

## President's Letter July 2016

All 220 SMA members are truly encouraged to attend our July 16, 2016, meeting in Torrance. Why? At this meeting our Coordination Board expects to make its first report since July 2014.

Yes, there have been many explanations why our Coordination Board had been unable to find time to meet or decide issues, but a concerted effort has been made in the past quarter to remedy the past's problems without yet resorting to changing the 220 SMA Constitution or Bylaws.

Our April 2016 quarterly meeting at the Chatsworth Train Station had an extensive discussion on why 220 coordination work was not getting done. Our Coordination Board members, like all of us, are volunteers with many other amateur radio interests plus work or family commitments too. Our Board has been given a public trust to maintain an orderly 1.25-meter amateur radio band in Southern California—and our general membership pays annual dues specifically to provide funds for the Coordination Board's work.

The 220 SMA's Constitution and Bylaws preclude the association President from serving on the Coordination Board, so I have necessarily taken a low-key approach towards resolving the Coordination Board's inability to meet. But this year the time for inaction is over if we are to uphold the public trust placed in the 220 SMA.

Two technology changes going forward make it essential we have a functioning Coordination Board that meets at least quarterly as our governing documents require. Our Coordination Board also deserves the support of all 220 SMA members as we meet these challenges.

First, it recently became easy to purchase a new turnkey 220 MHz amateur repeater and quickly get it on the air for under \$2,000 including duplexer. This has not gone unnoticed among the amateur radio community. Without a strong Coordination Board there will be many new uncoordinated 220 repeaters freely operating in Southern California---at least one has already appeared on Frazier Mountain and groups elsewhere have expressed interest. In the past only those with considerable technical knowledge could adapt equipment to use as a 220 MHz repeater but that knowledge is no longer required with a new turnkey system.

A second technology threat comes from a game-changing transceiver announced at the Dayton Hamvention in May 2016 (though not available until December 2016). The DV4mobile transceiver will cover 2-meters, 220, and 440 using analog FM, D-Star, P25, Yaesu C4FM, and DMR (MotoTrbo) as well as LTE for connecting to a web "reflector." This transceiver won't be for everyone, however, due to its estimated \$900-\$1,000 price tag. Our coordination friends at SCRRBA have learned on 440 what happens when numerous incompatible digital FM codecs start sprouting uncontrolled on previously all-analog coordinated frequency pairs. Until now our 220 MHz band has been immune to D-Star, DMR, and the like because no equipment for it was available on the 1.25-meter band. That is about to change.

Please attend our July 16 meeting when we'll continue discussing where to go next with our Coordination Board and two seats Coordination Board seats will be open for election. The choices are up to you—and please support our Coordination Board as we move forward.

73,

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF  
President, 220 SMA