

Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 20

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Fred Seibold W9FWS, Editor

Tone Squelch Needed To Keep Coordinations

Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS) tones or digital squelch coding, that is. Facing the increased congestion and resultant scarcity of frequency pairs, the I R A added this condition to repeater coordination requirements in Illinois at its 2003 Annual Meeting: **"All future (after May 1, 2003) repeater coordinations shall include coded squelch (encode/decode) and existing coordinations shall meet the same operating requirements by December 31, 2005."** Existing repeaters not using tones may keep operating but will not receive coordination protection from toned repeaters after December 31, 2005. Small tone cards for retrofitting have been described in ham magazine projects; manufactured versions are available from most ham distributors; one such unit measuring 0.6" x 1.08" x 0.21" (about the size of a crystal) is priced at \$28.99 in a recent catalog , permitting toning older rigs at nominal cost. Board member Tim Childers KB9FBI pointed out in a recent discussion of the issue, that **drawing a 120-mile radius around Chicago and St. Louis doesn't leave much of Illinois remaining for locating unconditional coordinations.** An additional benefit of CTCSS will be increased reliability of the repeater due to protection from ducted or scattered interference from emissions lacking the proper (for that repeater) CTCSS tone. Board members are working toward developing tone coordination by regions of the state so a common tone can be used in a given area, simplifying repeater use by transient hams. Many newer H/Ts and mobiles can identify repeater encode tone; a directory is not needed to find the code in use.

-W9FWS

**Attend IRA Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 23, 2005**

FCC's Hollingsworth Says Toned Squelch Needed

"From a spectrum efficiency standpoint, tones will be the wave of the future and have been in regular use in the Land Mobile services for decades," said Hollingsworth, who oversees Land Mobile as well as Amateur Radio Service enforcement. He said if tones will cure an interference case in the Land Mobile services, he tells the parties to implement them.

"It is surprising that tone systems are not used more in the Amateur Service, a service we expect to be on the leading edge of technology instead of being wedded to old ways of doing things," Hollingsworth added.

"As for tones, it's only a matter of time, just as it was with transistors and integrated circuits." **-ARRL Letter**

FCC Approves BPL

In an effort seen by most amateur radio operators and professional radio engineers as a political effort to re-write the laws of physics, the FCC has issued rules permitting BPL – Broadband over Power Line – which will radiate broadband data signals from power lines over the entire high frequency spectrum. The national amateur radio organization, the American Radio Relay League, ARRL, has fought this and will file a petition for reconsideration with the FCC and take other unspecified action. The FCC decision is on the Internet at

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-253125A1.pdf>
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-253125A2.pdf>
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-253125A3.pdf>
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-253125A4.pdf>
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-253125A5.pdf>

Annual Meeting For 2005 Saturday, April 23 In Bloomington

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held on Saturday, April 23,2005 at the Best Western 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 Best Western 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 to 2:00 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 2005 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, Bob Hajek, W9QBH at the address listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Please note that this year the President,Vice-President, Secretary Treasurer and one Director will be elected. As was noted at the 2004 meeting the current President and Secretary/Treasurer will not stand for reelection. Therefore, your votes and thoughts are even more important than ever to maintain a viable organization.
-KA9FCF

Minutes of IRA Board Meeting April 16, 2004

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association meeting for April 16, 2004 was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek at 8:25 PM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present:

President Robert Hajek, W9QBH

Vice President Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC

Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF

Directors: Richard Ranson, N9YAY - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS - Al Wolfe, K9SI

Staff Present: Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW, Frequency Coordinator.

Aaron Collins, N9OZB, Technical Committee Chair. Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Newsletter Editor.

Guests Present: Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator

Request of additional items to be added to the agenda: President Hajek handed out copies of the agenda and asked if any items should be added. No items were suggested.

Ratification of actions taken over the past year: N9YAY made a motion that all actions taken by the Association in the past year be ratified. The motion was seconded by KE9WS and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: KA9KDC moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published in the October, 2003 newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer, KA9FCF, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2003 to April 10, 2003. Last years balance was \$5,107.56. Through the year expense was \$2,625.58 and income was \$2,649.00. Therefore the balance as of 04/15/04 was \$5,130.58. The check from ARRL for 2004 data has not been received yet. KA9FBI moved and K9SI seconded a motion that the report be accepted as read. The motion carried by voice vote.

Frequency Coordinators Report: There is still a problem with annual updates not being returned. It seems that some still do not understand the importance of the updates. Confirmation and/or correction of the technical data are a condition of continued coordination. Carl is still working with two databases and is working with Dave Kart with the view to bring everything, including membership status, into one usable database. Carl explained the continuing problem of using the current data program. In order to print the "update forms" it is required to use a dot matrix printer. Currently that entails arranging to use the printer owned by Jay Finn. Aaron, N9OZB, volunteered to attempt to resolve the problem and interface with his printer. He will report back to the board and work with Carl on the project. There was considerable discussion on the co-ordination of, W9ATN, an ATV repeater in Rockford with an output on 421.250 MHZ. Possibility of interference with links of the "VGI Complex" was reviewed with considerable technical probabilities detailed. The final resolution was that the W9ATN repeater, as the newest co-ordination shall have the primary responsibility to resolve any interference that may be experienced.

