

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



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

*Newsletter Editor Wanted!* Are you creative, organized and like writing? Would you like a big paycheck and large staff? (LOL). This job is for you. It is time for me to pass the pen on to someone else. I have enjoyed being

your editor for the past 5+ years but the brain and the body are slowing down and the grandkids are growing up. It is time for me to pass on the electronic Quill.

Copies of past SKYWAVE newsletters can be found at the club website <u>http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php.</u>

Chuck DuVall, K4CGA – Editor

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



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 because it's very informal and you can bring your dinner and eat it too.

*Additional Moderators are needed*. If interested in helping out, please contact Troy at <u>troy.davis@hotmail.com</u>

#### **SCARS Community Food Drive!**



Let's keep up the good work in 2022. Monetary donations are easy to make on our website at <u>http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php</u>

**Helping Hands of Paulding County** will gratefully appreciate your thoughtfulness. For more information on this great organization: <u>http://hhpcga.org/community-support/food-pantry-clothing-donations</u>

#### <u>SCARS Media Center:</u>

Web: <u>http://www.silvercometars.com/index.php</u> Groups.IO: <u>https://silvercometars.groups.io/g/main</u> Facebook: <u>https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/2360561620926754/</u> QRZ: <u>https://www.qrz.com/db/W4RSC/</u> Info: <u>Info@silvercometars.com</u> or <u>Silvercometars@gmail.com</u>

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

#### <u>Who's Missing?</u>

Haven't seen or heard from a past club member recently? Maybe it is a good idea to check on them and make sure they and their family are alright. Maybe they have medical issues and can use some thoughts and prayers or have left town.

Maybe they have lost interest in ham radio or in the club since we have not had any face to face meetings in quite a while.

Assure them we are still active and would like to have them participate in our Zoom meeting and other activities we may schedule like field day.

#### <u>Did You Know?</u>

WB4Q0J has a DX CC cluster up and running? It can be reached by
WEB Link: <u>http://wb4qoj.no-ip.org</u>
TeleNet: wb4qoj.no-ip.org port 7373
Check out WB4Q0J'S post on the Silvercometars YAH00! group for Cluster and Filter
Commands.

## SCARS Annual Family Christmas Dinner (2021)



The 2021 SCARS Family Christmas Dinner was another resounding and enjoyable success with good food and good friendships. Unfortunately the guest of honor, Chuck DuVall K4CGA and his wife Helen KA4JMV, were unable to attend due to illness (bummer).

A total of 42 attendees consisting of 22 members, 16 spouses and 4 guests had a great time. Members in attendance:

Steve Walls	K4ELI	Neal Greggs	KC4YCM	Tommy LeBouf	K4VTE
James Akey	KM4IKO	John Reynolds	W4TXA	Brian Fredrick	N4BFG
Cheri Reynolds	K4TXA	Greg Fortune	WD5GNX	Troy Davis	K4JDA
Scott Bailey	KO4EAC	Denise Fortune	K5KIO	Keiffer Phillips	KO4QZY
Dave Fuller	K4DMF	Mark Roumillat	KF4ESP	Charles Turner	KOCZR
Ron West	<b>WB3ILX</b>	Dan Ozment	W4DTO	Joe Wheeler	W4UEM
Comella DeLee	WD4DGM	Don McMorris	AF4H	Kunal Mitra	KO4HGP
Dianne DeLee	KY4BN	Ed Rutledge	KO4BWN		

#### The following attendees were door prize recipients:

Trees (2)	Cookie Jars (4)	Flowers (4)	Gift Certificates (4)
Bea West	Kunal Mitra (KO4HGP)	Natalie Rutledge	Charles Turner (KOCZR)
Denise Fortune	Keiffer Phillips (KO4QZY)	Rebeka Reynolds	Troy Davis (K4JDA)
	Scott Bailey (KO4EAC)	Barbara Roumillat	Neal Griggs (KC4YCM)
	Mark Roumillat (KF4ESP)	Bea West	Greg Fortune (WD5GNX)





Hope to see everyone at the 2022 dinner!

