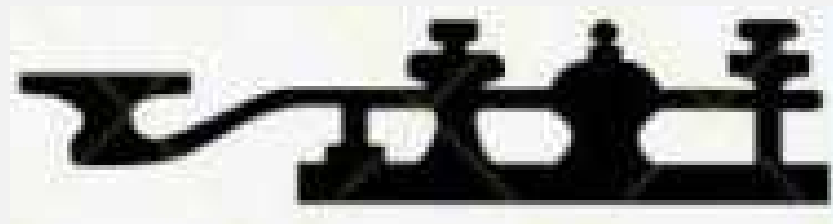


# **CW: THE Classical Amateur Radio Mode**



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**Some History of Signaling**

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**Why CW?**

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**Can I learn it?**

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**How do I learn it (The process)**

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**Overcoming Key Fright**

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**Life Beyond the Basic CW QSO**

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**Ways You Will Learn CW – The Best Courses**

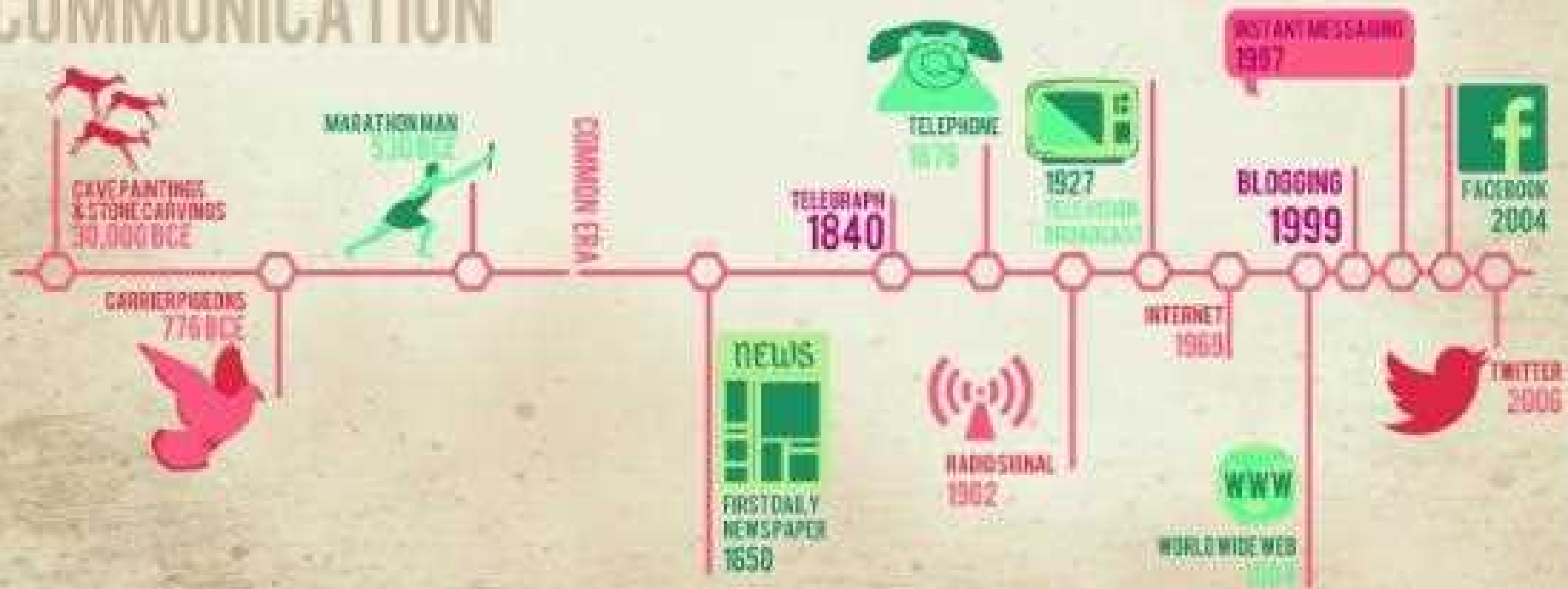
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**Straight key verses electronic keyer**

