



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

March

2012

Issue No. 26



CWops "CWT"

14, 28 March 2012

Start time:

- 1300Z
- 1900Z
- 0300Z (9/23 Feb.)

1-hour each session

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, 50.098

CWops Officers and Director

Officers

President: Pete Chamalian, [W1RM](#)

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

Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

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Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

Nodir Tursoon-Zade , [EY8MM](#)

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)

Editor/Publisher: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)



From the president...

February has been an "exciting" month for me. On February 21, I suffered some severe chest pains and after a trip to my doctor was taken by ambulance to the nearest hospital emergency room. A quick diagnosis had me undergoing an angiogram which showed some partial blockages in my heart arteries. Two stents were installed. I was lucky – I had not had a heart attack, just a scare.

I'm going to be OK. The message I want to share with each of you is to take good care of yourself. I was eating a heart healthy diet (but not getting a lot of exercise) and it caught up with me. I hope that you won't suffer the same fate. Eat smart, lose weight, cut down on salt, exercise a bit, even if it's just to walk every day and remember that brass pounding does not constitute cardiovascular exercise!

CW Weekend in DC – May 4-6

Please click on the URL below. We are having our annual CW weekend in the DC area in early May. We have arranged a super hotel rate and there will be at least 3 organized meal gatherings!

In between you can chat with other members and non-member CW operators, see the local sights (of which there are zillions), and just have a fun getaway. It's one of those few ham events that the whole family (especially XYL/OM) can enjoy together. Everyone always has a grand time!

If your calendar is open for that weekend, do consider making the trip. We are expecting a nice turnout.

www.cwops.org/events.html

CW Academy

There are a number of things (all good) happening with the CW Academy that I want to share with you.

1. Rob, K6RB is stepping down as assistant manager so he can focus his attention on some other CWops projects which we will be announcing later. I want to thank Rob for his incredible support and effort on behalf of the CW Academy.
2. Jack, W0UCE will be the new co-manager of the CW Academy along with Jay, W5JQ. Jack has a wealth of experience in this area and we welcome his help. One of his first tasks is to prepare an instructor's guide that will be made available to all instructors so everyone can be on the same page.
3. We are planning some promotion for the CW Academy which may include some advertising. More on this later as we begin to roll this effort out.
4. The CW Academy home page will have some new, updated text and a link to a new audio presentation created by Ed, KR3E which extols CW.

With all this activity, we need more instructors! If you have thought about it but not signed up, please do. If you want more information about what your responsibilities would be, contact cwacademy@cwops.org.

The Academy is our flagship – the major point of difference that CWops has that no other organization does. Through it we can make a difference and help budding CW operators develop into good ops!

73,

Pete, W1RM

From the VP:

ACA/CMA Report

| Call | ACA | CMA |
|--------|-----|------|
| KZ5D* | 286 | 2047 |
| N5RR* | 276 | 2188 |
| W1RM* | 258 | 1921 |
| N2UU* | 214 | 1249 |
| EA8OM* | 201 | 1376 |
| VE3KI* | 195 | 1317 |
| W1UU* | 170 | 938 |
| K6RB* | 156 | 1453 |
| AA3B | 152 | 2735 |
| W5ASP | 132 | 638 |
| NN6T* | 93 | 533 |
| KR3E* | 89 | 897 |
| W6KY* | 68 | 1147 |
| K6DGW* | 66 | 698 |
| W4VQ* | | 466 |

* = updated totals

73,

Art, KZ5D

From the secretary

NEW MEMBERS REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our Club. Those with asterisks are LIFE members! Congratulations to all!

| | | |
|------|--------|--------|
| 1019 | AD0DX | Ron |
| 1020 | SM0AIG | Ingo |
| 1021 | KR7C* | Stan |
| 1022 | N1KW* | Bob |
| 1023 | W4BUW | George |
| 1024 | K4ORD | Riley |
| 1025 | VE3RIA | Drew |
| 1026 | AC2FA | Bob |
| 1027 | K2NV | Tony |
| 1028 | WA3NZR | JJ |
| 1029 | VK6HG* | Rob |
| 1030 | N1BG | Fred |

* = Life Member

73,

Jim, N3JT

From the editor



One of the greatest things about ham radio is the friends you make and keep over the years. One of the saddest things about ham radio is when you lose one of those friends. In February, I lost two. Both of them were also members of CWops.

I've known Joe Keese for several years. He was a true 'old timer.' Joe had been pounding brass for long before I was born. He was 96 years old. I knew Joe as a really competent CW man and was pleased to hear him poking around in a CWT over a year ago. "Joe MI" he sent me, and I sent him "Rob 3." "How do I get my number?" he asked. So, I put CWT on hold and explained to Joe about the club, its mission, and membership process.

