



# Solid Copy

*The International CWops Newsletter*

March

2013

Issue No. 38



## CWops "CWT"

**13, 27 March 2013**

Start time:

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

1-hour each session

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

## CWA Days

**6, 20 March 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

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**Editor/Publisher:** Rick Tavan, [N6XI](#)



## President's Message

Wow. The US mid-west has sure taken its share of winter storms in February. And, even the northeastern states got hit hard. I

know how much trouble it is to keep my yagis healthy in central coast California. I can't imagine adding frozen rotators and ice-bent elements to the mix. You guys have my respect.

Our club is doing well. CWT participation is up; QTX participation is up; and CW Academy admissions are up. The article in January QST about sharing the joy of CW got a lot of attention and no doubt played a part in the 54 CWA signups we've gotten for the April/May session.

It's interesting to see how CW Academy has evolved. Initially, we tried to match students with advisors by days/times of availability and bands used. These days, we get an influx of signups and create a database. Then we parse the database by level (1, 2 or 3) and time zones. Then we start grouping them into groups of 5. And, finally, we check to see if we have enough advisors/instructors to handle all of them. By mid-March, we will have done the parsing and grouping.

This last CWA session we had 6 Level 1 instructors and 3 Level 2 and 3 instructors. I want to sincerely thank everyone who helped make it a success – Bill, KC4D; Ron, WT5RZ; Dick, K2ZR; Chuck, W1HIS; Dallas, K1DW (Level 1) and Jack, W0UCE; Will, WJ9B; and Howard, AB1CW. If I left anyone out, I apologize and want to thank you, too.

I want to also thank Hank, W6SX, who has done a great job picking up the CWT program and running with the ball. Hank and I go back a ways, and I knew he would do CWops proud. And, he has.

Pete mentioned an upcoming book a few issues back and said there would be more details, soon. Well, I can add more details. Jim, N3JT and I wrote a book, a CW primer, and submitted it to ARRL for publication. The book was in response to a request by ARRL for something to replace the centuries old CW book they had allegedly written by Samuel F.B. himself. Our book is now in the final stages of editing and should be available from ARRL by Dayton time. Jim and I will be at Dayton and we're looking forward to signing lots of copies bought by prospective CW operators and future club members.

Right now, we will definitely have a presence at Dayton. And, I'm flying to Japan in late August to attend the Tokyo Ham Fair. We'll have a booth, a banner and lots of handouts translated into Kanjii. We are also organizing a presence at Friedrichshafen. Whereas most of these things do add to our image and membership demand, the real objective is to get more people participating in CWT, CW Open and CW Academy. My personal goal for 2013 is to have 50 members in JA and several of them participating in CWT and CW Open.

CWops is on a roll and every one of you has had some part in that success. Pat yourselves on the back.

73,

*Rob*, K6RB

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## From the Editor

This month's *Solid Copy* is pretty long so I have embedded hyperlinks to the articles and sections in this paragraph. The issue includes a review by N7RR of two fascinating, new, [miniature paddles from Begali](#), a retrospective on a [chance reunion by W1RM](#), an invitation to the [North American CW Weekend](#) (May 3-5) from N3JT, and results of the voting on the recent [Bylaws amendment](#).

The [CW Academy](#) column includes an in-depth study of the obstacles that CW learners encounter on their road to proficiency. It is recommended reading for all Morse Code teachers, students and aficionados. Hmm. That's us! Other regular items: [President's Message](#), [From the Editor](#), [New Members](#), [Current Nominees](#), [ACA/CMA Scores](#), and [QTX Scores](#). Keep those articles coming, folks! *Solid Copy* will continue to be what you make it. If you like what you read here, please let me know. If you have suggestions for improvement, let me know them, too.

### The Joy of Keys

One of the sublime pleasures of CW is using and collecting a variety of keys, bugs and paddles. Over the years I have owned devices from Speed-X, Vibroplex, Bencher, Begali, Schurr, Kent, Elecraft, NorCal QRP Club, G4ZPY and the venerable J-38, manufacturer unknown. I still own and love most of them and I have guest-operated many others, both good and great. Not exactly a collector, I try to "justify" each purchase. Lately, noticing the awkward positioning of the big Bencher (Elecraft) HexKey in my somewhat cramped, valley station, I decided it was time for something a bit smaller. After a lot of very enjoyable research, I settled on one from N3ZN Keys. Tony's keys are machinist works of art and highly praised by their owners. They are quite customizable, with various models featuring single- or dual-lever, horizontal or vertical mechanism, and options for handle spacing, base material, size, shape, and finish. They all have ball bearings, magnetic tension and fine adjustment screws. I went for the small, round base ZN-8 in natural finish brass with black carbon fiber handles. It won't arrive for a few weeks yet, but I'll let you know how it works out. I'm excited! Member W4MQC's beautiful ZN Key is similar and is featured on the front page of this issue. Do not fret, though – the luscious HexKey will not be forsaken! It will go to the more spacious mountain station where I "need" one more paddle (Left K3 Keyer, Right K3 Keyer, and Shared via Computer Keyer). See how easy it is to rationalize a new paddle purchase?! ;-)

