



# Minnesota Repeater Council

## Spring 2017 Newsletter

### MRC Officers:

#### Chair

Jay Maynard, K5ZC  
1831 Oakwood Dr.  
Fairmont MN 56031  
chair(at)mnrepeaters.org  
507-399-0024

#### Vice Chair

Ben Franske, KØBEN  
6216 Ashcroft Lane  
Edina MN 55424  
vicechair(at)mnrepeaters.org  
952-200-8945

#### Secretary Treasurer

Jerry Dorf, NØFWG  
601 Sunset Street  
Buffalo MN 55313  
coordinator(at)mnrepeaters.org  
763-682-2169

### Appointments

#### Frequency Coordinator

Jerry Dorf, NØFWG  
See Secretary's info

#### Technical Committee Chair

Alan Knutson, WBØZKB

#### User Liaison

Ryan Bloch N0BFG  
151 8th Ave S, Apt 203  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
ryanblochatomic(at)gmail.com  
(612)490-4241

## THE SPRING MRC MEETING Will be held Saturday

**May 6, 2017 at  
Duluth Superior Hamfest  
Head of the lakes Fairgrounds  
4700 Tower Avenue  
Superior WI 54880  
4H Building**

**Registration 12:30  
Call to Order 1:00PM  
Following VE testing**

If you have questions regarding your repeater coordination or membership please email or ask before the meeting date!

**It is important that if you are not going to attend the meeting to proxy your vote to someone who can attend. This can be another club member or any licensed amateur, it does not have to be a MRC member.**

Don't expect to find accurate information on Minnesota repeaters in the 2017 ARRL Repeater Directory.

By now, many of you have read Tom Gallagher, NY2RF's broadside against the coordination community in February QST's Second Century column. (It's available online for free, if you haven't, at <https://tinyurl.com/Feb2017QST-NY2RF>.) Tom argues that we are living in a neighborhood of broken windows, and it's time to fix them.

Tom's basic argument is that there are nearly as many uncoordinated repeaters as there are coordinated ones, and that we need to reach out to the folks running uncoordinated ones and get them coordinated. Unfortunately, Tom's argument rests on a badly flawed premise.

He uses the fact that the RFinder database has 36,000 repeaters in it, and only 19,000 of them are coordinated, to support his argument. There's only one problem with this: the RFinder database is very badly inaccurate and poorly sourced. Fundamentally, crowdsourcing is the wrong approach to tracking repeaters. Not only that, but the business model of RFinder is to take all data they can get from anyone and never remove any. As I point out in my letter, this leads to situations such as repeaters having multiple entries in the database, all of them wrong.

I am given to understand that RFinder is changing their approach to coordinators, and allowing us to completely maintain their database for the area we coordinate. They also allow fudging the lat/lon data for each repeater. At some point, we should consider under what conditions we would participate in RFinder's system. Until that time, though, and until the membership directs us to, we will not submit any data to them.

To Tom, all I can say is that it would be nice if the people complaining about broken windows weren't coming behind us and throwing rocks at the ones we just replaced.

73, Jay

## Jay Maynard, K5ZC

1831 Oakwood Drive • Fairmont, Minnesota 56031-3225  
Phone: (507) 399-0024 • E-Mail: jaymaynard@gmail.com

Date: 8 November 2016

Rick Roderick, K5UR, President  
Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, Chief Executive Officer  
ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio  
225 Main Street  
Newington, Connecticut 06111-1494

Dear Rick and Tom:

I was forwarded a copy of your Notice to Coordinators about the changes in data processing for the *ARRL Repeater Directory*. I am greatly dismayed to see what those changes are. To me, they are nothing less than a slap in the face of the coordination community.

I am a Life Member of the League, and have been one since 1979, when I was 19 years old. I've been involved with frequency coordination and spectrum management on VHF/UHF-FM for nearly that long. I currently serve as Chairman of the Minnesota Repeater Council, and have served in the past as President and Director of the Texas VHF-FM Society and the National Frequency Coordinators' Council. I view my service to these organizations as my contributions to the service that has shaped so much of my life.

For that entire time, the relationship between the League and the FM and repeater world in general, and the coordination community in particular, has been very much up and down. The high point was the establishment of the NFCC with the goal of providing a single point of contact between the FCC and the coordination community; unfortunately, that effort ended in failure when the FCC made it clear it wasn't interested. There have been low points, as well, mostly seen in the coordination community as benign neglect at the very best.

