

# Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 23

March 2007

Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

## Annual Meeting For 2007 Saturday, April 21 In Bloomington

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Best Western 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.

The Best Western is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just off Veterans Parkway (Business 55). 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 2006 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 the 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 Secretary or President.

-W9FWS

## Red Cross Background Check Policy Concerns Many ARES Members

Last year, the American Red Cross announced that it was implementing a background check procedure which would be mandatory for its staff and volunteers. Many ARRL members, including those who are also Red Cross volunteers, and ARES members who provide emergency communications for the benefit of the Red Cross, have questions about this policy, and whether or not it applied to them.

ARRL feels compelled to caution members to read very carefully any request for, or consent to the collection or disclosure of, personal, normally private information from a served agency. Carefully consider what is being requested; for what purpose the information is needed; to what use the information will be put; and to whom it will be disclosed.

While there have been conflicting statements by local chapters, the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross apparently intends to require that all radio amateurs who provide communications for the Red Cross submit to a background check. Their policy applies to all partner organizations that do not themselves conduct criminal background checks on their members. ARRL, of course, does not conduct background checks.

Some ARRL members are willing to submit to a criminal background check in order to volunteer to provide communications for the benefit of the Red Cross. The Red Cross has delegated the conducting of the background checks to a separate, private company. The private company has a consent form which is a requirement for the background check. **The deadline for compliance with this Red Cross requirement, twice postponed, is now March 31, 2007.** After that date, the Red Cross indicates that they will not accept volunteer services from those individuals who have not complied.

Initially, the Red Cross' requirements included more than a criminal background check. Volunteers were also to be required to grant permission for the Red Cross' background investigation company to conduct a "credit check" and a "mode of living" check as well. Additionally, the Red Cross indicated that the only criminal background check they would accept would be from its own investigation company, "mybackgroundcheck.com."

The Red Cross' investigation company consent form still includes consent to the conduct of an "investigative consumer report." The Federal Trade Commission's definition of that term specifically includes "mode of living" checks and certain credit checks. The consent form that is required by the Red Cross, therefore, would permit both credit checks and mode of living checks, and not just criminal background checks.

The new consent form used by "mybackgroundcheck.com" does not disclose to the person consenting to the search that he or she is in fact granting permission to have a credit check or mode of living check performed, but only makes reference to a "consumer investigative report" without explaining.

Although the Red Cross promises that it will not conduct a mode of living check or a credit check of volunteers, its contractor continues to require permission to conduct such investigations. ARRL has inquired of the Red Cross as to the reason for this, but to date has not received a satisfactory explanation.

Should the Red Cross clarify or further modify its background check policy in response to ARRL's written inquiry and the negotiations commenced thereby, we will provide that information immediately for the benefit of ARRL members and ARES participants.

Updates to further developments on this troublesome issue will be posted on the ARRL website: [www.arll.org](http://www.arll.org)

-ARRL

## Frequency Coordinator Has Busy Year In 2006

By Aaron A. Collins, N9OZB  
Illinois Repeater Association  
Frequency Coordinator

I have processed 64 requests for coordinations in 2006 (my "fiscal" year starts and ends at the Annual Meeting in April, so it's not over for me yet!) I am happy to say most of the requests were granted. The waiting list is now at an all-time low, with only 3 on the VHF list, and 1 on the UHF at the end of 2006. During the year, I also processed a record round of 39 violation notices sent for various infractions resulting in 16 de-coordinations. **These infractions were typically being off the air for too long, construction not completed in a reasonable timeframe, or failure to return the annual IRA updates for 2 years or more consecutively.** I am also happy to report that most, but not all, of the de-coordinations were voluntary.

This does not address the concerns of systems that are off the air without notice to IRA (2 months is allowable), those that are not at their coordinated location, or running their coordinated callsign. We rely on the observations of individuals who bring to us allegations of systems that may be in violation of IRA rules or policy. **The IRA is not the "radio police".** We do not have time to actively monitor the 500 or so systems in Illinois. However, when a complaint is brought before us and appears to have merit, we will investigate it as time permits. We take all such allegations very seriously, and we do follow up on them.

