

Al Slater Award Trophy

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

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

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

CWops "neighborhood"

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

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Table of Contents

[President's Message](#)

[From the Editor](#)

[Operating from the RV](#)

[CW Open Results](#)

[News & Notes](#)

[My Story – IT9VDQ](#)

[CW Academy](#)

[How We Were – K4MSG](#)

[CWops Tests](#)

[CWops Members Awards](#)

[New Members](#)

[Nominees](#)

[QTX Report](#)

[Operating Events](#)

President's Message

My odometer turned 69 on Saturday,

November 29.

That means I'm one year away from 70 and the final year of my second term as president. Heavy.



Just came back from two weeks in Israel, and had a nice dinner with Ilya 4Z1UF and

Vic 4X6GP. Unfortunately, I missed an opportunity to take part in an Israel Field Day because it was the morning after I had just arrived and I was suffering terminal jet lag.

Congratulations to Dean NW2K and Al AD6E for their huge effort in scoring all the CW Open logs and reporting on this year's event.

As 2015 draws to a close, I am very pleased with the club's progress. CWT, under management by Rich VE3KI continues to draw impressive numbers – even during a holiday week in the US. QTX totals astound me. With John K1ESE at the helm, when you add up the numbers of QTX points, and divide by 3, that is at least the number of rag-chew hours our members are racking up. Who says rag chewing is a dying art?

I missed the ARRL SS CW while I was abroad but I did have a chance to play in CQ WW CW this past weekend. This is one contest where I spend at least 95 percent searching and pouncing and very little time running. After about six hours (out of 48), I racked up 339 QSOs, 83 zones, and 145 countries – some for the first time ever. I'm also looking forward to ARRL 160 this coming weekend.

Jerry AC4BT is working hard to pull together the assignments for the upcoming CW Academy semester during January and February. We have managed to cut our backlog substantially and are now working on our April-May semester lists. Last year, we were backlogged nearly 12 months at this time. This is in great part due to the increased number of advisor volunteers who have joined the ranks of the Advisor Corps.

I want to thank the managers I've already mentioned plus Will WJ9B and our Solid Copy editor/publisher, Rick N6XI. This club's success is totally due to the team effort by our managers, our advisors, our ambassadors. I wish everyone a joyous year-end holiday and a wonderful 2016.

73,

Rob K6RB

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

From the [Editor](#)



Good Jobs

We all love to hear “Good job!” from a friend or colleague. It's recognition of success, of worthy effort. It feels good. I want to issue a very broad “Good job!” to all the faithful participants in CWT, the CWops Tests. These stalwarts get on the air on Wednesdays (more or less) to test their stations, their software, their operating skills, their new equipment and techniques. Some are there nearly all the time, three one-hour sessions weekly. Others have a favorite time of the day to be on the air and focus their CWT efforts on that time slot. And most of the rest of us, your Editor included, get on only occasionally for a CWT refresher. Lately, lots of ops are making 120, 130, even 140 QSOs! That's not only good operating by the individuals but also a good turnout by us as a club and our community of non-member followers. Is there someone you work regularly in the CWTs who isn't yet a member? Consider nominating him or her. They probably deserve the benefits of membership.

We have read some musings on the club reflector lately about whether or not CWT is a contest. We call it simply a “test” intentionally. It is not a contest in the sense of involving awards. No one spends a year preparing and planning for a CWT. For many, contests are an anathema but they still use CWT as an opportunity to test things out and connect with friends around the world. But the

format of CWT – a fixed time period, QSO counts and multipliers, and a results report that ranks stations in order of score – is identical to a contest and some participants treat it as both a contest in its own right and as a tool to prepare for larger, “more real” contests. And they can be rightly proud of their good jobs when they lead the pack, set personal bests, beat Elmer from across town, or simply prove that a new skywire is working well.

