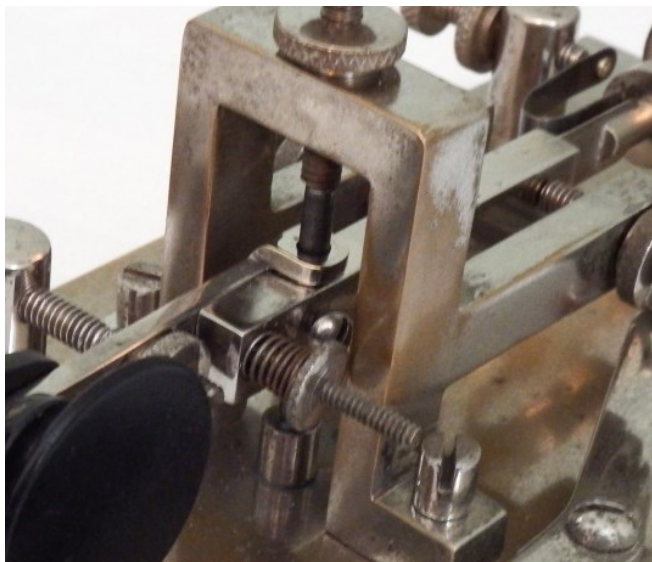




Mystery Bug



See story page by VE3CSJ and NA60, [page 13](#)

CWops “CWT” Every Wednesday

Regular Tests: Full Speed

Start: 13Z, 19Z, 03Z (+1), 1-hour each session

Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)

Special Slow Speed sessions for CWA graduates
will be June 14, 2017

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”

13+ wpm practice: Tuesday, Friday, Sunday 6-8
pm “local time” 7.035-7.045

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](#)

Editor/Publisher: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

President’s Message

The Dayton Hamvention in the new location (Xenia, OH) was successful overall considering the details that the DARA Team had to anticipate. The feed back that DARA will receive should enable them to put in the necessary corrections next year. I doubt that they can do much about the weather but overall it was normal and hams know how to adapt.



The CWops booth was busy Friday and Saturday. Most of the time there were people inquiring about CW Academy and learning more about what they can learn. Many of the visitors to the booth were CWA graduates and appreciative of our efforts in helping them. They want to learn Morse Code for a variety of reasons. Some want to use it in activations like SOTA and NPOTA. Escaping crowded SSB frequencies, contesting activities and chasing

(Continued on page 2)

Table of Contents

President’s Message	1
From the Editor	2
News & Notes	4
2107 Hamvention News	8
Feature Story: Mystery Bug	13
Guest Column: H.R. 555	18
CW Academy	21
How We Were – W5LA	23
CWops Tests	24
CWops Members Awards	25
QTX Report	27
New Members	29
Operating Events	29
My Story: New member bio’s	31

(Continued from previous page)

DX become possible with their new CW skills. Creating the CW Academy and the training was the goal of our past president, Rob K6RB. It's a living success for which he was formally recognized by being presented with the Technical Achievement Award by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association. A high honor for Rob and we are very proud of him.

The April/May CW Academy is finished and it can be said that our organization rose to the need of having additional Advisors signing on to help train the new students. I hope it was a good experience for you and that you will consider being available for future classes depending on applicant demands. To those who have been enjoying being Advisors your work is truly appreciated.

The North American CW Weekend follows the Dayton Hamvention and is held in the Washington, DC area. It's open to all interested cw operators. Don Lynch W4ZYT and Jim Talens N3JT have been busy organizing the activities. It's a great opportunity to mix cw operators with old and new friends, a location where visits to such places as the national monuments can be done during free time. If you haven't attended one of these Weekends let me suggest you consider it for next year.

President's Message . . .
"The CWops booth was busy Friday and Saturday."

The propagation during CWT's has been a mixed experience this year. Some poor conditions with QSB and QRN helped sharpen the skills we need. Recently some sessions have been better with band openings that were unexpected. It's time to maintain antenna systems with the Spring like weather. That way we'll be ready for the CW Open Contest September and other CW contesting in the Fall/Winter.

See you next Wednesday

Mac, NN4K, President

From the [Editor](#)

The Drama, Act 2



Last month, I wrote about my then-pending trip to the Dayton Hamvention and the angst I felt about the drama that might result from the shift in venues from Dayton's Hara Arena to Xenia's Greene County Fairgrounds.

I'm pleased to report that my angst was dramatically over inflated. Sure, there were some problems that Hamvention organizers need to tackle for next year. But, there were many things they got *RIGHT*, and it was my impression that most attendees were upbeat about the experience.

What did they get right? In no particular order: food, rest rooms, circulation (moving from one building to another), signage and the forum meeting rooms. I'll even give them good marks for traffic: When I arrived Friday around 8:30 am, traffic was backed up 2 miles from the Fair-

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ground entrance, but I turned off the highway, drove to the high school, hopped a bus, and 10 minutes later I was standing outside the main gate. CWops member Kirk K4RO was quoted in the May 25 ARRL Letter: “Xenia was a significant upgrade over Hara Arena.”

What do they need to work on for next year? Anything that deals with what happens to the fairgrounds when it rains, and the organizers are fully aware of this as the prime directive for 2018. You’ve probably heard the stories and seen the pictures. The on-site parking and the flea market became literal quagmires as a result of the over 1.5 inches of rain that fell during Hamvention, along with the subsequent vehicular traffic on the grass and/or dirt driving surfaces. [One local media source](#) quoted a tow truck operator who said his firm towed several hundred vehicles between Saturday and Sunday. Of course, that use to happen at Hara too, but in privately owned parking adjacent to the Arena so there wasn’t a lot of blow back onto Hamvention organizers.

In my May column I said, “For whatever other reasons we go to Dayton, the opportunities to interact with a wide range of vendors, to meet old friends and to make new friends have always been the core reasons to attend. The new location will be a success as long as these opportunities are still present, and I think we can all forgive (the organizers) if a few of the edges are a bit rough the first year or two.” Hamvention 2017 was a great success measured against these objectives, and you will read about many Hamvention-related CWops activities in this issue of *Solid Copy*. Bottom line for me: they got it *RIGHT*, job well done, and I’m looking forward to next year.

And if you’ve not seen it, check out the video of Becky W1BXY (managing editor of *QST*) and her rendition of “[Don’t Cry for Hara Arena](#).” Scroll down for the lyrics if your CW-centric ears have you missing too many words, which would probably be rated PG-13.

73,

Tim, K9WX, Editor



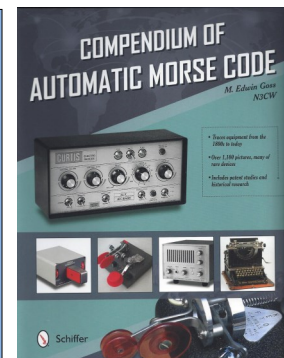
Before the rain. K9WX photo.



After the rain. N9FN photo.

Coming in the July Solid Copy

- James K8UP/VK4TJF shares his experiences teaching CW as CW Academy instructor
- John K3TN reviews “Compendium of Automatic Morse Code” by Ed Goss N3CW
- Don W4ZYT recaps the June 2-4 North American CW Weekend



News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

Mike VE9AA: By the time you read this, hopefully I'll have done a few CWT's with my new mobile antenna I just installed on the MINI. Seems to have roughly 20dB gain over my old mobile antenna. It's a Scorpion SA-680S mounted to a custom bar I installed on the roof racks and then painted it to match my car.

The Scorpion is on an electric tilt over mount by Breedlove. Here's hoping people will be able to hear me now, Hi Hi! If it really is 20dB of gain, that will be like going from 100w to nearly 12 kW ! I have some wires to tidy up and I'll make some A/B field strength measurements before I remove the old antenna.

Ken KE4RG: In the FWIW category, I picked up this Monarch KY-102 bug in the flea market at Hamvention. An internet search suggests that it is a Japanese bug produced in 1950's and 1960's and perhaps sold under other names. I have seen references to it as the 'coffin bug' because of its rectangular shape and plastic cover. I would be interested in receiving comments from other users regarding the history and the usability of this bug.



Joe AA8TA: Our club, the Delaware (Ohio) Amateur Radio Assoc., K8ES, recently had the opportunity to try out a Mosley TA-33 Junior 2-element beam. I hear some of you say: "Hey, doofus, that is a 3-element beam." Really!?

