



Begali Graciella Jr.

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

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Rob Brownstein [K6RB](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

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

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President's Message



Is it really March already? I am already seeing changes in CWT because of the seasonal changes. During 1300Z, 20 meters opens up earlier from here and 80 is less effective. I'm

looking forward to summer when it's possible to have a six band effort in CWT at 0300.

[Continued on next page]

The US east coast members have been having a brutal winter. Snow and ice have been hitting from Maine down to Georgia. Our mid-west members are having record-breaking cold temperatures. So, keep warm, keep well, Spring is on its way.

We finished another semester of CW Academy with many graduates moving on to the next higher levels. As always, we need more advisors. Jerry AC4BT is putting together a plan for advisors who prefer on-the-air to online practice environments. He'll have more to say about that, but consider helping out because despite growing the advisor corps more than 50 percent over the last year, we are still looking at one year backlogs. The demand for CW Academy is absolutely unrelenting!

CWT continues to grow in popularity and we all did a masterful job of not colliding with K1N. One 0300Z session opened right in the middle of a huge 40 meter pileup from 7.023 up to 7.040 MHz. Without any pre-event planning, we all just moved up well above the pile and had a very good session.

The CWT participation medallions have been ordered and I'm expecting a shipment of over 100 to my house where Debra and I will individually pack, label and mail each one to its recipients. We will also be doing the same for the QTX achievement medallions which will also be coming in the same bulk shipment.

A QTX plaque was sent to Fred KI4XH who had a huge point score in 2014. Congratulations, Fred. CW Academy service award plaques for the equivalent of two years' worth of service went to: Jerry AC4BT, Dallas K1DW, Will WJ9B and Bill KC4D. Thank you all for your great service. Two other plaques went out to Jack W0UCE and Rob K6RB for the equivalent of four years' worth of service. Dean NW2K is handling the CW Open 2014 awards and these should be on their way to recipients, too.

Our ambassadors have been busy. Mac NN4K fielded a CWops booth at Orlando Hamcation and James VK4TJF wrote a nice article about CWops and CW Academy for publication in an Australian ham newsletter. One of our CW Academy students wrote a nice piece for eHam.com about his experience in CW Academy and we saw a jump in signups right after. That student is also a recent member, Doug K7KY.

Finally, it has become a tradition to do a 20-wpm day of CWT after each semester ends. It is our way of welcoming the Level 1, 2 and 3 students and congratulating them on their success. So please consider participating in the March 11 CWTs at 1300, 1900 and 0300Z. Everything is the same except slower (20 wpm maximum). Take a moment to congratulate our CWA graduates who will identify themselves by sending "CWA" after their names.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Rotten QRM!

There was a lot of DX to be worked in February/March. Your Editor is a casual DXer at best, but All Time New Ones like K1N, E30FB and even 9Q0HQ (surprisingly not yet in my log) were hard to resist. This issue of *Solid Copy* might have gone out a day earlier had it not been for those last two. The

embarrassing part was working E30FB initially on SSB! They were spending so much time on phone (at least, time when the bands were open to North America) that I began to fear for grabbing a CW QSO. But they did move to the Real Man's Mode (also enjoyed by many stalwart YLs) and I saved face by working them on 10 CW. More band-modes would be nice, but the pileups have been so unruly that I really have little motivation to jump back in. How hard is it to grasp the fact that the DX station can't hear you when he's sending or listening to someone else? Do they think the DX will work more stations faster if they refuse to stand by when the DX asks for completion of a partial call? What do they not understand about working UP? Sorry, friends – rants like this have been raining down since the days of The Old Man, Hiram Percy Maxim. There's still a lot of what he called "Rotten QRM" out there and I don't like it. And, to borrow an obscure, old phrase, "my instincts say, 'Fight it!'" How? Definitely NOT by becoming a Frequency Cop. They're as bad as the alligators, lids and phony space cadets. No, the only ways I can think of to clean up the pileups are a long, slow dose of leadership by example and a relentless but soft sell at every club meeting and hamfest we attend. Some of the Evil Sons are clearly mentally ill, alcoholic, anti-social or all three. We probably won't get to them because they don't attend meetings and hamfests...probably don't read, either. But the newcomer Wise Sons will learn quickly, the Simple Sons will learn eventually and at least some of Those Who Don't Know How to Ask will eventually figure it out if we keep on gently teaching. CWops are leaders. Let's see how many Bad Ops we can teach to become Good Ops just by keeping our own operating practices beyond reproach and talking them up, without too much pedantry, at every opportunity.

Bob N6TV (not yet a member!?) was a beta tester of the new KSYN3A synthesizer board for the Elecraft K3. He did some detailed Before-and-After analysis that you can find at <http://mldxcc.org/n6tv-k3.pdf>. The article includes Audacity traces of CW waveforms and audio recordings with and without the mod. Although Bob's primary concern was QRR CW, he also mentions some of the other benefits of the new board.

N6TV has also devised a clever set of scripts for the Win-Test contest logger that use KY commands to the K3, KX3 and some recent Kenwood radios to send radio-generated Morse characters, eliminating the need for an external keyer or jitter-inducing, computer-generated code elements. To lubricate your minimal-hardware contesting setup, see <http://bit.ly/wtscripts>, an evolving reference page. And note that these LUA scripts are only for Win-Test, not other loggers.

We have a big issue this month and some of the best parts are announcements of upcoming in-person gatherings of CW operators. Visalia IDXC is in April, the Nevada State Convention is in May and D.C. area North American Weekend is in June. All three feature CW operator gatherings, chances to shake the hands at the ends of the keys. See the announcements below and try to attend one or more. Also in this issue is a novel design for a [simple, multi-band vertical](#), a review of the gorgeous [Begali 60th Anniversary Sculpture paddle](#) and the usual assortment of columns and scores. Enjoy!

