

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



June 2012
Newsletter

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

From the Chairman

Hi All,

I first off would like to introduce myself. I work as an Automated Systems Engineer at Milwaukee Public Television. I am the President of the Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society for the last 14 years. Plus I serve on the boards of the West Allis Radio Amateurs Club and the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club. I have served on the Sullivan weather committee. I am also a part owner of the Milwaukee Area Digital Operators Group D-Star repeater system. As you can see, I am not a stranger to what is going on in the ham radio community.

Since accepting this position, I have had a chance to talk with several people at swapfests about their concerns about WAR. Even my own experiences have been mixed over the years. I looked at the last newsletter and read both the minutes and Dave's article. WAR has several fundamental problems that do need fixing. As Dave has pointed out, the structure of the organization is very loose. So

Next W.A.R. Meeting:
Saturday July 7th, 2012
1:30 PM

Greenfield Fire House #2
4333 South 92nd St.
Greenfield, WI 53228

loose that it's allowed me to go this long without having a meeting or newsletter. Having this loose of a structure doesn't do the membership any good and causes lack of interest or faith. Here is one example of what I am talking about:

ARTICLE V Meetings

A. Types

1. Annual Meeting. The election of officers shall held at the annual meeting.

2. Regular Meetings shall be called as directed by the Executive Committee.

As you can see this is very loose. There is nothing here to hold the board accountable. Based on this, I can call only one meeting a year whenever. Also during

this term, I have had Dave Kobylinski KB9WCK resign as Vice-Chairman. I had looked to the by-laws and didn't see a procedure to replace an officer. I appointed Jim Westover KB9KBK because he has held this position before.

The suggestion of some is to provide a new set of by-laws and approve them as a whole. This is no small task and should not be rushed into. However it should not be dragged out over years. I propose that we have these ready for a November meeting. Our current by-laws have to be amended in the following manor.

ARTICLE VII Amendments

1. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be by passage of a motion by simple majority at a regular meeting of the Association, publication of the proposed change in the next meeting announcement, and passage by two-thirds vote of the members present at the next regular meeting after publication.

De-Coordination Notice

The N9TEV 147.3150 Antigo repeater is subject to de-coordination for not returning the 2011 renewal form. He may request re-coordination in person, or by proxy, at the July 7th WAR meeting in Greenfield WI.

I believe that membership input is vital to this. I would like to have a discussion at the meeting about the changes needed. If time permits I would like to have a proposed set of By-Laws posted on the website before the meeting.

The other topic I have been asked about is WAR online. Many have asked why we still have to use paper. The short answer, because we do. I have asked Dave to talk about what the challenges would be to changing to an online records system. While this may sound like an easy thing to do, we need to understand how the data needs to be used. One thing that many do not understand is how the information that you provide is used. Your correct repeater information allows Dave to use what is called model based coordination. Dave is actually working against our WAR policy. If he used our current mileage policy we wouldn't be able to do much coordination. Dave will better explain it in his article. This also means we need to take a look at our policy and make changes.

The last thing I would like to touch on is meetings. I agree that we should have meetings around the state. What would make it easier for us to schedule these meetings is a partner. If a club would like to sponsor a meeting that would be great. Non restaurants are best for meetings. If there is a cost WAR would pay for the meeting location. If your organization would be interested please contact me.

Thanks
Dave KA9WXN
W.A.R. Chairman

From the Assistant Coordinator

Thus far in 2012 we have handled 10 coordination requests. These requests added 8 new repeaters, 1 new control receiver and changes to 1 repeater. There are 3 coordination requests that are currently being processed.

On May 7th I mailed 181 renewal forms for 2012. These are due back by August 15th. In the first month 48% of the renewals have been returned. To those of you who responded promptly, thank you.

