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The International CWops Newsletter

October 2013 Issue No. 45

Tower Staging at WRTC 2010

CWops "CWT"

9, 23 October 2013
Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (10, 24 September)
1-hour each session
Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

CWA Days

2, 16 October 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

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President's Message

Wow, we're in third quarter already. Soon we'll be writing 2014 just when we got used to writing 2013. As many of you know, CW Open III was held on August 31 and the results were very, very encouraging. I'm going to let the new CW Open manager, Dean, NW2K, give some preliminary observations as he and Alan, AD6E, work diligently on log checking. Most noteworthy to me was the big increase in EU participation. The new session times seem to be one factor in the huge growth.

Most of the CW Academy advisors began their courses in the beginning of September so most of us are about half-way through. You'll see some information about CW Academy later on in this issue. Considering that we're nearly 'full' for our April/May 2014 signups, we must be doing something right.

John, K1ESE, has done a masterful job encouraging more ragchewing via QTX points. Point totals are up, and so is the number of those posting their QTX totals. I'm working on increasing my participation, too.

And, Hank, W6SX, has been a real sparkplug in generating increased participation in CWTs. You'll see his column later on in this issue, too.

I started my term in January and it's been nine months, already. I had many goals in mind on New Year's Day, and a lot have been attained…but not all. And, that's good. It gives me more things to work on. But, overall, I'm very pleased with how the club is doing. Another election will soon be coming up. One director position and the VP position are both in play. Don, N1DG, is heading up a nominating committee at my behest. Any of you who are interested in either position should email Don (don@aurumtel.com) and let him know. At a minimum we will have a slate with at least one candidate for each position. My early thank you to both Bert and Art for the work they have both done since the club was first founded.

On a different subject, over my 55 years of active radio operating, I've gone through different phases of operating preferences. The one constant throughout the years, though, has been CW. There was a time when I relished working DX, collecting QSLs, and seeking my first DXCC award. Then, I found myself more interested in ragchewing, with anyone, anywhere. It may have been influenced by having a low-power station and low-slung wire antennas for several years. Once I had settled down and established a more serious station (SO2R, QRO, tower, yagis), I found that contesting accounted for about half of my annual operating time. These days, though, I'm less inclined to do contesting and more geared toward ragchewing and helping aspiring CW operators to improve their skills.

But, one thing I had always fantasized about was taking part in a DXpedition. So, when I was invited to participate in the upcoming C82DX 'doings' (www.c82dx.com) it didn't take me very long to decide. For one, I had the time; for another, I had the resources. So, I'll be leaving for Johannesburg, via Amsterdam, on 9 October and will be one of the C82DX team. All told I'll be gone for three weeks. I've had my shots, I've got my visa, I've booked my flights, I've paid my money, and I'm set to go. Hope to work many of you while I'm there, too.

I will unfortunately miss the 0300Z session of CWT for October 10 but I may have time for 1300Z on October 9. And, the CWT on October 23 will occur after the C82DX stations and antenna have

been dismantled. So, I will miss that whole day's sessions. I hope you have a lot of fun and I promise I'll be back in the saddle in November.

73,

Rob K6RB

From the Editor – WRTC!

One of the exciting events of the past month was the announcement of invitations to compete as team leaders at the next World Radiosport Team Championship, WRTC 2014 in New England. Soon those invitees will choose their teammates and we will know who will represent the regions of the ham radio world in this most level of amateur radio competitions. In CWOps, we are not all contesters, but most of us understand the challenge of sport and participate in some contests on at least a casual basis. Many of our members are on the 2014 team leader list or have participated in prior WRTC events as competitors, referees, volunteers, organizers, hosts, spectators and fans. Although the competition, implemented as a sub-contest within the open, worldwide, IARU Radiosport contest, is not exclusively on CW, the best strategy for overall score certainly emphasizes our mode. Next year there will also be a CW Skills Competition held as part of WRTC on-site activities. With all this in mind, our Board of Directors has approved a total of US$ 1000 in support of WRTC 2014. For more information on the events, check out the WRTC 2014 Web site.

We have a packed issue this month! Thanks to the members who submitted articles. Dave W0VX reviews a shielded loop antenna from Pixel. Hank W6SX shares memories of the old days of landline Morse from Vic W7VSE. David G3UNA reviews the SD Contest Logger by Paul EI5DI. Jerry AC4BT combines a reflection on the centering role of the ham club with a review of RUMlog, a DX logger for Mac computers. The CW Academy column from Rob K6RB and Will WJ9B chronicles the explosive growth of this signature project by our club. Hank W6SX introduces a new, award for CWT participation. Art KZ5D reports the ACA/CMA Award standings and Jim N3JT and Colin KU5B report 16 new members, a busy month! Finally, John K1ESE brings us the QTX Report along with a photo of a beautiful, left-handed bug.

The Northern California Contest Club has an informal, unorganized, impromptu and unofficial spinoff known as the Sierra Chapter. It meets for coffee on Friday mornings at the Truckee Bagel shop, puts together a nice Field Day operation from rare Sierra County and on occasion gathers for a summer barbeque at my place in northeastern Truckee (CA, USA). A lot of the group members are also in CWOps and here they are at August's BBQ. From left to right: N6XI, K9JM, W6SX, K6DGW and AD6E.

Thank You's

Some heartwarming correspondence came in this past month. Chris N3BGJ completed Level 1 CW Academy and sends his sincere appreciation. See the CW Academy column below. And Carl AA4MI of the Lake Monroe Radio Society sends his thanks for another CW training grant from CWOps via ARRL. His club holds in-person classroom sessions, with a QRP rig on hand for demonstrations and mandatory sending practice for the students.

