

I am against the latest restructuring proposal granting element credit to expired licensees. Assume someone has an expired General Class license 30 years old and wants to be reinstated. The body of knowledge of the exams circa 30 years ago is completely different today. To hand people an amateur radio license without reexamination is unconscionable; it's just another example of the continuing "dumbing down" of the licensing system. At the VE sessions there are often previously licensed candidates present for reexamination. They understand WHY reexamination is necessary to be a knowledgeable amateur radio operator. If someone wishes to return to the amateur service, it should be EARNED and not just GIVEN away. We place a lot of emphasis in amateur radio on education and being informed about the latest technologies and theories, etc. To allow carte blanche element credit is a contradiction to this tenant. Above all, having one's license lapse is nobody's fault other than the amateur's. Are we not rewarding irresponsibility by granting element credit? Why should this be an entitlement? Shouldn't the current two year grace period to renew without reexamination be sufficient? This proposal is yet another example of emphasizing quantity rather than quality; more amateurs means more ARRL memberships and book sales, etc.

I am not against any of the other parts of this proposal.

Gordon Bello K1GB