Ham Licensing

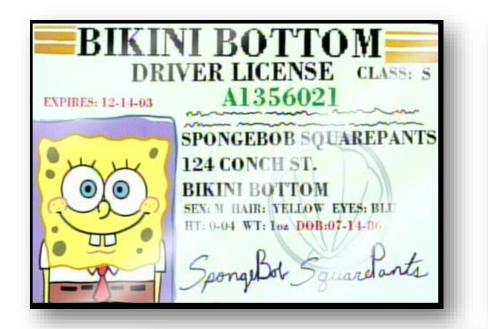
Then, Now, and in the Future

Source for much of the 'history' info:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_licensing_in_the_United_States



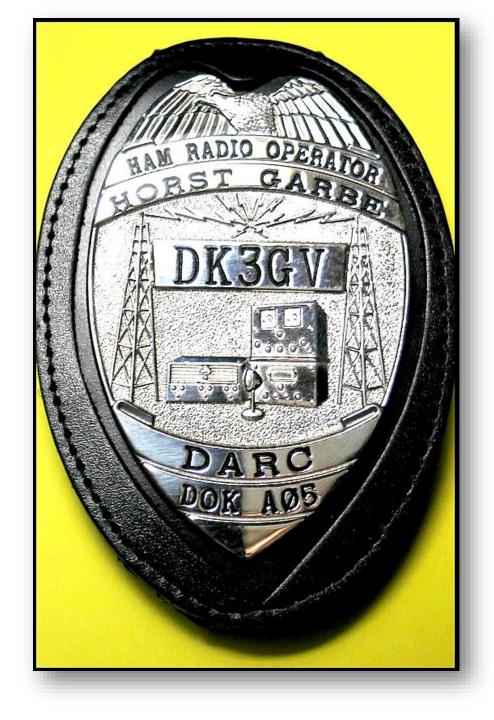
Not This Kind Of License 🕲





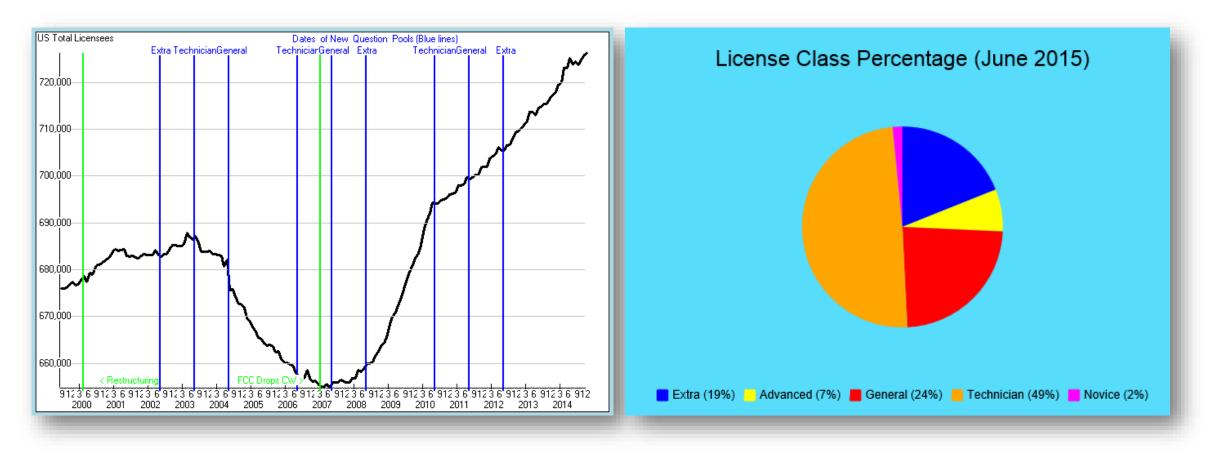
Nor This Kind Of License 🕲





Cut Along This Line	DELGAD 1145 N	UNITED STATES AL COMMUNICA AMATEUR RA NO, ALBERTO J ORMANDY DR APT 2 BEACH FL 33141	ATIONS COMM DID LICENSE KF4IJF	ISSION ()	Licensee: This is your radio authorization in sizes suitable for your wallet and for framing Carefully cut the documents along the lines as indicated and sign immediately upon receipt. They are not valid until signed. The Commission suggests that the wallet size version be laminated (or another similar document protection process) after signing. The g Commission has found,
-	FCC Registration Numb	er (FRN) 0007086481 Special Conditions/	Endorsements		inder certain circumstances, if aser print is subject to g displacement.
	NONE				
	Grant Date	Effective Date	Print Date	Expiration Date	
	03-30-2006	03-30-2006	03-31-2006	04-04-2016	
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Current # of Amateur Radio licenses



Source: http://www.ah0a.org/FCC/index.html

And then by the numbers . . .

Month	Extra	Advanced	<u>General</u>	Technician	Novice	ARS Total
Aug-15	138,718	48,947	171,929	359,735	11,281	730,610
Jul-15	138,453	49,202	172,007	359,443	11,349	730,454
Jun-15	138,199	49,399	171,605	359,032	11,448	729,683
May-15	137,907	49,682	171,088	359,466	11,542	729,685
Apr-15	137,707	49,949	170,880	360,101	11,646	730,283
Mar-15	137,237	50,164	170,142	358,861	11,742	728,146
Feb-15	136,904	50,492	169,840	358,262	11,856	727,354
Jan-15	136,798	50,778	169,897	358,543	11,941	727,957
Dec-14	136,405	51,069	169,524	357,236	12,041	726,275
Nov-14	136,203	51,256	169,369	357,066	12,112	726,006
Oct-14	135,964	51,465	169,042	356,296	12,159	724,926
Sep-14	135,623	51,698	168,790	355,424	12,236	723,771
Aug-14	135,542	51,974	168,934	355,757	12,325	724,532
Jul-14	135,187	52,179	168,703	355,275	12,411	723,755

1912 – The start of licensing

Amateur First Grade •

Amateur Second Grade

Amateur Extra First Class Required an essay-type examination and five (later ten) words per minute code examination before a Radio Inspector at one of the Department's field offices

