



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

July 2025

Hello Worms

Robert Ian Renton, W4RIR, died on June 25. He will be missed! Per Ian's request he will be cremated with no services. The family will have a small private service.

Bring your drink of choice and lunch to the meeting 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.

DID YOU KNOW

The word "mafia" is never said in *The Godfather*. *The Godfather* is all about the mafia, which is why it may surprise you to learn that the word "mafia" is never actually said in the film—and there's a good reason for that. Back in the '70s, when the movie was being made, those who were involved in organized crime weren't keen on the idea of a film that could make them look bad.

When Paramount Pictures announced the project, the Italian-American Civil Rights League (which was led by Joseph Colombo, boss of the Colombo crime family) launched an intimidation campaign to keep those working on the film in line. "There were major threats, they were serious," Gianni Russo, an actor who appeared in the film and had real-life mob connections, told ShortList. Fortunately, both the producers and the mob were able to make a deal: the show could go on as long as all mentions of "mafia" were deleted from the script.

THIS MONTH'S STIFF – MICHAEL FARADAY

Michael Faraday should be rightly remembered as one of the greatest experimental scientists of the 19th Century. As mentioned in a previous essay, in my opinion, one is truly great when a

unit of measure, for instance, is given your name at some point after you slip the bonds of this mortal existence. Dearly departed Mike had not one, but **two** scientific units named in his honor! The Brits are rightly proud of this man.

Unlike his contemporaries, Mike had extreme trouble with mathematics. In fact, it is said he knew very little. His mind was geared towards the “hands on” approach. A sheet of formulas and arcane calculations did not presage any of his discoveries. No, Mike just went out and found out first hand whether his ideas had any merit. However, given the broad scope of his contributions, he is often listed amongst the other greats who understood the “new math”, and showed their work on paper before the final answer. Unfortunately, I am afraid a modern professor would have given Faraday an “F” in lab for that very reason! So, what did the gentle scientist discover? Here is the grocery list of the high points:

1. *Transformers*: Discovered mutual-inductance, which is the basis for modern transformers.
2. *Self-Inductance*: Discovered this characteristic of coils at approximately the same time as Joseph Henry. However, the unit of self-inductance is named for his American contemporary (see DED No. 11).
3. *The Dielectric Constant*: Faraday described the fundamental characteristic of capacitors, and he also invented a variable capacitor. The unit of capacitance, the **Farad**, designated by the letter **F**, is named for Mike as a result of this discovery.
4. *Electric motor and dynamo*: Every piece of modern electrical machinery owes its existence to these two inventions of Faraday.
5. *Faraday Rotation*: Polarized light will change its rotation when influenced by an electromagnet. This phenomenon is also known as the *Faraday Effect*.
6. *Faraday's Constant*: Mike discovered that a specific amount of electric charge is required to deposit one mole of a substance on an electrode via electrolysis. This unit of charge is referred to as a **Faraday**, and is denoted by the symbol **Fd**. A Faraday is equal to 96.4853 kilocoulombs. A coulomb is defined as the number of electrons stored when a potential difference of 1 volt is applied across a capacitor of 1 Farad. We'll talk about Mr. Coulomb later, if someone will kindly remind me to do so. Whew! Okay, that's enough difficult electronic theory for now!

7. *Terminology*: Mike made up some cute electrical terms for us. These include anode, cathode, electrode, and ion.
8. *Other stuff*: Faraday discovered Benzene.

Ever mindful of his obligations to his fellow man, Faraday always gave a lecture on Christmas day for children. These lectures are classics of the scientific method, and described various concepts in a way that the common person could understand. The tradition of these lectures continues to this very day.

Faraday's work in electricity and magnetism helped pave the way for his fellow countryman, James Clerk Maxwell: the reader is referred to DED No. 1 for that story. Mike was truly a hard act to follow.

Cheers.

