



## The Prez Sez

As I write this, I am listening to the rainfall outside and I am reminded of the rainfall a couple of weekends ago in Xenia, Ohio (at the Dayton Hamfest). Although there were a lot of raindrops to dodge, it was a great hamfest. For those who have attended previous Dayton Hamfests, this one at Xenia, Ohio was a vast improvement over the Hara Arena. As most of you may know, this was the first year for Xenia, and, yes, this small sleepy town of Xenia was not prepared for the onslaught of 25,000 + crazed nut jobs that descended upon their fair city (and county). But, considering it was their first year at this venue, they did a remarkable job. As always, there were vendors... and then there more were vendors - lots of them. I think one of the best parts of this hamfest were the forums. All, very informative. The boneyard... sad to say was somewhat of a disaster. One can only imagine a horse racetrack infield as the boneyard..... (continued)

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**W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"**  
The Silver Comet ARS Inc. a 501 (c) (3) Not for Profit Organization



## The Prez Sez

(continued)

After three days of on and off rainfall, this beautiful grass infield was a mud pit. But, there were some really good buys to be had - I was so glad that I had a pickup truck with me. I do intend to attend next year's hamfest. We will see how they improve. For those who may not know, we will have a chance this fall to go to the Huntsville, Alabama hamfest this coming August 19th and 20th (at 9:00AM). This hamfest is held indoors - for everything - including the boneyard. Although not as big as Orlando or Dayton... it is a **REALLY GOOD** hamfest.

John Reynolds - W4TXA  
President

## Editor's Note

Just a note to let everyone know that I will be having a total shoulder replacement on the 9<sup>th</sup> June and WB4QOJ - Lee will take over as editor for a while. Please send him your articles & pictures for publication. Lee started the newsletter and has done a great job in the past and I am sure he will continue to do an excellent job as editor.

## Repeater Status

As you may have noticed, the WB4QOJ - 146.955 repeater experienced some technical issues earlier this month and had to be shut down. It appears to be an antenna or feedline issue.

It has been determined that dropping and repairing the current antenna system and reinstalling it would not be a viable solution since construction of the new building is just about complete and the old building will have to be vacated and removed.

The current repeater system and antenna will be removed from the old building, inspected and repaired, and will be reinstalled in the new building upon completion of the building and new tower being installed next to it. ETA unknown at this time.

A temporary repeater has been put in place using two cross-band radios at a temporary location. Please excuse the signal quality and coverage during this transition.

# *Total Eclipse by Mike Guler – KF4EZ*



Thank you Mike for a great presentation. I think you have all of us hooked and ready to go look at the moon. For those of you that missed out, you can see Mike's presentation at <https://youtu.be/Pq3G5jWpIlg>.

## **Eclipse References**

### Books

*Eclipse!*  
*Total Solar Eclipses*

Philip S. Harrington  
Martin Mobberly

*Sun Moon Earth: The History of Solar Eclipses from Omens of Doom to Einstein and Exoplanets*  
Tyler Nordgren

# **Total Eclipse** *(continued)*

[Tylernordgren.com](http://Tylernordgren.com) Tyler is a Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Redlands. He works with the U.S. National Park Service to promote astronomy education. Tyler is also a photographer, artist and eclipse chaser.

[AmazingskY.com](http://AmazingskY.com) Alan Dyer is an astronomy author and photographer. His website includes photo galleries, photography tips, photography workshops and more.

[Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org) for various facts and figures.

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/eclipse.html> Details on solar eclipses, lunar eclipses and solar transits.

<https://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2017Aug21Tgoogle.html> Interactive google map showing the 2017 eclipse details at any point on earth.

<http://us-climate.blogspot.com/> "A repository for maps and thoughts on the climate of various regions."

<http://www.stellarium.org/> "A free open source planetarium for your computer." Eclipse Filters (these sites claim CE and/or ISO certification)

<http://thousandoaksoptical.com/Thousand> Oaks Optical

<https://ijwww.rainbowsymphony.com/Rainbow> Symphony

<https://www.eclipseglasses.com/American> Paper Optics



## **Overheard Somewhere Recently!**

Operator #: Have you notice how quiet the repeater has been. Almost dead.

