



# Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

February

2017

Issue No. 85



CWops Table at [Lawrenceville Techfest](#)

## 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



February is the transition month for our *Solid Copy* newsletter. Rick Tavan N6XI has held the Editor's position and done an outstanding job for many years. He announced earlier that he would like to be relieved so he can move on with other interests while remaining active in CWops activities. The time has arrived and from within our ranks a new volunteer for the Editor's position has surfaced. Tim Gennett, K9WX is helping to produce the February issue and afterward will be our new Editor.

Go to his page on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and follow the link to his personal website to get an impression of his graphics skills and design. Let's wish them both well and continue to contribute materials that can be published for the greater good of CWops.

Our membership continues to grow and we welcome the new members who are joining our ranks. They appear to be having fun during the CWTs as the number of unique call signs grows. And that must be related to ever increasing scores being posted weekly. We're happy you have joined and look forward to keeping the fun level up every Wednesday.

The CW Academy is such an outstanding resource and service that CWops provides to anyone interested in learning Morse code! It also helps those who want to increase their skill levels when they enroll in Level II and Level III. I found my way to CWops by enrolling in Level III and being tutored by Jack Ritter, W0UCE (SK). Until I retired, I had never Elmered anyone, but Jack suggested I could "pay it forward" if I would volunteer to teach in CW Academy. I think teaching Level I students has been one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in ham radio. Working with students committed to learning Morse Code in eight weeks is a lot of fun. The resources CWops has put together always work if there is adequate practice. Working through the frustrations when learning the sounds of longer characters sets up an exciting finish. I'm always amazed how, at a certain point, I'm observing the class recognize words that I send to them and also for them to have mastered the proper sounds of characters when they are sending. It's pretty exciting for them and me. That leads to them building confidence in doing mock QSOs so that they will be prepared to get on the air and enjoy making contacts with CW. Some of my previous students are showing up in the CWTs, so the method works. If you would like to experience working with folks who are interested in what you already know, then give CW Academy a chance to train you for class work and then helping folks achieve their goals of communicating with Morse Code.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who serve CWops by managing so many operations. You are doing a great job and are greatly appreciated.

The Orlando HamCation is coming up soon. It is quite a large hamfest and will be held on Feb. 10, 11 and 12. CWops will be in attendance with a table at Booth #84 in the main building. I will be manning the table and looking forward to visiting with you if you have plans to be there. As I have been doing for the past three years, I will have the "CW Call Sign Copying Competition" set up and running. It's a lot of fun and I hope to see you there.

73,

*Mac* NN4K

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## From the [Editor](#)



### So Long but Not Goodbye!

It is time for a changing of the guard, or at least of the “editorial staff” at *Solid Copy* ... which would be me. I have recently assumed some time-consuming, new responsibilities in another organization outside amateur radio, and can not do justice to both. So I need to move on. Editing *Solid Copy* these past four years has been a lot of fun, challenging at times (like fighting Microsoft Word), amusing at others, and always rewarding. Your positive feedback has been heartwarming. In my first issue, January 2013, I said,

*“Solid Copy is our club journal. As such, it keeps us abreast of club activities and those of our members. But it should also provide entertaining and educational fare related to our mission – ham radio in general and CW in particular – well beyond the administrative details of the club. We need general interest articles to keep Solid Copy as vibrant as it has been in the past. So please tell me what you want to read and submit your own articles for publication. Welcome topics include antennas, shack accessories, expedition stories, even CW-related poetry (!) and fiction. ‘My Story’ articles have been well received – how about yours? Try to keep these modest in length. Tell us how you discovered ham radio, CW and your other radio activities. If yours is not a silver quill, feel free to ask for editorial assistance. If your story is good, we can make it read well. Solid Copy will be what we, the members, make it. Don’t just read, participate!”*

Well, I don’t know how many members read that paragraph back in 2013, but your response has been outstanding! Through fifty issues, I don’t recall more than two or three times when we were short on content. Often, I have had to hold back articles for the next issue. The column editors have been scrupulous in their respect for deadlines and the membership have been diligent in sending in their activity reports. There has been an almost steady flow of interesting articles, most well-formatted and illustrated. You have all made the job of editor very easy by eliminating the traditional bane of the job, nagging people for submissions. Through most of my tenure, nagging has been simply unnecessary. For this great support I thank you!

One area that has been lagging lately is News & Notes. Members enjoy keeping up with one another’s activities, so please take a moment now and then to let us know what you’re doing. Just send an email to [Jerry AC4BT](#) with a sentence or three about your recent activities.

Please meet your incoming, new editor, [Tim Gennett K9WX](#). A contester and DXer with a love of CW, Tim is also a member of the Society of Midwest Contesters, both a rival and a partner of my own Northern California Contest Club. He retired recently after a long tenure at Purdue University. He will tell you more about himself in coming editions and I am confident he will move *Solid Copy* forward with energy and insight.

It is not often that our passion is featured in *Scientific American*. But CWops member Bill KA3BMU noticed an article by Ingfei Chen titled [“How to Learn Morse Code – Semiconsciously”](#) in the February, 2017 issue. Chen reports,

*“Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim and computer science professor Thad Starner of the Georgia Institute of Technology tinker with haptics, the integration of vibrations or other tactile cues with computing gadgets. Last*

*September at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers in Heidelberg, Germany, they announced that they had programmed Google Glass to passively teach its wearers Morse code—with preliminary signs of success.”*

I searched QRZ.com without success for any of those names, but that database is incomplete. Perhaps the researchers have some connection with amateur radio or maybe they just used Morse Code as a test vehicle for their haptics research. Look out, CW Academy?!

We have a new columnist this month. Trung Nguyen W6TN will be handling the New Member and Nominees columns. Welcome aboard, Trung, and thanks to outgoing Membership columnist Colin Jenkins KU5B for his long and accurate service.

Enjoy this issue and, as usual, keep those articles and columns coming ... and don't forget to [tell Tim](#) what you want to read in *Solid Copy*.

