



Important Newsletter Announcement!

The Board of Directors and the General Membership attending the 2006 Winter Meeting agreed to stop mailing the Texas VHF-FM Society NEWS to all members after THIS ISSUE. This is the FINAL MAILED issue that you will receive without a special request at an additional fee.

Why are we doing this? Many organizations have switched to Internet-delivered newsletters in the last several years to save money. This change will save the Society around \$2000 per year. Also, DFW area members have been doing all the logistics of all the mailings (newsletters, polls, etc.) for over two decades! We need a break! But seriously, it can be quite time consuming to deal with the printer, stuff upwards of a thousand envelopes, label them, stamp them, sort them, bundle them, and lug them to the post office where if the clerk is having a bad day you get to redo the whole thing. Finally, this method will allow us to get the newsletter to you more quickly and possibly deliver more issues per year.

There are some members who do not have Internet access or may not be able to readily get a copy from a friend. We also have visually-impaired members who need a printed copy for their readers. So for those (hopefully few) members who REALLY, REALLY need a mailed copy, we are planning to use an online service from the U.S. Postal Service. We send them a PDF and a mailing list and they do the rest, for a nominal fee of course. The additional cost for this service to our members hasn't been determined yet, but will probably be around \$6-7 per year.

So what do you need to do? It's easy and painless.

1. Visit <http://www.txvhffm.org/>, go to the NEWSLETTER tab and sign up. (If you previously registered for E-News then you DO NOT have to register again.)
2. Receive your confirmation email.
3. Wait for future emails telling you when the next newsletter is ready for download.

We will probably use your email address for the occasional Society announcement but we will not give out your email address to anyone without your permission.

Thanks for your support and understanding as we make this transition.

2005-06 Officers and Directors

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From the President's Desk



We had a great Winter Meeting in San Antonio in January. Thanks to everyone who attended. My family is always happy to go down there for a long weekend, too, and this time was no exception. The only downside to the trip for me was the hotel bill as they insisted on staying at the Riverwalk. Oh

well...

There are a few items I'd like to mention here. The first is that the lawsuit is now over, as a result of hearings on March 8. I'm happy that the court has validated the decisions made by the previous Board of Directors, and that the handcuffs are now off our business. We now have the opportunity to openly explore all options with regards to our annual election, districting, and the voting process.

I'm sure you've already seen the notice on the front page that this is the last mailed issue of the NEWS . We're doing this for several reasons that are noted in the minutes of the Winter Meeting, but it will help us to get the newsletter out to you more quickly, save a ton of money, and make life a lot easier for those of us who have had to deal with hundreds of newsletters and bulk mailings for decades. Yes, decades. We've been doing the folding, stapling, and mutilating from the DFW area for well over 20 years and maybe a lot longer. It's time to get into the 21st century. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details.

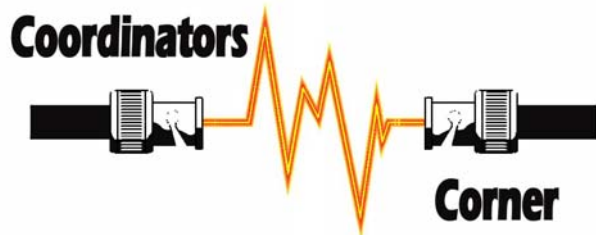
The next Board meeting will be at HamCom, but we have plenty of things going on. Please make sure we have your current email address (see the newsletter signup page at www.txvhffm.org) as we will start to use our email list more in the future for announcements.

At the recent Winter Meeting, a motion was passed to create a Legal Defense Fund to deal with expenses from the lawsuit. Monies were collected at the meeting, but additional funds are still needed. The cost of defending suit is approximately \$11,000 of Society funds. Please consider making a contribution to the Legal Defense Fund.

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Texas VHF-FM Society Standing Committees

Frequency coordination:	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Database Committee:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA
Technical Committee:	Kent Britain WA5VJB
Trustee (W5OGZ):	Jay Maynard K5ZC
Publications Committee:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA



Notes from the State Frequency Coordinator *Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB*

Thank you for returning your renewals to the various Zone Coordinators. Without your help, the repeater directory published by the ARRL and the Texas VHF FM Society would not be as accurate. We have 1475 coordinated systems in Texas now. That is an increase in 75 systems from last year.

We have two new coordinators, Lance Tolar - KD5EFB and Paul Gilbert - KE5ZW. Lance Tolar is taking over Zone 5 (West Texas) and Paul Gilbert will handle Zone 4 (Austin & San Antonio). Lance is new to coordination and is eager to begin working with the Trustees of Zone 5. Paul has been a Zone Coordinator and Statewide Frequency Coordinator in the past and will bring some depth to the Zone 4 position. Please contact them about issues in those areas.

Please keep any updates about coordinated systems to the Zone Coordinators. We need that information to keep the database current. Also, please make sure that any updates on construction permits are provided to the Zone Coordinators. The construction permit should be signed and returned to the Zone Coordinator so that the trustee acknowledges all of the parameters of the permit. Also, notice is required for changing the status of the system from "under construction" to "active". Please remember that construction permits are issued for six months and can be renewed for an additional six months.

