

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



March 2004
Newsletter

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

From The Chairman

Our next meeting will be held March 6th, in the city of Appleton, at the American Red Cross Office. The first meeting of the year is always the Election meeting. So please consider coming and expressing your opinion with your vote for the 2004 W.A.R. officers.

At our last meeting, it was decided to change the standard, recommended CTCSS Tone for the NE section of Wisconsin. This change does not mean any current repeater in this area needs to make a change. The change was made due to the fact the NE Illinois uses the same CTCSS Tone for many repeaters, and during band openings Illinois users were getting into some NE WI machines. So the decision was made to go to the 100.0 Hz CTCSS Tone just to be different. All NEW coordinations in the NE WI section will be coordinated with the 100.0 Hz CTCSS Tone. Any current machines who wish to change over may do so, or may keep what they have. If you wish to change CTCSS Tone Please contact the Assistant Coordinator FIRST! While we don't think that there would be any problems, such a change must be coordinated with our adjacent states to be certain that a co-channel user isn't already utilizing that tone.

To our ARES Coordination Holders: W.A.R. has purged all ARES designations from our database, and started adding them back based on the reporting from Bill Neimuth KB9ENO, the WI ARES Section Emergency Coordinator. Again, whether a repeater is "ARES" or

Next W.A.R. Meeting:

Saturday March 6th, 2004
1:00 PM

Offices of the
American Red Cross
Appleton, WI

1302 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911

N 44D 16' 24"
W 88D 23' 04"

not is really not a Coordination issue, so it was felt that WI ARES should be deciding what constitutes "ARES" affiliation, not W.A.R. If you feel your machine should be an ARES designated machine, contact your county ARES EC, or Bill.

W.A.R. has started an e-mail list serve for Wisconsin Coordination issues, and Repeater Building. In an effort for all of us (or at least those of you who choose to join) to be able to communicate more than 3 times a year at our meetings, we have created an e-mail group on QTH.NET for W.A.R. It is open to ANYONE who wishes to sign up, but only registered e-mail list members will be able to post messages to the list (to try and keep out the spam bots). Please go to: <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/war> for more information, and to sign up to join the group. Our hope is that this list will become a way for all of us to ask questions, and share ideas statewide.

I have always been clear on the fact that I'm not the greatest "Techno" guy, but I am an administrator. This works well as a W.A.R. Chairman when I have folk like Dave Karr around to watch that side. Over the last year however, I have gone back to school so to speak, and have been doing a lot of research, reading, purchased some bench testing gear, and built a pretty nice RF workshop. One thing I found out there on the www has taught me a lot about antennas, feedlines, duplexers, cavities and much more about RF. It is a 130 page PDF document from Decibel Products, and is called *RF COMMUNICATIONS: A NON-TECHNICAL APPROACH*. I think it's great, and talks about many subjects we all as repeater builders deal with, but may not really know all that much about. It's FREE, and available from DB Products on their www page at: <http://www.decibelproducts.com/collateral/aboutrfcommunication.s.pdf> Give it a look, I hope you find it as interesting and informative as I did.

If you have been following closely over the last year, you have noticed that W.A.R. added an Assistant Coordinator position, currently filled by Milt, N9WSZ. The workload is too much for one person. So just to be clear, the work is split up like this. The Coordinator (Dave Karr) handles New and Revisions (Changes) to Coordinations. Dave is very good at finding open pairs, evaluating coverage areas, and estimating how a proposed machine should play out (and impact other

machines in the area). He has the data and software to do this very well. The Coordinator also handles our notices and interaction with the other Coordinators in our adjoining states to work out any issues with a Coordination Proposal from us or them. The Assistant Coordinator currently handles Existing Coordination Renewals, and minor updates/changes. Major machine changes (such as a new antenna or P.A. which would affect ERP, or any move of a location) which require a careful look and Re-Coordination get referred to the Coordinator. When the renewal forms start coming out (which should be soon) return them to Milt, the Assistant Coordinator. Just send it all, whatever it is, New, Renewal or change to Milt, he will pass it on if need be. I would like to thank both Dave and Milt for the time and effort they put in on all of our behalf's. They are working together well, trying to make sense out of the process, and find the best and most efficient way to get it all done.

