



PREZ SEZ For Summer 2017

Here we are in September... As my wife starts to "hunker down" for the big Christmas rush, I am starting on our 2018 Calendar. We have many presentations set up for the 2018 year. We will have several digital presentations (for people like me who can barely spell digital... much less know anything about "it"). More presentations about weather... how to log... Electrical safety, grounding, Antennas and much, much more. This is going to be an exciting year.

But, keep in mind that it is STILL 2017... and we have a G.R.I.T.S. bike ride was today (Labor Day) then Tuesday will be our regular meeting (7:00 PM - at the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce). AND, on Sunday, September 17th, we will be having our annual fall Picnic at Dave Fuller's dock (be sure to let Dave and/or me know if you are coming.)

Last year everyone had a GREAT time - don't miss it. Also, we have the W4DXCC Convention coming up this September 22nd & 23rd. Don't forget to prepare for the AM radio DX contest this coming October.

There is still so much to do in these last couple of months of 2017.

John Reynolds - W4TXA – President The Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

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W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"

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



TABLEDITED ABSTRACTABLE RESULTS

10.2.1.1 REAL-WORLD APPLICATION

[illegible][illegible]

Did You Know? de Dave Freeze W1HKJ

Here are a few hints which may make installing and using fldigi easier.

- Hint #1: Installing fldigi on a thumb drive
- Hint #2: Moving thumb drive between computers
- Hint #3: Extended Character Set Install
- Hint #4: Installing the help files on your computer

73, David, W1HKJ

Hint #1: Installing fldigi on a thumb drive

Installing fldigi (and any of the other NBEMS flxxxx applications) on a thumb drive is very simple. Create a folder on the thumb drive named FL_APPS. Then copy the fldigi executable to that folder. Note that folder FL_APPS may reside on any hard drive, or removable drive (including a rewritable CD/DVD) on your system. Copy the executable for flarq, flrig, flmsg, flamp, etc to that same folder if you want to have a complete NBEMS installation on that device:

- fldigi.exe
- flarq.exe
- flmsg.exe
- flamp.exe
- flrig.exe

The key to using the applications thus installed is to execute the program from that folder. This is best accomplished by opening the FL_APPS folder using the system files explorer. Then start the application by double clicking on it's icon.

You will be guided through the new install wizard the first time you do this and fldigi will place all of it's configuration folders in the same folder from which it was started. For example, if the thumb drive were on an XP system and the drive was system device "H:"

- H:\FL_APPS\fldigi.exe
 - H:\FL_APPS\fldigi.files
 - H:\FL_APPS\fldigi.files\fldigi_def.xml
 - etc ...
-

Hint #2: Moving thumb drive between computers

If this removable drive installation is to be used on several computers or you expect that the hardware configuration might change then you should follow these steps each and every time that you exit the program. This will insure that fldigi will restart correctly.

- select sound card as "File I/O only"
- deselect all transceiver control (be sure to Initialize any changes)
- note: you do not have to disable xmlrpc rig control
- save the configuration

You will follow a similar procedure when you shut down flrig. The purpose is to remove all configuration items which are hardware specific. Reconfiguring the sound card and transceiver control only takes a few steps the next time fldigi is executed.

Hint #3: Extended Character Set Install

The thumb drive installation technique works equally well on the C:\ drive, and it should be used when the operating system uses an extended character set for folder names and user login names such as Björn. fldigi will try to convert that user name to a UTF-8 character sequence which the OS (typically Microsoft) will not be able to use to create the fldigi.files folder, etc.

Create the folder c:\FL_APPS

Copy fldigi, flarq, flrig, flmsg, etc executables to the newly created folder and then either

- delete the original desktop icon for the flxxx application, and create a new one for the copied file(s), or
- modify the properties dialog of the original desktop icon so that the "Target:" entry points to the newly copied file(s)

The fldigi.files, NBEMS.files, flrig.files, etc. folders will be created as sub-folders in the c:\FL_APPS folder the first time that the respective application is executed.