Also, please make sure that you keep your address current. That is both true for coordination issues and membership issues. We are also trying to gather e-mail addresses for trustees. Please forward your e-mail address to your Zone Coordinator.

Thank you.

****Portable Repeater Channels**

A discussion came up in the recent Winter Meeting about "Portable Repeaters" and appropriate channels. In VHF, 145.25

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Frequency Coordinators

State Frequency Coordinator

Paul Baumgardner - W5PSB
12936 Honey Locust Circle
Euless, TX 76040
voice: 817-868-7663
fax: 817-354-7736
coord@txvhffm.org

Zone 1, Northeast Texas

All bands except 440 Mhz

Craig Green - KV5E
2818 Emerald Drive
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-270-8234
zone1-2m@txvhffm.org

Zone 1, Northeast Texas 440Mhz

Paul Finch - WB5IDM
1417 Jackson Trail
Azle, TX 76020
817-444-0448
zone1-440@txvhffm.org

Zone 2, Southeast Texas

Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY
120 Rucks Drive
Angleton, TX 77515
979-849-7703
zone2@txvhffm.org

Zone 3, South Texas

Paul Finch - WB5IDM
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817-444-0448
zone3@txvhffm.org

Zone 4, Central Texas

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Cedar Park, TX 78613
512-260-9365
zone4@txvhffm.org

Zone 5, West Texas

Lance Tolar - KD5EFB
1049 N Third St Suite 304
Abilene, TX 79601
325-627-0018
zone5@txvhffm.org

Mexican Liaison:

David Woolweaver - K5RAV
2210 So. 77 Sunshine Strip
Harlingen, TX 78550
956-425-3128
mex-liaison@txvhffm.org

Link Frequencies

420Mhz, 900Mhz, 1.2Ghz

Johnny Stigler - WA5ZRQ
2617 Tallow
Euless, TX 76039
214-236-0222
links@txvhffm.org

(144.65 inputs) and in UHF, 441.3 through 441.39 (with the 446.3 through 446.39 inputs) are available for portable repeaters. These are the "non-protected and shared" portion of each band plan. Each of these channels should have tone access on both receive and transmit. For VHF, For UHF, the normal channels of 441.3, 441.325 and others can be used, but also can use 12.5 khz splinter channels such as 441.3125, 441.3375 or 10 khz channels such as 441.31, 441.32. These channels can also be inverted with high out and low in if necessary. Portable Repeater channels can be coordinated through the Zone 1 coordinators. Make sure that you specify that these are for "Statewide" use. These will be published in the various repeater directories as a "statewide" assignment.

Paul Baumgardner - W5PSB
Statewide Frequency Coordinator
Past President (2004-2005)
Honorary Life Member



Those contributions can be made to the Society PO Box, a local Director or Zone Coordinator.

You make the Society. The Society does not exist on its own. We need your participation in the process of Meetings, dialogue about on-going debates and participation in committees. Do not stand by on the side and ask why the Society is not doing what you think it should....participate. Talk to any Director or Zone Coordinator about the Society and get involved.

In a recent web e-mail exchange, several folks assumed the Society is conducting secret meeting at an upcoming HamFest. They continued that the Society is always conducting secret meeting and has a lot to discuss. The Texas VHF FM Society has routinely announced meetings that are upcoming. This has been accomplished through the Webpage and The News. The Society wants active participation from members. The Society needs active participation from Members. We all accomplish more by working together than assuming the worst.

Regards,
John Johnson N5NH
President, Texas VHF-FM Society, 2005-2006

Courts grants Society's Motion for Summary Judgment

The lawsuit involving the Texas VHF FM Society and the nine Society members has been concluded in favor of the Society.

The Court has granted Judgment in favor of Texas VHF FM Society (Defendant) which ENDS the pending lawsuit against the Society for the Vote by Mail motion. The Court 's ruling essentially affirms that the Society DID NOT act improperly in its dealings with the motion, the tabling of the motion and the bringing of the motion for vote in August. The Final Summary Judgment document is posted on the Society Webpage.

If no further action is taken by the Plaintiffs, all relevant documents from the lawsuit will be archived on the Society webpage and available in May 2006.

Notes from Zone 2 – Spring 2006

Welcome to the Zone 2 repeater coordination update. The following repeaters newly coordinated since the Fall 2005 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.

Zone 2 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 11/03/05 and 2/19/06

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Bedias	147.120	147.720	KB5BRM	O123.0
Centerville	147.300	147.900	W5VSD	O100.0
Conroe	442.625	447.625	KD5ZYV	O136.5
Dickenson	442.225	447.225	WR5GC	OE131.8

In addition to these new coordinations, there are currently nineteen active construction permit applications in Zone 2.

The repeater renewals for Zone 2 (Houston Metro area) were mailed on 8/27/05, and those that were not received by 11/14/05 were mailed a second time via U.S. mail to the trustee address listed in the FCC database and emailed to the address listed on QRZ.com. If you know you should have received a renewal from Zone 2 please contact me via email or phone and I will send out a duplicate right away. My contact information is listed in the front of the newsletter or on our 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.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
KD5HHW	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004
KK5XQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005
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 the Board...

