

In regards to the motion before you by the NCVEC to discontinue the 5 word-per-minute Element 1 test for ham operators...

I feel that by removing the Morse Code requirement for ham operators the FCC will be "dumbing down the system" and thus make it too easy to become a ham operator. In the past, becoming a ham operator was challenging and required skill and dedication. Now, all that is needed is a little memorization or just plain luck. What was once an honor is now becoming a commonplace.

If the Morse Code requirement is removed from being a requirement for receiving a General Class license or greater is removing part of the history of not just Amateur Radio but of communications in general. If we destroyed everything that had become outdated we wouldn't have any antique shops or heirlooms. In the same way, Morse Code is a skill that can be, and often is, passed from one generation of hams to the next. Now that computer packet data has become faster and more accurate, will voice communications become a thing of the past as well? I should think not!

As someone who is new to the ham world and has a love and respect of the hobby, I urge you to KEEEP THE CODE!

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