

# Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 29

March, 2013

Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

## Annual Meeting For 2013 Saturday, April 20, In Bloomington, Illinois

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, 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. We have used this same convenient location the past several years. The Conference Center is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just east of Veterans' Parkway (Business I55) at State Route 9, which is also Empire Street. Proceed east on Empire from I55 one block to Prospect then south to Eastland.

IRA Delegate check-in and any dues payments will start at 9:00 a.m., with the meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Paying dues in advance speeds the check-in. As in the past, we expect the meeting will conclude about 1:00 p.m. 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 2013, are needed to vote at the meeting. Your vote and input are important to help your Association effectively represent your interests. If you cannot attend this meeting and have no delegate who can, please appoint one of your 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

## Silent Key: Bob Hajek W9QBI, Long-Time IRA President

Robert J. Hajek, age 80, fondly known to his friends back home as "Radio Bob", died of cancer Sunday, December 23, 2012. Bob was born in Chicago Illinois on November 20, 1932, raised in Riverside Illinois, attended Riverside Brookfield High School and received his BSEE from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. He served for many years as president of the Illinois Repeater Association, the frequency coordination organization of Illinois ham radio repeater operators. He was a professional business owner for over 25 years. He was a Life Member of APCO International, The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, Hajek joined APCO International on Aug. 1, 1951, and the association bestowed its highest honor, Life Membership, on him in 1986. Volunteer of CHICAGO AREA SKYWARN, National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and a licensed Amateur Radio operator, W9QBH, for 65 years. Robert was employed for 16 years at Commonwealth Edison, Chicago, Illinois, before moving to Albuquerque in 2005.

After a five year retirement, Robert continued his profession at PNM Resources as a Senior Telecom Engineer until 2012. Robert is survived by his wife, Janet and daughter, Diane. Funeral was Saturday, January 12, 2013 at the Riverside Funeral Home of Albuquerque.

## IRA Officers and Staff

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## ILLINOIS REPEATER ASSOCIATION

### Annual Meeting Minutes April 28, 2012

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by IRA president Bill Kraus KA9FER at 10:00 am at the Eastland Suites, Bloomington/Normal Illinois. Will Sperling, Interim Secretary/Treasurer, verified that there was a quorum present as required in the constitution to conduct business. A moment of silence was observed for Past Secretary / Treasurer Larry Schroeder KA9KDC who passed away in 2011. Introduction of Officers and Attendees: KA9FER asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify the repeater(s) they represent. Also present was Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator. K9SI mentioned K9WSS doing a very difficult job taking over Secy/Treas for KA9KDC who passed away last year. Approval of prior meeting minutes: KB9LNLK moved, and KA9LFU seconded motion that the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting be approved as published in the IRA newsletter (and website). Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Treasurer's report:** Secretary/ Treasurer, WSS, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2011 to April 24, 2012. KA9FER said that expenses have increased because KDC was able to get items printed without charge to the IRA, but this is quite different now. As of April 15th (before meeting) there were 121 members [103 members paid through 2011; 12 through '2012, 3 thru '13, and 3 thru '15]. During meeting check-in, an additional 50 membership checks were received. W9XA moved and N9ABF seconded a motion that the report be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

**Coordinator's report:** President KA9FER 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. SEE AARON'S REPORT. No signal interference issues. Examine VHF spectrum; ways to make room for digital systems. 12 pending for VHF; 2 for UHF. No one wants to give up center channel pairs. Nothing really open for these bands. Will be doing enforcement of repeaters on the air, using spectrum resources, etc. Aaron highlighted the value of the "coordinators toolkit" software is in performing coordination work. This is a software package engineered by Dave Karr, WI Freq Coordinator. A motion to accept the coordinators report was made by NJ9T and seconded by KC9DFU; passed by voice vote.

