

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



July 2003
Newsletter

Member: *Mid-America Coordination Council*
Founding Member: *National Frequency Coordination Council*

From The Chairman

Our next meeting is in the Wisconsin North woods, Tomahawk. Very good timing, as there are a number of agenda items that involve our neighbors to the west, Minnesota. The MRC (Minn. Repeater Council) membership has been undertaking some thought and changes to their Bandplans, and repeater splits on 900MHz. Some information is available on their www page and their last newsletter which may be found at: <http://www.mrc.gen.mn.us/> What MN chooses to do is of course their business. We do however need to be aware, and where something affects Wisconsin, plan to accommodate, or reach some agreement to minimize the effect on our efforts and Bandplans. Our Bandplan and Policies may be found at: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org/policies.htm>

Also, in the past, we have had some issues with the Coordination process, and clear communication with the MN Coordinator. This has been discussed at our meetings, and is reflected in Dave's current article. I have just received notice from the MRC Chairman that they have removed their Coordinator, and WAR for the time being is to communicate directly with the MRC Board for all Coordination issues.

So, I hope those of you who live along the WI/MN border will give special consideration to attending our next meeting.

Gary, N9UUR

From the Coordinator's Desk

Moves, changes, and additions...

Regular readers here know that I frequently mention that coordination is all about a cooperative effort.

Despite this constant drum beating, several renewal's received last fall were our first notice that a repeater move was planned, or in this case, had already occurred.

I want to be clear that when these sorts of things happen, you not only run the risk of losing your coordination, but also make my job that much more time consuming.

In 9 out of 10 cases, the proposed moves are just fine. Collectively, we are all a group of intelligent people and I don't

Next W.A.R. Meeting:

1:00 PM
Saturday July 12th, 2003

Alamo Plaza Restaurant
433 S Tomahawk Ave
Tomahawk, WI
N 42.46685
W 89.73363

Lunch at Noon,
Meeting at 1:00 PM

think that anyone has anything but the best motivations in mind when these sorts of changes occur. All I ask is that you help us help you, and to also have some consideration for my time.

Some commentary is warranted regarding some of the uncoordinated moves that occurred during the first part of this year include the following stations.

K9ABC. This forced relocation was a result of the State replacing the tower at Lapham peak. Although the move could be measured in hundreds of feet, the UHF repeater was already close spaced with a co-channel system in Elgin IL running the same CTCSS tone. In order to re-coordinate this repeater, the agreement between the coordinators was to change the CTCSS tone to avoid any problems.

K9IA. Lost his old location, found another suitable location for it about 3.8 miles away, and simply forgot that he should work with us ahead of time.

KB9ALN. Details are unknown to me other than this 14 mile move clearly required re-coordination.

N9XFD. Red, N9GHE, sold his repeater and had communicated with me that this was going to occur. Based on his preliminary description it didn't sound like it would be a problem. The new owner was apparently unaware that he needed to do anything to re-coordinate the repeater.

Ultimately we received the paperwork after the machine had been on the air for more than 6 months. The new location drew an objection from the lower Michigan coordinator even after supplying predicted coverage models of both before (N9GHE) and after (N9XFD) that showed that the 10kHz adjacent Michigan station should receive less interference. Ultimately we coordinated the new WI repeater with the understanding that, as with all new coordination's, CTCSS access would be added to this repeater.

W9EAU. On the renewals received last November, we were informed that these two 2 meter repeaters had each moved to new locations. As the renewals containing these new coordination requests were sent to Milt, they took a while to reach me, and fell to the bottom of my inbox below a mountain of other new coordination requests. As such, these requests have only now been acted upon.

Interaction with our neighbors

Since the last newsletter there was a little excitement along the Minnesota border. In early March, some of you may have received E-mail regarding a change that the Minnesota coordinator, Paul Emeott, had proposed. Minnesota batches their proposals and sends them via US Mail to us for comments. In a letter dated February 24th, we were notified that MRC was de-coordinating a 2 meter repeater in Columbia Heights, MN and would immediately be coordinating a repeater on the same frequency in Stillwater, MN.

We objected to the lack of notice and lack of consideration as to whether the frequency being made available through the de-coordination of the Columbia Heights repeater might benefit someone waiting for a pair in Wisconsin.

The E-mail that we sent erroneously specified the new repeater location as Crown, MN rather than Stillwater. That error was a result of my incorrectly copying the information off the letter that the MRC coordinator had sent, but this did not affect the basis for our objection.

