



N1MM The Plane

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

When I got my first license, I was 11 years old
and it was June



1958. We were still
in the midst of
Cycle 19, which
was an incredible
sunspot cycle.
During its
maximum, DX
was abundant on
the high bands
and, being near the
Atlantic in New
York, I worked

tons of EU stations on 15 meters using a
Viking Adventurer and HQ-110 with a
homebrew ground plane mounted on a 2x2
wood pole 12 feet off the ground in my
backyard.

[Continued on next page]

Over the ensuing 67 years, I've been continuously active and experienced the DX ups and downs of five more cycles. My observation has been that during sunspot maxima the bands tended to be well attended and during minima activity tended to drop off very noticeably. Of course, 10 and 15 meters during sunspot nulls tended to become marginally useful at best. So those of us with 20 meter antennas tended to gravitate to that band. But even so, those who were primarily interested in working DX spent far less time on the air.

Some years ago, though, I was surprised to see some statistics with regard to ARRL's Sweepstakes contest. This is a contest that is open to US and Canadian hams where you work someone only once, regardless of band. During sunspot minima and maxima, there was very little difference in the number of logs submitted and some of the record scores were made during sunspot minima. In other words, sunspot cycle vagaries did not dampen the enthusiasm of Sweepstakes participants and the scores were hardly affected.

We appear to be coming off a double peak of this latest sunspot cycle, so it is safe to assume that, for now, the best (for at least another five years) is behind us. Two or three years from now, 10 meters will be dead, 15 meters will be marginal, and we will be congregating on 20 and 40 meters again. Those of us who live and breathe for DX will probably turn the radio on only after determining that there is a new one to be worked. Those of us who just engage in contesting will probably continue to do so and just accept that scores will be muted in contests that depend on DX multipliers. Ragchewers will continue to ragchew, but on fewer bands.

So what does this all portend for CWT's and CW Open five years down the road? Wow, there are a lot of variables to consider! Five years from now, unless new hams join our ranks who operate HF and CW, there will probably be fewer of us to do CWT and CW Open. But let's not worry about that variable for now. CWT and CW Open, unlike most international contests, reward you for working a lot of different people rather than just the same group on multiple bands. And whether each new person worked is half way around the world or just a mile away, you get the same benefit. So if you live in an area with a large ham population close by and a lot of them are participating in CWT or CW Open, you should do quite well. And it won't matter much if it's a sunspot maximum or minimum. Just like for ARRL Sweepstakes, the CWT's and CW Open do not depend upon multiband capability, high power, and long-distance QSOs.

We can't do anything about sunspots and sunspot cycles. But we can do something about the population of ham radio operators. CW Academy is already doing something to increase the number of hams who are comfortable operating CW on the HF bands. And, of course, it will continue to do so, so long as there's interest. But, this is not helping to lower the average age of ham radio operators, which is now over 60. When I first got licensed, the average age was just under 30. Wouldn't it be great to see the averages begin moving down?

The ARRL has spent millions of dollars trying to interest young people in ham radio. And it essentially failed. The emphasis was on voice communication, VHF, and EMCOMM. To a kid with a smartphone in his/her shirt pocket, there's nothing magic about wireless technology or voice modes. These kids communicate using text modes, snapshots and video snippets. Handi-talkies and repeaters just seem clunky and boring. So at first glance it looks like ham radio is doomed to unrelenting ageing and eventual extinction. But there may be a magic solution at hand. And it just may be CW.

Like juggling, break dancing, and doing magic tricks, CW is something that not everyone knows how to do. Being able to converse with CW puts one in a select group. Kids like that. Also, after seeing

Chip Margelli make short work out of “fast” texters on the Tonight Show video, a lot of kids are intrigued about Morse. Boys and girls!

For many of us, wireless was the magic and CW was the means to that end. It may just be that for today’s youth, CW is the magic and wireless is the means to that end. But no matter, if we can help rejuvenate ham radio through CW, let’s put our heads together and figure out how best to do that. Aside from the obvious challenges of promotion, training, and so on, we also have the problem of CC&Rs, HOAs and antenna restrictions. None of these need be show stoppers. Where there’s a will, there’s a way.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



More Ham Call Tail Numbers

This month’s Page 1 photo has little to do with CWops The Club – N1MM the Ham isn’t even a member (yet?) – but many CWops members are avid users of N1MM Logger Plus, the new, total rewrite of the classic contest logging program by Tom Wagner N1MM. The day after Field Day, when I saw the aircraft that shares Tom’s call sign parked on the ramp at the closest airport to our site, I couldn’t help but snap a photo and post it to the N1MM Logger Plus reflector with the following comment:

“We all knew about the legendary support and service for N1MM Logger Plus when we, the **T**ruckee **R**adio **A**mateur **S**ociety **H**ams, chose it for our High Sierra Field Day operation. And we did encounter a few glitches that K3CT [CWops #466] jumped on even as everyone else was pounding brass. But when this baby pulled up at Truckee Tahoe Airport, we knew Tom had pulled out all the stops.”

