



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

May

2015

Issue No. 64



IDXC Co-chair, CWops Webster K6MM

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



After an unseasonably warm winter, California is having an unseasonably cool spring. I'm gearing up for Dayton and DC Weekend. Our

Dayton booth, near Begali's booth, will have a few more items this year. In addition to the handouts, buttons, and sample CW Open plaque and trophy, we'll have samples of our CWT and QTX medallions to show, too.

[Continued on next page]

The recent CWA HF program, pioneered by Jerry AC4BT, is taking root. We are getting a lot of hams with “rusty” skills who are excited about the practice they’re getting on the air and interested in signing up for our regular CW Academy courses.

It’s interesting to see how the weekly CWT changes with the change of seasons. At this time of year, 80 and 160 become very unproductive at 1300 and 0300Z in North America. At the same time, 15 and 10 have become more useful on the west coast of US and the sweet spot (40M) is now moving to 20M at 1300Z. We have 52 weeks of CWT to take note of differences in propagation in each session. I always assumed, before CWT, that 20M was reasonably strong around mid-day in CA. Well, it’s not. At 1900Z, the signals on 15 and even 10 are usually two to three S-units better coming from the east. Besides having fun, CWT can be educational for me.

Now that I’ve started my twice weekly CWA HF shifts, I find that my QTX point total has really ramped up. In addition, my old Globe King 500/75A-4 station is getting quite a workout. I hope more of us will try a ragchew or two each week and start posting QTX points. Our QTX Achievement medallions are unique to ham radio. No other organization awards ragchewing on an ongoing basis.

I’m looking forward to Dayton. It is always fun connecting with friends at the Thursday night *ad hoc* dinner at the Spaghetti Factory near the Crowne Plaza. Thanks to Bill KC4D for organizing it yet again. My stints at the booth on Friday and Saturday are always enjoyable because I see lots of old and new friends and have a chance to promote CW and CWops.

The DC Weekend is coming up in June this year and promises to be another great event. Even my wife is going ☺. With just three items to anchor the weekend – Friday night’s pizza bash, Saturday’s brunch at Jim’s house (N3JT), and Saturday night’s dinner – there’s lots of time to explore the area. So think about joining us and taking your spouse.

We are now half way through the current CW Academy semester. This is the first time that all of us have switched from OOVOO to Skype. There are far fewer problems with Skype, too. As always, we have a lot of people queued up to take our courses. And, as always, we could use more advisors. So think about helping out and if you can do it, submit your advisor signup info on the website.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Three Cheers for the Chair!

The Front Page photo this month is a timely tribute to CWops member #11, John Miller K6MM, shown at the podium at the International DX Convention in Visalia, CA, USA last month, which he co-chaired with Kevin K6TD (CWops #81). Together, they pioneered the move of the convention from its outgrown venue at the aging Holiday Inn to the outstanding, downtown Convention Center, starting a few years ago and continuing, this writer hopes, indefinitely. John is a past-President of the Northern California Contest Club, a Director of the Northern California DX Club and Webmaster for both those clubs and our own CWops. He has operated on rigorous DXpeditions and is always

available back home to help hams and organizations in need. A quiet leader, John is seemingly unflappable and infinitely productive. Thanks, John, for all you do.

Make sure to read the [CWT column](#) from VE3KI this month. Rich has some interesting suggestions on how to take advantage of these regular sessions to analyze and ultimately improve our stations and operating skills.

I heard through the grapevine (W6SX) that a K8 ham was heard on the air recently, lecturing Summer VE5SDH, CW Ops #1413, that he must be a bootlegger because QRZ.com lists VE5SDH as Silent Key. Well, to paraphrase Mark Twain, the reports of Summer's passing seem to have been greatly exaggerated. VE5SDH was indeed on the air, not a bootlegger, and the QRZ.com entry has been corrected.

May 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. Several countries are planning commemorations. Juanjo EA1WX posted details of the Spanish Amateur Radio Association (URE) event on the CWops reflector. It runs the entire month with 11 special event stations signing AO150x calls. Some impressive awards are available.

ARRL has been busy developing a new band plan proposal. A band plan is a voluntary suggestion on where different modes should operate on a band and is not a mandatory rule. The proposed details are [here](#). The deadline for comments to ARRL was April 19th, already past, so we should expect to see a final proposal pretty soon.

