



President's Message

Howdy folks,

Thank you for your support at the Austin Summerfest. I appreciate the opportunity to serve another 2 years on the board. We have made some wonderful progress with RF Projector this year, including the first online ballot in the history of the Society. In fact, RF Projector was used to manage the entire election process, including ballots handed out at the meeting. Overall the project was a success and we will be even more streamlined for the election next year.

With online voting and membership management now integrated into RF Projector, the next logical step is to bring the Trustees into the mix. Online repeater renewals will be handled online starting this year which will save everyone time and money. At the time of this writing, the online renewal system has emerged from beta testing. Don't worry if you don't have a computer or convenient access to your local library, we will still handle renewals via the USPS on a case basis as needed.

In order to access the online renewal system, you will use the same login information you used when you set up your online voting this year. That is, if you are a Trustee who is also a paid member and is eligible to vote. Vested members will soon receive login information via email if we have it or by postcard sent to your FCC address.

Next on the list is to have new Trustees file their applications for new repeaters online, using RF Projector. This will further streamline the processes for everyone involved and preserve a place 'in line' for the Trustee who filed the application. Any applications that won't clear the standards for coordination will be placed on the waiting list within RF Projector and subsequent coordination activity within the system will automatically run through the waiting list.

These are all positive things for the Society. RF Projector is well on its way to lowering the work load for everyone involved while presenting a level playing field for all those who interact with the Society.

In other news, word is spreading about RF Projector and we have seen some keen interest from other coordinating bodies in the application.

73 de NA6M

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A View from the Past President

Well, after serving as President for 15 sudden months, I am back to being a board member. Let's look at the Society's achievements during the last year.

At the board meeting after the general meeting we welcomed two new board members to the fold and divided up the duties for the year as is done every year. Charlie Kozman and Allen Ramsey were the new guys on the block, and Charlie agreed to take on the task of the Newsletter.

Just prior to the fall meeting at the Belton Hamfest, Charlie published his first edition with all the news and stories that the board members sent him. Noticeably missing were several board members columns and several frequency coordinators' reports. Charlie had never published a newsletter before, but he did a great job.

The Belton board meeting was only a couple of weeks after Ike came by, and the reports given by the directors were mostly "I've been cleaning mud out of our groups buildings in South Texas...". Other items discussed included the treasurer's report, the 2 meter band plan, and publishing a repeater directory. The board voted to have the winter meeting in conjunction with the Midland Hamfest in March.

Some 5 months later, I attempted to call the winter board meeting to order. With only two board members present, we could not convene, so we went back to the hamfest. That afternoon, we called the winter meeting to order, with only 16 or so people in attendance. After a short business session in which the membership approved the spending of funds to print a paper repeater directory, we had an update from Matt on RF Projector, and the upcoming electronic voting.

On to June, again we attempted to hold a board meeting, but we failed to attract a quota again, and we conducted no business. There were several members in attendance, and those attending did visit with the members for a few minutes discussing matters off line. We held the Society Forum in the next hour, and answered several questions from members in attendance.

During the summer we conducted electronic voting, with several members using the system, and only a few having any problems.

<soapbox> I was frustrated as president. We had an important item that affects hams all over the state to discuss and move forward, and the elected board members simply didn't show up at the meetings. </soapbox>

I am glad that Mark has taken the reins as president, and will fully support him this year. We are on deadline on the 2m digital bandplan, and cannot afford to put that matter off at all. Board member Tom Neuve has agreed to champion that effort, and as a board member I will support his efforts as I can.

Thanks, and we'll see you on the bands.

Dave – WB5WIA – Immediate Past President –

Director/Secretary's Report for September 2009

Since I am a newly elected director and Society Secretary I would first like to tell those that have never met me a little about myself. I have been a repeater trustee since 1974, a member of the Society since 1975, and a life member since 1992.

I believe in Old Fashion Ethics – A concept so simple that you would think that everyone would embrace it. It's very simple really. You just do what you say you are going to do. Saying I will do something means that I will do it. Doing it, and doing it right is what ethics, the old fashion way, is all about. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Responsibility - I believe that any person that takes on the responsibility of a position, either by election or appointment, has an obligation to execute that position to the best of their ability. Otherwise they should not accept it. If a person accepts a position and can not (for whatever reason) execute it to the best of their ability then they should resign.