The new paddle will be lighter than some (about a kilo) but all paddles have a tendency toward "slip slap." That is, they slip around on the table if you slap them too hard. I've been using rubber kitchen shelf liner to stabilize my paddles but I found a new, better material at W7RN during the February ARRL DX CW Contest. N6TV brought several pieces of "Handstands Jelly Sticky Pad," perfectly sized for the several paddles we were using. This stuff is "thick and rich," so soft you

almost expect it to flow, and it absolutely prevents paddle slip. It is so thick that the paddle twists a little on top, but it doesn't go anywhere. I liked it and ordered eight of them for US\$2 each via an Amazon vendor. The US\$5 shipping charge was reasonable at that quantity. (We did pretty well in the contest, too, at least for a West Coast station!)

## **CWT and the CWops Reflector**

CWT is growing and some members have been asking how best to track upcoming dates and results. Well, the events are on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, although the third session at 0300Z is actually on Thursday UTC. You can always find this in the events box on [Page 1 of Solid Copy](#) and on the CWT page of the club Web site <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>. But the best way to stay on top of CWT is to subscribe to our club email reflector, [cwops@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cwops@yahoogroups.com). It is a modest traffic reflector, averaging three to five messages per day, usually peaking around CWT events. You can sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cwops/> and select whether to receive individual emails or just a digest, typically once a day. You can even opt out of any direct email, choosing to browse messages at the YahooGroups Web site only when you wish. This is a great way to stay on top of things at CWops, not only CWT but also other events and conversations. Here's a hint for those of you who dread spending more time on email lists: You can segregate inbound traffic into separate folders or topics using the Filter capability of most email user interfaces. For example, I filter on "[cwops]" in the Subject field to keep list traffic out of my personal Inbox and readily available for a daily scan of each group to which I belong. (Well, some of them.) I read what I want and take only seconds skipping the rest.

Last month I mentioned that operators are beginning to break the 100 QSO mark in CWT. However, I hadn't done that myself, so I got on for the 03Z session on Feb. 14 and just barely squeaked by – 100 QSOs exactly. What a kick in the middle of the week! My log included SM6CNN, ZS1EL and UR5MM who were either staying up late or rising early to participate – thanks! Activity continues to increase, with many 100+ reports from Feb. 28, so why not join the fun, keep yourself and your station in shape, and stay in touch with your CWops friends.

73,

*Rick*, N6XI



## CW Academy - Morse Code Tricks of the Trade

WØUCE, WJ9B & W5JQ

**A CW Academy first...** Sincere congratulations to Jim, AD4J for attaining goals and overcoming problems he submitted at the start of the January Group III CW Academy class. Jim passed receiving and sending proficiency tests two weeks before the end of the class and achieved a receiving speed proficiency endorsement at 30 words per minute. Jim also completed required on-the-air QSOs with club members which qualified him for membership and is our newest member - CWops #1144. Jim achieved goals and overcame problems by participating in every CWA Level III OOVOO class session and completed all homework assignments. Jim is participating in CWT mini tests and CW contests plus getting on the air on a regular basis. Well Done Jim...Before addressing Tricks of the Trade, this month it is the perfect time to share answers to a number of questions that have been asked regarding the upcoming April – May CWA series of classes:

**Q.** I registered for CW Academy but haven't received any information, is there going to be a class?

**A.** Fifty-four students have registered for classes starting in April. E-mail confirmations have been sent to all who registered and the process of assigning students to Level I, II or III classes is underway. Once student and instructor assignments have been completed; instructors will provide students with details regarding their class.

**Q.** I'm not a beginner but don't know where I fit as far as class levels. What is level I, II and III all about?

**A.** CW Academy established three levels of classes in order to teach beginners (Level I) and those who need assistance in improving proficiency - (Levels II and III.) Please visit the CW Academy Page on the CWops website and answer the Quick Quiz questions which should provide answers to the question of where do I fit? After the first or second class, CWA instructors will confirm student proficiency levels; if a student has been assigned to a class above or below their current level of proficiency the instructor will have students reassigned or, at instructor option, one-on-one assistance may be provided.

**Q.** Why use VOODOO instead of just getting on the air with students?

**A.** Teaching beginners Morse code on the air is all but impossible and impractical. OOVOO allows instructors to teach groups of students and CWA has more students than instructors. Video

conferencing allows instructors to see their students, read facial expressions and body language which allows instructors to address problems on the spot. While OOVVO is not perfect it is more reliable than depending on propagation. When teaching Level II and III students OOVVO allows instructors to provide group help in overcoming common problems, create simulated pile ups, use sentence building and other teaching techniques. When practical and at instructor option, on the air practice QSOs are included in Level II and III classes.

## Overcoming Common Problems

One thing most all instructors learn while teaching beginners and mentoring operators is what I refer to as "*The Dirty Dozen*." Twelve interrelated problems largely due to improper teaching or self-learning techniques and bad habits formed during the learning or teaching phase of Morse code training. While not all students have the same problems, at some point in the learning and proficiency improvement process most all students encounter one or more problems on the Dirty Dozen list.

