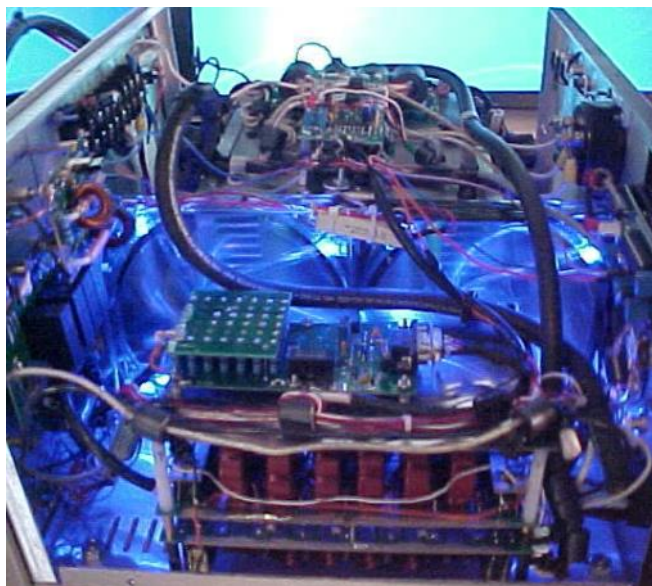




W8HW Amplifier Project



See News and Notes, [Page 8](#)

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 “and up”

CWops Officers and Directors

President: Mac McDonald [NN4K](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Stew Rolfe [GW0ETF](#)

Director: Vidi La Grange [ZS1EL](#)

Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

Webmaster: John Miller [K6MM](#)

President’s Message

It is April and time for a new round of CWA students to begin learning Morse Code at Level I, or improving their skills by participating in Level II or Level III courses. There is nothing ‘out there’ that compares to what our club provides through CW Academy. Hams who are new to the hobby and those who have been around but never learned it are having success as they progress through the three levels. They are telling their friends about their accomplishments and stimulating more interest thus increasing the demand for us to provide more Advisors. I’m happy to learn that several have responded to previous requests and joined the Advisor ranks. A sincere thank you to all who have signed on as Advisors.



(Continued on page 2)

Table of Contents

President’s Message	1
From the Editor	3
News & Notes	5
True Story	10
CW Academy	10
CWT Award 2016	11
How We Were – K3WJV	12
CWops Tests	13
North American CW Weekend	13
CWops Members Awards	15
QTX Report	17
New Members and Nominees	19
Operating Events	20
CWops and Friend Dayton Dinner	22
My Story: New member bio’s	23

(Continued from previous page)

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday in June when we will hold the special CWT for the new CW Academy graduates. All three sessions will operate at 20 WPM maximum speed so new graduates can be welcomed to the activity.

HF propagation is a mixed experience at this stage of the solar cycle. It is great that the activity continues with about 130 ops participating in the fun. Keep it up!

As life changes for all of us, Alan AD6E, in particular has a need to be relieved of his duties as the CWO Contest Manager. I am looking for candidates who would like to shoulder this responsibility. Dean NW2K a former CWO Manager is available to help a new replacement get set up and going. It's an important event and only happens once a year in September. If you are available and interested please contact me by email ASAP.

As mentioned last month in the Newsletter, *Solid Copy*, we have some unfilled CWops Ambassador positions I would like to fill. You can see the unfilled positions on the CWops.org website and if you would like to have an opportunity to represent CWops in any of the unfilled areas, please contact me via email. Or if you have someone you would recommend that information would be helpful.

President's Message . . .

"There is nothing 'out there' that compares to what our club provides through CW Academy."

The Dayton-Hamvention is fast approaching. It will be in May and for the first time in a new location. CWops has a booth reserved and all members are encouraged to stop by and say hello. The booth will be manned continuously during the Hamvention hours and if you are looking for another member, it's a good place to meet or arrange to meet. Thursday night before the Hamvention kicks off, CWops will have its traditional pizza party. Contact Bill, KC4D, if you haven't already so he can provide The Spaghetti Warehouse with a head count. I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can at the party and during the days of the Hamvention.

At the Hamvention there are lots of interesting activities. The DX Forum and Contest University generally draw large audiences. The speakers are interested in sharing their experiences and helping big guns and little pistols by the material they present.

The CWops medals and annual awards for our CWops sponsored activities are being processed. If you are attending the Hamvention and have won any of the awards, you are welcome to pick them up at the booth from Rob K6RB et al. If you would like to pick them up, please let the awards managers know now for planning purposes. In the future, if you would like to OPT-Out of the actual award (medal or plaque etc.) please email the respective award manager advising your desires.

Remember, we enjoy CW and have fun with it. CW FOREVER.

73

Mac, NN4K, President

From the [Editor](#)

A Pleasant Month



What was the best team in Major League Baseball in 2016? You can look it up. It was the Dodgers. No, wait, it was the Astros. I mean, it was the Nats. Oops, I meant to say it was the Diamondbacks.

What? You say it was the Cubs? Well, sure, they won the World Series, I'll give you that. And, yes, they also had the best regular season record out of the 30 teams.

But the team that had the best attendance for the year was the Dodgers, who averaged over 45,000 paid tickets per home game. And the team that had the best fielding percentage was the Astros. The team with the lowest pitching staff ERA? The Nats. And the D'Backs had the best team batting average. The best the Cubs could do in any of these categories was 5th place (attendance). They were a paltry 29th place in fielding. That's second from the last! Were the Cubs really the best team?

I had occasion to think about the meaning of "best radio" this past month when one of the two HF radios I use while operating SO2R contests developed a problem: once it warmed up, its power output dropped to about 10 watts. The rig is not that old (I bought it new in 2009) and it was considered a pretty capable radio at the time. Should I get it fixed? Should I replace it and, if so, what would I get? What's "the best" radio on the market right now?

As an aside, I quickly discarded the idea of operating QRP. That's a whole 'nother column.

