



## News from



## The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

January 2018

### Hello Worms

2018 WOW The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century seemed so far in the future and now it is so far in the past. Time just seems to have flown by. The Wormhole is running along fine and I expect 2018 to be more of the same. I want to thank everyone for all the work they have done. I am not going to mention any names because I would invariably forget someone and besides everyone knows the whos. Obviously the officers all do a fine job but I need to thank those who are not officers but do a lot to keep us running smooth, from buying donuts to helping during the Wormfest. THANKS!

Talk-in is on the Wormhole repeater system. For those coming to the meeting who cannot hit the repeater we will also monitor the Honeywell club repeater on 443.050 +141.3. I expect we will be inside out of the cold Saturday but just in case ring a folding chair if you have one. You can park in the back like we normally do and come inside in through that back door.

### \* WHAT THE HECK IS THE ARRL BOARD THINKING \*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

About a month ago, I received an email from the ARRL. Attached were minutes of a Special Board Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors (<http://www.kb6nu.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Minutes-of-Special-Board-Meeting-ARRL-Board-of-Directors-1.pdf>) held by teleconference on Tuesday,

November 14, 2017. At first, I didn't think much of it, but after reading the minutes, I thought to myself, "What heck are these guys thinking?"

What the minutes document is the censure of Dick Norton, N6AA, for "criticizing publicly the collective action of the Board of Directors adopting said Code of Conduct[sic] and drawing the Board's collective decision making into disrepute." I won't quote the whole thing here, but you can find the text on my website at <http://www.kb6nu.com/heck-arrrl-board-thinking/>.

So, what is this ARRL Code of Conduct? It's official name is the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and the board adopted this code at the January 20-21, 2017 board meeting. You can find this code on the ARRL website at [http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL Code of Conduct.pdf](http://www.arrrl.org/files/file/ODV/ARRL%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf).

To be fair, this document does include some good things, such as acting responsibly when it comes to ARRL financial matters and treating ARRL staff with respect. What seems to be questionable, and the reason for N6AA's censure, however, is Section 8 Support of Board Decisions. I won't quote the entire section here, but basically what it says an ARRL board member must accept and publicly support board decisions, even if they voted it against it. If they express any dissenting opinion about a board decision, they can be censured, as N6AA was in this case.

In effect, this is a gag order on a director if he disagrees with a Board decision. Not only that, this section seems to say that once someone gets elected to the Board, his allegiance to the Board is more important than the views of the amateur radio operators he represents.

One of my Twitter followers put it this way, "Where else can those ostensibly in a position of representation of the organization's members be punished for publicly criticizing the organization's rules? US Congress? Parliament of the UK? No, and no. @arrrl board is looking more like North Korea than a representative body." Seriously, can you imagine if the U.S. Congress had such a policy in place?

What did Norton actually do?

I emailed Norton to find out what he said exactly to bring on this censure. Understandably, he was a little hesitant to speak to me directly. I then asked if I could see the supporting statements.

I then received two emails. The first was from Mark Weiss, K6FG. His email contained the text of an email he sent to the ARRL Board of Directors. A second contained an email sent to the board by Tim Duffy, K3LR, the owner of DX Engineering. Both emails supported N6AA, noting that he stated that he supported the board action and that any opposition came from the audience and not from Norton.

So, I go back to my original question. What the heck is the ARRL Board thinking, first in passing this draconian ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors, and second in using it to censure a director, who, according to several accounts, didn't commit the infraction in the first place? Are they so insecure in their decision-making that they have to resort to gag orders like this? Don't they see that taking actions like this brings them more "disrepute" than an honest dissenting opinion?

If this situation angers you as much as it does me, I encourage you to contact your director and make your feelings known. One of my blog readers suggests that your message be "short, non-aggressive, and to the point." He suggested the following:

Dear [your director's name here]

I am unhappy with both the ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Member of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors (aka the "Code of Conduct") and the N6AA censure.

I want to freely discuss issues with our directors. I want our directors to tell me where they stand, not where the board stands.

I want the directors to be free to express their opinions and to know how they voted.

I want directors to not fear censure.

