

RECEIVED

NOV 13 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

In the matter of)
1998 Biennial Regulatory review-)
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's)
Amateur Service Rules.)
)
)

(Page 1 of 2)

Before the
Federal Communication Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

WT Docket No. 98-143
RM-9148
RM-9150
RM-9196

COMMENTS OF

Woodie D. Thompson, WD4NSB, 111 Marvin Lane, Hamlet, N.C. 28345-7169. Phone (910) 582-3236.

I file these comments on Monday, November 9, 1998 in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making WT Docket 98-143.

I am filing comments in support of the ARRL's counter proposal, with exceptions.

I am an Amateur Radio Operator, Tech-Plus class, and have been licensed since 1977. I primarily operate SSB on 28 MHz, 50 MHz, 144 MHz, and FM on 144 MHz.

I am in total agreement with both the FCC and ARRL on the fact that the Part 97 regulations need to be changed for the better. The ARRL's proposal is by far the best that I have seen, however it does not go far enough in revamping the regulations. It is my opinion that the only CW proficiency test should be 5 words per minute, as this would satisfy the International Agreements in place at this time. Further, since most operators do not work on or build their own equipment, in my opinion the written testing elements difficulty should not be increased with respect to theory, but an emphases should be placed on operating practices, procedures, and regulations to insure our bands are a place anyone could listen in and could find proficient and gentlemanly operators.

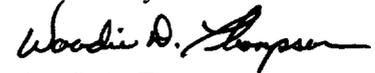
As you, the FCC, has stated the vast majority of new operators coming into the Amateur Service are coming in as No Code Technicians. This being the case, it should be clear that the biggest impediment to bringing new operators on board and getting them to upgrade is the CW test. The ARRL proposal would greatly reduce this hurdle, but as I stated it doesn't go far enough (especially when you consider that being able to copy higher speed code doesn't make a person a good or courteous operator, just listen to the Extra portion of the 80 meter phone band or around 14.325 MHz) and we do not need to place another

No. of Copies rec'd 079
List A B C D E

wall, more difficult technical written exams, in front of new operators to stop or hinder their advancing to the higher license classes.

Thank you for your time and taking my comments into consideration.

Submitted by:



Woodie D. Thompson
111 marvin Lane
Hamlet, N.C. 28345-7169
November 9, 1998