



The Prez Sez

As we approach Fall, I am reminded of several upcoming events. First item is our next meeting. Our own Steve Walls (K4ELI) will be giving a presentation on QSL cards (and more). Then there's the Huntsville Hamfest. This is one of the better Hamfest (and, it's all indoors). We will be having presentations on Antennas - Do we really need them? Clusters and nodes, and how to ground "things"... Also, in October we will be having our annual AM DX Contest. And, a new item... Fox Hunting... We are going to join up with the W4IBM Club for a Fox Hunt. The projected date for the Fox Hunt will be October 14th at the Taylor Farm Park. November will bring our annual elections. So keep in mind anybody that would like to take a handle on our leadership, we have up for election the four Officers and two Board Members. There is much to do... so, see you at our next meeting.

John Reynolds, W4TXA
President – 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



Editor's Notes:



Vacations are over & school is back in session. Please be careful. Please enjoy this newsletter and email any pictures or articles for publication prior to the 25th of each month. The earlier the better since I start working on the next month's newsletter immediately after publication of the last one.

Chuck K4CGA, Editor

Club Shirts!

With lots of club activities scheduled for the months ahead, don't forget to order your SCARS logo'd shirts now. Wear your call sign proudly and help SCARS grow by displaying the club logo. Tee's and Polo's are the in-thing. See Rick KM4ZMW for order forms and help in placing your order. I got mine, do you have yours?

Monday – “SCARS Night Out” Net!

Just a quick reminder of Monday night's net. Please check in if you get a chance and participate in discussions on just about any subject you choose. Check-in begins at **7:30PM** (new time). Look forward to hearing from you.

73's David Walck – K4BBH

SCARS Community Food Drive



How can SCARS help? Let's keep up the good work and help fight hunger in our community. Please continue to bring an item or two to our monthly meetings. These items will be delivered in the next couple of days to one or more of the local community food banks for distribution to those in need. Remember, this is voluntary. We will not take your birthday away unless you want us to.

Into to ARRL's LoTW!

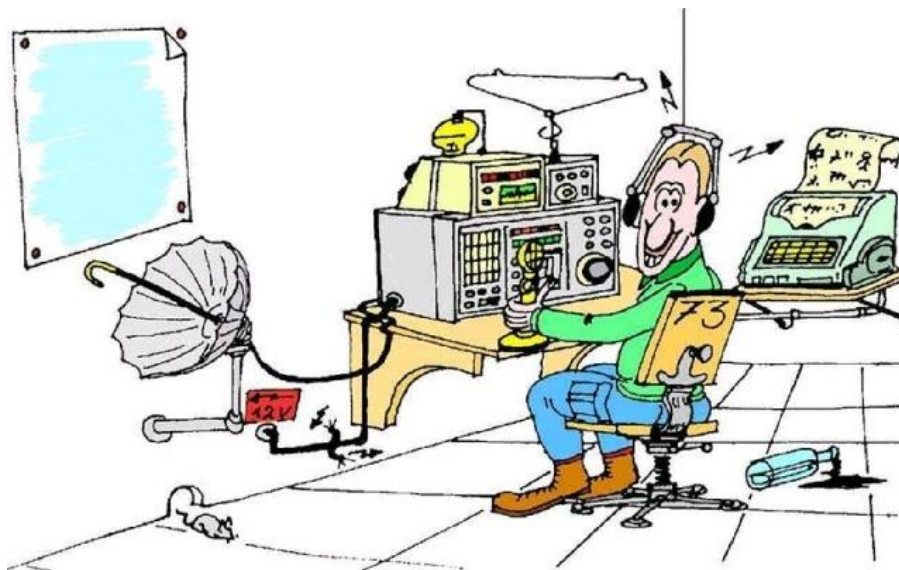
July's program was "Introduction to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW)" presented by our own Steve Walls, K4ELI.

Steve is one of the early participants in this electronic QSL verification program and uses it extensively to confirm his contacts made on the air.

He has suffered through all the trials and tribulations of getting this program working properly and smoothly and is one of the club's most experienced users. If you have tried to get started using LoTW, I am sure you will agree it is not the most user-friendly start-up process you have ever experienced.

Steve did a great job presenting this start-up procedure, providing some tips and answering questions of which there were many.

Thank you, Steve. To view a video of Steve's presentation, go to the club website: silvercometars.com



Deed Restrictions Still Got You Down?

4BTV "Flag Pole" Antenna

Solution to a subdivision antenna restriction by KX9DK

The Hustler 4BTV trap vertical antenna is and has been a very popular multiband antenna with ham radio operators for years. Its performance, length, and diameter lends itself to being "hidden" within PVC tubing and disguised as a flag pole!

