

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter

October 2019 — Issue 117

World Scout Jamboree 2019 On The Air



Mike AD5A reports on the Jamboree's ham radio activities. [See story on page 10.](#)

President's Message

The 2019 SEDCO/ W4DXCC Convention was held in September at the MainStay Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. This is a great event and there were about 200 hams in attendance.



It is not a hamfest type environment but more of an educational forum. One speaker was Bill N4IQ who presented information and images related to his multiple-wires antenna farm and his SO2R operating position. Bill is

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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 November 13-14.

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](#)

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

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one of our CWops members and passed along useful information. His wire antennas are not just ordinary dipoles. Some are OCF dipoles with specific installation factors that help take advantage of directivity. When I have worked him, he definitely has a strong signal.

CWops was represented on site with the Call Sign Copy Competition. Between the attendance sign in sheet and the participants there were about 30 CWops members. There is always a place for the top performers on the board but we are getting more of the 15 to 30 wpm group take a try that is noticeable. They are more willing to participate than times before. It's always fun.

I always enjoy meeting CW Academy students. Some are recent graduates of Level I and other from Level II and III. They love CW and tell about their plans and hopes for continuing improvements.

CWops can be proud of the vision and plans set up by early members in the organization. It has been the basis for helping many hams learn and operate CW. Some have continued on with CW and have become new members of CWops. We recognize their commitment and determination to the performance level for being recommended for club membership. But what if we could find ways to help more participants achieve this goal of 25 wpm proficiency?

As with most things we do individually and collectively, improvements come by reflections and evaluations. How to improve our stations, our performance, our results in CW activities and a myriad of other aspects in our hobby/lives needs to be done if we hope to make it better. Getting new students scheduled and assigned to Advisors is a case in point. Joe AA8TA and Kate K6HTN deal with this using a spreadsheet method and it has worked fairly well. The assignments go out to Advisors and the Advisors have to contact the applicants to confirm they still want to do the training and will commit to the eight weeks involved. The time lapse between when they signed up and when the Advisor contacts them allows life to change their priorities, or they have changed email address or have committed to something else. More could be added to that list, but the point is that a lot of time was wasted by Advisors and Joe/Kate had to deal with supplying replacements (some who were also hard to find.) As with so many needs within CWops, we have members who possess skills and knowledge that can be applied to solve and improve our activities. In this case Glen W4YES and Bob WR7Q are and have been Advisors so they know the problems. Glen's background includes years of work as an IBM engineer while Bob has forty plus years in programming and database management. They have developed / applied some software that will make this administrative part of CW Academy work easier and faster for all concerned. They are working with Joe and Kate to initiate the improvements before the next semester begins in January 2020. They will prepare an article for the readers of Solid Copy soon to further explain it more fully.

There are other aspects of CW Academy that need more attention such as an evaluation of our metrics: mainly how successful are we in our training. Many are taking the courses and the results are mixed between success and lesser degrees of capability. Our goal is to get all or the majority



CWops members Dave K4SV, President of SEDCO/ W4DXCC and Vlad K3CZ who was in charge of the SEDCO "Ham Shack" where they worked FT8 and CW.

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of students into the successful stages of accomplishment. Work is in progress on this and will be presented soon.

In case you are wondering how our CW Academy Master, Rob K6RB receives this, know that he is consulted frequently and is supportive of the future prospects.

In the past Rob has mentioned that as a club we can do more to help our newly minted Level I graduates get the "On-the-Air" experiences happening. Advisors push their students during the course to make contacts and get on the air experience. How can it be done? It can happen if CWops members get on the air and call CQ to make contacts, following your time zones. At 7 PM members get call "CQ CWA CQ CWA CQ CWA de xxxxx (your call)" and the frequency is .035 +/- on 80, 40 or 20 depending on band conditions. Every time zone at 7 PM (your local time) a new batch of CWops members starts calling CQ CWA and listen for replies. This activity is needed now, in October, as this is the time when Level I students have just learned the alphabet, numbers, punctuation and some pro-signs. You can send at 20 wpm but don't expect the newbies to be proficient yet at 20. Some will benefit from some Farnsworth spacing. You can really play a big part in helping get new CW operators up and running. Our Advisors will be passing the word to their classes about this activity so please help out by getting involved for their benefit. It's not just the Advisors who need to do this, but those members who can make themselves available will be contributing a lot to the growth of CW operating on our bands. Let's keep this going everyday and not just contained to this October. [See the story by K6RB on page 19 for details.](#)

Mac NN4K, President

From the [Editor](#)

Amateur Radio Archeology

I built my house in 1982 and, in the summer of 1986, I built a large deck on the back of the house. The house was built by a contractor, but I did all the work on the deck myself. It took two weeks and at the end of that time, I was as buff and fit and tanned as I have ever been.

Fast forward to 2019: the now 33-year-old deck needed to be replaced and the young man who built it in 1986 was, shall we say, no longer available. I hired it out.

The end of the demolition phase brought some curious artifacts to life, items that had found their way underneath the old deck and been forgotten. Most of these were gardening-related: various flowerpots and planters, a roll of wire-mesh fencing left over from a tomato cage project, and a trellis from a brief dive into growing peas. There was also a UHF



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TV antenna from the days before satellite TV. I recognized all these, and they brought back some pleasant memories. The pea growing adventure had been a comedy of errors. But one item unearthed was a surprise and, unlike the others, it was only partially visible and had to be pulled from the soil and gravel.

It appeared to be a dipole antenna of some sort, fabricated from smaller sections of PVC pipe into a four-foot long support structure, with copper-weld wire forming the arms of the dipole and RG-8X connected to the center feed. There were a couple of U-bolts that would have been used to attach the PVC to a mast.

As antennas go it did not appear to be of very sophisticated workmanship. I would have been able to deduce the band for which the dipole had been cut had I taken the time to pull all the wire out of the soil and gravel, but the contractor had a schedule to be met and there was no time for careful archeological excavation or artifact preservation. Out came the wire cutters and the contraption went onto the trash pile. The thing is, I have no recollection of this antenna at all. I built the house and the deck and am the only owner of the property. It was clearly an antenna of some sort, and I doubt one of my non-ham neighbors snuck over in the middle of the night to hide the thing under the deck.

I have come up with three theories to explain its existence.

First, I may have found (and foolishly discarded) evidence of some ancient civilization. Were the indigenous peoples who inhabited my part of Indiana prior to the arrival of European settlers really a more sophisticated culture than previously thought?

Second, I may have come up with (and foolishly discarded) evidence of alien contact. But the counter to this argument is that an alien culture capable of space travel would surely have used more sophisticated antennas ([sorry, ET](#)).

Third, I may have found (and wisely discarded) an antenna built by the young man who built the original deck and who was first licensed as a ham shortly thereafter. I theorize that he built this antenna, found it to be unsatisfactory in performance, and put it under the deck to quickly hide his failure: Out of sight, out of mind. And then he totally blanked the whole thing, something that seems to happen more and more with age. As I noted earlier, that young man is no longer available so there is no way I can put the question to him.

I'll let you decide which theory is the most likely.

73,

Tim K9WX Editor



CW Operators' Club Tenth Anniversary Celebration

[Bill Gilliland W0TG](#)

The big celebration of CWops tenth anniversary is set for the entire month of January 2020. Since last month's report, the committee led by AA3B has finalized the rules and awards, and we now have a Web page devoted to the event. The latest celebration details can be found under the [CW Open/CWT/QTX/Awards](#) menu or [go directly to the celebration page](#).

We've already sent publicity releases to periodicals and you should see them start to appear soon. There will be many more releases to various newsletters and online publications occurring right up to the event. Watch those and the event Web page for the latest information.

As shown on the event Web page, we currently have 20 CWops club callsigns that will participate in the event, including the new club Cape Cod CWops Club with KK1CWO, and we hope to add several more by January. In addition, we currently have six special event callsigns: EG4CWO, SF10CWO, W7C, W7F, N5A and N5T registered for the event, and several more applications in process.

We would like for as many members as possible to sign up to operate with one of the CWops club callsigns or apply for a special event callsign. To sign up to use a club callsign, go to <https://cwomc.org> and fill out the form. These are first come first served, but preference is given to members within the division represented by the callsign.

