Solid Copy

The International CWops Newsletter

September 2017

Issue No. 92

N3AM Does the Eclipse

The August 21 solar eclipse at N3AM, 5 miles north of Washington, DC. This is a composite of images taken at 20-minute intervals. Hand-help Nikon D7100 with 400mm image-stabilized lens and ND 5 filter. ISO 1000, f/11, 1/1000 sec exposures.

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 November 8-9, 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
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Vice President: Peter Butler W1UU
Secretary: Jim Talens N3JT
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President's Message

The weekly CWT sessions continue to show that about 120 to 140 folks show up to enjoy some fast paced operating. It is a great skill builder activity. We could use a few more operators out of a membership of more than 1800 to get on and have some fun. I'm hoping the results of the CW Open show us an increased level of participation. We are trying to get more non US activity in the CWT's and CWO because CWops Club is not just a US activity. Encouraging our DX friends to get on with us will help and over time those participants will increase. I know, propagation conditions are challenging but think of the listening skills we are developing by making contacts under such conditions. Watching the RBN list during a CWT makes me try harder to pull in stations that are listed but not audible…..yet.

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Summer and fall are great times for ham radio activities. Hamfest are a highlight in order find those parts you are looking for or restocking you supplies. In a separate article I described some of the CWops activity at the Huntsville Hamfest (AL). It's a great place to meet face to face with hams and share a common interest. Wish I could attend more of them.

We entered hurricane season in August and Hurricane Harvey made a huge impact on the Gulf coast. Several of our members endured it and have returned to activities like CWT for which we are thankful. The South East US is staring at Hurricane Irma and we hope no harm comes to our members in its path. Hams are often in the line of first responders and we trust that you will be safe on the other side of these storms.

> ***President's Message*: CW Academy**
>
> "Thanks to the additional volunteers who have responded to the call to help, we have been able to better meet the demand for CW Academy training. I hope our backlog never disappears, as getting more CW operators is our goal. But I am grateful that the long waiting period is being reduced."

A large part of my ham life was spent on developing and maintaining a career and away from being aware of what happens in solar minimums. But the retirement role changed that and checking on HF propagation is almost like taking meds on a regular basis. The impact of solar flares and how they affect our communications via RF is quite a phenomenon. There is nothing we can do about the propagation to change it so we can approach it by thinking can we work through it. I'm a Dr. Joe Taylor fan with his multiple digital modes of communication. I'm going to be curious how it performs during these solar minimums compared to CW.

> ***President's Message*: CW Open**
>
> "The Annual CW Open is in the books now but the results will be delivered later. Be sure to submit your log. Hope you enjoyed it. We have some known issues with the status of the 2016 results but we also have some very skilled members who are working to resolve them. Stay tuned."

It's time for the fall semester of CW Academy. Thanks to the additional volunteers who have responded to the call to help, we have been able to better meet the demand for training. I hope our backlog never disappears, as getting more CW operators is our goal. But I am grateful that the long waiting period is being reduced.

The Annual CW Open is in the books now but the results will be delivered later. Be sure to submit your log. Hope you enjoyed it. We have some known issues with the status of the 2016 results but we also have some very skilled members who are working to resolve them. Stay tuned.

The heat of summer is subsiding now and my thoughts are on making some improvements to my antennas. I would like to get the inverted L operational, install the remote antenna switch and set up the K9AY receiving antenna before the leaves have fallen. If you are doing the same things or improving your operating situation, we hope it goes well and you will be happy with the results.

73,

Mac, NN4K, President

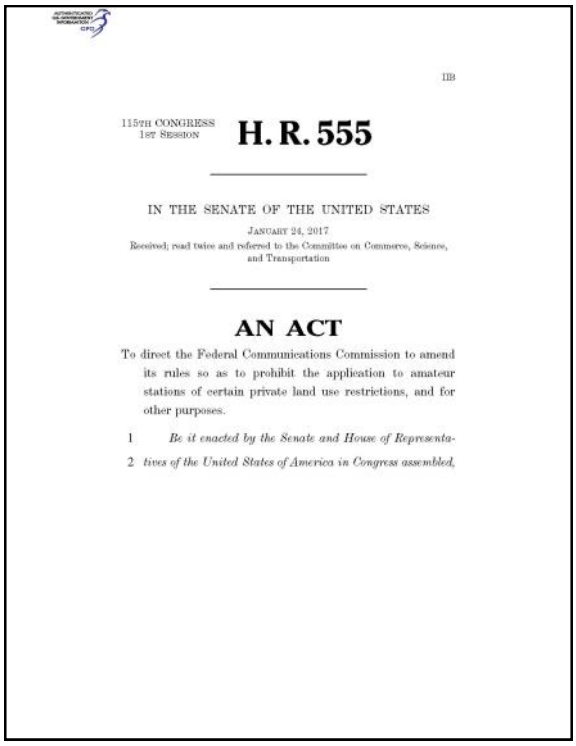
From the Editor

HR 555: An Update

I'm reminded every day of the fact that CWops is an international organization. When I read the columns written by our dedicated group of authors, I see callsigns from all parts of the globe, and when I operate in the weekly CWT Mini Tests, my log includes many callsigns that are considered DX to me here in the United States. I correspond with our new members as they submit their biographies for the newsletter, and almost every issue includes callsigns from multiple DX entities. So as your editor, I try to take off my red, white and blue hat when I sit down to work and remember that many CWops members do not experience their membership from a USA or North American perspective or as someone who speaks English as their first language. Ham radio is, after all, essentially and fundamentally an international activity. But this month I want to give you an update from the June issue of *Solid* Copy which I realize may be of limited interest to our members outside of the USA.

Our June issue included a guest column on the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017, H.R. 555, proposed legislation currently before the U.S. Senate that has been the focus of a major lobbying effort by the ARRL. The guest column, authored by Jim N3JT, a former FCC attorney, reviewed some of the history of the bill and summarized Talens' concerns about the merits of the proposed legislation. His *Solid Copy* column was subsequently reprinted in the August issue of *CQ Magazine* and, as a result, has reached a wide audience. In case you missed it as originally published, you can find the June issue of *Solid Copy here* or the August *CQ article here*.

CQ published a blog on the subject on August 11 which you can find here. In the blog *CQ* notes that, within days of the appearance of their August issue, the ARRL published an FAQ to further clarify and reinforce the League's point of view. N3JT, along with Fred K1VR, subsequently responded with rebuttals. You can find links to all of these documents within the *CQ blog* along with a link to the language of the bill as it is currently written.



IIB

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 555

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

AN ACT

To direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

HamRadioNow also covered the topic in its August 12 program, including interviews with N3JT and K1VR. You can view the video here. Scroll forward to the 3 minute mark.

It's a complicated subject with no easy or obvious villains. *Solid Copy* does not have an editorial position on the issue. Rather, every ham with a license issued by the FCC either has a stake or a potential stake in the outcome, needs to conduct his or her own review of the record, and then communicate your preferences to your Senators.

We will keep you posted.

73,

Tim, K9WX, Editor

News & Notes

Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT

Bud, AA3B: I will be QRV from Antigua between Sept 14 and Sept 19. I will focus on CW and may try some RTTY and / or FT8. My callsign will be V26K. This will be a trip to do maintenance on the station so I will be QRV when there are breaks from the maintenance activity. QSL via LOTW, ClubLog OQRS, direct to my home QTH or via the bureau.

James, G4ILW: I have been a little off the bands these last couple of weeks in favour of being heads down with a soldering iron. I rashly tackled and completed the Elecraft K1 kit #3495. My first bit of "home brew" in 20 years. Furthermore, there were no actual explosions during the course of the construction and only minor level eyestrain damage to myself!

Despite being quite an old design I am surprised how well it performs. I am often out of town at weekends so from now on this rig will go with me. I was fortunate to grab this kit when I did as I see Elecraft discontinued it at the end of August. This one is probably one of the very last serial numbers!

Andy, HB9CVQ: I had several CW mobile activities in Southern DL under the call sign DK2VQ/m running 20 to 34 WPM. I operated on the 40/30/20m bands with 4 watts ERP.

On 01-Aug. I activated, under difficult QRN weather conditions, HB0/HB9CVQ (Liechtenstein, LOTW, EQSL, uploaded-ok) mostly in CW with 15 Watts EIRP. My results were approximately 100 EU QSOs on 60m.

Our HF mobile antenna R&D group in HB9 and DL did further measurements and RBN CW tests. We simultaneously tested propagation (TX 20W) via ground wave, NVIS and Sky wave EU/NA (160/80/40/20) with 2 HF mobile stations and one super contest station-DL1A.