73,

Rick N6XI

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Visalia International DX Convention

April 17-19, 2015

Visalia Convention Center, Visalia, CA

&

CW Breakfast

April 18, 2015

Country Waffle Restaurant

5410 West Cypress Avenue, Visalia, CA

From Mike, [K6MKF](#), President - [NCDXC](#):

This is a reminder that the International DX Convention will be held in Visalia, California on April 17-19, 2015. Over 300 DXers have already registered. It's easy to do online. Check the website's "List of Attendees" to see who else will be there: <http://www.dxconvention.com/>. You are sure to see some familiar call signs. Over \$50,000 in major prizes will be awarded, including a complete Elecraft K-Line! Register online now!

Combine your visit to IDXC with a vacation. Visalia is just a few hours from world-class California vacation destinations, described in the Vacation Options brochure: <http://dxconvention.com/pdf/2015-IDXC-Vacations.pdf>

...and from Breakfast organizer [N6XI](#):

Once again we plan to gather for breakfast at the "CW Restaurant" (aka Country Waffle) on the Saturday morning of the **International DX Convention** in Visalia, CA, USA on April 18, 2015. There is no convention breakfast on the Saturday morning, so this is the way to go! The convention will be at the downtown Visalia Convention Center and its surrounding hotels, so we may need to arrange more than one gathering point for carpools. More details on that will follow once I know who is coming. We will meet at 7:10am at the hotels and **arrive at the restaurant around 7:30**. We plan to be back at the Convention Center in time for convention activities. This is a low-pressure, low-planning, no prizes, separate checks and good food affair that has been well received in the past by many CWops members and other CW-friendly guests. They "don't accept reservations" but, as usual, promise to do their best to accommodate us. In the past, they've done very well.

DIRECTIONS: Note that there are two Country Waffle restaurants in Visalia. We will be eating at our usual one at **5410 W Cypress Ave**. Although it's slightly farther from the Convention Center than its sister establishment, they have been terrific hosts for the past seven years. Also, La Quinta hotel, where some of our members will be staying, is in the same shopping center. If you are staying downtown, drive west on Rte. 198 to the Akers St exit. If you are at one of the airport hotels, drive east on 198. Either way, exit South on Akers and immediately turn right into the shopping center. There is plenty of free parking.

IMPORTANT: Please [e-mail N6XI](#) if you are coming and say who else you plan to bring so we can warn the restaurant ahead of time how many to expect. Also, tell us **where you are staying**, if you can drive, how many **extra car seats** you will have or if you will **need a ride**. We will do our best to arrange car pooling from the appropriate hotels.

RSVP for the breakfast only to rick@tavan.com as soon as possible.

Thanks and CU in Visalia!

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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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North American CW Weekend

June 5-7, 2015

Washington, D.C. Area

The annual North American CW Weekend will be held 5-7 June 2015 in the Washington, DC area. This is a month later than in previous years to allow for a broader participation. The CW Weekend is for Morse code aficionados of all stripes: members of CWops, FOC, FISTS, Straight Key Club, and Morse Telegraph Society, or any individual with a special interest in Morse code communication. Rooms have been reserved at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia, at the special rate of \$ 99 per night. The special rate will be honored a day before and two days after the weekend for CW Weekend participants. A hospitality suite will be available at the Marriott for socializing and libations on Friday and Saturday evenings. **Contact Marriott reservations at 800-288-9290 or 703-849-9400 and specify "The North American Weekend Room Block."** You may also make reservations via the web site at www.marriott.com/wasfp/. Enter "RIARIAA" in the space for the Group Code to obtain the special room rate.

The Weekend kicks off with an informal pizza dinner on Friday, followed Saturday morning by brunch hosted by N3JT at his McLean home. The afternoon is free for touring or shopping. Cocktails and dinner follow at 6 pm at Clyde's Restaurant at Tyson's Corners. We generally meet on Sunday morning at the Marriott for an informal breakfast before heading home. On Sunday afternoon, tours of the world famous W3LPL station and antenna farm may be available by prearrangement with Frank.

The late spring is a pleasant time in the nation's capital, and there are numerous sights, museums, and world-class shopping centers within easy access to the hotel. A modest registration of \$25 per person is requested to defray the cost of the hospitality suite and refreshments. Contact W4ZYT, Don, at w4zyt.don@gmail.com to register or for questions. Come and join your fellow brass pounders for a pleasant and memorable event!

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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 jveisskobk@gmail.com.

Jerry AC4BT: Announcing the new **CWA HF On The Air Advisors** program.

This is a new CWops CW Academy led program where a CWA Advisor is available on HF (40 meters 7.035) and where anyone with interest can come and have QSOs and rag-chews. This is an informal program where the student (anyone who can get on HF 40 meters) does not have to formally sign-up but just shows up on frequency (+/- 7.035) for a QSO with a CWops HF Advisor. The HF Advisor will identify using "CWA" as part of their CQ. For example "CQ **CWA** de AC4BT"

AC4BT K.” When turning it over to the other station, the CWops HF Advisor would send “AC4BT de K6RB **CWA** K” to let others know who we are and what is going on. The HF Advisor will match the sending speed of the other station.

CWops HF Advisors would commit to a day/time each week, during the evening hours local time. There will be an HF Advisor schedule posted on the CWops Web site showing the Advisors who have signed up to be available for that week. Until the logistics are put in place, CWops members interested in taking part as a CWA HF Advisor can email me (AC4BT) with the day and time you can be available and I will post a weekly schedule on the Website and send out a weekly message on the CWops Listserve.

