



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

February

2013

Issue No. 37



CWops "CWT"

13, 27 February 2013

Start time:

- 1300Z
- 1900Z
- 0300Z (14/28 February)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

CWA Days

6, 20 February 2013: 1300Z, 1900Z, 0300Z(+1)

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: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)
Vice President: Art Suberbielle, [KZ5D](#)
Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

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Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)
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Editor/Publisher: Rick Tavan, [N6XI](#)



From the president...

There are a lot of things going on, already, and 2013 has just begun. The January CWTs, for example, were very well attended. I hope it's a portent of things to come. Remember, every time you participate in a CWT session and make 10 QSOs or more, you get a point. The one who has the most points in Regions 1, 2 and 3 by December 31 wins a beautiful glass trophy exactly like those for CW Open winners.

The latest semester of CW Academy is off to a great start. We have five instructors doing Level 1 and three doing Level 2. This program is really starting to gel. Thanks to all the volunteer instructors. Anyone interested in helping out with our next semester (April-May), please contact either me or Jay Temple, W5JQ.

We will have a final tally of 2012's QTX points, and the winner will also receive one of those glass trophies. Remember, for QTX, you just make a note of all QSOs that you participate in that go 20 minutes or more. Each counts as a point for that month. In the beginning of the new month, go to the "members only" page and select the QTX tab. Just pop in your call, the month you're

reporting and the number. It could be easier...but not much easier. ☺

By now, many of you have read the QST article in the January issue about CW Academy and CWops' goal of spreading the joy of CW. We've gotten a lot of emails in response to that article – all of them positive. It has also helped to create a queue for the CW Academy April-May semester.

Finally, one of my personal goals for 2013 is to increase the membership, internationally. CWops is, after all, an international club. Toward that end, I have targeted Dayton, Tokyo Ham Fair, and Friedrichshafen as events that will have active CWops participation. I am flying to Tokyo in August to join some members in Japan at the CWops booth at the Tokyo Ham Fair. We will have the banner, buttons, handouts, and samples of the CW Open trophy and plaque. I will be making a personal appeal to every op I meet there to participate in the following weekend's CW Open sessions. There will also be a nice group of CWops members manning the booth at Dayton this year. And, I'm in the early stages of working out our presence at Friedrichshafen with one of our members in Germany. All of these venues draw an international crowd, and all attract a lot of CW operators. So they are great opportunities to spread the word about CWops, CW Academy and CW Open.

In my first message I asked each of you to resolve to participate in at least one CWT, to post at least one QTX point per month, and to participate in at least one session of CW Open. Based on my experiences in the January CWTs, it seems like several of you have taken me up on my suggestion. Here was one comment I saw: "First time in CWT. Thanks to all who did not get upset with my learning process. Also thanks to Rob K6RB who encouraged all to try CWT. Lots of fun and hope to be back many times. 73 BCNU de Dallas K1DW."

Thank you. I'm grateful.

73,

Rob, K6RB

From the Editor



We have a meaty issue this month! In addition to the usual columns, listings of new members and candidates and cumulative competition scores, we have a fascinating article by WJ9B, included in the CW Academy column, on the question "Is Morse a language?" W6SX describes a software tuning aid repurposed from RTTY to CW. N3JT contributes a photo story on his recent trip to Cuba (yes, Cuba!) and WA8IWK reports on ham radio and CW in Scouting.

Keep those articles coming, folks. *Solid Copy* will continue to be what you make it!

Hundred an Hour!

Although accomplished operators often run CW rates over 100 QSOs per hour in major contests, how often can you experience that thrill for a full hour in the middle of the work week? Well, until now, you couldn't. But the recent level of activity in our very own CWT has made it possible, at least in the 0300Z session which favors North America. CWT happens twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday/Thursday, and several stalwarts have been breaking the 100 QSO mark lately. This is not a "contest" but rather a "test" of station, operator, propagation and activity. Have you ever sat down for an actual contest or found a needed DX entity on the air and realized that your station, antennas or logging setup no longer works the way it should? Or that you aren't as facile as you used to be at working fast, working SO2R, working SPLIT, or just getting all the switches in the correct positions? That's the ham radio equivalent of rust, my friends, and it forms quickly on lightly used ham stations and their operators. CWT is the ideal way to keep the rust down and you and your equipment and software "well oiled" and ready to go. Let's see membership and activity increase in Europe and Asia, too, and some 100+ totals from those regions!