You will also notice a new layout and design for the Repeater Listings. Over the years as more machines and data have been added, the font pitch had to get smaller and smaller to try to fit it all in. Hope you like the new "Booklet", at least I can read it now. And don't anyone tell Jim Sheetz! I'm trying to slip the extra \$0.02 for the paper past the treasurer.

Again, our next meeting is March 6th in Appleton. We have already confirmed the July meeting date and location, so you might want to mark your calendar now. The Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club has again volunteered to host our meeting at Connell's II Restaurant at the Eau Claire Airport on July 10th. My thanks to Jim Staatz, KG9RA for setting this all up.

73 Gary, N9UUR

From the Coordinator

Who said "when it rains, it pours"?

A Google search lists this as Zymurg's seventh exception to Murphy's law. Well, both Murphy and Zymurg have negatively affected my "free" time these past several months and blessed me with more "for profit" work than I've been able to handle during a normal seven day work week. The side effect of this is almost zero free time to spend on matters of coordination.

The lack of a newsletter this past November was directly related to my inability to provide Gary with either an updated repeater directory or a few paragraphs of my typically long winded commentary. I do apologize to those who appreciate receiving a printed update from us every few months.

Fortunately, Milt, N9WSZ, has been willing to shoulder more of the workload than either he or I had initially envisioned, and we continue to work towards a better balance of sharing the coordination workload. Within the past few months, Milt has been able to help get caught up with the small backlog of coordination requests that had accumulated here since about August.

Our next task is to prepare the renewal forms and get those in the mail. As of this spring, they will be one year late in coming. Milt has been working on a facelift to the forms, and these changes will be reflected in the renewal forms as well.

At the last WAR meeting, we made the transition to Milt as the point of contact for all coordination paperwork. He in turn provides me with any information I need

to see which relate directly to matters of coordination, and I remain the primary point of contact for coordination matters from the adjacent states.

Of course, you should feel free to contact either of us directly if you have any questions.

The repeater directory included with this newsletter represents the same information that was recently submitted to the ARRL for this coming years repeater directory. It only includes those systems that we believe to be operational at the time of publication.

We have a number of repeaters in the database which still fall into the "Under Construction" category, and some of those entries are beyond the six month construction window we allow for. A couple of people have been kind enough to keep us updated that things are taking longer than expected, and that's really all we ever ask is to keep us up to date on your progress.

If you are aware of a system that has been removed from service and is still shown in our directories, please don't be afraid to let us know.

That's all for now,

Dave, KA9FUR
W.A.R. Coordinator

W.A.R. 2004 Meeting Dates

March 6 - Appleton

July 10 - Eau Claire

November 13 - Milwaukee

From the Assistant Coordinator

As Assistant Coordinator I'm handling the administrative paperwork so the Coordinator can concentrate on the technical aspects of coordinations. Dave and I have a pretty good routine worked out, which we're continually improving. Another aspect of my position is to be a single point of contact for repeater owners as to their coordination's status. As a repeater owner you can help the process by mailing (U.S. Mail only, please) your coordination forms and checks directly to me. If you send your forms to any of the WAR officers or the Coordinator they will only have to forward them to me. Your form doesn't get into the "system" until I receive it.

In the past if you included a check with your request for a new coordination WAR did not deposit your check until the new coordination was completed. This often took several months (this should be shorter now that I'm doing the bulk of the paperwork), which caused problems for your bank account. Per the July 2003 WAR meeting, I am now depositing all checks immediately. This should help you balance your checking accounts in a more timely fashion. Please remember that your membership dues support WAR, you are not purchasing a coordination or frequency. I'm also working on updating

the Repeater Coordination and Auxiliary Link Coordination forms. I will try to have this completed so they can be posted on the WAR website by the March meeting. One will be in MS Word and the other will be in the Acrobat Reader (pdf) format. The only significant change you will see is that both are the "fill in the blank" type of form. This should especially make it easier if you're using MS Word. You just need to fill out the form, print it and send it to me through the U.S. Mail.

In the March 2003 meeting WAR adopted the following motion: "The designation of an ARES/RACES affiliated repeater must have the approval of the local County ARES/RACES EC and/or State SEC." Trustees can no longer authorize this designation. Checks in the ARES/RACES box on the coordination form are now ignored. One of the changes to the coordination forms will be that the check box for ARES/RACES is being removed. A letter from the county EC and/or SEC is required.

