



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

September

2014

Issue No. 56



Handsome Patriot and SKCC Keys from
LNR Precision

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

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

CWops "neighborhood"

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

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President's Message

I hope you all have been having a great



summer. For those of you in the other hemisphere, I hope you have had a good winter.

At the end of this week (last week of August), I am again renting a 60 foot boom lift and will be trying to find the elusive problem that has

been plaguing my 40 meter antenna since January. I believe I know what it is and I'll let you know if I'm right. While I'm up there, I'll be tightening and checking everything so that I won't have to do it, again, anytime soon.

One of my two K3s is currently at Elecraft for repair. It developed a problem whereby it was no longer outputting 100 watts. The display showed the power setting at 100, but the output meter said 70. I did what I could do,

and then drove 10 miles to Elecraft and dropped it off. Should be back in a week or two. They have great customer service. So, with fingers crossed, I am hoping I will have at least an SO1R station and operational antennas for the upcoming CW Open on September 6. Hope to work every one of you that Saturday, too.

The new semester of CW Academy is now underway and we had 149 signups assigned to our growing advisor corps. Even with those numbers, we had to push sign ups off to the January-February 2015, April-May 2015 and the Sep-Oct 2015 semester lists. We are now more than 12 months backlogged. I guess that's a good problem to have but I worry that signups will become frustrated waiting and we may lose some good, prospective HF CW operators in the process. *[It's not too late to become an advisor. Please do! – Ed.]*

The ambassador program is hitting the ground running. Mac NN4K with help from Dick K2UFT and Paul K4JAZ. Dave W0VX gave an excellent presentation on CW at the Garland ARC. Jean FG8NY wrote a piece for a French ham radio publication. Thanks, all.

CWT is just continuing to power along every Wednesday. What a pleasure it is to know that three times a day, every Wednesday, there is a concentrated hour of CW activity. It's contagious, too. I'm hearing Jim N3JT a lot more these days; and many others, too, such as Moto JA1GZV and Dai JF2IWL. Europe has its share of regulars (F5IN, F6HKA, GW4J, DL8PG, OH2BN, SM5CCE, SM6CUK ...). Canada is well represented, too, with VE2FK, VE3KI and VE3KP and others. All you CWTers please make sure you get out there and heat up the ionosphere during our fourth running of CW Open on Saturday, 6 September.,

I'm amazed at some of the numbers posted each month by QTX proponents. Now that I'm semi-retired, I'm going to make it a plan to do at least one 20 minute rag chew per day – starting after I fix my antenna ☺.

As things begin warming up south of the equator and cooling down north of the equator, the international contest season is poised to get rolling. I'm sure I'll be hearing and working familiar callsigns, too. Until next month, have fun and stay well.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



NAQP CW Awards!

CWops will sponsor an award for the high scoring team in the NCJ NAQP CW contests in 2015. The five members of the winning team in each of the two events will receive a handsome plaque and the results write-up in NCJ will credit our club. NAQP is a twelve hour contest in which North American stations contact other stations anywhere. Multipliers are US states, Canadian provinces and other NA countries. Contestants may work non-NA stations for QSO credit, no mults. Power is limited to 100W for all contestants. The 2015 CW dates are January 10-11 and August 1-2 from 18Z to 06Z. Wouldn't it be cool if the winners were all CWops members? NA members - think about forming teams! And non-NA members should consider getting on to work as many NA stations as they can. The 2014 rules are at www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf and I don't expect them to change much in 2015.

Other Clubs: There are quite a few CW clubs around the ham radio world, each with a distinct mission, structure and atmosphere. They include CWops, FISTS, FOC, MTC, NAQCC, SKCC, and others. Many of us belong to several and their diversity enriches us all. This issue of *Solid Copy* features a writeup by CWops member Jim WB8SIW on the [Morse Telegraph Club](#) which he serves as President. Not exclusively an amateur radio group, MTC includes many Morse aficionados who are not hams. I met Jim in Hartford while attending the ARRL Centennial Convention and asked him to write an article about his organization. Check it out for some interesting and enlightening insights.

