

## Coordinators Report 2026

It has been a relatively quiet year for coordinators, with only a few repeaters coordinated over the past year. Most of these were located outside the major urban centres, likely helping to provide coverage where it is most needed.

Over the years, we have experienced several trends in repeater coordination. A few years ago, there was strong demand for new digital repeaters, along with the need for narrowbanding to accommodate additional systems. From our perspective, however, the result was a significant dispersion of traffic — too many repeaters and not enough users.

More recently, we have entered a period of relative stability, accompanied by an increase in on-air activity, much of it driven by the growing popularity of Nets. In the Lower Mainland alone, operators can now participate in approximately 40 different Nets each week. This trend began during the Covid period and has continued to expand since then. It may also have contributed to attracting more amateurs to the hobby.

This period of stability has allowed us to take a longer-term view of both our coordination process and the accuracy of our repeater database. While we have been very successful at avoiding interference issues, we currently lack a formal process to confirm that coordinated repeaters remain operational. In fact, only about 10% of the repeaters in our database have self-reported their status within the past five years. As a result, many of the remaining 400 repeaters could potentially be off the air or operating with changed parameters.

This situation needs improvement; otherwise, we risk publishing outdated or inaccurate repeater information. In many jurisdictions, repeater councils require operators to renew or update their coordination every three to five years. At present, we have no mechanism to require similar updates. I would therefore like to propose a two-step solution.

First, we could engage BCARCC club members by requesting that each club annually review and report on the status of their repeaters using a brief checklist. If substantial changes have occurred, the club would then be directed to complete the Coordination Form available on our website.

Second, I request Board approval for a pilot project to send reminder emails to all repeater operators listed in our database, asking them to confirm the operational status of each repeater using a simple checklist. While this process is labour-intensive, it could be managed by our contract secretary, Linda Metcalfe. An initial budget of \$300 is proposed for this project.

If successful, this approach would provide a practical method for maintaining the accuracy of our database on an ongoing annual basis. I look forward to the Board's consideration and support of these recommendations.

I also thank area coordinators Frank VanderZande VE7AV, Al Muir VE7BEU, Rob Kuse VE7BKU, and Richard Reeves VE7NT for their continued help and support, which makes this work possible.

George Merchant VE7GM  
Chief Coordinator