



**Ham Radio**  
In the 21st Century



**W4RSC "RADIO SILVER COMET"**

**ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB**

# SILVERCOMET SKYWAVE

Silver Comet ARS, INC NEWS

PO BOX 1873 Hiram Ga. 30141 501 ( C ) ( 3 ) Not for Profit

Late Aug 2015 Number 1 Vol 7



## Greetings : President SEZ

Greetings again, I trust everyone is staying as cool as possible since we have had our share of warm weather and mosquitos this year. I am personally looking forward to the Fall weather again so I can work on antennas and other outdoor projects in some relative comfort. If you attended the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in our nicely air conditioned meeting room, you heard all the statistics on 2015 Field Day event. I am sure you'll agree that the operation of the GOTA station went quite well. Thanks to Steve - K4ELI and all who made that adventure so successful and very memorable. I hope those who attended the August 4<sup>th</sup> club meeting found something useful in the "Antenna Tips" presentation that I gave. The presentation was intended to invoke some thoughts about your own antenna situation and maybe help you improve your antenna installation. Just in case you missed the opening part of the presentation, I wanted to point out again that a sprinkler head and tennis balls have absolutely nothing to do with antennas and a good ground. It was just to get your attention. Please check out the new [www.silvercometars.com](http://www.silvercometars.com) web site if you have not done so already. Ruth - KK4BWH (now WA4MDQ) has graciously donated a lot of time and effort to get it back on the web. She has done a wonderful job. If you have any comments or suggestions, please forward them to Ruth or any of the club officers. Please mark December 12<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the club's 2015 Christmas Dinner. Our meeting room at the Chamber Bldg. been reserved and details will follow soon on the meal arrangements. At the September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Steve - K4ELI will be presenting the nuts and bolts of successfully sending and collecting "QSL Cards". He is now a QSL GURU! Unfortunately, I will miss the meeting as Helen (KA4JMV) and I will be out of town celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. 73's Chuck, K4CGA

## In This Issue

- Late Aug President SEZ
- 2015 Calendar Updated
- History of QSL's 1935
- Breakfast CREW Bus Stop Café Dallas 9am every Thursday
- 1st Annual AM Broadcast logging contest Silver Comet ARS



**American Radio Relay League**  
The National Association For Amateur Radio  
**AFFILIATED CLUB**

|                                       | January                                      | February                            | March                                | April  | May   | June                                       | July                              | August                            | September                                    | October                                      | November  | December                               |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Meeting 1st Tuesday Date/Time:</b> | 01-06-2015<br>7pm                            | 02-03-2015<br>7pm                   | 03-03-2015<br>7pm                    | 04-07-2015<br>6:30pm                         | 05-05-2015<br>7pm                           | 06-02-2015<br>7pm                          | 07-07-2015<br>7pm                 | 08-04-2015<br>7pm                 | 09-01-2015<br>7pm                            | 10-06-2015<br>7pm                            | 11-03-2015<br>7pm                                 | 12-12-2015<br>6pm                      |
| <b>Meeting Location</b>               | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg            | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg   | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg    | Rodneys BBQ on Dallas/Acworth @ Due West Rd. | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg           | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg          | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg            | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg            | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg                 | Paulding Chamber of Commerce Bldg      |
| <b>Meeting Activity</b>               | PC Antenna Analyzer for HF by K0CZR & WD4PAQ | D-Star Radio Primer by WB3ILX/W4DIO | DX Hunting & New HF Station by K4ELI | Dinner Meeting & Rag Chew Session            | Club Repeater and how EchoLink works WB4QOJ | Field Day Primer & Planning                | Field Day Review                  | Antenna Primer & Discussion K4CGA | K4ELI and how to QSL with the ARRL Bureau    | Start of AM DX Broadcast Club CONTEST WB4QOJ | AM Broadcast Contest Results and Winner Announced | Holiday Christmas Dinner December 12th |
| <b>Additional Activities</b>          | WA7BNM Contest 2015 Calendar                 |                                     |                                      |  |   | <b>GOTA</b><br>GET ON THE AIR<br>FIELD DAY |                                   |                                   | Club Fall Picnic at K4ELI's September 13 4pm | RULES at Meeting Save your AM Broadcast logs |   |  |

