



# CW Today

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Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of **CW Today**. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition we looked at some of the little known history of the interrupted carrier wave Morse code mode and why it would really be more accurate to call it the Gerke code. We have Friedrich Clemens Gerke to thank for creating a much improved version of Morse code which went on to become what we know as the International Morse code. Yet there are many languages that use non-Latin alphabets and some of them also have their own Morse code versions. A useful resource at Wikipedia (1) shows Greek, Cyrillic (Russian, Ukrainian), Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Japanese, Korean and Thai Morse code. Chinese could be sent as four-digit or three-letter codes.

## National Morse codes

Many of these Morse code languages are perhaps now unheard of in actual use such as Arabic, Thai or Persian. Yet others such as Japanese and Cyrillic are in widespread use. Also those languages which use extended Latin alphabets or special accent characters, such as French, German, Spanish, Turkish and Norwegian as just a few examples, have additional Morse code equivalents for those characters, such as in German Ä (A umlaut) is di-dah-di-dah, Ö (O umlaut) is dah-dah-dah-dit, U umlaut is di-di-dah-dah, and CH is sometimes sent as dah-dah-dah-dah.

## Japanese Wabun code

Around 7023 kHz in the evenings, one will often hear Japanese “Wabun” CW, easy to identify by

the long characters, and the dah-di-di-dah-dah-dah which means “switching to Japanese Morse”. To switch back to International Morse the code di-di-di-dah-dit is sent. Thus one could say “good bye” in Japanese using International Morse by sending SAYONARA or in Japanese Morse as Sa-Yo-U-Na-Ra which is dah-di-dah-di-dah dah-dah di-di-dah di-dah-dit di-di-dit and before this dah-di-di-dah-dah-dah to signify that what follows is Japanese, and after it di-di-di-dah-dit if International Morse follows again. The A1 CW Club page (2) shows some Japanese words in Wabun Code. It may be safer to only use “Sa Yo U Na Ra” at the end of the QSO though, as otherwise the other station may come back with a lot of long Wabun which you won’t be able to decode on the spot. Most Japanese amateur radio CW operators don’t know Wabun Code, or “da-di-di-dah-dah-dah”!

## Russian Morse code

Much easier however, is Russian (Cyrillic) Morse. One doesn’t have to know the Russian alphabet, though it is not hard to learn, in order to be able to exchange a “rubber stamp” QSO with a Russian amateur radio station, and you are very unlikely to be hit by lots of Russian words in return. The following is an example of a typical Russian rubber stamp QSO, in brackets are the English CW meanings: UA1ABC DE VK9XYZ ZDR (GA/GM/GE) SPB (TNX) ZA (FER) QSO RST 579 OP STAN QTH XMAS ISLAND HW? BK and you can sign off with SPB 73 DSW (GB/CUAGN).

Russian CW operators are

generally proficient and most Russian amateurs on HF seem to be quite good at CW. A fun and interesting award to chase is the RDA Award – Russian Districts Award. This is akin to WAS (Worked All States) in USA only much more versatile, with a huge number of districts available. “Oblasts” or administrative states are characterised by two letters, and followed by two digits which are a smaller sub division. A nice addition to the shack are amateur radio maps available from Aliy Kuisokov UA6YW at kuisokov.ru – the Amateur Radio Map of Russia is in Cyrillic but is detailed and lists all the Oblasts as well as call areas and call sign codes for Russia.

If you want to attract the attention of Russian CW OPs while chasing RDA, instead of calling CQ CQ CQ DE CALLSIGN CALLSIGN PSE K use the format: WSEM WSEM WSEM CALLSIGN CALLSIGN K (generally without the DE), which in Cyrillic script is BCEM and means “ALL”.

## VK2WI automated Morse transmissions

We must thank the ARNSW (Amateur Radio New South Wales) for continuous service on behalf of VK CW OPs in funding and supplying the automated CW transmissions on 3699 kHz for so many years. VK2WI also serves as a band condition indicator. Transmit power is 35 watts into a half wave dipole, 10 metres high.

The content of the transmissions is generated by a programmable controller. Originally this unit had storage of 1100 words which lasted

a bit over two hours. This has now been extended to over 3700 words which will take almost eight hours to cycle through allowing more variation in the transmissions. Transmission speeds also are cycled through to give listeners a variety of different combinations of speed and text. A PDF file (3) containing some of the current text is available at the arnsw.org.au website. The content of this file is actually very interesting as it details the development of the Dural facility itself.

Thanks go to Les VK2KYJ for development of the Morse Generator.

Reception reports are welcome and a QSL card is available in return for written reports received. These can be sent by post to BEACON REPORT, ARNSW, P.O. Box 6044, Dural Delivery Centre, NSW, 2158 or by Email to [callbacks@arnsw.org.au](mailto:callbacks@arnsw.org.au) with "Beacon Report" in the subject line.

### Commercial Morse code on non-Amateur HF bands

Old timers will remember the days when HF was full of Morse code. INTERPOL, many national police forces, ship and shore stations, military, International Red Cross, news agencies, embassies and others were all to be heard using CW. These days there is very little remaining of CW outside the amateur radio bands, but the presence is still there and these days most radio amateurs are unaware of this fact. For example, the two most technologically advanced nations in Asia, Japan and South Korea; both still have CW coastal stations operating to communicate with some of their ships at sea. A listen around the 8, 12 (13), 16 (17) and 22 MHz HF marine bands will net results, though you may have to listen long for a telegram or message in Japanese or Korean Morse to be sent or received. The South Korean coastal stations

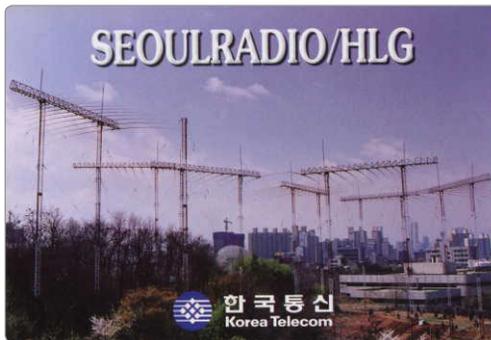


Photo 1: QSL card from Seoul Radio/HLG.

