



CWops "CWT"

7, 11, 24 January 2012

Start time:

1300Z Asia/VK/ZL region

1900Z Europe Region

0300Z (8, 12, 25 Jan.) 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](#)

Vidi La Grange, [ZS1EL](#)

Webmaster: John Miller, [K6MM](#)

Editor/Publisher: Rob Brownstein, [K6RB](#)



From the president...

2011 Accomplishments:

It's hard to believe another year has rolled around. Let's take a look back at 2011 and what CWops has accomplished:

- CWops is two years old and we have nearly 1,000 members.
- Member number 1000 was issued to N4DD in early November
- Our initial \$1,000 donation to the ARRL Foundation, made in 2010, was awarded to five clubs in 2011
- A second \$1,000 donation has been made to the ARRL Foundation and we are awaiting information on the winners.
- CWops had a booth at Dayton and the Tokyo Ham Fair along with some other US regional conventions.
- The CW Academy was formalized and launched in August.
- The QTX Ragchewing program was launched in September with "formal" awards and recognition starting in January 2012.
- The CW Open was formalized and held in August 2011. ICOM donated trophies.

- Our dues structure was expanded to include lifetime (\$100) and 5-year (\$50) as well as the single-year \$12 rate.

These are some pretty significant events and activities which could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the teams associated with them:

- CW Academy – Jay, W5JQ and Rob, K6RB and the CW Academy Advisors
- CW Open – Alan, AD6E, and his team
- QTX – Ed, K2EGJ, for the initial idea, development of the activity and his ongoing management.
- CWT – Joe, KC0VKN, for running the CWT's and his code development to extract data from 3830 submissions and automatically enter it into a format that can be displayed on our web site. This virtually eliminates the manual effort that it used to require.
- Website -- John, K6MM, Don, N1DG – for the re-design of the web site and keep it current in a very timely manner.
- Membership – John, N3AM, and Craig, K9CT, for keeping the member roster and dues payments up to date. This is not just a once a year effort but a 12 month one as we gain new members.
- CAM – Bill, N5RR, who developed this excellent tool for tracking a member's progress toward the various CWops awards and his continued refinements.

Goals for 2012:

- Continue to grow our membership – encouraging members to look for and nominate qualified ops to join us.
- Seek other opportunities to encourage CW operating – such things as sponsoring awards in CW contests, support for other CW activities
- Seek other opportunities to help the new CW operator – more publicity for the CW Academy.
- Increase presence at ham events and social gatherings such as Friedrichshafen. We need some of our European members to take up this effort.
- Recruit members to help us handle administrative and activity oversight events
- Seek deserving international recipients for our financial grants.
- Increase participation in CWT events.
- Increase participation in the CW Open scheduled for September 1-2, 2012.

These are just a few – if you have other ideas or suggestions, I'd love to hear them.

73,

Pete, W1RM

ACA/CMA Report

More and more CWops are discovering the fun in hunting for fellow members across all the bands and keeping track of their results for our ACA and CMA awards. You can use a free software program developed by N5RR. Download the CAM Program from our club website. Or if you still prefer the pencil to the keyboard, you can use our membership file also on the web site.

It's important to pay attention to the membership dates of each station. Some have joined during the year and for QSOs to count towards these two awards, you need to be certain the station was an active member on the date you made the contact. Bill, N5RR, has written some automatic membership updating into the latest version of his program. This is the easiest way to track your contacts.

As we start a new year, everyone will have to start over counting QSOs for ACA. So if you haven't joined in the fun, now is a good time to begin. This is just another way to enjoy our CWops club membership. The listings with an asterisk are reports received during the current month.

Happy New Year to all.

Art, KZ5D

CALL	ACA	CMA
AA3B*	661	2669
N5RR*	582	2071
W1RM*	525	1780
N5AW*	513	1380
SM6CNN*	508	1791
KZ5D*	490	1870
VE3KI*	435	1201
EA8OM/DJ1OJ*	427	1252
K6RB*	404	1310
EA8AY	395	1028
W1UJ*	392	1452
W5ZR*	392	1358
N2UU	380	1045
W6KY*	370	1081
W4AU	349	712

EA1WX*	349	971
K2VCO	322	536
DL8PG	315	563
W5ASP*	308	549
W1UU*	306	798
N3JT	295	920
W2LK*	293	752
W6RKC*	261	754
V31JP*	250	428
KR3E	243	778
NN6T*	242	482
AD1C	239	578
K6DGW*	203	647
OK1RR*	197	562
VU2PTT*	194	372
N3WT*	188	560
W4PM	173	1281
N1ZX	172	269
K7GT*	146	388
W4BQF	106	340
N5TM	90	215
K4GM	84	543
KC0VKN	77	192
N3AM	63	778
HB9CVQ		479

CWops ACA – This award is the Annual Competition Award. Only one contact per member per calendar year can be counted for this award. Contacts can be made on any amateur band. The award will be offered at five levels in 2010: ACA-100, ACA-250, ACA-400, ACA-600, and ACA-750.

