Potential Antenna Supports?

CWops "CWT"
Every Wednesday
Regular Tests: Full Speed
Start times: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1)
1-hour each session
Exchange: name/number (members)
          name/SPC (non-members)
(Avoid DX pileups!)

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

CWops Officers and Directors
President: Rob Brownstein K6RB
Vice President: Peter Butler W1UU
Secretary: Jim Talens N3JT
Treasurer: Craig Thompson K9CT
Director: Bert Donn G3XSN
Director: Vidi La Grange ZS1EL
Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade EY8MM
Webmaster: John Miller K6MM
Editor/Publisher: Rick Tavan N6XI

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President's Message

As this newsletter is posted, we will have had our fifth annual CW Open. But I'm writing

this on August 19. I'm hoping the CW Open will be well attended, but you never know. If CWTs are any indication, we should have had a record number of participants.

When the CWops club was first conceived, the founding members were a truly eclectic mix. There were contesters, ragchewers, and DXers. The tie that bound us was our common affection for CW and we chose not to make one's preference for chasing DX, participating in radio sport, or simply conversing a prerequisite for membership.

[Continued on next page]

If someone was competent at 25 wpm, regardless of how they used CW, then they were qualified for membership. I'm pleased to say that we still adhere to that precept.

I personally enjoy CWT very much and participate in every session I can. I also enjoy CW Open, and do a full four-hour stint in all three sessions. And I enjoy ragchewing, so even my QTX numbers are on the rise. But for me, my greatest satisfaction comes from advising CW Academy students. It gives me great pleasure to see someone improve their skills significantly during each eight-week course.

Recently, someone posted a Facebook message asserting that CW Academy was a CW contest training program. I can tell you personally that this is not true. Level 1 involves 16 meetings and only one is devoted to introducing students to a contest scenario. Three sessions are devoted to QSO protocols, and one is earmarked for DX pileup introduction.

The intermediate and advanced level programs do involve more contest-oriented practice but in equal measure with headcopy and QSO type practice. As I tell my students, it doesn't matter what my preferences are, and I don't care what their preferences are. My objective is to give them the requisite skills to chase DX, do contests, or ragchew. I tell them that what they choose to do with their newly acquired or improved skills is their choice – but not participating in, say, contesting will never be because they don't have the skills to do it, or because they lack the experience.

Among my ham friends are those who hardly ever contest and use a bug nearly all of the time. My friends also include people who virtually participate in a contest or two every weekend of the year. And a great number of my ham friends are avid DXers who get involved with DX-pedition pile ups and keep DX spotting networks on-screen 24/7. I don't really fit into any of those categories in large measure. I do ragchew and do use a bug sometimes. I do participate in a few contests per year (not counting CWT), but I rarely if ever join a pile up. That's me. So who is the "real" ham in these groups? Every single one of them!

We all know hams who have strong preferences for one type of operating practice, and who advocate strongly for doing as they do. I understand their zeal but when the advocacy becomes critical of others and exclusionary, I walk away. I belong to three ham clubs – a contest club, a CW club that has a rich social aspect to it, and CWops. Each provides me with some unique opportunities to engage, and each is very different. Vive la difference.

73,

Rob K6RB   *Back to Contents*   *Next article*

From the Editor

Kite-Tenna?

The Page 1 photo this month is one I made at the Berkeley Kite Festival in July. It doesn't have much to do with ham radio, let alone CW, but it denotes a Memo to Self to attend next year and try making some Qs with a kite-suspended antenna. I didn't see any hams there trying it this year, but the salt-water location and reasonably low horizon should make for some good Qs. Have any of our members done that? And while we're on the subject of Page 1 photos, I'm running out of them. If you have some relevant shots that our members would like to see here, please send them along. Thanks!

CW Open has come and gone and once again CW operators around the world enjoyed this unique, CW-only operating event. Thanks to all who joined the fray and admonitions to your Editor whose outside commitments made operating time extremely limited. I made a few Qs in the 00Z session, demonstrating ham radio to a non-ham visitor who was limited to watching the log and hearing me explain the activity. Next year I hope to be able to put in more time.

Your Editor has been traveling a lot this year and it feels almost like being a business "road warrior" again. In addition to Visalia and Dayton, I visited Little Cayman, Western Alaska/Siberia, New Jersey, Ontario, Colorado, Australia/Indonesia/Malaysia, and, coming up soon, Hawaii and then Maryland. Phew! Apologies that this issue is, as forwarned, a bit late and my on-the-air presence more than a bit limited. They were all enjoyable trips for radio, community service, sports, tourism, and family gathering. One of the rewards of retirement is that you get to choose your destinations and no client can tell you where to be, when. But I'm getting tired of the long, aluminum tube and looking forward to a winter staying at home, playing radio, and skiing local hills. How about you?

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

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.

Lee, WA9LEY: I was browsing some QRZ pages when I came across Rob K6RB's page and saw the reference to Rob's old call K2UMU. I thought that it sounded very familiar and then realized I've had Rob's QSL /4X on my wall for years! I guess our first contact goes back 40 plus years.

