



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

July 2024

Hello Worms

Beryl is the earliest Cat 5 hurricane in history. All Hurricane “experts” predict a busy season with many hurricanes and more higher Cat storms. If you stay home stock up with water and food that doesn’t need electricity to prepare, 72 hours is the recommended time to have supplies for. Keep you gas tank full and your batteries charged.

Before the meeting the radio will be on for information about and directions to the meeting but that will discontinue when the meeting starts. We will continue with Zoom when convenient but if the computer is being used Zoom cannot operate and the 40 minute limit does make it awkward at times. The Zoom information is the same as all the other meetings and is listed towards the end of this newsletter.

In the meeting we will have donuts, water and soft drinks (probably only root beer). Bring your drink 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.

SUN’S POLARITY IS ABOUT TO FLIP

SPACE.COM by Daisy Dobrijevic

The sun is on the verge of a significant event: a magnetic field reversal.

This phenomenon happens roughly every 11 years and marks an important stage in the solar cycle. The shift in polarity indicates the halfway point of solar maximum, the height of solar activity, and the beginning of the shift toward solar minimum.

The last time the sun's magnetic field flipped was toward the end of 2013. But what causes this switch in polarity, and is it dangerous? Let's take a deep look at the sun's magnetic field reversal and investigate the effects it could have on Earth.

To understand the magnetic field's reversal, first, it's important to be familiar with the solar cycle. This approximately 11-year cycle of solar activity is driven by the sun's magnetic field and is indicated by the frequency and intensity of sunspots visible on the surface. The height of solar activity during a given solar cycle is known as solar maximum, and current estimates predict it will occur between late 2024 and early 2026.

But there is another very important, albeit lesser-known, cycle that encapsulates two 11-year solar cycles. Known as the Hale cycle, this magnetic cycle lasts approximately 22 years, through which the sun's magnetic field reverses and then reverts to its original state, Ryan French, a solar astrophysicist and Space.com contributing writer, told Space.com.

During solar minimum, the sun's magnetic field is close to a dipole, with one north pole and one south pole, similar to Earth's magnetic field. But as we shift toward solar maximum, "the sun's magnetic field becomes more complex, without a clear north-south pole separation," French said. By the time solar maximum passes and solar minimum arrives, the sun has returned to a dipole, albeit with a flipped polarity.

***COMPANY OFFERS UNOFFICIAL PATCHES FOR WIN 10 ***

tom's HARDWARE NEWS By Christopher Harper

Windows 10 users not wanting to upgrade to Windows 11 or pay Microsoft an unclearly-priced Extended Security Update (ESU) subscription fee may be in luck— an alternative solution from "micropatch" provider OPatch is available. It will be maintained until 2030 at least. Like ESU providing only security updates, OPatch is a micropatch provider targeting multiple operating systems with faster security updates that can be applied directly to the OS without restarting, akin to the Hot Patching update for Windows 11.

Now, why OPatch calls them micropatches is slightly unclear. These seem to be regular old patches, albeit not provided by Microsoft. Microsoft's security updates usually include the same improvements, if not more, but at a later date than OPatch—and on a rare occasion, OPatch even gets to point out mistakes in the official patch.

As cool as OPatch is, it's hard to overlook that Microsoft is at least providing a similar service here in the form of ESU, and ESU may even have more comprehensive security coverage. However, ESU support for most Windows OSes seems to cap at around three extra years, and

there's no Free tier in sight— 0Patch has promised to continue supporting Windows 10 until 2030 with Free and Pro (mostly paid, Pro) security patches.

We still don't know how much Microsoft's ESU program will be for mainstream consumers. Education customers seem to get it cheapest for as low as \$7 for three years, while Enterprise organizations have to pay \$427 for all three years of ESU, with each year getting more expensive. For business customers in particular, 0Patch's yearly subscription pricing models of €25 (~ \$27) for the Pro version and €35 (~ \$37) for the Enterprise version start looking fairly appealing versus ESU. Microsoft's mainstream ESU pricing had better be competitive when announced at this rate.

In any case, it's clear why solutions like this so quickly garner attention and popularity. By default, most people are opposed to unneeded changes to their hardware, and Windows 10 has maintained its OS market share lead over Windows 11 for about three years. Back in October 2023, Windows 10 held 71.64% market share— and in all the AI hype and new hardware since, Windows 10 has only dropped to 66.1% market share per [StatCounter](#).

*** 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT***

The ARRL letter, John Ross KD8IDJ Editor

The 13 Colonies Special Event will take place July 1-7, 2024. Operating times are July 1, 1300 UTC to July 8, 0400 UTC. Thirteen special call signs will be on the air, each one representing one of the original 13 British colonies that were established in 1607. Three additional bonus call signs will be on the air representing Great Britain, France, and Philadelphia. All HF bands can be used, including the WARC bands, with the exception of 60 meters. Simplex on 2 meters and 6 meters is encouraged. The southeastern stations on the east coast are very close to each other. It will be harder for these states to contact each other so, use of 40-160 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be used, including SSB, CW, RTTY, and digital. The mode of operation is up to the individual colony state station. More information about logs, call signs, and QSL certifications can be found at [The Annual 13 Colonies Special Event](#).

