

LEARNING MORSE CODE

after puberty

Bob Carter

WR7Q

Background

Ham Radio 19 years

8 Band DXCC

WAZ CW

324 confirmed entities

Station info on QRZ

Officer UDXA

Morse Code Licensing Requirement

Eliminated – February 23, 2007

Obstacle vs Opportunity

More CWers today...



CB in the 60s

good buddy trucker days

Not impressed...

Ham license in 2006

Dad (90) was getting out

Listened to SSB rag chew
Inappropriate language
Really rude people
Just like CB...

Concentrate on Morse Code



Practiced CW for a year

Hard to learn at my age

Created a course

Evolved over time

Still learning

No **best way** for everyone

2002 Job – Programming Class Community College
Quickly learned ~ could not
compete with the kids



Learning Morse Code

after puberty

just ain't easy...

2007 taking Extra exam

Talking to a Professor from BYU

Family (2005) – Tech and CW test



Another Ham club

Interested learning CW?

Honest answer

No!!

Too hard

Takes too much effort

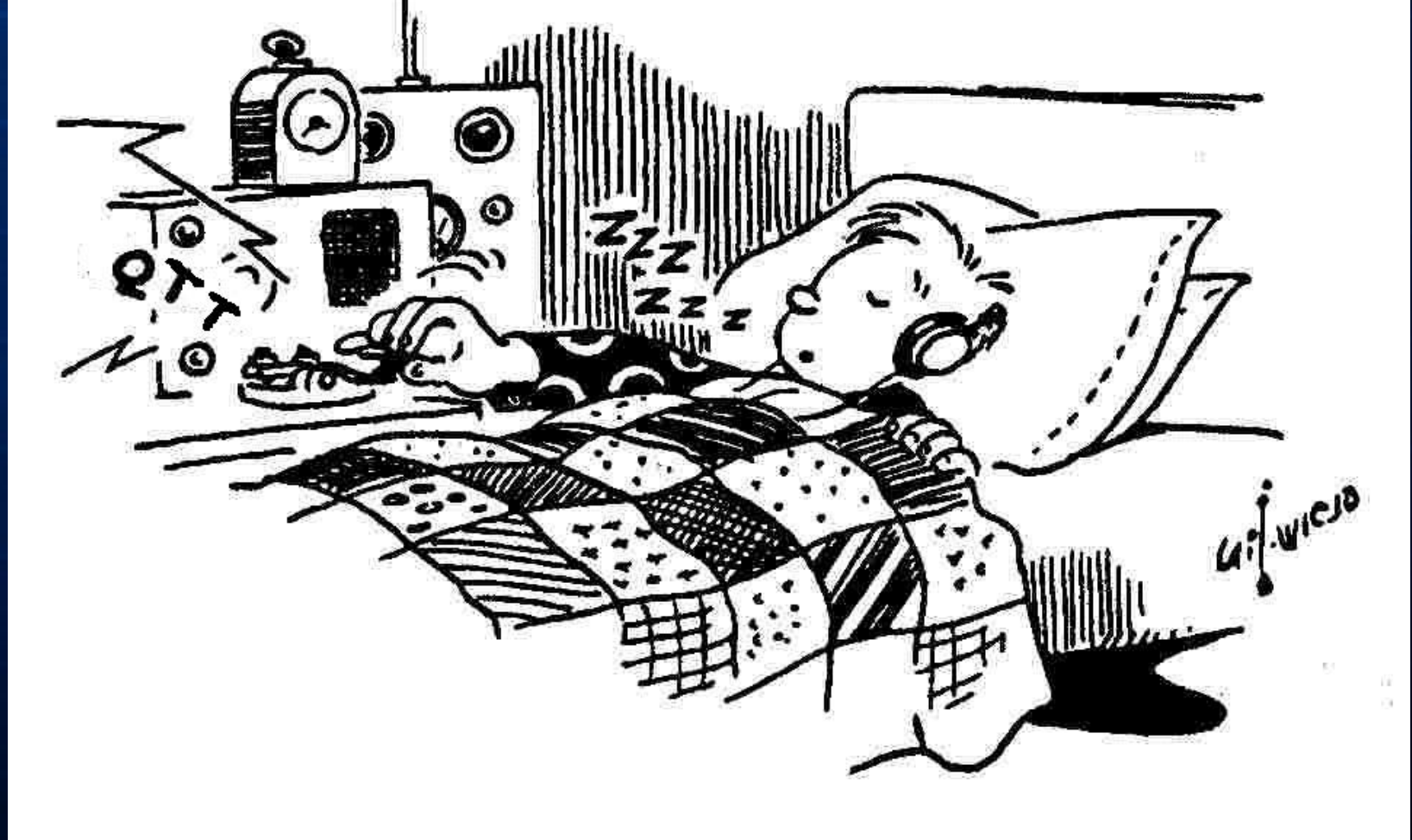
Mostly correct...

