



VIBROPLEX "ORIGINAL" Serial No. 113980
(1940)

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)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

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



Boy, the month just seemed to fly by. CW Academy is already half finished with the Jan-Feb 2015 semester; I've ordered the CWT participation award and QTX

achievement award medallions; I've ordered the top QTX ragchewer's plaque; and I know Dean has taken care of the trophies and plaques for CW Open.

CWTs just seem to have a life of their own. Although activity tailed off slightly on the Christmas and New Years runnings, they were still high enough for most people to keep making QSOs right up to the hour mark.

[Continued on next page]

Those of you who participate in CWT regularly have already probably noted the increasing number of people sending “cwa” after their names. These are current CW Academy students. CWT has become another training exercise along with Morse Runner and RufzXP.

Speaking of CW Academy, for several years we’ve been using OOVOO as our free, online, video/audio virtual classroom. This semester, for some reason, OOVOO seems to be suffering audio issues. Fortunately, Skype has recently made group calling “free” to Skype subscribers, so we were able to quickly switch over to Skype. And, while not perfect, Skype does provide much better audio results.

I’ve been working with Dan WA6URY, who lives in Japan and operates his CA station remotely, on a customized version of CW Academy for Japan. I have also been working with Stephen Phillips, the developer of Morse Translator. As you may know, he developed a CW Academy-related version called Morse Trainer, and has recently enabled us to use it off line. He is now working with me on the complementary version of Morse Trainer that will accompany our Japan CW Academy effort. And he is working on an adjunct function that will allow our students to send Morse and have it evaluated for sending accuracy.

This year, in addition to awarding medallions for CWT participation, we are also awarding them for QTX achievements. These medallions are based on artwork we provide and are struck at a foundry in Asia. We expect to receive them at K6RB on April 15. Then my wife and I will be sorting them, putting them in padded envelopes, making labels, arranging postage, and mailing them all out. It could be May before you start receiving them. We have well over 100 to send out.

This year I am pleased to announce that four of our CW Academy advisors will receive the service award plaques for having done the equivalent of two years of training (e.g. six semester groups). The new recipients are: Jerry AC4BT, Will WJ9B, Dallas K1DW and Bill KC4D. If you run into them on the air, say “congrats.” They deserve it. Also, the first two of our service awards for 12 semester groups will be awarded to Jack W0UCE; and Rob K6RB. These awards are for serving the equivalent of four years! Several of our CWA advisors are approaching their six semester levels and I’ll announce new awards as they come up. Our advisor corps is the heart and soul of CW Academy and the major reason for its success.

CW Open 2015 will be run on September 5. We have the same three sessions, of four-hours each, with each one separately judged and awarded, and awards based on ITU regions. It’s a big deal and ICOM is our co-sponsor, once again, for the fine awards. Dean NW2K is rolling out a major get-out-the-word effort and we all need to do two things: help get out the word and participate in CW Open. You can do one, two or all three sessions. You can be part of a team of 10 with no geographical restrictions. Let’s make CW Open 2015 an event to remember.

Our ambassadors are continuing to attend local and regional ham events and letting people know about CWops and all it offers. I plan to name more ambassadors to our program soon. I’d like to see every one of the ambassadorial areas assigned. Take a look at the list, and if you are in an area that is currently unassigned and wish to be considered for the position, please email me. Thanks.

Contest season is in full bore mode and already a bunch of DXpeditions are over, underway, or will be underway. There are lots of reasons to turn on your rigs and be active. We know which way the sunspot cycle is headed – down – so we need to take advantage of it while we can. I’ll see you on the air waves.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Record Breaking?

February was an eventful month – we had record-breaking snow in the US Northeast, record-breaking heat in the West, continuing drought plaguing Western skiers, farmers, garden owners and, if it doesn't stop, maybe even water drinkers. Of course, there are alternatives to water...

Another February event is the first issue of *Solid Copy* on our new publication schedule. Almost on schedule, that is. We agreed to delay our worst-case publication date from the first of each month to the second week in order to enable more timely publication of award scores. This month I was traveling and may not quite get the issue out on the new schedule. But we're close and I think everyone will like it once we get it going correctly.

