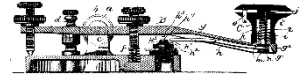




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2023, No. 12

December 2024



[A Ham's Night Before Christmas \(2024\) | QRZ Forums](#)

73, Gary K4AAQ

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up
Any repeaters.
The antennas reached up
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals
That bounced from the sky.
The children, Technicians,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters
For that rare ZK3.
When the meter was pegged
By a signal with power.

The next meeting, January 9, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

It smoked a small diode,
And, I swear, shook the tower.

While I ran to the window
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate
RF that high.
Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster
Logged a spot of the signal
On the DX PacketCluster,

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight element beam,
And a little old driver
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission this Christmas
To clean up the bands.
He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming
Knew just what to do.
He cleared off the shack desk
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late
QSLs, for a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded
It into the earth
Till the station was grounded. (Ctd P)

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM							
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
12	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		December
2024							
TO							

Hello South Texas,

Thank You for an Amazing Year! I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your hard work and participation at all the area events. This year shows what we can accomplish together, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved.

From our fundraiser to the meetings, Radio Fiesta, Field Day, and tailgates, all the events were well attended and brought the area radio community closer together. Everyone's enthusiasm and participation made these gatherings truly special.

I'm also proud of how we collaborated with other local clubs, fostering stronger connections and opportunities for everyone involved.


Thank you for your hard work, commitment, and the camaraderie that makes this year great. Let's build on this as we look forward to an even greater year ahead.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year!

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, San Antonio Radio Club

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
 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

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 p. m., November 14, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Hex Beam & BuddiHex Antenna.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

There being no additions or changes, the minutes were passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports:

President – Paul Guido, N5IUT Presented slate of 2025 board members. First Thursday of December (12/5/24) is the area-wide Christmas party. All of the area radio clubs, radio amateurs and those interested in radio communication are welcome to attend the Joint Clubs AARO, SADRC, SARC, Christmas Dinner at Blanco BBQ on December 7, 2023 7:00 PM.

Vice President – Vacant

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

Treasurer – Jon April, KI5CSK – Funded scholarship and a bit more through raffle ticket sales.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board did not meet this past month.

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – Bexar County RACES. ARES has an HF net on Monday nights at 7:30 PM on 7.285 MHz or 3.873 MHz (tends to switch to the 80 m frequency when Standard Time begins. Bexar County is in District 12. Promoted Winlink (winlink.org) for free software. VerAC is being tested for emergency comms (https://www.varac-hamradio.com/download).

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Activities for October

- 1. Web Site - Posted newsletters
2. Groups.io

- a. Updated membership list
- b. Updated calendar
- 3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice
- 4. Twitter
- 5. Facebook -Meeting notice

MEMBERSHIP – Renewals are ongoing. Dues are reduced to \$12.00 for a year if paid before January 13. After that, \$15. <https://w5sc.org/membership/>

- One year free membership if you test successfully with SARC.
- Active duty military: free membership!

As of 11/9/2024			
Paid: 162		New Members for 2024	
Mil: 8	First	Last	Call
Family Members: 18	Richard	Degen	WB0NBA
RF-Free: 11	Paul	Lentz	
Fee-VE: 28	Edward	Michal	KB3R
ARRL Members: 108	Anthony	Loy	
	Zachery	Montgomery	KJ5ITF
Total Membership 227			

POTA – No report. <https://parksontheair.com/>

Fox Hunt – KJ5HIH – Two foxhunts held: one at JOTA and another at McAllister Park. Volunteers welcome to assist in future foxhunts.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed November 13, 2024. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: No Report

Finance and Review – No Report

JOTA – Position vacant. Club participated in a foxhunt at this year’s JOTA event.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Swag for sale.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – No Report

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P – No testing currently schedule for remainder of 2024.

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – About 100 items recently added. All items are listed in Rodney’s binder, available to all.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Slate proposed, officers approved.

- Paul Guido – N5IUT – President
- Jason Lawson - KJ5CHW - Vice President
- Jack Bannin - N5JLB – Secretary
- Jon April – KI5CSK – Treasurer
- Harold Fleischer – AE5AS – Chairman of the Board
- Richard Elder – WB5ACN – Director through 2025
- Benny Martinez – N5UP – Director through 2026
- Rodney Brown – AA5RB – Director through 2027
- Bill Craft – KD2HIQ – Director through 2028

W5ANY made a motion to approve the slate, and KJ5DDY seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous consent without objection.

Scholarship Committee – Fundraiser for two scholarships continues. The winning tickets were drawn during this meeting. The winners were:

- 1st** – Yaesu FTDX10 Radio: Alphonso Perez Martinez, AE6NM
- 2nd** – Yaesu FT991A: Joe Underbrink, K5ATR
- 3rd** – Yaesu FT710: Walt Laubach, KA5HQU
- 4th** – Yaesu FT5DR: Anthony Lloyd, KJ5IRF
- 5th** – Yaesu FT5DR: James Dunham, KO4UXX

Nominate your favorite young local ham today for these scholarships!

