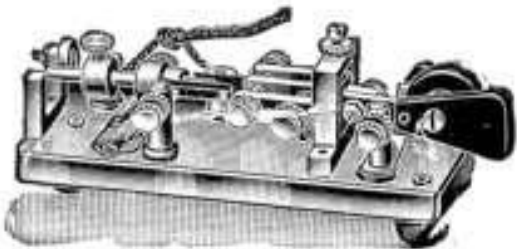




**THE VIBROPLEX KEY.
New No. 4 Model.**



Tnx, [The Telegraph Office](#)

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



We are less than one month away from CW Open on 5 September. This is a really unique contest. It is really three contests, separately scored, over a 24 hour

period. The rules are such that you do best by working as many different operators rather than a lot of the same operators on different bands. As someone pointed out when we first conceived CW Open, it could be won by someone doing a single-band effort – if the participation was high enough. So please, mark your calendars and plan to participate in at least one of the four-hour sessions.

[Continued on next page]

At the end of August, we will be announcing CW Academy Japan. Atsu, JE1TRV, has done a masterful job of translating the Practice Instructions and Homework Assignments book and Stephen Phillips has developed a Japanese version of Morse Trainer. So we're good to go. We will be piloting our first Level 1 classes in September. I'll keep you posted.

We have one more month of summer in the northern hemisphere and then contest season starts in earnest. Now is the time to get those antennas and stations working flawlessly. I have not been operating SO2R for over a month because of an apparent coax problem with radio 1. I'm expecting delivery of some new coax any day now and will be replacing the suspected bad section very soon. I'll also take the opportunity to put the antennas back on heading after a winter's worth of storms put me 30 degrees off.

July was a rough month for me, personally. Floyd, my 17-year-old Collie/Shepherd mix, passed away on July 2. He was a great dog and a wonderful companion. I wrote a story about him called "CW Mascot" several years ago. Whenever I would operate, he would go under the shack desk, curl up, and stay there the whole time. But only when I operated CW. If I was on phone or RTTY, all bets were off. His passing has left a huge hole in life. During CWTs I keep expecting to feel him nuzzling my ankles. RIP, Floyd.

Pete, W1RM, had to go into the hospital in late July because of a failed stress test. He was treated and released and says he's feeling much better. Stay well, Pete.

I hope you all enjoy the remainder of your summer (those of you in the northern hemisphere, that is). CWops club is doing great and it's because of all of you.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor

New Major Award!



The Board has launched a major new award for outstanding contribution to CW. A new committee will recommend worthy recipients who need not be members of CWops and need not be individuals – organizations may qualify as well. The committee will convene annually and recommend one or more (or no) recipients. For details, see the [write-up here](#).

This month's Page 1 photo comes via [The Telegraph Office](#), a fascinating Web site by Neal McEwen K5RW. You will all recognize the old Vibroplex bug, if not the specific illustration. But do check out the Web site. It is a treasure trove of photos, drawings, descriptions and other information on keys, sounders and other items of telegraph and wireless Morse lore.

Riki K7NJ got a mention of CW Academy placed in his local radio club's newsletter in Utah. You can do this, too! Insert pointers to CW Academy, CWTs, CW Open and CWops The Club on a recurring basis. With your help, we can keep our club and its services visible.

We received a complaint last month from a CW operator (not a member) whose QSO was interrupted by CWT operations. He thought it inappropriate that an organization like ours, that promotes best operating practices, would interfere with his QSO, on two separate occasions. Of

course, it was some of our participants who interfered, not the club itself. And we don't know whether the impolite operators were members or non-members. Both sorts enjoy CWTs. But I do feel compelled to repeat our regular request that CWT participants try to set an example of good, courteous operating. Listen before you transmit; ask if the frequency is in use ("QRL?" or at least "?") before calling CQ; and move away if, even if nothing is heard after these precautions, someone else proclaims the frequency to be busy ("QRL" or the like). In the midst of a rag-chew, many ops are unable or unwilling to respond to your "QRL?" but they are there trying, perhaps struggling, to copy a QSO partner. The absence of an immediate response to "QRL?" is not tacit acceptance of your request to "own" the frequency! Given the vagaries of propagation, attention span, reflexes and the like, this is an imprecise process at best. But let's all keep aiming at a goal of "zero defects." Please remember also that CWT is a "test" of station, operator, software, and conditions, not a "contest" with log checking, placement awards, winners and losers. If we all have fun (the W6SX Prime Directive), then we're all winners. If we, or others, don't have fun, then there are losers. Let's be winners.