What I guarantee is that with me, what you see is what you get - My name and reputation are all important to me and I would not do anything that would bring disgrace to myself or any organization of which I am a member.

Open Door Policy - My door (telephone and email) is open to all any time of the day. As a Director I am here for you. Please take advantage of this policy to contact me with your ideas and/or concerns. It's going to take all of us to move the Society forward. Let's get back to the days of when we were all good friends having fun with a hobby we so dearly love. The next step is yours to take.

I am a serious Director that has and will show up and lead - I have quickly gotten up to speed with the facts of the issues facing the Society. This included looking at coordination efforts, increasing Society membership, and improving the name of the Society. Following are some observations and goals that I have established for myself as a director to better help the Society.

The Society has some MAJOR and long term PR problems to over come with a huge number of the amateur radio operators in Texas - In my opinion these PR problems originated from certain actions that were allowed to happen and continue for a long period of time. The only way to over come these perceptions is to lead by example. I believe the director's meeting in Belton will be a watershed moment in the Society's effort to improve its reputation.

Getting the Society back to having a platinum name with ALL Texas amateur radio operators is my first goal - After reviewing the facts I will recommend some changes at the director's meeting in Belton that I believe will best serve the Society and all of its members to achieve this goal.

I have already started the process of polishing the name of the Society by visiting DFW area ham clubs and making them aware of the changes in Directors and vision for the Society. While visiting the local amateur radio clubs I personally have been polling local amateur radio operators regarding their use of and the possibly lose of 2 meter simplex channels with the purposed band plan change to allow digital repeaters on those frequencies. I will discuss the results of those polls at the directors meeting in Belton.

Other Goals –

Setting a new response criteria - One of the biggest and ongoing complaints has been the frequency coordinators have been unresponsive. It's a fact and it needs to change. Putting in place new response criteria for frequency coordinators regarding telephone and email requests is the first step in resolving this problem.

Regular Updates from Directors, Officers, and Coordinators – The Society, through its official publication, The Texas VHF-FM Society NEWS, is designed to keep members informed about Society activities. Each publication should include frequency coordination, technical articles, and just plan fun things. There should be emails sent to members to keep them updated between regular publications of the NEWS.

New Society Web Site – A web site with a new look with easy to find information about the day-to-day activities of the Society as well as accurate frequency coordination information.

RF Projector – Online real-time database – The flagship project that has been in development over the past 24 months and brainchild of the database committee (which includes Matt Stennett, K5RYN) , should be brought online as

Director/Secretary's Report (continued from page 3) 2009

soon as possible. It will be a major tool to aide frequency coordinators. It will be of great benefit to the general membership as well.

After the Belton meeting there will be a true secretary's report to post for the following issue of the NEWS. Please join with me and the newly elected Board of Directors to help move the Society forward while maintaining a sense of what was once great and establish a new vision with lofty goals; a vision that goes friends back to the Society being made up of great friends having fun in a hobby that we all love.

Larry L. Essary – K5XG
(214) 495-8066 #202

BELTON BOARD MEETING OCT.3

Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2009
Belton, Texas – Bell County Expo Center

Directors Present:

Mark Stennett – NA6M
Dave Davis – WB5WIA
Larry Essary – K5XG
Frank Hormann – KM5I
George Csahanin – W2DB
Gerald Richmond – N5ZXJ
Tom Nevue – W2MN
Craig Green – KV5E
Louis Petit – WB5BMB

Directors Absent:

None

Others Present:

ZFC Eric Schmidt – KA5WMY
Jay Urish – W5GM
Matt Stennett – K5RYN
Richard Driscoll – KD5URB

President Stennett called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

President Stennett presented the meeting agenda, called for comments, and upon hearing none, considered it adopted.

The next order of business was the Secretary's report. Larry Essary, secretary, reported that there was no new information since the last meeting. Essary said that he was still trying to find copies of required Society documents from previous secretaries.