Configure each application. If you already have logs, macro files, etc. copy these to the respective places in the c:\FL_APPS tree.

When you upgrade fldigi you will only need to copy the new executable to that c:\FL_APPS folder, perhaps renaming the existing file as fldigi.exe.bak so that it can be recovered if necessary.

Hint #4: Installing the help files on your computer

Download the help file zipped folder, http://www.w1hkj.com/files/fldigi/fldigi-4.0.9_help.zip

Unzip the file in the fldigi files sub folder help.

Windows	C:\Documents and Settings\<username>\fldigi.files\help\
Vista/Win7/Win10	C:\Users\<username>\fldigi.files\help\
Linux	/home/<username>/.fldig/help/
Macintosh	/Users/User_Login_Name/.fldig/help/

ie: on Windows 10, C:\Users\<username>\fldigi.files\help\fldigi-help

Looking up help using the fldigi menu item "Help / Online documentation" will then open your default browser to the local help files. Modify the fldigi-help folder location accordingly if you are using the FL_APPS paradigm described in Hint #1.

Factory Nav Video Display!

The IC-7000 (and maybe some newer radios) has a very cool feature. There is a video out connection in the back panel. Purchase a cable that has a 1/8 inch stereo plug on one end that connects to the radio and an RCA plug on the other. Simply connect the cable to your stereo aux in and you now have an enlarged view of the IC 7000 display on your Nav display.



Try and stay away from Corroded Wires?



Here is an old ham radio operator's trick for cleaning wires for soldering that are old and corroded. It is hard to find this technique printed anywhere! I am a ham, NH7ZE, and learned it from my elmer (mentor). I am passing it on. I hope it helps people who need to clean wires.

Normally, if you strip a wire, and see it is corroded, there is not much you can do to restore it's shiny new conductive properties. There is scraping and scratching which comes to mind, but you'll never get it to the solderable slickness it once was long ago. After laboring and fretting over the corroded pieces of wire for a long, long time, you see that your sweat coming out of your palms and fingers are corroding the copper AGAIN!!!! Oh, dear. NOT TO WORRY!!!! Give yourself a pat on the back, because what you will pull out of your bag of tricks now, will send all the corroded copper wires scurrying and scampering away in fear!!!! Here is how to clean any corroded wire

without even touching it, in 30 seconds!! And what's more, you can even solder it!!!

This process uses two solutions, one is regular table salt and vinegar. Any kind of vinegar will work, from balsamic, to rice, to white vinegars. Its the acidity and corrosiveness of the salt and vinegar together that you want. The other solution is Sodium Bicarbonate, or baking soda, and water. This is used to neutralize the corrosive properties of the other solution, and to further clean the wires.

Step 1: Strip the wires to be cleaned.

Step 2: Get 2 containers, one for each solution. They can be paper cups, plastic, glass, bowls, whatever you can find. I have vials, because I am a professional electronics installer and I use these solutions out in the field.

Step 3: Get 1 tablespoon of raw salt, and put it in one of the containers. Fill up the rest of the container with vinegar, and stir the both together. As a general rule of thumb, put as much salt in the vinegar as will dissolve.

Step 4: Get 1 tablespoon of Sodium Bicarbonate, (baking soda) and add it to the other container. Fill up the rest with water, and stir well. Add more baking soda to make it cloudy. The amount is not important, as long as it is alkaline to cancel the acid of the vinegar solution.

Step 5: Put the stripped end of the wire in the vinegar solution, and stir the solution with the wire. any wire you want cleaned needs to be under the solution. Movement of the wire in the liquid speeds up the process.

Step 6: After 2 minutes or so, the wire will look very shiny and new in the vinegar solution. The acid and salt in the solution is etching away the oxides, exposing the bare metal. Make sure the metal is uniformly shiny. Leave it in longer if it is not perfectly clean throughout.

Step 7: Once the wire is satisfactorily clean, remove the wire from the vinegar, and plunge it into the baking soda solution to neutralize the acid's corrosive properties. If the wire was exposed to the air, without neutralizing the acid first, it would quickly corrode again. The baking soda keeps it clean and shiny. Swish the wire around in the baking soda water for about 10 seconds, and then you are done!! Shiny new wire ready for soldering, and conducting once again!!

