

Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

December 2018 — Issue 107



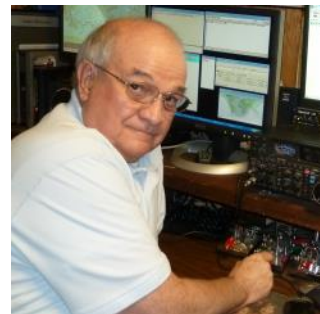
A Year On the Rock



Lar K7SV recounts his year of naval service from Iceland, [page 12](#)

President's Message

The monthly activities in December come and go quickly. There are plenty of additional interests and distractions relative to the Holiday Season and prioritizing is my way of surviving. Even then I find I can easily get overbooked and stressed. But that seems to be part of the what goes on this month. Nevertheless, my anchor is in the CW mode and the associated activities, contests and events are always in my thoughts and I suspect in yours too.



The election is over and I am grateful to serve

(Continued on page 2)

CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday

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

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

Avoid DX pileups!

Next slow speed CWT is March 13-14, 2019

US Vanity Callsign web site:

<http://cwomc.org>

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: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

Director: Raoul Coetzee [ZS1C](#)

Webmaster: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)

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

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
From the Editor: We Rock	3
News & Notes	4
Award for Advancing the Art of CW	10
North American CW Weekend	11
My Year on the Rock	12
Is It Live or Is It Memorex?	15
N3JT in Sicily	17
What Is A Good CW Operator?	22
Contesters vs. Ragchewers	22
CWops Tests	24
CW Academy	26
New Members	29
CWops Members Awards	30
QTX Report	33
Operating Events	35
My Story: New member bio's	37

(Continued from previous page)

another term as the President of CWops. Congratulations to Jim Talens N3JT elected Secretary and Stew Rolfe GW0ETF elected Director. The work really gets done by our managers: Solid Copy Editor/Publisher – Tim Gennett K9WX, Secretary – Jim Talens N3JT, Treasurer – Craig Thompson K9CT, CWO Administrator/NA Region Manager – Bruce Meier N1LN, CW Academy Managers– Joe Fischer AA8TA and Kate Hutton K6HTN and CWops Webmaster – Dan Romanchick KB6NU. All of us benefit from your work and service and we say thank you very much.

Jerry Weisskohl AB4CT has been the CWops Academy Manager for the past 5 years and is retiring from that position at the end of 2018. Jerry has contributed in great measure to helping get folks a chance to learn Morse Code. He managed a large data base of applicants and assigned them to Advisors of the three levels. His management skills helped several thousand hams/SWLs get on their way to a good start in operating CW. Thanks Jerry.

President's Message . . .

"Jerry Weisskohl AB4CT is retiring as manager of CW Academy. Thanks, Jerry."

The weekly CWTs continue to provide a platform for skill building in CW. The skill is contest style operating and speed. I admire those who achieve high scores and I use the CWTs to build up my performance and compete against myself. The highest scores are related to "running" and some S&P contacts. At the end of an hour it has been a good workout. The CWT's are practice sessions and the competition is myself, my previous scores. If someone is sending faster than I can copy, I skip him and find another operator whose speed I can copy. A choice for me, not a requirement for him to slow down, especially in a competition. Someday with more work and practice, I hope to be able to copy the fastest operators. It's a personal goal.

As this is written, Winter Storm Diego has crossed some parts of the US and is taking aim at the Eastern part of the USA. Let's hope your antennas survive the wind and ice so that you can continue taking part in contests and QTX activities. CW Academy Advisors will be busy in Jan/Feb working with another 250+ student enrollees in Levels I, II and III. The bulk of those numbers are in Level I. We have an ad hoc group of Level II Advisors volunteering their time and interests looking for ways to increase the success of Level I graduates. A lot has been learned and more information will come out soon regarding the possible enhancements to our CW Academy.

CWops has registered for a booth at the 2019 HamCation in Orlando, FL. Mark the dates of Feb 8 to Feb 10, 2019 on your calendar. For more detail go to www.hamcation.com. Hope to see some of you there. Also, it's not too soon to plan for a trip to the Dayton/Xenia Hamvention, May 17 – 19, 2019. Act early on getting your lodging plans set. The new location seems conducive to more hams attending. You can get more details at the Hamvention website. CWops will be attending and we will look forward to seeing you. Don't forget to join other members for our CWops photo as a group. Details about when and where will be available at the CWops booth.

Wishing you the best this Holiday Season.

73

Mac, NN4K, President

From the Editor

We Rock

Contesting is only one small niche in the larger ham radio community and I don't want to turn CWops into a contesting club. But even non-contesters recognize that participating in the annual CQ WW CW contest is one of the most challenging activities any ham can undertake. Building a competitive station, selecting the right operating strategy, honing your CW skills to the maximum and then staying in the chair long enough to have a competitive score quickly separates the great operators from the rest of the crowd.

I thus thought it noteworthy to see the number of CWops member callsigns listed in the [top ten raw scores for the November 2018 CQ WW CW](#). Granted, these are still subject to log checking. But nearly one-third (96 of the 334) top ten scores listed are for CWops members. If the calls of CWops members who participated under a different callsign in one of the many multi-operator stations active during the contest were to be included, I suspect the percentage would move well past the one-third mark. This would also help highlight the success of members participating in those big multi-op efforts outside of North America.



For the record, these were the CWops member callsigns listed:

AA3B, AA4LS, AA4NP, AA9A, AB9YC, K0RF, K1AR, K1DG, K1NY, K1SX, K1VUT, K2LE, K2NV, K2QMF, K2YGM, K3LR, K3WW, K4JPD, K4OAQ, K4PI, K4QPL, K5GO, K5KJ, K5RM, K6UFO, K7NJ, K7SS, K7WP, K8AJ5, K9CT, K9GS, K9MA, K9MMS, K9RS, K9UIY, K9WX, K9YC, KE1B, KE1J, KK4XX, KL9A, KP3W, KR2Q, N1DC, N1EN, N1LN, N2GC, N2IC, N2NT, N2ZX, N3CZ, N3RS, N4GU, N4OO, N5DX, N6MJ, N6WM, N7RCS, N8BJQ, N8II, N8II, N9SE, NJ1F, NP4Z, NR4M, V31MA, VA3PM, VE2BWL, VE2IR, VE3CEB, VE3EJ, VE3MGY, VE3XT, VE7CC, VE9AA, W1KM, W1UE, W1UU, W2AAB, W2RU, W3KB, W3LPL, W4AAW, W4ER, W5LA, W5SJ, W6OAT, W7CT, W8FJ, W8WTS, W9ILY, W9SN, W9XT, WC4E, WJ2O, XE2X.

CWops was founded to “celebrate the unique art form of Morse Code” and it appears that, as a group, we are celebrating in great style.

Turning the Corner

As a denizen of the northern hemisphere who loves the long days of summer, I was gladdened by a posting from Matt K3MR to the [CWops groups.io email list](#) about the date on the calendar when sunsets stop their depressing move to earlier and earlier times and start to come later each day. [Referencing a page from earthsky.org](#):

“The winter solstice is the shortest day. It offers the shortest period of daylight. But, unless you live close to the Arctic Circle or Antarctic Circle, your earliest sunsets aren't on or even near the solstice itself. Instead, your earliest sunsets will come be-

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

fore the winter solstice. The exact date of earliest sunset depends on your latitude. If you live in the southernmost U.S., or a comparable latitude (say, around 25 or 26 degrees N. latitude), your earliest sunsets are in late November. If you're farther north – say, around 40 degrees N. latitude – your earliest sunsets are around December 7. And if you live in the Southern Hemisphere, your earliest sunrises are coming around now. [Southern Hemisphere? Click here.](#)"

As I write this column on December 7, it's good to know we are turning the corner in the north. Sun lovers in the southern hemisphere: sorry to say you are going in the wrong direction.

Thanks, Jerry

If you turn to [page 26](#) you will see that Jerry AC4BT has passed the CW Academy baton to Kate K6HTN and Joe AA8TA. By any measure, CW Academy must be considered a resounding success. The CWA students and advisors get a large chunk of the credit, but Jerry has been at the helm for the past several years and CWA would not be what it is today without his steady, guiding hand. Congratulations and thanks to Jerry; if you run into him on the air, let him know he is appreciated. And, welcome to Joe and Kate.

73,

News and Notes

Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT

Jim, NA4J: This is Jim Sarfert, formerly N3LBJ. I am CWops member #2027. I received a new call sign and will now be active as **NA4J**.

Doug, W5FN: I recently changed my longtime call of N4IJ to a new vanity **W5FN**.

Dick, WN7S: Lots of good early Rag Chewing on 80 this month. Also early, at times, there were some pretty good DX stations coming through on the lower bands. I could even hear and work them with my modest antenna system.

It's getting to be that time of the year for the low bands. If you are an early bird, sometimes (but rare) there are some pretty good early bird DX (around 3 or 4 am EST) on 30 meters.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

I worked the CQ WW CW contest this weekend for a modest portion of time (I missed Friday because I was sick and Sunday afternoon because of football). It was great to hear the Europeans zipping their Call in fast and faster.

I get a kick out of the weird comments on the DX spots for DXpedition like " Poor DX operation" - they've been on the air now for 28 minutes and haven't worked double side-band EME on 60 meters, etc. However, the Great Op/Poor Op is usually determined by whether the spotter worked the DX station or not.

Joel, N9LQ: I have added a new 45' Rohn tower and a Navassa 5 antenna to my station this Fall, and am really enjoying using it. Many thanks to CWops members AB9YC, N9CO, and ND9G for their help with raising the antenna!

Chris, G0JPS: I've been participating in the weekly CWTs for some time now (with various degrees of success). So I thought, having dipped my toes in the water, so to speak, I'd have a crack at something more adventurous. I don't know what possessed me to do it, but as it was CQWW CW this weekend, I thought I'd give it a go.



New antenna at N9LQ

I'm not an avid tester, and before my spell as a CWA Level 2 student, a contest was just a wall of noise to me. But CWA has made some sense of it all, so while certainly not aiming to hit the top of the pile, my intention was to do a bit of CW operating, and have some fun.

I've also always been a 'paper' logger, but doing CWT has taught me to set up RumLogNG on my Macbook. After spending some time juggling the USB cable round the back of my IC-7100 I was good to go.

After couple of sessions on Saturday, and a couple more on Sunday, I've found that there's definitely a 'just a couple more Qs then I'll go and do the shopping/talk to XYL/walk dog" thing going on (They're both in a huff by the way, and the fridge is still empty). This is a blast, the score isn't important as long as I've had fun, and I've definitely had that.

I've also learned to not trust the computer completely. Sometimes, for no apparent reason, it'd start sending things I wasn't expecting it to - a quick reflexive tap on the 'ESC' key and reach for

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

the paddle provided the necessary corrections, especially when the contact was already logged but the other guy had my call wrong.

Without the experience of CW Academy Level 2, and all the practice from CWT (Yes, I was a lud-dite who wouldn't have a computer in the shack for a long time) I wouldn't be feeling this good now!

Special mentions go to my advisor Keith G0HKC for the CW Academy Level 2 CWA sessions, and everyone I've worked in CWT for their encouragement and my sponsors and seconders for CWops.

Special moments during this contest - working Brazil on 15m from the UK with just 20 watts into a homemade vertical, and being able to seamlessly complete exchanges using the paddle when the computer refused to co-operate.

Will I have a go next year? Hell, yeah. Bring it on!

Since I have converted to computer logging, I had a browse through the statistics that the ClubLog site (<https://clublog.org>) can display. My 'activity by mode' chart shows, in no uncertain terms, how CW Academy has influenced my operating since I re-licensed my station!

254 QSO points x 95 multipliers
= 24,130 total points

Band	DXCC	CQ	QSOs	Dupes	Total
160m:	0	0	0	0	0
80m:	1	1	1	0	1
40m:	36	8	125	0	125
20m:	29	8	66	0	66
15m:	7	5	8	0	8
10m:	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	47	11			
Sum:	73	22	200	0	200

QSOs by Year

Year	Number of DXCCs	Number of QSOs	QSOs as Percent
2018	55	430	CW: 99.30% Phone: 0.70% Data: 0.00%
2017	35	92	CW: 72.83% Phone: 22.83% Data: 4.35%
2016	30	100	CW: 43.00% Phone: 36.00% Data: 21.00%
2015	8	13	CW: 7.69% Phone: 92.31% Data: 0.00%

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Giu, IT9VDOQ (member of the IB9T Team): At the end of October, due to bad weather with very strong winds and rains, we were without electricity at our contest station IB9T. This is because, due to an arson in July 2017, thousands of trees have burned at the top of Monte Pellegrino where the station is located and with the last months storm, three rotten trees had fallen over the power line knocking out the power.

Despite our dozens of complaints, the Italian electricity company waited for nearly 20 to 30 endangered trees to die near the power line! For this reason, no more CWTs for me and the CQWW DX CW was done in low power with a small portable generator: the M/S CW in low power is really tiring, with only 4 operators, but damn fun!

Final score, despite the bad conditions of the high bands (especially 10m being really dead) was very satisfying! Overall, 276 CWops have called us!

Thank you all!

Wayne, N4FP: My XYL Marty, WB2VYK, #1644 and I, Wayne, N4FP, #1090, hosted a CWOPS table at our Silver Springs Radio Club Hamfest on Saturday, Dec 1 in Ocala, FL.

We had the following CWops stop by: Gary, W2TR, #2136; Joe, K8OD, #1484; John, KE4D, #1688; and, Mark, W2OR, #1384. We were also delighted to have two CW Academy students stop by: Tim, K8TAF; and, Tom, NV1U.

We drew a lot of attention working European DX on 20 CW using my Flex Maestro remoted through my cellphone hotspot to our home QTH, 5 miles away, with my Flex 6400 loading my Classic 33 at 45 ft, pointed toward Europe. Lots of interest in CW and CWops. We handed out a bunch of flyers.



