



# Ham Radio

in the 21st Century



*We Do That!*  
...with Amateur Radio





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
March 2019 Vol 6 Number 3

## The Prez Sez

Another month and another Hamfest. I, along with several others have just returned from our latest Hamfest. This time it was Dalton, Georgia. These gatherings are so great for many reasons. Yes, there are always 'things' to buy... like going into the toy department when you were six years old. But a secondary reason why I enjoy Hamfests is the people that I meet. Some are old friends... and there always seems to be some new people that I enjoy talking to... and Dalton was no different. The Silver Comet club was well represented at Dalton. I think that there were about 12 of us there... good group. Now keep in mind that this is only February, and we have several more Hamfests coming up. Although it is a bit of a hike but there is one in Fort Payne, Alabama (March 30th); The Calhoun Hamfest (April 27th) Actually this one is in Resaca, Georgia. And then the biggie... The Dayton, Ohio Hamfest in May. So save your nickels and dimes.

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*

## **Monday – “SCARS Night Out” 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**. Look forward to hearing from you. It's fun and informative.

**73's David Walk – K4BBH**

## **Mark your Calendar!**

Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> – Birmingham HAMfest  
Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> – SCARS Club Meeting  
Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> – Sevierville, TN Hamfest  
Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> – Dekalb ARC, Ft. Payne, AL –Tailgate



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

Now is the last chance to pay your 2019 dues before we take away your birthday. You can pay our treasurer, Dave K4DMF, by check, cash or credit card at the meetings or at breakfast or by Pay-Pal online at [www.silvercometars.com](http://www.silvercometars.com)

# **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



**Look at you--folding laundry. Last night it was the dishes! What part of "NO, you're not buying ANOTHER RADIO!" don't you understand?**

## **February Program – QSL's for the beginners!**

The Chamber has apologized for the mixup in the meeting rooms and assures us it will not happen again. They have been a great host to SCARS so this one can be overlooked. Thank you Steve for another fine presentation. I am sure our new amateurs (and some oldtimers) found it to be very interesting and useful. Some of our members have already started designing and ordering cards.



# March Program – “Peanut” app for Android

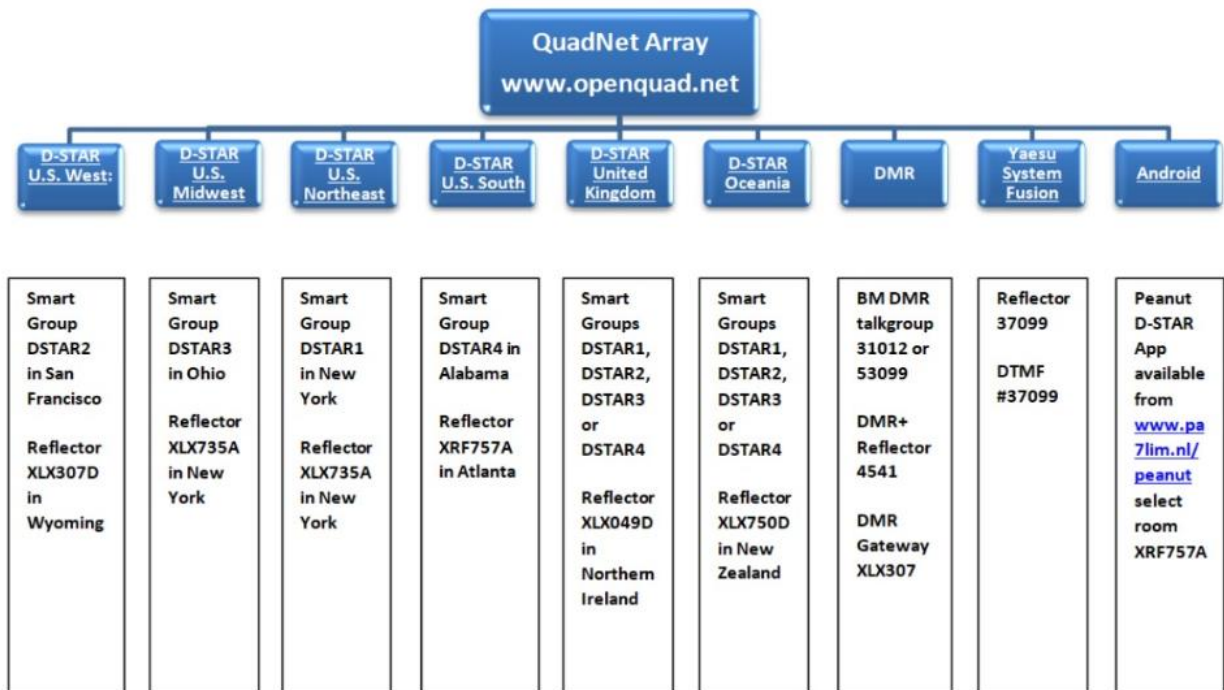
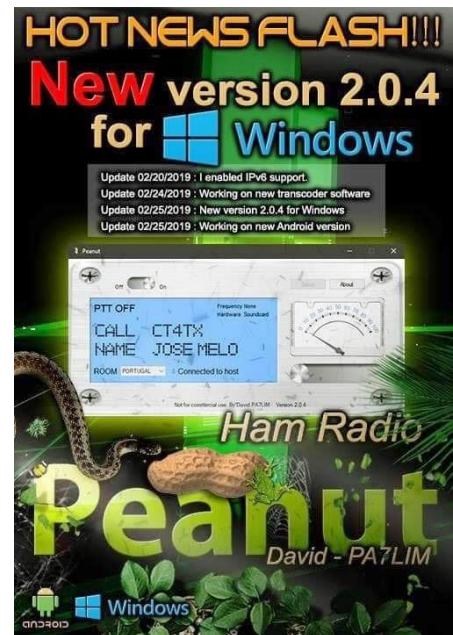


