



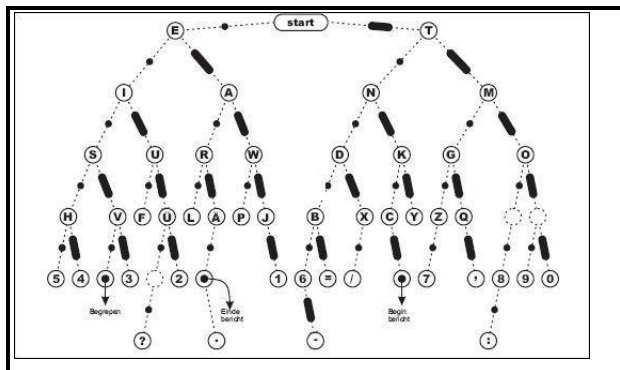
Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

January

2016

Issue No. 72



Don't Try This at Home!

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](#)

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Director: Bert Donn [G3XSN](#)

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

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President's Message

First, I want to wish you and your families are healthy and happy 2016.



CWops is now six years old. And, what a thrilling six years it has been. I don't think that any of the dozen or so of us who first batted around the ideas that took form as CWops expected it to grow and diversify as quickly as it has. From a dozen founders, to over 1000 members, in more than 70 countries, in just six years – what a ride!

[Continued on next page]

I have already begun working on my goals for 2016. I want to see more participation in EU and AS in CWTs and CW Open. I'd like to see more EU advisors to help with the increasing number of EU students signing up for CW Academy. And I'd like to move ahead on my goal for a Youth CW Academy.

In the US, ARRL has spent many years and a lot of money trying to entice young folks to join the ranks of ham radio operators. Looking at the average age of ham operators these days, it is clear that this has not worked very well. When was the last time you worked someone under 20 years old on HF CW?

Back in the 1950s on the novice bands, it was rare to work someone older than 20. What's changed? Some people thought that having to learn Morse was off-putting. So virtually all licensing authorities in the world have gone to no-code licensing. Yes, the number of licensees has increased, but the number who are active and stay licensed is way down. Let's face it, if your only experience in ham radio is using a 2 meter HT through a repeater, you are unlikely to stay engaged.

Contrast that with the number of hams in their 60s and up who continue to be active. How many of them are CW skilled? Why is CW Academy seeing so many hams who have been licensed for 50 plus years signing up to regain their CW skills? To me, the common denominator in license longevity is CW.

A few years ago my 11-year old neighbor came by to see ham radio in action. I started out on phone (after finding a mic in desk drawer) and after one CQ was called by a station in Namibia. Wow. I let Greg say "hello," and the other operator said "hey Greg." After a bit I asked him if he'd like to see how it works using Morse Code. "Sure," he said. I chalked it up to politeness. I heard a W5 calling CQ and nailed him with one call. It was Mike in Texas. I translated for Greg as I copied and sent. When it was over I said "Well, what do you think?" He said "That is so cool, especially that Morse Code stuff." What??? Picking myself up off the floor I asked "Why?" He answered "because it's like texting only not everyone can do it."

Was this a random situation or a hint? Watch kids using their smartphones. Are they chatting? No. Mostly, they're texting. They are sending characters and numbers back and forth. They send "LOL" for "laugh out loud." Kind of like "hi," right? Could it be that the route to rejuvenating ham radio is via the HF bands and CW mode? Maybe. We'll never know unless we try.

I am still working on the details for a special Youth CW Academy aimed at young folks between 13 and 19 years of age. I will need advisors who enjoy working with young folks. I will also need donated equipment later on, too. I want to get these kids engaged, learning CW together, and make sure they get on the HF bands afterward, and continue to operate CW. It is a risky proposition, at best. Kids these days have lots of distractions – school, Internet, Pandora, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, video games, and so on. Could a significant number of them be enticed to join our ranks by operating CW on the HF bands? We'll never know unless we try.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the [Editor](#)



CW – Too Slow or Just Right?

We all know that CW is a relatively slow mode of communication compared to speech, photography, music or video. Although [faster than texting](#), it shares with that more modern mode a penchant for abbreviations and general brevity: Think before you send, get your thoughts across with a minimum of flourish, don't waste bandwidth. That's usually a good thing, but read on....