Enjoy this issue and please let me know what you would like to see in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI

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Visalia International DX Convention

CW Breakfast

April 18, 2015

Once again we gathered for breakfast at the "CW Restaurant" (aka Country Waffle) on the Saturday morning of the **International DX Convention** in Visalia, CA, USA. About 34 members and guests enjoyed breakfast, coffee and conversation at the "CW Restaurant" (Country Waffle), albeit at a different location than in the seven years past. Your Editor happens to be the organizer for this gathering and happened to stop by the old location for lunch on the Thursday preceding the convention, the first time I had taken this precaution. Imagine my surprise to find the restaurant closed! There was a sign on the door pointing to their other location, one we had considered in the past but declined. So Ann and I went there, had a nice lunch, and chatted with our server who had previously worked at the Cypress location. Their landlord, it turns out, had declined to renew their lease, preferring to turn the building into medical offices. When I had called weeks earlier to make a "non-reservation," the phone had automatically transferred to the Noble Ave. store where they had no idea I was talking about the defunct location! The new place was actually better in that they have a separate dining room that we filled, but it only held about 30 people so four folks ended up at a table in the front room, away from the rest of us. That was awkward. If you have a suggestion for next year, please let me know. As usual, the food was excellent and the service commendable – they put on extra staff knowing we would be there in numbers and did a great job. This was the eighth year running for this casual, no-program event and everyone had a good time. Some photos follow, courtesy of N6TV. More of Bob's excellent photography from Visalia is at <http://bit.ly/Visalia2015>.



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THE WEST COAST CW ENTHUSIASTS' CONFAB

May 1-3, 2015 Boomtown Hotel Casino, Reno NV

The ARRL Nevada State Convention, NVCON 2015, included a weekend track for CW enthusiasts, especially dedicated to the members of FOC and CWops. It was also an opportunity to introduce another 400+ hams to the fun of CW. The events included a Friday night CW dinner, a Saturday on-site, CW-only station K7RC, a CW presentation by Tom K5RC, and a 7QP multi-op and open house at W7RN in Virginia City. CWops members W6SX and N6XI also presented at the forums. Congratulations and many thanks go to Tom K5RC who arranged for so many CW-oriented events at this general-interest hamfest.

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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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Morse Code is Cool! Who knew?

By James Wades, WB8SIW

I recently spent a rainy, cold, damp Saturday at Tamarack Boy Scout Camp in Michigan assisting with an "Emergency Preparedness Fair." During the event, Scout troops visited a number of "training locations" at which they received training on everything from first aid to survival skills. I was responsible for introducing them to disaster communications techniques.

The event was arranged in such a manner that groups of approximately 10 to 15 scouts would hike between training locations scattered throughout the campground, spending approximately 30 to 45 minutes at each location learning some new skills and ideas. It was my job to discuss emergency communications and signaling techniques.

In addition to discussing such topics as the limitations and vulnerabilities of cellular data networks, the telephone network and the Internet, we discussed such topics as how to properly communicate using two-way radio, the application of the phonetic alphabet, some basic voice radio procedures. I also gave each group of scouts a brief introduction to the International Morse Code and discussed ways in which information could be conveyed using Morse Code via different improvised techniques ranging from flashlights to signal mirrors, whistles, and even automobile horns. After some practical exercises designed to introduce the Scouts to the use of International Morse, I demonstrated Amateur Radio.

For this phase of the training event I had set up a battery-power station consisting of a Yaesu FT-897D, solar panels, and an end-fed half wave 40-meter antenna erected using a nearby tree for support. Instead of relying on casual contacts on the ham bands, I had arranged for a QMN CW Net member (WB9JSR) to be available on 40-meters. At the conclusion of each training session, I would invite one or two Scouts from each group to originate a "disaster message" in the form of a radiogram to a parent at home. Of course, instead of a welfare text, the Scouts were encouraged to tell their parent(s) that they were enjoying the event. I would then transmit the radiograms while the Scouts watched.

The results were fantastic! The Scouts were fascinated with ham radio and they particularly enjoyed the radiogram transmission process during which I transmitted their messages using my old reliable Army Signal Corps J-36 bug. We even received a reply radiogram from the father of one of the Scouts, which I transcribed onto a radiogram form for hand delivery.

