



[Morse Code Hall of Infamy?](#)

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

"A Man's Gotta Know His Limitations."



Along with "Go ahead, make my day," the limitations quote became famous due to the 1973 movie "Magnum Force," one of the Clint Easwood/Dirty

Harry franchise films. His boss, Lt. Briggs (Hal Holbrook), says it to Harry Callahan (Clint Eastwood) early in the movie, and Harry ends the movie by repeating it after Briggs (who was a bad guy) gets blown up in the wreck of Harry's car.

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I've used that expression to discuss contesting and DXing strategies with my CW Academy classes. It is often done in the context of "If you're running 5 watts into a multiband dipole 30 feet off the ground, you may want to consider operating S&P or running at the upper frequency limit of the group when the contest starts." I often add that "Your call timing will be a lot more critical than for those running more power or using gain antennas."

Last weekend's CW Open could be a great object lesson. Here on the west coast of the US, we have limitations relative to those on or near the east coast when it comes to international contests where JA calls count for one multiplier, and EU countries each count for one multiplier. In WPX, though, with the many JA prefixes, the landscape tends to get a bit more level. In Session 3 of CW Open, which starts at 2000Z and ends at 2359Z, west coast operators cannot count on 40 meters, at all, and if 10 does not open, those further east have a huge extra band advantage. So, one example of knowing your limitations is not to plan on winning Session 3 from Santa Cruz, California ☺.

But the expression cuts both ways. Sometimes knowing your limitations but ignoring their implications can be a great strategy. One year, during a sunspot null, I started the ARRL 10 Meter contest and during the first hour I logged four QSOs – two locals and two ZLs. That was it. The band was largely deserted. Amazingly, during the second hour, I heard KZ5D calling and called him. He came right back to me. And, for the next two hours, a sustained, wide, sporadic E event allowed me to work more than 200 Qs. Then the band dropped dead again and stayed dead. About 20 years earlier, I had a similar experience in the ARRL 10 and ended up winning the Pacific Division with under 300 Qs logged.

After the first hour, with four QSOs logged, in that more recent ARRL 10 I was a hair's breadth away from shutting down and doing something else. What was the point of continuing, I thought? It was more fun watching paint dry. Then the sporadic E hit, and the band came alive, with my rates hitting 100 plus per hour, for two hours. That kept me playing until dark, and got me to try again the next day.

For me, then, knowing my limitations and setting expectations go hand in hand...but that doesn't mean I accept those limitations all the time. Sometimes things occur that are unpredictable but can work in your favor. So know your limitations, set your expectations realistically, but be open to the unexpected.

CW Open

One of my criteria for deciding if a contest was successful is if there are still QSOs being made when it ends. Based on that criterion, CW Open was a raging success. All three logs were actively filled right to the closing bell. Subjectively, I felt that there were more people playing this year than last year. That felt good. But you know, "you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink." Dean NW2K has been doing an excellent job publicizing CW Open. I even personally invited over 100 JA contesters that I had worked recently in All Asia CW. But sometimes it takes longer than you anticipate for something cool to really catch on. Yes, I had QSOs right up to the closing bell but I would have liked to see a lot more players. The conditions were far from ideal and having an event on a holiday weekend in the US can work against you. But I'm still struggling with why CW Open does not draw more EU and JA participation. Nevertheless, I want to thank all the members who supported it by participating, and all those others who participated. With Dean managing the contest and Al AD6E hashing through the logs, we should have results in hand pretty soon. If you have any

photos of yourself or others playing in CW Open, please send them to Dean (dfaklis@yahoo.com) for possible inclusion in his summary piece.

CW Academy

The September-October 2015 semester is off and running and we started with a signup list of nearly 200 students. That's a huge record breaker. And our CWA Advisor Corps now numbers over 40. These selfless folks spend eight weeks, three times a year, helping hams who want to learn or improve their CW skills. I'm finding out that lots of people know about CW Academy, and they are referring people to it. That's great. What a great program!

Solid Copy

Rick Tavan N6XI has been doing just a superior job of editing and publishing our newsletter. Please keep in mind that it does not write itself. It needs your inputs, too. Write an article about something that interests you and is related to CW ham radio. For example, there has been a lot of chatter about Morse elements in callsigns and names, and suggestions about whether that really matters a lot in contesting. What do you think? Why? *[See also the [article in this issue](#) by Larry WB5EIN – Ed.]*

Are you a key collector? Do you refurbish them? What's your technique?

“To squeeze or not to squeeze, that is the question.” Do you key iambically? What do you think is the benefit? Do you not key iambically? Why not?

You get the idea. There's a lot of wisdom among our members. Let's share it.

QTX

Sometimes people lose sight of rag chewing in the midst of contests and DXpeditions. Ham operators started as rag chewers, and it's a proud tradition. What's more, it's fun. Some of us are getting on 40M around 7.035 in the evenings, local time, and making QSOs at moderate keying speeds (e.g. 20 wpm). We encourage our CW Academy students to listen to such QSOs to work on their head copy skills. It's also a great way to get to know each other better. Make it a point to get on at least one evening per week for an hour or so. And don't forget to report your QSOs that go over 20 minutes. If you play your cards right, you could make 12 or more QTX points per month and be one of those recipients of a bronze, silver or gold QTX medallion.

