

COORDINATORS' REPORT

30 May 2010

It's been a busy year, but one that provided good outcomes, and few unresolved challenges. The issues we faced have been detailed in the quarterly reports issued to Board members. They include a wish for more visibility for BCARCC and its work, a closer tie to WWARA, the Washington State repeater coordinators, and, again, better communication with repeater operators.

This year saw the introduction of the new **BCARCC 440 band plan**. Developed by BCARCC's Policy Committee, it was published on our website for a number of months, received no feedback from the amateur radio community, and was adopted on October 1, 2009.

As all frequencies within repeater sub-bands have been coordinated, they have stabilized to a great degree and discussion is centred on **the use of simplex frequencies** for emergency communications as well as new digital protocols. This is "undiscovered territory" in many ways, as coordination councils have traditionally steered away from coordinating simplex frequencies. This is primarily because, (1) use is occasional or intermittent, (2) coverage areas are usually quite small, (3) stations do not meet the conventional definition of a "fixed frequency facility" and (4) some existing services, such as packet operations, have been taken out of service and have quietly freed up frequencies without BCARCC knowledge.

Our only source of frustration this year originated from deterioration in **our communications with WWARA**. Our relationship with the 220 and 440 coordinators are still on-going and effective, but we have no visibility into how WWARA is dealing with new technologies such as D-STAR and other digital protocols. We are also seldom consulted when WWARA coordinates new repeaters whose coverage may impact ours.

Our area coordinators are doing an effective job in supporting repeater operators and those who wish to become one. As well, they are the vital link between "the field" and our central database.

- Tim Mitchell VE7TES is our Vancouver Island coordinator. This year on the Island, a number of repeaters have been moved while others have also changed ownership. Keeping track of the changes is often a challenge.
- Phil Baker VE7PHB is our BC Interior coordinator. The Interior is an area where a significant amount of building is still going on. Additional repeaters are being installed in many populated areas.
- Joe Rieberger VE7CRJ is the BC Southeast coordinator. Although there has been no new activity, Joe has performed a very valuable service through his communications with the Eastern Washington and Montana coordinators.
- Frank VanderZande VE7AV is our BC North coordinator. He keeps us up to date on the status of Northern BC and Yukon repeaters.
- Rob Kuse VE7BKU is the coordinator for the Lower Mainland. He has been particularly busy due to the resurgence of interest in the 220 metre band. A number of new repeaters have been coordinated and installed.

Some brief statistics:

- Our database currently contains 436 repeater coordinations and 145 node registrations for BC and the Yukon Territory.
- The database shows 53 additions and changes over the past year, but many coordination updates that we have processed do not result in database updates: they are minor changes to repeater location, changes in equipment or contact information.

My **wishes for this coming year** include

- increased activity in promoting the existence and work of BCARCC,
- the establishment of a better rapport with WWARA,
- further refinement and update of BCARCC coordination policies, and
- as usual, more updates from the field, so that the database can become more accurate.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chief Coordinator, BCARCC