

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

April 2020 virus issue

Hello Worms

This newsletter is also part of our April meeting. The Glorious Society of The Wormhole meeting for April has been cancelled. But we have decided to have an online meeting at our regular meeting time on Saturday morning. Everyone meet on the 2M repeater at 1100 for an on air meeting. I have included the officers monthly reports below in case you cannot make the on air meeting. Stay home and burn a hotdog in your back yard.

All West Central Florida Section hamfests between now and May have been cancelled. I have not looked at the North or South Florida Sections. You already know that Dayton is cancelled. While I personally am pretty sure the May Wormhole meeting will be cancelled also I think the Wormfest might have a chance to go on. Plenty of time to cancel them later.

Stay safe. Get on the radio. Check into nets, every local club has at least one net every week and SPARC has the daily net. Personally I have been busy with home chores that I have not had time to get to before. Well that was the excuse I used but it does not work anymore. I should be on the radio more but have not been so far, maybe I will start soon.

*** THE SECRETARY'S REPORT***

2020-03-07 Minutes of the Glorious Society of the Wormhole

Meeting began at 11:01 AM in the covered rear pavilion of the Minnreg Center 6340 126th Avenue North Largo, Florida 33773, with 15 members present.

Mike (K4ZPE) presented email from Bill (AG4QX).

The Minnreg and Orange County Chopper are in 75 days of due diligence on the Minnreg facilities. OCC's plan is for the facility is to become the "OCC Road House and Museum". Planning has begun. The Worm membership needs to keep an eye out for another location for our meetings.

Secretary's report was read and accepted by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's report for February:

Starting balance \$9,341

Dues Collected \$80

Donations in Green Can \$70

Expenses for Food \$33

Expenses for Wormfest \$43

Expenses for Corporation Tax \$61

Ending balance is \$9,354

Three new members: Bob, Mike, and Russ.

Report was accepted by unanimous consent.

Dee (N4GD) reported the 2 meter is working, and the 440 repeater is working most of the time. The 440 repeater locked up on Tuesday. The 6 meter repeater is working, but is having audio problems. A timer power strip has been ordered.

Terry (N4OJ) reported that the LINUX 18.2 distribution works with LINE, which runs Windows programs.

Terry (N4OJ) also stated that when he searched for "How many radials do I need for my vertical antenna?", he found that complex radial systems provide only 3db better performance over a single ground rod.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Club Secretary, Paul Krahmer (KA4IOX)

* THE TREASURER'S REPORT*

25 paid members

begin balance	\$9354
liability insurance	-200
rent	-60
food	-28
dues	+20
donations	+19
end balance	\$9105

73, Jim, kd4mzl

* THE REPEATER TRUSTEE REPORT*

The repeaters are working. On our last visit a couple weeks ago George, Paul and myself spent a few hours going through the 6 meter repeater. It was determined that by not using the original controller, an audio amp was used between the receiver output and exciter audio input. That is causing the low repeater audio output. Next time we go to the site we try to install an audio amp. Hopefully that will solve the issue or at least make it a little better.

73 de Dee, N4GD

* WHERE DID ALL THE SUNSPOTS GO?*

SPACEWEATHER.COM

So far this year, the sun has been blank--without sunspots--76% of the time. That's verging on the Space Age record set just last year in 2019 when the sun was blank 77% of the time. This means Solar Minimum is still underway despite recent signs of life from the next solar cycle. Stay tuned for more quiet.

* THE SIZE OF COMET ATLAS *

SPACEWEATHER.COM

No one knows how big the icy core of Comet ATLAS (C/2019 Y4) might be--possibly no wider than a few kilometers. One thing's for sure, though, the comet's atmosphere is *huge*. New images from amateur astronomers around the world show that ATLAS's

gaseous envelope has ballooned in diameter to ~720,000 km--about half as wide as the sun. Right now, Comet ATLAS is certainly the biggest *green* thing in the Solar System. Its verdant hue comes from diatomic carbon, C₂, a molecule commonly found in comets. Gaseous C₂ emits a beautiful green glow in the near-vacuum of space.

"Comet ATLAS's coma (atmosphere) is approximately 15 arcminutes in diameter," reports Michael Jäger of Weißenkirchen, Austria, who took the picture, above, on March 18th. "Its newly-formed tail is about the same size."

Other astronomers are getting similar results. 15 arcminutes = a quarter of a degree. Given Comet ATLAS's distance of 1.1 AU on March 18th, that angle corresponds to a physical size of 720,000 km.

On the scale of big things in the solar system, Comet ATLAS falls somewhere between the sun (1,392,000 km diameter) and Jupiter (139,820 km). It's not unusual for comets to grow so large. While their icy solid cores are typically mere kilometers in diameter, they can spew prodigious amounts of gas and dust into space, filling enormous volumes. In the fall of 2007, Comet 17P/Holmes partially exploded and, for a while, had an atmosphere even larger than the sun. The Great Comet of 1811 also had a sun-sized coma. Whether Comet ATLAS will eventually rival those behemoths of the past remains to be seen.