### My First 90 Days As An [Almost] Ham Operator

**Days 1-30 Focus:** Learning. Get up to speed on ham radio technology, capabilities, equipment options, operational requirements, license levels. Understand how this technology serves the community, learn how the communication processes and procedures work, and meet experts.

- 1. When I realized I had no backup plan if the telephone network crashed I shopped for powerful walkie talkies and discovered GMRS. Shopped for that and discovered ham. Learned ham licenses require exams so I bought 8 books, pummeled the online practice exams, took Technician class exam a week later at something called SCARS. While there I committed to take the General exam the next time they proctored exams, 30 days later. Then, I was adopted by someone who pitted me: Steve K4ELI is my new Elmer. But he threatened to aim all his directionals at my home if I didn't double up so I did Extra same day as General. My memory faded that day, goofed on Extra, squeaked out an average of 96% for all three exams.
- 2. Joined ARRL & SCARS, got FCC FRN & call sign, started peppering my new ham friends, started my radio shootout.
- 3. Visited RHOA whose employees are enthusiasts, helpful, answered my 49 dumb questions [actually a nearly 3 hour inquisition], bought more books, gaped fancy radios on display, bemused by so many antennas on all walls. These guys know nothing just use a giant telescoping one like on my car.
- 4. Was privileged to visit home radio shacks of Steve K4ELI and Larry K4LDC and five more SCARS gave me tours of their pickup mobiles. I was engrossed, impressed as these tours proved I'm blessed to be with such experts.

**Days 31 - 60 Focus:** First Experiences. Start using ham equipment, listen to actual conversations, scan frequencies, make a contact, buy my first radio.

1. Attended Atlanta Ham Fest and talked to many patient souls who enlightened me on the finer points of equipment, clubs and public service. I noticed much of the ham world falls into groups organized by frequency bands. I helped solder together an antenna, interrogated representatives from Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS), Atlanta Radio Club (ARC) and others. I logged my first contact in a beginner's class taught by ARC who passed around a radio. I scrambled my iPhone email for something called a call sign, apparently assigned by the FCC. I CQ'd and was elated like a child to hear the instructor's response who stood a whopping 10 feet away. The light flashed on behind my eyeballs when I figured out what HT means.

#### My First 90 Days As An [Almost] Ham Operator. (continued)

- Spreadsheets, notebook, GigaParts, HRO, more questions to SCARS, I was a vacuum sucking all information into my radio shootout after which my wife wondered why her elegant dining room table was covered with a new ICOM ID-52A, Diamond X-50A, 100 foot of coax, RT Systems software, papers, SMA to BNC connector, SMA to coax jumper, books, receipts.
- 3. This is day 60 for me. Below is what I'll do next.

**Days 61 - 90 Focus:** Take initiative. Engage, start doing ham activities, make first real contacts, hit repeaters and beacons, contribute on a field day.

- 1. Listen to 100 ham conversations
- 2. Listen to 100 airport conversations [ID-52A receives ATL tower/pilot/ground]
- 3. Make 20 contacts across 2 m and 70 cm
- 4. Complete base station radio shootout
- 5. Install my first antenna
- 6. Atlanta Field Day with the amazing SCARS team
- 7. Start training for ARES, AuxComm
- 8. Submit article for publication to ARRL

Respectfully, Alain Trottier KQ4AEY

#### <u>How To Buy A Handheld Transceiver</u>

Buy based on use not looks. Ignore comfort claims as they are all plastic bricks. Weight isn't a buy factor. A home or car used HT doesn't need to be bullet/water proof but you do want IP66 [rain] or IP67 [immersion waterproof] for field, job or event work. Most HTs are 5 watts so to reach farther upgrade the antenna. I bought a Diamond X50A antenna. Connecting a jumper cable to a coax cable to a 66 inch tall, fiberglass vertical looks ridiculous in my dining room, but the difference in reception is night and day. I'll make it pretty later.

Better HTs have wide frequency range to receive. Better HTs have scanning. Simple or no screen is better for tough job or event environments. Home use doesn't need a large battery but field use needs at least a lithium 2000mAh battery. Helps to have high/med/low power settings as you can prolong battery life by operating at medium or low when you are making contacts easily. Nice if it has GPS. Do you want D-STAR?