HLF/HLG/HLJ/HLO/HLW now a subdivision of Korea Telecom are the easiest to find.

Reception reports of the South Korean coastal stations can be sent to address: 680-63 Jayang-dong, Gwangjin-Gu, Seoul, 143-707 Korea (Telephone: +82 2 453 1181 Fax: +82 2 453 5002) and may be verified by a nice QSL card (Photo 1) in English and Korean with a friendly letter by QSL manager Mr Woo Hwa Lee DS1QGG.

A few navies, notably Russia and Pakistan are still using CW, at least in reserve, and recently the Indonesian "National Resilience Institute" has been heard by this author at 00Z and 12Z on 6365, 12235 and 18980 kHz in Bahasa Indonesian language. There appears to be a fourth frequency, if anyone can find it do let me know. There may also be additional broadcast times. The tuning signal gives "P50" but this is not the call sign, which appears at the end of transmissions and appears to be either 7CB or 7CJ.

Photo 2: Mr Woo Hwa Lee DS1QGG with some of the HLG station antennas in the background.



### VK CW activities

7050 continues to be active as a CW calling frequency at any time around Australia, while other centre-of-activity frequencies during the day time when things may be quiet, that have produced results, are 14020-14025 and 21020-21025 kHz. More information at [www.vkcw.net/7050](http://www.vkcw.net/7050)

A useful page with an up-to-date list of CW broadcasts, nets, and regular activities can be found at [www.vkcw.net/skeds](http://www.vkcw.net/skeds) and a few of the regular entries include:

#### Sundays

10 am to Noon Sydney time, the 43-year old weekly CW Net on 7025 kHz. There have been over 2,200 weekly sessions of this net since it was started in 1973. Regular net controllers are Chris VK1CT, Ray VK2COX, Drew VK3XU and Ron VK3AVA.

#### Daily except Sunday

0900Z-1000Z, calling on 7050 kHz with QSY, CW Bash Hour.

For the CW Bash there are nightly themes, not obligatory, namely: Monday nights "Boat Anchors", or use your oldest rig(s). Tuesdays, slow speed and/or straight keys. Wednesdays bug keys and/or sloppy CW. Thursdays QRQ or go as fast as you dare. Fridays, QRP, or alternatively turn down the power to half or quarter of the power output that you normally use. Saturdays, anything goes.

#### Monday through Friday

0830Z, 7051.2 kHz daily CW Net (Tuesdays is QRS). This is a short and simple net, although often QSOs ensue afterwards. Usual net controllers are Dave VK3GDM, or myself Lou VK5EEE.

The CW News Broadcast (QST) is also a regular feature, at the time of writing it is broadcast by Peter VK4QC three times weekly on three frequencies at different speeds: Saturday 0400 UTC at 20 WPM repeated at 2200 UTC (Sunday mornings) at 17 WPM on 7022.5, 14022.5 and

21022.5 kHz and again Monday evenings at 1000 UTC on 3522.5, 7022.5 and 14022.5 kHz. Please call back afterwards or send reception reports to [vk4qc@wia.org.au](mailto:vk4qc@wia.org.au)

Michael VK2CCW continues Monday and Friday evenings CW practice sessions around 7115 kHz LSB at 0900 UTC at speeds from 10 to 20 WPM.

### High Speed CW Practice

Especially on Thursday nights during CW Bash hour, quite a few stations are happy to practice sending CW at around 30-40 WPM with calling on 7050 and QSY up or down from there. Calling CQ on Thursday nights around 0900 UTC on 7050 at higher speeds should result in some QRQ contacts.

As always, your feedback and suggestions are always welcome!

Wishing you many happy CW contacts, de Lou, VK5EEE

[1]: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse\\_code\\_for\\_non-Latin\\_alphabets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code_for_non-Latin_alphabets)

[2]: [http://a1club.net/CW\\_J\\_e.htm](http://a1club.net/CW_J_e.htm)

[3]: [http://www.arnsw.org.au/forms/vk2wi\\_morsetext3.pdf](http://www.arnsw.org.au/forms/vk2wi_morsetext3.pdf)



## PerthTech Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April

PerthTech is a one-day event consisting of technical presentations that will interest Amateur Radio Enthusiasts.

**Date:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Venue:** Bayswater Hotel, 78-80 Railway Parade, Bayswater

**Time:** 0845 to 1700

**Price:** \$20 per head. The ticket includes morning and afternoon tea.



### PerthTech Programme

Phil VK6PH will talk about critically coupled antennas, David VK5DGR brings us Codec2, and Phil Wait, WIA President, will talk about the Institute, what it's up to and what it would like to be up to. John VK6AG will talk about the burgeoning digital voice modes, accelerated by the arrival on the scene of System Fusion, Wires-x and Digital Mobile Radio (DMR). You'll hear about playing with satellites and also about the Allstar network by Bob VK6ZGN. Other presentations will complete the day, along with ample time to mix socially.

Lunch is available in the Hotel restaurant at your own cost. The restaurant caters for all tastes from bar snacks to full meals.

Tickets are available online from [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com), event code KFJV

A flier and a link to booking are available at [vk6.net](http://vk6.net). Enquiries to [committee@vk6.net](mailto:committee@vk6.net)

**PerthTech is an initiative of W.A. Amateur Radio News Inc.**