



The Prez Sez

Ah... the smell of September... Again, we are so fortunate in our Club to have these many, many avenues of **FUN!** This month, we will be involved with the G.R.I.T.S. bike ride (on Labor Day (September 3rd)) - that is always so much fun. Then there will be the Club meeting (Tuesday - September 4th). We will be having a DX Convention this coming September 21st through the 34rd. up in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee (it is a blast). We will be getting ready for the W4IBM Fox Hunt (next month), along with our upcoming AM DX Contest. To all of you more recent joining members, these are but a few of the activities. This month, we will be having a presentation on some digital formats, namely... Win link and FL Digi. These digital formats are so important for messaging via Ham Radio. We use these formats to send some of the ICS forms with A.R.E.S. So, don't be afraid to come and ask some questions... I will tell you a little secret... there are some of us old heads that have no idea how to deal with some of these newer digital formats. So please come to the next club meeting on the 4th and have an enjoyable evening.

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:



It has been another busy month for your Editor. Sort of threw this together at the last minute as I was on vacation. Hope it works for you. 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? We still need your 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.

The Original QSL Method!

Club member Steve Walls, K4ELI, made another great QSL card presentation at our August monthly meeting.

Although most amateurs have switched to electronic QSL verification, many like Steve and others in SCARS, still collect the rare and unusual cards to admire and display. This process can become interesting and complex if you are not familiar with the basics of QSL preparation, distribution and delivery.



Steve has extensively researched and studied the art of collecting paper QSL cards and has been extremely successful in his return rate. Subjects covered included what the correct size of a QSL card should be and why it should conform to that standard, the information that should be included on a QSL to insure it can meet the various award requirements and who it should be sent to.

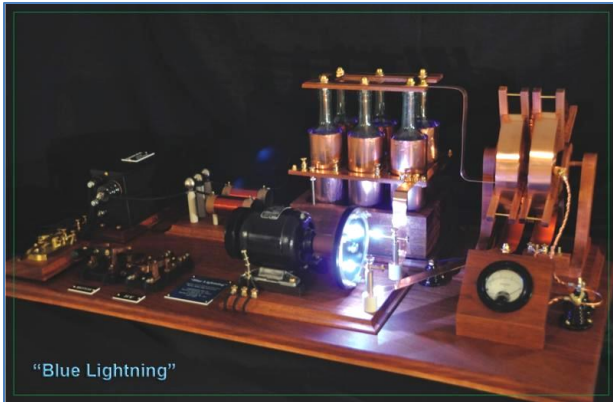
He has suffered through all the trials and tribulations of getting this program working properly and smoothly and is one of the clubs most experienced users. If you have tried to get started using LoTW, I am sure you will agree it is not the most user-friendly start-up process you have ever experienced.

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



September Preview:



September's program will feature a guest speaker, **Harold Kennedy, N4GG** from Woodstock.

Harold is a retired EE, MBA and aerospace executive with 30+ years design experience and an active ham radio operator since 1961.

Harold will be speaking on keeping a station equipment log (not the logbook), station equipment, antenna gain, SWR in antennas and more. Come and enjoy this amazing presentation at our next meeting on Tuesday the 4th of September at our usual meeting location, the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, lower level in the back. Check out his QRZ page.

On the Down Side:



Keith Joiner, KN4IEP – Recovering from neck surgery and doing well.

Cheri Reynolds, K4TXA - Hobbling around due to recent foot surgery. Get well soon.



W4DXCC 2018!

The 14th Annual W4DXCC and Contest Convention will be held at the MainStay Hotel and Conference Center in Pigeon Forge, Tn on September 21st – 22nd.

This year's convention agenda covers the following topics and more.

Ham Radio Bootcamp
Hams to the rescue
Bouvet DXpedition
Baker Island DXpedition
DX & Noise
DXing from Chile
WRTC 2018
Building a Solid State Amp
Effective QSLing

Plan on attending the Banquet and enjoy good food and good conversation. You might even win one of the great prizes being given away.

