

**Greetings from the Coordinator  
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