



FLORIDA REPEATER COUNCIL, INC.

NEWSLETTER

Volume XI Issue 2

<http://florida-repeaters.org>

December 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ray Kassis, N4LEM

The FRC invites you to attend the Orlando meeting and have an input to better serve the 1000+ repeaters in Florida. Please contact your district director in advance so that he or she can raise issues and make motions at the business meeting following our "Open " meeting. I would like to set as a goal for 2004 to remove paper repeaters from our data bank and open up those unused pairs for use. I welcome all suggestions that will help the FRC to get "updates" from all repeater operators. The FRC needs your support. Thank you for being a member. Your dues help keep the data and the FRC service an asset for the Amateur Radio Community. The FRC has received interest in a new 900 MHz band plan. The plan will make it easier for converting surplus commercial equipment to the 900 ham band. In crowded areas the 900 MHz band could be the answer for spectrum demands with little investment. On the FRC website and in this newsletter, you will find other issues and needs that need your comment and input. I hope to see you at the Orlando "Open" meeting .

73 Ray Kassis N4LEM



Communications is the life blood of the Florida Repeater Council

TREASURERS REPORT

Dana Rodakis, K4LK

Balance 8/17/03:	\$8,944.32
Income:	\$833.83
Expenditures:	\$1,032.98
Balance 12/31/03:	\$8,745.17

Minutes of September Board Meeting

Florida Repeater Council, Inc.
Minutes of Business Meeting
September 13, 2003
Melbourne, Florida

The open forum was started at 3:00 PM on September 13, 2003 by President Ray Kassis, N4LEM. The following staff was in attendance:

Directors in attendance were:

- District 1:
- 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: Ted Wirick, W4YJC
- District 8:

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 Kassis introduced himself and welcomed all present. The first part of the meeting would be an open format, where anyone could express any

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FEBRUARY FRC MEETINGS

There will be two FRC Board of Directors meetings in February. They will be held at the Miami Tropical Hamboree (www.hamboree.org) on 2/7/04 from 1 to 3 PM and at the Orlando HamCation (www.oarc.org/hamcat.html) on 2/14/04 from 3:30 to 5 PM. There will be an open forum to allow members to express their opinions and ideas followed by the Board of Directors meeting.

Staff Directory

PRESIDENT

Ray Kassis, N4LEM
1150 W King Street
Cocoa, FL 32922
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(H) 321-783-0070 (H) FAX: 321-784-0070
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VICE PRESIDENT

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321-453-2309

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

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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

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237 East Madeira Avenue
Madeira Beach, FL 33708
727-452-4200
E-Mail: 6meter@florida-repeaters.org

DISTRICT #1 DIRECTOR

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10833 SW 142nd Court
Miami, FL 33186
305-383-8576
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(Dade and Monroe Counties)

DISTRICT #2 DIRECTOR

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DISTRICT #4 DIRECTOR

Mike Fletcher, N14M
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813-621-2333
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(DeSota, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee,

Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk Counties)

DISTRICT #5 DIRECTOR

Ralph Betts, KC4SGG
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Winter Park, FL 32789
407-622-4509
E-Mail: dir5@florida-repeaters.org
(Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia and Counties)

DISTRICT #6 DIRECTOR

David Armbrust, AE4MR
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(W) 941-922-8857
E-Mail: dir6@florida-repeaters.org
(Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, and Sarasota Counties)

DISTRICT #7 DIRECTOR

Edward C. "Ted" Wirick Jr., W4YJC
679 James Court
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(W) 904-542-5413
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(Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Citrus, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union Counties)

DISTRICT #8 DIRECTOR

Frank Butler, W4RH
323 Elliott Road SE
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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)

