



Repeater ID: WA6KQB

Frequencies 145.110, 224.300, 444.275 PL 82.5

WA6KQB - Home Page: <http://www.wa6kqb.org>

Learning CW

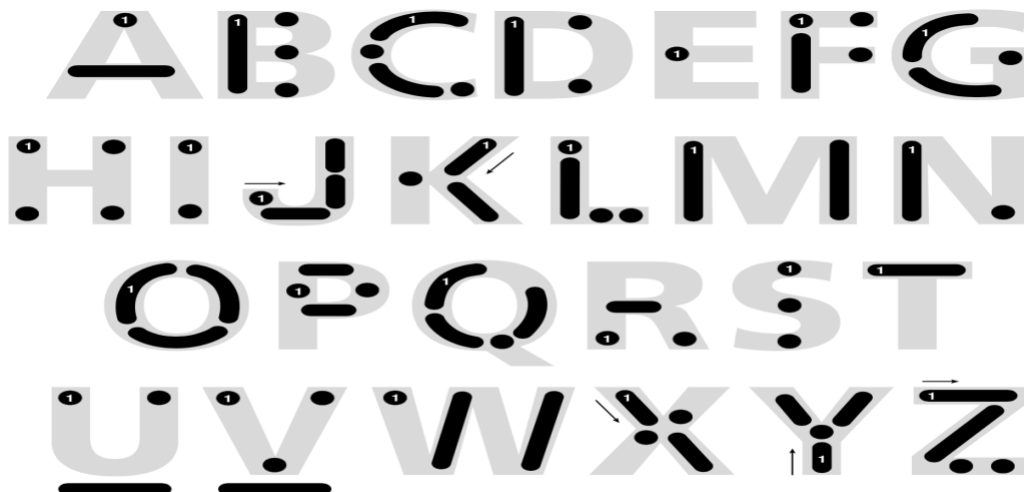
We have had some discussion and interest among the membership about learning CW. Morse code transmission was the original way to communicate in Amateur Radio. The original Morse code transmission method, using a spark gap transmitter, was replaced by "Continuous Wave" (CW) transmission, using vacuum tube oscillators. Modern transceivers now use solid state components and microprocessors to support a CW, voice, image, and digital data modes.



While CW mastery is no longer a requirement for obtaining a ham license, it's still of interest to many of us. By using a very narrow bandwidth, CW gains a huge advantage in the areas of signal to noise ratio and power density. This means it gets through better, given the same antenna and transmitter power. And although it takes some effort to learn, the signal itself is elegant in its simplicity. And of course, learning a new skill such as CW is a great way to excite those brain cells. Research has shown that sustained engagement in cognitively demanding, novel activities enhances memory function in older adulthood – and who couldn't use a better memory?

Don Simon, NI6A, has shared some of his knowledge and 65 years (!) of experience in using CW. He points out that Morse is a big subject, and there are many theories as to how best to learn it. In Don's view, there's no trick to it: you must learn the characters, including the simple punctuation marks, and most common abbreviations, and then... practice! Morse only improves with consistent practice – there's no other way. It's a "perishable skill," that will fade away unless it is used consistently, with one exception: once you get to 25 or 30 words per minute, you will never forget it. But to get there, consistency and continuity is key. Starting and stopping won't work, so when you take the plunge, sticking with it is super important.

Mike Camp, KI7FQ, is in the planning stage of a potential CW class. He is anticipating a small group, perhaps a half dozen for the first go around, and more to follow in a couple months if the interest is there. He expects that participants will need to commit to a 15-30 minute daily practice, and a weekly class/meet. Mike would provide one-on-one help as needed. His hope is to create a supportive and fun class which makes a good, productive learning experience. As Mike's plans solidify, we will report any updates here in The Communicator.



CCCC Monthly Zoom Meeting Minutes, February 6, 2024

Jan, AC5RB, Secretary

The Zoom meeting was brought to order by President Wing, K6YDE, at 10:03 AM. Present were Vice President Howdy, KE6BEE, Treasurer Audrey, W6BBQ, Secretary Jan, AC5RB, Board Members DJ, KJ6DJ, Xia, K2XIA and Alvin, KK6UQX. Also present were members Karen, KK6ZPM, Rob, KK6JNI and Don, NI6A.

