



News from

The GLORIOUS SOCIETY of THE WORMHOLE

August 2026

Hello Worms



THE MEETING WILL START AT 1000.

Bring your drink of choice and lunch to the meeting if you want. We normally have some water and root bear available. 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

If you're looking to get your entire body tattooed, you don't need to stop at your eyeballs! Many hardcore tattoo fans are getting the whites of their eyes injected with ink of all kinds of colors, ranging from green to purple. However, there are some risks involved, such as pain and prolonged blurred and double vision.

***THIS MONTH'S STIFF – HEINRICH RUDOLPH HERTZ ***

Heinrich Rudolph Hertz

Entered Mortal coil: 22 February 1857

Assumed Room Temperature: 1 January 1894

Perhaps the burning question on my mind is why did a lot of the early electrical pioneers sport such interesting beards? Put a rifle in the picture and I can just imagine Heiny walking out of the piney woods after distilling a few hundred gallons of 'shine. As you may recall, the existence of electromagnetic waves was predicted mathematically by James Clerk Maxwell and was discussed in the first of this series of irreverent articles. Mathematicians, physicists, and scientists will, on occasion, develop elegant formulae that don't amount to much except to illustrate some arcane concept with no practical application. However, such was not the case in this particular instance. Heiny took Maxwell's headache-inducing formulae and proved that they did, in fact, describe a natural phenomenon.

Hertz was born in Hamburg, Germany. At an early age it became apparent that the boy was scientifically inclined. Young Heiny enjoyed building instruments of various types in the family workshop. Hertz began his formal education in 1877 at the University of Munich where he studied engineering. Only a year later, Hertz abandoned engineering (blasphemy!) and began his study of natural sciences at the University of Berlin, studying under Helmholtz and Kirchhoff (sound familiar?) where he earned his Ph.D, with magna cum laude honors. His mom must have been a very proud woman! A topic of intense interest in the scientific community at the time was determining whether or not Maxwell's equations were valid. In 1883, the young scientist also directed his attention to this course of research.

In 1887, Hertz conducted his now famous experiment in which two antennas were placed a few feet apart. The first part of the device consisted of essentially a crude spark gap transmitter connected to the first antenna. The receiving antenna was a loop with a couple of electrodes on the wire ends placed very close together. Hertz activated the transmitter and it generated sparks. Sparks were also seen leaping across the electrode gap at the receiving antenna. Further experiments were conducted in which it was determined that the invisible waves could be reflected and refracted in a manner similar to that of light waves, and finally that light waves were also electromagnetic in nature. Maxwell's theories were finally vindicated eight years after his death!

Hertz's findings were published in 1892 in his book, *Untersuchungen Ueber Die Ausbreitung Der Elektrischen Kraft* (*Investigations on the Propagation of Electric Energy*).

Unfortunately, Hertz died young at the age of 37 from blood poisoning. Associates and friends remember the professor as amiable and modest, and people seemed to be naturally attracted to him. In his honor, the unit of frequency measurement, the Hertz, was named after him.

A young Italian boy read about Hertz's experiments and it galvanized his attention. I'll give you three guesses who that boy was!

Philip Neidlinger, P.E. KA4KOE References: The Spark Museum, <http://www.sparkmuseum.com/>

A NEW CATEGORY OF SATELLITE REENTRY EVENT

spaceweather.com

Launched Friday July 24th, SpaceX's Starship 13 megarocket cemented a new category of satellite reentry event - rapid-fire, deliberate, and very massive. Satellites reenter Earth's atmosphere all the time -- a few per day, typically. It's a slow drizzle of human tech raining back onto our planet. Most are old first-generation Starlinks.

Starship 13 did something very different. It deployed 20 V3 Starlinks -- "super Starlinks," roughly seven times the mass of the first-generation models. All 20 will burn up in Earth's atmosphere within an hour of liftoff. It is a "swarm reentry," pre-planned by SpaceX.

Why would SpaceX do this? It's a test. The new satellites are so massive they need a megarocket like Starship to reach orbit, and the main purpose of this flight is to prove Starship can deploy them. But because the test flight is suborbital, the satellites fall back almost immediately. If you add up the mass of all 20 satellites it comes to ~38,000 kg or about **80 times** the normal daily mass of Starlinks reentering the atmosphere. Because V3s are rich in aluminum, their sudden reentry will create an enormous spike in aluminum oxide deposition-- the very compound that studies show can deplete the ozone layer.

