



## Northern Amateur Relay Council of California, Inc.

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 1

THE COORDINATOR

SPRING ISSUE - April, 2009

### **President's Report**

Bob Lanning – W6OPO

Welcome to another edition of *the Coordinator*, NARCC's annual newsletter. All Regular and Associate members get a copy mailed to their USPS address found in their Org record. Copies of all NARCC newsletters are also available to everyone at [www.narcc.org](http://www.narcc.org) and select Newsletters. This edition is somewhat special and will be mailed to everyone NARCC has an address for. This year's General Membership (and guests) meeting has a special agenda that everyone with a repeater will want to hear about and provide direction on.

In this newsletter you will find information on:

- Annual Spring General Membership Meeting & Board Elections
- 420-450MHz PAVE PAWS update
- 2-Meter channel spacing change recommendation
- Treasury Report
- Other news

#### **General Membership Meeting (April 4th):**

This year's annual General Membership is at 10:00 AM Saturday morning, with check-in starting at 9:00. It is at the same place as in recent years: Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Ave., Concord. For a map go to [www.narcc.org](http://www.narcc.org) and click on Meetings. You will see a *MAP* link there.

It is important for all members to attend, not only because NARCC needs your vote, but you benefit from the experience too. The northern California hams benefit too because when you attend

you help direct NARCC's activities and this time with channel spacing on the agenda, it is very important to hear from everyone, member and non-member alike. The board and coordinators serve you. To do that, NARCC needs to see you and hear you. Also – all board meetings (one or two a year) are open to everyone. You will find meeting announcements and minutes for past meetings posted on the site.

#### **Elections:**

Last year's elections kept the incumbents on the board. Unfortunately not long after the meeting, the amateur community was saddened by the sudden loss of NARCC Vice President, Len Pringle KH8A. Len served NARCC and its membership for more years than I know. He was well liked by the amateur community who elected him to the board for a number of 2-year terms. To fill the vacant board seat, John Felton, KE5RI, who was the next highest vote getter, was asked to join the board. John accepted and has already contributed to NARCC's operation. This year the other five seats are open for election.

This year you need to elect five people. The seats that are expiring belong to:

Sue Allred K6SZQ  
Tim Barrett K6BIV  
Art Mayoff AB6HB  
Roy Moline K6MF  
Joel Nadler NN6J

NARCC needs each of you to consider running for one of those seats. There are 5 seats available

## Northern Amateur Relay Council of California, Inc. (NARCC)

NARCC is a non-profit association dedicated to the Amateur Radio service with the specific purpose to engage in research as it relates to Amateur Radio Repeater Stations operating in conformity with FCC Rules and Regulations, Part 97. Also to formulate, publish and disseminate technical and operational standards and policies related to Amateur Radio Repeater Station operation in Northern and Central California.

Voting Membership is available to all Org Reps. Associate Membership is available to all Amateurs. Contact NARCC via the Communications Manager at P.O. Box 8448, Santa Rosa, CA 95407 or via email at [jlndler@gmail.com](mailto:jlndler@gmail.com). NARCC general membership meetings are held annually in the spring, usually in the Concord area. NARCC publishes a newsletter, *the Coordinator*, for the benefit of its membership and associates. All members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Contact the newsletter editor Art Mayoff, AB6HB at [ab6hb@arrl.net](mailto:ab6hb@arrl.net). *The Coordinator* is Copyright © 1999-2009 – all rights reserved.

### 2008/2010 NARCC Elected & Appointed Officials:

#### DIRECTORS / OFFICERS –

Bob Lanning, W6OPO, President, Director '06-'10  
[bob.lanning@arrl.net](mailto:bob.lanning@arrl.net) (Term expires 4-10)

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, Vice President, Director '03-'10  
[k6sfd@arrl.net](mailto:k6sfd@arrl.net) (Term expires 4-10)

Sue Allred, K6SZQ, Secretary, Director '07-'09  
[sueallred@volcano.net](mailto:sueallred@volcano.net) (Term expires 4-09)

David M. Shaw, WB6WTM, Treasurer/Spectrum Chair/Director '02-'10 – [wb6wtm@arrl.net](mailto:wb6wtm@arrl.net) (Term expires 4-10)

Joel Nadler, NN6J, Communications Manager/Director '05-'09  
[jlndler@gmail.com](mailto:jlndler@gmail.com) (Term expires 4-09)