The Wrap

Summer is over. Fall weather and HF conditions will soon be upon us. Take good care of yourselves and have fun.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the Editor



Morse Code Hall of Infamy?

[I wrote this before the ARRL Contest Update came out but had not yet published it. They scooped me! But for those who don't or have not yet read the CU, here's a good one.]

We are united in our love of CW, extolling its virtues as a communication mode and eager to find new ways to use and enjoy Morse Code. But alas, not all such innovations are for the good. The Page One photo this month shows one Arcangelo Ricciardi, an Italian chess player of journeyman ability, recently accused of using Morse code to communicate with a remote accomplice or computer in an attempt to cheat in a chess tournament! Ricciardi was discovered, disqualified and disgraced as well he should have been if the allegations are true. What is notable here is that chess, unlike radiosport, is a competition in which skill can be measured precisely and those measurements have a very strong correlation with future results. Ricciardi was racking up results inconsistent with his documented ability or feasible rate of improvement and that caught the attention of some tournament organizers. His FIDE rating is reported as Elo 1868, what the US Chess Federation might call "Class A," a reasonable club player, below Expert level. As I understand these ratings, he should be able to draw or even defeat an Expert from time to time, but in an extended competition of five or ten games, he would certainly lose. Against a Master of any sort he would almost never win a game. Apparently he was doing just that, provoking scrutiny by the organizers. We can't measure radio skills nearly as accurately as chess ability, although the WRTC qualification process does provide some useful relative rankings, at least among those who go all out in many of the same events. It's also arguably more difficult to detect cheating in radiosport, although computer log analysis is getting better, a subject for another day. I am somewhat relieved that a search of QRZ.com shows no licensed ham named Arcangelo Ricciardi who, by the way, is still denying the charges.

Bill W0EJ notes the passing of CWops member W8MHW:

"It is with sincere regret and a heavy heart that I must inform you that Bruce H. Brazelton W8MHW became a Silent Key last night. We will miss the melodic clickety-click of his Vibroplex bug, his ever-positive attitude, cheery disposition and generosity. Bruce has been a member of the Prairie Dog Amateur Radio Club since relocating to Yankton in 2009 and most recently held the position of Treasurer.

"Bruce was first licensed in 1954 as WN9FGX - later W9FGX; moved to CA in 1969, and W6RIX was the call; then to Ohio in 1976, where W8MHW was assigned. He is a member of the Discovery Church in Yankton and was very involved in pet-sitting.

"Arrangements will be made at the <http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com/index.html> where more information will be available."

This month we were also saddened by the passing of yet another radio friend, contester and CW operator Alan Brubaker KO7X, CWops #37. His health had clearly been declining in recent years, especially since his wife passed away. After Alan left the Bay Area, I didn't see him as often as when we were both NCCC regulars, but he often came to the Visalia DX convention and he provided

welcome UT and then WY multipliers in many contests. RIP, Alan. As we all get older, we need to reach out to those who remain with us while we still can.

Thanks to Bud W2RU for the suggestion to include hyperlinks to columnists' email addresses. I've begun doing that with this issue of *Solid Copy*. To email a comment to a columnist or author, just click on the name/call or position near the top of each article. Not everyone has their browser or PDF reader configured properly to make this work, but it shouldn't be too hard to set it up where necessary. Environments differ so, as they say, "consult your system administrator..." ;-)

Your Editor finally got his act together and erected a new 160M antenna. The predecessor drooping dipole had never been very effective, topping out as it did at about 40' AGL (0.15 wavelengths!) and passing within six feet of the roof and 15 feet from the shack – a successful RFI generator but not much else. I wasn't sad to take it down when it got flaky too many months ago. This time, with expert assistance from CWops member and pneumo-launcher marksman Bob Moore K6NV, I replaced it with an inverted L, almost identical to Bob's very effective 160M antenna about a mile away. The top corner is at 60 or 70 feet, the horizontal member is actually close to horizontal, and the QTH is right on the edge of a 400' ridge. I used two elevated, tuned radials just above "antler height" and was delighted when my rough measurements resulted in a first-try SWR of 1.0:1 at 1877. I could have left well enough alone – it was 2:1 or better across the bottom 100 KHz – but since I have no particular interest in the top or even middle of the band, I lengthened one radial and got resonance down to 1844. That gave me 1.6:1 or better across the CW band and enough of the phone portion to work the occasional CW station that wanders up into that territory. Or even, *mea culpa*, to use a microphone if that ever seems to be necessary! (It may be stretching a bit – resonance is down to 1829 after a few weeks; hmmm.) The September receive noise level is an acceptable S3-5 and I've made a few Qs on this under-utilized band, enough to say conclusively, "It's an antenna." Now I just need to wait for winter conditions and some organized 160M events to see how it really works.