The next order of business was the Treasurer's report. Frank Hormann, treasurer, reported the Society's current bank balance and stated that after his review all banking information appears to be in order. (continued on page 5)

BELTON BOARD MEETING OCT.3 (continued from page 4)

The next order of business was the News Editor's report. George Csahanin, the NEWS editor, reported that he wanted to publish a copy of the NEWS on a quarterly basis, with target dates of October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1. Csahanin stated that for the next issue he has received most of the reports except from some of the coordinators. Csahanin stated that the deadline for the next issue of the NEWS is the end of October.

The next order of business was the Coordinator's report. Eric Schmidt, ZFC, discussed current coordination reports and stated that 80% of the information was in place for the online coordination system. There was discussion about the current manual renewal process as well as the process once RFProjector is online.

The next order of business was a report by director Tom Nevue regarding the 2 meter digital band plan. Nevue stated that the previous polling form, which had some errors in it, has been re-drafted and is ready to be sent. Nevue indicated that the poll would go out in about 6 months. There was discussion of an additional and separate poll to be sent to the non-vested trustees regarding the proposed band plan change.

Secretary Essary said that he had been taking a poll at several of the Dallas area radio clubs regarding 2 meter simplex activity in the Dallas area and Essary shared the results of his polling. There was a request made to submit the complete pole results to the Board of Directors via email in a PDF file.

ZFC Schmidt stated that there only 9 digital repeaters in the state at this time and those were in the Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio areas. There was discussion that the Society needed to poll every amateur radio operator in Texas regarding the plan.

Director Green reported of two frequency relinquishments, eight new applications, and two new D-Star frequency coordinations with one system in Austin and one system in Corsicana.

The next order of business was to discuss amending part 6.6.3 of the Society By-laws to allow polling by methods other than by the United State Postal Service (USPS). Vice-president Davis made a motion to amend section 6.6.3 of the Society by-laws to include the phrase, "by electronic means". A 2nd to the motion was made by director Green. The vote was unanimous in favor of the amendment.

Next on the agenda was new business.

The next order of business was to discuss and consider ways to increase the Society's membership. Further discussion was put off until the next board of director's meeting.

The next order of business was to discuss and consider possible changes in the classes of Society membership; Possibly no longer accepting new life memberships. There was no action taken.

The next order of business was to discuss and consider the possibly of a Society sponsored annual bar-b-que dinner at Summerfest and/or Ham-Com. There was no action taken.

The next order of business was to discuss and consider current frequency coordinators; changes in frequency coordinator response criteria; current performance; possible frequency coordinator replacement; suggestions of possible frequency coordinator replacements. Secretary Essary, who submitted this agenda item, asked to table the item until the next board of directors meeting due to time constraints of the current meeting.

There was discussion about the location for the 2010 Winter meeting. After the discussion there was a motion made by secretary Essary to investigate the possibility, subject to scheduling conflict, of having the 2010 Winter meeting in San Antonio. There was a 2nd by director Green. The motion passed with a majority vote.

A motion was made by vice-president Davis to adjourn the meeting. A 2nd to the motion was made by secretary Essary. The vote was unanimous. President Stennett adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.

NOTES FROM ZONE 1—440 MHz

Hello from Zone 1,

Much has happened in UHF Zone 1 over the last three or so years, my only problem is I am not a great writer but things are happening non-the-less.

There have been several Narrow Band Digital repeater pairs issued and now on the air all over North Texas, several in and around the Belton area. Along with those Digital pairs Zone 1 now has several new 25 KHz analog repeaters on the air due to pairs being relinquished or de-coordinated and put back in the frequency pool for re-coordination to new Trustees. There has also been several pairs taken from non-club to club affiliation over the last year. Remember, read all of the Society guidelines before trying to change from a private trustee to a Club.

There is a lot of new technology out there, one being D-Star. I personally have not worked with the D-Star format but if it's anything as good as Icom's new IDAS format it's great. I would encourage anyone interested in repeater operations to give it a try, it's a lot of fun and it does not have to be expensive! Contact me for more details if interested. Sadly, within the DFW area you will have to go on the waiting list because there are no pairs available at this time but anywhere outside of the Metroplex we can work you a repeater pair.