73,

**Rick** N6XI

Outgoing 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](mailto:jweisskohl@gmail.com).*

**Mike, VE9AA:** Santa brought me my third N3ZN paddle this Christmas, a ZN-9 customized in black and white to match the shack. Tony does great work and so all my Benchers have been benched! I also just took delivery of a new mobile rig, an FT-891. It's not even out of the box yet, but after NAQP-CW this weekend, I'll unpack it and hook it up and see what it's all about. This spring when it gets warmer I'll install it in the MINI to get ready for the CWT's and other mobiling adventures.

**Tom, AK4NY:** Spencer AK4NY, CWOPS 1544, placed second in the FISTS Cumulatives and won a Vibroplex Original Deluxe paddle! The contest ran the second and fourth Sundays during the last four months of 2016. This year's contest is also on the second and fourth Sundays and runs all year. I am on the air most days and would love to chat if you see me.

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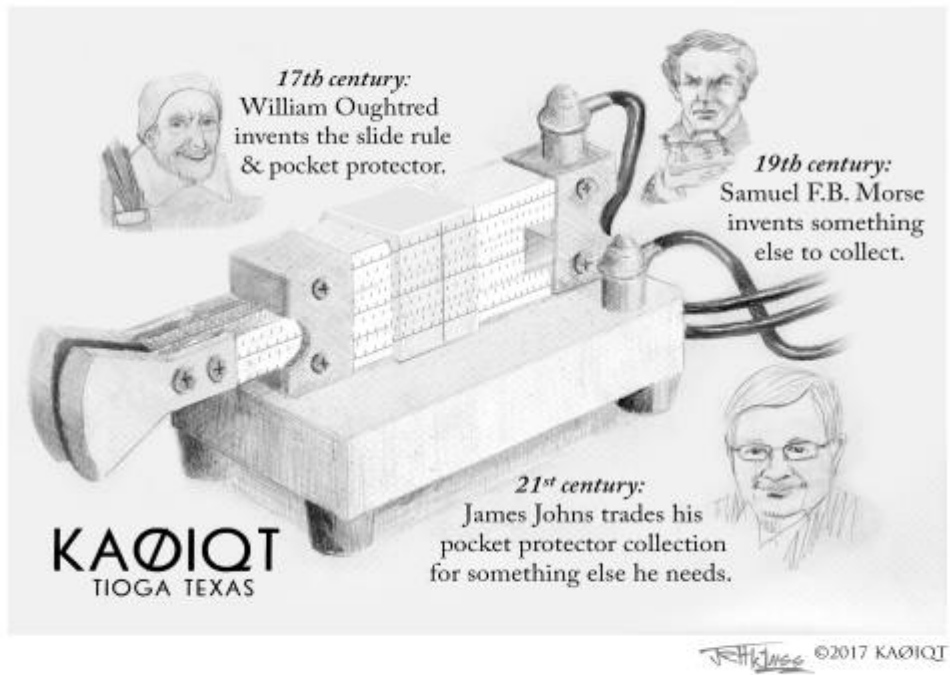
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# Slide Rule Paddle

by Jim Johns KA0IQT

In addition to my amateur radio activities operating CW, I'm also a member of the Oughtred Society (slide rule collectors) so a paddle combining the two interests seemed appropriate. Jeff K1NSS of dashtoons.com created this piece of shack art.



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# NCCC Sprint – Contesting on the Edge!

by Hal Offutt W1NN, CWops #785



**The Author, Hal Offutt W1NN**

(Friday UTC). This event is known as the NS, short for the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) Sprint.

It's easy to miss this one. Even if you're very active, you might have never heard anyone operating because we only operate in very narrow segments of the band for ten minutes or less. Blink your eyes and we're gone.

The NS has had a big impact on my own contesting life, and I'd like to let you in on the secret if you have not discovered it yourself.

## **“Contesting on the Edge”**

Originally intended to be mainly a short practice session for the NAS and other contests, the NS has come into its own as an established contest, and is today an event that quite a few ops consider to be their favorite activity on the contesting calendar. It also may lay claim to being the pioneering event in weekday contesting, possibly becoming the model for our own phenomenally successful mini CWT and for the more recent Phone Phray.

While the NS uses the NAS format that most contesters and CWops members are probably familiar with, it differs from its big brother in several respects. First, participants are limited to no more than 100 watts. Second, the NS uses five bands (15-160) compared with just three (20-80) for the NAS. Third, in the interest of conserving spectrum, the QSY rule has been changed from a minimum of 5 kHz in the NAS to 1 kHz. Fourth, multipliers are on a per-band basis vs. the count-once method used in the NAS. Fifth, to keep things simple, there is no log checking. Participants post their results to 3830scores, usually within a couple of minutes of 0300Z. And finally, the average CW

Most US & VE CW operators are familiar with the twice-yearly North American Sprint (NAS), a four hour contest in which stations are required to QSY after a maximum of two contacts on the same frequency. This popular contest attracts upwards of 200 ops each time who are challenged by the unique format, the higher speed CW it engenders, and the chance to contact and compete with some of the best contesters on the continent. \*

What many may not know is that a mini version of the NAS is held every Thursday evening throughout the year at 0230Z

speed is a notch or two higher than in the NAS. Truly “Contesting on the Edge” as the NS catchphrase puts it.

## Ladder Competitions

There is one more important detail. The weekly NS is a stand-alone event and can be operated by anyone at any time. But several times each year a “ladder competition” is held in which your best five out of eight (the numbers can vary) weekly scores are totaled and winners from the main geographic regions of the country are determined and recognized. In the early days, the ladders were the central focus of the NS, and while today activity does pick up during the ladders, you will find good activity pretty much any Thursday night, ladder or not.

