PREZ SEZ : Adios :

Well, it is that time of year when we have changed time, the elections are over, the turkey has lost and Christmas stuff is already on sale. It must be Fall or is it Winter?

At our December meeting, I will be handing over the leadership of SCARS to John Reynolds, W4TXA, your new President-elect. John is a dedicated amateur and is very capable of continuing to grow the club both in numbers and activities. Let us all congratulate and support him.

I would like to thank the SCARS membership for the outstanding support you have given me during my 2 years as President. Together with your help, we have had good eats, friendships, rekindled interest in getting on the air, educated new hams, and have grown the club membership. I could not have done it without you and hope I have lived up to your expectations. I have enjoyed my tenure as President and will continue to contribute to the club's growth the best that I can.

2016 has been a good year for the club and 2017 should be even better. Don't forget the Christmas Dinner on December 3rd and the meeting on December 6th.

73's and thank you!

Chuck, K4CGA

In This Issue

- President Sez
- 2016 AM DX Contest
- 2017 Contest Calendar
- 2016 ARRL SS Entries
- Digital Band Plan
- Did You Know?
- Compatible vs Compliant
- Ground for Granite?
- What is SWR?
- Own A Pet?
- Member Activities
- Editor's Comments
- 2017 SCARS Calendar

W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"

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

AM BROADCAST BAND DX CONTEST

OH NO! He has done it again! Congratulations John.

Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

AM Broadcast Band DX Contest

1st Place Winner 2016
This certificate is awarded
to

John Reynolds – W4TXA

This certificate is awarded in recognition of your winning entry into the 2nd Silver Comet ARS Broadcast Band DX contest.

Having the patience to endure hours of boredom, static, noise and interference to receive and document radio signals in the AM portion of the Broadcast Band, you have earned it.

As the winner of this contest, you will be entitled to receive the $25 BoJangles gift certificate awarded for your efforts.

You may also take procession of the club's perpetual winner's trophy until the next contest or such time as you may depart the club or the return of the trophy is requested by a club officer.

Chuck DuVall   K4CGA   06 November 2016
Club President   Call Sign   Date Awarded

K4CGA's famous receiver

What Time Is It, Really?   Courtesy of Dan, W4DTO

"I decided to try to make some JT65 contacts this morning from my newly configured ham shack laptop. I quickly realized that even though I was hearing JT65 I wasn't decoding anything.   I brought up http://time.gov in a browser and compared it to the time the JT65 app was displaying and noticed that the time on my PC was about 5 seconds off.   Since JT65 is so dependent on time sync I knew that was the problem.

Apparently, the time.windows.com time servers aren't as accurate as pool.ntp.org.

Setting the time of Windows 10

"Internet Time Settings" dialog box
1. Go to **Control Panel**.
2. Search for "*Date and Time*".
3. Click on "*Set the time and date*".
4. Click on the "*Internet Time*" tab.
5. Click on "*Change settings…*".

DIGITAL BAND PLAN FOR VHF/UHF

This is NOT an official band plan but a guide for most "normal" digital activity and areas will vary in different places so please use common courtesy and if you are unsure ask local operators and or listen.....but never run digital on the SSB/CW calling frequencies or the EME subbands

6 Meters CW/SSB/Digital
50.060-50.080 CW Beacons (unattended sub-band) see: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/50.htm>
50.080-50.100 CW QSO's
50.100-50.125 DX Window
50.110 DX Calling Frequency
50.125 North American SSB Calling Frequency
50.133-50.430 Voice Nets see: <http://6mt.com/nets.htm> <http://www.google.com>
50.255 FSK441 lower practical limit for most QSO's
50.260 FSK441 Calling Frequency
50.265 JT-65
50.285 FSK441 upper practical limit for most QSO's
50.290 PSK31 (USB)
50.291 PropNET http://www.PropNET.org (with +1500hz PSK audio)
50.293 WSPR
50.300 or 50.700 RTTY?
50.620 Packet Calling Frequency
6 Meters
50.680 SSTV

2 Meters CW/SSB/Digital
144.00-144.05 EME (CW)
144.05-144.06 Propagation beacons (old band plan)
144.06-144.10 General CW and weak signals
144.10-144.20 EME and weak-signal SSB
144.140 WSJT FSK441/JT44 calling frequency
144.110 to 144.160 WSJT FSK441 or JT44 (around this area)
144.131 PropNet http://www.PropNET.org(with +1500hz PSK audio)
144.150 SSB PSK/HELL/MFSK16/SSTV
144.200 National SSB calling frequency
144.20-144.30 General SSB operation, upper sideband
144.275-144.300 New beacon band
2 Meters FM Digital modes
145.500 SSTV (National SSTV Simplex FM Frequency)
145.550 FM PSK31, Hellschreiber

