



Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

November

2015

Issue No. 70



WRC 2015 is in Progress

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](#)

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Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

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

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

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President's Message



I'm writing this before the end of October because I'll be gone from Oct 28 until Nov 15. Our CWA students will have graduated by the time you read this, and I hope several

of them will be active on November 11/12 in the slower-speed CWTs. Three times per year (March, June and November) we celebrate our graduating students by holding a slower-speed CWT (maximum speed of 20 wpm). This gives our Levels 1, 2 and 3 graduates a good shot at working lots of us. You'll know who they are because they'll be sending their names and "CWA" instead of a number or state/province. Give them lots of kudos.

[Continued on next page]

I'm thrilled to say that I once again have two radios that can look at more than two antennas. I recently climbed up the tower with repaired antenna switch in hand, remounted it on the mast, hooked up the control cable and all the coax feed lines, and after some false starts and stops, I'm back to having true multiband capability again. My recent CWT scores show it, too ☺.

We're getting close to year's end and I'm happy to report that the club is doing really well. Our signature service – CW Academy – continues to receive accolades from many different sources – students, blogs, magazine articles, and emails. *[Rob did not yet know about the [FOC honor](#) when he wrote this column, but he was a central player in it! – Ed.]* We had another successful CW Open – our fourth – and our QTX activity continues to rise.

The weekly CWTs are also particularly noteworthy. For example, in recent radio sport outings, after several hours of operation in once-per-year events, I found that my per-hour rates were glacial and I had to stop because I had run out of QSO opportunities. Yet, week after week, session after session, I work far more QSOs in 60 minutes.

This year, Will WJ9B has made every CWT session. And many others have missed only a very few. There is something addicting about CWTs. The adrenaline rush is profound and it is so nice to work many of the same people, week after week, multiple times per day. While I'm out of the country for 16 days, I will miss nine CWT sessions. It will feel strange on those three Wednesdays not to wake up early and stumble around trying to gain consciousness in time for the 1300Z session. Whenever my travels interrupt my CWT participation, I find that I really appreciate it when I return and resume.

The weather here in Santa Cruz is still quite warm but darkness falls much earlier than during the Summer. Some parts of the state have had big rain storms but here we are still counting the drops. Perhaps while I'm gone we'll get some needed moisture. I'm looking forward to the rain but not the wind. As I write this, Mexico is hours away from landfall by a 200 mph hurricane. That's the largest storm to hit the Western hemisphere. Here, when the wind exceeds 25 mph I lower the crank-up tower to reduce the risk of antenna damage. A 200 mph storm would probably strip all the aluminum off the mast. To our members in Mexico, I hope you fare well.

My last day of radio before heading out will be Tuesday night (October 27). I'm hoping to meet some of our members (4X6GP and 4Z1UF) during my journey. But I won't have a chance to be 4X/K6RB this time out. So my CW withdrawal symptoms will be glaring by the time I get back.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the [Editor](#)



Busy, Busy

November is a busy month here in the U.S., with at least three major contest weekends and our Thanksgiving holiday. Your Editor is compounding his hectic schedule with separate trips from California to Chicago and Boston, putting some finishing touches on this issue of *Solid Copy* at 37,000 feet. “Back at the ranch,” I rebuilt the antenna switching logic at N6XI Truckee. This mid-range contest station is capable of SO2R, Multi-Single, limited Multi-Two, and SO2V-Remote operation. The new arrangement eliminates most of the antenna selection steering diodes, simplifying the matrix that sits between the band decoders and the antenna relays and offering additional, precious millivolts to some rather finicky relays. There is still work to do (Isn’t there always?) but it is much more reliable than before and incrementally easier to maintain. Onward.

Like many in the U.S., I try to count my blessings during the Thanksgiving season. In addition to health, happiness, family, and an active retirement, I include my association with CWops and its many outstanding members. We received gratifying validation of our collective pride in jobs well done from another CW club this month, FOC. See the [article below](#) for details.

I’ve always felt somewhat chauvinistic about our amateur radio fraternity, that we are a cut above the masses in intelligence, motivation, attitude, and other positive attributes. And I’ve always felt that CW operators are a similar cut above the rest of ham radio. But when Bob Kieffer K9FS recently applied for membership and listed his occupation as “EE, Physician, Private Detective,” I was appropriately humbled. Maybe that’s three cuts above! ;-) Welcome aboard, Bob!

