

# Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

May 2018 — Issue 100



## Is This Our Future?



See "A Radio Named Desire," [page 13](#)

## President's Message

CWops is strong and growing stronger. New membership numbers are in the 2000+ range now which is great. Most of the growth has come by attracting new member candidates who already have Morse Code proficiencies at or exceeding the membership threshold. I am glad they are finding CWops and have an interest in joining the CW fun we all enjoy. Some are coming up through the CW Academy pathway and it shows we are serving a purpose for many.



(Continued on page 2)

### **CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday**

#### **Regular Tests: Full Speed**

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

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

**Special slow speed sessions** for CWA graduates will be June 13-14, 2018

#### **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](#)

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">President's Message</a> .....	1
<a href="#">From the Editor</a> .....	3
<a href="#">News &amp; Notes</a> .....	3
<a href="#">100 Issues of Solid Copy</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Sailing and Morse – Two Peas in a Pod</a> .....	8
<a href="#">A Case for "Book Copy"</a> .....	10
<a href="#">A Radio Named Desire</a> .....	13
<a href="#">Mort: The Wheel Turns Full Circle</a> .....	16
<a href="#">How Does Your CW Really Sound?</a> .....	18
<a href="#">CWops Tests</a> .....	18
<a href="#">CW Academy</a> .....	20
<a href="#">Vanity Callsign Update</a> .....	22
<a href="#">New Members</a> .....	23
<a href="#">CWops Members Awards</a> .....	24
<a href="#">QTX Report</a> .....	26
<a href="#">Operating Events</a> .....	29
<a href="#">My Story: New member bio's</a> .....	32

*(Continued from previous page)*

This month I'd like to focus a little bit on our CWTs and CWO sessions/events. They serve us well for skill building, practice and competitiveness. Many of us use these events to develop strategy and tactics to increase our scores (making more Qs with more multipliers in the time allowed). Figuring out how to mix running with S&P and band changing suggests a plan. Before one begins, the operator assesses band conditions, starting point, running or S&P, pre-setting antenna conditions and a few other factors. Every operator controls his own scenario and also considers a Plan B in case computer or software issues, radio failures or even interruptions due to phone calls, family and a host of other possibilities.

The top performances are reached by those who manage time well and their operating conditions are stable and well tested. In a sense, the operator has to make things happen (calling CQ CWT) and using the organization of his station to keep a good rate of contacts. The Runners depend on the S&P ops finding them and making an exchange to build their scores. When the S&P caller rate drops then it might be time to become an S&Per to keep the contact rates high. Band conditions could change and it may be that the other operators have changed bands. Stay in a state of awareness and act accordingly. The S&Per can help his score by moving quickly from one running station to another and getting a contact. The "jump ball" routine can deflate a good score. Call twice and if no answer, move on to the next runner. You can always come back to the runner who had a pileup. Again, awareness puts more points on the board. Both runners and S&Pers are needed for CWTs and other contests. That's why we encourage types to join in every CWT and CWO event available.

Lately, we see the average number of CWT unique call signs gradually increasing and the top CWT number of QSOs hitting 200 plus . Imagine what could happen to your score and if 10 to 20 more members and guests participated in each event.

Even with challenging propagation conditions we notice that the winners continue with high QSO rates. Every part of one's contesting and DXing skills can be improved with continuous participation.

Setting personal event goals before each session is another way to improve one's score. You could decide to make 60, 70, 80 . . . . 120 Qs per CWT hour. It's amazing what that number does to drive you quickly around "jump balls" pile ups. Rate awareness is related to personal goal setting. It changes randomness to focused activity with a higher level of energy.

Feedback and your thoughts are welcomed on our CWops group reflector about ways to use our events for reaching goals.

**73**

**Mac**, NN4K, President

## From the [Editor](#)

### Happy Birthday



You are reading the 100th issue of *Solid Copy*.

[In his story on page 7](#), Rob, K6RB, the very first editor of *Solid Copy*, recounts the founding of CWops in January 2010 and the decision to publish a newsletter. "We . . . knew that we had to publish something that kept the current and future members informed (and) had decided early on that the club would not print and mail anything. All documentation and distribution would be done electronically. We . . . tossed around a bunch of different names, but *Solid Copy* . . . was the keeper."

The 100th issue milestone creates a perfect opportunity to consider the past, the present and the future. [For a look at the past](#),

[page 8](#) reprints the very first *Solid Copy* feature story, "Sailing and Morse, Two Peas in a Pod," also written by K6RB. [Page 10 looks at the present](#) as John, N6HCN, describes his process for creating eBooks in CW. [And page 13](#) provides a possible glimpse into the future of ham radio with a fictional story by Jerry, AC4BT.

Starting with this issue, *Solid Copy* also has a new look. What better way to celebrate your 100th birthday than with a makeover? A new nameplate maintains the simple design concept of the original but in a more contemporary expression. And based on the belief that *Solid Copy* is almost exclusively read electronically, this issue features a new typeface, Open Sans, a font designed for Google that is "optimized for print, legibility and mobile platforms." [According to Google, Open Sans](#) is currently in use on more than 21,000,000 websites.

We hope you enjoy this special edition and that you look forward to reading *Solid Copy* each month for at least the next 100 issues.

**73**

**Tim**, K9WX, Editor

---

## News and Notes

### [Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

#### Silent Keys

Sadly, we report that on March 8<sup>th</sup>, Daniel (Dan) Glanc, OK1DIG, CWops #870 went Silent Key, and that on March 30<sup>th</sup>, Ronald J. Polityka, WB3AAL, CWops #228 went Silent Key.

(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from previous page)*

**Riki, K7NJ Plaque:** A plaque was presented to Riki K7NJ for taking on a leadership role for the Awards Committee and guiding the Awards Committee for 3 years in soliciting recommendations, discussing these recommendations with the committee members, and ultimately selecting winners (in conjunction with review by the Board) for the final award that is presented at the CWops dinner at Dayton. This award has become a worldwide standard for the development of the art of CW and K7NJ's leadership has been instrumental in this achievement.

In addition to Riki K7NJ, the members of the Award Committee are: Art K6XT; Alan AC2K; Mac NN4K; Rick EA4ZK and Vic 4X6GP/K2VCO.

**Mel, KJ9C:** I will be QRV from Indiana until June 1<sup>st</sup> ... so I expect folks will have a lot less trouble hearing me for a few weeks!

**Don, N1DG:** The upcoming DXpedition to Baker Island, KH1/KH7Z (June 26<sup>th</sup>), will be chock full of CWops members, including several of our charter members! Members include N1DG #2, K6MM #11, 9V1YC, #66, K6TD #81, ND2T #110, JN1THL #161, and WJ2O #1093. More details at [www.baker2018.net](http://www.baker2018.net).

**Jim, N3JT:** Snowbirds N3JT and N3AM arrived back home from Florida to VA and MD, respectively. However, due to the tragic cargo plane crash in Savannah the track used by the Auto Train was closed. The track runs adjacent to the crash scene.

Rerouting and rescheduling track use (shared with CSX, the freight train company that owns the tracks) took 11 hours, making for a trip duration of 28 total hours instead of 17. Fortunately, the A/C worked great and we were all relieved to finally arrive, get our cars off the train and get back to our residences.

**Ed W2LCQ:** In past 3 weeks I acquired a Dell Latitude PC with Windows 10, installed N1MM and N3FJP loggers and connected Winkeyer. Makes S&P a lot more fun in the CWTs but I need more practice before I can start running!

**Rob, KK4R:** In May, I will be meeting K4QPL, Jim Jordan, K4BAI, John Laney, and Art Subervielle, KZ5D at Harbour Rock (Jim's place) on Provo in the Turks and Caicos Islands for the CQ WPX CW contest.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

There will probably be some regular DX operations and some ad hoc QSO's on the side. Look for **VP5M** in the contest and for our calls with the VP5/ prefix for DX. Having recently graduated from CW Academy, I look forward to this like some sort of extreme final exam! Imagine having these three guys observe your CW final! I'm super excited!

**Lar, K7SV:** With the big windstorms this past Winter, my 160 Inverted L, 80M dipole and NW/SE 40M dipoles came down. Fortunately, I've gotten good enough with the slingshot and open face spinning rod/reel that it's not too difficult to get line back in the trees where I want them, especially with no leaves on the trees.

I decided to see if I could get a little better signal to the NW on 40 so opted for building a wire Moxon rather than putting the NW/SE dipole back up. Based on RBN comparisons with Locals prior to the dipole coming down and after replacing it with the Moxon, it appears that the Moxon *was* doing what it was supposed to. Unfortunately, the Moxon configuration placed it closer to the 20M dipoles resulting in 3rd harmonic crud from 40 to 20 that made SO2R unusable.

Analysis showed the net gain was negative, so I'm back to two dipoles on 40 at 70 feet, one NW/SE and the other NE/SW. At that height, there is frequently but not always a distinct difference.

The Apr/May Level I CW Academy class that I am advising is going well. Looking forward to seeing many of you at Dayton and/or at the North American CW weekend.

**Joe, AA8TA:** What is this (see photo, right)? Almost every ham has used what this produces.

Please send your responses to the CWops listserve [cwops@groups.io](mailto:cwops@groups.io).



*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

**Rob G0MGM:** As a treat for completing the Level 3 CWA course with Jerry AC4BT, I treated myself to a little LNR MTR 5B QRP CW transceiver. This is a great little rig and I have made a number of QSOs from home using a 9v battery putting out just under 3w.

Last year I attended the RSGB Convention and went to a talk by Michael G0POT about doing SOTA activations and was taken aback by his little station, and LNR MTR 3B and a home brew 3 band End Fed Half Wave antenna. On his site he has details of what he built so I thought it would be good to build something like that for my MTR5B. The traps I used were the Pico Traps from Sotabeams here in the UK and it was the first time I have ever done any soldering of small SMD capacitors, I definitely need to get a magnifying glass for the workbench. These are the pico traps (top photo).