Giu, IT9VDQ: Wow! My first CW Open! I operated from our contest QTH station IB9T (JN68QE), and despite the bad propagation, had a lot of fun!

Considering that CW Open is a "made in USA" race, I found the 10m and 15m bands to be virtually dead. However, 20m was fabulous and open until the early hours of the morning. 40m performed well with openings to US/VE stations and produced many QSOs. 80m only had a small opening to the US/VE. I also managed to make 2 Q's on 160m!

I must say I felt a very nice "sense of belonging" to the group, which is noticed in this competition, just

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like in the CWTs! So many friends in all three sessions and on several bands! And so many fun episodes, like the one who gave me the name "Name" because he had forgotten to fill in the parameter 'name' in N1MM+, or the one who gave me the CWOps number as a progressive number! HI, HI.

I also ran across many non-CWOps stations in the contest that were not participating in the CW Open but to whom, with great difficulty, I somehow managed to extricate "Progressive number + Name".

At the end of it all, I found myself very tired but also very satisfied!

Mel, KJ9C: I made about 130 QSOs during the eclipse, including a few on 80 meters at 1130 local time, when eclipse maxed out at 97% here in southwest Montana near Yellowstone Park.

Not a big accomplishment by east coast standards, but propagation from deep in the mountains is nothing to brag about. Likely explains why my CWT numbers are smaller than from the Indiana QTH

Bill, N0AC: (N7S) 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party

Anytime I find an opportunity to operate mobile I jump at it. Anytime there is a chance to operate and it is a place of interest to my wife, Donna, it is even better! We summer in Estes Park, CO., close to the Eclipse path, so when I read about the SEQP we started to make plans to travel to Wyoming for the big event.

In the spring, thinking we were starting early, we quickly discovered that the lodging in the 'totality' area to be booked solid. The alternative was to travel from our mountain home to Guernsey, WY early on the eclipse day.

Leaving the cabin at 4:30 am we noticed an increased amount of traffic on the highway and we were still 150 miles from our destination. Reaching Interstate 25 at Loveland, CO. we were met with bumper to bumper traffic in both lanes heading north to Wyoming. The traffic problem continued for miles and miles but once away from interstate towns and major exits the pace picked up and we finally arrived at our planned destination.

We found a perfect location for viewing and operating where I could hand out grid square DN72oh signing the call N7S.

My mobile station consisted of:

2003 Dodge 2500 Ram Diesel Truck, 200,000+ miles

Elecraft K3 @ 100w

Tarheel M200-HP and Ameritron SDA-100 screwdriver antenna

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Honda EU2000 generator

K1EL Winkeyer with Bencher paddles

Radiosport headphones

HP laptop running N1MM+ logging.

This was an all CW operation (of course!).

I started CQing on 40m and was quickly called by AB5ZA/p in DN36lm. Moving to 20m I found better conditions and was called by K8MP in EN80el and after that, a long string of other callers.

20m eventually proved to be the best band for my location. I worked a very loud K6LA who was CQing on 15m from DM04sb but my attempt to raise anyone else on 15m was nil. My last caller of the day was W0RT in EM27jg well after 'totality'.

There were quite a few of my CWops friends participating in the eclipse experiment that stopped by to say hello. I operated through 'totality' and from my viewpoint didn't see any further improvement to the band conditions. I expected many more QSOs but was thankful for those that did take the time to be on the air for the eclipse experiment and QSO with N7S.

The eclipse was breathtaking and the highlight of the trip.

The shroud of totality was much like night darkness lasting for about 2 ½ minutes and during that time the temperature dropped about 10 degrees.

My XYL Donna is an amateur photographer and was able to get some shots of the eclipse. Our viewing neighbor was also a photographer so they were able to talk photography gear while I operated.

Another highlight of the trip was driving by WWV at Ft. Collins, CO. and seeing all the towers lit up in the darkness of early morning.

We had planned for crowds and left with a full tank of fuel, plenty of provisions for the day, and most importantly, patience! As it turned out we were well prepared. The drive home was busy not unlike our morning drive.

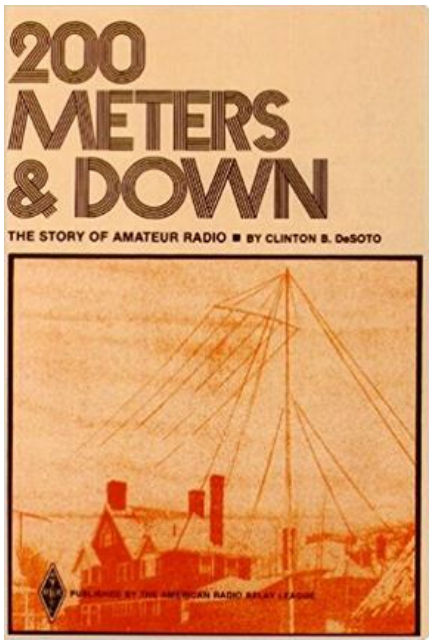
73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes

200 Meters & Down: The Story of Amateur Radio

By Clinton B. DeSoto

Reviewed by: Carl Davis, W8WZ



I was recently looking around on Amazon.com to find a book to read during an upcoming flight. Because I read many history books and many books about Amateur Radio (if it can be said that there *are many* books about our hobby to read) Amazon suggested that I read *200 Meters and Down: the Story of Amateur Radio*. That sounded good so I ordered the book. When it arrived I tucked it into the pocket of my briefcase where it sat until I was jammed into the center seat of a 737 bound for Newark where I would face a 6 hour layover then board a different flight to Detroit. As I took the book out of the briefcase I wished it was thicker than its 184 pages given my travel itinerary.

The first thing I noticed was that the grammar was very formal and the writing style seemed rather archaic. I looked at the publishing date and learned that the book was written in 1936. So this was a history of ham radio from the perspective of a ham operator in 1936 when ham radio was less than 40 years old! No wonder the author only needed 184 pages to tell all.

The author starts the book by giving an overview of ham radio in 1936 which I found very interesting. He said the average ham was a 25 year old unmarried man. He held a class B operator license and a station license that were both valid for a term of 3 years. He used radio telegraphy exclusively but hoped to someday get a phone station on the air. He had built his transmitter and receiver himself from commercially produced parts. His transmitter was crystal controlled using a pair of type 10 tubes with 100 watts of input power. He used a three tube regenerative receiver with one RF stage and one AF stage. His antenna system was a 130-foot wire with a two-wire transmission line of about 60 feet. He was a high school graduate and worked for a living in a technical trade. He had spent a total of $300 on his hobby and his current station was valued at $100. According to saving.org, $100 in 1936 would be the equivalent of $1,749.51 in 2017. I am not sure what the average ham radio station is valued at today, but my guess is it is pretty close to that value.

As far as operating activity in 1936 goes, the author says; "The great preponderance of amateur work is the handling of traffic." 75% of activity is CW except on the 56Mc band which is used for local communication and is the only band where phone dominates over CW. Some experimenters are starting to work on 110Mc and their experimentation is promising but the average ham is not operating that high yet. There is also only experimental activity on 28Mc in 1936 with operators describing the band as "erratic." The most commonly used long distance bands are 7Mc in the evening and 14Mc in the daytime. 3.5Mc is also popular but does not offer as much DX as the higher bands. It sounds like the solar cycle in 1936 was much the same as it is now.

While message handling was the most popular amateur activity, rag chewing came in second place followed by technical experimenting. Between 1923 and 1936 more than 100 expeditions had used Amateur Radio for their means of communication. Donald MacMillan was the first explorer to make use of this option in his exploration of the Arctic when he took ham operator Don

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Mix with him. That expedition used the call sign WNP for "Wireless North Pole."

The cutting-edge state of the art operators in 1936 were experimenting with television. While they predicted that TV will "be here any day now" the author was more skeptical and saw TV as a waste of bandwidth. He also viewed phone operation as a waste of bandwidth and said that it served no practical purpose other than use as "propaganda" to impress the public with the sound of voices from loudspeakers.

The hobby began to appear in an organized form in the early 1900's with magazines publishing 150 articles on wireless telegraphy and 18 articles on wireless telephony during the years from 1904 to 1909. The invention of the Fleming valve (a diode) in 1904 began this excitement. The author spends several chapters detailing the development of detector technology and describes the various lawsuits that ensued as inventors and innovators fought each other in court for the ability to profit from their designs. The author opines that the greatest technological advancement at this time was the innovation of the crystal detector. Not necessarily because of the quality of a crystal detector as compared to other detectors of the era but because it introduced the concept of crystal usage in radio circuits thereby opening the door to the use of crystal control in transmitter circuits where crystal use was truly revolutionary because for the first time an average operator could have precise control of his operating frequency. This greatly reduced QRM and improved the efficiency of traffic nets by enabling operators to know, for the first time, exactly what frequency they were using.

