



# 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
Dec 2021 Vol 8 Number 12

*The December Meeting has been cancelled in favor of the Club Christmas Dinner.*



### In This Issue

- The Prez Sez
- Editor's Notes
- SCARS Monday Night Out
- SCARS Media Links
- Mark Your Calendar
- Community Food Drive
- SCARS Ham of the Year
- Christmas Dinner
- Podcast
- ARES - Christmas Parade
- POTA Poddy
- Interesting Links
- SCARS Breakfast
- Special Events & contests
- Club VE Schedule
- Club Calendar

*The chamber has closed our meeting facility due to the increase in COVID-19. Face-to-Face meetings have been canceled until further notice.*

## W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"

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



## **The Prez Says!**



Who is ready to return to live, in-person meetings? I know I am! We had a couple of in-person meetings this year, but we were shut down again when the Chamber closed down during the resurgence of COVID-19.

I spoke with Sandy Gamble, Vice President of Operations for the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, about when we will once again be allowed to meet at the Chamber. The decision will not be final for another couple of weeks, but Ms. Gamble said she expects us to be able to resume use of the Chamber for our meetings in January.

More on this as it develops, but I thought it would be good to start planning for our next in-person meeting!

## **Editor's Notes:**



***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 <http://www.silvercometars.com/newsletter.php>.

***Note:*** Please submit your articles to [K4CGA.GA@gmail.com](mailto:K4CGA.GA@gmail.com)

***Chuck DuVall, K4CGA – Editor***

***What do you call an apology written in dots and dashes? Re-morse code.***

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

***Additional Moderators are needed.*** Although Troy K4JDA does a great job as the moderator, his personal schedule is becoming congested and additional moderators are needed to help keep the net active. If interested in helping out, please contact Troy at [troy.davis@hotmail.com](mailto:troy.davis@hotmail.com)

## **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)

## **Mark your Calendar!**

***Check the individual websites for latest status!***

Jan 01 – New Years Day

Jan 08 - BCARC Freezefest, Locust Forest , AL

Feb 11-13 – HamCation, Orlando, FL

Feb 26 – Dalton Hamfest, Dalton, GA

Mar 26 – Sevier County Hamfest, Sevier, TN



# **SCARS Community Food Drive!**

## **Helping Hands of Paulding County**

Yesterday (11/23/2021), Steve and I delivered a \$295 check from the Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society to Reva Burks, Executive Director of Helping Hands of Paulding County! That is in addition to food contributions already made by club members. Not only was this contribution timely in that it helped Helping Hands during a busy time, it was also donated during the month that Hardy Family Automotive Group is matching donations! So, our \$295 became \$580! Way to go, SCARS (and the Hardy Family)!



While we were there, we spoke with Ms. Burks about the most effective way we can help. While they are always ready to graciously accept donations of food, toiletries, and clothing

(<http://hhpcga.org/community-support/food-pantry-clothing-donations>),

Ms. Burks said monetary donations like the one we made can go much further than tangible goods. She said Helping Hands is able to purchase food from the Atlanta Food

Bank for “9 cents on the dollar”. She added that she had just bought over 200 turkeys for about \$1 per bird.

Let’s keep up the good work as we move into 2022. We let the club’s donations slack off during the “pandemic” shutdown when we were not meeting regularly (more on that in a minute), but **monetary donations are easy (you can make a donation on our website at <http://www.silvercometars.com/about.php>)**, they also give Ms Burks and Helping Hands the resources to buy what they need, when they need it, and for a fraction of the cost we would pay when buying donations from our local supermarket.





# **Silver Comet Amateur Radio Club**

## **2021 Ham Of The Year**

### **Mr. Chuck DuVall – K4CGA**

The 2021 Ham Of The Year for the Silver Comet Amateur Radio Club is Chuck DuVall!

This is Chuck's profile picture from QRZ for those who may not know him.



Chuck is always ready with an answer to a question, a funny story, or a unique look at a solution. Chuck is one of those people who always seems to be there. There is hardly an antenna that goes up that doesn't have his blessing. He is always willing to give advice, help, or even parts to those who can use them.

