



NEWS



From the President's Desk

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for re-electing me as a Director and to the Board for re-electing me to be President. I must admit that I had mixed emotions about running again, as family demands, more work-related travel, and other 'fun stuff' made me have to give it serious consideration. In the end, though, I just couldn't leave with unfinished business waiting to be taken care of.

The other night as I was cleaning one of my pistols I thought how great it would be if the Society were functioning as my gun does, a well-oiled, precise machine. Unfortunately we still have a ways to go, but one of my top priorities as President is to get a new database system in place that will streamline our coordination and membership processes. I'm pleased that we have a team led by past President Eric Schmidt KA5WMY working toward that goal right now, and we are also looking at third party frequency coordination tools to see if they can help us. I'm hopeful that within a year we can eliminate some of the bottlenecks that our officers and coordinators deal with in serving you.

I was pleased with the turnout at our Summer Meeting in Austin last month. I welcome our new Directors, Hugh Davis and Jim Hester, and look forward to getting to know them better. I also extend a huge THANK YOU to out-going Directors Harold Reasoner and Louis Bancook for their many years of service to the Society. I know that Louis has many things to keep him busy these days, but we're not letting Harold slip away too far as he continues to help us with the website. I also greatly appreciate Dave Davis running for another term, and the continued work and support of the other directors who comprise the Board.

We are still in the process of determining the location of the Winter Meeting. At our quick Board Meeting in Austin with the new Board, we threw out some ideas of trying to hold our meeting at a site where we haven't been in a while (or ever). We'll be discussing this at our next Board meeting to be held in conjunction with the Belton Ham Expo on October 7.

Next, I want to address an item that has been making the rounds. Not 24 hours after the Summer Meeting I received an email threatening legal action unless I answered numerous questions, a few of them with regard to the motion that was passed to disallow the recording of the meeting. I have also received several emails that were forwarded to me with regard to this issue, so let me take this opportunity to briefly discuss it here.

So, what was I trying to hide by not wanting the meeting recorded? Well, I would say that it's hard to hide anything in an open meeting with a hundred or so people in attendance. My main goal was to prevent videos from appearing on the Internet, which of course happened within 48 hours or so of the

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(date after call is year of term
expiration)

From the President's Desk (cont)

meeting. Bob Roszkowski, W5EVH, was ordered as a result of the motion passing to turn off his camcorder, but if you have watched the video then you know that apparently he did not comply. He merely put the camcorder in the bag and apparently let it continue to run and record the audio of the meeting, against the wishes of the membership in presence who passed a motion against doing that.

Also, it has been suggested that I had a nefarious purpose in mind when during the procedure of the motion I didn't call for discussion on the item. Well, what happened is that I simply forgot to call for discussion on the topic. I will note, though, that no one in the audience called a Point of Order or did anything to remind me, and the motion passed almost unanimously.

Finally, it's taken a while but we are just about to open the Forums section on the Society website. They may be open now as you read this. If you are interested in participating in this moderated forum, please register at the website. Dissenting views are welcome, and questions are encouraged, but name-calling and rubbish will not be allowed.

One final bit of business. Director Pat England has submitted his resignation from the board, citing time and work pressures. We'll miss Pat, and we thank him for his service. This adds an agenda item to the fall board meeting in Belton. According to our bylaws, the Board will appoint a replacement to finish out a vacant term. This term comes up for election in 2007, so we will be appointing someone to fill the last 9 months of the term. If you are interested, please contact me or our secretary, Mark NA6M as soon as possible.

Until next time, 73's

John Johnson N5NH

President, Texas VHF-FM Society, 2006-2007

Texas VHF-FM Society Standing Committees

Frequency coordination:	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Database Committee:	Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Technical Committee:	Kent Britain WA5VJB
Trustee (W5OGZ):	Jay Maynard K5ZC
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA



Notes from the State Frequency Coordinator
Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB

Renewals: the annual renewal process is in the works. All repeater trustees should be receiving the annual repeater renewals in the mail. Please make sure that you review the information on the form for accuracy, sign the form and return to the Zone Coordinator. This information helps the Society keep your coordination protected for the type of coordination that is assigned. This is a pretty easy process...review, sign and send back. We typically get in the 60% range of returns, please help us get those numbers a little higher this year.

DStar: DStar digital systems are attracting quite an interest and following of late. Please keep in mind, if you have an existing coordination, you can swap the hardware and use the new radios on the existing coordination. If you do not, we have identified some "digital" band plan areas, that could accommodate new digital only repeater pairs. Get with the Zone Coordinator to discuss any plans for digital repeaters.

Problems or Issues: If you have any problems or issues with the coordination process, please let your Zone Coordinator assist. The Zone Coordinator is the first point of contact for all trustees. If that is unsatisfactory, please contact the Statewide Frequency Coordinator. A further escalation can be made to the Board or the Society President. Always remember, that we are working for you and can assist with issues that might arise. The Coordination Committee wants to do a thorough job and provide best level of service.

Please keep me posted with any new ideas about how we could make the coordination process better.

Thank you.

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Statewide Frequency Coordinator

Frequency Coordinators

State Frequency Coordinator

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fax: 817-354-7736
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All bands except 440 Mhz

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Zone 1, Northeast Texas 440Mhz

Paul Finch - WB5IDM
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Azle, TX 76020
817-444-0448
zone1-440@txvhffm.org

Zone 2, Southeast Texas

Eric Schmidt - KA5WMMY
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979-849-7703
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Zone 3, South Texas

Michael Lay - N5PTN
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Zone 4, Central Texas

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Zone 5, West Texas

Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW
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Mexican Liaison:

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Link Frequencies

420Mhz, 900Mhz, 1.2Ghz

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Notes from Zone 2 – Fall 2006

It's yearly renewal time again! The repeater renewals for Zone 2 (Houston Metro area) were mailed on 8/13/06 with over 300 renewals going out to 162 trustees. The return rate to date has very good, and I sincerely thank all those that have promptly mailed their renewals. This year trustees have had the option of either mailing back their renewal, or sending it via email if they have the capability of scanning and sending the document as an attachment. A reminder that the deadline for returning your renewal is **October 1, 2006**. Everyone that provided a valid email address on the renewal form was sent an email receipt to confirm that your renewal was received. Please contact me via email or phone if you have not yet received your renewal and I will send one out right away. My contact information is listed in the front of the newsletter or on our website. A reminder that if you send me an email and you do not receive a response within 24 hours, it is likely that it was caught by a spam filter. Phone calls are always welcome as well.

The following repeaters newly coordinated since the Summer 2006 issue of the NEWS. A repeater is not listed as coordinated until the on-air status form is received after a construction permit has been issued, so please return your on-air status notification if your repeater is on the air and you have an outstanding construction permit. In addition to these new coordinations, there are currently fourteen active construction permit applications in Zone 2.