It is hoped that the “CWA HF On The Air Advisors” program will attract and draw out CW operators of all skill levels and ages and encourage them to get on the air making real, live QSOs while also providing an opportunity to improve their CW skills. No Internet connection is required. The only requirement is an interest in CW and a station that is HF ready on 40 meters. This is an *ad hoc* program complementing CWops’ more structured CW Academy program.

As we start this program we have two CWops volunteers: Jerry AC4BT and Rob K6RB. K6RB will be on frequency (+/- 7.035) Tuesday evenings (PDT) at 7:00 pm (Wednesday’s 0200 UTC) using his Globe King 500/75A-4 station. AC4BT will be on Wednesday evenings (EDT) at 7:00 pm (Wednesday’s 2300 UTC).

Our goal is to get enough CWops members, who have some spare time, to sign up as HF Advisors so that we place an Advisor on frequency each day of the week and provide a global opportunity to improve CW skills for any CW operator interested in doing so.

Jack W0UCE: Last Call for New Associate Advisor Workshops is Sunday, March 15, 2015. CWops Members and recent CWA graduates with the desire to learn to become a CWA Advisor are urged to volunteer. As always, student demand exceeds CW Academy’s Advisor / Instructor resources. You can make a difference – Please join us!

To enroll in Level I or Level II / Level III classes contact Jack – W0UCE by e-mail.

Lars SM0OY: This year's ARRL DX CW was a nice experience for me. I had prepared my log program TR4W with the latest member list of CW Ops. As I worked station after station I now and then got name and number on my screen. It was so nice to meet fellow members outside CWT. The average CW speed was 30 - 35 wpm, so there was no time to chat. I didn't use the names myself because of the speed of the contest. But Howie N4AF saluted me directly with my name. That made the race so familiar! Howie always greets me with my name also in other contests in spite of being in a hurry. I am “impolite.” I normally don't. Shame on me! Of course, we all do that in CWT, where the computer can help us with the names.

In CWT I normally start on 15 m if 10 is no good. Then I go to 20 m and the last five minutes we

SM ops will meet on 40 m. I only feed 55 watts out in my dipole, which normally is enough in CWT. The best results I have are on 40 m. I have a very good take off here. The ground is an old sea floor.

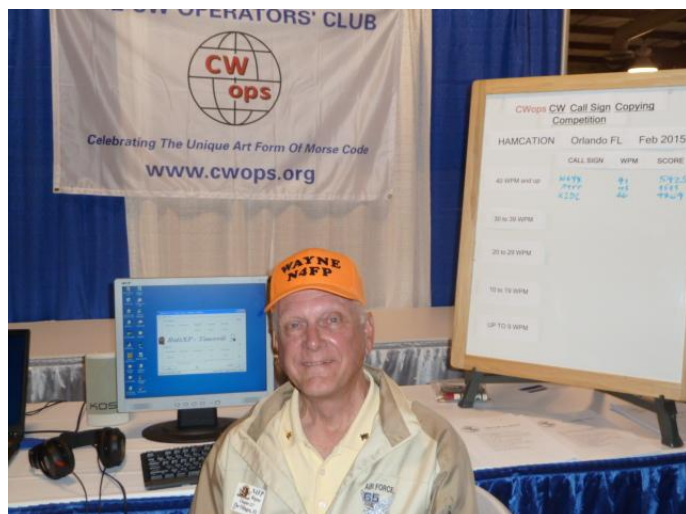
One more thing about CWT, the weekly friendly gathering. The hour at 13Z normally works fine, at least on 20 m. At 19Z it now is improving. But 03Z.. well, that is no go time for us in Scandinavia, especially in winter. 15 and 20 are silent. On 40 I can hear US stations but they cannot hear me. On 80 m there are a few Europeans, very few CWT and much digital junk and QRM. But I know what it's like to work CWT in Ohio. Oh, it is a real challenge! I did that two years ago. So many friends to call, so many QSOs to log, so many new ops to meet. I fully understand why you have problems copying our weak sigs! 73 and many regards from us up here on the 60th parallel close to the Arctic.

Rene K5JX: I've been inactive in CWops and ham radio generally for about a year due to lack of antennas and a pet albatross named "Job," but I hope to have the lack of antenna part remedied this Spring. I recently inherited an old **KC-1 Kansas City Keyer** from a bud who is now a SK. **I need a copy of the manual if anyone has one.**

Mac NN4K: Hamcation 2015

When it's cold and wintry outside, a good place to find some warmer weather is in Florida. In fact, a major hamfest is held in the Orlando area in February and promotions for having a vacation there naturally lead to "Hamcation." A lot of hams, national and international in origin, find their way to this three day event. It features well-known equipment and accessory manufacturers and other dealers plus a very large "bone yard" of used ham radio equipment. What an ideal place to showcase CWops and tell folks about the organization, and especially the CW Academy where hams can be taught Morse code and helped along toward the ability to copy CW at higher speeds.

The CWops exhibit was set up in a booth with a laptop computer, a separate LED video display, RUFZXP software, headphones and a keyboard. On the table was a leaderboard for the CW Call Sign Copying Competition and it wasn't long before call signs of participants began to be listed along with their results. Among the first to sit for the eight minutes of call signs testing was Wayne



Brown, N4FP. His proficiency was shown at 46 wpm for the first time. After a few more entrants scores were listed, one ahead of Wayne's previous entry, he went through another eight minutes and increased his score to 48 wpm.

Throughout the day, several CWops members came by, some to visit and others to compete. Folks were picking up flyers from the table that described CW Academy, CWT mini and CWT Open and were gone before I could visit with them. The message was clear, there are a lot of hams who want to learn and/or improve their CW skills. Two of my Level I students who live in Florida came by for a chance to have a personal visit. Other students who are in current CW Academy classes visited and were happy to talk about their experiences as participants of the class and how it has helped them already.

We had a visit at the exhibit by John K4BAI. He posted a speed of 48 wpm and a RUFZXP score of 13,058. The latter accounts for accuracy in copying. Well done John!



