

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

October 2019

Hello Worms

Hi all, I just realized it was Tuesday of Wormhole meeting week and the newsletter is far from ready to go so there won't be much content this month. Where does the time go?

For those ARRL members you should be getting your ballot this week or possibly early next week. Please vote. If you don't know any of those running ask those who have similar opinions as yourself. If you have a particular subject you are strong about send an email to each candidate to find their position on that subject.

Relative to the first article about green flashes on Venus, you can find a lot of interesting information on spaceweather.com. For example if you check the "Recent & Upcoming Earth-asteroid encounters:" chart you will that today, October 1st a five meter asteroid is/will/has pass 0.4 LM (the distance between earth and moon). It is moving at 14.2 km/s or 894 mph. OK, pretty small and not dangerous to the earth but interesting.

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.

BRING A FOLDING CHAIR FOR THE MEETING IF YOU HAVE ONE. Every meeting someone says they forgot their chair, see if you can avoid being the one this month ;-). I can say that the last five meetings no one has left a chair! Who said an old Worm can't learn a new trick?

* A GREEN FLASH ON VENUS*

spaceweather.com 10-1-2019

You've heard of green flashes on the sun. But what about green flashes on *Venus*? They're real, and now is a good time to observe them. All you need is a body of water, a sunset, and a telescope.

"I saw one last week," reports eye-witness Paolo Palma of Rome, Italy. "At the end of the day on Sept. 26th I was watching the sunset from my deck overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. A fragment of the setting sun seemed to break away and turn a strong shade of green, like a leaf falling on the nearby sea."

It was a green flash--something that happens fairly often to the setting sun when temperature inversions and strong thermal gradients develop above the sea surface.

"The sky was clear," continues Palma, "and I had my Dobsonian telescope with me. I decided to swing my telescope up to Venus, which itself was only a few degrees above the horizon. As it sank toward the sea, it had a green flash, too!"

Green flashes on the sun happen because the low atmosphere acts like a prism, splitting the solar disk into primary R-G-B colors. Temperature gradients above the sea surface can magnify the green into an eye-catching flash. It's a type of mirage.

The same physics that makes green flashes on the sun can make green flashes on Venus. In fact, green flashes on Venus may be even easier to create.

Atmospheric optics expert Les Cowley explains: "Planets and especially point-source stars need less stringent conditions as evidenced by Paolo's observation of Venus spreading into a color strip while it was still well above the horizon. Mirages just do not get that high. Normal atmospheric refraction is sufficient to do this." When Venus approaches the horizon, mirage conditions kick in, magnifying the green for a truly verdant flash.

Now is a good time to observe Venusian green flashes. The second planet is just emerging from solar conjunction. So, when the sun sets into the waves, Venus is not far behind, sampling the same thermal conditions as the green-flashing sun. Seaside sky watchers should be alert for the phenomenon in the evenings ahead.

Observing tips: Venus may not be easy to find in the bright twilight of sunset. Having trouble? Try using binoculars when the sun is safely below the horizon. Please be very careful not to accidentally look at the sun through unfiltered optics of any kind. Even when the sun is hanging low, magnified sunlight can cause serious eye damage.

EXPLORER BUG A MASSIVE RISK

INFOPACKETS, by John Lister on September, 26 2019

Microsoft has issued an emergency patch for Internet Explorer. In the most extreme circumstances, a user simply visiting a website could give a hacker complete remote control of a computer.

Between Chrome's dominance and Edge becoming the default on new Windows machines, Internet Explorer is far from popular and is now used on around 8 percent of desktop computers. However, that still means around a hundred million machines could be affected by this bug. (Source: bbc.co.uk) It's a sign of how serious the problem is that Microsoft has issued an emergency patch, or as it calls it, an out-of-cycle update.

The bug affects versions 9 to 11 of Internet Explorer. It's described as a "Scripting Engine Memory Corruption Vulnerability." In simple terms, that means the process Internet Explorer uses to turn a website's code into the page shown on screen isn't accessing the computer's memory in the correct way. That could mean a hacker could gain access to the rest of the machine.

To make matters worse, the bug doesn't rely on the user taking any action other than visiting a compromised webpage – for example, by following a bogus link.

