The International CWops Newsletter

September





CWops "CWT"

3, 14, 28 September 2011

Start time:

1300Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (11, 25 Aug) NA region

1-hour each region

Exchange name/number (members)

Exchange name/SPC (non-members)

CWops "ragchew bash"

Immediately following each CWT at 1400Z, 2000Z and 0400Z

CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028, 50.098

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...

Hurricane Irene is almost here. We've had some showers in advance of the main body which is expected to hit this area on Sunday. I hope the damage will be less that what's being predicted!

August was an exciting month with the inaugural run of the CW Open and the launching of the CW Academy and a new dues structure.

Elections

In September I will be putting out a call for a nominating committee for our elections to be held in November. Last year, we elected a President, Secretary and Director. This year, we will elect a Vice President and another Director.

If you are interested in either position or would like to serve on the nominating committee, please let me know.

CW Open

By all reports, the first CW Open was a great success. But not without a few lessons learned. Two other events being held that weekend provided far more impact than had originally been thought.

This, in turn, has the CWO team looking at different dates for next year and beyond. You will read more about the CWO elsewhere in this issue.

CW Academy

We continue to sign up advisors as well as students.

I am very pleased that a number of members are not only signed up to be advisors but they are sharing their knowledge and experience with other advisors. But we can use more, especially from countries where English is not the native language. Sharing your knowledge and love of CW is a good thing and passing it on to the next generation is a great way to keep CW alive.

A special thanks to Luis, EA8AY, who translated the information about the academy into Spanish and has created a separate reflector for Spanish-speaking participants. Jay, W5JQ and Rob, K6RB will provide more details on where we are elsewhere in this issue.

New Dues Structure

As was announced in a special email to all members, the board has approved a new dues payment structure for 2012 and beyond. To make it easier for members wishing to pay for multiple years, we now have a 1, 5 and lifetime membership option that can be selected on the PayPal dues payment page. Members wishing to pay by check can do that as well. At last count, we have 33 life members and more on the way I'm sure.

Rag Chewing

There have been various discussions on the reflector about rag chewing and the need for more on-air activity. We've tried a few things, like the happy hour, but that doesn't work for everyone. Now, a small group is looking at ways to spur more chats. Stay tuned for more details. Meanwhile, those of you who participate in the CWTs should consider hanging around after the game and either calling or answering a ragchew CQ. Those of you who are not inclined to participate in CWT but enjoy ragchewing should fire up your stations at the end of a CWT session. That's one way to kick off a flurry of ragchew QSOs.

That's it for now, see you on the bands!

73, Pete, W1RM

CW Academy

CW Academy is off and running. We currently have almost a two dozen students paired with volunteer advisors. I think that it is worthy to let the membership know who our advisors are: W0SJS, K4MSG, K6MM, NC4D, W0UCE, N3WT, N5IR, N6XI, K0RO, N8AA, and EA8AY. Thank you all for your time and effort. Special kudos goes to Luis, EA8AY as he currently is working with over ten EA stations! I know many of our advisors that are on standby are eager to get into the game; but Rob and I can't get you paired up without the students coming into the program.

We need to get the word out to the amateur community about CW Academy. We are working on a QST ad, as well as EHam and QRZ. Hopefully, this will help swell the ranks. We also could listen more in the old novice sub-bands that we are promoting for student activity. I have tuned across those bands frequently, especially 40 meters in the evenings, and heard and answered a few CQ's, but the activity is minimal. Maybe members ragchewing with members around 20 wpm on these sub-bands could ignite potential student activity. And, as always, if you have suggestions on how we can make the Academy more effective, don't hesitate to send Rob or me and email.

Jay, W5JQ

Rob, K6RB

The CW Open

The first of anything is always subject to things that go right...and things that go wrong. CW OPEN was no exception. But, if we are honest about it, there were far more things that went right than went wrong.

So, let's look at the "wrong" side of the column. Overall, propagation was not great. There was little opportunity to use 10 meters, for example. And, in choosing the date for the event, we tried to pick a weekend that would have no major CW contests. We missed the "keyman" in our calculation; and the RDA turned out to be a bigger event than we anticipated, too. As a result, our participation from both JA and EU was underwhelming

On the "right" side, though, there was a lot of pre-contest publicity, there was excellent support among popular contest loggers, the log submission page worked flawlessly, and each event started with a decent amount of participation.

