

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



July 2002
Newsletter

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

From The Chairman N9UUR

Some changes happened at our last meeting. I wish to recognize and thank Mike Hamman W9BHL for his many years of service as a W.A.R. Board member. Thanks as well to Red Pajula N9GHE for serving as our Technical Director for the last year. Welcome aboard to our new Vice-Chairman Bill Niemuth KB9ENO! W.A.R. Has also gone from four to three meetings per year. July 13th in Eau Claire, and then Oct. 28th in Milwaukee.

Dave's article is long and comprehensive this time, so to save space (and extra pages) I'm going to keep it short.

There are a number of issues before us. With W.A.R. Going to three meetings per year, your input is needed now more than ever. PLEASE read over Dave's suggestions, and come to the next meeting. As always, your comments are welcome via mail or e-mail, all our addresses are listed on the back of this newsletter. With or without your input, we WILL be discussing and trying to find ways to move forward on these issues, we must do so. I would rather listen now and have your ideas to make good recommendations and decisions at the meeting.

Our next meeting will be held in Eau Claire, at CONNELL's restaurant which is located at the airport. It's been a long time since W.A.R. held a meeting in the far western part of the state, I hope you will consider coming even if you have never been to a meeting before. Our thanks to Jim Staats KG9RA for setting up this meeting place. I'm sure there will be some friendly folk on the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club repeaters (146.910 and 147.240) if you need "talk-in".

73, Gary, N9UUR

Next W.A.R. Meeting:
1:00 PM
Saturday July 13th, 2002
CConnell's at the Airport
3800 Starr Ave.
Eau Claire, WI

N44.51.746 W091.28.937

Meal at 12:00 Noon
Order off the Menu
Meeting 1:00 PM

From the Coordinator Dave Karr

First I want to apologize to those that have sent me requests and have not heard back from me. Since my work situation changed last November, I have not been able to devote the amount of time on a daily basis as I had over the last two years. Since the Dayton Hamvention, I have been able to start expending time to work through the backlog and expect to be caught back up within the next month.

Milt, N9WSZ, will be handling the renewals and has been patiently waiting for me to work with him to prepare this years renewal forms. A number of you have contacted myself or other WAR officers asking if you are still "OK". The answer to that is that unless you've been discarding unopened mail including certified letters, then no, there is nothing to worry about.

The only de-coordination that occurred this year was N9UOM in Tomah agreed to give up his coordination in order to allow an opening for the new Galesville repeater.

Since last fall we have been attempting to gain an understanding from the Illinois Repeater Association as to why the Chicago 146.67 system plays so much better than its coordinated parameters would lead one to believe that it should. They have assured us that the group operating the repeater are doing so as coordinated.

Last month I began to work out a plan to resolve a long standing interference issue on 146.670 in Southern Wisconsin. For the Milwaukee 67 repeater I have proposed a frequency change that involves changing one other repeater's frequency. While it still places the Milwaukee system co-channel to another Chicago system it would be one further away and of a much lower profile. There simply aren't many options in congested areas.

As a result of a miscommunication we had with the Illinois Repeater Association regarding a recent de-coordination, I suggested to their coordinator that maybe it would be productive for Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana to setup a cooperative waiting list for repeater pairs in the combined metro region.

This is something that goes beyond the scope of the coordinator's responsibilities and is something that would need to be worked out between each coordination entities officers. I'm sure our board would like to hear your input into this matter.

As was the case with any of the WAR officers, I was unable to attend the Illinois Repeater Association's annual meeting this past April. I had hoped we could discuss the 1 Hz itinerant/SNP pair proposal with them at that time. Informally I am aware that the matter was discussed at their executive meeting and that in general they

were not opposed to anything other than permanent coordinated repeaters on 1MHz pairs.

I expect that each coordination entities board of directors will soon be discussing this to see if some sort of formal agreement can be worked out.

