



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
MAR 2021 Vol 8 Number 3

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



Please join us on the 146.955 (- 77Hz) repeater at 7pm on March 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





Prez Sez!



It's hard to believe it's almost Spring! That means it's time to start thinking about severe weather season in Georgia. Meteorologists are talking up the possibility of an active severe weather season for us this year because of La Nina. Now is the time to get prepared.

The National Weather Service is offering SkyWarn training virtually, so anyone can register to participate. The schedule is at <https://www.weather.gov/ffc/skywarnsched>. While you are waiting for your SkyWarn class it would be good to change the batteries in your smoke detectors AND your NOAA All Hazards Radio! As hams we know the importance of good and reliable communications, and we always have a backup for that communication.

How do you receive severe weather alerts? I get alerts by text and email, from social media, and from Paulding County's Code Red system (<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/5FDB87C96D49>). And, of course, I depend on alerts from our severe weather nets.

But, I always have my backup All Hazards Radio turned on and in alert mode to alert me to any warnings in our county. In the middle of the night when the ham shack is closed that radio is my primary means of notification. If you don't have one, you should. They aren't very expensive at all, and they save lives. I'll be glad to share my recommendations.

Dan Ozment W4DTO – President, Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

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

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

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 \$\$\$



Time is running out but there is still time to pay your 2021 dues. It is still only \$20. Due to the pandemic and the suspension 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

This is your last reminder in the newsletter! Failure to pay will add 5 years to your birthday.

New Call Sign for one of the “Big Guns”

Congratulations go to Dave Walk, AKA K4BBH on receiving his new Vanity call sign **W4AEX**. After much research and effort, Dave decided to change call signs to one more easily understood during brutal contest conditions.

Good luck with the new call sign Dave.

Volunteer Examiners (VE) Wanted



Last month... February, saw some unusual activities in the VE (Volunteer Examiner) test sessions in the Atlanta area. Where each of the Silver Comet test groups tend to see 4 to 5 Candidates each month, we are now seeing 8 to 9 Candidates. The North Fulton group is now testing 20 Candidates each month and the Cherokee group in February tested 25 Candidates. Elden Morris with the Kennehoochee Club, tested 12 Candidates in February. **This made a grand total of 66 new or upgraded Hams in just one month !** In January, at the North Fulton test site, they saw 8 Generals come in and walk out as EXTRAS... Now, if you have been watching a petition before the FCC

that wants to see an increase of number of VEC's (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator - which is being held at 14), the ARRL has responded that the Amateur Radio community does not need any more VEC's, but that we do need more **ACTIVE** VE's. I would like to ask our Members in the Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society to step up and become a Volunteer Examiner - an **ACTIVE** VE. You can help out at these sessions... get to greet new people and do this regardless of your license class. This is a GREAT way to give back to our hobby. If you think that you might be interested, contact myself or Steve Walls (K4ELI). Either one of us can help you.

John Reynolds - W4TXA
770-715-9640

Welcome New Hams



Let's all welcome these new amateurs to the wonderful world of ham radio. If you hear them on the air, please introduce yourself and tell them about your experiences and something about the club. Thanks to John W4TXA and his February VE session.

• Roy K. Bailey	No Call Yet	Tech	Dallas 30157
• Frank P. Fabian	KO4NBL	Tech	Marietta 30068
• Terry P. Fennell	KO4NBM	Tech	Dallas 3015
• Evan H. Carey	KO4NBN	Tech	Acworth 30102
• Brian L. Williams, Jr.	KO4NBO	Tech	Rockmart 30153
• Thomas D. Lawson	KO4NBP	Tech	Marietta 30060
• Douglas Z. Martin	KO4NBQ	Tech	Dallas 30157
• Nathan L. Deems	KO4MID	General	Rockmart 30153

What Is ARRL Field Day?



The *American Radio Relay League Field Day* exercise is held annually on the fourth full weekend in June beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday in conjunction with Radio Amateurs of Canada organization.

Sponsored and organized by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), Field Day is open to all Amateur Radio operators covered by these two International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member organizations.

Field Day(FD) is an annual amateur radio exercise, widely sponsored by IARU regions and member organizations, encouraging emergency communications preparedness among amateur radio operators.

In the United States, Field Day is typically the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the country, with over 40,000 operators participating each year.

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.

Stay tuned for more information from the SCARS Field Day committee regarding the club's FD plans for 2021.

