

**TEXAS
VHF-FM
SOCIETY**

NEWS

AMATEUR RADIO SPECTRUM PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 INTRODUCED

The ARRL Letter, Vol. 24, No. 08

At the urging of the ARRL, Rep Michael Bilirakis (R-FL) has introduced The Amateur Radio Spectrum Act of 2005 into the US House of Representatives. The bill, designated HR 691, has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee where Bilirakis serves as vice chairman. Like previous versions of the proposal, the current measure would require the FCC to provide "equivalent replacement spectrum" to Amateur Radio if the FCC reallocates primary amateur frequencies, reduces any secondary amateur allocations, or makes additional allocations within such bands that would substantially reduce their utility to amateurs. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, expressed his appreciation to Bilirakis this week.

"As president of the American Radio League and on behalf of the more than 670,000 federally licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout the country, I would like to thank you for once again sponsoring the 'Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act,'" Haynie told the Florida Republican. "As you know, this legislation is vital for ensuring that the Amateur Radio Service, the only 100-percent fail safe emergency communication capability, remains a viable public safety option."

HR 691 references Amateur Radio's role in providing "voluntary, noncommercial radio service, particularly emergency communications," and it points out that hams have "consistently and reliably" provided communication support in the event of emergencies and disasters including tornadoes and hurricanes, chemical spills, forest fires and rail accidents. As the measure notes, FCC actions already have led to the loss of at least 107 MHz of spectrum to radio amateurs.

Rep Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD) has signed on as the bill's first co-sponsor. Bartlett chairs the Projection Forces Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. One of three scientists in the 109th Congress, Bartlett also is a senior member of the House Science Committee.

Efforts now will focus on attracting additional cosponsors for the legislation. The League is encouraging members to urge their congressional representatives to sign aboard HR 691. A sample letter is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr-691-sample-letter.html>>. More than 100 lawmakers agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the 108th Congress, where it was designated HR 713. Work is proceeding to have identical legislation introduced in the US Senate.

The text of HR 691 is available on the Government Printing Office Web site <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h691ih.txt.pdf>.

For general guidance on the best methods of contacting your members of Congress, see "Communicating with Congress," by Derek Riker, KB3JLF, on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/bandthreat/0304046.pdf>>.

Special Meeting Announcement

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Texas VHF-FM Society, a Special Meeting of the General Membership is called for Saturday, April 9, 2005, at 1:30PM in the Fellowship Hall of Northwest Hills United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. The address is 7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

See the Back Page for more details.

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President's Line

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, President

Wow!!! What a Winter Meeting. We had a approximately one hundred ten members vote and approve the Change to the Standards of Frequency Coordination to include the requirement to submit new applications in Degrees-Minutes-Seconds and in the NAD-83 or WGS-84 datum, a Non-Disclosure provision to the By-Laws, establishment of the Database Committee as a permanent committee of the Society and a vote by mail provision for any future elections of Directors and any future changes to the By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation or the Standards of Frequency Coordination.

Most everything that was accomplished in the meeting didn't add expense to Society budget, but Vote by Mail did. If you are a life member, the increased cost will not come out of your pocket, but as a general member or a future life member, there will be increased cost for membership. We have a tight budget that allows for the publishing of four newsletters, pays for insurance, pays for new badges for directors and coordinators, pays for the bulk mail permit and the administrative costs of coordination. Now, we will need funds for the possibility of up to three vote by mail cycles per year. Dues are slated to increase to \$15 per year after the Summer meeting—the problem is that based on cost projections for the vote, the dues should probably be escalated to \$25 per year. With vote by mail in place, we can make that change, but we have to pay to make it.

I am personally in favor of a vote by mail system. I am not in favor of such a structured system that drives up the cost of the voting. Every member should get an opportunity to vote, whether they can travel to the two annual meetings or not. We as a 40 year old, small organization have been extremely thrifty. We only spend general membership monies paid each year (plus any interest earned from the Life Member savings—that just doesn't happen any more with lower interest rates). With about 480 general members—we have an operating budget of \$4800 (at \$10 per member). With this new by-law provision we are making a fundamental changes that will impact the Society for the next few or forty years.

You have the opportunity to vote by mail, to voice your opinion and be a part of the Society.

Cooperation

Pronunciation: co-op-er-a-tion Function: Noun

- 1 : the action of cooperating : common effort
- 2 : association of persons for common benefit

Why a definition of cooperation? Because that is what we, as members, of this 40 year old society must work toward. We must cooperate toward common goals and objectives. We must be understanding of others and their specific interests. We must willing to listen and work together. That's why we all joined. Think about it.