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

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

2003 DATABASE CHANGES
(1/01/03 through 12/31/03)
(Listed in reverse chronological order)

NEW COORDINATIONS & TRANSFERS

443.825 Spring Hill
442.200 Port Charlotte
147.060 San Mateo
53.110 Christmas
442.425 Winter Haven
443.300 Shady Hills
146.625 Crystal River
444.675 Jacksonville
146.880 Jacksonville
146.760 Jacksonville
53.330 Jacksonville
145.370 Ft. Pierce
443.800 Alva
443.350 Orlando
444.975 Clermont
53.150 St. Petersburg
442.600 Boca Raton
146.880 Dade City
146.925 Lake Panasoffkee
145.210 St. Augustine
145.410 Ormond
145.110 Orlando
145.250 Hialeah
146.970 Miami
443.150 Boca Raton
1293.10 Stuart
444.525 Stuart
146.805 Port St. Lucie
146.700 Orlando
146.970 Perry
146.865 Port St. Lucie
146.895 Hilliard
146.985 Stuart
145.410 Live Oak
442.650 New Port Richey
444.275 Hilliard
443.325 Palm Beach Gardens
53.010 Palatka
146.895 Gibsonton
443.100 Goulds
443.975 Goulds
53.150 Miami
146.685 Lakeland
444.925 Boca Raton
147.300 Bunnell
444.950 Bartow
145.450 Hollywood
442.625 Miami
146.745 Punta Gorda
146.610, 146.850, 444.425 Melbourne
145.290 Crestview
444.625 West Palm Beach
442.225 Gibsonton
147.315 Avon Park
442.375 Avon Park
444.400 Jupiter
444.350 Port St. John
444.050 Ft. Lauderdale
146.625 Hialeah
145.210 Lake Placid
444.675 Tampa
145.210 Apopka
442.175 Orlando
146.970 Anthony

442.500 Live Oak
442.000 Sarasota
53.310, 147.090, 147.195, 444.050 Okeechobee
443.200 Bradenton
443.475 Tampa
224.700 Tampa
147.225, 443.250 Ruskin
146.610 Ruskin
146.805 Spring Hill
443.125 Okeechobee
146.670 Naples
442.750 Tampa
146.775 Mims
145.250 Okeechobee
1291.500 Tallahassee
145.410 Pace
444.125 North Port
442.925 DeLand

FREQUENCY CHANGES

444.700 Boca Raton
442.525 Miami
146.805 Spring Hill
146.865 Bartow
146.985 Winter Haven
147.120 North Port

DE-COORDINATIONS (new coordination not issued)

145.410 Vero Beach
29.620 Miami
53.090 Holly Hill
29.660 Holly Hill
442.525 Delray Beach
444.975 Union Park
224.760 Orlando
444.275 West Palm Beach
223.920 West Palm Beach
147.360 West Palm Beach
146.880 Riviera Beach
146.625 Spring Hill
224.260 Key West
145.190 Palm Beach Gardens
443.975 Altamonte Springs
442.625 Miami
223.940 St. Augustine
444.250 Cocoa Beach
224.300 Clermont
147.075, 147.330, 421.250, 444.975 Jacksonville
224.160 Sarasota
145.130 Tampa
03 443.100, 1293.200 Orlando

APPROVED RELOCATIONS

444.600 Murdock
147.285 DeFuniak Springs
421.250 Laurel
443.975 Holiday
145.130 Laurel
921.700 Verna

(Meeting Minutes continued from page 1)

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.

Dan Derwart, KE4GWT, is the trustee of the 444.600+ repeater in Winter Park. He plans to move the repeater 5 miles west and to 200 feet but the uncoordinated upside-down repeater is causing a feedback loop. The coordinator explained that the Tampa repeater is not coordinated; therefore the FCC will need to get involved. Last contact with Riley Hollingsworth was about a year ago. President Kassis recommended that the owner submit request for change in parameters to the coordinator. An offer to supply a CTCSS board was made but refused. The Tampa repeater is carrier access and passes tone. Director Mike will help resolve the situation.

Ray Vaughan, KD4BBM is the trustee of the 146.760- MHz repeater in Coral Gables. An adjacent-channel repeater is in-service on 146.775- MHz only 8 miles away. Ray has been in contact with Director Nilo, who said he would resolve the situation but nothing has been done. The coordinated 146.775 almost meets the adjacent-channel requirement but it is apparently out-of-service and a new repeater is in-service in a new location with a different call sign. The repeater's deviation is estimated at 2 kHz in and 6.5 kHz out. This is causing considerable splatter to the 146.760-. The coordinator reported that the 146.775- was coordinated in 1994 but is conditional due to adjacent channel conflicts. The 146.775- can be de-coordinated but the FCC would need to get involved to remove it from the service. Its coordinated location is Miami but no enclosing streets are indicated. Current location is Hialeah at Palm (zero) Avenue & 35th Street. Coordinates are 25 deg 51 min 13 sec by 80 deg 16 min 58 sec. Ray will confirm GPS coordinates of the operating 146.775-. Last update of the 146.775- was 3 years ago. The voice identifier is also over-deviating.

