

Thank you for allowing the amateur radio community to comment on your proposed rule making. My Background. After 30 + years of being a ham want to be I obtained my Technician Plus license as KC8ITI a year ago and upgraded to a General class license last month.

I feel that the number of license classes is not an issue in this age of computer record keeping. More to the point is a smooth upgrade path in the license structure. I must disagree that the novice class license should be done away with. There needs to be an entry level license for younger people that wish to obtain an amateur license. I also agree that there are people that would like to become members of the amateur radio community but have little ambition to learn Morse code. To that end I propose to use a license structure that uses a plus system to denote code proficiency. The structure would be as follows:

Novice Full privileges on 1.25 meters 25 watt power limit
 Full privileges on 23 cm 5 watt power limit
 SSB privileges on 28.3 - 28.5 MHz 200 watt power limit
 2 Year time limit on license must upgrade to higher license
 Can regain this license after 5 years of inactivity
 No code test must pass written element 2

Technician Full privileges for VHF and UHF and
 SSB privileges on 28.3 - 28.5 MHz 200 watt power limit.
 No code test must pass elements 2 and 3A

General Current General Voice and Image privileges
 No code test must pass elements 2, 3A and 3B

Advanced Current Advanced Voice and Image Privileges
 No code test must pass elements 2, 3A, 3B, and 4A

Extra Current Extra Voice and Image privileges
 No code test must pass elements 2, 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B

More privileges can be gained by adding endorsement options to the above licenses.

5 WPM CW, RTTY and DATA on 28.1 to 28.3 MHz
Endorsement C CW on 28.3 - 28.5 MHz
 CW on 21.1 - 21.2 MHz
 CW on 7.1 - 7.15 MHz
 CW on 3.675 - 3.725 MHz
 200 watt power limit
 Must pass element 1A

13 WPM Current General CW, RTTY and DATA Privileges
Endorsement B 200 watt power limit on 5 WPM Endorsement 15, 40 and 80 sub-band
 Must pass element 1B

20 WPM Current Extra CW, RTTY and DATA Privileges
Endorsement A 200 watt power limit on 5 WPM Endorsement 15, 40 and 80 sub-band
 Must pass element 1C

With this all current licensees would fall into the new classes without gaining unearned privileges. The current Novice would become Novice with Endorsement C. Technician would stay Technician. Technician Plus would become Technician with Endorsement C. General would become General with Endorsement B. Advanced would become Advanced with Endorsement B. Extra would become Extra with Endorsement A. As far as upgrading within the a 2 year time period for current Novice class operators I would allow them to enter the new program at their next renewal time so they would have to agree to upgrade to a higher class license at that time. The only other change should be made is to add some DATA only sub-bands to the non endorsed voice and image license classes.

As far as the decline in the number of amateurs is concerned I think that the current amateur operators should take a look at themselves for this decline. When is the last time you took someone under your wing and helped them get their license? I'm sure that if each amateur operator would take the time to look around they would find a family member, a relative, neighbor or friend that would like to join this hobby. With a little help and guidance a currently licensed operator could help some youngster learn there is more than computers and the Internet to challenge their minds.

Again thank you for allowing me to voice my comments to the Board.

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