(Subject to change. Check club website.) Don't Forget NETS on 146.955 Rpt. Tuesday 7:30 PM IBM Radio Club Net Thursday 7:30 PM Paulding ARES/Skywarn NET

**W4RSC "RADIO SILVER COMET" Serving Paulding County and West Metro Atlanta**  
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## History Back Ground for K4ELI QSL Card Presentation and ARRL QSL Bureau

How to Count Countries Worked: A New DX Scoring System By Clinton B. DeSoto  
Assistant to the Secretary, A.R.R.L.



Reprint of article from October 1935 QST



This piece has been started half a dozen times in the past five years. It has been the subject of more celebration and contemplation and tabulation and plain downright misery than one cares to recall. It is presented now - in a form far from what we should like it to be - only to silence the insistent demand that has come down through the years. "How about a list of countries of the world?" "How do I count countries worked?" "Are Tasmania and Australia separate countries?"-and a hundred variations of this latter. With the world WACing at a terrific rate these days, faster by far than ever before, the number of countries worked is increasingly becoming the criterion of excellence among outstanding DX stations.

How, then, do we count countries worked? The simplest way, of course, is to check against a standard list of countries of the world. Well, back in 1932 we began the preparation of such a list. We laid down fairly definite rules as to what constituted a country, and proceeded to tabulate the countries of the world. When we had reached several hundred, with the end not yet in sight, we hollered, "Whoa!" and decided that there must be some other better method. We knew that there were not more than 150 countries in which amateurs had ever been worked; it might be possible to list only them. But we had no assurance that amateurs would not encamp in some of the many remaining countries and thus render our list obsolete. An even more pertinent disadvantage was that it seemed impossible to even list all the countries in which amateurs had been worked to date; new countries were always popping out, astonishingly, like jack-in-the-boxes. Able cooperation was enlisted - Eric W. Trebilcock of Moon-ta, South Australia, Arthur W. Braaten, W2BSR, O.M. Carter, W9ADN, and others sent us lists they had prepared. We got lists of countries actually worked from such outstanding stations as W8BKP and WITW-W1CMX-W1BUX and others. But it seemed no list was ever complete; even if brought up to date for a moment, it rapidly became obsolescent. And amateurs were still clamoring for a list of countries of the world!

The next attempt occurred in 1934, in an endeavor to rationalize and unify action on WAC applications by member-societies of the I.A.R.U. A tentative list of some 150 countries, limited strictly to continental mainland boundaries, was prepared and submitted to the member-societies. Even this list, restricted as it was, was not satisfactory; indeed, we almost immediately decided that the only satisfactory solution of this particular problem was a map of the world showing continental boundaries, which was prepared, approved by the membership, and published on page 41 of the November, 1934, issue of QST.

But this still left the problem of counting countries worked. Now, we could publish a list of all the "countries" of the world, but to be useful it would occupy seven or eight pages in QST, pages which are vitally needed for other material, and even then its utility would never reach a very high percentage. And the probable wear and tear on that COPY of QST is enough to make one shudder!

The better plan, it seems to us, is simply to give the general rule we follow in deciding whether a country is a "country," together with some pertinent examples, in order that each amateur will have enough information concerning standard practice to be able to prepare his own list of countries worked and have it uniform with other lists.

The basic rule is simple and direct: *Each discrete geographical or political entity is considered to be a country.* A few moments' consideration will serve to show that this is the only workable rule.

It is obviously incorrect to count prefixes alone (except for such purposes as the International DX tests where, paradoxically, confusion means simplification) because many places having the same prefix are quite widely separated geographically. In addition, confusion develops when a country changes its amateur prefix, with the result that an amateur might claim two countries worked whereas only one is proper. It is obviously incorrect to accept either geographical or political divisions alone, as immediately the most glaring inconsistencies appear. The only general solution that comes anywhere near to solving the problem seems to be to reduce the definition of "country" to the smallest common denominator - a single unit in the world's geographical and political proportions. This has the added advantage - from the ham viewpoint - of creating a long list, offering the widest possible realm of achievement; and who will fail to find that an attractive feature?

