

Coordinators' Report for 2020

This past year was far busier than in previous years. The installation of digital repeaters has really taken off as you can see by the repeater count. There have been no problems, interference reports or other challenges.

As indicated last year, we are in the middle of an evolution in this part of our Hobby: Digital technology has given us new tools but our band plans and policies have yet to catch up, a problem which is not unusual in other technological areas. And I appreciate that the Council will consider new narrow-band band plans and further policy changes.

The use of repeaters in our Hobby has changed over the past few years: In the early days, Amateur Radio clubs installed repeaters as a means of providing the "glue" that kept the club members together between meetings. Now, repeaters reached a saturation point in satisfying this need. Repeater traffic in the Lower Mainland is at an all time low as traffic is dispersed among the many new repeaters.

In the Lower Mainland, most of the current installations are initiated by experimenters who are introducing the ham community to various digital modes. This is a healthy evolution, one that should be encouraged. But BCARCC needs to be more capable of supporting these new repeater operators and I hope that new policies and band plans will help.

I wish to thank all those who supported me during this past year, particularly Ed Frazer VE7EF, Alan Nourse VE7MET, BC Interior coordinator and Rob Kuse, Lower Mainland coordinator. I also wish to thank the many repeater sponsors who diligently with us to complete coordinations, sometimes following many initial emails.

Submitted by: George Merchant VE7GM, Chief Coordinator

Coordinated Repeaters in British Columbia as of 20 May 2020

Mode	Number of repeaters
NXDN	1
MMDVM	1
Freestar	1
FM/P25	4
FM/NXDN	1
FM/DMR	1
FM/C4FM	34
FM analog	424
D-STAR/DMR	1
D-STAR	11
ATV	4
Unknown digital	2
Total	491