

Tuesday, September 29, 1998

To: Federal Communication Commission

From: Joe Blank, N2KRP

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

It is clear to me that changes are on the horizon for amateur radio regardless of how we, the amateur radio operators feel about the proposed changes. I do believe that here, in the United States ham radio has, and will continue to become less attractive to new members due to the age of new technology, specifically the computer age.

I am a member of a local ham radio club, most of the members are over 60 years of age and are constantly looking for ways to attract the younger generation into the hobby, it seems that the younger generation is more interested in communicating with computers and cell phones.

I received my novice class license in 1989 and upgraded to general class several months later. I can still recall the thrill the day I received my novice ticket in the mail, that is a feeling that I will remember always, no matter what happens to amateur radio. Given the changes proposed for ham radio, will future ham operators be able to share the same feeling?. Perhaps a better question is, will there be enough hams in the future to support the hobby at all.

I believe that trying to attract more ham operators by lowering stand