THE UP'S PERCH

As I write this, the primary elections are over and life is returning to what passes as “normal” in this house. Last week was also a significant week for the Society. I have learned that the lawsuit against the Society in a Dallas court has come to an end. Yes, there are options open to the other side for motion and appeals to drag it out. I hope not.

If the intent of the lawsuit was to destroy or bankrupt the Society it has failed. If the intent was to bring about change or redirection within the Society I think it was successful.

At the San Antonio and Belton meeting I discussed possible changes with various members at large. The almost universal response was to get the lawsuit over first. That has been the overriding concern on all the members', and the boards', minds. If the lawsuit is now finally over, then I believe this board will bring about change. In that regard I want your input, comments, complaints about the following:

1. In the 21st Century does the name “Texas VHF FM Society” really apply to what we do or stand for? If you think it does then I want to know that also.

2. Vote by mail. As you have read elsewhere, this is the last issue of the newsletter to be mailed out to the members. Starting with the next issue you will have to go to the Society's web site and download it. Couldn't you do that with a ballot also? Any system requires you to give the Society a good email address.

Now help me out. How would you propose to have a voting system that is fair to everyone (if they are using email). is cost effective to the Society, insures that each member only votes one time, and satisfies those members who will say, “only a high price CPA firm can be trusted to count the members votes.” Remember, ENRON had very high priced CPA firms lie for it.

Call me, email me, write me with your suggestions, comments, complaints and we will bring them to the next meeting.

Rusty Herman KB5R
Vice President
rustyh@onewest.net

Summer Meeting Notice

The Summer meeting will be held in Austin in conjunction with the Austin Summerfest. Information for summerfest is best obtained from <http://www.austinsummerfest.org/>. The Society general meeting will be held Saturday, August 5, 2006 at a time TBD.

Not much happening in South Texas, since the last News Letter...

I understand that there have been some Building Permits for new Repeaters in the area. The information received indicates that the Frequency Coordinators are doing a great job.

I would encourage all members to consider receiving their News Letter via E-Mail. This will save the Society a great deal of money.

Anyone that has any questions for me , please e-mail me your question. I will do my best to get you an answer.

There is a great deal of interest in Winlink 2000. If you have not investigated it, consider doing so. This is one of the new means being utilized by ARES. Tom Whiteside, is heading up the state ARES, effort. Check it out. There are Winlink 2000 class's being held in the Houston area.

Storm season is nearing , everyone should start getting ready.....In fact everyone should "ALL WAYS BE READY", when the need comes.

Thanks to Dave Davis for his effort in publishing this News Letter.

73

Bob Lobaugh/W5JYJ

Correction:

In the minutes of the summer meeting, the statement: "Election Committee Chairman stated that Paul Baumgardner and Eric Schmidt dropped from the election" is in error. The correct statement should be: "Election Committee Chairman stated that Paul Baumgardner and Eric Smith dropped from the election".

Minutes of the Winter Board Meeting

Texas VHF-FM Society Board of Director's Meeting

January 14th 2006, San Antonio

The meeting was called to order at 1523 by President Johnson.

Board members present: Bob Lobaugh, Rusty Herman, Harold Reasoner, Louis Petit, John Johnson, Mark Stennett

Board members absent: Louis Bancook, Pat England, Dave Davis

President Johnson presented the agenda which had one item of business, to ratify and vote on the decision the board had made on a recent conference call that to authorize the Society's attorney to spend additional funds in defense of the lawsuit and taking a more offensive position in the case.

Director Petit made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Director Herman.

All were in favor. No one opposed. The motion passed.

There being no other business items for the meeting, President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 1524.

From the Secretary's Desk

Howdy folks

With the lawsuit behind us, it is time to get back to work. I look forward to no longer having my hands tied behind my back on the many issues the Society faces.

I recently mailed out life member badges for a number of our life members. Mail addressed to W5NDS and W5CD were returned to me as undeliverable. If you see these members, please have them contact me so I may get their badges to them and update the Society records.

I find it hard to believe it is March already. I have been buried in a radio studio buildout project in Houston and have not had much time for anything else for the last couple of months.

73 de na6m

Minutes of the Winter Meeting

The Winter General Meeting was held at the San Antonio Ham swap and was called to order by President Johnson On January 14th, 2006 at 1311.

President Johnson called on the membership to approve the agenda as presented on the overhead projector.

Dave Paperman - W5WP made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jay, K5ZC. All were in favor, motion passed.

President Johnson noted that the meeting attendance was small and that he recognized many of those present as Society members. President Johnson took a straw poll to dispense with the formal membership voting eligibility roll call and get on with the meeting. The membership agreed.

President Johnson discussed the Unofficial "Official Yahoo Group" that purports to be representing the business of the Society. Johnson noted that the group was not sanctioned by the board or any members that are willing to make their presence known. Most people posting there are doing so anonymously and there are a lot of mistruths, misinformation, lies, outright garbage and personal attacks being posted there. Because of this environment, the directors have chosen not to participate in this Yahoo Forum.