At this time I would like to thank Matt and Mark Stennett as well as the Society for coming up with the new on-line database system. That's what it is, a system that can do anything that the Trustees, Coordinators and regular Amateur radio operators need or want. It has streamlined the application process, renewal process and day to day housekeeping of the database. If you have not renewed via the new system, try it, it works great.

Bottom line, don't believe everything you read about the Society, with your help and support we can keep this organization great as ever.

Paul Finch
WB5IDM

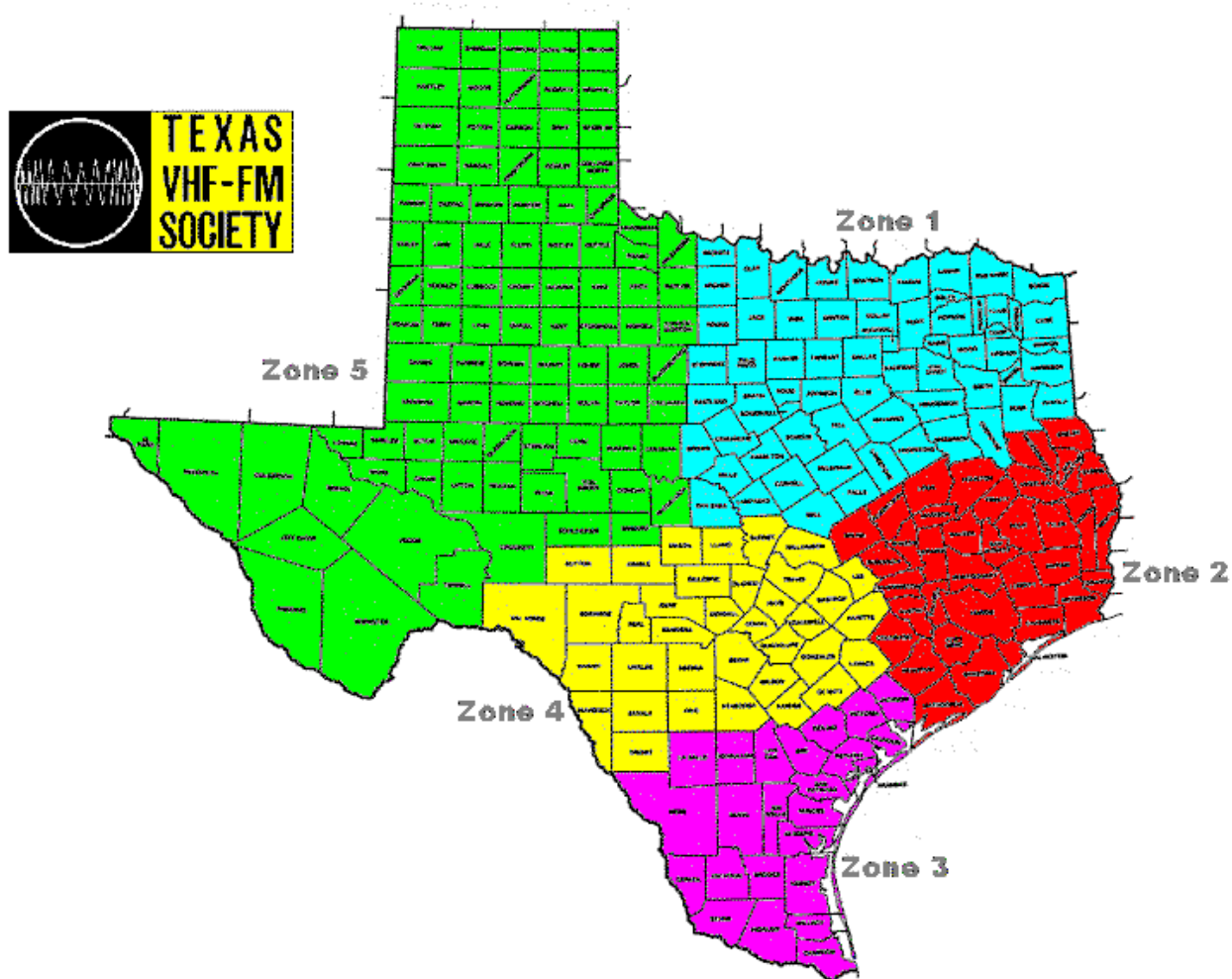
Zone 1 440 Coordinator
817-689-2978 Office
682-465-3568 Cell Phone

NOTES FROM ZONE 1 all but 440 MHz

Craig Green had an unfortunate motorcycle accident in Arkansas, which has prevented him from preparing a report for this issue

WHAT ZONE AM I IN?