We are still mulling over how we want to do the second running of CW OPEN. For sure, we will explore doing it on a weekend with less conflict. But, overall, the feedback we've been getting seems to affirm that our choice of doing three events, with 4-hour durations, and a simple exchange and scoring format, was a winner.

Now, we are working diligently to adjudicate the submitted logs, to remind other people to submit their logs before the deadline of September 5, and to analyze the data to gain further insight into how to improve CW OPEN in the future.

We (Alan and Rob) would like to thank all the logging software people who helped make CW OPEN possible. We'd like to thank Bruce Horn for supporting the event on his calendar and with his log submission page. Thank you to the clubs that publicized CW OPEN on their Websites and reflectors. And, thank you, ICOM, for sponsoring the awards and publicizing the event in your September QST advertisement. Most of all, we want to thank all of you who participated in CW OPEN and spread the word among your ham friends and clubs.

Alan, AD6E

Rob, K6RB

ACA/CMA REPORT

Call	ACA	CMA
N5RR*	474	1771
N5AW*	462	1163
KZ5D*	430	1711
SM6CNN*	409	1253
W1RM*	402	1427
W4AU	349	712
DJ1OJ*	319	938
W6KY*	317	970
EA8AY*	315	750
N3JT	295	920

W1UJ	284	1150
DL8PG*	264	433
VE3KI*	258	689
N2UU	253	837
W5ZR	246	1133
AD1C*	239	578
W1UU	237	650
W2LK*	209	642
EA1WX	207	619
V31JP	200	318
KR3E	189	662
W5ASP*	186	300
K6RB	184	898
NN6T*	181	379
K6DGW*	177	523
W4PM	173	1281
N1ZX	172	269
K2VCO	154	462
W6RKC	148	557
OK1RR*	130	402
VU2PTT	123	273
W4BQF	106	340
N5TM	90	215
K4GM	84	543
KC0VKN*	77	192



From the editor

I am so proud of this club and its members. Together we pulled off a very successful CW OPEN and inaugurated CW Academy. CW OPEN for 2011 is over but CW Academy is just beginning. Jay has already begun the pairing off of students and advisors, and we've already begun getting reports of successful engagements on the air. Way to go!

So, what's the next area of focus? There is certainly interest in informal, ragchew-type activity, and we want to encourage it. However, unlike CWT and CWO, ragchewing is hard to organize. We are hashing through some suggestions but also honoring some sentiments, such as those by Gary, W5ZL, who said that ragchewing QSOs should be left more to our individual discretion.

I agree with Gary that trying to organize ragchewing is a little like those dances that we had in junior high, where the guys stood on one side of the gym, and the girls stood on the other, and the teachers just looked frustrated.

That said, though, I had a little epiphany. Why not suggest that participants in CWT hang around after it's over and do an informal QSO or two? And, for those members who don't like contest-like activities, but do like to ragchew, why not encourage them to fire up their stations and get on right at the tail end of CWT and either CQ or answer a CQ?

This weekend, we have one of our seven weekend CWTs. I'm going to hang around after each one and engage in at least one QSO schmooze session. I'd love to find out that several others did the same. Rather than organizing a ragchew session; this is simply taking advantage of members being on the air, already. What I'm hoping is that some members who are more comfortable doing snappy contest-like operation may find that informal QSOing is both interesting and fun. And, some of those who prefer the informal QSO may listen in to the tail end of CWT and even give out a couple of points before it ends. Maybe, they'll even come earlier, the next time, and...you get the point. I'm thinking cross pollination.

Can you imagine a CWT with 200 participants playing in it? What a lovely thing that would be. And, afterward, for 10 minutes, or a half hour, imagine those same frequencies that were recently jumping with CWT activity now being used to schmooze. I have a dream....

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	EA8DP	H. Montelongo Rivero
Need Sponsors	G7VJR	Michael Wells
Need Sponsors	OD5NJ	Gabe Mardiros
Need Sponsors	OK6DJ	David Beran
Need Sponsors	W6CL	Carol Lynch

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."