Zone 2 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 6/25/06 and 8/31/06

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Crosby	443.700	448.700	AI5TX	C
Nacogdoches	146.760	146.160	W5TXR	OEDPL306
Nacogdoches	443.100	448.100	W5TXR	OEDPL306
Nacogdoches	443.625	448.625	KD5BMZ	C
Nacogdoches	443.950	448.950	KD5BMZ	C
Nacogdoches	443.925	448.925	WB6ARE	C

The following is the waiting list for Zone 2. The waiting list in Zone 2 is currently for 2m only, and there are pairs available on all other bands. A detailed explanation of the waiting list description and process appears on the Society website. A reminder that 145.250 is a shared, non-protected pair that can often be utilized until a protected pair becomes available. Repeaters on 145.250 are coordinated, but there are no specific spacing requirements. PL is required on the input and output to minimize co-channel interference.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

	Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
1	KD5HHW	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004
2	KK5XQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005
3	KW5O	Conroe	2m	3/29/2005

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or are interested in constructing a repeater in Zone 2. I welcome your feedback on any improvements that I can make to better serve our members & trustees.

73,
Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator

Notes from Zone 1 – Fall 2006

It's time to renew your 440 Zone 1 Repeaters again! I am in the process of getting these mailed out while I write this article. I am a little late but trying to catch up, my business and sale of my Parents Estate has been keeping me very busy.

This year the Repeater Trustees have had the option of either mailing back their renewal, or sending it via email if they have the capability of scanning and sending the document as an attachment. Please have your renewals back by October 1, 2006.

Please email me at WB5IDM@gmail.com. You can also call me at 817-444-0448 after 8:00 PM each night but please, no calls after 9:30 PM. If I receive your renewal by email I will send a confirmation, if you sent it by mail and include an email address and I will send a confirmation that way.

I am currently trying to work through the 440 Waiting list but am having trouble finding current contact information for these Hams. If you are on the waiting list or you know of someone listed on the waiting list noted below please give me a call or email and confirm you still want the coordination. The waiting list is located on the Society Webpage.

I am working on several more repeater construction permits and moves and hope to have them complete in a week or so.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email, write or phone.

Paul Finch, WB5IDM
Zone 1, 440 Frequency Coordinator

Link Frequencies: 420Mhz, 900Mhz, 1.2Ghz

links@txvhffm.org

Johnny Stigler-WA5ZRQ

I am here for you if you need a simplex or duplex link. I have a form that I can email you to fill in all the needed information. Depending on your location there is normally no problem in finding frequencies to do a link. I strive to put all new applications in the 428-429 / 433-434MHz range to keep the rf out of the ATV area of 421 or 426. I always ask that if you are building a new system and need a link that you give me as much detail as practical. You can never tell when the tower you are using might have a Local Oscillator or some other birdie on the newly assigned link. I always encourage you to listen on the proposed channels before ordering crystals if possible. Run an intermod program on all TX, RX & LO's at the site. Even the High Band and 800 stuff if you can get the information. I speak from experience in not using an 800 trunking system with the intermod calculation.

We should always remember we Hams are secondary in the 420 band. Normally we have not had any issues with the federal users that are Primary. Some parts of the country do have to be careful with this band due to their location.

Zone 3 and Zone 4 update

Welcome back to another edition of the Zone3/4 Update. I am still in the process of getting my computer all set up with the software. And I'm almost there. I have approved 1 site move in Zone4 and have about a dozen applications pending. I expect all of these to be processed by mid-september. The envelopes are in, so I am starting to prepare the mail out of the Zone 4 renewals that were not signed at Summerfest. These will go out in small groups over the next 2 weeks. Next time I will have a list of repeaters approved and perhaps a list of repeaters I am looking for the owners.

Thanks,

de Michael Lay - N5PTN

Zone 3 and Zone 4 Coordinator

Hi..... I have taken back over the coordination duties of Zone 5 at the request of the State Coordinator. Even though I currently live in Austin, my heart is still in West Texas.

There are many records from Zone 5 that need updating and MANY folks have not received the service they should have due to a round of coordinators that had issues and were unable to take care of business as it should have.

I am in the last days of stuffing envelopes for mailing of renewals. The first ones in at least 2 years, so PLEASE send them back.

Anyone needing coordinations, documents or whatever, give me a call or an email. I do take fax and scanned applications for coordination business.

In Service,

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW

Zone 5 Coordinator

Spectrum Resources and Congestion - Part 1

Utilizing spectrum resources and the effective stewardship of a limited supply of available channel pairs is somewhat analogous to sharing any other natural resource such as a river. Where there is a higher congestion of users and prospective users then there may be shortages of supply. Over the last 50 years, the spectrum resources of the world have been under increasing duress from diverse user groups who all want “a piece of the action”. As a result of this growth in spectrum “consumers”, governments and spectrum managers are under great pressure to provide plans whereby the resources may be shared to the benefit of all.

To satisfy the insatiable appetites of radio “users”, most governments have resorted to some combination of the following to create additional resources:

- Relocation of “incumbent” users and auctions of the newly created spectrum to the highest bidders
- Technical requirements to reduce the bandwidth used by each licensee and creating additional spectrum by the creation of more “channels”
- Requiring users to share spectrum with decreasing separation criteria between licensees
- Moving to increasingly higher frequency ranges

The recent AWS Auction 66 by the FCC was a prime example of “creating” new spectrum by moving government users, paying for the relocation costs out of the auction, and creating new services. “Narrowbanding” has been the watch mark for federal, land mobile, and public service spectrum users who are now being forced by the FCC to decrease utilized emission bandwidth by channel in order to create additional resources.

The Amateur Radio Service has enjoyed some immunity from federal mandate from becoming more spectrally efficient, but I think we all see the handwriting on the wall as other users of the spectrum look at our frequencies as a “wolf at the door” wondering why we still have them. We all need to be good stewards of our valuable resources, and continue to find ways to be more efficient users of our “river”.

In Zone 1, there is tremendous frequency congestion on the popular 2 meter and 70 cm bands as over the years the channel pairs have “packed in” in the 9 counties in the core Metroplex area. It is hard to find any channel pair which will give *minimum* 70 mile co-channel separation for applicants who might want to construct a repeater in the core area. Due to this congestion, it is difficult to consider any list of “waiting” applicants for pairs as strictly a chronological list. Each set of coordinates must be evaluated for separation as well as the date of application which are both critical path items for coordination consideration. The point here is that it is not just who is first in line, but where your application coordinates are located as well.

To help illustrate this congestion, in the next issue of the newsletter I’ll provide some coverage prediction plots which visually render the congestion to help illustrate the difficulties we face in working with each other to ensure that we can all communicate over the air effectively without interference from each other.

Craig A. Green KV5E
Zone1 Coordinator All except 440



THE VP'S PURCH

During the summer meeting in Austin there was a presentation of an overview of how a workable vote by mail system could operate. There was an existing proposal to change the by-laws for a vote by mail system to be voted on also at the meeting. The officers asked the members present to vote down the proposed system since it was believed to be too costly for the Society, and allow an alternative proposal to be voiced. A great majority of the members present agreed and voted down the proposed vote by mail amendment to the by-laws. At that meeting a presentation was made by me explaining a alternative method of vote by mail.

For those members who could not be in Austin to see the presentation it is summarized as follows:

Any vote by mail system must accomplish the following:

- 1 Let the members be assured that each gets to vote
- 2 Ensure that each member only votes once
- 3 Be available to most members
- 4 Be able to be verified by the members
- 5 Not be so costly as to bankrupt the Society

In order to accomplish these goals it was proposed that voting by mail be accomplished by e-mail for those people who have signed up to receive the Society News Letter by e-mail.

