



SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB

## PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
2	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		February 2023
TO							

Hello South Texas,

I believe that a strong and active community is vital for the success and growth of the Amateur Radio community. Your involvement with all of the area clubs, meetups, fox hunts, Radio Fiesta, and JOTA is encouraged and appreciated.

Here are a few of the various opportunities to get involved and engage with the club:

- Volunteer: We are always in need of volunteers to help with events and initiatives.
- Attend Club Meetings: Our club meetings are a great way to be involved, here an educational presentation and to stay informed about upcoming events and initiatives, as well as to connect with other members. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except December).
- Join a Committee: We have several committees such as Radio Fiesta, SK, Scholarship, Education and Training, Emergency Communications, Field Day, and others that could use your support and guidance. Joining a committee is a great way to get more involved with the club and make a real impact.

We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to engage with the club. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT

P.S. I nor any leaders of SARC will never be in a meeting that they cannot get out of to urgently ask you for a favor via email or SMS text. We especially will NEVER EVER ask you for money or gift cards. \*\*

\*\* The only money the club ever requests are our annual dues which can be paid online or at the meetings directly to the treasurer and for our Educational Scholarship fundraiser. These requests will never ever be urgent requests.

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## Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT  
 President, San Antonio Radio Club  
 Jimmie Neff, WJ4M  
 Editor  
 210-563-2121  
[jineffjr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jineffjr@sbcglobal.net)

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

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., 1/12/2023

Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm//Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation

- Richard Elder – Cautioned about fake HT antennas and other common scams in the world of antennas.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no changes, additions, or deletions, minutes were approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Provided some history of the club and introduced himself as the new club president (for the 2nd time). Reviewed some of the other area amateur radio clubs.

In the near future, will identify the raffle prizes for this year’s scholarship program.

Vice President – Lloyd Swartz, KF5ZHW – Not present

Secretary – Jack Bannin N5JLB – Minutes from club meetings can be found at w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section.

Treasurer – Jon April KI5CSK – Summarized account statuses.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS

Replaced Rosendo as Chair due to Rosendo’s inability to fulfill those duties.

Appointed JC Smith to take over the remainder of his 2027 director’s term until next election.

BOD will be meeting within the next two weeks to approve the budget when the Executive Committee drafts it.

Education and Training – David Finell, N7LRY – Not present

Emergency Communications – JC Smith N5RXS – Not present

**Membership** – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – As of 1/12/23:

Paid 106	New Members for 2023		
Free / Mil 7	First	Last	Call
Family Members 18	Matthew	Luis	KI5TBU
ARRL Members 79	Edwin	Kreuse	<b>K5TX</b>
	Wilson A	Gonzalez	<b>KI5WQQ</b>
	Jason	Lawson	
	George	Griesbach	<b>W5GRG</b>
	Chase E.	Figgins	<b>KI5YNX</b>
Total membership 131			

**Field Day** – Jon April KI5CSK – Planned changes for 2023: wireless laptops to replace the hard-wired desktops, local wireless network. Fourth full weekend in June.

**Finance and Review** – Vacant position. Will need to replace Jon April. See Paul Guido if interested.

**JOTA** – John Douglas W5NZK – Not present

**Centennial Committee** – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Not present

**Radio Fiesta** – Need to replace Bill Craft. If interested, contact Paul Guido. We will be exploring options to make the event larger, more capable, greater learning opportunities.

**VE Team** – Benny Martinez, NU5P – Not present

**Newsletter Editor** – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter sent to membership on 1/11/23. Always open to additional input for the publication.

**Webmaster** – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – Activities for December

1. Web Site – Posted newsletters
2. Groups.io – Updated membership list, Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice, Zoom
4. Twitter
5. Facebook

**Silent Key Committee** –Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Not present

**Monthly Activities** – Travis Few, N9EOD – Winter field day in January, fox hunts resume in February.

**Executive** – Paul Guido – budget to be presented within the next two weeks.

**Election Committee** – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Inactive

**Scholarship Committee:** Tom O’Brien, AB5XZ – No report

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

**New Business** – None

**Announcements:**

- Winter field day – AARO will be held January 28 & 29th, 2023 starting at 1PM. The event will be held at the American Legion Post 300, 3290 Grosenbacher Rd, San Antonio, TX 78245. More info: aa5ro.org
- Free Extra class – see Groups.io for details.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:01 PM



## Volunteer Examiners at Work



No report as of publishing time.

### My Morse Code Adventure, Part 2 (Continued from page 1)

The advantage was the operator did not have to send a string of "dits" by hand. That is done by the spring-loaded bar on the key. The speed of the dits is controlled by moving the weight on the bar." A good operator can send up to 40 words per minute with a mechanical bug.