The author believes the greatest age of amateur radio was during the period from January 1912 to December 1913. This was, according to him, the time of the greatest innovation and technological advancement in the history of radio. In 1912 there were 1,185 licensed hams in the United States and in 1913 there were 2,000. However, the author says that there were many more hams on the air at that time as only a few of the hams felt the need to get a federal license to practice their hobby. The majority of them were still "free spirited and part of the careless heritage of the freebooting days." By 1914 the number of hams with licenses had grown to 4,000 not due to an influx of new operators, but due to the licensing of previously unlicensed amateurs. In 1913 the Toronto Canada Amateur Radio club boasted 150 members. The author believes that this year was the greatest time in radio history because it was during this time that radio operators first discovered that vacuum tubes could oscillate, which was of course, a world changing, revolutionizing discovery. Although it would be several years before the average ham was actually taking advantage of that principle in his station. The ARRL was formed in January of 1914 at the climax of this great year of radio.

Unfortunately, 1914 was the year that the Great War began in Europe, seriously interrupting the advancement of radio technology. Hiram Piercy Maxim wrote to the Secretary of War in 1915 offering him the service of the League's membership in relaying communications across the United States. To show that amateurs could efficiently offer the War Department reliable transcontinental communications the ARRL conducted a test relay on George Washington's Birthday in 1915. The message was originated by Colonel Nicholson of Rock Island, Illinois. The message read "A democracy requires that a people who govern and educate themselves should be so armed and disciplined that they can protect themselves – Colonel Nicholson." That radiogram was delivered via ham radio from Illinois to 36 states and the District of Columbia. The Pacific coast got the message 55 minutes after it had been first sent. The Atlantic coast got the message in 60 minutes and it arrived in New Orleans and Canada in only 20 minutes. The call sign of the Illinois station that originated the message was 9XE. This activity caused the Federal Bureau of Navigation to take seriously for the first time the ability of radio amateurs to contribute to the national welfare and they began issuing special licenses allowing amateurs to operate on 475 meters to help pass the traffic that

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the for-profit and government stations did not have the ability to handle. By March 1916 the ARRL had developed a trunk line system that ensured ARRL members could relay messages via radio anywhere in the United States. In 1917 the network could relay a message from the Atlantic to Pacific coast and return a reply back to the Atlantic coast in one hour and twenty minutes. This network was, however, shut down when the US entered into World War One and all amateur radio operations were ordered to cease for the duration. Many radio amateurs served as radio operators during the First World War. Chapter 8 lists the names and accomplishments of many of those amateurs who served in the War to End All Wars.

W8WZ in his "natural environment" on 7.028

Chapter 9 describes the post-war efforts of the ARRL to allow amateur radio to resume after the armistice and chapter 10 describes the shift from spark operation to CW. As soon as the ban on amateur radio ended the ARRL began to rebuild its trunk network and completed its first post-war transcontinental relay in January of 1921 in only six minutes and thirty seconds. The use of CW instead of spark is the main reason the 1921 message was relayed so much faster than the 1917 message. 1AW was the sender of that first post-war transcendental radiogram. His message was to 6JD in California. It read, "How does California regard prohibition?" .The answer: "To Mr. Maxim, California is supposed to be dry but it is very wet here now. It has been raining all day."

Chapter 11 describes the innovation of radio broadcasting and its relationship with the Amateur service. Chapters 12 through 19 describe the evolution of radio regulations in the United States as well as listing the call signs of many active stations during the 1920's. Chapter 19 details the many expeditions that used amateur radio to provide them with communications to the rest of the world during their remote travels. It describes in detail a 1923 adventure had by Captain Donald MacMillan. Chapter 20 describes the role of amateur radio in emergencies especially highlighting times when snow in the mid-west destroyed traditional land line telegraph service and amateurs stepped in by using wireless to fill the gap until the lines could be repaired.

The final chapter of the book is entitled "Whither Amateur Radio?" and the author uses these pages to offer his advice and opinion about the future of ham radio. Sadly, he laments, the great days of unbridled enthusiasm, invention and innovation are in the past. By 1936 ham radio was no longer cutting edge and state of the art as it had been in the great year of 1913. Many of the original hams are so turned off by the new regulations and licensing requirements that they are no longer active. Others have become bored with the hobby as it is no longer new and have moved on to other more high-tech pursuits. While the author misses their pioneering spirit, the biggest problem facing ham radio in 1936 is that it is becoming too popular with newcomers into the hobby and the limited bands are getting too crowded. While crystal control helps, ops who want to run phone and soon maybe even TV are eating up all the space. The author proposes making it harder to get a ham radio license. He suggests raising the code speed requirement and also

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making the technical testing standards more stringent. The author sees this as a natural evolution of the amateur service where quality standards should continue to rise. He says that in 1936 "it is already many times more difficult to secure an amateur operator's license than it was ten years ago." He predicts that as commercial and government owned radio operations improve there will be less demand for radio amateurs to transmit messages on behalf of non-hams and governments leading to a decline in traffic handling. For instance, in 1936 police departments in several cities made it a practice to find a ham radio operator whenever a car was reported stolen. The ham would then transmit a description of the stolen car to all other hams in the area. Those hams would then go out and find the car and report its location to the police via ham radio. The police would then go and recover the stolen car and arrest the car thief. This was a very common use of ham radio that the author thought would go away as police departments developed their own two-way radiotelephone systems. The author predicted that amateur radio would become more of a social institution comprised of hobbyists who operate for pleasure rather than experimenters exploring new technologies or civic minded citizens assisting their communities by passing messages that would have otherwise went unsent. The author concludes his book by imploring its readers to abandon the wasteful vanity of telephone and the fool's errand of television and return to a simple "good clean-cut code signal."

The book concludes with these words "May it fall to amateur radio to march many steps toward the goal of complete knowledge ere its footprints are lost in the sands of time."

It seems that even in 1936 many hams believed our best days were behind us and that the end of our hobby was near. It is too bad that the fellows today who think our best days were in the 1950's or 1960's never got to know how good it really was back in 1913!

I remember this when I hear people predict the end of amateur radio now or say that all of our best days are behind us. I am more optimistic about the future of ham radio today than Mr. DeSoto was in 1936. That said, *200 Meters and Down* made my flight much more enjoyable and I can honestly recommend it to anyone interested in the history of our great hobby.

HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST 2017

Mac McDonald NN4K

This is the third consecutive year that CWops has had a table at the Huntsville Alabama Hamfest. The Huntsville Amateur Radio Club has great members and work hard to attract hams and exhibitors to their event. My impression is that this one was equal to the best so far. The Werner Von Braun Center is large and allowed the hamfest to enjoy air conditioning for the vendors and the large bone yard.

CWops had a nice location being close to the Elecraft exhibit. Tony Baleno with his N3ZN Keys exhibit was on the same isle so we had lots of foot traffic going by our booth. In the booth we had a laptop computer with an 15" LED video display and external keyboard arranged so a contestant could sit down and focus on copying call signs that the RUFZXP.com software generated. 30 call signs were heard by each contestant and at the end the program scored the highest wpm reached and an accuracy score associated

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with all the responses. When the test was finished, the wpm and score was written on the scoreboard adjacent to the computer.

One after another we had hams showing up and sitting for the test. It was fun to meet so many whose call sign was familiar from contacts during CWT sessions. There were many who are not CWops members and so we had the chance to interact with them as well. The participants included well known contesters who performed well plus many more who rose to the challenge and gave their best efforts. "Do-overs" were allowed when there was time and the computer was impartial.

Charlie NF4A, winner of the Huntsville CW copying contest

Under the scoreboard on the table were handouts about CWops Club, information on the CWT and CW Open, and especially for the CW Academy. Learning Morse Code and using it is popular among hams who are involved in QRP, SOTA (Summits on The Air) and POTA (Parks on the Air) to name a few. Others want to round out their ham radio experience base by adding Morse Code to their skill set.

The results of the competition: The top score was achieved by Charlie Wooten NF4A with a top wpm speed of 49 and a score of 12,734. One of our newest and youngest CWops member to compete was Bryant Rascoll KG5VHO of Montgomery, AL. Bryant is 13 years old and reached 45 wpm with a score of 9,800. He has a great CW future ahead of him. We appreciate all the others who participated and hope to see some of them soon at the SEDCO Meeting in Pigeon Forge, TN. After that will be the Stone Mountain Hamfest in November.