FCC 660	UNITED STATES OF AMER FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS CO WASHINGTON			
	AMATEUR RADIO STATI	ON LICENSE		
issuance, sub	e is valid until 3 o'clock a.m., eastern sta ject to the provisions of all treaties, laws, adio stations.	andard time, 3 years from date of orders, and regulations that apply		
Licensee an	nd fixed station location:	Call letters:		
Irvi	ng Al Gross,	WSPAL		
	East 117th St.,	Date of		
	eland, Ohio.	issuance:		
	I FILLIN	11-26-35		
This license vests no right to operate the station nor to the use of authorized frequen- cies beyond the term hereof, nor in any other manner than authorized herein. This license is subject to the right of use or control by the Government of the United States under section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934.				
	FEDERAL COMMUNICATI He	ONS COMMISSION [SEAL]		
Lange de la company		16—1150		

1912 – The start of licensing

No. 14615 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF NAVIGATION RADIO SERVICE License to Badio Operator, Amateur Second Grade This is to certify, that Robert H. Winchester has presented satisfactory evidence that he has a knowledge of the adjustment and operation of apparatus and of the regulations of the Radiotelegraphic Convention and the Acts of Congress, in so far as they relate to interference with radio communication and impose certain duties on all grades of operators, sufficient to entitle him to a license, and he is hereby provisionally licensed as RADIO OPERATOR, AMATEUR SECOND GRADE, until he has been duly examined, but not to exceed a period of one year. He has also shown that he has knowledge (excellent or good) of the following additional subjects: (b) Transmitting and sound reading Continental Morse at a speed of 10 words a minute. (c) General knowledge of international regulations and Acts of Congress to regulate radio commu-HERBERT HOOVER. Oath of secrecy executed F. T. CHAMBERLAIN Asst. U.S. "adio Inspector Detroit, Mich. Date ____Aug. 13th Place ... 19 21

Amateur Second Grade

Amateur

First Grade

Amateur Extra First Class

- Required the applicant to certify that he or she was unable to appear at a field office but was nevertheless qualified to operate a station.
- Later, the applicant took brief written and code exams before a nearby existing licensee.



1912 – The start of licensing

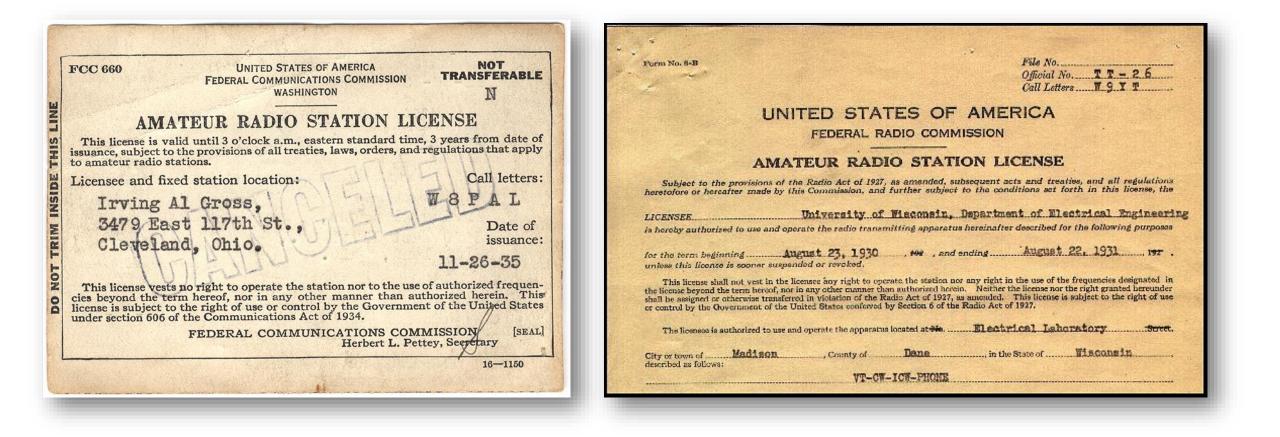
Amateur First Grade

Amateur Second Grade

Amateur Extra First Class

- Added in 1923, the Amateur Extra First Grade, that conveyed extra operating privileges. It required a more difficult written examination and a code test at twenty words per minute.
- In 1929, a special license endorsement for "unlimited radiotelephone privileges" became available in return for passing an examination on radiotelephone subjects. This allowed amateurs to upgrade and use reserved radiotelephone bands without having to pass a difficult code examination.

What do we license?



1933 – First of many restructurings

Class "A"

Class "B"

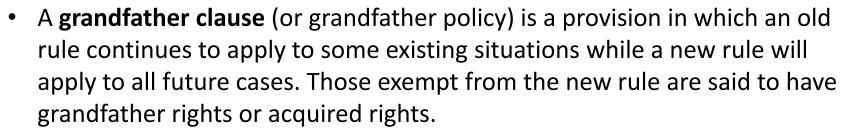
Class "C"

Class A conveyed all amateur operating privileges, including certain reserved radiotelephone bands. Amateur Extra First Grade licensees and Amateur First Class licensees with "unlimited radiotelephone" endorsements were grandfathered into this class.

• Class B licensees did not have the right to operate on the reserved radiotelephone bands. Amateur First Class licensees were grandfathered into this class.

 Class C licensees had the same privileges as Class B licensees, but took their examinations from other licensees rather than from Commission field offices. Because examination requirements were somewhat stiffened, Temporary Amateur licensees were not grandfathered into this class but had to be licensed anew.

1933 – A new term is first introduced: "Grandfathered"



- Applies to licenses where an old license class is grandfathered to a new one without any additional testing or requirements.
- Applies to elements needed to be awarded a license where once you have taken an element you do not need to take any new equivalent element, you get grandfathered credit for the new element.



