

Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 25

February, 2009

Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

Annual Meeting For 2009 Saturday, April 25 In Bloomington

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at the Eastland Suites Lodge and Conference Center, 1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington, IL. This is a central location with good Interstate Highway access from all parts of the state. It is the same location we have used the past several years.

The Conference Center is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just off Veterans Parkway (Business I55). Exit Veterans Parkway at State Route #9, which is also Empire Street. Proceed east approximately one block to Prospect then south to Eastland.

IRA Delegate check-ins and any dues payments will start at 9:00 AM, with the meeting starting at 10:00 AM sharp. Paying dues in advance speeds the check-in. As in the past we anticipate the meeting to conclude about noon. An IRA "Membership Information" form on file listing the delegates (max of two) and signed by the president and/or trustee and showing paid up dues for 2009 are needed to vote at the meeting.

Every vote is important so that your association can effectively represent your interest. Therefore, if you cannot attend this meeting and have no delegate in mind, we suggest that you appoint one of the current officers or directors to be your delegate. If you later decide to attend the meeting the presence of your trustee and/or president suspends any previous delegate appointment and/or written proxy. If you would like an item placed on the agenda, please contact the IRA Secretary or President. - W9FWS

FCC Creates Spectrum "Free-For-All" With Opening TV "White Space" As Unlicensed

Late last year, the FCC opened up "white spaces" in the broadcast television spectrum to unlicensed RF emitters, specifically "Wi-Fi" broadband data use. This breakdown of formerly licensed spectrum space was the result of heavy lobbying by Google ® and Microsoft ® among others. Soon, TV viewers will find their viewing quality compromised as the so-called "smart" broadband emitters hunt for open spectrum. This is another FCC decision that is political, not technical.

The "white space" was in the broadcast TV spectrum in order to compensate for the low selectivity of most consumer television receivers. Like the Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) fiasco, the FCC again tries to repeal the laws of physics in order to reach political goals purveyed by well-financed lobbyists. Again, as with BPL, licensed spectrum users will face denials by the manufacturers of the interfering devices that their products are causing the interference.

Another spectrum use being invaded by Wi-Fi is that now used by wireless microphones. Churches and concert-goers will get surprises when their wireless mic receivers are desensitized by Wi-Fi interference. The Wi-Fi interference will be nearly impossible to trace because the emitters are unlicensed.

We hope that new FCC appointments include at least one Commissioner with a technical background, unlike the two immediate past Chairmen.
-W9FWS

Clarification Of Coordination and Maintenance Of Coordinated Status

-an Illinois Repeater Association Policy Statement, August, 2008

Receiving a grant of coordination is an authorization to construct and operate a repeater system (a.k.a. Mobile/Portable Relay), based on a specific set of operational parameters, most of which cannot be changed without applying for and receiving a new coordination grant.

Some of these parameters include:
Physical location of (In latitude and longitude to the nearest second):

The system transmitter
The system receiver or receivers

Physical Parameters:

Transmitter Frequency

Transmitter Power Output in watts and/or dBm

Antenna System Losses (duplexer and feed line)

Antenna System Gains

RF Power Amplifiers

Receiver Preamplifier

Antenna Gain and Pattern

Antenna AGL and HAAT

System Type Information:

Transmitter Mode/Emission Type

Analog Wide (20/25 KHz Channels)

FM

Analog Narrow (12.5 KHz Channels)

FM

Digital Wide (20/25 KHz Channels)

Digital Narrow (12.5 KHz Channels)

Digital Ultra Narrow (6.25 KHz Channels)

System Access Information: CTCSS, DCS, Digital Access Codes/Access procedures

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Owner/Contact Information:

Holder of Coordination or Official
Contact:

Name and/or Call Sign
Valid Postal Address Valid Postal
Address

Valid Telephone Number Valid
Telephone Number

Valid Email Address (optional) Valid
Email Address (optional)

These are just a few of the major parameters listed in a typical coordination grant. We must stress that the acquisition of a coordination grant is not a license or title of ownership to a frequency or frequency pairs, nor permission to freely experiment with them. All coordination grants are for a very specific set of operational conditions. These conditions are stated in writing, to minimize as much as reasonably possible, the impact of the operations of system X with systems Y, Z, etc.

The changing of any parameter of a system coordination grant, without first requesting and then successfully obtaining approval from the Illinois Repeater Association, constitutes a direct violation of coordination, which if not resolved to the complete satisfaction of the Illinois Repeater Association, will result in the revocation of the coordinated status of the system.

Maintaining Your Coordination

As noted previously, a coordination is not a one time or lifetime grant. Coordination requires maintenance just as the communication system itself does. Every week the Illinois Repeater Association receives requests for new system coordinations. The reality is that while there are many systems that endure for years, there are others that do not, some never being constructed at all. These unused frequencies could be coordinated someplace else!