Also busy this month are the delegates to the World Radiocommunication Conference, WRC-2015, in Geneva, Switzerland. This highly political, international body meets sporadically to allocate spectrum and agree on rules so that a myriad of services – private, commercial and governmental – can share this precious and very finite resource. There is at least a slim chance that we might obtain a 15 KHz contiguous sliver of the 5 MHz band (60m) for amateur radio. Although breathtakingly narrow, it could be a lot more like “real” amateur radio than the few, fixed-frequency channels that some countries make available to us today. Let’s all hold our breath and look forward to hearing “CU on 60” some time in the future.

Don’t miss the short item by Jim W1PID on his recent CWT bicycling expedition. Jim’s photography is several cuts above the *Solid Copy* average. The image of Fall colors reflecting off the water is particularly enticing – [take a look](#).

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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The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

The purpose of this yearly award is to recognize individuals, groups, or 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 January 31, 2016 and include:

- Name(s) and call sign(s) (if applicable) of nominee(s), and complete contact information including their postal address(es), email address(es), and telephone number(s).
- A detailed explanation supporting nominee qualifications according to the above criteria.
- Complete contact information for the person submitting the nomination.

Presentation of Award

A plaque will be presented at a major amateur radio venue (Dayton Hamvention, Visalia, etc.). If the recipient(s) is/are not present, it will be sent to them.

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CWT from the Bike Trail

October 2015

Jim Cluett W1PID

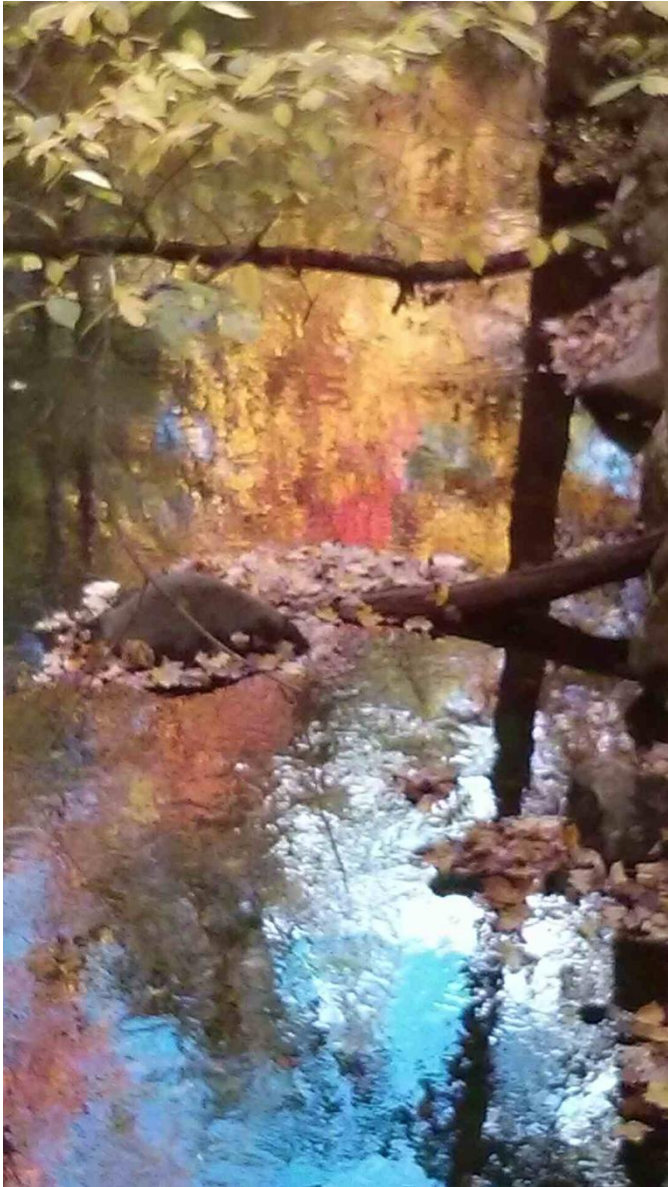
Judy and I rode our bikes on the trail in East Andover [*Massachusetts, arguably the greatest Fall foliage location in the U.S. – Ed.*] today. The Fall colors were really beautiful. I worked 8 stations in the CWT and Judy worked on her knitting.