Enjoy the issue and let me know what YOU want to read in *Solid Copy*. Better yet, write it!

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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2015 CW Open – Get Ready for 5 SEP!

by Dean Faklis NW2K

The CW Open is a month away and there is already good indication that participation will be up. Teams are already being registered (including a powerhouse!), there is a flurry of worldwide email reflector activity, and interesting questions are being asked about CW Open strategy.

In 2014, the CW Open had its first Multi-Op entry with pioneers Rick N1DC and Pi K1RV piloting K1USN during Session 2. They had a visit from Murphy but soldiered on and put in a great performance. While there is no formal Multi-Op category, if you're inclined to work together with some friends, why not give M/S or M/2 a try? How about interesting remote entries in the CW Open? Perhaps a Field-Day-style operation? Be creative and experiment! If you have an idea for a unique CW Open entry, please do not hesitate to try it and tell us about it with some images and words. You will not be eligible for fabulous prizes, but bragging rights are extremely valuable! Stretching the limits within the rules is invigorating. Remember, the CW Open is *your* premier operating event.

Teams are being formed and can be registered up to the starting gun. There is no geographical limitation on team mates and teams can be formed between clubs. Please reach out to your club and take a lead role beefing up participation in the CW Open. The CW Open rules are located at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>.

There are three 4-hour sessions on September 5 (0000-0400z, 1200-1600z, and 2000-2400z) 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 call sign" 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, and 10. And everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike.

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. Please work with your club to form teams and help others get on the air. Reach out to CW Academy students and graduates.

CW Open activity is good and top scorers average 100 QSOs per hour, in every hour, in every session. But let's try to make new records for participation this year both in the number of full teams and number of overall QSOs. Let's build international participation by reaching out to our friends in every (radiused) corner of the globe with emails and reflector posts. Let's set some records!

If you can, please take some pictures and notes on your CW Open operation and send them after the contest for possible inclusion in the writeup.

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 shiny new invite. And, questions and comments are encouraged at any time! See you (often) in the CW Open.

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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.

Atsu JE1TRV: CWops booth will be held at the Tokyo Hamfair 2015. All CW lovers who stay in Tokyo during 22 and 23 August are welcome to booth number J-65 (located in front of J-67 of FISTS East Asia's booth). In addition to promoting existing CWops' activities such as CW Open, CWT, QTX, etc., we are going to announce the launch of **JA CW Academy!**

Other than CWops, many JA CW clubs will have their booth. For example, if you are interested in high speed telegraphy, don't miss the Hamfair CW Championship "A1 Grand Prix" which will be held at booth J-04. See you then!

Glen VE3GNA: Perhaps by the time you are reading this, my XYL and I will be occupied with the construction of our new digs in the village of Tamworth in Eastern Ontario. This change of scenery was precipitated by the reduction in the capabilities of the two of us when it came to the task of maintaining a 2.5 acre property. I am in my 70th year now and my wife has celebrated several anniversaries of her 39th. I can still ride a lawn tractor but the kneeling and back breaking work of planting, weeding, etc. is too much for both of us. So we are downsizing to a half-acre lot.

When purchasing the property two things were priority. Was the lot deep enough for a 160 meter dipole? Barely, but yes. Would I be able to erect a tower and wire antennas? Definitely. After mulling things over, I decided the best location for the buildings. I also decided to add a small extension to the rear left end of the house to house the revamped radio shack. On a quiet night the sound of rushing water will be audible from the Salmon River a scant 100 yards away. Sorry 91.4 meters.

As a result, the current station is dark. The antennas are down and coiled up for transportation. The radios await their being sealed in cartons for the trek. The miscellaneous stuff in the shack is still waiting for the packing efforts of yours truly. Our house is yet to have a "SOLD" sticker on the sign but that may soon change, God willing. The minute that occurs, construction will begin.

Gary NA6O: Finally had my first real QSO with my bug! Thanks to Cap W0CCA for running the weekly bug tune-up sessions on Thursday evenings, as well as the Advisor sessions. We had a nice long rag chew, ending when my hand started complaining. He said my fist was reasonably good for a first-timer. That's because I practiced for many months, and watched YouTube videos for setup and handling advice. The other thing I had to deal with was scratchy keying due to contact bounce, made even worse by RFI.

