

When I was licensed in 1937 if a person desired an amateur radio license he/she had to pass a 13 wpm code test.

This was an accepted part of the requirements and all applicants had to comply.

Even then, many applicants following their licensing never used CW and opted for phone operation.

Those who had the desire and were motivated by the challenge of CW embraced the mode and enjoyed the fruits of their labor by making CW contacts all over the world.

CW is the prevalent mode world wide by amateurs and is demonstrated by the high degree of activity on the amateur CW bands during any of the contests.

Since the beginning, there were always some that for many different reasons had some difficulty with the code; it is no more or less today than it was then.

The 5 wpm requirement is easily achieved by virtually anyone as it is exceedingly slow. Current testing makes it possible for accommodations to be made to help the applicants.

Taking it away would not result in any great influx but it would certainly cause many applicants to miss out on the introduction to and the pleasures of mastering the CW mode.

I am troubled by the part of the NPRM which states "...promote more efficient use of the radio spectrum currently allocated to the Amateur Radio service." Does this mean that there are plans to reduce the CW portions of the amateur bands?

If nothing else, make it a part of the Extra class requirement to retain a measure of integrity in that prestigious class and carry on the tradition.

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