



Single-Lever Paddle by Raoul ZS1C

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

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

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

CWops "neighborhood"

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

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Rob Brownstein [K6RB](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

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The solstice has come and gone. Nice having these long periods of sunshine. I played in Field Day for about 5 hours and made over 500 QSOs. I realized that our Level 2 graduates are more prepared than 80 percent of the people I worked. I was "running" the



whole 5 hours and too many responded first by sending my call then their calls. But, at least they were giving it a shot.

Speaking about shots, we are about two months away from our annual CW Open. We are pulling out all the stops to get the attention of testers – serious and casual – to join the fun. CW Open is, in my opinion, the friendliest contest in ham radio.

You don't have to have big rigs and gain antennas. You don't have to send 30 plus words per minute. Just send your QSO number and given name. I am hoping many CWops members, even if they ordinarily avoid contests, will give this one a try. It's relatively short – each session is only four hours long – and you get the same points and multipliers whether the station you work is around the corner or around the world. Go to our website and check out the details:

www.cwops.org/cwopen.html .

The CW Academy is taking its summer break and will resume in September. We have all classes filled and are taking signups for Jan-Feb and even Apr-May! The popularity of CW Academy just keeps ballooning. Of course, our backlog is way out there because we are always in need of more advisors. So, please consider signing up and helping out. You'll love it, and your students will love you.

It is now July and I am six months away from ending my second term as president. I can't begin to describe how much I have enjoyed it, so far. CWops seems to be firing on all cylinders and I owe a ton of thanks to our managers: VE3KI for CWT, NW2K for his past services for CW Open and AD6E for keeping the flame going; N6XI for the great job he is doing for *Solid Copy* (our newsletter); AC4BT for his incredible service to CW Academy; our ambassadorial group; N3JT for his service as secretary; KU5B as membership manager; and all our CW Academy advisors. Our treasurer, K9CT, has done a sterling job of managing our funds. Of course, our website manager, K6MM, and web services manager, N1DG, keep our website fresh and accessible. Without any one of them, this club would not be what it is. So, again, many thanks to them all.

Thinking ahead about what I'll be doing come January, I am hoping to launch the first Youth CW Academy classes in Jan-Feb 2017. I have a lot of preparation to do first, but I'm working on it right now. I intend to stay as active as I have been in CWTs, CW Open, and CW Academy. And, I plan to increase my point scores in QTX, too. Who knows, maybe I'll even qualify for a QTX Achievement medal ☺?

I turn 70 in November but I'm still working part time, three days per week from home. I keep thinking about fully retiring but I enjoy my work along with the wages and health insurance benefits. At least I no longer have to drive 80 miles per day. I remember, as a 45 year old, making plans to retire at 55. Right! Here I am, 15 years past that milestone and debating whether to hang up my spurs. Maybe if I had a few more aches and pains, I'd be more inclined to do it.

Anyway, I hope you all enjoy your summer (or winter), keep well, keep safe, and have fun.

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the [Editor](#)



Field Day!

The last weekend in June is Field Day in the U.S. and Canada, probably the most actively-pursued event in North American amateur radio. Although “not a contest,” FD is nonetheless an operating event that works almost like one.

Most of my contest friends report that FD was their first exposure to high-rate operating, known everywhere else as contesting. It certainly was for me, back around 1962, when I joined the Rock Creek ARA (Maryland). Their dozen or more stations blew young me away and introduced me to more concepts and possibilities than I then knew existed, probably more than I now can remember! It remains one of my favorite ham radio activities and I was more than disappointed when life’s scheduling exigencies forced me to be out of the country this year. I had a great weekend, too, with family, but was off the air. I hope many of you enjoyed the event. It still serves many as an introduction to CW operating as evidenced by the number of tentative operating techniques and weak fists always heard on the air. They slow our rate a bit but every QSO one makes with a newbie helps to bring that prospect more fully into the fold. There is no comparable event for helping out CW neophytes by working them patiently and setting examples of good operating practice. In addition to working beginners, do consider a Beginners CW Tent to teach them in person at your next FD operation. It could be a time slice of your GOTA (Get on the Air) station or, for those whose goal includes a full 500 GOTA Qs on SSB, it could be a time slice of a mainstream position or even a totally separate station not counting in the main score. Whatever your FD operating environment, it is an opportunity to spread the word and teach the skills.

Frank CO2IR has graduated as an electronics and telecom engineer with distinction. Here we see him defending his thesis and receiving well-deserved congratulations:



Congratulations to CWops member Doug KR2Q, the new CQWW DX Contest Director, replacing Randy K5ZD who served well for many years. Thanks for taking this on. Hank W6SX refers us to <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com> for details.

