

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

98-143

Dear Sir, I would like to make a comment about the licensing of amateur radio stations. I am a tech plus operator. I just passed the 5 wpm test code upgrading from a no-code tech. I have absolutely no desire to ever use morse code. I have heard the argument from both sides of the issue, while 5 wpm probably can be learned by most people, 13 wpm or even 20 may not always be learned by everyone. I find the only reason that some folks don't want it to change is because they had to so should everyone else. I'm glad that was not the thinking of the inventors of the things that we enjoy so much now. Evidently some folks have gone beyond amateur radio being a hobby. It seems they feel its a job or something so serious about everything. To me in my opinion this is something that should be enjoyed not something to be endured. At one time morse code could be a very valuable thing in communications. It is not bad to still know how to send in a emergency. Could the 5 wpm not be used as the entry to the hf bands and the no-code techs enter the uhf-vhf bands. This "I done it so should you" approach really does not promote and stimulate interest in a hobby that is from what I understand to be losing out with the progress of computer and internet. Yes I believe their should be testing as electrical and electronic devices are concerned and yes maybe the 5 wpm code.

Thanks Alot, Greg Smart

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