Report from a Grantee

AA4WI reported recently the completion of a third year of CW classes conducted by the Lake Monroe ARS. Supported by a CWops grant administered by ARRL, this central Florida general interest club recently graduated 11 students. All are licensed hams who were interested in advancing their Morse skills and were individually mentored by seven Elmers from the club. This kind of local action complements the work of CWops. Congratulations to all.

How Much is CWops Worth to You?

At dues time, a member recently questioned the value of belonging to CWops, asking what he received in exchange for his (admittedly low) dues payment. Your officers discussed it at length and came up with something like this:

Here at CWops, we advocate for CW, its learning and use. We are a service organization and our members enjoy helping to promote CW. They are amply rewarded by their association with like-minded hams and the opportunity to contribute to the cause. They appreciate the camaraderie of familiar calls on the air and meeting friendly faces at hamfests and other social gatherings. They are proud of the fact that we have already trained more than 200 new CW operators and our twice-monthly CWTs have increased weekday HF CW activity by something like 20%. The club is open to all who qualify but will not necessarily meet everyone's every need. That's fine. We seek both active members and quiet supporters and we

understand that some people are not motivated by these things. They need not belong. While we regret the loss of any member, we still look forward to many, future CW QSOs with our “alumni.” They are our CW friends, too.

What do you think? Should CWops offer more tangible perks to its members? What might they be? Have you met other CWops members on the air, at hamfests, at their homes? Have you helped out with CW Academy and the club’s on-the-air activities? Are you comfortable (as many are) just to lend your name and a few dollars a year to our cause? I would like to hear your thoughts and hope to consolidate them in a future column.

73,

Rick, N6XI

CW Academy



CW Academy - Morse code Tricks of the Trade

WØUCE, WJ9B & W5JQ

This month’s CW Academy article is the beginning of a series of Tricks of the Trade offerings regarding learning and teaching Morse code, improving proficiency in receiving and sending Morse and a host of CW operating techniques. During the forty plus years I [WØUCE] have been teaching beginners and helping others to improve their CW operating skills, I have always said “To become truly proficient, one must learn and use Morse code as a language,” and the same question is always raised, “Is Morse code a language?”

CW Academy is fortunate to have a new Advisor and Instructor we can turn to for the answer. By profession, Will, WJ9B is an anthropologist with vast knowledge in the field of linguistics. I asked Will if he would offer his opinion regarding Morse code as a language. When I read his four page response I was shocked to learn how little I knew about language learning as he provided all the facts and details anyone will ever need in order to answer the question. Will’s response was in such detail that there isn’t sufficient space to include it all in a single article. However, he most certainly answers the question.

Is Morse a Language?

by Will Baber WJ9B

What does one mean by language? There are several ways to define language, including definitions that would lead to “no” as the answer to this question.

If, on the one hand, language is defined in terms of syntax or grammar, then we do not need to proceed further. Morse is limited to a code of a given language because Morse doesn't contain syntax. On the other hand, if communicative competence is useful as a definition of language, then the three phonemes (sounds) of Morse (see below) can become patterned within the subsystems of spoken language and therefore rise to the level of communicative competence that we routinely associate with language.

What is the difference? Well, if you record Morse with a pencil, writing down each letter as you hear it, then you are using Morse as a code for the alphabet, numbers, and punctuation. In 1912, Marconi telegraphers used Morse in this way—at about 18 wpm—but they were also limited by hand keys, spark-gap transmission, and unselective receivers. QRM was normal. Once each letter was decoded, the message could be read, one word at a time. However, what happens if you put down your pencil, and copy Morse in your head using Morse signals coming out of your modern transceiver at speeds greater than 25 wpm? Copying Morse at this speed is not necessarily the same as writing down each letter as it is decoded, and then reading the decoded message.

It is true that one step in learning to copy Morse in your head is to “hold” discrete letters of Morse in the mind; that is, each coded letter. However, in addition to holding discrete letters in the mind, one can develop the capacity to copy a sequence of Morse elements as the sound of words. For example, T-H-E (dah, dit dit dit dit, dit) is no longer the discrete sounds of Morse elements per letter—of the letter T, the letter H, and the letter E—but rather the complete sound of the sequence. CW operators capable of copying 25 wpm or greater can easily perceive many words as sound sequences.

