

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



September 2007
Newsletter

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

From the Chairman

Well, we only meet twice a year now, so if you have an issue, drop me a note, or make your plans to come to the Fall meeting in Eau Claire on Sept. 8th. The next meeting would be in March 2008 back in Appleton.

Our thanks again to Jim Staats, KI9H and the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club (ECARC) for setting up the meeting place, and playing sponsor. Jim sent me a note on getting to the Airport - *Take the New Hwy 53 Bypass to Melby Road exit. Then go west on Melby Road to the Chippewa Valley Airport.*

The only real issue hanging about my e-mails right now is "What to do about the new Digital radios?" The same question is being asked by Coordination groups nationwide.

For some reason, some people (very few) who are getting into "digital" believe it's the wave of the future, and it automatically and immediately obsoletes all other modes (FM). And therefore, we should just wipe out all current repeater coordinations (I guess), re-allocate the band plans, and give "Extra Special Super Priority" to digital repeater requests. I don't think so...

There is also a "debate" as to whether a Digital Repeater is actually a "Repeater" at all,

Next W.A.R. Meeting:
Saturday Sept. 8th, 2007
1:00 PM

(Lunch at Noon)

Connell's II
Chippewa Valley Airport
Eau Claire, WI

3800 Starr Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703

and therefore does not need any coordination. This thought process is based on the fact that a digital stream of data, is transmitted by a user, received by a "repeater" which actually stores the data (for a moment) and then re-transmits it. So, therefore, this is more like a Packet "store and forward" system. I don't think so...

In some higher end configurations, actual digital data (for computer to computer communication) can be sent through these systems, and connection to the internet is possible. So it's a special "hybrid", new type of animal, and should be allocated separate space in the bands.

I don't think so.

What I do think, is it's just another repeater. And like ALL others, it's up to the owner to decide what it is, and to apply for a Coordination (or not). Where to put them IS an issue for Coordinators. The Illinois Repeater Association has been looking at this issue too. Robert Shepard - KA9FLX, the IRA

Technical Committee Chairman has developed a proposal for "Digital Migration". I encourage you to go to the IRA www site, and take a look at their PDF or PowerPoint presentation. <http://www.ilra.net>

Our Coordinator, Dave Karr attended IRA's last membership meeting where their proposed plan was rolled out. Dave has had some very positive things to say about their ideas. Please take a look, this may well be our direction too.

As of today, we have not received a request for the coordination of a Digital repeater system in Wisconsin. But I do believe they are coming, and we should plan for them now.

Gary, N9UUR

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Gary Bargholz, N9UUR
8273 N. 53rd Street, Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 355-6922 n9uur@wi-repeaters.org

Vice-Chairman - Dan Bolander WB9TYT
N16909 Love Lane, Pembine, WI 54156
(715) 324-6701 wb9tyt@arrl.net

Secretary - Mark Helmmerrmann, KF9CS
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. Appleton, WI 54915
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Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO
N974 Joey's Place. Greenville, WI 54942
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Frequency Coordinator - Dave Karr, KA9FUR
S64 W24740 Susan St., Waukesha, WI 53189
(262) 513-0150 ka9fur@wi-repeaters.org

Asst. Coordinator - Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ
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<http://www.wi-repeaters.org>

**Wisconsin Association of Repeaters
March 12, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 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
N9RJZ	John Ensley
KC9HYC	Justin Kurscheidt
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
AB9PJ	Peter Johnson
KC0LDE	Tracy Ray
W9RIC	Richard Kosiorek
KB9RCG	Margie Klingsporn
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
N9VSV	Jeananne Bargholz
W9JR	Dick Neumann
WB9TYT	Dan Bolander
W9MZ	Bob Naegele
KB9ENO	Bill Niemuth
N9NLU	Dave Schmidt
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz

Secretary's Report:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Bill, KB9ENO, moved that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter and Dan, WB9TYT, seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

With no outstanding expenses, the bank reports a balance of \$4484.52 on March 17, 2007. At the previous WAR meeting the members voted to donate \$50 to QTH.Net for use of their services. On Nov 14, 2006 WAR made the donation QTH.Net. Nels, WA9JOB, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan, WB9TYT. The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

Communications:

The WAR web is up-to-date with the current information. The last newsletter was a little thin and could use some new articles. If you have an article for the newsletter, please submit it to n9uur@wi-repeaters.org. Remember to submit the article 30 days before the next meeting date.

WAR maintains a reflector at war@mailman.qth.net. The reflector allows for general discussions among the membership. There has been little activity on the reflector except for newsletter and meeting announcements.