#### How To Buy A Handheld Transceiver (continued)

I chose Icom IC-52A over Yaesu FT5DR due to D-STAR. Extra credit to HTs that let you listen to nearby broadcast FM stations or have an SD card slot. Many accessory options like desk cradle charger and an earpiece or headset can be bought separately. Make a spreadsheet to track features important to you.

Ease of use. This matters. While you'll get used to what ever sequence of buttons it takes to get something done it should cause finger blistering. Go to HRO or approach a club and ask if someone has the HT you want. They will help you like or hate it.

I ordered my HT from Ham Radio Outlet because their prices are reasonable and I can visit a brick and mortar. I shamelessly brought my new IC-52A to HRO Atlanta for a tutorial and the salesman showed me the ropes, took me outside for my handheld baptism. Hitting local repeaters made me smile like a new ham dad. Lastly, ask for opinions. I showed catalog pictures of my shortlisted radios to a dozen veterans and their feedback flipped my HT decision. I will repeat this process for my base station shootout next.

Cost Under \$100: BAOFENG BF-F8HP Over \$400: HT kings are IC-52A @ \$650 or YAESU FT5DR @ \$460

Environment Home - deprioritize rugged, waterproof, battery size QRP/portable - IP66/IP67, rugged, large battery, jumper cable if using external antenna Job or public service - events, emergencies, IP67 & separate speaker microphone

Respectfully, Alain Trottier KQ4AEY

#### SCARS 8th Annual AM Broadcast Band DX Contest

<u>Coming Soon! It's Free! It's Fun! BYO Food & Drinks</u> 0001-UTC on 01 October 2022 and ends 2359-UTC on 31 October 2022

Additional Information and Rules will be published later!

#### <u>ARRL Field Day 2022</u>



Great job SCARS Team!

I couldn't be more proud of what we just did this weekend. I also don't think I could be more tired than I was when I got home yesterday afternoon, but that's a different point. Thanks to everyone who participated; whether it was planning, cleaning, setting up, operating, operating while some of us were asleep, providing food (!!!), or just stopping by to see what we were doing.

We had somewhere around 50 people come through that building this weekend. Conditions weren't the best, but we adapted and overcame, and I believe we will end up with a great score. I talked to a lot of people who just wanted to know what ham radio was or who were new hams who didn't really know what to do next. Some of those hams had an opportunity (and confidence) to sit in the chair and key the mic thanks to the experienced guys who love to teach.

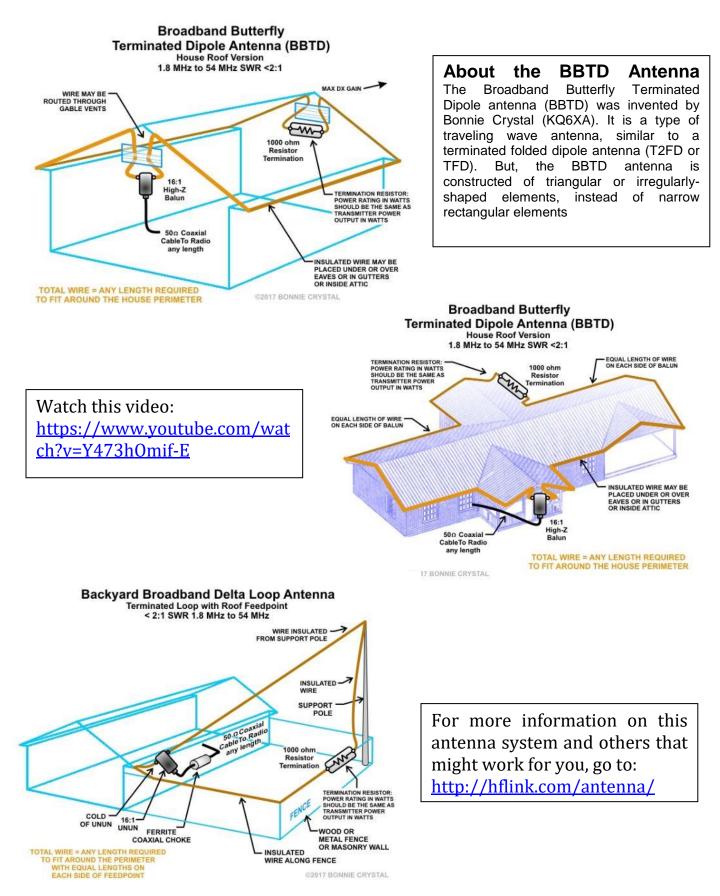
The one individual I will call out here is Cheri. Cheri, you are invincible! You are incredible! Thank you so much for all the effort you put in behind the scenes to pull together material, to contact members, and to arrange AND PREPARE food!