Therefore, I urge the following immediate actions:

1. Modify the Code of Conduct to allow the above.

2. Revoke the N6AA censure.

73,

[Your name and callsign go here.]

I hate to say this, but this is only the beginning. Some ARRL directors are planning to propose changes to the League's Articles of Association and By-Laws at the board meeting in January 2018. These changes will make the ARRL even less democratic and more authoritarian.

As reported by CQ magazine (<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2017/12/changes-proposed-to-arrrl-governing.html>), if these changes are enacted “the board of directors will be able to revoke League membership 'for cause' and to remove board members by revoking their League membership; lesser disciplinary actions against board members, such as censure, will be allowed without the member receiving advance notice or an opportunity to respond to allegations.” Another change will grant voting privileges to the president and three vice-presidents, even though these are appointed positions.

Again, I ask, what the heck is the ARRL board thinking? Do they really think that this is going to make the ARRL a stronger organization and a better advocate for amateur radio? If so, I'd like to hear their reasoning. ARRL membership has been declining for many years (as a percentage of licensed radio amateurs), and these moves are only going to accelerate that decline. I have already heard from many hams that they plan to let their ARRL membership lapse.

Please consider contacting your director today. It may already be too late to save the ARRL.

73!

Dan KB6NU

CW Geek, Ham Radio Instructor

Author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides

Read my ham radio blog at <http://www.kb6nu.com>

## **\* ON LINE RECEIVER LISTING \***

Karl submitted a link to a website that has a multi-operator receiver located at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands.

<http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/> Multi-operator being the operative word there, there were 425 users on when I tried it. You can tune it to any ham frequency and a lot more. You can use modes AM, FM, both sidebands. CW and AMsync ... whatever AMsync is. Lots of other things to play with. You can click a button and turn on the recorder. Gives you a place in western Europe to listen to your own signal.

The same website has a listing of other remote radio websites at <http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl/org/> . There are currently almost 200 listed all around the world.

## **\* WAR BETWEEN AMAZON AND GOOGLE ESCALATES \***

*BBC NEWS* By Leo Kelion Technology desk editor, 6 December 2017

Google plans to stop Amazon's Fire TV streaming devices being able to use YouTube from the start of 2018. The search giant has also blocked a workaround that Amazon introduced to restore YouTube access to a screen-based version of its smart speaker.

Experts say the steps mark an escalation of a business row in which consumers have been caught up in the fallout. Amazon had previously stopped selling several of Google's hardware products. It removed the latest Nest-branded smart home kit - including a home security system and a new version of its thermostat - from its online stores last month. And since 2015, Amazon has refused to sell Google's Chromecast video and audio-streaming dongles.

The latest development coincides with the release of Amazon's Prime Video app for the Apple TV. Its absence had previously put Apple's set-top box at a disadvantage to Amazon's Fire TV line-up. Fire TV owners have reported that

trying to watch YouTube clips now prompts an alert warning them that they will lose the functionality on 1 January.

"We've been trying to reach agreement with Amazon to give consumers access to each other's products and services," Google said in a statement. "But Amazon doesn't carry Google products like Chromecast and Google Home, doesn't make Prime Video available for Google Cast users, and last month stopped selling some of Nest's latest products. "Given this lack of reciprocity, we are no longer supporting YouTube on Echo Show and FireTV. We hope we can reach an agreement to resolve these issues soon."

Google had stopped Amazon's Echo Show speakers being able to play YouTube videos in September, on the basis that the retailer had altered the way the software worked. The version Amazon presented had lacked next video recommendations, subscriptions and other features - but these were restored in November, when Amazon made the device present a more normal view of YouTube.

But, according to Techcrunch, the search firm believes its rights have still been violated because Amazon continues to overlay its own voice controls.

Amazon has responded, saying: "Echo Show and Fire TV now display a standard web view of YouTube.com and point customers directly to YouTube's existing website. Google is setting a disappointing precedent by selectively blocking customer access to an open website. We hope to resolve this with Google as soon as possible."

The dispute disadvantages consumers in two ways. Users will be unable to access a service that Amazon's devices had promised to deliver. And Amazon's refusal to even allow third-parties to sell certain Google products via its site makes it harder to find them at their lowest price. "It's a surprising turn of events in both respects," commented Ben Wood from the CCS Insight tech consultancy.