K4BAI, John Laney

Along with AD4Z/HI3A, Julio Henriquez who was the Team Leader of W1T, WRTC 2014 Team.



Julio's score was the best of the session and you can see his picture pointing out his top score. More info at QRZ.com

I missed connecting with Jim Talens N3JT, CWops #1, due to my scheduling issues. Hopefully there will be another chance to say hello in person.

Being at Hamcation 2015 was great exposure for CWops!

Lee K5LY: Morse code class:

Last December I was contacted by MARC, the McKinney (TX) Amateur Radio club. I am formerly a Vice President of MARC. I was asked if I would agree to teach a Morse code class in early 2015. The current Vice President, Andy Barnes W5KZJ said he knew of several MARC members desiring to learn Morse code. It's well known I am one of few CW operators in MARC.

I contacted Rob, K6RB, and asked for suggestions on how to proceed with a Morse code class. Rob suggested I research the excellent teaching material available in the CW Ops CW Academy. I designed a class consisting of eight weeks of instruction. The classroom instruction meets weekly for 2 hours. On February 12, 2015 a Morse code class based upon the CW Academy syllabus began with 11 students. The students' backgrounds vary from a veteran Extra Class operator desiring to renew his Morse code skills, to several recently licensed hams. The youngest was a high school senior. Another one not yet licensed was interested in the class; however work commitments prevented his attendance. They are an enthusiastic class, desiring to learn to converse in Morse code.

I am CW Ops #1124, FOC #2062, FISTS #15371, SKCC #7448, ARRL Life member
CW Forever!

Oriol CO8CY did a great job in the ARRL DX. Running 100W to a vertical in Eastern Cuba, he made 1083 Qs in 59 states and provinces for 191,691 points!

Tighe NK4I: Just wanted to say what an awesome job "The Jacks" W0UCE and NI8N did with our Level 2 class. We finished this evening and I'm very thankful to have made it into this class. Hopefully I can give back and become an associate instructor at some point. Thanks for running the great program!

Bob WR7Q: For Rob K6RB – Thank you so much for CW Academy. You have moved me forward dramatically, in the last two months and given me the tools to continue reaching my goals. You are truly a good guy. 73 and CU on the band.”

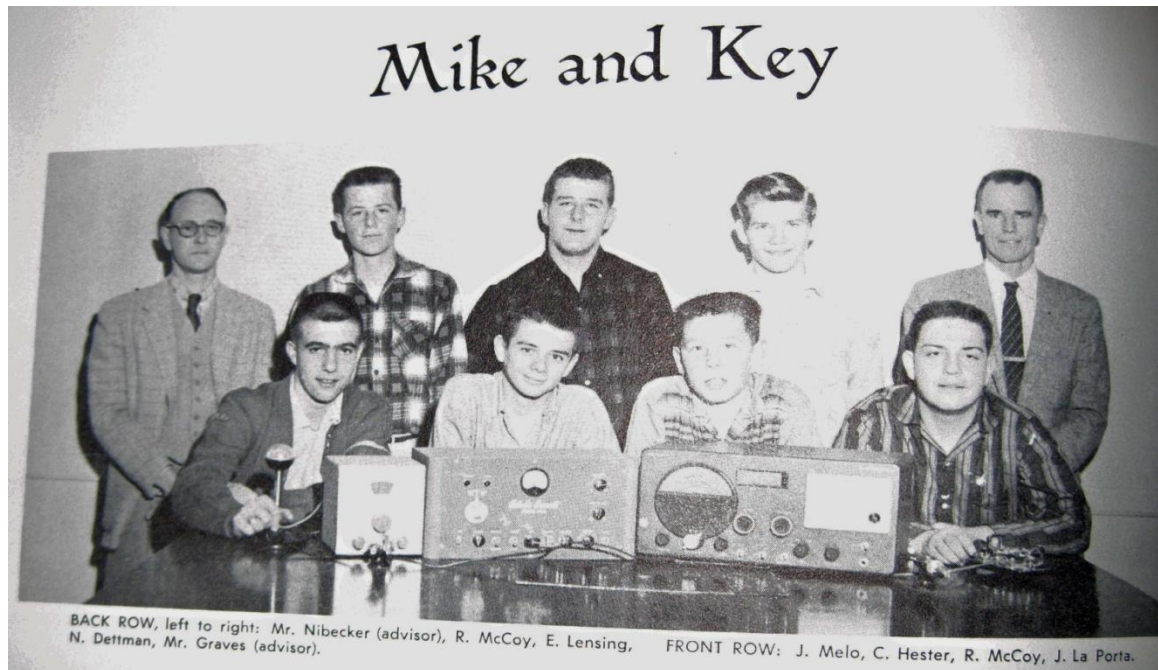
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How We Were – N1CC

by Hank W6SX

Jim LaPorta N1CC, CWops #1335



Mount Shasta, California high school radio club, ca. 1959. Jim, then K6SXX, is seated on far right.

Please send me YOUR How We Were Photos. w6sx@arrl.net .

