

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



*September 2001
Newsletter*

Member: Mid-America Coordination Council

Founding Member: National Frequency Coordination Council

From The Chairman N9UUR

As our (very hard working) Frequency Coordinator Dave Karr gets through with the first run of renewals via the "new renewal method", we still find ourselves looking for current data, or in some cases ANY information about some systems. So, after sending renewal sheets already filled in, registered letters as reminders, and still hearing NOTHING back, it's time to say enough is enough and remove the coordinations for these machines. Now, this is NOT the job I, nor Dave volunteered for. I have directed Dave at most every turn to "try again" or "send another letter". I even took over the paperwork and reporting job myself for a local group here in Milwaukee, nobody would take up the task. So it turns out that about 5% of the trustees out there tend to waste about 95% of our time. The biggest problems seem to be... the biggest groups, the "Clubs". I find this very interesting.

The problem from W.A.R.'s point of view, is that we are put into a position of first "badgering" for the information, and then seeing none, having to decoordinate. Not what we want, or enjoy doing. Especially if the repeater is known to be on the air. But if nothing has been heard from the trustee for

Next W.A.R. Meeting:

1:00 PM

**Saturday Sept. 8th, 2001
MADISON, WI**

JT Whitney's Pub & Brewery
674 S. Whitney Way
Madison, WI
www.jtwhitneys.com

years, per W.A.R. policy, that's the only option left. We're sorry, and not looking to be rude, and we are NOT the "Repeater Police" either. This is democratic. If you don't like a policy, or the way something is done, show up at a meeting and make a motion, GET INVOLVED!

I think the problem lies in the fact the some people don't understand what Frequency Coordination is all about. Frequency Coordination is cooperation. It's "Good Amateur Radio Practice". Plain and simple. It is a way for a very large group of users, to coexist and use a finite amount of frequency spectrum efficiently, and without getting in each others way. Nobody "Owns" a frequency, even if you're coordinated there, and have had a repeater there for 20 years. It's not yours. You have been allowed the privilege of using it by the F.C.C, and the other Hams around you. They respect the time effort

and money you have put into a repeater, and recognize this by using it properly, and not putting up another machine that would interfere with your operation. OK, so this sounds a little naive. But that's really how it works. It's all based on cooperation and respect.

It's also not yours in perpetuity. Things change, and we need to hear about the changes before they happen. We also need to confirm that things have NOT changed too.

W.A.R. and the other Frequency Coordination groups around the country exist to be a clearing house of information, and to assist in the creation of new repeaters. That's really what we LOVE to do, find places, and ADD more machines. If our information is not current, and accurate, how can we do our job? I can't understand why someone would not want the most current and accurate information about their system in the hands of the Coordinator. This is your best, and ONLY protection that someone else building another repeater can be made aware of, and respect the frequencies and coverage range you're operating on. Is not keeping the Coordinator informed also a sign of disrespect for W.A.R. and the entire Amateur Radio community? And if someone out there has no respect for

you, or W.A.R. and an "interference issue" ever does arise, the F.C.C. WILL rule in favor of the repeater that is current, and properly Coordinated with the local Frequency Coordination Group. Game over, thanks for playing.

Another major service of W.A.R. is to interface with the other Coordination groups in the states surrounding Wisconsin. Our Frequency Coordinator takes your "requests" for new frequency uses to the other states around us. And they are only requests until everyone around us approves, and THEN become coordinated for your intended use. This is the point and function of W.A.R. Frequency searches are made first by computer sorting and searching through the frequencies known to be in use near you in our database (this is why your Lat. and Lon. is so important), in the sections of the band that are available for the use you need (and this is why we spent a year working on a "Band Plan" for Wisconsin). After a possible choice is identified, a "Notice of Proposed Coordination" is sent out to the Coordination groups around us.

Another issue is our (W.A.R.'s) relationship with the other Coordination Groups in states around us. This is where the issues of respect and trust really come to bare. We must trust that if an objection is made by Illinois for example, it's for a reasonable and valid reason. There is the possibility that some other Coordinator could "object" to a proposal just to keep the frequency for some future use, or just because we objected to their last request. I do not believe this is the case, but only use the example to point to the fact that State to State Coordination is also based on trust, respect and cooperation,

and these must be earned and maintained. A change in your system that may seem minor to you, will most probably result in our Coordinator having to go to another State's Coordinator after the fact with a "proposal" that is already in place. This is not a good situation to be in, and does not help to build or maintain the respect W.A.R. should show to the other States around us. So PLEASE consult our Coordinator FIRST, before you put that new AMP on line, or replace that old antenna with a new one (it only has 3db more gain...). Need I even mention that you need a new coordination if you move a remote receiver, or MOVE THE REPEATER? It's a protocol thing, it protects YOUR system, it's "Good Amateur Practice", and it shows respect for Coordination and the Amateur Community.

