

MISSOURI REPEATER COUNCIL, Inc.

ANNUAL MRC MEETING MINUTES 2008

July 21, 2008

1. The Annual Missouri Repeater Council (MRC) meeting was held in at the Zero Beater's Hamfest in Washington, MO on July 20, 2008. The President, KMØR, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
2. Each of the 23 individuals present introduced themselves and stated where they were from and what repeater or repeater system they represented.
3. There were no minutes from the previous meeting as the secretary was not present.
4. The treasurer, KØGOB, reported that the MRC had a balance of \$9,952.32 in all accounts which represented an increase of \$306.78 since the last meeting. Without collecting dues from members, the MRC income comes from the ARRL database payment and from earnings on investments. Expenses included a retirement luncheon and plaque for K4CHS who served as the state frequency coordinator for 27 years.
5. The state frequency coordinator, KØBSJ, reported that there are no available 2-mtr repeater pairs in the KC or STL areas, but that a couple of pairs may be opening up in the SW area of the state. These will be coordinated to requesting groups that have a track record of financial stability to better insure that the systems are available over the long run. The available pairs in the 440 band are similarly limited in the metro areas.
6. The assistant frequency coordinator in St. Louis, KB3HF, reported that he has received coordination requests from the adjacent state of IL for D-Star digital systems that do not fit into the current MRC band plan and asked the MRC membership for guidance in responding.
7. The system administrator of the St. Louis area D-Star system, WBØIIS, was asked to bring the MRC membership up to speed on the technical and political issues surrounding this relatively new mode.

He stated that D-Star is a 6.25 KHz narrow band signal similar to P25 in the commercial business. This 6.25 KHz bandwidth works well in the UHF Amateur bands, but presents a problem in the VHF band. He also stated that there is no consistency across the country at this time on where to coordinate requests for these new digital signals. Some coordinators put them in the digital sub bands, some insert them between existing analog machines and some don't even call them repeaters. However, the consensus is that if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck. The MRC members present agreed that these new digital systems should be considered repeaters for coordination purposes.

Utah is suggesting 15 KHz channel spacing based on extensive tests. Colorado is keeping their 15 KHz channels and Michigan is using 10 KHz spacing. California is doing 15 KHz channel spacing. Illinois proposes to offset two digital machines 5 KHz either side of their 15 KHz channel center which adds space for more repeaters, but it is not consistent with the MRC band plan. While the output signal from a repeater can be cleaned up with duplexers and filters, the problem come up in the interference received on some mobiles and most HTs.

As a general issue, adjacent analog repeaters cause more interference to the reception of digital signals than digital repeaters cause to analog receivers. A multi-color spectrum plot

of several spacing options clearly showed the interference potential in moving to 10 KHz spacing.

8. A motion to retain the 15 KHz spacing for digital systems in the 146-148 MHz repeater sub band was made and seconded. Two major points of concern were address at length; the increased coverage of digital systems and the adjacent channel interference. After much discussion, the motion passed.
9. A motion to require re-coordination of an existing repeater if it is converted from analog to digital was made and seconded. The discussion centered more on notification, review and approval, rather than on re-coordination. Concern was also raised that if an existing pair was up for re-coordination, the current owner may have to compete with others for the frequency. The motion was amended to read that before any coordinated analog repeater is changed to a digital repeater on the same frequency, the owner/trustee must contact the MRC coordinator for system review and approval. The amended motion was passed.
10. A motion to permit conditional coordination of digital systems on 10 KHz splits in the existing 20 KHz split repeater sub band below 146 MHz was made and seconded. Conditional coordination means that the digital systems must accept interference from analog systems. The issue of increasing the physical distance required for adjacent channel spacing to account the increased coverage area of digital systems over analog systems was discussed. The motion passed.
11. A motion to coordinate digital repeaters in the 440 (UHF) band on 12.5 KHz splits was made and seconded. Motion passed.
12. A member from the Mexico, MO area commented that the 147.255 repeater was not properly listed as a wide area machine and that other repeaters have been placed on the same frequency around the state. He admitted that the machine had fallen into disrepair over the years and that supporters have come and gone. He is back and intends to rebuild the system. This brought up the subject of keeping the MRC informed of the status and contact info for each repeater/system.
13. A motion was made and seconded to de-coordinate repeaters if the owners/trustees fail to respond to the state coordinator's request for information on their systems. Members believe that there are a number of "paper" repeaters on the books which prevent other individuals or groups from obtaining coordination for new machines. The state coordinator is aware of the issue and is addressing several of these paper repeaters. The membership felt that the coordinator needed more clout to "take back" (de-coordinate) those machines where he received no response to his requests for data verifying that the repeaters were still functional and on the air. Setting some time period after doing the due diligence steps was suggested. What are the due diligence steps? Phone calls, email, calling local hams, registered letter, 90 days? Establishing the due diligence steps is more complex than it seems on the surface. It motion was made and seconded to table the original motion and request that the executive committee bring a proposal to the next meeting. The motion to table the original motion passed.
14. There being no other business, the President, KMØR closed the meeting at 10:25 am.

Submitted by,
Roger H Volk, KØGOB
Acting Secretary