It is hard

Does take effort

New language

But its worth it...
Lot of fun
Gets thru
Great for DX
Fun in contests



W1AW/7 in 2014 for Utah

Was the **DXpedition** ~ twice

CW **running** over **34** hours

Very few problems

Lots of fun



Next spring, we did 7QP

S&P on CW

Too scared to run

Whats up with that...

Ended up 500+ qsos
running 75% time



To be successful at CW
you must do

Head Copy!!

Years and years code practice on Composition tablets



Best CW advice I ever received

Throw the pen away!!



Currently 95% copy at 25 wpm

Tried different things

Many have worked

Most waste time

Some Guidelines

Never try to associate...

Character *mnemonics*

K dah dit dah

Kang-a-roo

L dit dah dit dit

to L with it

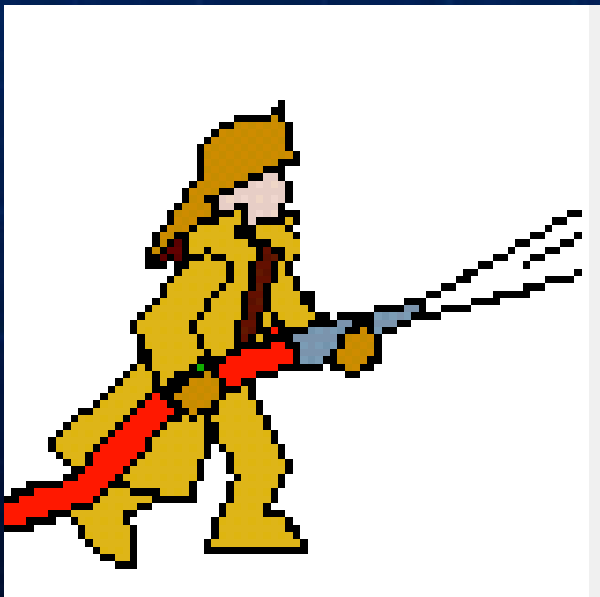
Never use

Picture associations

E



F



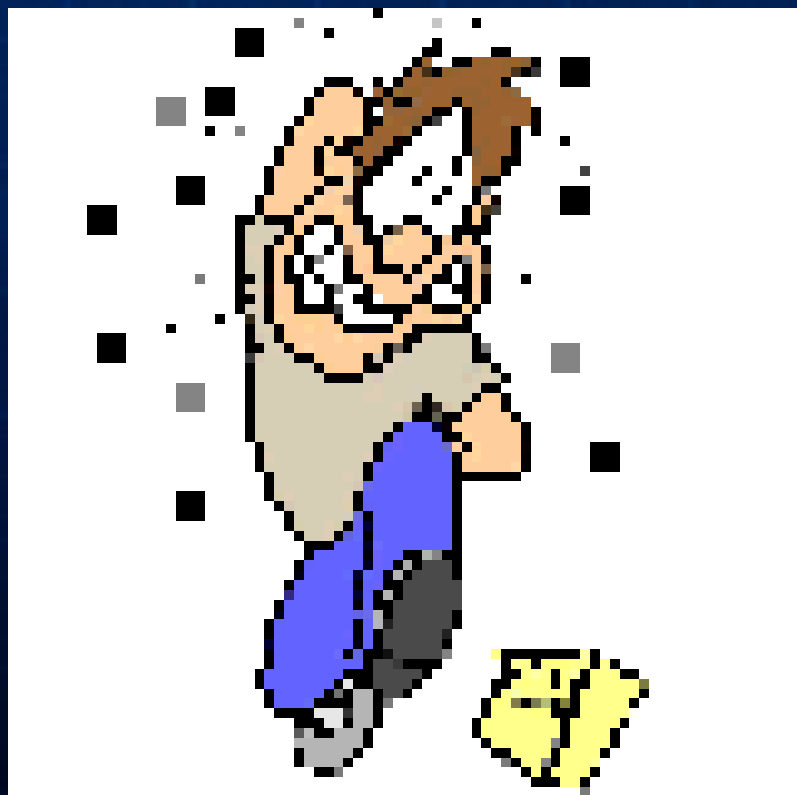
w



z



I



Multiple brain translations
slow you down



Friend of mine used picture associations
Can't get them out of his head

No conscious translation

Learn **sound pattern**
of the character

Then **rhythm**
of the words



Bottom line

Instant Recognition



Remember taking the Code exam?

Sweaty palms and forehead...

blistering speed – 5 wpm



My code exam

Girl failed three times

NOT!!

Show of hands...

Like to learn Morse Code...but

too old?

too hard?

Let's check this out...

decode this



Were making progress...

Now decode a few more

E

T

A

N

Not too hard to recognize

Some words we've learned

AT

TENT

EAT

NET

ANT

TAN

TEN

NEAT

1 or 2 dits or dahs
thats easy

