

I am writing to comment on petition Nr. 98-143, filed by Wormser, Adsit and Dinelli, concerning reconsideration of restructuring of the Amateur Radio Service.

While I am mostly in agreement with the points set out in the above, I want to give you my views in particular concerning the 20 WPM Morse Code test for the Amateur Extra class of license.

I worked extremely hard to gain enough expertise and speed in order to pass the 20 WPM

test. It's been a large point of pride for me since I upgraded to Extra in 1985. I really felt I had accomplished

something special, to rise to highest point Ham Radio had to offer.

I have continued to work with the Morse Code, and I currently am capable of competent operation in the 25-35 WPM range. I LOVE CW!

I understand the Commission's desire to address the problem of fraudulent medical waivers. Indeed, I myself have known of persons who were granted waivers on the basis of a "bad" back. Intervertebral discs must somehow be attached to the aural synapsis in some people. I have a bad back also, 2 herniated discs in the lumbar region. They hurt sometimes, but they have never affected my hearing or my ability to sit long enough with headphones on to take a 5-minute code test. I agree with the petitioners in that reducing the requirement for the General Class license to 5 WPM satisfies any need for "accommodation" of people with special needs.

I ask that you consider re-instating the 20 WPM code test for the Extra Class license. It may be "politically incorrect" in this age of "celebrating" mediocrity to have a quantifiable measure of operating excellence, but, wasn't that the intent behind the Extra Class ticket? to reward and recognize those hams who go the "extra mile" to achieve? Sure, I think I'm "Hot Stuff", I have a license to prove that I'm one of the Elite, the Cream of The Crop. All I'm asking is for you not to cheapen that for which I worked so hard to attain.

If you decide not to re-instate the 20 WPM code test, may I suggest the formation of a NEW "Super Ham" ticket? maybe 30 WPM, waive the written with proof of at least an AAS/EET degree and make a radio out of a box of supplied parts?

Thank you for your consideration

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