John K6MM launched a discussion recently about possible synergies between CWops and SKCC, the Straight Key Century Club. We have many members in common – about 237, more than 20% of our members, also belong to SKCC! Like us, SKCC are international in membership, and they love CW, in their case CW with mechanical keys. (See P.1 for a photo of their official club key!) Unlike us, with our 1,000 members or so, their roster sports nearly 12,700 calls! One suggestion in the ensuing thread was that CWops and SKCC each write an article about themselves for the other club's newsletter. I'd love to see that! And we should also reciprocate with MTC and write up our own activities for their publication. Any volunteers?

Bylaws Amendment: By vote of the membership (214 For, 10 Against), the club bylaws have been revised to allow the President and Vice President to succeed themselves in office. Of course, any officer who wishes to serve a second consecutive term must be duly elected by the membership.

Call for Articles: *Solid Copy* always includes its usual columns of club news and events but for many of us it's the special articles that make it more than just a newsletter. We usually have a few but more would be great. Please consider writing for *Solid Copy*. You need not be an English major or even speak English as your first language. I can edit your material for publication. If you have something interesting to say about CW, radio in general, technology, operating, your own personal history in and outside of amateur radio, a radio expedition, etc., please write it up for the newsletter. Everyone will appreciate it. Thanks!

Tokyo Ham Fair: Atsu JE1TRV reports on this major Asian hamfest. The photo below shows (L to R) Ken JN1THL/JA8CDG, Dan 7J1ABD/WA6URY, Atsu JE1TRV, Hoz J1IRB, and Aki J1GEL. Other CWops members in attendance included Moto JA1GZV, Masumi JA3AVO, Masag JA4MRL, Shigeru JH1GNU and Mai JH1JDI. Our club is growing in JA!



Correction/Clarification: Well, I still didn't get it right in my August comments about Tesla vs. Marconi so here it is from the source: Wes AC5K writes "Thanks for your correction in the CWOps newsletter about Tesla, BUT actually it was Tesla that ended up with the patent for radio not Marconi. The matter was not settled until after his death, but the US Patent office actually still credits Tesla with the invention of radio. He was too busy doing and not busy enough marketing and protecting his work. Too bad he was so poorly treated. If he would have been properly supported, there is no telling how much farther we would have advanced. At least now he had earned the respect that eluded him when he was alive." Thanks, Wes. Journalism can be tricky!

73,

Rick N6XI

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News & Notes

Jerry AC4BT

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jweisskobl@gmail.com.

Shin JA1NUT: Since I have fully retired this June, I have been quite active on 15m around 23Z. Sadly, there have been very few on the band even though RBN told the band was open to NA. I always welcome "Tell me your story" type QSO. Look for me around 21035 KHz plus or minus at 23Z.

Rod W7ZRC: Pretty quiet here this summer. However, I did purchase a (new to me) Begali Simplex iambic paddle. So far I like it a lot. Has a different touch from my old Bencher which I have used for years and years. Plus it really looks great at the operating position!

Ray G3XLG: In the August News & Notes Column, I note that Shin JA1NUT is enquiring about repairs to his Chevron paddle. He might try contacting Kevin Gunstone, the designer of that paddle, for help. I last had contact with Kevin concerning repairs to my own Chevron two years ago using his then email address kevin.gunstone@ntlworld.com. I'm not (yet!) a member of CWops, just a student about to start my level 2 training using the Academy here in the UK! (Stewart Rolfe is the tutor).

Lar K7SV: I am preparing for my first session as a Level 1 advisor for the CW Academy program. Installation of webcam and OOVOO was quite easy and straightforward. I installed 40 and 20 meter dipoles for added flexibility during CWTs and other contests. It's nice not to have to turn the 40 M rotatable dipole or the KT34M2 to work a station out of the primary pattern of the usual antenna. I can't emphasize enough how well a simple dipole suspended at a half wavelength in the trees works!

Steve KL7SB: For the next week or so I will be in North Dakota to be part of the second week of W1AW/0. I will be on some before then under my own call (KL7SB/W0). I don't think there are any active members of CWOPS in ND at this time ... so if you hear me on, give me a call. I'd be curious to get any reports on the quality of my keying/weighting etc. The station I'm operating from uses a Flex 5000A as their main xcvr and I'm a bit concerned about its performance on CW. I have a TS590S in reserve just in case.

