



The Stunning Graciella Jr. from P. Begali

### CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

### CWops "neighborhood"

Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028,  
10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028,  
50.098

### CWops Officers and Directors

President: Rob Brownstein [K6RB](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

Webmaster: John Miller [K6MM](#)

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

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## President's Message

This has unquestionably been the hottest



summer in Santa Cruz, California in my 38 years of living here. Never having had, nor needing, an air conditioner in all that time, we have probably spent at least 20 evenings with indoor temperature in the mid-80s to 90

degrees Fahrenheit [27-32C]. Our ceiling fans got a good workout, but I'm not sure how much of a difference they made. An air conditioner may just be on my list of must haves for next year. One of the good things,

*[Continued on next page]*

though, is my backyard pool got up to swimming temperature on April 15 and stayed there right through early October. It's always good to look at the pluses and minuses, I think. It makes you less grumpy ☺.

In September we started our Sep-Oct semester of CW Academy and now it's half finished. Once again I am enjoying immensely advising a Level 2 and Level 3 group. In addition to the website based MP3 files that they practice with, I assign both of my groups to at least listen to CWTs and see how many call signs and exchanges they can copy. Some of them (K7MGR, WB6SEL, and K6ACQ, for example) even join the fun. I had to laugh, though, when two of them told me that they had at least one QSO where the other ham said "CWA?" How quickly we forget. CWA students who participate in CWT send "name" and "CWA" instead of S/P/C. Thankfully, most of us remember.

My station is almost back in action again here. I did manage to fix the 80 meter antenna problem but somehow precipitated an antenna switch problem. So for now I'm stuck on 20 and 40. Hopefully, that will be resolved very soon. I plan to use my hobbled setup, in any case, in CWTs, Texas QSO Party, and California QSO Party. Better to be on two bands than on no bands, I reckon.

Club leadership (officers, directors, and ambassadors) have been mulling over what, if anything, we need to be doing to encourage more folks to join CWops from places besides North America. So stay tuned for more discussion about that, later. Rich VE3KI is also toying with the idea of making the last session of CWT one hour earlier (0200Z instead of 0300Z). He is still in the mulling stage on that one.

Our ragchewing-orientated program, QTX, is doing just fine (thank goodness), so John, K1ESE, has not said anything about making changes. I know he would like to see more postings, and more participation, but QTX already blows every other organization's efforts away in terms of total hours spent in non-contest, non-DX-chasing use of our favorite mode. Every single point earned in QTX represents at least 20 minutes worth of chatting. So if someone racks up 600 points, that represents 200 hours of operation in non-contest and non-DX-chasing pursuit. I'm noticing more conversational QSOs these days and wonder if we are playing some small part (or large part) in that. I think so.

In the northern hemisphere, Fall has just begun and Winter will follow soon. For many of us, it means more time inside than outside. So let's put that time to good use. If you haven't tried CWT, give it a try. If you have been ragchewing but not posting your QTX points, try posting them. It's easy. If you'd like to help others gain improved CW skills, but don't have the time to be a CW Academy advisor, consider joining the ranks of those of us who are scheduling time on 40 meters, in the evenings, to just make QSOs at moderate speeds and give both our students and others practice at copying and sending.

That's my story for October, and I'm sticking to it.

73,

Rob K6RB

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## From the [Editor](#)



### Are You Club Logging?

Many of our members are active users of [Club Log](#), a tool for tracking DX and comparing results. You can compare your own DXCC standing with those of others in your various organizations, all the way from your local "DX Hoot'n Holler Society" to CWops itself. When I checked recently, CWops showed up in 12<sup>th</sup> place by a count of DXCC entities worked (264) and, curiously, also in 12<sup>th</sup> place by a count of member call signs recognized (192). That is a very dynamic position! You can also compare standings on various DXpedition leader boards, the tool I've used the most. For Club Log to be most meaningful, everyone in a club should sign on and upload their logs. Then it behaves sort of like a gentleman's Logbook of the World, without as much authentication mumbo jumbo. The author and his team have used the resulting database (many millions of records) for some pretty serious statistical analyses of propagation and operating trends. I've established myself as a user of the Web site but I don't show up as a CWops member, probably because I haven't uploaded any logs recently. YMMV, but it's certainly worth checking out.

It turns out that the author of Club Log is Michael Wells G7VJR, CWops #968, who was inducted recently into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in recognition of his Club Log accomplishments. He wrote an [article for \*Solid Copy\*](#) about how you can help CWops advance on Club Log. Note that if you last used Club Log more than 12 months ago, you need to opt back into its leagues to help CWops' standing. Michael explains this in detail in his article.

### Beer (!)

Now this item may seem a bit "OT" (off topic) for *Solid Copy* but I couldn't resist, so here is my justification: Back in the day, hams were notorious aficionados of beer. For example, in the 1960's, at my local radio club's huge Field Day operation, most members who were older than teenage me wore little, white, paper tags on their shirts that said "MILK." This gave them unlimited access to the keg that our beermeister maintained in an ice-filled tub on-site. Or consider that, on the air, invitations to get together for an "eyeball QSO" usually included mention of a "tall, cool 807," at least when the invitee was old enough to drink. And finally, some of us may actually have erected "beer can verticals," I suppose, although I never actually saw one. They probably went out of style when beer cans changed to aluminum. So, even though beer consumption at the N6XI Sierra Chapter BBQ and other radio events seems to be declining as attendees' ages increase and our capacities decrease, I am confident that at least half of my readers (both of you?) will [enjoy this article](#) on the effectiveness of various devices for keeping that cold one cold when the day gets hot. It's a long article and I must confess to having skimmed the middle portion, but don't miss the latter sections, especially "Food Fight" *ff*.

*[keep going]*

And speaking of that BBQ *chez moi*, it was an almost-annual convocation of the informally-named Sierra Chapter of NCCC and MLDXCC plus various friends and locals who don't join things. Here are the CWops members in attendance, clustered around the half-tower of my 1.5 Tower station:



**L-R: K6RB, K6DGW, K2RD, KU7Y, N6XI, K6NV, K9JM, K5RC  
at the NCCC "Sierra Chapter" BBQ, 11 October 2015**

**And finally, ...**

Bill W2BLC has maintained the excellent telegraphy Web site <http://www.radiotelegraphy.net/> for a long time. He writes, however, that "The time has come in my life to simplify things, so the site is for sale - only to a good home. Sale price is very negotiable, however, the buyer must have a demonstrated serious interest in the site's subject. I just do not wish to see the collection of information lost." I don't either! If anyone out there is interested in taking it on, please contact Bill at [w2blc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:w2blc@nycap.rr.com).

*[There's more...]*



And last but not least is this inspiring photo of the 5/5 20M stack at OK1DIG:



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 Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

*This is a column where members can report their activities, happenings and achievements, both radio-related and personal. Please send brief notes to Jerry AC4BT at [jweisskohl@gmail.com](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com).*

### **CWops Members' Call Sign changes:**

**Mike W4AAW:** (ex-W0YR) new call sign is W4AAW.

**Tucker W4FS:** (ex-KK4UNZ) new call sign is W4FS.

**Jean FG8NY :** Hello everyone. This is to inform all my CWT friends that you will no longer hear FG8NY on the air. Indeed, after four very good years in Guadeloupe, I have just been transferred to France. Look for me on the air with the call F6JOE after I get a chance to install and bring up my new station. I hope to be back on the air soon.

**Emil I5EFO:** The month of October for I5EFO represents the beginning of a special activity: the use of the band of 630m, namely the frequencies from 472 to 479 kHz. Here is the URL to an ARRL article about the new frequencies: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/fcc-proposes-to-permit-amateur-access-to-2200-and-630-meters>.

