

*FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Volume XII Issue 2

http://florida-repeaters.org

December 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ray Kassis, N4LEM

The Hurricane season of 2004 taught many Ham Radio Repeater operators many lessons. I lost two repeaters in the storm when the power to the tower site went down. I sent a control operator to the tower and he discovered that the repeaters were not plugged in to the stand-by power, so he did what any Ham would doGot an extension cord and plugged into the generator.....worked great until the chap that fuels the generator came to the site and unplugged the repeaters and dared anyone to plug them back in.....poor planning on my partyou bet! At another site, the DB-224 bent so far over that it ripped the harness from some of the elements....resulting in poor SWR. A request came in to shut off the tone on the repeater so that all stations could key the machine.....well that worked for a little while until interference kept keying the machine.....that problem was solved when the machine was pulled from the generator.....I am now thinking of next seasonmy goal is to have a standby tower site with a standby repeater and standby power. How will the FRC handle two repeaters on the same pair in the same general location coordinated to the same trustee? How many of you will consider doing this? We also discovered that the 440 band worked well from shelters and may change the Brevard plan to use more 440 during emergencies. Thanks for operating a Ham Radio Repeater! Thanks for supporting the FRC! Come to our next meeting. We want to hear from you. 73, Ray Kassis, N4LEM



Communications is the life blood of the Florida Repeater Council

TREASURERS REPORT

Dana Rodakis, K4LK

Balance 07/31/04: \$8,708.45 Income: \$520.27 Expenditures: \$1,019.55 Balance 12/31/04: \$8,209.19

Minutes of December Board Meeting

Florida Repeater Council, Inc. Minutes of Business Meeting December 4, 2004 Tampa, Florida

The open forum was started at 2:05 PM on December 4, 2004 by President Ray Kassis, N4LEM. The following staff was in attendance:

Directors in attendance were:

District 1: Nilo Hernandez, W4HN District 2: Mark Filla, KS4VT District 3: Karen Power, KD4DJX

District 3: Karen Power, KD4DJX District 4: Mike Fletcher, NI4M

District 5: Ralph Betts, KC4SGG District 6: Dave Armbrust, AE4MR

District 7: Ben Dickerson, K4EL District 8: Frank Butler, W4RH

Staff Members in attendance were:

President: Ray Kassis, N4LEM Vice President: Ira Bickham, K8HRR

(Continued on page 4)

FEBRUARY FRC MEETINGS

There will be an Open Forum (where amateurs can present their problems or express opinions) at the Miami Tropical Hamboree on Saturday, February 5, 2005. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Orlando HamCation on Saturday, February 12 from 3 to 5 PM. The first part of the meeting will be an Open Forum where amateurs can present their problems or express opinions. This is followed by the annual business meeting.

Staff Directory

PRESIDENT

Ray Kassis, N4LEM 1150 W King Street Cocoa, FL 32922

E-Mail: <u>president@florida-repeaters.org</u> (H) 321-783-0070 (H) FAX: 321-784-0070 (W) 321-632-1000 (W) FAX: 321-636-0000

VICE PRESIDENT

Ira R. Bickham Jr., K8HRR 260 Tiki Drive

Merritt Island FL, 32953 E-Mail: **k8hrr@arrl.net** 321-453-2309

29/144/222/420/902/1240 MHz COORDINATOR/ DATABASE MANAGER/WEBMASTER/ SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK 6280 Fairfield Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33707 (H) 727-381-3344 (FAX) 727-347-6275

E-Mail: coord@florida-repeaters.org WebSite: http://florida-repeaters.org

6-METER COORDINATOR

Matthew Bush, KA9RIX 237 East Madeira Avenue Madeira Beach, FL 33708 727-452-4200

E-Mail: 6meter@florida-repeaters.org

DISTRICT #1 DIRECTOR

Nilo A. Hernandez, W4HN 10833 SW 142nd Court Miami, FL 33186 305-383-8576

E-Mail: dir1@florida-repeaters.org (Dade and Monroe Counties) DISTRICT#1 VICE-DIRECTOR Miguel Rodriguez, W4NR

