



ARRL Seeks Comment on Draft "Bandwidth" Petition

from ARRL.ORG

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 25, 2004--The ARRL wants members' comments on a planned petition to the FCC seeking to regulate amateur subbands by bandwidth rather than by mode. The ARRL Board of Directors adopted the petition's guiding principle at its July 2002 meeting and wrapped up its review of a draft petition late last month.

"The main objective is to make appropriate provision for digital modes in the HF amateur bands, while preserving amateurs' prerogatives to use the traditional modes," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Regulation by Bandwidth" is the title of Sumner's "It Seems to Us . . ." editorial in the September issue of *QST*.

The draft petition represents expert input from the ARRL Ad Hoc HF Digital Committee, which submitted its report prior to the Board's July 2003 meeting. ARRL staff also provided an interim report, and the Board reviewed a draft petition at its January 2004 meeting. An ARRL Executive Committee review followed a couple of months later.

The EC also decided to make a synopsis and explanation of the petition available to ARRL members *before* filing it with the FCC. The idea is to give anyone interested in the issue a chance to better understand the ARRL's proposal and the rationale behind it--mainly creating a regulatory environment more accommodating to newer technologies.

"The regulation of emission modes in Amateur Radio Service allocations is a limiting factor with respect to Amateur Radio experimentation," a synopsis of the petition concludes. "It leads to attempts to put new technology into a regulatory framework that was designed only to deal with older analog emissions." In order to implement digital technologies, an underlying assumption in the League's draft petition is to provide for an intermediate bandwidth--between what's needed for the legacy CW and 'phone modes--in the middle of certain bands.

As drafted, the ARRL's bandwidth petition would preserve double-sideband AM unchanged, but it would stop short of opening the 'phone bands to digital and other modes of the same bandwidth. Sumner notes in his September *QST* editorial that a 1970s attempt by the FCC to shift to a regulatory scheme based on bandwidth failed in part because it would have outlawed modes such as double-sideband AM in the HF bands.

FCC rules now permit RTTY and data emissions throughout the HF "CW subbands," "It is only through compliance with 'gentlemen's agreements' that RTTY and data signals are not heard in the parts of the band that are generally used for CW," Sumner noted. The ARRL's petition proposes rules to limit bandwidth in the "CW subbands" to 200 Hz. An ARRL analysis in the 1980s showed that 150 Hz is an adequate bandwidth for CW, based on rise and fall times of 5 ms. A 200-Hz bandwidth also will accommodate data modes such as PSK31.

In addition, the League's proposal would limit bandwidth in the existing "RTTY/data subbands" to either 500 Hz or 3 kHz, with 'phone emissions specifically prohibited in certain subbands where 3 kHz would be permitted. Under the proposal, these would include 3650-3725, 7100-7125, 14,100-14,150 and 21,150-21,200 kHz.

"The reason for this is to encourage the development of higher-speed data communications in these subbands by preventing them from becoming *de facto* 'expanded phone bands.'" Sumner explained.

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President's Line

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, President

Welcome to our 40th year. That's right, the Society has been around since 1965 and will turn 40 in 2005. The Society has been on the forefront of amateur radio repeaters and coordination in Texas all throughout those 40 years and will continue on for the next 40 or more. I would like to solicit a committee of members to help us celebrate our 40th anniversary. Please contact me if you are interested in serving.

I am honored to serve as your President for the 2004-2005 term. I commit to all members and trustees that I will work with the membership and all current board members to make the Society a better and stronger organization for the future. I have a vision of where we need to go, so we must work together to get on the road to achieve those goals.

I would like to thank our past President, Eric Schmidt, for a job well done for the 2003-2004 year. Eric provided outstanding leadership to help the Society grow and better serve its members.

During the first board meeting following the general meeting in August 2004, all staff positions within the society leadership were filled. Harold Reasoner has agreed to return to his role of Statewide Frequency Coordinator. Greg Jurrens has accepted the Technical Coordinator positions. I will continue with the Database Committee. Bill Lawless has agreed to serve as the Election Committee Chairman. Gerry Creager has agreed to serve as Parliamentarian. Jay Maynard will continue in his role as Trustee of the W5OGZ club call for the Society. For the ad-hoc Survey committee, John Johnson has agreed to serve as chairman to conduct the membership survey that was moved by the membership during the 2003 Summer Meeting.