Microsoft notes that an attacker could then install programs; view, change or delete data; or create new accounts with full user rights. To make matters even worse,

Microsoft says that although the bug wasn't publicly disclosed before it released the update that fixes it, hackers are already actively exploiting it.

There are some workarounds that involve typing code into the Command Prompt. However, these are really only necessary for business networks where it takes time to roll out updates. Home users should instead concentrate on getting the update either through automatic updates or by visiting Microsoft's website. (Source: microsoft.com)

The bug was discovered and reported by Clement Lecigne of Google's Threat Analysis Group.

I TOOK THE PLUNGE

From Larry Gispert/KR4X

Gentlemen/Ladies pursuant to Microsoft's intention of stopping their extended support of their Windows 7 operating system on January 14, 2020, I looked into my alternatives. Unfortunately a majority of my peripherals and applications are tied directly to the Windows operating systems. Bob/AK4O made me aware of the fact that Microsoft has extended their free upgrade to Windows 10 offer. In order to avail yourself of this offer your current computer MUST have a legitimate Windows 7 SP1 operating system. You then are able to download an ISO file for free and go through a fairly lengthy upgrade. My desktop computer is a 32-bit processor based device and the ISO offered me the opportunity of upgrading and keeping my current files and applications from Windows 7. I chose that selection and successfully upgraded my desktop in about two hours. My laptop was a different story. It is a 64-bit processor and was running Windows Vista SP3. I had to first upgrade it to Windows 7 SP1 which I did using an old free upgrade DVD. After upgrading to Windows 7 SP1 I had to endure several hours of loading Windows updates to this system. I finally successfully finished the upgrade to Windows 7 SP1 and then had to endure two more hours of the upgrade to Windows 10. The ISO for the 64-bit did NOT offer me the upgrade and keep your files and applications selection. I wound up with a basic clean install and had to back load most of my files and applications from saved copies. To make a long story shorter, I am glad that I did the upgrades to my desktop and my laptop. As of NOW Microsoft intends to offer the extended support of Windows 10

until 2025. I would recommend if you have a computer running Windows 7 SP1 that you consider doing the upgrade now because no one knows how long Microsoft will permit these free upgrades to continue.

SMART GADGETS SHARE DATA UNEXPECTEDLY

by John Lister on September, 19 2019 at 02:09PM EDT

Researchers have discovered that many smart gadgets (such as smart TVs and streaming sticks) send data to tech companies, even when idle. The purpose of the experiment was to determine if devices were being used to monitor users, or could potentially leak data about the user to a third party.

It was a joint project between Northeastern University and the UK's Imperial College London. They examined 81 devices under the broad category of the Internet of Things (IoT). The study included security cameras, home automation devices such as WiFi plugs, Smart TV sets, smart speakers and home appliance such as kettles and washing machines with a remote control feature.

The researchers spent time both actively using the devices and leaving them switched on, but unused. They then analyzed all Internet traffic to and from the devices.

As well as contacting manufacturers and service providers, devices contacted companies such as Netflix, Kingsoft (a Chinese software company), 21Vianet (a Chinese Internet provider), AT&T and Alibaba (a Chinese online retailer).

The researchers also spotted multiple communications to Amazon, Google and "content delivery network" (CDN) Akamai on devices with no obvious connection. However, the connections may have simply involved handling data transmission and processing for service providers.

The testing took place in both the US and UK. The researchers found US devices tended to have more unexpected contacts than those in the UK. While there's no clear

reason for this, researchers speculated that differing privacy regulations could be the explanation.

Perhaps the most notable pattern was that "Nearly all TV devices ... [contacted] Netflix, even though we never configured any TV with a Netflix account."

As the data traffic was often encrypted, the researchers can't be certain what information was actually sent to the third parties. However, they noted some potential conflicts of interest. For example, in its role as a data transmitter and processor, Amazon could get details of which devices are in a home and - based on the pattern of data transmission - how often they are used. That's something that would obviously be of interest to Amazon in its role as a retailer.