A ballot would be prepared listing all members who wished to run for office. A member wishing to be a candidate would e-mail a bio, picture, and letter stating his or her intention to be a candidate to the secretary before a cut- off date.

The secretary would confirm the candidate was a licensed amateur radio operator, and a member in good standing of the Society. All approved candidates would be forwarded to the web master.

On a specified date the web master would post a list of all candidates, along with their bios and photos. There would also be a ballot to be printed out.

To vote a member would download the ballot, vote, put the marked ballot in a blank envelope, put that unmarked envelope in a second envelope, address the second envelope, sign his name and write his call sign on the back flap of that envelope and mail it to the Society.

During the Austin Summer Fest the election committee would:

- 1 Confirm that there were no two envelopes with the same name and call sign
- 2 That each envelope was from a member in good standing
- 3 That no one who had registered for a ballot at the Summer Fest had also mailed in a ballot

After validation the OUTER envelope would be opened and the unmarked inner envelope removed and placed in a separate container.

The unopened and unmarked inner envelopes would be taken by the election committee to a room where those envelopes would be opened and the ballots counted. Those ballots along with the ones cast during the meeting would be tallied to determine the Society's new officers.

Problems I foresee raised are:

- 1 There can be no nominations from the floor. There can't be with ANY vote by mail system. Candidates must make themselves known early so ballots can be prepared; it does not matter if the ballot comes by US Mail or e-mail. The ballot must be finalized early to allow it to be posted before the

cut off date for mail responses.

2 It requires internet access. OK, if you still haven't obtained a computer, can't get to your local library, or don't have a grandchild who can do it for you there could be a petition method where in LIMITED cases a ballot could be mailed to you.

3 The officers cheat. The activities of the election committee at Summer Fest would be open to observation by any member. If you, or a candidate, want to be a "poll watcher" OK go to it. Just like the real world-no cameras allowed.

The Society can't afford a system employing CPAs to check membership rolls, obtain candidate information, develop ballots, mail out ballots, and tabulate results. The safeguards in this proposal, along with the open observation of its operation should satisfy the most ardent opponents of the board.

I would like to hear from the membership about this proposal. Remember, it is just that, a proposal, if you have an idea or modification that would make it better, let me know.

Since this is a by-laws amendment, it is planned to have a vote by mail proposal published in early 2007 so it can be voted on at Summer Fest next year.

I can be contacted through the Society's web site or at kb5r@onewest.net.

W. E. Herman, KB5R
Vice President
Texas VHFFM Society



I am one of the two new members of the Society BoD elected in August of this year. I live in Georgetown , but I have lived in several places around Texas . I have been active in installing and maintaining FM repeaters for years. I would like to hear from you. Tell me your concerns about the Society. I am new and I am interested in making a difference.

Jim Hester- K5HTK

Meeting Notices:



The next scheduled board meeting for the Texas VHFFM Society will be held in conjunction with the Belton Hamfest, on October 7, 2006. The time and specific meeting location will be determined that day due to the scheduling of the facilities. The board will conduct such business as necessary in both an open and a closed session.

The Winter meeting of the Texas VHFFM Society will be held at a to be announced hamfest. The board is entertaining offers from different events, and hopes to finalize the meeting time and place at the October Board meeting in Belton.

The Secretary's Report

Howdy folks,

I was taking a look at our membership numbers, and have compiled some statistics that are worth noting. The Society currently has 8 Club life members, 304 life members, 12 family life members and 7 honorary members. 331 combined life members. The Society presently has 2 club members, 91 general members and 9 family members who have renewed through 2007 or beyond. 102 combined recurring members.

As of this writing, folks who have let their membership lapse are as follows:

2006 = 386

2005 = 259

2004 = 78

2003 = 101

2002 = 84

2001 = 30

2000 = 63

While I don't have any data for prior years in an easy to tabulate form, the numbers above do tell quite a tale. I believe we have a problem here. I am sure the recent legal activities concerning the Society factor into this, as well as the dues increase the membership voted in last year. But the problem is, with statistics like these, it won't be long before the Society will have to survive on the interest bearing life member account alone in order to do its job.

I believe we need to get the general membership dues back down to \$10 per year. I believe the Society needs to be more proactive and show a better presence at ham radio events around the state. Reducing expenses is an obvious move, and the Society has done that to a certain degree with the electronic delivery of the newsletter. Moving the mechanics of coordination and their renewals online will be another way to save money. Many of these things have been discussed at the summer meeting.

Finally, I believe all need to be asking ourselves what we can do personally to bring new people into this hobby and the Society.

I've recently been wearing shirts with my call sign embroidered on them. This is a great conversation starter as I have had a lot of people ask me what it means.

73 de na6m



Summer Meeting Minutes

Summer Meeting 2006 - Austin, TX

The General meeting was called to order by President Johnson, N5NH at 1305.

President Johnson presented the meeting agenda as follows:

- President's Remarks
- Director's Reports
- Committee Reports
- Old Business
- Lawsuit Update
- Pending Proposal Articles of Incorporation Vote By Mail

Amendment

- Discussion about Non Disclosure.
- New Business
- Election

President Johnson reminded the membership that the Society is no longer mailing hard copies of the newsletter. The Society is moving toward an electronic delivery system and is now emailing links to the newsletter to those who sign up. Be sure to register your email address on the Society website at <http://www.txvhffm.org>.

President Johnson urged the membership to communicate with the board concerning any suggestions or complaints and said that the Society is working on sending out a survey in the very near future. He encouraged the membership to make sure their contact information is up to date.

President Johnson discussed possible ways of accommodating members who are unable to receive the newsletter by email and offered that the Society could possibly use the US Postal System Online Net Post service for a nominal fee. He invited those who still need to receive a mailed of the newsletter to contact him so they can be added to the list.

President Johnson reminded the membership that they need to obtain their member voting card in order to participate in the election. He invited any member who did not yet have their voting member card to come up to the election committee table during the Director's reports to obtain one.

President Johnson stated that personally, he did not feel that we should be recording these meetings, at least at this time. That while the Society does not have an official policy along those lines. President Johnson entertained a motion from the membership that anyone recording the meeting should cease and desist at this time. Motion was made by Vice President Herman. Seconded by Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. President Johnson called the vote. Motion passed. President Johnson asked a member to turn off his video recorder. The member complied.

President Johnson asked for the Director's reports and called on Vice President Herman, KB5R. He experienced some difficulties with the overhead projector video feed from his laptop so President Johnson moved on.

Director Bancook could not make the meeting so President Johnson read the Treasurer's report.

Life Member Savings \$29150.75 General Fund \$ 4853.94

Some checks outstanding will strip another \$1200, leaving the General Fund at about \$3600.

Director Davis, WB5WIA could not make the meeting so President Johnson offered to discuss some things concerning the Publications Committee later in the meeting.

Director Lobaugh, W5JYJ updated the membership regarding repeater activity in South Texas.

Director Petit, WB5BMB said that he has received many emails and calls concerning the state of the Society from members looking for any news.

Director Reasoner, K5SXX discussed the Society website and invited members to sign up to receive the newsletter by email. He said there are currently around 350 members who have signed up for the newsletter.

