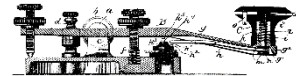




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2021, No. 07

July 2021



San Antonio Radio Club Field Day 2021

This Field Day was a bit different from previous ones at the Shavano Park location. Just before setup day the club was given permission to use the beautiful, new pavilion next to the Shavano Park government offices. With lots of room and two huge “ceiling” fans to cool things down, all agreed it beat the old tent by a long shot. By mid-morning Saturday final preparations were well underway. The beam, in what seems an annual occurrence, gave some problems. The stainless steel bolts and nuts had become frozen together and some had to be cut off. A quick trip to buy new bolts and nuts and the beam was assembled and on the trailer tower. By early afternoon all last-minute challenges were met and stations started operating.

The HF bands were certainly not optimal but contacts both phone and digital came steadily until about 2:30 AM Sunday when it seemed like someone threw a switch and it went silent.

Meeting July 8, 2021 will be 7 PM at Blanco BBQ 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602 Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, will talk about software defined radios.

Later in the wee hours 40 meters opened up briefly and a few phone contacts were made. A station from Japan was heard fairly loud, pretty unusual for 40 meters with a wire antenna, but we couldn't break the pileup to make contact.

Around 180 contacts were made with stations from Hawaii to New England and from Canada to Australia, even a station in France.

We logged about 75 visitors and operators in the sign-in book. Among them were The Honorable Robert Werner, Mayor of Shavano Park, Lee Cooper, W5LHC, Vice Director of the ARRL West Gulf Division and Stuart Wolfe, KF5NIX, ARRL South Texas Section Manager. Drone pilot Lee Besing, N5NTG, visited with his drone and did some drone photos and a video of the site. You can see his photos and others by checking the W5SC.org website and click on Field Day under Events.

A reporter from Texas Public Radio (TPR) visited and did a story on their web site. We also were featured in a broadcast news story by TPR reporter Jerry Clayton. You can see one of the stories here: <https://www.tpr.org/arts-culture/2021-06-28/local-amateur-radio-club-participates-in-national-field-day>

If you click on the “radio” tag under the written story you can hear the 45 second broadcast version.

It was a successful Field day given the club's primary goal; have fun, be safe and eat barbeque.

SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB
PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

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

Hello Fellow Hams!

SARC Field Day 2021 had a great turn out. Got to see some new participates and some old friends. The new pavilion and facilities at Shavano Park were great with its BIG FANS really kept the bugs away. I want to thank every one of our members who participated and our wives.

It was the first time running (2) station on Winlink with Vara HF and Ardop, Lloyd KF5ZHW and myself were able to send out messages using different RMS location or gateways.

We also had special visitor from the West Gulf Vice-Director Lee H. Cooper W5LHC, from our South Texas Section Manager Stuart A Wolfe KF5NIX, from the City of Shavano Park Mayor Robert B Werner, from San Antonio Martin Herrera N5WSU and from San Antonio Radio Club Robert A Rodriguez K5AUW.

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
jineffjr@sbcglobal.net

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

Meeting Minutes
7:00 p. m., June 10, 2021
Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

President Call meeting to Order At 7:00 pm
Introductions by President Rosendo Guzman N5YBG
Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

- There being no changes, additions, or deletions to the proposed minutes, they are approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President

The primary purpose of the meeting is Field Day 2021
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

- No report

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB

- Minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jeff Boyes, ND8B

- No report

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff

- The June *Bexar Wire* newsletter was sent out on June 09th, 2021.

Webmaster – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

- Website – Posted newsletter, added Tailgate page.
- Groups.io – Updated membership list. Updated calendar.
- Mail chimp – Meeting notice, Zoom.
- Web Site Statistics - Info Not Valid
 - o Desktop 70%, Tablet 5%, and Mobile 25%
 - o
- Facebook Statistics
 - o Last 28 days: May 2 to June 2: People Reached – 468. Post Engagements - 52

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

- As of 5/31/2021: 106 Paid members, 1 Free, 21 Family Members, 66 ARRL Members, a total of members 128

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

- No report

Education and Training – David Finell N7LRY

- No report

Executive – Rosendo Guzman N5YBG

- Email is ready for San Antonio Media for Field Day 2021
- June 24-25: Media releases to daily newspapers.
- June 25-26: Send reminders to all daily media
- Use social media hashtags #ARRLFD #ARRL #HamRadio #AmateurRadio
- News Advisory will go out on June 16.
- Space Bulletin ARLS006: ISS to be in Cross-Band Repeater mode for field day. The ARISS cross-band repeater uplink is 145.990 MHz (67 Hz tone), with a downlink of 437.800 MHz