Operator #2: Steve is out of town



## ***Family Night @ O'Charley's***



**The annual Silver Comet ARS “Family Night Dinner” was another resounding success and was well attended once more.**

**Held at the O'Charley's restaurant in Hiram, good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.**

# *National Weather Service Visit!*



The May 18<sup>th</sup> visit to the NWS Office in Peachtree City was attended by K4CGA, W4TXA, K4TXA, KM4PEB and chauffeured by K4LDC. It was very informative and fascinating.

The process of the *Balloon Launch* and tracking was the highlight of our visit and was impressive.

Unfortunately, we were so absorbed in various presentations that we all forgot to take pictures.

We learned all about long and short term forecasting, aviation weather, weather observations, ham radio input, storm predications, issuing warnings and much, much, more.

If you have the opportunity, it is well worth the visit. Carpooling is recommended so you arrive as a group. **Chuck – K4CGA**

## **K4LDC Comment:**

So, when I saw the LMS-6 on the radiosonde I started wondering...and yep, sure enough – it was a component of the Lockheed Martin NWS upgrade program awhile back.

<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/products/met.html>

Now, just need to figure out if they are using 403 or 1680MHz at the Peachtree City site. I think we should be close enough to receive and decode it with an SDR dongle mid-flight? Found this how-to on the internet: <http://www.rtl-sdr.com/receiving-weather-balloon-data-with-rtl-sdr/>

## ***Congratulations!***

Let's congratulate Chris Paul KW4ZJ & his wife on the arrival of their new "hamette" ***Camille*** born on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is doing great.





## Breakfast @.....



**Chuck - K4CGA, your editor, hard at work gathering material for the newsletter on Red Nose Day. Not much love here.**



**Why did Cheri K4TXA present our President John W4TXA with two new SIPPY CUPS ?????**

**Very interesting story behind this presentation at breakfast..**

**Just ask submariner Steve K4ELI or Spiderman Brian KM4PEB about it.**

**Come Join Us!**  
**Thursday mornings**  
**Around 9am +/-**  
**Until ??????**





# Project Amelia Earhart

Recreating Amelia Earhart's around-the-world flight on its 80th anniversary



Eighty years ago Amelia Earhart undertook an ambitious and historic flight around the world at the equator, something not previously attempted. That flight stretched the technical limits of aviation and navigation technology of the time.

Project Amelia Earhart will attempt to recreate and commemorate that flight on its 80th anniversary with Brian Lloyd flying his airplane, *Spirit* on the same route. We will chronicle this historic flight and publish live information during the flight.

Brian Lloyd is scheduled to fly from Texas to Miami on May 31, for the Amelia Earhart 80th Anniversary round-the-world flight.

## About Ham Radio on the *Spirit*



Brian Lloyd has a powerful radio system aboard the *Spirit*. The radio communicates on High Frequency (HF) shortwave using Single Sideband (SSB), and anyone can tune in to these transmissions who has the proper type of radio receiver. Listen for [WB6RQN](https://www.furcall.com/callsign/WB6RQN),

that's Brian's Ham radio call sign. Ham radio operators around the world are invited to communicate with Brian while he is on the air in international airspace using

the Ham bands. HF radio is dependent on ionospheric conditions to be heard over long distances, and it may change rapidly with the space weather or other factors.