Thanks again Rob for my first 4X contact!
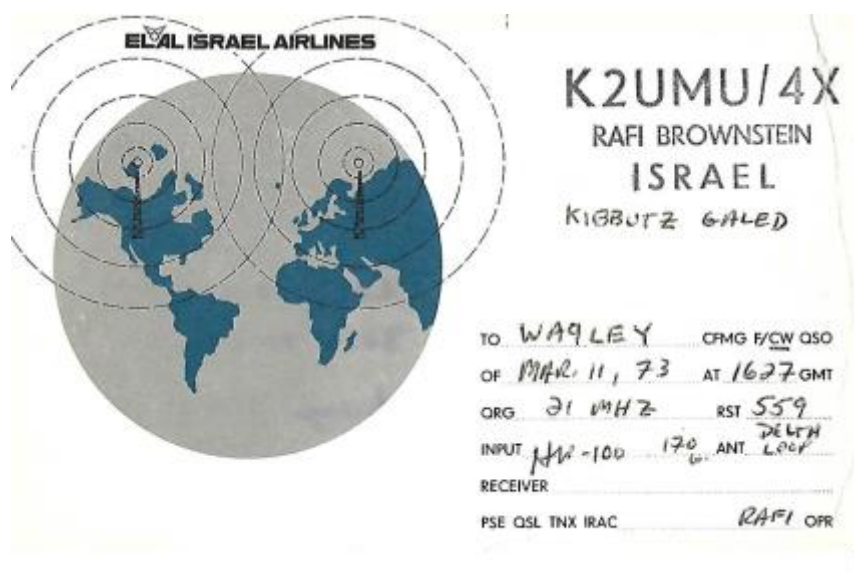
Will, WJ9B: I purchased a K2 transceiver back in 1998, serial number 0086. It was a field model. Two years or so later I purchased the 100 watt KPA100, another kit. Then I found myself having to relocate to FL for a new job, forcing me to put the incomplete K2/100 in a box.

Given the new job I barely had time for a few contests a year using Yaesu equipment. Time passes, I retire and relocate back to Idaho. In Idaho now and I am finally finished unpacking, nothing more is in storage. FYI, I just got around to finishing the K2/100, 18 years later!

The interesting part of this story is that I was able to get modification parts from Elecraft, including the very necessary keying modification. K2 is an amazingly good CW radio, and contest competent with the keying mod.

John, N3AM: I have received the Expert 2K-FA amp that I ordered back in February at the Orlando Hamfest. It's working great in the shack here in MD and is QRV for remote control when I head to our winter QTH in south Florida.

Dan, KB6NU: As a new addition to my amateur radio exploits, I am now appearing regularly in the ICQPodcast (http://icqpodcast.com/). Every four weeks, I am part of the panel that discusses development in amateur radio around the world. The podcast consists of a panel discussion and then a feature presentation about some amateur radio topic.

For Episode 218 (http://icqpodcast.com/download-the-show/2016/8/21/icq-podcast-episode-218-having-fun-with-morse-code), I wrote and produced the feature, "Having Fun with Morse Code."

The High Country CWT Tour

by Scott Ellington K9MA

Well, high country for Wisconsin, anyway. The Military Ridge bike trail follows the ridge west from Madison to Dodgeville. Along the way, it passes Blue Mound, the highest point in southern Wisconsin. Governor Dodge State Park is one of my favorite campsites, an 80 km ride from my front door, so I rode out there Tuesday afternoon. I figured a weekday just before a big holiday weekend would be a pretty quiet time in the state parks. While there weren't many people around, I failed to consider the rate at which the grass has been growing after recent rains.

Operating Locations

Wednesday morning, I rode to a picnic area near the campsite to set up for the 13Z CWT. It's up on the ridge, but not all that high. It was pleasantly cool in the morning and, for some odd reason, the usual mosquitoes failed to show up.

Latitude 43.03° North

Longitude -90.10° West

Altitude 342.98 meters / 1125.26 feet

GPS

13Z QTH
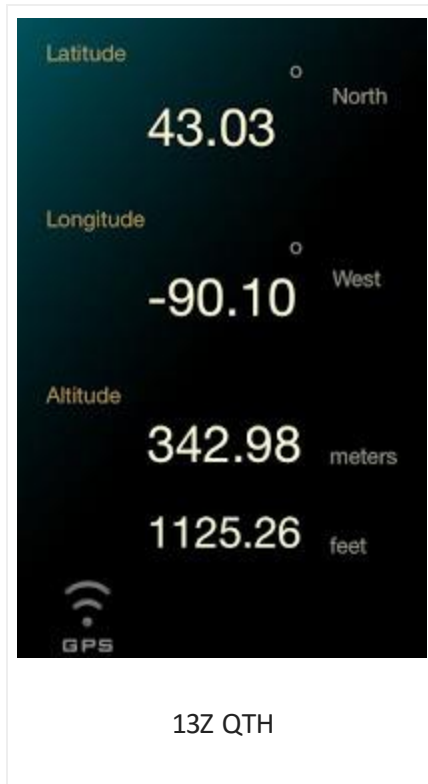
There was the usual picnic shelter.