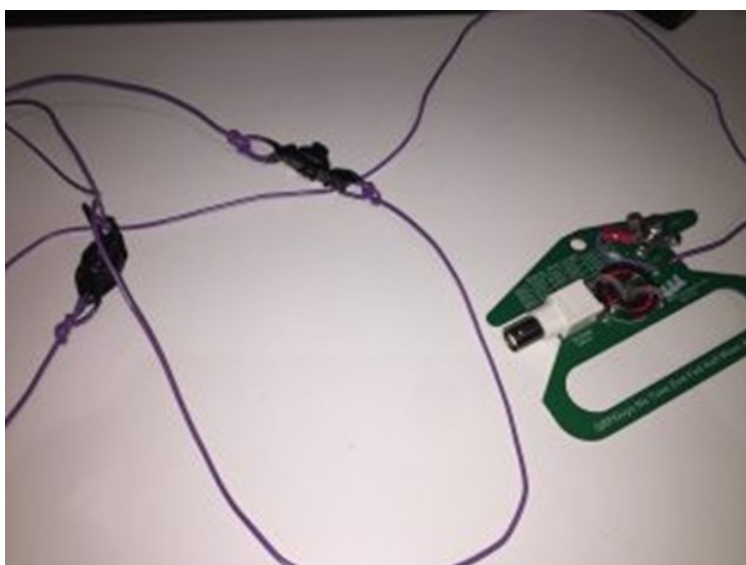
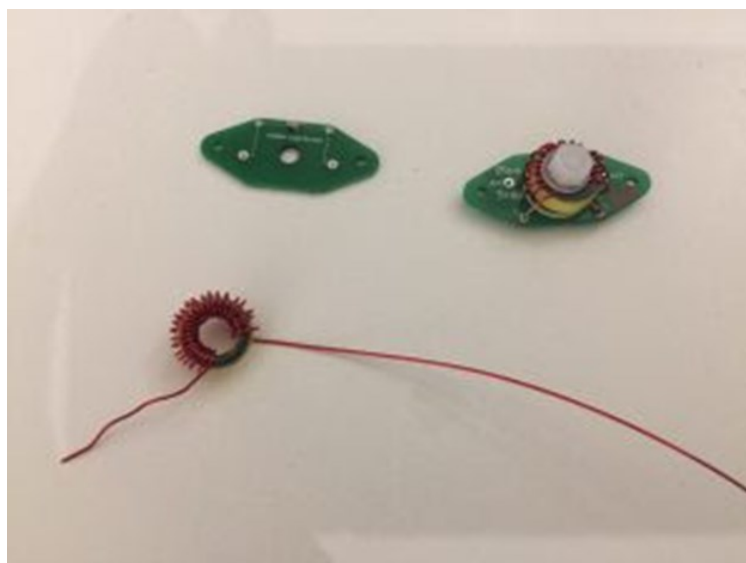
For the 50:1 Unun i found this little kit from the QRPGuys website which comes with a built-in antenna winder (middle photo).

After an afternoon of tuning with my antenna analyzer and my Sotabeams pole, I got the antenna nicely tuned up for 20m, 30m, and 40m in an inverted V (bottom photo).

I was hoping the weather would be getting warmer but today, May 1<sup>st</sup>, I had to scrape frost off the car windscreen. Fingers crossed I can get some time between work and the kids to be able to go and do my fist SOTA summit!

**73,**

**Jerry, AC4BT, News and Notes**



# Celebrating 100 Issues of CWops' Solid Copy

[Rob Brownstein, K6RB](#)

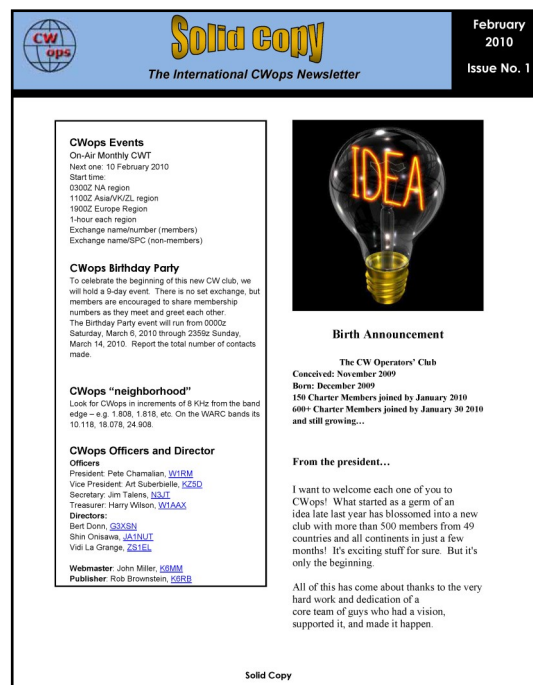
Wow, we have published 100 issues of Solid Copy, the CWops club newsletter. I can still remember when 12 of us first dreamed up CWops. The club was born on January 1 2010, and its birth announcement was made in our first issue – February 2010. Back then we were all so busy trying to tackle all the initial elements of the club – ByLaws, Registration, Membership, Mission – but we also knew that we had to publish something that kept the current and future members informed.

With Pete, W1RM, as first president, and Jim, N3JT, as secretary, I took on the task of the newsletter. We had decided early on that the club would not print and mail anything. All documentation and distribution would be done electronically. That's one of the qualities of CWops that has kept its dues structure so low. We had tossed around a bunch of different names, but *Solid Copy*, which I first proposed, was the keeper. Having done a fair amount of desktop publishing, I took a crack at the look-and-feel of the newsletter. The February 2010 issue format was the result.

From February through August 2010, we kept essentially the same format. It was a dual-column one. That type of formatting was traditional with print media (other than books) where the page width dictated breaking the print into narrower columns so your eye did not have to traverse 12 inches of type. But, with electronic media, multiple columns create a need to scroll a page up and down as you shift columns. And, that can be annoying. So...in the September 2010 issue, and thereafter, from page two on, we went to a single-column format. There has been a change or two in first-page title type face, but, overall, the current edition bears significant likeness to the original. And, I continued as editor/publisher through December 2012 issue – the first 35 issues.

Having been elected president in December 2012, and with lots of new items on my plate, I listened to Jim, N3JT, who suggested I find a replacement editor/publisher for *Solid Copy*. I thought it would be a long delayed search, but, happily, my friend and one of the original founders, Rick, N6XI, volunteered to take it on. And, Rick did the job, masterfully, from January 2013 until February 2017- publishing 50 issues!

Beginning in March 2017, Tim, K9WX, has stepped into some awfully big shoes, and he has done himself proud. The issues have grown in size and diversity under Tim; and readership is increasing. Our third president, Mac, NN4K, has also hit the ground running and the club continues to grow and improve on every level. By reading through the past issues, one can grasp the history of the club and its desire, from the outset, to be an inclusive CW club that aims to mentor those who aspire to learn Morse code so as to keep CW ham radio alive. So far, I think, we've done a respectable job.





# Sailing and Morse – Two Peas in a Pod

[Rob Brownstein, K6RB](#)

*Editor's note: this story was the first-ever Solid Copy feature story, appearing in issue number 1 in February 2010.*



"Morse is like a horse-and-buggy, no one needs it anymore," said a ham I ran into at Pacificon one year. I thought about it for a few seconds and answered, "You're wrong; it's like sailing, no one needs it, but some people really love doing it." That was the first time I had compared sailing to radio telegraphy, but the more I thought about it, the more sense it made.



People have been sailing for thousands of years now. At one time, it was the only means of transporting goods between continents. People did not sail for fun; they sailed because they had to.

Then, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century something happened. The steam engine was fitted to a sea-going vessel, and for the first time, long-distance travel by sea could be done without relying on the wind.



By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, all major shipping was being done using powered vessels. Many felt that sailing would simply become extinct. It was no longer being taught in naval academies, and seemed to be becoming a lost art.

Ironically, in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are actually more vessels under sail than at any time in our history. Major shipping, of course, is still done using powered vessels, but a lot of people in a lot of countries find the skill and enjoyment of wind-powered boating something to aspire to learning and doing.



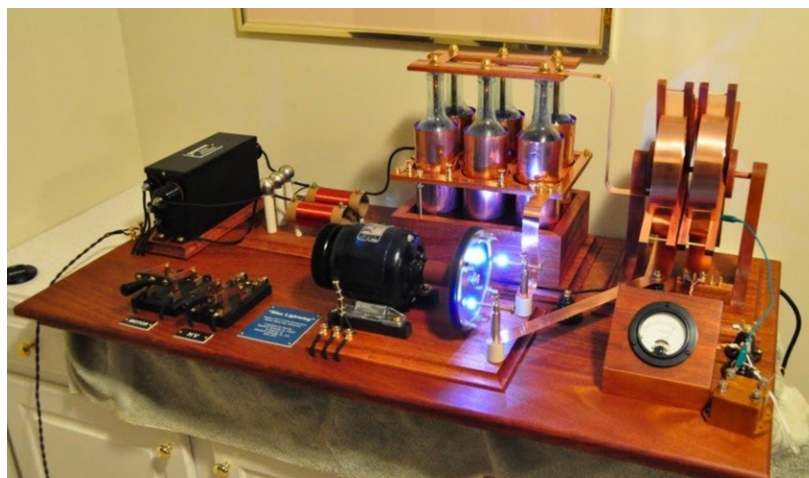
Morse-based telegraphy over wires began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, and wireless telegraphy began in earnest about half a century later. During World War I the first attempts were made to use wireless as a means of military communications, but its value had already been publicized to the world a decade earlier with the sinking of the Titanic.

Ham operators began by communicating with one another

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*



using spark transmitters and crystal receivers. As electronics emerged with the Fleming valve and De Forest triode, more stable transmitters and receivers took the place of the old spark and crystal gear. But, the signals were still being encoded and decoded using Morse. As radio became regulated, and operation required licensing, aspiring ham radio operators had to pass Morse competency tests and written tests that combined questions about regulations and minimum -essential technical knowledge.

Even as amplitude modulation telephony emerged, and many hams tried their hands at voice communications, Morse continued to be the primary mode of operation well after World War II. In those days, a DXCC award for phone was considered a much tougher accomplishment than one done using CW.

Today, of course, the tide has changed. Beginning in the late 1950s, SSB transceiver technology made it possible to create CW-and-SSB rigs that sold for less than the separate transmitters and receivers of the 1940s and 1950s. And, with the greater efficiency of sideband versus AM, a lot of existing ham operators migrated to phone, and many newer operators learned just enough Morse to get their general-class tickets and then stuffed their hand keys in a drawer.

These days, new operators are no longer tested for CW competency. There is no novice class of slow CW operators working to meet the minimum requirements for general or higher-class tickets anymore. The commercial shipping industry no longer requires its radio operators to learn and use Morse. Like sailing, it looked like it was destined to become a dying art.

But, also like sailing, there are still a lot of people who find the skill and enjoyment of CW communications something of great personal value. No one who has never sailed before gets into a modest sailboat and does well. It is an acquired skill that must be taught and learned. The same is true for Morse. In the 1950s and 60s, the novice-class ticket was our entry into the world of radio and CW. Some of us saw it as a hurdle to be leapt over on one's path to a higher-class license; others found it exciting and enjoyable. I still hear stories, like my own, about young hams who couldn't wait to upgrade and go on phone only to discover that they really enjoyed CW much more.

There's a lot of talk about the graying of ham radio. Certainly the average age of a ham these days is higher than it was in 1960. And, far too many new operators go only so far as getting a technician license and a two-meter handheld and never discover the magic of HF. Of those who do try HF, most go right to sideband.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

The novice license forced us to bootstrap our Morse skills and gave us a year to do it, in the beginning. For many of us, though, that was a great inducement to learn it. Today, if we want to grow a new crop of CW operators, we have to impress our non-CW brethren with the personal value of becoming a competent CW operator.