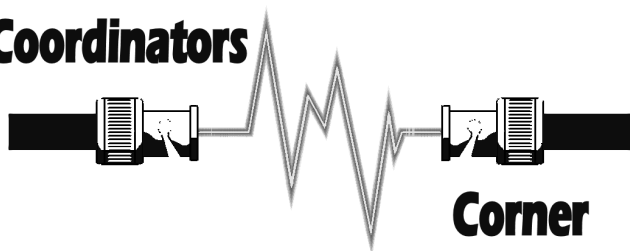
Texas VHF-FM Society Committees

Frequency Coordination Committee Chairman*	Harold Reasoner, K5SXX
Database Committee Chairman*	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Technical Committee Chairman*	Greg Jurrens, WD0ACD
Parliamentarian	Gerry Creager, N5JXS
Trustee (W5OGZ)	Jay Maynard, K5ZC
Election Committee Chairman	Bill Lawless, W5WRL
Publications Committee Chairman	John Johnson, N5NH
Ad-Hoc Survey Committee Chairman	John Johnson, N5NH

*Denotes a permanent committee of the Society

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Coordinators



Corner

Zone 1 - 2 Meters

*Craig Green, KV5E, Zone 1 2m Frequency Coordinator
zone1-2m@txvhffm.org*

My name is Craig Green and I have taken over the Zone 1 – 2 Meter Coordinator post from Dave Davis. This is my first newsletter column and I don't have a lot to report at this time, but I have been very busy "learning the ropes" and the procedures for the coordination process and have tried to hit the ground running. It is my intent to service the amateurs for the Zone 1 – 2 Meter repeater coordination in a friendly, prompt, and courteous manner and I earnestly desire to gain the confidence of all going forward.

I am currently working a number of coordination issues now and will add several new applicants to the waiting list and complete some of the pending paperwork from Dave's departure in December. I appreciate your understanding during this transitioning time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or phone if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to serve you and be an advocate for frequency coordination on behalf of the Society in Zone 1 to the best of my abilities.

73 all,

Craig A. Green KV5E

Zone 1 Other bands (29, 50, 222, 900, 1240, 2400 and ATV)

*Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, Zone 1 Frequency Coordinator
zone1-other@txvhffm.org*

There has been very little activity in the 29, 50, 222, 420, 902, 1200, 2400 and ATV coordination areas.

The following new construction permits have been issued:

Callsign	Location	Output
AD5KZ	Fort Worth	1293.300
K5DOH	Venus	1292.98
N9TY	Dallas	224.38
KD6FWD	Mesquite	224.24

Renewals have started coming in and will be entered into the database. If you have not sent in your renewal, please do so. Thank you.

Zone 1 - 440

*Chris Hudgins, N5IUF, Zone 1 440 Frequency Coordinator
zone1-440@txvhffm.org*

Activity in Zone 1, 440 has been busy over the last few months. There were 170 renewals returned and processed. This is approximately 70%. Thanks to all of you that renewed.

The waiting list has dropped from 5 years down to less than 1 year. If you are still waiting, please be patient. I have been processing as quickly as possible, but Zone 1, 440 is at full capacity.

The following Construction Permits have been issued:

441.325	KC5OZH	Rowlett
441.325	W5NGU	Denton
441.350	KD5ZQN	Plano
441.500	WS5X	Cumby
441.525	AB5XD	Everman
441.550	KE5UT	Celina
441.575	W5ADC	Plano
441.675	K5AMM	Fort Worth
441.725	N5NH	Plano
441.775	KD5ZKV	Garland
441.950	KC5OZH	Dallas
442.325	KM5R	Cedar Hill
442.450	W5YF	University Park
442.475	AB5BX	Hamilton
442.575	N5GI	McKinney
442.700	K5AB	Mullin
442.700	WB5TTS	Mineral Wells
444.700	K5BWD	Brownwood
444.775	KA5VQR	Wichita Falls
444.850	N5BKV	Dallas

If you have any questions about Zone 1, 440, feel free to email me at n5iuf@yahoo.com.

73,

Chris Hudgins – N5IUF

Zone 2

*Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY, Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator
zone2@txvhffm.org*

2004 Year End Summary: Zone 2 stretches from Matagorda to Shelby County and from the Gulf of Mexico to Milam County. In 2004 there were a total of 16 new repeaters coordinated in Zone 2. Six 2m, one 1.25 m, and nine 70 cm. Remember that your repeater coordination is not complete until you notify the Zone coordinator that your repeater is on the air. In addition to new coordinations, there are currently eleven active construction permit applications in Zone 2.

