



Proposed Change to the 2m Band Plan

Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY

Not wanting to stall the growth of a technology, including emergency communications, the coordination committee recently worked together to come up with the following band plan change. This proposal to modify the Standards of Frequency Coordination was presented to the general membership at the Winter meeting on March 1, 2008. The membership accepted the proposal, and it was postponed by the President, Rusty Herman, KB5R, until the Vested members can be polled in writing for agreement or non-agreement with the proposal.

The proposed change to the 2m band plan is as follows:

146.450 - 146.490 MHz, High in/low out, 1 MHz offset, 12.5 kHz channel spacing or less, any digital voice/data air interface technology suitable for the Amateur Radio Service that is compatible with the channel spacing. No analog transmission permitted.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) regarding the proposal:

1. *Why are you proposing this change?*

Over the past two years, the interest in digital voice repeater technology has rapidly found its way into the Amateur Radio Community. Unfortunately many of our large metropolitan areas (DFW, Austin, and Houston) are saturated with 2m analog repeaters such that few if any repeater pairs are available. This proposed change will allow the propagation of new technology by making more 2m digital only repeater pairs available. It will also aid in helping "To encourage experimentation by the Society members in advanced techniques in the use of repeaters in order that the general technical excellence of repeater systems shall be improved".

In This Issue...

	Page
Proposed Change to 2M plan	1
From the President's Desk	2
Coordinators' Corner	4
Directors' Reports	6
Board Mtg. Minutes 14 June	6
Database Committee Report	7
Election Bios	8
Summerfest Info	9

(Continued on page 3)

Summer Meeting

Our next General Meeting and Annual Election will be held in conjunction with Austin Summerfest and The ARRL Texas State Convention on Saturday, August 2, 2008 from 1:00-3:00 PM.

See the Summerfest Flyer at the back of this newsletter for more information.

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NOTES FROM THE PREZ

Dave Davis, WB5WIA

Well, folks, I certainly didn't think I'd be writing this column for this edition of the *NEWS*. We all certainly wish Rusty well with his new endeavors, and very much appreciate the leadership and camaraderie he gave during his tenure as president.

We had a good Forum at Hamcom, with about a dozen members and friends present. State Frequency Coordinator Paul Baumgardner W5PSB led the discussion on coordination, and along with coordinator Eric Schmidt KA5WMY, several points were covered with a lively discussion. Everyone there came away with a better understanding of both the mission of the Society and the effort that it takes to keep that mission ongoing.

Just an hour later, as Vice President, I convened the Board of Directors Meeting, just as my 2 month old laptop decided to call it a day and lose the hard drive. No permanent damage, it just held the agenda for the board meeting, the wording of the bylaws changes, and most importantly, my presentation for my 2:00 presentation, all of which were very much works in progress, and of course not backed up anywhere. Director John Johnson NN5H had a printed copy of a draft of the agenda, and with that we muddled through.

The first order of business was to accept President Rusty's resignation and appoint a replacement. I want to thank the board for their vote of support in naming me to finish this term as president. The next order of business was to accept Jim Hester's resignation as secretary, and the board then appointed Director Gerald Richmond N5ZXJ to finish this term. Thanks for stepping up, Gerald. The board then filled the vice president vacancy by asking Louis Petit WB5BMB to take that position, and the leadership team was complete.

This massive change in leadership during midyear could cause problems in many organizations, but I am confident that this team will be able to complete several tasks that have been hanging around, and that we will be able to bring several important items to the general meeting for action by the membership at large.

Speaking of the General Meeting, make your reservations now to attend the Austin Summerfest. Held the first weekend in August (this year it is actually August 1 and 2), there are vendors, sessions, parking lot swaps, and of course the Society General meeting. There is a special rate at the hotel for attendees, and all you need to know about this can be found at their website, <http://www.austinsummerfest.info/> [and at the end of this newsletter]. Remember, the more rooms that we use, the nicer the hotel is to Summerfest, and that allows them to host our meetings every year.

The last thing I want to bring to your attention is the call for candidates for Director. The bylaws allow for any member (with the usual exceptions) to nominate candidates, and that certainly allows self nomination. Nomination is easy, please communicate by emailing your interest to Gerald at secretary@txvhffm.org. We will need, in addition to the message announcing your candidacy, a picture (electronic) and a short bio (not more than 300 words, please). We will have a web page up shortly listing all candidates, and will publish an issue of the News just prior to the meeting with all the names and information. However, remember that our Society allows nominations from the floor just before the election begins at the General meeting, so if you are the perfect procrastinator, you can still toss your name in the hat right up till the ballots are distributed.

Thanks for your support, and I look forward to this summer as your president.

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(Continued from page 1)

2. This new allocation will take away part of the current 2m simplex allocation. What will be the impact?

The new proposed allocation from 146.450 - 146.490 MHz only uses 15% of the total available simplex bandwidth allocated in the current Texas band plan. This still allows plenty of space for simplex operation in the 2m band.

