



LENOIR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



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NEWS AND VIEWS

This month, to "relieve" you of my meanderings, I am pleased to present an editorial from your newsletter associate editor, Charlie, KB4SGO. His comments herewith:

"Well, my fingernails have grown back now. I had never been inclined to bite my fingernails until about six weeks ago. Let me explain how I lapsed into that vulgar behavior...

It's important to realize that I'm not just a novice---I'm a "brand new" novice! That entitles me to certain privileges, like asking absolutely stupid questions about equipment and hounding my fellow amateur radio operators to help me set up my rig. I got a used Drake TR-4C at the Charlotte hamfest and twisted the arm of our good Jim (N4EUX) to help me put up an antenna and check out the equipment. My license came by mail on the same day I got my radio (I'm KB4SGO).

Well, on 3/27, a little after 9:30 PM, I made my first radio contact, by previous arrangement with (you guessed it) my good friend Jim. Now it's only fair to tell you that even though we had discussed our future contact at some length over the telephone, I was still as nervous as a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. In fact, I bit off two fingernails while the tubes warmed up! Jim and I had agreed that if things went completely haywire, we'd meet on our AT&T's. I recognized his call and responded with mine (while biting off another fingernail!). Jim started sending a message and I was doing my first copy, still so nervous that I could hardly hold the pencil. At the end of his transmission, I looked over what I had copied and it made absolutely no sense at all (bit off another fingernail). I figured, 'Well, maybe I can send better than I can receive'. I sent his call a couple of times and identified myself and explained (in CW) that I hadn't understood anything he had sent.

Jim came back, and to my amazement, I actually copied a couple of words that made sense...but not enough to understand the message. I bit off a couple more fingernails and reached for the telephone. We got the whole thing straightened out over the phone and Jim told me that I had done pretty well, but had made a few minor mistakes, one of which was that I had been calling him 'NVEUX' instead of 'N4EUX'. Also, I forgot to sign off. Other than that, and the fact that I hadn't been able to copy anything and didn't have any fingernails left, I felt pretty good about the whole

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER !!

thing.

I've made another contact or two since, with a little more success and a little less nervousness. I am beginning to realize that the little red book I'd studied to pass my novice test didn't tell me everything there was to know about "practical" radio contact. The thing that threw me the most, I think, was all the background noise from other operators [QRM] that kept interrupting my concentration. Also, I've just got to learn all those abbreviations, of which there are about a blue million, some of which don't make any sense at all. It seems you can't just say, 'Good nite'...you've got to say '_ _ ... _ _' Oh well, I'll get it eventually. _ _ ... _ _ y'all."

---Charlie, KB4SG0

HAPPENINGS/TIDBITS

Ray Suddreth, better known as KB4QCX, has joined our ranks in the LARC. Ditto for Dr. David Milsaps, WA4JPT. Welcome Ray and David! Keep your eyes peeled on the newsletter, as it will remind you of each month's meetings and other items of interest.

Just after the mailing of the last newsletter, Mike received his new advanced call, KJ4TM, and is now looking for his Extra-class call in the mail. Sorry Mike, that's as high as you can go, so you will have to be satisfied with the next call you get. Hi. For those of you not in the know...Mike is the LARC Public Relations chairman and he is doing a fine job spreading "ham radio goodwill". Thanks Mike!

Our newly founded club is not foundering, but in case anyone wondered, cash donations to the club treasury will be most welcome. Or, in lieu of cash, any equipment donations will be gladly accepted also (which may be either used by the club or sold for cash to go to the treasury). The reasons are obvious...in the next few months we will incur some expense with antennas, cavities, and miscellaneous purchases for our proposed repeater and other operating expenses. It would be nice to "have a treasury" after these expected outlays. Hi. A donation is strictly optional, of course, and will in no wise cast a shadow if you don't.

Some of you have already heard, there is a docket before the FCC concerning enhanced Novice privileges. This subject has been kicked around for a number of years but it appears that an FCC action may be imminent. Therefore, an article appearing in the CVRA-SERA Repeater Journal (May 1986, Pg 3) is being reproduced

and attached as the last page of this newsletter. Also, on the same page, is an article referencing possible FCC action on repeater coordinating. Two timely articles...read them!

