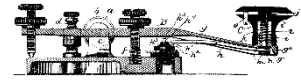




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2020, No. 9
September 2020

“Tell me again how much money you saved on that antenna.” By Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Being stuck at home with the Covid restrictions left me with too much free time on my hands. While researching HF antennas, I came across an interesting article on end fed HF antennas, it looked stealthy enough in an HOA neighborhood.

After scanning through the ads in QST magazine I decided to make a purchase of an MFJ 1/2 wave, 80-10M end fed antenna, but with everybody locked down with Covid, they were not in stock. So next, I decided to build my own. They looked easy enough, all I needed was a few parts to make a balun and some wire and I would be good to go.

But as luck would have it, I came across what looked like an end fed antenna in sad condition at a HAM estate sale. It was cheap enough, so if all I got out of it was a balun core I would have been ahead. So, having plenty of time, I figured it would give me something to do to repair it and make it operational.

I took the antenna apart, cleaned all the connections, replace the broken end insulators and checked the balun connections and decided to put it up temporarily and test it with my MFJ antenna analyzer.

The September 10 meeting meeting will be 7 PM on line via Zoom. Check either the web page, your E-mail or the newsletter below for sign in information.

Wow, the antenna tested OK, the SWR was low enough across multiple bands and everything looks like it should work well.

My wife took one look at the antenna strung across the backyard patio and said, “You’re not going to leave that thing there, are you?”

“No, it’s only a temporary installation so I can test it, besides, it’s not high enough.”

My plan was to relocate the antenna across the diagonal of the yard, attached the far end to a tree and the other to the corner of the house. As I was removing one end of the antenna at the patio, I missed the last step of the step ladder. I came down hard but didn’t think much of it, luckily, I didn’t fall into the shrubbery around the patio, so all was good. I continued on to remove the other end. All was going well; I was able to get the far end, high up into the tree and connected so now the antenna was in its final position. Later that night I tested it and it worked great, only needing a minimal antenna tuning.

I bragged to my wife about how much money I had saved by rescuing this antenna. All I invested in it was a few new connectors and some time. Two days later, my knee started hurting, hurting is probably an understatement, I was in pain.

My wife had an appointment with her orthopedic surgeon the next day for a problem she had with her knee and I asked her to check if they could fit me in. **(Continued on Page 6)**

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB
PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
9	R		N5YBG		San Antonio, TX		September
TO							

To W5SC

Dear members and friends,

We did an outstanding job on the Robert (Bob) Rodriguez Scholarship Fundraiser. I would like to thank everyone who made it possible Bill Craft KD2HIQ, Jeff Boyes ND8B, and Gianna Fang-Guzman KI5KGS great team work.

We will continue to have our virtual meetings on Zoom and have our monthly presentations online. Last month presentation was great, thank you Richard Elder WB5ACN.

We are working on trying to do a Live Fox Hunt in November, at McAllister Park. Tom O'Brien AB5XZ has a transmitter and we are working on all the details for the event.


Remember Stay Home, Stay Safe and Get on the RADIO!

Good DX

Rosendo Guzman – N5YBG

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month.

San Antonio Radio Club

Minutes

7:00 p. m., August 13, 2020

Zoom Conference Meeting

President Call meeting to Order At 7:04 pm

Introductions by President Rosendo Guzman N5YBG

The primary purpose of the meeting is Drawing of Raffle

Minutes of the Last Meeting were approved without objection by unanimous consent

Officer Reports:

President

Appointments

Newsletter Editor: Jimmie Neff WJ4M

Webmaster: **Bill Craft** KD2HIQ

Education and Training: David Finell N7LRY

Emergency Communications: Joe Bruno, W5AUQ

Executive: Harold Fleischer AE5AS (By Constitution)

Finance and Review: Paul Guido N5IUT

Field Day: Joe Bruno W5AUQ

JOTA: John Douglas W5NZK

Membership: **Bill Craft** KD2HIQ

Nominating: inactive; no appointments.

Radio Fiesta: Bill Craft, Jeff Boyes, Joe Bruno, and Rosendo Guzman

VEC: Pat Knight AD5BR

Centennial and Scholarship: Tom O'Brien AB5XZ

Raffle winners:

1st Place Icom IC-7610: AE5AS, Harold Fleischer

2nd Place Icom ID-5100A Deluxe: W6TIR, Jim Nelson

3rd Place Icom ID-4100A: N5IUT, Paul Guido (Mr. Lucky)

4th Place Icom IC-2730A: W4HCW, Williamson

Vice President Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW – Presentation by Richard Elder WB5ACN on Double Bazooka Dipole Antenna.