Mac NN4K: Below is a [write up of an event](#) I carried out as the SE Regional CWops Ambassador. It was an operation I put together to help get CWops' name in front of local hams who love CW. I'll be doing more of them over time and also reporting on them but not as lengthy as this one. This one includes a description of ways and means of doing it that we found

successful or not. I bet it gets improved more if others try it at their hamfests. It generated a lot of interest and invitations to attend some of the smaller hamfests in the region.

CWops at Huntsville (AL) Hamfest

Mac NN4K

CWops was provided with an 8 x 8 booth with table/chairs. The Huntsville Hamfest booth was at no charge for clubs but not all clubs do that. Paul K4JAZ (#1260) and Dick K2UFT (#209) joined me to man the table and I'm glad they did because we were at times really busy. On the table we had a laptop loaded with RUFZXP and CW Player. There was a separate 16" flat screen video display and a separate keyboard and mouse connected. Small stereo speakers were also connected to the audio output of the computer along with headphones. The CW Player was running some CW text files at 20 wpm as people walked past the table. Those who like code stopped and those who were not interested just kept moving. Those who like CW were easy to talk to and wanted to know more about CW Academy but also picked up information flyers on CWT and CWops Open. It was fantastic to hear the enthusiasm for CW. Some wanted to learn more and liked the training aspect of CW Academy so we hope there will be an increase in applications soon. You could tell there was an unmet need to learn CW or improve CW skills among them. That was exciting!

A key component of operating the booth was the "CW Callsign Copying Competition." The competition attracted 11 contestants in the age range of 33 to 71 years old. The categories of competition were based on age range. I would like to try the next one based on speed ranges. The age approach was used hoping to attract some youth into participating but none appeared. The scores and WPM status was written on a Leader Board sitting on an easel behind the table. When someone wanted to enter the competition, we brought them behind the table, turned the video monitor around to face them and placed the normal size keyboard for them to type the callsigns. Everyone was given an explanation of the software and a short trial run of some calls just to become familiar with the RUFZXP software. The conditions set were to run 20 Calls or 8 minutes whichever came first. The computer randomly generated the list of calls. Three percent of the calls were to have a /P or /QRP etc. Calls were a mix of domestic and DX.

The top three contestants were allowed to come back and try to generate a higher score. The top speed was 45 wpm posted by Scott Robins W4PA, owner of Vibroplex. He won the 20 to 50 year old age group. In the 50 and up group were two CWops members, Charley Wooten NF4A (#282) and Lee Hiers AA4GA (#973). They both had 43 wpm speed but Charley had higher points (fewer errors) to claim first place. A couple of other CWops members entered the

competition but didn't score in the top three for their age group.



I believe by using different speed groupings I could get more contestants next time. When folks saw the leader board showing scores of 39 to 45 wpm, they shrugged off even trying. Had I used 8 – 13, 13- 20, 20-30 and 30 wpm up I believe there would have been more hams interested in taking part in the competition. Not bad, however, for the first time out and testing the event.

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The Morse Telegraph Club

By James Wades, WB8SIW

Few today realize that the telegraph was still used in commercial service in North America well into the mid-1980s. While many of the last users were railroads, the telegraph was also used in a wide variety of business applications by organizations such as stock brokerages, commodities exchanges, pipeline companies, news wire services (Associated Press, United Press, etc.), and the like. For example, the Chicago Board of Trade utilized telegraphy until 1972 and some stock brokerages were still using telegraphy as late as the early 1980s! Even the Telephone Company maintained an extensive telegraph infrastructure for decades because telegraph circuits could be composited (superimposed) on long-distance voice circuits allowing the latter to remain in revenue service while internal company business and leased private wire services operated in the background using telegraphy!

Before the advent of Microwave Carrier Systems and new telephone technologies in the 1960s, many sporting events were recreated at the local broadcast station. The play-by-play was transmitted by telegraph and then translated into live action by a radio announcer at home. For example, "S1C" became "Strike One Called" or "NBF" became "now batting for." Few today realize that one can often telegraph baseball play-by-play faster than one can "speak it!"

Contrary to popular belief, and in contrast to many poorly written historical accounts, telegraphy was not replaced by the telephone. Rather, the modern-day Internet is largely a natural evolution from telegraph technology. For the first one hundred years of telephony, telegraphy offered many advantages over the telephone. One important advantage was more efficient use of infrastructure.

