

Illinois Repeater Association



*** NEWSLETTER ***

NFCC
Charter Member

Volume 12 - August 1999

IRA OFFICERS REELECTED

The good news out of the 1999 Annual Meeting is... all the IRA officers were reelected. The bad news from this same meeting is... all the IRA officers were reelected. (Minutes published elsewhere in this issue.) The IRA membership is obviously content with the way the association is being run or they would have made some changes at the top. On the other hand, it can be observed that perhaps no one wants these jobs? Hopefully, it is the first reason that prevailed at this meeting.

Considering that there were no earth-shaking proposals to be considered, the turn-out was pretty good. Satisfying the quorum requirement has never been a problem at the annual meeting because of the IRA proxy voting system. But obtaining a good geographical cross-section of the membership has been troublesome in the past. For the second year in a row, this has not been a big problem. All that can really be said about this issue is let's keep up our attendance from all areas of the state. Your officers really appreciate your in-person attendance at this meeting.

The other items voted on were: an authorization to buy Adobe Acrobat™ publishing software for electronic newsletter publication, a resolution asking the ARRL Board of Directors to co-sponsor the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) Proposal for Rule-Making, and an amendment to the proposed repeater reduced-spacing agreement with Wisconsin. The first two items were unanimously approved. The third was in response to a request from the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters to include the coordination of remote receive sites in the agreement. The amendment was approved. The exact text of this - now approved - agreement is published elsewhere in this issue.

REDUCED-SPACING AGREEMENT APPROVED

By Dick Isely, W9GIG

Both IRA and War officials have ironed out the final details with the last one being approved by the IRA membership at the Annual Meeting this last April. It has taken over three years to get it done, but all that now remains is the formal signing of the agreement to allow the coordination of reduced space co-channel repeaters along the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The text of this agreement follows:

In order to accommodate increasing requests for Amateur Radio repeater frequency pairs in the Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin metropolitan areas, The Illinois Repeater Association, Inc. (IRA) and the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) agree to the reduction of the geographic spacing of coordinated co-channel frequency pairs to less than the 120 statute mile MACC-recommended standard as follows:

144 Mhz band 90 statute miles
220 Mhz band 80 statute miles
440 Mhz band 60 statute miles
902 Mhz band 60 statute miles
1.2 Ghz band & higher 60 statute miles

The first and second adjacent channel spacings shall remain the same for each of these bands.

The following technical parameters are required to use these reduced co-channel spacings:

1. Full-time CTCSS or equivalent encode/decode technology.
2. 250 Watts ERP maximum.
3. Antenna height limited to a maximum of 300 ft. above average terrain.
4. Remote receivers shall require coordination if they are located greater than one-third of the distance between reduced-spaced co-channel repeaters and they are located within

twenty miles of the Illinois/Wisconsin State Line.

For all short-spaced cross-border coordinations, the IRA and WAR shall exchange the following repeater coordination data, in addition to that recommended in the *Mid-America Coordination Council Coordination Guidelines*:

1. Antenna height above MSL and AGL.
2. Output power in Watts ERP.
3. Transmitter latitude and longitude to the nearest tenth of a minute.
4. CTCSS or equivalent access code(s).

MACC REELECTS ALL OFFICERS

For the first time in its history, the Mid-America Coordination Council (MACC) conducted its bi-annual officers' election via the Internet. All the current officers were reelected for two more years by acclamation after an on-line nominating process failed to generate any contests. In the past, MACC has held an annual in-person meeting to review and act on issues affecting its members.

From its beginning, the NFCC has conducted almost all its business using the Internet. If all IRA members used email, perhaps at least routine IRA membership business could be done using electronic means. There is no doubt that the social aspect of a face-to-face meeting is missed and "body language" can be an important factor in the conduct of meetings. But electronic meetings do save all the participants money.

