



# Solid Copy

*The International CWops Newsletter*

June

2015

Issue No. 65



**Two Debras at NA CW Dinner**

## **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](#)

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Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

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

## **Table of Contents**

[President's Message](#)

[From the Editor](#)

[North American CW Weekend](#)

[2015 CW Open](#)

[News & Notes](#)

[CWA HF – Advisors on the Air](#)

[How We Were – NA6O](#)

[CW Academy](#)

[CWops Tests](#)

[CWops Awards](#)

[New Members](#)

[Nominees](#)

[QTX Report](#)

[Operating Events](#)

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## **President's Message**

Dayton Hamvention 2015 has come ... and gone. It was great



to see so many familiar faces. The CWops booth was again just a few feet away from the Begali area and many members and others stopped by to say hello and pick up one or more of our handouts. The

booth table had sample trophies from CW Open, sample medallions from QTX and CWT, lots of CWops buttons, and 500 handouts about CWops, CW Open, CWT, QTX and CW Academy.

*[Continued on next page]*

When we closed up shop, not many of those handouts were left. Several CW Academy student visitors came by to say hello, too, and to say how much they appreciate what we are doing.

I would like to say my personal “thank you” to the members who volunteered to staff our booth. If you run into any of them on the air, please remember to say “thanks,” too.

AC4BT	Jerry
K1DW	Dallas
K3GHH	John
K3MD	John
K4BAI	John
K6RB	Rob
K7SV	Lar
KC4D	Bill
KG5U	Dale
KJ9C	Mel
KL7SB	Steve
KU5B	Colin
N2SO	Charlie
N3AM	John
N3JT	Jim
N4FP	Wayne
NN4K	Mac
NO5W	Chuck
NR4M	Steve
NW0M	Mitch
WR5J	Curt

Many CWops members were at the show and on Friday morning at 10 AM. Nearly all of them cameby for a “group” photo. And, here it is:



The signup sheet at the booth had 86 member names on it, and I think at least 50 of them were here for the group photo.

Some of our members came from great distances, too: Germany, Israel, Japan and Sweden. Great to see you.

We've got some fun events coming up in June. The second Wednesday we'll have our slower CWI sessions to welcome our CW Academy semester graduates. Some of us will be doing Field Day events, and some of us will be playing in WPX CW. As Hank likes to say "contest exuberantly but remember to have fun."

73,

**Rob K6RB**

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

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## From the Editor

### Finding Firsts

Your Editor enjoyed a weekend full of firsts in CQWW WPX CW last month. It won't be a first place score in any significant category, but it included some personal firsts for the Filly Contest Group WF6C. It was the first Multi-Two (multi-operator, two transmitter) operation at this typically SO2R, single-op station. It was the first time any of the three of us ops had used N1MM Logger in a multiple computer network. And it was the first time I had used my new Apple MacBook Pro in a major contest. All three new experiences were successful, albeit not without a few hiccups. With only two full-time operators and one part-time, our staffing was marginal for M/2 ... heck, it was downright inadequate ... but we managed to staff one station for 46 hours and the other for perhaps 30. CWops member K6NV is a neighbor in Truckee and candidate member N6TU came up from San Jose to join the effort. And we had a blast!

I knew from prior SO2R experience that 40M harmonics would wreak havoc on 20 and 15M. What surprised us most pleasantly was that the interference wasn't a show stopper. By staying most of the time up high on 40M and down low on the harmonic bands, it was possible to run on 40 and 20 at the same time without too much aggravation. S&P, however, was another story.

N1MM Logger Plus, the new favorite contest logger of all three ops, came up nicely on the network after a brief RTFM session and by following the instructions to the letter. Even after a (very) few computer problems, the program instances re-synchronized themselves and all returned quickly to normal.

And I was (finally) happy with VMware Fusion, software that lets me run Windows and MacOS at the same time on the MacBook. It was quite a battle to make a usable virtual machine image from my Lenovo laptop, but my system administrator son (KC6YEW, radio inactive) figured out the Fusion bug and an amazing work-around. Now it works well, albeit with some persistence issues around USB serial ports. With N1MM running on virtual Windows 7, I gave that hoary, old operating system control of both screens and the only difference from a "real" Windows machine was a few missing keys on the rather Spartan Apple keyboard. What on earth did the late, great iconoclast Steve Jobs have against such obvious keys as Forward Delete, Page Up and Page Down?!

