Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
	)	
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review --	)	
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's	)	WT Docket No. 98-143
Amateur Service Rules.	)	
	)	
	)	

COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Date: 20 September 1998
Comments of: JACKIE P.SOHL

1. I am a General Class Amateur operator. I am a member of ARRL.

2. I oppose any lowering of the standards for Amateur licenses. This includes my opposition to any lowering of code speed requirements. I do not want to see Amateur radio deteriorate into a mess like the Citizen Band and I believe that Morse Code operators are a valuable National resource. In the very worst situations, only Morse Code transmissions get through.

3. I am not opposed to elimination of the Novice class, but you should keep both the Technician and Technician Plus classes. It may eliminate confusion if you rename the Technician Plus the Communicator class. There must be a place where five (5) words per minute (WPM) operators can hone their skills on the HF bands. Do not convert any Morse Code bands to other modes. The Morse Code bands are crowded already.

4. The pressure to lower standards is coming from radio retailers, just as was the pressure to create the Citizen Band. Don't let them destroy Amateur Radio.

5. You should eliminate the medical waver for Morse Code. I have never seen one which was not abused and they are not needed as anyone can pass the code test with accommodations by the volunteer examiner team.

6. The written question pools contain many silly questions. You should exercise more control over them.

7. The ARRL letter to the FCC on this matter does not represent my opinion.

8. My comments are being filed on paper only without a diskette, since it is not feasible for me to include a diskette.

Jackie P Sohl

Jackie P. Sohl
HC 67 Box 157
Nogal, NM 88341-9709

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