## Origins

The NS/NSL owes its existence to a clever idea that Bill Hadden, N6ZFO, came up with shortly after he joined the NCCC back in 2000. For many years, Bill competed in running events held in Marin County, California as a member of the Tamalpa Runners Club. One of their events was a ladder competition in which members competed with each other in a series of six to eight cross-country runs. They used a cumulative scoring system that rewarded those who performed well over a number of events and did not penalize the runner who had an off day.

Bill thought that this system would work well in radio contesting and convinced the NCCC to give it a try. That was around 2002. The idea proved popular and, after lots of experimentation, modification, and polishing, Bill’s idea has evolved into a fast-paced, challenging event that today attracts some of the best CW operators in the country. Some would even argue that it has surpassed the NAS as the most challenging contesting event in the country (the world?).

## Bedlam

Currently, between 35 and 50 ops from all parts of the US and Canada participate in the NS/L each week. That is not a lot compared with the NAS, but remember that this is a 30 minute event in which the ops spend an average of six minutes on each band. Activity is concentrated in four to five kHz segments (040-045 and up for 15 through 80 and 015-018 and up for 160) and of course the



**Dan WA6URY Operates NS Remote from Tokyo**

idea is to work as many stations and mults as possible on a band and quickly move to the next lower band.

The result can only be described as bedlam as all these stations hit each band in succession and scramble to work as many others as they can in the limited time that each band will be active. Sometimes three, four or more stations will call a station at the same time, so technique really becomes important. While being loud certainly helps, ops with modest stations can do well with the right set of skills.

## QRQ!

Speeds vary with the operator and we have a few stations who send in the 25-30 wpm range, but the average is closer to 40 and a couple of ops tend to cruise along at 50 wpm or higher. If you ask any NS participant to name the most QRQ op in the NS, the universal reply will be "NO3M." Eric has been the pace setter as long as I have been operating the NS (since 2009) and regularly produces amazing scores. He has also been on the leading edge of perfecting the technique of concurrent SO2R in which two QSOs take place at the same time but on different bands (see Resources below for a link to some recordings of Eric's skill). Eric currently holds the NS record with 79 contacts and 62 mults. Remember, this is in 30 minutes and is not produced by just sitting on a single frequency and calling CQ!

As in any contest, NS strategy is dictated by where you live, the time of year, and conditions. During the winter months, 15 and 20 are mostly dead at 0230Z, so most stations will start on 40 and have the luxury of spending a whole ten minutes on each band. Winter conditions tend to favor the stations in the East who can run up large totals on 80 and 160. Things are quite different during the summer months when 15 and 20 can explode with activity. This usually favors the ops out West. When five bands are all productive, ops need to exercise discipline to make sure they don't spend too much time on a band and arrive at 80 or 160 too late to pick up needed mults.



**NS Ladder Regular Hank W6SX**

copperhead snake in midday but insisted on rushing home from the hospital emergency room so as not to miss the NSL. That venom must have had some special properties because he managed to set a new personal best score that night. The NS awarded him the winner of the "Wild Animal Division" for that performance.

I mentioned that the NS attracts some of the best CW ops in the country. This is no mean claim. But rather than dropping a bunch of names and calls, I suggest you go to 3830scores and look at the calls of some of our participants. You will notice that quite a few of our luminaries are also active (and very successful) participants in the Mini CWT. These guys know where to find fun and challenge!

NS ops tend to be an enthusiastic bunch and sometimes go to extreme lengths to make sure they get their weekly fix of QRQ contesting. I myself have risen in the middle of the night on several different trips to Europe just to work half a dozen of my NS friends. And I have gone to considerable effort to hook up remote equipment to my station in Ohio, mainly so I can operate the NS while I am in Japan each winter. Jim, N3BB used to operate the NS from his car while driving home through downtown Austin. Todd, WD0T drives over to his neighbor's station each time he wants to operate. The best story is that of N4AF. Howie was bitten by a



## Skill Improvement

In addition to the fun and camaraderie I have enjoyed through participating in the NS these past few years, NS has done a lot to improve my own CW speed and contesting ability, and I'm sure that most NS participants would echo this sentiment. Mike Zolno, WH6YH, a recent discoverer and new fan of the Thursday night fracas, says that Thursday has become his favorite day of the week because of the NS. A CWops member, Mike added "I think most ops that want to challenge themselves will find what they are looking for in NS and I recommend coming out to play or even listening to all my CW Academy students."

Another testimonial is offered by Bill Hendrick, N0AC. In a recent message to me, Bill wrote:

*Many years ago (before my exposure to NS) I usually tried to operate the Sprints. I say "tried" since they intimidated me to the point of just turning off the rig and walking away. I found the NCCC sprint ladder and operated for the first time Dec. 14, 2007. I just kept coming back and as a result of operating the Thursday night's sprints, today I sit down calm and collected even when W1NN calls me at 45wpm (or whatever you send). The NS has definitely improved this operator.*

## New Blood Wanted!



**Some NS ops at Dayton: L-R NR1X, K4BAI, K8MR (in back), W9RE, W1UJ, K1GU, KU8E, W4NZ, W1NN**

the air for several weeks or listening to some of the recordings mentioned below to get the feel. You'll know when you're ready. And you'll have a blast.

Please join us!

## Resources

There are plenty of places to get assistance. First of all, try the NS website at <http://www.ncccsprint.com/>. It can also be reached through the NCCC website. You will find information on signing up for the NS reflector here, too.

N6ZFO, the previously-mentioned NS creator and still our head honcho, is understandably gratified by the success of the NS but thinks that there is plenty of room for more ops, and he encourages new stations to give it a try. He notes "Our healthy and vigorous NS group always benefits from new blood in our second excursion through the solar minimum."

I would say that if you're able to make 50-60 contacts in the CWT contests, you probably have the CW speed to give the NS a try. I would recommend listening on

Jay, W1UJ has posted a number of recordings of NS and NSL sessions. Some of these have Jay using SO2R while others are without. Have a listen at <http://w1uj.net/audio/> .

