



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

February 2025

Hello Worms

Well I lost track of the first Saturday so this newsletter is late and not as full as I would like. Unfortunately, I will not make this meeting but hope for next month. In my absence the club is in good hands.

Bring your drink of choice and lunch if you want. We will not be cooking but we have access to the Chamber of Commerce kitchen which has a microwave and a toaster oven so you can heat up/cook what you bring.

***DID YOU KNOW ***

Did you know the official bird of Redondo Beach, California, is the Goodyear Blimp? In 1983, the coastal city made the Goodyear Blimp their official city [bird](#) in anticipation of the 1984 summer Olympics. They even presented a plaque to a team from Goodyear Airship Operations to help celebrate the decision!

TRAVEL SITE TYPO REVEALS SECURITY LOOPHOLE

INFOPACKETS by John Lister

Travel site Booking.com says one customer getting access to another customer's bookings was not a security breach. The problem appears to be a system that was set up without considering the possibility of human error.

Website Arstechnica.com reported the case of a customer identified only as "Alfie," who received a confirmation email for a trip he knew nothing about. He was surprised to login to his account and find the details of the booking. (Source: arstechnica.com)

After Alfie made multiple enquiries to Booking.com's support staff, he received no useful response. He then reported the situation to Arstechnica, which also took "weeks" to get a proper response.

They explained the problem was simple: another customer had mistakenly typed Alfie's email address while making an online reservation. It appears the two customers had similar email addresses that meant a simple typo (and the fact they both had accounts with the site) was enough to cause the error. (Source: techradar.com)

The way the site works meant the booking was automatically added to Alfie's account. To make things worse, Booking.com said it was unable to remove the trip from his account, citing a violation of the privacy of the actual user - something that doesn't really make much sense. Instead the only option was for Alfie to manually delete the trip himself which, thankfully for the real customer, he did only after the travel dates had passed.

Pressed on the problem, Booking.com reportedly said there was nothing to fix as the system was working as designed and there was no security breach. That may be the case, but there certainly appear to be data protection issues. Curious about the implications, Alfie asked Booking.com to "confirm" details about the booking and was given identifying personal information about the real customer.

Alfie also noted that although there's no obvious way for somebody acting maliciously to start this process, it's a matter of luck whether the unintended "recipient" of the booking was good-natured. He pointed out that a less charitable person might have cancelled the trip.

*** GM ORDERED TO STOP SELLING TRACEABLE DATA ***

How-To-Geek by Arol Wright

Many modern cars have the ability to track usage data, and General Motors was recently caught selling that data to other companies. Now the US has ordered GM to stop that.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) of the US has barred General Motors (GM) from selling sensitive driver data to consumer reporting agencies for the next five years. The decision comes after a lengthy investigation sparked by a *New York Times* report revealing that the automaker was [secretly collecting and selling detailed information](#) about drivers' behavior, including location data and instances of speeding, hard braking, and late-night driving, to data

brokers. This data was subsequently used to generate risk profiles for insurance companies, leading to increased insurance premiums for some drivers.

The FTC's research found that GM collected this data from millions of vehicles equipped with OnStar Connected Services and the Smart Driver feature "without adequately notifying consumers and obtaining their affirmative consent." The FTC also condemned GM's lack of transparency, stating that the automaker "failed to clearly disclose to consumers the types of information it collected," including that this sensitive data would be sold to consumer reporting agencies. These agencies then used the data to compile reports that impacted insurance rates and coverage decisions.

It should be noted that the company can still share anonymized driving data with third parties, such as road safety researchers, but at least they won't give data brokers driving data that can be tied back to you. And even if you don't want this anonymized data to be shared either, GM is also required to make it easier for drivers to disable location tracking and access and delete the data collected about their driving. So your car will probably still try to track you, but it will be easier to keep it in check. This will presumably come as an update to your car's infotainment system, although we're not exactly sure when that will roll out.

Source: [The New York Times](#)

***MICROSOFT OFFICE WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED ON WINDOWS 10 ***

FROM MICROSOFT COMMUNITY

Microsoft will stop supporting Office apps on Windows 10 beginning October 14, 2025, coinciding with the operating system's upcoming end of support.

"Microsoft 365 apps will no longer be supported after October 14, 2025, on Windows 10 devices," the company announced today. The apps will continue working after the cutoff date, but there are no guarantees. End of support means just that—Microsoft will stop updating Microsoft 365 apps for Windows 10 systems, and there could be some repercussions.

[LibreOffice](#) and other alternatives will likely support Windows 10 for a while longer, or you can keep using the web app versions in a supported web browser. The recent standalone [Microsoft Office 2024 package](#) is available for Windows 10 and will be supported for at least a few years (Microsoft [doesn't have an exact end-of-life date](#) right now).

Indeed, according to [Microsoft's support page](#), there might be "performance and reliability issues over time" with these apps. "To use Microsoft 365 applications on your device, you will need to upgrade to Windows 11," the company noted. If you choose to do that, all Microsoft

365 features and security updates will continue working as usual, and your Office apps will continue receiving updates with new features, fixes, and security patches.

Microsoft 365 is already unsupported on Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 8.1. Microsoft ended support for Windows 8 on January 12, 2016, and Windows 8.1 on January 10, 2023.

