Photo by Alan Glasser NY2G

NEWSLETTER PROMOTING
MORSE CODE   SUMMER/FALL 2025

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LICW: SUMMER/FALL UPDATE

by Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE

Every edition I would like to give the club a rundown on the highlights, and here we go:

1) Curriculum

Thanks to the tireless efforts of various committees encouraged by Mike N1CC, there have been major improvements to all levels of classes which now total 168 per week on Zoom. Project Overlearn is now in its first semester in an effort to redesign how we teach Intermediate students to relate to CW and pass their various common plateaus.

2) Our membership

We have a steady stream of new members to the tune of approximately 150 per month. So the club is very healthy.

3) Participation in nation-wide hamfests

We are pleased to announce the club will participate this year in:

- Hamcation
- Dayton
- Nearfest (2)
- Huntsville
- Ham X
- Pacificon

And some regional fests too!

Thank you to all the members who make this happen.

4) Our Haptic Vibrational device

This unit had a multipage review in the August issue of QST, which we were very pleased about.

5) Our Kids Program

Our Kids Program is doing great with a constant influx of new students, and 2 of our long time students just turning 18 who are now in our adult program as Honorary Lifetime members.

We look forward to keeping the same pace in the upcoming years. ★

PROJECT OVERLEARN

By Mike Padron, N1CC

By now you've probably seen the club announcement about the launch of Project OverLearn - and hopefully, you've taken a moment to read the Intermediate section of the Student and Instructor Guide. It's easy to get excited about the cool new exercises in the Morse Practice Page (MPP) or the OverLearn Bootcamp, but it's important to understand that those are tools, not the project itself. They are designed to help achieve the goals and objectives of Project OverLearn.

To really understand what Project OverLearn is about, we need to take a step back and consider how our Beginners Carousel was developed. There are many ways to learn Morse code, and no single "best" method. Our approach was carefully chosen to give the average adult learner the best chance at achieving initial proficiency.

But here's the thing: **proficiency is not the same as fluency.**

Beginner-level proficiency means you can recognize and send characters accurately and get on the air. Fluency, however, means you can **send and receive Morse code effortlessly and accurately at conversational speeds - typically above 20 WPM - without consciously decoding each character.**

Key elements of fluency include:

- Speed and rhythm
- A relaxed mindset that enables word discovery (not decoding)
- Real-time comprehension of meaning or "gist"
- Natural flow and endurance in extended QSOs

Many students hit a plateau after learning the characters. They get stuck at the character-by-character level and can't seem to move forward.

That's exactly the challenge Project OverLearn was designed to address.

Project OverLearn is a focused initiative to help students break through that barrier - to move beyond recognition and toward comprehension. It's about cultivating the mindset and skills required for conversational Morse code fluency. ★

MONTHLY KIDS CW CLASS NOTES

By Ken Cone, K7BXI

It has been an eventful and exciting month for our first monthly contribution to the LICW newsletter. Three of our adult instructors and student instructors, for a total 19 people from our Kids Classes, attended the Dayton Hamvention. It was a joy to meet all of them and their parents (who are an integral part of our program) in person. Six of our students were involved in presenting at forums, the youngest being 9 years old! The moderator of the Youth Forum was a young lady (now an adult) who attended our classes for a brief time to get started in CW. I realize we are only a part of mentoring these young people (there are many of our Amateur Radio community who are involved in Elmering) but it is a joy to see them grow and bring so much to our hobby.

We currently have about 30 active students with about 10-12 students per class during our regular classes. We have one Zoom room and use

breakout rooms where students get personalized instruction based on their skill level and the number of instructors at any given time. We also have special classes to handle very young (5 to 6 year olds) and advanced students to get on the air. We utilize K1USN, POTA/SOTA, and LICW Challenge as our vehicles for on the air. We also have been teaching CW at a high school in central NY.

Our student instructors are working with special classes to encourage students to get back into CW and radio by increasing the socializing time time available along with making the content more fun. Included in this time is a study period for Amateur Radio licensing. Another way to keep the interest up in class is to play Chess sending the moves in CW.

Another difference in the kids classes is parent/grandparent attendance. Many of them are present with their kids learning alongside them or in the background, being involved as needed and in some cases actually socializing with other parents. We welcome their presence and in some cases their participation. ★

RUNNING TRAINS IN WWII

By Richard L. Thomas (30-SK)
*From **Dots and Dashes,** the Quarterly Journal of the Morse Telegraph Club*

Telegrapher Stanley Jones had worked three years for the Milwaukee Railroad and was breaking-in as a train dispatcher when he enlisted in the Army in early 1944 at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

After basic training in Texas, he found himself back at Fort Snelling for assignment to the 744th Railway Operating Battalion.

Historians often overlook a minor fact involving the railroad operating battalions, but Stanley explained that on the communications end of it, soldiers were being trained as American Morse operators.

In short order Stanley and other experienced railroaders, along with a mix of other soldiers, were in a 50-ship Atlantic convoy. It eluded attacks from German submarines and landed in England 13 days later.

The D-Day invasion of France had occurred only weeks earlier, and almost before the railroad battalion soldiers could write a postcard home, they were landing at now-secured Omaha Beach with their equipment, including American locomotives.

By August 4, 1944, the Battle of St. Lo in Normandy was under way. Between American and British bombers, railroad bridges and train yards had been blasted into scrap iron. The 744th's orders from General Eisenhower were simple and to the point. "Fix 'em and get supply and troop trains moving immediately."

Stanley says to its credit, the Army relied on the knowledge and experience of former railroaders who knew how to solve the multitude of critical problems.

The chief dispatcher was a first lieutenant who came off the Milwaukee Railroad.

The assistant chief was a master sergeant who had worked for the Cotton Belt Railroad. There were three trick dispatchers, all Technical Sergeants, Stan and another off the Milwaukee, and a third off the Missouri Pacific. Their jobs were much more than train dispatching.

In the French town of Flers, virtually destroyed, Stanley and another non-com were ordered to repair the 10-track railroad yard to move trains. They quickly recruited French locals who had worked on the railroad. By borrowing rails from a nearby branch line, they got one set of rails through the yard, snaking it around bomb craters.

Later, in France, Belgium, and Germany, Stanley says, there once were 14 miles of trains lined up, awaiting General George Patton's tank corps to unload supplies.

As the war progressed, Stanley earned three battle stars and was recommended for promotion to Master Sergeant. The promotion never occurred because Germany surrendered in May, 1945, and General Eisenhower immediately froze all promotions.

At the war's end, and for several months afterward, Stan's outfit, the 706th Railway Grand Division, was coordinating train movements in France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria. After two years in the Army, almost all of which was in Europe, Stanley was discharged and picked up his career with the Milwaukee Railroad. He established seniority on June 28, 1941, having learned telegraphy and railroad accounting in his hometown of Chandler, Minnesota, from agent M.E. Larimer.

He recalls the man at the top of the seniority list on the Milwaukee's Iowa and Southern Minnesota Division at that time was L.A. Horten, who had worked for the railroad since November 26, 1885.

For five years, Stanley worked the extra board by choice, wanting to get as varied experience as he could at different offices. As the senior operator on the extra board, Stanley had first pick of jobs, and he made a point in choosing those with the most Railway Express business since the agent received a percentage of the billings. In all, he worked at 24 locations throughout mostly Minnesota and also Lime Springs in Iowa.

His career with the Milwaukee Railroad includes being a train dispatcher in Austin, Minnesota, trainmaster in Mason City and Council Bluffs, Iowa, Miles City, Montana, and in Milwaukee and La Crosse, Wisconsin. He also served as Superintendent in Kansas City, Savanah, Illinois, and Deer Lodge, Montana.

When he retired from the railroad, Stanley worked six years for the National Transportation Safety Board with territory that included the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska, finally retiring to Sun City, Arizona. ★

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM NET TRAINING

By Ed Conway, N2GSL

Does formal traffic always have to be serious business?

In December 2023, as part of the NTS 2.0 effort by the ARRL to improve support for the National Traffic System, a Treasure Hunt was initiated to generate formal messages. The idea is for contestants to respond to clues found in an NTS Letter (**https://nts2.arrl.org/ntsletter/**) via radiogram to a "judge". The judge will then respond with the next clue in the hunt along with the next judge's contact information. This will continue for three or four cycles. If your answer is not correct you will be asked to try again. All who participate will have a good chance of completing the treasure hunt. The judge's response turnaround will be about 4-5 days. The judges participated in traffic nets almost daily. If you do not get a response within 4-5 days, then resend your radiogram answer with a new message number.