Fortunately, AutoHotKeys let me re-map Up Arrow and Down Arrow as speed controls and there is a two-finger equivalent for Forward Delete if only one can remember it. AutoHotKeys, by the way, is a pretty amazing scripting language. It is huge overkill for our simple purpose but a terrific toy for the techno-geek. Since I no longer qualify as a techno-geek, it was rather challenging bit of system integration. I still wish N1MM would imitate the dirt-simple keyboard re-mapping facility in WriteLog.

How did we do? Well, official results won't be out for months, but [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) shows only 24 M/2 reports world-wide, 15 from prefix-rich, geographically advantaged Europe. We were 21<sup>st</sup> out of the full 24, not particularly satisfying. But in radiosport you take satisfaction where you can find it, and on the US West Coast that means comparing results to other, similarly-disadvantaged entries. There was only one, down in San Diego, and we appear to be in a horse race with less than a 5%



score difference. Our three ops at WF6C are ahead of their 10, but it will be a breath-hold exercise waiting to see what adjudication does to our respective scores.

Speaking of firsts, here is a photo of Bruce K1AJ and friend Cookie in front of one of the first blockbuster automobiles, a prized Model A Ford named Thelma in front of the Model A Ford Museum in Kalamazoo, MI. Bruce owns three of these classics and drives them cross-country to meets. For more on this “other hobby” of his, see <http://www.thelmasgarage.com/>.



This month's Page 1 corner photo includes two of the ladies in attendance at the recent [North American CW Weekend](#). Left to right are Debra (XYL AA3B) and Debra (XYL K6RB) at the lovely home of N3JT and Nina. [See the report](#) on this premier social event for CW operators.

Enjoy this issue of *Solid Copy* and please let me know what you would like to see in the future. Heck, why not try your hand at writing an article of interest to our members? As usual, editing services are free. ;-)

73,

**Rick** N6XI

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

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## North American CW Weekend

Washington, D.C. Area

Don Lynch W4ZYT

The 2015 North American Weekend, a social event celebrating CW operation and operators, was held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia, the weekend of June 5-7. In attendance for all or part of the weekend were: Pete W1RM and Bobbie, John N3AM and Sharron, Jim N3JT and Nina, Frank W3LPL and Phyllis, Jerry AC4BT and Marge, Bud AA3B and Debbie, Wayne N4FP and Marty WB2VYK, Tony N2ATB and Rosemary, Rob K6RB and Debra, Dale K3SEN and Connie, Bill KC4D, Peter K3SFP and Patricia, John AA4JJ, John K4HQB, Mike KK1MM, Keith W3KB, Bob N2UU, Phil K3EW, Bill KC4D, Patrick KC3CVN, Don K6ZO, Lar K7SV, Steve NR4M, John K3TN, Gary WB4DNL, and Don W4ZYT. We were fortunate to enjoy splendid weather the entire weekend following a full week of rain.

Friday evening found us at Joe's Pizza and Pasta in Vienna, VA for a pleasant meal and socialization. Joe's makes just about any kind of pizza imaginable so everyone enjoyed trying both their favorites and new toppings! Most folks had trouble standing up afterwards so we know the food was great! The group managed to return to the hotel and continue chatting and exchanging fun stories in the hospitality suite at the Fairview Park Marriott.



K000, W1RM, AA3B, WB4DNL, AC4BT, N3AM





**W3LPL (left), N2ATB, K4HQQ, N3JT, W4ZYT, K6RB**

Jim N3JT and Nina laid on their traditional and always excellent Saturday brunch which included a tour of the N3JT emergency backup power system. This turns out to be the highlight event of the weekend because so many folks gather in ever-changing groups, discussing all sorts of topics. The wives present gathered in the living room and enjoyed themselves while the guys carried on elsewhere.

Following brunch, many went to museums or enjoyed other attractions in the area. In the evening, we gathered at fashionable Clyde's at Tysons, not far from the hotel, and enjoyed dinner in a private room. The food was excellent and service exemplary.

Several of the crew met for breakfast at the hotel on Sunday, but by afternoon all were headed home with fond memories of another great gathering of CW operators.

Next year's CW Weekend will be June 3-5, 2016. Stayed tuned for details! But in the meantime, why not circle the weekend and plan on joining in the fun?

