Signaling Merit Badge Overview

May 17, 2010

Signaling Merit Badge

- Morse code video

- Merit Badge Requirements

- Types of Signaling

- Learning Signaling

- Resources

Morse Code vs. Texting

Merit Badge Requirements

- Make an electric buzzer outfit, wireless, blinker, or other signaling device.

- Send and receive in the International Morse Code, by buzzer or other sound device, a complete message of not less than 35 words, at a rate of not less than 35 letters per minute.

- Demonstrate an ability to send and receive a message in the International Morse Code by wigwag and by blinker or other light signaling device at the rate of not less than 20 letters per minute.

- Send and receive by Semaphore Code at the rate of not less than 30 letters per minute.

- Know the proper application of the International Morse and Semaphore Codes; when, where, and how they can be used to best advantage.

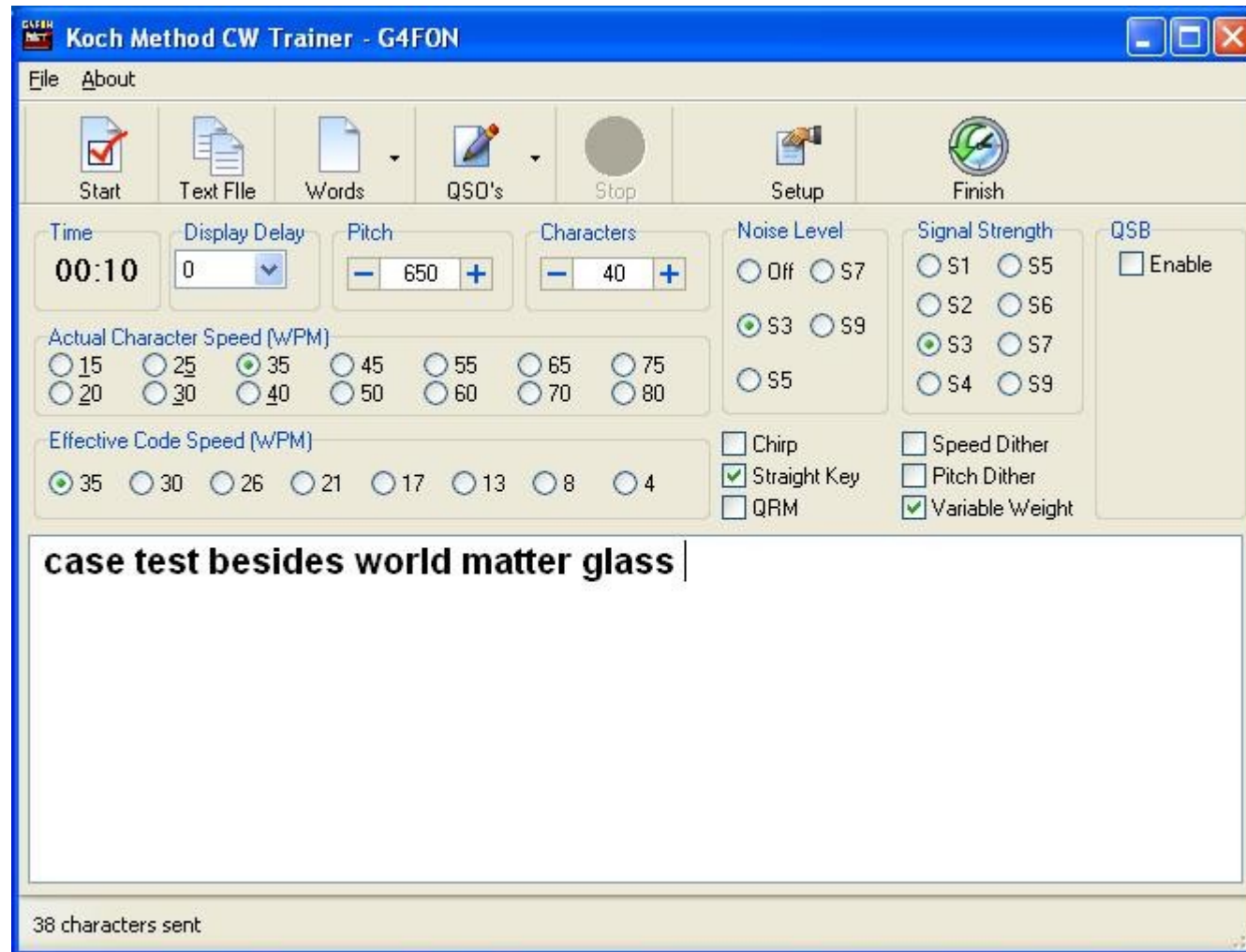- Discuss briefly various other codes and methods of signaling which are in common use.