Not to be outdone, Tom replied:

“I lost my car keys at FD and N1IXF found them. Now I lost my jet and N6XI finds it. Could you have the pilot fly it back to CT for me?”

“Yes, sir!” I concluded. But alas, it’s not to be. In fact, the pilot of this beautiful bizjet confided in me that the tail number was chosen by its original owner, no longer involved with the plane, Walt Disney Productions. The tail number referred to Mickey Mouse, not Tom and his Logger software! Oh, well...

Compounding the coincidences, the FD site in question was at the Logger Campground at Stampede Reservoir, north of Truckee, CA and not far from your editor’s mountain QTH. We signed K6NV (CWops #675) in Class 2A. Picking up on CWops’ club philosophy of encouraging newcomers, we had a GOTA (Get on the Air!) station signing K7MS where beginners and retreads could learn the ropes and several of our newbies also spent time at the main stations. It cost us some QSOs but I think it also created some new testers ... even though “Field Day is not a contest!” Alas, none of our newbies operated CW at FD but several did express interest. The year-long wait list for CW Academy was a discouraging note, though. We need more volunteer instructors!

FD is a great emergency preparedness exercise and the most popular operating event in US amateur radio. Speaking of emergencies, just as I was writing the previous paragraph, during a thunder storm, the power failed, not a real emergency. My new MacBook Pro has very good battery endurance, so I'll keep on trucking here in Truckee until it declines to 30% or so. And if the outage continues, I can connect a generator to get back into the AC mains game. But for now, I've disconnected the antennas from the rig and am enjoying the sound of rain, a rare delicacy here in California, in an otherwise silent house.

I hope you enjoy this issue. I've been rearranging my computing environment and now am using the Mac version of Microsoft Office Word for most of the composition of *Solid Copy*. Alas, it is even buggier than the Windows version. As a result, some of the hyperlinks in the Table of Contents don't work correctly in the published PDF, even though they work perfectly in both the Mac and Windows versions of Word, even though I'm doing the conversion from Word to PDF using the Windows version of Word. (The Mac version of Word doesn't create hyperlinks at all!) After about a dozen tries, I've given up for now. If a ToC pointer to an article takes you to the wrong place, my apologies. Try navigating to the subsequent article and then paging back up to the one you want. #\$(%! Word!

73,

Rick N6XI
Editor

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2015 CW Open – Get Ready for 5 SEP!

by Dean Faklis NW2K

Preparations are in high gear for the 2015 CW Open contest, and, as you'll see below, CWops needs your help. The event had great participation last year as the word is getting out on this serious and fun (seriously fun!) international gathering. Winning QSO rates are 100 per hour for every hour in every session.

2014 brought a new award structure to the CW Open to help boost competition in all ITU regions. Thanks to Icom America, the CW Open awards are the finest in the business. Over the past four years, the expertly crafted glass trophies and plaques have made their way into winning radio rooms around the globe.

The CW Open continues to have three primary classes, High Power, Low Power, and QRP, and the award structure stays true in recognizing top Single Operators in all three power categories. In addition, the contest continues its tradition of three separate four hour sessions over all six bands to help focus attention on each ITU region. Assistance is allowed in all categories. For more details on awards, check out <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>.

The CW Open needs some help from the CWops membership to reach the next milestone in the number of logs received and number of teams. We've developed a brief presentation for the 2015 CW Open that can be discussed at your local club meetings, listed on your club's website and circulated on your reflector. It is located here: [http://www.cwops.org/cwopen/CW Open Presentation 2015.pdf](http://www.cwops.org/cwopen/CW%20Open%20Presentation%202015.pdf). Wherever you're located around the world, please activate your local club

and be the point person for signing up a team or two. Signup is easy using the CW Open webpage: <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>. Remember that teams are not subject to any geographical limitations, which adds a strategic component. Please take action to help CWops and put your team together. It's a perfect club activity for all skill levels. Please send me an email as soon as possible to share your plans.

The CW Open is *your* premier operating event. Mark your calendar for September 5, 2015 (UTC) and help boost participation from your region. The rules are on the CWops website, www.CWops.org/cwopen.html. There is also a link there to the results for 2011-2014.

