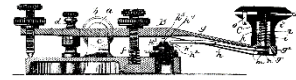




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC

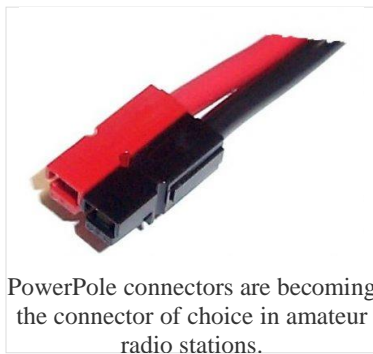


2020, No. 10 October 2020

Securing PowerPole connectors

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I



PowerPole connectors are becoming the connector of choice in amateur radio stations.

used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to [check out this YouTube video](#). They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.

When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks

complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.

Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the [Elecrafft-KX mailing list](#). Here are the best tips from the thread, [Securing Anderson Power Poles](#):

- Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!
- Dave KOEDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.
- Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning - that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing - use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.

The October 8, 2020, 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.

(Continued on Page 6)

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB
PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

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

To W5SC

Hello SARC Members

I hope all of you are staying well. It is definitely a life challenge to balance some appearance of a normal life and avoiding the COVID virus.

Our annual election of officers will be held during our November virtual Zoom meeting. Thanks to all our officers, who agreed to continue on with their prospective positions for another year.


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

Good DX

Rosendo Guzman – N5YBG

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Rosendo Guzman N5YBG
 President, San Antonio Radio Club
 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
 Editor
 210-563-2121
jneffjr@sbcglobal.net

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

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., September 10, 2020
Zoom Conference Meeting

President Call meeting to Order At 7:01 pm
Introductions by President Rosendo Guzman N5YBG
The primary purpose of the meeting is Raffle results
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

Presentation by Will Price on software tools for decoding digital signals. How to process and decode the odd digital signals you find on the airways.

Vice President Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW – No report

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes posted on club newsletter.

Treasurer – Jeff Boyes, ND8B – Reported by Rosendo Guzman. Revenues: Raffle \$5,564.53. Expenses for Raffle: \$4,202.82. Profit for the Raffle was just over \$1,360.71.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff reported the September 2020 *Bexar Wire* newsletter was sent out on September 09, 2020. The deadline for each issue is the Monday before the first Thursday of the month.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, Website – Reported by Rosendo Guzman on behalf of Bill Craft.

Updated JOTA & Radio Fiesta pages to cancel events. Groups.IO updated membership, Sent out ZOOM meeting info Mail chimp – Added new members – Sent out email for fundraiser.

Facebook Statistics 332 Views, 27,156 Reach, and 50 Followers

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/meeting/tZcucOqrqzkqHNYImPtjJoDpvEycckKGF92Hm/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrrTwpGdGXsB-FRpwqA4_Cb-nwmHpfgo1ktRLVFyp5bSfmlMdbMbFUN_6J

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83373352062?pwd=MUx2RmsrUjZ2TGN0eVZMSkZCY2ZQZz09>



Volunteer Examiners at Work



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

Thanks to American Legion Post 300, Post Commander Steve Troudt KE5WYV, and Canteen Manager Cynthia Gilsinger, we were again able to hold a VE session outdoors under their covered pavilion. Six candidates earned Technician licenses, three earned General upgrades, and one earned a General license (not an 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

Securing PopwerPole Connectors (Continued from Page 1)

- Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart
- Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as [Daindy Plastic Welding Rods](#). Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.
- Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.
- Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

I posted these suggestions to [my blog](#) and got a few more great suggestions:

- *Tom KB8UUZ*: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.
- *Bruce NONHP*: I use MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) replacement to clean my circuit boards after soldering. A single drop of MEK on the junction between the two halves of the PowerPole shell will fuse them. It can be broken with a sharp tap but not accidentally. It will set and dry in seconds and should be applied after the shell pieces are put together.

I think these are all great suggestions. I think that I'm going to try the cotton swab method. While reading them, another thought occurred to me. I haven't tried this yet, but I'm thinking a little drop of hot glue on the roll-pin hole might work, too.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to keep his PowerPoles together, he likes to teach ham radio classes and operate CW on the HF bands.

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

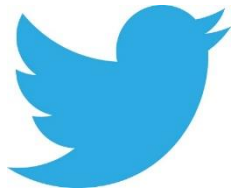


SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

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.

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.

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-233-8863

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

SARC Meeting Dates for 2020

- January 9, 2020
- February 13, 2020
- March 12, 2020
- April 9, 2020 **Cancelled, Zoom meeting on line instead at 7 PM. Check E-mail**
- May 14, 2020 **Via Zoom on-line.**
- 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

License Testing Dates for 2020

Go to Hamtest@gmail.com if you want to schedule a test.

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.

Emergency Communications

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

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air

Cancelled for 2020

Radio Fiesta 2021

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

Field Day 2021

(Pending)

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