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September 16, 1998

Magala Roman Salas, FCC Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

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SUSAN HARRIS

SEP 20 1998
Dear Ms. Salas:

This letter is in reference to the matter of the 1998 biennial regulatory review of Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules, FCC WT Docket 98-143.

I would like to make the following comments:

1. I feel the ARRL should reduce the General class code test speed to 5 wpm.
2. I feel the code tests should be administered in multiple choice form.
3. I feel the number of questions on the written examinations should be decreased to 30 questions for Technician no code, General, Advanced and Extra class exams.

Please consider my comments during your review.

Sincerely,

Andre H. Martel

Andre H. Martel
1 Broad Ave.
Concord, NH 03301

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WT Docket 98-143

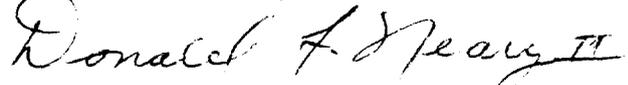
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FCC Secretary
Magaline Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission

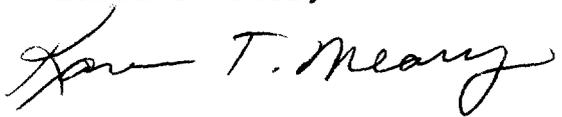
Our thoughts both Karen N3WVO and I Don KB3CBG feel 5 W.P.M. or NO CODE entry level for general class operators is a great idea. We especially like no code. As we do not plan to use it, we only have to learn the code because of the current FCC rules, to acquire a GENERAL CLASS license to operate on the HF bands. Everything has gone to the internet, ritty, and computers. Code is obsolete, We need new blood in the hobby, as you know most hams are retired the code did a good job in it's day, but times have changed. The Code is hard to learn and copy, 13 W.P.M. is very discouraging. It takes hundreds of hours to learn CW and younger people with careers and a family, along with their already crowded schedule just do not have the time. We need more hams on HF in case of emergencies and to keep the hobby alive. We feel 13 W.P.M. is stopping a lot of good potential hams. The written elements and understanding the FCC rules of ham radio are more important than the code, we don't want ham radio to become like "CB". We also feel 12 W.P.M. for advanced is good. Also for those who are screaming, they have been devalued and a lot of idiots will be on Ham Radio because of the proposed 5 W.P.M. or NO CODE entry level for general class. We would like to see the requirements for EXTRA CLASS be raised to 30 W.P.M. including those having a current 20 W.P.M. EXTRA CLASS license so they can really be proud and have their own special space on the air ways.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Neary II KB3CBG



Karen T. Neary N3WVO



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FCC SECRETARY
Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street N.W.
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

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