Next month: Harold Fleischer and the NanoVNA.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB Minutes posted in club newsletter at the club website.

Treasurer – Jeff Boyes, ND8B provided the current state of club's finances.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff reported The August 2020 *Bexar Wire* newsletter was sent out on August 11, 2020.

The deadline for each issue is the Monday before the first Thursday of the month.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, Website – New online classes resource posted in the Classes section. Groups.IO: updated membership, Sent out ZOOM meeting info. Mail chimp – Sent announcements about fundraiser.

Facebook Statistics: 53 Views, 11,271 Reach, and +7 Followers

Website Statistics for July, 2020 - Sessions 774 – a 14% decrease. Page Views: 1429 Down 14%. New vs. Returning visitors: New 59%, Returning 41%. Device Breakdown: Desktop 57%, Tablet 5%, and Mobile 38%. Traffic spiked related to raffle advertising more recently.

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ as July 31, 2020: 106 Paid members, 16 Free, 10 Family Members, 70 ARRL Members, a total of 132 members.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS. Notes from Board of Directors Meeting held August 6, 2020.

- JOTA: Board approved cancellation due to COVID-19
- Radio Fiesta 2021: Board approved cancellation due to COVID-19
- Raffle: Board approved proposal to proceed with drawing for winners at 8/13/20 general meeting, even if financial loss occurs.
- Logo Committee dissolved.

Education and Training – No Report

Executive – Rosendo Guzman N5YBG – Drawing for Robert A. (Bob) Rodriguez. Raffle completed. Winners announced, pick-up/shipping of equipment already arranged.

Emergency Communications – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ: No Report

Field Day – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ, No Report

Finance and Review – Paul Guido N5IUT No Report

JOTA – John Douglas, W5NZK: Club canceled participation in JOTA.

Silent Key Committee – Bill Craft - Estate Sale Company will sell off the equipment that was not sold in previous garage sale. August 13 – 15, 9 am to 3 pm.

Radio Fiesta – Eventbrite: page on hold. Radio Fiesta 2021 cancelled by Board of Directors due to COVID-19. Will notify ARRL of cancellation.

VE Team – Pat Knight AD5BR - This is the August 2020 Bexar Wire report for the VE team.

We do not expect to have an August test session due to the city’s COVID-19 policies. The library is not allowing any group meetings (besides early voting) at this time. If the policies improve to allow it, we hope to have our next regular VE session October 24 at 10 AM at the Great Northwest Library, 9050 Wellwood.

Pre-register at hamtest@gmail.com

Logo Committee – Pat Knight AD5BR: Committee dissolved by Board of Directors

Centennial Commemoration (Temporary) - Tom O’Brien, AB5XZ – No Report

Scholarship Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Looking at Scholarship Descriptions on ARRL. Will solicit volunteers and circulate ideas for scholarship description.

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) - None

New Business (Must be presented as a motion): None

Announcements for The Good of Amateur Radio: None

Meeting Adjournment @ 8:25 PM

From the President, Topic: SARC Meetings

Time: 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Thu, until Nov 12, 2020, 5 occurrence(s)

Sep 10, 2020 07:00 PM

Oct 8, 2020 07:00 PM

Nov 12, 2020 07:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/83373352062?pwd=MUx2RmsrUjZ2TGNoeVZMSkZCY2ZQZz09>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83373352062?pwd=MUx2RmsrUjZ2TGNoeVZMSkZCY2ZQZz09>



Volunteer Examiners at Work



This is the September 2020 Bexar Wire report for the VE team.

Thanks to American Legion Post 300, Post Commander Steve Troutt KE5WYV, and Canteen Manager Cynthia Gilsinger, we were able to hold a VE session outdoors under their covered pavilion. Twenty-two candidates earned Technician licenses, four earned General upgrades, and one earned an Extra upgrade. Congratulations!

Thank you to all the Volunteer Examiners and one assistant who helped.

We will try to arrange another VE session soon (while our usual library location is closed due to COVID-19 policies.) Contact the VE team at hamtest@gmail.com to get on our waiting list for testing or with any questions.

73,

Pat Knight AD5BR

210-273-5927 iPhone



Not Bill Craft, KD2HIQ (Alamy Stock Photo)

After hassling with my insurance company for a month I was able to get an MRI. The MRI confirmed that I indeed had severely torn my meniscus and needed surgery.

Now that I've had the surgery my wife, of course, asked, "Tell me again how much you saved on that antenna?"

