



5943 West Edgerton Ave
Greenfield, WI 53220

Steve Ford
Editor, Repeater Directory
American Radio Relay League
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111-1494

January 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Ford,

It was a pleasure meeting you during the 2014 ARRL Centennial celebration in Hartford, CT. At that time, I was then-Vice Chairman of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR), and currently serve as its Chairman.

As you may recall, we had a brief discussion regarding your November 2013 letter to coordinators regarding changes to how the repeater data will be submitted to the ARRL for the 2014 -2015 publication cycle. During our meeting, you informed me that WAR was only one of two coordination groups that didn't sign the new agreement. I explained that we chose not to execute the ARRL's new version of the agreement due to Section C, Bullet 2 of the 2014 agreement that stated that the ARRL was changing its policy in no longer accepting annual electronic submissions, and now requiring coordinators to manually maintain a subset of its existing database via a web portal on the ARRL's website.

Since the ARRL has reduced its dedication to the Repeater Directory product(s) specifically in removing the ability to manage batch processing submissions once a year, WAR's main concern is with having adequate time and volunteers to manually synchronize the ARRL's web portal with the contents of our database. We are also concerned that the ARRL's new process may introduce human error into what previously had been an "automated" process.

For example, when the ARRL's policy change was first raised during one of our general membership meetings over a year ago, I made a submission on the ARRL's website to see what the process would entail. As of this letter, I have not yet had contact or confirmation that my submission has been received. This has caused some apprehension as to the timeliness and management of the submitted data by individuals, and for the communication gaps between ARRL and the state-level coordinators regarding verification of the submitted data.

Additionally, the FCC has made it clear that multiple coordinators can provide their services to a given area, so there is an expectation that all coordinators work in concert. While the ARRL's stated intent is to not act as a coordinator, WAR is concerned that independent action by the ARRL may conflict with local coordination efforts.

Therefore, WAR feels it would be a disservice to your publication, as well as the larger amateur community, to publish aging and potentially conflicting information.

WAR is requesting that the ARRL remove and not publish the (now) expired 2013 Wisconsin data in the 2015 Repeater Directory, and we explicitly do not provide permission to disseminate this data via any other medium that the ARRL may now, or in the future, use to distribute this data.

As an alternative, WAR respectfully requests that for the 2015 Repeater Directory and future publications, the ARRL publish a link to current information on the WAR website at <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

WAR utilizes software that its coordinator Dave Karr (KA9FUR) initially authored over 20 years ago, and is in use by other coordinators across the country. This software was written from the coordinator's perspective to automate many routine processes, including the publication of current data on its website and in membership newsletters. With this level of automation, the WAR website is automatically updated with changes made to the underlying database it maintains, and thus provides the most current information available to amateur radio repeater users operating in and around the state of Wisconsin.

We are willing and interested in participating in a discussion with the ARRL and other coordinators to develop a standard data submission format that provides this service to the amateur community at large. We feel it is in the best interest of amateur radio to work together to solve this issue, and do not want to see the ARRL Repeater Directory become an un-trusted publication due to its outdated data.

Please feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience to discuss the matters outlined above, and provide us with written documentation when the Wisconsin data is removed from your records so that we are aware when these changes have been completed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Schank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Schank
KA9WXN
Chairman, Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR)

CC: Kay Cragie (N3KN), President, ARRL
George R. "Dick" Isley (W9GIG), Central Division Director, ARRL
Kermit Carlson (W9XA), Central Division Vice-Director, ARRL
Gary L. Sorensen (W9ULK), WI Section Manager, ARRL
David Sumner (K1ZZ), Chief Executive Office, ARRL