NOTICES/COMING EVENTS

SPECIAL NOTICE: An amateur radio examination will be conducted Saturday, JUNE 31st, 8 PM, at the home of Arvin Fowler, K4RP, in Valdese. Arvin is a VEC and his team will be offering exams for all classes of licenses (Novice thru Extra). Mike, KJ4TM, has assembled an entourage to meet in the parking lot of Sky City in Lenoir at 7 PM for the convoy to Arvin's QTH. The fee for the exam is \$4.25. Now's your chance to upgrade without a lot of traveling or "hamfest crowds". For any additional info, contact Mike, KJ4TM, on 2 meters or call him at 758-4170 (evenings).

Don't forget! The next regular meeting of LARC is June 2nd, Monday, 7:30 PM, at Blackwelder Memorial Hospital (2nd floor). We will be conducting the first reading of the proposed Constitution & Bylaws of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club...so please plan to attend and let's hear your views during the discussion at this important meeting. This will be the first reading & discussion of the drafted bylaws. Voting to accept the draft, or revised draft, will take place at the July meeting.

Also, right after the June 2nd club meeting will be the Breakfast Club (BC) meeting the first Saturday in June (the 7th). I don't know what kind of attendance the BC had for the May meeting, since I was out of town at the Greenville Hamfest that particular morning, but I will be there (TASTEE FREEZ) at 9PM and I hope you will too!

Members! If you have an item of interest you'd like to see printed within these pages, feel free to bring to my attention. I can't read everything or hear everything, so I am dependent on your input. News, gossip, technical stuff, guest editorial, etc., concerning ham radio, computers, repeaters or (???)...let's hear from you!

The next major hamfests within 100 miles of Lenoir for the months of June and July are:

June.....None

July.26,27.....Asheville, N.C.

LATE NEWS ITEM: Check your next (July) newsletter closely for a possible announcement of a new novice OR general class course to be offered at CCC & TI. It will be on short notice, so be prepared!

CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Fifty foot (or taller) antenna tower; Kenwood HF station monitor; Kenwood phone patch; late model 2-Meter base station; 20 amp (or heavier) power supply. James Bradshaw, N4NIN, 754-6119. (1)

WANTED: Johnson Viking Ranger or Globe King Transmitter in good condition. Reasonable. Mike McCoy, KJ4TM, 758-4170. (1)

WANTED: Ads to be placed in this section. Whatcha got to sell or want to buy?? It's free and the only requirement is that it must be electronic in nature... Ed. (1)

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 Route 7, Box 481, Lenoir, N.C. 28645, or call me at home, 758-5320.

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

Novice Privileges Enhanced - Repeater Coordination

— by Wayne C. Williams, Journal Editor

LATE REPORT... The Journal has learned from Ray Kowalski, chief of the Personal Radio Bureau that the Commission has adopted the Report & Order on Docket 85-22. He was unable to comment much at press time, although he did say that one of the main elements dealt with an uncoordinated repeater being responsible in case of interference problems against a coordinated repeater. The complete text of the Report and order should be available by the time you read this.

CONCERNING the Novice Enhancement proposal. He said the Commission adopted an NPRM, assigned Docket 86-161 at their meeting April 18th. Comment period is by July 16th and reply comments due by August 20th. Kowalski said the NPRM followed generally the proposals of Novice Enhancement which were submitted by the ARRL, and Dr. Albert D'Errico, Jr. He said the Commission might be able to issue a report and order on this docket by the end of the fiscal year. See two stories on this page concerning both dockets backgrounds.

Enhanced Novice Privileges

Last year, the ARRL proposed a sweeping change in the FCC rules to give more privileges to the Novice class operator. The FCC assigned the proposal a Docket number, and word was that the commission was due to act on the proposal by mid-April.

In essence, the ARRL sponsored document proposed that Novices be: Given 28.1-28.3 Mhz in the 10-meter band with type A1A, J2A, F1B, and J2B emissions (CW and data, 1200 baud max). Also 28.3-28.5 mhz: type A1A, J2A, and J3E emissions (CW and SSB).