We rode about a mile over a gold and orange carpet of fallen leaves. We stopped at this picnic table. I put up a 44 foot doublet fed with twisted pair and ran the KX3. I started out on 20 meters. I worked K90QVB, N4ZZ, NS9I, K9OM, WJ9B, K4HQB, NW2K, and W4ZYT.

I only operated about 15 minutes, but I enjoyed every minute of it. The view from the picnic table was fantastic. As we rode back, I stopped along the Sucker Brook and snapped a quick photo of the reflections on the water.

More photos below:



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.

Fred K6DGW: After 38 years on the Auburn "farm," Andrea and I sold it to one of our kids and bought a single-story, fairly new home in Sparks, NV, close [but not too close :-)] to another of our kids and his family. It's a gated community, the gate is annoying, and we are in an HOA, but we really like it.

That said, the HOA is quite benign and benevolent, and while I won't be seeking permission for a 70' self-supporting crank-up, I will install a flagpole in the back yard with an insulator at the bottom next spring.

In the meantime, I joined the Comstock Memorial Station crew (W7RN) and, thanks to a lot of help and especially from Rick N6XI, I have the remote from my K3 to Tom's K3 working. Managed one CWT last Wednesday, old school manual sending. Rick gave me the recipe for N1MM+ on the remote and I'll be working on that next.

So I was QRT for only about 2 months, not too shabby.

Gary N5PHT: Since we do a lot of RV'ing I have been experimenting with antennas for 80 meters that I can use during the CWT events. I am currently trying an Inverted L and that seems to be doing much better than the Hamstick I was using.

I am happy with my 40-10 meter version G5RV for the other bands. Hope to be in West Texas for 11 Nov CWT at one of the few "dark zone" rated campgrounds in the USA (Cooper Breaks State Park) and then in Oklahoma at a National Wildlife Refuge near Lawton for the 18 Nov CWT.

While at the Wildlife Refuge I hope to do a SOTA from Mt. Scott. Hope to CU from those places.

Jerry AC4BT: The antenna that I've been using for the last three years on 30 meters is a horizontal dipole up 65 feet supported by two trees. It has performed great over that time and I was able to work and confirm DXCC on 30 meters without much difficulty. If I heard them I worked them.

Well, several weeks ago the support came down on one of the trees but I found it wasn't disastrous as the top of the antenna and feed line were still up at 65 feet and only the support keeping the antenna horizontal came down. My intent was to repair it when I had some time but until then I tied the loose end down to a tree at a 90 degree angle in a sloper configuration.

I then got on the radio that evening and was wondering who the stateside station was pretending to be a DX station from Egypt. He was coming in 20 over 9, way too strong of a signal. I had put the radio into Split operations and could weakly hear the rest of the pile-up. Even so I decided to call the station 1 up, where the rest of the pile-up was. The Egyptian station immediately picked me up and stopped to ask what I was using for an antenna and that I had the strongest US signal that day. I guess I won't be 'repairing' this antenna anytime soon!

Marv N5AW: Although he did not report it himself, Marv N5AW (#1941) set a new U.S SOAB CQ WPX CW low-power record with 6.3 Meg and 989 prefixes! If you think of it, congratulate Marv next time you talk to him on the air.

Rich VE3KI: Another shy guy, apparently, Rich VE3KI mentioned offline that he broke 1000 QSOs in SS CW for the first time. Congratulations, Rich!

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CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

We have just concluded the September-October semester of CW Academy (CWA). Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had approximately 800 new signups since the beginning of this year and are on pace for 1,000+ signups for the calendar year.

Our CW Academy program continues to grow. Many aspiring CW operators sign up for our programs after hearing the positive results and success stories that others have experienced using our proven methods. We have become the preferred service for providing CW instruction due both to CWA's personal advisory interaction and the diverse, no-fee programs that we offer the student. Whether you are retired, active in the work force, young or old, there is a CWA program that can fit your schedule. Check us out at <http://cwops.org/cwacademy.html> and sign up today for the next available semester.