Photo credits: [marineinsight.com](http://marineinsight.com), [findboatpics.com](http://findboatpics.com), [sailboat-cruising.com](http://sailboat-cruising.com), [radiomuseum.co.uk](http://radiomuseum.co.uk), [dxzone.com](http://dxzone.com)

---

## A Case for “Book Copy”

[John Silzel, N6HCN](#)

It may be that there are two different CW dialects. The “symbolic” dialect, so fluently spoken by contesters and commercial ops, is far more efficient than voice for the accurate transmission of data: formal traffic, call signs or serial numbers, even ciphered military communications. In symbolic CW, anticipation of the next character is a no-no, since the traffic consists of compressed data of high information content and little redundancy. Every character is crucial, and copy must be perfect.



The other CW dialect may be newer and reflect the rise of CW as an art: the use of code as an auditory language. This “conversational” CW is more like speech or silent reading: concepts and context ride naturally on a fuller vocabulary. Neither sender nor receiver may remember the exact words sent, and neither is conscious of characters at all. This CW dialect comes closer to reading than data transmission, and in fact brain mapping research<sup>1,2</sup> shows that the brain processes “head copy” much the same way as it does speech or printed text during fast, silent reading.

We know that learning a second language begins awkwardly, with symbols and sounds, mechanical grammatical rules and memorization of seemingly infinite vocabulary. But at some point, the mind assimilates the new tongue, and the mechanics of the language become internalized and unconscious. This process appears to involve a rewiring, or “neuroplasticity” of the brain, involving new connections between sensory and cognitive centers, and a detectable increase in gray

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

matter density.

It seemed to me that expertise in conversational CW, like fluency in any language, would benefit from *immersion*. But my family and work could not accommodate hours and hours at my rig hunting up a ragchew or listening to W1AW sessions, only a portion of which were of interest or at useful speed, anyway. Making matters worse were poor propagation, QSB, and nighttime QRN at my home. If only, I thought, I could listen to... a good *story*... sent perfectly, anywhere, hour after hour in CW, at a speed always high enough to stretch my copy skills.

## The Solution: CW e-Books

I found the answer on my first internet search: a free, open-source software application called "ebook2cw". (<http://fkurz.net/ham/ebook2cw.html>) This code runs on Windows, MAC OS, and best of all on Linux, my favorite OS. The work of champion QRQQ operator Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK (CWOps #1566), ebook2cw does just what it says: converts any ASCII text file to a collection of audio .mp3 files that can be loaded on an inexpensive player or your smartphone, burned to CD, or played however you normally listen to digital music. Converting a full-size novel takes about 40 minutes on a laptop, and just slightly longer on a \$35 Raspberry Pi computer, an amazing unit worthy of its own article. My solution is to drag-and-drop the converted audio files to a cheap Coby 8Gb MP3 player, which fits in my pocket and holds enough CW for months of nightly "reading".

All of this is great, but until book publishers start releasing CW editions (we won't hold our breaths, will we?) you'll need a way to get your reading material in ASCII form. Fortunately, the good folks at The Gutenberg Project ([www.gutenberg.org](http://www.gutenberg.org)) have provided more than 50,000 ebooks, virtually copyright-free, with more added all the time. Acquiring a CW library is as simple as downloading the "plain ASCII text" version of your chosen book. Even "War and Peace" is only about 3 Mbytes, smaller than an average music download.



It's of course optional, but I like to use an editor to "search and replace", making some CW-friendly edits to the downloaded book: I replace "and" with "ES" for example. I used to remove quotation marks, but I've found that copying that unusual character has become second nature. In fact, ebook2cw handles more punctuation than we use on the air and has means for you to insert prosigns as well. Ebook2cw will optionally insert a BT at the end of each paragraph, which I like very much. (Fabian Kurtz tells me it will even handle some special Greek, Cyrillic, and Hebrew characters!) While you're at it, check your book to see what text is used to delineate chapters. Ebook2cw can break the book into chapters based on "hits" to a particular search string, like "CHAPTER", and I add this keyword to books whose chapters were ambiguously marked in the original file. This whole editing process takes only about 15 minutes for a typical novel.

At this point, you're ready to feed the edited book into Ebook2cw. I use the no-frills command-line version of the app, but there is a version of the code that includes the familiar "GUI" window interface. It is a simple process and there are good instructions on the website listed above. There are separate speed settings for characters and WPM. I set the program to chop the book up by chapters, and limit each MP3 file to 30 minutes, so they're manageable for me in one read-

(Continued on next page)



*(Continued from previous page)*

ing session. (Longer files mean more work to find my place if I fall asleep while listening!) I set ebook2cw's QRQ feature to give me 3-4 WPM of QRQ per 30 minutes, so each file begins at my current comfortable "base" speed and ends up pushing me a bit. Any time I am not stretching a bit to copy the last QRQ, I will reconvert the remaining chapters, bumping things up 3 WPM or so. But I never let it get frustrating-- my goal is a relaxed but focused reading experience, not a sweat-breaking adrenaline meltdown! (Save that for CWTs...)

## **Rewiring Your Brain: From CW "Guinea Pig" to Speed Reader**

Your first CW book might seem like slow going. At first, I thought I'd wear out the "rewind" button on my mp3 player. Books are, after all, more eloquent and complex than our on-air QSOs. Strange spellings, dialog, contractions, and sections of oddly spelled vernacular can be challenging at first. Stick with it, and don't be tempted to peek at the text! If you like Westerns, the books by Zane Grey stick to a fairly common vocabulary and style that helped me adapt to "book copy". When I started out, my (rusty) base speed was about 15 WPM, I still needed a pencil and paper, and I was accustomed to Farnsworth timing. My first goals (besides enjoying the books) were to toss my pencil "cold turkey" and wean myself to normal CW word and character spacing. Then I began to build WPM. As any op knows, this is an irregular process, with plateaus and periods where progress seems nonexistent. But with a good book, it is easy to be patient and "stick with the program".

Once hooked on a good book, you'll be motivated to practice. And with regular practice, learning is inevitable. Your brain is pre-wired for language and cannot help but become more and more fluent. Relax and enjoy the book, speed will come inevitably and effortlessly. After a few books, the unconscious head copy will have you wondering just how fast you can go! I believe anyone can eventually pass 30 WPM by spending 30 minutes per day doing "book copy".

You'll probably spend several months reading a novel in CW, so you'll want to pick good reading material. No matter your tastes, there are fine books out there just waiting to be converted to CW. Some favorites of mine are "Riders of the Purple Sage", "The Heritage of the Desert" and "Mysterious Rider" by Zane Grey. "Two Years Before the Mast" by Dana, and "Log of a Cowboy" by Adams are great picks. If a novel sounds daunting, try short stories, like the Sherlock Holmes cases by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In the military nonfiction vein, you might enjoy "Blood Brothers", by Colonel Eugene C. Jacobs, and if you're a geek like me, or just want to practice numbers, you can read government technical reports like the declassified "Project Trinity" documents detailing the first atomic tests. All of these and more are downloadable via the Project Gutenberg site. And of course, you can convert any text file, email, or webpage text-- even this issue of Solid Copy! I've tried scanning and OCR of printed books, but the process takes too long for me.

## **The Payoff**

Why try this admittedly eccentric pastime? Well, for one thing, enjoying a good book in bed with your eyes shut is very relaxing, and there is no book light or page turning to disturb the XYL. There is no SDR to tweak, no panadapter to scan, no QSB, no QRM, just Fabian's computer-perfect fist, solid copy, and no speed limits. A suspenseful plot unfolding in rapid CW reminds me of listening to a radio drama, and the pace, though slower than reading or an audio book, has

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

become surprisingly enjoyable.

Like other ops, I have been startled to find that the neuroplastic “rewiring” of my brain has some strange side effects, as well. The ears automatically “lock” onto CW almost instantly and unconsciously, and seem to find code everywhere, on and off the bands. You might find yourself distracted by the odd things being “said” by birds, dishwashers, squeaking machinery, and the various beeping devices all around us. During ragchews you might be unaware that you are copying code rather than voice. You might find yourself copying more than one QSO at a time.

Has it been a while since you enjoyed effortless CW as a true language, a mental connection, hanging on every word to see if the “good guy” was going to win, or leaning back at the paddles, eyes shut, enjoying a rapid-fire QSK back-and-forth, telling jokes or yarn-spinning with one of the fine ragchewers on the bands? I’m sure that “book copy” will give even the most crazy-fast op a new level of fun and fluency in our wonderful “second language”. You might find yourself waxing eloquent on the air, adopting the gritty prose of Hemingway, or the sly humor of Twain in your next ragchew. If you need help converting that first book, drop me an email and I’ll be glad to assist.

## References

1. Schlaffke L, Leemans A, Schweizer LM, Ocklenburg S and Schmidt-Wilcke T, *Learning Morse Code Alters Microstructural Properties in the Inferior Longitudinal Fasciculus: A DTI Study*. Front. Hum. Neurosci. 11:383, (2017). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2017.00383>
2. Maier J, Hartvig, NV, Green AC, Stodkilde-Jorgensen H, *Reading with the Ears*, Neuroscience Letters, 364, 185–188, (2004). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neulet.2004.04.040>

*Editor’s note: John N6HCN has converted this article into mp3 files using the outlined techniques. They can be [downloaded here](#).*

---

## A Radio Named Desire

### [Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

She waited at the ham store for it to open. The shiny new radio sparkled there in the window just like the first time she saw it last year. Would they stop her if and when she got enough nerve up? Because no other would do. She wanted **this** radio. Well, one day it would be hers. It was her time to own it.

She could feel their eyes on her now. She could just take it right there in front of their noses right out in the open. Who would stop her? “My radio”, she said, “mine, all mine.” In her mind she grabbed it. His hand landed on hers. As he touched her she



(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from previous page)*

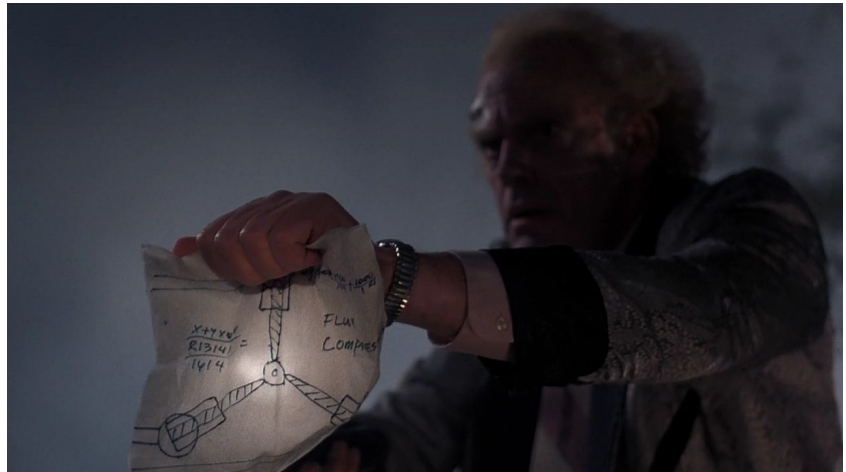
froze and just waited for the hammer to fall.

