

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



*March 2001
Newsletter*

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

From The Chairman
N9UUR

I hope the new millennium is treating you well so far!

The next meeting of The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters will be in Green Bay, on March 10th. We'll be back at the Titledown Brewery Company. The big item on the agenda is the annual election of Officers for W.A.R.

Don't look too hard for the renewal forms in this newsletter, you won't find any! Dave Karr has completed enough work updating information to say it's time to move forward with the new renewal process. In general, the Frequency Coordinator will print out, and mail directly to you, the current information W.A.R. has on file about your system. You will update the information as needed, and then send it back, with your dues, to the Frequency Coordinator. That's it, well almost. The reality of the situation is that as this is the first time, and many machines out there still have not renewed for a few years, the information is not current in some cases. Dave is still

Next W.A.R. Meeting:

**1:00 PM
Saturday March 10th, 2000**

Titletown Brewing Company
200 Dousman Street
Green Bay, WI

working to clean these up FIRST, and will then start the renewal cycle starting with the oldest systems first. Some of you are very diligent and have responded to his requests over the last year, so the sense is to not bother you again too soon. So, the 2001 renewal process will be spread out over the next few months, as Dave has asked not to be SWAMPED with them all at once. Quite understandable, he is one man, and a volunteer remember! So wait patiently by your mailbox please, Dave will get yours out as needed. Please look over the new Renewal Policy printed in this newsletter.

One topic that came up at the last meeting in Appleton, was a discussion of part of the new Wisconsin Frequency Bandplan. A few members of the ATV community sent some e-mails explaining that 439.250Mhz is used as the main calling frequency for ATV. This is now, under the Bandplan, part of the section of frequencies used for repeater links. Although "widely known" within the ATV community, this was not known to anyone who responded to our repeated calls for input while Dave Karr was compiling and sorting out Wisconsin's "real world usage" over the last year. This should really not be an issue. W.A.R. Will contact the very few (one) repeater operator in the Milwaukee area, and ask them to move off the frequency to another. And the Frequency Coordinator will note the ATV usage, and not recommend or coordinate links on that frequency in future. This issue just shows us how important communication is within the Amateur community. Please read your newsletters... And discuss these matters with others OUTSIDE our Repeater Association. We would like to add any

other groups in the state to our mailing lists, so if you know an officer of an ATV, SSTV, APRS, Contesters, ARES, RACES, etc.. Group, please send me a note so I can get them on our lists. As I am in Milwaukee, I know the folk in SE Wisconsin, I would like some help with the Western and Northern parts of the state.

Nationally, Bandplan is an issue as well. The ARRL Repeater Directory has a Bandplan printed within it, this plan does not reflect the real usage of MOST of the country as reported by the various Repeater Coordination groups. There have been a number of calls by other Coordination bodies to have the ARRL stop publishing their out of date plan, or publish each Coordination groups plan in addition to the ARRL plan in the directory. Others are asking the at the very least, the ARRL print a clear and bold statement with their plan that the local Coordination Body's plan takes precedence OVER the ARRL plan, and possibly print www page links to the local plans where available. I can only say I'm glad we have a document in place, and have a leg to stand on. Thank you Dave Karr, and all those who took an interest in making this happen in Wisconsin. We should discuss this at our next meeting, state a position, and get some focus on how W.A.R. should proceed on this issue nationally via the NFCC.

I would like to peruse an idea that has come up a number of times over the last few years. We should hold one of our four yearly meetings on the Western side of the state. "Just because that's the way we've always done it", we have ended up with a meeting in Appleton, and Green Bay. I would like to see if we could get the December meeting in a new West location. Walt Webber, N9FVP has suggested possibly the Tomah area. Madison or Eau Claire would work well too. We would need a meeting room for 20 to 30 people, and preferably a restaurant attached, or close by. So if you would like to see a W.A.R. meeting out west, take a look around for a location, and please let me know!

I hope to see you at the next meeting March 10th in Green Bay.

73, Gary, N9UUR
Chairman, W.A.R.
n9uur@wi-repeaters.org



Greetings from the Coordinator's Desk

On December 16th, 2000 I submitted the repeater directory information to the ARRL for the 2001/2002 repeater directory. The data that was submitted reflected the most up to date information as of the day of submission and included 301 repeaters.

Systems that had not communicated with W.A.R. in over two years were not part of the data submitted to the ARRL.

Coordination activities (paperwork, e-mails, phone calls, etc.) were dominating my free time and were continuing to compromise my ability to complete other amateur radio projects that I've had in the works for several years. As a result, since December I've had to largely put coordination-related activities on hold.

As I write this (early February) I'm currently in eastern Pennsylvania helping a ham friend with some broadcast radio related projects.

In my remaining free time I have started in on my backlog of paperwork as well as entering data for the remaining 72 repeaters which are not fully entered into the new database.

