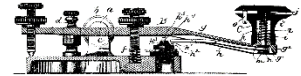




# Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club  
W5SC



2025, No. 2 February 2025

## Winter Field Day 2025

**Jim Neff, WJ4M**

This year's Winter Field Day was a combined effort by several clubs, San Antonio Radio Club, Alamo Area Radio Organization and San Antonio Digital Radio Club. All the clubs were represented, we had 41 people at the site at one time or another either just visiting or operating. Shavano Park mayor Bob Werner came by Saturday morning to check out our operation and express his support for amateur radio. Jon April, KI5CSK, welcomed him and chatted for a while. Jon told the Mayor that the Winter Field Day was



*John April & Mayor Werner*

much less formal than the summer version. We all thanked Mayor Bob for the use of the fine facilities at Shavano Park.

Several families came by to enjoy the nice day taking their children to the playground behind the pavilion. Many of them stopped by to see what we were doing and listened politely as we extolled the benefits of amateur radio. One cute little girl stayed around WJ4M for a while as he talked to her parents about the radio and Winter Field Day and told her about his granddaughters. Someone said she was fascinated by "Santa Claus" operating a radio!

The Winter Field Day exchange is different from the summer version. While the category, or number of transmitters is the same, the different class options are: "H" for home

station, "I" for indoor station (not home), "O" for outdoor station (field, shelter, pavilion, etc.), "M" for mobile (I'd like to see that, we did hear one or two). We used the W5SC call from SARC and reported 6 transmitters, outside, or "6-O" in South Texas for our exchange. Didn't hear many contacts with that many stations.

The weather cooperated. For late January it was mild. It did get cold in the overnight hours, mainly because of the dampness in the air but by Sunday morning things warmed up. Keith, KD5JGD had an enclosure with a heater and was nice enough to let others stop in and warm up during the night. He didn't even charge rent!



The plan was to make the event a one- or two-day affair depending on the weather. Since the weather cooperated, we stretched it to two days, wrapping about 9AM Sunday.

For the first time I remember we had a husband-and-wife team operating, John Maldonado, KJ5FIA and wife Jackie (whose call I forgot) paired up on 20-meter phone with Jackie doing most of the early operating. She got tired and went home, John stayed later and worked some more. One op, Doc, operated his Flex {I think it was} at home from the pavilion via remote control.



*Jon, John and Jackie*

**The next meeting, February 13, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.**

**(Continued on Page 5)**

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM							
NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
2R			N5IUT		San Antonio, TX	February	2025
TO							

Hello South Texas,

The multi club Winter Field Day 2025 (WFD) at the City of Shavano Park was a huge success!

Thanks to all that participated, especially the overnight team and tear down/put away teams!

We look forward to future events with the members of AARO, SADRC.

Speaking of future events, next month there will be a Tailgate 3-23-2024 Encino Park Library Parking from 8 AM to 2 PM! Buyers FREE Sellers-\$5 donation to library to support library programs. Commercial Vendors welcome.

This tailgate event is for selling or buying ham radio gear and equipment. It is an opportunity for sellers to bring their gear, open their trunks and let your stuff find a new home!


Buyers can walk through the parking lot looking for good deals from local hams you can trust.

There is no power, but generators are ok. Library bathrooms do not open until 10am - so plan accordingly.

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., January 9, 2025

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM//Pledge of Allegiance//Introductions

Presentation: Pete Carpenter, KC3MVS – Parks on the Air (https://parksontheair.com/). HAMRS (logging software for portable operations: https://hamrs.app/).

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 – Winter Field Day: 1/25 – 1/26 2025 at Shavano Park location where we have summer Field Day. Bring your own radios if you want to. We will provide generators and logging computer/software, if you need it. Dress for the cold! Club will provide two stations. 9-6 on Saturday. International event starts at noon local. Weather permitting, will continue overnight. Winter Field Day is held the last full weekend in January. For 2025, it will be held on January 25th and 26th. The 30-hour operational period starts at 1600 UTC on Saturday (10 am CST), the 25th, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 26th (3:59 pm CST). Stations may begin setting up no earlier than 1600 UTC (10 am CST) on the Friday before

Vice President – Jason Lawson, KJ5CHW – Sign-up sheets available for presentations in 2025. If interested in presenting, contact Jason.

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 – No report.

Chairman of the Board Report – Harold Fleischer, AE5AS – Board will meet tomorrow, 1/10/25 for budget approval. Additionally, will likely make the SK Committee a permanent committee in the Bylaws.

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

Emergency Communications – Ned Lee KG5US – No report.

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Activities for December 2024 – January 2025

1. Web Site – Posted newsletters
2. Groups.io
  - a. Updated membership list
  - b. Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp – Meeting notice, dues notice
4. 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 1/9/2025	New Members Since Last Report		
Paid: 89	First	Last	Call
Mil: 8	Wesley	Theurer	W7YWT
Family Members: 15			
RF-Free: 10			
Fee-VE: 11			
ARRL Members:			
<b>Total Membership: 137</b>			

**POTA** – No Report

**Fox Hunt** – KJ5HIH – None scheduled. Two will be scheduled for 2025.

**Newsletter Editor** – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed January 8, 2025. 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. Invited the membership to volunteer to conduct our annual review. No accounting degree required.