Director Stennett, NA6M said he was busy with the mechanics of the election this week and was unable to get much else done. He introduced Tom Whiteside, N5TW as the Election Committee Chairman and invited the members to see Tom at the front of the room if they needed a member voting card.

President Johnson pointed out to the membership that the Society logo looked rough when blown up on the video projector and asked if someone in the membership could redo it with vector mapped scalable version so it would look better on presentations.

Vice President Herman resolved his computer issues and walked through a PowerPoint presentation on voting by mail for the membership. Before starting the presentation, Herman indicated that he has received a lot of feedback himself concerning the Society in general and ham radio. Director Herman said he felt that we are not doing enough in ham radio to bring new people into the hobby. Herman noted as he looked around the room that he only saw a few people under 25 and that was not good. He said we all need to do think about what will happen to the future of our hobby.

Vice President Herman discussed the Vote By Mail proposal that the members would vote on later in the meeting and said that the State of Texas has benefited from absentee voting for the last few years and he felt that it was a good system. Herman said he felt that absentee voting is wanted in the Society by the members and that some of the Directors support some type of absentee voting system. Herman thinks it is an idea whose time has come but in what format?. The proposal being voted on today says that all of the mechanics will be handled by a CPA or some sort of certified public firm. Herman says this reminds him of a friend in Conroe who always says that "if a ham can't get it cheap, he can't get it". Herman doesn't think all hams are cheap but that we are frugal. He hates to see the Society vote in a system that requires the spending of money that is not necessary. Herman continued by saying that particularly when you look at the computers and systems that many of us have in our houses these days. There are very few people who are not receiving our newsletter via the internet. There are ways to accomplish getting those people online on any kind of a ballot system.

Vice President Herman asks how do we do this? We have to know who the members are. We have to have a valid list. We have to know who is allowed to vote between the various member classes. We have to know who already voted. We have to verify that only the members due to vote in that election vote. We have to verify also that there was only one voter per member.

Vice President Herman asks what are our goals? What do we as a Society want to accomplish? One vote per member. Verifiable system where we can tell who has voted and we know that there was only one vote per member. One where the membership can have faith and confidence in that system. Vice President Herman believes it needs to be the least expensive system for the Society. When you talk about membership and dues, and you have 700 to 800 members at 15 dollars per head, that is a lot of money. Many members are here and don't pay dues. Dues paying members are

Summer Meeting Minutes (cont)

minority. We have a very strange organization in that most of the members are life members and don't pay dues. So think about that when you think about that income stream that all of a sudden is getting smaller every year.

Vice President Herman asked how we can implement this? What kind of tools can we bring to our membership? If we use the internet, it is free. Most of us have access to it, while some do not. We can make allowances for that and that he believes that number would be small. If we use US mail, it is getting more expensive every year it seems. If there is ballot counting by an Election Committee at Summerfest, a 100% increase of zero is still zero. If the ballots are organized and counted by a CPA firm, those folks charge by the hour, he said.

Vice President Herman proposed that we have some sort of internet ballot. Members would print the ballot, vote and place it inside a blank envelope. The member would then take that envelope and place it inside a second envelope and sign their name and write their call on the back of that second envelope. They would then put a 39 cent stamp on the front of it and mail it to the Society. Upon receipt the Election Committee will compare the name and call on the envelope with the membership list to determine eligibility. If that person is present in the meeting, they don't get to vote twice. The envelopes containing the ballots are removed from the outer envelopes and handed over the Election Committee. The counting process is open to anyone who wishes to witness it.

Vice President Herman went on to say that the current proposal before the Society will cost us money. Herman believes he is low when he says the CPA fees are 800 to 1,000 dollars. If they're going to take a list of members, prepare a mailing list, develop the ballots, stuff them in the envelope with another envelope, put two stamps on it and mail it all out, Herman doesn't see any CPA firm in town doing that for 1,000 dollars. Postage - 546 dollars for all those stamps which is for 39 cents times two times 700 ballots. We have about 210 dollars worth of envelopes. Ballots, probably cost around 70 dollars to have somebody print those. Total expense could be around 2,000 dollars.

Vice President Herman asked what an alternative system might cost. Internet delivery costs the Society nothing. He said your two envelopes will cost you about 15 cents. Your 39 cent stamp gets the mail delivered to the Society. Total cost to you - 54 cents. Herman asks what is wrong with this method? He feels it does not allow for write in candidates. They would have to be nominated early in order to get on the ballot so floor nominations would not work very well. A comment from the floor noted that the CPA method would have similar restrictions on floor votes.

Vice President Herman asked the members to vote no on the proposal coming up so that the directors can finish ironing out the proposal he just outlined and present it to the membership at the next general meeting. Herman reminded the members that they need to give the board direction and where they want to go with the Society, and how much they want the Society to spend on absentee voting and which way they want to go with it. Herman asked the members to allow the board to develop a full written proposal for them to review.

Vice President Herman told the members that the board needs their input and thanked those who have taken the time to write. He asked the members to vote no on the vote by mail proposal and to receive comments about what we can do to improve this hobby for

young people.

President Johnson took the floor and reiterated some of the comments made by Vice President Herman. He discussed the need to see if there is consensus among the members concerning changes and how to go about making them. Johnson said there are many ways to implement an absentee ballot system, some costing the Society money, others that push that cost to the members. Johnson said the board would like to be able to come back to the Winter meeting with one or two different proposals to run by the membership.

Committee Reports

Frequency Coordination Committee Report

State Frequency Chairman Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB took the floor and thanked those repeater trustees who returned their coordination renewal forms so that the Coordination Committee may continue to serve them efficiently. Paul acknowledged the coordinators by name and noted that there are fewer coordinators this year than last. He explained the reason is that because the coordinator's job is a typically a thankless unhappy one because the coordinator only gets complained at when something is not right, and receive very few thanks. Interests and job responsibilities change and people move on. Paul said he has been trying to 'right size' the committee so that we have energetic, enthused people who are willing to do the job. He said that back when long distance was expensive, it made sense to have coordinators local in the areas they worked. Now that all of us have cell phones with inexpensive long distance, the internet is free, as we move to our database, a lot of the processes, applications and forms will be on the internet. Paul summarized by saying that fewer coordinators taking care of your needs efficiently is probably better than more coordinators taking care of them inefficiently. Paul said that zones 1 and 2 are very busy, other zones not so busy in terms of letters that need to go out and be recycled to the coordinator. Paul said that being a coordinator is fun but it is also not fun. If you are the zone 1 VHF coordinator, you have 375 renewal letters that need to be mailed out.

Paul said that starting in September, renewals are going out. Link frequency renewals are expected to go out as well, a first. Paul asked for trustees to please return their renewals before Thanksgiving in order to be sure they are listed in the ARRL directory.

Paul discussed digital modes such as D-Star and where digital channels will end up in the coordination process. Paul said that trustees who already have an analog coordination, the digital system would plug right into that existing channel. Paul said the Frequency Coordination Committee is trying to find places to coordinate digital modes such as D-Star or P25. On UHF, there are some inputs and outputs they will be coordinate specifically for digital systems. On VHF, they are working to allocate 146.470, 146.480 146.490 146.500 146.510 MHz and their 147 MHz counterparts. Paul said the band plan will need to be reworked to accommodate these changes. Paul said that testing of D-Star in the Dallas area confirms that the system will work well with 10 kHz spacing. Paul also identified 440.525 through 440.725 as suitable for this new digital activity, along with their 445 MHz counterparts. Paul said that digital modes are being discussed on a national level and that the committee is keeping abreast of what the nation is doing.

