News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

August 2020

Hello Worms

I trust all is well with all of the Wormhole family. The Glorious Society of The Wormhole face to face meeting for August has been cancelled. Big surprise there. With the virus rate including deaths on the rise I think the September meeting is unlikely right now also. We will again have a meeting on the air at the regular meeting time of 1100 on Saturday morning. Like the regular meetings there are members on the repeater long before the meeting time so jump in there and chew the rag. In addition to the radio meeting I will try something new. I will attempt to get everyone on ZOOM for picture only, no voice. All voice will be on the radio … that's what we do. But at least we could see each other. This will be my first attempt at running a Zoom meeting so bear with me and if it fails not to worry, I won't. I will have to send out the invitation in a later email since I have not set it up in Zoom yet, or know how yet ;-).

The next local hamfest that I know of that has not been cancelled is the TARCFest on August 22nd. I am not sure it has a chance but we will see. While a club meeting is not good with social distancing a hamfest can function if there is no inside confined space so TARCFest may happen and if so I will be there with bells on my toes and a mask on my face.

Speaking of Zoom two of the articles this month include some Zoom use. A sign of the times.

I have no new information on the sale of the Minnreg building. Maybe Alan, our man inside, will have an update for us in the meeting.

The International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend (ILLW) will happen this year on August 22nd and 23rd. Get all the information at ILLW.net. Many of the lighthouses my not be activated depending on where they are located and if people are allowed to visit. Many are in governmental parks which may exclude visitors. My understanding is that to activate a lighthouse you must be able to see it so some people may activate a lighthouse from a distant location.

* WINDOWS 7 VULNURABLE TO EXPLOIT IN ZOOM *

from the *Opatch Blog* by Mitja Kolsek, the 0patch Team
Earlier this week a security researcher shared a remote code execution "0 day" vulnerability in Zoom Client for Windows 7 with our team. The vulnerability allows a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on victim's computer where Zoom Client for Windows (any currently supported version) is installed by getting the user to perform some typical action such as opening a document file. No security warning is shown to the user in the course of attack. We analyzed the issue and determined it to be only exploitable on Windows 7 and older Windows systems. While Microsoft's official support for Windows 7 has ended this January,

The researcher (who wants to keep their identity private) stated that they did not report the vulnerability to Zoom either directly or through a broker, but would not object to us reporting it to Zoom.

[Update 7/13/2020: Zoom only took one (!) day to issue a new version of Client for Windows that fixes this vulnerability, which is remarkable. We have reviewed their fix and can confirm that it efficiently resolves the vulnerability.

Editor: Many of you are using ZOOM now and Windows 7. Please ensure your ZOOM is Version 5.1.3 dated July 10th or newer.

* TECH CLASSES MOVE ONLINE*

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've been teaching ham classes for more than a dozen years now. My specialty has been the one-day Tech class. In this type of class, you review all of the questions in the question pool with the students over the course of six to eight hours, and then immediately give them the test before they can forget anything.

I would hold these classes three or four times a year and regularly have 20 – 30 students in each class. The pandemic, of course, has put the kibosh on these classes. The last one I taught was in January.

Frankly, I was wondering if I'd ever teach one again. A little over a month ago, however, I was approached by a fellow in Portland, Oregon about teaching an online class for some folks that he'd corralled there. After giving it some thought, I said yes.

So, now, in place of face-to-face classes, I'm teaching online Tech classes. There are plusses and minuses to this approach. One negative is that I miss the face-to-face interaction with the students. On the plus side, teaching online allows me to offer classes more frequently. My first was in June. Last week, I completed the second class, and in August, I will teach a third class.

I have had to make some changes to the format. Making people sit in front of a computer for six hours or more seemed like cruel and unusual punishment. So, instead of a one-day class, the online class consists of four, two-hour sessions, spanning two weeks:

- Session 1
  - Electrical Principles
  - Electronic Components and Circuit Diagrams
- Session 2
  - Radio Wave Characteristics
  - Antennas and Feed Lines
- Session 3
  - Amateur Radio Signals
  - Electrical Safety
  - Amateur Radio Practices and Station Setup
- Sessions 4
  - Station Equipment

- ◦ Operating Procedures
- ◦ Rules and Regulations

This seems to be working out pretty well. I'm using Zoom, and most people have been able to attend without too much hassle. To simulate the whiteboard that I use extensively in the face-to-face class, I'm using the Autodesk Sketchbook program (https://www.sketchbook.com/) and sharing my screen with the Zoom meeting attendees. To write on the "whiteboard," I'm using a Gaomon M10K2018 drawing tablet.

Sketchbook allows me to build up a document in layers, and the result is kind of a hybrid PowerPoint presentation and whiteboard. I can make layers appear when I start discussing a particular topic and then write over them. For example, when I go over the questions that use Ohm's Law to calculate current in a circuit, I display the later with "E = I x R" and on a second layer, show how to calculate the answers to the questions

To take the test, students have to sign up for an online test session. Fortunately, several VE groups are offering online, remote testing. To sign up for one of these sessions, all students have to do is go to https://hamstudy.org/sessions. For the first two classes, the W5YI VEC scheduled a special test session.

I foresee teaching these classes monthly until the demand wanes. The next class will start on Monday, August 3. To register for the class, go to https://www.kb6nu.com/product/next-online-tech-class/. To find out when these classes will take place in the future, potential students can sign up for my mailing list by going to https://landing.mailerlite.com/webforms/landing/m6l6t4.