In fact, just last evening 28 September, Lee M0LMH heard my digital signal 886 miles (1426 km) away and I made a CW QSO with Willi DK6SX, 350 miles (563 km) away. I know that on these frequencies in the US there are already experimental stations (i.e. WG2XKA and others) and that maybe this year will be authorized in all ordinary (they may already be legal when I write: please inquire for those interested). Certainly these frequencies are not suitable for the CWT, but may be appropriate for QTX. I use a 35 ft. (10.7 m) wire antenna coupled to TX (1 W e.r.p.) with the variometer visible in my QRZ.com.

**Ted K2QMF:** Attached is a picture of me at our club Field Day site in 1968! I was 26 then. The club name was Inter County ARC. Next to me was my mentor Len W2JSL, now SK. I'm on the left. It was a cold and damp Saturday night at the site as I recall. We were on the night shift.



**Gary NA6O:** At long last, I have a usable 80m antenna. It's been a big struggle for four years trying to cram in something functional on my little lot with CC&R Nazis on the prowl. It's a low (5m up, like my fan dipole), invisible, bent dipole, and loaded at one end, but it tunes well and does not set off my neighbor's sprinkler system! So look for me in CWTs and of course I will be blasting away during the CA QSO Party.

Also got a new bug, a 1938 McElroy Deluxe, on which I've done some restoration per the W4PAL book. The pendulum axle is a disaster and needs replacing. I just got some drill rod, so I'll drive the old one out and make a better one. I have been using it on the air a bit but it's hard to adjust as-is.

AND... I'm on long-term vacation pending retirement Dec 1. Sure is nice to be able to work

DXpeditions any time of day. W6SX pointed out one disadvantage of retirement: "You never get a day off." Well, I'll drink to that.

**Geoff KA1IOR:** I have an Acom 1000A amp, and I began having trouble with it tripping out a while back. I was very disappointed at this development, and reverted to my Collins 30L-1, which has served me cheerfully and unwaveringly since the day I bought it in the 1980's. The 30L-1 has occasionally needed one of its four 811 tubes replaced, but it's easy to see this problem just looking at the amp when it's on.

But what I didn't realize was that the ACOM AMP WASN'T THE REAL PROBLEM. What was actually happening was that the amp was politely refusing to work with and amplify my deteriorating TS-850's signal and PTT switching control voltages, and the 850 was on its way into what eventually became a clear full-failure mode, with ALL components of the display lighting up at power-on, and no RX audio. But my experience had been: AMP DIES, THEN RIG DIES... very disillusioning. I was now reduced to a TS-430 with no computer interface. While I remember fondly the days of logging without a computer interface, one tends not to be enthusiastic if contesting and operating in general becomes more drudgery than we know it needs to be.

But this is where the power of **CWops group support** turned it back around. Greg W1KM (#1411) knew my '850 was dead and offered to do a M/S effort for a contest with me at my station using his K3. And because he asked "What's up with your amp though? Does it still work?" I replied, "I don't expect it to, but we'll at least give it a try." So when we hooked up his K3 to the Acom amp, I was very pleasantly surprised to find that it worked just fine! And that is when it all became clear in my mind what had actually happened. So I guess the lesson for me is, if you experience a failure, be sure to do some fact-checking on what EXACTLY is causing the failure. I could have asked Greg to bring his rig over and do just that check more than a YEAR earlier... :-[

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## CW Academy Programs

The CWops CW Academy provides free CW instruction to the Ham community through several programs. Our **traditional CW Academy virtual classroom program** is in session three times a year: January/February, April/May, and September/October. Classes meet two times a week for eight weeks (Total of 16 sessions) on-line using Skype. CW Academy currently offers Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 courses. Please visit the CW Academy Web page for more information about the program including how to sign-up: <http://cwops.org/cwacademy.html>.

CW Academy needs additional Advisors to address the huge sign-up response to our programs. If you are a CWops member, please consider serving as a CW Academy Advisor helping others learn CW and keeping our CW alive and well into the future. Interested CWops members can send me an email for more information ([jweisskohl@gmail.com](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com)).

For Hams who are unable to commit to a full traditional 8-week program, we offer the **CW Academy HF program**. CW Academy Advisors are available on HF (40 Meters 7.035 +/-) throughout the week (evenings) to have QSOs/rag chews in an informal setting with anyone who

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

Our goal is to get enough CWops members who have some spare time to provide a global opportunity to improve CW skills for any CW operator interested in doing so. 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 QSO’s as time permits. If 7.035 is in use, then just go up a little to 7035.50 or 7036 etc.

We try to keep the speed around 20 wpm as there are many operators who are in listening mode and haven’t mustered the courage yet to answer the CQ. We want them also to be able to follow along with the QSO.

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

73,

*Jerry* AC4BT

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## **DX Vacation to Jamaica**

**by Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT**

Around this time last year I started planning a DX Vacation to the Caribbean for the summer of 2015. This is where you operate CW while also enjoying the sights and relaxing atmosphere of a Caribbean vacation. I had previously been to the US Virgin Islands and had a great time so was looking forward to a similar experience. The Caribbean has so many islands to visit, beautiful climates and relaxing surroundings, so it is hard to go wrong picking a vacation spot, it’s “all good.”

With a little bit of searching I stumbled upon Josh Walker’s 6Y5WJ QRZ.com page. I knew Josh only from the many QSOs we’ve had on HF CW. I’ve worked Josh on all bands 10 - 80 and found him to be very friendly, always taking the time to say a few words instead of the quick “5nn tu” that you usually hear from the DX stations.

Josh, a member of CWops and of FOC, is an accomplished and skilled CW operator who attracts a huge pile-up whenever he gets on the air from Jamaica. Josh sends at about 30 wpm and is a very cheerful, easy-going guy whose friendly personality comes out even in CW. If you’re in his log and work him again on another band, you’re sure to get a personalized greeting as Josh takes a few minutes break from working the pile-up to acknowledge you and to give you his best wishes. If you can keep up with his CW you can easily find yourself in a mini rag-chew with Josh as the pile-up patiently waits!

Josh offers accommodations at his “Other Side of the Pile-up” QTH for an extended stay and offers an opportunity to operate as the DX using his nicely outfitted 6Y5WJ station. There’s ample room for four people to operate the station with several bedrooms available for sleeping arrangements.



I contacted Josh via email and received a quick reply written with a British flair (Josh spent many years in the UK) and after a few informational exchanges I booked a week during July 2015 to come down. Josh provided me with all the information I needed, including how to apply for a Jamaican Reciprocal Amateur Radio License, which was very easy to do.

The airfare was very reasonable from the East Coast of the States and I quickly purchased the air tickets into Kingston, Jamaica. There are two main airports in Jamaica. One is Kingston and the other is Montego Bay. I flew into Kingston with the idea of staying overnight, doing a little sightseeing and then renting a car and driving out to Josh's place. Josh's QTH is a couple of hours drive from either airport. You can also make arrangements for Josh to pick you up at either airport and drive you to his QTH. Being adventurous, my YL Margy and I decided to rent a car and do the 2 ½ hour drive to Josh's place while touring the Jamaican countryside.

Here I should state that nobody warned me about how fast the Jamaicans drive and all the car horn honking they do, not to mention that the steering wheel was on the 'wrong' side and everyone but me was driving like a maniac! Not having a prescription for Valium or other nerve relaxing drugs, I nevertheless, hands shaking, set forth on our journey to St. Elizabeth's Parish where Josh's QTH is located.

