

# WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



*June 2001  
Newsletter*

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

## From The Chairman N9UUR

As most of you are aware by now, we had a "problem" with the ARRL and the 2001 Repeater Directory. The problems we encountered point out some issues with the process in reporting data to the ARRL. The ARRL has opened discussion about this, and we hope to see a new or improved process next time. Please see the notice below.

Hope to see you on June 9th.

## Special Notice To All ARES Repeater Trustees and Sponsoring Groups in the State of Wisconsin

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) each year publishes a National Repeater Directory. This Directory lists Coordinated Repeaters throughout the US. It also lists auxiliary functions (PL Tone requirements, Auto patch features etc.), the sponsoring group and activities found on the repeater (XYZ-Radio Club, WX Nets etc.).

The ARRL creates the Directory based upon data submitted by Coordination Groups

## Next W.A.R. Meeting:

**1:00 PM  
Saturday June 9th, 2001**

*Lunch at Noon*

Prime Time

1141 North 4th Street  
Tomahawk, WI

Take Business 51  
(Which is 4th Street)  
to the North End of town.

throughout the US. In Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (W.A.R.) Submits this data to the ARRL for publication. The submission process takes a few months, as "proof sheets" are returned for review, corrections are made, and then returned again.

W.A.R. regrets to inform you that despite the notification of errors found by W.A.R. during the "Proof" process, the ARRL DID NOT correct an error regarding the listings of ARES sponsored Repeaters from Wisconsin. The ARRL has left out the "ARES" designator on the Frequency listing line in the

directory for ALL ARES Repeaters in Wisconsin. In other words, there will be no Wisconsin "ARES" in the book this year. All of your Repeaters, Frequencies, PL requirements etc. WILL BE THERE, just not the "ARES" designator on the descriptor line.

W.A.R. has received a memo of apology from the Editor of the ARRL Repeater Directory, fully accepting responsibility for this oversight. The Directory has gone to print, and no further changes can be made at this time.

We hope that you will accept the ARRL's and W.A.R.'s apology for this oversight and situation. The ARRL is working to revise and improve it's data collection and error correction process.

The "ARES" designator DOES currently appear in all W.A.R. listings, publications, and mailings statewide. Next year, it will return to the ARRL Repeater Directory as well.

Thank You, and 73'  
Gary Bargholz  
Chairman, W.A.R.

## **Greetings from the Coordinator's Desk Spring 2001**

### **ARRL 2001/2002 Repeater Directory**

A byproduct of coordination is that the local coordination entities across the nation share a portion of their data with the ARRL for the purpose of creating this yearly publication.

In December of each year W.A.R. submits information to the ARRL for publication in the annual repeater directory. Unfortunately, this year's directory experienced problems from the onset. The electronic proofs that we received back were unreadable, the ARES information was lost, and repeated attempts to have those responsible at the ARRL to correct the problems were not successful prior to the publication deadline in February.

During the last week in April, I received an advanced copy of the directory and immediately noted some additional information in the Wisconsin listings that W.A.R. did not submit. One of those entries data source appears to be from the Minnesota data submission for one of the Minnesota frequency coordinator's own systems located in Wisconsin. The other extra entry I spotted was one belonging to an Illinois system in Elgin IL that now appears to have been geographically relocated in North Eastern Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is not alone in experiencing these errors. I recently spoke with one coordinator who also noted entries in the directory that were not in their data submissions or proofs. In this case the repeaters listed are uncoordinated, and the source of the data is unknown at this time.

So, if you do purchase a copy of the ARRL repeater directory, please be aware that any errors you spot were likely introduced by the ARRL. Also please note that the "bandplan" that the ARRL publishes in the front of the repeater directory does not necessarily align with the bandplan and policies in place in Wisconsin or its bordering states.

You can always find the most current listings included with each quarterly newsletter, or on the W.A.R. web page, these will always reflect the information we have on file.

### **Coordination**

I'd like to continue to thank everyone thus far for their cooperation in getting our records updated.

My special thanks go to those that take the time to fill in all the missing information the first time and don't require a follow up letter re-requesting the missing information. Some of the toughest ones to get updated have been those belonging to well established repeaters that have been on the air for many years. In my book, everyone is on a level playing field. Whether you are an individual with a small backyard repeater, or a 20 year old organization, the same expectations apply equally to both.

I opened this column with the word "byproduct" and I'd like to expand on that thought a bit.

The primary purpose of the information we have on file is to protect existing operations from potential interference introduced when new coordination's are sought out. Having complete and accurate information on file affords us the opportunity to make informed decisions to avoid conflicts before they occur.