Jay has also posted two short videos on Youtube showing him operating a slow speed version of the NS using SO2R. These give a very good idea of how this contest flows. You will want to use stereo headphones to listen to Jay's audio and video recordings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7cGamOwmjY>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffK\\_w09\\_Fns](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffK_w09_Fns)

Eric, NO3M has posted a couple of recordings of some of his efforts. This recording is of one of his better scores and shows his amazing skill with SO2R. He has turned down his sidetone so you can't hear him well but you can hear everyone he works:

<http://no3m.net/uploads/ns20150619.mp3>

Here are two short clips demonstrating NO3M's concurrent QSO abilities:

<http://no3m.net/uploads/ns-so2r-quad.mp3>

<http://no3m.net/uploads/ns-w9re-kk7s-concurrent.mp3>

If you have back issues of the National Contest Journal, there was an excellent article in the Nov-Dec 2009 issue describing the history of the NS and other news from that period. And if you're curious about the early days, have a look at the blog N6ZFO kept back around 2007:

<http://nsladder.blogspot.com/>

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\*If you're not familiar with the Sprint rules or practices, there are a lot of good guides (thanks W6SX):

N6TR Sprint Survival Guide <http://www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html>

CW Sprinting--Beginners Guide <http://www.contesting.com/articles/198>

N6TV Sprint Webinar [http://www.nccc.cc/misc/nasprint020210\\_%20N6TV.wmv](http://www.nccc.cc/misc/nasprint020210_%20N6TV.wmv)

W6SX Sprints--How to Have Fun <http://pvrc.org/webinar/sprints.wmv>

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# Lawrenceville, GA TechFest

by Mac Mc Donald NN4K

The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) sponsored the annual TechFest in Lawrenceville,



GA. This event provides a place for the general community to visit and see exhibits that local hams have put together. They cover a range of interests including Solder Stations where small projects can be assembled. This year the project was making LED Blinkers. It provided a lot of hands on opportunity to visitors young and old. Other interests represented were amateur satellites, MARS, digital communications, maker-faire, South East DX Club, projects featuring Arduino and QRP interests. CW was covered by Dick K2UFT, CWops Member 209, and Mac NN4K, #1227. They had two tables side by side with Dick's table showing his extensive collection of keys. Mac's table featured the demonstration of copying call signs with the RUFZXP software. When copying was idle, the laptop used CW Player to send various text files in Morse Code. This was a fun event and GARS provided free lunch which included chili that was entered into the Chili Cook-Off.

**Dick K2UFT with his Key Display**

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# CWT and QTX can Both be Fun!

by Gary Stone, N5PHT

Two of the greatest enjoyments I have from our CWOps Club seem opposites for some people: CWT and QTX. But I believe both are great fun, really add to the club, and both are unique. My purpose of this writing is to encourage others if they have not pursued these two great offerings of the club. I am testifying the two can be fun and enjoyed as simply different areas of the same big ham radio tent!

**Of course no one can make a CWT contact on their own nor a QTX! Thanks to all of you for the contacts during 2016. I ended the year 2016 with 9,623 contacts during the 156 sessions for about 61 on average per session. And the QTX program came out to 977 contacts for 2016.**

## CWT

I thought I would share some personal views on the CWT events and what they have done for me:

**CW Practice:** I find myself asking for fewer repeats and most of the sessions I am able to work 60 or more contacts. I was able to hit 100 exactly once so far! That was a nice rush. I rocked along on CW at about 18 wpm for many years and then found the CWT sessions and that sure changed my CW. It didn't take too long showing up for the CWTs that I got offers to join CWops. I hesitated for awhile to make sure I felt qualified. Now during the 20 wpm QRS sessions they seem slow! I normally set my speed at about 28 to 30. No, I am not the 40 wpm guy and may never be, but I am sure better at CW now after over 200 CWT sessions. My heartfelt thanks to the membership for their assistance in that accomplishment that I would have not thought possible before.

**Routine:** It is nice after retirement and probably healthy to have some routines that I attempt to stick to during the week. Wednesday is an important day in my house! We do quite a bit of RV travel and have often made campground reservations with Wednesday being a day of non-travel so that I can be set up for the 3 sessions. Our kids and family rely on two things in the Stone household: Wednesday, Dad is on the radio and every afternoon, Mom and Dad have a nap time!

**Friendship:** I suppose most hams have experienced the fact of friendship developments on the airways through the years. Well, the CWT is no different. I feel as though I know some of the regular participants, many of whom I have worked ONLY during CWTs. It is great to catch someone in a rag chew or other non-CWT contact, but many I have only worked during a CWT and still feel a bond of friendship. It is hard to explain, but I believe Rob, K6RB expressed something similar in one of his President reports in a newsletter last year. And I am sure others experience this also. I have eight CWOps members that appear over 200 times in my log: K3WJV, K3WW, K6RB, K7SV, N3JT, VE3KI, W6SX and WJ9B. Add 35 more if I drop that number to 100 times in the log.

**Sharing!** We all know it is good to learn to share and something you are supposed to learn in Kindergarten (but there was no Kindergarten when I went to school). The radio spectrum is no exception. It seems we have a round of email reflector discussion on this topic from time to time and I just try to learn from the discussions. I have been stepped on and no doubt accidentally done some stepping, but hopefully we all leave friends.

I am sure there will come a time when I will miss a CWT session but so far so good. However, I certainly hope to earn a Gold Medal in the program each year. I once told Jim, N3JT that if he does not hear me in a few CWT sessions it would be good to contact my XYL and ask questions! I don't plan ever to be at the top of the scores and I probably won't set any records, but I will strive to attain the W6SX prime directive: have fun!

## **QTX**

I think it is rather unique for a club to offer awards for rag chewing accomplishments! I have always had some long rag chews in my ham life of 30 years and I remember sitting on SSB for a few hours at a time with a friend in VK land now a SK. We never met in person but I assure you we were friends. He called me (on a telephone call actually) when he was a day or two away from meeting his maker from cancer and we chatted a few minutes with the strength he had left and he said, "Gary, you are a true friend." I will remember that until my time comes to meet God myself! And we never met in person but had many, many enjoyable chats on 20 meters – and even a few on CW but that was back in my SSB days.

