

The Helvetia Telegraphy Club (HTC)

celebrates its 40th birthday!

Since the club was founded in 1980, the HTC has pursued its two main goals as set forth in the bylaws: promoting telegraphy (every aspect of Morse Code) and homebrewing. How, exactly, do we meet these goals?

Telegraphy is promoted by the HTC through dedicated [Morse Code training](#) software developed by one of our members, in-person Morse Code instruction sessions, plus our weekly CW training broadcasts on the 80m band along with special "newcomer" broadcasts intended specifically as a comfortable meeting place for those just starting to learn CW. The HTC also follows the "Morse Code Elmer" philosophy for one-to-one personal contacts in order to give additional assistance and encouragement to those learning telegraphy.

Homebrewing is frequently supported through group projects such as building small radios and test units. Furthermore, we have held our "[QRP Party](#)" meeting 23 times at various locations throughout Switzerland. There, we devote an entire day to one aspect of amateur radio. For instance, we recently gave a tutorial on how to simulate antennas with EZNEC software, and we learned all the ins and outs of the latest electronic QSO logging and QSLing methods. Together we have built and measured both radios and antennas. During several events, members exchanged information and experience with homebrew multiband antennas for field use such as SOTA.

Serving as the event organizer, under the auspices of the Union of Swiss Shortwave Amateurs (USKA), the HTC runs the [NMD](#) Commission for the National Mountain Day contest. In this role, it has organized and carried out this contest for the past 16 years. An annual follow-up is the NMD Meeting where not only are results announced, but technical presentations examine interesting solutions. Past topics included how to operate [two radios simultaneously on the same antenna](#) without any mutual interference, how to design a [Class E amplifier](#), and discussions of [SDR \(software-defined radio\) transceiver projects](#).

The HTC is one of only two technical organizations which are members of USKA, the Swiss national amateur radio confederation.

Der HTC is using our anniversary year of 2020 as an opportunity to raise awareness of telegraphy. Thus, we invite all Morse Code enthusiasts, whether member or not, to participate in the following activities:

Activity 1 - HTC Morse Code Fun Challenge

Code Fun Challenge. This will take place at two times/locations: first following our Annual Meeting on 8 February 2020 at the Restaurant Traube in Küttingen AG; second at the USKA Hamfest on 15 August 2020 in Cham. Once hams demonstrate CW receiving proficiency at levels ranging from beginner to advanced, we will award them with fun mementos to mark our anniversary such as cloth patches, coffee mugs and pens



HTC anniversary Patch

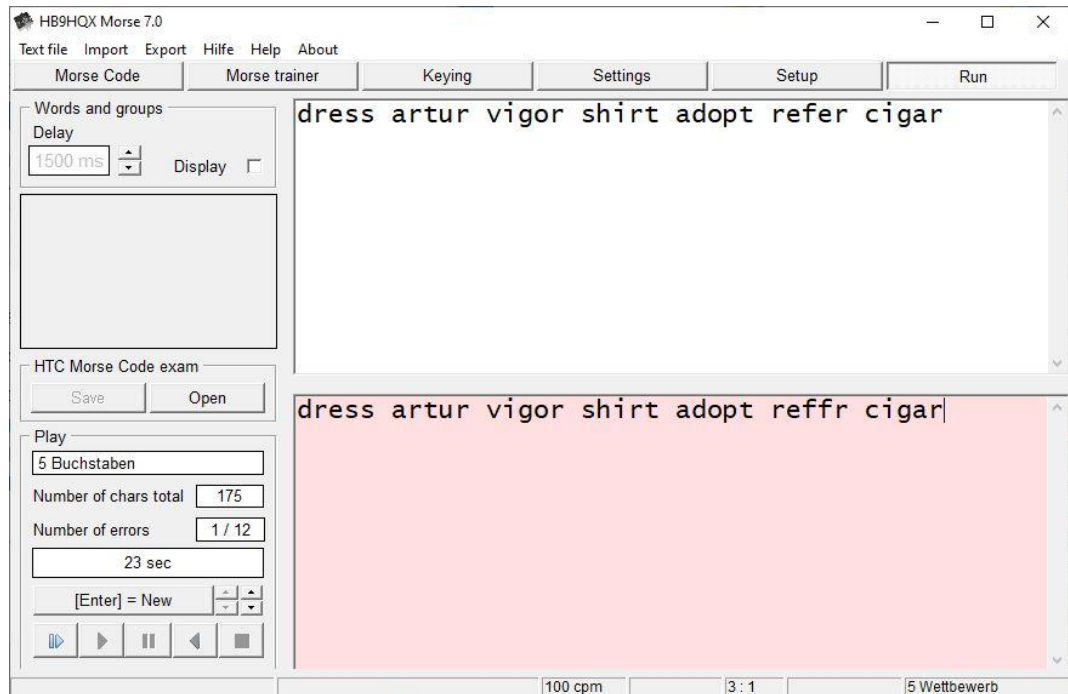
The rules are outlined in the attachment