Let me take a moment to introduce myself for those that I haven't had the opportunity to meet. I was first licensed in 1986 after attending a class sponsored by the Arlington Amateur Radio Club. I went through the entire class and was one of a few in the class of thirty that passed both the theory and code tests. I got my technician license some months later in early 1987. I got my extra class license in 2001. I have been active in the Arlington Club since then and have served on the election committee, as Vice President, President and currently as the Repeater and Special Events Committee Chairman as well as Agent of Record. I have participated in the Texas VHF FM Society since becoming a member in 1989. I have been to many, many meetings and remember running for the board several times in the early 90's until I was elected in 1997. Since 1997, I have served as a Director at Large and Vice President. Also, I have been a Frequency Coordinator in the North Texas area for 29, 50, 222, 902, 1200, 2400

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Texas VHF-FM Society Committees

Frequency Coordination Committee Chairman*
Database Committee Chairman*
Technical Committee Chairman*
Parliamentarian
Trustee (W5OGZ)
Election Committee Chairman
Publications Committee Chairman
Ad-Hoc Survey Committee Chairman

Harold Reasoner, K5SXX
Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Greg Jurrens, WD0ACD
Gerry Creager, N5JXS
Jay Maynard, K5ZC
Bill Lawless, W5WRL
John Johnson, N5NH
John Johnson, N5NH

*Denotes a permanent committee of the Society

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Letter of Resignation - Zone 1 440

Effective August 7th, I was requested to resign as UHF Coordinator for the North Texas Zone. As I have served as Coordinator and in several other capacities within the Society for almost 10 years, personal and business obligations now greatly limit my ability to continue devoting the time required to properly service the needs of the trustees and the Society.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the trustees in the Northeast Texas Zone that I have served over the years, both 2 meter and 440 alike, for their support and efforts keeping coordination renewals and paperwork up-to-date. Don't worry, you will be receiving 2004-2005 coordination renewals very soon in the mail.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Coordinator and I hope to see many of you at WinterCom 2005.

73,
Larry Pollock, NB5X

Coordinator's Corner

Notes From the State Freq. Coordinator

*Harold Reasoner, K5SXX
k5sxxk@texas.net*

THANK YOU TO LARRY POLLOCK - NB5X

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Larry Pollock for the many years of service to the Texas VHF-FM Society. His resignation as Zone 1 - 440 Coordinator is elsewhere in this issue. Larry has served the Society in many capacities over the last ten years. He has served on the Board of Directors, as Newsletter Editor and Publisher, and as Zone 1 Coordinator for the 2 meter and 440 bands. He has worked tirelessly in these capacities and gone beyond the call of duty many times. Larry put out several issues of the newsletter almost single-handed when he accepted the position of Newsletter Editor several years ago.

NEW ZONE 1 COORDINATOR FOR 440 MHZ

Please welcome Chris Hudgins, N5IUF, as the new Zone 1 - 440 Coordinator. Chris was brave enough to take on this huge job. It will take a while for Chris to get familiar with all that is required in this job. Please be patient while he gets familiar with the processes and help make his job as easy as possible.

COORDINATED REPEATER STATISTICS

I promised at the Summerfest meeting in Austin to provide a summary of the number of coordinated repeaters in Texas this year. There are a number of new repeaters on the air and there have been an almost equal number that went off the air so the total number of repeaters has remained almost constant. There are a total of 1330 repeaters listed in the directory this year. This breaks down by Zone as follows:

Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
442	310	71	264	243

The number of repeaters on each band is as follows:

29 MHz	52 MHz	146 MHz	222 MHz	440 MHz	902 MHz	1240 MHz	ATV
5	31	531	84	654	1	12	12

There has been a renewed interest in the 902 MHz band this year and there are several more construction permits issued. Look for more repeaters in this band next year.

COORDINATION RENEWALS MAILED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

Please review your coordination renewals this year and be sure to mark any changes or corrections that need to be made to make the database accurate. The Latitude and Longitude information is used to calculate the spacing between adjacent repeaters on the same frequency so it is especially important that it be accurate. Several errors have crept into the data over the years so check to make sure yours is correct. Note that we use degrees, minutes, and seconds in our records. If you have the data in decimal degrees or degrees and decimal minutes, please convert it if possible to the correct format. If you must provide it in another format, please make note of the format used so the coordinator can convert it to the proper format for our calculations.

If you do not get a renewal for any of your repeaters, please contact the Zone coordinator and get your data updated. Many of you have moved over the years and forgotten to notify the coordinator. Many addresses were changed to accommodate the 911 system when it was implemented.

If you know of any repeaters that are not coordinated, please encourage the trustee to contact their Zone coordinator and work with him to get their repeater coordinated.

The most commonly used forms are now available on the web site in pdf format. Coordination requests, changes, and status report forms are available for your use. Please print them, fill them out and mail them to your Zone Coordinator as needed.

