

**IRC Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2019 Meeting  
at the Indianapolis Hamfest**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Burns, W9BU, at 1208 local time.

There were 12 members, 6 nonmembers, and 1 guest in attendance.

The meeting was presided over by Bob, W9BU, Bill Atkinson, NF9K, Vice Chairman, and Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, Secretary / Treasurer.

Mike read the meeting minutes from the November 17th meeting at the Fort Wayne Ham fest. The meeting minutes were accepted as read.

Mike presented the treasurers report. The IRC currently has \$4187.24 in the treasury as of July 12, 2019. Expenses to date are \$82 last December for the post office box. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Motions to accept both reports were made, seconded and passed by voice vote.

Bill Atkinson presented the Vice Chairman's report.

We are up-to-date on our Incorporation filing with the Secretary of State through April of 2020. Bob questioned that the on-line Incorporation still listed Steve Jones as Vice Chairman. Bill stated that He had requested that this be changed last August. Bill will check with our filing agent. A question was raised regarding our filing type. Bob answered that we are not a 501-C3 corporation.

Next on Bill's list was the coordination of hotspots. Bill has checked with the surrounding state coordinators and there seems to be no active coordination of hotspots at this time. Bill has suggested that hotspot users should begin using frequencies in the 438 MHz range. This spectrum is allocated for links and other miscellaneous uses. Bill cautioned that users not connect a hotspot to an amplifier or an outside antenna as this amounts to creating a repeater which would require full coordination by the Council. Information regarding hotspots will be placed on the website shortly and comments will be solicited.

Regarding the website, Bill reported that a PDF copy of the database is now available for download. There is an experimental search capability using our new software package that is available for users to test out. It is still in the testing phase, but will be part of the new coordination tools once the new software is on-line and fully operational. Bill also commented that all of our data is being backed up at two independent locations out on the internet for security and reliability.

Coordination statistics (as of July 13, 2019):

600 “active” coordination’s - 531 repeaters, 68 links and control receivers, 1 beacon.

New coordination’s YTD – 7

Updated coordination’s YTD – 48

Bob thanked Bill for all his hard work keeping the website up and running.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Bob commented that after much discussion among the officers and comments from members, it was decided to proceed with implementation of the New England software coordination system. Bob proceeded to demonstrate the new software and what users will see when they access their system information. Bob demonstrated some of the new features of the software available to users. One of the new features is the ability to spot the repeater location, based on the system coordinates, on a Google map. The software also does Height-Above-Average-Terrain (HAAT) calculations using the FCC calculator for you. The system also keeps a list of all changes made to a filing for historical reference.

A question was asked if there will be a way to renew a coordination with no changes without having to enter all the data again. Bob demonstrated that there will be a button on the submission page that will accomplish this.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Using coverage profile estimates vs. distance for coordination. This is a very hot topic among all the Midwest coordinators. Several coordinators are looking at the Radio Mobile software to see what data it can provide. Florida is currently using a software program that is available to system trustees that shows their system calculated coverage on a graphical map. The Illinois Coordinator is also working on a modified version of a Linux software package. The IRC is monitoring the evaluation of these systems.

We are looking at a way to add additional 2 meter repeater pairs. At the Illinois repeater coordination meeting in April, they are considering the spectrum in the ARRL band plan set aside for packet systems that is going unused. They are proposing using the spectrum between 145.5 to 145.6 MHz for additional repeaters. Existing packet systems in this area would have to be taken into consideration if any use of this spectrum is adopted. It was mentioned that 145.51 is being widely used as a DMR simplex frequency. Hotspots are also using these frequencies since they are allocated for simplex use. Bob commented that before any decision is made regarding this issue, He would solicit comments from users, the ARRL, and surrounding state coordinators. There is ongoing discussion regarding this proposal and a decision is not likely for some time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The existing officers have indicated their willingness to serve another term.

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made by Tony Tolbert, W9AMT, that the existing officers be retained for another term. It was seconded by Dave Mayer, WD8NMZ, and passed by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 1249 local time.

Mike Sercer, WA9FDO

Secretary / Treasurer

APPROVED