



### CWops Events

On-Air Monthly CWT

Next one: 9 February 2011

Start time:

1100Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (10 February) 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: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

#### Directors:

Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)

Shin Onisawa, [JA1NUT](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

**Webmaster:** John Miller, [K6MM](#)

**Publisher:** Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)

### From the president...



Well here we are, deep in the heart of winter (in the Northern hemisphere, that is) and Connecticut is getting its share of white, and then some.

I have two plus feet of snow with more forecast soon! For the most part, my antennas are up and working – only my 40 meter beam is suffering from some wind-related problems.

January was a rather quiet month although there was some great activity on the weekends in various contests. Those of us who were looking forward to working the Spratley DXpedition were saddened when the announcement about it being cancelled until a later date came. Let's hope our fellow members heading for South Orkneys (VP8ORK) will be successful!

### Looking for good Elmers

One of CWops' most important missions is education, and that includes bringing new operators into the CW ranks and helping those who are just starting down the CW road to greater proficiency and higher speed.

The need for this kind of help was evident in the responses I got to an email I sent to several operators I worked in the Rookie Round-up recently. CWops can fill the void that these new operators face as they try to improve their CW speed and understand operating procedures.

Here are some of the ideas we have developed:

1. Provide a place on [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org) where a newbie can find encouragement and answers. This would be a dedicated Elmer page.
2. Create a pool of CWops members who are willing to provide assistance, would contact the newbie off-air and follow up with regular on-air contacts, email, phone and/or Skype support.
3. Open a dialog with the newbies to get their feedback on what works and what doesn't.

We need your help to make this happen. Do you remember who helped you get started? I had two (W2KMQ and W2YOM) but neither of them were CW operators so I learned by reaching out to others in the traffic handling world which I got into quite by accident.

Now it's our turn to help return that help. We need members around the world to volunteer as Elmers.

What is involved? You will work with new CW operators to help answer questions about CW, operating procedures and all those other questions somebody who is just entering this phase of the hobby might have; just like you did when you got started. How much time will it involve? Probably just a few minutes on an irregular basis but it's up to you and your rookie. You may work with a youngster or with somebody who has just discovered ham radio retirement. (The rookies I got emails from are all in the 30-60 age bracket). What will it cost you? Not a penny, just your willingness to provide guidance, your chance to be a teacher and advisor – and a CW friend.

In addition, we need somebody who would be willing to coordinate this project, a Chief Elmer. It means working behind the scenes to link newbies who register on the CWops website with volunteer Elmers. This Chief Elmer would be the person who sends the first message of welcome to the newbie and introduces him or her to an Elmer. What is important here is a willingness to respond quickly to registrants and to develop common elements for all Elmers to help nascent CW operators improve their skills, learn operating procedures and gain on-air confidence.

This project can make a huge difference in the future of CW and I hope lots of you step forward to be counted. We can do it with your help.

Please send me your thoughts right away. Better yet, let me know you would like to be an Elmer. We'd like to get this program rolling and begin promoting it via various ham radio organizations and publications.

## Washington DC Dinner

May 6-8 is the big gathering in Washington DC. You can get some information and members can sign up here:

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

Non-members can use this URL for information and sign up:

<http://www.cwops.org/DCweekend.html>

The invitation to this event is being spread to many CW-oriented groups, so spread the word. We are hoping for a great turnout!

## Dayton

Plans are underway for another CWops showing at Dayton. If you are going to Dayton and would like to help out, please contact N3JT or N1DG.

That's it for this month – see you on the bands!

73,

*Pete, W1RM*

---

## From the VP/Activities Chairman...



CWops is all about encouraging on the air CW activity and judging from the interest in our mini-CWTs and awards, I'd say that we're quite successful. If you're a regular participant in the mini-CWTs, we'd like your opinion on some proposals we've received from members.

One suggestion is to schedule a second day each month for a mini-CWT. The rationale for this is that some of us enjoy the activity so much we'd like more. Another point of view is that if one's schedule conflicts with the second Wednesday of each month, there's no opportunity to join in the fun. So, here's what we'd like to know:

**Is there interest in scheduling a second day each month with our three mini-CWT events?**

**If so, would you prefer it being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month, or on another day of the week?**

Remember that it is extremely difficult to schedule this on weekends due to so many other conflicting events.

Another idea is to allow QSOs on other bands besides the three we presently support. Presently, the mini-CWTs use 20, 40, and 80. Some have asked us to include 160 in the mix. Others have suggested we use all 6 of the HF bands, from 10 to 160. Sure, 10 and 15 are spotty now, but given the opportunity perhaps some of us will find an opening or two. With the present three-band rules, many operators are running out of stations to contact before the hour is up. What's your opinion?

Please take a few minutes to email your thoughts to me and/or post on the CWops reflector. We'd appreciate some input during February so we can consider these proposals and take whatever action is appropriate in the near future.

A recent post on the CWops reflector by Jim, N3JT, regarding the ease of installing and using the FREE software to track our awards was very interesting. Jim admitted to being less than an expert when it comes to dealing with computers and software. But he successfully downloaded and installed the CAM software developed by N5RR and is using it to report his progress towards our ACA and CMA awards. If Jim can do it, so can you.