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

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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 jveisskohk@gmail.com.

Mike VE9AA: I operated as VO1TTT for CQWPX CW from the VO1BZM club station, Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, running LP with antennas that were resonant very high up in the phone bands but still had a great time, even with high SWR (ouch! Thank goodness for internal tuners in radios). I think this may be the first time I have operated seriously in a contest away from home in a couple decades using another call sign so it took a lot of getting used to. TTT does not sound like AA and when a station would need a correction or fill on the suffix, a couple times I sent "AA" and then had to correct the correction, HI HI. I did work quite a few CWops members and was "guilty" of telling a couple who I was. I know in contests you are supposed to keep your head down and not waste time but I couldn't help myself and slipped a couple times. In fact, I don't know HOW, but some members said "TNX MIKE" even though I had not revealed my identity. I'd be curious to know how people do that. Thanks for all the Q's. Mike VE9AA / VO1TTT

Vic 4X6GP/K2VCO: After suffering another failure in my R8 vertical, I decided to try a different antenna. I put up an Innovantennas DESpole for 20-17-15 meters. It's a rotatable dipole with dropped ends, so it has a 3M turning radius, which is just about all I can manage on my roof. It's quite efficient, with three separate elements and no traps or other gadgets. Results have been excellent on the bands for which it is designed, and I can pump a little RF into it on 30, 12 and 10 meters in emergencies. Most important, I can adjust and maintain this one without taking it entirely down, and without help.

Dave G0DGA: The FISTS 2M CW hours have been generating some interest over here with several people appearing on the 144MHz band between 1500 and 1600 UTC on a Saturday afternoon and 1000 and 1100 UTC on a Sunday morning. Unfortunately, my setup isn't as good as I would like it to be, relying on a small three element "portable" Yagi on a fishing pole and just five

watts of RF. I did work a few people but will need to improve the setup for next year's activity hours.

On 6M I have had better luck. However, people on the ON4KST reflector (www.on4kst.com) have commented that there have been few really good openings to Canada, the USA or South America as yet this year on 6M. For HF I have cut into my 40M dipole and added traps for 20M. This means that I can now use 40M, 20M and 15M. I have also bought a Hustler 6BTV with the adapters for 17M and 12M, so I hope to put that up this summer. I have not made any HF contacts in June, although now that the 2M activity days are over for the year I might try HF again.

Kate and I will be spending some time in the Balearic Islands in July, so I hope to be on HF with simple wire antennas from the hotel. Not too much power as I will be using a KX3 which has a maximum of about 10 watts output. Cheers - Dave (G0DJA) CWOps No. 266

Chuck NO5W: The Jefferson Amateur Radio Club (JARC) and the Delta DX Association joined ranks for FD 2015 in Metairie, LA. The refurbished JARC club station was able to host a fun W5GAD 3 Echo Lima Alpha entry. This year's objective was to introduce inactive members and prospective new members to HF operation and the fun of contesting. The phone stations provide a grand training ground. The CW stations, manned by CWops members, enticed many locals to inquire about developing dormant CW skills. So look for more CWA applications from LA. While scores were not the highest, the objective was well surpassed. A fun and safe time was had by all.

de K1DW, NO5W, and KN5O

John K3GHH: I am visiting my daughter in Anchorage AK for a few weeks, and was invited to help with CW at the very nice KL7AA Field Day site. Several calls were familiar from CWTs and our booth at Dayton. If you worked KL7AA there's about a 50% chance I was on this end. A few days earlier I accepted a gracious invitation from Steve KL7SB (#1268), to visit his fine shack. My own temporary setup here, a barefoot Ten-Tec Eagle and a GAP Eagle vertical (which my daughter very kindly allowed me to erect in her back yard), is hardly ideal but it has allowed a few QSOs. Still hoping to break into triple digits in a CWT... score, not QSOs!

Lar K7SV: Over the past several months I built a pair of C3S clones, one for field day and one to replace the tribander that was on my own tower. I also rebuilt the KLM rotatable 40M dipole on my tower. The C3S clones have worked well. My own replaced an M2 KT34M2 that has historically been a poor performer on 15. The new antenna is without a doubt much better on 15 and gut feeling is that it's probably better on 20 as well. It seems to work well on 10, but it hasn't gotten a lot of work out on that band yet. The one for field day replaced a TH7DX. I can't really say how the new antenna compares to the old one, but it took about a half hour to assemble the C3Cc and get it mounted on the rocket launcher compared to 2 1/2 hours for the TH7. I think we had more Qs this year under worse conditions.

