

Illinois Repeater Association



Affiliated

The Recognized Amateur Radio Frequency Coordination Organization In The State of Illinois

Provide fair and consistent coordination in a timely manner for Illinois repeater owners

April 2016

Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor

Meeting April 16 2016 New Location!

The 2016 Illinois Repeater Association meeting is Saturday, April 16, in Champaign, IL. The Board of Directors searched for a location having a lower cost to hold the meeting. Fortunately, Al Wolfe, K9SI, was able to arrange the use of his church in Champaign at no cost. In addition, the Twin City Amateur Radio Club in Champaign agreed to provide manpower to set up and tear down the meeting room. Also, the club will provide coffee and donuts at no cost to the IRA. This is a huge savings over past years when commercial space was rented. Champaign is not far from Bloomington and meets the requirement of being centrally located,

The Board has seen a drop in membership and an increase in costs over the past few years, so this change is a lifesaver.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this important meeting. We hope to see most of the repeaters in the state represented, [Click here for location details.](#)

Meeting Highlights

Here are the highlights for the April 16 Meeting:

- 9:00 a.m. Doors open
 - Pay dues if not yet paid
 - Registration
 - Visit with other repeater representatives
 - Coffee, Juice, and donuts
- 10:00 a.m. Meeting starts
 - Introductions
 - Approve [2015 meeting minutes](#)
 - Approve Treasurer's Report
 - Approve Frequency Coordinator Report
 - Approve Technical Committee Report
 - President's Report
 - Election of 2 Board of Directors
 - Open discussion on pressing issues
 - Comments from members

Adjourn by 1:00, usually closer to 12

The 2 Board positions are currently held by Steve Craig, WD9CIR, and Milt Forsberg, K9QZI. Steve is from Peoria and Milt is from Champaign. Both are willing to serve another 2 year term, if elected. All Board elections are for a 2 year period. The offices of President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer, along with 2 Board Members are up for election next year. Nominations from the floor will be open prior to the vote.

The Illinois Repeater Association

Here is a short description of the Illinois Repeater Association and how it functions. Also, we hope to dispel ideas of duties and powers that are not part of the IRA.

The IRA is a group of all volunteers working to create harmony among the Amateur Radio repeaters in Illinois, as well as neighboring states.

The most critical position is the Frequency Coordinator. He receives requests for frequency pairs and determines if there will be any interference with other repeaters. Not only is there concern for Illinois, but we must coordinate with surrounding states if the proposed repeater is close to a border. All of this takes time. For nearby states, a note is sent to the coordinator of that state, looking for a reply within 30 days. Special software is necessary to plot locations and determine possible interference. At present, the IRA uses a software package created by Dave Karr, KA9FUR, who coordinates repeaters in Wisconsin. If no interference possibilities are found, the frequency pair will be granted. Unfortunately, 2 areas of the state have few or no frequencies available due to the number of coordinated repeaters. They are around Chicago and St. Louis. There are waiting lists should a repeater be shut down. If any repeaters, particularly in those locations, are no longer operating, the IRA will appreciate a notice so the frequency pair can be re-coordinated.

Membership in the IRA is not required to be coordinated. However, it is greatly appreciated. With annual dues at only \$20 per year, it should not be a hardship. The funds are used for IRA operation only. Postage and printing costs are necessary, as are coordination software updates, and the annual meeting is also funded with dues. No equipment is owned by the IRA. To keep the funds and coordination separate, dues are to be sent to the Treasurer while coordination paperwork is sent to the Coordinator. It is only with the financial support by your repeaters that the IRA can function. We appreciate your support and hope that all Illinois repeaters will join the IRA.

IRA Officers and Directors

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Bill Kraus KA9FER |
| Vice President | Tim Childers KB9FBI |
| Secretary/Treasurer | Will Sperling K9WSS |

Board of Directors Term 2014-2016

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Milt Forsberg K9QZI | Steve Craig WD9CIR |
|---------------------|--------------------|

Term 2015-2017

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Al Wolfe K9SI | Jerry Sebok N9RBQ |
| Frequency Coordinator | Aaron Collins N9OZB |
| Technical Chairman | Greg Buchwald K9QI |
| Newsletter Editor | Milt Forsberg K9QZI |

What the IRA Does Not Do

The IRA is not a policing body. The function of the organization is to provide assistance to repeater owners in locating a frequency pair that will not conflict with others in the area of operation. Repeaters are not required to be coordinated, but should there be an interference problem, the FCC states that an uncoordinated repeater must change frequency or terminate operation. The IRA provides an excellent service to repeater owners to avoid interference. The coordinator can recommend the best frequency pair to use in any location. The coordinator spends a tremendous amount of time processing requests and notifying applicants. This is a volunteer position, with no pay.

The IRA does not attempt to patrol the airwaves. If interference is reported, IRA officials may investigate, but do not have the power to order repeaters to make changes. However, if the original coordination was modified (power, location, etc.) then re-coordination will be required. Results may be different than the original coordination. If re-coordination is not completed, then the coordination for that repeater pair will be terminated, leaving the repeater uncoordinated. The IRA will not referee disputes between repeater owners. Advice is available, technical information can be provided, but that is the extent of the IRA power.

Recommendations for use of regional CTCSS tones are available from the IRA. Due to the number of repeaters in service, there can be occasional interference during enhanced propagation. To avoid this, use of regional tones is highly encouraged. Use of CTCSS tones is not a requirement, but it makes for much better communications.

A requirement to remain coordinated is to file an annual report from the repeater owner or representative. This report is sent to the IRA Coordinator. Failure to report can result in de-coordination as it will appear that the repeater is no longer operating. Normally a grace period of 2 years applies, which takes care of forgotten reports. A form is mailed to each repeater owner and all the owner need do is to sign and date it and return it to the coordinator.

All IRA functions are intended to assist in making for enjoyable communications over all repeaters in the State of Illinois. There may be some give and take, but the end result is worth the effort. Please remember that the IRA Board is working for you through your elected representatives. The annual meeting is the time to ask questions, make requests, and elect your directors. This is another good reason to belong to the IRA. The meeting is open to all, but, of course, only active members may vote.

We look forward to seeing you at the April 16 meeting!

[IRA Annual Meeting April 16 2016](#)

Windsor Road Christian Church
2501 W Windsor Rd Champaign IL
Talk in 146.76/162.2 W9YR 443.48125 D-Star