

CW CLASSES IN 2024

Updated Document
by James – KW5CW

Plans are to have a Basic CW class starting in March. Workbooks will be issued.

BASIC, INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED CLASS

Future classes after the **BASIC CW CLASS** are the **INTERMEDIATE CW CLASS** and the **ADVANCED CW CLASS**. Initially, the goal would be to hold a Basic CW class at a designated location one day each week for 8 weeks. Tentatively, the classes will be at Michael and Tamara's home at a designated day and time. Each class will last a minimum of 2 hours. You are not required to attend each class, but you must illustrate that you have the ability to keep up with the class material by completing homework assignments by listening to CW practice sessions sent via email. You will also receive extra practice material to help you keep up with the classes that you may have missed.

The classes will continue with the goal of acquiring the ability to send and receive 13 words per minute for the basic CW class. The **BASIC CW CLASS** students will illustrate their proficiency at 13 words per minute by making two real-time on-the-air contacts at 13 words per minute, which then would qualify them as passed the course and receive a certificate for their success. This student would then have the prerequisite to take the **INTERMEDIATE CW CLASS** if desired in the future. Added private instruction is also available.

The **INTERMEDIATE CW CLASS** students take up to an 8-week class and will illustrate their proficiency at 20 words per minute by making two real-time on-the-air contacts at 20 words per minute, which would qualify them as passed the course and receive a certificate for their success. The student would then have the prerequisite to take the **ADVANCED CW CLASS** if desired.

The **ADVANCED CW CLASS** student will be dedicated to make higher speed contacts and will take up to an 8-week class and illustrate their send and received proficiency by making two real-time on-the-air contacts from 25 to 35 words per minute, which would qualify them as passing the course and receiving a certificate for their success. There will be future plans for students passing this class to participate in a CW Contest for a minimum of 1 hour. After participating in a contest for 1 hour, he or she will receive a second certificate, a CW CONTEST CERTIFICATE from the GCARC, where they will then receive the highest honor to become eligible to receive a free 1-year membership to the GCARC.

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HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND EMAIL PRACTICE SESSIONS

There will be homework assignments each week to arrive in a student's email the day after each class, and test practice sessions also sent to each student via email. At the beginning of the next class, students will randomly answer questions about the previous homework assignment material and practice sessions. These classes will be FUN, everyone will actively participate in the class and will gain confidence in sending and receiving Morse code using a straight key and keyer paddle and will want to continue to move forward. Special one-on-one sessions with me can be scheduled if you feel you need private instruction. In other words, I will do what it takes to make you successful with sending and receiving CW, at a speed that you desire. It is a sense of accomplishment like no other.

I realize that CW is not for everyone. People who attend this class need to be serious about wanting to learn. The student must commit early in this course to be successful. If you actively participate in these classes, you will be successful at completing each class and CW will become part of your hobby regardless of what speed you shoot for. In 2024, there will only be one Basic, Intermediate or Advanced class instruction course. There will not be more time than 3 courses each year, starting in 2024.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE – 2 Hours per Class – 7PM to 9PM (Curriculum)

1 Hour of Class instruction – 10–15-minute break – 1 Hour of Class instruction

Location : Michael and Tamara Higgins residence

Address : 1600 Norwood Street, Sherman Texas

Interactive Class Sessions

Instructor Discussion/PowerPoint Presentations

No Testing

Practice Drills (in class and via email)

Homework sessions will be completed in Workbooks to be provided to each student.

Certificates are available to any student that makes the two required contacts on the air in my presence at the required speed. The Basic Course Certificate is required to attend the Intermediate Course. The Intermediate Class Course Certificate is required to attend the Advanced Class Course. A certificate indicates you successfully completed the course.

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Basic Class - March 4 to April 29th, 2024 - goal 13 WPM - 8 classes

Intermediate Class - May 20th to July 15th, 2024 - goal 20 WPM - 8 classes

Advanced Class – August 12th to September 30th, 2024 - goal 25 - 35 WPM - 8 classes

- 1) If you can demonstrate the ability of making 2 contacts while sending and receive at a minimum of 30 WPM after taking the Advanced Class CW course, you can then participate in a CW contest and qualify for another certificate and free 1 year membership to the GCARC.

Note: You can also qualify for the next class even if you cannot attend all classes, but successfully make two on-the-air contacts to prove your proficiency to move to the next level. You will then also be eligible for the next upcoming class (Intermediate) and receive a certificate for that prior class.

- 2) If you did not attend the class but just want to take the prerequisite test of the prior course (i.e. make 2 contacts at 13 wpm to qualify for the intermediate class) this is possible, but in this case, you will not receive a certificate for the prior course, because you did not take the course but qualify for the next course.

More details will be available at the next officer meeting and will be presented to the membership at the January meeting. Soon after the January meeting, details about the CW classes will appear on the website. You do not have to be a member of the GCARC to be in the classes, however, a member of this club must recommend you in advance for you to be able to attend. As an example, a stranger, a person that no one knows from the club, will not be eligible to take a CW course sponsored by the GCARC. In other words, non-members must be sponsored by a GCARC club member with the following exception.

CW classes can be offered to anyone that comes to an amateur radio test session at our club meetings if they join the club after passing their theory exam.

These classes will be totally FREE. The only expense to you will be your dedication and time, in other words, at your own expense. A word of advice... DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME TAKING THIS COURSE IF YOU KNOW YOU DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE CW CONTACTS IN THE FUTURE.