

# Illinois Repeater Association

Newsletter

Volume 24

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Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Editor

## Annual Meeting For 2008 Saturday, April 19 In Bloomington

The annual meeting of the Illinois Repeater Association will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the 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. It is the same location we have used the past several years.

The Conference Center is located at Eastland Drive and Prospect just off Veterans Parkway (Business I55). 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 2008 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

*Editor's note: In previous issues of the IRA newsletter, we have urged giving to the Spectrum Defense Fund. In this issue are more reasons to do so NOW. First we hear from Chris Imlay, the communications attorney who represents the ARRL as well as the SBE, the Society of Broadcast Engineers. Here is part of his column in the February, 2008, issue of Signal, the SBE magazine:*

### Faith, Hope, and Clarity

by Chris Imlay, SBE General Counsel

OK, time to take off the gloves and let's get down to it. My old buddy Richard Rudman, former SBE President and a person less cynical than I am, nevertheless is often heard reciting the Golden Rule, which as we all know by now is that "He who has the gold, rules." It appears that cynical assessment is no more true than on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the FCC. There, even the most ridiculous, el stinko ideas for the use of RF can be made to smell like Chanel #5 if advocated often enough and if enough money is thrown at the lobbying effort. Clarity Media Systems, a subsidiary of Flying J Truck Stops, is today's case in point.

You have heard of SBE's effort to protect the BAS 2 Ghz band from the Clarity Media Systems, LLC, plan to use the entire 2 Ghz band at Flying J Truck Stops around the country. Dane Ericson has labeled this "Trucker TV," because that is literally what it is. You have heard that Clarity, fueled (pun intended) by massive funding from Flying J, has attempted to do spectrum allocation (read "spectrum grab") not by rulemaking, as everyone else has to do, but by a series of waivers, (257 of them, to be precise) in applications for short-range transmissions at truck stops....end quote.

## FCC Announces Studies About Revenue From Making Licensed Users Bid Against Unlicensed Users For Spectrum

.....quoting from FCC Daily Digest 29 Feb 2008  
The Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis (OSP) today released three working papers on two important spectrum management issues: Working Paper #41, "Enhancing Spectrum's Value Via Market-informed Congestion Etiquettes" and Working Paper #42, "Modeling the Efficiency of Spectrum Designated to License Use and Unlicensed Operations," examine ways in which spectrum designated to licensed and unlicensed use can be more efficiently used. Working Paper #43, "A Market-based Approach to Establishing Licensing Rules: Licensed Versus Unlicensed Use of Spectrum," examines the feasibility of employing a market mechanism to determine whether spectrum should be designated to either licensed or unlicensed use.

These papers represent the individual views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the FCC, any FCC Commissioner, or other staff members.

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The allocation between licensed and unlicensed use, however, is based on the FCC's judgment, which in turn relies on information provided by interested parties seeking to use the spectrum. **One method of reducing the incentive that parties have to exaggerate the value they place on a given licensing regime involves creating a market for such rules.** The study examines the feasibility of using a "clock auction" to determine, based on bids submitted by market participants for the corresponding licensing rules, the efficient allocation of a given amount of spectrum between licensed and unlicensed spectrum use. The full text of each working paper is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/osp/workingp.html>.  
.....end quote from FCC Daily Digest

## Minutes Of IRA Board Meeting 20 April 2007

The Illinois Repeater Association Board of Directors meeting for April 20, 2007 was called to order by IRA President Rich Ranson at 9:15 PM 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, K9SI; William Kraus, KA9FER; Stephen Look, KA9SZW; Stephen Craig, WD9CIR; Staff Present: Aaron Collins, N9OZB, Frequency Coordinator; Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, Technical Committee Chairman; Fred Seibold, W9FWS, Newsletter Editor. Guests Present: Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin Frequency Coordinator. Minutes of Previous Meetings: K9SI moved and KB9FER seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published in the newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Treasurer's Report: Secretary/ Treasurer, KA9KDC, read the treasurer's for the period of April 2006 to April 20, 2007. Association account balance as of 4-20-2007 was \$5659.74. Through the year expenses were \$2309.85 and income was \$2139.00. KB9FBI moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion that the report be accepted. The motion carried by voice vote.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Frequency Coordinators Report : Aaron Collins, N9OZB, IL Frequency Coordinator gave a review of past years coordination and actions.