Now comes a new low. Coordinators have worked with the League for many years to provide accurate, reliable information for the *Repeater Directory*. For much of that time, the process has worked well: we got our data in to the League, it published the *Directory*, life was good. It has been my understanding over the years that the *Directory* was a substantial cash cow for the League, and the payments we received for our data were welcomed and useful to many coordinators – although we in Minnesota have donated ours for the past couple of years to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

The relationship started going downhill when the League brought in DHF Systems. What had been a smooth process turned into a nightmare, with coordinators expected to manually update the League's records one by one instead of using a batch process as had been in place before. Promises were made that that situation would be ameliorated, yet nothing ever came of it. We did not go to the lengths our colleagues in Wisconsin did, but I understand their frustration.

The announcement that RFinder would be the League's official partner in publishing the data online, earlier this year, was a major step backward in the relationship. Your mention that RFinder's data is "primarily user supplied" badly misstates the actual facts: their data is notoriously unreliable to anyone who has actual knowledge of repeaters listed there. At a regional meeting of coordinators I attended this past weekend, one widely-used repeater in Milwaukee was noted as having four listings – all of them in error, to the point that combining the correct information from all four still would not produce one correct listing!

RFinder, as a matter of policy, does not remove data from their database. At all. Ever. For any reason. Even if it's demonstrably incorrect. This leads to the worst situation possible for a repeater user: lots of data, but little of it trustworthy. More than a few coordinators have attempted to contact the owners of RFinder, and those that got replies (for not all did, by a long way) were told that they would happily accept our data and not charge us to log into the site, but would not treat our data as any more authoritative than their other data. Is this what the League is willing to hang its reputation on?

Further, I must call your attention to RFinder's sleazy business practices. They have used data lifted directly from other sources, without vetting and without any process of assuring that the data was used with the permission of its owners. In one well-known case, the owners of a competing site have demanded, among other things, a public apology for a proven case of data theft.

Finally, one cornerstone of the *Repeater Directory's* editorial policy has been a bedrock part of the League's relationship with the coordination community. The *Directory*, as a matter of policy, only published data for coordinated repeaters. This was not only a reliability measure, but also a strong statement of support for the coordination community, one that was noticed and appreciated. RFinder's offer to add a "coordinated/uncoordinated" listing to the entries is a poor substitute. It neither improves data quality nor provides the kind of support for the coordination community the previous policy did.

While we have taken no formal action in Minnesota, I think I can safely say based on my discussions with our membership that the Minnesota Repeater Council will not hand its data to RFinder in any manner whatsoever. We simply don't trust them to do the right thing with it.

I appreciate the position the League is in, and sympathize with the desire to outsource the whole affair. However, selecting RFinder for this job was about as unwise a choice as can be made. It will kill the *Repeater Directory* as a useful tool for the average ham and destroy the League's working relationship with the coordination community.

Sincerely,

Jay Maynard, K5ZC  
Chairman, Minnesota Repeater Council

## Secretary, Treasurers & Coordinators Notes

From “The ARRL Letter for March 16 2017”

New ARRL Repeater Directory is Biggest Ever!

With a whopping 31,000+ listings, the new ARRL Repeater Directory® is the most complete printed directory of on-the-air repeaters ever! The 2017-2018 edition (46th edition) has 10,000 more listings than the previous edition, covering repeater systems throughout the US and Canada. Repeater systems are listed by state/province, city, and operating mode. Analog and digital repeater systems are included: FM, FUSION, D-STAR, DMR, NXDN, and P25 systems.

Rfinder also has a android OS based SDR radio search youtube for “rfinder h1 radio”

The highlights since the fall newsletter.

New coordinations are proceeding with no major incidents or challenges.

I have not seen any activity from any of our committees as of this newsletter.

No ARRL submission has been made for 2017 repeater directory.

Annual repeater updates will be mailed in mid August, followed by the fall newsletter

IRS 990N postcard has been filed for 2016 with a new system that required more steps and user verification,  
Secretary of state registration updated for the year.

Some common issues that I encounter!

As always this newsletter along with any printed report is a snapshot of the data. Things are constantly in flux with updates and other changes, Please check the date of the report before jumping to conclusions over the dues list or repeater listings.

At this time the MRC does not share data with any online service. Therefore please do not take them as official data!

73's

Jerry Dorf, N0FWG  
Minnesota Repeater Council

### MRC Resources on the Internet

MRC Webpage <http://www.mnrepeaters.org>  
<http://www.mrc.gen.mn.us>

MRC Mailing list:

This mailing list is for announcements and general discussion of MRC events, policy and operations. Currently it is un-moderated and open to all. Sign up at:  
<http://eight.pairlist.net/mailman/listinfo/mrc>

Don't forget to change your email program to “plain text” before you try to send anything. Messages with HTML or other fancy print will come through blank if you don't make the change.... Also do not include attachments!