Club meetings got interesting when members started pausing on the way in to stare at our beam and try to decide how much the reflector element was tilted with respect to the other 2 elements. Then one day, one of the members reported that the reflector element was laying in the grass. Careful measurements confirmed that a reflector in the grass does the beam (and anybody trying to use it) no good.

Seems the reflector has a center insulator making it difficult to tighten to the boom sufficiently. Our resident antenna expert went to work and created this:



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The first photo is actually from the work party to restore the TA-33 to its proper 3-element glory. Success was achieved despite a thunderstorm that passed to the south.

Dennis WU6X/4: I'm portable in Rainbow City, AL and having a blast working into EU and other places seldom heard from my home QTH in Auburn. 20m is smokin' for WPX this weekend... with 100w to a 64' end fed long wire up 30'.



Lar K7SV: Since the storm took my tower down, I've added an additional dipole on 40 and one on 20 to fill the null off the ends of the original dipoles. I've also decided that since the base of the Rohn 25 tower is still sturdy, I'm going to put a ten-foot

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straight section on the 5-foot base stub and the 8 foot flat top section above it. There will be eight feet of mast sticking out of it. I plan to put an A3S at the top of the mast and a 5 el six-meter beam just above the top of the tower. I'm also replacing the RG8X feedlines on the dipoles with RG-11. The dipoles have been playing quite well. Using one of the 40M dipoles on 15 works fairly well. The deck, the roof and the gutters have been repaired. Fencing folks will be out on the 22nd of June. It will be nice to have this behind us. Thank goodness for good insurance!

I do have an interesting CW related story. Steve NR4M met a fellow named Arnie somewhere about a year ago. Being the gregarious person he is, Steve struck up a conversation that eventually led to Steve describing ham radio. It happens that Arnie is retired from the Marine Corps where he was a CW intercept operator. He was very interest in our hobby. About a month ago he passed his tech test. Last weekend he visited us during the CQ WPX CW contest at the Goat Farm. Steve set down with him on 15 to give him some idea of the process. Fifteen minutes later Arnie is running Europe at 30 WPM!

He was back on Sunday where he put a large number of Qs in the log (under Steve's watchful eye of course). I really think a number of retired military communicators would have a blast with our hobby if someone introduced them to it! I know that while I was at CG Commsta San Francisco the watch sections would have contests to see which section could take the most weather observation and Automated Merchant Vessel Reporting (AMVER) messages in a month. Some of them really got into it!

Giù IT9VDQ: During my last move a couple of months ago, I came across a small transceiver that I had forgotten about for so long: a QRP TRX Mizuho, "DC 701" for 15, 20 and 40m, 5W, CW-only, with built-in key.

How many memories! I bought it as a mounting kit in the early 80's. A printed circuit with a thousand components. I remember so many difficulties and so many "bad welds" in mounting it, but at the end, with the help of other Hams, it worked fine! It was very difficult to manipulate horizontally rather than vertically, but at the end it was ok. Using the TH6 antenna I remember so many enjoyable QSOs.



John K3GHH: I missed Dayton this year, and two weeks of CWTs, traveling by motorcycle (Honda NC-700X) from Baltimore to my daughter's in Anchorage AK.

When I was outfitting the bike (skid plate, heated grips, etc.) my son-in-law, an avid rider, asked where I was going to mount the transceiver and suggested we could rewire the horn button as a key. He was joking, but I suppose my CWops friends will not be surprised that, for a fleeting instant, I actually considered it!

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Camping and motels each handled about half of the nights. The trip took 16 days and covered 5,162 miles. Notable were fierce wind gusts on the Canadian prairies and a fog-bound delay of two days in Ontario. Shortly after snapping this Yukon selfie, I passed the rest area where I met Red, K5ALU, in 2010. That year, I drove my little Toyota pickup to AK and was chatting with a Seattle station on 20m CW when Red broke in. Also working mobile CW headed west on the Alcan, he was only 10 miles ahead of me, near Beaver Creek. He and his wife graciously waited for me at the next rest stop and we had a nice eyeball QSO, later meeting again in Anchorage.

This was the completion of an attempt in 1965 when neither my machine nor finances was up to the task. I'll try a little KL/K3GHH operation (pretty tough, barefoot to a vertical), but in a few weeks the 700X and I will be headed back home to W3-land. I like to help with the CW side of KL7AA's Field Day operation but have to be back home by July 10, so that may be out this year.



73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes

Coming in the July *Solid Copy*

Read Don W4ZYT's write up of the June 2-4 North American CW Weekend. Pictured: part of the Friday night pizza dinner (N3AM photo).



2017 Hamvention Report

The 2017 Hamvention, sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) was held at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio May 19-21. As always, CWops had a major presence at the show. Here are the major highlights.

Rob Brownstein K6RB was the winner of the annual Hamvention Technical Achievement Award. Quoting from the [DARA website](#), “Rob was one of about a dozen hams, on several continents, who founded the CW Operators Club (CWops). In 2012, Rob was elected president of CWops and served two consecutive terms. During that period, he encouraged and participated in all aspects of the club – rag chewing, contesting, and mentoring. The mentoring part – CW Academy – started in earnest in 2012. Since then, it has mentored more than 800 amateurs in its beginner, intermediate and advanced CW courses.”

In accepting his award, Rob graciously donated the \$500 prize to CWops, specifically to support CW Academy.



Rob K6RB (N3AM photo)

Bill Perkins KC4D organized the annual CWops and friends dinner at the Dayton Spaghetti Warehouse, with nearly 100 in attendance, an increase over previous years, and CWops president **Mac McDonald NN4K** announced a number of awards.



Bill KC4D (N3AM photo)



Mac NN4K (N3AM photo)

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Roger Cook G3LDI received the CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW. He was not able to attend the dinner and the award was presented to him at a meeting of the Norfolk (UK) Amateur Radio Club by G0DWV on Wednesday May 24. In a note to **Riki K7NJ** he writes, "I can assure you (the plaque) will take pride of place on my wall. I don't have that many plaques but this one I do treasure. I have always done my best to encourage CW and I am, for my sins, the GB2CW Coordinator for the RSGB, organising Morse transmissions and classes. We do lots of it here in Norwich. You have probably seen my RSGB book, *Morse Code for Radio Amateurs*. Very pleased and humbled - it really is a very attractive plaque. Many, many thanks again."



Roger G3LDI, right, receives plaque from G0DWV

The **Boy Scouts of America** were also presented a CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW in recognition of BSA's various programs in support of communication via Morse Code. The award was accepted on behalf of the Boy Scouts by **Jim Wilson K5ND**.



Jim K5ND receives plaque from Mac NN4K (N3AM photo)

Hamvention? For some hams it's closer to being Fantasy Land at Disney World? (N3AM photo)

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Special Service Awards were presented to the following for their contributions to CWops:

- **NODIR TURSUN-ZADE EY8MM**, Director
- **John Miller K6MM**, Webmaster
- **Colin Jenkins KU5B**, Membership Secretary
- **Rick Tavan N6XI**, Newsletter Editor



Nodir EY8MM receives his plaque from Jim N4JT

CWops Certificate of Recognition

Bill Main VK4ZD

Traveled approximately 9,093 miles to attend the 2017 Dayton Hamvention and CWops Dinner

Vaden "Mac"
McDonald NN4K
Vaden McDonald NN4K
CWops President



May 18, 2017

Jim Talens
Jim Talens N3JT
CWops Secretary

CWops Certificate of Recognition

John Moriarty ZL2JPM

Traveled approximately 8,521 miles to attend the 2017 Dayton Hamvention and CWops Dinner

Vaden "Mac"
McDonald NN4K
Vaden McDonald NN4K
CWops President



May 18, 2017

Jim Talens
Jim Talens N3JT
CWops Secretary

Bill Main VK4ZD and **John Moriarty ZL2JPM** were recognized as having traveled the farthest to the dinner: 9,093 and 8,521 miles respectively.



Bill VK4ZD receives his certificate from Mac NN4K (N3AM photo)

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Bryant Rascoll KG5HVO was recognized as the youngest member attending the Thursday night dinner.



Bryant KG5HVO receives his certificate from Mac NN4K (N3AM photo)



Various volunteers staffed the CWops booth at the show and many CWops members stopped by to visit.



