

# ARCC C-Notes

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## We are not “Uncoordinators”

### ARCC Position Re. Uncoordinated Repeaters

With the change in ARRL policy concerning the listing uncoordinated repeaters via RFinder it becomes necessary to clearly state and explain our policy regarding uncoordinated repeaters in our region and as well as in adjacent regions. By Policy ARCC does NOT recognize the existence of any repeater NOT coordinated by ARCC and its predecessors or by an NFCC recognized and certified coordinator. Therefore, simply stated, uncoordinated repeaters simply do not exist regardless of what repeater directory may carry a listing or who listed it.

When ARCC cancels a repeater or link coordination the entry is REMOVED from the repeater / link tables in our database and the frequencies made available for coordination. A repeater with a canceled coordination is uncoordinated and, in our eyes, no longer exists.

Please note that neither “seniority” nor listings in online directories have ANY bearing on the matter: if it is NOT carried in our database or in the database of an adjacent coordinator **it is not only not coordinated but simply does not exist.**

### WHY?

First we feel that those who take the time to properly coordinate their repeaters deserve some type of recognition beyond a listing. That recognition takes the form of a formal Certificate of Coordination that we issue. Moreover we further honor them by not diluting their efforts by listing uncoordinated repeaters in our directory.

Think about it; how would we accurately account for all of the uncoordinated repeaters with a level of precision required to assure interference-free operations? We would need precisely the same information we receive on a coordination application! Simply knowing trivial details about an uncoordinated repeater is not enough. We would need to know its coordinates, antenna elevation, transmitter power, antenna system losses, antenna gain and mounting – precisely what we ask for on a coordination form.

Since our coordinations are free, there is no real reason for a repeater to be uncoordinated unless the owner has significant philosophical issues with the concept of coordination or issues with our policies. But, since we never hear from the owners of uncoordinated repeaters, we truly have no idea why they neglect to coordinate.

Bottom lines:

- ARCC coordinations are free. Membership in ARCC is NOT a requirement for coordination.
- ARCC cannot recognize uncoordinated repeaters; our stand must be that they simply don't exist.
- 47CFR§ 97.205(c) Where the transmissions of a repeater cause harmful interference to another repeater, the two station licensees are equally and fully responsible for resolving the interference *unless the operation of one station is recommended by a frequency coordinator and the operation of the other station is not.* In that case, the licensee of the non-coordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference.

Before we leave this topic I must note and address the misleading and possibly deceptive editorial in the Feb. 17 issue of QST by its CEO titled “A Neighborhood of Broken Windows” where he accuses coordinators of failing to coordinate repeaters that are uncoordinated and that coordinators are even to blame for the poor sales of the ARRL repeater directory. As I explained above, coordinators **cannot be aware of uncoordinated repeaters** unless they self-identify and then they would become coordinated repeaters. **The repeater owner is the ONLY person who can cause his repeater to be coordinated by filing an accurate coordination form with his regional coordinator.** Why a repeater owner would choose to not coordinate his repeater is not something we can consider; **uncoordinated repeaters do not exist.**

### Coordinating Coordinates

As previously mentioned, I have been putting a lot of time and effort toward getting truly accurate coordinates for all of our coordinated repeaters. I am sending out E-Mail requests to the contacts of those repeaters needing coordinate “refinement” and, no surprise, have received only about 30% response rate. Therefore, in order to improve on that sour statistic I will be listing repeaters on the ARCC home page under a “Contact Us” heading. If you find your repeater listed you are **strongly advised** to send a “WTFO” E-Mail to [wb1got@arcc-inc.org](mailto:wb1got@arcc-inc.org). If that doesn't work you will eventually receive postal mail from us and I guarantee that you won't like the contents of the letter.

## Maintaining Contact

In the contacts table in our database we have more than 800 contacts for our coordinated repeaters. Of those I have identified more than 70 with expired or canceled calls. Of the remainder 290 have no listed E-Mail address; our preferred means of communications. Missing or bad phone numbers account for another 200 or so and, for 80 of you I have nothing other than a postal address.

As above, I'm attempting to contact a number of you regarding corrected coordinates. Not having accurate contact data makes this an exercise in futility that might wind up costing ARCC the better part of a dollar for each postal notice we are required to send to contact you. This is simply unacceptable. On your application you signed that:

“You will provide updated information, in a timely basis, to ARCC as required. “. **It is solely your responsibility to maintain contact data for your repeater. We cannot do the job for you.**

What do we do? What should we do?

One of the ideas on the table is to establish a new policy that requires that every repeater provide an updated contact form annually or bi-annually. Another is that we post a list of repeaters that owe us updated contact information on our web site. That, at least, would get you all looking at the web site.

Here, I'm looking for **YOUR** input.

- If it were up to you, what would you do to encourage repeater coordination holders to keep their contact information up to date?
- What should the penalty be for failing to maintain contact information?
- How often should we require contact data to be submitted?

Note: There is no practical way to collect contact information except on a repeater by repeater basis. Those of you holding multiple coordinations will have to submit multiple forms as we have no accurate and **authoritative** backwards links (contact to repeater).

Your thoughts on this are, as always, valued and encouraged to [info@arcc-inc.org](mailto:info@arcc-inc.org).

## Odds and Ends

### Coordination Application Processing

I made myself a “soft” New Year's resolution to complete one coordination request per week in 2017. Now . . . some weasel words: complete on my part, not including cross-coordination or waiting for responses from the applicant and **NOT** from the time you submit it ☺

Oh – and assuming I have applications to process.

### Some possible changes to C-Notes

I hope to open up C-Notes a bit, entertaining topics from the readers of this rag. Additionally I hope to begin addressing technical topics – information that might help you set up and maintain your repeater. Again, your suggestion of topics would help here also. Suggestions and comments to [wb1got@arcc-inc.org](mailto:wb1got@arcc-inc.org). Please put ARCC: C-Notes in the subject line to prevent my trash monster from gobbling it up.

### Nominations and Elections

I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the nomination and election process. It is your chance to get your “say” on ARCC policy and activity. Cast your vote or loose it!

### Final Thoughts

What should ARCC do with paper repeaters (those coordinated but never activated)? Coordinated repeaters not currently on the air? Coordinated repeaters that moved without notifying us by means of a coordination modification form? On air repeaters that have changed hands without notifying ARCC and going through the process?

Consider, even, should repeaters be coordinated at all? Does ARCC provide a needed service?

You DO have a say and unless we know what you think and how you feel we remain blind to your take on repeater coordination.

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C-Notes is a monthly publication of the ARCC and is provided as a communications channel between ARCC and our members and coordination holders. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author.