

Pretty Sunset at TF3IRA

CWops "CWT"

Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

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

1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)

name/SPC (non-members)

(Avoid DX pileups!)

CWops "neighborhood"

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

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President's Message

Where does the time go? It seems like I just started typing 2016 and soon I'll have to start



typing 2017. And, now that I've gotten used to sending "age is 69" I'll have to start sending "age is 70."

I have been a ham, now, for over 58 years. I can remember my Novice days in

1958/1959. It was truly the blind leading the blind, then. With crystal frequency control, the odds of being on someone's frequency who was calling "CQ" were quite low. So, when you answered a CQ, you sent that person's call several times before sending your own. You had to give them time to turn the big dial and find you.

My Novice buddies and I were all working toward the same goal – getting to 13 WPM and passing the General written test. In those days, you actually had to draw schematics. Nearly everyone was anxious to get that General ticket and put that key in a drawer and break out the microphone. But it didn't take me long to figure out that with a Viking Adventurer running maybe 30 watts out (on a good day), even with plate modulation, my odds of being heard were not very high. So I found myself rummaging through the drawer and reconnecting that J-38 ... and I never looked back.

From 1958 through 1970, I probably made 99.9% of my QSOs on CW and the rest on AM. Then in 1970 I finally bought my second rig – a Heath HW-100. Wow! I could now run serious power (125 watts input) and even try SSB for the first time. Again, it did not take me very long to find that, as before, I much preferred operating CW. And so it remains to this day. I'm not doctrinaire about it. I do have an electret mic on my Yamaha CM-500 headset ... but it is usually tucked away near the headband.

Looking back over the ensuing 58 years, ham radio has gone through so many changes. When I first started, the standard was “separates.” You had a receiver, and a separate transmitter. But Collins, and later Heathkit, made transceivers all the rage. AM phone quickly gave way to SSB phone but CW more or less stayed CW. You heard an increasing number of electronic keyers, but you still heard hand keys and bugs. And today, you still do.

Take a look at the sensitivities of today's gear versus receivers and transceivers of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Our receivers hear much better so high power is less significant in making and holding QSOs. Yet so many of us have “big iron.” Back in the days, RTTY was done by a relatively few of us. RTTY systems had big electro-mechanical terminals and with tube-type stability challenges, it was tough to find others and to exchange messages free of lots of erroneous characters. Now, RTTY has become mainstream.

For those of us who fondly remember the bands in the 1950s and 1960s, there always seemed to be a lot of conversational QSOs taking place. Today, not so much. Before the advent of 2 meter repeaters, chasing DX meant listening for them. Pile ups were more rare. Today, many hams never turn on a radio until they spot a needed country/band/mode combination on a DX spotting network. Then they switch on, try to work the DX, and switch off again.

Look at what computers have done to contesting. Remember those gnarly dupe sheets we had to fill out when we submitted our hand-written SS CW logs? That's all history now. I dare say, someone who had a Novice back in 1958 and quit ham radio soon after would be hard pressed to see any similarities in today's gear and operations ... until they hear that plaintive “CQ” on CW. We will probably be saying the same things about driving once auto-driving vehicles become mainstream, too. “I can still remember when you actually had to accelerate, brake, and steer one of these things.”

73,

Rob K6RB

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From the [Editor](#)



Contest Season!

CWops is not a contest club, but many of our members enjoy contesting. Contests happen all the time, but some of the majors occur from November through March, so we often refer to this as Contest Season. And many of those contests are on CW, providing excellent opportunities to practice, to hone our Morse skills, and to use those skills in pursuit of a favorite pastime. Joe W5ASP lists some of the big contests, and some of the smaller ones, too, in the [Operating Events](#) column each month. Even if you're not a contester, consider getting on, even if it's for just a little while, to give a few points to your more competitively-inclined colleagues. Who knows, you might start to like it!

When I was a young ham with limited skills and antennas, the ARRL November Sweepstakes CW was one of my favorites. It is limited to the US and Canada, a mere 3000 mile expanse, so success depends less on pulling out the weak ones than it does in a world-wide DX contest. In fact, it was a SS, I believe in 1962, that boosted my code speed from barely General-class (13 WPM) to 25 or more in the course of one contest. We learn a lot faster when we're young, eh?! It was the beginning of the end of any enthusiasm I might have had for phone operating.

This year's SS CW is history and it looks like CWops members K5GA (#3), K5OT (#4), and KL9A (#8) are currently in the Single Op Unassisted High Power Top Ten, pending arrival of more scores to the unofficial 3830 Claimed Scores reporting page or any "stealth" entries sent quietly to the official ARRL scores robot. Only 11% separates the ten highest scores in this highly competitive category! Members NP3A, WJ9B, K0AV, K4XU, K2PO, W1NN, and K0AD look to line up in order in positions 4-10 in the Single Op Unassisted Low Power category. We're visible in the Single Op QRP category, too, with W2GD looking like the winner, followed by K4QPL (#5), WF7T (#6), and N0UR (#7). Single Op Unlimited (assisted by spotting networks) HP winners include K0EU on top, with K6LL (#3), K9CT (#4), VE7CC (#6), and N4QS (#7). It looks like N4ZZ will win the Single Op Unlimited LP category, followed by K0VBU (#5), N3HEE (#6), and K2YWE (#7). Of course, this is all subject to adjudication and final scoring, and some finishing positions may shift around, but these are all outstanding efforts. Way to go, guys!