**Zone 2 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between
10/14/04 and 1/25/05**

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Clear Lake	146.860	146.260	K5HOU	OAE100.0
Crockett	443.600	448.600	WA5FCL	OE100.0
Houston	444.250	449.250	WD5KCX	C
Houston	444.625	449.625	WB5ZMV	O103.5
Pasadena	444.275	449.275	N0AHC	OEWX167.9

My primary emphasis area for this Spring is to continue “on-air” checks of all repeaters in Zone 2. Many of you have received emails or phone calls from me inquiring as to the “on-air” status of your repeaters. Please remember that any system which is off the air for more than three months is subject to review by the Zone Coordinator for possible revocation and re-assignment. If you know your system is going to be off the air, please notify me as soon as possible via email or phone so that I can work with you to manage the problem. However, if you lost your site or your repeater took a lightning hit and is not going to be on the air for quite some time, maybe it is time to relinquish your coordination and give someone else a try. Know of a club or have a friend that just doesn’t use the repeater anymore? Please have them contact me so that I can re-deploy the frequency and help out another trustee that wants to further the hobby. The form to report on the on-air status of repeaters in your area is available from the Society website.

The following is the waiting list for Zone 2. A detailed explanation of the waiting list description and process appears on the Society website.

Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
WA5SIX	Channelview	2m	4/17/2004
KD5HHW	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004
KB5JCA	Houston	2m	1/16/2005
KK5XQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005

Finally, If you need to change a technical parameter or change the trustee of a club repeater please download the correct forms from the Society webpage link to properly document the change request.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in constructing a repeater in Zone 2. Repeater construction permit applications are available from our website and can also be sent via the U.S. mail. A completed application is required before a construction permit can be issued.

73, Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator

Zone 3

*Richard Norton, W5FRO, Zone 3 Frequency Coordinator
zone3@txvhffm.org*

No Report

Zone 4

*Louis Bancook, K5UUT, Zone 4 Frequency Coordinator
zone4@txvhffm.org*

No Report

Zone 5

*Bill Lawless, W5WRL, Zone 5 Frequency Coordinator
zone5@txvhffm.org*

No Report

Update - 40th Anniversary of the Texas VHF-FM Society

This year the Texas VHF-FM Society will celebrate its 40 year anniversary. Plans to commemorate our anniversary are shaping up and we would certainly appreciate your input. We are looking for any stories or pictures you might have from the early days of the Society. Please contact either Merle or Eric at the email addresses below if you can help out. We will be using the pictures and stories for a presentation that will be made during the 2005 Summer General Meeting. With over 40 years of history, I am sure there are some great stories lurking out there!

We are also working to design a special commemorative 40th anniversary enameled pin which will be made available for purchase. If you have suggestions on a pin design, please contact Merle or Eric. Finally, special thanks to Greg Jurrens, WD0ACD for helping to bring back the “Oldest Radio” contest. This is an event you will not want to miss whether you are a participant or a spectator! I have heard rumors that some very “unique” prizes will be awarded. Look for more details on how you can participate in the contest in future newsletters.

Have other ideas or would like to help out? Please send us and email at 40th@txvhffm.org.

73 from your 40th Anniversary Co-Chairs:

Merle Taylor, WB5EPI
Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Belton Swapfest	Apr 30
Ham-Com	June 3-5
Austin Summerfest	Aug 5-6

Vote by Mail Cost and Budget

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, President

Vote by Mail was recently passed at the Winter Meeting. The following outlines some costs of the vote by mail provision.

US Mail cost to each member	\$0.185
Printed mailing label for each member	\$0.05
#10 Envelope printed with Society return information	\$0.09
#9 Envelope printed with "Ballot Inside" and return info	\$0.09
#8 Envelope printed with "Ballot Inside"	\$0.09
Ballot printed on cardstock that fits in #8 Envelope.....	\$0.20
Instruction letter-copied	\$0.15
Candidate Sheet-copied (assume 2 double sided pages).....	\$0.30
Service to prep the mailing (@ \$0.10 per item).....	\$0.60
Counting Service	\$0.50

Approximate cost: \$2.255 per ballot

***this assumes a printing of 1000 count of all items

There has been some discussion about ways to reduce this cost. The discussion has centered on cheaper methods of printing and use of volunteer resources to handle the mailing. As a steward of the organization, I believe that we must make sure that everyone gets a ballot and that the ballot received is complete. The best way to handle that is to have an outside entity perform that service.

We have been very thrifty for 40 years. We have managed to survive on dues that are the cost of a lunch—not the high price that many local clubs or national organizations have been forced to charge. We provide some simple services to our members, but the primary service has been the coordination effort. With this change, our dues monies will be spent on our new primary service--voting.

The 2004-2005 calls for \$4380 in expenses and plans on only \$3655 as income. The difference is paid out of carry over funds from prior years. WE ARE ALREADY NOT MAKING BUDGET. Our past president, Eric Schmidt presented a budget review and demonstrated that the cost to serve was approximately \$7.46 per member. This includes everything we do today—newsletters, insurance, postage and coordination paperwork. No matter how much it costs to vote by mail, the cost to serve a member will go up—and it must have a plan for three votes to be conducted in a year.