**Technical Committee report:** Greg Buchwald K9QI recently appointed by KA9FER. Greg said what could be happening long term. He spoke about the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. Tim spoke about 500 MHz for use of broadband, and other possible higher frequencies. 406-420 will be back up for auction. 470-512 MHz will be taken away in next ten years, and auctioned off to other services. ITU protection 420-430 only. More pressure to utilize 406 MHz band for future use. What happened with 220 might occur to 420-450

MHz. Dennis Roberson, Greg's former colleague monitors numerous frequencies for this spectrum utilization project. Greg needs help with efficient use of the spectrum utilization project. Narrow-banding of amateur radio use needs to be examined for maximum use of the spectrum. How long and how much of the spectrum is being occupied?. Looking for people by show of hands to work with Tim on this project. Approximately 5 people said that they would be interested in helping with this project, along with KA9FUR who will contact MN and other contiguous states. Further discussed among attendees; A few ideas were presented. Greg said this could be an actual threat to the amateur spectrum, so we need to be diligent and be on point so that we don't start losing these frequencies that are being scrutinized. Greg requested participants' email address if interested in being involved and getting email; possibly a Yahoo group.

**President's report:** KA9FER, IRA president summarized his view of 2011-2012 activities of the organization. Question to participants how many were ARRL members? Most raised their hands. HB1390 being worked on right now, to be voted on Tuesday April 30, 2012. W9XA explained HB1390 and asked everyone to write their representative, go to IL House website and find your designated rep. Ask for support, be reasonable for support, asking to vote positive for HB1390. Contact W9XA@arri.org who is Vice-Director of IL WIS IN for ARRL. Spectrum Defense Fund, KA9FER said that \$600 will be donated to the ARRL for the Spectrum Defense Fund. Motion by NJ9P; seconded by N9ABF; voice vote passed. Several hands went up as participants donated to Spectrum Defense Fund on their own. Dues for upcoming years from \$12 to possibly \$15. Question from the floor asked if backup should be set up for collection of data. KA9FER says files are sent back/forth currently by the Board. KA9FER mentioned that most is done via email, exchanged among the Board members for regular business.

**Election of Officers/Directors:** For this year: President, Vice-Pres, Sec-Treasurer & two board directors require election. (2 YEAR TERMS): Directors- 2012-2014 - Stephen Craig WD9CIR & Milt Forsberg-K9QZI Nomination by W9XA; 2nd by KA9LFU. Motion to close nominations W9XA; 2nd by KA9LFU. Passed. Election by acclamation. Nomination for Secretary/Treasurer; Interim po appointment now held by K9WSS. Nomination for K9WSS made by N9ABF; 2nd by KA9LFU. Nominations closed. Election by acclamation passed.

**Old Business:** Meeting location is currently accepted by most participants, and April 20, 2013 to be set for next year's annual Board and General Membership meetings. KA9FER membership considers giving \$200 to Dave Karr KA9FUR. Motion by AB9DEE, 2nd KB9LNLK. Motion passed by voice vote. Check will be given to KA9FUR. KA9FUR spoke about relationships among regional organizations, and how that has been working currently. Will meet informally at Dayton Hamvention 2012. KA9FER elected to NFCC, due to KA9KDC's passing, NFCC has been resurrected. NFCC is a large body that designed to work with coordination groups in the region. Some by multiple states, others by region. Will recognize the coordinating councils already existing. An MOU must be present by August 2012. Chris Imlay, Attorney, will be helping with this project.

A problem currently in WY, other individuals took over coordinating, and which person would be the coordinator in WY? Databases must be shared, this would be most difficult. A recognized body should be under the guise of the NFCC. W9XA discussed what is being done by the ARRL to get this clarified, and to get NFCC to accept and approve the coordinating bodies from the organizations. KB9FBI explained how it works by the amateur population, and given respective votes for these bodies. K9UQF wanted to thank FUR and the IRA board for their continued work

**New Business:** General discussion of various topics (no specific motions)

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the body a motion to adjourn was made by KB9APW and seconded by KA9LFU and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS  
Secretary/Treasurer Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

**BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting Minutes**  
(reconvened immediately after General Meeting)  
April 28, 2012

The reconvened meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called to order by IRA President KA9FER at 11:20 am at Eastland Suites, Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. IRA Officers Present: President Bill Kraus, KA9FER Vice President KB9FBI-Secretary/Treasurer K9WSS - Directors: 2012-2014 board member Stephen Craig, WD9CIR 2011-2013 board members: Al Wolfe K9SI, and Rich Ranson KD9Q IRA officers absent: K9QZI and KD9Q.