Your coordination renewal should be returned by the first week of October. Non-returns will get a second mailout the first week of November, due by the end of November. Following the second mailing, if a system is INACTIVE (not on the air) and no coordination has been returned in the last 2 years, then de-coordination procedures will begin. We would like to have inactive coordinations freed up and have those frequencies back in the pool by March 2005.

We are trying to make sure that our Link Database is current and accurate. We're going to start doing Link coordinations, so if you are using a Link Frequency with your repeater, please contact the Link Coordinator with your information so we can verify database accuracy. The email address is links@txvhffm.org

Zone 1 - 2 Meters

Dave Davis, WB5WIA, Zone 1 2m Frequency Coordinator
zone1-2m@txvhffm.org

Activity since the last newsletter has been busy. I've had several applications, and unfortunately, most of them are going to have to go on the waiting list. Two Meters in DFW is completely "sold out". There are no more allocations, including split channels, available for issue. That's not to say that there are repeaters on every channel, just that there are coordinations for every channel.

There are several things that repeater trustees and their user bases can do to help alleviate the congestion. The first thing is that trustees that have channels that are not on the air should surrender the coordination. I've begun the long and painful process to decoordinate a couple of repeaters that were last heard in the mid '90s.

On one example, for whatever reason, the trustee has represented during the annual renewal process that the machine is operational. Upon a bit of research, we find that the equipment has not been at the site for several years. This sort of behavior undermines the coordination process. The entire process is based on a true and factual representation of the data for each machine, with the coordinator simply analyzing the data to maintain proper spacing for the repeaters.

The second thing that you can help with is to generate honest and factual listening reports on machines that you think may be QRT. There is a form for this purpose on the Society website (Thanks to SXX and MDY for getting these up!). Download the form, keep notes for a month or so, and then send that report to the appropriate ZFC. Sending a CC to the state coordinator would not be a bad thing either. BUT, one word of caution: It is perfectly legal to have an operational repeater that is functioned OFF. Just because you can not hear it, or access it doesn't mean that it is not on the air.

This is a hobby. This is an expensive hobby, especially where

Life Member Badges

Are you a life member that has recently changed call signs or lost your badge? Replacement badges are available in two styles.

The standard life member badge has been issued to all new life and family life members since the Society was founded. The badge is black with white lettering and is 2.5 in. wide by 0.75 in. tall with a standard pin clasp on the back.



A new badge was developed back in 2002 that is 3 in. wide by 2 in. tall, and has yellow lettering on a black background with a special spring clasp.

These badges are available to life and family life members for \$14.50 (includes shipping and handling). Pictures of the two badge types and information on who to contact for ordering is on our website at www.txvhffm.org.



constructing and operating a repeater is concerned. If you have a permit for a repeater, and it's about to eat you out of house and home, let me know, and I'll work with the people on the waiting list to see if they would be interested in co-operating to improve an existing site. (This will make my fellow coordinators laugh. Remember that I'm still the junior ZFC, and my youthful optimism causes my colleagues amusement.)

One final note. Early this summer, I was attempting to locate a system that would have been 68.5 miles from system "X". The new system was to be a 50w system at 150', with an antenna bias away from the close system. I sent "X's" trustee an email requesting permission to place the system 1.5 miles within the protection zone. The answer from "X" was not only NO, but there were several exclamation points behind it. Would 8,000 feet more separation have made any difference? No. What I had was a case of "I've got a system, and I can keep you from getting one, so there!" We all need to cooperate better to make this coordination stuff work.

Dave

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

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, Zone 1 Frequency Coordinator
President@txvhffm.org

Coordination activity has again been very light over the last three months. Two more renewals that haven't been heard from in a while have come in. And, a single application has gone out. Changes or new coordinations in the last three months are:

N9TY 224.38 Dallas **construction permit

One change that has occurred is that I am picking up the 420 MHz repeaters for the state. There are a few presently coordinated and some interest in additional systems throughout the state. We have several available 420 MHz channels for repeaters in the present band plan.

If you have questions, please contact me via phone or e-mail using the contact information on Page 2.

Zone 2

Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY, Zone 2 Frequency Coordinator
ka5wmy@arrl.net

Zone 2 is second only to Zone 1 in the total number of coordinations for the area and stretches from Matagorda to Shelby County and from the Gulf of Mexico to Milam County. Exact maps are available on our website or on the last page of the 2004 - 2005 repeater directory. Repeater activity in Zone 2 has been very brisk over the past few months. While there are currently fourteen active construction permit applications in Zone 2, only two repeaters have been coordinated since 6/1/04. Remember that your Zone coordinator must be notified that a repeater is on the air before the construction permit can be changed to a coordination.

