



Ham Radio
in the 21st Century



Science
Technology
Experimentation
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
FEB 2021 Vol 8 Number 2

***The February Club Meeting Will Be Held
On the 146.955 Repeater & Zoom!***



Please join us on the 146.955 (- 77Hz) repeater at 7pm on February 2nd for our monthly club meeting. A Zoom video meeting will be held simultaneously. Check the SCARS Groups.IO calendar for meeting and link information.

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

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W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"

The Silver Comet ARS Inc. a 501 (c) (3) Not for Profit Organization





Editor's Notes:



EDITOR WANTED! EDITOR WANTED! EDITOR WANTED!

If you like to chat, write, snoop, take pictures, and be creative, please consider becoming the new editor of this newsletter.

It has been my pleasure and a lot of fun serving as your editor for the past 5 years, but it is time for me to move over and make way for someone new. My physical batteries are running low and family matters are taking up more of my time.

If you would like to become the next Pulitzer Prize winning editor, inherit a large salary and staff (LOL), please contact me to arrange a peaceful administrative transfer.

Copies of past SKYWAVE newsletters can be found at the club website <http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php>. Please submit your 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 Food Bank, **Helping Hands** in Dallas.



If you have a few spare bucks, stop by a Dollar store, Big Lots or your favorite supermarket and buy some sale items. It may not be what you need, but someone else might need it to feed their family a decent meal. Check your pantry, maybe there is something in there you may not use in the near future.

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

Monday – “SCARS Night Out” Net!



Radio and Zoom check-ins begin at 7:00PM. 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 because it's very informal and Troy K4JDA does a great job as the moderator.

Please join us on the 146.955 (- 77Hz) repeater at 7:00pm and on Zoom. Check the SCARS Groups.IO calendar for meeting and Zoom link information.

\$\$ Don't Forget Your Dues \$\$\$



If you have not done so already, please pay your 2021 dues. And, it is still only \$20. Due to the pandemic and the cancellation of our social meetings, please consider using the club's Pay-Pal online service <http://www.silvercometars.com/contact.php#Dues> to pay or mail your check to:

Dave Fuller K4DMF
Silver Comet ARS
1124 Regiment Drive
Acworth, GA 30101
davenesf@comcast.net

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

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

February

FLORIANSTEXT.COM



Welcome New Club Members

Dave McFarland	KO4KBU	12/03/2020
Jonathon Sarge	W4UYE	12/03/2020
Chris Brock	KO4KGY	12/08/2020
Matthew Britton	KO4LDH	01/07/2021
Travis Garrison	KO4LDI	01/07/2021
Wallace Raines	KO4LFE	01/12/2021
Jarett Miller	KO4LFG	01/12/2021



I'M LEARNING ELECTRONICS
AND I FOUND OUT THAT ALL
TYPE OF ELECTRONIC NEEDS
SMOKE TO WORK!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT ONCE
THE SMOKE COMES OUT
THEY STOP WORKING?!

Others recently tested by SCARS VE's

Bill Dodd	K04LFC	01/12/2021
Joe Bridges	K04LFD	01/12/2021
Denver Morton	K04LFF	01/12/2021
Ian Crow	K04LFH	01/12/2021
Jiakui Liu	K04LFI	01/12/2021

WWV DOD Broadcasts/Surveys

"DOD is now regularly broadcasting on WWV at 10 minutes past the hour and WWVH at 50 minutes past the hour. These messages will change on a weekly basis and will cover topics such as significant events in military history; HF tips, tricks and techniques, and upcoming HF exercises. During each broadcast, listeners are provided a URL and asked to take a listener survey. The results of the listener survey are periodically shared with WWV/H personnel and their higher headquarters at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. I hope you will listen in and take the survey to continue to support WWV/H operations!" **-Paul, Chief Army MARS**

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) radio stations WWV/WWVB and WWVH broadcasts time and frequency information 24/7 to millions of listeners worldwide. WWV & WWVB are located near Fort Collins, Colorado, and WWVH is located in Hawaii. All broadcast frequencies used by WWV, WWVB and WWVH are in the high frequency (HF) radio spectrum.

It might be a good idea to answer any surveys that are asked to show support of WWV and WWVH to keep them on the air. **-Lee WB4QOJ**

For more information: <https://www.nist.gov/time-distribution/radio-station-wwv>

Special Event – February 14th



Special Event? Oh yeah! It's Valentine's Day. Better not forget that!

But how is it related to Ham Radio? It would be to your advantage to spend it with that *Someone Special* rather than be on the radio.

But why is Valentine's Day so *Special*? You might think it would be simple to explain but thanks to the Internet, this newsletter doesn't have enough room to go into all the history, legends, folk lore and interpretive explanations that were found.

As stated in Wikipedia, "**Valentine's Day**, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world".