During WWII

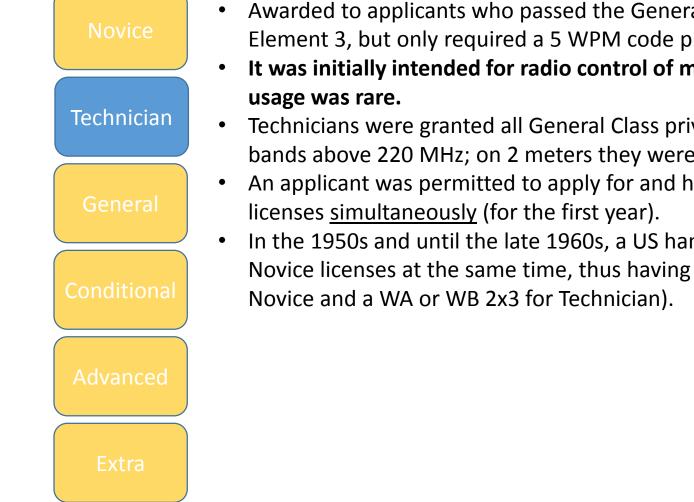
- Station operation is suspended.
- However licensing still took place, even if you could not operate.
- Just say that you were a ham got you a job as a radio operator.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 56928-A Washington, D. C. SERIAL NO. 13 JAN. 9, 1942 ORDER NO. 87-A At a session of the Federal Communications Commission held at its offices in Washington, D. C. on the eighth day of January, 1942: Whereas considerations of national defense require the complete cessation of all amateur radio operation: IT IS ORDERED, That all special authorizations granted pursuant to Order No. 87 BE, AND THEY ARE HEREBY, CANCELLED. By order of the Commission. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION T. J. Slowie Secretary

• Teaching CW became a major activity of military training.

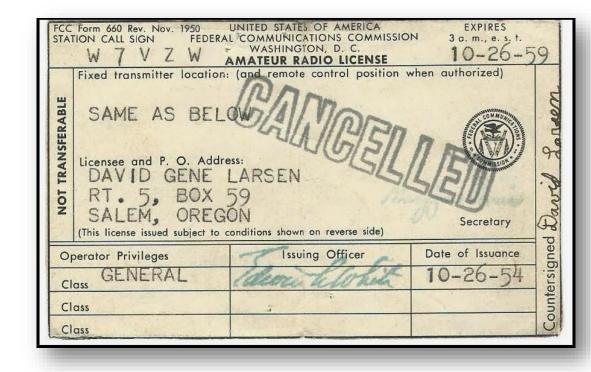
Novice	 FCC moved to convert the existing three license classes (A, B, and C) into six named classes.
Technician	 Following the rule change, the classes were Novice, Technician, General, Conditional, Advanced, and Amateur Extra. Each license class required <u>two</u> exams: one on theory and one on Morse code, and each license was valid for five years (except Novice).
General Conditional	 Until the advent of incentive licensing in the late 1960s: 1. The Technician, Conditional and General classes shared the <u>same</u> written examination 2. The Conditional, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra classes shared
Advanced	the same operating privileges.
Extra	

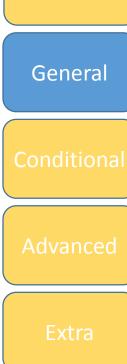
Novice	 The entry-level license – everyone started here. Very limited bands, power and other restrictions. To qualify for a Novice license, a candidate would have to pass a 5 word-per-
echnician	 minute (WPM) Morse code test (send and receive) and a 25- (later 30-) question multiple-choice test. 1 year; non-renewable. Must upgrade or license expires.
General	FCC Form 660 Rev. June 1956 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EXPIRES STATION CALL SIGN FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION 3 a. m., e. s. t. KN9 IME AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE 6-30-62 N18
onditional	Fixed transmitter location: (and remote control position when authorized) SAME AS BELOW Licensee and P. O. Address:
dvanced	STUART P. BROWNE, JR. Secretary 518 PARISH ST. DELAVAN, WIS. (This license issued subject to conditions shown on reverse side)
	Operator Privileges Issuing Officer Effective Date
Extra	Class NOVICE C.B. Flummers 6-30-61 Class SEE UPPER RIGHT CORNER FOR EXPIRATION DATE

