

220 Spectrum Management Association

President's Letter

April 2015

The 220 Spectrum Management Association has long fostered an orderly and level playing field across our 219-220 MHz and 222-225 MHz airwaves.

Our April 2015 quarterly meeting in Thousand Oaks is doing that on the ground. Thousand Oaks is admittedly "out-of-the-way" for many 220 SMA members, but our recent meeting sites in Torrance, Claremont, and Arcadia have been quite out-of-the way for others. Trying to equalize members' driving burden to 220 SMA meetings is consistent with our commitment to ensure fairness and equitable treatment of all.

If you have been active on HF amateur bands lately, especially working certain DXpeditions, you've undoubtedly noticed a substantial deterioration in on-air conduct and operating practices. This presents serious challenges for amateur radio's self-enforcement nature. While some amateurs attribute this HF misconduct to newer hams having less technical or operating experience it's sad to report certain long-time amateur operators are also causing these problems. Much of this misconduct is likely a mirror of larger societal issues beyond the scope of amateur radio.

In a similar realm, 220 MHz amateur radio users may occasionally experience rudeness, deliberate interference, and non-compliance with repeater trustees' guidelines or the 220 SMA band plan. Recently-announced FCC field enforcement bureau reductions mean the burden for maintaining an orderly and level playing field in VHF-UHF amateur spectrum will increasingly fall to ARRL Official Observers and officially-recognized spectrum managers such as the 220 SMA. Like the Official Observers, we are volunteers with limited enforcement authority but we will do our utmost to help foster compliance.

We are confident that 220 SMA members will operate responsibly but ask you to advise of any serious problems within our spectrum. Thanks for your continued support that enables keeping our portion of Southern California's amateur radio bands orderly and level for all.

73,

Diana Feinberg, AI6DF