Coming Soon

A couple of administrative matters for your attention: Next month we will begin soliciting annual dues. In addition to our modest, direct operating costs, we also make regular grants and contributions to help keep CW alive and well in the ham radio world. Membership is not just a privilege but also a bargain, so when you hear the call, please respond promptly. Also in the coming month, expect to vote on a minor revision to the club By Laws to create a new position of Ambassador. These folks will represent CWOps in their own country or region. Stand by for details.

73,

Rick N6XI

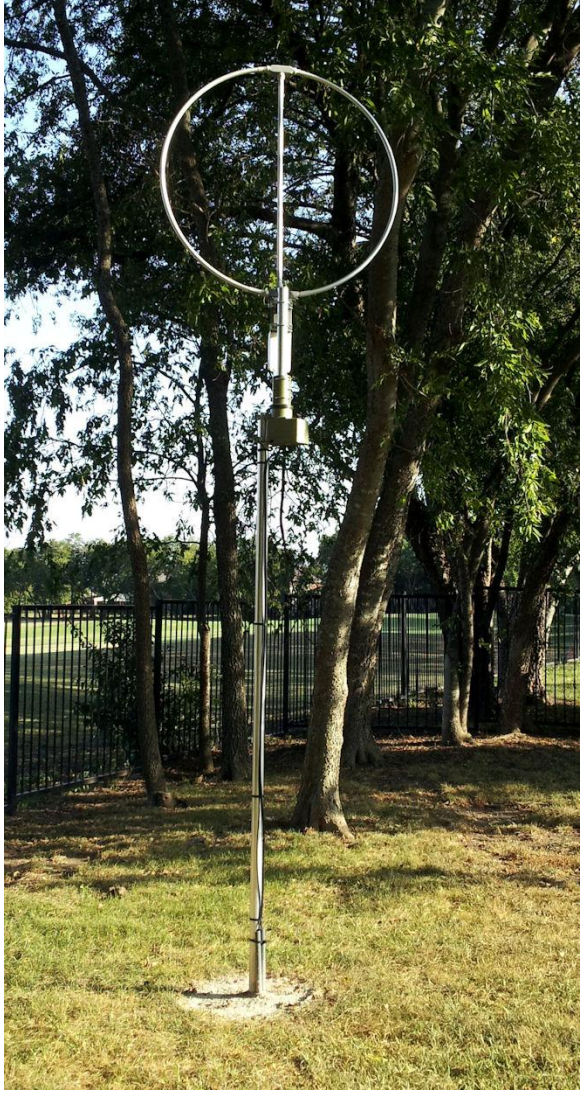
Pixel RF PRO 1B Loop Antenna

by Dave Jaksa, W0VX

I ordered and installed the Pixel RF PRO 1B/200 loop antenna http://www.pixelsatradio.com in January of this year. The Pixel Loop is an active, shielded loop, magnetic antenna that comes complete with coax, amplifier, power supply, power inserter, and receiver protection T/R switch. The shielded loop antenna responds to the magnetic "H" field but rejects the electrical "E" field. Since most manmade noise primarily radiates an electrical "E" field, the antenna is able to improve received signal to noise ratio. Overall I am very pleased with the performance of the antenna.

When we moved to Texas 25 years ago our neighborhood was semirural and the major cross streets were two lane, blacktop, rural roads. The QTH was very quiet but we have become a victim of progress. Today we have busy four lane divided streets, the George Bush Turnpike, numerous stores and restaurants, and a major shopping center nearby, all of them generating noise. The result is that it isn't very RF quiet around here anymore.

For the past several years I have been contemplating a receive antenna solution that would help me on the low bands. Our lot is little bigger than the average Dallas city lot but not nearly big enough for a decent low band antenna farm. There is no room for a Beverage although if we still lived in W9 land or W0 land, I would run a Beverage antenna across the golf course behind our house every winter. Up north there aren't many golfers when the ground is covered with snow. That doesn't work so well here with our 12 month long golf season.



I considered the K9AY and several other low noise receive antennas but the reality was always the same – not enough room or I couldn't get them far enough away from the rest of the antennas. I experimented with small, shielded and unshielded loop antennas in the shack but because of the proximity to our computers, network router, and all our other electronic toys, they didn't work out. It came down to a decision of whether or not to spend $500 for the Pixel loop. Having successfully used a homebrew shielded loop in Iowa, I knew that it might work well, but there was no guarantee that it would.

In the spirit of "you can't take it with you" I finally bit the bullet in January and ordered the Pixel antenna. It arrived about a week later. Like any kid with a new toy, I immediately tried it in a temporary lash-up inside the shack and the results were less than spectacular. There were just too many noise sources in the house and I wondered if I had just blown $500. After a bit more experimentation with the antenna in the back yard I concluded that it really did work but had to be far away from our house and the neighbors' houses for it to work well.

There really wasn't an ideal place to install the antenna in our yard. Anywhere I put the loop it was going to be too close to the HF2V vertical in the middle of the yard, the tower next to the house, or the inverted V hanging off the tower. As shown in the accompanying photo, I finally decided to install it in the far back of our yard, about 35 feet away from the vertical. It is on an eight foot high pole nestled in some trees. That puts the middle of the loop at about 10 feet above ground. I have a light duty rotator turning it. The aluminum support pole came from Texas Towers, the rotator from Amazon, and the bags of Quickcrete from Home Depot.

Digging the hole for the support pole was the usual circus. All of the good soil in the yard came with the sod! Once you dig past the first inch or so it is all rock. The rock is semi-soft but rock none the less. Digging took a long time and required consumption of a non-antenna beverage after the work was done.

