From: Bill Williams
To: Bill Williams;
Subject: Wormhole Newsletter
Date: Thursday, July 31, 2008 1:14:53 AM

News from
THE GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

August 2008

Hello Worms!

I got a few emails from Ray. Suffering 60 degree nights there in the mountains of Georgia is rough but he is handling it well. He has been doing a bunch of work on the house but it sounds like all that is about done. He said getting on the air was next. Lets see, there's the radio, and the antennas and various cables and other hardware. Hmmm, power supply and antenna tuner, wonder where the are. Good ol St Pete, that's where! Oops! He went to the Western Carolina Hamfest last weekend and rectified that shortage so I guess he is ready to put up some antenna and play radio. Hopefully he will be able to do 10M and check into the Tuesday night net when the propagation gods see fit. I will miss it but maybe everyone else can talk to him.

I worked the City of Tampa 2008 Hurricane Exercise on July 22nd. Not much to report except it is good that both my city and county are at least trying to be prepared for the worst. Hopefully all of you are also prepared with your personal plan for the next hurricane to arrive here. I again urge anyone who will be going to a shelter anyway to talk to Neil and volunteer to be the radio operator for that shelter. It is usually better to be part of the staff then to be part of the served masses.

* FATHER & SON ELECTROCUTED *

I realize many of you have heard about this on other club reflectors or the ARRL website but I think it is important enough to run it again for those who might have missed it. This guy has a little more information than the regular news story. A second exposure to everyone is probably a good thing anyway. Bill

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We lost another ham today, and it is a very sad event. The parties involved, were installing a Comet FIBERGLASS antenna, that came in contact with a single 7620V power line. Now how do I know what the exact voltage is? I built and maintained the substation that fed this circuit. I spent 27 years as a substation technician for the Board of Public Utilities. I am still in this field. So, I feel I have some experience in what I am passing along.

In a nutshell, the location of the accident was a few blocks from the substation. The wires you see going thru the residential areas are AT MINUMUM 7200 volts from each wire to ground, and between any two of them is 13,800 volts. This is nothing to play with at any time. I have seen a fault TOTALLY vaporize 1" copper buss (which is solid). Imagine what it can do to a human.

Each wire is fed from what is called a 3 phase line. From there, it can be broken off and sent down a property line as a single wire. Those are called "laterals" Yes, you will see a device at the break out point, and this is a fuse. BUT the caution needs to be conveyed. These fuses are in the 60-100 amp range. This is at 7200 volts. On top of that, anytime a tree falls across a line, or a pole gets hit, there is a circuit on the "feeder" at the substation that AUTOMATICALLY closes the feeder back in, and TRIES to restore the power to the area. Some of these "reclosers" can operate 2-5 times, depending on how they are set. Now from the substation end, the protective device is set for the full fault capabilities of the line. In the case of BPU, this can be set at 600 AMPS, and multiples of that value. The protective devices are set for what is called a "time" or and "instantaneous" operation. Picture a fast blow fuse and a slow blow, and you will understand the difference in the settings.

These setting are at multiple of the 600 amp value. So, if there is a direct short, then it will not trip until it reaches a value at, oh lets say, 8 times that value. So we are looking at 4800 amps and this is at 7200 volts and lower. So, it trips, then it energizes it AGAIN. The possibility of survival is slim and none.

Now remember how I said they were installing a FIBERGLASS antenna? Well guess what. It is metal inside. Yes, fiberglass does not radiate as we all know. Hence the metal. That is what caused the accident. They got too close to the line (remember your 'magnetic lines of flux' theory? If not, look it up on the web). There is a minimum approach area that MUST be followed. This changes for ALL voltages. This distance must NOT be broken. If it is a flashover will happen, and it is not pretty. Electricity will find the shortest path to ground. In this case it was a couple of men.

Folks, this is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 yrs as a ham, and 27 yrs in the power utility field, I have seen way too many "accidents." Stop, look and if it is close or SEEMS that way- DON'T. Find another place. High voltage lines are NOT forgiving. Your life depends on it. You always hear "it is the amps not the volts" well I can tell you when you get at these levels, who is going to argue what killed the person who had the accident. PLEASE ,PLEASE follow the warnings. ANYWHERE close is too close.

Stay safe, and I hope we can enjoy many more years of hamming.

Thanks Guys,

Chuck Kraly, K0XM

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER

Mark your calendar: The 2008 Perseid meteor shower peaks on August 12th and it should be a good show.

"The time to look is during the dark hours before dawn on Tuesday, August 12th," says Bill Cooke of NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center. "There should be plenty of meteors--perhaps one or two every minute."

The source of the shower is Comet Swift-Tuttle. Although the comet is far away, currently located beyond the orbit of Uranus, a trail of debris from the comet stretches all the way back to Earth. Crossing the trail in August, Earth will be pelted by specks of comet dust hitting the atmosphere at 132,000 mph. At that speed, even a flimsy speck of dust makes a vivid streak of light when it disintegrates--a meteor! Because, Swift-Tuttle's meteors streak out of the constellation Perseus, they are called "Perseids."