Carl Bergstedt presented a letter of resignation to the board. He cited several reasons for his decision. The most compelling is that he has been coordinator for

seven years, a job that is very time consuming and demands more time than he is able to continue spending. While his resignation is effective immediately, he will continue to complete pending requests and will work with a replacement as needed. A motion to accept the coordinator's report was made by KB9FBI and seconded by KA9KDC. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Technical Committee Report: N9OZB reported that there are currently no items needing resolution. He will review the "waiting list" but notes that all should be aware that any on the waiting list are expected to update their needs annually in order to remain on the list.

Old Business:

Difficulty in providing repeater pairs in many parts of the state continues to be a problem. In another attempt to provide some additional pairs the possibility of using the 440-442 +5 (445-447) frequencies was proposed. KA9FUR addressed the situation in Wisconsin and noted that Wisconsin is currently using this spectrum with some restrictions. After considerable discussion of the pros and cons, including concern for current users, the following motion was made by KA9KDC and seconded by KB9FBI. "The board recommends approval, by the membership, for use of the 440-442 (+5) spectrum for repeater use, where available, and all standard repeater pairs are in use" The motion was carried by voice vote.

Results of the committee search for replacements on the board were discussed as well as the need for an orderly changeover. Several of the board indicated stated that they would like to step down, but in the interest of an orderly changeover they would serve for one more term if elected by the general membership.

W9QBH stated that due to changes in his personal life he will not be available to serve any longer as President. His plans are to move out of state late in the year. The board suggested that KA9KDC consider running for President.

KA9FCF restated that this is his last year as Secretary/Treasurer. Fred, W9FWS was suggested as a replacement.

Aaron N9OZB was suggested as coordinator to replace Carl, K9VXW.

A suggestion that the annual meeting be moved and possibly rotated to other parts of the state was discussed again. The board feels that the Bloomington is centrally located, but will consider any other suggestions by the membership.

New Business :

There was a discussion of the 2 GHZ (and 900 MHZ) repeaters as well as Packet/Data transmission and how they might fit into coordination.

Advanced technology was discussed as follows:

Revision of the web site-K9VXW and W9FWS will look into possibilities.

Annual forms-possibility of combining data bases for update forms

Newsletter-possibility of going electronic rather than US Mail.

Adjournment: N9YAY moved and KA9FCF seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be recessed until after the annual meeting on April 17, 2004. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was recessed at 12:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Koch, KA9FCF
Secretary/Treasurer,
Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Minutes of IRA Board Meeting April 17, 2004

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was reconvened by IRA President Robert Hajek at 11:57 PM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Robert Hajek, W9QBH - Vice President Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC- Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF - Directors: Al Wolfe, K9SI - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS, Richard Ranson -N9YAY.

Committee and Frequency Coordinator

Appointments: W9QBH appointed Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW to serve as Frequency Coordinator until 01 July, 2004 at which time Aaron Collins N9OZB will assume the position. KA9KDC moved and K9SI seconded that these appointments be confirmed. W9QBH recommended that Bob Shepard, KA9FLX be appointed to serve as IRA Technical Committee Chairman. This recommendation will become an appointment after KA9FLX is contacted and has agreed to assume this position.

[Note: Subsequent to this meeting , Bob Shepard, KA9FLX, was contacted by W9QBH and agreed to the appointment. Therefore the new Technical Committee Chairman is confirmed.]

N9YAY moved and KA9KDC seconded a motion to confirm this appointment.

W9QBH appointed Fred Seibold, W9FWS, to serve as Newsletter Editor. N9YAY moved and KE9WS seconded a motion that this appointment be confirmed.

All three motions passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MACC Director Appointments: W9QBH appointed KA9KDC and W9GIG to serve as MACC Directors for the next 12 months, and K9VXW to serve as MACC Frequency Coordinator until 7/1/04 at which time N9OZB will assume this appointment. KB9FBI moved and KE9WS seconded a motion that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NFCC Delegate: N9YAY moved and KB9FBI 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 12:01 PM April 17, 2004.

Respectfully submitted ,

Robert Koch, KA9FCF
Secretary/Treasurer,
Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Minutes of Annual Meeting, April 17, 2004

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by IRA president Robert Hajek, W9QBH at 10:07 AM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites, Bloomington/Normal Illinois. Robert J Koch, KA9FCF, secretary/treasurer, verified that there was a quorum present as required in the constitution to conduct business.

Introduction of Officers and Attendees: W9QBH asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify the repeater(s) they represent. There were 46 persons in attendance representing 65 repeaters.