13Z Operating Position

As usual, the fishing pole went up 16 paces away.

13Z Antenna

RBN reports looked pretty good on 40, but I didn't get time to check 20.

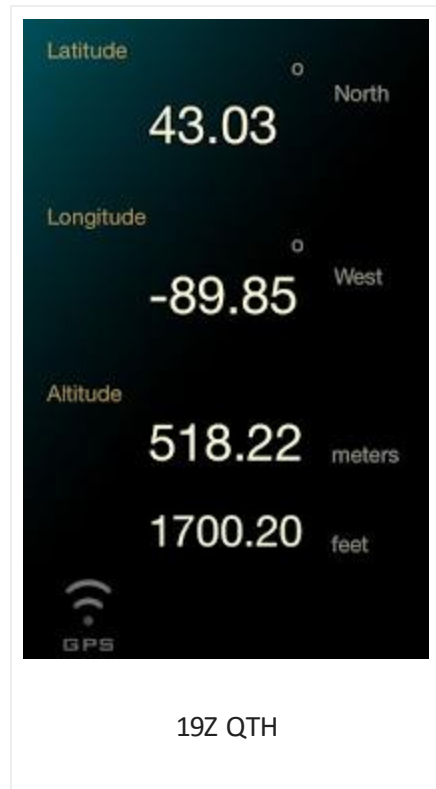| showing spots for DX call: K9MA | | | | | | rows to show: 30 |
| search spot by callsign | | | | | | |
de	dx	freq	cq/dx	snr	speed	time
N2QT	K9MA	7036.6	CW CQ [LoTW]	6 dB	33 wpm	1254z 31 Aug
KO7SS	K9MA	7036.6	CW CQ [LoTW]	8 dB	31 wpm	1254z 31 Aug
K1TTT	K9MA	7036.7	CW CQ [LoTW]	6 dB	31 wpm	1254z 31 Aug
N2WQ	K9MA	7036.6	CW CQ [LoTW]	19 dB	31 wpm	1254z 31 Aug
N4BAF	K9MA	7037.6	CW CQ [LoTW]	11 dB	31 wpm	1254z 31 Aug
W2LB	K9MA	7036.5	CW CQ [LoTW]	5 dB	31 wpm	1254z 31 Aug

13Z RBN

Conditions were good, and things got off to a fast start, as I seemed to be getting out quite well. At 1340Z, however, the first of the day's lawn mowers showed up, making it often very hard to hear the KX1. Still, the final score was by far my best so far on the road.

Single Op QRP

Call	QSOs	Mults	Op Time	Score	Club
K9MA	61	43	1	2,623	
W1UU	47	41	1	1,927	
N4ZZ	35	35	00:26	1,225	ACG
WA9LEY	33	32	1	1,056	Metro DX
WB5BKL	31	26	1:00	806	CTDXCC
KI4MZC	28	27		756	
VE3XT	23	20	1.0	460	CCO
K4ARQ	18	17	00:50	306	
K1SX	11	11	15m	121	
K5IX	12	10		120	
W4VG	10	10	45 min	100	

13Z Results

After posting the score and packing up, I rode east toward Blue Mound, with a lunch stop in Barneveld. Now, I know Blue Mound doesn't look like much, but it's a lot of work to pedal a loaded touring bike up there! It's some 176 meters (577 ft) higher than the 13Z QTH, and there was a bit more climbing than that.

Blue Mound

Latitude 43.03° North

Longitude -89.85° West

Altitude 518.22 meters
1700.20 feet

GPS

19Z QTH

In any case, I got there in plenty of time to set up for the 19Z CWT. RBN reports looked really good. That was a bit surprising, except K9IMM, who is almost line of sight, because the top of Blue Mound is a big flat area, so all my ground reflections should have been long gone before reaching the edge.

19Z RBN

Unfortunately, as 19Z approached, like a swarm of angry hornets, the lawn mowers converged on the picnic area. The whole hour was a struggle, though conditions were pretty good, as nearly as I could tell. I did work several Europeans: F5IN and F6HKA, as usual, and OK2RZ. There may have been others drowned out by the roar. I'd have given up, except for all the work of getting up there. When it was all over, the log showed a disappointing 41 QSOs and 37 mults.

I've learned my lesson about doing the 03Z CWT outdoors, though at least there wouldn't be lawn mowers then. After once again posting the score and packing up, I rode on home. In the shack here at 03Z, there should be neither bugs nor lawn mowers!

Tokyo Ham Fair 2016

by Atsu Taniguchi JE1TRV

The Tokyo Hamfair 2016 was held on August 20 and 21 at the Tokyo Big Sight Exhibition Center. CWops Japan presented their own booth and promoted CW itself and CWops club activities.