Over time, the telegraph evolved from one circuit on a single wire (simplex) to two circuits on a single wire (duplex), then four circuits on a wire (quadruplex). With the emergence of stable vacuum tube oscillators during the 1920s, carrier systems were developed, which allowed multiple telegraph circuits to be conveyed on a single pair. This led to concentrator systems ("varioplex"), automatic switching centers and then....packet switching. In reality, no one person "invented" the Internet. Rather, the Internet was an important, but nonetheless incremental improvement in the field of telegraphy.

For much of this period of evolution a small army of men and women employed by companies such as AT&T, Postal Telegraph, Western Union, Canadian National Telegraphs, Canadian Pacific Telegraphs and the like kept this complex, world-wide network functioning smoothly, and for a significant number of these men and women, knowledge of the American Morse Code was a requirement for their job.

Many of the men and women who worked in the telegraph industry or related fields are now members of the Morse Telegraph Club (MTC). The MTC is an association of retired railroad and commercial telegraph operators, former telegraph industry employees, historians, maritime radio operators, radio amateurs and others who share an interest in the history of telegraphy and the telegraph industry.

In addition to "members at large," MTC has numerous Chapters throughout the United States and Canada. MTC publishes a Quarterly Journal entitled "Dots and Dashes," containing club news and various historical articles. Members present talks on the history of telegraphy and telecommunications for clubs, historical associations, engineering societies and the like. Our

Chapters actively demonstrate telegraphy at steam train excursions, Civil War re-enactments, and similar historical events. MTC also designs and builds historically correct telegraph exhibits for public museums throughout North America. Many of the instruments for these museum projects are provided by MTC.

One need not be a former telegrapher to join MTC. All that is required to join is a sincere interest in the history of the telegraph and the telegraph industry. It is also important to know that MTC is not just another ham radio "CW" organization. There are many fine groups that already promote CW and it makes no sense to add another. Rather, MTC concentrates on the Telegraph and the American Morse Code.

The American Morse Code is the original code developed by Morse and Vail. It contains a number of spaced characters, such as "C," "O," "R," "Y," and "Z." The letters "T," "L," and the numeral zero are each a single dash, but of differing length! Furthermore, some of the letters have alternate dot-dash combinations, such as "F" and "J."

When the first undersea cables were deployed, telegraph engineers quickly learned that signal distortions made it impractical to use on-off keying. A new method for undersea telegraphy was required, which used a shift in polarity to differentiate between "dots" and "dashes." As a result, it became necessary to replace the spaced characters and three different "dash" lengths in the original American Morse Code. Therefore, a Committee met in Europe, which adopted a new code called the "Continental Code." Today, this code is commonly referred to as "International Morse." It is this code which is used by radio amateurs.

The Continental Code was quickly adopted as the world-wide standard for telegraphy. However, in the United States and Canada, the older American Morse Code was already well established. It was not practical to retrain the tens of thousands of operators already employed in the telegraph industry. Furthermore, the American Morse Code is approximately 20 to 30-percent faster than the Continental Code, thereby offering some economic advantages. The result was an interesting dichotomy in the field of telegraphy. In North America, commercial and railroad telegraphy continued to use the American Morse Code. However, when Wireless Telegraphy became standardized, the International Code was adopted.

Of course, the history of "Morse Code" is quite nuanced. At different times, there have been up to four different "Morse Codes" used in North America including the "Bain Code" and the short-lived "Navy Code" used briefly during the early wireless era. Adding confusion to the historical record is the fact that Great Lakes shipping used the American Morse Code for a bit over a decade before International standards were adopted in 1912. The result was, of course, cross-pollination between commercial telegraphy and wireless telegraphy. Consider these examples:

- The prosign "AR" ("di-dah-di-dah-dit") is really the abbreviation "FN" ("finished") in the American Morse Code.
- The prosign "SK" ("di-di-di-dah-di-dah") is really "30" in the American Morse Code, "30" meaning "close of work" in Western Union and Press Telegraph Shorthand. *[...and still used in a number of textual publications including Solid Copy! – Ed.]*
- The "ES" ("dit di-di-dit") heard on the ham bands is the "&" (ampersand) in American Morse Code ... and so forth.

