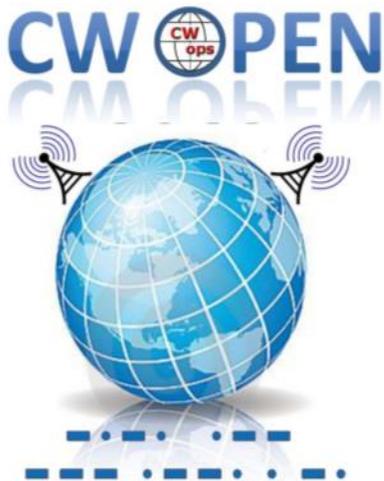




Revised Results 2017 CW Open



Revised top ten results for low power sessions 2 and 3:
see [page 8](#)

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)

Avoid DX pileups!

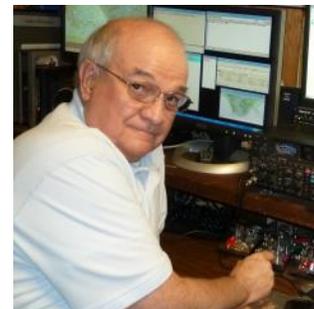
CWops “neighborhood”: Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028, 50.098 “and up”

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: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)
 Editor/Publisher: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

President’s Message

The New Year has started and let me wish all of you a Happy New Year! Whether making goals or resolutions, it’s a good time to pause and reflect on accomplishments in 2017 and think about what changes or improvements are possible for 2018. I’m working on a few of them. I would also like to express appreciation for all the work and energy invested by our officers and managers. Most would agree that the results have been very successful. CWops is a positive organization of hams who like to use Morse / CW in the hobby and a fun place waiting to be found and enjoyed by others.



CWT’s are our most frequent meeting grounds and the bottom of Solar Cycle 24 is giving us plenty of

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propagation challenges. We spend an hour, three times a day, once a week, sending CQ or responding to a CQ in order to log a contact. The comments in the 3830scores.com following a session tells us that all propagation is not equal. We use our best skills and make as many exchanges as we can or want. I'm often amazed by how high the contact rates are among the highest scores. That reflects on one of my goals for 2018, improve my contact rate/hr. Meanwhile, I hope every member will find some time to make some CWT contacts this year and have fun with the rest of us. It's great practice whether you are a runner or an S&P'er.

The [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) in 2018 will stimulate activity. That's another reason to get on the CWT sessions and make contacts. Be sure and upload your log to the [ARRL LOTW](#) *often* so those who are chasing grid squares can measure their results and know what they need in the future. I have noticed in our newsletter reports that a number of us are stuck on 49 States. Activity by members would be a cure for that.

The Jan-Feb CW Academy Semester has begun and a new crop of CW operators is a works-in-progress. Thanks to the volunteers who offer their time and dedicate their efforts to help other hams either learn Morse Code or help improve skills for those who could eventually become capable of 25 wpm proficiency and new members. The personal contact by the Advisors in the virtual class-rooms (Skype) helps keep students on task and getting the best training available. The semester will end near the end of February and then we will have one of our special 20 WPM CWT days in order to work them on HF.

There is an additional benefit for graduates of CWA and that is the new website that has been arranged by Jerry Wiesskohl, AC4BT, the CW Academy Manager. Jerry will have full details about it but essentially, it will be a website where students and members can log on and from there arrange for a CW QSO on the air with anyone else who is logged on. I encourage all members to support this effort by checking in and monitoring the activity. Most of the students will be looking to find contacts at slower speeds than 25 wpm. Especially students who graduate Level I and are developing their skills in the 10 to 15 wpm level. Your interest and help will go a long way in getting their confidence built up along with their HF communicating skills. Its use is not required, but it's available for helping newbies get their CW experiences going.

I had a response from one of our *Solid Copy* readers of the December 2017 issue who took me up on distributing some flyers at a hamfest he was going to attend. I sent him the .pdf files so he could get a few copies printed. I'm hoping he had a lot of success doing the distribution. He said he would report after the hamfest in January. If anyone else would like to do this, please email me so I can help get you started. If clubs want to have CWops speakers as a program, refer them to our CWops Ambassadors who can provide that service. I'm doing one at a small club meeting in February.

February is the month for the big [Florida HamCation in Orlando](#). I am planning to attend with the "Call Sign Copy Competition" in the booth. Usually there are other members who like to visit or help relieve me for a run through the convention. If you are there, please stop and say hello. The dates are February 9, 10.

73

Mac, NN4K, President

President's Message . . .
The [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) in 2018 will stimulate activity. That's another reason to get on the CWT sessions. Be sure and upload your log to the [ARRL LOTW](#) *often* so those who are chasing grid squares can measure their results.



From the [Editor](#)

Robbing Banks



I made my first FT8 QSO on Monday December 11.

You must be at least marginally familiar with FT8. It might be overstatement to say it has taken the amateur radio world by storm, but it's fair to say it is the latest and greatest when it comes to new things in the world of ham radio operating, especially when you consider it only came into public use June 29th of last year.

Several of the local operators I tend to hang with had been users of the JT modes that preceded FT8, and they quickly jumped on the FT8 wagon when it came along. I listened as they shared their experiences with a mostly “meh” reaction on my part. Then they started sharing stories of working DX and adding to their [DXCC Challenge](#) totals. That got my attention.

So on the morning of December 11 I downloaded and installed the software, dug into the help files, and several hours later I had my first FT8 QSO in the log. Later that day I added a new Challenge slot using the mode.

One of the great things about FT8: it can allow operators with a very limited station to make HF contacts. If you are concerned about newly licensed hams who buy a VHF/UHF HT, fiddle with that for a while and then lose interest because of a lack of challenge, then FT8 is a positive thing and may provide them a next step in the hobby.

However, if you love CW (and if you are reading this, that is almost certainly the case) there is a lot to NOT like about FT8. It's slow. You can't rag chew or exchange information much beyond the content of the standard messages. It has no contesting applicability. It lacks the visceral satisfaction of sending and receiving good sounding CW. And it is highly automated: more than once I've gotten distracted while sitting at the computer in the shack and, when my attention was drawn back to the screen, I found the computer had started and completed an FT8 QSO without any intervention from me.

[Willie Sutton](#) was an American bank robber who, according to legend, was asked by a newspaper reporter why he robbed banks. Legend says he answered “Because that's where the money is” and today the idea of not overlooking the obvious is known as [Sutton's law](#).

Here's the FT8 thing for me. I've enjoyed the challenge of setting it up and learning the software. I've enjoyed figuring out how to be a better FT8 operator, developing my repertoire of techniques to make more QSOs and make the QSOs that I want to make. But mostly I enjoyed adding over a dozen new Challenge slots in just the first two of weeks of use. So I will keep operating FT8 from time to time because, at least at this low point in the solar cycle, that's where the DX is, my version of Sutton's law.

Thanks, Hank

This issue of *Solid Copy* marks a milestone: the last “How We Were” column by Hank W6SX. First appearing in the March 2014 issue, “How We Were” chronicled the passage of time, showing some of our most

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distinguished and accomplished members at the earliest stages of their ham radio careers. And Hank was the guy who made it happen for 47 consecutive months. I've only been the *Solid Copy* editor for a year and I can tell you that Hank has always been the consummate professional: way ahead of the deadline for submitting his column and his copy never once needed to be edited. Fittingly, he is the subject of this month's "How We Were" and I can't think of a better way for him to end his tenure. Thanks, Hank, for your commitment to CWops and to the hobby. I count nearly 200 QSO's with you in my log and hope for many, many more in the years to come.