Figure 1 L-R Masumi JA3AVO, Ken JN1THL

Figure 2 Masumi JA3AVO, Atsu JE1TRV

Kyoko JG1GBA (XYL of JE1TRV), Ayaka W7AYA (grand-daughter of JA3AVO) who helped as instructors of handmade Morse Code Beads accessories

Ayaka W7AYA teaches a little girl to make Morse Code beads necklace

In 2017, the Tokyo Hamfair will be held on the first weekend of September.

See you next time!

73,

Atsu JE1TRV

CW Academy

Jerry AC4BT

The September / October 2016 CW Academy (CWA) semester kicked off last week. In each of the last few semesters, CWA has continued to see enrollment growth and this semester is no exception. We had over 200 students actively enrolled in this semester! That is the most we've had at one time.

CW mentoring is alive and well and prospering at CWops, which is what one would expect from a CW focused club! CWops is the only CW organization that has a volunteer program like this, one that is totally dedicated to introducing new hams to CW and providing a proven path to building and enhancing CW skills.

CWA currently has three programs: **Level 1** – Brand new Amateur operators with no experience and no prior knowledge of CW up to operators who can copy and send around 10 WPM. **Level 2** – CW operators who are around 10 WPM to 18 WPM who may be stuck at a certain speed and would like to improve to 20 WPM. And **Level 3** – CW operators who are around 18 WPM and up who want to get past 25 WPM and higher and want to improve their head-copy skills and begin using CW as a language.

Our Level 1 students are introduced to CW using a very structured and unique program. In addition to learning the CW alphabet, they are also introduced to contesting, DXing and begin having real QSOs towards the end of the semester. Our Level 2 students are taught head-copy skills, and work towards unlearning bad CW habits and focusing on increasing their speed and CW comprehension. Our Level 3 Master program builds on the Level 2 course by enhancing head-copy and copy-behind skills to take the student to a new level of proficiency using CW as a language.

The Level 2 and Level 3 classes incorporate active participation in the weekly CWT's as part of the curriculum. Many of our graduates of Level 2 and Level 3 who participate regularly in the CWTs have gone on to become new members of CWops.

CW Academy is always looking for new Advisors to help us continue to provide and enhance these unique programs. We hope more CWops members will join us as CWA Advisors (three semesters a year Jan, Apr, Sep), help us promote our club, and grow the CW community now and into the future at the same time!

73,

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

How We Were – NT2A
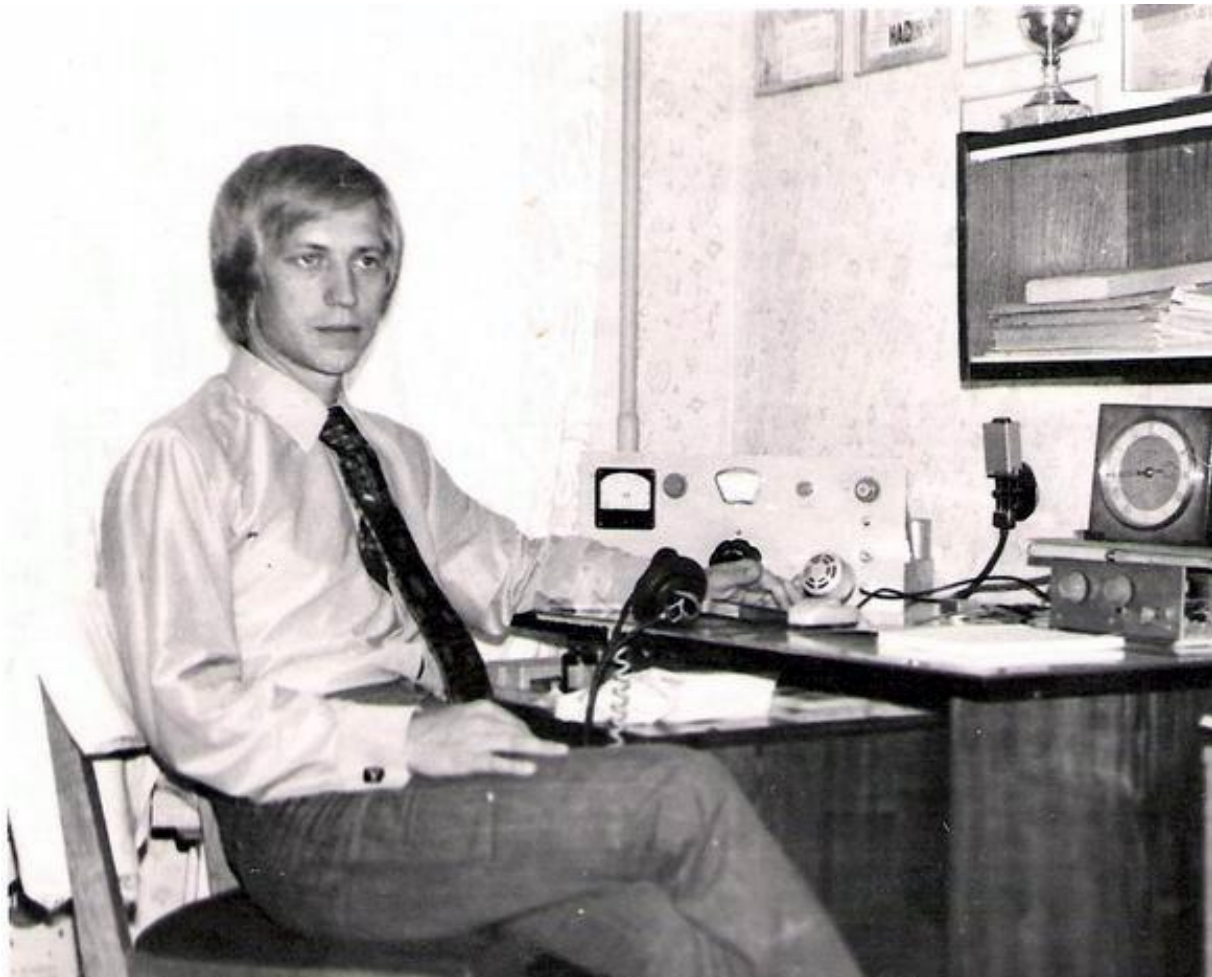
by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Gene Moshkov, NT2A, CWops #1613. Here's Gene in 1974 as UA3QAQ. Today Gene is very active from a city lot on Staten Island.