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Will, MI0WWB: Personal Challenges in 2018

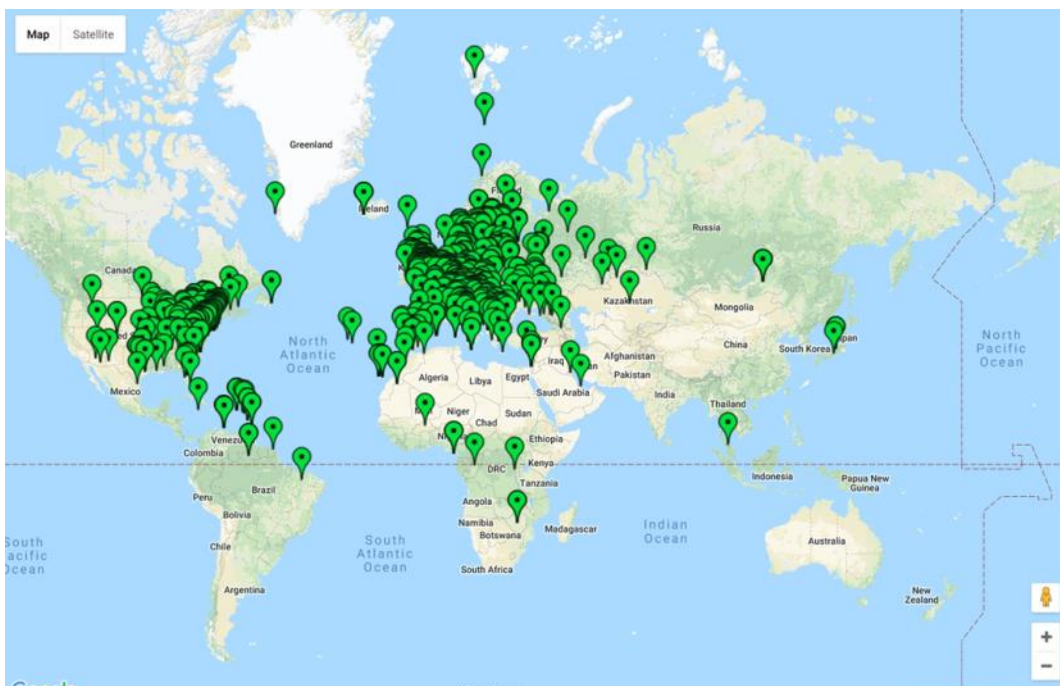
We are approaching the end of 2018 and it has been a notable year for me. A year of challenges, two in particular for myself. Firstly, I commenced learning CW seriously in January and secondly, it's been a year of health problems leading to surgery in June and now chemotherapy treatment commencing in December. So, in one way CW has been a very valuable distraction to more serious concerns.

As a late comer into the amateur radio hobby (2015) I never thought I would take to CW; but here I am. I have made over 1,000 QSOs in 2018. CW Academy (CWA) has played a vital role in getting me on the key. Completing their Level 1 and Level 2 course by June 2018 provided the needed skills level and confidence to key at speeds over 20 wpm and to copy at similar speeds. I am looking forward to commencing Level 3 in January 2019, health permitting.

What has the past year of CW operation been like? Going through the CWA program is very effective in getting you on the frequency. At the beginning signal report exchanges were simple and helped to establish confidence; but short rag chews were crucial for developing skill, especially copying. The CWA Wednesday sessions have also become an enjoyable challenge and provides a safe space to try faster keying speeds.

To be honest I have not entered competitions, mainly because I have not been using recorded macros. But I have replied to 'CQ Test' and have given a bonus point; especially if I gained a new DX entity as a result. I enjoy seeing what parts of the globe I can reach, the skip distance, whether it's an IOTA or a SOTA or fellow CWops member!

Most CW operators struggle with head copy and I am no different, it is a personal struggle. The way I have tackled this struggle has been to engage in as many rag chews as I can. The FISTS club run an ongoing 'EU Ladder' with points gained for QSOs that exceed 5 minutes in duration. I have found this to be a useful encouragement and my head



A map of MI0WWB's 2018 QSO made from January to early December

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

copy has improved, albeit slowly. I hope that the level 3 course will improve my head copying further.

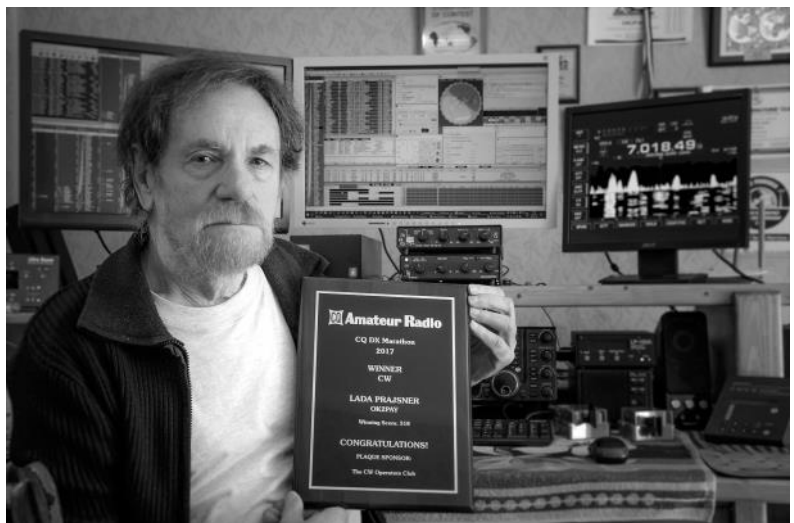
Skype has also been a valuable tool, I have two or three one-hour sessions per week with fellow CWops member, M0DHP. These sessions are fun; we build sentences by adding words alternatively at a keying speed of 27 wpm. The sentence can go in all sorts of unpredictable directions. We also exchange number groups, callsigns, name and QTH and sometimes we run simulated QSOs.

Of course, daily practice is essential to developing your skill and all of the above drills and exercises have been crucial in improving my skills.

However, there is still so much more improvement to be made!

Lada OK2PAY was the winner of the CQ DX Marathon, CW only, for 2017. The plaque is sponsored by CWops. From the DX Marathon web site:

“Starting January 1 of each year, the DX Marathon is the perfect answer for the DX-er who needs that extra incentive to get on the air every day! Simply work as many countries and CQ Zones as you can in each calendar year, regardless of the band or mode. Each country and zone counts only once, so you can concentrate on working new ones rather than working the same ones on multiple bands and modes. Many awards are given for the top



overall scores in four classes plus top scores in modes, bands, US call areas and more! Details of the extensive award list are available [here](#).”

The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

[Riki Kline K7NJ](#)

CWops is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award for the year 2019.

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.

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

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

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

Nomination:

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to

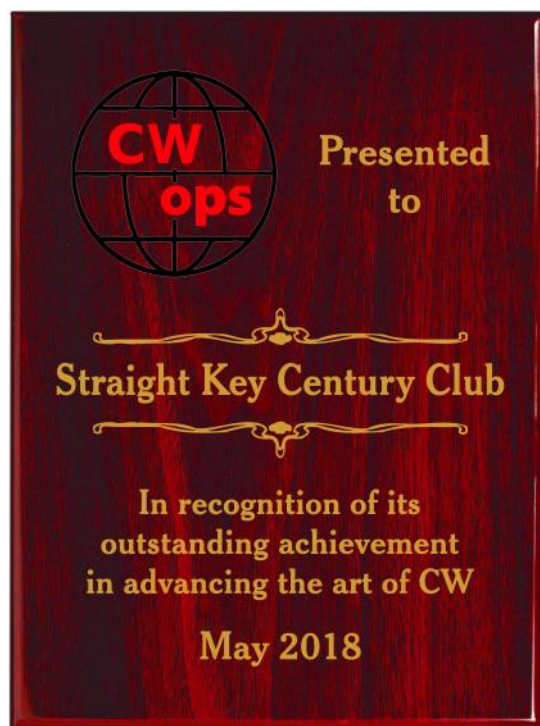
<awards@cwops.org> with a copy to

<secretary@cwops.org>. In order to be considered, a nomination must be received by March 1, 2019 and include:

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

Presentation of Award

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



SKCC was one of three recipients for 2018

Save the Date: North American CW Weekend

7-9 June 2019, Fairview Park Marriott, Falls Church, Virginia

[Don Lynch W4ZYT](#)

The 2019 CW Weekend will take place June 7-9 (first FULL weekend in June) at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church, Virginia. This event is open to all hams or others with an interest in CW or Morse code communication - FOC, CWOPS, SKCC, the Morse Operators Society, FISTS, and the American Telegraphy Society. It is predominantly a social event and provides a great opportunity to connect with old friends, make new ones, and enjoy those eyeball QSOs with folks you have worked on the bands for years.

As in years past, we'll kick off with an informal pizza dinner on Friday evening, followed by a brunch on Saturday morning hosted by Jim N3JT and Nina KE4PSV at their home in McLean. Dinner will follow that evening at the Blackfinn Ameripub in Vienna. There will be a hospitality suite with refreshments at the hotel on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday morning, many attendees meet informally at the hotel restaurant for breakfast before heading home or on to other activities. It is likely that Frank, W3LPL, will make a tour of his world class contest station available Sunday afternoon if there is interest. Further specifics about the hotel, restaurants, and other activities will be forthcoming.

Early June is a nice time of year to visit the Washington, DC area, and the schedule allows plenty of time for sightseeing, shopping, and socializing, or visiting with family and friends. World class museums abound, and excellent shopping at two huge shopping centers is convenient to the hotel.



A block of rooms will be set aside at the Fairview Park Marriott at a special rate of \$ 109. The special rate is available from June 5th through June 9th. Book directly with the hotel (800) 228-9290 or (703) 849-9400. Please indicate you are with the "North American Account." Further details on booking will be forthcoming shortly. The cutoff date for the special rate will be May 10th, 2019.

There will be a modest registration fee of \$ 15 per person or \$ 25 per couple to cover refreshments and the hospitality suite, payable by check to Don W4ZYT [1517 W. Little Neck Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717]. Further information is available from Don, W4ZYT (w4zyt.don@gmail.com) and will be posted on the FOC and CWOPS web sites..

We look forward to seeing lots of CW folks at this gathering. Talk it up, mark it down, and come!

My Year on the Rock

[Larry Schimelpfenig K7SV](#)

Ham radio and CW led to my career in telecommunications as a Radioman in the Navy and the Coast Guard and then 23 years Civil Service USCG (telecommunications). Tim K9WX suggested that there might be a story in the 55 years since I was first licensed that might interest readers of Solid Copy. Here's the story of my year on the rock (Iceland) 1969-1970.

Following my first duty assignment in the Navy banging away on model 28 teletype machines at Naval Ordnance Station Indian Head MD, I was thrilled to receive my next assignment to Naval Communication Station Iceland NRK. I was assigned to the receiver site at Rockville (appropriately named). Barracks were near the receive site at the 932nd Radar Squadron USAF.

When reporting for duty I was pleased to learn that my duties would primarily be working CW circuits. Early on I was happy also to learn that it was easy to obtain an Icelandic callsign.

I'm not sure whether ham radio or the Navy CW circuits were more fun. I thoroughly enjoyed both. Let's talk about ham radio first.

About a week after applying for my Icelandic callsign, I was assigned TF2WLW. With it I could work any mode on 20 through 10 meters (no WARC bands yet at this time) and CW only on 40 meters. No 80 or 160. While there were several rumors as to the reason for the band limitations, it was never made clear.

We lived in Quonset huts with two men per room. As luck would have it, there was an unused 30-foot telephone pole just outside the room I shared with Bill (an Electronics Technician – non-ham). I



TF2WLW and his HW101

put a 12AVQ triband trap vertical at the top with three quarter wave radials for each band sloping down. It also supported a 40m dipole. During my prior assignment I had assembled a Heathkit HW101, so that was the rig.

Being a ham in Iceland was a double-edged sword. While it was somewhat rare at that time, being so far north, propagation was frequently very poor. When the bands were open, it took little time for pileups to occur. The Europeans were obviously much louder than US hams. The HW101 didn't have incremental tuning so the only way to do split operation was moving the VFO back and forth. That didn't work so well with the HW101, so I ordered an SB 640 external VFO (designed for the SB100) and modified it and the radio to work together. That made life a lot easier. I think the keyer was still a homebrew job with a pair of 12AU7s or such.

Chasing DX and running stations was a lot of fun as was working a number of contests. I didn't have the 40m dipole up during the CQWW CW DX contest. When I worked W3AU on 20 they

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

asked me to go to 40. I said I had no antenna. The operator (Bob K3EST) said to load the trap vertical as best I could. Sure enough, the big beam at AU heard the small amount of RF I was getting out on 40. Incidentally, K3EST was my QSL manager. Behavior in pileups at that time was much better than it is now. My stay in Iceland has made it easy to follow the genesis of Rotten DX! While working the high bands was a lot of fun, I enjoyed nothing more than a good opening to the US West Coast on 40 CW.

While as far as I know I was the only ham at the receiver site, there were several on the main base in Keflavik and I met some of them in late 1969. We got to talking contesting and decided to do a multi-single in the ARRL CW and Phone DX contests. We were issued the call TF2WKF with authority to operate SSB and CW on 80 through 10 meters. We operated from a huge aircraft hanger that was something on the order of 70 feet high. It had a metal roof and we used trap verticals on 40 through 10 using the roof as the ground screen. We had a dipole for 80. Working with those guys was a blast. Conditions were good and in the CW event pileups on 80 from the US were incredible.