Zone 2 Newly Coordinated Repeaters since 6/1/04

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Cut & Shoot	223.980	222.380	W5WP	OE103.5
El Campo	442.125	447.125	WJ5B	OL103.5

Repeater coordination renewals will be sent out very soon, and it is critical that these renewals be returned as quickly as possible. Return of the annual repeater coordination renewal form is one of the requirements to maintain repeater coordination. U.S. mail and email address updates are also critical, so please take the time to verify that ALL of the information on your repeater renewal is accurate. Each year I receive approximately 20% of the renewals as returned mail with "not deliverable, address unknown". This costs the Society extra money in re-mailing the renewal. Please try to keep your address up to date with your zone coordinator.

If you need to change a technical parameter or change the trustee of a club repeater please download the correct forms from the Society webpage link to properly document the change request. Also, if you provide a valid email address on your coordination renewal form, I will email a confirmation to you when your renewal arrives. This is an easy and cost effective way for you to be certain that your repeater renewal was received and recorded.

Finally with the recent increase in construction permit applications, the following waiting list for Zone 2 has accrued. A detailed explanation of the waiting list description and process appears on the Society website. If you know of a repeater in your area that is listed in the directory but has not been on the air for some time, please download a copy of the "on-air status" form from our website. This form allows you to report on the on-air status of repeaters in your area and helps me to clear up any "paper" repeaters.

Zone 2 Coordination Waiting List

Callsign	City	Band	Application Date
WA5FIX	Channelview	2m	4/17/2004
KD5HHW	Magnolia	2m	5/11/2004

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

73,
Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY

Zone 3

*Richard Norton, W5FRO, Zone 3 Frequency Coordinator
w5fro@arrl.net*

Zone 3 is in the process of collecting coordination renewals. At present, this is the main activity. Several repeaters have been monitored and found to be "invisible". These trustees will

be contacted within the next 40 days for either an explanation or consultation for removal from the list.

Unlike other zones, Zone 3 has many frequency pairs available for usage.

Please contact me for any assistance that might be required for a timely coordination renewal. I'm here to serve!

73,
Richard Norton, W5FRO

Zone 5

*Bill Lawless, W5WRL, Zone 5 Frequency Coordinator
wlawless@w5wrl.com*

Greetings from West Texas. I have just finished my first year as the Zone 5 coordinator. This job has given me the opportunity to visit a few clubs in West Texas as well as a bunch of repeater owners. It has been challenging and a lot of fun.

Zone 5 has been quiet. One construction permit was sent.

It's that time of year when repeater renewals are sent to all repeater trustees. You will soon receive your renewal form. Renewal is a very important part of the coordination process. It only takes a few minutes to check everything over, make changes and place in the mail. If you have not done this in a while I challenge you to do so this year.

The VHF FM Society has provided a form for just about anything that you can imagine doing with a repeater. Not only do we have forms for construction permits but also for club coordination, individual to club transfer, repeater technical change and coordination relinquish. These forms are available on the Society web site.

If your club would like to have a program about the Texas VHF Society and repeater coordination please give me a call and I will be glad to arrange. My contact information is on the Texas VHF Society web site.

I know that some of you Zone 5 repeater trustees have some very interesting projects underway. Take pictures and write it up. Send your article to me and I will send it on to the newsletter folks.

Cheers all,
Bill Lawless, W5WRL

The Freshman Director

Dave Davis, WB5WIA

Frankly, I was very surprised to have been elected to fill the seat vacated by Eric, KA5WMY. I intend represent the amateur radio operators in Texas with my own feelings and philosophies, and will be a party hack for no group. Since the election and following board meeting, I've had conversations and meetings with several members and board members representing both opposing groups in the Society. I've listened to their concerns, and told them what I wish to accomplish over the next two years. I intend to continue these meetings as time allows, and I'll happily tell each and every one of you exactly what I intend to accomplish. In fact, let me outline it here.

When I first got my license, repeaters were still exotic machines, and the Society was a group of hams that shared information on how to make things work. I enjoyed learning and helping build some of the repeaters in the 1970s. When my bride and I became parents, I de-emphasized ham radio to concentrate on finishing my degree and being a dad. Now, fast forward some 25 years. My youngest is starting college, and I've gotten back into the hobby.

I want the Society to shift back to its roots as a technical society. There are tips and tricks to make repeaters work even today. Just because you bought a repeater, a duplexer, an antenna, and some feedline at the last swap meet doesn't mean that you necessarily can turn that pile of treasure into a good repeater. There are many in the Society that can teach us the tricks to make that work.

