



Di-Dah-Dit

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Morse Code is making a comeback with more children and teenagers wanting to learn the skill

Despite being created 180 years ago and not being a requirement for amateur radio operators to learn since 1990, it has been kept alive by radio enthusiasts - and now more young people are getting involved. A combination of pandemic lockdowns forcing youngsters to learn something new, and the use of Morse Code by popular K-Pop bands, has led to 'a renaissance' in teens wanting to learn the once groundbreaking form of communication. From five-year-olds to 99-year-old war veterans, people all over the world are tapping in to communicate with others on the radio.

In Long Island, 70-year-old Howard Bernstein said he has loved radio since he was a young child, listening to shortwave radio and the BBC from across the pond. 'Radio is in my genes', he told MailOnline, as he recalled first learning Morse Code 57 years ago, at the age of 13. His father had been a radio operator who used the skill to communicate with allies while flying a B-17 out of RAF Polebrook in Northamptonshire during the Second World War.

Now, more than half a century later, Bernstein is teaching the same skill to hundreds of children and teenagers - some young as five - who are turning their backs on social media for a few hours each week to learn

Morse Code. In 2017, Bernstein and his friend Richard Collins decided to form a community group for fans of amateur radio in and around New York.



In 2017, Howard Bernstein (pictured) and his friend Richard Collins decided to form a community group for fans of amateur radio in and around New York

The Long Island CW Club soon started gaining traction, with more and more recruits joining from other states across the US. Soon enough, the club had become a global hub for amateur radio fans, attracting members from 47 countries worldwide, including a considerable number of Brits. Mr Bernstein said: 'It all began online and on Zoom. I found this very early on because I was coincidentally using this for work. 'It really helped propel the club, and then when Covid hit that spurred it on even more.

'There's really a renaissance with the youth coming back to learn Morse Code.'

Today, 3,500 members log on each week to practice their skills and

learn more about the communication form - 400 of those being children and teenagers. Each week, the society runs around 80 classes and forums on Zoom, in what Mr Bernstein calls an 'around the clock' operation.

Classes allow people to learn Morse, practice it in conversation with other people and listen to presentations about the history of the code or discussions about how it could be used in the future in military warfare or even in space.

He added: 'We had no idea kids would be interested in this and we did not think about it until one of our members, who worked with kids for a living, offered to teach them during the Covid lockdown. 'Over the pandemic people were joining more. 'Parents loved their kids learning it as it was still quite academic. 'We started with the kids of members and continued to grow from referrals.'

But why are younger people trying to learn the code, when there are so many other distractions online?

Mr Bernstein said people are 'tiring of cell phones and computers - everything that gives instantaneous gratification'. Further to that he says it is 'a very efficient way to communicate' and has a 'romantic element'

to it. Back in the UK, Michael Stanton, 56, who helps run the Long Island CW Club from Thatcham, West Berkshire, said K-Pop is partially responsible for the surge in popularity from younger generations. South Korean boy bands NU'EST and TXT have both used Morse Code within their music videos, and even communicate hints about upcoming songs to fans.

Mr Stanton explained to MailOnline: 'I found that young people between the age of 11 and 14 enjoy it but when they get older, they have more going on, exams, drinking, partying, dating - all those sorts of things. 'It is then only when people get to around 40 or 50 that they realise they have more money and time to get into amateur radio. 'However, during the lockdowns, the internet exploded, the ways of communicating got better and lots of the radio things we were doing moved to the internet - including the ability to use Morse Code. 'This made it more accessible to all age groups.

'At the same time there have been a few K-Pop bands, TXT being the most notable, that have been using Morse Code. At the start of TXT's song Crown, Morse Code is used to spell out the title before the song gets underway. Similarly, NU'EST's song Help Me spells out its title at the start of the song, as translated by Bernstein. NU'EST even had flashing lights, communicating in Morse Code, on their website to reveal the titles of their upcoming songs. This prompted young fans of the bands to scour the internet trying to find

out the hidden meaning of the beeps.