Database Committee Report

Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY explained that he has recently taken over the project and asked the members, users and trustees what

Summer Meeting Minutes (cont)

they would like to see in the project. Make the coordination process easier? Be able to see all of your data in an easy to read format? Status of any applications? When did you last renew? Making sure your data is secure? Check your membership status online? Eric asked the members if he missed anything. The floor was quiet.

Eric asked what the Society wants from this system. A low or no cost system with low capital expenditures. Outsourcing the project would get it done quickly but at a great cost. The Society wants a system that is low maintenance and is reliable, and to reduce the workload for the zone coordinators.

Eric thanked Steve Hicks - N5AC, the board, coordinators and others for input that resulted in a 35 page specification of what the system will look like. We still need to translate the specification into a design specification - what will this system look like. We need to have the board and coordination committee review the design, write the code, review that again and have the users deploy it. Eric welcomed any input from the members.

Technical Committee Report

President Johnson said that he rode down to Austin from Dallas with Kent Britain, WA5VJB and that Kent told him he had nothing to report.

Publication Committee Report

President Johnson said that Director Davis could not make the meeting due to a prior commitment and that he would give the report on his behalf.

Electronic Publications when possible, Johnson explained that a lot of time has been spent doing mailings and putting newsletters together. The day and age has come for electronic dissemination.

2006 - 2007 Repeater Directories were printed and mailed the day prior to the meeting to all paid members as well as those members whose membership expired in 2005. In all, 850 directories were mailed out.

Elections Committee Report

President Johnson represented the Election Committee as an ex officio member and mentioned that Gerald Richmond, N5ZXX who chaired the committee, was unable to finish the project due to conflicts with his job.

President Johnson said that one item of unfinished business, the membership charged the directors last year with looking at what it would take to elect the directors by district. President Johnson had tasked the Elections Committee with this chore. Because the Society was advised by counsel to wait until the lawsuit was concluded before addressing it and due to some real life conflicts, not much progress has been made.

Johnson continued, saying that if we were to look at electing some of our directors by district, a natural choice would be to use our coordination zones. We may need to revisit this over time as Paul said, we may have fewer coordinators over time as we modernize. Today we have 9 directors. As it turns out, we elect 4 directors during even years and 5 directors during odd years. One proposal would be to keep the 4 directors at large, that is they could come from anywhere in the state and then the 5 directors could be based on a district. That way, every district would have representation by at least one director. If we chose to do it this way, We would need to have some provision on how to handle a lack of candidates from a particular zone.

Johnson said that the survey which is still in progress, deals with primarily with voting and elections. You heard Vice President

Herman earlier discussing a lot of ways we could change our elections. Some benefits to doing an election ahead of time would include not having to wait for the ballots to be counted. Some of those methods will cost more than others. Our membership classes are complicated. We have a lot of them. Some people feel that repeater trustees should have a vote. President said he will finish the survey and get it to the membership. It will provide some background information on the various types of voting and the costs involved.

Old Business

Lawsuit Wrap-up.

President Johnson said that in January, the plaintiffs filed a motion for partial summary judgment. The Society filed our response to that as well as our own motion for final summary judgment. On March 8th, 2006, there was a hearing and the Judge heard from both parties and granted the Society's request for final summary judgment which effectively ended the lawsuit. The lawsuit is over, the actions taken previously by the board stand. The total attorney's fees are about 11,000 dollars. We did take in \$600 in donations from members so our out of pocket expenses are around 10,400 dollars.

Vote By Mail Proposal.

President Johnson addressed the vote by mail proposal and offered to read the 4 power point slides. A member spoke up and asked for the reader's digest, condensed version. Johnson replied;

This is a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, effectively stating that the election will be handled by mail. It discusses the directors in what years, a nominations committee will be selected at the Winter meeting and will take candidates, the nominations will be accepted up to 90 days. The list of nominees has to be published, the ballots must be mailed and use a two envelope system. The outer envelope will have your name and call information, the inner envelope will be anonymous. A CPA firm must be used to tabulate the ballots. The results being presented to the Secretary and presented at the meeting. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation would be made in the same manner. And finally, Article 15, any member unable to attend a general or special meeting where members are allowed to vote, may vote by proxy. President Johnson pointed out that the society currently has a bylaw that specifically prohibits proxy voting. He went on to note that there is a minor textual error in the proposal that makes reference to the Winter Meeting 2006.

Discussion followed. A member asked about the costs involved. President Johnson explained that if passed, this proposal will implement vote by mail and the costs associated with handling one ballot would range between 800 dollars to 3000 dollars, depending on who does the printing, tabulation etc. A member asked about the recent dues increase. President Johnson replied that there was a dues increase to 15 dollars per member last year. The dues increase was primarily needed to offset the cost of voting. So if we go for a system that is less expensive or make no changes at all, then we would like to bring the dues back down.

A motion was made to call the question. It was seconded. Motion passed. The proposal required a 2/3rd vote to pass. It was voted on and did not pass.

Non Disclosure Agreement

President Johnson turned the floor over to Vice President Herman.

Herman described being tasked to take a look at non disclosure

Summer Meeting Minutes (cont)

agreement (NDA) early on in his tenure on the board. He found that it was causing concern and people were not signing it due to conflicts with their job descriptions and what they were doing for the Society. Herman came up with language that he believes will help solve the problems and will be circulating it among the board members for discussion.

President Johnson took the floor and asked if anyone from the membership would like to look at the agreement now he would make it available. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW stated that as a previous state frequency coordinator, previous Society president and current zone 5 coordinator, he would not sign the NDA in any form. He went on to say that if the form was pushed forward, he would quit as coordinator today. President Johnson said that he was not pushing it forward but is doing it at the direction of the membership.

Greg Jurens, WD0ACD said that he deals with NDAs every day and believes there may be places where the Society may want to consider this as a form of protection. The good news is that we have somebody on the board who does this for a living. Greg expressed appreciation to the board for taking the membership direction.

Edward LeBlanc, KA9LAY expressed concern that certain repeater sites could come under attack because they are there at the goodwill of somebody who gave them access to a tower or building. Sometimes the exact location needs to be preserved. It is good enough to put the location within 1/4 mile on the form, we all know that from a technical standpoint that it good enough. The exact location though, for example on top of a bank building. Someone attacks that and says they should be up there too. Then the party ends.

President Johnson explained that the Society does protect the exact locations of repeaters. But if the data were to get out, it is out. An NDA might not be worth much at that point.

Charlie Kosman, WB2NQV mentioned that with yesterday's technology, anyone who wants to find your repeater with a Doppler system can drive right up to it.

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW said that an NDA will not stop anybody from knowingly distributing the data. He said we have copies of the database floating around out there that are anywhere between 10 years and 2 years old from former coordinators who either accidentally or intentionally distributed the data. An NDA will not stop distribution. There is really no way to track who gave out the data.

Gerry Dalton, W5MAY commented that he believes he proposed that we get rid of the NDA requirement two meetings ago so we currently do not have the requirement. He said that this is something that we are looking at again to see if it is useable. He reminded us that an NDA is only as good as you can enforce it. And we don't have the money to enforce it.

