



# 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
July 2021 Vol 8 Number 7

***The July 6th Club Meeting  
Will Be Held In Person***

**7pm at the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce  
Lower Level, Back Parking Lot  
455 Jimmy Campbell Pkwy (Hwy 278), Dallas**



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If you aren't comfortable being in the room, please join us on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97552899499?pwd=Y0NiWjhrVG45dEpPULppK0xicWlFdz09>.

## W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"

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



## **Editor's Notes:**



**Newsletter Editor Wanted!** 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to [K4CGA.GA@gmail.com](mailto:K4CGA.GA@gmail.com)

**Chuck DuVall, K4CGA – Editor**

## **Monday – “SCARS Night Out” Net!**



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.

It's fun and informative. Suggestions for Topics of Discussion are always solicited. You don't have to dress up and you can bring your dinner because it's very informal and Troy K4JDA does a great job as the moderator.

## **SCARS Media:**

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

**Groups.IO:** <https://silvercometars.groups.io/g/main>

**Facebook:** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/2360561620926754/>

**QRZ:** <https://www.qrz.com/db/W4RSC/>

**Info:** [Info@silvercometars.com](mailto:Info@silvercometars.com) or [Silvercometars@gmail.com](mailto:Silvercometars@gmail.com)

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

## **SCARS Community Food Drive!**

**Helping Hands**, our local community Food Bank in Dallas, needs your help! Please bring any non-perishable items to our next meeting. We will deliver it to them the following day.



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

## **Mark your Calendar!**

Jul 04 – Independence Day  
Jul 06 – SCARS club meeting  
Jul 31 - HamQuest Nashville  
Sep 24/25 - W4DXCC 2021 Convention

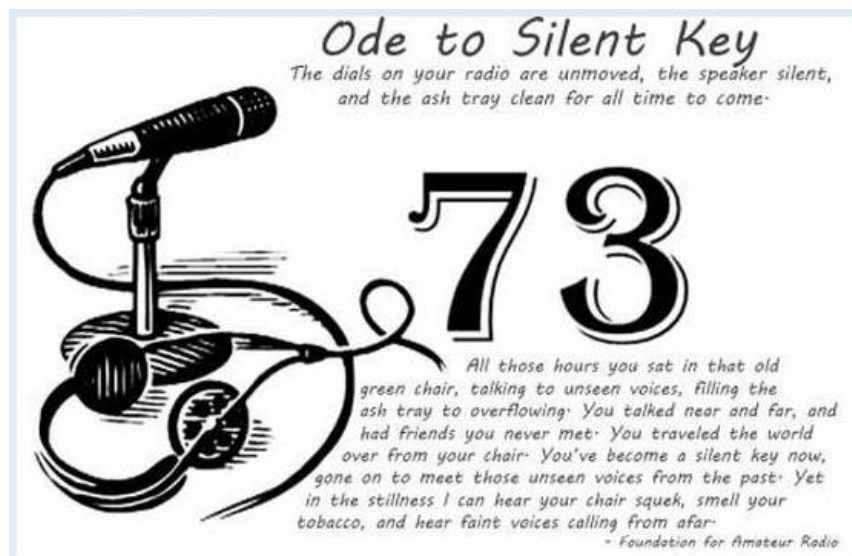


## **What Is The Meaning Of “SK”?**

Widely used in amateur radio, the procedural signal (prosign) “SK”, or abbreviation for “Silent Key”, has two differing meanings.

When working CW or non-voice digital modes, “SK” is commonly used for indicating a *final transmission* for this QSO.

“SK” also refers to a “Silent Key”, a term of respect for the loss of a member from the radio amateur community. A dignified term dating back to wired telegraphy and adopted in the early days of ham radio, “SK” was sent by Morse code to honor a CW operator whose key will never be heard again. The code was adopted to refer to any amateur radio operator who is deceased, regardless of whether they were known to have used telegraphy in their communications.



# **ARRL 2021 Field Day**



OH WOW! The 2021 Silver Comet ARS Food Fest and Field Day event was a resounding success! Many thanks go out to our Field Day planning committee, K4ELI-Steve, K4SHW-Stan, KM4EOG-Everett and K4TXA-Cheri, for all their effort, hard work and dedication that resulted in such a successful

event.

This year's event was held at Paulding County's Fire Station 7 storage and training building in Yorkville. With plenty of space to erect a variety of portable antennas and room for 3 fully equipped communications positions, emergency power, lighting and HVAC, we qualified to operate under the EOC class. The facility also was equipped with a mini-kitchen, restrooms and an optional relaxation area which provided a comfortable environment for our operators. Please express your appreciation to member Kevin New-KK4CLB and the PCFD for allowing us to use this facility.

Primary radio equipment was provided by K4LDC-Larry, K4MWC-Mike and K4ELI-Steve with antennas provided by K4LDC, W4DTO-Dan and K4ELI. Day Shift commander W4DTO-Dan and Night Shift commander KM4IKO-James collaborated on setting up the contact logging PCs and server operations.

The setup luncheon resembled a feast for dignitaries thanks to our Master Chef and Legit Party Planner, Cheri-W4TXA. In addition to spending considerable time calling members to arrange for food, drinks and snacks, Cheri spent long hours in her own kitchen preparing wonderful dishes for all to enjoy. Having enough food to last the entire weekend and then some, if you went hungry or thirsty or went home empty handed, it was your own fault. A hardy thanks to Cheri and those members that kept us stuffed and happy.

## **In the *Member's Log*:**

Barry	KN4QDD	James	KM4IKO	Ruth	WA4MDQ
Camella	WD4DGM	Joe	W4UEM	Stan	K4SHW
Charles	K0CZR	John	W4TXA	Steve	K4ELI
Cheri	K4TXA	Keiffer	KO4QZY	Tom	N4FWD
Chuck	K4CGA	Ken	KN4CQZ	Tommy	K4VTE
Dan	W4DTO	Kevin	KK4CLB	Troy	K4JDA
Dianne	KY4BN	Kunel	KO4HLP	Wally	KO4LFE
Eric	W4ADH	Larry	K4LDC	Will	W4BRA
Everett	KM4EOG	Mark	KF4ESP		
Greg	WD5GNX	Mike	K4MWC		

# **ARRL 2021 Field Day** (continued)

## In the **Guest Log:**

Sharon Walls	XYL of K4ELI
Patricia Brown	
Ed Rutledge	KO4BWN
Betsy Shepherd	XYL of KO4QZX
Christian (Shep) Shepherd	KO4QZX
Sharon Ozment	XYL of W4DT0
Kelly Ozment	Dau of W4DT0

## **W4RSC's Contest Summary Report** **2021 ARRL-FIELD-DAY**

**Total Contacts = 705**

**Total Points = 963** (x power mult. = **Claimed 1926**)

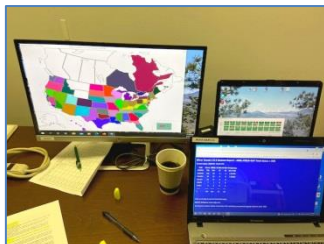
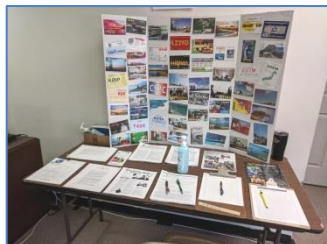
### **Total Contacts by Band and Mode:**

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
80	0	70	0	70	10
40	0	45	158	203	29
20	0	266	64	33	47
15	0	33	0	33	5
10	0	31	36	67	10
6	0	2	0	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>100</b>



DX	3	5	7	0
DX	DE MDC EPA WPA	AR NTX LA OK MS STX NM WTX	AK NV AZ OR EWA UT ID WWA MT WY	CO MO IA ND KS NE MN SD
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>			
CT RI EMA VT ME WMA NH	AL SC GA SFL KY TN NC VA NFL VI PR WCF	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>2</b>		EB SCV LAX SDG ORG SF PAC SJV SB SV	MI WV OH	AB NT BC ONE GTA ONN MAR ONS MB PE NL QC SK
ENY NNY NLI SNJ NNJ WNY			<b>9</b>	
			IL WI IN	

# ARRL 2021 Field Day Pictures



# **Paulding County “Run With The Badges 5K”**

The *Paulding Public Safety Appreciation, Inc. (PPSA)* is a nonprofit organization that sponsors a yearly “Run with the Badges 5K Glow Run” to assist Public Safety employees in times of need. All proceeds from this event go toward supporting the PPSA.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, SCARS/ARES members assisted Paulding County EMA and CERT members by providing backup communications and additional observers around the event staging area and the course in the Cedarcrest/Seven Hills area of Dallas. Although threatening, the bad weather held off and all went well.