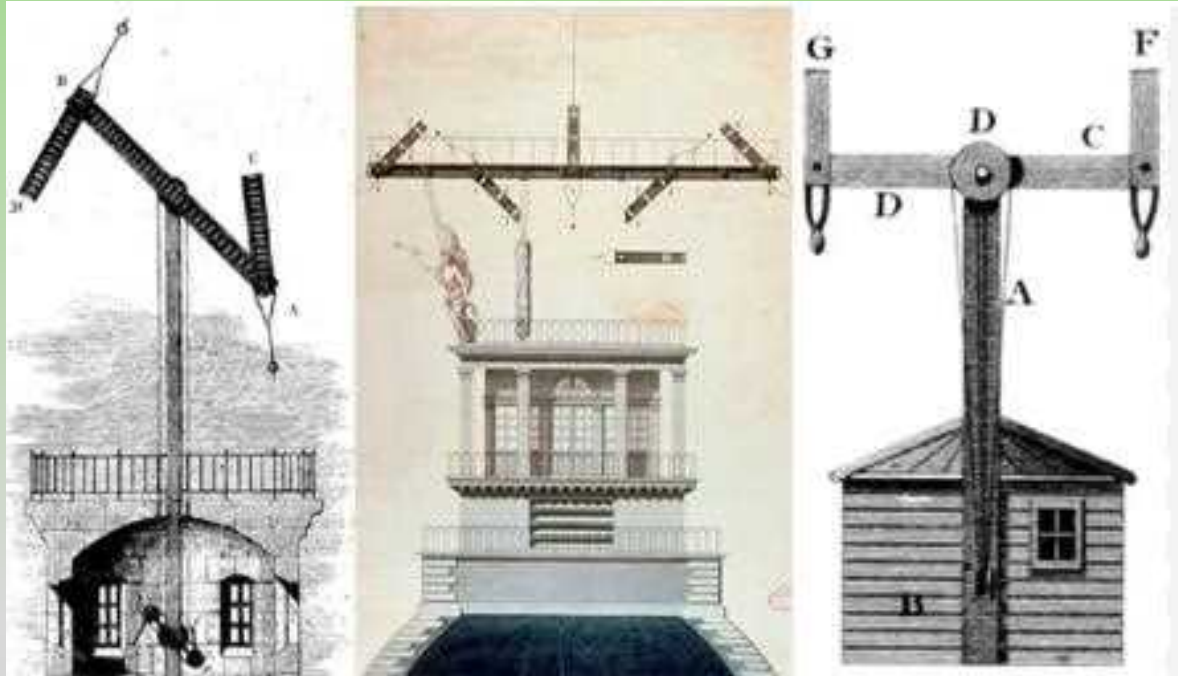
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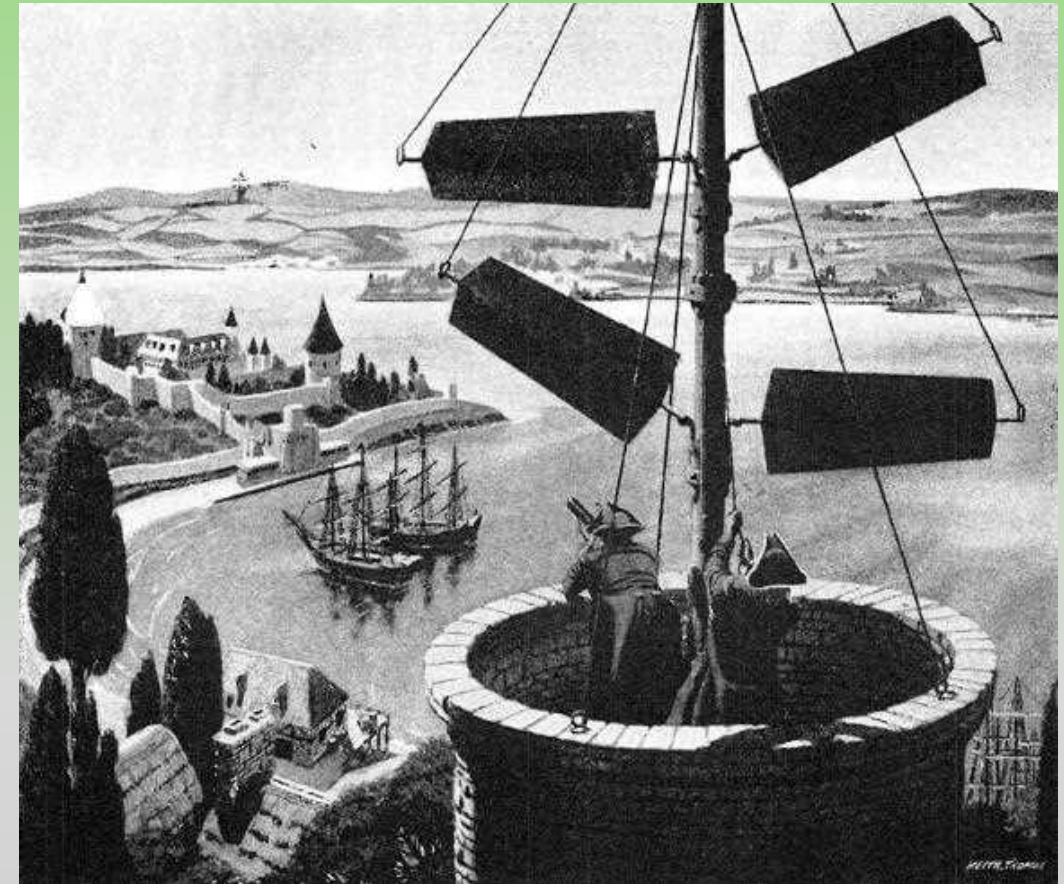
# THE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNICATION



***Semaphores were an early means of visually communicating over distances***



**Early semaphore used by Napoleon**





***Clever sight  
and sound  
modes made  
their way into  
developing  
cultures***



*In modern times, we continue to make use of visual signaling devices and signage*



*Sight and sound communications evolved to the Morse Code of today*



*With the transition into the electronic age, CW as we know it, was a natural and simple mode that was put to work*

## CW .....

- *Provides a simple way to communicate but requires a lot of human effort to learn*
- *Is a language*
- *Has helped win wars*
- *Is it popular now? Very much so*
- *So, what does make it popular now?*





## *Why CW?*

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*In a word, CW is intriguingly simple*

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*Nostalgia*

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*Popular for SOTA/POTA Operations*

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*It is easier to make contacts under less-than-ideal conditions*

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*Requires only basic equipment*

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*Takes less bandwidth than SSB*

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*Morse will get through when voice modes fail*

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# *Can I learn it?*

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*Yes, but realize it takes a commitment*

---

*Comes more natural for some folks*

---

*A sense of fun and personal accomplishment*



## *How do I learn CW?*

---

*Find a course you will commit yourself to and stick with it*

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*There is no easy way to learn CW*

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*Lots of YouTube “quick methods” apps and gadgets promoted to help you learn, groups to join, etc.*

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*An attempt at casual learning usually leads to frustration and dropping out*

## *How do I learn it (The process)*

- *Learn the sounds of the letters – Don't associate the sounds with a visual chart*
- *Learn via the Farnsworth Method*
- *As the letters and numbers are learned – Secure a CPO and practice sending them*
- *Learn to send your call, your name, your QTH*
- *Turn your receiver on and find stations sending at your speed and practice copying.*



## Overcoming Key Fright

Have	Have a basic QSO format printed out to refer to
Have	Have additional comments printed out
Look	Look for slow speed stations calling CQ
Set	Set goals – ie one cw contact every day
Check	Check the WA7BMN Contest Calendar for Slow Speed Contests and Events

## *Two Popular Focus Groups.....*



<https://www.skccgroup.com/>



<https://www.fists.org/>

## ***Life Beyond the Basic CW QSO***

- *Once operating confidence is built up, and you feel comfortable, increased speed will come naturally*
- *You will discover finding yourself transitioning from basic QSO exchanges into actual casual conversation*
- *Along with increasing speed, you will find yourself able relax more and to “head copy”*





<https://cwops.org/>



<https://longislandcwclub.org/>



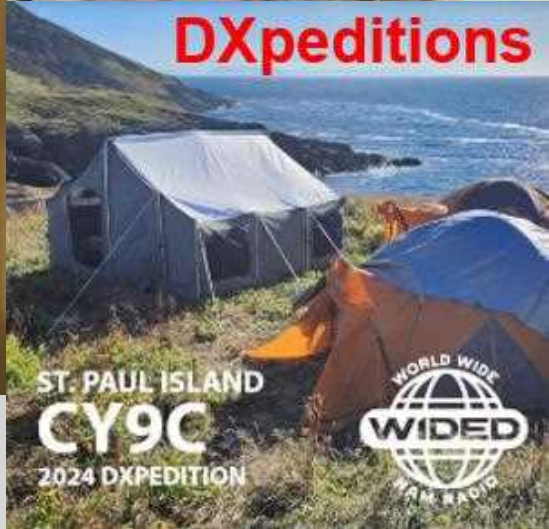
## *Straight Key Verses Electronic Keyer*



- *It may depend on the course that you will decide to take*  
*Copy/sending should be learned together*
- *Start with straight key/transition to electronic keyer later as your speed increases*
- *Most newer rigs have electronic keyers*



*So, no matter what your favorite operating activity is ..... CW will fit right in.*



**K7GUD**



**73's**