Philip Neidlinger, PE

KA4KOE

GOOD HEADSET FOR RADIO USE

TARC club email by Lu Romoero

A lot of you may remember that several years ago I recommended the Yamaha CM500 headset for use on both PC's and radio SSB/CW.

Sadly, Yamaha, the OEM of the headset and Koss, who also markets the identical unit under a different brand and model, discontinued the CM500/SB45 headset over a year ago.

After trying many replacement candidates for the above, I have found one worthy of recommendation:

[Amazon.com: Razer BlackShark V2 X Gaming Headset: 7.1 Surround Sound - 50mm Drivers - Memory Foam Cushion - For PC, PS4, PS5, Switch - 3.5mm Audio Jack - Black : Video Games](#)

The BlackShark Version 2 not only fits your head with ear cups that are exactly the same as the RadioSport headsets at four times the price, but also have the best sounding mic capsule this side of the CM500. It is well built and solid, designed to survive Teenager videogaming use. One negative is that the mic is on a flexible boom and does not swivel, so if you like your

mic on your right side, you are out of luck.

Dont worry about the surround sound feature, its downloadable software and you dont need it anyway.

Other than that, it not only sounds great on transmit, but does a very good job of isolating room noise on receive without clamping your head like a vise like the Heil ProSets do.

I got mine on sale for \$30. It's now priced at under \$50 depending on Prime and/or the "store" you buy it from. comes with adapters for both TRRS connections for newer PC's and Flex Maestro and Two TRS plugs for separate audio and mic sockets on PC's and stock transceiver use. Note that the mic capsule is Electret Condenser, so it needs a Bias voltage from the radio and/or PC to use. Most modern radios have this capability in their mic sockets.

Tested to work fine on Flex Maestro, Elecraft K3, Icom 910 and Kenwood TS590 successfully through Heil 8 pin adapters. Own a Yaesu? You are on your own :)

Check it out! If it doesnt work for you, you have 30 days to return it through Amazon!
Lu Romero - W4LT

*** NEWS FROM MICROSOFT – 1 YEAR FREE SECURITY UPDATES***

INFOPACKETS by John Lister

Microsoft has announced Windows 10 users won't have to pay for updates for the first year after its "end of life". It's the most significant move yet away from a potential security nightmare.

This October will still be the official point at which Microsoft no longer offers any updates. With previous systems, that meant a complete end to security updates for consumers, with businesses able to pay a significant fee (doubling every year) to get the patches through a three-year Extended Security Updates program.

Microsoft had already announced that for the first time, consumers would be eligible for the program, at a reduced fee of \$30. That only covers one year of updates, with no commitment by Microsoft beyond that.

With many owners either unable or unwilling to upgrade to Windows 11, often because their fully functioning PC didn't meet the hardware requirements, that left a serious problem. If Microsoft pulled the plug on free updates it faced the prospect of millions of unprotected computers becoming an enticing target for malware creators.

Settings Backup Gets Free Security Updates

Now it has backtracked further by announcing two options to get the updates without paying the \$30 fee. One is to use Windows Backup to sync Windows Backup Settings to the cloud. This doesn't mean backing up any documents or data, but instead just backing up details such as the list of installed apps, mouse cursor speed, default WiFi network and so on. (Source: [microsoft.com](https://www.microsoft.com))

It's not really clear what Microsoft has to gain from people backing up their Windows Backup Settings and it certainly doesn't bring \$30 of value to the company. This means its most likely a face-saving exercise to avoid formally ditching the option to pay the fee.