President Johnson refuted a claim made in the Yahoo Group that the Society was holding the Winter meeting in San Antonio in order to make it hard for North Texas members to participate. He pointed out that the Society has been moving the Winter meeting back and forth between Arlington and San Antonio for about the past 10 years because those events have invited us to their venues. Historically the Society has not pushed for invitations and has let event organizers to invite us to bring our meeting and the members that attend to their venues. This year the Arlington event did not take place. The leader, Dave Davis was not able to schedule it and has had health issues so we would have probably cancelled that meeting anyway. As a result, Arlington was not an option. San Antonio was the only event that offered us an invitation this year which is why we are here. In the past, the Society has met in Midland, Houston and a number of other places. Johnson noted that Harlingen was having an event and we could have all driven even further south to meet there.

President Johnson commented on another point made in the Yahoo group regarding proxy votes. We had an issue at the Summer 2004 meeting in Austin about proxy votes where a group tried to have eighty proxy votes counted towards the election we had. Our bylaws specifically exclude proxy votes. Johnson recalled that the proxy vote bylaw was adopted approximately 20 years ago. Current and or recent board members were accused of putting that bylaw in to keep people from voting which is absurd because the proxy bylaw has been in place for quite a long time. All we are doing is following the bylaws. Because of that exclusion, the other State statutes that would normally allow proxy voting do not apply because they are specifically excluded in our bylaws.

President Johnson commented on club affiliations and asked the membership how many present were ARRL members. How many belong to San Antonio area clubs? Austin? Dallas? A variety of hands went up. Johnson asked how many present were Baptists. The membership chuckled. Johnson noted that the Texas Baptists have a ham radio club so be on the look out for them. President Johnson illustrated that we are all members of various organizations besides the Texas VHF-FM Society and the fact that some of us may belong to a certain group that has been getting a lot of negative press is beside the point. He went on to say that this is the Society, other groups he is involved in do not dictate to him nor have they ever tried to tell him how to conduct business while serving on the board or as president. That is not to say that a special interest group couldn't say 'we like these directors over those directors' or we like doing this over doing that'. All of that could happen. But at the end of the day, there are no proxy votes so you have nobody coming in here with 100 proxy votes and then voting the way they want. Individuals come in here, listen to the discussions for the business and then make up their mind based on what they have heard and maybe what any groups they belong to may have recommended and then they vote. Johnson's church makes strong recommendations for candidates every election year. They recommend that he vote that way. It doesn't mean he has to but that's what they recommend. There have been many allegations that certain groups are in control of the Society or are trying to do things a certain way, that favoritism has been applied. Different directors

and coordinators will tell you that Johnson has conferred with them over the past couple of years. And while there some coordination issues in North Texas that resulted in some confusion with some of the database items as well as some miscommunication, there was no intentional wrongdoing done that President Johnson has found any evidence of. President Johnson said he feels he can strongly refute all of the claims that have been made in the Yahoo Group.

President Johnson went on to discuss a moderated forum being started on the Society website. The forum would be a moderated venue where anyone could sign up and post questions for the Society and the board would answer them there. No anonymous accounts would be allowed. Mark Stennett, Secretary has offered to moderate the forum and Johnson said that in the future the moderator is always a board member or someone working at the discretion of the board. We expect to be turning that on soon and will have a nice friendly place where people can discuss Society business.

President Johnson discussed bylaw 6.6.3 which requires us to poll vested members on business items that could be detrimental to them. Johnson reminded the membership that vested members are repeater trustees who are not actually members of the Society. We would clearly like to have all of them as members but for whatever reason, a number of them choose not to join. There are other coordination organization groups around the country where their members are trustees. If you want to get a coordination, you have to join and be a member of that group. The Society was not set up in that manner 40 years ago when it was created. Therefore we have an obligation to make sure that, as we are setting up standards for frequency coordination or making changes to our bylaws, we don't do anything that will affect them. This is why 6.6.3 requires us to poll the vested members and publish those results so everybody is aware of what they're feeling on issues that are pertinent to them. President Johnson said he understood that 6.6.3 was adopted in the 1980's and there was a very spirited debate. At the end of the day it was put in. Johnson believes that a lot of the people that were initially against that have since stated that they believe it was a good thing. Johnson said he believes there are areas of the bylaws we that need to tweak for today, changes that we can make for the better, but this 6.6.3 is a good one and it needs to stay.

President Johnson addressed the lawsuit status. Late last year, after the summer meeting, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed a motion for partial summary judgment. His understanding was that their intent was to get the judge to try to make an orderly ruling ahead of the actual court date and that if the judge had found in favor, then they would effectively have actually won. It would have stipulated that vote by mail would have passed. Last Monday was the day of hearing for that motion and it was denied by the judge. President Johnson continued by saying that within about 15 minutes, the plaintiffs filed an appeal of that decision. No official date for that hearing was available at meeting time. They have also filed more documents with quite a number of discovery items which could potentially require

directors and the state frequency coordinator to provide a lot of documentation and work in order to do that. Those items are still pending and we are not at liberty to discuss the individual items. Every time the plaintiffs file a motion or file more items for discovery, it ends up costing you, the membership more money. Our insurance policy does not cover this action because it was brought by members. So we are having have to fund our defense out of membership dues. Unfortunately, this is going to continue on for quite a while. Whether the plaintiffs choose to file a lawsuit is one thing, but to continue to file these motions and run up the costs shows you where they are coming from. The official date of the hearing is March 20th in the District Court 192 in Dallas.

