

SCRRBA News

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- 420-440 - Robin Critchell, WA6CDR
- 440-450 - Pete Bickerdike, WB6DAO
- 440-450 - Pat Stewart, KA6P
- 440-450 - Gerry Walsh, KB6OOC
- 902-928 - Dave DeGregorio, WA6UZS
- 1240-1300 - Tom O'Hara, W6ORG
- 2300 & Up - Bill Kelsey, W6QC

Inside this issue:

440-450MHz Status	2
440MHz Open Repeater	2
1240-1300MHz Report	3
ATV Report	3
Web Site & E-Mail	3
SCRRBA Annual Meeting	4

From the President...

Joe Saddler, WA6PAZ

Greetings fellow SCRRBA members. There's been a lot of activity since the last meeting and this newsletter should bring the membership up to date on the significant events. I apologize for not holding a year 2000 general meeting. As most of you know, a tremendous effort goes into scheduling and organizing a meeting of this magnitude and I missed a couple of critical opportunities to pull it all together and hence we lost our October 2000 window.

Speaking of the 2001 meeting, SCRRBA's Technical Committee believes that the best way to insure that we have an annual meeting is to put it on "autopilot." Starting this year the meeting will be pre-scheduled for the same Saturday every year, the third Saturday of October. This will not only keep the Chairman inline; it will also help members reserve the date on their calendars well in advance of

other distractions. I hope to see you on Saturday, October 20, 2001.

Not only has great progress been made on the 20kHz changeover but the best part is it is now behind us, it is done!!!! None of this would have been possible without the expedited support of every member and system operator that had to drive to the top of the mountain(s) to change frequencies. Robin, along with Gerry, Pat and Pete, have done an extraordinary job of fitting all the pieces together. Expect to hear all about this at the October meeting. Thanks again for making this work, and everyone is benefiting from its success.

To steal a popular phrase, "SCRRBA in moving into the Twentieth Century." See for yourself by logging onto the Web site at www.scrba.org. Gerry has put a lot of effort into this project and has done an excellent

job. You'll find general SCRRBA information all about 20kHz, reference documents forms and many other items of interest.

SCRRBA spends a significant amount of time and money mailing out newsletters and meeting announcements. SCRRBA could save money and time if a majority of its members could retrieve current information and announcements from our web site. I realize that not all members are in position to take advantage of this, but if you can help out please let us know by e-mail (admin@scrba.org - this mailbox is handled by an administrative person - coordination issues will not be handled through this mailbox), mail, or in person at the meeting.

Thanks for your support and please do plan on attending the up coming meeting. Come help us celebrate the completion of 20kHz.

SCRRBA General Meeting

October 20, 2001 at 9:00AM
 Harvey Mudd College
 Galileo Room
 280 East Foothill Blvd
 Claremont, California
 34.10673° N
 117.10807° W

Park in the lot at the corner of Foothill and Dartmouth (enter off Foothill) or park along Foothill Blvd. Parking is a bit limited. Walk Southward toward Galileo Hall and enter from the East side of the building (look for posted SCRRBA signs).

440-450MHz Status

Robin Critchell, WA6CDR

It's been some time since SCRRBA hosted the 440-450MHz Band Planning meeting on May 1, 1999 to discuss options to establish and implement a 20kHz channel plan for the 440-450MHz sub-band. The result of that meeting was a new band plan that established 50 additional duplex channel pairs that increased the number of available channels from 200 to 250. This provided a much needed spectrum relief for the Southern California band which has been effectively "filled" for more than 15 years.

The implementation schedule called for a completion of all moves by May 1, 2000 - a fairly aggressive plan. We are pleased to advise that, overall, everyone did pull together and cooperated in moving frequencies (and spending money for crystals). The 440 community is to be commended for their outstanding efforts and sacrifice, that allowed more channels to be created, and also provided for some new simplex and special use frequencies.

