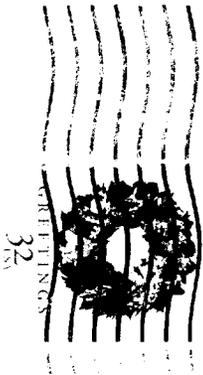


Mr. James Smith
912 S. Ruby Pl.
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3446



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The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
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Washington DC

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To: The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

cc: Chairman William E Kennard
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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Before the
Federal Communications Commission

In the Matter of WT Docket No. 98-143: *Restructuring the Amateur Service, Part 97*

Summary: The FCC final proposal for "Restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service" should include two components, 1. Three classes of licenses and 2. A five word per minute code test. This would make the work load less for the FCC and bring the program toward the current technology and increase the number of Amateur operators.

Provision 1. Number of Licenses classes:

I believe that four classes of licenses are too many for the modernization of the program. It would be better to reduced to just three, Technician, General, and Extra. The current classes of Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus should be grandfathered to General and the present Advance class grandfathered to Extra.

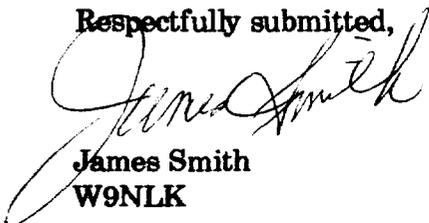
The beginner or entry class would be the Technician. This class would have a basic written exam, but not require a code test. It would include some privileges in the HF spectrum and more in the VHF range. The General class would allow full HF and VHF privileges with a more comprehensive test. The Extra class would have a more comprehensive written exam on the current technology and include the 5 word per minute code test.

Provision 2. Morse Code Testing of 5 words per minute maximum.

I support the FCC's position on replacing the Morse code test with more relevant written exams. Morse code has become one of the least used modes of communication today. It has no real importance in communications today. I believe that it should be eliminated altogether as a means of obtaining an Amateur license.

Thank you for the opportunity to let my feelings on the Amateur Radio program be known.

Respectfully submitted,


James Smith
W9NLK

18 November 1998

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