

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fred Bongard, W6JLL

I probably shouldn't admit this, but being an officer of a *voluntary* frequency coordinating body is somewhat frustrating. I have now attended (as an ex-officio nonvoting member) all three coordinating board meetings that have been held since I was elected as president of the association. I have gained a huge amount of respect and appreciation for the amount of work that goes into trying to keep the repeaters and their users separated from each other. It is a lot of work, really its not a picnic. The meetings start out with an agenda that is single spaced and about 20 pages long. It is replete with reports of incomplete paper work, unresponsive users and owners, and lists of machines that may or may not be where they are supposed to be, on the frequency that they were assigned, and using a PL somewhere above DC and below what only my dog can hear. Among this mass of paperwork and humming computers loaded with topo programs to figure out where Mt Elsewhere is and whether there is line of sight between it and Hopeless Peak, sits the coordinating board. Meetings start at 1900 and end long after most people have gone to bed. On the way home from the meetings my head spins with the fact that the committee actually got through the *entire* agenda. If you think I'm kidding, after the last meeting I saw the morning shift at the 7-11 near me coming to work.

So why am I telling you this? It's because the *collective we* (they – I'm not a voting member) need your help. Yes, help. This is a tough and frequently unpopular voluntary job. But enough of that. My request is simple – when it comes time to communicate with the coordinating board, do so in a manner that you would expect to be dealt with in return. I think that's the Golden Rule. The RFCs are really not all that tough or complex to complete. When they are not complete, your application is delayed and the work of the board is confounded. These fellows work very hard to turn the work around ASAP and they deserve your help – they can't do their job if you don't do yours first. Academicians love to talk about collegiality. Maybe we all need a refresher course.

But enough of that – there are some items we have previously discussed that I would like to get into at the upcoming October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in conjunction with SCRRBA.

1) Converting the bulletin over to e-Mail. The largest single budget item that we have is the cost of mailing out the bulletin/newsletter. If we converted to eMail delivery, the cost savings would be significant. In the days of an almost half-dollar stamp, its virtually impossible to print and mail the bulletin for the \$5/year membership dues. We have done a few rough counts and found that there are some members who do not have eMail or would prefer to receive paper copies. Fine. As for the rest of you, I ask that you eMail me via the reflector (or [W6JLL@scdxc.org](mailto:W6JLL@scdxc.org)) if you have strong feelings. I think we need to move on and leave the pony express horses behind in the stable along with the spark-gap generators.

2) Converting the RFC to electronic media. I am told that there was an effort to do this at one time but it never reached fruition. We would greatly appreciate any volunteers who would be willing to work on this project. It would help save time and money. Please forgive me if you have volunteered or worked on such a project in the past – I may be unaware of your efforts. I will also poll the members present at the October meeting to see who would be willing/able to help

3) Programs – I am not trying to abrogate my responsibility as President, but I could use some suggestions/help in planning some interesting and relevant programs for the upcoming general meetings. Being completely detached from the communications industry in my professional life, I am somewhat handicapped in my ability to tap people on the shoulder and ask if they would like to speak. I would, however, be more than happy to make phone calls to invite people, once they have been identified.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the October meeting to be held with SCRRBA. Details of the location and time are on the website. Please come – we need a good showing to prove that we are a viable organization. As always, your help is appreciated.