Tasmania and Australia are separate because of the geographical division. ZS, ZT, and ZU are counted as one country, because there is no geographical and political distinction; ZE, on the other hand, is a separate country. Scotland and England are individual countries, as are the Irelands. Sumatra, Java and Borneo are separate, as are Celebes and New Guinea. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are each separate.

The Federated Malay States are one country, having a common government and being geographically connected.

Some distinction between *islands* and *island groups* is necessitated. Island groups, constituted by several islands commonly grouped under one name and under the same political control such as the Hawaiian Islands, the Tonga or Friendly Islands, the Sandwich group, etc., are regarded as one country. Where these groups are under different governmental control, they are subdivided into as many countries as there are governments. Individual islands, such as Bounty Island, Trinidad, Ascension Island, Amsterdam Island, etc., are regarded as separate countries. The principal place where this differentiation is likely to cause trouble is among the Pacific Islands, but even here the rule is found to apply remarkably well.

The few examples given will be found to illustrate the working of the method quite effectively. If any questionable points arise, A.R.R.L. headquarters will be glad to offer a ruling.

### **PROPOSED DX SCORING PLAN**

Now we come to a somewhat different, although an allied, subject, broached by N. M. Patterson, W4EG. He is perturbed, and it seems many DX men agree with him, over that fact that under the countries-worked plan one VK QSO from America counts for as much as working all eight VK districts. Similarly, the European ham with one lone W QSO gets as much credit as another who has worked all nine call areas. "That there is a whale of a difference you will readily see," he writes through Director Caviness.

In view of this situation, W4EG proposes that there be created a "rule for counting DX, to be known as the DX Score." This score will be computed by taking the number of districts worked in each country, and adding it all up into a grand total. For example, we'll suppose that W8BKP, who had when last reported worked 123 countries, counts nine W call areas, eight VK districts, six Spanish districts, etc. On the basis of adding the figures for these countries alone, the score would be 143; probably the grand total would be well over two hundred.

This seems to us to be an entirely rational suggestion, far more so than many that have been perpetrated. For ten years or so it has been impossible to work any *farther*, in terms of terrestrial miles; the only room for expansion is to work as many *places* as possible. The first recognition of this fact resulted in the inauguration of the WAC certificate. Totaling the number of countries worked followed naturally. This new proposal, expanding and improving the countries-worked idea, seems to be a logical next step. Indeed, following along this line of thought, one foresees the time when DX will be counted in cities worked, or stations per square mile, or something even more fantastic!

But for the present the DX Score idea looks pretty hot. It has the major beauty of simplicity. Just total up the districts worked, and there you are! We expect it won't be long before a lot of QSL cards will bear the legend, "Continents worked: 6; countries worked: 66; DX score: 92."

What do you say, old man?

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## ***W4RSC "Radio Silver Comet"***