One of our digital experts, Ron WB3ILX, will be presenting and demonstrating the Peanut application and QuadNet Array.

What is Peanut? It is one of the latest digital applications available for Android and Windows that will allow access to DStar, DMR and System Fusion networks.

Several of our club members are already enjoying the application but once you see and understand it, you will want to join in the fun too. Ron will fill in the blanks.

The Peanut app can be downloaded from the Play Store. Additional information about the Peanut app: <http://www.pa7lim.nl/peanut/>



## New Member!

Please welcome **Chuck Mills - KN4SFI** to the club. If you see him or hear him, say hi!

# **Promoting SCARS**

Several of your Board Members and Officers met a couple of weeks ago in a round table (literally) discussion. The main topic was different ways that we can help promote our radio club. Nothing set in concrete, but just some ideas:

1. Purchasing a Chamber of Commerce "brick".
2. Placing Ad's in some of the local Middle and Senior High Schools.
3. Having a Boy/Girl Scout night at our club meeting.
4. Creating a Scholarship Fund for a local school student(s).
5. The Georgia QSO party in April.
6. Expanding our Field Day to include the area Boy/Girl Scouts.
7. Possibly working with the Paulding County Fine Arts at their Spring and/or Fall Festivals.
8. Designing and producing a SCARS brochure.
9. Getting involved with the Dallas Christmas Parade.
10. Designing and producing a SCARS Special Event Banner.
11. Starting a "Member Reunion ON THE AIR" for SCARS members.
12. Having information tables at some of the local Hamfests.

Now, as these are just general suggestions, we **REALLY** would like to get some additional input from everybody. We will be discussing some of these ideas at our next couple of meetings. So... please come and **SPEAK UP.** - **W4TXA**