We need photos of the event! If you have photos, please consider sending them to me or uploading them to my OneDrive account using this link. I would love to have the group photo(s) we took before we sat down for lunch. Please send um if you have um. <u>https://ldrv.ms/u/s!AoxJYa7tpLsCg7JWvVPXPPWEajQkKQ?e=fzRpX1</u>

SCARS rocks! Thanks for coming out and thanks for all you do to make this club great!

Dan W4DTO. President

#### **Deed Restrictions Still Got You Down?**



#### <u>Paulding County CodeRED</u>

#### **CodeRED Weather Warning and Mass Notification System Information**

In an emergency, citizens must be provided and updated with accurate information. Paulding County's solution for this need is CodeRED weather warning and mass notification system. CodeRED Weather Warnings automatically deliver advanced notification of severe weather events as soon as a Warning is issued by the National Weather Service (NWS). Once an account is created, CodeRED delivers voice calls, text messages and emails to subscribed users within the direct path of the storm. Weather alert warnings may include tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flood, and winter storm warnings. Paulding County EMA also utilizes CodeRED to provide Paulding County citizens with information regarding other critical incidents, such as: hazardous materials accidents, missing persons, public health statements such as boil water advisories, and air quality issues. These messages aim to provide residents with information such as the nature of the hazard, location of the hazard, and preparedness steps that should be taken to protect life and property.

CodeRED Weather Warnings are automatically issued using a polygon methodology to interpret alerts issued by the National Weather Service to determine the exact areas affected. The system then creates a calling database of all CodeRED Weather Warning subscribers within the projected path of severe weather. Instead of traditional countybased warning systems, such as outdoor sirens, which have limitations in accessibility and functionality, CodeRED delivers voice calls, text messages, and emails to subscribed users within the direct path of the storm as determined by the National Weather Service or area of concern determined by Emergency Management personnel. This increases the relevance of the alerts being sent and reduces false alarms. With this being the case, any changes in address should also be updated in the CodeRED system.

Paulding County EMA encourages every Paulding County citizen to create an account for their home, business, child's school/daycare, whatever the case may be so that they may receive emergency alerts promptly and be able to take action to keep themselves and others safe.

You can watch a brief video about CodeRED by clicking this link: <u>https://www.facebook.com/100069524726399/videos/1042800389835398</u>

There are a couple of simple options to quickly enroll:

Click the link below and follow the steps.

https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/5FDB87C96D49

From a cell phone, text MyPauldingGA to 99411 to receive a direct link to the enrollment form on the mobile device.

# <u>NEW version of WSJT-X 2.6.0-rc1</u>

WARNING this is a pre-version that may contain bugs.

WSJT-X 2.6.0 Release Candidate 1 introduces support for the ARRL International Digital Contest; performance enhancements for FT8, Q65 and EME Echo mode; new controls and options on the GUI; and several bug fixes.

• Release\_Notes : https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release Notes.txt https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html

# <u>FT8 Digital Mode Club</u>



FT8DMC was founded in 2017 by OE6VIE and OE3SGU after recognizing a need for a club that would help newcomers and less-experienced operators to learn and improve their skill operating this fantastic mode. With more than 19,000 members receiving more than 1.4M awards you may want to check out

their site. *https://ft8dmc.eu/* 



# <u>What is VarAC?</u>

VarAC is HF/FM Digital chat reinvented. It is a FREE, modern HF P2P real-time chatting application for the amateur radio operators.