**Electronic keyers.** From *Radio World* I gleaned the following: "With the advancement of electronics, fully automatic keyers that generated dots and dashes were eventually produced. Some of the earliest designs date from the 1940s, one even appeared in the April 1940 edition of QST, the magazine of the American Radio Relay League. Since then considerable developments have been made in terms of Morse keyer technology. The technology for these keyers has been further enhanced and most are now able to

store strings of letters or pre-set messages. In this way for ham radio contests, or other forms of operation, frequently used messages can be stored and sent quickly and accurately. Nowadays, many ham radio transceivers include the electronic circuitry for the Morse keyer. All that is required is for the external contacts for the Morse paddle to be made to the transceiver." My Icom 7300, for example, has a memory keyer built in. Just plug in a set of paddles.

Speaking of paddles, there are a variety of those. Typically an electric keyer is called an "iambic keyer." There are two paddles hooked to it, one for dits and one for dahs. Squeeze them together and they make a continuous dit dah, dit da, dit dah, similar to the iambic style of poetry, hence the name. There are single-paddle keys also,



with a dit one direction and dah the other. My favorite paddles were the Bencher paddles. Two triangular paddles, spring loaded with adjustable contacts on each side. I believe it came out in 1976 and now there are many variations on it. Drag an occasional piece of typing paper between the contacts to clean them and you were good to go.

Heath made a simple electronic keyer kit



with an oscillator and speaker built in.. I had one of those and it was useful for practice. Although it had its own paddles, I remember you could plug in your own set.

The output plugged into the keyer jack on the back of the radio. The MFJ company came out with a separate memory keyer you

could load with up to 5 messages. It was useful for field day as you stored your exchanges in memory. All you need to do then was send the stations call, then hit a button.

An oscillator is nice to practice sending with. You can also just use a battery-powered buzzer.

This is turning out to be longer than I thought, even though it is just a brief outline of the history of keying devices. You can look up more information on line. I'll defer the CW shorthand information for a later article. Happy CW!

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**Membership Renewal**

If you haven't renewed, please do not hesitate.



SARC can accept your credit card on-line for payment of dues.

Thanks to the Board of Directors for containing club expenses to allow us to keep membership dues at the same level since 2008.

-...-

(Provided by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ)

Dear SARC,

While the next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo theme in March is “New Amateur license, now what?” **The upcoming Expo offers special opportunities to Old Timers**, long time experienced and knowledgeable hams. These opportunities include: presentations and demonstrations of new technologies and modes, a matchmaking system to extend a helping hand to a new ham, and a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones.

### **New operating modes and technologies**

Ham radio has never been more exciting and offered more varieties of ways to communicate than it does now at bargain prices compared to what was needed years ago. You don't need a 44 element two meter directional array and a thousand watts to bounce signals off of the moon. Using the new digital modes, moon bounce communications can be made from modest stations. We will have **over 30 riveting presentations** in our virtual auditorium with live questions and answers on many ham radio subjects, modes, and technology that may interest you. Looking for a new direction?

### **Be an Elmer and mentor**

This will be the first time that we will use our **new integrated Expo matchmaking system** to match hams that need help getting started and getting on the air, with hams that have experience and want to extend a helping hand. If you are Old Timer, then you may remember how important your first Elmers were to your ham radio success, getting on the air, and making it a lifetime hobby? Your help and advice to a new ham can change a life and strengthen our ham radio hobby and community.

### **Reach out to old friends and make new ones**

Our virtual Expo platform now has a **new round-table lounge** where we can create virtual **tables by sponsor and subject**. You can see the subject of conversation and even the other hams sitting at the table before taking your own seat. Join our ham radio discussions from your own comfortable ham shack, office, chair, or couch.

So while **we want the Expo to be an important first step and resource to new hams**, we want old timers to know that they are needed to balance this ham radio educational opportunity with their experience and know-how. You are needed to make this next QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo a success.

Please register to come to the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo by [clicking here](#).

The following is a list of presentations now registered at the Expo.



Click Here To Register For the Next  
QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

\$15.00

Here are the riveting presentations accepted so far:

1. 20 Things I've Learned While Curating the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications, with Kay Savetz K6KJN