This activity is fun to do and if anyone is interested in doing the same or similar thing at their area hamfests, please contact me and I will be glad to work with you to get your setup going. With the help of Paul Nelson K4JAZ who built the score board for me and Paul Kelley W4KLY who improved the appearance of the score board recently, this is a great way to show case CWops. Our mission in CWops Club is to keep CW alive on the bands and attract hams who would like to get involved by learning the mode. We all know CW is no longer a license requirement so this venture is for FUN and offering a way for anyone who wants to learn and use CW as a mode to get on board.

How We Were

Hank Garretson, W6SX

KR2Q, Doug Zwiebel, CWops #438

First licensed at age 14 in February, 1966. Heathkit DX20 and Lafayette HA230.

Short time later with brag QSL from Maderia and then topless in the early seventies. We all change. Here is Doug today.

Doug has been a member of CQWW Contest Committee since 1979. Doug, W5OV, and W4PA are co-chairmen of the CQ World Wide DX Contest. Doug, thank you for giving back.

Please send your How We Were pictures and stories to w6sx@arrl.net.

73,

Hank, W6SX, How We Were

CW Academy

Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT

CW Academy (CWA) has just kicked off the September/October 2017 semester. Many of our classes are already underway and the rest of the classes will begin the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September. This will be the 17th 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 over 2,700 overall students served by the CW Academy.

This semester we welcome 16 new Advisors: Jim AD5TT, Dan SA2RFW/WB4RFQ, Joe AA8TA, Madison W5MJ, Jim KE8G, Ken KE4RG, Ken N5EE, Phil W3HZZ, Kim K5TU, John AC4CA, Sean K0XQ, Trung W6TN, Terry WB0JRH, Christian W4ALF, Gary N8LR, and Bill K0MP.

For the September/October 2017 semester we have a total of 55 Advisors and approximately 300 enrolled students. We are running a total of 63 classes comprised of 45 Level 1 classes, 14 Level 2 classes and 4 Level 3 classes. Our International mix of students this semester hail from, USA, Canada, India, The Netherlands, England, Scotland, South Africa, Turkey, Italy, Cyprus, Spain, Ireland, Romania, Fiji, Australia, Hawaii, and Alaska.

CW Academy

"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 desire to help aspiring students learn to use CW."

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. Our goal is to get Advisors representing all of the UTC time zones providing no cost CW instruction on a global basis.

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 desire to help aspiring students learn to use CW. It's fun and rewarding and you will make many new lifelong 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: cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html.

73

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

CWOps Tests

Rich Ferch VE3KI

This month's column will be short, due to the press of other commitments and activities. The easiest thing for me to do, as a numbers nut, is to check the statistics for the CWTs. Looking at the score postings from recent CWTs, it appears that we have passed a number of milestones in August.

The one I noticed first is that for the first time, the total number of QSOs reported at 3830scores.com for a single CWT exceeded 10,000 for the 1300Z session on August 30th. Of course, most QSOs are reported twice, so that really means that more than 5,000 reported QSOs took place during that one-hour session.

With 176 stations posting scores in that session, that means an average QSO count of over 58 QSOs per reporting station. That's very high, but not a record. The record was posted later that same day: an average of 65 QSOs/report, from the 0300Z session on August 31. There were fewer stations reporting scores, and fewer overall QSOs reported, but the average number of QSOs per report was higher in the 0300Z session. This is actually typical – "attendance" in the 0300Z sessions is generally lower than in the other two, but the average number of QSOs per report is usually higher.

CWops Tests

"It appears that we have passed a number of milestones in August."

Yet another milestone is a new record for the highest number of stations posting scores: 183 stations in the 1900Z session on August 2. The average score per station was lower than usual during this session, but the number of stations reporting was the largest it has ever been. You'd think having more stations active and reporting scores would go hand-in-hand with higher QSO counts and scores, but it doesn't seem to work out that way, except in the broadest sense (from one year to the next they increase together overall, but not between individual CWT sessions).

Of course, all of this is subject to the vagaries of propagation, and of extreme weather events. The Sun seems to be throwing a lot of flares (radio blackouts) and coronal mass ejections (geomagnetic storms) at Earth, but while these have an impact on the CWTs, they don't seem to stop us from taking part. The CWTs keep on growing, like a snowball rolling downhill.

The other big variable affecting us is weather events. We all hope that the impacts of the unusually severe hurricane season this year don't continue to worsen. While we also hope that the damage suffered by our members' homes and stations is not severe, with hopefully few or no exceptions that pales in comparison to the effects on so many less fortunate people in the storms' paths. Up here in the North we grumble about cold and snow in the winter, but we should be thankful for how fortunate we are compared to so many others.

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

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
1856	OH3BCX	Zaba
1857	AB0S*	Tim
1858	LY8O	Remi
1859	K0WA	Lee
1860	VE3MA	Al

CWops	Call	Name
1861	K4AEN*	Tom/Tommy
1862	NY3B*	Steve
1863	N5KW	Pam
1864	W8FN*	Randy
1865	KG7VAK	Dan

CWops	Call	Name
1866	KB3AAY	Ron
1867	AA4V*	Steve
1868	W5MT*	Matt
1869	WU4B	Clark

*Indicates a Life Member

Current Nominees

As of September 2, 2017

Need Sponsors: K5BRY, WQ7O, KC0URL, SM9A, K5VWW, N9NB

Invitations Extended: WA8KAN, DM4CW

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the "Members Only" page on the website: www.cwops.org. For information about joining CWops, check the "Membership" page on the website: www.cwops.org

Notes: If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new QTH, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to membership@cwops.org. Please let me know if you have another active callsign so I can add it to the roster. Vice versa, if your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

Thank you.

73,

Trung, W6TN, Membership Secretary

Deadline For CW Open Logs

PLEASE remember to submit your logs for the CW Open held on September 2. If you did not have the opportunity to participate in all 3 sessions, please submit for the session(s) that you did operate. All logs must be submitted by September 16th.

The log submission process is on the CWOpen web page: www.cwops.org/cwopen and about half way down the page: www.b4h.net/cwops

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
W1RM	698	4883
AA3B	685	6560
N8BJQ	652	4531
N5PHT	650	2375
VE3KI	644	4297
F6HKA	637	4487
DL6KVA	579	1494
K1ESE	571	2813
K5AX	558	2602
K8AJS	495	1236
NA6O	457	1971
KY7M	440	3252
K9WX	422	2161
NN4K	406	1496
N1DC	402	1706
K0MP	396	683
K0TC	377	2048
K1DJ	365	912
KE4S	358	1337
IT9VDQ	352	1282
K3SEN	346	1240
AA8TA	336	489
IT9MUO	332	1590
W0VX	331	2988
I5EFO	306	536
W9ILY	303	2943
F6JOE	286	2742
K5IX	274	892
W4VQ	266	2581

Call	DX Total
W1RM	177
F6HKA	168
W4VQ	145
G4BUE	126
N5RR	118
OK1RR	115
VE3KI	114
N8BJQ	114
OH2BN	112
EA8OM	111
K1ESE	102
DL6KVA	102
AA3B	97
W0VX	93
SM6CNN	93
EA1WX	92
W9ILY	91
N5PHT	86
N1EN	86
KY7M	86
IT9MUO	85
F6JOE	84
AD1C	83
K5AX	80
PA7RA	79
KZ5D	78
DL8PG	78
4X6GP	76
W1UU	75

Call	WAS
N5RR	50
W1RM	50
W4VQ	50
F6HKA	50
W1UU	50
VE3KI	50
G4BUE	50
EA8OM	50
W0EJ	50
F6JOE	50
W6KY	50
N1EN	50
N5PHT	50
F5MNK	50
K5IX	50
K3SEN	50
AD1C	50
AB7MP	50
AA3B	50
K5AX	50
I5EFO	50
VK7CW	50
DL6KVA	50
K0TC	50
KY7M	50
W9ILY	49
W0VX	49
NN4K	49
NA6O	49

Call	WAE
W1RM	48
F6HKA	45
OK1RR	44
N5RR	43
G4BUE	43
VE3KI	42
N8BJQ	42
EA8OM	42
W4VQ	41
I5EFO	41
OH2BN	40
AA3B	40
DL6KVA	38
SM6CNN	37
K1ESE	36
IT9MUO	36
F6JOE	36
W1UU	34
W0VX	34
KZ5D	34
KR3E	34
EA1WX	34
W9ILY	33
N1EN	32
KY7M	32
IT9VDQ	32
F5MNK	32
PA7RA	31
DL8PG	31

