

Silver Comet ARS, INC NEWS

PO BOX 1873 Hiram Ga. 30141 501 (C) (3) Not for Profit

Nov. 2018 Vol 5 Number 11

#### The Prez Sez

Greetings to all Ladies; Gentlemen, and others...

To think, that there are only 13 days until our next meeting. Only 7 days left in this

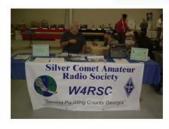
month. I am speaking about our next meeting. There are so many items to choose from concerning our next meeting that it is hard to choose but a few: One of the highlights of our November meeting will be a Presentation by Joseph Ladd (N3NNU) about S.O.T.A. (Summits On The Air). I saw Joe's presentation a couple of months ago at another Club, and he is **GOOD**. Another part of our meeting will be announcing the **WINNER** of our Annual AM DX Contest (see...I'll bet you forgot about that). But... the most important item on November's Agenda will be our elections. I am enclosing below the list of nominees that we have so far. Now please keep in mind that nominations will be open to the floor up, and until the voting starts. So it is VERY important to attend this meeting. If, for some reason that you absolutely cannot attend, you may arrange to vote via Proxy (and/or) absentee ballot before the November meeting. Arrange to see me or Rick Bowhall (our Secretary) for this procedure. If you vote by proxy (and/or) absentee ballot, you will lose the ability to vote for any additional members that might be nominated at the meeting.

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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)

The Nominees at the present time are:

For President: John Reynolds (incumbent)

Lee McDaniel

For Vice-President: James Akey (incumbent)
For Secretary: Rick Bowhall (incumbent)
For Treasurer: Dave Fuller (incumbent)

We also will have two (2) Board positions to fill and we have three (3) nominees to choose from, they are:

(1) - Cheri Reynolds

- (2) James Akey
- (3) Neal Griggs

So... don't forget November 6th... Also, don't forget to bring some cans for the food drive.

John Reynolds - W4TXA

President - The Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

## **Editor's Notes:**



Copies of past SKYWAVE newsletters can be found at the club website <a href="http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php">http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php</a>. Your suggestions and submissions are greatly appreciated. Please email your pictures or articles for publication prior to the 25th of each month. The earlier, the better. If you have not submitted a member biography, please do so.

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 K4ZMW for order forms & help in placing your order. I got mine, do you have yours?



## <u> Monday – "SCARS Night Out" Net!</u>

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 Walk - K4BBH

## **SCARS Community Food Drive!**

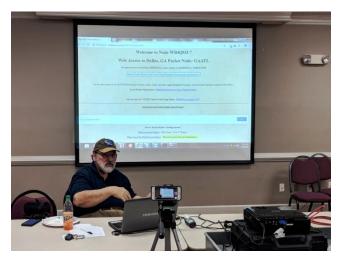


**How can SCARS help?** We still need your help. Let's keep up the good work and help fight hunger in our community. Please continue to bring an item or two to our monthly meetings. These items will be delivered in the next couple of days to one or more of the local community food banks for distribution to those in need. Remember, this is voluntary.

## On the Bright Side!

If you missed Stan's (KN4MVZ) family BBQ, you missed a lot of good eats and comradery. What a beautiful day and location. Thank you Stan for the invite and please thank your family for all the hard work to make it sucessful.

## Clusters & Nodes!



What are they talking about? What a great presentation by Lee McDaniel WB4Q0J to help clear up the mysteries behind those two words. Check out his DX cluster at WB4Q0J.no-ip.com using Port 7373

To see Lee's presntentation, go to <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaL">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaL</a> 7UG0gkRJxV7lnTj P3IQ?reload=9

## **Mark your Calendar!**

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> - Lawrenceville, GA Hamfest

Nov. 6th – SCARS Club Meeting

Nov.6<sup>th</sup> - Election Day

Nov. 10th - NFARL HamJam

Nov.  $10^{th}$  – Montgomery, AL Hamfest

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day (Observed)

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving Day Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – SCARS Club Meeting

Dec. 8<sup>TH</sup> - SCARS Club Christmas Dinner

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Editor's birthday Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day



## 4th Annual Broadcast Band DX Contest!

This SCARS contest starts 0001-UTC on 01 October 2018 and ends 2359-UTC on 31 October 2018.