**Minutes of the  
Minnesota Repeater Council**  
Fall meeting held On October 22, 2016  
Maple Grove Fire Station 2, Maple Grove MN

Call to order by Chairman Jay Maynard at 1:00PM

Quorum was met with a total of 63 members in good standing on the roster, 18 in attendance of which 8 are non-metro.

Introduction of members and officers made.

**Chairman's Report:** Jay Maynard K5ZC

Wisconsin is holding a regional meeting of the coordination bodies of the surrounding states on November 5. Jay Maynard will be attending, he asked that his hotel expense be paid. Motion made to include Jerry Dorf, if he is able to attend, motion seconded and passed.

**Secretary & Treasurer's report:** Jerry Dorf N0FWG

Reports presented to membership in the newsletter, and handout.

**Frequency coordinator:** Jerry Dorf N0FWG

Reports presented to membership in the newsletter, and handout.

**New Members:**

Austin C Lamaack W0WXT regular member

Shep Shepardson N0NMZ regular member

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept all new members.

**Old Business:**

Coordination data committee, no resolution at this time. Committee to report at spring meeting.

UHF Full duplex link committee, recommend to extend its role to review and make recommendations to update the UHF bandplan. Motion passed, Paul Emeott K0LAV will chair this committee. Any interested parties should contact Paul.

Great River Library donation, need a volunteer to research what they have & need for amateur radio or STEM material.

**New Business:**

None

**Election of officers:** Motion made to open the office of chairman, Jay Maynard accepted. Motion was made to accept all current officers, seconded. Motion passed unanimously

Chairman: Jay Maynard K5ZC Vice Chair: Ben Franske, K0BEN Secretary-Treasurer: Jerry Dorf, N0FWG

No change in appointments

**Spring Meeting:** Non Metro location, Duluth Superior Hamfest in May? Jerry Dorf, N0FWG will investigate

Meeting Adjourned at 1:50PM

Jerry Dorf, N0FWG

Secretary Treasurer

Minnesota Repeater Council, Inc

# Minnesota Repeater Council Checking Account

## March 20, 2017

Date	Type	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance	Comments
10/21/2016	DEP	David Ventura		\$15.00	\$8,286.73	REG DUES 2018
	DEP	TERRY ZELLMAN		\$20.00	\$8,306.73	REG DUES 2018
10/25/2016	DEP	DAN GELLE		\$20.00	\$8,326.73	REG DUES 2017
	DEP	Ben Franske		\$20.00	\$8,346.73	REG DUES 2018
	DEP	JOHN CZECH		\$10.00	\$8,356.73	REG DUES 2018
	DEP	SHEP SHEOARDSON		\$10.00	\$8,366.73	REG DUES 2017
10/22/2016	2157	JAY MAYNARD	\$122.18		\$8,244.55	HOTEL WISC MEETING
10/22/2016	2158	JERRY DORF	\$39.66		\$8,204.89	Re-imburement Toner cartridge
10/29/2016	DEP	JAMES KANTOR		\$10.00	\$8,214.89	REG DUES 2017
11/4/2016	DEP	KEVIN SAUER		\$10.00	\$8,224.89	REG DUES 2017
	DEP	ELVIN SCHMIDT		\$20.00	\$8,244.89	REG DUES 2019
	DEP	CHARLE ESCH		\$50.00	\$8,294.89	REG DUES 2020
11/15/2016	DEP	Jon Peterson		\$100.00	\$8,394.89	REG DUES 2026
12/6/2016	DEP	BOB DARLOW		\$10.00	\$8,404.89	REG DUES 2018
1/9/2017	DEP	MITCHELL L AHRENSTORFF		\$100.00	\$8,504.89	REG DUES 2026
1/17/2017	DEP	John Wetter		\$20.00	\$8,524.89	ASC Dues 2020
1/30/2017	DEP	JAMES KANTOR		\$10.00	\$8,534.89	REG DUES 2018
2/10/2017	DEP	Gordon Hanson		\$20.00	\$8,554.89	REG DUES 2018
	DEP	Jerry Dorff		\$20.00	\$8,574.89	REG DUES 2018
3/10/2017	DEP	William D Martin		\$15.00	\$8,589.89	Reg Pending 2018
	Debit	Postmaster	\$98.00		\$8,687.89	Postage Spring News / general

Notes:

1. New & pending memberships checks have been deposited to avoid the past "Stale Check" problems.
2. The date in the comment field shows dues paid to the end of that year.