After the training event concluded, I was approached by a number of parents who were assisting with the event, all of whom told me how much their son enjoyed the communications training in general and the ham radio and Morse code demonstrations in particular. One woman reported that "all [her] son will talk about is how cool ham radio and Morse code are and he keeps telling me we've got to get a ham radio."

Apparently, traffic handling and CW can be cool! Who knew?

73,

James WB8SIW

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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.

Jim N3JT: I participated from Florida in the Florida QSO party April 25, using it of course as practice for the next CWT! My winter stay in Florida is coming to an end and I plan to return to Virginia on May 2nd.

Dwight KM4FO: I had a lot of fun chasing the CW mobiles around Florida, some CWOPS very active there. Making a shopping list for Dayton, nothing big but a lot of little stuff that you just don't find at the small hamfests. I am looking forward to stopping by the [CWops] booth and putting some faces with the calls I work. I always volunteer on the golf carts out front on Friday and Saturday around 3:00 PM till close so come on out and catch a ride!

Rod W7ZRC: I just purchased a Heathkit SB-200 amp that is going to be my next restoration project. I am particularly interested in anyone who has successfully installed one of the W7RY QSK boards in that amp. I most definitely want to use it on CW in QSK mode. In addition, any other mods members may have found useful would be good to know about, and any other useful advice in general.

Ron KU7Y: For several years I've made CW ring tones for my cell phones. Liking CW and having my phone send CW instead of some 'Ring Ring' noise seemed to be a good idea. Here is how I did it on my newest phone, a Samsung G5. While some of the older phones I've owned needed to be somewhat hacked to install my own ring tones, I found it very easy to do with this G5.

I use a Web site to convert text to MP3 files and then download them into the phone.

1. First go to <http://lcwo.net/text2cw>. Set the Character Speed, Effective Speed and Tone you prefer.
2. Then enter the text you want the phone to send. (On my phone I converted the following text to CW for the phone's default ring tone: CQ CQ DE KU7Y KU7Y K)
3. Next you convert the text to CW using the little convert button below the text window. After listening to it to make sure it sounds right to you, once satisfied that it sounds good then just "Save As" to save the file to a location of your choice. With my new Win 8.1 system I have to do a Right Click on the "Link to MP3 file" link to reach the "Save As" feature. When you do the "Save As" you will give the file the name you want.
4. Next I made one that sends CAROL and saved that as Carol.MP3. I also have MP3s made using names for other people who are not hams. Ham friends have their call signs made and saved as Call Sign.MP3.
5. Then I use the charging cable that came with the phone to connect the phone to the computer. I Synch the phone to the computer and download all the new ring tones to the phone.
6. The last step is to go into the address book on the phone and for each name that I created an MP3 for I assign the correct file to the corresponding name.

Now when any of the people in my address book call, I know exactly who it is without having to look!

Wayne N4FP: My XYL Marty WB2VYK and I had a blast [in the Florida QSO Party]. 600 miles, 24 counties, 18 hours. Worked 48 states, missing only Alaska and Maine. Trusty old Kenwood TS-440SAT we purchased new 28 years ago worked flawlessly. 100 watts to horizontally mounted Hustler antennas atop 3' mag mounted mast on Kia Rondo. Totally manual operation, keyed paddle with right hand, logged N1MM+ with left. Station was set up in back seat on plywood bench and I operated from back right seat. Used inverter to power notebook, monitor, and keyer. Took two hours off Saturday afternoon to watch the Air Force Thunderbirds perform at Lakeland Sun 'n Fun. Great show. We decided to stay away from the interstates this year and Marty did a great job driving. Totally fun weekend. A special thanks to all the CWops for Q's.

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CWA HF - Advisors on The Air Program

This is a new CWops CW Academy (CWA) led program where a CWA Advisor is available on HF (40 Meters 7.035) and where anyone with interest can come and have QSOs/ragchews in an informal setting. We can be identified on 7.035 by the "CWA" at the end of our transmissions. Check the CWA HF calendar for available Advisors and times.

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 (7.035) each day of the week and provide a global opportunity to improve CW skills for any CW operator interested in doing so.