There are over 400 repeater systems in the state of Illinois alone. The Illinois Repeater Association staff cannot possibly maintain the status of each and every one of these systems on a daily basis. Therefore, the submission

of annual updates is the primary method for determining the operational status of systems. Failing to respond to annual update requests sent out by the frequency coordinator will place a system's coordination into a status of unknown. Reasonable attempts will be made over the next year at regular intervals to establish the system's status (1). If after a period of two years the official status of the system cannot be established, automatic de-coordination proceedings will go into effect. No individual amateur or club is exempt from IRA policies if they wish to maintain their coordinated status. Contrary to what some might believe, the Illinois Repeater Association is not a group of self-appointed individuals imposing their will onto repeater owners and operators. The Illinois Repeater Association is just that, an association of repeater owners and operators who have come together under a mutual agreement to operate in a manner which permits all systems to reap the most benefit for their constituents, by agreeing to follow established policies. The Illinois Repeater Association board is the elected representation of that mutual agreement. When any individual or club chooses not to obtain coordination, or when an individual or club with coordination decides to arbitrarily change their operational parameters in violation of policy, then everybody loses. Not just the co-channel and adjacent channel users who are directly affected, but the organization as a whole, and all the individuals who have agreed to play by the rules. For this reason, the Illinois Repeater Association must enforce policy, and enforce it unilaterally. All repeater operators, be it an individual or club, should be upset when they discover a system operating outside of policy, even if that operation has no direct impact on their operation. Not reporting and/or speaking up may not affect your system today, but when "looking the other way" eventually leads to a complete breakdown of the coordination system, everybody loses.

Proper and correct contact information is a requirement for maintaining coordinated status.

Illinois Repeater Association, Inc. Board and Staff, 2008-2009

President:

Richard E. Ranson, N9YAY
4909 Cambridge Drive
Northport, AL 35473-1066

N9YAY@yahoo.com

Vice-President

Timothy C. (Tim) Childers, KB9FBI
107 West Point Drive
Jacksonville, IL 62650
217-245-2061

kb9fbi@arrl.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Lawrence J. (Larry) Schroeder, KA9KDC
0 N 490 Evans Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-665-3228

schroeder@lucent.com

Directors

Al Wolfe, K9SI
2266 County Road 1200N
Sidney, IL 61877-9760
217-688-2790

k9si@arrl.net

Bill Krause, KA9FER
2806 East 2575 Road
Marseilles, IL 61341
bkddt@mchsi.com

Stephen (Steve) Look, KA9SZW
774 County Farm Road
Monticello, IL 61856
217-762-9727

ka9szw@arrl.net

Stephen Craig, WD9CIR
4112 North Grand Boulevard
Peoria, IL 61614

wd9cir@arrl.net

Frequency Coordinator

Aaron Collins N9OZB
1338 South Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-640-7911

collins@knowideas.com

Technical Committee Chair

Robert Shepard KA9FLX
11101 Cottonwood Dr. 1D
Palos Hills, IL 60465

ka9flx@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor

Frederick W. Seibold W9FWS
Post Office Box 78
Monticello, IL 61856
217-598-2555

w9fws@arrl.net

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Board Of Director's Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2008

The Illinois Repeater Association Board of Directors meeting for April 18, 2008 was called to order by IRA President Rich Ranson at 9:00 PM at the Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President: Richard Ranson, N9YAY; Vice President Tim Childers, KB9FBI; Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC; Directors: Al Wolfe, K9SI; William Kraus, KA9FER; Stephen Look, KA9SZW; Stephen Craig, WD9CIR. Staff Present: Aaron Collins, N9OZB, Frequency Coordinator; Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, Technical Committee Chairman.; Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Newsletter Editor. Guest Present: Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator.

Request of additional items to be added to the agenda:

Items identified for discussion during Committee Reports and New Business: (W9FWS) Consider IL RPTX ASSOC support for ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund; (KA9FLX) Board discussion/consideration on several topics: "Waitlist Policy" Update; Enforcement on "Paper-only" repeaters; DSTAR+narrowband Coordination - There should be No Center Channel Use; Shared-Non-protected pair; and Short Spaced Coordinations.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: KA9FER moved and K9SI seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published in the newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report: Secretary/ Treasurer, KA9KDC, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2007 to April 18, 2008. Association account balance as of 4-18-2008 was \$6274.40. Through the year expenses were \$2466.34 and income was \$3081.00. [It was noted that this year's income represents two years of ARRL payments, as 2007 was not received until after the 2007 meeting.]

As of April 18th (before meeting) there were 132 IRA members: 101 members paid through 2008, 16 through 2009, 6 through '10, 7 through '11, 2 through '12.