Luckily for me I had the foresight to rent a GPS along with the rental car and that kept me on course. I had arranged with Josh that when I got to the general St. Elizabeth's area someone would meet us at a nearby gas station and drive us the rest of the way to his QTH. We arrived on time at the agreed destination and were soon met by Josh's lovely wife Jenny who escorted us to their place.

There were no road signs and the houses had no numbers on them and I soon saw the wisdom of having someone escort us in. Josh's QTH offers a panoramic view of the countryside and is about 2200 feet (670 m) above sea level, perfect conditions for ham radio! The house and its surrounding area were breathtaking and calm inducing at the same time. If you lead a hectic life style or work in a pressure filled environment, Josh's QTH is the perfect remedy. The moment you set foot on the property a calm washes over you and like the Wizard of Oz movie with Dorothy and Toto, you know you're "not in Kansas anymore!"

The temperature during the summer months doesn't get below 70F (21C). Each day, you're presented with the same perfect weather – sunny, perfect blue skies with temps reaching into the 90's (mid-30s C).

Josh's shack includes several radios (Kenwood, Yaesu), a five band quad, inverted L's for 80 and 160 and a vertical for 40, two Beverage antennas along with a couple of amplifiers. When I arrived, Josh was planning on adding a Spiderbeam to the antenna farm.

When applying for an Amateur Reciprocal license you have the option to apply for a special 6Y5 call sign which is what I will do next time I visit. This time I operated as AC4BT/6Y5, a lot to key each time between QSO's. I operated the 6Y5WJ station for about two hours a day in the evenings, sometimes longer. At the end of the week I had logged 1,800 CW QSOs and worked over 150 countries on 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, and 80 Meters.



I am not a Contester but just someone who enjoys CW as a casual operator, a bit of rag-chewing and chasing DX. Working as the DX from a popular DX country was an eye-opener for me. From the time I turned on the rig till the last day of my stay there was a “wall” of never-ending callers. I started off slowly as I was having problems with the key I brought and ended up using one of Josh’s keys, which took a while to get used to. It also took about a day to get acclimated to handling the huge volume of callers. Once I got used to it and was able to manage I was having a great time. I remember telling Josh one night, after successfully battling the huge pile-up on 20 meters, that I was going to try 40 Meters CW next. He looked at me carefully and asked “... are you sure you want to try 40?” I said “sure, let’s go for it!” Needless to say, the resulting pile-ups on 40 were more intense than on 20 meters but again it was great fun taking each call, dodging the hecklers and picking up the weak signals from the modest stations that didn’t use an amp.

Josh provided a great deal of sage advice on dealing with the pile-ups and had his headset on listening as I was working them. You could see the excitement on Josh’s face as he would shout “Pick up the ZL!, pick up the ZL!” and his grin when I worked the station. When I was buried in calls, Josh would smile and say “Now you see what I go through every night!” and he would disappear into the kitchen to fetch a couple of cold beers. Josh showed me how best to utilize the beverage antennas to hear the weak ones better. One evening we were trying to work through a major solar storm. We went down to 80 meters where the noise level was over S9, but by using the Beverage antennas we were able to work a few Europeans and Stateside stations. Most of the time it would take eight or nine tries to get their complete call but it felt great when I finally put them into the log. Josh and I would go back and forth trying to figure out what the station’s call sign was because you could hardly hear anything and then by luck the noise would die down just a bit to where you could clearly hear the missing call letters. Lot’s of fun!

During the daytime we went sightseeing and Josh and his wife Jenny served as our tour guides showing us the many beautiful sights of the island. We went to Treasure Beach, water parks, toured the Jamaican Rum Distillery, enjoyed scenic drives through the mountains, etc. Having Josh and Jen

with us opened up many doors as we were not treated as Tourists and everywhere we went the locals recognized Josh and his wife, welcoming us with open arms.

Josh's accommodations include room and board and two meals a day. Jenny is an outstanding cook and we were treated to homemade gourmet Jamaican dishes. Many of the fruits we were served I had never seen before. All were delicious. Some of the fruit had a pit that comprised 75% of the fruit but I was delighted to find the remaining fruit had a wonderful taste. Some of the fruit came with the warning "Don't get any of that on your clothes. It stains and won't come out!" but in all cases, the fruit was great. Locals grow a variety of fruit and vegetables on their property and then share them with their neighbors. In this manner, everyone gets a variety of items as different fruits and vegetables are exchanged with each other.

After spending one day at the beach we went to a local outdoor restaurant. You can see the fishermen catching the fish in their nets and then bringing them back on the small boats that were used. The freshly caught fish were then placed into a cooler where they were literally flopping around. You then got to choose which fish you wanted and it was cooked up, boiled or fried, to perfection. I selected a Red Snapper and had it boiled with spices and vegetables. It was the best fish I ever tasted.

The part of Jamaica that Josh lives in is in the mountains on the west side of the Island and not surrounded by tourists. There are no neighboring hotels. By staying with Josh you are experiencing Jamaica as a local does. This is a very unique experience to "live" Jamaica as the locals do. You wouldn't have the same experience if you stayed in Kingston in one of the hotels.

Living in this beautiful area you can't help but notice the precise order of nature. Everything has a purpose and everything is in harmony. You'll see cows grazing and sitting on top of them are a beautiful bird species and it turns out the purpose of the birds is to pick the insects off the cows. Everywhere you look you see this connection with nature where there is a purpose for every living thing. Here in the States we no longer see this. Many of our rivers and streams have been polluted by run-off chemicals and oil spills. In contrast, the beautiful mountainside of Jamaica remains untouched and beautiful.

I highly recommend experiencing this part of the World for yourself. Combining the trip with operating ham radio from the DX side is an added bonus and an experience not to be missed. Josh and Jenny are great hosts and offer a unique experience that can't be found anywhere else. You'll go home with a newfound respect for Mother Nature and a wealth of fond memories.

What a great vacation!

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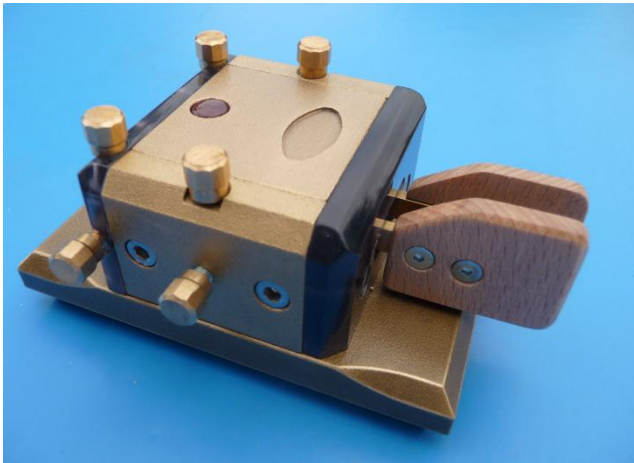
# The ZACH Magnetic Iambic Paddle

by Martin Kratoška, OK1RR

I had the pleasure to be a beta tester of the new magnetic iambic paddle, manufactured by Slavek OK1TN.

I am a happy owner of an original Mercury by N2DAN (#095 from 5/96). Almost 20 years of daily use of this unusual key affected my look on other keys and paddles. Although I can play almost any paddle, no matter if single or dual lever, I am known to be very critical to almost every paddle construction. My operating habits are very usual with palm edge and pinkie fixed to the operating desk, the paddle is manipulated with thumb and index finger. I prefer bigger, heavier paddles well seated on my operating desk.

The ZACH Magnetic Iambic Paddle summary: Short arms with a 1:1 leverage ratio, made from a lightweight alloy, four precision 624Z ball bearings, 925/000 silver contacts, finely adjustable contact gaps, magnetically controlled return force (repelling neodymium magnets used). Micro-threaded screws with position fixed using another security screw are used for all adjustments.



