



CWops "CWT"

9, 12, 23 November 2011

Start time:

1300Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (10, 13, 24 Nov.) NA region

1-hour each region

Exchange name/number (members)

Exchange name/SPC (non-members)

CWops "ragchew bash"

Immediately following each CWT at 1400Z, 2000Z and 0400Z

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

CWops Officers and Director

Officers

President: Pete Chamalian, [W1RM](#)

Vice President: Art Suberbielle, [KZ5D](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

Directors:

Bert Donn, [G3XSN](#)

Shin Onisawa, [JA1NUT](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)

Publisher: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)



From the president...

October was a busy month here. The high bands continued their fantastic ride with excellent conditions which helped me add a bunch of new ones on 12 and 10. On the antenna front, I put up a Double-L antenna for 160 and was able to pull it away from the tower so it doesn't interfere with the side-mounted WARC beam. My effort was rewarded with a T32C QSO the next morning!

In the US, November brings our Thanksgiving holiday, a time when we all pause to reflect on our life, friends, family and the world around us. Personally, I am very grateful for it all, especially the many friends I've developed over my 55 years in ham radio – at my Thanksgiving dinner table I'll raise a glass to you all!

QTX – The New Rag Chewing Award

Thanks to Ed, K2EGJ, for developing this new recognition award for CWops members.

The purpose of the QTX Activity Awards program is to encourage ragchewing by CWops members, and to recognize those members who have demonstrated achievement in engaging in multiple

ragchews over the course of a month and the calendar year. Points are based upon the total number of ragchew QSOs. An eligible ragchew is a single QSO that is 20 minutes or longer in duration. Repeat ragchews with the same station on the same band are permitted.

For full details and to make your submission, go to the Members Only section of our web site then click on QTX Activity Award.

CWT

We are trying an experiment by opening the CWT to all non-WARC bands (160-10). With conditions as they are, this should help take advantage of the high band openings. Please pass your comments on this expansion to Joe, KC0VKN, our CWT Manager. Also, we expect that some of our CWA students may begin playing in CWT. So, if you hear someone who is going a little slower than average, slow down and give him/her an exchange and an “attaboy.”

Life Members

In August, we modified our dues structure to allow for 5-year payment and life membership. Since then, and even though it isn't dues renewal time, we have 59 life and nine 5-year members so far! So, if you want to be free of the yearly dues payments, consider life membership. In case you're wondering what CWops is doing with the extra funds, we are setting them aside for future investment, the income from which will be used to support our various activities.

Here's our current list of life members:

4X1FC	K2TT	N6XI	W2CQ
9V1W	K3LR	N7RR	W3BI
AA3B	K3STX	N8BJQ	W3EL
AA8IA	K4LT	NA6M	W3IL
DJ0QN	K4SX	NI0C	W4LSC
G0DJA	K5HK	NN6T	W4WJ
G4IRN	K5KV	NR1R	W5XU
G5CL	K6RB	OH0XX	W6LJ
HB9CVQ	K7LV	OH2BN	W6XU
JA4IIJ	K7NJ	P43JB	WA1S
JA5DQH	K9CT	SM5CCE	WD5IYT
JH1GNU	LA4XX	VE3TA	WR5U
JK1JHB	MD0CCE	W1LWH	XE1L
K0DXC	N3JT	W1RM	
K1NOK	N3ND	W1UU	

That's it for now – see you on the air in Sweepstakes and CQ WW!

73,
Pete, WIRM

From the secretary...

Fellow CWops Members:

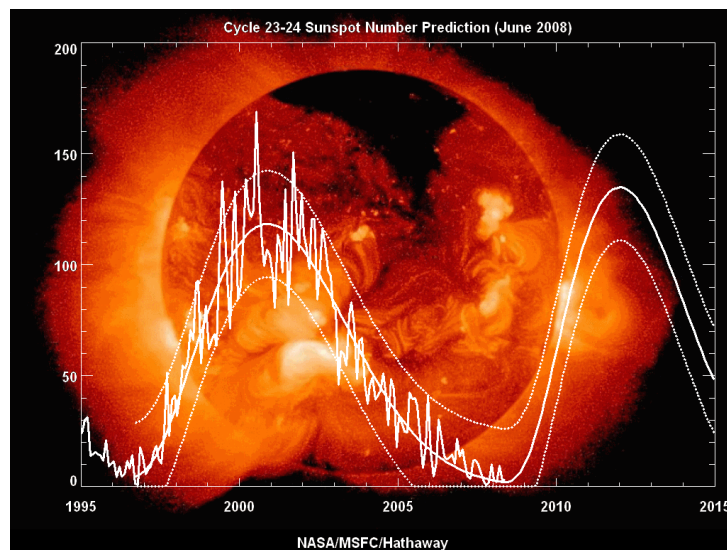
Elections

We have received no additional nominations for vice-president and director. The incumbents have stated they would be willing to stand for another term. Consequently, there will be no formal election and the incumbents are considered elected:

