

Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 31

March 2015

Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

New Location In Bloomington For Annual Meeting Saturday, April 18, 2015.

The new meeting location is:
Doubletree Hotel
10 Brickyard Drive
Bloomington, IL. which is on the
north side of Veteran's Parkway
(Business 55) just east of the US150
intersection.

From Chicago-Interstate 55 to exit
167 Veterans Parkway/Business 55
South to Brickyard Drive-turn right to
arrive at our hotel in Normal, IL.

From Northwest (example
Rockford)-Take 39 South to 55 North,
take exit 167 Veterans Parkway go
South for 5 miles. Turn right on
Brickyard Drive.

From North (example Chicago)-Take
55 South to exit 167 Veterans
Parkway. Go south for 5 miles. Turn
right on Brickyard Drive.

From South (example Springfield &
St. Louis)-Take 55 N to Business
55/Veterans Parkway for 3 mi. north
to Brickyard Drive-turn left.

From West (example Peoria)-Take
74 East to 55 North, take exit 167
Veterans Parkway approx. 5 mi.
South to Brickyard Drive-turn right.

From South (example Decatur)-Take
51 North to Veterans
Parkway/Business 55. Go north
approx. 2 miles to Brickyard Drive-
turn left.

From East (example Champaign &
Indianapolis)-Take 74 West to exit
Business 55/Veterans Parkway. Go
north for 3 miles to Brickyard Drive-
turn left.

**From the Central Illinois Regional
Airport**-Take route 9 west to
Veterans Parkway (2 miles). Go left
(south) on Veterans Parkway for 2
miles to Brickyard Drive and turn
right into hotel

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
2015 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
below or the President, William
Kraus.

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Association

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES
Friday, April 18, 2014 Eastland Suites
Hotel Room 112 Meeting called to order
by President Bill Kraus KA9FER at 9:13
pm hours. Present for the meeting:
President Bill Kraus KA9FER, Vice-
President Tim Childers KB9FBI,
Secretary/Treasurer Will Sperling K9WSS,
Director Steve Craig WD9CIR, Director
Jerry Sebok N9RBQ, Director Al Wolfe
K9SI, Director Milt Forsberg K9QZI,
Frequency Coordinator Aaron Collins
N9OZB, Newsletter Editor Fred Seibold
W9FWS, Tech Committee Chairman Greg
Buchwald K9QI, Guests JP Watters
KC9KKO, Pete Johnson AB9PJ

A quorum with every Board member
present was established. Board members
and participants introduced themselves; A
total of 26 persons were present according
to the sign-in sheet. Motion to dispense of
reading of past minutes; voted and carried.
Secretary / Treasurer's report; Greg K9QI
agreed to donate his \$100 check back to
the treasury for projector rental from the
2013 meeting; motion carried to accept
treasurer & secretary's report. Guest
present from WI taking Dave Karr
KA9FUR's place is Pete Johnson AB9PJ
Chairman of WAR. Pete introduced
himself and will discuss more later in the
meeting. FER mentioned that the
coordinator's and secretary/treasurer's jobs
are tedious, and their efforts are most
appreciated.

Question as to having separate forms
being sent out for renewals and updates;
the postage costs were explained by Aaron
OZB that additional cost(s) would have to
be incurred. Perforating the form was
suggested but additional costs could start
getting expensive. US Mail is utilized for
verification, and is necessary. Discussion
about emailing vs. electronic mail; we will
continue to have notices and newsletters
sent via US Mail now, and in the future.
An updated form will be configured for
Aaron to consider using his future reports
& mailings with separate submission(s) to
the Frequency Coordinator and the
Secretary/Treasurer. Members who do not
represent repeaters presently do not receive
newsletters or frequency coordination.
Until the associate members' information
is blended into the frequency coordination
database, the associate member(s) won't
get a newsletter. This situation is pending
resolution. JP Watters KC9KKO will
attempt to resolve this issue.

Aaron will be getting assistance with
coordination and future database issues
with JP Watters KC9KKO.

FER mentioned that recent issues with
the ARRL make submitting repeater

database info a very difficult situation.
With new ARRL requirements of
submission, the new format has to be
submitted, and it's a difficult and
extremely time-consuming process. JP
Watters KC9KKO will be appointed to an
ad hoc position as the assistant to
frequency coordinator Aaron N9OZB.
Fred W9FWS does a great job putting
together our newsletter, and getting it out
to the membership each year. Fred asked
for more input for future newsletters.

