

# For the Love of CW

CRHRC Tech Net #14

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# For the Love of CW

International Morse code and others (IE Wabun code)

Continuous wave as apposed to a damped wave

CW is a Language

Once learned it should be used to keep it fresh

100W is equivalent to a KW on SSB

It's the original digital mode

Hoping this is your 2025 New Years resolution



# Some Light reading

- The Art & Skill of radio-telegraphy by William G. Pierpont  
N0HFF
- Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy by Carlo Consoli IK0YGJ
- Internet searches can find many resources
- Many apps for your mobile device, no excuses



# DO's and DON'TS

- Practice regularly even if it is short times
- Keep it fun (no fun no learning) children learn from play
- Use all forms of learning (computer, phone, be code happy)
- Use a code buddy it's way more fun
- Practice at the speed you want to work
- If you know the code, get on the air even if your slow. We slow down to your speed on the air.
- Make contacts everyday (I will get on the air with you)



# Do's continued

- Utilize LICW or CWOPS to get started or get better
- <https://Morse.ninja>
- <https://www.g4fon.net>
- Use a decoder to judge your self (if the decoder can copy your fist, get on the air)
- Any practice is good practice



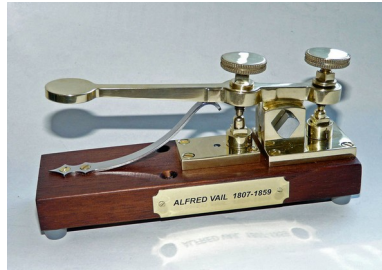
# Dont's

- Never look at dots and dashes, it slows you down
- Don't use look up tables
- Don't cheat with a decoder, it is a crutch and will stop you from learning
- Decoders don't work well with QSB, QRS, QRN, QRM, or hand sent code
- I did it the wrong way, starting at 5 Wpm test, 13 Wpm test. The plateaus were tough



# Random thoughts

- Many different devices to make CW
  - Straight keys (can be home made) many designs (IE Swedish Pump, Camel back, Marconi) Vail's correspondent



- Side swiper (cootie key, can be home made, very fun to use)
- Bug is a semi automatic device, manual Dahs, auto dits



- Hand sent CW is like a finger print. You develop a certain Fist. Some are easier to copy and have a nice rhythm. Very recognizable. Bugs can have what's known as a Banana Boat swing.
- Straight Key Century Club is a great place to find other hand sent CW operators, and many awards can be had, like 3key award (tka) and WAS skcc. They also sponsor straight key night 1<sup>st</sup> night of each month, that started with ARRL SKN on New Years eve @ 0000utc 12/31





- K6KPH is on the air on Saturdays. It is an old coast station from when wireless was used commercially to send messages to ships at sea for a price (price was per letter). The operators were employed back when it was in operation and now volunteer at the Maritime Historical Society in the same building.
- The Alexanderson alternator in Sweden is on the air a couple times each year.
  - it is a 200Kw transmitter on 17.2kHz
  - Originally built in 1904 by General Electric
  - Call sign is SAQ
  - Built in Grimeton, Sweden
  - Antennas are miles long



# Closing thoughts

- I sincerely hope to stir up some interest in CW it's fun
- I hope to get a gathering of the willing on the air to help get more activity on CW and help operators have more fun
- If you are interested please contact me I am almost always listening on the CRHRC system
- To me I use my transceiver turning it on and off in ways to print on the other operators brain, I think of it kind of like texting, almost everything is abbreviated or shortened to get as much info across the ether quickly
- Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts
- Questions?