As for your editor, well, SS is no longer a favorite. The long Sunday afternoon begging for a few more Qs in a huge field of stations you have already worked just doesn't do it for me any more. I had considered an "SO2S1C" entry – Single Operator/Two Stations/One Chair, using remote operation for one half of the contest and then starting over locally with another call sign for the other half. This ensures decent rate from start to finish and enables a higher total score. But it wasn't a focus event for my contest club and I got off to such a poor start on Saturday afternoon that I decided to make it a multi-activity weekend, with ham radio giving way to sports on TV, a bike ride, some chores, and other pursuits. I got on the air now and then and, after five or six hours total, realized that I had all but one multiplier. That meant I had a goal, so I spent another four hours looking in vain for Eastern Washington. Signals were great from all the neighboring sections, WWA, ID, OR, BC, and AB, and they were answering my CQs readily. I was operating Assisted and the spotting networks were active. But EWA still eluded me. I finally gave up when the pops and crackles on my remote link became intolerable shortly before the end of the event, short of my impromptu goal and no more in love with SS than before. I do admire the *sitzfleisch* of the winners mentioned above – they're truly devoted!

Corrections:

In the October issue, we neglected to update a date reference in the QTX column. “Below find the June QTX reports received” should have read “...September...” but you probably figured that out!

Enjoy this November issue and, as usual, keep those articles and columns coming and don’t forget to tell me what you want to read in *Solid Copy*.

73,

Rick N6XI

Editor

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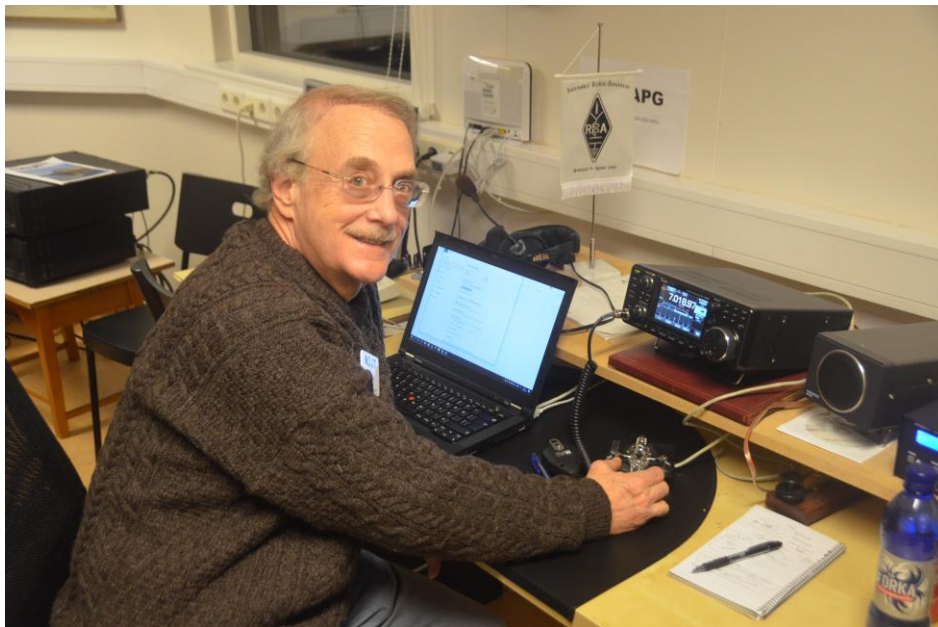
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News & Notes

[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 and Nina are headed back to Florida for the winter, where Jim will again use his Virginia station remotely in addition to having access to a vertical antenna in Boynton Beach (see qrz.com). Jim notes that if nobody is around he can always work himself between Virginia and Florida! Here is an earlier photo of Jim in the shack of TF3IRA:



And here is a very pretty outside view of TF3IRA:



Skip, K6DGW: I just received my new N3ZN-SL single-lever paddle. Its mission is to improve my sending speed (and quality) and it appears it's going to be Mission Accomplished. Old injuries, a genetic condition thanks to my poor choice of Dad, and an accumulation of birthdays were collectively reducing my finger dexterity, and it finally fell below 25 WPM.

I have never joined the "Church of the Iambic," so the switch to single-lever is no big deal, but all the extra dits and occasional dahs from the two paddles are gone now and 30 WPM is again feasible.

I'm left-handed, but I was taught to send Morse right-handed by a left-handed Elmer so I could both send and write in my log ... a lost art now. The single-lever works either left or right for me and seems like a very good solution to an incurable problem.

The paddle is a work of art. The very fine-threaded adjustment screws are also a boon to fingers that don't move well, and Tony is really easy to work with. (No fiduciary connection with Tony, blah blah, and all that usual disclaimer)

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N4FP Visits N3JT

by Wayne Brown N4FP



I was in Arlington, VA for a Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) conference and realized we were seven miles from N3JT's QTH. I gave Jim a landline call and he invited me by for an eyeball. It was nice to see Jim again, and his shack. For those of you who have never visited his shack, it is an absolute marvel of intricate electronic wiring between his many pieces of ham gear, representing years of accumulating equipment and never removing anything previously installed! Those of you who have seen it know exactly what I mean. The best part is he always has a great signal, and has earned many awards. Jim demonstrated how he connects to his station remotely via the Internet from his snowbird location in Florida.

Also attending the MOAA conference was Keith Beebe W3KB. Keith, my XYL Marty WB2VYK, CW Op #1644, and I had a great time chatting about ham radio, particularly CWops.

