



# Introducing CW Academy

***A solution to perpetuating the CW mode***

Presented to The SFDXA,  
3 Jan 2018 by:  
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## Some Facts

- CW is NOT a dying art!
- The CW mode is still very popular
- Many new licensees are asking for CW help
- There is a need for CW training and support



## Why is more training needed?

- Most 'local' clubs tend to be FM repeater life-support systems; few members have the Morse skills to impart
- Online tools like LCWO and G4FON help teach how to copy – not how to send, and they have no real person on the other end
- CW aspirants tend to be geographically dispersed, so difficult or impossible to gather them together in a common place at the same time



## Problem

- Lack of skilled advisors
- Lack of training in sending
- Geographical dispersion of students

## Solution

- Volunteer group of CW-skilled advisors
- Training in sending AND copying
- Using online video/audio conferencing



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**CW Academy**  
***And it's free!***



## CW Academy

### About us...

- Created and (currently) staffed by CWops and its members
- Over 30 volunteer advisors
- Three levels of training
- Given three times per year
- Eight weeks per semester



## CW Academy

About the programs...

- Three levels of training – Levels 1, 2 and 3
- Level 1 is for beginners
- Level 2 is for those with speed above 10 wpm and below 20 wpm
- Level 3 is for those with speeds above 20 wpm



## CW Academy

### About the programs...

- Given three times per year – Jan-Feb, Apr-May and Sep-Oct
- Eight week semesters where groups of 5 students (or less) and their assigned advisors meet 'online' two evenings per week for about 45 minutes per session





## CW Academy

### About the programs...

- Level 1 spends 5 weeks learning all Morse characters, numbers, some punctuation, useful Q-signs
- Level 1 spends the remaining 3 weeks doing simulated CW QSOing, contesting, and DX pileup training
- Objective – to attain speeds above 10 wpm, to attain skill with QSO protocols, to get acquainted with CW contesting and DXing

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### *CW Academy Certificate of Completion*

John Smith, K6ABC

has successfully completed

Level 1

an 8-week/16-session training program  
in Morse Code sending and receiving

*Jerry Weisskohl*  
Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT  
CW Academy advisor



February 2014

*Rob Brownstein*  
Rob Brownstein, K6RB  
CW Academy manager

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## CW Academy

### About the programs...

- Level 2 is tailored to the aspirations of the students in each group
- It stresses improved head copying skills, better sending, further training in QSOing, contesting, and DXing
- Objective – to attain speeds above 20 wpm, to attain skill with QSO protocols, to gain experience with CW contesting and DXing



## CW Academy

### About the programs...

- Level 3 is tailored to the aspirations of the students in each group
- It stresses improved head copying skills, better sending, further training in QSOing, contesting, and DXing
- Objective – to attain speeds above 25 wpm, to attain skill with QSO protocols, to gain experience with CW contesting and DXing



## How're we doing?

- Averaging over 100 students per semester
- 80 percent complete their programs
- A growing number surpass the 25 wpm rate and many become CW Academy advisors!

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## How to sign up

- Go to the CWops website
- Select the CW Academy tab
- Select the student tab
- Fill in the signup page
- Hit 'submit'