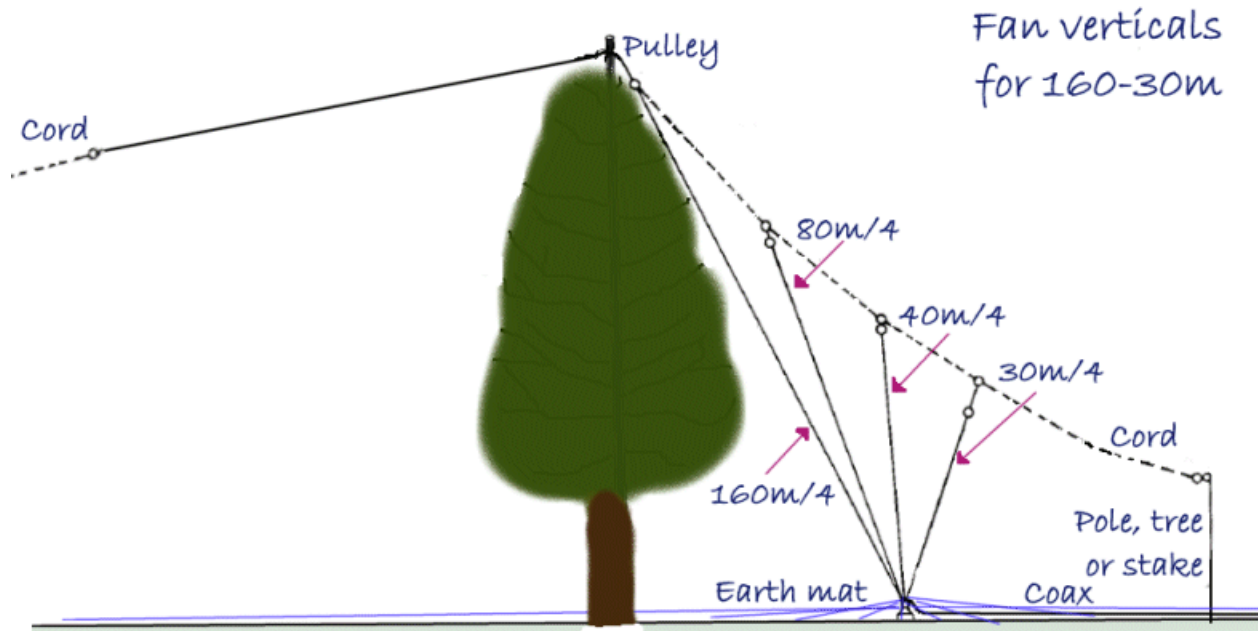
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Fan Verticals for 160-30M

Dov Gavish 4Z4DX

This article arrived via N3JT with no text, but the drawing speaks for itself. We've all paralleled dipoles on a single feedline, but Dov does it with verticals and only a single support. Neat idea! – Ed.



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Begali 60th Anniversary Sculpture Key

AC4BT Jerry Weisskohl

I recently purchased the Begali 60th Anniversary Special Edition Sculpture Key, a beautiful work of art, one that cost me “deep in the purse.” I can’t honestly answer any of the following questions:

- Do I really need another key?
- Don’t you already have several “backup” keys sitting on the shelf gathering dust?

...so justifying purchasing any Begali key is left to the lawyers should my YL strap me into a chair and shine a bright light in my face.



When not participating in a contest, I operate at about 25 wpm, depending on the speed of the other station. I like a key that absolutely does not move and does not have any perceptible moving parts. Yes, straight keys are out – too much movement and too hard on the wrist. This is where the Begali keys come into play. I really can’t find any other key that feels so effortless to use. I have the settings adjusted so that if you even think about keying a dit or a dah, it will go off. If there is a breeze it will go off, and yes, if my YL is pointing her finger and vividly gesturing something to me in a loud voice (never a positive!), ...it will go off.

OK, so what makes the 60th Anniversary Sculpture Key so special? I am not going to be sending at 50 wpm, which this key can do effortlessly. But I do like rag-chew QSOs and I can have a QSO for 45 minutes and not get tired. There are no moving parts, you barely have to touch each side of the paddles. The CW is consistently good, smooth and easy to send. The sending is truly an extension of your thinking and you don’t realize you are actually forming dits and dahs with this key (until you make a keying mistake and have to resend, which I have never understood. If this was speaking

words instead of sending CW, we would all be labeled stutterers and we would be constantly getting smacked in the back of the head. Nobody repeats words so many times as CW operators).

The feature I like best is the finger pieces, which are mounted at a V-Shaped angle, allowing you to change to your preferred spacing by simply sliding your fingers slightly up or down. The narrowest spacing is at the bottom, as is shown in the picture below. I use this feature all the time. As mentioned, I set the keyer speed to 25 wpm and then go faster or slower by sliding up or down on the finger pieces along with speeding up or slowing down the pace my fingers are forming the dits and dahs. With practice I can easily go from 20 wpm (or less) to 30 wpm without changing the keyer speed from the initial 25 wpm setting.



The key is made from indestructible stainless steel and contacts are solid 14k gold and it is extremely heavy weighted.

Maybe one of these heavy keys could work itself into a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery episode. I sure would like to see Holmes deduce that the murder weapon could only have been a Begali 60th Anniversary Sculpture key, serial number 42 from a limited run of 214 pieces!

“Elementary, my dear Watson.”

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

Another successful semester of CW Academy ended at the end of February. We get a continuing stream of signups despite being nearly one year out in backlog. People really want to learn and/or improve their CW skills and CW Academy has become the preferred way of doing so. One of the things that distinguishes us from alternative learning means is the human factor. We are the only service that has personal advisory interaction. That makes a huge difference.

This semester our Level 2 and Level 3 courses made use of our website-based practice files. In addition, many advisors used Morse Runner, RufzXP and CWT as learning experiences. One student wrote that before he took Level 2 he would never have dared enter the ARRL DX CW contest. The speeds and pace were just too intimidating. But after several weeks of practicing using our prescribed tools and methods, and participating in CWT, this student found the ARRL DX contest very enjoyable. He said he feels like he could do any CW contest now, with confidence.

On March 11, to celebrate the graduation of the class of January-February, 2015, CWops will hold its traditional “slower” CWTs. Everything is the same, just a bit slower. Keep your speeds at 20 wpm or less, and take the time to congratulate the graduates who participate. You’ll know who they are because they’ll be sending “name” and “CWA.”

