

Florida Repeater Council Repeater Directory Submittals.

A few Trustees have asked why Florida data was not included in the ARRL Repeater Directory. As you have probably heard, the ARRL has transferred the production of the Repeater Directory to RFinder. While we had a contract with ARRL for the 2017 directory the transition to RFinder was dropped on us without any clear information and we were led to believe there were many additional requirements that would need to be met. In addition there were uncertainties about RFinder and how they fit into our contract with the ARRL. We had many more questions but no clear answers from ARRL. The decision had to be made under the gun before the end of the Orlando Hamfest. The FRC Board considered the issues and felt that we did not have enough information to make an informed decision by the deadline that had been set, so the vote was to delay our participation until we could come to a clear agreement with the ARRL and/or RFinder about the procedures, accuracy and extent of the data we would be required to provide as well as the future use of the data.

Bob with RFinder contacted me at the end of the fest and we had a long discussion and worked out some of the details that were unclear. Unfortunately, most of the Board had already left the site and a reconsideration could not be accomplished until our next meeting. We already have the Repeater Directory on our agenda for the next meeting. We received a notice from ARRL that they were not renewing the contract with any coordinating bodies and they appear to be turning the entire issue over to RFinder. I have emailed Bob at RFinder to get the status of the agreements for future directories. As of June 27th I have not received a reply from anyone at RFinder. This issue is not exclusive to Florida, I have been consulting with several other coordinating bodies around the country who are going thru the same process. We will continue to try and get enough information to determine the right direction of the FRC that will allow us to provide a viable Repeater Directory for Hams in Florida and expect to have a decision in the near future.

Mike Fletcher
Florida Repeater Council
President