

Dear Sir/Madam:

I believe that written questions on day-to-day ham operations and the theory are far more important in getting or upgrading one's amateur radio license than retaining the 5, 13 or 20 wpm code. To me the code is something like the semaphore or running an obstacle race backwards to fulfill the requirements set forth by a noble but aged segment of hams. I fully realize that my beloved father-in-law (KI7UU), 86 years young, would whole-hearteningly disagree with me.

I also understand that our USCG has not used the code for the last two years and much of our short wave communication uses the satellites.

The bottom line is that we cannot attract young people into amateur radio if we retain some of the antique license requirements like learning the code. We need new recruits into amateur radio to replace the diminishing old guard because without them the amateur radio hobby will disappear like the dinosaurs.

Thank you for your kind attention to the above matter.

Rein NEEM

KC7MHN