

## News from



# The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

**January 2020**

## **Hello Worms**

Happy New Year ;- ) I hope all had a wonderful holiday season. For those who missed the last meeting the previous officer slate was re-elected. I encourage all to get an interest in being an officer for the club. It really is not very demanding and does not take that much time.

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 lost track but I can say that more than eight meetings no one has left a chair! Who said an old Worm can't learn a new trick?

## **\* PUTTING THE CRYPT INTO CRYPTOCOIN\***

The Register By Shaun Nichols 16 Dec 2019

A group of aggrieved crypto-coin investors want to exhume the corpse of a digital money exchange boss in a bid to find their missing millions.

Lawyers representing the out-of-pocket Quadriga CX punters have filed [a request](#) [PDF] to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to dig up and examine the body of Gerald Cotten, the deceased CEO of the now-defunct exchange.

In the letter, attorneys from law firm Miller Thomson ask that a detailed autopsy be performed in order to determine the exact cause of death for Cotten, who is interred at a cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

"The purpose of this letter is to request, on behalf of the Affected Users, that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (the "RCMP"), conduct an exhumation and postmortem autopsy on the body of Gerald Cotten to confirm both its identity and the cause of death given the questionable circumstances surrounding Mr Cotten's death and the significant losses of Affected Users," the letter reads.

Cotten is the exec who singlehandedly caused the crash of the Quadriga CX exchange late last year when, while apparently traveling in India, he was said to have died of complications related to Crohn's disease.

Because Cotten conveniently had [the only copies](#) of the passwords for Quadriga's cold storage wallets – containing roughly US\$190m in customers' cryptocurrency assets – the company immediately went under, and was mostly unable to hand back punters' digital dosh.

It [was later found](#) that the vaults were empty, and that prior to his death, Cotten [had reportedly shifted](#) truck loads of people's crypto-coins in and out of personal accounts he owned under various aliases, rather than holding the money in company wallets, furthering fears his passing was not on the up-and-up.

The nature of Cotten's death, and the huge amount of money he seemingly took to the grave with him, have long been the source of speculation, particularly among netizens who lost their investments.

It has been suggested that Cotten faked his death to avoid explaining what happened to the vanished customer funds. Hence, the calls to dig up his body from the Canadian cemetery where he is interred. The lawyers are asking that the examination be wrapped up by the spring, "given decomposition concerns."

The hope is that the exhumation and autopsy will, once and for all, address theories that Cotten's demise was merely a ruse. ®

## \* EVERYTHING SHOULD BE MADE AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE\*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein (<https://quotationcelebration.wordpress.com/2017/01/07/everything-should-be-made-as-simple-as-possible-but-not-simpler-albert-einstein/comment-page-1/>). Here's one way to apply this principle in amateur radio, specifically to code practice oscillators.

A week ago, my friend, Paul emailed me:

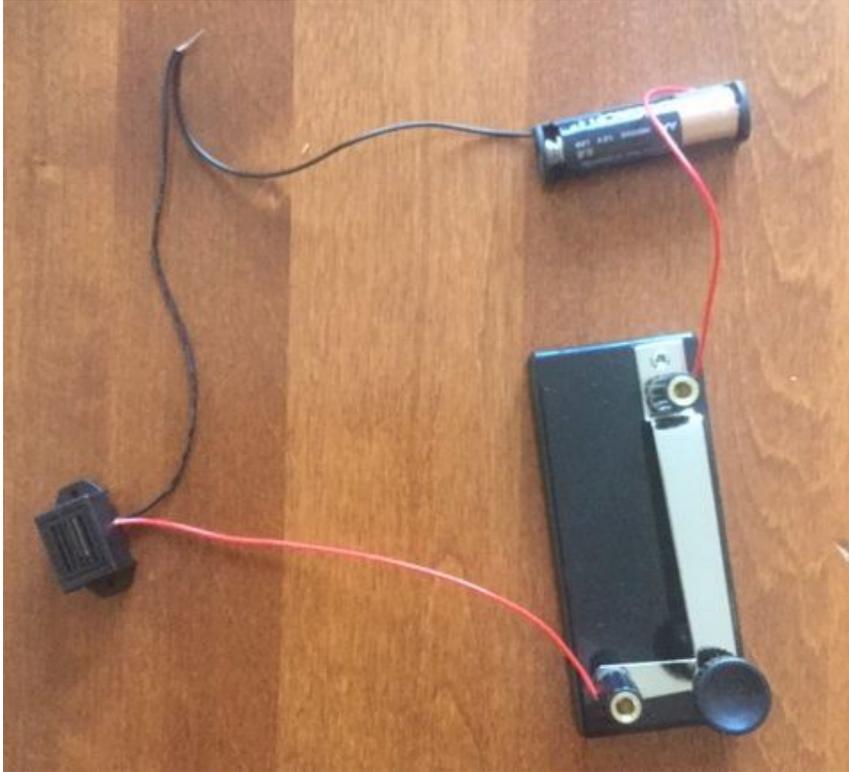
"I am planning on teaching a two-hour introduction to Morse code to 14 girls ages 8 to 9 [*Paul's granddaughter is a Girl Scout.*]. I plan on having the girls build a code practice device. I need your help in selecting a low cost buzzer and battery holder. Please take a look around and see would you can find. I would like to limit the power to one or two AA batteries."