"YouTube is all about maximising the number of people who see its content, and Amazon wants to be the so-called 'everything store'. "It's all very unfortunate for consumers, who will have little understanding of the commercial tensions between

the two companies. "I wonder whether the next step might be the intervention of a regulator to investigate whether they are behaving anti-competitively."

## **\* TRIO ADMITS HIJACKING HOME DEVICES \***

*Infopackets* by John Lister on December, 2017

Three Americans have plead guilty to hijacking more than 100,000 internet-connected devices. The group of infected machines (known as a "botnet") was then used to attack websites using a distributed denial of service attack (DDoS) to make websites unavailable.

While most DDoS attacks are carried out on PCs, this attack in particular targeted weaknesses in smaller devices that use the Internet. This included routers, digital video recorders and wireless cameras. That's a significant point, as the tech security community has generally treated security flaws in such devices as a lower priority than those typically PCs.

The guilty pleas came from Paras Jha and Dalton Norman, both aged 21, and Josiah White, aged 20. All three admitted infecting the machines to create the botnet, known by security researchers as "Mirai." (Source: [justice.gov](https://www.justice.gov))

After testing its powers, the group made access to the botnet publicly available. It was then used by others to carry out a distributed denial of service attack on web servers until the servers were unable to cope with the demand, then becomes inaccessible.

Normally such attacks target specific websites, often for blackmail or political reasons. In this case it was used against one of the companies that operates a DNS register. That's the "Internet phonebook" which translates a website address (such as [infopackets.com](https://infopackets.com)) into the IP address, a number that identifies the specific server or computer where the site pages are physically stored. Effectively, many websites simply wouldn't load when the attack was carried out.

Following this attack, Jha and Norman created a new botnet of Internet-connected devices and used it for click fraud. In this scenario a web owner uses a botnet of infected machines to click on their own advertisements (ads which are for other companies, typically hosted by Google). Each time an ad is clicked, the web owner gets paid.

Jha also admitted to attacking the computer network of Rutgers University in his home state of New Jersey. That attack appeared to be more about knocking the network offline (which he did for several days at a time) rather than stealing data.

As part of a deal to plead guilty, Jha will be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison, while Norman and White could both get up to five years. (Source: [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk))

Did you realize that devices like DVRs and wireless cameras could be used to launch such attacks? Do manufacturers need to be held to the same security standards as computer and software developers? Should the culprits in this case be held responsible for the major attacks other people carried out with their botnet?

## \*ROOMBA SELLING MAP TO YOUR HOUSE\*

*INFOPACKETS* by John Lister on July, 26 2017

The makers of the Roomba robot vacuum cleaner plan to sell data about people's homes to tech giants. It could bring personalized advertising to a whole new level.

Colin Angle is chief executive of iRobot Corp, which makes the Roomba. He told Reuters that the company could sell user data to Amazon, Apple or Google in the next couple of years.

The scope of the data involved is surprisingly detailed. Early models of robotic cleaners simply moved in a straight line until they hit an object. Modern versions build up and store maps of a home's floor space, including the location and size of furniture, so that they can take an optimum path to clean the whole floor without wasted movement, thus extending battery life.

That data could be hugely valuable to tech companies. In some cases it might be used to improve products. For example, with Amazon, Apple and Google all selling smart 'personal assistants' based around portable speakers, knowing a room's layout could let them give placement tips or even tweak the direction in which the sound is beamed out.

The data could also be used for other products such as air conditioning systems or 'smart' home lighting, with the airflow and brightness adjusted based on the size and layout of rooms.

Alternatively, the data could be used for targeted advertising. For example, the Roomba data could give a good idea of the size and type of furniture somebody has (and doesn't have). In turn that could lead to ads for specific products.

A potential deal to share the data does raise privacy issues. Angle says iRobot won't sell data unless customer's give permission, and the company's privacy policy backs this up. However, the small print also leaves room to get round this permission requirement if iRobot were to buy an ownership stake in another company or vice versa.