At the Dayton Hamvention I met face to face with Murray Wallace, the new Michigan coordinator, and reinforced our growing concerns about their organization going silent after the resignation of their former coordinator in the fall of 2000. It was a pleasant conversation and it appears that he may have been getting some inconsistent directions from their board of directors as to how to proceed. I think those issues are resolved, and since that time, there has been an open stream of communication.

We are still working to resolve why MARC's website is indicating 30+ new repeaters from the last information we received from MARC in September of 2000. Wallace indicates that they have not issued any new coordinations in the past year.

I was recently contacted by a WAR member asking to coordinate a 900MHz repeater on frequencies not identified in our bandplan as being appropriate for repeater operation.

I am aware that there are valid technical reasons for wanting to operate a repeater with inputs and outputs near the band edges, and that a few systems elsewhere in the nation have been coordinated on 25MHz splits (as opposed to the 12MHz split called out in the MACC/WAR bandplan).

As coordinator I don't really have any flexibility to say yes to something like this no matter how much I would personally choose to agree with it.

I would suggest that anyone that is interested in this topic to sit down and work through a band plan change proposal that takes into consideration operations on this band. To that extent I'm willing to help, but I just don't have enough bandwidth left to champion something like this right now.

On an individual basis, I'm cautioning everyone that Amateur Radio is not the primary occupant of this band. We are secondary to Radio Location services. Take a look for yourself and go to the FCC's ULS webpage and search for licensees in this band. By last count I saw 40 different licenses within the State, many of them using wideband modulation modes, and most of them were for large areas. Note that in order to search the ULS correctly, you need to enter the band edges in the frequency based search in order to see the potential problems with a wideband occupant that may have a frequency center 1-2MHz away from a particular frequency of interest to you.

As the Amateur coordinator, I hope you folks realize that I can only help you avoid interference to other Part 97 users. Other than the advice I'm giving you here, it is unrealistic to expect that I can help you avoid interference problems to and from the primary users of this band. So please, before contacting me about any 900MHz coordinations, please do your own homework, search the ULS, make your own determination, and familiarize yourself with Part 97 as it relates to this topic. You may also wish to subscribe to the AR902MHz group on Yahoo Groups.

I know that this next subject is of little interest to those living outside of southern Wisconsin, and of zero interest to those that already hold 70cm repeater coordinations in that same area. However it is the duty of this organization to work for the benefit of all amateurs whether they have an existing repeater or not. We all share this multi-billion dollar resource equally.

At the Hamvention, I met with Walt Breining, the Indiana Repeater Council's coordinator and vice chairman. Part of our discussion happened to be include his thoughts on a method to relieve congestion on 70cm in the metro areas. Apparently Ohio has started to coordinate 70cm repeaters on 12.5kHz channels, and Walt is considering doing the same thing so that he can get more channels closer in to the Chicago area.

I pointed out that unless you insist all users switch to narrow band radios, that it is a proposal that yields very little, if any gain. If the users continue to run 5kHz deviation but are only separated by 12.5kHz, my guess is that you'll only have about 10dB of pseudo-adjacent channel rejection as the bulk of the adjacent channel energy remains within the passband of the affected receiver's IF filter. This is certainly not enough isolation to warrant such a move, let alone in a congested area.

The proposal clearly indicates the frustration level with the congestion we face on a daily basis in our combined metropolitan area. By my last count, of all 120 available 70cm repeater pairs, Metro Chicago had repeaters on all but 7 of those pairs. Of those 7 open pairs, no new coordination's were possible due to existing repeater operations in either Indiana or Wisconsin.

Requests for additional pairs continue to trickle in, and many times I've turned people away suggesting that unless they are aware of something that is not really in use, that I have no alternative available for them.

The only requests I can fulfill are for low profile repeaters without substantial coverage areas. While rare, occasionally we are able to find a repeater that only exists on paper, and sometimes that's a way to accommodate a new repeater that has some decent coverage area to it.