Please vote on this instructable!!

Thanks for reading

For credits and more information on this article please go to: <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=32166>

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 ?????

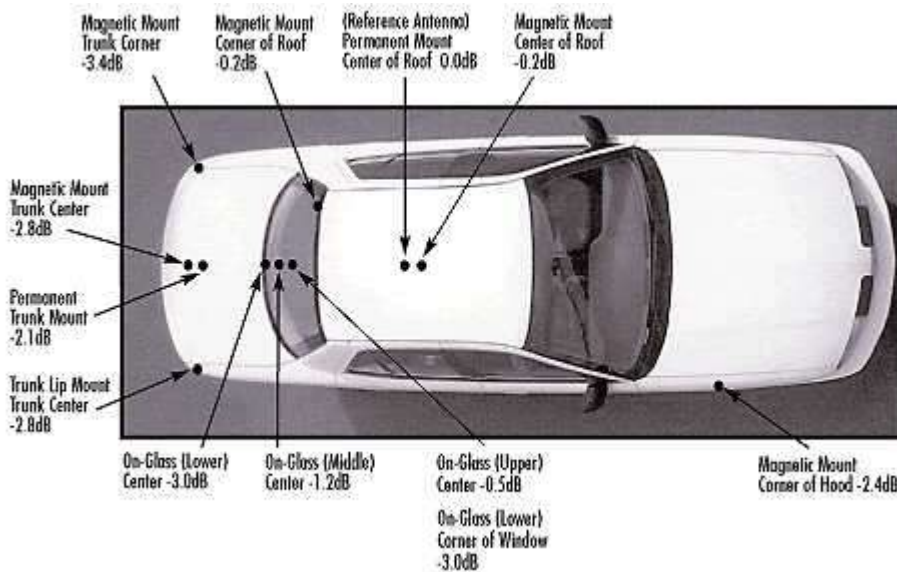
Very interesting story behind this presentation at breakfast..

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

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



Mobile Antenna Placement



Mobile Antenna Placement

Best Placement of a Mobile Antenna

Don't Lopside Your Pattern!

Source: [Larsen Amateur Catalog \(PDF\)](#) - Written by Aaron Logan.

We have provided you some guidelines for mobile antenna selection. When selecting a mobile antenna, there are a number of factors that significantly affect the ultimate performance of the antenna. Gain requirements, electrical type, ground plane availability mounting style and placement, coaxial type and loss ratings, physical size, appearance, and surrounding environment are all issues that must be addressed to ensure the maximum performance from a mobile antenna installation. The electrical type or design of the mobile antenna is commonly referred to in terms of its dimensions in terms of wavelength: 1/4 wave, 1/2 wave, 5/8 wave, etc. Each electrical type has a specific radiating pattern to be considered when selecting a mobile antenna. For example, the signal radiating from a 1/4 wave antenna is directed more vertically, thus making it ideal in urban environments where buildings might obstruct the signal. The design of

Mobile Antenna Placement (continued)

a 5dB collinear mobile antenna is designed to direct the signal more towards the horizon. This type of antenna is ideal for geographically flat regions where signal coverage is sparse.

Ground-plane availability is another critical factor in mobile antenna performance, and must be considered when determining the location and type of the antenna. Ground plane requirements vary given the type of mobile antenna and the frequency of operation. A typical 5/8 wave antenna at 150 MHz requires a ground plane of at least 42" in diameter. At 450 MHz, 15" is required, and 800 MHz, a minimum of 8" is considered sufficient.

In terms of mounting mobile antennas on a vehicle, there are five general locations: the roof, front fender, rear fender, trunk and rear window glass (although other glass mount locations may be used). Of these, the center of an automobile roof is considered the best for mobile antenna placement, followed by the center of the trunk lid, the fenders, and then on-glass mounting. This ranking is determined by the amount of ground plane provided by the positioning, and clearance from obstruction (i.e.: the roof line), and is the reason the center of the roof is considered the ideal mounting location, provided the roof is metal. The diagram above illustrates the effective loss (at 800 MHz) due to insufficient symmetrical ground plane.

