

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

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

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

Greg W. Fisher
1763 Buff Creek Rd.
Sylva, NC 28779

Date of Submission: Nov. 16th, 1998

I, Greg W. Fisher, file these comments on Nov. 16th, 1998 in the FCC's Notice of proposed Rule Making WT Docket 98-143. I would like to express my comments on the Change pertaining to the FCC's proposal to give more voice privileges to the Technician Class Amateur Radio Operators. I am in favor with this proposal and feel that This change would put more enthusiasm into this art in which we call Ham Radio. Over The past couple of years, I have noticed a decreased interest in Amateur Radio and feel That there is a need for more voice privileges in the HF bands of the Spectrum as to bring More interest into the Amateur Radio Service. The proposal which is about to be Brought before the Commission, would get my vote one hundred and ten percent and I Agree and look forward to more voice privileges in the HF Spectrum. Vote for and Pass this Proposal in the interest of our Service. I vote "YES"!

Thanks for your time and God bless.

Sincerely, Greg W. Fisher, KF4MKA

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USA

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To: The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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

Before the
Federal Communications Commission

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) Facilitation of the growth of 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 most, have only three license classes--two HF and one VHF.

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Page 2

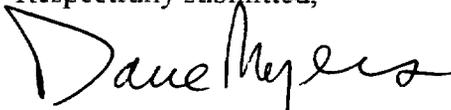
Provision 2. Morse Code Testing at 5 WPM Maximum.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Myers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Dave Myers Call Sign KC7BXN
7119 West Country Gables
Peoria, Arizona 85381

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