For more information: www.w4dxcc.com



W4TXA K4TXA



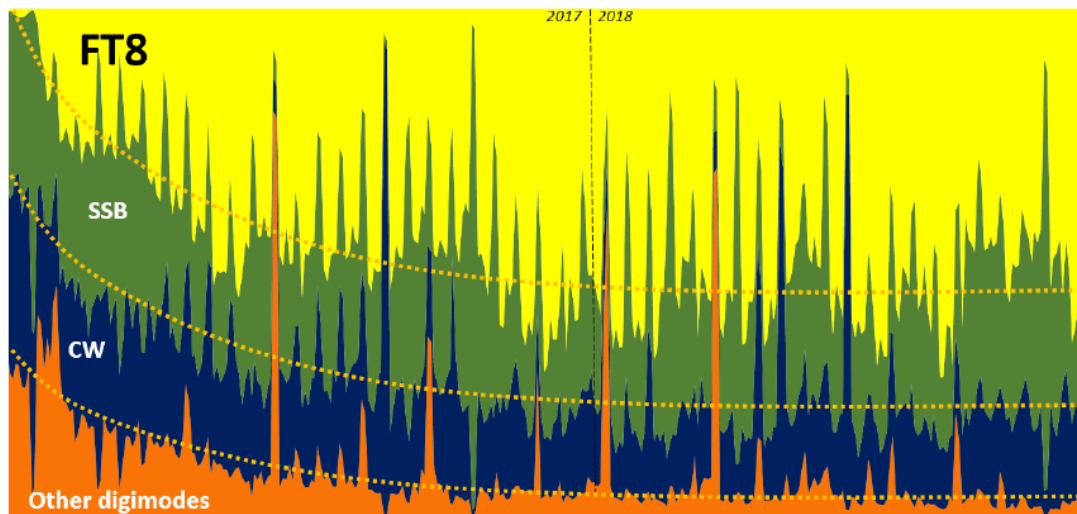
Another FT8 Operating Guide!

Submitted by Lee WB4QOJ

Weak signal HF DXing ... without sunspots

by Gary Hinson ZL2iFB Version 1.22 August 2018

Note: this document is periodically updated. The current version is at www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf



Data courtesy of clublog.org



FT8_Hinson_tips_for
_HF_DXers.pdf



New Version of FT8:

FT8Call de KN4CRD

FT8 has taken over the airwaves as *the* digital communication mode for making QSOs over HF/VHF/UHF. The mode has been widely popular as the latest offering in K1JT's WSJT-X application. FT8 stands on the shoulders of JT65, JT9, and WSPR modes for weak signal communication, but transmits much faster with only slightly reduced sensitivity.

While FT8 is an incredibly robust weak signal mode, it is designed heavily to take advantage of short band openings on HF/VHF/UHF and only offers a minimal QSO framework. However, many operators are using these weak signal qualities to make successful QSOs on the HF bands where other modes fail.

FT8Call is an ***experiment*** to test the feasibility of a digital mode with the robustness of FT8, combined with a messaging and network protocol layer for weak signal *communication* on HF, using keyboard-to-keyboard style interface. FT8Call is heavily inspired by [WSJT-X](#), [Fldigi](#), and [FSQCall](#) and would not exist without the hard work and dedication of the many developers in the amateur radio community.

FT8Call is derived from the weak signal mode software family WSJT-X (FT8, JT-65, JT-9...) but it's not developed by WSJT Prof. Taylor K1JT's group. Its source code is public domain while FT8 it's copyrighted.

The main destination for FT8Call is keyboard-to-keyboard communications.

More at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/159S4wqMUVdMA7qBgaSWmU-iDI4C9wd4CuWnetN68O9U/edit>

HF Interference from Powerline Devices:

Source: RTL-SDR.com

Over on our [YouTube channel](#) we've uploaded a new video that shows how bad the interference from Ethernet over Power devices can be. Ethernet over Power, Powerline Networking, Powerline Communications or 'HomePlug' is a technology that allows you to use any of your household power outlets as an internet Ethernet port, completely eliminating the need for runs of Ethernet cabling. They are capable of high speeds and can be used anywhere in the house assuming the two plugs are on the same power circuit.

Unfortunately these devices tend to wipe out almost the entire HF spectrum for anyone listening nearby. As household powerline cables are not shielded for RF emissions they radiate in the HF spectrum quite heavily. In the video we demonstrate what the HF spectrum looks like with one of these devices used in the house. The particular device used was a TP-Link brand adapter, and a WellBrook Magnetic Loop antenna was used outdoors, with the null facing the house. An Airspy R2 with SpyVerter was used to view the spectrum.

The video shows that even when the network is idling there are several brief bursts of noise all over the spectrum. Then when a file is downloaded almost the entire spectrum is completely wiped out.

Interestingly from the video it appears that the amateur radio frequencies are actually carefully notched out and those frequencies remain relatively clean. Most manufacturers of these devices appear to have [worked with the ARRL](#) to please ham radio enthusiasts, but SWLers will likely be in trouble if any of these devices are used in your house or neighbor's house.