NRK and 932 AC&W

My visit to Iceland took place during the peak of cycle 20. Sunspots were 100 or a bit above. World-wide openings on 10 meters were common. While the only time we worked 80 was during the ARRL DX contests, I remember conditions on the band as being fairly good. Having worked 40 on a daily basis I could certainly correlate the beautiful Aurora displays with punk conditions on the band. Having grown up in North Dakota I had seen many displays of Aurora but certainly not as brilliant as in Keflavik.

While ham radio was a lot of fun, I experienced some interesting things on the Navy radio circuits as well. First, my keyer didn't work with the Navy CW circuits so I ended up using a bug at work and the keyer on the ham bands. As many of you know, if you consistently switch between a keyer and a bug, it gets to the point where you can use either effectively.

Unlike Coast Guard telecommunications where the ships use different transmit frequencies than the shore stations, on Navy circuits we transmitted and received on the same frequency. There was a group of Navy stations that used the same 6, 8, 12 and 16 MHz frequencies. I remember NST in Londonderry Ireland, NGR in Greece and AOK in Rota Spain. The source of our traffic was mostly USNS ships and Coast Guard cutters.

The USNS ships were largely transporting materials between the US and various points in Eu-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

rope. The Coast Guard cutters were either doing Ocean Stations or doing ice breaking. The cutters at Ocean Stations were there to provide weather data, provide navigation aids to aircraft and for search and rescue.

The USNS vessels used fairly antiquated equipment that wasn't necessarily stable and frequently had interesting keying characteristics. After working them for the period they were in transit through the north Atlantic one could pretty well tell which ship it was, even as they tuned up before calling. There was an informal competition between the Commstas to work as much traffic as possible.

When a USNS ship would complete tuning it would be typical for at least one if not all of the COMMSTAs to send AA AA de the COMMSTAs call sign. AA meaning unknown station. A sharp op might have recognized the ship by its transmitters unique characteristics and simply called the ship by its call sign.

I had a kind of a dirty trick that got me into a little trouble at one time. NST at Londonderry was probably the COMMSTA that we competed with the most. If I heard one of the USNS guys tuning up, I would go to another band and start sending TEST over and over again but I would kind of run the T and E together so it sounded like NST. That would draw NSTs attention on the other band while I tried to work the USNS ship. At some point NST figured out what I was doing and the section Chief told me to knock it off.



NCS Iceland

During the spring and fall when things were quiet on the circuits I had a lot of fun playing with a spare Collins 51J4 and a huge beverage that was normally used to monitor Navy VLF broadcasts. Right around the equinoxes I could find AM broadcast stations from all over the US that were very loud. My fellow watchstanders thought it was pretty neat to be listening to rock and roll from an AM station in Oklahoma City or San Francisco. I could hear some pretty neat DX on the lower ham bands as well.

An Ocean Station was a specific coordinate in the Atlantic or Pacific where the cutter maintained position to provide various services. There were 10 in the Atlantic and 3 in the Pacific. Each was named as a letter. Ocean Station Mike was northeast of Iceland and Ocean Stations Alfa and India were south of the rock. Some of the Ocean Stations were provided for by other countries. The Ocean Stations used International callsigns beginning with 4Y. 4YM was Ocean Station Mike. Ocean Stations were discontinued in the mid-70s.

During my time at Keflavik a Coast Guard Icebreaker was operating north of the island. At work I used to take their WX observations and other traffic from them on CW. At times when I was not working, I'd ride shotgun and chit-chatted with them as they ran phone patches in the ham band. I forget the cutters name but know it was a Wind class vessel (probably the Southwind). The cutter experienced a problem with a bent or broken shaft and another icebreaker was sent up to

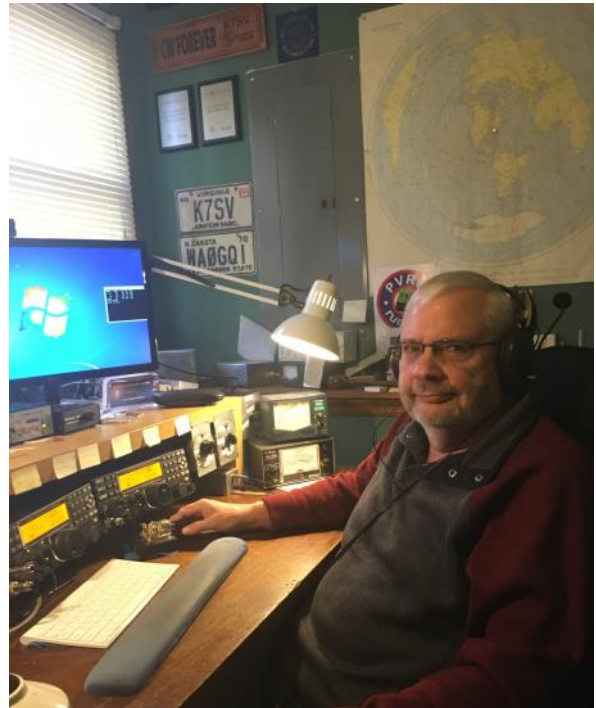
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

tow them into Reykjavik for repairs. The crew invited me to visit them while they were in Reykjavik. They treated me to a nice tour of the ship and a wonderful roast beef dinner. The cutter had capability to receive teletype but at that time couldn't transmit it. This exposure to the Coast Guard would help me decide to join that branch of the service about five years later.

Beyond the radio stuff, I really enjoyed visiting Reykjavik. I'd typically stop at what was the Icelandic National Airport and have a couple of wonderful hotdogs made with mutton and a very good relish. Then it was downtown to purchase some LPs (you remember the big records with the small hole in the center that are making a big comeback)) and some freshly baked bread. Then there was a stop at a pub for a few beers before hitting the bus to get back to Keflavik. I found the Icelandic people a little standoffish but once they befriended you a better friend couldn't be found.

I don't travel much, but revisiting Iceland is on my bucket list!



K7SV today

Is It Live or Is It Memorex?

[Ken Stovesand N4OI](#)

This past summer, I posted a discussion question, "What Proportion of CWT Participants Use PC/Macro-Generated Messages?" That is, paraphrasing the classic ad line from the 70s, "[Is your CW live, or is it Memorex?](#)" This innocent query provoked about 50 quick responses!

As background, I joined CWOps three years ago and found the CWTs to be quite a hoot. My radio is a K3 connected to an attic dipole. (I knew about the HOA restrictions before building, so no complaints — just happy to get on the air.) I recently upgraded my P3 panadapter with an SVGA interface that included a Bluetooth keyboard and macro sending capability. So, I wanted to check if anyone else was punching keyboards instead of paddles before I gave it a go.

Wow! I was surprised to find that 75% of respondents are using PC/macros on CWTs, [not that there's anything wrong with that!](#) My rough-cut analysis classified responses into three categories: (1) manual - paddle, bug or straight key only, (2) PC/macro - keyboard or application, or (3)

(Continued on next page)

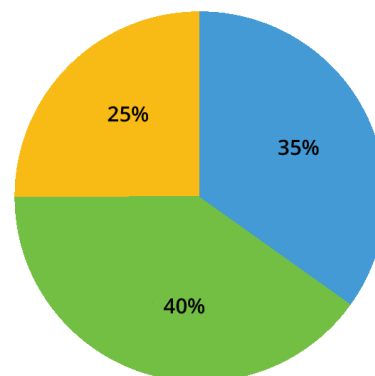
(Continued from previous page)

mixed - combination of the two (this is more than just using a paddle or key for fills or personal greetings).

I found:

- (1) Manual: 35% (paddles, bugs and keys)
- (2) PC/macro: 40% (w/manual fills and greetings)
- (3) Mixed: 25% (both PC/Macro & Manual)

● (1) Manual ● (2) PC/macro ● (3) Mixed



I am also pleased to report that the CWOps community kept to the high road and the discussion never degraded into criticism toward members who practiced one method or the other. There were no statements like, 'Real operators only use bugs or straight keys.' Rob, K6RB, nipped any of that in the bud with a good description of the CWOps party line:

"There are no prohibitions against using any kind of keying in CWT, CWO, or any open format CW contest. So, if your preference is to use a handkey, bug, or cootie and log on paper, have fun. [...] Personally, I like the freedom. Don't ask me to use any particular keying method [...]."

Other ham radio discussion forums will argue the validity of any ham who does not use CW, or relies on computers, or operates remotely via the Internet, or whatever... None of that nonsense here; it is great to be a member of CWOps!

Respondents gave some good reasons for their methods of choice. Those who use PC/macros cited several common reasons.

- better code spacing/quality, e.g., fewer fill requests
- faster speeds
- practice for full-scale contest capabilities
- advancing state-of-the-art CW
- avoid arm fatigue when running

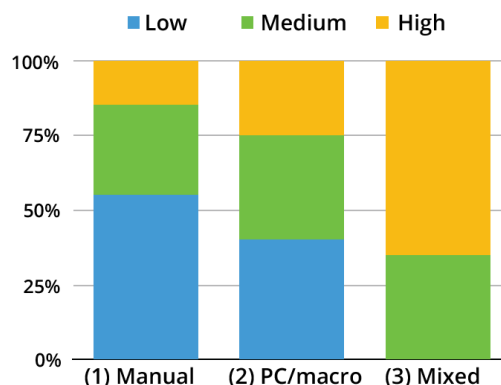
Others who use manual methods for making "real" dits and dahs had their own rationales:

- poor keyboard skills
- practice opportunity for manual sending, including bugs and cootie keys
- reduced manual dexterity, e.g., arthritis (my personal favorite)
- no PC or capability at station (including mobile)
- better message organization when sending with paddles, e.g., less complex
- keeping tradition of manual keying alive
- enjoying challenge of fully manual operations
- easy slow-down for CWA graduate CWTs or matching sender

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

For additional insight, I did a quick check of CWops contest rumors for those who replied. Again, I kept it simple with three classifications: (a) high number of contest postings, (b) medium number of postings, and (c) low number or none. I found those who favored using Mixed and PC/macros seemed to submit more postings than the purely manual operators. It is not surprising that serious contesters who regularly post their scores would utilize automation for a competitive edge!



As for me, I tried going the macro route in the recent ARRL sweepstakes, mainly because of the long exchange. After a bit however, I lost interest and went back to my trusty Begali signature paddle to just have a great time. I guess my extensive background with computers and keyboards has taken its toll; I just don't care to automate the basic nature of CW.

That said, I do love having all the options that ham radio offers, such as, operating modes, methods, contests, DXing or just conversational QSOs. With such varied opportunities, and a rich history beginning with CW, ham radio is still the greatest hobby in the world!

N3JT in Sicily

[Jim Talens N3JT](#)

In my international travels I always try to meet hams I know from on-air QSOs. If it's a guided tour, though, the windows of opportunity are limited, but there's always a way to arrange at least one evening for eyeball meetings. We did that in Japan (Tokyo and Osaka), meeting a group of CW guys at a sushi restaurant, and now in Sicily we had the honor of meeting CWops members IT9VDQ (Giu) and IT9MUO (Alf), and IT9BLB (Joe).

You might think that two weeks for an island tour would be too long but in fact it was not long enough! We used a tour company called Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) that we had used for our Japan tour a few years ago. They really do live up to their mantra of adventure, discovery and learning with visits to private houses, using a variety of conveyances, and seeing unusual sites that help make the trip memorable and educational. We were there from September 11 through September 24, 2018.

With our tour itinerary, the only time available for meeting hams was on the very day we arrived

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

in Palermo, September 11. We got to our downtown hotel by about noon, and within a very short period we were welcomed by Giu and Alf, who presented us with a beautiful commemorative plate – which I am pleased to report arrived home in perfect shape, thanks to multiple layers of bubble-wrap. You can see it below with its thoughtful inscription.

The central figure on the plate carries great significance and dates back to ancient times. Sicily was called Triquetra or Trinacria, with a symbol of a female head having three bent legs bent (trisele). The head features the gorgons of Greek mythology, with golden wings, bronze-clawed hands, boar tusks and snakes instead of hair.

As ISEFO has clarified for me, the figure represents Eurial (sexual perversion), Steno (moral perversion), and Medusa (the mortal monster and guardian of the underworld). Today, that figure is linked to Sicily and appears everywhere. We were also told that the 3 legs represent the 3 points of Sicily's geographical shape.

Giu and Alf speak quite good English so we had no trouble chatting as we made our way around the city and to the top of Mount Pellegrino, where the club station IB9T is located. IT9BLB, Joe, is the station manager and he met us there. It is no accident that when Giu uses the club station in CWT sessions his signal is quite commanding. The site along the mountain ridge is shared by a number of communications facilities for good reason, as you can see from the photo below.



L-R: IT9VDQ (Giu), KE4PSV (Nina), N3JT (Jim), IT9MUO (Alf), atop Mt Pellegrino. Commemorative plate is from Giu, Alf – and Joe, IT9BLB.



We had a grand time together, sharing pizza at a lovely restaurant not far from our hotel. But by

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

the end of our dinner we had been up for over 36 hours and the adrenalin of enthusiasm meeting our ham friends began to dissipate so we headed back to the hotel and bid our hosts a fond goodbye. The next morning our 2-week tour of Sicily and its wonderful sites and cuisine began.

Sicily has a remarkable history with architecture and cuisine that is matched nowhere else. Its towns are in many cases perched precariously on mountain sides, its roads a challenging mix of tight city lanes and intercity highways.



IT9BLB, IT9MUO, IT9/N3JT, IT9VDQ



The view from the ridge along Mount Pellegrino, where IB9T is located.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)



The IB9T station atop Mount Pellegrino, overlooking Palermo on the northwest coast of Sicily.