Emergency Communications – Joe Bruno, W5AUQ

- No Report

Field Day Briefing by Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

- June 25-27, 2021
- First objective is to have fun safely.
- Lots of opportunities for participation at in all aspects of the event.
- BBQ served at 6 PM
- All who want to can bring their equipment. If known in advance, the equipment can be included in the plan.
- Contacts and other information collected will be reported for the ARRL contest, but contest is not the primary goal.
- Tuesday, June 15: Update software on PCs. Volunteers needed.
- Friday, June 25 Setup:
 - o 3 PM: pull equipment from storage
 - o 4:30 PM: setup at Shavano Park, set up tent, mark antenna locations, tables, etc.
- Saturday, June 26:
 - o 8:00 AM: Load out equipment from storage
 - o 9:30 AM: Setup equipment
 - o 1:00 PM: Begin radio operations (Field Day start time)
 - o 6:00 PM: BBQ dinner
- Sunday, June 27 tasks:
 - o 8:00 AM: Breakfast tacos
 - o Late morning: Tear-down begins
 - o 12:00 PM: Depart Shavano Park
 - o 1:00 PM: Off-load equipment to storage
- Internal UHF comms on 446.025 MHz simplex. Alternate: 446.075 MHz simplex

Finance and Review – Paul Guido N5IUT

- No Report

JOTA – John Douglas, W5NZK

- Will be participating on Saturday October 16th 2021 for JOTA at Boy Scout campground

Silent Key Committee – Bill Craft KD2HIQ

Radio Fiesta Tailgate

- Had some traffic on June 5th at Encino Library. Donated around \$171.00 to the library
- Perhaps another in September, before Belton does their event in October.

VE Team – Pat Knight AD5BR

- We plan to have another exam session the morning of June 26, Field Day, but NOT at our Field Day location. Contact the VE team at hamtest@gmail.com to sign up for that session or with any questions.

Centennial Commemoration (Temporary) - Tom O'Brien, AB5XZ

- Sold \$20 of Centennial swag at tailgate event.

Scholarship Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ

- Letter is done for Rosendo Guzman N5YBG to print on SARC Letterhead, sign, and mail to ARRL.

Nominating Committee - inactive

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 adjourned @ 8:25 PM



Volunteer Examiners at Work



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

Thanks again to American Legion Post 300, we were able to hold a VE session outdoors under their covered pavilion. three candidates earned Technician licenses, one earned a General upgrade, and one earned an Extra upgrade. Congratulations!

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

We have not yet scheduled our next exam session. Contact the VE team at hamtest@gmail.com to be on our waiting list for future sessions or with any questions.

73,
Pat Knight AD5BR
[210-273-5927](tel:210-273-5927) iPhone

Why Do Batteries Leak?

If you own a flashlight, a spare TV remote, or a talking teddy bear, you’ve almost certainly learned what happens when you leave alkaline batteries installed in a device for too long. It’s not pretty.

But what causes batteries to leak that crusty, white mess?



To start, it helps to think of a battery as a tiny fuel tank built to house a chemical reaction. As the elements in that tank interact, generating power through use or self-discharge, the liquid electrolyte breaks down, releasing hydrogen gas. And gas—as we all know—creates pressure.

“It’s like water expanding,” says [Prashant Kumta, Ph.D.](#), a chemical and materials engineering professor at the University of Pittsburgh. “It can rupture the seals and cause a leak.”

The Great Escape

Once the insulating seals at the ends of the battery have been breached (in some cases, the outer steel canister might rust and corrode as well), the hydrogen escapes without

notice. But the liquid electrolyte—in this case, potassium hydroxide—exits with it. *Be-ware: Potassium hydroxide can cause eye, skin, and respiratory irritation. If you come in contact with it, rinse well and consult with a doctor to see whether you need medical care.*

In general, though, the potassium hydroxide reaches the open air and reacts with carbon dioxide to form potassium carbonate—that white powder that cakes on the battery’s shell. “That’s one of the most stable compounds in the world,” says Venkat Viswanathan, Ph.D., an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. “It’s essentially like rock salt.”

To be safe, you should still wear gloves when you handle the powder and refrain from breathing it in.

So What Do You Do?

To clean a gadget caked with the aftermath of a leaking battery, dip a cotton swab in an acid such as lemon juice or distilled white vinegar and dab it on the potassium carbonate—that neutralizes it. Go slowly. You don’t want the acid to wreak havoc on the device’s other components. The liquid will start to fizzle as it interacts with the potassium carbonate. Once the white powder softens, you can gently rub it away with a cloth or toothbrush.

When you’ve finally restored your prized possession to working order, consider using lithium batteries in place of alkaline. They’re more expensive but far less prone to leaking and less likely to self-discharge, too.

So, a reminder, check those batteries in your MFJ antenna analyzer, handheld and other devices before they leak. If you catch it early enough you can save your device from death by electrolyte.

(Article courtesy of Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)

Anyone remember these?



Here is a photo of a tube tester on display at the California Historical Radio Society museum in Alameda. Commonly seen in drug stores back in the day, they were available for customers to check their vacuum tubes at no charge. The radio shop where I worked while in college liked the customers who often made the mistake of not selecting the proper filament voltage and burned out their own tubes. They of course were happy to sell the customer a new ones.

(Editor's note: I still have one somewhere)

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.

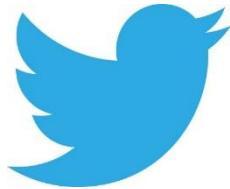
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

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

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 2022
FD 2021 was great, FD 2022 is coming
sooner than you'd think!
*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