Editor: For their very complete report on this go to:

<https://moniotrlab.ccis.neu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ren-imc19.pdf>

CLUB MEETING

The next club meeting is October 5th. 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 our 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 and 2000 (or at the end of the 2M net).
 2M at 146.850 – with a tone of 146.2. Our 6M net runs after our regular 2M net on
 53.150 – 1MHz offset 146.2 tone. 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

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

1900 144.210 USB CARS, vertical polarization
 Clearwater

1900 147.135 +146.2 Zephyrhills ARC
 Zephyrhills

2000 147.165+ 136.5 Brandon ARS from
 Brandon

2000 50.135 Pinellas ARK Pinellas
 County

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net, NI4CE system

2030 145.450 Pinellas ARK Pinellas
 County

TUESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
1900 50.200 USB ARS	6M net	Brandon
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	WCF Skywarn net	NI4CE system
2000 147.105+ 146.2 Tampa	Tampa ARC net	from
2000 28.365 USB	simplex	Brandon ARS
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
2100 28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando
1900 146.490 simplex simplex Net	3 RD Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES	

WEDNESDAY

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 affiliated	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-

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
1915 224.660- no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC	from St
1930 146.6385 -127.3 Lakeland	Lakeland ARC	from
1930 444.225 + 146.2 Tampa	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	from
1930 146.850- 146.2 Petersburg	Wormhole	from St
2000 53.150 -1MHz 146.2 Petersburg	Wormhole	from St

2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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FRIDAY

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

0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM WCF	WCF Section HF Net	from
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1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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SUNDAY

0800 3.933	Florida Traders Net	non-affiliated
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1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
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1930 NI4CE system system	WCF Section Net	NI4CE
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2000 147.550 simplex County	550 Simplex Net	Pinellas
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2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
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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, ICOM IC-756 Pro, HF and 6M, 100 watts, hand mic, power cord and manual, Local only. See George W1AAG

FOR SALE, MFJ-989C Versa Tuner V, 3 KW, with three continuously variable components--two variable capacitors and a roller inductor--you get the widest matching range and the most precise control over SWR possible, \$200, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net or see me at the meeting.

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 \$300, 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 \$250, talk to me, Bill AG4QX at arrl dot net or see me at the meeting.

HAMFESTS

2019

October 26 **Gulf Coast ARC Hamfest**, New Port Richey, Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road, admission \$6, tailgate free, Talk-In on 146.670 - no tone, For info contact Ralph McCullough , WA3YFQ 727-247-4790, no information on their website

November 9 Pinellas Park, **SPARCFest**, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, Southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, Talk-in on 147.060+ no tone. VE testing at 0900. For more information go to <http://www.sparc-club.org/sparcfest.html>

November 16 **TARCFest** makeup day for rained out hamfest, **TARC** Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few

inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>

December 13 & 14 **Plant City, the 2018 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the West Central Florida Section Convention, Friday and Saturday, at the Expo Building in the Strawberry Festival grounds, advanced admission \$9, at the door \$10, 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 at a meeting ;-)**

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January 11 **TARCFest**, TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>

February 7-9 **Orlando Hamcation and State Convention**, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$15 in advance, \$17 at door. Talkin 146.4760 - no PL or D-Star 146.850 -, all the information at www.hamcation.com or call 407-841-0874

February 21 & 22 Punta Gorda, **5th Annual TECHCON Convention**, Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center, 26571 Airport Rd, , for more info <http://arrlwcf.org/> or contact Darrell Davis at kt4wx@arrl.net.

May 23 **WormFest 2020**, Pinellas Park, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49th 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> .



Mid January	Frogman swim in Tampa Bay. http://www.tampabayfrogman.com/
Last full weekend January	Winter Field Day, https://www.winterfieldday.com/
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/
March/April	MS Walks
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, http://www.svhfs.org
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events
Early to Mid May	MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride http://www.citrustour.org/register.php
Mid-May	Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test
Mid-May	Florida Hurricane Exercise
May, Memorial Day Weekend	Wormfest
Early June	Museum Ships on the Air
Fourth weekend in June	Field Day http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/
July 3/4	Midnight Run in Largo http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/
August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week https://illw.net/
October, 3 rd weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest http://www.fgcarc.org/

YOUR WORMHOLE OFFICERS

Bill AG4QX is President and editor of this newsletter, Treasurer is Jim KD4MZL, Paul KA4IOX is the Secretary, Dee N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Mike K4ZPE is both our club Vice President and webmaster.

YOUR WORMHOLE REPEATERS

53.150 -1Mz PL 146.2

442.625 +5Mz PL 146.2

146.850 - 600Kz 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 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