Call	WAZ
W1RM	38
F6HKA	38
W4VQ	37
G4BUE	37
VE3KI	36
N5RR	36
N5PHT	33
IK0YVV	32
DL6KVA	32
VK7CW	30
JF2IWL	25
F5IYJ	20
W6NS	19
N1DC	19
NN4K	9
ND1R	5

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Call	ACA	CMA
RM2D	250	623
W6KY	248	2088
AD1C	241	2101
G4BUE	234	3287
KE4RG	222	376
W1UU	204	2038
G0MGM	184	341
VK7CW	180	1267
K6DGW	177	1714
G4HZV	169	398
AB7MP	166	732
4X6GP	156	1095
G4NVR	156	356
DL8PG	150	1743
F5IYJ	110	578
ND1R	61	67
JF2IWL	34	923
N5RR	0	4098
K6RB	0	3658
KZ5D	0	3239
IK0NOJ	0	3093
EA8OM	0	2758
SM6CNN	0	2477
N1EN	0	1928
N2UU	0	1774
EA1WX	0	1724
OK1RR	0	1618
NN6T	0	1577
GW0ETF	0	1451
KG5U	0	1322
PA7RA	0	1200
KR3E	0	1136
F5MNK	0	1111
W6NS	0	1090
KT5V	0	1088
AD5A	0	1071
4Z1UF	0	1032
W5ASP	0	1018
PA4N	0	955

Call	DX
VK7CW	74
KR3E	73
I5EFO	71
N1ZX	70
F5IYJ	69
F5MNK	68
NN6T	67
IT9VDQ	67
GW0ETF	67
RM2D	62
IK0YVV	57
W6KY	56
K6RB	56
NA6O	53
KE4S	53
K0TC	53
JF2IWL	51
K1DJ	50
4Z1UF	50
G4DRS	49
WB9G	48
NN4K	47
K9WX	45
N1DC	44
K3SEN	43
G4HZV	42
KT5V	41
K8AJS	41
HB9ARF	41
G0MGM	40
K6DGW	39
W6NS	38
K2ZC	37
W0EJ	36
KG5U	35
G4NVR	35
AD5A	35
K0DTJ	29
G3YJQ	27

Call	WAS
N8BJQ	49
N1DC	49
KT5V	49
K9WX	49
K6RB	49
K6DGW	49
K1ESE	49
K1DJ	49
GW0ETF	49
WB9G	48
W6NS	48
SM6CNN	48
NN6T	48
N1ZX	48
KZ5D	48
KE4S	48
K0MP	48
IT9VDQ	48
IK0YVV	48
DL8PG	48
AD5A	48
4X6GP	48
VE3MV	47
NU7Y	47
KR3E	47
K8AJS	47
K0DTJ	47
JF2IWL	47
WX7SJ	46
KG5U	46
IT9MUO	46
G4DRS	46
EA1WX	46
AA8TA	46
OK1RR	45
K3WJV	45
K2ZC	45
F5IYJ	45
PA7RA	44

Call	WAE
K5AX	30
IK0YVV	30
4X6GP	30
NN6T	29
RM2D	28
N1ZX	28
GW0ETF	28
AD1C	28
F5IYJ	27
K1DJ	26
JF2IWL	26
G4HZV	26
VK7CW	24
N5PHT	24
KE4S	24
K6RB	24
G4DRS	24
K8AJS	23
HB9ARF	23
G4NVR	23
G0MGM	23
N1DC	21
4Z1UF	21
K2ZC	20
WB9G	19
NA6O	19
K9WX	19
W6KY	18
NN4K	18
G3YJQ	18
AD5A	18
KG5U	17
K3SEN	17
K0TC	17
K3WJV	16
KT5V	14
W6NS	12
VE3MV	12
K6DGW	12

Call	WAZ

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Call	ACA	CMA
N1ZX	0	940
WB9G	0	888
K3WJV	0	882
K2ZC	0	767
IK0YVV	0	767
W0EJ	0	754
K0DTJ	0	742
HB9ARF	0	723
KM4FO	0	721
VE3MV	0	664
WX7SJ	0	610
WT2P	0	574
OH2BN	0	530
G4DRS	0	496
NU7Y	0	479
W5TM	0	235
G3YJQ	0	234
G3XLG	0	201
NV9X	0	149
KE6K	0	116
G0DJA	0	23
PA1FOX	0	5

Call	DX
K3WJV	25
K5IX	24
VE3MV	23
AB7MP	22
NU7Y	21
G3XLG	18
K0MP	17
WT2P	14
W5TM	11
AA8TA	11
KM4FO	10
KE4RG	10
G0DJA	10
ND1R	5
NV9X	4
KE6K	4

Call	WAS
KM4FO	43
HB9ARF	43
OH2BN	42
RM2D	39
KE4RG	39
NV9X	38
G3YJQ	37
4Z1UF	36
G4NVR	35
WT2P	34
G4HZV	34
W5TM	32
G0MGM	32
G3XLG	31
ND1R	24
KE6K	17
G0DJA	8

Call	WAE
W0EJ	10
G3XLG	10
K5IX	8
K0MP	8
W5TM	7
G0DJA	7
AB7MP	7
KE4RG	6
K0DTJ	6
AA8TA	6
KM4FO	5
WT2P	4
ND1R	2
NV9X	1

Call	WAZ

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Gary Stone N5PHT]

Welcome to August 2017 QTX report. Hope you have enjoyed August from your part of the planet. Here in Texas it has been hot and some localized flooding before Harvey hit the coast. We are far north from Houston and the devastated counties in South Texas and our prayers go out for that part of Texas.

Band conditions continue to be dismal and it seems like there is a lot of noise, at least that is the case at my QTH.

I am hopeful for better conditions in the Fall. As I complete this column we are sitting at Queen Wilhelmina State Park in NW Arkansas camping for a couple of weeks and we will enjoy a nice Hamfest also.

If you want to be added to the QTX listings (and I sure hope you do) just send in your count for the month from the Members Only Section of the Web Page.

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Remember any 20 minute or longer QSO counts and it does NOT have to be with a CWOps Member. Only CWOps Members can send in reports but the rag chews can be with anyone and as often as you like for multiple counts.

Good News: The QTX Awards certificates are getting closer to being a reality. You will be able to print them yourself and the certificates start at 100 QTX points.

I appreciate the comments that are being received. Thanks and keep them coming. All comments are greatly welcomed but I will probably just list in the column those related to QTX.

Soapbox Comments

I5EFO, Emil: This month I did 218 QSOs, of which 19 were longer than 20 minutes. My longer QSO I did with my son IW5EFO (CWops # 1574) and it was 35 minutes long. I really enjoy.

K6DGW, Fred: Haven't had much on-air time this month, but it took fewer total Q's to get 5 over 20 min. Progress.

K5KV, Benny: A light month for me.

G0MGM, Rob: I was listening up around 14.065Mhz, and heard a 9J2BO in Zambia, so this was a new country for me. I called him expecting it to be a short 599 TU type of contact, but ended up chatting to him for 50 minutes. Brian retired out there after spending 30 odd years as a teacher so it was very interesting to chat to. From now on I won't just take it for granted that all DX is just interested in the 599 QSO!

G4ILW, James: Bands still quite poor - most QSO round EU on 80m and 40m. Some QSOs "necessarily" longer on QRP using my new K1.

K1ESE, John: Band conditions still not great. Of 47 points - 80m 19, 40m 18, 30m 6, 20m 4. Hard to keep a long conversation going with QSB.

N7YT, Bill: Lightning bug wide open with Jerry K9JB using QSK. Great back and forth contacts. Put dot stabilizer on bug and works a bit slower max but extra dots have nearly vanished.

Remember that we give out QTX Medals at the end of the year for 3 levels:

Gold Medal – 400 QTX Points

Silver Medal – 300 QTX Points

Bronze Medal – 200 QTX Points

And so far this year we have several medal winners:

GOLD – N5PHT

SILVER – N5IR, K5KV, K1ESE

BRONZE – KC0CKN, G4ILW

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QTX Reports for July 2017

Call	August
N5PHT	79
K1ESE	47
N7YT	26
K8UDH	25
G4ILW	25

Call	August
K5KV	22
K5YQF	22
I5EFO	19
KB6NU	18
KC0VKN	18

Call	August
HB9CVQ	12
K4AHO	11
F5IYJ	9
K0DTJ	8
N4DT	7

Call	August
K6DGW	5
G0MGM	2

Personal bests for the year: HB9CVQ, G0MGM, and N7YT.