The State SEC, Stan WB9RQR, published a notice about this in the May 2003 "Wisconsin Emergency Coordinator" newsletter. The current SEC, Bill KB9ENO, published a second notice in the January 2004 newsletter. In December I went through the database and deleted the ARES/RACES designations

on all repeaters. In January Bill, KB9ENO, sent me a list of 33 repeaters to be designated ARES/RACES. I also received a letter from one county ARES EC informing me of the repeater in his county to be designated ARES/RACES. The next repeater directory that is published will only show those 34 repeaters as ARES/RACES. If you have a repeater that should be listed as ARES/RACES in the directory have your county EC send a letter to Bill and myself.

Milt, N9WSZ
W.A.R. Assistant Coordinator

List of Officers & Appointments

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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>

**Wisconsin Association
of Repeaters
November 8, 2003
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 12:49 pm. by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz. It was held at the Brisco County Wood Grill in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.

Introduction of members and guests:

KF9CS	Mark Heimmermann
K9JAC	John Hughes
KC9EEP	Robert Guenther
KA9JCP	Ron Crown
N9FSE	Steve Sundquist
N9EAW	Tom Hervert
WB9TYT	Dan Bolander
	Rogene Baker
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
KA9WXN	Dave Schank
W9BLS	Barry Sprifke
AA9W	Edward Rate

Secretary's Report:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes.

Nels, WA9JOB, made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as listed on the web page. The motion was seconded by Dave, KA9FUR, and approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

The balance for November 8, 2003 is \$3401.07.

Milt, N9WSZ, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Nels, WA9JOB, and approved by unanimous consent.

Newsletter:

There were insufficient articles to produce a full newsletter. Gary sent out postcards and saved

W.A.R. a ton of money. The postcard directed members to view the minutes on the web site. Dave will add the latest frequency listing to the web page.

E-mail Reflector:

The W.A.R. e-mail reflector is up and running on QTH.NET. The reflector is open for anyone interested in Amateur Repeaters and Frequency Coordination issues in and around the State of Wisconsin. To be approved for the reflector go to "mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/war" and apply.

Gary made a motion to send a \$50.00 donation to "QTH.NET" for the reflector. The motion was seconded by Nels, WA9JOB, and approved by unanimous consent.

Frequency Coordinator:

Dave has gotten a little behind with frequency coordination. Milt will be handling a large portion of the data entry to help Dave with the load. Dave has received four new requests for repeater coordination.

The recent spectacular band openings have caused issues between N.E. Wisconsin and Chicago. Both areas use a CTCSS of 107.2. Dave proposes that future repeaters in N.E. Wisconsin use a CTCSS tone of 100.0. Gary will change the listed CTCSS tone for N.E. Wisconsin to 100 and see if anyone notices or complains.

ECHO Link / IRLP:

A discussion was had about the current "Internet Linking" craze. It was decided that this is not a Coordination related issue, and not something W.A.R. needs to keep track of. Also, the ARRL currently has no method in place for us to report this type of information to them for use in the Repeater Directory.

ARES:

Dave and Milt will delete all the ARES flags from the W.A.R. database in preparation for Bill Niemuth's compiled list of ARES repeaters in Wisconsin.

Policy Documents:

Gary has pulled together all W.A.R.'s policy documents into a single document and updated the bylaws to incorporate all the motions passed since he became Chairman. All the documents are available on the W.A.R. website. Please review them and send any notes or corrections to Gary.

We discussed the merits of mailing paper copies of the documents to the trustees. Gary will discuss this with the WAR board.

MACC / NFCC:

Nels has resigned as a board member of the NFCC. A new board was elected in September. The FCC does not allow a single entity or organization to influence its policy. The NFCC has adjusted its focus in response. It will help coordination entities and ensure that no maverick individuals reduce their effectiveness.

New Business:

The Annual meeting for 2004 is March 6th at the Outagamie County Red Cross in Appleton.

The July 10, 2004 meeting will be on the west side of the state, possibly in Eau Claire.

November 13, 2004 meeting will be back in Milwaukee.

Nels, WA9JOB, moved that the meeting be closed. Dan, WB9TYT, seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

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