Comm Academy 2021

Sat, Apr 10, 2021 9:00 AM - Sun, Apr 11, 2021 5:00 PM PDT

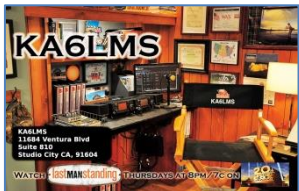
What is Comm Academy? Comm Academy 2021 is a free, virtual training conference for anyone interested in learning more about emergency communications technologies and practices. Taking place April 10th and 11th, 2021, Comm Academy will be organized around the theme **“Disasters Here, There and Everywhere – Are We Ready?”**

As it has in all of its 22+ previous iterations, the conference will feature expert speakers on a wide variety of topics, from radio and messaging technologies to communications techniques to tales from the “trenches.”

More than just a collection of online presentations, Comm Academy 2021 will be an interactive event, with participants able to converse with presenters and other attendees. <https://www.commacademy.org/about>

Registration is completely free, *but you must register* to gain access to the full event schedule and presentation materials. <https://www.commacademy.org/register>

Last Man Standing - KA6LMS Special Event



To commemorate the last season of TV show “Last Man Standing” and leading up to the taping of the last episode, the club station, KA6LMS, will be operating on all modes and all bands from 0000Z on 3/24/21 to 23:59Z on 3/30/21. Stations will be operating as KA6LMS/0 through /9 throughout the week with bonus stations. They will be operating from the stage over the weekend operation on the station on the set in the office of Mike Baxter. Special guests and QSL cards will be available.

There will be special D-STAR events on Saturday, March 27. The PAPA Repeater System will be operating on REF012A beginning at 1700Z and Georgia D-STAR will operate on REF030B beginning at 19:00Z.

For more information on the weeklong event go to <Http://gsbarc.org/lms/>.

W4DXCC 2021 Convention Announcement

The 2021 Convention is ON! Mark your calendar! September 24th and 25th, 2021, Pigeon Forge, TN

It is time to make your Hotel reservations for this year's convention. You can **NOT** make Online reservations for this event!

Call them on the phone at (865) 428-8350 and be sure to tell them you are with **W4DXCC** to get the special rate.

Convention Registration will open soon including Online Ticket Purchasing. Coming Soon.

Many SCARS members have attended this convention and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Check out the Website and learn about the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention at [W4DXCC Convention](http://W4DXCCConvention.com).

K4LDC Larry Is Way Out There – Are You?

This is kind of cool. My name is one of the 10,932,295 encoded on the microchip attached to the Perseverance rover roaming around on MARS! –**Larry (K4LDC)**











Radio 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. Additional information may be forthcoming.

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

RF Connectors for Ham Radio!

Type	Standard		Reverse Polarity	
	male	female	RP male	RP female
SMA	 Threads inside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 6mm	 Threads outside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 5mm	 Threads inside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 6mm	 Threads outside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 5mm
TNC	 Threads inside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 12mm	 Threads outside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 10mm	 Threads inside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 12mm	 Threads outside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 10mm
N	 Threads inside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 17mm	 Threads outside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 14mm	X	X
UHF	 PL-259 Threads inside Pin in the middle Diameter: about 17mm	 SO-239 Threads outside Hole in the middle Diameter: about 14mm	X	X

For more information on these and other connector terms, visit:

RF Connectors and what they're for: AD#35

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol36eqfEtlw>

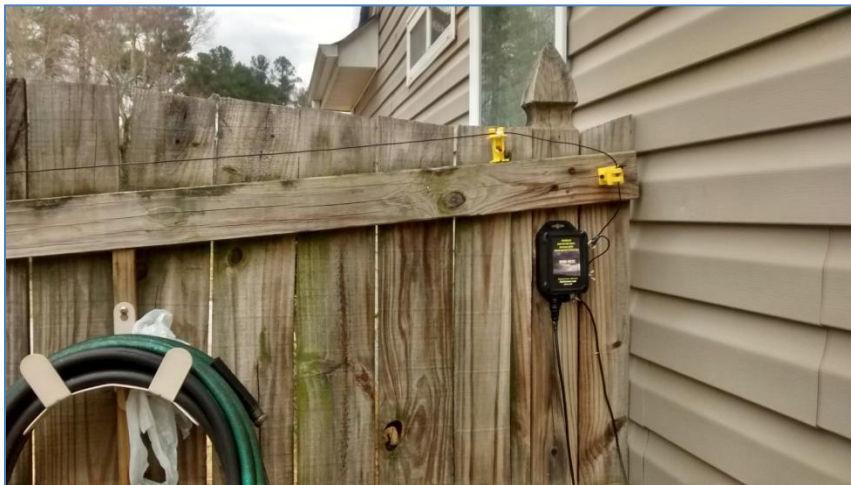
More Stealth Antenna Stuff

You too can get on the HF bands with stealth antenna installation such as these.