70 Centimeters CW/SSB/Digital
420.00-426.00 ATV repeater or simplex with 421.25 MHz video carrier control links and experimental
426.00-432.00 ATV simplex with 427.250 MHz video carrier frequency
432.00-432.07 EME (Earth-Moon-Earth)
432.07-432.08 Propagation beacons (old band plan)
432.08-432.10 Weak-signal CW
432.100 70 cm calling frequency
432.11-432.20 WSJT JT44/FSK441 ?
432.150 SSB PSK
432.10-433.00 Mixed-mode and weak-signal work
432.30-432.40 New beacon band
441.000 Packet Calling Frequency

CONTEST CORNER

ARRL 2017-2018 Contest Dates - Ver 1.0c, 17 Oct 2016

January 2017		February 2017	
1	**Straight Key Night**	13-17	**School Club Roundup**
7	**Kids Day**	18-19	**International DX – CW**
7-8	**RTTY Roundup**		
21-23	**January VHF**		
March 2017		**April 2017**	
4-5	**International DX– Phone**	**16**	**Rookie Roundup – Phone**
June 2017		**July 2017**	
10-12	**June VHF**	8-9	**IARU HF World Championship**
18	**Kids Day**		
24-25	**Field Day**		
August 2017		**September 2017**	
		9-10	**EME - 2.3 GHz & Up**
5-6	**222 MHz and Up Distance Contest**	9-11	**September VHF**
19-20	**10 GHz & Up – Round 1**	16-17	**10 GHz & Up - Round 2**
20	**Rookie Roundup – RTTY**		
October 2016		**November 2016**	
17-21	**School Club Roundup**	5-7	**Nov. Sweepstakes – CW**
22-23	**EME - 50 to 1296 MHz**	19-21	**Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone**
		19-20	**EME - 50 to 1296 MHz**

November 2017
* *4-5*   *EME - 50 to 1296 MHz*
* *4-6*   *Nov. Sweepstakes – CW*
* *18-20* *Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone*

December 2016

2-4   **160 Meter**

10-11   **10 Meter**

18   **Rookie Roundup–CW**

December 2017
* *1-3*   *160 Meter*
* *9-10*   *10 Meter*
* *17*   *Rookie Roundup–CW*

ARRL NOVEMBER SSB SWEEPSTAKES ENTRIES

****

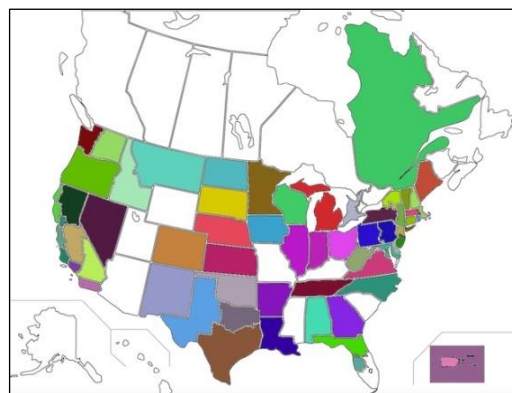**K4CGA's** Contest Summary Report for ARRL-SS

Total Contacts = 115
Total Points = 12,880

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total
80	0	32	0	32
40	0	65	0	65
20	0	18	0	18
Total	0	115	0	115

****
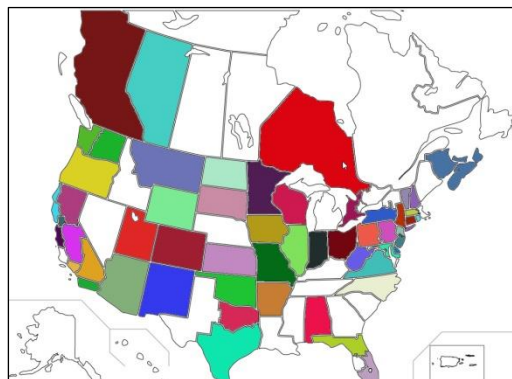
K4LDC's Contest Summary Report for ARRL-SS

Total Contacts = 106
Total Points = 13,356

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total
80	0	46	0	46
40	0	15	0	15
20	0	38	0	38
20	0	07	0	07
Total	0	106	0	106