Greg Jurrens - WDADC asked about how much we have spent so far on the lawsuit. President Johnson replied that we have spent an initial \$1500 and an additional \$1750 handling these interim items that have come up. We are looking at spending another \$2500 on depositions before the court hearing and there could be another \$3000 on top of that.

A member asked about other costs, court recorder etc. President Johnson said that to date there have been no other additional expenses and that the \$2500 figure included some court recorder and other ancillary fees.

Joe Makeever - W5HS suggested that the Society take donations to the legal defense fund and start a collection box at the summer meeting. President Johnson replied that right now the President Johnson said that the Society is doing OK. The interest from the life member savings account is available for use. The Society also chose not to publish a second newsletter between now and the summer meeting. There was only one newsletter that was mailed last December.

John Hunt - W5DKK made a motion that the Society create a legal defense fund that would include any donations that members chose to make and that the ability to collect donations at any organizational level the Society participates in.

Robert Craig - W5RMC recommended that the legal defense fund be approved by the Society attorney before implementation.

Joe Makeever - W5HS recommended that since the Society is a non profit 501-C3 organization, we could issue a receipt for tax credit to the contributor.

Paul Guido - N5IUT seconded the motion.

Rich Osman - N1OZ asked how does the fund close? President Johnson said that it would likely close when the lawsuit was over and that the general membership would likely make a motion to close the fund at the appropriate time.

Greg Jurrens - WD0ACD moved that we call the question. All were in favor, no one opposed.

The membership voted on creating a legal defense fund. All but one were in favor. Motion passed.

President Johnson called for the membership to approve the minutes from the summer meeting as published in the last newsletter. Paul, W5PSB made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Rich Osman, N1MZ. All were in favor, no one opposed.

President Johnson gave the Treasurer's report because Director Hancock could not attend the meeting. Report dated 12 January, 2006. We have \$42109.16 total in the checking and savings account. Savings comprises \$35577.50 and there is \$5129.15 in the checking account. The rest is the coordinator's fund. Accounts receivable is negative \$40 and un deposited funds equal \$20. \$42109.16 total equity.

Paul Baumgardner - W5PSB asked about legal fees. President Johnson responded that the initial \$1500 we already paid and we still owe \$1750. Johnson has about \$200 in newsletter expenses to turn in.

Royce Taylor - WB5EPI moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Diana Taylor. All were in favor.

Director's Reports.

Vice President Rusty Herman took the floor and apologized to the membership for not being able to do many of the things we talked about doing because we have been advised by our legal counsel not to talk about certain things involving the lawsuit. Director Herman said he has been working on the non disclosure agreement and has a draft copy for the board to review. President Johnson expressed thanks said he had asked Director Herman to be in charge of looking at the non disclosure agreement at the summer meeting per a mandate from the membership.

Director Stennett took the floor and agreed with Director Herman, we need to get the lawsuit behind us. Director Stennett said he was reviewing the membership database and noted that there were a lot of 2005 members that have not renewed. He invited the membership to check their status with him after the meeting and stated that he was accepting renewals.

Director Reasoner took the floor and said he was busy maintaining the Society website and hoped the membership appreciated the improvements. He noted that while the website was running slow, he was aware of it and was working on the problem. President Johnson said that Ronnie Franklin hosts the web site and acknowledged that Ronnie and Director Reasoner have maintained it for many years. The membership gave them both a round of applause.

Director Lobough took the floor and said he was impressed with the new board of directors and encouraged everyone to pay their dues or become a member. Lobough noted that there are very few members from South Texas and would like to see better representation from all over the state. Director Lobough urged the membership to contact him with any questions or comments. President Johnson thanked Director Lobough and commented on another post in that Yahoo Group where the moderator said that he was unable to reach anyone from the board of directors. He shook his head while pointing out that the board is very reachable and that contact information is on the Society web page.

Director Petit took the floor and said that he has heard from numerous members but has been unable to comment due to the lawsuit. He wants to see the lawsuit resolved, and has some good ideas but wants to proceed slowly yet deliberately.

Committee reports

Paul Baumgardner - W5PSB, thanked the membership for their support following the summer meeting. Baumgardner said that this time of year, the Society turns in the annual list of repeaters to the ARRL for inclusion in the annual repeater directory. He said that there are 5 29 MHz repeaters, 46 on 6 meters. almost 600 on VHF, close to 100 on 220, a couple on 420, 730 or so on 440, a couple on 900, 20 on 1200 and 14 ATV systems statewide. Of all the areas that are most difficult, ATV is the worst because there are only a handful of channels. If one person gets a coordination, they could literally take up all the available channels. Baumgardner found that ATV coordination was the most contentious and interesting work that he had to do as zone coordinator. Someone would ask why they couldn't have a channel and be told it was in use. They would be annoyed thereafter. Baumgardner continued, saying that the intent of the coordination job is just that - coordinating. That means that we have to work together. The Society is not a regulatory body in any way. We don't have police authority, we don't have the ability to come inspect your equipment, we can't decide if you are operating right or not. You send in a form and tell us you are up and in service. If you have the power plug to your power supply pulled and the feedline disconnected due to a bad storm coming through and somebody can't key it that day, it doesn't mean that system isn't there. It also doesn't mean it isn't coordinated because you sent the renewal back to us. There are the odd instances and examples where somebody merely wants to have a channel and their name printed in the ARRL book. Since we are not in the repeater enforcement business, we can't really come and inspect to determine whether or not a given system is operational. Director Baumgardner said that the one thing we all have to work together on is how coordination happens. We all need to make sure we are working together, making sure those channels are in use, sending our renewals back, and keeping our information current.