If an interference situation presented itself and the FCC were to become involved, the FCC turns first

to the coordinator(s) to see if the interference is a result of uncoordinated operation. Remember that uncoordinated operation can occur if someone suddenly appears on channel with a new repeater, as easily if a coordinated station were to make uncoordinated modifications that affect its coverage area.

### **Auxiliary Links**

Good progress is being made in getting our records updated with the auxiliary link information we need. Understandably some of the most difficult information to get updated is from those groups or individuals which have had equipment in operation for many years and have become accustomed to not providing the details we need for our files, simply because we've never pressed you for it in the past.

In many cases, we are discovering that the data we have on file is more than five years out of date and still shows auxiliary operations that were either never used or were long since abandoned. More troubling are auxiliary operations that we have no record of. I have no doubt that there may have been a coordination issued at some point in time, but sometimes our paper files simply fail to reflect something that may have occurred 10+ years ago.

As an example, I recently ran across a paper file that showed claims to 28 auxiliary frequencies as being allocated to one club. However, the electronic records showed only 8 in use. When the dust finally settled, we found that only 5 were actually in use and only 3 of those were part of the 8 our electronic files showed.

Again, my thanks to those that have helped iron out what you actually have in use, and for returning unused frequencies to the pool of those available to everyone. Having an honest picture of what is actually in use is a tremendous help.

### **Renewals**

For those of you that have been patiently waiting for your renewal forms this year, I apologize for the continued delay in getting these out to you. Before these renewals can be generated, I've got about 65 more paper files to go through, extract information from them, and key it into the new database.

I suffer from "too many irons in the fire syndrome" and simply have not been able to prioritize the block of time necessary to complete that task. With a few other projects now complete, I hope to overcome this last hurdle and to be able to send out the renewal forms within the next several weeks to those that have not renewed within the past year. Again, I thank you for your patience during the transition period to a new renewal process.

### **Where on earth are you?**

I continue to receive paperwork with coordinates supplied in odd ways. I think many of these are coming from GPS units which express the coordinates in Degree's, Minutes, and fractional Minutes. Please remember that just like a clock the Minutes and Seconds cannot exceed 59. Sometimes I don't catch the error because the seconds being supplied are in fractional form but are still less than 59.

So if you are using a GPS and don't know for sure how it is presenting the information to you, please see your owner's manual or manufacturer's web site for a clarification.

Hint: To convert fractional seconds to whole seconds, just multiply by 60. Example: 42.96 minutes would equal 42 minutes, 57.6 seconds.

## Coordination Activity

03/07 AC9ES, Coloma, was coordinated on 145.370  
03/25 N9RNA, Burlington, was coordinated to move his 442.850 repeater to a new location.  
04/28 W5TWR, Bluffsiding, ATV repeater voluntarily de-coordinated.  
05/06 KB9GKC, Green Bay, was coordinated on 146.685  
05/07 N9NLU has moved to Kewaskum and is now coordinated on 444.275.  
His Oak Creek 443.400 repeater has been de-coordinated.

There has also been a quite a bit of activity on auxiliary frequencies due to new additions, frequency changes, and the voluntary de-coordination of unused frequencies.

## Under Construction

The following systems coordinated over the past year have not indicated that they are on the air yet.

05/14/2000 KB9TYC, 147.105 new coordination  
11/01/2000 KB9VPA, 146.760 new coordination  
12/16/2000 KB9DRZ, 444.375 new coordination  
12/16/2000 N9BMH, 146.625 frequency change from 145.230

As a reminder, you've got 6 months once a coordination is issued to place your system on the air or to apply for an extension. If you are responsible for a system on this list please contact me with a status update.

## Still off the air? You tell me.

Things happen and sometimes getting a repeater back on the air isn't the highest priority. The following systems are still in my records as being temporarily off the air and are shown along with the last date we've received a status update.

09/2000 K9GTQ, 146.730, Irma  
09/2000 KF9TS, 147.135, Tigerton  
09/2000 N9PMR, 224.060, Mequon  
09/2000 WB9SMM, 421.25, Milwaukee ATV  
09/2000 W9BLI, 443.700, Luxemburg  
09/2000 N9UOM, 443.700, Tomah  
10/2000 KA9TCC, 147.360, Rhinelander  
12/2000 K9MLD, 147.285, Hartford  
12/2000 N9GMT, 443.800, Milwaukee

At least two of these systems appear to have never been constructed, others have been off the air for extended periods of time. In some cases where other frequencies have been available for new systems we've continued to carry these systems in our records, but not publish the information. With some of these, we've had promises that these systems were going to return to the air "any day now" but have yet to hear back from the repeater owner.

If you are responsible for a system on this list, please contact me with a status update.

## Phone Calls and e-mail

There are over 300 of you and one of me. I'm more than happy to help you on the phone or via e-mail, but better than half of the requests I receive this way relate to matters that need to be handled in writing anyway.

