

A Happy St. Patrick's Day to all. Now, on to spring!



DAYTON-XENIA 2018

I am pleased to report that our 14th annual Thursday, May 17 gathering at Rob's restaurant and the Friday, May 18 barbeque at the Dayton KOA is locked in stone. If anyone is headed to the Dayton area festivities, come join us. Full details will be in the April issue.

Up on the roof!

By Loby-WA2AXZ

I have been observing radio silence for the past few weeks as my old Brooklyn roof finally gave up after thirty or so years. I have been breathing life into the old tar but I knew that dreaded day would come when I'd have to bite the bullet, pay the piper and, *GULP*, take my antenna farm down to the last bolt.

Now I always joke about my roof being a vast 18x12 feet working surface. True, I drool as the conversations of hams outside city limits, wax poetically at the acreage they have to run full size dipoles with monster towers and beams. Sadly, not here. I use a simple three foot high tripod to hold my Hustler 6BTV in the center of the roof.

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The "Chew"

SEVENTY-TWO



"Where
Choosy
People

Choose
to
CHEW!

NEWSLETTER **March 2018**



My 160 meter vertical is now residing on a triple set of wall mounts. Every-

thing is securely guyed to the eyebolts I screwed into the roof beams. Not bad for 15 out of my 48 years on the radio.

Roofers came in and installed new shingles on the peaked portion of the roof then installed a new rubber roof on the flat surface area. Right now as of March



1st, I have to stay off the roof for at least another two weeks or so, to allow the "plastic roofing cement" to cure underneath. I will be on air using my Alpha-Delta DX-B sloper. Though my signal may be somewhat attenuated, I'll be back to full operation before the St. Patrick's Day parade. Begorah!

Solar Power from CDs

By: John Kippe-K1PPE

Now there finally is a use for your old Dean Martin and Perry Como CDs! On YouTube, I discovered a site that explains how to make a solar cell using a CD, some wire and a diode. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsECvstLrok> The first photo is a cell

about 1/4 done. The second is a complete cell. Each cell produces 1/2 VDC. You need a panel that produces 18 VDC to charge a 12 VDC battery. So to be able to charge a



battery, you need 36 cells. If you want to charge a battery faster, you will need to build 2, 3, 4, or more additional cells to increase your current output.

In the center of the winding of the cell, you need to solder a diode in circuit.

That is what actually makes the cell and the number of diodes placed equally apart will increase the DC output, but as the voltage



increases per cell the current decreases, so you will need the same number of cells to charge the same battery. The specs for one cell are as follows; 0.5 VDC at .01625 Amps. Remember to use your multimeter to

determine polarity so you will be able to tell how to connect them together to first get the voltage to the value you need, then to verify the current output. There are different construction methods on various sites, so good luck and have fun making your cells then hooking them together to make your panel. 73s, John Kippe-K1PPE

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## Welcome Back Ed-WA2NDA

After many months of recovering from health issues, Ed-WA2NDA is back in the saddle once again. His melodious voice of ham radio wisdom can be heard on our airwaves. Check out the 7.272 web page, 72chew.net, for the schedules, and stop by and wave a hand to one of our original Net Control Stations!

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Heard on the Radio

"We have an abundance of data but a lack wisdom to properly use it."

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, John-W8LWX.



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!

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You can help out by making a small contribution that keeps the website on line as well as contending with the postage and background costs encountered during the year. Please, send your contribution to your Special Events Coordinator, WA2AXZ, today.



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