We lost a member in the past month who objected to a perceived bias in the club toward one type of CW operating activity and against another. Apparently, an email reflector thread that he perceived as too long discussed the merits of different activities and the behavior of their adherents. It convinced him that he had joined the wrong group! I'm sorry to lose a member, but I am puzzled that he developed such a strong misimpression of who we are. There may well have been an email thread reflecting some of the bias to which he objected. People, even CWops members, are entitled to their preferences and opinions. ;-) Email, as you know, is quite the opposite of CW when it comes to length and precision of expression. I didn't notice the offending thread myself, but it was surely a series of individual, personal opinions, in no way representing an official direction for CWops. From Day One of our pre-founding discussions we have been very clear among ourselves and with all who will listen – CWops promotes CW in all its applications (well, except maybe for the likes of cheating at chess!). Among us and represented in our programs and off-the-air communications are rag chewers, DX chasers, traffic handlers, contesters, experimenters, inventors, teachers, and students, all enjoying CW for its own sake and for the sake of their favorite activities in ham radio. Most of our members, it seems to me, enjoy not one but several of the aforementioned passions as well as other CW activities, showing that we are, in general, pretty multi-dimensional in our hobby pursuits. Individual members and some of their emails may lean toward one activity or another, especially when taken out of context. That's their prerogative. But maybe we should all spend more time on the air, communicating slowly and carefully in Morse, and less time online responding *ad infinitum* to email proclamations!?

Election Results

Results of the recent club elections are out: W1UU and ZS1EL are declared elected for their respective terms as Vice President and Director effective January 1, 2016. Congratulations to both and thanks for agreeing to serve the club. Vidi's term as a director is for three years and Peter's term as VP is for two years.

2016 is the final year for the current president and secretary, unless they are re-nominated and re-elected. Our current officers, directors and other volunteers are doing a great job, but let's not let them burn out from perpetual responsibility. Members should always be thinking forward to future leaders for our club. No one can or should hold office indefinitely and moving people into and through the ranks of leadership positions is the best way to keep an organization fresh. Are there directors ready to become officers? Officers ready to try a different position? Rank and file members ready to jump in at any level? Are you or an acquaintance ready to step in? Speak up!

CWT – “Not a Contest!?”

Like ARRL Field Day, CWT is “not a contest.” But, as we have discussed before, its format resembles a contest and it is a powerful tool for preparing and practicing for contests. At first, our CW Tests were activity-limited – you could run out of stations to work in a one hour event. In Europe and Asia that is still the case. But in North America, operator skill has eclipsed activity as a determinant of score. Dean NW2K noted that Bud AA3B recently achieved 191/129 and 185/122 in two events in one day. “A 200 hour can’t be far away,” he said. “What a great group of operators! Congratulations Bud!”

Enjoy this issue of *Solid Copy* and, as usual, let me know what else you want to see here.

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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CWops Needs You!

by **Jim Talens N3JT**

CWops Membership Growth Needs You! Our growing membership, now well over 1200 current members, is a credit to all members because it is our members who invite new CW operators to join our club. This is a great club that supports our favored mode in virtually every way possible, through on-air activities, the CW Academy, incentives for being active (QTX, ACA, CMA), contest plaques, and even social events (Dayton, Washington, DC). There are many excellent CW operators out there who are not yet CWops members – but it’s up to you to invite them. In 2015, the top nominators of new members were K6RB (24), N3JT (18), K7SV (10) and W0UCE (7). For 2016, won’t you please invite at least one new CW operator to join CWops? Here’s the CWops Bylaw on membership:

A candidate for membership must be nominated by at least four current members within a period of five months of initial publication of nomination. The candidate is called a nominee. Members who support the nominee are called sponsors. A nominee must be a licensed Amateur Radio operator, capable of sending and receiving International Morse Code (CW) at no less than 25 words per minute and should be capable of carrying on a conversation in English using CW.

Once you’ve identified a candidate member, go to QRZ.COM and find the operator’s email address (or ask on the air!). Invite a visit to our website, www.cwops.org, and note the CW Academy and our overall goal not just to keep CW alive but also to enlarge it as a preferred mode. If the operator is interested in membership, go to <http://www.cwops.org/members/nominationsignup.html> and complete the form. (The login user ID is telegrapher and the password is morse8.) That’s all there is to it! If the operator is already nominated, use the sponsorship form at <http://www.cwops.org/members/additionalsponsor.html> and fill out that form. Some folks simply don’t like to join anything, and that’s fine. But most will be pleased to be invited to join our prestigious CW club. From time to time monitor the Status page at

<http://www.cwops.org/members/status.html> for ideas on others' nominations as well as the status of your nominee toward membership.

