Bexar Wire

San Antonio Radio Club
W5SC

2026, No. 11 November 2026

It's Drawing Time!



The Robert A. Rodriguez, K5AUW, Memorial Scholarship raffle winning tickets will be drawn at this month's meeting. As per usual, tickets may be purchased at the meeting before the drawing. Winners need not be present to win. This raffle supports the club's scholarships awarded to two young hams. The scholarship is managed by the American Radio Relay League. Prizes are:

Yaesu FTX-1 Optima





Yaesu FT-DX10

Yaesu FT-DX10 Field



Yaesu FTM-310DR



The next meeting, November 12, 2026, will be at 7 PM at Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd, San Antonio, TX 78216, (210) 251-2602. Program: Open mike show N tell. Bring something unusual.

Jamboree On The Air
Aubrey Mason WA6DMI



Kelly, Harold and I represented SARC to work JOTA. Kelly and I arrived somewhere around 7:30AM, Harold arrived later. The event was scheduled to begin at 10AM.

Kelly had a Morse code demonstration set up with a collection of straight keys, paddles and bugs for display and use. His station saw the majority of interest with the kids and he taught them Morse letters and numbers.

I had a 10W Solar powered X6100 SDR sitting on the JOTA 10 meter freqs (RadioOddity 6m-80m field antenna with SWR tuned down to 1.54) - but 10 meters was dead... I could occasionally hear another station, but it was down in the noise floor and kept fading away before I could respond to it - He did not respond to my CQ.

I also had a VHF point-to-point digital example set up for the Scouts to explore, separated by about 40 feet - two 10W UV-S9 Baofeng's with (real) Nagoya antenna's, 1 Kantronics KPC-3Plus and one Kantronics KPC-3plus MX running at 9600 baud, One Windows 10 computer and one Ubuntu Linux computer - the terminal used was puTTy as it's cross-platform and doesn't care what OS it's running on. The Kids had fun "texting" each other over a radio. There were several foxhunts that took place for the Cub Scouts

John Douglas had an AC powered 100W Yaesu Go-box sitting on the 40 Meter JOTA freqs (Dipole in the trees) - but 40 was dead too. , we hadn't got many Boy Scouts - but we got a lot of Cub Scouts. -...-.-

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

Hello South Texas,

MeshCore update:
The San Antonio Radio Club is working with the Mesh Committee and the Austin Mesh Team to build and promote LoRa Mesh networks in South Texas. The goal is to build and distribute mesh nodes. This is being facilitated by a large grant received for the build out of the mesh network.

The commercial nodes that we've seen are either far too expensive or too fragile to work in South Texas weather, so we are buying components. The nodes will be supplied as a kit of parts to be assembled, or we will have build parties to put the parts together and flash the nodes.

MeshCore uses a more deterministic routing protocol than Meshtastic. Meshtastic still has some use cases but MeshCore is a better way to route packets. MeshCore is picking up momentum. To see this in action go to https://analyzer.meshtexas.org/#/live

I started networking over packet radio in 1986 and from what I see on the analyzer above is that we have a lot to teach some of the node operators. I see packets go down a path and there is no return traffic. The reason why are alligators. Nodes with a big mouth and little ears. Some stations with a 1-watt transmitter, on a high hill or tower can easily transmit farther than their receiver can hear. They need to balance out the tiny radio by decreasing transmit power to a distance that they reliably hear.

Those of us that have decades of experience building terrestrial radio networks need to help bring balance to the networks.

This is an exciting time,
Paul Guido, N5IUT, President, SARC

Bexar Wire

Published monthly by:

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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 October 8, 2026
At Blanco BBQ, 13259 Blanco Rd., San Antonio, TX 78216

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM/Pledge of Allegiance/Introductions

Presentations:

- **Jimmy Neff: My Favorite Portable Antennas**.
- **Rodney Brown**: Presentation about the club's **SK Committee**, whose primary function is to assist elderly hams/family members who want information about what to do with their equipment, including pricing. The SK Committee also accepts donations and can provide tax receipts for the person donating the gear. Donated equipment is inventoried, valued, and offered for sale. Proceeds benefit SARC, and those sales generate revenue for the club.

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

- Board meeting scheduled for October 15, 2026 to discuss two items: MESHtastic grant and AARO club board's resignation.

Vice President – Kelly Randal, WB5MZT – No report. He will be hosting a class on power supplies this Saturday, October 10, 2026. Contact him for more information.

