

**Milwaukee Repeater Club
Board Meeting
March 5, 2004**

Location: Bob's (AB9FB) house, Franklin, WI

Attendees: Bob (AB9FB), Dean (KB7QDI), Joe (N9UX), Brian (K5GBW), Matt (KC9COY), Skip (WD9HAS), Mike (N9NPB), Eileen (KB9ZHV)

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM, CST

1) Weather

Skip gave a background on weather reporting and how reports are passed to the Sullivan National Weather Service office. Time Location Condition and Source are the reporting format, and has been used successfully for many years. Last year (2003), Sullivan asked for fixed reports to use "Radial Reporting", where the Location information is given from the center of a city in 1/10 mile increments. Mobile stations were to continue to use the existing system of city and nearest crossroads. The Sullivan office is the only office asking for reports in this new format. After discussions with the Sullivan Committee (representatives from reporting groups), the report format was not implemented, but discussion was tabled until this year.

Many radio operators found the "Radial Reporting" difficult and an unnecessary complication. Net control operators were trying to convert reports before passing them to the backbone net, but this increased the time required to pass the report. As some weather reports can directly impact life, health and welfare, it is important to pass weather reports as efficiently as possible. The new criteria is turning people away from weather reporting. We need to encourage the reporting of weather, as part of the public service in the bylaws of the club.

Because of the resistance to the new reporting system, Skip will be encouraging the Sullivan NWS staff to reconsider the "Radial Reporting" system at his next meeting. If Sullivan will not take the reports in the current format via the radio backbone net, the reports will be filed via other methods (phone, email). Weather nets will continue on the 91. The board agreed to discuss further among themselves.

Gary (N9MGJ) asked if there were reports not getting passed to the NWS. Skip replied there are some reports which do not make it to the final NWS report, but this could be due to several things, including being lost when there is a busy weather event going on. Rusty (Sullivan NWS office) is very appreciative of the reports they are getting.

Courtesy Tones. Skip provided details on how and when the tones are changed on the repeater. "I" is used when the current metro Milwaukee forecast includes the words 'strong' or 'severe' storm. "S" is used when a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch is in three or more of the primary counties of the 91 repeater coverage area. "N" is used when a weather net is started.

Matt (KC9COY) asked about the coverage area of the repeater, Skip replied his information came from reports actually taken on the repeater rather than a computer generated topography. Counties covered by the repeater (where it can be heard): Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Dane, Jefferson, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Rock, Walworth, Racine, Kenosha. Primary counties covered by weather: Dodge, Washington, Ozaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Walworth, Racine, Kenosha.

Several questions were asked about non-weather traffic during weather events. Skip replied there is a 'sliding scale of severity'. It is net control operators responsibility to maintain communications on the repeater. As weather traffic increases, informal traffic is more restricted. The net control operators need to be able to balance the weather and informal traffic as the situation demands. Running weather nets is not like running any of the other nets. Criteria for net control operators: Work well under pressure/maturity, net control experience, have access to weather information.

Dean requested that Skip let him know when the next Sullivan meeting would take place so one of the board members could attend.

The weather spotter training will take place at the meeting March 20 at the Oak Creek location.

2) SE Site

Brad (N9KXA) has requested his call sign be taken off the Southeast site. Mike (N9NPB) stated that call signs are placed on receive sites for service to the club. This is not limited to technical committee members. Mike will ask for nominations from the technical committee, the board will need to approve the new call sign. The change can be made remotely, and should be able to be completed by the March 20 meeting.

3) Repeater Trustee

Mike asked about changing the repeater trustee. Bob replied this was being looked into, there is a question of who is able to change the trustee name. It was thought that Napoleon (N0XXL, current trustee) would need to make the change. Bob stated he would contact Napoleon about it again, if Napoleon couldn't submit the change to the FCC in a timely manner, the board would look into changing it themselves. Trustee and contact will be changed to Warren, K9IZV, as voted by the membership.

4) Status of the Repeater

Mike reported on the status of the repeater. The new link radios have been put in place, but some audio changes still need to take place. Downtown and Southeast are complete, but Northwest and Northeast still need to be finished. The biggest change is the flat audio is being passed by the link radios, rather than pre-emphasis and de-emphasis. We haven't had a way to check this in the past. Gary (N9UUR) now has

equipment to be able to test this accurately. Some people have mentioned low audio, on the M120 and GM300 radios, the audio could be overmodulated, the new CDM750 radios have built in limiting circuits, and cannot be overmodulated.

The controller audio level hasn't been adjusted yet, that will be the final step after all the link sites are completed.

5) Newsletter

The newsletter is complete, it will be going out soon. Gary (N9MGJ) asked about his articles not being in the newsletter, but it was posted on the website. Bob (AB9FB) mentioned he talked to Bob (AA9JW) and Gary should work with Bob regarding the articles.