If there is a new ham or a guest at a meeting Chuck makes sure they get a portion of his time in conversation. At functions he makes sure he has greeted and spoken to everyone in attendance. He is the first one on the scene if someone is in distress, many times acting as a conduit for the family to the club.

Chuck has served the Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society as both President and Board Member. He currently publishes our newsletter – a newsletter that, thanks to Chuck has become the talk of many clubs. He is also an active member of ARES and serves as the D-RATS net control operator each week in our weekly ARES net.

No matter how busy or how full his personal life is, he always makes time for the club and the people in it. Most of the time he works behind the scenes without much fanfare, but for now we're going to pull him to front and center!

Congratulations Chuck and thank you for being the extraordinary person that you are!

*Nomination by Cheri Reynolds and approved by a majority of the SCARS Board (we didn't ask for Chuck's opinion).*

## **2021 Ham Of The Year (continued)**



James KM4IKO (L) accepting the certificate from club president Dan W4DTO on behalf of Chuck K4CGA who was unable to attend due to illness.

## **SCARS Annual Family Christmas Dinner**



This year the club leadership decided to take a “shot” (get it?) at having a social gathering for our annual family Christmas Dinner.

Suspended last year due to the Corona virus, everyone was excited to get together again. Held at Rodney’s in New Hope, on December 8<sup>th</sup>. there was a great turnout and everyone had a good time meeting and greeting new and old friends.

As we approach the magic day, I hope everyone remains healthy and safe. Santa has stated that a bag of coal is a lot heavier to carry around than a new IC-705 or DSTAR radio, so don’t be naughty but be really nice.

Pictures (if any) will be published in the next newsletter.

# ***Where Did The Year Go?***

It's almost that time again? "Time for what?" you may ask. "Membership Dues" is the answer to your question.

You may want to consider paying your 2022 membership dues early before the thought gets lost in all the excitement of Christmas and New Year's.

The easiest way to pay your dues is through the club's **Pay-Pal** online service at <http://www.silvercometars.com/contact.php#Dues> or mail your check to:

Dave Fuller K4DMF  
Silver Comet ARS  
1124 Regiment Drive  
Acworth, GA 30101

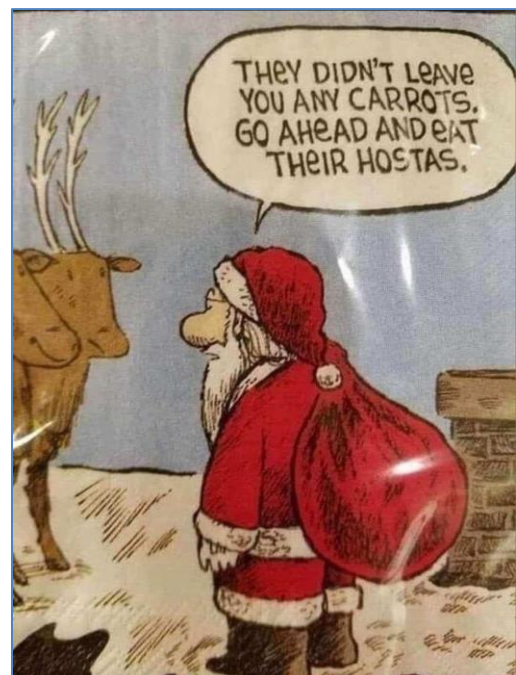


**Still Only**

Since our social meetings have been temporarily cancelled, your chances of meeting and paying our treasurer in person are pretty slim.

If you need help or more information, contact Dave K4DMF for instructions: [davenesf@comcast.net](mailto:davenesf@comcast.net)

\*\*\*\*\*



# ***Amateur Radio Podcasts***

Anytime I'm out walking or driving along (as long as my wife's not riding with me), I love listening to podcasts. For those that aren't familiar with podcasts, they are audio files, usually a series of episodes that you can download and play on your mobile device or computer. Apple and Android devices have podcast apps that let you subscribe and then automatically download the latest episodes to your device. There are probably tens of thousands of podcasts, but I want to highlight three that are focused on Amateur Radio that I really love.

