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Subject: Wormhole Newsletter Extra
Date: Monday, December 08, 2008 4:20:06 PM

News from THE GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

December 8, 2008 EXTRA

Hello Worms!

This is rather a confusing situation. I sent most of the following Newsletter on Tuesday December 2nd. I usually sent the newsletter the Monday or Tuesday before a meeting. This month I sent it to early to remind everyone that the meeting was one week later this month. At the Tampa Bay Hamfest I talked to seven people on the mailing list, four got it and three did not. I got no rejects from the emailing so I am at a loss as to why some got it and some didn't. My intention was to send a short Newsletter Extra today to remind everyone of the meeting. The only solution I can think of is to resend the original with the new stuff added to the top. If you got the first one then you only have to read the new stuff on the top plus one new FOR SALE item. If you didn't get the Newsletter again let me know ;-)

Remember the meeting is this coming weekend, on **December 13**. Also we meet in **shelter 9** this month assuming good weather. We always have the Seminole Chamber of Commerce if needed. If it is cold then we will appreciate the body heat the small room provides. Please monitor the Wormhole repeater or 146.52 simplex for the latest information.

Hopefully everyone who wanted to go to the Tampa Bay Hamfest made it. I saw many of you there. With my work schedule I see some people rarely and it is always good to see them too.

SUPER BOWL / GASPARILLA SPECIAL EVENT STATION N4T

FGCARC, the sponsor of the Tampa Bay Hamfest is also sponsoring a special event station to celebrate the Super Bowl in Tampa on February 1st. The Gasparilla celebration has been moved to lead into it. Gasparilla has been celebrated in Tampa for more than 100 years. More information about Gasparilla can be found at <http://gasparillapiratefest.com/history.shtml>.

Amateur radio operators in the West Central Section of Florida can participate in this special event celebrating Super Bowl and Gasparilla both being held in Tampa at almost the same time. A calendar of the events can be found at: <http://www.Now4Tampa.com>. The Special Event will run from January 28th thru February 11th. Amateurs need only to sign N4T during a contact. Operate on your favorite band and mode for as long or short as you wish. Tell your contacts that requests for QSL cards should be sent **SASE** to:

FGCARC
PO Box 22402
Tampa FL 33622

For the purposes of QSLing please log all contacts and preferably upload your electronic log in ADIF format to: N4T@FGCARC.ORG. If you cannot send an electronic ADIF log, please mail your paper log to the same PO Box address above.

XEROX CARDS TO THE TROOPS

Xerox is continuing the **Lets Says Thanks** online thank you card service. If you go to this web site, www.LetsSayThanks.com, you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier that is currently serving overseas. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to a member of the armed services. I checked this out on www.snopes.com and this is still a legitimate service. I sent cards the last two years. I always recommend someone check out any item on Snopes, it can avoid embarrassing situations. Actually Snopes has a good explanation of the Xerox service so click on it and read all about it. It's quick and easy to do so spread holiday cheer by thanking one or more of our military!

December 1, 2008

Hello Worms!

I hope everyone had a great holiday. I worked Thanksgiving day and the day after but took vacation before so I still got a few days off. This newsletter normally goes out three or four days before a meeting. This one is early to make sure everyone remembers that the meeting is delayed one week due to the Tampa Bay Hamfest and West Central Florida Convention. We will have our meeting on **December 13** this month. Also remember that we meet in **shelter 9** this month assuming good weather. Please monitor the Wormhole repeater or 146.52 simplex for the latest information. Last month we could have moved to an empty shelter before we started setting up had we considered there might be a screwup by the parks department. We will have to decide what we are doing for January meeting because of the new charging policy to use park shelters. As of right now I think we will try to continue to meet at Lake Seminole to see how it works. There will be at least one open shelter that is free to the first to get there. I suspect that many will not be using the shelters and may not even look for the open one so we may get it. And we can always go back to meeting under the trees if need be. Keep your radio tuned to the Wormhole talkin to get the latest information.

December is our annual meeting where we elect the new club officers for next year. Come ready to campaign for your office of choice, a few bribes here and there and you can probably get elected real easy. Be ready to vote fast and often!

Speaking of elections, The Wormhole congratulates our own Dee Turner, N4GD, on his re-election to the WCF Section Manager position. Let us not mention that he had no one running against him and won by default ;-)

I hope to see most of you at the hamfest next weekend. You have already received a forum email from me so I won't belabor that point here. Come on by the Wormhole table and sit a spell. I will be in and out all day but should not be too hard to find. We still need volunteers to sit at the doors and check tickets.

