



CWops Events

On-Air Monthly CWT

Next one: 8 September 2010

Start time:

1100Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (9 September) NA region

1-hour each region

Exchange name/number (members)

Exchange name/SPC (non-members)

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028

CWops "Happy Hour"

1900 local, every day, on or near the "neighborhood" frequencies – just call "CQ" or answer someone else.

CWops Officers and Director

Officers

President: Pete Chamalian, [W1RM](#)

Vice President: Art Suberbielle, [KZ5D](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Harry Wilson, [W1AAX](#)

Directors:

Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)

Shin Onisawa, [JA1NUT](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)

Publisher: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)

From the president...



The Joy of Seeing Friends...

August was a very busy month for gatherings and seeing old and new friends.

On August 13-16, we were at the West Coast CW Enthusiast's gathering in Reno. I had the chance to meet several of the gang for the first time and to renew eyeball contacts with a number of long time friends.

The weekend itself was filled with plenty to do, starting with a glorious plane ride provided by Rick, N6XI. That was followed by a wonderful brunch at his and Ann's home. In the afternoon, N3JT, Nina, Bobbie and I went for a ride to Lake Tahoe and then back to Reno via Route 431 through the mountains. What glorious views!

We were struck by the tall snow-depth poles all along the roadway. We estimated them to be 15 feet tall with reflective bands at the top, middle and at the five-foot mark. We don't see anything like that here in New England because we don't get snow to that depth! That's a lot of snow!

The banquet was held at the Peppermill Hotel after which N6XI give us a presentation of his adventure in WRTC 2010.

Sunday saw a brunch at K5RC's incredible station with an antenna system that most would die for! A tour of Virginia City (an old mining town) rounded out the weekend.

I've posted some photos of the event here:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/PeteW1RM/WestCoastDinner2010?authkey=Gv1sRgCJe5sKnwpafZ0QE#>

N3JT's photos can be seen here:

http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=jim.n3jt&target=ALBUM&id=5506907466488237729&authkey=Gv1sRgCPzz1_fStZnn9QE&invite=CK2wvdAG&feat=email

On August 20, I stepped back in time (some 50 years) and attended the NTS (National Traffic System) Picnic held at K1EIC's home. Here I was reunited with old friends from my youth and days of handling traffic. W6SX – CWops 61 (aka K2SSX), W2RU – CWops 65 (aka K2KIR) and N2DC (aka W2ZRC) were all regulars on the CW traffic nets in the late 1950's when I was K2UTV and a regular traffic hound! It was a first meeting with W6SX and N2DC since days of the NYS (New York State CW Traffic Net) picnic's in Van Etten, NY hosted by Fred, K2RYH. Also present at the gathering was old friend KY1F who I gave a novice test to in 1969 when we were both in college. I hadn't seen Dan in 20+ years. What a reunion!

Finally, on August 28, I'll be at the ARRL New England Division Convention in Boxborough where I anticipate seeing a flood of great friends. What these events have reinforced for me is my long-held belief that operating is a very solitary activity. While we as active hams may be talking with friends all over the world, you are really doing it all by yourself. Unlike team sports, there's no one giving you a high five or a pat on the back for that great contact you just had.

It's the companionship of friends only come at face-to-face gatherings that really makes it all worthwhile. We need more of them!

CW Operators' Club Annual Dinner

This inaugural event will be held in Plymouth, MA on October 2-3. Check out the details on the web page:

<http://www.cwops.org/members/cwopsdinner.html>

This will be the perfect place to put a face to the fist, see old friends, meet new friends and have a very memorable weekend. October will bring some great fall colors to New England. If you haven't seen it in person, this would be the perfect weekend!

I look forward to seeing you in Plymouth – it's a great venue!

Seeking Volunteers...

Recently, one of the CWops members that I spoke with in August suggested that we need more visibility in ham publications. I agreed – we do. But, all of our current officers and volunteers are dealing with pretty full plates. One even said he couldn't even see his plate!

So, I'm looking for some volunteers from the membership to give us a hand with PR/Publicity and announcements as may be needed. It would be great to have a team of folks around the world who could help with translation and placement of information with the appropriate ham publications.

If you have any experience in the world of PR and would be willing to help CWops, please let me know.

Elections

Our By Laws call for elections each year. Since this is the first time we will have elections, it's appropriate that all elect-able positions are voted on.