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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 teaching ham radio classes, he likes to operate CW on the HF bands, go for long walks around Ann Arbor, MI, and volunteer for Rotary Club service projects.

* MOUNTING AN HF ANTENNA*

Ralph WD0EJA
We have verticals, dipoles, yagis, loops and, good heavens even Isotrons. What is the best support to mount your antenna on?

If you look closely at the advertising for many of the antennas, they are mounted on a metal mast. There is good reason for this.
Metal is strong. A light metal mast will hold up when properly supported. Metal masts can be acquired at a local hardware in many sizes.

However you say my plastic mast will do that too (not PVC).

There is one thing the plastic masts cannot do, conduct electricity. You can electrically ground a metal pole. Having the end of a metal mast in the air is better than having only the antenna up there to take a static hit.

You say you can run a ground wire up the plastic pole. This is true, but if your coax is going up next to it, it could get interesting. What will the ground wire attach to? The antenna, or a conductive rod? A metal mast takes care of all this.

Metal masts, being of ground potential, can be used to tweak the impedance of the antenna, but that is for another time.

If you are going to put up a dipole, yagi, elevated vertical or an Isotron, a metal mast or structure can serve you better. Even the loops can be supported with metal masts, but that is not always practical. Whatever mast you use, most antennas will work. The support mast will cause some variations with the antenna values.

73,

Ralph WD0EJA
Bilal Company wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

25 MORE ANDROID APPS TO REMOVE

Lifehacker.com by Brendan Hesse

Google has removed 25 malicious apps from the Google Play Store after the French cybersecurity firm Evina discovered they contained Facebook-hacking malware. That means it's time once again to check your Android device to make sure you didn't foolishly (or accidentally) install a crappy app.

The list of apps includes flashlight tools, pedometers, image editors and more, but they're all basically the same app. Sure, they all perform their different features as advertised, and they look different on the surface, but they all contain the same malicious code built to steal your Facebook login information.

The bad-news apps would check if the Facebook app was open in the background, then sneak a browser tab with a fake Facebook login page into the open background app's window, enticing you to fill in your info. The fake page would copy your login and password and send them to a remote server that has since been shut down.

Here's the list of removed apps from Evina's report:

Application name	Package	Installs	Created date
Super Wallpapers Flashlight	com.wallpaper.flashlight.compass	500000	2019-07-23
Padenatef	com.sun.newjbq.beijing.ten	500000	2020-03-24
Wallpaper Level	com.liapp.level	100000	2019-04-22
Contour level wallpaper	com.communication.walllevel	100000	2019-04-28
iPlayer & iWallpaper	com.ldl.videoedit.iwallpapers	100000	2020-03-20
Video Maker	com.androidapp.videosedit.v	100000	2020-04-03
Color Wallpapers	com.play.ljj.wallpapercomapss	100000	2019-09-26
Pedometer	com.baidu.news.pedometer	100000	2020-01-18
Powerful Flashlight	com.meituan.ybw.flash	100000	2019-12-25
Super Bright Flashlight	com.tqyapp.sb.flashlight	100000	2019-01-18
Super Flashlight	com.superapp.xincheng	100000	2020-03-03
Solitaire Game	com.game.tqsolitaire	100000	2019-04-24
Accurate scanning of QR code	com.tqyapp.qr	50000	2019-02-20
Classic card game	com.card.solitairenew	50000	2019-05-09
Junk file cleaning	com.xdapp.cleaning	50000	2019-03-22
Synthetic Z	com.tqygame.synthetic	50000	2019-04-06
File Manager	com.smt.filemanager	50000	2017-12-27
Composite Z	com.game.hcz	50000	2019-04-22
Screenshot Capture	com.tianqiyang.lww.screenedit	10000	2019-07-03
Daily Horoscope Wallpapers	com.tianqiyang.lww.constellation	10000	2019-07-12
Wuxia Reader	com.wuxia.reader	10000	2017-05-14
Plus Weather	com.plus.android.weather	10000	2018-07-18
Anime Live Wallpaper	com.tqyapp.chuangtai	100	2019-01-10
iHealth Step Counter	com.tiantian.lang.tencent	N/A	2019-11-18
com.tqyapp.fiction	com.tqyapp.fiction	N/A	1970-01-01

Apps removed from Google Play should [automatically be removed](#) from any devices they were installed on, but it's worth double-checking—especially if you have side-loaded anything on your device. If affected, you should reset your Facebook password and update your security settings—[enabling two-factor authentication](#) is always a good bet—right away.

Normally I'd make sure to remind folks to check those app permissions to make sure there's nothing sketchy happening under the hood, but these apps were suckering users with fake Facebook login pages rather than doing anything untoward behind the scenes. That said, [checking app permissions before installing](#) is crucial to data security, but you can't drop your guard just because the permissions seem fine.

Plenty of malware apps and phishing campaigns try to [steal your social media account info with fake login pages](#). The safest strategy is to *only* log in through a social media platform's official app.

However, if for some reason you do need to log in via a web browser, confirm the page is legit first. Check everything—the URL, images, layout, text, even the color of the page when you view all tabs. If they don't match, then it's a fake.

That's why having extra layers of security on all your accounts is important: even if your password is stolen, it'll be difficult for someone to break in if they don't have access to your 2FA codes.

CLUB MEETING

There will not be a club meeting on August 1st 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

Time	Frequency	Net	Location
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

Time	Frequency	Net	Location
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 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

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,   Yaesu FT-2DR dual band analog/digital HT with box and manual. $200 firm   See George W1AAG 727-391-7928

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 shrinked 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**

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, 3rd 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
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