

May 15, 2016

Re: RM-11769, Petition for Rulemaking eliminating the exclusive CW Sub-bands

I strongly oppose the petitioner's request for elimination of exclude CW sub-bands within the Amateur bands and urge the commission to deny the petition. The petitioner characterizes the CW exclusive sub-bands and the CW mode itself as “. . . grossly inefficient as well as a manifest under-utilization of those.” He provides no supporting data to back up this false claim. Apparently the petitioner's qualifications to make his stated claims are based on his being licensed since 1981. He makes no reference to his operating experience.

The most relevant fact of this matter is that the ability to operate using data modes in the CW only band segments is ENTIRELY up to the individual Amateur operator by upgrading to any license class above Technician class. If the individual ham wants to operate using digital modes in these band segments bad enough then the individual should be motivated enough to upgrade. The CW only band segments originally only applied to Novice class licensees. Any license class above Technician can already operate using digital modes on these frequencies. According to FCC Records there are still 10,525 holders of the renewable Novice class license as of 14 May 2016. Interested parties can verify this by visiting <http://www.arrl.org/fcc-license-counts> and doing the math. As long as there are renewable Novice licensees then the CW only segments need to remain in place.

As far as CW being a “grossly inefficient and under-utilized mode”, I submit the following. According to the German DX Foundation web site, [gdx.de/megadxpeditions/](http://gdx.de/megadxpeditions/) Jari Jussila, OH2BU has kept and maintained records of Dxpeditons making at least 30,000 contacts and published his data. There are currently 254 Dxpeditons with more than 30,000 contacts from 144 different DXCC entities and 31 of 40 CQ zones represented in his data. All of the contacts of the 254 operations made over 15 million contacts. The tabulation of the contacts by mode are:

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| CW            | 52.2% |
| Voice Modes   | 40.7% |
| Digital Modes | 7.0%  |

It seems highly unlikely that a “grossly inefficient and under-utilized” mode achieved a 10% higher success rate than 2<sup>nd</sup> place Voice Modes, and that digital modes ranked very distant 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I suppose that CW could be grossly inefficient and under-utilized mode to some licensees in the same fashion as making music with a violin is grossly inefficient and under-utilized by me, seeing as how I never learned to play a violin. But to many thousands of Amateurs world wide it is very efficient and very utilized, despite the poor decision to eliminate the CW proficiency licensing requirement.

I have been a licensed Amateur since 1971 and operate all bands and modes from 160 meters to 70 cm. All of the contacts I have made under my current callsign which I have had since 1977 are reflected in the following chart. 63% of the contacts were made using CW. I mention this only to show that I am not exclusively a CW operator. I operate many digital modes to include RTTY, PACKET, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK, JT65, OLIVIA and others. I have worked all states in digital modes, CW and voice, I have work all states via Amateur satellites, and VUCC via satellite on not only the FM repeater sats, but the transponder satellites using SSB and CW modes. And I say this to indicate my opinions are not based on my preference for a single mode to the exclusion of other modes.

| <b>BAND</b>  | <b>CW</b>     | <b>PHONE</b>  | <b>DIGITAL</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>PERCENT</b> |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 160          | 1,824         | 333           | 31             | 2,188         | 4%             |
| 80           | 2,638         | 1,570         | 80             | 4,288         | 8%             |
| 40           | 9,898         | 4,892         | 398            | 15,188        | 29%            |
| 30           | 371           | 0             | 36             | 408           | 1%             |
| 20           | 9,852         | 3,635         | 1,083          | 14,570        | 27%            |
| 17           | 576           | 263           | 71             | 910           | 2%             |
| 15           | 4,477         | 2,414         | 224            | 7,115         | 13%            |
| 12           | 360           | 207           | 64             | 631           | 1%             |
| 10           | 3,359         | 3,152         | 91             | 6,602         | 12%            |
| 6            | 42            | 42            | 4              | 88            | 0%             |
| 2            | 78            | 835           | 71             | 984           | 2%             |
| 70cm         | 89            | 114           | 10             | 213           | 0%             |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>33,564</b> | <b>17,458</b> | <b>2,163</b>   | <b>53,185</b> | <b>100%</b>    |

Amateurs who regularly use CW already account for a disproportionately larger share of the operations occurring on HF than their frequency assignments might indicate.

Please deny the petitioner's request. It is not unreasonable to expect the interested amateurs to upgrade if they want to operate using digital modes on these frequencies.