Next year, we will follow the By Laws pattern of electing alternate officer positions (President/Secretary one year and the Vice President the other).

I am looking for two volunteers from the membership to join a few others I will name to serve as a nominating committee. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, please let me know that you are and why you want to serve. An announcement of the members of the nominating committee will follow in September.

Pete, WIRM

From the VP/Activities Chairman...

There's been quite a bit of interest in our CWops member-to-member awards. Some of the stations that are really working hard to achieve the highest levels have raised some very valid questions. I'd like to offer some clarification in this column and also extend a challenge to those who haven't joined in the fun of chasing other members for these awards to begin doing so.

The ACA (Annual Competition Award) – This award is based on one contact per member per calendar year. Contacts can be made on any amateur band. Every member has actually started working on this award whether you realize it or not. The way this one works is to count every individual member contacted on any amateur CW band ONCE during a calendar year. Even if you haven't been keeping track of the number of different members you've worked, you're well on your way to achieving one of the levels of this award. We offer the ACA at these levels: ACA-100, ACA-250, ACA-400, ACA-600 and ACA-750. It's easy to track these QSOs, thanks to the work of Bert, W5ZR, and Bill, N5RR, who have both written free software that reviews your logs and tabulates your totals. By the time you read this, both versions of software will be available on our website: <http://www.cwops.org/members/index.html>. Download it and follow

the simple instructions to install and use it. You'll also need to download the latest membership data file that is also at the Members Only section of our website (same address as above).

The CMA (Cumulative Membership Award) – This award is based on contacting members on each amateur band and it is continued in perpetuity. The way it works is to count each member QSO on each band ONCE in perpetuity. So if you have a QSO with our president, W1RM, on 20 meters, today, and then work W1RM on 15 meters later in the day, that's two separate contacts towards your CMA totals. The CMA Award is available at six levels: 250, 500, 750, 1000, 1250, and 1500. The same software that I mentioned for the ACA Awards tracks these QSOs as well. Once you download and install the software, you simply direct the program to read your logs. All of the contacts that apply for either of these awards (or several others we offer) are included in your totals. Yes, life is good and award progress is easy, IF you use the software. Now you could do this manually if so inclined, but why not take advantage of the technology afforded us by W5ZR and N5RR?

After you've reached a particular level, you can even print your own certificate. In CWops we use the honor system. John, K6MM, our very talented webmaster, has uploaded the certificates to the Members Only section of our website. Just click on the icon and print your certificate. Here's the direct link to the award certificates: <http://cwops.org/members/index.html>.

Once you've started tracking your progress on each of these, please send in monthly updates to be included in my column. It's similar to an on-going contest where you compare your efforts to other club members. Give it a try and join in the fun.

See you in the mini-CWT on Wednesday, September 8th.

Membership Award. Reports listed reflect all information received through August 31, 2010. Stations with an asterisk * next to their calls have updated their reports this month.

	ACA	CMA
N5RR*	323	627
W4PM	314	736
W5ZR*	301	638
W1RM*	298	602
KZ5D*	284	746
W6KY *	283	504

W5SG	273	519
K6MM*	252	515
W1UJ	247	527
K6RB	243	503
K4AB	192	282
KR3E*	183	374
EA1WX	180	316
N2UU	163	
AD1C*	148	216
K5KV	116	185
N5AW	116	
OK1RR	116	
N3IQ	110	

73 de Art KZ5D, Activity Team Chairman.

From the Editor...



What a great weekend we had in Reno last month. Thanks to Rick, N6XI, and Tom, K5RC, for all the work they did setting everything up. I arrived very late on Friday because I was out-of-town all week doing the first preparatory course for the “patent bar exam.” My company wants me to be focused exclusively on intellectual property, and that involves a lot of invention idea capture and patent filing preparation. In order to interact with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), you either need to be the inventor, or a certified patent attorney or agent. Since I’m not an attorney, I would be an “agent.” It turns out, though, that I have all the same rights as a patent attorney so long as the patent prosecution remains within the USPTO. For both attorneys and aspiring patent agents, you must pass a federal exam based on the rules and

regulations governing patents in a 4,000 page book known as "MPEP." My plan is to prepare and take that exam in October. But, I digress.

