



# HAM RADIO NEWS & VIEWS



LENOIR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

MARCH 1987

## RAMBLIN' ROUND:

Novices and Technicians! Take Note! There have been some major rulemakings by the FCC in response to petitions that greatly affect your privileges! These new rules go into effect at 0001 UTC on March 21, 1987, A Friday night. One of the most striking features of this new rulemaking is the adding of phone privileges on certain bands along with new privileges of digital modes, FM modes, etc. This is a sweeping change in the rules for Novices, as never before has a Novice been able to enjoy these modes (since the inception of the Novice Class license back in the early 50's).

See last page for a complete rundown of the ARRL news-bulletin (ARRL Bulletin Nr 13 from ARRL Headquarters), which is being quoted in its entirety.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have mixed feelings about the new rules granting certain privileges to Novice class holders. In the beginning (yes, I was there shortly after the Novice Class license was instituted, getting my license in 1953), the main focal point for establishing the Novice class was to allow aspirants to ham radio a method to get on the air, using their new skills in morse code and basic theory, to become more proficient by actual on-the-air experience on their path to a higher class license.

Many, getting their Novice class licenses, did indeed go on to upgrade to Technician, General, or all the way to Extra, but probably just as many got discouraged with the 13 WPM code requirement or the more advanced theory and stagnated there in the Novice frequencies/modes, some letting their licenses to expire never more to darken the ham radio bands. And this is sad.

Next, the FCC adopted the incentive-licensing structure to encourage more hams to study and move up to the next or higher grade licenses, gaining more privileges and prestige, all the time increasing their electronic theory and morse code prowess. It might be interesting to note here that the FCC accomplished this feat by taking away certain privileges (frequencies and modes) from General class and higher licensees in order to make you work to get those same privileges back! (Those of us who were Generals had already earned those privileges!). Oh well, such is progress (?).

## 1987 L.A.R.C. OFFICERS:

James Bradshaw, N4NIN, President  
Mike Cowick, N4FAX, Vice-President  
Jewel Cowick, N4NJD, Secretary-Treasurer



Now, we have what appears to be a sort of anti-incentive license movement afoot. No longer must the Novice Class licensee move up to gain more...he just has to wait for the FCC to legislate him new bands, modes, etc....for free!

Well, I said I had mixed feelings and I do. On the one hand, it would appear to be discouraging a Novice to move up. But on the other hand, times have changed! Consider the new technology (computers which have facilitated easier RTTY, PACKET radio which is still in the pioneering stages but moving fast, etc.) and the new inductees which will be needed in amateur radio to take advantage of a new age. Where do these new "inductees" come from? Basically, from the Novice ranks! And how can they tell if they want to explore these new modes such as digital, FM, and so forth if they can't get exposed to it? Hmmm...maybe the FCC and ARRL know what they are doing after all!

Then consider the population of our present bands. The Novice bands have always been crowded, much of the time competing with foreign broadcasts (40M), poor skip conditions and early closings of some bands (80M), bad propagation and "dead-bands" depending on the sun-spot cycle (15M & 10M). No wonder some got discouraged and didn't upgrade on a timely basis. But especially, let us not forget that there are many foreign factions that would love to have our amateur bands and the business factions that would love to have 220 meters for their business use. Some of us older hams have shunned certain bands and modes...giving even more rise for the "outsiders" to lobby for our frequencies. Hence, the saying "Use it or lose it!" is not just an idiom, it is a necessity to preserve what we have. These new operators (the Novices with the new privileges) will do just that...help populate the frequencies that we older hams have, for one reason or another, seen fit to ignore. Who knows, it may even encourage us to join them!

So where do I sit on this subject? Or who cares, for that matter? Personally, it will aid me because my son is still a Novice and I will now be able to have a QSO with him by voice instead of CW on certain frequencies. But that is being selfish on my part. Only time will tell if the FCC has made a wise choice in this latest rulemaking.

(Opposing viewpoints and/or comments to this editorial are welcomed and will be published if so desired).

Until next month, 73

---Jim, N4EUX



### HAPPENINGS/TIDBITS:

Mike, AA4TW, has returned from Virginia Beach with a couple of trophies! In the early part of last month (February), he traveled to the FCC exam offices and stood the examinations for three commercial licenses. Successfully passing two of them, he is justifiably proud (and so are we!). Way to go, Mike! Incidentally, Mike has recently been appointed as Public Information Assistant for ARRL and he keeps me informed on the latest ARRL and FCC changes and updates to the rules (See last page on new NOVICE/TECHNICIAN privileges effective March 1st!).

### NOTICES/COMING EVENTS:

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Lenoir ARC will be Monday, March 2nd, since the first day of the month falls on a Sunday (again!). The meeting will be at the regular meeting place: Blackwelder Hospital, 2nd floor. Seems like the calendar has been against us for those that can't attend on a Monday, but I believe that will change with the April meeting. This item of the meetings recently always falling on a Monday was discussed at the last meeting but no-one was able to come up with a better idea of having the meetings on the 1st day of the month unless the 1st fell on a holiday or weekend. Therefore the meetings, for the time being, will remain as-is and we will just have to ride out the calendar anomalies.