During our return I operated the 1300Z CWT mobile while Marty was driving south on I-95 in South Carolina, then the 1900 session on US 301 south of I-10 in Florida. Appropriately, I worked N3JT during both sessions. The rig was the old Kenwood TS-440SAT that we purchased new 29 years ago, and Hustler antennas horizontally

mounted atop a mag-mounted three foot mast.

Below is a selfie of Jim and me in his shack. Above is a picture of our mobile auto.



73,

Wayne N4FP, CWops #1090

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Activating Quarry Island OK028L

by Gary Stone N5PHT, CWops #1489

USA Islands

The USA Islands program is found at <http://usislands.org/> and it is not associated with the IOTA program but rather for Islands found within Lakes or Rivers. I also activated one other USA Island (Rattlesnake Island in Texas) many years ago and have operated also from Goose Island in the Gulf of Texas.

USAI Rules

In simple terms, a USAI entity has to be an island with a known name and certain sizes. For the purist, note that the USAI rules state, “Bridges and narrow causeways linking the island to the mainland or other islands are acceptable.” This allowed me to use the motor home for RV camping on Quarry Island – I am no longer agile enough to do the boat thing and carry equipment to a remote island! I did use the generator for power for a few of the contacts during a power outage, but that is another story. Look up the referenced Web page if interested and maybe you, too, can activate a new island.

Quarry Island

As I said, there is a short causeway and Quarry Island is part of Lake Wister State Park. We have actually avoided this park in the past as it is in need of a lot of upgrading. But with the lure of activating a new USAI island, I felt it would be acceptable for a few days and the XYL threw in her blessing to sweeten the deal. She likes to sit and read when we camp and draw and work on some woodwork projects and she is super supportive of my sometimes crazy hobby. Actually, she enjoyed our time on the island very much and did not want to leave.

I proposed the island to the USAI QM (Qualification Manager). He looked it over on Google and agreed it qualified and assigned an initial number of OK028. The “L” designation at the end is for “Lake” and does not get affixed until the island has been “activated.” Anyone could have activated the Island, but since I was planning to head there the next day I made it first!

Quarry Island is near the Eastern Oklahoma town of Wister and was an easy 100 mile drive from our previous location in Arkansas – and directly on our way home to North Texas. I was unable to locate information or history of the island but given the name and the presence of some large stones (pun not intended) laying around, one can only assume some quarry work happened in the past. But I am not certain. A Google view shows the small causeway that appears to have been added when the original lake was formed by the dam. Google Measure shows the island to be a little over half a mile long and about 700 feet at the widest point. The island is part of the Oklahoma State Park system and has seven RV sites and a dozen or more tent sites.



Ham Station

I use a Kenwood TS590S and run 100 watts as I don't carry an amplifier. I carry a few different antennas but my favorite is the full size G5RV. As you can see in the picture I had plenty of room here to erect the full size antenna. The trusty ol' sling shot worked well and I got the antenna hoisted up to about 35 feet at the apex. This was a CW only operation so my Bencher paddle got the job done. I have no computer control of the rig when traveling or at home.



Radio Contacts

To “officially activate” the rules are simple: Make at least 25 contacts from the Island including at least two DXCC entities. Well, thanks to CW friends that initial activation took 34 minutes! And it was a hoot. As K3WW pointed out in an email, I even had a little pileup going for awhile!

We camped on the island three days and this activation resulted in some nice walks, afternoon naps, a wonderful meal at the Southern Belle in Heavener, beautiful sunsets, sunrises and, oh yes, I was here for ham radio so it included some contacts: CW Only operation from 18-20 October 2016. I logged over 300 contacts with all continents, 16 DXCC entities and 35 US States.

As Jim, N3JT says of me, what tree will I be hiding behind next?

73,

Gary, N5PHT

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Sleuthing the Hum

by [Rob Brownstein K6RB](#)



Back in 1995 I had acquired a Globe King 500 and shortly after a Collins 75A-4. Both needed lots of work to bring them back to life, but this would become my vintage station of choice despite having five others all sharing my then antenna system. Some years later, though, I found that when this station was plugged in and power was off, there was a low-level 60 Hz hum in my two K3 radios. Removing the power strip plug to the vintage station made the hum go away.

I was not sure which piece of gear was causing my hum problem. Was it the A-4, the Globe King, the Eico 717 keyer, the Globe 755 VFO? But since it was easy to eliminate it by simply pulling the power-strip plug, I procrastinated in seeking and fixing whatever was amiss.

A few weeks ago I decided to give myself an early 70th birthday present. I unhooked the 'A4, packed it up nice and secure, and shipped it to Howard W3HM, well known for his excellent cosmetic and electrical restorations of Collins receivers. Now

that the vintage station was temporarily QRT, I decided to remove the three modules (power supply, modulator, RF deck) from the Globe King rack and put heavy duty casters on the bottom of the rack to allow me to more easily move it around.



With the units removed, I also decided to see why the Globe King was causing the hum, because with the 'A4 gone, the Eico and Globe VFO unplugged, and only the Globe King still connected to the AC line, I was still getting the hum. So, first clue – it's the Globe King.

For those unfamiliar with Globe King 500, 500B and 500C (I assume most of you), it comprises three modules – an RF deck, a modulator, and a main power supply. Each is separately mounted in the rack, and the three are then interconnected by two cables. One cable, the power umbilical, routes filament, plate and some switched AC lines among the three units. The other, the PTT umbilical, provides push-to-talk controls between the modulator and the power supply when operating AM phone.

