

Sirs:

Do not remove the requirement for knowledge and proficiency with the Morse code from the Amateur Radio licensing requirements.

There should be two levels of knowledge of the Morse code contained within the licensing requirements.

For all licenses there should be a uniform requirement for the "recognition" of the Morse code. The applicant should be required to demonstrate a knowledge of the Morse code characters for the alphabet, numbers, and basic punctuation. The "speed" should be NOT be a requirement, only the ability to identify the Morse code character for each letter, number, etc. sent at random at minimum speed.

Then there should be created and made available a "Morse Code Endorsement" available only to Extra Class licenses (but NOT made a requirement for Extra Class) which would grant the holder additional privileges in the lower 25 Khz CW sub-bands of the 80, 40, 20, and 15 Meter Amateur bands. This 100 Khz would be the exclusive domain of the Extra Class license holding the CW Endorsement. The requisite code should be no less than 20 WPM.

In this manner all applicants would be required to know the Morse code only to the extent of being able to identify the characters. NO speed proficiency would be required. No sending requirement would be involved.

The creation of a Morse Code Endorsement would give those who elect to obtain the endorsement the exclusive privilege of operating in that portion of the amateur HF bands traditionally occupied by code operators, both foreign and domestic. It would allow anyone to attain the Extra Class license WITHOUT any further code requirement, if they chose to forego use of CW in the 100 Khz of restricted band space.