Here, KX9DK shares his "flag pole antenna with all to enjoy.



For complete information on the construction of this antenna:

<http://www.hamuniverse.com/kx9dk4btvflagpole.html>

Editor's Note: Best looking hidden antenna I have seen in a long time.

On the Bright Side!

Larry-K4LDC managed to increase the height of some of his antennas while cleaning his gutters. Must be some sort of magic trick. Way to go Larry.

Rick-KM4ZMW is making good progress on his tower clean-up and restoration. That sounds too much like work! Question: how many cans of Spray Paint does it take to do a 60ft tower? We look forward to the answer and seeing it vertical soon.

James-KM4IKO strung a new 73' 160-6m "MyAntenna" EFLW in his attic and lost about 10lbs due to the heat. That is real dedication to ham radio but how well does it work. You will have to ask James to get the answer.

Meet a NEW Club Member – KM4NRF



Meet Eric Jones, KM4NRF (2nd from left). Not only is Eric a "new member" of SCARS but he is also a "new ham". Congratulations! Eric showed up at our Field Day GOTA site, then passed his Technician exam the following week. Eric is now studying for his General exam and hopes to pass it soon. You can hear Eric on the club repeater going to and from work and on the SCARS nets. Say HELLO to him if you haven't already.

Pictured above with Eric is Everett KM4EOG, Tommy KM4VTE, and Rick KM4ZMW.

Meet an ELMER or 2! (for Ham Radio that is)



(L>R) James KM4IKO, Chuck K4CGA, Steve K4ELI, & Tommy KM4VTE.

At the July club meeting, several “Elmer Awards” were presented by James KM4IKO and Tommy KM4VTE much to the surprise of the recipients.

Steve Walls K4ELI, & your editor, Chuck DuVall K4CGA, received these prestigious awards with great appreciation.

Steve found some time to hang his new award along with his other Elmer awards, but I have not gotten around to it yet, but I will. On behalf of Steve and myself, thank you so much.



SOTA – Summits On The Air



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Summits On The Air (SOTA) is an amateur radio operating award program launched in Great Britain in 2002, which is now known worldwide. SOTA's aim is to encourage licensed amateur radio operators to operate temporarily from mountainous locations, combining hiking and mountain climbing with operating their amateur radio station from the summits of hills and mountains.



Those who set up a station on a summit (usually for a few minutes to a few hours) are known as *activators*¹ and those who contact ("work") activators on summits are known as *chasers*.

Points are awarded to the activator for operating from ("activating") a summit, and to each of the chasers contacting ("working"¹) the activator. The higher the mountain is, the more points the activator and each chaser receive.

The rules include that "the method of final access to the Summit must be non-motorized" and "all equipment must be operated from a portable power source (batteries, solar cells, etc).

Operation is expressly forbidden using permanently installed power sources or fossil-fuel generators of any kind". This usually forces the activators to minimize the total weight of their equipment while still bringing adequate antennas and electrical power (usually batteries) to the summits.

In addition, a summit must have a minimum amount of prominence relative to the terrain surrounding it. The rules state the elevation must be at least 150 meters or 492 feet. Activators must also be within the Activation Zone which is within 25 meters (83 feet) of the top of the summit.

The official list of SOTA summits is published on "[the SOTA database](https://www.sotadatabase.org/)", and their location can be displayed on maps on <https://www.sotamaps.org/>.

Many activators bring video cameras or mobile phones along to capture video to share with others on the Internet. One of the most notable activators that shoots video is Steve Galchutt, known as the "Goat Hiker".

Several software packages have been specially developed to facilitate the participation of amateur radio operators in this program, in particular for the preparation of expeditions to the summits, on-site navigation, logs, information for other amateurs, etc.

Interested in SOTA (Summits On The Air)? Check out these great sites:

<https://www.ke6mt.us/category/ham-radio/sota/>

<https://www.sota.org.uk/>

<http://www.on6zq.be/w/index.php/SOTA/Software>

<https://www.sota.org.uk/About>

Some Useful Stuff

ICOM 7610 users! From Larry K4LDC:

ICOM released the attached tech bulletin for my new IC-7610. They released new firmware as well but some folks were having issues with it and third-party software.



Attention WSJT and Dimension 4 users!

Dimension 4 needs to be setup to use a single time server as the server list includes servers that do not accept 'anonymous' time requests any longer. The US Naval Observatory in Colorado Springs CO works well.

