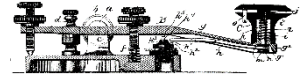




# Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club  
W5SC



2025, No. 1

January 2025

## Winter Field Day



In June 2006, Charles, N5PVL queried the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio whether they'd sponsor a Winter Field Day activity. The first Winter

Field Day was held on January 13-14, 2007. Since then, it has been held on the last full weekend of January each year. It is organized by the Winter Field Day Association.

"The intent is to help participants improve their preparedness for disasters and enhance their operational abilities in adverse conditions." (from WFD web site). It is said, but unconfirmed, that the folks in Newington, CT, came up with summer field day not considering the heat in the South and Southwest. Therefore, folks in the South came up with winter field day so the folks up North could suffer too.

Winter Field Day 2024 was held January 27 & 28th at the American Legion Post #300.



The Alamo Area Radio Organization, AARO, invited members of the San Antonio Radio Club to participate. This year, the SARC is returning the favor, inviting the AARO to join

SARC at the field day site, the Shavano Park government complex pavilion 900 Saddle Creek Court. Date for WFD is January

**The next meeting, January 9, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602. Program on Parks On The Air by Pete Carpenter, KC3MVS**

25 and possibly 26 if weather is favorable.

Logging is similar to summer FD. The exchange is callsign, category number, class identifier and location identifier. Category refers to number of transmitters simultaneously operating. Class is either Home station, Indoor station, Outdoor station, Mobile station stationary. Location Identifier is same as ARRL for US and Canada stations. Overseas stations will use DX, with MX used for Mexico. Signal reports or other information are not required. Full details are at the WFD web site, <https://winterfieldday.org>.

Weather is supposed to be relatively mild, high around 60 or so (hopefully). Come on out and join the fun!

## POTA at the Mission Jim Neff, WJ4M

Thursday, January 2, 2025, I was privileged to join Keith, KD5JGD, Pete,



KC3MVS and Dan W6HQR at Mission San Jose for a Parks on the Air (POTA) session. It was my second try at activating a park, having

failed at Government Canyon last year. About that later. RB, KX7Q came with me to provide logistical and moral support. Another ham, George (didn't get his call recorded) saw us and stopped by to chat. Hanging with this group was important as I really needed some "dual stick" time on a POTA activation. **(Continued on Page 6)**

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

Hello South Texas,

Come out to the multi-club Winter Field Day 2025 (WFD). WFD2025 is on January 25th & 26th, 2025 at the City of Shavano Park Pavilion!

Winter Field Day 2025 Goals: Be Safe, Have Fun, Stay Warm and Keep Dry!

This will be a lighter event than Summer Field Day, no triband beam.

We will need assistance picking up the club equipment from storage on Saturday morning. Radios, feed-lines, wire antennas, tables, chairs, antenna supports, computers for logging, and the generators.

Depending on the weather that weekend, the end of the event will either be on Saturday evening at 6 PM or if weather favorable, the event will end Sunday morning at 9 AM.

Dress for the weather. If it is colder, bring towels or a throw to cover the metal folding chairs. I know from experience that sitting on a metal chair in the cold will pull the heat out of you very quickly.

Joe Underbrink, K5ATR, joeunderbrink (at) [protonmail.com](mailto:joeunderbrink@protonmail.com), will be coordinating Winter Field Day 2025.

Please get on [groups.io](https://groups.io) to receive the latest information about WFD2025!


For the rules and more information on WFD2025 go to <https://winterfieldday.org/>

73

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  
[jneffjr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jneffjr@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

(No December, 2024 meeting so this is a repeat from the last meeting in 2024)

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		New Members for 2024	
Paid: 162		First	Last
Mil: 8			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
<b>Total Membership 227</b>			

**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:

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

Pota at the Mission (Continued)

