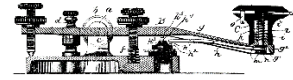




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2026, No. 02

February 2026

Winter Field Day 2026, My Perspective {Or How I Almost Froze Having Fun} Jimmie Neff, WJ4M

I had company. Local hams from multiple San Antonio-area clubs gathered at Tim Jenison's (AF5GG) Alligator Rock Ranch for winter field day. Tim went all out, setting up the area with a heated tent, mess tent, and antennas. Food was courtesy of Tim and the ranch too. There were hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, coffee, hot cocoa and for Sunday morning, breakfast burritos.

Saturday and Sunday, January 24 and 25, constituted ham radio's "Winter Field Day." It used to be that there was only one Field Day, in the summer. One joker said winter field day was set up by southern hams in retribution for summer field day. As you may imagine, for southern hams the summer field operations can be brutal in the heat. Field Day was the brainchild of the American Radio Relay League, headquartered in Newington, Connecticut where summers are milder. Winter field day is payback, making northern hams operate during their coldest days of the year. Well, this year the revenge backfired on us.

This Winter Field Day, South Texas was visited by what we call a "blue norther." That is a front of frigid arctic air that sweeps in from the northwest bringing, in this case, freezing rain, ice-covered roads, frozen ground and all-around miserable weather. Saturday morning had started out in the mid-50s,

The next meeting, February 12, 2026, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

Then by noon the temperature dropped into the 30s. In my warm house I debated whether I'd go. I had promised that I would go and operate Morse Code. While Winter Field Day is not exactly a contest, it is scored and Morse contacts get double points over voice contacts. I finally piled a few things in the car, my parks-on-the-air radio kit, a sleeping bag and pillow. I wore boots and my warmest brown leather jacket. I should have taken my much warmer yellow snow-skiing coat that is meant for the kind of weather we had. Nope, didn't take it. I did have an old stocking cap to cover my ears. I needed it.



Accompanying photos show the setup. It was impressive. The storm hit later in the evening and continued overnight with high winds, freezing rain, thunder and ice. The heaters in the tent had a hard time keeping up. Large Tents are not exactly sealed against the wind. It started well, then after being buffeted by the winds and ice, things started getting colder inside the tent. Nocturnal trips to the "facilities" about 100 or so feet away, were particularly challenging. The ground was frozen and the wet grass froze. That made walking a slippery challenge in the dark. The freezing rain stung one's face.

Continued on page 5

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
02	R		N5IUT		San Antonio, TX		February 2026
TO							

Hello South Texas,

One of the most meaningful ways we can strengthen the future of amateur radio is by investing in the next generation. That is why the San Antonio Radio Club is proud to continue the Bob Rodriguez Scholarship Fundraiser, established in 2022 to honor Bob’s dedication, service, and love for this hobby.

Bob was more than an accomplished amateur operator—he was a mentor, a friend, and a tireless supporter of our club. His passing on November 29, 2025, was a great loss to our community, but his legacy lives on through the members he mentored and this scholarship.

This year’s fundraiser offers outstanding prizes:

- **1st Prize:** Yaesu FTX-1 Optima
- **2nd Prize:** Yaesu FT-DX10
- **3rd Prize:** Yaesu FT-710 Field
- **4th Prize:** Yaesu FTM-310DR

Tickets are \$25 each, with a maximum of 400 tickets available. The raffle will be held on November 12, 2026, at our regular club meeting. Winners need not be present to win.

These are exceptional radios that any operator would be proud to own, and every ticket purchased directly supports our scholarship program.

By participating, you are not only giving yourself a chance to win great equipment, you are helping deserving students pursue their education.

I encourage every member to take part, spread the word, and help us make this year’s fundraiser our most successful yet. Together, we can honor Bob’s memory in the best way possible: by supporting learning, service, and the future of our hobby.

Thank you for your continued support.