Leader for the month is N5PHT with 79 and second is K1ESE with 47 and N7YT jumped up to third place with 26. We had 17 reports and 355 QSOs and that is not bad!

Medal Standings for the year 2017

Call	YTD
N5PHT	826
N5IR	386
K5KV	347
K1ESE	342
KC0VKN	247
G4ILW	212
I5EFO	179

Call	YTD
K5YQF	162
KB6NU	156
K4AHO	115
K8UDH	115
N4DT	68
WA8IWK	66
N4EEV	56

Call	YTD
HB9CVQ	53
N7YT	42
K0DTJ	41
K6DGW	33
F5IYJ	27
W3WHK	19
W5JQ	14

Call	YTD
K6HP	11
NN4K	6
N5LB	5
K3TN	4
G0MGM	2
KE4RG	2

Hope you can find some time in your schedules to sit and relax with a nice rag chew or two. It helps the day go by and you never know who you may meet on the other end of the wireless! Once you get past RST, QTH and Name you can get into some interesting stuff and you will likely discover we are all not so different with many similar experiences.

Hope to cu on the bands.

73,

Gary, N5PHT, QTX Manager

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.

From the looks of the schedule of events below it appears that this is the "calm before the storm". From late October through the end of the year the ether will be packed with frantic signals. Now's the time to tweak the antennas and sort out the rigs and controls. There's enough upcoming activity to thoroughly check the station and make any last minute adjustments. Don't get caught unprepared.

The Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW (SAC) is probably not as well known as some of the other European events, but it does attract a strong following. Eleven hundred plus logs were submitted for the 2016 contest. A good way to gear up for this activity is to download and look over the SAC 2016 Results Booklet. It can be found at: http://www.sactest.net/blog/2016-booklet-ready/

Scandinavian stations include a dozen DXCC entities, i.e. Svalbard, Bear Island, Jan Mayen, Norway, Finland, Aland Islands, Market Reef, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Denmark, Sweden and Iceland. That's quite a unique collection of call signs. It's certainly worth setting aside some time, checking propagation and making a thorough search of the bands.

This may well be the apex of the state QSO party season with nine events scheduled over the upcoming period. The premier events are usually the Texas and California QSO parties. Check them all, you may be surprised at what you find. With two or more a weekend it's a chance to "multi-task" or even SO2R (if you can get both rigs on the same band). Twenty is usually the preferred hangout for CW ops. As always, it's the mobiles who give the events their luster. Keep in mind that they tend to return to the same frequency after mode changes.

For those who can find some spare time during the week there's a wealth of "sprints" coming up in the days ahead. Together with the CWTs they provide brief periods of CW activity between the weekend events. They'll keep the skills sharp.

Till next time … Keep on pounding.

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER EVENTS

Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW http://www.sactest.net/blog/rules/	1200Z, Sep 16th to 1200Z, Sep 17th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 15th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Sep 29th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 6th
NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 13th

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SKCC Sprint 000Z-0200Z, Sep 27th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon 1200Z, Oct 7 to 2400Z, Oct 8th
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Sep 21st
NAQCC CW Sprint 0030Z-0230Z, Oct 11th
http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201707.html

FISTS Fall Slow Speed Sprint 1700Z-2100Z, Oct 7th
FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint 700Z-2100Z, Oct 14TH
14http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints

Iowa QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 16th to 0200Z, Sep 17th
http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP

Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, Sep 16th to 0700Z, Sep 17th & 1600Z-2400Z, Sep 17th
http://www.wwdxc.org/2016-salmon-run-information/

New Hampshire QSO Party 1600Z, Sep 16th to 0400Z, Sep 17th & 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 17th
http://www.w1wqm.org/nhqso/NEW_HAMPSHIRE_QSO_PARTY_RULES.pdf

New Jersey QSO Party 1600Z, Sep 16th to 0359Z, Sep 17th & 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 17th
http://www.k2td-bcrc.org/njqp/njqp_rules.html

Maine QSO Party 1200Z, Sep 23rd to 1200Z, Sep 24th
http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm/Maine_QSO_Party.html

Texas QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 23rd to 0200Z, Sep 24th
1400Z-2000Z, Sep 24th
http://www.txqp.net/

California QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 7th to 2200Z, Oct 8th
http://www.cqp.org/Rules.html

Arizona QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 14th to 0600Z, Oct 15th
1400Z-2359Z, Oct 15th
http://www.azqsoparty.org/

Pennsylvania QSO Party 1600Z, Oct 14th to 0500Z, Oct 15th
1300Z-2200Z, Oct 15th
http://www.nittany-arc.net/pqppdf/PAQSO%202016%20Rules.pdf

73,

Joe, W5ASP, Upcoming CW Operating Events

My Story: New Member Biographies

Steve Strauss NY3B

As NY3B I live in Orefield, PA., a small village near Allentown (1 hour from Philadelphia and 90 minutes from NYC by car). I was first licensed at the age of 16 as WB3GTT (later becoming N1DKQ) and in my 40+ years of Amateur Radio I have met a lot of interesting people from all over the world! I almost exclusively use CW, and mainly enjoy chasing DX and building equipment. I do enjoy the Digital modes as well and am spending more time with JT-65, FT-8, and RTTY. I am a member of the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) and I work with the WE3C contest team during the major contests- with my focus being 10m. I have participated in past contests with the DL9W team in Bavaria and am periodically active from J6 (see photo) in Rodney Bay, St Lucia. In 2000 I received the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Technical Service Award- which was a real honor. I serve as a consultant to the ARRL on issues pertaining to EMC and am also a Volunteer Examiner.

In my professional life I am an electrical engineer and currently work in the Advanced Technology Group for Infinera Corporation creating high capacity optical transmission equipment for Digital Optical Networks with a focus in large scale photonic integration R&D.

Ray Goebel KC0URL

I am a retired computer programmer age 73, first licensed in 1959 when in High School. I went away to college and stopped hamming until I retired ten years ago. My wife Mary was born and raised in Ireland. We visit summers where I operate as EI3KB. I am happy to join CW ops.

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Leroy "Lee" Buller K0WA

www.k0wa.com

I was born in 1950 and by the time I was a pre-teen I was listening to "rock and roll" on the local AM stations. At night, I liked to tune around to see how far I could receive stations from the middle of Kansas. That lead me ham radio at the age of 15.

I was WN0OWN for a year and could not pass the 13 wpm code exam. Finally passed the code with flying colors and received the call WA0SWC which I had till 1977 then I applied for K0WA. During those years, I honed my CW skill on the National Traffic System I was a net control for QKS, the Kansas CW Traffic net at the age of 17, was a regular on the Tenth Region CW Net, and went to Central Area Net many times to handle traffic. Those days are long passed.

I attended Kansas State University in the 70s and activated W0QQQ many times on CW and Phone Sweepstakes with a host of other operators. There, I got the contesting bug. That bug bit me hard too.

After graduation, I moved to Salina, Kansas which had a superb amateur radio club and a lot of contesters. I was in radio being a newsman for KSAL for years. There I honed my contesting and DXing skills with the likes of WA0TKJ and AB0S. Tim, AB0S and I have been hamming together for over 40 years.

I then took a job at K-State as a professor of Journalism and Mass Communication and had access to a 200 foot tower. I retired two years ago from IT where I worked as a manager at a medical center, the computer "guy" at a small school district, and a help desk guru at a manufacturing plant.

My current station features a plain-Jane K3, P3, AL82, and a Palstar HF Auto. Antennas are a C3E at 60 feet, dipoles for 80 and 40, a full size 40 meter vertical with 32 radials, and a 160 meter inverted-L. I have no VHF equipment.

I have been married for 45 years, have a daughter and a son and one granddaughter.

Ron Burkholder KB3AAY

I was born in Baltimore in 1948 and lived there for 10 years until moving to Baltimore County. As a teenager I enjoyed listening to Short Wave Radio and especially the Ham bands. I didn't get a license then because I didn't think that I could learn and pass the Morse Code requirement.

After 2 1/2 years of college I entered the U.S. Army in 1970 and served in the 47th Finance and Accounting Office in Thailand on the Gulf of Siam. Our tour of duty was designated a "Hardship Tour" due to its remote location, but we all felt very fortunate to be doing our tour of duty there during the Vietnam years. I served in the military from 1970-1972. After my military service I was accepted for a position by the Social Security Administration Headquarters in Baltimore as a Disability Claims Authorizer. I worked there for 33 years and retired in 2006

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In 1992 I was in Radio Shack and saw a study manual by Gordon West on getting your Novice Class License, complete with 2 Morse Code audio tapes. I thought it was now or never so I bought the study guide and after about 6 weeks or so I passed the Novice Code and written test. When I upgraded to Technician I also took the General Code test and passed that. Later on I passed the General written test.

