

Report on the July 18, 2009 ARCA Repeater Owners Meeting at the Williams Hamfest

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 AM By Chairman Lance Halle KW7LH. Approximately 30 were present, representing 35 Arizona repeaters. Sign in sheets with space for repeater information were passed out.

No one responded to an opportunity to get on the agenda and there were no Guests.

Current coordinations by band and coordinator were reported as follows.

A: Gary Duffield	Wk7B	6m	15
B: Rick Tannehill	W7RT	2m	183
C: Scott Cowling	WA2DFI	222mHz	36
D: Doug Pelly	WB7TUJ	420-440	195
E: Dennis Mills	WA7ZZT	440-450	287
F: Dave Hall	N7ZPY	900mHz	36
G: Tom Sharp	WA9OXY	1200mHz	22
H: Troy Hall	WA7ELN	2gHz & up	11
I: George Strickworth	WA3PNT	Packet	78

Announcements were:

- 1) Anyone wanting a copy of their current coordination record may do so by giving the coordinator or chairman card or note with call & freq or putting a note on the sign in sheet. They may also request by email or regular mail.
- 2) Reminder - Repeater listings are available on the coordination web page, by band, or as a "complete" listing of all bands. The complete listing is available in PDF Individual band listings are updated frequently, but the "complete" listing is only updated annually
- 3) It is vital to fill out applications COMPLETELY & ACCURATELY and send them to coordinators@azfreqcoord.org. They may also be mailed to the individual coordinator. Those addresses are on the web page.

Old Business:

- 1) The owners were reminded there are no more non published listings, in part because in the event of a dispute, the FCC looks to public directories such as the ARRL Repeater directory and coordinator's websites to verify coordination. If the coordination is not published, the repeater may not have the benefits of coordination.
- 2) Repeater owners were reminded that it is their responsibility to keep their coordinations current. We will try to send out reminders every 2 years, but final responsibility is with the owner/trustee of each repeater.
- 3) Rick Tannehill W7RT reported that there are no more 2m analog freqs available in the greater Phoenix area or on mountains that talk into Phoenix. A waiting list has been started. Backyard and D-Star are still available.

New Business:

- 1) Per ARCA bylaws, a vote of confidence from the repeater owners for the coordinators and chairman was requested. Vote passed with no nay's.
- 2) A recommendation for a policy modification was submitted by Dennis Mills WA7ZZT. It read in part:

If the request (for coordination update) is not returned in a reasonable time, or the repeater owner or trustee can not be contacted by using the information in the data base (which is generated from the coordination application or information that has been updated), then the benefit of having their repeater listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory and on the WEB site of Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee may be denied. If a coordination goes 3 years without update, and the owner is non responsive or cannot be contacted, de-coordination procedures may be started.

Additionally, it is the repeater owner's responsibility to check the listings for accuracy and advise the coordinator of any errors or omissions.

A motion was made and seconded. The recommendation passed with no nay's.

(The full recommendation can be found on the next two pages.)

3) We discussed the importance of keeping your coordinations current, and that the FCC has advised repeater owners to "Tend to Your Coordination". This is also noted in the second page of the above mentioned recommendation.

A few questions were answered. Sign in sheets were collected. Meeting was ajourned at 11:30AM.

See next two pages for complete text of policy modification.

RECOMMENDATION for a policy change/modification to be presented at the NEXT Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee (a subcommittee of the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona) meeting.

History:

- 1) It is the policy of the Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee that a records update should be accomplished at least every other year. This is also a requirement of the FCC in case of disputes.
- 2) There are listed repeaters that are no longer in service, that have had their call signs changed, have changed their operation parameters, or have new ownership.

To make the record keeping function more efficient, I proposed that any coordinated repeater owner or trustee must respond to an official request for updated information in a reasonable time. This is already a requirement of coordination.

Recommendation:

If the request is not returned in a reasonable time, or the repeater owner or trustee can not be contacted by using the information in the data base (which is generated from the coordination application or information that has been updated), then the benefit of having their repeater listed in the ARRL Repeater Directory and on the WEB site of Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee may be denied. If a coordination goes 3 years without update, and the owner is non responsive or cannot be contacted, de-coordination procedures may be started.

Additionally, it is the repeater owner's responsibility to check the listings for accuracy and advise the coordinator of any errors or omissions.

Reasons:

This is the only recourse we, as the record keepers (coordinators) have to encourage repeater owners to keep their coordination data current..

By not publishing out dated records, we would not be blamed for publishing inaccurate listings.

By not being listed to the general public the repeater owners might make the effort to update their records.

In the event of an interference dispute that involves the FCC, the coordination committee would not be responsible for outdated, and or incorrect information.

Respectfully,
Dennis Mills
WA7ZZT -- 440 Coordinator

Supporting Information:

The following is from the:

MICHIGAN AREA REPEATER COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
WEB SITE: <http://www.qsl.net/miarc> e-mail: miarc@yahoo.com

May 2003

This is a reminder to all repeater Trustees, TDS' (coordination updates) are due every two years.
Repeater owners responsibility --

FCC Says, "Tend to Your Coordination!"

Radio Amateurs may lose their coordination for failure to update. Recently, in the Seattle, Washington area, the coordination of a still-operating repeater was revoked for failure to update and a new repeater was coordinated on the same frequency. The FCC Field Office was consulted and after the FO checked with FCC Headquarters, they stated that the failure of the original coordination holder to "tend his coordination" means that the now uncoordinated repeater owner is responsible for resolving any resulting interference problems. (read "take it off the air" ...ed)

If you change your location or operating parameters, you must recoordinate (if possible) to maintain a valid coordination. The FCC has taken action regarding an uncoordinated repeater in New York. In this case the repeater was once coordinated but changed location thereby invalidating its coordination. Regarding this situation, Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC wrote: "Section 97.205 of the commission's rules states that where there is interference between a coordinated repeater and an uncoordinated repeater, 'the licensee of the uncoordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference.'"

A similar scenario happened here in Arizona about Three years ago when the FCC refused to accept a coordination that had not been updated or listed publicly in many years. It was at that time we proposed, and it was approved that all coordinations would be listed publicly.