63 ARRL sections (includes 2 Canadian)

43 States plus Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands

****

WA4MDQ's Contest Summary Report for ARRL-SS

Total Contacts = 38
Total Points = 1,824

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total
40	0	25	0	25
20	0	09	0	09
15	0	04	0	04
Total	0	38	0	38
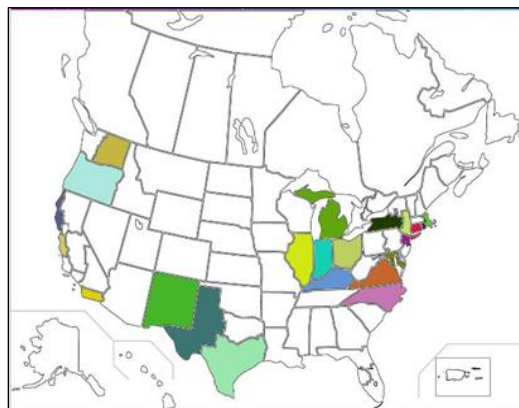
DID YOU KNOW?

You know what RST signal codes are, right? But did you know that RSQ-Codes exist for Digital communications?

Well, here is a list of them for your knowledge base and to dazzle your friends compliments of WIKIPEDIA. See all the other Q-Codes for CW/SSTV/SSB as well as some other good info at: http://www.amateur-radio-wiki.net/index.php?title=Codes_and_Alphabets

RSQ code: Often used to describe reception and quality of digital modes such as PSK31.

RSQ Code Commonly Used by Radio Amateurs

Number	R - Readability	S - Strength	V - Quality
1	0% copy - undecipherable	barely perceptible trace	splatter over much of the spectrum
2	20% copy -occasional words distinguishable	not used	not used
3	40% copy - readable with difficulty, many missed characters	Weak trace	multiple visible pairs
4	80% copy - Readable with no difficulty	not used	not used
5	95%+ copy - Perfectly readable	Moderate trace	One easily visible pair
6	not used	not used	not used
7	not used	Strong Trace	One barely visible pair
8	not used	not used	not used
9	not used	Very strong trace	Clean signal - no visible unwanted sidebars

COMPATIBLE VS COMPLIANT

Carrie Higbie Profile: Carrie Higbie

Standards are there for a reason. They are a least common denominator for all things to work and play well with others in the same standards arena. For years, some companies come out with compatible cable, electronics, etc. It is important to note that there is a HUGE difference between the two for the end user. Compatible typically means that the products will work but there is something that keeps them from being fully compliant. In open systems, this can mean a wasted investment as compatible products will be the first any vendor points to if the system doesn't work.

There is not a "compatible" industry accepted testing. Compatible is the vendor telling you their product should work. The variance between compatible and fully compliant could certainly lead to issues down the road.

It is fine for a company to exceed the standards, and in fact, in some cases there are advantages there. But any product that you plan to have in your data center should be compliant with the standards supporting what you expect to have in the environment.

Ref: http://itknowledgeexchange.techtarget.com/data-center-ecosystem/compatible-versus-compliant-buyer-beware/

DON'T TAKE THE GROUND FOR GRANITE (PUN)

The following statements taken from the ARRL Web Site.

After antennas, station grounding is probably the most discussed subject in amateur radio and it is also the one replete with the most misconceptions. The first thing to know is that there are three functions served by grounding in ham shacks:

1. Electrical Safety
2. Stray RF Suppression (or simply RF Grounding)
3. Lightning Protection.

Each has its own set of requirements, but not all station setups need every kind of ground. In fact, some setups don't use a ground at all!

Refer to the ARRL web page http://www.arrl.org/grounding for more information.

WHAT IS SWR

Excerpt from ARRL Article "Understanding SWR by Example"

http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Technology/tis/info/pdf/q1106037.pdf

What is SWR? SWR is sometimes called VSWR, for voltage standing wave ratio, by the technical folks.

Okay, but what does it really mean? The best way to easily understand SWR is by example. In the typical ham station setup, a transmitter is connected to a feed line, which is then connected to the antenna. When you key the transmitter, it develops a radio frequency (RF) voltage on the transmission line input. The voltage travels down the feed line to the antenna at the other end and is called the forward wave. In some cases, part of the voltage is reflected at the antenna and propagates back down the line in the reverse direction toward the transmitter, much like a voice echoing off a distant cliff. SWR is a measure of what is happening to the forward and reverse voltage waveforms and how they compare in size.