Problems and Tricks of the Trade how to overcome them:

1. **Anticipating what is being sent** – A common problem develops when paper and pencil are used to write or print each letter as it is sent versus learning to copy complete words by their distinct rhythm and sound by ear. Example... Letters A N Y written down individually and the person copying is focused on each letter they have no idea of words or sentence flow. They are not learning to use Morse as a language and are simply copying individual characters. A N Y, and when the next letter is written, for example, W then A N Y W makes no sense but the mind's eye anticipates A N Y W A Y, A N Y W H E R E or A N Y T H I N G. If a different letter than anticipated follows, focus is diverted and anticipation results. This problem is interrelated to Problems 4, 5, 6, 11 and 12.

**Overcoming Anticipation:** The most efficient way to overcome anticipation is to learn to recognize complete words by their unique sound and rhythm while learning to copy by ear and copying behind versus writing down individual letters in order to start remembering complete thoughts, calls, contest exchanges etc. Practice recognizing the sound and rhythm of the most common double letter, two and three letter combinations based upon frequency of usage in the English language helps forming word sounds:

Common double letter combinations: ll, ee, ss, tt, oo, mm, ff, pp, rr ,nn, cc, dd - The thirty most frequent two letter combinations comprise one third of all letter usage: th, he, in, er, an, re, on, en, at, es, ed, te, ti, or, st, ar, nd, to, nt, is, of, it, al, as, ha, ng, co, se, me, de - The most common three letter combinations are: the, and, tio, ati, for, tha, ter, res, ere, con, ted, com, hat, ent, ion, nde, has, ing

2. Attention loss, lack of accuracy: Attention loss is often related to Problem 10 during the learning phase and often causes frustration. Practice sessions should not exceed thirty minutes in duration. Break up practice sessions in ten or fifteen minute increments but certainly practice thirty minutes a day, seven days a week. Lack of accuracy is related to Problems 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 10. There is no substitute or better way to learn and improve proficiency than learning to copy by ear and only take notes versus putting individual characters on paper. Practice learning the sounds of short words then progress to short phrases such as My, then add a follow on word to start building phrases and sentences. Common QSO exchanges are helpful in building confidence to actually get on the air.

3. Counting Dits and Dahs: Learning Morse code by counting Dits and Dahs is a terrible habit that is difficult to break. Counting is typically caused by learning Morse at 5 or 10 words per minute character speed. While some instructors endorse using the Farnsworth method adding extra space between characters often leads to unintentional counting. Experience has confirmed teaching words versus individual letters at 20 wpm character speed with a bit of extra space between words, for example TEA followed by EAT sent as TEA EAT and progressing three word phrases is more effective.

Eliminate extra spaces between words as quickly as possible in order to learn and use Morse with normal speed and spacing. Why teach or learn at 5 or 10 wpm when it just as easy to learn at 20 is often an unanswered question. Counting is directly related to Problems 7, 8, 9 and 12.

4. Dit and Dah Transposition: Transposition is primarily related to learning at slow character speed and tone frequency being either too low or too high for an individual's hearing frequency range. The most common character reversals or transposition are: er-re, es-se, an-na, it-ti, on-no, en-ne, ot-to, ed-de, st-ts, at-ta, ar-ra, in-ni. Practice copying and sending all ten numbers is a good method for overcoming transposition.

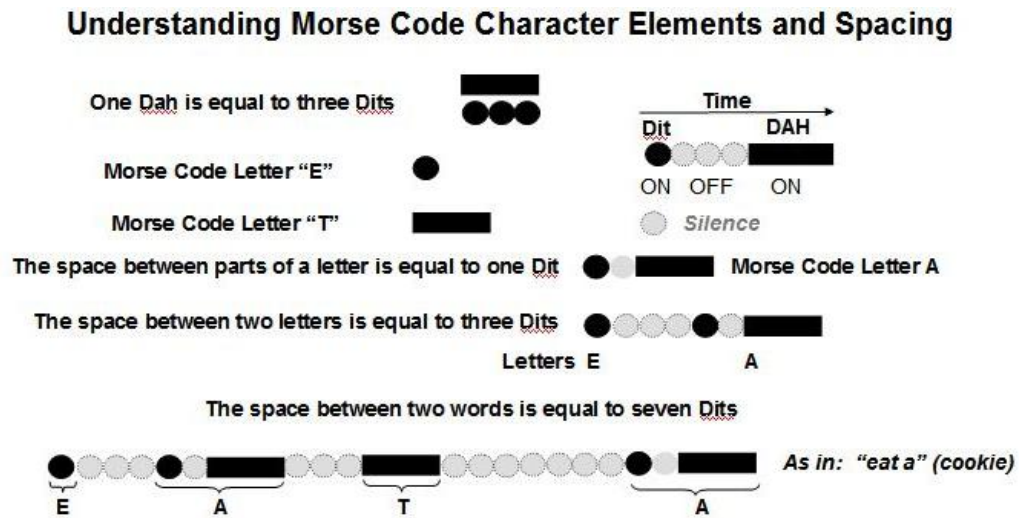
5. Inability to break old habits: The obvious answer to overcoming Problem 5 is to not develop bad habits in the first place. Bad habits developed in the early learning stage are the most difficult to overcome. The key to breaking old habits is to focus on exercises, methods and techniques that help overcome or break specific old habits. The first step is to determine what bad habits individuals have. Counting is most certainly one, writing each character immediately as it is sent is another. Focus on overcoming the worst bad habit or habits first. To do so, they must be identified; make a list and a plan then follow the plan.