This twin lever iambic paddle is manufactured using NC machinery for excellent precision. The base is a solid (3.937" x 2.362" x 0.393", 2.2 pound) chunk of brass, topped with sanded finish, patina and a protective coating. This key uses fully encapsulated construction, a separate block of 1.574 x 1.574 x 1.181" houses all mechanical elements. Contacts and bearings are completely protected from dust and moisture. There are no separate posts to hold the precision adjustments for the contact gap and the magnetic tension – just one block of

metal which will not vibrate no matter how hard you hit the paddles, and which won't slide around on your table. The connection is accomplished with a cable with a standard, flat USB connector. An oval insert plate with engraved call sign is a standard option (to be placed into the oval slot on the top). The ZACH Magnetic Iambic Paddle comes in a neat custom made wooden case with cable and two (1/4" and 1/8") jacks.

I was quite surprised with the smooth action and precise control of the arm movement. The adjustment is very easy, all adjustable parts can be fixed in position with a security screw, resulting in adjust-and-forget state. It is also easy to adjust a very low return force. The lightweight arms with reduced angular momentum do not exhibit any vertical movement. While operated, the paddle produces only a little noise but has very nice tactile feedback, similar to finest Begali paddles. The tested initial





version had big, thick and edgy acrylate finger pieces which are now replaced with wooden, custom made finger pieces with pleasant to touch surfaces. Although the paddle is not extremely heavy, it sits very well on the operating desk.

Nice, professional look with a slight accent on the “tech” aspect, hardly measurable contact closing resistance (even with my Fluke 289), insensitivity to temperature changes and mechanical shock, mechanical robustness, and corrosion resistance are the characteristics of the ZACH Magnetic Iambic Paddle. And all at very competitive price!

For more details, see <http://www.lc-variable.eu/index.php/morse-keys> .

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## How We Were – KU7Y

by [Hank W6SX](#)

We have a winner. Ron KU7Y submitted the oldest picture of station with operator. Here's Ron's story.



This is a picture of W6JXO taken in late 1952. It is the only picture I have from those days. It sure brings back memories. I was born in '36 so I would have been 16 in that picture. Second year of high school, 170 lbs, 6' 2". Still 6' 2" but was 213 lbs this morning! :-)

I got my first license, WN6JXO, in December of 1951. The upgrade to General was done, as best I can remember, in about February of 1952. I am holding an ARRL handbook, trying to understand how these magic radios really work... and I'm still trying to understand that!

The operating table has a set of ear phones on it and a Vibroplex bug. I never did like a hand key and still don't. The receiver sitting on top of the home made rack, above the ARC 5's, is an old Firestone AM/Shortwave unit that the folks used to use. It was a big floor model console. Notice the push buttons for changing to preset stations. I bet many of you young folks have never seen such things! I got it when they got one of those fancy table model



radios. That is what I was using when I first heard some hams talking on 75m AM. I asked Dad what that was and all he knew was that they were ham radio operators.

A few days later I noticed two guys at school that had Levi jackets on with call letters on the back. Ken W6DPL and Bob W6KHK (SK). They were looking at a little 40m CW rig one of them had made that all fit in a wooden cigar box. I started chatting with them and they told me how to get a license. They wrote out the code on a scrap of paper, .- = A, -... = B and etc. Told me to tune down in frequency just a little bit from those 75m AM guys and I would find the new Novice band with some slow CW. They also gave me one of their old handbooks which is the one I reading. A few days later I was telling them how I was able to copy most of what the slower guys were sending and mentioned the "whooshing" sound I heard. They starting laughing and told me I needed a BFO. They said to borrow my sister's AM/Phono radio, set it on top of the Firestone, turn it on with the volume down and tune it until I heard a "beat" note. Bingo, now I could hear a real tone! The problem was that both those radios were very unstable and I had to keep a hand on each tuning knob to keep the tone from drifting away. So I learned to copy in my head because I only had 2 hands! It didn't take long before I went down to the FCC in Los Angeles and passed the then new, good for 1 year, non renewable Novice license. Wheeeeeee! Then came that LONG wait for the license to arrive in the mail. I did manage to buy a BFO transformer and rig that up in that old Firestone. I was now in tall cotton!

Just above my head is a little 80M rig I made during that time. It started as just a 6AG7 oscillator but soon added a 6V6 amp. I finally got my license and every day after school I'd work Art WN6DKB and talk for hours, only taking a break for dinner! Dad took me to Surplus Sam's in Los Angeles and bought me the ARC 5's. We built that rack, put the power supply in the bottom and the RX and TX at the top. I was now W6JXO and using a VFO on 40M. Starting playing chess on 40M CW with Lee W6MNN. He always beat me! Fun stuff. Lee wound up in Reno, NV and we met after all those years.

All the parts for building things came from old radios and later old TVs. Most any radio repair shop had lots of junk "stuff" they were more than happy to give to a kid! The bug was given to me by Les W6MBV but he would not let me take it home until I could use it to send good CW. That took a couple of weeks. He would set me down with a phone book and tell me to start sending. He would offer a little tip now and then. It seemed like forever before he smiled and said to take it home! A true Elmer.

You can see the antenna wires running out the window. Just had wires going to some trees, no idea how long they were. Just long enough to go from the radios to some different trees. Didn't know anything about SWR back in those days. Living on the top of a high hill didn't hurt!

After high school I went into the Army (ASA). I was stationed in Germany and became DL4RF. Used several BC610s on the ham bands. Working all that DX was a blast. I even worked a couple of guys from Los Angeles and they ran phone patches to the folks. That was always fun.

After getting out of the Army I got married and started a family. Was inactive for several years. We moved to Idaho and I became N7CRV, still General class. But when I got back on the air I found that things had changed a lot. As a General, I could no longer use the

bottom 25 Kcs of 40M. So I took the Amateur Extra test and was given KU7Y which I still hold.

I still chat with Ken, ex-W6DPL. He is no longer licensed and lives in Canada. We use both email and Skype and relive some of those memories.

Wow! Thank you Ron for sharing and bringing back memories. Ham radio is such a great hobby!

For submitting the oldest photo of station with operator Ron wins either a CWops hat

<http://www.cafepress.com/CWops.428797852> or a CWops thong

<http://www.cafepress.com/CWops.428797849> . Which will it be OM?

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

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## How to Help CWops on Club Log

by Michael Wells G7VJR

Whenever I introduce Club Log I like to remark that Club Log is all about clubs – the clue is in the name! To me, being a member of a club means I have an affinity to it and its members. Unlike the vast population of radio amateurs in the world, I know people in my club and we have something in common. So for this reason I designed Club Log to make special arrangements for clubs – and clubs like CWops are the perfect example.

When you are a member of CWops in Club Log, you can generate league tables just for members of the club. You can compare activity between your peers in the club, which is generally more dynamic than the ARRL DXCC standings and can be filtered by different dimensions (e.g. Last 12 months, CW only, and that kind of thing). My personal favorite for a large club like CWops is to count only the last 12-month period as follows:

### DXCC Leagues

The leagues are rebuilt once per day. Only callsigns active in the last 12 months are included in the league tables. The maximum size of a league is 2500 participants.