Repeater Coordination Zones



Notes from Zone 2 & 3 – Fall 2009

Construction Permits & Newly Coordinated Repeaters

In Zone 2 & 3 since the last issue of the NEWS (5/14/09) there have been:

- eight newly coordinated repeaters
- fourteen new construction permit issued
- 23 letters mailed for renewals, confirmation of coordinations, and trustee changes

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.

Zone 2 & 3 Newly Coordinated Repeaters between 5/7/09 and 10/16/09

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Anahuac	145.330	144.730	KK5XQ	Oe192.8
Hemphill	146.900	146.300	KA5BQM	O141.3rs
Houston	442.600	447.600	KD5DFB	O156.7
Houston	441.775	446.775	KD5DFB	C
Willis	442.625	447.625	W5JSC	O157.6
Buffalo	147.280	147.780	W5UOK	O123.0
Trinity	145.330	144.730	N5ESP	O103.5
Trinity	224.600	223.000	N5ESP	O103.5

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 co-channel spacing requirements observed for this frequency. 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	N5TRS	Houston	2m	7/14/2007
2	K5AW	Conroe	2m	2/26/2009
3	W5INP	Houston	2m	6/10/2009

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.

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

73,

Eric Schmidt KA5WMY

STATE FREQUENCY COORDINATOR

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Perception Rules:

1. Perception is never neutral.
2. Perception is the sum of lots of little things.
3. The bad news counts against you ten times more than the good news counts for you!

E-mail recently received:

2 November 2009

Gents,

I was very impressed with the quality and quantity of responses I received from my original email. I have received the login info and have sent in re-coordination for the 3 repeaters in question. I was so favorably pleased that I have also sent in my "new" membership renewal for myself and also for the McKinney ARC of which I am also club president. I had let these memberships lapse a few years ago when things were "interesting", but I am encouraged by the more positive signs I've just seen.

Thanks es 73,

Mike, W8CM

www.mckinneyarc.org

Coordination is a very tough business. It is hard with a limited amount of spectrum to make most of the people happy all of the time. Sometimes in some areas, you cannot make anyone happy. Most of the notes, calls and comments we all get are negative. Some have been ridiculous--a complaint after an email was not responded to for 10 minutes. But the thank you notes are the best thing to remind all of us the business of coordination is about helping a fellow amateur radio operator.

Many of us do not take the time any more to write thank you notes. You may remember writing them as a youngster when a parent said you had to or you would be in "trouble". But in today's busy hectic world, we just don't take the time. Many of us do take the time to write complaint e-mails or tell someone about a bad experience. That would be the third perception rule.

The reason I bring this up, is that we are working through a process to pull the Coordination Committee into the 21st century. A modern connected database that lets the user do the initial applications, renewals and self manage a lot of things without coordinator assistance. This does not mean all of the work is on the trustee or applicant, it does mean that that the coordinator can spend more time doing coordination versus running down an address or coordinates or height above average terrain. And it does mean that the trustee and applicant can see what was entered and check status. The "waiting list" will be updated from these applications and the data supplied to the ARRL for the Repeater Directory comes from the data. For the last 25 years, we have had an antiquated tool that has let us do our job, but not as well as we will be able to now. Many hours were spent compiling the various coordinator's databases and

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ONLINE COORDINATION RENEWALS

Database Update: On-Line Repeater Renewals for 2009 – 2010

Thanks to the hard work of Matt Stennett, K5RYN we are now able to implement a new on-line repeater renewal system. The new system will enable you to renew your repeater on-line as well as receive an electronic confirmation once the zone coordinator has reviewed your submission. This will greatly cut down on the paperwork and time required for renewals and allows trustees to verify the status of their renewal on-line.