As of this writing, about 98% of the moves are complete. A considerable number of existing coordinees have been moved to new channels to resolve long-standing interference issues. Some of these new channels are the 44x.y60 channels while others involve several linked moves where a system would move, then a new system would move in, and so on.

A number of systems on the test pair have received new coordinations and have moved off the test pair to their new assignments. During the most recent survey of the two test pairs, 9 active repeaters were observed on 446.86 and 8 active repeaters on 446.88. Partial or complete applications are on file for about half of these systems.

22 *new* applicants have received coordinations for first-time assignments. 7 other *new* applicants are currently being processed for coordinations. This is an impressive number of new coordinees! All of the 44x.y60 channels have an assigned coordinee, but a number of them are not filled to capacity. There is considerable coordination action in progress on several "freed up" non 44x.y60 channels. A number of existing channels have been freed up as part of interference resolution efforts utilizing the new channels. These channels are actively in the coordination process at this time.

There are a few systems that have agreed to combine resources, yielding a few more new channels than those obtained from just the 20kHz transition alone.

There are now at least 58 open repeaters on 21 channels. Several of these are on 100kHz channel steps.

A new simplex channel has been created on 446.52MHz (note the relationship to 146.52MHz). In addition, a new remote base channel has also been created on 449.46MHz in order to accommodate the requests of a large number of those present at the band planning meeting.

The dust has settled. We are through the toughest part of the transition plan. There are a few issues remaining, but most are trivial, and don't require any magic to be resolved. Again, our thanks go out to the repeater owners for their efforts to make this as painless as possible for everyone (including the Technical Committee).

Our next challenge will be to survey, document anomalies, and resolve a number of 420MHz issues. This is by no means a trivial task. The survey itself will require lots of trips and hours to accomplish and document. There are a large number of 420 channels that are not in use and need to be recovered. The stack of 420 applications is growing and we appreciate the patience shown while we worked to settle the final issues in the 440 segment.

Additional information will be provided at the October 20th meeting.

440MHz Open Repeater Frequencies

As of mid-September, the following is a list of coordinated open repeater frequencies in Southern California.

Open repeaters are operated by individuals and clubs for the benefit of all radio amateurs. Since they are classified as "open", no prior authorization or permission is necessary before using these repeaters.

Please note that not all of these

frequencies are the final assignment for some of these systems. Several systems are being considered for assignment on different open pairs.

There are at least 58 repeaters on these 21 channels. See the SCRRBA website (<http://www.scrba.org>) for a detailed listing of the open repeater systems coordinated on these channels.

445.20	446.40
445.52	447.00
445.56	447.02
445.58	447.20
445.60	447.32
445.62	447.58
445.66	449.20
445.64	449.30
445.68	449.50
445.90	449.70
445.92	

1240-1300MHz Report

Tom O'Hara, W6ORG

There are still available channels without the necessity of co-channeling on this band and the growth trend of the early 90's has somewhat evened out or slightly reversed. This may be due to the clearing out of the large waiting list on 440 thanks to the 20kHz channelization and/or the rising cost of hill top sites.

A year ago, all the open repeaters were re-verified and those that did not play were sent letters of inquiry. We hope to have all the private repeaters re-verified before the next meeting.

While there are .x25, .x50 and .x75 kHz channels available, there are requests for even 100kHz channels from time to time that could be accommodated with periodic re-

verification as well as the benefit of updated data from coordinees.

Currently there are approximately 160 repeaters coordinated and 75 links. All the repeaters in the 1282.000 to 1282.975 are open so that new users to

"the growth trend of the early 90's has somewhat evened out or slightly reversed."

the band will know that any frequency in this segment is available to them and hopefully not bother the private systems at 1283.025 and above. There are, however, a few open repeaters

above 1283 which were given at the coordinees request. The separation of open vs. private repeaters, as will be listed in the next ARRL Repeater Directory, should also make it easier for those new and unfamiliar to the band.