My shack is right under my antennas – 10 feet away – and some bands are a big problem. So I built a de-scratcher that works very well. Info on the design is on my website at the bottom of this page: http://www.wb9jps.com/Gary_Johnson/Electronics.html. Looking forward to working many of you with my mighty Vibroplex!

Mark AB7MP: This was a busy month in the AB7MP household. First Ruth (XYL, aka KK7CJ) and I took a short “hobby vacation” and just traveled about an hour’s drive away. I took some equipment (It was IARU contest weekend.) and Ruth took some quilting projects.

I setup my FT-840 with an Alpha Loop Sr. and operated the contest QRP as “motel mobile” with the antenna just three feet behind me (good reason for QRP). During the contest, I was pretty excited when I worked Hawaii a couple of times on the indoor antenna. But when I worked LU4AA/F things got really exciting. That contact weighed in at about 1,325 miles/watt (your mileage may vary).

Later in the month, I took the FCC test for my commercial radiotelegraph license and passed (missed one question!!) so we are now planning a San Francisco vacation next July. Listen for me during the Nights of Nights. I hope to key up KSM as a commercial operator and K6KPH as a ham. AND I decided to replace the aging FT-840 and have ordered a K3S with options. See ya’ on the bands! (Oh, and I volunteered to teach a Level 1 class!!)

Chris G4BUE: Just to let you know we will be flying to Florida on 27 October (from the UK) and I will be QRV as N4CJ from our QTH in Sebring until 21 December when we return here for Christmas and the New year.

John AD8J: I upgraded the rotor at my remote site from a TX2 to an Orion 2800PX and the Green Heron RT-21 controller. Wow, what a difference in rotor construction as the new one is built so much better. You can tell a big difference in weight when pulling it up the tower. This rotor ramps up and down and turns the SteppIR DB-36 smoothly with no elements flopping around at the end.

I'm heading to Roatan, Honduras August 12 - 19 to play radio and scuba dive. I'll try to get on the air for the 0300Z session on August 13th. Keep your ears open for AD8J/HR9 on 20 meters. I'll be on more bands as the week progresses.

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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, 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>

July Highlights: While band conditions have not been great we continue to see very good turnouts by many hams interested in improving their CW skills. If you listen in around 7.035 you will hear many QSOs in progress on the band, up and down from that frequency. This consistent level of activity was nowhere as strong several months ago, before the CWA HF program began.

The CWA HF program now maintains a consistent presence in the evenings around 7.035 and many operators seeking a QSO have been gravitating there. It's encouraging to see the heightened interest in CW and rewarding to have QSOs with other hams trying to improve their skills. I have worked many of these CW operators who are now “regulars” multiple times now and I can hear the improvement in their sending and CW comprehension, not to mention the confidence that can be heard in their fists.

Cap W0CCA is a skilled and accomplished BUG operator and can be heard on 7.035 0300-0400 Friday's UTC. Cap also provides CW Academy instruction on the air. Here is a recent recap of one of Cap's CWA HF sessions:

Funny story. Had my CWA last night as usual and used up most of the time with NS1R and his bug. Hope the bug hopefuls were listening as we kept the speed down.

But tonight at 9 (0300) I got on 7035 and NA60, CW Ops 1345, called me right away as he thought this was the CWA night not last night. We had a GREAT QSO. He said it was his first on the air with his bug, he had been practicing on his own off the air, and he was quite good and a student of the bug already, easily 25+ wpm, learning about de-bouncing dits, adjusting bugs,

studying best bugs, etc. In a 45 minute QSO he got a LOT better and he is on board as a buggie now. Great fun with Gary. Then N7YT tail ended and had about 40 mins with him. Bill is a very speedy bug guy, 30-35 wpm, and had to slide the weights back and let her rip, so all in all a wonderful bug night for me.

Cap

WOCCA

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

73,

Jerry AC4BT

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Ten Steps to Mastering Morse Code

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

BoingBoing, a blog about popular culture that I enjoy reading, recently published a post titled, "The only technique to learn something new" by James Altucher. Altucher is one of those guys who seems to be able to do just about anything. His Wikipedia page says that he is "an American hedge fund manager, entrepreneur, bestselling author, and podcaster." The blog post details his ten-step technique for learning – actually mastering – new things. Here's how I would apply his advice to mastering Morse Code:

1. LOVE IT.

If you don't love Morse Code, then don't try to learn it. It will only frustrate you and take you away from learning other things that will be more useful and fun for you.