In the local club we have a handful of members interested in learning CW. One has completed the CWA class but needs air time to build his confidence. Another used to be an Army intercept operator, so he copies code OK but is working on his sending. He just passed his general exam. A few others know CW but just need to get their speed up. Once Fall gets here I am going to hold a Culpeper Amateur Radio Association (CARA) slow speed net on 80M once a week to help the guys get on with it.

Mike VE9AA: I dusted off my old HW-9 for a couple CWT's lately, so I gave it another vigorous workout as a 1B station in FD to the tune of 211 Q's. A mighty 3½ watts, an old set of Bencher paddles and an even older MFJ keyer run by yet older fingers rounded out the sending interface. I

did not program memories in the keyer, just to keep myself honest to the early 1980's retro vibe I was going for. Every time I fire it up I recall my first FD in the late 70's with VE1BF (SK) and making Q's on his HW-8 to Hawaii. A big deal for a 15 year old kid at the time. Some 36 years later it still feels special!

Mark AB7MP: I have come upon the sad realization that I am spoiled! Having successfully completed CWA (TNX Rob!) and become a member of CWops, I have been enjoying the “freedom” of better CW skills (head copy, speed, etc.). A big part of building those skills has been the weekly CWTs. As an avid S&Per, I have enjoyed the luxury of operating at “my speed” (more or less) and I have learned about the wonderful software that can take over the keying in the early morning sessions (before the caffeine kicks in!)

The problem is – when I need to slow down with the paddles (like, during Field Day) my fingers go really dumb! Slowing down is a skill that I have not developed! That said, I think I'll do more paddle work on Wednesdays and rely less on N1MM+ for keying. When you hear me “correcting” myself, please be patient! (A side note – thanks to the CWops program, this was the first Field Day that I was willing to work any station I heard. In the past, I'd just tune on past the higher speed ops, but not this year. Either there weren't as many high speed stations or my speed has picked up so much that I just don't notice them any more!)

Jerry AC4BT: I will be QRV from Jamaica operating Josh, 6Y5WJ's station as AC4BT/6Y5 during the week of July 17 through July 24. Josh's QTH is on the south coast of the island, 60 miles West of Kingston near Malvern. This trip is a DX/vacation so will try to operate as much as I can when I am not out and about enjoying Treasure Beach and other nearby sights during the day. This will usually be the early-mid morning and evening hours. I will be operating CW only on 15, 20, 17, 30, 40, 80 and possibly 160m.

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CWA HF - Advisors On The Air

Jerry AC4BT

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, Rick N6IET, Dan KB6NU, Fred K6DGW, Dwight NS9I and Jerry AC4BT during the evenings on 7.035 and serve as an 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>

June Highlights: Dan KB6NU and Rick N6IET have just joined our group of CWA HF Advisors. While band conditions have not been great we continue to see very good turnouts by many hams interested in improving their CW skills.

Some nights the noise level on 40 meters is very high and in those cases the local stations are the only ones coming in very strong but there is always someone on frequency ready for a QSO. The QSOs are a lot fun, interesting and entertaining all at the same time! There are many CW operators out there who want to have a real conversation beyond the "5NN TU" kind.

Rick N6IET can be heard on 7.035 0200-0300 Sunday's UTC. Here is a recent recap of Rick's first session for CWA HF :

Well, I did my first official CWA CW HF Mentoring stint this evening at 0200Z. I was just about to call CQ ... /CWA when somebody else tuned up and called CQ on the exact frequency (7035). We talked for 22 minutes. Tom, in Kerby, OR, just north of the California border was using a bug competently at 20 wpm. He's 83 and said he had just mowed, bailed, and put up a field worth of hay in his barn. I said that would be hard work for a man of any age and especially for a man of his age. Then I mentioned my 100 miles a week of bike riding and my age (70), and he said I was "also pretty fit for an old coot." :-) I didn't mention CWA to him, because he didn't seem to need any more CW mentoring after having been a Western Union telegraph operator in the 40s and a CW operator ever since.

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 – W6SX

by Hank W6SX

[Editor's Note: It's about time this column featured its own author. Hank has been a mainstay contributor to Solid Copy since its inception and is also a great CW operator. His activity scores are highly competitive, and simply amazing considering his all-wire, non-gain antennas and compromised, US West coast QTH! And he's a good guy, too! Thanks for all you do, Hank.]

Eleven-year old KN2SSX in 1956. Heath AR-1 and BC-455 receivers. Homebrew 6146 and Globe Chief transmitters. Rudimentary SO2R. Lots has changed, but antenna back then was just like today – wire at 46 feet.