<input checked="" type="radio"/> No Mode Filter	<input type="radio"/> CW	<input type="radio"/> Phone	<input type="radio"/> Data
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rank by DXCCs	<input type="radio"/> Rank by slots	Rank by band: Totals ▾	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 160M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 80M <input type="checkbox"/> 60M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 40M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10M <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6M			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current entities	<input type="radio"/> Current and deleted	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Worked	<input type="radio"/> Confirmed
<input type="radio"/> No Date Filter	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2015	<input type="radio"/> 2014	<input type="radio"/> Last 12 months
Filter by club/continent:	CWops - The CW Operators' Club ▾		

This gives you some good info. Perhaps you will start a friendly rivalry? Even if you just browse the league like this, it is the high level of activity on the bands that CWops members maintain that is striking. That's what it's all about! Look at these astonishing achievements by CWops members in the past 12 months:

Rank	Callsign	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	DXCC ▼	Slots	Range
1	K9CT <sup>+1</sup> ★	85	137	190	55	218	46	218	57	216	16	275	1238	48 yrs
2	K3PA <sup>+3</sup>	51	125	159	39	195	68	186	56	134	8	274	1021	43 yrs
3	W1JR	40	76	124	72	168	108	151	95	164	22	270	1020	63 yrs
4	K0VXU ★	37	60	133	46	221	83	207	60	188	0	264	1035	55 yrs
5	F5IN	90	142	204	0	232	0	234	0	226	0	263	1128	12 yrs
6	MD0CCE <sup>+2</sup> ★	67	115	109	111	206	155	195	144	176	54	258	1332	11 yrs
7	W4HG <sup>+4</sup>	9	56	125	60	164	89	130	92	131	1	258	857	60 yrs
8	R6AF <sup>+4</sup>	55	105	180	126	190	165	196	111	168	0	255	1296	38 yrs
9	K6XT	17	73	125	67	157	54	159	64	155	1	255	872	49 yrs
10	W9ILY <sup>+8</sup>	31	21	69	19	135	49	191	45	181	13	251	754	48 yrs

There is one more important detail. Club Log provides a league table of the clubs themselves. This league table is essentially a DXCC scoreboard, but the **combined totals of club members** are used to show how CWops is doing **compared to other large clubs**.

As we are all proud to be active on the bands, I am sure you will be keen to know how CWops sits on this league. As of today the league table looks like this, with CWops in 14<sup>th</sup> position.

(<https://secure.clublog.org/clubchart.php>):

Position	Club Name	Callsigns*	Years QRV	DXCCs
1	<a href="#">TCDXA - Twin City DX Association</a>	34	32	294
2	<a href="#">CDXA - Carolina DX Association</a>	53	32	294
3	<a href="#">WVDXA - West Virginia DX Association</a>	32	30	293
4	<a href="#">LSDXA - Lone Star DX Association</a>	38	29	292
5	<a href="#">DXXE - Grupo DXXE</a>	16	18	287
6	<a href="#">FRC - Frankford Radio Club</a>	49	29	281
7	<a href="#">KCDX - Kansas City DX Club</a>	28	26	275

Position	Club Name	Callsigns*	Years QRV	DXCCs
8	<a href="#">SDXF - Swiss DX Foundation</a>	18	19	271
9	<a href="#">GMCC - Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado</a>	18	29	271
10	<a href="#">YODXC - YO DX Club</a>	18	22	267
11	<a href="#">SDXA - Spokane DX Association</a>	16	24	266
12	<a href="#">SPDXC - SP DX Club</a>	74	21	266
13	<a href="#">ACG - Alabama Contest Group</a>	20	29	264
<b>14</b>	<b><a href="#">CWops - The CW Operators' Club</a></b>	<b><a href="#">193</a></b>	<b><a href="#">25</a></b>	<b><a href="#">259</a></b>
15	<a href="#">SFDXA - South Florida DX Association</a>	26	29	258
16	<a href="#">EUDXF - European DX Foundation</a>	60	20	257
17	<a href="#">SCDXC - Southern California DX Club</a>	48	27	256
18	<a href="#">NIDXA - Northern Illinois DX Association</a>	32	27	255
19	<a href="#">599DXA - 599 DX Association</a>	21	20	255
20	<a href="#">MDXC - Mediterraneo DX Club</a>	119	15	252

There are 193 callsigns in the CWops league table, making it the largest club in the top 20 by a considerable margin. However, this is not indicative of the full membership. It is also the case that some members who are listed in CWops on Club Log are not contributing to the club's standings as their logs have become dormant, and are therefore not counted.

**CW Ops could probably gain a few places if more members participated.**

Now I'd like to provide some instructions so that any CWops members who feel that their log would help the club's standings can make arrangements – whether they are new members or existing members with a dormant login that could use a refresh.

**If you've never used Club Log before...**

No problem! It's free. You'll need to sign up, which takes a few minutes. Here's how.

Start by clicking the “register new account” link on the homepage of clublog.org.

## Login To Club Log

Welcome to Club Log, a free web-based tool for producing DXCC league tables, e  
Please login using the form below. You will need to enable cookies in your browse

Login Form	
Email or callsign:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
	<input type="button" value="Login Now"/> <input type="button" value="Register new account"/>

This will send you to <https://secure.clublog.org/signup.php> if you prefer to enter it manually.

You'll be asked to provide your name and email address, choose a password and enter a number from a list of digits (this is to stop automated “bots” signing up).

Here's an example:

Sign Up To Club Log	
Your Full Name:	<input type="text" value="Michael Wells"/>
Your Email Address:	<input type="text" value="michael@g7vjr.org"/>
Choose a password: <i>Minimum 5 characters, with a least one number</i>	<input type="password" value="....."/>
Confirm your password:	<input type="password" value="....."/>
Enter the third number from this sequence: <b>4 2 <u>5</u> 2 0 7 1 4</b>	<input type="text" value="5"/> (This helps prevent automated abuse)
<i>Make sure your email address is correct - you will receive a message you need to complete the registration</i>	<input type="button" value="Sign Up Now"/> <input type="button" value="Reset the form"/>

When you submit this form, Club Log will send you another random number by email. You'll need it to complete the sign up process. It proves that you own the email address, which is important for security. I am sure you will have no difficulty in completing this step – about 35,000 users have already done so! But do make sure your spam filter doesn't block Club Log.

Once you have logged into your new account there are three tasks to complete.

## Step 1: Add your callsign

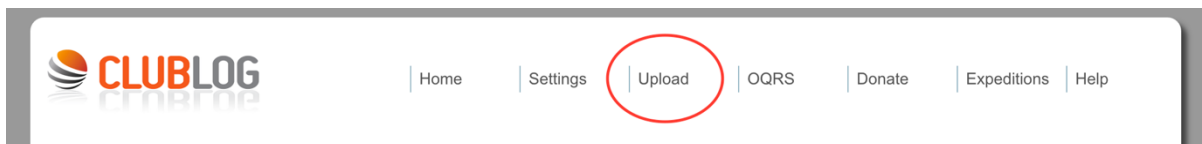


Adding your callsign is a simple matter. (In case you don't see it, just click '**Settings**' and go to "**Callsigns**." I tend to write this as **Settings > Callsigns**) You can add as many callsigns as you like on this page.

If you have multiple callsigns in the same DXCC entity, you can also link them together for DXCC credit (**Settings > Linking**).

## Step 2: Upload your log

You will need an ADIF from your computerized log. I'm afraid we haven't yet invented a way to import paper logs! Your ADIF (or indeed multiple ADIFs if you have many logs) can be uploaded by clicking "**Upload**" in the top menu of Club Log.