For those in the U.S., special event callsigns are available to every licensee and there's no better way to draw attention to our celebration than by using a One-By-One callsign during January. To apply for a special event callsign, go to <http://www.1x1callsigns.org/>, read the documents there about applying for and using a callsign, and use the online form to apply. You can look in the One-By-One Database linked to the page to determine if your desired One-By-One callsign is available during the event timeframe. Once you apply, there will be no direct notification that use has been granted, and you'll need to return to the page to check. If you select ARRL as the coordinator it will take from one to three days for them to update the database. If you have any questions about the process, please contact W0TG (N5T) at bill@bgilliland.com for help. Starting in next month's Solid Copy, we'll include a list of One-By-One callsigns and the CWops members who will be using them during the celebration.

For those outside the U.S., please investigate the availability of special event callsigns in your country. Several non-U.S. members have pending applications and we hope more of you will apply. Please notify W0TG when you apply and when your application is approved so we can keep our list updated.



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The CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration is shaping up to be an incredible event! To ensure that it is, we need as many of you as possible to be on the air in January using a CWops club callsign, a special event One-By-One callsign, or just identifying yourself as a participating CWops member by appending CWO to your callsign as set forth in the rules. We look forward to seeing YOU participate in the celebration!

Call For Nominations

[Don Greenbaum N1DG](#)

At press time the nominating committee has only received one additional nominee for the ballot. So the election to be called on November 1 (barring any additional nominations) consists of the following slate:

Vice President : Peter Butler, W1UU
Director (Choose 1): Stew Rolfe, GW0ETF
Riki Kline, K7NJ

Nominations are open until October 31, 2019. Per our bylaws: The nominating committee will include any candidate proposed by 10 or more members. [Please email me by that date](#) at with any additional candidates.

Watch for the election announcement on November 1, 2019 with details on how to vote.

Don N1DG
Chair, nominating committee

News and Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

Mel, KJ9C: I Will be QRV from Indiana for the next 8 weeks doing maintenance on the remote station, fixing a leaky roof and clearing fallen trees, etc. then back to MT for the winter.

Rich, K2GJ: I recently changed my call sign from KD0NPN to K2GJ

Ted, N9NB: I wish to express my gratitude to CWops for sponsoring the contest plaque for the ARRL DX CW contest WVE Single Operator Low Power CW plaque, which I won!

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Gary, WB9JPS: The Northern California Contest Club held its annual picnic at the N6RO superstation in Oakley, CA during September. Out of 50 attendees (including family), 19 were CWops members.

Here's a photo of the whole bunch. Off to the far right is an interesting device known as a Butt Key. Several skilled CW men gave it a try, demonstrating their... ahem... fists. We also had a little CWops table where a few of us showed off our key collections. Bluegrass music was performed by N6RO, K6DAJ, K6RC, and K6SRZ. Morse music!



Left to right N6XI, K6DAJ, AE6C, N6RK, N6WM, ND2T, K6MR, W9KKN, N6ZFO, K7NV, W6GJB, K6RC, NA6O, N6RO, K9YC, K6SRZ, N3RC, W6SX, N3ZZ.

Jean, F6JOE: I was again transferred to Guadeloupe this time to St Claude. At the moment I am waiting for the antenna installation authorization.

Here is my new information:
Call: FG8NY
Jean-Claude "Jean" MERCIER
Bonne Terre
Rue Louis JuvEAU Dubreuil
97120 ST CLAUDE
GUADELOUPE

Walt, KC8J: I recently acquired a used Elecraft KX2. I really do not need another transceiver, but I felt this one was too good to pass up. It will be perfect to take with me when I visit my daughter in San Diego.

In addition to making laser cut acrylic dust covers for CW keys and paddles, I have started making

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custom cut acrylic finger pieces for paddles. These are made from red, black and clear acrylic, but other colors can be used.

Gary, N5PHT: Always nice to meet another CWops member for a face-to-face - Tom NOTLW # 2364. The photo (right) shows Tom with a starter plant he also took home from us!

Joe, AA4NN: What is a DXpedition, anyway...

It was the summer of 1955 when I returned from a tour on Guam as a point-to-point CW operator concerned with tracking aircraft movement over the Pacific. This new assignment was at Stead AFB near Reno, Nevada, for the purpose of providing needed communications support for the Strategic Air Command's (SAC) survival training program. The basic idea of the program was for Air Force crews to survive behind enemy lines to construct a useable landing strip for a C47 rescue plane equipped with Jet Assist Take Off to bolt into the air to save the day.



These exercises were performed from various locations in the Plumas National Forest of Northern California. Our group would camp in a squad tent to man the radios. Everything was real except for the C47 which would do a fly-over rather than land for a pick-up.

From time to time there would be a mock Operational Readiness Test throughout the United States and Canada. We set up our communications base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Later we were called into the BIG worldwide tests. Our station would be in Puerto Rico. Six months later for another big test we would be in the boonies of North Africa. These two remote sites gave me the experience which later I learned was just like a Ham Radio DXpedition.

We had two towers, each 90 feet tall, about 40 feet apart. They were raised using the falling tower method. No beams, just 5 dipoles of various frequencies from top to bottom. Our equipment lineup was two BC610s crystal controlled and several HQ receivers

I was not a Ham at the time in North Africa, but there was an extra class Ham among us who revealed himself. When not in a Readiness Test he would rig the BC610 Master Oscillator into the 20m ham band, boot leg a 5A1 call and have a great time. The unaware callers would never get that 5A1 QSL card.

Back at Stead AFB (we called it Stud AFB) the extra class Ham administered to me the Conditional

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Class written exam, which I passed; then he checked a perfect copy of 20 wpm text. Being a Louisiana boy, the FCC assigned K5GFN to my Conditional Class license, 1955.

After earning a BS in Math and Physics at Louisiana Tech in 1960, I eventually found North Carolina in 1963. Working at Celanese home office I met Gary Dixon, K4MQG, who invited me to his shack for some CW using his loosely configured Bug. What fun. So, in 1977 I acquired licenses for Novice, General, Advanced, Extra, and 20 wpm to become AA4NN in North Carolina. Moving in 1989 to South Carolina.

I am CW only and have rag chewed for years - mostly 40m - and have worked many CW contests.

As C91F my partner and I won first in Mozambique and first in all of Africa in the 2004 CQ WWDX CW contest. I have been on 26 major Expeditions, 2001-2013, with various teams, six of which won the DXpedition-of-the-Year award. The best DX for me was working 14-hour night shifts, sitting on a rock in the South China Sea, Scarborough Reef, BS7H.

Now I am mostly QRP enjoying the challenges, sprints, and fox hunts courtesy of the North American QRP CW Club.

Gary, AF8A: Congrats to the team in Colorado who put on the WWV 100th anniversary event (WW0WWV).

I had the pleasure of operating the 80 CW station on the evening of October 2nd. I pulled a 3-hour shift, making about 150 QSOs.

Thanks to old Sol, signals were generally weak, requiring repeats of many callsigns. The overall station installation was quite impressive...think of a 6A Field Day set-up...but one robust enough to last 5 days. All of the amenities needed by the modern ham (microwave Internet link, networked N1MM logging, lighted (!) porta-potties, NIST-traceable frequency standard) were there.

Most impressive!



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Wayne, N4FP: The Villages Amateur Radio Club (TVARC) Promotes CW Academy

NV1U, Tom, CWops # 2303, presented an informative program at the September TVARC meeting in The Villages, Florida that was very well received by the membership.

Tom described his experiences working through the levels of CW Academy. He finished his presentation with the YouTube video by W5CYF that promotes CW Academy.

TVARC now has five CWops members: K3ZGA, Bob; N4FP, Wayne; N4GL, Marty; NV1U, Tom; and, W2TR, Gary. They were all present at the meeting.

Here are four of the members at another recent gathering:

L to R: NV1U Tom 2303, N4GL Marty 1644, N4FP Wayne 1090 and K3ZGA Bob 1811



Ward N0AX: Is the winner of the [October 2019 QST Cover Plaque Award](#) for his article "About Impedance Matching Circuits."

Anthony AB9YC: Is the newly-elected president of the Society of Midwest Contesters.