Above: Attic installation of a Multi-Band dipole at KM4IKO James house.

Below: Installation of an 130ft End Fed Long Wire (EFLW) made by MYANTENNA around his backyard fence and operates on 80-10m. Notice the yellow “electric fence wire” stand-offs purchased at Tractor Supply. For more info, ask James KM4IKO.

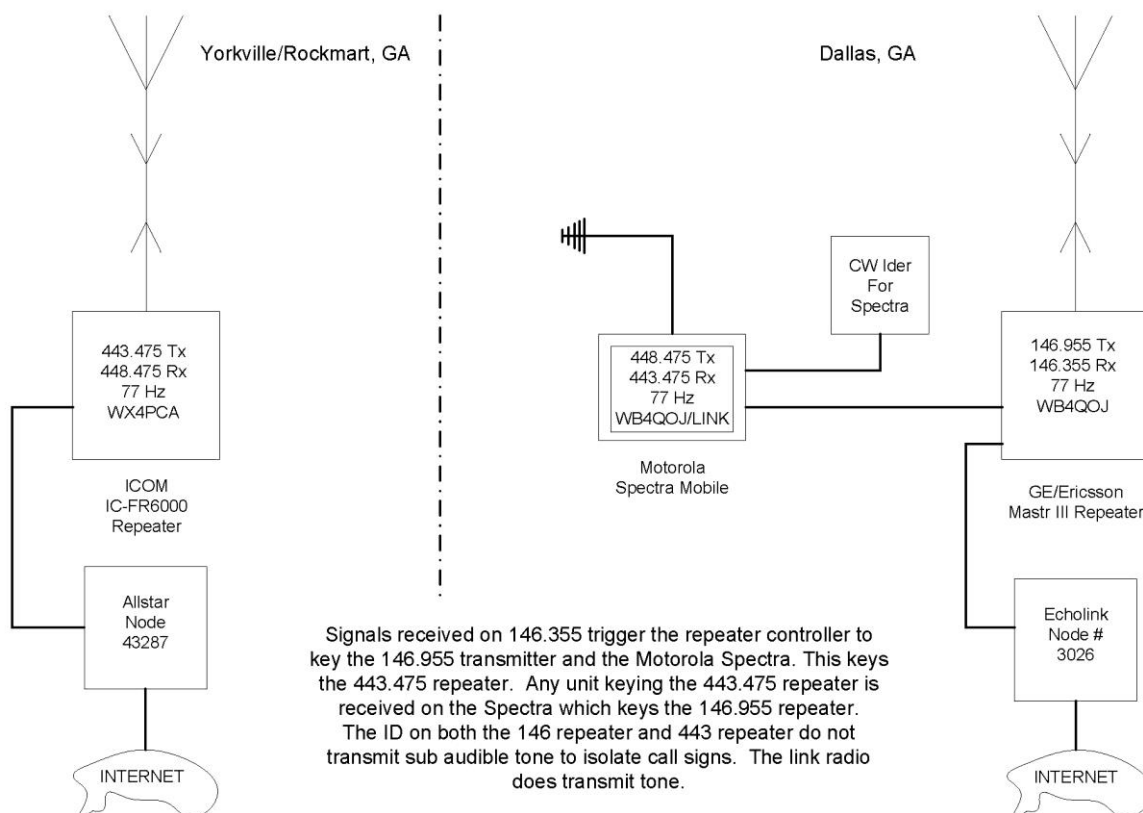


How Does The 146.955 Repeater Work?

Since we have many new amateurs in the SCARS club, a brief description of the repeater system might be in order. The 146.955 repeater is primarily owned by Lee WB4QOJ and is located at the Paulding County Water Department on Macland Rd (SR360) near Merchants Dr. (SR6). It is linked to the 443.475 repeater located at Paulding County Fire Station 7 in Yorkville via UHF linked radios.

Lee and his "Repeater Team" consisting of Neal KC4YCM and Dan W4DTO do their best to keep the repeaters operating and take care of all the maintenance required and are kind enough to let the SCARS club and members use it at will.

Attached to the repeater system are the Echolink Node (3026) and the Allstar Node (43287) which provided worldwide access through use of the internet.



The WB4QOJ/WX4PCA
Linked repeater system

Every Wire Antenna Known To Mankind!

It takes a few seconds to load----LOTS of wire antennas

<http://k3rrr.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/WireAntennasHamRadio.pdf>

Submitted by K4ELI

Interesting Links

National "WHAT?" Day

<https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/calendar-march-2021/>

IC-7300 Firmware V1.40 Released

https://www.icomjapan.com/support/firmware_driver/3248/

Space Weather

<https://spaceweather.com/>

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/UCaL7UG0gkRIxV7lnTj_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/>

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

Field Day 2021(or is that 1921) with
K0CZR, WB4QOJ and K4CGA



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.