Activity and conditions sounded decent in the CW Open. Family obligations prevented your Editor from going all out in any of the three sessions, but I did get on the air and make a few Qs in each one. I enjoyed the exhilarating 150-200/hour rates each time I first got on. Although I operated unassisted, spotting is perfectly legal in this contest and I think I must have been spotted promptly each time. The pileups never lasted more than about 20 minutes but they were truly refreshing. The little S&P I did was mainly on the second VFO as things slowed down. Thanks in particular to the five ops that I caught on 160 during the waning minutes of the 00Z session for helping me check out my new skyhook. This little contest of ours is proving to be quite popular with members and non-members alike and it will be fun to see which operators end up on top. I heard some pretty high serial numbers!

Gary N5PHT built a nifty little CWT reminder:



Here are JA1GQC, JN1THL, and JL1GEL manning the CWops booth at Tokyo Ham Fair:



JA1GQC, JL1GEL and JE1TRV are the first three advisors for our debut of CW Academy Japan.

Enjoy this month's issue and, as always, let me know what you want to see in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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News & Notes

[Jerry AC4BT](#)

This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at jveisskohl@gmail.com.

Mark AB7MP: This was another busy month for AB7MP. I received/built/calibrated my new K3S and have really enjoyed learning and exploiting the new features. I am also trying not to “bad mouth” the old rig because it did serve me faithfully for over a decade. So far, the superior filtering has been my favorite, but I’m using the memory features more and really thinking about going digital (a major philosophical departure for me...).

Additionally, I had the rare pleasure to be part of a Morse Code event in Wallace, ID during their Huckleberry Festival. A friend and I set up a station at the Railroad Depot museum. Two other guys set up for office-to-office land-line American Morse (they were railroad telegraphers). Visitors gave messages to the operator in the office. He formatted it into Northern Pacific message format and “sent” it to the next room. He was using a Vibroplex and the receiving station had a sounder and a mill. With the sounder and the mill going, things got noisy in the lobby where I was set up, but as the messages were typed up, they were handed off to the hams and we transmitted them to some of our traffic net friends (one is a CWops member) for delivery to other cities/states. I sent 33 messages during the 8 hours we were there. Two messages resulted in replies which I copied and delivered to a couple of surprised (and very excited) American Morse operators. I hope to be part of that event next year – it was a “kick in the pants”!!

Gary NA6O: Pardon the lo-fi cell phone snapshot, but at least it tells a story...

Photo caption: John K6WAT (L) and his advisor/elmer Gary NA6O hard at work at the kitchen table. John is a bright young engineer and new ham (and a new dad!) that I’ve been working with for a while, trying to squeeze in practice sessions whenever he has time. He’s got a rig, antennas, a paddle, and at last he’s ready to fly solo on the bands at something over 10 WPM. John is quite amazed that he can copy some contest call signs at 30 WPM. That CWops training really works!



Gary N5PHT: I will be operating portable from Queen Wilhelmina State Park on Rich Mountain from 31 Aug for 2 weeks. This includes CW Open, several CWTs and a great hamfest at the campground 11 and 12 Sept.

I will also be operating portable from Mount Magazine State Park Arkansas from 14 Sept for two weeks.

Wayne N4FP: My XYL Marty WB2VYK scanned in this picture she found of us taken in the Spring of 1966, ages 22 and 20. I was an Air Force 2nd Lt in pilot training at Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, GA and she was a 5th grade teacher. Marty received her Novice ticket in March 1966. Our station was a Heathkit DX-60A transmitter, HG-10 VFO, and HR-10 receiver. My log shows I was active in the Georgia State Net. I found a contact dated 16 Mar 66 with John K4BAI with a note he was a 1st Lt in the Army at Fort Benning, GA. Seems like yesterday!!

On a current note, I finally integrated N1MM with my Flex 6300 so I no longer have to log with my left hand while sending with my right. I didn't even need a Winkeyer. Flex has really improved third party program integration with their 6000 series.



John AD8J: AD8J/HR9 trip to Honduras.

I survived another of my combination SCUBA and radio trips to the island of Roatan, Honduras. Mornings and early afternoons were spent underwater. When not busy with the 17 dives, I was on the radio. I really enjoyed working JA's at my sunrise on 40 meters. My operating location was at the tip of a small island, 100 yards off the island of Roatan. It had a big covered deck that was right at the edge of the ocean. Dipole antennas were run from the deck to down near the water. In 23 ½ hours of operating, 1,584 contacts were handed out using a TS-480SAT. The diving was great. The only downside was the sand flies that would bite and start to itch after a few days. I've been home for two weeks and my 100 bites are finally at a point where they do not itch!

If any CWops are certified divers, I'm always looking for a buddy to team up with on similar trips. The attached picture is going to be on the front of the QSL cards that will be available for an SASE.