The Society's name is "VHF", but we've always looked into that more as "VHF and higher". There are a lot of fun things going on in the 2.5GHz band that we need to know about (such as how to run a couple of hundred watts from an 802.11 access point...), and the Society is the perfect place to do that.

To further that goal, the Wintercom meetings have emphasized the technical presentations, and if the organizing committee can pull it off again this year, there will be even more things to see and learn at that event.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Belton Ham Expo	Oct 2
Microwave Update 2004 Dallas	Oct 14-16
Austin Radio RoundUp Hamfest	Nov 6
Tri-County ARC Azle Swapfest	Nov 13
South Texas ARC Swapfest	Nov 13
Winter-Com 2005 Arlington	Jan 15
Georgetown Sunday Swapfest	Feb 6
Brazos Valley ARC Swapfest	Mar 5
Irving ARC Hamfest	Mar 12

In closing, I intend to be "Dave" this next two years. If you agree with me, that's great. If you don't agree with me, tell me, and try to convince me. I don't promise to change my position, but I will listen to yours.

Minutes of General Meeting Jan 17, 2004 (revised)

1:40pm meeting called to order by Director Schmidt.

Director Rasmussen made a motion to amend the minutes of the summer meeting to add that Chris Hudgins was made chairman of the survey committee. Doug - KD5OUG 2nd the motion.

Director Schmidt made a motion to accept minutes as amended. Jim - N5DDC 2nd the amended minutes.

No financial information... Director Bancook was absent. Director Schmidt gave his report. Director Baumgardner gave his report. Director Rasmussen gave her report. Director Hudgins gave his report. Director Stevenson gave his report. Director Petit gave his report. Director Reasoner gave his report. Director Johnson stated February 13th is newsletter deadline.

No Old business items

New Business Items

Director Schmidt called for a straw poll seeing who was in favor of coming to Arlington for the winter 2005 meeting. The majority of the membership was in favor of Arlington.

The summer meeting is first Saturday in August (6th and 7th) in Austin.

Chuck Adams, N5UN made a motion of change/addition be made to the bylaws - stating that an NDA should be drawn up to be used by anyone having access to the frequency coordination database, subject to review by appropriate legal council as defined by the board of directors, and then presented for a vote at the summer meeting. The following underlined text, if passed, would be added to the current bylaws:

Article Eleven

Treatment of privileged information

11.1

The Texas VHF-FM Society, Inc., during the course of furnishing its regular Frequency Coordination services, is entrusted with certain privileged information. This information contains for example, but is not necessarily limited to, such personal information as a repeater trustee's mailing address, home and/or work telephone numbers, email addresses, etc. as furnished by the repeater trustee requesting frequency coordination services. In addition, certain technical information concerning the coordinated or proposed repeater's location, latitude/longitude coordinates, and other information not normally disclosed to

the general public must be submitted as a prerequisite to obtaining frequency coordination services.

11.2

Persons, acting as authorized agents of the Texas VHF-FM Society, Inc. will be required to sign the NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (NDA) as a condition of having access to the information as described in 11.1

11.3

Authorized agents of the Texas VHF-FM Society, Inc. are defined as the members of the Board of Directors, Frequency Coordinators, consultants, appointees or any other person having access on a "need to know" basis to the information as described in 11.1

11.4

The Board of Directors, by virtue of their election by the membership of the Texas VHF-FM Society, Inc. has the authority to determine who will be the authorized agents of the Society for the purpose of having access to such privileged information. The Secretary will at all times maintain an up to date list of authorized agents and copies of all executed NDAs.

11.5

The NDA will be prepared by appropriate legal counsel, and periodically reviewed by such legal counsel to maintain its effectiveness. The NDA will describe the responsibilities of the authorized agents of the Society as to the proprietary nature of the information in their care and knowledge, and the authorized agents will be required to execute the NDA prior to gaining access to such information. The NDA will hold the authorized agents personally responsible to not disclose such proprietary information outside the official needs of the Society to conduct its Frequency Coordination and associated services. The NDA will be binding on the authorized agents both during their authorized term of service to the Society and indefinitely into the future.

Gerry Creager 2nd the motion. Director Schmidt called the question and Rich Osman 2nd the call. Motion passed.

Rich Osman made a motion that a lawyer be consulted to provide recommendation regarding the information and review how to word the restriction of information to anyone who has access to it. Gerry Creager 2nd it.

Discussion followed as to what the limits to the information could be. Motion passed.

Director Stevenson moved to add Appendix C to the standards for frequency coordination as shown in the text below, in order to officially incorporate the existing band plans into the standards for frequency coordination. This amendment shall clarify the exact band plans as they currently exist. This is to be voted upon in the summer 2004 general meeting and upon approval goes into effect immediately. J Howard - AA5R 2nd it.