What about 3 or more
fagetaboutit

Hear the music of the code...
not dits or dahs

Learn the code
one character
one word

Never count dits or dahs

Practice till you can hear
the **word** almost every time

Let's add another **letter**

O

I

S

Now we have more words

SON

NONE

TOE

TIN

Learned ~ 50 common words

See where this is going?

Numbers

5 dits and dahs

Hear the rhythm

Easier than you think

Learn as you go

Don't wait till end (type class)

Pro Signs (special characters)

Most common ones

5 to 6 dits and dahs

Easy to recognize

Learn **slow** or learn **fast**

Totally up to you

Recommend 15 to 20 minutes

3 times per day

5 to 6 days per week

Personal Computer
Software programs

Code Tutor
Smart Phone

IPOD

Android

Morse Trainer

MORSE TIPS & QUIPS



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LISTEN TO MORSE CODE AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY!

Girl at the Credit Union



Concert Pianist



Utilizing Morse Code

Just like life...

there is **no coasting**

worse or better



Secret to learning Morse Code

Ron Lewis – N7RU

Elmer taught him...

He taught me

3 Magic Words

Any ideas?

“CW is SENDING”

Send code for 15 minutes



Send *words* correctly

Then practice copying for 15 minutes

Inhibit the transmitter

Send everything you see

Book titles

Emails

Bills

Cereal boxes



When your driving
sing the code out loud
'if your alone'



In your head
'if you're not'



Traffic signs

Billboards

Business signs

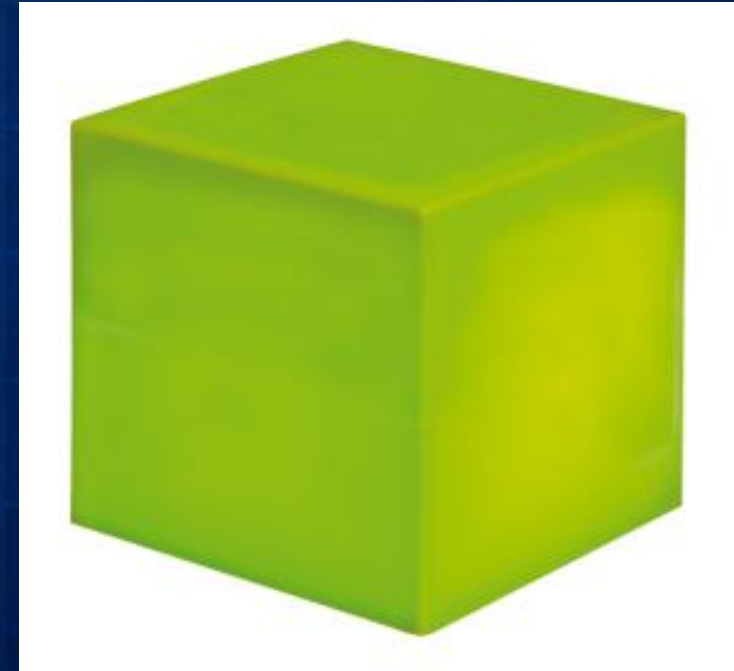
Anything you see...