FAQ for On-line Renewals:

1. How will I be notified that the on-line renewal system is ready?

An automated email was sent on 10/9/09 to the email address on record from your past repeater renewals. This email contained renewal instructions as well as a one time login password for your account. If you have previously set up an on-line account with Rf Projector for on-line voting the same username and password work for your repeater renewal account.

2. What if I don't have an email address on file?

For trustees that do not have an email address on file, a post card will be mailed with a one time login similar to how it was done for on-line voting. The one time login will require you to login and change your password during the first time you login.

3. What if I choose not to create an on-line account so that I can renew my repeater coordination?

While we encourage everyone to use the on-line systems as this saves time and money for mailings, we realize that there are some trustees that do not have access to a computer. Renewals not renewed using the on-line system by mid-November will be followed up with a standard paper renewal. We encourage you to please use the on-line system if at all possible.

4. Can I change information on my renewal using the on-line system?

The non-technical fields may be updated using the on-line system. Changes in trustees or technical changes (repeater location) will still need to be requested using the proper paper forms at this time.

5. How will I know my renewal has been processed?

Once you submit your on-line renewal, the request goes into a queue for the zone coordinator covering the area where the repeater is located. The zone coordinator will then approve or deny the renewal depending on any changes to the information. The trustee will then receive an automated email stating the status of the renewal.

6. I am a trustee and expected to receive an email to renew a particular repeater, but I didn't. What should I do?

Your email address may not have been updated or may have bounced. All bounced emails and renewals that do not have an email listed will be followed up with a post card sent to your FCC address containing your login information. Please make sure your spam filter is set to allow email from rfprojector@txvhffm.org.

Some club coordinated repeaters have different trustees depending on what the club leadership has chosen. If you have a club coordinated repeater, you might want to check with your club leadership. There is a form available if you need to update the trustee of your club repeater on the "frequency coordination" page.

Only coordinated repeaters are going through the process at this time. If you have a construction permit that is still outstanding and you have not returned your on-air status form, your repeater is not yet coordinated so it will not be available for renewal. You will need to place your system on the air and return the on-air status form to your zone coordinator to complete coordination.

(continued next page top...)

ONLINE COORDINATION RENEWALS cont'd

7. Can I submit on-line construction permit applications or technical change forms at this time?

At this time, only renewals are available on-line. There are plans to place the existing forms on-line, but they are not ready at this time.

8. I went through the on-line renewal process, but I haven't received a confirmation email. What do I need to do?

- A confirmation email is sent showing the approval of your renewal once the zone coordinator reviews your information and electronically approves the renewal. Depending on the coordinator's schedule, it take a few days before the renewal is approved.

Some internet service providers may be blocking email form rprojector@txvhffm.org. If your ISP is blocking the email, you may still verify that your renewal was approved by logging into RFProjector, clicking on "renewals", and looking at the status of your renewals. Repeaters highlighted in green have been approved. You may check the renewal status at any time without waiting for a confirmation email.

9. I'm having trouble logging into the website. What should I do?

Please be sure that you are using following site for the login: <http://www.rfprojector.com/txvhffm/> The majority of the problems so far have been because of a trustee using the wrong website.

There is a limit to the number of times that you may attempt a login. If you have too many bad login attempts, you will need to contact the database administrator and have your account reset. Please send an email to zone2@txvhffm.org with any questions.

State Frequency Coordinator (continued from page 9)

merging them into

one. That is no longer the case. The DATABASE committee has done a tremendous effort in making it so that we will be more efficient in handling all requests, data inquiries and updates.

Coordinators all have access to e-mail. Coordinators check the new on-line database several times a week. Coordinators do on-air checks of systems. And coordinators work with trustees when issues arise. Coordinators will respond within a few days of contact. We are working hard at fighting the perception that we are not involved or working for the trustee's interests.

To do this successfully, we need your help. The trustees as our customers help us be successful. Work with your zone coordinators to reply to renewal requests, update contact information and keep the data accurate.

We will help you with timely updates, accurate information and coordination services.

Thank you.