As for that travel, I finally realized a long-standing dream of visiting the beautiful island of Cuba. Only 90 miles from the Florida Keys, Cuba was off-limits to Americans for decades. That has loosened up considerably in recent years, with the two less-than-chummy governments agreeing to allow various kinds of educational, cultural and humanitarian missions, with ample "person to person" contact and written approval from the US State Department. On December 17, well after we completed those requirements, things got easier. Although similar purposes are still required, the written sign-off is not, and I expect many more US citizens will be visiting our closest "overseas" neighbor in the near future. More importantly for me, the new rules allow us to bring back a few more Cuban goods, including their world-famous rums and cigars. I bought some of each although I don't smoke. I'll give the cigars to friends who can enjoy them. The rum will provide many brief pleasures. But Cuba excels also in the arts. I brought back music disks and a gorgeous museum book from the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes which will become lasting souvenirs of my trip.

In addition to the person to person encounters arranged by our tour operator, I had the pleasure of meeting CWops member Frank CO2IR and his friend Izquierdo CO2QU. I left CWops polo shirts with Frank for himself and our other Cuban member, Oriol CO8CY. Oriol lives in Guantanamo, too far from my itinerary to arrange a meeting, but Frank will see to it that he gets his shirt. Although our Cuban ham radio friends live in a different economy and system of government compared to most CWops members, their range of interests and love of radio is exactly the same. We had a great time discussing equipment, antennas, operating styles and maintenance issues. I look forward to future get-togethers with these and other Cuban hams. The photo below shows, left-to-right, CO2QU, N6XI and CO2IR in front of one of the many murals and photos in the Hotel Nacional de Cuba showing off their somewhat more illustrious visitors. ;-)



In correspondence with N3JT, Abraham 4X4FW offered his Web site www.telecom-milestones.com which contains an interesting collection of history of telecommunications, radio, telegraphy and related topics. Abraham is a former merchant ship radio operator, Signal Corps operator and entrepreneur.

Member Mel KJ9C urges us to check out The Black Hole, the newsletter of the Society of Midwest Contesters at www.w9smc.com.

Non-member Ron WB2GAI (Why not, Ron?!) passed along the following:

I am not a member of CWops but operate 100% on CW when I have time. Your group may be interested in the following request from G0EML. Also check my QRZ page for pictures of N0SA paddles, I have several.

Ray Bullock, G0EML is creating a catalog about N2DAN/SK Mercury Paddles. He will be grateful if any current / past owners of this outstanding key can supply him with the serial number and finish (chrome, brass lacquered, gold). If not the first owner, tell him who the previous owner of the key was (if known) or who now possesses the paddle.

raymondbullock13@live.co.uk

Any information about Mercury paddles would be appreciated.

Thanks to all for your patience with this change in publication schedule. Remember next month – get your contributions to me and the column editors during the first few days of each calendar month. Columnists will then get their material to me around the end of the first week and I'll make

every effort to publish during that second week. As usual, I will tweak the schedule monthly to accommodate holidays and calendar peculiarities.

73,

Rick N6XI

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SAVE THE DATE

THE WEST COAST CW ENTHUSIASTS' CONFAB

May 1-3, 2015 Boomtown Hotel Casino Reno NV

In conjunction with the ARRL Nevada State Convention, NVCON 2015, we are sponsoring a weekend event for all CW enthusiasts. It is especially dedicated to the members of FOC and CWops, but it is also an opportunity to introduce another 400+ hams to the fun of CW.

The events are being held at the Boomtown Hotel Casino. It is on the Nevada/California border on I-80. See <http://nvcon.org/> and <http://boomtownreno.com/>.

Tentative Agenda

- Friday: CW Enthusiasts' Dinner
- Saturday: Special Event, CW-Only, On-Site Station K7RC for the 7QP Contest (Washoe County) www.7qp.org

Track Presentations

- CW – You Are Missing Fun On the Air – Tom Taormina K5RC
- Free dB's – The World of Wire Antennas – Hank Garretson W6SX
- Field Day – The Gateway to Live Contesting – Hank Garretson W6SX

7QP Multiop at W7RN in Virginia City (Storey County)

- Sunday: Open House at the Comstock Memorial Station W7RN www.w7rn.com

Registration will be via the NVCON Web Site. Stay tuned for that announcement. As a preview, Boomtown has given us room rates of \$29.98 and \$49.98. KOA has an RV park on site.