The first 2 years of my tenure as IRA coordinator were a "honeymoon" period where we spent much time and energy informing the repeater community that the IRA rule enforcement would be much more vigorous. In the past, many infractions were "let slide" for too long and this created a very lax attitude toward enforcement. It's not a pleasant thing; having to send multiple registered

letters (if answered or not), and possibly having to get into a fight with the repeater owner. It's not an enjoyable thing to do at all, so I can easily see how the situation got where it is today. However, as I said, that situation must change. The first 2 year period I gave people many extra chances and more than several benefits of the doubt, but the only way to cut the waiting lists down is to get tougher.

A lot of people view a coordination grant as a lifetime thing, and while if you are diligent in maintaining contact with IRA and the system stays on the air, then that can be true. However, the more that people view coordination grants as "fluid" entities that may be easily obtained when needed and let go when not, the better. The ultimate goal to that end is when people don't hold onto "paper" or defunct coordinations, there becomes a pool of available frequencies rather than a waiting list to get one. The model the Wisconsin coordinating body has chosen takes that to its extreme - coordinations are granted and then "renewed" each year, and failure to renew results in de-coordination. While I don't think it's necessary to become that stringent yet, it does help reinforce the idea that **coordination grants aren't for life.** Speaking of Wisconsin, I am also very pleased to report that the quality of the working relationship we have with our adjacent states, particularly those in the "Tri-State Corridor" of Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana has never been better. The adjacent state's coordinators and I seem to be very much of like minds - well informed, professional and competent. Our interactions have been harmonious and most productive.

Every year, we expend a lot of extra effort tracking down and notifying people who do not keep their contact information with IRA up to date. Due to this, we are now sending a 2nd Notice around in May if annual updates are not returned. While this presents a lot of extra work, we don't want to have to resort to an enforcement action until it is the only course of action left. Although the

IRA rule enforcement is becoming more stringent, **no one has to worry about their coordinated status as long as they:**

1. Remain on the air, and/or notify IRA if off the air.
2. Complete construction or request extension within the allowed time.
3. Keep in contact with IRA (includes returning annual updates).
4. Deal with IRA in an honest and forthright manner (includes telling us about any system moves, upgrades or configuration changes beforehand!).

That's it - that's the secret recipe for success and long repeater life. We are not asking a lot for the protection of your coordinated status - a little effort, a little honesty, and a 39-cent stamp once a year.

There has been much talk lately about **new digital voice repeater systems.** In order to facilitate an interference-free integration of digital systems with existing analog systems, we have reserved setting a final policy pending the outcome of several ongoing field trials. We have granted coordination to both APCO Project-25 and D-STAR repeaters using current technology, and we now can observe their operating characteristics firsthand to aid us in this process of adopting new policy. We plan to have an official policy drafted to be voted on by the membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting, in April, 2007. In the meantime, we will issue digital coordinations using our existing frequency utilization plan. Any digital coordination issued until then will be conditional with the understanding that any digital voice repeater may possibly be required to change its operational frequencies at a later date.

Finally, be aware the IRA website online repeater directories are not up-to-the-minute accurate, as they are not driven directly by changes to the coordination database. I submit my changes to the webmaster 3-4 times per year, so the information may be up to several months old. I'll see you at the Annual Meeting April 21. -N9OZB

## Minutes of April 21, 2006

### IRA Board Meeting

The Illinois Repeater Association Board of Directors meeting for April 21, 2006 was called to order by IRA President Rich Ranson at 9:00PM 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, K9SL William Kraus, KA9FER (delayed/arrived after start) Stephen Look, KA9SZW; 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

Moment of Reflection taken for honored IRA officer, now Silent Key: Past Director: Jack Frank, KE9WS

President Ranson asked if any items should be added to the previously provided agenda. Aaron Collins, IRA Frequency Coordinator suggested that some improvements/amendments to Coordination Policy by considered in new business.

Minutes of Previous Meetings: KB9FBI moved and KA9SZW seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published in the 2005 newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/ Treasurer, KA9KDC, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2005 to April 20, 2006. Last years balance was \$5,391.23. Through the year expense was \$2221.64 and income was \$2661.00. Therefore the balance as of 04/20/06 was \$5,830.59. K9SI moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion that the report be accepted; carried by voice vote.