Rob K6RB, Jim N3JT, and Mac NN4K (N3AM photo)

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The CWops booth in "Building" 6 (K9WX photo)



The traditional Friday morning group photo (N3AM photo)

The 2018 Hamvention will be held May 18-20, once again at the Greene County Fairgrounds. Odds are there will be a CWops dinner Thursday night, May 17. Make your plans to attend **NOW!**

THE MYSTERY BUG

[John Dicker, VE3CSJ](#), and [Gary Johnson, NA6O](#)

An Estate Sale Find

So many bugs were made by so many makers over the past hundred years that we sometimes come across one with no maker's marks and that nobody can identify with absolute certainty. Such was the case when John, VE3CSJ, attended an estate sale in southwestern Ontario. The bug that he purchased was a long sought-after Wilson SA-100 that was manufactured by the Wilson Manufacturing Company in Toronto for the RCAF during WW2. The Mystery Bug, as he called it, was considered to be a "junker" by the individual running the estate sale and was thrown in as a "freebie" along with the purchase of the Wilson bug.

Who Made it?

Upon examination of the "junker" bug, John was struck by the quality of workmanship that had obviously gone into its making, but was disappointed by the fact that there were absolutely no markings of any sort on it to indicate who might have made it. Neither was there any indication that any identifying marks had been removed, like a nameplate. So right off the bat he became curious as to its origin and age. Several pictures of the bug were sent to a few well-known Morse key experts with whom he had been in contact over the years, including Tom, W1TP, and Lynn, N7CFO, in addition to some other well-known names in the *Morsecode@mailman.qth.net* group and the *CW_Bugs* Yahoo group[1]. Chris, F9WT, made the only viable guess, saying that it looks like a clone of a Canadian Xograph made by Rolf H. Brown in Toronto in the 1920s (Chris has one in his collection). It's a good match, but with some differences including the main frame and circuit closing arm. Not having a full history of various Xograph models, it's hard to say for sure if this is in fact one of them. So at this point, it remains somewhat of a... Mystery Bug. If anyone else can help identify it, please contact John.

Even before the suggestion that it might be a Xograph, John concluded that the bug was quite old, based on the design of many of the components and also that it was commercially made judging from the high quality of workmanship on most if not all the components. Plus, the base was cast brass as opposed to machined and all components were nickel plated. The dash contact, dot contact, terminal posts, and pivot screw all have nicely rounded and polished tops. The design of the various posts, specifically the two terminal posts, indicate an older design.

Unusual Features

This bug has several unusual features (Figure 1). First, the main pivot frame is attached to the base from above, with two nickel-plated screws (as opposed to from underneath the base). Second, the bottom pivot is fixed to the base and is not adjustable. To set the pendulum height, the entire assembly slides vertically on the main pivot shaft and is fixed in place with a setscrew. Third, the pendulum protrudes over the end of the 6 in. long base by about 1/2 in. (most bases we have experienced are about 6-1/2 in. long). Finally, the moving dash contact is unique in that it is a separate screw with a slotted head and associated jam nut that protrudes through the arm from the right hand side, and is adjustable. The dash gap can therefore be adjusted two ways, the other being with the conventional dash contact screw in the adjacent post.

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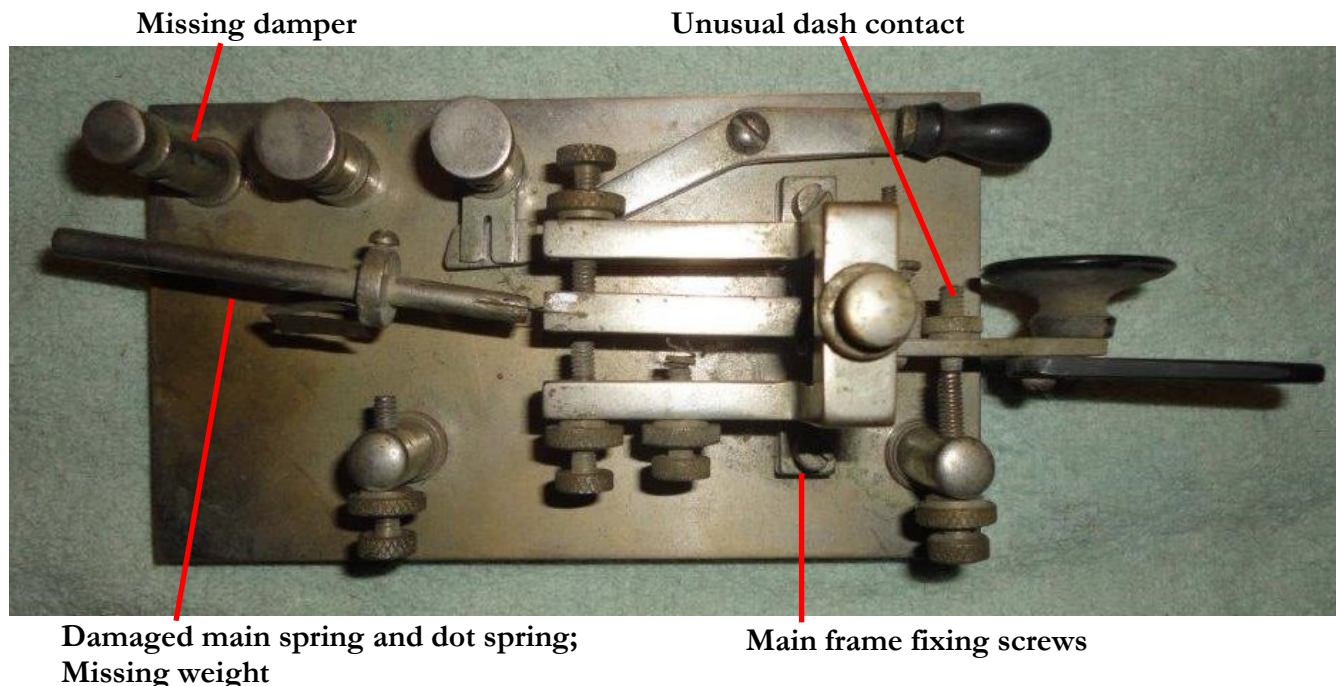


Figure 1. Overview of the mystery bug, as received.

Some Repairs Needed

The bug was missing its damper and weight(s), and it was obvious that the main spring and the dot contact spring had seen better days and needed replacement or repair if the bug was ever to operate properly again. It was also very dusty, dirty and adorned with a few cobwebs on the parts under the main frame. But there was apparently no rust or significant corrosion of any sort on any of the parts. Based on John's initial examination, he decided that the bug could be restored to working condition once again and decided to seek advice on how need parts could be replaced or repaired. In the interim he decided to strip the bug completely and clean the grunge off all the parts using a solution of warm water and Mr. Clean, thoroughly drying all parts once they were cleansed. Then he re-assembled the bug and wondered about the missing and damaged parts.

John posted a comment on QRZ.com Swapmeet asking how he might obtain a new main spring, not really understanding the complexity of repairing an existing one, installing a new commercially manufactured one or manufacturing one out of stock spring steel material. By luck, Gary, NA6O, happened upon John's post and suggested the use of spring steel from a set of feeler gauges. After several back and forth emails on the bug in general and the main spring in particular, we agreed that John would send the pendulum assembly to Gary for an assessment.

Gary Does a Restoration

On receipt of the parts, Gary looked over the "remains," decided it was do-able, then volunteered to refurbish the whole assembly. This would include a new main spring, new dot contact spring and, from scratch, a damper from a design we mutually agreed best suited the bug in question, as well as a weight that would produce an operating range of approximately 17-30 WPM, which was John's preference. Gary has a complete machine shop and experience in Morse key repair and scratch-building. An excellent guide to bug

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technology and the methods used for restoration are available in a book by W4PAL (SK) [2].

Unlike many bugs where the main spring is riveted or bolted in place, this one is soldered. As received (Figure 2), it was clear that a repair had been attempted and the spring was soft-soldered in a sloppy fashion. The wreckage was easily disassembled and cleaned



Figure 2. Pendulum assembly, as received.

for restoration. Based on the mass of the weight rod and the geometry, the spring dimensions of a Vibroplex Original were chosen for the new parts. Both the main spring and dot spring were cut from 12-mil feeler gauge stock and then silver soldered in place (Figure 3). An experiment was performed beforehand to verify that the mechanical properties of the steel were not altered at the soldering temperature (750 C).

The dot spring sub-assembly was merely a remnant of its former self and was easily desoldered and prepared to accept the new spring. Gary made a new dot contact from Sterling silver, which was then staked in place. After silver soldering, the spring was easily formed into the desired arc (Figure 4). One of the tricky parts of this project was determining dimensions. Since Gary didn't have the complete bug on hand, he went back and forth via emails with John, sharing photos and notes to verify all the important spatial relations. For instance, exactly where should that bend be in the dot spring?



Figure 3. Silver soldering the main spring in a simple fixture.

A design for the damper was needed. After looking at photos of a number of older bugs, we decided that the Vibroplex Model X looked like the right design. It consists of the familiar round metal weight installed on a horizontal rod. Gary fabricated the parts from brass in short order.

Lastly, a weight was designed to meet John's desired speed range. Gary took the weight from his Vibroplex and placed it on the newly-assembled pendulum which was held in a vise. A small springy wire was placed near the weight rod and this was used to cyclically complete a circuit as the pendulum was set in

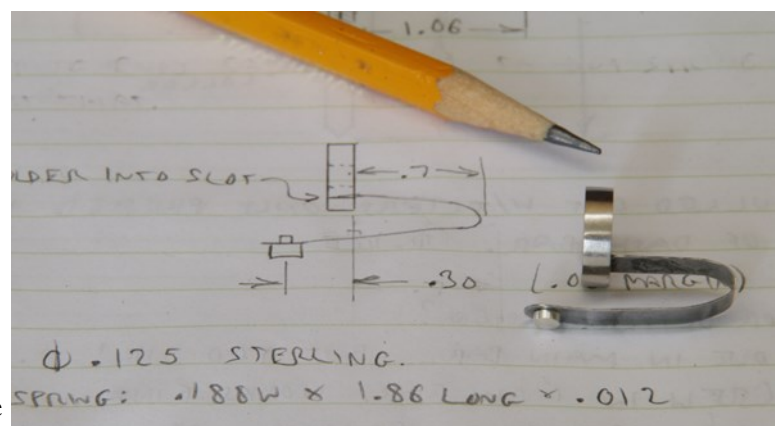


Figure 4. Dot spring sub-assembly.

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motion. By measuring the frequency of oscillation, speed in WPM can be calculated ($WPM = 2.4 * F$), and in turn, the required mass of the weight is determined. Weights are super-easy to make on a lathe, using brass bar stock. A knurled thumbscrew was also machined.

All brass parts were polished and then nickel plated. Original parts of the assembly were not stripped first nor were they re-surfaced, in order to maintain most of the original manufacturing features and flaws. The steel pivot shaft was cleaned and then blued with Brownell's Oxpho Blue. The steps Gary uses for nickel plating are as follows:

1. Final sand with P1200 silicon carbide paper.
2. Power buff as required.
3. Clean and degrease with chlorinated solvent (Brakleen 05089)
4. Activate the surface in 2M sodium hydroxide, about 1 min.
5. De-smut in 5% hydrochloric acid, about 30 sec.
6. Rinse with distilled water.
7. Electroplate in Krohn Bright Nickel solution (2.0 VDC, stirred), about 10 min.
8. Final buff with white rouge.

After a final portrait (Figure 5), all the parts were mailed to John. But would it all fit? Would it work well enough?



Figure 5. All the parts, ready to ship.

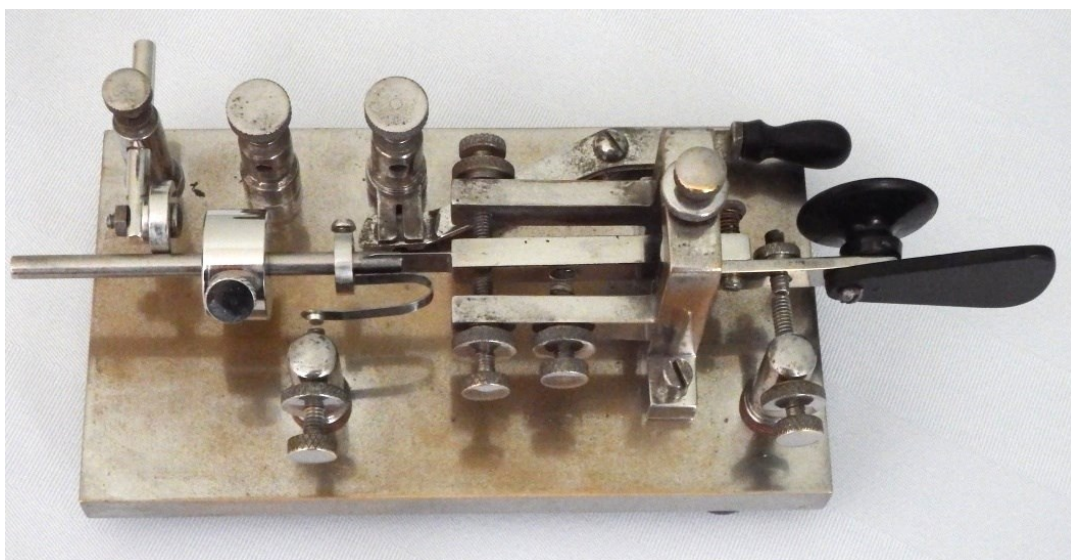
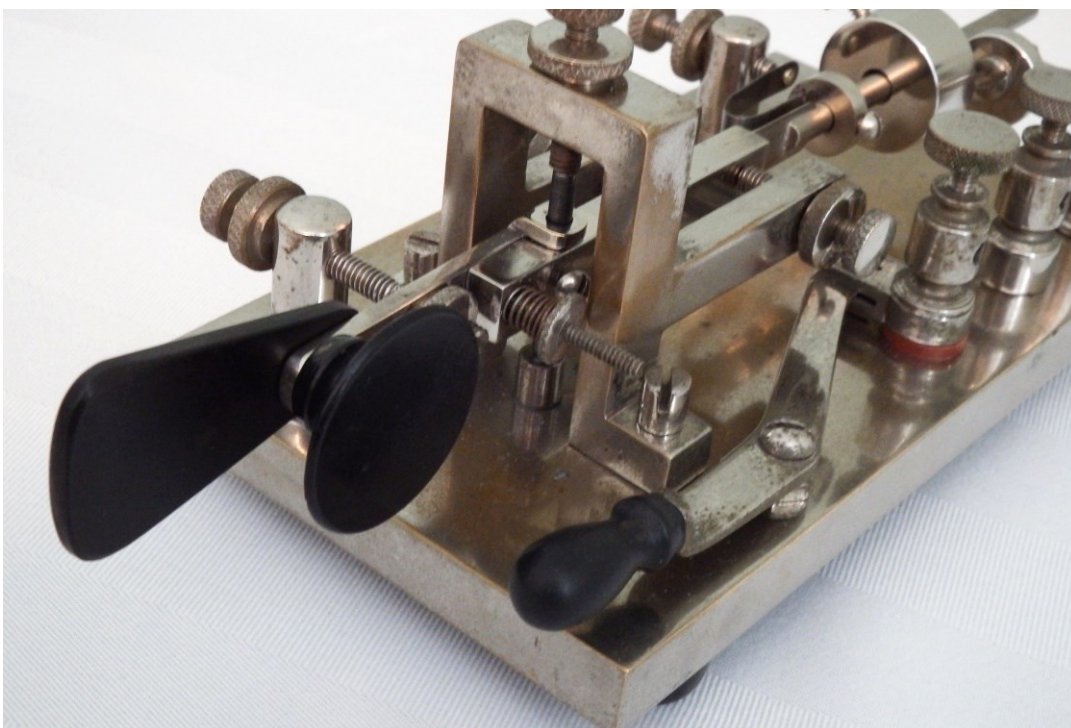
Back Together Again at John's QTH

The bug was reassembled and set up very quickly as all pieces fit like a glove. The bug was now operational once again and had its first contact with Bill VE3CSK near London Ontario on Wed 1 Mar 17 on 40 meters. John says it felt like his old 1921 Vibroplex Original. Unlike most of the other bugs in his modest col-

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lection, the Mystery Bug with its new main spring, dot contact spring and weight, when operating at approximately 20 WPM, was able to send a steady string of solid, crisp dots for 12 seconds before petering-out. Bill, being a very senior ham and seasoned CW operator, commented most favourably on how good the bug sounded: “Like music to my ears,” he said. That is what we needed to hear to bring this restoration project to a most satisfying and successful conclusion. This was a fun and interesting project for both of us and shows what happens when a couple of old hams get together over a piece of classic equipment. What remains now is to positively identifying the old bug’s manufacturer, model and age—things that will likely never be known.