South Korean K-pop boy band, TXT (pictured) have used Morse Code in their music, music videos and even to send messages to fans about upcoming releases

'These bands have used Morse Code quite a lot in their music and communicating with fans. It is mostly written down, but in their music, they obviously use the sounds,' Mr Stanton, who learned the skill 35 years ago, explained. 'And that sparked quite a lot of interest amongst the younger generation, teenagers who think "hey my pop idols do this Morse Code thing, it seems quite cool, I can have secret conversations with people using it".' Using efficient modes such as Morse further enhances the chances of such communication.

Tom Read, 52, from Cheshire, said: 'It started just over 20 years ago and was designed to get people involved in ham radio a little more active, because it had this stereotype of being used by old men who sat in sheds and weren't particularly active. 'When it started there were just a few dozen people involved in England and Wales, but now it has gone completely worldwide. 'It has got tens of thousands of participants, attracting the full spectrum of ages and genders.' In a world where technology is continually advancing, Morse Code appears to offer an escape for some, providing a focus on communicating with others away from the pesky troubles of using social media.

At the Long Island CW Club, 99-year-old war veteran Nicholas Leo still remembered his Morse Code, used during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. While Mr Leo died last year, Howard Bernstein who runs the club said in his old age, the war veteran was 'sharp as a tact' and 'still remembered Morse Code and used it perfectly'.

Using Morse Code can improve your brain health, study reveals -

A study by the department of Neurology at Bochum University in Germany in 2017 revealed that learning Morse Code can improve your brain health.

The scientists found that learning the skill increases neuroplasticity, which is responsible for making new neuron connections.

Neuroplasticity helps the human brain with things such as learning and memory, keeping the brain remain young and less at risk to age related cognitive disorders, such as dementia.

During the study, published in the National Library of Medicine, researchers were able to substitute Morse Code for language learning and measured the changes in the brain's white matter structure.

It was used instead of a language because it is faster to learn and is easier to control. The study concluded that learning Morse Code increased white matter plasticity, activating a higher cognitive network in the brain.

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February 8, 2023, "antenna party" at the Belleville, WV, farm of Susan, K8SUZ and Larry, KF8NW.



In this photo, (left) Earl, KB8HRG and Scott, KE8UTO hoist tie-off lines and (574 feet) of #12 wire into the trees by using a commercial-grade push-up pole. (right) Larry, KF8NW, retrieves weights and cords used in the project's process.

Thanks are expressed to the following:

Earl, KB8HRG, Jerry, KA8NJW, Bill, KE8GGV, John, W8WEJ, Scott, KE8UTO, Susan, K8SUZ.

World Amateur Radio Day Special Event

World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) is April 18, 2023, and will celebrate the IARU's 98th anniversary. On this day in 1925, the IARU was formed in Paris, France. American Radio Relay League® (ARRL) Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim was its first president.

This year's theme is Human Security for All (HS4A). The day is being celebrated with a 2-week operating event occurring April 11 - 25.

Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, IARU Assistant Secretary, reports that thanks to the support of the IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group, a special website, hs4a.iaru.org, has been established to manage the operating event. If you are planning to operate one or more special event stations for WARD/HS4A, please register at the website. Listed below is the procedure to register:



Click on "register" and provide the requested contact information.

Click on "participate" and agree to each of the six rules that you will be shown. Check "I accept these rules" and then click on "next."

Click on "continue as [your name]." You do not need to enter the contact information again.

Select "register a new station" and provide the requested information. The station description (minimum

200 characters) can be almost anything, such as what Human Security for All means to you, who your station sponsor is, etc.

After your registration request is received, it will be quickly approved, and you will be notified. Please direct any questions to iaru@iaru.org.

ARRL encourages all radio amateurs to take to the airwaves during WARD to enjoy our global friendship with other amateurs and to show our skills and capabilities to the public.

More information about 2023 WARD is available at www.arrl.org/world-amateur-radio-day and www.iaru.org/on-the-air/world-amateur-radio-day.

