

The September Club Meeting Will Be Held On-The-Air & Zoom!



Please join us on the 146.955 (- 77Hz) repeater at 7pm for the August club meeting. A Zoom video meeting will be held simultaneously. Check the SCARS Groups.IO calendar for meeting and link information.

In This Issue

- The Usual Stuff
- Repeater Status
- New FCC Fees
- What is Echolink?
- SCARS Elections
- Coming Soon
- What is QRP?
- Signal Identification
- Looking for Fun?
- Grits Bike Ride Cancelled
- ARES SET
- Interesting Links
- Bad Weather Basics
- Emergency Kit
- Weekly Breakfast Info
- Website Update
- Special Events & contests
- VE Testing Info
- Calendars

The Silver Comet ARS Board of Directors has cancelled physical meeting gatherings at the Chamber building until further notice.



<u>The Prez Sez:</u>



Originally, we had planned to have a club program to recognize the many VE's (Volunteer Examiners) that we have in the *Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society*. Chuck has graciously allowed me to include a short report in his newsletter.

The catalyst for the report at this time was a milestone event achieved by VE's Steve Walls and Cheri Reynolds. They have both participated in their 100th VE session.

Also of interest is the achievement of President John Reynolds with 228 sessions completed (the highest in the State of Georgia).

The following are our dedicated VE team members:

*John Reynolds	W4TXA	Mike Carroll	K4ZEC
*Steve Walls	K4ELI	Larry Crichton	K4LDC
James Akey	KM4IKO	Ron West	WB3ILX
Dan Ozment	W4DTO	Brian Fredricks	N4BFG
Mike Blackwell	K4MWC	Stan Whitfield	K4SHW
Cheri Reynolds	K4TXA	Robert O'Donald	KD4ISM
Bryan Bowie	KM4PEB		

Thanks to all who have served in this capacity, especially in these trying times. *John Reynolds, W4TXA – President*

* denotes VE team leaders

<u>Editor's Notes:</u>



Copies of past SKYWAVE newsletters can be found at the club website <u>http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php.</u> Please submit your member bios and articles prior to the 25th of the month.

Chuck DuVall, K4CGA – Editor

SCARS Community Food Drive!



COVID-19 has resulted in an unusually high demand for food products from our local Metro food banks. If you can afford to do so, please consider making a monetary or food contribution to the food bank of your choice since we have temporarily suspended our physical gatherings.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated by the recipients and you will feel better. PLEASE HELP ! It all adds up.

146.955 Repeater Maintenance!

The WB4QOJ repeater is still undergoing some diagnostic and maintenance to improve signal quality and link interoperability. Current ERP is about 115w. Please be patient.

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



Check-ins begin at 7:30PM. It's fun and informative. On the 1st Monday of each month, a new technical subject will be introduced for discussion. Suggestions for Topics of Discussion are always solicited. You don't have to dress up, it's very informal.

out the RSARS technical library: <u>https://rsars.org.uk/rsars-members-e-library/the-corps-official-website/</u>

FCC Proposes to Reinstate Fees

Here we go again! Start saving your pennies. You might need them to renew your license, upgrade, or apply for your initial license or vanity call.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): August 12, 2020 Released: August 26, 2020 <u>https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-116A1.pdf</u>

FCC Proposes to Reinstate Amateur Radio Service Fees - ARRL http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees

What is EchoLink?



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EchoLink

EchoLink is a computer-based Amateur Radio system distributed free of charge that allows radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur radio operators using Voice over IP(VoIP) technology on the Internet for at least part of the path between them. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, a radio amateur with call sign K1RFD.

The system allows reliable worldwide connections to be made between radio amateurs, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. In essence it is the same as other VoIP applications (such as Skype), but with the unique addition of the ability to link to an <u>amateur radio station's transceiver</u>. Thus any low-power handheld amateur radio transceiver which can contact a local EchoLink node (a node is an active EchoLink station with a transceiver attached) can then use the Internet connection of that station to send its transmission via VoIP to any other active EchoLink node, worldwide. No special hardware or software is required to relay a transmission via an EchoLink node.