But how does one determine a “good job” in a longer, more serious radio contest? Winning or placing on the world stage, or in a smaller but still heavily populated geographic region, is certainly worthy of a hearty “Well done!” But what about part-timers and Little Pistols who have no chance to defeat the ironman Big Guns? Can they also be recognized for their efforts? Yes! The awards structures of most contests provide many categories and the calendar presents many opportunities to compete on a smaller, more level playing field. Even the journeyman with a modest station can often collect certificates attesting to accomplishment. And for those who enter a big contest for a small fraction of the allocated time, there is an interesting way to self-assess accomplishment at any level of time commitment: If the results report includes reported operating time, look above and below your own score to see how it stacks up against others who spent comparable numbers of hours in the chair. For example, I only operated about four hours in the ARRL 160. But I was satisfied to see on 3830scores that, although I am a dismal 80th among SOHP scores so far reported, the four higher scores at four hours or less were all on the US East Coast with a huge advantage over me in California. I heard them working those 5-point Euros but couldn’t hear Europe myself. And I outscored many stations who put in more time than me, including a few in the East. Of course, my four hours may have been at more favorable times than those of my “competition,” but I can at least take satisfaction that my new inverted L antenna is working pretty well. That’s a Good Job for me. And even if one’s score is low for a given level of effort, perhaps it’s higher than it was last time. Maybe it’s a Personal Best, another kind of Good Job. Not every effort will be awarded a prize – it would be quite meaningless if so. But there are many kinds and levels of accomplishment toward which we can strive, in radiosport as in life.

Speaking of Good Jobs, last month we mentioned the prestigious Al Slater Award presented to CWops’ CW Academy by FOC. The Page One picture this month shows off the handsome trophy.

That’s it for now. Hope you enjoy the issue. Have a happy holiday season, whatever your favorite winter holiday might be, and make sure to tell me what you want to read in *Solid Copy*.

73,

RickN6XI

Editor

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

Operating from the RV

by Gary Stone N5PHT

Being encouraged by several members to do so, I wrote this article to give some information about operating from around the country while RV'ing. Combining ham radio and RV'ing is a great way to spend some retirement time. This article is meant to be more of a sharing of experience and stats than a technical view.

Overview

My XYL and I have always camped during our 30 plus year marriage. Started with tents and we have had a pop-up camper, bumper pull trailers, a large fifth wheel and currently riding around in our 32 foot Class C Motor home. Since I retired about four years ago I have logged a little shy of 10K QSO from RVs.

Radio

I have used only a few rigs while RV'ing. I used an IC746 PRO, then last year switched to a Kenwood TS590S. Both are great rigs. I use a Yaesu FT857D from time to time, mostly if doing a SOTA [[Summits on the Air](#) – Ed.]. A lot of people like to camp with QRP rigs and I have in years past used a QRP rig but I have discovered through the years that my patience vanishes quickly. I have never used an amplifier so my operating is 100 watts max.

Antenna Considerations

If you browse around a bit in ham radio publications, you will find a lot of promised antenna performance. The various forums and other sources of info find hams with lots of perspectives and some adamant about the best antenna to use. Well, here is my short list of my experience with some info on each.

1. Screwdriver: I love a screwdriver antenna but with my current configuration (motor home and Jeep) I prefer other antennas. When I had the Montana fifth wheel I used a screwdriver mounted on my tow truck and a remote wireless control to tune and that worked well most of the time. It was not great when we headed one late night to Wally World and I forgot to disconnect the coax from the truck to the fifth wheel – no one is perfect! Only snapped the coax so that was minimal.
2. Ham Sticks: I still carry and use some Hamstick antennas if a) I am short on set up time or b) I have a large, nice, mesh metal picnic table. But generally still not my choice.
3. G5RV: Well, this is currently my antenna of choice. I homebrew them and am currently using a 40-10 meter version. This is mainly because the 80 meter version requires more real estate than many of the campgrounds where I stay. I use a loop of plastic pipe about 1 foot in diameter at the apex of the G5RV. I then have the option of throwing a rope over a tree and hoisting the antenna with a rope (sometimes use a sling shot and string) or using the loop and tie it to the top section of my 30-foot telescoping fiberglass push up pole. I miss

80 meters so much for the CWT events that I have often used an 80 meter Hamstick just for CWT 1300 and 0300 sessions which generally allows me to make a few contacts.

4. Inverted L: Just a note that if the trees really look inviting I have a homebrew 80 meter Inverted L that I deploy for that band. But the trees don't generally provide that option and I only carry one telescoping push up pole (at this point!)

Results

Well, in a word, "fun." And that is the point I think. I have had some really high points such as working K1N on CW for my DXCC that put me on CW honor roll while camping! I have also had hams show up at my campsite that I have worked from home.

I keep a separate chart for my CWT results and so far I have not missed a CWT session since becoming a member in mid-August this year. I have changed travel plans from time to time so that I could be settled and not traveling on a Wednesday!