If you're concerned about your repeater's coordination, please view the listings on the W.A.R. web site. I update the on-line listings periodically (note the date at the top of the page), more often while processing the renewal forms. If there's a "<" symbol by a repeater it means the 2012 renewal for that repeater has not been received. If your repeater's not listed, you either failed to notify me when it was put on-the-air after you received your coordination letter, or you told us it was temporarily off the air and failed to let me know when it was again made operational. Please note that renewal forms are sent for operational repeaters only. If you feel you should have gotten a Renewal form, maybe you forgot to let us know when your repeater went on-the-air.

When you contact W.A.R. regarding a repeater's coordination, please identify the repeater by callsign, output frequency and city. That ensures we're both talking about the same repeater, and lets us quickly find the repeater in the database

(which has 365 repeaters and 220 links). Identifying your repeater by a club name or a portion of the frequency (e.g., 67) is insufficient. Also, there is no way to search the database based on a club name. I've received emails/letters that talk about "my UHF" or "my D-Star" repeater, or just a frequency and no city or callsign; these emails/letters were signed with a first name only and no callsign. Please help me to help you. Remember that we're all volunteers trying our best to help you.

Remember that coordinations are to be requested BEFORE any changes are done on a repeater system.

Every now and then someone questions or complains that WAR should modernize and have on-line renewals and accept soft copies of (scanned) forms (pdf or jpg ?) in an email. What you're probably not aware of is that every form that you send in, gets scanned into the database so that we have an historical record of your repeater readily available at our finger tips. (The physical paper form is then filed with the records of that repeater so we also have a paper backup.) There is no method in place to transfer pdf or jpg files directly into the database. Considering the time we already devote to WAR tasks, neither Dave Karr KA9FUR nor myself have the additional time required to dedicate to that project. No one else has stepped forward to facilitate on-line renewals and forms.

Milt N9WSZ
Assistant Coordinator

**Wisconsin Association
of Repeaters
September 10, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by the Vice-Chairman, Dan Bolander. It was held at the Outagamie County Red Cross in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
WB9TYT	Dan Bolander
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn
KB9RCG	Margie Klingsporn
W9ULK	Gary Sorensen
W9SKE	Sandy Eberlein
KA3LAO	John Sichert
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
KA9FUR	Dave Karr

Vice-Chairman's Report:

About 3 months ago I received an email from Bob Schmidt that he had some personal issues in his life and needed to resign as Chairman of WAR. As a result we are having this meeting to elect officers and catch up on coordination issues.

Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections presented at the meeting. Milt, N9WSZ, moved to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Nels, WA9JOB, and approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

As of 9/10/2011 WAR's balance is \$5,669.94. Nels, WA9JOB, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as read. The motion was seconded by Milt, N9WSZ, and approved by unanimous consent.

Assistant Coordinator's Report:

In May 172 renewal notices were sent out. We received back 141. On September 6 we sent out 32 second notices. Of those 10 notices were sent to the holder of coordination when different than the primary contact. They have until November 15 to return the renewals. After November 15 they are subject to decoordination. The surest way to verify a coordination is up-to-date is to go to the text version of the online listings. The far right column has the date. If there is a "<" pointing to your date your renewal is not current.

I have sent out letters to 15 repeaters that are coordinated in our database and listed as "under construction". These machines were given 6 months to complete the construction. When the construction is complete they are to notify WAR that the repeater is on-the-air and the "under construction" flag will be removed. If the construction is not complete they are to contact WAR for an extension. Some of these coordinations go back to 2005. In the letter they were told to update WAR with the repeaters status. If WAR does not receive any feedback the machines will be de-coordinated.

Coordinator's Report:

Generally new coordinations are using synthesized rigs and it is easier to find an open frequency for a specific location. When the coordination has a specific location and frequency the coordination is difficult. Dave works with the trustee and the neighboring coordination groups to arrive at an agreeable solution. Dave provide technical support to help reach a resolution. Dave uses modeling software to establish the propagation of a repeater based on system gain, topology and antenna height. This allows new machines to be located closer with reduced interference.

WAR's policies and band plans lag what we have done over the last couple of years with respect to: narrow emissions, digital policy, digital registry, ...