CWops CMA – This award is the Cumulative Membership Award. This award recognizes the total of the number of members contacted on each amateur band, beginning January 3, 2010 and continuing in perpetuity. Initially, we will recognize accomplishments at these levels: CMA-250, CMA-500, CMA-750, CMA-1000, CMA-1250, and CMA-1500.

To get a copy of Bill's (N5RR) CWops Award Management (CAM) software, go to the 'members only' section of the website, use your ID and password, and look at the third item on the list.

From the editor



CWops is beginning its third year. From an enthusiastic group of a dozen or so CW operators tossing around an idea for a new club, we have grown to over 1,000 operators who have sought membership.

What is really nice about this is the club is perhaps the first ham radio club that began as an international club from day one. Also, it fits an interesting niche in the universe of CW clubs.

Beginning in this third year, as Pete pointed out, we have accomplished a lot of objectives. In a way, CWops is like a company that has introduced a handful of products to its market. Each product has its own features and benefits, and each serves a subset of the market's needs. Now, I think, we are challenged with refining those products to make them even better.

Our first was our mini-CWT. This has proven to be a fun event, two or three times a month. It has also been a very good way for those who want to join CWops to meet and work members. It is probably our most productive way of adding members.

Not everyone, though, enjoys contest-like events. So, we have just started a new program for those of us who enjoy casual, rag-chew type QSOs. The QTX program could become a very popular aspect of CWops. Like every journey, though, it has to start with the first step.

Our annual contest, CW OPEN, was amazingly successful for a first effort. We have refined the knowledge we gained and will try hard to make the second event even more successful. In 2011, the CW OPEN took place in August. In 2012, it will take place the first weekend of September.

To me, one of the club's most important ventures is CW Academy. Can you imagine ham radio without CW? I can, but the picture ain't pretty. There are many things you can try to do to prevent that: you can join a national organization that lobbies its licensing authority (e.g. ARRL, JARL, DARC, RSGB, etc.); you can try to spend as much time as you can on the air operating CW so the CW sub-bands don't seem under used; and you can spread the word among wannabe hams, and hams that have never tried HF, and hams that used to operate CW but got stuck in a SSB rut, that CW is fun, can be learned by nearly anyone, and there are CW operators who would love to help them gain and/or improve their CW skills. This last effort – spreading the word- is the foundation for CW Academy. This third year will be one where we will continue to grow and publicize our efforts aimed at increasing the population of skillful CW operators.

Lastly, I'd like to talk about communications. CWops is an organization. It plans things, it does things, it looks back afterward and analyzes what worked and what didn't. If you are going to derive the maximum benefit from your membership, you need to be aware of what CWops is doing. Every club is tasked with keeping its members informed. I'm a member of three. One charges \$40 a year; one charges \$24 per year; and CWops charges a maximum of \$12 per year. I have been the

newsletter editor for two of those clubs and I can tell you that communications is the largest cost factor. Imagine the cost of printing, folding, stapling, labeling and stamping this newsletter every month. We have members in over 75 countries. We could never do that on a budget of \$12 per year per member. The founders of the club knew that going in. That's why we decided to take advantage of electronic communications as much as possible. As a result, we have established a means for every member to be kept informed, at a dues of \$12 per year, leaving a surplus of funds with which to award grants to CW-education efforts and the like.

We know that some members don't like getting a lot of email, so we limit the number of times per year that we send emails to all our members. Instead, to ensure that you know what's going on, we have a subscribed listserv (cwops@yahoogroups.com) that allows both the club officers and managers to communicate with the members, and for the members to communicate with one another. Right now, less than half the membership is subscribed to that listserv. If you are going to keep informed, in that case, you must remember to go to the website at the beginning of each month, and read the newsletter. That's the most current monthly source of news. Finally, we are able to email you, all, with matters we feel are of high importance. Even that will often produce some 'returned emails.'

If the primary reason you joined CWops was to help support CW education, and you don't care to participate in CWTs, or CW OPEN, or QTX, or CW Academy, that's your choice, of course. But, you may be missing out on some on-air events that you would find are a lot of fun. But, you won't know unless you stay connected. For those of you who do like to participate, it's easy to lose sight of something coming up a few months in advance. You will find reminders on the listserv and in Solid Copy close in time to an upcoming event. But, you won't see it if you don't subscribe or regularly read the newsletter.

