

# WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



April 2008  
Newsletter

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

## From the Chairman

Let's talk Digital.

There has been a lot of discussion on the NFCC national level, and locally about Digital Repeaters. Some have proposed that Coordinators treat new Digital coordinations as "Special", the new wave, and that we should give them priority, and even take over new spectrum in the bands for them, or identify old (un used) analog repeaters and de-coordinate them to make room for the new latest and greatest.

Over conversations with some users, our coordinators, Illinois and Minnesota, W.A.R. (and the NFCC) has come to mostly the same conclusion: A Repeater is a Repeater", and no "special dispensation" is needed.

The Illinois Coordination Council devised a plan last year to accommodate, and take advantage of the narrower spectrum usage of digital transmissions, within the current repeater segments of the band plan. W.A.R. adopted this same general plan at our last meeting, and the Minnesota Repeater Council also adopted this plan at their Fall meeting. We await the Illinois annual meeting on April 19th, where it is expected that they will access and renew their plan after one year in implementation. There may be some lessons learned, or "tweaks" to their plan. This is one reason W.A.R. has pushed off our spring meeting to April 26, to allow us to hear Illinois make their reports, as they have taken the lead in devising a very good plan.

W.A.R. has coordinated a few Digital repeaters across the state to this point. However, I believe the "digital fever" that was around last summer and fall has subsided. Because of the cost of building these machines (especially if purchased new) and the cost of

**Next W.A.R. Meeting:  
Saturday April 26th, 2008  
1:00 PM**

**Offices of the  
American Red Cross  
Appleton, WI**

1302 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54911

the new mobile and handheld radios (which has not dropped significantly since their introduction) not many people have jumped to Digital. There are some around, and they can be accommodated as we generally have all requests.

A Repeater is a Repeater...

And it looks like time for a reminder to some to read the policy and play nice with our Coordinators please. Some may think it's a pain to fill out all the forms for a Coordination, but when it comes in to our Coordinators the real work just begins. It takes time and effort to model and identify open frequency pairs for a new repeater request, especially if its location is anywhere near (100 miles) of Illinois and Minnesota.

Please believe us, there is a lot of back and forth communication with other states' coordinators to accommodate and allow some Coordinations to happen. Then, a TEMPORARY building Coordination is issued, and we expect TO HEAR BACK FROM YOU when the repeater is running and on air. If not, the Coordination EXPIRES AUTOMATICALLY. We have some people (thankfully, very few), that never report back, or never actually build the repeater, and then months or a year later, we receive another request for Coordination, wasting all the time and effort on the previous work. Worst case

is, after an automatic de-coordination, MONTHS later, maybe at a renewal point, the owner pops up and says "Where is my renewal notice", well... you have no Coordination to renew, it expired, start over. Not a good situation.

I have always tried to calm these situations, give the benefit of the doubt, give them another chance, I'll call them and have a chat... BUT, our Coordinators have a point, the Policy is the Policy, the playing field must be level. And the waste of time and effort on everyone's part is just not acceptable. So, I've been asked to be a bit more "Hard Line", and we will discuss this at the next meeting, and possibly craft some policy that addresses "Repeat Offenders", the very few that do not even respond to registered letters from our Coordinators, or never really get around to building anything, but just keep sending in requests. What do you think?

Gary, N9UUR

## List of Officers & Appointments

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

**Vice-Chairman - Dan Bolander WB9TYT**  
N16909 Love Lane, Pembine, WI 54156  
(715) 324-6701 vice-chair@wi-repeaters.org

**Secretary - Mark Helmmerrmann, KF9CS**  
1523 E. Moonbeam Tr. Appleton, WI 54915  
(920) 749-9024 secretary@wi-repeaters.org

**Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO**  
N974 Joey's Place. Greenville, WI 54942  
(920) 757-9457 treasurer@wi-repeaters.org

**Frequency Coordinator - Dave Karr, KA9FUR**  
S64 W24740 Susan St., Waukesha, WI 53189  
(262) 513-0150 ka9fur@wi-repeaters.org

**Asst. Coordinator - Milt Klingsporn, N9WSZ**  
1540 Forest Court, St Germain, WI 54558  
(715) 479-2028 assistcoord@wi-repeaters.org

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

## From the Assistant Coordinator

Here is a recap of the 2007 renewals:

\* 186 Renewal letters were mailed on September 7th, 91 (49%) were received by the due date of October 10th, an additional 49 received by November 10th.

\* 46 "Second Notice" renewal letters were mailed on November 12th. (Seven of those had received a "Second Notice" and six had received certified letters in 2006. Also, of these thirteen, two had received a "Second Notice" and three had received certified letters in 2005.) 24 were received by the December 3rd due date.