Paul Baumgardner

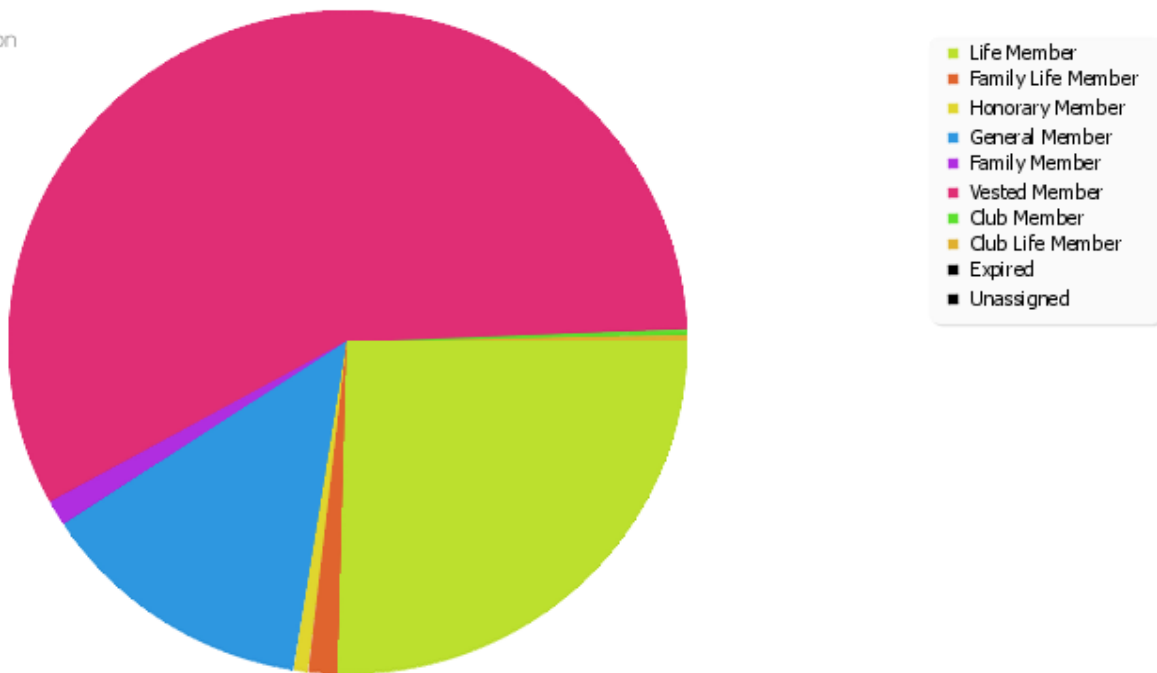
W5PSB

Statewide Frequency Coordinator

Membership Counts

Total:	1095	
Life Members:	294	27%
Club Life Members:	8	1%
Family Life Members:	15	1%
Honorary Members:	7	1%
General Members:	85	8%
Family Members:	10	1%
Club Members:	3	0%
Vested Members:	673	61%
Unknown:	0	

Membership Allocation



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$4843.44

Savings: \$32,302.14

FCC PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING AMATEUR OPERATION FOR AN EMPLOYER DURING DRILLS

AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS

Transmissions by amateur stations participating in government disaster drills must comply with all applicable amateur service rules. While the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service,¹ the amateur service is not an emergency radio service. Rather, it is a voluntary, non-commercial communication service authorized for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried out by licensed persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.²

State and local government public safety agencies occasionally conduct emergency preparedness or disaster drills that include amateur operations. Some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers, and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations, have expressed interest in having their employees who are amateur station operators participate in these drills by transmitting messages on the entity's behalf. The Commission's Rules, however, specifically prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications "in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer."³

Given the public interest in facilitating government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills, we take this opportunity to provide a clear process for requesting a waiver, and the information that we require in order to consider granting such a request.⁴ Waiver requests should be submitted to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau by the government entity conducting the drill, and must provide the following information: (1) when and where the drill will take place; (2) identification of the amateur licensees expected to transmit amateur communications on behalf of their employers; (3) identification of the employers on whose behalf they will be transmitting; and (4) a brief description of the drill. We emphasize that the filing of a waiver request does not excuse compliance with the rules while that request is pending. The waiver must be requested prior to the drill, and employees may not transmit amateur communications on their employer's behalf unless the waiver request has been granted.