We have the funds to vote by mail for this year from carry over funds—once spent they are gone. The dues increase to \$15 per year in August, but I would project a majority of the members will renew or become life members prior to that increase—we have historically raised the dues at the end of a meeting, not at the start of a meeting. That puts 2005-2006 in financial jeopardy. Why jeopardy? Because we are required to publish a minimum of three newsletters a year, we need insurance, we need postage dollars for coordination and we will need to vote by mail possibly three times.

The solutions to this problem are increase dues, decrease services or charge for coordination services. None of these are attractive. But that will be the heart of conversation at future meetings. Please attend and voice your position

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

John Johnson, N5NH, Editor

A **potentially harmful amendment** to the Bylaws was passed at the Winter Meeting, one that requires all elections and motions for change to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to be handled by mail ballot. Unfortunately I was out of town on business travel and unable to attend that meeting, so I found the passing of this amendment to be **disturbing** not only for it's content, but also that it was passed in **violation** of an existing Bylaw allowing the President to table a motion of such magnitude. More on that later, but first I'd like to comment on the amendment itself and why it **needs to be changed**.

Normally, the Board likes to have a chance to review such actions to make sure that they are worded such as not to be vague or cause problems by omission, but we were not afforded the courtesy of a prior review. This amendment is **full of problems**, and we need to address them. If we don't correct these problems, then **drastic budget changes** will be required to pay for this privilege. Newsletters will be reduced in number; items such as the Repeater Directory will be eliminated; and additional charges such as coordination fees will have to be considered.

First, this amendment has **no limitation** on the number of times per year that ballots be mailed. There is a timeframe stipulation in days, but nothing to help us be fiscally responsible. The Society does not operate on an unlimited budget, so we need to be careful about expenses and **not spend more money than we take in**. As written, we could have 3 mailed ballots per year at a cost of over \$6000 total. That is **150% of our current budget**. Instead, we should have wording that allows us to do one or two ballots per year maximum, with a timeframe that lets us lump all proposed changes and/or the annual election onto one ballot every 6 months, for example.

Second, there are **no clear guidelines** on how to handle the ballots. Some of your directors feel it's okay for them to have a party to prepare the ballots, but then must have an independent auditor tabulate the results. However, the only way to have a **100% clean and uncontested ballot** is for the independent auditor to handle the ballots from preparation to tabulation, otherwise we can not guarantee impartiality.

Third, what if the results are **questioned or protested**? The existing amendment has no wording on how to handle this situation. What if some of the directors prepared the ballots but then someone protests that they never received their ballot? This type of situation needs to be addressed, with guidelines for what will constitute a good result and how protests and contested results will be handled.

Fourth, the current amendment states that each ballot must be signed. Why? The ARRL ballot doesn't require a signature. But it does have your name and callsign printed on the ballot, something that **this amendment doesn't specify**.

Fifth, why was the right of the chair to do a straw poll **removed**? This prevents an officer from conducting even a straw poll to check on the favorability of a meeting location.

As it stands, we can't even try to fix these issues and others without an expensive mailed ballot, that would be **subject to the pitfalls** mentioned previously. However, we will soon have an opportunity to rectify this problem and declare the amendment to be tabled rather than passed. Once tabled, we can then take the time to **fully address these issues** and, if the membership so desires, pass an amendment that allows for voting by mail but in a **fiscally responsible manner** that maintains all the services our members have enjoyed for years. Please help us do so.

Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting January 15, 2005

Submitted by Melissa Rasmussen, KM5R, Secretary

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order Jan. 15, 2005 in Arlington Texas by President Paul Baumgardner. Directors present were Baumgardner, Reasoner, Petit, Davis, Rasmussen, Stevenson, Hudgins.

The agenda for the meeting was approved. The minutes of June BOD meeting was approved as published in the newsletter. The minutes of the August meeting was approved as published in the newsletter.

The treasurer was absent, but sent in the financial report. There was a question about additional postage for coordination renewals, whether it'd been included yet or not. Financial report info gets moved to the next board meeting as old business.

Directors reports:

Directors Davis, Stevenson, Hudgins and Rasmussen had nothing new to report.

Director Baumgardner stated he'd attended a meeting of the Garland Amateur Radio Club and had gotten them to sign up as a Club Life Member.

Director Reasoner stated he'd sent all the coordination information to the ARRL for the upcoming repeater directory. There were 1329 repeaters in Texas, two more than last year. He also recognized the two new zone 1 coordinators: Chris Hudgins, and Craig Green.

Director Petit said he'd received a couple comments from repeater trustees complaining about hearing repeaters on the same frequency as theirs. He reminded the coordinators to inform the trustees that the spacing has gone down, and they're probably not the only repeaters on that frequency.

Technical Committee:

Greg Jurens said they'd like 1-3 people in each coordinating zone to help on the Technical Committee. He's also working on getting someone who works the microwave band to help.

Publications Committee:

The next newsletter deadline is February 12th.

Database committee:

Steve Hicks sent out an email asking for feedback on the database information project. The main parts are already being developed: Frequency Coordination, Membership Data, Membership Financial Status.