Technical Committee Report : Bob Shepard, KA9FLX gave a summary of issues and active topics related to coordination. Discussion of a emerging technology, concerns and coordination guidelines for digital repeaters, proposed plans for technologies that utilize narrow FM in terms of separation & coordination covered in new business.

A motion to accept the committee reports was made by KA9KDC and seconded by KA9FER. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

Several of the board members identified

address and corrections for  
Tim Childers of  
kb9fbi@arrl.net  
- 4112 N Grand  
Board signatures  
Illinois registered  
transfer of corporate  
Isely to Larry Schr  
New Business :  
KA9FLX - continued  
Tech Committee presentation on digital  
technology & repeater systems  
coordination. Bob Shepard presented  
proposal for spacing systems w/narrow  
FM bandwidths, such as DSTAR in  
present 2 meter and 70cm band plans.  
Board supported Bob's efforts, and a  
present for the proposals will be given  
during the general membership meeting.  
Based on the technical factors presented,  
additional trials for the potential spacing  
recommendations will be led by Kermit  
Carlson, W9XA with several DSTAR  
based digital systems [in West & North  
suburban areas of Chicago, including  
FRRL & NSRC] in coming months.

Bob will post key components of the  
proposal on the IL repeater association  
internet site. The board agreed that this  
proposal should include noted copyright  
information to avoid other groups from  
misuse or misunderstanding.

Discussed guidelines for handling of  
existing repeater coordinations, when a  
request is made for narrow coordination  
- such as a conventional repeater that  
desires to shift to STAR or other narrow  
digital technologies. the board agreed  
to have a 1 year period of conversion  
allowance for conventional coordinations  
who request to convert to digital/narrow  
coordinations over, after that time the  
coordination will be for the narrower  
channel. Further discussion occurred  
on mixed P25/analog mode repeaters and  
present packet/digital repeaters which  
occupy standard FM coordinated  
repeater "channels", it was recognized  
that a number of such repeaters exist  
within Illinois and that the IRA has  
always fairly handled all coordinations  
whether they be analog or digital.

Adjournment: KA9KDC moved and  
KA9FER seconded that the IRA Board  
of Directors' Meeting be recessed until

after the annual meeting on April 20,  
2007. Motion passed by unanimous  
voice vote. The meeting was recessed at  
1:00 AM. Respectfully submitted, Larry  
Schroeder, KA9KDC,  
Secretary/Treasurer, Illinois Repeater  
Association Inc.

## Minutes Of IRA Annual Meeting 21 April 2007

Call to order: 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 56 persons in  
attendance representing 88 unique  
repeater sponsors. Also present was  
Dave Karr, KA9FUR, Wisconsin  
Frequency Coordinator

### Approval of prior meeting minutes:

W9XA moved and WD9HSY seconded  
a motion that the minutes of the 2006  
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 2006 to April 20, 2007.  
Association account balance as of 4-20-  
2007 was \$5659.74. Through the year  
expenses were \$2309.85 and income was  
\$2139.00. As of April 20th (before  
meeting) there were 122 IRA members,  
with 94 paid through '07, 12 through '08,  
9 through '09, 5 through '10, and 2  
through '11. N9JWI moved and N9ZD  
seconded a motion that the report be  
accepted. The motion carried by voice  
vote.

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.  
Aaron noted that the effort taken to have  
.....continued on Page 3

a 2nd notice mailing for annual update had beneficial results for getting a number of repeaters to provide more accurate information, as well as reduce the number of systems that are at risk of decoordination for failing to provide annual updates.

Aaron highlighted the value of the "coordinators toolkit" software is in performing coordination work. This is a software package engineered by Dave Karr, WI Freq Coordinator.

Waiting list for 2m systems (Northern IL) is presently 3.

A motion to accept the coordinators report was made by WD9HSY and seconded by KB9ZRZU. The motion passed by voice vote.

Technical Committee report: Robert Shepard, KA9FLX, reported that details of years technical committee efforts was covered by the Coordinator report. Bob did stress that repeater coordination information needs to be technically correct and accurate to improve the associations efforts in handling coordination actions, in particular he noted that numerous systems have incorrect ERP calculation/data, and physical specifications for their site.