W.A.R. Is made up of volunteers. Why would someone subject themselves to this sort of badgering, whining, pleading, life in a vacuum, frustrating existence. Well, I keep telling myself it's only the 5%...

For the most part, I do believe we are all in this together, and most of you out there realize the importance of the process of Coordination. Frequency Coordination is far more than just a way to get into the repeater directory... I hope that's not the only reason you sent in your renewal form, if so, please read this article again.

So thanks for reading if you've made it this far, and thanks for your Cooperation and Respect, you certainly have mine.

73, Gary, N9UUR
Chairman, W.A.R.

Greetings from the Coordinator's Desk

In mid-June approximately 200 letters were sent out to everyone that showed renewal dates prior to July 15, 2000. The primary intent was to encompass the final group of approximately 70 systems that had not renewed within the past 2 years. In the cover letter's that were included with the pre-completed renewal forms, I had asked for a response within 30 days. 82% of the responses were returned within the 30 days, and 98% were returned within 60 days. The remaining 2% go unanswered.

Of those that went unanswered, most have not renewed in more than two years and are now presumed to no longer exist. Those systems therefore no longer appear in the directory and are in the process of being de-coordinated.

For the renewals that the data had already been correctly entered into our database, those renewals amounted to simply signing it and returning the form. Many respondents indicated their appreciation for the improvements in the process, and clearly it's a big time saver for both you and me.

Thanks for everyone's patience throughout this transition period and it appears that the new renewal process is going to be a real time saver for everyone.

Coordination vs. an overly complicated repeater directory

Some of the "renewals" I received were used to inform us that a repeater had been moved, power increased, or coverage otherwise significantly modified.

Admittedly in a majority of the cases the changes aren't going to result in an interference problem, but in several instances where this has occurred not only is the likelihood that interference will result, but it also compromises our ability to work effectively with our neighboring coordination entities. If we can't receive the respect of our members, why should our neighboring coordinators respect our ability to effectively work with them under similar circumstances when they wish to propose a change to a system within their geographical areas?

Individual common sense guides us in one of two directions here. The repeater owner can choose to work with us ahead of time and most likely the changes proposed result in coordinated change. Alternately the repeater owner can choose to make the changes, notify us after the fact and hope that we either won't notice or will simply quietly accept the change.

It requires more work on my part to handle these changes after the fact than if the individual(s) involved had simply worked with us in the first place.

During this initial period of getting our records in sync with what is actually in operation, when differences between what was originally coordinated and what was submitted differed, I did take the time to check for the likelihood that it may be a potential problem. Many errors in location were identified, particularly with older coordination's where many of the coordinates seemed to align to the center of the nearest town rather than the street address or descriptive location information that was provided.

In the cases where the differences were significant, I worked with the parties involved as well as the adjacent coordinator to make sure everyone was aware that an error in our records had previously existed.

The two geographic areas where the largest amount of concern for uncoordinated changes occurring are in the two highest repeater density areas, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Milwaukee-Chicago.

Our policy is quite clear as to what constitutes the basis of de-coordination and certainly changes to a repeater that result in a coverage change is one of them.

In these same metro areas there have been few opportunities for new groups or individuals to coordinate a new repeater for many years. For those that would like to place a new repeater on the air, these individuals are quite anxious to work with W.A.R. to find an opportunity to do so.

As we move forward, those in the minority that exhibit the desire to not remain coordinated will simply be dropped from our records and preference given to others who do.

In as much as it requires countless hours to build, install, and maintain a successful repeater, my conservative estimate is that I personally have contributed at least 600 hours per year of my time to the coordination process alone. Its not clear to me how saving yourself a few minutes of time up front as opposed to working with W.A.R. to coordinate a move is too much to ask.

Coordination is simply one technical aspect of operating an amateur repeater.

Accommodating new repeaters on 2 meters.

The question of how to accommodate temporary repeaters to be used during special events or emergencies has come up a few times recently here as well as in Illinois. Wisconsin has a shared non-protected pair on 2 meters (145.23) that theoretically could be used for such purposes. I say theoretically because unlike a nationwide agreement that 146.520 is used for simplex, 145.230 is only a SNP pair in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Illinois never adopted a 2m SNP pair, Iowa adopted 145.25 and Lower Michigan has adopted 147.50/146.50 as their 2m SNP pair.

Clearly there is no uniformity between the various areas that really allows us to recommend that even 145.230 is an appropriate choice for organizations seeking an answer to the question of what frequency to best configure a portable repeater on. Depending upon where one chose to setup the repeater, you may or may not have co-channel interference problems from a repeater in another state.

Michigan's standards indicate that a SNP repeater should be no more than 15 watts ERP. Illinois' standard for 70cm SNP is 50W with a HAAT limit. Wisconsin has no formal published standard that I am aware of. Illinois coordinates SNP repeaters, and I'm not certain how some of the other states do it.