Go to our Website and click on the Members Only link ([www.cwops.org/members/index.html](http://www.cwops.org/members/index.html)). You'll need your password to log in. Download the file and follow the directions and you've done it! Then join the many stations that are having fun tracking their progress towards the ACA and CMA awards.

Membership Award. Reports listed reflect all information received through January 26, 2011. Stations with an asterisk \* next to their calls have updated their reports for the 2010 Listing ranked by ACA totals. I'm presenting the final 2010 listing first, followed by the reports for January 2011 afterwards.

**2010 Year  
results**

<b>Call</b>	<b>ACA</b>	<b>CMA</b>
N5RR*	500	1232
W4PM*	460	1102
W5ZR*	458	956
W1RM	443	1008
W1UJ*	430	1020
KZ5D	404	1,027

N3AM*	370	751
K4RO*	367	859
R6AF	347	620
W5SG	344	701
N3JT*	338	664
W6KY*	332	638
K6RB*	300	775
K4AB	298	812
K4GM*	293	377
K6MM	252	515
W2LK	245	370
W6RKC*	226	335
N3WT	224	337
N2UU	223	440
AD1C	212	328
KR3E	208	458
W1UU*	198	389
EA1WX	192	357
K6DGW*	178	
OK1RR*	144	278
EA8AY*	131	241
K5KV	116	185
N5AW	116	116
OK1RR	116	
N3IQ	110	
NN6T	109	

**2011 CW ops**

<b>Call</b>	<b>ACA</b>	<b>CMA</b>
N5RR	171	1326
KZ5D	134	1165
W6KY	120	718
W4BQF	106	340
K6RB	80	
KR3E	77	534
N3JT	77	650
W5ZR	72	992
N3AM	63	778
W1UU	62	389
W6RKC	60	464
K4GM	52	462
W1UJ	52	
K6DGW	43	333
W1RM	40	1022
EA8AY	11	201
OK1RR	2	282
HB9CVQ		479

See you in the mini-CWT on Wednesday, February 9.

73,

Art [KZ5D@aol.com](mailto:KZ5D@aol.com) Activities Team Leader

## From the Editor...



Wow, after we published last month's issue I was inundated with emails saying how much members enjoyed the stories about one another's beginnings and middles in their ham-radio histories. (There are no ends!). This month, I received a bunch of stories, which will follow this column. I love it. Keep it up. Each month, I will try to publish all the stories I've received.

With regard to the Elmer program that Pete wrote about this is a very important program for us, and for CW ham radio. When I was first licensed (1958), 80, 40 and 15 meters had subbands dedicated to novice licensees. Here, we were the blind leading the blind. Remember those CQs that went on for 10 minutes before the guy sent "K?" Like Pete, the Elmers I had early on were not CW types, so I was on my own. I spent a lot of time just listening to QSOs on the general bands trying to get a sense of what those with experience were doing.

After putting some time in on the CQ WW 160 contest on Friday and early Saturday, I decided to move up the 20 meter band (around 14.045 MHz) and work some newbie operators. I cranked the speed down to 25 wpm but sent with longer intervals between elements, so that the actual code speed was more like 10 or 15 wpm. I adjusted my speed to the other guy's sending speed. And, I had a lot of fun. Unlike my early days, these guys have no novice band loaded with newbies eager to get their code speeds up and to upgrade; these guys are few and far between. And, that's a shame.

The CWops Elmer program could make a huge difference. With just a handful of us working newbies at their speed, and teaching by example the proper techniques, we could welcome in a whole new group of CW operators. I don't know about you, but I sure hope if I live to 95, there will still be someone out there with whom I can have a CW QSO. That's not going to happen unless we do two things – attract younger people to ham radio, and convert a bunch of them to CW afficianados.

So, Pete, put me down as a volunteer "Elmer." I'll make the time to contact newbies and help them get their CW legs. And, I hope a bunch of you reading this column do likewise. I know other clubs have tried to get things like this going, but the difference between intention and execution is the difference between fantasy and fact. Let's make CW Elmering a "fact."

And, Art, let me chime in with "I'd love to have a second day of CWT per month, and the fourth Wednesday would be fine with me." The original times were chosen to take advantage of low-band propagation in Asia, Europe and the Americas. So, adding 160 would be fine. But, since several members are doing two or three sessions, it would be fine to add 15, too, for now. Anyway, that's my *dos centavos*.

I've already made my flight and hotel reservations for the DC weekend. I hope to meet and shake lots of hands of CWops members that weekend, too. Having attended the Reno event last August, I can say, first hand, that these CW weekends are a blast. If you are considering it, at all, then go for it. You won't be sorry.

This club is definitely on a roll. I check the Website frequently to see the new members that have been added to the member roster. What a great group! Spread the word. Every time I work a good CWop, I check the roster to see if he's already a member. If not, I ask him if he knows about that club, CWops. Most of the time they say "no." So, I tell them a little bit about it, give them the Website URL, and invite them to email me if they are interested in joining. It works, too. The ones who email me are very likely to be in the next CWT, and end up quickly on the list of nominees.