K9SI moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion that the report be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

Committee Reports:

Frequency Coordinators Report : Aaron Collins, N9OZB, IL Frequency Coordinator, gave a review of past year's coordination and actions. Coordination actions included 68 applications in 2008, 52 granted coordinations (compared to 41 in 2007). 14 applications still in progress. there were 26 de-coordinated systems. Other system de-coordinations in progress. This year the coordination update mailings including followup second request to non-responders to the first mailing. There are 526 listed in the published IL coordinated repeater list; actually the total number of coordinated repeaters is 557 systems as some are unpublished. Of the annual mailings that require mandatory response from coordinated repeaters, there were 69 coordinations (49 addressees) that had not responded as of the annual meeting. Pending requests for coordinations: about half are digital systems (3 of 7)

Technical Committee Report : Bob Shepard, KA9FLX, gave a summary of issues and active topics related to coordination. Discussion of an emerging technology, concerns and coordination guidelines for digital repeaters, plans for technologies that utilize narrow FM in terms of separation & coordination. Review of handling for narrowband assignments established last year and systems results of test operations that fit the 2007 allocations & layout. For the "waiting list" there are 6 on the list maintained by the Technical Committee Chairman. The official policy is those waiting for repeater frequencies when none are available in a specific area must keep the Illinois Repeater Association Technical Committee Chair informed by direct correspondence and updates on an annual basis. If this annual update is not made to the Technical Committee the requestor will be not maintained on the "wait list" A motion to accept the committee reports was made by KB9FBI and seconded by WD9CIR. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

Pending change of Illinois registered corporation agent - transfer of corporate agent from Dick Isely to Larry Schroeder remains to be done .

New Business :

ARRL SPECTRUM DEFENSE
Board unanimously agreed to propose to the membership at the general meeting that a donation be made in the name of the organization for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. The donation amount recommended would be \$540, which is the number of published coordinated repeaters in Illinois for 2007. Motion made by K9SI and seconded by KA9FER.

WAIT LIST

As noted in Technical Committee report the policy for WAIT LIST is annual updates must be made by all requesters to be maintain on the Illinois Repeater Association wait-list.

PAPER REPEATERS

This was a broad discussion on how to eliminate and/or expose "paper repeaters" that exist within the coordination data. It was recommended that systems in "construction" or in "off the air" status not be published.

DSTAR Repeater "Channels"

DSTAR coordinations will not be on traditional center "analog" repeater channel. Systems that convert coordination from analog to DSTAR, will be allowed no more than one year to hold the analog center channel.

SNP(shared non-protected) UHF Channel - statewide 444.125

Frequency Coordinator will send communication/letter to present normal coordination holder that exists, to work on change of frequency for their specific area repeater.

Adjournment: KA9FER moved and KA9SZW seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be recessed until after the annual meeting on April 19, 2008. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was recessed at 11:04 PM. Respectfully submitted, Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC, Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2008

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by IRA president Rich Ranson, N9YAY at 10:00 am at the Eastland Suites, Bloomington/Normal Illinois. Larry Schroeder KA9KDC, Secretary/Treasurer, verified that there was a quorum present, as required in the constitution, to conduct business. (59 of 132 members present or represented by proxy)

Introduction of Officers and Attendees: N9YAY asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify the repeater(s) they represent. There were 39 persons in attendance representing 59 unique repeater sponsors. Also present was Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator

Approval of prior meeting minutes: KB9TVD moved and W9DWP seconded a motion that the minutes of the 2007 annual meeting be approved as published in the IRA newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report: Secretary/ Treasurer, KA9KDC, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2007 to April 18, 2008. Association account balance as of 4-18-2008 was \$6274.40. Through the year expenses were \$2466.34 and income was \$3081.00. [It was noted that this year's income represents two years of ARRL payments, as 2007 was not received until post-2007 meeting.]

As of April 18th (before meeting) there were 132 IRA members: 101 members paid through 2008, 16 through 2009, 6 through '10, 7 through '11, 2 through '12. KA9ZKN moved and WD9HSY seconded a motion that the report be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

Coordinator's Report: President N9YAY introduced Aaron Collins, N9OZB Frequency Coordinator, and thanked him for his efforts in the past year. Aaron presented his written report that highlighted the activity in the past year. Aaron noted that the effort taken to have a 2nd notice mailing for annual update had beneficial results for getting a number of repeaters to provide more accurate information, as well as reduce the number of systems that are at risk of de-coordination for failing to provide annual updates.

Aaron highlighted the value of the "coordinators' toolkit" software is in performing coordination work. This is a software package engineered by Dave Karr, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator. A motion to accept the coordinator's report was made by WD9HSY and seconded by W9DWP. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Technical Committee Report: Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, reported that details of year's Technical Committee efforts was covered by the Coordinator' report. Bob did stress that repeater coordination information needs to be technically correct and accurate to improve the Association's efforts in handling coordination actions. In particular, he noted that numerous systems have have incorrect ERP calculation/data, and physical specifications for their sites. Wait List policy was stated (requesters must have annual communication and updates with the technical committee to be maintain on the wait list).

