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To: B7.B7(MDEPONT)
Date: 11/10/98 9:11pm
Subject: Amateur radio rules and regulations

Subject: Rules'n'Regs for "digital" hams
Date: Wed, 11 Nov 1998 02:58:22 +0100
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I would like to suggest a new class of ham licensing. It might be the "digital only license". What is that supposed to be? For example, here we have lots of hams having a no-code ticket. There are supposed to be active on packet radio, RTTY, SSTV and other similar modes above 30 MHz.

But, why not to allow them to join the world up to 30 MHz?

I suggest to not only the ARRL, but to the FCC as well as to IARU, to consider about the "digital only license" in the future. Let's imagine to have all those no-code packet sysops, bbs's and node maintainers to join HF packet, amtor, pactor, g-tor, clover and other today's and tomorrow's digital modes. Let's suppose that OUR ham digital network would be improved and developed much faster than it is now!

Somebody would ask: why they shouldn't pass the morse exam and to join HF world without any problem? Well, the "problem" is in morse requirement. I personally know many students, engineers, teachers, holders of B.Sc's, M.Sc's and PhD's in informatics, computing and related sciences, who are not likely to even talk (not to mention about to join) about a hobby where there is a morse requirement. I personally work on my master grade in computers. I have been active on packet since

early 1990's. All these time I have been sysoping local packet bbs's and

helped node servicing. I still don't enough time and interest to spend months to learn CW. But, I am ready to invest in the HF equipment and to

setup a large node/bbs service in the area. Many digital modes might be implemented here if I would be allowed to do that. But I am not. I also know many hams with HF privileges that don't know anything else but CW, fox hunting and rare contesting. They can't and won't help to develop ham digital activities. Beside that, I often hear about a "danger" coming from no-coders who might occupate HF frequencies in case my idea might be implemented. But, NO, there is a solution...

Let's suppose that we have a specific licensing structure for this new "ham digital only" ticket. Let's make some specific requirements for the

candidates for this ticket. For example, (if we really want to involve more "official" science and knowledge into ham radio!), let all holders of academic degrees in E.E., computing and similar areas to join HF world without any barriers! Of course, they will not be allowed to do anything but digital modes. Only that! They will be required to use only

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the ham digital subtends and to use only the specific radios that have no other but digital abilities (i.e. no mike jack, no key jack inputs etc.). For sure, our main ham manufacturers would offer such radios very

soon, in a similar way they offered many radios like "9600 baud ready", RS-232 ready etc. etc. Is there any problem to produce such group of radios. In my country, in last several years, more than 75 percent of incoming new hams are no-coders. Majority of them buy handy talkie radios, because they are not allowed to do anything else, but FM voice operations and (partly legally) packet. So, there is no real "danger" coming from such hams. Many of them are not young by ages, they are engineers etc. but, they are young by their ideas. Why to complicate things further? How do we think to fight against the Internet and other incoming ways of digital communications. The Internet is expensive from time to time. Ham radio is not and, if developed further, would be very nice way to become an addition to the land line links. The price deserves no comments. The knowledge even less.

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