Paul Guido, N5IUT
President, San Antonio Radio Club

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ	As of 1/7/2026		
Paid 101	New Members for 2026		
Free / Mil 7	First	Last	Call
Family Members 13	Michael	Joseph	KK5HP
Free / RF 5	Hugo	Sulaica	KD5BUC
Free / VE 25			
ARRL Members 94			
Total Membership 126			

Note: It's time to renew membership for 2026. Membership fee is discounted to \$12 if paid by January 13, 2026. <https://w5sc.org/membership/>

POTA: When scheduled, information is published via the club's Groups.IO and Facebook account. Volunteer need to head the club's effort.

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – No report

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed January 6, 2026. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April: June 27-28, 2026. The club will meet at Shavano Park pavilion. Delayed start time (2 PM local time) due to a scheduling conflict with the venue. More information will be available via groups.io as the event nears.

Finance and Review – Pending for 2026.

JOTA – John April: Held third weekend of October. Information: <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/>

Centennial Committee – Tom O'Brien AB5XZ – Memorabilia available.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Will be held the last weekend of May at the Schertz Civic Center. Tickets available on EventBrite. Search: Bexar County. New safety vests will be loaned to volunteers, rather than purchasing T-shirts. Upon ending a shift, the volunteers will return them to the coordinator to reissue to the next shift. Prize radios for the event will be a Yaesu 891 and an FT5DR.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P:

Testing opportunities:

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library, unless otherwise noted.
 6425 Evers Rd
 Leon Valley, TX 78238

- 2/21/26, 12-2 PM
- 4/25/26, 12-2 PM
- 5/30/26, 1:30-3:30 PM, at Radio Fiesta, 1400 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX 78154
- 6/28/26, 12-2 PM, Field Day, 900 Saddletree Ct., Shavano Park, TX 78231
- 8/22/26, 12-2 PM
- 10/24/26, 12-2 PM – At Leon Valley Fire Station
- 12/19/26, 12-2 PM

restaurant, then home to a fire in the fireplace and napped through a movie.

The whole experience reminded me of camping with our Northern Virginia scout troop in the winter. We camped once a month come rain, sleet, hail, snow or ice and often all the above. We'd wake up with ice and snow on top of the tents. Often, we'd have to drive our tent stakes into frozen ground.

Son Jon got his ham license (KE4EZD), about the time of his first scout camp out. It was in the Shenandoah mountains at a place called Elizabeth Furnace. I didn't make that trip but knew that a repeater station was on a nearby mountain, its signal looking down at the valley where the scouts camped.

I gave Jon a handheld radio, an ICOM 2AT, so I could talk to him from home, we had a sched. The repeater station was 60 miles away, but in a direct line of sight from my Woodbridge QTH. I told Jon to keep the battery warm. We did make contact. It was snowing and 15 degrees up there at night. Of course, an 11-year-old doesn't say much. "...I'm fine." was about all I got out of him from his sleeping bag in the tent, but I was a proud dad.

Would I do winter field day again? Probably. There is a phrase in a 1931 song by Noel Coward. It went, "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun." Ham operators are like that too.

Field Day Results for W5A

Get results for: Get results for: [Download your Certificate Here](#)

10 entries per page Search:

Callsign	Class	Location	Total QSOs	Final Mult	Final Score	Objectives
W6ZE	4	ORG	2352	21	64155	75%
N9WH	2	IL	1249	29	39875	92%
W6TRW	12	LAX	855	26	25532	83%
AF0S	2	CO	1094	18	21726	67%
W1SYE	2	RI	751	20	21700	75%
K3KLB	1	WPA	1149	17	19550	58%
K5N	2	STX	837	18	17802	67%
W8DF	2	MI	821	17	13901	58%
W5A	6	STX	395	23	13961	83%
KE7END	5	AZ	691	18	13824	67%

Showing 1 to 10 of 299 entries « 1 2 3 4 5 ... 30 »

More Winter Field Day Photos



The site, main tent in the center. Sonny's camper and Tim's Airstream are to the left. Other vehicles in the adjacent parking area.