Flight 13 is not the first time Starship has dumped tons of Starlink-mass into the atmosphere in a single day. It is actually the fourth, starting with Flight 10 back in August 2025. However, those previous flights deployed dummy satellites presumably containing much less aluminum. That makes #13 unprecedented.

SpaceX confirmed on Elon Musk's social media platform X that the company was able to make contact with all 20 Starlink satellites it deployed during this mission.

*** MILLIONS OF CARS CAN BE UNLOCKED BY FLAW***

Malwarebytes by Danny Bradbury

A car alarm vendor's coding mistake has left millions of vehicles vulnerable to theft and location tracking. Thanks to the way dealers sell car alarms, many affected drivers don't even know they have one installed.

The device is the KARR Security System, a Bluetooth-enabled aftermarket alarm built by Acrisure Protection Group. It's installed by dealers, primarily at Honda, Toyota, Mazda, Ford, and Jeep dealerships in Southern California.

Aftermarket car alarms are a strange corner of the auto industry. Dealers install them in your car before you ever see the vehicle, then try to sell you the subscription afterward. Say no and the hardware still stays put. According to researchers at the University of California San Diego, KARR systems are installed in about 2.2 million American vehicles, and around half of owners don't even know they're there.

The research team, led by computer science professor Aaron Schulman, investigated the system and [found](#) a single design flaw repeated across nearly a decade of installations.

Every KARR device shares the same authentication key, and it's stored in plain text inside the KARR smartphone app. Extract it once and you can communicate with any KARR-equipped vehicle made since 2017. That is what the researchers did.

Standing within about five yards of a target vehicle, an attacker using the researchers' proof-of-concept tool can unlock the vehicle and even disable its ignition, potentially leaving a driver stranded. The only outward sign is a brief beep and flicker when the command is sent. The owner receives no alert.

The location tracking issue is arguably even more concerning. KARR units continuously broadcast Bluetooth identifiers, so crowdsourced radio databases like WiGLE have been logging their locations for years. Feed a device's identifier into WiGLE and you can build a picture of where that car has been parked. It's a stalker's dream. The researchers also demonstrated a "mayhem" mode that triggers horns and lights across multiple parked vehicles at once.

Owners who declined the paid service and assumed the hardware was inactive were wrong. According to the researchers, dormant units accept a single Bluetooth wake-up command before exposing the same functionality.

UC San Diego disclosed the flaw to Acrisure in January 2025, but a firmware fix did not arrive until July 20, 2026—roughly 18 months later, and only weeks before the team was due to present its findings at the DEF CON hacker conference next month. Acrisure has publicly characterized the real-world risk as low.

Compare that with Subaru's response to a similar connected-car flaw disclosed last year. Researchers found that Subaru's Starlink admin portal could hand over any car to anyone armed with a license plate and the owner's last name or email. From there, someone could unlock the doors and start the engine—or dig into a year of location history accurate to within five meters.

The underlying problems there were an insecure password-reset endpoint and weak protection against two-factor authentication (2FA) bypass. Subaru fixed the issues within 24 hours.

The awkward part here is that the patch ships through the KARR companion app, which only paying customers would ever have downloaded. The researchers estimate that at least half of car owners with these devices installed didn't ask for it, meaning that there's little chance they'll run the app or update the firmware. Roughly a million people cannot patch what they do not know exists. This includes many folks who might have purchased a KARR-equipped vehicle on the second-hand market.

Look for a KARR sticker on the driver-side window, or one reading "SWDS" for SouthWest Dealer Services (an Acrisure subsidiary). Then check the underside of the dashboard for a small button with a blinking light, according to Wired. If you find one, download the KARR app and apply the firmware update—even if you never knowingly signed up for the alarm in the first place.

IT SOUNDS LIKE A VACUUM IN YOUR LIVING ROOM*

tom's HARDWARE NEWS by Jowi Morales

Residents of Dowagiac, Michigan, just filed a lawsuit against a data center that allegedly generates a high-pitched whining sound — and has done so 24/7 for the past two years.

The data center, which is owned by Alliance Cloud Services LLC, a subsidiary of Hyperscale Data, used to be an industrial building that sat behind a row of pine trees across the street from the most affected residents, according to ABC-affiliate [WXYZ](#). The site started development in 2018 and was eventually turned into a cryptocurrency mining center in 2021. But in 2024, something changed drastically when the building started emitting noise pollution around the clock. Residents say it sounds like a vacuum cleaner in their living room, and the company has offered to buy up homes from unhappy residents.