Ron, WB3AAL: The following is from the Charles Evens Cemetery in Reading PA and I thought it might be of interest to CWops members and readers.

Calvin T. Sellers - Died 11-24-1877 Aged 84 years, 4 mos. and 2 days.

Erected by the Telegraph Employees of the Philadelphia U. Reading Railroad Company as a mark of respect to their lamented Superintendent.

This is a replica of the first telegraph key used in Berks County PA.



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CWA HF - Advisors On the Air Program.

[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 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>

August Highlights: While we have a CWA HF calendar with a weekly sign-up schedule as noted above, basically any CWops member can go to 7.035 (+ or -) and participate in this program by calling CQ and making a few QSOs as time permits. If 7.035 is in use, then just go up a little to 7035.5 or 7036 etc.

You would get on 7.035 + / - and call CQ CQ CQ K6RB K6RB K6RB (substitute your call!) CWA K and when you are in QSO you would use CWA every so often when turning it back to the other station like: AC4BT DE K6RB CWA BK. Please also try to keep the speed around 20 wpm as there are many operators who are in the listening mode and haven't mustered the courage yet to answer the CQ. We want them to be able to follow along on the QSO.

Now that our CW Academy September/October semester has started, I have given my students the assignment of listening to both sides of the QSOs on 7.035 and also to participate and answer the CQs. Many of our students are new at this but it is a great opportunity to provide a positive QSO experience to budding CW operators. We are also encouraging our students to listen in on and eventually participate in the weekly CWTs. These students are future prospective CWops members!

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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Motivation for CW

by [Gary Stone N5PHT](#)

DX'ing requires CW

I had a "letters" published in QST in 2009 called "Move Over SSB." The gist is that I began learning CW for the main benefit of working DX.

SSB has limitations

I had passed my 5 wpm for Novice and 13 wpm for General but would only make a CW contact maybe once a year out of a sense of guilt! I chased DX on SSB and quickly got hooked. But then I noticed many operations included CW and in fact some were ONLY CW. Well, I decided I would take the plunge. Two huge motivations:

- My ham shack in those days was set up out of necessity near the family TV space and me yelling on SSB "N5PHT" 4000 times trying to work a rare dx station got old to the family very quickly as they were trying to watch TV!
- I had always felt just a bit incomplete as a ham radio operator without using CW.

Well, then something magical happened. CW became very interesting to me for the first time. I made a commitment to get it right and keep working until the readers and recorders were no longer needed. Eventually came CW DXCC. Recently I happily replaced my Honor Roll plaque name plate from "Phone" to "Phone – CW."

Lastly, I worked for 30 years as a counselor – mostly for the Veterans Administration Hospital system and essentially made my living speaking one-to-one with patients and teaching classes, etc. With CW I can have an entire conversation without opening my mouth! After over 50,000 CW contacts every QSO is still special. Hope the magic never stops.

73,

Gary N5PHT

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Names! Calls!

by [Dr. Larry Anderson WB5EIN](#)

In a recent, deep conversation on the club reflector, members discussed the relative merits of call signs, names and contest exchanges – long and short, old and new, familiar and strange. Larry WB5EIN had an interesting perspective that we include here without judgment. [By the way, no one seems to have mentioned what I call “iambic call signs” where each character after the first begins with the opposite element of the final element of its predecessor. Thus, N6XI is iambic. WB5EIN is decidedly not. Iambic calls are probably easier to send on a bug or keyer because it’s (arguably) easier to move your fingers to the other side than to let go and return to the same side. But are they easier to copy? I think not. – Ed.]

Here’s what Larry had to say:

Oh, boy ... what a fun thread!

Those of you who labor through my comments on [3830scores.com](#) know that, as a career educator and university professor, I can wax un-eloquent for hours! (One of my former graduate

students told me once, “Dr. A, you DO know, don’t you, that we have finished listening long BEFORE you’ve finished talking?”) What a good laugh.

So it has been with significant interest and entertainment that I have read all the posted comments about Summer’s call sign and name. I certainly encourage Summer to keep what she has and to help the rest of us to realize that this is who she is. Call signs don’t necessarily make a person, but people certainly can enhance a call sign. (Example: When I hear even a portion of her call sign, I know who it is and I get a smile on my face. Then, before I send her my exchange, I always send “Summer” as a sort of special greeting to this special lady. Same thing when I hear Lee WA9LEY. I always try to send “Lee” before the exchange, just in an attempt to let Lee know that he’s special to me. I feel the same with others, without regard to call sign. Surely “Dallas” is the same. And who on CWT is a better ambassador during CWTs than KC4D? No matter how huge his run rate is, he always takes time to say “Hi, Doc!” when he hears my call. Yep, it slows him down a lot, but it surely makes me feel good. Thanks, Bill.)

Let’s model what our friend, Bert F6HKA does. Every single time I work him, he begins his exchange by giving me a virtual CW wave of the hand and tip of the hat. He always sends my name first as a greeting. He makes me feel like he’s been sitting on that frequency, going through those other callers, but waiting just for my call sign to pop through on his speakers. Now, for me at least, THAT is the spirit of CW Ops. Not scores, not big stations, not monstrous antennas and towers, not expensive rigs ... but FRIENDSHIP!