Any CWops member with a little free time is welcome to join Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B, Cap W0CCA, Joe N3HEE, Chuck AB1VL, Mike K4RUM, John KE6K and Jerry AC4BT during the evenings on 7.035 and serve as an CWA HF Advisor. Just check out the CWA HF UTC calendar and let me know when you would like to be on.

Here is a link to the CWops Web page that has more information about this program and also has an up-to-date UTC calendar listing the Advisors who have volunteered to be on 7.035 along with their available days/times for QSOs. The calendar is updated weekly.

<http://cwops.org/cwa-aota.html>

April Highlights: We continue to see very good turnouts by many hams interested in improving their CW skills. Rob K6RB summed it up well in this short write-up after one of his typical sessions:

"...very productive session tonight at 0200. I worked two stations (Ken and Mike). Both were at about 13 to 15 wpm so I used Farnsworth delays but kept letter speed at 20 wpm. I explained, at length, to Ken about CW Academy and he asked for the URL for CWops. When I went QRT, I found that Ken had signed up for CWA. Mike had been listening to the QSO with Ken and called me right after Ken and I signed. He, too, expressed great interest in CWA and I'm sure I'll find his signup very soon.

I also told both of them that I am on 40 Meters 7.035 on Tues/Fri at 7 PM for practice, but others are on 40 at different times and different days, so they should look for stations sending "CWA" after their call signs.

My Globe King 500/75A-4 station is getting a great workout, and my QTX point scores are zooming up 😊.

73,

Rob K6RB “

Rob provided the picture below of his Vintage Globe King Station that he is using for CWA HF.



We hope to see you on the air with us soon.

73,

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy Co-Manager

jweisskohl@gmail.com

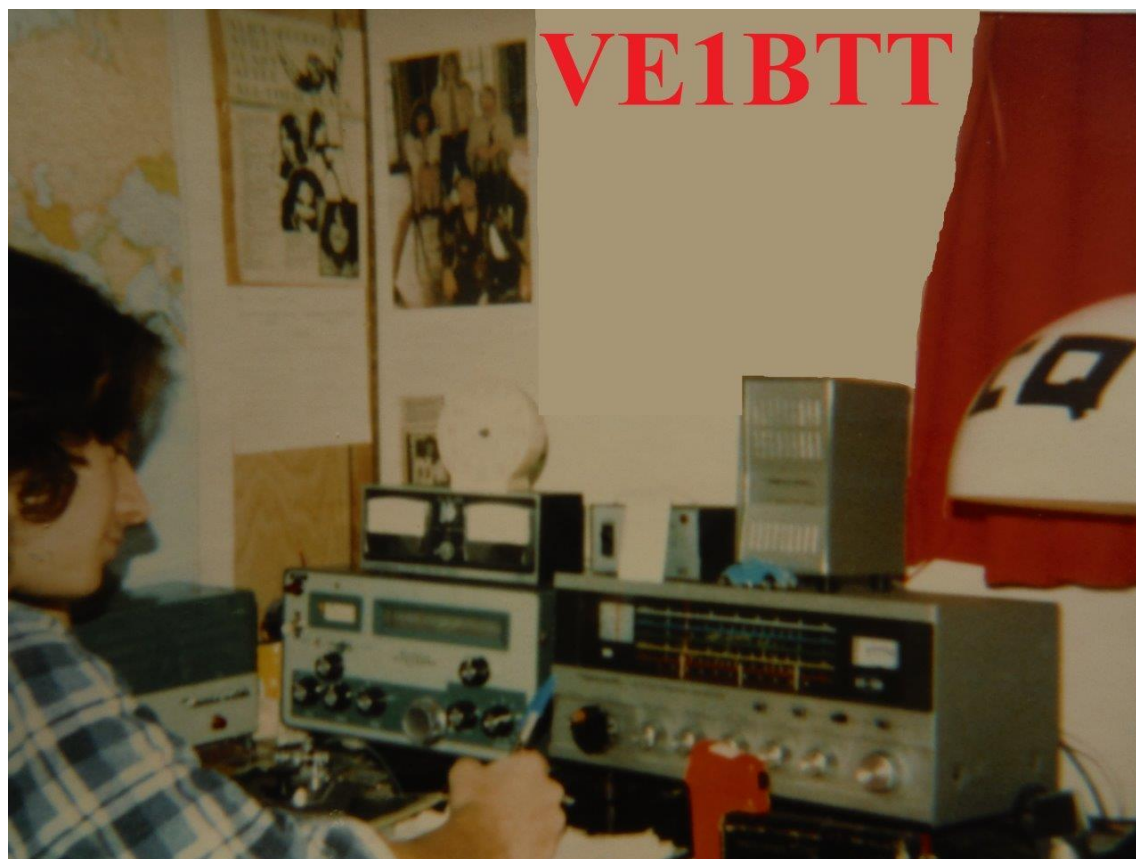
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How We Were – VE9AA