A member commented that as a Texas non profit corporation, the members have access to the books and records of the corporation. He wondered if we would have to restrict the rights of the members to access that information in order for an NDA to be feasible. he understands that as a member, he has the right to look at any books and records.

President Johnson responded that as a member, he does have the right to review that data but that the Society does not have the obligation to provide a complete electronic copy that he can walk away with. Johnson said his first task as president was to deal with requests to hand over all of our records.

Paul Guido, N5IUT commented that he turns his information into his coordinator with the understanding that his information will be kept confidential. yes, you can find the site with Doppler, etc. But it is different when it is written down, listed or printed. He doesn't want someone hassling his building manager, trying to get access. Anyone who has that information, he hopes, has the moral obligation to try to keep that information confidential. Regardless of the NDA, those who have the data should have respect for the interests of the vested members who have those sites.

A motion was made to cease discussion on the NDA. It was seconded and passed.

President Johnson apologized to the membership and explained that he neglected to mention the results of the vested member poll prior to voting on the vote by mail proposal. He sent out poll to repeater trustees who are non voting members. 550 were mailed out, 40 were returned as undeliverable. 20 replies were received. 16 voted yes, 3 voted no and 1 was undecided. President Johnson said that if anyone feels that knowing this information would change the way they voted earlier, let him know and we will do a recount. No response from the floor.

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB made a motion to accept the results as previously voted on. Seconded by Rusty Herman, KB5R. The motion passed.

Alan Ramsey, WB5ALR made a motion that the board end the work being done on the NDA. Motion was seconded by Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW. Motion failed.

With no more new business for the Society, President Johnson turned the floor over to Tom Whiteside, N5TW to conduct the election. Tom reviewed the process with the membership.

President Johnson called for nominations from the floor. Michael Lay, N5PTN accepted a nomination and became a write in candidate. No further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

Director's speeches.

Joe Jarrett, K5FOG spoke to the membership on behalf of incumbent Dave Davis.

Candidate Hugh Davis, W5FM delivered his speech to the membership.

Candidate Jim Hester, K5HTK delivered his speech to the membership.

Candidate Charlie Kosman, WB2NQV delivered his speech to the membership.

Candidate Michael Lay, N5PTN delivered his speech to the membership.

Election Committee Chairman Tom Whiteside, N5TW and his team took over the election process.

The meeting was paused pending the election results.

The Election Committee returned from tallying the vote and certified Dave Davis, WB5WIA, Hugh Davis, W5FM, Jim Hester, K5HTK, and John Johnson, N5NH as the new directors. President Johnson thanked Joe Makeever and his staff for hosting the meeting and getting everything set up.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 1532.

Minutes by

Mark Stennett Secretary Texas VHF-FM Society

Meeting called to order at 1410 by President Johnson

Directors Present:

John Johnson , Rusty Herman, Mark Stennett, Harold Reasoner, Dave Davis, Louis Petit

Directors Absent:

Pat England, Bob Lobough, Louis Bancook

Meeting agenda was presented and approved as follows:

Lawsuit Update

Society Name Change

Survey Status

Upcoming Election

Database Committee

Repeater Directory

New Business

Lawsuit Update.

President Johnson said that while the lawsuit is over and the Society has prevailed, this is the first official meeting since the decision. All of our attorney bills have been paid. Johnson mentioned that we did have a number of contributions to our legal defense fund and asked Director Stennett if everyone who contributed was given a receipt for tax purposes. Director Stennett replied that all contributors were given receipts on the spot for their donations in San Antonio. State Frequency Coordinator (SFC) Paul Baumgardner asked how much money was donated. Director Stennett indicated that he believed the number was \$600 dollars.

Society Name Change.

President Johnson explained that the directors had discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Society at the last board meeting. President Johnson said he believed it was not the best time to entertain such a change and suggested that the board drop this particular item for the foreseeable future. President Johnson asked for comments. A member said that he had become accustomed to seeing the Society logo and asked why we would want to

change it. President Johnson said that the name could be changed to better reflect what the Society does. Thinking about the implications of a name change, Johnson wondered how we would handle paying for badges and shirts that members have bought over the years.

Survey Status.

The board was directed by the membership at the last summer meeting to take a look at changing the way we handle director elections and use some sort of method to elect directors by district or zone. President Johnson decided to send out a survey, asking the membership for comments on the issue. Johnson said the survey was not yet complete but would be in the coming weeks. Part of the survey will ask how we should handle elections with regard to absentee ballots.

Upcoming Election.

President Johnson had asked Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ to head up the committee and assist with the survey which he agreed to do. Johnson explained that a newsletter will be coming out in the near future and it will focus on the election with candidate biographies.

Database Committee.

President Johnson advised those present that the Database Committee has undergone some changes because some of the volunteers have had to back out due to work commitments. Director Davis indicated that he was no longer able to participate and President Johnson has appointed Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY to head up the Committee.

Repeater Directory.

President Johnson said that while the Society had agreed to publish a repeater directory at the winter meeting, the project was put on hold for awhile so the Society could see if they would have enough money to fund it. Now that the Society has determined it can afford to do it, the directories could be published and available by Summer fest. President Johnson asked for comments. Dallas Mellichamp, KD4HDX asked if publishing the

directories would help the Database Committee. President Johnson said that it would not but it has been several years since one was published. Steve Rothrock, N5YEO commented that his repeater was not correctly listed on the Society website and had disappeared. President Johnson advised Steve to discuss the issue with SFC Paul Baumgardner and agreed to look into this issue.

President Johnson said he believes that publishing the repeater directory is a good idea and that we have plenty of time to get it out. Director Stennett offered that while he sits at the Society tables he gets a lot of requests for repeater directories.

Director Davis made a motion that the Society publish the repeater directory. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion continued concerning the mechanics of how the repeater directory data is handled and published.

President Johnson asked Eric Schmidt who has handled the directory printing in the past. Eric replied that Larry Pollock, NB5X has done it in the past.

New Business.

President Johnson called for any new business. Director Stennett said that at the winter meeting, he was charged with researching what it would cost to trademark the Society logo. He indicated that the Society could spend \$500 to have it done, including the \$325 government fee.

Discussion followed. Director Davis made motion that incoming board at Summer fest address the issue of filing to trademark the Society name and logo. Seconded by Director Stennett. All were in favor, motion passed.

Vice President Herman presented President Johnson with a draft copy of a non disclosure agreement he had developed. President Johnson asked for it in electronic form.

SFC Paul Baumgardner stated that he was

changing the Zone 5 Coordinator. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW will be the new coordinator for Zone 5 while Michael Lay, N5PTN will now handle Zone 3 and 4. President Johnson asked if we were combining zones 3 and 4. Paul Baumgardner responded that he would like to. President Johnson said we would need to discuss this because it might affect plans to district the state for election purposes. Johnson suggested it could just be an issue of semantics and that Michael Lay would effectively be handling 2 zones instead of combining them. Paul Baumgardner agreed.

President Johnson called for any other new business. Hearing none, the board went into executive session at 1453.

Finishing the executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 1514.

Minutes by Mark Stennett
Secretary Texas VHF-FM Society



BOD meeting 5 August 2006 - Austin, TX

Meeting called to order at 1545 by President Johnson

Directors Present:

John Johnson Rusty Herman Mark Stennett Jim Hester Dave Davis (by speakerphone) Bob Lobaugh Hugh Davis Louis Petit

Directors Absent:

Pat England

President Johnson called for nominations for president. Rusty nominated John Johnson. Numerous seconds were offered. Johnson was voted in by acclamation.

Vice President Herman made a motion to keep all current officers by acclamation. Paul Baumgardner noted that we have no Treasurer, John Johnson explained that Director Stennett may be making a change. Stennett expressed interest in being Treasurer. Rusty withdrew his motion.

President Johnson called for nominations for vice president and asked Rusty if he was still willing. Rusty confirmed that he was. John made a motion to accept Rusty as vice president by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed. President Johnson nominated Director Stennett as Treasurer. Director Stennett accepted. The motion was seconded and all were in favor.

President Johnson called for nominations for Secretary. Director Petit asked about having Director Stennett fill both roles. Paul Baumgardner stated there may be language in the bylaws that separated the positions. President Johnson said that we could leave the official position open and have Director Stennett serve as acting Secretary. President Johnson said he did not want to place an undue burden on Director Stennett and asked if he felt he could perform both jobs. Stennett replied that he could. Vice President Herman encouraged Director Stennett to let the board know if it becomes a burden.

Director Dave Davis suggested that the board defer the election of Secretary for the October board

meeting. An action item was taken to complete the task of electing the Secretary position at the October meeting. Director Stennett will be Acting Secretary until then.

President Johnson called for nominations for News Editor. Vice President Herman nominated Director Dave Davis. Dave Davis accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

President Johnson explained to the board that traditionally the board meets at the fall Belton Ham fest, and then often will hold a board meeting at the spring Belton Ham fest although this year we chose to meet in Plano at HamComm. President Johnson asked if the board was in agreement to meet at the fall Belton Ham fest. A motion was made to hold the next board meeting in Belton the first weekend in October. Motion was seconded and passed.

Director Lobaugh asked the board if it would be willing to hold a meeting in Corpus Christi. Several board members replied that they would. Lobaugh said there is a new ham club in Corpus Christi that may express interest in sponsoring the meeting. President Johnson asked if there were any ham swaps in the area. Director Lobaugh said that the group that sponsors the ham fest is not necessarily interested in sponsoring the Society meetings. President Johnson asked the board to remind clubs that sponsoring the Society meetings need not be expensive. He said that the Society only needs a meeting room and that by holding meetings at their venue, the Society is sure to draw people to the event.

Director Lobaugh said he would like to see the meetings spread out around the state. Director Hugh Davis asked if the board would consider meeting in Midland. President Johnson said the ham swaps need to invite the Society to attend, not the other way around. Director Lobaugh said getting to Midland would be expensive. Vice President Herman said it is expensive getting anywhere and that we should circulate around the state.

President Johnson asked the board to look at their calendars for meeting possibilities and maybe

to see if we can make arrangements for the winter meeting.

Director Dave Davis asked the directors to provide him with a 150 word report for the newsletter. by the end of Labor Day.

President Johnson asked the board if there were any other items to discuss. Director Dave Davis reviewed his list by saying that the board had set the October meeting, needs to get their directors' reports to him, elect a Secretary at the October meeting and appoint the State Frequency Coordinator. President Johnson said that the State Frequency Coordinator position is a committee appointment and it perpetual until it is changed. Director Stennett said that it has not come up as an agenda item. President Johnson said that he was not changing the appointment.

State Frequency Coordinator (SFC) Paul Baumgardner said that the Zone 5 coordinator (Z5C), Paul Gilbert, has tendered his resignation pending the adoption of the Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA). President Johnson asked him to please wait until it is finished. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW spoke up and said he was serious. Paul Baumgardner said that this would mean we will have gone through 5 coordinators in Zone 5 in 2 years. Paul said he understands why we want to do the NDA. He said we would not sue anybody. We can't enforce it and no matter how soft we write it, if we go off and do this we will only limit the pool because the board has to sign it too. What do we do if someone gets elected to the board and they refuse to sign the NDA? There is no provision in the bylaws that says we have to fire someone for not signing it. President Johnson reminded the board that we were directed by the membership to investigate the topic. He said that several members came up to him after the meeting and said they don't want it. He said there is a good chance the members will vote it down and asked Paul Gilbert to be patient.

SFC Paul Baumgardner said he wanted the

board to be aware of what the Coordination Committee is thinking on the NDA issue.

Z5C Paul Gilbert said that the Zone 5 records are a mess and need to be cleaned up. He said he believed that a previous coordinator was handing out the database in west Texas. What is the Society going to do about that? Paul Baumgardner asked if he had signed the NDA, what would we do about it. President Johnson said we can send him a cease and desist letter. Director Lobaugh asked how he can get a copy of the NDA letter. President Johnson said it will be posted in the upcoming newsletter and said he would be sure it gets sent to the board.

SFC Paul Baumgardner asked the board how he is supposed to respond to the TFCA when he receives coordination letters from Blaine Hamrick, AL7HH. President Johnson responded that this has been discussed before. Paul Baumgardner said the board owes him a response as to how he is to respond to these letters. He said that the TFCA is not a recognized coordinator and they are not doing active coordination but they are doing something. He said we need a formal position as to how the coordination Committee is to respond to that group. President Johnson recommended that when the Society receives a coordination letter from a non NFCC recognized entity, the Society responds by thanking them for their information but that we do not recognize them because they are not recognized by the NFCC. Director Petit offered that we should make an entry in our database so that we do not coordinate anything on top of them and cause any interference. He said we should not publish it or submit to the ARRL. Director Stennett said that he had recommended the last time this came up for discussion that the Society coordinate the incoming request to Blaine Hamrick and list it as such. It is a public way of handling this because the TFCA is effectively acting as a proxy in the process. Paul Baumgardner said that the incoming paperwork does not list the trustee name but it does come from Blaine. Director Stennett made a motion that the

Coordination Committee issue incoming coordination requests from the TFCA to Blaine Hamrick, AL7HH and list them as such. The motion was seconded and passed.

Vice President Herman asked Paul Baumgardner for clarification on the problems in Zone 5. Paul ran down the list of previous coordinators and said that Paul Gilbert is on the case. Herman asked which Zones right now are in trouble. Paul Baumgardner replied that Zone 5 is a mess due to poor record keeping and that Paul Gilbert will get it cleaned up. Paul Baumgardner said that Zone 1 is going to be an ongoing issue until we work through most of the issues and get everyone feeling good that the waiting list is being actively worked on. He said that Zone 3 is an issue because the outgoing coordinator shredded his records. The electronic data is current but we don't have the file folders that contain the renewal forms. Paul Baumgardner said he feels Zone 3 and 4 are in good shape overall.

Director Lobaugh and Paul Baumgardner discussed the process by which renewal forms are handled. Baumgardner said that some coordinators chose not to send out renewals every year, others were sending renewal forms only to trustees who did not respond the prior year. he explained that this is a people issue.

SFC Paul Baumgardner said that the online database will help solve many of these problems. The discussion turned to the merits of various database programs and how the current software works.

