



From the Prez

This newsletter is both late and thin. Our board members are very busy people, and many did not have time to submit a report on their activities during this period.

I also have been busy, PP Eric Schmidt, WA5WMY has long since sent me the print master for the repeater directories, but I've not yet (as of this writing) made it to the print shop. I will have them printed and in the mail before Hamcom, and we'll have the excess from the print run at the forum at hamcom.

The Election cycle is on us. This historic election will be the first where the directors may be elected by electronic ballot. There are two important pieces of this puzzle that need description. The first is how to get your name on the ballot, and the second is how to cast your vote.

First things first. Members may self nominate by submitting a note to the secretary (secretary@txvhffm.org) expressing their interest. They should also include a short (400 words or less) monograph, and a jpeg picture. The picture and the monograph will be posted on the web site, and their name will be added to the candidate list in the electronic voting program. While we anticipate that all candidates will have their information submitted by the end of June, technically nominations will remain open during the voting period. (The downside to placing your name in the hat late is that everyone who has already voted before you put your name in will not have access to you as a candidate. Electronic voting will open at 0000 CDT (midnight), July 1, and remain open until 2359 CDT on July 31, 2009. Please note that nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the membership meeting on August 8th, and those members that have not used the electronic voting system may vote in person at the meeting.

How does a member vote? During the first week in June, members will receive a postcard with a temporary password and login for the Society web site. Members must log in with that temporary password and set a permanent password to be eligible to vote. Also note, that once a member has voted, they may not change or cancel their vote, even if someone new places their name in nomination. For more detailed information, please see Mark, NA6M's column elsewhere in the newsletter.

Who should run? This will be a watershed election. We will be electing six of the nine directors, five of them to two year terms, and one to fill Charlie's last year. These times, they are a changing.

If you are able to make it to Hamcom, we'll have our usual forum at noon, and then we'll attempt to get a quorum of board members together to discuss a few things.

Plan to make it to Austin for Summerfest, I'll see you there.

-73, Dave, wb5wia

2008-09 Officers and Directors

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Vacant (10)

Vice President's Report

Our vice president is currently out of touch working on a special project for one of his company's served agencies. Louis: Stay Safe, and Thank you for your service. -ed

Secretary's Report

No report recieved by press time

State Frequency Coordinator's Report

No report recieved by press time

Board of Director's Report

Bob Lobaugh: No report recieved by press time
Hugh Davis: No report recieved by press time
Allen Ramsey: No report recieved by press time
Tom Nevue: No report recieved by press time

Texas VHF-FM Society Standing Committees

Frequency coordination:	Paul Baumgardner, W5PSB
Database Committee:	Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY
Technical Committee:	Kent Britain, WA5VJB
Trustee (W5OGZ):	Joe Makeever, W5HS
Newsletter Editor:	Dave Davis, WB5WIA

Treasurer's Report

Howdy folks,

The Society presently has \$5799.22 in the checking account and \$31,965.81 in the life member savings account.

The Society is implementing a new online system to allow members, directors and frequency coordinators to collaborate efficiently online. This project started over a year ago and has come to be known as RF Projector. This system will manage frequency coordination, member information and starting this year, online voting for directors.

All members will soon receive a postcard in the mail from the Society that contains their password to gain access to our new online system. A full overview and instructions can be found at <http://www.txvhffm.org/vote>.

Once you receive your postcard, you can log into the system and change your password, update your information and explore the program. In the month of June, the Society will be accepting nominations for director positions. In the month of July the voting process will take place. The voting module is hosted off the main Society server and the board of directors will not have access to any details during the election cycle.

The voting results along with detailed session logs will be held until the Summer Meeting when they will be presented to the Election Committee for inclusion in the local tally.

Anyone who votes online will be ineligible to vote at the Summer Meeting.

It is very important that anyone considering a position on the board take advantage of the nomination window in June so they receive the full benefit of online votes cast. While nominations will be accepted on the floor at the Summer Meeting, those individuals will miss having access to those who voted online.