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

CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

A few days ago I received an e-mail complaining about interference to an ongoing QSO from CWT operators. He named a few CWOps call signs and said that he had requested them to QSY but had been ignored. I've thought a bit about how this might have happened, and I suspect that this may have been a case of someone with relatively wide IF filters in his receiver. He might have been reacting to callers that may have been far enough away in frequency that they didn't even hear his QSY request.

In the interests of good public relations for CWOps, opening up the receive filters a bit after sending a QRL? message and before starting to CQ in order to see whether there is an ongoing QSO nearby might help detect and prevent this kind of situation.

A panadapter might also be a helpful tool for this. If you have a panadapter or panadapter software, one of the things you can use it for is to find a candidate frequency for CQing. Besides identifying what looks like a clear frequency, you can also use it to check out the signals that are closest to that frequency and give them a brief listen to see whether it's another contester or a non-contest QSO in progress. If it's a non-contest QSO, it would be a considerate gesture to give them a little more elbow room than you would to a fellow contester. Having competitors crowding in on you is something you quickly learn to deal with when contesting, but it's not the kind of thing you expect or appreciate when you are trying to carry on a ragchew.

Mention of panadapters brings up the subject of operating aids more generally. Panadapters are one example, but first let's start with some more basic aids.

To my mind, the most important aid is logging software interfaced with your transceiver. Without this, you have to remember to log the correct band, mode, date and time with every QSO, and especially with rapid-fire contest-style QSOs, it's easy to make a mistake. Once you start using interfaced logging software you can forget about this kind of mistake. You'll still make errors, we all do, but not those particular ones. To my mind this is the real advantage of rig control programs. The ability to control the rig from the computer is only a secondary benefit.

Logging software comes in at least two broad flavors – general logging programs and contest loggers. There are many general logging programs out there, quite a few of which can be downloaded and installed at no cost, and most of them have a wide range of features in addition to logging QSOs – tracking your progress towards awards like DXCC, managing QSLs, and so on.

Some general logging programs have some rudimentary contest features as well, but for serious contest use you will want a special-purpose contest logger. Contest loggers keep track of serial numbers, warn you if someone is a dupe, keep score, and produce a correctly-formatted Cabrillo file after the contest so you can submit your log. They don't do the other stuff (award tracking, QSLing, etc.). For those tasks, it's best to export your log from the contest logger in ADIF format and then import it into a general logging program.

For a CW operator, I think the next most important aid is a memory keyer. Have you ever had the experience of trying to work a DXpedition, fumble-fingering your call sign and then being unable to

get the DXpedition operator to get your call sign correct before he moves on to the next caller? After doing that once or twice with all-time new ones, you won't have too much trouble appreciating the benefits of having a memory keyer with your call sign programmed into it, so you can send your call perfectly every time with the push of a button. The same thing applies in contests. If the contest has a fixed exchange, like the CWTs, then you can program another memory with the exchange.

If you are using a contest logging program, it probably has CW keyer features built in. CW keying from a PC can have its own problems, though. The range of PC speeds and hardware and software configurations is very broad. Some people have no problem with computer-generated CW, but others have lots of issues with poor timing, pauses, stuttering, etc. The usually recommended solution to these issues is an outboard keyer that is connected to the computer. The computer sends a string of ASCII characters to the keyer and then the keyer converts the characters to Morse code and takes care of CW timing. The gold standard for this is the K1EL Winkeyer, which is supported by most logging software. You can also attach a paddle to the Winkeyer to send ad-lib text. You can use it as an ordinary CW keyer whether or not it is currently being controlled by a logging program.