For 2016, how about making it your goal to invite three CW operators to join CWops? Like most such things, the first one is the hurdle. Once you invite one, you'll find yourself inviting others, and they'll thank you for it!

Best for the New Year!

Jim, N3JT

Secretary

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The North American CW Sprint (6 FEB) is Easier Than You Might Think!

Dean Faklis NW2K

After reading the summary of the September 2015 NA CW Sprint in the latest issue of the *National Contest Journal*, I thought that it might be interesting to see how many CWT regulars participated. In rough numbers, 20% of the Sprint scores were contributed by regular CWTers. I was a bit surprised by the result as I thought that the percentage would have been higher. After all, the Sprint is a perfect activity for those who enjoy our excellent CWTs and CW Open.

The CW Sprint is held semiannually: typically on the first Saturday night of February (coming soon on 6 FEB 2016), and the Saturday after Labor Day in September. Participation has been falling off a bit and that's unfortunate because it is a great CW event. It would benefit all lovers of CW contesting to help boost participation in the Sprint. If more CWTers entered the Sprint, QSO totals would again surpass 400!

The Sprint has an interesting rule which helps level the playing field. After you call CQ and complete a QSO, you must vacate the frequency. In fact, the person that answered your CQ gets to stay on that frequency and solicit another QSO. This QSY rule is responsible for all of the fun and the challenge ... and some frustration for first-timers!

There is no good reason to steer clear of the Sprint and lots of reasons to get prepared and join in. Essentially, all that is needed is a new set of macros for your logging software. The computer does all the work! All you need to do is to remember to QSY after calling CQ and making a contact.

Rather than go into the ins and outs of how to prepare for the Sprint, here are a few links that go into detail:

<http://www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html>

<http://www.contesting.com/articles/198>

<http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php?page=Setup+HF+Contests+-+CW+and+SSB#SPRINTCW>

The last link gives a set of Sprint macros for N1MM. If you're not using N1MM, check out the logic and create your own macros, which are consistent with your system. It's all about the macros and everything else is just CW.

One great thing about the Sprint is that the person that is calling CQ controls the show. If you feel comfortable at 20-25 wpm, use that speed to call CQ and the Op on the other end will [*usually – Ed.*] meet you in speed. He wants to QSO with you and will do what it takes! It is perfectly OK to call CQ at QRS, make the QSO, then QSY to another valid frequency [*at least 5 KHz away*] and call CQ again. You are NOT compelled to answer a speed demon!

If you like the CWTs and the CW Open, please make it a point to check out the Sprint on 6 FEB 2016, Saturday night in North America (0000-0400Z 7 FEB). Like anything else, practice makes perfect, and there is regular Sprint practice on Thursday nights. Check out the 30-minute NCCC NS (<http://www.ncccsprint.com/>) to help sort out your sending macros. Expand your CW activities and have fun! If you need a hand, [send me an email](#).

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The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

Riki Kline K7NJ

New Deadline

Even though the announcement of the award was sent to major amateur publications and organizations, nominations have been scanty. Because of that, we have extended the deadline for submitting nominations until April 15, 2016. Please look over the following announcement and consider nominating those who you feel are worthy of the award. There is still enough time to get others interested in making nominations too, so consider passing this on to others including clubs that you're in touch with, especially those that are not in North America. Here's all the needed information:

Purpose

The purpose of this yearly award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made great contributions toward advancing the art or practice of radio communication 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 copy to secretary@cwops.org. In order to be considered, a nomination must be received by April 15, 2016 and include:

- Name(s) and call sign(s) if applicable of nominee(s), and complete contact information including postal addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers.
- 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 the Dayton Hamvention, or mailed if recipients are not present.

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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.

Pete W1RM: 2016 is a special year for me as it will be my Diamond Jubilee year in ham radio. First licensed in 1956 as KN2UTV. Got K2UTV in 1957 then W1BGD when I came to Connecticut in 1964 and finally W1RM in 1981. A lot has changed in ham radio since KN2UTV – crystal controlled transmitter, clunky BC-348 receiver, wire antennas. Beams were a rarity and one for 40 unheard of, let alone 80. Our hobby was much more civil too. None of the DQRM, trash talking on phone, etc. One lived in fear of the dreaded pink ticket from FCC. Not so today. Still, ham radio is in my blood. Thank heavens the blood thinner I'm on hasn't had any effect on that!!