2. READ IT.

You can read about the various methods to learn the code, but honestly, I think Morse Code is more of a "learn by doing" than a "learn by reading" kind of thing. You're better off just proceeding to #3.

3. TRY IT. BUT NOT TOO HARD.

Get hold of a couple of code courses – I normally recommend the G4FON CW Trainer or the K7QO Code Course. There are also many good smartphone apps. Try them all – but not too hard

– and choose the one that you like using the best. If, after trying it, you don't love it, don't do it. (See #1.)

4. GET A TEACHER.

Find a code buddy, that is, someone to help you learn the code. Many clubs have started code classes, but if your club doesn't you can still find someone to help you. The CWops [CW Academy](#) is a great place to get the help you need to learn and master the code.

5. STUDY THE HISTORY. STUDY THE PRESENT.

Morse Code has a storied history. Studying the history will give you a perspective that will motivate you to learn it. If it does not motivate you, quit. (See #1.)

Studying the present will give you a perspective on how the art is practiced today. Rather than being stuck in the past, you'll be able to use Morse Code as it's being used today. That sounds kind of strange, but it's true. You'll have more fun if you use modern practices.

To reinforce what you learned, Altucher says, "Write down the things you learn from reading."

6. DO EASY PROJECTS FIRST.

I'm not sure that there are "easy" Morse Code projects, but let's look at this another way. Most people learn Morse Code to either participate in contests, work DX, or rag chew with other hams. If you're interested in contesting, you can participate in slow-speed contests. [FISTS](#), for example, runs slow-speed sprint contests every quarter. Rag chewers can listen for the [CWops on-the-air advisors](#). These folks, yours truly included, hang out around 7035 kHz and some other frequencies and help newer operators gain experience. You can identify CWops on-the-air advisors by listening for the call "CQ CWA."

7. STUDY WHAT YOU DID.

Altucher says in his BoingBoing post, "Someone told me a story about Amy Schumer, one of my favorite comedians. She videotapes all her performances. Then she goes back to her room and studies the performance second by second...she wants to be the best at comedy. She studies her every performance."

Altucher goes on to say, "If you aren't obsessed with your mistakes then you don't love the field enough to get better. Don't ask lousy questions, such as, "Why am I no good?" Instead ask, "What did I do wrong and how can I improve?"

When you're starting out – or even if you're an old timer like me – it might be worthwhile to record your contacts and then play them back, listening critically to both sides of the contact. When the other station is sending, listen for what you might have missed the first time. When you're sending, listen critically to the code you send.

To be honest, I hadn't really thought about recording my contacts before reading this blog post. I figured that I am already pretty good, and if I just kept practicing – by making contacts or working contests – I'd get better. Maybe if I start recording my contacts, though, and critically appraising them, I'll get better faster.

The question is how obsessed should one be? This is just a hobby, after all. That's a personal decision that I'll leave up to you. I think I'm obsessed enough about this that it's something that I'm going to try.

8. YOU ARE THE AVERAGE OF THE FIVE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.

Altucher says, "Humans are tribal mammals. We need to work with groups to improve." At the most basic level, this means getting on the air. Code courses and code programs are all well and good, but the proof of the pudding is getting on the air and making contacts or working contests.

Not only that, it matters who you hang out with once you do get on the air. If you aspire to operate at 30 words per minute, don't just search for slow-speed contacts. Listen for operators that are sending good code at speeds slightly faster than what you're comfortable at copying and make an effort to copy them and work them. Hanging out with good operators will help you get better. Hanging out with poor operators will not.

Altucher notes, "Find the best group, spend as much time with them, and as a "scene" you become THE scene. You each challenge each other, compete with each other, love each other's work, become envious of each other, and ultimately take turns surpassing each other."

9. DO IT A LOT.

Over the past twelve years, I have averaged more than three contacts per day, and it's gotten to the point where I feel bad if I don't get my three CW QSOs in every day. You don't have to be as obsessed about this as I am – it is a hobby, after all – but if you can spend more time at the key, you'll become a better CW operator. It's as simple as that.