DISTRICT #2 DIRECTOR

Mark Filla, KS4VT 20893 LaQuesta Court Boca Raton, FL 33428-1234 (H) 561-479-0737 (W) 561-233-4417 E-Mail: dir2@florida-repeaters.org

(Broward, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties)

DISTRICT #3 DIRECTOR

Karen Power, KD4DJX 2949 Garden Terrace N.E. Palm Bay, FL 32905 (H) 321-722-9849

(W) 321-727-2311 or 321-722-4444 E-Mail: dir3@florida-repeaters.org

(Brevard, Indian River, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties)

DISTRICT #4 DIRECTOR

Mike Fletcher, NI4M 1434 Clarion Drive Valrico, FL 33594-7149 813-621-2333

 $E\text{-Mail: } \underline{\textbf{dir4@florida-repeaters.org}}$

(DeSota, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco,

Pinellas, and Polk Counties) DISTRICT #4 VICE-DIRECTOR

Tony Stone, W4TAS

DISTRICT #5 DIRECTOR

Ralph Betts, KC4SGG 1701 Lee Road #G31 Winter Park, FL 32789 321-282-0406

E-Mail: dir5@florida-repeaters.org

(Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia and

Counties)

DISTRICT #5 VICE-DIRECTOR

Dan Babilla, KA0OXH

DISTRICT #6 DIRECTOR

David Armbrust, AE4MR 3024 Salem Avenue Sarasota, FL 34232 (H) 941-378-1701 (W) 941-922-8857

E-Mail: dir6@florida-repeaters.org

(Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, and Sarasota Counties)

DISTRICT #7 DIRECTOR

Ben Dickerson, K4EL 1421 South Water Street Starke, FL 32091 (H) 904-964-3476 (W) 904-964-5001

E-Mail: dir7@florida-repeaters.org

(Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Člay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilcrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union Counties)

DISTRICT #7 VICE-DIRECTOR

Fredrick "Scott" West, KG4VWD

DISTRICT #8 DIRECTOR

Frank Butler, W4RH 323 Elliott Road SE Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 850-244-5425

E-Mail: dir8@florida-repeaters.org

(Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties)

NOTICE

Please send all certified mail to District 1 Director Nilo Hernandez. He will sign for the mail and forward it to the appropriate staff member in the Council.

FRC NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dana G. Rodakis FRC Secretary/Treasurer 6280 Fairfield Ave. So. St. Petersburg, Florida 33707-2323 727-381-3344

Your Staff and Directors are willing to help you. Please avail yourself of their services.

2004 DATABASE CHANGES (7/31/04 through 12/31/04) (Listed in reverse chronological order)

NEW COORI	DINATIONS & TRANSFERS	442.125	Brooksville	224.380	Naples
		146.955	Bradenton	224.400	-
	Vero Beach		DeFuniak Springs		Brooksville
443.975			Hialeah	224.900	Miami
	Jacksonville		Hialeah		Ft. Walton Beach
927.6500		147.120	Hialeah Hialeah	442.075	Miami
443.000	Tampa Lake Buena Vista	145.230 145.490		442.625	
	Lake City	224.580		443.100	
146.640	-	444.800		443.450	
442.800			Port St. Lucie	443.700	
	Enterprise		Clearwater	443.750 444.075	
	Altamonte Springs		Ft. Lauderdale	444.075	
442.975	Altamonte Springs	444.950	Miami		Orange City
53.010	Naples	441.900	Sunrise		Florida City
147.030	-		Mims	921.200	_
443.700	-		Hilliard		West Palm Beach
	Brooksville		Live Oak	921.400	West Palm Beach
	Adventura		DeFuniak Springs	921.600	West Palm Beach
	Adventura	146.925	Punta Gorda	442.000	Bradenton
147.375					Carol City
146.925	N. Miami	EDECTIENC.	Y CHANGES	146.925	
	Lakeland	FREQUENC.	CHANGES	442.825	
444.275		442.200	Orlando	146.775	
	Orlando		Ft. Lauderdale		Port St. Lucie
443.275				224.300	Reddington Shores
443.050	Ft. Lauderdale				Clearwater
442.525	Tampa	DE-COORD	INATIONS	444.950	
444.150	Titusville	(new coor	rdination not issued)	111.550	Hami
146.640	Orlando				
	Clearwater	442.675		APPROVED	RELOCATIONS
	Spring Hill		Clearwater		
	Merritt Island		Winter Haven	442.275	Miami
147.000	Perry	145.250	Redwater Lake	442.275 443.300	
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(Meeting Minutes continued from page 1)