Juanjo EA1WX: From Jan. 1-10, 2016 look for EG1CWO, EG2CWO, EG4CWO, EG5CWO, EG6CWO, EG8CWO in honor of the sixth anniversary of CWops. These call signs will be active as much as possible, including during the CWT sessions, i.e., on Wednesdays 13-14z, 19-20z and Thursdays 03-04z.

There will be a website www.eacwops.es and a log search where the operators using the above call signs can be identified, with their CWops membership numbers, names and DXCC standings. We hope to make contacts with as many CWops members as possible – and others as well! See you then!

Rick VE3KI: I managed to get an inverted L up in time for the ARRL 160 contest. It's no barn burner but it gets out well enough to let me make contacts. My next antenna project will be a wire vertical for 40m. If this unseasonably nice weather continues, I hope to be able to work on that in the next couple of days.

Gary N5PHT: We plan to be RVing again soon. Hope to make some contacts from IOTA NA92 Mustang Island hopefully including a CWT. Will post details on the reflector and Facebook page. Should happen first two weeks in January.

Chris G4BUE (N4CJ): After being home to the UK for Christmas and the New Year, Chris will be QRV as N4CJ again from the Florida QTH between 26 January and 29 March.

Mel KJ9C: Back in MT yesterday for the ski season, and notice this morning that two of my dipoles are down (20 and 80 meter) so signals will be even weaker than they usually are from here deep in the mountains.

Emil I5EFO: For those who have not already done so, I invite you to listen on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFsnuOX8_98&feature=youtu.be) New Year 2016 best wishes transmitted from Swedish historic CW station SAQ (an UNESCO World Heritage Site) in operation since year 1925, based on 200 kW alternator at a frequency of 17.2 kHz. I have them received with -60dBm signal by an old frequency selective level meter Cushman model CE-24A and 100m non-resonant wire.

News at <http://alexander.n.se/watch-the-saq-transmission-on-alexanderson-day-june-28-1200utc/?lang=en> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Varberg_Radio_Station."

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Musicians Take Note!

Jim N3JT

A number of our members are musicians. Did you know there is a CWops Listserv dedicated to members who are musicians? Its purpose is to provide a way for members to enlarge the on-air radio communications experience with similarly interested CWops members. So are you in a band or do you like to jam with others locally? Find out who else in our club does the same or plays a similar instrument. To subscribe, send an email to: cwopsmusic-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Then, to post a message just send it to cwopsmusic@yahoogroups.com. Play on!

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CW Academy

Jerry AC4BT, Rob K6RB and Will WJ9B

By the time you read this, our January-February 2016 semester will be underway. Again, we have lots of applicants and enough advisors to field classes at all three levels but we need more Level 2 advisors. Level 1 gets these students from zero to 15 wpm along with knowledge about CW QSOing and a small taste of contesting and DXing. Level 2 is where the rubber meets the road. We aim to get them to over 20 wpm, head copy, very comfortable with QSOing and some contesting.

Our aim is not to make these students rag chewers, contesters or DXers. Our aim is to help them attain the skills they need to do any or all of these things. Ultimately, what they choose to focus on is their choice. Interestingly, I have had several students in Level 2 and 3 who came in wanting to improve head copy skills for rag chewing and discovered that once they learned how to use RufzXP, Morse Runner, N1MM+, and played in CWT, that they really enjoyed contesting.

Again, our classes are mostly Level 1 (new to CW or stuck at 10 wpm or less), but we keep seeing an increase in the number of Level 2 and 3 signups, each semester. This is a good sign because it means that several of those who complete Level 1 want to keep on learning and putting their skills to good use.

I believe many of our Level 2 advisors will be having their students get on 40M in the evenings to work other operators on the bands above 7.035 MHz. That's a way for those of you who would like to help out, but cannot commit to an eight-week stretch, to provide practice to our Level 2 and 3 students.

Most classes are Mondays and Thursdays so you can expect to see some CWA students working out on 40M on Tuesdays, Fridays and weekend evenings. The HF CWA program is still somewhat new but if we can get critical mass of operators willing to work students at 20 to 25 wpm, it will go a long way to helping them build up skills and confidence.

