

News from



The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

October 2021

Hello Worms

I will be out there again for the October meeting. I again thank Alan again for all his fine work broadcasting ZOOM from the park. We will continue with the face to face meetings and at the same time try to broadcast the meeting on the repeater and video. We will meet at the regular meeting time of 1100 on Saturday morning. We will again meet at the Lurie Civic Building which is the new Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce. It is located on the St Petersburg College campus in Seminole. Turn west at the light at 113th St N and about 92nd Ave N. It's the first building on the north side. Here is a link to a Google map : [Google Maps](#) . There is a few parking spots at the Chamber building but if you go another 100 yards past you can park in the college parking lot which is a lot closer to the outside meeting area.

BRING YOUR CHAIR and lunch! There are a few picnic benches if you do not have a folding chair but they are not comfortable. We will not be cooking but we have access to the Chamber of Commerce building which has a microwave and a toaster oven so you can heat up/cook what you bring. The benches there are not comfortable so bring your chair. Also lunch and coffee if you want it.

As always before a regular meetings there are members on the repeater before the meeting time so jump in there and chew the rag. .

Zoom has started enforcing the 40 minute limit on the free accounts. We had the Wormhole cut off but it starts up again immediately so I guess we will stay with Zoom as long as it is working.

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

For the meeting do not forget ... BRING YOUR CHAIR, lunch and coffee! We will have cold drinks and water available.

***MICROSOFT HAS RELEASED THE NEW WINDOWS 11
COMPATIBILITY TESTER ***

From your editor

Windows 11 distribution starts next week. Check your computer to see if you are compatible. The first tester did not test everything and gave confusing answers so they finally made one that apparently works. The new tester will tell you what parts meet the criteria and which one's do not. I bet you can guess how many of my three computers are compatible. Windows 10 has over three years of life left so I am in no hurry to update anything. It does have a funny name, "healthcheck" when it does not check the health of anything. Go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/windows/windows-11#pchealthcheck> to get the compatibility test.

*** TUNING AN ANTENNA ***

Ralph WD0EJA

The most common way to check the tuning of your antenna is by a Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) measurement.

I have noticed for several years there may be some confusion of how to properly obtain this measurement from the modern radios.

Some of this confusion is due to not understanding what "**Mode Of Transmission**" means. This can be even more confusing when most of the radios are all mode units.

Most likely you have LSB, USB, AM, CW, FM and FSK or RTTY. Boy, that is a lot of modes. Which one do you use to check SWR?

Hopefully in future articles more details will be provided on each mode. However, for now, we just need the basics so you can use the radio effectively.

If your radio has a SWR meter built into it, then this will be the reading preferred. An outboard meter is fine, but the one in the radio is what the radio is going to use. If the SWR in the radio is high it will reduce your output power. Power reduction can easily be 50 to 90 percent. What is the best way to confirm this?

This is where knowing what mode to use is necessary.

USB and LSB modes do not produce RF energy unless you talk or make noise into the microphone. If you key the mic and all is quiet, there is no power out. I have had the humorous experience of operators saying the SWR is 1:1. However they were on USB or LSB and all was quiet. The meter reads nothing because there is no power out.

Many realize this. Their solution is to moan and groan or whistle into the mic. This will put power out, but it jumps around so much it is hard to get an accurate reading.

Some have put the radio in the CW mode. They key the mic and are happy to see a 1:1 SWR. However, they have not realized that their radio does not put power out on CW from the mic switch. A code key is needed for some radios.

Now there is the AM, FM and FSK modes.

AM is OK, but it does not put full power out. Initially you want to check SWR at low power anyway. The mic button will activate the radio. When you have your SWR

acceptable, you will want to confirm that the radio will put the full power out. You can not do this on AM.

What about FM or FSK? Some have been hesitant to switch to these modes because they are not in the portion of the band it is allowed.

On FM, if you do not make any noise into the mic, it only produces a carrier. This is legal. On FSK or RTTY, it only produces a carrier. These are the easiest modes to use to check SWR.

Start at low power (5 watts). Using the internal SWR meter, check SWR and make the necessary adjustments to the antenna. Once acceptable, bring up the power. Use your "Relative Power Meter" in the radio. If you can get it to go full scale, you are ready to operate.