In the March Treasure Hunt, there were 12 participants and all completed the challenge. As an example, here is the round one clue for the March hunt:

Round #1 Ray, KB8GUN

THR1 IS IT MANDATORY TO PHONETICALLY SPELL THE LAST NAME OF THE ADDRESSEE QUERY

Answer:

Section 2.2.1.1 of the MPG.

ALWAYS SPELL THESE GROUPS AND USE PHONETICS:

Last names of addressee in address, and in Op Note; Proper names in text; Last names in signature and Op Note; ARL Radiogram numbers spelled out in texts; (ARL FIFTY and SIXTY sound very much alike even letter-spelled!); Fills, as requested.

The October NTS Letter will be out soon so why not sign up to receive it and join in the fun. The radiograms can be sent via any mode but joining a CW net to participate in the treasure hunt would be a wonderful goal. Our Tuesday 7pm Zoom A National Traffic System training class is a great place to learn all about the National traffic system and CW nets. You do not have to take my word for it, here is an unsolicited plug for our club and class found in the NTS letter:

Want to learn about message handling on CW traffic nets? The Long Island CW Club has a great training program for learning CW, which is a lot of fun, and it also offers a class on using that CW on NTS traffic nets, which is a good way to practice your skills in a very useful activity. You must be a member of the club to participate in these classes, but the nominal fee is well worth it. Check out the club's website, **longislandcwclub.org***, for more information about joining, and contact Ed Conway, N2GSL, for details on LICW's NTS training.*

Hope to see you in our class and good luck with the treasure hunt if you decide to give it a try.

73
Ed Conway N2GSL ★

LICW - 3D PRINTING

By Richard Rieben, KE4WLE

After a hiatus, LICW's weekly 3D printing class is back! Join us on Wednesday evenings at 8pm ET to learn more about the exciting possibilities of 3D printing and how they can compliment your amateur radio activities. Our classes feature a combination of open Q&A, guided activities, and guest presentations featuring a variety of 3D printing topics.

3D printing empowers amateur operators to go beyond off-the-shelf solutions. It fosters creativity, encourages experimentation, and ultimately brings more people into the hobby. From rugged enclosures for field radios to compact morse code keys that fit in your pocket, 3D printing is rapidly becoming an indispensable tool for amateur radio operators, especially those engaged in portable operating and CW. Whether you're activating a summit, operating from a park, or just tinkering at your workbench, 3D printing offers accessible, customizable, and cost-effective solutions that are reshaping the ham radio experience.

The beauty of portable ham radio lies in its simplicity and versatility. You don't need a full shack to operate—just a radio, an antenna, and a sense of adventure. But anyone who has ventured into the field knows that "portable" can quickly become "problematic" without the right gear. That's where 3D printing shines.

Operators are designing and printing a variety of solutions including:

- Antenna winders and supports which provide tangle-free storage and quick deployment of wire antennas.
- Mast brackets and guying systems using custom parts that attach securely to hiking poles, camera tripods, or telescoping masts.
- Radio mounts and stands provide lightweight, rugged platforms tailored to your specific transceiver, complete with slots for batteries, connectors, and even solar chargers.

These parts are customizable to your exact needs. Want a winder that fits perfectly in your go-bag? Need a bracket that accommodates your specific coax fitting or radial layout? A 3D printer and a few design tweaks in software like TinkerCAD or Fusion 360, and you're on your way.

CW continues to captivate operators with its efficiency, history, and minimalist elegance. The key to this mode, quite literally, is the key—and 3D printing is making keys more accessible and inventive than ever.

You'll find a thriving online community designing:

- Straight keys with printable bases and custom contacts.
- Iambic paddles with adjustable tension, compact designs, and innovative magnetic returns.
- Touch-sensitive capacitive keys embedded in custom enclosures.

3D printed parts are not mere toys or prototypes; many of them are field-ready and contest-tested, used by operators worldwide. So whether you're planning your next POTA activation, restoring a vintage keyer, or teaching morse code to the next wave of operators, don't overlook the power of a 3D printer. It might just be the most versatile piece of equipment in your shack.

Here are some examples of projects from LICW members:
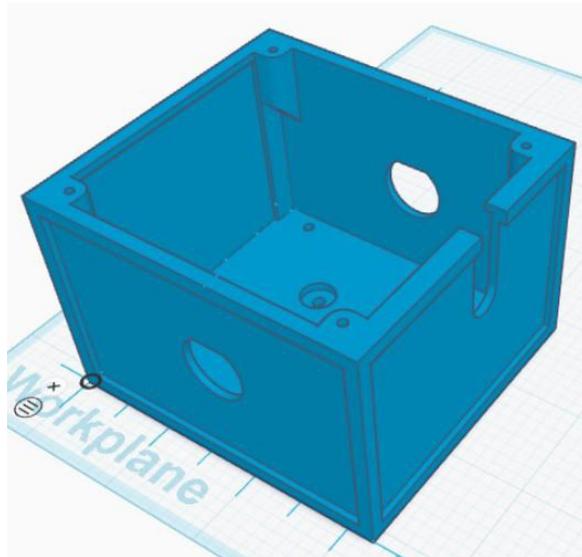
An air-capacitor housing for a loop antenna by James, KA9TII

An adjustable whip and dipole mount by Ed, N2EC

Wire winders, by Richard, KE4WLE

ANTENNAS, TREES, TOWERS AND TRIPODS

By Kimball Williams, N8FNC

If you haven't already, it's time to consider how to put up that antenna you have been working on for the past few months when the weather was not encouraging outside activities. Especially not climbing trees or scrambling on roof tops.

OK, I'll grant you the weather is now nice enough for a walk around the block, or down to the barn and back, but should you really be thinking about climbing up a ladder to get to the lowest branches of that pine tree in the yard just to hang an antenna?

As I started to put this missive together, I considered doing a bit of actual research. How high in a tree should someone like me climb a tree? So of course, … *'I saw the 'gypsy with the gold tattoo',* - No?

OK, I consulted the modern equivalent. I asked Google! The answer:

"For an 83-year-old, the ideal tree climbing height should prioritize safety and comfort. While there's no single "right" height, it's generally recommended to stay at a level where they feel secure and can easily descend if needed. This might mean starting with a low platform, like 8 feet off the ground, and gradually increasing height as comfort and confidence grow."

8 feet? That is nowhere near ¼ wavelength at 80 Meters! Or even 40 Meters!

OK, Who else climbs trees? Arborists! A friendly website for professional climbers talked about climbing, when older, told me:

"I've told so many lies about my age that I had to run down to the Waffle House and check with the waitresses – Becky Sue, Betty Sue, Bobbie Sue, Linda Sue, Mary Sue and last, but not least, Debbie Lou – to see if any of them knew my true birthday.

Becky Sue; "Last week you told me you were 21 and on the way to becoming a famous rock star."

You slurp them thar grits faster than any old geezer in the place; said Betty Sue. 'You gotta be younger than 85'.

And so it went, until I got around to Debbie Lou. The acknowledged 250-pound queen of the breakfast platter, with a vocabulary more ribald than a drunken sailor's, had these words of wisdom for me: You're only as young as you feel, and you shore were feelin' 39 good a minute ago. (The rest of Debbie Lou's comment was deleted out of respect for common decency.)"

OK. Interesting but not very helpful. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. So, another website: The International Society of Arborists: **Tree Climbers' Guide, 4th Edition**: Isa-arbor.com, **https://www.isa-arbor.com**

"The Tree Climbers' Guide was written specifically from the tree climbers' perspective to learn safe climbing and aerial tree work principles. Non-member price $124.00 US."

OK, obviously I am not going to find the '5 Minute Guide to Safe Tree Climbing for Octogenarians'. In fact, I am becoming convinced that I need to look at other options.

1. Rent a 'High-Lift': *(No immediate access to the back yard without removing the fence.)*

2. Pay the neighbor teenager $5 to climb up and tie off a pully with a paracord. *(Think about the hospital bill if he falls and his parents sue you for a broken arm.)*

3. Bow & Arrow with a fish line tied to the arrow. *(Just how good an archer do you think you are?)*

4. Look into one of the pneumatic launch guns. *(There are home brew designs!)*

5. I hear some slingshots (Wrist Rocket) might do as well. *(Watch out for nearby windows!)*

6. An Arborist's weight and cord is designed for the purpose.

My research convinced me that the same cautions and caveats as tree climbing apply to towers and roofs. The big difference is that on a roof, there are far fewer things to tie a climbing rope to that will catch you when (not if) you trip or begin to slide. So, unless your house was built into the side of a hill and your regular maintenance on the 'roof' is to mow the grass, climbing on the roof is more out of the question than that tree or tower.