3. Why are you proposing a 1 MHz offset? I thought repeater offsets were 600 kHz in the 2m band?

Unlike older Amateur Radio equipment, all of the digital voice/data air interface technology suitable for the Amateur Radio Service is frequency agile. The use of 1 MHz offsets allows for usage of a portion of the current 2m simplex allocation from 146.400 MHz to 146.600 MHz for repeater TX and 147.400 to 147.600 MHz for repeater RX. The 1 MHz offset will allow for the additional repeater pairs without disrupting any other repeater operations in the 2m band.

4. What do you mean by "12.5 kHz channel spacing or less"?

Various digital voice/data air interface technology suitable for the Amateur Radio Service have different channel spacing requirements. This provision allows for frequency coordinators to meet the different spacing needs for different digital technologies. Some digital systems (i.e.-Star) need 10 kHz spacing while others (like P-25) currently need 12.5 kHz spacing. Frequency coordinators will work with trustees to ensure minimal interference between adjacent frequency repeaters.

5. What is the process for making this change to the band plans?

The proposal must first be made at a general meeting, and then postponed. The Society will then perform a poll of the Vested Society members. The results of this poll will be read at the next general meeting (the Summer meeting) where the change will be put forth for a vote.

6. What does this mean for existing analog repeaters?

This proposed change has no effect on existing analog repeaters. The current repeater bands, offsets, and spacing remain. "No analog repeaters have been harmed in the proposal of this motion". In addition, digital repeaters may still be placed within the analog repeater allocations if a trustee wishes to replace an existing analog repeater with a digital repeater and the digital repeater emissions fit within existing spacing. We have several examples of existing analog repeaters being converted to digital

7. Who is giving up spectrum for this change?

Please see FAQ #2. The spectrum being proposed for this change is taken from existing simplex allocations. If this proposal is passed, it removes 100 kHz of the current 700 kHz simplex allocations in the Texas 2m band plan.

8. Will this provide for all the "foreseeable" growth in digital repeater requirements?

No single band plan change can provide for "all foreseeable growth". However, this band plan proposal does allow for coordination of a wide variety of digital modes such as D-STAR, P-25, and any other new digital mode that can exist within the 12.5 KHz spacing or less. It will be up to the zone coordinators to make sure that adjacent channel spacings are properly observed to reduce near channel interference.

9. Where / what will be the negative parties?

The only negative parties would be simplex users from 146.450 - 146.490, and 147.450 - 147.490 MHz. We expect the impact to be negligible because it is a simplex region, and the proposal only uses 100 kHz of the 700 kHz available. It does not displace any of the existing analog repeater systems. We do not coordinate simplex users, so it is not possible to measure the direct impact to this user group. We have been issuing provisional coordinations in this range over the past year in these allocations and there have been no complaints from simplex users.

Please feel free to contact any Society Director or Frequency Coordinator if you have any questions or comments on the proposal.



Notes from Zone 2, 3, 4, & 5 – Spring 2008

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW has recently retired as frequency coordinator for Zones 4 & 5. I would like to personally thank Paul for his years of work in coordinating Zones 4 & 5. I will be serving as interim coordinator for Zone 4 & 5 until a new coordinator(s) can be appointed. Repeater renewals were recently mailed to all trustees in Zone 4 and 5. If you did not receive a renewal, please contact me via email or phone and I will send another copy of your renewal. If you received your renewal and no longer operate this repeater, please help me clean up our records by checking the box adjacent to "I am relinquishing this coordination" and return the renewal. I have also sent email confirmations to all trustees that returned a coordination renewal and have provided an email address. Thanks for your help!

Newly Coordinated Repeaters

We have had many newly coordinated repeaters since the last issue of the NEWS. Please note that a repeater is not listed as coordinated until the on-air status form is signed and returned, so please return your on-air status notification if your repeater is on the air and you have an outstanding construction permit. A duplicate on-air status form can be provided upon request. In addition to these new coordinations, there are currently 34 active construction permit applications in Zone 2 & 3.

Zone 2 & 3 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 11/25/07 and 5/15/08

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Magnolia	146.980	146.380	W5JSC	O123.0
Magnolia	146.450	147.450	N5MDS	D-star*
Magnolia	440.7125	445.7125	N5MDS	D-Star
Magnolia	1291.000	1271.000	N5MDS	D-Star
Port Aransas	444.100	449.100	KG5BZ	O1107.2
Corpus Christi	927.313	902.313	W5DCH	OE82.5
Port Aransas	145.290	144.690	KG5BZ	O1110.9
Laredo	146.880	146.820	W5EVH	RLEWX100
Buna	145.390	144.790	W5JAS	O118.8
Buna	442.425	447.425	W5JAS	O118.8
Lufkin	444.425	449.925	WB5UGT	OL203.5
Trinity	444.925	449.925	N5ESP	O103.5
College Station	444.250	449.250	KD5OKH	O192.8
Cypress	442.650	447.650	N5LUY	OLA156.7
Timpson	444.675	449.675	KK5XM	OE107.2
*Provisional coordination until band plan is approved by the Texas VHF-FM Society				

Zone 4 Newly Coordinated Repeaters

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
San Antonio	440.700	445.700	WA5UNH	DSTAR
San Antonio	444.850	449.850	W5ETS	OET179.9
Castroville	147.200	147.800	KD5EX	O162.2