World Scout Jamboree on the Air: NA1WJ

Mike Crowover AD5A

The World Scout Jamboree is held every four years in a different part of the world, to celebrate Scouting and the varied cultures in which the program exists. The 24th World Scout Jamboree was held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, near Beckley, WV from July 22- August 1, 2019. Approximately 50,000 Scouts from 168 different countries and an additional 9,000 Volunteers converged on the "Summit", a 14,000-acre High Adventure Base, that borders the New River Gorge National River. The 2019 Jamboree marked the first time the Jamboree has been held in the US since the 1967 World Jamboree was held in Idaho. It's a big deal.



An amateur radio demonstration station has traditionally been part of the

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World Jamboree to expose Scouts to amateur radio and to allow those interested to participate in the Jamboree from afar, to do so by having a QSO with the Jamboree station. Our callsign for this Jamboree station was NA1WJ, North America One World Jamboree. The station was staffed with a multi-national team with hams from the US, Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Chile, Finland and Norway. The staff also included a couple of non-hams to help with the station from England and Lichtenstein, more on that later.

The NA1WJ operation is akin to ARRL Field Day on steroids. We have three 42 ft telephone poles with which to build our antenna farm and a 40 x 40 tent to use for the demonstration station. We are also fortunate to have sponsors willing to support Radio Scouting. This year, Icom furnished IC-7300's, IC-9700's and the ID-5100A to support the operating positions. JK Antenna donated a C-3, a custom 20m/17m beam and a 40m rotatable dipole. DX-Engineering and MFJ both have donated miscellaneous accessories including coax, rotor control cable, band pass filters, headphones, etc... to allow us to put together a capable station. In addition to the antennas described above, we had dipoles for 30m and 80m strung between the telephone poles and a loaned 4-element beam on 6m. We used Ham IV rotors to turn the antennas. Thanks to AA4ZZ, the station was also equipped with a Satellite AZ/EL portable antenna trailer to allowed us to work satellites.

The demonstration station consisted of operating positions for 20m, 40m, 17m/20m, 30m, 6m/80m, a satellite station, 2 VHF/UHF positions to handle local repeater traffic and D-Star QSO's. Each operating position was equipped with a small amp/splitter to allow multiple scouts to listen to a QSO at the same time.

A typical demonstration can be completed in several ways. When interested Scouts enter the demonstration tent, they are given a brief explanation of what Amateur Radio is an asked if they want to "get on the air". If so, they are taken to a station that is open. The mode could be SSB, the most common, CW, Satellite (if there is a pass) or FT-8. The station operator explains the mode at their station, but also the other modes as well.

The CW station had a reader that would allow the scouts to read the transmission. I was surprised at the interest in CW, as the scouts seemed genuinely interested in it as a unique way to



The CW station had a reader that would allow the scouts to read the transmission. I was surprised at the interest in CW, as the scouts seemed genuinely interested in it as a unique way to

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communicate. Perhaps as the internet becomes a utility, like electricity, amateur radio may once again be touching of a spark of curiosity in the next generation. When the Scouts exited the tent, there was a couple of straight keys there and a poster showing the CW alphabet. Many of the scouts would stop to play with the key and try to send SOS or spell their name. Again, it was interesting to see the interest in CW.

I had one particularly special demonstration. I was at the 30m station, however, no CW stations were on and only a few coming in on FT-8. A group of four Nepalese YL Scouts (almost 50% of the scouts were female at the Jamboree. Girls have participated in Scouting internationally for many years), came to my station. As I explained amateur radio, I mentioned to them that a very famous operator once lived in Nepal, Father Moran, 9N1MM. Their eyes lit up, and an expression of shock at hearing Father Moran's name. I asked, "do you know of him?", They shook their heads yes. They were from one of the Jesuit schools that Father Moran had started. I said to them, "he was very famous" and one of the YL's said to me, "he still is". It was a very special moment for me and them and another testament of how interconnected we are in the world that we live in.



Other activities included a contact with the ARISS space station. Ten Scouts were selected via a drawing to ask the questions. The contact came off without a hitch, after some early drama. A video of the contact can be seen here. Cinematography by yours truly. <https://www.facebook.com/K2BSA.Scouting/videos/2145388825754052/>

Additionally, we launched four balloons with solar powered GPS radios on them so we could track them. Two of the balloons made it across the Atlantic, contact was lost with one over Spain and the second over Tunisia.

As you can see, this demonstration was a comprehensive exposition of amateur radio. What were the numbers? We had over 3,000 scouts go through the demonstrations. We had some kids come back every day, which probably strikes a chord with all who were licensed at a young age. Oh, remember the two non-hams on our team? Both passed their Technician License exam given at the Summit. Ellie from Yorkshire and Tobias from Lichtenstein. Both are in their early 20's and given a short time with the hobby, were converted. It was very gratifying for the staff to watch their interest build over the duration of the Jamboree.



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NA1WJ, made over 4,000 QSO's with 86 countries during the Jamboree. We operated ~18 hours a day with after hours operation dedicated to working as many of the those who wanted a contact as we could.

K2BSA Amateur Radio Association, <https://k2bsa.net> is primarily responsible for Jamboree activities. There will be another National Jamboree in 2021 at the Summit and once again, Amateur Radio will be on display. We plan to implement a few changes, one of which is a bit more focus on CW. The interest displayed this year is encouraging us to do that. K2BSA would welcome any financial support that might help fund a quality static display focused on CW. You can become a life member of K2BSA for the whopping total of \$12.00. However, tips are accepted.

My role in this effort was as the Technical Manager. Basically, my role was to get the station infrastructure in place for the demonstration team to do their thing. The antenna donations from JK Antenna significantly improved the station and of course the Icom radios were great as well. I also participated in the demonstrations. Jim, K5ND, oversaw the operation as President of K2BSA ARA.



Gearing Up for the Marquesas

Robert Brandon K5PI

The CanAm DX Group is a loose association of primarily US and VE ops who have banded together to go on DXpeditions. We have a lawyer in the group (egad!) but have generally eschewed too much formality.

Long boat rides, parkas, tents and generators? Nah. We prefer scheduled air, commercial establishments for lodging, and electricity from the wall. But we'll take long flights, pay excess baggage charges, and stay in modest quarters for good pileups!

Operators for this adventure include F6BCW, K4UEE, K5PI, W5MJ, W5RF, W5SJ, VA7DX, and VE7KW. All are experienced DXpeditioners and/or contesters. All are partial to CW, and four are CWops members.

The biggest challenging in planning a DXpedition is choosing the destination. We first look at what's required to get there. Then we identify and evaluate possible accommodations. We prefer places that have hosted DXpeditions before. There's much less negotiation required, and we can often get some technical details on terrain, etc. from the previous operators. This year, we're very fortunate to have F6BCW on the team. He lived in French Polynesia for several years and did a DXpedition from our selected location a few years ago. Of course, having a native French speaker is a great boon as well.

We plan to set up three high power stations (500W maximum, by regulation) with two hex beams (one of which does 40M), a homebrew Moxon for 15 and 30, a wire beam for 80, and a vertical for 160. Each station will have three bands "hard wired" to it. One station will do 10, 17, and 40. Another will cover 12, 20, and 80. The third will work 15, 30, and 160. This system worked quite well in the Australs last year.

We have several low band enthusiasts on the team who urged for a winter date for best conditions. We settled on November 6-17.

Hiva Oa, Marquesas is about the same distance from the US as Oahu, Hawaii. While our expecta-



Pension Kanahau near Atuona, Hiva Oa

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tions are tempered by the low sunspot numbers, we do expect good conditions to North America and Asia. We know Europe will be difficult, but we plan to do our best to put a good many EU stations in the log.

While we love CW, we can't ignore the growing popularity of FT8. We plan to have a solid presence on FT8 and expect that we'll give a lot of newer operators an all-time new country that way. One spotter for our last year's Austral operation commented that we must have forgotten to bring microphones. We did ultimately figure out how to plug them in last time, and plan to do so early on this trip.



Map courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

At this writing, we've finished our travel and lodging arrangements. We had hoped to ship some items in advance with the help of a contact in Tahiti, but this is proving more complicated than we thought. So, it looks like we'll take everything as checked baggage. We will likely use an air freight service to ship some items to the Marquesas as soon as we arrive in Tahiti. This includes several sports equipment containers (e.g., for golf clubs or skis). As you might imagine, the list of things to take is quite long, but of course we have to remember *everything*! Next we'll work to balance the weight among team members, probably shipping a few items domestically.