Of the comments that we received back, all were in support of what amounted to a frequency change of an existing repeater in Minnesota.

The matter was discussed at the March 12th WAR meeting, and was left in my hands to determine whether or not the pending request from the UW-Stout radio club could be satisfied without using the pair MRC was proposing to use in Stillwater. We had promised to respond to MRC by March 24th, and I was one week late and responded with our approval on March 31st to both the MRC coordinator and the MRC Chairman, Steve Glatzel.

During the weekend of April 12th, I spoke with the Steve on the phone about a number of topics, one of which was the Stillwater situation. He was looking for information as to why their Coordinator had not yet sent the de-coordination letter to the Columbia Heights station. He asked if I had approved Stillwater, and I responded that I had done so on March 31st and considered the matter closed.

On April 21st, I read the draft copy of minutes from the spring MRC meeting held on April 19th. Based on the comments in the newsletter, I became aware that the MRC coordinator had not received my March 31st response, so I immediately followed up by forwarding him my previous approval to move forward with their Stillwater proposal.

At the NFCC forum at the Dayton Hamvention on May 21st, I had the opportunity to talk to Jerry Dorf, MRC's Secretary and Treasurer. Jerry asked if I had approved of the Stillwater coordination yet. I again re-iterated all that had transpired. Jerry then explained that he felt that Paul had not yet moved forward because he hadn't received the text of my response in the form of a letter delivered to him by way of the US Postal Service.

Had Paul ever asked that I print out a copy of the E-mail and send it to him via US Mail, I suppose that I could have responded that way. However, since all of our correspondence in this matter had been by way of E-mail, I certainly had no expectation that a new requirement such as this was going to be used as a gating item.

At this point, I didn't think that things could get any sillier, but Jerry offered to send me a CD containing the audio from MRC's spring meeting so I could hear the dialog for myself.

I think many of the comments that Paul made in the meeting regarding this situation were misleading to those present, and its unfortunate that he has chosen not to foster a working relationship with his neighboring coordinators.

Fortunately our working relationship with both Steve, a former coordinator for MRC, Dan, and Jerry has been quite positive and collectively I think positive changes are starting to occur within MRC.

MRC has also been working on band planning issues, and I have been allowed to provide my own comments to their working group. There was some discussion at their April 19th meeting on this topic, and some of my personal comments were presented to be the position of WAR as a whole. All of my comments were submitted to their group via E-mail, and were always prefaced as being my own comments.

When the topic of discussion turned to 70cm band planning, I was again labeled a bully for not holding the approval of changes we've recently made until MRC had a chance to provide their input into the process.

The real facts of the situation are that we indeed did allow the MRC board to provide their comments. We did incorporate language to the effect that in the areas that border Minnesota, we would of course abide by their wishes and not propose to do anything different than we have been doing.

Again, its unfortunate that this detail was not understood clearly enough by those at the MRC meeting that were presenting a summary of my comments.

After listening to the audio of the entire meeting, had I been present, I would conclude that I'm the biggest idiot that walked the planet and was trying to bully the Minnesota repeater council into doing things that were for the sole benefit of Wisconsin residents.

Fortunately, I was raised to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. I try to apply that to everyday life including the coordination process. I see our collective role here to enable as many people to exercise their rights to operate a repeater or auxiliary station, and to treat everyone as equals, despite their geographic location. I don't see it as being in anyone's best interest to hoard frequencies. If something isn't in use, let someone else use it. In congested areas, lets look at how we might use the limited resources available to us to benefit as many licensees as possible.

Our working relationship with the Illinois Repeater Association could not be much better than it is. I was able to attend their annual meeting this spring, and felt privileged to attend the multi hour board meeting held the evening before the regular meeting. I saw the same sort of topics that we have wrestled with being addressed, and many times they solicited input as to how we had addressed a particular topic here. Conversely I was able to gain insight into their organization and hopefully learn from their lessons.

Informal discussions with IRA board members indicate that they are very open

to the prospect of a mutual waiting list in our bordering areas. If you want to be placed on the waiting list, you'll need to submit an application, and we'll take it from there.

There have also been positive changes in Lower Michigan. Bruce Winchell, N8UT, is back as coordinator after a two-year hiatus. Bruce has been applying a Herculean effort to addressing their coordination backlog that contains requests dating back to about the time he resigned. So some of my attention this spring has gone to helping Bruce where I can.