6) Superfest

The club is signed up for a table at Superfest at AES April 2 and 3. Matt asked about the Banner and other supplies, Janet (KB9ZAG) still has them and they need to be picked up. Bob asked Brian (K5GBW) to be prepared to collect dues during the event.

7) Membership Packet

Dean updated everyone on the Membership Packet. Kate (KA9MWT) asked if this was a welcome packet and if it needed to be mailed out. Dean mentioned this was for people who are interested in becoming members of the club. All of the board members have received the flyer in PDF format and can email out if requested.

8) VMA Memorial Library

There has been no word from Patrick (W9UQ) regarding a possible discount on purchasing the materials for the Library. Dean will be donating a ARRL Handbook to the library. Books are to be purchased before the meeting on March 20.

9) Club Logo Use

Matt requested information on the use of the club logo. Joe mentioned he has seen information on this in past notes, he will research and provide to Matt.

10) Flowers for Brianna York

The Milwaukee Repeater Club was named on flowers for Brianna York's funeral with board approval.

11) March 20 Meeting

Doors will open at 6:00pm, for dues collection. Bob AB9FB to announce on public service net if Warren doesn't. Bob will pick up the keys for the building, Matt is

unable to.

12) Echolink

Dean is continuing to test Echolink, it doesn't work on his current desktop or laptop, he will be purchasing a new sound card.

13) Board meeting minutes

Joe was asked to provide a "to-do" list at the end of the minutes. January board minutes have been sent to Gary (N9UUR) for posting on the web site.

14) Robert's Rules of Order

Brian purchased a copy. Bob will keep, and bring to meetings.

15) ARRL Renewal

Brian was unable to find the renewal forms on the ARRL website. He will continue to research.

16) Bank Information

Brian has form for Bob to sign.

17) Phone Bill

There was an charge on the bill Brian didn't have complete information on, he will be contacting SBC for more info.

18) Treasurer's report

Brian gave a preliminary report, and will email a copy to the board before the meeting. The biggest expenses have been tower rental and radio purchases. Radio purchase has been divided between general fund and capital improvement fund based on motion at last membership meeting.

19) Budget

Dean felt the miscellaneous budget on the swapfest was too high. Joe and Bob to follow up with dean regarding what goes into the miscellaneous category. They did not consider this unusual as the miscellaneous budget has been large in the past.

20) Field Day

We are not getting the same trailer as last year. Matt is willing to provide a pop-up trailer. We are not getting the military-type tents. Matt has two screen houses he could

provide as well.

Gary brought up ideas for the event. Make it a mock emergency disaster. Tents for HF Health and welfare traffic, VHF nets, and a command post. People and Paws could put on a demo for one day. Do we have a media contact? Change to a more organized plan. T-shirts with small MRC logo on front, Emergency Communications/Disaster communications on back. Have a Public Service/Media tent.

Matt (KC9COY) made a motion "For the purpose of getting a quote for Field Day t-shirts, the MRC logo should be given to Gary (N9MGJ)". Second by Dean (KB7QDI). Motion carried unopposed.

Dean mentioned he was happy with the quality of the shirts provided for the Kletch Park Field Day, felt we should also get a quote from them for shirts.

Tasks which need to be completed for Field Day: Food, Equipment drop off, Operators list. Decision on having a regimented or loose organization. Bob will provide Matt and Gary with the lists from last year.

Matt and Gary will co-chair the Field Day. Brian will need to provide an insurance certificate when a location is decided.

21) March Meeting

Skip brought up that we have a long presentation on weather, in two parts, the meteorology and the reporting, the meeting will be open to hams and non-hams. General agreement on keeping to a defined time for the business meeting. Bob will create an agenda and send out before the meeting.

The Room should be set up to accommodate more people than a regular meeting. Rusty is coming from the Sullivan NWS office for the meteorology portion of the meeting.

Next Meeting

To be held at Dean's workplace, Moorland and Cleveland. Tentatively scheduled for May 14.

To-Do List from Meeting

Bob AB9FB

- Purchase books for KB9VMA Memorial Library
- Pick up keys for meeting at Oak Creek location
- Sign Bank signature sheet

Agenda for March 20 meeting, send out ahead of time

Dean KB7QDI

Donate ARRL Handbook for KB9VMA Memorial Library

Joe N9UX

Provide Matt with motions on club logo use.

Brian K5GBW

Prepare for dues collection at Superfest

ARRL renewal forms completion

Bank signature card – have Bob sign

Insurance certificate for Field Day

Matt KC9COY

Review park sites with Bob and Gary

Skip WD9HAS

Let Dean (KB7QDI) know when next Sullivan NWS meeting is

Mike N9NPB

Poll Tech Committee on recommendations for SE site ID