With help from XYL Judi W0JJ we mixed and poured the Quickcrete and actually managed to get the pole true vertical. She is pretty good with a carpenter's level. After letting the concrete cure for

a few days, we installed the rest of the antenna. We buried the 150 feet of coax and rotator control cable between the house and the shack over a three day period. Again, after crawling around on the ground burying wires a non-antenna beverage was required. All of the possible cable routes to the house unavoidably crossed the HF2V's 36 radial field covering the back yard, so we took care not to cut the radial wires.

After using Pixel antenna on the low bands for about 6 months I am favorably impressed. It's not a Beverage by a long shot but it sure helps. Improvement in S/N vs. the HF2V vertical and inverted V is impressive, especially on 80 meters. The improvement in S/N is as much as 6 dB on some signals as measured on our LP-Pan band scope. Rarely if ever is S/N more than 6dB better, usually less, and on some signals it is minimal. I suspect the improvement depends on signal arrival angle and of course on the level of manmade noise at the time. It is however, usually the difference between being able to tell somebody is there and being able to copy them.

There is a little less improvement on 40 and 30 meters but it still helps. We didn't have a bad noise problem on those bands at this QTH so I was more interested in 80 meter performance. As expected. the three element Yagi antennas on 20/15/10 and 17/12 always outperform the loop. In the winter/spring I listened with the loop on 160 and it seemed to be hearing pretty well. I was hearing many DX signals but I don't yet have a transmitting antenna for an A/B comparison.

The antenna pattern front lobe is fairly broad but the side null is very deep. On ground wave I am seeing a sharp 35 dB front to side null on KRLD, a 50 KW broadcast station on 1080 KHz about 10 miles away. It is less on 80 meter sky wave propagation but noticeable enough that you don't want a weak desired signal in the null. I suspect you could get by without the rotator but if you are going through the expense and trouble of installing the antenna you might as well spend the extra $75-$100 and get a light duty rotator too.

The big question is, is it worth the $500? Actually it was more like $650 after tallying all the costs (rotator, rotator cable, support pole, concrete). Bottom line is, at our QTH it makes the difference between being able to tell somebody is in there and being able to copy them. Being able to copy the weak ones made it worth the money and installation effort.

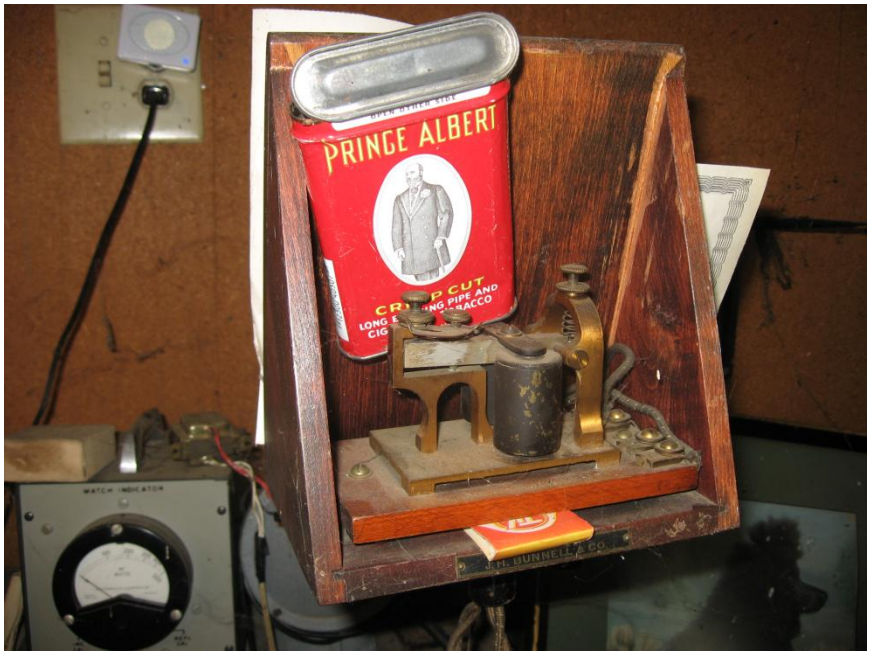
The Pixel RF PRO 1B is a possible solution for those of us who are city lot space limited with no room for a Beverage, K9AY, flag or other, larger RX antenna. Your results may vary from what we are seeing at W0VX/W0JJ but it's worth a serious look if you have problems hearing on the low bands.

The Old Days

By Hank Garretson W6SX

I've been handling traffic with Vic Seeberger W7VSE for over thirty-five years. Vic is a consummate CW man and at ninety-one still pounding brass. During a recent holiday trip, I visited Vic at his home in Medford, Oregon. Of course, I got to see his shack which indeed is a real shack in his back yard.

My eye caught an old Morse sounder. What really caught my eye was the strategically-placed tobacco tin. Apparently in days of old, when there was more than one Morse telegrapher in a room, sometimes each would put a tobacco tin on his sounder and adjust the lid to produce a distinctive sound to help him hear his sounder.



This sounder is the one Vic used when he worked for Western Union in Medford for a couple of years, right after WW2. Vic says that the wooden structure behind the sounder is called a resonator and enables you to direct the sound in the direction desired. The Prince Albert can is a natural passive amplifier—makes the sound louder and doesn't need batteries or a power supply.

More from Vic: "Can you imagine a scene during the heyday of Morse telegraphy, before radio? Telegraphy was the only kid in town. Everything was handled via telegraph: news, stock market reports, telegrams, etc. Chicago had wires all over the USA terminating there. They called it the

Chicago Round Table. Only the best qualified operators were able to hold down a job there. I've seen pictures of it and, there must have been fifty cubicles separated only by wooden walls with fifty telegraphers all working different wires. That had to be a madhouse! They would HAVE to have had a way to use different tones, and I guess the old PA can was the answer to their dilemma.

