



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

September 2024

Hello Worms

Probably old news to most but just in case you missed it ICON has a new radio announced last weekend at a Tokyo hamfest. The IC-7760 is an all-band HF/50mHz 200W radio. It has an HF radio full size control head separate from the radio itself. Control head cable is 3m long allowing flexibility in radio room setup.

It's a little early to talk Halloween but the American Victory Ship has published their Haunted Ship schedule and started taking reservations at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/undead-in-the-water-tickets-974295733767?aff=oddtcreator> . If you go I will be there at the gangway putting you aboard ... I may be the last one to see you alive!

Speaking of schedules, I am surprised at the lack of hamfests on the ARRL schedule. Then I realized that I sent in the application for the 2025 Wormfest the week after the 2024 edition and it has not appeared yet and Orlando Hamcation is not on there either. So maybe there are still residual problems from the website hacking. This Newsletter hamfest schedule is not based on the ARRL schedule although it is consulted. If you know of a hamfest within 100 miles that I don't have listed let me know. I also see that many clubs are not updating their web pages for their hamfests.

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.

*** STARLINK SATELLITES ARE TURNING BLUE ***

When SpaceX first started launching Starlink satellites in 2019, astronomers saw red. Now they're seeing blue. "Recently, a number of people have reported sightings of blue satellites," says Croatian astronomer Marko Posavec. "On the night of Aug. 11th, while observing the Perseids, I captured an entire series of them."

"It was Starlink group G9-1, launched in June," says Posavec. "These are DTC (Direct to Cell) satellites. Apparently, the material they're using to try to reduce brightness also gives them a blue color, for which SpaceX says is 'not unexpected.' The color is visible to the naked eye."

DTC satellites are SpaceX's attempt to create "a cell tower in space." The [first batch of six](#) was launched in Jan. 2024, and now there are [129](#) DTCs in orbit. According to [a recent study](#), on average they shine nearly five times brighter in the sky than earlier Starlinks. The extra brightness is a probable result of their larger antennas and lower altitudes.

Earlier this year, SpaceX requested an amendment to their license with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission allowing them to operate [up to 7,500 DTCs](#) orbiting at heights near 350 km. If that plan comes to fruition, there might soon be many more blue streaks in the night sky

*** FTC BANS FAKE ONLINE REVIEWS ***

INFOPACKETS by John Lister

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has made it illegal to buy or sell fake reviews in return for payment. The new rule also outlaws lying about who wrote a review and includes several other measures designed to make reviews more trustworthy.

The "Trade Regulation Rule on the Use of Consumer Reviews and Testimonials" was approved unanimously by the FTC and, once formally published, will take effect after 60 days. It follows a consultation and review spanning nearly two years.

Threats Outlawed: The rule is wide-ranging, banning the following actions based on creating, buying or selling a fake review. This includes:

- *falsely claiming a review is by someone who doesn't exist (eg an AI-written review)
- *lies about the reviewer's actual experience, or claims to be from a reviewer who didn't actually use the product or service
- *paying a reviewer on the specific condition they express a particular sentiment, whether positive or negative
- *not revealing that a review is by a "company insider" such as an officer, manager, employee or agent

*businesses claiming their site provides independent reviews when it covers rival products and services in its own industry - this applies even if the business isn't reviewing its own products or services

*using threats to make people remove or avoid writing a negative review

*falsely claiming a review site is representative if reviews have been suppressed because they have a low rating or are negative.

The rule also includes a ban on buying or selling "fake indicators of social media influence". This includes cases where accounts are automated or hijacked to falsely inflate view counts or follower numbers. This ban only applies where the buyer knows the indicator is fake and uses it to make themselves look more influential or important or commercial purposes.

The FTC will have the authority to seek civil penalties of up to \$51,744 for each violation, with a court deciding what counted as an individual violation.

That's a standard penalty for breaching many FTC rules. The oddly specific amount is because it is increased by inflation each year.

VOA IS SHUTTERING ITS MARIANAS SHORTWAVE SITE

RADIOWORLD By T. Carter Ross

The Voice of America is shuttering its Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The move was reported by local media in the U.S. Pacific territory based upon a letter from the United States Agency for Global Media.

"I suspect your organization has heard over the past week(s) about a big change taking place at the U.S. Agency for Global Media's Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station or REKTS. The change is a discontinuation of all shortwave radio transmissions at our Saipan and Tinian sites, the first step in closing the station," according to the letter.

REKTS consists of a transmitter and antenna system at Agingan Point at the southwestern point of Saipan and a second transmitter and antenna system on the western side of Tinian. The site is used for multi-language programming from Radio Free Asia and Voice of America into the East Asia region.

William Martin, director of the USAGM transmitting stations and operations division, stated: "By now many of you have heard that the "Voice of America" shortwave stations on

Saipan and Tinian, which operated under the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), are closing. After decades of operation, these facilities are being phased out as shortwave audiences migrate to other media. Although these closures mark the end of an era, they are also bittersweet, as in closing these stations we also say farewell to the people and communities that supported our mission for so many years. On behalf of the agency, I would like to thank our staff and the many community members who contributed meaningfully to the stations' operation these many years."

Martin served as station manager for REKTS station manager from 2013 to 2019.

In recent years, USAGM has sought to redirect resources from shortwave broadcasting to other channels based upon where it can best reach its desired audiences. In its 2025 budget justification document, the agency noted a full review of short- and medium-wave broadcasting requirements "leading to some reductions in regions where Agency research shows that shortwave audiences have become vanishingly small."

An additional challenge for REKTS was lingering damage from Category 5 Super Typhoon Yutu, which destroyed the station's infrastructure in October 2018.

According to USAGM's FY2023 Agency Financial Report, the storm shredded the 16 shortwave curtain antennas at the site and downed one of its support towers. Using salvaged parts, five antennas fully restored by the end of FY 2020, and three more were back in operation by end of FY 2023 with parts for three additional antennas on site.

According the report, the total assets held by USAGM in the Northern Mariana Islands had an approximate book value of \$5.4 million as of Sept. 30, 2023.

Previously, USAGM predicted it would have 11 of the 15 REKTS shortwave antennas fully operational by the end of FY2025. Additional capital improvements needed at the site included reroofing to prevent water leaks.

The site on Saipan first went on air in 1982 as Superrock KYOI, a commercial station targeting Japan with rock and pop music. It was acquired in 1986 by Herald Broadcasting Service. Radio Free Asia began leasing the transmitters in September 1996, purchasing the facility in 1999.

Construction of the Tinian site began in 1993 when the U.S. Department of Defense transferred 834 acres of land on the island to the U.S. Information Agency. The first transmissions from the site began in January 1999.

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=d1BETHVOQ21vWWZlZ0lYQ0FIWWtldz09>
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.

- *Heathkit HD-1215 Phone patch \$15 looks ok
- *Drake WV-5 wattmeter \$90 looks ok
- *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

From Ed: ICOM IC-737, 10m-160m + WARC TX, 0.030 – 30mHz RX, built in tuner, includes all cables and interfaces for digital, works fine, was replaced with an IC-7300, \$200 Contact Ed at arctic.eddie@verizon.net

HAMFESTS

2024

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

- November ??** 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 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 ??** 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/schedule> not announced yet.
- 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.
- April ??** 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/schedule> not announced yet.
- 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> .

Fourth full weekend January	Winter Field Day https://www.winterfieldday.com/
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference
http://arrlwcf.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.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

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