I have enjoyed putting out counties, earning CWops awards, giving out SKCC QSOs, hiked for a couple of SOTA and one USAI. I have participated in four state QSO parties (TX, OK, MO and AR) but generally just enjoy throwing out a CQ and seeing what happens. A special note on WAS: the ARRL rules for WAS require you to be within 50 miles of the same location. I have earned (did not apply for them) a WAS from three different locations so far under those rules.

The following chart will give you an overview of the results so far. I don't plan to stop traveling for a while, God willing. (CWT QSOs comprise a good percentage of my total when camping but the chart does not really reflect that since I just became a member in August of this year).

Total QSO	9805
DXCC worked	157
Zones worked	33
CW qso	9279
SSB qso	335
Digital qso	< 200
# CWT Q while camping	1009 (27 sessions)
States Operated From	22

Summary

A lot more could be covered and if interested look at my QRZ page and follow the link to an article I wrote some time ago for QST that did not get accepted. It is more technical. Camping and ham

radio is a great mix. Just don't sit at the radio the whole time and miss out on the camping experience. There are lots of wonderful things to see and do. Don't let your antennas fall on other campers or interfere with your neighbors. Keep the XYL happy and you will also be a happy ham!

73,

Gary N5PHT

[*Back to Contents*](#)

[*Next article*](#)

2015 CW Open – Results

September 5, 2015

by [Dean Faklis NW2K](#)

Sponsored by CWops and ICOM America

Introduction and Summary

The CW Open consists of three separate four-hour sprints known as “sessions.” The objective is to work as many CW stations worldwide as possible within each session. Each station may be worked once per band in each session. Entry can be made to any or all of the sessions. Each session is scored separately. Entries into multiple sessions are added together to form a combined score. Additionally, there is a team competition, which is unconstrained by geographic location.

The sessions occupied the following slots:

1: 0000–0359Z

2: 1200–1559Z

3: 2000–2359Z

The awards provided by **ICOM America** are beautiful and consist of trophies and plaques. We think that they are the best in the business. CWops really appreciates ICOM's continuing support of our premier operating event. Please be sure to check out ICOM and their fine products at <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/amateur/>.

While conditions were not good, participation was very good and Q's were way up this year to 78,722 QSOs (26,551, 24,984, 27,187 in Sessions 1, 2, and 3, respectively) and 671 logs were submitted and adjudicated (215, 227, 229 in Sessions 1, 2, and 3, respectively). There were 496 logs received in 2014. The number of QSOs per log increased significantly over 2014 to 117/log in 2015 vs. 108/log in 2014. Activity from ITU Region 1 increased substantially over 2014 but it is still not as strong relative to 2013, which was a record year in many regards. The CWops Ambassadors are working hard to increase CW Open operations in ITU Region 1. Activity in ITU Region 3 is very light and we need to consider new ways to build participation there. Next year we'll be up against All Asian DX Phone, and that might tend to work against us in that part of the world.

There were 16 teams this year, with about 120 teammates. Four teams exceeded 1,000,000 points! Teamwork makes the CW Open even more fun. It's never too early to think about your CW Open team for next year.

The CW Open has a regular calendar slot: "First Saturday in September." Next up: September 3, 2016, so please mark your calendars!

In addition to the Top Ten boxes and the full box scores located on the net, be sure to check out the Soapbox! It's loaded with all sorts of good stuff.

The [full 2015 results](#) are available on the Web site. For here, though, ...

Trophy, high score, each session, each ITU Region:

Region 1: Session 1: F6HKA	Session 2: OK7M	Session 3: F6HKA
Region 2: Session 1: N4AF	Session 2: N4AF	Session 3: AA3B
Region 3: Not Awarded in 2015		

Trophy, high combined score (all sessions), each ITU region:

Region 1: F6HKA	Region 2: N4AF	Region 3: Not Awarded in 2015
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Plaque, high score, each of HP, LP and QRP, each session, each ITU region:

Region 1 – Insufficient LP, QRP activity

Session 1	HP: F6HKA
Session 2	HP: OK7M
Session 3:	HP: F6HKA

Region 2

Session 1	HP: N4AF	LP: N5AW	QRP: K1GU
Session 2	HP: N4AF	LP: N5AW	QRP: K1GU
Session 3:	HP: AA3B	LP: N4YDU	QRP: KS0MO

Region 3 – insufficient activity for awards

Thanks to log checker Al Maenchen AD6E and congratulations to all the winners! By the way, Al reports that every QSO from every log was cross-checked by software and every discovered, apparent error was validated or accepted by a Real Human.