Our eight week, Internet-based, classroom instruction for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 courses meets twice a week and offers an opportunity to work with some of the most accomplished CW operators serving as advisors.

Here is one of our students' comments after the first three weeks of the Level 1 course this semester:

"...Wow... taking the CW Ops Level 1 class with Andy Barkley (WB7DKZ, CWA advisor, not yet a member) and am having a great time... not really re-learning code, just learning to get my CW speed up from a muddy 10 wpm to about 15-18 right now, and we're only into the 3rd week of class. I'd say it's going great, and Andy is a great Elmer. "

Here are a couple of comments from two of Bill's (KC4D) Level 2 students:

“...To my CW advisor Bill KC4D.... I just want to reach out and thank you for the excellent CWA Level II class. I never stop learning things with ham radio and you have raised the bar on my CW learning. The class was a pleasure. I looked forward to each meeting. The practice was great. I've upped my confidence and my speed, and have begun some head-copy. You wildly exceeded my expectations.”

“...Well, I don't think that it could have gone any better than to have Bill as our adviser. I really looked forward to meeting with Bill and the other students on our assigned days over the two month period that we met. Bill was extremely patient, willing to praise successes and willing to offer constructive criticisms and advice when necessary. I think that last part was critical - I needed to hear, "Joe, that part was good, but you need to work on spacing between words." We heard that a lot and I'm trying hard to work on that. Thank you so much for offering this wonderful program. I will be promoting it to other people. Whoever is lucky enough to get Bill as an adviser in the future will be in very capable hands. I'm not a fan of the term 'Elmer,' but he truly fits the definition. Yes, the program is a challenge but I found it to be very rewarding. I hope CW Academy continues to produce many, many more CW operators.”

On November 11, to celebrate the graduation of the class of September-October, 2015, CWops will hold its traditional “slower” CWTs. Everything is the same, just a bit slower. Keep your speeds at 20 wpm or less, and take the time to congratulate the graduates who participate. You'll know who they are because they'll be sending “name” and “CWA.”

As always, with an unrelenting flow of incoming applications, CW Academy needs more volunteer advisors, especially DX advisors. All CWops members are invited (and encouraged!) to give something back to our great hobby and serve as an advisor. It's not a huge time commitment, classes are held two times a week for an eight week period when the semester is underway. We have three semesters a year – Jan/Feb, Apr/May, and Sep/Oct. We offer advisor training and provide the curriculum materials that are utilized in our courses. Please help us out so that we can continue to provide this unique service to the many aspiring CW operators out there who are looking to improve their CW skills with the CW Academy.

Jack W0UCE, with his Associate Advisor (AA) program, continues to do a wonderful job of bringing associate advisors on-board, training them and having them assist other advisors in the classes. Many of our AA's began as Jack's students, became AA's under Jack's tutelage, and then transitioned to become full time advisors running their own classes after one or two semesters. The student becomes the teacher!

The CW Academy September-October 2015 semester graduated **97** CW students who were led by 33 Advisors and 7 Associate Advisors.

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

September - October 2015 Semester – 33 Advisors and 7 Associate Advisors

Advisors – 3 classes

Jack W0UCE

Advisors - 2 classes

Rob K6RB, Ed K6HP, Kate K6HTN, Jerry AC4BT

Advisors – 1 class

Will WJ9B, Dan W1QK, Alex PA1FOX, James VK4TJF, Stew GW0ETF, Jack NI8N, Mike KD8RQE, Joe N3HEE, Mark K5GQ, Chuck AB1VL, Don K6ZO, Lar K7SV, Mac NN4K, Andy WB7DKZ, Dallas K1DW, Bill K5LN, Dan N5TM, Paul K4JAZ, Scott KF7GGN, Vic WD0EBZ, Mark WU7F, Glen W6GJB, John KE6K, Phil AG6FU, Mark AB7MP, Danny KF7Z, Bob WR7Q, David KM6ZT