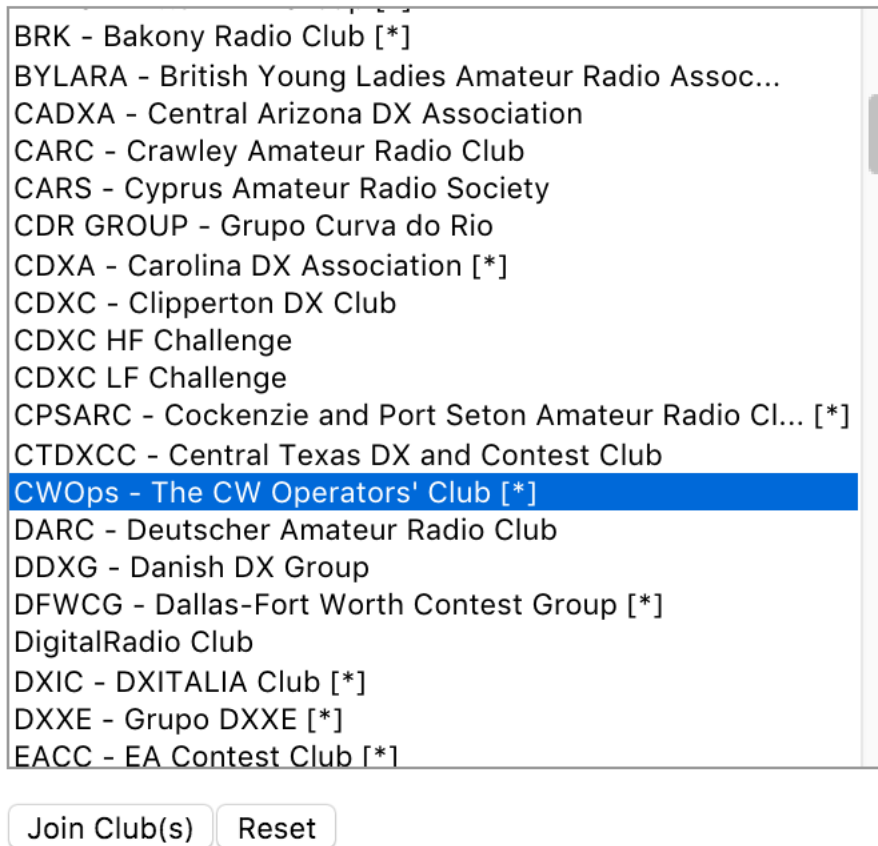


Follow the instructions to transfer your log (and be aware Club Log might email you some corrections if there are problems with the DXCC claims in your log – please don't take it the wrong way, everyone gets some corrections and almost all of them are due to faulty logging software rather than the guy with the headphones on).

## Step 3: "Join" the CWops club

Click **Settings > Clubs** and look for CWops in the list of clubs. Click the **'Join Clubs'** button to complete the task. You can do this while you wait for your upload to process, by the way.

## Join More Clubs



BRK - Bakony Radio Club [\*]  
BYLARA - British Young Ladies Amateur Radio Assoc...  
CADXA - Central Arizona DX Association  
CARC - Crawley Amateur Radio Club  
CARS - Cyprus Amateur Radio Society  
CDR GROUP - Grupo Curva do Rio  
CDXA - Carolina DX Association [\*]  
CDXC - Clipperton DX Club  
CDXC HF Challenge  
CDXC LF Challenge  
CPSARC - Cockenzie and Port Seton Amateur Radio Cl... [\*]  
CTDXCC - Central Texas DX and Contest Club  
**CWops - The CW Operators' Club [\*]**  
DARC - Deutscher Amateur Radio Club  
DDXG - Danish DX Group  
DFWCG - Dallas-Fort Worth Contest Group [\*]  
DigitalRadio Club  
DXIC - DXITALIA Club [\*]  
DXXE - Grupo DXXE [\*]  
EACC - EA Contest Club [\*]

Join Club(s) Reset

**Clubs marked [\*] will require manual approval before you can join.**

That's it – you're done: You've signed up to Club Log, added your callsign, uploaded your log and "joined" CWops.

Wait a few days for your membership to be approved, and you're now supporting CWops on Club Log. **Congratulations – and thank you!**

## If you have a dormant account...

You're not alone. Since Club Log's inception in 2008 many have signed up and then forgotten that their login exists (or have other priorities like making QSOs). If you are one of these people you can still access your account and upload a log, but you'll need to recover your login and "unhide" your callsigns. Here's how to do that.

## Step 1: Get logged in again

If you already know your password, it will still be on the system and you can just login by entering your callsign on the login page.

Login Form	
Email or callsign:	<input type="text" value="G7VJR"/>
Password:	<input type="password" value="....."/>
<input type="button" value="Login Now"/> <a href="#">Register new account</a>	

You can also enter your email address if you prefer (as used when you first registered).

You might now see a message that says “Sorry, that does not seem to be a valid login.” In this case, either you don’t have an account or you have the wrong password. Either situation results in the same warning, but I recommend trying to signup as a new user if you are not sure which it is.

If you can’t remember your password, there is a message in a red box just under the login box which is there to help you out – it offers you a password reset. If you prefer, you can go directly to this link: <https://secure.clublog.org/reminder.php>.

Login Form	
Email or callsign:	<input type="text"/>
Password:	<input type="password"/>
<input type="button" value="Login Now"/> <a href="#">Register new account</a>	

If you have registered a Club Log account but cannot remember your password, please [click here to reset your password](#).

After receiving a password reset code in your email, you’ll be able to choose a new password and login. If you get stuck: Don’t worry, it happens!

1. If the password reset tool doesn’t recognize you, then it’s probably time to create a new account (instructions further back in this article).

2. There is one other situation which regularly causes problems. This is where you registered in the past using an old email address that you no longer use, and can't get the password reset information as a result. If that is blocking you, please don't worry. Send me an email and I'll clear it up for you (or you can use our friendly helpdesk – click **'Help'** for that).

Let's assume you do get logged in. Now you have a small amount of housekeeping to do.

## Step 1 – Check you are a Club Log member of CWops

First, make sure you're a member of the CWops club. Use **Settings > Clubs** to check. Look for CWops in the list of clubs. If you're not a member, request membership now and don't forget, CWops requests all get manually approved so there will be a short delay.

## Step 2 – Check your callsign is not 'hidden'

Your callsign must not be hidden if it is to be listed on the league tables. Callsigns are hidden automatically when nothing is uploaded for 12 months.

Go to **Settings > Callsigns** and see where things stand. You will almost certainly see that under 'Show in leagues?' your callsign says **"No – inactive,"** like VP8DMN and VP9/G7VJR below:

<b>VK9/G7VJR</b>	2,992	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>	Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<b>VP8DMN</b>	7,490	-	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>	No - inactive
<b>VP9/G7VJR</b>	4,140	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>	<input type="button" value="Clear"/>	No - inactive

This is easy to fix. Simply upload a new log (just click **"Upload"** in the top menu and follow the instructions), and then come back to this page once you receive an email to confirm your log has been uploaded.

After you've done an upload that contains QSOs within the last 12 months, you'll find that there is a **"Yes / no"** toggle (like you see for VK9/G7VJR above). Choose YES to be included in the leagues. 24 hours later you'll be in the leagues.

Congratulations, you're back on Club Log! I hope it was not too painful. You're now contributing to CWops - thank you.

## Final notes

- I hope that you'll find Club Log useful in many ways. If you don't intend to use Club Log often though, the only thing to remember is to upload your latest log not less than once every 12 months. Otherwise, your account will be marked as dormant.

- It's possible – maybe likely – that these brief notes have not answered all your questions. If that is the case, please don't give up. Just send me a message. I am happy to spend a little time with anyone who needs it and asks reasonable questions. ☺ My email address is [Michael@g7vjr.org](mailto:Michael@g7vjr.org).
- CWops is a members-only club, and all requests to join CWops on Club Log must be approved by Jack W0UCE. This will not happen instantly, so do remember to wait. Additionally, the leagues themselves are updated approximately once every 24 hours (and in the case of the club vs. club league, once a week). Allow plenty of time for these updates.

