

220 Spectrum Management Association of Southern California

President's Message

January 2017

Happy New Year! I hope 2017 is a great year for all of you. I would like to thank all of you who attended the meeting in October at Harvey Mudd College. This was a very important meeting and I was glad to see over 30 people attend and take the time to learn what the state of the Association is and to help determine the future of our Association.

The new year brings another very important Association meeting. It is the meeting that we elect the Association Officers for the year. I thank the new Officers who volunteered to fill the vacated positions until the next regularly scheduled election, so that the Association could continue to move forward. In order for the Association to be functional and relevant, we need participation. This participation requires volunteers for leadership positions and discussions from both leaders and members. Please consider volunteering to be one of these leaders and run for an office. There will be vacancies. As a previous Coordination Board Member and your current President, I can assure you that it will be a fulfilling experience and you will be supported by your fellow members.

One very serious topic that will be discussed in detail at the January meeting is the recent changes in the assembly and publication of the ARRL Repeater Directory. This is a very important issue that repeater owners and users need to know about. The fundamental change the ARRL has made is to allow data input from sources other than recognized frequency coordinators. I believe this change will result in the Repeater Directory ceasing to be a useful tool and directly undermines the purpose and function of coordination boards.

While I am on the subject of coordination, the 220 SMA Coordination Board has gone through a lot of changes in the last several months. Do any of you have pending Requests for Coordination (RFC) or interference complaints? I'm sure there are some out there. The Coordination Board met several times in the third quarter but did not furnish reports on these meeting until two days before the October meeting. The Coordination Board has been meeting this quarter too but has yet to publish the results of those meetings. Are you, as a member, trustee or an amateur radio operator looking to get a coordinated repeater pair interested in what your Coordination Board is doing? I certainly am. As a member and repeater owner, I intend to find out what they are doing. I hope you are interested in knowing too. Let's demand transparency from our Coordination Board at the next meeting.

My final comment is to remind every one of you that participation is the key to having a healthy organization. I encourage all of you to attend this very important meeting and to please consider volunteering for a leadership position. Your Association needs you.

Kenneth Mann, KF6HKM

President, 220 Spectrum Management Association