IRA INFORMATION

IRA Web Site

<http://www.enteract.com/~ira>

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IRA Repeater List Publication Policy

1. Permission must be granted in advance of publication. The request for such shall be in (paper) writing. As long as the request is within the parameters described below, the IRA President shall be able to grant permission without the consent of the board of directors. If the request is outside of these parameters, the Board of Directors shall then decide.
2. Publication of the IRA Repeater List shall be done only by the IRA or by persons or organizations licensed to publish it by the IRA.
3. IRA members, or IRA member organizations, shall be granted permission to publish the IRA list, free of any charge, as long as such publication is for circulation to only the organization's members (maximum copies equals membership), or in the case of an individual, to only that individual's immediate circle of friends (25 copies maximum). Publication and/or circulation outside of these limits shall be deemed a commercial (for-profit) activity, and a license fee may be assessed at the discretion of the IRA Board of Directors.
4. Other individuals and organizations may publish the IRA Repeater List only after payment of a license fee negotiated by the IRA President and approved by the IRA Board of Directors.
5. The IRA Repeater List shall be published in its entirety except that it may be published for only a specified frequency band. Such exception shall be made part of the specific license.
6. All publication licenses shall be for one year from the date of publication of the repeater list or until stocks of the publication are exhausted, whichever occurs first. Publication of later IRA Repeater Lists requires another license.

Approved: IRA Board of Directors
April 1, 1998

EMAIL ADDRESSES WANTED

By Dick Isely, W9GIG

Thanks to the Internet, the age of really cheap text messaging is here. Many amateur radio organizations, including the ARRL, are taking advantage of this medium. Rather than treat the Internet as an enemy of amateur radio, they are using it to provide better and faster service to their members. The Illinois Repeater Association has been slow to fully utilize the Internet. But if enough of you respond, this could change in the very near future.

Do you have an email address? If you, or your club, are the holder of an IRA frequency coordination and have access to email, the Illinois Repeater Association wants your email address. Consideration is being given to setting up electronic mailing of the *Annual Report Form* to those coordination holders having this ability. And for IRA members, the newsletter could also be sent via email to those wanting it in this form. The association would save on postage and printing costs, and you would receive IRA mailings much faster and be able to respond almost instantly. No more chewed up, run over, or otherwise mutilated newsletters. No more lost correspondence. No more postage rate increases!

Please send a brief email message to Dick Isely at dick@pobox.com, Bob Koch at ka9fcf@enteract.com, and Carl Bergstedt at cberg@grayfox.svs.com. They will "capture" your email address and add it to the database. And when you fill out a new *IRA Information Form*, or respond to an *Annual Report Request*, please include your email address in the designated spot.

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 17, 1999

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek, W9QBH at 10:00 AM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois .

Attendance Report: IRA Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF reported that 69 members in good standing were in attendance in person, by delegation, or by written proxy. Thirty eight attendees were owners and/or designated delegates of 62 repeater owners and/or repeater groups. In addition 7 delegates presented properly signed proxies.

Introduction of Officers and Attendees: W9QBH asked that each officer introduce himself. Each attendee then introduced himself/herself and identified the repeater(s) they represented.

Reading of Minutes: N9JWI moved and W9GG seconded that the minutes of the 1998 annual meeting be approved as published in the September 1998 newsletter. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF reported that the balance as of the 1998 annual meeting was 3,787.75. During the past year income was 2,492.39 and expense was 2,249.91. The balance in the bank as of 04/15/99 was 4,030.23.

W9GG moved and WD9DAU seconded that the report be approved. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Newsletter: Newsletter Editor Dick Isely, W9GIG discussed setting up electronic publication of the *IRA Newsletter*. He proposed splitting the cost of the *Adobe Acrobat* authoring software with a local radio club, The Fox River Radio League, for which W9GIG also publishes a newsletter. W9GG moved and KD6TVP seconded that W9GIG be authorized to purchase the software. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Coordinator's Report: Frequency Coordinator Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW reported the past years activity included 143 items of activity, 39 of which required coordination. Two troublesome coordination problems were cleared up. K9VXW highlighted the **return the annual update forms is a requirement of continued coordination**. There are currently 36 repeaters that are candidates for automatic decoordination as a result of being off the air for over 160 days and/or not replying to the annual update forms for two years. Some of the update forms have been returned by the USPS as addressee not known, although they were sent to the address currently on file with the IRA and the FCC.