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

# 2015 CW Open – Get Ready for 5 SEP!

by Dean Faklis, NW2K

The CW Open is **your** premier operating event. It's a unique international celebration of CW and CWops and it's a ton of radio fun. There are three 4-hour sessions on September 5 (0000-0359Z, 1200-1559Z, and 2000-2359Z) to give each ITU Region its share of sunshine. The exchange is simple, name and serial number, and the key to bigger scores is the “one mult per callsign” rule. As usual, the action is centered on the CWops frequencies: 28-38 kHz from the band edge, plus or minus, on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10. And everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Please mark your calendar!

An important aspect of the CW Open is its unique design for teams. There is no geographical limitation on team mates and winning teams can be multi-continental to optimize scores. Last year, we had 16 nearly full teams (maximum 10 single ops per team). Competition for teammates heats up in early August so now is the time to form teams. The CW Open rules are located at <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>.

We've developed a brief presentation for you to use with your local radio club to help promote the CW Open and teamwork. It's located at: [http://www.cwops.org/cwopen/CW Open Presentation 2015.pdf](http://www.cwops.org/cwopen/CW%20Open%20Presentation%202015.pdf). Please share it with your club. Please reach out to your club and take a lead role beefing up participation in the CW Open. Of course, I'll help in any way. I'd love to see 25 full teams this year with a strong international focus.

Our members are extremely courteous and are always extending a helping hand by matching speeds and giving encouragement. The CW Open is fun for all skill levels and degrees of competitiveness. Thanks to ICOM America, the awards are simply beautiful and there are a lot of them. Last year, the top scorers averaged nearly 100 QSOs per hour, in every hour, in every session. Let's try to make new records for participation and QSOs this year.

If you're willing to post a CW Open invitation to your club's reflector, let me know ([NW2K@arrl.net](mailto:NW2K@arrl.net)) and I will email you a brand new invite. And, questions and comments are encouraged at any time! See you (often) on September 5!

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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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 [jweisskohl@gmail.com](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com).*

**Rob K6RB:** Just prior to the May 20 CWT, one of my Alpha 87As failed to start. I would hit the on switch and see only a momentary LED flash, then nothing. For that CWT, I patched in a KPA-500 amplifier. Afterward, I disconnected the 87A and pulled it off the operating desk. I opened it, checked all the connectors, tightened some of the circuit board mounting screws, especially those that establish a ground plane. Then I swapped out the 3CX800A7s with a set of spares I had on hand. I didn't think the finals were at fault but the ratio of grid current to power out was higher than for my other 87A. When I closed it up and put it back on the operating desk, connected the cables, and hit the on switch...it lit right up.

Jim, N3JT, had recently returned from his winter place in Florida to his other place in Virginia. His ACOM 2000 had been giving him a lot of trouble in the last few years, and he had just gotten it back from Array Solutions after spending a lot on shipping and repair. When he got it set up, it was doing the same thing it had been before he sent it for repair. A discussion with Array Solutions' repair technician indicated that it was working fine when they shipped it back. I suggested to Jim that he do what I had done – open it, inspect it, fiddle with connectors and screws. At the same time, Jay at Array Solutions agreed to pay for shipping both ways but suggested Jim check connectors and cables. All looked okay but then Jim flexed a cable connecting a solid state voltage regulator to a set of edge contacts on a board. As soon as he flexed it, one of the three wires broke loose. Jim carefully soldered it back on and...it worked just great.

The moral of the story is amplifiers weigh a lot, and cost a lot to ship for repair. Before you send your non-operational amplifier off for repair, take some time to open it up and eyeball the connectors, remove and reinstall the finals, check interlock switches, and try it again. You may just save yourself a lot of time and money. Of course, exercise a lot of caution when opening an amp. Make sure electrolytics have been discharged.

**Wayne N4FP:** My XYL Marty WB2VYK and I had a blast working mobile for the Florida QSO Party on April 24, 25. Marty did the driving and I operated on a plywood bench in the back seat of our 2008 Kia Rondo. Ran our trusty old Kenwood TS-440SAT we purchased new 28 years ago. Last year I added the 300 Hz filter which worked great. I used a magnetic mounted 3 ft mast on the roof with two horizontally mounted Hustler antennas. Absolutely amazed at how well we got out running 100 watts.