FER mentioned that there are in general
fewer arguments and more issues that are
clearer than they were in the past. Aaron
read his annual frequency coordinator's
report (see attachment). Motion to accept;
voted and carried.

Tech Committee Chair Greg K9QI; FER
mentioned PL issues; Greg continues with
seven questions of interference that came
up in the past year. Six were resolved with
a phone call, and one was involving
technical issues with one repeater system.
Greg says it was a very quiet year for the
most part. He mentioned that
communications with neighboring states
helps considerably. This is something for
not only interference issues, but for
coordination matters. We must
demonstrate that we are effectively using
our spectrum adequately. A discussion
about cooperation with other states took
place. WI is most cooperative. Some of the
other states use different channel spacing;
that could be an issue in the future.

Pete AB9PJ from WAR spoke about
modeling repeater systems. A discussion
about using this method has been proven
successful. Greg says the process works
well, and it has been proven working with
WI. "Directionalizing" may be more
effective systems than traditional repeater
configuration methods of the past. Greg
says that we can recommend PL/DPL
tones to repeater owners, but can't be
forced (by the IRA or the FCC). A
standard can be set, but it would only be a
recommendation. Spectrum occupancy in
analog is falling off consistently. D-Star &
DMR systems are growing considerably.
"Color Codes" are replacing PL/DPL tones
which may fall off in the future.

Al K9SI says that Dave Karr's PL plan
is quite usable, and makes sense. He says
that the IRA should recommend a plan at
this time. In the past, every plan that was
proposed was not accepted, and didn't
pass. Steve CIR says that major progress
has been made, more so than in the past.

Bill FER would like to have Greg look
at the proposal. At the meeting tomorrow,
it will be announced that it will be

examined, and in the future, a
recommendation will be suggested.

Pete from WAR suggested possibly
monthly conference calls between the IRA
and WAR. FER said that Aaron, JP, and
Greg should be included in the discussion.
The conference calls generally begin on
Wednesday's at 7:30 pm. This will be
considered, and possibly implemented.

Tim FBI said that Dave Karr's PL plan
looking downstate was no larger than the
average footprint of an existing repeater.

Bill FER's President's report – NFCC –
no real authority, with no funding, no
changing as a coordinating body. FER is a
Board member of the NFCC. An MOU
was accepted by the ARRL, but it's
nothing more than a paper organization
without enforcement, or ability to really do
anything of substance. There are some
states that have two coordinating
authorities, and they "play nice." Other
states do not have the same pleasure. It is
known that the ARRL won't recognize
these agencies, and nothing has changed
whatsoever. The function is needed, but
there's "no teeth" in the NFCC.

Bill thanked all the people on the
committees. JP KC9KKO for making up
the labels for the newsletter.

Two directors are up for election; Steve
CIR and Milt QZI. They both wish to
remain on the Board. Bill would like for
both Steve and Milt to get nominated at the
membership meeting on Saturday morning.

Date and location for next year's
meeting; should remain here in
Bloomington at Eastland Suites, unless
anyone has an objection. Next year NAB is
the 11th to the 16 of April (2015). Easter is
April 5, 2015. Depending on WSS's days
off and the availability of Eastland's
facilities will predicate the date of the 2015
meeting.

Al K9SI mentioned spacing on UHF.
California went to 20 KHz spacing. Greg
K9QI said it's not a good idea for several
reasons. 25 KHz channels can be split in
1/2 much easier.

Bill FER mentioned that the IRA
Yahoo group was initially set up by Larry
KA9KDC, SK. It was more or less
abandoned. It was suggested that it be
withdrawn, because it's not used. A motion
was made, and passed by the Board to
officially close this Yahoo group. WSS will
contact Yahoo groups to close the group.

Bill suggested that a donation be made
to the ARRL for the Spectrum Defense

Fund for \$500. The defense of our spectrum overrides any inaction currently by the ARRL. Motion made, and passed. This is a Board recommendation, but will be brought up by the membership tomorrow at the meeting.