Reading of minutes: W9GG moved and N9JWI seconded a motion that the minutes of the 2003 annual meeting be approved as published in the IRA Newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report: Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF read the report. Balance at the 2003 meeting was \$5,107.56. Throughout the year income was \$2,649.00 and expense was \$2,625.58. Therefore the balance as of April 15, 2004 was \$5,130.98. W9XA moved and W9DAU seconded a motion that the report be approved as presented. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Coordinator's report: President W9QBH introduced Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW Frequency Coordinator, and thanked him for services well rendered on behalf of the membership. Carl thanked those who returned the annual update forms promptly. However he stated there is room for improvement and reminded all that failure to respond for two years could result in loss of coordination. He indicated that there is a possibility (probability) that some of those that do not respond no longer have a repeater on the air. If you take a repeater off the air please notify the coordinator so that the pair can be available for someone else. A motion to accept the coordinators report was made by W9UH and seconded by W9XA. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

President, W9QBH, reported to the membership that Carl had submitted a letter of resignation. While the resignation is effective immediately, Carl has agreed to stay on to finish up pending items and work toward a smooth changeover. The changeover is to be effective 01 July, 2004. At that time Aaron Collins, N9OZB will assume the responsibility of coordinator. Thank you Carl and good luck Aaron!

Technical Committee report: Aaron Collins, N9OZB, reported that there are currently no reported interference problems pending resolution. Aaron reported that throughout the state there are currently three on the waiting list for 2M pairs, three waiting for 70CM and none for 220. He also reminded all that it is the responsibility of those waiting for coordination to renew the request annually. N9JWI moved that the report be accepted the motion was seconded by W9FWS and carried by voice vote.

President's report: Bob Hajek, W9QBH, reported on several comments that he, or the board, had received objecting to the requirement for coded squelch as approved at last year's general meeting. The main objection seemed to be due to a misunderstanding of the requirement.

President, W9QBH, announced that even though he is not up for reelection this year, he wanted all to know that he will not be available to run next year. The purpose of the announcement at this time is to give notice that there will be a need for a new President next year. He also reminded all that Bob KA9FCF stated last year that the current term will be his last. All who are interested in filling one of those positions should let their availability be known. N9TVP made a motion to accept the President's report. The motion was seconded by W9FWS and approved by voice vote.

Election of Officers/Directors: To serve terms of two years.

For Director Two to be elected:

W9FWS nominated Steve Look, KA9SZW, W9KEI seconded the nomination.

W9XA nominated Jack Frank, KE9WS, WD9DAU seconded the nomination.

N9MAF nominated Richard Ranson, N9YAY, N9EZJ seconded the nomination

After three unanswered calls for further nominations, W9GIG moved that nominations be closed the motion was seconded by W9FWS and carried by voice vote.

Since there were three nominations for the two open director positions there was a secret ballot.

W9UH was asked to head a committee to count the ballots.

Elected were KE9WS and N9YAY.

WD9DAU made a motion that the ballots be destroyed. The motion was seconded by N9JWI.

The motion was carried by voice vote and completed by the "counting committee"

Board for 2004-2005: The board for the 2004-2005 year will, therefore, be;

President-Robert Hajek W9QBH

Vice President- Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC

Secretary/Treasurer-Robert Koch, KA9FCF

Directors- Jack Frank, KE9WS--Rich Ranson, N9YAY--Tim Childers, KB9FBI--Al Wolf, K9SI

Old Business: There is still a need to recruit new leadership. Others currently on the board will step down in the next few years so "new blood" is still needed. Any interested contact any of the current board members. See President's Report, above!

The possibility of moving the meeting location was discussed but no firm changes were outlined. Wherever the meeting is held there will be considerable travel for some to attend.

W9GIG led a discussion on BPL and Spread Spectrum. He encouraged action by all Amateurs including voicing opinions to members of Congress.

W9QBH and W9GIG discussed new FCC rules for the 440 band involving output power and timing as well as band plan for the 900MHZ band

A question about coded squelch frequency assignment by area was addressed. It is still being worked on, there is no final recommendation.

New Business: The board proposed to the general membership the following change in coordination policy. "The board recommends approval by the membership for use of the 440-442/ (+5) 445-447 spectrum for repeater use, where available, and where standard repeater pairs are all in use" Since this was a recommendation by the board, no motion was needed. The membership approved the recommendation by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the body motion to adjourn was made by N9JWI and seconded by W9FWS and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J.Koch-KA9FCF, Secretary /Treasurer

Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Treasurer's Report

April 15, 2004

Balance forward from last annual report: \$5,107.56

**Income : Dues and Donations \$2,137.00
From ARRL for Repeater data 512.00**

Total Income \$2649.00

Expenses:	2003 Annual Meeting \$1,446.35
Coordinator's expense	320.04
Newsletter print/mai l (two issues)	501.73
Illinois Secretary of State	8.00
Internet Solutions for website	139.95
Secretary expense	170.76
Bank charges for checks, Bounced check and extra	
Deposit slips	38.75
Total Expenses	\$2,625.58
Balance as of 04/15/04	\$5,130.98

Currently there are

120 members paid through 2004,
10 paid through 2005,
6 through 2006 and
one each through 2007 and 2010.

Respectfully submitted;
Robert J. Koch, KA9FCF
Secretary/Treasurer,

Illinois Repeater Association Inc.

Have A Voice In The IRA Future

Attend the IRA Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 23, 2005