Hank, W6SX, in the shack

73

Tim, K9WX, Editor

December 31, 2017 CW Operators Club Financial Report

[Craig Thompson, Treasurer K9CT](#)

Cash Balances 12/31/2017

Bank of America	\$9916.09
Hometown Community Bank	6356.37
PayPal	5742.66

Investment Account (Life Memberships)

Legacy Investment Services, Inc.	\$102,214.12
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Revenue: Dues

PayPal	\$20,934.93
Direct (Cash or Check)	581.65

Expenses -

Marketing: Hamvention, Visalia and Tokyo Ham Fair	\$1227.43
Plaques and Awards: WAE, CQWW, CWT, CWO, QTX, NAQP, ARRL DX	
PayPal	\$4484.45
Direct	675.00
PayPal Fees	\$788.92
Postage	758.92

No person has been compensated from our funds

News & Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

We sadly report that **Chuck Comerford, WB2YIP**, went Silent key on December 9th 2017.

Steve, K2KRG: I am a new CWops member and I have just changed my call sign. My previous call sign was KD2KRG and my new call sign is **K2KRG**, I just dropped the “D” to make it a little easier.

Trung, W6TN/3W9T: I will travel to VN and intend to operate there as 3W9T on the next three CWT days (December 27, January 3 and January 10). Due to time/band constraints I will only operate on 20m/40m at 1300z.

Here is my plan: I will travel along the coast of VN from Hanoi to Saigon starting on Dec 25 to Jan 11. I will have a Yaesu FT-891, a Buddipole Deluxe antenna, an LDG Z11 Pro tuner, and a Gamma HPS-1 power supply with a tiny key as a portable setup. Before the CWT 1300z starts (local time 2000), I will try to setup at one of the registered hotels there. This is my second attempt to operate from VN. The first one in April was a disaster with zero contact using a local ham's equipment in Saigon.

Since the condition is marginal with a 100w rig and a dipole any QSO made to NA station will be a blessing. In addition, if everything works out I may operate on other dates. All QSOs, if done, will be posted using LoTW and Club Log. I don't have a QSL card yet but it may happen later.

Andy, AE6Y: I'll be at **P49Y** for ARRL CW in February. This will be my first all-bander from there since 2012, so I'll look forward to working CWops members! Past write-ups and results are at www.arubaqth.com.

Tom, AF4NC: I was recently vacationing in Maui in December and read on the blog that Rick NX6I and Alan KX6TU were having lunch at a restaurant near my hotel. I met them for lunch and had a great time meeting them and their wives. CWops everywhere!

Gary, N5PHT: Having finished 2017 CWTs without a miss I thought some members might be interested in some stats from this station.

Made 12,198 Qs for an average of 78 Q per session.

Worked 41 DXCC.

35 of the 156 sessions from Campgrounds in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Set my own personal record of breaking 10K points (only once so far!!)

And here is a chart of Qs per band:

160: 53, 80: 1775, 40: 5481, 20: 4663, 15: 226 and 10: zip

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So for me, 20 and 40 continue to be the bulk of the Qs. Until I put this down on paper I would have thought I made more on 20 than on 40 but I guess it makes sense in that (for me) 40 meters is logged every session and 20 meters only the 1300 and 1900 as generally 20 is dead for me at 0300. Band conditions of course dictate a bit on 10 and 15 and my antenna limitations determined my low numbers on 160m. By the time you read this I hope to be finishing 2 weeks on Galveston Island – IOTA fun!!



Joe, AA8TA: Congratulations to one of our newer members, Nancy Yoshida, KG0YL, who was appointed ARRL Section Manager for the North Dakota section. Must be a first that a CWops member who is also an 'Iditarod sled dog racer' received such an appointment!

Having said all that, I've always been curious why section manager appointments are made by an ARRL staffer - the radiosport manager, Norm Fusaro. Normally, section managers are elected but if one leaves before her/his term is up, the radiosport manager appoints a replacement. Seems like the division manager should handle that since he/she is also elected.

Kate: K6HTN: The following EMCOMM exercise may be of interest to CWops, especially the QRP & off-grid types:

Radio Relay International (RRI) is pleased to announce its First Quarter, 2018 EMCOMM Exercise. Traffic handlers, EMCOMM volunteers and radio amateurs in general will find this exercise interesting. It emphasizes portable field operation combined with basic message handling skills. It's a great opportunity to demonstrate the survivable characteristics of Amateur Radio networks in a public setting.

Please see the exercise scope and description document on our "Publications" page or click this link:

<http://radio-relay.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Announcement-2018-Q1-Exercise.pdf>

RRI is a new organization that has taken on much of the function of the National Traffic System. Browse the above link for more background information.

73,

Jerry, AC4BT, News & Notes

Guest Column: Saving the ARRL

[Rick Tavan N6XI](#) and [Jim Talens N3JT](#)

-An email from N3JT to all members covers similar material. If you have already acted on it, please disregard this reminder article.

A group of concerned US amateurs whose call signs you'll recognize (eight CWops members plus three other well-known hams) have been sharing their concern for the future of the ARRL and its Board of Directors, whose recent actions seem counter to the best interests of their members, amateur radio in general, and the precepts of open governance of any volunteer, membership organization. Although this is largely a concern to US hams, the ARRL also plays a leadership role in worldwide amateur radio. We believe it is vital to all amateurs that ARRL return to the democratic principles that have guided it for over 100 years.

Among the problems we have observed in the past two years are these:

- The Amateur Radio Parity Act was renegotiated to favor home owner associations. If adopted by Congress, HOAs could legally outlaw useful HF antennas.
- The new BoD Code of Conduct gags Directors and limits what members get to know.
- Our Directors' voting power could be diluted.
- ARRL memberships could be terminated for undefined reasons without due process.
- Vice Directors could have been eliminated, paving the way for an entirely appointed Board.
- The ARRL Board's governance proposals have generated significant undisclosed legal fees.
- An elected Director has been formally censured for mentioning the Code of Conduct in a public forum.
- Strong candidates for ARRL Board of Directors have been disqualified without explanation.

We won't go into detail on these issues. They are well documented on our brand new Web site, <https://www.myarrlvoice.org>. We have joined together to produce a letter you can send to your ARRL Director and officers if you agree with us. This follows on recent letters sent by NCCC, PVRC, FRC, other large radio clubs, and individuals. Our goal is to return ARRL to the membership-based organization it had been for 100 years. More immediately, though, there is an **ARRL Board meeting on January 19** that will consider a variety of proposals and we want to be sure we are heard in objecting to them. Click the link below and you'll be taken to a platform that explains the issues. You don't have to log in. Fill in the blanks on the right-hand side (some needed redundancies due to the tool – sorry) and edit or replace the default text as you see fit. Click Send and the system will automatically route your message to your Director and the ARRL officers, including your call sign, etc. You'll receive an email to confirm that the message has been sent.

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/myarrlvoice-member-letter-to-directors>

Thanks and 73,

Rick N6XI **Jim** N3JT



The 2017 CW Open – Results Update

[Bruce Meier – N1LN](#)

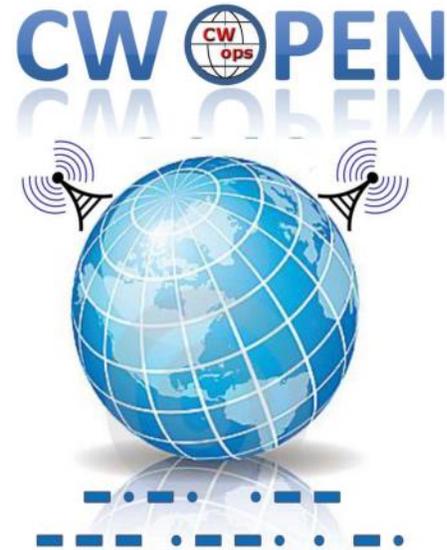
Shortly after last month's Solid Copy was distributed Eric (NP3A) contacted both Rob (K6RB) and myself about an omission in the results. Specifically, his entries in Session 2 and Session 3 were omitted. His logs were submitted well in advance of the deadline, but for some reason the processing software did not pull in his information. Below are the corrections. As you can see, Eric finished in the top 10 in both Session 2 and Session 3 in the low power group. Additionally, with his additional points added in, the Deep Dixie CC Team 1 moved into 2nd place in the team results with a score of 1,017,996 ahead of Team FRC's third place finish with a score of 949,848.

