

2024 CW SYLLABUS

Welcome to the Santa Fe Trail ARC's classes on the Morse code, also referred to as CW. This class is being taught to introduce students to the International Morse Code, however it may also be used as a refresher course by those whose CW skills may be very rusty. The goal is to get students to the 5 word per minute range—or beyond.

The Farnsworth method is being employed, sending each character at a 13-wpm rate, but spaced out to yield an overall rate of 5 wpm.

Date	Lesson Number	New Characters	CW_Player Random Group	CW_Player Lesson File	ARRL CD
JAN. 6, 2024	1	A E R N <u>AR</u> T	1	Lesson 1	CD 1: 1-7
JAN. 13, 2024	2	I O S D H C	2 & 3	Lesson 2	8 - 13
JAN. 20, 2024	3	U Y . L M P G	4 & 5	Lesson 3	14 - 20
JAN. 27, 2024	4	F , W B <u>BT</u> J /	6 & 7	Lesson 4	21 - 28
FEB. 3, 2024	5	K Q X V Z ? <u>SK</u>	8 & 9	Lesson 5	29 - 35
FEB. 10, 2024	6	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	10 & 11	Lesson 6	36 - 48
FEB. 17, 2024	7	Review All	12	Lesson 7	CD 2
FEB. 24, 2024	All	In-class practice	All	All	All

SATURDAY TIME TABLE

Time	Topic
9:00 – 9:30 am	Code Practice, review previous material
9:30 – 10:00 am	Informal presentations and demos, miscellaneous discussions
10:00 – 10:30 am	Introduce the new characters. Practice sending CW. The formal class will generally end at about 10:30
10:30 – 10:00 am	The instructors will be available after class for optional instructions, sending practice or discussions

The primary computer-based tool we are using to support this class is CW_PLAYER by F6DQM. In radio communications, *prosigns*, are used to convey simple procedural actions. To implement *prosigns* into CW_PLAYER, the following symbols are substituted for the more common symbols shown on the left.

CW PROSIGNS

Common Symbol	CW-Player Symbol	Sound	Meaning/Use
<u>AR</u>	+	di dah did dah dit	End of Message, (more messages may follow)
<u>BT</u>	=	dah di di di dah	Break in thought; pause; like starting a new paragraph
<u>SK</u>	>	di di di dah di dah	Closing Station; Silent Key; finished for the day
K	K	dah di dah	Over; invitation for anyone to transmit
<u>KN</u>	“	dah di dah dah dit	Over; invitation for a specific station to transmit
8 dits	<	di di di di di di di di	Error
<u>AS</u>	&	di dah di di dit	Wait
/	/	Dah di di dah dit	Modifier at the end of a call sign (Example K0NK/7)

If you need assistance, contact: Jim Andera, 913-884-6613 or George McCarville 913-383-2310.

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NOTES ON USING CW_PLAYER

Loading CW_Player:

The CW_Player program and supporting files can be loaded onto your computer from USB-flash drives distributed during the first class. The SFTARC-provided copy of CW-Player (Ver 5.1.3) is pre-loaded with the SFTARC lessons.

To load CW_Player on to your computer, simply copy the “SFTARC Morse Practice 2024” folder from the flash drive on to your computer. The location of the folder on your computer is not critical; a common location to place it is directly under the C: drive. It is also possible to run CW_Player directly from the flash drive, if that is desired.

Open the “cwpalyer_DX” folder and locate the “Cwplayer” Application file (the one with the code-key icon). Right-click on the icon and select “Pin to Taskbar.” The code-key icon will now be displayed near the bottom of your computer screen. Left-click on this icon to launch the program.

CW_Player setup:

The following speed-related setup adjustments have already been made:

- Speed wpm: **13** on the main screen
- Options> Number of spaces between characters: **5**
- Options> Number of spaces between words: **3**; Fine Adjustment: **4**.

This yields a real speed of about 5 wpm.

Note: If the speed on the main page is adjusted away from 13 wpm, the “Number of spaces between characters” and the “Number of spaces between words” may be automatically altered. Restore to the above values if needed.

Using CW_Player for daily practice:

1. To send words and sentences from the SFTARC’s library of practice text files:

- When using CW_Player, choose “File” from the main screen.
Note 1: If you get a WARNING message, check the “Do not show this warning anymore” box then click “OK.” The ASCII/ANSI warning does not apply to these files.
Note 2: You may have to navigate back to the “SFTARC Morse Practice 2024” folder, then click on the “Practice File Library 2024” folder to see the individual lesson folders.
- Then select a lesson folder containing this week’s lesson
 - The first one or two files for most lessons have extra spacing to slow the overall speed to well below 5 wpm. This may be helpful in introducing you to the new characters
 - Other files contain whole words and sentences for normal practice

2. To send random groups of characters:

- Choose “Random” from the main screen
- Click on the “The Lesson #” window
- Select the lesson for this week’s class. You have a choice of:
 - Sending just the characters introduced in this week’s lesson
 - Sending all characters learned so far