

I am adamantly opposed to ARRL's proposal to modify 97.221 via RM-11306 to allow RTTY to expand from 500hz to 3khz on HF Amateur bands. There are thousands upon thousands of Amateur Radio operators for whom cw is their only, or predominant, operating mode. To allow these wider bandwidth signals in the already shrunken and crowded "cw sub bands" would virtually eliminate cw as an operating mode. Despite the apparently diminished support for cw by ARRL, and the elimination, by FCC, of the morse code requirement in licensing, the cw mode, today, remains alive and well and extremely popular. CW traffic nets, both slow and high speed still flourish within the National Traffic System. The 2007 Straight Key Night results set new records for the number of logs submitted. And organizations of Amateurs who love cw and operate the mode on a daily basis are growing by leaps and bounds. Given the aforementioned indicators of cw popularity within the Amateur Radio community, I cannot understand the seeming desire on the part of ARRL to drive a nail into the coffin of this mode through a proposal which is on its face detrimental to the interests of cw operations. For many of us, Amateur Radio IS cw, and given that cw is second only to phone operation in popularity, I believe the RTTY and the sub bands should remain as they are.

Respectfully submitted, Milton B. Coleman Sr. K4OSO