Your questions are welcome. I will try and answer them in future articles. Email me at wd0eja@isotronantennas.com.

73,
Ralph WD0EJA
wd0eja@isotronantennas.com
Bilal Company
SEPT 2021

*** MOZILLA HAS DEFEATED MICROSOFTS DEFAULT BROWERS PROTECTION ***

THE VERGE By Tom Warren Sep 13, 2021

Mozilla has quietly made it easier to switch to Firefox on Windows recently. While Microsoft offers a method to switch default browsers on Windows 10, it's more cumbersome than the simple one-click process to switch to Edge. This one-click process isn't officially available for anyone other than Microsoft, and Mozilla appears to have grown tired of the situation.

In version 91 of Firefox, released on August 10th, Mozilla has reverse engineered the way Microsoft sets Edge as default in Windows 10, and enabled Firefox to quickly

make itself the default. Before this change, Firefox users would be sent to the Settings part of Windows 10 to then have to select Firefox as a default browser and ignore Microsoft's plea to keep Edge.

Mozilla's reverse engineering means you can now set Firefox as the default from within the browser, and it does all the work in the background with no additional prompts. This circumvents Microsoft's anti-hijacking protections that the company built into Windows 10 to ensure malware couldn't hijack default apps. Microsoft tells us this is not supported in Windows.

Mozilla has clearly grown tired of the more complicated way of setting up a default browser, a process that Microsoft is [making even harder in Windows 11](#). "People should have the ability to simply and easily set defaults, but they don't," says a Mozilla spokesperson in a statement to *The Verge*. "All operating systems should offer official developer support for default status so people can easily set their apps as default. Since that hasn't happened on Windows 10 and 11, Firefox relies on other aspects of the Windows environment to give people an experience similar to what Windows provides to Edge when users choose Firefox to be their default browser."

Mozilla has been trying to convince Microsoft to improve its default browser settings in Windows since its [open letter to Microsoft in 2015](#). Nothing has changed, and Windows 11 is now making it even harder to switch default browsers. That appears to be the final straw, as Mozilla began implementing its changes in Firefox shortly after the Windows 11 unveiling in June.

So far, Google, Vivaldi, Opera, and other Chromium-based browsers haven't followed Mozilla's lead, and it's not clear exactly how Microsoft will respond. Microsoft has some genuine security-related reasons to protect against malware with anti-hijacking, but by allowing Edge to easily switch defaults it undermines rival browser vendors that simply want a level playing field. [Windows 11 makes that playing field even more complicated](#), and competitors aren't happy.

*** AMERICAN VICTORY SHIP "UNDEAD" SET FOR OCTOBER***

From your editor

"Tuesday morning, the historic WWII American Victory Ship will shift from its home berth behind the Florida Aquarium to Sparkman Wharf, where it will operate daily through October. The museum ship that formerly served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam welcomes visitors for daily tours of the entire ship including cargo holds, engine room spaces, the wheelhouse, and nine total decks to explore.

At night, the ship transforms into UNDead in the Water, Tampa's premier nautical haunted attraction. The attraction operates October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 and 31. This exciting new location allows UNDead in the Water to compliment the Haunted Wharf, which is in its third season at [Sparkman Wharf](#) and operating six nights in October."

- twelve nights in October every Friday and Saturday night plus Halloween night
 - Tickets starting at just \$20, with discounts for military and first responders
- New location, new route, a whole new level of frights and scares!

Go to <http://www.americanvictory.org/> for all the info. If you happen to see an undead that looks like your editor and president don't worry, even the undead can use a radio.

CHINA DECLARES CRYPTO-CURRENCY ILLEGAL

BBC NEWS, TECH

China's central bank has announced that all transactions of crypto-currencies are illegal, effectively banning digital tokens such as Bitcoin. "Virtual currency-related business activities are illegal financial activities," the People's Bank of China said, warning it "seriously endangers the safety of people's assets".

China is one of the world's largest crypto-currency markets. Fluctuations there often impact the global price of crypto-currencies. The price of Bitcoin fell by more than \$2,000 (£1,460) in the wake of the Chinese announcement.