Since coordination implies protection, is not clear to me how any coordination entity can coordinate something that is not afforded any protection, one seems to be mutually exclusive of the other as coordination implies a form of protection.

Illinois currently has a request pending to the use 147.045 as the repeater pair of choice in Illinois for temporary or portable repeater operation. Their research shows it to be a low utilization channel within Illinois with few first adjacent channel problems. W.A.R. has tabled any response of this proposal until it can be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

The proposal that I will make is that we do as some other states have done and create some additional 2 meter repeater pairs with 1MHz splits and then set aside one of those pairs for uncoordinated and unprotected repeater operation. An example of new repeater pairs that could be created are 146.445, 146.46, 146.475, and 146.49 (again with a +1MHz offset). One of these new pairs could be used for a true SNP pair that would not cause interference to existing co-channel repeaters in neighboring areas. The other pairs could be earmarked for use in less densely populated regions, which due to their proximity to larger metro areas have not been able to place any new repeaters on the air. It seems illogical to create additional repeater pairs that could quickly be consumed for yet another repeater in a metro area.

Clearly this is an issue in which requires more input than a regional meeting can supply and I would encourage input from all interested parties to be directed to one or more of the W.A.R. officers. It also requires discussion with neighboring coordination entities and in turn with their respective members.

I encourage anyone interested in establishing a working group to discuss this and other issues of band planning to contact myself or any of the W.A.R. officers and make your interest known. The

discussion can only be meaningful if individuals with different interests, especially those other than the operation of repeaters, participate in the process.

New Coordination Activity

11/00	KB9VPA	Superior	146.760	Under Construction ???
03/01	N9RNA	Burlington	442.850	Geographical move status unknown.
03/01	KB9YCZ	Milwaukee	444.275	Under Construction ???
03/01	AC9ES	Coloma	145.370	Under Construction
05/01	KB9GKC	GreenBay	146.685	Under Construction
05/01	N9NLU	Kewauskum	444.275	Under Construction
06/01	WB9GBG	Iola	146.925	Under Construction
07/01	K9UAW	Kenosha	443.225	Under Construction
08/01	N9DTT	Ft. Atkinson	444.900	Under Construction

Please note that de-coordination letters will be sent out soon for some of these that are beyond their respective 6-month construction period. If you need more time, apply for an extension.

Off the air?

I've kept these in the database for a while and the date shown is the date of last contact with the trustee. Though they are candidates for de-coordination primarily due to extensive periods off the air or having never been constructed. In their geographic areas freeing their pairs has no impact on new repeater construction so I've kept them in the records for now.

09/00	K9GTQ	Irma	146.730
09/00	N9PMR	Mequon	224.060
09/00	W9BLI	Luxemburg	443.700
09/00	N9UOM	Tomah	443.700
06/01	KA9TCC	Rhineland	147.360
07/01	AA9JR	Milwaukee	443.950

Decoordinated

06/01	N9EJC	Madison	145.150	Never constructed
06/01	KF9TS	Tigerton	147.135	Voluntary
06/01	KB9TYC	Cameron	147.105	Construction period expired
06/01	KG9AL	Shawno	224.480	Voluntary
06/01	WB9TAE	Madison	444.925	Voluntary
06/01	K9UAW	Kenosha	444.150	Never constructed
08/01	N9DTT	Ft. Atkinson	442.750	Voluntary

Thanks

Last, but certainly not least, I'd like to welcome the FM38 / N9GMT repeater back to the Milwaukee airwaves. Regular communication from Bob was enough to keep his coordination from being dropped until he and the FM38 gang found the time this summer to breath new life into the repeater.

Thanks to Rob, N9DTT, for working with me and swapping his 70cm pair for another one. It allowed me to solve a coordination problem created when the Milwaukee ARES group de-coordinated itself by moving its 70cm repeater to a much better location but chose not to work with W.A.R. at the time. This created a big headache for me and took several months to find a solution which all parties involved, including those

in the neighboring states, could agree to. Rob's willingness to QSY certainly showed the true amateur spirit of cooperation.

Cooperation is what this is all about.

73,

Dave / KA9FUR

Decoordination notices

are currently being prepared for the Eighty Seven database entries that have elected not to renew.

Due to the length of the list (and limited space in the Newsletter) we have elected to bring you information on coordination rather than another laundry list of frequencies scheduled for decoordination.

The repeater directory reflects coordinations that are in good standing, PLEASE look it over carefully.

Since auxiliary stations are never published, we can only mention that approximately 30 auxiliary coordinations are also being decoordinated.

SAVE MONEY!

In an effort to reduce the operating costs of W.A.R., and "get with the year 2000". We can now offer you the option of receiving future W.A.R. Newsletters via e-mail attachment in Adobe Acrobat format.