Mission Crew

NASA and the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) announced the four astronauts who will venture around the moon on Artemis II. This will be the first crewed mission on NASA's path to establishing long-term moon science and exploration development. The agencies revealed the crew members on Monday, April 3, 2023, during an event at Ellington Field near NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. Three of the four crew members are amateur radio operators.

"The Artemis II crew represents thousands of people working tirelessly to bring us to the stars. This is their crew, this is our crew, this is humanity's crew," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson. "NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Hammock Koch, and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, each has their own story,

but together, they represent our creed: E pluribus unum - out of many, one. Together, we are ushering in a new era of exploration for a new generation of star sailors and dreamers - the Artemis Generation."



The crew of NASA's Artemis II mission (left to right): NASA astronaut Christina Hammock Koch, Reid Wiseman KF5LKT, (seated), Victor Glover, KI5BKC, and CSA astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. Credits: NASA
The crew will work as a team to execute an ambitious set of demonstrations during the flight test.

Their assignments are as follows: Commander Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT, Pilot Victor Glover, KI5BKC, Mission Specialist 1 Christina Hammock Koch, and Mission Specialist 2 Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU. Koch had planned to study and take her amateur license exam in 2019, but her flight was suddenly rescheduled 6 months earlier than originally planned. She had to immediately begin preparing for her flight instead of studying.

The Artemis II mission is scheduled to launch in November 2024. The approximately 10-day flight test will launch on the agency's powerful Space Launch System rocket, prove the Orion spacecraft's life-support systems, and validate the

capabilities and techniques needed for humans to live and work in deep space.

For more information, visit the NASA website.

Time to Get Ready for Field Day

ARRL Field Day is just over two months away, but like spring cleaning, it pays to start getting ready now.

2023 Field Day will be held June 24 - 25. It is ham radio's open house. Every June, hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to communities and the nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Some participants may also choose to operate from home, using the exercise to develop and practice their personal radio communications capability.

Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.



In 2022, 4,929 entries were submitted (including check logs), and there was a total of 29,679 reported participants.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit and may submit entries as check logs.

The main focus of Field Day is to work as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, and 10-meter HF bands, all bands on 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less-than-optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness and acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio.

For Field Day 2023, several rule changes have been made. It's a good idea to make sure that your logging software has been updated to the most current version to incorporate these rule changes including the updated Canadian sections list. There are many facets to operating on Field Day and knowing the rules and keeping good logs are paramount to successful contacts.

Many local amateur radio clubs participate in ARRL Field Day. To start preparing for Field Day, check out arrl.org/field-day for the official rules and all the information you'll need. To find a participating radio club in your area, use the Field Day Locator on the page.

Klub Minutes

Minutes PARK Jan. 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:40, by Vice President Jerry Wharton. Mike was absent due to a short illness. There were 27 members and guests present and introduced.

The minutes of the December meeting were read by Mary Wharton and approved as read.

Next item on the agenda was the treasures report. Jane reported \$4980.04 plus \$100 dues and raffle miney, minus a few expenses for the Christmas party bring the final balance. to \$5033.68. The treasures report was approved as read.

Old business:

Earl reminded everybody that the forgiveness of the 2022 or 2021 dues were still in place and if you wanted to pay your dues for 2023 you would be forgiven the nonpayment in the past years - sort of like an amnesty.

It was also mentioned that the Volunteers on the Air program through the ARRL was commencing and it was sort of like the Parks on the Air and Colonies on the Air. it's a contest that you participate in for for 12 months contacting 50 States and members/officers of the ARRL on the air. If you are interested in being a part of this. Look on the ARRL Website for a schedule of events and contacts.

It was also mentioned by Earl that we need a couple net control operators to fill in a few blanks. All we need is a couple and if you volunteer you only have to do it three or four times per year. It's good prac-

tice and it's not hard to do and we could use the help/.

OK now we're onto the 50-50 raffle. Tim Miller won. for a total of \$27. Which he kindly donated back to the Klub. Thanks Tim.