Well, the QTX program during 2016 was a special time for me also. During the first of the year I was mistaken and thought the rag chews had to be with other CWOps members so I missed recording some for sure but John, K1ESE set me straight on that point and starting in May of 2016 I was quite busy on the bands and enjoying rag chews with like-minded hams!

When you get past the routine name, QTH and RST, you can get to some neat stuff. Are you retired? If so what did you do for a living? If not, what is your job now? Where have you lived? What do you like to do other than ham radio? You say you have relatives living near me – wow! You were in the Army and I spent time in the Marines myself. Yes, I also like to RV camp and it sounds like we have been in some of the same places.... You get the point. Just like in getting to know people in other areas of our life, we find that we often have many points of common interest. I became a grandpa for the first time last year and often a ham would remember that from a contact a week before and ask how that was going. I am convinced some hams either have really great memories or they keep a little card or sheet on your info. I am not too good that way but can sometimes remember some stuff that helps with the next conversation. Yes, I guess that is the real point – they are conversations. I am no expert at CW yet I still enjoy rag chews and I am not the best at the sought after "head copy" but take quite a few notes. I readily admit that for rag chews I like about 20 or 21 wpm as opposed to the CWTs at 30 wpm but that is all OK. I have enjoyed many 30 or 40 minute rag chews along the way.

When we get down to some basic stuff, we are all much alike in my view. We breathe and sleep and eat and get dressed one piece of clothing at a time. You may have a \$50,000 station and I have a \$500 station but they both send CW. We have different political views at times but the stuff I tend to enjoy the most on rag chews has nothing to do with current affairs – just two hams shooting the breeze and often finding some common interests.

## **Summary**

I thought it would be fun as a way of summary to share some stats from my log book from both programs.



	Worked USA States	Worked DXCC entities	Number of contacts	Worked Continents
CWT 2016	47*	43	9,623	All 6
QTX 2016	50	10	977	All 6 **

\* Number of states in CWT is tricky because a member exchange does not include the state, but I first checked how many CWT contacts were confirmed in LOTW, downloaded that report from LOTW into a log program and then manually looked for known stations afterwards. As far as I could tell without a lot of effort I did not work ND, NE or RI during a CWT.

\*\* That was actually tricky for me! Do hams in SA not engage in rag chews? In December, I finally had a nice QTX with a ham in Chile – CE6GRA (a snowbirder from Germany wintering in Chile).

Yes, CWT is fun and so is QTX. Set a goal of reaching the Gold Medal in both events!!

73,

**Gary, N5PHT**

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## The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

by Riki Kline K7NJ/4X4NJ

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.

## **Nomination**

Nominations may be made by anybody and are not limited to CWops members. Nominations should be emailed to [awards@cwops.org](mailto:awards@cwops.org) with a copy to [secretary@cwops.org](mailto:secretary@cwops.org). In order to be considered, a nomination must be received by April 15, 2017 and include:

- Name(s) and call sign(s) (if applicable) of nominee(s), and complete contact information including their postal address(es), email address(es), and telephone number(s).
- A detailed explanation supporting nominee qualifications according to the above criteria.
- Name, telephone number, email address, and call sign (if applicable) of the person submitting the nomination.

## **Presentation of Award**

A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention. If the recipient(s) is/are not present, it will be sent to them.

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Save The Date!

## North American CW Weekend

2-5 June 2017

Fairview Park Marriott

Falls Church, Virginia

The 2017 CW Weekend will take place June 2-4 at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. The weekend is open to all hams or others with an interest in CW or Morse code communication - FOC, CWOPS, SKCC, the Morse Operators Society, and FISTS. It is predominantly a social event and provides a great opportunity to connect with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy eyeball QSOs with folks you have worked on the bands for years. If you haven't been to one of these weekends, why not do it this year? If you have, come on back!

We'll begin with an informal pizza dinner on Friday evening, followed by a brunch Saturday morning hosted by Jim N3JT and Nina KE4PSV at their home in McLean. Dinner will follow that evening at Blackfinn Ameripub, Halstead Square, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA. This is a new venue, but reported by usually reliable sources to be excellent. It is 6 minutes from the hotel via a very simple route even us out-of-towners will easily be able to follow. The menu and other information are available at: [blackfinnameripub.com](http://blackfinnameripub.com)

There will be a hospitality suite with refreshments at the hotel Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday morning, many attendees meet informally at the hotel for a leisurely breakfast before heading home or on to other activities. It is likely Frank, W3LPL, will make a tour of his world class station available to those interested on Sunday afternoon.

### Hotel Information (also see below):

Marriott Fairview Park Hotel,

3111 Fairview Park Dr,

Falls Church, VA

(855) 214-3079 [toll free]

(703) 849-9400 [local]

Online: [www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasfp-falls-church-marriott-fairview-park](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/wasfp-falls-church-marriott-fairview-park)

Special Rate of \$ 99.00/night:

Please specify "North American Weekend."

Special rate applies May 31 – June 5.

Block reservations close 5/17/2017.

Here is the reservation link you can use to make online reservations:

**[Book your group rate for North American](#)**

If you would like to make your reservation by phone, the number to call is [1-800-228-9290](tel:1-800-228-9290). Guests can provide the city, state, and name of the hotel they're staying at, their arrival date, and ask for the "North American room block."

Further details and directions will be forthcoming. June is a nice time of year to visit the Washington area, and the schedule allows plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping, socializing, or visiting family and friends.

There will be a modest registration of \$15 per person or \$25 per couple to cover refreshments and the hospitality suite on Friday and Saturday. Further information is available from [Don W4ZYT](#). You can send a check payable to "Don Lynch" at 1517 West Little Neck Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717. (I'll be in and out of the country in February, so acknowledgement may be slow. Please be patient.) No cash or IRCs please.

