

# CIRCLE CITY COMMUNICATOR

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APRIL 1987  
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## FCC RULE CHANGES

In January the FCC announced numerous rule changes, all of which will benefit many hams. These changes are effective March 21st and encompass three major areas in the rules:

1. NOVICE ENHANCEMENT. Novice and Technician privileges in addition to existing ones have been granted as follows:

A. In the 10 meter band, the sub-band is increased to 28.1-28.5 MHz. CW and digital is authorized on 28.1-28.3 MHz. Phone is authorized on 28.3-28.5 MHz. Power limit is 200 Watts PEP output.

B. In the 1 1/4 meter band privileges are granted from 222.10-223.91 MHz. Power limit is 25 Watts PEP output. Transmissions in this band may be retransmitted by a repeater on frequencies in the 1 1/4 meter band but not in the sub-band.

C. In the 23 cm band privileges are granted from 1270-1295 MHz. Power limit is 5 Watts PEP output.

D. Two examiners with General or higher licenses will be required to administer the Novice examination and the number of questions will increase to 30. Procedures will otherwise remain the same.

2. Examinees will now be able to receive a certificate of successful completion, valid for one year from date of issue, for written examination elements in the same manner as certificates are currently issued for morse code examination elements. This means that a Technician who fails the 13 WPM code test can take the written test for Advanced and get credit for passing it for one year following the examination.

3. Examination element 3 will be divided into two parts: 3A and 3B. Part 3A will be given for the Technician and 3B will be given for the General license. Current holders of Technician licenses will be given credit for both 3A and 3B. The difficulty of the elements will not change from the current Part 3. The intent is to provide questions more meaningful to each of the license classes affected (why should a Technician candidate answer questions about General HF frequency sub-bands and vice-versa). The number of questions in

Parts 3A and 3B will change, but I don't have the exact numbers.

Look for further details in future issues of QST. They will appear in possibly the March, but more likely the April issue (due to publishing lead times).

73's, John, KD7XG

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thanks to the Riverside club CNARC now has a duplexer for our new repeater. The Riverside County Amateur Radio Association voted to lease CNARC their emergency repeater for the sum of \$12.00 per year. WD6DGI, W6TKV, KD7XG and WA6BFH attended the March general membership meeting and brought this issue to the board. By overwhelming demand the general membership voted to lease this duplexer to us for an indefinite time period. On behalf of CNARC thanks to everyone that helped in the securing of this duplexer, your efforts are VERY much appreciated.

If you are hearing the San Diego machine on our repeater pair, my suggestion is simply turn up your squelch. I have increased my squelch level from 1/4 to at least 3/4, sometimes depending on ducting even full scale. I do not hear the San Diego machine at all! Try it, you may find that it works for you as it works for me. Thanks to KJ6B for a super program in March. The videos were very interesting and I look forward to having Bob provide videos for another program in the future.

KB6KDZ informed me earlier this month that he will be moving to Atlanta due to a job transfer. We will miss Frank and I wish him and his family the best of luck at their new home. Rumer has it that Frank will keep his current callsign after he relocates... So look for him on 20 Meters.

WA6BFH will be speaking to us at the April meeting on T-hunting. This will be an interesting presentation especially after we participated in CNARC's first T-hunt.

As just a reminder the March of Dimes walk-a-thon is just around the corner. Please keep this in mind, CNARC will need everyone's help. See you at the April meeting.

73's, Mark, KB6GNZ

**GROWING PAINS**

Most Southern California hams are aware of the TRW Swapmeet. Many, however, are not aware of the Southern California Digital Communications Council (SCDCC) meeting just down the street following the swapmeet. The January meeting was a milestone in Southern California packet, but not without some gnashing of teeth and rending of clothing; the weak-hearted should not have attended. The work begun at that meeting is not finished either. It seems as if two groups of packet users have emerged: the keyboard users who type real-time to others and the BBS/mailbox users who transfer files or store/forward messages. Some members of each group blame the other group for crowded conditions, continuous retries, and timeouts that occur when the frequencies are under high use. The frustrations that have been building up over the past few months finally erupted at the meeting and the controversial "C word" (coordination) was the primary topic of discussion.

Each side has cause for complaint. The proximate cause of most problems, though, is not BBS versus keyboard. The root of most problems is improper TNC parameter settings and lack of consideration that packet frequencies must be shared with other stations. You can expect to see more in this column about how to coexist with others.

Back to the meeting. What was accomplished? Several things: (1) Coexistence problems are real and getting worse. (2) The SCDCC needs to coordinate how the frequencies set aside for packet by TASMA should be used. (3) The SCDCC Technical Committee will provide findings and recommendations for a frequency plan at the March 1987 SCDCC meeting.

Some might accuse the SCDCC of not making any decisions at the January meeting. Not so! The decision to recognize the problem and then to do something about it was a major one considering the hands-off experimental philosophy of the past. Some of the best minds in digital radio are on the Technical Committee. I am sure they will find the best possible solution.

Sometimes controversy is good for an organization. In the case of the January SCDCC meeting, I think it was time to clear the air. Packet is merely experiencing some growing pains as it matures.

John, KD7XG, 1st VP

**NEXT MEETING**

The next general membership meeting of the Corona/Norco Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday April 6th. at 7:30 Pm. at the Southwest Savings and Loan in the Corona Mall. This month our Sec/Tres. will talk about T-Hunting tips and techniques. Plan to attend and pick up your copy of the current club roster.

**NET CONTROL**

Scientists scanning the universe for radio signals from extraterrestrials have 10 million more channels to tune in on, thanks to a new computer chip developed by Stanford University graduate students.

The students developed a chip that is 40 times more powerful than current circuit boards and will be used in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence program.

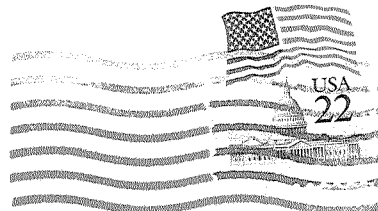
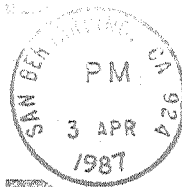
Researchers speculate that extraterrestrials might be operating pulsing radio beacons to attract attention of civilizations throughout the galaxies. "Those would be the signals our instrumentation could be programmed to find".

The search for signals is in the microwave region because researchers believe extraterrestrials would signal in the area with the least interference. The microwave region of the radio spectrum fits this criterion.

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