It is the latest in China's national crackdown on what it sees as a volatile, speculative investment at best - and a way to launder money at worst. Trading crypto-currency has officially been banned in China since 2019, but has continued online through foreign exchanges. However, there has been a significant crackdown this year. In May, Chinese state intuitions warned buyers they would have no protection for continuing to trade Bitcoin and other currencies online, as government officials vowed

to increase pressure on the industry. In June, it told banks and payment platforms to stop facilitating transactions and issued bans on "mining" the currencies - the trade of using powerful computers to make new coins.

But Friday's announcement is the clearest indication yet that China wants to shut down crypto-currency trading in all its forms. The statement makes clear that those who are involved in "illegal financial activities" are committing a crime and will be prosecuted. And foreign websites providing such services to Chinese citizens online is also an illegal activity, it said.

The technology at the core of many crypto-currencies, including Bitcoin, relies on many distributed computers verifying and checking transactions on a giant shared ledger known as the blockchain. As a reward, new "coins" are randomly awarded to those who take part in this work - known as crypto "mining". China, with its relatively low electricity costs and cheaper computer hardware, has long been one of the world's main centres for mining. The activity is so popular there that gamers have sometimes blamed the industry for a global shortage of powerful graphics cards, which miners use for processing crypto-currencies. The Chinese crackdown has already hit the mining industry. In September 2019, China accounted for 75% of the world's Bitcoin energy use. By April 2021, that had fallen to 46%.



CLUB MEETING

We will again have a face to face club meeting on October. We will try to keep up on the 2M and also video concurrent on a video service. The meeting will be held at the Lurie Civic Building which is the new Greater Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce. It is located on the St Petersburg College campus in Seminole. Turn west at the light at 113th St N and about 92nd Ave N.



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-
0000-2359 HF Winlink https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html	Winlink Wednesday Net	

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 St Pete ARC daily net from St Petersburg

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net NI4CE system

SATURDAY

0730 3.940 (7.281 Alt.)+/- QRM WCF Section HF Net from WCF

1830 147.060 no tone St Pete ARC daily net from St Petersburg

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net NI4CE system

SUNDAY

0800 3.933 Florida Traders Net non-affiliated

1830 147.060 no tone St Pete ARC daily net from St Petersburg

1930 NI4CE system WCF Section Net NI4CE system

2000 147.550 simplex 550 Simplex Net Pinellas County

2030 NI4CE system EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net NI4CE system

2100 144.210 USB Clearwater ARS vertical orientation

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 can ask club members for the persons contact information. 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,

HAMFESTS

- October 16 New Port Richey, Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road, talkin 146.67 +146.2, nothing on website, contact Barry Keaveny , N2NVP, 727-277-5794, **Email:** keavbv@msn.com
- October 23 **CANCELLED** Tamiami Fox Hunt, T. Mabry Carlton Reserve, information at <https://tamiamiarc.org/annual-fox-hunt/>
- November 13 **Pinellas Part, SPARKFest**, Freedom lake Park, 9990 46th St. N., All FREE, 8:00 AM until Noon, **talkin** 147.06 (+) none, VE Testing, for info see <https://www.sparc-club.org/sparcfest/> or Lisa, KC1YLat Vice-President@sparc-club.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 or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org> or you can just ask me, **Jim or Dee at a meeting ;-)**

2022

February 11-13 **Orlando Hamcation and NATIONAL Convention**, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at door. Talk-in 146.760 - PL 103.5 OR Fusion. Also D-Star on 146.820 -, all the information at www.hamcation.com or call 407-841-0874 There is also a AM low power Information Station on AM 610.

May 28 **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 146.850 – 146.2. All FREE! For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .**



Mid January	Adventure Run, Honeymoon Island
Last full weekend January https://www.winterfieldday.com/	Winter Field Day,
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/	West Central Florida Tech Conference
March http://www.citrustour.org/register.php	MS 150 Citrus Tour bike ride
March/April	MS Walks
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April http://www.svhfs.org	Southeastern VHF Society Conference,
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid May https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events	March For Babies (was March of Dimes)
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/	
Third weekend in 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 Yaesu Fusion, a C4FM 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