6. Inability to copy behind: Problem number 6 is directly related with Problem 12. Until students or those with experience "break the pencil and toss out the paper" and learn to copy entire words by their distinct sound and rhythm problem 6 will automatically become



problem 5, 8, 9 and 10. Set up exercises comprised of short words, repeated two or three times if necessary and practice retaining words that comprise short phrases: MY RED HAT – HER OLD CAT – BIG BAD BEN – UR RST 599 – MY RIG IS A K-3 – MY ANT A DIPOLE etc. – Problem 6 leads the list of Bad Habits that must be broken in order to become proficient and use Morse code as a language.

7. Inability to distinguish spaces and timing: Problem 7 is usually related to learning to copy at slow speed and copying individual letters versus words. With regard to sending, we can tune the bands most any day and hear what is referred to as “a bad fist” – While an experienced instructor will not encourage using code readers, new radios such as the Elecraft K-3 can display Morse as it is sent, students can benefit by using a Morse display to actually see proper character spacing and timing. Watching a display while practicing sending is helpful in overcoming spacing and timing issues. Proper character and word spacing is shown in the illustration below:



8. Increasing speed: With regard to receiving, Problem 8 is directly related to every other problem on the Dirty Dozen List. Address each problem individually and increasing receiving speed will be easier to achieve.

Most everyone reaches a “plateau” or bump in the road where they seem to be stuck at a certain speed. To overcome problems with a given plateau or bump in the road simply “jump the bump.” If you are stuck at 20, increase the speed to 21 or 22 wpm. Jumping the bump by increasing speed even one or two words per minute is the best way to increase receiving speed proficiency. To overcome problems with sending speed, do the following exercise at least once a day. Send the sentence “THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOGS BACK. The sentence contains all 26 letters in the English



alphabet. Start at a comfortable sending speed that allows sending the sentence all the way through without an error then increase speed one, two or three wpm. If or when a mistake is made follow the rule – Start all over again from the beginning. It won't take too many start overs before an individual recognizes a comfort level at a desired sending speed, then increase the speed bit by bit. Remember the old saying "No Pain, No Gain."

9. **Lack of confidence:** Problem 9 is usually related to "getting on the air" and making QSOs. One way to gain confidence is to "have QSOs with yourself." Use a code practice oscillator or key the side tone on a transceiver without going on the air. Make up a list of QSO exchanges using different call signs, names QTH etc. and practice. Even if contesting is not something an individual wants to do, they are excellent confidence builders as the exchanges are short (Other than Sweepstakes) and there are plenty of state QSO parties to take part in. Practice makes perfect.
10. **Mental fatigue:** Problem 10 is common in many things and practicing Morse code is no different. Too much too often is not productive. Don't practice when tired or just after coming home from a hard day at work. Practice during relaxation time or early in the morning when you are fresh or whatever time an individual has the true desire to practice is the best time. Contest or Radio Sport participants are well aware what a toll fatigue can do to their performance. Don't overdo it.
11. **Memorization versus hearing words:** Problem 11 is directly related to problems 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7. Until individuals develop the ability to recognize complete words by their sound and rhythm, copy behind and use Morse as a language, problem 11 will remain on the bad habit list. Use techniques and practice copying by ear and copying behind.
12. **Writing each letter as it is heard:** Last in alphabetical order but most certainly the number 1 problem and obstacle standing in the way of becoming proficient in Morse is our worst enemy and by all means the first bad habit to break. Break the pencil and toss out the writing pad in order to learn to copy by ear and copy behind should be the number one priority for every beginner or anyone with the desire to improve their skill in using Morse code. Learn to use it as a language is the rule of thumb to live by.

