

Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee

a subcommittee of the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Held July 20, 2013 Williams, Arizona

The meeting was called to order at 1100 hours by Committee Chair Lance Halle, KW7LH. Mr. Halle began the meeting by asking if any of the attendees had issues or concerns that needed to be addressed on the agenda – none were raised.

Mr. Halle began the meeting by listing the current coordinators and the number of coordinated repeaters by band as follows:

6 Meters (50 MHz): Gary Duffield, WK7B – 6 Coordinated Repeater

2 Meters (144 MHz): Rick Tannehill, W7RT – 153 Coordinated Repeater

220 MHz: Scotty Cowling, WA2DFI – 36 Coordinated Repeater

420-440 MHz: Doug Pelley, WB7TUJ – 195 Coordinated Control Links

440-450 MHz: Dennis Mills, WA7ZZT – 233 Coordinated Repeater

900 MHz: Dave Hall, N7ZPY – 45 Coordinated Repeater

1200 MHz: Tom Sharp, WA9OXY – 23 Coordinated Repeater

2 GHz and Up: Troy Hall, WA7ELN – 11 Coordinated Repeater

Packet: Mark Kesauer, N7KKQ – 72 Coordinated Stations

The current list of coordinators and coordinated frequencies is maintained on the repeater coordinators web site at <http://www.azfreqcoord.org/index.html>. A change from years past is that the website will only maintain listings of coordinated repeaters broken out by each band, rather than a single master consolidated list of coordinated repeaters as in years past. This is in an effort to keep only the most current data available. Another change is that there is now a single email address coordinators@azfreqcoord.org that is forwarded to all coordinators rather than individual emails for each band. This ensures that if the appropriate coordinator is not available for some reason, another coordinator will see the email and can respond to whatever issue is raised. If an email is not answered within one week of it being submitted, it is requested that the email be

followed up with a resend to ensure that the Chairman is aware and can take appropriate action to respond.

Mr. Halle requested that all repeater owners resubmit coordination applications every two years, or every three years at the maximum. The coordination forms can be downloaded from the coordinators website. This will help insure FCC recognition in the event of a dispute. It is important to list more than one point of contact on the form so that in the event the primary POC is unavailable for some reason that the coordinators can contact the alternate POC. Once the forms are filled in completely the preferred method of submission is to send a scanned copy of the form (preferably in .pdf format) to coordinators@azfreqcoord.org. Snail mail submissions can still be submitted, but the email method is very much preferred because it is faster and more reliable and the requestor will have a record copy of the sent email. For new or moved locations, it is also important to include a scanned copy of the site agreement or letter from the site owner that shows that the requestor actually has permission from the site owner to operate at that location.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) president signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Frequency Coordination Committee (NFCC) on March 5, 2013. This MOU was apparently signed without staffing with the ARRL board or membership at large (note: there is no mention of this topic in the minutes from the ARRL Annual Board of Directors meeting held January 18-19, 2013 and the ARRL President signed the MOU prior to the next meeting of the Executive Committee held on March 9, 2013). The MOU states that the ARRL has no interest in becoming a frequency coordination body, and acknowledges that “...there may be more than one organization recognized as a frequency coordinator for a particular band in a particular local or regional area...” This continues to be an item of because some individuals have chosen to “coordinate” their repeaters through coordinators outside of the geographic area where they are located (in one case through a coordinator in Northern Nevada who appears to have little awareness or concern for the status of other repeaters in Arizona) rather than through the Arizona Repeater Owners Frequency Coordination Committee, who is recognized by NFCC and the Arizona Amateur Community as the coordinator for Arizona. It is vital that all Arizona repeaters be coordinated through the Arizona Repeater Owners

Frequency Coordination Committee rather than through some external organization in order to minimize potential interference. The committee has regular and recurring dialog with other border state (Southern California, Southern Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico) coordinators in order to minimize harmful interference in adjacent states.

Bob/KA6LSL observed that when he was a repeater coordinator in Southern California in the late 1980s, there was a tremendous demand for spectrum due to the many new repeaters going on the air. At one time one of the (Southern Ca. coordinators) was “selling” repeater frequencies as coordinated pairs for profit, and as a result the individual had to be removed from that coordinating body. Bob noted that the Arizona spectrum is rapidly becoming as congested as Southern California and that we will have to guard against this type of behavior in the future.

Mr. Halle then asked if there was any other new business that the owners needed to discuss, but no other issues were raised. He then repeated his previous request that a follow-up email be sent if any original email requesting coordination or assistance is not answered within one week of it being submitted.

The last item of business was election of a committee chair for the 2013-2014 term. Motion by Clark/KI7TU seconded by Gary/KE7DX for Mr. Halle to serve for another year. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee Ilse/KD7OED
ARCA Past Chair