We covered 600 miles in 18 hours and hit 24 of the 67 Florida counties. This year we stayed entirely off the interstate highways, using state and county roads - much less hectic driving. I logged 1691 contacts, working 40, 20, and 15. As always, 20 was the best band, but 15 and 40 both helped. I ran N1MM+ on a notebook with wireless keyboard and mouse and a 15" LCD monitor. Did 100% manual keying using Vibroplex cube with right hand and manual entry into log with left hand. I've

gotten pretty good with this. If I ever find the time I would like to do an interface between N1MM+ and the TS-440SAT to try automating logging and sending. I'm worried, though, that this will take away a lot of the pure satisfaction I get from my manual operation.

We spent Saturday night back at home and hit the road again Sunday at 8 am local. Stopped in Lakeland, Florida for 2 hours late Sunday to watch the Air Force Thunderbirds perform.

I really appreciate what DXpeditions encounter with pileups. Within 3-5 minutes of entering a new county we were being spotted with dozens of stations calling at the same time. What fun! Looking forward to seeing some of you in Dayton and others in Falls Church in June.

**Bob N7WY:** I tried to get on 7QP two years ago, but a foot of snow scuttled my attempt. Last year radio gremlins lead to a very low score. This year I packed up my GOTA QRP kit and drove 150 minutes north to Lusk, WY where my cousin arranged for me to set up in her family's equipment storage yard.

The rig consisted of a KX-3 controlled by N1MM+ using KY commands from my laptop via the KX-3's programming cable. I used a homemade flagpole mount to secure a 50ft MaxGain mast pushed up to 35 feet guyed to 3 T-posts, with 2 more T-posts at a distance to tie off light cord to the ends of one of several dipoles.

I made 255 CW and 28 USB QSOs in about 10 hours when lightning and jet lag compelled me to end the day. Two days earlier I had been in Europe. I've recorded the lessons learned for a better score next year.

**Don KA7T:** On some days my Parkinson's causes tremors in my right hand. I can copy just fine but my fingers don't always go where I aim them. So if I mess up your call on Wednesday CWT, I will get it "fixed." I am 99% CW and I want to thank all the CWOPs for the contest QSOs. I really enjoy the CWTs as it keeps me in shape for the weekend contest.

**Bob N7WY:** I operated CQ WPX CW from SW MO. Lightning required starting 12 hours into the activity and a logging PC monitor failure Saturday afternoon forced another break in the action. Fortunately we had a TV with HDMI input as a backup. N1MM+ uses the VE2FK call history file to highlight other CWops, but unfortunately does not show ops' names. I think I worked every CWop that was highlighted except Scotty, W7SW, who was solid copy, but apparently N7WY was not.

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

---

## CWA HF - Advisors On The Air

Jerry AC4BT

This is a new CWops CW Academy (CWA) 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 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 a CWA HF Advisor. Just check the CWA HF UTC calendar out and let me know when you would like to be on.

Here is a link to the CWops 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>

**May Highlights:** Fred K6DGW and Dwight NS9I have just joined our group of CWA HF Advisors. We continue to see very good turnouts by many hams interested in improving their CW skills.

Cap W0CCA can be heard on 7.035 0300-0400 Friday's UTC doing 'Bug Practice Night'. Here is a recent recap of one of Cap's sessions:

“...What a perfect storm. Nights like this make it worthwhile.

Wyatt, three years a ham, three years CW, loves it, and is a very good op. CW Ops material. Used both a paddle and bug during QSO, accomplished at both. This is a newbie we need.

Steve, a doc in Montana, two years a ham in CW. He had just gotten a Cootie today because straight key was giving him tendonitis. His neighbor buddy is bringing over a bug. Great QSO there too, He will be CW Ops some day.

Wow, two guys that fit what I see as the reason for these CWA practice sessions perfectly.”

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

73,

***Jerry*** AC4BT

CW Academy Co-Manager - [jweisskohl@gmail.com](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com)

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

---



# How We Were – NA6O

by Hank W6SX



**Gary Johnson NA6O, CWops 1345. as WB9JPS in 1979**

Says Gary, "My station in Crystal Lake in 1979. Unidentified object in left hand."

Please send me YOUR How We Were Photos. [w6sx@arrl.net](mailto:w6sx@arrl.net) .