Steve Zingman, N4IRS inquired about a proposal or request to change to the 900 MHz band plan (away from the ARRL plan) in use by the SouthEast Repeater Association (SERA). Director Mike indicated he received correspondence concerning this change. The change is an increase of repeater split from 12 to 25 MHz. This would alleviate interference from part 15 devices (cordless phones, video rabbits) and allow commercial equipment to be more easily adapted. Weak signal users would move down 500 kHz. Mike indicated he would like to present the proposal during the business meeting, publish it and vote on it at Orlando.

Mario Leiva, KR4DQ indicated his 1,000 foot repeater on the Dade/Broward border is suffering interference from a television station remote on 450-451 MHz. A friend is coordinated on 442.525+ and would be willing to relinquish it. There is a paper co-channel is in Delray Beach (last update in 1994). Mario's existing 444.350+ would move further south (about 50 miles) and lose antenna height. Director Mark has no objection to this change and will send direction to de-coordinate Delray Beach.

Vince Weil K4JC of Sebastian (Indian River county) indicated he had applied for a 2-meter repeater that is paper in Vero Beach (145.410-). This repeater has been inactive for 3 years. The trustee of the Vero Beach coordination indicated that the pair is inactive and has no immediate plans to activate. The coordination has been updated recently. The 60-day confiscation procedure was described

to Mr. Weil. He was directed to place his repeater in service and notify the director who will notify the coordinator. [Coordinator's note: QRZ reports Mr. Weil's address is Three Way, Tennessee, effective 11/29/03.]

President Kassis thanked all who attended and expressed their opinions.

The business meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM on September 13, 2003 by President Ray Kassis, N4LEM. The Secretary determined that a quorum of qualified Directors were in attendance:

Directors in attendance were:

District 1:
District 2: Mark Filla, KS4VT
District 3: Karen Power, KD4DJX
District 4: Mike Fletcher, N14M
District 5: Ralph Betts, KC4SGG
District 6: Dave Armbrust, AE4MR
District 7: Ted Wirick, W4YJC
District 8:

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:

Report deferred.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes of both February meetings (2/1/03, 2/8/03) have been posted on the FRC web site. Director Mike made a motion which was seconded by Director Mark to waive reading the minutes and approve them as posted. Motion passed unanimously.

The newsletter was mailed during the 3rd week in August. Of the 634 mailed, 60 came back. The directors have picked through the returns to research addresses.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The FRC Secretary/Treasurer reported the following accounting:

Opening balance, 2/5/03:	\$7,712.99
Income:	\$1,919.98
Expenses	\$1,153.94
Balance: 9/11/03	\$8,479.03

Paypal donation system was activated soon after the February meeting. To date \$264 (after Paypal fees of 59 cents per transaction) has been donated.

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

(Continued on page 5)

The database currently contains 1,123 repeaters. A list of repeaters to be omitted from next report to the ARRL has been posted on the web site. The database manager has requested that the directors not update repeaters unless the trustee has specifically requested it. Simply updating because the repeater is known active relieves the trustee of his responsibility.

Fifty-nine coordinations or transfers were completed to date. Also, one frequency change was approved. Fourteen repeaters were de-coordinated, fourteen approved relocations.

There are fifteen pending applications to be processed.

REPORTS OF DIRECTORS:

District 1: No report.

District 2: 442.600 and 44.625 were coordinated and active, 145.190 was de-coordinated. KD4CPG in Jupiter had requested a change of location for his 443.800+ repeater. He was supposed to submit the request. The coordinator did not know if a request had been submitted and explained the order in which incoming applications are processed. For example, short-forms are processed first. 444.125 WPB is active. For the 146.880 new hardware was received from Motorola. Database manager was not notified. Coordinator reports no 443.800 in the district. 147.120 operational but on list of repeaters to be omitted. 146.985 is now coordinated to NERD group. 146.865 was issued to Archie. 147.015 uncoordinated move in Miami. Coordinator reports receiving nothing.

District 3: Eric Power reporting 146.61, 146.85 444.425 transferred. Okeechobee repeater transferred. 442.250 Cocoa Beach de-coordinated. 146.715 down for repair. 147.105 down for repairs.

