

Playground ARC Morse Code Class

Meeting: Monday evening's at 7:00 through the end of July

Location: PARC Clubhouse at First and Church St. in FWB.

We will use the Koch method (I'll explain in class).

What you will need: A computer with a web browser and access to the Internet. If you don't have these we can try something else.

For homework there are a couple of on-line trainers that have Koch method teaching capability. The recommended one is at aa9pw.com/morsecode. You can also use the one at lcwo.net but because their learning order is different you will need to re-define the characters for use in code groups (you would have to set up an account for this). There are also some programs that you can download (like G4FON's Koch method trainer, morsemachine.exe, or Jim Wilson's morse.exe). I like "Just learn Morse Code". There are even apps for smart phones, but we'll have to discuss the programs and apps in class to see how useful they are.

We are going to try to learn at about 5 wpm with a character speed of 15 (Farnsworth method).

We will learn the characters in the following well established order (which corresponds with AA9PW's website but not with lcwo.com):

K, M, R, S, U, A, P, T, L, O, W, I, <PERIOD>, N, J, E, F, 0, Y, <COMMA>, V, G, 5, <SLANT BAR>, Q, 9, Z, H, 3, 8, B, <QUESTION MARK>, 4, 2, 7, C, 1, D, 6, X, <BT>, <AR>, <SK>, <KN>

Don't worry, we won't do them all in the first day. The various programs and apps should be set up to follow this order.

Rules:

1. Only learn code by the sound. Do not memorize the dots and dashes visually. If you have any of these tables – lose them. Learning code like this establishes a bad habit that you will have to break later if you want to improve your speed.
2. So you don't forget what you've learned, I will assign homework (not the kind that gets turned in and graded). Try to spend at least 30 minutes every day on your homework. We'll use the practice to see where the problem area are at the beginning of the next class.