I lost my Wormhole Newsletter emailing list and had to improvise a new one, yes again! Some advice, if you are in an Outlook email group listing do not hit the Delete key to delete an entry. It deletes the whole list not the person you have highlighted! Use the Remove button at the top. I am so used to using the delete key I just hit it without thinking ... sigh ... and then hit the YES key to delete the whole list without reading it. I made a new mailing list and added anyone in my Address Book that I thought might not get too mad. So if you never got this newsletter before and don't know why you are getting it now, that's why. Anyone wishing to be added or removed from The Glorious Society of the Wormhole mailings please write to me at the address below and they will be done. Or you can grab me at the hamfest and complain bitterly.

***NEW QRZ CALL LOOKUP ***

QRZ has a beta version of their call sign online lookup. The only differences I see so far is that when you click on **Callsign Details (more...)** they have a Google map showing your house location and all hams in your Grid Square. My location was right on but some say theirs is several houses off. Since it is still in beta there might be more changes coming before it replaces the current website. Have a look at <http://www.qrz.com/db/>. To see the other hams in your grid click in the **Show** box on the **Grid Square** line.

If the flag is not on the right place or you need to make other changes they are pretty easy. To make changes log into QRZ, enter your call sign into the search and then click **Callsign Details (more...)**. Click **Edit Record** in the top line. Click the line for whatever you want to edit. To move the map flag click on the **location** line, click and hold the flag and drag it to where you want. Your latitude and longitude will change to the new location. Your grid location will also change if you move the flag very far. There are lots of stuff you can do in the biography area particularly if you know HTML. Just click on the **Advanced** button to get a plethora of choices. There is a **Help!** button but it doesn't give much help so just ignore it ;-)

NEW LICENSE STUDY WEBSITE

Hamilton Carter, KD0FNR, has a new free online exam practice tests for amateur radio license exams. I think he has a good idea and it looks like Hamilton has done a good job with it. The way it is setup it is more of a study session than just a practice test. The entered answer is checked immediately so the studier knows if he/she got it wrong. On the same page with the question and answers are links to online study resources, Wikipedia, NASA, ARRL, etc. so one can go find the reason for the right answer, not just which one is wrong. The list of resources available for each question is constantly growing because users can add their own favorite links to the study materials. Users can also track their test scores over time and see which sub-elements are giving them the most trouble. If one is having trouble with a sub-element he/she may select just that sub-element to be tested on and study. Hamilton also will have practice exams for Canadian licenses, currently only one exam is there. Even though it is a new site it appears to me to be a winner. If you have someone studying for an exam point them here, it might be the help that they need. <http://copaseticflow.blogspot.com/>

***PATRON SAINT OF AMATEUR RADIO ***

During the German occupation of Poland, the priest Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans sent him to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941. After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men. On October 10,

1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is considered the Patron Saint of amateur radio operators. See more information in Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximilian_Kolbe or his entry in QRZ at <http://www.qrz.com/sp3rm>. Some of you can probably identify the radio he is shown with.

CLUB MEETING

The next meeting is 1100 Saturday morning, December 13, at Lake Seminole Park, located at 10015 Park Boulevard. The meeting will be in shelter 9 in Lake Seminole Park, assuming good weather. The park is on the North side of Park Boulevard between Pinellas Park and Seminole. Talk-in on the Wormhole repeater system. We will keep an eye peeled for you. A beautiful place and the weather is predicted to be a beautiful day but with a chance of rain. We will take advantage of the cooking facilities with an after-the-meeting Social and wormdog luncheon. Check into the repeater for any last minute meeting changes caused by weather or other unforeseen conditions. We will fall back to the Seminole Chamber of Commerce located at 8400 113th Street if the need arises. That is seven blocks North of Park Blvd on the West side of 113th. Bring your appetite. For those coming to the meeting who cannot hit the repeater we will be monitoring 146.520 simplex, the national calling frequency.

CLUB NETS

Check in on the club net Thursdays at 1930. 442.625 + with a 146.2 tone or the 2M side at 146.850 – also with a tone of 146.2. We are always looking for volunteers to be the net control operator. Anyone interested, talk to one your club officers.