Z5C Paul Gilbert mentioned that the Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) uses a program by RadioSoft called Comstudy for their coordination work. Director Stennett asked if Paul had spoke with Peter Moncure of RadioSoft because Peter had not yet responded to his email on this subject. Paul Gilbert said that he had and that SERA uses a limited version of the program for their coordination work, and that Peter had offered the Society the same deal as SERA. He believed the cost to be

around \$2,500 but the Society would receive no technical support for that price. Director Stennett said that he has Comstudy on his laptop and uses it frequently. Paul Gilbert said he uses it daily and believes that between Director Stennett and himself, we should self train the coordinators to use this program. Vice President Herman asked what kind of support requirements Director Stennett and Paul Gilbert have seen by using it. Director Stennett replied that he has yet to need to call for support while using it in the broadcast sector. Paul Gilbert replied that he calls for support frequently because of his need to coordinate with APCO. He clarified that this was a political issue, not a technical one.

SFC Paul Baumgardner expressed concern that the data updates need to be concentrated in one place and discussed the people problems associated with storing updates in numerous locations.

Z5C Paul Gilbert discussed the distance routine used in the old DBase coordination program and that other programs have been tested and found not to be accurate where dealing with coordinates are concerned. He said the RadioSoft program handles coordinates and distance separations very well.

Webmaster Harold Reasoner mentioned that the RadioSoft program may not do some of the other things the online database being worked on will do, such as tracking the membership database. President Johnson asked if the data could be imported and exported from the RadioSoft program. Paul Gilbert replied that importing data is easy, exporting it is a little more difficult but possible. He said that using RadioSoft to do coordinating work is very accurate but the trustee will need to provide very accurate data and not change it. Paul Baumgardner said that this would be a problem no matter what method were used. Paul Baumgardner said that the another issue is that we have to have an adequate number of seats and systems with which to play with this. Director Hester asked if we could have a committee to study this. Webmaster Reasoner explained that there is already a committee in place working on the database project.

He said that Director Dave Davis wrote a routine several years ago to deal with the trigonometry and mathematics to handle the distance stuff. he said that Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY, Steve Hicks, N5AC, and Ronnie Franklin, WD5GIC are working on getting the system up and running. Vice President Herman asked how soon this will happen. President Johnson said that so long as there are no obstacles such as an NDA, they expect to have it up and running in less than a year.

Discussion resumed concerning the mechanics of the current paper renewal form process. SFC Paul Baumgardner reiterated that getting it done is still a people issue.

Director Hester asked about having the renewals sent at the state level as opposed to the zone level. Paul Baumgardner said that there are 1479 repeaters and another 300 to 500 links across the state. Paul Baumgardner said that it has been attempted in the past with poor results. Webmaster Reasoner confirmed it was disastrous when he tried to do it due to the volume about 3 years ago. Director Hester asked how many trustees do we not have email addresses for. Z5C replied that at least 60 percent of the trustees either have no email address or the one listed is wrong. Director Hugh Davis asked if we could require an email address as part of the coordination request. SFC Paul Baumgardner said that the standards for coordination currently don't require an email address and offered that there are a lot of little housekeeping items that need to be brought up to date.

Director Lobaugh hypothesized that if he wanted to put up a repeater and not coordinate it, he can do that. SFC Paul Baumgardner said he could do that and there is nothing the Society could do except try to get him to coordinate it. Z5C Paul Gilbert mentioned a repeater in Goldthwaite on 146.790 that has been on the air for at least 15 years without being coordinated.

Director Hester mentioned that if he were to approach this in the business world, he would start

with a flow chart that shows what the goals are and the various steps and obstacles to getting there. SFC Paul Baumgardner said that Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY has already come up with a document that describes the goals and processes to reaching them.

SFC Paul Baumgardner summarized the discussion by saying that coordinators have a finite life and that they are excited in the beginning, less excited toward the end. The job is a thankless one and the trick is catching them at the point where they are no longer interested before it becomes a problem. He said that somehow you have to manage them with alienating your friends while at the same time not firing someone who is no longer being productive.

President Johnson summarized by saying that we have a database requirement document and that Z5C Paul Gilbert mentioned the RadioSoft program as being a useful tool. He asked if it was worth looking to see of using the RadioSoft program was feasible. SFC Paul Baumgardner stated that he believes we should have a conversation with Eric Schmidt, get the Database Committee to finish the review they are doing and decide if this is something we can do soon or not. If it is not soon, maybe we spend the \$2500 on RadioSoft and go with that.

President Johnson pointed out that while RadioSoft is a commercial product, with nice graphic outputs what will take the Database Committee a while to implement. SFC Paul Baumgardner said that while this is true, the RadioSoft program will not handle forms which is a problem. Z5C Paul Gilbert stated that while the RadioSoft program does not do forms, it will allow the Coordination Committee to start doing real coordinations based on signal over terrain instead of drawing a 70 mile circle around a site as we presently do. Director Petit stated that our current standards specify separation by distance. Z5C Paul Gilbert said we would want to change the standards to reflect the application of this new tool if we

choose to use it.

SFC Paul Baumgardner said we need to examine with the Database Committee whether or not we need to do both the RadioSoft program and the online database or just rely on one, and come to a decision before October. President Johnson asked Baumgardner coordinate that effort. Baumgardner agreed.

Director Stennett brought up that the Society needs to buy Quickbooks for the Treasurer. President Johnson said it was already authorized. Vice President Herman said that he uses Quicken in his business. President Johnson said the purchase was already authorized. Director Stennett replied that it was discussed but no action was taken. Vice President Herman made a motion that the Society buy a copy of Quicken. The motion was seconded and passed.

President Johnson reminded the board that the next board meeting will be in Belton. Date and time to follow by email.

Tom Blackwell, N5GAR brought up the topic of several Yahoo Groups that disparage the Society. President Johnson said they the board is painfully aware of the problem and that a number of folks have filed complaints with Yahoo concerning these groups but that Yahoo has done nothing to date about them.

Tom Blackwell discussed the Summary Judgment on our webpage and asked about efforts to raise money to cover the Society's legal expenses. He asked if the plaintiffs had paid the court costs as ordered. SFC Paul Baumgardner explained that the court costs were on the order of \$250 to \$500 and said that a lot of people are confusing the court costs with our legal fees.

President Johnson called for any other business. Director Petit made a motion to close the meeting. Seconded by Vice President Herman. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 1646.

Minutes by Mark Stennett
Acting Secretary
Texas VHF-FM Society

Notice of Appointment of New Director

From our Bylaws:

4.7 VACANCIES. In the event of death or resignation or inability to serve of any Director, the remaining Directors shall appoint a replacement from the Membership, excluding Associate and Affiliated Group Members, to serve in the vacated position until the next meeting of the Society Membership. In the event of the death or resignation or inability to serve of any principal officer prior to the expiration of the term for which he was elected, the Directors shall fill the vacancy from the remaining Directors.

At the Fall 2006 Board of Directors Meeting there will be an agenda item to fill a vacancy on the board.

Interested members should contact the secretary (Mark NA6M) or the President (John N5NH) to have thier name placed into consiceration. The Board intends to review all submissions prior to the meeting, so get your material in as soon as possible.

The Board meeting will be at 1:30pm at the Belton Expo Center in conjunction with the Belton Hamfest.