

Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 30

March 2014

Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

Annual Meeting Saturday April 19, 2014 9 a.m. In Bloomington

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held Saturday, April 19, 2014, at the Eastland Suites Lodge and Conference Center, 1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington, IL. This is the same location that we have used for the past several years. The Conference Center is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just off Veterans Parkway (Business 55). Exit Veterans Parkway at 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. When dues are paid in advance the check-in process is quicker and eliminates much of the delay. As in the past we anticipate the meeting to conclude around 1:00 PM. 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 2014 are all that are needed to vote at the meeting. Every vote is important so that your association can effectively represent you in the multi-faceted problems facing the repeater owners of the country and Illinois in particular. 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 the trustee and/or president suspends

any previous delegate appointment and/or written proxy. If you have any questions, concerns or would like to have a subject placed on the agenda please contact the Secretary/Treasurer at the address in the right hand column of this page, or the President, William Kraus.

The Illinois Repeater Association, Inc. (IRA) is a charter member of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council, Inc.(NFCC), a nation-wide organization of repeater coordination entities with the purposes of providing national Amateur Radio frequency coordination standards, and representing the interests of these entities before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL). The IRA is also a long-standing member of the Mid-America Coordination Council, Inc. (MACC), which is a 21 State consortium of repeater coordination entities. These entities have banded together and agreed to follow the same detailed bandplans and standards. Each entity retains the coordination function and duties, carried out under the umbrella of the MACC. The goal of the Illinois Repeater Association, Inc. shall be to make the most efficient and interference-free use of our limited frequency spectrum for the benefit of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio licensees. Further, it shall be the goal of the IRA Frequency Coordinator, under the guidance of the IRA Board of Directors, to provide assistance and guidance in the frequency selection process in order to encourage operation within the spirit of the Amateur Radio Service .

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BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES

April 19, 2013

Meeting called to order at 8:52 pm hours by President Bill Kraus KA9FER
Board members and committee members present: Steve WD9CIR, Will K9WSS, Tim KB9FBI, Milt K9QZI, Dave KA9FUR, Aaron N9OZB, Greg K9QI, Bill KA9FER, Fred Seibold W9FWS, Guest: Dave KA9WXN FER asked for approval for minutes of last minutes as printed. All answered aye, motion carried. FER said that Rich KD9Q is no longer running as a Board member, opening up a Board member position. FER thanked Rich for his time on the IRA Board. He now lives 700 miles away. Al K9SI is up for nomination and said that he would like to stay on as a Board member. Jerry N9RBQ said he was interested in a position on the Board, per Al K9SI. KC9KKO and W9DWP were also interested in the open Board position. Ballots will be presented to IRA members at the meeting. Al said that we should get representation from Northern, Southern and Central Illinois. FER said that this should be spread throughout the State. Tim FBI is furthest south on the Board. We need some representation from the Carbondale area, too. Secretary/Treasurer report. See K9WSS's report. Coordinator's report. See Aaron N9OZB's report. FER received a certified letter from Don W9DMW for coordination of the WA9ORC CFMC repeater, which he doesn't have authorization for. Don has also applied for coordination of other repeater(s) which have not been granted at this time. He is in pending status for his personal system(s). Don needs to speak with the trustee of CFMC to be in communication with each other.

Greg K9QI reports that a reported interference issue was an IM problem in Rockford. Nothing else substantial was reported. Greg will report tomorrow at the meeting on future coordination methods, similar to what WI is currently doing. It's similar to what's been done in the commercial world for many years. The software is available to everyone to get a look and see what's being done in the commercial venue. A slide presentation will also be shown at the meeting on this topic. Offsets for digital systems will be presented by Greg at the meeting also. Greg is looking at narrow banding analog. It doesn't look favorable for several reasons. It's a mandate topic, but possibly

may or may not work. Greg will curtail an extended discussion, and will ask for emails from persons who may wish to work on this. Last year, no one stepped up to the plate, but Greg will ask again if people wish to work on this with him. Dave FUR added to this discussion also with his involvement on this project. Steve CIR suggested this should be an educational project as opposed to policy right away. More work on this may take time further down the road. FER said that it IS coming later in time.

FER said that Spectrum Defense fund should be submitted for the amount of \$500, once we receive the check from ARRL.

FER said he'd like to increase the dues to \$15 from the traditional \$12 we've been charging. Because of funding the cost of lodging for the IRA meeting, we need to consider increasing the cost of dues for the membership. It's been \$12 estimated for approximately 20 years. Al suggested that we make a motion for increase dues to \$20 for fiscal year 2014-2015. This will be recommended to the membership tomorrow at the meeting. The Board voted to increase the dues to \$20 for 2014. If it fails at the meeting tomorrow, it will be resubmitted for \$15. Tim said that we weren't being reimbursed for submissions to the ARRL in the past, and we only recently have been donating \$500 to the Spectrum Defense Fund. In the past Larry KDC did a lot of the printing at no cost. Now we are paying for these expenses out of the IRA treasury.