A great contesting radio should have 3 attributes. First, it needs to have pleasant audio: in a contest you listen for hours on end, and harsh audio is fatiguing. Second, it needs to have a user-friendly interface: in a contest you are making decisions quickly and you don't want adjusting the radio to slow you down. And, finally, the radio needs to hear well: to hear the weak signals in the presence of many, many strong signals. The same attributes would be true for a great DXing radio.

A great contesting or DXing radio should have 3 attributes. First,

Those first two attributes are admittedly subjective, but there are some objective tests that can help us assess a radio's ability to hear well and this test data is typically a prominent feature of [QST product reviews](#). Most serious hams are also familiar with the [receiver data compiled by Bob Sherwood, NC0B](#), and featured on his web site. He lists his data in table form, ranked by narrow-spaced third order dynamic range. Providing this data a great service to our us.

Here's the thing I'm reminded of as I shop for a potential new radio. You often hear hams talk about this or that radio being "at the top" or "near the top" of the Sherwood chart. If a radio can make either claim, that's a good thing, taken by itself. But since there is, apparently, more to becoming the World Champs and laying claim to being the best team in baseball à la the Cubs than being at the top of the major league statistical categories, it may also be true that a radio can be the very best radio for my particular application without being at the very top of the receiver statistical categories. Don't take my word for it, listen to [NC0B's presentation at the 2016 Contest University](#) where he says, at about the 15:49 mark, "If anybody says 'I'm gonna sell a 102dB radio to buy a 104dB radio' they're crazy." You can look it up.

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So, I've passed a pleasant month, getting into the minutiae of different radios. Through the generosity of friends I've been able to operate several different radios in contest environments, to look beyond the mere numbers and, instead, get up close and personal with radios that might make my short list for a Dayton purchase.

It turns out getting the old radio fixed was the sensible thing to do, and as I write this my wayward child is back on the desktop in my shack, ready for some hard work. But, I'm still thinking about a new radio.

Shopping for a new radio can be almost as much fun as operating.

In the course of my research, one thing jumped out at me and merits a mention here. Radio manufacturers that cater to the amateur market have done a phenomenal job of continually giving us better and better radios. [PA1HR maintains a table](#) of data culled from *QST* HF radio reviews, similar to the Sherwood table. His October 2016 list contained data for 49 transceivers, listed in descending order by their 2 kHz 3rd-order IMD dynamic range. I divided his list into 7 groups of 7 receivers each, and then plotted the average year of review for each septile. The resulting chart shows a clear progression of receiver performance improvement

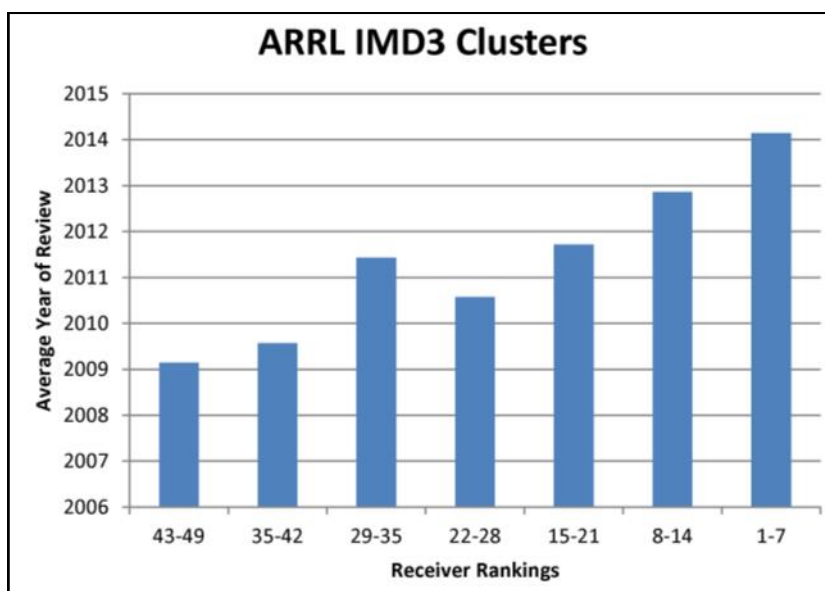
since 2006, the year of the oldest review. The newest radios, which are the ones with the most recent reviews, are firmly established at the top of the list. Next time you are at a hamfest and you step into a manufacturer's booth, thank them for being so responsive to our needs.

On a different subject, I'm pleased to share this note from Dallas, K1DG: "Please join me and welcome Bryant Rascoll KG5HVO to CWOPS. Bryant is 13 years old and has been participating in the CWTs. He also won the Dave Kalter Youth DX Adventure essay contest: check out page 88 of the April *QST*. The prizes donated by Paul N6SPE were extensive. See more about Bryant in his QRZ write up, which is full of youthful enthusiasm. His energy and enjoyment of ham radio brings back memories that many Ole Timers had over a half century ago. Ham radio and CWops both need more like Bryant in our ranks."

Congratulations to Bryant: we looking forward to hearing you in the CWT's and elsewhere on the air.

73,

Tim, K9WX, Editor



News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

Pete, W1RM: It's time for an equipment update and refresh. As such, I have ordered a SPE Expert 2K-FA amp to replace my Tokyo HyPower 1.5KFX and an upgrade to my K3 to K3S.

The amp is due here on the Friday of BWQP and I'll be shipping my K3 off to Elecraft on Monday after BWQP so I'll be off the air for a week and a half.

Looking forward to the new and improved W1RM station!!

Lar, K7SV: In the severe thunderstorms today, high winds toppled a huge pine tree in my neighbor's yard. It came crashing down over our fence and onto our deck striking one of the guy wires on my tower in the process.

The tower folder over the lower edge of the roof in the rear. It lies on the roof to the peak where it folded and continues on down the front half of the roof. The mangled antennas hang over the edge of the roof about 14 feet in the air.

