

Low Power FM

Why I am qualified to comment:

I am a licensed amateur radio operator W0KIE.
I have held an amateur radio license in good standing for 40 years.
I am not a pirate radio operator and believe in the rule of law.
I own and operate a satellite radio network on C band, GE-1,
transponder 12, 5.7 audio, that airs satellite and amateur radio
hobbyist type programming in the evening and weekends.

My comment and solution for the Low Power FM problem:

My satellite network is heard by a significant number who are
greatly interested in getting their voices and home grown programming
heard in their own neighborhoods and local communities.

They are all faced with a nightmare of dealing with Federal
bureaucratic, heavy handed regulations and paying for very expensive
engineering studies in order to just apply for a low power FM license.
The low power FM proposals that you are considering absolutely will
not work for vast numbers of them.

The solution to this low power FM problem in my opinion is so
absolutely simple.

In fact it's a no brainer. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3.

The FCC already has the licensing structure in place. The FCC already
has the frequency structure in place. It would cost the FCC nothing
to implement. New voices will not interfere with any FM or AM broadcast
station.

The solution is to permit increased use of the greatly underused,
currently assigned, amateur radio UHF spectrum by allowing current and
future amateur radio licensees to provide new voices to the neighborhoods
and communities. All that the FCC need do is to ever so slightly loosen
amateur radio content restrictions on existing UHF amateur radio
frequencies above 420 MHz.

What restrictions you ask?

You only need to change three amateur radio rules.

1. Allow amateur station IDs on the hour, rather than every 10 minutes.
2. Allow analog music to be transmitted above 420 MHz in the amateur UHF
bands.
3. Allow amateur radio one way transmissions to include neighborhood
and community oriented content.

Don't change any other amateur radio rules. Amateur stations are
already
100% business, no commercials, no smut etc. etc. All amateur licenses
are individually granted by the FCC and are non transferable. All amateur
licensees are tested before the FCC issues a license. Common amateur
operator practice, volunteer frequency coordinators, coordinator groups and

recommended amateur radio band plans already work extremely well in solving any amateur usage problems in the UHF amateur bands above 420 Mhz.

The neighborhood or community listener only need stop in any Radio Shack type store and purchase a scanner in order to be able to hear all of the neighborhood or community radio he or she might ever want.

Who would oppose such a proposal? The only group I can think of is the American Radio Relay League. In my humble opinion the ARRL is actually a very large amateur radio publishing company controlled by a board of morse code loving old timers. The ARRL will resist strongly any FCC or grass roots proposal that would allow amateur radio neighborhood and community broadcasting in the UHF amateur radio bands. The ARRL will claim that there is no more room in any amateur radio UHF bands. The true fact is that there is vast amounts of unused UHF amateur radio frequencies above 420 Mhz in 99.92% of the United States. Your own FCC monitoring station staff will verify this fact. There are also vast amounts of totally used UHF television spectrum that could be used for low power neighborhood and community radio broadcasts, on a totally non interference basis, by FCC amateur radio licensees if the FCC would allow it.

Listen to logic. Listen to what will work with absolutely NO adverse effect to current broadcasters or to the FCC. Listen to what will allow already FCC tested and licensed voices to immediately be heard in neighborhoods and communities across our land.

Summary:

Please permit existing amateur radio licensees to transmit speech that is in the public interest to neighborhoods and communities by the lifting of existing FCC amateur one way transmission content restrictions in the amateur UHF bands above 420 Mhz.

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