Committee and Frequency Coordinator Appointments: President KA9FER appointed Aaron Collins, N9OZB to serve as Frequency Coordinator for the next year. K9SI moved and WD9CIR seconded that this appointment be confirmed. President KA9FER appointed K9QI as Technical Committee Chairman Motion by WD9CIR; 2nd by KB9FBI. President appointed Fred Seibold, W9FWS, to serve as Newsletter Editor. K9SI moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion that these appointments be confirmed. Passed by a unanimous voice vote.

NFCC Delegate: KB9FBI moved K9SI 2nd that IRA President shall cast all NFCC ballots on behalf of IRA and V/P will act if Pres is unable to vote. Motion Carried Unanimous.

Adjournment: Motion by WD9CIR; 2nd by K9SI that the IRA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 April 28, 2012.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS

Secretary/Treasurer,

Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

**April 27, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting** The Illinois Repeater Association Board of Directors meeting for April 27, 2012 was called to order by IRA President Bill Kraus KA9FER at 08:55 PM at the Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. IRA Officers Present: President: Bill Kraus KA9FER Vice President Tim Childers, KB9FBI Interim Secretary/Treasurer Will Sperling K9WSS Directors: Al Wolfe, K9SI Steve Craig, WD9CIR Milt Forsberg K9QZI - NOT PRESENT Rich Ranson KD9Q - NOT PRESENT Staff Present: Aaron Collins, N9OZB, Frequency Coordinator Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Newsletter Editor. Greg Buchwald K9QI, Technical Committee Chairman Guests Present: Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator Jim Amidei N9ABF, Wheaton Bill LoBianco KA9LFU, Villa Park President FER thanked everyone for attending, and also in memory for Larry Schroeder KA9KDC who passed away suddenly last year. Will K9WSS is working to put together documentation as interim Sec'y / Treasurer. Request of additional items to be added to the agenda: By-laws to be discussed. Access to other states' software. Items identified for discussion during Committee Reports and New Business. Minutes of Previous Meetings: Al SI moved and Steve WD9CIR seconded a motion to approve the board minutes as previously published in the 2012 printed newsletter and website. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report: Secretary/Treasurer, WSS read the treasurer's for the period of June 2011 to April 2012. Greg Motion As of April 24th (before meeting) there were: (with additional expected for renewal at next days General Meeting). Some few members have paid for memberships for several years in advance. Treasury/account details read & reviewed with board; and available from IRA Treasurer. "Account balance is stable year over year". KA9FER Mentioned that Larry KDC did quite a bit behind the scenes. WSS is working hard to keep up with new duties & responsibilities as interim Secretary and Treasurer. Al SI said that a quorum of Board members were in fact present at this Board meeting. Steve CIR concurred.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Frequency Coordinator's Report :** Aaron Collins, N9OZB, IL Frequency Coordinator gave a review of past years coordination and actions. For April 2011/April 2012 processed 68 repeater apps, most have been moved and changes in admin issues. 53 granted . 14 are still pending at this time. Decoordinated 15 systems. OZB didn't have a lot of time due to personal reasons. 2-3 years get decoordinated as late. They are all due for due process in all fairness. OZB said that some of these systems will be checked for active use on the air. Steve CIR said that other Board members can help OZB with those repeaters NOT currently on the air throughout the State. Countless NOPC's from adjacent states. Approx. 4-5 a month. Mailing 514 pages. Mandatory PL project was scrapped as unenforceable. Tones are not done totally by region, some are picked arbitrarily. Grandfathering, older systems, etc., not willing to change because "it's been this way for so long." Tim said that in past times, users had old PL decks; now they easily programmable. Greg will investigate further. Report accepted by the entire Board.**Technical Committee Report:** Greg Buchwald K9QI appointed by President Bill KA9FER. Bill suggested Greg possibly put together a proposed PL plan. QI said he would take on spectrum issues as necessary which he sees on a regular basis as a Motorola professional. 420-450 band always at

risk. 500 MHz commercial applications coming in the future, also freqs above 1.2 GHz. Pressure is going to build keeping UHF frequencies at risk. Spectrum usage should be mandatory otherwise we could lose valuable bands. D-Star and TRBO is a good example of fine usage of the spectrum, plus they are networked some all over huge regions and the world. Greg is proposing ongoing work with IEEE and a task group to look at more efficient use of spectrum. Use HAAT data, and transitional modeling program for wide-area systems. Allowing putting oneness on persons using the systems. Adding low-height repeaters will not cause interference to other systems. OZB said that the software already has this built-in, he and FUR have already been doing it with the software. Alternate ways to short space should be examined and possibly utilized. Dealing with digital techniques can be used with D-Star systems coordination. Co-location at the same site has always been a possibility with certain conditions of the respective digital systems. This task committee could take on some of this material, and come back to the Board sometime possibly six months. A lot of this plan is similar to what Greg already is doing at work with Motorola. He will ask for volunteers at the General Membership meeting for his committee. This will be for statewide issues, not just regional-only systems. A motion to accept the committee reports was made by FER and seconded by CIR. The motion was passed by voice vote.

