

The Amateur radio service has provided a valuable gateway for innovation and progress that has effected all facets of technology in our general society. As technology advances in amateur radio, one builds upon past inventions and modes to create more efficient and effective means for communication. As we know, the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) has dropped the Morse code requirements; and has left such requirements to the individual countries to decide upon.

In my opinion, we the Amateur Radio community as well as the FCC should continue to retain the Morse code requirement at the 5 WPM rate for all General and Amateur Extra class licenses. I support RM-10781 by Peter M. Beauregard, KI1I. A version of this petition should be looked at and acted upon this time. By giving the Technician class (no-code) licensee the opportunity and incentive to practice the use of Morse code would HF bands will be helpful as well as provide them SSB voice privileges on the other HF bands as stated in RM-10781. The written exam will need to be addressed for the new additional HF operations for the Technician license. We should not overlook the young, for example the elementary aged group, when structuring required testing elements; since we no longer have a Novice license for entry. At that time, it gave that person privileges on the CW portion of the HF bands and with a limited testable technical knowledge that could be easily comprehensible to the younger generation or even the newcomer to the hobby. This group of young talented people will help shape our country's future in technological advancements in communications or any other innovative science. The current testing elements are working fine at the present with the exception of some improvements. I support the elimination of the Tech Plus license scheme.

Young or old, the use of Morse code should not be seen as a hindrance by any means but one of many useful means of communicating when all else fails even in the advent of digital satellite communications. Not all radio operators, even the Extra class licensee that took the older 20 WPM test opt to operate using CW. Again it goes back to the individual operator mode of preference. Our country should now take on the lead of now protecting the use of Morse code by having certifiable knowledge of the Morse code "home based" in the Amateur radio community. As one being an active Merchant Mariner officer in both deck and communications; make it be known to the FCC, the International maritime community and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) requires that the merchant deck officer in ocean service is required to pass a Morse light signaling examination. The USCG rate is at 6 WPM. Morse code is NOT "dead" in the eyes of the USCG or the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a branch of the United Nations governing maritime safety issues for those countries that sign-on to that convention that have a vested interest in international maritime trade.

Again I support a version of RM-10781.

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