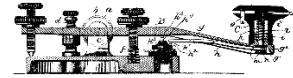




Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC



2026, No. 10

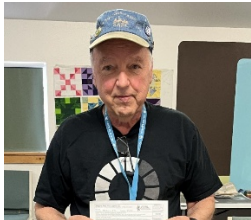
October 2026

W5SC This is KD2HIQ GB 73

By Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Webmaster

San Antonio Radio Club



I am resigning as Web Master of the San Antonio Radio Club (SARC) effective mid-night December 31, 2026.

When I became a member of SARC in 2016, I remember Harold, AE5AS asking, almost pleading for someone to take over the club's web site. He had been doing it for years and when he became President of SARC, it was putting too much of a load on him. He got a volunteer, but he didn't really have the time to keep up with the site. So, Harold was again asking for help in 2017, after several more meetings, I raised my hand and said I would take it over for him & the club only if I could change it to WordPress content management system. It was in September 2017, Harold, sent me a very very detailed letter outlining all the particulars and passwords, etc. in October 2017.

I had been doing websites before for non-profits back in New Jersey, and still had some customers that I was doing remotely until they could find someone else to take over. WordPress was the upcoming way to do websites and my wife and I attended WordCamp's workshops in Pennsylvania, and we joined a local WordPress meetup group here in San Antonio and continued to learn more about WordPress.

The next meeting, October 8, 2026, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602. Program short presentation "My favorite portable antennas" by Jim Neff, WJ4M. If you have a favorite, bring it along to show. I'm thinking verticals-ED

We got a few customers here in San Antonio and business started growing slowly. We tried to continue to focus on no-profits, but had several opportunities to take on some commercial accounts. We let those customers go after a while, since I didn't need the extra money to support my flying habit. Airplane, fuel, maintenance, insurance, and hangar rental got to be too expensive of a hobby to continue on a retirement income.

Time marched on and one day this year I turned 83. Working with Rodney, AA5RB on silent key I realized one day I was going to be his "customer" and stated unloading stuff.

I realized that I couldn't continue do the many jobs I took over and started shedding them. Fortunately, Dennis, W5AVA took over membership chairman and Steve, KF6MIX took over Radio Fiesta tasks.

Now I am retiring from doing the website, hopefully someone with fresh new ideas and the time and energy to continue to keep SARC website going into the future.

This past year the website had many ups & downs because of hosting problems, it required rebuilding many times and tweaking some services to keep it up and running. Now it's moved to a new hosting company with more resources and is stable, so I feel confident turning it over to the new webmaster.

I am not 100% retired from SARC leadership as I am still Chairman of the Board at least until Paul, N5IUT



is no longer president. So, Paul, N5IUT will be asking for a volunteer to take over as web master. Raise your hand

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

Hello South Texas,

Time for a few members to step up and assist with the club. Bill Craft is retiring as WebMaster and we need someone to help fulfil this role. We will help with the transition so please reach out to me.



*Please Volunteer,
Your Club Needs You!*

Do you have a Mesh node? Do you have access to locations that a mesh node would do well? Think of cellular type coverage of a node every 3 to 8 miles, not high wide area locations.

What is required for a mesh core node? A mesh node is self-contained, solar powered, and the network is self-automated. Basically, you need a location to mount it that has a good site horizon.

The San Antonio Radio Club has worked with the Austin Mesh to assist in the reception of and grant to build and maintain mesh networks in South Texas. SARC will be maintaining a database for the nodes built in South Texas and will assist in node maintenance.

We will be working with all the area Mesh groups such as MARC, UTSA, and Austin Mesh. It is likely that South Texas will have one of the largest mesh networks when this is built out.

We live in an exciting time and there is a lot we can learn about Mesh Networks and we have a lot of experience to give.

73

Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, SARC

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:



Paul Guido N5IUT
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

San Antonio Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM September 10, 2026

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

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

Presentations: Brett Bennett: GMRS: Tactical Emergency Communications & GMRS.

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

- Working on paperwork to explore opportunities to assist AARO following the announcement that their board members will be resigning.
- Working with MESH team to explore building out nodes in the area. If you know of potentially good locations for placing a node, let Paul know.