Currently, Comet ATLAS is shining like an 8th magnitude star--invisible to the unaided eye but an easy target for backyard telescopes. The comet is brightening rapidly as it comes closer to Earth and the sun. By late May it could rival Venus in the evening twilight sky. Stay tuned!

*** MICROSOFT - TIMING FOR UPCOMING WINDOWS OPTIONAL C AND D RELEASES***

From the Microsoft Windows Message Center

We have been evaluating the public health situation, and we understand this is impacting our customers. In response to these challenges we are prioritizing our focus on security updates. Starting in May 2020, we are pausing all optional non-security

releases (C and D updates) for all supported versions of Windows client and server products (Windows 10, version 1909 down through Windows Server 2008 SP2).

There is no change to the monthly security updates (B release – Update Tuesday); these will continue as planned to ensure business continuity and to keep our customers protected and productive.

* MICROSOFT PATCHES BIG WINDOWS FLAW DISCOVERED BY NSA*

AXIOS by Ina Fried

Microsoft is releasing a security patch Tuesday to fix a major flaw in the Windows operating system. Although Microsoft says it hasn't seen evidence the issue has been exploited in the wild, it could allow an attacker to "decrypt confidential information."

Why it matters: The flaw represents a significant vulnerability and was turned over to Microsoft by the National Security Agency. In the past, the NSA has kept some Windows flaws to itself to use for its own purposes.

What's next: Microsoft [confirmed details of the flaw](#) and the release of the patch, adding that its security software can detect and block malware attempting to use this vulnerability. It affects versions of Windows 10 as well as the 2016 and 2019 versions of Windows Server, but not Windows 7, Windows 8 or earlier versions.

- "We have not seen any evidence that this technique has been used in the wild," Microsoft said. "As always we encourage customers to install all security updates as soon as possible."

The vulnerability was rated "important," Microsoft's second highest [rating](#), because it involves user interaction to be exploited. (Critical flaws can be exploited with no user interaction.)

Krebs on Security, which [reported the existence of the patch](#) Monday night, described it as "an extraordinarily serious security vulnerability in a core cryptographic component."

- Also, per Krebs, Microsoft has already delivered a patch for the bug to the U.S. military and other key customers and potential targets, such as the companies that manage internet infrastructure. Those companies had to agree not to disclose details of the vulnerability.

In a statement, Microsoft said it doesn't release production-ready updates ahead of its regular Update Tuesday schedule, but it does give advance versions to partners "for the purpose of validation and interoperability testing in lab environments." Those who get the advance versions are not supposed to use them for production machines.

What they're saying: Longtime security expert Dan Kaminsky, chief scientist at White Ops, said that the flaw is a big deal, despite the less-than-critical rating assigned by Microsoft.

"It does happen that some bugs are 'overhyped'. Not this one. A flaw here exposes itself on sensitive attack surfaces across the entire Windows platform, in subtle ways that are difficult to predict and — critically — would be highly reliable. Absolutely the real deal, patch this immediately."

— Dan Kaminsky, to Axios



CLUB MEETING

There will not be a club meeting on April 4th due to the virus. We normally 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 St Pete ARC daily net from St
Petersburg

1900 50.200 USB 6M net Brandon
ARS

1900 28.450 WCF section net
Clearwater

1900 NI4CE system WCF Section VHF ARES NI4CE
system

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 ARC net from
Tampa

2000 28.365 USB simplex Brandon ARS

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net NI4CE
system

2100 28.465 USB 10/10 net from Orlando

1900 146.490 simplex 3RD Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES
simplex Net

WEDNESDAY

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

1930 52.020 simplex Suncoast 6'ers from St
Petersburg

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

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

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

SUNDAY

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

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, Comet GP-1 2M/440 MHz base antenna, \$50, Ralph W4TNY, w4tny@tampabay.rr.com, 727-409-0468

FOR SALE, LMR-400 UltraFlex, 50ft, factory installed heat shrunk PL-259 connectors, Ralph W4TNY, w4tny@tampabay.rr.com, 727-409-0468

HAMFESTS

- May 9** Dade City, East Pasco ARC Hamfest, Church Ave Overflow parking lot, 37746 Church Avenue, Talk-In on 146.880 -146.2, for info Chris Bloxsom , AA4CB, 224-221-5064 or aa4cb@arrl.net, nothing found on website.
- 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> .**
- June 13** Dade City, Pre-ARRL Field Day Tail-Gators' Gathering, Dade City Masonic Lodge, 13642 21st St So, for info contact Gary Mentro , N3OS, 813-713-9994 or n3os@arrl.net

- August 22** **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/>
- November 14** 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 <https://www.sparc-club.org/sparcfest/>
- December 11 & 12** **Plant City, the 2020 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the Florida State Convention and 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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| Mid January | Adventure Run, Honeymoon Island |
| 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/ |
| Late February | MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride
http://www.citrustour.org/register.php |
| 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
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