Frequency Coordinators Report.  
Review of past years coordination and actions discussion of PL Table for Illinois. W9AZ/R will be sent followup to provide correct repeater parameters to update their coordination information. A complaint form and procedure will be documented. This documentation will be added to the IRA web site. A motion to accept the report was made by KB9FBI and seconded by KA9SZW; passed by voice vote.

Technical Committee Report: Stressed importance of ALL coordinated repeater owners and groups to take active role in communicating to reduce problems from uncoordinated repeaters and those who do not confirm to guidelines. DSTAR, APCO and other digital system technology discussion, future for narrowband allocations. Recommendation from WI Freq Coordinator, Dave Karr that partnership with Illinois on waiting list and options should occur.

A motion to accept the report was made by KB9FBI and seconded by KA9SZW; passed by voice vote.

Old Business: None.

New Business :

#### ITEM 1:

Discussion of improved procedure updates for the IRA Coordination Policy & Guidelines as relates to Decoordination procedures. Three updates were recommended by the frequency coordinator and technical committee chairman. After some discussion and subsequent agreement by the board, the following recommendations to the general membership for ratification at 4/22 meeting were made:

KB9FBI motion to submit to the membership for approval; KB9SZW second, motion passed by voice vote.

#### The following changes to the IRA Coordination Policy and Guidelines:

Section 2 "Frequency Decoordination Notice" of the Decoordination "Coordination Withdrawal Rules" currently states:

If the violation(s) have not been resolved within sixty (60) days of the mailing of the Frequency Coordination Agreement Violation Notice [FCAVN], a Frequency Decoordination Hearing Notice shall be sent by certified mail, with a return receipt requested, to the coordination holder of record a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing.

#### Change to:

If the violation(s) have not been resolved within sixty (60) days of the mailing of the Frequency Coordination Agreement Violation Notice [FCAVN] and no due diligence was made to present and communicate with the Illinois Repeater Association, the IRA board at its option may execute the decoordination.

Section 8 "Frequency Reoordination" within Decoordination "Coordination Withdrawal Rules" currently states:

If there is no referendum on the IRA Board of Directors' action(s). Decordinated frequency pair(s) shall not be reordinated for a minimum of sixty (60) days following the decoordination hearing. If there is a referendum vote taken, and the IRA Board of Directors' action(s) are not reversed, the reoordination of the frequency(s) in question shall not be done until a minimum of thirty (30) days after the tallying of the referendum ballots.

Word "hearing" will be deleted.

Add New paragraph within Coordination Guidelines:

Willful False Statements in Coordinations  
Lack of candor in communications with the Illinois Repeater Association may be grounds for initiating a withdrawal of coordination (decooordination) or dismissal of application.

Clarification to Section 5 of the "Conditions of Coordination" which currently states:

If a repeater is going to be off the air for more than sixty (60) days, it is necessary to notify the IRA Frequency Coordinator, in writing, explaining the reasons why operation has ceased and when normal operation is expected to be restored. -AND reason -c- of the "Coordination Withdrawal" <reasons> which states -  
A frequency coordination may be withdrawn by the coordinator for any of the following reasons:

c. If a repeater is inoperative for more than 180 days.  
Added clarification:  
If a repeater is off the air with notice to the IRA, it shall not be for a period of greater than 180 days. This period may be renewed and extended at the discretion of the IRA board.

#### ITEM 2:

"Provide \$100.00 to author of the software "Coordinators Toolkit" used for repeater coordination Motion by KA9KDC. Second KA9SZW. Approved by voice vote.

#### ITEM 3:

"Establish a Yahoo User Group for -IllinoisRepeaterAssociation- to provide additional paths for communication within the organization, beyond the present Web Site." N9YAY and KA9KDC will coordinate the establishment and administration of the group.

#### ITEM 4:

Illinois Incorporation "agent" will be transferred at the next annual renewal with the IL Secretary of State from Dick Isely to present secretary treasurer, Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC. A safe deposit box will be established with the IRA's bank to retain significant incorporation papers. Motion by KA9FER, Second by KA9SZW, approved by voice vote.