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, KI5CSK – Motion pending to deal with the MESHtastic money we were offered.

Chairman of the Board Report – Bill Craft, KD2KIQ – BOD will meet to address the MESHTastic money.

Web Site – Bill Craft, KD2HIQ – Resigning as webmaster after nine years. Looking for a volunteer replacement.

Activities for October 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.

Membership – Dennis Kendricks - W5AVA
As of October 6, 2026, SARC membership is as follows:

Membership Status	Number
Paid	150
Military (free)	7
Family Members	28
RF (free)	13
VE (free)	24
Free	1
Total	**223**

New Members since September 10, 2026 meeting.

Last Name	First Name	Callsign	Location
Astin	Roger	KI5NIG	San Antonio, TX
Miccolis	Fran	KB1L	San Antonio, TX
Rosenberg	Lee	WB5NFL	San Antonio, TX

Education and Training – Marvin "Marlo" Brown (KJ5BQV) & Travis Buhler (KI5TXG): No report.

Emergency Communications – JC Smith – ARES simulated emergency test coming October 10, 2026. If you would like to participate, contact JC Smith.

POTA: No report. If someone is interested in leading this effort, contact the club president or vice president.

Fox Hunt – Steve Ortiz – KJ5HIH – At RowdyCon, a free security conference in town.

Newsletter Editor – Jimmie Neff – Newsletter published October 7, 2026. Contact Jimmy Neff 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 – No report.

JOTA – Aubrey Mason. Held in October each year. Oct 16-18, 2026. Need volunteers to support the event.

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.

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 for the positions of secretary and webmaster. 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. Identification of the second recipient of our scholarship will be in the next edition of QST.

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

New Business – None

Announcements

- Harold Fleischer provided information about a small, inexpensive CW trainer.
- QSO One Android/Apple app is working well and available at no charge.

Meeting Adjourned 8:40 PM.

Stone Age Hamfest



Proposed Officers and Appointments for 2027

Officers *	Committee Chairpersons
President	**Education and Training Committee**
Paul Guido, N5IUT	Marlo Brown, KJ5BQV
210-289-0473	Travis Buhler, KI5TXG
Vice President	**Bexar County RACES CRO**
Kelly Randal, WB5MZT	Ned Lee, KG5US
210-288-5696	210-344-3481 /210-391-8258
	ARES Bexar County EC
Secretary	JC Smith, N5RXS
Lawrence Kondziela, N1LMK	210-522-6167
210-825-9969	
	Membership Committee
Treasurer	Dennis Kendricks, W5AVA
Jon April, KI5CSK	210-241-7232
210-642-9391	
	Field Day
Board of Directors	Jon April, KI5CSK
Chairman of the Board	210-642-9391
Bill Craft, KD2HIQ	
210-570-0335	**Finance and Review Committee**
	Paul Guido, N5IUT
Director through 2027	210-289-0473
JC Smith, N5RXS	
210-522-6167	**Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) Committee**
	John Douglas – W5NZK
Director through 2028	210-887-8317
Rodney Brown, AA5RB	
210-286-4480	**Centennial Committee**
	Tom O'Brien, AB5XZ
Director through 2029	210-481-3443
Royce Bell, KX7Q	
909-553-0049	**Radio Fiesta Committee**
	Aubrey Mason, WA6DMI
Director through 2030	210-602-4291
Richard Elder, WB5ACN	
210-658-3937	**Volunteer Examiners Team**
	Benny Martinez, NU5P
Director through 2031	210-269-1402
Dennis Kendricks, W5AVA	

210-241-7232

Appointed Positions
Bexar Wire Newsletter Editor
Jimmie Neff, WJ4M
210-563-2121
Webmaster
Steven Willett, KF6MIX

210-915-4504

Silent Key Committee
Rodney Brown, AA5RB
210-286-4480

*Officers are also a part of the Board of Directors.

3-D Printing for Amateur Radio
Jim Neff, WJ4M



At Cosco I saw a Creality brand 3D printer kit for sale and bought it for no reason whatsoever. I spent a couple of frustrating weeks trying to figure out the software, and finally did, sort of. I turned off the AI helper and pushed buttons until things worked. It was like being sat in the cockpit of a 777 airliner and told to push buttons until you learn to fly it. There are hams in the club who likely have much more experience than I have so I'll beg your pardon in advance for my ignorance. I'm only crawling and not walking at this stage.