With the exception of Minnesota, all of the other coordinator's we deal with have been using E-mail exclusively to handle cross coordination requests. This open working relationship allows us to work better as a team, catch each others mistakes, and sometimes make suggestions as to what might work better in a given situation. This team effort allows us better serve you, the repeater owner's and operators.

Backlogged

While I didn't compile statistics on the response rate from the renewal mailings last fall, I would estimate the response rate at about 60%. By now I had intended to send out a second mailing to capture those remaining in the first batch as well as a first mailing to everyone else that was not current as of May 2003.

As this spring has been exceptionally busy for me in terms of my own workload here as well as the sheer volume of coordination work, I have simply had to defer the renewal mailings.

As of June 15th, I have worked my way to the bottom of my inbox here, and am now preparing to send out these renewal letters.

As always, we appreciate your support, and comments are always welcome.

The following page contains a summary of activity during the first part of this year. There are a few new repeaters in the list that were granted coordination some time ago that I've not heard back from within the 6 month construction window. If no response is received soon, they will be administratively removed from our records.

--Dave / KA9FUR

Recient Coordination Activity

New on the air:			Request	Action
K9ABC	146.820	Delafield	03/16/03	06/14/03
KB9ALN	147.270	Green Bay	12/12/03	05/26/03
N9XFD	147.030	Two Rivers	02/06/03	06/14/03
WB9RJB	146.805	Kewaunee	11/08/02	02/01/03

New under construction:

N9NLU	52.870	Kewaskum	04/14/02	02/07/03
WB9SBD	145.470	La Valle	02/07/03	05/25/02
KB9JMA	145.490	Pittsville	05/25/02	10/01/02
KC9CXL	146.865	Menomonee	03/03/03	05/25/03
KC9CHZ	147.015	Cambria	02/11/03	03/30/03
N9ROY	223.860	Wisconsin Dells	03/17/03	05/26/03
K9JAC	224.740	Hubertus	05/24/03	06/14/03
KC9CXL	442.275	Menomonie	03/03/03	05/25/03
W9OSH	442.450	Fond du Lac	05/10/03	06/14/03
N9RJZ	442.975	Menasha	01/18/03	05/26/03
W9ZFX	443.050	Oconto	04/29/03	06/14/03
KA9EKG	443.375	Delavan	03/13/03	05/26/03
KB9UNX	443.525	Janesville	11/04/02	02/09/03
N9QIP	443.550	Northfield	02/27/03	06/14/03
WA9PAM	443.725	Chippewa Falls	01/16/02	10/02/02
K9ABC	444.125	Delafield	03/15/03	06/14/03
W0LFE	444.225	Oconto	06/05/03	06/14/03
WN8VIX	444.250	Green Bay	02/11/03	05/26/03
KB9DRZ	444.500	Baraboo	04/15/03	06/14/03
KB9GKC	444.550	Green Bay	05/03/03	06/14/03
KB9QVB	444.625	Nokomis	02/11/03	05/26/03
N9DTT	444.900	Fort Atkinson	06/11/01	08/02/01
KC9CXL	1292.00	Menomonie	03/03/03	05/25/03

De-coordination:

WE9EE	442.550	Caledonia	06/14/03	Voluntary
W9EAU	146.910	Eau Claire	11/30/02	Uncoordinated Move
W9EAU	147.240	Eau Claire	11/30/02	Uncoordinated Move
W9RIC	145.330	Appleton	02/11/03	Location change

Pending new coordination:

W9EAU	146.910	Eau Claire
W9EAU	147.240	Chippewa
W9UVZ	145.330	Appleton

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters March 8, 2003 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz. It was held at the Outagamie County American Red Cross in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
KB9BYP	Jeff Schmeichel
KB9ENO	Bill Niemuth
W9BLS	Barry Sprifke
KA9WXW	David Schank
KB9KBK	Jim Westover
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
N9VSV	Jeananne Bargholz
KB9LRD	Brian Long
W9RIC	Richard Kosiorek
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
N9RJZ	John Ensley
KB9GKC	Douglas Cohen
WB9MHS	Verg Burmeister

Secretary's Report:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Dave, KA9FUR, made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV, and approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance for March 8, 2003 is \$3574.90 without the expense for the March newsletter. Bill, KB9ENO, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV and approved by the members present.

Communications:

Submissions to the newsletter are due 30 days before the next meeting date. The Re-mailer list is still a "Work in Progress".

Frequency Coordinator:

Dave reported that improvements to submission procedures for the ARRL Repeater Directory have allowed the deadline to be moved close to the actual publishing date.