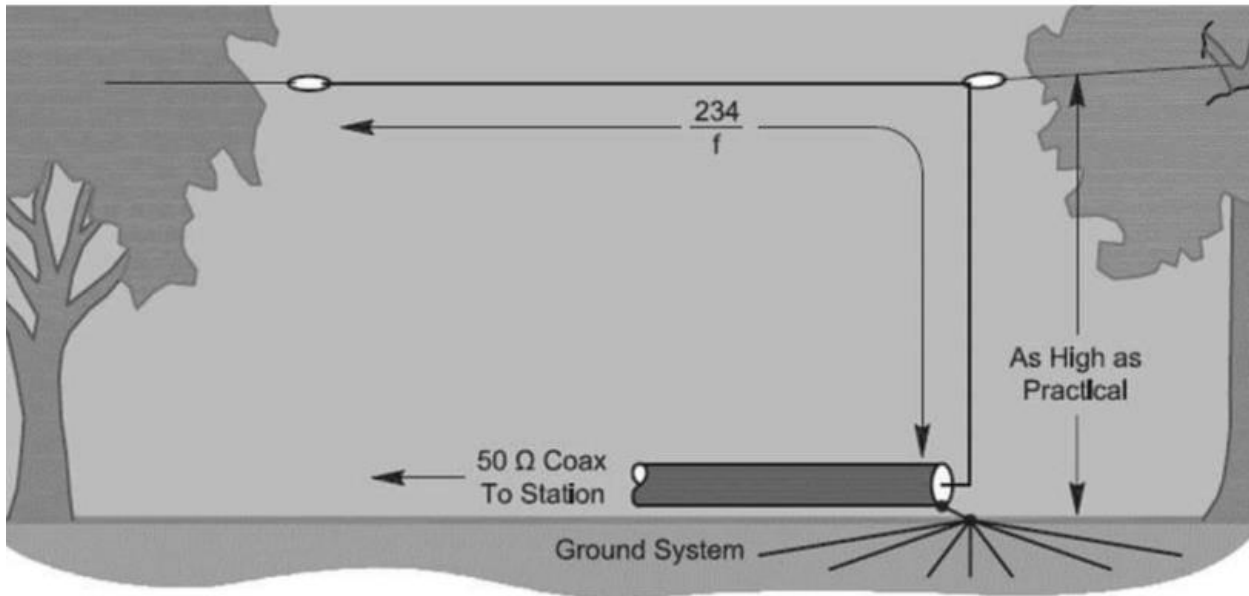


# **160meter Antenna!**

## 160M Folded Counterpoise

Link:

<http://oldcyberdude.com/sample-page/antennas/160m-folded-counterpoise/>



*Courtesy of WB4QOJ*

## **ISS, SSTV & Packet!**

February was an exciting month for working the International Space Station and the opportunity seemed to garner a lot of interest from our club members. Some were successful and some were not.

There are a numerous websites on the internet that can provide tons of information regarding communications with the ISS, orbits and other technical information.

A good place to start is <https://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/>

## ***Eyeball QSO??? – What is it?***

An amateur radio contact made “**on the air**”, commonly referred to as a “**contact**” or “**QSO**”, is an exchange of information between two **amateur radio stations**. This exchange normally consists of name and location along with some station information and may turn into general discussions about anything.

But what do you call a contact that is made in person, “face to face” or in slang terms “eyeball to eyeball”? Well, amateurs humorously referred to this as an “eyeball QSO”.

Confirming QSO with	Date	Time	Eyeball QSO @

## ***History of LoTW and What Is It!***

**LoTW**...You have heard of it, but what is it and where did it come from. **Logbook of the World** (LoTW) began operation in 2003 as a web-accessed database provided by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) to implement a contact verification service among amateur radio operators. Using LoTW, radio amateurs (hams) can claim and verify contacts (QSOs) made with other amateurs, generally for claiming credit for operating awards, such as WAS, WAZ, and DXCC. This kind of verification formerly required exchange of paper QSL cards and submission to ARRL, a slow and somewhat expensive process. For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

## ***Did you go to the Dalton Hamfest?***

SCARS was well represented this year at the hamfest as shown in the pictures take by Steve K4ELI. Known members and friends attending were:

Charlie WB4FVM  
Mel K4JFF  
Tommy KM4VTE  
Bill NA4JW  
Edwin KJ4KKB  
Barry KN4QQD

Eric W4ADH  
James KM4IKO  
Wyatt WA4VMF  
Stan KM4MVZ  
Bobby KD4ISM  
Troy K4JDA

Keith KN4IEP  
Will WA4BRA  
Rick K4ZMW  
Steve K4ELI



# *Did you go to the Dalton Hamfest?*





# **Field Day 2019 – Time to get ready!**

**2019 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23.** It is time to start planning & getting your ducks lined up (in case it rains again). So, mark your calendars now. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. The 2019 Rules will be updated/released in March 2019.

