



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

September 2025

Hello Worms

This month we have a visit from Tom Schaefer, NY4I, one of the four candidates for the ARRL Southeast Division Directorship. Also, below you will find an email from Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, also a candidate. In the Southeastern Division, in addition to Schaefer and Roberts current Director Mickey Baker, N4MB, will also face challenger Jim Kvochick, K8JK, a former Michigan Section Manager. Balloting for contested seats will take place this fall. Votes will be counted, and successful candidates announced, in November. Candidates declared elected will assume their roles for terms beginning January 1, 2026. Directors serve for three years.

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

Frankenstein's monster is a vegetarian. In Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*, Victor Frankenstein's monster says, "My food is not that of man; I do not destroy the lamb and the kid to glut my appetite; acorns and berries afford me sufficient nourishment." This is one of the interesting facts you should definitely share with your vegetarian friends!

***THIS MONTH'S STIFF – SIR JOHN AMBROSE FLEMING ***

eHam.net created by Philip Neidlinger, KA4KOE

Entered Mortal Coil: 29 November 1849

Assumed Room Temperature: 18 April 1945

Receiving wireless signals in 'The Good Ole' Days" was not an easy proposition. First, in order to generate any appreciable signal at the receiving end, your spark transmitter had to be tremendously powerful. Second, antennas were extremely large in order to extract every little bit of RF energy flashing through the ether and to be at least minimally efficient given the extremely low frequencies that the transmitter utilized. Why all the fuss? Well, consider that the state of the art at the time for radio detection consisted of a crude little gadget called a coherer. The induced voltage at the antenna would cause iron filings inside a glass tube to stick, or "cohere", together a little bit, and electrical conduction would occur via external electrodes. After this cohesion took place, another gadget, a kludge, if you will, had to tap the tube to loosen the filings so another signal could be received. This "detector" didn't detect very well at all. The operator had to wear a cumbersome headset that was strapped on so tight it would almost make the poor chap's eyeballs pop out of his skull in order to silence every last bit of external noise. Remember, not only did the underpaid wireless operator have to keep from being annoyed by the boss, but the spark transmitter was both spectacular and LOUD. Often, the transmitter was in another room altogether. We're talking weak signal work here, folks. It's a wonder radio communication ever got off the ground in the first place. But, being unabashed capitalists as most inventors were, and still are, they just kept plugging away at the problem. Other detectors were tried utilizing various mineral substances and even electrolytic solutions, but the first really good detector was invented by this installment's dude, Sir John Ambrose Fleming.

John's first significant job consisted of working for the Edison Electric Light Company of London for a ten year period beginning in 1881. In 1883 he noticed a strange phenomenon inside the innards of common light bulbs. Carbon soot was being emitted by the filament and caused the bulbs to turn black with time. John inserted an electrode (what we now call a plate) inside in an effort to stop this undesired process. In further experiments he noted that a very small current flowed in the circuit when a positive voltage was applied to the plate. No current flowed when the voltage was negative in polarity. John applied an alternating voltage (Edison hated AC and didn't care for Tesla much either), and noted that only half of the voltage passed through. *Voila!* A Eureka moment, unfortunately, did **not** occur, as Fleming applied for a patent sometime later in 1905.

Ambrose called his gadget a thermionic valve. At the time of its conception, the detector was an invention waiting for an application. So, in essence, Fleming put his modified light bulb away in storage and apparently didn't think much of it until the boys down at Marconi's shop began making noise. Literally.

Since he was a long-time consultant for Marconi's wireless company, Fleming got together with the Maestro and divulged the secret of his new detector. Guglielmo was definitely interested, and found that the new thermionic valve worked wonderfully in radio receivers. The little light bulb started appearing in radio receivers all over the place, until a certain rogue by the name of Lee DeForest messed up Fleming's happy state of affairs by inserting another wire into the light bulb, and then sued the Englishman to boot. Fortunately, Fleming won the court battle with a settlement in 1920, and the thermionic valve was declared a valid invention in its own right. However, the honeymoon was short as the cat's whisker detector was invented two years later. The little glowing light bulbs stayed in the radios, but now they were being used as amplifiers, and later, as oscillators.

In Fleming's later years he remained active in the burgeoning electronics field. John was also knighted in honor of his accomplishments. He remarried at the age of 84. John didn't die destitute or a broken man, but quietly as most of us would prefer. This Dude's story happily ended well.

Cheers.

Philip Neidlinger, PE

KA4KOE

*** 26TH ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR ***

QRZ.com by K6ISS

In just a few weeks, one of the most popular summer operating events will kick off "Route 66 on the Air Special Event"

Route 66, established on November 11th 1926, as part of the U.S. Highway System, stretched approximately 2,448 miles, from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New

Mexico, Arizona and California. Known as the "Main Street of America" and later dubbed the "Mother Road" by John Steinbeck in his 1939 novel The Grapes of Wrath, it became an iconic symbol of American mobility and opportunity.