Reference material and tools for Morse code proficiency enhancement are available on WØUCE's website Morse Code Page - <http://www.w0uce.net/Morsecode.html>

73... Jack WØUCE & Jay W5JQ

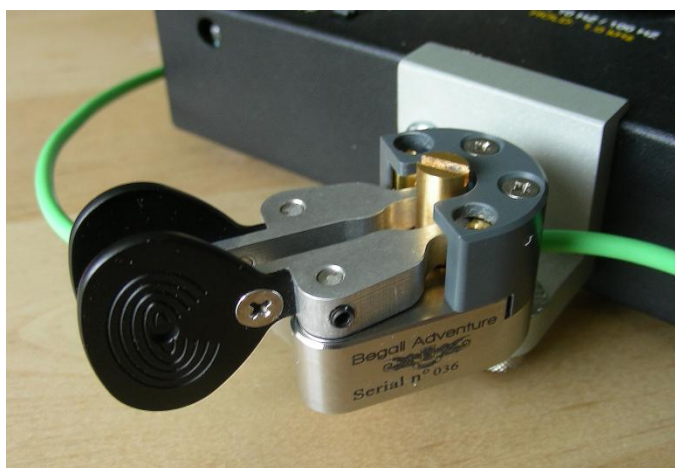
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# The Begali Adventure Paddles

Bruce Prior N7RR

## Overview

There are now two excellent-quality paddles available for the Elecraft KX3 and other portable transceivers, both made by CWops member Pietro (Piero) Begali, I2RTF. These are little jewels. Although the paddles are tiny, their fingerpieces are large enough to use with a gloved hand. Most operators will probably prefer the dual-lever Begali Adventure paddle.



**Begali Adventure attached to an Elecraft KX1 in Left-Handed Orientation**

Begali also sells the Adventure Mono paddle. Its single lever is controlled by two fingerpieces, so at first glance it looks very much like the dual-lever Adventure.



### **Adventure Mono attached to an Elecraft KX3 in Right-Handed Orientation**

The Elecraft KX1 has only one screw hole on its front panel, so the KX1 Mounting Bracket includes a cantilevered buttress which keeps the paddle stable by bending around the top-front edge of the KX1. The KX3 Mounting Bracket uses two screws to mount the bracket securely to the KX3 front panel.

### **Prices and Measurements**

Begali Adventure: €248 92 g (3.3 ounces) body without fingerpieces H: 30 mm W: 24 mm L: 44 mm

Begali Adventure Mono: €258 98 g (3.4 ounces) body without fingerpieces H: 30 mm W: 24 mm L: 45 mm

Begali KX3 Mounting Bracket: €28 21 g (0.7 ounces) H: 19 mm W: 4.75 mm D: 29 mm

Begali KX1 Mounting Bracket: €28 15 g (0.5 ounces) H: 33 mm W: 34 mm D: 32 mm

Begali FT-817 Mounting Bracket: €28 (measurement data not yet available)

Begali Adventure Magnetic Base: €33 141 g (5.0 ounces) H: 24 mm W: 48 mm L: 71 mm

Ignacio Iñaki EA2CTB Adventure/Adventure Mono Dust Cover: €35 75 g (2.7 ounces) H: 70 mm W: 57 mm L: 79 mm

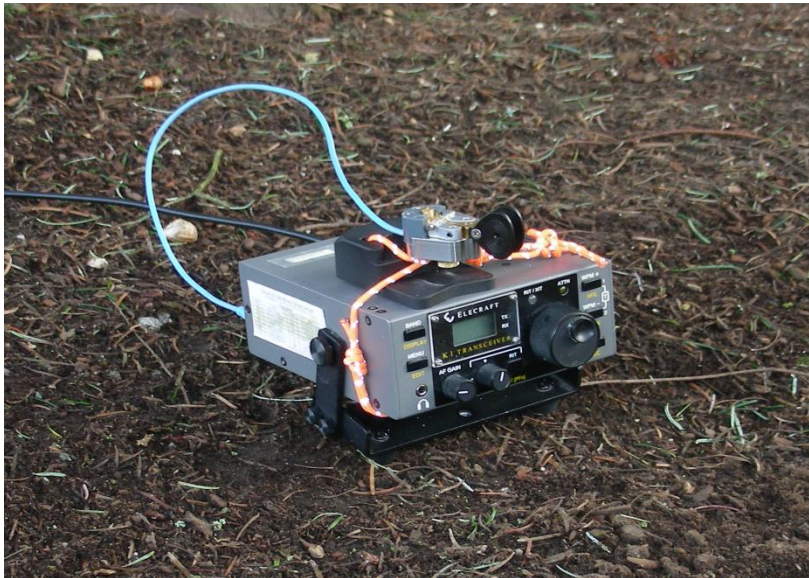
Ignacio Iñaki EA2CTB Leonessa Dust Cover: €35 150 g (5.3 ounces) H: 74 mm W: 96 mm L: 114 mm

The Begali website does not adequately convey how tiny these paddles and the associated Adventure Magnetic Base are. The width of the Adventure and Adventure Mono is the same as the diameter of a US quarter dollar or a British ten-pence coin.

## Mounting

See the first two pictures in this article. Optional mounting brackets are sold by Begali to attach either paddle to an Elecraft KX3 or to an Elecraft KX1 or to a Yaesu FT-817. On the Elecraft KX1, the 3.5 mm stereo KEY/PADDLE socket is located immediately below the single paddle mounting screw hole, so the 3.5 mm paddle plug is inserted below the KX1 Mounting Bracket. In the case of the KX3 Mounting Bracket, the 3.5 mm stereo plug is attached to the KEY socket on the left side of the KX3. The FT-817 Mounting Bracket is still in the design stage.