So to those reading this that I have not yet had the opportunity to personally respond to yet, my apologies. I simply have to prioritize the time I currently have available to work on coordination activities.

Incomplete or Incorrect Renewals

While the vast majority of the renewals I have received are complete and can be handled quickly, I continue to receive a few that require additional follow-up actions. It seems that 5% of the renewals consume 90% of my time.

The most common problems include:

- The continued use of an old update form with 199x crossed out (or electronically replaced) with 200x, and then only completing the name/address portion.
- Coordinates specified only to the nearest minute.
- Incomplete information that would allow the correct ERP to be determined.
- No specific details (of any kind) provided for 70cm auxiliary use frequencies.
- Showing a 5MHz split pair on the Auxiliary link coordination form and then indicating that it is used for a remote receive site for a given repeater. (You need to show each site separately.)
- Multiple renewals submitted by different individuals within a club or organization that provide conflicting information.

Of the small group of renewals that do require follow-up questions, a subset of that group does not extend the courtesy of replying to these follow-up requests. Where a follow-up is required, I do go to the trouble of applying my best interpretation of past correspondence and simply ask for clarification of some simple issues.

For the very few that choose not to respond to these requests, clearly coordination is not a priority. Where an inordinate amount of time has passed, I will start presenting these on a case-by-case basis at the quarterly W.A.R. meetings. My recommendation will be that despite the submission of an incomplete renewal and/or inclusion of a monetary contribution towards our efforts, that we proceed with de-coordination based on the lack of correspondence.

Trust me when I say that I take no pleasure in presenting this suggested course of action.

New co-ordinations

Marty, N9BMH, will be moving his 145.23MHz repeater to the recently vacated 146.625MHz pair. Marty's system was the last repeater occupying the SNP pair in the state.

Alan, KB9DRZ, will be placing a new repeater on 444.375MHz in Madison and based on the technical details of the system, I'm sure it will work quite well.

Feedback

Thanks to those that have supplied their comments privately to me. I truly encourage constructive criticism as well as your input as to what you further changes you would like to see.

73,

Dave / KA9FUR



The Wisconsin Association
of Repeaters
New Annual Renewal Process

The renewal process will now be handled separately from the newsletter. Therefore, the March newsletter will NOT include a blank renewal form.

There WILL be a direct mailing of a renewal form(s) made to each legal repeater trustee, along with the last applicant of record.

The form(s) will be pre printed with W.A.R.'s most current information on file about your system(s).

You should review, correct, update, sign and return the form(s) with your dues, to the Frequency Coordinator. Checks should be made out to "The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters", or "W.A.R."

The Frequency Coordinator will forward your dues, and other pertinent information to the W.A.R. Treasurer and Secretary as needed.

Due to the large number of coordinated repeaters in the state, it has taken a considerable amount of work on the coordinators part to make this possible. Those that have renewed during 2000, as well as those that responded to the September direct mailing do have the necessary information entered into the database. Since Jan-

uary the coordinator has been focusing on the remaining 60+ repeaters that didn't fall into either category. On top of that, the coordinator is also, on a case by case basis, attempting to work with the trustee's of some 300+ auxiliary link coordinations in the state to get those records updated as well.

It is anticipated that these tasks will dominate the coordinators spare time during at least the first half of the year. Once completed, we will be sending out the pre-completed renewal forms as needed.

Please wait for your form(s) to arrive via the US Mail. Please return your renewal and dues via the US Mail. Electronic mail was considered for this process, but it was felt a tangible paper trail is preferred. It's also easier for you to make notes and corrections on the edges of the paper, and then return it to the Frequency Coordinator.

The Board of Directors and the Frequency Coordinator of W.A.R. Sincerely hope that this change will make the renewal process easier, and more accurate for EVERYONE involved.

Wisconsin Association
of Repeaters
December 9, 2000
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz, at 1:00 p.m. It was held at the Outagamie County Chapter of the American Red Cross in Appleton.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
W9BHL	Mike Hamman
N9GHE	Rodney Pajula
N9GDY	Harry Hartmann
K9JQE	Chris Christianson
N9OIG	Kenn Drissel
N9VSV	Jeananne Bargholz
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
N9PRC	Chad Pennings
WD9FLJ	Wayne Pennings
KB9ZK	Ina Rotta
N9BMH	Marty Rotta
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
KB9ENO	Bill Niemuth
KB9DRZ	Alan Romeis
WB9MHS	Virgil Burmeister
ND9Z	Gary Keating
N9FZL	Cathy Keating
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
W9FBC	Maury Mead

Secretary's Report:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Rodney Pajula, W9BHL, made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, and approved by the members present.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance for December 9, 2000 is \$1646.67. There were no outstanding expenses at the time of the report. Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, handed out a report on the treasury including charts and graphs. They indicated a slight downslide in treasury over the past years but things still look okay.