(Continued on page 5)

Zone 5 Newly Coordinated Repeaters

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
EL PASO	147.360	147.960	KE5OIB	CEP
GARDENDALE	444.525	449.525	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
ODESSA	444.575	449.575	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
KENT	444.025	449.025	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
GARDEN CITY	444.550	449.550	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
SEMINOLE	444.050	449.050	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
LAMESA	444.075	449.075	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
LUBBOCK	444.025	449.025	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
PLAINVIEW	441.575	446.575	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
AMARILLO	444.525	449.525	WR5FM	146.2 IRLP
GARDENDALE	442.150	447.150	WD5MOT	C
GARDENDALE	927.0625	902.0625	WR5FM	203.5
ODESSA	927.1125	902.1125	WR5FM	432DPL

Waiting List

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. There is currently no waiting list for Zone 3. 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. Access control is required on the input and output to minimize co-channel interference.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

	Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
1	KK5XQ	Baytown	2m	1/28/2005
2	KW5O	Conroe	2m	3/29/2005
3	N5TRS	Houston	2m	7/14/2007

More on the Waiting List

One of the most often received comments that I receive is “I’ve have not heard the 145.XYZ repeater on the air in several years, why don’t you do something about it?”. This is an area where everyone can help whether you are repeater trustee or system user. The Society has an “On-Air Repeater Status” form available on the website for you to report repeaters that are not on the air. If you know of a repeater that is not on the air, please go to our website, complete the form, and send it to your appropriate Zone Coordinator. This will significantly help us to redeploy frequencies that have been vacated but not reported. Help us manage this natural resource.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question or are interested in constructing a repeater in Zone 2, 3, 4, or 5. Phone calls and email are always welcome as well.

73,

Eric Schmidt
KA5WMY

Board of Directors report from Hugh Davis W5FM

Good day to the members of the Texas VHF FM Society. For the past nearly two years as one of your directors I have enjoyed the privilege of working with the current members of the Society. It took a little time to understand the workings of the Society and learn the importance of what the Society does to maintain the coordination of 1400 repeaters in the State of Texas. I have made an effort to what I think is important to the hams that use the repeater systems to have a seamless and fair system of granting what resources we have to place coordinated repeaters on our limited frequencies. My main theme has been to make sure that we have no paper repeaters.

The Society has steps for the membership to let your coordinator know of a suspected repeater that is not on the air. At every one of the board meetings I have specifically asked our coordinating committee of any inquiries from the membership. As of the latest board meeting held in Plano, TX, there has been less than 10 inquiries to the committee from the entire state. If a member feels there is a repeater not operating and is on the waiting list please follow the directions on our web site and contact your coordinator.

Being the second largest state in the U.S. trying to get and meet all our members is almost an impossibility, however using my personal aircraft I have met quite a few during our board meetings. I look forward to the good ol' eye ball at the Society's general meeting in Austin on August 2. I will be asking for your support again.

73, Hugh Davis W5FM
w5fm@arrl.net

Summer Meeting

Our next General Meeting and Annual Election will be held in conjunction with Austin Summerfest and The ARRL Texas State Convention on Saturday, August 2, 2008. The hamfest is held by the Austin Amateur Radio Club on August 1-2, 2008, in Austin, TX. The Summer General Meeting will be held from 1:00-3:00 PM.

For more information please visit

www.austinsummerfest.org

or

www.txvhffm.com

Minutes from General Meeting March 1, 2008

Submitted by Jim Hester, K5HTK

Brazos Valley ARC 2008 Greater Houston Hamfest -
Richmond, Texas

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Herman

Presidents Opening Comments

President announced that the meeting was being video taped.

Herman asked for motion to accept Agenda as presented. Motion and second received. President Herman read the Agenda. Passed unanimously.

Agenda

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Presidents Opening Comments, Acceptance of Minutes, Financial Report
Director's Reports
State Coordinator/Area Coordinators' Reports

OLD BUSINESS

Computerized Database Status/Operations (Eric Schmidt, Matthew Stennett)
New Band Plan for Narrow Band Repeater (Paul Baumgardner)
Off Site Voting Status/Implementation (Rusty Herman)

President Herman made the motion to move the presentation item 5 to right after number 1 on agenda. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Herman asked for motion to accept Minutes of General Membership meeting held in Belton (read Austin) on 6 October 2007 as published on the web site. Motion and second received. Passed unanimously

Herman announced that the BOD had just gone over a proposed Budget at the BOD Meeting held earlier today.

Financial Report

Lewis Petit presented

\$5,057.46 in our checking account. Life Member Savings Account \$31,091.10.
Total interest earned on the account for 2007 was

\$946.72. This amount can be placed in the checking account. The savings account principal cannot be diminished in accordance with the bylaws.

Proposed Budget

Presented by President Herman

Herman said the BOD had just met and set out a proposed Budget for 2008.

There are 467 members.

2/3 of membership are life members who don't pay dues.

There are 600 vested members

There will be postage increases

There will be less interest earned

At least one membership poll by mail will be required

No newsletter mailings

No directory

Dues of \$15 x 170 members = \$2,550

Anticipated \$1,200 from ARRL for repeater directory inputs

Anticipated Winter and Summer Honorarium \$150

Budgeted Interest from Life Member savings approx.

