

RE: RM-11828

I am strongly opposed to any further enhancements to the Technician privileges. This opposition includes any band, frequency segment change or mode of operation.

The reason is that we have witnessed nothing but a consistent dumbing down of the entire licensing process over the years. What has happened to a once significant and meaningful frequency privilege has become, what appears to many to be, an extension of the Citizens Band. It is now almost embarrassing to listen to the nonsense over the repeaters as well as the portion of the 10 meter band that has already been allocated to the Technician License holder.

The ARRL is clearly only interested in the numbers. It appears to be quantity over quality. The frequency spectrum is too valuable to waste it on people who are not willing to actually learn and behave in a professional manner.

I have seen very young kids look through the study manual, go on line and take a few practice exams and pass the Technician License with flying colors. It is a "CRAM and DUMP" process that borders on being totally meaningless. A very few hours are required to achieve a passing score.

I served as a VE for many years and saw hundreds of people obtain their license and yet be next to clueless about any of the study material. This just should NOT be and, if anything, the ARRL ought to be pushing to strengthen the requirements rather than making them analogous to obtaining a license by opening a box of Cracker Jack and pulling it out.

I have always taken the SERVICE aspect of Amateur Radio very seriously and hope that we will move the licensing process for ALL Amateur License Classes to focus more on that important function.

I am truly disappointed that the ARRL would even consider endorsing any of the content in RM-11828. I know that many fellow HAMS feel the exact same way but will not take the time to share their views by offering written comments. I hope that the FCC recognizes this fact when considering any action.

Paul Drothler - WO4U