## **Ham Radio Workbench**

<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>

This Ham Radio podcast deep dives on making, DIY, electronics, and technical topics of interest to the amateur radio operator. The host, George KJ6VU, discusses current developments in ham radio while introducing listeners to a plethora of topics and skills such as test equipment, radio technology, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, and more.

George always has a great group with him, and his guests and topics are always fantastic.

In the latest episode: George and crew cover some of their ideas on great holiday gifts for Ham Radio Operators.

## **QSO Today**

<https://www.qsotoday.com/>

QSO Today is a podcast about the international hobby of amateur radio also known as ham radio. Every week, Eric interviews "hams" to hear their ham radio story and what they are doing now. Many of the technologies that we enjoy today including television and radio, cell phones, computers, and the Internet were born out amateur radio hobbyists experimenting with electronics and radio in their basements and garages. Amateur radio was and still is the frontier where hams conducted electronic experiments in order to make that wireless contact around the World.

In the latest episode: Pablo Lewin, WA6RSV, has an interest in radio astronomy and scans the heavens with his hydrogen line radio telescope using an SDR or software defined radio. Pablo had an interesting aviation career where amateur radio weaved in and out of it since the late seventies. Now in aviation retirement, he does stand up comedy and creates content for the film and television industry. WA6RSV tells his amateur radio story in this QSO Today.

## **Solder Smoke**

<https://soldersmoke.com/>

Bill and Pete talk about all sorts of Amateur Radio topics. Kind of like listening to a rag chew between two extremely knowledgeable Hams, where you can learn and absorb tons by just listening.

In the latest episode:

Pete's Bench:

PSSST Super Simple SSB -- 7 Transistors. Switching IF Module:

PSSST Details: [https://www.n6qw.com/PSSST\\_20.html](https://www.n6qw.com/PSSST_20.html)

DC RX.

KWM-1 Resurrection "Shame Shelf".



# **Amateur Radio Podcasts**

## **How to make things work:**

<http://n6qw.blogspot.com/2021/10/how-to-make-things-work-tribal.html>

Diode Switching or Relays?

(Why the T/R diodes in the BITX 20 amplifiers?)

National Receiver.

## **Bill's Bench:**

Farhan's Talk to RSGB got me thinking of VHF 2 meter AM.

2 meter Benton Harbor lunchbox madness. SuperRegens Super Strange.

I broke my Maplin AF Sig Gen in the process. Fixed it.

Playing with MMRX again. Put in 6 kHz ceramic filter. Sounds great SSB and AM.

Swept IF with noise, TinySA, and NanoVNA. Need better noise gen.

Mod to listen with TinySA (on blog).

Thinking of 17 meter /12 meter Dual-Bander IF around 21.4, VFO around 3.41 Mhz. Thoughts?

Sweeping double half lattice filter from Swan 240. UGLY.

## **Bonus: Hardcore History**

<https://www.dancarlin.com/hardcore-history-series/>

I love history, and I think this podcast is probably my favorite of all podcasts.

How did a multi-hour long show that consists of nothing more than a host talking about history ever become wildly popular? It's got something to do with Dan Carlin.

He's been called the king of long-form podcasting and "one of the greatest storytellers in the world". His distinctive voice and style is one of the most instantly recognizable in the medium and with hundreds of millions of downloads, his shows are some of the most listened to podcasts of all time.

Carlin's work weaves historical information with deep questions and Twilight Zone-style twists to help illustrate the power and continuing relevance of the past. Drama, extremes, empathy and vivid examples of both the highs and lows of humanity dominate the narrative. It's a trademark mix of elements that has been entertaining listeners since 2005.

Latest Series: Supernova in the East - WWII from the Japanese perspective. Just fascinating

In summary, podcasts are a fantastic way to learn and keep up to date on things ... just be careful - they can be addictive!!

***Contributed by Troy K4JDA***

Yep, it's a Ham Radio.



