



Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2025, No. 5

May 2025



Radio Fiesta is a convention for hams. Such conventions are often called hamfests. Because SARC is in San Antonio where almost everything is a Fiesta, the hamfest is a two day event starting on Friday and ending on Saturday afternoon. SARC's event is called a Radio Fiesta. Radio Fiesta includes dealers, a flea market, a tailgating market, a technical and informational program of presentations, DX Card Checking, and amateur radio license testing. Check the Radio Fiesta page for more information.

What is the most important thing A SARC member can do for Radio Fiesta 2025?

ANS: Sign up on the online work assignment form at the meeting or online(<https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/>) to help Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI Radio Fiesta 2025 Chairperson. You can volunteer for a 2-hour shift, multiple 2-hour shifts, or for the entire period that a job exists.: **This is it, our annual fundraiser event. No prior experience needed; you just need a willingness to help**

The next meeting, May 8, 2025, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602.

Radio Fiesta Information:

When: Friday June 6 and Saturday June 7

Where: Shertz Civic Center, 1400 Shertz Parkway, Shertz, Texas

Schedule:

Friday

**7 AM-12PM, Vendor setup
12 PM-6PM, Open to public**

Saturday:

**7 AM-8 AM Vendor Setup
8 AM-2 PM Open to Public**

Featuring:

Free parking

Vendors

Door Prizes

New and used rigs

Components and parts

FCC Exams (Saturday 1:30)

Armed Forces Day Crossband Test

The Annual Armed Forces Day (AFD) Crossband Test, hosted by the Department of Defense, is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, 2025.

The event will test two-way communications between military stations and amateur radio operators as authorized by the Federal Communications Commission in Title 47 of Federal Regulations 47 CFR 97.111. The test provides opportunities, and challenges, for operators to test their individual technical skills in a controlled scenario that will not impact public or private communications.

(Continued on Page 5)

PRESIDENT'S RADIOGRAM

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
5R		N5IUT			San Antonio, TX		May 2025
TO							

Hello South Texas,

As mentioned last month, I have been meeting with amateur radio operators at Radio Fiesta (previously called the San Antonio Swapfest) since 1987. Meeting each year face to face, seeing old friends, making new friends, laughing, remembering, and learning something new is a tradition.

What makes Radio Fiesta happen are the volunteers. The admissions, security, tailgate, VE and general help teams keep everything running in an orderly manner.

Please sign up to work a shift. You get in free, receive a T-shirt and help support this event. <https://w5sc.org/rf-vol/>

Radio Fiesta is June 6 and June 7, 2025, at the Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX.

For complete details on Radio Fiesta 2025 go to <https://w5sc.org/radio-fiesta-2025-visitor-information/>

See you there,

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, San Antonio Radio Club

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



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President, San Antonio Radio Club
Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
Editor
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The due date for articles is the **Monday** before the first **Thursday** of the month

Free / RF 3	John M	Shepherd	W5BSR
Free / VE 14	Owen	Slubowski	KJ5DDZ
ARRL Members 81	Linda K.	Jobe	KE8RXX
	Harold	Jobe	WC8L
	Ron	Wingenter	AA5OX
Total Membership 153	Micah June	Culpepper	

Notes:

Teddy Morse, KE5QGR was first volunteer to sign up for RF.

Thanks to Derek Moyes, K1DDM to creating volunteer tracker for RF – link to check your day/time.

POTA: 4/12/25 scheduled. Details to follow.

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

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter distributed April 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: Joint effort with AARO and SADRC. Volunteers needed to staff the event, help with setup and teardown, operate the radios, including two overnight operators. 4th full weekend in June.

Finance and Review – Previously completed.

JOTA – Position vacant. No Report.

Centennial Committee – Tom O’Brien AB5XZ – No report.

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason – Volunteers needed for this event. Sign-up is available at the club’s website. Benefits: free admission ticket to the event for two-hour shift plus free raffle ticket. Radio Fiesta for 2026 will be May 29-30.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P

Testing opportunities:

SARC tests are at the Leon Valley library 12:00
6425 Evers Rd
Leon Valley, TX 78238

Apr 26 12:00
June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30
June 29 Field Day
Aug 23 12:00
Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station
Dec 20 12:00

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – Equipment available for purchase.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – No Report.

Scholarship Committee – This year, we will raffle Icom radios. 3 prizes. 1st: IC-7610, 2nd IC-7300, 3rd ID-52A. Nominate your favorite young local ham today for these scholarships! Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. Maximum tickets to sell: 400.