Preliminary Investigation

My first detective work was to lay the now removed modules on their sides in the same juxtapositions as when inside the cabinet. That allowed me to reattach the two umbilical cables. Next, I measured resistance between the two AC plug blades and chassis ground with the power switch in the off position. Bingo. One AC line was making to chassis

ground with a resistance of less than one ohm. When I removed the power umbilical from all the units, the resistance to chassis ground went up to megohms. When I put the power umbilical back in place but left the PTT umbilical unconnected, the resistance was still good (e.g. very high). But, when I put the PTT umbilical in place, I read a short to ground, again.

Leaving the PTT in place and removing the power umbilical also allowed the resistance to be high (good). So, somehow, it was an interaction between both umbilicals that was causing this situation.

RF Deck

Further Sleuthing

When all else fails, look at the schematics. So I did. The power umbilical provided switched AC power to each module, all of which had relays and transformers. It also provided a common ground line. The PTT umbilical routed a low voltage relay coil voltage from power supply to PTT relay in the modular module. There was absolutely no path to ground intended.

With the PTT umbilical removed, I measured the two pins to ground on the power supply and the modulator modules. All looked good on the power supply connector, but I noted an essentially zero resistance path from one pin on the modulator deck to its chassis.

Some Insight

Working my way through the logic, if one pin on the modulator deck had a short to ground, when that umbilical was in place, it brought that short to the power supply module. And when the power umbilical was in place, that short to ground was now routed to the unswitched AC line. That's why both cables had to be in place for the short to chassis to appear on the AC line. But, where was the root problem? It had to be in the modulator deck.

Looking More Closely

The pin that was grounded connected a wire to the PTT relay coil. There should have been no ground in that path ... but there was. I checked the relay coil lug and it, too, was making to ground. So I decided to remove the two screws holding the relay to the side of the chassis and look more closely at that relay. After removing the screws, the relay should have simply detached from the chassis wall. But it didn't. It was stuck fast. I slipped a thin screwdriver blade between the relay mounting slab and the chassis and applied pressure. No dice. Then I tapped lightly on the screwdriver with a small hammer, and the relay finally detached from the chassis wall.

The relay was attached to an insulating slab of phenolic. The part of the slab that pressed against the chassis wall had two countersunk holes and the heads of two screws holding the relay to the slab. These screws were at least 1/16 inch recessed from the chassis and yet one of the screws had become welded to the chassis, and, thereby, grounded the relay coil.

My solution was to cover over the two recessed screw holes with highly insulating rubber-like material and remount the relay. Once that was done, I measured the pin to ground. No short. I replaced the umbilicals and measured the AC lines to ground. No short. With the new casters in place, I remounted the three modules, reconnected the umbilicals, and plugged everything in. No hum. Problem solved.

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CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

We have just concluded the September - October 2016 semester of CW Academy (CWA). Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had approximately 850 new signups since the beginning of this year and are on pace for 1,000+ signups for the calendar year.

Our CW Academy program continues to grow. Many aspiring CW operators sign up for our programs after hearing the positive results and success stories that others had experienced using our proven methods. The Academy's personal and interactive approach to teaching is unique. There are many Web sites that offer advice to aspiring CW students, but the Academy goes several steps further by placing students in a classroom setting – paddle in hand, evaluating the students' CW strengths and weaknesses in real time and then tailoring the 16 sessions in the semester to help each student build confidence and overcome CW obstacles. The student who stays the course emerges as a competent CW operator.

Our eight week Internet-based classroom instruction for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 courses offers an opportunity to work with some of the most accomplished CW operators serving as Advisors. These advisors make themselves available to our students because they love CW and want to pass on their passion for our great hobby. What better way is there to ensure that CW continues to be heard on the bands well into the future?

As always, with an unrelenting flow of incoming applications, CW Academy needs more Advisors. Anyone who knows CW well and has a passion to help others can become an Advisor. Seize the opportunity to give something back to our great hobby and serve as an Advisor. It's not a huge time commitment. Classes are held two times a week for an 8 week period. We have three semesters a year – Jan/Feb, Apr/May, and Sep/Oct. We offer Advisor training and provide the curriculum materials that are utilized in our courses.

Below are two emails that were sent to me at the end of this semester by graduating students expressing their gratitude to the Academy and the Advisors for giving them the opportunity to be successful in learning and improving their CW skills.

Hi Jerry, I'm Pedro, CT1DBS. I had done the level 2 just now. My Adviser was Alex, PA1FOX. I must to say that Alex was, in the true spirit of amateur radio friendship, a fantastic advisor. He takes the group to the right level with wisdom, knowledge and patience! Without any doubt, all group/class (CT1DBS, G0POT, M0RGN, OE4HDS) share these thoughts. So our class wouldn't be complete without a word of appreciation to CWOps, to CW academy, to the work of all Officers and Directors and, of course, of Alex Buurlage, PA1FOX! Thank you very, very much! 73 es TNX de Pedro, CT1DBS/CU3HF

Hi, Jerry. I want to praise Michael Zolno, WH6YH, who was my advisor/mentor during the September-October, 2016, CWA 2 class. He has a passion for teaching, is enthusiastic and encouraging, reveals a wealth of CW information, and, frankly, has been one of the best

teachers I have experienced in my lifetime. (I am a 64 year old practicing urologist in Illinois.) He made himself available almost constantly and his true love for CW teaching and mentoring were obvious. It was my pleasure being his student. Sincerely, Ralph Benejam, M.D., N9OAT

Please help us out so that we can continue to provide this unique service to the many aspiring CW operators out there who are looking to improve their CW skills with the CW Academy. To volunteer as an Advisor go to our web page at: <http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>.

