

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the Record 1 of 2

Applicant Name: Robert E. Biekert

Proceeding Name: 98-143 Author Name: Robert E. Biekert

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Submission Type: CO Submission Status: ACCEPTED Viewing Status: UNRESTRICTED

Subject:

DA Number:

Exparte Late Filed: File Number:

Calendar Date Filed: 08/18/1998 5:24:16 PM Date Disseminated: Filed From: EMAIL

Official Date Filed: 08/18/1998 Date Released/Denied: Initials:

Confirmation # Date Filed:

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Subject:

DA Number:

Exparte Late Filed: File Number:

Calendar Date Filed: 08/18/1998 5:09:01 PM Date Disseminated: Filed From: EMAIL

Official Date Filed: 08/18/1998 Date Released/Denied: Initials:

Confirmation # Date Filed:

INTERNET FILING

98-143
3/8/98

I wish to comment on the FCC proposals on Amateur Radio.

I strongly support the adoption of the ARRL's proposal for Amateur Radio 'streamlining'. Using Class A,B,C,D put the United States in line with other countries Amateur Radio licensing classes.

To keep Amateur Radio alive and thriving, it is imperative to get more hams on the HF bands. I support the concept of a 5 WPM code test and a written test to move from Technician to General.

This would mean that any Technician Plus could become a General by taking the General written exam. Any "grandfathered" Technician, one who had passed the 5wpm and the combined General/Technician written test would automatically become a General.

To move to the Advanced and Extra Classes I believe that a 12 WPM code test along with the appropriate written exams should be used.

Adding questions to all element question pools covering newer technologies (Amateur Television, Packet, AMTOR, RTTY) is the right thing to do. And as technologies such as Spread Spectrum and LAN protocols become more common place in Amateur Radio, questions should also be added to the written elements.

The Novice sub-bands should be handled as proposed in the ARRL's streamlining plan. Use these Novice sub-bands to expand the current phone bands on each band.

I also believe that a VE who is a General Class Amateur should be able to give exams up through General Class, and that Advanced Class Amateur VEs should be able to give exams up through Advanced. This would ease the burden of having so many Extra Class VEs present at each test session.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Robert E. Biekert KA5GLX an Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator

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