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

New Business – None

Announcements

- SADRC: radio in the park event. Informal get-together on 4/13 @ 8 AM Bullis County Park.

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:40 PM.

Armed Forces Day Crosband Test (Continued)

The annual DOD message will be transmitted via RTTY on 14667.0 kHz at 1400 and 2000 UTC. Military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and announce the specific amateur radio service frequencies that will be monitored.

All scheduled times will be in UTC, and all scheduled transmissions will be upper side-band (USB), unless otherwise noted. Frequencies, times, and other technical information can be found at the DoD MARS -

Armed Forces Day site at: www.dod-mars.org/mars-comex-information-web-site/armed-forces-day.

Those who wish to document their contacts with a QSL card should visit www.usarmymars.org/armed-forces-day-qsl-card-request

and complete the request form. For more than 50 years, military and amateur stations have taken part in this event.



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P VE Coordinator

No report for This month

Register at HamTest@w5sc.org

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

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act



The April issue of QST, page 69 has an article on the re-introduced Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.

In the coming months, ARRL will be contacting members asking them to go on line and send letters to our U S Senators and Congress members.

Hopefully, ALL club members will call their Representatives requesting their support.

Here's some history on the issue in Congress:

--H.R.4006 Sponsor, Rep. Johnson (R-Ohio 8) Introduced 06/12/2023
First Sponsor

--04/09/2024 Reintroduced Energy and Commerce Committee

From the Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association

[S.3690, also known as the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act](#), is a bill introduced in the United States Senate on January 30, 2024. It aims to prohibit certain private land use restrictions that hinder the installation and operation of amateur radio antennas.

Battle of Britain Race for Radar Or, the Rest of the Story



This article is a follow-on of the article I published some time ago about the early-warning radar that helped Great Britain win the Battle of Britain. Most of the information comes from a documentary, available on Amazon Prime, "Battle of Britain, the Race for Radar."

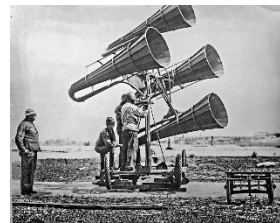
Most history stories tell of how the early warning radar system coupled with Hugh Dowding's command and control system for Fighter Command won the Battle of Britain. The system was developed over a 4-year period. Fighter Command was certain the Germans knew all about the radar system and feared Germany would destroy it in the first few weeks of the war, leaving Fighter Command blind. But the Germans did not destroy the system although it was right under their noses. The reason was not discovered until 1950, after the war. First a bit of history.

Adolph Hitler rose to power in Germany in 1933. By 1935, the people of Great Britain, and their government, were growing leery of Hitler's increasing militarism. Germany had been laid low by punitive measures forced on it after World War One. Hitler was promising a new, more powerful Germany. Meanwhile, in Great Britain, the British military had been reduced to a shadow of its former self. The same thing was happening in the United States. In Britain, they had thought no one was a threat to them. Hitler's actions were putting an end to that sense of security.

Science fiction movies of the time featured scary scenes of cities devastated by aerial bombing. They also featured "death rays" that could cook a pilot from a mile away. It was rumored the Germans were developing just such a death ray device. Into that scenario came the British Air Ministry which began to see the need for some sort of early warning device. Ideally, it would need to



have a range of about a hundred miles. The area to be covered, assuming an attack across the North Sea or the English Channel was about 70 thousand square miles!



In World War One, Britain had some success using sensitive sound-detecting equipment to pick up aircraft engine noises at a distance. To this end, the research and development arm of the Air Ministry constructed huge sound reflectors at Dungeness, Kent as an experiment. One of the devices was 200 feet long. They then tested the devices by sending a flight of bombers toward them. The test was a failure. The sound of a malfunctioning airplane engine turned out to be a local dairyman's cart with milk cans rattling around. General Hugh Dowding, head of research and development, realized sound detecting was not the answer.



1Sound Mirror Photo Acoustic Mirrors at RAF Denge By Paul Russon, CC BY-SA 2.0,

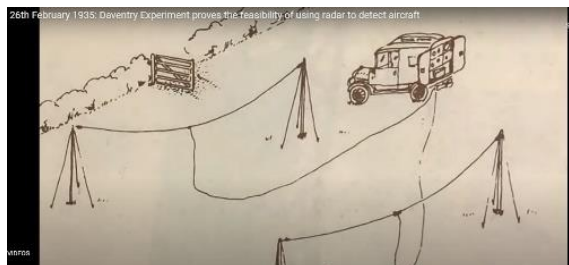


Dr. Robert Watson Watt

Meanwhile, near the little village of Slough, a researcher named Watson Watt and his brilliant assistant, Skip Wilkins, were using radio detection to study thunderstorms. One night they noticed a strange blip on the CRT screen. Willimas suggested it was a reflection from an airplane flying over. Watt then got the idea that maybe he could detect airplanes by bouncing radio energy off them. He asked Skip Wilkins to work out how well an airplane would reflect radio energy and Wilkins determined an airplane would reflect quite a bit of radio energy.

