

President's Message

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This one will be short. With summer here and the hill tops basking in sunlight and warmth, the opportunities for repeater "tune-ups" abound. I have not been up to my site for at least three months, but am planning a trip shortly. Its time to check the cabling, power output, duplexer, etc. The most important thing on the list, is to be sure that my repeater is operating at design parameters. In other words, that all spurs are below the required minimum, that the frequency trimmers are netted and that there is no local noise coming from the microprocessors. It is frustrating when other club's systems constantly radiate noise into the local environment. This is especially true with the ever increasing use digital equipment such as VOIP nodes and digipeaters. An unsuspected source of noise (ATTENTION – THIS IS A GIANT HINT) is the "wall wart" power supplies for internet modems. Many of these are switching power supplies that radiate junk over a wide spectrum (which may be out of the band you are operating in). If you must use one, check it on a spectrum analyzer before subjecting your neighbors to it, or (better yet) find a clean source of DC. Unless we take care to insure the proper operation of our systems, such annoyances can escalate into letters from the regulatory authorities. We need to police our own operations.

One more thought. Its always uplifting when new 220 amateur equipment shows up on the shelves. In looking through the websites I recently found a new 220 transceiver. Going by the name of "JETSTREAM" this radio puts out more than the usual 10 watts, and is fully synthesized (did I just give away the fact that I started in ham radio in 1967 ?). Please note my disclaimer – I have absolutely no financial interest in any aspect of this product. Looking at the specs, I find it curious that a 12.5 KHz channel spacing is listed. Do they know something we don't? That someone is contemplating dropping from the standard 20 KHz to 12.5 spacing. I know that this change has rambled about the band in the past, but we seem to be in pretty good shape with what we have. I have tried to contact the manufacturer for more information. I bring this to the association's attention simply because we always welcome new 220 MHz products and because it merits further investigation. Nuff' said.

See you around the band.