Joe told me he was no longer able to read because he was legally blind, so filling out an application was a non-starter even if he managed to get his sponsors. So, I filled it out for him after having nominated him and seeing a bunch of sponsors jump right in. I also paid Joe's dues because I knew

he would not be able to use PayPal. I was probably just as happy as Joe when he got his number – 891. I congratulated him that next week when he called me in CWT and gave me “Joe 891.”

I never met Joe but over the years he and I developed a nice, close, ham-radio friendship. I’m going to miss hearing his “W8VSK Joe 891.” Rest in peace, Joe, you earned it, pal.

My other friend, Gary, W5ZL CWops 126, was also a special guy. I had worked Gary over many years but met him, for the first time, at a ham club weekend in Lafayette Louisiana. I was really stunned at Dayton last May to find out that Gary had been diagnosed with very serious cancer just before the show. Nevertheless, there he was. The doctors had given him a pretty bleak prognosis, but Gary, always the optimist, fought like heck to prove ‘em wrong. He also left us a treasure. Gary wrote about his journey in a blog on CaringBridge. During those painful days of chemotherapy, Gary shared with us the physical and emotional side of dealing with a serious illness. He pulled no punches, either. When he felt bad – physically or emotionally – he told his, but he never lost his spirit or his sense of humor. I told him several times that he was my all-time hero...and he is. He taught me how it is possible to face the shadow of death with honesty and no self-pity. Marv, N5AW, CWops 157, was one of Gary’s closest ham buddies. He has written his own piece about the Gary he knew.

And, now, on a more upbeat note, a few weeks ago Atsu, JE1TRV, CWops 141, posted a request for a CW buddy on the CWops listserv. I answered him and we began having weekly skeds on Saturdays at 2200Z. Those QSOs have been great. We shared info about our families, our jobs, our cars, and more. I hope more of us will seek out others for on-going CW skeds. The two ways we become closer to one another is through chatting on the air and meeting in person. I look forward to a time when Atsu and I will have a chance to press the flesh and have an eye-ball QSO. Meanwhile, I am really enjoying our Saturday ragchews. I am also looking forward to meeting some of you at the DC weekend in May and/or Dayton.

73,

Rob, K6RB

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Keese, W8VSK, CWops 891



IN MEMORIAM

Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, CWops 141



CW Academy

First and foremost, we should welcome Jack Ritter, W0UCE, to the managerial staff of CW Academy. Jack's extensive experience as a CW operator and instructor will be a tremendous benefit to our program. During the writing of this update for the newsletter, Jack is busy preparing our instructional guidelines and expectations for instructors and students of the Academy. Welcome Jack!

Next, for this issue of Solid Copy, I am going to list our advisors to date that have been working with students of the Academy. The following calls and first names are those that have had or currently have a CW Academy student assigned to them since the start of the program:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| EA8AY, Luis | K4MSG, Paul | N3WT, John | K6MM, John |
| KC4D, Bill | W0UCE, Jack | N5IR, Bill | N6XI, Rick |
| K0RO, Art | N8AA, John | KE5AKL, Mike | K2EGJ, Ed |
| K7GT, Allan | K2YWE, Dan | W4WJ, Don | K6XT, Art |
| K1DW, Dallas | W5DNT, Dan | OK1RR, Martin | EA1WX, Juanjo |
| K2XX, Joe | K2ZR, Dick | W0SJS, Steve | W9RE, Mike |
| NA6M, Mark | N3JT, Jim | K4LT, Doug | JE1TRV, Atsu |
| K1ON, Larry | US1GBH, Vlad | K6RB, Rob | |

Thanks to you all. There are still several advisors that have signed up and do not have a student. This may be due to the various times, days, and bands listed by the students that differ from those listed by the advisors.

Once again, we are in need of more advisors. We have slightly more than 40 registered at this point in the program. That's out of a membership of more than 1,000! Certainly we can have more than a 4% participation rate. I expect that our soon to be unleashed advertising campaign will bring a flood of new students to the fold, so go to the website and sign up.

Last but not least, there seems to be an increase in activity in the novice sub-bands. That's great! All of us need to scan these portions of the bands occasionally to find those slower newbies or re-treads that could use some help and encouragement. And be sure to tell them about the Academy.

