

SAVE OUR SOCIETY!!

GET ARMADILLO OUT OF THE TEXAS VHF-FM SOCIETY!!

To the Membership and Prospective Members of the Texas VHF-FM Society:

We, the undersigned, are concerned about the current state of affairs of the Texas VHF-FM Society. We wish to return to an environment in which the work of The Society is conducted in a civil, efficient and business-like manner. We feel the removal of Armadillo from a controlling majority of The Society offices represents the best opportunity to return balance, fairness, responsiveness and civility to The Society.

There are *serious problems and improprieties* with frequency coordination in the state. Some applicants can't get any response at all regarding frequency coordination, while others have no problem getting what they need when they need it. The Society has a forty-year history of *claiming* to successfully mediate the inevitable conflicts by negotiating to solve problems and find equitable solutions, but this is not usually the case. We have a set of by-laws which has been amended many times by the Armadillo-controlled majority *in a deliberate fashion* for the purpose of molding the operating parameters of The Society in a way *most favorable to them*. We are also very aware that any decisions relating to coordination have a significant impact on our customers – the repeater trustees of Texas. We are *supposed* to offer coordination services to all repeater trustees regardless of Society membership. The class of “Vested Member” *was created as a ploy* to appear like we solicit their input on important issues. They however have NO voting rights or ownership stake in the way The Society's business is conducted. Our Society *must not* continue to operate in this manner without careful deliberation and input from *all* stakeholders.

We feel it is not an option to dissolve The Texas VHF-FM Society or to separate its frequency coordination duties from the rest of its functions. Frequency coordination can only work in an area as large as the State of Texas and in its congested metropolitan areas if it is handled under one single organizational umbrella. The Federal Communications Commission *will recognize more than one coordination agency in an area* although they will not mediate arguments between separate groups claiming jurisdiction over the same area.

The Texas VHF-FM Society *claims* to have proven itself by performing frequency coordination for forty years in an admirable fashion with few unresolved complaints. Unfortunately, this is simply not true.

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Our Society *should* encourage experimentation, disseminate information concerning VHF-UHF communications techniques, to establish standards for repeater operation, to coordinate with other groups, particularly by affiliation with the American Radio Relay League, to advance the state of the art such that general technical excellence is improved, to maintain good communication with Members via the publication of our Texas VHF FM Society News, and to ensure orderly and efficient spectrum management via voluntary frequency coordination for all Texas repeater Licensees without charge or prejudice. Unfortunately, The Society *has not done* the best job of promoting VHF and coordinating repeaters for the past forty years and we can't afford to have this vital organization dismantled due to the actions of *one special interest group*.

ROOT CAUSE OF THE SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS

Over the past 10 to 15 years the Armadillo group has made a concerted effort to place their members in every area of The Society. As an example, of 8 possible Frequency Coordinator positions, 5 of them are currently Armadillo group members. On the Board of Directors, 8 of the 9 Directors are members of the Armadillo group. The chairs of every committee of The Society are members of the Armadillo group. The Armadillo members vote in blocks at both the General and Board of Directors meetings, making it impossible for other interests to prevail unless so desired by the Armadillo group. The Vote By Mail situation is a classic example. When Vote By Mail was proposed and passed, the Armadillo group realized they would soon be in the minority on the Board of Directors, and as a result, would probably lose their majority on the Frequency Coordination Committee. The members of Armadillo on the Board of Directors decided to take it upon themselves to call a Special Meeting with *almost no notice* to The Society's General membership to "over throw" the previously passed Vote By Mail provision. *NEVER* in the 40 year history of The Society has a special meeting ever before been called. The meeting was held at a time and location *most convenient for Armadillo members*. Certainly, the Armadillo group has a sizable stake in what happens in The Society, based on the number of their members, and the number of their coordinations. However, Armadillo should not control The Society. Historically, it has been shown time and again that "absolute power corrupts absolutely", and The Society is no exception. There have been a number of improprieties tied to Armadillo group members on the Frequency Coordination Committee that have been documented over the past 8 years.

The Committee to get Armadillo out of the Texas VHF FM Society

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