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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 jveisskohl@gmail.com

Mike K4RUM/C6AUM: I'll be in Freeport, Bahamas from February 10th through February 24th, which will include a 40 meter single band effort in the ARRL DX Contest. I expect to participate in the CWTs on February 11th/12th and February 18th/19th. Outside of the contests I'll be active on CW and RTTY (and possibly a little SSB if I have enough to drink!).

Chris G4BUE: I will be QRV 19 February to 22 April as N4CJ from our QTH in Sebring, Florida.

Pete W1RM: Well, the mad chase of W1AW/x and the Centennial has finally ended. I've been rewarded with 9BWAS, Triple Play (all W1AW) and 5BWAS (not the traditional bands though), all W1AW/x. No new antennas or gear here although I wish for something better than my 80 meter inverted VEE on 30. Adding anything new here is a big deal (sigh).

Charlie NP3K: After many years debating whether to build a portable station for when I travel or go camping, I finally did it. This Christmas I gave myself a new portable setup. I was going to go with something smaller but for the price I went ahead and bought an Icom IC-7200, MFJ auto tuner, Alinco Power supply, Gel batteries, 31' Jackite pole and End fed wire antenna. All this fits perfectly in a Pelican case except the Pole, hi hi. I tested everything at home and it works just as well as my fixed station. Now I can't wait to do some traveling!

Lar K7SV: For CW Academy I switched my Level 1 class from OOVVO to Skype and find Skype to be amazingly better. I have never been happy with my KT34M2 tribander on 15M. I placed a HyGain 103BA (3 el 15) at 35 feet on the tower pointed west. The HyGain is one to two S units better than the KT34 to the west coast. In working SO2R I've always had some problem with RF getting into the audio of the second receiver. I assembled a box with RF chokes and bypass caps for the headphones, which has 95% resolved the issue.

Dale KG5U: A month or so ago, I installed a Dunestar Triplexer in my antenna feedline stream. Previously I was using a 12AVQ (10-15-20m) ground-mounted vertical, a 40m inverted vee and an 80m inverted vee. For operating my two Ten-Tec Omni-VI's on the upper bands (10-15-20), I was using the vertical on Radio1 and Radio2 had only the 40m inverted vee through an antenna tuner on 15m or vice-versa. It was pretty restrictive and required a homebrewed remote antenna feedline switch to throw an antenna tuner in-line with the 40m inverted vee (flat on 40, but about 3:1 on 15m).

Late last year, I decided I wanted access to the WARC bands. Rather than put up more antennas, I bought a Hy-Gain AV-640 (6m-40m) vertical. After a long, slow assembly process and finally getting it vertical and on the air, I decided I needed to address the 40m antenna use on 15m. But my first concern was streamlining my SO2R access to the new antenna. After years of operating Field Day with K5WA and his amazing FD station system design incorporating a homebrew triplexer system, I decided to buy a triplexer to allow me to operate 10, 15, 20m on either or both radios without any additional switching or antenna tuners.

It's worked great. But I was left with needing to do something to access the WARC bands and turning off or bypassing the Dunestar 600 bandpass filters and bypassing the triplexer. My antenna

patch panel and Array Solutions Six-Pak remote antenna switch are in the garage. I have four RG-213 cables running from a back bedroom to the garage – two runs for two VHF/UHF antennas and two for HF (Radio 1, Radio2). I took one of the V/U cables and built a 2-stage remote feedline antenna switch and put the first stage between the Radio1 and Dunestar 600 filter1 and installed the second stage switch in the garage between the triplexer output and the AV-640.

While Radio1 is on the AV-640 on the WARC bands, Radio2 is relegated to 40m and 80m antenna access. Not a big deal, since I use Radio2 when operating SO2R in contests.

It's worked out very well. The AV-640 seems to be a good antenna – it has broken a few DX pile-ups – if I can hear them, I can generally work them – giving me good coverage from 10-30m (40m is best on the inverted vee).

The triplexer is an amazing device—I just KNOW I dreamed of one and/or even designed one in my head years ago, or at least wondered why no one had designed and built them commercially years ago. If you can't go with single-band beams and are running SO2R low power with a tri-band beam or vertical, the triplexer is a good option.

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How We Were – K6RB

by Hank W6SX

President K6RB, CWops #3, shown here as twelve-year K2UMU, 1959.

