

Docket #
98-143

THE DEMISE OF A HOBBY

Up until now I have been very quiet about my feelings and concerns relating to this hobby. I am still a younger ham 44 yrs old ,but have been licensed for 31 yrs. During this 30 + years there have been several changes, some that I thought were not good and others that were. One of the changes that I did not agree with was the no code tech class, as I thought this was just opening the door to every one who wanted a ham ticket with out the work (my opinion) and 10 or so years later look where we are. I watch and listened to the local repeaters load up with lids and I have watched as some fellow senior hams fade from the hobby. This might be a good reason why some of the new hams are complaining that no one will answer them when they try new repeaters. I speak only from what I have heard on hf, as I have lost total interest with vhf, and when I listen to 20 meters and the spoon feeding dx nets and the last two for a complete call sign I just shudder.

But this latest sell out to the whiners who complain that the code requirements are too hard and that we are being discriminatory is just ridiculous. Just how smart are they if they can't pass the code, we all did and it is not supposed to be easy, this is a technical hobby. We are required to know certain elements of electronics even though they may be outdated, and I am sure that will also change. Now with only three classes, what new privileges did the FCC give to the existing extras and advanced ? NONE!!!!!!

Again in my opinion the cw whiners are just lazy, I know that this offends many but right now I do not care! It offends me that the FCC, ARRL,W5YI and many others who have made this change happen do so only to line their pockets with all of the money that the new amateurs who will buy their magazines and study books. I feel after spending 30+ years in this hobby with the work and studying that was required, that now I have been slapped in the face. I have nothing against the new ham or even with the no code ham, but I do have a problem with a new ham that wants the same privileges that I have earned, just given to them. This may not be the end of this hobby , not yet! The cb band also took several years for its demise, it might take a little longer with amateur radio.

Again in my opinion I really feel that we can now call this hobby "amateur" radio. I fell that in time we will only have to send in and get your extra class no code no theory amateur radio license for free. This may sound drastic to some but the forces who made this change happen are not finished yet. I know that I will get some flack from this letter, and I am sure it will be from someone who finds it too hard to study and want something for nothing.

Mike Weber
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W2UHI Docket#
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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

I AM GONNA MAKE THIS SHORT.
LEAVE AMATEUR RADIO A HOBBY.
WE DON'T NEED 11 METER ON
THE AMATEUR BANDS.

5 W.P.M IS TOO EASY,
LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONG.

THANKS

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ART

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P.S. A LITTLE WORK NEVER HURTS
ANYONE.

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