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IN RE: RM-11769

Dear Sir/Madam,

I felt compelled to respond, As many of my Fellow Amateur Radio Operator brethren have done, to respond to Mr. Wedbee's attempt to eliminate the Morse Code sub-bands from the spectrum known as RM-11769. Mr. Wedbee is NOT using factual data. Morse Code is not a sub-band used for Antiquated operations, It is one of the most efficient uses of the valuable spectrum and should be preserved as such! The facts remain that although other digital modes are perhaps faster, they also require the use of special equipment and computers to facilitate the transmissions. CW (Morse code) continues to be a viable and Proven mode of communications "When all else fails" a very simple radio, built from a hand-full of parts are just as useful as the 10,000 dollar transceiver some can afford to use.

Morse Code is a skill and mode that should NEVER have been eliminated from our licensing, This is evident any time you hear a rare DX station on the bands. CW operators are careful and courteous. We can send messages more efficiently and with much less power or interference. And Rare would be the CW operator using the language and rude behavior that many other modes suffer. Want the garbage to stop? REQUIRE the operator to have to pass that CW test. They may probably be much less willing to risk the loss of his license after investing many hours of CW practice to earn that license. Like many songs have siad- you don't know what you have until you lose it.

I had troubles learning the code, as many seasoned Ham radio operators have. Yet, there are thousands of signals everyday- on Frequencies that otherwise are appearing dead, being used with CW operators. As you know, Medical, Human welfare, and of course fellowship has been brought to the human experience via this vital communications mode. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO CHANGE THIS.

Many builders of small transistor radios ply the airwaves, with less power than a night light uses, across the world. In some cases, beyond our planet with CW. If the microphone should break, the radio itself reduced to whatever the car battery can give due to disaster or accident- Simply reducing the output and a jack and speaker wire touched together to form the characters could be the difference between help and safety or death. With the removal of the bands, they would be covered up-NEVER to have a chance to be heard. THIS IS NOT FAIR to the many skilled operators who took the time to learn this wonderful mode. How many stories of someone with this skill have saved a life? Many stories of operators of CW saved the day because he may not have been able to speak through illness or duress- but were still able to radio loud and clear for help. One incident that has always been my "go to story- Several years back, a woman, who learned CW from her police officer husband and became a Ham Radio operator with him was kidnapped. Due to her learning simple electronics and the Code, she was able to send a distress signal by pulling a wire off the tail light and sending her distress message by touching that wire to the body of the car- HER HUSBAND happened to be the car behind her! No its not radio transmissions, But because she had the chance to use her skills , She was on the Sub bands all the time communicating to other CW stations, She had the chance to learn and use this mode- a mode that ultimately saved her life.

Its that simple. I have picked out a call on the other side of the world, barely there, a minor adjustment of my radio could “pull out” the signal. If that was any other common used mode: Microphone, AM/FM or SSB, many digital modes, it would have been over looked. But there it was- from a camper in some remote part of the world, with a simple length of wire, using a 9 volt battery calling out for someone to hear him. If there was no control of the signals around him, if voice transmissions were the next “channel”he probably would never have been heard. What would have been his outcome if the station who hears him had to contend with the bedlam Mr. Wedbee suggests?

Mr Wedbee asserts the sub band is being held for some archaic mode, I say he only wants the sub band removed so he can spread out the interference causing SSB voice modes. In a crowded band, due to his and many others unwillingness to use or learn the most basic of skills in the Amateur Radio art. I and many others who took the time to learn a great and useful skill, one that serves our fellow man and provides many hours of fun deserve a part of the spectrum unmolested by the other more noisy modes.

Please deny his request.

Thank you,
Drew R. McCarsky, KB2SEO
Another Skilled CW Amateur Extra.