Once you are using a contest logger, there are many other features and aids to operation that can come into play. I won't try to cover them all here. The one I'll mention is sometimes known as the Call History file. (That's N1MM Logger terminology for it. Other loggers may have the same feature under a different name.) This is basically a list of call signs with corresponding exchange information (name and CWOps number in the CWTs, name and state for NAQP, and so on). The logging program will prefill that part of the exchange for you automatically when you type in a call sign that it finds in the file. This is essentially a memory aid. For some familiar call signs you probably don't need the help, so it's the less familiar call signs it helps most with.

In the CWTs, this can be a great labor-saver. For the majority of contacts, the program will tell you what the exchange is going to be even before you hear it. Of course, sometimes someone is using a different call sign, or isn't in the list, or spells their name differently than the way it is recorded in the call history file. Automation hasn't taken over completely (not yet, anyway!). [Or a QTH or name has changed entirely, perhaps forever or perhaps for this event only. It's vital to listen to the actual sent exchange and correct the pre-fill if necessary. – Ed.]

One nice use of this file is called reverse lookup – if you only hear the exchange, you can enter it without entering the call sign and the program will tell you the [probable] call sign and whether it is a dupe or not. Also, every once in a while you will miscopy a call sign and the exchange will be different from the prefill. If the correct call sign corresponding to the exchange you heard doesn't come to mind immediately, you can use reverse lookup to find it. Depending on your typing ability, this might (or might not) be faster than asking for a repeat.

You don't have to use any of these aids. Maybe the most fun for you comes from logging with paper and pencil and sending with a bug or straight key. That's great. But it's not hard to guess that many of the people who are racking up the really high scores are using a lot of automation of one kind or another. The great thing is, we can each get our kicks in different ways, and yet we can still all participate together.

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

73,

Rich, VE3KI

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.

In the table below, members whose call sign is in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS).

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
W1RM	719	4353		**W1RM**	**168**		**N5RR**	**50**		**W1RM**	**48**		W1RM	38
AA3B	716	5697		**F6HKA**	**152**		**W1RM**	**50**		**F6HKA**	**44**		F6HKA	38
VE3KI	641	3907		**W4VQ**	**139**		**W4VQ**	**50**		**N5RR**	**43**		W4VQ	37
F6HKA	629	4185		**G4BUE**	**119**		**F6HKA**	**50**		**G4BUE**	**43**		G4BUE	37
N8BJQ	580	4068		**N5RR**	**114**		**W1UU**	**50**		**VE3KI**	**42**		N5RR	36
K6RB	456	3403		**VE3KI**	**112**		**VE3KI**	**50**		**OK1RR**	**42**		VE3KI	35
G4BUE	456	3150		**OH2BN**	**112**		**G4BUE**	**50**		**EA8OM**	**42**		IK0YVV	32
K1ESE	450	2314		**EA8OM**	**111**		**EA8OM**	**50**		**W4VQ**	**41**		N5PHT	28
K5AX	423	1927		**N8BJQ**	**109**		**W0EJ**	**50**		**N8BJQ**	**41**		JF2IWL	25
IT9MUO	422	1317		K1ESE	97		**F6JOE**	**50**		**OH2BN**	**40**		W6NS	19
N5RR	387	3781		SM6CNN	93		**W6KY**	**50**		**AA3B**	**40**			
NA6O	385	1449		OK1RR	93		**N1EN**	**50**		SM6CNN	37			
N5PHT	378	1742		AA3B	93		**N5PHT**	**50**		F6JOE	36			
W1UU	345	2001		EA1WX	89		**F5MNK**	**50**		W1UU	34			
W4VQ	330	2391		W0VX	88		**K5IX**	**50**		W0VX	34			
IT9VDQ	329	874		N1EN	86		**K3SEN**	**50**		KZ5D	34			
W9ILY	326	2639		F6JOE	81		**AD1C**	**50**		KR3E	34			
W0VX	325	2633		AD1C	81		**AB7MP**	**50**		K1ESE	34			
DL8PG	288	1704		IT9MUO	80		W9ILY	49		IT9MUO	34			
W6NS	283	1067		PA7RA	79		W0VX	49		W9ILY	32			
K3SEN	281	885		KZ5D	78		VK7CW	49		N1EN	32			
K6DGW	280	1596		DL8PG	77		N8BJQ	49		IT9VDQ	32			
VK7CW	270	1042		W1UU	74		K6RB	49		F5MNK	32			
F6JOE	265	2545		KR3E	73		K6DGW	49		EA1WX	32			
NN4K	255	904		N1ZX	70		K5AX	49		PA7RA	31			
KE4S	244	891		K5AX	70		K1ESE	49		DL8PG	31			