"I was fortunate to QSO Frank, W6FZZ many times. His full name was Samuel F. B. Morse III and he was a direct descendant of the inventor of Morse code. Frank could handle either code at any speed. He operated at the Round Table for years."

SD Contest Logger by Paul EI5DI

Reviewed by David Cutter G3UNA

I first came across SD at the RSGB HF Convention around 1993 and bought a copy because I was (and still am) a little cautious when it comes to computers. I wanted something simple that would run on DOS. I used it a few times, though not very seriously – more to get a feel for contesting without paper logging.

Then in 2002 I took my old Toyota RAV to the Isle of Man for the IOTA contest, operating /P from the back seat. I was running a cheap little laptop with external disc drive. After initial setting up I had a little time to spare so I looked at some of SD's finer features and I came across a little subroutine that allowed me to change the speed of the exchange, e.g. higher speed for 599 and larger spacing for parts of my call to make it easier for the folks at the other end. The latter was a great bonus for me because it resulted in far fewer repeats for my call. I opted for the 12 hour operating time, but I fell asleep at 3am – something I hadn't realized until I woke up to find the log empty for three hours!

On the few DXpeditions that I've done, we've used CT or, on T32C, the special logging software Starlog by G3WGV. On home ground I've used N1MM and one or two others. Of these I preferred CT because it was so simple and is similar to SD but not as versatile. Don't ask me to elaborate, though – it's been a while since I've used it. The other programs I found very difficult to get my head around – I just wanted to operate the radio, not spend days setting up the PC. Oh, yes, my little laptop couldn't cope with the bigger programs and I didn't want to read a huge manual. I must say that leaving it to others to do the setting up is the easy option. The software always ran well and did what it was supposed to but I always had the uneasy feeling that if any glitch occurred I'd have to get the guru out of bed to fix it. No such worries with SD.

SD is now free. It has been in continuous development since 1990, and is probably the only logger from that time to survive and thrive through the transition to Windows. SD runs on any version of Windows, from XP to Windows 8, while preserving the look and feel of DOS – no disadvantage for contest logging. EI5DI claims that "SD concentrates on the basics and does them right – with instant display of relevant information, but no visual overload." He says SD was written for contesters, not for IT specialists who happen to be contesters, and I can relate to that.

You get all the usual features such as rig control and CW generation (with full WinKey support), Super Check Partial and callsign databases, SO2R support, but not networking or packet – SD is intended for single-op unassisted CW and SSB contesting.

So, let's see how it performs for the CWOps Mini Tests and the CW OPEN. Getting started is easy – click on the word "download" at www.ei5di.com, accept all the default options, and you will be up and running in a couple of minutes. Any Windows warnings may be ignored – SD will not harm your computer. The manual, SD.pdf, is included in the installation files which are stored in your C:\SD folder. Unlike some others, it's small, only 18 pages.

When installed, two desktop icons are created – for SD and for SDCHECK, a post-contest program for Cabrillo and ADIF conversion. Double-click on the SD icon and you are asked for a contest file name. SD creates separate ASCII logs for each contest you enter, with corresponding names (but different extensions) for your Cabrillo and other logs. A typical contest name might be CWOPEN13 since it's useful to include the year in the name. Assuming you have entered a new name, and not one representing an existing log, you'll see tables of all contest options supported by SD – there are lots of them, including a few that you might not recognize. Use the arrow keys to move to the CW OPEN or CWops Mini-CWT options, and press Enter. The first time you run SD, you will enter your call, name and address (once only), together with fixed exchange information (if any) for the chosen contest. For the Mini-CWT it will be your name and membership number.

Now you're ready to start logging. If you like, you can define COM ports for rig control and CW (internal or WinKey) using the PORTS command in the callsign field. SD stores all your settings in SD.INI which it loads each time it starts. The SCP command toggles super check partial as preferred.

One aspect of logging with SD is worth a mention – you are expected to press ENTER after every field. Space may work some of the time, but it's not recommended. There's no need to worry about a QSO being logged too soon, and even if that happens you can use Up Arrow to go to the QSO and edit it directly, or zap the QSO (erase) with the ZAP command.

Once you define a CW port, SD's internal keyer is ready – assuming you already have a USB to serial converter (FTDI chip preferred), together with a standard level converter. WinKey, whether standalone or integrated (as in microHAM), is recommended because it guarantees smooth CW at all

times, regardless of what Windows may be doing in the background. SD supports ESM (Enter Sends Message) in both Run and S&P (Search and Pounce) modes – apostrophe (') toggles ESM, and back apostrophe ("`" under the Esc key) toggles between Run and S&P. The mode you are in and the message corresponding to the next ENTER, are shown to the right of the callsign field.

So, let's log a QSO. SD automatically loads its CWOPS callsign database at start-up and *pre-fills the exchange* with matching callsigns from the CWOPS data base. It could hardly be easier. Reverse lookup works too! Type 1 in the callsign field to see Jim N3JT displayed (and dupe checked). Add a 2 to see Art KZ5D, add 34 to see Pete N5TP. To clear the callsign field, press Esc or press Alt-w (wipe) or MINUS key. To work N5TP, press Enter to see the full QSO displayed correctly, ready for logging. If you want to wipe the logging line, Alt-w will work, but it's easier to use the minus ("-") key – think of it as "taking away."

SD flags dupes instantly, and changes the callsign display to red. At all times you get an instant band analysis under the callsign highlighting the bands needed for that station, or the bands needed for a multiplier (when appropriate) with the country or zone corresponding to the callsign. It's worth trying SD's CQWW option to see how useful this feature is. If you agree to a QSO on another band, simply type the frequency, followed by ENTER, and you're there (SD sends the frequency data to your radio). If you hear one another, log the QSO and then press F10 twice to get back to your original frequency.

