

## News from



# The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

March 2021

## Hello Worms

The Wormhole face to face meeting for March 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

A neat website was posted by Jack K4WSB from Tony N2MFT. It is Radio Garden and it has a world map with dots that represent radio stations all over the world. Click on the dot and the station comes in with very good reception. Very interesting to surf the dots and see what you find. One surprise was that many of the stations in Alaska transmit the BBC World Wide News. I guess that makes sense since it is a very good service for news. There is also an App for iOS and Android.

As of February 28<sup>th</sup> the Minnregs have moved out of the Minnreg building after 55 years. We do not have a place to meet when we can meet face to face again. Jim has several including the church where met a few times. Keep your eyes out for a suitable place where we can meet on Saturday mornings. One where we can meet outside but have an inside to go to if needed. One where we can cook and has a grill or a place to store a grill and charcoal.

**\*HOTMAIL & OUTLOOK LIMITS ARE NOW BEING ENFORCED**

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*tehradar* [Matt Hanson](#)

According to new reports, Microsoft has shocked and enraged long-term users of its Hotmail and Outlook email services by sending out messages warning users that they are nearing their storage limit.

Back in 2013, Microsoft [retired its Hotmail service](#) and migrated everyone to Outlook.com, while allowing them to keep their Hotmail addresses. Microsoft also added a 15GB storage limit, and it seems that suddenly a lot of Hotmail users have logged in to find they are over the limit, and will no longer be able to send or receive emails until they either delete older emails to free up space or sign up to [Microsoft 365](#), which offers more storage capacity (as well as access to Office software like Word) for \$69.99 / £59.99 / AU\$99 a year. That's quite a leap from the free tier, and if

you don't want Microsoft's Office applications, then it could feel like you're being forced to pay for a service you're not really going to use.

While Microsoft is entirely in the right by reminding people of the terms they agreed to, many users are taking issue with the fact that they hadn't been warned about the limit in the eight years it's been in place, and many people are now being told they are over the limit after years of being over.

As the [Daily Express reports](#), people well over the 15GB limit have suddenly been locked out of sending and receiving emails until they delete older ones. Now, you can argue that it's the users' faults, as they are over the agreed limit. However, some people may have not been aware of the new limit, or forgotten about it, after their Hotmail accounts were migrated in 2013.

It also seems Microsoft for some reason did not send reminders or warnings about users approaching or going over the limit until recently. We've contacted Microsoft for comment. No matter who is at fault, it's resulted in a lot of annoyed Hotmail and Outlook users, who are now facing the prospect of paying to keep their old emails.

## **\* GETTING AN ANTENNA TO WORK - PART 6 \***

Ralph WD0EJA Jan 2021

Last article a Series Resonant circuit was described. This is where an inductor and capacitor are wired in series. When the 2 reactance's become equal, we are at the resonant frequency. We also have a minimum Z or impedance of the circuit. At this point the impedance of the circuit looks like a resistor, with no reactance showing.

On small circuits, such as in your radio, the impedance or Z is close to 0 ohms. This is good for radio circuitry, but not for antennas.

Making the circuit physically larger causes another affect. It is called Radiation Resistance. As the physical area of the antenna increases, the Radiation resistance will also. This is in respect to a Series Resonant circuit with nothing else added. This value will increase only so far. It will also vary in respect to the design, shape and location of the circuit.

Ideally you want 50 ohms. Most antennas will come close to this. Dipoles can go higher since they are floating above ground. This is good however. A higher Radiation Resistance means the antenna is operating at a higher voltage. This means less loss from the antenna.

50 ohms matches our transmitter for a 1:1 SWR. If the antenna is above this value, matching with a Tuner will work well, with no noticeable loss. If the antenna design makes it lower than 50 ohms, the current is higher in the circuit and can create losses.

Now we have 3 values to our antennas that we need to look for. RESONANCE, which has Inductive and Capacitive reactance and the Radiation Resistance. Actually there is a 4th element. The pure resistance of the parts of the antenna. Normally this is low enough as to not have much affect.

How do we use this?

First we need to remove any type of reactance. That means we find the resonant point first. This will offer a pure resistance and leave us now with only the Radiation Resistance.

If the SWR at minimum or resonant point is 2:1, we have two values, but only 1 is right. Either the antenna is at 25 ohms, or it is at 100 ohms. SWR values that are higher at resonance means the Radiation Resistance value is either lower or higher in value than 50 ohms.

How can we take the guess work out of tuning an antenna? A future article will start to address this.