Raoul ZS1C sent along pictures of some homebrew keys he has built. The single-lever paddle is our Page 1 photo this month. Here is an equally beautiful hand-key:



That's all for this month. Keep up the flow of articles and let me know what you want to see in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

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

Jim, N3JT: Jim is the proud parent of a brand new Expert 2K amplifier, which he finds makes little noise and is a pleasure to use. The KPA500 goes to Florida. But what to do with the perfectly functioning Acom 2000A?

Gary, N5PHT: I have been a ham for 30 years and had plenty of rag chews – but mostly years ago and on SSB! I recently decided to go for some QTX counters and been having a blast!! I turned in 55 QTX for May and more will be turned in for June. Really enjoying some deeper QSOs.

I have met fellow Federal employee retirees and lots of other stuff in common – even some Marines! Don't hear me wrong as I also look forward to each Wednesday for 3 rounds of CWT! I dabble a little in contests but you can do all of that and still enjoy some CW rag chews.

Mike, AD5A: I participated in Field Day with the W5YA crew near Chama, NM. I was with other CWops members KT5X, K1JD and W0CCA, along with a team of operators. We operated QRP with K3s and used homebrew, switchable Moxons courtesy of KT5X and K1JD on 15m and 20m and a switchable Moxon on 40m deployed from the tall pines. Add a dipole on 80m and that was our set up.

W5YA finished 4th overall last year with the same set-up. I'm not sure what the final numbers were, but ~1,250 CW QSO's were made from the two CW stations with just five watts. Calling CQ with a QRP signal is a viable strategy when you have good antennas. We used that strategy regularly, resulting in some very nice runs, even on 80m.

John, W7SAG: I used my solar/battery powered KX3 with two different antennas to make 103 CW QSOs in about four hours operating 1B with 5 watts QRP from Idaho on 20 and 40 meters. I started out Saturday afternoon using an end fed half wave (EFHW) antenna on 20 meters with poor results so I switched to a Buddipole vertical antenna and immediately saw improved results. I was able to work 53 of the 83 sections along with 36 states, Metro DC, PR, BC, SK and ONS. Interesting that 20 meters was marginal but the vertical appeared to outperform the EFHW by at least two s-units, go figure!

I switched back to the EFHW Saturday evening for 40 meters and had good success there. Lots of Hawaii and East Coast stations were on 40 meters who were able to copy me on the first call. I'm especially proud of reaching Puerto Rico on 20 meters with my 5 watt pea shooter from Idaho. All in all, lots of fun. Just wish I had more time to operate on Saturday night and Sunday... maybe next year.

Dan, KB6NU: While I did operate our Field Day CW station for several hours, my main job was head coach of the GOTA station. Seeing as we are located in Ann Arbor, MI, home of the University of Michigan, you could say that I was the Jim Harbaugh of Field Day this year!

This year was fabulous! At 2pm Saturday (Field Day starting time here in the eastern U.S.), I had five new hams lined up to work the station. We were very busy practically the whole time, and at least three of our GOTA station operators made at least 20 contacts, thereby earning bonus points.

Of course, I took the opportunity to introduce our new hams to the joys of CW. I passed out copies of K7QO's code course, and encouraged the newcomers to set themselves a goal of knowing code well enough to make CW contacts at Field Day next year. Maybe we'll have enough operators to man a second CW station at our 2017 Field Day.



Dan, KB6NU (left) coaching Steve, W8AYN through his first Field Day QSO.

John, K3GHH This year again I was graciously invited to help with CW at the Field Day operation of KL7AA, the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. Last year the station was 2A at a former FCC monitoring site near the airport, with a permanent tower, very low local noise, and lots of real estate for lower-band wire antennas.

This year that site was unavailable, so the setup was just 1E, emergency power, at the clubhouse station. Kent KL5T and I handled the CW, with my stint from about 0130Z to 0500Z Sunday (5:30 to 9:00 PM Saturday, Alaska time). I didn't count the Q's but there were quite a few and I recognized some CWops calls.

John, K4HQQ : I was invited back to my hometown of Barnwell, S.C. to help with Field Day CW operations since my friend, Davy, K4HR, was the local club's only CW operator (CW Ops #1494). I had not participated in a Field Day operation in many years and had sworn never to be tempted again, but Davy's pleading eventually got to me.