As always, with an unrelenting flow of incoming applications, CW Academy needs more volunteer advisors, especially DX advisors and U.S. west coast advisors. We try to accommodate each student based on their geographical location and time zone, pairing them with advisors in the same or close to the same time zone. This last semester we successfully added a Finnish student to a US west coast Pacific time zone class. It was 7:00 in the morning local time for the Finnish student but he was able to accommodate that schedule. We would like to do more of that and continue to add more DX students to our classes. We encourage DX students to indicate whether they can accommodate a local time early morning session.

Jack W0UCE is doing a wonderful job of bringing associated advisors on board and helping them transition to independent advisors after one semester. Jerry AC4BT is about to roll out a plan for on-the-air practice involving advisors and students. This is a great alternative for prospective advisors and students who lack dependable wideband Internet but have adequate on-air facilities.

The CW Academy January-February, 2015 semester graduated 105 CW students who were led by 27 Advisors and Associate Advisors.

Below is a list of advisors and student graduates from this semester:

CWA January February 2015 Advisors:

- 1) Jack, W0UCE – 3 Classes
- 2) Jerry, AC4BT – 3 Classes
- 3) Rob, K6RB – 2 Classes
- 4) Dallas, K1DW – 2 Classes

- 5) Ed, K6HP – 2 Classes
- 6) Bruce, W9AKX – 2 Classes
- 7) Mike, KD8RQE – 1 Class as Advisor and 1 class as Associate Advisor
- 8) Will, WJ9B – 1 Class
- 9) Mike, KK1MM – 1 Class
- 10) Lar, K7SV – 1 Class
- 11) Mac, NN4K – 1 Class
- 12) John, VE3VGI – 1 Class
- 13) Bill, W0EJ – 1 Class
- 14) Paul, K4JAZ – 1 Class
- 15) Andy, WB7DKZ – 1 Class
- 16) Bill, K5LN – 1 Class
- 17) Bob, AF9W – 1 Class
- 18) Kate, K6HTN – 1 Class
- 19) Mark, K5GQ – 1 Class
- 20) Joe, N3HEE – 1 Class
- 21) Bill, KC4D – 1 Class
- 22) Art, K6XT – 1 Class
- 23) James, VK4TJF – 1 Class
- 24) Vidi, ZS1EL – 1 Class
- 25) Alex , PA1FOX – 1 Class
- 26) Stew, GW0ETF – 1 Class
- 27) Jack, NI8N – Associate Advisor

Level 1 Student Graduates – Total of 50

- 1) Chris, K2CPB
- 2) Larry, KK4STV
- 3) Gary, K4GTF
- 4) Stuart, K4MIL
- 5) Ray, N4APR
- 6) Jack, W3GY
- 7) Scott, KJ4CMA
- 8) Pete, WB2HZF
- 9) Phil, K4PMI
- 10) Brian, KD4UYP
- 11) Basil, N9KOG
- 12) Neal, NY4ZZ
- 13) Zbigniew, KU1T
- 14) Richard, K0CAT
- 15) Joel, WM4P
- 16) Dominic, N3DCP
- 17) John, WB3AVX
- 18) Rick, K4BYT
- 19) Patrick, VE9ES
- 20) Brian, WB2JIX
- 21) Ross, N4RP
- 22) Walter, AF5PG

- 23) Mike, KU4GU
- 24) Kevin, KK4YFK
- 25) Ed, K5AZR
- 26) Nick, KC0MYW
- 27) Vic, KF5TQU
- 28) Read, KC6ZEI
- 29) Lynda, KF5JUO
- 30) Dale, W7HLO
- 31) Mark, K5SPP
- 32) Butch, KC5ONZ
- 33) Mike, KF4UPO
- 34) Richard, KJ4VIB
- 35) Bruce, N9WKE
- 36) Justin, KG5DYY
- 37) Ed, WB0VHF
- 38) Jerry, K6GVW
- 39) Ray, KG7AV
- 40) Chris, N6EWT
- 41) Arlen, AA7F
- 42) Paul, AF7HL
- 43) Bryan, KB0A
- 44) Jim, AF5FH
- 45) Greg, N7GAR/KG7MUZ
- 46) Mike, AA6MK
- 47) Al, KH7CR
- 48) Joe, KH7AX
- 49) Brian, VK7NTE
- 50) Stephen, ZS1SSE

Level 2 Student Graduates – Total of 45

- 1) Tom, KL3QI
- 2) David, KM6ZT
- 3) Danny, KF7TDF
- 4) Scott, KK7GGN
- 5) Mindy, W7ZAP
- 6) Ron, N6XT
- 7) Antti, OH3HUV
- 8) Tim, W6NS
- 9) Ben, KJ4CC
- 10) Bob, W8ATH
- 11) David, K2ZC
- 12) Robert, N5IKD
- 13) Paul, KA5IOE
- 14) Kent, KC9LIF
- 15) David, W5TRX
- 16) Suzanne, N1SUZ
- 17) Jim, KJ4WKD

- 18) Ted, AJ8T
- 19) John, K4ARQ
- 20) Randy, K4ODL
- 21) Tighe, NK4I
- 22) Charles, N2SO
- 23) Ramon, NQ9V
- 24) Craig, K3OOL
- 25) Olon, AJ4HP
- 26) John, W8DE
- 27) Jim, VE3NWN
- 28) Nathan, KV4JG
- 29) Bill, K2YEF
- 30) Ronald, VE3FXX
- 31) Robert, AC2II
- 32) John, N1FV
- 33) Paul, NR3P
- 34) Brian, KF4T
- 35) John, AK4IC
- 36) Joe, KK5NA
- 37) Frank, W4FLN
- 38) David, KJ4IOR
- 39) John, K1YM
- 40) John, W5CYF
- 41) Jim, K5AUP
- 42) Tom, W3GXV
- 43) Tom, NS9Y
- 44) Bill, K1NIT
- 45) Joshua, M0MJ0

Level 3 Student Graduates – Total of 10

- 1) Chuck, AB1VL
- 2) Tom, NI2F
- 3) David, N4JGD
- 4) Craig, W2VM
- 5) Frank, NQ6E
- 6) Glen, W6GJB
- 7) Phil, AG6FU
- 8) Bob, WR7Q
- 9) John, KD7UI
- 10) John, KE6K

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

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CW Academy Associate Advisor Training Workshop

Last Call for New Associate Advisor Enrollment: March 15, 2015

In order to prepare for Second Semester CW Academy Classes starting in April, the deadline for registering for Level I, II or III Associate Advisor training workshops is Sunday, March 15, 2015.