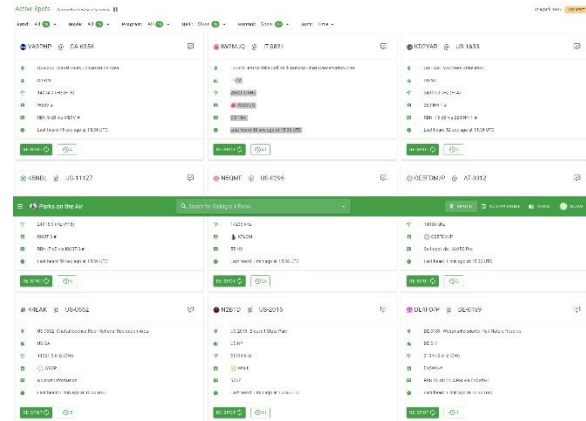


My setup was the Elecraft KX3 and I brought the pan adapter although I didn't need it. The antenna was the new Reel Pota-able end fed quarter wave wire that comes on a chalk line reel with a balun attached. You can see it in the upper right of the photo above. Power was a Bioenno 5 amp-hour battery. Thanks to RB who helped me set things up. I have a throw-line and weight and made a good throw over a tree limb about 15 feet up. RB unreeled the line and per a You-Tube video, cranked back about 5 turns. Using the Rig Expert on SWR mode I had a 1.3:1 SWR across the 20-meter band. A bungee cord hooked the reel end of the antenna to the picnic table.

I learned a lot from this effort. First thing learned was you need to have your support equipment down pat. I didn't. I took along my laptop that has the HAMRS logging software. This software makes POTA logging simple. Like the N3FJP logging software that is keyed to several contests, this software has, among others, a special log for POTA. The software will convert the log to the format POTA requires for submission. Each activator must submit their log so hunters will get their credit. You can read about HAMRS here: [HAMRS - POTA, SOTA, Winter Field Day and GENERIC Logging App - Ham Radio Reviews and Events](#)

Unfortunately, while my laptop is set up to read my fingerprint to log in, a delay makes it switch to wanting a PIN number. I'd not used this laptop for a while, so I had forgotten the PIN. No problem, I'd keep the log with pad and pen. That I had. I used my

phone to try to open POTA's website. At first the phone wouldn't connect, but RB solved that problem, and I finally accessed the POTA site.



POTA Spot Page listing active stations

Second thing was how to spot myself on the POTA website. This is key to activating. POTA hunters, like me, scan through the spot page (above) of the website looking for activators. It is like hanging your shingle out for business and almost guarantees you'll get customers. I had tried to fill out the form and get myself spotted at Government Canyon, but it didn't take. One of the old hands, I think it was Pete, told me the secret. You cannot use decimal points when listing your frequency on the form. You DO have to use the dash when listing the park number which, for the missions, is US-0756. Once the right combination was

POTA Spotting Form

entered, I was spotted on the POTA list on 14.052 at US-0756 using CW!

Once all the preliminaries were done, the rest was pure fun. I was operating 20 CW so didn't mess up the other guys. Within less than half an hour I had the requisite 10 contacts in the log. I ran two more to make sure for a total of 12. After that, I changed my POTA spot list to reflect QRT. I think I'd run out of hunters by that time. I did make a couple of other contacts, including a Summits on the Air contact with NM5BG on Sandia Mountain in New Mexico. Not a bad day's work with the KX3 running 10 watts.



Pete, KC3MVS

Keith reached his required quota early and left. Pete experimented with a long

wire antenna for a while. Then he cranked up his station-in-a-case on 10 meters and ran off quite a few contacts, easily making the 10 required for an activation. Dan was working 20 phone and had success too. Both were using ICOM IC-7300s on battery power. By 3 PM we had all reached our goals



Dan, W6HQR

for the day, enjoyed swapping stories (theirs were better than mine) and so packed up and left the park. By the way, there is a Nicha's Tex-Mex place across Roosevelt from the park to which RB and I retired for a late lunch.

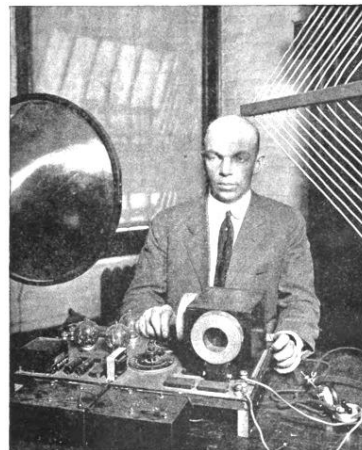
It was a great day for ham radio, comradery and learning. Thanks to Pete, Dan and Keith for their help making this my first successful park activation. I hope there will be many more.  
73 De WJ4M

### Edwin Armstrong Bradley Anbro, W4A

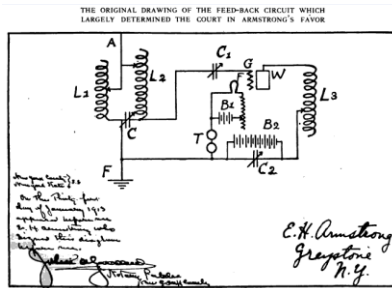
Bonjour! Hej! Hello! ¡Hola! Zdravstvuyte!