We all started here

First – Large box

unrecognizable words



Second – Small box

instantly comprehend

Learn new words every day

Hard time hearing words...

Words don't sound like English words
They sound like Morse Code words

Again...it's a new language

Stop in Spanish

not 'Stop'

'Alto'

Browsing the internet for CW help

Jack Ritter – W0UCE (SK – Feb 2016)

Introduced CW Operators Club

CWOPS.org

CW Academy

CW Academy

Four levels of training

Beginner

Current code speed

Zero to some code experience

Meetings online only

Objective

Learn all letters and numbers

Learn conversational QSO habits

Send and copy about **6wpm**

Fundamental

Focuses on Instant Character Recognition starting at 6 wpm
increasing to about 10+ wpm

Good character formation and spacing

Confidently send

Call signs

Name

QTH

Get on the air

Intermediate

Picks up about 10 wpm and increases to about 20+ wpm

CW as a language

Common 3-5 letter words

Contesting

DXing simulations

Get on the air

Can comfortably operate

10 to 20 wpm

Training online and on-the-air

Learn **Head Copy**

Clean **sending** techniques

DX pileup best practices

Advanced

Starts at about 20+ wpm going up to 25 wpm or more

Ragchewing

Competent operating

Contesting

DXing

Headcopy

CW as a language



CW Academy – Typical Online Class

Problems, questions and concerns are addressed

Homework review

Instructions and demonstrations

Review of upcoming homework or other assignments

Students practice correct
sending and receiving skills

In class exercises

Semesters

Eight weeks long

Two times per week

One hour classes

Online course (Zoom, Meet, etc.)

Daily practice and homework
assignments

Semester size

40 to 60 advisors

50 to 80 classes

400 to 600 students

82% successfully complete

Three times per year

Jan/Feb

May/Jun

Sep/Oct

CWA Student Assessment

Choose the correct answer from the five options



she wish

she both

she with

the with

see both

Significantly improved my CW skills

Serious about learning Morse Code

sign up today

Example:

10 WPM Code File



Intermediate operators

Can comfortably operate

10 to 15 wpm

Meetings online and on-the-air

Objectives

Increase speed to 20+ wpm

Learn **Head Copy**

Clean **sending** techniques

DX pileup best practices

Example:

20 WPM Code File



To increase code speed

Listen to CW **faster**
than your **comfort rate**

Get a **code buddy**

Practice together
2 to 3 times per week

Use **headphones**
improves concentration 10 times

Never idly listen

Decode or **turn it off**

counter productive

teaching your brain

ignore what its hearing

Wedding line...

Send morse code
to yourself everyday



New CW kid calling CQ...



Go up 40 to 60 kHz
above the bottom of bands
7.050+
14.050+
21.050+
etc.

New people are there
great practice
helps you – helps them

Now get on the Air
of course its scary

Everyone **once was**
where you **are now**

Good CW Training Programs

CW Academy

Learn CW Online (LCWO)

Morse Code Ninja

Morse Code World

RufzXP

FISTS members motto

'Accuracy Transcends Speed'

My favorite saying

*"Anything worth doing well
worth doing poorly first!!"*

Be willing to commit

Time & Effort

You will succeed!!



That's All Folks



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