

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

January 2021

Hello Worms

I am sorry this newsletter is later than normal. I just realized that the first Saturday is this week. I guess I need to examine the calendar more often,

I trust the Wormhole family has all survived the holiday season. My wife and I will do our normal New Year's celebration by staying home. The Wormhole face to face meeting for January 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.

After the meeting I thought we could have a flea market for those who have money left after Christmas or maybe work a trade. Or maybe you don't have any money left and need to sell something you have but have not used for years! If you have something to sell be ready to show it. If small enough to pick up you can hold it in front of the camera. If too large or heavy you can have a picture to show while you talk or if using a usb camera you can move the camera to show it. In any case have a price and contact information available. For those only on radio we can still hear your description and price.

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

It was nice that I got to see many of you at the Tampa Bay Hamfest. The hamfest went well on Friday but down the drains, literally, on Saturday although all of the commercial vendors told me that they did ok for the situation, not good but not a losing situation either. All thanked us for having it and said they would be back. I would like to thank those who volunteered to help, mostly selling tickets and to say again the council is looking for those who might be interested in helping organize and run the hamfest. Talk to me or Jim or Dee.

I worked at the Victory Ship during the Tampa Boat Parade. I did see most of the parade and even made an HF contact. I guess it would have been a special event contact except the ships club has a zero budget so no special event cards can be made. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the American Victory club should talk to Dean. I am a member so they can talk to me also but I don't know much yet.

I sent a five ounces of QSL cards off to the outgoing bureau last week. Several years of cards but only one of mine going out, to the Philippines, a new country for me. I only send a card to a new country or some special events like rare DX. The rest were responding to cards received including about 10 SWL cards.

The hamfest list is rather short, I just deleted the January Arcadia hamfest, although still listed by the ARRL it is cancelled on the club website as are many others. I suspect as the year goes forward others will reappear, at least I hope so. The Wormfest is still planned for May.

In late arriving news the FCC issued their report today and set the Amateur Radio License Fee at \$35. I am sure there will be more information later.

*** HAM RADO UNIVERSITY ***

From stevevfd via Tampa Amateur Radio Club reflector.

Save The Date - January 9, 2021 With Covid19 restrictions precluding an in-person gathering, the 22nd annual Ham Radio University (HRU) educational conference will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm as a GoToWebinar on-line video conference.

HRU 2021 will feature 15 informational presentations by local experts in a broad range of Amateur Radio activities including: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications; Basics of HF Operating; Communicating Through Amateur Radio Earth Satellites; Remote Station Operating Over the Internet; Software Defined Radios; HF and UHF Digital Communications; and Using RaspberryPi Computers in Amateur Radio.

In addition to viewing the presentations, on-line attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters. Presented in memory of Ham Radio University's founder, Phil Lewis, N2MUN, who passed away in March, HRU 2021 also will be the on-line convention of the ARRL's NYC-Long Island Section.

As in years past, participation in HRU 2021 will be free of charge, with an optional suggested donation of \$5.00.

You must register for each forum you want to attend individually. For further information, including the schedule of forums and the registration links, go to: <http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org> Click on the forums link on the right hand side.

<http://hamradiouniversity.org/>

*** SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANYS MAY BE FINED BY UK ***

The Guardian 12-15-2020

Social media companies will need to remove and limit the spread of harmful content or face fines of billions of pounds, the UK government has announced, as it finally reveals the details of its proposed internet regulation.

The online harms bill, first proposed by Theresa May's government in April 2019, sets out strict new guidelines governing removal of illegal content such as child sexual abuse, terrorist material and media that promotes suicide, which sites must obey or face being blocked in the UK.

It also requires platforms to abide by a new code of conduct that sets out their responsibilities towards children. The bill requires the most popular sites to set their own terms and conditions, and face fines if they fail to stick to them.

For the first time, online misinformation will come under the remit of a government regulator, in cases when content is legal but could cause significant physical or psychological harm to adults.

Ofcom, which has been confirmed as the regulator by the bill, will have the power to levy unprecedented fines of up to £18m or 10% of global turnover. That would leave a company such as Facebook potentially paying a £5bn fine for serious breaches. By contrast, GDPR laws cap fines at €20m (£18m) or 4% of global turnover. Ofcom will also have the power to block services from the UK entirely.