Nels, WA9JOB, completed his audit of the treasury and verified the reports for the past couple of years. Nels sent an e-mail to the board confirming Jim's records.

Mike Hamman, W9BHL, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Harry Hartmann, N9GDY, and approved by the members present.

Newsletter Report:

Last month's newsletter was composed by Gary, N9UUR. The Board is looking for an editor for the newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year. The editor's responsibilities include producing camera ready copy and return labels. This along with the secretary's labels are submitted to the printer. The printer handles all the copying, correlating, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of the newsletter. If you are interested in editing the WAR newsletter, please contact a board member.

If you have any items for the next newsletter please be sure Gary receives them one month before the next meeting.

We discussed different methods to reduce the expense of mailing the newsletter. One idea was to send the newsletter via e-mail. The conclusion is to wait until more than 50% of the WAR membership have e-mail addresses.

Coordinator's Report:

Dave reviewed the list of de-coordinations published for the December meeting. The conclusion of the membership is that a trustee should be given another chance if they have maintained communications with Dave and have demonstrated intent to coordinate a working repeater. These trustees will receive another mailing before de-coordination is considered. The others will be de-coordinated.

Bandplan Document:

WAR has received some panicked e-mail about the bandplan. ATV in Wisconsin use 439.250 Mhz as its calling frequency. Marty Rotta, N9BMH, discussed the problems ATV operations are having with some repeater links. One in particular is operated by Gary, N9UUR. Gary agreed to coordinate with Dave and switch the link frequency in the coming months.

If there are problems between an aspect of amateur radio and repeater's operation WAR recommends that the repeater trustee be contacted to work out a resolution. The trustee will contact the frequency coordinator if the change affects coordination.

This showed us that we need to communicate better with the other aspects of amateur radio. The board is updating the list of newsletters mailed to include representatives of these other aspects. If you know an organization or group which should receive the newsletter please contact a board member.

New Renewal Policy:

In the past a renewal form was included with the March newsletter. The forms were submitted with the appropriate dues to the treasurer. The treasurer forwarded the paper work to the secretary, who forwarded them to the coordinator.

The membership discussed different ways to improve accuracy and reduce paper work. (unlike the government...:)

After much discussion a motion was entertained to have the renewal process separate from the March newsletter. There will be a direct mailing of completed renewal forms to the repeater trustee. The forms will contain WAR's latest information. The mailing will occur annually. The trustee will update the forms and return them to the frequency coordinator with the appropriate dues.

Gary Keating, ND9Z, made the motion. It was seconded by Rodney Pajula, N9GHE, and approved by the members present with one abstaining.

New business:

A motion was made by Virgil Burmeister, WB9MHS, to leave the assessed dues for 2001 the same as this year. The motion was seconded by Bill Niemuth,

KB9ENO, and approved by all present. The membership dues for 2001 will remain at:

A system with up to 9 users, \$10, 1 newsletter.

10-24 users, \$15, 1 newsletter.
25-49 users, \$20, 2 newsletters.

50 and up, \$25, and 2 newsletters.

Associate dues are \$5.

Dave Karr has been busy printing and mailing coordination materials. So far he has not asked for reimbursement. A motion was made by Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, to provide a gift certificate for \$100 to Dave (\$50 for certificate and \$50 for expenses). The motion was seconded by Chris Christianson, K9JQE, and approved by the members present with one abstaining (Dave).

S-Com has published the manual for its 7K controller in pdf on its web site at <http://www.Scom-controllers.com>.

The next meeting is the annual election of officers. It will be March 10, 2001 at:
Tittletown Brewing Company
200 Dousman Street
Green Bay, WI

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Heimmermann (KF9CS)
Secretary
Wisconsin Association of Repeater

Have you seen the W.A.R.
World Wide Web Home Page?

The W.A.R. www page has current Repeater listings for the State sorted by Region, City, and Frequency. Also, the Wisconsin Frequency Bandplan, past newsletters and articles, all available for download in Adobe Acrobat document format.

Please point your browser to:

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

SEND US YOUR E-MAIL
ADDRESS!

W.A.R. has started a list of E-mail addresses from our members.

If you would like to receive information important to Repeater Coordination, W.A.R., and reminders of our quarterly meetings via E-mail, please send us your address.

We hope to have at least one contact name or address from each Coordinated Repeater in the state. If you did not receive an E-mail in the last few weeks, you're not on the list. To be added, just send an E-mail to N9UUR@wi-repeaters.org, and request to be added to the W.A.R. list. The list is maintained by W.A.R. for our own use, and no addresses will be released to any other entity.

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR
8273 N. 53rd Street, Brown Deer, WI 53223
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Vice-Chairman - Mike Hamman, W9BHL
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fax: (262) 513-0169

Newsletter Editor - Vacant!
We're looking for YOU!
Contact N9UUR