As alluded to earlier, many abbreviations commonly heard on the ham bands, particularly from older operators, are imported directly from the "Phillips Code," a system of telegraphic shorthand developed to speed the transmission of news articles by telegraph! Undoubtedly, many older hams have encountered such abbreviations as "GG" for "going" or "TT" for "that" and so on.

NO! Teenagers did not invent the idea of "texting" abbreviations!

There is, of course, much more to the history of the telegraph.

Undoubtedly, there are many CW operators who are curious about the antecedents to the avocation of radiotelegraphy. Perhaps you would like to learn more about the history of telegraphy and telecommunications? Perhaps you would like to assist with telegraph demonstrations or the construction of museum exhibits? Perhaps you would just like to read about telegraph history? Maybe you would like to activate your telegraph instruments on our world-wide "MorseKOB" network and communicate with other operators using the original American Morse Code? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Morse Telegraph Club respectfully invites you to apply for membership. Dues are \$ 20.00 per year (slightly higher in Canada or overseas). If one joins later in the year, his dues automatically cover the subsequent year.

The Morse Telegraph Club is a 501(c)(3) historical association. We invite your membership and we always welcome donations of telegraph instruments, documents or other telegraph industry related ephemera for use in museum projects. Please feel free to visit our web page at:

www.morsetelegraphclub.org

Should you have any questions, please contact the International President,

James Wades

jameswades@gmail.com

PO Box 192

Buchanan, MI. 49107

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How We Were – K5RC

by Hank W6SX

Here's another blast from the past, Tom Taormina K5RC aka W7RN. Do you have any old photos of yourself or other members of CWops? Please send them to w6sx@arrl.net.



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2014 CW Open – Get Ready for 6 SEP!

by Dean Faklis, NW2K

The CW Open starts in just a few days and there is already good indication that participation will be up significantly. Teams are being formed, there is a flurry of worldwide email reflector activity, and interesting questions are being asked.

For example, while the CW Open does not currently have a multi-op category, pioneers Rick N1DC and Pi K1RV will pilot K1USN as M/2 in sessions 2 and 3. Rick and Pi have already formed a club team for their single-op entries in session 1. Be sure to check out www.k1usn.com when you have time and work K1USN often during the CW Open. And if you have an idea for a unique CW Open entry, please do not hesitate to ask! Remember, the CW Open is **your** premier operating event.

Teams are still being formed and can be registered up to the starting gun. There is no geographical limitation on teammates and teams can be formed between clubs. Please reach out to your club and take a lead role beefing up participation in the CW Open. The CW Open rules are located at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>.

There are three four-hour sessions on September 6 (0000-0400z, 1200-1600z, and 2000-2400z) to give each ITU Region its share of sunshine. The exchange is simple – name and serial number – and the key to bigger scores is the “one mult per callsign” rule. As usual, the action is centered on the CWops frequencies: 28-38 kHz from the band edge, plus or minus, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10. And everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

The CW Open is fun for all skill levels and degrees of competitiveness. Thanks to ICOM America, the awards are simply beautiful and there are a lot of them. Last year we had 19 teams, 1,000 logs and 100,000 QSOs. The top scorers averaged more than 100 QSOs per hour, in every hour, in every session. Let's try to make new records for participation this year. If you can, please take some pictures and notes on your CW Open operation and send them after the contest for possible inclusion in the writeup.

If you're willing to post a CW Open invitation to your club's reflector, let me know (NW2K@arrl.net) and I will email you a shiny new invite. And questions and comments are encouraged at any time! See you (often) on September 6!

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

We are off and running again after our summer break. The Sep-Oct 2014 semester is about to begin. With 149 signups assigned to advisors, it is our largest class ever. And we are seeing growth in the numbers of Level 2 signups, too. About two thirds of the signups are Level 1, and a third are Levels 2 and 3. Many of the higher level students are recent graduates of Level 1. This is a great testimony to the success of Level 1 and its advisors. Kudos to you all.

We have added many new training files to our arsenal. There are many W1AW plain-text files at various speeds and several homebrew MP3 files featuring excerpts of typical QSO exchanges (e.g. ur rst is _ qth is _ and name is _). These, too, are available at various speeds. As before, all levels are encouraged to try QSOing, contesting and DXing. We practice proper techniques for all of those. The objective is to turn out competent CW operators who enjoy any or all of those CW activities.