The government has backed down on one suggestion, made in the initial consultation, to bring criminal sanctions against individual executives. The legislation includes provisions for such penalties, but that power will need to be separately introduced by parliament via secondary legislation. The government says it plans to introduce that legislation only if companies fail to take the new rules seriously.

“Today Britain is setting the global standard for safety online with the most comprehensive approach yet to online regulation,” said the digital secretary, Oliver Dowden.

Dame Melanie Dawes, Ofcom's chief executive, said: “We're really pleased to take on this new role ... Being online brings huge benefits, but four in five people have concerns about it. That shows the need for sensible, balanced rules that protect users from serious harm, but also recognises the great things about online, including free expression.”

The children's commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, said she was pleased by the proposals. “The signs are that this regulation will have teeth, including strong sanctions for companies found to be in breach of their duties, and a requirement on

messaging apps to use technology to identify child abuse and exploitation material when directed to by the regulator. However, much will rest on the detail behind these announcements, which we will be looking at closely.”

However, Adam Hadley, director of the Online Harms Foundation, described the proposals as “at best ineffective and at worst counterproductive”. He said: “Bad actors such as terrorists are more likely to be found on smaller platforms and websites they build and control themselves – not the big tech platforms the government’s proposals are targeting.

“Creating onerous financial penalties on tech companies only incentivises overzealous removal of content, leading to content that is not illegal being removed and pushing conspiracy theorists on to self-owned underground platforms, where their views cannot be challenged or easily monitored.”

*** INTERNET PROVIDERS CAN'T CHARGE FOR UNWANTED ROUTERS***

Sean Hollister Dec 19, 2020 THE VERGE

Is your internet service provider charging you every month for the cable modem or router that *you purchased with your own money*? Or, perhaps, have you never bothered to buy those items because you couldn't escape the fee? That fee is illegal starting Sunday, December 20th, and you should tell your ISP that you'll no longer tolerate it.

Last year, Congress passed a law that should have fixed this ridiculous loophole as of June 20th, 2020 — and though the FCC managed to extend the deadline six months by spinning up some bullshit about how cable companies didn't have the resources *to stop charging you money*, the law should take full effect tomorrow.

Do note that the actual text of the law still allows some BS to occur. If your ISP sends you a router, you'll need to return it to avoid charges.

Frontier in particular has been notorious for charging customers \$10 a month for their equipment “whether you use it or not” — the company's words, not mine — but Frontier is clearly aware it won't be able to do that anymore. Starting this month, the

company's equipment page has changed to remove the part where it talks about the mandatory fee.

If you can purchase your own cable modem, I suggest you do. Modems will generally pay for themselves in less than a year, and the all-in-one router boxes that ISPs typically provide typically offer worse Wi-Fi coverage than you could easily add to a house yourself, particularly now that mesh Wi-Fi systems are better, cheaper, and easier to use than ever before.

It also doesn't help that in the US, we pay roughly eight to 17 times more to rent a modem on average than Asia and Europe do, respectively. That's just one of the ways America's internet needs to be fixed in 2021.

*** FCC PUSHING EMAIL ADDRESSES ***

The FCC is encouraging users of the Universal Licensing Service ([ULS](#)) to have an email address on file with the FCC.

“Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide an email address on their license application(s), which will trigger the electronic issuance of an official copy of their license(s) to the email provided upon application grant. Per the timing specified in Rulemaking [FCC 20-126](#), the FCC will no longer print, and licensees will no longer be able to request, hard copy license authorizations sent by mail.”

The FCC has not yet established the date by which an email address will be required on all applications. ARRL VEC already has begun including email addresses on FCC applications for as many applicants as possible.

HOW TO PREVENT ESD DAMAGE

How to prevent ESD damage

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here are some tips from Keysight Technologies, one of the leading electronic test equipment companies, on how to prevent ESD from damaging your electronics.

