



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2021, No. 01 January 2021

FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

(From ARRL Bulletin, 31 December 2020, via Harold Fleischer, AE5AS)

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was "too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.

In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

The R&O can be found online in PDF format at, <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf>.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the pro-

Zoom meeting Thursday, January 14, at 7 PM. Check E-mail for meeting log-in information.

posed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, "ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service." The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 - the so-called "Ray Baum's Act." Information on Ray Baum's Act can be found online in PDF format at:

<https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ141/PLAW-115publ141.pdf>.

"After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated," the FCC said in the R&O.

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Dues Notice

2021 Membership dues are now \$15. Dues can be paid securely using PayPal through our website.

<https://w5sc.org/membership/>

You can also download our application and pay by mail.

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB
PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
01	R		N5YBG		San Antonio, TX		January 2021
TO							

Hello SARC Members

Welcome back, hope you all had a great holiday season. I was eager to see 2020 leave and 2021 arrive, remember the good things about last year. But we have at least one reason to give thanks. We saw two vaccines made available in record time. The stock market made records before sinking but then rushing back. A good New Year's resolution – I'll become more active in my local amateur radio club.

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

Rosendo Guzman – N5YBG

Bexar Wire

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

San Antonio Radio Club Meeting Minutes There was no December 2020 meeting.



Volunteer Examiners at Work



This is the January 2021 Bexar Wire report for the VE team.

Next test session

We do not plan to have a VE session in January. We will try to arrange VE sessions for 2021, but anticipate that our usual library location will still not be available for a while 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

FCC Reduces Application Fees (Continued from page 1)

"We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated."

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption "where none presently exists."

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

"[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public," the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called "Ray Baum's Act" requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. "Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules," the FCC noted. "As we have noted previously, '[w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect

to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"While the Ray Baum's Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory

fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act," the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, "once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated." NNNN /EX

Trading Post

Did you know we have a TRADING POST classified section on our website? <https://w5sc.org/classifieds/> Yes, and it's FREE for members to use. Items are listed for 30 days by default, but can be extended by request to webmaster.

Does it work? Yes most have sold everything posted. However, remember your audience...Hams. So, will your car or boat sell here? Maybe not, but your antenna or tower will. Since we are not having Radio Fiesta in January, you can post and sell your stuff for FREE. Recommendations, add picture, manufacturer, model number in description and of course contact info and price.

The Magic of Six Meters

Want to Learn About the Magic Band? There is a Free PDF book about 50 MHz ham radio band (Submitted by Gregory Drezdson, WD9FTZ) The PDF book "Capture the MAGIC of Six Meters" by Jim Wilson, K5ND, is available for free download. It really does not take much on six meters — your existing HF+6-meter rig along with a simple antenna, even a dipole, will work. In this book, you will find out what the author knows about dipoles that work along with how

to build one of your own. This book will also provide plenty of insight into how you, too, can "Capture the Magic of Six Meters." It covers propagation, equipment, software, antennas, awards and contesting, as well as assistance in finding the magic.

Download the free PDF from: <https://www.k5nd.net/2020/08/capture-the-magic-of-six-metersebook>

Capture the MAGIC of Six Meters



Free
Down
load

Note: From the Web site... If you'd rather read the book online along with lots of links to additional information, you can find it at [6 Meter DXing Guide – Getting Started on the Magic Band](#). You can also find a presentation at [Six Meter Presentation @ ARRL Learning Network](#). Lots of ways to get this information and get on the band.

Thanks to Bill Craft, KD2HIQ for this article – ED.

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

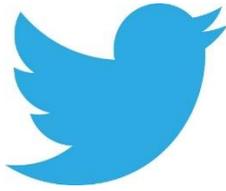


SARC has had a Groups.io. Its name is saradioclub.

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

Emergency Communications

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

License Testing Dates for 2021

There will be no VE testing session in January. Due to Covid restrictions the normal testing site is not available. The VE Team will schedule tests as sites become available. 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.

SARC Meeting Dates for 2020

- January 14, 2021
- February 11, 2021
- March 11, 2021
- April 8, 2021
- May 13, 2021
- June 10, 2021
- July 8, 2021
- August 12, 2021
- September 9, 2021
- October 14, 2021
- November 11, 2021
- December – No meeting

Meetings are normally 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. **In-person meetings have been suspended pending the virus. Meetings will be on-line via ZOOM.**

Field Day 2021

(Pending)

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

Radio Fiesta 2021

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

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air
Pending Covid restrictions for 2021