

**220 Spectrum Management Association  
President's Letter  
October 2015**

The Fall weekends mean 220 SMA members have many amateur (and non-ham) activities in their lives. I knew it might be dicey to hold our next meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> in competition with: 1. many college football games, 2. the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (PACIFICON) in San Ramon; 3. the Boy Scouts of America's annual "Jamboree on the Air" being held at multiple locations in Southern California; and 4. several major disaster drills involving ham operators as part of the 2015 Great California ShakeOut. Even our fellow frequency coordinator SCRRBA is busy on October 17: they had to re-schedule their annual meeting to Sunday afternoon, October 18. But it was unwise for us to meet on a Sunday morning in Claremont to have the usual annual joint meeting with SCRRBA.

While you might be very busy, our 220 amateur band could be busier. At our October 17 meeting our special program after Association business will be a review of current and new 1.25-meter radio equipment (including some you might not be aware of.). Feedback from fellow members about this equipment will hopefully encourage you and your organization to be more active on our airwaves.

"Use it or lose it" applies to much in life and we hope it won't be our 222-225 MHz spectrum. Now taking shape just below our band is the new railroad speed and collision avoidance technology known as Positive Train Control. If you haven't noticed, PTC comes close to the bottom edge of our spectrum--and we hope it stays there as railroads seek more frequencies. Other channels in the 220-222 MHz spectrum have already been auctioned to other users.

As shown in the radioreference.com database, here's where PTC currently exists:

<b>Frequency</b>	<b>License</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Tone</b>	<b>Alpha Tag</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Tag</b>
220.12750		BM		PTC-1	Positive Train Control 1	FMN	Data
220.13250		BM		PTC-2	Positive Train Control 2	FMN	Data
220.13750		BM		PTC-3	Positive Train Control 3	FMN	Data
220.14250		BM		PTC-4	Positive Train Control 4	FMN	Data
220.14750		BM		PTC-5	Positive Train Control 5	FMN	Data
220.75250		BM		PTC-6	Positive Train Control 6	FMN	Data
220.76750		BM		PTC-7	Positive Train Control 7	FMN	Data
220.77250		BM		PTC-8	Positive Train Control 8	FMN	Data
221.75750		M		PTC-9	Positive Train Control 9	FM	Data
221.76750		M		PTC-10	Positive Train Control 10	FM	Data

So please promote the vitality of our 222-225 MHz amateur spectrum. If you have experience with any recent radio gear for our band your fellow members (and ultimately their organizations' respective members) will appreciate hearing about it on October 17. Comments and advice about re-purposing commercial radios for our band are most welcome too.

Yes, October 17 is a busy Fall day but we hope you can make our day.

73,

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF