

<PROCEEDING> 98-143
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Comments of Robert McCaffrey k0cy,
I Robert McCaffrey file these comments on 11-23-98 in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket No. 98-143.

I. Introduction

I have been an amateur radio operator since 1956, beginning at the age of 13. I have been involved in teaching of other amateur operators and participating in the VE program since its inception.

II. Number of amateur service license classes

I am in favor of four (4) licenses classes, eliminating the novice class, and the technician class. I favor that the current license names be maintained in place of the proposed designation of a,b,c,d. The technician class shall be the entry level. I favor allowing the technician class some telephony allocation on the hf bands.

III. Importance and disposition of the novice class

I am in favor of grandfathering the novice class licensee and the technician plus class to the technician class, with the condition if one would want to operate telegraphy on the novice bands, the technician could be endorsed for CW operation by passing element 1a. I am in favor of allowing the technician class license telephony privileges in certain portions of the HF bands.

I am in favor of maintaining the current novice bands with power limits of 200 watts, and maintaining non-telephony on these bands, allowing increased digital spectrum, which currently is incompatible with telephony. Revising some restrictions placed on digital modes on hf might encouragement greater use.

IV. Advanced class VE's for general class

It is reasonable to allow advanced class amateur to administer general class examinations.

V. Phasing out of RACES station call signs

I feel there is little reason to continue RACES call signs, activation of the amateur volunteers would not require different call signs.

VI. Enforcement in the amateur radio service

For years the amateurs have done a good job in "policing" the amateur service, and a trained auxiliary acting, as monitors would be able to support the FCC in many cases.

VII. Telegraphy examination requirements

I am in favor of maintaining all requirements of telegraphy. I do not feel that having this requirement is a deterrent to the amateur service. Allowing the

technician class telephony privileges will give the amateur an incentive to explore different modes. I have always thought that CW is the basic digital mode.

I feel that the VE's have done a great job in administering examinations, and feel that they can handle the requirements that might face them.

VIII. Written examinations requirement

The written requirements must be evaluated periodically so that they would reflect the current state of radio art. More emphasis need to be placed on FCC regulations and operating practices, to the extent that the number of questions might well be increased to accomplish this. The question pool need to be increased to allow the VEC's to broaden the scope of the examination.

IX. Conclusions

I feel that the amateur service is strong, but needs evaluation periodically. Although there have many references to other countries and their changing regulations I do not feel that we need to be followers, but leaders and strengthen the service.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McCaffrey