Associate Advisors

Joe KK5NA, Bob K9FS, Jim K5AUP, Ariel NY4G, Dave W5TRX, Randy K4ODL, Dale W7HLO

September - October 2015 Semester – Students who completed: 97 graduates

Level 1 Graduates: 53

Jess AF7QD, Andrew KG7IRR, Jeff N1TWC, Ron K0PGE, Mark N7ETI, James KL2ZZ, Dan N6ERD, Lawrence KK6MF, Dennis KJ6UVQ, Michael KW6MYK, Chris KK6AFK, Frank AE7IS, John K7JPN, Bill K7WEH, Evan K7FOS, Robert KN1TER, Neil VA5SCA, Romy KD0PQU, Jeremy KB7QOA, Scott N5SQR, Steve KY7K, Kim KE7ZJC, Robert N3FJ, Claudia KC9MRA, David K5HP, Len KC1AID, Pat NT5PH, Robert NB4F, Gerald N5GKJ, Francis KF5YNN, Dorothy KF5YNNM, Dennis NT5I, John KC5KWZ, Abdul KD5BKW, James NO0B, Jay KG9MG, Steven KC9TCP, James AB1DQ, Wayne KU4V, Dave KB8XG, Steve KE8AKC, Richard K4ANU, Matthew WS9F, Daniel VE3NI, Scott AB1MC, Silas KC4DUT, Gary NX8L, Bob M6FIW, Roger VK3ELT, Gary N1GSA, Harian W1QH, Marcus AB1WV, Sander W1SOP

Level 2 Graduates: 28

Daniel WB4RFQ, Ken KK6GHA, David AK4IC, Howard WSAOP, Matthew K7MGR, Bruce K7EY, Renze VE6DC, Ken WB9QDL, Mike AA7WU, John W14P, Bill W5ZV, Ray K5EJF, Bob NZ2Z, Bill WB8HF, Jay WB5K, Gerald N5KT, Keith G0HKC, Gene KK4NZH, Marshall KA1CFP, Larry W4LWZ, Michael WH6YH, Wayne KG4ZQY, William KB1YJ, Joe W8JPF, Marcus AB1WV, Jurgen PA3KC, Rob F5VHN, Dave M0GGK

Level 3 Graduates: 16

Michael, W8TG, Spencer K6ACQ, Ron N6XT, Victor WB6SEL, Del W5QQ, Ed K5AZR, Kenneth W9IE, Bill K2YEF, Bill AJ8B, Phillip W3HZZ, Rodger GM3JOB, Pavel AC4PA, Val WD4EXI, Kenneth NG2H, JimWA1NBS, Al KJ3Q

73,

Jerry AC4BT

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

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CW Academy Receives Al Slater Award from FOC!

One of our sister CW organizations, perhaps the oldest CW organization in the world, is the *First Class Operators' Club (FOC)*. Although chartered in and operated from the United Kingdom, FOC is, like CWops, an international club, with about two thirds of its membership outside the UK. Many hams belong to both FOC and CWops. Each year at its annual gathering, FOC presents the Al Slater Award to a worthy individual or organization. I quote here from a recent email:

“In memory of Al Slater G3FXB who become a Silent Key on 11th November 1992, this award is presented once a year to an individual, group or society that has, in the judgment of the Committee, made an outstanding contribution to the hobby that reflects the attitudes and approach of Al Slater. This came from exemplary and considerate operating standards and a high level of encouragement, friendship and support given to other amateurs, especially newcomers.

“This therefore is FOC’s most prestigious award, and held in high regard throughout amateur radio. It is presented only to truly outstanding and wholly deserving recipients. Previous awards have been made to N4AR, CDXC, K3ZO, NCDXF, ZL3GQ, PA0LOU, G3SXW, W3LPL, G4BUE, K1ZZ, G3MXJ/F5VHY, FISTS, G4BUO, EI5DI, G3XTT, G3RJV, G3BJ, G3PJT and G7VJR/ClubLog. All have been great contributors to our marvelous hobby. *[Many of these prior recipients are members of both FOC and CWops. – Ed.]*

“This year, exceptionally, the award will be presented not to one but to two recipients. FOC Committee found them equally deserving in their different ways. They both fully reflect the aims as just quoted - one to an individual and one to a ‘group or society.’”

[The individual recipient was Bob Allphin K4UEE, an outstanding operator and DXpeditioner.]

“CW Academy

“The Al Slater Award is also being presented to the ‘CW Academy.’

