



San Antonio
Radio Club
Centennial
1919 - 2019
www.w5sc.org



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PRESS RELEASE

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB CENTENNIAL

San Antonio, Texas, June 25, 2019—Members of the San Antonio Radio Club (SARC) are celebrating the Centennial of their founding in 1919. When one remembers that Guglielmo Marconi only invented radio telegraphy in the late 1890s and that the first trans-Atlantic transmission occurred only in 1902, one realizes that the San Antonio Radio Club, then known as the Bexar County Radio Association, was a very early organization when it comes to radio. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), a nationwide organization of amateur radio operators, was only organized in 1914. SARC became an ARRL affiliated club on January 2, 1920. San Antonio's 1920 population figure was 161,379, and it was the largest city in Texas per 1920 historical population records. Hence, SARC was an early, forward looking amateur radio organization not just in San Antonio, but also Texas.



SARC's Centennial

SARC is doing several different things to commemorate its Centennial. The first was to showcase its Centennial at its annual ham convention in greater San Antonio. Normally, it is called Radio Fiesta, but this year on January 12, 2019, it was called Centennial Radio Fiesta. An appropriate banner was displayed and commemorative coins, pins, and patches were introduced. All of these things incorporate its Centennial logo designed by member David Finell, N7LRY. Monthly, SARC is publishing items related to its Centennial in its **Bexar Wire** newsletter. It will put its Centennial banner up at Field Day 2019 location in Shavano Park, a part of the greater San Antonio metropolitan area, for its 17th year at that location. SARC is also holding Special On Air Events on the 2nd Saturday of the middle month of each quarter in 2019 at the new San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT). When on air contacts are made Centennial Commemorative Cards are made on request.

In its files, SARC has a picture from the 1927 West Gulf Division Convention of ARRL for which SARC was the sponsor. The amateur radio operators at that convention had the photograph taken in front of the Alamo. Per the photograph's legend it was the winter convention. On Feb 17, 2019 (winter again), SARC set out to re-create that picture. Twenty-one members assembled at the Alamo, and Paul Guido N5IUT took the picture. The first following picture is the original color 2019 photograph that Paul N5IUT took, the second is the 1927 picture, and the third is the original color photograph converted to black and white and then cropped to match the style of the 1927 picture.



Picture of the San Antonio Radio Club at the Alamo in San Antonio, TX, commemorating the Centennial of SARC. Left to Right: David Finell N7LRY, Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW, Rich Roudebush N4DCA, Jon April KI5CSK, Jim Griffith W5XP, Gary Harrison KB5KST, Emilio Ramirez AG5QP, Bob Stevens K9ING, Fred Cruz KI5BYG, Jon D. Arbogast KG5YAR, Bill Craft KD2HIQ, Richard Elder WB5ACN, Steve Cerwin WA5FRF, Lyndon Woodall N5LYF, G. Brian Clark WB5DRI, Rosendo Guzman N5YBG, Ken Nichols KD3VK, Virginia Check K5TQK, Mike Check K5UCQ, Tom O'Brien AB5XZ, Paul Guido N5IUT



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Anyone may become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. There are over 725,000 licensed hams in the United States, as young as 9 and as old as 100. The San Antonio Radio Club conducts regular approved Federal Communications Commission licensing written examinations and offers classes several times a year so it's easy for anybody to get involved right here in the greater San Antonio metropolitan area before the end of SARC's Centennial Commemoration. All members of the public are invited to join SARC for Field Day 2019 on Saturday-Sunday, June 22-23, 2019, to learn more about amateur radio and see it in operation. For more information about Field Day, contact Joe Bruno, Chairperson, Field Day Committee, at 210-363-9500 or visit w5sc.org, which is the San Antonio Radio Club's website.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Tom O'Brien at 210-481-3443 or email at tpobrienjr@earthlink.net.

The San Antonio Radio Club (SARC) was founded in 1919 by amateur (HAM) radio operators intrigued by the new technology of wireless communications, amateur radio. SARC is a non-profit corporation of the State of Texas and has a letter of IRS tax exemption. It is made up of HAM radio operators licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to use designated radio frequencies in accordance with their rules and regulations.