The reality is that on 70cm we've got 99% of the activity packed into 20% of the 70cm band and something has to give way.

Our midwestern population center is arguably the 3rd largest population center in the nation. Both of the other large population centers have already chosen to use 33% of the 70cm band for repeater operation. Southern California has been doing this for a long time, and recently switched from 25kHz to 20kHz channels in order to achieve another 20% gain in available channels. The Southern California users considered implementing a 12.5kHz plan, but once

they understood the technical details they resoundingly rejected it and agreed on the more complicated task of switching to 20kHz channels.

Folks, we need to get serious about this situation today and resolve it, or we are going to be facing a much worse problem if something like a 12.5kHz "plan" starts to find its way into this large metro area. It will present a much worse situation than the 15kHz channels already do on 2 meters. The 15kHz channelization of 2 meters actually results in fewer usable repeater pairs than a 20kHz plan does because of the additional protection we have to afford the first adjacent occupants.

In looking at the occupancy of the 440/441, 445/446 portion of the band, it would be possible to find homes for quite a few (50-60 in S. WI alone) new repeaters without affecting any of the existing auxiliary or packet operations that are already in existence there.

If I were to make a bet, there are many repeater owners that would gladly move their auxiliary operations if it meant that they, personally, were able to coordinate additional repeaters. There is plenty of spectrum available below 440MHz for auxiliary operations and the sheer volume of equipment that will operate there without any modification is too large for anyone to possibly say that they are unable to find equipment that will work there. In addition to that, much of the equipment you folks presently have in auxiliary use will operate on 433MHz with little effort.

While it may be too late to change anything on 2 meters, there is still time left to do something about 70cm.

So what do you say? Is it time to move another decade into the future?

Comments invited,

--Dave /KA9FUR

Wisconsin Association of Repeaters March 9, 2002 Meeting Minutes

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

Introduction of members and guests:
KF9CS Mark Heimmermann
KB9ENO Bill Niemuth
WA9JOB Nels Harvey
K9OQO Jim Sheetz
N9GHE Red Pajula
N9QA Dave Knaus
WB9GBG Dave Chroninger
KG9NG Sam Rowe
N9GDY Harry Hartmann
KS9E Karl Simonson
W9RIC Richard Kosiorek
KA9FUR Dave Karr
N9VSV Jeananne Bargholz
N9UUR Gary Bargholz

Secretary's Report:

There was one correction to the minutes from the December 2001 meeting. The callsign for Kate Simonson was incorrect and should have been WB9KRS.

Bill, KB9ENO made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter with the correction to Kate's callsign. The motion was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV, and approved by a majority of the members present.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance for March 9, 2002 is \$2279.74. WAR received \$302 from the ARRL for last years 2001-2002 Repeater Directory. This plus some dues minus newsletter expenses resulted in an income of \$108 for the quarter.

Harry, N9GDY, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV, and approved by the members present.

Communications:

Submissions to the newsletter are due 30 days before the next meeting date.

Gary discovered why some newsletters from the December mailing had insufficient postage. The printer ran out of the standard size envelopes and substituted some that were 1/2" larger. The printer has assured Gary that this will not happen again.

We had a discussion about placing WAR's By-Laws and policy documents on the web. Red, N9GHE, made a motion that WAR should publish its By-Laws and policy documents on the WAR web site. The motion was seconded by Jeananne, N9VSV, and approved by a majority present.

Frequency Coordinator:

Dave has submitted WAR's information for the ARRL 2002-2003 Repeater Directory. Dave said the submission went smoother this year with better checking between states. He reviewed the proofs and everything looked OK. In the past this has not been a guarantee of success.

1 MHz Pairs / Portable Repeater Proposal

The members discussed the merits of 1 MHz splits and the current SNP pair for construction of short duration emergency repeaters. The conclusion was that a consensus between WAR and the neighboring repeater counsels is needed. Without which the effectiveness of these emergency repeaters is limited to the central part of Wisconsin. Dave will continue his search for a solution,

Chairmen's Report:

Bad news / Good news.