**** Please note that some of our September – October semester classes are still on-going and therefore the below results are what has been reported back to me to date.*

The CW Academy September - October 2016 semester graduated **114** CW students led by 44 Advisors and 3 Associate Advisors.

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

September - October 2016 Semester – 44 Advisors and 3 Associate Advisors

Advisors - 2 classes

Rob K6RB, Ed K6HP, Joe KK5NA, Alex PA1FOX, Mike WH6YH, Dallas K1DW, Jerry AC4BT

Advisors – 1 class

Matt NG7W, Kate K6HTN, Bill N7YT, Scott KF7GGN, David KM6ZT, Danny KF7Z, Paul K4JAZ, Mac NN4K, Don K6ZO, Bill K5LN, Andy WB7DKZ, Bill W0EJ, Steve ZL2KE, Barry W4LSV, James VK4TJF, Stew GW0ETF, Phil G4NVR, Dave M0GGK, Vic 4X6GP, Ron WM9Q, Joe N3HEE, Bill KC4D, Will WJ9B, Eric G0HKC, Jack NI8N, John K4AFE, Bruce K8UDH, Van N5TOO, Lar K7SV, Jim N7RCS, David W6BK, Bob WR7Q, Bruce K1BJ, Ron VE3FXX, Mark K5GQ, Doug VE3MV, Alan AD6E

Associate Advisors

Doug VE3MV, Dave W5TRX, Jim W5TUF, Bob K9FS

September - October 2016 Semester – Students who completed: 114 graduates

Level 1 Graduates: 59

KK4YEL, KA0GOG, N2AJO, K9RT, KH6Y, WH6DYN, KH6DL, WH6EXE, KF5VKI, N0PIH, VE3SD, KB4WLF, KE2PB, N7BD, VA3GGB, K5SHT, K4GUF, WX4HP, KF7LU, N8KSG, W4TDV, N9CAT, AC9OH, KD8YMQ, N0RSN, N4RSN, KZ0MBI, K4JO, KK4ZC, KC1BAA, KM4EPR, N4GBR, KM4QGQ, NA4X, KK4EOU, KD0WW, KV4PN, KI7DUA, WA6ERA, WA6JL, KJ6BSB, KG7URK, AH0U, N7ZEI, VK4FR, PA3MM, PD2R, PE1JZQ, IU4DEG,

EA3HSO, OZ7MD, M0RVJ, G0MGM, PF5T, KA2KON, VE3KCY, WA2UEM, KE8ANS, KC9LVT

Level 2 Graduates: 41

AD5TT, KG0YL, W4PGM, AA5EJ, KP4WK, N9OAT, WB8SCT, N1ZRG, KE4RG, VA3HA, K1DBM, K9IXO, KE4D, W8GXB, VE3PVI, W4KGH, KW4JM, KD4RCW, K1SEI, KD0NPM, K14WFJ, AC5BG, NM5G, N4TIC, AG5AW, W4YES, W5MHB, K9ZAV, WB6MCW, VE7NRD, KF7DUR, N6QX, KX6A, W7GM, AA6MK, KG7BYN, NE0N, OE4HDS, CT1DBS, M0RGN, G0POT

Level 3 Graduates: 14

W6TN, K0PGE, K1AQB, WX5CW, K9DRS, N7BHP, W8JPF, KA1SOL, N9SZ, K4DJG, W4ALF, AD6JV, AD0BL, WN9W

73,

Jerry AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

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How We Were – W7VSE

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

Vic Seeberger W7VSE, CWops #1332

Every year Sunshine Rhonda and I visit her sister in Grants Pass, Oregon. A highlight of the trip is visiting my longtime friend W7VSE in Medford. Vic is a code man's code man. He has been doing Morse since before most of us were born.

For some of Vic's story, see http://k6jt.com/Texas_Net_Oct_14.pdf and http://k6jt.com/Texas_Net_Nov_14.pdf. For Vic's story about his trip to Russia for the Friendship Radio Games of 1995, see the Files section of CWops Yahoo! group home page, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cwops/files> and scroll down to "134_A Trip to Russia.doc."

After World War Two, Vic worked an American Morse circuit in Medford. He worked ground-to-air CW from the Bay area. And a bunch of other places. He finally settled in Medford where he was an air traffic controller for thirty years.

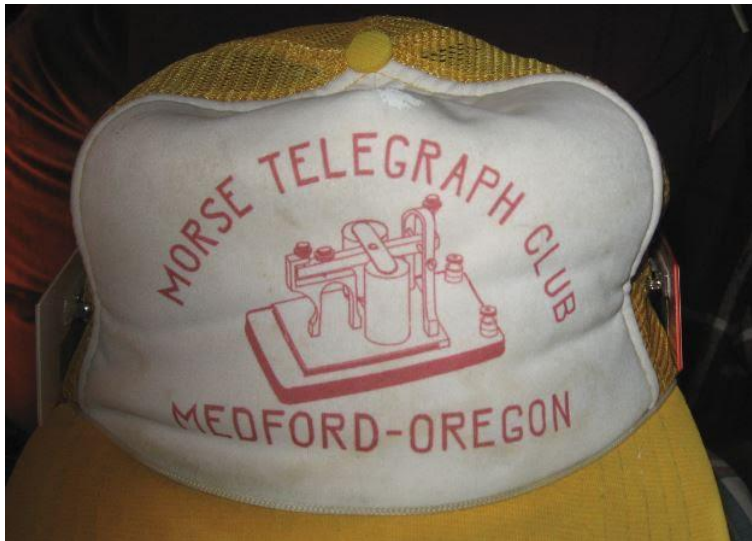
Vic was very active in the National Traffic System and still net controls RN7 Sunday nights. He has a stack of 129 Brass Pounders League cards. He has a W1NJM Connecticut Wireless Association 50 WPM certificate.