Types of Signals

- Audible (Morse Code)

- Visual (Wig-Wag, Semaphore, Blinker)

- Modern Signals

Learning Morse Code

- Sending is much easier than receiving!

- Lots of different methods, but the best is arguable the "Koch" method

  - Windows, Mac, Linux:
    http://c2.com/morse/

  - Windows:
    http://www.g4fon.net/CW%20Trainer.htm

- Quick Into (Translate):
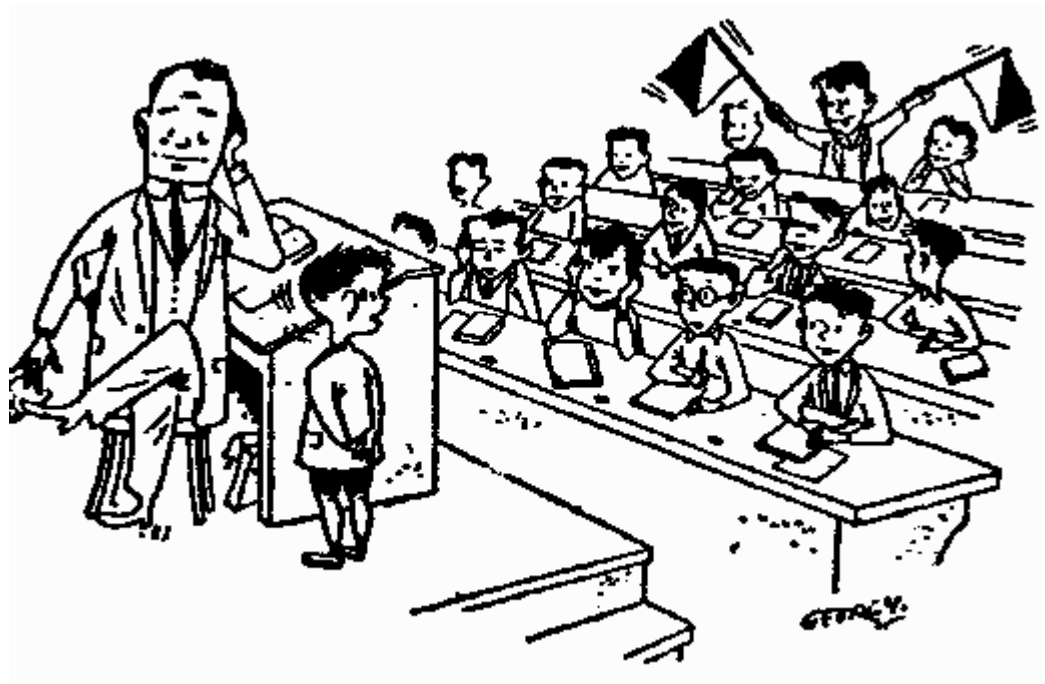 http://morsecode.scphillips.com/jtranslator.html