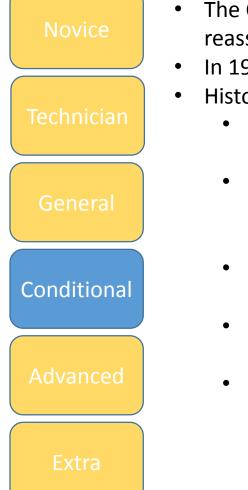


- Awarded to applicants who passed the General Class theory test, known as Element 3, but only required a 5 WPM code proficiency.
- It was initially intended for radio control of model airplanes, etc. but that
- Technicians were granted all General Class privileges in the 50 MHz band and all bands above 220 MHz; on 2 meters they were limited to 145–147 MHz.
- An applicant was permitted to apply for and hold both Technician and Novice
- In the 1950s and until the late 1960s, a US ham could hold both Technician and Novice licenses at the same time, thus having two call signs (WN 2x3 for the

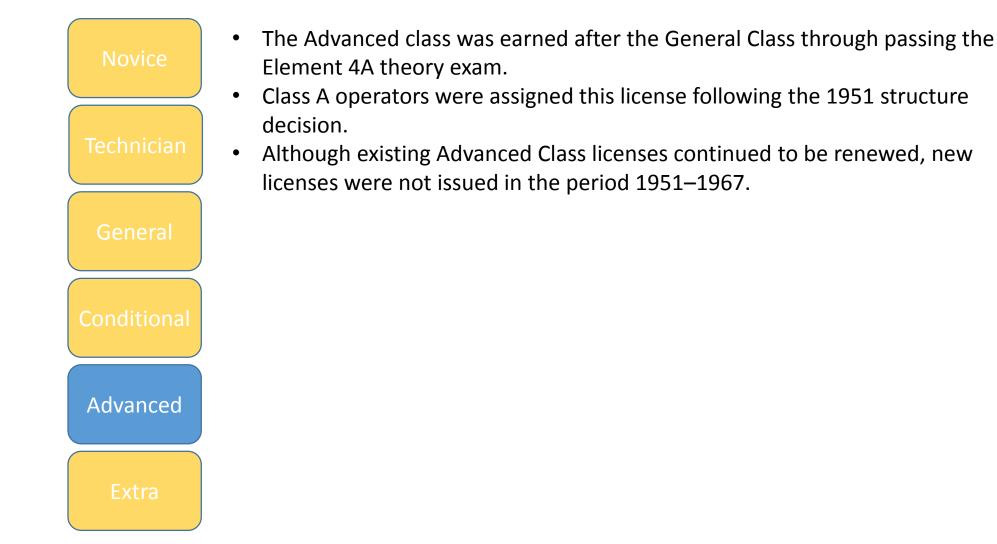
The General class originally conveyed full privileges on all ham bands, having passed the Element 3 theory exam and 13 WPM Morse code test. Class B operators were assigned this license following the 1951 structure decision.
 Most 'bang-for-the-buck' license and most hams got to this level and remained there.

