

Murray H. Merner, K4MHM
1212 South Wright Road
Greenville, NC 27858-3912
(252) 757-3429

RECEIVED

October 9, 1998

OCT 22 1998

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary **FCC MAIL ROOM**
Federal Communication Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket Number 98-143

I agree that the licensing format should be simplified and clarified.

The current nomenclature of the various classes is confusing and not self explanatory. While there is a certain nostalgia for the current names, the terms "General" and "Extra" tell nothing about their place in the licensing ladder. The concept of letter class has a lot of merit because it would rank order the classes. If names are used they should represent an increase in the level of proficiency.

Second, I support the Morse code and use it exclusively even though I have been licensed only since January 12, 1996. The Morse code is part of what makes amateur radio unique even though it may be recognized that it is not as popular as it once was nor is it a primary communication modality. However, the progression in speed requirements again is illogical and unnecessarily difficult. Five wpm steps make more sense than the current seven and not having a code speed for the Advanced Class makes no sense.

Third, I believe twenty meters should be available at the Class D level.

Therefore, I propose:

Class	Possible Names	Written	WPM	Band Privileges
Class A	Master	2, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B	20	Current Extra
Class B	Expert	2, 3A, 3B, 4A	15	Current Advanced
Class C	Skilled	2, 3A, 3B	10	Current General
Class D	Novice	2, 3A	5	Current Novice, plus 14.1 MHz to 14.15 MHz
Class E	Basic	2, 3A	0	Current No Code Tech

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 3
List A B C D E W T B

I believe these class intervals encourage entry, but retain the requirement of increased expertise to achieve additional band privileges.

Sincerely,


Murray H. Merner
General Class

P.S. I have passed my 20 wpm test and am taking the Advanced test on 10-16-98 so I am not suggesting these changes to reduce the requirements for me.