



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

February 2023

Hello Worms

Orlando Hamcation is the weekend after next. I will be outin tailgate again. IF I get there first I will be in the same location, against the back fence right next to the paved tailgate road. If not then I will probably be somewhere against the fence. Stop by and say HI ... and buy something ;-)

If you have not already heard Lee of Technical Specialists has moved to Spring Hill. He is up and operating in his garage with a new building planned for next year. His website is up to date with all the info you need to go there or contact him.

In February we will again meet face to face for those who wish to do so. Last month everyone was inside when I got there. We will discuss if we want to meet inside all the time so there is no question for those who arrive early.

If Alan is in attendance or we meet inside, we will broadcast the meeting on the repeater and Zoom video. We will meet at the regular meeting time of 1100 on Saturday morning at the Lurie Civic Building 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 are a few parking spots in front 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. Double parking is fine since we will be able to find the owner to move his vehicle if necessary. Below is the Zoom information, same as last month. The ZOOM meeting is limited to 40 minutes so I will start it late so as to cover the whole meeting.

Topic: Bill Williams' Zoom Meeting
Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

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

BRING YOUR CHAIR, your coffee and lunch! If we are outside there are a few picnic benches if you do not have a folding chair but they are not comfortable for most of us. 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. We will meet inside if the weather is or looks like it will be bad.

We could use a few more net controls. If you are interested in being a net control station for once or twice a month let me or Dee or George know. You can talk to them on the weekly net.

We also need a Vice President. And while I am asking if anyone would like to be the webmaster I am sure Mike would love to give it away ... he does not like WordPress.

NEXT CHROME UPDATE LAST TO SUPPORT OLD WINDOWS

NDTV Edited by Bhavya Sukheja

Google has announced that it will end Chrome support for Windows 7 and Windows 8/8.1 from next month.

As per a Google support page, Chrome 109 will be the last version that will support these two old Microsoft Windows Versions. The tech giant stated that its customers will need to get a new system with Windows 10 or 11 to continue using its in-house web browser. It announced that the services will be discontinued following the release of Google Chrome v110, tentatively scheduled for February 7, 2023.

"Chrome 109 is the last version of Chrome that will support Windows 7 and Windows 8/8.1. Chrome 110 (tentatively scheduled for release on February 7th, 2023) is the first version of Chrome that requires Windows 10 or later. You'll need to ensure your device is running Windows 10 or later to continue receiving future Chrome releases," Google said on its support page.

Further, the tech giant stated that older versions of Chrome will continue to work on PCs with Windows 7 and 8.1, but the browser won't receive any updates. "If you are currently on Windows 7 or Windows 8.1, we encourage you to move to a supported Windows version before that date to ensure you continue to receive the latest security updates and Chrome features," Google wrote.

Meanwhile, Microsoft will end support for Windows 7 ESU (Extended Security Update) and Windows 8.1 on January 10, 2023. As per Microsoft's website, computers running Windows 8.1 will continue to function, but the company will not offer any technical support for it. The company said that Windows 8.1 users will be eligible to upgrade to a newer OS, but they will not receive any ESUs.

While you could continue to use a PC running Windows 8.1, without continued software and security updates, your PC will be at greater risk for viruses and malware. We recommend upgrading to a version of Windows that is still supported. A new device that can run Windows 11 makes for an easy transition and a great experience," Microsoft explained.

*** BEACHES ON THE AIR***

Bill

The popularity of Parks On The Air has morphed into Beaches On The Air. It is also a worldwide phenomenon with a website here: <https://www.beachesontheair.com/> .

Currently the leading place in the world for Beaches On The Air is FLORIDA. There are over 500 beaches registered on the website. You have to sign in to the website to see the list so I have not looked but maybe I will do a Beach On The Air someday. If you work a park that has a lighthouse and beach you could do a triple!

CAR HACKERS COULD HIJACK MILLIONS OF VEHICLES

CYBERSCOOP by Christian Vasquez

The vulnerabilities could let attackers remotely track, stop or control a car — even an entire fleet of emergency vehicles. Another could give hackers access to some 15.5 million automobiles, allowing them to send commands to control braking systems.

In total, a group of ethical car hackers discovered at least 20 vulnerabilities within the application programming interfaces, or APIs, that automakers rely on so technology inside cars can interact. The vulnerabilities affected Ford, Toyota, Mercedes, BMW, Porsche, Ferrari and others.

“We would find a vulnerability on one car company and then we would report it, then we would switch to a different car company and it’d be the exact same thing,” said Sam Curry, a security researcher who detailed the findings in a [blog posted this week](#).

The findings underscore the security risks for consumers and automakers alike as car manufacturers continue to increase the amount of software in vehicles and provide owners with apps to connect with their cars. It also shows that while automakers have done more to focus on cybersecurity, much remains to be done.

“The automotive industry is facing a lot of challenges in this area,” said Ted Miracco, CEO of security firm Approov, which provides mobile cybersecurity services to car companies. “I think that there was a rush to get a lot of applications out with a lot of functionality very quickly and some of the rush to do these things is coming back to haunt a number of the manufacturers.”

