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(573) 471-9000

**FCC SECRETARY, Magalie Roman Salas,
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street, Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Hannibal
(573) 221-5545

Columbia
(573) 875-0700

Union
(314) 583-1383

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

Illinois:

Decatur
(217) 875-0700

I hold amateur radio license KV4IT and am writing in regard to FCC WT Docket 98-143.

East Peoria
(309) 698-7000

I am wholeheartedly in favor of reducing the code requirements from 13 words per minute down to 5 words per minute for the General class license and reducing from 20 words per minute to 13 words per minute on the Extra class license.

La Salle
(815) 224-1500

Mt. Vernon
(618) 242-4900

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on this docket.

Sauget
(618) 337-6070

Chip Wiese
Chip Wiese

Indiana:

Indianapolis
(317) 241-8600

Ft. Wayne
(219) 424-2100

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SFP 28 1998

Oct. 25, 1998

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To: Federal Communications Commission
Amateur Radio Service
Subject: Comment on Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
WT Docket No. 98-143
From: Gary W. Gadwa
WA7FSI (Tech Plus) and NNN0ISD (NAVMARCORPSMARS)
Box 50
Stanley, Idaho 83278
ggadwa@cyberhighway.net

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Dear Sirs:

I would first like to introduce myself as an avid Amateur Radio Operator since the mid 1960's holding a Technician Class license (General Theory and Code Test). I am also an Electronics Technician with a degree in Electrical Engineering. I have never been overly comfortable with, nor overly proficient at Morse Code. However, I thoroughly utilize nearly all modes of communication allowed in Amateur Service. I especially find the newer Digital Modes of communication a natural progression from Morse Code. I am the Emergency Coordinator for Communications in Custer County Idaho, and a long time member and participant in Navy Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio Service.

I firmly believe Morse Code should be taking a minimal role in Amateur Radio Service as it is in nearly all radio communications worldwide. Amateur Radio use of and proficiency with Morse Code should become strictly personal preference for recreational purposes rather than a qualification for advancement. Morse Code requirements are currently limiting and restricting advancement of otherwise highly skilled and knowledgeable Amateur Radio Operators as well as interested newcomers.

I don't feel any public or governmental interest is served by requiring Morse Code testing. Again, License Class advancement should no longer require code testing. A single minimum five words per minute code speed examination would satisfy International Radio Regulations. Medical Waiver hassles would also be eliminated with a minimum five wpm examination.

Amateur Radio License Classes and the corresponding regulations and enforcement difficulties could easily be simplified by adapting a three-class system. The system being (one) No Code, (two) Tech Plus and General, (three) Advanced and Extra.

As a Tech Plus (Code and General Exam taken) for 30 plus years I foresee the future of Amateur Radio promoted and the potential of encouraging many bright young Americans into this "Technology Enhancing" hobby and public service "Career" the result of this much needed Restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service as we enter the next Millennium.

Thank you for taking the time to seriously consider the progressive thinking of Amateurs opposed to Morse Code testing.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Gadwa

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