Secretary/Treasurer: Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK Database Manager: Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK

President Kassis introduced himself and welcomed all present. The first part of the meeting would be an open format, where anyone could express any thoughts. This portion of meeting would lead into the formal portion of the meeting where no participation by the members would be allowed. No roll call is conducted during the open forum but the districts are well represented.

The next official business meeting will be held at the Orlando HamCation. An informal open forum will be held at the Miami Tropical Hamboree.

District 3 Director Karen mentioned that someone placed a 146.775 repeater on the air in conflict with the TARC repeater which is under repair. She also listed some inactive (and available) pairs: 147.255 & 442.150 (AD4GO), 146.745 (K4YWC), and 146.625 (Don Sanders). Karen requested a check of these pairs for Archie. Karen mentioned that she notified the Database Manager of the repairs of her repeater. The database manager indicated that he doesn?t change the date of last update unless there is an actual change. The database manager requested clear direction on how to handle these cases. Considerable discussion followed. Keep the director in the loop in all future situations.

Bud Hughes, President of TARC expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the FRC staff.

District 1 Director Nilo mentioned a recent episode where the Coordinator was insulted and does not deserve it. The Coordinator was acting as directed.

District 4 Director Mike stated that the Directors should decide if a repeater is de-coordinated, not the Coordinator / Database Manager. Both the affected Director and neighboring District Director should be involved in decoordination decision. The database manager indicated that he was directed to de-coordinate any repeater who's expiration letter is returned undeliverable.

The Directors requested that the Database Manager notify them when the Database Changed list on the web site is updated.

George Jones W4AQR, indicated that communications between staff and owners needs to be both ways, and that the FRC needs to comply with its published band plan and consider other users, not just repeaters. Director Mike mentioned that the 2-meter slice at the bottom of 145 is reserved for linear translators and yet we have coordinated repeaters there. There have been complaints from digital users about frequencies being used for links and control.

George mentioned that he had sent a registered letter (and showed proof) to the Coordinator in 2003 requesting resolution on 444.000 MHz what was not acted-upon to date. He was dropped from the database years ago. The pair was re-coordinated in Sarasota. Previous policy stated that a trustee is notified in writing by registered mail before they are de-coordinated. District Director Mike explained that George was coordinated a long time ago, was not required to update, was dropped and received no further documentation. The Board of Directors needs to define the procedure and be involved in all de-coordination decision. District Director Nilo volunteered to review George's documentation and work to resolve the situation.

District Director Nilo requested some verbiage that all directors can use to acknowledge an application or update until it is processed.

The Coordinator has requested a clear procedure to decoordinate repeaters before the end of the meeting.

District Director Mike mentioned the co-channel uncoordinated repeater on 147.105 in Port Charlotte is running IRLP and interfering with Tampa.

President Kassis closed the open forum at 3:10 PM and thanked all who attended and expressed their opinions.