Adjournment: KA9FER moved and KA9SZW seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be recessed until after the annual meeting on April 22, 2006. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was recessed at 12:10 A.M. April 22.

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

### Annual Meeting Minutes April 22, 2006

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.

Introduction of Officers and Attendees: N9YAY asked everyone to introduce themselves and identify the repeater(s) they represent. There were 46 persons in attendance representing 71 repeaters. Also present was Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator

Reading of minutes: N9JYI moved and W9XA seconded a motion that the minutes of the 2005 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 2005 to April 20, 2006. Last years balance was \$5,391.23. Through the year expense was \$2221.64 and income was \$2661.00. Therefore the balance as of 04/20/06 was \$5,830.59. WD9DAU moved and WD9HSY seconded a motion that the report be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

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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. He also voiced concern that there are still a number of coordination update forms that have not been completed and returned. He emphasized that when update forms are unanswered for two years it's grounds for decoordination. A discussion about several aspects of the report resulted in Aaron answering all concerns raised.

50 coordination requests processed in past year  
12 coordinations are in progress  
waiting list for NE IL: one system on file  
2nd notice for annual update mailing was beneficial for getting responses.  
Added second SMP pair set aside on 440 Mhz (441.500/+)  
SMP is coordinated to 50wt ERP/50' hgt limitation  
PL Plan being set  
Electronic Updates for coordinations being considered  
Along with technical committee chair, KA9FLX - studying on digital and narrowband implications for coordination. Noted that several digital repeater systems are coordinated and in operation with state. Recognized the value of the coordinators toolkit in use for coordination work, a software packaged engineered by Dave Karr. A motion to accept the coordinators report was made by WD9DAU and seconded by W9DWP. The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Technical Committee report: Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, reported on general activities and topics being handled. Bob emphasized the importance of valid and legitimate coordination parameters being on file for managing issues. W9XA moved that the report be accepted; seconded by N9JWI; carried by voice vote.

President's report: Rich Ranson, N9YAY, reported on NFCC status and recent "conference call" meetings, as well as an upcoming meeting at the Dayton Hamvention. Rich talked about the importance of the Illinois Repeater Association, and the healthy status of coordination in Illinois. Ranson felt the Illinois amateur "community" is in good shape, unlike other areas of the country challenged by lack of interest and competing/rogue coordinators.

Election of Officers/Directors: Two director positions (2 year term) were up for election.

Nominations were taken from floor  
KA9SZW, nominated by W9XA seconded by KC9BVT.  
WD9CIR, nominated by WD9HRU seconded by KA9KDC.  
There being no additional nominations for any of the positions W9XA made a motion that the 2 nominees be declared elected by acclamation; seconded by N9JWI; carried by voice vote.  
Therefore:  
Your Elected Board for 2005-2006:  
President-Richard Ranson, N9YAY  
Vice President- Timothy Childers, KB9FBI  
Secretary/Treasurer-Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC  
Directors- (2005-2007) Allen Wolfe-K9SI,

William Kraus-KA9FER,  
(2006-2008) Stephen Craig-WD9CIR, Steve Look-KA9SZW

Old Business: None.

New Business:  
Acceptance of amended "IRA Coordination Policy & Guidelines" which improved and clarified requirements for Decoordination. See 4/22/2006 Board Meeting Minutes for details of wording as set by IRA Board.

Motion by WD9HSY for acceptance of Coordination Policy update "Item 1"; second by N9JWI; carried by voice vote.  
Motion by WD9HSY for acceptance of Coordination Policy update "Item2". Second by WD9CIR and carried by voice vote. Motion by W9XA for acceptance of Coordination Policy update "Item3"; second by WD9HSY; carried by voice vote.

Donation for Coordinators Toolkit Software.  
\$100 : Motion by WD9HSY for acceptance of Coordination Policy update "Item3"; second by N9JWI; carried by voice vote.