This year, as in last year, I will be operating my station as a special event station, in commemoration of the birth date of Major Edwin Howard Armstrong, who was, in my opinion, more responsible for the development of communication, as we know it, than any other person in the world.

Major Armstrong was born on 18 December 1890 and passed away on 01 February 1954. He was an electrical engineer and a professor at Columbia University in New York City, New York. He was a very accomplished and prolific inventor, having received 42 patents covering his inventions. He also received numerous awards, including the Medal of Honor from the Institute of Radio Engineers (now IEEE); the French Legion of Honor; the Franklin Medal and the Edison Medal.



From his early youth, he counted ham radio operators as among his closest friends and professional associates. Some of his many inventions and the dates of those inventions are as follows:  
Regenerative circuit (circa 1913)  
Superheterodyne circuit (circa 1917)  
Super-regeneration circuit (circa 1921)  
Wide-band Frequency Modulation (FM) and FM multiplex (stereo) broadcasting (circa 1928)  
FM Doppler Radar (circa 1946)



Major Armstrong took Lee DeForest's invention of the "Audion" 3-element (triode) vacuum tube and began experimenting with it. Unlike DeForest, who had no idea of why or how the Audion worked, Armstrong figured out exactly how it worked and then went on to develop important circuitry that made use of its qualities. Some of Armstrong's applications, as noted above, were as an amplifier, as a signal detector and as an oscillator.

Major Armstrong was involved in many litigation battles in the U.S. court system. Individuals and corporations were using his patented inventions and refusing to pay him the royalties on the inventions which were legally due him. Lee DeForest, Motorola and the Radio Corporation of America were among the principals infringing on his patents and life's work. Armstrong became so despondent over the never-ending legal battles that he decided to end his own life, which he did on 01 February 1954. His surviving wife, Marion, continued the legal battles and went on to win every single one of them.

for further information on Major Armstrong:

PBS' video - "Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio" (1992)

Tom Lewis' book - "Empire of the Air: The Men Who Made Radio" (1991)

Lawrence Lessing's biography of Armstrong - "Man of High Fidelity: Edwin Howard Armstrong" (1956, 1869 - currently out of print)

Radio Club of America - "The Legacies of Edwin Howard Armstrong" (1990)

Web sites:

[www.users.erols.com/oldradio/](http://www.users.erols.com/oldradio/)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080523113726/http://world.std.com/~jlr/doom/armstrong.htm>

[https://ethw.org/Edwin\\_H.\\_Armstrong](https://ethw.org/Edwin_H._Armstrong)

<https://www.armstrongmemorialfoundation.org>

[www.wa2xmn.ar88.net/index.html](http://www.wa2xmn.ar88.net/index.html)



## Volunteer Examiners at Work



**From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator**

No report for December

2025 Tests to be announced

Register at [HamTest@w5sc.org](mailto:HamTest@w5sc.org)

Other info at [W5SC.org](http://W5SC.org) click "Getting Started" then "Testing."



*November Test Session Radio Winner:  
Krista Zapata*





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

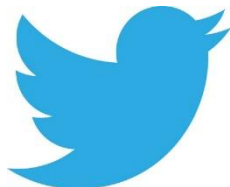
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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 2025

Radio Fiesta 2025 will be at Schertz Civic Center on June 6-7. Get a table and bring stuff to sell or just come in and browse the deals, listen to the presentations and swap tales. Hope to see you there!

## 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](mailto:HamTest@w5sc.org)

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

**Field Day 2025**  
**Field Day exercise, June 28 – 29** at the City of Shavano Park city hall for the twenty second year. Start planning for FD 2025, where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

**SARC Meeting Dates for 2025**

- January 9, 2025
- February 13, 2025
- March 13, 2025
- April 10, 2025
- May 8, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- July 10, 2025
- August 14, 2025
- September 11, 2025
- October 9, 2025
- November 13, 2025
- 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