Before using the system, it is necessary for a prospective user's call sign to be validated. The EchoLink system requires that each new user provide positive proof of license and identity before his or her call sign is added to the list of validated users. There is no cost for this service, and it ensures that this system is used only by licensed amateur radio operators.

EchoLink FAOs www.echolink.org/faq.htm Take a Tour www.echolink.org/tour.htm User's Guide - Introducing EchoLink www.echolink.org/downloads/EchoLinkUsersGuide.pdf

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. Contact W4TXA John if



you would like to help lead and grow the club or wish to nominate a club member.

Coming Soon To A Radio Near You!

<u>The SCARS 6th Annual AM Broadcast Band DX Contest starts</u> 0001-UTC on 01 October 2020 and ends 2359-UTC on 31 October 2020.



This contest is a local "*just for fun*" club contest that lasts for a whole month. That gives everyone a chance to participate. Prizes such as a paper certificate, used batteries, worn out tubes and a nice custom made, one of a kind trophy with your name on it (on loan) is awarded.

DXing the AM Radio Broadcast Band is like mining for gems. The AM broadcast band covers 540 kHz to

1700 kHz and you can hear stations from hundreds and even thousands of miles away, especially at night, using an ordinary household or auto AM radio or your ham radio.

Keep in mind that AM broadcast stations come in different varieties; high, medium or low power, unidirectional/directional, part time or 24 hours. Some are clear channel and some share the same frequency as others. Almost all AM broadcast stations use vertical polarization on their transmissions.

This contest is based on the honor system of logging your contacts. What makes it fun is listening to the different announcer dialects and mannerisms, the different and sometimes unique or funny product advertisements, and the perceived target audience.



The winner will be determined by the total number of completed "*unique*" station entries and will be announced at the November meeting. The winner's prize has yet to be determined but your name will be added to the trophy if we can get it back from last year's winner.

In case of a tie, *Rock, Scissors, Hammer* will determine the winner. As you can see (or hear) this contest is pretty simple. Join in this fun filled event.

See last year's rules on our website: <u>www.silvercometars.com</u>. Additional information will be available at our September "On-The-Air" and ZOOM meetings and will be posted to <u>Silvercometars@groups.io</u>.

What Is QRP And Why?

QRP operation refers to transmitting at reduced power while attempting to maximize one's effective range. "Q" codes are a shorthand version of commonly used phrases originally used to shorten CW transmissions. The term **QRP** is derived from a list of standard Q codes and is used to request a transmitting station to "Reduce power" or ask "Should I reduce power?".

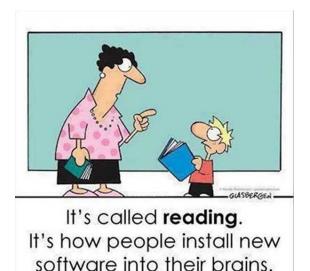
Amateur radio operators typically append the code **QRP** to their call sign to indicate they are transmitting with 5 watts or less.

QRP is an operating challenge. You are competing with stations transmitting 100 watts to 1,000 watts. With power efficient modes like FT4, FT8, CW, Olivia and PSK, a determined operator can work the world!

QRP can also be a technical challenge. Low power transmitters and transceivers are widely popular construction projects. They can be affordable yet challenging to build. Transmitting and receiving low power signals requires effective signal transfer between equipment, coax and antennas. Antenna ERP design plays a major part in being heard and hearing others.

Many operators have qualified for awards like WAS, WAC, and DXCC, with no more than a QRP rig connected to simple wire antennas. There are many contest and awards available to enhance the fun of using low power (QRP).