Eric – THANKS for bringing this omission to our attention and we are VERY sorry this happened.

NOTE: Should anyone else notice any issues with the results, please send me an email and it will be checked out immediately.

73,

Bruce, N1LN CWOpen Manager



Session 2– 1200Z to 1549Z Updated Top Ten, Low Power

Session 3– 2000Z to 2359Z Updated Top Ten, Low Power

Call	Name	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power	Call	Name	QSOs	Mults	Score	Power
W0UO	JIM	278	171	47538	LOW	K7SV	LAR	336	221	74256	LOW
K5KU	GARY	281	165	46365	LOW	K0AD	AL	270	183	49410	LOW
K0AD	AL	257	157	40349	LOW	W0UO	JIM	253	183	46299	LOW
K7SV	LAR	256	148	37888	LOW	NP3A	ERIC	261	175	45675	LOW
K0VBU	BILL	230	142	32660	LOW	W1NN	HAL	252	172	43344	LOW
W5TM	ED	218	130	28340	LOW	K0AV	ALAN	240	180	43200	LOW
W3KB	KEITH	211	133	28063	LOW	K5KU	GARY	251	172	43172	LOW
NP3A	ERIC	191	145	27695	LOW	W3KB	KEITH	250	162	40500	LOW
W1NN	HAL	204	129	26316	LOW	NO5W	CHUCK	237	170	40290	LOW
W7ZRC	ROD	176	121	21296	LOW	W1QK	DAN	222	156	34632	LOW

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Revised team scores:	The Exuberants	1,485,346
	Deep Dixie CC Team 1	1,017,996
	FRC	949,848
	SECC	477,399
	Deep Dixie CC Team 2	360,543
	Contest Group du Quebec	265,378
	DFW Contest Group	222,850
	Niagara Frontier Radiosport	152,815
	Metro Marauders	65,947
	Swamp Foxes	25,504
	Team Rusty Bucket	24,675
	Swedish Global CWOps Team	18,834
	NorDX Club	6,982

The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

[Riki Kline K7NJ](#)

CWops is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award for the year 2018. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.

Criteria - Candidates for the award may be one or more of the following:

- Authors of publications related to CW
- CW recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches and instructors
- Public advocates of CW
- Organizers of CW activities
- Designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW
- Other contributors to the art or practice of CW

Note: The award is **not** limited to amateur radio operators and organizations.

Nomination

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to <awards@cwops.org> with a copy to <secretary@cwops.org> . In order to be considered, a nomination must be received by April 12, 2018 and include:

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

Presentation of Award

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



How We Were

Hank Garretson, W6SX

When I was first getting started in ham radio, traffic handling was big. I cut my CW teeth handling message traffic. Many CWops members did too.

Here is a picture from 1959 New York State Traffic Net picnic.

Rear, L to R, K2AOQ SK, ???, K2YTD.
Front, ???, ???, ???, K2UZJ

K2YTD and K2UZJ are no longer active.

The ???s are still very active. Who are they?

Rear, L to R, K2AOQ SK, K2SIL now
K1GQ, K2YTD.
Front, W2TPV now N4FP, K2SSX now
W6SX, K2UTV now W1RM, K2UZJ

Those were the good old days.

Today and tomorrow are the good old days.

This is the last “How We Were.” Thank you everyone. It has been a great four-year run.

Cherish the past. Embrace and glory in the present and future.

CW Exuberantly,

Hank, W6SX

73,

Hank, W6SX, How We Were



A Viable HOA/CC&R HF Antenna That Works Well

[Rob Brownstein, K6RB](#)

With the Youth CW Academy ready to roll, I wanted to have an antenna option for the kids that live in neighborhoods governed by HOA or CC&R rules. Most such neighborhoods do not allow permanent outdoor antennas. So, we needed an antenna that worked well enough on HF bands; that had a minimal footprint; and could be easily moved from indoors to outdoors and back after operation.

I considered the Buddipole (which I own) and mobile antennas, such as Hustler and those with variable inductors. A constraint was to keep the total cost, including coax, under \$200. Having used a Buddipole with one element vertical and one horizontal (a compromise ground plane configuration), I found this to be more effective than a low-slung dipole configuration (both elements horizontal) or just a vertical element and counterpoise. So, I was looking for something that could be easily tripod mounted and provide reasonable radiation efficiency.

Most mobile whips are confined to heights that would allow vehicles to pass under 10 foot overhangs. However, the shorter the element, the lower the radiation resistance, all things being equal. So, I was looking for a setup that had a collapsible vertical element that could extend beyond 10 feet, and a feed-point coil that was sufficiently robust.

The winner, so far, in my search is an MFJ BigStick (MFJ-2286) mounted on an MFJ-1918 tripod. The collapsible element extends to 17 feet and in combination with the feed-point coil allows operation on 40 meters through 10 meters. The goal was an antenna that could work 40, 20 and 15 meters to allow our no-code tech YCWA graduates to operate on CW on 40 and 15, and for higher-class graduates to operate 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. This system meets both objectives.

Early field testing has shown that while running 100 watts, the antenna will enable QSOs on 40 meters of at least 2000 miles. On 15 and 20 meters the distance can extend to intercontinental communications. For youngsters starting out on HF using CW mode, this antenna coupled with a 100 watt transmitter should provide hours of QSO fun.

Putting It Together

The system comes with the BigStick antenna, comprising the extendable whip, the loading coil, copper mesh stranded radial wires, and an adapter for attaching the setup to a one-inch rod.

The adapter is attached to the tripod's extendable rod as shown in the photo at right.



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The radial wires attach to one of the adaptor bolts. After mounting the adaptor, you can screw the coil onto the coax connector/nut positioning the coil so the hardware for the whip is up top and the wire with alligator clip is attached to the bottom end of the coil. Here, the clip is attached to the coil in the 40 meter position.

Once the adaptor, coil and coax is attached to the tripod, the whip should be extended fully, first, then screwed into the fixture on top of the coil. When completed, the entire system is shown in the second photo (right).

Despite its slender profile, the fully extended whip could easily be blown over. So, it should be used when wind is minimal or located in a place where the upper part of the tripod can be secured to a strong anchoring point. Here, the system is simply sitting atop a wooden deck with no support other than the tripod legs. Note that the radial wires extend to the right. These wires have lugs soldered on their ends so that they could, conceivably, be used both for current return and guying. The idea, though, is for the unit to be quickly assembled and disassembled so that it can easily be setup outside prior to operation and then disassembled and brought back inside soon after operation is over. Because it is not attached to anything but sits on the portable tripod, one could (and should) argue that its use does not constitute a breach of HOA or CC&R rules in the same way that an automobile antenna would also not abrogate any such rules.



MFJ rates the antenna capable of a KW SSB. With CW, I'm not sure I'd push a KW into it, but I'm sure my Globe King 500's 375 watt output would be no problem. Once the adaptor, coil, and radial wires are attached to the tripod, disassembly is very quick. Simply unscrew the extended whip, collapse it to its minimal length, roll up the radials, roll up the coax, fold the tripod legs, and bring it inside. I would recommend leaving the adaptor and radials attached to the tripod. The coil can be unscrewed if there is a possibility of damage when transporting or storing the system.