Along the way I became hooked on CW and think of it as a second language. I have made thousands of enjoyable CW QSO's on the air and currently do CW practice at 40-45 wpm.

I have been married to my wife Becky since 1981 and we live on a 5 1/2 acre partially wooded lot in Carroll County 25 miles NW of Baltimore. We do not have any children but have had several cats and a dog over the years. We currently have a long hair white cat named Babe. Becky retired from County Government in 1999 after 30 years of service. She enjoys growing plants and flowers and has 15 flower beds which keeps her very busy.

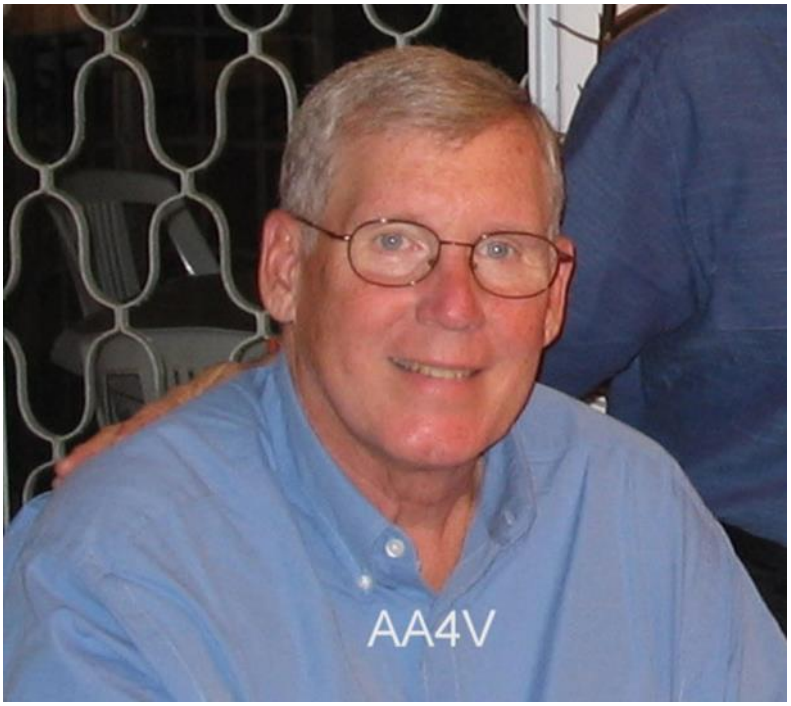
We both enjoy watching the wildlife in the area and have tried to make our lot a bird friendly habitat. We have 8 bird feeding stations with suet baskets and many birdbaths and birdhouses.

My current ham station consists of an Elecraft K3 and a G5RV up 40 ft. Iambic Paddles are a Kent, Bencher, and a Vibroplex. The keyboard is an AEA model KK-1. External keyer is a Logikey. I never sold any of my rigs so I also have a TS-850, a TS-570, a FT-990, and an Omni 6+. I enjoy CW ragchewing and for the last couple of years casual CW and RTTY contesting.

I was an avid bicyclist for 30 years but since 2005 have been getting my exercise by using a treadmill 5 times a week. I had successful heart bypass surgery in 2004

My wife has been very supportive of my ham activities over the years. I am currently trying to convince her that I need an amp for contesting. We will see how that goes. I am glad to be "on board" with the CWops club and looking forward to making many CW QSOs

Steve Reichlyn, AA4V



I was born in 1943 in Washington, DC. At the age of10, I discovered my grandfather's console radio with short wave bands. Like many, I was hooked the first time I heard the BBC and Radio Moscow.

I found myself around ham radio operators as a teen ager but was unable to put enough money together to build a station. I would wander over to a local ham's shack and sit next to him in a room full of equipment, listening while they worked the world. It wasn't until my college years that I was able to get my license. I was first licensed as WN3JDA, then WA3JDA. After school, I was in the military for several years and became active on the bands in 1968 when I

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left the service. Oddly, the apartment building where I lived in Silver Spring, MD was also occupied by 3 hams, within 100 feet of each other. Back in the day, we were fortunate to have an understanding manager at Hampshire West who allowed us each to erect an antenna on the roof. We each had to be very careful to let the others know when we were going on the air due to the closeness of the stations.

One of the residents came up to my door and asked me if I was a ham. Concerned a bit by his query, it turned out that my visitor was the fellow who moved in just below me. He instroduced himself as Don Mikes, AA1V (he had a W3 call at the time). We became fast friends and when we traded our calls in for new ones in 1977, I got AA4V and Don got AA1V.

I moved to South Carolina in 1970. I've lived here on the Isle of Palms, near Charleston, since 1994. Nice being on an IOTA island (NA110) and rare grid square (FM02). We are located directly on salt water which has truly enhanced my ham radio experience. I love CW, SSB, RTTY and digital modes. I am also a degenerate contester and have operated from 6Y, HV3SJ, 4U1ITU, VP2KC, G, ON4, 4X, VP9, PJ7, KL7, KH6, VE1, VE7 and FS. I have also guest-oped at NQ4I's super multi-multi in GA.

Current setup here is Elecraft K3 and Yaesu FT1000D. Amps include ACOM 2000 and SPE Expert 1.3k-fa. Antennas are 70 foot vertical mounted on the end of a 150 foot long pier. I use two resonant elevated radials for 80 and 160. I feed the antenna on top band through a switchable hi-Q matching network. On 40 and 30, I use verticals mounted on a seawall with about 15 radials in the sea water for an excellent ground return. I use a SteppIR 3el Yagi at 60 feet for 20-6.

I'm on top of the Honor Roll for Mixed and Phone 363/339 (still need P5 on CW). Hold 160 DXCC #63 and 160 WAZ (all zones) of #24. I really appreciate the opportunity to join with other CWOps.

Randy Farmer W8FN

I was born and raised in Owensboro, Kentucky. Starting as a SWL with first an Allied Ocean Hopper and then a now-forgotten brand console radio with a couple of short wave bands. In 1964 I took the class sponsored by the Owensboro Amateur Rdio Club and passed the exam for Novice. I was issued WN4TTE in June 1964. With a crude station consisting of a Lafayette HE-40 receiver (a Japanese clone of the Hallicrafters S-120) and an ancient Heath AT-1 transmitter, I managed to make quite a few 40 meter contacts. In 1965, shortly before the Novice ticket was due to expire, I passed the Conditional exam and went on the air as WA4TTE.

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Throughout my high school years I was active as WA4TTE, either ragchewing or DXing on 40 meter CW or handling traffic on the Kentucky Traffic Net (KYN) and the 9th Region Net (9RN) on 80 meters. I first upgraded my transmitter to a borrowed homebrew 75 watt VFO transmitter built by WA4KFO (an engineer at the GE Owensboro tube plant who did much of the original work on adapting TV sweep tubes for HF linear amplifier duty) and then picked up a Heath DX-100. I well remember what my Elmer W4OYI said when I dragged the DX-100 home and first put it on the air -- "Get it off!". The cathode keying with my bug produced dits on one frequency and dahs on a slightly different frequency, with a good measure of key clicks thrown in as a bonus. I got to work modifying the thing and after a fair amount of work I had converted it to a differential keying scheme similar to that used in the Johnson Ranger. It actually produced an acceptable, if drifty, signal after these modifications. I wasn't the least bit interested in phone, so I just removed all the modulator circuitry while I was at it to reduce the load on the power supply.

I also began building several electronic keyers, eventually learning to use a TO-style keyer. Sometime in 1967 I managed to get a really good deal on a genuine Hallicrafters HA-1 TO Keyer, and I was good to go. As my bug skills faded, I came to grips with the electronic keyer and my code speed began to climb. I received my 30 wpm Code Proficiency certificate from ARRL in January 1967.

In 1967 I graduated from High School and decided to attend the University of Evansville in nearby Evansville, Indiana. My dad had a business that was located in the Evansville area, so in the summer of 1967 the family moved across the river to Indiana and I traded WA4TTE for WA9VZM. Also in 1967, the details of the ARRL/FCC incentive licensing were finalized. I quickly realized that if I wanted to keep operating on the low end of 40 I would need to upgrade to Amateur Extra. That fall I made the 100+ mile drive to Louisville and sat for the exam. Since I was a Conditional, I had to pass the tests for General, Advanced and Extra at one sitting. I did manage to talk the FCC examiner into giving me the 20 wpm code test right away. Using my traffic handling experience I handed in a perfect copy of the receiving test text with every 5th word slashed off so I could get the check right.