Survey committee:

John Johnson said by proxy he'll have a survey out sometime in March for the BoD to review.

40th Anniversary committee:

Eric Schmidt and Merle Taylor stated it would be nice to have a 15 minute presentation at the upcoming summer meeting, showing the founders of the society, and those who are still involved today. Another event they suggested was the "oldest

working radio" – to find the oldest UHF or VHF radio that individuals still run. They're asking for any old photos or stories that anyone might have. They also wanted the BoD's opinion on getting commemorative badges or t-shirts or pins.

Old business:

Director Baumgardner asked Directors Stevenson and Rasmussen about their "audit" of the database. Both directors had nothing to discuss, so this item is closed.

Director Baumgardner showed a tally of the survey returns for the 3 proposals that would be voted on in the general meeting. There was a total of 29 returns.

For the NDA proposal, 23 in favor, 5 opposed with one abstain. For the Bandplan proposal, 25 in favor, 3 opposed with one abstain. For the GPS coordinate proposal, 25 in favor, 3 opposed and one abstain.

Director Baumgardner entertained a motion to accept Summerfest for the 2005 general meeting. Director Reasoner made the motion, and Director Petit 2nd it. All were in favor. Summerfest will be August 6th and 7th.

Director Baumgardner asked the BoD where they'd like the next BoD meeting to be – Belton or Hamcom. A straw poll showed 4 votes for Hamcom and 2 votes for Belton. It was decided to meet at Hamcom in Arlington unless something came up requiring the BoD to meet sooner.

Director Baumgardner stated the BoD should do some sort of financial audit for the treasurer. Discussion followed. It was decided to do audits every couple of years.

Director Baumgardner showed his proposed bylaws change that would add a Database Committee to the bylaws which would maintain the database, oversee backups etc.

Director Davis made a motion that the BoD present the database change to the membership to be voted in. Director Reasoner seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion carried.

The BoD had decided to recommend against both standards of Frequency Coordination changes proposals to be voted on in the general meeting. Director Hudgins made a motion to amend our position on these proposals considering the feedback from the membership showed to be in favor of both. Director Stevenson 2nd it. Gerry Craiger suggested to vote on them individually since some might be for one and against another. The BoD voted in favor of amending the position on the GPS Coordinate proposal 4-1. The BoD voted in favor of amending the position on the Band Plan proposal 3-2.

Director Davis made a motion to suspend the verifying of any memberships and ask members to vote on the honor system. Director Rasmussen 2nd the motion. It was agreed with the exception of someone challenging another's membership. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes from General Meeting January 15, 2005

Submitted by Melissa Rasmussen, KM5R, Secretary

The general meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society opened January 15, 2005 in Arlington, Texas.

The agenda was approved for the meeting. The minutes from the summer meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

There were questions on coordination postage and newsletter expenses not listed in the financial report, so it was not accepted.

Director's reports:

Director Davis said he had to step down from frequency coordination – nothing else new. Director Stevenson said he had nothing new to report. Director Hudgins stated nothing new to report. Director Rasmussen stated the membership was well over 700. Director Reasoner said 55 or 56 people had signed up for the electronic newsletter, and anyone else who wanted to join was welcome. Director Petit had nothing to report. Director Baumgardner stated he'd visited the Garland club, and got them to join as a club life member.

Committee reports:

Frequency coordination:

Director Reasoner said all the data has been submitted to ARRL for their repeater directory in the spring. He added all the coordinators had reviewed all the data that's been sent in. There were 1330. 651 on 440, 540 are on 2m and rest are on 220/6m/1.2 etc. ARRL North Texas Section Manager Roy Rabey said thanks from the ARRL for doing a good job on the frequency coordinating committee.

Technical Committee:

Greg Jurens asked for people to join the technical committee. Tech@txvhffm.org is the email address for more info on this group.

Publications committee:

Director Johnson was absent but said February 12th is the upcoming newsletter deadline.

Survey Committee:

Director Johnson absent. Director Baumgardner stated there's a new survey committee setup to send a survey out to the membership early to late part of May, to be tabulated in June, and have results for Summerfest.

Database committee:

Director Baumgardner stated the database has a defined scheme: membership, finances, and frequency coordination.

40th anniversary committee:

Eric Schmidt stated this year is 40th anniversary, and they're planning some things for Summerfest at the Red Lion Hotel. They want a 15-20 min presentation at the general meeting about history of the society etc. They're looking for old stories, pictures, other information on some of the first repeaters.

They're also looking at designing a commemorative pin or patch or t-shirt to celebrate this. The membership had a straw poll and preferred pins to patches or shirts.

