# CW ACADEMY

## KT5V Beginner's Class - September - October 2024

LIVE ON ZOOM

Each Monday and Thursday

7:30 - 8:30 PM CDT

0130 - 0230Z

Welcome to the CW Academy (CWA)!

I'm David, KT5V and I have been licensed since 1975. My activity is primarily CW. I'm a life member of CW Ops and serving as a CW Ops CWA Advisor has been a high point of my amateur career.

Your success in the course is based on your commitment of time needed for practice. You will need to practice at least 45 minutes per day, every day, include class session days. This level of practice is essential to success.

My commitment to you aligns with your commitment to the class. I will meet you and your classmates on-line for every session and am available to you throughout the semester and beyond for questions, extra practice or support.

I'm looking forward to working with you and helping you to achieve your CW goals. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

73 de David KT5V
zatopek.david@gmail.com

214-868-2714

**CWA - KT5V 2024 Fall**

**Class Schedule - all sessions 7:30 - 8:30pm Central Time**

**ZOOM Room:        237 904 5946**

**Passcode:            11271923**

(Passcode is easy to remember as this is the date of the first transatlantic amateur radio contact - using Morse, of course)

| **Session** | **Date** | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | September 5 - Thursday | Meet and Greet - Test Audio - Intro to class |
| 2 | September 9 - Monday | |
| 3 | September 12  - Thursday | |
| 4 | September 16 - Monday | |
| 5 | September 19 - Thursday | |
| 6 | September 23 - Monday | |
| 7 | September 26 - Thursday | |
| 8 | September 30 - Monday | |
| 9 | October 3 - Thursday | |
| 10 | October 7 - Monday | |
| 11 | October 10  - Thursday | |
| 12 | October 14  - Monday | |
| 13 | October 17 - Thursday | |
| 14 | October 21 - Monday | |
| 15 | October 24 - Thursday | |
| 16 | October 28 -  Monday | Graduation |

**Getting started with CW Academy - Beginner's Course**

1.	A computer and a broadband Internet connection.  ***Tip:  A laptop or desktop is best as some students have struggled with iPhones and iPads.***  *If at all possible a wired (Ethernet) connection to your router is best.  If you use WiFi, try to limit other high bandwidth users on your network during our class (streaming, big downloads etc.). Good audio in the ZOOM meeting is important to enjoying the class sessions:*

> *Dial-up -*	*No, insufficient bandwidth*
>
> *Satellite -*	*No, too much latency*
>
> *4G -*	*No, bandwidth and latency*
>
> *DSL -*	*No, bandwidth and latency*
>
> *Starlink -*	*Good*
>
> *LTE / 5G -*	*Good*
>
> *Cable -*	*Great*
>
> *Fiber -*	*Great*

*If you are limited to using one of the "no" types of connections, please contact me.*

*2.*	Download and install the ZOOM software.   This is the conferencing tool we'll use for our sessions.  Set up your hardware and test it out.  In our first session, we'll test everyone's set up and audio levels.

*3.*	A distraction free place to practice and attend class.

4.	Download the current Beginner's Practice and Homework Assignment document from Student Resources - https://cwops.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Practice-Instructions-and-Homework-Assignments-Beginner-CW-Rev-4.2.8.1.pdf

5.	Visit and bookmark: https://morsecode.world/international/trainer/trainer.html The CW Ops Morse Code Trainer is the training platform we'll use for the Beginner's Class.  We'll discuss this platform in more detail in our first class.

6.	Give the trainer a trial run, experiment and  learn your way around the web interface and settings. To start, leave the speed set at 20 wpm, but reduce the Farnsworth spacing to 7 wpm.  We'll discuss these terms in our first class. ***Tip:  Experiment with the tone setting.  A lower tone, say about 440hz - 500hz works well for many, but everyone's hearing is different.***

7.	Headphones that plug into the computer's headphone jack.  This could also be a headset with a microphone.  Over the ears headphones are best for concentration and focus, but use what is comfortable for you.  ***Tip:  Bluetooth headphones can introduce latency  which can make head copy difficult; however, Apple AirPods Pro seem to work well.  IMPORTANT Tip:  Using headphones will greatly improve your ability to copy and learn.***

*9.* A CW paddle. Borrow one, or buy a used one, don't spend a lot of money to start; however some less expensive paddles don't keep their adjustments well.  Let me know if your shopping for a new key and I can offer some suggestions.  ***Tip:  A dual lever (iambic) is best.  No straight keys or bugs, please.***

*10.* A radio with a built-in keyer and sidetone, or a separate keyer with sidetone.  Remember we'll want to hear you send in our sessions.  Your webcam mic (or audio system) should be able to pick up the side tone.  ***Tip: MFJ makes an inexpensive EconoKeyer if you can't borrow one or find a used one.  If you use your rig, set it to transmit inhibit or use lowest power setting into a dummy load.***

*11.* *Your motivation and excitement for learning Morse.  And don't forget your patience - with yourself, each other and me!*

**Resources**

To start, please familiarize yourself with the "Practice Instructions and Home Assignments" (link above) This document has our 16 sessions broken down into assignments.

These 16 assignments align with Morse Trainer's format.  Morse Trainer will be your tool to start learning the characters, first words and phrases.

Additional documents and resources will follow from time to time as the course progresses.

**Class Format**

Our sessions will meet **Monday and Thursday night at 7:30pm CT on ZOOM.**  Normally  our session will last one hour and with up to six students in each session, we want to move quickly to give everyone a chance to ask questions, practice receiving and sending.  I'm available to schedule extra practice time with each of you as needed.

**Start practicing today.**  You'll want to at least spend 45 minutes per day, every day practicing both receiving (using Morse Trainer) and sending (using your own paddle and keyer).   Most, if not all, students benefit from doing the daily practice in "chunks" of approximately 15-20 minutes instead of one block of 45 minutes.   Our on-line class will cover and review the material you've been practicing in the days prior.

**Most important - have fun and ask questions!**