by Hank W6SX

Mike VE9AA says “I finally found an old photo of me from about 1979 or so. I was a ham probably about one year or so at this point, judging from the length of my hair and lack of a moustache or a 10m SSB transceiver in the picture. I got my SSB privileges very shortly after this picture was taken and used a modified Radio Shack CB for 10m SSB DX (about 8w PEP IIRC). A 5/8wl groundplane was utilized on 10m.



This is my original station, a Heathkit Cheyenne Transmitter and Realistic DX-160 Receiver. I had a Speed-X straight key for sending and all low dipoles and inverted VEE's in my Dad's back yard. I worked all TV's in the neighborhood when I was on some of the bands. I still have the key, the receiver, the 10m 'CB' and wattmeter, but the Cheyenne is long gone. I had 'CQ' in black tape on my white plastic retro lamp. I actually did have 'VE1BTT' in HUGE red bristolboard letters on the wall in real life. It was fun being 15 years old!

73 de Mike VE9AA (VE1BTT back in those days), CWops 1347”

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

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

We are now less than a month away from graduation. As we've done before, the second CWT of June will be held at 20 WPM speed to celebrate our Level 1, 2 and 3 CWA graduates.

We are still working on the development of our CW Academy for Japan. If we can stay on schedule, the program will be well promoted at the Tokyo Ham Fair in August. The first pilot program of one or two groups will begin soon after.

Over the summer break, we will continue to add to our online resources for CWA. We'll add more QSO-type message files, for example. We may also integrate the CWA HF program into our weekly CW Academy assignment repertoire.

I am still working with Stephen Phillips, who created Morse Translator and Morse Trainer, to develop a sending evaluation portion of Morse Trainer. That would allow our students to send Morse and have the system evaluate the quality of it by lighting up a red or green icon.

We recently engaged with a CW club in Brazil that sponsors the CQ MM contest. We are hoping to recruit some of its members to CWops and to find at least one CWA advisor there to handle the increasing number of Brazilian signups.

In next month's issue, we will report on all the advisors and graduates who took part in the April-May semester. Right now it looks like we'll have another record number of graduates. We'll also have more input from our students to share with you about their experiences with CW Academy.

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

I have commented in a couple of previous columns about the possibility of using CWTs as a test bed for various operating techniques and operating aids, and there have recently been a few postings to the Yahoo user group that have mentioned the idea. Here are a few more thoughts along those lines.

One suggestion for something to look at might be to get a handle on just how much difference power makes for you. A possible approach might be to compare scores from the same station using different power levels. For example, during different weeks I have operated using the same

equipment at power levels of 5 watts, 100 watts and 500 watts. My best-ever QSO totals at these three levels are 70, 110 and 116 respectively. Apparently in my case, while the difference between QRP and LP power levels is quite significant, my amplifier does not appear to help me very much. Hmmm! I wonder what that tells me about my operating technique?

Another interesting factor we might consider is CW speed. During the special CWT sessions at CWA graduation time, most of us stay below 20 wpm, whereas speeds of 30 wpm and more are common during the regular CWT sessions. So if QSO rate were directly proportional to CW speed, we might expect QSO totals in the special CWTs to be about 2/3 of those in regular CWTs. During the special CWTs on March 11-12 this year, the highest QSO counts were certainly down compared to the usual, although perhaps not by quite as much as the 2/3 factor would suggest. However, I rather doubt whether QSO rate is truly proportional to CW speed, especially at higher speeds. An interesting experiment might be to set your keyer speed at a different speed each week and compare scores. My guess would be that there would be a point of diminishing returns above which increases in CW speed would actually result in decreases in QSO totals.