Paul Mason, WA6EUZ, Coordination Committee Chairman  
Director '03-'10 – [w6euz@att.net](mailto:w6euz@att.net) (Term expires 4-10)

Art Mayoff, AB6HB, Newsletter Editor/Repeater Directory Editor/ARRL Repeater Directory Liaison/Reflectors Moderator/Director '05-'09 – [ab6hb@arrl.net](mailto:ab6hb@arrl.net) (Term expires 4-09)

Roy Moline, K6MF, Director '03-'09 – [k6mf@comcast.net](mailto:k6mf@comcast.net) (Term expires 4-09)

Tim Barrett, K6BIV, Director. '07-'09 – [k6biv@mac.com](mailto:k6biv@mac.com) (Term expires 4-09)

John Felton, KE5RI, Director '08-'10 – [jrfke5ri@gmail.com](mailto:jrfke5ri@gmail.com) (Term expires 4-10)

#### COORDINATORS –

George Burton, K7WWA, 2, 6 & 10 Meter – [narcc@saber.net](mailto:narcc@saber.net)

Steve Allred, K6SCA, 220, 420, 440 MHz – [sallred@volcano.net](mailto:sallred@volcano.net)

Bob Warmke, W6CYX, 900 MHz and above – [w6cyx@arrl.net](mailto:w6cyx@arrl.net)

#### COMMITTEES –

Tim Sivils, K6TRK, IT Manager, Webmaster, [k6trk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k6trk@sbcglobal.net)

Trevor Raty, KG6MDW, IT Services, [traty@monkeywireless.net](mailto:traty@monkeywireless.net)

Eric Homa, N6NMZ, IT Services, [eric@n6nmz.net](mailto:eric@n6nmz.net)

**NARCC Public Reflector** - Your participation is invited. To subscribe, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/narcc/> and click on "Join this Group."

and the top five vote getters get a seat on the board. NARCC is always looking for new active blood on its board. This is especially true with the impact of PAVE PAWS and the potential for reorganizing (channel spacing) the 2-meter band.

### What are you getting into?

As a member of the board of directors, you have one vote in ten on policy and other NARCC business. Reviewing the bylaws, you will see a board member can not act as a coordinator. However if a coordinator needs board help, the board will take on the issue and help the coordinator resolve the problem. This doesn't happen often but does occasionally.

If you are interested in a role on the board such as President, VP, etc. the process is simple. In the meeting following the General Membership (GM) meeting, all officer position and other roles are open to members of the board to volunteer for. With the approval of the board, each position is filled.

Go to [www.narcc.org](http://www.narcc.org) and look at the Documents section, especially the bylaws and policy and procedures. The names are formidable but the information is presented simply and direct – and short in length. We know your attention span is limited.

The board activity during the past year has been relatively quiet, outside of the PAVE PAWS issue, and most recently with spectrum over-crowding, driving a need for channel spacing adjustment.

We communicate almost exclusively via the NARCC board reflector and a few phone calls. As the result, the increasing pressure for frequency pairs, a board meeting was held in January in Sacramento. If you are considering running for a board seat, all that is required is that you read and respond to board emails in a timely manner (1-3 days). If a need arises for a face-to-face meeting, then you are expected to attend. These meetings are typically held at the Contra Costa Water Dis-

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trict office where the GM meeting is held.

### **Membership:**

Please note that being a dues paid member has nothing to do with the processing of your application for coordination. Membership (dues) is voluntary, but is important to you because it allows you to vote and help keep NARCC on track and financially sound. To check your status select *Login* from the home page.

PayPal is available from the Membership page, or use one of the other options shown toward the bottom of the page. To use PayPal, simply click on the icon. You will be taken to a new screen asking for your Org# and callsign. If you don't have an Org# or forgot it, email the Communications Manager. There is a link to him on the Membership page.

### **What is going on inside NARCC?**

NARCC is an open transparent organization. If there is a question, ask one of us on the Board. We are all available via the contact information found in *Who's Who* on the website. If you want to call one of us, send the person an email asking for their phone number.

If you are experiencing problems with NARCC, work with the coordinator first. These folks are good people and are no dummies. So talk straight with them. But if you feel you need to talk to someone else, the best thing to do is contact Paul Mason the Coordinator Chairman. These conversations are held in confidence if needed. If Paul can't get it resolved, he will bring your problem to the board for action.