73,  
Rob K6RB

---

## CWops Member Stories

### Mike Wetzel – W9RE – CWops member 526



I was born, raised and still live in Indianapolis, Indiana. I got interested in radio at age 10 and finally got my ticket at age 13 in 1962. A friend of my dad's (W9VGG), who had a monster vertical and a big AM station got me interested. I operated with two crystals with a DX-60 and an SX-110 with a 40 Meter dipole. I had done SW listening and was always amazed at HCJB signal from Quito.

My first call was WN9BWY, then WA9BWY and finally W9RE in 1976. In the fall of 1963 using a Viking II and an SX-110 on AM, I had a 3-element beam on 15 meters and was tuning around one Saturday evening and ran into short skip to 1, 2 and 3 land and the SS contest. Since I was in demand under those short-skip conditions, I was the hunted and had my first run and it was exciting! The next week I added a micro switch that controlled a relay to automatically flip the plate switch on the Viking II and mute the receiver together for quicker operation.

I distinctly remember the 1963 CQWW SSB contest where I operated a single band, 15 (only yagi antenna), and worked only 50 stations the whole weekend with a few Africans but not a single European in the log.

I was moderately active in traffic handling and was manager of the Indiana traffic net for a while in the 60's before heading off to college in 1966. I met my wife at Purdue and we married in 1970, when I graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. In 1981, Ann was pregnant at the time and I just thought I would stay home until after the baby was born and start my own consulting firm. I started getting a little bit of work here and there and it just continued and



expanded. I am a registered P.E. in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and do plan and specification preparation for commercial and industrial buildings for contractors to bid.

My wife Ann has been super, super understanding of contest operating and tower/antenna building. Since I have worked at home for the last 30 years, I've been able to adjust work schedules and home schedules to fit in with the contests. Ann has also been at home full time so that helps immensely.

K1TN was the one that encouraged me in the beginning.. We had been friends since high school and in the early 1970s Jim lived here in Indy. We both ended up with Signal Ones and I started to put together a station for contesting. In 1972 at a rental house I put up a 64' tower and a triband, 4 element quad, a sloper system for 40 and a zepp for 80. With this modest setup I placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the ARRL DX contest one year and this told me that I could do even better with a little more elaborate setup.

In the 70's I did run some m/m at W9SU and W9ZRX's and got some valuable experience from those operations.

In 1975, we bought nine acres on the southeast side of Indianapolis and built a home. At the time this area was all farmland. A couple of years ago there were 49 sub-divisions under construction at one time here. It used to be a quiet location but now I have many, many houses on all sides of me with their inherent noise which limits me somewhat.

I also started putting up towers that year and now I have 5 towers from 108' to 199' including stacked 4 element 40 M OWA's and an 2 element 80 M yagi (total of 20 yagis). Also, I have 8 circle receive arrays for 80 and 160.

Since about 1986, N9RV and myself have been very good friends and for the years that Pat didn't have a station he also egged me on to put up more antennas and he helped me out here a lot on the antennas.

I have built almost all of my antennas from scratch . The 80 M 2 element Yagi was a project that I started and just had to go ahead and finish. K9XV really helped me with it mechanically as far as design and machine shop knowledge. I never planned for it to be in the air this long (since 2001) without a mechanical failure. It is our own design, weights 350# and was put up in 3 pieces without a crane. In fact no crane has ever been used here although the 4 element 40 OWA's (@199') did take 4 people to erect.

My radio progression has been DX-60/Heath AR-3/SX-110, Viking II, SB-10, TR-4, R-4A, CX7A, TS-930's, IC-781's and now I have a IC-7800.

My main interest has been in contests and from 2004 to 2008 I operated from PJ4R, PJ2T, TI5N, HP1XX, PJ4O, and HC8N for the ARRL CW DX and CQWW CW contests.

My best contesting accomplishments include: the 2000 ARRL DX CW contest, - (stayed up the full 48 hours), barely beat K1ZZ and came in 4<sup>th</sup> coming in 4<sup>th</sup> in the CQWW CW contest (not being a natural CW op that was an accomplishment for me). Teaming with K7JA was memorable at the 1990 WRTC. Unfortunately, it was a bad-conditions contest and we only worked a handful of JA's from Seattle. That is unheard of out there. Being 2<sup>nd</sup> was an accomplishment.

---

### **Shin Onisawa – JA1NUT- CWops 15**



It was late '60s when I was a teen age boy attending school. I always rushed back home as soon as the school was over. It was before the sunset when I got back home in a suburb of Tokyo. There was no one at home since my parents both were working. I was settled down in my room which was literally a narrow shack with only a bed and a desk. I switched on the radio, homebrew ones consisting of aluminum chassis and panels. The tubes lit up softly behind. The mode was only CW. SSB was

beginning to be the dominant mode of communication even in amateur radio. SSB gear was, however, too complicated for a teen-age boy who had only a soldering iron and a tester.

Around that time, early in the evening, it was the bands from 7 to 21MHz that opened to overseas. I preferred 7MHz to the others, where I could work North America. It was only through amateur radio that I could get acquainted and communicate with the people overseas.