73,

Dean NW2K

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

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.

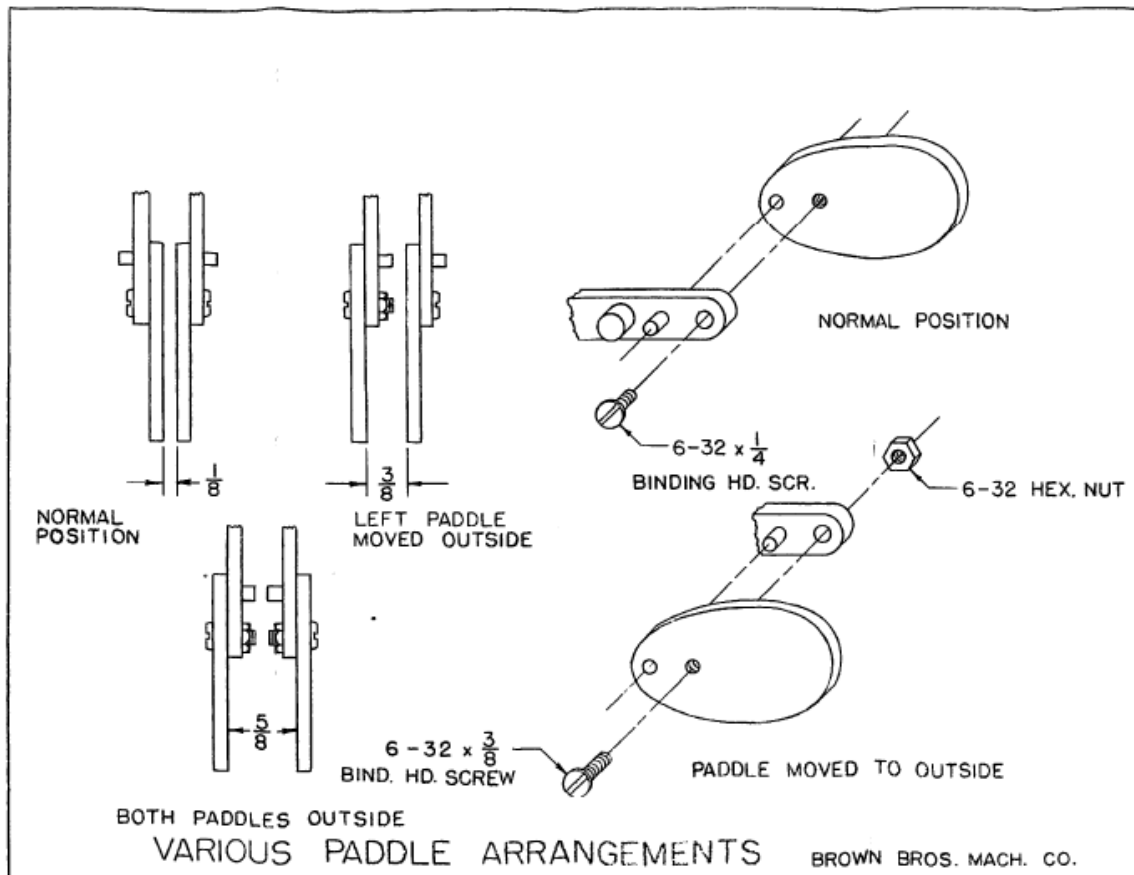
Atsu JE1TRV: I'm happy to inform CWops that the first CW Academy Level 1 course in Japan is under way. Since we only have a total of two students and three Advisors for our first class, all members have been getting together on Skype for the CW class training every Tuesday and Thursday. The students are doing well and the word is quickly spreading about the new JA CW Academy program!

We agree that the Skype video meeting is a very nice tool for confirming students' progress and makes for a great advising environment. I hope all students will finish the course successfully by the end of December.

Below is a screen shot of one of our Skype meetings.



Fred K1VR: I thought this would be of interest to other CWops members who have at one time used a Brown Brothers Paddle. I have a drawing from Brown Bros. Machine Co. that shows various mounting systems for the plastic paddles – resulting in spacing of 1/8", 3/8" and 5/8". Over the years, it's been handy having this drawing to consult from. [You can do this with N3ZN paddles and some others as well. – Ed.]