73, *Jay*, W5JQ, *Jack*, W0UCE, *Rob*, K6RB,

January QTX Results

| | |
|--------|----|
| K1ESE | 30 |
| N5IR | 25 |
| K6RB | 20 |
| KR3E | 4 |
| HB9CVQ | 4 |
| JE1TRV | 3 |
| K9FN | 2 |
| EA6OM | 1 |
| W5PG | 1 |
| W1HIS | 1 |

The QTX is a program for members who enjoy casual CW QSOs. Anytime you have a QSO that goes over 20 minutes, jot down the call sign of the other station, and before the 15th of the next month (e.g. before 15 March for your February total), go to the website QTX page in the 'members only' section and put in your total.

The highest score for January is from John, K1ESE. Here's what John had to say about it...

"There were several memorable QSO's. As I looked through the notes in my log, I saw folks enjoying the thrill of new equipment, discussions of a variety of health issues, small triumphs and disasters. But, the most memorable was a chat with Don, K4NP. Don and I both belonged to the same radio club in New Hampshire. Don's a great CW operator and joined CW Ops as N1LU, number 786, just 6 numbers before my number 792. Don and I had many enjoyable QSOs, but Don moved to Tennessee and I was afraid that would be the end of it. It wasn't. Don and I chat on CW every once in a while, yet. It's always fun catching up with Don. One of those chats was In January. Friendships on ham radio never move away."

In January 2013, we will compile the annual score for QTX and award a prize to the one with the highest annual award. So, whenever you have a casual QSO of 20 minutes or longer, don't forget to jot down the call sign, keep a list, and give me your monthly total before the 15th of the following month.

73,

Ed, K2EGJ

Tribute to Gary, W5ZL

Marv, N5AW

On February 12 I got the sad news that my good friend Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, lost his fight with cancer and became a silent key. He celebrated his 66th birthday and 43rd wedding anniversary four weeks earlier. Gary was a charter member of CWOps and an excellent CW operator. He was a member of the US team in the High Speed World Championships in Bulgaria, a judge at WRTC 2010, and an operator at contest superstations 6Y1V, K3LR, and NR5M. He also was the high USA scorer several times in the IARU contest for mixed mode low power operating from my more modest N5AW station. He really enjoyed operating the Texas QSO party as one of the operators in the K5NA multi/multi mobile fondly called the "Burrito Brothers".

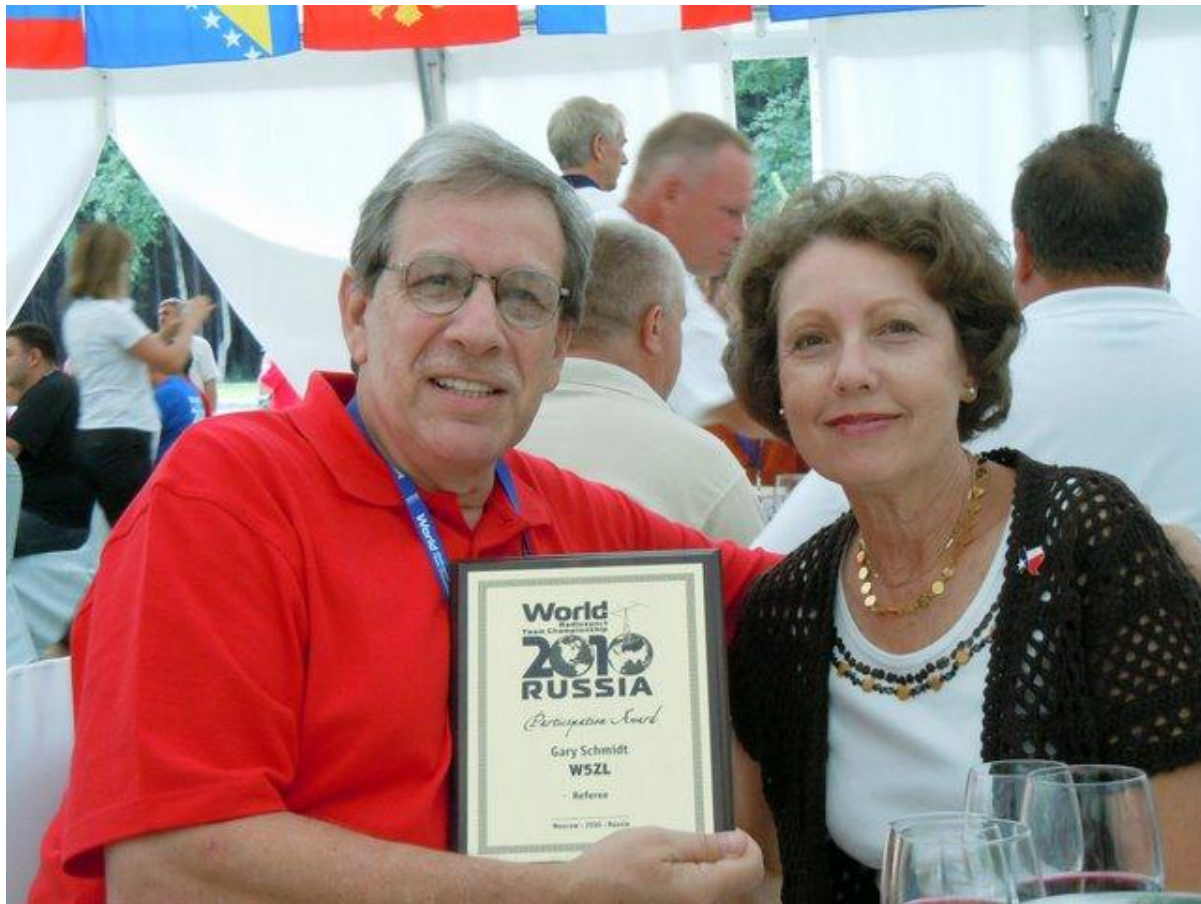
Gary was very much the extrovert who easily made friends. He and his wife Leslie traveled extensively when they first married and Gary operated from several countries in Europe plus Australia and New Zealand. In later years Gary's work took him all over the US and he used that opportunity to meet in person with hams he had met on the radio. He was also a regular at Dayton where he made many new friends, particularly in the contesting and DXing community.