With what little nerve she had she could try and talk her way out of it. Most of the time she got what she wanted. But this time she was so in over her head. He was walking up to her. He would say something to her which would surely make her run. "Come on into the store, madam. It's good to see you again. You must be cold. Your hands are trembling."

She took a long deep breath and held it, her eyes darting suspiciously back and forth and allowed herself to be escorted into the store. "I see you are fascinated with the new Atomic 1000 DX'er. The production run just started last week. She's a real beauty isn't she? Come over here by the display and I will demo it for you. But you will have to stand back a bit while it powers up. Did I mention its Atomic?", said the salesman.

She could barely contain herself. Her heart rate went through the roof. Beads of sweat formed on her brow. With a crooked forced smile she held herself together and commanded her wobbly feet to take a step in the direction of the salesman.

The salesman picked up a small bottle and carefully opened it. "The Atomic 1000 DX'er takes five drops of fuel to run. No more, no less.", he said. He pried open the side door of the radio and lifted the panel exposing the fuel chamber. He then carefully let five drops of fuel from the small tube drip into the fuel compartment, one drop at a time, and then quickly and firmly clamped the fuel door shut.



*Rumored to be the secret power source of the Atomic 1000 DX'er.*

"We are all ready for ignition.

Stand back as I power her up!", he exclaimed. The salesman's voice was loud and excited. Everyone in the store turned in their direction gazing with anticipation. Her jaw dropped as she watched the salesman press in the ignition switch 3 times in rapid succession.

First a cloud of steam appeared. Then the first small explosion came, followed by another. And then a steady flow of steam emerged from the bottom of the radio. She took a step backwards as the Atomic 1000 DX'er, purring like a cat, raised up and hovered about five feet above the table.

"Go ahead", he said. "Take the controls. Place your hands on the hand pads. That will activate the remote control. Our store call sign is A65DX A65DX. You can use that to call CQ."

She did as she was told placing her hands on the pads. The Atomic 1000 DX'er responded. A steady blue light with the words: 'connection successful ready for telepathic command', now displayed on its screen.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

"She's all ready to go, just concentrate on the Band you want to use. Say 40 meters to yourself. Just think it!", shouted the salesman.

She focused on the words '40 meters' and the display of the Atomic 1000 DX'er quickly flashed '40 Meters 7035 ready'. There was someone already calling CQ on frequency. She could clearly make it out: 'CQ CQ CQ de ZA1EZ ZA1EZ k'. "That's Albania!", she said out loud.

"The Atomic 1000 DX'er will automatically find a station calling CQ for you.", said the salesman. "Quick! send the call sign A65DX and answer him. Just think it and it will be sent. Hurry before another station jumps in there and beats you to the punch!"

She focused hard but all that came out of the speaker was a very slow CQ. "Think faster!", shouted the salesman. This time she didn't hesitate and the CW that was sent the second time matched the speed that the Albanian station was sending at. 'ZA1EZ ZA1EZ de A65DX A65DX K', came through the speaker loud and clear. A small crowd now gathered as she continued to work the station. She translated the CW to the onlookers as the QSO progressed. "He's now asking me what radio I am using and he wants to know how long I have been doing CW!", she said excitedly.

Back and forth it went. The Atomic 1000 DX'er playing distortion free audio coming from the ZA1EZ station and sending the CW responses it received telepathically from the woman. She just thought the responses in her mind and the Atomic 1000 DX'er sent the CW for her. The large crowd now offered question after question that they wanted the woman to ask and impatiently waited for each response to come back along with the CW translation from the woman. "Ask him what the weather is in Albania. Ask him if he lives near a Beach!" One young girl jumped up and shouted "Ask him if he's married!"

More people flocked in from the street wanting to find out what all the commotion was about. Pretty soon it was standing room only. The Atomic 1000 DX'er chugging along. The enthusiastic crowd pushing towards the action. The woman's heartbeat was racing. The CW was coming in fast and furious and she was keeping up with all of it giving a blow by blow description of the action to the crowd. The crowd leaned in soaking up the rhythmic dit and dah sounds emitted by the Atomic 1000 DX'er. Wide-eyed faces robotically rotated in the direction of the woman in the hope of learning its translation.



*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

After forty-five minutes, the QSO finally began to wind down. Pleasantries and parting words were exchanged by the stations. She thanked ZA1EZ for the call and wished him well. ZA1EZ told her that he would send her a QSL card as soon as he could. No one really wanted to end the call. The two stations had made a special connection that day and didn't want to part ways but finally it came to an end. ZA1EZ sent 'Thank you' and she replied in turn. Then they sent the customary 'two-dits' at the end of the call.

The crowd cheered and applauded. The woman was now exhausted but in a good way. She felt content and complete. A young boy broke free from his mother's grasp pushing his way through to the front. "Who taught you to copy CW so well?", he asked. The woman paused, reflected, and with a big grin proudly exclaimed "CWops CW Academy. It's a great organization!"

*Author's note: I wrote the short story and used it in my CW Academy level 3 classes this past semester as head-copy exercises. The story was presented in serial format where a short installment (episode) was given to the students to listen to as homework after each class. This approach is similar to the serial TV programs I remember watching when I was growing up where you had to wait until the next episode aired the following week to find out what happened to the main character – it makes you want to come back for more.*

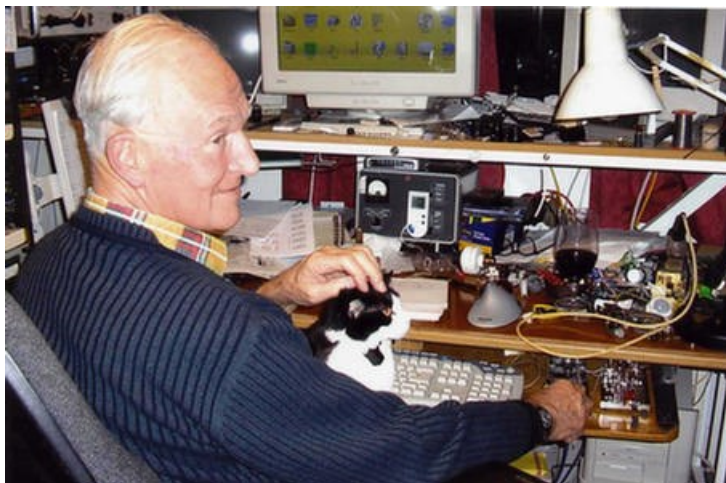
Photo credits: [backtothefuture.wikia.com](http://backtothefuture.wikia.com) (including page 1); [cdn.emg.com](http://cdn.emg.com)

---

## The Wheel Turns Full Circle.

[Mort Mortimer, G2JL](#)

My first QSO was during my time with the Air Force in 1952. We were obliged to do a couple of years Military Service. During a navigational exercise I was a spare body on an Anson aeroplane, taking observations but not doing the actual navigation. Fiddling with the WW2 T1154 & R1155, with a wind-out trailing antenna, I called MQK in Comber, Northern Island for a fix; radio direction-finding, not a reefer. The dialog went "MQK DE MQKOD INT QTF K". They told me to hold the key for 10 seconds & supplied me with a "Class A" position, which I wrote down and passed to the colleague actually doing the navigation "Base - Kesh - Benbane Head - Base" - exotic names, what? When we got



(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from previous page)*

back, we were asked who had worked the radio. Although I confessed, nothing came of it. After a short while, my eyesight went myopic, I got thrown out, and went to work for the Navy, long established in Portsmouth. First in a chemistry lab, then gunnery computers analogue machinery; weird! Eventually I got into the work I wanted, frequency & time for 30-odd years - some, very odd.

My first long-ish sea trip was in HMS "Cumberland" in 1955. Working for the Royal Naval Scientific Service, there were ten of us aboard, recording observations on all kinds of experiments, about which nothing need be or should be said. I'd been licenced only about ten months, so was still on my probationary first year on



[HMS "Cumberland"](#)

CW, and very keen to listen and learn round the bands. So, I went into the radio room one evening, and asked the man in charge if I might use a spare RX. "Any of those over there" he said. They were ghastly clunkers called B40, with even worse ergonomics than an HRO.

He sat at a typewriter and a receiver tuned to a Naval General Broadcast, and started to type, as I searched 14 Mc/s (as frequencies were in those days, before they disguised them). The Petty Officer Telegraphist typed a few lines, then paused, patted his pockets & brought out his tobacco-tin. Next, he found some cigarette-papers, and proceeded to roll a 'tickler'. He typed a few more lines, & I could see he was hunting for a match. Lost in admiration, I lit his fag [English word for cancer-stick] for him, and as he typed: I hadn't learned dactylography, then. The PO smoked three or four while typing sporadically in a calm unflustered manner.

-----  
Years later, on a new ship undergoing trials off Plymouth, I was setting up transmitter drive-units. The rule was that the developers of the equipment did the first 'Setting to Work' of any new installation. The "TDA" as it was designated proved a nightmare. The original design called for a cooling air supply, and the actual installation had a variable & unreliable supply more suited to a pizza oven than delicate electronics.

Seated before the control desk was a junior telegraphist, in contact with a Naval Air Station supplying gunnery-practice target aircraft. They sent him a message saying the aeroplane was breaking off to refuel. The junior operator asked for a repeat, saying there was QRM. I'd have given them 599, so I sensed something wrong & scribbled the message on a spare leaf of my notebook, tore it off & gave it to the bewildered lad.

His face beamed, and he sent an acknowledgement to the Air Station. Mysteriously, a week later, as we were docking, next day I was invited to the Chiefs' Mess, and plied with the magnificent genuine Pusser's rum, such as served to the enlisted men on Her Majesty's Ships in those days; oh, to find a source today! My face beamed as I crashed on my bunk. I woke in the morning with no trace of hangover.

The moral of the story is that it pays to learn telegraphy, in so many ways...



# How Does Your CW Really Sound?

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

In today's transceiver world, we listen to a rig-generated sidetone, not to our real signals. We may not hear light keying, we won't hear key clicks, we won't hear chirp, etcetera. Additionally, all of us are used to our own fists and may think our fist is our gift to hamdom.

How do you really sound to hams on the other end?

I record most of my CWops Test contacts. If you want to hear how you sound on California's Eastside, [send me an email request](#), and I'll send you one or more .wav files back.

The files are recorded using [Qsorder by K3IT](#). This neat program is a plugin that works with [N1MM](#). Please note that Qsorder records your sidetone—it doesn't record how you sound to others on the air. So, if you want to truly hear how your signal sounds, you need to listen to a recording made by someone else's receiver.

Some thoughts about the 100th-Anniversary edition of Solid Copy. First thank you very much to super editors K6RB, N6XI and K9WX.

Visalia International DX Convention Contest Dinner 2011. Sitting around a table with CWops and Northern California Contest Club friends. CWops membership was less than five-hundred. Back then our CWops Tests were only two Wednesdays per month plus a Saturday session. Eighty, forty, and twenty meters only if I recall correctly. Making 100 QSOs was a real achievement. Someone suggested a new activity called CWOOpen. I demurred saying that we had enough contests and didn't need any more.