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For more information: <u>https://www.varac-hamradio.com/</u>

#### <u>Interesting Links</u>

Support Your Parks Weekend | POTA Fall Event 2021 <u>https://youtu.be/a5D8KVW4bSY</u>

New FLRIG and FLDIGI Alpha 11/05 <u>http://www.w1hkj.com/alpha/</u>

Multipsk 4.45.4 Test version 2 <u>http://f6cte.free.fr/MULTIPSK 4 45 4 test version 2.zip</u>

Ham Radio CAT, PSK31, FT8, JT9 and JT65 Interfaces <a href="http://www.xggcomms.com/Icom-Interface-Shop(2066628">http://www.xggcomms.com/Icom-Interface-Shop(2066628</a>).html

ICMultiMeter: ICMultiMeter <a href="https://github.com/armel/ICMultiMeter">https://github.com/armel/ICMultiMeter</a>

Marconi's first radio broadcast made 125 years ago <u>https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-61327062</u>

ARES Southeastern US Situational Awareness Map <u>https://www.prc-77.com/2022/07/ares-southeastern-us-situational.html</u>

## ZUMspot/Pi-Star Bring-Up and Initialization



A PDF presentation by David Hull, KC6N

A ZUMspot is an add-on board attached to a Raspberry Pi Zero (or Pi2 or Pi3) and contains a Multimode Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM) and a 10mW UHF transceiver. Basically, a ZUMspot will interface

digital transceivers using YSF, DMR, D-Star, P25 and/or NXDN to the internet and allow the users to connect into the digital world without using a local repeater.

This document covers initial setup and maintenance of ZUMspot based "hotspots" running on Raspberry PiZeroW (or Pi3) platforms using Pi-Star software. Parts I through III describe steps needed to bring up a new system. This is followed by a series of appendices that cover other topics likely to be encountered during subsequent operation.

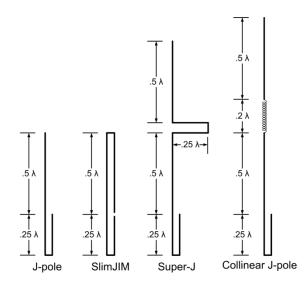
https://amateurradionotes.com/images/zumspot\_pistar\_kc6n.pdf

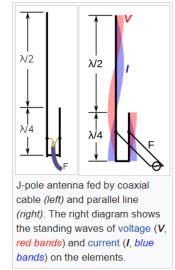
#### <u>The J-Pole Antenna</u>

The J-Pole antenna, (J Antenna) is a vertical omnidirectional transmitting that can be used for HF & VHF/UHF frequencies. It was invented in 1909 for use on Zeppelin airships. Trailed behind the airship, it consisted of a single one half wavelength long wire radiator, in series with a quarter-wave parallel transmission line tuning stub which matches the antenna impedance to the feedline. By 1936 this antenna began to be used for land-based transmitters with the radiating element and the matching section mounted vertically, giving it the shape of the letter "J", and was named the *J antenna* by 1943.

Primarily a dipole, the J-pole antenna exhibits a mostly omnidirectional pattern in the horizontal plane with an average free-space gain near 2.2 dBi (0.1 dBd). Being a half-wave antenna, it provides a small gain of around 2 dB over a quarter-wave ground-plane antenna.

The J-pole antenna can be found in several different variations; the J-pole, Slim-Jim, Super–J and Collinear J-pole. Variations are the result of design, construction and materials and will produce differences in feed point impedance, gain, take-off angle and lobe patterns.





For more information on J-pole antennas: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J-pole antenna</u> <u>https://xczcomm.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Dual-Band-2m-70cm-J-Pole-22Roll-up22-</u> <u>Antenna ARES.pdf</u> <u>https://noji.com/hamradio/pdf-ppt/noji/Noji-Article-Rollup-J-Pole.pdf</u> <u>https://www.hamuniverse.com/jpole17151210meterantenna.html</u> <u>https://www.hamuniverse.com/jpole.html</u>



Ready to join us for casual conversation, informal Q&A, problem solving and occasional humiliation? We have decided to resume our social breakfasts at least until the next pandemic comes along.

We meet at the McDonalds on Hwy 278 in Hiram (in front of WalMart), every Thursday @ 8:30am.

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 the last person leaves! Even on the Repeater or ZOOM!