Initial Setup

In my initial use of the antenna, I extended the whip to full length, attached the alligator clip to the bottom of the coil (full impedance) and measured the resonance. It was about 5.5 MHz. It took me just a few

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minutes to move the clip up the coil, incrementally, until finding resonance at 7.025 MHz. Similarly, I found the position for 10.100 MHz (30 meters).

If one has an antenna analyzer, it is easy to find the coil taps for 40 and 30 meters with the whip fully extended. The 17 foot whip is resonant at a frequency of around 12 MHz, so without a tuner, the fully extended whip is too long for 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. In the absence of a tuner, one would have to play with whip length and coil position to find the right combinations for these higher bands. I found, though, when using the ATU in the K3, that with the whip fully extended, and the clip at the top (no added inductance), that I could tune 20, 17 and 15 with no problem for 1:1 SWR. I'm sure other ATUs would have similar matching range. I have not tried 12 and 10 meters, yet, but it may require shortening the whip to, say, 10 feet (instead of 17 feet) and using the coil taps to find best match on 12 and 10 meters.

Of course, the antenna is a compromise antenna compared to a ground mounted vertical with numerous radials and, of course, a horizontal gain antenna. But, it appears to play as well or better than most mobile antennas and should allow the YCWA grads to get on the HF bands, right after completing the course, and begin using their new skills. And, that's the primary goal.

Appears to Do the Job

The antenna will continue being field tested in CWTs, weekend QSOs, and even trips to other locations. At this time, though, it appears to meet all criteria. It is quickly assembled and disassembled, it extends beyond 10 feet to provide more efficient radiation, and it costs just \$200. When compared to the price of a Buddipole with tripod, this antenna costs less than half as much. When compared to an alternative system using a shorter mobile antenna, physics says this antenna should have higher radiation resistance and would hear better and radiate better than the shorter alternative.

A Field Test (adapted from the 11November2017 CWops email list):

I arrived in Reno late in the afternoon and did not set up until the next morning. With the antenna on a deck 11 feet off the ground, I got on 20 and worked Ed, NA5G, in LA; and Pete, K4EWG, in GA. Both QSOs were solid copy.

Later, on 17M, I heard JR1NHD quite well, and tried to work him, but there were several stations calling. So, I QSY'd to 15M and had a nice solid QSO with N5AF in Cleveland, TX.

We timed how long it took me to set up the antenna – 5 minutes. Breaking it down should be even faster. Unscrew the radiator, retract it, push up the tripod legs, and bring it all back inside.

I did some testing the next morning before going on the air and found that with the alligator clip attached near coil top (e.g. no lumped inductance), the K3 would load on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters – no problem. There are two tap points – one for 30 and one for 40. With the full coil in series with the radiator I was even able to match the K3 on 3.5 MHz and actually worked N5AW on Wednesday (he said my signal was weak). No kidding. I was surprised it got out at all on 80M. This antenna looks like a winner, so far, with QSOs now made on 40, 20 and 15. I felt nearly certain that had I waited, I could have snagged JR1NHD on 17 m, too.

This antenna, so far, seems to work far, far better than my Buddipole. And it is much easier to assemble and break down.

CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Well, here we are, the old year is over and a new year begins. It's time to add up the participation points for 2017.

A few points to consider: First, there is no log submission for the CWTs. The participation awards are based on score reports to 3830scores.com. If you don't report your score, it won't be counted. Also, to be included, a score has to meet the requirement of 10 QSOs (5 if you are operating from a continent other than North America or Europe). The QSO total should not count dupes, i.e. each station you contact counts only once on each band you work them on.

When you report your score, you will make my life easier if you double-check to make sure you have spelled your call sign correctly. If you operate under a different call sign from time to time, you can use the Operator(s) Call(s) box to enter your primary (home) call sign (not your given name, your call sign). If you change call signs during the year and want to combine credit for both call signs, you can help me by letting me know. I do my best to combine scores from different call signs used by the same person, but these situations are not always obvious.



The results below are based on the Contest Summary archives at 3830scores.com, and not on the "real-time" standings linked to from the CWops web pages. The latter are derived from the original data by automated scripts, and things can and do go wrong with the process from time to time.

This is your opportunity to correct any mistakes I might have made. Check for your call sign in the lists below to make sure you have been given the correct credit. If you think I have made a mistake and left your call sign out or put it in the wrong list, first check against the scores at 3830scores.com by entering your call sign into the call sign box at the top left of the page and then verifying your claimed total against the list of CWopsT scores. Remember, scores with less than 10 QSOs (NA/EU; 5 QSOs in other continents) don't count towards the total. If there still seems to be a discrepancy, please let me know so I can correct the lists before we order the medals.

OK, now for the tentative results.

In 2017, we had four people who made the minimum 10 QSOs in every single one of our 156 CWT sessions. They are, in alphabetical order by call sign: Bill Leahy K0MP, Wayne Brown N4FP, Gary Stone N5PHT, and Rudy Rood UR5MM. Gary's feat is a repeat from last year. Well, done, fellows!

The gold medal level (120 CWTs for North American stations, 90 CWTs for European stations and 60 CWTs for others) was reached by 48 others. Sadly, one of those, Larry Agabekov UA6HZ/N2WW, passed away on December 1. The others on my list are: AA3B, AH6KO, F6HKA, F6JOE, G4NVR, I5ECW, I5EFO, IT9MUO, K0TC, K1DW, K1GU, K3WJV, K3WW, K4AFE, K4OAQ, K5CM, K7SV, K8JQ, KA7T, KE4RG, N0TA, N4DT, N4ZZ, N5AW, N8BJQ, NA8V, NN4K, NN5O, SM0CUH/SE0C,

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SM0OY/SM0Y, SM3CER/SF3A, SM4DQE/SE4E, SM6CUK/SA6G, VE3KI/CG3KI, VE3KP, VE3MV, VE5SDH, W1UU, W5TM, W6KY, W6SX, W6TN, W7OM, W9CC, W9ILY, WA9LEY and WJ9B. There are a lot of familiar call signs in that list!

The silver medal count is 65 members: AA8TA, AC4CA, AE1T, AF5DM, K0VBU, K1DJ, K1ESE, K1SEC, K1SM, K1YY, K2SX, K3DMG, K3PP, K3ZGA, K4ITV, K4RO, K4RUM, K5AX, K6RB, K7AZT, K8BZ, K8CMO, K8FU, K9MA, KE2D, KE4S, KG5U, KJ9C, KM4FO, KT4XN, KW7Q, N0AC, N3JT, N3QE, N3RD, N4DW, N4IQ, N5ZO, NF8M, NS3C, NS8O, NT2A, OH1ZAA/OF1ZAA/OF3BCX/OF5ZA, OH2BN, SA6BGR/SD6M, SM5ALJ/SE5L, SM5BKK/SI5Y, SM7CIL/SM5CIL, VA3PM, VE2FK, VE3GFN, VE3TW, VE9AA, W0XE, W1RM, W3WHK, W4ER, W4VQ, WA3GM, WA4JUK, WA6URY, WC7Q, WM4I, WN4AFP and WQ3E.

The bronze medal list is even longer, at 73: 4X6GP, 9A7R, AB7MP, AD5A, AD8J, DJ1OJ/EA8OM, DL5DBY, DL6KVA, G0MGM, G4ILW, GW0ETF/GW4J, HB9ARF, IN3FHE, IT9VDQ, JF2IWL, K0AD, K1EBY, K3MD, K3SEN, K4FXN, K4GMH, K4HQB, K4HR, K4IU, K5IX, K6AR, K8AJS, K9CT, K9DX, K9WX, K9ZO, KA5M, KC4D, KE8G, KG9N, KI7Y, KM0O, KN4Y, LY8O, N0EF, N0KQ, N1LN, N2JFD, N2SO, N2WK, N3RS, N4KS, N5EE, N5IR, N5TOO, N7WY, N8XX, NO5W, ON4UN, RM2D, SM1TDE/SD1A, US0MF, VA3SB, VE2AXO, VE2BZO, VE3ABN/VA3FV/VE3NNT, VE3MA, VE3MGY, W0LPF, W1QK, W2VM, W3UL, W7ZRC, WA5LXS, WB2VYK, WB5BKL, WT2P and WU6X.