The government, reacting to the science fiction idea of a death ray had offered a hefty prize for anyone who could develop a ray that could kill a sheep at a hundred yards. Watt

asked Wilkins to determine how much energy would be needed. Wilkins answered that it would be an impossible amount of energy. That idea was dropped/

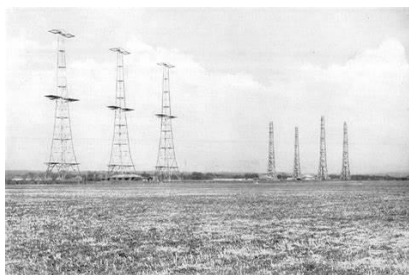


First Demonstration 1935 (from History Pod)

Watt was not only a good researcher, but he was also, according to some, somewhat of a snake oil salesman. It was said his powers of persuasion were such that he could sell refrigerators to Eskimos. Watt contacted Hugh Dowding to an exhibition of radio detection of an airplane. Dowding agreed. Watt gathered equipment into an old ambulance van and set up a test to exhibit what he had discovered. They would fly an airplane between a BBC transmitter and Watt's van and see the reflection on the CRT. Dowding arrived with his assistant, AV Roe.

The first test was a failure. They tried again and there it was, a pulse, a blip on the screen as the airplane flew its course. Dowding went back to headquarters and authorized ten thousand pounds to set up a team to develop the idea of detecting airplanes with radio waves. Watson assembled a team and moved them to Sussex. As the team grew, they moved to a manor house, Bawdsy Manor. Watson Watt recruited the best electronic minds from British universities. The team was called, "the Boffins."

To get the range needed they would need a lot of transmitted power, 600 thousand watts.

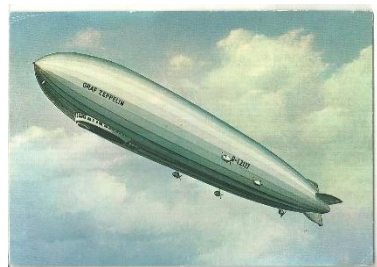


Antennas (Imperial War Museum)

That would require an antenna over 300 feet tall. The final configuration consisted of transmitting towers at 350 feet and receiving

towers at 240 feet. The receivers could determine the direction and distance of the received pulses. After one tower was built at Bawdsy, a demonstration was arranged for the Air Staff. It failed miserably and the staff went home convinced that Watt was a charlatan. Dowding continued to believe and had no other choices. Eventually the system was put in place, 18 stations that covered the east coast and south coast of England.

Shortly before the war, the Germans flew the airship, Graf Zeppelin, up and down the radar



station chain, now called Chain Home. Fighter command knew the technicians on the Zeppelin were recording all the signals from each station. They had the British radar system well mapped out and would certainly destroy it early in any conflict that erupted. But they didn't. In fact, the Germans did destroy two or three stations, bombing them. British military quickly substituted mobile units, keyed to the system and had the towers and radar stations repaired and on the air the same night. The Germans concluded since the signals didn't stop, they hadn't bombed anything of consequence.

Watson Watt knew he needed to develop the radar system as quickly as possible. That meant using the least complex methods built with available technology. The Zeppelin spies heard only a ticking sound from the radar sites. Watt had synchronized all the stations to the British power grid that operated at 50 cycles per second. The radar pulsed at 25 cycles per second. That way all stations broadcast their signal in sync with each other. It was a low-tech solution compared to German radar which every transmitter operated independent of one another and used up to 3-thousand cycles per second. The German spies concluded what they were hearing was a leaky British national power grid, and not radar. It was too low tech. But it worked. At Dunkirk Germany had captured some early, secret, British mobile radar sets.

Upon examination the Germans considered the British radar sets were too primitive to be any threat.

A chance meeting in 1950 by one of the British developers of the radio system and General Wolfgang Martini, the general in charge of developing German radar revealed the reason the Chain Home system was not bombed to oblivion. Martini, replying to the question why



Gen Wolfgang Martini

Germany did not destroy the radar, said, "You didn't have radar." The official assured him they did, and they tracked the Zeppelin all the way through its mission. General Martini was surprised.

