

CCARC Spectrum Use and New Technology Committee

Report for Oct 2008 CCARC Meeting

Bob Witte KØNR

The objective of the committee assigned at the previous CCARC meeting was to identify a way to make available Digital Repeater Frequency Pairs on the 2 Meter band. The committee met via email, brainstormed some ideas and discussed the merits of each of them. In the end, we did not arrive at a recommendation that will accomplish this objective.

The basic problem is that along the front range cities, the existing set of 2 Meter repeater pairs are coordinated and in use, leaving us grid-locked with little room to maneuver.

For documentation purposes, this is a condensed list of ideas that were given consideration and the issues associated with each idea.

Item	Description	Issues
1	Revoke the coordination of paper repeaters	This is outside the scope of the Committee but should be pursued anyway
2	Reduce the number of Shared Non-Protected (SNP) repeater pairs	These pairs are believed to be used along the front range and they provide a place for deployment of repeaters without coordination
3	Combine the Emergency / Special Event (ESE) pairs with the SNP pairs and reduce the total number of pairs available for these uses	The ESE pairs are used by ARES organizations for emergency use
4	Require existing repeaters to "trade in" an analog pair to receive coordination of a digital pair	This trade-in potential already exists, however most repeater groups are interested in additional repeater pairs so they don't displace existing analog users
5	Re-shuffle the statewide allocation of repeater pairs to optimize their usage, hopefully freeing up pairs in congested areas	This is extremely difficult to implement as many repeaters would likely have to change frequencies.
6	Ask clubs with multiple 2M pairs to assess whether current repeater usage justifies the redundant repeater coverage	Repeater clubs are not motivated to free up pairs.
7	Squeeze in digital repeaters in between analog repeater channels	Although some of ICOM's marketing literature implies that this is possible, this really doesn't work. The best documented technical information has been done by the Utah VHF Society http://utahvhfs.org/dstar.html