Thank you all for your continued support and participation.

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)

CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

CW Academy's (CWA) winter semester (January/February 2018) has just started. This will be the 18th overall semester that CWA has conducted CW classes. Our very first semester was held the Spring of 2011.

This semester our mix of international students comes from Canada, US, Hawaii, Chile, North Ireland, England, Wales, Cyprus, Australia, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Algeria, Switzerland, UAE, Swaziland, France, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, and Greece.

CW Academy's new SKED page (<http://n8fq.org/sked/index.php?board=cwacademy>) is now up and running and being actively used by CW Academy students, Advisors and CWops members. This is where students can go to arrange on the air CW QSOs with other CWA students and Advisors and CWops members. This web page will accommodate all levels of users – new, inexperienced or experienced in making QSOs, and allow them to leave messages requesting a QSO. The messages are 'real-time' and can be seen by all. Anyone can go the web site and create a new account which will then allow them to enter and respond to messages.

The new CWA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163719971032485/>) is now being

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actively used by our CW Academy students, Advisors and CWops members. Students can leave questions, concerns, comments and share experiences about their CW Academy classes. The CWA Facebook page is a Public group open to all.

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 life-long friendships at the same time!

More information about becoming a CWA Advisor can be found at the CW Academy page on the CWops website (<http://www.cwops.org/cwacademy.html>). The link for the sign up form for becoming a CWA Advisor is: <http://cwops.org/cwa-advisor-su.html>.

Here's to another successful and fun-filled CW Academy semester!

73,

Jerry, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWops (*Indicates a Life Member):

CWops	Call	Name
1921	K9XE*	Ray
1922	DL9ABM*	Stefan
1923	K5VI	Andy
1924	N4ASF	Dave

CWops	Call	Name
1925	K8BKM*	Tom
1926	KD2KRG*	Steve
1927	N1VH*	Marty
1928	N4CD*	Bob

CWops	Call	Name
1929	K1NY	Gerry
1930	N6TVN	Carl

Current Nominees

January 1, 2018

Need Sponsors: KG7A, AB0DK

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>

Notes: If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new qth, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to membership@cwops.org 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



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 Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	1016	6897	W1RM	178	N5RR	50	W1RM	48	W1RM	38
W1RM	843	5027	F6HKA	169	W1RM	50	F6HKA	45	F6HKA	38
N5PHT	777	2618	W4VQ	147	W4VQ	50	OK1RR	44	W4VQ	37
N8BJQ	775	4677	G4BUE	128	F6HKA	50	N5RR	43	G4BUE	37
NN4K	712	1579	N5RR	118	W1UU	50	G4BUE	43	VE3KI	36
VE3KI	710	4384	DL6KVA	116	VE3KI	50	DL6KVA	43	N5RR	36
DL6KVA	694	2187	OK1RR	115	G4BUE	50	VE3KI	42	N5PHT	36
K3MD	689	1734	VE3KI	114	EA8OM	50	N8BJQ	42	I5EFO	33
K6RB	683	4032	N8BJQ	114	W0EJ	50	EA8OM	42	DL6KVA	33
K8AJS	676	1621	OH2BN	112	F6JOE	50	W4VQ	41	IK0YVV	32
K1ESE	660	2951	EA8OM	111	W6KY	50	I5EFO	41	VK7CW	30
F6HKA	645	4497	K1ESE	105	N1EN	50	AA3B	41	RM2D	29
K5AX	558	2602	I5EFO	101	N5PHT	50	OH2BN	40	JF2IWL	25
W9ILY	533	3110	AA3B	99	F5MNK	50	SM6CNN	37	N1DC	22
N1DC	531	1957	EA1WX	97	K5IX	50	KR3E	37	F5IYJ	21
K1DJ	524	1107	W9ILY	93	K3SEN	50	K3MD	37	W6NS	19
AA8TA	508	860	W0VX	93	AD1C	50	K1ESE	37	K8AJS	10
K9WX	498	2234	SM6CNN	93	AB7MP	50	IT9MUO	36	NN4K	9
NA6O	493	2078	N5PHT	91	AA3B	50	F6JOE	36	ND1R	5
K0MP	472	838	IT9MUO	87	K5AX	50	EA1WX	36		
W0VX	446	3083	N1EN	86	I5EFO	50	W9ILY	34		
KY7M	440	3252	KY7M	86	VK7CW	50	W1UU	34		
KE4S	436	1489	F6JOE	84	DL6KVA	50	W0VX	34		
IT9VDQ	434	1390	AD1C	83	K0TC	50	KZ5D	34		
IT9MUO	421	1693	KR3E	82	KY7M	50	RM2D	33		
K3SEN	392	1287	K5AX	80	NA6O	50	IT9VDQ	33		
K0TC	377	2048	W1UU	79	K1DJ	50	N1EN	32		
F6JOE	355	2762	PA7RA	79	N8BJQ	50	KY7M	32		
I5EFO	345	590	KZ5D	78	K9WX	50	F5MNK	32		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G4BUE	337	3371	DL8PG	78	W9ILY	49	PA7RA	31		
RM2D	333	1059	4X6GP	76	W0VX	49	DL8PG	31		
W1UU	322	2159	VK7CW	75	NN4K	49	K5AX	30		
W4VQ	312	2617	F5IYJ	73	N1DC	49	IK0YVV	30		
KE4RG	284	504	RM2D	71	KT5V	49	4X6GP	30		
K5IX	274	892	N1ZX	70	KR3E	49	NN6T	29		
W6KY	248	2088	IT9VDQ	68	K8AJS	49	F5IYJ	29		
AD1C	241	2101	F5MNK	68	K6RB	49	N1ZX	28		
EA1WX	231	1839	NN6T	67	K6DGW	49	GW0ETF	28		
VK7CW	229	1320	GW0ETF	67	K3MD	49	AD1C	28		
G0MGM	223	398	N1DC	65	K1ESE	49	N1DC	27		
K6DGW	215	1718	KT5V	59	IT9VDQ	49	KE4S	26		
DL5DBY	204	326	NA6O	58	GW0ETF	49	K8AJS	26		
AB7MP	195	768	KE4S	58	AA8TA	49	K1DJ	26		
G4HZV	192	428	IK0YVV	57	WB9G	48	JF2IWL	26		
G4NVR	185	412	W6KY	56	W6NS	48	G4HZV	26		
4X6GP	156	1095	K6RB	56	SM6CNN	48	DL5DBY	25		
DL8PG	150	1743	K1DJ	54	NU7Y	48	VK7CW	24		
F5IYJ	150	615	K0TC	53	NN6T	48	N5PHT	24		
KT5V	139	1452	K8AJS	51	N1ZX	48	K6RB	24		
KR3E	121	1461	JF2IWL	51	KZ5D	48	G4NVR	24		
K0DTJ	121	828	4Z1UF	50	KE4S	48	G4DRS	24		
VK4TJF	80	430	K9WX	49	K0MP	48	G0MGM	24		
NU7Y	70	648	G4DRS	49	IK0YVV	48	HB9ARF	23		
ND1R	61	67	WB9G	48	DL8PG	48	NA6O	21		
JF2IWL	52	930	NN4K	47	AD5A	48	4Z1UF	21		
W8DN	1	276	K3SEN	45	4X6GP	48	K2ZC	20		
N5RR	0	4098	G4HZV	45	VE3MV	47	WB9G	19		
KZ5D	0	3239	DL5DBY	43	K0DTJ	47	NN4K	19		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	G0MGM	42	JF2IWL	47	KT5V	19		
EA8OM	0	2758	K3MD	41	WX7SJ	46	K9WX	19		
SM6CNN	0	2477	HB9ARF	41	KG5U	46	W6KY	18		
N1EN	0	1928	K6DGW	39	IT9MUO	46	VK4TJF	18		
N2UU	0	1774	W6NS	38	G4DRS	46	K3SEN	18		
OK1RR	0	1618	K2ZC	37	EA1WX	46	G3YJQ	18		
NN6T	0	1577	W0EJ	36	OK1RR	45	AD5A	18		
GW0ETF	0	1451	G4NVR	36	K3WJV	45	KG5U	17		
KG5U	0	1322	VK4TJF	35	K2ZC	45	K0TC	17		
PA7RA	0	1200	KG5U	35	F5IYJ	45	K3WJV	16		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
F5MNK	0	1111	AD5A	35	PA7RA	44	W6NS	12		
W6NS	0	1090	K0DTJ	30	VK4TJF	43	VE3MV	12		
AD5A	0	1071	G3YJQ	27	RM2D	43	K6DGW	12		
4Z1UF	0	1032	NU7Y	25	KM4FO	43	W0EJ	10		
W5ASP	0	1018	K3WJV	25	HB9ARF	43	G3XLG	10		
PA4N	0	955	K5IX	24	OH2BN	42	K5IX	8		
N1ZX	0	940	VE3MV	23	KE4RG	42	K0MP	8		
WB9G	0	888	AB7MP	22	G4NVR	39	W5TM	7		
K3WJV	0	882	AA8TA	19	NV9X	38	KE4RG	7		
K2ZC	0	767	K0MP	18	G3YJQ	37	K0DTJ	7		
IK0YVV	0	767	G3XLG	18	4Z1UF	36	G0DJA	7		
W0EJ	0	754	WT2P	14	G4HZV	35	AB7MP	7		
HB9ARF	0	723	KE4RG	12	WT2P	34	AA8TA	7		
KM4FO	0	721	W5TM	11	G0MGM	33	KM4FO	5		
VE3MV	0	664	KM4FO	10	DL5DBY	33	WT2P	4		
WX7SJ	0	610	G0DJA	10	W5TM	32	NU7Y	3		
WT2P	0	574	ND1R	5	G3XLG	31	ND1R	2		
OH2BN	0	530	NV9X	4	ND1R	24	NV9X	1		
G4DRS	0	496	KE6K	4	KE6K	17				
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8				
G3YJQ	0	234								
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
KE6K	0	116								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Gary Stone N5PHT](#)