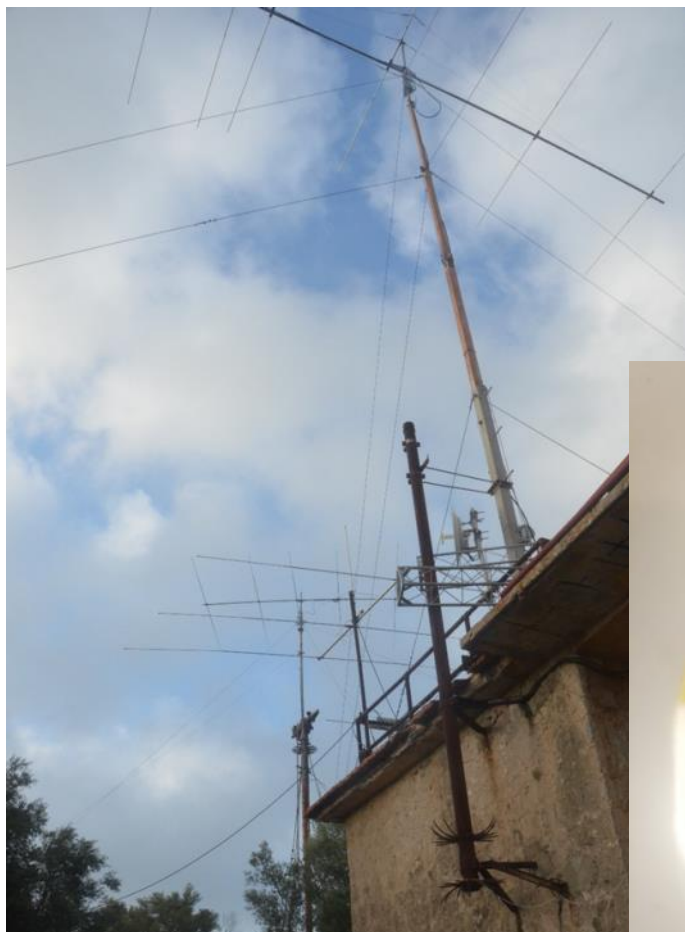
Operating as IT9/N3JT I made a dozen or so QSOs, several with North America, but there was a solar flare that day! A solar flare was fine when we visited Iceland a few years ago because it provided us with a huge show of the Northern Lights, but it was not helpful here!

Our tour through Sicily was even more fascinating and compelling than we had anticipated. For history, there is the Greek Theater at Syracuse, the Valley of the Temples at Agrigento, the ancient theater overlooking Mount Etna at Taormina – and the Roman Villa del Casale near Piazza Armarena with its amazingly well-preserved mosaics. And then there is the cuisine! I gained 5 pounds (2 kilos) of body weight enjoying the amazing gelato (favorite flavor: pistachio), meals in lovely local restaurants, and of course the occasional pizza (available in a zillion styles). In Ragusa, Nina and I ate at a Michelin-rated restaurant - a memorable experience in itself. Below are a few photos to whet your appetite, for the sites and cuisine!



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)



Clockwise: antennas at IB9T, flag of Sicily, cannolo with amaretto gelato, KE4SPV and N3JT in Palermo, A sample of the Greek/Roman ruins scattered across Sicily.

What Is A Good CW Operator?

[Robert "Harv" Harvey K2PI](#)

Editor's note: In a recent discussion on the CWops mailing list, we debated the question of what makes a good CW operator. Many agreed that Harv, K2PI had the best answer:

I probably don't meet these definitions consistently enough, but I do have some opinions on what would make a "good" CW Op, having worked as a federal telegrapher and spending a few years in this hobby enjoying CW as well. I think it would boil down to:

Proficiency – Able to send and receive the code with high accuracy and consistency at their mastered speed for an extended time without fatigue.

Rhythm – Displays a well-developed sense of the procedures, timing, spacing, and formation of the character elements which allows them to accurately copy under adverse conditions and to send highly readable code, even without automatic devices. Able to adapt those elements to meet the band conditions or needs of the receiving operator.

Learning – Seeks to increase their skill, through on-air practice, training, and study. Volunteers to help advance the skills of other less-experienced or new CW operators.

Behavior – Is courteous, patient, and understanding. Recognizes that no one is born to CW, and that each of us is practicing an acquired skill the best way they know how. Upholds the telegraphic standard of on-air behavior that is above reproach, because they understand that they are part of a special fraternity with a long history of high standards.

Passion – Enjoys CW, regardless of attained proficiency, because he or she recognizes that they are part of a unique telegraphic tradition, and understands that amateur radio is richer and more interesting because CW lives on through them.



Contesters vs Ragchewers

[Jim Talens N3JT](#)

There is an apparent split between CW operators who prefer to ragchew and those who prefer contesting or DXing. It surfaces in the form of claimed interference. Ragchewers say that contesters and DXers land on their in-use frequencies without listening. On some club Listservs you'd think it was a major international crisis. It goes like this: Contesters are inconsiderate and do not uphold the classic view of the ham as the guy who talks at length to other people across town or around the world. Contesters respond that they only use their radios on weekends (or

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

maybe Wednesdays!), and DXers say they're only on when there's a special DXpedition active. Contesters and DXers both say it's not really such a big deal; there's room for everybody – just move, for heaven's sakes!

In all of this I have never heard a complaint by contesters that ragchewers are the bane of ham radio, that ragchewers occupy too much spectrum for too long, or that ragchewers set a bad example by talking too much. Of course, ragchewers calling CQ or already in QSO when a rare DX station fires up on their channel is putative justification for near-amicide (killing friends). But those are fleeting events that typically resolve quickly. The simmering rivalry between ragchewers and contesters/DXers remains, and it's always the ragchewer who is the seeming victim.

I think I may have stumbled on the reason for this! Contesters/DXers don't complain about ragchewers because they don't know that ragchewers are chewing. It doesn't compute! They appear to think that the bizarre phenomenon of continuous CW transmission between two or more stations over a period exceeding 4 seconds is some kind of beacon arrangement or a new variant of FT8. Recognizing the transmissions as a conversation requires listening and copying, maybe even following a line of discussion. Such skill and interest, increasingly lost in our email and texting culture, is equally fading as a serious endeavor in ham radio. After all, if you need to natter then send an email!



[How frequency fights \(and other disputes\) were settled in older days.](#)

There is no resolution, of course. Many of us are contesters, ragchewers and DX hunters all rolled up in one ball. Who do we complain about? Answer: everybody, as it suits us. That ragchewer too close to the DX station; that contestster ruining my weekly QSO with nephew Herman; that DXer calling on my frequency without listening. Even within each of those categories there are folks who manage to provoke angst. Who hasn't been in a contest and heard the frequency fight unfold?

Most of us appreciate the great skills evinced by ragchewing, DXing and contesting. All CW activity is good!!! As long as we share spectrum, collisions will occur. It used to be that I would stand my ground when somebody landed on "my channel." Now I just move. There's always room elsewhere nowadays, after all!

CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

In a couple of recent columns, I have focused on some of the techniques someone seeking to maximize their QSO count might use. Not everyone participating in the CWTs is going all-out for maximum QSO count, though. As those of you who follow the cwops groups.io group will be aware, one of our members who has a different take on the CWTs is Hank, N8XX. Hank has offered a guest column about his reasons for enjoying the CWTs, which follows below. I will be back next month with the results of the CWT participation awards for 2018.

Is the CWT ONLY for maximum score?

There seems to be much interest in "maximizing one's score" and the like for the CWT Mini Tests which we hold 3 times a week on Wednesday/Thursday. There's an excellent article for those who are interested in this aspect in the October 2018 issue by Rich VE3KI.

We have lots of interest in the CWT's. Over 200 entries in each of the three segments. That's ~10% of the membership, and a number of non-members who join in. And, there are quite a few stations/operators who show regularly with over 100 contacts in the hour sessions.

There are quite a few other aspects to these events, aside from maximizing score. I, for one, have no interest in perennially attempting to "better my score." If I happen to be in "fine fettle" I might exceed the max score that I've made previously, but it will be a combination of excellent conditions and serendipity. I get on an occasional 1300Z session to make at least 10 contacts, which usually is fairly easy, even with 5 watts or less and a wet noodle for an antenna. But I have a breakfast every other week with some old fogey friends which takes precedence. And, even though I have a 45 WPM CW copying certificate from the Connecticut wireless Association, I typically operate 22 to 26 WPM in a regular contest when at home. When I'm out in the field I send @ 16 to 18 WPM with my J-38 hand pump. It's much harder to carry a bug and keep it in good shape in the field. Using an extra USB port to send with a laptop computer control takes extra mAh from my computer's battery, reducing the useful life.



[A J-38 key](#)

But, I digress, for the 1900Z sessions I've had an ulterior motive. There's something called the Michigan State Parks on the Air for the years 2017, 18, and 19. This, along with the World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF), and a similar US/VE Parks On The Air (POTA), encourages hams to get outside, and operate from State and National Parks & associated outdoor venues. So, I've been going to many of the State Parks in Southwest Michigan, where I set up my peanut whistle and

(Continued from previous page)

wet noodle antenna, often by 1800Z or so, and call "CQ POTA." At 1900Z I'll morph into a CWT operator, calling "CQ CWT N8XX" and work as many fellow CWops and casual ops as possible for up to 60 minutes. Often, I've had >10 contacts even before the CWT starts, but I'll operate until I have 15 or so, sometimes even >20 CWT contacts.

I've won enough paper certificates and plaques for contest efforts to last through the rest of my life. Even now I sometimes win for "highest QRP entry from Michigan" or "from the Great Lakes Division" or the "8th call area". In many of these cases I'm the only entry who is stupid/silly/crazy enough (you take your pick) to operate with 5 watts or less in the defined area. The plaques have been won by entering the Ohio and Michigan State QSO Parties and operating with 5 watts or less. I choose a "rare" county, where there has been no, or maybe 1 fixed entry with a low score. This makes my peanut whistle a bigger signal from a "magnet location." Such a location almost always generates up to 10 dB increase in the "readability" of a signal once it and the county have been put on the DXcluster network.

Anyway, maximizing score for a CWT isn't on my priority list. Having fun, working fellows like N3JT CWOp #1, and other single digit CWOps, or Kirk, K4RO, who has been an "Elmer" ever since I've stumbled across his prose in the National Contest Journal. CWT's are fun, fun, fun events for me. If they ever stop being fun, I'll quit.

72/73 de N8XX Hg
QRP >99.44% of the time

For more information on the Michigan State Parks on the Air program visit www.mspota.org



For more information on the World Wide Flora and Fauna program visit wwff.co



CW Academy

[Jerry Weisskohl, AC4BT](#)

This will be my last submission as CW Academy (CWA) Manager. After many years serving in the role of CW manager I am stepping down. I've enjoyed being the CWA manager and meeting hundreds of aspiring Ham operators along the way. I've had the privilege to watch them transform from newbie CW students into outstanding CW operators who will continue to carry the CW torch for many years to come. It's been an awesome ride!

The good news is that CW Academy will continue to be in good hands. Joe AA8TA and Kate K6HTN will be taking over my responsibilities and duties as CW Academy Manager. They are both extremely talented CW operators and dedicated to growing the CW Academy and taking it to the next level. Please give them your full support.

The results of the September/October 2018 CW Academy (CWA) have been tabulated.

Thanks to the outstanding work of the elite team of CW Academy advisors, CWA graduated a record **231** students this last semester!

Here is the breakdown: The complete semester summary and list of graduates can be found at the end of this article)

127 students successfully completed and graduated Level 1,

76 students successfully completed and graduated Level 2,

21 students successfully completed and graduated Level 3, and

7 students successfully completed and graduated from the Youth CW Academy (YCWA)

CW Academy's winter semester (January/February 2019) will be kicking-off the first week in January. Joe AA8TA and Kate K6HTN just completed and sent out the student assignments to the CWA Advisors, and the Advisors are now busy contacting their new students and preparing for the start of the semester. This will be the 21th overall semester that CWA has conducted CW classes. The very first CWA semester was conducted in the spring of 2011.

As you can see, CW Academy student signups continue to increase, and CWA is struggling to meet this increased demand. CWA has a continued need for additional Advisors in all areas of the World. The team of CWA Advisors is comprised of dedicated volunteers providing CW instruction internationally at no cost to the students.

If you love CW and want to join us in our mission to ensure that CW remains relevant and continues to prosper, please consider joining the Academy's elite team of Advisors. All it takes is a love of CW and a desire to help aspiring students learn to use CW. It's fun and rewarding and you will make many new life-long friendships at the same time!

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

CW Academy's classes are conducted using the ZOOM and SKYPE video conferencing software. This allows us to connect to students all over the world using the Internet. Minimal equipment is needed for both students and Advisors. Just a little free time and a desire to help people by sharing your CW skills and expertise.

More information about becoming a CWA Advisor can be found at the CWops website (www.cwops.org). The link for the sign-up form for becoming a CWA Advisor is:

<https://cwops.org/cw-academy-2/cw-academy-advisor-sign-up/>

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

My best wishes go out to Joe AA8TA and Kate K6HTN, my successors as the new leaders of the CW Academy. Both Joe and Kate have some great ideas and improvements in the works for catapulting the CW Academy to the next level.

73

Jerry AC4BT, Outgoing CW Academy Manager

The CW Academy September - October 2018 semester graduated 231 CW students led by 59 Advisors.