Updated Signal Identification Guide

Identified Signals in Database: 399 Unidentified Signals to be Identified: 311 Requested Signals: 59

Recently Added Signals	Recently Updated Signals
 2020-08-12 04:36:46 MSK144 2020-06-03 12:40:39 HDMI RFI Clock 2020-06-02 22:21:03 802.11n 2020-06-01 21:10:34 ELEKTRO-L N2 Beacon 2020-05-27 19:31:28 Near Field Communication (NFC) 2020-05-23 11:20:05 8PSK 2020-05-15 14:06:08 Relocatable Over-the-Horizon Radar (ROTHR) 2020-04-21 12:06:38 'Vario' Airplane Data Controller 2020-03-23 10:02:49 GYN2 GBR Recently Added Unidentified Signals	 2020-08-27 08:48:13 METOP-A 2020-08-26 18:20:38 Distress Radiobeacon (Digital) 2020-08-23 20:23:32 Logic Trunked Radio (LTR) 2020-08-23 10:24:03 STP403 Bus PIT System 2020-08-18 12:55:13 NOV 2020-08-14 16:25:50 Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) - Repeater 2020-08-14 05:40:11 MSK144 2020-08-12 00:34:30 HD Radio (AM) 2020-08-10 17:59:20 DB0UPB research beacon 2020-08-10 00:35:01 Distributed Power Unit (DPU)
 2020-08-27 07:23:21 Unknown72p00Mhz 2020-08-17 07:14:02 Unkown patteren at 434.750 MHz 2020-08-15 04:14:52 AM signal 2020-08-14 14:10:16 Potential Radar 2020-08-12 16:12:24 528.385 2020-08-10 12:52:39 (RTTY?) 2020-08-10 05:34:03 FSK Signal 2020-08-02 23:38:53 UNID telemetry/paging bursts 2020-07-29 02:09:48 Odd Multi Tone signal, might be a remote control. 2020-07-25 02:41:07 Unknown 8 kHz 	 2020-08-30 10:37:51 Unknown72p00Mhz 2020-08-26 17:50:05 528.385 2020-08-20 22:36:37 Unkown patteren at 434.750 MHz 2020-08-15 04:14:50 AM signal 2020-08-14 14:13:35 Potential Radar 2020-08-12 09:46:27 Odd Signal 2020-08-10 12:52:38 (RTTY?) 2020-08-10 05:36:31 FSK Signal 2020-08-02 23:38:52 UNID telemetry/paging bursts 2020-08-02 23:10:29 Pulsing Digital Signal

Looking For Some Fun?



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. The Halloween Hike on the last two weekends of October is one of their largest.

For many years, they have relied on the amateur radio community to assist them in providing vital communications for the safety of the visitors and assisting with the coordination of the actual hike. Charles, K0CZR, is the main organizer for amateur radio assistance at the event. Although this is not a Silver Comet ARS sponsored event, Charles is a SCARS member and has invited our club members along with other area radio club members to participate in providing this valuable service to the CNC.

If you have not participated in the past, you don't know how much fun you are missing. Just ask some of the members that have participated. What a blast. This year's event will be held on **Friday**, **Oct 23**, **Sat**, **Oct 24**, **and Friday**, **Oct 30**. The more radio operators that participate, the safer and smoother it goes.



Please consider helping out this year. Contact Charles KOCZR by email, phone or on the radio if you would like to help.

GRITS Bike Ride Cancelled for 2020

The annual GRITS bike ride on Labor Day has been cancelled because the organizers decided that under current guidelines, they could not pull off the event. Look for this event to return in 2021, so pencil it in on your calendars for Labor Day, 2021.

2020 ARES Simulated Emergency Test

It is that time of the year again—time for the annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET) to be held on October 3. We are in the final stages of the development of the GA plan and should publish that in a few days. For now, just know that this year's SET will involve earthquakes.

We understand that you folks on the coast are not too worried about earthquakes, but what about the counties next to you, or up the road from you? They may be greatly concerned and may count on you to provide help.

This year in addition to passing traffic to the state ARES team, we want you to get to know your neighboring county's ARES teams. In the weeks before the SET, give the EC next door a call. ARES members, listen to nets from the county beside you, and participate with them. Get to know them and let them have a chance to get to know you.