Immediately dismiss items 1 and 2. Talk with friends in your local Ham Club and find one that has items 4, 5 or 6 who can show you how it's done. It is always good to l earn a new skill. And, if you haven't read 'Tom Sawyer' in a while, you might consider reviewing it.

Finally! If no one you know can help, visit your city hall and find your local arborists and explain to them what needs to be done. It may be that one of them is also a Ham, (Or can be convinced that it needs to be the next thing on his or her 'to do' list.) and they can help put up your antenna and be sure it is done correctly with minimal threat to the tree.

Even if you must pay to have your local Arborist put up your antenna, it will cost less than the hospital bill when you fall ¼ wavelengths at 80 Meters.

Finally, consider the alternative of a short tripod on the lawn in the back yard with a loading coil and a collapsible whip antenna. A couple of radial wires and length of coax and you are on the air. Consider it a POTA without the trip to the park. (Don't try to log it as a POTA unless you live in a very strange location.) *– 73 N8FNC* ★

Or…Have youngest son (Leland N0SIT) climb up on the roof to 'adjust' the antenna because no one in the family will allow you to climb up there yourself. (Notice the red climbing harness. He is brave but not foolish.)

NV1U MEMORIAL

By Mike Padron, N1CC

The first Morse code instruction and training began in the 1840s, shortly after the invention and demonstration of the telegraph system by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail. By the 1850s, as telegraph wires spread across the U.S. and Europe, companies like Western Union needed a whole army of trained operators. To meet this demand, they began building in-house training systems. By the 1860s, full-fledged telegraphy schools were appearing.

Morse code also became a critical communication tool for militaries, which needed efficient ways to train large numbers of operators quickly and effectively. This need drove researchers to study how people learn Morse code: how fast they could learn it, which teaching methods worked best, and how to improve both accuracy and speed. LICW benefited from this research. We studied many of the historical documents to help develop the teaching methods used in the Beginners Carousel (BC).

Once the BC had reached a mature and stable state, our efforts shifted toward the development of a new Intermediate Curriculum. Traditionally, Intermediate focused exclusively on increasing speed, with 13 and 20 WPM as target benchmarks in support of licensing requirements. But a curious thing had happened at LICW. Our founder, Howard (WB2UZE), had developed strong head copy skills and a passion for helping others learn the technique. His Tuesday night head copy class became very popular.

Then our friend and instructor Tom (NV1U) became a silent key (SK). Tom had started a once-daily class where students could enjoy Morse code in a relaxed atmosphere at around 10 WPM. After Tom's passing, Quentin (K7DRQ) and Tim (G4XWJ) graciously volunteered to continue the class, now renamed the NV1U Memorial. Like

Howard, Quentin had also developed head copy skills and a desire to help others learn them. The Monday-through-Friday format enabled friendships and bonds to form among the cohort of students, and Quentin experimented with many different head copy techniques and exercises.

An important part of the NV1U culture was the time taken to solicit feedback on what was working and what was not. The NV1U cohorts steadily progressed in both speed and head copy proficiency—eventually reaching the upper range of an intermediate curriculum, around 20 WPM, with a focus on retaining meaning and gist. A team was formed to develop a new Intermediate Curriculum with a lofty goal: to create a structured and comprehensive approach to teaching conversational head copy skills.

Unfortunately, the historical documents that guided us in developing the BC were not applicable to teaching conversational head copy. So, we relied almost entirely on a growing collection of validated techniques and exercises developed within NV1U. We even developed our own vernacular. For example, we coined the term "word building in the recognition buffer," which we found more descriptive and relatable than something like "semantic coherence stabilizing phonological sequences in short-term memory."

We released the new Intermediate Curriculum eighteen months ago and continue to refine our teaching methods.

The NV1U is now classified as an ADV1 class, operating in a speed range of 20 to 25 WPM. We've also launched cohorts of ADV2 and ADV3 classes, where we are gaining insight into the world of head copy above 30 WPM. One key insight: active word-building at those higher speeds requires a high degree of effort and is often fatiguing and unsustainable. As a result, we've adopted a more passive approach—allowing words

to appear naturally in the mind, or simply letting go and moving on when they don't.

We are now integrating these passive word-building strategies into our Intermediate classes. It may sound counterintuitive—even paradoxical—but if you want to copy faster, try less. ★

MORSE CODE SAVED MY SOTA

By David Collins, N4WDC

It was Friday morning, 24 June 2011, when I decided to activate my first Summits on the Air (SOTA). As a member of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, MARA, in Harrisonburg, VA, I decided to participate in Field Day (FD) with the club atop Shenandoah Mountain.

The summit I wanted to activate was Reddish Knob (4000 ft. AMSL), designated as W4V/HB-002. It was 3 miles from our FD site which I camped at Thursday night. I got up at 0700 EDT to get an early start. I parked the Jeep 140 ft below the summit outside the activation zone and hiked my way up to the summit. This summit is paved all the way to the top with a 360 degree view of the surrounding area.

I set up my Buddipole dipole antenna attaching it to the guard rail and attached my power hungry Icom IC-706MKIIG. I then reached into my backpack for my microphone. *WHAT, NO MICROPHONE!* I must have left it back home, 136 miles away! No worry, being a Boy Scout from the late sixties, I brought my J-38 straight key with me. Oh no, the J-38 key had a 1/8 inch plug and the 706 had a 1/4 inch socket!!!! Again, I reached in the backpack and pulled out my backup radio, my Elecraft K2 (10W CW only) and was finally able to call CQ.

SOTA allows you to post your activations ahead of time and my

first Q was Dennis, WA2USA in Indiana. My next two Qs came from my friends back at the FD site, Neil N4XU and Benny N4BCC. SOTA requires a minimum of 4 Qs to count the activation points so I needed just one more Q. I heard a strong station responding to my CQ, NS7P. Where in the world was this station? I had no idea. It was 0840 EDT when I made this Q. I picked up two more Qs on 2m FM simplex, a couple of guys down in the valley.

When I returned home three days later I looked up NS7P and found it to be Phil, all the way out in Oregon. So I emailed Phil to let him know I was surprised to hear his strong signal and that he got up so early just to make my Q. Phil had seen my activation alert the evening before and decided to get up an hour early just to make the Q.

The majority of my later activations have been on phone but I'll never forget this first summit and know that I'll always be able to make it count with Morse Code. ★

WILD ABOUT BUGS

By Tom Waits, WA9CW

Wild About Bugs and the *Bug Copy and Sending Class* are still rolling along and I am really happy that so many are having fun with their bugs and participating, Thank You!

So far, we have talked about setup, sending and practice in the last few articles. I would like to expand on the subject of sending with the bug a little bit more. T.R.McElroy wrote about bug sending and offered advice to bug users back in the 1930s. There is not a lot of instruction available in print concerning best practice in manipulating the bug these days. For that reason, I go back to his words for instruction of bug manipulation for sending. His sending method required that the arm and hand should not touch the table top with only the

forearm resting on the edge of the table. Most operators today rest their hand on the table while sending and often use a lot of finger and thumb movement when pressing the paddles. The idea of using the larger muscles to send while minimizing finger movement and keeping the hand and wrist off the table sounds like a foreign idea today. I have started calling that the Classic Style of bug sending. When McElroy describes it, he refers to something that his contemporaries would be familiar with that we today may not relate to. To paraphrase his words, the free arm movement in bug sending is related to the "free arm movement handwriting" taught in schools of that time. Some of us can recall from early school days learning to write in cursive the Palmer Method of handwriting. McElroy seemed to think that this idea was critical to understand in order to send well with the bug. This is a quote from him in 1939, "Keep your wrist and hand wholly off the table. Call back to your mind the schools days of 'free arm movement writing' - that tells it all."

Those few words set me on a path for a deeper understanding of the method he was describing. Over the years, I have always enjoyed cursive writing but had no idea that there was so much information out there about it until I did a google search of "free arm movement writing". The more I read, the more intrigued I became with the similarities between bug sending and handwriting. Although I had read his instructions several times, they finally made sense when understood in the context of free arm movement writing.

