



News from The GLORIOUS SOCIETY of THE WORMHOLE

September 2026

Hello Worms



THE MEETING WILL START AT 1000.

For show and tell Paul will be demonstrating the alignment of a repeater duplexer.

Bring your drink of choice and lunch to the meeting if you want. We normally have some water and root beer available. 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 it's impossible for pigs to look up to the sky? Due to the anatomy of their necks and spines, pigs are incapable of looking upwards. However, they can still tilt their head sideways or lie on their backs if they want to get a view of something higher.

***THIS MONTH'S STIFF – SAMUEL MORSE ***

Samuel Finley Breese Morse

Entered Mortal coil: 27 April 1791

I decided to do a short essay on Sam Morse given the recent turn of events. I was all set to write you good folks an article on Ampere this time, but alas, it was not to be. Just think, if Sam's life had turned out a little bit differently, there would not be a system of communications referred to as "Morse Code", which is a misnomer anyway. The system of dots and dashes may have been invented by someone else and called Johnny Code, or Algernon's Code, or Fred's Code, or Old Code (I love rhymes). In my opinion, the code was so simple that it was bound to have devised by some other lad or lass, and we'd have their sepia portrait at the top of this page instead. I like this picture. Instead of holding a book like our dearly departed Count Volta, Sam is holding a telegraph tape. Why isn't he looking at the tape? Perhaps he is gazing off in the distance contemplating the future. Who knows? Whimsical speculation on your part is highly encouraged in the maelstrom of postings this article is sure to set off. Who was Morse, the man?

Samuel Morse was born in Charleston, Massachusetts, near Boston. Like many an extremely bright youth, Sam didn't appear to have any direction in his college studies. He was basically a good kid, and wasn't prone to wild partying, like our friend Ohm. I suspect that some of his father Jebidiah's inevitable lectures, while Sam sat on his knee, on morality had something to do with it, as the old man was a preacher. As it was, his parents were not happy with the young man's penchant for painting. Actually, Sam was quite good at it, and was highly respected in his skills. During his college years, he was fascinated by lectures he attended on the groundbreaking subject of electricity. As chance would have it, in 1832 Sam heard about a new invention, the electromagnet, while sailing back to the good ole' United States after conducting art studies in Europe. A "Eureka" moment occurred, as Sam believed that the invention could be developed into a means of communication. Perchance if Sam hadn't overheard that conversation, he would've died a poor artist.

The idea of an electric "telegraph", however, was not new. A competing system utilized a system of many wires and a needle

pointer mechanism. The needle would rotate to the letter “a” for instance, when the associated inputs were set. However, Morse’s system utilized only a minimal number of wires. A sequence of long and short circuit closures was assigned for each letter and number; a code, if you will. After further development with the assistance of a couple of partners, Morse applied for a patent in 1837. The new invention caught on rapidly. By 1843, with federal funding, telegraph lines were installed between Boston and Washington, DC. In 1844, his now famous message, “What hath God Wrought”, was transmitted by Morse himself between the two cities.

Sam’s system used an electrically-driven needle to mark the long and short dashes on a moving strip of paper, where they could be decoded. However, much to Morse’s incredulity, telegraph operators soon gained enough skill to the point that they could translate the sounds of the electromagnet clicking directly in their heads, and write the letters down as they were sounded out. A common misconception is that Morse’s code is the same code that is currently in use today by hams worldwide. This is not true. Although they share similar characters, there are significant differences. The International Morse Code retains his name to honor the inventor.

In his later years, Morse was married a second time in 1848 to a cousin and begat more children in addition to those begat from his first marriage. He was quite the philanthropist. Sam gave generously to the art programs at Yale and Vassar Universities, and others, and helped out young artists whenever he could. The wealthy inventor died in pneumonia in 1872 while in New York City.