[Editors Note: The band plans were excluded from this copy of the minutes to save space in the newsletter. The band plans are

available for review at www.txvhffm.org and in the Society Repeater Directory.]

Motion is tabled until the summer meeting.

Director Rasmussen made a motion to add a paragraph in Section III of the standards for Frequency Coordination stating that "The location coordinates supplied on all new applications and renewals must be provided in Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds, and must use the NAD83 datum format" Gerry Creager asked if it could be either WGS84 or NAD83 since they're very close to each others, and most GPS units come default with WGS84 setting. Dir Rasmussen agreed to modify the motion and Gerry Creager 2nd it. Motion is tabled till summer meeting.

Billy McDonald requested the membership mailing database. Jim McCarter - N5DDC made a motion to give Billy McDonald or anyone else requesting the membership mailing database. Jay Urish - W5GM 2nd the motion. Gerry Dalton proposed an amendment to the motion make it available in the form of mailing labels only for a nominal cost. Doug Freeman KC5ION 2nd the amendment. Amendment passed 23 for and 20 against.

Woody Harper - KD5TAP moved to amend the current motion to say Billy, or anyone asking, would be furnished with a black and white paper list of names, call signs and addresses only at no cost. Gerry Dalton called the question on the amendment – Director Baumgardner 2nd it. Motion passed.

Director Petit called question on the original motion. It stated to give Billy McDonald or anyone else the membership mailing database as amended first and second times. Gerry Creager 2nd it. Motion failed 25 to 24.

Gerry Creager made a motion to give names, addresses and call signs on a 1-time use to Billy McDonald in paper format at no charge. Ken Noblitt – N5UA called the question. Chuck Adams – N5UN 2nd it. Motion passed.

Director Stevenson made a motion that anyone running for office gets the membership mailing list (names addresses and call signs) once for their campaigning purposes only. Jim Clark - WM5L 2nd it. Ken Noblitt – N5UA called the question. J Howard - AA5R 2nd it. Motion passed.

E-NEWS TRIAL RUN

This month we are conducting the trial run of E-NEWS. You may receive both a mailed newsletter and an email, if so there is no need to let us know.

Sign up at www.txvhffm.org

Jim Reese made a motion to adjourn. Gerry Creager 2nd it. Motion passed to adjourn.

Minutes of General Meeting Aug 7, 2004

Meeting started 9:10am.

Dir Stevenson gave his directors report. Dir Hudgins gave his directors report. Dir Reasoner gave his directors report. Dir Johnson gave his directors report. Dir Baumgardner gave his directors report. Dir Rasmussen gave her directors report. Dir Schmidt gave his directors report.

Dir Hudgins gave the survey report. He stated due to the low return and lack of the control number, the survey was deemed unusable.

Dir Schmidt gave the study on the dues increase. He suggested a delay on the dues increase until the summer. Stan Stanukinos KA5IID made the motion to delay the increase and Rod Cole W7LTP 2nd the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Dir Schmidt brought the bylaws change up for discussion as submitted by Chuck Adams. Dir Schmidt read the change. Motion made by Billy McDonald to postponed voting on this change. Jay Urish 2nd the motion. Rich Osman called the question. Dir Hudgins 2nd it. Motion passed.

The Standards for Frequency Coordination change up for discussion as submitted by Dir Stevenson. – Dir Schmidt read the change. Jim Reese WD5IYT made a comment that the trustees have to be polled in writing to accept this change. Since they have not been polled, we can't vote on this today. He stated the same issues with the proposal to change coordination standards regarding the GPS coordinates. Both issues were postponed.

Dir Schmidt brought up the proposed budget for 2004-2005 for approval. Jim Reese moved to accept the budget, it was 2nd by Paul Baumgardner. Motion passed unanimously.

Dir Schmidt asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the board of directors. Stan Stanukinos KA5IID made a motion to cease nominations, and Dir Rasmussen 2nd the motion. Individuals nominated are: Louis Bancook, Ed Cox, Dave Davis, John Johnson, Tom Katopody, Harold Reasoner, Charles Staples, Craig Green.

Each person running gave their introductory speech. Ballots were passed out and votes taken and tallied. Meeting continued with new business during the vote tallying.

Dir Schmidt gave a Frequency Coordination Audit overview as to what the objectives were, and the procedure, as well as what was learned. What was learned:

Waiting list not defined, merging of paper data and electronic data can cause inaccuracies, inconsistent enforcement of 6 month limit on construction permits.