Please send me you How We Were photo, w6sx@arrl.net



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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

The current CWA semester is now half completed. One of the major changes this time around has been a switch from OOVOO to Skype. Two things precipitated that change. One, the audio quality of OOVOO was found wanting and causing excessive distortion to the Morse being sent; and two, Skype now offers group calling as a free service. So we were able to switch wholesale without much struggle. The audio quality is now much better.

Our customized online Morse tool – Morse Trainer – has now been made available as an offline tool. Someone with a computer and browser can easily create an offline version that can be accessed without need of Internet connection. This was prompted by our efforts in Cuba where Internet access is very limited. Oriol CO8CY has taken it upon himself to create a training program in Cuba using the CW Academy materials. Now, with the offline version of Morse Trainer available, he is moving ahead.

We have also created a customized version of our Level 1 program for Japan. A revised version of the Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments text has been given to Dan WA6URY who, along with Shin JA1NUT, will be spearheading our program in Japan. Once the final version of the book is ready, we will again create a customized version of Morse Trainer tied to the revised book. We will start the JA CWA with a few groups and let it grow organically. The method we are adopting for Japan, where the students learn to associate a Morse word with the Japanese word rather than first learning the English word, will make it easier for JA students to learn and use Morse in typical CW QSO formats. Those who want to become conversant in English can do so, too. But the language barrier need not be a show stopper.

Stephen Phillips, the creator of Morse Translator and Morse Trainer, is now working with Rob on a sending evaluation adjunct. This will allow Level 1 students to practice sending on their own and have instant feedback on sending accuracy. Unlike most code readers, which have very liberal tolerances so as to be able to copy sloppily sent Morse, our tool will be more stringent on element time ratios and spacing. Students will be taught to send quality Morse from day one.

We anticipate another record number of signups for the April-May 2015 semester. And we can really use more help advising them. The number of Level 2 and Level 3 groups is rising, so that potential volunteers who want to work with students who already know Morse but want to improve their skills will be an important addition to the Advisor Corps. We are achieving impressive results with Level 2 and 3 students using our own methods and tools, such as Morse Runner and RufzXP. In addition, students are being assigned optional participation in CWTs. All these methods are bearing fruit.

I want to thank recent advisor volunteers John KE6K and Vic WD0EBZ. John is a current Level 3 student who wants to help Level 1 students beginning in April and Vic is a very recent member

(#1409) who also wants to work with Level 1. Please consider joining our Advisor Corps so we can bring more competent CW operators onto the HF bands, sooner. To volunteer, simply go to the website (www.cwops.org) and select the CW Academy tab. Follow the arrow to the advisor area and fill out and submit the information form. Become part of the program that is having a profound impact on CW mentoring.

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

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CW Academy - Fast Track to CW Proficiency

Doug K7KY, #1396

Brookings,OR

[Editor's note: Doug submitted the following review of our CW Academy program and then posted it on eHam.net. You can see the entire review at <http://eham.net/reviews/detail/12167>.]

I'd like to begin a review thread for CW Academy, a subset of CW Ops, the international CW Operators club. CW Academy offers three levels of CW training: L1 for beginners, with or without CW experience; L2, the intermediate level for those who can send and copy at least 11 wpm; and L3 for experienced CW operators capable of 20 wpm. The L3 class includes specific training for contesting, DXing and ragchewing, depending on the student's interest. Both L2 and L3 emphasize abandoning pencil and paper and copying and sending from your head, only writing key words.

I entered the intermediate L2 class in the spring of 2013. Back in 1993 I managed 18wpm, but with no CW for the next 20 years, I was down to 11 wpm. My class adviser was Rob K6RB. Classes are small, usually 5 students. Classes meet twice weekly and homework is usually assigned every day of the week. Homework takes about an hour a day. It may take more or less time, depending on your experience and how quickly you learn. I probably averaged 1.5hr/day. The Academy asks you to make a commitment to attend each class session and complete the homework. It's an organized and efficient path to CW proficiency. If you follow their curriculum faithfully, you will be surprised and pleased with your results. In both classes, L2 and L3, I exceeded my own expectations.

The L2 class took me from 11 wpm to 20 wpm in 8 weeks. This didn't happen by good luck or charm. The curriculum is very well designed by a team of longtime CW operators. In plain speaking, it really works! You do have to do your part. There's homework every day and the classes move along briskly, but it's well within the reach of anyone with a modicum of discipline. And, the results can be spectacular.

