



# Ham Radio

in the 21st Century







W4RSC "RADIO SILVER COMET"
ARRL SPECIAL SERVICE CLUB

## SILVERCOMET SKYWAVE

Silver Comet ARS, INC NEWS
PO BOX 1873 Hiram Ga. 30141 501 (C) (3) Not for Profit
Dec. 2018 Vol 5 Number 12

## The Prez Sez

These last several days of cold weather has started both myself and my wife (K4TXA) to leap into the Christmas season. For I do remember as a child in Northern Indiana the cold weather and snow during the Thanksgiving Season and then into the Christmas season. Oh what fond memories. But, leaping into the present, we are now entering December and with it **LOTS** of goodies to partake in (and with). It is just a few short days until our regular General Meeting which is this coming Tuesday, December 4th. It will be our own Mr. Steve Walls (K4ELI) giving a presentation on Estate Planning for Hams. This may sound like a gruesome topic, but one that is quite necessary. Please keep in mind that most of us have a small fortune wrapped up in our shacks, and nobody knows the values (or items) better than ourselves. So, it is VERY important to hear what Steve will have to say. Now onto a more festive note... The following Sunday, December 9th, we will be having our annual Christmas Dinner. Since there was a problem with Hiram's Olive Tree, we will be having our Dinner at the O'Charley's in Hiram at 7:00 PM. I hope to see ALL of you there. We will have good food, good times, and some great surprises.

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



## *Editor's Notes:*



Copies of past SKYWAVE newsletters can be found at the club website <http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php>. Your suggestions and submissions are greatly appreciated. Please email your pictures or articles for publication prior to the 25<sup>th</sup> 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. Christmas is coming.....put your order in now!



## *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. It's fun and informative.

**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.

## **SCARS Club Election Results:**

Elections for our 2019 Officer and Board members were held at our November meeting. Congratulations are in order to the 2018 officers of the club as they were re-elected to serve another year of their sentence (position) in 2019.

President: John Reynolds, W4TXA  
Vice-President: James Akey, KM4IKO  
Secretary: Rick Bowhall, K4ZMW  
Treasurer: Dave Fuller, K4DMF



The club has also elected two (2) new members to the Board of Directors for a 2 year term of duty. Congratulations to: Cheri Reynolds, K4TXA and James Akey, KM4IKO

## **\$\$\$\$...Dues-R-Due...\$\$\$**

T'is that time again! Next month is the New Year and now is the time to pay your 2019 dues. If you can't pay them now, save some of your Christmas \$\$\$ and pay them in January. You can pay our treasurer, Dave K4DMF, by check, cash or credit card at the meetings or at breakfast or Pay-Pal online at the SCARS website.

## ***Don't Forget SCARS Christmas Dinner!***



The Christmas party is on December 9th at 7pm at O'Charley's Restaurant in Hiram. We will be ordering off the menu with individual billing.

Please RSVP to John [john-w4txa@comcast.net](mailto:john-w4txa@comcast.net) or signup at <https://groups.io/g/silvercometars/table?id=9895> before Sunday December 7th.

Good food, good drinks, good company, and maybe some door prizes. See you there and Happy Holidays.



## **Mark your Calendar!**

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – SCARS Club Meeting  
Dec. 9<sup>TH</sup> – SCARS Club Christmas Dinner  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Editor's birthday  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day



## **November Program - SOTA - by N3NNU!**

Summits On The Air! What a great presentation by Joe Ladd N3NNU at our November meeting. This is a great way to experience the outdoors, get some exercise and enjoy ham radio all at the same time.

Joe also exhibited some equipment and antennas he carries and uses in his SOTA operations.

Many of our SCARS members found his presentation so interesting they there was some mumbling that some might get started in SOTA as well.



Please check out the SCARS YouTube channel at .....for a video of Joes presentation.

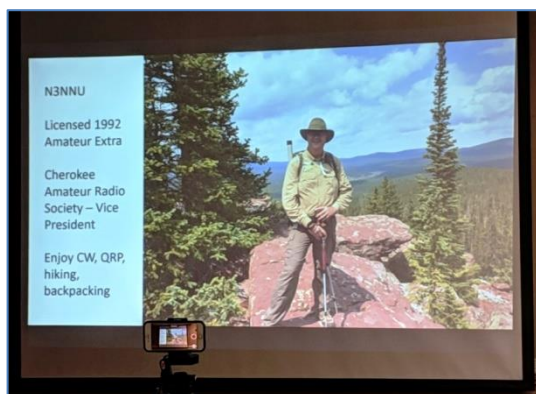
For more information on SOTA:

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

<https://na-sota.org/>

<https://www.sotamaps.org/>

<http://www.w0c-sota.org/how-to/activate/>



## **December Program - Estate Planning by K4ELI**

Our December program will be presented by Steve K4ELI and address a subject that is very important to all amateurs, especially many of our club members. What is Estate Planning as applicable to ham radio you may ask?