Yahoo Group Establishment:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IllinoisRepeaterAssociation/> (watch the wrap)  
To be used for communication and informal discussion of membership on organization topics. IRA members should join this new group: Illinois Repeater Association

Adjournment: There being no further business before the body a motion to adjourn was made by W9XA; seconded by WD9DAU; approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am

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

## Reconvened Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2006

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was reconvened by IRA President Rich Ranson at 11:30 AM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Richard Ranson, N9YAY - Vice President Timothy Childers, KB9FBI- Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schroeder, KA9KDC - Directors: Allen Wolfe, K9SI - William Kraus, KA9FER- Stephen Look, KA9SZW, Stephen Craig, WD9CIR

IRA officers absent: None.

Committee and Frequency Coordinator Appointments: N9YAY appointed Aaron Collins, N9OZB to serve as Frequency Coordinator for the next year. KA9FER moved and KB9FBI seconded that this appointment be confirmed.

N9YAY Appointed Bob Shepard, KA9FLX to serve as IRA Technical Committee Chairman. K9SI moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion to confirm this appointment.  
N9YAY appointed Fred Seibold, W9FWS, to serve as Newsletter Editor. KA9SZW moved and KA9FER 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. K9SI moved and KA9SZW seconded a motion that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NFCC Delegate: KA9KDC moved and WD9CIR 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.

IRA Officer Badges: KB9FBI moved that badges be made for IRA board/officers and KA9FER seconded, passed by unanimous vote.

Adjournment: KA9FER moved and KA9KDC seconded that the IRA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 April 22, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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

***Be sure to keep your system parameters up to date with your Association ... otherwise you are in violation of your coordination and thus placing it at risk. The annual update forms are important to keep your system information current. Thanks!!!***

**Illinois Repeater Association, Inc.  
Board and Appointees, 2006-2007**

**President:**

Richard E. Ranson, N9YAY  
1828 Park West Drive  
Normal, IL 61761  
309-261-5741 [N9YAY@yahoo.com](mailto:N9YAY@yahoo.com)

**Vice-President**

Tim Childers, KB9FBI  
107 West Point Drive  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
217-245-2061 [kb9fbi@qsl.net](mailto:kb9fbi@qsl.net)

**Secretary-Treasurer**

Lawrence J. (Larry) Schroeder, KA9KDC  
0 N 490 Evans Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-665-3228 [schroeder@lucent.com](mailto:schroeder@lucent.com)

**Directors**

Al Wolfe, K9SI  
2266 County Road 1200N  
Sidney, IL 61877-9760  
217-688-2790 [k9si@arrl.net](mailto:k9si@arrl.net)

Bill Krause, KA9FER  
2806 East 2575 Road  
Marseilles, IL 61341  
[bkddt@mchsi.com](mailto:bkddt@mchsi.com)

Stephen (Steve) Look, KA9SZW  
774 County Farm Road  
Monticello, IL 61856  
217-762-9727 [ka9szw@arrl.net](mailto:ka9szw@arrl.net)

Stephen Craig, WD9CIR  
4122 North Grand Boulevard  
Peoria, IL 61614 [wd9cir@arrl.net](mailto:wd9cir@arrl.net)

**Frequency Coordinator**

Aaron Collins N9OZB  
1338 South Arlington Heights Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
847-640-7911 [collins@knowideas.com](mailto:collins@knowideas.com)

**Technical Committee Chair**

Robert Shepard KA9FLX  
11101 Cottonwood Dr. 1D  
Palos Hills, IL 60465 [ka9flx@arrl.net](mailto:ka9flx@arrl.net)

**Newsletter Editor**

Frederick W. Seibold W9FWS  
Post Office Box 78  
Monticello, IL 61856  
217-598-2555 [w9fws@arrl.net](mailto:w9fws@arrl.net)

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## ARRL Sues FCC; All Ham Frequencies At Risk

*Before your friendly Editor quotes a letter from the ARRL, here's a brief editorial about why this lawsuit is important to every ham. I have worked most of my adult life in commercial broadcasting, where communications attorneys are an everyday must in dealing with the FCC. With millions of Wi-Fi emitters already deployed, the political influence of non-licensed spectrum users is now greater than CB-ers. Unfortunately, only about 1 in 5 hams belongs to the ARRL. This lawsuit is, in my opinion, the most important ham spectrum legal proceeding since World War I. The FCC must be court-ordered to obey its own Rules. Learn more at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) and send money... to help ARRL save our spectrum. If you want to learn more about the history of political influence at the FCC, read FCC The Ups and Downs of Radio-TV Regulation by William Ray, ISBN 0-8138-0227-X. Mr. Ray was Chief of the Complaints and Compliance Division of the FCC for 17 years. These opinions are my own and do not necessarily represent the view of the Illinois Repeater Association.*