Old business:

Motions had been tabled from prior meetings because they affected vested members and the Society had to poll the members. Poll results favored all 3 motions. 4 trustees at the general meeting claimed they didn't get the polls. Jay Urish W5GM made a motion to take proposal number 1 to bring the GPS proposal off the table Tim Lewis kd6fwd 2nd the motion. Jay Urish called the question Michael Lay N5PTN 2nd it. The motion carried to bring the proposal off the table. Discussion followed. Director Baumgardner asked for a motion to modify the section 3 for the proposal. The GPS coordinate proposal was voted in.

Woody Harper W5WDY made a motion that the 2nd band plan proposal be brought off the table. Jay Urish 2nd it. Motion carried – it's off the table. Discussion followed. Director Baumgardner asked for a motion to modify the SFC to add the band plan. Question is called. Motion does not pass.

Woody Harper made a motion to pull the NDA proposal off the table. Mark Culross KD5RXT 2nd. Discussion followed. Michael Lay N5PTN called the question KD5OBG 2nd it. All were in favor of calling the question. Motion carries.

New business

Director Baumgardner submitted a bylaws change to add a database committee to the list of standing committees. The new bylaws would read:

ARTICLE FIVE COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES. There shall be four three standing committees: Publications, Technical and Frequency Coordination, and Database.

Database Committee: The purpose of the Database Committee is to act as the "Information Technology Department", and provide database management, database access, security, and backups for the data used in the various functions of the Society. This data includes, but is not limited to Membership Information, Membership Financial Information, Frequency Coordination Data, Web Data and any other forms of electronic information used by the Society.

The Database committee will investigate and implement sound Information Technology practices to insure that standards are followed for the authorized access of data, retention of needed data, regular backups and compliance with any governmental rules concerning the use, retention or release or the Society's database records.

The Database Committee will work with the Board of Directors, State Frequency Coordination Chairman and all Zone Frequency Coordinators to develop and implement these standards and where needed develop or acquire software to accomplish these goals.

The Database Committee shall be chaired by the Database

Committee Chairman who shall be selected by the President and ratified by the Board of Directors and will serve until a successor is appointed.

Director Baumgardner entertains a motion, Greg Jurens makes the motion and Jay Urish 2nd it. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Steve Agee N5ZUA made a motion to amend the bylaws. Director Hudgins 2nd it. The following would be changed in the bylaws:

[items underlined with a dotted line are deleted, items underlined with a solid line are additions.]

ARTICLE THREE—DIRECTORS

3.1 DIRECTORS. The Society shall be managed by a Board of Directors. They shall be responsible for conducting all society business between General Membership meetings.

3.1.1 NUMBER OF DIRECTORS. There shall be nine (9) Directors.

3.1.2 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Candidates for this election will be selected from the Membership, excluding Vested, Associate and Affiliated Group Members, and presented to the membership at the last meeting of the fiscal year (Summer Meeting) by a nomination committee appointed by the President, or in his absence the Chairman of the previous general meeting. Additional candidates may be proposed by any Member present at this meeting. Election shall be by a plurality vote of the voting Members present at this meeting. Not more than five (5) Directors shall be elected each year unless unexpired and vacated terms are to be filled, in which case the maximum number of Directors elected will be five (5) plus the number of unexpired and vacated terms to be filled. Five Directors will be elected in Odd-numbered years, and Four Directors will be elected in Even-numbered years. If there are unexpired vacant terms to be filled, Directors receiving the highest number of votes, will fill the regular terms first, after that, unexpired vacant terms will be filled in order of votes received, until all positions are filled.

3.1.2.1 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: A nominations committee shall be selected and approved by the Board of Directors no later than the Winter Board of Directors Meeting. Any Board member not running for re-election, may serve on the nominations Committee, upon request by that Board Member. The nomination committee will accept nominations until ninety (90) days prior to the end of the fiscal year. A final list of nominees must be published in the NEWS and distributed no later than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The candidates biography and photo must be published if requested by the candidate.

3.1.2.2 VOTING: Voting shall be done by mail. Ballots shall be mailed to all Society members excluding Vested, Associate and Affiliated Group members. The Secretary shall prepare a list of all members that are eligible to vote. The Secretary shall distribute that list to the Nominations Committee and to the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Firm no later than seventy (70) days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The ballots shall be mailed no later than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The ballot may be mailed with the NEWS, or other material being mailed to the membership, but it must be kept separate from that material. The ballot shall include the candidates biography and photo if requested by the candidate.

3.1.2.3 ENVELOPES: The envelope containing the ballot, must contain the words "Ballot Inside" on the front of the envelope. Two envelopes shall be placed inside the envelope with the ballots being mailed. One envelope shall be left blank for the ballot to be placed inside for anonymous return. The other envelope shall be an envelope that is pre-addressed for return to the Certified Public Accountant. The member shall sign his/her name (and/or) membership number in the space provided on the envelope. Complete instructions for voting must be included with the ballot.