Now look at us! Three times every Wednesday the bands explode. CWOOpen lights up the bands every September. Membership numbers are over two-thousand. CW Academy is schooling new CW aficionados. CW isn't dying—it's growing and holding its own.

Congratulations and thanks to all who made it happen!

CW Exuberantly,

**Hank**, W6SX

---

## CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

Since this is the 100th issue of Solid Copy, I thought I'd review the history of the CWTs.

The CWTs have been around for just as long as CWops. In the very first issue of Solid Copy, CWops activities chairman Art KZ5D contributed an article about the first CWTs, which were at 1100Z and 1900Z on Wednesday January 12, and 0300Z on January 13, 2010.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

For the first year, the CWTs were held once a month, on the second Wednesday of the month at 1100Z, 1900Z, and 0300Z (Thursday). Starting in February, score reporting was done through 3830scores, and all reported scores since then are archived at the 3830scores.com web site. The average number of participants in a CWT session during 2010 was 44, with a high of 79 in the 0300Z session on February 11.

The original concept was that the 1100Z session would be aimed at participation from Asia and Oceania, the 1900Z session at Europe, and the 0300Z session at North America. In actual practice, though, from the beginning there was a core group of participants who took part in all three sessions. There were some reports that 1100Z was a bit too early for people in Japan, and it was not very convenient for the core group from North America either. Participation numbers in this session were lower than in the other two. In April 2011 the first session was moved from 1100Z to 1300Z, where it has stayed ever since.

Also, in early 2011, it was felt that interest in the CWTs was sufficient to warrant adding a second set of CWTs each month, and beginning in April 2011, there were CWTs held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. During 2011, there was also a short-lived experiment with once-a-month Saturday CWTs. The problem with Saturdays was that the date had to be chosen so as not to conflict with major CW contests, which meant that the Saturday sessions occurred at irregular intervals. The unpredictability led to low participation, and the Saturday sessions never really caught on. The last Saturday CWTs were on January 8, 2012.

In March 2013, Hank W6SX took over from Joe KC0VKN as CWT manager. Hank carried on until the end of 2014, and under his management the current CWT program took shape and began its rapid growth.

Hank's first major innovation, with support from then president K6RB, was to introduce the gold, silver and bronze participation medal awards for everyone who participated in a sufficient number of sessions. The medal program was announced in June 2013. There were 11 gold medals, 16 silver medals and 43 bronze medals awarded for participation in CWTs during 2013. The hunt for medals really took off during 2014 and 2015, with the result that the numbers of participants started to climb, and it has been on an upward trajectory ever since.



In March 2014, the regular two CWTs were supplemented by two other sets of special slow-speed CWTs on the other two Wednesdays of the month, to welcome graduates of the increasingly popular CW Academy program. This was followed in April by a switch to weekly regular CWTs, at first

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

on a trial basis, but the trial proved to be so popular that it was adopted on a permanent basis – three CWTs every Wednesday throughout the year. Three times a year, in March, June and November, one week's set of CWTs would be slower speed CW sessions to welcome CW Academy graduates.

With the predictability of CWTs every Wednesday and the incentive of the medal chase as a lure, the participation and scores really started to take off. The average number of reported scores in the 2014 CWTs was 68. The first session in which more than 100 scores were reported was on March 25, 2015; by December of that same year, every CWT session during the month had more than 100 reported participants, and the average for the entire year 2015 was 97 participants per session. This average rose to 119 in 2016, 152 in 2017, and in February 2018 we passed the 200 mark for the number of scores being reported for a single session. Reported scores have also climbed as participation increased; the highest reported score has surpassed 200 QSOs several times now.

So far, this has been a remarkable success story. The keys to the CWTs success, as I see it, are threefold: predictability (if it's Wednesday, there will be three CWT sessions); activity (there are enough CW operators on the air during a CWT session to ensure that no-one will run out of people to work); and awards (I am not likely to ever get the top score, but even so, if I show up on enough Wednesdays I can win a medal).

I look forward to meeting many of you at Dayton.

We do the CWTs because they're fun; let's all make sure they continue to be fun for everyone.

**73,**

**Rich, VE3KI**

---

## **CW Academy**

**[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)**

CW Academy (CWA) is now more than halfway through the 2018 Spring semester. Our next semester will be in the Fall (September/October 2018).

This month's 'Solid Copy' Newsletter marks the 100th edition! The CWops organization has come a long way during this time and so has the CWA. The CWA has now trained close to 5,000 students. We currently have approximately 70 volunteer advisors and we continue to enlist additional advisors to ensure that the students who sign up today to take our CW courses have as short a wait as possible before their course begins.

CWA continues to grow and improve on its mission of providing high quality on-line CW instruction (a unique service) to the ham community. We are constantly looking to improve things to

*(Continued on next page)*





*(Continued from previous page)*

make the 'Student-learning-CW' experience better and even more rewarding.

In many ways CWA has become a 'circle of life' as many students go through our programs, graduate, become CWops members themselves and then volunteer as new Advisors providing expert guidance to students eager to learn CW.

With this special '100th edition of Solid Copy', I am introducing a new feature to the CW Academy column. I will be providing CW learning tips several times during the year, coinciding with the start of each CWA semester. The CW tips will give students insight into improving and grasping some of the more difficult CW concepts needed to advance to the next skill level. These tips will showcase CW fundamental skills that need to be mastered in order to move forward and improve one's CW speed and comprehension skills.

This semester's tip is on how to copy CW characters faster and how to learn to hear the sounds of the individual CW characters, without counting 'dits and dahs', working towards an instant recognition of each character heard.

In order to copy faster CW, you first need to work towards an 'instant' recognition of the characters that are heard. There is no time to figure out what character you just heard. If you think too long about the character just heard ('was that a Q ... or was that an X...') then the other characters that follow will go by you too fast and you will not be able to copy the CW well. You need to be able to quickly recognize each unique sound that each character has without counting dits and dahs and be ready to do the same for the next characters that you hear.

Some of the characters sound differently at different speeds. For example, at really high speeds (35 and 40 wpm) the 'V' sounds similar to the 'U' recorded at 20 wpm. The same is true of the 'H' and the 'S', and the 'B' and the 'D'. Therefore, it is important to practice hearing the sounds of the characters at the various speeds.

For this exercise we will create a CW MP3 file that we can listen to and practice with. The program I am using to build/create the CW MP3 is called 'ebook2cw' written by Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK. Fabian is a CWops member and the program is available as a [free download from his website](#). *(Editor's note, see the feature article, "A Case for Book Copy" by John N6HCN on page 10 for a more extensive discussion of the ebook2CW software and how to create entire eBooks in CW.)*

The ebook2cw program uses a plain text file (TXT) as input. Using a plain text editor, I took the 26 letters of the alphabet (A-Z), the 10 numbers

(0-9), and the most common punctuation and special characters that you hear on the bands: the slash (/), comma (,), period (.) and question mark (?). There are a total of 40 characters in this set. I repeated the 40 characters in the file to make a total of 80 characters to practice with. I then sorted the characters in a random fashion, so they wouldn't be in a predictable order, using the [free random generator website](#).



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

I then created five CW MP3 files (using the ebook2cw utility) recorded at the following speeds: 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 WPM (words per minute).

For this exercise, start with the 20 wpm MP3 and work your way up to the higher speed files. Get used to the sounds of the characters at the various speeds. Take a pen and piece of paper and write down each character as you hear it played. There are 80 total characters in the file. When the file finishes playing, print out the .TXT file and compare it to what you wrote down and see how accurately you were able to copy the characters. Repeat this for the 25, 30, 35, and 40 wpm files. Note down which characters give you problems. Re-sort the file as needed, so that the order of the characters in the file is not predictable.

As you begin to recognize and copy characters faster, you will find that you will begin to copy CW more accurately and be in a good position to eventually begin utilizing head copying techniques (CWA level 2 and level 3 courses), copying words in your head without writing anything down. But we first need to master 'Instant' recognition of the characters.

If you want to bypass creating and sorting the Text file and then building the various CW MP3 files yourself, send me an email and I will then send you the TXT file and 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 wpm CW MP3 files already built that you can immediately listen to and practice with.

**73**

**Jerry**, AC4BT, CW Academy Manager

---

## CWops USA Vanity Callsign Update

**[Bill Gilliland, W0GT](#)**

All 15 CWops mini clubs, each representing an ARRL division, now have station licenses. Of these, 12 have received vanity call signs as listed below. The remaining three expect to receive their vanity call signs before the end of May. Many of you have already worked some of the vanity calls in the CWTs. Expect to see more of them on the air in the coming weeks. Vanity call signs already received include:

Atlantic CWops Club	K3CWO
Dakota CWops Club	W0CWO
Delta CWops Club	KN5CWO
Great Lakes CWops Club	KN8CWO
Hudson CWops Club	KE2CWO
New England CWops Club	W1CWT

Northwestern CWops Club	W7CWO
Pacific CWops Club	W6CWO
Roanoke CWops Club	KX4CWO
Southeastern CWops Club	K4CWT
Southwestern CWops Club	KE6CWO
West Gulf CWops Club	KT5CWO

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

A central Web page for requesting use of one of the call signs and submitting logs is nearing completion at <http://cwomc.org> . Logs will be uploaded to LOTW for all contacts with stations using these call signs, and we expect to have QSLs and a QSL manager shortly. Due to the various ways different countries are subdivided (states, provinces, counties, oblasts, cantons, etc.) the web site, for the time being, can only process calls from USA vanity callsigns.

The committee extends our thanks to all of the volunteers who supported this activity and to those who have volunteered ongoing administrative support for the Trustees who must manage the call signs, LOTW uploads, and QSLs. Next month's *Solid Copy* will have more details about using the call signs. In the meantime, feel free to request permission to use one of the callsigns— instructions are on the cwomc Website ( <http://cwomc.org> ).