Dave explained the proposed changes for the 440 band plan. The new changes would allow 17 new repeaters to be coordinated in the southern part of the state. Existing repeater pairs and auxiliary links will not be affected. The proposal was published a year ago and has received few responses during that time.

The most current and up to date listing of Coordinated Wisconsin Repeaters, and our latest Newsletter may be found at
The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters www Home Page:

<http://www.wi-repeaters.org>

Dave, KA9FUR, made a motion for the following changes

1) The following text shall be added to Section XI(b) "standard repeater frequencies"

On a shared basis with auxiliary stations, frequencies between 440.000 and 440.975 MHz, 441.400 and between 441.500 and 441.975 MHz are available for repeater outputs with inputs located 5 MHz above the output. 25 kHz spacing will be used starting at 440.000 MHz.

2) The frequency range of 426.0000 to 426.2000 shall be added to the second paragraph in Section XI(a) "Auxiliary link and control frequencies".

3) The bandplan document shall be formally adopted and made an Appendix of the revised policy document.

Jim, K9OQO, seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent with no abstains.

The situation of the N9VBK repeater was discussed. It was determined to be off the air and no longer present at the coordinated position. Following WAR's policy a decoordination letter was sent to the trustee on Feb 2, 2003. Recently WAR learned that the repeater is back on at an uncoordinated location.

Gary, N9UUR, moved that the policy of WAR is the repeater was deordinated as of Feb 2, 2003 and therefore the frequency is available for re-coordination. It was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV. The motion was approved by the members present with Dave, KA9FUR, abstaining.

We discussed the 902 MHz band plan and 25MHz splits. WAR did not have any proposal to change the plan, but is open to further response from the membership on the 902 MHz band plan.

Chairmen's Report:

Gary reported on WAR's relationship with MRC. In the past it has been a strained relationship. Gary is pleased with the recent response he has had with his counterpart, Steve, from MN. A few issues they have discussed was the automatic re-coordination of the 147.060 in Stillwater, MN and proposed changes to their band plans.

ARES/RACES Repeater Designation

In the past WAR has allowed trustees to designate their repeaters as being an ARES/RACES repeater by selecting the appropriate box on their coordination.

To correct this ambiguity Sam Rowe, KG9NG, has made a motion for a policy change on ARES/RACES repeater designation to read "The designation of an ARES/RACES affiliated Repeater must have the approval of the local County ARES/RACES EC and/or State SEC.". Jeananne, N9VSV, seconded the motion. It was approved by unanimous consent.

Bill, KB9ENO, will solicit all the ECs in Wisconsin to build a list of official ARES/RACES repeaters in the state. This list will be updated into the WAR database.

WAR Policy Document Update

Gary is making updates to the WAR policy document. This 50+ page document will include the changes from the last 7 years. Gary will post the document on the web page when it is complete.

New Business:

WAR Assets

The WAR Board approved the purchase of a \$270 document scanner for the Assistant Coordinator. The Assistant Coordinator processes all the paperwork for repeater renewals. Each document is scanned and added to the coordination database. WAR even owned a commercial repeater for about one week.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Treasurer

Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, was nominated for the position of Treasurer by Jim, KB9KKB and seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV. The nominations for Treasurer were closed and Jim Sheetz was approved by unanimous consent.

Secretary

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, was nominated for the position of Secretary by Jeananne, N9VSV and seconded by Verg, WB9MHS. The nominations for Secretary were closed and Mark Heimmermann was approved by unanimous consent.

Vice Chairman

Jim Westover, KB9KKB, was nominated for the position of Vice Chairman by KB9BYP and seconded by Verg, WB9MHS. The nominations for Vice Chairman were closed and Jim Westover was approved by unanimous consent.

Chairman

Gary Bargholz, N9UUR, was nominated for the position of Chairman by KB9BYP and seconded by Jim, KB9KKB. The nominations for Chairman were closed and Gary Bargholz was approved by unanimous consent with one abstain.

Appointments

Gary re-appointed Dave Karr, KA9FUR, as the Frequency Coordinator and Milt Klingsporn as Assistant Coordinator. Both accepted.

The next meeting is Saturday, July 12th in Tomahawk, WI.

The third and final meeting for 2003 will be on Nov 8th, in Milwaukee, WI.

Gary, N9UUR moved that the meeting be closed. Jeananne seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Heimmermann (KF9CS)

Secretary

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR

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