The club was declared 5A by influential, optimistic members: four SSB, one CW. Two of the SSB stations--when the ops weren't yakking with visitors or playing around with antennas (e.g. an off-center-fed dipole) and equipment--had about 100 stations altogether. Another SSB station in an old van didn't get on the air until Sunday morning "because it was too hot in the van." The fourth one apparently never made it on the air.

By contrast, the CW station was QRV almost 19 hours for a total of 500 QSOs, an average of 26.7 per hour (mostly S&P). We worked 47 states (missed Delaware, Idaho, and somehow, Nebraska) plus Puerto Rico. Our activity was 51% on 40 meters, 31% 20 meters, 10% 80 meters, and 8% 15 meters, which opened nicely Sunday morning. We operated from the front yard of the local airport.

Our CW station consisted of a Kenwood TS-2000 pumping 100 watts into a very effective inverted vee.

In general, Field Day CW speed was quite a bit slower than in other on-air competitions. Some ops were v-e-r-y slow. Only a few were ripping along as in a CWT ;-)



Bruce, K8UDH (CWA Student): Field Day was fantastic!!!! Our club (W0OJY) had a great setup for Field Day. We operated from a park in Tyndall, SD in category 3A with Digital, SSB, GOTA, and CW Stations. Steve Bloom (KL7SB) from Alaska was our primary CW operator. He's a Life Member of CWops, a great person, and an unbelievable CW operator. Steve encouraged me and told me to enjoy the experience, and I definitely did. We had a major computer problem and lost several hours of operating time, but even so our CW station had 824 QSOs. Steve had 723, Bill W0EJ (CWops #1269) had 26, I had 32, and W0SD had 46 QSOs. I was a runner at 22 WPM then I went up to 25 WPM and that really pushed me because many who called me were much faster than that.

Without CWops and your class this would not have happened. Thank you.

Gary, NA6O: Over the past year or so, I've become pretty much a full-bore contester. If my signal seems stronger than usual during a CWT it's because we are operating from the N6RO super-station, just up the road from me. It's a real privilege to sit at the helm of a top-notch multi-multi contest station, under a cloud of aluminum.

The other operators are all major award winners and are wonderful contest Elmers. I have to pinch myself every time I drive up to the place. My favorite shift is the all-nighter on 80m, but I also get a crack at other bands at various times. Thankfully I don't have to do SSB contests very often... I also enjoy doing maintenance work there. I recently converted an AL1200 amplifier to full QSK with very silent vacuum relays, and we're always repairing antennas and upgrading the switching systems. Big station = endless work = endless fun!

The rest of the time, I flail away at home with a low dipole and verticals, but still have much fun. All

CW of course, except I also join RTTY contests these days. Here is a link to an article I wrote entitled, "Contesting with a Pea-Shooter Station." If you're just starting out, or think your station can't possibly be competitive, you might appreciate this perspective.

<http://nccc.cc/jug/2016/02Feb2016.pdf>

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2016 North American CW Weekend

by Don Lynch W4ZYT

Photos by John Silva N3AM

The North American CW Weekend was held June 3-5, 2016, in Falls Church, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. We were blessed by excellent weather and by good attendance, with hams and spouses from all over the east coast and the southeast. A notable guest was Nigel, G3TXF, a well-known traveler and DXer, who has been an active member of both FOC and CWops. Others in attendance: Jim N3JT and Nina KE4PSV, Peter W1UU and Maria, Frank W3LPL and Phyllis, Bud AA3B and Debra, John N3AM and Sharron N3FAZ, John K4HQB and Sheila, Jerry AC4BT and Margy, John AA4JJ and Marlene, Don K6ZO, Gary WB4DNL, Frank K1EBY, Dale K3SEN, Pat K0OO, and Don W4ZYT.

The weekend kicked off at Joe's Pasta and Pizza where a dedicated group of CWops and spouses made a run at the Northern Virginia record for pizza consumption. While results are still being adjudicated, the group acquitted itself well. Many then met up at the CW Hospitality Suite at the Fairview Park Marriott for some further socialization before calling it a night. Many thanks to John N3AM for making hospitality suite arrangements.



Saturday morning, Jim and Nina hosted their traditionally sumptuous brasspounder's brunch, with a steady flow of attendees and local CW aficionados passing through until well into the afternoon.

Using Jim's station, and despite less than ideal band conditions, G3TXF was able to make a large number of QSOs in the European field day event.

There was a small break in the action before the group convened at Clyde's Restaurant in Tyson's Corners for cocktails followed by a very pleasant dinner. As usual, Clyde's staff and its kitchen did a splendid job, and conversation and conviviality flowed well into the evening.