\$900 down from \$946 because of lower interest rate

Expenses

Web site- \$500

Badges etc- \$125

Coordination expenses-\$725

Legal fund- \$550

Treasurer's Insurance- 959

Bond- 500

Off-site voting- \$1,000

Total expenses = \$3,800

Herman asked for motion to accept Budget.

Motion and second received. Budget passed unanimously.

Computerized Database Presentation.

Eric Schmidt and Matthew Stennett presented the Computerized Database Status/Operations.

The entire presentation is on the Society web site. Please see http://www.txvhffm.com/images/Coordination/OnlineDatabase/db_committee_update_march_2008_v2.pdf

Comments were received and answered. The presentation was well received and applauded by the members present.

President Herman presented a Plaque to John Johnson for his contributions to the Society as its past president.

Director's Reports

Louis Petit- Reported attending various Hamfests and obtaining member concerns.

Bob Lobaugh- All is going well in the Corpus/South Texas area. Many new repeaters coming on line. The Childrens's Hospital now has 2M, 440, 220, and 900 MHz repeaters.

John Johnson -Newsletter Editor: Put out 3-4 newsletters per year. Being sent via email. Hardcopy available on request. Need Technical articles. Also, reminders are sent via email notifying members about meetings. Missed this meeting notice. A new newsletter will be published in mid-May.

Jim Hester-Secretary: First meeting as secretary. Nothing to report.

Hugh Davis Concerned about need for frequency pairs. Repeater coordination is in place. There is a need to provide for as many 2M repeater pairs as possible. Please report if a repeater pair is quite so it can be investigated.. Received no comments from members.

Rusty Herman-President: Been busy going out to meet members in an attempt to obtain comments from members. Because of the lack of comments from members decisions are made to make changes with no guidance from members. Changes include: 1. Report repeater sites on web page, 2. Computerized newsletter, 3. Proposed Absentee Voting system coming if supported by membership.

State/Area Coordinator Reports

Presented by Paul Bumgardner. Well received.

OLD BUSINESS

New Band Plan for Narrowband Repeater

Proposal presented by Paul Baumgardner. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal (please state the proposal as presented and voted on). The proposal passed without opposition and was automatically tabled.

Off-site Voting Status/Implementation

Rusty Herman presented a progress report to the membership regarding off-site voting for Society directors. There is a concern relating to members wanting to be nominated from the floor. On order to publish a list of candidates in time to be forwarded out to all members for voting that list must be prepared ahead of the meeting so offsite voting can take place. The ballots must be received in Austin (by what ever means selected – U.S. Mail, email, fax, ??) at least the day before the meeting.

If someone is nominated at the Austin meeting that candidate will only be able to receive the support of members present that did not vote off-site. Those are the only ones who may vote at the meeting. A draft proposal will be published in the May newsletter. It is anticipated that a motion will be made at the Austin meeting this year and then tabled as required by the bylaws. A final vote will be held at the Spring meeting and the procedure will be implemented at the 2009 August meeting election if it is supported by the membership.

New Business

Bob Lobaugh reported his concern about safety at repeater sites considering the value of copper and possibility of theft at remotely located sites.

Members were asked for comments and none were received.

A motion to adjourn was received and seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting June 14, 2008

Submitted by Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ

Meeting opened at 12:05PM by Vice President Dave Davis, WB5WIA.

Welcomed all to the meeting. Introduced everyone on the board. No meeting minutes for previous meeting.

Started meeting with announcing Director Herman's resignation as president.

Opened to board whom will fill remainder of term for president. Nomination for Dave Davis to fill that for rest of the year. Motion made, seconded, and passed.

Opened for sec to be filled with Director Hester resigning. Director Petit moved to nominate Director Richmond to finish term as secretary, second by Director Lobaugh. Motion passed.

VP filled by Louis Petit... Motion made by Director Stennet, seconded by Director Johnson. Motion passed..

Coordination questions. None at this time.

Filling section coordination positions... Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY still covering several sections till we have coordinators to cover them, but a new coordinator has been identified for West Texas, and will take over as soon as the 2007 renewal cycle is complete.

State Frequency Coordinator Paul Baumgardner W5PSB & Eric KA5WMY had no comments. Coordinations are coming in from all areas.

Newsletter.. No letter out yet, didn't have any thing from directors and coordinators. Newsletter will come out after this meeting.

Working on getting the newsletters out 4 times a year.

Do an update of the newsletter before summer meeting for elections at August meeting

Directors reports.

Hugh Davis W5FM. - coordinations... are coordinators getting info on whether repeaters on the air or not. Only 5% reports come in over the year.

Bob Lobaugh W5JYJ New 2m repeater in his area.. Covers Victoria and Corpus very well.. A 900MHz machine is in the Corpus area also.

Louis Petit WB5BMB would like to see some discussions of close spacing of repeaters.. 10khz... would like to look into working on what trustee's and users will think. Currently 70 mile spacing, reducing it some.

Gerald Richmond N5ZXJ nothing to bring to the floor at this time.