Here is a list of advisors and student graduates from this semester:

September - October 2018 Semester – 59 Advisors

Advisors - 3 classes: Rob K6RB

Advisors - 2 classes: Ed K6HP, Joe KK5NA, Alex PA1FOX, Ron WM9Q, Dallas K1DW, Joe AA8TA, Buzz AC6AC, Ron VE3FXX, Jerry AC4BT

Advisors – 1 class: Mac NN4K, Danny KF7Z, Kate K6HTN, Paul K4JAZ, Lar K7SV, Bill K0MP, Bill W0EJ, Carl K9LA, Doug VE3MV, Bob AF9W, John K4AFE, Dennis K2SX, Alan AD6E, Gary N8LR, Val WD4EXI, Jim AD5TT, John KE6K, Quinton NU7Y, Bill N0KQ, Carole VA7QCE, Jack W8KR, Terry WB0JRH, Rich K1DJ, Barry W4LSV, Ken KE4RG, Bruce AH0U, Jim N4TMM, Curt K7ZOO, James VK4TJF, Stew GW0ETF, Peter GM0EUL, Vic 4X6GP, Bill AJ8B, Keith G0HKC, Phil G4NVR, Joe KK5NA, Andy, WB7DKZ, Mark K5GQ, Ed N9EP, Joe N3HEE, Bill KC4D, Chris W4ALF, John AJ1DM, Bill W3PMN, John N8AA, Al K0AD, Bob WR7Q, Scott KF7GGN, Bruce K1BG

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

September - October 2018 Semester – Students who completed: 231 graduates

Level 1 Graduates, 127: W4HNG, W3VD, AC9FO, N1RKO, AC2UQ, W6BJB, KB2ZVD, WT0F, W6RIP, N4EDT, KE0CCI, W9JDM, K5WTS, KD5WJJ, VA2YAF, VE2GTZ, AB1OC, KF5HCD, AC9SY, W1EUJ, K8TAF, KQ9RP, K8PK, NE0DA, KB0FD, N7MQ, KK6M, W2WCM, NQ6Z, AE8U, KY4KD, VA2IDX, KF4LRN, KD4KEN, AC1CG, K0ERE, N5AHM, N4JW, WT3C, KF4LIS, N3FZ, W1TRT, AG7CC, N0KAI, W7CSW, KF7ZVL, KA7HVT, KA9USG, NF8H, KG5JHQ, W4BIX, KD8MSZ, K2VHF, N1SFT, K7AJG, NT6F, KA6WNN, K4PZ, N8RI, N2AMA, K1OKD, KR6G, W6SMF, WM6Y, W7SMS, AD8WR, N7GRB, WR1TR, KY9I, KW0KW, K0VC, W6ZDR, W6TRF, W7DM, KM6PQD, KI7OMH, KI7YWE, K9WIT, KI7TIG, AG7II, WB6WJR, AG7MD, KD7OWX, W6BG, KD7BTY, KG4QOF, N1ILC, KA8STK, KB9FDX, KG5DOG, W5LHJ, KE0LCS, W9BFZ, KG5YOV, VE5YAK, W4STU, KC2FQ, N8HDT, W2NWT, N4HOE, KD2PER, KD2NSP, WV8TG, W1AGE, KT9N, KZ4IG, HS0ZMF, KM6AZX, KE6IGU, KN4GSL, W9MNC, N0KAM, N0KVN, KG7BAF, VK2FONZ, M0ZDM, M0WTL, M6OUO, MI6XZZ, G8SKG, M0NOM, 4Z1IM, KA5OXA, NI0P, K5RFL, W5XNA, K2ZP

Level 2 Graduates, 76:

MW0XOT, M0DHP, PA3ZZ, M6ITH, ZS5EL, IU3BRO, SN9MT, KG5OWB, W0PHX, KW5RAB, AC0ZU, KC9RH, NV5F, W4MDV, N9OK, AE4RM, K0JZ, N0MII, WE7A, AB9BZ, N9WKE, K5YNC, N6KC, NT8B, K8NGW, W8RKO, NW2Z, WS8G, W0KM, N4GFH, VA2AGW, N4ARY, N3BXZ, N4EII, KC3AAF, KM3K, N3NNU, KZ5ED, AF4PD, AF4FG, KD2NEL, NV1U, KD2MLY, KM4YZU, AC6ZM, KS9A, K2GW, N4SJK, KF8O, VE3ZJO, WN0ZOS, WA1MB, WB3KLI, VE3IZS, K8TS, KD2OMV, K4MV, W0RLY, N7MU, N7NSD, KB6ZSB, NE6M, N7RV, W7BCW, N6LRA, W7MSX, KK0ECT, AJ6DU, N7DRW, AI6XG, KE7RW, AD6DM, W9KKN, NS6W, KK6KSD, KK6NVZ

Level 3 Graduates, 21:

WD0END, NA5G, WB5L, N5IP, ND9G, AD0WE, KJ1RE, N9VJ, NR3Z, AA8P, NZ6Q, WA8KBU, VE2SRP, VA3BOW, W8XC, AK4AO, WB7DND, NU6N, N6WIN, WK5N, WC6Y

Youth CW Academy (YCWA): 7

The YCWA managed by Rob K6RB, graduated 7 students this semester.

Rob K6RB graduated the following students from his YCWA class: David Bell K6BA, Sophie Bell NOCALL, Faisal Akber VA3FSA, Taymia Akber KM6OKR.

Bruce K1BG graduated the following three students from his YCWA class: Patrick Younes KM4VMY, Venessa Bartlett NOCALL and Dylan Skaggs NOCALL.



New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
2158	K5OA*	Russ
2159	G0AYD	David
2160	KH6CJJ*	Kent
2161	AL1G	Corliss
2162	AA2AD*	Pete
2163	SM6JWR/SD6F*	Klas
2164	N6MJ*	Dan
2165	IW2MXE*	Diego

CWops	Call	Name
2166	G3UFO*	David
2167	AD0WE*	Kurt
2168	K7HBN	Geo
2169	WB7DND*	Skippy
2170	ON4VT/OT4V	Danny
2171	N2OO	Bob
2172	HA0NAR*	Laci
2173	W6WG*	Ron

CWops	Call	Name
2174	W2NO*	Dan
2175	KV8Q	Tom
2176	NY2H*	Lou
2177	KK6M*	Roy
2178	GW4MVA*	Glynn
2179	K8GU*	Ethan
2180	N2NC*	John
2181	WY6K	Mike

*Life Member

Current Nominees

As of December 8, 2018

Need Sponsors: K3IN, W7KF

Invitations Extended:

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the "Membership" then "Members only" page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>.

For information about joining CWops, check the "Membership" page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>

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

73,

Trung, W6TN, Membership Secretary



CWops Member Awards

Pete W1RM and Peter W1UU

The Annual Competition Award (ACA) is based on the number of members worked each calendar year. You get one point per member worked, once per year. It resets to zero at the beginning of each year. The Cumulative Member Award (CMA) is based on how many members you've worked since January 3, 2010 on each band and continues to grow in perpetuity. The CWops Award Manager (CAM) software, available at no cost, will help you keep track of your ACA and CMA totals.

In the table below, members whose call sign is in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS). Members who wish to track their totals for these awards can use the CAM software developed by N5RR. It's available at no cost here: www.bbcyber.com/cam/

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	1114	7652	W1RM	186	N5RR	50	W1RM	49	W1RM	38
W1RM	923	5511	F6HKA	169	W1RM	50	DL6KVA	48	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	894	4841	W4VQ	149	W4VQ	50	F6HKA	47	W4VQ	37
N8BJQ	879	5207	DL6KVA	134	F6HKA	50	G4BUE	46	N5RR	37
F6HKA	864	5078	G4BUE	131	W1UU	50	OK1RR	44	G4BUE	37
N5PHT	803	3184	N5RR	129	VE3KI	50	N5RR	44	VE3KI	36
IT9VDQ	798	1505	N8BJQ	122	G4BUE	50	VE3KI	43	N5PHT	36
DL6KVA	734	2784	VE3KI	117	EA8OM	50	N8BJQ	43	DL6KVA	35
K3DMG	718	1773	OK1RR	115	W0EJ	50	W4VQ	42	I5EFO	33
K8AJS	695	2171	OH2BN	112	F6JOE	50	I5EFO	42	VK7CW	32
K4WW	665	1166	EA8OM	111	W6KY	50	EA8OM	42	IK0YVV	32
K5AX	659	3395	K1ESE	106	N1EN	50	AA3B	42	F5IYJ	32
K0MP	639	1139	AA3B	103	N5PHT	50	OH2BN	40	RM2D	29
WN7S	625	1178	I5EFO	102	F5MNK	50	W1UU	38	JF2IWL	25
K3MD	594	1734	N5PHT	98	K5IX	50	K1ESE	38	N1DC	22
NA6O	587	2577	EA1WX	97	K3SEN	50	SM6CNN	37	W6NS	19
K1ESE	567	3334	W9ILY	95	AD1C	50	KR3E	37	G4NVR	19
K3WJV	539	2359	W0VX	94	AB7MP	50	K3MD	37	G4ILW	17
K9WX	528	2776	SM6CNN	93	AA3B	50	IT9VDQ	36	WN7S	16
VE1OP	524	768	IT9MUO	87	K5AX	50	IT9MUO	36	K8AJS	12
NN4K	516	1850	N1EN	86	I5EFO	50	F6JOE	36	NN4K	9
K1DJ	507	1440	KY7M	86	VK7CW	50	EA1WX	36		
KM4FO	500	721	VK7CW	85	DL6KVA	50	G4ILW	35		
AA8TA	494	1275	F6JOE	84	K0TC	50	W9ILY	34		
N5RR	482	4961	AD1C	83	KY7M	50	W0VX	34		
KE4S	476	1722	KR3E	82	NA6O	50	RM2D	34		
W0VX	411	3219	4X6GP	82	K1DJ	50	KZ5D	34		
K3SEN	385	1601	F5IYJ	81	N8BJQ	50	HB9ARF	34		
WT2P	381	1925	PA7RA	79	K9WX	50	N1EN	32		

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
HB9ARF	374	1185	K5AX	79	WT2P	50	KY7M	32		
CM8NMN	360	529	DL8PG	79	K1ESE	50	F5MNM	32		
N1DC	357	2131	KZ5D	78	K6DGW	50	4X6GP	32		
KT5V	355	1701	IT9VDQ	74	K3WJV	50	PA7RA	31		
W1UU	345	2234	W1UU	73	K4WW	50	K5AX	31		
F6JOE	320	2900	RM2D	73	K2QB	50	F5IYJ	31		
I5EFO	314	996	N1ZX	70	ON4VT	49	DL8PG	31		
G4NVR	314	680	F5MNM	68	WN7S	49	IK0YVV	30		
KE4RG	311	745	NN6T	67	W9ILY	49	G4NVR	30		
VK7CW	305	1563	GW0ETF	67	W0VX	49	G4HZV	30		
K6DGW	299	1955	N1DC	66	NU7Y	49	NN6T	29		
K2QB	284	125	NA6O	65	NN4K	49	N1ZX	28		
W4VQ	283	2727	KE4S	65	N1DC	49	K8AJS	28		
W8DN	275	558	DL4FDM	65	KT5V	49	GW0ETF	28		
AB7MP	270	943	K3DMG	63	KR3E	49	AD1C	28		
W9ILY	267	3239	K8AJS	61	KE4S	49	N1DC	27		
F5IYJ	266	795	KT5V	60	K8AJS	49	KE4S	27		
KB4DE	265	329	K1DJ	58	K6RB	49	K3WJV	27		
NU7Y	251	925	HB9ARF	58	K3MD	49	K1DJ	27		
G4ILW	233	545	K9WX	57	K0MP	49	G4DRS	27		
G4BUE	213	3472	IK0YVV	57	IT9VDQ	49	K3DMG	26		
4X6GP	197	1306	W6KY	56	GW0ETF	49	JF2IWL	26		
AJ1DM	172	201	K6RB	56	AA8TA	49	G0MGM	26		
G4HZV	167	603	G4DRS	56	WB9G	48	VK7CW	25		
G4DRS	158	692	K3WJV	53	W6NS	48	NA6O	25		
RM2D	152	1182	K0TC	53	SM6CNN	48	N5PHT	25		
EA1WX	129	1886	G4ILW	53	NN6T	48	DL5DBY	25		
KB8PGW	128	200	JF2IWL	51	N1ZX	48	K6RB	24		
IT9MUO	116	1702	G4HZV	51	KZ5D	48	M0DHP	23		
DL8PG	104	1789	K3SEN	50	K3DMG	48	NN4K	21		
ON4VT	100	267	4Z1UF	50	IK0YVV	48	4Z1UF	21		
G0MGM	97	495	NN4K	49	EA1WX	48	K9WX	20		
M0DHP	90	121	WT2P	48	DL8PG	48	K3SEN	20		
SV2BBK	57	84	WB9G	48	AD5A	48	K2ZC	20		
JF2IWL	28	931	G0MGM	45	4X6GP	48	WB9G	19		
K6RB	0	4032	G4NVR	43	VE3MV	47	KT5V	19		
KY7M	0	3252	DL5DBY	43	VE1OP	47	WT2P	18		
KZ5D	0	3239	K3MD	41	K0DTJ	47	W6KY	18		
IK0NOJ	0	3093	K6DGW	39	JF2IWL	47	VK4TJF	18		
EA8OM	0	2758	W6NS	38	HB9ARF	47	VE1OP	18		

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
SM6CNN	0	2477	K2ZC	37	G4DRS	47	K4WW	18		
AD1C	0	2101	W0EJ	36	WX7SJ	46	G3YJQ	18		
W6KY	0	2088	VK4TJF	35	KG5U	46	AD5A	18		
K0TC	0	2048	KG5U	35	KE4RG	46	KG5U	17		
N1EN	0	1928	AD5A	35	IT9MUO	46	K0TC	17		
N2UU	0	1774	WN7S	34	F5IYJ	46	SV2BBK	15		
OK1RR	0	1618	KB8PGW	33	CM8NMN	46	WN7S	14		
NN6T	0	1577	VE1OP	32	OK1RR	45	W6NS	12		
KR3E	0	1461	K4WW	30	K2ZC	45	VE3MV	12		
GW0ETF	0	1451	K0DTJ	30	W8DN	44	K6DGW	12		
KG5U	0	1322	M0DHP	27	RM2D	44	CM8NMN	12		
PA7RA	0	1200	G3YJQ	27	PA7RA	44	W0EJ	10		
F5MNK	0	1111	CM8NMN	26	VK4TJF	43	G3XLG	10		
W6NS	0	1090	AA8TA	25	KM4FO	43	K0MP	9		
AD5A	0	1071	K5IX	24	G4NVR	43	KE4RG	8		
4Z1UF	0	1032	VE3MV	23	OH2BN	42	K5IX	8		
W5ASP	0	1018	K0MP	23	KB4DE	42	AJ1DM	8		
PA4N	0	955	AB7MP	23	G4HZV	42	AA8TA	8		
N1ZX	0	940	NU7Y	22	NV9X	38	W8DN	7		
K5IX	0	892	W8DN	21	G3YJQ	37	W5TM	7		
WB9G	0	888	SV2BBK	20	4Z1UF	36	K0DTJ	7		
K0DTJ	0	828	G3XLG	18	G0MGM	35	G0DJA	7		
K2ZC	0	767	KE4RG	16	DL5DBY	33	AB7MP	7		
IK0YVV	0	767	W5TM	11	AJ1DM	33	KM4FO	5		
W0EJ	0	754	KM4FO	10	W5TM	32	KB4DE	5		
VE3MV	0	664	G0DJA	10	G3XLG	31	NU7Y	3		
DL4FDM	0	632	AJ1DM	10	G4ILW	27	ND1R	2		
WX7SJ	0	610	KB4DE	9	ND1R	24	NV9X	1		
OH2BN	0	530	ND1R	5	KE6K	17				
VK4TJF	0	430	NV9X	4	M0DHP	16				
DL5DBY	0	326	KE6K	4	SV2BBK	10				
W5TM	0	235			G0DJA	8				
G3YJQ	0	234								
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](#)

Hope this finds you enjoying spinning your radio dials – or punching a keyboard if that applies! Winter is approaching in the Northern Hemisphere and here in Iowa we have had a few days of snowfall – kinda different for this guy that spent 48 years of his life in Texas. We are still enjoying our home in Indianola, Iowa and open for a visit if any CWT ops passing through!