Gary loved new technology. He was always quick to utilize the latest gadget be it a smart phone, digital camera, or a QRP radio in an Altoids box. He didn't just buy these things; he quickly became an expert with every bell and whistle on them. His hotel room station with his Altoids radio and slinky dipole became legendary.

My first contact with Gary was in June 1960 on the Texas CW traffic net. He was only 14 years old and I had just turned 19. Gary's call went in my log many times over the next three years. We lived 200 miles apart but sometime during that three year period I was able to meet him face to face on a trip to Houston to see relatives. In 1963 I got married and Gary went off to college a year later. That put an end to our frequent contacts but we did keep in touch over the years. Fifty years after that first QSO I retired and moved back to Central Texas where Gary and I became close friends. Gary operated field day with me in 2001 and that rekindled his interest in ham radio. Not long after he put up a beam, bought a new radio and was off to the races. We operated field day together many

times after that including last year when he was undergoing chemo therapy. We used 2010 field day as a final shakedown of equipment and operating techniques for WRTC in Russia where Gary was a referee and I was a competitor.

One of Gary's proudest moments came last September when Leslie got her license and made her first contact with our mutual friend Rune, SM5COP. She subsequently got Gary's original call, K5JFP. Gary and Leslie were true soul mates. After 43 years of marriage there is bound to be a big empty spot in her life now. I'm sad to no longer be able to see my friend but I am thankful I had the good fortune to know him for over 50 years and be a close friend the past 12 years. My life is better for it and I know many others share that feeling. Thank you old buddy – we will miss your smiling face and beautiful fist.



My Story

Don Binkley, N4ZZ, CWops 902



I was 14 years old and living in Oak Ridge, Tennessee when I began experimenting with a crystal radio to receive local AM broadcast stations.

It was my mother who saw an ad in our local newspaper, *The Oak Ridger*, advertising a two week course, taught at the local Red Cross, by the Oak Ridge Radio Operators Club. The course was for a novice class and it helped me to receive my first call sign of KN4PUZ in June, 1957.

My first station was a Heathkit DX35 transmitter and AR3 receiver. Building my first antenna was another story. I was not successful because I was trying to end-feed a 66-foot piece of wire with RG8 coax.

I had about two pages of CQ's logged with no QSO's. In desperation, I called my buddy, KN4OTP, who received his license about three months before me.

Lucky me, he lived three blocks away. We probably could have heard each other with no antennas. As a result of the phone call, KN4OTP became my first QSO in ham radio. In the meantime, my father, who worked with a ham, W4RRV, discussed my antenna problem with him.

My dad brought back a piece of paper showing the proper way of feeding the 66-foot wire, which was in the middle, not on the end.

I was in high gear after that information. This is my story of how I got started in Ham Radio. A lot of changes have been made since the beginning. I have never lost the excitement of making QSO's.

Current Nominees

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Need Sponsors | K5TF | Dick Baxter |
| Need Sponsors | K9GS | Gary Schwartz |
| Need Sponsors | KG3V | Tom Zeltwanger |
| Need Sponsors | W7KXB | Bill Harris |

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.”