FER asked about next year's meeting dates. Reservations for 2014 will be made for the 3rd weekend in April (Easter Weekend). In the event that 3rd weekend fails, we may consider the 4th weekend as an alternative. WSS will check with Eastland Suites on this issue. FUR brought up the tone plan. He worked on the project recently, and sent an email to Board members. FBI wasn't clear with splitting off, so FUR brought up a map with the possibilities. He explained the dropdowns on the map and how the different tones were applied. FER said he wasn't totally indifferent to the idea, and many tones are used in several areas. He said that it shouldn't be mandatory, so that it doesn't run against the grain of the concept. It should be voluntary, and not mandatory. A discussion of current tones

took place, and that they weren't mandatory currently. Greg QI said that there should be primary, secondary, and an alternative set of tones available, and should be chosen accordingly. FER asked Aaron and Greg to take a look at it, and report back to the Board.

FUR said that he was working with WA9VGI on the FishFar plan. He is also working with Tony KT9AC on the linking of his WI system to FishFar.

FER mentioned NFCC. He is on the Board of Directors of the NFCC. Lots of comments regarding what the NFCC recognizes or certifies in the last year. ARRL had requested an MOU which has been submitted, and approved at the end of 2012. One road operator in the AZ area has been "self-coordinating and purportedly self-policing." In cases of extreme conflict, NFCC makes a statement, then lets the FCC take action if/when necessary. Aaron said a similar issue occurred in Indiana. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding these practices. Aaron mentioned that the SERA email reflector has been down. The organization is purportedly still in force at this time. Greg said that he sent a request for coordination in WVA a few weeks ago, and hasn't heard anything. The email may have been misdirected due to someone retiring and the email addresses haven't been updated at this time. It should be corrected in the near future. Tim said that use of our spectrum actively is prudent. This will be brought up at the general meeting tomorrow. Greg said that amateur, commercial and land mobile systems are all "under attack." Time and usage are all under consideration, especially those systems that are under utilized. Rich KD9Q should be recognized for his past participation with the IRA. Should a plaque be presented to him? What about Bob W9QBH? These recipients will be receiving plaques per WSS. Greg said that he would like to discuss an interference issue that took place on a ham packet frequency last year. The FCC was contacted and didn't take enforcement action. The system malfunctioned, and the FCC responded in very short order. Greg will mention at the general meeting about contacting the local ham community before calling out the FCC. Motion to adjourn was made at 10:25 pm; meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling
K9WSS IRA Secretary/Treasurer

ILLINOIS REPEATER ASSOCIATION
General Membership Annual Meeting
Minutes

April 20, 2013

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by
President Bill Kraus KA9FER.

A moment of silence was requested for
past IRA Board member and President
Bob Hajek W9QBH who passed away in
December 2012. Introductions of all
members and guests present was
conducted around the room with names,
callsigns, representation of repeater
systems, and home QTH's. FER asked for
approval of the past meetings' minutes;
approved. WSS read the treasury report.
See attachment; Seconded and approved.
Frequency coordinator's report by Aaron
N9OZB. See his attachment; Seconded and
approved. FER thanked the Sec'y /
Treasurer, and the frequency coordinator.
He appreciated the work of these
individuals.

Elections are now due for several positions
of the IRA Board. President, V/P,
Sec'y/Treasurer, and a Director's position.
Nominations for President. Bill KA9FER,
seconded. V/P – Greg KB9FBI; seconded.
Sec'y/Treasurer – Will K9WSS; seconded.
Director Al Wolfe K9SI seconded. Open
Director position – W9DWP, seconded.
KC9KKO John Waters, seconded, N9RBQ
Jerry. A suggestion was to have a Director
from southern IL area. Kermit W9XA
stated that this was not in the bylaws. FER
said that it would nice to have someone in
the southern region for interference
investigations issues. No nominees would
be disqualified. Nominations were closed.
Motion made that the 1st four positions be
accepted and elected. Seconded and
passed. The three nominees for the open
Board position gave brief speeches as to
their experiences, qualifications, and ham
careers. Kermit W9XA accepted the
ballots after each member filled out their
entries.

FER asked Tim FBI to attempt to simplify
future elections so that it doesn't become
so confusing. Tim had suggestions as to
this should be conducted for future and
upcoming elections. Capability of
individuals who can conduct their offices
was discussed, and the bylaws will be
changed to reflect these changes. Further
discussion took place by members and the

Board. When Larry KDC passed away,
there was a mad scramble to get someone
else to take over his duties and
responsibilities. With new modified
bylaws, this issue and others could be
simplified. This will be decided, and will
be implemented next year. The ballots for
the open Director position were tallied;
W9DWP 10, KC9KKO 25, N9RBQ 27.
Winner is N9RBQ. Motion to destroy the
ballots was moved, and seconded, then
passed. FER thanked everyone for
participating in the election.