Another thing to experiment with might be assisted vs. unassisted operation, and in particular how best to make use of assistance once you have decided to take advantage of it. With the advent of the Reverse Beacon Network, almost anyone who calls CQ is likely to be spotted quite quickly, so using a DX cluster that has RBN (Skimmer) spots can quickly show you who is calling CQ and where they are. The question is, how best to use that to help your score? If having this information at hand tempts you to spend more time S&Ping and less time CQing, this could actually hurt your score.

Of course, the impact of assistance depends on other factors. In particular, if someone is using SO2R (two radios), or to a lesser extent SO2V (dual receivers), they can enjoy the advantages of improved efficiency of S&Ping while still continuing to CQ on the other radio or VFO. So at least for stations whose signal is strong enough to enable them to call CQ effectively, we might expect assistance to be most helpful to stations using two radios or two receivers as compared with those using a single radio. Without actually having done the experiment, this is just speculation on my part. Perhaps someone with SO2R capability could give us a less speculative assessment.

Another technique to experiment with might be the use of call history files to pre-fill exchanges in your logging program. This can save you many keystrokes and, if you are not a good typist, this can not only help reduce fatigue but also help improve your rate. Another use might be reverse lookup – fill in part of the exchange, and the program can tell you what the call sign is. For example, when I hear 1088 at the end of a CWT exchange I know right away who that is, and can decide to stick around or tune on past depending on whether I have worked Bert on that band yet or not. I don't need any help with that particular number, but on the other hand, there are many other possible exchanges that don't ring that kind of bell with me, and automated reverse lookup in a call history file can be helpful with those. This is not to say that I am advocating the use of such tools; that's a decision that is up to you and how you prefer to operate. However, if you are not philosophically opposed to the idea but are unsure whether it would help enough to be worth doing, the CWTs are an ideal place to try out the technique.

I'm sure there is a lot more that can be said or done about the examples I have given here, and many other kinds of techniques that you might experiment with. Perhaps you have already done some of this kind of testing, or perhaps this article will give you some ideas to play with. Either way, I'd love to hear from you. I'm not looking for arguments pro and con or opinions on the ethics of this or that technique – these have all been covered many times in other forums that are better-suited to that kind of discussion. I am more interested in seeing how these factors actually play out, using the

CWTs as a testing environment. There are no prizes, plaques or certificates at stake, and CWTs take place often enough to give a better statistical sample than major contests that only take place once a year.

Not everyone will want to do this kind of thing. For some of us, the fun of making contacts and meeting friends on the air is enough, and turning the weekly CWT sessions into test sessions would spoil the fun. On the other hand, for some of us this might be an enjoyable way to vary the experience a bit. As long as your experiments do not interfere with someone else's enjoyment, why not?

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	Call	WAZ
VE3KI	523	3284		W1RM	144		N5RR	50		W1RM	43	W1RM	38
G4BUE	518	2532		F6HKA	124		W1RM	50		OH2BN	40	W4VQ	36
F6HKA	513	3442		W4VQ	123		W4VQ	50		AA3B	37		
AA3B	496	4877		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		N5RR	37		
N5RR	461	3381		N5RR	103		W1UU	50		SM6CNN	37		
K6RB	410	2982		EA8OM	95		VE3KI	50		F6HKA	37		
W0VX	369	2334		G4BUE	94		G4BUE	50		EA8OM	37		
EA8OM	366	2520		SM6CNN	93		EA8OM	50		W4VQ	37		
W1RM	360	3603		VE3KI	92		W0EJ	50		VE3KI	36		
FG8NY	354	2386		K1ESE	90		FG8NY	50		G4BUE	36		
K1ESE	295	1833		AA3B	88		AD1C	49		FG8NY	35		
N1EN	263	1344		EA1WX	88		K6DGW	49		KR3E	34		
W1UU	250	1700		DL8PG	86		GW0ETF	49		KZ5D	34		
W9ILY	245	2124		W0VX	85		K1ESE	49		DL8PG	33		
W5ASP	232	893		W9ILY	80		W0VX	49		W9ILY	33		
DL8PG	222	1728		PA7RA	79		F5MNK	49		EA1WX	32		