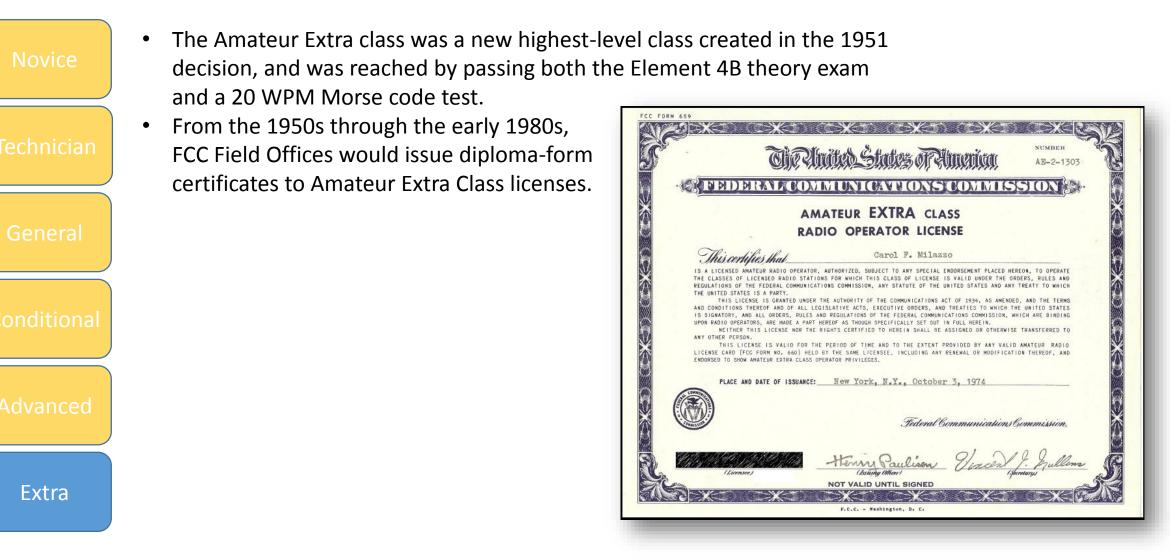






- The Conditional license class was created when Class C operators were reassigned to this group.
- In 1978 all Conditional Class licenses became General Class.
- History:
 - Prior to 1984, the FCC administered license exams for all classes except Novice and Technician, with some exceptions.
 - The Conditional License exam was given by a ham with General (or higher) license, who would administer the code test, proctor the written exam, and send the completed exam to the FCC for grading.
 - Successful examinees were given Conditional licenses, which brought the same privileges as the General class.
 - The FCC retained the right to require Conditional licensees to come into an FCC office for retesting.
 - The current Volunteer Examiner program evolved from the Novice/Technician/Conditional exam procedure.





1964 – A new era begins: Incentive licensing

Novice	 The term of the Novice class was extended to <u>two</u> years to give new hams more time to upgrade. In 1978 the Novice changed into a renewable license with the same five-year validity as other classes.
Technician	 Delayed until 1968, the FCC and the ARRL developed a program known as "Incentive Licensing," which rearranged the HF spectrum privileges.
General	 The General/Conditional and Advanced portions of the HF bands were reduced, aka "stolen", with the spectrum reassigned to those in the Advanced and Amateur Extra classes. It was hoped that these special portions of the radio spectrum would provide an incentive for hams to increase their knowledge and skills, creating a larger pool of experts.
Conditional	 Prior to the advent of incentive licensing, only a small percentage of General Class operators progressed to the Amateur Extra Class. After incentive licensing, a large number of amateurs attained Advanced and Amateur Extra
Advanced	 After incentive licensing, a large number of amateurs attained Advanced and Amateur Extra Class licenses. Thus, incentive licensing was successful in inducing a large number of amateurs to study and upgrade their knowledge and license privileges.
Extra	

"I will never trust the ARRL again"