Treasurer's Report by Mark Stennett NA6M.

Society membership currently stands at:

General, family and club Members: 159
Life members: 300
Vested members: 721

We presently have \$4998.18 in the general fund and \$31,345.53 in the life member account which is presently earning about \$43 a month in interest.

insurance bill is due. Approved to get paid.

Invoice for westex insurance. Consider increasing bond for treasurers coverage...from 10k to 40k. Hugh Davis so moved, second by Bob Lobaugh. Motion passed

Database committee. Stennett:

Working to getting database into online form. Demo'd the database features.. Looks great and should make coordinations much simpler.

Coordinators comments.

Eric reminded the board that the vested members must be polled concerning the band plan modification. (proposal is the band plan modification to allow digital repeater pairs on some existing simplex channels in the 2m band.) Poll needs to be mailed to vested members, not general membership.

Proposal for off site voting... The final wording of the bylaws change to enable electronic voting was presented (included in these minutes by attachment).

3.1.2 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Candidates for this election will be selected from the Membership, excluding Associate and Affiliated Group Members, and presented to the membership via the Society's web site and at the last meeting of the fiscal year (Summer Meeting) by a nomination committee appointed by the President, or in his absence the Chairman of the previous general meeting. Additional candidates may be proposed by any Member present at [this] the Summer meeting, or via the web site after June 1. Any eligible member desiring to vote in advance of the Summer Meeting may do so via the Society's web site. Any member who casts a ballot via the web site shall be deemed ineligible to vote in person at the Summer Meeting. Voting via the web site shall begin on July 1, and shall continue until 7 days before the Summer meeting. Nominations shall remain open during this time, and shall be posted to the web site no later than 3 days after receipt by the election committee. Votes cast via the web site shall only be for candidates that have been nominated and posted at the time of casting the ballot, and subsequent nominations shall not be a reason to allow voiding of a ballot. Election shall be by a plurality vote of the voting Members present at [this] the Summer Meeting ballots cast via the web site. Not more than five (5) Directors shall be elected each year unless unexpired and vacated terms are to be filled, in which case the maximum number of Directors elected will be five (5) plus the number of unexpired and vacated terms to be filled.

Pros and cons of the method were discussed, with all directors expressing concern over creation of a fair and secure system of authorization and access. Timeline for implementation will be the 2009 director elections. Procedure for this will be presentation of this bylaw change to the membership with and immediate tabling. Item to be removed from the table at the winter 2009 meeting, with discussion and a possible demonstration to the membership at that winter meeting. Motion to present this bylaws change to the membership at the general meeting made by Director Lobaugh, with a second by Director Johnson. Motion passed.

No additional business.

Location for next general meeting: Austin, TX on August 2, 2008 at 1:00pm with board meeting to follow immediately.

Motion to adjourn.. 12:55pm all in favor.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Austin Summerfest	Aug 1-2
Leesville Hamfest	Aug 9
Belton HamEXPO!	Oct 4
Paris Texas Hamfest	Oct 10-11
Corpus Christi Coastal Bend Hamfest	Nov 8

Database Committee Report

This year I have been focusing most of my free time and energy toward the online database project. This project will initially handle the frequency coordination effort and will ultimately expand to include all membership transactions as well. The end result will be a much more streamlined process for everyone involved since all transactions will occur within a central database.

While I am not familiar with the complete history of the effort to take the Society into a centralized electronic realm, I can offer that the database committee has come a long way since last year at this time. The committee has listened to your concerns and suggestions concerning the safety and reliability of the system.

This project is written in PHP and uses a MySQL database and will be portable between any OS that supports these products. All transactions with the database will be logged and any changes will result in new active records being created for the given transaction. This will give the Society a history of activity over time as well as protect the Trustee if for some reason their account is compromised and coordination is reassigned without their knowledge or permission. We have implemented numerous security features as well in order to render hacking less likely. In addition to running on a RAID array, the database will be backed up nightly and emailed off site in order to prevent loss of data due to major hardware failure, fire, lightning, server theft, etc.

I am pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the project is almost ready and the coordinators will start using it on July 8th, 2008. They will stop using the DBase III KCX program at this time. The coordinators will be able to enter coordinates from proposed systems and the system will show available channels by selected bands, including splinter channels. Systems listed on a particular channel can be mapped in Google Maps. If no channel is available, the proposed site can be marked to appear on the waiting list.

Also during Phase 1, the public repeater search engine will begin referring to the live database used for coordination. Currently, it is a separate database that has to be manually updated. Because of this there are frequent delays between the time a coordination is issued to the time it shows up on the web site. Under the new system, changes will be immediately available in the public search unless the Trustee elects not to be listed.

Phase 2 of the project will add the ability for potential Trustees to apply for coordination online. The system will automatically place the proposed repeater into the proper zone and email the respective coordinator for approval. The Trustee will be able to plot their repeater location on Google Maps down to street level if they need to calculate coordinates. Also during Phase 2, we will incorporate existing Trustees into the system and mail them a login name and password to their address of record. This will allow them to login to the system and manage their repeaters online as well as get PDF copies of their coordination paperwork if needed.