I think this is the oldest *How We Were* to date. I know there are lots of older CWops out there, so here's the deal. Send me your *How We Were*. We will present a CWops hat to the member who submits the oldest picture of station with operator See

<http://www.cafepress.com/cwops.428797852> . Or, if you prefer, a CWops thong, see <http://www.cafepress.com/cwops.428797849> . Submit photos by 1 October 2015.

How about it Bud, Rod, John, Buddy, Tom, Ken, Fred, Rusty, ...

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

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

From June through August, CW Academy is on a break. We make use of that time to organize the advisor/student groupings for the September/October semester, to train new advisors, and to incorporate new materials and methods into our program.

During the break we will also be finalizing and readying a CW Academy program tailored to Japan. Atsu JE1TRV and Rob K6RB have been working together to revise the current *Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments* book for Japan. It involved essentially rewriting the book in Japanese and editing the segments assignments so that there was less dependence on a thorough knowledge of English.

The objective is to train JA CW aspirants to learn Morse at 15 to 20 WPM, as we do now, and to focus on teaching them how to competently engage in basic QSOs, where the information categories are predictable (RST, QTH, name, WX, rig, and so on). For our North American program, and even with European students, the current text worked well. So we took that foundation and simply modified it to be a better fit in Japan. We also revised the Morse Trainer tool to correspond to the changes in the book for Japan.

The new text is now ready and Atsu did a great job of getting it in shape. Stephen Phillips, who developed Morse Translator and Morse Trainer, is creating the JA version of the tool for us. If things remain on schedule, we will have all the final materials in place by mid-July. That will give Atsu and the volunteer JA advisors time to become familiar with the method and materials between mid-July and end of August. We will launch the new program at the Tokyo Ham Fair, which is comparable to the USA's Dayton Hamvention. We plan to do a pilot program in September/October and then fine tune it for January/February. If all goes well, we plan to do similar programs for China and South America down the road.

Another new program is our CWA HF program. The formal CW Academy uses online meetings and at-home training for its Levels 1, 2 and 3 classes and students. The new CWA HF program – being shepherded by Jerry AC4BT – involves advisors and others getting on 40 meters (circa 7.035 MHz) during local evening hours and engaging in ragchew QSOs with other members, students and others. Our students will be encouraged to monitor and head copy both sides of such QSOs in order to improve their head copy skills. As they become more sure footed, they will be encouraged to get on the air and participate, too. We can't do this for our beginners (Level 1) until they are nearly finished with their course, but once they do complete it, the CWA HF program is a wonderful segue to Levels 2 and 3.

On the kudos side, we would like to congratulate the following advisors who have been awarded CW Academy Service plaques. Kate Hutton K6HTN, Bill Sepulveda K5LN, and Ed Parsons K6HP have received their first plaques for having advised at least six semester groups. And Jerry AC4BT

has received his second plaque for having advised at least 12 semester groups. These awards are unique looking and meant to convey our appreciation for the efforts of these advisors. If you work any of them, remember to give them a “FB.”

Below is a picture of the very handsome CWA 2nd level plaque awarded for advising 12 semester groups.



73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B, and Jerry AC4BT

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

One of our CWA advisors has requested that we look at ways to make the CWTs more attractive to younger operators, and in particular more suitable for people who are still in the work force. More specifically, we have been asked to look into changing the time of the 0300Z session to make it more convenient for people in the Eastern time zone (in North America, that is). During Daylight Savings Time in particular, the 0300Z session is rather late for the east coast (11 pm - midnight). So I am going to be looking for opinions on a couple of suggestions. I'll start with some discussion points around these ideas. I can't claim any kind of monopoly on good ideas, but maybe some of these thoughts will trigger some interesting reactions.

Regarding the ability of people in the work force to participate in CWTs, it should be clear that by picking a weekday for our CWTs, we have inevitably biased participation towards retirees and anyone else without the fixed time commitments that normally go with being in the work force (e.g. a 9-to-5 job). For someone who works on a Wednesday and who has to get up to go to work the next day, the available time for participating in CWTs is limited to a very few hours in the day. Trying to make this work across a wide range of time zones is a challenge.

It should also be obvious that our participation awards are biased towards retirees. For someone who can only enter at most one CWT session, the participation medals are basically out of reach in North America or nearly out of reach in the rest of the world. Hopefully the participation awards are not the only motivation for participating, but putting them out of reach surely doesn't help. I have a suggestion to make on this aspect: Just as major contests have both all-band and single-band entry categories and awards, we could have single-session participation levels. We could set these single-session participation levels at approximately one-third of the participation levels for our current awards. For someone who could only participate in one of the three weekly sessions, this would bring an award within reach. I'd suggest that a given individual should only be eligible for one award, either overall, or for their best single session, but not both. This suggestion would mean a *lot* more work for yours truly, so I'd want to be quite sure it was both popular and worthwhile before going ahead with it.

Regarding the timing of the CWT sessions in North America, the 0300Z session is the evening session there. Looking only at the continental US for a moment, but taking into account Daylight Savings Time, we have time zones ranging from UTC-4 (EDT) to UTC-8 (PST). The current 0300Z session takes place between 11 PM and midnight in the summer in the Eastern time zone (EDT), and between 7 PM and 8 PM in the winter in the Pacific time zone (PST). The comment that has been made is that the 11 PM to midnight timing is too late for someone who has to get up for work the next day (or for that matter, anyone else who is in the habit of waking up early). Moving this session to 0200Z would change that to 10 pm to 11 pm EDT, which should be more attractive. Of course, it would also mean that on the West coast in winter, that same session would take place between 6 pm and 7 pm PST. Would this be a problem for anyone? It would be even earlier in Alaska and Hawaii. On the other hand, moving this session to 0200Z might perhaps be helpful for people in the Canadian Atlantic provinces and most of South America, for whom the current 0300Z session is even later than in the Eastern time zone.

On balance, it looks as if a change from 0300Z to 0200Z might be beneficial to overall participation from North America, but what about other parts of the world? Despite the early time for them, a

surprising number of European stations participate in the 0300Z session. Three of the top five in the overall participation standings are from Europe (UR5MM, SM3CER/SF3A, and UA6HZ), and they can only have achieved this by regular participation at 0300Z. There are several other European amateurs who show up from time to time in the 0300Z session, particularly while daylight savings time is in effect. Changing this session to 0200Z would make it very difficult for Europeans, even if retired, to participate in that session. (0200-0300Z is 4 AM - 5 AM in most of Europe in the summer, and 3 AM - 4 AM in the winter.) Therefore, I would expect this proposal to be unpopular with our more active European members. As for the Far East and Oceania, I would expect that a change from 0300Z to 0200Z would probably not matter much (either one would still be during regular daylight working hours).

What about people with jobs in other parts of the world? Well, in Europe and Africa the 1900Z session looks just about ideal. It's from 7 PM to 8 PM in London in winter, and from 10 PM to 11 PM in Moscow, year-round. In India, Japan and Western Australia, the 1300Z session takes place during evening hours. Unfortunately, in eastern Australia, the Pacific and South America, none of our CWT sessions comes close to evening hours, and the only way I can see to change that would be to add more sessions. I think adding more sessions could well dilute participation in the existing sessions, so we would want to approach that idea with great caution. Anyway, from the point of view of making sure there is a session during evening hours for as many people as possible, some tweaking of the 0300Z starting time appears to be the most attractive candidate for improvement.

So there you have it – a couple of questions to think over. First, what do you think about adding single-session participation awards? Would it really be worth the effort, or would it be a lot of extra work to benefit only a very few people? And second, what do you think about the suggestion to consider moving the 0300Z session to 0200Z? Or do you have other ideas? I'd be interested in your feedback, either directly to me at ve3ki@rac.ca, or through the medium of the CWOps Yahoo group. If there turns out to be a groundswell of support for change, then the next step would be figuring out how to get the word out for time changes, if any, and when to make the change(s). First, though, what are your reactions?