The German spies in the Zeppelin made what may be the biggest blunder of the war. The British early warning radar seemed too simple to the spies, so they concluded it wasn't radar. Other chance happenings convinced the Germans of their decision. And that, dear reader, is the rest of the story.

Bad Passwords Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

What do nuclear missiles and your Wi-Fi have in common? Apparently, not much, except maybe ... a really bad password. Take a guess which of the following was actually once used as a real computer password at a U.S. nuclear missile site for years: A) Password123, B) LetMeIn C) 00000000, or D) GodMode4Launch. You'll find the right answer at the end.

 **The answer:** C) 00000000. Yep. During the Cold War, U.S. nukes were protected by a password flimsier than a free yogurt lid. Eight zeroes. Because nothing says "nuclear deterrent" like the digital version of leaving your front door open with a sticky note that says, "Please don't."
Why? Because military leaders were afraid complicated codes would slow down a launch in a real emergency. The Permissive Action Links (PALs), which are supposed to prevent unauthorized missile launches, were set to all zeros from 1962 to 1977. So for over a decade, the keys to global annihilation could have been guessed by a toddler.

If you encounter a problem with programming a Baofeng UV-5R with Chirp program, this tip can save you hours of head scratching.

(You can read radio memory but not write to it)

Why disable TDR during programming?

Disabling TDR (Dual Watch) helps prevent potential interference or issues during the programming process, especially when working with a programming software like CHIRP. It ensures that the radio is only focused on the programming process and not trying to monitor other frequencies simultaneously.

This may apply to other models as well

Detailed Steps:

1. **Access Menu:** Press the MENU button on the radio.
2. **Navigate to TDR Setting:** Use the up/down arrows to scroll through the menu options until you find TDR, which is usually option 7 or 74.
3. **Set to OFF:** Press the MENU button again to select the current setting, then use the up/down arrows to select "OFF".

4. **Exit Menu:** Press the EXIT/AB button to save the changes and exit the menu.

A Nostalgia Trip
With Bill Craft KD2HIQ

On Fri, May 2, 2025, 12:22 PM Bill Craft via [groups.io](mailto:billc851@gmail.com) <billc851@gmail.com@groups.io> wrote:

It's Friday, and I'm feeling a little nostalgic. Let's take a fun walk down memory lane back when our gadgets were clunky, slow and somehow magical.

Remember when flipping your phone shut made you feel like a movie star? Or hearing the sound of a modem? Good times. Take a look at this list and see if there are any you miss.

AOL

Instant

Messenger

AIM was where friendships, gossip and teenage drama lived. Setting the perfect away message was an art form. "Out grabbing pizza. BRB." Bonus points if you threw in a moody song lyric.

T9

texting

Before touch screens, texting meant using a numeric keypad where each button represented three or four letters. You had to tap multiple times to get the right one. Sending a simple "Hi" could feel like typing a novel. Mastering T9 predictive text was a real skill, and if you could do it without looking, you were a wizard.

Car

phones

Not Bluetooth, not speakerphones, actual phones bolted into your car. If you had one, you were big-time. Even if the service cut out every time you left the city limits.

Floppy

disks

Saving a school or work project onto a floppy felt like high-tech magic. Too bad you could only fit about one blurry photo on it. 1.44 MB sounded like a lot back then.

Digital

cameras

Before smartphones ruled the world, you carried a chunky digital camera everywhere. You snapped 40 photos, crossed your fingers and hoped one wasn't blurry when you uploaded them hours later.

BlackBerry

If you had a BlackBerry, you meant business. That tiny keyboard gave you the power to email, text and survive boring meetings long before iPhones took over. You were never in a jam. Fun fact: I never owned one.

The

original

iPod

A thousand songs in your pocket sounded like pure science fiction. That click wheel was addictive, and you felt unstoppable with your whole music library at your fingertips.

It's crazy how fast tech moves. What once felt like the future now feels prehistoric. Makes you wonder what we'll be laughing about 10 years from now. I bet carrying a phone will seem ridiculous.

 **For fun:** If you could bring back one old-school gadget just for the memories, what would it be?

. Let's go back ... way back to when phones had cords, weighed 7 pounds and required actual finger dexterity to dial anyone.

  Simpler times, sure. But not everything about old phones was as real as it seemed. In fact, one common sound you still hear today was totally fake from day one, designed not to function ... but to reassure.

Which weird phone-related sound are we talking about? A) Dial tone, B) Ringback tone (the ringing you hear when calling), C) Touch-tone beeps, or D) Busy signal. Keep on reading, the answer is waiting for you at the end!