We hope you can join us, and encourage your CW-oriented friends to consider attending as well.

**Vy 73,**

***Don*** W4ZYT and the CW Weekend Crew

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## **CW Academy**

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

CW Academy (CWA) is in the last month of the Winter 2017 semester. Our next semester will begin in April 2017. CWA continues to see a large number of student enrollments into our programs, averaging over 100 new students a month with our Level 1 entry level program being the most popular. We are in need of new Advisors, especially in the Asian and South and Central American time zones. Currently, we have several Asian students who are enrolled in East Coast US classes who can accommodate the time difference.

If you are proficient in CW and want to join us in our mission to ensure that CW remains relevant and continues to prosper, please consider joining the Academy's elite team of Advisors. All it takes is a love of CW and a desire to help aspiring students learn to use CW. It's fun and rewarding and you will make many new life-long friendships at the same time!

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

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

CW Academy runs three times a year (January, April, and September) offering **no cost** CW instruction: eight week Internet-based classroom instruction for Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 that meet twice a week and offer an opportunity to work with some of the most accomplished CW operators serving as Advisors.

CWA currently offers 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.

**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 (CWops' weekly mini contests, refer to [cwops.org/cwt.html](http://cwops.org/cwt.html)). Many of our graduates of Level 2 and Level 3 who participate regularly in the CWT's have gone on to become new members of CWops.

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 have experienced using our proven methods. We have become the preferred service for providing CW instruction due both to CWA's personal advisory interaction and to the diverse, no fee programs that we offer the student.

Whether you are retired, active in the work force, young or old, there is a CWA program that can fit your schedule. Check us out at <http://cwops.org/cwacademy.html> and sign up today for the next available semester.

73,

*Jerry* AC4BT

CW Academy Manager

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## How We Were – K5KG

by [Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

#970 George Wagner, K5KG



George in the early years as KN9KBW in Kokomo, Indiana.

Please send YOUR *How We Were* Photos to [w6sx@arrl.net](mailto:w6sx@arrl.net)

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## CWops Tests

by [Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

First, I have been asked to point out that the ARRL's School Club Roundup operating event will take place during the week of February 13-17. Club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college will be exchanging QSOs with each other as well as with individuals and non-school clubs during that week. Given the increasing popularity of the CWTs, as well as the fact that some school clubs might have faculty advisors who are CWOps members, you might encounter school club stations during the February 15 CWTs. If you meet a station that indicates they are in the SCR (maybe being operated by a faculty advisor??), for example by adding /SCR to their call sign, the exchange they will be looking for from you would be a signal report (599), the letter I (for

“Individual”), and your state/province/country abbreviation (for full rules, see <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>). A friendly SCR exchange from some obliging CWOps members during the CWTs might serve to tweak interest in CW and ultimately some new recruits for CW, CW Academy or CWOps, and if you send both exchanges and get a name in return, you can count the QSO for both the SCR and the CWT.

Second, here is a reminder that the March 8 CWTs coming up will be special slow-speed CWTs (20 wpm or less). CW Academy graduates and profs will be sending CWA instead of CWOps membership numbers in the exchange. You may have encountered a few recent CWA graduates in recent CWTs – I know I have. The CW Academy profs encourage their students and graduates to participate in these events, but it can be very intimidating to a newcomer to hear so many people rattling along at 30-35 wpm. Please take the time on March 8 to slow down and not scare the CWA graduates away.

This year I have been using a special prefix in honor of Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017 and identifying as CG3KI. There aren’t too many others doing this yet, but all Canadian amateur stations are authorized to substitute one of these special prefixes for the regular prefix in 2017 (CF for VA, CG for VE, CH for VO and CI for VY), so if you hear one of these prefixes, that’s what it’s about.

The experience so far has been interesting. I can almost see stations doing a double-take when they hear the unfamiliar prefix (G3? KG3? CN3? CM3? or various other guesses). Starting out, I had to send my call sign about twice as often as usual because of the requests for repeats, but after a few weeks many of the CWT regulars have gotten used to the new call sign.

So far, the other contests I have used the call sign in are ones where the new prefix is no benefit. Rather, the fact that the call sign is unfamiliar is a definite disadvantage. I imagine anyone who has obtained a new call sign has probably observed this – even if the new call sign is shorter than the old one (mine isn’t), lack of familiarity makes people slower to pick it up and respond. In the upcoming WPX contests an unusual prefix is an advantage, so I am expecting that there will be more VE3s choosing to use CG3 in those contests than we have seen so far. Be warned!

We do the CWTs because they’re fun; let’s all make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