W9GG moved and N9JWI seconded that the report be approved. Motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Technical Committee Report: Technical Committee Chairman Chris Clark, KC9ZI reported that he is currently updating a list of repeaters that are off the air or not operating in compliance with the parameters under which they were coordinated. He also reminded all that to be on the waiting list for a frequency pair the application must be renewed yearly.

WA9RTI moved and WD9HSY seconded that the report be approved. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MACC Report: Dick Isely, W9GIG reported that the Mid-America Coordination Council has not been very active since the advent of the National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC). He went on to say that MACC was currently in the process of holding its bi-annual meeting using email for the first time. MACC may be dissolved in another couple of years if the establishment of the NFCC as the preeminent Amateur Radio frequency coordination council of coordination entities is successful.

NFCC Report: Dick Isely, W9GIG provided an update of the NFCC's activities in the last year. The NFCC is now in the final stages of preparing its Proposal for Rule-Making (PRM) to be submitted to the Federal Communications Commission. The gathering of coordination "horror stories" for the PRM

Appendix is about to start. This material will be used as evidence to convince the ARRL board to co-sponsor the PRM and to justify the PRM to the FCC. W9GIG then asked the IRA to approve a resolution supporting the NFCC PRM.

Election of Officers and Directors: All to serve two year terms;

President:---- Robert Hajek, W9QBH was nominated by KA9FCF, seconded by WD9CIR. KA9FCF moved and N9JWI seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Vice-President:---- George Isely, W9GIG was nominated by KC9ZI, seconded by WD9HSY. N9JWI moved and W9KZM seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Secretary/Treasurer:----Robert Koch, KA9FCF was nominated by WF9V, seconded by WA9RTI. KD6TVP moved and KF9XK seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Director:----Larry Schreoder, KA9KDC was nominated by W9GG, seconded by W9GIG.

Director:----Tim Childers, KB9FBI was nominated by KC9ZI, seconded by K9VXW.

W9GG moved and WD9HSY seconded that nominations be closed. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

N9EAO moved and WD9CIR seconded a motion that all nominees be elected by acclamation. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Illinois/Wisconsin Reduced-Spacing Agreement: Dick Isely, W9GIG reviewed the progress and history of this repeater reduced-spacing agreement. The agreement is based on the parameters developed and approved by the IRA over the past two years. In December, 1998, the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters membership approves all of the terms of our proposed agreement providing the IRA agrees to coordinate remote receive sites for cross-border reduced-spaced repeaters. The Wisconsin organization questions the need for mandatory PL encode and decode, but will accept this requirement if the IRA agrees to remote receive site coordination.

After a lengthy discussion, WD9DAU moved and WD9HSY seconded the motion to add the following paragraph to the reduced-spacing agreement:

“Remote receivers shall require coordination if they are located greater than one-third of the distance between reduced-spaced co-channel repeaters and they are located within twenty miles of the Illinois/Wisconsin State Line.”

The motion carried by voice vote, with five nay votes.

NFCC Proposed Rule Making Resolution: W9GG moved and WA9RTI seconded the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Illinois Repeater Association supports the National Frequency Coordination Council’s Proposal for FCC Rule Making as drafted and urges the American Radio Relay League Board of Directors to co-sponsor this proposal.”

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Previous Year’s Board Actions: WB9LRK moved and W9KZM seconded a motion to approve the actions by the board of directors for the previous year. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: W9GG moved and WA9RTI seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES

April 16, 1999

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek at 8:46 PM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Robert Hajek, W9QBH - Vice-President George Isely, W9GIG - Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF - Directors: Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC - Dennis McCann, W9UH - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS.

Staff Present: Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW, frequency coordinator and Chris Clark, KC9ZI, Technical Committee Chairman.