Now, to the extent that we are able to copy sequences of sound as words, then to this extent Morse sounds become patterned as a subsystem of language known as morphology, or minimal units of sound that carry meaning. Essentially, morphs are words, or partial words. The question is, when we reach this level of communicative effectiveness using Morse, can we say that Morse is a language? I would like to explain to you why I believe that the answer to this question is yes.

A .pdf file version of Will's entire explanation of why Morse code is and should be used as a language is available for download at <http://www.w0uce.net/Morsecode.html>. Now that we know that Morse can and should be used as a language, how do we go about acquiring this new language skill?

If we ask three qualified Morse instructors what their preferred method is, we will likely receive three different answers. However, part of all three answers will include reference to the fact that the most important element of becoming proficient in Morse is to learn to copy in your head.

Children learn to understand and speak native language words during their first two years of life. During the second month of life infants start making random sounds, then start to babble and by month four to five random sounds become real words, "mama" and "da da" are typically the first English words infants speak. Between years one and two infants repeat and associate single words. They hear them and quickly migrate to combining words into two to three-word phrases. Infants learn, retain and associate word meanings by sound. Some may learn as many as ten or more words a day especially those who have parents who spend time teaching word sounds and associated meanings. The same is true regardless of which native language is spoken.

Teaching and learning Morse as a language starts by learning to hear and recognize just three letters T, E and A, then immediately progressing to two letter groups, three letter groups, three letter words, short phrases, then on to longer phrases and complete sentences. Students must learn to hear, recognize, understand and retain what is being sent without need for paper or pencil to write anything down. Thus, they become conversant in Morse at a faster pace than those using other learning methods. Learning Morse as a language also improves proficiency for those with experience but may have problems which are quite common:

Inability to distinguish spacing and timing	Increasing speed	Anticipating what is being sent
Dit and Dah Transposition	Counting Dits and Dahs	Memorization vs. hearing words
Mental fatigue	Lack of confidence	Inability to break old habits
Writing each letter as it is heard	Inability to copy behind	Attention loss, lack of accuracy

The first trick of the trade in learning Morse as language is to do away with paper and pencil and start copying by ear, start retaining complete words, phrases and sentences in the mind. How to teach and learn to copy in your head will be the next trick of the trade we will address.

73,

Jay, W5JQ and *Jack*, W0UCE

CW Tuning Aid

by Hank Garretson W6SX

[possibly co-published in the NCCC Contest Jug]

Is your hearing shot like mine? Do you have trouble quickly zero beating a CW signal? I love the CWT feature on my Elecraft K3. This visual aid helps me center a CW signal in the receive passband. But, maybe you don't have a K3 or maybe, like me, the computer screen is your main focus. Wouldn't it be nice to have a CW tuning aid on your computer monitor? "2Tone" to the rescue.

2Tone is a RTTY decoder developed by G3YYD. Right now, 2Tone works only with N1MM Logger and the Italian-language program QARTest by IK3QAR http://www.ik3qar.it/software/qartest_ita/. It will also work with the next release of Logger32 <http://www.logger32.net/>. You cannot use it stand-alone or with other logging programs. You can get 2Tone at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/N1MMLogger-Digital/files/G3YYD?prop=eupdate>. Installation instructions are included in the zip file.

After installation, bring up N1MM Logger and then 2Tone. For CW tuning-aid use, move the Digital Interface print window out of the way. I stick it in the lower-right corner of my monitor with only a small bit showing. Then position the 2Tone DI RX window where you can see it easily. Click on Setup. Adjust both Mark and Space Frequencies to your transceiver sidetone frequency. Adjust Display Width to your receive bandwidth. Click OK. Note, the lowest space frequency that 2Tone will accept is 651 Hertz, so your sidetone must be 651 Hertz or higher.

Figure 1 shows the 2Tone display with a CW signal 100 Hertz low. Figure 2 is zero beat.