What a fantastic and exciting world was open before a teenage boy, through this window, to the other parts of the world! Making use of the knowledge of English I just started to learn at school, it was thrilling for me to talk with them on CW. There was no way to learn foreign languages other than studying at school those days. Maybe, CW activity encouraged me to learn English at school those days.

Those days, CW was the only mode I could operate. But I still loved it very much. My affection for it is still ongoing. The tempo and the rhythm of CW communication might be synchronous to that of thinking, even if we are not conscious of it. That may be the reason why we have been fascinated by this primitive mode of communication throughout our lives.

Well, the signals from North America or Oceania or Siberia were among the other stronger ones to Japan on 7MHz early in evening. Around sunset, they used to peak in strength. On about 7020 KHz, as I guess it was since, my home brew rig was never perfectly calibrated, Ed WA6UNF, later K6NB, and his group were enjoying chatting in QRQ. There were Ted, KH6EFW later K6YN; Trevor, VK2NS; Cy, WB6CFN later K6PA; and Kemp, K7UQH joining that group.

In addition, I could hear a lot of great rag chewers like K6DVD or W7COB. Late at night, Ralph WB6BFR, John, WA5OJG, and the others came on. Merle W6ULS, later K6DC, and a group of big guns were working Europe or Africa through long path. I used to listen to them for long periods of time.

It didn't take me months before I could not bear just listening. Despite my small set up, some 50W into a vertical, I started calling them when the conditions permitted. The above-mentioned old men used to be willing to respond to this new comer in Far East. Among them, I remember Ralph, WB6BFR, with the deepest gratitude. He usually worked me in slow CW on a regular basis. It took some patience dealing with this beginning rag chewer. It was Merle, W6ULS, who used to break in me telling to go to bed when I stayed up late at night.

Of course, he was kidding this new comer. He used to have regular schedule QSOs with ZS guys, where I sometimes asked him to let me join. It was real excitement for me to sit at the great round table all over the world. All of these old timers were kind enough to me, a beginning CW operator in East Asia. I believe it was possible only through CW, where we felt strongly bonded to each other. Most of them have already gone silent key but still remain as real Elmer(s) in my memory.

Until the '90s, we could hear the remnant of the good old days. As every CW operator knows, at the turn of the new century, the aging in amateur radio population, the disuse of CW in commercial communications, as well as the trend to abolish the requirement of CW skill for the licensees, have made CW in amateur radio less active. It is becoming more and more difficult for me to find someone to make "a casual contact" on this mode, even though my set up has been much upgraded. I seldom have replies to many CQs in a row, whereas I used to get many replies on weekend evenings until the '90s.

I wonder if CW will disappear and will be regarded as a historical mode of communication in the near future. This is a pretty serious question to me. It seems difficult for me to deny that it may go that way. We should, however, do our best not to have it come true. For we have all spent some part of our lives perpetuating the CW communications in the past. Shall we just let it go away? Definitely not! I believe CW deserves spending much effort and time to keep it vibrant. It should be taken over by young people and be delivered to the next generation. How can we make sure that this happens?

First, we should remember the pleasure of CW communication. CW has been a great window open to the other parts of the world, which enabled me to have so many good Elmers as well as friends all over the world. In a mailing list, someone researched what beginners of this mode want. One of their answers attracted my attention, which says they have only a few Elmers to help them get trained. As I have already written, I was lucky to have good Elmers and friends in overseas in the good old days. Nowadays, such a joining with old timers might scarcely occur for those just starting CW.

I would like to ask you to be a good CW Elmer for a beginner. Our knowledge of the value of CW is a big help in becoming an Elmer. As a CW operator living in an area of the world where English is not spoken as a mother tongue, I hope those from English speaking countries will take the lead in our Elmering project for the beginners.

Second, what is the essence of pleasure in this primitive mode of communication? It requires quite a bit of practice, as well as specialized equipment (paddle, keyer, bug, hand key). The practice can be really laborious. But, there are so many benefits. As I posted in the CWops reflector, some medical research has revealed that the ability to decode CW reception is closely linked to the reading function in our brain. CW sending skill also requires the same kind of ability as well as the ability to summarize what we say in abbreviated fashion. CW's tempo and rhythm closely resemble writing ability, I believe. These aspects of CW are closely related to intellectual activities, and should be stressed to those who are starting to be interested in this mode. It might encourage them to learn it.

Lastly, I want you to remember the paths from East Asia to the other parts of the world, especially to Western Europe and North America, are often quite tough. Our signals to those areas undergo much absorption in the Arctic area, as you know. Time difference also makes it a little tough to make contacts. Remember, a number of beginners who are enthusiastic about learning CW, are keeping their ears open for you.

---

#### **Dani Yaari – 4X1FC- CWops member 49**



I was born in 1941 in Rome Italy, and given name was Fabio Giarri. But on arrival to 4X-land, for some complex reasons, I received the name Daniel Yaari.

As I was raised in places close to water, first near the Sea of Galilee, and thereafter near the eastern Mediterranean coast line, it was ordained that my hobby included *paddles* and *waves* surfing, but also a lot of sails and swimming. In elementary school, and even during the high school, learning physics and electricity, I had no clue that *paddles* and *waves* may



mean very different things. Around the time I was drafted for the army service, I saw a movie where the actor Tony Curtis was carrying a radio transceiver, as a marine, on one of the pacific islands. That scene piqued my interest and led me to spend more time tuning the “green eye” of our domestic broadcasts receiver.