Well, by the time you receive this newsletter, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual SCARS Broadcast Band DX Contest will be over. Who will be the winner? Depending on the number of contestants and the number of reports, the results may be available at the November meeting or possibly the December meeting.



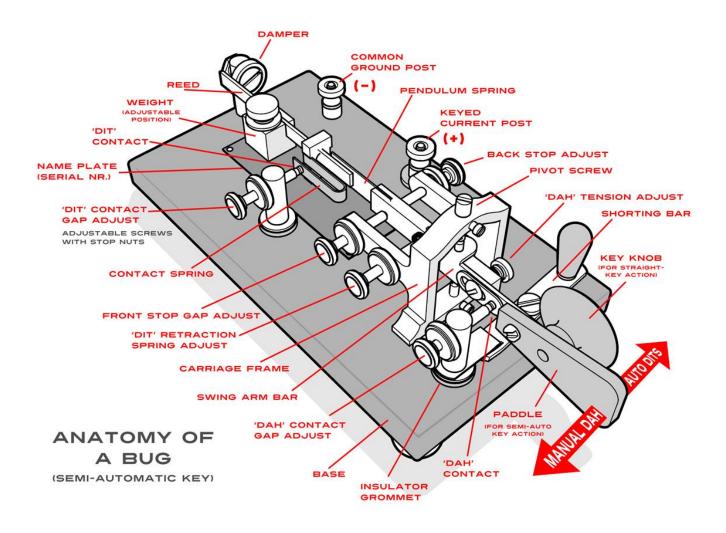
For those that participated, we hope you enjoyed it and will do it again. If you have any suggestions for improving this local contest, please let the BBDXC contest committee know.

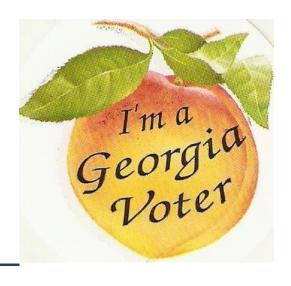
## **SCARS Club Elections:**

Don't forget, SCARS elections will be held at the November club meeting and your vote is very important. This is your club and your vote will help guide the club. Nominations for all club officers and 2 board members will continue to be taken up until the time the elections are conducted by the President at the meeting.



## Anatomy of a Semi-Automatic Key!







## **How good is your HF audio?**

Excerpts from <a href="http://audiosystemsgroup.com/ContestAudio.pdf">http://audiosystemsgroup.com/ContestAudio.pdf</a>
by Jim Brown, K9YC / <a href="mailto:k9yc@arrl.net">k9yc@arrl.net</a>

Human speech has content from about 100 Hz to 8 kHz, but only the energy between about 400 Hz and 4 kHz contributes to speech intelligibility. Vocal content below 400 Hz provides "body" to the voice (great for singers and radio announcers), but that low frequency output of the mic also contains breath pops, room noise, mic handling noise, wind noise, and reverberation.

This low frequency energy can easily be as much as half of the power picked up by the mic, but it contributes nothing to communications – it wastes transmitter power.

Likewise, speech content above 3 kHz provides "presence" and helps communications a bit, but the added bandwidth adds noise (and QRM from other stations). Most SSB TX filters are 2.7 kHz wide, so a well-adjusted rig will align those filters so that they pass audio between 400 Hz and 3.1 kHz. A few radios allow the user to tweak this setting in a menu. [These bandwidth limits for speech communications were established in the earliest days of long distance telephony – they allow what's necessary, but nothing extra. And over more than a century, they have allowed more and more conversations to be crammed into the same bandwidth.]

#### In Summary:

- Set your rig to minimize audio content below 400 Hz.
- Get audio gains set right, from the mic input of the rig (or of the computer), the output gain of the computer, the line input of the rig.
- Set processing for an indicated 10 dB on voice peaks.
- Resist the urge to turn up your mic gain or compression controls. Once you have levels set as described here, turning either one up makes you sound worse, not better.
- Tune your power amp carefully.
- Don't overdrive your power amp, and don't use ALC to set transmit power.
- If your rig runs on nominal 13.8 V dc, run it from a supply as close to 14V as possible.

# <u>To see the complete article with additional details:</u> http://audiosystemsgroup.com/ContestAudio.pdf

Here are some of the more popular Audio & Menu settings for a variety of the more popular radios: <a href="https://www.3895khz.com/mgxroot/page">https://www.3895khz.com/mgxroot/page</a> 10768.html

## Bad WX Basic Ready Kit? Reprint from March 2017 Sky Wave



Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.