When Vic retired, his FAA colleagues gave him an electronic keyer. He used it for years, fixing it three times. It finally gave up the ghost and Vic went back to his bug. You can't tell the difference – he sounds like a code machine.

In 1995, Vic traveled to Russia for the Friendship Radio Games. See *** LINK *** for the story.

At age ninety-four Vic drives to retirement and nursing homes in the Medford area four days per week and plays country and western music. He's a big hit with the "old" folks.

Vic operates American Morse one Sunday each month at a railroad exhibit in a Medford park.



Vic is a code man's code man. Vic is my friend.

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

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CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

I am writing this while recovering from my CW Sweepstakes weekend. Sweepstakes was, as usual, an enjoyable experience. I reached my goals – a “natural” (i.e. unassisted) sweep, and a new high score for my class in my section. (It’s not a very big section, so that’s not quite as big an achievement as it might sound.) As others have noted, there were a lot of CWops members on the air – I worked 240 members, almost one-third of my total contacts. A lot of them were not CWT regulars, probably mainly weekend warriors who aren’t usually able to make the mid-week CWTs. As a result, I gave my ACA total a nice boost. Thanks to everyone who gave me a contact!

Not all of the CWT regulars were there, though, or at least there were quite a few I missed. Strange as it may seem, not everyone enjoys the Sweepstakes – it’s a bit of an acquired taste, I guess. *[or a lost one – see my column! – Ed.]* Later this month will be the big CQ WW DX contest, which has a very different feeling. You can’t work your own country for points credit, so there won’t be as many CWops-to-CWops contacts among our US members, but this will be a chance to work some DX members and improve your DX, WAE and WAZ totals.

Joe KC0VKZ has fixed the glitch that affected the CWT score pages and the toplist standings as a result of minor changes to the format of postings on the 3830 reflector. Thanks, Joe! A reminder: while the CWT scores pages and toplist are very convenient ways of keeping track of your CWT progress, they are not the official counts. The official counts are based directly on the score summaries at 3830scores.com.

As of the end of October, we now have 18 members who have already reached the gold medal participation level, 46 more who are assured of at least a silver medal, and another 50 already at the bronze medal level. By the end of the year, I expect we will have 38 gold, 42 silver and 53 bronze (plus or minus – these are extrapolations). N5PHT still has a perfect attendance record, with UR5MM and N4FP one behind.

There was a bit of discussion recently on the frequencies people use in the CWTs. We have suggested .028-.038 on most bands (it’s a bit lower on 160m), but that’s only a suggestion to help newcomers find where the action is. With over 120 people taking part on average, and with propagation conditions such that most of the action is concentrated in one or two bands, 10 kHz is not likely going to be sufficient to meet the demand for slots to run on, and some spreading out in frequency is inevitable. The key point is to listen before calling CQ and not step on other QSOs already in progress.

By the time you read this, we will have finished the third slow-speed set of CWTs this year in honor of new CW Academy graduates. I have been working quite a few people who are sending CWA as their exchange in the regular CWTs, which is an indication of the success of the CW Academy program at bringing new blood into the CW fraternity – not just in the CWTs, of course, but also into other aspects of CW.

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.

In the table below, members whose call sign is in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS). Members who wish to track their totals for these awards can use the CAM software developed by N5RR. It's available at no cost here:
<http://www.bbcyber.com/cam/>.

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	804	5841	W1RM	173	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
W1RM	761	4406	F6HKA	152	W1RM	50	F6HKA	44	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	675	3957	W4VQ	141	W4VQ	50	N5RR	43	W4VQ	37
F6HKA	629	4185	G4BUE	121	F6HKA	50	G4BUE	43	G4BUE	37
N8BJQ	628	4124	N5RR	117	W1UU	50	VE3KI	42	N5RR	36
N5RR	593	4068	VE3KI	112	VE3KI	50	OK1RR	42	VE3KI	35
K1ESE	515	2388	OH2BN	112	G4BUE	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
G4BUE	498	3184	EA8OM	111	EA8OM	50	W4VQ	41	N5PHT	29
K6RB	456	3403	N8BJQ	109	W0EJ	50	N8BJQ	41	VK7CW	28
IT9MUO	448	1353	K1ESE	98	F6JOE	50	OH2BN	40	JF2IWL	25
N5PHT	437	1839	SM6CNN	93	W6KY	50	AA3B	40	W6NS	19
K5AX	423	1927	OK1RR	93	N1EN	50	SM6CNN	37		
NN4K	387	983	AA3B	93	N5PHT	50	F6JOE	36		
IT9VDQ	380	934	EA1WX	89	F5MNK	50	W1UU	34		
NA6O	379	1465	W0VX	88	K5IX	50	W0VX	34		
W4VQ	358	2413	N1EN	86	K3SEN	50	KZ5D	34		
W1UU	347	2042	F6JOE	81	AD1C	50	KR3E	34		
W9ILY	326	2639	AD1C	81	AB7MP	50	K1ESE	34		
W0VX	325	2633	IT9MUO	80	W9ILY	49	IT9MUO	34		
K3SEN	319	955	PA7RA	79	W0VX	49	IT9VDQ	33		
DL8PG	298	1709	KZ5D	78	VK7CW	49	W9ILY	32		
W6NS	292	1090	DL8PG	77	N8BJQ	49	N1EN	32		
K6DGW	291	1620	W1UU	75	K6RB	49	F5MNK	32		
VK7CW	277	1058	KR3E	73	K6DGW	49	EA1WX	32		