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
K3WJV	238	882		F5MNK	68		GW0ETF	49		IK0YVV	30			
EA8OM	235	2758		NN6T	67		AA3B	49		NN6T	29			
NU7Y	232	479		GW0ETF	67		WB9G	48		N1ZX	28			
AD1C	209	1919		VK7CW	62		W6NS	48		K5AX	28			
W6KY	203	1916		N5PHT	62		SM6CNN	48		GW0ETF	28			
N1EN	200	1928		IT9VDQ	61		NN6T	48		AD1C	28			
K5IX	200	630		W9ILY	57		NA6O	48		JF2IWL	24			
N1DC	199	698		IK0YVV	57		N1ZX	48		K6RB	23			
I5EFO	186	284		W6KY	55		KZ5D	48		HB9ARF	23			
G4NVR	163	221		K6RB	54		KT5V	48		VK7CW	22			
W5ASP	162	965		4Z1UF	50		IK0YVV	48		I5EFO	22			
JF2IWL	135	898		JF2IWL	49		DL8PG	48		G4DRS	22			
K2ZC	112	767		WB9G	48		NU7Y	47		N5PHT	21			
4X6GP	109	975		NA6O	48		KR3E	47		KE4S	21			
AB7MP	55	600		G4DRS	45		JF2IWL	47		4Z1UF	21			
G4HZV	54	59		KE4S	43		WX7SJ	46		K2ZC	20			
KZ5D	0	3239		HB9ARF	41		NN4K	46		WB9G	19			
SM6CNN	0	2477		W6NS	38		KG5U	46		G4NVR	19			
N2UU	0	1774		K6DGW	38		KE4S	46		G3YJQ	18			
EA1WX	0	1655		K3SEN	38		K0DTJ	46		W6KY	17			
OK1RR	0	1618		K2ZC	37		IT9VDQ	46		NA6O	17			
NN6T	0	1577		W0EJ	36		IT9MUO	46		N1DC	17			
GW0ETF	0	1451		KG5U	35		EA1WX	46		KG5U	17			
KG5U	0	1322		I5EFO	34		N1DC	45		NN4K	16			
PA7RA	0	1200		KT5V	32		K3WJV	45		K3WJV	16			
KR3E	0	1136		NN4K	30		K2ZC	45		K3SEN	15			
F5MNK	0	1111		N1DC	28		PA7RA	44		W6NS	12			
PA4N	0	955		G3YJQ	27		OK1RR	44		K6DGW	12			
N1ZX	0	940		K3WJV	25		KM4FO	43		KT5V	11			
WB9G	0	888		K0DTJ	25		HB9ARF	43		W0EJ	10			
KT5V	0	814		G4NVR	25		G4DRS	43		G3XLG	10			
IK0YVV	0	767		NU7Y	21		OH2BN	42		W5TM	7			
W0EJ	0	754		K5IX	20		NV9X	38		G0DJA	7			
HB9ARF	0	723		AB7MP	20		I5EFO	37		K5IX	6			
K0DTJ	0	668		G3XLG	18		G3YJQ	37		K0DTJ	6			
WX7SJ	0	610		WT2P	14		4Z1UF	36		AB7MP	6			
WT2P	0	574		W5TM	11		WT2P	34		KM4FO	5			
OH2BN	0	530		KM4FO	10		G4NVR	33		WT2P	4			
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												

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
NV9X	0	149												
KE6K	0	116												
G0DJA	0	23												
PA1FOX	0	5												

73,

Pete W1RM

New Members

Colin Jenkins KU5B

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

1666	KF4A*	Don
1667	K1DC	Donald
1668	NC1M*	Hugh
1669	AL7N	Ed
1670	NU1O	Chris
1671	K2AV*	Guy
1672	K8UT	Larry

* = Life Member

Current Nominees

As of September 14, 2016:

Need Sponsors: N3AAK, VK5EEE, AF5CC, TZ4AM

Invitations Extended: 7X3DA, MM0LID

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."

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 Monthly Standings

Below find the August QTX reports received:

Call	August
N5PHT	91
K5YQF	65
K1ESE	58
KI4XH	56
K5KV	53
WB6BEE	49
N5IR	45
K4AHO	26
K6RB	21
K6HP	19
KB6NU	18
NN6T	14
HB9CVQ	10
NN4K	8
W3WHK	6
I5EFO	6
K8UHD	5
KC0VKN	4
K6DGW	3

Once again, Gary N5PHT leads the pack. He's down somewhat from his record setting pace of the last two months, but still posts an outstanding total. Behind him is Cecil K5YQF with his best score of the year. He has been really active the last two months. I am in third barely nudging out Fred KI4XH.

We had 19 stations reporting, down one, and QSOs were down by 88 from last month's 2016 high total of 645.

Personal bests for the year were submitted by K5YQF and K6HP.

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.

QTX Year to Date

Call	YTD
WB6BEE	496
K5KV	468
KI4XH	446
K1ESE	432
N5PHT	431
N5IR	401
K5YQF	319
AC4BT	240
K4AHO	206
KB6NU	174
NN6T	161
K6RB	116
K6HP	111
KC0VKN	104
HB9CVQ	72
W3WHK	69
KE6OIO	47
N1ZX	39
NN4K	37
I5EFO	37
WA8IWK	28
N9SE	27
WC5W	17
K0DTJ	15

K3TN	12
K8UHD	10
K6DGW	8
W5JQ	7

The year to date lineup is the same as last month. Don WB6BEE stays in first, Benny K5KV is second, and Fred KI4XH is third. I'm forth and Gary N5PHT has rocketed to fifth. He's headed higher.