The ironic part of this lies in the fact that a week ago we paid an arborist to remove the last of the pines in our yard to ensure this wouldn't happen. I'm thinking that rather than replacing the tower and antennas, I'm going to put more wire in the trees. At 69 (in a few days) I'm now sure that it doesn't make a lot of sense to put another tower up again!

No one was home so no one was hurt. A few feet further south and the tree would have hit the house instead of the deck. Still have wires for 160, 80, 40 and 20!

Gary, N5PHT: I have recently been activating some sites that count in the "World Wide Flora Fauna" (WWFF) program. Here is an intro from the WWFF Web page (wwff.co): "The WWFF program wants to draw attention to the importance of protecting nature, flora and fauna. In this spirit, amateur radio operators set up and operate their radio stations from designated nature parks and protected nature areas – generating attention for these areas whilst giving the ham radio community an interesting activity to contact. WWFF is an international and non-commercial program run by the National coordinators of a large number of national Flora and Fauna programs."

I am currently sitting at "Cooper Lake State Park" and it is in Central East Texas. It has the Park designation as KFF-3000 in the WWFF program. It is a fun way to get outdoors and make some contacts. All State parks in the USA and lots of places worldwide count and you can find them in a map on their home page: wwff.co/.

Scott, K9MA: My two Tribanders, a TH7 and an A3, have vastly different impedances. The 3-500Z amplifiers are fairly tolerant of that, but the K3 barefoot is not. I recalled that, years ago, when operating at W0AIH, Paul had built a bunch of L networks in paint cans to match the multiple antennas he had on each band. So, this winter's project was to build a matching box using the same principle, but with relays to switch between the two antennas and among the three bands.

The main requirement was that the matching networks auto-

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matically switch when I change bands or antennas. In a contest, I need to be able to switch antennas very quickly, at the flip of a single switch. It was also essential that there be a bypass mode, as RF goes through the matching box on all bands, because it's on the station side of the single-coax lightning disconnect.

After measuring the impedances and calculating the L network values, I haywired a couple together just to make sure I had the right values. It turns out, variable capacitors are a seriously endangered species. N3RD put me on to the relays Top Ten Devices uses. (Beware: some others have lots of capacitance!) For the interconnections, I used some small Teflon coax, RG-141, which will handle high power and can be soldered with impunity.

Once the matching system was built, I had to experimentally tune all the L networks, as the stray inductance is significant. On 15, for example, one inductor turned out to be a piece of number 14 wire with just a slight arch in it. Just a few other minor changes were required.

Across most CW bands, the SWR with both antennas is less than 1.5:1 with the tuner. The A3 bandwidth is narrower on 15, but I think there's a problem with that antenna. (Bugs in a trap again?) The SWR in the bypass mode on 10 meters is less than 1.1:1. I haven't tried it yet, but I can probably retune the capacitors and get a pretty good match in the phone bands, without adjusting the inductors. I had some concern about whether that little Teflon coax could really handle 1.5 kW, but it's not been a problem so far.

I'd be glad to share the design details with anyone interested.

John, AD8J: Last Fall I had so much fun operating as AD8J/HR9 for two weeks that I'm doing it again! This trip will be May 13-27.

If it goes like last time, I'll get up at sunrise and work the JA opening on 30 and 40 meters. Mornings and early afternoons will be spent scuba diving. The afternoons and evenings will be for the radio. I'll be running 100 watts to wire antennas.

This trip I'm going to spend more time on 80 meters. I'm also taking a 160 meter antenna. Because of the location, the ends will only be a few feet above the salt water. The 80 meter antenna worked well this way so hopefully the 160 meter antenna will do the same.

I plan to upload the log to LOTW at the end of each week. For the Wednesday CWT's: I may be on for part of the 1300Z and 1900Z sessions. I'll be on full time for the 0300Z session. If you would like to check out the operating location, go to: www.dunbarrock.com.

Rob, G0MGM: I am one of the recent CWA Graduates and have been lucky enough to be able to become a member of CW Ops. My history with CW goes back to the days of my late father who was in the telecommunications industry. He used to tell me his stories about chatting to his friends in the office, the CW Ship-to-shore operators, whilst they would receive and send ships manifests at 50 wpm plus. This and my interest in radio got me into HAM radio.

I got my A class radio license back in 1987-88 and operated until 1994. I had taken a job at BBC Monitoring as a professional SWL so having access to curtain arrays, rhombics and beverage antennas was great but going back home to a Butternut HF6V vertical was not so great, so I went QRT.

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I am now working in satellite broadcasting as a Broadcast Engineer and got back into Ham radio in 2011. Ever since then I have been trying to get back into CW with mixed results. It was in one of the Ham Nation episodes where Val, NV9L, mentioned she had taken part in the CWA that made me want to find out more about it.

I started last September and have not looked back since. I have been enjoying taking part in the CWTs and have had a few rag chew QSOs also. I enjoy chasing DX and CW is a great mode for it. I have also started operating QRP. I have done a few 1300z CWTs from my car during my lunch hour from my work car park using my Little Tarheel II and my Elecraft KX2 and 5w.



This is a picture of my portable setup in my back garden using my KX2 and my Alex loop. So far I am impressed I have managed to get into the US with 5w and have not missed contacting Bud AA3B every time J I am now operating 95% CW!

John, W9ILY: I earned my Novice ticket in early 1957 as a very green 14 year old after taking Novice classes at our high school and having the test administered by our instructor. Needless to say, I was THRILLED when my ticket arrived in the mail. I remember that day clearly!