A second edition of Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments has been completed and replaces the original edition. The primary difference is the use of words and phrases, not just words. The Morse Trainer tool developed by Stephen Phillips has been upgraded to include all the new session segments, too.

Levels 2 and 3 will again be assigned to participate in CWTs and more assignments will be made using the freeware Morse Runner application. The goal is to give students a well-rounded experience including conversational QSO head copying, contesting and DX pile ups. For example, students are taught never to be sending once the DX starts sending again and to always check the TX frequency to make sure it is clear before settling on one. Students are also taught proper running and search & pounce techniques related to contesting. CW Academy is really a unique service and has gotten an incredible amount of word-of-mouth endorsement.

73,

Rob, Will and Jerry

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CWops Tests

usually by Hank Garretson W6SX

Editor's Note: CWT columnist W6SX had shoulder surgery on August 27. He was back on the air that evening in CWT Session 3, CWing exuberantly but only briefly. He expects this column to return in the October edition. Meanwhile, all the best to Hank for a speedy recovery.

CW Exuberantly,

CWops Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

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.

Here are the current totals for CWops awards:

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WA S		Call	WA E
F6HKA	540	2811		W1RM	130		N5RR	50		W1RM	43
W1RM	501	3186		OH2BN	112		W1RM	50		OH2BN	40
N5RR	476	3112		F6HKA	109		W4VQ	50		N5RR	37
VE3KI	465	2677		W4VQ	108		AD1C	49		EA8OM	36
W0VX	380	1806		EA8OM	90		F6HKA	49		F6HKA	36
AD1C	375	1465		N5RR	90		FG8NY	49		W4VQ	36
FG8NY	354	1716		DL8PG	83		K6DGW	49		KR3E	34
G4BUE	349	635		EA1WX	80		VE3KI	49		KZ5D	34
K1ESE	337	1407		VE3KI	80		W1UU	49		DL8PG	33
KZ5D	336	3239		KZ5D	78		EA8OM	48		G4BUE	33
K6RB	336	2441		K1ESE	76		GW0ETF	48		FG8NY	32
N1EN	328	777		W0VX	76		K1ESE	48		VE3KI	32
DL8PG	324	1424		W9ILY	74		K6RB	48		W9ILY	32
F5MKN	300	481		KR3E	73		KZ5D	48		W0VX	31
EA8OM	296	2126		AD1C	71		NN6T	48		EA1WX	30
GW0ETF	267	1122		G4BUE	68		W0VX	48		K1ESE	30
W1UU	252	1452		NN6T	67		W6KY	48		NN6T	29
W9ILY	236	1848		FG8NY	63		W9ILY	48		N1ZX	28
PA7RA	185	1080		W1UU	63		KR3E	47		W1UU	28
NN6T	160	1444		GW0ETF	62		DL8PG	46		GW0ETF	27
W6KY	126	1537		N1ZX	62		EA1WX	46		F5MKN	26
K6DGW	120	1191		W6KY	54		G4BUE	45		AD1C	25

OH2BN	45	530		4Z1UF	50		N1ZX	45		4Z1UF	21
N1ZX	26	688		F5MNK	49		F5MNK	42		K6RB	21
G0DJA	16	23		K6RB	49		N1EN	42		N1EN	21
AA3B	0	3874		N1EN	47		OH2BN	42		W6KY	16
SM6CNN	0	2392		K6DGW	29		4Z1UF	36		K6DGW	8
N2UU	0	1774		G0DJA	10		G0DJA	8		G0DJA	7
W4VQ	0	1599									
EA1WX	0	1426									
KR3E	0	1136									
PA4N	0	955									
OK1RR	0	893									
W5ASP	0	893									
WX7SJ	0	397									
PA1FOX	0	5									

Congrats to W4VQ as the latest member to achieve CWops WAS.

73,

Pete, W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1314	IK0IXI*	Fabio
1315	NI8N	Jack
1316	K5UZ	Dave
1317	W0AG*	Roger
1318	K7FU	Ray
1319	I1HJP*	Paolo
1320	PA3ACA*	Hans
1321	W4VAB*	Hugh
1322	WB8SIW	Jim
1323	KT5V*	David
1324	WA5RML*	Andy
1325	VO1BQ*	Joe
1326	K0FX	Don
1327	WB5EIN*	Larry
1328	N8XX	Henry

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of August 30:

Need Sponsors: W6NEV, W7VSE, K6ZO, N7IV

Invitations Extended: IK4VFD

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” pages on the Website: www.cwops.org.