CW Academy uses the Farnsworth method of CW training. Levels 1 & 2 begin at 20 wpm character speed. You don't learn slow CW, so you won't have a tendency to focus on character elements as is the norm with older CW training methods. At 20 wpm, you are simply listening to the sound and

associating the sound with the character. It bypasses the old mental look-up table we older amateurs used to decode CW.

L2 helped me erase my old look-up routines and just hear the unique sound of each character. And I began to copy more and more in my head. I had always written everything down, so this was a big change. And, sending from my head was another challenge, frustrating at first, but easier as I progressed. L2 also introduced us to CW contesting. I've been contest-adverse since I've been an amateur, but it was part of our homework and I'd agreed be diligent.

CW Academy involves students in their weekly CW contest, CWT. CWT runs three times every Wednesday, one hour each session. It's a popular and lively contest. Speeds runs between 30 and 40 wpm. It's an excellent opportunity to learn to copy a call sign in one pass. My first attempt was disappointing; the CW was just a blur of sound, one fast station nearly on top of the next. I couldn't copy anything. But I kept coming every Wednesday and soon I was getting a couple characters and little by little I was copying call signs around 30 wpm. Today, I do CWT every Wednesday. It's still helping me improve my copy skills and I've made numerous friends there too.

In the fall of 2013 I took L3, advised again by Rob K6RB. This class has wider goals to accommodate the more experienced CW students. Here you can focus on contesting, DX, or conversational CW within the overall agenda of increasing speed, head-copy and head-sending. Homework includes CWT and other CW contests too. This class was a serious challenge for me. Although I qualified for the course with a 20 wpm capability, I had just reached that level mid-year and was not as accomplished as I might have been had I waited until next spring for L3. Nevertheless, I did OK, although the press of speeding up, copying in my head, and sending from my head pressed me to a point that awoke my old 1992 habits. About mid-course, my copy ability actually went retrograde. I began having trouble copying even at 20 wpm. When I fell behind copying, my mind would just go blank or return to counting dits and dashes. It was hard to get back on track, to refocus. Two or three words would zip by. I was hearing the easy words, but missing the gist of the message.

Rob adjusted my homework a bit and encouraged me to ease up until I settled down and, sure enough, I did settle down and things began to work again. I finished L3 at 23-25 wpm. Not 100% copy, but good enough to know what's said. L3 might have been easier for me had I taken more time after L2 to solidify what I'd learned. After L3 graduation, I took a month off CW to rest my brain and relax. Then I returned to CWT, joined the FRN CW Net, and QSO'd with my new friends. My speed and send/copy is improving steadily.

And now, I'm a member of CWops! I came to the CW Academy because I'd been unable to ever move past 18 wpm and CW was stressful. I was always trying to speed up and never arrived at a speed where I was satisfied, so I didn't settle down and enjoy myself. I was always chasing my Extra license. My goal at the CW Academy was 20 wpm and conversational CW. Contesting was the furthest thing from my mind.

After a few weeks with Rob, I began to see some value to contesting, although I still didn't feel drawn to competition. Next, I began to think about CWops membership. I liked these guys. They are a lot of fun and they are passionate about CW. Membership requires 25 wpm. Maybe I could reach 25 wpm. Rob was certain I could do it. So, my mission crept to conversational at 25 wpm and membership in CWops. Rob thought I would make it by year's end.

In January, Tom W7WHY recommended me for membership and three endorsements later, I was a lifetime member. It's one of the most pleasurable accomplishments of my life. I really worked for

this one and it feels great. Rob gave me the tools and guidance and I did the work. The results are beyond my initial expectations and deeply satisfying.

Also last year, my XYL Mindy W7ZAP took the L1 course. She had already learned half the alphabet. Today, she's enrolled in L2 and Rob K6RB is her adviser, too. At mid-point in the class, her progress is surprising. Her only CW training is with the Farnsworth method and she's advancing quickly. I won't be surprised by a CW eclipse in the near future. Eclipse or no, I'm delighted with my CW accomplishments and I've never had more CW fun.

In summary, I can't say enough good about CW Academy. It's staffed by a dedicated crew of CW aficionados who really know their stuff. The atmosphere is warm, friendly, and supportive. Cost to the student is stiff, but not unreasonable. There is no monetary cost at all, only your commitment to participate and practice. If you can afford that, they have a great learning experience for you. Sign up soon. They have a long and growing waiting list for all three levels. GL wid CW CUL.