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My station consisted of a Viking Adventurer with a crystal around 3721 KHz and an S-38D receiver. I had built the Adventurer from a kit and it WORKED! Of course I needed QSL cards and we had a printing press in the basement so...viola!...I printed my own cards. They were not fancy for sure but did the trick. I had a lot of fun back then and am still having fun now

Troy, New York United States of America

KN2YZI

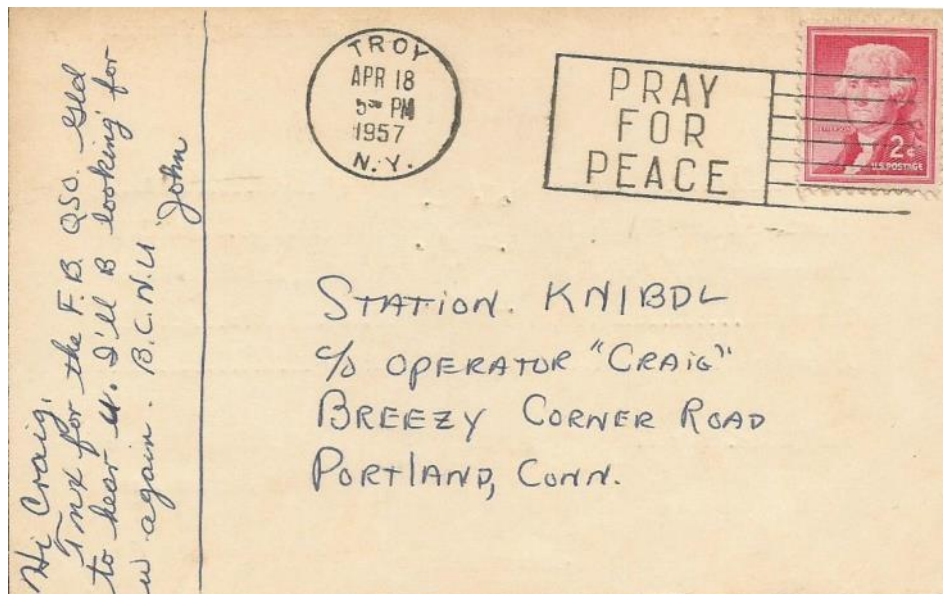
Radio ~~KN1BDL~~ Confirming ~~from~~ CW QSO of APR. 18, 1957
Your 3.7 Mc. Signals RST 489 at 8:30 Am EST
Transmitter: V. ADVENTURER; 50 Watts Input
Receiver: S-38D Antenna: 100' Long Wire.
Remarks: HOPE TO HAVE ANOTHER QSO SOON.

Pse QSL. ✓ Tnx... 73 John John R. Holmes
9 Farnam Lane

-KN2YZI PRINT-

The point of my story is that this past week I received a note from a ham in Idaho along with my QSL card from 1957 that I had sent to "Craig", KN1BDL for our CW QSO. The fellow who sent it to me was not "Craig" but he was able to locate me after all these years and sent me the QSL. What a nice thing to do! And, his note said that he hoped it would bring back some good memories. Absolutely!

It's hard to believe that after the passage of sixty years a small two cent stamp would find its way back to me. It was a great investment at the time and is so meaningful now.



Bruce, W8HW: Thought you might be interested in my new 2.4 KW LDMOS amplifier project. It works fine. Now going through final alignment such as throttling it back to legal limit 1.5 KW. I am also planning on changing the meter movement to different meter and that part is a small issue, just have to order it. I thought the meter I had in my parts inventory would work, It does, but needs more movement and range.



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If you know anyone that is good at lettering (of case), please let me know. I do not wish to use label makers or Avery labels if possible.



Giu, IT9VDQ: Here is the March issue of "Radio Rivista", the official ARTI's magazine (Associazione Radioamatori Italiani).



The Contest address book opens with a small article on our CWops Club and how I was "bewitched"! Sorry for Italian language.



73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes

True Story: LID?

[Les Brown VE3ABN](#)

When I first got my license back in 1968, I went to a neighbor ham's to get on the air for the first time with my straight key. On my first few QSOs, the guy at the other end would come back with "solid copy". However, what I thought I was hearing was "so LID, copy?". I was really embarrassed until I realized what the guy had actually said.

-Adapted from a recent listserv discussion.

CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

CW Academy (CWA) has just started the April/May 2017 semester. This will be the 16th overall semester that CWA has conducted CW classes. The very first CWA semester was conducted in the Spring of 2011. The student database is now up to 2,300 overall students served by the CW Academy.

This semester we have several new Advisors: Bill K1AQB, Rocky AE7US, Dan AK4SQ, Bill N0KQ, Korey WA5RR, Zdenek OK7DR, Carl K9LA, Richard K1DJ, Pete AG3R, Jay VY1JA, Eric NM5M, Dennis K2SX, Bob K5WA, Ed K1EP, Al, K0AD, Bill AJ8B, CJ WT2P and Ed N9EP.

For the April/May 2017 semester we have 49 Advisors and approximately 350 enrolled students. Our International mix of students this semester hail from, Poland, Argentina, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Africa, Columbia, Romania, India, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, France, USA, Canada, Portugal, Italy.

As you can see, CW Academy is gaining a true International reach in providing CW instruction worldwide. However, there are still some areas where CWA needs additional Advisors, specifically, the UTC+5, UTC+8, UTC+9 areas and South and Central America. We have many students from these areas still awaiting class assignments.

I am trying to organize a weekly CW Academy Net for CW students and Advisors (others are welcome too) to participate. I've asked for and received feedback from the CW Academy Advisors and the consensus is to form a weekly CW Net where everyone can participate, regardless of geographical location (all UTC time zones). This can be done using iCW – Internet CW, which is a full duplex QSK, CW QSO with Morse Code Audio tones over MUBLE voice chat. This is all run on the Internet and does not utilize the HF Bands. The MUMBLE software is free and works with UNIX, PC and the Mac environments.

Phil G4NVR, Keith G0HKC and myself are currently on-line testing iCW. We have several UK CWA students on-line too. We have a CWops meeting area/room on iCW and we are able to send CW and use Voice at the same time in Full Duplex. If anyone else is interested in joining the CWops iCW test group let me know. We will help you get configured and running. Our goal is to get representation from all UTC time zones and have a global CW Net.