## **Schedule of Possible Upcoming HF Radio Operation in 2017**

**31 May:** Texas to Miami

**01 June:** Depart Miami. **Embark on Round-the-World flight**

**02 June:** Caribbean Sea area

**03 June:** South America area, Atlantic Ocean

**05-06 June:** South America, Atlantic Ocean, Brazilian Coast

**07 June:** Atlantic Ocean

**08-09 June:** Western Africa area

**10 June:** Eastern Africa area, Red Sea

**11 June:** Arabian Peninsula, Arabian Sea

**12-15 June:** South Asia, Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean

**16-18 June:** Southeast Asia, Adaman Sea, Indian Ocean

**19-23 June:** Southeast Asia, Gulf of Thailand, Java Sea

**24 June:** Timor Sea area to Australia area

**30 June – 4 July:** Australia area, Tasman Sea, to New Zealand

**14 July:** New Zealand to Fiji, South Pacific Ocean

**15 July:** Fiji to Howland Island overflight, Pacific Ocean

**16 July:** Hawaii, Pacific Ocean

**17-18 July:** Hawaii to California, Pacific Ocean

**19-21 July:** California area

**22-23 July:** Western USA to Kansas area

**24-28 July:** Oshkosh Wisconsin USA for AirVenture

**29 July:** Oshkosh to Texas

Note: All dates and flight locations are approximate and tentative. Please see the [Live Tracking Map](#) for actual locations and flight movements.

Editors Note: For more on this story go to <http://projectameliaearhart.org/ham-radio/> (thanks to Lee WB4Q0J)

*What is this?*





# *Field Day 2017 (W4RSC style)*





CQ FD CQ FD CQ FD DE W4RSC

***Mark your calendar! JUNE 24th & 25th. 2017 Silver Comet ARS Field Day!***

Site Hours 1200(local) June 24<sup>th</sup> to 1600(local) June 25<sup>th</sup>

Operating Hours 1800(UTC) June 24<sup>th</sup> to 2059(UTC) June 25<sup>th</sup>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! (ref: ARRL)

Your president, John – W4TXA, has successfully secured a wonderful spot in Hiram for our 2017 Field Day activities. Please see the attached document for more details:

### **Ben Hill Strickland Sr. Memorial Park**

#### **Pavilion #2**

372 Oak St.

Hiram, GA 30141

Your 2017 Field Day committee consist of John –W4TXA, Chuck – K4CGA, Larry – K4LDC, Steve – K4ELI and Mike – KF4OUS. Please address any FD communications or questions to all Field Day committee members as a group. They will try and make this the best field day ever. If you participated in the FLT 242 event or heard about it, you know we will have fun, food and do the best that we can.

# *Did You Know?*

## **High-Powered Pot-Growing Lights Are Screwing Up Ham Radio**

Retired Coast Guard Officer Roger Johnson sometimes notices a harsh buzz when he turns on his amateur radio, and he blames high-powered lighting used to grow pot.

Amateur radio operators say the legalization of marijuana is creating a chronic nuisance thanks to interference caused by electrical ballasts that regulate indoor lamps used to grow pot. The American Radio Relay League wants the Federal Communications Commission to take a stand against devices that give off much more interference than federal law allows in homes.

Ham radio operators generally say they don't have a problem with pot but worry amateur growers may not be aware that cheap ballasts can have phony FCC-compliance stickers. The operators point out they serve as backup communication during emergencies — but concede it's unlikely any lighting devices would still be on if the power goes out.

Editors Note: For more on this story go to <http://flip.it/TvzOfB> (thanks to Tommy KM4VTE)

## **That's Not Real Ham Radio 12 April 2017 | by Bob KØNR**

Things had been pretty quiet on the ham front lately but then I ran into a string of “That's Not Real Ham Radio” discussions. This happens from time to time...I usually ignore it...but this time I got sucked into the topic.

It started with some HF enthusiasts I know talking about how “digital modes” are just not very satisfying. Their point is that with CW and SSB, there is an audio connection to your ear that makes you an integral part of the radio communication. The extreme-DSP modes such as JT65 insert serious signal processing that essentially removes the human connection. This can quickly lead to the generalization that these digital modes “aren't real ham radio.”

Editors Note: For more on this story go to <http://flip.it/9pl7jX> (thanks to Tommy KM4VTE)



# ***Build a mounting board for hand-held radios!***

## **VK4JAZ**

Writings about Amateur Radio

I have long wanted to build something to mount my hand-held radios on instead of having them balancing on my workbench shelf, where they are easily knocked over. I have seen others keeping them mounted in their chargers, but after consulting with the amateur radio community decided this wasn't such a good idea.