Old Business (Motions carried over from previous meetings) – None.

New Business – None

Announcements –

- 33cm (902-928 MHz) band available to hams on a secondary basis. The band is shared with other industrial/commercial purposes. The cellphone industry is attempting to obtain the band for exclusive use. This poses a threat to amateur radio use. ARRL has information about the matter. Notify your representative in Congress to let him/her know you oppose selling the band for exclusively commercial use.
- Seeking support for winter field day. More information to follow.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8: 47.

A Ham's Night Before Christmas (2024)
(Continued)

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.
He neutralized tubes
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before –
Now it works like a champ).
A new low-pass filter
Cleaned up the TV.
He corrected the settings
In my TNC.
He repaired the computer
That wouldn't compute,
And he backed up the hard drive
And got it to boot.
Then, he reached really deep
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box.
"A new rig?" I thought!
"A new Kenwood? An Icom?
A Yaesu, for me?
An Elecraft, TEN-TEC
Or Flex, could it be!"
(If he thought I'd been bad
It might be QRP!)
Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those weekends
I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up
And in record time, quickly
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.
I should have been happy.
It was *my* call he sent.
But the cards and the postage
Will cost a month's rent!
He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus.
Seventy-Three."
Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.
I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big.
But a card from St. Nick
Would be worth my new rig.
Oh, too late, for his final
Came over the air.
It was copied all over.
It was heard everywhere.
The Ham's Santa exclaimed
What an old ham expects:
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

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2024 Year In Review
(From San Antonio Radio Club Newsletters)
Jim Neff, WJ4M, Editor



January 2024

Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, wrote a wrap-up of Field Day 2022 reporting SARC was at about the middle of the 4A category in the ARRL results.

The program was about RF Exposure, by Harold AE5AS.

President Paul Guido, N5IUT, noted January offered opportunity to attend the Cowtown Hamfest in the DFW area, or participate in Winter Field Day. He highlighted plans for foxhunts, POTA events and tailgates during the coming year. He also mentioned opportunities to serve in community events and ARES.

February 2024



The front page featured a report on Winter Field Day by Keith Hicks, KD5JGD. Members of SARC joined AARO members at the American Legion Post 300 for the event. Food included delicious Korean barbeque by Imee Numos. Bill Craft, KD2 HIQ, reported on the San Antonio Digital Radio Club's



The July newsletter featured the Radio Fiesta that was held July 19-20 at the Schertz Civic Center and listed times and schedule. Radio Fiesta was the program for the meeting

The President's Radiogram spoke about Field Day 2024, thanked AARO members for being part of it. He noted that Radio fiesta was coming together.

August 2024



The front page featured an after action report on Radio Fiesta by President, Paul Guido, N5IUT.

The meeting program was use and calibration of the Volt-Ohm meter, digital or VTVM.

The President's Radiogram dealt with a single evening voltage reference. President Guido N5IUT, built a voltage reference and will bring it to the meeting so members can test their volt meters.

The down-story by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, told how to renew your amateur license. The newsletter contained photos of Radio Fiesta and Field Day.

September 2024



The front page contained a story on the upcoming, September tailgate event at Encino Library and on Pota Huntin by Jim, WJ4M based on information from the Parks On The Air organization and Wikipedia. The program was Surge Protectors by Bill Craft, KD2HIQ.

The President's Radiogram featured the Robert A. Rodriguez Scholarship Fund. President Gido encouraged all members to buy tickets, listed the prizes and noted that proceeds fund the scholarship for young hams.

The "below the fold" story by Bill craft, KD2HIQ, listed the 2024 Robert A. Rodriguez, K5AUW, scholarship winners, Raj Gohil, KI5TLO and James Ervin, KI5UXW.

October 2024

The front page featured The Rodriguez scholarship, and an article on amateur support during the recent disastrous flooding in North Carolina and Florida. The program was Digital VS Analog Radio by Harold Fleischer, AE5AS.



President Guido, N5IUT, wrote about the devastation of Hurricane Helene and ham radio activity during and after the storm. He encouraged members to prepare now by taking emergency communications courses.

Back page items included letters from the club to the recent Rodriguez scholarship winners, a Tech Nerd Trivia piece by Bill Craft, KD2HIq, and an announcement about the San Antonio Community Preparedness Workshop.



November’s newsletter featured yet another announcement about the upcoming Robert A. Rodriguez (K5AUW) scholarship raffle by Harold, AE5AS. It also included a story decoding the official AARL Field Day results. Program was the raffle.

The President’s Radiogram related the enthusiasm Paul had seen when Stever Ortiz inquired about foxhunts at the meeting. After the meeting Steve coordinated two foxhunts for SARC, one at JOA and one at McAllister Park. Both were a success. The president also announced the December 5 joint Christmas party with AARO at Blanco Barbeque. There will be a raffle there. The "back page:" article deal with the radar used by the British for the Battle of Britain.

