



# Ham Radio in the 21st Century



W4RSC "RADIO SILVER COMET"

ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

## SILVERCOMET SKYWAVE

Silver Comet ARS, INC NEWS

PO BOX 1873 Hiram Ga. 30141 501 (C) (3) Not for Profit

AUG-SEPT 2016 Vol 3 Number 4



### PREZ SEZ : Greetings fellow SilverCometARS' :

It is time for another edition of our newsletter. First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new and prospective members who have expressed interest in our club. We hope you find our club members and club activities friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. I also want to thank all the club members Who have made these new members welcome to our group. Well done. Hey fine example of ham radio comradery. Don't forget, our Broadcast Band DX Contest is fast approaching and we will be discussing all the details with hints and tips at our next meeting on Sept. 5th. Wear your best bragging outfit and join in the fun.

Lots of club stuff happening from now until the end of the year so keep an eye on your emails and check the club calendar often and attend the meetings to make sure you don't miss any of the good stuff. **73 Chuck K4CGA**

THE MAN TO BEAT THIS FALL IN **THE AM BROADCAST BAND DX CONTEST**  
**He holds the Coveted "K4ELI Memorial Trophy" John W4TXA**



### In This Issue

- President SEZ
- 2016 Calendar
- A New Take on Digital Modes when the Bands are dead.
- **READY FOR OUR NEXT CLUB MEETING ??**
- Things to consider as we move to the later part of 2016.
- Hamfest Calendar for the rest of 2016.

