

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

November 2020

Hello Worms

I trust all is well with the Wormhole family. The Wormhole face to face meeting for November is cancelled. We will again have a meeting on the repeater 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. We will again have everyone on ZOOM for picture only, no voice during the meeting. All voice will be on the radio ... that's what we do. But at least we could see each other. I will start ZOOM about 1030 so everyone can have a half hour for chatting and leave it on afterward for more of the same.

Bill Williams is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://zoom.us/j/96988994665?pwd=UHUrQXVRRXMvWllrb0NkQ3BJdFFxUT09>

Meeting ID: 969 8899 4665

Passcode: worm

The Tampa Bay Hamfest Board of Directors voted to have a hamfest but only outside. Instead of a table inside plan on having tables outside in the sun or under your popup. The tailgate spaces are 16ft by 40ft so you can sell of the side. Someone can rent a space, then three or four can unload and park in the regular parking leaving a large area for selling. All traffic will come in from Lemon St (now Berryfest St) to the parking lot and then through to the tailgate area.

*** ORLANDO, St PETE HAMFESTS CANCELLED***

These both are probably old news to most of you but for the 10% who never get the word:

FROM Hamcation: “As the world's second largest hamfest, we pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality event to our attendees and would not want to put on a show that is anything less than what the ham radio community deserves. HamCation will be moved to February 11-13, 2022.” What they mean is that the 75th hamfest is postponed for one year. Which is pretty much the same as the 2021 hamfest is cancelled but sounds better ;-)

+++++

From: **SPARC** <all@sparc-club.org>
Date: Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 12:36 PM
Subject: [SPARC] SPARCFest cancelled #email

SPARC has posted a new item, 'SPARCFest cancelled'

Due to the 50 person limitation placed on using Freedom Lake Park due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SPARC has decided to cancel this year's SPARCFest that was to be held on November 14.

+++++

The **USA Coach - [Ham Fest and Rod Run](#)** will be in Clearwater on Nov 14.

Since SPARC Fest is canceled, as an alternative, a tailgate will be held on the same date (Nov 14) but in a convenient Clearwater location thanks to the people at USA Coach. It will take place in the area between their buildings on Ulmerton Rd at the intersection with Roosevelt just south of the St Pete Clearwater Airport.

Click here for info: [USA Coach Ham Fest and Rod Run](#)

Please wear a mask while at the Ham Fest.

*** NEW SOLAR CYCLE START CONFIRMED ***

Ian Biong – INQUIRER.NET September 16

The sun has already begun a new solar cycle – Solar Cycle 25, to be exact – the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) confirmed. The new solar cycle, which the sun’s magnetic field goes through about every 11 years, started last December 2019, experts from NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel yesterday, Sept. 15.

During a solar cycle, the sun’s magnetic activity goes from ordered and relaxed to taut and tangled, before eventually calming down again, then start a new one.

Experts confirmed that last December was the beginning of a solar minimum, which is when the sun has the least sunspots and minimum activity, according to NASA. Solar activity is then expected to ramp up over the years and experts predict July 2025 as the period of solar maximum – the middle of the solar cycle – which is when the sun has the most sunspots, and solar activity is at its highest.

Scientists track solar cycle progress using sunspots, which NASA describes as “the dark blotches on the sun [that] are associated with solar activity, often as the origins for giant explosions – such as solar flares or coronal mass ejections – which can spew light, energy, and solar material into space.” The space agency took to Instagram earlier today, Sept. 16, to share a split photo of a solar maximum and minimum, giving the public a visual of the huge difference between two different points of the cycle. “Understanding the Sun’s behavior is an important part of life in our solar system,” NASA said in the post. “The Sun’s powerful outbursts can disturb the satellites and communications signals traveling around Earth, or one day, Artemis astronauts exploring distant worlds.”

Even though the solar minimum started last December, NASA's announcement only came now as they note that the "Sun is so variable, it can take months after the fact to declare this event."

Solar Cycle 25 is expected to be as only strong as the last solar cycle, which was a below-average cycle, although it is still not without risk, according to Doug Biesecker, panel co-chair and solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). "Just because it's a below-average solar cycle, doesn't mean there is no risk of extreme space weather," Biesecker said in a statement via NASA. "The Sun's impact on our daily lives is real and is there. SWPC is staffed 24/7, 365 days a year because the Sun is always capable of giving us something to forecast," he added. Tracking the solar cycle is vital in helping scientists enhance space weather preparedness to protect radio communications on Earth and protect space electronics, as well as astronauts.

*** GETTING AN HF ANTENNA TO WORK PART 2 ***

Your antenna is mounted and the coax is installed. What are you looking for to see if it works?

Resonance.