Please visit our web site <http://www.marquesas2019.com/> for updates. Please note our generous vendor sponsors and if you're able, please contribute a bit to help offset the substantial logistics and other costs. We look forward to hearing you in the pileups in November!

Eclipse Chasing Plus Ham Radio

[Rick Tavan N6XI](#)

Ann and I went eclipse chasing in June/July aboard the M/S Paul Gaugin out of Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia (FO). This involved a three-day sail to and beyond the line of totality, a stop at Pitcairn Island (VP6), a return to the line of totality for the eclipse on July 2, and another long sail back to French Polynesia where we visited a few islands before the end of the two-week voyage. Although this was not a ham radio trip *per se*, I did pack my little KX2 and a SOTABeams dipole for 40/20, hoping to find a time and place to use them.

Moderate seas (5m swell) convinced our captain not to disembark passengers at Pitcairn. This was a disappointment for us all, but especially for me as I had hoped to operate from that remote island which was made ham radio-famous by Tom Christian VR6TC, a silent key whom most of us worked many times, long ago. Tom, like much of the current population of Pitcairn, was a descendent of Fletcher Christian, leader of the infamous 18th century mutiny on the English sailing vessel HMS Bounty. The islanders did come on board our ship, being younger and more agile than most of our senior citizen passengers, and unconstrained by a conservative (and very good)

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captain and his insurance companies. I bought a shark carving from Steven Christian (some sort of nephew of Tom) and spoke to Steven's son, who is currently the mayor of Adamstown, their settlement on the island. His Honor gave me verbal permission to operate from their territorial waters. Although there are no active hams on Pitcairn these days, they all know about and welcome us. Their current connection to civilization is a large satellite dish and the Internet. See www.pitcairn.pn.

The ship's officers were OK with me stringing a dipole across the pool deck, so after the islanders left the ship, I made 17 QSOs on 20m signing VP6/N6XI, all but one of them in the RAC Canada Day contest on July 1 GMT. Every contact required a repeat of my call, exchange, or both. It wasn't easy. Best DX was 9A, my only EU contact on the trip and, coincidentally, the home country of our captain. Since permission to operate was verbal, these contacts probably don't count for anything other than personal satisfaction. If you heard me, you have good ears!

Although my Qs from just off Pitcairn won't count for anything, you can work this moderately rare entity right now! An expedition, including many club members, will be there October 18 - November 1 signing VP6R. Ironically, I received a last-minute invitation to join them. Someone had to drop out and W0GJ offered me the spot. I was already traveling on the U.S. East Coast and wouldn't be back to CA in time to catch up with the team, so reluctantly I had to decline, noting "Gee, I haven't been there in weeks!"

The main event was to be a total eclipse of the sun. Previously, Ann and I had seen five of these together and she had seen another in her youth. I think this qualifies us as moderately addicted eclipse chasers. Weather forecasts for our planned location on the line of totality were marginal. Since landing on Pitcairn didn't seem likely even for the second day of our planned anchorage there, the captain and his astronomer advisors decided to leave early and steam to a different, more distant location along the line, where the weather forecast looked better. I was hoping for some photos like this one I got in Idaho in 2017, the "Great American Eclipse."



Photo by a friend



© Rick Tavan

Results from the 2017 eclipse. Yes!

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Alas, it wasn't to be. On the morning of July 2, the eclipse began and some of our group got good photos of partiality, often enhanced by attractive wisps of cloud. I had focus problems but have included a few shots in this writeup. As you can see, visibility was variable. The captain maneuvered the ship back and forth, trying to stay under holes in the clouds to keep the sun visible. Alas, with five minutes to go before totality, the sky spontaneously and completely filled with cloud which persisted until five minutes after totality. There was nowhere to go. We missed the corona completely, the biggest disappointment of the trip. For Ann and me, it was our first miss in many years of chasing. We concluded that high humidity was the culprit. As the sun slipped behind the moon, the air temperature dropped as



2019: Poor focus but no clouds



2019: Variable cloud obscuration during partiality,



2019: Magically almost clearing near totality!

ex-

pected. When it reached the dew point, the clouds formed, only to dissipate after totality as the temperature rose again. It only took a few degrees each way.

Returning to French Polynesia, sea conditions necessitated cancellation of water sports at Rangiroa, our first stop and third disappointment, but we did set foot on land for the first time in eight days. We got in some snorkeling and SCUBA diving at Bora Bora and Moorea, some touring on Taha'a (with a spectacular rainbow behind the ship!) and I had time on



Picture by a friend – Rainbow off Taha'a

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two afternoons to set up the KX2 and dipole on land.

I had secured written permission in advance from the French Polynesian authorities to operate under CEPT rules and to sign FO/N6XI. Both afternoons, I posted my plans on several reflectors and was met with gratifying response. It's much easier to make Qs when folks are looking for your weak signal than in a contest when they don't expect anything like you! I suspect some of you spotted me as well. Thanks!

On July 8 (July 9 GMT) I found a concrete beam to sit on, on a narrow stretch between the water and the road on Huahini-Iti, with nicely spaced palm trees. I got the center insulator up about 15' using a found, perfectly formed and notched throwing rock. But the haul line soon began sliding off a palm frond, so I had to re-launch it to about 20' for the second half of the session, using a dead palm stalk to snag the dangling throwing rock and pull it down into reach. (Memo to self: Next time, take more line!) I made 45 QSOs in as many minutes on 20m, including many club members. Some of your signals were S7-9! This photo was made by a fellow traveler from the ship, a former ham who knew exactly what I was doing!



Photo by a friend, FO/N6XI on Huahine-Iti

On July 9 (July 10 GMT) I made another 45 QSOs, still on 20m, from Moorea, sitting on a curb at the edge of a parking lot, about 50' from the water. Again, I got the antenna up to 15 or 20' using the carefully saved rock. Signals were not as good as they had been on Huahini, but I actually managed to work some weak ones, much to my surprise as I must have been even weaker. Each operating session was under an hour after which I had to skedaddle to catch the tender back to the ship. I received one plaintive email request to try 40m around midnight my time, but that was impossible as the ship would be under way. Thanks to all for coping with my weak signals. Dabbling in ham radio was one of the more successful aspects of the trip.

After disembarking in Papeete, we hired a well-curated van tour of Tahiti where our bilingual driver accommodated three Anglophones and three Francophones with concurrent aplomb, circling the entire main lobe of the island and making many interesting and photogenic stops. The next day we ferried back to Moorea and had a not-so-good tour there. When the unofficial-looking lady outside the ferry office tells you to beware the "illegal" huckster selling tours upstairs in the boarding area, pay attention!

The trip culminated with a long but congenial, red-eye flight back to San Francisco, accompanied by many of our fellow travelers from the ship. We got enough sleep to stay reasonably functional through the next day. It was fun traveling, despite the disappointments, and good to get home where my QTH is more mundane but signals are a lot stronger.

Giving Back

Rob Brownstein, K6RB

One of the things about CWops that makes it so unique is its commitment to help other hams learn and improve their CW skills. And, though the club is also known for its CWTs, QTX, and CW Open, its CW Academy is what most people judge it and its members by. It is an unprecedented program in the history of ham radio. Three times per year, for eight weeks at a time, dozens of our volunteer advisors help fellow hams learn and improve copying and sending skills. However, as with any educational endeavor, the final leaps happen when our students go on to become active, on-air, operators; and that provides us with an additional opportunity to give back to this hobby.



In the 1950s and 1960s, US hams had lots of opportunity to learn and improve by simply getting on the air and working others. The novice bands were loaded with aspirants, and higher-class operators were often found offering leadership by example as they worked hapless novices. These days, however, hams new to CW, or wanting to improve their existing skills, have far fewer on-air opportunities to learn by doing. Many of us old timers have become set in our ways, preferring to rag chew at high speed or contest or look for new DX band/modes. Meanwhile, the newbies are learning skills at CW Academy but finding scant opportunities to practice them and make them stick.

So, here's an idea that we plan to organize that will give other members a chance to participate in the mentoring in ways that complement the work done by our extraordinary advisors. We want to establish a beach head where those needing practice will be able to find those who can provide it. And, as its popularity grows (hopefully), we can expand it.