73,

Ralph WD0EJA

Bilal Company

**\* IT'S NOT A BEGALI, BUT...\***

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is, "What is a good paddle for a beginner?" My usual answer to this question is to look for a used Bencher BY-1 at a hamfest or on one of the online venues. You used to be able to get them for \$60 or less. Now, however, there are few hamfests and the price has gone up. Now, used Benchers are close to \$80.

Another option that newcomers might consider is the [CW Morse](#) paddle (shown in photo below). They cost \$60 with a steel base (\$43 without), and are available from [3rd Planet Solar](#) and [Gigaparts](#). I purchased one recently, and used it for a couple of days. To be honest, I was prepared to hate it, but it actually works pretty well. It's not a Begali, but it's good enough that I'd recommend it as a starter key.

These keys are mostly made from 3D-printed plastic parts. You can tell this from the finish. While not as bad as some 3D-printed parts, they do look a little rough. I wouldn't be surprised if they go to molded parts, though, at some point. In high volumes, it has to be cheaper to mold the parts rather than print them.

The key does have metal parts where it counts, though. The contacts are all brass, the base is made from 1/2-in. cold-rolled steel, and the levers pivot on sealed ball bearings. My key weighed 22.5 oz (1.4 lbs.), and was quite stationary on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. The Begali is, of course, a lot heavier at nearly 60 oz. (3.75 lbs.).

A spring between the levers provides the tension. Two screws allow you to adjust the contact spacing. Unlike the Begali, whose adjustment screws have a very fine thread to give you plenty of adjustability, these screws are standard thread screws. What this means is that it can be a bit tricky to set the contact spacing. The screws are spring-loaded to prevent the adjustment from changing, but the springs don't seem to be very beefy, and I can see where the adjustment might change after a lot of use.

The ball bearings give the key a nice action. During my tests, I had the speed cranked up to 23 wpm, and this key performed well at that speed. One thing I didn't like very much is that the arms tend to flex more than I like, but I actually have the same problem with the plastic Begali finger pieces. That's why I use the aluminum finger pieces on the Begali.

Overall, though, I'm quite happy with this key. And, for sixty bucks, which is about one-fifth of the price of a new Begali Magnetic Pro, I can certainly recommend this key to newcomers getting started in CW.

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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 testing new keys, he teaches online ham radio classes and likes to work special event stations and state QSO parties.

### **\*INVISIBLE TRACKING IN EMAILS ENDEMIC\***

BBC NEWS by Leo Kelion Technology desk editor

**The use of "invisible" tracking tech in emails is now "endemic", according to a messaging service that analyzed it's traffic at the BBC's request.** Hey's review indicated that two-thirds of emails sent to its users' personal accounts contained a "spy pixel", even after excluding for spam. Its makers said that many of the largest brands used email pixels, with the exception of the "big tech" firms. Defenders of the trackers say they are a commonplace marketing tactic. And several of the companies involved noted their use of such tech was mentioned within their wider privacy policies.

Emails pixels can be used to log: if and when an email is opened, how many times it is opened, what device or devices are involved, the user's rough physical location, deduced from their internet protocol (IP) address - in some cases making it possible to see the street the recipient is on,

This information can then be used to determine the impact of a specific email campaign, as well as to feed into more detailed customer profiles.

Hey's co-founder David Heinemeier Hansson says they amount to a "grotesque invasion of privacy".

And other experts have also questioned whether companies are being as transparent as required under law about their use. Tracking pixels are typically a .GIF or .PNG file that is as small as 1x1 pixels, which is inserted into the header, footer or body of an

email. Since they often show the colour of the content below, they can be impossible to spot with the naked eye even if you know where to look. Recipients do not need to click on a link or do anything to activate them beyond open an email they are embedded in. British Airways, TalkTalk, Vodafone, Sainsbury's, Tesco, HSBC, Marks & Spencer, Asos and Unilever are among UK brands Hey detected to be using them. But their use was much more widespread despite many members of the public being unaware of it, said Mr Hansson. "It's not like there's a flag saying 'this email includes a spy pixel' in most email software," he added. Hey does offer such a facility, but users must pay an annual subscription.

Alternatively, users can install free plug-ins into other email programs to strip out many pixel trackers. Other options are to simply set their software to block all images by default, or to view emails as plain text. "On average, every Hey customer receives 24 emails per day that attempt to spy on them," Mr Hansson said. "The top 10% of users receive more than 50. "We're processing over one million emails a day and we're just a tiny service compared to the likes of Gmail, but that's north of 600,000 spying attempts blocked every day." The BBC also uses email pixels in some of its communications, although this was not picked up by Hey. Tracking pixels are a standard feature of automated email services used by large and small businesses, and in many cases the facility is difficult to turn off. Two years ago Superhuman, a consumer-focused email client, tried to extend their use to the public as a default feature of its own, but reversed course after a public outcry.