The next meeting will be February 13th. at the usual time and place.

we were adjourned by KF8NW in Lou of Bob KB8EFB, we adjourned at about 7 o'clock.

A fun time was had by all, thanks/ The minute's were taken by Mary Wharton, Secretary. All extra comments were made by Jerry Wharton, VP & typist.

PARK meeting, 2/13/2023

Mike called the meeting to order at 6:30PM. At the Western Sizzlen steak House.

Introductions were made by 32 members and guests.

Minutes of the January meeting were read by Mary W. and approved is read.

Treasures report was given by Jane a balance of \$5414.68. reported, It was an increase over last months due to \$354 in dues being collected. And \$27 being donated from the last raffle.

New business

Four new members we're voted into the Klub:

Matt Bortell, KE8WFR
Ronald Kuhn, NQ0D,

Tom Porter KD8NRV,
Philip O'Brien, KE8WML
Welcome to the Klub guys!

The 50-50 raffle was won by Jerry. Yay \$31. (and I did not peek)

The Klub received some correspondence concerning the hamfest in Charleston on March 18. Also the TUSCO Hamfest in Dover, Ohio on April 22 and it was mentioned the Athens ham fest is April 29. at the usual location. Please check this info on the Internet for directions.

The Klub received a letter concerning a project that a local person wants to engage in. Mr Terburgh, It was decided to send him a note inviting him to a meeting so he could explain what the project was that he wanted help with. He lives near Bill (GGV) so he might look in and see.

New business:

Ken Harris is looking for a few more people that might be interested in learning how to do packet radio. If you're interested, get a hold of him on the 255 repeater.

I was talking to Dana Fouse and he's getting a group of ATV enthusiast together (by the way that means amateur television not all-terrain vehicle.) I invited him to do a demo at a future

club meeting and that is going to be scheduled for March or April.

Larry, saying no further business made the motion to adjourn, in lou of Bob KB8EFB.. motion to adjourn was passed. We adjourned at 6:57.

The minutes were taken by Mary and J and all stray Comments by Jerry W. KA8NJW

Minutes March 13, 2023

Meeting was called order at Western Sizzlin steakhouse at 6:30 PM by Mike.

Introduction of 28 members and guests occurred. Thanks everybody for coming. 50-50 drawing was one by Tom who donated his is \$33 in winnings back to the club thanks, Tom.

Minutes of a February meeting or read by Mary W and accepted his read.

Jane Hulce gave the treasures report starting balance of \$5414.68 which \$128 in dues and a \$50 donation were added for a grand total of \$5,494.68 in the treasury. The treasurers report was accepted as read.

Old business:

the Charleston ham fest was discussed.

And the Athens hamfest was discussed. and the TUSCO hamfest in Dover Ohio on April 22 was discussed. There were some discussion about ridesharing for the Charleston hamfest on Saturday.

New business:

first order of new business was the voting in of a new member, John Addis, W88BBX. He lives in Mineral Wells and is general class and was accepted for membership.

Also, under new business, Kenny reminded everybody that the bicycle race at Mountwood Park is April 16 and he could use some help for spotters along the race-track. If you could help out get hold of Kenny on the 255 repeater.

It is also reminded that we needed to secure the shelter and the Porta potty's for this year's Field Day in June 24 25th. Jerry KA8NJW said he would take care of getting the shelter and the Porta potty's. He said he will do the shelter this week. The Porta potty's will probably wait till May.

Earl mentioned the noise on the repeater. We think there may be a problem with the antenna, he and Connor will look into it and see if there's anything to be done. We may have to send someone up to tower to see if we have a short in the connections, stay tuned for information.

Motion to adjourn by Larry KF8NW for Bob KB8EFB was unable to attend, motion was approved at 6:55 pm. Minutes taken by Mary Wharton edits by Jerry Wharton.

Park Klub Minutes April 10, 2023.

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub meeting was called to order by Mike at 6:30 PM at the Western Sizzlin steak House. There were 27 members and guest in attendance.

Minutes were approved as read by Mary W. the treasures report by Jane. The starting balance of \$5494+ dues money of \$40 plus 50-50 money of \$66 for a total of \$5600.