Now, if you want to think about a long, weird call sign, just take mine, WB5EIN. I’ve had this one since 1971 when I was novice licensed as WN5EIN. I was off the air for 30 years, but took the tests again and got relicensed in October 2012 as KF5SKW. That call sign felt very strange, so I filed IMMEDIATELY for WB5EIN, knowing that nobody else would choose that as a vanity call. Ahhhh, that was like finding an old shoe that fit so well. Yes, I’ve been encouraged to look for a 1x2 or 2x1 vanity call, but then I’d have to release my beloved WB5EIN. Ahhhh, no! I dare say that some of you know immediately that it’s me when you hear even a portion of my call coming through. Even in DX pileups, I’ve gotten the contacts because when those really short 1x2 call signs are finished, my call sign is still running and the DX station will often send back “EIN” or “IN” and I just bang right back to ‘em and pick it up. And if I were going head-to-head with Summer in that same pileup, she would win, because her call would outlast mine!

Many of you know that it feels kind of special to work folks like WB5BKL and/or WN4AFP. So there’s a place for extended call signs. And in the CWO/CWT community, it’s even more special.

Regarding Summer’s having a longer name to send, let’s talk a bit about Scotty W7SW. It’s so funny – and very cool – to work Scotty, because we NEVER know which name he’s going to send. He’s a fantastic op and I absolutely love running across him, just to hear what name he’s sending. Isn’t the most recent iteration something like Monsoon? What will be next? And we don’t even flinch; rather, we just take it in and celebrate Scotty’s humor. It wouldn’t surprise me one bit if Scotty comes up with a number that’s well above the regular membership numbers ... something like 1501, or even 1601! Awesome! Oh, and what if Scotty decided use a lady’s name one week? ... something like “Linda” or “Betty”... how about that?

Fellas (and ladies), I know that I shall never be at the top of the scoring list. As Rob K6RB says, it's mainly about having fun. I know that's the main reason I look forward to each Wednesday's sessions. Plus, y'all help me become more proficient and you help me check my equipment and antennas. As well, I've learned much more about propagation as a result of the short CWT sessions than via any other avenue. One last thing: CWTs have allowed me to develop strategies and plans, then see how they work in the short sessions.

So my vote is that we all accept whatever Summer chooses to use. For this old fogey, I'm tickled pink to continue celebrating the appearance of VE5SDH and Summer. If she gets a new call sign or changes her name, I might go into shock, kind of like I did this past weekend when I worked N4AF and then had to change the name "Howie" to "Al" in my log.

dit dit

--Larry WB5EIN

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How We Were – K3GHH

by [Hank W6SX](#)



John Egger K3GHH writes: “In early 1959, at age 14, I was still using a J-38 straight key. The Hallicrafters SX-99 receiver was bought new, and I'd built a small transmitter (using a 6AG7, from the 1957 *Radio Amateur's Handbook*) that ran about 10 watts input. My radio shack was a 6'x6' corner of the basement, walled off with cardboard from refrigerator boxes.”

There is still time to submit YOUR How We Were photo. We are looking for the oldest picture of station with operator. The oldest will get a CWT hat, <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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The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals, groups, and organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) 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 is ***not*** limited to amateur radio operators and organizations.

Nomination

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to awards@cwops.org with a CC to secretary@cwops.org. In order to be considered, a nomination must be received by the publicized deadline and 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 Awards Committee ('Committee') is appointed by the CWops Board of Directors ('Board'). The members of the Committee choose their chairperson ('Chair') 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 will 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(s) or to return the recommendation(s) 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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CW Academy

[Rob K6RB](#), [Will WJ9B](#) and [Jerry AC4BT](#)

The September / October 2015 CW Academy (CWA) semester kicked off last week. In each of the last few semesters, CWA has continued to see enrollment growth and this semester is no exception. We have over 150 students actively enrolled! That is the most we've had at one time.

To address the increased sign-ups, CWA has added 10 new advisors this semester and seven Associate Advisors (AA's) assisting our advisors with their classes. The Associate Advisor training program continues to be masterfully run by Jack W0UCE.

Nine of the 10 new Advisors hail from the west coast and are graduates of Rob K6RB's Level III class. Many of these new Advisors have graduated CWA Level 1 through Level 3 programs and are now giving back to the CW community by volunteering as Level 1 advisors working with new students, building their CW skills and encouraging them on as they themselves were encouraged not that long ago.

CW mentoring is alive and well and prospering at CWops, which is what one would expect from a CW focused club! CWops is the only CW organization that has a volunteer program like this, one that is totally dedicated to introducing new hams to CW and providing a proven path to building and enhancing CW skills.