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The **ARRL Field Day** is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On this weekend each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Since the first ARRL Field Day in 1933, radio amateurs throughout North America have practiced the rapid deployment of radio communications equipment in environments ranging from operations under tents in remote areas to operations inside Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). Operations using emergency and alternative power sources are highly encouraged, since electricity and other public infrastructures are often among the first to fail during a natural disaster or severe weather.



To determine the effectiveness of the exercise and of each participant's operations, there is an integrated contesting component, and many clubs also engage in concurrent leisure activities (camping out, cookouts, etc.). Operations typically last a continuous twenty-four hours, requiring scheduled relief operators to keep stations on the air. Additional contest points are awarded for experimenting with unusual modes, making contacts via satellite, and involving youth in the activity.

At our May and June club meetings, we will be asking club members to sign up in advance for setup, support, tear-down, or to operate one or more shifts. We will also be looking for volunteers to provide equipment such as antennas, power cables, coax, computers and other necessary accessories as needed.



Setup begins on 8am on Saturday, the 22nd of June when we roll out the generator, cables, hoist antennas, set up and check out the radio equipment. Typically we use teams of two, one calling and the other the logging. Logging is done using special software.

Additional information will soon be available at our scheduled club meetings, website, and in our newsletters.

**K4CGA Editor**

# *They did that without GPS?*

There was a time when Sextants and Chronographs were the state of the art in navigation tools! They were pretty accurate depending on the skill of the navigator and the accuracy of the Chronograph and could get you as close as 1/4 mile to your destination. Today, we take GPS for granted with an accuracy circle of 6 feet.

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John D.S. Phillips, the result.

The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position.

He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor.

At midnight the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

- The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.
- The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.
- The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.
- In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.
- This ship was therefore not only in:
  - Two different days,
  - Two different months,
  - Two different years,
  - Two different seasons
- But in two different centuries - all at the same time!

*Courtesy of WB4QOJ*

## Breakfast @.....



Come join us for casual conversation, informal Q&A, problem solving and occasional humiliation at the McDonalds in Hiram (in front of WalMart).

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

Visitors, spouses and friends are welcomed.

**Come Join Us!**

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



**NASA**



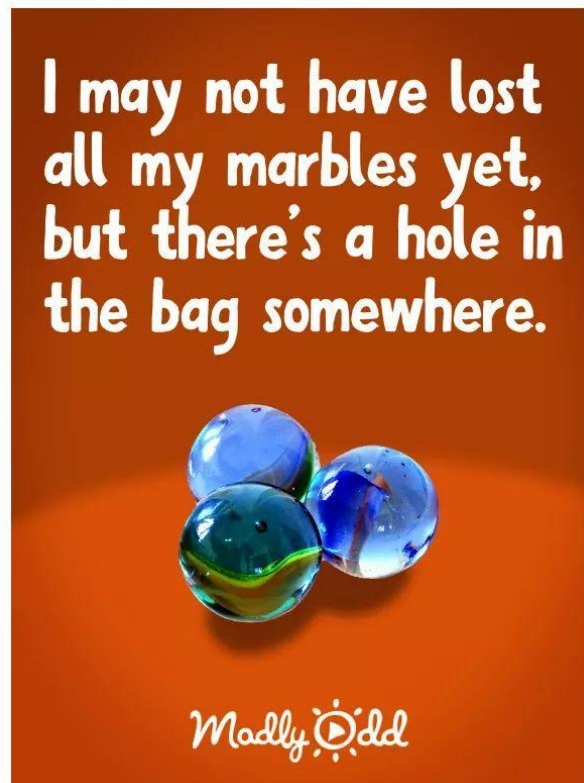
## Recent SCARS Website Updates:



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

- [Home Page](#) scrolling News Feed updated.
  - SCARS Groups.io messages now included in the scrolling news feed window.
- [Digital Modes](#) page updated with a [DMR](#) section and links to:
  - DMR-MARC Worldwide Network
  - DMR Last Heard list
  - DMR BrandMeister Network Dashboard
  - Miklor DMR Radio Information Site.