The business meeting was called to order at 3:20 PM on December 4, 2004 by President Ray Kassis, N4LEM. The Secretary called attendance and determined that a quorum of qualified Directors were present:

Directors in attendance were:

District 1: Nilo Hernandez, W4HN

District 2: Mark Filla, KS4VT

District 3: Karen Power, KD4DJX

District 4: Mike Fletcher, NI4M

District 5: Ralph Betts, KC4SGG

District 6: Dave Armbrust, AE4MR

District 7: Ben Dickerson, K4EL

District 8: Frank Butler, W4RH

Staff Members in attendance were:

President: Ray Kassis, N4LEM

Vice President: Ira Bickham, K8HRR

Secretary/Treasurer: Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK Database Manager: Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Kassis thanked all present and indicated that the official business meeting will be held at the Orlando

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HamCation. District Director Nilo will secure a meeting room at the Miami Tropical Hamboree.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of both February meetings (2/7/04, 2/14/04) have been posted on the FRC web site. District Director Mike made a motion which was seconded by District Director Mark to waive reading the minutes and approve them as posted. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The FRC Secretary/Treasurer reported the following accounting:

 Opening balance, 12/31/03:
 \$8,745.17

 Income:
 \$2,393.95

 Expenses:
 \$2,978.97

 Balance: 9/04/04:
 \$8,160.15

District Director Mike made a motion which was seconded by District Director Mark to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously.

WEBMASTER'S/DATABASE MANAGER/COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

The website has received 12,814 hits since January 1, 2004. Updates have been made to the on-line and paper applications requesting updates to repeater features. District Director Nilo made a motion which was seconded by District Director Karen to endorse the improvements made to the applications. Motion passed unanimously.

Since January 1, 2004, there have been 108 new coodinations or transfers, 3 approved frequency changes, 79 decoordinations, 5 approved relocations. The ARRL has requested database submittal by January 15, 2005 for next repeater directory.

REPORTS OF DIRECTORS:

District 1: Director Nilo mentioned the repeater that increased height from 50 to 500 feet. He directed the Coordinator to decoordinate the repeater, whose trustee now lives in Colorado. He cannot possibly control the repeater properly. A policy needs to be implemented. Nilo also mentioned that not some update submittals may getting lost and not received by the staff. He has notified Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC about our new policy and has requested rules clarification. There are now two repeaters on the same pair in Miami. There have been many repeater changing hands with the understanding that the pairs get transferred. Maybe there needs to be a policy that allows a trustee only so many coordinations in a period of time.

District 2: All quiet.

District 3: Director Karen indicated that the 146.775 TARC/ Archie problem and her coordination's problems are resolved. Please issue 146.625 to Archie KE4NUZ and Son.

District 4: Director Mike mentioned the problem with W4AQR. Hopefully it can be resolved quickly. The upside-down repeater (449.6 out / 444.6 in) is still in Tampa. Righting it is still in-work. Somebody has placed an uncoordinated repeater in Sarasota on the 444.600 pair. District Director Karen inquired what happens to a new coordination where the trustee is supposed to report that his repeater has been placed in-service but doesn't. The Coordinator answered that the coordination expires 6 months after last update. It would be a great help if the Directors could follow-up on new coordinations to see if they've become active. Any status on a repeater should cause the date of last update to be reset. The expiration letters are working to initiate updates as desired. They may need to continue for the foreseeable future.

District 5: Director Ralph indicated that the 145.210 from Steve Wilkins has moved a mile and a half. The Coordinator explained that if the new location doesn't cause a conflict then no mention is made of the unauthorized relocation. Dan Babilla was introduced as the District 5 Vice-Director. Ralph requested that Dan be included in District 5 email traffic.

District 6: Director Dave mentioned the co-channel interference problem on 444.000 that is causing a heterodyne. The problem needs to be resolved quickly due to increased user traffic on both systems.

District 7: Director Ben mentioned that the Coordinator has satisfied a couple of requests for searches. Chuck Esposito, K4EHM is a silent key. Ben requested that Vice-Director Scott be included in District 7 email traffic.

District 8: All quiet.

OLD BUSINESS:

Short-form updates new include requests for link frequencies and repeater features.

District Directors Mike and Mark requested that a simple link be placed in the menu bar to access the Short-Form update.

The SERA 900 MHz band plan has been adopted and is now in effect.

The statewide allocation for the 1.2 GHz NESTARC voice repeater system is now in effect.

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NEW BUSINESS:

District Directors Nilo and Mike requested that the Coordinator provide some verbiage that all directors can use to acknowledge an application or update by email until it is processed.