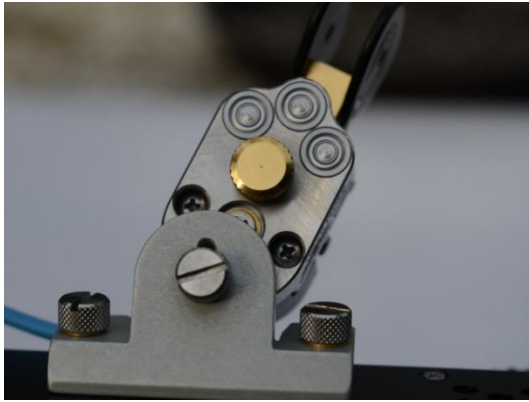
Alternatively, since the Adventure Magnetic Base includes two machining holes toward its rear, that base can be mounted almost anywhere by tying it with a cord. In portable situations those same holes can be utilized to cinch the paddle down with a static or elastic cord on top of a transceiver or some backpacking gear using various knots. Good candidates are two opposing trucker's hitches [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trucker%27s\\_hitch](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trucker%27s_hitch) which generate a 4:1 mechanical advantage to cinch the base very tight. For use with almost any transceiver, a piece of flat steel could be glued to the chassis top so that the Adventure Magnetic Base magnets may be utilized.



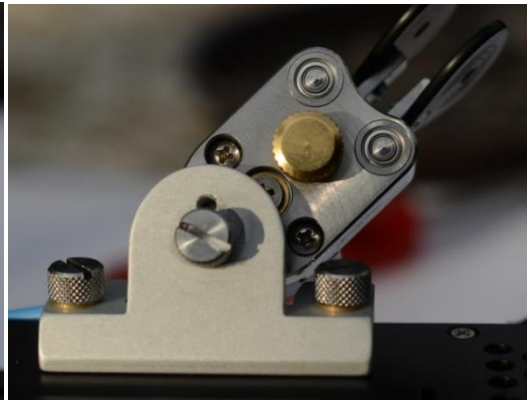
Adventure Magnetic Base Lashed to an Elecraft K1

## Mechanics and Adjustment

The Adventure Mono is more complex than the Adventure. For example, the Adventure Mono utilizes three race bearings, whereas the Adventure sports just two.



[Adventure Mono Bottom](#)



[Adventure Bottom](#)

The Adventure mechanism is straightforward. Each lever, connected directly to a separate fingerpiece, holds a gold contact at ground potential, which shorts the left or right dit or dah gold-plated terminals, or both, upon contact.

The Adventure Mono mechanism is a masterpiece. It also has two separate levers with their gold contacts at ground potential which swivel on two separate race bearings. However, the gold-plated central lever upon which both fingerpieces are mounted rotates on a third bearing, pushing against the magnetic return force, first engaging either the left or right lever and then returning to a central neutral position upon release. The left and right contacts are shorted separately, and never simultaneously. Begali recommends occasional lubrication with a mineral gun oil aerosol. In the case of the Adventure Mono, that may be especially intended for the mechanical interface between the central lever and the two side levers. Since all three levers on the Adventure Mono are at ground potential, no electrical noise is generated by their interaction.

The paddles are so beautifully adjusted when they leave the factory that operators may wish to leave them alone for a long time. The return force for the two Begali paddles is produced by internal magnets for both left and right motion on both paddles. Return force can be adjusted very quickly on the fly by an accessible single gold-plated thumbscrew on the cantilevered bottom of the paddle. On the Adventure Mono, there is a slight left-right return-force asymmetry on the heavier end, but it is nothing to worry about. Light return force seems to be symmetrical, but I have not measured it.

Contact-space adjustment is different for the two paddles. For the simpler Adventure, contact spacing is adjusted by rotating a gold-plated slotted oval stanchion on top of the paddle using either a standard screwdriver or a coin on the top. You can change its contact spacing quickly on the fly, even in the midst of a CW contact.

Since the mechanism of the Adventure Mono is more complicated, contact-space adjustment is also more involved. That same slotted oval stanchion can be rotated on the Adventure Mono as well. Each of the short side-levers on the Adventure Mono has a spring-dampened stainless steel stop-screw which limits the travel of the central lever so that it maintains a neutral center position when neither fingerpiece is pressed. Those two small screws must be readjusted each time after the stanchion position is changed. There is an advantage with those two side screws, however. They can be tweaked using just a fingernail.