Presentation on digital technologies for repeater and respective coordination handling proposals would be given in New Business.

President's report: Rich Ranson, N9YAY, IRA president summarized his view of 2006-2007 activities of the organization, thanking the board and committee chairs for their work. In particular for Aaron Collins' work on frequency coordination. Rich discussed NFCC role. A motion to accept the President's report was made by W9XA and seconded by W9JWL. The motion passed by voice vote.

Election of Officers/Directors: Nominations were taken from floor President N9YAY, nominated by W9MAF; Vice-President KB9FBI, nominated by WA9RTI; Secretary/Treasurer KA9KDC, nominated by W9XA; Director (two - 2 yr term slots ) K9SI, nominated by N9RBQ; KA9FER, nominated by KC6VVT. W9XA made a motion that all nominees be declared elected. The motion was seconded by WD9HSY and carried by voice vote. Therefore: Your Elected Board for 2007-2008: President-Rich Ranson-N9YAY; Vice President-Tim Childers-KB9FBI; Secretary/Treasurer- Larry Schroeder-KA9KDC; Directors-(2006-2008) Stephen Craig-WD9CIR, Steve Look-KA9SZW; (2007-2009) Al Wolfe-K9SI, KA9FER-William Kraus.

Old Business: Discussed location for IRA annual meetings. general consensus that the EASTLAND SUTTES facility, Bloomington, IL continues to be a good location. 2008 meeting will be arranged for the same facilities (2008 Meeting will be April 19, 2008).

New Business: Following a technical presentation on digital & narrowband repeater technology and related spacing and coordination considerations by KA9FLX (slides to be available on IRA web site).

The following recommendations from the April 20-2007 IRA Board meeting were presented:

1. The board recommends the addition of emission designator as a condition of coordination.
2. The board recommends adoption of narrowband guidelines for coordination of narrowband systems.
3. The board recommends that an existing analog coordination holder who wishes to seek a change in coordinated emission designator be allowed to retain their analog coordination for a period of up to one year from the date of the change.

Motion to accept the coordination recommendations by W9XA, Seconded by N9RBQ. Passed by voice vote.

W9SRV recommended that Rich present our digital/narrowband plans to the NFCC.

W9XA stated thanks to the technical committee and coordinator for their support of technical trials & experiments related to band plans for digital systems, such as DSTAR.

Repeater Coordination software: KA9ZRZU made a motion to donate \$200 to Dave Karr, developer for the coordination toolkit, Seconded by W9FWS. Motion passed by voice vote.

After discussion of value for coordinator to have good computer-based topographic data, WD9HSY motioned for \$200 allocation for Frequency Coordinator to acquire Topographic mapping software. KA9ZRZU seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

Suggestion recorded from floor discussion that IRA Web Site include a FAQ and technical section that provides information and guidance on topics related to coordination, such as calculating ERP, problem resolution procedures, etc.

General discussion topics (no specific recommendations or motions): "PL PLAN"; Interference issues

Adjournment: There being no further business before the body a motion to adjourn was made by N9JWI and seconded by W9FWS and approved by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. 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 Staff, 2007-2008**

**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@arrl.net](mailto:kb9fbi@arrl.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  
4112 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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## Minutes Of Board Meeting 21 April 2007

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called to order by IRA President Rich Ranson at 11:45 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. KA9SZW moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion to confirm this appointment.

N9YAY appointed Fred Seibold, W9FWS, to serve as Newsletter Editor. K9SI 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.

KA9KDC moved and KA9SZW seconded a motion that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

NFCC Delegate: K9SI 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.

Adjournment: KA9SZW moved and WD9CIR seconded that the IRA Board of Directors meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:47AM April 21, 2007. Respectfully submitted,

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

**Mark Your Calendar  
Now For April 19 IRA  
Annual Meeting In  
Bloomington. Be There  
And Give Your Input.  
It's YOUR Association!!**

**Are your dues paid?  
Check label for "2008"**

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

**Annual Meeting Notice**  
**Saturday**  
**April 19, 2008**

**Are your dues paid?**  
**Check label for "2008"**

**First Class Mail**

N9OZB      **Renewal is DUE! 2007**  
N9OZB  
Aaron A. Collins  
1338 S. Arlington Heights Rd  
Arlington Hts, IL      60005