Inside the tent about noon on Saturday. The satellite station is in the right rear corner. Other stations are arranged around the U-shaped tables. The grey device in the center is a kind of multiplexer that allows different stations on different frequencies to use the same antenna, a vertical I believe. Only one connection per band. To switch bands, someone had to give up the appropriate antenna cable. It worked well. The black device on the corner of the table is a portable gas space heater. It was a very welcome item late at night.



The fire bowl was a welcome feature



The kitchen tent. It featured two grills And makings for hamburgers and hot Dogs, in addition to coffee and cocoa.



Another view of the site. Sonny's, vertical antenna to the rear of his camper. It iced up overnight and couldn't be used.



Jim, WJ4M and Sonny, WC8L working CW late at night. Tim, AF5GG is at the end of the table. Sonny is logging, Jim operating, later they switched places.



Our host, Tim Jennison, AF5GG working CW early Sunday morning.



The Satellite Antenna array



The tent heater that worked valiantly against the cold.



The vertical antenna was supported by a wooden tripod. Tim and the crew called it the "Awful Tower." It worked well and stood up to the wind and freezing rain. Tim said the horizontal loop he set up for 160m fell. I'm guessing it was from the weight of the built-up ice loading and wind.



Speaking of ice buildup, this is the mobile antenna on back of my Honda.

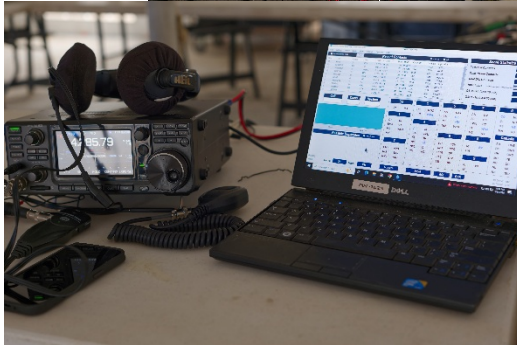
K6MIX













Tall Tales Department

One thing we hams like is a good story. As I was listening to 20 CW the other night, I heard Michael, N1MX calling CQDX. He lives in Walpole Mass. I know this because I looked him up on QRZ.com. Michael's QRZ page is a rich compilation of history, his love of things Russian, his art (he is an artist in addition to musician, ex-taxi driver and I think engineer). One item is a long story worthy of any tale ever told late at night over a hot drink in front of a friendly fire. Here it is:

An Unusual Story

By Dr. J. Michael Blasi, W4NXD

QST Magazine, December 1967

Most of us like to hear a good yarn about ham radio and the one that I'm going to tell you is probably the most unusual I've ever heard.

Well, last summer I was cleaning out some of the junk in my shack when W4--- calls on the hard line (telephone) and invites me over to see his new receiver. I've never been too close with Bob, but he's a decent sort of chap. He works 20 meters mostly and since the noise level had been S9 the past few days, I guess he wanted somebody to shoot the breeze with.

About 20 minutes later I'm sitting in his shack looking over some of his QSL cards and wishing my DXCC total was up around 300 countries where Bob's is. He had just set up two cool ones with plenty of ice and passed me his tobacco pouch when he got a real funny look in his eye.

"You know, Doc, I've gotten a real thrill out of ham radio this week. I'm going to tell you (of) an incident that started almost 25 years ago. I've never told this to a living soul, but since it was so long ago, nobody would raise any smoke about it today.

A young fellow like you wouldn't remember this, but DX was a bit different before WWII. The big thing in those days was trying to get a Worked All Zones certificate. Not very many fellows had the award and there was real competition for some of the Asian zones. Why I even put up a rhombic pointed at Tibet just so I could try to work AC4YN. I never worked him, but I sure had a ball trying to chase him down. The closest I ever got was to work a whole mess of J's in Japan. They're signing JA nowadays."

"All of this came to an end when the war broke out and I signed up, like a lot of other hams I knew. They shipped me out to the South Pacific before I could count to ten.

"Well, it was in '42, or maybe it was the beginning of '43, that I got a taste of the enemy. It seems there was a small island about five miles from us that the Japanese were using to report all ship movements in the area. We figured they had a radio station and a few men, since the island was only about a mile square.