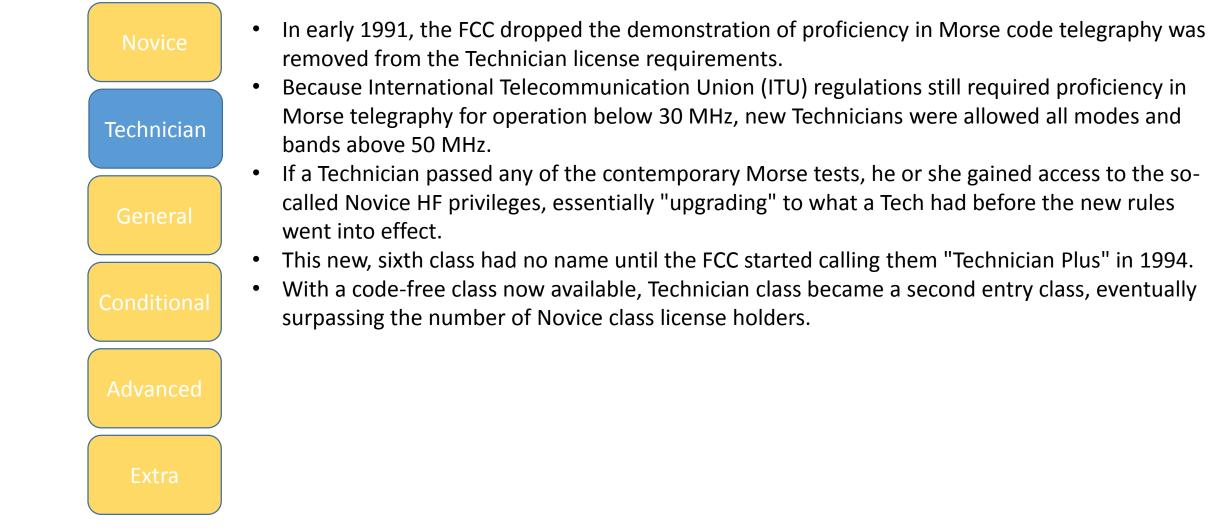
- Incentive licensing however was not without controversy
- A number of General class operators, unhappy at having their privileges reduced, dropped out of the hobby rather than upgrade.
- Many have never forgiven the ARRL for "stealing their bands".

1987 – Brings big changes

Novice Technician General Conditional Advanced Extra

- Prior to 1987, the only difference between the requirements for Technician and General licenses was the Morse telegraphy test, which was five words per minute (wpm) for Technician and 13 wpm for General. The written test, then called element 3, was the same for both classes.
- In 1987, a number of changes, later called the "Novice Enhancement," were introduced.
 - Among them, element 3 was split into two new exams, element 3A, which covered VHF theory and 3B, which covered HF theory.
 - Element 3A became a requirement for the Technician class and element 3B became a requirement for General.
 - Both classes also required candidates to have passed the Novice element 2 theory exam.
- The changes also granted Novice and Technician classes limited voice privileges on the 10-meter HF band. Novices were also granted voice privileges on portions of the then-220-MHz (since changed to 222 MHz) and 1,240 MHz bands using limited power.
- For the first time, Novices and Technicians were able to operate using single sideband voice and data modes on HF. It was hoped that this would prompt more hams to move up to General, once they had a chance to sample HF without a Morse key.

1990 – Technician becomes the first license without a Morse code requirement



1991 – Here we go again . . .

- Technician General Extra
- In 1991, the FCC moved to simplify the Amateur Radio Service operator license structure.
- A reduction of the number of operator license classes from six to the current three (Technician, General, Extra).
- The Advanced Class, Technician Plus Class, and Novice Class licenses were deemed redundant and would no longer be issued; however, existing licensees would retain their operating privileges and be allowed to renew their licenses.
- A reduction of the number of telegraphy examination elements from three to one. Both the 20 words-per-minute (WPM) and 13 WPM Morse code tests were removed in favor of a standardized 5 WPM as the sole Morse code requirement for both the General and Extra Class licenses.
- With the removal of the high-speed Morse code tests, physician certification waivers were no longer accepted.
- A reduction of the number of written examination elements from five to three.
- Elimination of station licenses for the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES).

1991 – Here we go again . . .

Technician General Extra

- With the rule simplification, all pre-1987 Technician operators were now qualified to become General class operators, having already passed both the theory and code exams now required for the higher class. All that was necessary was to apply for the General license, usually through a "paper upgrade" (often done through existing amateur radio clubs) to achieve the license acquisition. The restructuring also enabled a pre-1987 Technician operator to become an Extra operator simply by passing the element 4 theory examination. Additionally, an expired or unexpired Novice class license could be used as credit toward the 5 WPM Morse code examination when upgrading.
- With the change, Technicians who could pass the 5 WPM Morse code examination were given the same HF-band privileges as the Technician Plus class, although the FCC's callsign database no longer distinguished between those Technician licensees possessing HF privileges and those who did not.

