

Comments in Opposition to reinstating the Morse Code Requirement for Amateur Radio Operator Licenses.

Proceeding 05-235

It is my opinion the Federal Communications Commission (hence the FCC) did a great service to the continuation of and support to the Amateur Radio hobby in general by eliminating the Morse Code copy requirement.

While the Morse code is a heritage and tradition among amateur operators. Like any other mode it is optional. There are many an operator who only communicate via RTTY. Never has the FCC instituted a “garbled voice - copy by ear” requirement, not has it asked a potential licensee to demonstrate high speed typing to gain a license or be granted an advanced class of license. Radio has progressed technologically from the days for sending by Morse. I, for one am glad this is recognized by our licensing body.

Since the requirement has dropped, I have heard over and over again of all the people wanting to learn. Now, without the pressure of testing code proficiency, it allows individuals to build their own skills, at their pace. It also allows them to enjoy operating their radios, building an increase in knowledge and skills. Code was in the past my singular stumbling block. Once I had HF privileges (Tech Plus) I was hooked.

Some pundits say we will invite all sorts of ‘riff-raff’ to the hobby. No one but those who are really serious about radio would get past the code hurdle. Well, this holds no logic or merit. We had plenty of riff-raff who know how to copy code. Just ask Mr. Hollingsworth.

Please accept my comment is support of the FCC’s decision to eliminate Morse code from Amateur licensing and in opposition to the Gordon and Ward petitions.

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