Vice President (2-year term): Art Suberbielle, KZ5D

Director (3-year term): Shin Onisawa, JA1NUT

73,
Jim, N3JT, secretary



ACA/CMA REPORT

Call	ACA	CMA
N5RR*	537	1927
N5AW	462	1163
SM6CNN*	456	1502
KZ5D*	445	1757
W1RM*	444	1549
N2UU*	355	992
W4AU	349	712
W6KY*	346	1030
K6RB*	338	1129
DJ1OJ*	337	1019
K2VCO*	322	536
EA8AY	320	830
KR3E*	318	739
DL8PG*	306	525
EA1WX	300	716
N3JT	295	920
VE3KI*	290	763
W1UJ	284	1150
W1UU	271	690
W5ZR	246	1133
AD1C	239	578
NN6T*	217	445
W2LK	209	642

V31JP	200	318
W5ASP	186	300
N3WT*	180	542
W4PM	173	1281
N1ZX	172	269
W6RKC	148	557
K6DGW*	135	526
OK1RR	130	402
VU2PTT	123	273
W4BQF	106	340
N5TM	90	215
K4GM	84	543
KC0VKN	77	192
N3AM	63	778
W1UJ	52	
HB9CVQ		479

From the editor



Wow. This is my fifth peak sunspot cycle. My first was Cycle 19 – the monster that hit in the late 1950s. It was an amazing cycle which I didn't appreciate at the time. I had no reference. As a novice starting out in June 1958, I thought you could always work EU CW stations on 15 meters, in mid-day, running 30 watts to a ground-plane vertical 12 feet off the ground. Little did I know about the intervening sunspot nulls. But, I'm happy to see that Cycle 24 appears to be alive. If 10 meters is any indication, we should have a lot of fun in upcoming contests and DX chasing. I'm even getting ready to fire up the ol' Globe King 500/75A-4 station to work some AM phone on 29 MHz.

This month we have one of our Saturday CWTs. It's the weekend between SS CW and SS Phone. Remember, CWT now is open to all six HF contest bands (160 through 10). Start on the band that has the most participants, and when you work it dry, move to the next higher band (if you're in daytime). For North Americans doing the 1900Z, you should be able to wring out a solid hour of activity on 20, 15 and 10. And, for the 0300Z, with darkness, 20 meters may start weak, if at all, but you can now do 40, 80 and even 160.

I've kind of taken my eye off the "my story" ball and I'm going to be looking for more of those in the upcoming issues. Check out Rob's (HK3CW) story in this issue and then make a note to yourself to write your story for the December issue.

One of the things I have been putting off was updating my LOTW file and my ACA and CMA totals. With Bill's (N5RR) CAM software, I was able to get my ACA/CMA totals up to date; and by renewing my expired certificate, my LOTW is now current. I have a stack of QSLs, here, too, that I keep promising myself I have to send to the ARRL outgoing bureau. Then all my guilt feelings will be mitigated☺.

Okay, that's my spiel for November. Look for me in SS CW and work me only once☺.

The CW OPEN

We have input all the logs we received (by the deadline) and crunched all the numbers. The winners' logs will be examined one more time just to make sure the computer didn't miss anything. We will announce the winners in the December issue of Solid Copy, so stay tuned.

Alan, AD6E

Rob, K6RB

The CW Academy

The CW Academy is off and running. We are starting to get inputs from advisors and students, and all appears to be working out well. We are now also starting a "get out the word" campaign. Pete, W1RM, is handling the publicity and the first event will be publication of an article written by us (Jay and Rob) called *Spreading the Joy of CW*. Several of our members have volunteered to translate it into their local languages for publication in national ham radio magazines. We believe that once the word starts to spread, we will be getting an influx of student sign-ups. So, those advisors who have been waiting patiently for assignments, your wait may soon be over.

Jay, W5JQ

Rob, K6RB

CWT

Our CWT continues to generate good turnouts, and is proving to be a valuable way of identifying CWops member prospects. The expansion to all HF contest bands seems to be working out well. We are also considering a slower-speed CWT that could be attractive to non-members aspiring to join the fun but feeling a little overwhelmed. The Northern California Contest Club holds a 30 minute sprint-like session every Thursday night (Friday morning) at 0200-0230 Z. They, too, have been working on a slower-speed variant to help newcomers enjoy the sessions without being scared away by the high speeds. We may, in fact, do something together with them. It's in the talking stage for now.

Joe, KC0VKN

My Story

Roberto Rey, HK3CW, CWops 877



My first brush with ham radio came when I was youngster living in San Diego, CA. I was probably eight or 10 years old and I found a strange looking gadget on top of my father's workbench. I didn't even ask what it was; nearly 40 years later I found out it was a J-38 morse key. I later recovered it.