Dave has talked with the neighboring groups about forming a larger organization to better utilize the resources available between the various coordination entities. The discussions have been favorable and the discussions has been on the scope of such an organization.

Communications:

Thanks to Gary, N9UUR, for the great job on the newsletter, in spite of a broken foot.

Requests for Re-coordination of Repeaters Who Failed to Return Their 2010 Renewal Forms:
Dave Karr, KA9FUR, represented the following repeaters for reinstatement of their repeater

coordination's:
K9KJM Ken Meyer
KC9LKZ MILWAUKEE
AREA DIGITAL OPERATORS
GROUP

The systems were approved for reinstatement for the 2011 year. They will have to renew their coordination in 2012.

Comments and Open Discussion:

Dan, WB9TYT, requested feedback on how to increase the attendance at the WAR meetings. The size of Illinois and Minnesota meetings average about 50 attendees. Their meetings are more professional and formal. Some discussion of changing to a single meeting in the center of the state, sending ballots for greater feedback and involvement.

There were general discussions on WAR getting a: web domain, ftp site and the group reflector.

New Business:

NFCC:
Nels, WA9JOB, discussed the status of the NFCC. The group is behind on electing new officers. The NFCC is in danger of loosing its incorporation. There are smaller organizations begging for a larger organization to help solidify coordination in their areas. The NFCC helps to organize all the smaller coordination groups. It provides a single point of contact for outside groups.

Jim, K9OQO made a motion for WAR to assist the NFCC with its fees to re-incorporate. The fees will cost approximately

\$50. Milt, N9WSZ, seconded the nomination. The motion was approved by all members present.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Secretary:
Nels, WA9JOB, nominated Mark, KF9CS, for secretary. Milt, N9WSZ, seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed. By unanimous consent Mark is the new WAR Secretary.

Treasurer:
Milt, N9WSZ, nominated Jim, K9OQO, for treasurer. Nels, WA9JOB, seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed. By unanimous consent Jim is the new WAR Treasurer.

Vice-Chairman:
Dave, KA9FUR, nominated Dave Shank, KA9WXN, for vice-chairman. Nels, WA9JOB, seconded the nomination. Milt, N9WSZ, nominated David Kobylinski, KB9WCK, for vice-chairman. Mark, KF9CS, seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed. By a show of hands, David, KB9WCK, was elected as the new WAR Vice-Chairman.

Chairman:
Dan, WB9TYT, nominated Len Kreyer, N9QIP, for chairman. Milt, N9WSZ, seconded the nomination. Nels, WA9JOB, nominated Dave Shank, KA9WXN, for chairman. Dave, KA9FUR, seconded the

nomination. The nominations were closed. By a show of hands, Dave, KA9WXN, was elected as the new WAR Chairman.

Appointments:

The appointments for Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Web Master will be handled by the new Chairman of WAR.

The next WAR meeting will be set at a later date.

Mark, KF9CS, made a motion to the close the meeting.

Dan Bolander, WB9TYT, closed the meeting. We adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS
W.A.R. Secretary

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Dave Schank, KA9WXN
5943 W Edgerton Ave. Greenfield, WI 53220
414-423-0872 chairman@wi-repeaters.org

Vice-Chairman - Jim Westover, KB9KKB
vice-chair@wi-repeaters.org

Secretary - Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. Appleton, WI 54915
(920) 749-9024 secretary@wi-repeaters.org

Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO
N974 Joey's Place. Greenville, WI 54942
(920) 757-9457 treasurer@wi-repeaters.org

Frequency Coordinator - Dave Karr, KA9FUR
S64 W24740 Susan St. Waukesha, WI 53189
(262) 513-0150 ka9fur@wi-repeaters.org

Asst. Coordinator - Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ
1540 Forest Court St Germain, WI 54558
(715) 479-2028 assistcoord@wi-repeaters.org

Newsletter / Webmaster - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR
8273 N. 53rd Street Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 355-6922 communications@wi-repeaters.org

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