If you love 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

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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!

CW Academy's classes are conducted using Skype video conferencing. This allows us to connect to students all over the world using the Internet. Minimal equipment and investment is needed for both students and Advisors. Just a little free time and a desire to help people by sharing your CW skills and expertise.

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

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

73

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

2016 CWT Award

Gary Stone, N5PHT, recently received his 2016 CWT Award plaque and it is proudly displayed in his shack.

The award was given in recognition of Gary's unique achievement: He operated and made at least 10 contacts in every Mini-CWT Test in 2016. Many of his operations were from someplace other than the comfort of his shack. See his News and Notes item on [page 5](#) for details of his recent activity.

Congratulations again to Gary!



How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

K3WJV, Bill Stravinsky, CWops #1465

Bill says, "A blast from the past, my DX100B & NC183D. That was the Asiatic JT30 mike. This was the AM phone days. I'd like to know what I sent cw with in this pic. I didn't have a keyer yet so it must have been a hand key and my Army surplus Vibroplex bug that I unfortunately don't have any more. This was probably 1964 in my first shack, my bedroom in 9th or 10th grade. The beginning of my radio years. I still have that top cigar box on the right side. It was my first QSL file box with homebrew index tabs of all the states. The dx cards were in the very front, not that many, hi. Unfortunately I don't have pics of the first rig. Same shack but as a novice when I had the T-60 & HE40, the station shown was when I was a general class."



For a delightful look at the forward march of Bill the Man and the K3WJV station, see his [QRZ.com](#) page.

Please send your "How We Were" contributions to w6sx@arrl.net . I need YOUR picture--my queue is getting short.

73,

Hank, W6SX, How We Were

CWOps Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

April means spring time, at least in the Northern hemisphere (but not too far north – there's still lots of snow on the ground up here in the frozen north, although it's melting fast). This is also the beginning of the season for amateur radio social events, at least in North America (Visalia, Dayton, the North American CW weekend, and of course Field Day, are all coming up). Dayton is of particular interest here, because Rob K6RB is expecting the CWT medallions in early May, in time to hand them out to the deserving at Dayton. Of course, if you're not going to Dayton, then your medallion will be mailed to you.

As of April 1, we are one-quarter of the way through the year, and also one-quarter of the way through the CWTs for this year (39 sessions so far out of 156 total). At this point, there are still 14 people with perfect attendance records, and another 45 who have submitted one-quarter of the required scores for a gold medallion for 2017 (30 CWTs for North America, proportionately fewer for other continents). Another 64 are one-quarter of the way to a silver medallion, and yet another 56 are one-quarter of the way to bronze. That's a bumper crop; of course, the summer vacation and thunderstorm season is not upon us yet, and that will probably result in some attrition.

Overall participation is still going growing, although since the change to daylight saving time in North America there has been the usual drop-off in participation in the 0300Z session. It's harder for folks in the Eastern time zone with day jobs to get on one hour later; on the other hand, it's probably a bit easier for those on the west coast. The number of scores submitted in the earlier two sessions continues to grow.

As participation grows, so does our impact on other users of the band. CWT scores do not count towards WRTC, and they do not lead to awards (all you need for that is 10 QSOs). There is no need for cut-throat tactics. Before calling CQ on a new frequency, take a few seconds to listen, send a QRL? and listen some more. If you hear someone else on the frequency after a QSO or two, be prepared to move. There is no need to defend a frequency to protect your score. Remember, the CWTs are the public face of CWOps; let's make sure we present a good face to everyone else on the band.

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

73,

Rich, VE3KI (aka CG3KI in 2017), CWops Test Manager

North American CW Weekend

Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church, Virginia, 2-5 June 2017

[Don Lynch, W4ZYT](#)

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!

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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: blackfinn-ameripub.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

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 CW Weekend](#)

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.