### **IT System Status:**

Tim Sivils, K6TRK, and his team have our IT system running smoothly. Tim has responded to special requests and does so providing a professional solution. Whether it is a report or whatever, Tim gets it done enabling the rest of us to get our job done. The bottom line is the website and database

is continually available. Application processing continues and the repeater listings stay updated. Did you know each time you select a repeater listing from the website (*Repeaters*) you are getting a live retrieval directly from the master database? Thanks to the IT team.

### **Coordinations:**

This is a good opportunity to provide important points regarding coordinations – a refresher. Coordinations are good for three years. When you submit your timely renewal and the coordinator has become convinced the station can be granted coordinated status, he will change the Status field to *Coordinated*. When he does that, the system sets an Expiration Date three years out. After that date, the station is not coordinated and will show uncoordinated in the repeater listing.

Coordinations can be renewed no earlier than six months (180 days) before it expires and essentially anytime afterwards as long as the station still qualifies. If there are no changes to the repeater, and you are within the 6-month window, use the *"Update Without Changes"* option. Coordination is automatically set and you can print your certificate of coordination right then, if you are a member. If you are not a member, the repeater listing is your proof. That listing is in "real time," current to the moment you clicked on the listing choice.

### **Where are you?**

It should be obvious how important it is for you to keep your Organization record (name and address record) up to date, particularly the email and US Postal Service information. Please go online and check yours. If you have forgotten your Org# or password, send an email to the Communications Manager at his address listed in *Who's Who*.

### **2-Meter Channel Spacing:**

NARCC will be presenting for review and comment, a plan to change the 2-meter band's channel spacing. Several people are reviewing the plan

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before you get to see it at the April 4th GM meeting. At that time everyone will have an opportunity to comment on it.

I'm sure all of you know the spectrum is full and pressure continues to grow with every new application. New technology such as D-Star, P25 and more are showing up in California, but there is no place to put them. Other parts of the country have moved to tighter channel spacing, Northern California needs to do the same. NARCC needs your input, please come and see what is being talked about.

#### **PAVE PAWS:**

Dan Henderson, N1ND, at the ARRL has had no new information on PAVE PAWS or the FCC's action for many months now. NARCC, at the request of Dan (ARRL) still has the 440 *Pending Applications* on hold, but that will soon change.

A review of an additional step in testing of an application: In the case of the 70cm band, when the coordinator has determined the station can be granted coordinated status, the coordinator will send a copy of the technical data, including site information, to the league. Ed Hare's WIRFI lab will perform the Longley-Rice calculation on the station to see if will "likely" not interfere with the PAVE PAWS radar. The Air Force or DOD has not given him specifics but it is clear from the tone of the conversations, Ed has a good handle on the threshold of problem signals.

When will this end!? Or will it end?

#### **Conclusion:**

Speaking for all of us at NARCC, we are hoping all of you are happy with your coordinating council. Be sure to let us know when you run into a problem. Also come to the April 4th meeting and replace some of us – please.

73, Bob – W6OPO, President, w6opo@arrl.net

## **Vice President's Report, Ed Ritchie, K6SFD**

This year, the NARCC Board of Directors has faced and continues to face a major issue which will effect all of us. A shortage like everything else today in our lives, water, power and repeater slots on the 2 meter band. We are at a crossroads to make a decision about the future use of the 2 meter band. We face the reality that digital communications is coming at us like a freight train (look at the TV stations ).

There is some resistance to change, but we all need to look ahead, not behind, to make a decision that will be effective for the future. The past is history. When single sideband came to be the "new wave" of HF communications, many hams revolted saying that there was no commercial equipment available, but look how the manufacturers came around.

It is time for the amateur radio community in Northern California to face up to the fact that we have an overcrowding problem on the two meter band and work together for a solution. Maybe the under utilized repeater pair owners will step up and make some existing slots available. We have discussed this problem at almost every annual meeting and never could come to a conclusion, but now is the time to step up, express your opinion and bite the bullet.

Your Board has a proposed solution, maybe not the best, but a SOLUTION, to move forward and needs your support. Don't just object to the proposal, lets hear your solution. Drop us an email with your solution as to how to increase the number of repeater slots on 2 meters.