10. FIND YOUR EVIL PLAN.

I'm not sure that I like the way Altucher titles this section, but his point is that, after all this study and practice and appraisal, you need to find your own path. By doing these things, you'll discover what works best for you, and in doing so, develop your own unique perspective on what it means to be a good CW operator.

Not only that, at that point, you'll be ready to pass this knowledge and experience on to others. Altucher says, "Now it's your turn to teach, to mentor, to create, to innovate, to change the world." I think this applies to just about any topic, even something that's been around as long as Morse Code.

When he's not operating CW, Dan KB6NU writes about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. He is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and several other amateur radio books, including The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code. Despite his call sign, he lives in Ann Arbor, MI.

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How We Were – WA9LEY

by Hank W6SX

Lee Swanson, WA9LEY, CWops # 1304, circa 1966.



Don't forget, we will present a CWops hat to the member who submits the oldest picture of station with operator, <http://www.cafepress.com/cwops.428797852> . Or, if you prefer, a CWops thong, <http://www.cafepress.com/cwops.428797849> . Submit photos by 1 October 2015.

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

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CW Academy

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B and Jerry AC4BT

Our summer break is nearly over and we are hustling to get the September-October semester ready to go. We have had a huge number of signups and the influx continues. We have also had more volunteer advisors, so we hope to close the nearly one-year backlog soon.

We will announce CW Academy Japan at the Tokyo Ham Fair at the end of August. Our Level 1 syllabus has been modified and translated and the Morse Trainer Japan tool has been created for this program. We already have some volunteer advisors committed and plan to launch the first semester in September. Our thanks and appreciation goes to Atsu JE1TRV for all his help and to the volunteer advisors he has put in place.

NCJ editor Patrick Barkey solicited an article about CW Academy from us and Jack W0UCE and Rob K6RB contributed to it. It should be published in an upcoming issue soon.

The CWA HF program is continuing to run. Stop by some evening around 7.035 MHz and look for one or more of the volunteer QSOers. They are all having fun helping others work on head copy and sending skills and, of course, increasing their QTX point scores.

We will have more data about the Sep-Oct semester and participants in September's issue but it promises to be a large group.

73,

Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B, and Jerry AC4BT

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CWops Tests

by Rich Ferch VE3KI

Last month I asked for reactions to two proposals: one, to move the 0300Z CWT session ahead to 0200Z, and the other to consider single-session participation awards. There wasn't much response to the single-session award idea, but the suggestion to change the time attracted interest. I had about a dozen responses, all from North American members, and all favorable, some quite enthusiastically so. There was even one suggestion to move it ahead by two hours, to 0100Z. I haven't had any negative responses yet, although some of the responders did refer to the possible negative impact on European participation.

For some additional input to the decision, I have looked at the level of participation we have had in the three sessions over the first half of this year. The 1300Z session is our most popular, with around 90 reported scores per session in the winter, rising to well over 100 reported scores per session in July. Participation in the 1900Z session is just slightly lower, but is still averaging over 100 in July. The 0300Z session is noticeably less popular, with reported scores dropping into the 70s in February, March and April, then recovering, and only hitting 100 for the very first time on July 30. There is lower participation from Europe at 0300Z, especially in winter, but I think that only accounts for part of the difference. It would appear as if moving this session earlier might increase overall participation.

I'll wait for one more round of responses, then if nothing new or different comes out of the discussion, we'll be planning for a change.

As of July 2, we were halfway through the year, with 79 out of 157 CWT sessions in the bag for 2015. Here is an update on the participation standings as of mid-year.

As a reminder, here are the participation point levels required for the medals:

For members in North America, 120 points for gold, 80 points for silver and 50 points for bronze.

For members in Europe, 90 points for gold, 60 points for silver and 36 points for bronze.

For members in other continents, 60 points for gold, 40 points for silver and 24 points for bronze.

There were 47 members who were already guaranteed at least a bronze medal by July 2, although we were only halfway through the year. There is one perfect participation record – Will WJ9B. Way to go, Will!

On the assumption that people will continue to play in CWTs at the same level for the second half of the year, I have doubled the participation scores as of July 2 to compare them with the thresholds and come up with a list of likely award winners.