The League also proposed the 220-225 mhz band with all voice and data modes (including CW), with maximum of 25-watts output for Novices. However they suggested no repeater sponsoring or ownership by Novices. (They could use them, but not sponsor them).

Privileges similar to 220 were also requested for the 1240 mhz band for Novices. The 1246-1260 portion, consistent with the new band plan, with a power limit of 5 watts output.

Later in the year, a large group, headed by Dr. Albert D'Errico, Jr., N4INY of Louisiana proposed to the Commission and had acceptance of giving some of 6-meters to Novice operators. In their proposal, to add Novice privileges consisting of CW USB and AM modes to the frequency segment of 200 khz between 50.3 and 50.5 mhz. They suggested a limit of 15 watts output power.

Presently Novice operation is limited to 50 khz in the 80-meter band, 50 khz in the 40-meter band, 100 khz in the 15-meter band and 100 khz in the 10-meter band. Morse Code (CW) is the only permissible operating mode.

The ARRL as well as the 6-meter group mentioned in their proposals the importance of making the Novice license more attractive as an entry level into Amateur Radio.

The ARRL in their proposal said, "To attract young people who are interested in computers and digital communication into Amateur Radio, we must offer them digital privileges. Adding RTTY and Packet radio privileges on 10 meters will accomplish this."

As for the 220 band, the ARRL allowed as how the FCC has indicated the tieup of 220 due to a joint long-range study by the FCC and NTIA of the 216-225 mhz spectrum. In the meantime, the ARRL said, there should be some way found to give Novices some FM/repeater privileges so their numbers can be put to use in performing public service communications.

The 6-meter Novice Enhancement proposal said: "During a significant portion of the sunspot cycle, propagation conditions are so poor that 10M and 15M are virtually useless. Moreover, 40M is plagued by foreign broadcast interference and 80M is currently facing increasing competition and interference from deregulated Canadian telephone in the 3.70-3.75 mhz Novice segment." "Thus the fact that so many Novices are more discouraged by frustration than they are encouraged by challenge should prove no surprise."

Both groups agreed that the attractiveness of the Novice license (therefore to Amateur Radio) together with its incentive to upgrade to higher class licenses would best be realized by granting increased frequency privileges and exposure to other operating modes besides telegraphy.

Repeater Coordination Docket 85-22

Docket 85-22, commonly called the Repeater Coordination docket has been a long time in the works with the FCC. Over the past 15 years, many repeater councils have sprung up across the nation. Many are doing good jobs. The problem facing them was no national plan, endorsed by the FCC to pattern their policies and coordination after. Each group was on their own, mostly abiding to similar band plans endorsed by the ARRL. In many instances the ARRL endorsed band plans were too late and regional groups had already set themselves up the best way possible for their area.

Now comes the "Repeater Coordination" docket. In their proposal the Commission invited comments from the Amateur Community as to how they would like to see this thing of Repeater Coordination set up hopefully on a nationwide basis.

Some of the questions they posed: "Did we want a National Coordinator." Apparently all groups including the ARRL were against this.

"Did we want mandatory coordination of repeaters." Everyone agrees basically... this we do.

Should open repeaters have priority over closed repeaters as far as spectrum space is concerned, and several other important facets which would greatly assist Repeater Councils such as CVRASERA.

In the meantime, a "National Repeater Council" has been organized by various repeater councils across the country. The ARRL has agreed to assist in setting up a national database system to provide precise information to anyone desiring. The ARRL is also assisting and publishing a "Frequency Coordinator's newsletter."

Anything the FCC does with docket 85-22 will be better than what we have had to work with over the past 15 years. Councils have found that putting "gentlemanlike" pressure to get amateurs to coordinate and solve problems just isn't working as well as it use to.

We have to wait and see just what will happen, but I feel the Commission is tired of getting mired down with repeater complaints that the Repeater Councils could be handling if their "powers" were defined by the Commission. Maybe docket 85-22 will do just that.