First Steps

The ideal effort will have a few CW operators operating on the 40 meter band for up to an hour beginning at their local 7 PM (1900 local). Ultimately, there could be 24 hours of continuous practice opportunities beginning at 7 PM in virtually every time zone. Realistically, however, we have to start small and build. Continental US has four time zones, so if say three operators in each time zone got on, once per week, that would be up to 12 hours of weekly practice opportunities. If another three operators did the same on other days, four days per week (Monday through Friday except Wednesday), that could be up to 48 hours of weekly practice opportunities. Note that any operator is really only committing himself or herself to up to one hour per week but the cumulative effect is 48 hours weekly in CONUS.

Now consider that UTC, UTC+1, and UTC+2 time zones cover significant parts of Europe and Africa. The bulk of the demand, for now, is in CONUS and Europe but the program can grow, organi-

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cally, over time.

Okay, so you sign up to do a Tuesday at 7 PM local every week. So, what do you do? At approximately 7 PM local, you get on 40 meters, between 7.035 and 7.050 MHz, call QRL? and find a clear frequency, then send CQ CWA two or three times with your call sign two or three times...and repeat. Early on, some callers will ask you what is CWA?. But once it becomes persistent, people will know. In particular, our CWA students will know because we will tell them.

When you get a caller, if it's the first time, do a basic RST, QTH, NAME, WX, RIG type QSO. Keep sending speed at 20 wpm but use Farnsworth delays if needed. The goal is help students and others learn how to do basic QSOing, how to become faster at recognizing characters, how to send well-crafted Morse, and so on.

Before we roll out the program, I will be asking for volunteers to pick a day or days that they can reliably participate each week. I am also going to ask each participate to send me a list of calls worked each time, via email, so I can keep track. I'm sure there will be a few hiccups along the way, but if can begin even with 12 hours per week in the ET, CT, MT and PT time zones, and do so consistently, it should catch on.

Next Steps

As I do each year prior to Dayton, I will begin filling in a list of volunteers. The list will be organized by days, time zones, and call signs. The plan is to post it on the website along with a monthly update of stations worked by each participant. Currently the plan is to begin rolling it out January 1 2020. Because I will be advising on Mondays and Thursdays, I will not have a chance to monitor those evenings but I will be monitoring Tuesday and Friday as well as taking my turn at 7 PM PT.

Benefits

This program has multifaceted benefits. For one, it will have an impact on overall activity on 40 meters. Once sunspots begin cooperating, again, we may add 20 meters to the mix, too. From a learner's perspective this program will provide:

- Predictable practice opportunities at 7 PM local every weeknight;
- Increased confidence in skills and operating technique;
- Familiarity with CWA; and
- More incentive to be more active.

From a CWops participant's perspective, this program will provide:

- Opportunity to give back;
- Satisfaction that comes from seeing someone progress;
- Possibility of expanding one's group of ham friends; and
- Helping to embellish CWops' mentoring reputation.



CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

By the time this column appears, we will be well into the fall contesting season. We will also be approaching the time for our third and last set of slow-speed CWTs for this year (CWA graduation celebrations).

In the November 13-14 CWTs, please keep your CW speed down to 20 wpm. Yes, we all know you can make more QSOs at 35 wpm, but that's not the point. On this week in particular, CW Academy advisors will be encouraging their students and new graduates to give the CWTs a try. Listening to a bunch of guys rattling away to each other at 35 wpm is likely to be very intimidating to some of them, perhaps enough so to scare them away so they don't even try to join in. Let's try to be welcoming to the new graduates instead of trying to impress them with our speed.

A week or so before those special slow-speed CWTs will be the weekend of the ARRL's November Sweepstakes CW contest, a major event for contesters in Canada and the US and its territories. That will take place on November 2-3. It's a very different event from the CWTs, but I expect to see many of the CWT regulars taking part.

The Sweepstakes exchange is quite different from the CWT exchange – much longer, less friendly (no names) and less predictable. It starts with a sequential serial number, followed by the “precedence”, a letter denoting the planned entry class. This is not predictable in advance, and correctly copying the precedence is not always easy (was that an A or a U?). The next part of the exchange is your own call sign. Yes, the other station already knows that, but it is still required. The point of the exchange is not to exchange information, it's to exchange a predetermined amount of data, regardless of whether that data has any useful content or not. Leaving part of it out in order to save time, on the grounds that the other station already knows it, is a kind of cheating to get an unfair advantage. The last two parts of the exchange are more predictable – a “check” (the last two digits of the year licensed) and the ARRL/RAC section – but even these elements quite often change from one year to the next, so it's important to copy them correctly.

One of the special attractions of the Sweepstakes is the chase for a “clean sweep” – contacts with stations in all 83 ARRL/RAC sections. Some of these sections can be quite difficult to contact. One of those is the NT section (VE8, VY1 and VY0), and there is an interesting CWops connection there. During the last few years, a major provider of contacts from NT has been the VY1AAA station, located at the QTH of CWops member J Allen, VY1JA and operated remotely, usually by CWops member Gerry Hull W1VE. Gerry plans to operate VY1AAA once more in this year's Sweepstakes contests, but that is likely to be the swan song for the VY1AAA station. In future years, the clean sweep may become considerably more difficult.

Three weeks after the CW Sweepstakes is the weekend of the CQ Worldwide DX contest, one of contesting's premier events, on November 23-24. A bigger contesting contrast with the Sweepstakes would be hard to find – the exchange is a nominal signal report (almost always 5NN or even ENN) and the CQ zone, which for most stations outside the US is easily predictable based on the call sign alone. That makes the CWT exchange look complicated! And of course, rather than being a regional event, CQ WW DX is a worldwide contest in which the main goal is to make as

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many DX contacts as possible. Indeed, apart from a few contacts for multiplier credit, there is no point credit for contacts within the same country, so especially for all of our members in the USA, participating in this contest will feel quite different from the CWTs.

Although neither of these events is very similar to our CWTs in detail, they do all have a common core of features. And the CWTs are a great way to get your station ready and your CW copying skills tuned up for the big events.

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

73,

Rich VE3KI CWT Manager

CW Academy

[Kate Hutton K6HTN](#) and [Joe Fischer AA8TA](#)

The September-October, 2019, CW Academy classes are well underway. Today, I (Joe) would like to share with you a little (long?) story about challenges.

Several years ago, I decided to shake off the old antipathy toward Morse code that I had and (re)learn enough to make my first CW contact - it worked! Only took 40 years. That first contact sure was a scary moment - I just had to put everything else out of my mind and go into an almost machine-like mode and do it.

After a while, I was stuck at about 15 WPM and would tune around and listen to people blasting away at speeds where I could barely tell what was a dit and what was a dah. I thought such speeds were an illusion and some kind of trick that only a few lucky people knew.

I signed up for the CW Academy and was told that I would be in a Level 2 class in January, which was over 6 months away. That was cool, it was far enough away that I could put it out of my mind. Then I got an email saying that I would be in a September class. That was my first, of many, instances of almost leaving a yellow puddle on the floor. But, but, but I'm really not that good. I can barely copy 15 WPM. I miss a lot of characters some days. Nobody in the world can get me past 20 WPM. What kind of horrible experience am I about to go into?

Editor's Note:

While CW Academy is jointly managed by Kate K6HTN and Joe AA8TA, this month's CWA column is a first person account from Joe about his personal challenge learning and becoming proficient with CW.

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The class was challenging, no doubt about it. But I looked forward to each class and was really sad when the class was over. My advisor (thanks, Bill) pushed us and told us to not worry about mistakes. The more we tried to reach a little further than we could grasp, the better we would get. It sure did work.

We were told about the weekly CWT events on Wednesdays and that we should try to make a few contacts. We were told to come to class with three or four call signs and exchanges that we copied. Those CWT guys were fast but the dits and dahs were easier to distinguish by now and by listening to each one a few times, their magic message could be recorded. Maybe people really can copy this high-speed stuff and it is not some made-up hocus pocus.

After the class, there was the special "Slow Day" or "CWA Day" CWT session where everybody is supposed to cap their speeds at 20 WPM. Of course, me and my classmates were expected to jump into that. 20 WPM was still a little scary especially when everybody in the CWT were expert CW ops who thought nothing of 50 WPM contacts. What's to lose, let's call CQ. I was shocked that these super-class ops came back to me, at my speed, and even extended a welcome. That was special, it was like some really famous person taking me to lunch. And, it was loads of fun; I had to do more of those CWTs.