That Friday, I finished my exam prep at 6 PM and awaited my wife, Debra, who was going to be with me in Reno. By the time we arrived, it was early Saturday. Around lunchtime, I drove to N6XI's house in Truckee and had a great meeting with several CWops buddies. (See photos, later).

Saturday night we had a banquet at the Peppermill, and the food was great. So, was the entertainment. Rick, N6XI, told us in words and photos exactly what it was like before, during and after WRTC. Kudos to Rick and all 48 teams that participated. What an adventure!

By the way, you will no doubt notice that this issue of Solid Copy looks different. Instead of a two-column format, I am trying a single column one. Multicolumn formats in newspapers and magazines were done to make it easier to read them. The concept is based on the eye having to scan a shorter line of print. And, it does work with paper print.

An all electronic document, on the other hand, is a horse of a different color. Whereas multicolumns may make reading easier, on a screen it adds the extra hassle of scrolling down, then up, then down, again, for each page.

My good compadre, Henri, N5KA, and some others had suggested I try a single-column format, so here we go. Please feel free to let me know how this works for you, all.

Some upcoming CW events are the NA Sprint CW, this month, and the California QSO Party the first weekend in October. That latter event has separate categories for CW and phone, or you can operate it using both modes. It is a very popular state QSO party and there promises to be CW activity for the full 30 hours.

73,
Rob K6RB

NOTE:

Our Treasurer, Harry (W1AAX), has asked to step down from his position due to increased work schedule demands. He was one of the founders of the Club and has been instrumental in helping to develop an efficient process for our funds collection and maintenance. Thank you, Harry, for your hard work. We are fortunate in having K9CT, Craig, as our new Treasurer and look forward to working with him going forward.

CW Enthusiasts Weekend



Pete, W1RM; Rick, N6XI; Jim, N3JT; John, K6MM



Tommy, W6IJ; Rob K6RB; Riki, K7NJ/4X4NJ



N7RR tells us about his middle-school CW teaching Project.



Ed, K8RD, looking at the great view from Rick's back deck.



Rick, N6XI, giving aerial views of Lake Tahoe



CWops members Bob, W6CYX; Tom, K5AX; and Tom, K5RC

FOR MORE PHOTOS, CLICK ON LINKS IN PETE'S REPORT!

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	AC7T	Doug Payne	Need Sponsors	N4YG	Joe Lunsford
Need Sponsors	AE4LD	Larry Draughn	Need Sponsors	N7RR	Bruce Prior
Need Sponsors	AK4G	Elbert Owen	Need Sponsors	NR1R	Ray Sylvester
Need Sponsors	JA1LAS	Takai Masaoki	Need Sponsors	NS8V	Paul H Sorensen
Need Sponsors	K1ZR	Shane Mattson	Need Sponsors	PY5AKW	Nei Camargo
Need Sponsors	K2CJ	Carl Lump	Need Sponsors	SM0A	Ingemar Myhrberg
Need Sponsors	K2ESE	Tom Scally	Need Sponsors	VE3AXD	Howard Davy
Need Sponsors	K2FX	Paul Kolacki	Need Sponsors	W1BR	Roger Prince
Need Sponsors	K3FH	Mike Furfari	Need Sponsors	W1EQ	Bob Garceau
Need Sponsors	K3SXA	Jim Friel	Need Sponsors	W1VB	Vern Brownell
Need Sponsors	K4GB	Tom Sleeman	Need Sponsors	W2IX	Frank Lauri
Need Sponsors	K5AVJ	Lynn Baily	Need Sponsors	W3CKU	James Doyle
Need Sponsors	K5UZ	David Norris	Need Sponsors	W4LSC	Donald Sehulster
Need Sponsors	K8EM	John Guilkey	Need Sponsors	W5SWV	James L. Gaines
Need Sponsors	K9JQ	James L. Quinn	Need Sponsors	WA0MJD	Duane Wyatt
Need Sponsors	KG0RD	Jim Kilby	Need Sponsors	WA2USA	Dennis Martin
Need Sponsors	KT0F	John Muhr	Need Sponsors	WB2MIC	Jozef Hand-Boniakowski
Need Sponsors	N1ZZ	Dan Gravereaux	Need Sponsors	WD1V	John Seney
Need Sponsors	N2SR	Tom Collins	Need Sponsors	WI0T	Rod Landers

For more details about nominees and status, check the “members only” on the Website:

www.cwops.org

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “membership.”