

Concerning the ARRL's petition to regulate the amateur bands by bandwidth I would like to voice my opposition. Although I am an ARRL member and have been for many years, I do not agree with this petition. It seems to me and to many of my fellow operators that there is absolutely nothing wrong with the current arrangement concerning regulation of our frequencies and it should be left in place as is. No doubt there are many who like to operate in the digital modes and this should be encouraged, but not at the expense of the very backbone of Amateur Radio, that being those of us who enjoy rag chewing either on SSB, ESSB or my personal favorite, AM. It has been my experience that one can gain more technical knowledge from the different groups of AM operators than can be had from the so-called "appliance operators" who seem to think the entire spectrum should be made available to their contests and the pursuit of DX. These groups, who actually know how to homebrew and/or repair their own equipment, are who keep the advancement of new ideas alive and I can't understand why anyone or any organization would even consider altering the regulation of the ham frequencies in a way that might hamper this type of operation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter.

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