ARES is all about relationships and that may be the positive takeaway from this year's SET. Maybe we could call this SET the Shaky Neighbor SET. More info to follow.

Questions? Contact Ron WB3ILX or Dan W4DT0

Interesting Links to visit!

ARRL Clubs - SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC. http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/silver-comet-amateur-radio-society-inc

Silver Comet ARS YouTube Channel <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaL7UG0gkRJxV7lnTj P3IQ/videos</u>

Silver Comet ARS Website http://www.silvercometars.com/index.php

Silver Comet ARS – ARRL Clubs http://www.arrl.org/Groups/view/silver-comet-amateur-radio-society-inc/type:club

Silvercometars@groups.io|HOME https://groups.io/g/silvercometars

Bad WX Basic Ready Kit? Reprint from March 2017 SkyWave

Ready. Georgia

Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Ready Kit:

- Water At least 3 gallons per person, for drinking and hygiene
- Food At least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Can opener For food, if kit contains canned food
- 🛛 Radio Battery-powered or hand crank NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- □ Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- □ Whistle To signal for help
- 🗌 Face mask To help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place
- □ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties For personal hygiene
- □ Wrench or pliers To turn off utilities
- Local maps

Additional Items to Consider Adding to a Ready Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water For your pet
- Important family documents Such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- □ Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material Such as a first aid book or information from Ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket For each person. Consider adding bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate
- Complete change of clothing Include a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider adding clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches In a waterproof container
- □ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- □ Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

www.ready.ga.gov

<u>5 Gallon Bucket Emergency Kit</u>

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
- deodorant

First Aid Kit

- basic first-aid guide
- moist towelettes
- antiseptic towelettes
- latex gloves
- acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- ibuprofen (Advil)
- aspirin
- diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- Ioperamide (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)

<u>Breakfast @.....</u>

Join us on the 146.955 repeater and on "ZOOM" on Thursdays @ 8:30am. In person gatherings are cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19 safety concerns! For "ZOOM" information, check the SCARS Groups.IO calendar.

Have you joined us for casual conversation, informal Q&A, problem solving and occasional humiliation?

We normally meet 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.

Members of other clubs, visitors, spouses and friends are welcomed.

Come Join Us!

Thursday Mornings We Gather Around 8:30 +/-Until the last one leaves! Even on the Repeater or ZOOM!





There has been a lot of rag chewing over by our members about building new computers. Why build when you can buy one already assembled that is simply incredible.

Recent SCARS Website Updates:



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

• NO UPDATES TO REPORT

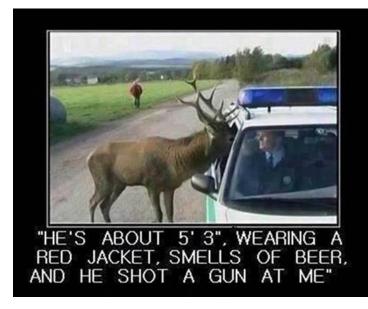
Send SCARS website corrections, comments, or suggestions to Troy (K4JDA) at *troy.davis@hotmail.com*

Upcoming Special Events

The SCARS 5th Annual AM Broadcast Band DX Contest starts 0001-UTC on 01 October 2020 and ends 2359-UTC on 31 October 2020.

Please look for K4ELI's weekly 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





Contest & Special Events

2020 ARRL 0	Contest Dates
January 2020	February 2020
1 <u>Straight Key Night</u>	10-14 School Club Roundup
4 <u>Kids Day</u>	15-16 International DX – CW
4-5 <u>RTTY Roundup</u>	
18-20 January VHF	
March 2020	April 2020
7-8 International DX– Phone	19 <u>Rookie Roundup – Phone</u>
June 2020	July 2020
13-15 June VHF	11-12 IARU HF World Championship
20 Kids Day	
27-28 Field Day	
August 2020	September 2020
1-2 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	12-14 September VHF
15-16 10 GHz & Up – Round 1	19-20 <u>10 GHz & Up - Round 2</u>
16 <u>Rookie Roundup – RTTY</u>	12-13 <u>EME - 2.3 GHz & Up</u>
October 2020	November 2020
19-23 School Club Roundup	7-9 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW
10-11 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz	21-23 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone
-	28-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
December 2020	
4-6 <u>160 Meter</u>	
12-13 10 Meter	
20 <u>Rookie Roundup–CW</u>	Check your emails
	for additional
	contest and special
	event activities
	2