So it was back to my workshop to construct a simple bracket-like mounting board out of wood that I happened to have among my store of timber. I found I had a nice piece of pine as well as a sheet of 6.4mm ply wood that would do just fine. So it was out with my router, to which I inserted a 6.4mm bit to cut a dado. The ply would fit nicely into this, after glue had been applied, of course.

Once that was done I applied some oak refinishing oil, which added a nice touch to the finished product.



There is more than enough room for four radios. All my radios have the belt clips installed, which is handy as they can now clip nicely and securely to the board.

Editors Note: For more on this story go to <http://flip.it/BvzvXZ> (thanks to Tommy KM4VTE)

# Contest & Special Events

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

<b>January 2017</b> 1 <b>Straight Key Night</b> 7 <b>Kids Day</b> 7-8 <b>RTTY Roundup</b> 21-23 <b>January VHF</b>	<b>February 2017</b> 13-17 <b>School Club Roundup</b> 18-19 <b>International DX – CW</b>
<b>March 2017</b> 4-5 <b>International DX– Phone</b>	<b>April 2017</b> 16 <b>Rookie Roundup – Phone</b>
<b>June 2017</b> 10-12 <b>June VHF</b> 18 <b>Kids Day</b> 24-25 <b>Field Day</b>	<b>July 2017</b> 8-9 <b>IARU HF World Championship</b>
<b>August 2017</b> 5-6 <b>222 MHz and Up Distance Contest</b> 19-20 <b>10 GHz &amp; Up – Round 1</b> 20 <b>Rookie Roundup – RTTY</b>	<b>September 2017</b> 9-10 <b>EME - 2.3 GHz &amp; Up</b> 9-11 <b>September VHF</b> 16-17 <b>10 GHz &amp; Up - Round 2</b>
<b>October 2016</b> 17-21 <b>School Club Roundup</b> 22-23 <b>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</b>	<b>November 2016</b> 5-7 <b>Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</b> 19-21 <b>Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone</b> 19-20 <b>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</b>  <i><b>November 2017</b></i> 4-5 <b>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</b> 4-6 <b>Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</b> 18-20 <b>Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone</b>
<b>December 2016</b> 2-4 <b>160 Meter</b> 10-11 <b>10 Meter</b> 18 <b>Rookie Roundup–CW</b>  <i><b>December 2017</b></i> 1-3 <b>160 Meter</b> 9-10 <b>10 Meter</b> 17 <b>Rookie Roundup–CW</b>	<div> <p><b>Check your emails for additional contest and special event activities</b></p> </div>