One significant issue is that some automakers are relying on third-party API software instead of building the technology in-house, he said. “A lot of it comes down to API’s: everything wants to connect with everything else. So there’s been a proliferation of API interfaces and a single mobile app can have dozens of API calls.”

Software vulnerabilities inside cars has been a long-standing concern. In one of the most high-profile examples of how hackers could potentially exploit a vehicle vulnerability, cybersecurity journalist Andy Greenberg demonstrated in 2015 that hackers could [manipulate a Jeep Cherokee](#) as he was driving.

But while hackers taking over a car while someone is driving it is a made-for-movie moment, vulnerabilities in GPS systems, motions sensors, keyless systems, and operating systems are becoming more of a privacy and security concern, say experts. What’s more, the software flaws could lead to vehicle theft. Some of the vulnerabilities that Curry and the other researchers discovered would allow a hacker change the ownership status of the car.

As Curry and his fellow researchers dug in, they were particularly surprised at how much information and impact they could have with vehicle identification numbers. “VIN numbers are super public, you can walk up to a car to get a VIN number,” Curry said. “But with a lot of these APIs, if you have the VIN number it would just return the full name of the person or the battery level of the vehicle and you can just add it to you account.”

The researchers were able to use a VIN number to not only take complete control of an owners' vehicle account, which included a significant amount of private information, they were also able to remotely lock and unlock, stop engines, locate vehicles for Kia, Honda, Infiniti, Nissan and Acura.

They also were able to achieve "full super administrative access to manage all user accounts and vehicles" for any vehicle connected to digital license plate company Reviver. The vulnerability let the researchers track the physical location of a vehicle through GPS and mark it stolen on the license plate.

In a statement, Reviver said they did not find any evidence that the vulnerability was exploited and "took further measures to prevent this from occurring in the future."

Additionally, financial information could be found, as well. "Each one of these companies has a portal for credit loans," Curry said. "So there's a ton of info like your name, your address, your billing information."

Curry said that the vast majority of the companies were happy to discuss the vulnerability and overall had positive interactions, but noted that most did not have any form of bug bounty program for the researchers to report their findings. That said, all the flaws that Curry and team reported have been patched.

CW VOX VOICE KEYER

Bill from QRZ

Can't use a key, arthritis or physically unable or maybe mobile and would be interested in doing CW by talking "dit" and "dah" here is a video that shows you how. KB7TBT builds a pretty simple box to do it. This link is on QRZ, the guy has a Youtube page and website but I could not find this video there so use this link : <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/ham-radio-the-cwvox-voice-operated-keyer-for-verbal-morse-code.848617/>

DON'T LET YOUR ROBOT VACUUM SEE YOU NAKED

reviewgeek by Andrew Heinzman

The internet presents a unique opportunity for creeps, hackers, and corporations who want to invade your privacy. By now, you're probably aware of all the hand-wringing that surrounds this topic. But there's one privacy threat that's managed to slip under everybody's nose—the cameras in our robot vacuums.

We believe that [indoor security cameras](#) are a threat to user privacy. If a hacker manages to access an indoor security camera feed, they can spy on your family and hear your conversations. They might even catch you with your pants down, depending on where you place the camera in your home.

So, what happens when you place an indoor security camera on wheels? Well, you get a modern robot vacuum. Advanced room-mapping and obstacle avoidance features require some level of “computer vision,” which is usually achieved through a combination of IR sensors, LIDAR, and good-old-fashioned digital cameras.

Robotic vacuums with built-in cameras take pictures of your home. And some robot vacuums, like the [Ecovacs Deebot Ozmo T8 AIVI](#), can be controlled with a live video feed from your phone. This data is encrypted, but it's valuable to hackers and creeps, who are known to skirt security measures in smart devices.

Obviously, the main concern here is that robot vacuums can travel to any part of your home. If a hacker gets a closeup view of your sneakers, it's not a big deal. But what happens when a robot vacuum follows you into the bathroom? And if you have children, could their privacy be compromised by a robot vacuum?

If we've learned anything in the last decade, it's that tech companies have very little respect for the privacy of their customers. And this is especially true for smart home companies, which are regularly caught up in scandals due to their neglectful security practices.

You don't need to look hard to find examples of this tomfoolery. Late last year, eufy was caught lying about the “local-only” nature of its security cameras. It also denied the fact that, with a bit of know-how, hackers could [remotely access eufy camera feeds](#) from their desktop computer.

Oh, and remember what happened to Wyze? Security researchers at BitDefender warned Wyze about a critical camera vulnerability in 2019. Three years later, BitDefender had to [take the vulnerability public](#), as Wyze had simply decided to ignore the problem.

Admittedly, hackers haven't shown much interest in robot vacuums. But we expect this to change as camera-equipped vacuums become more affordable. And, thanks to iRobot, we have a general idea of what to expect from such a hack.