Philip Neidlinger, PE KA4KOE

7-ZIP VULNERABILITY WIDE RANGEING

tom’s Hardware NEWS by Bruno Ferreira

There seems to be no end in sight for serious, wide-ranging security vulnerabilities these days. The ever-popular open-source archive-handling utility 7-Zip is now in the spotlight due to an 8.8-rated CVE vulnerability in its archive-opening procedure. If a user simply opens a booby-trapped crafted archive (.7z, .zip, .rar, etc) on a machine with at least 16 GB of RAM, they’ll be running malicious code. Extracting the archive isn’t necessary;

only opening it is enough. We recommend that everyone immediately update to the latest version, 26.01, published in late April; all previous versions are vulnerable.

This is a particularly "oh sugar honey ice tea" moment because of how widespread 7-Zip is in practice. Most people would only think of the Windows graphical application, but every command-line variant is vulnerable across multiple operating systems. 7-Zip doesn't have any built-in update mechanisms, relying instead on user-initiated updates or package management systems.

The Windows application being vulnerable is bad enough; however, one needs to add millions of command-line scripts that are indirectly vulnerable, as are CI/CD workflows. Anything that so much as calls any variant of the "7z" binary and opens a poisoned archive, even if just to list the contents, is at risk.

Adding fuel to the fire, a good number of Linux distributions come with long-outdated "p7zip" ports of the utility. Heck, just think of a server that automatically lists archive contents for some reason, and it's almost certainly vulnerable. Sourceforge lists some 400 million 7-Zip downloads, while Chocolatey has 24.5 million, so adding to that copious amounts of Linux servers and VMs, we could be discussing hundreds of millions of vulnerable machines.

But wait, there's more. The open nature of 7z means that its base libraries are included among a wealth of third-party software. Potential targets for exploitation include anti-virus scanners, backup and automation tools, log analysis software, malware analysis with automated scanning, and even many file managers.

In practice, the aforementioned software doesn't require user intervention to ingest a poisoned archive, and the situation gets worse because a good portion of it runs with elevated permissions. All things considered, it's reasonable to guess that almost every computer and server has some exploitable 7-Zip binary or code that's vulnerable to what amounts to a drive-by attack.

Some cursory testing of our own shows that Ubuntu 24, Ubuntu 26, and RHEL 8 all carry vulnerable versions. If all that wasn't bad enough, many OEM systems include 7-Zip by default because it's great, open, and free. The "p7zip" package is common across Fedora; many Docker images also run on mainline versions.

[The actual vulnerability](#) is fairly complicated to describe, but pertains to a part of code that 7-Zip can use to open NTFS disk images. Opening .ntfs and .img disk images has long been a feature of 7-Zip, and there's a bug in the code that allows an attacker to provide incorrect values for a buffer, which in turn can be made bigger than intended and contain malicious code to be executed. If by now you're thinking "I don't use those file types", 7-Zip doesn't use the file extension to determine its type — it relies on the file's first few bytes, so providing a malicious NTFS image inside a .7z, .rar, .zip (and others) will work just fine.

*** SCIENTISTS SPOTTED AN 'ALIEN' OBJECT ON THE OCEAN FLOOR***

Popular Mechanics by Darren Orf

The Reality Is Even Weirder. The deepest, most remote parts of the ocean still remain alien to our eyes.

Starting in 1962, the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Polar Research Vessel *Eltanin*, which served as a U.S. Navy icebreaker for five years before journeying southward for science, embarked on a mission to explore the oceanic depths as the world's first dedicated Antarctic research vessel. Two years into that mission, the ship captured one of its most perplexing and enigmatic images some 1,000 miles south of Cape Horn, Chile.

Eltanin used a camera and strobe-light system to photograph the ocean floor, and on August 29, 1964, this system—which produced at-best grainy black-and-white resolution of the seabed—picked up something strange: an antenna-like protrusion with twelve spokes radiating from the center, each with a sphere at its tip. Its strange, symmetrical structure made it hard to believe that the object, whatever it was, came from nature. The first detailed report of the image, written by the **New Zealand Herald**,

didn't arrive until December 5, 1964, when the *Eltanin* docked in Auckland. The title of the piece? "Puzzle Picture From Sea Bed."