ThumbDV

Want to get on DSTAR without spending a fortune? NW Digital Radio has extended the sale of their ThumbDV for \$99.95 through the end of August. Download some free software and plug it into your computer and Wow, your on DSTAR. Several club members own one and they work well. Get yours now while they are on sale.

<http://nwdigitalradio.com/thumbdv-sale-has-been-extended-thru-august/>

Lightning Map

Do you hear those static crashes on your HF radio? Want to know how close the lightning is to you that is causing those crashes? Check out this program.

<https://www.lightningmaps.org/#m=oss;t=2;s=0;o=0;b=;ts=0;y=35.012;x=-85.7593;z=5;d=2;dl=2;dc=0;>

Interested in Digital?

Looking for a great resource for Digital and other modes? Check this site out.

<http://www.g4ifb.com/index.html>

More Antenna Info

This site is a source of LOTS of good antenna info.

<http://www.dj0ip.de/cutting-edge-ant/maxwell-house-choke/>

What Is It?



If you can correctly identify this object, Steve K4ELI will give you a pat on the back and buy you 2 hot dogs @ POPS!

Paulding ARES

Many of our SCARS members participate with Paulding County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services) which has been an integral part of Paulding County EMA (Emergency Management Agency) for years. It is a great opportunity for amateur radio operators to exercise and demonstrate their communications skills providing valuable assistance to our community during an emergency.

SCARS has been growing in membership and ARES may be an amateur radio activity that may be of interest to our new amateurs and new members. If you are interested, please plan on attending the next ARES meeting listed below:

When:

Sunday, 5 August 2018
3:00pm to 5:00pm

Where:

Fire Station #7 in Yorkville. GPS Location: 296 Crossroads Church Rd. **Rockmart, GA 30153**

Description:

This is the next Paulding ARES Quarterly Meeting. Please plan to attend if at all possible as we will be discussing several important topics related to Paulding ARES.

Trivia or Trivial!



BobW @K0NR · Mar 12

Serious question: what is the attraction of a ham radio contact using RF to go 25 feet to a hotspot then around the world via TCP/IP?

15 3 8

See the responses and discussions on this question at:

<http://www.amateurradio.com/thats-not-real-ham-radio/>

Contributed by Tommy KM4VTE

Which one of our members has lived in the Paulding area for years and has (or still is) known by the nickname of "Hambone"? Ask around, you may be surprised! Maybe the answer will be in next month's issue.

Trivia or Trivial!



K4ELI's new test center



Look Similar?

Chuck – K4CGA's, QSL card and the license plate he had on his car from 1975 – 1981. While stationed in Alexandria VA., Chuck was the Chief Operator of K4CG, the US Coast Guard Amateur Radio Station at the USCG LABS . Chuck retired as a Senior Chief Radioman in 1984 after 21 years of service.

- **08/04/2018 | US Coast Guard 228th Anniversary**

Aug 4-Aug 5, 1400Z-0400Z, W5CGC, Southlake, TX. USCG Amateur Radio Club. 21.327 18.127 14.327 7.227. QSL. W5CGC, 4553 N. White Chapel Blvd., Southlake, TX 76092. Club members will operate from their home QTH from different states. Contact with any one station qualifies for a QSL. Please QSL via Callbook address. SASE appreciated. [United States Coast Guard Amateur Radio Club - W5CGC](#)

More Useful CW Stuff!

MORSE CODE KEY DATES	DETAILS
1832	Idea for telegraph first conceived.
1838	First message sent using dots and dashes to represent characters.
1844	American Morse code in final form.
1844	Washington to Baltimore line completed and first message sent.
1850	Sound reading generally replaces tape registers for receiving.
1851	International Morse code adopted in preference to the original American Morse code.
1851	Telegraph first used in train despatching.
1858	First transatlantic cable laid. It failed after 24 days.
1860	Automatic repeaters first used to extend the length over which telegraph lines could operate.
1866	Successful completion of transatlantic cable.
1872	Development of Stearns duplex system enables two messages to be transmitted simultaneously over one line.
1930	Last Morse wire closed by Associated Press.
1989	Western Union Telegraph Co dissolved.
31 Dec 1999	Morse code no longer required for International Distress signals.
14 July 2013	India's state-owned telecom company, BSNL, ended its telegraph service. This was reported to be the World's last true commercial electric telegraph system.