<https://www.rtl-sdr.com/showing-the-hf-interference-problem-from-ethernet-over-powerline-devices/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMXRo5FKUIQ>

<http://www.alphr.com/realworld/350648/does-powerline-networking-nuke-radio-hams>

Digital Band Plan for VHF/UHF

Submitted by Lee WB4QOJ

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)

<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 <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

Trivia or Trivial!

It ain't what you don't know that gets you in trouble.

It's what you know for sure that just ain't so. - Mark Twain

It's much easier to keep your house clean after it has

burned to the ground. – Cheri Reynolds, K4TXA

I tried raising chickens, but failed. I guess I planted them

too deep and too far apart. – Chuck K4CGA

Experts say babies smile about 200 times a day. How many

times a day do to you smile? – Unknown

Scientist have discovered a giant cloud of Alcohol spanning

288 billion miles floating in space. That sure is a lot of belching.

85% of people have experienced a dream so real that they

were not sure if it happened in real life or not. I must still be dreaming.

I used to think a lot of the people I encountered were stupid,

then I realized how much I was overestimating them.

Deed Restrictions Still Got You Down?

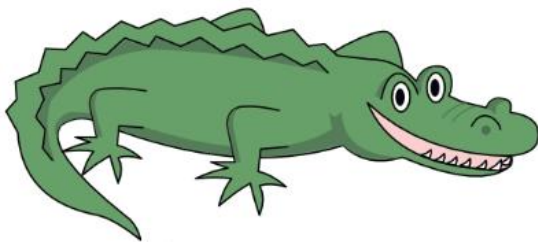
Amateur Radio operators provide an invaluable service by assisting local, national and international emergency communication efforts when disasters occur. Amateur Radio operators can provide a resilient, distributed network to first responders and disaster relief organizations when other communications tools fail.

The [Amateur Radio Parity Act](#) of 2017 was introduced in the US Senate on July 12, marking another step forward for this landmark legislation. The measure will, for the first time, guarantee all radio amateurs living in deed-restricted communities governed by a homeowner's association (HOA) or subject to any private land use regulations, the right to erect and maintain effective outdoor antennas at their homes.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/amateur-radio-parity-act-language-inserted-in-national-defense-authorization-act>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/555>

<https://www.caionline.org/Advocacy/FederalAdvocacy/PriorityIssues/Pages/Amateur-Radio-And-Community-Associations.aspx>



Hurricane Season Is Here Again!

Have you watched any TV news stations recently? If you have, you probably are aware of the tropical storms and hurricanes forming at sea.

For many years, Amateur Radio has played a major role in providing communications in times of crisis and natural disasters as a result of hurricanes. Unlike commercial systems, **Amateur Radio** is independent of terrestrial facilities that can fail. Amateur radio operators can use hundreds of frequencies and can quickly establish networks using emergency power tying disparate agencies together to enhance **interoperability**.

The ARRL provides extensive documentation on how to conduct emergency radio communications, including its Public Service Communications Manual, and has memoranda of understanding with numerous agencies expected to receive services.

You can help by being prepared for the hurricane season even if you don't live near a point of impact. Your area may be affected by torrential rains, flooding, high winds or tornados. Review some of the following websites for more information.

The Hurricane Watch Net <https://www.hwn.org/>

WX4NHC Amateur Ham Radio at National Hurricane Center www.w4ehw.fiu.edu/

VoIP Hurricane Net www.voipwx.net/

Recent SCARS Website Updates:



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

No significant updates to the website to report in this issue.

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

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

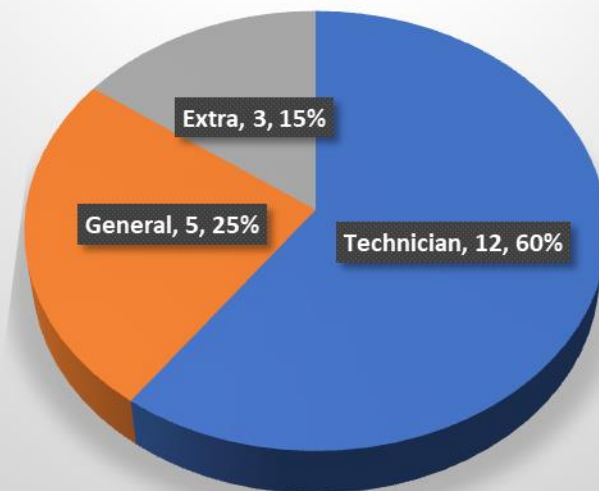
ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training>



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)	Guest Speaker N4GG	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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