"At that depth there is no light, so photosynthesis could not take place and plants could not live. If it is some strange coral formation then no one on board has ever heard about it before," Thomas Hopkins, a senior marine biologist who was one the expedition, told the *New Zealand Herald* at the time. "I wouldn't like to say the thing is man-made because this brings up the problem of how one would get it there. But it's fairly symmetrical and the offshoots are all 90 degrees apart. This is why it has been argued over for so long."

In other words, it was unexplainable, and according to a **2004 article in the *Fortean Times***, a British magazine dedicated to such strange phenomena, it only took a few years for the "Eltanin Antenna" to enter into the annals of **alien conspiracy theory**. In a 1968 *Saga* magazine article, Brad Steiger—who *Fortean Times* describes as a "peddler of popular mysteries"—planted the first seeds of the *Eltanin* photo as capturing something otherworldly.

"One cannot help becoming a bit uneasy knowing that someone—whether they be space visitors or representatives from some undeclared terrestrial organization—knows quite a bit more about the measurements and crucial rumblings of our planet than our top scientists do," he said.

So, what is the *Eltanin* antenna, if not... well... an **antenna**?

Well, Hopkins wasn't wrong, but he also wasn't the first to catch sight of this bizarre object. This weird structure isn't a coral, plant, or man-made technology. Instead, it's a carnivorous **sea sponge** known as the "ping pong tree sponge" or by its scientific name *Chondrocladia conrescens*. Despite its remote location, this sea sponge was originally described by Swiss-American marine biologist Alexander Agassiz way back in the late 19th century.

During an Antarctic expedition aboard the *Blake*, Agassiz eventually wrote that the discovered specimen contained a "a long stem ending in ramifying roots, sunk deeply into the mud. The stem has nodes with four to six club-like appendages." He even drew the strange, oceanic creature.

So, word to the wise: sometimes, a grainy black-and-white photo of an unexplainable structure might be alien tech or even a covert CIA operation. But it's probably worth asking: is it just a **sponge**?

RADIO THROUGH ROCKS? WELL SORT OF

From Jack K4WSB Radio through solid rock? Too long for the newsletter, see the article here:

<https://makezine.com/article/electronics/cave-radio-talking-through-solid-rock/>

NEW KENWOOD AND ICOM MOBILE RIGS OUT

Just out is the Kenwood TM-G750A, a tri-band, only 20W on 222. It has APRS including digipeater, Wireless LAN, GPS, Bluetooth, USB C and microSD ports on both head and body and dual receive, digital voice and data at the same time. List price of \$1199.95. I read rumors that it would be \$1200 so at least it is not that expensive!

Order taking is the Icom 5200A with delivery in September, a 2m/440/air band receive. Is has a large touch screen, dual band D-Star, APRS, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth that supports wireless headsets and mics. It has SSB C and microSD slots. Data says a GNSS but not sure how much satellite it can do in addition to APRS. D-Star can also send, receive, and view images. List is \$999.95

*** BACKDOORS FOUND ON CHINESE MADE ROUTERS SOLD WORLD WIDE***

tom's HARDWARE News by Zak Killian

Security researchers have found three different backdoor-like implants hidden in firmware for routers manufactured by Shenzhen Zhibotong Electronics, better known as ZBT. The hardware is sold around the world under a bewildering array of brands, meaning you may not even realize you're using a ZBT router. The research, published by security firm VulnCheck, began with a

Zbtlink AX3000 router. Researchers found that its firmware contained an implant that they dubbed ENDLESSDOORS, as it automatically phones home to a command-and-control server and can execute arbitrary commands as root.

