

220 Spectrum Management Association

President's Letter

October 2014

Imagine a motion picture is about to debut. It's called, "The 220 SMA: The Movie" and it's starring us.

One of those bombastic baritone-voiced announcers will say in the preview trailer: "In a world where change is inevitable...*(big thump, with reverb effect)*...there's an organization that stands for creating order in a field of chaos...*(another big thump, with reverb)*...and the 220 SMA is there for all to hear *(radio squelch tail burst and repeater reset.)*"

Well, now that we have your attention we admit our movie trailer doesn't sound too theatrical near the end. But we hope you will watch this "movie" during our quarterly meetings in the year ahead. The 220 SMA is committed to maintaining order in what would otherwise be a field of chaos among 222-225 MHz radio spectrum users. Your membership in the 220 SMA makes this commitment possible and we are very grateful for your support.

Change is inevitable in many aspects of amateur radio and within our organization too. I was named as your new President at the 220 SMA's August 18, 2014, General Meeting and look forward to ensuring our association stays relevant and focused on our mission.

Yes, we have some challenges ahead. First and foremost is clearing the backlog of repeater coordination requests that have languished for up to five years. We'll be looking at ways to accelerate our repeater coordination process while allowing our spectrum's best use.

Second, we need to ensure greater usage of our 3 MHz to prevent further frequency losses. There is economic value among the 216-222 MHz commercial frequencies—and our neighboring 222-225 MHz spectrum may look tempting for non-amateur radio purposes. Frequently discussing how our 222-225 MHz amateur spectrum serves the public interest will greatly benefit us. It's in this context we'll begin addressing during our special presentation at the October 18, 2014, 220 SMA General Meeting at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont.

Finally, we must continue helping protect our officially coordinated frequencies from occasional unauthorized "campers" as well as abusers of our designated 222-225 MHz simplex channels.

Whether or not you can attend our October 18th meeting in Claremont, thank you again for your support and I hope you encourage other 1.25-meter band amateur radio users to join our efforts. "The 220 SMA: The Movie" will definitely be worth watching.

73,

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF