

BCARCC Coordinators' Report for 2024

Review: This past year has probably been the quietest yet. We seem to have reached a balance between demand for airtime and available repeaters. In fact, the amount of traffic, at least in the Lower Mainland, on all repeaters is far reduced from what it was years ago. This may be a reflection of reduced interest in using Amateur bands or a dispersion of traffic as we have so many repeaters to choose from.

We have 486 coordinated repeaters in BC.

- 252 in the 2-metre band,
- 27 in the 220 band,
- 193 in the 440 band and
- 14 at 902 and up.

Our online frequency list has received good reviews. It has now been online for over a year and gives the user the opportunity to produce frequency lists for any or all bands, any or all regions while allowing the user to sort by any of the columns. Users may print any report by highlighting and pasting it.

Update: Only seven new repeaters have been added since the last AGM. 13 coordinations have been updated as their location or technical parameters have changed. For instance, in the North, one antenna was moved to a higher location, two Fusion repeaters will be added, a UHF link failed and major linking systems are continuously being fine-tuned.

220 band plan: Our 220-band plan is now online. Previously, we had used the RAC band plan and made some adjustments when we had to adjust for different frequencies used in Washington State. We now have a 220-band plan that accommodates both Canadian and U.S. Northwest conventions.

Objectives: Now that we are in a period of relative stability when it comes to coordinating repeaters, this is the best time to review what we have – to ensure that the data we have is accurate. We are always working on ensuring that the information we have is current and accurate. But we need outside help.

We know that many of the repeaters coordinated many years ago have not been updated for a long time. We suspect that many of them might even have been taken off the air years ago without advising BCARCC. Therefore, we need to confirm which repeaters are still on air and which are not.

Phantom repeaters: One set of repeaters that need review is “phantom repeaters”, those repeaters that were abandoned by their operators but are still on air. For example, the IPARN Network consisted of many repeaters throughout BC. Many are still on the air, now operated by new operators, but others, we suspect, are still on air but are not owned, maintained or coordinated at all. If any of these repeaters causes interference, who will fix it?

Feedback needed: I am asking each BCARCC member and each Club to ensure that their own club repeaters are listed correctly and that all the repeaters in their area are on the air and listed correctly. Your feedback and corrections are most important so that we can meet our objectives. Please send any feedback to coordinator@bcarcc.org.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank our area coordinators, Rob Kuse VE7BKU, coordinator for the Lower Mainland; Richard Reeves VE7NT, coordinator for the Interior; Frank VanderZande VE7AV coordinator for the North and Al Muir VE7BEU coordinator for the 6- and 10-meter bands. for their work and support.

Prepared by George Merchant VE7GM, Chief Coordinator