2002: found at alfenterprises.com/AntennaIndexCategory.html (dead link); 2015: located source in Larsson's Amateur Catalog; 2016:

Author located! It is the policy of kv5r.com to properly credit all sources, when possible. This one just took a while

Ramblings for Summer 2017

Alot of things have happened this summer. Field Day at Ben Strickland Park in Hiram (K4LDC Pictures on our website). Breakfasts at Bo-Jangles on Thursdays. Contests Galor (K4ELI keeps us updated weekly). We had a TOTAL Eclipse and a great program explaining that earlier in the year. The new FT-8 Digital mode EXPLODED on the scene. Club Tracking of Contest Stats on N3FJP Logging Software (See K4ELI). Thanks to K4BBH and Team for making sure all the QSL Cards made it out on the Special Events Station Rembering Flight 242 at New Hope . Dave K4BBH has turned into the BIG GUN Contester also in the Club. CONGRATS !!! 146.955 in backup mode BUT coming soon back home at the new Building and Tower on Macland Rd.

VE Testing going GREAT. Congratulations to our members that have UPGRADED and those that are first time hams and New Members in our Club. Many Great Programs at our meetings. K4LDC doing a Super Job as webmaster silvercometars.com. Lots of mentoring and Fun. Coming up the Club Picnic on the water (See K4DMF).

Also remember all our Members and their Families on health issues keeping them in your thoughts and prayers. Our thoughts and Prayers also to all in Texas after the Hurricane.

Fall is here and that means Antenna Projects. Get that Wire ready.

Maybe more pictures next month when K4CGA Takes the NewsLetter back and Fills more pages with goodies.

73 Lee WB4QOJ

Contest & Special Events

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

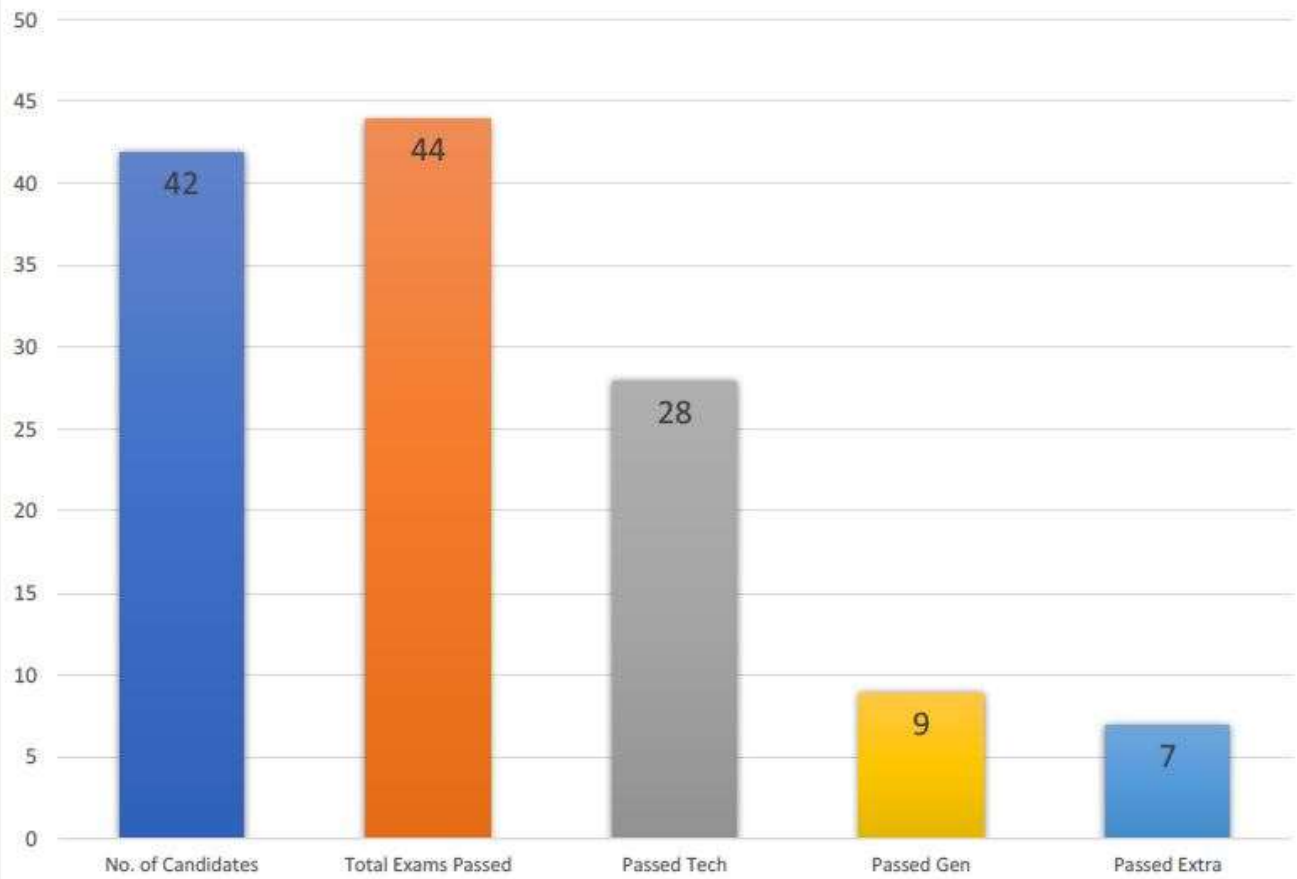
January 2017 1 Straight Key Night 7 Kids Day 7-8 RTTY Roundup 21-23 January VHF	February 2017 13-17 School Club Roundup 18-19 International DX – CW
March 2017 4-5 International DX– Phone	April 2017 16 Rookie Roundup – Phone
June 2017 10-12 June VHF 18 Kids Day 24-25 Field Day	July 2017 8-9 IARU HF World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