The 440 band remains in limbo until the ARRL, FCC and the Homeland security groups can come up with a solution that might once again allow hams fair use of 440. Don't hold your breath. This is one of the catalyst issues that has driven more users to two meters. We have an obligation to move forward to keep our hobby proactive. Let's be creative

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD  
Vice President

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## Coordinators Reports:

**Paul Mason, WA6EUZ**

**Chairman, Frequency Coordinating Committee**

Hello all. Another year has past.

The frequency coordinators have been busy. Bob Warmke, W6CYX, has been helping a lot of folks get on the 900 MHz. band since quite a few are "refugees" from 440 due to PAVE PAWS.

Steve Allred, K6SCA, has been busy with 220, 420 & 440; mostly explaining to people the issues with PAVE PAWS. As most of you know it has caused some 440 repeater to go off the air because they could not reduce power enough and still be heard. Those of us that have shut down or reduced power will not lose our coordinations as long as we keep our records current by renewing them at the proper time. The NARCC Board is doing this to keep people from "channel grabbing" and trying to taking advantage of the situation. When the PAVE PAWS issue is resolved or the USAF goes to another band, the affected people can resume operation at their record location and technical specifications.

I do hope all users of the band understand that the U.S. Government has priority on the band and that we are secondary users. Please cooperate with the USAF and the FCC so they do not force a complete shut down.

George Burton, K7WWA, has been very busy with 10, 6 & 2 Meters; mostly 2 meters. The issue with D-Star systems has caused quite a stir on the band as they try to find a home. George unfortunately, has quite a few applications that he can not handle due to lack of space on the band. He, with the help of the communications manager, take the applications and process them in the order they are received. There are quite a few systems that have very little activity that are keeping other systems from getting on the air. This issue is one of the problems facing the Board. We are "wrestling" with the issue as we are not the "Spectrum Police" and have no enforcement authority.

Rumors are flying around that NARCC is going to change the 2 Meter Band Plan. This is only partially true. As Coordinators and your Board

members, we would be remiss if we did not look towards finding a solution. Some of the rumors say NARCC is going to change the Band Plan because of D-Star. This is not true. The Coordinator takes applications as they are received and tries to find them space. The D-Star applicants are in the same queue as the analog FM requests. A committee has been formed to try and find a way to accommodate the growing requests for frequency pairs, regardless of mode. There will be a presentation at the General Meeting on April 4th and I would hope that all members will be present to hear and see the presentation, **and vote**, if need be, on any of the proposed solutions. Make sure the representative for your group does indeed have the authority to make a decision on any proposed Band Plan ideas presented. We can not wait another year! You are NARCC so please participate!

One more issue. The 2 Meter band is quite heavily populated. No longer can systems claim their coverage is "from the mountains to the sea!" Systems will have to share their channels with other systems more closely separated geographically. It is time for systems to start transmitting CTCSS or *PL*, as the inventor called it back in 1950. Users are going to have to use CTCSS decode if they do not want to hear the other systems. Because you hear a weak signal on your radio is no reason to not allow that system to be coordinated. CTCSS on ham equipment has been around a long time. It's time to use it! If we used the FCC criteria for sharing a channel by using the RF Coverage Mapping Software, the other station would not just be "scratchy." You would hear them quite well.

I hope I see everyone at the meeting as we have a lot to discuss and the time has come to make some hard decisions. I know that no one likes change. I remember the time when there were battles fought over going to 600 KHz separation between transmit & receive. Now every radio comes with that capability and has for years. The manufacturers didn't force the issue. Hams did! It is time to keep an open mind and not table items for the next meeting. If you want a voice, be there. We need your help!

See you there,  
Paul – WA6EUZ

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**George Burton, K7WWA,**

**2, 6 & 10 meter coordinator report**

The 10-meter & 6-meter repeater listings have not changed very much since the last general meeting. With that said, during the last few years there have been some additional repeaters coordinated. I received a complaint about a repeater being coordinated on "my" frequency. There is no "my" frequency on any of the Amateur bands. If you want to know about any new repeaters, you need to review all of the pending lists or check the box on your organization information data page so you will be automatically sent a copy of the pending coordination list. Very little activity on 6-meters but there have been some changes. Some new repeaters have been coordinated but there is room for many more repeaters.

2-meters is another story. It is very full but people continue to apply for coordination. Some of the applications are not worth the time spent in filling out the application. You would not believe the rather strange frequencies that some have come up with. At this time we are using 15KHz spacing in the upper repeater section. In the lower section we are using 20KHz channel spacing. I strongly suggest that you review the Northern California 2-meter Band Plan for the current Band Plan. It will be found on the NARCC web site. [www.narcc.org](http://www.narcc.org) Please note, I said "at this time" as we may be making some changes.

