

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS



March 2015 Newsletter

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

From the Chairman

I know many of you have been wondering what has happened to WAR in the last year. Let me take care of some group business, then I will explain the latest updates from the board.

First, a reminder that our next WAR meeting is March 7, 2015 at 10am at the Wausau State Patrol Post at 2805 Martin Avenue, Wausau, WI. We're meeting earlier than normal time-wise because we have a lot to cover, including holding elections.

Next, let me recap the events of the last few months. In November 2013, I accepted the vice chairman position to assist Pete AB9PJ as the newly elected chairman. Due to some unforeseen circumstances, Pete and I decide to switch roles in November 2014, and I re-assumed the chairmanship. We are really grateful to Pete for all his work as chair.

During that time, Pete was able to find and appoint Greg N9CHA as secretary, who is doing a fantastic job in the role. Upon Milt N9WSZ's resignation as assistant coordinator at the end of April 2014, the board appointed Emil N9FBF as assistant coordinator beginning May 2014. Unfortunately, Emil notified us in September 2014 that he would not be able to fulfill his duties, so Pete appointed Travis W9HDG in October 2014.

With all of the staffing changes, we realized the importance of re-establishing a more regular routine for meetings as well as communications. WAR is now having a monthly conference call to discuss issues and questions. Recently, we've had multiple inquiries about repeaters. With all of the recent changes, we've decided to skip the 2014 renewal cycle and start again in May 2015. This will give Travis W9HDG time to get up-to-speed on this process. This is just one of the many issues the board is currently working on.

Next W.A.R. Meeting: Saturday March 7th, 2015

10:00 AM

**Wausau State Patrol post
2805 Martin Avenue,
Wausau, WI**

At our last membership meeting, we had discussed the new ARRL Repeater Directory policy change. To recap, as of January 2014, ARRL no longer accepts a data file submission from any coordination group. Instead, they are requiring coordinators to log into a web portal and update information manually repeater by repeater.

In July 2014, I attend the ARRL Centennial Convention in Hartford, CT, and met with Steve Ford WB8IMY, the editor of the directory. I explained our concerns that this move felt like a step backwards and would create "stale" data due to the constraints of continual manual updating and verification of this information. I was clear in explaining to him that WAR had chosen to not sign the new agreement.

In January 2015, I sent a letter to the ARRL and requested that ARRL not publish Wisconsin's information in the newest version of the ARRL Repeater Directory, since we felt that the information had not been updated since 2013. Their response, which cites information in the signed 2013 agreement, is they (ARRL) own the data provided. Therefore, they have every right to publish the data, regardless of our concerns for timeliness and accuracy.

We are in complete disagreement with the ARRL about this policy. Currently, we are working with legal counsel to see what our options are moving forward.

As a board, we have decided to publish all of the communications leading up to this point on our website (<http://www.wi-repeaters.org/>) so that the membership can see and understand fully our concerns and the communications between the organizations.

Another hot topic for us at the board level is reviewing our policies. Dave KA9FUR has been working with surrounding states to determine an updated tone plan. In doing this research, we've found that some of our surrounding states don't currently have a plan in place, which makes it difficult on the coordination-side when we have interfering tones. Therefore, Dave will be proposing a primary and secondary tone for each region in Wisconsin.

To clarify, we are not making current repeaters switch tones. We are simply looking to make things easier for future coordination and to reduce interference. We will also be adding DCS tone Yaesu Fusion DSQ and NAC for P25. We'll provide more information as it becomes available.

Finally, we are also working on a narrowband policy for repeater coordination, and currently investigating the best method for this. One of our concerns is how to deal with narrowband analog repeaters, specifically how to stop wideband users from causing interference. With the advent of the Yaesu Fusion repeater promotion flooding the market, we need to coordinate the repeater as a wideband system because of the analog component.

Thanks again for your patience as we work on better communications among the board members and with the membership as a whole. We will do our best to keep everyone informed and are looking forward to the year to come.

Dave KA9WXN
W.A.R. Chairman

**Wisconsin Association of
Repeaters
Nov. 16, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

1:27pm - 3pm

Dave KA9WXN
Milt N9WSZ
Jim KB9KKB
Jim K9OQO
Dave KA9FUR
Len N9QIP
Bob N9GMT
Emil N9FBF
Greg N9CHA
Barry W9BLS
Bill KB9ENO
Dan WB9TYT

Welcome and Introductions:

Secretary's Report – Minutes of last meeting. Approved as printed in the last newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Jim (See Below) Have 3-4 meetings a year. KB9BYT sec Dan WB9TYT Passed

Assistant Coordinator's Report – Milt N9WSZ –

Milt N9WSZ described the WAR renewal process. When communicating with WAR please give the callsign and frequency of the repeater in question. There were no renewals taken at the meeting.

New Coordination- There have been a number of new coordination's processed over the last week. The next step is to send out coordination letters to repeater owners.

De-coordination - A list of repeaters that haven't responded to the yearly renewals is being developed. After this meeting these repeaters will be listed as de-coordinated.

Dan WB9TYT brought up the ARRL change in data submission for the repeater directory. The ARRL will not accept database file updates from WAR or any other coordination group after December of 2013. Each coordinator would need to make updates to each repeater via the ARRL website. They ARRL also will take updates from each repeater owner. These updates would then need to be approved by the local coordinator. There was concern that this is a move by the ARRL to become a national coordinator. After much discussion there was a discussion to not sign the new agreement with the ARRL.

Len N9QIP asked why WAR doesn't want to go to on line database updates renewals. Submitting forms online does not solve the root of the problem. This is a major undertaking and time investment for development of a new system. Dave KA9FUR stated a whole new coordination software system would need to be created. Currently all applications and renewals get scanned into the database. The tools in the software

N0BZZ 146.700 and 443.850 has not renewed since 2011. Dave KA9FUR suggested to send a renewal from to see if he will return it. Len N9QIP will talk with Randy.

Wautoma ARES repeater. Current holder of coordination is not working for the Sheriff department.

Len will talk with Lynn.

Chairman Report
Newsletter mailing problems. There was a loss of the database used for our mailing list. A decision was made to email out the newsletter using an email list from the coordination database.

Elections:

Chairman – Pete Johnson AB9PJ
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Vice Chairman – Dave Schank KA9WXN
Secretary - Vacant
Treasurer – Jim K9OQO

New Business

Bill KB9ENO is looking for a repeater site in Central Wisconsin.

Next Meeting ?

KB9KKB made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dan WB9TYT.

Submitted by
Dave Schank KA9WXN
W.A.R. Chairman

List of Officers & Appointments

Chairman - Dave Schank, KA9WXN
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Treasurer - Jim Sheetz, K9OQO
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Asst. Coordinator - Travis Augustine, W9HDG
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