The 10M net meets on Tuesday Nights at 9:00 PM Local Time (0100 GMT) Frequency: 28.405 Mhz + or – QRM Mode: Upper Side Band

LOCAL NETS

MONDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	NI4CE	WCF Section VHF ARES	your closest NI4CE repeater
1930	443.050 103.5 monthly	Monday before the fourth Thursday	HEART club net
2000	147.165 136.5	Brandon ARS	from Brandon

TUESDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	145.170 & 442.4 both pl 156.7	Pinellas ACS net	from Clearwater
2000	147.105 146.2	TARC net	from Tampa
2000	28.365 USB	simplex	from Brandon
2100	28.405 USB	simplex	Wormhole net, all invited
2100	28.465 USB	10/10 net	from Orlando

WEDNESDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	52.020 simplex	Suncoast 6'ers	
1930	NI4CE system	WCF Section Digital Info Net	NI4CE system
2000	147.105 146.2	Greater Tampa CERT net	from Tampa
2000	147.550	CARS	from Clearwater
2100	NI4CE system	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-affiliated

THURSDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	146.850 & 442.625 both pl 146.8	Wormhole	from St Petersburg
1930	224.660	SPARC net	from St Petersburg

FRIDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	147.360 pl 127.3	METRO Friday Net	from St Petersburg

SATURDAY

0830	3.911 (7.281 backup)	WCF Section HF Net	
1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1930	NI4CE system	WCF YL net	NI4CE system

SUNDAY

1830	147.060 no tone	SPARC daily net	from St Petersburg
2000	147.550 simplex	550 Simplex Net	non-affiliated, net control is generally in southern Pinellas County

2000 144.250 USB
2100 144.210 USB

from the East coast
CARS

horizontal orientation
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 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.

**Aluminum pipe, was used at an antenna mast for 20 years. This mast is too big to fit ROHN towers and most bearings so make sure you can use something this large. 20 feet long, 2 7/8 inch diameter with a wall thickness about 3/16 inch. \$100 Bill AG4QX

**I have the following equipment, which is now surplus to my needs, immediately available:

Kenwood TS-430S HF Transceiver (Serial # 7010383) -Purchased new November 1985 - one owner - Includes original factory box - Operations manual, Service Manual and all factory paperwork in 3 ring binder -Complete professional realignment and maintenance done February 2007 -160 - 10 meters with measured 130w RF output, great audio (of course!) -FM option for 10 meter FM, 1.8kHz SSB and 400Hz CW narrow filter options -Mic Gain Boost, Final Protection Z-Wire and Aggressive Processor modes installed
-9 of 10 cosmetically, 10 of 10 electrically and mechanically.
-Heil DX element microphone in Turner Plus 3 desk mic, AND factory hand mic.
-Genuine Kenwood PG5V DC power cable with dual fuse feed and fork terminals

Pyramid PS-21K GOLD Series 20 amp 12v DC supply with ammeter and cooling fan

MFJ 993B 150w/300w Automatic Antenna Tuner -Purchased new March 2006 - one owner - latest firmware revision -160 - 10 meters wide range L-Network - dual coax plus single wire output -Balanced Line output with built in Balun for 450 ohm antenna feedline -Built in digital peak and analog average reading wattmeters -Factory shipping box, Operations and setup manual in 3 ring binder -10 out of 10 condition overall

MFJ 1279 Deluxe Computer/Soundcard Interface -For Digital modes such as PSK-31, RTTY, Olivia, etc.
-Footswitch input on front panel, RS232 computer interface for keying -NO CABLES INCLUDED, but mic cable with Foster plug wired for Kenwood is -Operations and setup manual in 3 ring binder

Homebrew "Center Fed Doublet" HF wire antenna -Green #14 Stranded THHN insulated wire blends in with trees -80-10 meter coverage with above tuner - 110 feet total length -450 ohm balanced line feedline (approximately 50 feet) -Can plug directly into back of tuner for really good efficiency
-1 kw current balun (in case you want to feed the antenna with Coax)

RG8/U patch cable for rig to tuner interface
25 feet of genuine Belden 8214 RG8 coax cable Two Silver plated PL259 coax connectors
1 new 4 foot copper clad ground rod

Everything you need to get on HF with a quality signal. A complete station with reliable and well maintained equipment. It is now surplus to my needs and I would like it to go to a good home. I can demonstrate package (except the antenna) on air at TARC Clubhouse on a Monday or Wednesday nights with a couple of days notice if you're seriously interested. No trades please.