The first F10 brings up the Band Map, and the second F10 recalls the most recent entry there – your original frequency. You'll find this is a lot easier to do than to describe.

EI5DI spent much of his early career in what used to be known as Data Processing and has used this experience to make SD's data entry simple and intuitive.

There's much more to describe and it's worth reading the manual in full – including the last page which is a quick reference guide to the main features. You'll notice some features that you won't see in other loggers, such as the choice of OVR, INS and Auto-Insert options for data entry.

After the contest, SDCHECK creates your Cabrillo log for upload or email, and includes an ADIF option for integrating your contest logs with your station log.

What's Good about SD?

- It's fast, simple, uncluttered and effective - you'll be encouraged to try more contests.
- The manual is only 18 pages.
- There are single intuitive keystrokes for all logging and editing functions, with no Alt-This or Ctrl-That compound keystrokes. Logging and editing (any QSO) could hardly be simpler.

- As you edit previously logged QSOs, SD instantly updates and dupe-checks all relevant QSOs in the log to ensure consistency – the log is like a spreadsheet that is always balanced and consistent.
- All relevant information is shown while you type callsign prefixes. You see immediately whether you need that station on other bands and which of them would be multipliers – with no need to touch another key.
- Over 200 contest options supported – all controlled by individual templates that you're free to edit or add to.
- EI5DI adds support for other contests on request. Have a look at the SD User mailing list archives at http://lists.contesting.com/pipermail/sd-user/.
- New QSOs and edits to previous QSOs are written to disk immediately so your log is always up-to-date on the disk.
- SD creates an independent audit trail file, recording all QSOs and edits in the original sequence.
- All SD's log and reference files are standard ASCII text files, with no binary files or proprietary databases.

What's not so good about SD?

- No networking or data support.

73,

David G3UNA

Attraction to the "Center"

by Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT

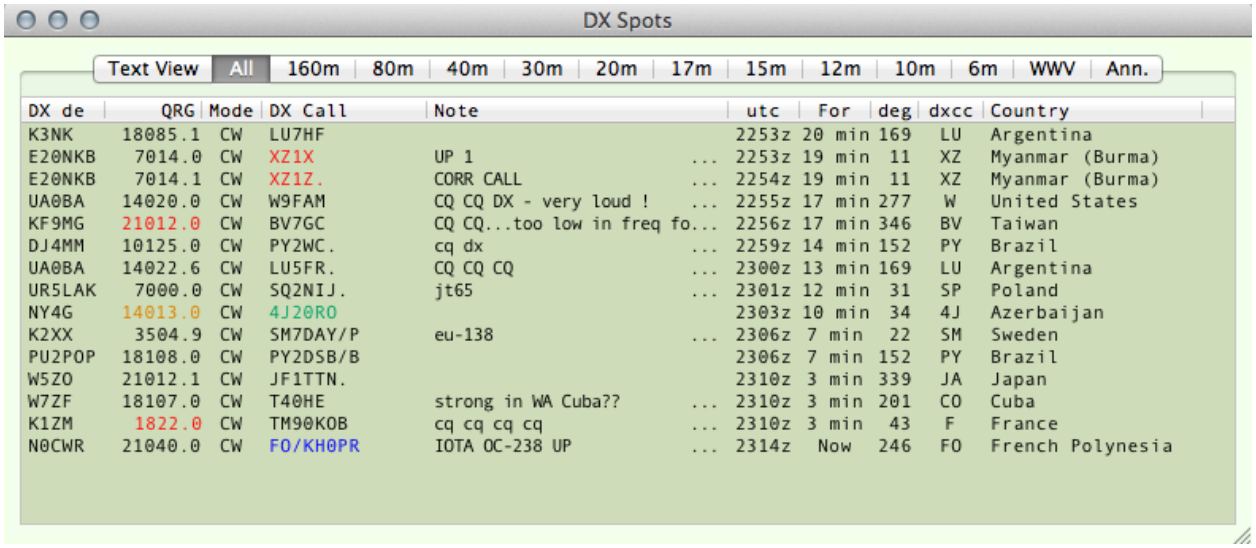
CWOPS # 1148

I got licensed as an amateur radio operator in January 1990. Back then the propagation/band conditions were great and there were many ham clubs where you could go to meet other more experienced hams who could correct a beginner's mistakes. You usually had to buy them a beer or two, as I recall! I looked forward to those weekly Thursday night meetings. It was a great learning opportunity where knowledge and friendship were neatly entwined. Age didn't matter. All that mattered was that everyone shared a common interest and love of the hobby. The traditional ham club, at least for me, served as a "center" or foundation where I could find friendship, guidance and knowledge all working in concert to improve my ham skills.

Fast forward to 2013: We now live in an on-line Internet age. Most of us are on-line the majority of the day, at work and at home. We find ourselves tethered and addicted to on-line devices. Trying to take away one's laptop, smartphone, or tablet would certainly be a dangerous act, akin to a wild-west shootout with smoke in the air and, inevitably, a body on the ground. Such is the nature of our "addiction."

The ham club experience, at least for me, is also not what it used to be. The meetings still formally take place but people seem to be in a hurry to get back to whatever they were doing on-line. The closeness, sharing of knowledge, and willingness to help others is not the same. So coming back to the hobby after being away for a few years, I found myself in search of a replacement "center." Fortunately, I soon stumbled upon CWOPS, a paradigm shift to what the traditional ham club experience used to be. CWOPS has filled the void very nicely. The CW Academy program, contesting opportunities, on the air camaraderie, and the CWOPS email group where questions, answers, and information can be exchanged 24/7 all remind me of what the ham club was in the '90's. CWOPS has, in effect, become my "center."