Workshops will be conducted using SKYPE or OOVOO interactive video conferencing. A reliable high speed Internet connection and a free SKYPE or OOVOO account is required. Workshop classes will be approximately one to one and a half hours in duration. Workshops will be conducted during the last two weeks in March.

CWops Members and recent CWA graduates with the desire to learn to become a CWA Advisor are urged to volunteer. As always, student demand exceeds CW Academy's Advisor / Instructor resources. You can make a difference – please join us!

To enroll in Level I or Level II / Level III classes contact Jack WØUCE by e-mail to: w0uce@nc.rr.com - Please be sure to include the following information in your e-mail:

- Name & Call
- Your state & time zone
- Your SKYPE or OOVOO User Name
- Which CWA Level you want to participate in: Level I, II or III
- Participants will be notified by e-mail of their workshop session assignment.

Thanks & 73,

Jack WØUCE

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

During the first two months of 2015, we had an average of over 80 people submitting scores to 3830scores in each session. The average number of QSOs made by each of these stations was just about 50 – that includes HP, LP, QRP, big guns and little pistols.

For a station in North America with antenna(s) at least a cut or two above the proverbial wet noodle, there doesn't seem to be too much danger of running out of stations to work during the hour, except maybe on one of those hopefully rare days when propagation seems to have abandoned us. I don't think we can say the same for other parts of the world yet, though. I think the biggest problem we face outside North America is simply the level of participation. We need to continue to encourage CW enthusiasts in other parts of the world to join in.

The goal implied by the CWT rules is not to work as much DX as you can. It's to work as many different stations as you can, regardless of where they are located. CWTs are supposed to give everyone a chance to enjoy meeting a lot of friends, however briefly, in a short session that is not too taxing. They are also a great way to test station equipment configurations and operating styles (HP vs. LP vs. QRP, assisted vs. unassisted, paddles vs. keyboard, different antennas, and so on). That's one of the reasons why the CWTs are called "tests", not "contests." So the reason for trying to increase participation outside North America would not be to give the rest of us more DX to work (CWTs are not DX contests), but simply to make the level of activity and fun higher for everyone, including people located far away from the main centers of activity.

Looking at the calendar for March, another CW Academy semester is ending this month, and following what has become a tradition, the March 11 CWTs will be special slow-speed sessions (20 wpm or less).

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	453	3194		W1RM	142		N5RR	50		W1RM	43
F6HKA	426	3348		F6HKA	123		W1RM	50		OH2BN	40
N5RR	384	3381		W4VQ	117		W4VQ	50		AA3B	37
G4BUE	357	2308		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		N5RR	37
K6RB	333	2913		N5RR	102		W1UU	50		SM6CNN	37
W1RM	289	3552		EA8OM	94		VE3KI	50		F6HKA	37
EA8OM	257	2479		SM6CNN	93		G4BUE	50		EA8OM	36
W0VX	255	2242		VE3KI	91		EA8OM	50		W4VQ	36
N1EN	254	1320		G4BUE	90		W0EJ	50		G4BUE	35
K1ESE	211	1757		AA3B	88		AD1C	49		KR3E	34
W1UU	181	1640		EA1WX	88		FG8NY	49		KZ5D	34
W9ILY	143	2053		K1ESE	88		K6DGW	49		VE3KI	34
G3XLG	140	201		DL8PG	84		GW0ETF	49		FG8NY	34
PA7RA	131	1179		W0VX	83		K1ESE	49		DL8PG	33
FG8NY	124	2176		PA7RA	79		W0VX	49		PA7RA	33
N1ZX	121	923		W9ILY	79		F5MNK	49		W9ILY	32
W4VQ	118	1997		KZ5D	78		W9ILY	49		EA1WX	32
G3YJQ	118	148		KR3E	73		K6RB	48		W0VX	31
EA1WX	104	1642		AD1C	73		KZ5D	48		K1ESE	31
NN6T	97	1577		FG8NY	73		NN6T	48		NN6T	29
GW0ETF	95	1391		N1EN	69		W6KY	48		W1UU	29
DL8PG	72	1636		W1UU	68		AA3B	48		N1ZX	28
NV9X	64	64		NN6T	67		DL8PG	48		F5MNK	28
W0EJ	51	754		N1ZX	67		N1EN	48		GW0ETF	28
K6DGW	48	1316		GW0ETF	67		WB9G	48		AD1C	25
JF2IWL	34	710		F5MNK	61		SM6CNN	48		N1EN	25
NU7Y	18	329		W6KY	54		KR3E	47		JF2IWL	22
AA3B	0	4714		K6RB	51		N1ZX	47		4Z1UF	21
KZ5D	0	3239		4Z1UF	50		EA1WX	46		K6RB	21