Phase 3 of the project will bring other membership types into the system. Members will be able to manage their information online as well as make electronic payments to the Society.

The online database project will ultimately save us all time and effort as we go about our routine business. I am excited to be a part of it.

73 de NA6M

Election Bios

Dave Davis WB5WIA

As I reach the “Seasoned Citizen” stage of my life, I realize that I’ve been a ham more than half of my life. First licensed as a Technician, I soon took the bull by the horns, trekked to the Dallas office of the FCC and took the dreaded 13 wpm code test, eeked by, and came home a newly minted Advanced class. Some 25 or 30 years later I made the final journey and finished the list with the Amateur Extra. I first started out working on those newfangled things called repeaters, migrated to HF, and then have found a balance where I spend a little time on both modes.



Over the last few years, I’ve become more active in the Society. I was the 2 meter coordinator for zone 1 for a little over a year. I am completing 4 years on the board where I’ve served as news editor, vice president, and now as president of the Society.

I have served in many leadership roles in various organizations. I was a member of the class of 1992 of Leadership Arlington, I am treasurer and acting secretary for my SBE chapter (67 – North Texas), I am treasurer for my Rotary District (5790) and

I have just recently completed my second tour as President of my Rotary club (Great Southwest Rotary – Arlington). I am the only person to serve two terms as president in my rotary club.

I think I bring a clear head, moderate technical knowledge, and proven leadership skills to the board, and I think I can help the Texas VHF-FM Society move forward with the current projects of modernizing the coordination software, and the issue of allowing members to vote on directors without having to attend the general meeting in the summer.

I appreciate your vote.

Hubert (Hugh) Davis W5FM

Amateur radio has been part of my life since 1963. As a 13 year old, I volunteered at a local EOC as an operator as a hurricane affected central Florida. During my military career I assisted the military MARS operators in handling traffic out of Vietnam and Thailand. While based in Oklahoma, I assisted in the construction and activation of the first repeater in southern Oklahoma. I have worked with the SAREX working committee promoting young students communicating with our astronauts during shuttle flights.



For the last 16 years, I have been a member of a local repeater association, past vice president, president, net control operator and presently publicist of the association. I am a life member of the ARRL and AMSAT, a former ARRL Emergency Coordinator and presently an ARRL Emergency Station, member and Director of the Texas VHF-FM Society. In 1995, I became an Extra Class License holder. I operate from 160 Meters to 70 Centimeters using AM, FM, CW, SSB, PSK, APRS and SSTV.

Recently I operated my station on emergency power and provided needed local communication during hurricane Rita (2006) and assisted with the communication needs during the arrival of Louisiana evacuees to the Reliant Stadium during hurricane Katrina.

Collecting classic tube type radio equipment is not only a personal hobby but one of my greatest joys.

With a majority of the licensed hams restricted to the frequencies above 30 MHz, I feel the Texas VHF FM Society has a large obligation to provide fair and impartial representation to the management of those frequencies above 30 MHz. I believe in the continued use of and implementation of technology in our organization.

With your vote I look forward to representing your needs.

Note: As additional candidate bios are received they will be added to this newsletter. The membership will be notified by email so they can download the updates.

Charles Kosman WB2NQV

I was born a Yankee but became a Texan as soon as I was able! I presently live in Wichita Falls (the western end of coordination zone one and am active in weather spotting in a 14 county area in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma.



I've been active in the "politics" of Amateur Radio ever since I earned my license in 1971. I served on numerous committees for the Hudson Division Directors during the 1970's and 80's, including starting the Division Public Information Office. Also on the technical side I sponsored the first digital conference in Flemington, N.J.. The out come of this weekend was the AX.25 protocol for packet. Established a three statewide repeater system with eight remote receivers in the NY/NJ/PA area. Helped establish a four state linked repeater system that is used for weather spotting in the Maryland, Delaware, Eastern PA and Western NJ coverage of the Phila/Mt. Holly National Weather Service Office. Helped design and construct the first ATV repeater and publicized this event with a Sunday morning special on the ABC TV network. Served as National Communications Coordinator for both the 1984 Olympic Torch Relay and the 1986 Hands Across America fundraiser.

I'm trustee of five repeaters in New Jersey and six in Texas ranging from ten meters to 440 MHz. I'm currently a public information appointee for the North Texas Section of the ARRL and presently, as communications chairman of the Texoma Weather Spotters, in the funding and construction phase of a 440 Mhz / 1296 Mhz digital (D-Star) system.

I've been active in the Society's business for a number of years and am anxious to resolve the voting issue as well as re-establish the technical committee.

Does advertising in the *NEWS* work?

IT JUST DID

If you want to run for Director,
your bio can be seen by every-
one.

Just send your bio to
sec@txvhffm.com to have it
included in this newsletter.

We'll send an email out to eve-
ryone to download the update.

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2008

August 1 & 2, 2008

Wyndham Garden Hotel
3401 S IH-35 (IH-35 & Woodward)

Austin, Texas

Continuing a Ham Tradition at the Quarter Century mark!

Austin Amateur Radio Club makes the Capital City the place to be in the middle of the Texas summer. That's right — it's time for the 25th anniversary Austin Summerfest!