“The CWA was created about four years ago. Its mission is to increase the number of competent CW operators on the air. CWA works with all levels of students, from those who want to learn CW for the first time to old timers who want to increase their speed. Students receive all class material free of charge and all of their instructors are volunteers.

“About 600 hams have taken CW Academy courses, many of them progressing through all three skill levels so that they are now able to send and ‘head copy’ at 25 words per minute, or better.

“A driving force behind the CW Academy is Rob K6RB (FOC 1821) *[CWops 3 – Ed.]*. Other FOC members are among its instructors.

“This unique educational effort, aimed at ensuring that CW will remain a vibrant mode on the ham bands, is a worthy recipient of this award.”

Wow! We're all proud of CW Academy, but to receive this recognition from FOC is a huge, unexpected, and much appreciated honor. Congratulations to Rob K6RB, Will WJ9B, Jerry AC4BT, and the dozens of other CWops volunteers who make it happen. And thanks to the FOC and its managing Committee for the very kind words.

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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How We Were

Vic Seeberger W7VSE

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Photo taken in early 1980s. Vic, now age ninety-three, is a consummate CW man and still pounding mean brass.



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

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Well, we seem to have come through the change from daylight savings time to standard time (in the northern hemisphere, that is) without a hitch. Did anyone forget and show up an hour too late? Participation on November 4/5 seemed to be in the normal range, considering the disturbed propagation conditions. At least, at my latitude they were certainly disturbed – there was lots of flutter on signals into northern Europe.

We are heading into the busiest part of the CW contesting season. By the time you read this, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes (for those of us in W/VE) will be over. The special slow-speed CWTs on November 11-12 in honor of the CWA graduation will also be over by the time this appears. The biggest world-wide contest of the year, CQ WW CW, will be on November 28-29, followed by the ARRL 160, ARRL 10 and RAC Winter contests on successive weekends, and the Stew Perry Topband Challenge on December 26-27, not to mention a number of other (dare I call them smaller?) contests. In between, for those who can't get enough, as well as for those who prefer not to dedicate entire weekends to contesting, we'll have our regular CWTs. Hmm, when am I going to find the time to put a 160m antenna back up for the 160m contests?

As of November 1 we were just about 5/6ths of the way through the year's CWT sessions. We now have eight members who have already qualified for the gold medal, 39 more who have reached the silver medal level, and another 41 who have qualified for bronze. With 27 more CWT sessions yet to come (well, a bit fewer by the time you read this), there will probably be 15-20 more to add to the list, and many of those who have already qualified for silver or bronze will move up to the next higher level. These numbers are a bit down from last year, but considering how much the qualifying levels were raised (doubled in North America, increased by 50% in Europe), that's hardly surprising.

The number of people reporting CWT scores at 3830scores.com continues to increase. It seems to me that quite a few people who started out posting scores as non-members have become new members later in the year, so the CWTs appear to be doing their bit to attract new members. Let's continue to make them a welcoming experience for new call signs that show up.

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	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
F6HKA	720	3737		W1RM	156		N5RR	50		W1RM	45		W1RM	38
VE3KI	646	3468		F6HKA	133		W1RM	50		OK1RR	42		F6HKA	38
G4BUE	641	2682		W4VQ	128		W4VQ	50		F6HKA	41		G4BUE	37
N5RR	623	3626		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		OH2BN	40		W4VQ	36
AA3B	608	5029		N5RR	107		W1UU	50		G4BUE	40		N5RR	36
K6RB	580	3158		G4BUE	105		VE3KI	50		N5RR	39		VE3KI	35
W1RM	574	3746		EA8OM	96		G4BUE	50		W4VQ	38		IK0YVV	32
W0VX	456	2437		VE3KI	95		EA8OM	50		AA3B	37		W6NS	11
N1EN	454	1987		SM6CNN	93		W0EJ	50		SM6CNN	37			
W9ILY	445	2371		OK1RR	93		FG8NY	50		EA8OM	37			
K1ESE	443	1958		K1ESE	92		W6KY	50		VE3KI	37			
FG8NY	437	2455		N1EN	92		N1EN	50		IK0YVV	36			
IK0YVV	422	1712		AA3B	89		NA6O	50		FG8NY	35			
EA8OM	403	2559		EA1WX	88		N5PHT	50		KR3E	34			
KG5U	394	1279		IK0YVV	88		AD1C	49		KZ5D	34			
OK1RR	371	1618		W9ILY	87		K6DGW	49		W9ILY	33			
DL8PG	358	1559		DL8PG	86		GW0ETF	49		DL8PG	33			
NA6O	352	1202		W0VX	85		K1ESE	49		K1ESE	33			
W5ASP	346	857		PA7RA	79		W0VX	49		N1EN	33			
W1UU	340	1786		KZ5D	78		F5MNK	49		EA1WX	32			
N5PHT	338	598		FG8NY	76		W9ILY	49		F5MNK	32			
WT2P	314	574		AD1C	73		AA3B	49		W1UU	32			
F5MNK	309	1044		KR3E	73		K6RB	48		PA7RA	31			
HB9ARF	302	612		W1UU	72		KZ5D	48		W0VX	31			
KT5V	294	814		N1ZX	70		NN6T	48		NN6T	29			
K2ZC	284	551		F5MNK	68		DL8PG	48		N1ZX	28			
NU7Y	282	479		GW0ETF	67		WB9G	48		GW0ETF	28			
W6NS	249	540		NN6T	67		SM6CNN	48		AD1C	25			
4X6GP	223	867		K6RB	54		N1ZX	48		JF2IWL	23			

