

CW – The Original Digital Mode

RaRa and the XRX Radio Club Sponsors
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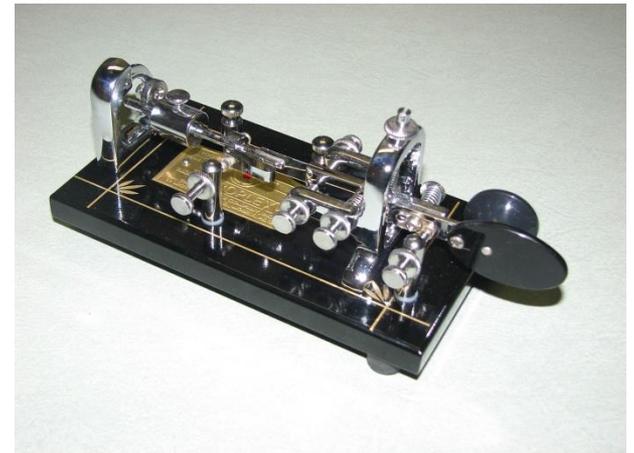
Why CW?

- ▶ Original digital mode
- ▶ Gets through when other modes (including some digital) can't
 - Less susceptible to QRN, QRM
 - Often used for moonbounce, UHF DX record, etc.
- ▶ Less crowded bands
- ▶ Fewer LIDS, more patient polite ops
- ▶ QSO with hams with limited English
- ▶ More fun



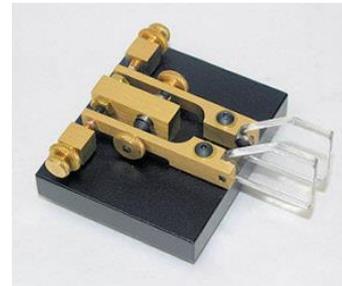
Why the Elmers

- ▶ First, we all love CW and want to see more CW on the bands
- ▶ You will have to put in the time/effort to become proficient
 - The Elmers can:
 - Explain how CW works – protocols, procedures
 - Provide practice opportunities
 - Track your progress



What is CW – It is more than a code

- ▶ Morse Code is a really a language
 - Kids learn more easily than adults
 - It has it's own vocabulary (in addition to Q codes)
 - DSW – good by
 - i i i – mistake
 - es – and
 - gg – going
 - Lots more
- ▶ Recognize letters and numbers by sound, not pattern
 - Hence Farnsworth method



CW Expectations

- ▶ If you don't know any code, you will use online programs or recordings to learn the letters, numbers, and punctuation (. , / -)
- ▶ You will NOT become proficient “overnight”
 - But it won't take over your life either
 - Consistency is key
 - Regardless of whether you are just starting or can copy 15 words per minute, try to practice at least 15 minutes a day



CW Expectations

- ▶ You should plan on regular practice once you've reached your proficiency goals to prevent “backsliding”



CW Myths

- ▶ You must be able to copy 25 WPM to take part in a CW contest
 - Not true – the contest exchange is “proscribed” (call sign and report)
 - You know what’s coming
 - If answering a CQ, the other station has sent his call (and often his report) several times
 - You only need to be able to recognize your call “on the fly”
 - You can always respond more slowly if wish. Many stations do.



CW Myths

- ▶ During a rag chew good, CW Ops copy everything perfectly
 - Not true – Most of the time we're only getting the “gist” of what's being sent, not every word.
- ▶ Good CW ops answer a CQ at the same speed as the calling station
 - True
 - In any case, you can also send QRS to ask the other station to slow down (or QRQ to speed up)
- ▶ There are informal sub-bands in the band plan reserved for slow CW
 - True



Preparation

- A notebook to copy code in so you can monitor your own progress.
- A good pen – don't want to run out of ink or break a pencil point while practicing.
- A reliable source of practice code such as a CD or a program for computer or phone – some program that was designed to learn from, not just practice. I would suggest the K7QO cd – we can make this available.
 - Demonstrate K7QO technique
- Practice time – every day – at least 15 minutes, preferably 30 minutes.
- A quiet place or headphones to practice.
- A goal – what do you want to accomplish after XX days or weeks.



Equipment for Further Growth

▶ Code Practice Oscillator

- maybe this can be a built it project
- Transceiver can substitute
- Straight Key, bug, or paddle and keyer
- CW Transceiver (many have keyers built in)