---

## New Members

### [Trung Nguyen W6TN](#)

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

CWops	Call	Name
2016	K0EJ*	Mark
2017	K4WW*	Bo
2018	KG9LB*	Jim
2019	KH2N*	Asa

CWops	Call	Name
2020	W2OZB*	Phil
2021	W4IF*	Carl
2022	N6HE*	Ray
2023	K7ABV	Eric

CWops	Call	Name
2024	K3OX	Kevin
2025	W3FV	Barry

### Current Nominees

As of May 7, 2018

**Need Sponsors:**

**Invitations Extended:** W5JYK, N3LBJ, F8DGY

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](mailto: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/](http://www.bbcyber.com/cam/)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX Total	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	810	7132	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>49</b>	W1RM	38
VE3KI	664	4572	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>W1RM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>46</b>	F6HKA	38
F6HKA	605	4794	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>DL6KVA</b>	<b>45</b>	W4VQ	37
W1RM	598	5188	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>F6HKA</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OK1RR</b>	<b>44</b>	N5RR	37
N8BJQ	576	4820	<b>DL6KVA</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>W1UU</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>44</b>	G4BUE	37
NA6O	486	2099	<b>N5RR</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>44</b>	VE3KI	36
K5AX	473	3154	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>G4BUE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>W4VQ</b>	<b>42</b>	N5PHT	36
DL6KVA	456	2345	<b>OK1RR</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>VE3KI</b>	<b>42</b>	DL6KVA	34
W0VX	411	3219	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>W0EJ</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>42</b>	I5EFO	33
K8AJS	407	1796	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>F6JOE</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>I5EFO</b>	<b>42</b>	IK0YVV	32
WT2P	381	1925	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>W6KY</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>EA8OM</b>	<b>42</b>	VK7CW	31
NN4K	368	1709	<b>K1ESE</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>N1EN</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>42</b>	RM2D	29
N5PHT	352	2784	<b>I5EFO</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>N5PHT</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>OH2BN</b>	<b>40</b>	JF2IWL	25
KE4S	343	1613	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>F5MNK</b>	<b>50</b>	SM6CNN	37	N1DC	22
K9WX	317	2448	EA1WX	97	<b>K5IX</b>	<b>50</b>	KR3E	37	F5IYJ	21
K1ESE	271	3090	W9ILY	94	<b>K3SEN</b>	<b>50</b>	K3MD	37	W6NS	19
W1UU	235	2197	W0VX	94	<b>AD1C</b>	<b>50</b>	K1ESE	37	K8AJS	14
K1DJ	235	1135	SM6CNN	93	<b>AB7MP</b>	<b>50</b>	IT9MUO	36	G4NVR	12
K3SEN	231	1434	N5PHT	92	<b>AA3B</b>	<b>50</b>	F6JOE	36	NN4K	9
AA8TA	220	1066	IT9MUO	87	<b>K5AX</b>	<b>50</b>	EA1WX	36	ND1R	5
HB9ARF	214	1056	N1EN	86	<b>I5EFO</b>	<b>50</b>	W9ILY	34		
W8DN	188	444	KY7M	86	<b>VK7CW</b>	<b>50</b>	W0VX	34		
N1DC	186	2022	F6JOE	84	<b>DL6KVA</b>	<b>50</b>	RM2D	34		
KE4RG	185	573	AD1C	83	<b>K0TC</b>	<b>50</b>	KZ5D	34		
N5RR	182	4577	KR3E	82	<b>KY7M</b>	<b>50</b>	W1UU	33		
W4VQ	178	2651	VK7CW	81	<b>NA6O</b>	<b>50</b>	IT9VDQ	33		
G4NVR	172	495	4X6GP	80	<b>K1DJ</b>	<b>50</b>	N1EN	32		
W9ILY	161	3180	PA7RA	79	<b>N8BJQ</b>	<b>50</b>	KY7M	32		
RM2D	152	1182	K5AX	79	<b>K9WX</b>	<b>50</b>	F5MNK	32		
K0MP	152	960	DL8PG	79	<b>WT2P</b>	<b>50</b>	PA7RA	31		

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G4BUE	149	3405	KZ5D	78	W9ILY	49	K5AX	31		
K6DGW	133	1803	F5IYJ	75	W0VX	49	DL8PG	31		
4X6GP	133	1188	W1UU	73	NN4K	49	IK0YVV	30		
F5IYJ	129	704	RM2D	73	N1DC	49	4X6GP	30		
F6JOE	127	2782	N1ZX	70	KT5V	49	NN6T	29		
I5EFO	124	715	IT9VDQ	68	KR3E	49	HB9ARF	29		
VK7CW	121	1405	F5MKN	68	K8AJS	49	F5IYJ	29		
IT9MUO	116	1702	NN6T	67	K6RB	49	N1ZX	28		
DL8PG	111	1788	GW0ETF	67	K6DGW	49	GW0ETF	28		
NU7Y	97	729	N1DC	65	K3MD	49	AD1C	28		
G0MGM	91	458	DL4FDM	65	K1ESE	49	N1DC	27		
AJ1DM	91	97	KE4S	60	IT9VDQ	49	KE4S	27		
IT9VDQ	81	1399	KT5V	59	GW0ETF	49	K8AJS	27		
KT5V	53	1467	NA6O	58	AA8TA	49	K1DJ	26		
AB7MP	49	789	IK0YVV	57	WB9G	48	JF2IWL	26		
JF2IWL	28	931	W6KY	56	W6NS	48	G4HZV	26		
K6RB	0	4032	K6RB	56	SM6CNN	48	G0MGM	26		
KY7M	0	3252	K8AJS	55	NU7Y	48	VK7CW	25		
KZ5D	0	3239	K1DJ	54	NN6T	48	G4NVR	25		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	K0TC	53	N1ZX	48	DL5DBY	25		
EA8OM	0	2758	HB9ARF	52	KZ5D	48	N5PHT	24		
SM6CNN	0	2477	K9WX	51	KE4S	48	K6RB	24		
AD1C	0	2101	JF2IWL	51	K0MP	48	G4DRS	24		
W6KY	0	2088	4Z1UF	50	IK0YVV	48	NA6O	21		
K0TC	0	2048	G4DRS	49	DL8PG	48	4Z1UF	21		
N1EN	0	1928	WT2P	48	AD5A	48	K2ZC	20		
EA1WX	0	1839	WB9G	48	4X6GP	48	WB9G	19		
N2UU	0	1774	NN4K	47	VE3MV	47	NN4K	19		
K3MD	0	1734	K3SEN	46	K0DTJ	47	KT5V	19		
OK1RR	0	1618	G4HZV	45	JF2IWL	47	K9WX	19		
NN6T	0	1577	G0MGM	44	WX7SJ	46	K3SEN	19		
KR3E	0	1461	DL5DBY	43	KG5U	46	WT2P	18		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K3MD	41	IT9MUO	46	W6KY	18		
KG5U	0	1322	K6DGW	39	HB9ARF	46	VK4TJF	18		
PA7RA	0	1200	W6NS	38	G4DRS	46	G3YJQ	18		
F5MKN	0	1111	G4NVR	38	EA1WX	46	AD5A	18		
W6NS	0	1090	K2ZC	37	OK1RR	45	KG5U	17		
AD5A	0	1071	W0EJ	36	KE4RG	45	K0TC	17		
4Z1UF	0	1032	VK4TJF	35	K3WJV	45	K3WJV	16		
W5ASP	0	1018	KG5U	35	K2ZC	45	W6NS	12		
PA4N	0	955	AD5A	35	F5IYJ	45	VE3MV	12		

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
N1ZX	0	940	K0DTJ	30	W8DN	44	K6DGW	12		
K5IX	0	892	G3YJQ	27	RM2D	44	W0EJ	10		
WB9G	0	888	K3WJV	25	PA7RA	44	G3XLG	10		
K3WJV	0	882	K5IX	24	VK4TJF	43	K5IX	8		
K0DTJ	0	828	AA8TA	24	KM4FO	43	K0MP	8		
K2ZC	0	767	VE3MV	23	G4NVR	43	AA8TA	8		
IK0YVV	0	767	NU7Y	22	OH2BN	42	W8DN	7		
W0EJ	0	754	AB7MP	22	NV9X	38	W5TM	7		
KM4FO	0	721	W8DN	20	G3YJQ	37	KE4RG	7		
VE3MV	0	664	K0MP	19	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	7		
DL4FDM	0	632	G3XLG	18	G4HZV	35	G0DJA	7		
WX7SJ	0	610	KE4RG	13	G0MGM	33	AB7MP	7		
OH2BN	0	530	W5TM	11	DL5DBY	33	KM4FO	5		
G4DRS	0	496	KM4FO	10	W5TM	32	AJ1DM	5		
VK4TJF	0	430	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31	NU7Y	3		
G4HZV	0	428	AJ1DM	7	ND1R	24	ND1R	2		
DL5DBY	0	326	ND1R	5	AJ1DM	24	NV9X	1		
W5TM	0	235	NV9X	4	KE6K	17				
G3YJQ	0	234	KE6K	4	G0DJA	8				
G3XLG	0	201								
NV9X	0	149								
KE6K	0	116								
ND1R	0	67								
G0DJA	0	23								
PA1FOX	0	5								

## QTX Report

### Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Gary Stone N5PHT](#)

Welcome to our April QTX report. I have found myself in several State Parks and participating in the Parks on the Air program and that seems to be taking 99% of my operating time leaving little time for rag chews. The Parks program seems to be growing and when I am in a Park even if I am CQing in the hopes of a rag chew it seems I end up doing the Parks quick contacts. Well, enough of my excuses but just to let you know I still love rag chewing but you will probably see dismal numbers from me until I get back home in May. And lastly on a side note I set a personal

(Continued on next page)





*(Continued from previous page)*

new record of number of Qs in a month during April averaging about 93 Qs a day. So, dismal in QTX when in Parks but still lots of Qs.

Congratulations on the 100th issue of this Newsletter!! Quite an accomplishment and I am very humbled and happy to be a small part of this effort. Thanks to all the members.

Several have commented on band conditions. We have been in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Iowa and it is all the same: weird!! One day I worked the bands (9, yes 9 bands) with a Parks chaser in Texas (I was in Iowa at the time) from 10-80 meters in the same UTC day including 60m and we tried after and before with little propagation. The QSB has been deep and rapid making it difficult. Unfortunately we have the summer coming so likely not a lot better so do the best you can.

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](#). Please do consider sending in your points. Each month I work a few QTX with members that never send in their scores so if you are reading this and it applies please consider sending them in to me.

### **Rag Chewer Comments**

**I5EFO:** Very poor and bizarre propagation, but great fun. Many thanks for QSO's Emil, I5EFO

**N5IR:** I had a nice bug QTX with Rob, K6RB above 7.030 during one of his hang out sessions. I rode with a non-member mobile in CA for 40 minutes. It still amazes me how guys can run 30-wpm mobile head copy while dodging big trucks.

**W9EBE:** Although I enjoyed many interesting contacts throughout the month of April, the one that sticks out the most was with Roger/W4RFT. We started out on 40m and chewed the rag for 47 minutes. When the band started going short (IL to FL path), we QSYed to 30m to continue the QSO for another 31 minutes for a total of a 1 hour, 18 minute QSO. Due to generally poor band conditions on both 40m and 30m (QSB/QRN), our speeds and keys used varied accordingly to ensure good copy on both ends. Fun!

**N6HCN:** Great catch-up with Dave W4CT, leading to an exchange of original music recordings, and fine conversations with Max, K1SN, Rick W0RT, and Arnie NA5ET. Keep those QTX coming!!