Another point that I need to clarify, the days of one group having the exclusive use of a repeater pair are long gone. Also gone is a protected coverage area that extends from the Pacific Ocean to the top of the Sierras. That's just not going to happen any more. There are too many other Amateurs who want to put up a repeater. That does not mean that a co-channel repeater will be coordinated 20 or 30 miles away from your repeater. What it does mean is your repeater **MUST** be running full time receive PL (CTCSS) and I strongly suggest that you transmit PL on your repeater transmitter. That way your users can use RX PL decode in their radios. This will go a long way in reducing co-channel "Nuisance" interference. See

definitions page 3 of the NARCC Policy & Procedures that can be found on the NARCC web site.

Some have said that NARCC is trying to "stampede" the membership into making changes in the 2-meter repeater band plan. That is NOT true! What is actually going on is simple: we need pairs to put the repeaters on that people that **are** putting up in the 2-meter band. Please note, I did not say, "Want to put up a repeater". They are putting them up! I have been the 2-meter coordinator since 10/29/05. You should see all of the applications that I have received during the past several years where the frequencies requested are non-standard repeater pairs. In most cases I have been successful in at least getting them onto standard pairs. Yes, I have received applications for repeater coordination that were only 5KHz away from an active, coordinated repeater that is listed on the NARCC web site and is located less than 25 miles away. There are repeater owners or want-to-be repeater owners who do not understand FM bandwidth and the requirement for guard bands

As the 2-meter band is currently setup, there are NO PAIRS available anywhere in the Bay Area or the Sacramento Valley PERIOD. NARCC has several choices.

They are:

1) Tell the new people that there are no pairs, go away or find a different band. UHF may or may not be gone, only time will tell.

2) Tell current repeater owners that "you no longer qualify for a coordination" because???? (you pick the reason). Get off the air! This would require a loss of coordination, a new coordinated repeater would be placed on that pair which would cause deliberate interference, which would lead to FCC action. This would require a new 2-meter coordinator because I will not be part of that!

3) Find repeaters that are gone or not on the air. This is also a hard one to do because there is no requirement that a repeater has to be on 24/7.

The repeater owner can legally turn it off and on anytime he or she wants to. Our P&P's require us to notify them that they are being looked at for being off of the air. Suddenly it's back on the air. Was it broken or was it just turned off? All we will be told is it was turned off due to – again, you pick the reason. All that matters is it is back on so that pair is not available.

4) Create new frequency pairs by restructuring the 2-meter band.

My thoughts on the above:

#1 - isn't going to work, as new repeaters WILL go on the air because you don't need a coordination to put up a repeater. If there is an interference problem and a report is filed with the FCC and if the FCC takes action, then the non-coordinated repeater must solve the problem or go away. This requires FCC action, not NARCC, as we are not in the enforcement business.

#2 - I don't want to even think about this one! If NARCC was told to do this by the repeater owners, I'm gone.

#3 - We would need many people to do the research. To prevent any possible conflict of interest, they should be people who have no interest in operating a repeater. In that case why would they be interested in doing all of the work that is required to monitor several frequencies 24/7?

#4 - Yes, a lot of work and some cost are involved. Reminds me of the PL fights of a few years ago. "I won't operate or use a repeater that runs PL because PL is used to lock up or close a repeater. PL = closed....." Been there, done that, heard all of the non-reasons why I shouldn't PL any of the repeaters that I either own or maintain. They are now ALL in fulltime PL and have been for years. Is it going to be easy - NO?

Is it going to be free - NO? Does something need to be done – YES! Can we talk about it for a year or two – NO! Is it something that we can do as repeater owners/users – YES! The biggest prob-

lem will be the user radios. Once the repeater receiver is modified for narrow band operation, the transmit deviation will need to be adjusted on every base or mobile radio. Unless you have one of the newer radios that have a built-in narrow band option. Will the users need help? In most cases yes they will, but that can be provided by the repeater owner/operator. After all, you do have access to a service monitor don't you?