Director Baumgardner discussed recent turnover in the Zone Coordinators and acknowledged Craig Green and Paul Finch as the Zone 1 Coordinators. He acknowledged Zone 2 Coordinator Eric Schmidt, an honorary life member and past president. Baumgardner recognized that Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY was recently elected to the board of directors for the NFCC. A round of applause followed. He also recognized Jay Maynard, K5ZC for recently being elected Vice President of the NFCC. Another round of applause came from those present. Baumgardner reminded the membership that the NFCC is the ARRL recognized organization that represents coordinating bodies nationwide. Baumgardner said that the recently appointed Zone 3 Coordinator has resigned and that Paul Finch has agreed to take it on. Baumgardner address some criticism he received for appointing Paul Finch to oversee Zone 3 and explained that he believed it was better to have someone answer the phone and receive customer service than to have the inquiry go nowhere. He went on to say that the coordination jobs are interim. They are annual appointments and the board has

authority over the committee so this is not a wayward body that goes off and does its own thing. It works at your behest. Zone 4 Coordinator, Louis Bancook has decided to give up the frequency coordinator role as of the end of the year. Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW has agreed to take over Zone 4. Zone 5 has a new coordinator, Lance Tolar. Baumgardner said the renewals in Zone 5 were not handled very well because we were without a coordinator for a while. He offered some statistics regarding distribution. 87 listed for Dallas and Fort Worth proper, 82 in Houston, 71 in San Antonio and 48 in Austin. State wide, there are 1519 coordinated systems, up from 1482 last year. We also have 173 on the List Only list category which include outstanding construction permits and systems the trustee requested not be listed. Baumgardner asked for comments or questions.

Gene Davis asked about the coordination process for a club repeater and if there was a list of available channels available. Baumgardner explained the process and asked him to contact his Zone Coordinator for more details. Greg - WD0ACD suggested that since he is a club, he could benefit from an individual coordination converted to a club coordination if he was able to find someone in his area who was willing to do so.

President Johnson said that the Society is going to do a repeater directory this year.

K5YFW said that he is with the Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief and that over past year they have used repeaters extensively for many operations. He asked if his need for a state wide repeater channel could be accommodated and said there may be others who would benefit from such an allocation. He suggested that the coordinators look into it. He also mentioned that a member who had operated HF during Hurricane Rita noted that all of the area repeaters were down. He suggested that the Society consider building a mobile 2 meter repeater that could be deployed in such situations. Baumgardner replied that there are 4 UHF repeater channels available that are shared, non protected which means there is no need for coordination. The frequencies are 441.300, 441.325, 441.350 and 441.375 MHz. Greg - WD0ACD suggested that donated equipment could be rounded up for the disaster repeater project. A member suggested that the San Antonio Radio Club has equipment. Another member spoke up offering participation from the Houston club. Baumgardner went on to say that there are a number of opportunities for emergency repeaters on the VHF band by tying VHF simplex channels together.

Director Petit said that while some may have indigestion about Zone 3 Coordinator appointment, it works. He does it for the Department of Defense. It isn't as easy as doing it face to face but it can be done.

Merle Taylor - WB5EPI suggested the State Frequency Coordinator do an article on the topic of frequency coordination.

Baumgardner related a story about the shuttle disaster where he received a phone call from an amateur in the field who was trying to reach someone with the Society and was seeking approval to turn on a repeater for the recovery effort. His

immediate response was 'you're approved'. The caller was unbelieving. Baumgardner explained that in times of emergency service, he believed we are all smart enough to work together to get the job done. You do what you have to do.

Director Reasoner mentioned that the band plans being on the Society web page.

Election Committee Report.

President Johnson recently appointed Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ to head the committee.

Gerald Richmond - N5ZXJ took the floor and discussed the demographic survey. He hasn't had a chance to really get into it due to the lawsuit. President Johnson said that the board was charged with appointing a committee by the membership at the summer meeting to look at the demographics of setting up different districts for directors to be elected from. Because there has been a lot of interest in how we hold our elections, he decided that it would probably be good for the elections committee handle that during the off season. Johnson also charged Gerald with looking into other issues - the way we hold our elections, membership classes and who can vote and basically every topic involved with the election process. As Gerald stated, we will be conducting a survey of the membership to further define what the members would like to do but we won't be doing that until the lawsuit is resolved. Unfortunately our hands are tied at this point.

Technical Committee Report.

President Johnson said that the chairman is Kent Britain and that he was not present. Johnson said that during the last couple of years while Greg Jurens was heading that committee, he was having a hard time finding people who were willing to step forward and serve on that committee. We would like to start efforts to review the existing band plans, look at the higher frequency bands to be sure we are ready for what may be coming there. We need some involvement so please consider volunteering.