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

---



## CW Academy

**Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT**

Another successful CW Academy semester! We have just concluded the April/May semester of CW Academy (CWA). Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had approximately 400 new signups since the beginning of this year and are on pace for 800 signups for the calendar year.

CW is alive and well and many aspiring CW operators want to learn and/ or improve their CW skills using our proven methods. We have become the preferred service for providing CW instruction. We are unique in our approach both due to CWA's personal advisory interaction and the diverse programs that we offer the student. Whether you are retired, active in the work force, young or old, there is a CWA program that can fit your schedule.

Our most popular program is our traditional Internet based classroom instruction for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 courses. For those students who are unable to commit to an eight week program that meets twice weekly on SKYPE, we now offer an opportunity to get on HF and have a QSO with a CWA Advisor. In the new CWA HF Advisor program, CWA Advisors are available to QSO on 7.035 (40 Meters) most evenings during the week.

This semester one of our CWops Advisors, Lee Young K5LY, successfully taught our Level 1 program using our proven classroom curriculum and materials at his local Ham Club meetings. Eight students successfully graduated the program. Our website has more information on all our CWA programs.

Here is one of our student's comments after taking the Level 3 course this semester:

"...I want to personally thank you for guiding us through the CWA level 3 class. My code proficiency has dramatically improved over the last two months. Thanks to the level 3 course, I have the knowledge and tools at hand to further improve. I am no longer reluctant to jump into a CW contest. "

"...At the end of the CWA level 2 class, I was trying to decide whether to go onto level 3 or repeat level 2. At that time my code speed was maybe around 18 wpm, on a good day! Anyway I decided to go for level 3 because I thought it would push me harder and challenge me more. What I did not factor in was how good an instructor I would have for level 3. You definitely pushed me outside my comfort zone but in a very supportive and encouraging fashion. I definitely made the right choice. Thank you Rob."

And here is another student comment after taking the Level 1 course:

“...My many thanks for your commitment in devoting your time to us in this training. I originally was skeptical on the training methods, but I was gladly proven wrong! A friend had taken last fall's Level 1 and I wanted to keep up with the glowing remarks he would give each week at our Club's Saturday morning breakfast, and yes, I found I was able to give the same glowing praise for the CWA level 1 program. At first, I was not sure I would be able to keep up with the course work. I did put in the time as requested and after the course I find my CW skills have dramatically improved and I am glad to have been a part of it. BTW my current plan is at least one contact a day and so far I have kept that commitment!”

On June 10, to celebrate the graduation of the class of April-May, 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. All CWops members are invited (and encouraged!) to give something back to our great hobby and serve as an Advisor. It's not a huge time commitment, classes are held two times a week for an 8 week period when the semester is underway. We have three semesters a year – Jan/Feb, Apr/May, and Sep/Oct. We offer Advisor training and provide the curriculum materials that are utilized in our courses. Please help us out so that we can continue to provide this unique service to the many aspiring CW operators out there who are looking to improve their CW skills with the CW Academy.

Jack W0UCE, with his Associate Advisor (AA) program, continues to do a wonderful job of bringing associated advisors on-board, training them and having them assist other Advisors in the classes. Many of our AA's then transition to become full time Advisors running their own classes after one or two semesters. Many of our AA's start out as students and have come full-circle in our program where the student now becomes the Advisor!

73, Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy is managed by Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT.

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The CW Academy April-May, 2015 semester graduated 87 CW students who were led by 30 Advisors and Associate Advisors.

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

April – May 2015 Semester – 22 Advisors and 8 Associate Advisors

- 1) Jack W0UCE – 3 Classes
- 2) Jerry AC4BT – 3 Classes
- 3) Rob K6RB – 2 Classes
- 4) Jack NI8N – 2 Classes
- 5) Ed K6HP – 2 Classes