Dave Karr KA9FUR has been supported in the past for his coordination software. Aaron said that there have not been any updates in the last few years. \$200 was recommended to be donated to Dave again for his services, as in the past. A motion was proposed, voted, and passed. This will be brought up before the membership tomorrow. Bill closed the meeting at 11:40 hours. Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS
IRA Secretary/Treasurer

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES Saturday, April 19, 2014 Eastland Suites Hotel, Bloomington, IL

Meeting called to order by President Bill Kraus KA9FER at 10:00 am. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all participants. Introductions were made by all attending the meeting. A quorum was present to conduct the meeting Motion to accept the minutes as published; moved and passed. Secretary / Treasurer Report – see report; motion to accept, and passed. Coordinator's report; Aaron N9OZB – see report. Additional coordinator & back-up JP Watters KC9KK0 was appointed to assist Aaron. Presently there's a lot of work for Aaron, so the new assistant will be welcome for his assistance. Motion to accept; and passed. Tech Committee Chairman Greg K9QI; WI & IL currently using propagation by model is moving well. Dave Karr KA9FUR introduced this method and it continues with further applications. PL plan is still in review stage at this time; was discussed extensively at last night's Board meeting. Our spectrum needs to be protected, by being used to its fullest extent. Chicago area is packed at the present time. Other parts of the state, more can be done because of less congestion. There are a few interference issues. 7 came in, and six were resolved. The last one was more or less due to "expectations" of a repeater owner, and more or less resolved itself. Potential for a regional PL plan, with Dave KA9FUR's assistance this could be a possibility, with suggestions as changes with current PL's. This again would be on a voluntary and suggested basis. Spectrum defense, putting issues with ARRL aside, there are still lawyers in DC representing the ARRL working hard for the Amateur Radio spectrum. We need to keep using our frequencies before we lose them. The

spectrum is being monitored in the Chicago area by several factions, and we may lose more of the spectrum unless it's utilized. We can't hire lawyers; we depend on the ARRL lawyers. Motion to accept, and passed.

President's report – Bill KA9FER; mentioned that he is an NFCC member. An MOU is with the ARRL, but it's generally ineffective. No enforcement power or any "teeth" with the NFCC. There is no financial backing.

Bill thanked KC9KKO for printing the labels, and to for Fred W9FWS for publishing the newsletter. Two Board positions are up at this time for re-election. Milt K9QZI and Steve WD9CIR have agreed to stay on the Board. Nomination for Steve and Milt were proposed. No other nominations from the floor were received. By acclamation, both the above Board members were re-elected for another two years. Bill mentioned that our meeting date for next year will remain at Eastland Suites, and the date will be set up by WSS for 2015. These dates will be announced in the future.

Discussion last evening at the Board meeting about the Yahoogroup. It has fallen by the wayside, and is not being used. Any correspondence is currently being handled by email among the Board members. It was decided to have the abandoned Yahoogroup closed. This will be accomplished by K9WSS. There is no control or access of the Yahoogroup because it was run by the former Secretary/Treasurer Larry KA9KDC, SK. Bill FER said that things continue to run smoothly using email, and the Yahoogroup is no longer needed. In correspondence, Aaron OZB copies the Board on all responses. If something might not be readily answered, one or more Board members have helped out to a great extent. This has also opened the lines of communication for all issues posed to him. Bill also brought up the Spectrum Defense donation. He is somewhat unhappy about the ARRL's new method for repeater submissions. This is very cumbersome, and not coordinator friendly. We continue to make the submissions, anyway. Motion brought by Bill to donate \$500 to the ARRL for Spectrum Defense fund. Motion carried, and passed. Aaron OZB said that the ARRL literally "dropped a bomb" on coordinators' submissions with the new protocol. It had been easy to "batch" these submissions, and now it changed totally, making it extremely difficult. Because of certain "rogue" coordination submission by other states, the ARRL now has "open submission" by any party for the repeater directory via a website. This is not secure,

and can be edited by anyone including repeater owners. Aaron finds it difficult to hand edit each entity, and takes weeks, with hundreds of hours to get these things done. Tom Ciciora KA9QPN has communicated this issue to the ARRL, but has not received an answer from HQ. Much of the submission issue is not clear, and the ARRL has not responded to coordinators. Old data may show up in the directory, and more amateur radio repeater owners will complain about dated information in future directories. A boycott of coordinators would not send a positive message, so we will work with what we have, although it is not optimal. Motion was proposed from the floor to protest to the ARRL, however, Tom Ciciora said that it's not over yet. Pete from WAR said that they have similar issues, and are on board with the IRA's stance. Motion made, and passed with protest letter to be forwarded to the ARRL. Once there is an outcome of WI's issue, we will wait 30 days before responding. The \$500 Spectrum Defense fund donation will proceed immediately without hesitation. Bill mentioned that we traditionally donate \$200 to Dave Karr KA9FUR for support of the coordinator's software. Motion proposed to make the donation; moved, and passed.