Saint Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in any country, although it is an official feast day in many religious cultures. The celebration of Saint Valentine is not known to have had any romantic connotations until Chaucer's poetry about "Valentine's Day" in the 14th century, some seven hundred years after celebrations were believed to have ceased.

Once love and romance got involved, financial opportunism started to appear. Celebrations soon turned into customs. Valentine's Day customs, the sending of greeting cards (known as "valentines"), the offering confectionary and presenting flowers spread throughout the English-speaking world like those of Halloween and Christmas, (such as Santa Claus). *-Editor*

If you are interested in more information, check out these links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentine%27s_Day

<https://www.npr.org/2011/02/14/133693152/the-dark-origins-of-valentines-day>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Valentines-Day>

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2>

XOXO
FEBRUARY
♡

Introduction to Antennas

Think you know a lot about antennas?

“In the 1890s, there were only a few antennas in the world. These rudimentary devices were primarily a part of experiments that demonstrated the transmission of electromagnetic waves. By World War II, antennas had become so ubiquitous that their use had transformed the lives of the average person via radio and television reception. The number of antennas in the United States was on the order of one per household, representing growth rivaling the auto industry during the same period.

By the early 21st century, thanks in large part to mobile phones, the average person now carries multiple antennas on them wherever they go (mobile phones have multiple antennas such as GPS, WIFI, Cellular and NFC). This significant rate of growth is not likely to slow, as wireless communication systems become a larger part of everyday life. In addition, the strong growth in RFID devices suggests that the number of antennas in use may increase to one antenna per object in the world (product, container, pet, banana, toy, cd, etc.). This number would dwarf the number of antennas in use today. Hence, learning a little (or a large amount) about antennas couldn't hurt, and will contribute to one's overall understanding of the modern world.” – Antenna-Theory.com (thanks to K4ELI)

To learn more about Antenna Basics, Antenna Types, Smith Charts & Antenna Measurements, plus Wavelength Calculators, check out the following web sites:

[Wavelength Calculator K7TJO](http://Wavelength-Calculator-K7TJO)
antenna-theory.com :: [Index](#)

Antennas & Trees

Got a tree in the way of your proposed new antenna installation? Have a tree fall on your antenna? Need an eye screw to hold your antenna up in a tree? Just need some trees removed? We have a solution for you. Just call Luis. Many of our club members have called Luis. He has done it all for many of our members and does a great job too. By now, he knows all about antennas and their relationship to trees.



**PINE SHADOWS
TREE SERVICE**

- Tree Removal
- Pruning
- Yard Cleaning
- Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Storm Damage

email: treemanluis@gmail.com

LUIS F. LOPEZ Free Estimates
678-200-9422 Fully Insured

More on Stealth Antennas

Does your HOA or better half prohibit your ham radio antenna from being visible? Maybe one of these links will help you get on the air or improve your signal.

- [The Dreaded CC&R's](#) - Here is Some Advice
- [Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur](#) - ARRL Book On legal aspects of antenna restrictions
- [Stealth Amateur Radio](#) - Book From The ARRL -- (ISBN: 0-87259-757-1) #7571
- [Stealth 40M Antenna](#) - From K7ZB
- [A Groundlevel Hidden HF Antenna](#) -- From K3MT -- The GRASSWIRE -- You read it correctly!!
- [Hidden, Stealth & Invisible Antennas](#) -- Stealth Antennas From SGC, Inc.
- [The Bird Feeder Antenna](#)
- [Hidden Antenna Ideas Loops, Operation Away From Home, Attic](#) -- From N0HC
- [Stealth Antenna Experiences](#) - From Clif's ham radio connection.
- [10M Bent Attic Antenna](#) - A Yagi No Less
- [Hidden Attic Antenna](#) -- From NU3E -- An Attic Coaxial-Cable Trap Dipole for 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80
- [Low Frequency Attic Loop antenna](#) - from Bill Farmer W3CSW
- [Attic Loop antennas](#) - from William Hansgen



Here is an example of a stealth 2m/440 vertical $\frac{1}{4}$ wave antenna mounted in the attic. For more details:

<http://frankshamradioblog.blogspot.com/2016/01/cheap-stealth-dual-band-vhf-uhf-attic.html>

Does your HOA (or better half) have restrictions on mobile antennas? Maybe this is your solution!



SCARS Contest Compiler

Although the Silver Comet ARS is not a declared contest club, we have quite a few members that enjoy contesting. Contesting affords the ability to quickly work all U.S. states and a large number of counties or countries for which you can be awarded certificates of recognition or other things for your hard work.