District 4: Quiet except for upside-down 440 repeater. 145.130 issue was resolved but continue to receive emails requesting coordination, which is not possible due to co-channel in Venice. Some hams think that a coordination is sold along with repeater hardware. Bartow owner that requested coordination, was erroneously issued a pair has installed a repeater on 146.550 out, 147.550 in. To prevent errors in the future, it might be a good idea for the directors to review the coordination before it's issued. It was decided to add all directors to the distribution list for applications and updates submitted on-line. The 147.105 in Punta Gorda has made changes to reduce coverage overlap with Tampa.

District 5: Coy Hilton complained about the delay in transferring the coordination on 145.13 and obtaining the 146.700. Both were completed.

District 6: All quiet.

District 7: All quiet.

District 8: All quiet.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Coordinator was directed to allocate two pairs in the sub-442 band for state-wide emergency use. A request for four frequencies has been submitted to FADCA (Russ Oder, N4KOX). President Ray asked Bill Sinbine, N4XEO to check into it. Nothing received to date. FADCA has designated 145.090 MHz for emergency data use.

The Database Manager has setup a server that allows the FRC staff to

search and print database records. It has unlimited access. The Database Manager will notify staff of any changes to the web IP address.

Two newsletters will be mailed to each coordinated trustee by first-class mail per year.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Director Mike to designate repeater pairs 441.725+, 441.750+, 441.775+ statewide for transportable, temporary repeaters used for emergency only. Motion was seconded and passed. A motion was made to designate the repeater pair 146.550 (output), 147.550 (input) statewide for transportable, temporary repeaters used for emergency only. Motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to implement the following policy immediately: When a new repeater coordination is approved, a conditional, non-renewable, **six-month** coordination will be issued. Once the District Director and Coordinator are notified that the repeater is in-service, a full **two-year** coordination will be granted. A repeater will be considered uncoordinated on the expiration date of the coordination, even if the repeater is still in-service. It is solely the repeater licensee's responsibility to renew the coordination before its expiration date if they wish to remain coordinated. If the two-year coordination expires it may still be renewed during a six-month grace period after expiration date. If the coordination is not renewed during the six-month grace period, the pair will become immediately available to be reissued at the end of the six-month grace period without notice. A coordination cannot be renewed after the six-month grace period. An application for new repeater coordination would need to be submitted. Effective 1/1/2004, no new or renewal repeater coordinations will be granted without an expiration date. Without exception, no coordination will be renewed if the repeater is not in-service. An exception or extension can be granted by the FRC Board of Directors in the event a repeater is under repair or is relocating. Expired repeater coordinations will be listed on the FRC web site, <http://florida-repeaters.org/>. A letter will be mailed to all trustees that have not updated their coordination in the last two years stating that their coordination has expired and will be revoked if an update is not submitted. If the letter is returned undeliverable, then the coordination will be immediately revoked. After 3/1/2006, the only notice a coordinated trustee will receive is an entry in the list of expired coordinations on the Council web site.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to re-designate the Orlando HamCation as the permanent meeting place for the annual business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM by President Ray Kassiss.

Respectfully submitted
Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK
Secretary

Changes to the FRC Coordination Policy and Procedure

Effective January 1st, 2003, no new coordination will be granted for the 144 MHz and the 440 MHz bands unless the repeater has both CTCSS encode and decode. This policy will not affect existing repeaters coordinated before that date UNLESS an interference issue arises. If an interference issue exists and if the Florida Repeater Council believes that the use of either tone encode or tone decode would solve the issue then it will be the position of the Florida Repeater Council that either CTCSS decode and/or encode must be used to solve the interference issue.

All existing coordinations issued prior to March 1, 2003 are grandfathered with their coordinated 85 mile radius of co-channel protection until February 28, 2006, **provided that NO technical changes are made to the repeater** (only trustee, callsign, sponsor or feature changes are allowed). At that time, the radius of protection (listed below) will be in effect for all coordinated repeaters. New coordinations performed on or after March 1, 2003 are issued with the radius of protection listed below. Only the tallest existing repeater in the FRC database is considered when determining separation. **If ANY technical changes are made to the repeater then the coordination will be treated as a NEW coordination.** In some coordination situations, the FRC may require the operator to agree to antenna height or pattern restrictions, ERP limitations, the use of CTCSS, or all of the above, in the interest of avoiding mutual interference.