Welcome to the end of 2017 and December report! Well, 2017 is in the past and 2018 is upon us. My hope for all is it will be a great year. December was a great month with TEN personal bests for the year and more reports and total than any month this year: 26 reports with 696 QTX. Way to go QTX group!!!

If you want to be added to the QTX listings please send in your count for the month from the Members Only Section of the Web Page. Remember any 20 minute or longer QSO counts and it does NOT have to be with a CWops Member. ALSO: the speed of the QSO makes NO difference. A 20 minute QSO at 15

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wpm counts the same as a 20 minute QSO at 40 wpm. Only CWOps Members can send in reports but the rag chews can be with anyone and as often as you like for multiple counts.

Rag Chewer Comments (Very nice comments this month)

N6HCN: Wore out the ears of new friends John W3FSA, Portland Maine, Jerry W4LGT, Corbin KY. Hope I did not contribute to the breakdown of N5PHT's Ameritron! Shin, JA1NUT and I almost made the 20 minute mark but for the QSB. Happy New Year, everyone.

WA3GM: First time checking into a traffic net. Had a nice qso with the net manager after the net was over.

AB7MP: One qso went on for 38 minutes - I'm usually not very talkative, so that one is rare!

KC0VKN: Year is over! Wasn't sure a couple of months ago if I could keep things on track. I hope everyone has a 2018 filled with wonderful QSO's

N7YT: I had several QSO with W7RX, a student in my last class. He mentioned that he was losing some of his ability to copy CW since the class. When I told him that if I slowed to 20 WPM he would copy like in class but I was sending 27 WPM and we agreed I would keep sending faster than he was comfortable with. I got an e mail today saying he had sent a CQ at 25 WPM received a response and had a very nice QSO.

KB6NU: Had more QSOs longer than a half hour this month than I have in a long time.

W9EBE: December was a good month for ragchewing. I had four QSOs that exceeded an hour. Great fun! Wishing everyone a 2018 full of ham radio enjoyment, whether it be ragchewing, contesting, DXing, building/repairing gear, or whatever ham radio pursuits put smiles on your faces. ZUT es 73 de Chip dit dit

WA8IWK: With the proliferation of contests, RST exchanging QSO's, all of which are indeed fun, I find the QTX program a wonderful reminder that we have a host of terrific members of our hobby well worth taking the time to get to know better! Thanks for sponsoring QTX, a most worthwhile program! Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2018!! Allen

KD2KRG: I'm very happy to be making my first QTX report, and hope to make many more. The best QSO of the month was with Gary, N4PIR in NC from the Mobile on my way home from work one cold dark night. He kept me entertained the entire way home.

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: (ELEVEN Medal Winners!!)

GOLD – N5PHT, N5IR, K5KV, K1ESE, KC0VKN
SILVER – G4ILW
BRONZE – I5EFO, KB6NU, K5YQF, K8UDH, DL5DBY

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QTX Reports for December 2017

Call	December	Call	December	Call	December	Call	December
K5KV	72	K5YQF	36	I5EFO	15	K4AHO	6
W9EBE	71	N7YT	35	WA8IWK	14	N6HCN	4
N5IR	66	K8UDH	27	W3WHK	12	AB7MP	3
K1ESE	63	KB6NU	26	G4ILW	10	WA3GM	2
KC0VKN	52	K6RB	24	N4DT	9	K0DTJ	2
N5PHT	47	F5IYJ	20	K6DGW	7		
KD2KRG	37	DL5DBY	19	HB9CVQ	7		

Personal best for the year: K1ESE, N7YT, W9EBE, KD2KRG, AB7MP, N6HCN, K5KV, F5IYJ, KB6NU, K5YQF.

QTX Totals for 2017

Call	2017	Call	2017	Call	2017	Call	2017
N5PHT	1055	DL5DBY	216	K6DGW	65	NN4K	6
N5IR	716	K8UDH	201	W3WHK	61	N5LB	5
K5KV	553	K6RB	157	N4EEV	56	K3TN	4
K1ESE	545	K4AHO	155	F5IYJ	56	WA3GM	4
KC0VKN	443	N7YT	144	K0DTJ	55	WA3AER	3
G4ILW	321	W9EBE	139	KD2KRG	37	AB7MP	3
K5YQF	277	N4DT	109	N6HCN	18	KE4RG	2
KB6NU	254	WA8IWK	92	W5JQ	14	K3GHH	2
I5EFO	248	HB9CVQ	83	K6HP	11	G0MGM	2

For the year 2017: 258 reports with a total of 6,112 QTX points! Awesome job everyone.

The plaque winner for 2017 is your Editor with 1055 QTX. I think that may be the first 1000+ total for a year. But I can tell you that 2018 is wide open as your Editor is not doing as many with some other responsibilities and more traveling for Parks on the Air. Second places is Bill, N5IR with a very nice 716 QTX score. K5KV takes 3rd place with 553 followed very closely by John K1ESE with 545 for the year.

I think 2018 will have some shakes ups by newcomers and old timers also and that will be great!

Hope to cu on the bands. NOTE: If you ever find me with missing reports, numbers or anything on this column please email me so I can get it corrected!