73,

Jerry AC4BT

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

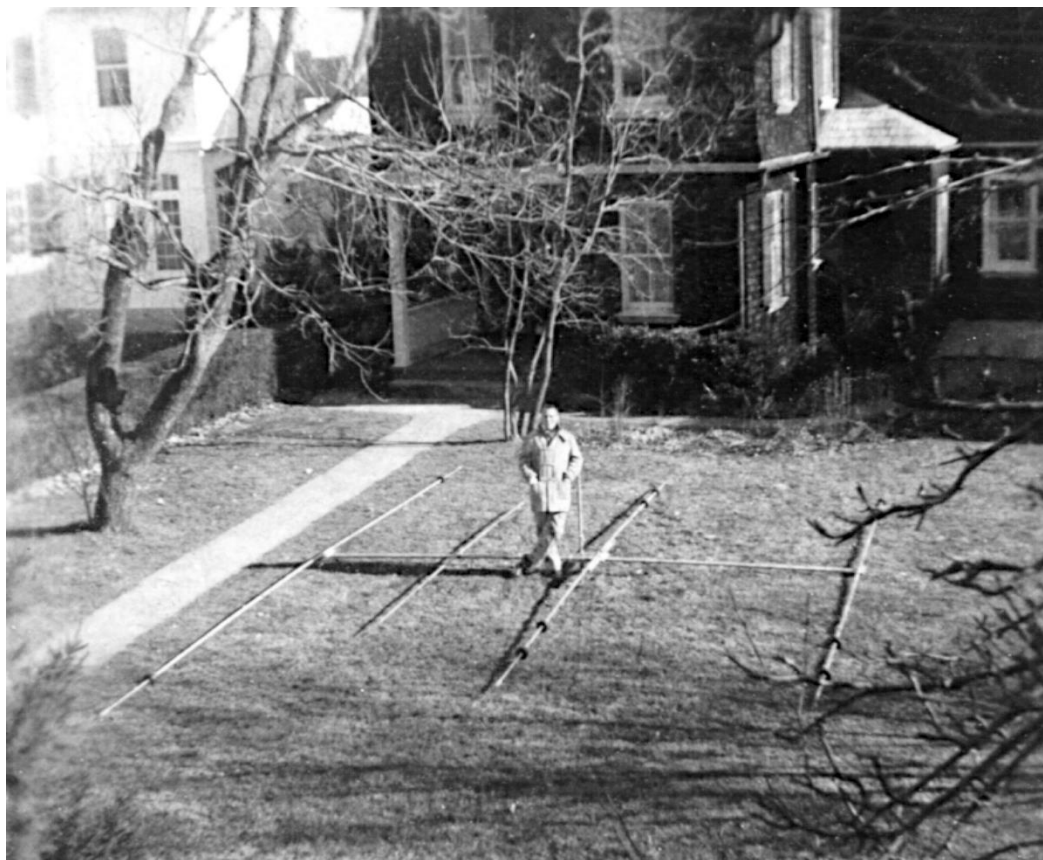
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How We Were – W1HIS #306

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Chuck W1HIS, CWops Life Member #306 writes, “In the 15 Aug issue of Solid Copy you asked for a photo of a "station with operator." You’ve shown photos of ops with the indoor components of their stations, but I don’t recall a photo of an op with the most critical component of his station, namely his antenna. Here is a photo of me with my newly assembled tribander in January 1959. At that time my call was W3JVQ and my age was 15. I taught myself Morse code on my seventh birthday, when I learned that Samuel F. B. Morse and I were born on April 27th.” *[Chuck, by the way, is a professor emeritus of electrical engineering at M.I.T. where he started as an undergraduate. Among his many accomplishments are the original equations for calculating position from GPS signals. Have you used a GPS lately? Thank Chuck! – Ed.]*



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

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Here is my first cut at the participation awards for 2015. If you think I missed you or got your award wrong, let me know so I can double-check against the posted scores at 3830scores.com and get the final list right. Note that the participation levels for gold, silver and bronze awards depend on your home continent:

<u>Home Continent</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Bronze</u>
North America:	120	80	50
Europe:	90	60	36
Other:	60	40	24

Also, for participation in a session to count, you have to report 10 contacts in a session (North America and Europe), or 5 contacts if you were located outside NA and EU during that session.

OK, according to my numbers the Gold level was reached by 27 members: UR5MM, SM3CER, UA6HZ, F6HKA, WJ9B (Will had a perfect attendance record - all 157 sessions!), W9CC, N3JT, WA9LEY, N4FP, K1DW, K7SV, W6SX, K6RB, K2ZC, NN4K, K1GU, VE3KI, W1UU, SM0OY, KG5U, N0TA, F6JOE, VE5SDH, KJ9C, VE2FK, SM5ALJ and N4DW.