Serious meteor hunters will begin their watch early, on Monday evening, August 11th, around 9 pm when Perseus first rises in the northeast. This is the time to look for Perseid Earthgrazers--meteors that approach from the horizon and skim the atmosphere overhead like a stone skipping across the surface of a pond.

"Earthgrazers are long, slow and colorful; they are among the most beautiful of meteors," says Cooke. He cautions that an hour of watching may net only a few of these at most, but seeing even one can make the whole night worthwhile.

A warm summer night. Bright meteors skipping overhead. And the peak is yet to come. What could be better?

The answer lies halfway up the southern sky: Jupiter and the gibbous Moon converge on August 11th and 12th for a close encounter in the constellation Sagittarius: sky map. It's a grand sight visible even from light-polluted cities.

For a while the beautiful Moon will interfere with the Perseids, lunar glare wiping out all but the brightest meteors. Yin-yang. The situation reverses itself at 2 am on Tuesday morning, August 12th, when the Moon sets and leaves behind a dark sky for the Perseids. The shower will surge into the darkness, peppering the sky with dozens and perhaps hundreds of meteors until dawn.

For maximum effect, "get away from city lights," Cooke advises. The brightest Perseids can be seen from cities, he allows, but the greater flurry of faint, delicate meteors is visible only from the countryside. (Scouts, this is a good time to go camping.)

The Perseids are coming. Enjoy the show!

Source: Science@NASA, by Dr. Tony Phillips

USING A MAC IN THE SHACK

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of years ago, I decided to switch to the Mac for business use. (I am a freelance website developer.) I haven't regretted it for a second. The thing just seems to work better.

Last October, I decided to switch to a Mac in the shack and purchased a used, iBook G4 Mac laptop. Unfortunately, I can't say that I've never regretted this move. The reason I sometimes regret this choice is that there just aren't as many ham radio programs available for the Mac as there are for the PC, and those that are available are either more expensive than their PC counterparts or don't work as well.

For example, let's take a look at logging programs. When I first started looking, I found one that was kind of expensive (MacLoggerDX - www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html); one that was free, but didn't want to work so well (RUMLog - http://www.dl2rum.de/rumsoft/RUMLog.html); and one that worked OK and cost somewhere in between the first two (Aether- www.aetherlog.com/). Considering that there are at least a dozen logging programs that run on a PC, this was slim pickings.

I ended up purchasing Aether, but was never very happy with it. For one thing, it took forever to do any kind of sort or look up previous QSOs. Another pain was that it carried over none of the information from the previous contact, so you had to enter all of the information from scratch, even if you didn’t change frequencies or bands. It also had an odd way of doing notes about a contact, and I was disappointed to find out that it didn't import the notes from the ADIF file I created from the N3FJP logging program I used previously.

For PSK, It's CocoaModem

I had much the same experience when looking for a PSK31 program. Instead of a the wide variety of PC PSK programs, I only found a couple of Mac programs that decode PSK. Fortunately, I am much happier with my choice here (cocoaModem - homepage.mac.com/chen/index.html). It's a great program, with a polished user interface, and it's free, to boot.

The only problem with cocoaModem is that it doesn't support the wide range of digital modes that some of the PC programs do. One I'm interested in is SSTV. Unfortunately, cocoaModem doesn't do SSTV.

A Happy Ending

Well, a couple of weeks ago, I'd had enough of Aether and decided to start searching for logging software again. Since RUMLog was still free, I decided to give the new version (v 3.0, March 15, 2008) a go. I'm happy to report that this version likes my computer a lot better, and I like using it a lot!

One of the coolest things is that it did import the notes from my N3FJP ADIF file properly. So, now, when I type in a callsign, the program searches the database, finds all the previous contacts I've had with that station, and then displays them in spreadsheet style WITH the notes. If I've taken notes about a previous conversation, I can pick up right where I left off. Very cool.

It also has a very nice way of showing you what countries you've worked, on what bands you've worked them, and whether or not you've QSLed that country or not. Not only that, it shows what type of QSL you have, either a paper QSL or a Logbook of the World (LOTW) QSL. And, after you supply your user ID and password, it will download your LOTW QSLs and update the appropriate QSO records. Very cool!

Still unresolved is what to use for contesting. None of the programs I've seen so far are useful for contesting, and I think that what I will end up doing is using my old PC laptop running N3FJP or N1MM software. I'm not a big contester, so I think I can live with that.

One thing is for sure--I'm not going back to the PC aside from some niche applications like contesting. The Mac's ease of use and ease of setup has won me over. For information on even more ham radio software for the Mac, go

to www.machamradio.com.

When not trying to convince his friends and family to convert to the Mac, Dan works a lot of CW and PSK, and even a little SSB, on 20, 30, and 40m.
You can read more about his adventures in amateur radio by pointing your Web browser to www.kb6nu.com.