SCARS V.E. ACTIVITIES Tracked by K4LDC

Latest update 8/20/2017

Call	Date	Session Time	Name	City	State	Class
KM4YHM	6-Oct-2016	19:00	Eric Bryson	Marietta	GA	Tech
KM4YHN/K4HDE	6-Oct-2016	19:00	Houston Davidson	Austell	GA	Tech
KM4PEB	9-Nov-2016	14:00	Brian Bowie	Rockmart	GA	Extra
KM4ZAD	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Joseph Smarkusky	Kennesaw	GA	Tech
KM4ZAE	10-Nov-2016	19:00	John Thomas	Roswell	GA	Tech
KM4ZAF	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Robert Marorato	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAG	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Jared Baker	Marietta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAH	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Wesley Bussey	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZAI	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Wesley Carlton	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KW4ZJ	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Chris Paul	Rome	GA	Tech, Gen, Extra
K4BTA	10-Nov-2016	19:00	Luis Velazquez	Marietta	GA	Extra
KM4ZMW	30-Nov-2016	14:00	Richard Bowhall	Dallas	GA	Tech
KM4VTE	1-Dec-2016	19:00	Tommy LeBoeuf	Dallas	GA	Gen
KM4ZOU	1-Dec-2016	19:00	Robert Mciver	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KM4ZOV/K1SSL	1-Dec-2016	19:00	Sherwin Lee	Acworth	GA	Tech
KF4UOS	12-Jan-2017	19:00	Michael Blackwell	Douglasville	GA	Extra
KM4ZMW	12-Jan-2017	19:00	Richard Bowhall	Dallas	GA	Gen
KM4AXY	12-Jan-2017	19:00	Daniel Ramaswami	Milton	GA	Gen
KN4AHC	12-Jan-2017	19:00	Bernard Poulin	Smyrna	GA	Tech
KN4AHD	12-Jan-2017	19:00	Michael Frailey	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4AHE	12-Jan-2017	19:00	William Muscarella	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KN4AZK	2-Feb-2017	19:00	Donald J. Hicks	Smyrna	GA	Tech
WB3ILX	6-Apr-2017	19:00	Ron West	Dallas	GA	Extra
KN4AHC	6-Apr-2017	19:00	Bernard Poulin	Smyrna	GA	Gen
KN4CQJ	6-Apr-2017	19:00	Greg Macklem	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4CQJ	6-Apr-2017	19:00	Robert Long	Kennesaw	GA	Tech
KN4CQJ	4-May-2017	19:00	Robert Long	Kennesaw	GA	Gen
KN4DEF	4-May-2017	19:00	Tomas Russell	Woodstock	GA	Tech
KN4DEG	4-May-2017	19:00	Andrew Petry	Mabelton	GA	Tech, Gen
KN4CZQ	4-May-2017	19:00	Robert Stewart	Cullowhee, NC	NC	Gen
W4NHP	1-Jun-2017	19:00	Nathan Adrian	Marietta	GA	None
KN4DVG	1-Jun-2017	19:00	Robert Swenson	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4DVF	1-Jun-2017	19:00	John Huffman	Powder Springs	GA	Tech
