



CWA Advanced Class Notes

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Session 0

CW Academy

- Meet and Greet
- Introduce ourselves
- Test Jitsi and Sidetone audio
 - No time limit on Jitsi “free” account
 - No special audio settings
 - Jitsi seems to prioritize audio over video when allocating bandwidth
- Do the first three h/w assignments before the first class on Monday



Overview

- 8-weeks (M & Th 6-7PM on the West Coast, 0200-0300 UTC Tu & Fri in EU)
 - MST follows immediately after on Mondays
 - **Please use headphones!!!**
- Daily Practice
 - Two or three 15-minute sessions per day is much more effective than one 4-hour block once per week
 - Homework: Short stories, QSOs and CWT exchanges
 - Practice sending also!
 - RufzXP and MorseRunner
 - There is a “community edition” of Morse Runner that includes several different contest formats
 - Use software to evaluate your sending (e.g. Iambic Master)
 - **GET ON THE AIR!!!**
 - SST, MST and CWT are great contest practice
 - Ragchews
 - In-class exercises will reinforce skills but are no substitute for practice and OTA time
- We will supplement each class with related topics to help improve your operating skills and overall enjoyment of our great hobby



Coarse Course Overview

CW Academy

- Sending
- Practice Mini-tests: SST, MST CWT
- Hit-and-Run and Short QSOs
- Rag-chewing
- Logging
- Chasing DX
- Cut Numbers
- Sending
- DX Cluster and RBN
- More Contesting
- CW Ops
- ???



Philosophy

CW Academy

- Its a hobby, not a competition!
 - Keep it fun!!!
- Just like on the air (OTA), there are different skill levels coming into this class
 - Compare yourself **only to yourself**, not your classmates
 - Don't get frustrated or worry about slowing down your classmates
 - All of us, even the CW “speed demons,” have been where you are now
 - More skilled ops, PSE QRS! GET THE MESSAGE THROUGH!!!
- Challenge yourself
 - Listen to homework a little faster than you are comfortable with
 - Strive to make a few more QSOs in the CWTs
 - Try “running” in the SSTs and MSTs
 - Practice sending a little faster ...
- Practice, get OTA and HAVE FUN!!!
- In-class activities will focus on contesting at first and gradually build up to longer QSOs



About AA2IL

CW Academy

- Grew up in Upstate New York
 - Job Transfer brought me to San Diego in 1993
 - Current QTH is in a rural area in the foothills North East of SD
- First licensed in the late 1970s as a teenager
 - Went silent for over 20-years
- Retired in Oct. 2021 after 35-years as an Electrical Engineer (signal processing)
- Radio activities include
 - Chasing DX and contesting
 - VHF/UHF and satellites
 - Antennas, Linux software development and micro-controllers
- Modest HF station
 - Main rig is an FTdx3000, no amplifier
 - 100W and wire antennas
- I took this class in spring 2002
 - Biggest take-away was how crucial daily practice is to improving speed

Go Brass Flounders!





GitHub Repository

- I have set up a repository on GitHub for items related to CW and this class:
 - <https://github.com/aa2il/CWA>
- There have been complaints about the “new” CWA practice files. The “old” versions of these files are available there. Use these instead if you prefer:
 - “OLD Advanced QSOs”
 - “OLD Advanced Short Stories”
- The sub-folder “N1MM” contains a collection of “quick-start” guides for N1MM logger
 - N1MM is the most popular contest logging program but certainly not the only one available
- The file “Panagrams.pdf” contains a long list of panagrams you can use for sending practice.
 - Panagrams are helpful in that they hit each letter of the alphabet at least once
- Poke around and feel free to suggest other material to include there
- Get an audio player that allows you to change the replay speed (e.g. audacity)