I found some time for rag chews this month and still finding out 40m seems to be my most productive band with 80m close as follows: (counting MQTX and QTX combined): 40m: 43; 80m: 32; 20m: 22; 30m: 18. I know Bill, N5IR has been finding rag chews on 60m – I may give that try myself.

NEWS: Starting in 2019 I will be keeping separate records for MQTX and QTX and they will be listed separately in the Newsletter! I see no reason MQTX should not at least receive a recognition at the end of 2019!!

If you have any questions about QTX or MQTX don't hesitate to ask me via email. If you want to be added to the QTX listings, please send in your count for QTX and for MQTX for the month from the Members Only Section of the Web Page. Please do consider sending in your points.

Rag Chewer Comments

W9EBE: I always enjoy hearing old friends come back to the air (or at least they're on the bands more frequently) when the holidays roll around and the weather turns cold; I had a number of really good ragchews this month as a result. Happy Holidays, everyone!

N6HCN: Great to hear Alan AC2K back on air in AZ. First QTX using my WWII ship's bug, thanks Rob, N6KIX, for the workout.

KCOVKN: Managed to catch my Elmers, W0TER, K0KK on 10m this month. We had a great chat and caught up a little. Retired guys have all the fun.

K5KV: ONE EXCEEDED AN HOUR COUNTING TOWARD THE SKCC MARATHON RAGCHEW AWARD. BOTH STATIONS USING BUGS.

AJ1DM: Slow month due to travel, but still managed a little bit of rag-chewing. 73!

K2KRG: This month I have been trying to get on the air more with the Vibroplex Lightning bug I got from Joe, N3HEE. I had a great bug to bug rag chew with Larry, KJ1RE who is much better with the bug than I am, and somehow managed to understand me, hi.

W0ITT: Conditions highly variable this month: but the QSO's are there still there to be made. My favorite was with Eric KD9ELU on 40m one afternoon. I used my tiny Paraset QRP radio at 1 watt,

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

and we had a nice solid 30-minute QSO. He gave me RST 599! You never know what the bands will give you. :-)

K6DGW: Daughter's wedding, Thanksgiving, and several projects restricted my casual [and CWT] operations this month

N5IR: I had four 1-hour QTXs this month on the bug. I had a nice cootie QTX with HK4MKE. 60m QTXs are picking up again.

W5LA: Just getting back into CW "rag-chewing".

GM0EUL: I'm attempting to do more longer conversational QSOs. Most interesting this month was Vlado Z35M/P. Vlado is the previous owner of my K2 and quite by chance I heard him calling. He was delighted to hear his old K2, commented on the lovely tone and told me he was using his new KX2. We both turned the power down and down until we were 1 watt each way over 1400 miles.

MEDALS

Remember that we give out QTX Medals at the end of the year for 3 levels: (QTX – MQTX recognition not developed as yet).

Gold Medal – 400 QTX Points
Silver Medal – 300 QTX Points
Bronze Medal – 200 QTX Points

MEDALS for 2018: N5IR, K1ESE, W9EBE, N5PHT and K5KV all have GOLD in the bag! K2KRG and KC0VKN have earned SILVER (and both very close to Gold). And Bronze: KB6NU, I5EFO and K5YQF. Congrats to the medal earners so far!!

The QTX is listed alongside the MQTX for each member. I listed it in order of highest QTX and down. (Same arrangement in the 2018 totals). Starting in January I will list them separately.

QTX / MQTX TOTALS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Call	QTX	MQTX
N5PHT	78	37
N5IR	63	0
W9EBE	47	31
KC0VKN	35	0
K2KRG	33	9
F5IYJ	32	0
W0ITT	25	26
K5KV	25	19

Call	QTX	MQTX
KB6NU	25	11
K1ESE	24	10
I5EFO	18	7
DL5DBY	16	0
N6HCN	13	3
K5YQF	9	1
N4DT	8	0
HB9CVQ	6	7

Call	QTX	MQTX
K4AHO	4	13
AJ1DM	4	3
N5LB	4	1
WN7S	3	5
G4ILW	3	4
K8UDH	3	1
W3WHK	3	1
SV2BBK	2	23

Call	QTX	MQTX
K6DGW	2	3
KG4Q	2	0
K0DTJ	2	0
GM0EUL	1	6
N9SE	1	5
W5LA	1	1

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Our leaders for the Month of November: N5PHT in first and N5IR is second and W9EBE is in third place for the month of October! (Remember – starting in January I will offer QTX and MQTX in separate lists).

QTX / MQTX 2018 Totals

Call	QTX	MQTX	Call	QTX	MQTX	Call	QTX	MQTX	Call	QTX	MQTX
N5IR	669	0	W0ITT	143	161	W3PNM	47	0	W5JQ	7	0
N5PHT	507	140	K4AHO	157	42	W3WHK	45	16	K3TN	7	0
K1ESE	463	67	N6HCN	113	18	K6RB	43	0	VK7CW	6	3
W9EBE	458	137	K6HP	113	0	DL5DBY	40	13	G0MGM	6	2
K5KV	410	229	HB9CVQ	109	43	K6DGW	36	39	WN7S	5	7
KC0VKN	393	0	N4DT	92	9	N9SE	34	14	KG4Q	4	2
K2KRG	393	79	N4PIR	91	18	K0DTJ	32	0	WA3GM	3	2
I5EFO	230	47	K8UDH	76	8	WA8IWK	32	19	AB7MP	1	10
K5YQF	210	44	G4ILW	64	21	WB6TOU	23	6	AI6O	1	8
KB6NU	209	69	AJ1DM	60	9	N5LB	21	3	GM0EUL	1	6
N7YT	187	0	DL5DBY	56	13	SV2BBK	19	104	W5LA	1	1
F5IYJ	184	5	W3WHK	48	17	WA3AER	8	0			

And LEADERS for 2018 with only December remaining we have in first place (with a commanding lead) N5IR, and N5PHT in second and third is K1ESE (with W9EBE at his heels!!)

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 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW is a great opportunity for the more experienced operator to encourage both the newer and the younger players to take part in contesting style events. Consider opening your station up to a rookie and then later gather up several of the younger set for some

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

on-the-air time. And remember, the more operators who are on the air, the more fun there will be for everyone.

The RAEM contest is held by the Union of Radioamateurs of Russia in memory of Ernst Krenkel (1903-1971) a famous polar investigator and radio communications operator (callsign RAEM0. Beginning in 1924, Krenkel was a pioneering member and main radio operator of many Russian Arctic winter research expeditions, as well as a veteran of the Russian Arctic polar station "North Pole-1" and numerous other Arctic marine expeditions. The event is held on 10 thru 80m and is CW only. The exchange is a rather unique. It consists of the serial number of the QSO, and the participant's geographical coordinates, degree values only. Check the Rules for more details.

The RAC Winter contest takes place the final weekend of the year. It marks the end of the year's scheduled operating events. As with other Canadian contests the activity will be opened to any and all who chose to join in.

The North American CW QSO Party is a very popular event for CW operators. Possibly the most "fun" of all CW events. It is definitely one of the high points of the month. Unfortunately, many operators tend to ignore one of the key features of this contest, the Team competition. What's special is that there are no distance or club requirements ... just two to five single operator stations combining their scores. This adds additional interest to the event. Gather up a few other CWops and see how well your team can do. Teams should be [pre-registered at the NCJ web site](#).

And as a unique opportunity to put your old "boat anchor" on the air, consider spending some time operating the Classic Exchange. There is a detailed write-up to be [found on the ARRL web site](#). While much has changed in our hobby, keying a rig from the past can be a real hoot!

For those with a limited time there are a number of "sprints" coming up in the weeks ahead. Together with the CWTs they provide good sessions of CW between the major events that will keep the skills honed.

Till next time ... Keep on pounding.

DECEMBER / JANUARY EVENTS

ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 16 th
RAEM Contest http://raem.srr.ru/en/main/	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 23 rd
RAC Winter Contest http://wp.rac.ca/rac-canada-winter-contest-rules/	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 29 th
Stew Perry Topband Challenge http://www.kkn.net/stew/	1500Z, Dec 29 th to 1500Z, Dec 30 th

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

ARRL Kids Day http://www.arrl.org/kids-day	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 5 th
North American QSO Party, CW http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf	1800Z, Jan 11 th to 0559Z, Jan 13 th
Classic Exchange, CW http://www.classicexchange.org/jan19/Winter%202019_CX_Rules.pdf	1300Z, Jan 13 th to 0700Z, Jan 14 th and 1300Z, Jan 15 th to 0700Z, Jan 16 th
NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint NCCC Sprint http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 14 th 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 21 st 0230Z-0300Z, Dec 28 th 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 11 th 0230Z-0300Z, Jan 18 th
SKCC Sprint SKCC Weekend Sprintathon http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/	0000Z-0200Z, Dec 26 th 1200Z, Jan 12 th to 2400Z, Jan 13 th
NAQCC CW Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint NAQCC CW Sprint www.naqcc.info/	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 19 th 0130Z-0330Z, Jan 17 th 0130Z-0330Z, Jan 23 rd

73,

Joe, W5ASP, Upcoming CW Operating Events

My Story: New Member Biographies

Russ Guidry K5OA

The K5OA journey began in early 1962 (K5YMY) with my first DX QSO with KV4AA to working VP6D on nine (9) bands CW, three (3) SSB, and seven (7) bands digital.

I started in high school with a DX60 and S-85 receiver and moved on to a Central Electronics 10B and mostly homebrew tube amps. Many times, I used 4 old TV transformers to get high voltage

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

of 2000-3000 volts. I would have been about 90% SSb, 75% 20 meters only and zero digital modes back then.

I was off the air for about 25 years with family and work focus. When I retired after 40 years in some form of hardware communication roles, I got the bug to get a rig working again. Now the journey turns from homebrew to what is ready-to-go and I pick it up at HRO etc. I have gone with Icom, then the Elecraft K3S and now I have a fully remote Flex 6600 and SPE 2K-FA sitting in half a closet at our cabin in San Bernardino mountains. My mode has now gone to a log of 56.5% CW, 1.2% SSB, and 42.3% digital.

A good friend told me about CWT's and got on and saw the band just light up as CWops fills the CW section. Jumped in and love the one-hour duration as I can't go the 48-hour ones anymore.

I enjoy contesting but only on medium scale and for some of the challenges it brings. I would like to also say I am encouraged by seeing youth coming in and getting involved in CW and contest.

Thanks to all for your support and look forward to CWOpen and CWT's with all.



Diego Piscina IW2MXE/AG6WJ

Before I start, I would like to thank CWops for having me and to those who sponsored and supported me for membership. I only hope I can return the favor one day.

It's an honor to be new CWops member #2165! I really thrilled to be part of CWops.

My name is Diego and I am an engineer. I am 47 years old and I live in a city located in the North of Italy. I work as electrical engineer in a Power Plant. I'm married and I've a son Gianluca, 8 yo.

I got my ham radio license in 1997.

I have a modest home station consisting of an Elecraft K3 and P3 Panadapter.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

I didn't own a microphone HI! I operate only in CW mode. All my antenna are home brew. I have two EFHWA, one for 30m and one for 80m and 40m. I publish all my project on my site: <https://iw2mxe.jimdo.com/>

I operate for a long time with FT-817 QRP station and now I have an Elecraft KX3 for portable QRP operations. My last antenna project was vertical Antenna named "Barsine".

In 2010 I start to study CW by myself and home brew my fist key (was a single lever key).

In 2013 I passed the examinations for the U.S. Amateur radio Operator (Extra Class) license. It 'was an absolute pleasure to spend in a single session is the Technician, General and Extra class. My American call is AG6WJ.

I'm member #628 of INORC (Italian Naval Old Rhythmers Club)

I'm member #819 of I-QRP CLUB.