ENDLESSDOORS is essentially a remote-control system embedded directly into the router's firmware. It starts automatically at boot and disguises itself as a normal Linux kernel process called kworker. The router periodically connects to a hard-coded server and announces itself. There's no meaningful authentication or encryption involved. Commands received from the server are passed directly to a shell running as root, and the implant can also establish an interactive root shell.

VulnCheck demonstrated the problem by impersonating the command server and taking control of its own test router. In other words, this isn't merely a theoretical vulnerability; if an attacker can hijack the connection to the implant's command server, they can obtain complete control of the router. The researchers found ENDLESSDOORS embedded in firmware for 20 ZBT models, including the Z8102AX, WG3526, WE826-T3-DSIM, and several other cellular routers. The same hardware is also sold under other names because ZBT manufactures routers for OEM and ODM customers. VulnCheck assigned the issue CVE-2026-66747, with a CVSS score of 9.3, but that wasn't the end of the investigation.

The researchers also discovered a backup command server domain embedded in the malware that nobody had registered, so naturally, they registered it themselves. VulnCheck set up a server capable of speaking SPEAKINGSTONE's protocol at the newly registered "www.findmyipaddr.com" and watched the infected routers start calling home.

By August 21st, 392 unique devices had connected to the sinkhole. Fully 390 of those 392 were located in China, with the vast majority using China Mobile's network. Most of those devices were the same router model running the same firmware, suggesting a large-scale carrier deployment rather than random consumer infections. VulnCheck describes this particular deployment as "domestic Chinese surveillance technology."

EDITOR: This article is too long to include here but you can access it here: <https://www.tomshardware.com/tech-industry/cyber-security/security-researchers-find-surveillance-implants-in-chinese-made-routers-sold-worldwide-three-different-backdoor-like-implants-hidden-in-firmware?lrh=7f66708411428c65732192f0bd182309a79adecf791281e47053ac8335ba904a>



CLUB MEETING and ZOOM

The meeting time is 1000 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 will not be offering a ZOOM of the meeting



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 – offset 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 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 444.450 + 146.2	CARS Traders & Trivia Net	Echolink N4CLW-R Node 474277
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 https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html	Winlink Wednesday Net	

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 444.425 +100.0	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



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,:

From Dean Sever Bridgecom BCM-220 220mHz Mobile Transceiver about 6 months old, original box, instructions, mic, program usb and dc cables. Not a scratch on it never been out of the house.
\$100.00. Dean W8IM@arrl.net

See Bill AG4QX for the following: make me an offer.

*ICOM IC-745Pro, with matching Power supply, matching speaker, AMP and 1500w tuner	\$1350
*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 A50-#S, 6m beam	\$125
*Cushcraft A-3WS, 17/12 WARC beam	\$250
*15000 V neon sign transformer currently used for Jacobs ladder	\$30
*Aluma Tower T-140 with rotator and Cushcraft MA5B take down	make offer

HAMFESTS

Nov 7 **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>

November 14 **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.

December 11 & 12 **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 ;-)

2027

May 29

WormFest 2027, 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> .

Fourth full weekend January

Late January

Late February

Winter Field Day <https://www.winterfeldday.com/>

Gasparilla celebration

West Central Florida Tech Conference <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/>

March/April

April

March/April

Late April

Late April

Mid May

MS Walks

MS150 bike now named Suncoast Challenge <http://www.citrustour.org/register.php>

Mass Casualty Exercises

Southeastern VHF Society Conference, <http://www.svhfs.org>

Florida QSO Party

March For Babies (was March of Dimes)

<https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events>

Mid May

Mid-May

Late May

Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test

Florida Hurricane Exercise

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/

North American QSO Party

Mode	Contest Weekend
CW	2nd full weekend January 1 st full weekend August
SSB	3 rd full weekend January 3 rd full weekend August
RTTY	last Saturday February 3rd full weekend July



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 and 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)