SM6CNN	0	2477	WB9G	48	WX7SJ	46	WB9G	19
N2UU	0	1774	JF2IWL	45	K0DTJ	45	W6KY	16
AD1C	0	1630	W0EJ	36	JF2IWL	45	G3YJQ	12
W6KY	0	1573	K6DGW	32	NU7Y	45	G3XLG	10
KR3E	0	1136	KT5V	28	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10
PA4N	0	955	K0DTJ	23	KT5V	44	KT5V	9
OK1RR	0	893	NU7Y	21	OH2BN	42	K6DGW	8
W5ASP	0	893	G3XLG	18	AB7MP	37	G0DJA	7
WB9G	0	888	G3YJQ	17	4Z1UF	36	W5TM	7
F5MNK	0	811	WT2P	14	WT2P	34	K0DTJ	6
WX7SJ	0	610	W5TM	11	W5TM	32	WT2P	4
OH2BN	0	530	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31		
KT5V	0	518	AB7MP	10	NV9X	27		
K0DTJ	0	417	NV9X	2	G3YJQ	27		
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8		
AB7MP	0	183						
WT2P	0	149						
G0DJA	0	23						
PA1FOX	0	5						

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1409	WD0EBZ*	Vic
1410	SM7CIL	Arne
1411	W1KM	Greg
1412	K6RR*	Bob
1413	VE5SDH*	Summer
1414	KA6AIL	Duaine
1415	AD5A*	Mike
1416	W1MA	Ed
1417	W8BUD	Bud
1418	KB6NU	Dan
1419	N2CJ	Glenn
1420	OZ1JHM*	Jalmar

1421	K0TC	Ron
1422	K7GA	Jeff
1423	WR7Q*	Bob
1424	KC5QIH	Chris
1425	N5HZ	Jim
1426	W9RFX	George

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of March 11, 2015:

Need Sponsors: 4X4PP, AC2IK, K4ARQ, NK4I, N2SO, K3OOL, 9A2WJ, N0YY

Invitations Extended: none

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 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.

QTX Plaque Standings

The QTX Plaque is awarded to the operator with the most QTX points at the end of the year. February is a short month, but the QTX gang did their best to stretch it out and warm it up. With two months under our belt, these are the standings at the end of February -

<u>Call</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5IR	74	137
K5KV	69	140
WB6BEE	64	141
N1ZX	48	107
K1ESE	40	87
K5YQF	38	69
KC0VKN	38	49
K4AHO	31	72

NN6T	21	51
W3WHK	18	39
K6HP	15	29
KE6OIO	13	22
W6JMP	11	30
HB9CVQ	11	19
K6RB	10	27
WA8IWK	8	22
K6HTN	6	14
JE1TRV	3	14
K0DTJ	3	11
WA3NZR	3	11
K8QI	3	10
W5JQ	3	5

As you can see, we have a close race for the top three spots. The February winner is Bill N5IR by five over Benny K5KV in second. Back five more is Don WB6BEE.

But year to date the order reverses. Don WB6BEE is in the lead but only by one over Benny K5KV. Back three more is Bill N5IR. With only four QSOs between first and third place, and with those trailing in the year to date moving up in the monthly totals, we have a contest! March is a longer month and it will be exciting to see who hits the bands more.

This is the first chance for 2014 personal bests and these stations beat their January total - N5IR, K5YQF, KC0VKN (by a bunch), K6HP, KE6OIO, HB9CVQ, and W5JQ. Each month that will be harder to do.

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). So far no one has reported hitting one of those levels. The medals for last year's winners are in the process of being made and distributed. It should be about another month.

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 period between mid-March and the last weekend in April will host a variety of operating events of interest to the CW enthusiast. No matter what your preference may be, DX or domestic, there's quite an interesting choice of ways to play CW in the coming weeks.

On the international scene are the familiar Russian DX and JIDX CW contests. The Russian test is an everybody contacts anybody sort of thing, whereas the JIDX event features all foreign stations working the various JA prefectures and JD1 islands. Activity is usually quite high, and it's a great opportunity to gather up those Oblasts and Prefectures not easily found otherwise.

The All Africa DX Contest sponsored by SARL (South African Radio League) may be a "look and see" sort of thing. Surfing through the SARL website is probably a necessary first step. It's a 24 hour, multi-mode contest. I wasn't able to find the 2014 results, so I can't comment on the level of participation. Give it a try ... it might provide some surprises.

The NAQCC CW Sprint and FOC QSO Party were covered in earlier columns. Both provide a good venue for some casual CW operating. The QCWA party is another mixed mode event with only modest participation ... but you might find a few familiar calls.

And this is going to be an intense period of operating in the state QSO party arena. Nine, count 'em, eight state and one province, events on the agenda! Many of the state parties will feature multiple mobile operations. Check the state party's website for the latest updates. Although the Florida QSO Party is arguably at the top of the list, several of the others will keep you thoroughly occupied once you get going.

MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

All Africa International DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 14 to 1200Z, Mar 15 http://www.sarl.org.za/
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22 http://www.rdx.org/asp/pages/rules.asp
JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 11 to 1300Z, Apr 12 http://www.jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
QCWA QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 14 to 1800Z, Mar 15 http://www.qcwa.org/2015-qso-party-rules.pdf
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 19 http://naqcc.info/sprint201503.html
FOC QSO Party	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359, Mar 28 http://www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
Louisiana QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 14 to 0200Z, Mar 15

Wisconsin QSO Party
Virginia QSO Party

Mississippi QSO Party
Georgia QSO Party
Michigan QSO Party
Ontario QSO Party
Florida QSO Party

1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
1400Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 22 and
1200Z-2400Z, Mar 22
1400Z, Apr 4 to 0200Z, Apr 5
1800Z, Apr 11 to 2359Z, Apr 12
1600Z, Apr 18 to 0400Z, Apr 19
1800Z, Apr 18 to 1800Z, Apr 19
1600Z, Apr 25 to 0159Z, Apr 26 and
1200Z-2159Z, Apr 26

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