

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

June 2020

Hello Worms

I trust all is well with aa of the Wormhole family. The Glorious Society of The Wormhole meeting for June has been cancelled. We will again have a meeting on the air at the regular meeting time of 1100 on Saturday morning. Stay home and burn a hotdog in your back yard. Check into the nets. Study for a license upgrade or learn CW. If you need help, let us know. My email is at the bottom of the Newsletter. If it is something we can do while following the guidelines and regulations we may be able to help.

I operated in a PSK31 contest last weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All went well until Sunday morning when I lost contacts to the mid-west and further west. Stuff that I have done all along. A look outside explained all. A plastic dogbone had broken on my wire antenna and it was on the roof and also drooping down to the air conditioner and fence. Dropping the end down to replace the dogbone was pretty simple but getting it back up through the tree was a real pain. But the worse part was that the wire antenna is seriously degraded. It is amazing that the brake was a dogbone instead of the wire. The antenna has been up about ten years so I guess it is about replacement time. I have ordered wire and ceramic dogbones but do not look forward to fighting that tree again.

I have no new information on the sale of the Minnreg building.

* LET'S GET CREATIVE THIS YEAR ON FIELD DAY*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Since many of us are still hunkering down, and that doesn't look like it's going to change much by the end of June, Field Day is going to be a lot different this year. Our club has cancelled our club event, and I'm really going to miss helping newcomers operate the GOTA station, the food, and all the camaraderie. That doesn't mean that Field Day can't still be fun, though.

Let's get creative!

First, note that the ARRL has modified the Field Day rules for this year. The biggest change is that Class D stations, that is home stations using commercial power, can now work other Class D stations for points. Previously, this wasn't allowed.

The second change is that the ARRL will publish aggregate club scores this year. In previous years, this was only done for Class A and Class F entries. Remember, though, Field Day isn't a contest (yeah, right!).

Personally, I plan to operate 1B-Battery. I'm going to set up my KX3 on the front deck and power it with a LiFePo battery charged by a recently-acquired solar panel to get the 100 point bonus for alternate power. For an antenna, I plan to set up my 20m/40m fan inverted-V "GOTA antenna" in the front yard.

I'm going to shoot for other bonus points, too:

- copy the bulletin—no brainer.
- promote my location on social media—I am going to get on NextDoor and invite neighbors over to watch from an acceptable “social distance.”
- put some literature down at the bottom of the hill near the street and claim a public information table.
- send a press release to the local online paper and claim a media publicity credit.
- perhaps get someone under 20 to come and operate while I coach from an acceptable “social distance.”

If Class B isn't your cup of tea, check out the presentation, "Field Day and Social Distancing," (https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSWypTtJ_R0s-



UmysOEhQWwJwBIMrOavXqfs5AvigQzad8Z1c3JFn9TMl5ewxc8VVIIX-2g6bOTpUFD/pub?

start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g774df1657a_0_39) by Anthony, K8ZT. It has a lot of great ideas, including ideas on how to operate mobile (Class C).

Field Day doesn't have to be a downer this year. Get creative and have some fun.

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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 thinking up new ways to enjoy Field Day, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

*** RETURN TO QUIET ***

What's Up In Space, spaceweather.com June 1, 2020

A new-cycle sunspot that unleashed a flurry of solar flares on May 29th has disintegrated--so quickly that it didn't even have time to be officially numbered. Solar Minimum is back. But the episode shows that it might not last much longer. Stay tuned for more signs of life from Solar Cycle 25.

*** WHY THAT PESKY RF INTERFERENCE***

Ralph WD0EJA, Bilal Company

Last month was an explanation of how coax works. Radio Frequency interference from stations is a common occurrence. You start to transmit and your voice is coming through other speakers, phones, computers and maybe that gold tooth in your jaw. How could this happen with something as wonderful as coax?

Remember coax has a strong field of RF energy traveling from transmitter to antenna. Yes, even on the shield. It is not difficult to have the field induce slightly to other items. It is a minute amount of power, but that is all it takes to disrupt other equipment.

If the coax shield is parallel to a large piece of steel such as a mast or tower, the RF flow is usually unaffected. Positioning the coax in this way keeps both shield and metal with little voltage difference between them.

However put a wire alongside the coax and it can get real interesting. Even a heavy wire can cause a transformer affect diverting some of the RF energy into the wire. Not a lot in wattage, but enough to disrupt other devices.

Some have concerns that this energy is what is doing the radiating rather than the antenna. If so, then it is a QRP (very low power) station because coax does work well as a non-radiating cable and very little of the field is diverted.

When assembling a station it is wise to take careful notice as to the location of the coax in respect to other wires. This includes the house wiring and ground wires.

In the future there will be information on how to make some simple measurements to determine the potential for RFI.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA
wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

*** REBUTTAL TO - A MODEST PROPOSAL (FOR THE NEXT EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL)***

The following is a rebuttal by Mike Hembrey KV0OOM to the article in last month's Newsletter by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU:

Who is just plain wrong?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, said:

“At our last club meeting, I was discussing the changes to the Extra Class question pool with someone, and the topic of memorizing the answers popped up. As I always do, I mentioned that many of the questions you can only get right by memorizing the

answer. At that point, someone down the way piped up. “Not me,” he said, “I studied the material so that I didn’t have to memorize the answers.”

At that point, the president called the meeting to order, so I didn’t get to challenge him on that point, but that statement is just plain wrong. ...”

Well Dan, that “someone” was me and saying that I was “just plain wrong” was rude. How can you possibly know how my learning processes work? Keep reading...

I have a very weak ability to memorize. By memorize, I mean not being able to remember material I have seen 2 or 3 times. I almost failed the 3rd grade because I could not memorize the 9x9 times table. If I reviewed something maybe 100 times, then I might remember it, but I call that burning neural net pathways, not memorizing.

The alternative to memorizing is understanding. I remember by understanding the concept, purpose, design criteria, and so forth, of the subject of interest. This even applies to the rules and regulations. You can either remember the rules or you can know the rules, where you understand the reason for the various rules.

I went from no license to Technician/General on mid-November 2015 and on to the Extra in early January 2016. Part of my understanding came from teaching electronics for 5 years in the classroom. The other part came from seriously studying the rules and regulations using my knowledge of electronics and physics. I had to do it this way because I am poor at memorizing.

I suspect memorizing is an integral part of learning the code. For some reason, it does not soak in when I try learning. In this respect, I envy those that can memorize.

By the way, you said what you want in the test, but not what constitutes a good multiple-choice question. In case you do not know, it is [1] one answer that is totally

correct, [2] one answer that is totally wrong, and [3] two answers that are almost right. Understanding is what helps sort them out. I don't agree with dumbing down the tests to get more passing results (Hams). I am sorry, but the opinion of one does not policy make.

To sum it up, Dan, saying I was just plain wrong is just plain wrong.

Mike Hembrey

Amateur Extra

Wormhole Society Member

kv0oom

CLUB MEETING

There will not be a club meeting on June 6th due to the virus. We will meet again on the 2M repeater at the regular meeting time. 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.



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

- 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 ;-)**

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
First weekend in 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 2M and 440 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