#### <u>Upcoming Special Events</u>

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

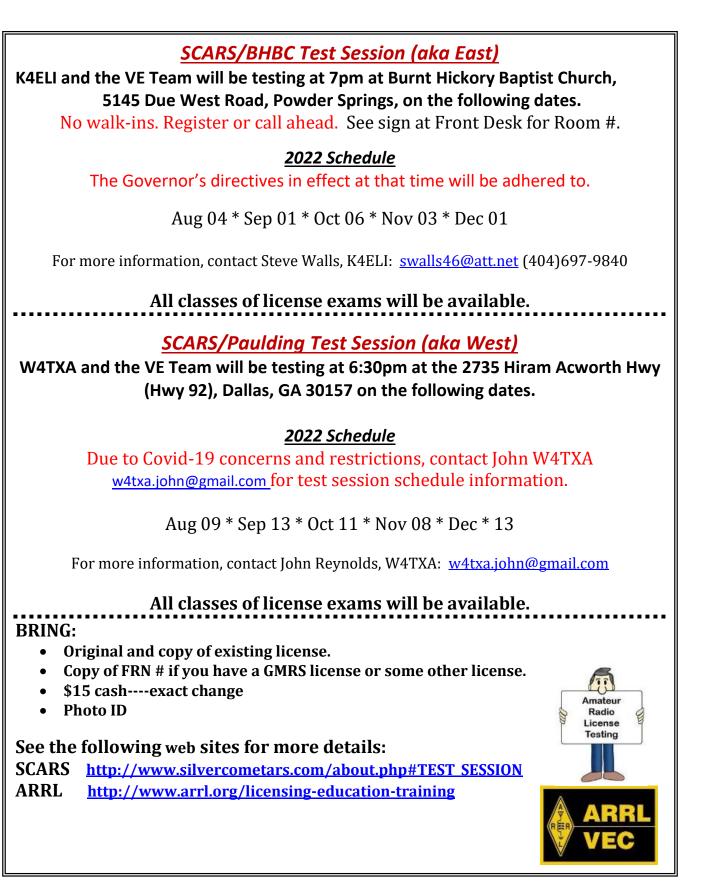
## **Contest & Special Events**

http://www.arrl.org/contest-calend	for additional ar contest and special event activities
December 2022           2-4         160 Meter           10-11         10 Meter           18         Rookie Roundup–CW	Check your emails
October 2022 17-21 School Club Roundup 15-16 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz	November 20225-7Nov. Sweepstakes – CW19-21Nov. Sweepstakes –Phone12-13EME - 50 to 1296 MHz
August 20226-7222 MHz and Up DistanceContest20-2110 GHz & Up – Round 121Rookie Roundup – RTTY	September 2022           10-12         September VHF           17-18         10 GHz & Up - Round 2           17-18         EME - 2.3 GHz & Up
June 20224-5International DigitalContest11-13June VHF18Kids Day25-26Field Day	July 2022 9-10 IARU HF World Championship
March 2022 5-6 International DX– Phone	April 2022 10 <u>Rookie Roundup – Phone</u>
January 2022 1 Straight Key Night 1 Kids Day 8-9 RTTY Roundup 15-17 January VHF	February 2022 14-18 School Club Roundup 19-20 International DX – CW

#### Additional Contest Calendars

http://www.contestcalendar.com//index.html http://ncjwecom/

#### **SCARS Amateur Radio Licensing Schedule**



#### Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society 2022 Calendar

	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:	07-05-2022 7:30pm	08-02-2022 7pm	09-06-2022 7pm	10-04-2022 7pm	11-01-2022 7pm	12-06-2022 7pm	
Meeting Location	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	ТВА	Good Question	
Meeting Activity	ТВА	TBA	AM DX Contest	ТВА	ТВА	NONE Christmas Dinner	
Additional Activities	TBD	TBD	TBD	AM DX Contest	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 V2022.0							

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STATION	Con	firming QSO	www.silvercometars.com				
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#### SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.

CONTACT US:

Groups.io Request: <u>SilvercometARS@groups.io</u>

> Repeater: 146.955 (-) (77hz)

Contact: Club President Dan Ozment, W4DTO

Email: dan@ozment.net

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