



News from

## The GLORIOUS SOCIETY OF THE WORMHOLE

February 2026

**Hello Worms**

### **THE MEETING WILL NOW START AT 1000**

Another organizations meeting is starting at 1230 meaning they arrive at 1200. Unfortunately that means our meeting after meeting that sometimes runs for hours will no longer be available. We could always go somewhere and get a cup of coffee.

The newsletter is short this month, I had a medical procedure , that and the processes preceding it took too much of my time .

The 2025 Tampa Bay Hamfest is in the books. We did not lose money this year, so that is all to the good. We can always use more volunteers.

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\***

Saint Lucia is the only country in the world named after a woman. The country was named after Saint Lucy of Syracuse by the French.

## **\*THIS MONTH'S STIFF – NIKOLA TESLA \***

By Philip Neidlinger, PE KA4KOE

**Entered Mortal Coil: 10 July 1856**

**Assumed Room Temperature: 7 January 1943**

I present to you this month's Dead Electrical Dude No. 2, Mr. Nikola Tesla (i.e. "Sparky", since he had an affinity for large electrical discharges) Mr. Tesla invented many of the electrical devices and systems in widespread use today. It is interesting to note that the man started out his professional career as an electrical engineer with Budapest's version of Ma Bell. Tesla's contraptions and wild ideas resulted in some amazing toys being thrust upon mankind. Note the following highly abbreviated list of just a small sampling of his innovations-

**Alternating polyphase current distribution:** Tesla's AC system won out over Thomas Edison's DC system. In retaliation against his former employee, Edison staged public demonstrations of the lethality of alternating current by electrocuting dogs. If Edison's DC system had won out, we'd in all likelihood still be in the dark...literally. Imagine huge storage batteries surrounded by fences every few city blocks. Tesla joined forces with Westinghouse and the rest is, as they say, history.

**Induction motor:** This item is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of all time.

**Fluorescent light:** Fluorescent lighting is now considered the standard for energy efficient illumination, relegating incandescent sources to secondary status.

**Tesla coil:** versions of this device are used in your television set's high voltage deflection coils. These coils are responsible for moving that little electron beam around ever so FAST. Really large Tesla coils can generate impressive artificial lightning bolts. Cool stuff.

**Tesla held patents for elementary radio apparatus,** in particular, the use of tuned circuits. Marconi built the first viable radio system using technology described by Tesla.

In all, Tesla held 700 U.S. patents for his devices. Note, however, that the inventor did have a weird side. Some of Tesla's quirks included the following-

Tesla claimed to have received signals from another planet using one of the devices in his laboratory.

Sparky never married. How many homely geeks do you know who fit this picture?

Tesla also claimed to have invented a "death ray" that could destroy 10,000 enemy aircraft from a distance of 250 miles. We may never know the veracity of this claim, since all of Tesla's papers were confiscated by the Feds at the time of his death during World War II.

Tesla lived the last 10 years of his life in a two room suite on the 33<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hotel New Yorker, Room 3327. Edward Armstrong, the inventor of the superheterodyne receiver and FM, said of his colleague, *"The world will wait a long time for Nikola Tesla's equal in achievement and imagination."* I agree with the late Mr. Armstrong. As a final tribute to the man and his achievements, the unit of magnetic flux density, the **Tesla**, was named in his honor.

References: The Nikola Tesla Memorial Website, <http://www.teslasociety.com>

73,

Philip Neidlinger

KA4KOE

## **\* FLORIDA PARKS ON THE AIR CONTEST\***

From: Paul KN4BAR <[paul9aber@gmail.com](mailto:paul9aber@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Jan 12, 2026 at 1:28 PM

Subject: Florida State Parks on the Air Contest - April 17 to 20, 2026

### **Greetings and Happy New Year to All!**

As the new for 2026 sponsor of the Florida State Parks on the Air Contest (FLPOTA), the Tamiami Amateur Radio Club (TARC) in Venice would like to ask all addressees of this email to please help us promote this contest to their fellow club members and friends. The contest has had a troubled history the past few years and TARC is committed to making 2026 the year that Florida amateurs get back out into our great state parks again in large numbers to compete for Parks on the Air activation recognition.

Florida will join Alabama, Georgia, and Texas in holding 2026 state POTA contests during the weekend of April 18-19, 2026. Our Florida contest will run from Friday, April 17 through Monday, April 20 during normal park hours of 8 am to 7:59 pm (or actual park closing time). We encourage clubs to use this opportunity to bring together experienced park activators and the many other club members who would like to learn about POTA operations. Plan to compete as a “club station” category contestant.

We have tried to keep the rules, number of operating classes, and scoring system to an absolute minimum. We want this to be more of a fun event and an opportunity for participants to explore our great state parks. The rules have BONUS incentives for first time activators and for youth (under 18) operators. Visit the event website for more information and to read the rules and frequently asked questions (FAQ) documents posted there.

<https://fspota.org/>

We hope to fill the Florida parks with POTA activators on this weekend in April. The April QST magazine will have this listed as a published Special Event. Please address questions and comments to [admin@fspota.org](mailto:admin@fspota.org).

73, Jim N7JIM

Chairman, TARC FL POTA Committee

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## **\*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 113<sup>th</sup> St N and about 92<sup>nd</sup> 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

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## **\*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.

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## **\*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 <sup>RD</sup> 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 <a href="https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html">https://winlinkwednesday.net/reminder.html</a>	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
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
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
<b>SATURDAY</b>		
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
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
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

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**\*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	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

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**\*HAMFESTS\***

**February 28**      **TECHCON 2026 Hillsborough County Public Safety Operations Complex, located at 9450 E. Columbus Dr., Tampa, FL 33519** You may register to either attend or make a presentation for **TECHCON** at <http://arrlwc.org/section-forms/wcfttechconfregistration/>.

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Fourth full weekend January  
Late January

Winter Field Day <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>  
Gasparilla celebration

Late February	West Central Florida Tech Conference <a href="http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/">http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special-events/wcftechconference/</a>
March/April	MS Walks
April	MS150 bike now named Suncoast Challenge <a href="http://www.citrustour.org/register.php">http://www.citrustour.org/register.php</a>
March/April	Mass Casualty Exercises
Late April	Southeastern VHF Society Conference, <a href="http://www.svhfs.org">http://www.svhfs.org</a>
Late April	Florida QSO Party
Mid May	March For Babies (was March of Dimes) <a href="https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events">https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events</a>
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 <a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/</a>
Third weekend in August	International Lighthouse/Lightship Week <a href="https://illw.net/">https://illw.net/</a>
September	Run for All Children's
Mid October	The Great Shakeout <a href="https://www.shakeout.org">https://www.shakeout.org</a>
October, 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend	JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)
Early December	ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park
December, Second weekend	Tampa Bay Hamfest <a href="http://www.fgcarc.org/">http://www.fgcarc.org/</a>

### North American QSO Party

Mode	Contest Weekend
CW	2nd full weekend January 1 <sup>st</sup> full weekend August
SSB	3 <sup>rd</sup> full weekend January 3 <sup>rd</sup> full weekend August

RTTY      last Saturday February  
            3rd full weekend July

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**\*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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