Jim Person, WDOGUX, Chairman of the Minnesota Repeater Council is a SK. Steve Glatzel, K0FHC, was chosen as a Chairman for the new board of directors. Gary commented on the good communications continuing between WAR and MRC.

Michigan rests at the other extreme. WAR has had no communications with them since 2000. Their web page lists 38 new repeaters that have been coordinated without any notice of proposal to WAR.

Assistant Coordinator:

The board has determined that Dave needs professional help. So, the new posi-

tion of Assistant Coordinator has been created. The position will handle normal repeater renewals. If the renewal is more than a simple update (change in height, location, ...) the renewal will be referred to the Frequency Coordinator. Gary appointed Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ to the position of Assistant Coordinator.

NFCC:

If you will be at Dayton this year, attend the NFCC Forum in room 3 on Friday afternoon at 4:15 PM. Nels and a couple other NFCB Board members will be there with comments and to listen to what you have to say.

Connecticut has been struggling with frequency coordination since the demise of TSARC, the region's defunct coordinator. CSMA has emerged as an interested group for Connecticut, but has not met the requirements that UNYREPCO expects for cross coordination issues. UNYREPCO is trying to see CSMA follow the NFCC's reasonable minimum standards regarding communications.

Some complaints have been coming in regarding an apparent total breakdown of communications between the lower Michigan group, MARC (or is it MiARC?). The NFCB is investigating the situation, and if true, will consider a course of action there.

New Business:

At the December 2001 meeting a motion was made and approved to "Amend the By-Laws and remove the position of Technical Director". Gary asked a show of hands to vote on the amendment. The amendment was approved by the members present.

Nels made a motion that WAR should establish a remailer with QTH.NET. Dave, N9QA, will investigate the requirements and setup the remailer. WAR will donate \$50 to QTH.net after it is up and running. The motion was approved by the members present.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Treasurer

Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, was nominated for the position of Treasurer by Nels, WA9JOB and seconded by Karl, KS9E.

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 Bill, KB9ENO and seconded by Jim, K9OQO.

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.

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO was nominated for the position of Vice Chairman by Gary, N9UUR and seconded by Karl, KS9E.

The nominations for Vice Chairman were closed. Gary asked for a show of hands. Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO was elected for Vice Chairman by a majority of the members present.

Chairman

Gary Bargholz, N9UUR, was nominated for the position of Chairman by Jim, K9OQO, and seconded by Karl, KS9E.

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.

The next meeting is Saturday July 13th in Eau Claire, WI.

The third and final meeting of the year will be held Oct. 26 in Milwaukee, WI.

Jim, K9OQO moved that the meeting be closed. Jeananne, N9VSV seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR

8273 N. 53rd Street, Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 355-6922 N9UUR@wi.rr.com

Vice-Chairman - Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO

W8088 Hillcrest Court Hortonville WI, 54944
(920) 779-0611 bniemuth@execpc.com

Secretary - Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS

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

Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO

2008 N. Birchwood Ave. Appleton WI 54914
(920) 739-7695 k9oqo@aol.com

Frequency Coordinator - Dave Karr, KA9FUR

S64 W24740 Susan St., Waukesha, WI 53189
(262) 513-0150 ka9fur@arrl.net

Asst. Coordinator - Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ

8834 W. Palmetto Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53225
(414) 463-3223 n9wsz@execpc.com

Newsletter Editor - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR

n9uur@wi-repeaters.org

Webmaster - Dave Knaus, N9QA

n9qa@wi-repeaters.org

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

If you would like to receive information important to Frequency Coordination, W.A.R., and reminders of our meetings, just send a request to:
n9uur@wi-repeaters.org

The most current and up to date listing of Coordinated Wisconsin Repeaters, and our latest Newsletter may be found at:

The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters www Home Page:

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