J.P. Sugarbroad - K5ZVR made a motion to direct the president to show is NDA findings Jerry Creager 2nd the motion. Motion passed. Dir Schmidt gave his presentation to the membership of benefits and risks of the NDA.

Dir Baumgardner made a motion to make the outgoing President an honorary life member. It was 2nd by Dir Reasoner. Motion passed.

Naming the new directors had to be postponed because the room had to be relinquished at 11am for the next meeting. Wayne Pecena – N1WP made a motion to cease the meeting and reconvene at 12 noon in the same room. Steve Rockroth – N5YEO 2nd the motion.

Meeting was restarted at 12:04pm

Bill Lawless gave the report on the nominations committee's findings:

Bancook	114
Cox	37
Davis	92
Johnson	105
Katopody	78
Reasoner	106
Staples	75
Green	89

The four new board members are Bancook, Davis, Reasoner, and Johnson.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes of Board Meeting August 7, 2004

Dir Baumgardner started meeting at 1:38pm

Dir Petit nominated John Johnson for newsletter editor. No other nominations. Johnson was voted in unanimously

Dir Baumgardner asked for nominations for Treasurer. Dir Johnson nominated Louis Bancook. No other nominations. Bancook was voted in unanimously.

Dir Davis nominated Melissa Rasmussen for Secretary. No other nominations. Rasmussen voted in unanimously.

Dir Reasoner nominated Dave Davis for Vice-President – he did not accept. Dir Reasoner then nominated Louis Petit for Vice-President. No other nominations. Petit voted in unanimously

Dir Rasmussen nominated Don Stevenson for President. Dir Reasoner nominated Paul Baumgardner. 3 votes for Don Stevenson, 4 votes for Paul Baumgardner. Dir Davis abstained from voting. Dir Baumgardner abstained from voting.

Dir Johnson stated Aug 20th is deadline for submissions to the newsletter.

Oct 2nd is Belton hamfest – next board meeting.

Committees:

Dir Baumgardner retained Harold Reasoner as state frequency coordinator, Greg Jurens for technical coordinator, Paul Baumgardner for Database committee, Harold Reasoner continues as webmaster.

Trustee for the club license is Jay Maynard – he said he's willing to keep being the trusteeship if we want him to. The board supports Jay as continuing to be the club callsign trustee.

Discussion to send out coordination renewals by the 31st of this month. Louis Bancook asked Harold to have a cover letter on all the coordination renewals.

Discussion followed talking about sending the non-member repeater trustees being polled for the changes to the State Frequency Coordinations. It will be included in the repeater renewals. There will be a return envelope but no return stamp. Aug 25 is the deadline for these letters to the trustees. Aug 28-29 is the weekend to have a work party for this.

Then there was discussion on sending the polling results back to one place, not to each zone coordinator. Louis Bancook said he thought it should go back to each zone coordinator.

There was discussion to insert into one of the newsletters a colored piece of paper telling people to sign up online.

Dir Davis asked the question about what do do with 2m in zone 1 for all the paper repeaters and non-renewals in the area.

Roy Rabey suggested putting a link or whatever on the North Texas Section website to go to the FM society website listing repeaters and trustees that are unresponsive.

It was agreed this would be on the agenda for the fall meeting to continue this discussion.

Dir Davis asked Dir Reasoner about setting up coordinators with their own email addresses. Dir Reasoner said it'd be 60 dollars a year for a personalized email address.

Dir Johnson brought up electronic distribution of the newsletter – there are 30 some people signed up for it now. They're going to start sending via electronic newsletter – trial run this year.

Dir Baumgardner brought up survey committee onto the table. He appointed Dir Johnson to chair the committee and to pick 3 BoD members and 3 non-members for the committee.

Meeting closed at 2:33pm and went into executive session.

Southeast Repeater Association Board Okays Mandatory Repeater Tone Policy

From ARRL.org

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 27, 2004--The Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) Board of Directors has approved an "all tone, all the time" policy for the repeaters SERA coordinates. SERA provides voluntary frequency coordination for amateur repeaters in eight states. The Board's action came on a motion from Mississippi Director Steve Grantham, AA5SG, that SERA amend its coordination policy and guidelines to require CTCSS or DCS receive and transmit tones on all new FM voice repeaters. Existing voice repeaters will have until July 1, 2006, to comply. The *SERA Repeater Journal* reported the move in its August issue. *Repeater Journal* Editor Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, said a need to relieve interference complaints led to the Board's decision.

"The point is to stop the ongoing complaints and skirmishes between co-channel neighbors running carrier-access repeaters," Pearce explained. "The vote was unanimous, but SERA recognizes that tone isn't universally popular nor is it a cure-all. And it causes new problems, particularly for travelers."