73,

Doug K7KY

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CWops Tests

by **Rich Ferch VE3KI**

This month's column is devoted to the CWT participation awards.

2014 Participation Awards

During 2014, the frequency of CWTs was upped from twice monthly to weekly. There were two Very Special slow-speed CWTs in March, and then starting in April the regular CWTs were held every week. The CWTs on June 11/12 and 12/13 November were again Very Special slow-speed CWTs, to celebrate the completion of CW Academy sessions. The Very Special CWTs counted for participation points the same as regular CWTs.

As a result, we had 143 CWT sessions in 2014. Despite the increase in the number of CWT sessions, as a bonus the participation levels required to earn CWT participation awards remained unchanged from 2013. As a result, we had a lot of participation award winners this year, as follows:

Gold medal winners (60 or more sessions): NW2K, W9CC, N4FP, N5RR, WJ9B, K1DW, F6HKA, VE3KI, KG5U, W6SX, AA2ZW, K6RB, N4DW, W2GN, VE2FK, K7SV, NN4K, KJ9C, W4VQ, SM3CER, N5ZO, N0TA, W1UU, KC4D, N3JT, DJ1OJ, N4AF, N5AW, NN6T, KW7Q, KU7Y, W4TTM, K1SM, K4RUM, NW0M, OH2BN, SM4DQE, W0UCE, N8BJQ, K1GU, NS9I, UR5MM, WN4AFP, N0AC, K4JAZ, VE3MGY, SM5ALJ, WX7SJ, K1ESE, SM0OY, FG8NY, W0EJ, W1RM, F5IN, SM6CUK, W5ASP.

Silver medal winners (40 or more sessions): K3MD, SM5BKK, W0VX, W9ILY, K0DTJ, N1EN, PA3DBS, UA6HZ, N5IR, GW0ETF, K4BAI, K0RF, SM6FKF, DL8PG, KA7T, K1RO, WB5EIN, F5MNX, K0FX, W3KB.

Bronze medal winners (24 or more sessions): JF2IWL, HB9ARF, NS0R, W8CAR, WA9LEY, KI7Y, WA8HSB, NA8V, W7WHY, W7ZRC, N3HEE, N3QE, VE9AA, K1BG, K1SE, K4ORD, N1ZX, VE2BZO, WQ3E, N6RO, AA9A, N0EF, N3MNT, SM7ATL, W6KY, NO5W, WD0T, AC4CA, W5ZR, W6KC, WB5BKL, US0MF, W2LK, W5TM, WA4TT, AD1C, G4BUE, K2CYE, K5FP, W2RU, WA6URY, WB9G.

The medallions are being struck and they will be mailed as soon as they are ready. The entire process can take up to three months.

To give you some idea of the popularity of the CWTs, there were 363 CWops members and 160 non-members who reported at least one CWT score last year to 3830scores.com. In total, there were 9752 CWT scores reported for 2014, totaling almost 234,000 QSOs. That's an average of 68 participants and 1636 QSOs per CWT session. The highest scorers routinely exceeded 100 QSOs in a session. The highest number reported was the 151 QSOs made by N4AF in the February 27 0300Z session (incidentally, this record has already been broken in 2015).

2015 Participation Awards

For many of us, CWTs have become a regular Wednesday "fix". There are 157 CWTs scheduled for 2015. At CW Academy graduation times, there will be Very Special slow-speed CWTs, which will be announced on the CWops email reflector. Very Special CWTs will count for participation awards the same as the regular CWT sessions.

As reported in last month's *Solid Copy*, the qualifying levels for participation levels will change in 2015, depending on your location:

	NA	EU	Other
Gold	120	90	60
Silver	80	60	40
Bronze	50	36	24
min.#QSOs	10	10	5

To have your participation recorded, just remember to report your score to 3830scores.com within two days after each CWT. There's no log submission required; we're on the honor system.

We do the CWTs because they're fun, so let's all make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

73,

Rich, VE3KI

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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.