OWN A PET?

Got Pets? Dogs, Cats, Rabbits, Llamas or ???

Keep this number handy, in your speed dial or on your wall calendar!

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois
888-426-4435

Check out their website at:

http://www.anapsid.org/resources/napcc.html

How about Disaster Preparedness for your Pet? Ever give that a thought. Most of us are ARES members but are we really ready? Check out this web article:

https://www.petcarerx.com/article/disaster-preparedness-for-your-pets/763

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Bryan KM4PEB receiving the 1st EXTRA upgrade certificate from VE Steve K4ELI & the VE Team

Bryan KM4PEB and the VE Team
Steve K4ELI, Larry K4LDC & John W4TXA

Wonder boy, Chris KM4ZJ, did his Tech, Gen, and Extra in about an hour. Test Team (L-R) WB3ILX, K4ELI, W4TXA, W4DTO, K4LDC, & K4TXA

K4ELI and the VE Team will be testing on Dec. 1 at 7pm at Burnt Hickory Baptist Church, Due West Road, Powder Springs.

All classes of licenses will be available.

BRING:

- Original and copy of existing license.
- Copy of FRN # if you have a GMRS license or some other license.
- $15 cash----exact change
- Photo ID

See the ARRL web site for more details.

Start of W4TXA & K4TXA's new tower installation.

Breakfast at Tiffany's? No! This was an _Emergency_ BoJangles Fix!

Thanksgiving Day pre-empted our weekly breakfast at BoJangles, so our Breakfast was rescheduled. Fortunately, Henrik KE8AYN was visiting from Michigan and was able to join us. Around the table, (L-R) W4TXA, K4DMF, K4CGA, WB3ILX, KM4PEB, K4LDC, KE8AYN & K4ELI. In the booth to the left is Helen, KA4JMV.

EDITORS NOTE:

Lee, WB4QOJ, is currently unable to continue publishing the SCARS Newsletter due to some family issue requiring a majority of his time.

I will take over the Newsletter duties on a temporary basis for Lee. Please send me any ideas or information you would like to see included in the Newsletter. I plan to publish on a quarterly basis starting in January 2017. Please bear with me.

Thanks to Lee for all he has done in the past.

73's Chuck, K4CGA

Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

2017 Calendar

** Don't forget "BABJ" [Breakast At Bolangles] every Thursday morning at 9am. **

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-03-2017 7pm	02-07-2017 7pm	03-07-2017 7pm	04-04-2017 7pm	05-02-2017 7pm	06-06-2017 7pm	07-11-25016 7pm	08-01-2017 7pm	09-05-2017 7pm	10-03-2017 7pm	11-07-2017 7pm	12-05-2017 7pm
Meeting Location	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	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	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg
Meeting Activity	Ham Radio Q&A & Demo (Ask a ? of an old timer)	ARES What is it? ARES Comms	Digital Ham Radio D-Star/PSK (WB3ILX)	Severe Weather Presentation (K4DMF)	Solar Eclipse by a Guest Speaker (K4DMF)	Field Day Primer & Planning (Volunteer Planner Needed)	Mystery Guest Speaker/Topic	Cheap Antenna Construction	3rd Annual AM Radio DX Contest or ???	White Elephant Night ****** Club Officers Nominations	Your Suggestion Here ***** Club Officers Voting	Holiday Dinner ***** Election Results
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	Saturday Breakfast (Proposed)	GA QSO Party	Family Night Dinner (TBA)	Field Day GOTA	TBD	TBD	Club Fall Picnic (Location TBD)	Jamboree On The Air (TBD)	TBD	TBD
Hamfest Schedule	Lawrenceville TechFest	Dalton, GA	Birmingham, AL Elijay	Mobile, AL Calhoun	Dayton, OH	Atlanta, GA	Cullman, AL	Huntsville, AL	Dallas SEDEC DX	La Grange, GA Chattanooga Rome, GA	Lawrenceville Montgomery, AL.	

This calendar is "Subject to change" based on suggestions received from the membership. Submit your suggestions now!

v1.2.17

W4RSC

Paulding County, GA - EM73 - ITU Zone: 8

Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
PO Box 1873
Hiram, GA 30141
www.silvercometars.com

STATION	Confirming QSO					Pse QSL ☐ Tnx QSL ☐		
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz		RST	MODE

_____

SILVERCOMET ARS, INC.

PO BOX 1873

HIRAM, GEORGIA 30141