**Old Business:** FER mentioned changing Illinois Secretary of State corporate agent from KDC to WSS. Having two people on bank accounts and data bases should be backed up in two sources. OZB and WSS send their data a few times a year to other Board members.

**New Business:** Back-ups of proprietary databases for IRA are also needed. FER suggests doing the same with "personal" repeaters and associated information.

Spectrum Defense Fund - money from ARRL; in past year's donated \$1000 to ARRL for this fund. Discussion for amount of funds to be donated to Spectrum Defense Funds (SDF) by FER. Possibly have an area on the application for donation for SDF. Round number up to \$600; Suggestion will be taken to General Membership. Board recommends this be brought up to General Membership. Motion by SI; 2nd by FBL Voice vote passed. Possibly increase our dues from current \$12 yearly membership to \$15.

**Multiple states for coordination** - Missouri inquires what's similar to Wisconsin for short-spacing. FUR suggests to have a set policy and model for all contiguous states working under same conditions. SI states that if we follow these procedures, it should be posted on the website, especially modeling programs for self-coordination. SI brought up, and a discussion ensued about utilization and how to set up and monitor this project.

FER suggested a plaque for KDC's time and effort for all the years he served, to be given to KDC's family. FBI mentioned that KDC was on the IRA Board since at least the early 90's. FER made motion for plaque not to exceed \$100; CIR seconded. Voice vote passed. This will be mentioned at the General Membership meeting. WSS will research and work with FER to get it

made and presented to KDC's family. FER also asked about a plaque presented in the past for Bob Hajek W9QBH and Bob Shepard KA9FLX (Robin Marks).

**Additional Board Inputs and Discussion:** Milt and CIR are up for election this year. SI said that Milt not present would like to submit his name, so would CIR like to run again for the next term. A replacement for KDC will have to be elected. WSS was appointed interim secy/treas at this time. By-laws would have to reflect this change because of the position of KDC was not expiring until next year. A vote to fill his vacancy will be brought up to the General Membership for WSS to fill the term of Secretary/Treasurer.

**Proposed bylaws change:** Directors would be elected; the Directors would elect the President, V/P, Secretary/Treasurer. Large organizations do this already; IRA doesn't at the present time. FBI said that the by-laws would actually have to be changed. FBI will work on this, and submit this to the Board.

A special meeting was held at the Peoria Hamfest last year of the Board to decide if WSS should be appointed the interim Secretary/Treasurer. This was brought up as a feasible idea possibly for this year.

FUR asked who might be attending the Dayton Hamvention this year. FER was elected to the Board of Directors of the NFCC.

ARRL memo of understanding discussed; FER would like to have some things changed on this. We have ~~to~~ member to submit our suggestions. FER mentioned about a situation in Wyoming about the coordinator wasn't doing his job properly. Some others cropped up and started running it. A question regarding who was the actual board running the show?

Next year's meeting date brought up by SI; should be earlier in the month of April for 2013; possibly the 20th? WSS will make reservations with the hotel, as KDC did in year's past.

Annual \$200 donation to FUR as in past years discussed; will be brought up at general membership meeting.

ARRL membership numbers - will be brought up to General Membership meeting.

**Adjournment:** CIR moved and SI seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be recessed until after the annual meeting on April 28, 2012. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS

Interim Secretary/Treasurer,

Illinois Repeater Association Inc.





Freedom  
FOREVER

# Illinois Repeater Association

Post Office Box 40

Westmont, IL 60559-0040

## Annual Meeting Notice

Saturday

April 20, 2013

## Are your dues paid?

## First Class Mail

Aaron A. Collins (N9OZB)  
1338 S. Arlington Heights Rd  
Arlington Hts, IL 60005

6000533615 0069



### Maintaining Your Coordinated Status

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.*

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.**