73

Don, W4ZYT and the CW Weekend Crew

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: www.bbcyber.com/cam/

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	666	6366	W1RM	176	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
K5AX	558	2602	F6HKA	165	W1RM	50	F6HKA	45	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	524	4188	W4VQ	145	W4VQ	50	OK1RR	44	W4VQ	37
N8BJQ	481	4370	G4BUE	126	F6HKA	50	N5RR	43	G4BUE	37
F6HKA	456	4390	N5RR	118	W1UU	50	G4BUE	43	N5RR	36
N5PHT	423	2121	OK1RR	115	VE3KI	50	VE3KI	42	VE3KI	35
DL6KVA	418	998	N8BJQ	114	G4BUE	50	N8BJQ	42	N5PHT	33
W1RM	416	4683	VE3KI	113	EA8OM	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
K1ESE	407	2696	OH2BN	112	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	41	DL6KVA	29
K9WX	350	2103	EA8OM	111	F6JOE	50	OH2BN	40	VK7CW	28
KE4S	303	1273	K1ESE	101	W6KY	50	AA3B	40	JF2IWL	25
K8AJS	302	1040	AA3B	97	N1EN	50	SM6CNN	37	W6NS	19
K3SEN	296	1186	SM6CNN	93	N5PHT	50	K1ESE	36		
IT9MUO	282	1555	EA1WX	92	F5MKN	50	IT9MUO	36		
K0MP	259	445	W9ILY	89	K5IX	50	F6JOE	36		
W1UU	204	2038	W0VX	89	K3SEN	50	W1UU	34		
IT9VDQ	202	1125	N1EN	86	AD1C	50	W0VX	34		
NN4K	193	1365	IT9MUO	85	AB7MP	50	KZ5D	34		
N1DC	184	1529	N5PHT	84	AA3B	50	KR3E	34		
I5EFO	184	437	F6JOE	84	K5AX	50	EA1WX	34		
W4VQ	182	2536	DL6KVA	84	W9ILY	49	W9ILY	33		
F6JOE	178	2677	AD1C	83	W0VX	49	N1EN	32		
AD1C	178	2060	K5AX	80	VK7CW	49	IT9VDQ	32		
W9ILY	176	2866	PA7RA	79	NN4K	49	F5MKN	32		
G4BUE	169	3259	KZ5D	78	N8BJQ	49	DL6KVA	32		
KE4RG	168	255	DL8PG	78	N1DC	49	PA7RA	31		
NA6O	146	1590	W1UU	75	KT5V	49	DL8PG	31		
K6DGW	135	1665	KR3E	73	K9WX	49	K5AX	30		
DL8PG	116	1730	N1ZX	70	K6RB	49	IK0YVV	30		
G4NVR	111	310	VK7CW	69	K6DGW	49	NN6T	29		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G0MGM	109	266	F5MNM	68	K1ESE	49	N1ZX	28		
VK7CW	59	1143	NN6T	67	GW0ETF	49	GW0ETF	28		
JF2IWL	24	920	GW0ETF	67	WB9G	48	AD1C	28		
N5RR	0	4098	IT9VDQ	64	W6NS	48	JF2IWL	25		
K6RB	0	3658	IK0YVV	57	SM6CNN	48	KE4S	24		
KZ5D	0	3239	K6RB	56	NN6T	48	K6RB	24		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	W6KY	55	NA6O	48	I5EFO	24		
W0VX	0	2796	KE4S	54	N1ZX	48	G4DRS	24		
EA8OM	0	2758	JF2IWL	50	KZ5D	48	HB9ARF	23		
SM6CNN	0	2477	4Z1UF	50	KE4S	48	VK7CW	22		
W6KY	0	1966	NA6O	49	IK0YVV	48	N5PHT	22		
N1EN	0	1928	G4DRS	49	DL8PG	48	G4NVR	22		
N2UU	0	1774	WB9G	48	AD5A	48	N1DC	21		
EA1WX	0	1724	NN4K	43	VE3MV	47	K8AJS	21		
OK1RR	0	1618	N1DC	43	NU7Y	47	4Z1UF	21		
NN6T	0	1577	K9WX	43	KR3E	47	K2ZC	20		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K3SEN	43	K0DTJ	47	WB9G	19		
KG5U	0	1322	KT5V	41	JF2IWL	47	G0MGM	19		
PA7RA	0	1200	I5EFO	41	WX7SJ	46	NN4K	18		
KR3E	0	1136	HB9ARF	41	KG5U	46	K9WX	18		
F5MNM	0	1111	K6DGW	39	K8AJS	46	G3YJQ	18		
W6NS	0	1090	W6NS	38	IT9MUO	46	AD5A	18		
KT5V	0	1088	K8AJS	37	I5EFO	46	W6KY	17		
AD5A	0	1071	K2ZC	37	G4DRS	46	NA6O	17		
W5ASP	0	1018	W0EJ	36	EA1WX	46	KG5U	17		
4X6GP	0	994	KG5U	35	DL6KVA	46	K3SEN	17		
PA4N	0	955	AD5A	35	OK1RR	45	K3WJV	16		
N1ZX	0	940	G4NVR	34	K3WJV	45	KT5V	14		
WB9G	0	888	G0MGM	31	K2ZC	45	W6NS	12		
K3WJV	0	882	K0DTJ	29	IT9VDQ	45	VE3MV	12		
K2ZC	0	767	G3YJQ	27	PA7RA	44	K6DGW	12		
IK0YVV	0	767	K3WJV	25	K0MP	44	W0EJ	10		
W0EJ	0	754	K5IX	24	KM4FO	43	G3XLG	10		
K5IX	0	750	VE3MV	23	HB9ARF	43	K5IX	8		
K0DTJ	0	742	NU7Y	21	OH2BN	42	W5TM	7		
HB9ARF	0	723	AB7MP	21	KE4RG	39	G0DJA	7		
KM4FO	0	721	G3XLG	18	NV9X	38	K0DTJ	6		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
VE3MV	0	664	WT2P	14	G3YJQ	37	AB7MP	6		
AB7MP	0	628	W5TM	11	4Z1UF	36	KM4FO	5		
WX7SJ	0	610	KM4FO	10	WT2P	34	KE4RG	5		
WT2P	0	574	G0DJA	10	G4NVR	34	WT2P	4		
OH2BN	0	530	KE4RG	8	W5TM	32	K0MP	2		
G4DRS	0	496	K0MP	7	G3XLG	31	NV9X	1		
NU7Y	0	479	NV9X	4	G0MGM	30				
W5TM	0	235	KE6K	4	KE6K	17				
G3YJQ	0	234			G0DJA	8				
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
G4HZV	0	120								
KE6K	0	116								
4Z1UF	0	50								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[John Huffman K1ESE](#)

Tough going this month with band conditions generally rotten. A few brave souls carried on and we appreciated the reports from the trenches, 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.

QTX Standings

Here is how we all did this month, the QTX standings –

Call	March	Call	March	Call	March
N5PHT	109	K5YQF	25	N4DT	9
N5IR	74	K8UDH	25	W3WHK	7
K5KV	54	KB6NU	16	K6DGW	6
KC0VKN	45	WA8IWK	16	W5JQ	4
G4ILW	43	K4AHO	12		
K1ESE	40	WH6YH	10		

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Gary N5PHT is had another outstanding month with over 100 QTX points. Bill N5IR was again second with an excellent count of 74. Benny K5KV slipped I ahead of Joe KC0VKN.

Personal best scores for the year happened in March for – K5KV, G4ILW, K5YQF, K8UDH, WA8IWK, W3WHK, K6DGW, and W5JQ.

We totaled 495 QSOs, up from February, and had 16 stations reporting. If you missed reporting, just send me an email so that I can add your prior month counts 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. Good luck with your totals and enjoy making new friends and chatting with your regular pals.