We have lots of Gold Medal winners so far this year - WB6BEE, K5KV, KI4XH, K1ESE, N5PHT, and N5IR. Congratulations guys!

Here's who has qualified for the other medals -

Silver   K5YQF
Bronze AC4BT, K4AHO

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

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 Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW (SAC) may not be as well known as some of the other European events, but it does attract a strong following. 1100-plus logs were submitted for the 2015 contest. A good way to gear up for this activity is to download and look over the SAC 2015 Results Booklet. It can be found at http://www.sactest.net/blog/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SAC-2015-Booklet.pdf. Scandinavian stations include a dozen DXCC entities, i.e. Svalbard, Bear Island, Jan Mayen, Norway, Finland, Aland Islands, Market Reef, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland. That's quite a unique collection of call signs. It's certainly worth setting aside some time, checking propagation and making a thorough search of the bands.

The All Africa International DX Contest doesn't seem to have a significant following among contesters, but it does have an interesting "manual," the South African Radio League 2016 Contest

Manual. This is a .pdf with over 50 pages of contest related information. It's worth browsing through, and might even lead to some Qs you hadn't expected.

It's probable that the Oceania DX Contest, CW and the Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW will pose real propagation challenges for our U.S. West Coast contingent. But "faint heart" never stands in the way of the intrepid contester. His motto is simply "Go For It."

This may well be the peak of the state QSO party season with 12 (count 'em!) scheduled over the upcoming 30 day period. The premier events are probably going to be the Texas and California parties. But check 'em all out; you may be surprised at what you find. With two or more a weekend it's a chance to "multi-task" or even SO2R (if you can get both rigs on the same band … 20m is usually the prefered hangout). As always, it's the mobiles who give the events their luster. Keep in mind that they tend to return to the same frequency after mode changes.

For those with spare time during the week, there's a wealth of "sprints" coming up in the days ahead. Together with the CWTs they provide quick shots of Mr. Morse's code between the big events. They'll keep the skills sharp.

Till next time … Keep on pounding.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER EVENTS

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW   **1200Z, Sep 17th to 1200Z, Sep 18th**
http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/

All Africa International DX Contest   **1200Z, Sep 17th to 1200Z, Sep 18th**
http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8af
Pgb.PDF

Oceania DX Contest, CW   **0800Z, Oct 8th to 0800Z, Oct 9th**
http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com/rules.pdf

Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW   **0000Z-0200Z, Oct 16th**
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NCCC Sprint   **0230Z-0300Z, Sep 16th**
NCCC Sprint   **0230Z-0300Z, Sep 23rd**
NCCC Sprint   **0230Z-0300Z, Sep 30th**
NCCC Sprint   **0230Z-0300Z, Oct 7th**
NCCC Sprint   **0230Z-0300Z, Oct 14th**
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

NAQCC CW Sprint   **0030Z-0230Z, Sep 22nd**
NAQCC CW Sprint   **0030Z-0230Z, Oct 12th**
www.naqcc.info/

SKCC Sprint   **0000Z-0200Z, Sep 28th**

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon   1200Z, Oct 8th to 2400Z, Oct 9th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint   1700Z-2100Z, Oct 1st
FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint   1700Z-2100Z, Oct 8th
http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints

New Jersey QSO Party   1600Z, Sep 17th to 0359Z, Sep 18th and
                                    1400Z-2000Z, Sep 18th
http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/njqp_rules.html

New Hampshire QSO Party   1600Z, Sep 17th to 0400Z, Sep 18th and
                                    1600Z-2200Z, Sep 18th
http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/NEW_HAMPSHIRE_QSO_PARTY_RULES.pdf

Washington State Salmon Run   1600Z, Sep 17th to 0700Z, Sep 18th and
                                    1600Z-2400Z, Sep 18th
http://www.wwdxc.org/2016-salmon-run-information/

Maine QSO Party   1200Z, Sep 24th to 1200Z, Sep 25th
http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm/Maine_QSO_Party.html

Texas QSO Party   1400Z, Sep 24th to 0200Z, Sep 25th and
                                    1400Z-2000Z, Sep 25th
http://www.txqp.net/

California QSO Party   1600Z, Oct 1st to 2200Z, Oct 2nd
http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html

Pennsylvania QSO Party   1600Z, Oct 8th to 0500Z, Oct 9th and
                                    1300Z-2200Z, Oct 9th
http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/paqso15rules-rev1.pdf

Arizona QSO Party   1600Z, Oct 8th to 0600Z, Oct 9th and
                                    1400Z-2359Z, Oct 9th
http://www.azqsoparty.org/rules.html

Iowa QSO Party   1400Z-2300Z, Oct 15th
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New York QSO Party   1400Z, Oct 15th to 0200Z, Oct 16th
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South Dakota QSO Party   1800Z, Oct 15th to 1800Z, Oct 16th
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Illinois QSO Party   1700Z, Oct 16th to 0100Z, Oct 17th

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