In an actual emergency, the Commission's Rules provide that an amateur station may use any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and the immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.⁵ In those circumstances, rule waiver is not necessary.

For further information regarding matters discussed in this *Public Notice*, contact William T. Cross of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Mobility Division, at (202) 418-0680, William.Cross@fcc.gov.

By the Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; and Chief, Enforcement Bureau.

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FCC PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING AMATEUR OPERATION FOR AN EMPLOYER DURING DRILLS (continued)

In a discussion with ARRL lawyer Chris Imlay, it was stated that the basic question to ask if you're in the position of operation a station on behalf of an employer is "who benefits?" If the answer is "general public" its probably ok. If it's the employer it isn't. I heard, informally, that some first responders have become licensed, and installed amateur gear in emergency vehicles, etc. This appears to be a violation of the rules, except during times of actual emergency.

This is all over drills, and FCC will grant waivers. The waiver must be requested by a government entity, and done well in advance to have amateurs, on behalf of an employer, participate in a drill. They have already granted the first waiver to the State of Kentucky.

Employer here can be a hospital, Red Cross, other volunteers, etc.

If I can gather more material relative to this we'll get it in the next edition, or on the web site This can impact lots of Society members, which is why I include it here.

EVENT CALENDAR

Event Schedule excerpted from Austin Amateur Radio Club www.AustinHams.org

Nov 14 Tri-County Amateur Radio Club (WC5C)'s
NCTECH 2009
Azle Community Center 404 West Main Street
Talk-In: 147.16(+)
110.9Hz
David KB5YLG kb5ylg@yahoo.com 817-444-5165
www.wc5c.org

Jan 15-16 Cowtown Hamfest
Lockheed Martin Recreation Area 3400 Bryant Irvin Road
Fort Worth, TX
Talk-In: 147.28+ (PL 110.9)
Bill WM5U 817-244-5414 c.penny@sbcglobal.net
www.cowtownhamfest.org

Jan 23 San Antonio Radio Fiesta
Schertz Knights of Columbus Hall
J C Smith N5RXS n5rxs@satx.rr.com
Friday evening is reserved for setup

Feb 13 WCARC Swapfest
www.wcarc.com

Mar 12-13 50th Annual Acadiana Hamfest
Rayne Civic Center 300 Frog Festival Drive, Rayne LA
70578
Talk-in: 146.82(-) no PL
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association
Roland NA5Q na5q@w5ddl.org
www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/

Jun 11-12 Ham-Com (2011 Jun 10-11, 2012 Jun 8-9)
Plano Centre 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway
Phone (orders): 469-361-2143 (option to leave message)
Fax (orders): 972-596-5078
Email (orders): office@hamcom.org
www.hamcom.org/



W2DB's \$0.02

I've never put a newsletter together before. Its a lot more work than I anticipated, but still fun. I got to learn things about Microsoft Publisher, manipulating graphics, and more. This isn't the reason why I ran for Director, but it's a side benefit, for sure. I did run because I know there have been some issues with the society over the past several years, I think there is a way through better communication to remedy this situation. I'm not alone in that belief. This newsletter, and improvements to the Society web site will go a long way. Eric Schmidt has a great article in here about dealing with coordination renewals online.

I admit right up front that the layout of this newsletter is not the way it needs to be, and that I want to have fixed before the next issue. More coordinator info next time as well. The fact is that previous versions of this were done by some very old software, and this was a great opportunity to modernize and move up to Microsoft Publisher. So that transition has been done, now to get the exact format set. (I'm open to suggestions...)

Also, If you know of any local or regional events going on, drop me an e-mail and we'll get it in print. Also, and technical articles, neat stuff tried, send that along too. Information about new techniques, or new to most of us like digital modes such as P25. Or interesting test gear found. 500-1000 words, etc. Larger tech articles are ok, but need to be coordinated to some extent.

Texas VHF FM Society exists as the frequency coordination group for amateur radio communications in the State of Texas.

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