### **\*CLUB MEETING\***

The next club meeting is January 6th . We meet on the first Saturday every month at 11:00 Saturday morning at the Minnreg Building located at 6340 126th Ave N, Largo. Members are welcome to come in the rear area through the fence gate on the southeast corner of the property. Talk-in is on the Wormhole repeater system. For those coming to the meeting who cannot hit the repeater we will be

monitoring the Honeywell club repeater on 443.050 +141.3. We will keep an eye peeled for you. We will take advantage of the cooking facilities with an after-the-meeting Social and Wormdog picnic.



### **\*CLUB NETS\***

Check in on the club net Thursdays at 1930. 442.625 + with a 146.2 tone or the 2M side at 146.850 – also with a tone of 146.2. We are always looking for volunteers to be the net control operator. Anyone interested, talk to one your club officers.



### **\*LOCAL NETS\***

#### **MONDAY**

1730 147.030 + Receiver sites and tone info <http://www.qsl.net/wd4scd/>

St Pete Yacht Club ARC                      St Petersburg

1830 147.060+ no tone                      St Pete ARC daily net                      St  
Petersburg

1900 144.210 USB Clearwater	CARS, vertical polarization	
1900 147.135 +146.2 Zephyrhills	Zephyrhills ARC	
2000 147.165+ 136.5 Brandon	Brandon ARS	from
2000 50.135 Pinellas County	Pinellas ARK	
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net,	NI4CE
2030 145.450 Pinellas County	Pinellas ARK	

## TUESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
1900 50.200 USB Brandon ARS	6M net	
1900 28.450 Clearwater	WCF section net	
1900 NI4CE system system	WCF Section VHF ARES	NI4CE
1930 145.170 & 442.4 both pl 156.7	Pinellas ACS net	Clearwater
1930 444.900 +141.3	Sheriff's Tactical ARC	Tampa
2000 NI4CE system system	WCF Skywarn net	NI4CE
2000 147.105+ 146.2 Tampa	Tampa ARC net	from

2000 28.365 USB ARS	simplex	Brandon
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando

### **WEDNESDAY**

1930 146.30 simplex net from Tampa	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
1930 52.020 simplex Petersburg	Suncoast 6'ers	from St
1930 NI4CE system system	WCF Section Digital Info Ne	NI4CE
2000 147.105 146.2 Tampa	Greater Tampa CERT net	from
2000 146.97- 146.2 Clearwater	Clearwater ARS	from
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 NI4CE system	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-affiliated

### **THURSDAY**

1800 146.52 simplex Tampa	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	North
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St

1900 444.750 +146.2 Tampa	Fusion net	from
1930 146.850- & 442.625+ both pl 146.2 Petersburg	Wormhole	from St
1930 146.6385 -127.3 Lakeland	Lakeland ARC	from
1915 224.660- no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE

### **FRIDAY**

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE

### **SATURDAY**

0830 3.911 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM Pinellas County	WCF Section HF Net	from
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE

### **SUNDAY**

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
1930 NI4CE system system	WCF Section Net	NI4CE

2000 147.550 simplex Pinellas County	550 Simplex Net	
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 144.210 USB orientation	Clearwater ARS	vertical

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**\*FOR SALE / WANTED\***

Anyone having something for sale or who might be looking for an item let me know. I will not print phone numbers or email addresses unless specifically told to since this newsletter might end up on the web. The exception is when I get the information off the web. If you are a member of the Wormhole then you have all the information you need on a club roster and if you are not a member .. why not? OK, if you are not a member you can contact me at the email address at the end of this newsletter, I will give you the information to contact the person involved.

**FOR SALE**, WWII Xceiver RT-68 & Power Supply with connecting cable, includes original manual all in very good condition, No idea of operating condition, trying to find a good home.

Free local pick up, St. Pete Beach Fl. Pictures here:

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/wwii-xceiver-rt-68-local-pick-up.573447/> and here: <http://bunkerofdoom.com/mil/rt68/index.html> , contact Jack at [w4grj@arrl.net](mailto:w4grj@arrl.net)

**FOR SALE**, Mosley TA-33M 10-15-20M beam with the 40M add on kit. Antenna is on the ground and in good shape. There are several parts that need replacement. The 40M kit is new in box. Antenna is broken down into six or seven feet sections so easy to handle. Asking \$400, talk to me, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net or see me at the meeting.