Doing so, I encountered the clicks of the Morse code. With growing interest, and investigating the matter, I went to a local

radio service shop, where the owner was a ham, and he built me a BFO pitch oscillator with which I was able to read the CW stations that penetrated the broadcast receiver. It was a `love from first date` and, thus, I learned the CW code all by myself.



Being drafted to the army service, I was asked if I have any preference among three or four options before me, and without any hesitation I chose to be a radio operator. During those years (1959-1961), it was mainly CW, and after a six-month course, I graduated as a Radio Operator, and after further courses, I became also a cryptologist. I spent my first Radio Career, mostly, in a commando patrol unit, operating all versions of the 19-set (190/191/192...) on a command

car with the key strapped to my leg.

After the army service I found a job that called for proficiency in radio operation, but also trained me to qualify for its special requirements in radio-communication. The job was for the Ministry of Communication. In the early 1960s there were not many undersea communications cables and no satellites, so most of the international communication was on HF.

My job was to monitor all point-to-point radio links carrying all modes and all the country traffic to the world. That required a continual change of frequencies, antennas, receivers and transmitters. Where I controlled all those was called a Terminal Station, where I was orchestrating at least three, well-separated receiving antenna fields, transmitting antenna fields and remote-operated transmitters and receivers.

It required understanding HF radio propagation and foreseeing a change before degradation in quality of the mode on use would occur. That job was my second career in radio; it has to do a lot with waves but not with paddles. Being a government job it was poorly paid, but it was a great hobby.

Young and healthy, I was seeking to see the world and make more money, thus my roots in sea water, and interest in radio, directed me to study and acquire a Merchant Marine Radio Officer license. At that time, it was also called “Sparky”, “P.M.G” or “Proficiency in radiotelegraphy”. That ticket put me on various vessels for about nine years and circumnavigating the globe at least twice. That may be counted as my third career with a lot of *paddles* and *waves*. Still, I did not think about ham radio. In the eyes of a healthy man that can row, swim and surf, it looked insane to use your trade as a hobby on your free time.



In 1973 I completed a study of junior electronic engineering, but also was drafted to serve as a radio operator in a tanks unit during the war that year. I came out partly disabled. Still, in a wheel chair, presuming that I would not be able to go back to maritime mobile radio; I started my interest in ham radio. After a surprisingly quick recovery, I started a 30-year career of practical seamanship instructor and a teacher for maritime communication and navigational aids in a nautical school.

In 1976 I was offered a job, of a one way voyage, from Hobart Tasmania to Amsterdam Holland. It was only a three-month voyage, but almost anything that may happen did happen on the that vessel. It was a small bulk carrier of a New-Zealand Union company and its name was “Union Trans Tasman,” call sign ZMPT, later changed to 4XYP. That voyage is worth a

book on its own, and it was the last voyage that I made as the sole Radio Officer.

During my 30 years as an instructor and teacher I made a lot of voyages but mainly on whale boats and a sailing yacht skipper, or as an instructor with students on merchant marine cargo ships. These were years with a lot, of both types, of *paddles* and *waves*.

In 1973 I received a ham license, 4Z4OL, but it was not until 1976 that I bought my first station. Radio Officers were granted an extra class ham license after a temporary one-year second class. Around the late 1980s, all extra classes were allocated a “1” after the 4X prefix, and as I was allowed to choose my own suffix, I quickly found that F and C are the best on my preferred CW Iambic mode, thus, I became 4X1FC.

In 1999, when the Morse code was about to cease being an official mode for international communications, and the Radio Officers were a vanishing people of the seas, I went to a course for acquiring the General Operator Certificate (GOC) for operating the equipment of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). I never had the chance to operate, at sea, the full extent of the system. I retired in 2003 and until 2007 worked as an examiner for the written part of yachts masters and all other small vessel licensing categories. Now, approaching the age

of 70 with a cluster of health problems, it is the ham radio and, especially the CW *paddles* and *waves* that maintain my sanity...so, see you on the bands.

---

### **John Wightman – ZL1AH – CWops member 25**

I am 91 and have lived in Tauranga, New Zealand for the past sixty years. I am a retired teacher.

I grew up in the 1920's, a time in the UK when public broadcasting was expanding and almost every household had a "crystal set", (galena, not quartz.) Progress meant that battery-powered TRF receivers came next and then mains-powered *superhets*.

I was fascinated from an early age by this technology and every time we upgraded, I inherited the obsolete gear. As my father, grandfather and great grandfather were all professional engineers, I suppose it was inevitable that, as soon as I inherited the previous stuff, I pulled it to pieces and rebuilt an 'improved' version. I built my first crystal set at age 10 and a "one-lung" receiver a couple of years later (with swinging-coil regeneration, no less!). I now had the BC stations of Europe at my fingertips and got a great kick out of being able to dig out some of the low-powered ones.