73's

Mark Stennett, NA6 M



Notes from Zone 2 & 3 – Spring 2009

Narrow Band Digital Proposal

I'm excited to update you on the narrow band digital proposal. The proposed changes to the 2m band plan have been discussed since the Fall 2007 issue of the NEWS as well as at the Summer 2008 meeting. The proposal includes the following:

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.

There are currently six digital narrow band systems in operation across the state utilizing this proposed plan. At this time I am aware of one negative comment from Zone 4 (San Antonio area) regarding the proposal and potential interference with established simplex frequencies. I have received three positive comments from Zone 2 (Houston area) regarding the change. I continue to invite your comments, both positive and negative, on this proposed change.

Repeater Renewals

I would like to thank all the repeater trustees that have taken the time to return the renewals. This helps us keep accurate records, and improves the accuracy of the information provided to the ARRL for publication in the annual ARRL repeater directory.

Even though we are almost half way through 2009, there are still several trustees that have not returned a repeater renewal for 2008 in Zones 2 & 3. If you know the trustee or club that operates one of the repeaters listed, please have them contact me to update their renewal status.

Zone 2 & 3 Delinquent Renewals as of 5/7/09

Output	Callsign	City	Output	Callsign	City
442.8500	N6LXX	BAY CITY	444.7000	KC5DAQ	GRANGERLAND
145.3100	N5JNN	BAYTOWN	444.2000	W5AVI	HOUSTON
444.9750	N5JNN	BAYTOWN	146.8000	KD5KHV	HUMBLE
224.5000	WB5ITT	BEAUMONT	146.6800	KB5YAI	KINGSVILLE
444.5000	WB5ITT	BEAUMONT	442.1000	WD5KBZ	LA FERIA
145.3500	WA5YJR	BROWNSVILLE	145.2900	K5RGV	LOS FRESNOS
441.3000	N5XWO	BROWNSVILLE	444.5000	K5RGV	LOS FRESNOS
441.8500	N5VSQ	CLUTE	442.5000	N5IUT	MINERAL
224.8000	WB5ITT	CONROE	145.1500	N5RXL	PLANTERSVILLE
444.8000	WB5ITT	CONROE	223.9500	KK5LK	PORT ARTHUR
145.4900	KG5BE	CORPUS CHRISTI	224.8800	KK5LK	PORT ARTHUR
146.7800	N5ADL	CORPUS CHRISTI	441.5250	KC5DAQ	SPRING
146.8400	N5IUT	CORPUS CHRISTI	53.3700	KC5WUA	VICTORIA
442.6000	N5IUT	CORPUS CHRISTI	443.5500	KC5WUA	VICTORIA
1292.2000	WB5PWG	DEERPARK	442.8750	N5JJY	WEBSTER
444.8500	N6LXX	DEVERS	146.7200	KC5WBG	WESLACO
443.1250	N5KIT	GALVESTON	444.2000	KC5WBG	WESLACO
444.0750	N5QBX	GRANGERLAND			

Zone 2 - Cont

Construction Permits & Newly Coordinated Repeaters

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

- five newly coordinated repeaters
- eight new construction permit issued
- one trustee added to the 2m waiting list
- 25 letters mailed for renewals, confirmation of coordinations, and trustee changes
- 3 certified letters mailed for de-coordination

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 2/15/09 and 5/7/09

Location	Output	Input	Call	Notes
Laredo	440.600	445.600	KE5WFB	D-STAR
Lufkin	224.040	222.440	KD5TD	O103.5
Seabrook	443.250	448.250	KE5VJH	OE127.3
Houston	444.250	449.250	W5TMR	C
Houston	444.225	449.225	KR5K	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 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	N5TRS	Houston	2m	7/14/2007
2	K5AW	Conroe	2m	2/26/2009

Thanks to several on-air status reports from helpful hams in Zone 2, I have been able to reduce the 2m waiting list to only two trustees. 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. Recently I have received several on-air status forms in Zone 2 which has resulted in the initiation of decoordination for five different repeaters. I appreciate all the hams that have taken time to submit on-air status form for repeaters that are off the air in their local areas. You have made a significant difference!