Wing thanked Xia for publishing the Communicator.

Minutes: The minutes for the January meeting were in The Communicator. A motion was made to accept the minutes as printed; motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Audrey said the report was also in The Communicator.

Membership: Audrey said she would be sending out reminders to members to pay their dues. There are 23 paid members. We have three new members, Robin Mitchell KN6CRP, Linda Newell, KG6VLX, and Keith Newell KG6VLY. Audrey asked that members inform her of any changes or upgrades to their information. The new roster will be available in March for those that are paid up.

Trivia: Jan reported that she did not stump everyone this time on any question, and that there were several questions that everyone answered correctly. Exact numbers will be presented at the next meeting

Technical report: Howdy is checking on the notice from American Power Supply to see what information they need. He is also checking about hardware for EchoLink and WinLink to get them up and running. The question was to see if the modes also would work on the 440 repeater. He is open to suggestions for those out of the area. Since the connections need to be monitored, they are just connected around the times of our weekly and daily nets. Since EchoLink needs to have proof of a radio operators license, there is less likelihood of problems occurring. DJ asked if shortening the EchoLink sign-on/sign-off announcements would be possible. Howdy said he would check on that. Rob said it was used and enjoyed and he was glad to use it when he was outside of the normal radio range. Howdy said he would investigate setting up special times to use EchoLink outside of regular nets. He said he would write something in The Communicator to solicit interest.

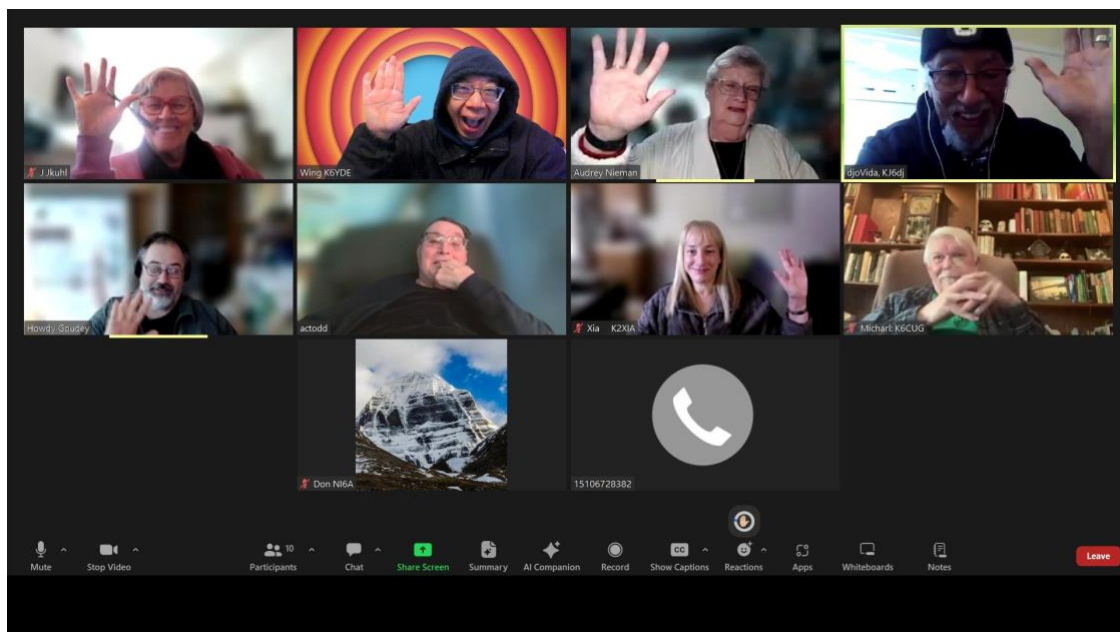
Communicator: Xia appreciates the help and assistance, and any input for articles.

Friday a.m. net and Saturday nets: Alvin currently is not able to be net controller for those nets; anyone that would like to fill any of those temporarily until Alvin is able, would be welcome. Hosting a net is a great learning experience.

Net controls: Net controllers mentioned that participation has been low, and they would like to hear more hams on the air. The protocol information is available for anyone who would like to try it.