As always, we also host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society, and this year, the ARRL Texas State Convention.

Same location
as last
year !!!

Check out
www.austinsummerfest.org
for late breaking news!

Schedule

All the activity is concentrated on Friday night and Saturday, to allow you flexibility in your weekend travel plans. But do come early, as things fire up at 6 Friday evening and go 'till 9, and start up again Saturday at 8 am, with swapping 'till 3:30 and dealers & sessions 'till 4:30.

The Texas VHF-FM Society meeting will run from 1 to approximately 3 pm, so mark your schedule.

Dealers

There'll be our usual fine contingent of dealers, ready to help you with their knowledge of the latest products, and a great selection of them too. Think of those little odds and ends that you've been thinking of getting for the shack—well, here's your chance to get them while they're on your mind.

Prizes

Prizes Galore! You have a chance at three *Premium Prizes*: Grand prize is a **Yaesu FT-450AT** HF/50 MHz 100W all-mode transceiver with built-in automatic antenna tuner.

- Our Featured Prize is a **Yaesu FT-60R** heavy duty 2M/70CM dual band 5W FM handheld.
- This year we offer a **Yaesu VX-170** 2M 5W handheld as a bonus prize.
- Finally, if you register in advance by mail you have a shot at another prize—yet another **Yaesu VX-170!**

With your registration you get one ticket good for Saturday's door prizes and the Premium Prizes, and you can buy more at \$1 each. Plus, if you rent a room at the Wyndham Garden, you'll get five bonus tickets for each room-night, up to a total of ten tickets.

Advance Registration and
Bonus Prize,
Yaesu VX-170

(See next page for Prize rules)

Featured Prize,
Yaesu FT-60R

Grand Prize,
Yaesu FT-450AT

Swapfest

For lots of folks, our main event--wall-to-wall goodies of every description, brought to you in carpeted, air-conditioned comfort on Friday evening and Saturday.

Rules:

- Full-sized tables: 6 feet by 30 inches. \$10 each, limit of 3 to a customer. First come, first served.
 - AC power is available at an additional \$5 per customer, through advance registration only.
 - We'll attempt to honor requests from groups of sellers for adjacent tables, if we receive your registrations in the same envelope.
 - If you advance register for swap tables, we'll attempt to notify you in advance if they are unavailable due to being sold out (a rare occurrence). Be sure to give us your email address so we can notify you that way.
 - Your table(s) will be held for you until 10 am Saturday.
 - Swapfest hours are 6 to 9 pm Friday and 8 am to 3:30 pm Saturday. Opening times are for both sellers (for setup) and shoppers.
 - Buyers and sellers must be registered at the convention.
- We'll be holding a Tailgate Swapfest in the southeast corner of the Wyndham Garden parking lot. You need not be registered at the Convention to sell at the tailgate, but of course you'll want to attend the indoor swapfest and sessions, so it would be a good idea to register.**

Technical Sessions

- Coy Day N5OK will conduct his perennial **ARRL Forum**.
- A representative of **ARRL HQ** will be on hand to discuss his area of expertise, and Ham topics of national importance.
- The **Central Texas DX & Contest Club** once again has an outstanding program lined up for us
- Gerald Youngblood K5SDR gives us the latest on his **Software Defined Radio** project.
- Find out how to do "the mostest with the leastest" in our **QRP workshop**.
- The **Roadrunner Microwave Group** hold their annual meeting and host a session on the latest topics on the "high end."
- Keith Pugh W5IU leads a wide-ranging discussion on communications through **Amateur Radio Satellites**.
- Joe Fisher K5EJL, District Emergency Coordinator, hosts a session on **Emergency Communications**.
- **Weather?** Learn about the latest in forecasting technology, and learn about recent weather events with leading Austin meteorologists. Hosted by Troy Kimmel KE5BCK of Austin Radio and the University of Texas and featuring a host of experts from Central Texas.

Directions

The Wyndham Garden Hotel is at 3401 S IH-35 in Austin. Phone 512-448-2444. Talk-in is on 146.34/94 and 449.1/444.1 MHz.

Northbound on I 35: Take Exit 230: "West 290 71 Johnson City Bastrop". Proceed 1.1 miles. Cross over TX71. Right onto Woodward St. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Southbound on I 35: Take Exit 231 "Woodward St." Left onto Woodward St. Cross over I-35 and cross frontage road. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Eastbound on US290/TX71: Take exit "35 South San Antonio." Continue on frontage road under I-35. Left on I-35 northbound frontage road. Right onto Woodward St. Left into Hotel parking lot.

Westbound on TX71: Take exit "Burleson Rd Woodward St 35 South." Proceed 1.75 miles. Right onto Woodward St. Proceed .47 mile. Right into Hotel parking lot.

Austin Summerfest will be held in the hotel's conference center in the northeast wing of the hotel, to the left of the hotel registration desk. Convention registration will be in the hallway of the northeast wing.

Amenities

Come on up to our hospitality suite—that's where you'll find your old friends and new ones too. There are soft drinks and munchies on Friday night, and refreshments on Saturday morning. Saturday evening we'll serve soft drinks, munchies and eyeball QSOs lasting into the night.