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by e-mail rather than U.S. Postal mail, please drop me a note at:

n9uur@wi.rr.com

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters June 9, 2001 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Vice-Chairman, Mike Hamman. It was held at the Prime Time in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
W9BHL	Mike Hamman
N9GHE	Rodney Pajula
KB9ENO	Bill Niemuth
N9CLE	Wally Dieter
K9PJB	Dick Drew
N0XXL	Napoleon Hardy
WB9RBD	Jim Broulette

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 June 9, 2001 is 1048.96. There were no outstanding expenses at this time.

There is only enough money left to publish two more newsletters. The cost for each mailing is about \$470.

Make sure to send all money and renewals to the Frequency Coordinator, Dave Karr, KA9FUR.

WAR should receive a check from the ARRL for the 2001 Repeater Directory.

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave

Karr, KA9FUR, and approved by the members present.

Newsletter:

Submissions are due 30 days prior to the next meeting date.

We discussed how to handle associate members that are past due. Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, made a motion to allow two mailings after their dues expire (June and September newsletters). The motion was seconded by Jim Broulette, WB9RBD, and approved by the members present.

We discussed how to handle full members and trustees who do not pay to receive a newsletter. The Frequency Coordinator sends coordination forms along with membership applications directly to the trustees. Therefore, the newsletter is no longer needed for renewals.

Jim Sheetz, K9OQO made a motion that Trustees and full members who do not support the newsletter should only receive two mailings after their dues expire (June and September newsletters). The motion was seconded by Rodney Pajula, N9GHE, and approved by the members present.

Frequency Coordinator:

Dave, KA9FUR, reported on the status of this year's renewals. Renewals should be coming out in the next couple weeks. Dave said that Microsoft Mail Merge has not been playing nice.

Currently 75% of the coordinations are up to date. This compares to the 50% that were up to date at this time last year.

Dave will add an option to the renewal form for members to indicate if they would receive the newsletter via the web or email. This will help WAR to reduce the

\$470 required to mail the newsletter.

Dave updated us on the situation with the ARRL and this year's repeater directory. There are a few issues with the current method the league uses to gather this information. Some of WAR's repeater information was lost in the translation. Some erroneous data was entered from sources other than that provided by WAR.

After some discussion the members volunteered Gary, N9UUR, to draft a letter for WAR. The letter will be addressed to the manager of the repeater directory, ARRL state and section managers, and the president of the ARRL. This letter is to express our concerns over the quality issues that have arisen with the repeater directory. We want to stress to the ARRL of the importance of WAR's copyrighted data and the quality assurances that need to be in place to ensure the proper representation of this information.

Dave is checking on a few of the paper repeaters in the state. Some of the stations have removed their repeaters from service but still renewal coordination and others have been a work in progress for a couple years.

Mike, W9BHL, agreed to draft a letter from WAR to these individuals. The letter will list WAR's policies and ask the trustee to help resolve the situation.

Dave will no longer accept coordinations via email. A paper copy must be used for coordination. This is the only way to ensure a coordination is not lost.

An NFCC meeting was held at the Dayton hamfest. The most significant point is the FCC commitment to restart communications with the NFCC again.

There has been no communications from the coordination group in Lower Michigan since last fall. We are concerned over this lack of response from our neighbors.

Chairmen's Report:

Gary, N9UUR, was volunteered (again) to put something in the next newsletter. To reduce the expense of producing the newsletter we want a list of members who would prefer to receive the newsletter via email or the web page.

New Business:

There was a question on how many of the repeaters in the state are linked. Linking of repeater sites is entirely up to the individual repeater groups. WAR does not sponsor linking the state's repeaters but does support the coordination of such systems. There is a notation in the repeater directory listing if repeaters are linked to another system. The WAR web page also provides a URL link to show graphical diagrams of linked repeater systems.

Mike, W9BHL, asked if next year's June meeting could be held at the Eau Claire hamfest. Mike will talk with the Eau Claire folks about WAR having it's meeting there and report back to the officers.

The September 8th meeting is in Madison. It will be held at: JT Whitney's Pub and Brewery, 674 S. Whitney Way www.jtwhitneys.com.

Mike moved that the meeting be closed. Rodney, N9GHE, seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

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

SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

W.A.R. maintains a list of e-mail addresses of our members and others interested in W.A.R.

Would you would like to receive information important to Frequency Coordination, W.A.R., reminders of our quarterly meetings, **or a copy of our Newsletter via e-mail?**

To be added, just send a request to: n9uur@wi-repeaters.org

The most current and up to date listing of Coordinated Wisconsin Repeater may be found at:

The Wisconsin Association of Repeater [www Home Page:](http://www.wi-repeaters.org)
<http://www.wi-repeaters.org>

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