G4FON

Visual Signalling

- Wig-Wag – morse code with flags

    - Builds on morse training

    - Can be done from cover

- Semaphore flags - faster, but need to learn a completely different alphabet
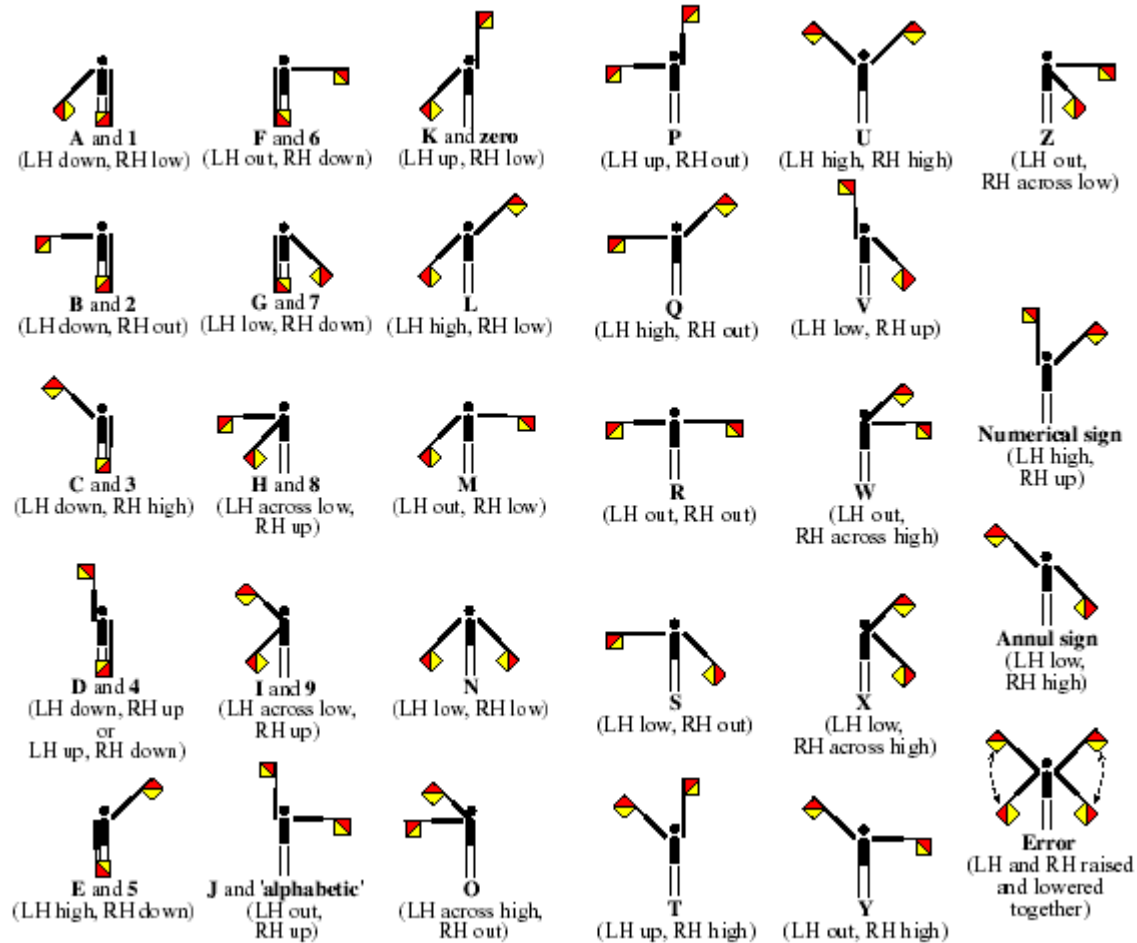
- Morse (lights/blinker)

Semaphore

- Faster than wig-wag
- Another alphabet to learn!

Semaphore Alphabet

Resources:

- BSA - http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/2010_mb_signaling.aspx

- Techniques for learning morse - http://ac6v.com/morseaids.htm#Learn

- Fingerspelling - http://www.fingerspellingalphabet.com

- Google!

Q & A

Backup

- Why learn Morse?

- Modern Codes

  - Finger Spelling

  - Analog vs. Digital

  - Encryption

- Ham Radio

  - History of code requirement

  - Hams still use morse