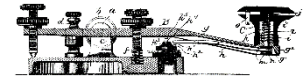




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2021, No. 04 April 2021

In this issue:

- **How Amateurs Accomplish the Impossible (preparing for emergencies)**
- **K5LBJ, a High School club that promotes Amateur Radio**
- **No Zoom Meeting for April**

How Amateurs Accomplish the Impossible During Disasters by Ron Hashiro, AH6RH



The media is full of summary reports of how amateur radio operators responding to disasters seem to overcome insurmountable obstacles and accomplish their mission of getting the message through to the destination. Ever wondered why an amateur radio operator has a better chance of getting through when "high technology" radio systems fail?

The answer is very simple. TEAMWORK! As a resource within the community, amateur radio operators are bonded by a brotherhood (sisterhood?) that is simple as the beginning of time...we look out for one another and extend a helping hand in times of dire need.

During a disaster, dozens of amateurs will scan the bands looking for signs of a signal from the handful of hams trapped at the affected scene. When such a signal is found, every resource from outside the affected

area will be brought to bear on the signal to establish reliable contact. High-powered amplifiers, directional antennas, sensitive receivers and cross-band radios are just a few of the techniques that hams use to establish and build that reliable contact, conserving precious emergency power for the hams stuck at the disaster scene.

All of this outside teamwork can be thwarted if you and your station is less than par. Good communications is as strong as the weakest link and as the one operating under less than ideal conditions, it is possible that you may wind up as the vital station holding the weakest link. Taking time to stock a few provisions and building up some operator skills will go a long way in performing your end of an "impossible miracle".

1) Make sure you have spare antennas, coax and connector adapters to build or rebuild your station. Even something as inexpensive and unexciting as a j-pole made from 300 ohm TV feeder ladder line will blow away the lame duck performance from any rubber ducky antenna. A ribbon J-pole rolls up nicely into a sandwich bag to put in your backpack, yet can be taped up against a glass window for maximum VHF or UHF performance.

2) Take the time to arrange for emergency power. Marine, wheelchair or RV batteries are favorites for powering 12 volt transceivers but are common enough to be low in cost compared to other emergency power systems. **(Continued on Page 5)**

Meeting April 7, 2021 will be at Blanco BBQ 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 David Finell, N7LRY, will do a program on "How To Solder." NO ZOOM MEETING FOR APRIL

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB
PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

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

Hello Fellow Hams!

So, after having meetings on Zoom for a Year. We are now going to start meeting in person at the Blanco BBQ.

I want to thank everyone who made it possible. Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW has been doing a great job of having presentations for the Zoom meetings. I also want to thank Bill Craft KD2HIQ for keeping our website up to date and sending out notifications. Jimmie Neff WJ4M, for keeping us informed on the newsletter. Jack Bannin N5JLB for doing a great job taking club minutes while on Zoom, and the guy with all the money Jeff Boyes ND8B. Tom O'Brien for heading up the scholarship committee. Harold Fleischer AE5AS for keeping the logistics in check. Joe Bruno W5AUQ for planning and executing all aspects of Amateur Radio at Field Day operations. Again, thank you, what a great team to have.


Remember Wear a Mask 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.

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., March 11, 2021
Zoom Conference Meeting

President Call meeting to Order At 7:00 pm

Introductions by President Rosendo Guzman N5YBG

The primary purpose of the meeting is Radio Fiesta.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

As there are no changes, additions, or deletions to the proposed agenda, it is approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President

The primary purpose of the meeting Radio Fiesta and Field Day 2022

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 Committee: Tom O'Brien AB5XZ

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz KF5ZHW – Program: Dr. Jack Nilsson, N8NDL, New Antenna Design and the Technology Behind It.

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB: Minutes posted on website in club newsletter.

Treasurer – Jeff Boyes, ND8B provided a summary of the club's financial status.

One bill paid since last month: Rosendo Guzman, \$16 Zoom invoice.

Outstanding Bills:

Trailer License Plates

City of Schertz (Radio Fiesta Deposit)

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff reported the March *Bexar Wire* newsletter was sent out on March 10th, 2021. The deadline for each issue is the Monday before the first Thursday of the month.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, Website – Posted newsletter, Groups.io – Updated membership list. Mail chimp – Meeting notice, Zoom, Dues Notice. Twitter.

Facebook Statistics Pages Views from January 2 – January 29 100 Total Page Views 47%

Website Statistics - Sessions 2015 (up 138% vs. previous 30 days). Page Views 4220 (up 114% vs Previous 30 days). New vs. Returning Visitors – New 89%; Returning 11%.