**FOR SALE**, Cushcraft A4S 10-15-20M beam, on the ground. There are several parts that need replacement. Asking \$300, talk to me, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net of see me at the meeting.

**FOR SALE**, 13 element, 14.5 ft 220 beam. Wormhole property, \$20, contact Bill AG4QX or any other officer. **Free to any Wormhole member or other club.** Pickup at Bill's house.

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### **\*HAMFESTS\***

- December 8-9**      **Plant City, the 2017 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the West Central Florida Section Convention, Friday and Saturday, at the Expo Building in the Strawberry Festival grounds, for information contact Bill Williams AG4QX, chairman@fgcarc.org or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org> or you can just ask me, Jim or Dee ;-)**
- January 13**      **TARCFest, TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$4 entry plus \$3 to tailgate, inside tables \$15 in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>**
- February 9-11**      **Orlando Hamcation and State Convention, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$13 in advance, \$15 at door. Talkin 146.4760 - no PL or D-Star 146.850 -, all the information at [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com) or call 407-841-0874**
- February 24**      **West Central Florida Section Technical Conference (3rd Annual TECHCON), Winter Haven, Polk County Emergency Operations Center  
1890 Jim Keene Blvd. **Looking for presentations and displays. Talk-In** 146.985, 444.625, 443.900 or 444.950, Pl for all 127.3. For info see <http://www.arrlwcf.org/> or contact Darrell Davis KT4WX at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto:kt4wx@arrl.net)**

**May 26**

**WormFest 2017, Pinellas Park, FREE, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 33782. Park opens at sunrise for vendor setup, hamfest starts at 0800. Talk-in on 442.625 + or 146.850 – both with a tone of 146.2. For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .**

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Mid January	Frogman swim in Tampa Bay. <a href="http://www.tampabayfrogman.com/">http://www.tampabayfrogman.com/</a>
Last full weekend January	Winter Field Day, <a href="http://www.sparhams.org/index.php">http://www.sparhams.org/index.php</a>
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
March/April	MS Walks
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, <a href="http://www.svhfs.org">http://www.svhfs.org</a>
Late April	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) <a href="https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events">https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events</a>
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid-May	Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test
Early to Mid May	MS 150 bike ride <a href="http://bikeflc.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=28207&amp;pg=entry">http://bikeflc.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=28207&amp;pg=entry</a>
Mid-May	Florida Hurricane Exercise
Late May	Wormfest
Early June	Museum Ships on the Air
Fourth weekend in June	Field Day <a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/</a>
July 3/4	Midnight Run in Largo <a href="http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/">http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/</a>
August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week <a href="https://illw.net/">https://illw.net/</a>

October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend 14.280MHz)	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, first full weekend	Ride & Run With The Stars in Fort DeSoto Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest <a href="http://www.fgcarc.org/">http://www.fgcarc.org/</a>

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### **\*YOUR WORMHOLE OFFICERS\***

Bill AG4QX is President and editor of this newsletter, Vice-President is Mike K4ZPE, Treasurer is Jim KD4MZL, Paul KA4IOX is the Secretary, Dee N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Neil W4NHL and Mike K4ZPE are our club webmasters.

### **\*YOUR WORMHOLE REPEATERS\***

442.625 + PL 146.2

146.850 - PL 146.2

The Wormhole repeaters are both now dual mode Yaesu DR-1X. FM analog as always and now Yaesu Fusion, a C4FM/FM digital mode. The repeater crew updated the software on May 3, 2016.

The Wormhole website is at: <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org>.

West Central Florida Section website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/>.

The ARRL website is at: <http://www.arrl.org/>

This newsletter is written for The Glorious Society of the Wormhole, an ARRL affiliated amateur radio club located around the Seminole section of Pinellas County Florida. Anyone wishing to be added or removed from The Glorious Society of the Wormhole mailings please write to me at the address below and thy will be done.

73,  
Bill Williams

AG4QX

ag4qx AT arrl DOT net