

Presidents Message

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As your new 220 SMA President, I would like to thank all of the members for their support of 220 SMA. It is our task to provide coordination and disseminate relevant information on the 1.25 meter band. Our goal is that all the repeaters and users coexist with minimal co-channel interaction.

The coordination process is more difficult these days as all channels are coordinated and finding a place to shoehorn in another repeater without significant overlapping coverage is next to impossible. The process unfortunately takes time and several test coordination's may be required before a permanent home is found. The use of tone encode on repeater outputs has been helpful to filter out weaker co-channel users.

Please update any changes in your repeater system, i.e. changes in technical contact, address, phone numbers, trustee, equipment, etc. Keeping an accurate 220 SMA database of repeater information is important and can be done by simply submitting an updated RFC form, found on the website.

Now that summer is here it is time to do some site maintenance. When was the last time you checked:

1. Receiver and transmitter frequency.
2. Transmitter deviation. Try to limit it to 4.5 to 4.8 KHz.
3. Sub audible tone encode deviation. Should not need to be over 400 Hz.
4. Checked reflected power, feed line and antenna.
5. Replaced backup batteries in controller or radio.
6. Made sure a copy of the Trustees license is on the transmitter, with a phone number for the technical contact.
7. Think about changing the filter capacitors in your power supply if they are over 6-8 years old.
8. Are you using an Astron power supply? Do you have the automatic reset PCB (OVPR-12V) installed so if it crowbars from a power spike it will reset itself? Saves trips to sites.
9. Are you a good neighbor? Do you run a circulator / isolator on all transmitters so other transmitters don't mix in your final amplifier?

Remember the number of problems or failures is directly proportional to the ease of site access.

Some good news on the 220 radio scene is that there are several new radios on the market. Wouxun KG-UV3D , TYT TH-UV3R and Baofeng UV-5RAX have dual band 220 and 2 meter handhelds. TYT-9000 is a 220 mobile radio, I bought one and it works great, sounds well and is a 50 watt radio. You really want to program these Chinese radios with a computer as the manual mode is very cumbersome.

I have heard rumors of a new dual band mobile radio for 2 meters and 220, so let's keep our fingers crossed! This would be really nice as the Kenwood TM-742's won't last forever.

Contact me should you have any questions or concerns.