George Burton K7WWA  
NARCC 2, 6 & 10-Meter Coordinator  
My e-mail: narcc@saber.net  
Web: <http://www.narcc.org/>

**Steve Allred, K6SWA,  
220, 420, 440 coordinator**

Well, PAVE PAWS continues to be with us. I want to commend you all for your responsiveness to the request for power reduction. The ingenuity in which many of you have complied with the requested DB reduction and yet still managed to stay RF active is nothing short of amazing.

NARCC policy continues to be that all currently coordinated repeaters that have been PAVE PAWS impacted will retain their coordination status until the issue is resolved, providing you keep your coordination information current in the NARCC database. Applications for new and re-coordination have been placed into queues to be dealt in the order they were received, once the PAVE PAWS issue is resolved. If you are one of the fortunate ones that haven't been affected by PAVE PAWS, please keep your information current to maintain your coordination status. Remember that the coordination is good for three (3) years. A failure to update your record within that time frame will result in loss of coordination.

Thank you for the updated information on hubs and links in the 420/438 bands. Information like that is very valuable when searching for a frequency that is not being used.

The 220 MHz band continues to grow as the PAVE PAWS impact is felt on 440. If you are looking for a repeater pair, take a look at the 220 band.

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Daily I see new and used 220 MHZ equipment on Ebay at quite reasonable prices.

Just a reminder...

If something should happen to render your repeater inoperable, please contact me by email ASAP. I cannot protect you if I don't have accurate and timely information concerning the status of your repeater. If your repeater is off the air without notification to the coordinator, it puts you at risk for loss of your coordination and frequency.

I have had the pleasure of talking to many of you on the phone about your repeater projects and I am frequently asked for technical help or advice. If any of you are interested in assisting as a technical mentor (an *Elmer* for you old timers), please contact me by email at [sallred@volcano.net](mailto:sallred@volcano.net) and I will get back to you.

73, Steve Allred / K6SCA  
NARCC 220/420/440 Coordinator

**Bob, Warmke, W6CYX--- 900/1200 and Above Coordinator, [w6cyx@arrl.net](mailto:w6cyx@arrl.net)**

Due to the Pave Paws and D-Star situations, we have been really busy. More than 35 new Repeater Coordination Applications have been processed. We even had some firsts of Repeater Pair contentions on 900Mhz! Several new 1.2Ghz D-Star Repeaters are now on the air.

Please let me know of any listed Repeater pairs that are no longer active. I cannot hear them all from my location.

Please remember to not apply for coordination until after your Repeater is on the air.  
My contact is: [w6cyx@arrl.net](mailto:w6cyx@arrl.net) or 408 251 3843.

73, Bob Warmke, W6CYX

**Joel Nadler, NN6J  
NARCC Director and Communications Manager**  
I would like to complement the membership of NARCC. The last mailing of the NARCC Repeater

Directory returned only 5 copies undeliverable because of bad addresses listed in the database.

The maintenance of each organizational record in the database is the responsibility of the primary representative of that organization - not by any of the officers of NARCC. If there is a change that needs to be made to your record, please access the database and make the necessary changes. Should you need the password for your organization, all you need to do is click on "*Forgot your password?*" on the database log-in screen and you will be sent the password to the email address listed in the database. Only the organization's primary representative can access the database. If any member of a group other than the primary representative asks for the password, it will not be given to them without the proper written authorization from the organization's officers.

Some of you who pay your dues through PayPal have gotten the following message: "*There was some sort of problem with your recent PayPal NARCC dues payment. This should not be a major issue, but our staff will need to review the transaction. We will contact you about this matter as soon as possible. You may contact our communications manager Joel Nadler NN6J as well. Please send email to [jlnadler@gmail.com](mailto:jlnadler@gmail.com).*"

Most of the causes for this message is that when you fill in the callsign requested, it does not match the callsign listed in the database. If you change your callsign and do not change the database, this message will be sent to you. Another reason this message is issued is because you have used the callsign of the repeater/repeaters your organization has listed. 99% of the reasons this email is issued is because of these two issues. Please make sure the callsign you use when paying your NARCC dues with PayPal is the one listed in your organization record.

Joel Nadler, NN6J - NARCC Director and Communications Manager

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**Tim Barrett, K6BIV, NARCC Director**  
**D-Star 2009 in NorCal**

D-Star in Northern California has continued to grow in the past year. In my last report published in the May 2008 NARCC Newsletter, the user base in Northern California was 275 users with seven D-Star Systems up and running in NorCal.

