

BILL CRAFT

The San Antonio Digital Radio Club (SADRC) is extremely proud to announce that Bill Craft, KD2HIQ, has accepted the position of the club's Webmaster. Please read below the abbreviated but spectacular accomplishments and talent that Bill brings to this position.

After retiring in 2002 from a thirty-three-year career as a senior network architect in the computer industry, Bill started his own company to generate a bit of extra income for retirement hobbies. What began as a part-time, almost hobby-like endeavor quickly evolved into a full-time business.

In his free time, Bill enjoyed flying and owned his own plane. When the local museum, Naval Air Station Wildwood, needed a website, he offered to create it in exchange for hangar space. This led to additional non-profit organizations seeking his web development and electronic skills. Eventually, Bill, along with his wife and son, worked on various projects for non-profits, handling networking, PCs, servers, software installations, websites, and training.

Despite his busy schedule, Bill found time for his many hobbies, including woodworking, sailing, skiing, ham radio, and flying. Bill started crewing for an offshore sailboat racing team in New Jersey. He got bit with the sailing bug. He built several small wood sailboats, completed a 26' fiberglass sailboat project, continuing on to purchase a 28' ocean going sailboat for serious cruising with his family. Bill joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary after attending a safe boating class and after a few years ended up being the Flotilla Commander. When the aging couple that was teaching Sailing and Seamanship at the local High School in Pennsylvania moved, Bill took over and taught the class for four years. After retiring he sold his sailboat and got bit with the flying bug. Not content with renting aircraft, he built four different experimental airplanes, flew them, and eventually bought a nearly new, all carbon fiber, light sport aircraft from Italy.

A chance introduction by a friend to a model airplane enthusiast who was starting to build and fly drones led Bill to a new interest. With his electronics experience, he helped wire the drones and added circuitry to send video from the drone's camera back to a monitor, enabling a first-person view (FPV) experience. This required a ham license due to FCC regulations at the time, which motivated Bill to obtain one. Nowadays, off-the-shelf drones can be flown without a ham license, and FPV is commonplace.

While working on a server at a client's site, Bill met someone upgrading the client's website. This person shared insights about the WordPress platform and mentioned he could develop websites remotely from his home in Singapore. This piqued Bill's interest in WordPress.

During a visit to Texas in 2007, Bill discovered a local WordPress Meetup group offering a beginner's class. This ignited his passion for WordPress. He attended WordCamp in Philadelphia for further training and continued his learning journey at WordCamps in Texas.

After moving to Texas full-time in 2016, Bill continued learning WordPress and built his first site there for a local non-profit and a few more for commercial accounts.

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Bill found the San Antonio Radio Club and started attending meetings. Harold Fleischer, AE5AS, was the club president at the time. After several meetings where Harold repeatedly asked for help with the club's website, Bill volunteered, with the condition that he could migrate it to WordPress.

Similarly, when Doug, N8IQT from the San Antonio Digital Radio Club needed help with their website, Bill volunteered to revamp it. Naturally, it was also built on WordPress.

Bill's expertise in WordPress and his willingness to volunteer his time and skills have made him a valuable asset to the community. Through these projects, he not only honed his web development skills but also formed lasting relationships within the local radio and digital communities. His contributions have significantly improved the online presence and functionality of these organizations, ensuring they have the digital tools they need to thrive.

Please welcome Bill to this new position within SADRC. He will be invaluable to our President, Derek Moyes, and to SADRC.

Derek Moyes
SADRC President

Don Ainsworth
SADRC Vice President