**WA3AER** After a month sans K3 (out for upgrades and updates), I was able to get back on the air the weekend of April 21, just in time for CQMM and then CWT on April 25. Joy! And April 25 also marked the longest QTX yet with Ron, VE3FXX. Since having completed Level 2 with Ron in 2017 we've had a weekly sked, band condx permitting (which they have not always). But this time the 40M condx were very good - I guess the Prop Gods were smiling upon us for a change - and we just kept going until we both tired out. Although we'd been keeping in touch via Skype while my K3 was gone, our April 25 session was something special. TU Ron; and TU Prog Gods! 73 --- Ted WA3AER

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

**G4ILW:** QSO numbers are a little higher this month as was participating in the "EuCW QRS ACTIVITY WEEK" - this is the last week in April each year, [click here for details](#). The event encourages newcomers with QSO at 14 wpm - or less. So, needless to say, these QSO tend to be a bit longer : -)

**KC0VKN:** Managed a few long QSO's with some new folks! Have been making an effort to hop on 20M in evenings and that has made for some nice QSO's.

**K6DGW:** Improvement. 18 - 23 WPM seems to attract the most interest.

**F5IYJ:** Broke my record with a QSO which lasted 2 hours and 17 minutes. I found an operator who was at least as talkative as I am, unbelievable!

**N4PIR:** My most interesting ragchew was a nice chat with a ham in Ohio on 40m. I was mobile on my way to our monthly radio club meeting. Condx were good and Bill kept me company during my drive to neighboring county. Mobile QSOs are interesting and great CW practice because you have to head copy everything.

**KB6NU:** The most memorable ragchew this month was with WZ0W, who I follow on Twitter. He Tweeted that he was calling CQ on 7046, and when I got there, he was already talking to someone. I waited, then tail-ended the QSO. We had a nice 25-minute chat.

**K6RB:** Having lots of fun ragchewing with the ol' time station. Getting lots of good reports on signal, too. Nice!

**AJ1DM:** Enjoying regular rag-chews with Steve K2KRG and Craig K1CHM.

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

### QTX Reports for April 2018 (32 Reports – most this year so far - excellent)

Call	April	Call	April	Call	April	Call	April
N5IR	78	KB6NU	21	N6HCN	12	K6DGW	6
KC0VKN	53	I5EFO	19	W3WHK	11	N9SE	5
W9EBE	48	G4ILW	18	K4AHO	11	WA8IWK	5
K1ESE	48	K6RB	18	K5YQF	11	K3TN	4
K2KRG	43	F5IYJ	17	DL5DBY	10	HB9CVQ	4
K5KV	31	W3PNM	17	AD1JM	10	G0MGM	3
N7YT	28	N4DT	16	SV2BBK	7	K0DTJ	3
K8UDH	26	N4PIR	13	N5PHT	7	WA3AER	1

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

### QTX Totals for 2018

Call	2018	Call	2018	Call	2018	Call	2018
N5IR	235	KB6NU	92	G4ILW	35	AJ1DM	21
KC0VKN	235	I5EFO	79	HB9CVQ	37	K3TN	7
K1ESE	219	N4PIR	61	K8UDH	54	SV2BBK	7
W9EBE	213	K4AHO	54	WA8IWK	25	G0MGM	7
N5PHT	163	F5IYJ	52	W3WHK	22	W5JQ	6
K2KRG	132	N6HCN	46	K0DTJ	22	WA3AER	4
K5KV	130	N4DT	45	DL5DBY	17	N5LB	2
N7YT	113	K6RB	43	K6DGW	13	WA3GM	1
K5YQF	100	W3PNM	38	N9SE	12		

And for 2018 for far: We have N5IR and KC0VKN tied for the lead with 235 each. Followed close by K1ESE with 219 and W9EBE with 213. Great scores!!

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 annual WPX-CW is always a must for the serious CW operator. Since it's an "Everybody works Everyone" event, things are not entirely at the mercy of the "Gods of Propagation". Just about anyone can find their particular niche and come away satisfied. Don't miss it.

The All Asian DX Contest could be a bit on the thin side again this year considering the declining conditions on the high bands. Don't be too disappointed if things are a bit "flaky". Just jump in and give it a try and see what turns up

The Stew Perry Topband Challenge is always a favorite of many low band operators. Most likely you'll run across many of the more serious 160 gang. So make it a point to join in the fun.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

The annual "it's-not-a-contest" ARRL Field Day should be a definite "to-do" for all CWOps members. It's a unique opportunity to mentor new and prospective CW operators in a relaxed environment with adequate activity levels. You shouldn't have any difficulty in locating a local Field Day group ... they're everywhere

As usual there are several state QSO parties that come up in the weekends ahead. For those CW adherents who are not addicted to high rates, long hours and incessant QRM, participation in these events provides a welcome and relaxing operating experience. While the intensity level may be lower than in the major contests, the requisite skill level can be every bit as demanding. This is particularly true when tracking high activity level mobiles as they dash from county to county. Looking for a real challenge ... work one of these guys in every county they traverse. Then include the other active mobiles. You'll find real satisfaction is right at your "fingertips."

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

### **MAY / JUNE EVENTS**

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW <a href="http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm</a>	0000Z, May 26 <sup>th</sup> to 2359Z, May 27 <sup>th</sup>
--	--

CQ-M International DX Contest <a href="http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/126.html">http://www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/126.html</a>	1200Z, May 12 <sup>th</sup> to 1159Z, May 13 <sup>th</sup>
--	--

All Asian DX Contest, CW <a href="https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2018AA_rule.htm">https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2018AA_rule.htm</a>	0000Z, Jun 16 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Jun 17 <sup>th</sup>
---	--

Stew Perry Topband Challenge <a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew/">http://www.kkn.net/stew/</a>	1500Z, Jun 16 <sup>th</sup> to 1500Z, Jun 17 <sup>th</sup>
---	--

ARRL Field Day <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a>	1800Z, Jun 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 2100Z, Jun 24 <sup>th</sup>
---	--

FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint <a href="http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints">http://fistsna.org/operating.html#sprints</a>	1700Z-2100Z, May 12 <sup>th</sup>
--	-----------------------------------

NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 18 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, May 25 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 1 <sup>st</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 8 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 15 <sup>th</sup>
NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Jun 22 <sup>nd</sup>
<a href="http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html">http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html</a>	

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 12 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, May 13 <sup>th</sup>
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	0200Z, Jun 9 <sup>th</sup> to 2400Z, Jun 10 <sup>th</sup>

(Continued on next page)





(Continued from previous page)

[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekday\\_sprint/](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/)

NAQCC CW Sprint  
NAQCC CW Sprint  
NAQCC CW Sprint  
[www.naqcc.info/](http://www.naqcc.info/)

0030Z-0230Z, May 17<sup>th</sup>  
0030Z-0230Z, Jun 13<sup>th</sup>  
0030Z-0230Z, Jun 21<sup>st</sup>

Arkansas QSO Party  
<http://www.arkqp.com/>

1400Z, May 12<sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, May 13<sup>th</sup>

Kentucky QSO Party  
<http://www.kyqsoparty.org/rules/>

1400Z, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 0200Z, Jun 3<sup>rd</sup>

West Virginia QSO Party  
<http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wvqp/wvqp.html>

1600Z, Jun 16<sup>th</sup> to 0200Z, Jun 17<sup>th</sup>

**73,**

**Joe**, W5ASP, Upcoming CW Operating Events

---

## Youth CW Academy

Here's a screen grab from a recent Youth CW Academy class as posted to the CWops listserv: Rob K6RB (lower right) and his 3 students: Wesley, Oliver and Calvin. They had just finished how to respond to a CQ and exchange RST, QTH and name. K6RB reports they did great.



# My Story: New Member Biographies

## Dave Edger, N3CI

I was first licensed in 1961 as KN5JBW while in high school. I was very active as a novice, working DX and all the states, but entry into the Army, college, and family needs put my operating on hold and my ticket expired. In 1973, while living in Chile, I decided to get back on the air and had the American embassy communications officer administer the test for a Conditional license and started operating as WB5LSU/CE3. When I returned to the states, I took the extra class exams. I have been active ever since working from various DX locations as well as several states.



I retired from the federal government in 2003 and began teaching about intelligence and diplomacy at the University of Oklahoma until 2015, when I retired a second time. I selected N3CI as a vanity call, reflecting my 35 years' service around the world. I have always been a CW operator, working phone to catch a new country or in the big contests. My main rigs now are the KX3 and K3S from Elecraft. Antennas have varied depending on where I was living, but beams are now a thing of the past and I get by with simple wires, usually running QRP and always less than 100 watts.

In retirement, I continue to travel around the world. I usually carry a tiny QRP rig with me and try to make a contact or two. I am learning new things in radio all the time; having succeeded in doing a bit of digital work, I am now planning to figure out how to use the computer to send code and log my very unspectacular contest efforts.

## Dave Koch, W8OV

First licensed in 1955, my journey into CW speeds over 25wpm began when I failed the 20wpm Extra Class exam while in school. Busy with other things, I hadn't been on the air much at all in 3 or 4 years, but was pretty confident at CW. I prepared for the written test, but not enough for CW. There were 5 of us taking the 20wpm test that day and after grading it, the FCC examiner said we all had good copy, but he had to be 100% sure of each character, so 4 of us failed.

Some years later, I prepared once more but this time spent 3 months copying only W1AW practice at 35, 30, and 25wpm. The FCC 20wpm test was a breeze, and much to my amazement, a couple of weeks later I qualified for the ARRL 35wpm certificate. Urged on by a couple of friends who were members of CFO, I began improving my speed and doing mobile CW.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

I didn't know much about CWOPS until a local radio club friend, Jay WB5K, #1769, mentioned he was a CWA graduate. That perked my interest. Last November I began participating in the Mini-tests because I was never good at copying calls, numbers, and the like on the first try at contest speeds and thought those tests might help a bit. Then at our local Winter Field Day I met one of the CWA instructors, Eric NM5M, #974.

When he described the work of the CWA instructors, I was really impressed with CWOPS. So when I was nominated by Jim N3JT and others, I enthusiastically accepted the opportunity to become a part of a group that did such great work to introduce others to CW and keep it active.



## Lee Zalaznik KI6OY

In 1965, I passed my five words per minute code test and the novice written test and got the call sign WN6BJB. Then I got my Conditional General WB6BJB in 1967. At that time, I lived in Fortuna, CA more than 300 miles from San Francisco so I got a Conditional General.

I landed in Livermore, CA in September 1973. I went to a Livermore Amateur Radio Klub meeting and I have been a member ever since. Then I upgraded my license to Advanced in 1977 and changed my call sign to my present one KI6OY. In 1987, I finally upgraded to Amateur Extra.



In 2008 at Pacificon in San Ramon, I finally joined the Northern California Contest Club although I was somewhat active at the time.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

On June 30, 2016, I retired after 45 years at Bank of America and HP Inc. I rebooted my Amateur Radio Career. I knew that my weak spot was CW speed. I revisited the CW Ops web site and found the CW Academy. I signed up for the Level 3 class but there was a conflict at the time. So later I downloaded the Level 3 handbook, MP3 files and did a self-study class. During this time, I met Gary Johnson NA6O and he mentored me on the Level 3 class. Using the Level 3 class, RUFZ XP, Morse Runner, and getting on CWT each week really got my code speed up.