41 Silver: N5AW, NW2K, OH2BN, N5ZO, DJ1OJ, N4ZZ, N5RR, SM5BKK, N8BJQ, W4TTM, PA3DBS, SM6CUK, W9ILY, K3SEN, AD8J, JF2IWL, VE3MGY, N0AC, W2GN, W4VQ, KM4FO, K5IX, AA2ZW, K3WW, NW0M, 9A7R, KC4D, VE9AA, KW7Q, SM7CIL, WB5EIN, K1SM, W6NS, K4RUM, K1ESE, VE2BZO, K1RO, K1BG, WX7SJ, HB9ARF and SM4DQE.

38 Bronze: N4AF, K3WJV, K4JAZ, K8BZ, N3RS, NO5W, DL8PG, W1RM, AF5DM, US0MF, WR5J, K3MD, KA7T, NS9I, OK1DIG, W8MHW, W2LK, AB7MP, F5MKN, GW0ETF, K9OM, N5IR, N5PHT, WA8HSB, K5AX, WQ3E, OK1RR, NA8V, G4BUE, K4BAI, LY5G, AD4EB, K8JQ, AE1T, N1EN, N3AD, K9RS and N3QE.

There sure are a lot of familiar call signs in those lists.

Participation levels are still increasing. I think the very first time we went over 100 reported scores was in March of this year, but by December there were more than 100 scores reported to 3830scores.com for all 15 sessions in the month.

Scores are going up, too – AA3B posted two amazing scores of 185 and 191 contacts in the last two December 30/31 sessions, K7SV posted 162 contacts using low power in the third session, and N5AW turned his power down to 5 watts and worked 97 contacts QRP in the second session. Wow! Congrats to all three, and to everyone else who took part and helped them reach those numbers. Remember, it takes two people to make a contact. The guys with the big stations wouldn't be able to run up those scores without lots of help from the little stations, so everyone who took part contributed to their achievements.

We do the CWTs because they're fun; 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	794	3913	W1RM	160	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
AA3B	749	5292	F6HKA	138	W1RM	50	G4BUE	43	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	737	3621	W4VQ	129	W4VQ	50	F6HKA	43	G4BUE	37
G4BUE	715	2917	G4BUE	114	F6HKA	50	OK1RR	42	W4VQ	36
W1RM	714	3952	OH2BN	112	W1UU	50	N5RR	41	N5RR	36
N5RR	683	3728	N5RR	111	VE3KI	50	OH2BN	40	VE3KI	35
K6RB	615	3245	VE3KI	105	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	40	IK0YVV	32
N5PHT	546	1214	EA8OM	103	EA8OM	50	VE3KI	39	N5PHT	26
W9ILY	515	2485	K1ESE	94	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	38	JF2IWL	25
K1ESE	514	2105	SM6CNN	93	F6JOE	50	AA3B	38	W6NS	17
W0VX	473	2437	OK1RR	93	W6KY	50	SM6CNN	37		
EA8OM	447	2599	AA3B	91	N1EN	50	F6JOE	36		
KG5U	423	1322	EA1WX	89	NA6O	50	KZ5D	34		
N1EN	418	1831	W9ILY	88	N5PHT	50	KR3E	34		
IK0YVV	413	767	DL8PG	86	F5MNK	50	W9ILY	33		
F5MNK	396	1111	W0VX	85	W9ILY	49	K1ESE	33		
F6JOE	393	2409	N1EN	82	W0VX	49	DL8PG	33		
NA6O	382	1305	PA7RA	79	K6RB	49	W1UU	32		
W1UU	374	1838	KZ5D	78	K6DGW	49	F5MNK	32		
OK1RR	371	1618	F6JOE	78	K1ESE	49	EA1WX	32		
DL8PG	358	1559	KR3E	73	GW0ETF	49	W0VX	31		
W5ASP	355	869	AD1C	73	AD1C	49	PA7RA	31		
N7WY	354	403	W1UU	72	AA3B	49	N1EN	31		
HB9ARF	342	723	N1ZX	70	WB9G	48	IK0YVV	30		
K2ZC	336	641	F5MNK	68	SM6CNN	48	NN6T	29		
W6NS	334	828	NN6T	67	NN6T	48	N1ZX	28		
W6KY	331	1840	GW0ETF	67	N1ZX	48	GW0ETF	28		
WT2P	314	574	IK0YVV	57	KZ5D	48	AD1C	25		
NN4K	309	671	W6KY	54	KT5V	48	K6RB	23		
KT5V	294	814	K6RB	54	IK0YVV	48	JF2IWL	23		
NU7Y	282	479	NA6O	52	DL8PG	48	HB9ARF	23		
K5IX	275	511	N5PHT	52	AB7MP	48	G4DRS	22		