District Director Mike expressed concern about submitting short-form updates in a repeater trustees behalf that is not certified by that trustee. Director Nilo indicated he submits updates that are specifically requested by the repeater trustee.

Several Directors suggested we have a Spanish version of the applications.

District Director Ralph made a motion that when a pair is coordinated in an adjacent district, the Director of the district where the pair used to reside should be notified. No second or vote taken.

District Director Mark made a motion that requires the Coordinator to submit a list of all pending de-coordinations (for whatever reason) to all directors for review and approval prior to mailing any notification letters or posting notices on the web site. The Board of Directors will have a fixed period of time to respond. Considerable discussion followed. District Director Mike seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

District Director Nilo made a motion that no one that lives out-of-state or so far away as to not being capable of monitoring or controlling his repeater can be a Sponsor and/or Owner of a coordinator. Considerable discussion followed. District Director Frank suggested we query other coordination agencies for direction and re-consider this issue at the next meeting.

The Board needs to consider defining who we should accept updates to coordinations from.

We need to investigate those amateurs who seem to be selling repeaters with the assumption that the coordination is sold also. Tabled for Orlando.

District Director Nilo has appointed Miguel Rodriguez, W4NR as District 1 Vice-Director.

The Coordinator then submitted the following questions of the Board of Directors:

Coordinator submits list of pending de-coordinations to Board of Directors.

For those that are approved for de-coordination, a letter is first-class mailed and a notice posted on the web site.

What if the expiration letter is returned undeliverable?

If de-coordinated, should the record be marked or purged?

If someone wants to commandeer an inactive pair then refer them to the Director for action?

It was decided that the Coordinator should compile a list of questions to be answered at the next meeting.

District Director Mike made a motion to extend the written expiration letter mailings for one more year until end of February 2006. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM by President Ray Kassis.

Respectfully submitted Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK Secretary

Short-Form Repeater Coordination Renewal

(This renewal can also be submitted online at www.florida-repeaters.org. Long-form repeater or trustee updates must be submitted online or via hardcopy.)

Γrustee:		Callsign:				
Address:		City:	Zip:	Zip:		
Phone		E-Mail: Repeater City:				
Repeater callsign:						
Repeater output freque	encies:					
		ECHNICAL CHANGE PERATIONAL and IN	1 , ,			
Signature:		Call:	Date:			
09/11/2004, new coord		trol frequencies in use. This on any frequency pairs between the for links or control.				
Link or Control Frequency (MHz)	Use (link or ctrl)	Polarization (Horiz or vert)	Antenna Direction	In use? (Yes or No)		
		<u></u>				
Mail this for	m to: Dana G. Rodakis,	K4LK, 6280 Fairfield Ave.	So., St. Petersburg, FL 33	3707-2323.		
	Memb	pership Dues Subm	ission			
		ry to pay dues to receive the elp cover the costs of admin				
dues for a year beginn	ning I u	Repeater Council. Attached nderstand that this remittance. for the duration indicated.				
		ater Council and mail to: Da	na G. Rodakis, K4LK, 62	80 Fairfield Ave.		
So., St. Petersburg, F	L 33/07-2323.					

FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL, INC.

Office of the Secretary/Treasurer Dana G. Rodakis 6280 Fairfield Ave. So. St. Petersburg, FL 33707-2323

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL

FROM THE DATABASE MANAGER

We are attempting to update our database with link or control frequencies in use. These frequencies may be supplied by submitting a SHORT or LONG FORM update. This information is held confidential. As of 09/11/2004, new coordinations may be issued on any frequency pairs between 440 to 441.975 MHz output (445 to 446.975 MHz input) unless reported to be in-use for links or control.

The Council web site contains a wealth of information, including the latest repeater listings, Council By-Laws, coordination policy, minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, and links to other coordinating agencies and pages of interests to the amateur radio operators. For the most upto-date repeater listings visit the following URL: http://florida-repeaters.org/dblist.htm

Repeater status reports and applications for new or changed coordinations can be submitted on-line by visiting the following URL: http://florida-repeaters.org/frcappl.htm