

Minutes of the Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs
Fall 2008 Meeting
Pueblo Public Library
October 25, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by John Maxwell, NØWBW, Chair. The delegates present were noted and a sign-in sheet accompanies these minutes.

Thanks were extended to the Pueblo Ham Club for providing lunch.

The minutes of the Spring, 2008 meeting were read; It was Moved and Seconded to accept the minutes as read and the Motion was agreed to.

The Treasurers report given by Wayne Heinen, NØPOH; it is incorporated into these minutes. It was Moved and Seconded to accept the report and Motion was agreed to.

The Frequency Coordinator gave his report:

5 new formal coordination requests have been received. VHF and 12 MHz for the Boulder Amateur Radio Club D-Star stack has been identified. One UHF D-Star repeater in Monument was approved; One UHF D-STAR frequency pair in Colorado Springs has been requested; There were also two 900 MHz requests.

The Committee is still looking at software and making assessments for a Frequency Coordination database.

Doug is getting ready to do the annual updates; trustees will need to return their information or they won't get listed in the ARRL directory

There was a software bug in the database that has been fixed;

The Frequency Admin team has new manpower and this will aid in collecting and processing repeater information.

Doug has received a communiqué regarding the 145.37 machine in Blackhawk. Machine has been off the air for several years; group wants to know if they can come back on the air. Doug is researching and believes 147.06 would be preferable; and is the suggested frequency since the interference potential is greatly reduced.

The Royal Gorge delegate requested status in the database on the 147.06 KBØTUC repeater. The machine is active, coordinated and on the air but not listed in ARRL directory. Doug advised that repeater will be listed in the next directory.

The delegate from Pueblo asked "How many D-Star repeaters are coordinated in Colorado? Doug advised there are two D-Star systems on the air; one 'full stack' and a

UHF repeater in monument; Boulder is working on a full stack; Colorado Springs has requested UHF frequency.

A discussion on D-Star and planned coordination 'rules' ensued.

Bob Witte, KØNR, Chair of the Spectrum Use & New Technology Committee discussed the mission of Committee; its success with 70cm and 1.2G; but no solution for 2 meters. The Committee will look at 2 meters again. The Committee's report is attached.

A further discussion about digital versus analog coordination ensued.

The Boulder delegate asked how many total coordination requests per year is received by the CCARC? Doug advised 30 to 40 total; with between 5 and 10 RSEs for VHF and 12 for UHF.

The Colorado Section Manger gave his report which included a report from Section Technical Coordinator Bob Witte, KØNR on the Boulder SmartGrid BPL deployment. No problems have been reported with interference to Amateur Radio bands.

A discussion about SmartGrid (Xcel Energy); and the deployment in Boulder ensued.

The delegate from Pueblo informed the committee of a company by the name of AiraNet which claims to provide Internet service via powerline. Bob, KØNR will look into it.

The delegates were on break from 2:18 PM until 2:32 PM at which time the meeting reconvened.

John, NØWBW requested the delegate from Colorado D-STAR Association provide a status of their D-STAR system, which he did. The system is in compliance with RFP requirements; it is installed and working well.

Old Business:

Maps: It was Moved and Seconded to purchase 500 CCARC repeater maps at a price of \$1.08 each; A discussion ensued; including timing since new data will be available after Doug receives and process the annual updates. The Motion was agreed to.

It was Moved and Seconded to allow up to an additional 5% increase in the cost to be paid for maps to allow for a price increase.

John, NØWBW clarified a previous Motion that restricted officers from using a home address.

New Business:

Nominations for new officers: The terms of the Vice Chair and Treasurer will expire as of the Spring, 2009 meeting. The Chair has appointed David Markham, WØCBI as chair

of the nominating committee. The Chair queried the incumbents and each indicated a willingness to serve another term.

It was suggested that the CCARC should announce its meetings via the reflector (and other methods). A discussion ensued. No Motions were offered, however the Chair announced that future CCARC meetings would be announced via the email reflector in addition to the mailings to the delegates and the web page announcement.

The Aurora Repeater Assn will sponsor the Spring 2009 (with a suggested date of April 25th) at a location to be determined.

Arapahoe County ARES District 22 will host the Fall 2009 (with a suggested date of Oct 24th) at a location TBD

A question was raised by the Royal Gorge: Do 2Ghz beacons need to be coordinated? Doug advised that they do not.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeff Ryan, KØRM
Vice Chair and Acting Secretary,
Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs

CCARC Spectrum Use and New Technology Committee

Report for Oct 2008 CCARC Meeting

Bob Witte KØNR

The objective of the committee assigned at the previous CCARC meeting was to identify a way to make available Digital Repeater Frequency Pairs on the 2 Meter band. The committee met via email, brainstormed some ideas and discussed the merits of each of them. In the end, we did not arrive at a recommendation that will accomplish this objective.

The basic problem is that along the front range cities, the existing set of 2 Meter repeater pairs are coordinated and in use, leaving us grid-locked with little room to maneuver.

For documentation purposes, this is a condensed list of ideas that were given consideration and the issues associated with each idea.

Item	Description	Issues
1	Revoke the coordination of paper repeaters	This is outside the scope of the Committee but should be pursued anyway
2	Reduce the number of Shared Non-Protected (SNP) repeater pairs	These pairs are believed to be used along the front range and they provide a place for deployment of repeaters without coordination
3	Combine the Emergency / Special Event (ESE) pairs with the SNP pairs and reduce the total number of pairs available for these uses	The ESE pairs are used by ARES organizations for emergency use
4	Require existing repeaters to "trade in" an analog pair to receive coordination of a digital pair	This trade-in potential already exists, however most repeater groups are interested in additional repeater pairs so they don't displace existing analog users
5	Re-shuffle the statewide allocation of repeater pairs to optimize their usage, hopefully freeing up pairs in congested areas	This is extremely difficult to implement as many repeaters would likely have to change frequencies.
6	Ask clubs with multiple 2M pairs to assess whether current repeater usage justifies the redundant repeater coverage	Repeater clubs are not motivated to free up pairs.
7	Squeeze in digital repeaters in between analog repeater channels	Although some of ICOM's marketing literature implies that this is possible, this really doesn't work. The best documented technical information has been done by the Utah VHF Society http://utahvhfs.org/dstar.html