Today the number of users is over 382 with twelve D-Star Systems up and running in NorCal and at least five new Systems in some phase of the install process.

D-Star has also added fourteen Reflectors to its Network and many users are connecting to these Reflectors to connect more than two Systems together for Nets, commuting and Emcomm situations.

What is clear is that D-Star is technology worthy of consideration and spectrum.

As many of you know, a "TEST" was approved by the NARCC membership in May 2008 that placed the outputs of the Two Meter D-Star Repeater modules in the Digital segment of the band and the inputs were placed between the inputs of the analog Two Meter 145 Sub Band.

This test has proved, that since you cannot control the users, that a plan of 10kHz away from some analog inputs would not work in some areas.

As the hunt for D-Star spectrum in the Two Meter band continues, I have found other modes and uses that also need spectrum. Some of these are P25, Mototurbo, NXDN (Nextedge) and narrow band FM. All of these new modes make better use of the spectrum than our current analog repeaters do. The NARCC Board is working to present a proposal to the NARCC membership to create some additional usable spectrum.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the NARCC 2009 General Meeting and joining Ham Radio of Our Century.

D-Star Rocks!!  
73'  
Tim K6BIV

**IT Services Update**

**Tim Sivils, K6TRK, IT Services Manager**

As another year passes us by, we find that our system is still performing solidly, with little intervention required. We continue to improve the system as suggestions and/or requests come in. We have had to make some changes to the search and listing functions due to the introduction of D-Star Digital Systems to the area, as these systems were not anticipated when the database system was originally written. We will continue to address the issues that the new digital systems (D-Star/P25/Other) bring with their introduction and subsequent growth. We have started the upgrade of some software platforms to bring us new capabilities. We have automated much of the process of creating the NARCC Directories, and submitting data to the ARRL for their directory. Not only does this make our submissions more consistent from year to year, it reduces the time necessary to accomplish jobs that once took several days to something that now can be done in a few short hours.

Again this year we must ask all users of the Online System to help us by checking their membership information and making sure that your mail address, email address, phone number, and other information is current. We are in better shape this year, as far fewer email messages are being bounced back due to invalid addresses. Please log in to the system and update your Org's information so that we can contact you when necessary. We can only communicate with you when we have the accurate information necessary to do so. Keeping the contact information current in the system is each Organization's responsibility. Please don't depend on notes and email messages to the Communications Manager asking him to make the changes as these forms of communication can get lost in the shuffle and the changes not made.

Please also set your spam filters, to accept incoming mail from "narconline.org." We have recently received a number of notices back from ISP spam filter utilities asking us to go to some webpage and fill out some sort of form so that our email goes through to your mailbox. There are some days

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that the number of incoming emails are consuming most of our free time after our day job, and we have to set these requests aside for later. The problem is that later never comes and they get lost in the pile. The bottom line here is that if you wish for us to be able to communicate with you regarding your coordinations and/or membership, then you need to work with your ISP's spam filter so that our messages will go through.

As always, we wish to stress that the Online Database System and the NARCC Web Site belong to the membership. As such, we openly welcome suggestions and constructive criticism on the design and operation of these membership resources. Tim Sivils, K6TRK, IT Systems manager

### **Art Mayoff, AB6HB, Director & Publications Manager.**

#### **Reflectors, Directories, Newsletters and other comments**

Current membership on the NARCC public reflector is at 267. I show messages bouncing for 14 subscribers. If you haven't been receiving periodic messages from the NARCC forum, you might want to check your email address of record and update it by going to [groups.yahoo.com/group/narcc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/narcc/) and click on "Edit membership" at the top of the page. Then scroll down to "Email Address." That's also the same place members can go to change or add a new email address to receive your reflector messages.

We've had a few heated discussions throughout the year, which is always good, but keep in mind - no personal attacks. Non-compliance can get the poster assigned to "moderate" which requires content review prior to posting or ultimately, total loss of posting privileges. NARCC also maintains private reflectors for Staff, Coordinators and the Board. These forums allow us to conduct ninety-five percent of NARCC's business and operational affairs among those volunteers who have stepped forward to do so.

#### **Directories**

NARCC provides two "hard copy" directory ser-

vices. In January of each year, NARCC participates in submitting data to the ARRL for their annual repeater directories. I submitted the data for the 2009-2010 ARRL Directory during the week of Jan 12, 2009. With the help of a utility written by NARCC IT Services Manager, Tim Sivils, K6TRK, a forty hour marathon ordeal has been reduced to an hour or two.

