

N8UGW

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1 September 1998

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Room 222
Washington DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 98-143

Dear Sir:

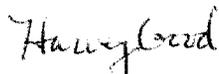
This letter is to inform you of my opinions regarding the Morse Code issue that is surfacing within the ranks of amateur radio.

As a so-called "No Code" Technician, I joined the amateur radio ranks because I was not interested in learning the code; and since, I have found it a very difficult task to learn and try to master in my latter years. I strongly believe that the requirement for code should be optional rather than mandatory. As radio has progressed over the years; technologically speaking, it's reliability has overcome the need for, "when you can't get through by any other means, use Morse Code." Like anything else that has become antiquated, those that wish to operate code within the bands and frequencies set aside for that mode of operation, should do so; but, allow those who have taken the effort to learn and pass the theory tests for the phone bands be allowed to and enjoy the hobby, rather than being restricted by its traditions. Tradition is all well and good if put in its own place. The present and the future of amateur radio communications must hold the interest of all and not a select few, or all that will be left are the silent keys and the internet.

Personally speaking, I would like to have the phone privileges of a general class radio operator and I would expect to learn and be tested on its theory. But, in turn, I am definitely not interested in the code!!!

I would hope that if you receive a fair number of comments regarding this, that you would at least consider making code a class option rather than s mandatory across the board issue. As much as I would like to progress in amateur radio, I don't believe I should be restricted by an antiquated system.

Sincerely yours,



Harvey Good, N8UGW

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