Some parallel ideas between handwriting and bug sending are related to their place in history. Both were to make it possible for people to use the instruments for long hours with minimum fatigue. This was accomplished by minimizing finger movement and using the large muscles to accomplish the fine movements required for both. Before typewriters came into common use, many people

had to write for hours every day in business. Just like telegraphers, writers suffered from some of the same maladies from repetitive movement.

Handwriting schools sprang up just like telegraphy schools did in order to produce an able workforce. We don't have a lot of info concerning professional telegraphers but there are many original examples of handwriting instruction still available.

McElroy was mainly offering advice to amateur radio operators rather than professionals with his writing. Apparently, hams were using bugs with far less grace than the pros were and he felt that an overall improvement was needed so he offered his ideas to the ham community. Let's fast forward to today and try to apply some of the skills he was talking about.

So, concerning the idea of free arm movement, When I first started playing with it, nothing about it felt right. I was used to having my hand anchored to the table top and rolling back and forth to send, and getting along just fine. My intention was to try to experience the feeling that McElroy was expressing. As you can imagine, not resting the hand on the table caused a loss of control and felt unnatural. One of the things that I did at that time was to start doing the exercises required for free arm movement writing. Drawing ellipses and loops and circles and zigzag lines and such using only my arm with the fingers completely still. As the circles began to tame down and become more constant on the page, so did the movement in sending with the bug. After about a week, sending with minimum finger and thumb movement using the arm to move the hand, it was surprising how good it began to feel.

Tension on the springs and the bite of the pen to page are related with free arm movement. Small movements are easier to control when working against some resistance. Practicing these small movements, slowly at first, allows the hand to feel the range of movement in

the dot and dash paddle and become coordinated enough to have a feel for where the stops are. This also trains the larger muscles to go and then let off at just the right time to send the proper energy into the paddles without slapping the bug around the table. In other words, as the hand starts to feel where it is in the key stroke it can speed up or slow down even within the slight movement of the paddle. Over time, this lets the arm and hand learn to choreograph the movement for each character creating the exact sound for each character.

This method of sending takes some time to adjust to and it may not be of interest to a lot of people. An easier approach is what I call *Practical Bug Sending* and it involves the same arm movement with minimal finger movement with the side of the hand resting on the table top. The upside to this is that it is easier at first. The down side is that with the hand somewhat anchored to the table it is harder to train the fingers for less movement and allow the arm to do the work.

Final word is that I think the free arm sending is the best for perfecting the bug fist even if you end up following the Practical Style. Quiet fingers and rolling the arm are the keys to bug sending and whatever helps perfect that is worth the effort. Hope you will give it a try.

Lastly, I invite you to check out my **YouTube channel**. It is a companion to the Bug Sending and Copy Class. The content is all manual non computer code with no edits. What you hear is what you get. Content is mostly poems sent with the bug but there is a little info concerning bug setup and adjustment. You can find it by searching YouTube for my call, WA9CW. The beauty of YouTube is that you can slow it down or speed it up to copy with pen or head copy.

Hope you will look into this, and I am interested in what you think, See you in Wild About Bugs, 73 for now
– Tom WA9CW ★

KN6EY MEMORIAL CODE BUDDY UPDATE SUMMER/FALL 2025

By Jay Fox, NK2Y

Since the reboot of the Long Island CW Club's code buddy program this spring, members have spent over 700 minutes practicing code with a partner, during 19 reported sessions. This is quite impressive as this was accomplished entirely outside of the Zoom class structure and represents an incredible commitment to learning and practicing code! Currently there are over 60 LICW members who have signed up on the code buddy "roster". This roster is housed in dropbox folder #80 along with information about the code buddy program and how to sign up, visiting the information document you'll read:

"What is the code buddy program? The code buddy program is designed to provide a structured place for LICW students who are learning CW to partner up with like minded students for actual on air practice on a regular basis. The program is self directed and structured by the participants. Code buddy sessions are based on a set of skeds (scheduled QSO's) between two operators with the specific goal of practicing CW and building proficiency."

We hope that you will consider making a commitment to practicing your code by joining the code buddy roster and finding a partner to practice with regularly. If you do, you'll find an improvement in your code, confidence when operating and you never know, you may make a new friend!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

73, Jay NK2Y

WAYNE KN6EY (SK 2024) was the administrator of the Buddy Program for LICW. He devoted much time and effort into both running the program as well as helping others practice from his shack in AZ. His kindness, dedication and spirit will be greatly missed. ★

FROM PAPER TO MIND, AND WHY IT'S HARD

By Quentin Caudron, K7DRQ

Anyone who's tried to switch from copying Morse code on paper to copying it in their head knows the feeling: "Why does this suddenly feel so much harder ?"

You were cruising along. Your pen could barely keep up. You felt confident. And then you put the pen down, tried to do it all mentally… and it fell apart. Words vanished, characters slipped away, and your confidence took a hit. Frustration abounds. This experience isn't just incredibly common, it's expected. We can turn to cognitive psychology to help explain why. Here, I'll base my thoughts on a collection of studies you'll find referenced at the end.

In learning any new skill, things tend to start out difficult and get easier. Indeed, any skill practiced becomes more automatic over time. I frequently talk about "not letting the conscious mind get in the way" – and the goal is to allow things to become automatic, easy, effortless. (Admittedly, I talk about this in the context of head copy, but I promise it applies on paper too). Whether you're learning to drive, play an instrument, or copy Morse code onto paper, repeated practice helps shift the burden from your conscious mind to your subconscious systems. The task becomes procedural. It stops being something you do, and starts being something you just know how to do.

In Morse code, many of us begin with paper copy. We listen, decode, and write. With enough time, this becomes a kind of reflex. The muscle memory kicks in and you stop thinking about each character. Your hand just

moves.[1] But then, you decide to learn to head copy… and suddenly, it feels like you're just so much worse.

Why? Because you're no longer relying on the practiced, procedural sequence of "hear, decode, write." You're now doing something different: holding sounds in working memory, decoding characters, assembling words, and interpreting meaning — all mentally, all at once. What you're feeling is a surge in cognitive load.[2] You're juggling more in your conscious mind, especially because you're missing your old crutch : the pen. That drop in fluency isn't regression. It's just the cost of building a new skill.

Even more frustrating, it may feel like you're going from implicit to explicit, from something that felt natural, to something you have to work really hard for. In fact, you're building a new "fluency track". You're learning essentially a different skill, and so you start where any new skill starts – explicitly, with conscious effort, with no automaticity in sight.

How do we make it natural, like your paper copy ? How do we make it feel like just listening in on a conversation? Well, first, we practice, just like with any other skill. Fortunately, there's been a ton of study on how skills are learned, so we can pull a few nuggets of wisdom[3]:

Vary the conditions of your practice. Listen to different fists, not just computer code. Change up the types of exercises and the speeds you're copying. This may seem like it's adding difficulty – and in a way, it is – but science says that's a good thing for learning a skill in the long-term.

Space your practice out. The benefits of spacing out your practice on long-term retention have been well observed; this is called the "spacing effect".

Alternate head-copy practice with other related skills. Do some sending challenges. Work on your ICR.

Interleaving related "topics" of study reinforces them all and helps you develop your skills faster.

At LICW, we often say: "Let the code come to you." It's not magic — it's neuroscience.

References:

The multiple effects of practice: skill, habit and reduced cognitive load. Haith and Krakauer, 2018. Current Opinions in Behavioral Science.

Cognitive Load Theory and its implications for learning. Young, 2022. Online at scotthyoung.com.

Making things hard on yourself, but in a good way: Creating desirable difficulties to enhance learning. Bjork & Bjork, 2011. Psychology and the real world: Essays illustrating fundamental contributions to society. ★

A NEW MORSERINO
By Eric Kennard, WS4J

Look for the "new" Morserino late this Summer or early Fall.   It will have all the same features, plus more, in a new package. ★

YL OPEN HOUSE
By Anne Dirkman, KC9YL

For those of us who attended 2025's Hamvention….well, we all hope to attend again next year. There were a few newbies who joined us at our (annual) Friday Night dinner at Bob Evan's restaurant. We shared stories about bug-hunting, antenna and radio buying, the food (corndogs!), forums, Contest University, camping, banquets, and duck wrangling. If you've ever been tempted to make that 'everyone should attend Hamvention at least once' trip - be forewarned, it may become an annual event! Anne KC9YL was part of the panel for the Contest University "Contesting - What's It All About?" presentation, the first session. Recordings of all of the forums in Room 1 are available on the contestuniversity.com website.