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www.ready.ga.gov

## 5 Gallon Bucket Emergency Kit

Reprint from March 2017 SkyWave

#### **General Supplies**

- glow sticks (12 hrs.)
- flashlight
- liquid candle
- matchbooks
- Mylar blankets
- hand warmers
- AM/FM radio
- whistle and lanyard
- sewing kit
- blank notebook
- pencils
- extra batteries (for flashlight and radio)
- zip ties
- P-38 can opener
- trash bags
- N95 dust masks
- duct tape
- small tarp
- Para cord
- safety goggles
- split leather gloves

#### **Hygiene Supplies**

- bar soap
- Kleenex
- floss
- baby shampoo
- hand lotion
- sunscreen
- toothpaste
- toothbrushes
- feminine hygiene pads
- comb
- toilet paper
- wash cloths

#### First Aid Kit

- basic first-aid guide
- moist towelettes
- antiseptic towelettes
- latex gloves
- acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- ibuprofen (Advil)
- aspirin
- diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- loperamide (Imodium A-D)
- burn cream
- sting relief towelettes
- hydrocortisone cream
- triple antibiotic ointment (Neosporin)
- cough drops
- earplugs
- instant ice pack
- tweezers
- nail clippers
- scissors
- digital thermometer
- cotton balls
- waterproof adhesive tape
- gauze rolls
- gauze pads
- moleskin
- Band-Aids
- butterfly bandages
- ace bandage
- triangular bandage
- hand sanitizer
- Q-tips
- petroleum jelly
- RAD sticker (personal radiation dosimeter)
- potassium iodide (radiation emergency thyroid blocker)

## Hardline, What Is It?

Using Hardline in a Ham Station. What's Hardline? "Hard line" is applied to several forms of heavy coaxial cable designed for permanent installation.

They are characterized by solid shields, a foam dielectric, high power handling, and much lower loss than ordinary coax cables. An early form of "hard line" was Heliax, a trademark of the Andrew Corporation (now owned by Commscope). It got it's name from the ridged spiral shield, which was solid copper. Sometime around the late '70s Andrew and the rest of the industry transitioned from spiral ridges to annular ones (that is, concentric). Hard line is first described by the diameter of its shield, and the most common diameters of interest to hams are 1/2-inch and 7/8inch. For all practical purposes, loss in coax is primarily due to the resistance of the conductors (although dielectric loss begins to appear around 500 MHz, and becomes increasingly significant above 1GHz). Thanks to skin effect, loss is primarily driven by the outer diameter of the center conductor, the inside diameter of the shield, and the resistivity of these conductors. 1/4-inch and 1/2-inch hard line have a solid center conductor, often copper coated aluminum, while the center conductor of 7/8-inch and larger hard line is a hollow tube. Some lines, including most designed for CATV use, have an aluminum shield. The use of aluminum reduces weight with some compromise in the loss characteristics. Aluminum hard line is also prone to kinking, so handling during installation is critical. Over the years, hard line has been built with rather varied mechanical properties - the outer and inner diameter of the center conductor, the outer and inner diameter of the shield, the spiral or annular shield, the difference between the minimum and maximum diameters of the shield, even the "pitch" of the spiral and the spacing between rings. Every hard line requires a connector that fits it mechanically, and maintains essentially constant impedance through the connector. One of the first issues a ham faces when using hard line is finding suitable connectors. Hard line connectors can be expensive, and for older cables can be guite hard to find (or to even identify part numbers of which connector fits which cable). The most important characteristic of a connector is that it must fit the particular hard line that you have. Connectors for cables with spiral shields screw onto the shield, while connectors for cables with annular shields have mating components that apply clamping compression to hold the connector in place. The part of the connector for cables with a hollow center conductor is threaded to screws into the center conductor. self-tapping as it goes. The part of the connector for most solid center conductors is soldered to the cable. One of the major purposes of this applications note is to help identify cables, suitable connectors, and sources for those connectors.

