

I support the restructuring proposal from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), but only if the FCC automatically upgrades existing Novice and Technician Plus licensees to General Class exactly as the ARRL recommended: It is essential that the FCC automatically upgrade present Novice and Technician Plus hams to General Class, without requiring any additional testing, if we are to retain amateur radio as a viable and productive activity. I make these comments as an Extra Class amateur radio operator (originally licensed in 1960), as a Volunteer Examiner who is accredited by three different VECs, as a graduate electrical engineer with over thirty years of experience, and as the holder of a lifetime FCC General Radiotelephone License (originally issued in 1961). The entire restructuring effort will be futile unless the presently licensed Novice and Technician Plus amateurs are automatically assimilated as General Class Licensees.

73, Steven L. Karty - Amateur Radio Station N5SK