Device Breakdown - Desktop 70%, Tablet 5%, and Mobile 25%

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ as of 2/28/2021: 98 Paid members, 0 Free, 21 Family Members, 41 ARRL Members. **Total** number of of members: 119

Chairman of the Board – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS: No Report

Education and Training – David Finell N7LRY: No Report

Executive – Rosendo Guzman N5YBG

- Radio Fiesta has moved to June for RF2022.
- The Bob Rodriguez Scholar Raffle scheduled for September 9, 2021. Prizes: (3) Yaesu 991A and (1) FT-891 HF/6M

Emergency Communications – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ: No Report

Field Day – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ: Where to have FD2021. Scouted pavilion at Shavano Park; too costly. Looking for alternate location. If not, then a different portion of Shavano Park location.

Finance and Review – Paul Guido N5IUT: No Report

JOTA – John Douglas, W5NZK: No Report

Silent Key Committee – Bill Craft KD2HIQ: No Report

Radio Fiesta – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ: No Report

VE Team – Pat Knight AD5BR

Next license exam session

We do not plan to have a VE session in March. We hope to arrange VE sessions for April and June 2021 but anticipate that our usual library location will still not be available for a while due to early voting and COVID-19 policies. Contact the VE team at hamtest@gmail.com to get on our waiting list for testing or with any questions.

You can look for other test sessions by doing a zip code search at

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

FRN now required before exam session

That ARRL web page talks about an FRN number being required. If you know someone who is not a ham yet who wants to take a license exam, let them know that they should follow that page’s instructions to obtain an FRN before going to an exam session. Hams have an FRN on their ham licenses.

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

Scholarship Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – Held a Zoom meeting and call to Bob Rod, followed by a draft document sent to ARRL Foundation. ARRL Foundation prelim feedback received; another draft is in the works.

Nominating Committee – Inactive

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

New Business – Lloyd Swartz suggested returning to in-person meetings. He will check with Blanco BBQ on availability of meeting room.

Announcements for The Good of Amateur Radio: None

Meeting Adjournment @ 8:45 PM



Volunteer Examiners at Work



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

Next license exam session

We will have outdoor VE sessions under a covered pavilion on April 24 and June 26, with no walk-ins. Contact the VE team at hamtest@gmail.com to register, or with any questions.

FRN now required before exam session

If you know someone who is not a ham yet who wants to take a license exam, let them know that they should obtain an FRN before going to an exam session. Hams have an FRN on their ham licenses.

NEW FCC \$35 application fee (new licenses and renewals) is not yet in effect. ARRL expects that it will go into effect this summer. That fee will go directly to the FCC. We still will collect a separate \$15 VE session fee that offsets ARRL's costs to process license session paperwork and postage.

73,
Pat Knight AD5BR

How Amateurs Accomplish the Impossible During Disasters (Continued from Page 1)

3) Stock up on alkaline batteries. As hurricane season approaches, be stocked up on alkalines, especially AA and D cells. They are surprisingly cheap at the large discounters such as Sam's Club or Costco. Try to standardize the battery appliances in your home to use either of these two types to get the most for your money.

4) Get an SWR meter or an antenna analyzer. It's hard to transmit full power into an antenna if it isn't a good match. It's best to find out and correct it before you go on the air than to risk damaging your RF finals.

5) Practice your message passing and NCS skills. It's been shown time and time again that a new operator will often need about five net sessions to feel comfortable as a radio operator handling messages. There's a

certain rhythm to handling messages or being an NCS. Like learning to ride a bike or play a musical instrument, it's one of these skills that can only be mastered by participation and interaction.

Take advantage of the EARC nightly net to practice running a net as an NCS. It's better to be proficient before an emergency than to pressure out and grow weary as the emergency unfolds. Don't worry about sounding less than 100% when you get started. We've all got started at sometime and each one of us didn't sound polished on Day One. So don't sweat this detail. Give the Net manager a call and sign up.

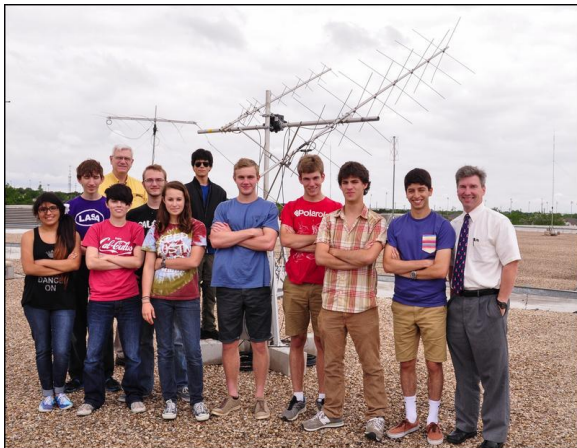
6) If you've been hemming and hawing about buying a fifty watt VHF or dual-band mobile, here's a good reason. Much of the local communications work during an emergency will be done via simplex work. To be effective from the disaster scene, a

mobile with fifty watts will perform much better on simplex overcoming the terrain than a walkie that puts out one to five watts. Here's the perfect excuse (er...reason) to convince your spouse that you really need to bring out the credit card. After all, you are being proactive about the safety and well-being of your family and your neighborhood, of course...