Height of Repeater Antenna above average terrain (feet)	Minimum Co-Channel Separation (Radius of Protection) (miles)		
	144 MHz	220 & 440 MHz	All other bands
50 to 200	65	50	85
201 to 300	70	60	85
301 to 500	80	70	85
501 to 700	90	80	85
701 to 1000	100	90	85
1001 to 1500	140	110	85
1501 to 2000	160	125	85

New applications for coordination must specify the expected RF output power of the repeater transmitter. Federal Communications Commission Rule 97.313 (f) states that "No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 50 W PEP on the 440 MHz band unless expressly authorized by the FCC and the military area frequency coordinator at the applicable military base." Any application submitted with a transmitter RF output power level (not ERP) greater than 50 watts must include written permission from the military frequency coordinator of Florida. Otherwise it will not be processed and returned to the applicant.

When a new repeater coordination is approved, a conditional, non-renewable, **six-month** coordination will be issued. Once the District Director and Coordinator are notified that the repeater is in-service, a full **two-year** coordination will be granted. A repeater will be considered uncoordinated on the expiration date of the coordination, even if the repeater is still in-service. It is solely the repeater licensee's responsibility to renew the coordination before its expiration date if they wish to remain coordinated. If the two-year coordination expires it may still be renewed during a six-month grace period after expiration date. If the coordination is not renewed during the six-month grace period, the pair will become immediately available to be reissued at the end of the six-month grace period without notice. A coordination cannot be renewed after the six-month grace period. An application for new repeater coordination would need to be submitted. Effective 1/1/2004, no new or renewal repeater coordinations will be granted without an expiration date. Without exception, no coordination will be renewed if the repeater is not in-service. An exception or extension can be granted by the FRC Board of Directors in the event a repeater is under repair or is relocating. Expired repeater coordinations will be listed on the FRC web site, <http://florida-repeaters.org/>. A letter will be mailed to all trustees that have not updated their coordination in the last two years stating that their coordination has expired and will be revoked if an update is not submitted. If the letter is returned undeliverable, then the coordination will be immediately revoked. After 3/1/2006, the only notice a coordinated trustee will receive is an entry in the list of expired coordinations on the Council web site.

FRC Dues

The mailing label shows the year [in brackets] through which your dues are paid. Clip this coupon and mail with your \$10.00 annual dues. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

This coupon is NOT a substitute for your repeater renewal. Payment of dues is not required to receive the services of the Council. Thank you for your support.

Name: _____

Callsign: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____

E-Mail: _____

Repeater callsign: _____

Repeater City: _____

Output frequency(s): _____

Make checks payable to:

Florida Repeater Council

and mail to:

Dana G. Rodakis, K4LK

6280 Fairfield Ave. So.

St. Petersburg, FL 33707-2323

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, INC.

FROM THE DATABASE MANAGER

Due to the tremendous growth of Amateur radio, especially 2 meters, there are few (if any) repeater pairs available in most areas in the state. Many of the coordinated repeaters are inactive, or are being used for other purposes, such as simplex autopatches. Some repeaters have no inputs and their outputs are simply re-transmitting other active repeaters simply to generate activity. Some amateurs simply like to hoard repeater pairs for future use. In addition, repeater licensees are relocating their repeaters or increasing the antenna height or output power without authorization from the FRC Coordinators - in direct violation of FRC Coordination Policy.

Please notify the appropriate FRC Coordinator (see the Directory of FRC Staff and Directors), if you suspect that a repeater is inactive, is no longer in its coordinated location, has an abnormally large coverage area, has no receiver, or is being used for a simplex autopatch.

The FRC needs your help in locating the repeater pairs that are being used for anything but legitimate full-duplex repeaters, so that they may be re-coordinated to amateurs who will use them properly.

The frequency of repeater status reports has changed. In

odd-numbered years, reports are due from even-numbered districts and in even-numbered years, reports are due from odd-numbered districts.

A LIST of repeaters that WILL NOT BE INCLUDED in the next report to the ARRL for their 2004-2005 ARRL Repeater Directory (due out Spring 2004) can be accessed by visiting the FRC web site at the following URL: <http://florida-repeaters.org/rptromit03.pdf>. Either these repeaters are uncoordinated or the required bi-annual update HAS NOT BEEN received from the coordinated trustee. If any of these repeaters are familiar to you, then please urge the trustee to submit the required update by January 25, 2004.

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 up-to-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>