- **USE A GROUNDED WRIST STRAP** whenever you are handling equipment or boards. Using a grounded wrist strap prevents your body from building up charge and causing damage when this built-up charge discharges into your equipment or test boards. Make sure to connect that alligator clip to ground!
- **USE GROUNDED WORK SURFACES OR MATS** for your boards. Do NOT use static generating or insulating materials as a work surface. Non-grounded mats and static generating/insulated materials can inductively charge boards, especially exposed ones. When connecting a charged board to equipment, the board can cause damage by discharging into the equipment's inputs.
- **KEEP CHARGED MATERIALS AT LEAST 0.3 METERS FROM EXPOSED ASSEMBLIES.** This includes plastics, foam, or other materials that can build up charge. Having a charged material near an exposed assembly can inductively charge the assembly. The assembly can then discharge into the equipment's inputs.
- **DISCHARGE YOUR CABLES BEFORE CONNECTING THEM TO YOUR EQUIPMENT.** Electrostatic charges can build up on test probes and test leads, so it's important to discharge them before connecting them to your test equipment:
 - Ensure your device is off.
 - Connect your cable to your device.
 - Attach a 50 Ω shunt to the open end of the cable.
 - Remove the shunt and immediately attach your device to your equipment. This prevents the center conductor of your cable from discharging stored charge into your equipment. A charged assembly can charge connected cables.
- **USE BOARD STANDOFFS AS NEEDED.** In some situations, you need board standoffs to provide extra insulation for your exposed assemblies. This prevents your grounded mats from making unwanted connections on your board.
- **NEVER USE "PINK" PACKING MATERIAL FOR BOARD TRANSPORT OR AS A WORK SURFACE.** While many people think pink packing material is ESD safe, in most cases it easily builds up unwanted charge.

Unless continuous, thorough testing is done, treat pink packing materials as charged.

- **CAP UNUSED EQUIPMENT INPUTS** to avoid accidental ESD and physical damage. Damage often occurs by accidentally contacting equipment inputs. Capping unused inputs protects them from incidental ESD damage.
- **USE ESD-SAFE BAGS WHEN TRANSPORTING BOARDS.** This protects boards from ESD damage while moving between ESD-safe locations.
- **DO NOT OVERDRIVE EQUIPMENT INPUTS.** Start your testing at the least sensitive input setting and zoom in on your signal. Additionally, observe the maximum input levels for your specific equipment. The least sensitive setting is the most resilient, so starting there ensures that your inputs are at safe operating levels

After I posted this to my blog, Dave, N8SBE offered some further tips. He writes:

- Grounded heel straps also help reduce static charge. Test them with a floor tester every time you put them on. The floor needs to be somewhat conductive—not metal, that’s a safety hazard—so use conductive wax on tiles, or conductive carpet to drain of electrostatic charges.
- Keep materials, such as styrofoam cups, that form electrostatic charges easily away from your workspace. A styrofoam cup can generate thousands of volts.
- Keep the humidity up in the workspace. That helps to keep static generation down as well.

I like to think that I follow ESD-safe procedures, but there are a couple of things here that I hadn’t thought about before. For example, I’d never really thought about discharging test equipment cables before connecting them. I think that’s a good tip

To learn more, go to <https://www.keysight.com/find/PreventESD>

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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 worrying about electrostatic discharge, he teaches online ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands.

CLUB MEETING

There will not be a face to face club meeting on January 2nd 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 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	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
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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, mobile mount and all cables, \$125, see Bill AG4QX 813-300-3668

FOR SALE, Standard Horizon (the Yaesu Marine Division) MX370S, Submersible HT, Part 80 and Part 90 so it will operate on both amateur radio 2M and Marine Radio, radio, software and charger, \$100. Donated to the Wormhole by Capt Jack W4GRJ, Contact Bill AG4QX 813-300-3668

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

February 26 Punta Gorda, **7th Annual TECHCON Convention, Polk County Emergency Operations Center, 26571 Airport Rd, ,** for more info <http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

March 6 Punta Gorda, Peace River Radio Assoc., Punta Gorda Boat Club, 802 West Retta Esplanade, the club website does not have any information on the 2021 hamfest although they have registered with the ARRL for one, <https://www.prra.club/>

May 29 **WormFest 2021, 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> .**

December 10 & 11 **Plant City, the 2021 Tampa Bay Hamfest is the Florida State Convention and West Central Florida Section Convention, Friday and Saturday, at the Strawberry Festival grounds, admission \$10, 16x40ft 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://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/
March	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