So, my personal request to all of you in 2012 is to make an effort to keep informed using our existing methods of communications. On the first the month when some of your bills are due, and you're writing those checks, remember to click on www.cwops.org and read the latest newsletter. Unless you really, really hate getting email, subscribe to cwops@yahoogroups.com and just ignore emails that you think are of no interest.

As we all begin the year 2012, I wish all of you a great year, a healthy year, a fun year, a joyful year.

73, *Rob*, K6RB

QTX Activity Awards

Calling All CWops rag chewers. This month we are kicking off the new QTX award program that recognizes you for all those long telegraphic conversations.

No more "R K2EGJ 5NN TU .." QSOs. They don't qualify but for each QSO lasting at least 20 minutes you get a point and each month the member with the most points wins. We will recognize the grand total winner at the end of the year.

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 QSO that is 20 minutes or longer in duration. Repeat ragchews with the same station on the same band are permitted, and with member stations or not.

You can enter your submissions on the form at the bottom of the QTX program award description on the Members Only page on the club website. Here is the link to the page:

<http://www.cwops.org/members/qtx.html>

So come on all you brass pounders and paddle jockeys let's get out of the gates as fast as you can. And while you are at it, please send in some details on your most memorable rag chews, some little thing that made an impression on you or made you laugh that you can share with us.

Every month we will publish the most interesting ones along with the scores. For example Rob, K6RB, reported that most of his QSOs in December attracted a lot of attention and he got comments like, "I can't believe you are using a Globe King 500. Where's the chirp, ripple and drift?"

If you have any questions you can send me an email at k2egj@ar1.net.

Vy 73,

Ed, K2EGJ

CW Academy

At year's end we can definitely say that CW Academy has been successfully launched and accepted by the amateur community. We currently have over 40 volunteer advisors from CW Ops signed up and over 25 active students.

We have had over 35 students sign up for the program but ten or so have either lost interest or are learning and improving before they become active on the air.

Thanks to all of the advisors that have signed up and been so generous in responding to our requests for mentoring students. We have only a few advisors from EU land and we are starting to receive more students from that area. So, if you are available, fill out the advisor form on the website and hit the send button.

We sent out an inquiry to the active participants, both advisors and students, for suggestions on how to improve the program back in October. Most of the responses were very positive and the students felt they were getting significant improvement in their speeds and operating practices. By the way, advisors, tell your students that they can access Solid Copy from the website without being a member!

We are still working on the possibility of a slow-speed CWT in the old novice sub-bands sometime in the New Year. Two reasons for the delay in this event are the small number of students thus far to allow for a successful contest, and finding a date with minimal conflicts.

We still need more activity in the novice sub-bands that we are promoting for the Academy. So, don't just tune across the lower 50 kHz of the bands and then turn off the rig if no one is around. Take a listen higher to find those slower ops that could use some encouragement and then tell them about the Academy.

Happy New Year!

73,
Jay, W5JQ
Rob, K6RB

CWT in Perspective

Our own webmaster and all-around-analytical-genius, John, K6MM, has done a masterful job of collecting and analyzing our mini-CWT activities.

Among the findings was that on any CWT "day" (including all three sessions), the maximum number of members participating was 55 (about 7 percent). Of those who do participate, they tend to participate in an average of 10 percent of CWT days.

Nevertheless, CWT has been a very effective way of introducing CWops to the ham world, at large, and for recruiting new members.

As a result, we will make a more concerted effort at reminding all members of upcoming CWTs, and will inaugurate some kind of recognition program for participation. In 2011, F5IN wins the prize, hands down, for most participation. But there are a hard core of members who participate a lot which keeps the core event sufficiently active.

If you have not tried a CWT, you should do so. Since it is not “judged” and operates on the honor system, you do not have to even log it – just participate. The exchange is very easy – your name and CWops number. Even if contesting isn’t your thing, CWTs are a great way to work non-members who hope to join us.

A Few Memorable Photos of 2011



Several of the ‘gang’ manning the table at Dayton (May 2011).



Mike (W3MC) and Bud (AA3B) at Jim's CW Enthusiast's breakfast (May 2011)



John, N3AM, and Don, W4ZYT, at Jim's breakfast (May 2011)



Bob, N2UU, Lea, AB5TY, and Bill, KC4D at CW Enthusiast's Friday night pizza bash (May 2011).



Puck, W4PM, at Jim's breakfast (May 2011)



Bob, N2UU, and Pete, W1RM, at Jim's breakfast (May 2011).

Current Nominees

Need Sponsors	EA2AJB	Andres Jovan Rivero
Need Sponsors	JA1GZV	Motoaki Uotome
Need Sponsors	JF1TTN	Masayuki Mukai
Need Sponsors	N7KM	Ken Munford
Need Sponsors	NQ6N	Matt Murphy
Need Sponsors	W7KXB	Bill Harris

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.”