

Antietam Radio Association, Inc.
Sponsor of the Maryland – DC QSO Party
Post Office Box 52
Hagerstown, Maryland 21741

September 17, 2003

FCC Representative,

This note is in regards to the FCC invitation to voice comments on the morse code proposed changes. The Antietam Radio Association (ARA) is comprised of approximately 75 members and meet regularly as a Amateur Radio Club and representative for Washington County Maryland. Last evening the proposed morse code changes were brought up and several discussions and opinions collaborated. At this time, the Antietam Radio Association would like to collectively voice the following:

- YES to make all technician class operators equivalent to tech plus
- YES to make morse code a requirement for extra class
- NO to make Morse code a requirement for general class/hf operations
- NO to granting HF Phone privilege to technicians.

Our position is that we do not fully support either RM-10785 nor the rule proposed by the National Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC). Both of these proposals approach our stand, and would be acceptable to us, IF just one modification were made to them (a different adjustment for each). We request that the new Rule grant equal privilege to all holders of the Technician Class license, with no expansion of those privilege. We request that the Technician class operators not be given any more “Phone” privileges than they are presently granted (10 Meter phone). We request that the code requirements for the General Class license be eliminated. We request that, since the Extra Class License requires a knowledge of various modes of operation that the 5 words per minute code requirement remain in effect for that license, as evidence of an ability to use that mode.

It is the considered opinion that in some manner the requirement for amateurs to gain access to HF privileges the ability to utilize Morse Code should be eliminated, if that is the only choice.

For additional questions, please contact me at rjlong61@md.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Long, KD3JK
ARA Emergency Services Coordinator/Repeater Trustee

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