

In my opinion the sooner the FCC follows the example set by several other countries by removing the Morse requirement the better off we will all be. I would support a bandplan accommodation of Morse code, via voluntary reserved frequencies.

The ARRL should be able to organize such an arrangement. The ARRL proposal for a new entry level license is a subject that could and should be considered as a separate issue from the Morse code requirement for HF access.

I am a technician class amateur service license holder, an electrical engineer employed in the design of radio equipment, owner of equipment capable of communication on the frequencies being discussed, and have resided at the times in the paths taken by hurricanes, Bonnie, Dennis, Irene, Floyd, Charley, among others, and posses an outdoor weather station.

I offer that neither cellular or land line telephone, nor commercial satellite internet, remained reliable communication services in those storms. However, via HF and other bands with backup power systems I had on hand, emergency communication on behalf of myself and my neighbors could have been accomplished if required, In the absence of a Morse code requirement for access to the HF band I could have also provided real time storm reports to the National Hurricane Center, and other interested parties monitoring those communications. As a hobby I have little interest in advancing technologies or bands I am not allowed to use.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bobby Atkinson