CWA currently has three programs: **Level 1** – Brand new Amateur operators with no experience and no prior knowledge of CW up to operators who can copy and send around 10 WPM. **Level 2** – CW operators who are around 10 WPM to 18 WPM who may be stuck at a certain speed and would like to improve to 20 WPM. And **Level 3** – CW operators who are around 18 WPM and up who want to get past 25 WPM and higher and want to improve their head-copy skills and begin using CW as a language.

Our Level 1 students are introduced to CW using a very structured and unique program. In addition to learning the CW alphabet, they are also introduced to contesting, DXing and begin having real QSOs towards the end of the semester. Our Level 2 students are taught head-copy skills and work towards unlearning bad CW habits and focusing on increasing their speed and CW comprehension.

Our Level 3 Master program builds on the Level 2 course by enhancing head-copy and copy-behind skills to take the student to a new level of proficiency using CW as a language.

The Level 2 and Level 3 classes incorporate active participation in the weekly CWTs as part of the curriculum. Many of our graduates of Level 2 and Level 3 who participate regularly in the CWTs have gone on to become new members of CWops. The students in both Levels 2 and 3 are also given weekly assignments that include participation in the CWA HF on the air program and are tasked with initially listening in on both sides of the QSOs on 7.035 and, as the course progresses, become active participants on 7.035 engaged in rag-chew type QSOs, further building and reinforcing their CW comprehension skills.

CW Academy is always looking for new Advisors to help us continue to provide and enhance these unique programs. If you have some free time, please consider joining us as a CWA Advisor. You'll find it is very rewarding helping others learn and improve their CW skills.

If you find that your time is limited and you are currently unable to commit to a regular eight week CWA semester, then consider joining the CWA HF program and devote as little as 15 or 30 minutes a week (or more!) getting on 7.035 in the evenings and having a QSO with CW operators who stop by. It's pretty simple. There is a CWops CWA HF calendar on the CWops site: <http://cwops.org/cwa-aota.html> showing the CWops members who are currently volunteering and the times and day(s) they are signed up for on 7.035 (+ / -). The calendar was started just to add some structure but **any** CWops member can get on **any time** you have some free time and have a QSO on 7.035 + /-.

We're very flexible and we just want to present other CW operators out there an opportunity for some good CW practice on the air. Many operators don't want or can't commit to the regular CW Academy semester schedules so this is a great opportunity for them to get on with a competent CWops member who will go at their pace and provide CW guidance.

We hope more CWops members will join us either as regular CWA Advisors (three semesters a year, beginning in January, April, and September) or as impromptu CWA HF advisors whenever time permits.

Please join us in our quest and help us promote our club and grow the CW community (now and into the future) at the same time!

73,

Jerry AC4BT

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

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

There have been some interesting conversations on the CWOps Yahoo group lately. If you aren't subscribed, you should consider joining the Yahoo group. You don't have to receive the postings as e-mails – you can opt out of the e-mails and just read the postings in the archives at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cwops/info>. [Or take a daily digest – Ed.]

While collecting data for the participation awards, I realized that by the time this newsletter is published there will have been over 10,000 CWT scores posted to <http://www.3830scores.com/> this year. By the end of the year, it looks as if we will be closing in on 15,000 score postings. For comparison, there were just under 1,500 scores posted to 3830scores for last year's CQ WW CW contest. Of course, that's comparing apples and oranges – actually, more like blueberries and watermelons (157 one-hour sessions vs. a single 48-hour contest) – but it's still a lot of scores posted, averaging close to 100 per session. The record for a CWT session so far is 120 score postings, for both the 1300Z and 1900Z sessions on August 26.

As of the beginning of September, 471 different people had posted at least one CWT score. Of those, 356 were CWOps members. That implies that there have been at least 115 non-members who not only took part, but also posted their scores. That's a good pool of potential new members.

Not everyone posts their scores, of course (although you might ask why not?), so the actual number of people playing in a CWT is somewhat higher than the number of scores posted. You probably won't be able to work them all, but it's not unusual for the most active stations to contact more than 100 different stations during a single session. The record so far is 113, established by N4AF in the August 26 1300Z session. That's not a total QSO count, just a count of the number of different call signs (multipliers) worked on any band.

With only a few exceptions (the special CWTs at CWA graduation times, and the week of the Dayton Hamvention), the top scoring station in every CWT session has been able to rack up at least 100 QSOs despite the vagaries of propagation conditions. The record QSO count for a single CWT session is 159, set by NW2K back on January 14.

Not all of us are gunning for a top score, of course. We don't all have the station equipment and antennas, the location (and propagation), the skills and ability, or just the inclination to do that. Each of us has his or her own reasons for taking part and sets his or her own personal goals. But in radiosport, our results are affected as much by the number of other stations available for us to work as by our own actions – it takes two to make a QSO – and the top scores reflect not only the accomplishments of the top scorers, but also the overall activity level.