References

1. *CW Bugs* Yahoo group. https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cw_bugs/info
2. *How to Restore Telegraph Keys*, 2nd Ed., 2006. William. R. Smith, W4PAL (SK). Formerly available from the author’s website but now only on the used book market.

Why H.R. 555 is Not Good (Enough) for Hams

[Jim Talens, N3JT](#)



Jim, N3JT

Anyone who lives in a planned community knows that the community's Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) are typically quite strict about erecting ham antennas of any kind. Some even prohibit the transmission of Amateur Radio signals from anywhere within the community, whether a private home or common community property. These CC&Rs are contractual in nature -- the buyer of the property signed an agreement to abide by the HOA (Home Owner Association) or "community association" rules when the property was purchased. The Amateur has had no recourse. Not until H.R. 555 appeared was there a first step toward change.

H.R. 555, the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, passed by voice vote of the House of Representatives of Congress on January 24, 2017. It has been touted by some as real movement toward relief from the myriad CC&R restrictions against ham radio antennas. It would, its proponents argue, put licensed Amateurs on essentially an even playing field with those living in private homes with-

out CC&Rs. Indeed, Section 2, para. (7), of H.R. 555 expresses an intention to bring the equivalent of PRB-1 to deed-restricted communities. See 101 FCC 2d 952, (PRB-1), and 47 C.F.R. Section 97.15(b). Considerable interest has been expressed for the Senate to follow with a similar bill to complete the legislative action necessary to free us from the shackles of CC&Rs. But all this enthusiasm is overstated. The language of H.R. 555, if it becomes law, will not achieve its stated goal. The Senate must adopt different language if the process is to produce final legislation that helps radio amateurs achieve parity.

Let's take a look at some of the provisions of H.R. 555.

What bands?

Section 1, Application of Private and Use Restrictions to Amateur Stations, prohibits any HOA restriction that "precludes communications in an amateur radio service." This provision assures that the HOA cannot stop an amateur from using an indoor antenna, a prohibition that some HOAs included in their by-laws. That's a positive. But the provision also gives the HOA power to effectively limit what bands an amateur may use, even indoors, because the provision says that there can be no restriction that precludes communications "in an amateur radio service," not "in any licensed amateur radio band." This means an HOA could permit only operation on 2 meters because that's in the "amateur radio service" and on its face satisfies the Section 1 requirement. Moreover, for those with exclusive-use properties (private homes), the HOA will be incentivized for aesthetic reasons to limit the size of any outdoor antenna.

Section 2 prohibits restrictions against an "effective" outdoor antenna. What is an effective outdoor antenna? It may not be easily defined, but certainly a 2-meter whip is an effective outdoor antenna for communication in an amateur radio service. Combine it with Section 1 and you satisfy the two bill requirements: an effective outdoor antenna (it's long enough for 2 meters) in an amateur radio service.

The better approach would be for the bill to prohibit any HOA restriction that prohibits reasonable antennas for communications at any frequency authorized by an Amateur Radio license. This at least removes a barrier to operation that might otherwise relegate an HF operator to 2 meters. The Senate bill should be written accordingly.

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Prior Approval

Section 3, Application of Private Land Use Restrictions to Amateur Stations, Section (b)(1), requires an amateur licensee “to notify and obtain prior approval from a community association concerning installation of an outdoor antenna.” Anybody who lives in a CC&R community knows that prior approval will not come readily, to say the least. Unlike a non-CC&R community, where PRB-1 assures up front that an antenna may be constructed subject to reasonable accommodation by state or local law, the CC&R resident must apply to the community for permission no matter how small the antenna – even a simple wire or mobile antenna affixed to the gutter. Does the HOA have written rules regarding Amateur Radio antennas, and do its administrators understand the provisions of the federal law? In some cases the HOA is merely an accounting tool for handling real estate taxes, maintenance, etc. It likely will not know a thing about the federal law or the standards under it, let alone procedures for redress. It is hardly equipped to respond to a request for prior approval of an antenna. What if there is no response at all to the request, or the HOA has no standards for approving antennas? Is that tacit approval, or tacit denial?

In any event, the requirement for prior approval constitutes a stark shift in burden because permission for even modest antennas, barely visible or not at all visible, must be affirmatively sought and given. For parity with PRB-1, the HOA should abide by default standards under the bill and then adopted by the FCC, presumably consistent with those set forth in Section 97.15(b). If indeed the goal of H.R. 555 is parity with PRB-1, why is there a burden to seek prior approval? Why is there no requirement that the FCC promulgate a rule like 97.15(b) for these community associations?

One legal consequence of H.R. 555 is that a deed-restricted resident who has been successfully using an outdoor stealth wire antenna for years without permission now moves from possible risk of contract breach to the realm of federal law violation. If there is failure to seek and obtain prior approval for an antenna through the HOA, the property owner is in violation of the statute and associated federal regulations (FCC rules). That is because federal law preempts HOA rules, meaning violation, enforcement, challenge or compliance must be resolved in a federal venue, not in a local state court under contract law. (Note that a CBer caught doing the same thing is subject only to a contractual violation, not federal law, because only the Amateur Radio Service is included in the bill.) Further, to add a bit of complexity and risk to this, an Amateur Radio license when issued or renewed carries a requirement for its holder to comply with all applicable FCC rules and regulations. An unapproved stealth antenna would be a violation of FCC regulations, for which there could be licensing consequences. (Maybe not likely, but possible.)

Whither a Dispute?

Also lacking in the legislation is a procedure for the FCC to deal with disputes, as is the case the FCC’s Over the Air Reception Devices (OTARD) rule under 47 C.F.R. Section 1.4000 that sets standards for requests for waivers and petitions for declaratory rulings. There is no such procedure provided in H.R. 555. Going to a federal court or dealing with a rule violation is not a ride in the park. The experience would likely be both protracted and costly. There should be a mechanism for FCC declaratory rulings or waivers, as in Section 1.4000.

Under H.R. 555 Section (b)(3), an HOA is permitted to establish reasonable rules concerning height, location, size and aesthetic impact of outdoor antennas. Going further, Section (b)(2) permits the HOA to prohibit installation of an antenna on common property not under the exclusive use or control of the licensee. Thus, an amateur cannot expect approval from an HOA to erect a wire antenna, let alone a beam, on the roof of a multi-story building. An amateur cannot expect approval from an HOA to erect a wire antenna, let alone a beam, on the roof of a duplex condominium. An amateur cannot expect approval

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from an HOA to erect a wire antenna, let alone a beam, on a sliver of adjoining land to his stand-alone house in a deed-restricted community. So how does H.R. 555 achieve its stated goal of establishing parity in terms of reasonable accommodation of amateurs with minimal practical regulation to communicate, and to provide, at their own cost, emergency communications? How does an HOA for 5-acre plots deal with an outdoor dipole antenna request? Can a townhouse owner put up a wire on his patio behind his house? The legislation should authorize and direct the FCC to parse out the needs for these and other situations, including multi-unit buildings, to provide a more equitable and meaningful parity to PRB-1 and Section 97.15(b) for amateurs living in all HOA communities.

Parity with PRB-1?

Not quite! Most condominium owners reside in buildings that are exempt from the putative benefits of H.R. 555 because the bill's provisions address only those who have exclusive use or control of their properties. In other words, H.R. 555 may help only a minority of amateurs. It is quite evident that the Communities Association Institute, which lobbies for real estate interests, was highly influential in crafting the language of this legislation to limit its benefits to a small segment of deed-restricted homeowners.