Here are 27 familiar call signs of the folks who have been entering the CWTs at a rate that would reach the gold medal level by the end of the year: UR5MM, SM3CER, UA6HZ, F6HKA, WJ9B, W9CC, N3JT, WA9LEY, K6RB, K7SV, W6SX, K1DW, SM5ALJ, VE3KI, N4FP, VE2FK, SM0OY, FG8NY, K1GU, NN4K, NW2K, W1UU, DJ1OJ, SM4DQE, KG5U, N5ZO and VE5SDH.

On a pace to achieve the silver medal level are 37 more: K2ZC, N4DW, PA3DBS, W2GN, SM5BKK, KJ9C, N0TA, N5AW, OH2BN, N5RR, W4TTM, AA2ZW, N8BJQ, K1BG, SM7CIL,

VE3MGY, W4VQ, W8ILY, WR5J, JF2IWL, N0AC, WB5EIN, KW7Q, K1SM, VE2BZO, K4RUM, KC4D, N4ZZ, SM6CUK, NW0M, W8MHW, AD8J, KE6K, N4AF, K5IX, K8BZ and WX7SJ.

Right behind them are 32 more who are on track for a bronze medal: K1ESE, K3SEN, W1RM, K4JAZ, 9A2WJ, NO5W, US0MF, KM4FO, F5MNK, GW0ETF, VE9AA, HB9ARF, K1RO, G4BUE, NS9I, SM7ATL, N1EN, N5IR, W2LK, AB7MP, K4BAI, K5AX, WA8HSB, AL9A, F5IN, W6NS, K8JQ, G3YJQ, N3RS, N6NC, AB5OR and VK6HG.

As of the time this newsletter comes out, there will still be 20 CWT dates (60 sessions) left on the calendar, so don't give up hope if your call sign isn't on one of the lists above. There's still time to climb up the rankings. And, of course, if you are on the list, you can't just rest on your laurels, you have to keep on going at the same rate as before to get there!

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	AC A	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	W A E	Call	WAZ
F6HKA	611	3553	W1RM	153	N5RR	50	W1RM	45	W1RM	38
G4BUE	579	2630	F6HKA	128	W1RM	50	OH2BN	40	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	573	3354	W4VQ	125	W4VQ	50	F6HKA	40	W4VQ	36
AA3B	529	4897	OH2BN	112	F6HKA	50	N5RR	39	VE3KI	35
N5RR	527	3525	N5RR	104	W1UU	50	AA3B	37		
W1RM	509	3681	EA8OM	95	VE3KI	50	SM6CNN	37		
K6RB	474	3036	G4BUE	95	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	37		
FG8NY	437	2455	SM6CNN	93	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	37		
W0VX	389	2349	VE3KI	92	W0EJ	50	G4BUE	37		
EA8OM	378	2529	K1ESE	90	FG8NY	50	VE3KI	36		
K1ESE	372	1876	AA3B	88	W6KY	50	FG8NY	35		
W9ILY	361	2236	EA1WX	88	N1EN	50	KR3E	34		
N1EN	301	1676	DL8PG	86	AD1C	49	KZ5D	34		
W1UU	295	1750	W0VX	85	K6DGW	49	W9ILY	34		
KT5V	294	814	W9ILY	84	GW0ETF	49	DL8PG	33		
K2ZC	273	530	PA7RA	79	K1ESE	49	EA1WX	32		
DL8PG	266	1716	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	K1ESE	32		
W5ASP	256	893	N1EN	78	F5MNK	49	F5MNK	32		
F5MNK	254	994	FG8NY	76	W9ILY	49	PA7RA	31		
HB9ARF	251	493	AD1C	73	NA6O	49	W0VX	31		
NA6O	205	997	KR3E	73	AA3B	49	W1UU	31		
W6KY	190	1701	W1UU	71	K6RB	48	N1EN	30		
GW0ETF	184	1451	N1ZX	70	KZ5D	48	NN6T	29		
G3YJQ	169	234	F5MNK	68	NN6T	48	N1ZX	28		
G4DRS	166	310	GW0ETF	67	DL8PG	48	GW0ETF	28		
N1ZX	143	940	NN6T	67	WB9G	48	AD1C	25		
G3XLG	140	201	K6RB	54	SM6CNN	48	JF2IWL	23		
PA7RA	128	1200	W6KY	54	N1ZX	48	K6RB	23		