Rules for the HTC Morse Code Fun Challenge	
Win one of our HTC anniversary momento prizes!	
Listening challenge	
By hand:	Write what you hear with pencil and paper, manual transfer into the software and quick simple corrections in one line of the HB9HQX Morse program
Keyboard input:	What you hear is entered with the keyboard. Automatic correction, word spaces must be correct (as seen in the screen shot below)
Keying challenge	
Keying:	Straight keys and paddles both permitted; use of your own mechanical keyer is also allowed.
Text to send:	From the PC screen, upon special request also from paper
General	
Text format:	7 groups (1 line) each with 5 random characters, plus plain text (German, French or English) in 5-character words
Software	We use the HB9HQX Morse software
Speeds	You are free to select your Speed greater than 60 cpm in steps of 10, no upper limit.
Procedure:	Short warm-up run followed by a maximum of 3 runs within a maximum of approx. 10 minutes per candidate.
Reward:	Every candidate who achieves a result of three errors or less is rewarded with an anniversary momento as a prize
Training:	Practice ahead of time allowed and encouraged.
Registration:	Registration using a Doodle will be set up in advance of the meetings so as to ensure efficient use of the allocated time.
Notes:	
This is NOT an examination, so keep things relaxed and fun!	
Participate, let's liven up our gathering and bring your enthusiasm for Morse Code!	
We look forward to seeing you there!	

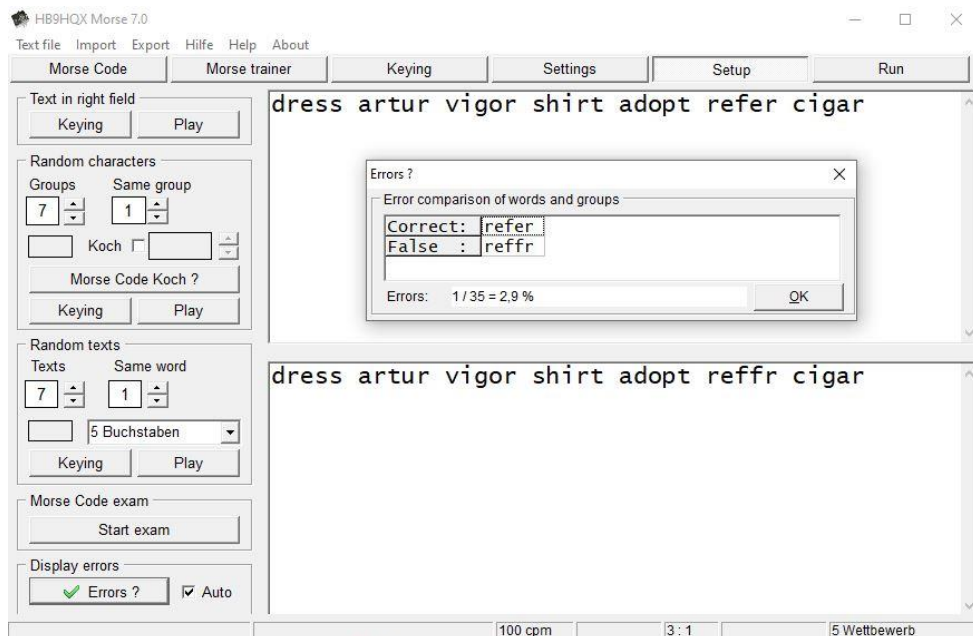
Selected settings for the HB9HQX Morse software

In the new HB9HQX Morse V7, the setup is arranged by selecting user profile 5.

Example run



Error are indicated by the background color red, the amount expressed by a number on the Play window on the left side



Another indication, allowing to analyze error.

Activity 2 - Helvetia Open CW Activity (HB-OCWA)

During all 12 months of our anniversary year of 2020, we are sponsoring a special type of on-air project which we call the HB Open CW Activity (HB-OCWA). We have set up a special website dedicated to this project, and it details everything you need to know to participate, including online logging. All CW enthusiasts from around the world are invited to take part, whether HTC members or not. After logging enough QSOs to reach certain levels, they can download at no charge a certificate attesting to their skill. For each level they reach, they also receive a chance for a prize drawing to be held at the conclusion of the year. No matter what their speed, everyone has a chance to win one of the very attractive prizes, ranging from transceivers to telegraph paddles to books, all of which are listed on the HB-OCWA website along with the complete rules (also reproduced below).

Date	UTC	Start	End	Mycall	QsoCall	RstS	RstR	Band	Notes	Cfm
2019-10-20	10:49	10:49		HB9AFH		599	599	80M		
2019-10-01	16:54 - 17:15			HB9AFH	HB9DST	599	599	80M		
2019-09-27	15:58 - 16:23			EA7/HB9AFH	HB9DEO	599	599	80M		
2019-09-15	17:00 - 17:12			EA1/HB9AFH	HB9TVK	599	599	80M		

Left: HB-OCWA webpage – middle below: online-Log after register in, right upper, one of the HB-OCWA-Diplom

Rules of the Open CW Activity (HB-OCWA) Award

Object:

The object of the HB-OCWA is to mark the 40th anniversary of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club (HTC), help activate the special anniversary callsigns HB40HTC and HB40HC and also inspire amateur radio operators in Switzerland and elsewhere to increase CW activity on the HF bands. The intent of the award is to encourage and reward them for conducting sustained CW conversations rather than short-duration CW signal reports.