# ***ARES Members Assist In Christmas Parade!***



T'is the season! Paulding County ARES was invited by Paulding EMA to provide communications services for the Dallas Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 4.

Several members of SCARS volunteered to assist using HT's and the 146.955 repeater, insuring the parade was a resounding success.



## **POTA PODDY & More!**



***HFJ-350M Toy Box Original Comet Portable 9 Band Telescopic HF Antenna with 160M Extension Coil.***

**Available on Amazon and at most amateur radio supply outlets.**



***1 Person Pop-up Weather Pod***

**Available on Amazon and most major sporting good stores.**



***SOTA/POTA Portable Center Loaded Take It Along (UAFI) Silver Bullet Mini, 40 to 10 meters, Mega Tripod.***

**Available at [wolfrivercoils.com](http://wolfrivercoils.com)**





# **Interesting Links**

**SDRangel – Open-source TX & RX Software Defined RadioWin4IcomSuite**

<https://www.sdrangel.org/>

**New VarAC 2021 2.6.2**

<https://www.varac-hamradio.com/download>

**Change Color on your Pi-Star Dashboard**

<https://youtu.be/rP-DFHYtRq0>

**Ham Radio CAT, PSK31, FT8, JT9 and JT65 Interfaces**

[http://www.xggcomms.com/Icom-Interface-Shop\(2066628\).html](http://www.xggcomms.com/Icom-Interface-Shop(2066628).html)

**Installing RMS Express on Linux with Wine**

<http://k6eta.com/linux/installing-rms-express-on-linux-with-wine>

**IC7100/IC7300 control**

<https://www.maniaradio.it/en/ic7100bkt.html> and

<https://www.maniaradio.it/en/ic7300bkt.html>

**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/>

**Shortwave Central**

<http://mt-shortwave.blogspot.com/>



# Giggles!

Today's date is both a palindrome and an ambigram: you can read it from left to right or right to left, as well as upside down.


12022021



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



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 Thursdays @ 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 one leaves!  
Even on the Repeater or ZOOM!**



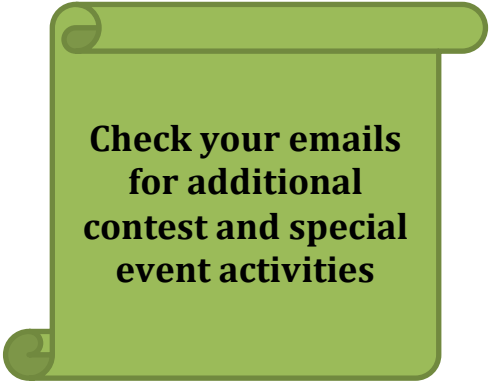
## **Upcoming Special Events**

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](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://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 #.

### **2022 Schedule**

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

Jan 06 \* Feb 03 \* Mar 03 \* Apr 07 \* May 05 \* Jun 02

Jul 07 \* Aug 04 \* Sep 01 \* Oct 06 \* Nov 03 \* Dec 01

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.**

.....

## **SCARS/Paulding Test Session (aka West)**

W4TXA and the VE Team will be testing at 6:30pm at the 2735 Hiram Acworth Hwy  
(Hwy 92), Dallas, GA 30157 on the following dates.

### **2022 Schedule**

**Due to Covid-19 concerns and restrictions, contact John W4TXA**  
[w4txa.john@gmail.com](mailto:w4txa.john@gmail.com) **for test session schedule information.**

Dec 14 \* Jan 11 \* Feb 08 \* Mar 08 \* Apr 12 \* May 10 \* Jun 14

Jul 12 \* Aug 09 \* Sep 13 \* Oct 11 \* Nov 08 \* Dec \* 13

For more information, contact John Reynolds, W4TXA: [w4txa.john@gmail.com](mailto: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](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	"ZOOM"	"ZOOM"	Who Knows	Good Question
Meeting Activity	Baluns or Propagation (K4ELI)	POTA, SOTA, ISS	Bob Heil Video AM DX Contest	POTA (K4ELI)	Power Supplies (K4ELI)	NONE Christmas Dinner
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

V2021.12

# 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)

---

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