Anyone having questions about 23cm or ATV coordination may contact me at W6ORG@arrl.net

ATV Report

Tom O'Hara, W6ORG

The attempt to take over the 2.4GHz ham band by some local public safety organizations has quieted down somewhat after the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles last Summer. This may be in large part due to the response of ATV repeater owners and individuals demonstrating the heavy use of this band and the impracticality of sharing with Part 90 users.

There are 7 high site ATV repeaters which have a 2441.5 MHz FM video alternate input in addition to the 434.0AM ATV input. Also, a number of them are linked on 2417 MHz.

2398MHz is used for simplex at public service events and other wide band users. The increase in the use of 2.4GHz for point to point line of sight ATV applications is due to the easy modification of low cost Part 15 license free TV transmitters and receivers to amateur use. A PDF file map of ATV repeaters is available for download on the SCRRBA web site.

426.25MHz activity has increased by public service groups during events both for simplex and portable repeaters outputting on 1289.25. Radio control vehicles using ATV on 426.25 has also increased quite a bit. Since these applications are typically low power and low level, minimal interference from FM voice links have been noted, and the +/- 1 MHz guard band around 426.25 has minimized the interference potential to FM voice links.

Web Site & E-Mail

Gerry Walsh, KB6OOC

Back in the early part of 1999, I volunteered to try and come up with a new website layout and expand the information available on the site. As a result of my effort there was good news and bad news. The good news was that we ended up with a better looking website that had a lot more information than before. The bad news is that it didn't take me long to lose steam and its been quite awhile since the last update.

Recently, I've been using some new tools and I've been working on a new website that should be on-line by the time you read this newsletter (or shortly thereafter). I hope to be able to keep this new web site up-to-date with any new information that is relevant to our activities.

In order to communicate better with you (meeting notices, important information, etc.) we would like to know if you would prefer to receive newsletters or other information by electronic mail. This will help reduce our mailing costs and it will mean a more timely notification for you. Please drop us a note at admin@scrrba.org. An administrative person will typically manage this information (no coordination matters will be handled by this address). You may also use this address to notify us of changes to your mailing address, phone numbers, callsign, etc.

Visit our new website:

<http://www.scrrba.org>

SCRRBA General Meeting October 20, 2001

The 2001 SCRRBA General Meeting will take place on Saturday October 20th in the Galileo Hall at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA. Effective this year, the General Meeting will take place annually on the 3rd Saturday of October.

To get to Harvey Mudd College, take I-10 to Indian Hill Blvd., go North to Foothill Blvd., and travel East just less than a mile just past Dartmouth Rd.

Alternately, take I-210 East or the 57 North to the 210 East. Continue to the East end of the freeway to where it ends onto Foothill Blvd. Continue East on Foothill about 3 miles, pass Indian Hill Blvd., continue about a mile just past Dartmouth Rd.

Harvey Mudd College is on the right, behind the long brick wall. Look for the full size 20 and 40 meter beams.

Park in the lot at corner of Foothill and Dartmouth (enter off of Foothill), or along Foothill Blvd. Parking is a bit limited.

Walk southward toward Galileo Hall, which is a below ground area, and enter from the East side of the five story library (the building with the 40 and 20 meter beams).

There will be some temporary signs posted to help you locate the meeting hall from the parking area.

Be sure that you either show up or send a qualified representative. You or your representative will speak and listen for the interests of you, the "coördinee", and your systems' members. You or your representative will need to be willing to both express yourselves, and to bring back to all of your system members a report on the meeting.

Brief Meeting Agenda

Report on Completion of Transition to 20kHz Band Plan.

Sub-Band Manager Reports.

Formal Review of What it Takes to Maintain A Coordination.

Electronic Distribution of Meeting Notices and Other Important Information.

FCC Actions and Related Information.

Election of Officers.

SCRRBA

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P.O. Box 5967
Pasadena, CA. 91117-5967

<http://www.scrrba.org>

Special Meeting Notice
Saturday October 20, 2001