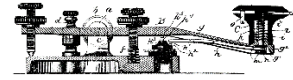




# Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club  
W5SC



2026, No. 03

March 2026

**Tailgate**  
**Bill Craft, KD2HIQ**

**Contact Bill Craft, KD2HIQ**  
**210-570-0335**  
[info@w5sc.org](mailto:info@w5sc.org)



**Coordinated Universal Time**  
**Bill Craft, KD2HIQ**

**Coordinated Universal Time, or UTC.** Every smartphone, every server, every GPS satellite and every stock exchange on the planet syncs to this one standard. It's the heartbeat of the internet.



When: Saturday, March 14  
8 AM-1 PM

Where: Encino Branch Library  
2515 E Evans Rd, San Antonio, TX

Admission: Buyers Free  
Sellers \$5 donation  
(Benefits Library programs)  
Commercial vendors welcome.

This is an opportunity for sellers to bring excess ham treasures, open their trunks and tailgates and let the equipment find a new home. It is also an opportunity for buyers to get good gear at reasonable prices.

No AC power, generators OK. Take away any trash you create.

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

🕒 Here's the fun part. UTC isn't tracked by one clock. It's the average of over 450 atomic clocks spread across 80 countries. These clocks are so precise they won't lose a single second for 300 million years. Your phone pings these clocks through GPS satellites or the internet and adjusts itself automatically. That's why you never have to set the time, even when you land in a new time zone.

English speakers wanted CUT (Coordinated Universal Time). French speakers wanted TUC (Temps Universel Coordonné). They couldn't agree. So they compromised on UTC, which matches neither language. International diplomacy at its finest. One more thing, your phone's clock is accurate to about 1 millisecond. The clock on your microwave? Always wrong.

🕒 I've put a lot of thought into it, and 6:30 is the best time on a clock, hands down.

--Bill

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

Hello South Texas,

I am starting to make the rounds at the area clubs.

First, I went to the San Antonio Repeater Organization meeting (SARO). SARC meets at Blanco BBQ and it is nice, but SARO meets at Beethoven Maennerchor in the King William district!

This is a German Halle and Biergarten with great German and other beer on tap and in the bottle. The Bratwurst is \$9 and for \$5 more you can add a Bier! Yes, it was great.

The German singing group started meeting in 1867 and they are dedicated to the preservation of German songs, music, language, and culture in San Antonio.

I saw many old friends at the SARO meeting and will put their next meeting on the calendar.

This week I made it to the Bexar County EOC to meet up with the ARES group. If you have never been to the EOC it is an amazing facility. There are dedicated stations for all of the emergency services, hospitals, and other emergency resources.

When looking at the front of the room, the door to the right of the big screens is the Ham Radio room. Three HF stations, two UHF/VHF stations, and several portable go kits are in this room and all are ready to go on the air. Spare radios are there in case the primary radios have issues.

Please consider joining SARO and ARES. They both do great work and could use your support.

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, SARC

## Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM February 12, 2026

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

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

Presentations: Traffic Handling overview. JC Smith, N5RXS

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 – Winter Field Day held, despite the cold weather. Story is in the most recent Bexar Wire. Raffle tickets will be going on sale for the annual scholarship raffle. 2/28: Swap fest in Kerrville.

Vice President – Kelly Randal, WB5MZT – Council-wide campout on 3/21. Jon Douglas is soliciting volunteers to demonstrate amateur radio at this large event, near Hunt, Texas. Scout Youth Protection training is required.

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 – Bill Craft, KD2KIQ – Board met Jan 6. Approved club’s budget for 2026. Bob Rodriguez Scholarship Fund will continue. Prizes approved. Drawing will be at November 2026 general membership meeting. Also selected prizes for Radio Fiesta.

Education and Training – Marvin “Marlo” Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report. Per Paul Guido, Technician question pool taking effect in July, has been published for study. He will be creating a study guide.

