

Dear Sirs;

It will truly be a sad day for amateur radio in the United States when the Morse Code requirement for amateur licensing ceases. The Morse Code has been required since the first days of amateur radio. It has become the identity of amateur radio. Many are calling for the demise of Morse Code testing in the amateur service because it is “old fashioned” and “19th century technology”. In truth, amateur radio is still less than one hundred years old. Instead of the Morse Code being antiquated, it is a tried and proven means of not only radio communication, but communication in general. It can be sent with light, sound vibrations, and even eye blinks. Those who denigrate the Morse Code as antiquated are making nothing more than veiled statements of “I don’t want to do this,” and “I want upgraded privileges without working for them.”

Amateur radio will not be the same without the Morse Code. It will be – something else. I urge you to continue to require Morse Code testing for all amateur licensing. Thank you.

Dwayne J. Sparks, AK4P