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.

The North American CW QSO Party is always a premier event for CW operators. Possibly the most enjoyable of all CW events, it certainly will be one of the high points at the start of the new year. Unfortunately many operators neglect one of the key aspects of this contest, i.e. the Team competition. What's unique is that there are no club or distance requirements. A team may consist of two to five single operator stations combining their scores to add flavor to the affair. You might just want to round-up a few other CWOps and see how well your team can do. Teams need to be pre-registered at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/cwnaqpteamreg>

The CQ 160 Meter contest is considered to be one of the major "top band" contests of the year. The number and variety of DX stations active in the contest provide an unique opportunity to test your station's capabilities and your operating skills in gathering up those elusive ones. The propagation changes accompanying the current decline in the sun spot cycle should provide an interesting venue for operating.

The North American Sprint is considered by most CW contesters as the ultimate test of their proficiency. Fortunately it is not necessary to run in the "fast lane". The key is to understand and follow the exchange rules and focus on accuracy. A good way to start is to visit N6TR's Sprint Survival Web Page at <http://www.kkn.net/n6tr/sprint.html>.

The Classic Exchange is a relaxed contest featuring the use of older commercial and homebrew equipment once the cornerstone of past ham shacks. The object is to encourage the restoration, operation and enjoyment of this older equipment. It is not necessary to use a vintage rig to participate. You may operate any rig you chose in this contest. However using more modern gear carries a distinct scoring disadvantage. There are bonus points for using the same model rigs as your Novice station and for using a Heathkit receiver and/or transmitter.

Don't neglect the state/province QSO parties. They usually provide enough activity to justify some of your operating time. And do submit your log. It encourages the sponsors to put their efforts into making these events worthwhile.

Although the activity level drops off after the weekends, there's still the CWT and various Sprints to provide a spark of CW activity0

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY EVENTS

North American QSO Party, CW
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

1800Z, Jan 13th to 0559Z, Jan 14th

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CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm	2200Z, Jan 26 th to 2200Z, Jan 28 th
Classic Exchange, CW http://www.classicexchange.org/jan18/jan18ann.html	1300Z, Jan 21 st to 0800Z, Jan 22 nd and 1300Z, Jan 23 rd to 0800Z, Jan 24 th
North American Sprint, CW http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf	0000Z-0400Z, Feb 4 th
Montana QSO Party http://fvarc.org/	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 27 th
Vermont QSO Party http://www.ranv.org/vtqso.html	0000Z, Feb 3 rd to 2400Z, Feb 4 th
Minnesota QSO Party http://www.w0aa.org/docs/mnqp/MNQP%20Contest%20Rules.pdf	1400Z-2400Z, Feb 3 rd
British Columbia QSO Party http://www.orcadxcc.org/bcqp_rules.html	1600Z, Feb 3 rd to 0400Z, Feb 4 th and 1600Z-2400Z, Feb 4 th
FISTS Winter Slow Speed Sprint http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 3 rd
FISTS Winter Unlimited Sprint http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints	1700Z-2100Z, Feb 10
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 12 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 19 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 26 th
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 2 nd
NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Feb 9 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 13 th to 2400Z, Jan 14 th
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Jan 24 th
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	1200Z, Feb 10 th to 2400Z, Feb 11 th
NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 18 th
NAQCC CW Sprint http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201707.html	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 24 th

73,

Joe, W5ASP, Upcoming CW Operating Events



My Story: New Member Biographies

Bob Voss N4CD

First licensed in NJ as WN2KQL – and operated mostly CW with wire antennas. Went off to college - then ‘incentive licensing’ hit so in the next few years upgraded to Extra to get back those vanished band segments. Got hooked on contesting with W2SZ multi-op expeditions to Mt. Greylock in MA during college and made many trips up the mountain. After a few years wound up in central VA and was an active VHF contester with a nice mountain top station – but 7 years later had to move and that was history. In 1990 wound up in TX and got into county hunting – mostly SSB at the time. Later switched to mostly CW county hunting. I’ve transmitted from all of the 3077 US Counties. Most of my operation is while mobile.

I’ve had the good fortune to do a few DXpeditions – solo to TI2, FG, VP5, 3W2, VP2E. On the VP2E one, stayed at a ‘rent-a-shack- and was planning SSB. As it turned out, it was a CW DX contest weekend and I had no keyer in the Kenwood TS-50 – so borrowed an old bug from the host and had to quickly relearn sending on a bug after 20 years of using paddles! Years before, for a while as a novice/new general, tried a bug until I built a hand-book keyer with 2 tubes! Made over 1000 Q in that contest so I guess that worked out OK. Later participated in the TI9M DXpedition – CW and SSB.

Worked 31 years in the two way radio, cellular radio, and advanced telecom technology field – been retired since 2000.

For NPOTA in 2016, zipped to over 265 different park units around the country with 40,000 Q uploaded to LOTW and 43,000 miles on the car. This past year been doing Parks on the Air having made it to 135 new ones this year – With 80% CW operation on 20/30/40M and 17M when it opens – not a lot lately. Plan to do parks, counties and grids in 2018 – from the mobile.

Other hobby: I collect shortwave regen receivers – from the 1920s to present day.

Stefan Hader DL9ABM

Hello everyone! First, I would like to thank my sponsors for making this membership possible. I am really thrilled to be part of CWops.

In 1960, I was born in former German Democratic Republic (GDR). Ever since I was highly interested in electro-technics and science. But it was not until a close friend of mine showed me his radio station that I became truly passionate about radiotelephony and CW. Living under the restrictive regime of the GDR, I was glad being able to communicate with the rest of the world through Morse Code. Back then, I was around 14 years old. In 1978, I received my official license.



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By now I am married, and I have one daughter.

Almost 40 years later, being a part of the local ham radio activities is still my favorite hobby. Since 2013 I am a member of the HSC. My membership number is 1898.

Being especially interested in high speed telegraphy (HST), I decided to join the German HST team in 2010. Since then, I support the team during every world cup. Because the competition from Eastern Europe remains extremely high, I am very proud of winning two medals at this year's championship in Hungary. Meeting ham radio operators from all over the world is always a very special and happy event for me.



I am looking forward to seeing you on the bands!

Ray Boehmer K9XE

I was first licensed in 1961 as WN9AXL, then WA9AXL until 1997, when I was issued K9XE. I operate mostly CW and some digital and SSB. I am a member of the Society of Midwest Contesters, QRPARCI, and NAQCC. I enjoy DXing, contesting, and the challenge of copying high speed CW on a keyboard. Although I have never made a contact on 160M, I am hoping to change that sometime soon. My teaching career began in 1968. I have taught Spanish, Math, and Biology, and taught people from ages 5 to 85 in various contexts, including a total of 5 years living in South and Central America and Puerto Rico. I am currently a retired university professor of science education.



Andrew “Andy” Hair, K5VI

I was first licensed when I was 15 years old in Springfield, Missouri and have been a ham, off and on, ever since. My first rig was a Hallicrafters receiver (can't recall the model) and a very used Heathkit HW-1 transmitter borrowed from Gerald McIntosh (W0WMW SK) with one crystal for 7.125 MHz. With a little tuning patience, that boxy HW-1 could pump out around 75 mighty watts of power--more or less! For an antenna, my dad and grandfather, Ellsworth Slack (W0DRP SK) helped me install an inverted vee up about 25 feet. That first antenna was largely a cloud warmer, but I didn't know it at the time. Since all I could do was CW, I got plenty of practice--and practice I did! I couldn't get enough of it, in fact.

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After college, I joined the Army and became an armored cavalry scout and tanker and was sent to El Paso, Texas. I finished up my service in intelligence work before the Berlin Wall came down. Just prior to leaving the service, I met my future wife, MJ, got married and settled down in El Paso where I have lived for the past 32 years.