Administration Matters

Exchange views with West Gulf Division Director Coy Day N5OK, Vice Director David Woolweaver K5RAV, and other ARRL representatives. Find out what's going on and offer your opinions and insights. The ideal way to get or stay involved!

As always, we host the Summer Meeting of the Texas VHF-FM Society, scheduled for 1:00 Saturday afternoon.

Craft and Skills Events

Free stuff!

We have another of our traditional "Make it and take it" workshops, and it's "Come and Go" from 9am-12pm.

Learn how to make brass winged butterflies...and take them home to your garden!

All are welcome, including children (accompanied by an adult).

License Exams

An exam session Saturday afternoon will cover all elements. Bring a photo ID and one other form of identification, and \$14.00; if you're upgrading, bring your current license, any applicable CSCE's, and a photocopy of each. For more info email Larry Gunter WB5BEK at wb5bek@arrl.net

After the exams, Jeff Schmidt N5MNV and Ron Hambric N5SBN have just what you need: **A Welcome and Information for New Hams.**

Prize Rules:

We'll award door prizes throughout the day Saturday, until noon. For these, you must claim your prize within one (1) hour of the announcement. We'll post your name/call or ticket number at the prize drawing area.

At 1:00, we begin drawings for any remaining unclaimed door prizes. Then come our Premium prizes, culminating in the Grand Prize.

For the Premium and Advance Registration prizes, you need not be present to win. If you're a winner, we'll post your name and hold your prize. If you haven't claimed it by the end of the day, we'll send it to you.

AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2008 Advance Registration

**Mail before
July 23, 2008 !!!**

Name _____ Call _____
 Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day Telephone (_____) _____ Evening Telephone (_____) _____
 E-Mail Address _____

	Each	Qty	Total
General Admission	\$8.00	_____	_____
<small>(Per individual. Includes all hams and guests. Admission at door will be \$10.00. Children 17 and under admitted free.)</small>			
Swapfest Table Friday (6-9) and Saturday (8-3:30)	\$10.00	_____	_____
Electrical Power	\$5.00	_____	_____
<small>(Limit of 3 tables to a registrant; first come first served: tables unclaimed by 10:00 A.M. Saturday will be released.)</small>			
Extra Prize Tickets	\$1.00	_____	_____
		TOTAL	_____

Representatives of the Texas VHF-FM Society will be on duty to collect your dues at the Convention.

Make check or money order payable to **AUSTIN SUMMERFEST** and mail before July 23, 2008 to:
 Austin Summerfest, Box 4739, Austin, TX 78765-4739

Advance Registration

Simply fill out the form above, indicating all options you desire, and mail with your payment to Austin Summerfest, Box 4739, Austin TX 78765-4739. You save \$2 a head, and get a chance at the advance registration prize of a Yaesu VX-170 2M 5W handheld, by registering in advance. Note: No confirmation of advance registration will be sent.

Accommodations

Enjoy the facilities of the Wyndham Garden. Try their restaurant, which is exceptional!

If you're staying in Austin, please consider staying at the Wyndham Garden for the special Convention rate of \$80 per room night. Showing support for the hotel helps to ensure that we can continue to stage our Convention in high-quality surroundings. The hotel needs your reservation by **noon on July 18th** to guarantee room availability!

Phone 512-448-2444 or 1-800-WYNDHAM (1-800-996-3426), and mention you are attending Austin Summerfest, hosted by the Austin Amateur Radio Club, to get the Convention rate. Reservations guaranteed for arrival after 6 pm with major credit card.

Note: Due to limited parking space on the hotel property, we have established remote parking at the Home Depot store across I-35 to the west of the hotel, south of Woodward Street. Entrances are on Woodward and the southbound frontage road. Please use the north end of the lot, closest to Woodward. Walking distance to the hotel is .4 mile, and shuttle service will be available from 8 am to 1 pm. Hotel parking may get tight by mid-morning Saturday, so if you have difficulty finding a space at the hotel, please consider using the remote lot.

Further Info

Write to:

Joe Makeever
 8609 Tallwood Drive
 Austin, TX 78759

Call:

(512) 345-0800

Email:

w5hs@arrl.net

Go to:

www.austinsummerfest.org

Please Support Summerfest by staying at the Wyndham Garden Hotel

Austin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 4739
Austin, TX 78765-4739

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AUSTIN SUMMERFEST 2008



The Austin Amateur Radio Club presents:

The ARRL Texas State Convention

The Texas VHF-FM Society Summer Meeting



A word about our special guests...

The Texas VHF-FM Society is a group of several hundred amateurs with a special interest in the design and operation of VHF and UHF repeaters. Starting with a small group of hams over 40 years ago, the Society now counts as members the licensees or technical custodians of nearly all the repeaters in Texas. It is affiliated with the ARRL. The Society initiated frequency coordination in Texas. Today, it continues in that role, minimizing intercommunity friction and helping the maximum number of amateurs operate and use repeaters. The Society educates, mediates, and arbitrates all matters of frequency coordination brought to its attention. The members of the Society invite you and your friends to join us; we know you will find it fun and rewarding to be a part of this organization.