

WT DKT # 98-143

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To Whom It May Concern **ECC MAIL ROOM**

Re: proposed changes in Amateur  
Radio Licensing.

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I worked very hard for and am very proud of attaining my EXTRA class license by successfully learning Morse Code at 20 wpm.

I knew the downgrading of Code speed requirements was coming, but it was a real kick in the teeth to all of us who, worked so hard for that EXTRA class license, to not only completely drop 20 wpm but to change the names of the licenses.

The need to drop the 20 wpm and change the names isn't clear to me.

I thought the big deal was to allow more people to more easily attain the General class license, thereby having use of more of the bands.

changing the code speed requirement to 5wpm certainly accomplishes that goal and although I personally "feel it's just giving in to the whiners and wimps, it's better than abolishing the code requirements altogether. Compromise is ok, but for the life of me, I don't see why. The 20 wpm EXTRA is to be dropped or for that matter why changing the names of the license classes is necessary.

I'm sure those who sell books and code tapes will be thrilled with this. There's bound to be a big boom in business and that's ok, bringing more people into ham radio is ok, but for the 10% of us who got that EXTRA, who worked hard and passed that 20wpm test, it's a real slap in the face to drop it.

It's saying what we did was meaningless, insignificant, ~~and~~ worthless and deserves no special recognition and the worst part is, there seems to be no valid reason for it.

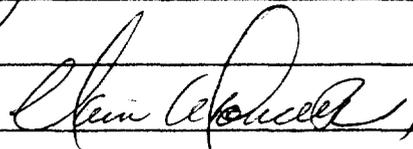
So I hope you'll think long and hard

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before implementing these new rules.

I say keep the classifications the same - Technician, General, Advanced, Extra. If you must, change the code requirements to General 5 wpm and Advanced 12 wpm, ~~at least~~ <sup>at least</sup> keep the EXTRA requirements the same; have some respect for us who worked for that license class.

Probably, like ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> governmental entities, this is all out and dried and the comments are to make us feel like we have a voice. So when the rules are implemented, I will have a shirt - maybe a bumper sticker, too, that reads  
I got my EXTRA class license when  
it meant something!

  
CLAIRE A. DOUCETTE

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To; FCC Commissioners  
Washington, DC

NOV 23 1998

FCC MAIL ROOM

From : CLARENCE E CHITTENDEN W6FYH  
16 BERGWALL WAY  
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1998 Biennial Regulatory  
Review admt., part 97 of the  
Commission's Amateur Service  
rules FCC WT docket 98-143

Dear Commissioners,

I Hold a General Class Lic. And have been a Amateur  
radio Op. since 1949

Here is my comments on Lic. re-structurting. Have (3) three classes of  
Licensing (Which is the goal of the FCC) and they are.

- A- Extra @ 20 wpm code proficiency, @ one minute solid copy.
- B- General@ 13 " " " " " " " "
- C- Technician@ 5 " " " " " " " "

We don't need the Novice, Tech plus, or the Advanced classes. Either meld the  
Advanced with the Extras, Or the Generals in with the Advanced  
In the 60's the Extra and Advanced where generated as a Incentive classes. I see  
the Advanced class as a overlap of the general class, and as a unnecessary class  
license. I also agree that the Tech and novice class are a overlap of each other.

So to reach a 3 tier class system, I recommend the above suggestion.

On the Morse code! It took me awhile to learn the code,now I do 15 to 20  
comfortably. Its a form of discipline, Which is needed within the Amateur  
Community. And as far as the written requirements, I believe in what the FCC sets  
as the standard of electronic knowledge, needed.

As for the "Power" restrictions, with the advent of Lic. restructuring, The Tech  
class, if they get HF Privileges, should be limited to 100 watts cw only, and in the  
same operating frequencies as the novices now have. And with the generals and  
higher, the standard 1500 watts output. (I remember being rock bound and 50watts  
and I was happy to have that )

As for Disability waivers/ Definitely needs some improvment. There has to be, two  
doctor certificates to indicate the candidate for a lic. waiver. And I recommend each  
state have a 5 member panel to do the testing. The 5 member panel is unknown to  
the lic. candidate,with maybe two alternates, A mimimum of three test panel  
members is needed to pass the test and wave the expenition.

I believe in the (3) member panel VE testing setup. Therefore I would be against the  
Advanced class giving tests. PLEASE keep the 3 member test setup, I just think  
the door would be opened to more abuse, of testing.

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On ENFORCEMENT, While there is a need for enforcement, I'm not aware of the ARRL thinking, We have OO's(Official Observers) They should be given some authority to warn in the name of the FCC(With some training on this matter, and Certified) and have a system of "How many citations for infractions, could be initiated, ie [all OO's, E-mail monthly reports to the FCC and the ARRL on given citations mailed out, and be registered mail to the offenders]. When a known amount of citations FCC number) is noted on a individual, then a show cause, or hearing, before a volunteer STATE panel of (3) OO's is required, before entering INTO A FCC hearing. (ITS A SORT OF A MEDIATION PANEL, TO GIVE A OFFENDING VIOLATOR A CHANCE TO AMEND THERE WAYS.before going to court.

I'm in agreement with "POWER" in the RF exposure table, with PEP input to antenna.

Also in agreement with, No one holding a FCC ticket, may apply for a Reciprocal permit for a alien amateur license.

Also in agreement to phase out RACES station license

All in all, If 3 licenses structure is the GOAL...go with A-Extra, B-general, C-Tech.  
20wpm 13wpm 5wpm

Thanks for giving me the chance to address the commission, Which the ARRL didn't do for me.

Sincerely yours,

CLARENCE E CHITTENDEN W6FYH

*Clarence E Chittenden*

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