This equipment will be sold as a "Package" only, I will not split it. The parts are worth well over the listed price. If you don't need a particular part, you can sell it on Ebay and pocket the profit.

This is a great opportunity for a new ham on a budget, or for a second, backup or Go Kit rig.

Complete Package Price - \$600 firm.

Will deliver in person in the Greater Tampa Bay area.

Lu Romero - W4LT -

ANNUAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

January 3 2009 Wormhole meeting
Late January Winter Field Day, <http://www.spar-hams.org/index.php>

February 7	2009 Wormhole meeting
March 7	2009 Wormhole meeting
March/April	MS Walks
April 4	2009 Wormhole meeting
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, http://www.svhfs.org
Late April	Walk For Babies (was March of Dimes)
Late April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Early May	MS 150 bike ride
May 2	2009 Wormhole meeting
May 23	Wormfest 2009
Mid May	NI4CE picnic
June 6	2009 Wormhole meeting
Late June	Field Day http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/
July 3/4	Midnight Run
July 11	2009 Wormhole meeting
August 5	2008 Wormhole meeting
September 6	2008 Wormhole meeting
October 4	2008 Wormhole meeting
October	3 rd weekend, JOTA Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR
November 1	2008 Wormhole meeting shelter 8
December 13	2008 Wormhole meeting shelter 9

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION NETS

HF net time is at 08:30 AM EDT Saturday mornings. Use 3.911 MHz. as the primary frequency with 7.281 MHz. as the alternate frequency.

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION ARES VHF NET

Section ARES VHF net every Monday evening at 7:30 PM on the NI4CE repeater system.

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION DIGITAL TRAINING NET

West Central Florida Section ARES Digital Training net every Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM on the NI4CE repeater system.

Digital Training Net Format:

- 1st Week - Sound Cards - Discussion Only
- 2nd Week - PSK-31
- 3rd Week - SSTV
- 4th Week - Winlink 2000 Discussion Only
- 5th Week (when this occurs) - Other Modes

HAMFESTS

2008

December 6-7 Palmetto, **Tampa Bay Hamfest** and the **West Central Florida Section Convention**, Manatee Civic Center 1 Haben Boulevard, for information see Keating Floyd, KC4HSI, chairman@fgarc.org or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org>

2009

January 17 Fort Myers, **Southern Florida Section Convention**, Araba Shrine Auditorium, 2010 Hanson Street talk-in: 146.880 pl 136.5, contact Lawrence W. Zimmer, W4LWZ at 239-282-1526 or email at W4LWZ@arrl.net For more info see <http://www.fmarc.net>

January 31 Arcadia, DeSoto County Hamfest, Turner Civic Center, [2250 NE Roan Street](http://www.desotoarc.org/), contact Doug Christ, KN4YT at 863-494-5842 or goto their website for more information <http://www.desotoarc.org/>

February 13, 14, 15 Orlando, Hamcation, **Southeastern Division and North Florida Section Conventions**, Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 West Colonial Drive, Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Talk-in 146.760- no PL. All the information is on the website at <http://hamcation.com/>

- May 3** **St Petersburg, Lake Maggiore, SPARC, Free, 9th Street S at 38 Avenue. Starts at 0700. Talk-in on 147.060+ no tone.**
- May 15, 16 & 17 **Dayton**, the one in Ohio ;-) www.hamvention.org.
- May 23** **Wormfest 2009, Pinellas Park, FREE, Freedom Lake Park, Southeast corner of US 19 and 49th Street, 0800 till... Talkin on 442.625 + with a 146.2 tone or 146.850 - with a tone of 146.2. For a map and directions see <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org> .**
- December 5-6 Palmetto, **Tampa Bay Hamfest** and the **West Central Florida Section Convention**, Manatee Civic Center 1 Haben Boulevard, for information see Keating Floyd, KC4HSI, chairman@fgcsrc.org or go to <http://www.tampabayhamfest.org>



YOUR WORMHOLE OFFICERS

Bill, AG4QX is President and editor of this newsletter, Vice-President is George, W1AAG, Treasurer is Jim, KD4MZL, Secretary and club representative to FGARC is Connie, K4TBZ, Dee, N4GD is the Repeater Trustee and Neil, W4NHL is the club webmaster.

YOUR WORMHOLE REPEATERS

442.625 + PL 146.2
146.850 - PL 146.2

West Central Florida Section website: <http://www.arrlwcf.org/>.

The Wormhole website is at: <http://www.TheWormholeSociety.org>

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