The college years of 1968 through 1971 went pretty quickly. I spent most of my on-air time on the traffic nets and working DX. I did manage to get my CP-35 certification in 1969. Upon graduation in 1971 I went to work for a short time in southern Indiana. Early in 1972 I accepted an offer of employment with the US Air Force at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. With this relocation my call was changed to WB8MKZ (really ugly for CW) and I continued to mostly operate on the traffic nets. My antenna at a small apartment was pretty poor, and I really didn't work much DX. I did participate regularly in the old ARRL CD Parties, which further accelerated my growing interest in contesting.

In 1976 I was finally able to buy a house and put up somewhat better antennas. As my antennas improved I began to participate in more contests, especially Sweepstakes CW. In early 1977 I became eligible to request a new call, and quickly made my application. In April 1977 W8FN re-appeared on the airwaves for the first time in many years.

The antenna farm quickly grew and by the early '80s I had two towers with stacked Yagis, including a short 2-element 40, crammed into a quarter acre lot. By then most of my activity was in contests, and I was actually starting to do reasonably well in a few big DX contests. Starting sometime around 1980 I also fell in with a group of contesters in northwest Ohio and eventually became one of the principals at the KS8S multiop station, frequently making the 100 mile drive north with my old Buick station wagon stuffed with Drake C-lines, boxes full of cables, and bunches of miscellaneous station accessories for a weekend of multiop fun.

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In 1987 I took the plunge and bought a new semi-rural property north of Dayton, this time with a bit over 2.5 acres of land, and began to build a proper contest station. This ended up being a pretty good station. It featured two towers with monoband Yagis for 40 through 10 meters and wires for 80. The shorter 80 foot tower was shunt fed to serve as the 160 antenna. We began to do multi-single efforts in the major DX contests with good results. At the time I was blessed with several good young operators/tower monkeys who helped maintain the station and put in lots of operator time, including KU8E and N8SM (SK). I also did lots of single op contesting, especially in the domestic contests such as Sweepstakes that I really prefer. I also managed to complete 5BDXCC and 160 meter WAS with this station. Those were good times.

In 1997 I relocated to North Texas, just west of Fort Worth, as the result of a job change. Going from a big station with good antennas back to low wires was an interesting challenge, but I was determined to do the best I could with what I had. I began to concentrate especially on domestic contests, where my antenna deficit was not as critical. I also discovered that Texas is a great place to be for Sweepstakes. In 2001 I finally put a small triband Yagi up about 25 feet on a roof tower. This greatly improved my signal on the high bands.

In 2005 I undertook the biggest life change of all when I got married for the first time at age 56. For various logistical reasons, it made the most sense to move into my new wife's house in the city of Arlington. So I was back to where I started almost 30 years earlier, on a 0.2 acre lot with no room for antennas. This time there were NOT going to be any towers in the back yard, so I began planning my new station carefully. I ended up with a 3 element SteppIR on the roof tower at about 35 feet. I put up a 50 foot top wire loaded vertical for 80 meters that does double duty as a support for a 40 meter inverted vee and a 30 meter end-fed wire. The 160 meter antenna is an inverted L that goes about 30 feet up a tree and another 100 feet or so to a tree in the front yard. A K2AV Folded Counterpoise eventually replaced the radials there weren't room for, and I found to my surprise that I can actually get myself heard on 160.

Beginning in 2008 I began a serious station building effort to put together a state-of-the-art Single Operator Two Radio (SO2R) station that is limited only by the quality and quantity of available antennas. My design goal is to have the radio hardware completely ready to support a retirement station with real antennas. The station is and probably always will be a work in progress, but it works really well. I've been especially gratified with the results I've achieved in Sweepstakes competing against stations with superior antenna systems. I have placed first in the North Texas section in Single Operator Low Power class in Sweepstakes CW for the last seven years, winning the West Gulf Division title in that class five of those years. I have also worked enough DX to get on the DXCC Honor Roll with 350 Mixed (334 active) and 330 CW.

I'm currently partially retired, working 3 days per week. Within the next few years I expect to retire completely. Upon retirement we plan to move out of the city and I'll finally be able to have a decent antenna system again, although I have no intention of building up a multi-tower installation.

For now I'll still be on the air from Arlington. I hope to continue working lots of the CW Ops for many years to come. Thanks for the QSOs and may there be many more..

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Martin Gloger, PhD DM4CW

As a child interests for electronics and radio technology emerged however I got my first license later when I was 18. I started with DD3MG in May 1997 (no code VHF/UHF only) and upgraded to DH3MG in October 1997 by taking the code test. As a novice I got a license for 80m/15m as well as 10m. The solar activity was not sufficient for regular work on 10 meters and chats on 80m more annoying than interesting so I started working mainly on 15 CW which made QSOs to NA or JA possible on a regular basis. It was a huge advance even I had just a small rig with some piece of wire. After I got the full license in 1998 I kept keying. My skills got better and better and I was nominated for HSC in 1999. My main Ham Radio interests are DX, contest and CW ragchewing. I try new modes as well but they are always getting boring to me very soon. In 2016 I had a lot of fun joining the 7P8C team in Lesotho and did some QSOs heading to Lesotho with ZS/DM4CW. In 2017 I´ve been elected as vice chairman to the German activity group CW (AGCW-DL). I´m writing the CW-column in German Ham Radio Magazine *Funkamateur*. At home I´m using a very simple rig with 100 watts and a vertical but I am a visiting op at various clubs. I meet some CW-Ops like Bud AA3B and Tom DL5DBI at the AGCW-DL booth in Friedrichshafen and am looking forward to even more contacts and CW gatherings. Next to Ham Radio I´ve got a 14 year old son – unfortunately he´s not interested in ham radio, hi – and teach sociology at a community college in Hannover. Next to ham radio I´m an avid reader and enjoy music like playing the guitar and piano.

Pam Marshall N5KW

Being first licensed in the summer of 1976 at the age of 16, my , dad, brother, and I all took our novice test together and impatiently waited what seemed an eternity for the mail. About three weeks later dad and brother received their calls. Although mine didn't come I at least knew it would be one side or the other of WN5TGZ and WN5THA and spent that night sending my "new call". Three weeks later and still no call my dad telephoned the FCC and explained the situation. Within a couple of days I was officially WN5AB! As this was in the time before vanity calls, it quickly became painfully clear that no one was going to work me, as I must be a bootlegger!

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My brother WN5SVV who lived across the pasture got on the air with me. After a question and answer session with me explaining the situation (all a set up) I was finally off and running. The FCC in all of its infinite wisdom realized the error of their ways and 3 days later I received a new call...WT5NAB for temporary. WN5SVV and I were back to square one. Finally making Q's again, the following day I received WN5UQH. Eleven months later and several trips to Dallas TX (about 250 mi from home) to test in front of the FCC, I received my Extra class and my current call of N5KW.

I have now been on the air 41 years, 37 of those married to Connie, K5CM. We have one daughter, Melissa, N5KK (my dad's old call) whom we enjoy operating with.

In the early years of my radio career I was very active on 144 MHz, working the 48 continental US on varying modes of propagation and completing WAS with the use of Moonbounce. On 50 MHz I enjoyed chasing DX and completing DXCC. On the HF bands you can find us operating contests, state QSO parties from the mobile, and of course CWT's along with many other modes. Amateur radio has provided me the opportunity to operate from PY5, Brazil and VP5, Turks & Caicos. Running the pileups on phone with the female voice is a lot of fun.

When not on the air, I am an avid bowler and enjoy spending time on the many Oklahoma lakes.

Don Field G3XTT

Don Field G3XTT (also AB1UO having, carelessly, let my previous and more appropriate NK1G callsign lapse). Live near Henley-on-Thames (famous for its annual regatta), about 30 miles west of London. Licensed 1968 and have been active at one time or another on all bands 160m through 70cm. However, main interests are DXing and contesting, with a focus on CW and on the LF bands. Married with two grown-up children and two grandchildren. Worked in telecomms for 30+ years and now semi-retired but edit *Practical Wireless* magazine (a sort of UK equivalent to CQ Mag). Enjoy travel, especially DXpeditioning or more casual operating from abroad. Home station changes from time to time but currently have IC-7300/Expert amp plus K3/P3/KPA500. 60ft mast currently supporting 204BA and wires. Use a Begali paddle that I won in the CW pile-up competition at the LADX Group gathering in Norway! Am currently President of CDXC (the UK DX Foundation), Treasurer of FOC and belong to a number of other radio-related clubs (not least RSGB, ARRL, UKSMG).