

BCARCC Coordinators' Report 2025

Overall, the year has been relatively quiet. BCARCC has coordinated only a few additional repeaters: 7 in total, 4 UHF and 3 VHF. This past year has seen more interest in special, simplex applications. Hams are building their own simplex links to access repeaters or Internet-connected nodes. Simplex frequencies are not coordinated, as they cannot, practically, be protected but they are registered and published in the hope that Hams will respect them.

There is one issue that has promoted some discussion and that is the new policy by WWARA, the coordinating body for Western Washington, to limit new repeater coordinations to narrow-band channels on both 2 metres and 440. This is to accommodate more new repeaters within the existing spectrum.

Unless we adopt the same policy, it could cause interference to BC repeaters. WWARA assumes that BCARCC would also go to the narrow band spacing, which would entail a large number of our repeaters having to change frequency. I see no reason to follow WWARA's policies. We do not have significant demand to coordinate additional repeaters. In fact, the amount of traffic on existing ones is diminishing. It will be up to the newly narrow-band repeaters in Washington to avoid interference to ours.

I see BCARCC's mission as enablers of Hams to optimize the enjoyment and success in operating and using their repeaters. We should not complicate their work by implementing policies that entail more effort and expense without benefits.

We look for feedback to advise us of repeaters that have gone silent and possibly ones that are uncoordinated. Such situations keep us from re-coordinating unused frequencies and may deprive Hams from finding a suitable frequency pair for a new repeater.

I thank our Coordinators for their help. Frank VanderZande VE7AV is coordinator for the North, and he reports, "Prince George ARC will attempt site visits to most of our sites before fall. We will be pulling out all PGARC equipment at Carney Hill this summer. This is centrally located at the intersection of highways 94 and 16. However, the burden of high annual lease fees to the City of Prince George need be shed. An alternative site will soon feature a VHF drop repeater with a UHF Fusion repeater. A second UHF Fusion will also be installed on Milburn Mtn (Quesnel). PGARC will also rework their call-sign assignments for the 18 sites we operate from".

I also thank Rob Kuse VE7BKU, our coordinator for the Lower Mainland; Richard Reeves VE7NT, Interior BC coordinator; and Al Muir VE7BEU coordinator for the 6- and 10-meter bands. for their work and support.

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