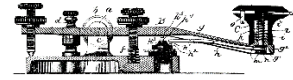




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2026, No. 05

May 2026

Using Repeaters By Noji Ratzlaff, N0JI



It's Time for For Radio Fiesta 2026 May 29-30, 2026

Get a table or admission tickets online prior to event to save \$\$ Details at:

<https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta-2026-information/>

Prizes

- 1st Prize: Yaesu FT-891 100 Watt HF/50MHz**
- 2nd Prize: Yaesu FT-5DR digital 2m/440 handheld**
- 3rd Prize: Talkpad N39 PMS Nationwide Virtual Ham Radio, Dual Pack**
- 4th Prize: Talkpad N39 PMS Nationwide Virtual Ham Radio, Dual Pack**

Times:

Friday May 29, 7:00 AM-Noon Vendor and sale table setup. Noon to 5 PM, Open to public
Saturday May 30, 7-8 AM Setup, 8 AM-1PM Open to public

The next meeting, May 14, 2026, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

If you're new to ham radio, you might have already discovered how to talk with a friend or check into a net through a repeater. Still, some find that repeater communication is a little challenging, whether they're new or experienced. Let's walk through some basics on how to send your signal through a repeater.



The necessary settings on your radio include frequency, offset, shift direction, and tone. Even after making sure these are set correctly, you still might run into a few problems, so let's talk about those too.

1. Frequency To set your frequency, make sure your radio is in "Frequency Mode" or "VFO" then punch in the six-digit frequency. For the 146.780 MHz repeater, for example, press 1-4-6-7-8-0 and you're set.
2. Offset For 2 meters, the offset is 0.6 MHz (same as 600 kHz), so your offset should read 000.600. For 70 cm, the offset is 5.0 MHz. If your radio is capable of ARS (automatic repeater shift), simply enable that feature.
3. Shift direction In Utah (and much of the US), the shift direction ("SFT-D") is negative if your frequency is 147.000 MHz or less, and positive if it is greater than 147.000 MHz. The ARS feature will also take care of this setting. **(Continued on Page)**

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

Hello South Texas,

If you would like to volunteer or attend radio events in the area, this is the time and we need you! What a great time to get out and get on the air!

AARO meets on May 13, 2026, at 6 to 9 PM - Mamacita's Restaurant, 8030 I-10, San Antonio, TX 78230.

The San Antonio Radio Club meets May 14, 2026, some arrive at 6 to catch up before the meeting starts at 7PM at Blanco BBQ.

SADRC meets on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9 – 11 PM, at Lupe Tortilla Mexican Restaurant, 21103 US Hwy 281 N, San Antonio, TX

Radio Fiesta! Please sign up to volunteer. Friday, May 29 and Saturday May 30, 2026, Schertz Civic Center - 1400 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX. I am looking forward to seeing you there!

BSidesSATX Radio Village, at BSidesSATX. This is a CyberSecurity conference at St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas 78228 on Saturday, June 13, 2026, 9 AM to 5:30 PM. Go to their website for details. If you can volunteer, contact radioteacher (at) gmail.com.

The next major event is Field Day 2026! Delayed start at 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 27 running through Sunday at noon. City of Shavano Park's City Hall Complex (900 Saddletree Court Shavano Park, TX 78231).

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, SARC

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

Membership – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ	As of 4/6/2026		
Paid 131	New Members for 2026		
Free / Mil 7	First	Last	Call
Family Members 15	James	Collings	KD5JVI
Free / RF 5	Jonathan	Loeffler	
Free / VE 26	Joseph	Wotton	
ARRL Members 96			
Total Membership 184			

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

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – One will be conducted at the BSidesSATX event, June 13, 2026.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed April 7, 2026. It included an article on tuning the Field Day beam antenna the club uses. Contact Jimmy if you want to contribute an article for publication. Deadline is the Monday before the monthly meeting.

Field Day – Jon April:

- The beam antenna has been tuned.
- Delayed start due to venue conflict: now starting at 2 PM on Saturday.
- Volunteers needed. BBQ will be provided.
- Provided review of safety and security matters for the event.

Finance and Review – Member Dawn Finnamore/N1DEE. Completed 4/9/26. No bookkeeping discrepancies found.

JOTA – John April: Held in October each year.

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

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason –

- Tickets are available on EventBrite. Search: Bexar County. May 29 & 30 this year.
- All is going as planned so far.
- In discussion for the 2027 event.
- Volunteers needed. They will be provided with a vinyl mesh vest to identify them.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library, unless otherwise noted.

6425 Evers Rd
Leon Valley, TX 78238

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

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – No report

Election Committee – Paul Guido, NSIUT – No report. Elections will happen in November.

Scholarship Committee – Fundraiser tickets for sale, \$25 each, to fund two \$1000 scholarships through AARL. Maximum tickets to be sold: 400. Drawing will be at the November 12, 2026 meeting @ 7 PM. Do not need to be present to win. See Jon to purchase tickets.