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
W6KY	271	1966		N1ZX	70		K5AX	49		PA7RA	31			
F6JOE	265	2545		K5AX	70		K1ESE	49		DL8PG	31			
K3WJV	238	882		F5MKN	68		GW0ETF	49		IK0YVV	30			
EA8OM	235	2758		NN6T	67		AA3B	49		NN6T	29			
NU7Y	232	479		GW0ETF	67		WB9G	48		N1ZX	28			
W5ASP	231	1018		N5PHT	66		W6NS	48		K5AX	28			
I5EFO	228	318		VK7CW	65		SM6CNN	48		GW0ETF	28			
G4DRS	214	496		IT9VDQ	62		NN6T	48		AD1C	28			
AD1C	209	1919		W9ILY	57		NA6O	48		JF2IWL	25			
N1EN	200	1928		IK0YVV	57		N1ZX	48		G4DRS	24			
K5IX	200	630		W6KY	55		KZ5D	48		K6RB	23			
N1DC	199	698		K6RB	54		KT5V	48		HB9ARF	23			
G4NVR	184	251		JF2IWL	50		IK0YVV	48		VK7CW	22			
JF2IWL	147	909		4Z1UF	50		DL8PG	48		I5EFO	22			
K2ZC	112	767		G4DRS	49		NU7Y	47		4Z1UF	21			
4X6GP	109	975		WB9G	48		KR3E	47		N5PHT	20			
AB7MP	86	617		NA6O	48		JF2IWL	47		K2ZC	20			
G4HZV	85	99		HB9ARF	41		IT9VDQ	47		WB9G	19			
KZ5D	0	3239		K3SEN	39		WX7SJ	46		G4NVR	19			
SM6CNN	0	2477		W6NS	38		NN4K	46		G3YJQ	18			
N2UU	0	1774		K6DGW	38		KG5U	46		W6KY	17			
EA1WX	0	1655		I5EFO	38		K0DTJ	46		NN4K	17			
OK1RR	0	1618		K2ZC	37		IT9MUO	46		NA6O	17			
NN6T	0	1577		W0EJ	36		G4DRS	46		N1DC	17			
GW0ETF	0	1451		KG5U	35		EA1WX	46		KG5U	17			
KG5U	0	1322		NN4K	33		N1DC	45		K3WJV	16			
PA7RA	0	1200		KT5V	32		K3WJV	45		K3SEN	16			
KR3E	0	1136		N1DC	28		K2ZC	45		W6NS	12			
F5MKN	0	1111		G4NVR	27		PA7RA	44		K6DGW	12			
PA4N	0	955		G3YJQ	27		OK1RR	44		KT5V	11			
N1ZX	0	940		K3WJV	25		KM4FO	43		W0EJ	10			
WB9G	0	888		K0DTJ	25		HB9ARF	43		G3XLG	10			
KT5V	0	814		NU7Y	21		OH2BN	42		W5TM	7			
IK0YVV	0	767		AB7MP	21		I5EFO	40		G0DJA	7			
W0EJ	0	754		K5IX	20		NV9X	38		K5IX	6			
HB9ARF	0	723		G3XLG	18		G3YJQ	37		K0DTJ	6			
K0DTJ	0	668		WT2P	14		4Z1UF	36		AB7MP	6			
WX7SJ	0	610		W5TM	11		WT2P	34		KM4FO	5			
WT2P	0	574		KM4FO	10		G4NVR	34		WT2P	4			
OH2BN	0	530		G0DJA	10		W5TM	32		NV9X	1			
KM4FO	0	500		NV9X	4		G3XLG	31						
N7WY	0	403		KE6K	4		KE6K	17						
W5TM	0	235					G0DJA	8						
G3YJQ	0	234												

Call	ACA	CMA		Call	DX Total		Call	WAS		Call	WAE		Call	WAZ
G3XLG	0	201												
NV9X	0	149												
KE6K	0	116												
G0DJA	0	23												
PA1FOX	0	5												

73,

Pete W1RM

CWopsCAMScores@comcast.net

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New Members

[Colin Jenkins KU5B](#)

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

1692	W7QC	Steve
1693	DJ8EF	Feri
1694	K8AJS	John
1695	W4ALF	Chris
1696	W4NBS	Tom
1697	K5WNU	Jack
1698	KA9P	Scott
1699	W3UL	Bill
1700	W4SIG*	Kerry
1701	VE3ABN*	Les
1702	WA4JUK	Joe
1703	VE1AOE	Don
1704	AD0BL	Tom
1705	K8QKY	Steve
1706	K8ZZ	Ed
1707	W6TN*	Trung
1708	K1AQB*	Bill
1709	WB8SCT*	Jack
1710	K1SEC*	Paul
1711	K4YFH	Jimmy

* = Life Member

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Current Nominees

As of November 9, 2016:

Need Sponsors: N3AAK, KB4RGC, K5HP, N9SZ

Invitations Extended: TZ4AM, VK5EEE, K0HX, SM1TDE, W5BOS, WC4E

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 CW conversations of 20 minutes or longer. Remember, you can work anyone, anywhere, as many times as you like. They all count for QTX.