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

TEXAS VHF-FM Society
Winter Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2009
Midland Texas
11:00am

1. Call to order, welcome, and adoption of agenda

Upon roll call, there were 2 board members present, 6 absent, and 1 vacant. Not having a quorum, the president dismissed the attendees.

Editor's Note: This was recieved by email :

March 23, 2009

Dave Davis, President
Texas VHFFM Society

Mr. President:

I must resign my postion on the board for personal reasons.

/s/

Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW



TEXAS VHF-FM Society
Winter Membership Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2009
Midland Texas
1:00pm

1. Call to order, welcome, and adoption of agenda
2. Filling of board vacancy
 - a. The president reviewed the relevant portions of the bylaws.
 - b. The President proposed Past President Paul Gilbert KE5ZW to fill the unexpired term of Charlie Kosman (even year term).
 - c. After some discussion, Jim Mellon, KA3IDN moved that KE5ZW be nominated to fill the unexpired term. Second by Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY.
 - d. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. Repeater Directories
 - a. Background: It has been 2 years since the Society produced a printed repeater directory and at the Belton Board meeting the president had advised the board that producing the printed directory would be a priority this year. After the ARRL submission, the printing master was printed, corrected, and prepped for printing. One last check with the treasurer resulted in a stop work order, the directory had not been included in the annual budget, and therefore must be approved by the membership at a regularly scheduled meeting.
 - b. The President then printed 100 sample copies out of his own pocket, and distributed a copy to each member that attended the Winter 2009 as a door prize.
 - c. The President then asked for a motion to authorize up to \$1500 to print and mail one copy to each membership household.
 - d. There was significant discussion from those members present, with points being made both pro and con.
 - e. The discussion wound down, and Eric Schmidt, KA5WMY moved to authorize up to \$1500 to print and mail one directory to each member household. Motion seconded by Jim Mellon, KA3IDN. Voice vote, and the motion passed.
4. Demonstration of "RF Projector" by Matt Stennett, K5RYN
 - a. Matt presented the new voting module, and advised us that it would be in production in time for us to hold our elections on the system this summer.
 - b. Details of electronic voting will be in the next newsletter.
5. Future Meetings announcement
 - a. Next board meeting at Hamcom.
 - b. Next General Meeting at Austin Summerfest.
6. Adjourn at 2:30pm.

Respectfully (for the secretary)
Dave Davis, WB5WIA, President

Austin Summerfest, continuing a Ham Tradition in its 26th Year!
August 7th and 8th - Friday 1700-2100 & Saturday 0800-1600

What Is It?

Convention, presentations, and meetings, including civic, technical, and crafts events, and discussions, prizes, exams, and swapfests for amateur-radio operators, aspirants, dealers, and their families.

Where Is It?

At the Austin Airport Marriott South, 4415 South IH-35 (Northbound access road, just South of the IH-35/Ben White Blvd. intersection).(Facilities, below)

When Is It?

Friday August 7th (registration 5-9, indoor swapfest 6 to 9 p.m.) and Saturday August 8th, 2009 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

How Much?

\$8.00 per person for advance registration, or \$10.00 per person at the door.

What Prizes?

Door prize drawings on Saturday until 1:00. Final prizes at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday. All door prizes will be given out on Saturday including the advance registration prize.

Facilities?

Accommodations at the Austin Airport Marriott South can be reserved by calling 512-441-7900. Mention that you are attending the Austin Summerfest Convention and ask for the discount rate. After the cutoff date any rooms set aside for the convention will be opened up to the general public. If rooms are still available you can get the discount rate right up to the start of the convention.

Facilities?

Meetings and accommodations at the Austin Airport Marriott South with Austin Summerfest discount rates for early registration for rooms. For complete details, visit Marriott Hotel.

Registration?

Advance registration closes out July 18. Registration at the door begins at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 7th. Swapfest at 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. A full range of activities on Saturday.

Next Board Meeting:
Hamcom
Saturday, June 13, 2009
12 Noon

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