The concept of the "center," the way I interpret it, applies to most things that bring order to items that are varied and complicated, thus allowing you to use the tool and techniques to grow, improve and be successful. One such example is in the area of a logging program. I have a Mac and I use the excellent, free program called RUMLog. I have a huge interest in chasing DX stations, working new countries and keeping track of my country count on each band towards the various awards. The author of RUMLog, Tom DL2RUM, is himself a DXer and has built a logging program from a DXer's point of view. While many of the logging programs are very similar in capturing and displaying QSO data, they do so one-dimensionally and in some cases awkwardly. RUMLog stands out by taking a different approach – displaying key information in multiple visual dimensions based on the entries in your log. It does this by allowing the spotting net window to serve as the "center." The spotting net window, or "DX Spots" as it is called, displays DX stations that are currently on the bands and their frequencies in real time. These spots are entered by hams as the DX stations are heard, and get broadcast on the spotting nets.



DX de	QRG	Mode	DX Call	Note		utc	For	deg	dxcc	Country
K3NK	18085.1	CW	LU7HF			2253z	20 min	169	LU	Argentina
E20NKB	7014.0	CW	XZ1X	UP 1	...	2253z	19 min	11	XZ	Myanmar (Burma)
E20NKB	7014.1	CW	XZ1Z.	CORR CALL	...	2254z	19 min	11	XZ	Myanmar (Burma)
UA0BA	14020.0	CW	W9FAM	CQ CQ DX - very loud !	...	2255z	17 min	277	W	United States
KF9MG	21012.0	CW	BV7GC	CQ CQ...too low in freq fo	...	2256z	17 min	346	BV	Taiwan
DJ4MM	10125.0	CW	PY2WC.	cq dx	...	2259z	14 min	152	PY	Brazil
UA0BA	14022.6	CW	LU5FR.	CQ CQ CQ	...	2300z	13 min	169	LU	Argentina
UR5LAK	7000.0	CW	SQ2NIJ.	jt65	...	2301z	12 min	31	SP	Poland
NY4G	14013.0	CW	4J20RO			2303z	10 min	34	4J	Azerbaijan
K2XX	3504.9	CW	SM7DAY/P	eu-138	...	2306z	7 min	22	SM	Sweden
PU2POP	18108.0	CW	PY2DSB/B			2306z	7 min	152	PY	Brazil
W5ZO	21012.1	CW	JF1TTN.			2310z	3 min	339	JA	Japan
W7ZF	18107.0	CW	T40HE	strong in WA Cuba??	...	2310z	3 min	201	CO	Cuba
K1ZM	1822.0	CW	TM90KOB	cq cq cq cq	...	2310z	3 min	43	F	France
N0CWR	21040.0	CW	FO/KH0PR	IOTA OC-238 UP	...	2314z	Now	246	FO	French Polynesia

RUMLog goes a step further by incorporating key information from your past QSOs and indicating whether you have worked or confirmed that DX entity on a particular band using different colors to indicate status. For example, if the DX spot is a new country it would be colored red. If you look at the third entry in the listing, the DX call is XZ1Z (Burma) and is colored red. The period at the end of the call indicates that XZ1Z is a LoTW (Log Book of the World) participant.

If you look at the fifth entry, BV7GC (Taiwan), the Frequency field 21012 is colored red and BV7GC is colored black to indicate I have worked and confirmed Taiwan but need that entity on 15. The green colored call 4J20RO indicates that I have worked that station. The amber color in the frequency field 14013 indicates that I have worked but not yet confirmed Azerbaijan on 20. The blue colored call FO/KH0PR indicates that I have worked that station on 15 but do not yet have the entity confirmed.

You can apply filters to the DX Spots window. In the listing shown I have set it up so that only CW spots are visible, since I only work CW. You can customize this to the way you operate. Once your rig is correctly configured and connected to your computer, you can double-click on the call to QSY to the frequency and quickly pounce on the station.

Other useful features are a built in CW keyboard and macros for storing common QSO exchange information.

RUMLog adds organization to a complicated stream of data, and sorts and displays it customized to the way I work. It's a brilliantly simple idea, beautifully implemented and a perfect illustration of how the concept of "center" can work.

After writing this article and taking stock, I must admit that I too have an on-line addiction! Maybe that's not so bad?

CW Academy – Growing!

Rob K6RB and Will WJ9B

The September/October semester of CW Academy is off to a great start. We currently have 26 Level 1 and 13 Level 2 students. Our advisor staff has several new members: Jack W1WEF, Kate K6HTN, Barry K8QI and James VK4TJF. They are all doing great jobs. The veteran advisor staff is: Dallas K1DW, Bill K5LN, Bill KC4D, Ron WT5RZ, Jerry AC4BT, Will WJ9B, Jack W0UCE and Rob K6RB.

The Level 1 course has been further refined with the publication of a *Practice and Assignments* document that spells out exactly what the students should be practicing every day. The online meetings have become assessment sessions where the advisors assess each student's progress and prescribe additional things a student might try to overcome a problem. As a result, the online meetings have been much streamlined.

We are awaiting a working prototype of a new training tool that supports both copying practice and sending practice. The copying practice portion is operational and several students have been using it. We hope to have the full prototype ready in time for the January-February semester.

The Level 2 and 3 courses are really tailored to each student's capabilities and aspirations. Most of the advisors are using a combination of online and on-air training.

CW Academy has become really popular. We are half way through September/October and already have a full schedule for January/ February and a nearly full one for April/May. As you'll see at the end of the column, we really need to add to our advisory staff for January/February and beyond. We have double the number of Level 1s and more than double the number of Level 2s in January/February. We will either have to add more advisors or create a huge backlog of demand.