That brings us to the present. It was an event-filled year and a successful one for the club. It saw a lot of interaction between radio clubs, SARC, AARO and SADRC. All members profited from the associations. Here’s hoping the coming year will see even better times. Good DX...WJ4M

2024 SARC/AARO/SADRC Christmas Party

Jim, WJ4M



As usual, the December meeting was cancelled in lieu of the Christmas party. The party was well-attended. Many hams are members of SARC, ARRO and SADRC and the party saw good representation from all three clubs.. The door prize raffle was a plus. Your editor was too busy eating barbeque to get good photos of the raffle in progress. I’ll publish more photos of attendees in the January newsletter. Good food and good company.

So Merry Christmas to all and prayers for a great new year! (And don’t forget Straight Key Night New years)



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

No report for December

2025 Tests to be annuounced

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click “Getting Started” then “Testing.”



*November Test Session Radio Winner:
Krista Zapata*



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

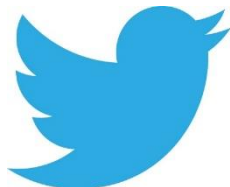
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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.



Reminder: there are two active X (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. In actuality, any team member already a part of the w5sc.slack.com can invite you, but Paul is known to be on it.

JOTA

Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October.

JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. JOTA 2023 was held at McGimsey Scout Park Cub Pavilion 10810 Wedgewood Dr, Castle Hills, TX 78213.

. Anyone wanting to operate a station next year need to do the BSA Youth protection Training (YPT) and complete BSA Health forms.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ
Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:

Ned Lee, KG5US
RACES Bexar County
210-344-3481/210-391-8258

David Rice, NB5K
ARES Bexar County EC 210-367-8623

Radio Fiesta 2024

Radio Fiesta 2024 was at Schertz Civic Center on July 19/20 and was a great suc-cess. Looking forward to Radio Fiesta 2025 next year.

License Testing Dates for 2024

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.

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Field Day 2024
Field Day exercise, June 27 – 28 at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty first year. It was a great success. Start planning for FD 2025, *where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.*

SARC Meeting Dates for 2024

- January 11, 2024
- February 8, 2024
- March 14, 2024
- April 11, 2024
- May 8, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- July 11, 2024
- August 8, 2024
- September 12, 2024
- October 10, 2024
- November 14, 2024
- 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

General Rules of Amateur Radio Safety

David Okrent W7DAO

- 1) **The Law of Cognitive Perception:** You may think you're an 18-year-old, but your body is often a lot older, out of shape, and more fragile; get some help.
- 2) **The Law of Negative Dexterity:** Anything that could slip out of your hand(s) will do so in a way and at a time that directly or indirectly will damage the item and/or some other critical piece, cause an injury to you or someone else, and/or be lost and end operations.
- 3) **The Law of Seeking the Ground State:** What goes up, including you, has the potential to come down in an uncontrolled fashion.
- 4) **The Law of Discernment:** Before starting take a breath, clearly see the situation, size things up, understand your limits, think it through, give it another thought, then act.
- 5) **The Law of Listening:** If a little voice in your head, associate, or spouse, says, "don't do this, it's going to hurt, I don't think this is going to work," immediately stop and see Rule #4 to validate or invalidate the potential action.
- 6) **The Law of Confirmation:** When working on a circuit or machinery assume it's energized or pressurized until such time as you have confirmed the fact yourself.
- 7) **The Law of Attraction:** When one sees a button, switch, knob, or slider, he/she will be tempted to press it, even if it's big, red, and has lots of warning labels on it. Fight this urge, step away, and read the manual or get advice first, if needed see Rule #4.

Membership Dues Reminder

This year y'all made a new record for membership in 2024, 223 members.

But now we are going to start all over again for 2025

Now is the time to renew your membership; don't forget!

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



Remember, the early discount only applies if you pay prior to January 13th 2025.

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

Pay at the January meeting, cash, check or credit card.

You can go online and download the membership forms and mail in a check. [SARC-application-form-R2024-1.pdf](#)

It's a bargain at the discounted \$12 for a year. That's \$1 per month, what else can you buy for that price?


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

+++++

Get back on the road: If you've got an iPhone 14 or newer, you can get roadside assistance via satellite if you're out of cell range. From **Settings**, tap **Satellite**, and follow the instructions to get connected. Choose **Roadside Assistance**. Wham, bam.

Let's kick off things with a little tech know-how. Which of the following will totally destroy your Wi-Fi signal strength? Is it ... A.) LED lights, B.) Wooden furniture, C.) Mirrors or D.) Ceramic tiles? Come on, make your best guess. See if you're right by checking the answer at the end!

Because of smartphones, did you hear they aren't making 12-inch rulers any longer?



The answer: C.) Mirrors. They can kill a Wi-Fi signal, and not because you're so incredibly good-looking. The thin coat of metal on its glass causes electromagnetic interference, so you don't want to place a router near one.

Hamclock on Windows

KF0IDT posted a video a while back showing that HamClock can be loaded on a Windows system. Since then, a lot of people have commented that they have had problems getting it to load right. So, he has made a video going through the steps in real-time on how to load and configure Hamclock on both Windows 10 and 11, and it runs just fine. Hope you enjoy it!! <https://youtu.be/0lmcpbnUAoI>