

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of the Amateur Service)
Rules to Implement a Vanity Call)
Sign System)

PR Docket No. 93-305

To: The Chief, Private Radio Bureau

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING

I am amateur radio operator AA5UO licensed since 1967. Here are my comments IN FAVOR of the proposed rulemaking allowing vanity callsigns for amateur radio operators with suggested modifications. The Commission's plan should be implemented as soon as practical.

There should be two classes of vanity callsigns: regular and special event.

REGULAR VANITY CALLSIGNS

Since there are a limited number of preferred callsigns, allocation of regular vanity callsigns should be prioritized based on current amateur standing: License level and continuous years of service.

A minimum license level and minimum years of service attained by the requestor should be used as a basis for granting a vanity callsign. The minimum license levels should be General and Tech Plus. The minimum years of service should be 5 years.

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Vanity callsigns should be granted to the following groups in the following order and offering periods:

1. Group 1: A three month exclusive period for all amateurs who wish to recover a previously held callsign that is not currently assigned or otherwise made invalid by intervening rules changes.
2. Group 2: A three month period for Extra class licensees with 20 years or more of continuous service, plus group 1.
3. Group 3: A three month period for Extra class licensees with 5 to 20 years of continuous service, Advanced class licensees with 20 years or more of service, plus groups 1 and 2.
4. Group 4: A three month period for Advanced class licensees with 5 to 20 years of continuous service, General/Tech Plus class licensees with 20 years or more of service, plus groups 1, 2 and 3.
5. Group 5: A three month period for General/Tech Plus class licensees with 5 to 20 years of continuous service plus groups 1, 2, 3 and 4.

After the initial 15 months vanity callsigns may be requested by any amateur with General/Tech Plus or higher license and a minimum of 5 years in the amateur service.

The number in the callsign shall indicate the callsign region of the address of residence of the requestor at the time of the request except for Group 1 requests. See Group 1, above.

An amateur can hold only one regular US callsign at a time, vanity or otherwise. However, see special event callsigns, below.

The fee to be charged for a special event callsign shall be fixed as determined by the Commission. However, if the applicant's original callsign is reassigned, because none of the requested callsigns were available, the application fee shall be waived. A processing fee may be retained by the Commission in this case

SPECIAL EVENT CALLSIGNS

Special event callsigns can be requested by any holder of a valid US amateur operator license.

The operating privileges of the requestor shall not be affected by the assignment of the special event callsign.

The callsign will be assigned for a period of two months, thence will revert to the pool of special event callsigns.

Special event callsigns cannot be renewed. However, the same special event callsign may be requested by the same amateur six months after the expiration of the original request period.

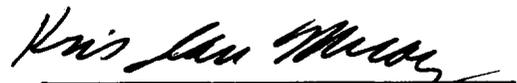
The issuance of a special event callsign shall not invalidate the requester's regular callsign. That is, a special event callsign may be held in conjunction with a regular callsign.

The fee to be charged for a special event callsign shall be fixed as determined by the Commission. However, if none of the callsigns requested on the applicant's list are available, the application fee shall be waived. A processing fee may be retained by the Commission in this case

DATABASE ACCESS

In order to have current information available that will allow applicants to select a callsign which is not already assigned, the Commission's callsign database should be made available on-line. This would be similar to the callsign database which is currently accessible via Internet on various computers around the country. By having the Commission responsible for keeping this database on-line it will have a better chance of being kept current. Such is not the case with the above mentioned alternative. Note that the Commission currently maintains an Internet accessible computer in order to allow access to the Commission's records such as Daily Digest, Public Notices and News Releases.

Respectfully submitted,


Kris I. Mraz, AA5UO

6101 Raleigh Drive
Garland, TX 75044
(214) 495-6592

March 14, 1994