Emergency Communications – Patricia Colley, Bexar Co. ARES – Reinstated 2 emergency repeaters, building relationships with additional groups, expanding outreach and partnerships. No participation is required to be a member, but opportunities for training and emergency response are available for volunteers. Meetings are monthly. They alternate between the Emergency Operations Center and the Red Cross building.

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Activities for January

- 1. Web Site- Posted newsletter
2. Groups.io
a) Updated membership list
b) Updated calendar
3. Mail chimp- Meeting notice, Zoom Notice
4. Twitter
5. Facebook - Meeting notice

<b>Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ</b>	As of 2/7/2026		
Paid 123	New Members for 2026		
Free / Mil 7	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Call</b>
Family Members 15	Edward	Lozano	<b>K5RMB</b>
Free / RF 5	Eric	Olson	<b>WB5ZJQ</b>
Free / VE 26	Sharon	Olson	<b>KB5KZD</b>
ARRL Members 96	Stephen	Hutchins	<b>AJ5ZS</b>
Total Membership 176	Clarke	Diekmann	<b>K3WGF</b>
	Don J	Coburn Jr	<b>K2WQ</b>
	Tim	Jenison	<b>AF5GG</b>
	Michael	Johnson	<b>KD9DVF</b>
	Sheri	Johnson	<b>KD9LBN</b>
	Andrew	Gayley	<b>KJ5OCD</b>

**Notes:**

Through a partnership between QRZ and GigaParts, the barrier to entry into amateur radio is being lowered by providing new hams with a high-quality radio for only \$17.99 (plus tax and shipping). The radio is supplied with an antenna, desktop cradle charger, battery, and belt clip. Effective February 28, 2025, new hams will be entitled to a 70% discount on the Explorer QRZ-1 VHF/UHF handheld transceiver, as well as a variety of accessories.

The eligible ham must have a QRZ user account and be able to log in and apply for the program. Certain types of identification, including a photo ID, will be required. This information is not shared or exchanged with any party and is used only to validate eligibility under this program.

This program is available exclusively to USA licensed amateur radio operators who obtained their first license from the FCC within the last 6 months. The Jumpstart program may be changed or terminated without notice based on availability and corporate sponsors.

**Process:**

1. Go to [www.qrz.com/jumpstart](http://www.qrz.com/jumpstart)
2. Receive unique discount code from QRZ via email
3. Add a QRZ-1 to your shopping cart
4. Add any accessories you may want to purchase
5. At checkout, add your unique discount code.

**POTA:** When scheduled, information is published via the club’s Groups.IO and Facebook account.

**Fox Hunt** – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – No report

**Newsletter Editor** – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed February 11, 2026. 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** – Volunteer needed to review the club’s books. Must be a club member, not a board member. Contact Paul Guido.

**JOTA** – John April: Held in October.

**Centennial Committee** – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – Memorabilia for the club’s centennial are available.