**Estate planning** is the process of arranging for the disposal of an amateur's **radio** equipment in the event of incapacitation or death.

Please attend this very important presentation and bring your significant other if you would like.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Broadcast Band DX Contest!**



The 2018 SCARS BBDXC is over. Congratulations go to John, W4TXA for winning for his 3<sup>rd</sup> time. This year's competition saw limited competition which was disappointing.

Come on folks, this contest is not a difficult contest and you don't need expensive equipment or antennas to participate. And, you have 30 days to participate. Plus, you get keep this beautiful trophy for a whole year with your name and call added to it.

Give some thought to participating in the 2019 contest. For more information, Check out the October issues of the Silvercomet Skywave newsletters available on the SCARS website.



# **Special Event Station WW1USA**

By the editor, K4CGA

The **National World War I Museum and Memorial** of the **United States** is located in **Kansas City, Missouri**. Opened to the public as the **Liberty Memorial** museum in 1926, it was designated in 2004 by the **United States Congress** as America's official museum dedicated to **World War I**.



My tour of the Museum and Memorial was very thought provoking. After watching several short documentaries with original film footage and exploring the vast array of exhibits, I realized how lucky I am to live in this country during this era and not in the 1920's.

The National WW1 Museum and Memorial has partnered with local amateur radio operators to host this special event station from 2014 through 2018. WW1USA is the Amateur Radio Voice of the Museum and Memorial.

More than 300 operators from the Kansas City area and visitors have participated in the operation of WW1USA. Recently your editor, K4CGA, had the opportunity to visit the museum and participate as a 20m SSB operator. What a great experience. Operations included CW, FT8 and SSB on multiple bands.

WW1USA hopes to continue their Special Event operations into the future if allowed to do so.



If you happen to be in the Kansas City Missouri area, plan on stopping by to visit.

<https://www.theworldwar.org/amateurradio>

<https://www.theworldwar.org/>





# **Enigma Code Veteran**

From BBC News

A World War II codebreaker has vowed to take the secrets of her work "to the end of my days".

Margaret Wilson, 95, trained as a wireless operator before being transferred to Bletchley Park in 1942, where she listened to German radio.

"That's all I can tell you, a secret is a secret," she said.

At the time, she did not realize the importance of the work - but even now she knows its significance she will not reveal all.

Despite pleas from researchers and family, Mrs. Wilson, from Shirebrook, said: "No one else has talked, so I will not."

Read the rest of this fascinating article at:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-46126155>

## **Need a CW Key?**

Submitted by WB4QOJ



Pick a key. Any Key, Any Color.

[https://www.thepicbear.com/instagram/ea4gky\\_alberkeys](https://www.thepicbear.com/instagram/ea4gky_alberkeys)

# **Digital Update - Ham Radio Deluxe & WSJT-X**

Submitted by WB4QOJ

Ham Radio Deluxe can now log your WSJT-X FT8, JT65A, and JT9 QSOs, via the JT-Alert software. This is a demonstration of using Ham Radio Deluxe Logbook features, during an FT8 QSO. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqW4yX7uNuQ>

For More Info:

<https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt.html>

<https://hamapps.com/>



## **Interesting Stuff!**

### **Next SpaceX mission launches a satellite even amateurs can use**

A Falcon 9 will carry a spacecraft to boost communications for the "hams" among us.

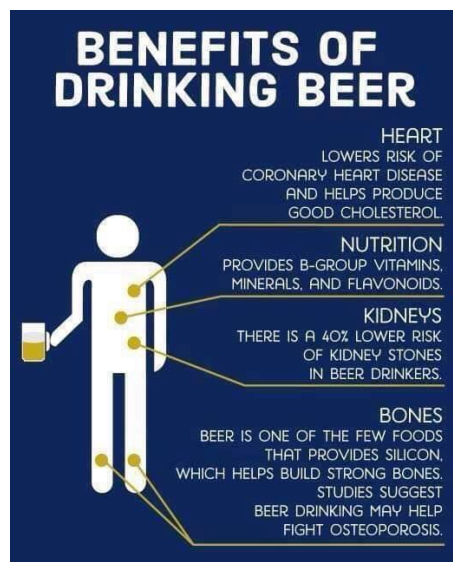
<https://www.cnet.com/news/next-spacex-mission-launches-a-satellite-even-amateurs-can-use/>