I continued to participate in the CWTs and other on-air events and was not so intimidated by the other CW ops around me. Eventually, Field Day came up and our club was short on CW operators. Somebody pointed at me and said that I was a CW op and I was quickly signed up to duty. Now wait a minute, we do not do search and pounce, we run and run and run. Can I get out of this somehow? Isn't the washing machine going to break that weekend or something?

Here we are, sitting in front of a K3 and there is not a sliver of space to squeeze in a signal. All I hear is a wild cacophony of tones. Good thing I just went to the restroom so let's take a deep breath and push the button to call CQ. It was not easy, I was the slowest op that day, but I did make a lot of contacts and it was a lot of fun. I was running a lot faster than I thought I really could and there were some bumps along the way, but it went reasonably well.

Not too long after that was the Ohio QSO Party where in-state ops are expected to run and pick up as many other contacts as we can. By now, doing this type of stuff is getting easier and is not so terror-filled like it was a year ago.

The big test still awaited; running in a CWT. There are these CWops guys and gals and then everybody else. One does not intrude on the expert's sacred soil unless properly prepared, which I most definitely was not. But, what the heck, let's try anyway. After a few dozen contacts, the conclusion was that it went pretty well. Nobody pounded on my front door demanding to know how I dared to have the temerity to intrude in an area I did not belong. The Sun came up the next morning. All was well.

With further CW Academy classes, those lofty speeds became much easier to read. I could even listen to things in my head, which the advisors so often preached about. Sometimes, I would be fiddling with the radio and a call sign would come through and I would look up and realize that the call sign was right there in my mind and I did not make any effort to hear it.

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Eventually I was invited to join CWops, an achievement that was very special. To be among the top of the best ops was a thrill, even though there was still a big gap between me and them. There are lots of people way better at CW than I am but that is OK. I applaud them and they are the inspiration that keeps me going. I know it is possible to get there, there are no tricks, there is nothing secret about it.

After joining CWops, I signed up to be an advisor and had another scary period where I put together a class and tried to help them learn Morse code. Imagine that, me in charge of people learning something I detested not too long ago.

Is there a point to all of this? Yes, there is: one does not learn without challenging oneself. Mistakes are going to happen. In my classes, I tell the students that they are supposed to make mistakes, if they do not, then they should not be in my class. There is a big difference between the words “mistake” and “failure.” A mistake is something that happens and can be corrected and learned from. A failure is a state of mind and is a barrier to doing anything worthwhile. I am actually proud of myself for constantly trying to reach just a bit further and I am so glad that my advisors told me to do that.

In the CW Academy, we provide guidance to learn the art of CW. There is a lot to that: learning the sounds of Morse code and how to get on the air and how all this stuff works. Challenges can be fun. Challenges teach you things. You will be amazed at how you grow. I did all this at an age when people are seriously thinking about retirement. There is no age barrier. All there is is the desire to learn. What is the hardest part about learning Morse code or getting better at it? Making the decision to accept the challenge and start practicing, not tomorrow, but today.

The CW Academy is here and is ready to help.

Kate K6HTN and Joe AA8TA, CW Academy Managers

(Not So) Golden Silence

[Hank Garretson W6SX](#)

We’ve all experienced it. “CQ TEST W6SX” ^%\$#*&^?>+@!!!

Two or more stations call exactly zero beat. You can’t get a call or even a partial. Followed by ex-cruciating SILENCE.

What’s the best thing for the CQing station to do?

The answer is: nothing. Just wait. If you send ?, QRZ, or AGN, everyone will call again, again on top of each other. Just wait, eventually someone will drop a call and you’re back in business.

Nuances. If you can get a partial, don’t wait—send the partial. The smart operator will drop his call again very quickly. Be a smart operator. QSK really helps, both for the CQing and calling sta-

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tions.

If it's really taking forever, just send a dit, which will encourage someone to call again.

If you are the calling station, being off frequency a bit can help. For S&P, I have a function key that offsets me 50 Hz. (For N1MM and the K3: F9 XIT W6SX,{CAT1ASC XT1;RO-0050;}W6SX)

Contest Exuberantly!

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
2361	OZ3SM*	Steve
2362	VK2IO	Gerard
2363	K6RC	Dave
2364	N0TLW*	Tom

CWops	Call	Name
2365	ON7PQ	Pat
2366	AA5AD*	Joe
2367	W4WQ*	Jerry
2368	K5NT*	Dave

CWops	Call	Name
2369	KG0EW*	Dave
2370	F5PLC	Mike
2371	AA4NC	Will

*Life Member

Current Nominees

As of October 4, 2019

Need Sponsors: KA6S, W2YH, SP9FOW

Invitations Extended: VE2WU, 2E0OBO

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.