1997 – Bye-Bye Expired licenses

In 1997 the FCC, in the face of opposition, dropped a proposal that would have generally allowed examination element credit for expired amateur operator licenses. In the past, the FCC has maintained that its procedures "provide ample notification and opportunity for license renewal" and that retesting did not impose an unreasonable burden.
 But all is not lost

• But all is not lost . . .



2003 – Bye-Bye Morse code

Technician General

Extra

- In 2003, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ratified changes to the Radio Regulations to allow each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code.
- The effect of this revision was to eliminate the international requirement that a person demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an amateur radio operator license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.
- With this change of international rules, the FCC announced on December 15, 2006 that it
 intended to adopt rule changes which would eliminate the Morse code requirement for amateur
 operator licenses. Shortly thereafter, the effective date of the new rules was announced as
 February 23, 2007.
- After that date, the FCC immediately granted the former Technician Plus privileges to all Technician Class operators, consolidating the class into a single set of rules.
- Following the change in requirements, the ARRL reported a significant increase in the number of applications for licensing.

2014 – Hello Expired licenses

Technician General Extra

- The issue arose again in 2011, with a request from the Anchorage Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.
- In 2014, in a wide-ranging Report and Order (R&O), the FCC has revised the Amateur Service Part 97 rules to grant credit for written examination elements 3 (General) and 4 (Amateur Extra) to holders of "expired licenses that required passage of those elements."
- The FCC requires former licensees those falling outside the 2-year grace period to pass Element 2 (Technician) in order to be relicensed, however. The Commission declined to give examination credit to the holder of an expired Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) or to extend its validity to the holder's lifetime.

"Our decision to grant credit for written examination Elements 3 and 4 for expired licenses that required passage [of those elements] will provide some relief for former General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra class licensees," the FCC said, "and is consistent with how we treat expired pre-1987 Technician class licensees who want to reenter the Amateur Service." Pre-1987 Techs can get Element 3 credit, since the Technician and General class written examinations in that era were identical. The Commission said current rules and procedures that apply to expired pre-1987 Technician licenses "are sufficient to verify that an individual is a former licensee under our new rules."

How does a VE team apply this now ??

Element Credits



- Users get 'credit' for exams that they have already taken.
- Element credit is based on one of the following:
 - 1. Technician licenses issued BEFORE 3/21/1987
 - 2. Expired licenses
- Proof for credit
 - Examples are copies of the physical license, CSCEs, old call book listings, or the QRZ.com 1993 call sign database.
 See: http://www.arrl.org/exam-element-credit
 - It is not the job of the VE team to research the claim; it is the candidate's responsibility to prove the claim

Element Credits



ELEMENT CREDIT TABLE

	<u>Element Credit Given</u>	Exam to Pass	License Earned
1.No license, or expired Novice, or current Novice or expired Technician issued 3/21/1987 or later	None	Element 2	Technician
2.Expired Technician issued BEFORE 3/21/1987 or expired General or expired Advanced	Element 3	Element 2	General
3.Expired Extra	Elements 3 and 4	Element 2	Extra
4. <u>Current</u> Technician issued BEFORE 3/21/1987, or with an expired General or Advanced	Elements 2 and 3	None	General
5. <u>Current</u> Technician with expired Extra	Elements 2, 3 and 4	None	Extra
6. <u>Current</u> Technician issued 3/21/1987 or later	Element 2	Element 3	General
7. <u>Current</u> General or current Advanced	Elements 2 and 3	Element 4	Extra

What does the future hold for ham licensing?

- Are we "due" for another restructuring? History has shown us that the FCC can be somewhat unpredictable.
- "Bring back the Code"?