\* 22 certified letters were sent to the non-respondents on December 8th.

(Six of those had also received a "Second Notice" letter and certified letter in 2006. Also, of those six, two had received a "Second Notice" and two had received certified letters in 2005.)

Three of the 22 who received certified letters did not respond and were subsequently de-coordinated. The following repeaters were de-coordinated:

WI9HF 443.5250 Janesville \*  
KB9S 145.3500 Pepin \*\*  
N9HUA 145.4900 Green Bay \*

\* Second Notice sent in 2006.

\*\* Certified De-Coordination letter sent in 2006, Second Notice sent in 2005

In previous years the Renewal and Second Notice's were sent to the Primary Contact person, and the certified de-coordination letters were sent to both the Primary Contact and Holder of Coordination.

This year I handled the Second Notice renewals a little differently. Besides mailing them to the Primary Contact person, I also mailed a copy to the Holder of Coordination. If you are the Holder of Coordination for a repeater and someone else is the Primary Contact and you received a Second Notice, consider that a notification that your contact person is not handling your repeater's renewals in a timely fashion.

To those of you who responded promptly, thank you. To the rest of you, we have tried to make renewals a simple process. All you need to do is review the Renewal form we send, make corrections if needed and then sign and return the form. Please do this in a timely fashion, don't set the Renewal form aside to be forgotten or lost. Sending the Second Notices and certified letters is extra work and expense, please return your renewal forms promptly. As far as I know, this year only one person had a legitimate excuse for not returning their Renewal form on time - he had a fire in his house.

Also, if you are the Holder of Coordination for a repeater, you need to stay in touch with the person who is your primary contact, and notify WAR whenever there is a change in yours, or your primary contact person's, address, phone number, e-mail address, etc.

We're off to a busy year, having issued 7 new coordinations already. Two of these were for repeaters moving to new locations, one was for a change in the antenna's height, one was for a change in CTCSS (PL) tone, and three were for totally new

repeaters. There are 10 additional coordinations being processed.

Please remember that WAR's policy is that a repeater's coordination will become invalid if the station is relocated, the CTCSS (PL) tone is changed, or if the Effective Radiated Power (ERP) is increased beyond what it was coordinated for. A coordination form with new information needs to be submitted before you make any changes to a repeater. To those of you who do this, thank you; it makes things easier for Dave Karr and myself. Also, depending on your location a move of as little as a mile and a half could necessitate a change in frequency.

If you contact me regarding a repeater's coordination, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE specify the repeater's callsign, output frequency and city. Then I won't be guessing as to exactly which repeater you're referring to and we'll know that we're both talking about the same repeater. The program I use to access the database (which has 355 repeaters and 240 links in it) only sorts on those three parameters. While knowing your name, your callsign or a club's name can be marginally useful, it's having the repeater's callsign, transmit frequency and city that makes our job easier. Identifying your repeater by a club name does not help us at all as there is no way to search the database based on a club name. Please remember that we're all volunteers trying our best to help you

Milt N9WSZ  
Assistant Coordinator

**Wisconsin Association of  
Repeaters  
September 8, 2007  
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chairman, Gary Bargholz. It was held at the Connell's II restaurant in the Chippewa Valley Airport in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Introduction of members and guests:

N9UUR Gary Bargholz,  
W.A.R. Chairman  
WB9TYT Dan Bolander,  
W.A.R. Vice Chairman  
K9OQO Jim Sheetz,  
W.A.R. Treasurer  
N9WSZ Milt Klingsporn,  
W.A.R. Assistant Coordinator  
KB9RCG Margie Klingsporn  
KA9OMC Steve Hart  
N9VOY Bob Rose  
WB9PMF Tim Rose  
N0FWG Jerry Dorf,  
*Frequency Coordinator,  
Minnesota Repeater Council*  
K5ZC Jay Maynard,  
*President, Minnesota Repeater  
Council and President of the  
National Frequency Coordinators'  
Council*  
KB9UHP Hal Swanstrom  
W9RLL Ron Larson  
KI9H Jim Staatz  
K9KMY Dave Kaun  
KB9SGY David Garnett  
N9VSV Jeananne Bargholz

Gary, N9UUR thanked everyone for coming and welcomed those from the Minnesota Repeater Council for driving such a long way to attend.

**Secretary's Report:**

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Jim, K9OQO moved that the minutes be approved as printed and Dan, WB9TYT seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Jim, K9OQO, W.A.R. Treasurer provided a report showing a balance of \$4,396.02 and no outstanding expenses. Jim said that the newsletter printing invoice was more than usual. After review of the invoice, Gary, N9UUR noted that the extra cost was for pre-printed envelopes. (The printer has the go-ahead to print the envelopes when they need them.) Jim reported that the WAR account is now a checking account at a new bank – which is more convenient for the Assistant Coordinator to access to deposit checks. The new account is set up so that the treasurer, secretary and chairman's signatures are on file for account access if necessary, but deposits can be made by Milt, N9WSZ without a problem. Dan, WB9TYT moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved and Dave, K9KMY seconded. The report was approved by unanimous consent.

