

September 10 1998

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FCC MAIL ROOM

TO: FCC Secretary
Magalie Roman Salas
Office Of The Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the matter of 1998 biennial Regulatory Review--Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules, FCC WT Docket 98-143.

COMMENT: It is believed that reducing the number of classes of license will not have any effect as far as getting new Amateur Radio Operators. By eliminating both the Novice and Tech-Plus class and eliminating the five word per minute code test will have very little effect as far as enticing the young ones to enter into our hobby. The five words per minute code test is very easy. It is the higher speeds that confuse the young ones. As we know that in testing on the Morse Code, there are two character speeds. Depending who give the test. (Slow Farnsworth-15 WPM and fast Farnsworth 18 WPM). There is another factor to consider about Morse Code and that is that many of Amateur Radio Operators are at the age where it is difficult for them to concentrate and have difficulty in that sense.

EVERYTHING GOING DIGITAL: With the advent of Internet, many of the Amateur Radio Operators use that means of communication as they can go WORLD-WIDE without much trouble. Whereas, in Amateur Radio, it involves a lot greater expense than it does with a computer. There is one capability in Amateur Radio that can give us some diversion and that is the USE OF PACKET RADIO. Although there are many "DIGIPEATERS" listed, there don't seem to be many that are linked, so that they can go some distance.

In conclusion, I would like to say, that unless something is done very soon, that the Amateur Service may lose some of their frequencies. We certainly hope that the Amateur Radio Service does not end up as the Citizens Band with no license being required. Also, let us not forget that the Amateur Radio Operator has been the back-bone of service in the event of emergencies as has been proven many times.

Anthony Russo KE4FFY
Signature And Call

cc'd

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September 6, 1998

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FCC SECRETARY
Magalie Roman Salas
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Federal Communications Commission
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Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

In The Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review –
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules
WT Docket No. 98-143

Dear Secretary Salas:

I recently learned of the above identified proposed changes to the FCC licensing procedures regarding amateur operators. As a Technician Plus class amateur radio operator, I was extremely interested to learn that the morse code proficiency standards for General Class operators was being considered to be lowered to five words per minute. It is also my understanding that if the new rules are passed, my existing Technician Plus license would be grandfathered into a General Class license, provided I passed a written examination dealing with the applicable rules and procedures of a General Class license.

My reaction to the proposed changes is extremely positive. Should it be enacted, I would be certain to upgrade to General Class immediately.

It seems to me that the mode of operation for most amateur radio operators has changed dramatically in my lifetime. The proposed changes, I believe, reflect this, and should be enacted. The world needs more hams, and this would seem to be a step in the right direction.

Sincerely



Richard C. Emery

File of Emery rec'd
MAGALIE

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