G4DRS	204	353	W6KY	54	KT5V	48	K6RB	23		
W6KY	195	1766	NA6O	51	KR3E	47	G4DRS	22		
GW0ETF	184	1451	4Z1UF	50	JF2IWL	47	4Z1UF	21		
G3YJQ	169	234	WB9G	48	NU7Y	47	HB9ARF	21		
KE4S	161	270	JF2IWL	47	IK0YVV	47	WB9G	19		
AB7MP	153	390	G4DRS	45	EA1WX	46	G3YJQ	18		
K0DTJ	152	605	W0EJ	36	WX7SJ	46	NA6O	17		
N1ZX	143	940	HB9ARF	34	KG5U	46	W6KY	16		
JF2IWL	141	812	K6DGW	32	W6NS	46	I5EFO	15		
G3XLG	140	201	KT5V	32	K0DTJ	45	KG5U	15		
PA7RA	128	1200	K2ZC	29	AB7MP	45	K2ZC	14		
W4VQ	118	2137	KG5U	28	PA7RA	44	KT5V	11		
I5EFO	113	126	G3YJQ	27	OK1RR	44	G3XLG	10		
EA1WX	104	1642	K0DTJ	24	G4DRS	43	W0EJ	10		
NN6T	97	1577	I5EFO	22	OH2BN	42	KS4S	9		
K6DGW	65	1328	NU7Y	21	HB9ARF	42	K6DGW	8		
NV9X	64	64	W6NS	21	K2ZC	40	G0DJA	7		
KE6K	61	116	G3XLG	18	G3YJQ	37	W5TM	7		
W0EJ	51	754	AB7MP	14	KS4S	37	K0DTJ	6		
KZ5D	0	3239	WT2P	14	4Z1UF	36	WT2P	4		
SM6CNN	0	2477	KE4S	14	WT2P	34	W6NS	4		
N2UU	0	1774	W5TM	11	W5TM	32	AB7MP	3		
AD1C	0	1630	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31				
KR3E	0	1136	KE6K	4	NV9X	27				
PA4N	0	955	NV9X	2	I5EFO	26				
WB9G	0	888			KE6K	17				
WX7SJ	0	610			G0DJA	8				
OH2BN	0	530								
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:

1514	KF7GGN	Scott
1515	N5WW	Wes
1516	VE3XT	Bill
1517	DL5AXX*	Ulf
1518	LY5G	Vitas
1519	N9LGP	Dave
1520	NB3R	Dave
1521	AF4NC	Tom
1522	HA5AO*	Istvan
1523	KK5NA	Joe
1524	K9FS	Bob
1525	W5YDM	Bob

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of 13 November 2015:

Need Sponsors: WB6SEL, K5AZR, AA0FO

Invitations Extended: KI7MT, KJ3Q

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

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 October continued strong with openings on 12m and 10m most days. Participation and QSOs are up.

