Morse Code Resources to get you started W6EFI

LISTENING AND COPYING
- **Your radio –** turn it on and listen for morse code qsos, copy what you can.   Get on the air when ready.
- **websdr, kiwisdr** – real radio, online, listen only.   http://websdr1.kfsdr.com:8901/ http://kiwisdr.com/public/ will get you started.
- Commandline and web
    - **ebook2cw** infile -o outfile   # makes mp3s
    - **ARRL code archive** http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files

INITIAL LEARNING
Methods
- Searching will turn up many apps, classes and methods. *Avoid any that show you dots and dashes!! Anything visual will slow you down.* *Throw away those cheat sheets on paper (IMO).*
- "Farnsworth" = increasing the spacing between characters to slow things down.   "Koch" = introducing a few characters at a time while learning.   And there are others.
- Be aware that the data on relative effectiveness of any method or class is slim to nonexistent but people have strong opinions about them anyway.   Look around and use what is most comfortable and sustainable in terms of regular practice.   5-10 min a day is just fine.
- After initial learning the best way to practice is listen to real qsos or best yet get on the air.

A few learning apps and classes.   Free unless otherwise indicated
- Just Learn Morse Code
- K6RAU's Code Course - SKCC Member #11992
- CW Academy: https://morsecode.world/international/trainer/generator.html
- G4FON Koch Method CW Trainer
- https://morsecode.ninja/learn/index.html#MorseCodeCourse
- https://longislandcwclub.org/cw-online-classes/ (paid)

PRACTICE COPYING AND/OR GET ON THE AIR!
- General procedures https://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/beginners_corner/
- **POTA/SOTA hunting –** very short easy exchange (call, RST, state).   Listen for "CQ pota "or "CQ sota".   https://pota.app for information.
- **K1USN SST** (slow speed event) – 2x weekly slow speed, very short exchanges (call, name). Listen for "CQ SST". http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html   People will slow down to match your speed. See if you can find K1USN somewhere (always runs 10wpm).   Fridays 1-2pm PDT (20:00-21:00 UTC) and Sundays 5-6pm PDT (00:00-01:00 Mon UTC)
- **SKCC** – free. Scripts, pointers, elmers.   They have a page for spotting or scheduling qso's . All keys okay but there are certificates you can work toward for straight key contacts. https://www.skccgroup.com/
- **CW nets** exist!   Here are a few: Reno 10am 7.045MHz alt Thurs; Tuolumne 8:30pm 7.053MHz Thurs; SFMARC 8:00pm Tue 3.545MHz .   Tune in and see what that's like.   Learn some new abbreviations.
- Finding CW to listen to –
    - most common in the bottom 100kHz of each amateur band.   20M is the money band but all bands have some, including 2m and above sometimes!
    - Reverse Beacon Network https://www.reversebeacon.net/main.php?rows=10&max_age=10,hours&modes=cw&hide=distance_km

SOCIAL MEDIA
- PAARA Discord – the # CW-and-morse-code channel
- HRCC Discord – the # dits-and-dahs channel
- etc.

STARTER KEYS
- J38 and SpeedX used keys – solid straight keys, look for them at hamfests and ebay
- CWMorse – okay keys, not too expensive
- Puttikeeg – reports on these vary
- Vibroplex – decent keys, some have a lot of chrome