Organizer:

The promoter and responsible entity for the award is the Helvetia Telegraphy Club HTC. This activity is sponsored to mark the 40th anniversary of the Helvetia Telegraphy Club.

Participants:

HB-OCWA encourages CW contacts between and with licensed individual amateur radio operators with Swiss callsigns (i.e. no clubs or special event stations). Amateur radio operators from other countries who register on the award website are welcome to participate and qualify for the awards. In this regard, for a QSO to qualify as counting towards the award, at least one of the stations must have a Swiss callsign (HB3, HB4, HB9). These callsigns count for the award even if they are operating mobile, portable or in another country (i.e. EA1/HB9xxx).

Dates:

This award will be available to successful participants who make qualifying QSOs during calendar year 2020, starting on 0000 UTC on January 1 2020 and lasting until 2359 UTC on December 31, 2020. Participating stations/operators must register and report confirmed contacts as described below.

Lottery:

Participants who achieve any HB-OCWA award participate automatically in the HB-OCWA 40th Anniversary lottery drawing. The HTC is offering an attractive range of prizes; for a full list see the [Lottery](#) page. A participating station receives one chance for each award level with a maximum of five chances in the prize draw (QSOs: 40/100/250/500/1000), but each station is limited to one prize. The winners will be chosen at random by the end of January 2021 as detailed on the [Lottery](#) page.

How to register:

HB-OCWA participants register on line at hb-ocwa.ch

Logging:

QSOs are to be logged on the HB-OCWA website. To qualify for an award, QSOs must have a duration of at least 10 minutes. Both stations must log the QSO on the website. The starting timestamps (UTC) of each station's logged QSO must match each other within 10 minutes.

Call:

A response to the call "CQ HTC" initiates contact with a station participating in the HB-OCWA program.

Frequency Bands:

QSOs are to take place within the IARU's HF band plan.

Recommended frequencies (kHz): 1835-1840, 3535-3540, 7035-7040, 10125-10130, 14035-14040, 18085-18090, 21035-21040, 24905-24910, 28035-28040. However, participants are encouraged to focus on the HTC watering hole / Morse Code broadcast frequencies of 3569, 7033 and 14062.

Award:

The first award level can be issued after 40 approved QSOs. At that time, any participating ham can download, free of charge, the HB-OCWA Award directly from the website. There are also awards available for 100, 250, 500 and 1000 QSOs.

Additional notes:

There is a limit of one QSO between any two stations on the same day on the same band. Using different bands is desired and encouraged. Always consider

the CW speed of your QSO partner. If that person is sending at a lower speed, please reduce your speed to cut down on errors and to eliminate the risk of confusion.

Project Managing Group:

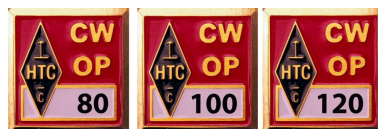
The HB-OCWA activity project is managed by Paul Schreier HB9DST, Peter Kohler HB9TVK, and Hugo Huber HB9AFH with the support of Urs HB9ABO. The chairperson is HB9DST Paul Schreier (ecm@hb9htc.ch) with HB9AFH Hugo Huber as the alternate. The HB-OCWA project is based closely on the well-known SOCWA Project organized by the Scandinavian Open CW Award www.socwa.se who, in showing great "ham spirit", has provided us with significant support in adapting their program.

Disputes and decisions:

The Project Management Group shall make all relevant decisions and settle any disputes, and its decisions shall be final.

Activity 3 - Free HTC Mors Code certificates/lapel pins

The long-standing HTC Morse Code Examination – that is, using our special HB9HQX Morse software to demonstrate proficiency at various speeds – results in candidates receiving a certificate of proficiency and/or lapel pins issued at the speeds of 80 / 100 / 120 characters per minute. During our anniversary year of 2020, these awards will be distributed at no charge.



www.hb9htc.ch - HTC-Diplom

Links

Morse Training software	https://www.hb9htc.ch/clubdesk/www?p=1000013
History of 23 QRP Parties	hb9htc.ch/clubdesk/fileservlet?id=1001668
NMD	http://nmd.uska.ch/index.php?id=35
Two radios running over one	http://nmd.uska.ch/fileadmin/downloads/HB9CLN_80m-Diplexer_HTC.pdf
Class E amplifiers	http://nmd.uska.ch/fileadmin/downloads/PA_Klasse_E.pdf
SDR transceiver projects	http://nmd.uska.ch/fileadmin/downloads/NMD_Neue_Tech.pdf
HB-OCWA	https://hb-ocwa.ch/ or https://hbcw.ch/
HTC Certificate	hb9htc.ch/clubdesk/www?p=1000014
Fun Challenge words made of 5	hb9htc.ch/clubdesk/www?type=file&id=1000636