**\*\* Don't forget "BOTC" [Breakfast On The Chair] every Thursday morning at 9am. \*\***

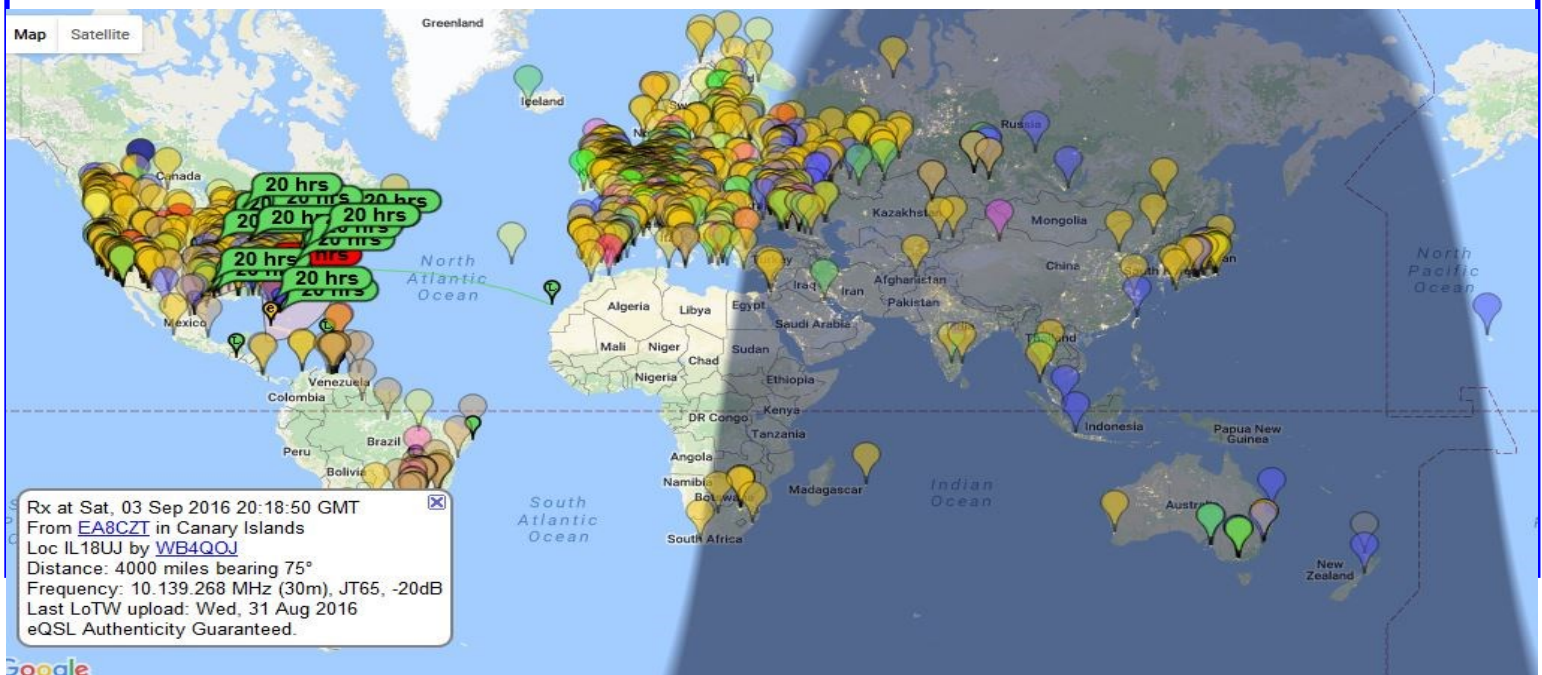
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-05-2016 7pm	02-03-2016 7pm	03-01-2016 7pm	04-05-2016 7pm	05-03-2016 7pm	06-07-2016 7pm	07-05-2016 7pm	08-02-2016 7pm	09-06-2016 7pm	10-04-2016 7pm	11-01-2016 7pm	12-06-2016 7pm
Meeting Location	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	O'charley's or TBA	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Location Suggestion Needed	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg
Meeting Activity	Show & Tell Night	Antenna Tuners Why & What Kind K4CGA/K4ELI	Intro to the ARRL	Severe Weather Presentation by K4DMF	Family Night Dinner & Rag Chew	Field Day Primer & Planning (Volunteer Planner Needed)	Intro to Computer Logging & Other Useful Programs	Everything You Need To Know About Voltmeters	2nd Annual AM Radio DX Contest	Intro to Coax Cables ***** Club Officers Nominations	Your Suggestion Here ***** Club Officers Voting	Holiday Dinner ***** Election Results
Additional Activities		TBD	TBD	GA QSO Party	Picketts Mill Celebration May 27th NPOTA (TBD)	Field Day GOTA	TBD	Silver Comet Trail On The Air (TBD)	Club Fall Picnic (Location TBD)	Jamboree On The Air (TBD)	TBD	TBD
Hamfest Schedule		Dalton February 27th	Birmingham, AL March 4th ***** Elijay March 19th	Mobile, AL March 9th ***** Calhoun April 23rd	Dayton, OH May 20-22	Atlanta June 4th		Huntsville, AL August 20-21			Lawrenceville November 5th ***** Montgomery, AL November 19th	
Subject to change.												v1.8.16

## *My take on Digital Modes when the bands are DEAD !*

by wb4qoj

Most of of us have heard the stories about how the propagation is **Really Bad**. HF comes and goes Sun Spots K index A index FLUX. **WELL** its time to take a look at what you can really do when you hear NO SSB, NO CW and PSK is almost NOT on the waterfall. Chuck K4CGA gave me a fast lesson in JT65 the other day. I new it was different and quite unique, but I did not understand about how it really worked, NOW I have scratched the surface and it is amazing. YES, it is away to check propagation across the world, but its also a way to rack up countries FAST when the bands seem dead. Go to <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjtx.html> When get there read a little then download the program **wsjtx 1.6.0**. Give me or Chuck a call on the repeater and we can set you up. BUT WAIT, how do I see what others are doing, Good question. Go to <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html> or <http://hamspots.net/> Then click on Digital Modes and pick what you want. When you get the program running you to will show up on the map with what you are seeing or working.