The answer: B) Ringback tone. The "ringing" you hear when calling someone isn't real. It's a sound created by your phone provider to soothe your anxious anticipation while you're sitting in silence as the network connects the call. Suddenly, your dial tone turned into a lullaby of false hope. And we've been falling for it since day one.

Sent from my iPad



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

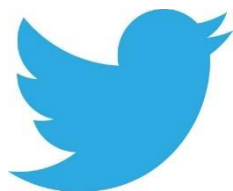
If you haven't signed up for group.io, you should. Groups.io is our primary email messaging method to all club members. It is FREE for all members.

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.

License Testing Dates for 2025

SARC does all of its licensing testing as a part of ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) or- ganization 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

June 7 Radio Fiesta 1:30

June 29 Field day

Aug 23 12:00

Oct 25 12:00 Leon Valley Fire Station

Dec 20 12:00

Amateur Radio License Classes

For more information, check the club web page, W5SC.org

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/>

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ

Billc851@gmail.com
210-570-0335

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!

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.

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

SARC Meeting Dates for 2025

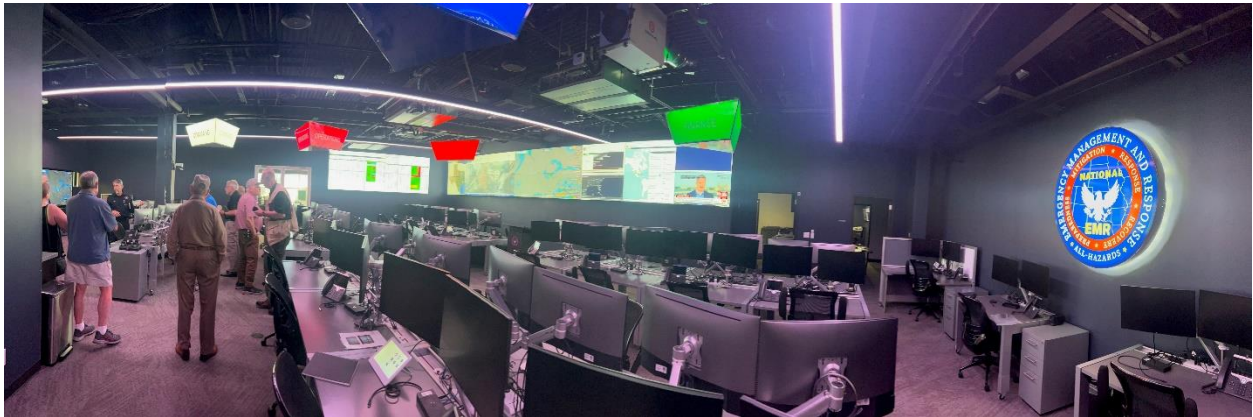
January 9, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 13, 2025
April 10, 2025
May 8, 2025
June 12, 2025
July 10, 2025
August 14, 2025
September 11, 2025
October 9, 2025
November 13, 2025
December – No meeting

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

National EMS

Saturday April 12, 2025 members of San Antonio Radio Club, Alamo Area Radio Organization (AARO) and San Antonio Digital Radio Club meet with the Executive Director of National EMS headquarters in Schertz.

The meeting allowed the attendees to view a presentation on the structure and mission of the organization followed by a tour of the massive facility.



National EMS is enlisting input from our ham community on how best to provide extended communications by utilizing the input from our ARES, RACES and other ham teams. They realize that the ham community have been able to provide communication in the most difficult situations. By utilizing a variety of methods, analog, digital, while using off grid power to communicate effectually until the situation returns to "normal"

They possibly will offer a few paid jobs to join the team to outfit and maintain the existing fleet of emergency vehicles.

Silent Key Estate Sale May 1, 2025 – Dan Young, KD5ZSX

Thanks to Rodney, AA5RB, Richard, KI5ZZE, Bill, KD2HIQ for helping Dan Young's silent key garage sale.

John, KJ5FIA bought the Yaesu FTDX 10 and power supply to begin his journey into the HF world.

Dan's wife, Grace graciously donated the items that didn't sell to the club to support the silent key fund.

Rodney, AA5RB and Bill, KD2HIQ went back the day after the sale and removed the antennas from the back yard and house to add to the Silent Key inventory. If you missed them at sale they will be at RF in June.

April VE

Saturday April 26/2025 we only had one testee. Roland Karm Jr. Easily won the radio raffle, and was awarded a Baofeng UV-5R from the Cray Lester memorial fund.