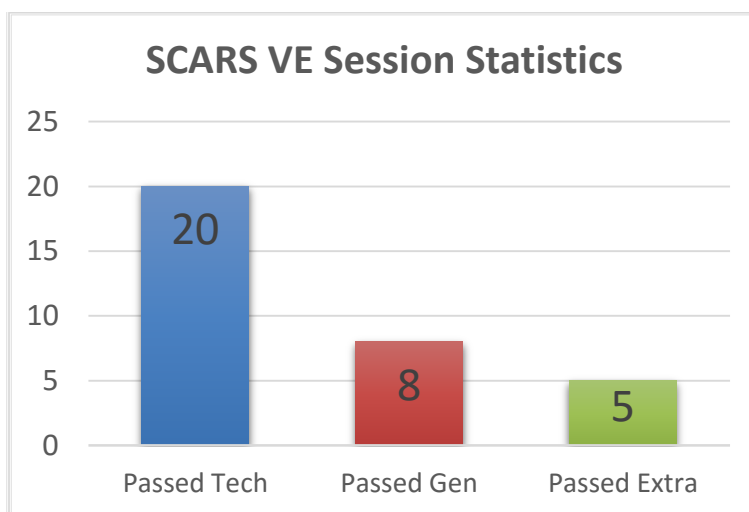
# SCARS V.E. ACTIVITIES

Call	Date	Name	City	State	Class
KM4YHM	6-Oct-2016	Eric Bryson	Marietta	GA	Tech
KM4YHN/ <b>K4HDE</b>	6-Oct-2016	Houston Davidson	Austell	GA	Tech
KM4PEB	9-Nov-2016	Brian Bowie	Rockmart	GA	Extra
KM4ZAD	10-Nov-2016	Joseph Smarkusky	Kennesaw	GA	Tech
KM4ZAE	10-Nov-2016	John Thomas	Roswell	GA	Tech
KM4ZAF	10-Nov-2016	Robert Marorato	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAG	10-Nov-2016	Jared Baker	Marietta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAH	10-Nov-2016	Wesley Bussey	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAI	10-Nov-2016	Wesley Carlton	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KW4ZJ	10-Nov-2016	Chris Paul	Rome	GA	Tech, Gen, Extra
K4BTA	10-Nov-2016	Luis Velazquez	Marietta	GA	Extra
KM4ZMW	30-Nov-2016	Richard Bowhall	Dallas	GA	Tech
KM4VTE	1-Dec-2016	Tommy LeBoeuf	Dallas	GA	Gen
KM4ZOU	1-Dec-2016	Robert Mciver	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZOV/ <b>K1SSL</b>	1-Dec-2016	Sherwin Lee	Acworth	GA	Tech
KF4UOS	12-Jan-2017	Michael Blackwell	Douglasville	GA	Extra
KM4ZMW	12-Jan-2017	Richard Bowhall	Dallas	GA	Gen
KM4AXY	12-Jan-2017	Daniel Ramaswami	Milton	GA	Gen
KN4AHC	12-Jan-2017	Bernard Poulin	Smyrna	GA	Tech
KN4AHD	12-Jan-2017	Michael Frailey	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4AHE	12-Jan-2017	William Muscarella	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KN4AZK	2-Feb-2017	Donald J. Hicks	Smyrna	GA	Tech
WB3ILX	6-Apr-2017	Ron West	Dallas	GA	Extra
KN4AHC	6-Apr-2017	Bernard Poulin	Smyrna	GA	Gen
KN4CQI	6-Apr-2017	Greg Macklem	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4CQJ	6-Apr-2017	Robert Long	Kennesaw	GA	Tech
KN4CQJ	4-May-2017	Robert Long	Kennesaw	GA	Gen
KN4DEF	4-May-2017	Tomas Russell	Woodstock	GA	Tech
KN4DEG	4-May-2017	Andrew Petry	Mabelton	GA	Tech, Gen
KN4CZQ	4-May-2017	Robert Stewart	Cullowhee	NC	Gen



# SCARS V.E. ACTIVITIES

No. of Candidates	Total Exams Passed	Passed Tech	Passed Gen	Passed Extra
30	33	20	8	5



**K4ELI and the VE Team will be testing at 7pm at Burnt Hickory Baptist Church, Due West Road, Powder Springs on the following dates:**

<i>May 4</i>	<i>July 6</i>	<i>September 7</i>	<i>November 2</i>
<i>June 1</i>	<i>August 3</i>	<i>October 5</i>	<i>December 7</i>

**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.**

# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

## 2017 Calendar

\*\* Don't forget "BABJ" [Breakfast 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)	Russell Elem. Space Team (KM4RE)	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!

v1.3.17

# W4RSC

Paulding County, GA - EM73 - ITU Zone: 8

Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

PO Box 1873

Hiram, GA 30141

[www.silvercometars.com](http://www.silvercometars.com)



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

SILVER COMET AMATEUR  
RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

**CONTACT US:**

Yahoo Group Request:

SilvercometARS

[www.silvercometars.com](http://www.silvercometars.com)

146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: *Club President*  
John Reynolds, W4TXA

Email:

[John-W4TXA@comcast.net](mailto:John-W4TXA@comcast.net)

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