**JOTA** – Position vacant. No Report.

**Centennial Committee** – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – No Report.

**Radio Fiesta** – Aubrey Mason – No Report

**VE Team** – Benny Martinez, NU5P – Next testing: Saturday, February 20, 2025.

**Silent Key Committee** – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – All items are listed in Rodney’s binder, available to all. Two used generators are available for sale, too.

**Executive** – No report.

**Election Committee** – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No Report.

**Scholarship Committee** – This year, we will raffle Icom radios. Nominate your favorite young local ham today for these scholarships!

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

**New Business** – None

**Announcements** – None

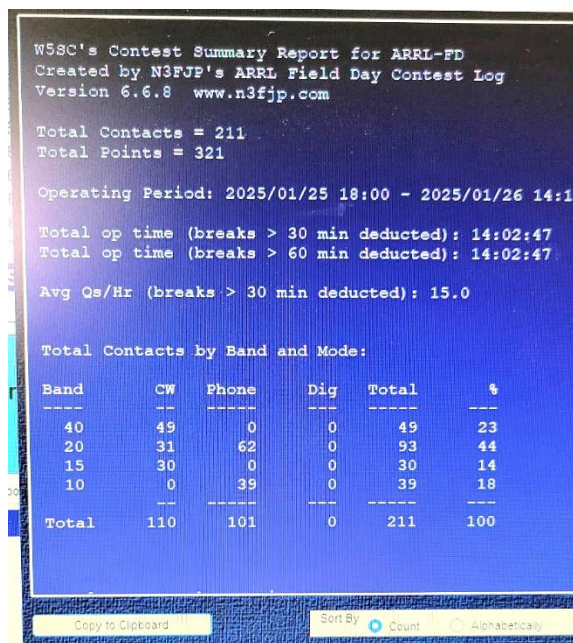
Meeting Adjourned @ 8:25.

### Winter Field Day (Continued)

Don’t think he was working WFD for the group though. Most operators had gone home by 7 PM Saturday. Three operators stayed and operated overnight: Keith KD5JGD, Jim WJ4M and Pete KC3MVS. Pete didn’t operate the contest during the majority of the event, but early Sunday morning he decided to fire up his POTA rig on 20-meter phone and worked quite a few stations. The Sunday morning operations were mostly the overnight crew. Overnights were happy to see Jon April, KI5CSK arrive early Sunday morning bearing breakfast tacos and hot coffee.

The CW operators put in a good show, making 110 contacts to the phone operator’s 101. The overnight crew made some interesting DX contacts, France, South America and we think the Marquéses Islands. Interestingly, this time we scored no digital contacts, not on the networked log at least.

The club didn’t bring out the trailer-mounted triband beam. There was a generator but it wasn’t used. Most operated off of batteries or shore power. Antennas were mostly dipoles strung in the trees. Pete, KC3MVS, did have his Alpha FMJ vertical up for a while, but wasn’t operating in the contest at the time. Jim, WJ4M, used the



Reel POTA-able chalk line, end-fed antenna and it performed well. Band conditions were good.

Food provided was healthy, a veggie tray with Ranch dressing, crackers and cheeses some kolaches, chips and various candy/snack items, M&Ms, Ding Dongs and lots of coffee. We didn’t starve and thanks to those who brought it.

It was an enjoyable affair, with no pressure, no sweat. As usual, Winter Field Day, like



the summer event, is a chance for new hams to get some operating experience, see

and operate different gear and see how a station is put together. And it's fun!



### Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

No report for This month

2025 Tests to be announced

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

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

### New Radio from Yaesu

Jim Neff (WJ4M)

I'm sure you've read about this, but I thought I'd add my few cents worth of thoughts. Yaesu has announced a new, dual-band mobile radio that seems a somewhat upgrade to the FTM between the Super-DX on the 510 and the DX amplification on the 500.500DR.

The FTM-500DR ASP, like the FTM-500D is a C4FM digital/FM 55 watt dual bander that shares the core features of the FTM-500DR and adds "Super-DX" and ASP or Audio Digital Signal Processor Unit.

Not sure what the difference is between the "Super-DX" feature of the 510 from the same named feature on the 500. The ASP adds a signal processor to the incoming signal to reduce noise and thereby increase range. Those appear to be the only difference, for \$230 more.

From the photos which I downloaded from the Ham Radio Outlet adds, the radios appear the same size and layout. The FTM-510DR ASP lists for the HRO Discount Price of \$749.95. The FTM-500DR lists for \$519 at HRO after discounts coupons and promotions. I don't know if the latest replaces the 500DR, I hope not. I'm not sure the difference is worth the increase.



FTM 500D



FTM 510D ASP

\*\*\* Tailgate 3-23-2024 Encino Park Library Parking from 8 AM to 2 PM! Buyers FREE Sellers-\$5 donation to library to support library programs. Commercial Vendors welcome. \*\*\*

### Photos from Winter Field Day

























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

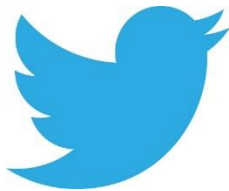
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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](https://w5sc.slack.com).

Slack teams are meant to foster communication between team members. Paul Guido, N5IUT, has established the [w5sc.slack.com](https://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](https://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

## 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."

## 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!

## 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

**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