Bob K6NV: I recently upgraded to a K3, which is working out very well for me and is keeping neighboring hams very happy. [Yes! I'm a mile away and can operate within a few KHz. – Ed.] I have my trusty FT-1000MP for sale. It is time to let it go to a good home. The MP has served me very well and has no issues. It is fully filtered and in excellent condition with the original boxes, original manual and schematics, original Quick Menu sheet, original hand microphone (with UP/DOWN/FAST controls), AC power cord, and extra plugs/fuses. It includes the DVS-2 digital voice recorder, Heil headset adapter included (AD-1-y8) and Quick Start guide.

Filters: Fully filtered, 2.1, 500, and 250 in both second and third IF.

Inrad Roofing Filter Installed

Inrad key click mod installed (2/7/2013)

Price, information and pictures are available upon request. Interested parties can contact me at: k6nv@arrl.net

Emil I5EFO: As you can see on Contest Corral (page 69 of the December issue of QST), at 16Z of Sat., December 12 begins the International Naval Contest (CW/Phone) lasting 24 consecutive hours. Details are at <http://www.marinefunker.de/eng/show.php3?pos=16>. The list of station members of the Naval Clubs (with its number) is visible and downloadable at http://inorc.it/media/Documenti/NAVAL_2015_.lst. I am a member of the Marine Funker (MF1108) and will try to be present on 20 meters CW during the Contest period.

Danny WP4F: From now until January 28, 2016, I will be operating KP4AW (CW only) in my spare time. KP4AW is the official station of the ARRL Puerto Rico Section Convention, Inc. QSL info can be found on QRZ.com. Bands of operation 10-80, operating frequency will be close to the CWops frequencies.

Mel KJ9C: After the December 16th CWT I will be operating from my mountain valley QTH in Montana. Signal strength and rates will both be lower for the winter. We hope skiing will also be good during our winter stay.

John K3GHH: Chuck NO5W (left) worked a recent CWT at the Jefferson (Parish, LA) Amateur Radio Club station with visitor John K3GHH. The station has three well-equipped operating positions but Chuck was using the fourth, for visitors, with his own K3. John was spending Thanksgiving week with family in Metairie.



Frank CO2IR: The Cuban Radio Amateur Federation (FRC) hosted Olli Risannen OH0XX/HP1WW recently. Olli is a Very Nice person!



From Left to Right: CO2RP, CO2VQ, CM2KL, CO2IR, OH0XX, CO2AME, CO2AJ

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

My Story

by Giuseppe Giunta IT9VDQ

My name is Giuseppe Giunta. I was born 59 years ago in Palermo, Sicily, and I work as a pharmaceutical sales representative. I have a beautiful 25 year old daughter, Julia. My hobbies were “hang gliding” and “paragliding” but, after a bad accident in 2004, I do not fly any more and I decided to switch to full-time Amateur Radio! First Novice license was IW9AFS in 1975 and I upgraded to Extra as IT9VDQ in 1977. My first HF QSO ever was in 1977, I don’t know why, but I did it on CW. I always loved meteor scatter on 144Mhz, too. HSC operator since 1987, I’ve always liked DXing and contesting, with passion for CW growing and growing under precious advice and teachings of my friend Piero IT9ZGY, now SK. I was one of the IH9P crew during the winning period of activity from Pantelleria Island, both in CW and SSB CQWW DX Contests. For some years, I have been very active in all the main contests, together with a local group of friends, running the contest call IR9Y first, and now IB9T.

One afternoon, in the beginning of September, I was listening on HF and often heard "CQ CWT de xxxxx". I got curious and made some QSOs, discovering many well known friends, testers and DXers, already found in many contest weekends and DXpedition pileups. I must say that these

regular Wednesday appointments are really lovely and I hope to continue being very active, work permitting, even if the propagation of recent months has been very bad. I'm really happy to be part of CWOps and I hope to honor the club. I thank Marco IK0YVV, my first nominator, and my other sponsors!

Greetings from Sicily de Giu, IT9VDQ (one of IB9T) **CWOps #1538**

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)



CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

CW Academy (CWA) is now gearing up for the upcoming January/February 2016 semester, which will start the week of January 4th. This will be the 12th overall semester that CWA has conducted CW classes. The very first CWA semester was conducted in the Spring of 2011.

This semester we have five new Advisors: John W2IU, Vic WB6SEL, Mike WH6YH, Lee ZL2KE and Vic 4X6GP. We also welcome the return of Barry W4LSV (ex K8QI) to our Advisor team.