2. An Introduction and Overview of Ham Radio Digital Modes, with Jon Marler K4CHN
3. Become a Magnet Club for Newcomers to Our Hobby, with Dave Jensen W7DGJ
4. Can Learning Morse Code Be More Fun and Easier with Music? The MorseBass Project, with Lauren Speeth KK6NGE, Mike Padron N1CC
5. CQ DX Marathon Program- A DX Program for Everybody, with Mark Wohlschlegel WC3W
6. Creating a Radio Go-Kit That's Right for YOU, with Dan Lundwall N7XDL
7. Creating Your first Ham Radio Workbench, with Joe Eisenberg K0NEB
8. Getting Started in the CQ WAZ (Worked All Zones) Awards, with Jose Castillo N4BAA
9. Having fun with activities on a geo-stationary satellite QO-100, with Baris Dinc OH2UDS / TA7W
10. How Beginners can use the FT-8 Digital Mode with Success, with Desiree Baccus N3DEZ
11. How to be a Successful Ham Operator With Cheaper Older Equipment, even in an HOA!, with David Christie WB5KFP
12. How to beg, borrow, buy and operate an old fashioned Novice CW Rig for 80, 40, and 15, with Ed Mohrman WA7EM
13. How to Build An AI-powered Transcription Bot for FM Transmissions, with Brian Callahan AD2BA
14. How to Build and Operate a QRP Earth-Moon-Earth Radio Station, with William Keicher KC1HTT
15. How To Build Simple Wire Antennas for 15M to 2M & 70cm., , with Robert Glorioso W1IS
16. How to build the "Optimum" Magnetic Loop Antenna Using Unusual and Inexpensive Materials, with John Portune W6NBC
17. How to Build The Radio Rocket, with Vance Martin N3VEM
18. How to Build Your First Amateur Radio Station, with Tim Staley K5TGS
19. How to Choose Coaxial Cable for Beginners, with Bob Witte K0NR
20. How to Get More Hams On Air, with Ken Alan WU6I
21. How to Install Ham Station Grounding and Lightning Protection, with Mark Persons W0MH
22. How to Operate SOTA and POTA When Traveling Abroad, with Paul Mower VA6MPM, Peter Shmerko VE6FPV
23. How to use the Open Source Repeater-START software to find the local repeaters in your area to get on the air, with Luke Bryan KJ7BKH
24. HT's Across America - Updated, with Geoffrey MARK KM6TVJ
25. Introduction to Ham Nets 101, with Jon Marler K4CHN
26. Microwave Rain-Scatter Communications, An Introduction, with Gedas Vysniauskas W8BYA
27. Opening Presentation - Technician License - What are the Possibilities, with Anthony Luscre K8ZT
28. QRP Operating on the Microwave Bands - Frequencies, Equipment, and Propagation, with Thomas Henderson WD5AGO
29. Satellite Tracking using Astronomy Telescope Mounts, with Dwayne Sinclair AB6A
30. SDR Rover Kit: The Next Generation Setup for Amateur Radio Contesting, with Zheming Zhang KD2TAI
31. What is uSDX and how it got me on the air!, with Sajjad Golchin Poor EP6DSP
32. What's new with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station, with Randy Berger WA0D

[Click here to go to the Expo Website](#)





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.

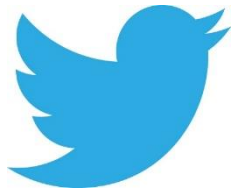
Several members have asked where are the notices, schedules and codes for Zoom meetings?

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 Pa

### 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](mailto: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 Meeting Dates for 2023

- January 12, 2023
- February 9, 2023
- March 6, 2023
- April 13, 2023
- May 11, 2023
- June 8, 2023
- July 13, 2023
- August 10, 2023
- September 14, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- November 9, 2023
- 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

### Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, contact:  
David Finell, N7LRY  
Instructor

### JOTA

Club members participate in JOTA and JOTI the largest Scouting event in the world at McGimsey Scout Park with the Alamo Area BSA, usually on a Saturday October. Volunteers set up several stations including mobile installations and allow scouts to contact stations on the air. Look for information on the 2023 version as soon as it's available.

### SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

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

### Radio Fiesta 2023

Watch for news of the next Radio Fiesta Radio Fiesta 2022 was moved from the previous January time frame to June..

### Emergency Communications

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

### License Testing Dates for 2022

License Testing Dates pending for 2023

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.

### Field Day 2023

FD 2022 was great, FD 2023 is coming sooner than you'd think!

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

## CALCULATING DECIBELS

When working with RF, the term “decibel” is frequently used. Since many folks don’t carry around the formula for calculating decibels in their head, we’ve provided this handy chart to help you figure things out. Once you get used to using it, you will soon find it’s possible to “do” decibels in your head!

**This is a quick reference guide to get you in the ballpark.**

When decibels (dB) add or subtract, the power level is multiplied (when adding) or divided (when subtracting).

An easy example: If a signal is amplified by 16 dB, then use the chart as follows:

10 dB is ten times the power level. Adding 6 dB means that it’s four times more than that, so the total increase in power is 40 times.

If the gain was 26 dB, there would be an additional 10 dB of gain, which is ten times the power, so the overall increase would be 400 times the power.

**If absolute accuracy is required, the calculator is your friend.**

First, take the ratio of the two power levels.

If dealing with loss, then the larger power level is divided into the lower power level, and the resulting number is less than one.

If gain, then the lower power level is divided into the higher level, with the resulting number greater than one.

Now, take that number, use the LOG function of your calculator, and then multiply the result by ten, and viola! you have the gain or loss in decibels.

# DECIBELS (dB) CALCULATIONS CHART

**Numbers below 10 dB** are rounded **approximations** for convenience.

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<b>dB</b>	<i>For gain, multiply by For loss, divide by</i>
<b>0</b>	<b>1 (no change)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>1.26</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>1.58</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>3.16</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>10,000</b>

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