I cannot accept formal coordination requests or renewals via the telephone nor by dropping an informal e-mail that says "Hi. We're still in operation.... Same as last year".

If you do call on the telephone, please make it during the week between 10am and 6pm. I do work at home, so the best time to reach me is during the day.

I have a limited amount of time to donate each week, so if you can put your request in writing I would encourage you to do so.

I do initially skim each e-mail that I receive, but if I don't respond to your e-mail immediately its because I've placed it in my WAR to-do folder until I have time to process it.

Thanks for understanding.

That's all for now,

Dave / KA9FUR



## Wisconsin Association of Repeaters March 10, 2001 Meeting Minutes

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The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz. It was held at Titledown Brewery in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

### Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
N9GHE	Rodney Pajula
W9BHL	Mike Hamman
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
N9VSV	Jeananne Bargholz
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
K9JQE	William Christianson
AA9FW	Paul Iverson
N9QFW	Jim Delaney
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
N9QA	Dave Knaus
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
KB9ENO	Bill Niemuth
WD9FLJ	Wayne Pennings
N9PRC	Chad Pennings
W9RIC	Rick Kosiorek

### 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 a majority of the members present.

### Treasurer's Report:

The balance for March 10, 2001 is \$1444.82. 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.

WAR expects to receive around \$300 from the ARRL for the 2001 repeater directory.

Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, and approved by the members present.

### Newsletter:

Last month's newsletter was compiled 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. These 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.

This is an open request for articles to include in the newsletter. If you have an article for the newsletter be sure Gary receives it one month before the meeting.

### Frequency Coordinator:

Dave Karr, KA9FUR, reported on the status of coordinations and renewals. There has been a month slump in the process. The membership will receive their coordination and renewals forms in the coming months. All updates to the new database should be completed by fall.

After that the mailing of renewals for 2002 will be completed in a month.

When you send your renewals to WAR please pay by check.

#### Chairmen's Report:

ARRL 2001 Repeater Directory:

There has been a snafu with the WAR listings. The ARRL managed to lose all the ARES designations in the repeater listings for WAR. The ARRL has admitted their mistake and takes full blame for the problem. This will be corrected for the 2002 directory but is too late for 2001. Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, has been informed of the problem and the Wisconsin ECs will be notified. Gary Bargholz will notify the WAR membership via the re-mailer.

If you notice any other problem in the Repeater Directory for Wisconsin please check with Dave Karr the frequency coordinator to ensure that WAR's information is correct.

#### New Business:

Nomination and Election of Officers:

#### Technical Director

Rodney Pajula, N9GHE, was nominated for the position of Technical Director by Dave, N9QA and seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV.

The nominations for Technical Director were closed and Rodney Pajula was approved by unanimous consent.

#### Treasurer

Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, was nominated for the position of Treasurer by Nels, WA9JOB 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 Rodney, N9GHE and seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV.

The nominations for Secretary were closed and Mark Heimmermann was approved by unanimous consent.

#### Vice Chairman

Mike Hamman, W9BHL, was nominated for the position of Vice Chairman by Nels, WA9JOB and seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV.

The nominations for Vice Chairman were closed and Mike Hamman was approved by unanimous consent.

#### Chairman

Gary Bargholz, N9UUR, was nominated for the position of Chairman by Bill, KB9ENO and seconded by Rodney, N9GHE.

Nels, WA9JOB, closed the nominations for Chairman and Gary Bargholz was approved by unanimous consent.

Gary appointed Dave Karr as the frequency coordinator for another year.

Meeting locations for the year were discussed. The meetings are held the second Saturday of the month. Consult the newsletter and web page for further details on the locations.

**June 9, 2001**

**September 8, 2001**

**December 8, 2001**

**March 9, 2002**

**Tomahawk**

**Madison**

**Milwaukee**

**Appleton**

Nels, WA9JOB, moved that the meeting be closed. Rodney, N9GHE, seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.

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

#### List of Officers & Appointments

##### Chairman - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR

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(414) 355-6922 N9UUR@execpc.com

##### Vice-Chairman - Mike Hamman, W9BHL

W2514 Hwy A, Tomahawk, WI 54487-9111  
(715) 453-3908 mham@newnorth.net

##### Secretary - Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS

1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. Appleton, WI 54915  
(920) 749-9024 kf9cs@execpc.com

##### Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO

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(920) 739-7695 k9oqo@aol.com

##### Technical Director - Rodney Pajula, N9GHE

3522 Wagonwheel Rd. Manitowoc, WI 54220  
(920) 749-9024 pajular@lakefield.com

##### Frequency Coordinator - Dave Karr,

**KA9FUR**

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##### Newsletter Editor

Gary Bargholz, N9UUR