A *Club Score Processor*, aka *Contest Compiler*, allows club members to see how other club members are doing and the club's total score in real time. Since contests are competitive by design, it really adds to the fun, camaraderie and competition! SCARS uses the N3FJP Club Score Processor since the majority of our contesters use the N3FJP contest and logging software. To view the compiler hosted by K4ELI-Steve, go to:

<http://www.silvercometars.com/hamlogs/SCARS-Contest-Summary.html>

The Contest Compiler shows all the essential information on one web page, with a current grand total club score displayed in real time by retrieving the pertinent information from each of the individual club member's web uploads. It then combines the information and presents a total score and leader board! Most contesters keep the page displayed in a corner of their desktops during the contest weekend!

Contest Log Submission

To compete in club competitions for recognition and awards, the club name must be standardized to insure proper club credit. Please use **Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society** in the proper entry space on all log submittals.

If you wish to be included in the club contest roster so that your individual scores will add to the SCARS club totals for ARRL and other contests, please forward the following information to: K4ELI - Stephen Walls swalls46@att.net

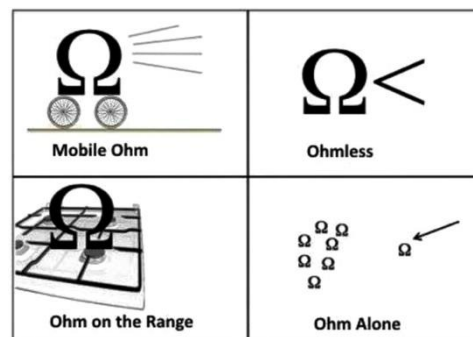
Send an email with your:

Name

Call

Grid Square --- 6 character

Full mailing address



Anti-Static Antenna Coating

Static electricity is fun when shuffling or sliding across a carpet and so is rubbing a balloon on your hair and sticking it to a wall. However, it is not too cool when static electricity interferes with your ham radio operations. You can reduce static electricity to a minimum by using a special coating available to aviation enthusiasts. This coating is used on airplanes to prevent the buildup of static electricity and is available in various forms of application on the internet or from an aviation supply company.

2021 Dalton Hamfest

February 27, 2021 From 8:00a to 2:00p (still planned)

ARRL Sanctioned

Handicapped accessible (ask at the gate)

VE Testing (At nearby Western Sizzlin)

Indoor and Outdoor Boneyard

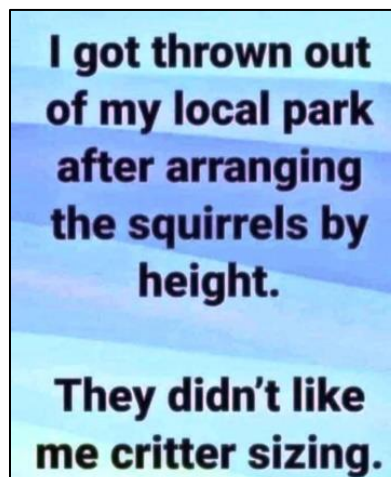
Door Prizes

Concessions

w4drc@yahoo.com W4drchamfest@yahoo.com

Please join us for the 2020 Dalton Hamfest! Same place! Same times! Same cost! \$5 entry ticket, \$5 each for extra tickets, tables \$10.

For more information see the [Hamfest page](#)



SERA Frequency Coordination Policy

What is SERA? SERA is the largest Amateur Radio Repeater Coordinating organization in the United States.

The SERA provides voluntary frequency coordination for amateur repeaters in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and parts of Virginia and West Virginia bringing together all amateur repeater owners into one united body.

The SERA was founded in 1971 to assist in coordinating repeater frequencies, providing communications and technical information to current and future repeater owners with the goal of resolving ongoing complaints and disagreements.

The SERA website has a lot of useful information on VHF/UHF band plans and much more. Check out the following link for more information on membership, Journals, and even more.

<https://sera.org/index.php/frequency-coordination/frequency-utilization-plans-revision-band-plans/>

Volunteers Needed

The Chattahoochee Nature Center will be holding the *Water Drop Dash* road race on Saturday, March 20th and has requested the assistance of Charles K0CZR and his amateur radio volunteers.

All volunteers will need to complete a waiver form, and a basic Covid Q&A form, and properly wear Covid masks. The Nature Center has dropped the requirement for Covid testing. Most likely your temperature will be taken when you arrive, but your exposure should be minimal.

If you are interested in helping out, let Charles K0CZR know this week. If you know of any new hams that might be interested, have them contact Charles k0czt@bellsouth.net.

