

It started with a Dit.....

Here is the journey being undertaken by Shirley M0WXG FISTS 16916 on the CW path so far.

Published here as hopefully an entertaining read and also as an inspiration to those seeking to or commencing their own journey.

I started with Callington Radio Club (Cornwall), 13 years ago where under the expert tuition of Keith G1FMU and fellow members I successfully obtained my Full Licence.

The path then enticed me to learn CW and with the tremendous help of John G4PBN who put on a Club Course and the G4FON app the first steps were taken.

The pace then quickened with FISTS putting on a CW Improvers Course over Zoom run by Roger M10WWB and John M0CDL. April / May 2022.

Starting to go a bit further now with CWOPS Fundamental with Roland K7OJL Jan/Feb 2023.

Followed by CWOPS Intermediate with Buzz AC6AC May/June 2023

Following successful graduation from these I am currently on the Advanced with Buzz with the aim of being sponsored and admitted to CWOPS as a full member. Hopefully to graduate in December.

I cannot speak too highly of the structure, content and instruction provided by CW Academy which is the Training arm of CWOPS.

The tremendous amount of time all the advisors put in voluntarily is really amazing.

So how has the journey been so far, frustrating, humorous and great fun in all parts?

The Academy attracts a worldwide selection of students all wishing to further their ability at CW. This leads to some really challenging copy, from Intermediate level onwards head copy is encouraged and topics sent by CW are varied and sometimes beyond the comprehension of those in the UK, for

example ingredients in a meal or a make of car in say India are sometimes things not heard of in the UK.

This highlights the message from the Tutors to trust your ears, not to assume what is coming next because if you do you and get it wrong you are thrown off course and miss the rest.

3 versions of Courses run by Buzz are offered:

1. Do what you can when you can.
2. Follow the Course timetable of 2 sessions per week plus the homework
3. The head banging version, nothing else will matter in your life for the next 3 Months with CW practice at all levels on Sundays, Pre course classes before the actual course starts. CWT Tuesday / Wednesday sessions. The Actual Course 2 x 2hour sessions twice a week.

I chose the head banging versions.

For those unaware CWT is practice for high speed contesting and for normal ears when first hearing this it sounds like machine gun fire. With a lot of practice (where have you heard that before?) it does become clearer and eventually you can understand (at times) what is being sent.

CWT is live on Air at set times.

Academy instruction is on Zoom with students put into small groups to practice send and receive techniques.

A major part of the earlier courses involve setting up of rigs and understanding the mechanics of tuning / filtering and how to send.

I started my journey with a straight key progressed to Twin paddles and now use a Single Lever which works best for me

The joy of learning with others is that you rapidly become friends, no question is too simple and you all make mistakes together. This was a major part in building my confidence.

All Courses are totally free.

A phrase of Roland's springs to mind: 'There is no comfort in the learning zone'. You get out what you put in.

From my QTH I work mostly 20 /40. If you hear me please be patient with me as it still does not always go according to the plan.

73

Shirley