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC; W6JBT), since 1947 located in Highland, California (San Bernardino County), will be hosting this yearly event celebrating the 26th years of the event.

The event will run from September 6th 0001z up to September 14th 2359z There will be a TOTAL of 24 stations with 1x1 callsigns from W6A up to W6Y, these stations are located or will be operating near the original Route 66, from Santa Monica up to Chicago. This year will be a special year for the event as we will have a total of 5 rover stations, W6S, W6T, W6V, W6W and W6Y, but specially W6Y will be an Aeronautical Rover station operating from the air on 2 meters simplex 146.490 the operator will be Bill Hartsell, N3SWH, retired USAF Colonel.

All the details and instructions including a list of the stations/calls and frequencies are found on the CBARC website at: <https://w6jbt.org/>

*** SCOTT ROBERTS BID FOR SOUTHEAST DIRECTOR ***

Email from Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

I hope you are doing well. My name is Scott Roberts, KK4ECR, and I am proud to run for the position of ARRL Southeastern Division Director.

Bringing substantial leadership experience from serving as the North Florida Section Manager, I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Southeastern Division Director position with the ARRL. My vision is clear: to collaborate with every member in the Southeastern Division to shape the future of ARRL.

In my first 30 days in office, I will prioritize filling open Division positions to build a strong, collaborative team. Leveraging the expertise of our Assistant Division Directors, I will address key issues that matter most to our members. My leadership style is one of "leading from the trenches," where I work side by side with our members to understand their needs and challenges. Communication is vital; I am committed to responding promptly to text messages, emails, and phone calls from every member of our community. I plan to host regular open division meetings where I, my Vice Director, the Assistant Division Directors, and the Section Managers address the issues and direction of our division. The meetings will provide an opportunity for our membership to share their input and participate in the discussion through an open forum. As part of those meetings, I invite your club leadership to participate and help convey what is important for your club and your club members.

It is crucial that we make our hobby great for future generations. Clubs play a crucial role, providing mentorship from experienced hams to those just starting the hobby. To foster that engagement, I want to help develop recognition for those mentors at ARRL. With that recognition from a national organization, affiliated clubs and their mentors can better engage schools, scouting programs, 4H, and other community organizations by highlighting their commitment to lifelong learning.

I want to work WITH all of our clubs to help them build their membership. To facilitate this, I plan to visit clubs in our Division—both in person and virtually—to promote collaboration and support the growth of each club. We can host ARRL nights as a fundraiser for clubs. I can highlight member benefits and resources while the club renews or signs up new members, where part of the membership dues are reinvested in the club.

To keep everyone informed and engaged, I also plan to hold regular Town Hall Meetings where all amateur operators can attend and revive the Division website. These meetings will provide updates on the status of the Division, what is happening at ARRL, and an open forum for operators to ask questions and share concerns. Topics and issues raised from these Town Halls will be the subject of Division leadership meetings to ensure the Southeastern Division best reflects its members.

Additionally, I intend to respond expeditiously to Hamfest inquiries, club affiliation requests, and club honor emails—eliminating long wait times that have frustrated many in our community. I will do everything in my power to ensure hamfests happen, working with struggling hamfests to find grants. In addition, I plan to rotate the Division Convention each year to highlight the incredible hamfests in each part of this large division.

Together, we can revitalize our community and foster an environment where every amateur radio operator feels valued and empowered. Join me in this journey as we work towards a vibrant future for amateur radio in the Southeastern Division.

As we look ahead, I'm excited that ARRL has declared 2026 as the "Year of the Club!" Clubs are truly the backbone of the amateur radio hobby, serving as vital hubs for connection, learning, and community engagement. They not only provide a space for operators to come together, share knowledge, and hone their skills but also play an essential role in fostering new talent and enthusiasm within our ranks. My goal is to support and develop clubs across the Southeastern Division, empowering them to collaborate with their sections, grow membership, and establish themselves as influential forces in their communities. By focusing on building robust club structures and initiatives that resonate with local interests, we can ensure that amateur radio continues to thrive as a resource for communication and public service. Together, let's make 2026 a transformative year that strengthens our clubs and amplifies their positive impact!

Best regards,

Scott Roberts, KK4ECR

ARRL NFL Section Manager | Clay County Amateur Radio Emergency Service | Orange Park Amateur Radio Club. Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Clay County ARES | Public Information Officer, Clay County ARES | Section Manager, ARRL NFL Section ARES | Vice President, Orange Park Amateur Radio Club | Jacksonville NWS SKYWARN Association |

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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 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 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
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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

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.winterfeldday.com/
Late January	Gasparilla celebration
Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference http://arrlwcf.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, 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, 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)