Later in life, back in Bogotá (Colombia), when I was in college, I came across a Yaesu FT890 that my dad had brought home. Truthfully, I wasn't so interested in the radio as much as the story that came with it.

My father, (an electronic engineer that had worked for General Dynamics and Altec Lansing), showed me the radio and said it had been a gift from somebody he had helped, not wanting to share more of his story. But that kind of tweaked my curiosity and I began to inquire more about the tale.

It turned out it wasn't a very nice one. Back in the 1980's Colombia had been struck (and still is) by the "kidnapping business." My dad, being fairly known at the time, was asked to help in the logistics of getting a daughter of a wealthy sewing industry owner freed. To make a long story short, he acquired the radio and made a dipole antenna for the kidnapers to communicate with the family on HF. Thankfully, the negotiation was successful and the family gave my dad the radio as a gift for all his help. So, the radio was left there in a box, and no one in the family really wanted it, as it had been involved in this obscure plot.

A few years later, my sister married a "gringo," and they were transferred to Neuquén (Argentina). At the time, long distance calling was expensive and the quality wasn't all that good, so my father decided to pull out the FT890 and make a dipole to try to get in touch with somebody close to where my sister was living. Turns out, she lived right in front of a very nice fellow...Julio, LU7YAJ!

This really hit me smack across the face...well yeah, talking to my sister was ok...but I couldn't wait to say goodbye and look for DX! I was what the Colombian ham radio legislation would call a "second operator" and I did just that.

My father (HK3DET) also got deep into it and he played a little DX (neither of us knowing what it was really about) and as I came back home each evening he would tell me about the QSOs he had made. Contacting Africa was a highlight of our conversations.

He wasn't much into QSLing, but I sure was, and my first QSL was an HC5! What really got me going was getting a QSL from SØRASD...anyone hearing me making a QSO with this DXpedition would probably have rolled their eyes. This experience was way too embarrassing to relive it again.

My father liked to experiment with antennas and spent much of the time playing around with them. I liked being the test driver and gave him quick reports of how it performed. We even got hit once by lightning and the super-special bazooka was shredded to pieces!

The FT890 was also left muted. My dad quickly returned them to life and we were back on the air. My old man and I weren't really that close, but ham radio turned us into buddies. Well, as all good things in life, this lasted only a couple of years as the man upstairs decided to take my dad for a hike in heaven. I was left heartbroken, and the ham radio thing quickly was left aside.

After I recovered from the loss I promised my dad I would become a ham operator, again, and I began to study for my license. A hard task for a biologist with no idea what the Ohm's law was all about. But, thankfully, I passed and was given my first call, HJ3PXA. As I walked proudly out of the Ministry of Communications I looked to heaven, and said to my dad "this is for you."



After that, I found out that my grandfather had also been a ham, and that my father had been the second operator for him back in the 1940's. Imagine that! I had never known that, so really ham radio had always been in the family. My grandfather had been HK3CN, and one of the founders of the LCRA.

As I still don't have absolutely any electronic skills, whatsoever, I decided the only way I could stand out from the crowd was learning CW. It took me about a year, practicing on business trips, flights, evenings and even in traffic jams, sitting at the wheel of my car, looking at license plates and playing them in my head.

It was not easy at all and I almost gave up until a local DXer made fun of me because I wasn't capable of learning the code. He never could, so that was the incentive I needed to finally complete my learning of the Morse code.

My first QSO was with FG5DX. It took more than 30 minutes, and after that I was left sweating and completely exhausted, and I had only given him my call, report, name and QTH! I slept for an hour after that QSO!



Nowadays, I'm an avid telegraph key collector , a DXer, and have held the following calls: YS1/HJ3PXA, HK3PXA, 5J9A, 5K9AQ, 5KØCW (with two other CWops members, WF5W- Cal and K5OU- Mike) and, now, proudly HK3CW. All these years later, I still don't know what Ohm's law is, but I can sure make a dipole for my favorite band: 30 meters! Now, does this dipole have to be an inverted vee or do the arms go upright?

To write your "my story" for Solid Copy, tell us how you got started, how you operated early on, what you are using now, and plans for future operation. Or, just write whatever you think will be interesting to CWops members. Attach your story (don't embed it) to an email and include any e-photos you have that make the story even more interesting. And email it to: k6rb@baymoon.com . Don't forget to put "solid copy – my story" in the subject field. Thanks.

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	N4DD	Dennis Brickley
Need Sponsors	N7UN	Guy Hamblen
Need Sponsors	W2LJ	Larry Makoski
Need Sponsors	W7KXB	Bill Harris
Need Sponsors	WA9TZE	Jim Akre

For more details about nominees and status, check the "members only" on the Website:

www.cwops.org

For information about joining CWops, check the Website under "membership."