Of special note is that CWops now has, for the first time, a father/son duo serving as CWA Advisors at the same time! Vic WB6SEL's son (also named Vic) WD0EBZ has been an Advisor for the last three semesters. Both Vic's are graduates of the CWA program and both were mentored by Rob K6RB. One would hope that one day, in the near future, the Grandson/Granddaughter will join us too!

I sent out the Advisor/Class assignments last week and our Advisors are now actively contacting their assigned students and finalizing their rosters.

For this semester we have a total of 33 Advisors and 204 enrolled students comprised of 119 Level 1 students, 50 Level 2 students, and 35 Level 3 students. Our DX students this semester hail from South Africa, UK, Australia, Austria, Germany and France.

CWA continues to grow as the word is spreading quickly of the high quality programs we offer and of the many accolades that the graduating students have given our Advisors.

CWA is in need of additional Advisors. Specifically, we are in need of Level 2 advisors on the US West Coast to fill the demand of our graduating level 1 students who now want to take their CW learning to the next level.

These students are the future of CW. Please help us ensure the sustainability and future growth of CW and that of our great hobby by volunteering your services as a CW Academy Advisor. It's fun and rewarding and you will make many new life-long friendships at the same time!

More information about becoming a CWA Advisor can be found at the CWops website (www.cwops.org). The link for the sign up form for becoming a CWA Advisor is:

<http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>

Here's to a successful and fun-filled CW Academy semester!

73,

Jerry AC4BT

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

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next article](#)

How We Were

[Paul Bock K4MSG](#), CWops #315

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Originally licensed as KN4MSG in 1957, picture is seventeen-year-old Paul in 1968. How many of us still have our original call? [The bug at Paul's hand appears identical to the one he refurbished for me just a few years ago! – Ed.]



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

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Holiday season is fast approaching. It always comes up too quickly and catches me off guard. This year is looking likely to be a green Christmas up here in the frozen North, as we've had no snow at all yet where I am near Ottawa. That's hardly normal.

CW Sweepstakes, CQ WW CW and ARRL 160 are past now, with ARRL 10, RAC Winter and Stew Perry yet to come. Let's hope for good propagation, or at least as good as we can expect at this stage in the declining solar cycle. For me, it's the geomagnetic disturbances that have the biggest effect. In the 0300Z session on December 3, I was running 500 watts, but especially on 40m I had to keep on looking over at the amplifier to assure myself that it was not in standby, because it felt as if I was QRP. It was hard getting anyone to answer my CQs and I was always having to wait in line for everyone else when I was S&P'ing. Meanwhile, folks a long way south from here were commenting on good conditions. I was actually relieved to see AL9A's comment about not very good conditions to convince me it wasn't something wrong with my station. If we in southern Canada think we've got bad geomagnetic conditions, that's nothing compared to what our KL7 friends regularly put up with.

This year the official holidays, Christmas and New Year's Day, come on Fridays, which shouldn't affect the CWTs too much, although of course there are often visiting family members and friends. On the other hand, some of the members we don't usually see in CWTs may have time off from work and be able to make the December 30 tests.

In 2016, the special slow-speed CWTs will be on March 9, June 8 and November 9. Please mark those dates in your calendar so you can remember to turn down the speed controls on your keyers and give the new CW Academy graduates a warm welcome.

In next month's column I hope to be able to give the year-end results for the participation awards, if I can get the checking with 3830scores done in time for the deadline.