SCARS/ARES members participating:

Dan - W4DTO

Robert - KN4RTJ

Dianne - KY4BN

Ron - WB3ILX

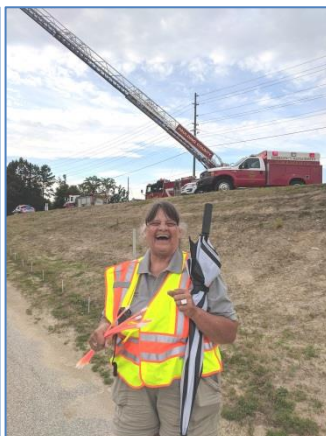
Chuck - K4CGA

Ed - KO4BWN

James - KM4IKO

Cheri - K4TXA

Steve - K4ELI



# Hashtag Uses On SCARS Groups.io

Hashtags have several uses within Groups.io, including controlling certain behaviors of topics and messages. Moderators can apply various settings to hashtags (i.e., expiration times); those settings are then applied to topics that are tagged in the subject line with those hashtags.

Group members can use hashtags for:

- Searching: On the group's website, you can search on hashtags to easily find all messages tagged with them. Top hashtags in use are displayed on the SCARS groups.io home page.

## Top Hashtags [\[See All\]](#)

#cal-reminder	Notices automatically deleted after one month.	17
#newsletter	Newsletters - automatically deleted after one year	13
#poll		9
#poll-notice		6
#cal-notice	Notices automatically deleted after one month.	2
#announcement	Messages automatically deleted after one year.	1
#cal-cancelled	Notices automatically deleted after one month.	1
#newrelease	Notices automatically deleted after one year.	1
#release	Notices automatically deleted after one year.	1

- **Example:** If a group uses a hashtag called **#swap-shop** to tag **For Sale** items, clicking on **#swap-shop** in the hashtag list on the group's website displays a list of all messages in which group members have posted items **For Sale** or **Trade**.
- Muting topics: You can stop receiving email messages in topics that are tagged with a particular hashtag. For more information, see [Muting or unmuting topics and hashtags](#).  
**Note:** If a moderator has set a hashtag to Special (meaning messages with that hashtag are sent as [special notices](#)), you cannot mute that hashtag because special notices cannot be muted.
- Following topics: If you have selected "Following Only" on the [Advanced Preferences panel](#) of your [Subscription page](#) for the group, you can follow (receive messages posted in) topics that are tagged with a particular hashtag. For more information, see [Following or unfollowing topics and hashtags](#).
- Receiving [web/app notifications](#) for specific topics: If you have [enabled web/app notifications](#) in your Groups.io account, you can turn on web/app notifications for individual hashtags:
  - [Display the group's Hashtags page](#).
  - Locate the hashtag you want to receive notifications for and click the **Mute/Notify** button (or link, if you are viewing the page in List View).  
**Note:** The button (or link) is labeled Follow/Notify, instead of Mute/Notify, if you have selected "Following Only" on the [Advanced Preferences panel](#) of your [Subscription page](#) for the group.
  - On the resulting page, in the Notifications panel, select the **Web/App Notify** checkbox.
  - Click the **Update** button at the bottom of the page.

## **What Is A Hot Spot?**

In the simplest of terms, an Amateur Radio Hotspot is a small, digital, low power (~10mW), Internet connected, personal repeater used to connect to other radio amateurs locally or around the world.

Using a digital capable HT on its lowest power setting, you communicate with your hotspot and the hotspot communicates to the world. Basically, it is an IP digital radio gateway capable of DMR, DSTAR, C4FM, P25, NXDN and future digital modes.

This can be a boon for those outside the range of a repeater, travelers that want to talk back home, or if you are deep inside a building and can't get a radio signal out..

An amateur radio hotspot simply consists of hardware, normally a Raspberry PI and some optional plug-in boards, firmware, software, and a WiFi connection to the internet.

Some hams refer to it as "A Repeater in your pocket". A few examples are OpenSpot, ZumSpot, JumboSpot, Nano-Spot, and several others. Hotspots are available in both DIY kit form or pre-assembled.

Need help selecting a hotspot or setting one up? SCARS has quite a few members that are using them and built and programmed. Just ask around.