ALSO: The Microsoft 365 Personal and Family plans are going up in price, in part because they now include Copilot AI features. Existing subscribers can opt out if they are on recurring billing. That makes the individual Microsoft 365 Personal plan \$100/year or \$10/month, up from \$70/yr or \$7/mo. The Microsoft 365 Family plan is now \$130/yr or \$13/mo, up from \$100/yr or \$9/mo. However, existing subscribers with recurring billing enabled can switch to the new [Personal Classic or Family Classic plans](#). The cheaper [Microsoft 365 Basic plan](#) with 100GB storage and no desktop Office apps is also an option for \$2/mo or \$20/yr.



CLUB MEETING and ZOOM

The meeting time is 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 double parking is fine since we will be able to find the owner to move his vehicle if necessary. Alternately if you go another 100 yards past you can park in the college parking lot. We cannot run Zoom and a computer presentation at the same time. Below is the Zoom information, same as last month. The ZOOM meeting is limited to 40 minutes so I will start it early and restart it 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=d1BETHVOQ21vWWZlYQ0FIWWtldz09>
Meeting ID: 273 711 4584
Passcode: worm

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 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 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 440.0 +162.2	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: make me an offer.

*ICOM IC-W32A , 2m and 440 HT, AA battery pack	\$25
*Heathkit HD-1215 Phone patch looks ok	\$10
*Drake WV-5 wattmeter looks ok	\$75
*Cushcraft A4S, 10/15/20 4 element beam	\$250
*Cushcraft AV-12AVQ, 10/15/20 vertical	\$125
*Cushcraft A50-#S, 6m beam	\$125
*Cushcraft A-#WS, 17/12 WARC beam	\$250
*15000 V neon sign transformer currently used for Jacobs ladder	\$30

Ed Pearson at has the following for sale. Contact him at Arctic.Eddie@Verizon.net

Xiegu G90 HF transceiver, 20W, auto-tuner, desktop stand, digital interface, not used much and only for WSPR at 5W. New around \$400, asking \$200.

Time Wave DSP-599zx digital audio filter. A separate small box with audio in and out RCA sockets on back. Programmable for filter specs. Also not used much and just for HF. New around \$100, asking \$20.

Welz Power Meter SP-825, HF to 1300MHz, dual power heads on remote cables, selectable output readings. New about \$150, asking \$40.



HAMFESTS

2025

- February 7-9** **Orlando Hamcation**, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 after Dec 21 and at the 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 15** **Hernando County Amateur Radio Association Hamfest, Sand Hill Scout Reservation, 11210 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, ticket \$6, tailgate \$10, inside table \$10, gate open at 8:00, for info, tailgate or inside contact WB0YSX at hcara@tampabay.rr.com, Website <http://www.hcara.org>**
- February 15** **Highlands County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**, First Baptist Church of Lake Josephine, 111 Lake Josephine Drive, Sebring, Talkin 147.045 + / 100 Hz, contact Rick Gallagher , KF4Y, 1135 Winter Green Street Lake Placid, FL 33852, (305) 321-6036, : RBG695@hotmail.com
- February 22** **11th Annual TECHCON**, Polk County Emergency Operations Center 1890 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven, Talkin 444.950, 444.625, 443.900, and 146.985 MHz (WC4PEM/R) – 127 Hz, contact Darrell Davis , KT4WX,

6350 Mills Road Fort Meade, FL 33841-9584 or 863-245-9923 or
kt4wx@arrl.net, <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

March 29

MARCIFEST 2025, Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton, 2113 Morgan Johnson Rd., Bradenton, talkin 147.195 (+) PL 103.5, contact Maria La Fond , KQ4JJV, at POB 178 Parrish, FL 34219 or 406-465-3265 or
Email: maria.lafond@gmail.com

April 12

TARCFest TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, 8AM-1PM, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables must be reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>

May10

EPARS Hamfest, American Legion, 37745 Church Ave, Dade City, gate \$5, tailgate \$5, inside table \$10, talkin 146.880 (-.600) 146.2, contact Chris Bloxsom , AA4CB, PO Box 2199 St. Leo , FL 33574 or 224-221-5064 or aa4cb@yahoo.com, **Website:** <http://eparsonline.org>

May 16-18

Xenia, Ohio, Dayton Hamfest, tickets \$30 at the door, tailgate \$30, 10x10 booth \$705

May 24

WormFest 2025, 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> .

August 23

TARCFest TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, 8AM-1PM, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables must be reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at <http://hamclub.org/>

November 8

Pinellas Park, SPARCFest, admission FREE, tailgate free, Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th St N, Southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, Talk-in on 147.060+ no tone. VE testing at 0900. Website has not been updated yet.

December 12 & 13

Plant City, the 2025 Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Section Convention, Friday and Saturday, at the Strawberry Festival grounds, admission \$13, 16x40 ft 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 ;-)

2026

January 17

TARCFest TARC Clubhouse, 22nd St at the river, 8AM-1PM, \$5 entry including tailgate, a few inside tables must be reserved in advance, talkin on 147.105 +146.2, license testing after, more info at <http://hamclub.org/> Date not confirmed .

Fourth 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/April	MS Walks
April	MS bike now named Suncoast Challenge http://www.citrustour.org/register.php
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/
Third weekend in August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week https://illw.net/
September	Run for All Children's
Mid October	The Great Shakeout https://www.shakeout.org
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 arrl DOT net](mailto:ag4qx@arrl.net)