

## News from



# The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

December 2021

## Hello Worms

The Tampa Bay Hamfest is next week and I hope to see most if not all there.

Our Web Master Mike K4ZPE has a new way to pay your dues. The web site now has a menu item at the top of the page that takes you to the footer which has the main site menu. In the first column of the footer is the Pay Dues link. The page gives members the option of mailing the payment to the treasurer or entering their call sign and paying through Paypal. Thanks you Mike and Jim for working that out.

We will again hold a face to face meeting for December. I again thank Alan again for all his fine work broadcasting ZOOM from the park. We will again try to broadcast the meeting on the repeater and video. We will meet at the regular meeting time of 1100 on Saturday morning. We 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 113<sup>th</sup> St N and about 92<sup>nd</sup> 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. Also bring your lunch and coffee if you want it. There will be water and cold drinks available.

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.

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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

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

## **\*A WIKIPEDIA FOR HAM RADIO? \***

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I and co-author David Sawicki, WA3DS, have just published the *Ham Radio Reference*. The book took quite a while to write because there's quite a bit of information in it. Not only does it contain an extensive glossary of amateur radio terms, there are chapters on:

- CW abbreviations and Q signals.
- Amateur radio bands and frequency allocations.
- Call district, U.S. section, ITU region, and CQ region maps.
- Part 97 rules.
- DX Code of Conduct.
- Traffic handling.

The technical reference section includes information on:

- Units of measurement.
- Scientific notation
- Ohm's Law, power, and decibels.

- Frequency, wavelength, and antenna lengths.
- Resistor color code.
- Schematic symbols.
- Wire and coaxial cable data.
- Data communications interfaces.

The book is available in both [PDF](https://www.kb6nu.com/product/ham-radio-reference/) (https://www.kb6nu.com/product/ham-radio-reference/) and [Kindle](https://www.amazon.com/Ham-Radio-Reference-David-Sawicki-ebook/dp/B09MC7WFWV/) (https://www.amazon.com/Ham-Radio-Reference-David-Sawicki-ebook/dp/B09MC7WFWV/) versions.

Publishing this book got me thinking about another idea, though. After I sent copies to my colleagues at [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](https://www.wampr.org) (https://www.wampr.org), Rosy, KJ7RYV, our executive director, emailed me:

“Dan, this is great! Thank you.

I wonder...what if we made a page on our website that was just a set of links to references like this. It could be helpful, especially for beginners. What do you think?”

At ARDC, we had just created a list of other amateur radio resources for internal use, and I had a similar thought about putting that list online. The list reminded me of the AC6V website (<http://ac6v.com/>), which included all kinds of good stuff for radio amateurs. Unfortunately, as is noted on the website, “[AC6V.com](http://ac6v.com/) is an archive of Rod/AC6V’s webpages, and is no longer being updated.”

Rod, AC6V, passed in 2008 and many of the links on AC6V.Com are now dead, and much of the information is outdated. And, there are a lot of new resources—like our new book—that are missing. Since there aren’t any other encyclopedic resources for ham radio—at least none that I know of—I am proposing that we form a group to develop a “Wikipedia for ham radio.” It would be a lot of work, but if we could recruit a community of editors, then it might be doable. In addition, a group effort would be a lot more dynamic and sustainable than a one-person effort.

So, I’m throwing this out there. Do you think it’s worth creating an up-to-date AC6V.Com? Should it be a wiki or perhaps some other kind of website? Would you be willing to help? If so, send me an email ([cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com)). If there’s enough support for this idea, perhaps we could get the ball rolling after the first of the year.

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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 (<https://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/>), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (<https://icqpodcast.com>). When he's not thinking up crazy ideas like a Wikipedia for ham radio, he operates CW on the HF bands and plays around with software-defined radio.

## \* AM OPERATION \*

### ARRL Clean Signal Initiative on the horizon

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In recent message to his Northwest Division membership, Mike Ritz, W7VO, described a new program that he's gotten the ARRL to take on—the Clean Signal Initiative. He writes:

“After a few months gathering support from the amateur community for the project, the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative (CSI) is finally getting off the ground. The Board's Programs and Services Committee approved the concept several months ago, and since then I have been canvassing some of the best known RF engineers in amateur radio to get their support and input. As a result, the team will be conducting our first Zoom call next week to lay out the next steps for the project. All I can say at this time is that there are some amateur radio “heavy hitters” behind this, and I believe will be a game changer for the ARRL.

For those that may be unaware of this project, here is a synopsis (or at least my vision):

1. The CSI gets the ARRL formally in the “technical standards” business. (Other technical organizations already do it: IEEE, UL, ASTM, and SAE, and others.) The ARRL currently tests new products to informal standards, with no real hard benchmarks for manufacturers to meet, other than the minimal standards outlined in FCC Part 97.307.
2. Creates and incorporates documented “best practice” standards and testing methodologies to ensure commercial amateur radio transmitters and amplifiers meet not only minimum FCC requirements for signal cleanliness, but push the envelope.
3. These new standards can be “home grown”, or passed through the IEEE, but I think it's important they be also branded as “ARRL Technical Standards.”
4. Test new commercial transceivers and amplifiers against these standards.

5. Certify the transmitters and amplifiers that pass the standards: “CSI certified by the ARRL.”
6. Work with manufacturers to ensure compliance of those that don’t. (Market pressure will drive this.)
7. Market the program to the amateurs through QST.
8. Work with manufacturers and social media experts to create training materials to teach hams how to set up their equipment to ensure the cleanest transmitted signals. (This education part is key!)”

