

Dear Sirs;

On the subject of deleting the Morse Code requirement from amateur testing, I would like to refute the claim many are making that CW or Morse Code is “just another mode”. These claimants insist that Morse can be deciphered using state-of-of-the-art equipment, ie; computers and other decoders that are attached to a radio. The important point to this is that Morse Code is the ONLY mode that is available to the Amateur Radio Operator that doesn’t require any external equipment. To a trained ear, all that is needed is a radio. CW can be understood using simple equipment without peripheral hardware or sophisticated digital decoders. Additionally, it is the ONLY mode available to the amateur that CAN be understood without external equipment of some description. The human mind is able to decipher the Morse Code, but cannot decipher digital computer modes.

It disheartens me greatly to know that the many who advocate the demise of Morse Code for amateur exams willingly learn the fundamentals of a foreign language as part of a college curriculum, yet find the Morse Code “too hard” and “not in their interest”. They are unwilling to invest the time to learn the basic skills needed to pass a simple 5 word-per-minute Morse Code exam. Are these the kinds of individuals who should be getting upgraded privileges? Individuals who MAY be qualified in every other manner, but are feckless when it comes to the small amount of work required to get basic understanding of this fundamental communications mode?

The Morse Code works for amateur radio and EVERY amateur should have a fundamental knowledge of it. Please retain Morse Code testing for ALL amateur licensing.

Thank you.

Dwayne J. Sparks, AK4P