

I submit the following comments for consideration:

Reduce the number of license classes to three. These would be the same as the existing tech, general and extra-advanced. This would give us the no-code entry level technician. Reduce the Morse code requirement to 5 words per minute for the general class and combine the extra and advanced classes into the highest class license. The extra-advanced or "A" class as some call it would be obtained by written test only with the 5 wpm speed having been attained at the general or "B" class level.

While some fear this would lead to over crowding, I believe their fears are unjustified as not all currently licensed hams have an interest in HF communications. I know many operators who are currently licensed as general, extra and advanced class who never work HF for what ever their personal reasons (no equipment, not allowed outside antennas, no interest, etc.) Neither will every novice and technician be interested in upgrading. There will however be a renewed interest in HF and this will benefit everyone. Manufacturers will sell more radios and then can spend more on R&D for new radios. Ham radio retailers will start opening stores (the trend now is to close stores). Used radio gear will be in demand.