What is that? You can liken it to a piano wire. Physically the size of the wire determines how fast the wire oscillates back and forth per second. That value is the resonant point of the wire. When it resonates you hear the tone it produces.

With radio waves there are no moving parts. However depending on the frequency you chose to operate, the electrical energy oscillates at that value. Take 7 Mhz, the current in the wire moves in one direction, weakens to the point of no current at all, then reverses in the opposite direction. This is done at 7 million times per second.

In order for that energy to leave your radio and coax it needs a resonant device at the end, the antenna. What is in the antenna to make it a resonant device?

Coming articles will go into this more. However to start, we can use a measurement most are familiar with, the Standing Wave Ratio or SWR.

We usually measure SWR at the radio. What is it?

You can liken it to a calm body of water. Now throw that HT in the water that did not work. The object makes waves coming to shore. The waves look like they are traveling in one direction. Once it hits the shore the wave can not go further so it returns along the same path. When this happens the wave going out and coming in meet and it will look like the wave now is standing still, just going up and down in place. This also happens electrically when we have a Standing Wave on our coax line.

The cause of the standing wave is due to an antenna that is not resonant. It also involves the resistance of the antenna, but that is for later.

Therefore if you scan your band you are operating on and observe the SWR dip to a minimum then rise again, you had just past the resonant point of the antenna system. Many times this is all you need to do to know if your antenna is working and if you need to raise or lower the resonant point.

This can be done with an Antenna analyzer or your radio. Using the radio, set it to a low power, use CW or FM, (not ssb) and slowly scan the band you are using. If the antenna is working you should see a rise and fall in SWR value. Where the SWR is minimum is the resonant point of your antenna system.

What if you need to know more to get it working? More will be covered in future articles.

73,

Ralph WD0EJA

www.isotronantennas.com

*** NRA BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EVENT STATION***

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, AZ, is planning to operate a special event station November 17, 2020, in celebration of the NRA's 149th birthday. The special event station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus in

Paulden, AZ, north of Prescott. The special event call sign will be K7GST. Operations will be conducted on the following frequencies: 7.040, 7.250, 14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz. The hours of operation will be from 1500 to 2400 UTC, except that CW operation will only be from 1900 to 2400 UTC due to station availability issues. KL7R will again be operating a satellite station.

All amateur stations, especially those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. A special certificate will be awarded to those stations making contact during the event. QSL with a 9 x 12 SASE to:

YARC

P.O. Box 11994

Prescott, AZ 86304

OR (quickest and cheapest alternative)

To receive a PDF certificate that you can print yourself, go to this website and fill out the form: <http://w4gkf.com/k7gst/qso.htm>

NOTE: We do not issue mode- or band-specific certificates. We will issue one certificate regardless of number of contacts.

For more information, contact

John Broughton, WB9VGJ

nrbirthday@w7yrc.org

Cell: 928-830-5997

*** BIG SUNSPOT, CRACKLING WITH FLARES***

Spaceweather com 10-27-2020

New sunspot AR2778 sharply increased in size overnight, and it is now crackling with C-class solar flares.

A pulse of radiation from this flare briefly ionized the top of Earth's atmosphere, disturbing shortwave radio propagation around the Indian Ocean: [blackout map](#). The sunspot has been producing [similar flares](#) every few hours since then (0615 UT on Oct. 27th).

AR2778 is the biggest sunspot of young Solar Cycle 25 with nearly a dozen dark cores sprawling almost 100,000 km across the solar surface. Astronomer Mohammad Talafha sends this picture of the growing region from the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates:

"When I looked on the morning of Oct. 27th, the sunspot group was almost 8 times wider than Earth," says Talafha, "and it may have grown since then."

These dimensions make AR2778 an easy target for backyard solar telescopes. Amateur astronomers with safely-filtered optics are encouraged to monitor developments.

EDITOR: Goto <https://spaceweather.com/> for the latest information and a picture.



CLUB MEETING

There will not be a face to face club meeting on November 7th due to the virus. We will meet again on the 2M repeater at the regular meeting time with a video to video concurrent on ZOOM. 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 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

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, ERICSSON ORION UHF, 440-470 MHz, NEW in box, complete mobile installation set, 100 watt radio, remote control head, mic, speaker, cables, speaker, \$150, see Bill AG4QX 813-300-3668

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 shrunk PL-259 connectors, Ralph W4TNY, w4tny@tampabay.rr.com, 727-409-0468

HAMFESTS

November 14 [Ham Fest and Rod Run](#)

December 11 & 12 **Plant City, the 2020 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the Florida State Convention and West Central Florida Section Convention, Tailgate only, Friday and Saturday, at the Strawberry Festival grounds, admission \$5, tailgate space \$10, electric \$5, 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