Recent SCARS Website Updates:



<http://www.silvercometars.com/index.php>

- [Event Photos](#) page updated with:
 - **SCARS Field Day** photos in the 2018 section.
 - **ELMER Awards** presentation from SCARS July 3, 2018 meeting.
- [Links](#) page updated with:
 - **LightningMaps.org** under the **USEFUL WEB SITES to MONITOR** section.
- [Morse Code / CW](#) page updated with:
 - **CW Academy** under the **LINKS** section.
- [Contest Corral](#) page updated with:
 - **ARRL Contest Logs** submission link.
 - **WRTC 2018 Log** submission link.
 - **CQ Contest Logs** submission link.
- [SCARS YouTube Channel](#) page updated with:
 - **LoTW Setup Presentation** from 3 July 2018 meeting.

Send SCARS website corrections, comments, or suggestions to K4LDC (Larry) at K4LDC@arrl.net

On the Down Side:



The club wishes to express it's condolences to family of Bobby O'Donald KD4ISM for the loss of his father-in-law Homer Joseph Ashley.

Larry K4LDC was rear-ended on I-75. Larry is fine but his beautiful Avalanche got a little scarred. We are glad everyone was OK.

Somebody needs to tell Dave K4BBH that mud and skinny bicycle tires do not play well together. Do your raspberries make noise Dave? Hope you get to feeling better soon.

The club also wishes to express it's condolences to the club member that expressed they needed some mental help. We hope you come to your senses soon. You know who you are!

To those that I have missed in this issue, please rest assured that the club and its members wish you and your families a speedy recovery from whatever the problem may be.

New Version of FT8 In The Works:

Thanks Larry K4LDC for the heads-up!

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation with full support of grid exchanges and Rover (/R) call signs.
- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers, and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special “telemetry” message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing “FT8 DXpedition Mode,” with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

More info can be found here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/significant-changes-in-store-for-ft8-and-msk144-with-wsjt-x-version-2-0>

When your dog poses for pictures better than you do...



If you work as a security guard in a Samsung store, does that make you a guardian of the Galaxy?



Breakfast @.....



The "Official" Breakfast Joint of
The Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

Come Join Us!
Thursday mornings
Around 8:30 - 9am +/-
Until ??????

**Located on Hwy 278 in Hiram between
the Goodwill and Racetrack across from
the Home Depot.**

**Show them your Greystone Connections Card for a
discount.**



Contest & Special Events

2018 ARRL Contest Dates - Ver 1.0 - 30 June 2017

January 2018 1 Straight Key Night 6 Kids Day 6-7 RTTY Roundup 20-22 January VHF	February 2018 12-16 School Club Roundup 17-18 International DX – CW
March 2018 3-4 International DX– Phone	April 2018 15 Rookie Roundup – Phone
June 2018 9-11 June VHF 16 Kids Day 23-24 Field Day	July 2018 14-15 IARU HF World Championship
August 2018 4-5 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest 18-19 10 GHz & Up – Round 1 19 Rookie Roundup – RTTY	September 2018 8-10 September VHF 15-16 10 GHz & Up - Round 2 29-30 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
October 2018 15-19 School Club Roundup 27-28 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz	November 2018 3-5 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW 17-19 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone 24-25 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz 11/30-12/2 160 Meter
December 2018 11/30-12/2 160 Meter 8-9 10 Meter 16 Rookie Roundup–CW	

Additional Contest Calendars

<http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html>

http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html

<http://ncjweb.com/>

Upcoming Special Events

Please look for K4ELI's email notices regarding contest and special events on the SCARS Group.io reflector or visit the ARRL website at:

http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/Date.start:2016-09-14/Date.end:2016-12-31/model:Event

SCARS V.E. ACTIVITIES

SCARS/BHBC Test Session

K4ELI and the VE Team will be testing at 7pm at Burnt Hickory Baptist Church, 5145 Due West Road, Powder Springs, on the following dates:

2018 Schedule

Jul 12 Aug 2 Sep 6 Oct 4 Nov 1 Dec 6

For more information, contact Steve Walls, K4ELI: swalls46@att.net

SCARS/Paulding CoC Test Session

W4TXA and the VE Team will be testing at 6:30pm at the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, 455 Jimmy Campbell Pkwy (Hwy 278), Dallas, on the following dates:

2018 Schedule

Jul 10 Aug 14 Sep 11 Oct 9 Nov 13 Dec 11

For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: john-w4txa@comcast.net

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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 following web sites for more details:

SCARS http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php#TEST_SESSION

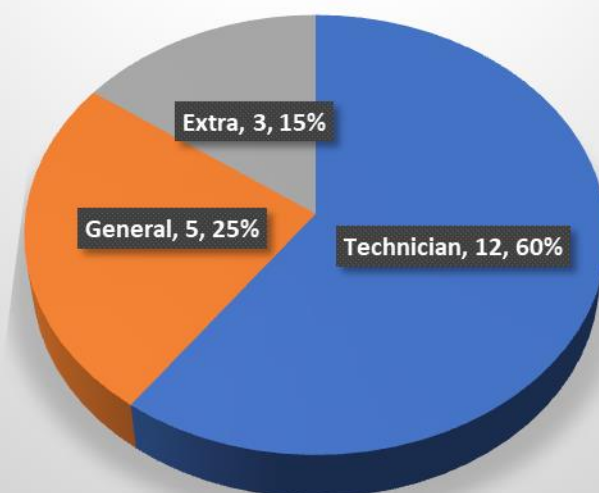
ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training>



SCARS V.E. ACTIVITIES *(YTD as of July 2018)*

Call	Date	Session Time	Name	City	State	Class
KN4ILS	10-Jan-2018	19:00	Kevin Zgonc	Powder Springs	GA	Gen
KN4IXX	11-Jan-2018	19:00	Gerald B. Jones, Jr.	Dallas	GA	Tech
KN4JLV	1-Feb-2018	19:00	Andrew D. Rockwell, Jr	Dallas	GA	Tech
N1SEA	1-Feb-2018	19:00	Daniel Ramaswami	Milton	GA	Extra
KX4JN	1-Mar-2018	19:00	Daniel McMahon	Woodstock	GA	Tech, Gen, Extra
KN4KKN	1-Mar-2018	19:00	Jason Vannoy	Powder Springs	GA	Tech
KN4KKO	1-Mar-2018	19:00	James Grayson	Douglasville	GA	Tech
KN4LLB	4-Apr-2018	19:00	John R. Reich	Atlanta	GA	Tech
KN4LLC	4-Apr-2018	19:00	Wesley C. Bramlett	Kennesaw	GA	Tech
KN4KTJ	4-Apr-2018	19:00	Douglas P. Burnett	Marietta	GA	Gen
KM4QHL/K5MTC	4-Apr-2018	19:00	Luz M. Heaton	Rockmart	GA	Gen
KN4MFG	3-May-2018	19:00	Lucas A. Saltz	Brookhaven	GA	Tech
KN4MFH	3-May-2018	19:00	Sean B. Corby	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4MFI	3-May-2018	19:00	Gavin T. Clausus	Marietta	GA	Tech
KN4FUW	7-Jun-2018	19:00	Kenneth D. Benton	Acworth	GA	Gen
KN4NCC	7-Jun-2018	19:00	William R. Entrekin	Dallas	GA	Tech
KM4RXM	12-Jul-2018	19:00	Kalila King	Powder Springs	GA	Extra

2018 SCARS VE Session Statistics



Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society
2018 Calendar

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

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-02-2018 7pm	02-06-2018 7pm	03-06-2018 7pm	04-03-2018 7pm	05-01-2018 7pm	06-05-2018 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
Meeting Activity	Digital (WB3ILX)	CW Training	Digital (WB3ILX)	Severe WX Presentation (K4DMF)	Digital (WB3ILX)	Logging Techniques (K4ELI)
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	Fox Hunt Date TBA	GA QSOP.	Family Night Dinner O'Charley's Hiram May 8 th 6:30pm	Field Day 23 rd & 24th
Hamfest Schedule	Lawrenceville TechFest	Dalton, GA	Birmingham, AL Elijay, GA	Mobile, AL Calhoun, GA	Dayton, OH	Atlanta, GA



	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	07-03-2018 7pm	08-07-2018 7pm	09-04-2018 7pm	10-02-2018 7pm	11-06-2018 7pm	12-04-2018 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
Meeting Activity	Intro to LoTW Part 1 (K4ELI)	QSL Cards (K4ELI)	Cheap Antennas (K4CGA)	Clusters & Nodes (WB4QOJ)	Station Grounding (W4TXA)	TBD
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	Club Fall Picnic	AM DX Contest	TBD	Christmas Dinner
Hamfest & Conventions	Cullman, AL	Huntsville, AL	SEDEC DX	La Grange, GA Chattanooga, TN Rome, GA	Lawrenceville GA Montgomery, AL.	

This calendar is "Subject to change". Submit change request to W4TXA John.

V2018.04

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

SILVER COMET AMATEUR
RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

CONTACT US:

Groups.io Request:
SilvercometARS

www.silvercometars.com
146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: *Club President*
John Reynolds, W4TXA

Email:
John-W4TXA@comcast.net

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