If you had to wait a year to participate in a Morse training course, would you do it? That's the kind of decision our future students will be facing unless we add more advisors. We have a few in reserve but we need many more. Please consider giving back to ham radio by helping to increase the number of competent CW operators. We have lots of resources available to help every new advisor quickly come up to speed. Just ask Jack, Kate or Barry.

Here are the September/October semester students and advisors. We all receive emails telling us how much they appreciate our help…and you can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices every time we meet.

CWA Students Sep/Oct 2013

Name	Call	Level	Advisor
Steve	N7ITE	1	K6RB
Chuck	K6ZIZ	1	K6RB
Robin	VE7HMN	1	K6RB
Phil	AG6FU	1	K6RB
Rosalin	KI6MWY	1	K6RB
Paul	KD8FJO	1	K1DW
Chris	N3BDJ	1	K1DW
David	W2DZ	1	K8QI
Dave	N4KD	1	K8QI
Jerry	W3GWC	1	K8QI
Marc	WB2MSC	1	K8QI
John	AC8JW	1	K6HTN
Tom	K9RTP	1	K6HTN
Mike	KB7QDX	1	K6HTN
Ray	KF5THH	1	K5LN
Don	KC5HCX	1	K5LN
Ray	N5SEZ	1	K5LN
Dave	AL7LH	1	KC4D
Jim	KJ4GVJ	1	KC4D
Robert	KB4FZE	1	KC4D
Paul	NR3P	1	W1WEF
Jamie	W3UC	1	W1WEF
John	NN0Z	1	WT5RZ
Sean	KD6CUB	1	WT5RZ
Glenn	KJ6WEV	1	WT5RZ
Derek	K3XN	1	WT5RZ
Mal	N5GKV	2	AC4BT
Charlie	NP3K	2	AC4BT
Jim	WD3JT	2	AC4BT
Bob	NF7D	2	WJ9B
Ed	K6HP	2	WJ9B
Jeff	WK6I	2	WJ9B

Ted	KC7PM	2	WJ9B
Ed	KN9V	2	W0UCE
Les	W9XC	2	W0UCE
Erik	KB9KNY	2	W0UCE
Kurt	KJ5WU	2	W0UCE
Gil	AK4YH	2	W0UCE
Brett	VK2CBD	2	VK4TJF

We already have about 85 signups for January/February! Although most are from the US, some of our wait-list students are in Europe, Oceania and Africa. Will you help us? We don't want to push any of them back into April/May because that semester is nearly full, too, with about 70 signups so far.

If you think CW Academy is too much work for too little return, think again. Our keystone project is producing CW operators and advocates who appreciate what we do, succeed in their efforts, and tell us and their friends about it. Here is an excerpt from one of our students, Chris N3BGJ in Pennsylvania:

> *I wanted to send a note of thanks to the officers of the CWops for the generous gesture of creating the CW Academy. I successfully finished Level 1 yesterday under the very capable guidance of Dallas Ward, K1DW. I can't thank Dallas and CWops enough for the time, effort, encouragement and sacrifices they make to make the Academy possible. I, in turn, gave the Academy my fullest intention and commitment, even delaying a semester until I knew that I had the required time and materials available. The result is my accomplishing three CW contacts, all three of which resulted in personal QSL card exchanges, and this before the course even ended. I have signed up for Level 2 in the spring of 2014.*
>
> *I was licensed as a Novice in 1986, upgraded to Technician and spent almost all of my time on FM repeaters. My interest in the code never ceased but I had no help and relied on old methods which caused me to learn the worst way possible, counting characters and the like. The code intimidated me and I doubted my ability to reach any proficiency. I recently came back to radio and that nagging desire to learn CW returned. I was delighted to see the variety of code-learning computer software and began dabbling with G4FON's offering. It wasn't enough, though. I needed a coach, a mentor, an elmer, a source of encouragement and discipline to unlearn the bad ways and learn the good. I entered the course not thinking that I'd have a CW contact, a quarter-century goal and dream, even at the end. Thankfully, I was proved wrong! …*
>
> *So, thanks again. You have one more CW operator on the air now!*

Thank YOU, Chris, for sharing your success with us. We look forward to meeting you on the air … on CW, of course!

Many of us had a stint at message handling decades before the Internet, when Amateur Radio messaging provided a unique service. Others offered phone-patch traffic handling when long-distance calls were expensive. CW Academy is another way for us to serve, and believe us, there is a huge demand for it.

Being an advisor is a voluntary endeavor. You will be making a time commitment, albeit not a huge one, and you will receive no payment for that time. But you will receive something far more valuable than money. You'll know you are doing something that is having a real impact on the perpetuation of the mode we all enjoy and sharing that joy with other hams in true 'Elmer' fashion.

We think CW Academy is so important, and your voluntary service so admirable, that we've decided to present advisors who teach six two-month semesters with a very beautiful and classy service-award plaque. And, for those who serve 12 two-month semesters, we will provide another really special award.

So, for all these reasons, the feeling of satisfaction, the giving back to ham radio, the perpetuation of the mode we love, and the prospect of earning a unique and truly special service award, go to the CW Academy Web page, fill in the advisor information, and submit it. Make your skill and experience really count for something.

CWT – Participation Awards

By Hank Garretson W6SX

As we announced in January, for 2013 we will present awards for CWT participation. You earn one point for each CWT session in which you make ten or more contacts. You don't have to be a CWops member to earn points, but you must be a member at the end of the year when the awards are presented. To earn a Gold award, you need 60 points, Silver, 40, and Bronze 24. This will be an ongoing program, but a first-year 2013 award will be very special. Our objective is to encourage CWT participation—you don't have to be competitive to earn points, just active.

We are close to finalizing the awards. The medals will be about two inches in diameter and feature the CWops logo. Background color will be bright gold, silver, or bronze. They are really neat.