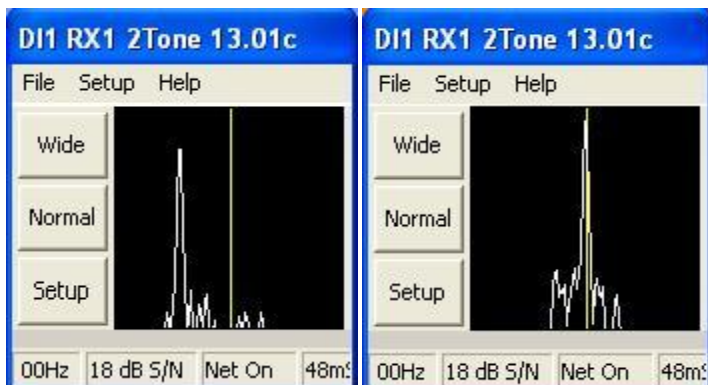


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Ham Radio in Cuba

by Jim Talens N3JT

I was in Cuba in early January on a humanitarian mission. It was an excellent trip. While there I was able to meet some hams, giving each of them a new ARRL Handbook. Carrying 8 Handbooks was a challenge but we put one in each of 8 large donation bags carried by various members of our group. It worked out well and the hams were hugely appreciative.

Below are six photos taken in Cuba.

The one labeled Cuba CO6RD shows, left to right, Reidel (CO6RD's medical school student son), N3JT (Jim), CO6RD (Rey), and Reynel (CO6RD's engineer son).

The one labeled Santa Clara shows, left to right, CO6LP (Ore), N3JT (Jim), and CO6LC (Ore).

The one labeled Havana shows, left to right, CO2IR (Frank), N3JT (Jim), CO2OQ (Osmany), and CO2QU (Izquierdo).

Also attached is a shot of CO6RD at his shack and of me at his shack, plus his wire antennas atop his house. I neglected somehow to get a shot of just him and me!

The Cubans cannot import any ham gear, and no Cuban is permitted access to the Internet though they can use email via a modem and the telephone line (if they have phone service).

No, I did not bring back any Cuban cigars or rum! I'd be the one person selected for a random search!



Cuba CO6RD



Santa Clara



Havana



CO6RD Outside



CO6RD Inside



N3JT at CO6RD

Ham Radio, CW, and Scouting

Information for CWops Members who are Scouts or Scout Leaders!

by Allen Olender WA8IWK

For those CW Ops members who are also Boy Scouts or Scout leaders, The Boy Scouts of America has recently approved a new uniform patch for Amateur Radio Operators. The patch will soon be available at your local council Scout Shop or may be ordered directly from the Boy Scout Supply Group at [800-323-0736](tel:800-323-0736) or scoutstuff.org after its official release date, February 15. Please see the link to the announcement below.

BSA also has a Morse Code "Interpreter Strip." It's the perfect addition to any CW Ops Scout or Scout Leader's uniform!

See the links below:

<http://www.k2bsa.net/operator-rating/>

<http://www.k2bsa.net/2012/05/morse-code-interpreter-strip/>

From the VP



<u>Call</u>	<u>ACA</u>	<u>CMA</u>
VE3KI*	252	1881
AA3B*	211	3392
KZ5D*	210	2584
K6RB*	120	1783
F6HKA*	102	1123
NN6T*	66	809
DJ1OJ*	51	1501
K6DGW*	41	925
DL8PG*	40	930
EA1WX*	30	1152
W1RM*	16	2376

* = updated data

73,

Art, KZ5D

[Look for Art from KP2/KZ5D this weekend! – ed.]

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get 1 point per member, worked once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

From the Secretary



With great pleasure we welcome the following new members:

1116	OX3XR	Peter
1117	AB1CW *	Howard
1118	NM2L	Greg
1119	VE3GFN	Mike
1120	W6JMP *	Gene
1121	AA4FU *	Alan
1122	K1RX	Mark
1123	K3TF	Tom
1124	K5LY *	Lee
1126	K9HXO	Bill
1128	N2JJ	Jim

* = Life Member

73,

Jim, N3JT

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	K7SF	Steve Flyte
Need Sponsors	VE7ALQ	Yaakov Ben-Avraham
Need Sponsors	W7TAO	Todd Thompsen

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.”

QTX Scores

Call	December	CY 2012
K1ESE	62	545
N5IR	46	444
WA3NZR	19	289
K4AHO	36	171
K6RB	12	152
NN6T		132
JE1TRV	9	89
K0DTJ	4	55
KC0VKN		20
W4VQ		9
WA8IWK	8	8
W5JQ		8
K6HTN	6	6
W1RM		4
JK1JHB		4
HB9CVQ		4
K9FN		4
W9ILY		1
N1DG		1
KR3E		1
EA6OM		1
W5PG		1
W1HIS		1

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 5th of the next month (e.g. before 5 April for your March total), go to the website QTX page in the ‘members only’ section and put in your total.