Vice President – Kelly Randal, WB5MZT – No report. Provided some observations about audience reactions to his presentation last month on switching power supplies. If interested in learning from him about how to diagnose and repair power supplies, let Kelly know.

Secretary – Jack Bannin, N5JLB – The minutes from club meetings can be found at the w5sc.org website, in the Newsletters section. Position of club secretary will be available in the upcoming November board of directors' election. If interested in giving back to the club you love, let Jack Bannin or one of the board members know.

Treasurer – Jon April, K15CSK – SK equipment was sold recently, and the person who donated the equipment asked that proceeds from the sale of those items be earmarked for the scholarship fund. Moved \$4000 from SK fund into scholarship fund.

Chairman of the Board Report – Bill Craft, KD2KIQ – No report.

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ

Activities for August Web Site

1. Posted newsletters
2. Tailgate page updated. Oct 10, 2026 is the next event.
3. Radio Fiesta page updated and published for ticket sales.

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

Radio Fiesta – Aubrey Mason. No report.

VE Team – Benny Martinez, NU5P

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

6425 Evers Rd

Leon Valley, TX 78238

Bring your FRN from the FCC and a \$35 license fee.

8 people (100%) passed the test they signed up for at the most recent session.

Free SARC membership is available for those who test with us, for the remainder of the calendar year in which the candidate tests.

10/24/26, 12-2 PM – At Leon Valley Fire Station

12/19/26, 12-2 PM

Silent Key Committee – Rodney Brown, AA5RB – items will be available for sale at the upcoming tailgate. You can review the list of items in advance, and coordinate with Rodney to have it brought to the tailgate.

Executive – No report.

Election Committee – Paul Guido, N5IUT – Please volunteer to be a . 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. Prizes include four Yaesu radios of various types. Still working with AARL to clear up the outcome of the second scholarship winner from the most recent award.

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

New Business – None

Announcements

- Discord site for SARC is now available. An invitation link will be sent out via GroupsIO.
- November 6: a special event radio station will be operating to honor the Commemorative Air Force's Aviation Discovery Fest. It will be in San Marcos and is free.
- MS Ride to the River is a bike race in need of volunteers to provide communication and support services. Contact Bryce/KE5KFD if interested.
- Lobo received a certificate to commemorate his first 40m SSB contact.
- Check the club website for a calendar of events.
- 1st Thursday in December: Christmas party, which will be at Blanco BBQ and shared with AARO members.

Meeting Adjourned 8:20 PM.

been disabled on the phone or on the companion device. Make sure both are turned on. And it never hurts to reboot both devices.

I still have questions.

The South Texas Mesh community on Discord is a helpful resource for gathering suggestions from experienced local LoRa Mesh

users. It is an online discussion forum that most mesh communities are using. South Texas Mesh Discord has over 450 members and you can join the discussion with this link (it is case sensitive): <https://discord.gg/dZ26hSVJvF>

I Bought Another Magnetic Loop Antenna

Jim Neff, WJ4M



So, what is it? It is the Alpha Antennas "100W 10-40M Portable HF-DLX MagLoop." That's what they call it. **First, a disclaimer: I do not work for the Alpha company, and I am not paid by them for anything. In fact, I pay them for their products.**

OK that's over. So why did I buy another portable antenna, and a magnetic loop at that? You may recall I bought a Mazzoni "Stealth magnetic loop antenna" from the club at a tailgate event. While it works well, it is not portable. It is heavy and unwieldy to move around and is meant for a stationary existence where antennas are restricted.

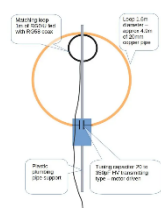


Setup at UTSA, End fed antenna in the trees.

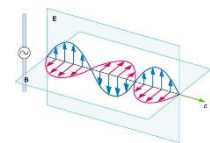
RB, KX7Q and I do some campus evangelizing at the University of Texas at San Antonio. We normally set up in the center of campus which has a large garden feature with trees just right for a long wire antenna. Occasionally we get assigned to a spot up on the "Paseo" which is all concrete, no trees. The radio is useful because it attracts students, especially electrical engineering types. It also keeps me busy in slack times. If we can't attract students with Bibles and prayers, maybe we can make hams out of them!