73,

Trung W6TN, Membership Secretary

CWops Member Awards

Bill W0TG

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	1308	8418	W1RM	192	N1ZX	50	DL6KVA	55	W1RM	38
W1RM	889	5930	F6HKA	174	AE1T	50	W1RM	53	F6HKA	38
VE3KI	845	5201	W4VQ	151	W9ILY	50	G4BUE	47	W4VQ	37
F6HKA	793	5373	DL6KVA	145	K7QA	50	F6HKA	47	VE3KI	37
N8BJQ	785	5542	N7WY	143	K0MP	50	VE3KI	46	N5RR	37
K3WJV	720	3113	G4BUE	142	N5RR	50	AA3B	45	G4BUE	37
AE1T	678	3206	N5RR	129	W1RM	50	N5RR	44	N5PHT	36
K7QA	669	2412	VE3KI	123	W4VQ	50	W4VQ	43	DL6KVA	34
W9ILY	656	3886	N8BJQ	122	F6HKA	50	N8BJQ	43	I5EFO	33
K1DJ	644	2362	K1ESE	111	W1UU	50	I5EFO	43	VK7CW	32
DL6KVA	634	3075	EA8OM	111	VE3KI	50	EA8OM	42	I5IYJ	32
WT9U	586	1769	AA3B	108	G4BUE	50	SQ9S	40	F5IYJ	32
N1DC	556	2548	I5EFO	103	EA8OM	50	K1ESE	40	RM2D	29
K8AJS	543	2481	AE1T	101	W0EJ	50	AE1T	39	W7GF	26
KG9X	537	1493	EA1WX	99	F6JOE	50	IT9MUO	38	JF2IWL	25
W0VX	481	1390	W9ILY	98	W6KY	50	IN3FHE	38	N1DC	22
K4QS	510	2069	W0VX	98	N1EN	50	K3MD	37	K3WJV	21
K9WX	497	3061	N5PHT	98	N5PHT	50	HB9ARF	37	K8AJS	20
NA6O	495	2850	IT9MUO	90	F5MNK	50	F6JOE	37	WN7S	19
WN7S	468	1573	VK7CW	89	K5IX	50	IT9VDQ	36	G4NVR	19
ON4VT	456	690	F6JOE	87	K3SEN	50	G4ILW	36	CM8NMN	18
SQ9S	442	785	N1EN	86	AD1C	50	EA1WX	36		
K0TC	431	2358	KY7M	86	AB7MP	50	W9ILY	35		
CM8NMN	427	1163	IN3FHE	86	AA3B	50	W0VX	35		
W0TG	426	1150	4X6GP	84	K5AX	50	W1UU	34		
NN4K	421	2022	SQ9S	83	I5EFO	50	RM2D	34		
KB8GAE	421	788	I5IYJ	83	VK7CW	50	4X6GP	34		
W8OV	401	1279	F5IYJ	83	DL6KVA	50	ON4VT	32		
K1ESE	397	3608	AD1C	83	K0TC	50	N1EN	32		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K4WW	396	1957	K5AX	79	KY7M	50	KY7M	32		
KE4S	384	1950	DL8PG	79	NA6O	50	I5IYJ	32		
HB9ARF	355	1339	N1ZX	76	K1DJ	50	G4NVR	32		
W4VQ	352	2870	IT9VDQ	74	N8BJQ	50	F5MNM	32		
KE4RG	333	929	RM2D	73	K9WX	50	F5IYJ	32		
W8DN	320	807	N1DC	72	WT2P	50	N1DC	31		
IT9MUO	317	1946	W1UU	70	K1ESE	50	K5AX	31		
KB4DE	317	592	KE4S	69	K6DGW	50	K3WJV	31		
K8RJW	317	457	F5MNM	68	K3WJV	50	DL8PG	31		
K6DGW	308	2128	K1DJ	67	K4WW	50	N1ZX	30		
K0MP	301	1378	NA6O	66	K2QB	50	M0DHP	30		
W1UU	297	2295	K9WX	66	W7GF	50	K8AJS	30		
AB7MP	297	1118	K8AJS	66	WN7S	49	G4HZV	30		
G4BUE	295	3652	HB9ARF	64	W0VX	49	KE4S	29		
NU7Y	290	1107	K3DMG	63	ON4VT	49	K4QS	29		
G4NVR	287	828	KT5V	60	NU7Y	49	K1DJ	28		
AA8TA	282	1430	K3WJV	59	NN4K	49	AD1C	28		
IN3FHE	254	1147	ON4VT	58	N1DC	49	VK7CW	27		
VK7CW	248	1668	K4QS	57	KT5V	49	G4DRS	27		
W7GF	232	1530	K0TC	57	KG9X	49	NA6O	26		
4X6GP	231	1455	W7GF	56	KE4S	49	K3DMG	26		
F6JOE	230	3002	W6KY	56	K8AJS	49	JF2IWL	26		
N1ZX	217	1300	K6RB	56	K6RB	49	G0MGM	26		
I5EFO	196	1283	G4DRS	56	K3MD	49	SV2BBK	25		
EA1WX	138	1961	G4ILW	55	IT9VDQ	49	N5PHT	25		
M0DHP	132	274	K3SEN	51	CM8NMN	49	K6RB	24		
F5IYJ	104	847	JF2IWL	51	AA8TA	49	K4WW	24		
AJ1DM	101	459	G4HZV	51	W8OV	48	MI0WWB	23		
VE6JF	84	476	G4NVR	50	W0TG	48	K9WX	23		
W3RZ	69	267	NN4K	49	WT9U	48	WT9U	22		
SV2BBK	66	172	WT2P	48	KE6K	48	F5PBL	21		
I5IYJ	64	837	W8OV	45	K4QS	48	NN4K	21		
MI0WWB	62	218	G0MGM	45	K3DMG	48	K7QA	20		
F5PBL	61	82	WT9U	44	EA1WX	48	K3SEN	20		
KB8PGW	55	277	CM8NMN	44	DL8PG	48	CM8NMN	20		
N5RR	0	4961	K4WW	43	4X6GP	48	KT5V	19		
K3WW	0	4669	K3MD	41	W8DN	47	WT2P	18		
K6RB	0	4032	K7QA	40	VE6JF	47	WN7S	18		
K5AX	0	3634	WN7S	39	VE1OP	47	W6KY	18		
KY7M	0	3252	K6DGW	39	KB4DE	47	VE1OP	18		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
N5PHT	0	3184	W0EJ	36	JF2IWL	47	K0TC	18		
EA8OM	0	2758	M0DHP	36	IT9MUO	47	W8OV	16		
AD1C	0	2101	VE1OP	32	I5IYJ	47	W7GF	16		
W6KY	0	2088	W0TG	31	HB9ARF	47	K6DGW	12		
N1EN	0	1928	SV2BBK	31	G4DRS	47	AJ1DM	11		
WT2P	0	1925	F5PBL	29	F5IYJ	47	W0EJ	10		
N7WY	0	1838	MI0WWB	29	AJ1DM	47	KG9X	10		
DL8PG	0	1789	AA8TA	27	KE4RG	46	K0MP	10		
KT5V	0	1774	KG9X	26	RM2D	44	W0TG	9		
K3DMG	0	1773	NU7Y	25	KM4FO	43	W8DN	9		
K3MD	0	1734	AB7MP	25	KJ4M	43	K8RJW	9		
K3SEN	0	1643	W8DN	24	K8RJW	43	AA8TA	9		
IT9VDQ	0	1516	K5IX	24	IN3FHE	43	KE4RG	8		
RM2D	0	1182	K0MP	24	G4NVR	43	KB4DE	8		
F5MNK	0	1111	KE4RG	19	G4HZV	42	K5IX	8		
KM4FO	0	1107	AJ1DM	17	W3RZ	41	AB7MP	7		
JF2IWL	0	931	W3RZ	16	SQ9S	40	VE6JF	5		
K5IX	0	892	KE6K	15	KB8PGW	37	KM4FO	5		
VE1OP	0	768	KB4DE	15	G0MGM	35	KJ4M	5		
W0EJ	0	754	K8RJW	15	MI0WWB	29	W3RZ	4		
KE6K	0	701	VE6JF	10	M0DHP	28	NU7Y	4		
G4DRS	0	692	KM4FO	10	G4ILW	27	KB8PGW	2		
G4HZV	0	603	KJ4M	10	SV2BBK	19	KE6K	1		
G4ILW	0	555	KB8PGW	5	F5PBL	8				
KJ4M	0	498								
G0MGM	0	495								
K2QB	0	125								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Bruce Murdock K8UDH](#)

Welcome to the October edition of the CWops Rag Chewer Column. Outdoor activities at my QTH are beginning to wind down as the days get shorter and the temperature gets colder. As I write this article for the newsletter, we're even looking at the possibility of snow here in northern Nebraska. For many of us the colder months mean more time for rag chewing and time in the shack. That's certainly true for me. I'm also looking forward to building my QCX CW transceiver

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kit from QRP Labs. If you would like to share some thoughts about the fun you're having with QTX and MQTX QSOs please do so when you submit your report.

Both K8CIT (Art) and K3WJV (Bill) submitted their QTX/MQTX reports for the first time in 2019. We appreciate your participation.

Comments from QTX submissions

N5PHT: Nice month. New rig TS590SG. Longest rag chew with K7JKZ in Oklahoma that works for the VA Hospital and I retired from VA not far from his VA. We both worked in Mental Health.

W9EBE: It's GREAT to have 30m start to improve as summer comes to a close!

N6HCN: Longest QTX was 1.5 Hours with Frank, WA2VYA, but fine catch-up with Rob N6KIX and Alan AC2K, whose antenna saga was painful to hear. Eric, KK0ECT was getting ready for WW0WWV.

K8CIT: My first time doing this. Who sez ragchews are hard to find?

WB6TOU: A good QSO is so much better than enduring yet another episode of The Voice or America's Got Talent.

N5IR: Hour long bug-chews with AC2K and K5YQF. Both of these guys are good plain language conversationalists. It just flows.

AB7MP: My one, lonely, MQTX was with an ailing rig running 3 watts while on vacation (gotta get a smaller rig - right arm got longer carrying the K3S and stuff through the airports!!).

N8AI: Emilio AG4T on two week vacation in Belize, reciprocal call V31AG. This country very ham friendly to get license for vacation, WB5TKI my neighbor in Pecan Grove vacations there often.

K8UDH: This winter I'll be doing more rag chewing and kit building. It should be fun.

Medals for 2019

Medals are awarded at the end of the year for three different levels in QTX.

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs

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At the end of September we had three Gold earners: N8AI (424), N5IR (410), and K2KRG (401). There are also two Silver earners so far: N5PHT (350) and KC0VKN (302). We also have three Bronze medal earners: W9EBE (292), K1ESE (256), and I5EFO (251). Congratulations.