3.1.2.4 BALLOTS: The ballots shall be returned to a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm selected and approved by the Board of Directors. All Society members excluding Vested, Associate and Affiliated Group members are eligible to vote. The CPA firm will certify that only one ballot per member has been submitted, and that only members from the membership list generated by the secretary have voted. The CPA Firm will then count the votes and certify the results. The election shall be by a plurality vote of the members voting. The ballots must be post-marked no later than thirty days prior to the end of the fiscal year. The CPA firm will prepare two sealed envelopes containing the election results, one for the President and the other for the Secretary. These envelopes are to be opened in front of the membership at the Summer General Meeting. In the event of a tie vote, a run off election will be held at the Summer Meeting. The election shall be by a plurality vote of eligible members voting.

3.1.2.5 The newly elected Directors will assume office upon adjournment of the Summer Meeting.

3.1.3 DIRECTORS TERM OF OFFICE. Directors will shall serve for a two (2) year term, or until their successor is elected.

ARTICLE SIX—MEETINGS

6.1 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS. There shall be two (2) General Meetings per year, held at approximate six (6) month intervals. Meetings will generally be held in the months of February (Winter Meeting) and August (Summer Convention).

6.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special Meetings shall be called by the President when requested by a majority of the Directors. The agenda for Special Meetings shall be stated in the announcement of the meeting and shall be limited thereto.

6.3 DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS. The Directors shall meet at least twice yearly, upon request by the principal officer of the Society. Society Members may attend Director's Meetings.

6.4 QUORUM. At any General or Special meeting, the voting Members attending will be considered a quorum.

6.5 DIRECTOR'S QUORUM. At any meeting of the Board of Directors a majority of the Board will be considered a quorum for the transaction of business.

6.6 VOTING. All Society Members, excluding Associate and Affiliated Group Members, may vote at a Society Membership or Special Meeting. Only Directors may vote at a Director's Meeting.

6.6.1 All decisions at any meeting of the membership or Board of Directors or a committee shall be by a majority vote of a quorum. Each voting member shall have one (1) and only one (1) vote and no voting by proxy shall be permitted.

- 6.6.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other part of these By-Laws, the Chairman of any Regular or Special Meeting may interrupt ordinary parliamentary procedure at any time to conduct a non-binding straw vote on any issue, whether or not that issue is under discussion at the time of the interruption.
- 6.6.3. Any proposed change or amendment which will affect existing Society Band Plans, Standards for Coordination, or have an adverse affect on repeater trustees shall automatically be tabled. The determination to table a motion or bring it to a vote shall be made by the society president. This tabled motion shall not be brought before the membership for a vote until the Vested Membership is polled in writing for agreement or non-agreement and the results of the poll are made known to the membership prior to a vote.

ARTICLE TEN—AMENDMENTS

10.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION.

10.1.1. NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT. Proposals for amendments to the Articles of Incorporation must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than sixty (60) days prior to the next Society Membership meeting.

10.1.2. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the Society members of each proposed amendment at least thirty (30) days prior to the next Society Membership meeting.

10.1.3. At the next Society Membership meeting the proposed amendments will be submitted to the membership. A two-thirds vote of a quorum shall be required to adopt an amendment.

10.2. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS, BAND PLANS OR STANDARDS FOR FREQUENCY COORDINATION. The By-laws shall be reviewed at the first directors' meeting of the fiscal year.

10.1.1 Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation may be proposed by any eligible member. It must be submitted in Writing to the President and the Secretary prior to, or at a General Meeting. The motion must be discussed and may be amended at the General Meeting. The motion must then be published in the NEWS no later than ninety (90) days after the General Meeting.

10.1.2 VOTING: Voting shall be done by mail. The Secretary shall prepare a list of all members that are eligible to vote. This list shall be distributed to the Publications Committee and to the Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Firm no later than eighty (80) days after the General Meeting. Ballots shall be mailed to all Society members excluding Vested, Associate and Affiliated Group members no later than ninety (90) days after general meeting. The ballot may be mailed with the NEWS, or other material being mailed to the membership, but it must be kept separate from that material.

10.1.3 ENVELOPE: The envelope containing the ballot, must contain the words "Ballot Inside" on the front of the envelope. Two envelopes shall be placed inside the envelope with the ballots being mailed. One envelope shall be left blank for the ballot to be placed inside for anonymous return. The other envelope shall be an envelope that is pre-addressed for return to the Certified Public Accountant. The member shall sign his/her name (and/or) membership number in the space provided on the envelope. Complete instructions for voting must be included with the ballot.

10.1.3.1 BALLOTS: The ballots shall be returned to a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm selected and approved by the Board of Directors. All Society members excluding Vested, Associate and Affiliated Group members are eligible to vote. The CPA firm will certify that only one ballot per member has been submitted, and that only members from the membership list generated by the secretary have voted. The CPA Firm will then count the votes and certify the results. The ballots must be postmarked no later than thirty days after the date that the ballots were mailed.