Even for those with HOA properties that might benefit from this legislation (single family dwellings), there are difficulties ahead. Cases decided by the FCC under the OTARD Rule illustrate the challenges because of similarities in much of the important language. 47 C.F.R. Section 1.4000 of the Commission's Rules (the OTARD Rule) prohibits governmental and private restrictions that impair the ability of antenna users to install, maintain, or use over-the-air-reception devices. It was adopted by the Commission to implement Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. In one case, a homeowner in a deed-restricted community was denied permission to install a TV antenna on the side of his home near the roof peak. The HOA claimed he could get acceptable reception from a location in the back of the house below the roof line. Under the Rule, a placement preference restriction is permitted provided it does not impair the antenna user's right to install, maintain, or use an antenna covered by the Rule. A placement restriction impairs if it (1) unreasonably delays or prevents installation, maintenance, or use of the antenna, (2) unreasonably increases the cost of installation, maintenance or use of the antenna, or (3) prevents the antenna from receiving an acceptable quality signal. The burden was on the HOA to rebut the homeowner's assertion that he could not get adequate line-of-sight reception at the HOA's preferred location, but the HOA provided no technical support for its position and lost. *See* Culver, https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1674A1.pdf. It is important to understand that the burden under the OTARD Rule is on the HOA to show that its restrictions comply with the Rule's placement preference conditions. But under H.R. 555, the burden of securing prior approval for an antenna is entirely on the radio amateur, and there is no requirement that the FCC develop further rules to provide non-judicial means for those treated unfairly to seek declaratory rulings or waivers. In short, the considerations applicable to private land use and CC&R communities really are not so different, but H.R. 555 makes them very different.

Conclusion. If you are living in an HOA or ever expect to live in a "community association" environment, you may want to become more active in correcting the version of parity that H.R. 555 purports to offer. Put simply, H.R. 555 does little to help amateurs and risks permanently assuring, with the imprimatur of federal law, that many HOA dwellers (especially those in high rises and townhouses) will not be able to erect useful outside amateur radio antennas. Exert whatever efforts you can toward helping the Senate pass a more ham-friendly conceived and drafted bill.

Jim Talens, N3JT, is a telecom attorney who spent 22 years at the FCC, 5 years at a large law firm in DC and still does some consulting. He is an engineer, MBA and attorney. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CWops.

CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

The April /May 2017 semester of CW Academy (CWA) is coming to an end. Most of the classes have completed but we still have several ongoing classes that are now approaching the last few weeks of the semester due to a later start date. I will have a complete report of our Spring 2017 graduates next month.

Student signups to our popular and unique service for teaching CW continue to roll in at a record pace. We have had over 500 new signups since the beginning of January 2017 and continue to be in need of additional CW Advisors to provide timely and high quality instruction to our students anxiously waiting to get into a CW class.

CW Academy

“We have some of the most talented CW operators as members of CWops. There is nothing comparable for aspiring CW students than being mentored by an experienced, well-seasoned team of CW Advisors.”

I have mentioned, several times, in past columns, that the success of CW Academy is entirely due to the dedication and expertise of our CW Academy Advisors. We have some of the most talented CW operators as members of CWops. There is nothing comparable for aspiring CW students than being mentored by an experienced, well-seasoned team of CW Advisors.

Here are some unsolicited comments from this semester’s students:

“I have really enjoyed the class and have recommended it to many hams in the Rochester NY area. I know at least one has signed up for level 1 and I am sure you will get some more from our area. It’s tough to learn by yourself, so the CWOPS organized class system made a big difference for me, not just in validating what I had already learned, but providing a methodology to use on my own to study and practice. Our instructor for level one, Rich K1DJ, was terrific. He did a great job keeping us on track and helping each of us with problem areas. He was always available to answer questions and keep us motivated.”

“We just finished Level 2 with Ron Settle, WM9Q, and had a ball doing it as well. While it might sound like I am “nosing’ up” I’ll say it anyway, Ron was the Absolute Best. We loved him and working with him to get to where we are now. He has a real easy going approach and you just feel that while there is stress, it is good stress and he smooths out the jagged edges when crunch time comes around.”

“This format and approach used in Level 1 are dynamite! They really clicked for me, and have gotten me over the fear of CW, itself. Now I’m working on making QSOs. The course is fantastic, but Bill’s (AJ8B) patience and kindness made up the other 60% of a most positive experience. This guy is an awesome promoter of CWOPS by action, not hype. He just makes the experience so comfortable by his encouragement and skill in working with people. I would say you should keep him on the payroll! Bill is a great asset to CWOPS.”

“Can I firstly say thank you for putting me on the recent level 2 course with Keith G0HKC. Not only did he help me break through the plateau I was on he really made it enjoyable. He is a really good ambassador for CWops. I am now starting to copy CWT callsigns at speeds I never thought I would. He also managed to carry on doing his bit one evening whilst his chimney was on fire! Perhaps a Titanic award is fitting ;-). Thanks again for such a great course!”

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If every active CWops member volunteers to advise just one class, at a minimum, our stellar CW Academy program will continue to flourish.

Advising level 1 is very straight-forward. It is 100% structured to the point where lesson plans for each of the 16 sessions are outlined in the Handbook. The student works on each lesson on their own using the Morse Trainer web application (customized for CWA), comes to class and the Advisor reinforces, corrects and encourages each student. It is perfectly laid out and suited for someone with little experience in running a class but one who has expertise in the topic - CW.

Signing up to be a Level 1 Advisor is easy to do, just fill out the Advisor form on the CWops web site: <http://www.cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>. This is your chance to give back to a hobby that has given you so much satisfaction.

Thank you.

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

Don't Forget: CWops CW Practice Sessions:

For: On-air practice at 13+ wpm for CWA students, graduates, others wishing to have real-time CW practice with others similarly afflicted with a love of CW and a need to improve proficiency, with a goal of 25+ wpm.

Purpose: To improve CW through on-air practice at a time and place when others are likely available.

Time and place: 7035-7045 kHz every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday around 6-8 pm local time. That means possible overlap with other time zones, which may mean 5 pm in Texas and 7 pm in New York. Conditions at this stage of the sunspot cycle make a comparable plan on 20m and higher for international contacts a risky proposal so for now we will limit this to 40m local evenings.



Dov 4Z4DX and Frank DL2CC (N3AM photo)

More from the Dayton CWops Dinner . . .



How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

NE7D, Rocky Evans,
CWops #829

Rocky says, "The photo is of my novice station (KN7QZF) in 1961. Amazingly. . . . the equipment doesn't look a day older than when this picture was taken!"



How We ~~Were~~ Are

Cwops Mini-fest, Rocky Mount, Virginia McDonalds: W6SX, W4YE, W2RU, K4ORD.

More than 250 years CW experience!

73,

Hank, W6SX
How We Were



CWOps Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

To start with, here is one more reminder (timely, or just too late?) that the CWTs on June 14-15 (second Wednesday in June) will be slow-speed sessions to welcome the graduates of the current (and past) CW Academy classes. We should all try to keep our CW speed down during the sessions on June 14-15 to give some of the folks who are still getting acclimated to CW a chance to get in on the fun. The next slow speed sessions will be on November 8-9.

As so often happens, some of the discussion on this on the Yahoo group morphed into other pathways, including a bit of a discussion on methods of sending CW and some nostalgic reminiscences hankering back to the old days of straight keys and pencil and paper logging. Personally, if I had to log on pencil and paper I would not bother entering contests – for me that’s too much pain for too little gain. Contest logging software with computer-sent CW is what first made contesting tolerable for me, and since then it has become almost an addiction.

I never used a bug. I went from a straight key to electronic keying, with a discrete-logic CMOS keyer (a Versakeyer – May 1979 QST) and a variety of Rube Golberg homebrew paddles before I finally broke down and got a Bencher paddle. That was fine for DXing and ragchewing, but it wasn’t until I got a computer-controllable radio and hooked up a serial port keying circuit to the computer that I got started in contesting.

Nowadays computer logging does even more for you. If you are using a call history file, you don’t need to type in any exchange data in the CWTs, as it is pre-filled once the call sign is known. As often as not, you might know what is coming even without the pre-fill, but in my case I appreciate not having to type it in. This makes the CWTs a bit like CQ WW – almost all you really need to do is copy and log the call sign. Nevertheless, I find that hearing the name in the exchange still gives a friendlier feeling to the event, even when I don’t actually type the name in with my fingers or send it with the paddle.

Of course, you do not need to use all of the latest automation. Each of us can pursue our own objectives and face our own challenges using our own equipment and techniques, and still be a part of the action.

As of the end of May, with 65 CWT sessions “in the bank”, we still had 7 persons with perfect attendance records so far (AA3B, K0MP, K3WW, N4FP, N5PHT, UA6HZ and UR5MM). There are plenty more on the path towards a medallion; if everyone carries on at the current rate, we might expect to have 54 gold, 61 silver and 69 bronze medal winners by the end of the year.