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

New Business – None

Announcements

- Ricard Elder showed off Tape measures by the case (18) for \$27 from Dollar Tree.
- SharkRF M1KE
- <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/m1ke/>
- Jimmie made a contact to Delaware on the unit. 5 by 9 copy.
- \$400
- Aubrey discussed an article he posted on Groups.io
- Jimmie discussed tool the government used to find heart beats
- Richard discussed a radio that had a built-in GPS for finding downed pilots and other radios for finding people.
- AARO is joining SARC for Field Day
- VP discussed Bear Creek. Wonderful event. 13 Merit badges are related to Radio

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:29 PM.

Operating With Repeaters (Continued)

4. Tone The tone (formerly “PL tone”) is a kind of password required by the repeater to enable the re-transmit function. Most Utah repeaters require a tone, and many require 100.0 Hz.

5. Troubleshooting If your necessary settings are all correct, you might still run into a few problems, including:

a) Antenna If people on the repeater can’t hear you well, you just might need to get a better antenna, such as a Signal Stick or a J-pole or a mag mount antenna.

b) Location If you’re transmitting from within your house, your vehicle, or behind a hill, your signal might become compromised. If moving a few inches doesn’t help, try stepping outside.

c) Bandwidth In Utah, the repeater bandwidth must always be set to Wide (± 5 kHz deviation). If you set your radio to Narrow, you might sound loud through the repeater, but a bit distorted.

d) Microphone If you’re using the built-in microphone on your HT (handheld transceiver), you need to speak very close to it. If you’re using a hand microphone, you need to keep your mouth a few inches away from it. With any micro phone, don’t speak into the microphone, but across its face, to prevent puffing into it. Also, if you begin speaking right after you press the PTT (press-to-talk) button, the first word you say might get cut off of your conversation, so wait a second before you begin speaking.

e) Proximity If you’re trying to communicate with a ham who’s less than fifty feet from you (within the same house or with a vehicle in the next lane), you could experience desense (desensitization), in which one radio is being overwhelmed by the nearby-frequency signal (offset) of the other radio, which won’t likely happen if you’re both on simplex. R

Article is from Utah Valley ARC



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator



testing session: **April 25, 2026** radio winner, Nathaniel Olson. **Congratulations Nathaniel on your new license and new radio!**
Next test date at Radio Fiesta, May 30, Starts 1:30 PM

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org
Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing."

Free Amateur Radio News Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

There are a number of free high-quality monthly and quarterly newsletters, blogs and podcasts you can read/listen to. I will focus on four for you to start with.

SWR Magazine

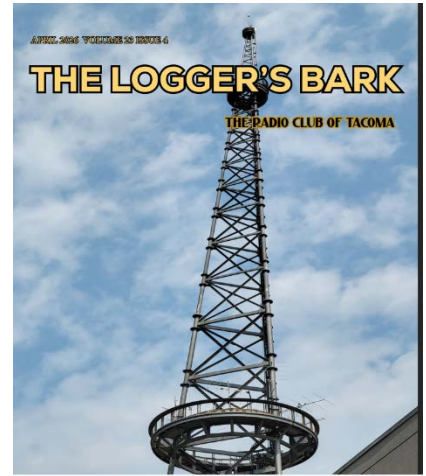


[SWR Magazine's](#) mission is to inform, educate, and inspire the global amateur radio community through high-quality technical content, real-world experiences, scientific outreach, and advancements in modern amateur radio. We promote the exchange of

knowledge, experimentation, innovation, and the core values that define amateur radio: service, ethics, scientific curiosity, and international collaboration. Its Vision is to become a leading reference publication in the world of amateur radio, recognized for its technical rigor, editorial quality, and strong commitment to education and technological evolution. We aspire to strengthen the amateur radio community, connect generations, foster new talent, and preserve the experimental and human spirit of radio in an increasingly digital world.

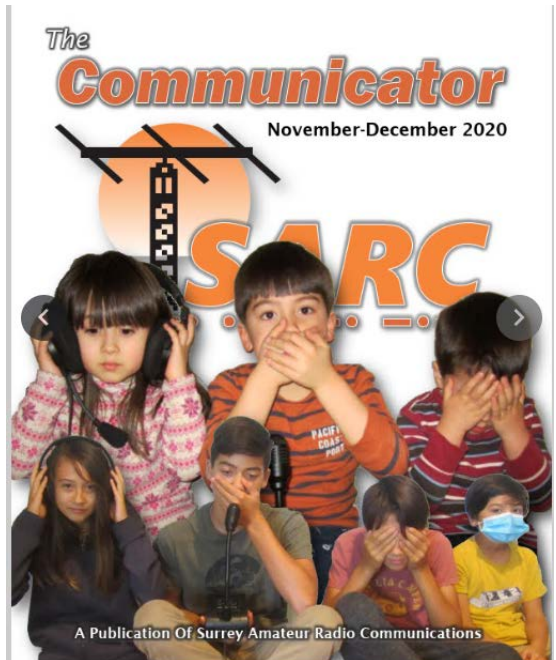
The Logger's Bark

The Radio Club of Tacoma publishes an excellent monthly newsletter, [The Logger's Bark](#). The Logger's Bark has been published electronically since January 2005 and back issues can be viewed on the website.