What makes this a really Hot Mode is not the speed, not QSO factor, BUT you can work stations worldwide on low power (i.e.10 to 30 watts) even if you hardly see them on the water fall. Its not hard to see stations all over the world on 40 meters and 30 meters as well. 20 and 15 are really wild with some stations that you will not hear on SSB unless the propagation is Rock'n or you have a big fancy beam antenna. A vertical or a piece of wire will give you world wide communications. Some of the stations I have heard on via <https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>





## 2016 and Moving Forward

*This has been an exciting year. The Club has GROWN and we have really been busy on making our group more of a FUN and Moving Forward bunch . Ron WB3ILX Was awarded the Georgia State ARES Ham of the Year 2015. K4BBH was doing Big Time Antenna work and chased down his radio receiver noise. WA4MDQ Ruth got on digital modes and was also appointed as Georgia ARES Web Master. Many upgrades to Extra class license's W4TXA and K4TXA . K4ELI Steve was awarded ELMER OF THE YEAR Silver Comet ARS 2015. We achieved our ARRL Special Service Club accreditation again for a two year period. 146.955 and 443.475 Repeaters Linked giving us a nice footprint from West Metro Atlanta to the Alabama line ( hats of Neal KC4YCM ). K4ELI and K4LDC held a mentoring get together for NEW HAMPS and operating practices. (I hear the food was SUPER) KM4PEB Brian discovered Cross-Band Repeat. WA4MDQ getting out meeting minutes after each meeting. We moved to a more friendly Thursday morning Breakfast venue at BoJangles' in Hiram (Thanks K4ELI and K4CGA). New Radios purchased by many in the group, New Antennas in the Air. Many are working on NPOTA Awards and adding to the DX Rolls. K4ELI keeping us up-to-date each week on all the latest Special Events Stations. Club meetings have been great with Interesting and Interactive presentations. One thing that is close to my heart is to hear the repeaters active a lot of the day with great conversations .*

*OK where now. Well our Fall Picnic will be held at the Marina Boat Dock at Lake Altoona, October 9th thanks to K4DMF Dave and XYL Nan Ellen. 2nd Annual AM BROADCAST BAND CONTEST THIS FALL. GRITS Bike Ride Communications on Labor Day September 5th. Christmas Party as always at the Paulding Chamber this years date December 3rd Saturday. Elections for Silver Comet ARS Officers coming up in November. Thanks to all for making this a Great Growing Year for W4RSC Silver Comet ARS. Lee qoj*

**Keep an EYE OUT Lots of Radio Manufactures have special Deals on Radios this FALL.**

**Also HAMFEST LIST :** 09/17/2016 | Augusta Hamfest ... 09/24/2016 | Covington Hamfest...10/08/2016 | La-Grange Hamfest...10/15/2016 | Al Brock Memorial Hamfest Rome...10/15/2016 | Coastal ARS Savannah Swap-meet...11/05/2016 | Georgia State Convention (Stone Mountain Hamfest)

## **W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"**

**The Silver Comet ARS Inc. a 501 (c) (3) Not for Profit Organization**



# ***Ready for Tuesdays Meeting ???***

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Last year was our FIRST YEAR for the AM Broadcast Band DX Contest. Congrats to John W4TXA for walking away with the Trophy. This year word has it that the competition will be BRISK. Listening Technics, BIGGER WIRE ANTENNAS, more resources. With that said Tuesday night K4CGA and WB4QOJ will give all some TIPS and tricks on how to listen. What to listen for and when. Info on AM Broadcast stations and places to go to hear the most. We will have a hand out with Places to go on the web that will help to even the playing field. So don't miss this meeting it will be a good one.

[HTTPS// WWW.FCC.GOV](https://www.fcc.gov)

The FCC has released new numbers showing that there are **4,728 AM Broadcast Stations**,

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***Breakfast at Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits RT 278 Hiram every Thursday Morning 0900***

August 31st Breakfast **BIG HIT**

Why do all have a BIG SMILE on his faces ? ASK THEM at the meeting.





# W4RSC

Paulding County, GA - EM73 - ITU Zone: 8

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STATION	Confirming QSO				Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Tnx QSL <input type="checkbox"/>		
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE

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