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



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	686	6459	W1RM	176	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
N8BJQ	577	4427	F6HKA	167	W1RM	50	F6HKA	45	F6HKA	38
K5AX	558	2602	W4VQ	145	W4VQ	50	OK1RR	44	W4VQ	37
VE3KI	556	4215	G4BUE	126	F6HKA	50	N5RR	43	G4BUE	37
N5PHT	543	2241	N5RR	118	W1UU	50	G4BUE	43	VE3KI	36
F6HKA	538	4404	OK1RR	115	VE3KI	50	VE3KI	42	N5RR	36
W1RM	534	4741	VE3KI	114	G4BUE	50	N8BJQ	42	N5PHT	33
DL6KVA	523	1252	N8BJQ	114	EA8OM	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
K1ESE	515	2749	OH2BN	112	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	41	DL6KVA	30
NA6O	421	1848	EA8OM	111	F6JOE	50	OH2BN	40	VK7CW	28
K9WX	366	2121	K1ESE	102	W6KY	50	AA3B	40	JF2IWL	25
W0VX	343	2940	AA3B	96	N1EN	50	SM6CNN	37	W6NS	19
K8AJS	342	935	DL6KVA	94	N5PHT	50	DL6KVA	37		
NN4K	332	1423	W0VX	93	F5MNK	50	K1ESE	36		
K0MP	331	575	SM6CNN	93	K5IX	50	IT9MUO	36		
IT9MUO	310	1573	EA1WX	92	K3SEN	50	F6JOE	36		
KE4S	309	1278	W9ILY	90	AD1C	50	W1UU	34		
IT9VDQ	299	1213	N5PHT	86	AB7MP	50	W0VX	34		
K3SEN	298	1190	N1EN	86	AA3B	50	KZ5D	34		
K5IX	274	892	IT9MUO	85	K5AX	50	KR3E	34		
W9ILY	272	2920	F6JOE	84	I5EFO	50	EA1WX	34		
I5EFO	262	501	AD1C	83	W9ILY	49	W9ILY	33		
W6KY	243	2081	K5AX	80	W0VX	49	N1EN	32		
AD1C	241	2101	PA7RA	79	VK7CW	49	IT9VDQ	32		
W1UU	204	2038	KZ5D	78	NN4K	49	F5MNK	32		
K6DGW	201	1710	DL8PG	78	N8BJQ	49	PA7RA	31		
W4VQ	197	2542	W1UU	75	N1DC	49	DL8PG	31		
AA8TA	193	264	VK7CW	73	KT5V	49	K5AX	30		
N1DC	184	1529	KR3E	73	K9WX	49	IK0YVV	30		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
F6JOE	178	2677	N1ZX	70	K6RB	49	NN6T	29		
KE4RG	178	275	F5MNM	68	K6DGV	49	N1ZX	28		
G4BUE	170	3259	NN6T	67	K1ESE	49	GW0ETF	28		
G0MGM	143	303	IT9VDQ	67	GW0ETF	49	AD1C	28		
G4NVR	129	327	GW0ETF	67	DL6KVA	49	JF2IWL	26		
DL8PG	126	1730	IK0YVV	57	WB9G	48	I5EFO	26		
AB7MP	107	681	W6KY	56	W6NS	48	VK7CW	24		
VK7CW	99	1185	K6RB	56	SM6CNN	48	N5PHT	24		
4X6GP	70	1032	KE4S	55	NN6T	48	KE4S	24		
JF2IWL	34	923	NA6O	52	NA6O	48	K6RB	24		
N5RR	0	4098	JF2IWL	51	N1ZX	48	G4DRS	24		
K6RB	0	3658	4Z1UF	50	KZ5D	48	HB9ARF	23		
KZ5D	0	3239	G4DRS	49	KE4S	48	K8AJS	22		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	WB9G	48	IK0YVV	48	G4NVR	22		
EA8OM	0	2758	I5EFO	46	DL8PG	48	N1DC	21		
SM6CNN	0	2477	NN4K	45	AD5A	48	4Z1UF	21		
N1EN	0	1928	K9WX	44	VE3MV	47	K2ZC	20		
N2UU	0	1774	N1DC	43	NU7Y	47	G0MGM	20		
EA1WX	0	1724	K3SEN	43	KR3E	47	WB9G	19		
OK1RR	0	1618	KT5V	41	K0MP	47	NA6O	19		
NN6T	0	1577	HB9ARF	41	K0DTJ	47	K9WX	19		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K8AJS	39	JF2IWL	47	W6KY	18		
KG5U	0	1322	K6DGV	39	WX7SJ	46	NN4K	18		
PA7RA	0	1200	W6NS	38	KG5U	46	G3YJQ	18		
KR3E	0	1136	K2ZC	37	K8AJS	46	AD5A	18		
F5MNM	0	1111	W0EJ	36	IT9MUO	46	KG5U	17		
W6NS	0	1090	KG5U	35	G4DRS	46	K3SEN	17		
KT5V	0	1088	AD5A	35	EA1WX	46	K3WJV	16		
AD5A	0	1071	G4NVR	34	OK1RR	45	KT5V	14		
4Z1UF	0	1032	G0MGM	33	K3WJV	45	W6NS	12		
W5ASP	0	1018	K0DTJ	29	K2ZC	45	VE3MV	12		
PA4N	0	955	G3YJQ	27	IT9VDQ	45	K6DGV	12		
N1ZX	0	940	K3WJV	25	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10		
WB9G	0	888	K5IX	24	AA8TA	43	G3XLG	10		
K3WJV	0	882	VE3MV	23	KM4FO	43	K5IX	8		
K2ZC	0	767	NU7Y	21	HB9ARF	43	W5TM	7		
IK0YVV	0	767	AB7MP	21	OH2BN	42	G0DJA	7		
W0EJ	0	754	G3XLG	18	KE4RG	39	K0DTJ	6		

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CWops Member Awards

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K0DTJ	0	742	WT2P	14	NV9X	38	AB7MP	6		
HB9ARF	0	723	W5TM	11	G3YJQ	37	KM4FO	5		
KM4FO	0	721	K0MP	11	4Z1UF	36	KE4RG	5		
VE3MV	0	664	KM4FO	10	WT2P	34	WT2P	4		
WX7SJ	0	610	G0DJA	10	G4NVR	34	K0MP	4		
WT2P	0	574	KE4RG	8	W5TM	32	NV9X	1		
OH2BN	0	530	NV9X	4	G3XLG	31				
G4DRS	0	496	KE6K	4	G0MGM	31				
NU7Y	0	479			KE6K	17				
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8				
G3YJQ	0	234								
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
G4HZV	0	120								
KE6K	0	116								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[John Huffman K1ESE](#)

To add your callsign to the QTX list, 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	May	Call	May	Call	May	Call	May
N5PHT	86	N5IR	36	WA8IWK	14	K6DGW	5
K1ESE	49	KB6NU	25	K4AHO	10	W3WHK	1
I5EFO	42	K5YQF	25	HB9CVQ	9		
K5KV	38	KC0VKN	22	N4DT	6		
G4ILW	37	N4EEV	18	K8UDH	5		

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Conditions were poor this month on the bands and Spring duties cut into radio time. Even Gary N5PHT slipped below his usual 100 QTX points for the month. But, he still reported the most. K1ESE, your QTX manager, had some opportunities at the end of the month and slipped into second place.

The big surprise was Emil I5EFO with a score that almost doubled his earlier reports and landed him in third place for May. Nicely done, Emil.

Personal best scores for the year happened in May for – I5EFO, KB6NU, and N4EEV.

We totaled 428 QSOs, down from April, and had 17 stations reporting, also down. 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	2017	Call	2017	Call	2017	Call	2017
N5PHT	544	I5EFO	116	N4DT	47	W5JQ	12
N5IR	332	KB6NU	102	N4EEV	45	K6HP	11
K5KV	231	K5YQF	97	HB9CVQ	28	NN4K	6
KC0VKN	222	K4AHO	64	K0DTJ	24	N5LB	5
K1ESE	207	WA8IWK	60	K6DGW	19	KE4RG	2
G4ILW	155	K8UDH	58	W3WHK	19	N7YT	2

Here are the medal winners to date –

- GOLD – N5PHT
- SILVER – K5IR
- BRONZE – K5KV, KC0VKN, K1ESE

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
1822	VE2IR	Don
1823	K0PV	Don
1824	W8WOJ	Don
1825	AH0U*	Bruce

CWops	Call	Name
1826	AD5TT*	Jim
1827	WA3GM*	Greg
1828	VE4EA	Cary
1829	GD0UD	Stuart

CWops	Call	Name
1830	K0TG*	John
1831	KG0YL*	Nancy
1832	DD5CF	Colin

*Indicates a Life Member

Current Nominees

As of June 2, 2017

Need Sponsors: KE4TWI, K5BRY, WS4P, LU1AW, K0CF

Invitations Extended: K7LVJ, W8UE

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

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 Stew Perry Topband Challenge is a favorite of the dedicated low band operator. You'll probably run across most of the serious 160 gang ... so find some time to join the fun.