"To make a long story short, two other fellows and I volunteered to go ashore and look around and try to close shop for our friends from Tokyo. Well, when we were trying to beach our rubber boat, the other two fellows get cut up real bad on some coral and were just about useless 'til they could be moved back to the ship.

"I was much younger then and much more foolish and brave, I guess. So I said I'd have a look around and be back in a couple of hours. Well, I must have hacked my way through about half a mile of jungle when I noticed some wire that had been strung through the palms. It was fed with open line, so I just followed the spreaders until I hit pay dirt. There was a small bamboo hut with a table and a chair and some radio gear that seemed to be in operation. I moved to a small hill and looked the situation over. There was only one fellow inside, and he didn't seem to be more than five feet tall, so maybe I could handle the problem alone. Where I was lying offered a good position for me to jump this fellow if he came out of the hut.



"It seemed like five hours, but it must have been less when he decided to come strolling out next to that little hill I was on. I got my jungle knife ready and landed right on top of him. I'm all set to give some cold steel in the stomach when I get the surprise of my life. He's got a magazine in his hand, and it was QST. Well, I was so stunned when I saw it I dropped my knife and just looked at him. We must have stared at each other for a full two minutes like mad men. Then, do you know what I said to him?"

"What's your call?"

Well, he grins and says, "Jay Too---"

"I had worked him about half a dozen times on 20 c.w. His handle was Iko. His English wasn't too bad, so we just shot the bull for a while. I know this sounds crazy, but how could you take the life of a fellow ham whose QSL card is hanging on your wall back home? Some things are just bigger than war.

"Before long we're having a gay old time as he's broken out a special bottle of rice wine and started gabbing about old DX on 20 CW. I finally explain that, ham buddy or not, there's going to be hot times for him real soon.

"Well, Iko tells me that this is his last day on the island and that he is going to be taken off by a sub in a few hours. They are closing down the radio station on that island. He even asks me to help him get his radio gear into his rubber raft. At the time it seemed like a pretty good idea, so I asked him if he'd let me dynamite the hut after he left, just to make things look all right.

"We shook hands, exchanged 73s, and I watched him paddle off to the sub.

"The rest of the story is uneventful except that I got a medal for my bravery on the island."

Then Bob got up from his chair to get some more ice for the drinks as I sat there and relighted my pipe.

"Well, Doc, the cap to this story is that I worked a JA1 on 20 SSB last week and it was Iko. It makes me feel good that things worked out ok after all."

We both raised our glasses and drank to JA1—



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator

Next testing session: 2/21/26, 12-2 PM at at the Leon Valley library,
6425 Evers Rd
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

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



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

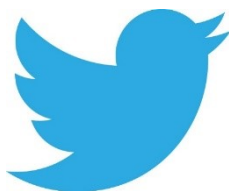
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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.

Radio Fiesta 2026
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!

Field Day 2026
Field Day 2026 will be here before you know it. Start planning for FD 2026, where SARC proves they are an eating group with a radio problem.

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

License Testing Dates for 2026
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." If not otherwise noted, testing site is Leon Valley Library, 6425 Evers Rd, Leon Valley, TX 78238
Scheduled for 2025
2/21/26, 12-2 PM
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5/30/26, 1:30-3:30 PM, at Radio Fiesta, 1400 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX 78154
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8/22/26, 12-2 PM
10/24/26, 12-2 PM – At Leon Valley Fire Station
12/19/26, 12-2 PM

Emergency Communications

If you are interested in emergency communications, contact:
Ned Lee, KG5US RACES Bexar County

210-344-3481 / 210-391-8258

The ARES EC for Bexar County is Patricia
Coley, KI7IEE,
Phone 206 949-8974
email cosmicfire@gmail.com

SARC Meeting Dates for 2025

- January 8, 2026
- February 12, 2026
- March 12, 2026
- April 9, 2026
- May 14, 2026
- June 11, 2026
- July 9, 2026
- August 13, 2026
- September 10, 2026
- October 8, 2026
- November 12, 2026
- 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