Discussion about Peoria area interference with access to "cheap Chinese radios." Other areas have similar issues. Enforcement is difficult per Greg K9QI. He wishes to be informed per these issues for logging purposes. Yaesu's C4FM digital format was brought up and briefly discussed. Mark WB9QZB said that "free repeaters" are being offered by Yaesu, but must be installed within 30 days to three months. The format is similar to D-Star, but is still different. Of course they must be coordinated before they can operate. President Bill KA9FER closed the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS
IRA Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES (after General Meeting) April 19, 2014 Eastland Suites Hotel, Bloomington, IL Meeting called to order at 11:00 am. Board and Committee members remained after the general membership meeting. Position of Frequency Coordinator will be Aaron N9OZB, and Assistant Coordinator will be JP Watters KC9KKO. Moved and accepted. Chair for Technical Committee is Greg K9QI. Moved and accepted. Bill will remain delegate for NFCC; Tim KB9FBI will be assistant. Fred W9FWS will continue as newsletter editor; moved and accepted Meeting closed at 11:03 am. Respectfully submitted, Will Sperling K9WSS
IRA Secretary/Treasurer

ARRL Repeater Directory Info Out Of Date

I am writing this with regret, but the Illinois Repeater Association can no longer recommend the ARRL Repeater Directory as a valid and up-to-date source of repeater information. The information they have for the upcoming 2015-2016 issue of their Repeater Directory will have out of date (last year's) information for the State of Illinois and quite a few others. None of the changes made in the last calendar year of 2014 for Illinois (and many other states) will be included in this year's upcoming issue. From this point on, the only official source of current and valid repeater directory information will be directly from the IRA website at www.ilra.net. This gets updated directly from our database several times throughout the year, usually every 2-3 months or so. This recommendation is strictly aimed at the Repeater Directory group within the ARRL, an otherwise fine and useful organization that has many other facets which are unaffected by and unrelated to this issue. The Illinois Repeater Association has had a long history and successful relationship with the ARRL in the past. Due to an internal decision at the Repeater Directory division of the ARRL, they have decided to make some very serious changes to the way their directory information is collected and maintained. Since they have made these changes, we can no longer submit our information in the simple batch form as we have for the past 15 or more years.

This change in the ARRL submission procedure arose from the internal conflicts in a few states about which group is the "official" recognized state's coordinating body. Rather than deciding to recognize a single official coordinating entity from each state, or accept input from more than one (which might be in conflict), they have decided to not act at all. Their solution was to no longer allow batch submissions of the state's data at all from anyone anymore, and to require an official representative of the (possibly more than one) coordinating bodies to log into their web site and edit the repeater directory data by hand. This is absurd. We maintain over 500 listings in our state alone. We refuse to do their work for them, for free. We refuse to maintain two separate, redundant databases; our own state data, and theirs. We have no resources to allocate for this needless extra maintenance work. If we agreed to comply with their proposed changes, it would mean what was once a simple 10-minute email submission by the Frequency Coordinator to the ARRL once a year would turn into a full-time 8 hour a day job for 1 person for over an entire week. Our organization consists entirely of volunteers doing this work without compensation or salary and placing extra, needless time demands on them like this for absolutely no good reason is clearly unacceptable.

Due to their unwillingness to make a simple but difficult decision, they have decided to inconvenience and alienate many of the state's coordinating bodies. One of our neighboring states has severed ties entirely with the ARRL. Several others are very unhappy with this turn of events, as are we, and are still considering their position on the matter. The future is very uncertain here. This necessitates henceforth our decision to repudiate the ARRL Repeater Directory unless and until this situation is rectified. This decision has been made and this notice published with the consent and unanimous agreement of the Illinois Repeater Association Board of Directors.

Aaron A. Collins, N9OZB Illinois Repeater Association Frequency Coordinator February 20, 2015

**Illinois Repeater Assn.
Post Office Box 40
Westmont, IL 60559-0040**

**Annual Meeting Notice
Saturday, April 18, 2015
New Location In
Bloomington, Illinois
Complete Info Inside**

First Class Mail

Aaron A. Collins (N9OZB)
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Arlington Heights, IL 60005