12. I encourage CW operators to hunt as soon as possible and not put it off. It is OK to make sending errors. **One caveat**, you must be able to decode CW, at least you should be able to recognize your callsign and the parts of the QSO. It is simple, callsign, signal report (RST) and your state using the standard 2-letter abbreviation. Also, get to know a question mark, dit dit dah dah dit dit.
13. Get to know the prosign AS, or dit dah, dit dit dit. That generally means " Wait, I'm busy."
14. If I send a full callsign that is similar, but not exactly your callsign, don't transmit. I'm pretty sure the callsign I sent is correct. Don't assume otherwise.
15. If you make a mistake, just send a series of "dits." Everyone makes mistakes, even the most experienced operator and the op on the other end will understand. Don't get discouraged, keep at it!
16. If you are calling me as a park-to-park contact, you do not have to send your park number. I don't mind it, but it is not required. The POTA website back-end will match up our QSOs and credit both of us. The park reference slows things down when things are getting hot.
17. When I'm completing a QSO with another hunter, don't transmit your callsign until you are sure my QSO is complete. Listen for my "dit-dit," or "two bits." (This ending comes from the old saw, "Shave and a haircut, two bits" – ED)
18. If I'm complete a QSO with you, don't send me anything after the "dit-dit." Unless it is your "dit-dit" of course. We're through and I'm on to the next QSO and in a pile-up I won't hear it.
19. If you don't get into my log, you may have doubled with another hunter. Make sure you know the callsign I'm working on. If you're not sure, stay silent. If I'm working you, I'll come back and try to complete the QSO. I am meticulous about logging. Another reason is you may be identified by the POTA website as a duplicate. If the data duplicates the same band, date, mode and me at the same park, the POTA website will see it as a duplicate and discard it. Remember that different dates in a time zone don't mean they are the same date in UTC time. UTC time zones are the only ones that matter.
20. Remember to log your entries in Universal Coordinated Time or UTC, also known as Zulu time. Use the 24-hour time format. That is the common procedure for logging Ham contacts around the globe. There are several ways to determine UTC in your area.
21. Hunt as often as you can. Don't be afraid to call me too often (though not in the same session). You can get "repeat offender" awards in POTA for multiple contacts with one station.
22. Activations can be for a long period or short. An activator may be on the air during lunch. If you're looking for a specific station to contact, there are systems such as HamAlert that will notify you when a specific station is on the air. POTA allows credit for one contact per band per day, per mode or per park. If I change frequencies, you can contact me on the new one and get credit for two contacts
23. If you use a callsign suffix like /P or /M, /7, etc. make sure the callsign, with the suffix, is registered in your profile record as an alias or secondary callsign in QRZ or in the POTA.app profile or any other logging service you use. I log exactly as I hear it and if it doesn't match a standard callsign list, you won't get credit.
24. PLEASE, PLEASE don't tune up anywhere near my operating frequency. Even a couple of watts may be enough to interfere with a QSO. Ham radio etiquette requires using a dummy load

for tuning. At least, find an unoccupied pace. Even then, you may interfere with someone you can't hear but they can hear you.

25. Giving an RST (readability, signal strength, tone) report may as well be as accurate as possible. I try my best to be accurate. Signal reports are subjective and hardly ever really accurate. The best effort will help someone who is testing a new rig or antenna. Sometimes you would send an augmented report by adding QSB (signal fading), QRM (man-made interference), or QRN (natural interference). (Editor note at my QRH, noise is often S-8). Most modern transmitters won't send anything less than a "9" tone. The S-meter is almost useless as an indicator of signal strength, especially in a pileup. Anything that just wiggles the S-meter is likely something above 559 in my opinion. You are the judge, but as accurate as you can be. A signal that is very difficult to hear may warrant less than a 5. (I often get reports of 339 or 449—ED).

For operating etiquette and procedures there are a number of sources. Evan Thorson, K2EIT, had a couple of great videos. You can find one here: [Let's have a talk about CW etiquette and POTA](#). Another video deals with special event stations and POTA. I strongly urge you to be familiar with the DX Code of Conduct as well as the Radio Amateur's Code.

Bottom line, be patient and courteous when operating CW mode, or any other mode. Orderly and efficient QSOs are the goal unless we're rag-chewing. Aggressive behavior takes the fun out of our wonderful hobby/service. When working POTA, SOTA (summits on the air), or contests, be as considerate and courteous as you can be. Assume stations are there even if you can't hear them. Brevity is the soul of wit—not only in contesting but in POTA and WWFF too! Good luck and good hunting,

73,  
Jim, WB0RLJ dit-dit.

### Shorts





## Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator

Next testing session: **April 25, 2026 from 12-2 PM** at at the Leon Valley library,  
6425 Evers Rd  
Leon Valley, TX 78238

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

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

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

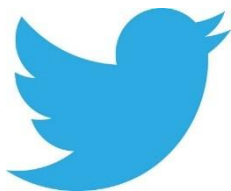
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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](https://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](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.

### 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](mailto: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

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

## 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](mailto: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