All Asia could be pretty "iffy" this year what with the declining conditions on the high bands. Don't be surprised if things are a bit thin. Give it a try and see.

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As you probably already know, it's time for another Field Day. For many CWOps members it's a chance to not only enjoy a fun weekend operating CW, but also to make a positive contribution to the appreciation of CW among the new and uninitiated amongst us. It provides a unique opportunity to mentor new and prospective CW operators in a relaxed environment with lots of activity on nearly every band. Most Field Day groups are eager to have additional operators for their CW stations. Even if your club isn't doing Field Day this year there are others just waiting to welcome you into their midst.

This year the Canada Day Contest falls on a Saturday. This makes it more convenient than having it on a week-day, and should provide increased activity levels. It's a great chance to say "Hi" to your neighbors to the north. Lots of them will also be CWOps members. They'll appreciate your dropping in.

The Marconi Memorial contest commemorates the second century of radio and its father, Guglielmo Marconi. It's a World-Wide competition where everybody can work everybody, but only on CW. Last year's results show a real scarcity of W/VE participation. With IARU HF set for the following weekend it's a good opportunity to wring out the station. A special feature is the "Live Contest Score Server" available via <http://cqcontest.net>

The IARU HF contest has become one more popular events since the advent of the WRTC competition. Although it is a mixed mode event the CW portion provides plenty of variety and solid activity levels. It's on most operators "Must Do List". Don't miss it!

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

Joe, W5ASP, Upcoming Operating Events

JUNE / JULY EVENTS

Stew Perry Topband Challenge http://www.kkn.net/stew/	1500Z, Jun 17 th to 1500Z, Jun 18 th
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All Asian DX Contest, CW https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2017AA_rule.htm	0000Z, Jun 17 to 2400Z, Jun 18 th
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ARRL Field Day http://www.arrl.org/field-day	1800Z, Jun 24 th to 2100Z, Jun 25 th
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RAC Canada Day Contest http://wp.rac.ca/canada-day-contest-rules/	0000Z-2359Z, Jul 1 st
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Marconi Memorial HF Contest http://www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.html	1400Z, Jul 1 st to 1400Z, Jul 2 nd
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IARU HF World Championship http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship	1200Z, Jul 8 th to 1200Z, Jul 9 th
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West Virginia QSO Party http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/wvqp.html	1600Z, Jun 17 th to 0200Z, Jun 18 th
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NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 16 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 23 rd
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 30 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 7 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 14 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jul 21 st
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jun 28 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jul 8 th to 2400Z, Jul 9 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jul 26 th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jun 22 nd
NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Jul 20 th
http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201707.html	
FISTS Summer Slow Speed Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 1 st
FISTS Summer Unlimited Sprint	0000Z-0400Z, Jul 8 th
http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	

My Story: New Member Biographies

Mats Strandberg, RM2D (also SM6LRR)

At age 14 while attending Junior High School in a small town on the Swedish west coast called Alingsas, I first heard about Ham Radio. There was a big tribander antenna on the roof and after some time I was part of the group operating with the call SK6JQ under supervision of licensed hams.

After a little less than a year of CW practicing at the local radio club SK6DG, I finally received my first call SM6LRR in September 1980. With an old HW-101 and a Hygain 12AVQ vertical I started operating from my own callsign.

During 4-5 years I was active day and night, completely hooked to this new hobby. CW speed improved and I built my first keyer and bought a simple double paddle. This was later replaced with a Bencher, still in my custody. In 1986 I started my military service (compulsory at that time in Sweden) and between 1986-1989 I was very active



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from the military station SL0CB in Stockholm during our free time. Then suddenly, I stopped this wonderful hobby for no reason at all, apart from too much other distractions of life. I did not even pay attention to antennas on the roofs. The only thing that kept me going was a cassette tape with 40 WPM CW recorded that was used for CW training in the army. I listened to this tape maybe once every year, and that was sufficient to keep the code alive.



SM6LRR @ SL0CB Field Day operation 1986

When I met my wife from Moscow in 2004 and when we discussed of moving to Russia, it struck me that I should try to restart my Ham Radio

career and try to get a temporary license in Russia. This process started when I moved to Moscow in 2006 and was finalized in 2009, when Russian authorities finally sorted things out with permits for foreign citizens. I received the temporary call R3/SM6LRR on May 8th 2009. Later followed Russia's entry into the CEPT union and the call was replaced for a while with RA/SM6LRR, until I finally in 2012 got a shorter and better call RM2D.

I really enjoy all kinds of CW operation such as contesting, QRQ or QRS Rag Chewing or Straight Key communication. I collect DXCC and WAS via Logbook of The World only and I sometimes bring the radio with me to the family holidays and business trips and have used calls like: 5B/SM6LRR, 4S7LRG, XV2LRR, RM2D/0 (from Chukotka close to Alaska) and XV2D. I also have participated in the 4U70UN operation together with a group of international hams a few years ago.

How was I then introduced to CWops? It all started when meeting Marv, N5AW at WRTC 2010 in Moscow. Marv told me that this is a great group of people and explained the CWT activity. In parallel, another good friend, Rudy UR5MM inspired me to consider working CWTs and possibly later become a member of CWops. The person whom I can initially thank for my CWops # 1820 is Axel, DL6KVA, who wrote to me and asked me if I would consider trying to be a member. I of course also have to thank my other sponsors for membership (F6HKA, FG8NY and AA3B).

Apart from spending time with CW and the wonderful world of Ham Radio, I of course enjoy my family life with my wife Ekaterina and 4 four children, age 10-27 years. We love spending time in our summer-house located in Moscow Region close to the town of Naro-Fominsk. This is also where RM2D is located.

Professionally, I have held several positions in the sphere of Shopping Center Facility Management, and during the last 6 years as Aftermarket Director for Swedish producers of Underground and Surface Mining equipment. Now in thoughts of developing my own consultancy business for western companies wanting to establish and grow business in Russia and former USSR.

Looking forward to meeting you all, old and new CW friends in CWops!

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Colin DD5CF/G1ZOS

Hi, I was born in March 1955 in Clacton-on-sea UK, after leaving school at 16 I served a 5 year apprenticeship as a church organ builder in the east end of London (a four hour train journey there and back) and after that joined the Royal Corps of Transport in 1976 - 1982 I was posted to Germany where I still live.

Army life was great but a bit boring at the weekends, as I was not keen on swilling large amounts of German beer (just one or two) I was on the look out for other hobbies, I signed up for sailing, rock climbing and skiing courses I also had time for CB radio, I have been interested in radio from a very young age, I was always fascinated by the whistles and popping noises and the green magic eye valve on my grandads old radio / record player, I now realize I should have joined the Royal Corps of Signals.



CB radio was great but I needed more, and took the City and Guilds of London Amateur Radio Exam in 1981, but only passed the theoretical part, 5 years later I passed the practice part too, I am the only Ham Radio fanatic in our family with a total lack of understanding from the other members, I was therefore on a very limited budget so I started building my equipment from kits and had a lot of SSB contacts and fun with just 1,5 watts and homemade antenna, I will always be a QRPer.

SSB was great, but I needed more, so I tried to teach myself Morse Code all the wrong way of course (I still hear Dog Did It for D and Ich Liebe Dich for L) Then I came across the CWops website just what I was looking for, Level 1 with Stew was an eye and ear opener for me and I had lots of fun learning Morse Code the right way with the other students.

Level 2 with Keith and Phil was a whole different ball game 25 wpm? it sounded like SMG (Sub Machine Gun) fire to me at first, but with their great tutoring I was starting to get 3 and 4 letter words and was able to join in with the CWT, I still listen to Keith's 100 common words and CW abbreviations on the way to work on the train at 30 wpm now, I don't get them all but I am improving.

I am also interested in WSPR, Portable and SOTA ops, Geocaching, Sailing and Fly Fishing, I have been married to my wife Barbara for 28 years and have a son.

73, thank you for allowing me to join CWops and I hope to work you one day.