Without wishing to become redundant, I would like to remind those of you that have not paid your annual club dues either in person or by mailing to our club secretary, Jewel Cowick, N4NJD, that you may do so by either remitting at a club meeting or by mailing to Jewel at 1202 Cottrell Hill Road, Lenoir, N.C., 28645. If it is your intent to remain in the club, please take care of this small matter soon. There are several reasons, but to name a few are the paperwork involved, your club status, AND we need the dues to offset the cost of mailing you your newsletter (since the cost of getting the newsletter to you each month represents a third of a "full-member" dues and a half of an "associate member" dues. Postage adds up! Thanks for your attention to this matter.

The next major hamfests within 100 miles of Lenoir for the months of March and April are:

March 21 & 22.....Charlotte, N.C.

April.....None

Time to start thinking about Field Day. Some of our newer hams in the area may not be familiar with what Field Day is all about. Basically, it is a test of an individual, club, or other group to sharpen and hone their emergency communications prowess by (mostly) going out in the wilds and using emergency power such as generators, batteries, etc. to contact as many different stations



on as many different bands as possible for score points. While the basic aim is to test your emergency equipment, the affair becomes a contest, sanctioned by the ARRL and the FCC. Side benefits include the good food that is usually available plus the comraderie and fellowship by participating with your local and national hams.

Normally, the Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club of Morganton sponsors a Field Day event for the area hams. While, the event was not participated by W.P. last year, it will be this year and we have been invited to join them in this function. Therefore, make ready to join in with the Morganton group in this important event. Dates and times (June of each year) will be announced in a later newsletter. (Thanks to Joe, W4RMP, for this information).

#### CLASSIFIED:

WANTED: Heathkit DX-100 transmitter. Must be in good condition and reasonably priced. Mike, AA4TW, 758-4170. (2)

FOR SALE: Panasonic underdash mount FM radio with built-in eight track tape player. Excellent condition. \$35. Two "Big Brute" 10 oz speakers available at \$10. more. Ruby, KA4CLI, 758-5320. (2)

FOR SALE: Admiral 12" black & white portable TV. Almost new. \$50. Jim, N4EUX, 758-5320. (2)

FOR SALE: Regency HR-2A six channel two meter mobile rig. Has several crystals installed. Needs a tune-up but makes a good monitor as is. \$40. Jim, N4EUX, 758-5320. (2)

WANTED: AM transmitter with at least 100 watts output. Also, a Viking Johnson 1KW matchbox. Mike, AA4TW, 758-4170. (1)

WANTED: Items to be included in the classified section. Look around to see if you have anything of an electronics nature you would like to unload...ahem, sell. Someone just may be looking for that item you don't need or want anymore. (2)

Note: To place ads in this section, please be sure I have the ad copy in hand no later than the 20th of each month since the newsletter will be produced and distributed just prior to the monthly club meeting on the first day of each month. Place your ad on a 3 X 5 index card and either give to me at a club meeting, mail to me at home (address; on masthead), or call me at home.

An ad placed in this section will automatically run for two months unless ad is cancelled earlier by person placing the ad. Thanks-  
Jim.

## FACT FORUM

"Paris's best-known monument, the Eiffel Tower, was saved from demolition in 1909 because there was an antenna, of great importance to French radio telegraphy, mounted at the top of the nearly 1,000-foot-high structure."

(Reprinted from ISAAC ASIMOV'S BOOK OF FACTS. New York: Bell Publishing Company, 1979. p. 82).

## MEXICAN DELIGHTS:

### Guacamole (pronounced wah-ka-moley) Dressing

- 1 Large Avocado, peeled, seeded, & cut into pieces
- 1 Small onion, quartered
- 2 Teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 Teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/4 Teaspoon red pepper sauce
- 1/4 Teaspoon salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon sugar

Place avocado, onion, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce, red pepper sauce, salt and sugar in food processor or blender. Process until mixture is blended. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 1 cup.

Anonymous





ARRL BULLETIN NR 13 FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS  
Newington CT February 10, 1987  
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

FCC today released the report and order in FR Docket 86 161, Novice Enhancement. The rules become effective 0001 UTC March 21, 1987, a Friday night, local time. Specific rules changes are - -

1. NOVICES and TECHNICIANS may operate 28.1 through 28.5 MHZ, using CW and Digital Modes from 28.1 to 28.3 and CW, Digital (see editors note below), and Voice modes from 28.3 to 28.5 MHZ. NOVICE and TECHNICIAN control operators are limited to 200 watts output in this band, but other licensees are not similarly limited.

2. NOVICES may use up to 25 watts in the 222.10 through 223.91 MHZ band, with all authorized emissions.

3. NOVICES may use up to 5 watts in the 1270 through 1295 MHZ band, with all authorized emissions.

4. No amateur station at which the control operator or station licensee holds a NOVICE class operator license shall be in repeater, auxiliary, or beacon operation.

5. Two examiners will be required to administer future NOVICE exams, which shall consist of 30 questions. FCC Form 610 will be revised to provide for certification by two VE's.

6. Present NOVICE and TECHNICIAN licensees are GRANDFATHERED into the new privileges.

7. Element 3 is divided into two parts, 3A and 3B, with each examination to consist of 25 questions. Present TECHNICIAN licensees will be given credit for having passed both elements. In the future, upgrades to TECHNICIAN will only have to pass element 3A and future TECHNICIANS upgrading to General will have to pass both elements 1B, 13 WPM, and element 3B.

The complete text of the new rules will appear in April QST.

(Editors note: To correct an error, Bulletin Nr. 13 was amended to 13A, as transmitted by W1AW, removing the word "digital" from the authorized modes in the 28.3 to 28.5 MHZ segment.)