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Bob discussed the DSTAR and digital coordination plan that was formulated at the 2007 meeting. It was noted that many other states have followed the plan Illinois had formed when it came to layout of DStar coordinations on 2 meters and 440 MHz.

President's Report: Rich Ranson, N9YAY, IRA president, summarized his view of 2007-2008 activities of the organization, thanking the board and committee chairs for their work, in particular for Aaron Collins work on frequency coordination. Rich discussed NFCC role. A motion to accept the presidents report was made by W9XA and seconded by W9DWP. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Election of Officers/Directors: For this year: two director vacancies are to be filled, each for a two-year term. Nominations from the floor were: Stephen Craig-WD9CIR, and Steve Look-KA9SZW; both nominees hold the present position which was expiring / no other nominations received. WD9HRU made a motion that all nominees be declared elected. The motion was seconded by KA9ZXXN and carried by voice vote. 2008-2009 Board: President-Rich Ranson-N9YAY; Vice President- Tim Childers-KB9FBI; Secretary/Treasurer- Larry Schroeder-KA9KDC; Directors-(2008-2010) Stephen Craig-WD9CIR; Steve Look-KA9SZW; (2007-2009) Al Wolfe-K9SI; William Kraus-KA9FER

Old Business: Discussed location for IRA annual meetings. general consensus that the Eastland Suites facility, Bloomington, IL, continues to be a good location. 2009 meeting will be arranged for the same facilities (2009 Meeting will be April 25th 2009). **New Business:** Repeater Coordination software: W9XA made a motion to donate \$200 to Dave Karr, developer for the coordination toolkit, Seconded by KB9PZA. Motion passed by voice vote.

ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund donation: N9YAY present to the membership the recommendation of the board of directors that a donation of \$540 be made to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. WD9HSY made the motion for the membership approval for the donation, Seconded by KB9TVD. Approved by voice vote. General discussion topics (no specific motions):

* Clarification: Wait List is responsibility of the Tech Committee. Any wait list request has to be on file(annually) with the Tech Committee to be maintained on list.

* Recommendation that a "Q&A" section of the web site be created, for topics like "So You want to build a repeater..."

* Shared-Non-protected repeaters. ...term is a bit of a misnomer, as it is coordinated/ but on expected shared use and low profile parameters. Freq Coord will be working to get new coordination for normal rpt coordinations on the freq(s) presently.

* "Paper Repeaters": There is a need for "due diligence". Comments made that membership should not be afraid to identify repeaters that are in fact non-exist/paper-only in fact.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the body a motion to adjourn was made by W9XA and seconded by KB9TVD and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC Secretary /Treasurer
Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Board Of Directors Meeting Continues
April 19, 2009

The recessed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called back to order by IRA President N9YAY at 11:02 AM at the Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. IRA Officers Present: President Rich

Ranson N9YAY; Vice President Timothy Childers, KB9FBI; Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schroeder, KA9KDC; Directors: Allen Wolfe, K9SI; William Kraus, KA9FER; Stephen Look, KA9SZW; and Stephen Craig, WD9CIR
IRA officers absent: None. Committee and Frequency Coordinator Appointments: President appointed Aaron Collins, N9OZB to serve as Frequency Coordinator for the next year. WD9CIR moved and KA9SZW seconded that this appointment be confirmed. N9YAY Appointed Bob Shepard, KA9FLX to serve as IRA Technical Committee Chairman. K9SI moved and KA9FER seconded a motion to confirm this appointment. N9YAY appointed Fred Seibold, W9FWS, to serve as Newsletter Editor. KA9FBI moved and KA9KDC seconded a motion that this appointment be confirmed. All three motions passed by a unanimous voice vote. MACC Director Appointments: N9YAY appointed KB9FBI and W9GIG to serve as MACC Directors for the next 12 months, and N9OZB to serve as MACC Frequency Coordinator. KA9FER moved and KA9SZW seconded a motion that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. NFCC Delegate: KA9SZW moved and KA9FER seconded a motion that: "The IRA President shall cast all NFCC ballots on behalf of the IRA, and that the IRA Vice President shall do so in the absence or incapacity of the IRA President, or by the direction of the IRA President." Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Adjournment: KB9FBI moved and KA9KDC seconded that the IRA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM April 21, 2008. Respectfully submitted,
Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC Secretary/Treasurer,
Illinois Repeater Association, Inc.

Illinois Repeater Association
0 N 490 Evans Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Annual Meeting Notice
Saturday
April 25, 2009

Are your dues paid?
Check label for "2009"

First Class Mail

N9OZB Member: 2009
N9OZB
Aaron A. Collins
1338 S. Arlington Heights Rd
Arlington Hts, IL 60005