Here are the Medal Standings for the year to date –

Call	March	Call	March	Call	March
N5PHT	346	K4AHO	43	W3WHK	13
N5IR	213	WA8IWK	32	K6HP	11
KC0VKN	170	N4DT	28	K6DGW	9
K5KV	149	K8UDH	27	W5JQ	9
K1ESE	124	I5EFO	24	N5LB	5
G4ILW	88	WH6YH	21	KE4RG	2
KB6NU	58	HB9CVQ	19	N7YT	2
K5YQF	50	K0DTJ	18	NN4K	2

Here are the medal winners to date –

GOLD – None – YET!

SILVER – N5PHT

BRONZE – N5IR

There is plenty of time for all of us to earn a medal for 2017. Good luck to all and see you on the bands.

Thanks to all for your participation.

73,

John, K1ESE, QTX Manager

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
1796	KE2D*	Bob
1797	N5RP*	Bob
1798	WM4I*	Buke
1799	DL2DXA	Ben
1800	K9JP	Jeff
1801	N4NX	Bill

CWops	Call	Name
1802	W7VP	Bill
1803	K5AUP	Jim
1804	CU3AA*	Joao
1805	AF5Q	Ron
1806	KG5VK	Steve

CWops	Call	Name
1807	NS3C*	Richard
1808	W3OKC	Steve
1809	KA9BHD	Bob
1810	UW3HM	Slava
1811	K3ZGA*	Bob

*Indicates a Life Member

Current Nominees

As of April 2, 2017

Need Sponsors: NV3N, KE4TWI, W8WOJ, W8DN, N8LR

Invitations Extended: K7ULS, W6SBE

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>

73,

Trung, W6TN, Membership Secretary

John, K3TN forwards this note: “I recently came across AA4OO's nice YouTube channel that is focused on CW: <https://www.youtube.com/user/4gven>”

Upcoming CW Operating Events

[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.

The UK/EI DX Contest is an effort to promote contacts between EI, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GU and GW stations and the rest of the world. Stations outside Europe have a higher point count; logs must be submitted within 24 hours. Recent results show little or no stateside participation. This might be an opportunity to give our UK friends a bit of support.

Unfortunately the venerable CQ-M contest appears to have slipped off the marquee. Though it was announced for last year no results seem to be available. However, Stop, Look, Listen ... perhaps it will happen.

As usual there is a deluge of state QSO parties slated for the coming weeks. Possibly the premier event in terms of activity, especially involving the many active mobiles, is the Florida QSO Party. One of the unique features of the FQP is the degree to which the logging software has been augmented by various tracking and record keeping apps available on the internet. Pay particular attention to NO5W's GPS enabled Software for Mobile Contesting and K0RC's Florida QSO Party County Tracking Worksheet. Their use can give whole new perspective to state QSO contesting.

And for a real change of pace give the MARAC County Hunters Contest a try. While certainly not a high rate contest it can turn up a surprising number of folks in unexpected places giving out their unique exchange to all comers. If you're not already familiar with county hunting, it could be useful to scan the website at <http://marac.org/about.htm>

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

APRIL / MAY EVENTS

UK/EI DX Contest, CW 1200Z, Apr 22nd to 1200Z, Apr 23rd
<http://www.ukaiccc.com/which-contest/uk-ei-dx-contest-rules>

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW 0001Z, May 6th to 2359Z, May 7th
<http://www.ten-ten.org/index.php/activity/2013-07-22-20-26-48/qso-party-rules>

CQ-M International DX Contest 1200Z, May 13th to 1159Z, May 14th]
cm.ru/en/rules. <http://www.cq.html>

Michigan QSO Party 1600Z, Apr 15th to 0400Z, Apr 16th
<http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm>

Ontario QSO Party 1800Z, Apr 15th to 0500Z, Apr 16th and
1200Z-1800Z, Apr 16th
<http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm>

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North Dakota QSO Party http://w0nd.com/	1800Z, Apr 1 th to 1800Z, Apr 16 th
Nebraska QSO Party http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025-rules-ne-qso-party-2017.pdf	1300Z, Apr 22 nd to 0100Z, Apr 23 rd and 1300Z-2200Z, Apr 23 rd
Michigan QSO Party http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm	1600Z, Apr 15 to 0400Z, Apr 16
Florida QSO Party http://www.floridagsoparty.org/rules.html	1600Z, Apr 29 th to 0159Z, Apr 30 th and 1200Z-2159Z, Apr 30 th
7th Call Area QSO Party http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules	1300Z, May 6 th to 0700Z, May 7 th
Indiana QSO Party http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html	1500Z, May 6 th to 0300Z, May 7 th
Delaware QSO Party http://www.fsarc.org/qsoparty/rules.htm	1700Z, May 6 th to 2359Z, May 7 th
New England QSO Party http://www.neqp.org/rules.html	2000Z, May 6 th to 0500Z, May 7 th and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7 th
Arkansas QSO Party http://www.arkqp.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/AQP-2017-Rules.pdf	1400Z, May 13 th to 0200Z, May 14 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 14 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 21 st
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Apr 28 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 5 th
NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, May 12 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Apr 26 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	1200Z, May 13 th to 2400Z, May 14 th
NAQCC CW Sprint www.naqcc.info/	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 12 th
FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	1700Z-2100Z, May 6 th
MARAC County Hunters Contest http://www.marac.org/contestrules.htm	1400Z-2400Z, May 13 th and 1400Z-2400Z, May 14 th



CWops + Friends Dayton Dinner: Thursday May 18

[Bill Perkins KC4D](#)

It's again Dayton Hamvention & time for our Annual CWops & Friends Spaghetti Warehouse Awards Dinner.