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE
VE3KI	328	3061	W1RM	141	N5RR	50	W1RM	43
N5RR	287	3354	F6HKA	122	W1RM	50	OH2BN	40
W0VX	255	2242	W4VQ	117	W4VQ	50	AA3B	37
G4BUE	204	2054	OH2BN	112	F6HKA	50	N5RR	37
F6HKA	197	3197	N5RR	100	W1UU	50	SM6CNN	37
W1RM	173	3510	EA8OM	94	VE3KI	50	F6HKA	37
N1EN	156	1244	SM6CNN	93	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	36
G3XLG	140	201	AA3B	88	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	36
K1ESE	137	1716	VE3KI	88	W0EJ	50	KR3E	34
W1UU	123	1618	EA1WX	87	AD1C	49	KZ5D	34
EA8OM	118	2394	K1ESE	87	FG8NY	49	G4BUE	34
FG8NY	97	2156	G4BUE	86	K6DGW	49	VE3KI	34
NN6T	97	1577	DL8PG	84	GW0ETF	49	FG8NY	34
DL8PG	72	1636	W0VX	83	K1ESE	49	DL8PG	33
NV9X	64	64	PA7RA	79	W0VX	49	PA7RA	33
W0EJ	51	754	KZ5D	78	F5MNK	49	W9ILY	32
W9ILY	47	2016	W9ILY	78	K6RB	48	EA1WX	32
K6DGW	42	1312	KR3E	73	KZ5D	48	W0VX	31
PA7RA	30	1137	AD1C	73	NN6T	48	K1ESE	31
JF2IWL	10	704	FG8NY	72	W6KY	48	NN6T	29
AA3B	0	4714	NN6T	67	AA3B	48	N1ZX	28
KZ5D	0	3239	N1ZX	67	DL8PG	48	W1UU	28
K6RB	0	2777	GW0ETF	67	N1EN	48	F5MNK	28
SM6CNN	0	2477	W1UU	67	WB9G	48	GW0ETF	28
W4VQ	0	1923	N1EN	65	SM6CNN	48	AD1C	25
N2UU	0	1774	F5MNK	61	W9ILY	47	N1EN	25
AD1C	0	1630	W6KY	54	KR3E	47	JF2IWL	22
EA1WX	0	1591	4Z1UF	50	N1ZX	47	4Z1UF	21

W6KY	0	1573	K6RB	49	EA1WX	46	K6RB	21
GW0ETF	0	1369	WB9G	48	WX7SJ	46	WB9G	19
KR3E	0	1136	JF2IWL	45	K0DTJ	45	W6KY	16
PA4N	0	955	W0EJ	36	JF2IWL	45	G3XLG	10
OK1RR	0	893	K6DGW	31	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10
W5ASP	0	893	KT5V	28	NU7Y	44	KT5V	9
WB9G	0	888	K0DTJ	23	KT5V	44	K6DGW	8
N1ZX	0	870	NU7Y	20	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7
F5MNK	0	811	G3XLG	18	AB7MP	37	W5TM	7
WX7SJ	0	610	WT2P	14	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	6
OH2BN	0	530	W5TM	11	WT2P	34	WT2P	4
KT5V	0	518	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32		
K0DTJ	0	417	AB7MP	10	G3XLG	31		
NU7Y	0	310	NV9X	2	NV9X	27		
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8		
AB7MP	0	183						
WT2P	0	149						
G0DJA	0	23						
PA1FOX	0	5						

Congratulations to Bill N5RR as the latest to achieve CWops DXCC, and to EA8OM and W0EJ for achieving CWops WAS.

As a point of interest, if you have been struggling with CAM not counting a state or country you have worked, be sure to upgrade to the newest version 2.1.3, available at <http://bbcbyber.com/>. Note that the link to download the software says “Coming” but it is now there and can be installed.

There have been two suggestions for modification of the awards setup and we would like your opinion as to doing either or both. Please email your comments either to the reflector or to me at cwopsawards@comcast.net. First, a member has suggested counting contacts made on 60 meters as part of the award structure (ACA/CMA/WAS/WAE/DX). When these awards were conceived, there were no CW privileges on 60 meters but that’s since changed. So should we consider QSOs on this band for the awards?

Second, another member has suggested a new award – CWops WAZ. This would be a real challenge of course. Contacts would count starting with your membership date. The same concept as applies to the other awards would apply to the WAZ – that is if you work a member regardless of the station they are operating from, you would get credit for where that member is be it a state or country.

Should either or both of these be implemented? I would appreciate hearing your thoughts. By all means post your thoughts to the reflector so everyone will benefit.