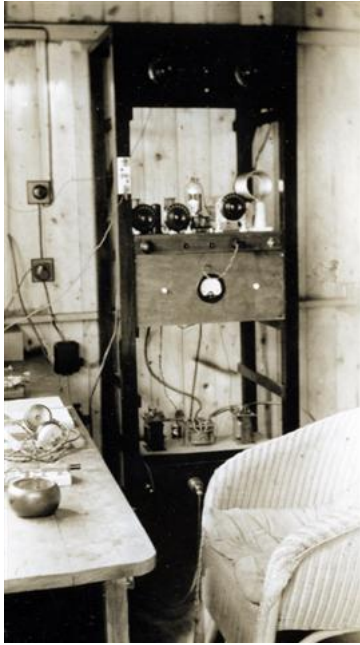
I was reading about these fascinating "short" waves but could not persuade my little receiver to oscillate down there. Salvation came in the shape of a 14-year old "expert" who showed me how to decouple the antenna using a small capacitor. This for me was like Hubble was to the astronomers. The thrill of listening to BC stations like W2XAF, W9XK and VK3ME was followed by the discovery of 20 m AM phone DX.

I found that I needed to learn morse in order to obtain a license. In the 1930's there were many commercial CW stations active and the majority had a "dog in the manger" complex. When they were not sending traffic, they made sure that no-one else got to use "their" frequency by sending VVV de G\*\*, VVV de G\*\* on an endless loop. The repetition meant that I could learn one letter at a time and I guess I got up to about 5 wpm. I was pointed in the direction of the late Les Baxter, G8HG, who was running morse classes, and he got me up to the required 12 wpm.

I was first licensed as a teenager with my widowed mother as licensee and myself as the designated operator. (In those days, in the UK, no-one under 21 years of age was permitted to hold a transmitting license.) I was issued the call-sign 2AOV. (British "Artificial Aerial" License.) This was in June, 1936.

My first full call, issued in 1937, was G3AH. And, my first rig was a Type 59 crystal oscillator and 210 power amplifier; and the old one-lung RX. By 1938 I had upgraded to a 6L6 electron-coupled oscillator and Taylor T20 power amplifier. My first commercial gear was a Hallicrafters Sky Champion and my keys included a L. S. Brach J-7-A "Flameproof" and, in 1938, a McElroy bug, both of which I still possess. My antenna was either an AOG or W3EDP.





These days I use an ICOM 7600, AT1500BAL and vertical dipole for 40 thru 10 fed with ladder line. My keys are a HiMound straight and W9WBL V22 paddle.

I arrived in New Zealand in January 1951 and was fortunate to find that the same AH suffix was available. So, after a break of only a few months operating as G3AH I began operating as ZL1AH. I was very lucky to be able to have an antenna farm on high ground, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, for 35 years, where I had wide-spaced quads and vee beams. My late wife's long illness and my advancing age forced a move into town, but I am lucky that I can still work DX whenever the sun allows a lift in the SFI.

Where do I go from here? Well, that's a bit of a laugh - to use the ZL idiom, I have one foot in the grave and the other on a banana skin, but life is still good. I get a great deal of enjoyment out of the careers of my grandchildren and I get on the air most days. I tell my friends that the last trumpet will not awaken me. What will pluck me from my grave will be the sound of a watery CW signal, signing with the call of that rare IOTA that I need.



Some other notable historical information:

I joined RAF Volunteer Reserve 1938 and was in the War Service from 1939 – 1946 with RAF, as a Wireless Operator/Mechanic, and Radar Mechanic.

With NZART, I was a former committee member, secretary, president and branch delegate for Branch 39, and a CW operator at

Branch 39 portable station on field days. I am also the instigator, designer and first custodian of the Bay of Plenty Award.

I achieved top ZL CW scores in the VK/ZL DX Contest over a period of eleven consecutive years from 1953 to 1963, using no more than 90 watts input. (I built my first linear in 1964, and then retired from competition.)



I won the Auckland Short Wave Cup (CW only) in the Memorial Contest for six years, between 1953 and 1959. (Second in 1958.) I also had the first ZL/W (1951), ZL/G (1953) two-way contacts on 160 meters. (Reported in "The Story of 160 meters" by Stewart Perry, W1BB.)

I was dogsbody at RSGB Field Day stations in 1936 – 37, and CW operator RSGB Field Day stations in 1938 – 39 and 1947 – 49. I was on the Member Organizing Committee of RSGB for the National Convention in 1949.

I earned DXCC from both G3AH and ZL1AH. My last appearance on Honor Roll was in 1988. I have not updated since ARRL started charging US\$50 per application. (This is not a complaint. I realize ARRL have to live within budget, just as most of us do.)

---

### Lee Kerbel – W4EDE – CWops member 30



There I was, home at 11 years old...with the chicken pox rash all over me and bored out of my mind. Roaming around the house I stopped in front of our “living room fortress” radio and phonograph console. I looked at it carefully and recognized all the control switches and dial indications with the exception of one. It said “SW, MW, LW.”

I kind of wondered what that stuff mean, so I pulled up a chair, turned it on, and when I heard a local station, I turned the switch to SW, and was startled by the static, squeals and other assorted noises. I turned the tuning knob and all of a sudden there was a tremendously loud voice saying “This is W4RYE, Alexandria Virginia, so I listened for a while and heard this voice talking to a station in Germany. Wow!