Several of the group made it to breakfast at the Fairview Park on Sunday morning before heading home. In all, it was a pleasant, relatively quiet weekend marked by good weather, good companionship, good stories, a succession of excellent meals, and a surfeit of ham radio conversation. What brasspounder could want more?

For a full set of John's excellent photos, see <https://goo.gl/photos/n7KZuagzap7ZGVBX7>.

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The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

Background

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 and nominations may be made by anybody, not just CWops members.

Besides CWops (*Solid Copy*), announcements were sent to FOC, FISTS, ARRL, CQ, and also to the national societies and other groups in Japan, England, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Russia, Portugal and Germany. Altogether, eight nominations were received. We look forward to receiving even more nominations next year from throughout the CW world.

Award Committee (formed in March 2015):

4X6GP/K2VCO - Vic

AC2K - Alan

EA4ZK - Ricardo

K6XT - Art

NN4K - Mac

K7NJ – Riki (chairman)

For 2016 we decided to make three awards: Chuck Adams K7QO, Carlo Consoli IK0YGJ, and our own President Rob Brownstein K6RB. Here are summaries of their accomplishments, their responses and some words on their behalf from the awards ceremony at the CWops dinner in Dayton:

K7QO: Chuck Adams received the award for writing and publishing a CW training course manual and CDs which he distributes at no cost to students. He also personally teaches CW to a class that he organized.

Chuck's Letter

I have always been and will always be a CW only operator. It is my favorite mode and has given me many years of pleasure and made being on the air a joy. All CW ops should take pride in their skill, no matter what level. It is a skill that must be developed and practiced as much as possible. There seems to be a growth in the number of CW operators and an interest in developing skills. This is only due to the number of active CW clubs and their growth through hard work on the part of the leaders.

I am trying to do my part in developing teaching aids and spreading the material at no costs to the students.

Thank you for the award. It will hang in the shack to remind me that the work is doing some good. I hope to work many of you on the air in the coming years.

Chuck Adams, K7QO

IK0YGJ: Carlo Consoli received the award for writing the amazing book *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy*. This 108 page book is written in four languages and is available from Amazon. The English version is downloadable free. This book is an encyclopedia about CW, and especially about learning it. The most valuable section explains how to teach yourself to copy CW at speeds greater than 50 WPM.

Carlo's Letter

Thank you, thank you all. I would first like to say that I am really sorry not to be here with you today. I am really pleased and humbled to find that my intention to share my experience in CW was accepted with such grace by the CW community.

It is, then, with great humility and honor that I accept the CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW. The Art of radiotelegraphy, being an art, is part of the things that we are not entitled to buy. And, strange enough, the things that cannot be bought by money are the only ones that become a permanent heritage of ourselves.

Life brings us wonderful moments and hard moments. CW came across my life in one of the tough moments. But it was in such a moment that I understood that confronting hard tasks with an open and relaxed mind is the key for overcoming any difficulty. And that by trying harder, on a daily basis, through training and exercise, through dedication and devotion, we can literally reprogram ourselves. Thus, acquiring skills that - at first - seemed impossible to acquire. High speed CW or QRQ is one of these skills.

The discovery that our brain can be automatically reprogrammed by continuous training and relaxation, is at the heart of Dr. Maxwell Maltz's work and was crucial for some of the enlightening ideas presented in my book.

I would like to thank all the masters of the art of CW that supported me in this process of discovery and dissemination. Claudio Tata, HB9FIR/IK0XCB, is now a great performer in High Speed Telegraphy world competitions. Claudio taught me almost everything I know

about CW. Master key maker Piero Begali, I2RTF, whose dedication and commitment to the mechanics of key making is simply outstanding. He supported me a lot in a series of customized modifications that would have tried the patience of many. Thanks to Professor Augusto Ancillotti, linguist, and thanks to ND2E, DL9AI , and F6IIE for helping translate the book into different languages.

And thanks to my family and especially to my wife, Marika, who with her loving care was so patient during all these years. She is a wonderful lady, bright and smart enough to understand, that when my time will come, she should not sell all of my equipment at the price I told her that I paid.

Again, thank you all.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ

K6RB: Rob Brownstein, our President, received the award for creating, organizing, marketing and actively participating in the operation of CW Academy. CW Academy trains about 120 people in Morse Code every year. CW Academy was Rob's idea, and he has been the driving force behind CW Academy since its creation. By virtue of his superb organizational abilities, he has enlisted the assistance of dozens of advisors and administrators. CW Academy is what it is today because of Rob's creativity and hard work.

