



CWA Advanced Class Notes

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Session 0

CW Academy

- Meet and Greet
- Introduce ourselves
 - Name, QTH, Rig/Station, Interests ...
 - Have you been in the CWA B4?
- 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 set of h/w assignments before the first class on Monday



Overview

CW Academy

- 8-weeks (Monday & Thursday evenings in North America, 6-7PM on the West Coast (0200-0300 UTC Tu & Fri)
 - MST follows immediately after on Mondays
 - We would like to have an (optional) on-air rag-chew session after class on Thursdays on 40m
 - **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, Short and Long QSOs, CWT and POTA exchanges, common letter groups
 - **Practice sending also!** We will discuss this more on Monday
 - Software: **RufzXP** and **MorseRunner**
 - There is a “community edition” of Morse Runner that includes several different contest formats
 - DO NOT use any special lists of call signs!
 - **GET ON THE AIR!!!**
 - SST, MST and CWT are great contest practice
 - Rag Chews!!!
 - 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



Course Topics

CW Academy

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



Our Philosophy

CW Academy

- Its a hobby, not a competition or a vocation
 - 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 the 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, Practice, Practice, get OTA and HAVE FUN!!!
- Initial In-class activities will focus on contesting at first and 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 Northeast 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!





Homework

- CWA has recently revamped the homework assignments for all class levels
- We will be “loosely” following the Ver2.2 prototype
 - The prior 1.x series emphasized contesting
 - The new 2.x series emphasizes head-copy and rag-chewing with very little contesting content
- We will give suggested assignments which attempt to strike a balance between rag-chewing and contesting
 - Read the comments in the Ver2.2 document – they are quite helpful!
 - You are free to follow what ever path fits your interests and time constraints
 - We highly recommend that you spend some quality time with Morse Runner and RufzXP to build up ICR



Homework for Monday

CW Academy

- **Day 1 (Thursday) – Emphasis in on Head Copy:**

Rag Chewers Should Emphasize these

- Short Phrases PR 101-20
- Short Words WD 101-20.
- Suffixes ING4-20, ED4-20, ES4-20 and LY4-20
- **Short Story SS 301-20**

- **Day 2 (Friday) – Emphasis is on Contesting:**

Contesters & POTAers Should Emphasize these

- POTA 101-20
- CWT Chapter 01 - This is a simulation of a typical CWT “Runner.” He is sending “CQ CWT” to solicit contacts and answering callers one after another. There will be three different stations he works and he will repeat his exchange (name and number OR state) each time. So, you have three opportunities to capture his call, his name and his number each time you play the file. Take as many times as you need to get all three pieces of info and write them down. Can you also copy the info for each caller?
- RufzXP - Set starting speed at 15 wpm and do a full cycle until it ends. Type in call signs as you copy them, and note your result at the end of the session.
- Morse Runner - Set speed at 20 wpm, using “single call” mode (pull down “run” tab and select “single calls”). Set “run for” time at 20 minutes. Note your results at the end of the session.

- **Day 3 (Saturday) – Emphasis is on Rag Chewing:**

These are the Top Priority for Everyone

- **Short and Long QSOs – QSO 101–20 and QSO 301-20**

(Along with the Short Stories)



GitHub Repository

CW Academy

- I have set up a repository on GitHub for items related to CW and this class:
 - <https://github.com/aa2il/CWA>
- The final slide decks for our previous classes are available
- There are “old” versions of the CWA Practice files which you can use for additional practice material:
 - “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)



CW Ops CW Open

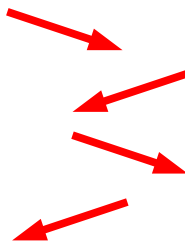
CW Academy

- Three 4-Hour Sessions Friday Night and Saturday
- CWT on Steroids
- Try listening and see what you can pick up
- Exchange: Serial No. and NAME (Opposite order of MST)

CQ TEST AA2IL

N7AUE TU 123 JOE

GL AA2IL



N7AUE

TU 456 MULEY

- If you miss something: ?, AGN?, CALL?, NAME?, NR?, N7?, AUE?, ..