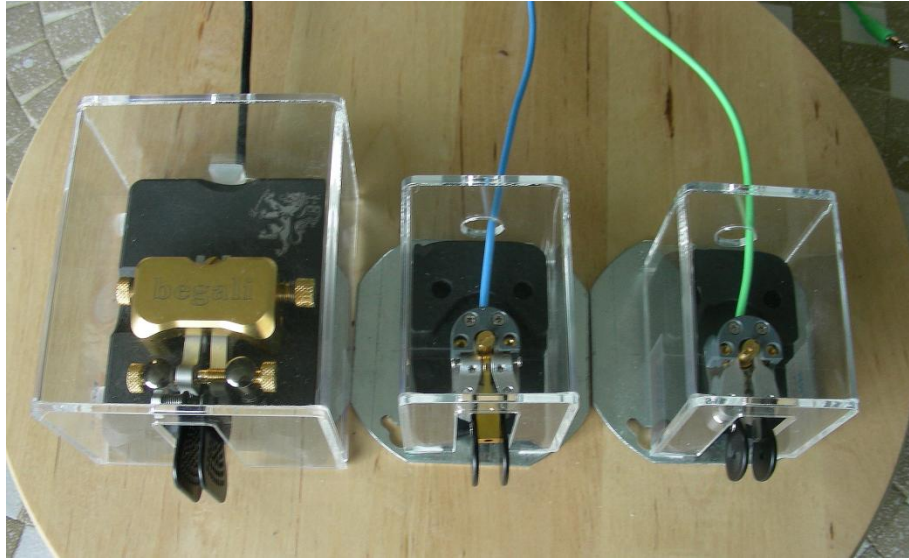
So, both the return force and the contact spacing may be carried out readily in the field. The return force adjustment is identical for both paddles. The contact-space adjustment for the Adventure paddle is simpler than for the Adventure Mono paddle. I always carry a Leatherman multi-tool in the backcountry which includes a phillips screwdriver and flat screwdrivers of different widths. That multi-tool, plus a coin, does the trick.

The lateral angular orientation of both paddles can be changed from left to middle to right positions using a thumbscrew on the KX3 Mounting Bracket or the KX1 Mounting Bracket or the FT-817 Mounting Bracket and a slotted machine screw on the Adventure Magnetic Base. That base makes it possible to use either paddle at a home station or in portable situations. Both of the paddles and all of the mounting options include radial grooves which lock the paddle in place, since only one screw is used to mount each paddle. Before tightening the mounting screw, make sure that those grooves are seated properly. Lateral angle changes are usually not necessary for one operator. They only come into play regularly if a left-handed-paddler and a right-handed-paddler are sharing the same paddle.

## Dust Cover

Ignacio Iñaki EA2CTB sells hefty acrylic dust covers for Begali keys which display the beautiful machines while protecting them.





### EA2CTB Dust Covers for Begali Leonessa, Adventure Mono and Adventure

Typically they include a front fingerpiece slot and accommodation for the rear cable, so the keys can be operated while under the cover. At my home station an EA2CTB cover protects my hybrid dual-lever/single-lever Begali Leonessa paddle as well as the Adventure and Adventure Mono paddles. The cost for each of those dust covers is €35 including shipping to the USA. Send Ignacio an email in English or in Spanish to [ea2ctb@hotmail.com](mailto:ea2ctb@hotmail.com) for more information. You can pay via PayPal to that same email address. Through PayPal you can use any major currency for payment in euros. I would suggest adding a couple of extra euros to cover the PayPal fee on Ignacio's end.

### Summary

Until now, there has been very little attention paid by the Morse key industry to producing top-drawer Morse paddles for backpack-grade portable use. Such operating can be daunting, so using a really fine-quality paddle is a big help. The Adventure and Adventure Mono underwent a months-long development process. The result is a wonder of thoughtful design and precision machining in miniature. Even though the Adventure and Adventure Mono paddles are small and light weight, definitely qualifying them for backpacking, each one works so well that it could serve with the Adventure Magnetic Base as the principal base station paddle. If I had to choose only one paddle for all of my ham radio operating, it would be one of these two tiny Begali paddles.

The Adventure Magnetic Base itself is also diminutive, so paddle owners may prefer to carry that as well as one of the new paddles into the field without using another mounting bracket. Some operators like to operate a paddle that is not fixed to a transceiver.



From now on expect to see lots of these little paddles on DXpeditions, Field Day operations, and SOTA activations, as well as occupying a tiny footprint at well-equipped home-station operating positions.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Margaret Prior K7MWP for the photographs of the Adventure attached to the KX1 and the EA2CTB dust covers. All other photographs were taken by Ulrich Steinberg N2DE and are from the Begali Web site. See <http://www.i2rtf.com/html/adventure.html> and [http://www.i2rtf.com/html/adventure\\_mono.html](http://www.i2rtf.com/html/adventure_mono.html).

Thanks to Stan Levandowski KB2LQF for his precise weight (mass) figures for the Adventure Mono, KX3 Mounting Bracket and the Adventure Magnetic Base determined by a balance scale.

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## **A Reunion**

Founding President Pete Chamalian W1RM writes: “I hadn’t seen my pal Wayne, N4FP (ex-W2TPV and CWops 1099) since the early 1970s. Much to my delight, Wayne and his XYL Marty (WB2VYK) were attending an event in Sarasota, FL, just when Bobbie, WB1ADL, and I were there for a week away from the frigid temps of New England. Wayne and I were regulars on NYS, the New York State CW Traffic Net back in the late 1950s.”