Community outreach: Audrey said that members are really needed to help out in community work like rides, races, parades. Lots of people have cell phones but those are not always in range. The radios also have connections to emergency services that cell phones wouldn't have. Since the Covid pandemic, lots of organizations are leery of group gatherings. Wing asked if we had members that would be qualified and able to help. Karen mentioned the EmComm net at 18:45 on Thursdays, and said that many of her group have GMRS, so they can listen but not transmit. There is a GMRS net on the first Wednesday at 11:45 AM. She would like to set up a GMRS net on Saturdays at 10:00 AM. Wing said he would bring information to the Board. Don said there are public service needs, races, walks, parades, but we would need to connect with the sponsors to offer our services. The Public Service Manager would be who we could tell about our services. Wing said we have our Communicator and our Board. Maybe we could have member information to let people know, maybe email a link to a web page. He will bring that up to the Board. There are City Councils in San Pablo and Richmond, and county officials. He asked who would be willing to set up that information. DJ said that is what Randy, KA6BQF, used to do; organize such assistance, net controls, rest stops, walkers walking along, people to count on in emergency.

Wing reminded us that whatever is on the air can be heard by all. Think about personal information. Also, he wants us to think about things we can do to promote Ham Radio and CCCC practice skills. Meeting adjourned 11:05.



Membership Report

Audrey W6BBQ

Thanks to 23 members who have paid their dues so far. If you haven't done so, please send in your dues by February 29, 2024.

Kudos to our newest life member Dusty Jermier, KK6QQC!

Welcome 3 new members:

Robin Mitchell, KK6CRP

Keith Newell, KG6VLY

Linda Newell, KG6VLX

Also submit roster changes if you have new addresses, phone numbers, or upgrades.

Dues:

Working Members - \$30

Retired Members - \$20

Second member in household of paying member - \$20

Pay to:

Contra Costa Communications Club

PO Box 20661

El Sobrante, CA 94820



Curious about what's happening right now in Rome, or Hong Kong, or Times Square? Take a look at all the live webcams at [SkylineWebcams.com](https://www.skylinewebcams.com)!

Treasurer's Report

Audrey W6BBQ, Treasurer

February 11, 2024

Checking Account

Balance Forward:		\$5,677.72
Income		
	Dues	\$630.00
	Total Income	\$630.00
Expenses		\$0.00
	New Balance	\$6,307.72

Savings Account

Balance Forward:		\$631.94
	Interest	\$0.01
	New Balance	\$631.95
	Total funds:	\$6,939.67



Are you looking for more Nets? Check out the extensive list on the Karo Echo website, at <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/coordination>.

Contra Costa Communication Club Inc -- Net Schedule

Day	Time		Net Controller	Net Name/Repeater
Monday morning	7:10am		Audrey W6BBQ	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
Tuesday morning	7:10am		Jan AC5RB	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
Tuesday evening	7:30pm		DJ KJ6DJ	220 Net 224.300 MHz
Wednesday morning	7:10am		Howdy KE6BEE	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
Thursday morning	7:10am		Xia K2XIA	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
Thursday evening	7:30pm	Wk 1	Audrey W6BBQ	Club Net
		Wk 2	Audrey W6BBQ	144.110/444.275 MHz
		Wk 3	Jan AC5RB	
		Wk 4	Xia K2XIA	
		Wk 5	DJ KJ6DJ	
Friday morning	7:10am		Alvin KK6UQX	Over the Hill Net 144.110/444.275 MHz
Saturday morning	9:00am		Alvin KK6UQX	Bay Shores EmComm 145.110 MHz
	9:15am		Alvin KK6UQX	EmComm 440 Net 444.275 MHz
	9:30am		Alvin KK6UQX	EmComm 220 Net 224.300 MHz
	9:40am		DJ KJ6DJ	FL Digi Training Net 444.275 MHz

Club Officers

President: Wing Lok, K6YDE Winglok@dot.ca.gov

Treasurer: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ Audrey.nieman@gmail.com 510-682-7938

Secretary: Jan Kuhl, AC5RB Jkuhl1313@yahoo.com 510-846-3829

Membership: Audrey Nieman Wa6kqb@comcast.net 510-682-7938

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