- 6) Will WJ9B – 1 Class
- 7) Lee K5LY – 1 Class
- 8) Vic WD0EBZ – 1 Class
- 9) Kate K6HTN – 1 Class
- 10) Dallas K1DW – 1 Class
- 11) Dan N5TM – 1 Class
- 12) Mac NN4K – 1 Class
- 13) Lar K7SV – 1 Class
- 14) Bill W0EJ – 1 Class
- 15) Don K6ZO – 1 Class
- 16) Paul K4JAZ – 1 Class
- 17) Mark K5GQ – 1 Class
- 18) Joe N3HEE – 1 Class
- 19) Vidi ZS1EL – 1 Class
- 20) Stew GW0ETF – 1 Class
- 21) Alex PA1FOX – 1 Class
- 22) James VK4TJF – 1 Class
- 23) Tom NI2F – Associate Advisor
- 24) Randy K4ODL – Associate Advisor
- 25) David N4JDG – Associate Advisor
- 26) Dale W7HLO – Associate Advisor
- 27) Dave W5TRX – Associate Advisor
- 28) Tucker KK4UNZ – Associate Advisor
- 29) Mike KD8RQE – Associate Advisor
- 30) Chuck AB1VL – Associate Advisor

April – May 2015 Semester – Students who completed: 87 graduates

Level 1 Graduates: 40

- 1) AD6FC Fred
- 2) K9QJS Hoop
- 3) K6WV Jon
- 4) AE7OV Gary
- 5) NS7V Ken
- 6) KD7YDT Peter
- 7) N7GBK James
- 8) NQ0N Pat
- 9) KE5KOV Jay
- 10) KF9SW Victor
- 11) W5ULR Hickey
- 12) KG5FRS Kathy
- 13) N5LNX Craig
- 14) W4QED Benny

- 15) N4WDC David
- 16) KC3CVN Patrick
- 17) WI4P John
- 18) VE1KCO Corey
- 19) KD1CT Bob
- 20) K5EJF Ray
- 21) K8PGJ Pete
- 22) AB1SG Kyle
- 23) N5XTH Michael
- 24) VE3KBI, Paul
- 25) KD4LYC Andrew
- 26) KG5AOP Jerry
- 27) N0JAV Jason
- 28) K0FUZ John
- 29) M0IBC David
- 30) MI0AYR Paul
- 31) IW4EQ Oriano
- 32) IU4APC Andrea
- 33) KF5YXA Robert
- 34) KG5EMR Annie
- 35) AF5RA Robert
- 36) N5YZ Bill
- 37) K5CRX Robert
- 38) AE5WD Clark
- 39) KF5TXL Kenneth
- 40) AF5TR Peter

Level 2 graduates: 22

- 1) N1MD Michael
- 2) K1RWR Bob
- 3) AC4PA Pavel
- 4) AK4HA Glen
- 5) AE1CW Jim
- 6) W5QQ Del
- 7) KG4MTN Michael
- 8) K3PO David
- 9) NY4ZZ Neil
- 10) KE4S Dave
- 11) WB6SEL Vic
- 12) W7VZ Kent
- 13) K5AZR Edward
- 14) KF5JUO Lynda
- 15) KB1WTF Nicolas
- 16) WD4EXI Val
- 17) KI9R Basil
- 18) K4MIL Stuart

- 19) KD4UYP Brian
- 20) N4APR Ray
- 21) KF4T Brian
- 22) VK2AFA Samuel

Level 3 Graduates: 25

- 1) KF7GGN Scott
- 2) KF7TDF Danny
- 3) N0KQ Bill
- 4) KL3QI Tom
- 5) KM6ZT David
- 6) NG1R Roger
- 7) KK5NA Joe
- 8) K5AUP Jim
- 9) K1YM John
- 10) AC2II Robert
- 11) N1SUZ Suzanne
- 12) K3OOL Craig
- 13) K4ODL Randy
- 14) AJ4HP Olon
- 15) K4ARQ John
- 16) W4FLN Frank
- 17) N1FV John
- 18) NY4G Ariel
- 19) VE3FXX Ronald
- 20) KJ4IOR David
- 21) WW0K Zachary
- 22) K5SGE Phillip
- 23) W8BG Bill
- 24) K9FS Bob
- 25) AK4IC David

73,

**Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT**

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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# CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

This time around there are special notices about two of the sets of CWT's coming up this month. Both of these will call for a bit of change from the usual procedures.

First, the CWT's in the second week of June (June 10 at 1300Z and 1900Z and June 11 at 0300Z) will be special slow speed CWT's to mark the graduation of another CW Academy class. Please slow down to 20 wpm or less in order to welcome the new CWA graduates (and so as not to intimidate them). They will be using CWA in place of the usual CWOps number or state/province/country in the exchange.