(Continued)

## Hardline? continued

Notes: 1) Cablewave FLC78-50-series connectors fit LDF5-50A and will work with DBC078F5P. They are very nice connectors. 2) Davis RF carries RFS Cellflex UHF Male and Female connectors for LDF4-50A. RF Industries also makes UHF Male and Female connectors for LDF4-50A. 3) Surplus Sales of Nebraska sells only surplus/discontinued connectors. 4) The RF Connection and RF Parts sell both surplus/discontinued connectors and new connectors for current products. 5) Davis RF and The Antenna Farm sell new connectors for current products. 6) Always check auction sites for hard to find connectors. 7) The center conductor of Andrew VXL5-50 has a pronounced interior ridged thread.

## **Interesting Stuff!**

#### 6dB COLINEAR VHF ANTENNA you can build

http://sm0vpo.altervista.org/antennas/6dbvhf0.htm

#### A FIELD Guide To Simple HF Antennas

http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/684938.pdf

#### **FOR SALE**

Yaesu FT-450 w/SignalLink and cables For Sale. Contact James KM4IKO for details

#### FT8CALL Name Change

ft8call digital protocol has officially changed it name to js8call <a href="mailto:js8call@groups.io">js8call@groups.io</a>

#### Spreading the Olivia Love

http://OliviaDigitalMode.net https://www.facebook.com/groups/olivia.hf

#### Raspberry PI and Ham Radio

https://oh8stn.org/blog/2018/08/13/x-days-off-grid-radio-raspberry-pi-prerequisites/

#### **Deed Restrictions Still Got You Down?**

#### Try a Downspout Antenna!

"I have ran a 115 foot long seamless aluminum guttering with five 17 foot long downspouts equally spaced for several years =) The height above the ground is about 35 feet =) The orientation is true north and south along the west side of the building =) The counterpoise through a MFJ-931 artificial ground tuner is to a 88 feet of #14 Ga. stranded THHN house wiring around 1 1/2" PVC pipe in a safe place parallel to the rain gutter 12 feet below and 12 feet east and down of the main antenna location =) Works great east and west and somewhat north and south (off the ends) as I think the vertical component of the downspouts help that direction =) The MFJ-989D tuner on the Random Wire port is used to feed the gutter with about 30 feet of #14 Ga. THHN stranded house wiring =) I do not operated SSB at all but do digital modes mostly with QRP level mostly with testing of bands and modes sometime as with 25 watts =) Yes I have coverage all over the planet on 40 and 80 meters bands =) Yes gutter antennas work"

73's Pat N5VMO From js8call@groups.io

## <u>Having a hard time hearing?</u>

James - KM4IKO found the perfect solution for you while traveling in Russia. He says it works well for local and DX too.

Contact James for operating and construction details. Batteries not included.



#### SCARS Members Assist C.N.C.

Each year, the Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) in Roswell sponsors several fundraising events to support their efforts to educate children and adults on plants and wildlife native to Georgia.

For many years, they have relied on the amateur radio community to assist them in providing vital communications for safety and coordination. The W4IBM Radio Club and Charles, K0CZR, are the main organizers for communications assistance. Charles is also a SCARS member and has invited our club members along with other area radio clubs to participate in providing this valuable service to the CNC.

In addition to the 5K Water Drop Dash and 10K Possum Trot Race, the CNC sponsors a Halloween Hike the last two full weekends in October. Many of our SCARS members assist Charles in supporting these events. Please contact Charles if you would like to help out and have some fun.

The 2018 Halloween Hike saw the following SCARS members helping out: K0CZR, K4ZMW, W4TXA, K4TXA, W1HGN, W3HGN, K4MWC, K4ZEC, KN4JNC, WA4MDQ & K4CGA.

Sorry, not everyone made the picture session.









More pictures in next issue! - K4CGA- Editor

#### Trivia or Trivial!

There **are** many **words** that **have** no **rhyme** in the **English language**. "Orange" is **only** the most famous. Other **words** that **have** no **rhyme** include: silver, purple, month, ninth, pint, wolf, opus, dangerous, marathon and discombobulate.

Words with No Rhyme - Flocabulary https://www.flocabulary.com/rhymeswithorange/

\*\*\*\*

**Question:** Is transmitting a picture of sheet music against FCC Part 97 rules?

**Correct Answer: Yes** 

(The rules are vague but seem to suggest that the transmission of music, whether in digital, analog, or other forms, is prohibited by Part 97. This rule exists to protect broadcasters from competition.) *Larry (K4LDC)* 

## Wind Load/Wind Surface

Just thought you'd like to know.