50-50 raffle was won by Paul \$25 which he donated back to the Klub, Thanks PAUL

Old business:

Jerry KA8NJW has secured scheduled shelter for Field Day.

The shelter is located behind the cabin, all we have to do is pay a \$100 rental Fee to the Parks commission within one week of the use date of June 24/ For the cabin we just have to secure the key from Jim Miracle at the library. The Porta Potty will be ordered at the end of May. They will probably be \$120 for the weekend.

Several events are coming up, The hamfest in Dublin Ohio is on April 22, the one in Athens on April 30, and the one in Belpre in September that will be discussed more in the future. RIPLEY HAM Fest., May 7

Also under old business Earl has a new set of rosters that will be mailed out to the newsletter mailing list in the coming weeks. Also we were reminded of Kenny's events coming up. Kenny mentioned the Challenge at Mountwood on April 16
Chick-fil-A Fun Run on June 24
TESTING-APRIL-29 TECH CLASS
GENERAL CLASS-MAY13
New business.

Two new prospective members visited the Klub meeting and expressed an interest in the ham radio and we went ahead and put them in the Klub the names are Tom and Chase Breen nterested in becoming Hams connected them up with them up with Kenny Harris WA8LLM to take the new one day tech class training that will be upcoming in

May. Hopefully they'll pass and become active hams.

It was noted that also had two hams visiting who were going to do an Amateur television demo after the meeting adjured. Welcome Bill White WB8YIF and Dana Fouse KB8GYU, Thank you for bringing this wonderful information to the Klub.

Larry D. made motion to adjourn the meeting, paying homage to Bob KB8EFB who could not be present, motion was approved meeting with adjourned. At 6:50 PM.

After the meeting adjourned, there was a demonstration of amateur television by Dana Fouse and Bill White. Talked about the revival of amateur television in the area and several clubs that are testing it out in Columbus and Dayton, He talked about different kinds of transmitters and receivers in use and the distance covered. It was about a 20 minute demonstration and was enjoyed by all. Thanks. For having such an enjoyable demonstration.

Minutes by Mary W. comments by Jerry Wharton.

The quietest place on America

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO), was built in 1957 and features eight telescopes, including the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope-the largest fully steerable radio telescope on Earth. This gigantic telescope is 300 feet in diameter and weighs nearly 17 million pounds



The Federal Communications Commission created the NRQZ in 1958 to block potentially detrimental interference at the NRAO, as well as at the U.S. Naval facilities in nearby Sugar Grove. This zone covers 13,000 square miles in Virginia and West Virginia. Living in a radio-quiet environment makes life in this part of the country a little different from the rest of the United States. For example, there's a general store in Arbovale in which customers leave sticky note messages for their friends and family on two conveyor belts, according to the New York Post. And those who live on the GBO site cannot use cell phones, cordless phones, Wi-Fi, microwaves, or even wireless speakers, reports resident Marilyn Creager. That's because these types of devices can create interference with radio astronomical observations



The Quiet Zone is an appealing place for survivalists and those who claim to be sensitive to electromagnetic devices. Many of these people move to Green Bank and the surrounding area to avoid the digital footprint that's so prominent in most areas of the country. In addition, it's a way for them to avoid some forms of modern technology. Some individuals are there because they feel their health is suffering from electromagnetic radiation. Many flock to the area simply because they don't want anyone to bother them.

But there's also a positive component to the radio-quiet zone. For example, since the residents don't use cell phones, many substitute HAM radios and are on scene to help with an incident even before law enforcement responds. You won't see any car accidents caused by drivers distracted by texting. It's also not unusual to see phone booths and people using paper maps instead of GPS to navigate, according to the [New York Times](#)



Locals like living in the NRQZ and surrounding area because it allows them to disconnect from devices and connect to nature, each other, and a simpler way of life. Instead of spending time online, they spend time outdoors and with people in person. It's a quieter way of living in an increasingly connected world that can be very noisy at times.