As you can see, it doesn't take much to tip the odds in your favor. Take an assessment of your situation, make a checklist and promise yourself that by the end of the month you'll have these simple things underway. With five NCS sessions under your belt and a few items tucked away you'll feel much better the next time you hear the civil defense sirens sound that you can accomplish "the impossible" rather than be struck with fear and frustration.

Don't delay. Start today!

(Permission given to reproduce the above article in club newsletters provided credit is given to the author and the EARC (Emergency Amateur Radio Club) Wireless Dispatch. From Hawaii.)



K5LBJ Club members in front of their satellite antennas

K5LBJ, A Club Station That Promotes Amateur Radio Among High School Students

From a basic amateur radio station provided by the ARRL Education & Technology Pro-

gram to the construction of a satellite tracking/communication station, students in the Amateur Radio Club at Liberal Arts & Science Academy in Austin, Texas have experience with a full menu of Amateur Radio modes. Now in its 10th year, the club has added satellite communications capability

Over the 2013 - 2014 school year, class members assisted in building a satellite tracking/communication station to expand into satellite modes. The project would be a means for completing the MAREA (Mars Lander Amateur Radio Robotics Exploration Activity) project, which sends robot commands embedded within Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) signals, which are relayed via the International Space Station digipeater. This allows students to experience the thrill of bouncing command signal through an orbiting spacecraft to simulate controlling a robot on the surface of Mars. Club members also download weather data from the NOAA weather

satellite and display it on a monitor in the school's main hallway.

. When the club was formed, LBJ High hosted an advanced academic program called the [Liberal Arts & Science Academy](#) (LASA). In 2007, LASA became its own high school co-located on the LBJ campus. While celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2014, the decision was made by club members to officially change the name of the club to reflect its operation as a part of the Liberal Arts & Science Academy High School.

As such, in April 2014, K5LBJ became the "**LASA**" High School Amateur Radio Club. We continue to be proud of our callsign which represents our club's heritage and Texas roots. Whether operating as LBJ or LASA High, we are K5LBJ. Ultimately, we just want to be a leader in assisting new Hams to learn the excitement of the hobby.

Originally issued **KE5BBZ**, the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club was formed in April 2004. (The Founding Students were Noah Kalish, KD5VDO, David Broockman, KD5ZNC.) At that time, we also became a member of ARRL's "Big Project", now known as the Education & Technology Program ([ETP](#)).

Over time, the Amateur Radio club provided an avenue to form an Amateur Radio class at LASA. Students are guided by their teacher, **Ronny Risinger**, [KC5EES](#), and our

Elmer, **Joe Fisher**, [K5EJL](#). Many students have learned about this uniquely fun and important skill over the years.

The club competes in the Spring/Fall "School Club Roundup" where schools are challenged to make as many contacts as possible in 24 hours throughout a week. K5LBJ is proud to have placed 1st in the High School division in 2006, 2010, 2014, 2017, and 2019. Students set up their satellite station and allow others such as elementary school children to talk to the International Space Station. The club station was featured on the cover of the ARRL Technician License Manual.

Students usually operate before school (7:30-8:30 a.m. CST) or during lunch (normally 11:40 a.m. - 12:40 p.m. CST). If you would like to **arrange a sked**, e-mail club Trustee, Ronny Risinger, at ronny.risinger@austinisd.org.

Ronny says: "If you make a contact with us, please QSL. We love to look at them and be reminded of all the wonderful places/people we've made contact with."

Note: The physical address of K5LBJ is [7309 Lazy Creek Drive, Austin, Texas 78724](#), however QSL correspondence should be directed to the club's trustee at the license address: **LASA High School Amateur Radio Club** 803 Blue Jay Way, Round Rock, TX 78681, USA.

Editor's Note: The above was compiled from ARRL and QRZ.com articles by Ronny Risinger, KC5EES.

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.

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.

If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

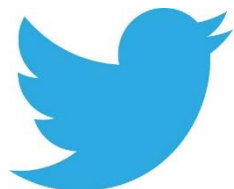
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

1. The groups.io calendar has a schedule of Zoom meetings and access codes.
2. The calendar can be accessed directly from the club web site <https://w5sc.org/events-calendar/> NOTE: it is the same groups.io calendar.

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.

Emergency Communications

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

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:
David Finell, N7LRY
Instructor

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. **As of April 8, 2021, the in-person meetings have been reinstated!**

License Testing Dates for 2021

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 has a website:

w5sc.org

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

Field Day 2021

(Pending, the search is on for an alternate to the Shavano Park location.)

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

Radio Fiesta 2022

January, 2022
Sadly Radio Fiesta 2021 was cancelled due to Covid-19. Be watching for news about Radio Fiesta 2022.

JOTA

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air
Pending Covid restrictions for 2021