Frequency Coordinator:

There are no coordination issues at this time. Over the past year there have been 25 repeater site changes and new coordinations.

Last year the following three repeaters were de-coordinated:

KD9UU	443.675	North Freedom
N9OSK	445.050	Milwaukee
KB9EBX	444.850	Tomah

Chairman's Report:

Gary received an elusive and rare letter. A letter only heard of in legends. Finally WAR has received a "Thank You" letter. The letter was received from W9DRH.

Dave Schmidt, N9NLU, presented his cases against WAR's de-coordination of his repeater. WAR's policy on the steps it takes before a repeater is de-coordinated are well documented. Milt presented documentation on the steps he performed and when. Everything was performed according to WAR's procedures.

Dave admitted he increased the antenna height by 10 feet and switched antennas. He contends that the changes had no effect on the transmission pattern of the system. When Dave realized his coordination was at risk he mailed the documents to WAR. Dave has had problems with the postal service in the past and indicates that future correspondence with WAR will be hand delivered to the post office.

At this time the repeater is not coordinated. Dave provided copies of the request he submitted for a new coordination of his repeater. The chairman had instructed Milt to place the request on hold because of the lack of communication. It was being held until the WAR meeting when the membership could vote on it. Gary made a motion to accept Dave's, N9NLU, new coordination and Dan, WB9TYT, seconded it. The request for new coordination was approved by the members present.

NFCC:

The NFCC has received petitions from two groups in the greater New York area. The groups are: MetroCor from the New York area and CSMA from Connecticut.

Both groups have obtained satisfactory marks from the respective adjacent coordinators, and the NFCC Board of Directors is recommending a favorable vote for each group. The NFCC bylaws require a 2/3 majority of all members to be able to welcome the two coordination groups as Certified Coordinators in the NFCC.

Dan, WB9TYT, tallied all the votes. A total of 41 coordinator groups voted which resulted in 121 yes votes and 4 no votes. The minimum number of votes required to pass a motion is 114. Please welcome the newest members of the NFCC MetroCor and CSMA.

On March 6, 2007 the NFCC board of directors met and elected the following officers for 2007. President Jay Maynard, K5CZ, Minnesota Repeater Council; Vice President Richard Ranson, N9YAY, Illinois Repeater Association; Secretary Nels Harvey, WA9JOB, Wisconsin Association of Repeaters; and Treasurer Bob Isby, N2LUD, UNYREPCO.

The NFCC will have a forum at the Dayton Hamfest.

The forum is Friday afternoon from 4-5. It is a good place to discuss coordination issues. The NFCC provides the glue to help unify the individual coordination groups.

New Business:

Bob, W9MZ, stated that their group will be moving to a new repeater location that is 250 feet higher on the tower. They will be submitting an application for the new coordination. In the future, they will consider adding D-Star and eventually a 1.2 link to the Baraboo machine.

Someone asked if WAR is coordinating the digital side of D-Star? Milt said WAR has not received any request for digital coordination in the state.

If D-Star is operating within the repeater band-plan then it must be coordinated. Gary noted that the coordination forms need to include the transmission mode for FM digital.

Old Business:

None.

Nomination and Election of Officers:

Bill, KB9ENO, nominated Gary Bargholz, N9UUR, for the position of Chairman. The nominations were closed.

Gary, N9UUR, nominated Dan Bolander, WB9TYT, for the position of Vice Chairman. The nominations were closed.

Nels, WA9JOB, nominated Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, for the position of Secretary. The nominations were closed.

Dan, WB9TYT, nominated Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, for the position of Treasurer. The nominations were closed.

Nels moved that we cast a unanimous vote for the positions nominated. It was approved by all present.

Appointments:

Gary asked Nels, WA9JOB, if he would be WAR's representative to the NFCC. Nels accepted.

Gary appointed Dave Karr, KA9FUR, as the Frequency Coordinator.

Gary appointed Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ, as the Assistant Frequency Coordinator. Milt accepted.

Gary appointed himself as newsletter editor and web master. If anyone is interested in taking over the newsletter or web please contact Gary.

Next Meeting:

WAR now meets twice a year. The annual March meeting is at the Outagamie Red Cross in Appleton. The second meeting is in September and will alternate between Eau Claire and Milwaukee.

The next meeting is Saturday, Sept 8th in Connell's II Restaurant at the Chippewa Co. Airport in Eau Claire, WI.

Gary, N9UUR, closed the meeting. We adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Heimmermann (KF9CS)
W.A.R. Secretary