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

73,

Rich, VE3KI

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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	768	3840		W1RM	160		N5RR	50		W1RM	47		W1RM	38
VE3KI	701	3539		F6HKA	136		W1RM	50		OK1RR	42		F6HKA	38
G4BUE	677	2760		W4VQ	129		W4VQ	50		F6HKA	42		G4BUE	37
N5RR	661	3657		OH2BN	112		F6HKA	50		OH2BN	40		W4VQ	36
W1RM	655	3817		G4BUE	110		W1UU	50		G4BUE	40		N5RR	36
AA3B	608	5029		N5RR	109		VE3KI	50		N5RR	40		VE3KI	35
K6RB	580	3158		VE3KI	102		G4BUE	50		EA8OM	40		IK0YVV	32
K1ESE	499	2067		EA8OM	100		EA8OM	50		W4VQ	38		W6NS	14
W9ILY	496	2422		SM6CNN	93		W0EJ	50		VE3KI	38			
W0VX	456	2437		OK1RR	93		FG8NY	50		AA3B	37			
N1EN	454	1987		K1ESE	92		W6KY	50		SM6CNN	37			
N5PHT	448	840		N1EN	92		N1EN	50		FG8NY	35			
FG8NY	437	2455		AA3B	89		NA6O	50		KR3E	34			
EA8OM	426	2560		EA1WX	89		N5PHT	50		KZ5D	34			
F5MNM	396	1111		W9ILY	88		F5MNM	50		W9ILY	33			
KG5U	394	1279		DL8PG	86		AD1C	49		DL8PG	33			
OK1RR	371	1618		W0VX	85		K6DGW	49		K1ESE	33			
W1UU	362	1806		PA7RA	79		GW0ETF	49		N1EN	33			
DL8PG	358	1559		KZ5D	78		K1ESE	49		EA1WX	32			
NA6O	355	1207		FG8NY	76		W0VX	49		F5MNM	32			
W5ASP	346	857		AD1C	73		W9ILY	49		W1UU	32			
K2ZC	336	641		KR3E	73		AA3B	49		PA7RA	31			
HB9ARF	330	688		W1UU	72		K6RB	48		W0VX	31			
WT2P	314	574		N1ZX	70		KZ5D	48		NN6T	29			
W6KY	306	1805		F5MNM	68		NN6T	48		N1ZX	28			
W6NS	305	669		GW0ETF	67		DL8PG	48		GW0ETF	28			
KT5V	294	814		NN6T	67		WB9G	48		AD1C	25			
NU7Y	282	479		K6RB	54		SM6CNN	48		JF2IWL	23			

JF2IWL	228	818		W6KY	54		N1ZX	48	K6RB	23			
KE4S	225	413		NA6O	51		KT5V	48	G4DRS	22			
G4DRS	204	353		4Z1UF	50		KR3E	47	HB9ARF	22			
GW0ETF	184	1451		WB9G	48		JF2IWL	47	4Z1UF	21			
EA1WX	177	1655		JF2IWL	47		NU7Y	47	WB9G	19			
4X6GP	171	906		G4DRS	45		W6NS	47	I5EFO	19			
AB7MP	169	417		HB9ARF	38		EA1WX	46	G3YJQ	18			
G3YJQ	169	234		W0EJ	36		WX7SJ	46	K2ZC	18			
K0DTJ	152	605		K2ZC	35		KG5U	46	NA6O	17			
N1ZX	143	940		K6DGW	32		AB7MP	46	W6KY	16			
G3XLG	140	201		KT5V	32		K0DTJ	45	KG5U	15			
I5EFO	136	146		KG5U	28		PA7RA	44	KS4S	12			
PA7RA	128	1200		G3YJQ	27		OK1RR	44	KT5V	11			
W4VQ	118	2174		K0DTJ	24		K2ZC	44	G3XLG	10			
NV9X	110	149		W6NS	24		KS4S	44	W0EJ	10			
NN6T	97	1577		I5EFO	23		G4DRS	43	K6DGW	8			
K6DGW	65	1328		NU7Y	21		HB9ARF	43	G0DJA	7			
KE6K	61	116		KE4S	19		OH2BN	42	W5TM	7			
W0EJ	51	754		G3XLG	18		NV9X	38	K0DTJ	6			
KZ5D	0	3239		AB7MP	14		G3YJQ	37	W6NS	5			
SM6CNN	0	2477		WT2P	14		4Z1UF	36	WT2P	4			
N2UU	0	1774		W5TM	11		WT2P	34	AB7MP	3			
AD1C	0	1630		G0DJA	10		W5TM	32	NV9X	1			
KR3E	0	1136		KE6K	4		G3XLG	31	IK0YVV	0			
PA4N	0	955		NV9X	4		I5EFO	31					
WB9G	0	888		IK0YVV	0		KE6K	17					
WX7SJ	0	610					G0DJA	8					
OH2BN	0	530					IK0YVV	0					
W5TM	0	235											
G0DJA	0	23											
PA1FOX	0	5											
IK0YVV	0	0											

73,

Pete W1RM

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

New Members

[Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

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

1526	WP4F*	Danny
1527	N5AF	Sam
1528	F5NZY	Steph
1529	SM5GLC*	Lasse
1530	W9IE	Ken
1531	KJ3Q	Al
1532	AA0FO	Marshall
1533	K0ZR	Jeff
1534	WB6SEL*	Vic
1535	N8UM	John
1536	N4OI*	Ken

* = Life Member

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

Current Nominees

As of 9 December 2015:

Need Sponsors: K5AZR, NP4H, AK4NY, N7RD

Invitations Extended: KI7MT, GU4CHY, IT9VDQ

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.”