That had little impact on the marketing industry's continued reliance on the tech. Clients can use them to track how many emails in a specific campaign are opened in aggregate, as well as to automatically stop sending messages to customers who ignore them. But a study by Princeton University also indicated the data gathered was sometimes linked to a users' cookies. This allows an individual's email address to be tied to their wider browsing habits, even as they move from one device to another. "The resulting links between identities and web history profiles belie the claim of 'anonymous' web tracking," **the paper warned**. In addition, trackers can also lead to personalised follow-ups.



"Particularly with salespeople or consultants, they can go: 'I saw you open my email yesterday, but you haven't replied yet. Can I call?'" said Mr Hansson. "And in some cases they get outright belligerent when they see you've opened it three times but have still not replied."

Use of tracking pixels is governed in the UK and other parts of Europe by 2003's **Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations** (Pecr) and 2016's **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR). They require organizations to inform recipients of the pixels, and in most cases to obtain consent. One privacy consultant said **the Court of Justice of the European Union** (CJEU) had previously ruled that such consent must be "unambiguous" and "a clear affirmative act". "Solely placing something in a privacy notice is not consent, and it is hardly transparent," said Pat Walshe from Privacy Matters. "The fact that tracking will take place and what that involves should be put in the user's face and involve them opting in. "The law is clear enough, what we need is regulatory enforcement. Just because this practice is widespread doesn't mean it's correct and acceptable." Mr Walshe noted that the British Information Commissioner's Office had used a pixel within its own e-newsletter. The watchdog told the BBC it was used to track email openings, but not users' locations, adding: "We're working with our provider to remove the pixel functionality and this should be completed soon."

The BBC asked some of the companies identified by Hey for their own response. British Airways said: "We take customer data extremely seriously, and use a cross-industry standard approach that allows us to understand how effective our customer communications are." TalkTalk said: "As is common across our industry and others, we track the performance of different types of communications to understand what our customers prefer. We do not share this data externally."



**\*CLUB MEETING\***



There will not be a face to face club meeting on March 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.

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### **\*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.

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### **\*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 Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	St
1900 144.210 USB Clearwater	CARS, vertical polarization	
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
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
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 <sup>RD</sup> 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
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
1830 147.060 no tone Petersburg	St Pete ARC daily net	from St
2030 NI4CE system system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE
<b>SATURDAY</b>		
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
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
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

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### \*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, Comet GP-1 2M/440 MHz base antenna, \$50, Ralph W4TNY, [w4tny@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:w4tny@tampabay.rr.com), 727-409-0468

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### \*HAMFESTS\*

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/>

March 20                     Zephyrhills, St Elizabeth Episcopal Church, 5855 16<sup>th</sup> St, \$5 entrance, Vendor setup at 0700, outside only, talk-in 146.910 – 146.2. See [https://www.zaarc.org/zaarc\\_flyer%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.zaarc.org/zaarc_flyer%20(1).pdf) for the flyer.

**May 29**                    **WormFest 2021**, Pinellas Park, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, southeast corner of US 19 and 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 33782. Park opens at sunrise for vendor setup, hamfest starts at 0800. Talk-in on 146.850 – 146.2. For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .

**December 10 & 11**   **Plant City, the 2021 Tampa Bay Hamfest 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](mailto:chairman@fgcarc.org) or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org> or you can just ask me, Jim or Dee at a meeting ;-)

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Mid January	Adventure Run, Honeymoon Island
Last full weekend January	Winter Field Day, <a href="https://www.winterfieldday.com/">https://www.winterfieldday.com/</a>
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference <a href="http://arllwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/">http://arllwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/</a>
March	MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride <a href="http://www.citrustour.org/register.php">http://www.citrustour.org/register.php</a>
March/April	MS Walks
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, <a href="http://www.svhfs.org">http://www.svhfs.org</a>
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) <a href="https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events">https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events</a>
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
<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/</a>	
July 3/4	Midnight Run in Largo
<a href="http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/">http://www.kiwanismidnightrun.com/</a>	
August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week
<a href="https://illw.net/">https://illw.net/</a>	
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest <a href="http://www.fgcarc.org/">http://www.fgcarc.org/</a>

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### **\*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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