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1387	KA3BMU	Bill
1388	KA4RRU*	Mike
1389	AA4CF*	Charlie
1390	N9NA	John
1391	K3SEN	Dale
1392	W3WHK	Saul
1393	N9IXD*	Marty
1394	W4TY	Art
1395	AD8J*	John
1396	K7KY*	Doug
1397	K8BZ*	Steve
1398	K3JT	Terry
1399	VE3CX*	Tom
1400	K1VMT	Joe
1401	K0KG*	Keith
1402	K8JQ	Steve
1403	KK4UNZ	Tucker
1404	AE1T	Peter
1405	K2ZC	Dave
1406	N7WY	Bob
1407	W2XS	John
1408	K2RP	Ron

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of February 14, 2015:

Need Sponsors: KC5QIH, N5HZ, OZ1JHM, K7GA, K0TC, N2CJ

Invitations Extended: K7XC, W8BUD, KB6NU

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.”

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

QTX is a way of counting conversational CW QSOs. 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.

We are off again on a new year of QTX. Participation has been up over the last year and we would appreciate your report, large or small. Just count up your monthly total of CW conversations lasting 20 minutes or longer.

Each month we list the monthly and year-to-date QTX points for reporting stations. Each year the competition is wide open and last year's winner, Fred KI4XH, is planning to focus on other CW activities this year. With just one month's tally under our belt, here are the QTX standings:

Call	Jan
WB6BEE	77
K5KV	71
N5IR	63
N1ZX	59
K1ESE	47
K5YQF	31
NN6T	30
W3WHK	21
W6JMP	19
K6RB	17
WA8IWK	14
JE1TRV	11
KCOVKN	11
KE6OIO	9
HB9CVQ	8
K0DTJ	8
K6HTN	8
K8QI	7
IK0IXI	2
W5JQ	2

Everyone had a 'personal best' for the year ... so far.

Don WB6BEE is off to an early lead. The top four are in easy striking range with Benny K5KV nipping at his heels. Bill N5IR is third and all the top three are above the two-per-day average, impressive totals.

Farther down the list we have a few folks who are starting 2015 with excellent totals, well above their typical 2014 scores.

We totaled 515 QSOs and 20 participants. We hope to grow from there.

But, you don't have to have a top score to be a winner. We award QTX medals for the following totals at the end of the year -

Gold Medal - 400 QTX points
Silver Medal - 300 QTX points
Bronze Medal - 200 QTX points

It will be fun to see if you can accumulate the contacts needed to reach each level. Average about 18 rag chews each month to receive an award.

Good luck with your totals and enjoy making new friends and chatting with your regular pals.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792

QTX Manager

QTX – Encouraging 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.

The winter version of the North American Sprint – CW is set for the first Saturday in February. For many highly motivated CW operators this is the ultimate test of their skill. It is intense, it is demanding, and ... it's great fun. For those who have never ventured into this arena it can be a bit of a shock, but it's an experience not to be missed. If you really thrive on doing CW, grab the brass ring and go for the ride. It's best to first have a look at <http://www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf> to understand what's going on.

Last month's operating activities featured five successive sessions of the NCCC's NS Ladder weekly event. This month there are three more sessions on the schedule concluding the current NS Ladder. Details of this competition can be found at <http://www.ncccsprint.com/ladder.html>

February kicks-off the annual State QSO Party agenda with the Vermont QSO Party (<http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html>) accompanied by the Minnesota QSO Party on the same day (<http://www.org/index.php/mn-qso-party-7>). Between the two QSO parties and the Sprint there ought to be something for everyone.

The FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint will be held on the second Saturday of the month.

See <http://www.fistsna.org> for the particulars.

And if you happen to run out of things to do you might check the High Speed CW Contest on the 22nd at 0900Z to 1700Z. <http://www.highspeedclub.org/> That's assuming that you're not already totally exhausted from the ARRL DX CW fracas.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

[Editor's Note: Because of the change in *Solid Copy* publication schedule, these events will be history by the time this edition comes out. We will get synchronized again in the March issue.]

North American Sprint - CW	0000Z, Feb.8 th to 0359Z, Feb 8 th
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20
Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 7 th to 2400Z, Feb 8 th
Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z, Feb 7 th to 2359Z, Feb 7 th
FISTS Winter Sprint	1700Z, Feb 14 th to 2100Z, Feb 14 th

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