“It sounds like someone set up a vacuum, like in your living room. And the vacuum is just... that thing needs to be cleaned ... the filter is clogged up, so it's a high-pitch whining. And they just left it on and walked out,” said Lindy Valenzuela, one of the residents living across from the data center. Billy Finn, who also lived nearby, added, “You’ve seen movies and stuff where they have somebody in a cell torturing them with sound. And that’s basically what it is.”

Dowagiac has recently instituted an industrial noise ordinance, with a daytime limit of 65dB during the day and 55dB at night, and it has fined the data center for violations. However, Hyperscale Data is challenging the city’s readings and methodology. The company said that it’s planning to expand its operations in the footprint in the area, but the city said that it hasn’t received any permit applications.

Hyperscale Data CEO William Horne told the residents directly in a special council meeting that the site is pivoting away from cryptocurrency operations towards AI computing and advanced robotics, and that it’s spending \$100 million to achieve this. It has also bought acres of adjacent properties for use as a natural buffer to reduce the noise that affects residents in the future, alongside other efforts that will reduce sound levels. “If they still aren't happy, and feel that their home isn't enjoyable, then we'll buy their property from them,” Horne said.

Still, this statement did not sit well with the affected residents. One of them said that their family has been living in the area for close to a hundred years, with their friends and support system, while another has a 17-month-old baby and another on the way, meaning moving for them is going to be difficult, if not impossible. Because of this, the residents asked the CEO why they didn't act on the complaints as soon as they started and accused the company of not being a good neighbor.

This isn't the first noise pollution lawsuit that a data center is facing in the country. A [Microsoft](#) data center is facing a similar [class-action lawsuit in Wisconsin](#) from residents who live within 1.5 miles of the facility. One non-profit organization also said that [inaudible vibrations, called infrasound](#), that these industrial sites emit can be heard and felt for hundreds of feet in surrounding areas and could potentially have negative health effects on anyone who can feel it.

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 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 – offset 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 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 444.450 + 146.2	CARS Traders & Trivia Net	Echolink N4CLW-R Node 474277
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
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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 444.425 +100.0	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

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,:

From Dean Sever Bridgecom BCM-220 220mHz Mobile Transceiver about 6 months old, original box, instructions, mic, program usb and dc cables. Not a scratch on it never been out of the house.
\$100.00. Dean W8IM@arrl.net

From Jack Satterfield W4GRJ, contact at captjack@satterfield.org
USB Interface Navigator, Navigator Sound Card Modem, in excellent condition, includes cables for Yaseu FT-857 and other similar Yaesu radios. \$150 <https://timewave.com/support/Navigator/index.html>

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 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

- August 22** **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/>
- Nov 7** **EPARS Hamfest**, American Legion, 37745 Church Ave, Dade City, gate \$5, tailgate \$5, inside table \$10, talkin 146.880 (-.600) 146.2, contact Chris Bloxsom , AA4CB, PO Box 2199 St. Leo , FL 33574 or 224-221-5064 or aa4cb@yahoo.com, **Website:** <http://eparsonline.org>
- November 14** **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.
- December 11 & 12** **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 ;-)

2027

- May 29** **WormFest 2027**, 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

Late January

Late February

events/wcftechconference/

March/April

April

March/April

Late April

Late April

Mid May

<https://www.marchforbabies.org/Registration/Events>

Mid May

Mid-May

Late May

May, Memorial Day Weekend

First weekend in June

Fourth weekend in June

Third weekend in August

September

Mid October

October, 3rd weekend

Early December

December, Second weekend

Winter Field Day <https://www.winterfeldday.com/>

Gasparilla celebration

West Central Florida Tech Conference <http://arrlwcf.org/wcf-special->

MS Walks

MS150 bike now named Suncoast Challenge <http://www.citrustour.org/register.php>

Mass Casualty Exercises

Southeastern VHF Society Conference, <http://www.svhfs.org>

Florida QSO Party

March For Babies (was March of Dimes)

Annual Armed Forces Crossband Test

Florida Hurricane Exercise

Dayton Hamfest

Wormfest

Museum Ships on the Air

Field Day <http://www.arrrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>

International Lighthouse/Lightship Week <https://illw.net/>

Run for All Children's

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

JOTA, Scout Jamboree-on-the-AIR (around 14.280MHz)

ALS bike ride in Walsingham Park

Tampa Bay Hamfest <http://www.fgcarrc.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 and 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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