### New Coordinations

Location	Call	Out	Sponsor	Reg	Date	USE,	Status
ST JOSEPH	N0ANC	444.6250	SHANNON RASSIER	CE	02/25/17	RO	CNST
EAGAN	W0RKT	442.2250	DALE HAGERT	MET	02/05/17	RO	CNST
MARSHALL	W0WX	146.9550	THE UNREAL RADIO CLUB	SW	01/14/17	RO	OTA
NEW PRAGUE	AC0UK	442.6250	WILLIAM MACRIS	MET	01/14/17	RO	CNST
ST CLOUD	KC0ARX	442.3250	JAMES KANTOR	CE	12/10/16	RO	OTA
BENSON	N0NKI	443.9500	ERIC OSTERBERG	ME	11/09/16	RO	CNST
BLOOMINGTON	N0NKI	443.1000	ERIC OSTERBERG	MET	11/09/16	RO	CNST
DULUTH	N0NKI	443.3000	ERIC OSTERBERG	DUL	11/09/16	RO	CNST
WINONA	W0NE	442.1500	Winona Amateur Radio Club	SE	11/04/16	RO	OTA
CENTERVILLE	K0GOI	443.6250	TERRY LONDROCHE	CEN	10/14/16	RO	OTA
ZIMMERMAN	KE0ATF	444.4500	STEVEN KOKX	CEN	03/19/17	RO	pend
Luvurne	KA1TIU	147.1050	WILLIAM MARTIN	SW	03/20/17	RO	pend
BLOOMINGTON	WA0CQG	442.1500	CARL ESTEY	MET	03/20/17	RO	pend

### Waiting list (Under Review)

Name	Call	Group	Band	Use	Location	Date
Ross DeMeyere	W0ANA	Anoka RACES	2M	DSTAR	Anoka	03/03/11
Jeff Hook	KD0ORH		2M	FM/P25	Coon Rapids	09/01/16
Dale Hagert	W0IR		2M	Fusion	Egan	3/18/17
Steve Kokx	KE0ATF		2M		Zimmerman	3/20/17

# Minnesota Repeater Council

## Membership and Renewal application form

Name of organization or individual sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Repeater Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Repeater Location(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Trustee information (MRC Main Contact).

Trustee Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Club or alternate contact/mailing address.

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Application:** Renewal  New membership  Trustee Change  Database Update

Regular Membership Dues \$10.00 year Organization or individual who is operating a Amateur Repeater Station on a frequency coordinated by the MRC. Has one vote at all meetings. Receives all mailings / newsletter.

Associate Member Dues \$ 5.00 year Organization or individual with a active interest in constructing an Amateur Radio Repeater station or in the activities of the MRC. Can participate in the activities of the MRC but has no vote. Receives all mailings / newsletter.

Newsletter Dues \$ 5.00 Receives one copy of MRC newsletter for 1 year. Included with Membership Or download for free from the MRC webpage

Signed: Repeater Trustee/Regular Member

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail all Applications and dues to:  
Minnesota Repeater Council  
Jerry Dorf, N0FWG Secretary/Treasurer  
601 Sunset Street  
Buffalo MN 55313  
763-682-2169  
jerryd@jerryd.net

# of years Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Approval Granted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Paid for: 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032



**Agenda**  
**Minnesota Repeater Council General meeting**  
**Spring 2017**

**I. Call to order 1:00 PM**

- A. Welcome
- B. Establish quorum
- C. Introduction of officers and members
- D. Review Agenda

**II. Reports**

- A. Chairman
- B. Secretary & treasurer report
- C. Frequency coordinators report
- D. Technical Committee

**III Individual Announcements**

- A.

**IV. Applications for membership**

- A. James Kantor KC0ARX  
Reg St Cloud 442.325
- B. Mitch Ahrenstorff AD0HU  
Reg Brainerd W0UJ Trustee
- C. William Martin KA1ITU  
Reg Luverne

**V. Old business.**

- A. Coordination Data committee.
- B. UHF Link & Bandplan review
- C. Donation to Great River Regional Library
- D.

**VI. New business**

- A. ARRL Repeater directory RFinder submission
- B. Quorum requirements in bylaws.

**VII. Fall Meeting Metro Location**

**VIII. Adjournment**

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**Delegate Registration (Proxy) Form**

Regular member: \_\_\_\_\_

Repeater Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee: Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

A regular member is an organization or individual that is the Trustee of record for an operating repeater in the MRC frequency coordination database with MRC membership dues paid in full at the start of the meeting.

Primary Delegate Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Delegate #1 Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Delegate #2 Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Restrict voting privileges: If you wish to be registered for purposes if counting attendance, but do not want your assigned delegate to have voting privileges, check here

Duration of Proxy: Check here  to allow this proxy to be used at future MRC meetings. This proxy may be altered or revoked at any time by the regular member. Check here  to restrict voting to current meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member (Trustee)

**Please mail this proxy to the Secretary at least one week prior to the meeting. Advance registration is appreciated.**