

To: Secretary
FCC
Washington, DC 20554

From: Steven R. Kelly, KC7EM
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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of)
Amateur radio)
"Vanity Call Sign")
NPRM)

PR Docket 93-305

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Follows my comments on the subject NPRM regarding amateur radio vanity call signs.

I was very pleased to see your proposal to re-issue amateur calls which are no longer in use or have never been assigned. I have felt that U.S. amateurs should have the opportunity to request a specific call for many years now.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. I suggest using a different term than "vanity" call signs. This term brings with it some negative connotations which, I believe, might diminish the enthusiasm for the program. I would favor a more general term like the "Call Sign Selection System" or "Specific Call Sign Selection Program."
2. I would like to see each ham have a call sign that indicates his/her class of license. Since the mechanism is in place for a specific pattern of call signs per class of license, let's use it. This would apply immediately to requests for specific calls, and eventually to everyone upon renewal of their present license.
3. When I send in my request for a "vanity call", I would like to have the option to pay an extra fee (\$7.00 per year, \$70.00 for 10 years) to either retain my old call or retire it from the system for the 10 year license term. This option should be renewable at the time of expiration of the license by paying the fee required at the time of expiration. As an active contester and DX'er, having this option would be very important, because even with the proposed two year delay before calls could be re-issued, once they are, a great deal of confusion could develop within the QSL bureau system. Sometimes it can take five years or more to receive QSL cards through the system. With your new computer system it should be no extra trouble to assign more than one call to an individual. To keep things relatively simple, the rules could be written to allow a maximum of two calls per amateur, provided the required fees are paid.

APPLICATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

1. Application by fax:

It would be nice if application by fax would be available from the beginning of the program. Applicants would fill out the new form 610V, include their credit card number and expiration date, and fax the application to you.

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0+9

2. Application by modem:

Your new computer system could be set up to allow an applicant who has access to a personal computer and modem to dial your computer and apply for a "vanity call". This dial-up access would be similar to a standard BBS. Once an individual connects to the BBS there would be a series of questions to answer. For example, the caller would have to give his/her current call sign at the first level, then the BBS would check the call sign database to see if the call given is in the current database. After the BBS verifies that the call given is currently in use, it continues to prompt the caller with questions like "what is your full name, address, telephone number, and date of birth". After all the questions have been answered, the computer would check the database to verify the legitimacy of the individual who has logged in. These methods could serve to insure the security of the system. Once the caller has passed all the security questions they would arrive at a menu with the following options:

- a. Check database for available calls
- b. Fill out application for a new vanity call
- c. Log Off

Make selection now__

At this point the prospective applicant can choose to search the database for a call he/she is interested in. Once a call is found, he/she can then go through the application process. The BBS would ask all the questions that will be on the new form 610V. If an applicant is allowed to keep or retire their old call by paying an extra fee, they would be asked to indicate which they prefer. The last step would be to give their credit card number and expiration date. Once the process is complete the BBS would acknowledge by sending a complete account of the transaction. The person receiving this acknowledgement would then print this information on a piece of paper and could then use the new call immediately. The FCC would still mail a new permanent license document to the applicant.

3. Application via the Internet:

If the new computer system was connected to the internet it would allow immediate access to the call sign data base from virtually every university and community college in the country. It would also give access to high, middle, and grade schools as well as the thousands of commercial companies that are currently connected to the internet. As we look to the future, the new "Information Super Highway" will be used more and more for tasks just like the "vanity call" program.

The procedure for accessing your new computer system via the internet is virtually identical to the procedure for modem access. If one has access to the internet all they need is the internet address for your computer. The TELNET procedure would be used to do a remote login to your computer. Once the individual is connected they would follow the same menu driven system used for modem dial-up access as explained above.

I recently read a posting to one of the amateur radio related news groups on the internet which indicated that the FCC was currently setting up an internet connection for their computers. I am very pleased to see this forward looking process underway.

Respectfully,


Steven R. Kelly, KC7EM