I wrote down W4RYE and asked my Dad what it meant. He said it was a ham radio operator and if I wanted to know more, I should call the FCC. I did. I called the operator, gave her the name and address and she gave me the telephone number. And, I dialed him. Wow! What a response.

He told me he was a retired army sergeant and he was on Ham Radio. And, he invited me to visit him so I could see what it was all about. So, measles gone, my mom took me over to his house, about 10 minutes from where we lived, and left me off. I was greeted at the door by an enormous German shepherd dog and learned that Master Sergeant Dee DeRemier was totally blind!

He called me into his shack and what an impact. I'd no idea what I was looking at, but lights, meters, dials, noise...unbelievable! Later I learned I was looking at the leading edge of technology: an HRO-50, Collins 32V1 and 75A1, phone patch, assorted thingamabobs, cables, wires; it wassomething out of a science fiction comic book! And, he told me to go outside for a moment, he had a 50' self-supporting, what looked like a windmill tower with a great big Telrex beam on it which he rotated to show me that it could be pointed where he wanted to communicate. Dee became my mentor.

One afternoon I was on the school playground watching an old fellow playing with a flying model airplane, but with no control wires - it was an RC model - and really cool. He told me he was a ham radio operator and his thing was experimenting with VHF and UHF FM (whatever that was!). His call was W4TKZ, Stan Potter. He invited me to his basement lab where I saw a display of every imaginable kind of test equipment and ham gear all over his bench, shelves, everywhere, and tucked away in a corner a Collins KW1.

Stan became a more active mentor, and after driving him nuts with every possible question and learning about his RC escapement inventions (he had many of them, in fact, one of his early RC models is on display at the Smithsonian Air and Space museum) he offered to help me along with building a transmitter if I'd go for my Novice ticket.



WN4EDE took to the air February 1954 with the Home Brew 117N7 line voltage rectifier and triode crystal oscillator which Stan had drawn-up for me to make and oversaw its construction, what a thrill! It put out about 2 – 3 watts, just about enough to light a wheat-grain neon lamp to tune it with. By that time, my Dad saw that I was really wrapped up in this and bought me my first receiver, an S40B. My very first 40 meter CW contact with this set-up , with a random length of wire tossed out of our attic window to a tree in the side yard, was Dan Latta, W4DQQ , who at that time lived across town. I can still feel the sweat pouring off me with the nerves this QSO generated. But, what a hoot! Dan by the way moved to Orlando many years ago and became the Mayor of Kississimee, Florida.

From that time it's been a wonderful succession of all kinds of rigs and antennas. Command Transmitters and Receivers, BC-348, Emco 807's, Elmac AF67 and Gonset Twins in my '55 Ford Sunliner convertible with a Webster Bandspanner, a Harvey Wells TBS-50, Johnson Viking Ranger, later a new SX-71, home-brew amps including 833-A's, 450-TL's, 4-1000-A then the culmination of fantasies, a complete Collins S-line, the first series HyGain (Dixie Cup) 3 element beam, later Th6-DXX given me by the Andros brothers, then later still a Mosley Pro-57 on 50 feet of Rhon 25 and a Ham-M. I had lots and lots of fun over these years. And lots of memories of driving neighbors nuts with TVI going right into their 21MHZ TV IFs. And worse yet,

putting a surplus T-350XM on the air with the help of another wonderful mentor, Lynn Wilson, W4JXD...neighbors literally screamed at me from across the street! I was less than the most popular teenager on the block!

I got involved with the Red Cross with Hurricane emergency communications which was fascinating. Later, I was asked to set-up emergency communications immediately following the devastating earthquake in Nicaragua, Christmas Eve 1970 and was given the ARRL Public Service award for the service provided.

And, I had plenty of CW fun while a happy young Navy Radioman at NWP7...admiral's staff communications. And, even got the chance to fly as a radio-op on the WV-2 Radar Picket aircraft on barrier missions from VO1 to Lajes AFB in the Azores. From Argentina, Newfoundland, later to Puerto La Cruz Venezuela, lots of QSO's

I've been privileged to have been associated with some real radio pioneers in my career, such as i Gerald Connup Gross, ex-Secretary General of the ITU, Dr. C.M. Jansky, co-founder of Jansky and Bailey Consulting Engineers, George Jacobs Director, Frequency Division of the Voice of America and editor of the CQ Magazine Propagation column for over 50 years, Bill Halstead and Sol Taishoff, Owner and Publisher of Broadcasting Magazine. Some of the companies I've worked for over the years include TMC Systems, TMC, Inc., Swager Tower Corp., Telecommunication Consultants International, Racal Communications Inc. and Page Communication Engineers.

I'm privileged and honored to be associated with CWops and operate now from my ocean side QTH of Sunny Isles Beach, Florida where I'm QRV from 160 up with my FT-1000D and balcony mounted TarHeel at 200 feet up.

It's been 57 unbroken years of Radio Fun...and it's a fact...if I can't have a CW QSO a day, I practically go into withdrawal!

This is a great hobby with even greater people.