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under “Membership.”

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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. One point is awarded for each QSO of 20 minutes or longer. We have two ways to recognize QTX activities - The QTX Plaque and the QTX Achievement Medal.

QTX Plaque Standings

The QTX Plaque is awarded to the operator with the most QTX points at the end of the year. July was another great month. Total QSOs were 512, down just 3 from last month's record high. Reporting stations were 21, down just one from June.

These are the standings at the end of July and year to date for 2014:

<u>Call</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>CY2014</u>
KI4XH	85	547
K5LY	85	281
N5IR	73	326
WB6BEE	69	415
K5KV	52	353
NN6T	38	250
N1ZX	25	209
K4AHO	20	163
K6HP	12	34
KE6OIO	10	88
WA3NZR	8	89
N4SR	7	71
K0DTJ	6	62
K6RB	5	47
JE1TRV	3	63
W6JMP	3	27
WA8IWK	3	69
K8QI	3	38
N5RR	2	27
W4VQ	2	5
K6HTN	1	22
W5JQ		19
KC9EE		19
HB9CVQ		5
KC0VKN		5
K6RQT		4
K3GHH		3
ZS1C		2
N1EN		1

Our usual leader Fred KI4XH is tied this month with K5LY for the top spot. N5IR takes third. Personal bests for June were K5LY, N5IR, and WB6BEE.

QTX Manager QTX Achievement Medals

QTX Medals will be awarded at the end of the year for 400 QTX points (Gold), 300 QTX points (Silver), and 200 QTX points (Bronze).

We are up to eight QTX Achievement Award qualifiers - KI4XH and WB6BEE have reached the Gold Level. K5KV and N5IR have reached the Silver level. K5LY, NN6T, N1ZX, and K1ESE have reached Bronze. You can send me your Achievement Medal totals at any time and update them throughout the year.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – All About Conversational CW

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Upcoming CW Operating Events

Joe Staples, W5ASP

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.

In the previous issue of *Solid Copy* Jim N3BB and Bill N6ZF0 described the weekly NCCC Sprint developed by the Northern California Contest Club. There is another somewhat similar event that the North American QRP CW Club holds each month, known as the NAQCC. It is strictly CW and nearly all operate QRP. The competition is among the club members, but anyone can join in. Club membership is a simple sign-up process.

The two hour event is held on the 3rd Wednesday evening of odd numbered months and on the 2nd Tuesday evening of the even numbered months from 0030-0230Z (e.g. Wednesday, Sept. 17th this month, local time, i.e. the 18th UTC). Activity is confined to 20, 40 and 80M.

The exchange is brief – RST, State, Member Number (or power level for nonmembers).

Complete rules can be found at the NAQCC web site, www.naqcc.info/.

There are a couple of interesting features in this event. Bonus points are awarded to those using a straight key (x2 Mult) or bug (x1.5). And there are two categories, SWA – simple wire antennas, and GAIN – yagis, arrays, etc. Participation runs at 100 plus logs submitted and up to 60 contacts each for the leading entries. There are active stations in every Call District and Canada.

Operating QRP can be a unique challenge as well as a relaxing change of pace. It provides a great venue for those wanting to improve their CW skills away from "madding crowd." And while straight keys and bugs are uncommon these days, there is a certain nostalgia in their use amongst long time CW buffs.

If you weren't aware of it, the FOC QSO Party, unlike the FOC Marathon, is open to all radio amateurs world-wide. The only restriction is that non-members may work only FOC members, not each other. FOC members can be distinguished by the addition of their FOC Number to their exchange.

Finally, here's a note about the Texas QSO Party. It's the only HF w/CW contest of the weekend. Lots of fixed stations and mobiles scattered over 254 counties provide over 400 CW contacts to the top scoring out-of-state operators. It's certainly worth considering.

September Events

North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 7 th
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 13 th
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 18 th
Texas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 27 th to 0200Z, Sep 28 th 1400Z – 2000Z, Sep 28 th

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