AB7MP	122	340	4Z1UF	50	KT5V	48	4Z1UF	21		
W4VQ	118	2100	NA6O	49	KR3E	47	G4DRS	20		
JF2IWL	107	790	WB9G	48	JF2IWL	47	WB9G	19		
EA1WX	104	1642	JF2IWL	47	EA1WX	46	HB9ARF	19		
4X6GP	103	846	G4DRS	42	WX7SJ	46	G3YJQ	18		
NN6T	97	1577	W0EJ	36	K0DTJ	45	W6KY	16		
K6DGW	65	1328	K6DGW	32	NU7Y	45	NA6O	15		
NV9X	64	64	KT5V	32	PA7RA	44	K2ZC	14		
KE6K	61	116	HB9ARF	29	AB7MP	44	KT5V	11		
W0EJ	51	754	K2ZC	28	OH2BN	42	G3XLG	10		
NU7Y	18	329	G3YJQ	27	G4DRS	42	W0EJ	10		
KZ5D	0	3239	K0DTJ	23	K2ZC	40	K6DGW	8		
SM6CNN	0	2477	NU7Y	21	HB9ARF	40	G0DJA	7		
N2UU	0	1774	G3XLG	18	G3YJQ	37	W5TM	7		
AD1C	0	1630	AB7MP	14	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	6		
KR3E	0	1136	WT2P	14	WT2P	34	WT2P	4		
PA4N	0	955	W5TM	11	W5TM	32	AB7MP	3		
OK1RR	0	893	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31				
WB9G	0	888	KE6K	4	NV9X	27				
WX7SJ	0	610	NV9X	2	KE6K	17				
OH2BN	0	530			G0DJA	8				
K0DTJ	0	417								
W5TM	0	235								
WT2P	0	149								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

73,

Pete W1RM

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The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

The purpose of this new award is to recognize individuals, groups, and organizations that have made the greatest contributions toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.

Criteria

Candidates for the award may be one or more of the following:

- Authors of publications related to CW
- CW recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches, and instructors
- Public advocates of CW
- Organizers of CW activities
- Designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW
- Other contributors to the art or practice of CW

Note: The award may be made to non-amateur radio operators and organizations.

Nomination

Nominations may be made by anyone (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to The CWops Award Committee (See <http://www.cwops.org/contact.html>.) with a copy to the CWops Secretary (See <http://www.cwops.org/officers.html>.). In order to be considered, a nomination must include:

- nominee's name, call sign (if applicable), and complete contact information including postal address, email address, and telephone number
- a detailed explanation supporting the nominee's qualifications under the criteria set forth herein
- complete contact information of the person submitting the nomination

Process

The Award Committee is appointed by the CWops Board of Directors. The members of the committee choose their chairperson by informal vote.

Once a year, the Committee will submit an announcement requesting nominations for the award to major amateur radio publications, bulletins, and email groups. The announcement shall include a brief description of the award's purpose and criteria for grant, an Internet address (URL) for obtaining further information, and the deadline for submitting nominations.

The Committee's chair will forward copies of all nominations to the members of the Committee. Shortly after the nomination deadline, the Chair will convene the Committee to discuss the

nominations. Generally, one award will be given annually; however, the committee may recommend that (for a specific year), either no award or more than one award be issued.

The Chair will submit the Committee's recommendations to the Board accompanied by copies of all nominations and relevant correspondence. The committee may also recommend the form of possible awards. The Board will decide whether to approve the Committee's recommendation or to return the recommendation to the committee for further consideration.

Committee members and Board members are excluded from participating in meetings at which their candidacy, or the candidacy of any organizations in which they hold an official position, is being discussed.

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New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1481	NK4I	Tighe
1482	9A7R*	Braco
1483	KB3Z	Mark
1484	K8OD*	Joe
1485	K5GA	Bill

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of August 11, 2015:

Need Sponsors: AE1CW, KF7GGN, N9LGP, KB0R

Invitations Extended: N6TU, WB0TUA, N4WO, W8BG

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. July was a active, the best QSO totals since March.

Here are the standings for the month of July:

<u>Call</u>	<u>July</u>
N5IR	87
K1ESE	66
WB6BEE	60
K5YQF	54
K5KV	53
AC4BT	47
K4AHO	31
N1ZX	28
K6HP	28
NN6T	25
KB6NU	25
KC0VKN	20
KE6OIO	13
K6RB	12
HB9CVQ	10
KE6K	8
W3WHK	6
JE1TRV	4

Bill N5IR had a big month! He had the third best total for all reports in 2015. Your manager John K1ESE couldn't keep away from the paddles this month and slid into second. Don WB6BEE was away from home for some of the month and slipped back to third.