**KM4ZMW** – Rick Bowhall has changed his call to **K4ZMW**.

**KF4UOS** – Mike Blackwell has changed his call to **K4MWC**.

**KM4NRF** – Eric Jones has changed his call to **W4ADH**.

**DitDit Podcast** - <https://www.ditdit.fm> is a podcast celebrating Morse code, the CW operating mode and amateur radio. The show is hosted by Bruce Pea, N9WKE, and features conversations with interesting CW operators, offers useful CW operating tips, and encourages amateur radio operators at all levels to get on the air, have fun and enjoy operating CW!





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

The *Editor* wishes to express his apologies to Ken KN4CQJ for leaving him off the list of SCARS members assisting in the Halloween Hike in last month's issue.

Here are some additional pictures of that activity since we ran out of room in the last issue.



## ***SCARS Members At Lawrenceville***

Submitted by K4LDC



## *It Starts with a Hole!*

SCARS member, Rick K4ZMW, has started the process of erecting a tower or two at his QTH. He has received plenty of advice from numerous club members, including his wife Joyce, on esthetics, location, height, support and color.

Rick's project got delayed a few times because of weather, but he finally got the hole dug and base prepared. With the help of numerous SCARS club members, Rick was able to get the concrete poured and is now waiting for it to cure.

Why so many helpers you may ask? Well, the new W4IBM Radio Club repeater tower will be located on the back of Ricks property and base was poured for that installation at the same time.

The concrete party for both towers consisted of:

Rick – K4ZMW  
Charles – K0CZR  
Chuck – K4CGA  
Tommy – KM4VTE  
Mike – K4MWC

Mike – K4ZEC  
Dave – K4BBH  
Larry – K4LDC  
John – W4TXA

### ***Rick's Tower Installation***





# **It Starts with a Hole!** (continued)

***W4IBM Tower Installation***  
***With the assistance of SCARS members***  
Tractor with bucket courtesy of Eric – W4ADH  
Cement Mixer courtesy of John – K4SSI



W4ADH at the controls while W4TXA, K0CZR & K4ZMW supervise.



How deep can it go?



K4MWC, K4ZMW & K0CZR warming "it" up!



K4ZMW, K0CZR & K4MWC prepping the base section for concrete.



How much will it take? K4LDC, K4ZMW, K0CZR, K4MWC, KM4VTE & K4BBH work on figuring it out.



"Needs a whole lot more!" says K4LDC.



"Yep. Its vertical." says K4MWC. K4LDC & K4ZMW agree. K4ZEC, KM4VTE & K4BBH mix more concrete.



"Just about ready for the handprints!" says K4ZMW. K0CZR, K4MWC, K4ZEC & W4TXA start cleaning up.



## *Which direction is it?*

Several of our club members have been participating in building portable RDF (Radio Direction Finder) units to participate in a “FOX” hunt. No, not real 4 legged foxes!

A fox hunt is an amateur radio activity where participants use RDF equipment and techniques to locate one or more radio transmitters hidden within a designated search area.

Using these techniques and equipment allows the amateur radio operator to effectively locate malicious and non-malicious radio transmitters, receiver interference and lost vessels or aircraft.

Charles K0CZR, has been sponsoring RDF antenna building classes at his shop for interested members. Pictured below is K4MWC-Mike and KM4IKO-James.

For more info, contact Charles K0CZR at [K0CZR@bellsouth.net](mailto:K0CZR@bellsouth.net)



Mike analysing solder joints



James inspecting his assembly



James & Mike hard at work (?)



Unit being tested

## **Trivia or Trivial!**

Did you know your purchases can make a difference? AmazonSmile donates to Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society Incorporated when you do your holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0665957](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-0665957).

**This holiday, make a difference while you shop**

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.

**amazonsmile**



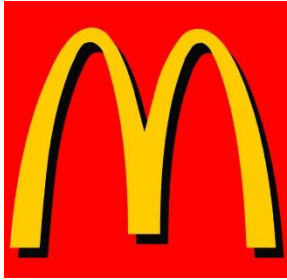
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Where 'O' Where is KM4PEB?