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

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
F6HKA	586	3524	W1RM	145	N5RR	50	W1RM	45	W1RM	38
G4BUE	579	2630	F6HKA	127	W1RM	50	OH2BN	40	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	559	333	W4VQ	125	W4VQ	50	F6HKA	39	W4VQ	36
AA3B	554	4924	OH2BN	112	F6HKA	50	AA3B	37	VE3KI	35
N5RR	527	3525	N5RR	104	W1UU	50	N5RR	39		
K6RB	457	3017	EA8OM	95	VE3KI	50	SM6CNN	37		
W1RM	455	3655	G4BUE	95	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	37		
FG8NY	417	2435	SM6CNN	93	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	37		
EA8OM	378	2529	VE3KI	92	W0EJ	50	G4BUE	37		
W0VX	369	2334	K1ESE	90	FG8NY	50	VE3KI	36		
K1ESE	361	1908	AA3B	88	W6KY	50	FG8NY	35		
W9ILY	324	2222	EA1WX	88	N1EN	50	KR3E	34		
N1EN	301	1676	DL8PG	86	AD1C	49	KZ5D	34		
W1UU	266	1713	W0VX	85	K6DGW	49	DL8PG	33		
DL8PG	260	1743	W9ILY	83	GW0ETF	49	W9ILY	33		
F5MKN	254	994	PA7RA	79	K1ESE	49	EA1WX	32		
K2ZC	253	485	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	K1ESE	32		
HB9ARF	234	455	N1EN	78	F5MKN	49	F5MKN	32		
W5ASP	232	893	FG8NY	76	W9ILY	49	PA7RA	31		
W6KY	190	1701	AD1C	73	K6RB	48	W0VX	31		
GW0ETF	184	1451	KR3E	73	KZ5D	48	W1UU	31		
N1ZX	143	940	W1UU	71	NN6T	48	N1EN	30		
G3YJQ	142	168	N1ZX	70	AA3B	48	NN6T	29		
G3XLG	140	201	F5MKN	68	DL8PG	48	N1ZX	28		
PA7RA	128	1200	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	GW0ETF	28		
W4VQ	118	2096	NN6T	67	SM6CNN	48	AD1C	25		
EA1WX	104	1642	K6RB	54	N1ZX	48	JF2IWL	23		
4X6GP	103	846	W6KY	54	KR3E	47	K6RB	23		
JF2IWL	101	785	4Z1UF	50	JF2IWL	47	4Z1UF	21		

NN6T	97	1577		WB9G	48	EA1WX	46		WB9G	19		
AB7MP	97	304		JF2IWL	47	WX7SJ	46		W6KY	16		
K6DGW	65	1328		W0EJ	36	K0DTJ	45		HB9ARF	16		
NV9X	64	64		K6DGW	32	NU7Y	45		G3YJQ	14		
KE6K	61	116		K2ZC	28	PA7RA	44		K2ZC	14		
W0EJ	51	754		KT5V	28	KT5V	44		G3XLG	10		
NU7Y	18	329		K0DTJ	23	AB7MP	43		W0EJ	10		
KZ5D	0	3239		HB9ARF	22	OH2BN	42		KT5V	9		
SM6CNN	0	2477		NU7Y	21	K2ZC	40		K6DGW	8		
N2UU	0	1774		G3YJQ	20	HB9ARF	39		G0DJA	7		
AD1C	0	1630		G3XLG	18	4Z1UF	36		W5TM	7		
KR3E	0	1136		AB7MP	14	WT2P	34		K0DTJ	6		
PA4N	0	955		WT2P	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

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1460	KR4AE	Alan
1461	KL3QI*	Tom
1462	K9WX	Tim
1463	N0KQ	Bill
1464	K4ODL*	Randy
1465	K3WJV*	Bill
1466	N6IET*	Rick
1467	AJ4HP*	Olon
1468	KF7Z*	Danny
1469	WB0SND	Mike
1470	K5SGE	Phillip
1471	K3OOL	Craig
1472	K5IX*	Dave
1473	K8DV	Dave
1474	K4GK	Chas
1475	ND4V	Mike
1476	KM6ZT*	Dave
1477	NG2H*	Ken
1478	W6AEA	Geo
1479	W5MJ	Madison
1480	K4HC	Chris

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of July 9, 2015:

Need Sponsors: AE1CW, KF7GGN, W8BG, I5EFO, WB0TUA, N9LGP, K8OD, KB3Z

Invitations Extended: XQ1KZ, NK4I, N6TU, 9A7R

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. June was a good month, down from May but much better than April. We had fewer reporting stations, but QSO totals were again over 500.

Here are the standings for the month of June - -

<u>Call</u>	<u>May</u>
WB6BEE	67
AC4BT	63
N5IR	62
K5KV	53
K1ESE	52
K5YQF	49
K4AHO	44
K6RB	27
N1ZX	24
NN6T	24
K6HP	23
HB9CVQ	13
KE6OIO	12
JE1TRV	5
K6HTN	3
K3GHH/KL7	1
AB7MP	1

Don WB6BEE is back on top in June. The surprise was Jerry AC4BT who nearly doubled his best prior one month total and took second place. Bill N5IR moved back up to third after fifth in May, but first in April. Benny K5KV went the other way, first in May to fourth in June. It looks like two QTX chats per day is the going rate for the top of the leader board.

Personal bests in June went to AC4BT, K1ESE, K5YQF, K4AHO, K6RB, and K6HP.

To compare with May, June had four fewer reporting stations but only eight fewer QSOs.