Rob's Remarks

Rob was there at the banquet and made his remarks "off the cuff." Essentially what he said was he is honored to receive the award but the success of CWA is more than one person - it is a team of people. It is the advisors who make it happen and consequently he wanted to acknowledge their great contribution to CW.

Thanks Rob, and thanks everybody for your attention. And a big thank you to Bill, KC4D who organized this enjoyable evening.

73,

Riki K7NJ/4X4NJ

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CWops at Atlanta Radio Club Hamfest

by Mac McDonald NN4K

The CW Call Sign Copying Competition exhibit was put into play at the June 7, 2016 Atlanta Ham Radio Club Hamfest. On this occasion the fun was enhanced by the local North Georgia QRP Club providing \$25 gift certificates to the winners of the four speed-range categories. (See the photo of the scoreboard.)

	CALL SIGN	WPM	SCORE
40 WPM and up	LZ4AX	56	14686
	WA2MOP	40	7965
30 to 39 WPM	W4KLY	39	5892
	ND4V	35	5538
	WB3PAF	30	3505
	AC4PA	31	3045
	WS4F	31	3061
			2581
20 to 29 WPM	WD4EXI	27	1523
	N4EWT	24	3760
	WB2RIS	29	1581
	KK4AC	20	
10 to 19 WPM			

The competition is based on the software program called RUFZXP. The parameters are set to run 30 call signs or eight minutes, whichever comes first. The RUFZXP determines the maximum WPM reached and determines the accuracy score for each participant.

To add “atmosphere” to the hamfest, I like to run text files using the software program CW_Player by F6DQM and connect the external speakers to the laptop. Hams who like CW will eventually come by the exhibit. Some will visit and pick up information about CWTs and CWAcademy. Others will sit down and try the competition.

The photo below shows the ham who scored the highest. He is Alex Avramov LZ4AX. We were in awe as his score kept climbing through the run. When it finished, Alex’s score was 56 WPM maximum with an accuracy score of 14,686. He is from Bulgaria and he is currently a Ph.D. working at MIT in Cambridge, MA. With Alex in the photo is his XYL Eri KM4DAY.



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CW Academy

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy continues to see an unprecedented amount of new student sign-ups. The Amateur Radio hobby is alive and well and learning CW, in particular, is in the midst of a growth period.

I think this is partly due to the popularity of QRP and SOTA, along with the popular KX3 and KX2 radios which allow you to operate almost anywhere with a very minimalist setup. . After using the CW reader in these radios, many of the “new” CW operators eventually get frustrated and want to learn CW the proper way. And I think the popularity of CW is also partly due to the success and viability of CW Academy. Many are looking to CWops and its CW Academy to get them proficient in CW.

There is currently a waiting list of about a year for new students signing up today. CW Academy continues to need additional CW Advisors.

From the CW Advisors standpoint, the advantages of becoming an Advisor are many. I speak from experience having become an Advisor myself three years ago. In that short time, my CW skills (speed, comprehension, sending ability, head copy) have more than doubled. The more semesters I complete as an Advisor the more my CW skills continue to improve. As an Advisor you are using and thinking CW constantly 24/7 (on the air, on SKYPE conducting classes, preparing homework exercises, having QSOs with students, etc.).

In addition to improving in CW, being an Advisor has dramatically developed my presentation skills, working in groups, confidence in speaking in front of large groups of people, etc. This has translated directly to the work environment and has personally resulted in a promotion, added work responsibility and many new opportunities. In advising classes you are dynamically involved with

problem solving, diagnosing, correcting, evaluating, experimenting, and developing new techniques to mention just a few benefits that have translated to invaluable life skills. It's a win-win-win. You're helping the student learn CW, you're helping/improving yourself and you're helping our great hobby remain relevant and grow to new heights.

Becoming an Advisor is easy to do, just go to the Advisor sign-up page (<http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>) and fill out and submit the form.

CW Academy provides new Advisor training. The level 1 program is very structured and we have a Student handbook that outlines the lessons in an easy to use format.

Becoming a CW Academy Advisor is an opportunity to give back by helping other students. I sure could use you as a level 1 Advisor!

73,

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

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How We Were – K2MF

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Barry Siegfried, K2MF, CWops 1253 reports:

Circa 1965-1966 when I was WB2NWM and 15-16 years young. The shack is in the apartment in midtown Manhattan, NYC where I grew up.

W6SX speculated: I'm guessing the bell in lower left was so Barry could make a hasty retreat when irate neighbors came ringing about TVI. Barry responded: Actually, the bell was for experimentation when I was younger than in that photo. Why it ended up getting mounted to that desk is a mystery to me. :)

See <https://qrz.com/db/K2MF/NJ> for neat commentary from Barry about growing up a ham in the fifties and sixties.