Cathy W4CMG, Anne and Katie KE3LQR joined some of the LICW crew in the "LICW and The Renaissance of Morse Code" which is posted on the club's Youtube channel.

What do we talk about in our Monday Night Open House? The sky's the limit, but it always (well, mostly) focused on amateur radio with a particular slant towards CW. Recently members have been working on their QCX kits, building antennas, POTA and special event outings, contesting, and sharing their tips and tricks they learn along the way.

All YLs are welcome to our Monday night group which meets at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time (got it right this time…). Don't be afraid if you can't be a 'regular' - just pop in when you are able to and say hi!

See you on the air!!!
73, Anne Dirkman KC9YL

WELCOME TO THE LONG ISLAND CW CLUB CHALLENGE!

By Kasey Efaw, KD2YMM

We are into the third quarter of 2025 and a 'points reset' of the LICW Challenge. The Fall weather also brings an increase of outdoor radio activities, such as POTA and SOTA and so we have also added another bonus point category for making LICW Challenge exchanges with a member at a Park or Summit! Full details, rules for participation and past scores can be found at **https://licwchallenge.org/**

With the continuation of the weekly GOTA assistance class (Saturdays 16:00 UTC in Zoom C), there is never a better time to get on the air, no matter your operating speed.

Submitting and tracking your scores has never been easier thanks to the online Logger App located at **https://licw-apps-h96ku.ondigitalocean.app/logger/**

Any operator wishing to be listed as a Special station, including the coveted opportunity to use the LICW Club Call, may email **kd2ymm@gmail.com**.

73's,
de Kasey KD2YMM ★

LICW CHALLENGE AWARDS

At the end of each quarter, points are tallied up and certificates are awarded for total points of 10 and above. New this year we are creating customized certificates and emailing them out, so be sure a good email is on file.

Grab your favorite key, get on the air and aim for the top spot! ★

The following is a sample of scores from the first quarter of 2025. Will you rise to the 'Challenge' and be awarded as a top scorer!?

Score Board

LICW CHALLENGE QUARTER 1 (JAN – MAR 2025) TOP 10 SCORERS:

Rank	Callsign	Name	LICW #	QTH	Total Score
1	KC0DWZ	Don	3982 I	Minnesota	94
2	AI5BE	Tim	882 I	Mississippi	87
3	F5IJO	Jean-Jacques	5902	Europe	84
4	N5DCH	Dave	3064 I	New Mexico	56
5	K9VIC	Eric	2404 I	Illinois	49
6	N0IPA	Jim	588 I	Colorado	46
7	NR4K	Bruce	7049	South Carolina	32
8	VE3DRS	Peter	2996 I	Other North America	30
9	KF0DST	Adan	2727	Colorado	21
10	WB2KWC	Ken	921 M	New York	21

ESSENTIAL OPERATING SUBJECTS SUMMER/FALL 2025

Tuesdays with
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Monday evenings and Thursday mornings with Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG

You're just getting started with CW or know your characters and feel ready to get on the air. Or, you might have been "around" for a while but need a little boost to get your confidence to get on the air! A great number of our Long Island CW Club classes focus on sending and receiving. Essential Operating Subjects is a bit different because we DON'T Send or Receive in these sessions.

Looking at the LICW Calendar, you might think there is not much taking place, since there may be some instructors in evening sessions are on "Summer Break". No worries! The Tuesday evening (NA) sessions with Anthony K8ZT will be on summer break from June 17 and will resume his Tuesday evening Essential Operating Subjects classes on September 9th. The Monday evening (9 p.m. EDT) and Thursday morning (10 a.m. EDT) sessions (duplicate content for each "pair" of sessions) with Cathy W4CMG will continue, with a possible week break due to scheduled travel. Timing will be announced via the **Long Island CW Club groups.io** in advance of the canceled sessions.

Perhaps you have some weeks when you can't attend – no worries! Dropping in for a specific topic is fine – and you might think about becoming a "regular" in the sessions. There are some things you can do during the summer break, even if you can't make it to class! First, Anthony has a fantastic collection of recordings and presentations available to catch up on content

offered in previous classes through his document, posted at **tiny.cc/ joynotes**. Both classes also have prior content posted in the LICW Dropbox folder 66.

Essential Operating Subjects, Morning Edition, is scheduled each Thursday at 10:00 a.m. EDT (1500 UTC), The Monday night sessions take place in Zoom A at 9 p.m. EDT, and have replaced the Thursday 10:00 p.m. class due to conflicts. Same type of content, same instructor (Cathy W4CMG).

What are the "Essential Operating Subjects" about, anyway, since there is no code sent or received during these sessions (most of the time)?

Anthony Kuscre, K8ZT, takes you through the "Joy of Operating" with presentations and notes from each session, and some detailed documentation that will guide you through your CW Journey. Everything from Beginners topics, Station Setup, Operating and QSL-ing, through to more advanced topics and specialty tracks (Portable Operations, QRP, Youth, etc.) are covered in his Tuesday Night Classes. Anthony has an amazing website, and a "library" of resources (**tiny.cc/ joynotes**) that can be accessed to review the materials he has created or referenced in his classes.

Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG began teaching the *"Reaching Your CW Goals"* class in August 2021. The class has since become one of the *Essential Operating Subjects* class series. Interactive at the beginning of each session then we dive into the topic for the week. (Don't worry, we don't make you send or copy – so stop by even if you are just getting started.) Topics are posted in the **Long Island CW Club groups. io** before the weekly session, so you will know if it is something you are interested in learning more.

Not sure of what to send when you get on the air for your first (or 1000th) QSO, wondering what tools will help with sending and receiving CW, or figuring out how to find other ops on the air with similar interests, or just plain trying to find a frequency that is NOT occupied during a contest? Essential Operating Subjects will help you to navigate through some of the processes, tools and websites to pull it all together!

The classes start with the question: "What have you done over the past week (or longer) toward your goals, fun radio stuff, cool QSOs, etc.?" THEN we dive into the topic for the week. Summer topics will focus on getting over "finger fright" to get on the air, CW Protocols, and some tips and tools to help along the way. Topics that will carry over into the "regular" sessions starting in the fall generally involve live demos of a tool (e.g. Morse Code Ninja, N1MM Logger, CW Club RBN Spotter, SKCC tools…). Weekly recordings start when we dive into the topic of the week, so you have the opportunity to talk and ask questions before and after the scheduled topic without being recorded, leaving a bit of "comfort zone" for you to ask questions.

CAUTION: Many of our topics come from our students who asked questions about them, and the class often dives into a topic, which leads to a very interactive discussion about the experiences of those in the class. We may move some of the content to the following session. The pace is driven by the questions and comments from the participants, with the thought that if someone asked a question, there are probably a couple others in the "room" with the same questions. Recordings and notes from the sessions are posted in the Long Island CW Club Dropbox in Folder 66.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY – EVERY DAY "GET YOUR DAILY CW VITAMIN"!

Anthony K8ZT and Cathy W4CMG will be doing tag-team articles and welcome your feedback. Remember – your request on a topic may be included in one (or both) of our sessions, so be sure to check the groups.io to see when it will be covered!

73, Cathy W4CMG ★

LICW- SKCC CLASSES

By Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG

Hamvention was a blast at both the LICW and SKCC Tables. We welcomed a steady stream of visitors at each table, answered questions from our visitors, and in many cases, walked the visitors right over to each other's tables to introduce those with questions to the "experts" who could answer their questions, and tell them more about Long Island CW Club and Straight Key Century Club. Talk about a great partnership for the good of CW!!! SKCC had 29,298 members when I packed up the SKCC table. Sometime between then and the hotel…. SKCC reached 30,000 members! I credit engaging those new members with being physically present to meet them and answer questions, and support from our LICW members a few tables down.

Long Island CW Club (LICW) and Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) – a perfect community partnership for new and not-so-new CW enthusiasts to learn CW, get on the air, and experience a wealth of support from members of BOTH clubs!

Long Island CW Club has two great opportunities for our members to learn about the tools offered by the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)

- LICW-SKCC Forum on Wednesdays at 12:00 EDT in Zoom B
- Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) class on Thursdays at 8 p.m. EDT in Zoom C

These two LICW-SKCC classes are facilitated by SKCC Board members and long-term SKCC members (either in years, experience, or both!) so you get the benefit of working with ops who have been through the experiences of a new CW operator, and who are now regularly on the air.