QTX Monthly Standings

Below find the October QTX reports received:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Sept.</u>
N5PHT	137
K5KV	63
K5YQF	55
N5IR	46
KI4XH	40
K1ESE	34
KC0VKN	27
K4AHO	22
KB6NU	22

K6HP	21
NN6T	19
K6RB	15
HB9CVQ	10
I5EFO	8
K0DTJ	7
K6DGW	7
W3WHK	5
K3TN	5
W5JQ	3
NN4K	2
N5LB	2
K8UDH	1

Gary N5PHT had another amazing month. He's making good use of all that time on the road. Benny K5KV takes second again this month and Clyde K5YQF popped up into third.

We had 22 stations reporting, up a big eight stations. I appreciate the additional reports. Thanks! QSOs were up 66 from September.

Personal bests for the year were submitted by KC0VKN, K6HP, and K6DGW (new paddle).

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

<u>Call</u>	<u>YTD</u>
N5PHT	680
K5KV	602
KI4XH	537
K1ESE	508
N5IR	498
K5YQF	422
K4AHO	249
AC4BT	240
KB6NU	221

NN6T	180
KCOVKN	150
K6RB	137
K6HP	132
HB9CVQ	90
W3WHK	83
I5EFO	54
NN4K	47
KE6OIO	47
N1ZX	39
WA8IWK	31
N9SE	27
K0DTJ	22
K3TN	17
WC5W	17
K6DGW	15
K8UDH	11
W5JQ	10
N5LB	2
AB7MP	2

Gary N5PHT is extending his lead this month. With just two months left he will be hard to catch. Benny K5KV holds on to second and is always near the top, month after month. Fred KI4XH is the third station at well over 500 QSOs for the year.

So far the Gold Medal lineup is: K5KV, KI4XH, K1ESE, N5PHT, N5IR, and K5YQF. Congratulations guys!

Here's who has qualified for the other medals:

Silver - No one here, but three have time to get there.

Bronze - AC4BT, K4AHO, and KB6NU.

The year is running out and the next two months are the time for a final medal push.

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

by [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.

Although this may be history by the time this issue of Solid Copy hits the news stands it's worth repeating ... just in case. "Few, if any dedicated CW operators need to be reminded that the first weekend in November hosts the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. If the code is your thing, you've got to be involved in one way or another. For those who are not as intense in maximizing their score there are other options such as securing a "Clean Sweep," or logging a targeted number of Qs in a preset time interval. A little creative thought will suggest other paths to utilize your CW skills."

The other one of the two most significant CW contests of the year, the CQWW CW affair, takes place on the final weekend of November. If you'd like a few ideas on some of the different ways to play in this event, go to the CWOps website and look at this column in the November 2014 issue. It has some suggestions that might amuse you, if you choose not to go full out.

Two of the really fun ARRL-sponsored single band contests are set for the the first part of December. The 160 Meter event has long been a favorite of the "top band gang" and is a real test of gear and propagation. The Ten Meter contest can be either a blast or a dud ... just depends on the "ions." With the sunspot cycle pretty much "over-the-hill," this year may herald a long term downswing in conditions. Check the propagation gurus, and throw some "fu-fu dust" up towards Old Sol. One thing to keep in mind about the 10 M affair is that even in the absence of decent propagation, the onset of Sporadic-E can bring about wonders. Dozens of stations have worked on a "dead" band by swinging the beam and calling ... and calling ... and calling again through 360 deg. Take the Qs any way you can get 'em.

The High Speed Club's CW contest and the "Homebrew/Oldtime" gear event have been covered in earlier articles. They are pretty much "what you see is what you get" affairs.

Notice that the final state QSO party (Kentucky) is set for mid-November. It will be the last such event for this year. You'll have to wait until 2017 for the next one (Montana in January).

This year the RAC Winter contest will take place the weekend before Christmas. It marks the end of the year's scheduled operating events for many of us. As with the other Canadian contests, the activity will be open to any and all who chose to join in.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER EVENTS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

2100Z, Nov 5th to 0300Z, Nov 7th

High Speed Club CW Contest http://www.highspeedclub.org/	0900Z-1100Z, Nov 6 th and 1500Z-1700Z, Nov 6 th
Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html	1300-1500Z, Nov 20 th (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 20 th (80m)
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm	0000Z, Nov 26 th to 2400Z, Nov 27 th
ARRL 160-Meter Contest http://www.arrl.org/160-meter	2200Z, Dec 2 nd to 1600Z, Dec 4 th
ARRL 10-Meter Contest http://www.arrl.org/10-meter	0000Z, Dec 10 th to 2400Z, Dec 11 th
RAC Winter Contest http://wp.rac.ca/	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 17 th
Kentucky QSO Party http://www.wkdx.com/mainsite/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=45:wkdx&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid	1400Z, Nov 12 th to 0200Z, Nov 13 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 11 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 18 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Nov 25 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 2 nd
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 9 th
NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 16 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 12 th to 2400Z, Nov 13 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Nov 23 rd
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	1200Z, Dec 10 th to 2400Z, Dec 11 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 17 th
NAQCC CW Sprint www.naqcc.info/	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 14 th

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