Publications Committee Report.

President Johnson thanked Director Davis for handling the newsletter on an interim basis and noted that he is unable to continue. Johnson commented that under new business, he would like to discuss going to an all electronic newsletter later in the meeting.

Database Committee Report.

Gerry Dalton - W5MAY discussed the implementation of an online database server that will replace the current MSDOS program used for repeater coordination. The system is a live system and will likely require broadband access. Highly graphical in nature. The program runs under PHP and operates in a secure environment. Gerry asked for help, the committee needs PHP programmers. Gerry asked for money on behalf on the Database Committee in order to buy some software code that will save from having to reinvent the wheel. Gerry explained that things like scrolling lookups and other routines are available. A member asked how much money is needed. Gerry replied that the software tools will cost \$1000.

Steve Rothrock - N5YEO asked about his repeater listing. Gerry replied that under the present system the database is split into 6 pieces and merged on a regular basis. Each individual coordinator keeps track of their own data in between merges. It is cumbersome. This online system will have everyone working from a common platform in real time.

Craig Green - KV5E made motion to spend up to \$1000 on database software. Seconded by Paul Finch. Jay Maynard commented that there is no money in the budget. We are looking to spend several thousand dollars on the lawsuit. Is this a good idea now?

A member echoes Jay's concerns. Paul Baumgardner doesn't have a copy of the budget. We have a \$900 insurance bill coming due, Newsletter postage etc. He is not opposed to buying software but we are out of money and have legal fees. N5YEO asked how much it costs to print the newsletter. Baumgardner said that we have a bylaw that requires that we print 3 newsletters per year. President Johnson interjected that we the bylaws require us to publish 3 newsletters per year, not print 3 per year. He continued that the newsletter costs between \$450 and \$500 to print and the bulk mail permit runs about \$150 per year.

Greg, WD0ACD said he believes the members in general feel we need to continue doing the work of the society. Doing the work means spending money and we should empower the committee to do the work. Allow the BOD to tell them when they can spend it.

Director Herman said he hates to see the lawsuit stop us from proceeding. He will write a check for the defense fund. He is sure there are many others in the room who feel the same way. Who else will help? We need to go ahead with progress, we need the software and we can't be stopped every time we turn around by what is going on in Dallas.

President Johnson echoed his support for statements made by Director Herman and Greg Jurens. He said we have some severe deficiencies in certain areas of our organization. The coordination database is one of them. The membership database is another area that needs improvement. We to start making progress in certain areas. He would like us to quit printing and mailing newsletters and go to all electronic delivery. We could set up an alternative service for those members who still want a mailed copy whereby they pay for that service.

Craig Green - KV5E amended his motion to allow the board at their discretion to spend up to \$1000 on the software tools pursuant to funds available. Further discussion followed. A member asked why, if the Society has \$42,000 in the bank, we don't spend the \$1000 to get what we need. Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY explained that the bylaws do not allow it, that the Society is only entitled to spend the interest derived from the investment on Society business.

A member asked if this is the only expenditure needed.

Gerry, W5MAY responded that in order to do this right, someone will have to host it. Hardware is needed to run the software. Right now this money is to get specific code to integrate into bigger puzzle. We don't anticipate further spending on the

code itself. President Johnson asked if there are any web hosting services that may offer these software tools as part of their hosting packages. Gerry replied that the code is unique, a plug-in utility and not offered as such.

The membership voted on the amendment. All were in favor, none opposed. Amendment passed. The membership voted on the motion to allow the Database Committee to spend up to \$1000 on software plug in tools. All in favor, none opposed, the motion passed.

Unfinished Business.

6.6.3 Amendment.

President Johnson read the proposed revision to Section 6.6.3 as follows:

Any proposed change to existing Society Band Plans, or Standards for Coordination, or have an adverse affect on repeater trustees, shall automatically be postponed. The determination to postpone a motion or bring it to a vote shall be made by the Society chair. A determination that the motion shall be postponed is not subject to appeal. This postponed 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. The rules in this paragraph are intended to protect the rights of vested members not present and may not be suspended by vote of the membership.

Discussion followed.

Craig Green, KV5E asked if we want to add 'by electronic means' wording that clarifies 'in writing'. Can electronic responses be accepted? Vested members could reply electronically.

Greg Jurens - WD0ACD said that his company emails contracts all the time. Does email meet the letter of the law?

President Johnson said that in his experience, often email is considered a contractual agreement.

Director Herman said that electronic filings in courts are standard.

Royce Taylor - KA5OHJ said we should leave this as is for now. We are supposed to have a correct mailing address for vested members who are also trustees. We might send an email first, then a letter if it bounces. He believes print and email are the same.

A member asked how we define agreement or non agreement on a given topic where the vested members are concerned.

Greg Jurens - WD0ACD replied that there have been instances where the vested members have indicated their preference one way and the membership body has voted another.

President Johnson said that the process makes sure that the vested members know what the business of the Society is.

A member called for the vote. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, no one opposed.

The motion to amend Section 6.6.3 was voted on. All were in favor, no one opposed. The motion passed.