### From the ARRL:

The ARRL is suing the FCC. Under former Chairman Michael Powell, the Federal Communications Commission cast itself in the role of cheerleader for an over-hyped technology known as Broadband over Power Line, or BPL. BPL deliberately puts radio frequency (RF) energy on unshielded power lines. As anyone knows who understands RF, this is likely to interfere with nearby radio receivers using the same frequencies.

The radio spectrum is a priceless asset. BPL, on the other hand, is an unintentional emitter. Any RF energy that a BPL system radiates is simply spectrum pollution.

When Kevin Martin replaced Powell as Chairman, we had reason to hope that the FCC would do the right thing. With the departure of the "head cheerleader," surely the solid technical evidence and arguments we had offered would carry the day. After all, the FCC has an obligation to protect licensed radio services from unnecessary interference. There was growing evidence that interference from some BPL systems is a serious problem that is either impossible, or very expensive, to fix.

But it was not to be. The FCC's reconsideration decisions, adopted on August 3, did not improve things. When the Memorandum Opinion and Order

(MO&O) was released a few days later, we couldn't believe it - they had made matters worse!

A new FCC rule is aimed directly against mobile stations - in all services, not just amateur. The new rule, §15.611(c)(1)(iii), exempts BPL operators from having to do anything to correct interference to mobile operations other than to notch emissions to a level 20 dB (below 30 MHz) or 10 dB (above 30 MHz) below the absolute limit specified elsewhere in the rules. Here's a direct quote from the FCC ::

Where an Access BPL operator implements such notching, we will not provide further protection to mobile operations, nor will we require the operator to resolve complaints of harmful interference to mobile operations by taking steps over and above implementing the "notch."

Consider what this means. If a BPL system blankets an area with interference, the FCC will require nothing of the BPL system operator beyond putting a 10- or 20-dB notch on the frequency used by a complaining mobile operator.

This isn't just a proposal. It's a rule that is now in effect. With one stroke, the rights of FCC licensees have been subordinated to those of spectrum polluters!

The BPL rules adopted in 2004 were bad enough. The rules adopted in 2006 are intolerable. **Never before has an unintentional emitter been given a free pass to interfere with licensed radio services.**

Here's the problem. Even if BPL disappears from the scene tomorrow, the FCC's preference for unlicensed, unintentional emitters over the interests of its licensees will remain on the books. **Bad rules left unchallenged will lead to even worse rules later.**

The FCC was heading in the wrong direction under Michael Powell. It's continuing in the wrong direction under Kevin Martin. Reasoned technical arguments backed up by overwhelming evidence have not altered the FCC's errant course.

So, on October 10, 2006 the law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (WilmerHale) joined ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay in filing a Petition for Review on behalf of the ARRL in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mounting a serious challenge to a federal agency is expensive. Attorneys who specialize in this work must be retained - and the attorneys at WilmerHale are the best in the business. A careful review of the FCC's records must be performed. Complex technical issues must be made understandable to a panel of judges who are not telecommunications experts. Exhibits must be prepared. Arguments must be selected and fine-tuned.

Your financial support of the Spectrum Defense Fund is vital to help fund this appeal.

**Please support the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)**

## Inside this Issue:

Your Illinois Repeater Association Annual Meeting Saturday April 21

Eastland Suites, Bloomington. Complete information inside.

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting and Board Meetings

Information You Need From Your Frequency Coordinator

Red Cross Background Investigations—A Caution From ARRL

ARRL Sues FCC To Save Ham Frequencies From Spectrum Pollution

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

CHAMPAIGN IL 618  
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**Annual Meeting Notice**  
**April 21, 2007**

**Are your dues paid?**  
**Check label for "2007"**

**First Class Mail**

N9OZB 2006-RENEW NOW!  
N9OZB  
Aaron A. Collins  
1338 S. Arlington Heights Rd  
Arlington Hts, IL 60005