I replied that I'd be happy to help him with the demonstration, and offered the following advice:

"A while back, I built the QRPGuys' K7QO Code Practice Oscillator (<https://qrpguys.com/k7qo-code-practice-oscillator>). It uses a CR2032 coin battery.

"Unfortunately, they don't sell it anymore, but the assembly manual is still online ([https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo\\_assy\\_012616.pdf](https://qrpguys.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cpo_assy_012616.pdf)). The assembly manual doesn't call out specific parts, but here are some Amazon SKUs:

- B00J4BK0NS, Black 3V Electromagnetic Type Piezo Buzzer, 20 pcs/\$6.58



- B06  
XF3K4NP,  
Coin Cell  
Button  
Battery  
Holder, 30  
pcs/\$9
- B008  
SNZUYC, 3  
Pin PCB  
Mount  
Female  
3.5mm  
Stereo Jack,  
10 pcs/  
\$5.40

- B071RMD6FD, 1/8" 3.5mm Stereo Male Connector, 10 pcs/\$7

“Batteries are available at the dollar store for about 30 cents each. So, you could do the whole thing for less than \$5 for sure, even with a printed circuit board, which I would suggest that we do. Heck, if you ask nicely, the QRPGuys might even give us the artwork, or even better, have some boards still in stock. Even if they have neither, you should be able to get the boards in plenty of time.”

Later that day, Paul replied:

Thanks, Dan, for the information and making yourself available to help. I am just going to use a buzzer, key, and battery. The buzzer has a frequency of 400 Hz.

- <https://www.xump.com/science/Buzzer-Leads15V.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/ContactKeySwitch.cfm>
- <https://www.xump.com/science/Single-AA-Battery-Holder.cfm>

And this morning, he sent me this photo, noting, “FYI. Also sounds great.”

I think that this is as good an example of "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler" as there can be. I've volunteered to help Paul with his class. That will be fun, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not trying to keep things as simple as possible, but not simpler, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

## **\* MICROSOFT MAY SPLIT WINDOWS FOR FASTER UPDATES\***

techradar By Matt Hanson

It looks like Microsoft could be planning a major overhaul of how new features and updates are delivered to Windows in a bid to make the update process faster, providing features and updates as separate downloads from the Microsoft Store, rather than a single big update.

Well-known Microsoft tipster [WalkingCat](#) has noticed in a recent Fast Ring release of an upcoming Windows update that Microsoft could be making changes to the way it delivers updates, with a new app on the Microsoft Store called the “Windows Feature Experience Pack”.

While the app itself seems to be an unusable placeholder at the moment, in the ‘About’ section, the version number is different to the OS Build number.

This might not seem like much, but WalkingCat thinks that this could mean that Microsoft will deliver updates and new features separately in the future via this app.

What this means is that Microsoft could release new features, update them (or even remove them) individually, rather than pushing out a major OS update.

Not only do these huge updates take time to create (and download and install for its users), but Microsoft hasn’t had much luck with recent major [Windows 10](#) releases,

with them often introducing new problems, so we can understand why the company would be keen to avoid them in the future.

In the future, we could also see a stripped down basic version of Windows 10, that can be easily downloaded and installed, with extra features made available via separate downloads.

This marks a big departure over how Windows 10 gets updated, but it has a lot of potential for making Windows users' lives easier. Could it also spell the end for troublesome Windows 10 updates? We certainly hope so.

EDITORS NOTE: Several other tech gurus have speculated that the separated updates would allow Microsoft to continue updates to the "lifetime free" Windows 10 system while having additional content and apps for a fee.

### **\*NEW ARRL MAGAZINE\***

*Info from the ARRL website, by your editor Bill*

*On the Air* magazine is the newest ARRL member benefit to help new licensees and beginner-to-intermediate radio communicators navigate the world of amateur radio. Delivered six times a year, the magazine will present articles, how-to's, and tips for selecting equipment, building projects, getting involved in emergency communication as well as spotlighting the experiences of people using radio to serve their communities, and those using it for enjoyment.

Whether you just passed your Technician exam or have been licensed for years but never got around to making contacts or starting a project, *On the Air* can help you take your interest in radio to the next level with clear, useful information.

The new mag starts in mid January. To view the current digital magazines or archived editions, members must log in with their registered username and password. Your username and password will be the same credentials used to log in to the ARRL website. Goto <http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>



## \*CLUB MEETING\*

The next club meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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## \*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.

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## \*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 Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	St
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 County	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net,	NI4CE system
2030 145.450 County	Pinellas ARK	Pinellas
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
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 <sup>RD</sup> 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
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
<b>SATURDAY</b>		
0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM WCF	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
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
0800 3.933	Florida Traders Net	non-affiliated
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 County	550 Simplex Net	Pinellas
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, ICOM IC-756 Pro**, HF and 6M, 100 watts, hand mic, power cord and manual, Local only. See George W1AAG

**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.

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### \*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 49<sup>th</sup> 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 ;-)

## 2020

**January 11** **TARCFest**, TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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://arrlwcfc.org/> or contact Darrell Davis at [kt4wx@arrl.net](mailto: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 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="https://www.winterfieldday.com/">https://www.winterfieldday.com/</a>
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference <a href="http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcfttechconference/">http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcfttechconference/</a>
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	Florida QSO Party
Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) <a href="https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events">https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events</a>
Early to Mid May	MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride <a href="http://www.citrustour.org/register.php">http://www.citrustour.org/register.php</a>
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 <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, 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, 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