I'm member #244 of VCA (Vibroplex Collector's Association)

I'm member #16672 of FISTS CW Club (The International Morse Preservation Society)

I'm member #18441 of SKCC (Straight Key Century Club)

I love BUG manipulation and my preferred key is McElroy P-500.

My Straight Key (Vertical): Begali Spark (serial #0223), Junker Vertical (1976), Marconi 213 (serial #67) By Alberto Frattini (I1QOD)

My Automatic keys: Begali HST Mark II (serial #0274), Begali Magnetic Traveler (serial # L318), Scheunemann Dirigent

My BUG keys: VIBROPLEX Champion 1954 (serial #185176) e Alberto Frattini J-36 (serial #39) e VIBROPLEX 100th (serial #111297) e McElroy P-500 year 1941

I am looking forward to seeing you on the bands!



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Dave Dixon G0AYD

Thank you for the email I feel very honoured to be able to join such an elite club,

I am 100% CW, only mic in the shack is on 2m FM.

I was born 1949 in the Lake District. I left school at 15 and worked in a local coal mine which was opened in 1670 and closed in 1968. I was an electrician's mate during my time in the mine, working 6 miles from the bottom of the shaft and underneath the sea.

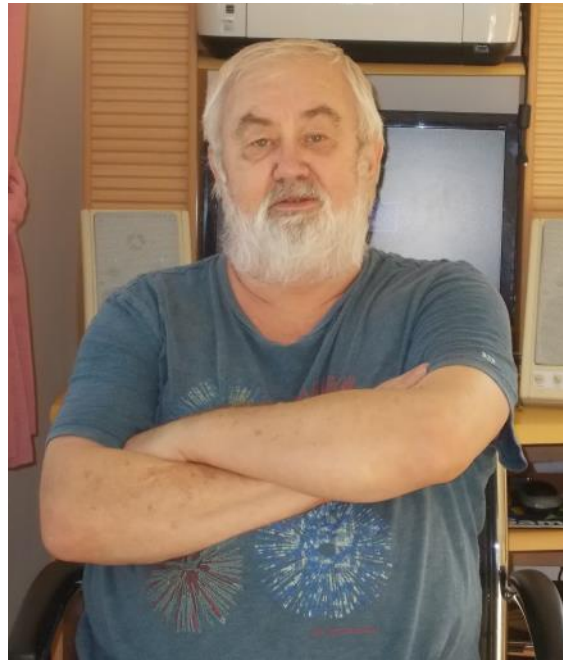
I joined the forces in October 1966 and served in Aden for 7 months on active service and went to Northern Ireland for 6 months during the Riots of 1959. Returned to the UK and in 1971 was posted to Hong Kong for 2.5 years, attached to the Gurkhas. I went to the Malayan jungle on a 4 months jungle warfare course with the Gurkhas, living off what was either in the trees or on the ground. I never complained about food again.

Left Hong Kong in 1973 and was posted close to Stonehenge an ancient monument built 4.500 years ago. Left the forces in 1975 and joined the fire service, retired after 40 years.

I am now finishing off another 9 band all mode 10-watt transceiver bought as spares or repairs from eBay.

My QRZ page shows my other working radio, all relevant information is there for all to read.

I am totally homebrewed, and 10 watts is my maximum power.



Danny Van Tricht ON4VT

I was born in 1963 and am married to a lovely woman Huguette. We have no children, but we have a very spoiled dog called Julleke.

I became interested in radio at a young age, mainly listening to the offshore pirate stations (Caroline, Mi Amigo, Veronica, Noordzee) on the Medium Wave band. At the age of 16 I started as a radio host on a local 3m FM pirate radio station. I played music on different radio stations over a period of almost 10 years. In the meantime, I discovered CB radio and 11m DXing.

In 1990 I received my first Ham license ON1BBA (novice), soon followed by the full license ON4VT. I have earned DXCC Honor Roll (CW-SSB-Mixed) and at present have 1 country to go for the top. I

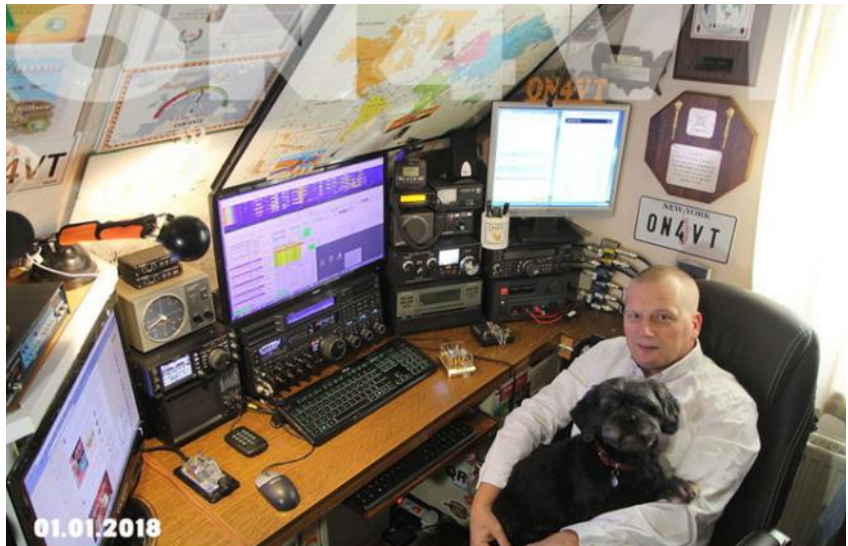
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

have also received many major awards in SSTV and have CQ WAZ SSTV #001 and ARRL WAS SSTV #031. Those are the most impressive ones.

Between 2003 and 2012 I took a break from radio.

Due to failed neck surgeries I became a chronic pain patient and retired on medical grounds. I am now a fulltime Ham and houseman, but not always in the same order!



In my "second" ham radio life my interest is going to portable activations (WWFF, WCA, SOTA, LH), DIGI modes and I improved my CW skills a lot.

My hearing has dropped to 40%, mainly in the human voice spectrum, so I am not comfortable with voice QSO's anymore. DIGI modes and CW are the perfect solution. Luckily I can hear CW tones very well! I enjoy ragchewing on Olivia and work the other types of DIGI modes as well.

You can find me often calling CQ on 7021, 10121, 14021, 18081 and I'm always ready for a ragchew QSO!

Since 2014 I'm owning also the vanity callsign OT4V, mainly used for portable activations (over 250 so far).

Bob Schenck, N200

Bob Schenck is a consummate DXer and QSL manager. First licensed in 1965 at the age of 14, Bob quickly immersed himself in the many fun facets of ham radio ranging from civil defense, a plethora of club memberships and leadership positions, ARRL volunteer positions, traffic handling, public relations, contesting, and, of course DXing. He has been intimately involved in international DXing. Bob was the Vice President International DX Foundation (IDXf) 1978-1984, a member of Board of Directors International DX Association (INDEXA) 2013-2017, and is currently the President of INDEXA (www.indexa.org) and President (and charter member) of the South Jersey DX Association (www.sjdx.org). Bob is also a charter member and past president of the Old Barney ARC (www.obarc.org). He also serves as ARRL ASM for SNJ.

Bob has been the DX Editor for CQ Magazine since 2015.

Bob was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2008.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

An ARRL life member, Bob has achieved DXCC #1 Honor Roll and 9 band DXCC. He has won the ARRL DX contest along with several others over the years.

Bob had an early interest in QSL management and has been the QSL manager for countless interesting and rare DX stations. In 2001, Bob Organized the QSL Manager's Society whose primary purpose is to have a single point of contact on the web for "quality" QSL managers and attempt to SAVE old DX logs. The results of this endeavor are shown at <http://www.qsl.net/qslmanagers>.



Arriving at Amsterdam Island aboard the Braveheart for the FT5ZM DXpedition

Another of his interests is collecting and preserving logs and QSL cards from various DXpeditions, especially older ones. Thus far, he has preserved logs containing well over one million QSOs.

Bob does more than manage QSL cards; he helps generate them by participating in many DXpeditions. His first was in 1979 as VS5OO in Brunei where he was also on the first attempt to activate 1S1DX Spratly which was thwarted by mortar rounds from the island. Among others of note were 9M6MU, Sabah East Malaysia, KP2A/D, Desecheo, KP2A/KP1, Navassa, XX9OO, Macau, SV5/N2OO Rhodes, V85OO, Brunei, VS6/N2OO, Hong Kong, 9M6OO, Spratly, N2OO/KH9 Wake Island, BQ9P Pratas, VK9LA, Lord Howe Island, and FT5ZM, Amsterdam Island. Many of his DXpeditions occurred multiple times, especially his operations from 9M6 and V85.

Of all of Bob's DXpeditions, his 5-week 1991 DXpedition stands out. This was Bob's "Honeymoon DXpedition" with his bride, Beth KF2BQ where they operated from Brunei as V85OO and V85XYL, from East Malaysia as 9M6OO and 9M6BQ and from Hong Kong as VS6/N2OO and VS6/KF2BQ.

Steve Price WB7DND

Like many new members, I was first licensed many years ago (1976), went inactive due to work and family obligations, and have resumed operating upon retirement. I have operated only CW since resuming activity in 2017. I enjoy CWTs but generally prefer rag chewing. Still working towards WAS. My station is very modest. Yaesu FT 450D, usually at 75 watts into a 20' high sloping 40m dipole or a 14-ft base loaded vertical. MFJ 901 B tuner. I sometimes operate 10 watts into an Alex Loop. Avoiding extra dits and dahs from paddle keys is a constant struggle. The Kent du-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

al lever paddle key has been banished to a shelf. The single lever Bencher is better, but still often has a mind of its own.

Many thanks to Rob, K6RB, my level II and III instructor, and my fellow students for their patient encouragement and instruction. Thanks also to my sponsors. When I look back on the days of Ameco code records (I still have mine) and how difficult it was to work up to 13 wpm for the General exam, I am amazed at how effectively the CW Academy program has enabled me to advance to 15, 20, and 25 wpm.

I am married to Naomi and have two children and two grandchildren. I was a trial lawyer for about 15 years, then a trial judge for about 15 years, then a semi-retired senior judge for 5 years. As a lawyer and judge, I did mostly criminal cases, from shoplifting to murder. Although I like to fiddle with antennas a bit, the only thing I homebrew is beer. Over 400 batches so far. I also bicycle, take on-line courses (mainly history), solve Rubik's cube, and take pictures. I have



been photographing the Rose City Rollers roller derby league since 2005 (www.StevenLPrice.Smugmug.com). I have also served on the league's board of directors, peer mediation service, and code of conduct committee. The photo is from roller derby. It is about 10 years old. I have less hair and more wrinkles now, but this photo with Stella Stardust is one of my all-time favorites. (BTW, I am the one on the right.)

In his acceptance speech for the Nobel Prize in Literature, John Steinbeck said "In my heart there may be doubt that I deserve the Nobel award over other men of letters whom I hold in respect and reverence – but there is no question of my pleasure and pride in having it for myself." I feel the same way about being admitted to CWops. It is an organization of not only excellent operators, but of gracious and welcoming operators as well. I hold them in respect and reverence. I may not deserve membership as much as many others, but I am very happy to have it for myself.

Ken Bauer

I was first licensed in June 1967 after having spent many lunch hours with others in our fledgling J.E.B. Stuart high school radio club learning the code and practicing. My novice ticket, WN4GDO,

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

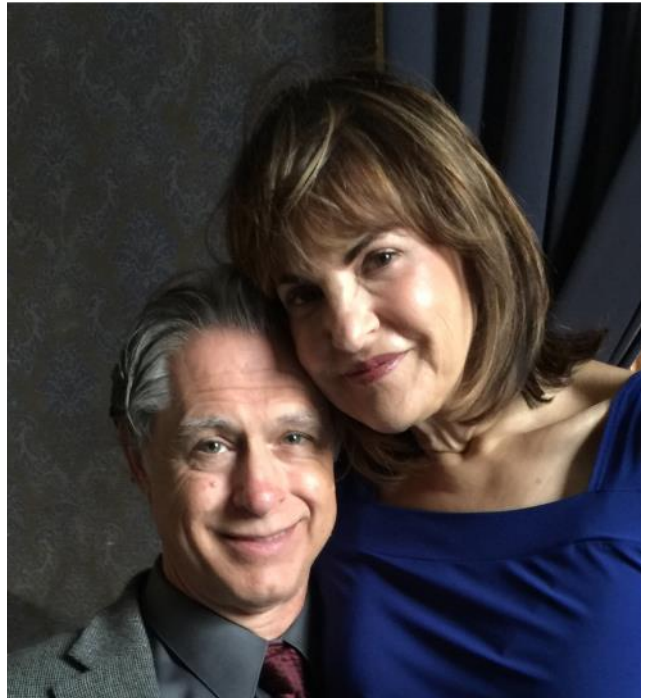
arrived in the mail the morning our family left for a driving vacation to Expo '67 – argh, that was painful!

I became WB4GDO that Fall as we continued our practice. I homebrewed a 75-watt 6146B transmitter from the 1967 ARRL handbook. The rest of my station was a Lafayette HA-230 receiver and a 60' Windom (I could have killed myself free-climbing trees to hang it). I have fond memories of working Europe and the Soviet Union during the peak of cycle 20 using this transmitter, a Vibroplex original, and my brand-new Drake 2C receiver.

College, marriage, work, children: many years intervened before I bought a vacation cabin that had some space for a long wire antenna, and my interest was rekindled. I found the code came back readily, did some studying, and in 1986 successfully sat for all the test elements and received my current call WC6Y. A new Icom-745 transceiver and a 200' long wire up 40 – 60' and I was back in business chasing DX on vacation weekends. Somehow, I never got around to using the microphone that came with my new transceiver. Then a start-up company intervened, and many more years passed.