I hope you will enjoy the Club Log league for CWops. Good DX and perhaps we'll check in six months to see how CWops is doing on the club leagues!

73,

Michael G7VJR

[Michael@g7vjr.org](mailto:Michael@g7vjr.org) (CW Ops 968)

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## CW Academy

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

CW Academy is humming along like a well-oiled machine. Our Level 1 students are close to having learned all the letters, numbers, a few punctuations and prosigns. Our Level 2 and 3 students are continuing to pound away at their head copy and head sending skills.

Yes, head sending skills. We tend to think about head copy as a way to let go of the pencil and let our ears and brain interpret the content on the fly. And it works. Pencil and paper copy will get you by, but not at 25 or 30 wpm and faster. Head copy will let you converse at well past those speeds if you want to. Head sending, though, is a different skill. We all do it when we talk. Our brain is quietly assembling a series of words and directing our mouths and vocal chords to “send” them. We have all run into people whose minds work faster than their mouths, and the reverse. Well, head sending requires us to assemble those words before we “send” them, but unlike speech, the sending part is a lot slower. So if you are assembling those words at a speech rate, you are going to overwhelm your sending rate. And unlike speech, where a word is one or more spoken syllables, in Morse the word is a series of letters. The key is to develop a balance where the two rates – assembling and sending – synch up.

By listening to MP3 files, our students do learn to head copy. By getting on the air and making QSOs, or by interacting with their advisors and each other during weekly sessions, they exercise



their head sending skills. You all can help them with both head copy and head sending skills by getting on 40 meters in the evenings around 7.035 and making QSOs at moderate speeds.

By month's end, we will have well over 100 graduates in Level 1, 2 and 3. And the list for our Jan-Feb 2016 semester is getting filled up now. Don't forget that, by tradition, we welcome our graduates by doing a full day of CWTs at 20 wpm or below. We will be doing just that the second Wednesday of November (November 11).

Between now and November 11, you may hear a CWT exchange like "John CWA." That tells you that you just worked a student. So don't be surprised; be prepared. And in the Welcoming CWT on November 11, students will again be sending name and CWA. Don't forget to give them lots of attaboys.

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

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## CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

I'll start with an announcement about the special slow-speed CWTs coming up on November 11/12 in honor of the next CWA graduating class. Please dial your CW speed back to 20 wpm or less on November 11 to make these events welcoming for the CWA graduates and other newcomers to the CWTs.

Even during the regular higher-speed CWTs, it's useful to have the ability to adjust speeds on the fly to accommodate newbie callers. If you are calling CQ at 35 wpm and someone comes back to you at 20 wpm, it's a pretty good bet that they will have trouble copying you if you don't slow down to at least meet them halfway. Completing a QSO with one set of exchanges at 25 wpm takes less time than having to repeat your exchange two or three times at 35 wpm, so it can be in your own interest to slow down, plus it is definitely perceived as more welcoming by newcomers if they see some attempt at accommodating them.

Therefore, whether you are using computer keying or an outboard keyer, it's useful to become proficient at changing CW speeds. In N1MM Logger+, the Page Down/Page Up keys are the speed change controls. The default step for a single key press is two wpm, but you can change that number, and/or you can use Shift+PgUp/PgDn for larger speed changes. Personally, I just mash the PgDn key a few times if I want a radical change in speed.

A couple of months ago, I raised the subject of the time at which the third CWT session is held. I have now heard from a few more people, including some with negative comments. I was interested to note that there were negative comments from some in the Eastern time zone in North America. I also had some responses along the lines of don't meddle with something that works, and for now that is my reaction too. So at least for now we will be sticking with the current schedule. Let's see whether the change to standard time from daylight savings time in a few weeks makes any difference to participation.

On another topic, the recent rule change in CQ WW requiring stations going for a top three finish in single-operator unassisted classes to have recordings available on request, is sparking some interest. This applies to single-band classes at all three power levels, and to continent and USA leaders as well as to overall leaders. In theory, you could enter the 160m QRP class and be subject to the recording rule even if you only made a couple of QSOs (which might well be enough for a top three finish in North America, although probably not in Europe). Of course, the chances of being asked for a recording in a situation like that are very low indeed.

What is the relevance to CWTs? Relax, we will not be asking for recordings, but if you foresee the possibility of needing to know how to make recordings for CQ WW, the CWTs would be a good place to familiarize yourself with the technology. The simplest approach is probably a Y-connector to connect a sound card's line input in parallel with your headphones. Or, if you do digital modes such as RTTY, you probably already have a connection from an audio output on your transceiver to a sound card input.

We are three-quarters of the way through the year now, so here is an update on the CWT participation standings: As of 0000Z October 1, we hadn't quite had enough CWT sessions for a North American station to reach the gold medal level, but four of our European members had already qualified for gold medals. By my count, we have 33 more members who have already qualified for silver, most of whom will very likely reach the gold medal level by the end of the year. This list is headed up by WJ9B, still sporting a perfect attendance record. There are 43 more who have already reached the bronze medal level, many of whom are on track for silver by the end of the year, and a couple of dozen more who are likely to reach bronze.

So far, I count 488 different amateurs who have submitted CWT scores to 3830scores, over 100 of whom are not (yet) CWOps members. The average participation in a session, as measured by the number of scores reported, is over 100, so barring horrible propagation conditions such as those we had on October 7/8, there shouldn't be much danger of running out of people to contact during the hour.

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

73,

*Rich,* VE3KI

[...and here's a CWT cartoon from Gary N5PHT:]



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# CWops Awards

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

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

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
F6HKA	687	3675	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>50</b>	W1RM	45	W1RM	38
VE3KI	638	3459	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>50</b>	OK1RR	42	F6HKA	38
G4BUE	626	2623	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>50</b>	OH2BN	40	G4BUE	37
N5RR	608	3603	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>50</b>	F6HKA	40	W4VQ	36
AA3B	595	5002	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>W1UU</b>	<b>50</b>	G4BUE	40	VE3KI	35
K6RB	563	3131	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>50</b>	N5RR	39		
W1RM	562	3730	EA8OM	96	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>50</b>	AA3B	37		
W0VX	452	2430	SM6CNN	93	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>50</b>	SM6CNN	37		
K1ESE	443	1958	VE3KI	93	<b>W0EJ</b>	<b>50</b>	EA8OM	37		
FG8NY	437	2455	OK1RR	93	<b>FG8NY</b>	<b>50</b>	W4VQ	37		
EA8OM	403	2559	K1ESE	92	<b>W6KY</b>	<b>50</b>	VE3KI	36		
W9ILY	398	2306	AA3B	89	<b>N1EN</b>	<b>50</b>	FG8NY	35		
OK1RR	371	1618	EA1WX	88	<b>NA6O</b>	<b>50</b>	KR3E	34		
DL8PG	358	1559	DL8PG	86	AD1C	49	KZ5D	34		
W5ASP	346	857	W9ILY	86	K6DGW	49	W9ILY	33		
W1UU	340	1786	W0VX	85	GW0ETF	49	DL8PG	33		
NA6O	320	1129	PA7RA	79	K1ESE	49	K1ESE	33		
WT2P	314	574	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	EA1WX	32		
F5MNM	309	1044	N1EN	78	F5MNM	49	F5MNM	32		
HB9ARF	302	612	FG8NY	76	W9ILY	49	W1UU	32		
N1EN	301	1676	AD1C	73	AA3B	49	PA7RA	31		
KT5V	294	814	KR3E	73	K6RB	48	W0VX	31		
K2ZC	284	551	W1UU	72	KZ5D	48	N1EN	30		
NU7Y	282	479	N1ZX	70	NN6T	48	NN6T	29		
N5PHT	258	258	F5MNM	68	DL8PG	48	N1ZX	28		
4X6GP	223	867	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	GW0ETF	28		
G4DRS	204	353	NN6T	67	SM6CNN	48	AD1C	25		
W6KY	190	1701	K6RB	54	N1ZX	48	JF2IWL	23		
GW0ETF	184	1451	W6KY	54	KT5V	48	K6RB	23		