For some of us, this will be a chance to have a bit more laid-back time than usual. Yes, slowing down to 20 wpm means you won't make as many contacts, but everyone else will be operating under the same conditions. Take the opportunity to relax a bit and welcome a few new prospects to the CWT's. If we make this a good experience for them and do our best not to scare them off, perhaps they will be motivated to keep on working on their CW speed and coming back for more in future weeks. Let's do our best to welcome potential future members from the CW Academy.

The other special notice relates to the first week of July. Normally the Wednesday CWT's do not overlap with other contests or operating events, except for the occasional DXpedition. However, July 1 is Canada Day. The RAC Canada Day contest runs from 0000z-2359z on July 1 every year, and every few years Canada Day lands on a Wednesday. So, this year the RAC contest will overlap with the two CWT sessions on July 1 (1300z and 1900z). The RAC contests are not confined to Canadian amateurs, and indeed looking back through recent results I see quite a few CWOps members among the top finishers.

CW activity in the RAC contests is in the same part of the band as we normally use in CWT's. This will have two effects.

First, the bands will be more crowded than usual. I suggest that we move a little higher up the bands during these two sessions to minimize overlap. Both groups will benefit if we aren't duking it out over the very same frequencies. There may be some people in the RAC contest who may be surprised to find us there during our two one-hour sessions. We in CWOps shouldn't be quite so surprised. We are supposed to be good enough operators to recognize the circumstances, take things in stride and adjust accordingly, so we should find it easy to just slide up the band a bit and carry on.

Second, even if you are only in the CWT and not in the RAC contest, you may be called by stations who don't realize you are not in the RAC contest. The folks in the RAC contest will be expecting a signal report plus a serial number (or signal report plus Canadian province from VE stations). I'd suggest giving them the RAC exchange - after all, we're all supposed to be good enough at CW to handle that. As for the CWT exchange, CWOps members who are in the RAC contest will know what's happening and will probably be happy to hand out both exchanges, but you might not be able to coax a name out of RAC testers who aren't familiar with the CWT's. What you do is up to you (we aren't checking the logs, after all), but if I don't receive the CWT exchange, and in particular the name, from the other station, then I don't include the contact in my CWT score.

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

73, **Rich** VE3KI

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

## 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
G4BUE	579	2630	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>50</b>	W1RM	43	W1RM	38
F6HKA	562	3495	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>50</b>	OH2BN	40	W4VQ	36
AA3B	554	4924	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>50</b>	F6HKA	38	VE3KI	35
VE3KI	529	3290	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>50</b>	AA3B	37		
N5RR	474	3485	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>W1UU</b>	<b>50</b>	N5RR	37		
W1RM	455	3684	EA8OM	95	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>50</b>	SM6CNN	37		
K6RB	410	2982	G4BUE	95	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>50</b>	EA8OM	37		
FG8NY	403	2419	SM6CNN	93	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>50</b>	W4VQ	37		
EA8OM	378	2529	VE3KI	92	<b>W0EJ</b>	<b>50</b>	G4BUE	37		
W0VX	369	2334	K1ESE	90	<b>FG8NY</b>	<b>50</b>	VE3KI	36		
K1ESE	364	1903	AA3B	88	AD1C	49	FG8NY	35		
W9ILY	285	2140	EA1WX	88	K6DGW	49	KR3E	34		
W1UU	266	1713	DL8PG	86	GW0ETF	49	KZ5D	34		
N1EN	263	1344	W0VX	85	K1ESE	49	DL8PG	33		
DL8PG	247	1738	W9ILY	80	W0VX	49	W9ILY	33		
F5MNM	246	988	PA7RA	79	F5MNM	49	EA1WX	32		
HB9ARF	234	455	KZ5D	78	W9ILY	49	K1ESE	32		
W5ASP	232	893	FG8NY	76	K6RB	48	PA7RA	31		
GW0ETF	184	1451	KR3E	73	KZ5D	48	W0VX	31		
K2ZC	182	347	AD1C	73	NN6T	48	W1UU	31		
N1ZX	143	940	W1UU	71	W6KY	48	F5MNM	30		
G3YJQ	142	168	N1ZX	70	AA3B	48	NN6T	29		
G3XLG	140	201	N1EN	69	DL8PG	48	N1ZX	28		
PA7RA	128	1200	GW0ETF	67	N1EN	48	GW0ETF	28		
W4VQ	118	2089	NN6T	67	WB9G	48	AD1C	25		
EA1WX	104	1642	F5MNM	66	SM6CNN	48	N1EN	25		