9.3 USE OF SEAL AND LOGO.

President Johnson read proposed amendment as follows;

No officer, director, or member of the Society shall use either the seal or logo of the Society on any document in a manner that would cause a reasonable person to believe that such document is an official publication of the Society unless that is, in fact, the case.

A member suggested an amendment to include name of the Society, name or seal in specific response to the unofficial Yahoo group.

Jay Maynard - K5ZC said he proposed this amendment in response to some misleading campaign letters over last couple of years. For what it is worth, the unofficial Yahoo Group uses our logo.

Greg Jurrens - WD0ACD said that his personal experience with Yahoo Groups is that they say the only way to be defamed is to be famous. Our seal and log are our works.

Director Petit said that our mark is published via our newsletters.

Joe Makeever - W5HS called the question. Paul Baumgardner - W5PSB seconded it. All were in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed. Membership voted on the proposal to amend Section 9.3. All were in favor, no one opposed. The motion passed.

Proposed Amendment To The Articles of Incorporation.

President Johnson described the proposed amendment as published in the most recent newsletter and apologized for not having a PowerPoint display available. He offered to read the proposal from the newsletter. No one accepted the offer. President Johnson invoked article 6.6.3 and tabled the proposal until the next general meeting.

President Johnson discussed the proposal to begin electronic only delivery of the newsletter. Johnson described trials and tribulations associated with getting the newsletter to the post office during winter conditions and he realized that the newsletter has been handled by North Texas for the past 20 years. That is a lot of man hours and in this day and age, a lot of organizations have converted to electronic delivery of their newsletters. Good news, we have had a lot of folks sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. The bad news is that we have a lot more folks who have not. We are still printing and mailing some 734 newsletters. Johnson stated that he personally will do exactly one more mailing and that will include the link where you can sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. If anyone insists on getting a printed copy after that, they can take on owning the bulk mail permit at the post office as well as taking on the printing and envelope stuffing. There are alternatives to stuffing envelopes.

Greg, WD0ACD asked if we could see a show of hands of members who have access to email or the internet on a regular basis. President Johnson replied that he would prefer to see a show of hands of members who do not have email addresses. No hands shown. Director Petit asked Director Stennett how many members have provided email addresses. Director Stennett replied that while most members have provided them, there are a number of members who still indicate that they prefer to receive the newsletter in printed form. Director Stennett asked the

membership for a show of hands of those who do not have access to a printer. One hand showed, he qualified that it was a temporary situation.

Greg Jurrens - WD0ACD, said that we should work on alternative formats for electronic delivery for the visually impaired. He said that PDF format does not lend itself well to some interpreter programs in use by the visually impaired.

Dave, W5WP commented that he uses PDF version 5 and asked that we limit our publication PDF to revision 5 in order to be compatible with older operating systems and installations.

Paul Finch - WB5IDM commented that there is a software package used by Brandise Wireless for their newsletter. It is totally web based. Paul agreed to email President Johnson a link.

Stan Stanukinos - KA5IID moved that Society should do one more printed newsletter, that advise members that future news will be available online as a PDF and or other formats such as are compatible for our blind members.

Eric Schmidt - KA5WMY offered an amendment that we should allow members to be allowed to opt into a printed copy for an additional charge as determined by the board. He further offered that the Post Office will print and mail the newsletter for you for a small fee.

Stan Stanukinos - KA5IID amended his motion to include making past issues of the newsletter available on the society website. President Johnson replied that the website is already archiving the newsletters. A member made a motion to accept all of the amendments. The motion was seconded by Tad Danley - K3TD. All were in favor, none opposed.

Stan Stanukinos - KA5IID suggested that the Society to ignore their detractors. He called it the squirrel treatment. President Johnson agreed and encouraged the membership to participate in the Society forum when established.

Greg Jurrens - WD0ACD reminded the membership that the editor staff is always looking for articles, editorials and get them published in the news. President Johnson lamented the fact that the minutes take up considerable space lately. We do not get many technical articles these days.

John Hunt - W5DKK made a motion that the Secretary be directed to research and insure that the Society logos and or legends that are used by the Society be either registered or trademarked as appropriate. The motion was seconded by Paul Baumgardner. Discussion followed. K4CEO commented that there is a cost involved in copywriting and trade marking. Jay - K5ZC amended the motion by authorizing the Secretary to spend up to \$100. K4CEO said it was more like \$500. Jay withdrew his amendment.

All were in favor. No one opposed. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made.

Royce Taylor - KA5OHJ invited the Society back on behalf of the San Antonio Radio Club.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 1515.

Texas VHF-FM Society
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Meeting Notices:

The next scheduled board meeting for the Texas VHF-FM Society will be in conjunction with HamCom. This year's HamCom is at a new venue, with lower prices and free parking. Grand Prizes include an Icom 706MkIIIG and a Yaesu FT857. There is an online registration prize of an Alinco DR620-T as well. The time and date of the meeting will be posted on the Society's website prior to the meeting. Visit www.hamcom.org for more info.



The Summer meeting of the Society will be held in Austin in association with the Austin Summerfest. We'll be back at the Red Lion Hotel again on August 5, 2006. Exact time and rooms will be posted on the website, www.austinsummerfest.org.