Many times when looking at data on antennas you may find the information listed in "N or Newton Pressure"

This is very common with antennas that are manufactured outside the US. To convert to our more familiar square feet of wind load you divide the Newton Pressure by 83.7

This will give you the wind load in sq. feet. For example 1220 N / 83.7 = 14.58 sq. feet. This is valid up to 84 miles/hour.

If the wind is over 84 mph, do not worry the antenna will likely be a new air born item.

Neil N4FN/(SEDXC)

PS...this is not on any test!

Submitted by Lee WB4Q0J.



## Breakfast @.....



Based on recent feedback from our breakfast attendees, it appears that McDonalds in Hiram (in front of WalMart) will suite our needs until something better comes along.

It can accommodate our group, has a variety of food, is reasonably quick, has decent prices and is convenient to the majority of the club members.

Come join us for casual conversation, informal Q&A, problem solving and occasional humiliation. Visitors, spouses and friends are welcomed.

If you have any suggestions for a new location, please provide your breakfast committee with the details.

Steve - K4ELI Chuck - K4CGA



## **Come Join Us!**

Thursday Mornings
We Gather Around 8:30 - 9am +/Until ??????

#### **AmazonSmile Promotion**

#### An AmazonSmile bonus donation promotion is coming soon

For more details on AmazonSmile: <a href="https://smile.amazon.com">https://smile.amazon.com</a>

We heard from AmazonSmile charity administrators that advanced notice of upcoming promotions helps you plan and prepare. With that in mind, we'd like to share a few early details about an upcoming AmazonSmile promotion. From Oct 29 - Nov 2, AmazonSmile will increase the donation rate on all eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. This will be our largest bonus donation promotion to date, and is a great opportunity for Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society Incorporated to increase its AmazonSmile donations.

On Oct 29, we'll send out additional details, as well as a marketing banner that you can share through social media, via email, and on your website. **Please do not share any information about this upcoming promotion outside of your organization until Oct 29**.

Submitted by Dave K4DMF

## Recent SCARS Website Updates:



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

- Home page updated with link to:
  - Solar X-ray & Geomagnetic Field status.
- DX Corner page updated with link to:
  - PSK Reporter Automatic Propagation Reporter (World map view of who is hearing your FT8 signal).

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

## **Help Wanted**

I am not responsible for the grammar error, blame the author!...:-( N4FN



## **Paulding County ARES Updates:**

Next PCARES meeting scheduled for Nov 4th, 2018 at 3:00pm Come to the upstairs meeting room of the Paulding Chamber of Commerce for this meeting only!

From Dave K4DMF: Winter Is Coming! Be Prepared!

Here is an opportunity to buy the exact same generator we use in the ARES trailer. Not a bad price for a dual fuel model. Won't power your whole house, but more than adequate for use in the field or when power goes out at home and you need to run a few things. Works VERY well on propane and I think it is cheaper to run it this way. Anyway, worth a look if you are looking for a generator. View Deal



# **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	Check your emails for additional contest and special event activities

#### 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

#### 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: <a href="mailto:john-w4txa@comcast.net">john-w4txa@comcast.net</a>

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 <a href="http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php#TEST SESSION">http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php#TEST SESSION</a>
ARRL <a href="http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training">http://www.arrl.org/licensing-education-training</a>



# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society 2018 Calendar

\*\* Don't forget our club breakfast every Thursday morning around 9am \*\*

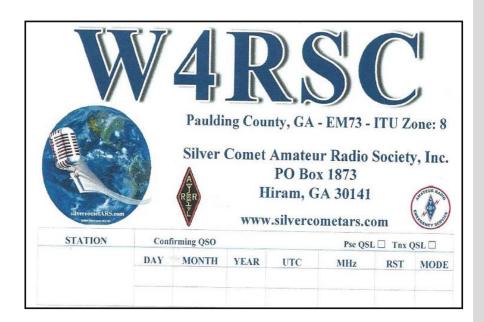
	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	07-03-2018 7pm	08-07-2018 7pm	09-04-2018 7pm	10-02-2018 7pm	11-06-2018 7pm	12-04-2018 7pm
Meeting Location	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg	Paulding Chamber 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)	SOTA Presentation (N3NNU)	Ham Radio Estate Planning (K4ELI)
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	Club Fall Picnic	AM DX Contest	Club Elections	12/8 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.

V2018.11

# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society 2019 Calendar





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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