I had seen some 3d printed things and thought it was a good idea. The first was a replacement gear for my old electric pencil sharpener. I found a gear on E-Bay for a decent price and ordered it. The new gear was obviously a 3D printed part. It is still working after about 10 years.



My 3D print goal was to be able to download an item from the internet and print it out. I wanted to be able to make guy rings for a cpush-up mast and a winder for a small wire antenna. I found files for guy rings, but now the problem is to find out how to size them to fit.

There are hundreds of useful things online, done by hams, you can download for free and print. The Creality Print software will import STL files and slice them into a format the printer can use. Last Saturday RB, KX7Q came over and started an internet search for ham-related 3D printable items. After about 4 hours, he had not reached the end of available files. We downloaded a few files and printed them.

RB wanted a microphone holder that attaches to the AC vent in his car. Yep, we found one. We also found files for a holder for the little M1KE internet transceiver and a collapsible sound deflector for the speaker on top of the IC-7300.



Vice, 7300 sound deflector and M1KE holder

I also downloaded and printed out a small desk vise and a cover for the face of the IC-7300 to protect it when it's in the carry case for POTA. I also printed several screw-on caps for SO-239 RF connectors.

My Creality K2 printer is not top of the line, but it is adequate for my needs. Printers by Bambu seem to be the standard. The Creality printer is a good-quality machine. Bambu was selling a comparable printer for about the same price. I thought of buying one and taking the Creality printer back to Cosco. I have until December to return it. But I've learned to make the printer work for me, and I can't justify the cost of switching.

I am confident enough that I bought a set of PETG filaments and a reel of ASA filament that can make objects more robust and weather-resistant than the PLA filament that came with the machine. I also bought other peripherals. I read that filaments need to be dried as they can absorb moisture and may adversely affect the print.



Filament Dryer,holds 4 reels

Creality sells a filament dryer, so I bought one. I also ordered reusable vacuum bags to store dry filaments.

I bought a 3D hand scanner I hope to use to duplicate small parts that may be hard to find. You can also scan an entire person and make a statuette of them. Haven't learned that one yet.

Print speed on the K2 is adequate and there have been only periodic glitches. I've learned to expect that things will occasionally go awry. I tried to load all parts of a multi-file project to print it in one setting. I came back to find a bird's nest of extruded filament on the plate, not the model. Likely I confused the printer.



I learned about "printer poop." The print head extrudes a squirt of melted filament into a chute when it heats up. The hardened "squirt" falls down the chute and misses the box I set to catch it. I had a pile of little pieces of melted filament on the floor. Easy to clean up.

Files don't always print cleanly. I found how to reorient the model on the base plate, so it prints better. The machine does not like unsupported elements on a model. It can't print in the air. There is a feature you can turn on that allows the printer to print temporary support for unsupported print areas. The support comes off easily.

Do I recommend 3D printing for ham radio? Yes, especially if you are an experimenter. You can make parts for antennas, cover plates and boxes for projects. You can print knobs, tools and even a winder for an end-fed long wire that holds the balun inside. If you need it, someone has probably done it. If you're good at computer aided design (CAD) you can do your own models to print. Your imagination and the size of the printer's base plate are the only limits. Even the less expensive, simpler open-frame printers can do a good job.

I can't say I'll save money printing vice buying components. It will take a long time to amortize the cost of the printer and filaments. But it is fun and we aren't in the amateur radio hobby to save money. Print on!

Photos from JOTA



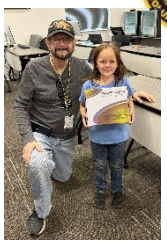
Photos from the October Tailgate





Volunteer Examiners at Work

From Bennie Martinez, NU5P, VE Coordinator



Next Testing Session: 12/19/26, 12-2 PM
Register at **HamTest@w5sc.org**
Other info at W5SC.org click "Getting Started" then "Testing.
Congratulations to Naomi Roland, age 12 who passed her Technician license test and won the Cray Lester handheld. Hope to hear you on the repeater Nomi!

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

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

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 Fiels day, to be announced.

SARC has a website:

w5sc.org

Webmaster: Bill Craft KD2HIQ

Billc851@gmail.com

Amateur Radio License Classes

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

License Testing Dates for 2026

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 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 JC Smith
N5RXS
Phone 210-849-3404