73,

*Rich*, VE3KI

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# CWops 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	498	6217	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>48</b>	W1RM	38
N8BJQ	356	4282	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>45</b>	F6HKA	38
K1ESE	276	2599	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>43</b>	W4VQ	37
N5PHT	275	2016	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>43</b>	G4BUE	37
VE3KI	273	4087	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>W1UU</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>42</b>	N5RR	36
KE4S	254	1233	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OK1RR</b>	<b>42</b>	VE3KI	35
NA6O	221	1586	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>42</b>	N5PHT	33
W1RM	213	4616	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>41</b>	IK0YVV	32
K3SEN	208	1110	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>W0EJ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>41</b>	VK7CW	28
K8AJS	192	795	K1ESE	99	<b>F6JOE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>40</b>	JF2IWL	25
NN4K	183	1346	AA3B	95	<b>W6KY</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>40</b>	DL6KVA	24
W9ILY	176	2866	SM6CNN	93	<b>N1EN</b>	<b>50</b>	SM6CNN	37	W6NS	19
IT9MUO	148	1464	OK1RR	93	<b>N5PHT</b>	<b>50</b>	IT9MUO	36		
N1DC	146	1492	EA1WX	92	<b>F5MNK</b>	<b>50</b>	F6JOE	36		
W4VQ	119	2500	W9ILY	89	<b>K5IX</b>	<b>50</b>	K1ESE	35		
K5AX	118	2202	W0VX	89	<b>K3SEN</b>	<b>50</b>	W1UU	34		
IT9VDQ	111	1092	N1EN	86	<b>AD1C</b>	<b>50</b>	W0VX	34		
F6HKA	101	4380	IT9MUO	84	<b>AB7MP</b>	<b>50</b>	KZ5D	34		
K6DGW	93	1658	F6JOE	84	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>50</b>	KR3E	34		
F6JOE	88	2653	AD1C	81	<b>K5AX</b>	<b>50</b>	EA1WX	34		
DL6KVA	62	450	PA7RA	79	W9ILY	49	W9ILY	33		
I5EFO	61	369	KZ5D	78	W0VX	49	N1EN	32		
G4NVR	60	288	DL8PG	78	VK7CW	49	IT9VDQ	32		
G4BUE	41	3233	N5PHT	77	N8BJQ	49	F5MNK	32		
VK7CW	16	1102	W1UU	75	N1DC	49	PA7RA	31		
JF2IWL	5	916	K5AX	75	KT5V	49	DL8PG	31		
DL8PG	4	1714	KR3E	73	K6RB	49	DL6KVA	31		
N5RR	0	4098	N1ZX	70	K6DGW	49	IK0YVV	30		
K6RB	0	3658	F5MNK	68	K1ESE	49	NN6T	29		

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KZ5D	0	3239	NN6T	67	GW0ETF	49	K5AX	29		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	N1ZX	28		
W0VX	0	2796	DL6KVA	66	W6NS	48	GW0ETF	28		
EA8OM	0	2758	VK7CW	65	SM6CNN	48	AD1C	28		
SM6CNN	0	2477	IT9VDQ	63	NN6T	48	JF2IWL	25		
W1UU	0	2042	IK0YVV	57	NN4K	48	K6RB	24		
W6KY	0	1966	K6RB	56	NA6O	48	G4DRS	24		
N1EN	0	1928	W6KY	55	N1ZX	48	KE4S	23		
AD1C	0	1919	NA6O	50	KZ5D	48	I5EFO	23		
N2UU	0	1774	JF2IWL	50	KE4S	48	HB9ARF	23		
EA1WX	0	1724	4Z1UF	50	IK0YVV	48	VK7CW	22		
OK1RR	0	1618	G4DRS	49	DL8PG	48	N5PHT	21		
NN6T	0	1577	WB9G	48	AD5A	48	N1DC	21		
GW0ETF	0	1451	KE4S	48	VE3MV	47	K8AJS	21		
KG5U	0	1322	NN4K	43	NU7Y	47	4Z1UF	21		
PA7RA	0	1200	N1DC	43	KR3E	47	K2ZC	20		
KR3E	0	1136	KT5V	41	K0DTJ	47	G4NVR	20		
F5MNK	0	1111	I5EFO	41	JF2IWL	47	WB9G	19		
W6NS	0	1090	HB9ARF	41	WX7SJ	46	NN4K	18		
KT5V	0	1088	K6DGW	39	KG5U	46	G3YJQ	18		
AD5A	0	1071	K3SEN	39	K8AJS	46	AD5A	18		
W5ASP	0	1018	W6NS	38	IT9MUO	46	W6KY	17		
4X6GP	0	994	K8AJS	37	G4DRS	46	NA6O	17		
PA4N	0	955	K2ZC	37	EA1WX	46	KG5U	17		
N1ZX	0	940	W0EJ	36	K3WJV	45	K3WJV	16		
WB9G	0	888	KG5U	35	K2ZC	45	K3SEN	16		
K3WJV	0	882	AD5A	35	IT9VDQ	45	KT5V	14		
K2ZC	0	767	G4NVR	31	PA7RA	44	W6NS	12		
IK0YVV	0	767	K0DTJ	29	OK1RR	44	VE3MV	12		
W0EJ	0	754	G3YJQ	27	KM4FO	43	K6DGW	12		
K5IX	0	750	K3WJV	25	HB9ARF	43	W0EJ	10		
K0DTJ	0	742	K5IX	24	OH2BN	42	G3XLG	10		
HB9ARF	0	723	VE3MV	23	I5EFO	40	K5IX	8		
KM4FO	0	721	NU7Y	21	NV9X	38	W5TM	7		
VE3MV	0	664	AB7MP	21	DL6KVA	38	G0DJA	7		
AB7MP	0	628	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	34	WT2P	4		
G4DRS	0	496	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NV9X	1		
NU7Y	0	479	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												
G4HZV	0	120												
KE6K	0	116												
4Z1UF	0	50												
G0DJA	0	23												
PA1FOX	0	5												

73,

*Pete* W1RM

CWopsCAMScores@comcast.net

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## Membership

by [Trung Nguyen W6TN](#)

### New Members

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

1748	WA9SEO*	Mike
1749	K4QS*	Chuck
1750	LA6CF	Jim
1751	DL5DBY*	Tom
1752	W0CP*	Walt
1753	DF4XX	Kurt
1754	AB6XG*	Rick
1755	TY2AC	Nic
1756	UT6UA	Dima



1757	WX2S*	Steve
1758	K6PO	Paul
1759	N3ATQ	Scott
1760	W5OV*	Bob
1761	K9ZO	Ralph
1762	WX5CW*	Christopher
1763	KE4KY*	Glenn
1764	W2RQ	Bill
1765	KE4RG*	Ken

\* = Life Member

## Current Nominees

As of February 1, 2017:

**Need Sponsors:** KB4RGC, W6SBE, W6NUC

**Invitations Extended:** N2IC, N9SZ, HI3CC, W8RF

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the “Members Only” page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>.

For information about joining CWops, check the “Membership” page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>

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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.*

We are off again on a new year of QTX. Participation has been up over the last year and we would appreciate you report, large or small. Just count up your monthly total of CW conversations lasting 20 minutes or longer.

