

## The 2017 Schedule:

Classes begin on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> and will be held about every Saturday through the end of April from 9:00 AM through Noon. EVERY class will include on air practice. If you can't make the first class, join us when you can.

*Attendance is not mandatory, enjoy the practice and camaraderie when you can. **Please email me if you are interested in attending: [RMAYBURY@PPG-I.COM](mailto:RMAYBURY@PPG-I.COM).***

### New CW Operators

From January 21<sup>th</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup> will be focused on the level of new CW operators learning for the first time. Those just wanting the practice at beginner speeds are very welcome to join the group as well!

### Expanded Group

From February 25<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>, the CW class will begin a steady development toward the higher level of proficiency and speeds. AT ALL TIMES, all levels are welcome. Each class will go through a training process that accommodates all levels of skill.

### Testing and Award Presentations

As soon as the first individuals are ready, proficiency testing will be done during every class. **Testing is completely optional**, those passing tests will be able to earn awards outlined below. VE testing may be available during every test session as well. We have done that in the past and may do so again if we have VEs participating in the class or willing to come down for the testing.

## About the Classes:

You all are invited to participate in the exciting world of CW, the elite of the Ham Radio Service 😊. This is a low key, easy-going, and fun way to learn with tried and proven teaching and learning techniques. Operators at ALL levels learn together, coaching each other with no pressure but to enjoy ourselves.

For many years, new and experienced CW operators have progressed from zero to twenty-plus words per minute at their own pace, some over years and others much quicker. Experienced operators have increased their speeds and comprehensions while supporting the learning of others. At one time we were focused on earning licenses, now just for the love of the art and the camaraderie.

The goal is to get everyone to the level of proficiency *of their own choosing*.

We normally have 8 to 20 participants, *attending when they can*. We will begin at the most basic level and progressively increase speed and comprehension as is comfortable for each person. We will do a bit of operating at the end of each class.

The following rules will apply for every class:





- **HAVE FUN!** The class will use a variety of learning techniques to help individuals with different styles. In past classes we have laughed a lot, enjoyed each others' company while taking the process serious enough to get good at operating.
- **Be patient with yourself.** Code for some, (me included!....just ask WV1A, K1MB or W1RK), is not easy at first. The pace that people memorize the letters, begin to hear the characters and get to the point to process whole words is different for each person. Everyone has the ability, time and practice are the ONLY keys to becoming a successful CW operator.
- **BE CONFIDENT.** You **WILL** be successful. If you attend class regularly and practice during the week, you will become part of the elite CW operators club 😊. Good attitude is 80% of the effort.
- **Help each other.** The learning model will include lots of working with each other, practice and getting on the air. Be patient and supportive of your friends during the class. That makes a big difference!



## Awards:

There will be four levels of achievement with “official certifications” and awards:

- **Certified Novice CW Operator – 5 words per minute:** *Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operator's University, Certified Novice CW Operator.* A certificate is awarded that is of a professional quality to be framed.
- **Certified CW Operator – 12 words per minute:** *Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operator's University Certified Advanced Operator.* A certificate is awarded that is of a professional quality to be framed. An attractive t-shirt custom designed with imprinting on both front and back with the accomplishment prominently displayed
- **Certified Advanced CW Operator – 20 words per minute:** *Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operator's University Certified Advanced Operator.* A certificate is awarded that is of a professional quality to be framed. A high quality hooded sweatshirt custom designed with imprinting on both front and back with the accomplishment prominently displayed.
- **Certified Master CW Operator – 20 words solid copy:** The ultimate prize is the coveted blue sandwich cap, with a specially designed embroidered CW patch that says **Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operator's University** along the outer circle and a picture of the traditional straight key on the inside. In bold letters on the front and back of the cap is: **CERTIFIED MASTER CW OPERATOR**. A certificate is awarded that is of a professional quality to be framed.
- **Special Elmer Award.** For those enthusiasts who are especially helpful helping others, as voted by the class members, will receive a t-shirt with: **Cape Ann Amateur Radio Operator's University** on the top and underneath “**CW Elmer**”.



## Equipment and Technical Training:

I have available 20 practice straight keys, 10 Iambic keys, four “bugs” for those interested in true old form sending, a variety of electronic keyers and additional





equipment specifically designed for training that generates QSOs and that which reads your sending. All are available as loaners to class operators.

I also have a variety of QRP and 100 watt output transmitter loaners. A Kenwood TS-820 will be available for those with a desire to learn how to tune older tube-type rigs.

Feel free to bring your own equipment to the class, it is a great way to develop your skills, fist and touch.

## Operations Practice:

Coordinated weekend outdoor operations, weather permitting, are often great opportunities to practice as are emergency preparedness operational events held at the club. Contests are the very best way to develop skill, speed, comprehension and overall operations capability. You will be amazed how quickly your comprehension and speed increase from participating in a contest. We will try to participate in one contest per month as an adjunct to the class.

We have colleagues that have been with the group for a number of years and are willing to serve as Elmers. They offer wonderful experience and patience, as well as technical acumen.

## Training Aids:

We have collected a variety of website resources, films, articles, books and apps for both phones and the computer to support operator development.

## Come Check It All Out:

Come join us and try it all out and experience the excitement of learning a new language and being inducted into the elite 😊 CW Operators Society.

Classes will be held at 9 Stanwood Street. Coffee and muffins will be served. On occasion authentically smoked BBQ ribs and pulled pork, and smoked sausages will be served. During contests pizza and Chinese food will be served.

**Call or email me if you have any questions. Email me if you would like to join us.**

\_\_ \_ . . . . . \_\_ \_

. \_\_ \_ \_\_ \_ . . . . . \_\_ \_ . . .

. . . \_\_ \_ . \_\_ \_

73,  
WZ1B

Best,  
Rick Maybury