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

**.....Save the Date and Time:.....**



**Breakfast in DALLAS**  
**"Bus Stop Café"**  
**Thursdays 9am**  
**Great Food Great**





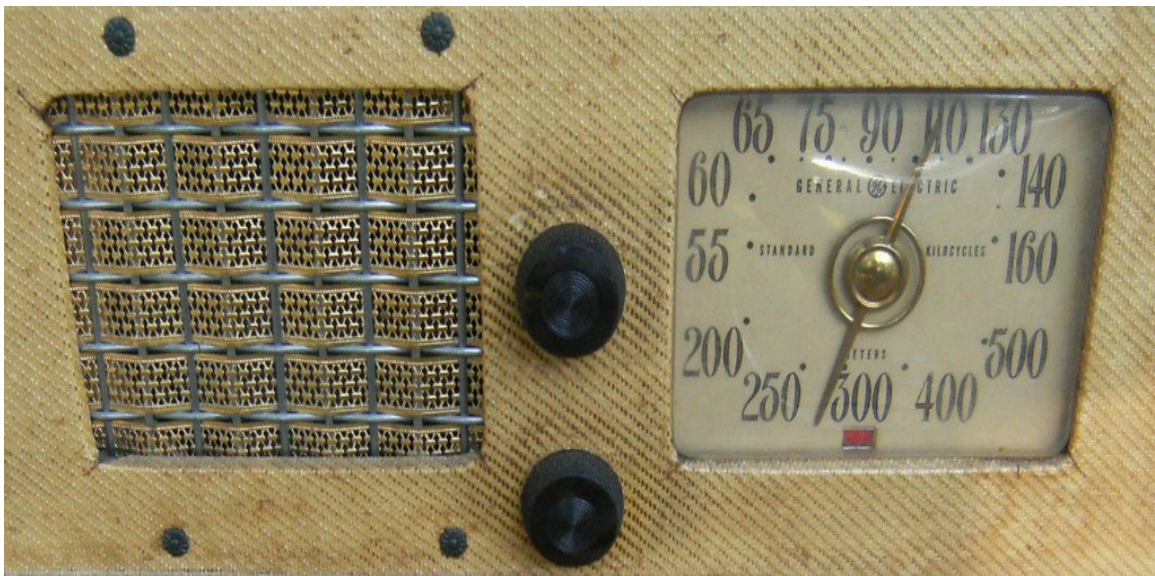
## *AM Broadcast DX      1<sup>st</sup> Annual AM Broadcast Logging Contest for Silver Comet ARS members*

Years ago when Radio AM Stations started in the 1920,s it was really fun and also a lot of what family would gather around to catch the latest news or radio dramas. Many Radio Stations wanted to hear from there listeners on reception reports. You could send a report to a local or distant station on what you heard. The station would respond back to you with a confirmation letter or card. The movie theaters were great for matinees or features, BUT, AM Radio filled the family room in the evenings as TV does today.

So, getting started is easy. You can use any AM Broadcast Radio or even your General Coverage receiver in your Ham Rig. The best antennas are long wires or some kind of antenna to grab the most RF as you can. In our part of the world AM broadcast is spaced at 10 kHz between stations. Start at the lower frequencies 540 and move to the top 1700. If you hear a station and do not know what station it maybe search at the FCC Website. <https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/am-query-broadcast-station-search> Local channels limited to 1000 watts are 1230 to 1490, Regional stations are 20,000 watts and the big power house stations are 50,000 watts like WSB 750 AM Atlanta / WSM 650 AM Nashville.

So let's look at the Rules for our Silver Comet ARS 1<sup>st</sup> Annual AM Broadcast Logging Contest EASY...Listen/Log and Report. Tune your radio (evening's best for long haul) afternoons and morning for local and regional. Log what you hear over a 15 min time log. Keep your log Date/Time and what you hear during the month of October, then STOP October 31 2015 and submit your log via email to [wb4qoj@gmail.com](mailto:wb4qoj@gmail.com) and [k4cga.ga@gmail.com](mailto:k4cga.ga@gmail.com) . At the November meeting we will announce the winner of the most stations logged. If there are more than one reporting with the same count then we will give the same prize to all that TIE. Chuck K4CGA and Lee WB4QOJ will come up with the prizes, the prizes will be announced at the October Meeting and awarded at the November meeting. Main idea is HAVE FUN and always enjoy your hobby, Where Ever it takes you.

73;s Lee WB4QOJ



# W4RSC

Paulding County, GA - EM73 - ITU Zone: 8

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## Contact Us

Yahoo Groups Request

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| STATION | Confirming QSO |       |      |     |     |     |      | Pse QSL <input type="checkbox"/> Tnx QSL <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
|---------|----------------|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|--|
|         | DAY            | MONTH | YEAR | UTC | MHz | RST | MODE |   |  |
|         |                |       |      |     |     |     |      |   |  |

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