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

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Well, as of July 1 we were halfway through the year and had completed half (78) of the CWT sessions for 2016. Amazingly (or at least it amazes me), there are still two members with perfect “attendance” records: N5PHT and UR5MM. Three more (K3WW, KA7T and N4FP) have missed only one session so far.

By my count, I see 41 members who are on a pace to reach the gold medal level by the end of the year, about 45 more on track for silver medals, and 50 more who should make the bronze medal level by the end of the year if they keep on at their current pace.

Participation continues to follow a slowly increasing trend. The average number of scores reported per one hour session is over 115 now, and even the least popular session, at 0300Z, usually has more than 100 scores reported at 3830scores.com. I know there are a few people who participate regularly but who do not post their scores, so I think it’s safe to say that the normal participation level is almost always over 100. Indeed, if we look at the submitted scores themselves, the leader’s multiplier count, i.e. the number of different call signs worked, is almost always over 100.

So what, you say? Well, what this means is that there are plenty of stations to work. With a good station and good operating technique, it should be possible to work more than 100 people in the hour. For most of us, other than big-gun testers, that can be a pretty good adrenaline rush.

The very highest scores so far this year haven’t rivaled AA3B’s super results from December 30/31 2015 (Bud reported 156, 185 and 191 contacts in the three sessions that day), but the top contact total reported has exceeded 160 a few times this year – that’s over 160 contacts in one hour, almost three contacts a minute, every minute for the whole hour.

It’s not hard to see that in order to keep up that kind of rate, your exchange messages should be short and sweet. The bare minimum would look something like this:

TEST VE0WOW (a made-up call sign, of course)
VE3KI
VE3KI ACE 2345
RICH 783
TU

If everyone lined up nicely to make QSOs one after the other without ever calling at the same time and without any gaps, and copy was always perfect, maybe this would be all that would be needed, but in the real world, of course, there are often reasons why we might use something a bit longer. Not the least of these reasons would be to add a little extra in order to say “hi” to a friend. We’re not giving out awards for high scores, after all, and there are no certificates or plaques at stake. But there are also other reasons, such as the traditional bugbears of QRM, QRN and QSB, or just requests for repeats because the other guy didn’t quite copy. Next time around I’ll throw out some ideas on the topic of exchange messages.

Till next time, let’s all keep on having fun in the CWTs.

73,

Rich, VE3KI

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CWops Member 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	610	4165	W1RM	167	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
W1RM	606	4203	F6HKA	152	W1RM	50	F6HKA	44	F6HKA	38
AA3B	601	5530	W4VQ	139	W4VQ	50	N5RR	43	W4VQ	37
VE3KI	592	3840	G4BUE	119	F6HKA	50	G4BUE	43	G4BUE	37
N8BJQ	531	3998	N5RR	114	W1UU	50	VE3KI	42	N5RR	36
K6RB	456	3403	OH2BN	112	VE3KI	50	OK1RR	42	VE3KI	35
G4BUE	456	3150	VE3KI	111	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
N5RR	387	3781	EA8OM	111	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	41	N5PHT	28
IT9MUO	375	1225	N8BJQ	102	W0EJ	50	N8BJQ	41	JF2IWL	25
K1ESE	365	2252	K1ESE	96	F6JOE	50	OH2BN	40	W6NS	18
W1UU	345	2001	SM6CNN	93	W6KY	50	AA3B	40		
NA6O	340	1406	OK1RR	93	N1EN	50	SM6CNN	37		
N5PHT	339	1670	AA3B	93	N5PHT	50	F6JOE	36		
W4VQ	322	2382	EA1WX	89	F5MNK	50	W1UU	34		
IT9VDQ	313	843	W0VX	88	K5IX	50	W0VX	34		
DL8PG	284	1703	N1EN	86	K3SEN	50	KZ5D	34		
W0VX	260	2583	W9ILY	85	W9ILY	49	KR3E	34		
K3SEN	242	855	F6JOE	80	W0VX	49	K1ESE	34		
K3WJV	238	882	PA7RA	79	N8BJQ	49	IT9MUO	33		
EA8OM	235	2758	KZ5D	78	K6RB	49	W9ILY	32		
NU7Y	232	479	IT9MUO	78	K6DGW	49	N1EN	32		
F6JOE	221	2510	DL8PG	77	K1ESE	49	F5MNK	32		
W9ILY	213	2610	W1UU	74	GW0ETF	49	EA1WX	32		
K6DGW	206	1518	KR3E	73	AD1C	49	PA7RA	31		
NN4K	206	809	AD1C	73	AA3B	49	DL8PG	31		
W6NS	205	1001	N1ZX	70	WB9G	48	IT9VDQ	30		
N1EN	200	1928	F5MNK	68	W6NS	48	IK0YVV	30		