She did remind me that she had suggested that I get someone to help me, but with this whole Covid thing, you know you just want to keep separated and safe. So now looking back at it looks like my inexpensive antenna has cost me almost \$1,500 in copays, but of course, it's nothing in comparison to the pain of tearing my meniscus and having surgery.

Oh, the adventures of HAM Radio....

More News Notes

Arecibo Observatory Reflector Dish Damaged When Cable Snaps

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2020-08-13#toc03>

Amazon's Kuiper System gets FCC's OK

The FCC has approved the deployment plan of Amazon's Kuiper satellite system which is designed to provide high-speed broadband internet service to government, business and consumers using 3,236 satellites. The system is to include customer terminals, gateway earth stations, software-defined network and satellite control functionality, among other components. Kuiper has

stated that it can commence service after the first 578 satellites are launched. There will be five phases of deployment. For space-to-Earth communications, Kuiper plans to operate on 17.7- 18.6 GHz and 18.8-20.2 GHz. For Earth-to-space communications it will use 27.5-30.0 GHz. Amazon has already posted 104 new job openings in support of the low-earth-orbit project. Many of the jobs are in various parts of the engineering field and in wireless communications and are based in the states of Washington, Virginia and Georgia. —Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 2232, August 7, 2020

Silent Key Committee

From web master, Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

The web site now has a silent key page [<https://w5sc.org/silent-key/>] that provides information about thinking ahead and providing forms to document what you have.

SARC does not directly buy any SK equipment, we provide a service to help loved ones dispose of equipment. The service consists of information, consulting and possibly disposal of equipment by donation.

We encourage you to plan ahead and make those hard decisions ahead of time so those who are left don't end up dumping your equipment in the trash. Not everyone plans ahead, most us try to ignore the fact that at some point our health may fail or we may be called to meet our maker.

The goal is to help fellow hams and their families deal with this in their time of need. They do not have to be members of SARC for us to help. We offer our services to the ham community to benefit other hams and their families.

The committee can be reached by emailing SilentKey@w5sc.org

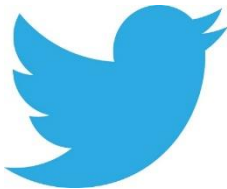


SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

The saradioclub Group.io is being used to publicize SARC business meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes. Members of the saradioclub Group.io can and have asked each other technical questions or sought assistance.

The saradioclub Group.io is a closed group. To become a member, go to saradioclub.groups.io. (You may need to have a Groups.io account.) You will then need to select *Apply for membership in this group*. This generates a message. SARC members can expect approval to join the saradioclub Group.io in probably less than 24 hours.

SARC Tweets



Reminder: there are two active Twitter accounts for the San Antonio Radio Club. They are @SARadioClub and @ARadioFiesta.

The @SARadioClub is being used to publicize SARC meetings. It can be used for other things like promotion of VEC testing and classes.

When work again commences the @ARadioFiesta will be used for the January, 2021 Radio Fiesta.

SARC members are encouraged to follow both Twitter accounts.

SARC Facebook



There is a San Antonio Radio Club – SARC (@saradioclub) Facebook Page.

The newsletter editor is making posts about SARC meetings and other activities. Any Officer, Committee Chairperson, or member who believes that they have information that should be posted to this page should contact the newsletter editor using the contact information for the newsletter editor on page 2 of this newsletter.

SARC members are encouraged to follow this Facebook Page

SARC SLACK



There is a San Antonio Radio Club Slack team – w5sc.slack.com.

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the w5sc.slack.com team for SARC. He has also established some channels. Think of the channels as topical areas.

To join send an email to Paul Guido, N5IUT, at radioteacher@gmail.com. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

License Testing Dates for 2020

February 22, 2020
April 25, 2020 **Cancelled**
June 27, 2020 **Cancelled**
August 22, 2020 **Done!**
October 24, 2020

Times and locations along with required document information can be found on SARC’s website.

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) organization so all of the Volunteer Examiners in SARC are duly authorized Volunteer Examiners of ARRL’s VEC.

SARC has a website:

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
JC Smith N5RXS

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

Cancelled for 2020

SARC Meeting Dates for 2020

Radio Fiesta 2021

January , 2021
Sadly Radio Fiesta 2021 has been cancelled due to Covid-19

- June 11, 2020
- July 9, 2020 (Via Zoom)
- August 13, 2020
- September 10, 2020
- October 8, 2020
- November 12, 2020
- December – No meeting

Meetings are held at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216 at 7:00 p. m. Room is available at 6:00 p. m. for supper.

Come early and eat with other members

Field Day 2021

(Pending)

Where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.