As for the participation totals: As of the end of August we had held 103 CWT sessions. We have one member with a perfect attendance record: Will WJ9B had posted scores for all 103 sessions. Way to go, Will! Two-thirds of the way through the year, we have 28 members who are on track for a gold medal by the end of the year, 38 more participating at a silver medal rate, and another 35 heading for bronze.

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

73, *Rich* VE3KI

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CWops Awards

[Pete W1RM](#) and [Peter W1UU](#)

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	W AS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
F6HKA	634	3591	W1RM	154	N5RR	50	W1RM	45	W1RM	38
VE3KI	602	3409	F6HKA	129	W1RM	50	OH2BN	40	F6HKA	38
G4BUE	593	2561	W4VQ	126	W4VQ	50	F6HKA	40	G4BUE	37
N5RR	571	3549	OH2BN	112	F6HKA	50	N5RR	39	W4VQ	36
AA3B	536	4906	N5RR	106	W1UU	50	G4BUE	38	VE3KI	35
W1RM	532	3703	G4BUE	100	VE3KI	50	AA3B	37		
K6RB	474	3036	EA8OM	95	G4BUE	50	SM6CNN	37		
FG8NY	437	2455	SM6CNN	93	EA8OM	50	EA8OM	37		
W0VX	409	2371	VE3KI	92	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	37		
K1ESE	387	1891	K1ESE	91	FG8NY	50	VE3KI	36		
W9ILY	381	2259	AA3B	89	W6KY	50	FG8NY	35		
EA8OM	378	2529	EA1WX	88	N1EN	50	KR3E	34		
DL8PG	358	1559	DL8PG	86	AD1C	49	KZ5D	34		
W1UU	314	1764	W0VX	85	K6DGW	49	W9ILY	34		
N1EN	301	1676	W9ILY	84	GW0ETF	49	DL8PG	33		
KT5V	294	814	PA7RA	79	K1ESE	49	EA1WX	32		
F5MKN	288	1024	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	K1ESE	32		
NA6O	287	1051	N1EN	78	F5MKN	49	F5MKN	32		
K2ZC	284	551	FG8NY	76	W9ILY	49	W1UU	32		
W5ASP	256	893	AD1C	73	NA6O	49	PA7RA	31		
HB9ARF	251	493	KR3E	73	AA3B	49	W0VX	31		
4X6GP	223	867	W1UU	72	K6RB	48	N1EN	30		
W6KY	190	1701	N1ZX	70	KZ5D	48	NN6T	29		
GW0ETF	184	1451	F5MKN	68	NN6T	48	N1ZX	28		
G3YJQ	169	234	GW0ETF	67	DL8PG	48	GW0ETF	28		
G4DRS	166	310	NN6T	67	WB9G	48	AD1C	25		
N1ZX	143	940	K6RB	54	SM6CNN	48	JF2IWL	23		
G3XLG	140	201	W6KY	54	N1ZX	48	K6RB	23		
JF2IWL	129	798	4Z1UF	50	KT5V	48	4Z1UF	21		

PA7RA	128	1200		NA6O	50	KR3E	47	G4DRS	20			
AB7MP	128	349		WB9G	48	JF2IWL	47	WB9G	19			
W4VQ	118	2103		JF2IWL	47	EA1WX	46	HB9ARF	19			
EA1WX	104	1642		G4DRS	42	WX7SJ	46	G3YJQ	18			
N5PHY	100	100		W0EJ	36	K0DTJ	45	W6KY	16			
NN6T	97	1577		K6DGW	32	NU7Y	45	NA6O	16			
K6DGW	65	1328		KT5V	32	PA7RA	44	K2ZC	14			
NV9X	64	64		HB9ARF	29	AB7MP	44	KT5V	11			
KE6K	61	116		K2ZC	29	OH2BN	42	G3XLG	10			
W0EJ	51	754		G3YJQ	27	G4DRS	42	W0EJ	10			
NU7Y	18	329		K0DTJ	23	K2ZC	40	K6DGW	8			
KZ5D	0	3239		NU7Y	21	HB9ARF	40	G0DJA	7			
SM6CNN	0	2477		G3XLG	18	G3YJQ	37	W5TM	7			
N2UU	0	1774		AB7MP	14	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	6			
AD1C	0	1630		WT2P	14	WT2P	34	WT2P	4			
KR3E	0	1136		W5TM	11	W5TM	32	AB7MP	3			
PA4N	0	955		G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31					
OK1RR	0	893		KE6K	4	NV9X	27					
WB9G	0	888		NV9X	2	KE6K	17					
WX7SJ	0	610				G0DJA	8					
OH2BN	0	530										
K0DTJ	0	417										
W5TM	0	235										
WT2P	0	149										
G0DJA	0	23										
PA1FOX	0	5										

Congrats to Chris, G4BUE as the latest member of the CWops DXCC Club with 100 countries.