4X6GP	103	846		W6KY	54		N1ZX	48		JF2IWL	23		
NN6T	97	1577		K6RB	54		KR3E	47		K6RB	23		
AB7MP	97	304		4Z1UF	50		JF2IWL	47		4Z1UF	21		
JF2IWL	81	763		WB9G	48		EA1WX	46		WB9G	19		
K6DGW	65	1328		JF2IWL	47		WX7SJ	46		W6KY	16		
NV9X	64	64		W0EJ	36		K0DTJ	45		HB9ARF	16		
KE6K	61	116		K6DGW	32		NU7Y	45		G3YJQ	14		
W0EJ	51	754		KT5V	28		PA7RA	44		K2ZC	12		
NU7Y	18	329		K0DTJ	23		KT5V	44		G3XLG	10		
KZ5D	0	3239		HB9ARF	22		AB7MP	43		W0EJ	10		
SM6CNN	0	2477		NU7Y	21		OH2BN	42		KT5V	9		
N2UU	0	1774		G3YJQ	20		HB9ARF	39		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	14		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											

73,

*Pete* W1RM

[\*Back to Contents\*](#)

[\*Next Article\*](#)

## New Members

### Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1451	W5QQ	Del
1452	W0CO	Brad
1453	N5BA*	Brian
1454	KW8N	Bob
1456	K2PI	Harv
1455	K6LL	Dave
1457	G4DRS	John
1458	KG4IKQ*	Jim
1459	LY5A*	Jonas

\* = Life Member

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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## Current Nominees

As of June 13, 2015:

**Need Sponsors:** NK4I, AE1CW, KF7GGN, W8BG, I5EFO, WB0TUA, N9LGP, N6TU, ND4V, K4GK, K8DV, K5IX (Many of these have the requisite number of sponsors, so invitations will be extended shortly!)

**Invitations Extended:** XQ1K, K5SGE, KM6ZT, K3OOL

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

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

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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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. May bounced back after a slow April and the QSO totals were back up over 500.

Here are the standings for the month of May:

<u>Call</u>	<u>May</u>
K5KV	67
WB6BEE	53
K1ESE	48
K5YQF	46
N5IR	42
N1ZX	39
AC4BT	38
K4AHO	34
W6JMP	28
KC0VKN	21
NN6T	19
K6RB	18
KE6OIO	15
HB9CVQ	14
K6HP	13
JE1TRV	12
WA3NZR	8
W3WHK	6
W5JQ	2

The top of the leader board continues to fluctuate. This month Benny K5KV took over. Don WB6BEE stayed in second and your QTX manager was third. Cecil K5YQF moved up to fourth from sixth last month and Bill N5IR slid from first to fifth. You never know who will be on top each month.

Personal bests in May went to - K1ESE, K5YQF, AC4BT, W6JMP, HB9CVQ, and JE1TRV.

To compare with April, May had one more reporting station and 69 more QSOs. It was a good month.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
-------------	------------

WB6BEE	374
N5IR	348
K5KV	302
N1ZX	242
K1ESE	216
K5YQF	191
K4AHO	162
KC0VKN	131
NN6T	123
AC4BT	81
K6RB	81
W6JMP	75
KE6OIO	62
K6HP	59
HB9CVQ	58
W3WHK	58
JE1TRV	38
WA3NZR	28
WA8IWK	25
K6HTN	19
W5JQ	12
K0DTJ	11
K8QI	10
IK0IXI	2
KU7Y	1

Don WB6BEE still holds a significant lead for the year. But, the next three are within striking distance. We will see if summer activities will cut into the totals for some or create more free time for others. Tune in next month.

## 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, WB6BEE, and now K5KV have reached the Silver level. N1ZX and K1ESE have achieved Bronze. There is plenty of time for everyone to earn a medal before year's end.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

**John** K1ESE, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

*QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW*

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

# 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.*

*[N.B. Joe is traveling, so he prepared a two-month column for the May issue. Here it is again for reference. – Ed.]*

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](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](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/](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/](http://www.naqcc.info/)

[\*Back to Contents\*](#)