South Carolina ARRL member Laurie Sansbury Jr, KV4C, would agree with Pearce on that score. He has taken issue with SERA's new policy and with Pearce's *Repeater Journal* "SquelchTale" editorial, in which Pearce said he had "little sympathy for the ham whose radio doesn't have a tone encoder" and "Radios are cheap today."

"Not for the senior on a fixed income they're not," Sansbury retorted in an e-mail copied to ARRL. "Not for a teenager--the future of ham radio--they're not."

ARRL South Carolina Technical Coordinator Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, raised the issue of the potential impact of SERA's tone policy on emergency operations. "The Amateur Radio Service is expected to provide emergency communications," Tarplee said. "How does broad CTCSS implementation enhance or hinder our ability to deliver those communications?"

ARRL member Mark Cobbeldick, KB4CVN, of Monroe, Virginia, said requiring CTCSS tone to access a repeater on the 10-meter band has been the topic of several discussions on the 10-meter FM reflector. "It appears the SERA has taken a step in this direction," he said. "By having both encode and decode tones on a repeater, this will help reduce interference during band openings." He also suggested designating CTCSS tones on a state-by-state basis, "with a primary tone and several alternates."

Pearce notes that while the SERA policy applies to repeaters on all bands, the problems it aims to resolve most frequently involve 2-meter machines. He says SERA already has a tone plan for 10 meters. SERA coordinates repeaters in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and parts of Virginia and West Virginia.

SERA has no plans to automatically decoordinate repeaters that continue to operate without tones, but "SERA would not entertain an interference complaint from the owner of any repeater who chooses to remain carrier access," the *Repeater Journal* said. If a carrier-access repeater owner getting co-channel interference complains to the FCC, SERA would tell the Commission that the complaining repeater's owner was opting to operate outside the conditions of coordination. "SERA would expect that to be interpreted as a 'no,'" the *Repeater Journal* report said.

"If a repeater owner wants to complain about interference, they'll have to incorporate tone first," Pearce said.

(Continued from page 2)

and ATV since 1992. This has been a very challenging and enjoyable job serving amateur radio trustees.

Professionally, I work as Construction Manager for Cingular Wireless. That gets me involved in new cell sites, new Switch locations and upgrades to existing locations. I also lead disaster recovery efforts when needed. I have been employed by Cingular Wireless/Southwester Bell Mobile Systems for over 10 years.

In closing, I have had the opportunity to talk with many members of the Society over the last few weeks about where we are and where we want to be in the future. The Society can only move forward with involved members and new ideas. We cannot hang onto old or tired ideas. We need input from members and trustees. That means coming to meeting and participating. If you see something that needs doing or something that needs more attention, please speak up. Don't be shy about volunteering. Don't be shy about offering up a new idea at a meeting. Talk to your local directors and zone coordinators. Stay involved!!

Database Committee Update

Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB, President

The Society Database Committee continues its work toward a new unified database to manage the coordination and membership functions of the society. Effort has been undertaken to identify the hardware and software requirements for the new database. An initial system for testing has been established. A process analysis is in progress and will be completed by years end. Early next year, real coding efforts will begin.

Some objectives are: (1) on-line renewals for both membership and coordinations, (2) on-line real time frequency search for repeaters, and (3) web access for coordinators and board members.

More details to follow over the next few months.

(Continued from page 1)

The new proposals take into account the ARRL's prior "Novice refarming" petition to expand some HF 'phone bands, included in the FCC *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* in WT Docket 04-140.

Sumner points out that amateurs wouldn't have to be able to measure the bandwidth of their signals. "The proposed bandwidths are more than sufficient for 'clean' signals using the traditional HF modes," he said. "Measurement would only arise as a potential problem for those who try to push the edge of the envelope." The Amateur Radio Service has had regulation by bandwidth for certain data operations for many years, Sumner noted, without any "great debate" over whether a particular signal was legal or not.

The ARRL proposal would eliminate bandwidth restrictions in the 222-225 MHz band--beyond a requirement to keep signals confined within the band.

Sumner encouraged ARRL members to review the synopsis of the petition and the specific rule changes the League plans to propose. Direct questions or comments--favorable or otherwise--via e-mail bandwidth@arrl.org. ARRL staff members will respond to any questions, while comments will be forwarded to your ARRL division director. Members also are welcome to comment directly to their ARRL directors, also listed on page 15 in *QST*.

Texas VHF-FM Society Shirts

The Texas VHF-FM Society now has special shirts available for members with the Society logo and optionally your name and call. Visit www.txvhffm.org/shirts.htm for more details.