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

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 were not quite as good in November and many folks were spending their limited time contesting this month. Participation and QSOs were back to the usual levels after a strong October.

Here are the standings for the month of November:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Nov.</u>
N5IR	68
K5KV	55
K1ESE	54
K5YQF	53
WB6BEE	51
K4AHO	38
KC0VKN	34
N1ZX	24
AC4BT	23
K6HP	20
KE6OIO	18
KB6NU	18
NN6T	16
K6RB	11
JE1TRV	8
K0DTJ	5
W3WHK	3
W4LSV	3
I5EFO	1

Once again, Bill N5IR had another big month! It was another first place for Bill. Benny K5KV jumped into second, pushing aside (barely) manager John K1ESE. Cecil K5YQF, once again, was just one behind for fourth. Don WB6BEE went from second to fifth this month.

The only November personal best for the year went to KE6OIO.

Compared with October, November had four fewer stations reporting and 46 fewer QSOs.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5IR	779
WB6BEE	732
K5KV	577
K1ESE	572
K5YQF	501
K4AHO	393
N1ZX	346
AC4BT	323
KC0VKN	241
NN6T	228
K6HP	198
K6RB	167
KE6OIO	138
KB6NU	104
W3WHK	98
HB9CVQ	85
W6JMP	75
JE1TRV	69
WA8IWK	35
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
W4LSV	25
K0DTJ	21
KE6K	19
I5EFO	14
W5JQ	12
K8QI	10
KE4S	3
AB7MP	3
PA1FOX	2
IK0IXI	2
K5IX	1
K3GHH/KL7	1
KU7Y	1

It looks like Bill N5IR is all but unbeatable for the 2015 Plaque. That's a great come-from-behind. Don WB6BEE seems to have second locked up. The only real contest is for third place between Benny K5KV and me. It will be fun to see if December has any surprises.

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

Several operators are within range of either earning a medal or moving up to a better medal before the year end, Let's hope they all have a good December.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW

[Back to Contents](#)

[Next Article](#)

Upcoming CW Operating Events

[Joe Staples W5ASP](#)

This brief list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their CW skills in less intense and more casual on-the-air activities.

If by some chance the Ten Meter contest hasn't ended by the time you read this, keep in mind the comment in last month's column regarding the role Sporadic-E can play in filling out your log. If it's over and done with, I hope both you and I had a satisfying weekend.

This year the RAC Winter contest takes place the weekend before Christmas. Participation in the 2014 running of the Canada Winter Contest was up slightly with a total of 745 entries received. As described in last December's column, this event can be a great way to wrap up the 2015 contest agenda. Just chasing the 27 possible multipliers can be a real challenge.

The Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge is not your ordinary CW contest. It is held on 160 meters (near the solstice in December) and is CW only. While it enjoys strong activity, the band is slightly less crowded than the major 160 meter contests. This provides more opportunities to make intercontinental QSOs.

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) 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.

Last year there were 712 logs were submitted. Activity was strong with 1500 different stations showing up in multiple logs. Conditions continued to suffer due to the relatively high sunspot count. However, the increase in activity seemed to offset the poor conditions, and help produce some pretty high QSO totals, although the average number of points per QSO was down. This year's event should attract even more interest, and perhaps it will be blessed with a more modest sunspot level.

The "E.T.Krenkel Memorial", RAEM Contest is held on 10 thru 80 Meters, and is CW only. The exchange is another rather unique choice. It consists of the serial number of the QSO, and the participant's geographical coordinates, degree values only. Best see the rules for the details.

The North American QSO Party CW is one of the more popular events for "brass pounders" and needs no further comment. Be there, do that!

Happy Holidays... and keep on pounding.

DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 11 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 18 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 25 th

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 1 st
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 8 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 15 th
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 17 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 13 th
www.naqcc.info/	
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 23 rd
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2400Z, Jan 11 th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 th to 2400Z, Dec 13 th
http://www.arrl.org/10-meter	
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19 th
http://wp.rac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-Winter-Contest-Rules-English-French.pdf	
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 th to 1500Z, Dec 27 th
http://www.kkn.net/stew/	
RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 27 th
http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2014/rules_eng_2014.php	
North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 th to 0559Z, Jan 10 th
http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf	
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10 th
http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/10m/en/rules/	

[Back to Contents](#)