Remember, any QSO longer than 20 minutes counts, with any ham, as many times per month as you like. I have one CW schedule with a friend that is usually about 30 minutes four days a week. That gives me a QTX of over 20 per month just with him. You can do the same.

### QTX Standings

Each year we list the monthly and year-to-date QTX points for reporting stations. Each year the competition is wide open. With just one month's tally under our belt, here are the QTX standings:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Jan</u>
N5PHT	124
N5IR	83
K5KV	73
KC0VKN	72
K1ESE	53
K4AHO	20
K5YQF	13
K6HP	11
HB9CVQ	9
K0DTJ	9
N4DT	8
I5EFO	6
N5LB	5
W3WHK	4
NN4K	2
K8UDH	2
W5JQ	2

Everyone had a "personal best" for the year ... so far.

Gary N5PHT is off to an early lead again this year with 124. Gary set records last year and is looking to do the same for 2017. Next we have a tight group with Bill N5IR at 83, Benny K5KV at 73, and Joe KC0VKN at 72. Those are all great scores.

We totaled 496 QSOs and 17 participants. We hope to grow from there. If you missed reporting, just send me an email so that I can add your January count to your annual totals.

But, you don't have to have a top score to be a winner. 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.

Good luck with your totals and enjoy making new friends and chatting with your regular pals.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

**John KIESE**, CWops #792, *QTX Manager*

*QTX – Encouraging Conversational CW*

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## Upcoming CW Operating Events

by [Joe Staples W5ASP](#)

*This list of operating events is intended to provide members with options for using and improving their cw skills in not only the more popular contests but also in other more casual on-the-air activities.*

Both the ARRL DX CW and the Russian DX contest should be familiar territory to most CW operators. Both provide the opportunity to work a wide range of DX entities staffed by experienced operators. Even short periods of checking the bands the bands can be quite productive.

The Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge has become a major low band event with over 800 logs submitted this past year. While it enjoys strong activity, it is somewhat less congested and perhaps a bit more "friendly" than other 160 meter contests. This provides more chances for the modest station to make DX contacts. It is CW only.

If you really want a change of pace try the Novice Rig Roundup. This event lasts nine days and covers two weekends. The idea is to use rigs from the 1950-1980 era, especially those crystal-controlled. Commercial rigs built after 1979 are allowed but at markedly lower point credit. If you were active in those days, it's a bit of nostalgia. If you weren't it's a real eye opener to the challenges Novices faced in those days. Give it a try!

While the QCWA is known to most operators, its contest presence is often ignored. In mid-March the QCWA invites all licensed radio amateurs worldwide to participate in the 24 hour QCWA QSO Party. The QCWA QSO Party is an open annual operating event in the format of a contest. The exchange includes call sign, year of license, name, and chapter or QTH. For stations not belonging

to a QCWA chapter, the state, province or country will do. Chances are it will be an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and experience the nostalgia of your early days in ham radio.

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

### **FEBRUARY/ MARCH EVENTS**

ARRL International. DX Contest, CW <a href="http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx">http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx</a>	0000Z, Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>
Russian DX Contest <a href="http://www.rdxo.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp">http://www.rdxo.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp</a>	1200Z, Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> to 1200Z, Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>
ARRL School Club Roundup <a href="http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup</a>	1300Z, Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> to 2359Z, Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>
FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint <a href="http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints">http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints</a>	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>
Stew Perry Topband Challenge <a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew/">http://www.kkn.net/stew/</a>	1500Z, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> to 1500Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>
New Hampshire QSO Party <a href="http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/New_Hampshire_QSO_Party_Rules.pdf">http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/New Hampshire QSO Party Rules.pdf</a>	1600Z, Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> to 2200Z, Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>
South Carolina QSO Party <a href="http://scqso.com/rules/">http://scqso.com/rules/</a>	1500Z, Feb 25 <sup>th</sup> to 0159Z, Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>
North Carolina QSO Party <a href="http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules">http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules</a>	1500Z, Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> to 0059Z, Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>
Oklahoma QSO Party <a href="http://k5cm.com/okqp2017rules.pdf">http://k5cm.com/okqp2017rules.pdf</a>	1400Z, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> and 1400Z-2000Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>
Idaho QSO Party <a href="http://idahoarrl.info/qsoparty/rules.htm">http://idahoarrl.info/qsoparty/rules.htm</a>	1900Z, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> to 1900Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>
Wisconsin QSO Party <a href="http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm">http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm</a>	1800Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup> to 0100Z, Mar 13 <sup>th</sup>
Virginia QSO Party <a href="http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2017_VQP/2017_VQP_Rules.html">http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2017_VQP/2017_VQP_Rules.html</a>	1400Z, Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Mar 19 <sup>th</sup> and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>

Louisiana QSO Party <a href="http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso_rules.htm">http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso_rules.htm</a>	1400Z, Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint <a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html">http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html</a>	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon <a href="http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/">http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/</a>	1200Z, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>
NAQCC CW Sprint <a href="http://www.naqcc.info/">www.naqcc.info/</a>	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>
Asia-Pacific Spring Sprint, CW <a href="http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt">http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt</a>	1100Z-1300Z, Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>
CQC Winter QSO Party <a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=257">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestdetails.php?ref=257</a>	0100Z-0259Z, Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>
AGCW Semi-Automatic Key Evening <a href="http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/semi-automatic-key-evening">http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/semi-automatic-key-evening</a>	1900Z-2030Z, Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>
Novice Rig Roundup <a href="http://novicerigroundup.com/">http://novicerigroundup.com/</a>	0000Z, Feb 18 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>
High Speed Club CW Contest <a href="http://www.highspeedclub.org/">http://www.highspeedclub.org/</a>	0900Z-1100Z, Feb 26 <sup>th</sup> and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>
QCWA QSO Party <a href="http://www.qcwa.org/2017-qso-party-rules.pdf">http://www.qcwa.org/2017-qso-party-rules.pdf</a>	1800Z, Mar 11 <sup>th</sup> to 1800Z, Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>

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