

To: The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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Mail Room
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c.c.: Chairman William E. Kennard
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

Before the
Federal Communications Commission

NOV 23 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Summary: Three classes of licenses and one level of code proficiency at 5 words per minute (wpm) are the two most essential components that the FCC should include in their final proposal for "Restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service." These provisions, if adopted, would have the following immediate effect of: (a) Reducing the work load of the FCC -- three licenses in place of six, (b) Streamlining the amateur testing program relevant to current and future technology and (c) Facilitating the growth of the amateur service.

Provision 1. Number of License classes:

In my view the FCC's proposal does not go far enough toward streamlining and modernizing amateur radio. The proposed four classes of licenses are simply too many. I suggest you eliminate the following classes -- Novice, Tech Plus, and Advanced and retain the following classes -- Technician, General, and Extra. Current Novice and Technician Plus licensees should be "grandfathered" to General class operators and the current Advanced class licensees should be "grandfathered" as Extra class operators.

The Technician class should become the sole entry class license. It would grant VHF privileges and entail a basic written test, but no Morse requirement. The General class license would grant full HF privileges and would entail a written test and a 5 wpm Morse code requirement. The Extra class license would entail a comprehensive written examination and signify superior achievement and comprehensive knowledge of all areas of theory and amateur practice -- however, it would not require an additional level of Morse code proficiency. Frequency allocations can continue to reflect differences in the license classes in an appropriate fashion as they currently do. This system would put the US in alignment with other CEPT countries who, at the most, have only three license classes -- two HF and one VHF.

Provision 2. Morse Code Testing at 5 wpm Maximum.

I support the FCC's suggestion to replace the Morse code requirement with more relevant written testing on various aspects of current and developing technology. Today, Morse code is merely one of many modes of communication and there is no reason to single it out as particularly significant or important. A single 5 wpm Morse test will also remove the necessity of processing and issuing waivers for the handicapped. Eventually, all Morse testing should be eliminated consistent with US obligations under International treaties.

These suggestion, if adopted, would simplify the licensing processes and ensure, into the twenty-first century, the continuing history of amateur radio service to the country

11/9/98

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Riley
HBI ATK

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Date: 10/28/98

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OCT 22 3:11 '98

WT Dkt # 98-113

Dear F. C. C.; PRIVATE WIR

I am writing to you concerning the proposed changes in Amateur Radio.

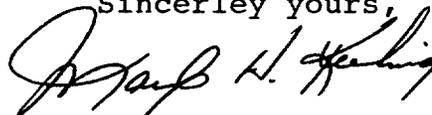
My biggest concern is with the requirements concerning Morse Code. I, like most "Hams" feel that the code is a dying art and that most of the newer operators prefer to use voice rather than C. W.,. Then there are those like me, who could not pass a code test if their lives' depended on it simply because of a hearing loss. I have an 8 to 10 db¹. hearing loss in high frequencies.

Some say that the elimination of the code requirement would make Ham Radio nothing more than C. B. Radio. Not true in my opinion. We still have to pass a strict written test which could be made even more strict to weed out the undesireables.

My proposal would be to allow all "Hams" to operate on ALL bands with the appropriate liscence, and make code optional and have the F. C. C. strongly inforce the rule. For example, if I as a no-code operator am caught transmitting voice on a C. W. frequency I would face suspension or permanent termination of my liscence.

I thank you in advance for your time and concideration in this matter which concerns ALL Ham Operators no matter what our personal feeling may be concerning the code requirements.

Sincerley yours,



Mark H. Keeling - W6ZIN
P. O. Box 305
Fairless Hills, Pa. 19030
(215) 943-1969

Radio Club Affiliations:

Penn Wireless Assoc. W3SK : Levittown, Pa.
Houston Echo Society, Inc. W5ECO : Houston, Tx.

cc: American Radio Relay League



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Wt Debat
98-143

November 7, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas,
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Ms. Salas:

There are a few concerns that I want to share with the FCC as they consider changing rules for AMATEUR RADIO.

It has traditionally been good to have progressively difficult licensing categories. I concur. Rewards for hard work are good.

Please consider the following requests:

1. Eliminate (gradually or immediately) Morse Code requirements. They serve as a hurdle only, but will be increasingly impractical in the 21st Century.
2. Keep increasingly difficult levels of testing for advanced licenses (written AND practical).
3. Your consideration of eliminating Novice & Tech Plus licensing seems good.
4. We need effective enforcement of flagrant rule violations by a minority of stations. **Empower Amateurs or provide somehow, for effective policing and enforcement of laws.**

Thank you for requesting input from the Amateur Radio Community. A very positive thing!

Thank you, also, for not always "rubber stamping" AARL requests.

Sincerely,

Darrell A. Fevegeon

Darrell A. Fevegeon
1657 Oahu Place
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
KD6WWK

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

9936 Domingo Drive
Brooksville, Florida 34601
November 9, 1998

*WT Docket
No 98-143*

FCC Secretary, Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the FCC, Sect. FCC
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

I am strongly opposed to the ARRL proposal to revamp the amateur rules and regulations

AARL presumes to represent the amateur radio operators in this country but that is far from the truth. They have become commercialized to the point that they represent only the professionals rather than the amateurs. The General Amateur Radio License has been downgraded far too much.

To me it is ridiculous to require 20 wpm code speed to receive an advanced license. This was good in the 30's but has no meaning today. What is needed is a license that is based on technical knowledge, including computers which represents today's needs. The whole idea behind the amateur service is to encourage education and ability in the radio service as a resource for our country. Technical knowledge is what is needed, not 20 wpm code speed. Lets get modern and have three levels of license based on technical competence.

I hope the FCC looks at the real aspects of amateur radio and doesn't pay any attention to the ARRL which does not represent the majority of radio amateurs. They have many members but they don't agree with their policies. They only belong because they are afraid that they will lose their privileges if they don't have an organization to protect them. They have no voice in setting policy.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Dorn

Robert W. Dorn
W8SQK

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: <cedwa@usa.net>
To: B7.B7(BCROSS)
Date: 11/13/98 7:52am
Subject: wtdocket98-143

Mr. Cross,

I am writing to you in reference to wtdocket 98-143. I feel that it is in the best interests' of the amateur radio community to drop the 13 wpm. requirement for access to voice privileges in the HF bands. I feel that this will help the hobby grow in the next century. Also, it would be in the best interests of the hobby to grandfather the current tech plus license to general class.

Thank You,
Chris Edwards
839 Laurel St.
Indiana, PA 15701

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WT 98-143

From: David Kimmel <dkimmel@yourinter.net>
To: B7.B7(BCROSS)
Date: 11/19/98 6:44pm
Subject: WT Docket 98-143

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Cross

I am writing in reference to WT Docket 98-143. I feel that it is in the best interests for the growth of Amateur Radio to drop the 13 WPM requirement for extended use of the HF bands. Please consider this when making any changes. Since a large percentage of Amateur Radio operators are Tech Plus, I feel that it would also be in the best interest to grandfather their license to General Class.

Thank You very much for your time.

David Kimmel
223 Millay Circle
Indiana PA 15701

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Eventually, all Morse testing should be eliminated consistent with US obligations under International treaties.

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Respectfully submitted,



Ken Myers Call Sign KA7QFK
22701 N. Black Canyon Hwy C-22
Phoenix, Arizona 85027 ;