Others Present: Mike McCarthy, N9EAO

Minutes of Previous Meetings: W9GIG moved and KA9KDC seconded a motion to approve the minutes as previously published. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurers Report: Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF reported that the balance as of the 1998 annual meeting was 3,787.75. During the past year income was 2,492.39 and expense was 2,249.91. The balance in the bank as of 04/15/99 was 4,030.23.

W9UH moved and KB9FBI seconded the report be accepted. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Frequency Coordinators Report: (insert text) ... a long discussion about the non-response of coordination-holders to the Annual Report Notice ensued. K9VXW wants to send out one more warning letter before any of these systems are automatically decoordinated.

W9GIG volunteered to edit reorganize the various IRA coordination policies into one coherent document that the board could then discuss and modify next summer. W9QBH pointed out that any changes to the policies so edited and codified would require

membership approval. Target date for the completion of this re-write project will be the end of August, 1999. If membership approval is required, it will be planned for the April, 2000 Annual Meeting.

Technical Committee Report: KC9ZI...(insert text) stated that a lot of the issues before him could be better dealt with by the frequency coordinator. W9QBH responded that the coordinator's job is to deal with routine coordination matters, maintain the coordination database, and provide data to the IRA newsletter editor and ARRL and other parties when authorized to do so. The board asked KC9ZI to research and update his list of potential candidates for decoordination hearings.

MACC and NFCC Report: W9GIG reported on current activities of both organizations.

Illinois/Wisconsin Reduced-Space Agreement: W9GIG reviewed the status of negotiations on a repeater reduced spacing agreement with the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) . In December, 1998, the WAR membership voted to approve this agreement if the IRA would agree to include the coordination of remote receive sites in the document. A long and lively discussion of this topic followed. The board finally agreed to ask the membership to approve coordination of remote receive sites under the following conditions:

Remote receivers shall require coordination if they are located greater than one-third of the distance between the reduced-spaced co-channel repeaters, and they are located within 20 miles of the Illinois/Wisconsin State Line.

IRA Website: W9GIG stated that the website does not require frequent updating, but it be done in a timely manner. The board needs to establish policies to ensure that this is done.

Adjournment: KE9WS moved and W9UH seconded that the IRA Board of Directors' Meeting be adjourned. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted ,

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

BOARD of DIRECTORS MINUTES

April 17, 1999

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Repeater Association was called to order by IRA President Robert Hajek at 12:16 PM at the Best Western, Eastland Suites Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

IRA Officers Present: President Robert Hajek, W9QBH - Vice-President George Isely, W9GIG - Secretary/Treasurer Robert Koch, KA9FCF - Directors: Larry Schroeder, KA9KDC - Dennis McCann, W9UH - Tim Childers, KB9FBI - Jack Frank, KE9WS.

Committee and Frequency Coordinator Appointments: W9QBH appointed Carl Bergstedt, K9VXW to serve as Frequency Coordinator, and Chris Clark, KC9ZI to serve as IRA Technical Committee Chairman. W9GIG moved and W9UH seconded a motion to confirm these appointments. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MACC Director Appointments: W9QBH appointed himself and W9GIG to serve as MACC Directors for the next 12 months, and K9VXW to serve as MACC Frequency Coordinator for the same time period. KB9FBI moved and KE9WS seconded that the IRA Board of Directors confirm these appointments. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

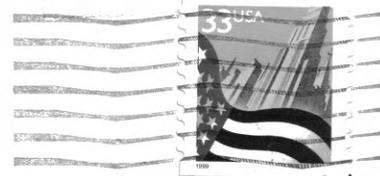
NFCC Delegate: W9UH moved and KB9FBI seconded a motion that: "The IRA President shall cast all NFCC ballots on behalf of the IRA, and that the IRA Vice President shall do so in the absence or incapacity of the IRA President, or by the direction of the IRA President." Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment: W9GIG moved and KA9KDC seconded that the IRA Board of Directors meeting adjourn. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted ,

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

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Member: Mid-America Coordination Council, Inc.