10.1.4 Two thirds (2/3) of the members voting shall be required for adoption of the amendment.

10.1.5 The CPA firm will provide two sealed envelopes containing the election results, one to the President and the other to the Secretary. The results will become effective upon delivery from the CPA firm to the President and the Secretary. The results must be published in the next edition of the NEWS. If this election is running concurrently with a Directors Election, the CPA firm will provide the results for the Directors elections separately from the results of the amendment.

10.2 AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS, BAND PLANS OR STANDARDS FOR FREQUENCY COORDINATION. The By-laws shall be reviewed at the first directors' meeting of the fiscal year.

10.2.1 Changes, additions, or corrections to the By-Laws may be proposed by the Directors or by any voting Member at any Society meeting. Such proposals shall require a majority vote of a quorum of the voting Membership for their adoption.

10.2.2 A proposal to amend the By-laws, band plans or standards for frequency coordination shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer, and signed by the person making the proposal. The language to be inserted shall be underlined. The proposed language to be deleted shall be stricken with a horizontal line. Other methods of clearly delineating the specific changes to be made are allowed.

10.2.1 Amendments to the By-Laws, Band Plans or Standards for Frequency Coordination shall be initiated according to the same procedure as Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation (section 10.1) , except that a majority of members voting shall be required for adoption.

Director Baumgardner said he'd table it on the grounds that it'd affect the Standards of Frequency Coordination and the vested members would need to be polled. Director Hudgins appealed the decision of the chair. The membership voted not to table it, that it does not affect the SFC. Discussion followed.

Greg Jurens made a motion that this be tabled so the BoD can have time to study this and seek council on behalf of the society. Michael Lay 2nd it. Motion did not pass.

Director Hudgins called the question. Doug Freeman KC5ION 2nd it.

The meeting went to recess for 10 minutes to give people a chance to look over the proposal at 3:55pm. Director Baumgardner called the meeting back at 4:05pm. Steve Agee's motion to amend the bylaws passed.

Director Stevenson made a motion to give the board leeway to revise the budget to make this vote by mail work for the upcoming election. Director Hudgins 2nd it. Doug Freeman called the question, and Woody Harper 2nd it. The motion carried.

Craig Green KV5E moved to adjourn, Jay Urish 2nd it. Meeting was adjourned.

Thanks to Larry Pollock, NB5X

Many of you don't know that Larry Pollock, NB5X, has been handling the printing, folding, and mailing of the **NEWS** for many years, as well as running his own business. He has recently decided to step down from his position in the Publications Committee to have more free time. I want to thank Larry for his years of dedicated service both to the Society and to myself. His assistance will definitely be missed.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Life Member, Tom Blackwell, N5GAR who recently was elected as Section Manager for North Texas for the ARRL.

Thank you to Life Member, Roy Rabey, AD5KZ who was the past Section Manager for the ARRL North Texas Section and the Frequency Coordination liaison between the League and Society.

NON DISCLOSURE UPDATE

It is the policy of the 2004-2005 Texas VHF FM Society Board of Directors, under the provisions of article 11.4 of the By-Laws that the Texas VHF FM Society Frequency Coordination Committee will exchange information with the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico and the Republic of Mexico in the area of frequency coordination. The exchange of information shall not be limited but must be related to a specific coordination being proposed or modified. Directors Bancook, Davis, Johnson, Petit, Rasmussen and Reasoner all agreed with this policy. Directors Hudgins and Stephenson did not respond with comments for or against this proposal.

Special Meeting Announcement

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Texas VHF-FM Society, a Special Meeting of the General Membership is called for Saturday, April 9, 2005, at 1:30PM in the Fellowship Hall of Northwest Hills United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas. The address is 7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, TX 78731. The Fellowship Hall is on the west side of the church campus, and the entrance is actually located on Hart Lane, which is one street to the west of Village Center Drive.

6.2 *SPECIAL MEETINGS.* Special Meetings shall be called by the President when requested by a majority of the Directors. The agenda for Special Meetings shall be stated in the announcement of the meeting and shall be limited thereto.

Directors Bancook, Davis, Johnson, Petit and Reasoner requested the Special Meeting as a result of numerous comments and questions about actions taken at the Winter General Meeting. The agenda is as follows:

1. Honorarium to Meeting Facility
2. By-Laws amendments concerning the methods of voting adopted at the January meeting. This will include a motion to rescind the appeal from the decision of the President that the proposal fell within the provision of Section 6.6.3 of the By-Laws.
3. Budget and Dues Increase
4. By-Laws requirements for non-disclosure agreement
5. Motion to discharge survey committee from further work on the survey.
6. By-Laws amendment to clarify article 6.6.3
7. Amendment to article 10.2 of the By-Laws to require notice of all amendments.
8. Announcement of next meeting

We extend a special thank you to Life Member Joe Makeever, W5HS, for organizing the room for the meeting.