Here are participation standings through the 25 September events.

Silver already earned: NW2K, UR5MM, W6SX, N5RR, W4TTM, VE3KI, WJ9B, N4FP, N4AF, W0UCE, N4DW, and NN6T.

Bronze already earned: F6HKA, K6RB, K1GU, KW7Q, N8BJQ, F5IN, N5AW, K4ORD, N4ZZ, SM3CER, W4VQ, W9CC, US0MF, K4BAI, KJ9C, SM4DQE, WQ3E, K0RF, KC4D, SM5BKK, N3JT, N0TA, W1UU, WX7SM, DJ1OJ, K1DW, SM6CNN, and W3KB.

NW2K, UR5MM, W6SX, N5RR, W4TTM, VE3KI, WJ9B, N4FP, N4AF, and W0UCE are on track for Gold.

N4DW, NN6T, F6HKA, K6RB, K1GU, W\K7Q, N8BJQ, F5IN, N5AW, K4ORD, N4ZZ, SM3CER, W4VQ, W9CC, US0MF, K4BAI, KJ9C, SM4DQE, WQ3E, K0RF, KC4D, SM5BKK, N3JT, N0TA, W1UU, WX7SJ, DJ1OJ, K1DW, SM6CNN, W3KB, NW0M, PA4N, and SM6CUK are on track for Silver.

And ninety stations can still qualify for Bronze.

NW2K, UR5MM, and W6SX have perfect attendance so far.

If you have participated in CWTs using a call different from your roster call, please let me know so I can give you credit.

I've been remiss in acknowledging Low Power Hat Tricks. The first was by N5AW way back in June 2011, with a second in July 2011, and a third in June 2013. Wow! The second operator to achieve an LP Hat Trick was NW2K in April 2013. WJ9B completed the first-three-to LP Hat Trick a few weeks ago. Bravo Marv, Dean, and Will. We are sending you CWops hats.

We still have two HP and three LP Hat Trick hats ready to send. Who will be the proud recipients?

Activity is increasing with 314 different stations submitting CWT scores so far in 2013. Let's make it even better. Tell your friends about CWops and CWTs. Encourage them to get on and join the fun. And, everyone, when you work a new station, adjust your code speed to his and tell him thank you by name. Be CW friendly.

CW Exuberantly,

Hank W6SX

CWT Manager

From the VP – ACA/CMA Scores

Call	ACA	CMA
KZ5D*	497	2861
AA3B	474	3560
F6HKA*	454	1788
VE3KI*	430	2087
W1RM*	424	2639
K6RB	367	2014
DL8PG*	341	1180
SM6CNN	333	2269
N5RR	317	2576
NN6T*	316	1041
PA4N*	290	917
EA8OM/DJ1OJ	264	1722
W9ILY*	222	1358
W1UU	219	1250
WX7SJ	208	328
N2UU	206	1641
AD1C	202	963
K6DGW	172	1018
N1ZX	166	619
PA7RA*	136	903
EA1WX	114	1206
W5ASP	51	418
W4VQ*		1202

* = updated data

73, *Art,* KZ5D

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one 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.

New Members

By Jim N3JT and Colin KU5B

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWOps:

1211	KU7Y	Ron
1212	K3GHH	John
1213	HA9RT*	Joska
1214	NA8V	Greg
1215	RX6CB	Ed
1216	W4UM*	Mike
1217	NZ8J	Tim
1218	N5QQ	Ron
1219	WF4W*	Tad
1220	W8CAR*	Dan
1221	N5RZ*	Gator
1222	WA8ZBT	Dennis
1223	N3QE	Tim
1224	N5ZO	Marko
1225	PA1FOX	Alex
1226	WC7Q	Sam

* = Life Member

Current Nominees

As of October 1:

Need Sponsors: WA4STO, NN4K, G0IBN

Invitations Extended: WB8JUI, W5APS, DU2US

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 Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a program for members who enjoy casual CW QSOs. Any time you have a QSO that goes over 20 minutes, jot down the call sign of the other station, and before the fifth of the next month, go to the CWOps website QTX page in the Members Only section and put in your total.

This month I received a note from Lee K5LY, CWops #1124. Lee carries on CW conversations using his Vibroplex Original Deluxe, circa 1948. The unusual thing is that it's a left handed model. Lee says, "I realize left handed bugs are rare. I looked for a long time until first locating a Champion, then a couple other years and then finally locating this Original Deluxe. Here's a photo of "Left Handed Vibroplex Original Deluxe."

"The base for a right hander or left hander Bug are identical. I believe what is done is they refinish the opposite side of a base, that would normally have the opposite finished to be right handed."

Lee, thanks for the story and the photo.

Here are the QTX results for August 2013.

Call	August	CY2013
N6TT	53	412
WB6BEE	47	81
NN6T	44	282
N5IR	36	299
K5LY	36	185

K4AHO	35	222
KI4XH	25	25
K5KV	20	120
N1ZX	18	76
WA3NZR	18	139
K0DTJ	16	77
KE6OIO	12	70
JE1TRV	10	84
K8QI	8	44
N4SR	7	54
K6RB	5	66
WA8IWK	5	43
N5RR	3	41
K6HTN	3	24
G4CPA	2	6
W5JQ	1	17
N3IQ	0	26
AA5SR	0	150
K6RQT	0	15
HB9CVQ	0	8
W4VQ	0	2
DL8PG	0	4
VE7ALQ	0	53
W6JMP	0	9
K2XX	0	1
W1UU	0	7
N1DG	0	2

2013 personal bests this month for K4AHO (35), WB6BEE (47), and KI4XH (25). Congratulations! Total QSOs were up seven from July. Reporting stations were up three.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

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