Personal bests in June went to K1ESE, K5YQF, K6HP, and KE6K.

To compare with June, July had one fewer reporting station but 41 more QSOs.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	501
N5IR	497
K5KV	408
K1ESE	334

K5YQF	294
N1ZX	294
K4AHO	237
AC4BT	191
NN6T	172
KC0VKN	158
K6RB	120
K6HP	110
KE6OIO	87
HB9CVQ	81
W6JMP	75
W3WHK	70
JE1TRV	47
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
KB6NU	25
WA8IWK	25
KE6K	19
W5JQ	12
K0DTJ	11
K8QI	10
IK0IXI	2
K3GHH/KL7	1
AB7MP	1
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR is making a run at Don's WB6BEE lead. Now just four QSOs separate top spot Don from second place Bill. That's not much. Benny K5KV and I are way behind but the year is far from over. I'll be eager to see how the August standings will change the picture.

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, Don WB6BEE, Bill N5IR, and Benny K5KV have made the Gold Medal. K1ESE is holding down Silver, but not for long. Bronze Medals have been earned by K5YQF, N1ZX, and K4AHO. All seem to be within striking distance of the next level. Five stations are over 100 points and will be reaching Bronze soon.

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.

If you're a serious CW contest operator, here's your chance to shine. The FOC QSO party, which is open to all comers, kicks off on Friday, Sep. 11th starting at 0000Z, Sep. 12th and running till 2359Z on Saturday. Immediately following this is the NA Sprint CW starting at 0000Z, Sep. 13th and providing another four hours of fun and frolic. That ought to satisfy even the most avid brass pounder. Go for it!

The Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW (SAC) is perhaps not as well known as some of the other European events, but it does attract a strong following. Well over a thousand logs were submitted for the 2014 contest. A good way to gear up for this activity is to download and look over the *SAC 2014 Results Booklet*. It can be found at: <http://www.sactest.net/blog/sac-2014-results-booklet-and-sac-survey/>.

Scandinavian stations include a dozen DXCC entities, i.e. Svalbard, Bear Island, Jan Mayen, Norway, Finland, Aland Islands, Market Reef, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland. That's quite a unique collection of call signs. It's certainly worth setting aside some time, checking propagation and making a thorough search of the bands.

You'll notice that the state QSO parties are back ... one or more each weekend for five weeks. These events can be a lot more fun if you check their website, e.g. just Google "...State Name... QSO Party". You can find the rules, a list of the state's counties, and usually a rundown of the mobiles and their planned routes. A printed copy of the latter is a good way to track what's going on. One nice thing about these events is that there is usually sufficient time between counties to "step away" from the rig and multi-task, e.g. page through that neglected stack of magazines, or browse your backlog of email. But don't get too busy and miss the next mini-pileup.

This is the first time the W/VE Islands QSO Party has been included on the events list. The U.S. Islands awards program apparently has been around for some years. Last year's QSO Party had a dozen or so participants reporting their scores. This is probably worth a casual scan of the bands to see what's active.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER EVENTS

FOC QSO Party http://www.g4foc.org/qsoparty	0000Z-2359Z, Sep 12 th
North American Sprint, CW	0000Z-0400Z, Sep 13 th
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/	1200Z, Sep 19th to 1200Z, Sep 20th

Hawaii QSO Party	0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24
Ohio QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 23
Kansas QSO Party	1400Z, Aug 29 to 0200Z, Aug 30; 1400Z-2000Z, Aug 30
Colorado QSO Party	1300Z, Sep 5 to 0400Z, Sep 6
Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z, Sep 6 to 0300Z, Sep 7
Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 12 to 0200Z, Sep 13
South Carolina QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 to 0300Z, Sep 20
New Jersey QSO Party	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0359Z, Sep 20; 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 20
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 to 0700Z, Sep 20; 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 21
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 28
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 04
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 11
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Aug 26
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17 th
www.naqcc.info/	
W/VE Islands QSO Party	1200Z, Aug 29 to 0300Z, Aug 30
http://www.usislands.org/	

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