Here are the standings for the month of October:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Oct.</u>
N5IR	80
WB6BEE	68
K1ESE	59
K5YQF	58
K5KV	40
K4AHO	37
AC4BT	32
K6HP	22
KB6NU	21
NN6T	19
KCOVKN	18
N1ZX	17
W4LSV	15
W3WHK	13
K6RB	12
KE6OIO	11
WA8IWK	10
HB9CVQ	4
I5EFO	4
KE4S	3
PA1FOX	2
JE1TRV	2
AB7MP	2

For the third month in a row, Bill N5IR had another big month! It was another first place for Bill. Don WB6BEE moved up to second and manager John K1ESE took third in October. Cecil K5YQF was just one behind for fourth.

October personal bests for the year went to K5YQF, W4LSV, and AB7MP.

To compare with September, October had four more stations reporting and 75 more QSOs. Welcome first time reporters KE4S and PA1FOX.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5IR	711
WB6BEE	681
K5KV	522
K1ESE	518
K5YQF	448
K4AHO	355
N1ZX	322
AC4BT	300
NN6T	212
KC0VKN	207
K6HP	178
K6RB	156
KE6OIO	120
W3WHK	95
KB6NU	86
HB9CVQ	85
W6JMP	75
JE1TRV	61
WA8IWK	35
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
W4LSV	22
KE6K	19
K0DTJ	16
I5EFO	13
W5JQ	12
K8QI	10
KE4S	3
AB7MP	3
PA1FOX	2
IK0IXI	2
K5IX	1
K3GHH/KL7	1
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR is still ahead of Don WB6BEE, but only by 30 points. Benny K5KV and I remain far from 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

K5YQF

Silver Medal

K4AHO

N1ZX

AC4BT

Bronze Medal

NN6T

KC0VKN

We are starting to wind down for 2015. It's been a lot of fun and we will see what surprises are in store for November and December.

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.

Yep ... the last of the state QSO parties is this month (Kentucky). Last chance for this year. Then you'll have to wait until next year (January) for the next one (Montana).

The second of the two most significant CW contests of the year, CQWW CW, occurs during the last days of this month. Hopefully, many of our CWOp members will "be there, do that" ... don't miss it! You might want to revisit last month's column for a different perspective on this event.

Two of the really fun ARRL-sponsored single band contests are set for the the first part of December. The 160 Meter event has long been a favorite of the "top band gang" and is a real test of gear and propagation. The 10 Meter contest can be either a blast or a dud ... just depends on the "ions." With the sunspot cycle pretty much "over-the-hill," this year may herald a long term downswing in conditions. Check the propagation gurus and throw some "fu-fu dust" up towards old Sol.

One thing to keep in mind about the 10m affair is that even in the absence of decent propagation, the onset of Sporadic-E can bring about wonders. I've worked dozens of stations on a "dead" band by swinging the beam and calling ... and calling ... and calling again through 360 deg. Take the Qs any way you can get 'em.

For now, Happy Holidays and keep on pounding.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER EVENTS

Kentucky QSO Party

1400Z, Nov 14th to 0200Z, Nov 15th

http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45:wkdx&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=63

NCCC Sprint

0230Z-0300Z, Nov 13th

NCCC Sprint

0230Z-0300Z, Nov 20th

NCCC Sprint

0230Z-0300Z, Dec 4th

NCCC Sprint

0230Z-0300Z, Dec 11th

NCCC Sprint

0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18th

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

NAQCC CW Sprint

0130Z-0330Z, Nov 19th

NAQCC CW Sprint

0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9th

NAQCC CW Sprint

0130Z-0330Z, Dec 17th

www.naqcc.info/

SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 25 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23 rd
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 14 th to 2359Z, Nov 15 th
http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules	
Homebrew/Oldtime Equipment Party	1300-1500Z, Nov 15 th (40m) 1500-1700Z, Nov 15 th (80m)
http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html	
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 28 th to 2400Z, Nov 29 th
http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm	
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 4 th to 1600Z, Dec 6 th
<u>Solid Copy Nov 2015.docx</u>	
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 th to 2400Z, Dec 13 th
<u>Solid Copy Nov 2015.docx</u>	
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19 th
http://wp.rac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-Winter-Contest-Rules-English-French.pdf	

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