When I started on CWT, the speeds were ripping me to pieces. It took about a year and a half every Wednesday to get my code speed up. My contesting and operating time has increased. My favorite contests are ARRL 10 meter, IARU, CQP and CQ WPX all CW.

My station is a squirt gun! I have a Drake T4XB transmitter, R4C receiver, Compaq Armada E500 station computer, running TR4W which I upgraded from TRLog for DOS. I have always run 100 watts and a wire dipole antenna up 25 feet in a large fruitless mulberry tree.

Thank you to Gary NA6O for mentoring, Rob K6RB for CW Academy, Hank W6SX for nominating me for CWops and to all my sponsors.

I hope to work you on the air!

## **Ray Day N6HE:**

After a false start in about 1958 when my Novice Test mentor got sick and we had to send the test back un-taken, I started as WN4LFP in Miami Springs, FL on 12/7/62 with a Globe Chief and a National NC-188. My Elmer was Chuck Bolvin (now a SK) W4LVV, then K4KQ. WA4LFP in 1963 in FL and Atlanta, GA (Georgia Tech). WA2TEI in NY in 1969. W B 6 Jelly Filled Doughnut (9/26/75) in CA, then N6HE (8/12/77). I turned 74 in November 2017. CW has always been my favorite mode.



I'm a semi-retired financial planner. I have an Icom IC-7300 as a travel/portable rig and am waiting for a Flex 6600 to be delivered (happy me!). The 7300 I bought at Visalia two

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

years ago hooked me on Direct Sampling SDR radios.

My antennas are a 125' end-fed long wire on 80-40-30. For 20-17-15-12-10-6M, I use a 2-element SteppIR Yagi. Both are disgustingly low (about 25' up) but work as expected.

I have a new-to-me Alpha 9500 RF AMP and wired 220VAC into the shack. QRO operation finally - life is good!

I love participating in contests, especially on CW and RTTY - I love CW contesting the best, but I can copy faster than my two poor little fingers can type, so it's more work, and I mostly Search and Pounce. Ditto SSB contests, even more so. I enter for the fun of it rather than trying to come out on top (or, truth be told, even near the top!) - I'm like a dog with his head out sticking out of a car window - he doesn't care how fast or where he's going, he's just having fun...although I routinely hunt for my missing band/mode DXCC countries. Low wire antennas, some CC&R's, and a huge close-in hill to my NE limit my competitive abilities. But.... hey, it's all a blast, yes?

I do Field Day (CW) at URAC/K6AA and lead annual Santa Catalina Island "DXpeditions" with PVARC/K6PV to activate the Island for IOTA (NA-066).

XYL is Donna, W6DLD (since 2003 as a General Licensee), ex-N6HTH (1982-2003) and ex-KA6AKL (1978-1982). We were married on Field Day, 1966 (big mistake - er, I mean being married on Field Day, not on getting married in the first place!).

Graduated from Georgia Tech in 1966 as an RF-oriented Electrical Engineer. Member of TKE fraternity. Have worked for Pan American Airways (1962 - 1974), Continental Airlines (1974 - 1982) and have been an independent financial planner since 1982.

I'm also an ARRL Official Observer Coordinator (LAX Section) and an ARRL Volunteer Examiner. Other hobbies: Photography, scuba diving, and international travel (preferably, all at once!).

## **Jim Bacon, G3YLA**

Firstly, can I just say thank you to my sponsors for supporting my application to CWops. All that I love about CW and the people who use it make this a real delight for me and I look forward to making many new CWops friends on the key.

I was first licensed in 1969 and have held the callsign G3YLA throughout the nearly 50 years on the amateur bands. My early activity was using a home-brew 160m valve TX and mostly CW by necessity with low wire antennas and 10W.



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

I then used some of my first wages for a Heathkit SB101 kit, which I loved building. Subsequently, for the next decade, my activity was not huge as university, work and family demanded time too, but CW was always my mode of choice and I remember building an early paddle with a nail file and reed relays. This was followed by a G3RVM CMOS design which was a good build and got me started on twin paddles iambic mode B... I've been there ever since!

Radio is purely a hobby for me and separate from my life as a professional meteorologist. I have worked with aviation, marine forecasting for oil and gas rigs and been a media forecaster on BBC TV (one of the few times you'll find me on a mike) and as a Fortran programmer on the UK Met Office supercomputer, an IBM 360/195, in the 70s before we had PCs in every shack! During the broadcasting phase I would often get asked about Tropo conditions, which caused problems for the old UK 405-line TV transmissions. That introduced me to all forms of weather related propagation modes, particularly Tropo and Sporadic E, which I now research as a member of the RSGB Propagation Studies Committee and have written many articles and presented at the RSGB Convention and HAMSCI gathering last year (2017). I am presently developing a propagation website [propquest.co.uk](http://propquest.co.uk), which is currently based on a European view of propagation, but may extend to the States, for example. I now run a small weather company, Weatherquest, based at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

My particular operating habits are QRP CW on 40m where I have scratched out more than 100 DXCC entities. I love a good rag chew on the key and have little interest in rubber stamp 599 QSOs ... unless in a contest. I belong to the Norfolk Amateur Radio Club in Norwich and participate in HF CW NFD as well as the RSGB 80m CC UK inter club contests. We do very well in these contests and have a great mentoring scheme under the guidance of Malcolm G3PDH an ex R/O and Roger G3LDI, the RSGB GB2CW slow Morse coordinator, who have got my speeds to the 25-30wpm zone and persuaded me to become a slow Morse trainer too.

Currently, my main rig is a Flex 6500 and my conversion to SDR stemmed from building one of those wonderful soft rock kits about 10 years ago. The 6500 is a great CW rig and, when teamed up with my Begali Sculpture paddle, I am in a very happy place! I recently completed one of the QRP Labs QCX kits, which is a nice 3W 20m transceiver and gave a good account of itself in one of the toughest tests, CQ WW last year - about 46 QSOs including 5 from the States.

## **Carl Severance, W4IF**

I was first licensed in the mid-1990's, but life changes and several moves happened, and I never really did anything with that license, which ultimately expired. I retested in 2010, and after dabbling in several different areas of amateur radio, decided that CW was the mode for me. I tried to teach myself using various online resources utilizing the "Koch method", etc. Unfortunately, I had learned Morse from an alphanumeric chart of dots and dashes, which was apparently (almost permanently) seared into my brain. Self-teaching was not really working, mainly because I kept mentally referring to that chart, and trying to "count" my way to copying code.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

By a wonderful stroke of luck, I stumbled across the CW Academy, and signed up. Ed Parsons, K6HP, has been my CW instructor, mentor, Elmer, and counselor ever since. With his patient help, I have been able to leave that chart behind and learn code by the sound of the characters—CWA's great gift to the world.

My current station consists of an Elecraft KX3 (with the KXPA100 amp). Antenna is a terminated folded dipole of homebrew construction. I'm working on plans to add 160 and 80 meters to my station's capabilities, and to add a directional antenna at some point. I am also intrigued with satellites, but haven't done anything in that direction since I've been focusing on CW.

Hobbies in addition to radio include various glass arts, including traditional leaded glass, glass bead making, kiln-forming glass, and mosaics. My wife Deanna and I live in Nashville, Tennessee, with our dogs Sunny and Jack. We are retired and our family is (mostly) nearby, so life is good.

## **Philip Bartash, W2OZB**

I live in Houston Texas with my wife. I have a son and three grandchildren in Anaheim,CA.

I have been around radios most of my life. I had a quick "peek" into HAM radios with a "shack tour" while visiting an uncle on vacation at the ripe age of 14. I was learning to fly at 17 and was introduced to aviation radios, VHF AM. Flying helicopters in the army 1970-1976, I was exposed to other radios, UHF and some FM radios for working ground operations. After leaving the service, I obtained my MBA but returned to flying finally retiring with United Airlines. Flying mostly international routes, I was exposed to daily HF work.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

I became a HAM in 2017 and after getting my general, I obtained my uncle's (SK) call sign. I am 100% CW. My journey has been interesting and exciting. I'm just scratching the surface of the needed knowledge I will need. At present I have replaced "old reliable" IC746 with a Flex 6500 which is hooked into a Begali HST single lever paddle on one end and two dipoles (G5RV and an 80M40M) in inverted V up 30'.

We will be soon moving to our renovated home (no HOA). My antenna plans are just formulating and am doing a lot of reading on the subject.

With the great friends I have made, the fabulous cadre of CW Ops and CW Academy, the sky is the limit!

## **Jim Stonecipher, KG9LB**

Retired U.S. Navy Radioman and a graduate of the Navy's International Morse Code school in San Diego CA. Towards the end of my Navy career I decided to become a ham and in 1996 earned my General license. I was first licensed as KB9OXB. About a month later I upgraded to Advanced and became KG9LB. Still on active duty at the time and traveling extensively, I held off on getting my Extra ticket.



After my military retirement I settled down in Virginia Beach, VA where I got back into ham radio, enjoying DXing and tinkering with equipment. Realizing the band privileges I was missing with Advanced, I upgraded my ticket to Extra. I made a couple trips to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO) and operated as KG4AW. Had a blast and worked enough countries to get both my DXCC and WAS for GTMO. I am fortunate to be a part of group here in the area that has some extraordinary CW operators. They inspired me to get back into it. They referred me to the CWA classes and I graduated the Winter 2018 session. I had a great instructor and phenomenal class mates. I continued working on my code

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

speed until finally I was welcomed into the CWops ranks. I run a Yaesu FTDX-1200 through my trusty Drake L4B amplifier. Limited on space so I run a Butternut Vertical. I've been in Program Management for the past 15 years and when work is not getting in the way, I also enjoy golf, hunting, and fishing.

## **Eric Martin, K7ABV**

Started in Feb. 1957 when got a small Heathkit AR-3 receiver for Christmas, built by Uncle W7FIP in Billings, Montana. I was 15 at the time. I enjoyed working DX at a young age, and to this day DX is my main interest

CW was always easy for me, so for DX it was good back in the 50's with only 50 watts and a small 3 element tri-band up 25 feet I could work the world; lucky for me, we lived on the edge of a hill and Europe was an easy hop for me back then.



During College I came home on weekends to work contests and DX to add to my total. I still enjoy a pileup trying to figure out the pattern of the op's on the other end, and hopefully to put a new QSO in the log.

My present station is Yaesu FTDX-5000D and either an old Drake L4-B amp or an Alpha 76A amp; the antenna is a very old TH-6DXX but still works very well and a 2 el 7 MHZ Beam at 65 feet, the TH6 is on the same tower at 55 feet. I also have vertical for some of the other bands, and off the tower I have an inverted vee for 160-40.

After 61 years I still find CW to be relaxing and fun. I do work SSB, depends on what DX is on and if I need it on a band. IN a nutshell, that is my main interest in radio to this day..

I also still enjoy getting traditional QSL cards, either direct or via the bureau. I have many shoe boxes full of them, hi.