FER that under old business, explained
that the plaque recipients, Bob Shepard
KA9FLX, and Larry Schroeder KA9KDC
will be presented to their families. Also
plaques for Bob Hajek W9QBH, and Rich
Ranson KD9Q will also be presented
plaques. Motion for plaques for the 3rd and
4th recipients was seconded, and passed.

FER mentioned that the Board discussed
increasing the dues from \$12 to \$20. QZB
suggested that the newsletter be emailed
instead of sending via US Mail. Kermit
W9XA said that it was decided a number
of years ago to keep sending the
newsletters via US Mail for positive
tracking purposes. Fred FWS said that it
must be mailed because of legal
requirement of 30 day notice before an
upcoming meeting date. Other members
had suggestions which were further
discussed. The mailing will continue to be
sent via US Mail until further notice. The
dues have been \$12 for over 20 years.
WSS mentioned that current paid dues are
217 entities, including repeater owners,
associate members, etc. Motion made to
raise dues to \$20 annually. Motion carried.
This will be for 2014-2015 year, and
thereafter. Meeting location was
discussed; WSS said that Eastland Suites
was the most accommodating, and most
reasonable for costs to the Association for
our needs. It was agreed to remain next
year at Eastland Suites, and thereafter.

Technical presentation by Greg K9QI
regarding the use of spectrum, i.e., "use it
or lose it." Various commercial services
are under scrutiny, and also Ham Radio
falls under these "eyes of scrutiny." There
should be more efficient uses of spectrum.
Ham Radio is there at times of need and
otherwise available. In the event of
interference, please convey issues directly
to the Ham community, instead of
immediately calling the FCC. Most of the

surrounding states are coordinated by
associations that are commonly
recognized. Greg made recommendations
as to coverage by propagation models.
Reducing white space and other issues
were discussed. Channel bifurcation was
also discussed by Greg. This was all part
of his technical presentation, and
discussion among members. The issue of
narrow banding analog systems was also
discussed. There are way too many radios
out there that would not be compatible
with narrow banding, and it would
impractical. It's a short term fix that
wouldn't work out in longer terms.

Carol Schroeder KB9FYL, wife of Larry
Schroeder KA9KDC, SK (previous IRA
Secretary/Treasurer) appeared at the
meeting, and was presented the plaque
FER displayed earlier this morning. FER
had a motion to pay \$200 for the IRA's use
of KA9FUR's coordinating software.
Motion, seconded, and passed. FER urged
clubs to keep their databases backed up
such as the IRA currently does. If there's a
trustee, make sure that it's accurate, and
that there are contingencies. Motion for
donation to the ARRL Spectrum Defense
Fund. This will be completed when the
ARRL sends the IRA its funds for the
repeater database. Kermit W9XA made a
motion to commend Aaron N9OZB for all
his hard work on the repeater database.
Seconded, and carried. Motion by the
floor regarding paying dues by April 1st
until the actual date of the annual IRA
meeting. This will be tabled, and taken up
with the bylaws committee. It was already
decided a few years ago, not entered in the
bylaws. Motion was seconded, and passed.
Motion to adjourn, seconded, and meeting
closed at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling
K9WSS IRA Secretary/Treasurer
ILLINOIS REPEATER ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
(after General Meeting)
April 20, 2013

Board meeting convened by KA9FER at
11:57 am. All the elected IRA Board
members / officers present were
announced, and newest Board member
N9RBQ was accepted. Committee
members were announced and accepted.
FER will continue to serve as IRA delegate

to the NFCC. FBI will be second alternate delegate to the NFCC. Here is the current slate of Board members, Directors, and Committee Chairs:

President: Bill Kraus KA9FER
Vice-President: Tim Childers KB9FBI
Secretary/Treasurer: Will Sperling K9WSS
Directors: Stephen Craig, WD9CIR;
Milt Forsberg, K9QZI;
Al Wolfe, K9SI;
Jerry Sebok, N9RBQ
Frequency Coordinator: Aaron Collins
N9OZB
Newsletter Editor: Fred Seibold W9FWS
Motion to adjourn at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling
K9WSS IRA Secretary/Treasurer

Illinois Repeater Assn

Annual Meeting Notice

Saturday, April 19, 2014

Bloomington, Illinois

**Your ideas and votes
help your Association
serve you better. See you
at the meeting!!**

**Illinois Repeater Assn.
Post Office Box 40
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**Annual Meeting Notice
Saturday April 19, 2014**

Are Your Dues Paid???

First Class Mail



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