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KE4S	259	524	4Z1UF	50	W6NS	47	4Z1UF	21		
KM4FO	254	500	WB9G	48	NU7Y	47	WB9G	19		
JF2IWL	232	836	JF2IWL	47	KR3E	47	I5EFO	19		
G4DRS	204	353	G4DRS	45	JF2IWL	47	N5PHT	18		
K0DTJ	201	668	HB9ARF	41	WX7SJ	46	K2ZC	18		
AB7MP	198	464	W0EJ	36	KG5U	46	G3YJQ	18		
GW0ETF	184	1451	KG5U	35	K5IX	46	NA6O	17		
EA1WX	177	1655	K2ZC	35	K0DTJ	46	KG5U	17		
4X6GP	171	906	K6DGW	34	EA1WX	46	W6KY	16		
G3YJQ	169	234	KT5V	32	PA7RA	44	NN4K	13		
K6DGW	151	1364	G3YJQ	27	OK1RR	44	KE4S	13		
N1ZX	143	940	W6NS	26	NN4K	44	KT5V	11		
G3XLG	140	201	K0DTJ	25	KE4S	44	W0EJ	10		
I5EFO	137	156	NN4K	24	K2ZC	44	G3XLG	10		
PA7RA	128	1200	I5EFO	23	KM4FO	43	K6DGW	8		
NV9X	110	149	NU7Y	21	HB9ARF	43	W5TM	7		
NN6T	97	1577	KE4S	20	G4DRS	43	G0DJA	7		
SM6CNN	85	2477	G3XLG	18	OH2BN	42	K0DTJ	6		
KE6K	61	116	WT2P	14	NV9X	38	W6NS	5		
W0EJ	51	754	AB7MP	14	G3YJQ	37	KM4FO	5		
KZ5D	0	3239	W5TM	11	4Z1UF	36	WT2P	4		
W4VQ	0	2223	KM4FO	10	WT2P	34	AB7MP	3		
N2UU	0	1774	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NV9X	1		
AD1C	0	1630	NV9X	4	I5EFO	31				
KR3E	0	1136	KE6K	4	G3XLG	31				
PA4N	0	955			KE6K	17				
WB9G	0	888			G0DJA	8				
WX7SJ	0	610								
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:

- 1537 W3HZZ Phil
- 1538 IT9VDQ Giu
- 1539 KI4MZC*Don
- 1540 W4KLY Paul
- 1541 W1TEF* Tom
- 1542 OM2VL Laci
- 1543 GU4CHYDick
- 1544 AK4NY* Tom
- 1545 IK5VLL* Andy
- 1546 WD4EXI Val
- 1547 K5KJ Sam
- 1548 IN3FHE Helga (Ina)
- 1549 K5AZR Ed
- 1550 NP4H* Nomar
- 1551 N7RD Ron
- 1552 W3FSA* John
- 1553 WL7F Wes
- 1554 K1IFJ Jack

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of 5 January 2016:

Need Sponsors: AJ8B, K1KS, EA8DDM, OH7CW

Invitations Extended: N5TOO, N3ZL, EC7ABV

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. December was a good month and even with the holiday distractions there was good activity.

Here are the standings for the month of December:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Dec.</u>
N5IR	94
WB6BEE	63
K1ESE	63
K5YQF	59
K5KV	47
KC0VKN	38
N1ZX	33
KB6NU	32
K4AHO	31
AC4BT	23
K6HP	16
HB9CVQ	15

NN6T	14
K6RB	14
KE6OIO	13
W4LSV	13
W3WHK	6
WA8IWK	6
I5EFO	3
W5JQ	3
K3TN	3

Once again, Bill N5IR had another big month! Don WB6BEE was back in second. K1ESE was third. Cecil K5YQF, once again, was fourth.

The December personal best for the year went to K5YQF, KB6NU, and HB9CVQ.

To compare with November, December had two more stations reporting and 86 more QSOs. That's a great way to end the year.