G3YJQ	169	234		NA6O	51		KR3E	47		G4DRS	22			
N1ZX	143	940		4Z1UF	50		JF2IWL	47		4Z1UF	21			
G3XLG	140	201		WB9G	48		NU7Y	47		HB9ARF	21			
JF2IWL	139	808		JF2IWL	47		EA1WX	46		WB9G	19			
PA7RA	128	1200		G4DRS	45		WX7SJ	46		G3YJQ	18			
AB7MP	128	349		W0EJ	36		K0DTJ	45		NA6O	17			
W4VQ	118	2112		HB9ARF	34		PA7RA	44		W6KY	16			
EA1WX	104	1642		K6DGW	32		AB7MP	44		I5EFO	15			
NN6T	97	1577		KT5V	32		OK1RR	44		K2ZC	14			
I5EFO	85	89		K2ZC	29		G4DRS	43		KT5V	11			
K6DGW	65	1328		G3YJQ	27		OH2BN	42		G3XLG	10			
NV9X	64	64		K0DTJ	23		HB9ARF	42		W0EJ	10			
KE6K	61	116		NU7Y	21		K2ZC	40		K6DGW	8			
W0EJ	51	754		G3XLG	18		G3YJQ	37		G0DJA	7			
KZ5D	0	3239		I5EFO	18		4Z1UF	36		W5TM	7			
SM6CNN	0	2477		AB7MP	14		WT2P	34		K0DTJ	6			
N2UU	0	1774		WT2P	14		W5TM	32		WT2P	4			
AD1C	0	1630		W5TM	11		G3XLG	31		AB7MP	3			
KR3E	0	1136		G0DJA	10		NV9X	27						
PA4N	0	955		KE6K	4		I5EFO	22						
WB9G	0	888		NV9X	2		KE6K	17						
WX7SJ	0	610					G0DJA	8						
OH2BN	0	530												
K0DTJ	0	417												
W5TM	0	235												
G0DJA	0	23												
PA1FOX	0	5												

73,

*Pete* W1RM

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## New Members

### [Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

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

1498	W6NS	Tim*
1499	KP3W	Jose
1500	W0XE	Don
1501	KP4EJ	Charlie*
1502	KM9R	Mike*
1503	EI2CN	Doug
1504	N8BIZ	Bill
1505	IK0YVV	Marco*
1506	W1QK	Dan*
1507	W1PID	Jim
1508	KE4S	Dave*
1509	N3CW	Ed*
1510	EA6TS	Peter
1511	N4WO	Greg
1512	EA5KA	Raul
1513	K1VT	Jack*

\* = Life Member

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## Current Nominees

As of October 11, 2015:

**Need Sponsors:** AF4NC, K9FS, KK5NA, N5AF, NB3R

**Invitations Extended:** AE1CW, N9LGP

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

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

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# QTX Report

## Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

by [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 September seemed to get better every day. Fall conditions will make things much easier.

Here are the standings for the month of September:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
N5IR	70
K1ESE	65
WB6BEE	61
K5YQF	40
K4AHO	39
AC4BT	34
K5KV	23
NN6T	21
K6HP	21
KB6NU	19
K6RB	15
KE6OIO	15
KC0VKN	14
W3WHK	9
JE1TRV	8
I5EFO	8
W4LSV	7
K0DTJ	4
K5IX	1

Last month I said, "Bill N5IR had another big month!" Well, he did it again to lead all reporting stations. And, now for the third month, your manager John K1ESE was second again. Don WB6BEE and Cecil K5YQF switched places from August, with Don in third and Cecil in fourth.

Personal best in September went to I5EFO only.

To compare with August, September had two more stations reporting and eight more QSOs.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5IR	631
WB6BEE	613
K5KV	482
K1ESE	459
K5YQF	390
K4AHO	318
N1ZX	305
AC4BT	268
NN6T	193
KC0VKN	189
K6HP	156
K6RB	144
KE6OIO	109
W3WHK	82
HB9CVQ	81
W6JMP	75
KB6NU	65
JE1TRV	59
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
WA8IWK	25
KE6K	19
K0DTJ	16
W5JQ	12
K8QI	10
I5EFO	9
W4LSV	7
IK0IXI	2
K5IX	1
K3GHH/KL7	1
AB7MP	1
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR is adding to his lead over Don WB6BEE. But, the difference is small enough to change from month to month. There are just three months left so this will go down to the wire.

Benny K5KV and I are close, but not near the leaders.

## 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 here's what stations have achieved so far this year:

### Gold Medal

WB6BEE

N5IR

K5KV

K1ESE

### Silver Medal

K5YQF

K4AHO

N1ZX

### Bronze Medal

AC4BT

In the next three months it is possible to have a few more than two twenty-minute QSOs per day and achieve a Bronze Medal even if you are starting from scratch. It's fun to give it a try.

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.*

Few, if any, need a reminder that the coming weeks are highlighted by two of the premier CW contests of the year, the CQ World Wide CW and the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contests. If CW's your thing, you've got to be there in one way or another. You might want to review last year's *Solid Copy* article for some operating options.

Let's hope you didn't miss the recent CalQP or the TQP events. Lots of fun as usual. Although not strictly overflowing with brass pounders, there's always a full slate of Qs and counties. This year was no exception.

The Asia-Pacific Sprint provides the opportunity for two somewhat different operating experiences. It's a chance for those on the West Coast to gather up a bundle of multipliers (40 or so), rivaling typical East Coast totals, and it requires an acute set of S&P skills to do well. It's more of a test of traditional operating know-how than simply handling a deluge of Europeans. With decent propagation it's worth a try.

According to the SM3CER Contest Service, "The Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge is a unique contest – held on 160 meters – which occurs near the solstice in December. This contest uses grid squares for the exchange and a QSO point system which awards points in proportion to the distance between the stations making the QSO. There is also a generous power multiplier (x2 for 100 watts and x4 for 5 watts) and a multi-operator category. There is even a multiplier for those who work QRP stations (x4) – making it worth the extra effort to pull them out of the noise." It features a somewhat lower activity level than either of the major 160 Meter contests and hence less difficulty in making intercontinental QSOs.

One of the more unique CW groups on the air is the *Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club (HSC)*. It is a collection of high speed Morse code operators founded in Germany in 1951 with about 1400 members currently. Full details can be found on their Web site. While it may not be a suitable venue for the average CW operator, it certainly merits looking into. Who knows, it may be just the incentive you need to ratchet up your code speed and run with the "big boys".

## OCTOBER / NOVEMBER EVENTS

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint  
<http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt>

↓  
CW 0000Z-0200Z, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Iowa QSO Party  
New York QSO Party  
South Dakota QSO Party  
Illinois QSO Party

1400Z-2300Z, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
1400Z, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
1800Z, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> to 1800Z, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
1700Z, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> to 0100Z, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 14 <sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 23 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html">http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html</a>	
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 28 <sup>th</sup>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/">http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/</a>	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="http://www.naqcc.info/">www.naqcc.info/</a>	
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> to 1500Z, Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>
<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew.rules.txt">http://www.kkn.net/stew/stew.rules.txt</a>	
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z-1100Z; 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>
<a href="http://www.highspeedclub.org/">http://www.highspeedclub.org/</a>	

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