks...  
Mine says goodbye!"**