Pete, W1RM (CWops 8), Bobbie, WB1ADL, Marty, WB2VYK, Wayne, N4FP (CWops 1099).

# **The North American CW Weekend**

## **Washington, D.C.**

### **May 3-5, 2013**

CW Operators, Morse code aficionados, and their spouses are cordially invited to attend the North American CW Weekend to be held May 3-5, 2013, at the Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. All amateur radio operators with an interest in code operation are invited, and we have had good participation from FOC, CWOPS, FISTS, PVRC, CVCC, NCDXA, and several other Morse code-oriented and contest groups in the past.

The Washington, DC area is a delightful place in the spring, and there are numerous attractions, museums, monuments, parks, and shopping opportunities within easy reach of the hotel. We will have an informal pizza dinner on Friday evening at a local pizza restaurant, and on Saturday morning, Jim N3JT and Nina will host a brunch at their home in McLean. We plan a hospitality suite with beer, wine, and other libations at the hotel on Friday and Saturday. The no-host dinner will be at the highly-acclaimed Da Domenico Restaurant in McLean on Saturday evening ([www.dadomenicova.com](http://www.dadomenicova.com)). On Sunday afternoon, Frank, W3LPL, has offered to open his world-class contest station for tours. While the weekend is predominantly social, there are wonderful opportunities to connect with fellow hams, talk radio, socialize, and enjoy the DC area. Dress is casual, and the weather in Washington in May is usually quite mild. Coat and tie are optional for the Saturday dinner.

There is a modest registration of US\$25.00 per person which is used to defray the costs of the hospitality suite. Registration can be paid by check to Don Lynch W4ZYT, 1517 West Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717. Don's e-mail is [w4zyt.don@gmail.com](mailto:w4zyt.don@gmail.com).

Reservations at the Marriott can be made by calling the hotel directly [703-849-9400]. *We have obtained a special group rate of \$ 90.00 per night. Please specify you are with the "North American Weekend Group" when making your arrangements.* Guests can call [1-800-228-9290](tel:1-800-228-9290) and ask for the "North American room block" to make a reservation. For some who would like to make a reservation online, use the hotel's web site -

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasfp-fairview-park-marriott/> . The

Group Code to type in the "Group Code" box is NAMNAMA. *Directions to the Marriott are available on the web site. The hotel is readily accessible from the beltway, and there is easy access to area airports and public transportation. Please join us in Washington for what promises to be a great ham radio weekend.*

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## Bylaws Amendment

By a total vote of the membership of 221 to 13, the proposal by your Board to drop the 7-day waiting period for nominee membership processing has been approved. The Bylaws will be amended and future processing conducted in accordance with the new procedure. Once a nominee has the necessary number of sponsors he or she will be eligible for an invitation.

Please be mindful of CW operators you work who might want to become members of CWops. The nomination and sponsoring process is now even easier. Check QRZ.COM for the prospective nominee's email address and ask if he or she would like to join us. Outline the goals of the club and the benefits of membership. Tell them about the CW Academy, the operating events, the club donations to CW training, the camaraderie, [the newsletter?! – ed.,] etc.

73,

Jim, N3JT, Secretary

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## From the VP – ACA/CMA Scores



<u>Call</u>	<u>ACA</u>	<u>CMA</u>
SM6CNN*	287	2230
VE3KI*	285	1909
N5RR*	274	2536
K6RB*	257	1882
KZ5D*	247	2604
W1RM*	218	2441
DL8PG*	212	1068
AA3B	211	3392
F6HKA*	203	1290
N2UU*	123	1564
EA1WX*	114	1206
NN6T*	77	820
DJ1OJ*	64	1579
K6DGW*	55	930

W5ASP*	30	817
AD1C*	10	795
W4VQ*		1028

\* = updated data

73,

*Art*, KZ5D

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.

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## From the Secretary



With great pleasure we welcome the following new members:

1129	K0AV *	Alan
1130	K1GQ	Willard
1131	K2SAN	Paul
1132	K8QI *	Barry
1133	W3GW	Joe
1134	K5OGX	Phillip
1135	WQ3E	Josy
1136	W7TAO	Todd
1137	K7SF	Steve
1138	K2TTM	Michael
1139	JR1NHD	Makoto

1140	JI3CJP *	Kanji
1141	N1LN	Bruce
1142	HA1RJ	Andras
1143	ZS6UT	Ed
1144	AD4J	Jim

\* = Life Member

73,

*Jim*, N3JT

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## Current Nominees

Need Sponsors: AC4BT, G4CPA, KV1E, N5TW

Invitations Extended: CO2IR, DL3DXX, K0LUW, K0UK, K5LN, VE7ALQ

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.”

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## QTX Scores

Call    January    CY2013

K1ESE	66	66
N5IR	41	41
K4AHO	31	31
WA3NZR	28	28
K6RB	14	14
K5KV	10	10
JE1TRV	9	9
WA8IWK	8	8
K0DTJ	6	6

K6HTN	6	6
DL8PG	4	4
W6JMP	2	2

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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