Back in 2019, iRobot reached out to find beta testers for its preproduction Roomba J-series vacuums. These robotic vacuums included a camera for room mapping, object identification, and obstacle avoidance. Unfortunately, during the beta testing period, images shot by these vacuums were sent outside of the United States and annotated by contract workers. About 15 images shot by these robot vacuums leaked to Facebook, including photos of a woman on the toilet. The [MIT Technology Review](#) published a detailed report on this scandal, and I promise that it will strike fear into your heart. (To reiterate, this scandal is related to a beta testing program. Testers signed contracts and were paid to participate in this program. Your Roomba isn't sending photos overseas.)

Your robot vacuum might threaten your privacy. But the good news is that you have a decent amount of control over the situation. By restricting your robot vacuum's movements and changing your habits, you can (hopefully) prevent hackers from seeing anything but the floor and furniture in your home. If you own a camera-equipped robot vacuum, schedule it to clean at times when you aren't home. Program no-go zones to keep it out of bedrooms and bathrooms, and don't strip down in front of the dang thing. Your vacuum may give you the option to disable the camera. This is not a guaranteed solution to the problem, as the camera could be re-enabled by hackers.

Now, I don't think that this is an ideal way to exist. You're an adult, and you should have the freedom to cook in your underwear, sit on the toilet with the door open, or perform any other act of hedonism in your home without the fear that some pencil-necked hacker is watching you. Abstinence is the only way to avoid getting screwed. If you don't want a camera roaming around your home, buy a robot vacuum that doesn't have a built-in camera!

If you want peace of mind and privacy, keep internet-connected cameras out of your home. Manufacturers will swear that their products are secured like Fort Knox, but as we've learned, smart home companies rarely prioritize security or respect their customers' privacy.

So, consider buying a robot vacuum that doesn't have a built-in camera. There are plenty of options to choose from, including the base model Roborock S7, the ILIFE V3s Pro, and the iRobot Roomba i3+ EVO.

Note that robot vacuums with cameras offer increased room mapping and obstacle avoidance features. A robot vacuum without a camera won't feel very "smart," especially if it lacks LIDAR sensors. For that reason, I suggest checking out the Roborock S7 before looking into any other cameraless robot vacuums.



CLUB MEETING

We will again have a face to face club meeting in February. 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

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 RD 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 Brandon
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	
	https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html	

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 Pinellas Co
2000 53.150 -1MHz 146.2	Wormhole	from Pinellas Co
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

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. If you want to see anything here and you are coming to the meeting let the seller know, maybe he can bring it.

FOR SALE,

See Bill AG4QX for the following: most from SK estate, make me an offer.

- *Yaesu-Musen FRG-7 Receiver \$100 looks rough
- *Heathkit HW-101 Transceiver \$150 was his primary radio, looks rough
- *Heathkit HD-1215 Phone patch \$15 looks ok
- *Drake WV-5 wattmeter \$100 looks ok
- *Heath Cantenna dummy load, 1 gal oil can, \$50

This stuff is from Ray KD4HUW

- *Yaesu ft-1000MP (100 watt) \$775.00
- * Icom AH-4 antenna tuner \$175.00
- *MFJ-616 Speech Intelligibility Enhancer \$90.00

Dean W8IM wants to make room in his closet.

352-255-1431 or w8im @arrl.net or the Wormhole and SPA*RC nets

*Meade 2080AT -LNT refracting telescope, little used original owner, original box, tripod, manual, some extra lenses, complete. \$100.00.

Captain Jack W4GRJ has a 10kw Generator.

This is a brute of a generator weighs 200 lbs on wheels, electric start, runs about 9.5 hours on 6 gals gas, includes large power cable and outdoor cover included
Cost \$1200 w/tax

https://www.ojcommerce.com/green-power-gasoline-powered-electric-start-portable-generator-420cc-15hp-lct-engine-gpg10000ew?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=PMax_Smart_m6_m7&utm_content=1305789&gclid=Cj0KCQjw166aBhDEARIsAMEyZh6tGAauSJT

ODth0klm0zflifFfwxtSBKFYmKF1VQ4tzZhs9W8067MaAojREALw_wcB

2 yrs old in excellent condition very well maintained and stored properly

\$700 worm special

HAMFESTS

2023

- February 10-12** **Orlando Hamcation**, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Talk-in 146.760 - PL 103.5 analog or Fusion. Also D-Star is on 146.820 -, all the information at www.hamcation.com or call 407-841-0874. There is also an AM low power Information Station on AM 610.
- February 24** **Friday only**, Hillsborough County PSOC, **9th Annual TECHCON Convention**, Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex, 9450 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa 33619, for more information: <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>
- April 15** **TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- August 19** **TARCFest** TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>
- May 19-21** **Xenia, Ohio, Dayton Hamfest**, tickets \$30 at the door, tailgate \$30, 10x10 booth \$705
- December 8 & 9** **Plant City, the 2023 Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Section Convention**, Friday and Saturday, **at the Strawberry Festival grounds**, admission \$10, 16x40ft tailgate space \$10, electric \$10, 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/
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
Late May	Dayton Hamfest
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/
September	Run for All Children's
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, the Vice President position is open, Treasurer is Jim KD4MZL, Paul KA4IOX is the Secretary, Dee N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Mike KV0OOM is our 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-2X. 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 arrrl DOT net](mailto:ag4qx@arrrl.net)