K5IX	200	630	NN6T	67	SM6CNN	48	NN6T	29			
KE4S	184	786	GW0ETF	67	NN6T	48	N1ZX	28			
N1DC	164	656	N5PHT	61	NA6O	48	GW0ETF	28			
I5EFO	150	253	IT9VDQ	59	N1ZX	48	AD1C	25			
JF2IWL	123	891	IK0YVV	57	KZ5D	48	K6RB	23			
K2ZC	112	767	W6KY	54	KT5V	48	JF2IWL	23			
4X6GP	63	941	K6RB	54	IK0YVV	48	HB9ARF	23			
G4HZV	54	59	4Z1UF	50	DL8PG	48	G4DRS	22			
AB7MP	46	483	WB9G	48	AB7MP	48	N5PHT	21			
KZ5D	0	3239	JF2IWL	48	NU7Y	47	I5EFO	21			
SM6CNN	0	2477	G4DRS	45	KR3E	47	4Z1UF	21			
W6KY	0	1840	NA6O	43	JF2IWL	47	K2ZC	20			
N2UU	0	1774	KE4S	41	WX7SJ	46	WB9G	19			
EA1WX	0	1655	HB9ARF	41	NN4K	46	KE4S	19			
AD1C	0	1630	K6DGW	38	KG5U	46	G3YJQ	18			
OK1RR	0	1618	K3SEN	38	K0DTJ	46	NA6O	17			
NN6T	0	1577	K2ZC	37	IT9VDQ	46	N1DC	17			
GW0ETF	0	1451	W0EJ	36	IT9MUO	46	KG5U	17			
KG5U	0	1322	KG5U	35	EA1WX	46	W6KY	16			
PA7RA	0	1200	W6NS	34	N1DC	45	K3WJV	16			
KR3E	0	1136	KT5V	32	KE4S	45	NN4K	15			
F5MNK	0	1111	I5EFO	30	K3WJV	45	K3SEN	15			
PA4N	0	955	NN4K	28	K2ZC	45	K6DGW	12			
N1ZX	0	940	N1DC	27	PA7RA	44	KT5V	11			
WB9G	0	888	G3YJQ	27	OK1RR	44	W6NS	10			
W5ASP	0	869	K3WJV	25	KM4FO	43	W0EJ	10			
KT5V	0	814	K0DTJ	25	HB9ARF	43	G3XLG	10			
IK0YVV	0	767	NU7Y	21	G4DRS	43	W5TM	7			
W0EJ	0	754	K5IX	20	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7			
HB9ARF	0	723	G3XLG	18	NV9X	38	K5IX	6			
K0DTJ	0	668	WT2P	14	G3YJQ	37	K0DTJ	6			
WX7SJ	0	610	AB7MP	14	I5EFO	36	KM4FO	5			
WT2P	0	574	W5TM	11	4Z1UF	36	WT2P	4			
OH2BN	0	530	KM4FO	10	WT2P	34	AB7MP	3			
KM4FO	0	500	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NV9X	1			
N7WY	0	403	NV9X	4	G3XLG	31					
G4DRS	0	353	KE6K	4	KE6K	17					
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8					
G3YJQ	0	234									
G3XLG	0	201									
NV9X	0	149									
KE6K	0	116									
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:

1636	G4HZV*	Bob
1637	W7OLY*	Aubrey
1638	N4KW	Pete
1639	K4FXN	Dan
1640	NC6K*	Eric
1641	W6STR*	Mike
1642	VE3MV*	Doug
1643	W3WH	Bill
1644	WB2VYK*	Marty
1645	AC3K	Patrick

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of July 11, 2016:

Need Sponsors: W8WZ, OE6FYG, 7X3DA, K8UDH, AL7N, CN8YR, KF4A, K4EOR

Invitations Extended: WS9V

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.

Here's the latest tally of this month's CW conversations of 20 minutes or longer. Remember, you can work anyone, anywhere, as many times as you like. They all count for QTX.

Busted Exchange

Last month showed Glen NN6T having 12 QSOs. The real number was 21. I expect to mess up again in the future, so just let me know when that happens. Sorry, Glen.

