

- Learning to copy Morse
- Sending Morse
- Digital Modes
- Station Setup for Morse and Digital
- Operating Morse and Digital
- Contesting
- Field Day Preparations

Course Outline

- Why Use Morse?
 - 13 dB advantage over SSB
 - This means that a 5W CW signal is about the same as a 100W SSB signal!
 - Simple Equipment
 - No computer required
 - Just a little skill
 - If you cause RFI, it's just clicks, not ghost whispers
 - Works extremely well with QRP

Why Morse?

- Using Morse will require 3 things:
 - Copying (understanding) Morse
 - Sending Morse
 - Using Correct Operating Procedures

How to Learn Morse

- Recommended Procedure
 - Learn to copy Morse letters
 - We'll use G4FON program
 - Learn to copy words in Morse
 - Again, G4FON
 - Learn to send using straight key or paddles
 - Tape recorder or CW recognition program
 - Learn operating techniques
 - We'll practice in class
 - Use Morse on-air

Learning Morse-The Big Picture

- We don't really “learn” Morse, we train for it!
- If you try to study or memorize dits and dahs, the thinking will slow you down.
- We need to get our conscious minds out of the loop and learn to associate sounds with letters and words.
- Koch method is designed to achieve this conditioning

Copying Morse

- Check out <http://n1su.com/c29.htm>
- Ludwig Koch was a German psychologist in the 1930s
- He tried to develop an efficient way to train radiotelegraph operators
- Results:
 - Slow code (<10 wpm) is very hard to send!
 - Competent operators had trouble copying slow code
- Conclusion:
 - Good operators recognize the overall sound of the characters, not dits and dahs

Koch Method

- Koch theorized some problems with traditional teaching methods
 - Learning visual symbols is a useless detour
 - Slow sending destroys any unity or coherent sound-patterning
 - Long spaces between letters (e.g. Farnsworth technique) gives too much time to think
 - At each increase in speed, the letters sound different, so you're really learning the code again

Koch Method

- Koch Method in Brief:
 - Learn at the speed you want to use Morse (at least 12wpm)
 - Start with two characters sent randomly
 - When you can successfully copy 90% of these characters, add one more
 - ...and so on, til you get to 40

Koch Method

- Training Programs
 - G4FON (<http://g4fon.net>)
 - Just Learn Morse Code (<http://justlearnmorsecode.com>)
 - Learn CW Online (<http://lcwo.net>)
- If you're on a Mac
 - G4FON sort of works under Wine (<http://winebottler.kronenberg.org>)
 - LCWO above is browser-based, works fine on Safari.

Koch Method

- Suggestions
 - Use G4FON
 - Set character speed and effective speed to 15wpm
 - Experiment to find the best session length – I found 3 minutes to be about right
 - Do many sessions spread out through the day (like 5 or 6 at least)
 - Practice EVERY DAY.
 - You'll probably be able to add a character each day, sometimes more

Koch Method

- **Suggestions**

- When practicing, try not to think about the letters, just let your hand write them.
- Don't get discouraged!
- You **WILL** understand Morse, given time!

Koch Method