F5MNK	192	941		KZ5D	78		W9ILY	49		K1ESE	32		
GW0ETF	184	1451		FG8NY	76		K6RB	48		PA7RA	31		
K2ZC	182	347		KR3E	73		KZ5D	48		W0VX	31		
N1ZX	143	940		AD1C	73		NN6T	48		W1UU	31		
G3YJQ	142	168		W1UU	71		W6KY	48		NN6T	29		
G3XLG	140	201		N1ZX	70		AA3B	48		N1ZX	28		
PA7RA	128	1200		N1EN	69		DL8PG	48		F5MNK	28		
W4VQ	118	2069		GW0ETF	67		N1EN	48		GW0ETF	28		
EA1WX	104	1642		NN6T	67		WB9G	48		AD1C	25		
4X6GP	103	846		F5MNK	63		SM6CNN	48		N1EN	25		
NN6T	97	1577		W6KY	54		N1ZX	48		JF2IWL	23		
JF2IWL	69	758		K6RB	54		KR3E	47		K6RB	23		
K6DGW	65	1328		4Z1UF	50		EA1WX	46		4Z1UF	21		
NV9X	64	64		WB9G	48		WX7SJ	46		WB9G	19		
KE6K	61	116		JF2IWL	47		K0DTJ	45		W6KY	16		
AB7MP	54	251		W0EJ	36		JF2IWL	45		G3YJQ	14		
W0EJ	51	754		K6DGW	32		NU7Y	45		K2ZC	12		
NU7Y	18	329		KT5V	28		PA7RA	44		G3XLG	10		
KZ5D	0	3239		K0DTJ	23		KT5V	44		W0EJ	10		
SM6CNN	0	2477		NU7Y	21		OH2BN	42		KT5V	9		
N2UU	0	1774		G3YJQ	20		AB7MP	40		K6DGW	8		
AD1C	0	1630		K2ZC	20		K2ZC	38		G0DJA	7		
W6KY	0	1573		G3XLG	18		4Z1UF	36		W5TM	7		
KR3E	0	1136		WT2P	14		WT2P	34		K0DTJ	6		
PA4N	0	955		AB7MP	13		W5TM	32		WT2P	4		
OK1RR	0	893		W5TM	11		G3YJQ	32		AB7MP	3		
WB9G	0	888		G0DJA	10		G3XLG	31					
WX7SJ	0	610		KE6K	4		NV9X	27					
OH2BN	0	530		NV9X	2		KE6K	17					
KT5V	0	518					G0DJA	8					
K0DTJ	0	417											
W5TM	0	235											
WT2P	0	149											
G0DJA	0	23											
PA1FOX	0	5											

There has been some discussion about CWops WAZ. CAM does not track this so when W4VQ first proposed the idea it got me thinking. I wondered how many zones have been activated by CWops members, either as their home call or on a DXpedition. So after a bit of extracting from my own log in CAM, I came up with this list of zones that I've worked. By my tally, all zones except 18 and 19 have had activity at one time or another. If you would like to track your own progress

towards CWops WAZ and report it along with your ACA/CMA/WAS/DXCC/WAE totals, I'd be happy to add it to the list. [Who has worked a member in Zones 18 and 19? – Ed.]

Here's my list of zones worked:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>W1RM</u> <u>Contact</u>
1	AL1G
2	VE2IM
3	K6RB
4	W9RE
5	W1UU
6	XE2WWW
7	TI5/N3KS
8	6Y5WJ
9	HK3CQ
10	HC2TDZ
11	PY1NB
12	CE3DNP
13	CX5BW
14	F5IN
15	HA5JI
16	UR5MM
17	EY8MM
18	
19	
20	SV5/G2JL
21	7Z1HL
22	VU2PTT
23	JT1CS
24	BA4TB
25	JA1NUT
26	E21EIC
27	DU3/N0QM
28	9V1YC
29	VK6HG
30	VK2BJ
31	K9W
32	E51RAT
33	EA8CN
34	ST2AR
35	6W/G3TXF
36	ZD7XF
37	C82DX

38 ZS1EL
39 VQ9LA
40 TF3DC

73,

Pete W1RM

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1444	5T0JL	Jean
1445	N0UR	Jim
1446	K5WK*	Ken
1447	K8LSB	Marc
1448	K1SX	Dave
1449	W2AAB	Fred
1450	KW3F	Bob

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of May 13, 2015:

Need Sponsors: NK4I, K3OOL, K2PI, AE1CW, G4DRS, N5BA

Invitations Extended:

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. April was a slow month. Both reporting stations and the number of QSOs were down.