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



# **Contest & Special Events**

2019 ARRL Contest Dates - Ver B – 2 November 2019

<b>January 2019</b> 1 <a href="#">Straight Key Night</a> 5 <a href="#">Kids Day</a> 5-6 <a href="#">RTTY Roundup</a> 19-21 <a href="#">January VHF</a>	<b>February 2019</b> 11-15 <a href="#">School Club Roundup</a> International 16-7 <a href="#">DX – CW</a>
<b>March 2019</b> 2-3 <a href="#">International DX- Phone</a>	<b>April 2019</b> 14 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup – Phone</a>
<b>June 2019</b> 8-10 <a href="#">June VHF</a> 15 <a href="#">Kids Day</a> 22-23 <a href="#">Field Day</a>	<b>July 2019</b> 13-14 <a href="#">IARU HF World Championship</a>
<b>August 2019</b> 3-4 <a href="#">222 MHz and Up Distance Contest</a> 17-18 <a href="#">10 GHz &amp; Up – Round 1</a> 18 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup – RTTY</a>	<b>September 2019</b> 14-16 <a href="#">September VHF</a> 21-22 <a href="#">10 GHz &amp; Up - Round 2</a> 21-22 <a href="#">EME - 2.3 GHz &amp; Up</a>
<b>October 2019</b> 21-25 <a href="#">School Club Roundup</a> 19-20 <a href="#">EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</a>	<b>November 2019</b> 2-4 <a href="#">Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</a> 16-18 <a href="#">Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone</a> 16-17 <a href="#">EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</a>
<b>December 2019</b> 6-8 <a href="#">160 Meter</a> 14-15 <a href="#">10 Meter</a> 15 <a href="#">Rookie Roundup-CW</a>	

## ***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://ncjwecom/>

# 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 East)**

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 West)**

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*

# 2019 Calendar

**\*\* Don't forget our club breakfast every Thursday morning around 8:30am \*\***

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
<b>Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:</b>	<b>01-08-2019 7pm</b>	<b>02-05-2019 7pm</b>	<b>03-05-2019 7pm</b>	<b>04-02-2019 7pm</b>	<b>05-07-2019 7pm</b>	<b>06-04-2019 7pm</b>
<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>	Portable Operations (W4DTO)	QSL Cards for Beginners (K4ELI)	Peanut (WB3ILX)	Weather (K4DMF)	Remote Operations (W4DTO)	BSA Merit Badge Class
<b>Additional Activities</b>	TBD	Fox Hunt	TBD	GA QSOP	Family Night Dinner	Field Day
<b>Hamfest &amp; Conventions</b>	Lawrenceville TechFest	Dalton, GA  Orlando, FL (HamCation)	Birmingham, AL  Ellijay, GA	Mobile, AL  Calhoun, GA	Dayton, OH	Atlanta, GA
This calendar is "Subject to change". Submit change request to W4TXA John						
V2019.03						

*Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society*

# 2019 Calendar

**\*\* Don't forget our club breakfast every Thursday morning around 8:30am \*\***

	<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>	<b>07-02-2019 7pm</b>	<b>08-06-2019 7pm</b>	<b>09-03-2019 7pm</b>	<b>10-01-2019 7pm</b>	<b>11-05-2019 7pm</b>	<b>12-03-2019 7pm</b>
<b>Meeting Location</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>	<b>Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg</b>
<b>Meeting Activity</b>	<b>Digital (Wb3ILX)</b>	<b>Computer Controls (TBD)</b>	<b>V.E Work &amp; Adv. Licensing (W4TXA)</b>	<b>HF / VHF / 160 Band Work (TBD)</b>	<b>Hint &amp; Kinks The Basics Pt1 (K0CZR)</b>	<b>Hint &amp; Kinks The Basics Pt2 (K0CZR)</b>
<b>Additional Activities</b>	TBD	TBD	Club Fall Picnic	AM DX Contest	Club Elections	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.						
V2019.02						

# 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](http://www.silvercometars.com)  
146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: *Club President*  
John Reynolds, W4TXA

Email:  
John-W4TXA@comcast.net

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