During the **LICW-SKCC Forum** on Wednesday at noon (EST) sessions in Zoom B, you can bring specific "how-to" questions about the SKCC activities, awards, support materials, tools (SKED Page, Logger, Skimmer) and member "benefits" such as "The Ragchew" Newsletter, the SKCC Buro, and more! Are you brand new to CW and/or SKCC and don't even know what to ask? That's OK, because we can walk through the process of signing up for free SKCC membership, give some live demonstrations of our tools, as well as some basic tips to make your on the air experience great!

Our Thursday **LICW-SKCC Get-On-The-Air (GOTA)** class provides a high-level overview of the SKCC tools as needed for our SKCC/LICW club members if they are not familiar with them. Then, if propagation cooperates, you will get on the air with someone in the class, or one if the instructors, to make a guided on-the-air QSO. We will help you get through your initial finger fright to get on the air during our Thursday night Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) class.

If the LICW session days and times don't work for you, SKCC is offering an **"Introduction to SKCC Forum"**, open to all SKCC members, including the many LICW Members who are members of both clubs, and want to know more about SKCC, on the first Friday of each month at 1500 UTC (10:00 AM EDT) and the following Sunday at 1800 UTC (2:00 PM EDT).

The content is the same for each session, so you need only attend one. We cover the SKCC Handbook, basic tools, and have additional Bonus Topics that change monthly, so watch on the respective groups.io for info. **NOTE: REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** since virtual seats are limited. For more details and registration, contact Cathy, W4CMG at w4cmg.skccintro@gmail.com or through her email good on QRZ.com.

See you in class – AND CU on the Bands!

73, Cathy W4CMG
LICW #899i / SKCC #20093S ★

60TH ANNUAL MELBOURNE HAMFEST

The annual Melbourne Hamfest, which is celebrating 60 years as a Florida tradition, has been awarded the ARRL State Convention for 2025. This is the second largest Hamfest in Florida. The Hamfest will ta ke place October 10th & 11th, 2025, at the Melbourne Auditorium 625 East Hibiscus Ave. Melbourne, FL 32901. Come celebrate our Diamond Anniversary with us!! More details to follow. Our website is https://pcars.org/wp/melbourne-hamfest-2025-beta-page/

For the 1st time ever, Melbourne Hamfest Tickets are available electronically online at https://hfpcars.plumtx.com/ . You may purchase your tickets now! Tickets will still be available at the door electronically, for those without Smartphones, etc. Tables & tailgate spots can also be ordered thru the online site.

LICW will be present with a table. I am looking forward to meeting many of you Florida members. I will be present. I am always recruiting LICW members to assist at the table. Please contact WS4K directly at ericskennard@msn.com or home phone (yes I still have one) 312-312-6499. ★

MULLETS AND MOUNTAINS

By Jim Stinson, N0IPA

One could easily create a checklist for portable outings to ensure nothing critical gets left behind. Coax, key, transformer, radio…Or…

Have a fully stocked MacGyver kit to help you engineer your way out of forgetfulness.

I have both, thank goodness. Several long hikes up a summit would have been a total waste of effort and time had I not.

My SOTA/POTA checklist is quite complete, having learned from early and recent mistakes. Separate sections for my rig, antenna and even logging material help me remember all the little things. The largest section covers non-radio gear I have regretted leaving behind once or twice.

My SOTA pack is usually always packed and ready, so grab and go is the plan. But, every once in a while, I need something for a day hike and it doesn't make it back into the pack. Or I do a quick mental checklist and head out the door. My XYL will tell you how effective that is. Good thing I'm extraordinarily good looking.

Rig		Log	
Battery		Pen	
Power Cord		Log Sheet	
Mic		Summit/Park	
Ears		Chasers	
Key/Cable			
HT/Whip			

Antenna		Gear	
Wire		Knee Braces	Spikes
Transformer		Sox	Snow Shoes
Ties		Lt Buff	Hardshells
Mast		Gloves	Mtn Sox
Coax		Glac Glasses	Mtn Gloves
BNC Adapter		Sticks	Therm Buff
		McGyver Kit	Puffy
		Mid-layer	Knit Cap
		Soft Shell	Bothy
		Power bank	Seat
		Beer/Tequila	Food

So, just what exactly is in my MacGyver kit and why?

1.Swiss Army Knife

I'm a man, with pants on. Therefore, a pocket knife must be present.

2. Spare antenna wire

On more than one occasion I wasn't happy with my wire placement up in a tree, and pulling it down to try again, I've broken the wire or yanked it out of one of the traps. I've always been able to strip the ends with my teeth (not part of the kit) or the above knife, and twist it back together. WG0AT has been known to heat up a small nail with a bic lighter and do some field soldering.

So, I carry an additional small gauge (light-weight) random wire and 9:1 transformer, just in case. My rig has an internal tuner.

3. Extra transformer

I've forgotten my transformer (early on I only had one rig and antenna had to dissemble them from the shack to go portable) and had to rig a connection

from the coax to my radio without the transformer in between. Luckily, my G90 can tune a lawn chair, so it handled the impedance. The extra transformer follows the two is one, one is none concept.

I found the mini-boxes that QRP guys uses for their No-tune EFHW and made a few. They are light and small (QRP rated).

4. Coupling adapters

See #3 above. My coax has BNC connections and my G90 has a PL239 connection, My KX2 and MTR4 have BNC…so, I have a string of every conceivable BNC-RF adapter.

After the wind blew a door down on my antenna and yanked my radio off my lap and across the ground, I now have RCA connections that pull out when yanked leaving the expensive part still in my lap.

5. Binding Post

I once threw everything in my suitcase and flew off to house/dog sit for a week. Setting up my rig on the balcony overlooking the lake and anticipating a week of beer-rocking chair-radio, I found that I threw
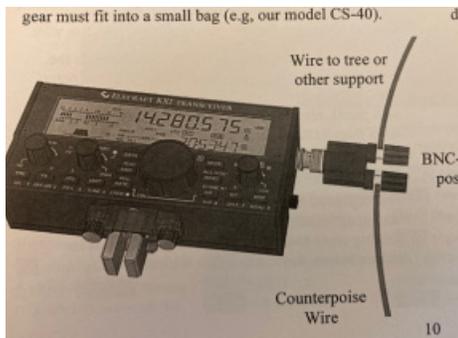
everything in the suitcase except my antenna.

I did have a binding post in the kit, so rummaging around in the garage for some wire, I discovered my host never needed wire for anything. Who doesn't have a spool of wire in their garage? But he did have some gardening wire. You know for tying up roses on the trellis, or stringing trip wire to cans with rocks in them to alert you when the armadillos are back.

I used the garden wire and the binding post to rig a random wire with a counterpoise just like in the KX2 instruction manual, and enjoyed a week of beer-rocking chair-radio.

6. Alligator & Crocodile Clips

Life savers! I have the narrow crocodile clips and the wider alligator clips (see Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom reruns. Good luck, Jim) with the wire attachment screws. I also

have a set of test leads with crocodile clips on the ends.

Once, I left my coax at home and had to find a way to connect my wire to the radio. I was able to jam the crocodile clip into the RF connector center receptacle, and connect my wire to the jaws.

I forgot my key one time. Using the test leads, I completed the activation by clipping to the audio cable for my key, and tapping the clip ends

together to close the connection and send my CQ…

I recently took my solar panel instead of my regular battery and, while Power Cord is on the checklist, I only brought one half of the cord and had no way to plug it into the solar panel. Test leads to the rescue!

7. Straps & Ties

Various Velcro straps, paracord, S-clips and zip ties. Useful for securing the antenna mast, snowshoes to the pack, and repairing micro-spikes.

The MacGyver kit is on the checklist, and I never leave home without it. It's saved an activation on many an occasion. As for the contents of mine, your mileage may vary. I know, I know…"You forgot about this or that." I haven't gotten there yet.

