

**From:** Michael Kuna <mkjn@interaccess.com>  
**To:** K3DOM.K3PO1(BCROSS)  
**Date:** Thu, May 20, 1999 11:13 AM  
**Subject:** More on CW-Please read

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Docket WT 98-143

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Dear Mr. Cross:

I am aware that the deadline concerning licensing changes for amateur radio has passed. However, I feel compelled to write to you concerning this matter.

In the days of the Internet, satellites and 5 cents per minute long distance telephone calls amateur radio could seem like a dinosaur, but it is not. Amateur radio has consistently provided emergency communications during times of crisis. The ham community is a resource of thousands of operators and radios distributed throughout the country. Amateur radio works when phone lines are down and satellites fail.

I'm sure that you already know this so, you may ask, why I'm I writing? I am asking you to strongly consider simplifying the requirements for amateur radio licensure. I have been an active short-wave listener since age 10 (I'm now 46). Although I frequently thought of obtaining an amateur license the thought of Morse Code put me off (I have a great deal of difficulty hearing the differences between similar sounds). I finally decided to "take the plunge" and I did eventually pass the required examinations for a Tech-Plus license, but I wondered to myself if the many, many hours of Morse Code study were simply a waste of time. Now I am facing the Mount Everest task of studying for a 13 WPM exam. Frankly the effort outweighs the benefit and I'm placing this on hold.

Have you listened to the HF frequencies lately? When I do I hear scattered conversations and open space. What I don't hear are kids, teens or many women. What a wonderful opportunity it would be to introduce the next generation to ham radio and stimulate another generation of engineers and technicians.

I have to wonder what the purpose of the code exam is. Certainly, there are more efficient methods of sending information on the radio. To keep a high code requirement only keeps new hams away. If you don't believe me compare the number of Technicians to Novices. To relax this rule to reasonable limits could allow many more individuals to seek higher levels of licenses. I don't hear people complaining about requirements to know rules and regulations, frequency allocation or electronic theory. New hams complain about the Morse Code requirement because it appears to be (and is) an archaic requirement. It is a hoop that you must jump through.

I sometimes hear older hams offer passionate arguments about CW. Frankly, every time I analyze these statements it boils down to "I had to do it, so you should too." That is not a very compelling reason to me. The radio spectrum is not a "club" it is publicly owned. Amateur licenses should be awarded based on a reasonable criteria, not one based on the days of radio at the turn of the century.

Thank you for you attention to this matter.

**RECEIVED**

MAY 20 1999

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