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.

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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.

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.

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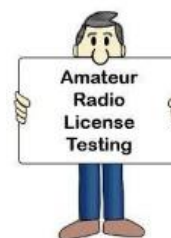
BRING:

- 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>

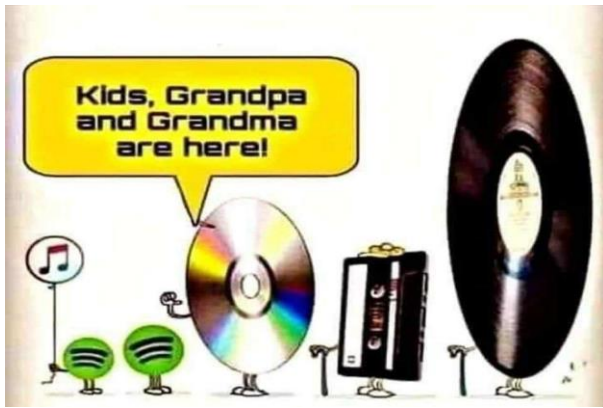


2021 Calendar

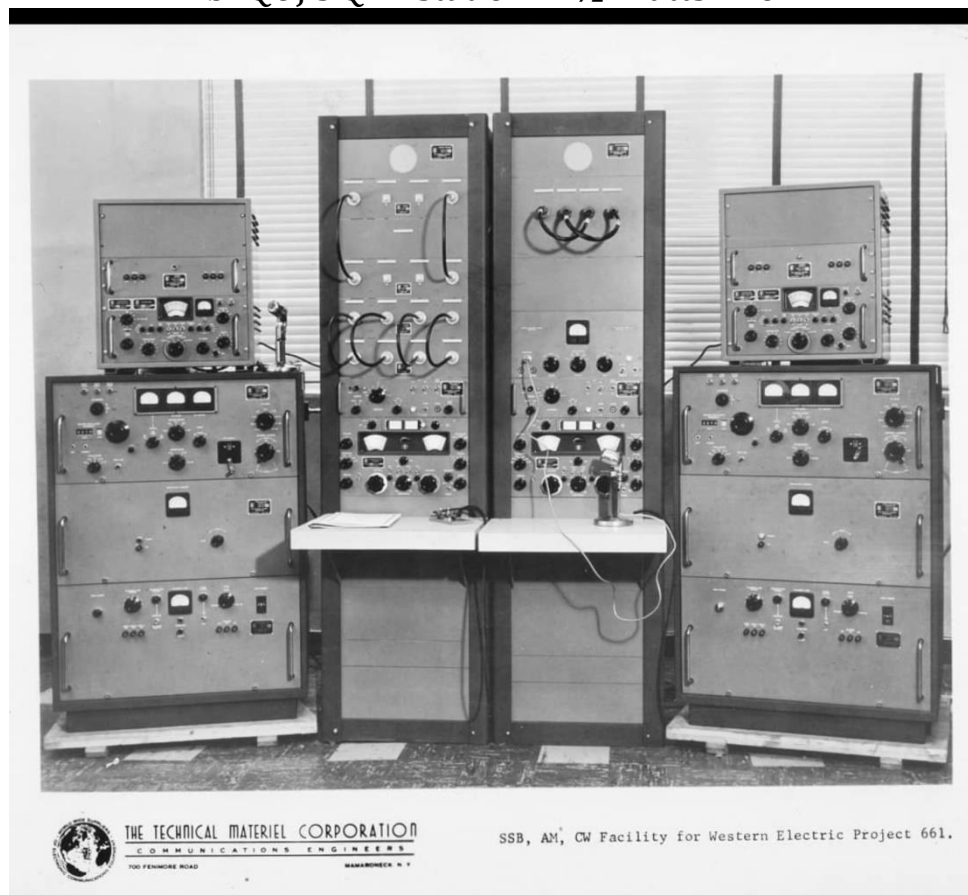
	January	February	March	April	May	June
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	01-05-2021 7pm	02-02-2021 7pm	03-02-2021 7pm	04-06-2021 7pm	05-04-2021 7pm	06-01-2021 7pm
Meeting Location	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 77Hz & "Zoom"	"On The Air" 146.955– 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						

2021 Calendar

	<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						



Wb4QOJ's QRP station. 4 ½ Watts. Wow!



THE TECHNICAL MATERIEL CORPORATION
COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS
700 PENNSYLVANIA ROAD
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, H. I.

SSB, AM, CW Facility for Western Electric Project 661.

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