Here are the year to date totals -

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	441
N5IR	410
K5KV	355
K1ESE	268
N1ZX	266
K5YQF	240
K4AHO	206
NN6T	147
AC4BT	144
KC0VKN	131
K6RB	108
K6HP	82
W6JMP	75
KE6OIO	74
HB9CVQ	71
W3WHK	58
JE1TRV	43
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
WA8IWK	25
W5JQ	12
K0DTJ	11
KE6K	11
K8QI	10
IK0IXI	2
K3GHH/KL7	1
AB7MP	1
KU7Y	1

Don's WB6BEE lead is still growing, but it is not so great that there won't be a lot of back and forth for the remaining half of the year. That's right, we are only at the half way point for 2015 and there is a lot of time left.

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 made the Gold Medal level in just half a year. K5KV is the only Silver Medalist so far. Bronze Medals have been earned by N1ZX, K1ESE, K5YQF and K4AHO. I expect the Silver and Bronze winners will move up levels and that we will have at least five more Bronze Medals by the end of the year.

Thanks to all for your participation.

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.

It's a full plate for the weeks ahead. Just the thing for those looking for an excuse to stay in out of the heat. And between the NAQP CW and the various QRP events you won't even have to fire up the big linear. Kick back, stay cool, relax and play radio!

IARU (no WRTC this year), RSGB's IOTA and WAE DX CW are all familiar contests. Each has its unique flavor whether it be rare IARU zones, exotic islands or QTCs, and are well worth some quality operating time. Exchanging QTCs can be a real challenge for those opting not to rely on the contest software to handle this chore. It's a sure way to polish up your fist.

For a CW operator I can think of very few contests that have intrinsic appeal of the NAQP CW. It has its roots in the early ARRL CD parties, and many still feel the nostalgia creeping in as they operate this event. Chances are you'll run across many of your old and new friends and have chance for quick greeting. As a bonus, you may want to keep a check list of CWOps members handy to see just how many you work, especially those just recently signed on.

Japan's Keyman's Club contest is another test of CW skill. All exchanges are compared and are not valid unless they are exact duplicates. This is one place not be wary of asking for "fills." Obviously propagation will play a big role in your success, but who ever said contesting was easy.

The County Hunters CW weekend and the MDC QSO Party offer the usual frantic chase after elusive counties. Rates aren't high but the anticipation of a "new one" can make the experience a fun time. You'll quickly get used to the rather novel parsing of the veteran county hunter mobiles' exchange. You really can learn something new every day.

Again, don't overlook the various Sprints. The FISTS. Straight Key, QRP and Northern Cal. groups all have short CW events on the calendar. There's even a new addition to the list. It's the Colorado Gold Rush event. This one's a bit different. It's on Sunday afternoon, two hours, 20 Meter CW (14060 MHz) only, QRP (5 Watts). Could be a "hoot".

JULY/AUGUST EVENTS

IARU HF World Championship - 1200Z, July 12th to 1200Z, July 13th

<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

[RSGB IOTA Contest](http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/riota.shtml) [1200Z, July 26 – 1200Z, July 27](#)
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2015/riota.shtml>

[County Hunters CW Contest](http://www.countyhunter.com/) [1400Z-2400Z, Jul 25; 1400Z-2400Z, Jul 26](#)
<http://www.countyhunter.com/>

[North American QSO Party, CW](http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf) [1800Z, Aug 1 – 0559Z, Aug 2](#)
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

[Worked All Europe \(WAE\) CW](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/) [0000Z, Aug 8 – 2359, Aug 9](#)
<http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/>

[Maryland –DC QSO Party](http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/Maryland%20QSO%20Party%20Rules%202014.pdf) [1600Z, Aug 9](#)
<http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/Maryland QSO Party Rules 2014.pdf>

[Keyman's Club Contest](http://www.kcj-cw.com/contest/15_kcj_contest_rule_e.pdf) [1200Z, Aug 15 – 1200 Aug 16](#)
http://www.kcj-cw.com/contest/15_kcj_contest_rule_e.pdf

NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, July 10
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, July 17
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, July 24
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Aug 7
NCCC Sprint 0230Z-0300Z, Aug 14
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

SKCC Sprintathon 1200Z, July 11 – 1200Z, July 12
SKCC Sprintathon 1200Z, Aug 8 - 1200Z, Aug 9
SKCC Sprint 0000Z-0200Z, July 22
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, July 17
NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Aug 12
www.naqcc.info/

FISTS SummerSprint 0000Z-0400Z, July 11
<http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints>

[CQC Great Colorado GoldRush](http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2015.htm) [2000Z-2159Z, July 12](#)
<http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2015.htm>

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