My career has mostly been as a planner, analyst and business developer for various organizations to include the City of El Paso, Johnson Controls and a few small IT companies. For the last seven years, I have worked as an analyst providing test and evaluation services on a large U.S. Army missile defense program. My job mostly involves research, field data collection and lots of technical writing and editing.

My ham radio pursuits are largely centered around CW and RTTY contests, but I also enjoy many of the digital modes and will occasionally participate in an SSB contest as my radio came with a microphone--might as well use it. I also really enjoy the weekly CWT contests when I'm not travelling or working late, and I might even get up the courage one day to take a shot at "running" a frequency. However, I'm usually found in the "S&P" mode of operation since I am still leaning the intricacies of N1MM+. With that in mind, please forgive me if I butcher a CWT contact--I'll get it sooner or later.



My current station includes a Yaesu FTDX 3000, fed into one of three antennas. They include a rotatable dipole on 10-15-20 meters up 28 feet (driven element of an old Hy-Gain 2-element beam); a 40 and 80-meter wire inverted vee dipole up 35 feet at the apex; and a 30-meter inverted vee dipole up about 25 feet. I have other HF and VHF rigs, but the FTDX is the workhorse in the shack.

When I'm not on the radio, or working on "honey-do's", I can be found out on the golf course torturing myself! I can't explain why I like golf, especially given my poor handicap, but it's a fun way to "take the air" with my buddies. I also like to go fishing, when I am near water, but living in the desert has limited that activity, unfortunately. Finally, I love baseball. It's most definitely my sport. I was born and raised a St. Louis Cardinals fan and will be until the day I become an SK! We're also fortunate to have the El Paso Chihuahua's Triple-A team to follow. Taking the grandkids to a game is always something I look forward to.

While I have participated in many pastimes over the years, amateur radio has been my most interesting pursuit. There are many reasons why I love the hobby, but it's largely because I've always been fascinated with radio propagation and still marvel at emitting a small signal that can be heard around the world. Even in this age of instant, on-demand communications, it's still fun to press the key or squeeze the paddles and imagine where my signal will end up, and it never gets old. Radio propagation was magic to me at age 15 and still is over 40 years later!

It's great to be a member of CWops! I hope to participate in many events to come, and make new friends along the way!

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Marty Koszewski – N1VH #1927

I appreciate the opportunity to be a CWops member and join this great CW community.

I was first licensed as KC1DLJ, (Technician) in March 2015. I had interest in ham radio as a kid, but ironically, I was intimidated by the Morse Code requirements. I decided to finally get my ham license so that I could 'legally' operate FPV RC aircraft. As I studied for my Technicians License, a funny thing happened. I lost interest in RC aircraft and became intrigued with learning as much as I could about ham radio. I got my Amateur Extra license the following month, April 2015 and changed my call to K1MTK. I received my current, more CW friendly call, N1VH, 11/2016.



I operate low power and QRP. Because I live in a multi-tenant environment, I started operating QRP with a portable radio and antenna. Although I was having fun, operating time via remote QRP was very limiting. I decided to try to stealthily throw a multi-band end-fed antenna into some tress and run the coax into my apt. though a window patch panel. That first night with the end fed antenna, I was amazed at the number of DX contacts I was making. I was hooked! I upgraded to a 100W HF radio and dipped my toes into contesting. I recently joined Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC).

I can't express the value of joining my local radio club K1USN, in Braintree, MA. Being new to ham Radio, I was intimidated getting on the air and had innumerable questions about set-up, antennas, propagation, tools, etc. I would like to express my gratitude to my K1USN Elmers and fellow CWops members: Pi – K1RV/#639, Rick – N1DC/#1257, Rich – K1DJ/#1556 (CW Academy Advisor) and Don – AA1V/#53. In particular, I sincerely appreciate Pi's & Rick's contagious passion for ham radio. I sincerely appreciate their patience and support in working with me and answering all of my questions. Thank you all.

I was intrigued watching Pi, Rick and Rich operate CW during special events and contests. As a result, I decided to overcome my intimidation, and based on Pi's suggestion, I signed up for the CWops CW Academy. I can't speak highly enough of my CWA experience and my CWA Advisor, Kim – K5TU/#1626. Kim (a fellow Texas A&M Aggie) went well beyond the call of duty by providing additional learning materials and extending our biweekly sessions to make sure everyone was comfortable with the material. Thank you, Kim.

I plan to continue to operate low power. I upgraded my antenna this fall and hung a 80/40/20/15/10 multi band end fed (I can tune to 160m as well). Although the antenna is still a bit limiting, I am able to get reasonable coverage of the US and limited DX.

My goal for 2018 is to participate in the weekly 0300 CWT's and QSL with as many of my CWops members as possible. I hope to continue to develop my CW skills and will continue to be a big advocate of CW Academy. I plan to make it to Dayton again this year.

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Gerry Skloot K1NY

I was first licensed in 1962 at age 13. My Dad was not a ham at the time, but had an interest in it. When he grew up in the 20's and 30's there was a ham on his street and he was fascinated by ham radio after seeing the station. All home brew of course. My dad bought me a Lafayette SWL receiver when I was 11 and I was hooked. I loved listening to hams and SWL broadcasts.

Got my novice in 1962 and passed the general 3 months later at the FCC office in NYC. All my licenses were obtained at the FCC NYC office long before VE.

I graduated the New York University school of Engineering with a dual degree in Physical Oceanography and Meteorology. I have a lot of fond memories of operating W2DSC from way up on the hill in University Heights. Please see the NYU club site at <http://www.qsl.net/k2ul/nyuarc/>

I later earned an MBA from the Stern School. I was not in love with business, so I headed into teaching to be closer to science. I am a retired science teacher.

I travel as often as I can and like photography and surf and fly fishing.

It is an honor to be a member of CWOPS.

Carl Mannle N6TVN

My radio journey began in 1958 when I became KN0OVR in Sioux City, Ia. In 1959 became K0OVR and continued using my 50 watt Knightkit and Hammarlund HQ-100 to chase Dx during 1960,61. College and other interests prevailed and I became inactive. Served in US Army 1963-1967, attended Special Forces Radio Operator school at Ft Bragg, NC, was assigned to Signal Co. 5th SFG(Abn) 1965-67. Then was inactive for many years but somehow my love for CW never left me. After retiring in 2015 I acquired a new ticket and call sign and its great to be back.



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David Redondo EA7JW

Hello, my name is David and I am an engineer. I am 46 years old and I live in a city located in the South of España, between the Mediterráneo sea and the Atlantic Ocean,

I work for myself, I have been licensed since 1993, I have been doing CW for 4 years.

I am married and I have a daughter Marta, 5 years old.

I am delighted to belong to CW Ops Club and have a lot of fun with this Club.



David Krueger AB0DK

I got my Novice and Tech license when I was 12 in 1965. Dad drove me across the town of Milwaukee once a week to attend code and theory classes at Allied Radio. It wasn't until about 1969 when I could actually afford a Vibroplex that I finally did buy a "Champion". I used that with an Elmac AF-67 transmitter and a cheap old "Sound Design" portable SW radio. (I used the spot function as the BFO).

So fast forward to 2018. I have my dream. When I was a kid I got hooked on the idea of having a tower. Well in this season of life

(about 50 years later) I finally put one up. It has a 3 element tri-bander, a 13 el 2M Yagi, a 5 element 6 meter Yagi and a 2M-440 j-pole at the top. It's all turned by a Yaesu G-1000DXA and has a hefty mast. 40M and 80M dipoles are hung off a side mount at 33 ft. So, point and wait for the good things and they will eventually come. I love CW. I also use other modes but I can truly "chill" when I use CW. I am grateful to be a part of CWops and hope to see you on the "8s".