Interesting Links

Current status reports on satellites

<https://www.amsat.org/status/>

Learn how to use ISS tracking alerts to Spot The Station | NASA

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/message_example.cfm

fldigi 4.1.18 posted

<http://www.w1hkj.com/files/fldigi/>

U.S. Marine Corp Antenna Handbook

<https://duvalaresjax.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/MCRP-8-10B.11.pdf>

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaL7UG0gkRJxV7lnTj_P3IQ/videos

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>

Decoding Digital RF transmissions from across the spectrum

<http://www.kd0cq.com/2013/07/sorcerer-decoder-download/>

February is the second month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars. The month has 28 days in common years or 29 in leap years, with the 29th day being called the leap day. [en.wikipedia.org › wiki › February](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/February)

February's 28 days date back to the second king of Rome, Numa Pompilius. Before he became king, Rome's lunar calendar was just 10 months long. But, in order to reach 355 **days**, one month had to be an even number. **February** was chosen to be the unlucky month with **28 days**. <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/>

Breakfast @.....

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.

Bring your own coffee and donuts or biscuits and gravy. No sharing allowed.

Come Join Us!

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



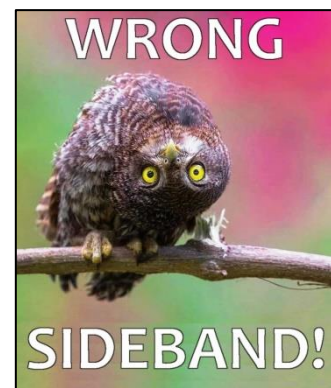
Upcoming Special Events

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

23rd Annual Minnesota QSO February 6th at 1400 UTC

<https://www.w0aa.org/mn-qso-party/>



Contest & Special Events

2021 ARRL Contest Dates

January 2021 1 Straight Key Night 2 Kids Day 2-3 RTTY Roundup 16-18 January VHF	February 2021 8-12 School Club Roundup 20-21 International DX - CW
March 2021 6-7 International DX- Phone	April 2021 18 Rookie Roundup - Phone
June 2021 12-14 June VHF 19 Kids Day 26-27 Field Day	July 2021 10-11 IARU HF World Championship
August 2021 7-8 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest 21-22 10 GHz & Up - Round 1 22 Rookie Roundup - RTTY	September 2021 11-13 September VHF 18-19 10 GHz & Up - Round 2
October 2021 18-22 School Club Roundup 23-24 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up -	November 2021 6-8 Nov. Sweepstakes - CW 20-22 Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone 20-21 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
December 2021 3-5 160 Meter 11-12 10 Meter 19 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://ncjwecom/>

SCARS Amateur Radio Licensing Schedule.

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.

No walk-ins. Register or call ahead. See sign at Front Desk for Room #.

2020/2021 Schedule

The Governor's directives in effect at that time will be adhered to.

Feb 04 * Mar 04 * Apr 01 * May 06 * Jun 03
Jul 01 * Aug 05 * Sep 02 * Oct 07 * Nov 04 * Dec 02

For more information, contact Steve Walls, K4ELI: swalls46@att.net (404)697-9840

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 on the following dates.

Contact John W4TXA w4txa.john@gmail.com for test session location and information.

2020/2021 Schedule

The Governor's directives in effect at that time will be adhered to.

Feb 09 * Mar 09 * Apr 13 * May 11 * Jun 08
Jul 13 * Aug 10 * Sep 14 * Oct 12 * Nov 09 * Dec 14

For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: w4txa.john@gmail.com

All classes of license exams will be available.

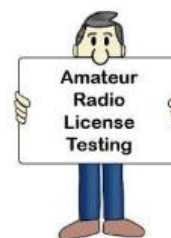
BRING:

- 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

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



2021 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>
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-05-2021 7pm	02-02-2021 7pm	03-02-2021 7pm	04-06-2021 7pm	05-04-2021 7pm	06-01-2021 7pm
Meeting Location	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"
Meeting Activity	Contest Station (K3UR) Owner DX Engr.	Toroids & Baluns (N4XL)	Which Ant. Is Best (K4ELI)	Weather (K4DMF)	SO2R Basics ((K4ELI)	Field Day Prep (FD Team)
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	TBD	GA QSOP	TBD	Field Day
Hamfest & Conventions	TBD Lawrenceville TechFest	TBD Dalton, GA Orlando, FL (HamCation)	TBD Birmingham Ellijay, GA	TBD Mobile, AL Calhoun, GA	TBD Dayton, OH	TBD Atlanta, GA
This calendar is "Subject to change". Submit change request to K4ELI Steve						
V2021.02						

Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

2021 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>
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	07-07-2021 7:30pm	08-04-2021 7pm	09-01-2021 7pm	10-06-2021 7pm	11-03-2021 7pm	12-01-2021 7pm
Meeting Location	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"
Meeting Activity	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Club Elections	Christmas Party TBD
Hamfest & Conventions	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled	Cancelled
This calendar is "Subject to change". Submit change request to K4ELI Steve						
V2021.00						

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@groups.io

Repeater:

146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: Club President
Dan Ozment, W4DTO

Email: dan@ozment.net

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