

I support retaining Morse Code as a testing requirement for Amateur Radio licenses within the United States of America. Morse code is still an integral part of Amateur Radio and is widely used by many people. As Section Manager for the ARRL in the Western New York section, I conducted a survey of approximately 300 Amateurs. A full seventy percent 70% support retaining Morse Code as a testing requirement in the USA. Over sixty percent (60%) of those who are no-code licensees (Technician) support keeping Morse Code as a testing requirement. As a compromise solution I propose changing the operating privileges of the Technician license class to include limited voice and Morse code frequency allocations in the 1.8 to 30MHz Amateur bands, and retain the 5 word per minute Morse code examination for both the General and Extra class licenses.

As a W5YI and ARRL volunteer examiner, Morse code is not a testing burden as some claim, since there is only one test to administer for all license classes that require the test.

The argument that other commercial and military services have dropped Morse code is of no relevance to Amateur Radio, since these services are distinctly different with different obligations and requirements, and this premise should be dismissed as irrelevant to Amateur Radio.

Organizations such as the ARRL, W5YI and all others within the NCVEC, have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in dropping the Morse code testing requirement, and therefore any petition from these organizations or including these organization should be dismissed due to inherent conflict of interest presented. Some of the organizations within the NCVEC have employment concerns and therefore present an unfortunate conflict of interest for these organizations. Other organizations within the NCVEC benefit monetarily and also have a conflict of interest.

The Federal Communications Commission FCC must not let Amateur Radio turn into another citizen's band. The FCC while having good intentions at the time with the technology of the time, created a monster in allowing a citizen's band to be created in the 26 to 27 MHz spectrum. The citizen's band is an embarrassment to the FCC and to the USA and cannot be repeated by eliminating the Morse code requirement for Amateur Radio.

Keep Morse code as a testing requirement for the General and Extra class licenses and open up a limited amount of HF spectrum for the Technician license. This would be a means of ensuring that the FCC pursues the proper course of action for Amateur Radio, a course of action that most or all would be able to accept.

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