Side note: in order to use Windows Backup, you need to have a Microsoft Account associated with your Windows installation. To check if you are using a Microsoft Account, Click the Start button, then click the gear icon (Settings) from the menu. In Settings, go to Accounts -> Your Info; if you see your email address, you're using a Microsoft Account; if it says "Local account" or shows "Sign in with a Microsoft account", you're not, which means you most likely need to convert your Local account to a Microsoft account. Although this article was compiled by John Lister, it's Dennis' best guess that Microsoft wants to force all of us to use a Microsoft Account so they can stay in touch (and spam us with offers)? by having us backup our Backup Settings in order to get an extension on Windows 10 Updates. *Your guess is as good as mine!*

The other option is to spend 1,000 Microsoft Reward points. This is a loyalty scheme where users earn points through a variety of actions from buying apps in the Microsoft store to using Bing to carry out web searches and even playing Xbox games. For somebody who was intentionally trying to rack up the 1,000 points, they would have to either spend \$100 in the Microsoft store, carry out 334 searches in Bing, or a combination of the two.

*** AT&T TO PAY COMPENSATION FOR DATA BREACH***

Malwarebytes Labs June 30, 2025 by [Pieter Arntz](#)

AT&T is set to pay \$177 million to customers affected by two significant data breaches. These breaches exposed sensitive personal information of millions of current and former AT&T customers.

For those that have missed the story so far:

- Back in 2021, an entity named Shiny Hunters (a known hacking group) claimed to have [breached AT&T](#). Later reports indicated this breach started in 2019. AT&T denied that the data came from its systems.

- Then in March, 2024, the data of over 70 million people was posted for sale on an online cybercrime forum. The seller claimed the data came from the Shiny Hunters breach. AT&T again denied the data came from its systems.
- On March 30, 2024, AT&T reset customer passcodes after a security researcher discovered the encrypted login passcodes found in the leaked data were easy to decipher.
- Finally, on April 2, 2024, AT&T [confirmed](#) that 73 million current and former customers had been caught up in the data leak.
- A later breach, [revealed in July, 2024](#), involved a hack of AT&T's cloud storage provider, Snowflake, compromising call and text records from 2022 for nearly 109 million US customers. Although no names were linked to this data, the breach was severe enough to lead to arrests.

Following these incidents, AT&T faced multiple class action lawsuits alleging inadequate protection of customer data. Now, a US District Judge has [granted preliminary approval to a settlement](#) resolving these lawsuits. This settlement offers an opportunity for affected customers to receive compensation for the harm caused by these breaches.

Who qualifies for compensation?

- Any current or former AT&T customer whose data was accessed in either breach is eligible.
- Priority and larger payments will go to those who can document damages directly caused by the breaches.
- Maximum payouts are up to \$5,000 for the 2019 breach and \$2,500 for the 2024 breach.
- Any remaining funds will be distributed to others affected, even without proof of damages.

The projected timeline for the claims process looks like this

- Notices to eligible claimants will be sent by August 4, 2025.
- The deadline to submit claims is November 18, 2025.
- Payments are expected to begin in early 2026, pending final court approval scheduled for December 3, 2025.

To find out how to claim, watch for official notifications from AT&T or check the settlement website once it launches.

You can use Malwarebytes' easy, free tool—the Malwarebytes Digital Footprint Portal—to [check if your data was exposed in the AT&T breach](#). Simply click the button below, enter your email address, and follow the prompts on the screen.

[SCAN NOW](#)

When you get your results, you'll see a pink bubble with the words "Exposed on AT&T" if your information was affected in the breach. If you see a green bubble then your data was not exposed.

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. 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 – 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 440.1 +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.

*ICOM IC-W32A , 2m and 440 HT, AA battery pack	\$25
*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 AV-12AVQ, 10/15/20 vertical	\$125
*Cushcraft A50-#S, 6m beam	\$125
*Cushcraft A-#WS, 17/12 WARC beam	\$250
*15000 V neon sign transformer currently used for Jacobs ladder	\$30

HAMFESTS

2025

August 23

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/>

November 8 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 12 & 13 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 ;-)

2026

January 17 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/> Date not confirmed .

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	MS150 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

Mid October

The Great Shakeout <https://www.shakeout.org>

October, 3rd 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

1st full weekend August

SSB 3rd full weekend January

3rd 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, 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

[ag4qx AT arrl DOT net](mailto:ag4qx@arrl.net)