In the fall of each year, a NARCC Repeater Directory (RD) is published and distributed at no charge to all paid members of record on the date of mailing. The editing, printing and mailing of the RD usually takes about a month.

This year I instituted an often made suggestion in the sorting format of the content. Directory users have complained that as they travel throughout Northern and Central California, it was very difficult to locate repeaters in the directory in a specific city. Our listings were sub-sorted in each of the ten Geographical Zones by *Frequency*, not *Location*. We now have our listings sorted and sub-sorted in the following order: Band, Zone, Location, Frequency. I have received more endorsements of this new format than opposition to it by about ten to one and will continue to use it in future editions.

One of the benefits of our directories is that the proceeds have helped keep our dues low. Income from the sale of our own directory through Ham Radio Outlet and Radio Supply Company along with the information we provide the ARRL, has gone a long way in keeping our dues stable. And while we're on the subject, those of you who are not members of NARCC, you might want to consider that an Associate Membership costs just \$10 a year and for that fee you get a \$7.00 directory mailed to your address with \$1.50 postage on it. You also get an annual newsletter. Regular membership is open to Repeater Org Reps at \$20 annually which also includes voting rights. Go to [narcc.org](http://narcc.org) and click on *Membership* to join or renew using PayPal.

This is the largest issue of *the Coordinator* we

have produced in years. As you can see, your NARCC volunteers take their jobs seriously and want to keep you informed. There has been lots to talk about this year.

### 2-Meter reorganization plan

A proposal has been formulated by a committee tasked with finding a way to more effectively utilize the 2 meter spectrum. As you have read several times in this Newsletter, this proposal to restructure the 145 MHz portion of the 2 meter band will be presented to the membership at the April 4th meeting. I refer you to the Minutes of the Jan 24, 2009 Board meeting on narcc.org. I'd like to point out at this time that there is diversity on the Board, and not everyone of us has the same opinion of the proposal. *Diversity* is good as it offers balance. While I agree that change is needed, don't confuse my affirmative vote to bring it before the membership, with my endorsement of the proposal

as it appears in the minutes. As Ed Ritchie, our NARCC Vice President said on page four, ... "*lets hear your solution. Drop us an email with your solution as to how to increase the number of repeater slots on 2 meters.*" I'm looking forward to finding a workable solution at the April 4th meeting.

### Proxies

In years past I have volunteered to submit proxies for any Regular member who wanted to vote, but was unable to attend. I pledged to vote each proxy's wishes and will do the same again this year. If you are unable to find a proxy carrier whom you wish to use, I invite you to contact me via email and I'll make arrangements to vote your proxy as per your instructions.

Art Mayoff, AB6HB, Director, Publications Manager  
Contact info: ab6hb@arrl.net.

## NARCC Inc. 2008 Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance 1/1/2008		\$26,578.57
<b>Income Categories</b>		
Dues	\$4,180.00	
Directory sales	\$111.45	
Directory listings	\$1,274.00	
Donations	\$0.00	
Interest	\$0.00	
Misc	\$0.00	
Total 2008 Income		\$5,565.45
<b>Expense Categories</b>		
Postage & Printing	\$2,298.74	
Promotion	\$1,984.66	
Software	\$10,035.90	
Hardware	\$4,824.74	
ISP/Internet	\$0.00	
Telephone	\$0.00	
Banking fees	\$123.17	
Insurance	\$387.00	
Legal fees	\$0.00	
Misc	\$0.00	
Total 2008 Expense		-\$19,654.21
Closing Balance		<b>\$12,489.81</b>

### Highlights

\$10,035.90 for coverage mapping software for the coordinators  
 \$4,824.74 for Icom D-Star radio's for the coordinators  
 \$123.17 for Banking fees include the cost of PayPal transactions  
 \$1,984.66 Door prizes for the 2008 General meeting

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NARCC  
Northern Amateur Relay  
Council of California  
P.O. Box 8448,  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## Proxy Statement

As an Org Rep, I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to be my proxy at the NARCC  
General Meeting of April 4th, 2009.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Org # \_\_\_\_\_

Per NARCC Bylaws, voting is only open to Org Reps whose dues for the current year are paid no later than the beginning of the meeting. (Section 3.10 (a), (b), (d))