Again this year we have reserved the venue's largest rear Dining Room "C" for our Banquet Event. Last year we had over 80 attending, and this year we expect to max-out the Rooms Capacity of 100. The wait staff will take your meal and beverage orders upon your arrival at our tables. To speed service to our large group, you'll be asked to select from five(5) Spaghetti Warehouse Banquet Favorites: Spaghetti with Meatballs, Incredible 15 - Layer Lasagna, Four-Cheese Manicotti, Fettuccini Alfredo, Chicken Parmigiana, & Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. All of these selections include a salad, bread, and non-alcoholic beverage. You may order any of the Five(5) Spaghetti Warehouse Favorites with the associated sides etc. for the fixed all inclusive price of \$20.36 per person (including tax & standard gratuity). You will receive individual bills including your adult beverage(s) if any, before you depart. These should be paid individually at the front desk. Two of the selections are meatless, but if you have other special dietary needs, I recommend you call the Restaurant a few days in advance & explain your needs and they will try to comply, where possible. They are in general a very congenial and accommodating group.

As always, everyone is welcome: CWops, spouses, significant others, and friends. You will find below a list of those who have already registered. Don't be caught in the last minute rush, reply immediately, and I'll reserve your spot(s). To secure your spot, I need a name, call, and e-mail address for my records. I look forward to greeting you on Thursday evening, May 18, 2017 at 5:30 PM. Remember, the Spaghetti Warehouse venue is a short two block walk West of the Downtown Dayton Convention Center & the Crowne Plaza Hotel, the traditional home of K3LR's Contest University, which concludes that same afternoon at 5:00 PM.

73,

Bill, WC4D, CWops Dayton Dinner

Rachael	4X5YL
Dov	4Z4DX
Danny	4Z5SL
Bill	AC0W
Cindy	XYL of AC0W
Jim	AD4EB
Dan	AK4SQ
Nodir	EY8MM
Russ	K0VXU
Dallas	K1DW
Ned	K1GU
John	K4BAI
Don	K4ZA
George	K5GH

Rob	K6RB
Lar	K7SV
Dave	K8CMO
Pat	XYL of K8CMO
Tim	K9WX
Bill	KC4D
Gary	KD8SAV
Sarah	KM4WHL
Nancy	N1NCY
John	N3AM
Jim	N3JT
Ed	N4EDT
Paul	N4PD
Don	N4ZZ

Van	N5TOO
Rick	N6XI
Jim	N7US
Steve	N8BJQ
Linda	N9WO
Ken	NG2H
Mac	NN4K
Chuck	NO5W
Nomar	NP4H
Steve	NR4M
Guy	VE2BWL
George	W1EBI
Jack	W1WEF
Bill	W2CQ

John	W2GD
John	W2YR
John	W4ER
Ted	W4NZ
Jim	W5TUF
Hank	W6SX
Rhonda	XYL of W6SX
Larry	W9CC
Howie	WA4PSC
Danny	WP4F



My Story: New Member Biographies

James Fehling, N2JFD

My name is James Fehling Jr. I am 45 years old and live in NY on the north shore of Long Island with my wife and 2 kids. I am a retired NY City Firefighter and my hobbies include Cycling, Hunting, Licensed Drone pilot and I am very active as a leader in the Boy Scouts. I first was introduced to ham radio in the 90's in college. My electrical engineering professor offered extra credit to anyone who studied and passed the NOVICE exam. As I am sure your aware, the novice exam required we learn code at 5WPM. So after listening to tapes for weeks I took the exam and passed and my ham radio hobby was off and running. At that time, all I had was a 10 meter radio but was able to make tons of contacts on it. With my education and life getting in the way, I let my license expire and it was not until 2010 till the bug hit me again. With the no code exam and my engineering degree, I studied and passed tech

and general almost overnight. Shortly after that I studied again and passed extra and decided to give back to the ham community by becoming a VE liaison for my local radio club. After passing Extra, My son got interested in ham radio also and at the age of 8 passed his tech (KD2ELA) and at the age of 9 passed general. Somewhere in the back of my head I always wanted to "really" learn CW but tried on my own several times and failed. then someone mentioned CW academy. My Level 1 instructor (Van N5TOO) was the most welcoming and helpful person I have ever met. He started me on my path to learn the basics and when we finished he said I did so well I would be sending at 25WPM in no time. I of course could not believe what he was saying because I was barely getting words out at 8 WPM. Then came Level 2. I got an email from my level 1 instructor explaining that I just hit the jackpot because I had been paired up with one of the founders of CW Academy, Rob K6RB. All I can say is that Rob was a magician and got me pushing the limits of 20WPM in no time. Half way through level 2 I was trying to participate in the weekly CWT instead of just listening. and by the end was making 10-15 contacts. I am scheduled for Level 3 in Sept 2017 and cant wait to further my CW skills. I guess Rob was impressed enough with my progress that he nominated me for CW ops membership and I am the proud owner of #1785. I try my best to make all 3 CWT's on Wed so I hope to work as many members as I can.



Viacheslav (Slava) Sushych, UW3HM

I was born and raised in a small old town in the Poltava region, located on the hills near the river.

While studying photography at the station of young technicians, I first saw the antennas, and then the equipment of the collective radio station that was located in this building. I studied in the sixth grade of the school when I came to the collective radio station UB4HWO. Since that time, I started working on the air, discovered the world of radio waves, began to study the Morse code.

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Given that I was a "fan" of radio, for a long time (before graduating from school in 1988 and getting my own callsign UB5HMS), I was the headman on a collective radio station. Then the institute, where I took part in organizing a collective radio station. We made equipment, antennas, worked on the air mainly Morse code on a self-made manipulator made of a relay.

Unfortunately, after graduating from the institute for a long time I did not have the opportunity to work on air. But I always wanted to go back and so I kept my license and callsign, sometimes I spent several QSO.



Starting in 2013, I began to work more actively on the air, the period of my return to the radio began, which I am very pleased with. I have restored the knowledge of CW and continue to improve, I get a lot of pleasure from it.

I am sincerely glad that I was accepted as a member of CWops, it is really important for me and I will try to justify the trust of people who believed in me.

This is my story, probably similar to the stories of other people who like their favorite hobby

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