Rob Sherwood, NC0B, of Sherwood Engineering, who is most well-known for his [ranking of receiver performance](http://www.sherweng.com/table.html) (<http://www.sherweng.com/table.html>), is part of this effort. You can see a video of a talk that he gave recently to the Sutton & Cheam Radio Society by going to <https://youtu.be/IioApKRecrI>. Also on the committee is Ward Silver, N0AX.

Based on my knowledge of how IEEE standards committees work, I stressed that the initiative should make every effort to get as many stakeholders—including manufacturers and users—involved as possible. Involving so many people may be cumbersome at times, but standards require consensus for them to be effective, and the only way to do that is to get everyone involved. I’d suggest that if you feel that you have something to contribute that you contact Mike directly. His email address is [w7vo@arrl.org](mailto:w7vo@arrl.org).

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### \* AM RECEPTION\*

Ralph WD0EJA

Last article was on Amplitude Modulation transmission. What is needed to receive this type of signal?

It is very basic. The Audio is carried through the air on the Radio Frequency you are operating at. We were using 7.200 MHz. Tuning to this frequency with your receiver, the radio is filtering out the carrier and leaving the audio for you to hear.

Some of us old melons may remember the AM radios that required no power. As long as you had a strong AM signal you could hear it.

This little device consisted of a tuned circuit, attached to a wire for an antenna, a small germanium diode, a capacitor and some ear phones.

The diode changed the RF current (7.200) to a direct current (DC). The capacitor filtered that current so the RF was a steady DC signal. Like the RF signal you can not hear it, but it leaves the audio signal still on the line. Put a set of ear phones to this circuit and you are in business.

Your big fancy radio is doing similar on AM. It has a few added features, like a variety of amplifiers and mixers to make tuning very selective. The audio can be played through a speaker rather than head phones.

One advantage to Amplitude Modulation is the clarity it offers. One of the reasons AM Broadcast is still popular. It is still used on the VHF aircraft frequencies. Why use it there?

Using AM takes less space than the usual Frequency Modulated (FM) signals. More useable frequency is available. On the other hand on the HF spectrum, AM uses more of the spectrum than Single Side band.

Next article will give some basics on the Single Side Band mode.

FYI: The HF bands are opening nicely. It is a good time to get set up for 20 to 10 meters.

73,



### \*CLUB MEETING\*

We will again have a face to face club meeting on December. 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 113<sup>th</sup> St N and about 92<sup>nd</sup> 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	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 50.200 USB	6M net	Brandon ARS
1900 28.365 USB	10M 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 ARC net	from Tampa
2000 28.365 USB	simplex	Brandon ARS
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system
2100 28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando
1900 146.490 simplex	3 <sup>RD</sup> Tuesday monthly, Hillsborough Co ARES simplex Net	

### WEDNESDAY

1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 147.165 + 136.5	Humpday Net	from Bandon
1930 52.020 simplex	Suncoast 6'ers	from St Petersburg
1930 NI4CE system	WCF Section Digital Info Ne	NI4CE system
2000 147.105 146.2	Greater Tampa CERT net	from Tampa
2000 146.97- 146.2	Clearwater ARS	from Clearwater
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system
2100 NI4CE system	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-affiliated
0000-2359 HF Winlink	Winlink Wednesday Net	
	<a href="https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html">https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html</a>	

### THURSDAY

1800 146.52 simplex	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	North Tampa
1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 444.750 +146.2	Fusion net	from Tampa
1915 224.660- no tone	St Pete ARC	from St Petersburg
1930 146.6385 -127.3	Lakeland ARC	from Lakeland
1930 444.225 + 146.2	Hillsborough ARES/RACES	from Tampa
1930 146.850- 146.2	Wormhole	from St Petersburg
2000 53.150 -1MHz 146.2	Wormhole	from St Petersburg
2030 NI4CE system	EAGLE Net, NTS traffic net	NI4CE system

### FRIDAY



1830 147.060 no tone	St Pete ARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900 3.830 LSB	Brandon 80M Net	from Brandon
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

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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 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,

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**\*HAMFESTS\***

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](mailto: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](mailto:chairman@fgcarc.org) or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org> or you can just ask me, Jim or Dee at a meeting ;-)

## 2022

- January 8** **TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance \$15, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- January 15 New Port Richey, Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road, talkin 146.67 +146.2, see the website for info <http://gulfcoastarc.com/hamfest/> or contact contact Barry Keaveny , N2NVP, 727-277-5794, **Email:** [keavbv@msn.com](mailto:keavbv@msn.com)
- 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](http://www.hamcation.com) or call 407-841-0874 There is also a AM low power Information Station on AM 610.
- February 25** Polk County EOC, **8th Annual TECHCON Convention**, Polk County Emergency Operations Center, 26571 Airport Rd, , for more info <http://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>
- April 9** **TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- May 10-12 Dayton Hamvention 2022, Xenia Fairground and Expo Center, vendor reservations and advance tickets now available. Tickets \$26 advance, \$31 at the door. <https://hamvention.org/>
- May 28** **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. All FREE! For a map and directions see**  
<http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .

**August 20**

**TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22<sup>nd</sup> St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>

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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://arrlwcfc.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/">http://arrlwcfc.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>
Third weekend in 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 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