Maybe this picture will give you a hint.....Capt. Bryan KM4PEB, has departed Delta Connections and is now working for race car legend Connie Kalitta's airline. Bryan is currently in training up North to become a "Big" airplane Captain. Good luck Bryan.

## **Breakfast @.....**



Based on recent feedback from our breakfast attendees, it appears that McDonalds in Hiram (in front of WalMart) will suit 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 ??????**



## Recent SCARS Website Updates:

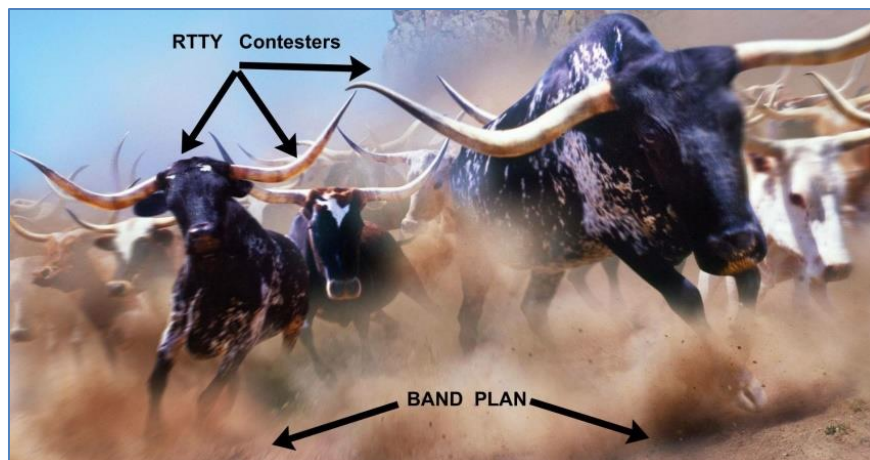


<http://www.silvercometars.com/index.php>

- [Home](#) page updated with link to:
  - **AmazonSmile** allowing charitable donations to SCARS.
- [Digital Modes](#) page updated with link to:
  - **JS8Call** (previously known as FT8Call)
- [Membership Dues](#) dialog box updated on the **Contact Page**.
  - Distinctive dialog box added at bottom of page.
- [Contest Corral](#) page updated with links to:
  - **ARRL & CQ Contest** Log submission & Results pages.
  - **Contest Online Score Board**. (N3FJP software supported)
  - **CQ Online Contest Server**. (N3FJP software supported)
- [Education](#) page updated with link to:
  - **Intro to Ham Radio & Tech Training Class** YouTube video.
- [SCARS YouTube](#) channel updated with:
  - **SOTA** presentation from the 2018-11-06 SCARS meeting.



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



# **Contest & Special Events**

2018 ARRL Contest Dates - Ver 1.0 - 30 June 2017

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

## ***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://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](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 (aka South)**

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:

#### **2019 Schedule**

Jan 10   Feb 7   Mar 14   Apr 4   May 2   Jun 6  
Jul 11   Aug 1   Sep 5   Oct 3   Nov 7   Dec 5

*Please check the ARRL website for changes or corrections.*

For more information, contact Steve Walls, K4ELI: [swalls46@att.net](mailto:swalls46@att.net)

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### **SCARS/Paulding CoC Test Session (aka North)**

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:

#### **2019 Schedule**

Jan 8   Feb 12   Mar 12   Apr 9   May 14   Jun 11  
Jul 9   Aug 13   Sep 10   Oct 8   Nov 12   Dec 10

For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: [john-w4txa@comcast.net](mailto:john-w4txa@comcast.net)

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**All classes of license exams 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](http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php#TEST_SESSION)





# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

## 2018 Calendar

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

	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
<b>Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:</b>	07-03-2018 7pm	08-07-2018 7pm	09-04-2018 7pm	10-02-2018 7pm	11-06-2018 7pm	12-04-2018 7pm
<b>Meeting Location</b>	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
<b>Meeting Activity</b>	Intro to LoTW Part 1 (K4ELI)	QSL Cards (K4ELI)	Guest Speaker N4GG	Clusters & Nodes (WB4QOJ)	SOTA Presentation (N3NNU)	Ham Radio Estate Planning (K4ELI)
<b>Additional Activities</b>	TBD	TBD	Club Fall Picnic	AM DX Contest	Club Elections	12/9 Christmas Dinner
<b>Hamfest &amp; Conventions</b>	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





Have A  
Merry Christmas  
My Friends

# 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:**

Groups.io Request:

SilvercometARS

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

146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: *Club President*

John Reynolds, W4TXA

Email:

John-W4TXA@comcast.net

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