**Membership Communication:**

Gary, N9UUR proposed a change in getting the newsletter out to the membership. Because there seems to always be something getting in the way of production (late submissions, printer issues, etc.) and because there are now only two meetings a year, he proposed getting the newsletter out closer to the half-way mark in between meetings. This way, too,

there would be more time to read the newsletter, make comments, etc. All present were in favor of the change.

Gary then said that newsletter articles should be submitted to n9uur@wi-repeaters.org at least 90 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 continues to be little activity on the reflector except for newsletter and meeting announcements.

**Coordination Issues:**

No coordination issues were discussed.

**Chairman's Issues:** A discussion ensued about narrow-band digital repeaters and their coordination. Gary, N9UUR turned the floor over to Jay, K5ZC. As President of the NFCC, Jay began by giving a history of narrow-band digital repeaters. Jay also talked about some of the issues facing coordination groups today across the country. In particular, what constitutes a repeater and what does not, is a big question. Jay then talked about a motion "on the floor" with the NFCC members:

That the NFCC send a letter to the FCC that states that the NFCC believes that any amateur station, other than a message forwarding system, that automatically retransmits a signal sent by another amateur station on a different frequency while it is being received, regardless of any delays in processing that signal or its format or content, is a repeater station within the meaning of

paragraph 97.3(a)(39) of the rules of the Federal Communications Commission, and should be treated as such.

Also discussed was a proposed digital migration plan written by Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, of the Illinois Repeater Association. Gary, N9UUR said that Dave Karr, KA9FUR, W.A.R. Frequency Coordinator recommends we implement the plan with a few changes. The Minnesota and Indiana coordinators are looking at the plan as well. The plan can be found on the W.A.R. and the I.R.A. websites.

W.A.R. has already coordinated two narrow-band digital repeaters. Requests for digital repeater coordination will require repeater association groups and repeater owners working together.

Dan, WB9TYT motioned that W.A.R. support the NFCC Motion to send a letter to the FCC (as stated above). Milt, N9WSZ seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Gary, N9UUR asked for a motion for W.A.R. to accept and endorse the digital migration plan from the Illinois Repeater Association. Dan, WB9TYT motioned, Milt, N9WSZ seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Jay, K5ZC also mentioned that the NFCC Board of Directors elections are to be held soon. Each repeater association has votes based on the number of hams in their areas. W.A.R. has three votes. After a short discussion, Milt, N9WSZ moved that W.A.R. votes for the three incumbents: Doug Sharp,

K2AD; Jay Maynard, K5ZC; and John Gebhur, WB0CMC. Dan, WB9TYT seconded and the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

New Business: Gary, N9UUR asked for a short discussion on some type of thanks that W.A.R. could give to the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator for all the work they do – not necessarily compensation – but was there something the association could do or give them in thanks. After discussion, Gary, N9UUR moved that an amount of \$100.00 be given to each to pay – in part – for their DSL costs used for coordination work. Dan, WB9TYT seconded. All present approved by unanimous consent.

Steve, KA9OMC thanked W.A.R. for meeting in the Northwest part of the state.

Dan, WB9TYT asked about the Michigan Repeater Council's attention to e-mails, etc. Milt, N9WSZ said they were very good.

Dave, N9KMY asked if W.A.R. knew about the planned WeComm

state-wide repeater network. Wisconsin ARES Emergency Coordinator, Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO wants a network based on internet linking. Dave, N9KMY is on the WeComm Board and suggests linking be put on hold until the repeaters are built. Gary, N9UUR said that Bill Niemuth attends W.A.R. meetings when he can. W.A.R. supports ARES but supports all coordination requests equally, regardless of who is requesting it.

Gary, N9UUR thanked Jim, KI9H for arranging the meeting room. He also thanked Jay, K5ZC for all his work on the NFCC.

Next meeting:  
The next meeting will be in April in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Milt, N9WSZ motioned for adjournment of the meeting and Dan, WB9TYT seconded.

Gary, N9UUR closed the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeananne Bargholz, N9VSV  
Wisconsin Association of Repeater, Secretary Pro Tem

### Conversion Factors

- 1000 aches = 1 kilohurtz
- 1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
- 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
- 1 million microphones = 1 phone
- 1 million phones = 1 megaphone
- $10^{12}$  microphones = 1 megaphone