SARC Communicator

[The SARC Communicator](#) is Surrey Amateur Radio Communications Society (SARC)'s flagship digital publication, released bi-monthly and read in over 150 countries. Each 120+ page issue features a rich mix of technical articles, event coverage, historical insights, and news. Edited by John Schouten VE7TI for the last 20 years, The Communicator showcases the depth and diversity of knowledge within our community, serving as a valuable resource for both new and experienced amateur radio operators.



[Q5](#)

Q5 is a Substack website of newsletter posts, photo stories, and be-



content for ham radio enthusiasts.

hind-the-scenes insights — plus the complete publication archives of past features. No algorithms, no noise — just thoughtful, real

Hams beware, there are scams waiting in the bushes, to grab unsuspecting buyers. Here are some that should be sold only on April 1st.

Here's the SPECTACULAR
"L--O--N--G R--E--A--C--H"
 RANDOM LENGTH OF WIRE ANTENNA

PRICED AT ONLY

\$149.95

"You are 599, OM!"



"actual product may vary"

THE "BEST" STRAIGHT WIRE AVAILABLE
 PERFECT FOR STRINGING BETWEEN TREES
 ACCURATE
 EASY TO INSTALL
 PREMIUM SELECTIVITY
 "OPTIMIZED" FOR HAM RADIO BY OUR UNIQUE PROCESS

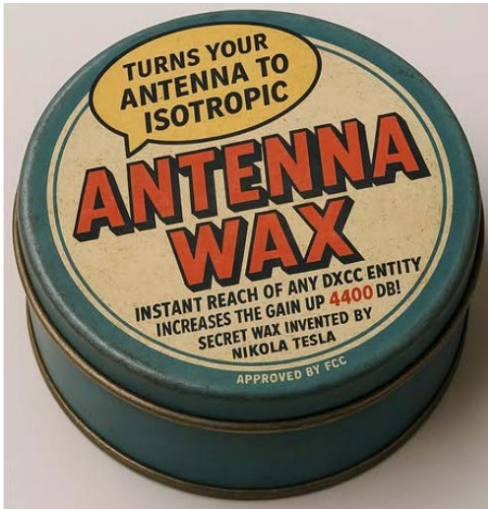
ANOTHER FINE PRODUCT FROM
WET NOODLE ANTENNAS

20W HF QRP Whip Antenna Miracle
 RX & TX Antenna -US \$58.90



MHZ
 FRQ: 3.5-30
 50-54
 76-108
 117-174
 400-470

WuKong365 Antenna
 Whip 41.5
 Length 150cm
 WHF 1775
 FRQ: 3.5-30MHz, 50-54MHz, 76-108MHz,
 117-174MHz, 136-174MHz, 400-470MHz.



We definitely need this for field day, just think of all the contacts we could make.

IMPEDANCE MATCHING SPRAY PAINT™

RATTLE CAN EDITION - TUNE YOUR TOWER IN SECONDS!

"Don't fix your transmission line. Paint over the problem!"

FEATURES:

- Realigns coaxial chakras
- Reduces VSWR* by up to 112%
- Adds +3 dB of confidence
- Works on Yagi, dipole, or that bent coat hanger-you call an atena
- Now with Nano-Ferrite Polymerics™ for directional RF laminar flow!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

1. Shake can vigorously (to excite RF harmonics)
2. Spray liberally over mismatched surfaces
3. Chant "50 ohms... 50 ohms..." while grounding yourself
4. Enjoy crisp modulation and smug superiority



REDUCES VSWR* UTO 112%
 REDUCES SVSFWR*
 REALIGNS COAXIAL CHAKRAS
 PEDUCES VSWR UTO 112%
CAUTION:
 Do not inhale. May cause unintentional transmission to generate dimensions.
 *Valid where physics applies

Amateur Radio License Map Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Sometimes, you may be curious as to what hams live around you. While the raw information is available from the FCC, it's not in an easily digestible format. Once again, using the power of Google, someone has solved that problem by putting together a web page called Amateur Radio License Map (<https://haminfo.tetranz.com>). Initially, you get this web page, asking for a zip code:

Try it you will be surprised at the results.



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

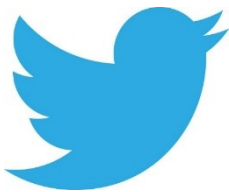
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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 2026 will be at Schertz Civic Center on May 29-39. 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 2026

- 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

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