W4OUT	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Michael Lindgren	Marietta	GA	Gen
K3PDJ	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Paul Johnson	Woodstock	GA	Extra
KN4EPV	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Steven Barrett	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4EPW	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Stephen Barden	Carrollton	GA	Tech
KN4EPX	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Jeffery Thomas	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KN4EPY	6-Jul-2017	19:00	Scott Smith	Marietta	GA	Tech
W4DTO	25-Jul-2017	19:00	Dan Ozment	Dallas	GA	Extra
KN4FDB	3-Aug-2017	19:00	Ernest Riddle	Acworth	GA	Tech
KN4FDC	3-Aug-2017	19:00	Addison Shelton	Atlanta	GA	Tech

SCARS VE Session Statistics



SCARS VE Sessions

Individual Count

Row Labels	Count of Name
Bernard Poulin	2
Brian Bowie	1
Chris Paul	1
Daniel Ramaswami	1
Eric Bryson	1
Houston Davidson	1
Jared Baker	1
John Thomas	1
Joseph Smarkusky	1
Luis Velazquez	1
Michael Blackwell	1
Michael Frailey	1
Richard Bowhall	2
Robert Marorato	1
Robert McIver	1
Sherwin Lee	1
Tommy LeBoeuf	1
Wesley Bussey	1
Wesley Carlton	1
William Muscarella	1
Donald J. Hicks	1
Ron West	1
Greg Macklem	1
Robert Long	2
Tomas Russell	1
Andrew Petry	1
Robert Stewart	1
Nathan Adrian	1
Robert Swenson	1
John Huffman	1
Michael Lindgren	1
Paul Johnson	1
Steven Barrett	1
Stephen Barden	1
Jeffery Thomas	1
Scott Smith	1
Dan Ozment	1
Ernest Riddle	1
Addison Shelton	1
Grand Total	42

Candidate by City Count

Row Labels	Count of Name
Acworth	2
Atlanta	7
Austell	1
Dallas	5
Douglasville	1
Kennesaw	3
Marietta	10
Milton	1
Rockmart	1
Rome	1
Roswell	1
Smyrna	3
Woodstock	2
Mableton	1
Powder Springs	1
Carrollton	1
Cullowhee, NC	1
Grand Total	42

Test Date Count

Row Labels	Count of Name
6-Oct-2016	2
9-Nov-2016	1
10-Nov-2016	8
30-Nov-2016	1
1-Dec-2016	3
12-Jan-2017	6
2-Feb-2017	1
6-Apr-2017	4
4-May-2017	4
1-Jun-2017	3
6-Jul-2017	6
25-Jul-2017	1
3-Aug-2017	2
Grand Total	42

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

May 4 July 6 September 7 November 2
June 1 August 3 October 5 December 7

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.

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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

146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: *Club President*
John Reynolds, W4TXA

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John-W4TXA@comcast.net

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