---

### **Steve Bolia – N8BJQ – CWops member 103**



I first got interested in radio in the early 1960's. My father had an old shortwave receiver in our basement and I spent hours listening to faraway places. I could hear broadcast stations in Europe and South America and heard some hams (did not know what they were at the time, and now I am one) sending Morse Code.

In 1968, I enlisted in the USAF and left for basic training a couple of days before my draft notice came in the mail. I served for 22 years

working mostly with aircrew training and acceleration research. For the first few years money was scarce so my radio interests were on standby. In 1977 DARA (Dayton Amateur Radio Association) advertised Novice classes so I signed up. I I I

I went faithfully every week and practiced at home with a straight key and a code oscillator. At the end of the course I passed the Novice test and received my first call (KA8AZN) a few weeks later.

My first rig was a Yaesu FT101EE and a 40M dipole. I was on the air right away and worked my first DX station (an XE on 40CW). Once the DX bug bit, I was hooked. I worked DXCC as a novice, mostly on 15CW, and discovered the ARRL Sweepstakes. After that, the contesting bug bit me. It was a great way to work lots of stations and lots of DX.

After a couple of years as KA8AZN I upgraded and my call changed to N8BJQ. Around 1980 or so, I moved to a new QTH which allowed me to put up my first tower (40') with a small tribander and some wires for the low bands. I had not been there very long when I found out I was not the only ham in the neighborhood. Every phone contest I tried, I would get QRM'ed by this incredibly loud station who called CQ for what seemed like hours on end.

After a couple of contests he invited me over one evening. That was my first encounter with W8IMZ, and as it turned out, changed my life. No it was not a religious experience. Bernie had a big tower (90' or so), a complete Drake 7 line station with a L7 and some decent antennas. CW was not his thing, so he invited me to operate his station in some CW contests (CQ160 CW and CQWW CW).

I was like a kid in a candy store with all the neat Drake stuff. If you worked W8IMZ in a CW contest in the early 1980's, it was probably me. At that time Bernie was also the CQ WPX Contest director and enlisted me to help him check logs. I can remember sitting at his dining room table until the wee hours of the morning, several nights a week, going through paper logs. During this time, I had one of the Radio Shack TRS-80 computers and had a log-duping program so I got to dupe lots of the big logs. It was kind of primitive but it worked.

In 1982 I was asked to take over the WPX Contest when Bernie retired. Without thinking, I said "yes" and I held that job for the next 20 years. After 18 years of defending Dayton OH, the USAF decided I should move to Edwards AFB for a couple of years. I enjoyed my time as a W6, but operating with 100 watts and a butternut vertical in the middle of the desert left a lot to be desired.

After two years in the desert, I was transferred back to Dayton. I put up tower on a quarter-acre lot with a small tribander and some wires in trees. I worked lots of DX and also my neighbor's telephone. I retired a couple of years later, after 22 years of defending the homeland (somebody had to do it), and went back to my same job as a contractor for General Dynamics.

About this time, I inherited the Hamvention DX Forum Moderator job, which I did for several years. I also got involved with the SWODXA DX Dinner and ended up coordinating it for close to 15 years. Both were lots of fun - I got to meet lots of memorable personalities. I was still doing the WPX contest thing as well.

In the mid 1980's I made a couple of mini-contest DXpeditions for CQWW SSB to zone 2 (a 20 hour drive from Dayton) and then a trip to Wake Island with AH2BE. In the 1990's I made six or seven trips to St Lucia to operate with the J6DX group.

In 1998, I took the plunge and moved out of the city to a place in the country. I found a nice house with 22 acres and not many neighbors for a good price. We moved in in September, and N8NR and I got up the first tower and put the first antenna up on Christmas Eve in some light snow. A tribander at 115' was an order of magnitude better than my previous efforts on city lots.

My next DX efforts were as a member of the PJ2T group. I think I made nine or 10 trips there, including a memorable two weeks in the middle of the summer to put up the towers and most of the big antennas. Being the one with the weak mind and the strong back, I was the ground crew while W0CG and N8NR did the installations.

In 2007, I was part of the BX0ZR operation with W8UVZ and W9ZR. This was a primarily a low-band operation although the Chinese dragon and some poor conditions made our lives difficult. I did get to work 40 - 10 primarily on CW and RTTY.



Over time, the antenna farm has grown to a second tower (80') and 4-element yagi's for 10, 15 and 20. The original 100' tower has three tribanders (bottom two fixed on EU) and a 2-element 40 at 100 feet.

Probably 85 percent of my operating is on CW, mostly DXing and contesting. Still chasing 5BWAZ (need Zone 26 to finish) and P5 and ZS8 on CW to have them all worked on CW. I'm getting more into RTTY contesting, which is getting more popular every year.

I've spent most of the past 5 years travelling as part of my present job. I work for a company that makes most of the helmets and oxygen masks and other life support equipment for all of the US military, and I currently do testing and aircraft integration for them.

---

## Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	<b>AE7I</b>	<b>Craig Sande</b>
Need Sponsors	<b>K5VR</b>	<b>Stan Ross</b>
Need Sponsors	<b>K7JA</b>	<b>Chlp Margelli</b>
Need Sponsors	<b>NS8V</b>	<b>Paul H Sorensen</b>

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

[www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org)

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