Now, remarried in 2007 and at my wife's topographically generous QTH, I started thinking about loops, or maybe even a Yagi or quad, in back, mostly out of sight ... One thing was certain, I wanted to hear and send code again. I purchased an IC-7300 (wow what a difference 20 years makes!), shot a myAntennas half-wave end-fed multiband antenna into the trees at about 60' and was back in business.

For my birthday Michelle bought me a gorgeous Begali Signature. I was listening to W1AW trying to get past a 20wpm plateau when I had a QSO with Rob K3RB, who invited me to join his then ongoing level 3 class. I was/am so grateful! The materials and tools are great, and Rob is a fabulous instructor/coach. Thank you to my sponsors, and I am very pleased to join your ranks as #2155 (nice # for CWTs!).



My current radio interests include working some DX and preparing for cycle 25, building a station (I have a SPE 1.5K-FA on order!) that will meet Michelle's aesthetic approval (given that it's in the back of the period family room on her Majorelle table), finishing and using my "vintage station" Drake R-4B, T-4XB, and Vibroplex original bug, and ragchewing in my spare time! Other interests include my three grandsons, a granddaughter due this Spring, a very large garden, escorting Michelle through a busy social calendar, indoor rock climbing, and collecting/buying/selling Civil War and other tokens (see www.cwtoken.com).

Thanks again to my sponsors and especially to Rob and I look forward to seeing you all on the air!

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

László (Laci) Radócz HA0NAR/K0NAR

I am a 53 years old university professor (in the field of plant pathology) living near Debrecen City, Hungary.

I grew up in eastern Hungaryand was originally licensed as HA0NAR in 1986 but I started to use CW in 1977 as HA0YHF at my primary school's radio club at the age of 12. We have learned the Morse code and regularly took part on national and international competitions organized for young operators.

I enjoy DXing on low bands and contesting. I was a fox-hunting racer in secondary school and continued to race until retiring from that sport in 1990.

I also hold contest call HG0R and K0NAR in the US.

My best single op contest result was world 1st place in the IARU HF World Championship in 2010 low power, mixed mode (as HG0R). I have participated in the HG0D and HG7T multi-op efforts, with a number of top 3 placings. I hold several IOTA contest world records as SX8R and SW8LR. I enjoy CW contests and pile-ups.

Previous DX-peditions included: FW0NAR, 3D2AR, 6W/HA0NAR, J5NAR, SV/A, ZA1QA, VP6D.

My wife Susan (KD0RYB) my daughter Orsolya (HG0BAT), my son Laci junior (operator at HA0KAR)

Thanks for the nomination and I'm honoured to be a member of this CWops club. I have many HAM radio friends, I like personal encounters and welcome amateur colleagues in my QTH. Other interests include: bicycling, hiking, travelling, books, cinema, theatre.



David Winarsky K6ZD

I've always been interested in Ham Radio, having grown up listening to my father talk about his experiences as the youngest General Class Operator in the United States in 1958. I finally got my license in 2010 and upgraded to General in 2015. I will never forget my first QSO — Don Anastasia AA6W, who worked at Ham Radio Outlet visited me to help me setup the new rig I had just bought from him. We called CQ and India answered! My mind was blown and I was hooked.



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

I am a member of the Northern California DX Club and have enjoyed DXing ever since my first contact (168 confirmed today). As the sun cycle dwindled, I started looking into CW. I enrolled in CW Ops Academy in fall-2017 with Bill Spickler N0KQ and absolutely loved it. After finishing level 1, I continued immediately with level 2 with Bob Carter WR7Q at the helm. These folks were both incredible instructors and I still can't believe the quality of the courses.

These days, I'm all CW. I knew I was all-in when I had a visitor recently and realized that my mic wasn't working, nor could I remember the last time I had used it! I'm on almost every evening at about 8:30 pm Pacific time (04:30 UTC) to try and make at least 1 CW QSO per day. I've also been participating in the CWT's, which has really been helping me get my speed up.

In my station I run the full Elecraft K-line with a K3S, KPA500 amplifier and KAT500 tuner. For my antenna, I'm using an 80 meter OCF dipole up at 50 feet. I've been working on putting up a monopole tower with a Steppir DB-11, but my zoning permit application has been stuck with the City of San Jose for about a year now!

By day, I'm an engineering manager at Apple working on Siri, and my nights and weekends are spent with my 2 little boys (7 and almost 2) and wonderful wife.

I'd like to thank my CWA instructors Bill and Bob (Bob for nominating me!) as well as Gary W7EE and the others who supported my nomination. I'm looking forward to meeting many new members and participating in the club.

Tom Hain KV8Q

I arrived home from school as a 14-year-old kid on December 7, 1961 and found an envelope for me from the FCC that contained my first ham license issuing the callsign of KN3SBF. I gulped down my supper to get downstairs to my ham shack which consisted of a Heathkit AR-3 receiver and a homebrew rig with an 807 for a final. I built the receiver earlier that year and used it to learn CW. My mom's clothesline served as my initial antenna and I called CQ quite a few times (logging each one) with no success. I finally called a friend on the phone, Frank, K3QJE, and he gave me my first contact, quite a thrill for me even if he was only a few blocks from my house. That started quite a ham career. The AR-3 was replaced by an S-85 which was replaced by a SX-110. The homebrew transmitter evolved into a DX-100B, the antenna became a 3 element 15 meter beam,



(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

etc. I was off and running enjoying my hamming when I wasn't doing homework. I joined the Navy between my Junior and Senior year in high school and the started out as an E-4 because of my ham license. The Navy made me a Communications Technician, R Branch, and sent me to school in Pensacola, FL where I operated the WA4ECY station. From there I went to Puerto Rico and used the club station, KP4BFF running tons of phone patches for the other naval personnel. That got me tired of SSB and I've been a CW operator ever since. My job in the Navy was just like operating a CW contest and that's where you will likely find me today.

After leaving the Navy, I went to Wisconsin, got married and began raising a family that included three children. I got to play Field Day up there but there wasn't much time to do much other operating. I ended up in the center of Ohio and, as the kids got older, I got to spend more time on the air.

I moved up to in Delaware, OH and got involved in CW traffic nets serving as NCS for the Early Bird Net working with some pretty big traffic handlers back in the day, W3CUL, W3VR, WA4JDH, WD4COL, W1EOF, etc. I always took the contest weekends off to be in those events. The DX events helped me confirm almost 300 countries on CW. Working with the Red Cross and the folks at the 911 Center got me appointed as the Emergency Coordinator for Delaware County and a 2 meter KV8Q station was installed in the 911 Center.

I currently live in Powell, OH in a condo that was the result of our downsizing. The current antenna is a mag loop that works on 40, 20 and 15 meters. It is hidden in the attic over the garage and it is about 12' above the garage floor. I have plans for an 80 meter antenna to also be hidden in the attic and a ten meter antenna that will reside in the ham shack. The radio is a TenTec Eagle running 100 watts. I'm sure this setup won't work as well as the setups that I have had in the past but, at least, I'll be able to operate on CW from 80 through 10 meters.

My main love is CW contests. I've been active in state QSO parties getting plaques from OH, NY, TX, OK, MS, TN, PA, GA and WI. I've also received hardware from the 7QP and the Stew Perry events. As I made my way through the domestic contests, I began tracking my confirmed countries. The state QSO parties really helps that effort and I have about 700 more to get – all CW, of course. You'll hear me in there.

I have recently been operating Field Day with Bill, K8BTU. We setup a temporary 40' mast and hang a couple of dipoles off of it. One built for 80, 20, and 10 meters which ends up like an inverted V. The other one is a 40 meter dipole also used on 15 meters which ends up as a sloper. Bill does the 80, 20, and 10 meter work and I do the other two bands. We use CW almost exclusively but have gone to SSB when the CW rates dry up. We have done quite well in the 2B2 category recently and hope to continue that pattern.

I am thrilled to join the CWOps organization. Special thanks to Mike, K4RUM, for the nomination. The Wednesday event at 1900 fits my schedule and I find it a bunch of fun operating. You will continue to find me in those hour-long events. My 57 years pounding the brass has brought me more wonderful friends than one can imagine. Thanks to folks like yourselves for making that happen.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Klas Reinholdson SM6JWR/SD6F

First, I want to thank my sponsors!

Born in 1962, started as licensed ham back in 1978 when I was 16 years old. Built the Heath-kit HW-8 as my first rig. A rig that I had a lot of fun with, running a lot of DX on CW with only 3w and a wire antenna.

Served as radio operator at sea in the Royal Swedish Navy during the cold war in the beginning of the 1980's.

Family life, career and living in apartment made me almost silent for a long time. Since last year I am back on the bands again with the motto "Doing more with less". Back to the roots running all QRP and almost exclusively CW. Very pleased to realize that there was a whole lot of CW activity still on the bands. I have put up a ladder-line feed doublet which I also use as a Marconi T-antenna on 160m.

Besides ham radio I am also doing ultra-trail running. I am trying to combine this activity with portable outdoor radio operating. Next year the first week in February I will be active from the Canary island La Gomera doing some hiking with my wife. You might also hear me in the summertime when I am out sailing with our sailing boat S/Y Ellenott -operating /MM.

I have recently picked up contesting using my special signal SD6F. Trying to participate every Wednesday night in CWT and other major contests like SAC and CQWW, all of course on CW and QRP.

Really looking forward to be a part of CWops and all the activities arranged!



Ron Mudry W6WG

I want to thank Hank, W6SW, for nominating me and those who were so kind to add their names as my sponsors.

When I was born in 1945 my father was a commercial fisherman. For communications, his boat was equipped with a transmitter that was limited to the bands that the commercial fishing boats used when operating off the coast of California and Mexico. The receiver onboard was a Hallicrafters Model S-38A which covered from the broadcast frequencies up to 30 megacycles. In the early 1950's the price on albacore dropped and my father got out of fishing for a living. The receiver somehow ended up in my bedroom and I became interested in shortwave listening.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

In the '50s the world was a much bigger place and to hear broadcasts from Europe or Asia was simply amazing. I first was licensed as a novice, WN6FPS, in the spring of 1963. The S-38A was put to use along with an EICO 723 transmitter that I had built from a kit. At that time the transmitter kit, at \$68.00, was the most expensive thing that I had ever bought. In short time I "fried" the EICO 723, I had no clue of what SWR was and I think that's what did me in. I was off the air for a short time (25 years) and was relicensed in 1988 as KB6YUD. I progressed through Technician, General, Advanced and finally Extra in 1998. For the next twenty years I used the call W6FPS, dropping the N from my original novice call. I never felt quite right as an Extra because the FCC had dropped the 20 WPM requirement for Extra and it felt like I was cheating. I think now I have made up for that past sin.



As you can see from the accompanying photo my radio room is somewhat on the smaller size as Ham shacks go. The entire shack is located in a 4' x 4" closet. What it lacks in space I have made up with clutter. My equipment includes several homebrew QRP rigs, an EICO 723 (not the original one that I had built as a kid). I have three transceivers, an ICOM 746PRO, an Elecraft KX3, and an ICOM 7300. The only receiver is a Hallicrafter sS-38A, sadly not the one from my father. I also have a Heathkit SB-201 to which I have added a few mods, and lastly a recently purchased Dell computer that I have dedicated solely to ham radio. I enjoy operating CW (wish I was more fluent) so I have a small key collection, one bug, two iambic and five straight keys. I also like to build antennas, but due to antenna restrictions (XYL) they are mostly portable or something that I can easily setup for a weekend event.

My "On the Air" time is limited but I try to make time for a few of my favorite events, ARRL Sweepstakes, California QSO Party, monthly SKCC SKS & WES, weekly CWTs, and the Hawaiian QSO Contest. In particular I like running QRP in the Hawaiian contest because my QTH in Huntington Beach makes for a great equalizer.

Because "you can't work um if you can't hear um" I am working with a few friends to put together a remote station with a modest tower and yagi. Hopefully soon I can put many more CWops members in the log.

John Haynes WK5N

I grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and was first licensed in the spring of 1984 as a Novice with the call KA5TLK. Later that year I upgraded to General class and received the callsign N5HEI. I had tremendous fun working the world with 100 watts and a wire on CW with my Icom 745. I went off to college, and eventually ended up getting a job at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC as a software engineer. But life intervened, and my interest in ham radio lay dormant for many years. That changed in 2007, when my job took me to the California desert to work on wire-

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

less datalinks for UAVs. This work rekindled my interest in ham radio, and I decided to dive back into the hobby. By this time my original license had expired, so I had to re-take both the Technician and General tests. After passing both tests, I applied for my old N5HEI call through the vanity call system. I operated with this call until early 2018 when I decided to finally take that last step and upgrade to Extra class. After passing that test, I got lucky and on my first attempt won the lottery for the vanity callsign WK5N.

I've come to CWOps primarily through the CW Academy, taking the Level 2 class in May/June of 2018 and then completing the Level 3 class with Rob K6RB in Oct/Nov 2018. I've really enjoyed the shared learning, camaraderie, and the challenge of developing my CW skills in the academy classes, and I'm looking forward to continuing my involvement next year as an advisor.



These days you'll most often find me operating CW and occasionally digital modes, and my main interests are kit building, homebrewing, contesting, and QRP. But I also love trying new things, and so I've been dabbling in aspects of the hobby that I've never tried before such as SOTA/POTA, satellite ops, antenna design, and new (to me) operating modes. That's one of the things I love the most about ham radio -- it's always changing and evolving, and there are always new things to try.

My main rig currently is a Kenwood TS-590SG, but I also have several QRP rigs, including a kit-built Elecraft K1, an Elecraft KX3, and a Yaesu FT-817nd. Antennas seem to always be in flux as I'm constantly trying out new antenna options, but currently I have a Butternut HF9V in the backyard along with various temporary and semi-permanent wire antennas.