

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

December 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.

Topic: Bill Williams' Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2737114584?pwd=d1BETHVOQ21vWWZXZ0lYQ0FIWWtldz09>

Meeting ID: 273 711 4584

Passcode: worm

The Wormhole has a 16ft x 40ft tailgate space at the Tampa Bay Hamfest. The club will have a table for you to put stuff on. Also a place to hang out. Bring your own chairs. Talk to Ray HD4HUW, Jim KD4MZL or Bill AG4QX if you have questions.

At the hamfest it is all outside and masks are required whenever you are within 10 feet of another and certainly keep social distanced. All traffic will come in from Berryfest St (was Lemon St). The parking lot and tailgate are the same as previous years. The hamfest is coming along and it should be a great time. See you there.

*** UNIVERSAL RADIO CLOSING ***

From the Universal Radio website 11-10-2020

Dear Friends Of Universal Radio,

Time waits for no one, and that includes Barbara and myself. We have decided to retire and our current location in Worthington will close on November 30, 2020. Even though the store is closing we will fulfill all existing customer orders and have a large amount of inventory to close-out. The Universal Radio website will be maintained for the foreseeable future to sell this remaining stock, publications and some select products. Unfortunately the lack of a store front showroom will preclude us from carrying some manufacturers' products. I am very fortunate to have been in the radio business for over 50 years, 13 at Radio Shack and 37 at Universal Radio. We have met many wonderful people along the journey who have supported me personally as well as Universal Radio. It has been a privilege to have a continuous career in the fascinating field of radio since 1969.

Please accept our sincere "Thank You" for your support of Universal Radio for these many years, and for the months to come.

Our new address for correspondence and mail order is below. This is not a store front.

Universal Radio Inc.
752 N. State St. Unit 222
Westerville, OH 43082

Phone: 614 866-4267

Thank you.

73,

Fred Osterman N8EKU

Barbara Osterman KC8VWI

* ANOTHER PREDICTIONS FOR SOLAR CYCLE 25 *

The ARRL website had an article about a report from the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel “Overlapping Magnetic Activity Cycles and the Sunspot Number: Forecasting Sunspot Cycle 25 Amplitude”, a 16 page document. See their whole paper at <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.15263.pdf>

“Our method predicts that SC25 could be among the strongest sunspot cycles ever observed, and that it will almost certainly be stronger than present SC24 (sunspot number of 116) and most likely stronger than the previous SC23 (sunspot number of 180).

Editor: Many of you might remember last months Wormhole Newsletter where an article from NOAA said cycle 25 would be below average. So either below average or the strongest every recorded. I have a quarter in my pocket that can predict what Solar Cycle 25 amplitude will be as well as at least half of the scientific prediction community.

* GOOGLE SAYS NEW CHROME MUCH FASTER*

Matt Waddell, Director of Product, Chrome, Nov 17, 2020

Today we're offering up our final Chrome release of 2020. The updates can help you get things done this holiday season (and beyond), so you can make life's work a bit smoother and reclaim precious time. **Faster to start, faster to load, and way more battery life**

This month's update represents the largest gain in Chrome performance in years, thanks to many under-the-hood improvements. Here's what's starting to roll out today:

- Chrome now prioritizes your active tabs vs. everything that's open—reducing CPU usage by up to 5x and extending battery life by up to 1.25 hours (based on our internal benchmarks).
- Chrome now starts up to 25 percent faster, loads pages up to 7 percent faster, and does all of this using less power and RAM than before.

- Chrome on Android now loads pages near instantaneously when you navigate backward and forward, making these common tasks super fast.

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

Spaceweather.com Nov 29

On Sunday Nov. 29th at 1311UT Earth-orbiting satellites detected the biggest solar flare in more than 3 years. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded this extreme-ultraviolet movie of the [M4.4](#) category blast:

X-rays and UV radiation from the flare ionized the top of Earth's atmosphere, producing a shortwave radio blackout over the South Atlantic: Ham radio operators and mariners may have noticed strange propagation effects at frequencies below 20 MHz, with some transmissions below 10 MHz completely extinguished.

Remarkably, this flare was even bigger than it seems. The blast site is located just behind the sun's southeastern limb. As a result, the explosion was partially eclipsed by the body of the sun. It might have been an [X-class](#) event.

The flare also hurled a significant coronal mass ejection (CME) into space, shown here in a coronagraph image from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO):

This CME will not hit Earth. It is outside the strikezone for geoeffective solar storms. If, however, it were coming our way, we would be anticipating a strong geomagnetic storm. Maybe next time!

"Next time" could be just days away. The hidden sunspot that produced this major event will rotate onto the Earthside of the sun during the next day or two. Then its ability to spark geomagnetic storms will be greatly increased.

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY GOES VIRTUAL

National Weather Service website weather.com

Amateur radio operators play a vital role in helping the NWS meet its mission for the protection of life and property. They relay valuable information to NWS forecasters during times of severe weather. They also serve as a vital communication link between the NWS and emergency managers when normal communications become inoperative.

Every year in early December, the NWS recognizes the important role amateur radio operators play in helping the NWS meet its mission. This year's SKYWARN Recognition Day event will begin Saturday, December 5 0000Z UTC (Friday 7 PM EST) and go through 2400 UTC (Saturday 7PM EST). Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to invite amateur radio operators into our office this year. However, you can still participate from home by registering here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjTY8Cpa7b43CdUdgeBGRKcHIUv4FB86wVL7MpO19i2t7MBg/viewform>

Once registered, you will receive your SRD spotter ID a few days before the event. During the event, radio operators can exchange call signs, spotter ID's, location (QTH), signal report, and a brief description of the weather ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "mostly cloudy", "windy", etc.) with other event participants nationwide.

For those spotters who are not amateur radio operators, you can also participate by sharing weather reports with our office during the event via social media (i.e. Facebook, twitter). Additional information about the event can be found at the SRD webpage <https://www.weather.gov/crh/skywarnrecognition>

We encourage all those interested to register and look forward to your participation.

CLUB MEETING

There will not be a face to face club meeting on December 6th 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	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
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 3RD 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, Standard Horizon (a Yaesu Division) MX370S, Submersible HT, amateur radio 2M and Marine Radio, radio, software and charger, \$100. Will be at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on the Wormhole table. Contact Bill AG4QX

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 14.280MHz)	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around
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