For the occasion when I don't have anything on which to hang an antenna, I need something small and easy to set up. Hence the magnetic loop.



A quick review of magnetic loop antennas: They are typically small and can be used as a "stealth antenna" and hidden in attic space. A loop performs well at low heights above ground, has good noise immunity and is somewhat directional. A good mag loop can outperform a wire or even a Yagi antenna. In your theory tests, you learned that antennas radiate perpendicular electrical and magnetic waves. Conventional antennas respond essentially to electrostatic fields. Magnetic Loop antennas respond to the magnetic field and the flux through the



loop.

The Alpha magnetic loop antenna comes in four flavors. I won't go into detail; you can Check their ads online. All the loops are suitable for portable operation. The least expensive covers 20-6 meters. The most expensive one has remote tuning so you can install it permanently outside. All three are similar in size and have similar characteristics. You can buy add-ons that will extend coverage in one way or another. The largest three versions will handle 100 watts SSB although it is best to roll the power back somewhat. The limiting factor is the capacitor in the RUNNING unit.

Setup is quick and easy. The antenna parts come in a messenger bag that has room for a short piece of coax, not supplied. My version also requires some method to mount the antenna. I use a sturdy photo tripod. The tuning unit has a threaded socket that fits a standard photo tripod mount. While the antenna isn't heavy, it will stress a lesser photo tripod. Once set up and with coax attached, it is time to go on the air.

Tuning is easy. Just twist the tuning knob, adjusting it for maximum noise. At that point your SWR is near 1:1. It varies by frequency. The antenna I have works from 40 to 6 meters. An add-on extends coverage to 80 meters.. For some frequency bands, the SWR won't get to 1:1 but will be under 3:1, usable by most modern transceivers. Bandwidth is reasonable. You can cruise the CW portion or Phone portion of 20 meters without having to readjust tuning. I do it anyway, it is so easy. Other bands may differ. Magnetic loops are known for being narrow-banded.



The Kitchen Installation

I've had the antenna a couple of weeks so my experience is limited. I mostly hunt POTA on 20 meters. The antenna is great for that. I set it up in my kitchen breakfast nook during the recent rain and made contacts in Utah and Tennessee with reports from 559 to 579. From inside the house! Performance on campus, outside in the open, was equally impressive. If I could hear a station, I could contact it. I was running the KX3 at 15 watts on CW. I'm anticipating using the little loop antenna for POTA.

Magnetic loop antennas are not cheap. The lowest cost version goes for \$299. The EMCOM version goes for \$399. My version was about \$550. The remote-control version designed to live outdoors at your base station costs about \$1,000. Is it worth it? It can get you on the air in good fashion when restrictions prevent using a longer, larger antenna system. I think

it is worth the cost.

New ARRL club affiliate.



Our sister club, San Antonio Digital Radio Club (SADRC) has joined the ARRL family of affiliated clubs, thanks to the hard work of Dennis, W5AVA the club's membership chairman. As many of you know being an affiliated club has advantages that really help club's with operational support. It is all our best interest to continue to support ARRL with individual memberships, there is strength in numbers. Our band plans are constantly under attack, they are wanted by a variety of entities who would take those airways for their own purposes.



Volunteer Examiners at Work



From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator

Next Testing Session: 10/24/26, 12-2 PM – At Leon Valley Fire Station

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 2027

Radio Fiesta 2026 was a great success. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible!

Soon the planning will start for Radio Fiesta 2027. We hope to make it bigger and better

Field Day 2027

Field Day will be here sooner than you think. It will be at Shavano Park government area, close to the intersection of Military Highway and DeZavala road.

Lookout for Winter Field day, to be announced.

Amateur Radio License Classes

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

SARC has a website:

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 JC Smith
N5RXS
Phone 210-849-3404

SARC Meeting Dates 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 Saddle-tree 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