QTX Monthly Standings

Below find the June QTX reports received:

<u>Call</u>	<u>June</u>
N5PHT	128
N5IR	75
K5KV	66
WB6BEE	65
K1ESE	57
KI4XH	34
K4AHO	26
AC4BT	25
KB6NU	24
K5YQF	23
NN6T	19
K6RB	19
HB9CVQ	17
KC0VKN	6
W3WHK	3
I5EFO	3
K6DGW	3

Gary N5PHT had an amazing month! This is a new one-month record. Gary beat Don's WB6BEE previous high of 111 for one month in 2015. Only four times in the past has a monthly QTX total of over 100 been recorded. Congratulations, Gary!

Bill N5IR was second. He credits his jump in points to his new Begali bug. He's enjoying using it and reports nice chats with Summer VE5SDH and Paul N6EV. There is nothing as sweet as the sound of good CW on a bug.

Benny K5KV and Don WB6BEE were close behind.

Reporting stations were down by three, but QSOs were up to 593, a top monthly total for 2016.

Personal bests for the year were submitted by N5PHT (of course), N5IR, HB9CVQ, and K6DGW.

QTX Medal Standings

We award QTX medals for the following totals at the end of the year -

Gold Medal - 400 QTX points

Silver Medal - 300 QTX points

Bronze Medal - 200 QTX points

It will be fun to see if you can accumulate the contacts needed to reach each level. Average about 18 rag chews each month to receive an award.

QTX Year to Date

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
WB6BEE	383
K5KV	365
KI4XH	335
K1ESE	327
N5IR	297
AC4BT	217
K5YQF	193
N5PHT	188
K4AHO	151
KB6NU	142
NN6T	136
KC0VKN	97
K6RB	73
K6HP	61
W3WHK	60
HB9CVQ	52
KE6OIO	47
N1ZX	39
I5EFO	28

WA8IWK	28
N9SE	20
WC5W	17
K0DTJ	15
K3TN	9
W5JQ	7
K6DGW	5

The year to date lineup has the same three stations, but in a different order. Don WB6BEE stays in first. Benny K5KV moves up to second place. Fred KI4XH is just behind in third.

At the five month mark we have these folks qualifying for Medals -

Silver - WB6BEE, KI4XH, K5KV, K1ESE

Bronze - N5IR, AC4BT

Don WB6BEE and Benny K5KV should easily move to Gold in July.

It's not too late to start now and still earn a medal this year. Good luck!

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.

The IARU HF contest is a well-regarded event with lots of activity. For some the 24-hour duration of IARU can be a relief from many other international events. Chasing the various IARU headquarters stations can lend a special incentive to getting involved. Lists of these stations expected to be on the air are usually posted on the internet and various contest reflectors.

If you are already engaged in chasing "Islands on the Air," the RSGB IOTA contest can be a rewarding activity. Unfortunately for those without access to the Directory the contest can be less than exciting, as it will be difficult to know who/where your contacts are coming from. Keeping track of the various island designators does provide a multiplier count, but it lacks the sense of perspective most contesters thrive on. However you can make some headway by referring to the RSGB IOTA Contest Announced Operations site at:

<http://www.ng3k.com/misc/iota2016.html>

It goes without saying that the NAQP CW is a premier event. Most dedicated CW operators will be on, if only to renew old acquaintances. If you want a challenge, try working all 63 mults. (Lots of luck finding Nunavut!)

WAE CW is a "CQing" bonanza. Nearly everyone is a mult for someone. It's a busy event... more than 7,800 individual callsigns were logged in 2015. And passing out QTCs can be a real blast. It makes for a fun weekend.

For those with a limited attention span there's a wealth of "sprints" coming up in the weeks ahead. Together with the CWTs they provide quick shots of Mr. Morse's code between the big events. They'll keep the skills honed.

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

JULY / AUGUST EVENTS

IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 9th to 1200Z, Jul 10th
<http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>

RSGB IOTA Contest 1200Z, Jul 30 to 1200Z, Jul 31st
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/riota.shtml>

North American QSO Party, CW 1800Z, Aug 6th to 0559Z, Aug 7th
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

WAE DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Aug 13 th to 2359Z, Aug 14 th
http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/waedc/en/rules/	
Maryland-DC QSO Party	1600Z, Aug 13 th to 0400Z, Aug 14 th and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 14 th
http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/Maryland_QSO_Party_Rules_2014.pdf	
FISTS Summer Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 9 th
http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 8 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 15 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 22 nd
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 29 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 5 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Aug 12 th
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 21 st
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Aug 10 th
www.naqcc.info/	
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 9 th to 2400Z, Jul 10 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 27 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Aug 13 th to 2400Z, Aug 14 th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	

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