And what's all this got to do with Mullets? Only the best one ever! ★
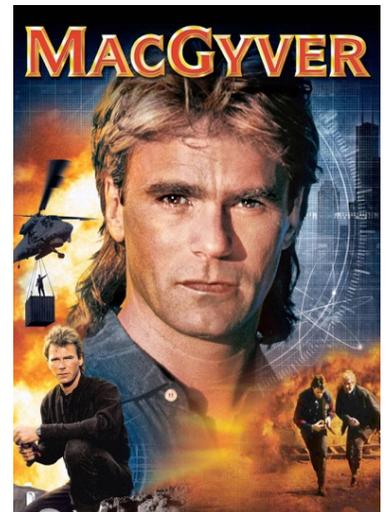
ONE YEAR WITH LICW

By Jean-Jacques Brasse, F5IJO

MARCHING ON TO HEAD COPY

As most hams, my CW journey has been hectic. I started learning in 2001. Back then, one needed to pass a 12 WPM test to gain access to HF. After one year of regular training, I could manage to copy the 30 5-letter groups and numbers and a plain text paragraph with enough confidence to pass the test.

But, getting on the air proved to be another challenge and I never managed to be active regularly enough to gain much proficiency and therefore remained shy on calling CQ.

Learning the code was head to pencil, no comprehension, not very practical for rag chews!

So, towards the end of 2023, I signed up for a CWA Intermediate course, which I completed in early 2024. We were a small group which enabled us to practice quite a lot. That was a good refresher course. Then, I was so intent in keeping up that I immediately signed up for the Advanced session for the following year.

But I knew I needed something to keep me going in between…Then I found LICW.

Looking up at the calendar convinced me that this was what I needed.

With a warm welcome from Howard, Mike and Quentin, I sent my application.

My sending was in the 16-18 range, so I went straight into Intermediate 3 and Quentin even pushed me to NV1U. Writing down quickly proved impractical, so, after two or three months I finally let the pen go… Switching from characters to words

FD 2025 - Tim N6CC

was not easy and asking for repeats felt embarrassing at times.

I also became a regular in the "Sunday Gud Fist class". After some time, I forced myself to send without a written text. This is definitely a skill that I found beneficial for developing head copy.

One final comment I'd like to make is regarding "Farnsworth". It is certainly advantageous when learning individual characters, but I find it detrimental for head copy of words where rhythm becomes an integral component of the decoding.

I have met many great coaches and I thank them for their dedication, and even if my "head copy" is not yet where I'd like it to be, I feel a lot more at ease than one year ago. ★

BEGINNER'S CAROUSEL (BC) CLASSES UPDATE

By Ron Roberts, KC2PSA

The LICW Club continues to grow and we have a steady stream of new students joining our Beginner's Carousel (BC) classes each week.

Since last year, we've streamlined some exercises to allow more time for sending practice in BC1 and BC2,

and we're hearing positive feedback about students' progress.

We're planning a few more updates to the BC1 and BC2 classes in the coming months to help students better copy groups of characters and words.

IMPROVING COPYING GROUPS OF CHARACTERS

Students have shared that while they're doing well copying individual letters, they struggle with copying groups of characters or words. This is a common challenge.

To improve, students should focus on "overlearning" the individual characters, so they become second nature. With practice and time using the Instant Character Recognition (ICR) exercise on the Morse Practice Page, the individual complete acoustic sounds of the code will become the letters and emerge from your subconscious automatically without thought. CW fluency requires this level of familiarity.

When copying groups of characters, it's essential to follow the flow of the code. If you miss a letter, let it go without stressing about it—that's a skill known as Instant Error Recovery (IER), which will improve with practice. It requires a "Try But Don't Care" attitude, being mentally alert while indifferent to misses.

For more information on ICR and IER, join a BC Guided Practice session, where you can ask questions and get advice on practicing at home. You can also check out the white paper, **The Path to Morse Code Fluency,** in the Academics section of the LICW website.

PRACTICE SENDING

It's important to practice both copying and sending. Regular sending drills at home and in classes will help you improve both skills.

For new students, the Morse Practice Page *Sending Practice* exercise will build your sending rhythm by mimicking the sound of a letter after hearing it played. At home, try sending letters you've learned five times in a row and create words with them. Focus on accuracy, not speed. A helpful tip is to record your sending and listen back later to see how well you can copy it.

You can also practice sending in class or with a buddy. The *Sending Fundamentals* class is great for beginners, and the *Beginners Carousel Sending* and *Sending Clinic* classes offer more opportunities to improve your sending. These *Beginners Carousel Sending* classes are scheduled throughout the week to fit different schedules.

JOIN THE CODE BUDDY PROGRAM

We encourage you to join the KN6EY Memorial Code Buddy Program, which helps you connect with a practice partner at a similar skill level. Code buddies make learning fun and keep you motivated. You can find more details and sign-up info in our club's Dropbox folder #80.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer and continued success on your CW journey. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions! ★

HOMEBREW IAMBIC PADDLES

By Niel Wiegand, W0VLZ
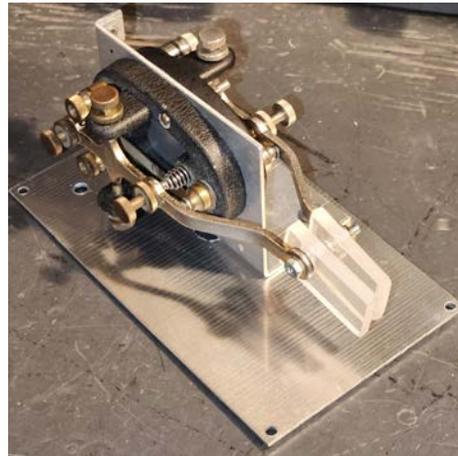
Recently my local ham radio club asked for members to show off homebrew CW keys. I decided to build something that would fit in with the club show-and-tell and, even better, be usable in my shack.

The July 1952 issue of QST describes "The Siamese Paddle". It is two J-38 straight keys mounted on edge and bottom to bottom to form a set of dual lever paddles, great! I didn't have two J-38s but I did have two EF Johnson Speed-X straight keys on my shelf. I could use these for my paddles and still have two original Speed-X keys if I ever decide to disassemble my Siamese Paddles. I also found a couple pieces of scrap aluminum to form the new base and vertical support.

After drilling four mounting holes and creating new finger pieces I now have a new set of iambic paddles.

These paddles aren't a Begali but they are certainly cheaper and my typical CW speed is only 16 to 20 WPM. They work fine for me and fit in well with the rest of my vintage gear.

73,
Niel - W0VLZ
https://w0vlz.blogspot.com/ ★
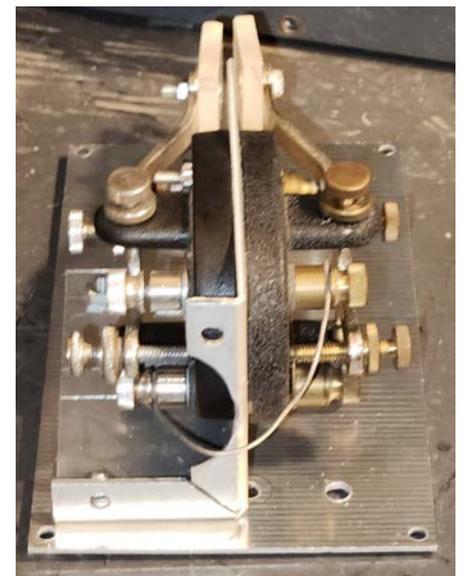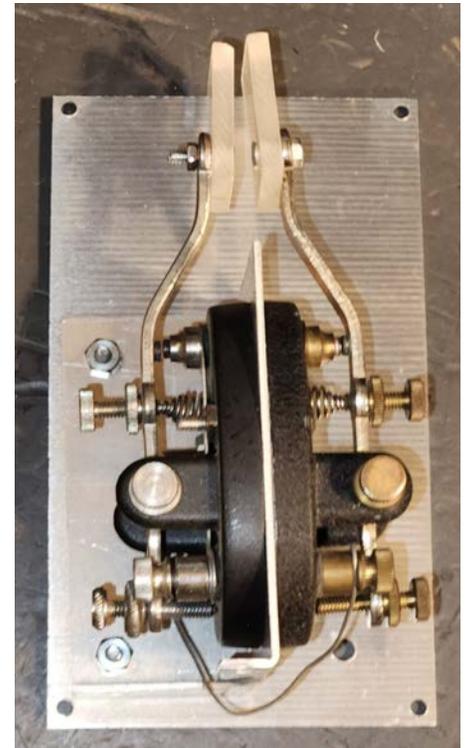
VISUALIZING CIRCUITS WITH AN ONLINE SIMULATOR

By KB Sriram, AJ6QZ

If you've ever found yourself scratching your head at a circuit diagram and wishing you could see the voltages and currents, but the thought of diving into something complicated like Spice feels too much, the online **Falstad circuit simulator** might be what you're looking for.