Editor Note: As I get ready to send the newsletter I have 7 of the 16 special event stations. The recommend DX Summit for spotting at <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>

***UNPROTECTED WINDOWS XP LASTED 10 MINUTES ***

PC GAMER NEWS By Jeremy Laird May 17, 2024

How long do you think it takes an unprotected Windows XP box to fall foul to malware? To be clear, this is a machine sitting idle, no internet browsing required, just connected to the internet.

One YouTuber, Eric Parker, decided to find out (via XDA). Using a virtual machine, Parker set up a Windows XP instance and configured it to be fully exposed with no firewall and no anti-virus software, just like the good old days. So, how long exactly does it take for malicious software to appear on the PC?

Parker returns to the PC 10 minutes later and, sure enough, there's something nasty running in Task Manager named conhoz.exe, a known trojan.

He shuts that process down and leaves the machine running. Within just a few more minutes, a new user has been added, plus a number of new processes, including an FTP server.

So, yeah, within 15 minutes that's multiple malware processes and an entirely compromised machine with the bad guys having already created a new admin account and an FTP server running locally. Jaysus!

Parker then traces the malware's communication to, yup you guessed, the Russian Federation. He speculates that the bad guys might be trying to set up a botnet or spam email server from his compromised machine.

Further investigation reveals even more malware, including another Trojan and a rootkit. A Malwarebytes scan then reveals the full horror, with eight nasties actually running including four trojans, two backdoors, and a couple of adware apps.

In other words, the machine is already a complete and utter zombie. Anyway, it's a fun watch as Parker observes his virtual XP machine being ravaged in real time and a reminder of what bubbling away behind the firewalls and malware protections on all of our PCs.

Sniffing through your running processes in Task Manager used to be something of a regular ritual for the well-informed. Now, it's not really necessary... famous last words and all that.

Indeed, it just goes to show how effective those measures are that we can all be connected to the internet 24/7 and not give this stuff much of a thought. It's dangerous out there, boys and girls. Be careful!

*** 3 BILLION PERSONAL RECORDS STOLEN ***

Billions of records detailing people's personal information may soon be dumped online after being allegedly obtained from a Florida firm that handles background checks and other requests for folks' private info.

A criminal gang that goes by the handle USDoD put the database up for sale for \$3.5 million on an underworld forum in April, and rather incredibly claimed the trove included 2.9 billion records on all US, Canadian, and British citizens. It's believed one or more miscreants using the handle SXUL was responsible for the alleged exfiltration, who passed it onto USDoD, which is acting as a broker.

The pilfered information is said to include individuals' full names, addresses, and address history going back at least three decades, social security numbers, and people's parents, siblings, and relatives, some of whom have been dead for nearly 20 years. According to USDoD, this info was not scraped from public sources, though there may be duplicate entries for people in the database.

Fast forward to this month, and the infosec watchers at VX-Underground say they've not only been able to view the database and verify that at least some of its contents are real and accurate, but that USDoD plans to leak the trove. Judging by VX-Underground's assessment, the 277.1GB file contains nearly three billion records on people who've at least lived in the United States – so US citizens as well as, say, Canadians and Brits.

This info was allegedly stolen or otherwise obtained from National Public Data, a small information broker based in Coral Springs that offers API lookups to other companies for things like background checks. The biz did not respond to *The Register's* inquiries.

There is a small silver lining, according to the VX team: "The database DOES NOT contain information from individuals who use data opt-out services. Every person who used some sort of data opt-out service was not present." So, we guess this is a good lesson in opting out.

USDoD is the same crew that previously peddled a 3GB-plus database from TransUnion containing financial information on 58,505 people.

And last September, the same criminals touted personal information belonging to 3,200 Airbus vendors after the aerospace giant fell victim to an intrusion.



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. 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=d1BETHVOQ21vWWZXZ0lYQ0FIWWtldz09>
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: most from SK estate, make me an offer.

*Heathkit HD-1215 Phone patch \$15 looks ok

*Drake WV-5 wattmeter \$90 looks ok

HAMFESTS

2024

August 24

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/>

October 19

Bradenton, Marcifest 2024, Bible Baptist Church of Bradenton
2113 Morgan Johnson Rd., talkin 146.850 -100.0, admission \$5, tailgate \$5, contact Michael Ryan at 941-376-6453, flyer here:

<http://manateea.startlogic.com/WP/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/MARCIFEST-2023-1.pdf>

December 13 & 14 **Plant City, the 2024 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 ;-)

January 11 ?? **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/>

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.



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
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.arrlwcfl.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