Here are the standings at the end of April:

<u>Call</u>	<u>April</u>
N5IR	72
WB6BEE	69
K1ESE	43
K5KV	42
N1ZX	42
K5YQF	36
AC4BT	28
K4AHO	25
NN6T	22
K6RB	18
KC0VKN	16
HB9CVQ	12
KE6OIO	10
W3WHK	6
JE1TRV	5
K6HTN	4
W5JQ	3
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR retook the lead from Don WB6BEE but his margin was just three QSOs. Somehow your moderator K1ESE edged out Benny K5KV and Stan N1XZ by one QSO.

Personal bests in April went to - AC4BT. Yup, that was the only one. Here's hoping activity picks up this month.

To compare with March, April had three fewer reporting stations and 170 fewer QSOs. [Is it the weather? – Ed.]

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	321
N5IR	306
K5KV	235
N1ZX	203
K1ESE	168
K5YQF	145
K4AHO	128
KC0VKN	110
NN6T	104
K6RB	63
W3WHK	52
KE6OIO	47
W6JMP	47
K6HP	46
HB9CVQ	44
AC4BT	43
JE1TRV	26
WA8IWK	25
WA3NZR	20
K6HTN	19
K0DTJ	11
W5JQ	10
K8QI	10
IK0IXI	2
KU7Y	1

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).

As you can see from the year to date rankings above, N5IR and WB6BEE have reached the Silver level. K5KV and N1ZX have achieved Bronze. There is plenty of time for everyone to earn a medal before year's end. **If you start now and average just one 20 minute QSO per day, you will earn a Bronze medal.**

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 weeks ahead are filled with a wide variety of operating activities. There should be something for everyone. Note that this month's list has been extended to include events occurring in July, as there won't be a fresh column in the June issue.

The high concentration of state QSO parties during the past couple of months has dropped off for the summer. There are only two such activities on the list, Alabama and West Virginia. The pace will pick up again in September.

Although it's not a familiar event, the GACW WWSA CW DX Contest sponsored by Grupo Argentino de CW might offer a refreshing change. The 24 hour event where everybody-works-everybody exchanging CW zones is limited to 100 watts max. The results summary indicates widespread participation and good activity levels. You might want to give it a try.

The Marconi, All-Asia and IARU HF contests are typical international events. One difference this year is that the IARU will not feature the WRTC competition. That's set for 2018 with Germany as the host country. Qualifying has already begun for prospective team members.

The annual "it's-not-a-contest" ARRL Field Day should be a definite "to-do" for all W/VE CWOps members. It's a unique opportunity to mentor new and prospective CW operators in a relaxed environment with adequate activity levels. You shouldn't have any difficulty in locating a local Field Day group ... they're everywhere !

And to cap it all off, the Canada Day Contest this year is on Wednesday, right along with our CWT. Don't walk away from the rig before you log some of the US's neighbors to the north. They'll appreciate your stopping by.

By the way don't overlook the various Sprints. The Straight Key, QRP and NCCC groups all have short CW events on the calendar.

MAY/JUNE/JULY EVENTS

Alabama QSO Party - 1600 UTC Jun 6th to 0400 UTC Jun 7th.

<http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/>

West Virginia QSO Party – 1600 UTC, Jun 20th to 0200 UTC, Jun 21st

<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/2015wvqsorules.html>

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest 1500Z, Jun 13 to 1500Z, Jun 14

<http://www.wwsatest.org/basesingles.htm>

All Asian DX Contest, CW - 0000Z, Jun 20st to 2400Z, Jun 21st.

https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2014AA_rule.htm

ARRL Field Day - 1800Z, Jun 27th to 2100Z, Jun 28th
<http://www.ARRL.org/Field-Day>

Canada Day Contest - 0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1st
<https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests>

Marconi Memorial HF Contest - 1400Z, July 5th to 1400Z, Jul 6th .
http://www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.html

IARU HF World Championship - 1200Z, July 12th to 1200Z, July 13th
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 15
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 22
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 29
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 5
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 12
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 19
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 26
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 3

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, May 27
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, May 21
NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Jun 10
www.naqcc.info/

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