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://ncjwecom/

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: 2020 Schedule VE Testing at BHBC is back on schedule for the August-December test sessions. The Governor's directives in effect at that time will be adhered to. Sep 3 Oct 1 Nov 5 Dec 3 Aug 6 Please check the ARRL website for changes or corrections. For more information, contact Steve Walls, K4ELI: swalls46@att.net All classes of license exams will be available. 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: 2020 Schedule Due to Covid-19 concerns and restrictions, contact John W4TXA w4txa.john@gmail.com for test session schedule information. Aug 11 Sep 08 Oct 13 Nov 10 Dec 08 Please check the ARRL website for changes or corrections. For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: w4txa.john@gmail.com All classes of license exams will be available. **BRING:** Amateur Radio • Original and copy of existing license. License Testing 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

	<u>Sılver (</u>	Comet <u>A</u>	lmateur	Radio_	Society	
		20	20 Calend	ar		
	** Don't forget	our club breakf	ast every Thurso	day morning aro	und 8:30am **	
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-07-2020 7pm	02-04-2020 7pm	03-03-2020 7pm	04-07-2020 7pm	05-05-2020 7:30pm	06-02-2020 7:30pm
Meeting Location	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg.	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz Roll Call	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz Roll Call	"On The Air" 146.955– 77H & "Zoom"
Meeting Activity	Ham Radio Estate Planning (Steve K4ELI)	Ham Tower Engineering (Corey – KN4ULL)	6m Operation & Antennas (Mike – K4PI)	Weather (Postponed)	Spark Gap Transmitter (Postponed)	Field Day Pre Field Day Tean
Additional Activities	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	GA QSOP	Family Night Dinner	Field Day
Hamfest & Conventions	Lawrenceville TechFest	Dalton, GA Orlando, FL	Birmingham, AL	Mobile, AL	Dayton, DH	Atlanta, GA
		(HamCation)	Ellijay, GA	Calhoun, GA		
	This calendar	is "Subject to ch		hange request t	o K4ELI Steve	
	This calendar		V2020.07			
		Comet A	V2020.07	^r Radio		
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Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time: Meeting Location Meeting Activity Additional	Silver (** Don't forget July 07-07-2020 7:30pm "On The Air" 146.955-77Hz & "Zoom" Recognition Night Cultman AL	Comet A 20 our club breakf August 08-04-2020 7pm "On The Air" 146.955- 77Hz & "Zoom" TBA	V2020.07 W2020.07 Material 20 Calend ast every Thurso September 09-01-2020 7pm "On The Air" 146.955-77Hz & "Zoom" TBA Club Fall Picnic (TBD) SEPECDX	Radio ar bay morning aro October 10-06-2020 7pm To Be Determined TBA AM DX Contest La Grange, GA Chattanooga, TN Rome, GA	Society and 8:30am ** November 11-03-2020 7pm Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg. PWR Supplies Dummy Loads Testing Club Elections SCARS OTA Reunion Lawrenceville GA Montgomery, AL.	December 12-01-2020 7pm Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg. TBA Christmas

This quarantine made me realize I have no real hobbies besides going out to eat and spending money.



SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

CONTACT US: Groups.io Request: SilvercometARS <u>www.silvercometars.com</u> 146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: Club President John Reynolds, W4TXA

Email: <u>w4txa.john@gmail.com</u>

SILVERCOMET ARS, INC. PO BOX 1873 HIRAM, GEORGIA 30141