

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the Record 1 of 1
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COMMENTS WT DOCKET 98-143

AMENDMENT OF PART 97 OF THE COMMISSIONS AMATEUR SERVICE RULES
FCC WT DOCKET 98-143

TO THE FCC;

I disagree with the trend in the manner of regulation of the Amateur Service over the past years. The anti-CW doctrine has spread through the Amateur community world-wide. They argue that the CW test is keeping the "really smart" people out of Ham Radio, holding back technical development. "Modern" people will not accept radio for what it is and expect it to be like the internet, which it is NOT.

The code-free Tech license has had a negative effect on the unity of the Amateur Radio Service. Years ago it was correctly determined that entry level voice privileges on 2 meters were detrimental to upgrading. Well now you give voice privileges on 2M with a no CW renewable ticket and voila, no upgrade. The code-free techs have not integrated into the mainstream of Amateur Radio. It appears that they are now such a potent force that you are dealing with their apologists (CQ magazine etc) by giving them everything they want.

I am appalled at the way the FCC issues callsigns. I disagree with the system of assigning out of call-area callsigns. It is very distracting especially on the VHF bands. It really irked me to have the FCC issue the same kind of calls to NO-CODERS and Generals and sticking the Novices and Tech+ classes with 2X3 calls. There is a callsign penalty for being a Novice/Tech+.

The anti-CW force aided by the FCC will drag anyone into Amateur Radio, qualified or not. The (so called) written (multiple guess) exams are a joke because you can buy the questions anywhere. Those that are selling the questions are always the ones wanting to change the rules. Adding more questions to the test will not take the place of the COMMITMENT needed to learn the code. People are not sticking with Amateur Radio because they have put LESS into it. The Novice Class died because you side tracked them with NO-CODE. It is not Amateur Radio's fault that society is lazy and lives by the lowest common denominator. The FCC, having listened to the anti-CW crowd, has permitted the influx of a group that is not going to upgrade. They will poison Amateur Radio by having the FCC again corrupt licensing to raise the "self esteem" of the under-achievers.

If anything you should keep the Novice and get rid of the NO-CODE license, which wasted a block of good callsigns. Vanity privileges should be reserved for Advanced and Extras. The CW/DATA bands should be enlarged at the expense of voice. Cramming the ham bands with brain

dead phone operators to keep commercial interests away is never going to make Amateur Radio better. When you license people who are accustomed to breaking the rules (CB-ers) enforcement problems will get worse.

NNNN