Here are the year to date totals:

<u>Call</u>	<u>2015</u>
N5IR	873
WB6BEE	795
K1ESE	635
K5KV	624
K5YQF	560
K4AHO	424
N1ZX	413
AC4BT	346
KC0VKN	279
NN6T	256
K6HP	220
K6RB	181
KE6OIO	151
KB6NU	136
W3WHK	104
HB9CVQ	100
W6JMP	75
JE1TRV	69
WA8IWK	41
W4LSV	38
WA3NZR	28
K6HTN	26
K0DTJ	21
KE6K	19
I5EFO	17
W5JQ	15
K8QI	10

K3TN	3
KE4S	3
AB7MP	3
PA1FOX	2
IK0IXI	2
K5IX	1
K3GHH/KL7	1
KU7Y	1

Bill N5IR has won the 2015 Plaque. Congratulations on a come-from-behind victory. Don WB6BEE led the first half of the year and took second for the year. Well done, Don. Your manager K1ESE managed to take third with a strong month in December.

As important as the scores are the huge number of conversational CW contacts that they represent. I am aware of no other CW organization that keeps track of rag chew QSOs. I hope our efforts are encouraging activity on the air and helping to create friendships.

QTX Achievement Medals

These QTX Medals will be awarded for 400 QTX points (Gold), 300 QTX points (Silver), and 200 QTX points (Bronze).

Gold Medal

N5IR
WB6BEE
K1ESE
K5KV
K5YQF
K4AHO
N1ZX

Silver Medal

AC4BT

Bronze Medal

KC0VKN
NN6T
K6HP

It's been a great year and I hope to hear all of you on the bands in 2016! Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John K1ESE, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

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.

The North American Sprint is regarded by many dedicated CW contesters as the ultimate test of their proficiency. Fortunately, it is not necessary to run in the "fast lane." The key is to understand and follow the exchange rules and focus on accuracy. The best way to start is to visit N6TR's Sprint Survival Web Page at <http://www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html>. Once you have the basics in mind you can jump into the contest and find your way as best you can. You'll get the hang of things quickly. Try it, it's great fun.

The CQ 160 Meter contest is arguably the premier "top band" contest on the calendar. The number and variety of DX stations active in the contest offer an excellent opportunity to exercise your station and operating skills in digging out the elusive ones. The propagation changes accompanying the diminishing sun spot cycle should provide an interesting arena for operating. Only time will tell.

The Classic Exchange is a relaxed contest featuring the use of older commercial and homebrew equipment that was once the cornerstone of past ham shacks. The object is to encourage the restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older equipment. It is not necessary to use a vintage rig to participate. You may operate any rig you choose in this contest. However, using more modern gear carries a distinct scoring disadvantage. There are bonus points for using the same model rigs as your Novice station and for using a Heathkit receiver and/or transmitter.

The F9AA Cup is unknown to me. You have to read French to figure out the rules. But give a listen and see what's going on. There might be some surprises.

Don't neglect the state/province QSO parties. They usually provide enough activity to justify some of your operating time. And do submit your log. It encourages the sponsors to put their efforts into making these events worth while.

Happy New Year ... Keep on pounding.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EVENTS

North American Sprint, CW 0000Z-0400Z, Feb 7th
<http://www.ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 29th to 2200Z, Jan 31st

<http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 15 th
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 22 nd
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 29 th
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 5 th
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 12 th

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

NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 13 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 21
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 19

www.naqcc.info/

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2400Z, Jan 11 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 27 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 13 th to 2400Z, Feb 14 th

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 6 th
FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 13 th

<http://www.fistsna.org/>

Classic Exchange, CW	1400Z, Jan 31 st to 0800Z, Feb 1 st and 1400Z, Feb 2 nd to 0800Z, Feb 3 rd
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<http://www.classicexchange.org/>

F9AA Cup, CW 1200Z, Feb 6 to 1200Z, Feb 7

<http://www.site.urb.asso.fr/urchaut-6/om-6/131-trophee-f9aa.html>

Montana QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 23 rd
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<http://www.fvarc.org/sites/default/files/library/2015%20MT%20QSO%20Party%20Rules.pdf>

Vermont QSO Party	0000Z, Feb 6 th to 2400Z, Feb 7 th
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<http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html>

Minnesota QSO Party	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 6 th
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<http://www.w0aa.org/docs/mnqp/MNQP%20Contest%20Rules.pdf>

British Columbia QSOParty	1600Z, Feb 6 th to 0400Z, Feb 7 th
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http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html

New Hampshire QSO Party	1600Z, Feb 13 th to 0400Z, Feb 14 th and 1200Z-2200Z, Feb 14 th
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http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/New_Hampshire_QSO_Party_Rules.pdf

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