

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters
NEWSLETTER
September 1996

From the Chairman's Desk:

Some of the things that have transpired in the world of frequency coordination organizations over the summer include ongoing discussions with the Illinois Repeater Association regarding spacing of repeaters, a change of leadership in the Indiana Repeater Council, and the ratification of the National Frequency Coordination Council Bylaws by coordination bodies across this nation.

At the last W.A.R. meeting, we voted to change the MINIMUM spacing of repeaters to 90 miles on Two Meters, 70 miles on 222 MHz. and 60 miles on 440 MHz. This conforms to the Illinois Repeater Association's acceptance of the same spacings. If possible, we still wish to keep the spacing at, or close to, 120 miles. Frequency demand along with criticism from some people of lack of activity on coordinated repeaters is part of the reason for these changes. Details are still being worked out with Illinois on how to administer the short spacings. You can bet P.L. and certain height and power limits will be a factor. I don't really see anyone being adversely affected by the new rules.

I attended The Indiana Repeater Council's significant election meeting in Indianapolis, on July 13, 1996. The controversial leaders elected last year were replaced by some more traditional leaders. Bill Wells, WD8HSU, as the outgoing President, did bring a new perspective to the organization, however. He criticized old practices and procedures, and the new regime has a restructuring challenge ahead. I do wish Neil Rapp, WA9VPG, the new President, and his officers well.

The NFCC bylaws were ratified by coordination organizations across the country in June. This is another step in moving the various coordination groups to be on the same page as far as practices and procedures go. It's interesting that The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters is one of the Nation's oldest established groups and many things that W.A.R. innovated and promoted are a part of coordination processes in many areas now. Remember, you, the repeater operators, make W.A.R. what it represents to the nation. Thank you.

Dave Barrow, our Frequency Coordinator, is very active on the Internet, and has been promoting its use to enhance communications between himself and repeater owners who have E-mail capability. I urge ALL of you to join the 21st century and get active on the Internet too. This column is being sent to those of you with E-mail capability way ahead of the printing and mailing. The new coordination forms have a place to add an E-mail address if you have one. It makes things a lot easier and cheaper communicating via E-mail than spending the \$.32 per envelope.

Dave, WA9POV, has a WEB page dedicated to WAR that can be found at "www.execpc.com/~WA9POV/". He has a WEB dedicated to WAR. The page contains links to: Repeater List by City, Repeater List by Frequency, Membership Application Form, Coordination Update Form, WAR By-laws. Stop by and check it out. Dave also has many other interesting, mostly Amateur Radio related topics on his WEB page. On there, Dave tells us how he had a change of heart.

Our September meeting is on Saturday, September 14, 1996, at the Chalet Motel Restaurant, 10401 N. Port Washington Rd, Mequon, near Milwaukee. Take I-43 to the Mequon Road exit 86 from the north, or Port Washington Rd. exit 83 from the south. Port Washington Rd. runs parallel to the freeway, and the motel is just about halfway between the two exits. Dutch Treat lunch at Noon, Meeting at 1:00 P.M. Be there!

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB

June 1996 Meeting Minutes

WAR Meeting Minutes for Saturday June 8, 1996. The meeting was held at the Wausau Inn and Conference Center in Wausau.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Nels Harvey, WA9JOB at 1:02 PM. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. Treasurer's Report: The bank account stands at \$1345.77 with \$99.53 cash on hand for a total of \$1424.22 plus some stamps. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and approved by those present.

Newsletter report:

Nels asked for any comments on the new policy of only sending newsletters to paid members. This resulted in a discussion by some members who paid their dues in May and did not receive a newsletter. Due to the response time of getting the information through before the newsletter deadline it was decided to allow a grace period of an extra quarter to allow for the extra time. Therefore, people paid by the June meeting should be ensured of receiving all the newsletters.

Introduction of guests and members:

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Dave Barrow, N9UNR, Joe Priebe, W9YZS, Dick Drew, K9PJB, Jim Delaney, N9QFW, Sara Bartlett, N0NIC, Virgil Burmeister, WB9MHS, Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, Dick Hanneman, W9FYP, Scot Thompson, WB0WOT.

LEO proposal for the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands:

The group discussed the proposal by the Low Earth Orbit to utilize the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands. It was decided to wait for Dave, N9UNR, to email those interested more information on the proposed changes. The information will include the proposal and the proper steps to action.

Frequency Coordination Report:

De-coordination: A motion was made that all the stations listed in the June newsletter, who have not responded, will receive a notice that if they do not respond they will be de-coordinated. The motion was seconded and approved by the members present.

ATV:

The Mid America Coordination Council (MACC) has changed the wording of their repeater coordination for ATV repeaters and to a certain extent they expressed "we strongly discourage inband 440 ATV repeaters." In other words, if you go in on 920 or 1240 and come out on 2 meters that would be preferable than having both input and output of the repeater on the same band. The MACC has rescinded the sunset clause of January 1, 2000 for all ATV repeaters to be de-coordinated.

After some discussion no motion or policy was set, just the following suggestions. WAR will not de-coordinate any existing ATV repeaters. All ATV repeater coordination will be done on an individual basis with a **STRONG** suggestion to only use cross band repeaters.

Changes that require a repeater to be re-coordinated: Dave discussed that if a repeater is moved by more than five miles it must be re-coordinated per our rules. This led to further discussion about amateurs changing antenna height or radiated power. The final conclusion was the current WAR policy is sufficient and does not require any modifications at this time.

Chairman's Report:

Nels told us about the two big items at MACC in Dayton this year. The one on ATV and the minimum distance allowed between repeaters. The spacing between repeaters was listed in the June issue of the newsletter.

Nels updated us on the National Frequency Coordination Council (NFCC). It is to be an autonomous organization. The purpose of the NFCC is to provide a single point of contact between the FCC and repeater coordination. The hope is that this will give the amateurs a voice into the FCC on issues that effect repeater coordination. Dave N9UNR has been nominated as a candidate for one of the director positions.

Old Business: no old business

New Business:

ARRL Repeater Directory Listings: Everybody knows (or should know) that the star '*' in the directory listing means the repeater coordination is current. If the star '*' is not present it does not infer that the repeater is going to be de-coordinated (not yet) but it does mean that it will not be listed in next years copy of the ARRL Repeater Directory. The bottom line is that if a repeater does not have a star '*' on the listing by November of this year '96' it will not be listed in the 1997 ARRL Repeater Directory. This is considered more of a service to the people who use the directory to ensure that the information is accurate in case of an emergency.

A motion was made that only those that renewed within the calendar year are listed with the ARRL for next year's directory. The motion was seconded and approved by those present.

New Minimum Repeater Spacing:

We are changing our repeater spacing to the following minimums: 90 miles on 2 meters, 70 miles on 220 and 60 miles on 440 and up. That would be a minimum spacing and in view of the technology today one thing we would require would be use of PL.

A motion was made to accept the chairman's recommendation that "Any coordinations using the new minimum spacing (closer than current spacing) be required to have encode and decode PL for the NEW stations". The motion seconded. The motion was amended to include "Neighboring repeaters will be notified of any new coordinations that are closer than the current spacing." The amendment was seconded and approved by those present. The motion was approved by those present.

A motion was made "That all new coordination, brand new, not carry-overs, not reinstatements, not other things but brand new coordinations be required to do encode and decode PL." The motion was seconded and approved by those present.