It is an online tool that lets you build, simulate and share circuits easily all within a browser.

Opening the page shows a simple LRC circuit. You can monitor voltages or currents anywhere, or adjust component values with sliders to observe changes.

The "Circuits" menu has lots of additional examples for exploration.
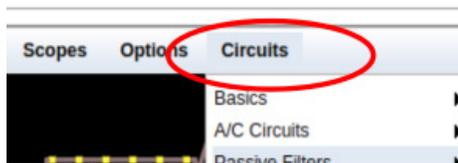
The Draw option in the menu lets you build circuits just like a drawing tool. For example, you can draw an **LC antenna matcher**, and then use sliders to visualize how altering the component values in the matcher changes the power to the antenna (here modeled with a resistor and capacitor.)

It is also useful to understand existing designs. For example, you can examine **a dummy load with a simple LED based power indicator** from the **4state QRP group**.

You can see the LEDs light up in sequence by moving the voltage slider to simulate increased power (and monitor the average power in the graph.)


A simple LRC circuit is presented upon opening.
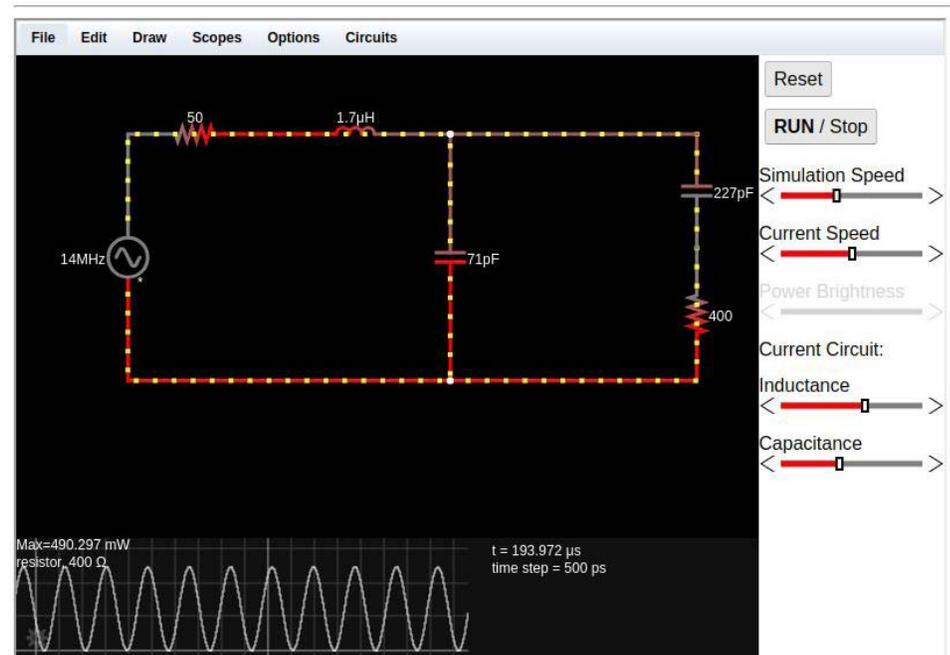
An **LC antenna matcher.**

You might still need a more powerful tool like Spice for more accurate modeling for a specific component, but in many cases Falstad can be quicker to visualize something you're curious about. And best of all, you can share a circuit to anyone with just a link. ★

Links

1. **The main simulator page**

2. **Example circuits**

3. **An introductory video**
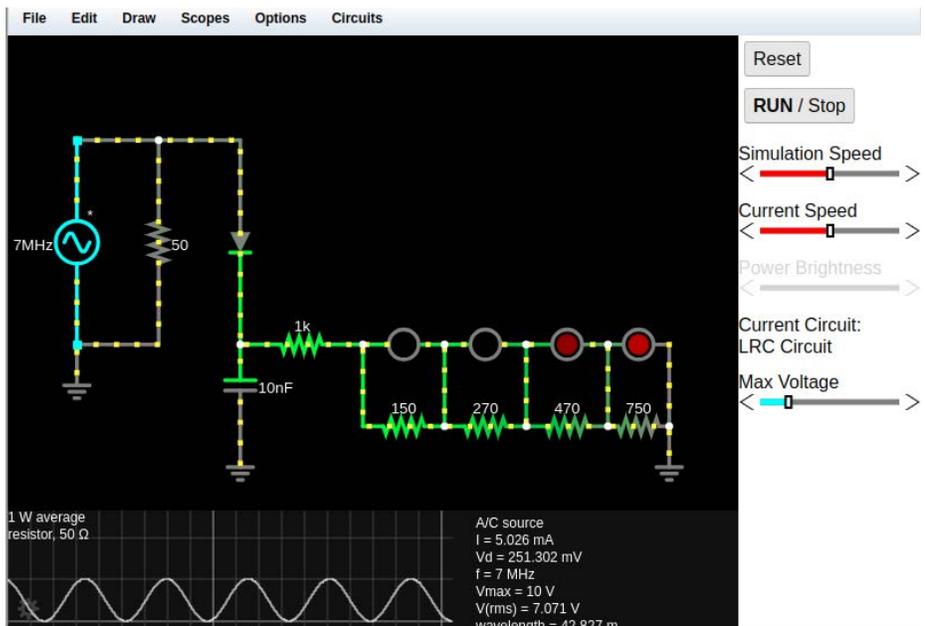
[A dummy load with a simple LED based power indicator](#) from the
[4state QRP group](#)

Chuck Stover, K4QS, using an ATS 5 designed by KD1JV and built by Chuck, a Palm Radio paddle, and an Elecraft T1 tuner built from a kit, fed into a Buddipole 20m vertical.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

For the LICW Newsletter, Winter Edition

We need your articles and pictures for the Winter Edition of the LICW Newsletter! Do you have any good stories or construction articles you would like to share? What are your plans for Straight Key Night? Are you planning to put together a special vintage station for the event? Share your plans and photos with us! There is also, of course, the thrill of seeing your name and call in print!

Are you working on any home-brew projects this Winter? Tell us what you are up to! Do you have any "hints and/or tips" to make operating easier and more fun? To make kit building more efficient?

Support your Club with submissions for the Winter edition! When you submit your articles and/or photos, please include your full name and callsign. Send all submissions to: wb2gxm@arrl.net. We accept most file formats including Microsoft Word, Notepad, Textedit, and PDF files, as well as most image file formats.

– The Editor

WANT YOUR PRINTOUTS TO LOOK LIKE YOU TYPED THEM ON AN OLD-STYLE "MILL" TYPEWRITER?

Download and install the **MILL FONT** on your comuter! You can download it here: https://www.qsl.net/n1ea/mill_02.ttf

THE DR. IS IN FORUM *By Greg Algieri, WA1JXR*

Hello fellow LICW members.

The LICW Club has been active this spring in New England.

The LICW Club was represented at the spring session of the New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR Fest) held in New Boston, NH.

Check out their website:
Home - NEAR-Fest.com

LICW sponsored a booth/table in the log barn.

We manned the table Friday May 2nd and Saturday May 3rd.

We had many people stop by the table, ask questions and take away an information pamphlet about the club and maybe a LICW sticker.

We also had plenty of help manning the LICW table from members who attended the event.

Below is a picture of the LICW table and those who helped at the table.

At the booth we had a visit from "The Bug Ladies "

After some strategic hunting out in the flea market Michele KC1UML and Katie KL0D came back to the table with a coupe nice vintage Bug keys.

A little strategic cleaning and adjustment and these two will be burning up the air waves with some good sounding melodic CW I am sure. Look forward to working them on the air.

I think they will both be attending the Wild about Bugs forum for sure.

We wanted to attract some attention to the LICW booth, so in order to do that Steve N1SG and I pulled out our Ukuleles and provided some Ukulele music and singing as a way to draw people in.

I'm not sure if it worked or not but Steve and I had a lot of fun playing and singing.

A great time was had by all and I think maybe we were able to get some new members to join LICW.

Looking forward to the Fall NEAR Fest!

73 Greg WA1JXR
LICW # 413 ★

(L to R) Frank KC1UAB, Greg WA1JXR, Michelle KC1UML, Katie KL0D, Steve N1SG