New Members

[Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

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

1486	I5EFO*	Emil
1487	XQ1KZ	Nick
1488	VA3SB*	Serge
1489	N5PHT*	Gary
1490	WC5W	Ike
1491	KB0R	Larry
1492	WB0TUA	Derek
1493	W8BG	Bill
1494	K4HR	Davy
1495	KB3ML	Paul
1496	NS8O	Greg
1497	KA0AAM*	Dwayne

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of September 7, 2015:

Need Sponsors: KF7GGN, N8BIZ, KM9R, W0XE, KP3W, KP4EJ

Invitations Extended: N4WO, AE1CW, LY5G, N9LGP

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

[John Huffman K1ESE](#)

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. Band conditions in August were quite poor and that is reflected in the second lowest QSO total of the year.

Here are the standings for the month of August:

<u>Call</u>	<u>August</u>
N5IR	64
K1ESE	60
K5YQF	56
WB6BEE	51
K5KV	51
AC4BT	43
K4AHO	42
K6HP	25
KB6NU	21
KC0VKN	17
N1ZX	11
K6RB	9
KE6OIO	7
JE1TRV	4
W3WHK	3
K0DTJ	1
I5EFO	1

Bill N5IR had another big month! While down from his big total in July, he again leads the pack. Your manager John K1ESE was second again. Cecil K5YQF moved up to third and our leader for the first half of the year Don WB6BEE fell victim to the poor conditions and was fourth.

Personal bests in June came only from K5YQF.

To compare with July, August had one fewer reporting station and 111 fewer QSOs.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5IR	561
WB6BEE	552
K5KV	459
K1ESE	394
K5YQF	350
N1ZX	305
K4AHO	279
AC4BT	234
KC0VKN	175
NN6T	172
K6HP	135
K6RB	129
KE6OIO	94
HB9CVQ	81
W6JMP	75
W3WHK	73
JE1TRV	51
KB6NU	46
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
WA8IWK	25
KE6K	19
K0DTJ	12
W5JQ	12
K8QI	10
IK0IXI	2
I5EFO	1
K3GHH/KL7	1
AB7MP	1
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR has taken the lead from Don WB6BEE. Don was ahead by four in July but now Bill has a lead of nine – neck and neck. Benny K5KV and I are well behind. Stay tuned to see how the September 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, K5YQF, and N1ZX are Silver. Bronze Medals have been

earned by K4AHO and AC4BT. All seem to be within striking distance of the next level. Four 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.

To quote last month's synopsis "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."

And as also mentioned last month, the state QSO parties are here again ... a full dozen over the next six weeks. Several of the "big names" are on the list of coming attractions. Of course the CalQP can be an awesome couple of days with Out-of-State QSO counts of 1,000 or more. The Texas QP may not reach these lofty levels but with 254 counties there's more than an adequate variety of mults. And the PA affair is a much beloved event "back East". 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.

Northern Cal, Straight Key, NA QRP and FISTS will all have their CW sprints running during the coming weeks.

The Classis Exchange, CW will be held on two days, Sunday, Sep. 20th and the following Tuesday, Sep. 22nd. It's unique in several ways. The emphasis is on the use of older commercial and homebrew equipment, though any rig may be used. Scoring gives the vintage gear a distinct advantage. Bonus points are awarded for the use of original Novice rigs, and such icons as WRL and

Hallicrafter equipment. You really need to check out the website to get the full flavor of this event. Dust off the "boat anchors" and have at it!

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER EVENTS

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/	1200Z, Sep 19 th to 1200Z, Sep 20 th
South Carolina QSO Party New Jersey QSO Party	1400Z, Sep 19 th to 0300Z, Sep 20 th 1600Z, Sep 19 th to 0359Z, Sep 20 th ; 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 20 th
Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z, Sep 19 th to 0700Z, Sep 20 th ; 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 20 th
Maine QSO Party Texas QSO Party	1200Z, Sep 26 th to 1200Z, Sep 27 th 1400Z, Sep 26 th to 0200Z, Sep 27 th and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 27 th
California QSO Party Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 rd to 2200Z, Oct 4 th 1600Z, Oct 10 th to 0600Z, Oct 11 th and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 11 th
Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 th to 0500Z, Oct 11 th and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11 th
Iowa QSO Party New York QSO Party South Dakota QSO Party Illinois QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 17 th 1400Z, Oct 17 th to 0200Z, Oct 18 th 1800Z, Oct 17 th to 1800Z, Oct 18 th 1700Z, Oct 18 th to 0100Z, Oct 19 th
NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 18 th 0230Z-0300Z, Sep 25 th 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 2 nd 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 9 th 0230Z-0300Z, Oct 16 th
SKCC Sprint SKCC Sprin http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	0000Z-0200Z, Sep 23 rd 1200Z, Oct 10 th to 2400Z, Oct 11 th
NAQCC CW Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint www.naqcc.info/	0030Z-0230Z, Sep 17 th 0030Z-0230Z, Oct 14 th
FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 3 rd 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10 th

Classic Exchange, CW

1300Z, Sep 20th to 0800Z, Sep 21st;
1300Z, Sep 22nd to 0800Z, Sep 23rd

<http://www.classicexchange.org/sep15/sep15ann.html>

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