CLUB MEETING

The next meeting is 1100 Saturday morning, August 2, at Lake Seminole Park, located at 10015 Park Boulevard. The meeting will be in shelter 13 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	PARC daily net	from St Petersburg
1900	50.200 USB	simplex	from Brandon
1930	145.170 & 442.4 both pl 156.7	Pinellas ACS net	from Clearwater
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	NI4CE system	WCF Section Digital Info Net	NI4CE system
2000	147.550	CARS	from Clearwater
2100	NI4CE system	Tampa Bay Traders Net	non-affiliated
1930	52.020 simplex	Suncoast 6'ers	

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
2100	144.210 USB	CARS	vertical orientation
2000	147.550 simplex	550 Simplex Net	non-affiliated, net control is generally in southern Pinellas County
2000	144.250 USB	from the East coast	horizontal 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.

*** The following is all from Jim Schilling.
*KANTRONICS KPC-9612 Plus TNC, Includes box, manual and software. NEVER USED. $329
*Cobra 148 GTL DX+ Amateur Export Radio, Frequency range: 24.265 - 29.655 MHz, CW/AM/FM/SSB. Manual, power cord and mobile mounting bracket. $225
*MFJ-817 VHF/UHF Cross Needle SWR Meter$80
*Radio Shack Digital Multimeter 22-181B $54
*Mirage KP2/6M mast mounted pre-amp, Includes box and manual. NEVER USED. $148
*MFJ Versa Tuner II Model MFJ-969, HF + 6M, 300W. Includes manual and box. $160
*Regency MX7000 Scanner, Frequency range: 25 - 550 MHz and 800 - 1200 MHz. CELLULAR NOT BLOCKED. Modified for Anderson powerpole. $80
*Icom IC-PCR1000 Wide Band Receiver, Includes box, cables, software, antenna and manual. $160
*"I have been cleaning up and need to clear out some stuff. I will consider any offer or trade. I can be reached at 863 422-0176, please leave a message. Also e-mail sent to kg4jsz@arrl.net or kg4jsz@mindspring.net will work as well."

***Drake TX4C, new in box, never used. With manuals, no power supply. Contact Ray Valentine, KA4FMZ.

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	2009Wormhole 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
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 4	2009 Wormhole meeting
August 5	2008 Wormhole meeting
September 6	2008 Wormhole meeting
Sept 13	2008 Wormhole sponsored Chester's
October 4	2008 Wormhole meeting
November 1	2008 Wormhole meeting
December 13	2008 Wormhole meeting

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

August 9 Fort Pierce, at the Indian River Community College, 3209 Virginia Ave. Talkin on 147.345 PL 103.5. Gate $5.00, Table $5.00 more, Call Pete, KD4SPW at 772-465-7718 for more information. The website has all the information about the hamfest! http://www.qsl.net/w4akh

August 23 Tampa, TARCfest, at the TARC clubhouse. For information and directions go here: http://www.hamclub.org/ and click on "TARCFest XVII" in the center section. Cost is $2 per person to get in plus $3 to set up a tailgate. Limited room inside the clubhouse for $15. Tailgaters setup at 0700 and the public in at 0800. Talkin on the club 147.105 + 146.2 tone. Contact Bill, N4WEB 813-878-7654 for information.

August 30-31 Dallas, NC Shelby Hamfest, Dallas Park, http://www.shelbyhamfest.com/.

September 13 CHESTER'S free tailgate. Chester's Electronics, 311 Missouri Ave N., 727-585-4736 Sponsored by The Wormhole.

September 20 Orlando, Bahia Shrine Center, 2300 Pembrook Drive, Talk in on 147.39 103.5 tone. For more information Warren Hill, W4WHH, 407-365-6682 or see the website at http://www.bahiashrine.org/~radio/Tailgate.htm

September 27 New Port Richie, First Lutheran Church, 6416 Delaware Ave., Talk-in on 146.640, For more information call Ron, N9EE at 727-376-6575 or see the website at http://www.qsl.net/sarc/

October 11-12 **Melbourne, Florida State Convention,** Melbourne City Auditorium, 625 East Hibiscus Blvd. talkin on 146.25 no tone, contact Jan Heise, K4QD 321-956-2482 or see http://www.pcars.org

November 1 Eustis, Eustis Senior Center, 301 West Ward Street, talkin on 147.345 107.2 tone or 444.800 107.2 tone. Contact David Nachbaur, KR4OW 352-357-3485 or at pkmaint@yahoo.com or goto the club website at http://www.k4fc.org/index.html

November 8 **CHESTER'S** free tailgate. Chester's Electronics, 311 Missouri Ave N., 727-585-4736 Sponsored by the Victory Ship Club.

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@fgcarc.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

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 **.**

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 FGCARC 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

The Wormhole message board is at yahoo/w4orm

Anyone wishing to be 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