## **Silver Comet ARS VHF Contest Report**

ARRL June VHF Contest Total Score = 19,489

<u>Call</u>	<u>Score</u>
K4ELI	6,549
K4LDC	4,472
N4FWD	3,975
N4MNW	2,278
K4VTE	2,025
K4SHW	190

Compiled using N3FJP Software: [www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com)

## **Peachtree Road Race Volunteers Needed.**

It's time for the 2021 Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race! Once again, the Atlanta Track Club has asked amateur radio operators to help put on a safe event. This year the PTRR will happen over two days, so there are TWO days you can sign up for (and we can use your help both days!):

- Saturday, July 3rd "starting at 5:15am" "Ham Radio Operators"
- Sunday, July 4th "starting at 5:15am" "Ham Radio Operators"

All shifts will end by about 10:30am, some sooner.

Volunteers will be able to earn TWO different volunteer shirts by volunteering on both the 3rd and 4th. The track club is excited to host the safest 10K and can't do it without our many volunteers. Contact Dan - W4DT0 <[dan@ozment.net](mailto:dan@ozment.net)> for more info.

## **Steve Walls - K4ELI Test His 500<sup>th</sup> Candidate**

SCARS Volunteer Examiner (VE) Teams are hard at work as demonstrated by member Steve Walls K4ELI who tested his 500<sup>th</sup> candidate on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Assisted by fellow examiners K4LDC and KM4IKO, Steve administered the General Class exam to Shepard Christian KO4QZX, who passed his Tech exam on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and has now passed his General Class exam.

Congratulations Steve and thank you for your dedication to advancing the hobby.

Congratulations are also in order to Shepard for your upgrade.



Steve-K4ELI, Shepard-KO4QZX, Larry-K4LDC, James-KM4IKO

## **Interesting Links**

Information on meteor showers, solar flares, auroras, and near-Earth asteroids

<https://spaceweather.com/>

[Video] SDR Panadaptor

<https://youtu.be/jKqXBvsrGsl>

Is Radio RF Dangerous?

[experts-tell-us-radio-is-dangerous-emf NOT!](https://www.experts-tell-us-radio-is-dangerous-emf-not.com/)

'Tornado Alley' is expanding:

<https://apple.news/AcjneNr7mT1mQQWZ3glZDtQ>

SAR Calculator

[rf-exposure-calculator](https://www.rf-exposure-calculator.com/)

MAC New OS Rumor

<https://www.macrumors.com/2021/06/30/os-x-lion-mountain-lion-free-to-download/>

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](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/>

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



Come join us for casual conversation, informal Q&A, problem solving and occasional humiliation at the McDonalds in Hiram (in front of WalMart) near the intersection of Hwy 92 & Hwy 278.

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 ??????**



## **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](http://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:2/Date.start:2016-09-14/Date.end:2016-12-31/model:Event)

# Contest & Special Events

## 2021 ARRL Contest Dates

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

# **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 #.

### **2021 Schedule**

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

Jul 01 \* Aug 05 \* Sep 02 \* Oct 07 \* Nov 04 \* Dec 02

For more information, contact Steve Walls, K4ELI: [swalls46@att.net](mailto: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 at the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, 455 Jimmy Campbell Pkwy (Hwy 278), Dallas, on the following dates

### **2021 Schedule**

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

Jul 13 \* Aug 10 \* Sep 14 \* Oct 12 \* Nov 09 \* Dec 14

For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: [w4txa.john@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php#TEST_SESSION)

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



# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

## 2021 Calendar

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

	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"	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce
Meeting Activity	Contest Station (K3UR) Owner DX Engr.	Toroids & Baluns (N4XL)	Which Ant. Is Best (K4ELI)	Weather (K4DMF)	Last Man Standing WB4QDX	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

V2021.05

# Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society

## 2021 Calendar

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

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	07-06-2021 7:30pm	08-03-2021 7pm	09-07-2021 7pm	10-05-2021 7pm	11-02-2021 7pm	12-07-2021 7pm
Meeting Location	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce	Paulding Chamber Of Commerce
Meeting Activity	Baluns or Propagation (K4ELI)	SO2R Basics (SMW)	GRITS Ride / AM DX Contest (K4DMF/K4CGA)	Spark Gap Xmitter (N4GG)	Power Supplies (K4ELI)	SO2R Advanced (SMW)
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Club Elections	Christmas Party TBD
Hamfest & Conventions	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

This calendar is "Subject to change". Submit change request to K4ELI Steve

V2021.07

# 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@groups.io](mailto:SilvercometARS@groups.io)

Repeater:

146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: Club President  
Dan Ozment, W4DTO

Email: [dan@ozment.net](mailto:dan@ozment.net)

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