

WAR minutes for March 4, 2006

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The meeting was called to order at 1:11 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
N9UUR	Gary Bargholz
KCOLDE	Tracy Ray
AB9PS	Peter Johnson Sr.
N9BDR	Ralph Pellegrini
WA9JOB	Nels Harvey
KA9FUR	Dave Karr
KB9LRD	Brian Long
W9RIC	Richard Kosiorek
N9YMC	Bernie Hengles
KB9GKC	Douglas Cohen
N9RJZ	John Eusley
K9OQO	Jim Sheetz
N9WSZ	Milt Klingsporn

Secretary's Report:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Milt, N9WSZ, moved that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter and Jim, K9OQO, seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report:

With no outstanding expenses, the bank reports a balance of \$3737.71 on March 3, 2006. Bill, KB9ENO, made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Nels, WA9JOB. The treasurer's report was approved by unanimous consent.

Jim suggested WAR place \$2000 into a CD for a higher interest rate. Those present discussed the idea. There may be extra expenses this year in support of the NFCC reorganization. It was decided not to place any money into a CD.

Communications:

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. Gary thanked the WAR board for allowing him to place an announcement for the Central States VHF Society's Annual Conference in the newsletter.

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.

WAR has received some requests to provide its database in different formats including the coordinates. To maintain repeater security, WAR only provides this information to neighboring Frequency Coordinators. The general repeater information is published on the web site. This information is column delimited and can be imported into a spreadsheet or database.

Frequency Coordinator:

In December the N9NLU 444.275 repeater was de-coordinated. WAR has not received any response to renewal requests since 2002. Certified letters were sent and received before de-coordination. Recently, a renewal was received as if nothing has happened. The trustee could have appealed the de-coordination at today's WAR meeting.

Dave has received correspondence from the MARC coordinator. They want to establish a hard and fast rule that a minimum separation of 100 miles is required adjacent repeaters. WAR has adopted a proactive response and bases its coordinations on ERP, HAAT and terrain. This allows a better utilization of the available spectrum. There were a series of other issues between WAR and MARC because of differences in MARC's bandplan.

2005 Coordination Requests:

- 41 new coordination requests for links and repeaters
- 36 coordination changes

A total of 77 coordination letters were mailed out. Only 54 responded that the link/repeater is operational.

2005 Coordination Renewals:

- 117 renewals received from initial mailing
- 40 2nd notices were issued with 26 returned
- 27 de-coordination letters sent by certified mail
- 16 repeaters were de-coordinated

Wisconsin has 283 coordinated repeaters that are operational

When entering a repeater's latitude / longitude, please ensure the coordinates are in degrees, minutes and seconds. Some of the GPS units display the minutes with a decimal point. These are not seconds but a fractional representation of the seconds. Please correct your coordinates.

New coordination letters require construction to be completed in 6 months and that WAR be notified of the completion. If this confirmation is not received, the frequency will be released for another amateur to use the frequency. If after 6 months the repeater is not operational contact WAR and inform us of the situation and your plans. To check the status of a repeater, view the repeater list on the web site or in the newsletter.

Renewals are mailed to the Primary Contact person for each repeater. If you hold the coordination for a repeater and anyone else is the Primary Contact, you need to let us know if/when that person is no longer involved with the repeater and who the new contact person is.

Renewal forms are not for updating WAR with key information on a repeater (i.e. changes in location, height, power). Those are all things that must be coordinated prior to making those changes. Indicating a change of contact address, phone or e-mail on the renewal form is acceptable. Even those should be sent in as they occur and not delayed until the next renewal.

Chairman's Report:

ARES designation, to be reported to Milt as they come in from the state ARES designee. There have been some issues with communications but they are being worked on. This is a Work-In-Progress.

NFCC:

Nels, had resigned from his NFCC position. He was dismayed that the succeeding officers had dropped the ball. The next election cycle was missed and the elected officers had dwindled down to one person. Nels and Doug Sharp, K2AD, began the reorganization of the NFCC. Last fall the membership had a new election and rebuilt the board. Nels will be the NFCC secretary until the next election. The relationship between the NFCC and the ARRL has been weakened by the lack of movement. Nels hopes the restructuring of the group and its business plan will bring the NFCC back stronger.

New Business:

Bill, KB9ENO, provided an update on the ARES state-wide linked repeater system. The group was incorporated as WiComm Limited in December. They will be filing a 501(c)(3) application. Their first goal is the design, installation and maintenance of a state-wide repeater system. The second goal is the design, installation and maintenance of a state-wide digital system. The linking will not use RF. Instead the links will be provided by the infrastructure such as the Badger Net. They hope to install three repeaters this year and the whole project will require 4 years to complete.

Old Business:

None.

Nomination and Election of Officers (choo-choo):

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS, was nominated for Secretary. The nominations were closed and Mark was elected by unanimous consent.

Jim Sheetz, K9OQO, was nominated for the position of Treasurer. The nominations were closed and Jim was elected by unanimous consent.

Dan Bolander, WB9TYT, was nominated for the position of Vice Chairman. The nominations were closed and Dan was elected by unanimous consent.

Nels, WA9JOB, nominated Gary Bargholz, N9UUR, for the position of Chairman. The nominations were closed and Dan was elected by unanimous consent.

Appointments

Gary appointed Dave Knaus, N9QA, as the web master.

Gary appointed Dave Karr, KA9FUR, as the Frequency Coordinator. Dave accepted and gives his blood for WAR.

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

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

The next meeting is Saturday, July 15th at Connell's II Airport Restaurant in Eau Claire, WI.

Gary, N9UUR closed the meeting. We adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

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