QTX for September 2019

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
K8CIT	106	I5EFO	25	WB6TOU	8	K3WJV	1
N5PHT	68	F5IYJ	23	K5YQF	7	KB8GAE	1
N5IR	53	KB6NU	18	N4DT	7	SV2BBK	1
N8AI	53	K1ESE	17	K8UDH	6		
W9EBE	41	N6HCN	14	KC0VKN	4		
K2KRG	29	K4AHO	11	W3WHK	3		

MQTX for September 2019

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	47	I5EFO	21	K4AHO	8	AB7MP	1
W9EBE	37	K8CIT	18	N6HCN	4	K8UDH	1
K2KRG	30	K1ESE	15	W3WHK	4	K3WJV	1
N5PHT	30	SV2BBK	14	WB6TOU	3		

2019 Totals for QTX:

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
N8AI	424	K4AHO	106	KB8GAE	31	WN7S	5
N5IR	410	K8CIT	106	K0DTJ	29	WA8IWK	4
K2KRG	401	K5YQF	62	SV2BBK	25	KG4Q	3
N5PHT	350	W0ITT	59	N4PIR	24	N7MQ	3
KC0VKN	302	N4DT	50	DL5DBY	21	AB7MP	2
W9EBE	292	WB6TOU	50	GM0EUL	15	G3WZD	2
K1ESE	256	K8UDH	47	W3PNM	15	N5LB	2
I5EFO	251	K6DGW	44	N3FZ	8	K3GHH	1
KB6NU	195	HB9CVQ	39	N9SE	7	K3WJV	1
F5IYJ	170	W3WHK	37	MI0WWB	6		
N6HCN	123	AJ1DM	36	W5LA	5		

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2019 Totals for MQTX:

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	488	W0ITT	65	K8UDH	35	G3WZD	5
K2KRG	347	HB9CVQ	55	W3WHK	25	AJ1DM	4
W9EBE	261	GM0EUL	53	WB6TOU	20	KG4Q	3
SV2BBK	198	DL5DBY	52	K8CIT	18	N7MQ	3
MI0WWB	193	K4AHO	52	N3FZ	14	W5LA	3
I5EFO	186	N4PIR	44	K5YQF	12	N5LB	2
N5PHT	156	KB6NU	42	AB7MP	10	WA8IWK	2
K1ESE	135	KB8GAE	41	W3PNM	10	K3WJV	1
K6DGW	91	N6HCN	39	N9SE	6		

Let me know if you spot any missing data or find any errors. Thanks.

73,

Bruce K8UDH, QTX Manager

My Story: New Member Biographies

Tom Weaver N0TLW

I'm thrilled to be a new CWOps member.

I live in Des Moines, IA, and we retired from our IT Security & Network management careers in 2015. I passed my Novice license test in 1977; my call then was WB0YVQ. Following ~37 years of being QRT, I started studying for a new Ham license in July 2018. My vanity call now contains my initials. A couple of months later my XYL (Elaine) found my old Bencher paddle in the basement.

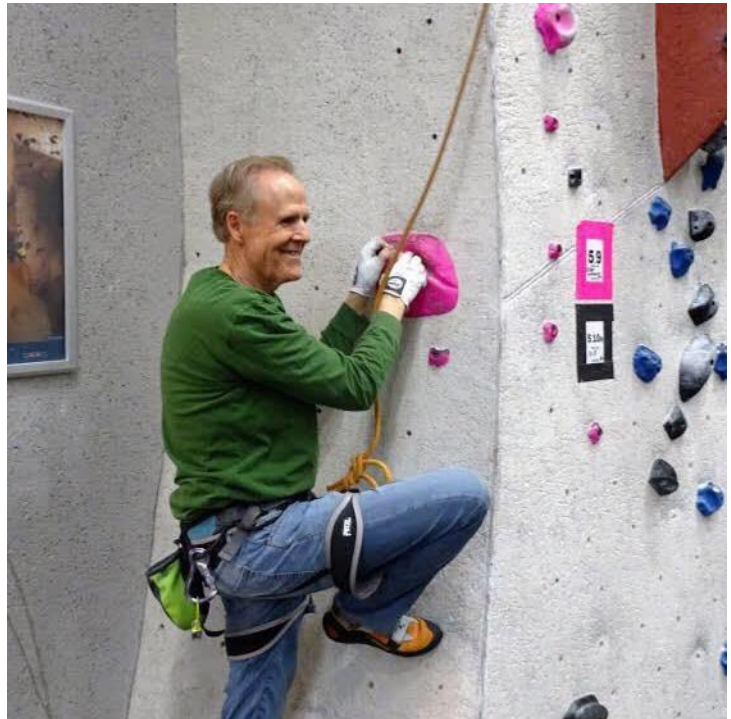
I started relearning the alphabet in December, enrolled in CWA in January (Dallas K1DW, Frank K1EBY and Joe KK5NA are great instructors), and have been having wonderful CW QSOs and rag-chews ever since. Something inside me somewhere loves sending and receiving clean, rhythmic CW at speed. I'm not sure where it is, but I sure know it's there. I still have a long way to go and I'm looking forward to the journey.

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I'm a certified CWA (Climbing Wall Association) rock climbing instructor and teach folks 50 & older top-rope rock climbing at Climb Iowa every Friday afternoon. Believe it or not, indoor top-rope rock climbing is a remarkably appropriate activity for seniors/ Boomers. (<https://climbiowa.com/grimes/instruction/boomer-climbers/>)

My personal website is <http://www.boomerclimber.rocks> - it's where I document why the unlikely adventure sport of rock climbing (indoors) is a great fit for 'mature' adults 50, 60, 70 years and older. Check it out - it's a great path to lifetime fitness & health.



Pat Parmentier ON7PQ

Thanks for being a member of CWops and especially thanks to my sponsors.

It all started in 1978 when I was taught electronics at school by Raymond ON4VW. He gave me the ham virus and I never lost it again. But I am still grateful to him for it.

My first transceiver was an FT-101E and some wire antennas. I soon discovered that I could do nicer DX in CW than in SSB. My mic soon disappeared into my bottom drawer of my desk.



In the "dead moments" where there were no DXpeditions, I enjoyed making long chat QSO's in CW. It is a hobby within the hobby. I also love a CW QSO with a bit of old charm, that is why I am also a member of the SKCC.

After years of DXing, the "dead moments" get bigger and bigger (I only need P5) so I do more and more chat QSO's. I also enjoy going on IOTA expeditions and participating in field days, contests and so on.

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I am also a big fan of the low bands. Since I have no place at home to install Beverage antennas, I have built up a remote RX station. So you see, there is always something to do in our beautiful ham hobby.

I look forward to working with CWops members and sponsoring nominees in our great club.

Dave Farris K5NT

I was first licensed as WN3VBP in December 1952 at age 15. I became W3VBP when I upgraded to Technician shortly thereafter. My first rigs were a modified surplus transmitter for 2m AM and a homebrew 35w transmitter from the 1952 ARRL Handbook. My 2m antenna was a "Brownie Beam" made on a 1x2 wooden boom with a folded dipole driven element and aluminum clothesline wire for reflector and three directors. The feedline was 300 Ohm twin lead. The HF antenna was a Windom in the back yard about 20 feet off the ground. My first decent receiver was a National NC-125, but I was later fortunate in finding a Collins 75A-1 in a hi fi store that had been traded in on audio gear. My next transmitter was a WRL Globe Scout 60 with a Hallicrafters HT-18 VFO. Later I operated SSB with a Central Electronics 20A and a WRL Globe Linear into a HyGain trap vertical. When I moved to Texas in 1965 it was possible to have two callsigns, and I became W5PBW also. I have held K5NT since 1977.



I retired in 2003 and moved to Richmond, VA. I became restless after a few years and took a part-time job as Executive Director of the [Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives](#) in the [city's Fan District](#) where parts of the movie "Lincoln" were filmed. I went back to full retirement status in 2018, and now spend my time hamming (all CW) and bowling with a seniors club.

The QTH is in a community that prohibits outdoor antennas, so I installed an Alpha Delta DX-EE fan dipole in the attic. The HOA agreed to allow me to put up a loop for receiving provided that it was not visible from the street. Maybe I can get them to approve a vertical one of these days on the same basis. My rigs are a Yaesu FTDX-3000D and an Elecraft K1.

I am also a member of the ARRL, QCWA, FISTS, and SKCC.

There is more on my QRZ page.

Joe Bratton AA5AD

I am a retired Firefighter/Paramedic living in the piney woods of south-central Arkansas with my XYL Sherry. We have a daughter who lives with her husband and our three grandkids a couple

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of hours south of us near the Louisiana border.

I was first licensed as a Novice in the early 1980's, but life got in the way and I didn't do much with my ticket then. I got bit by the Ham Radio bug again in 2014 and got my Technician ticket, followed closely by General and Extra.

After about a year on the air, I really wanted to get into CW operating, so with a fellow ham and lifelong friend, Greg, K5EDM (CW Ops member #1967), I practiced until I could make an on-air QSO at a decent speed. Boy, I was hooked!



I love CW operating and have discovered a passion for Bug Keys. I have three now and really enjoy using them. I also enjoy operating portable and QRP, so you may hear me activating a park or campsite during decent weather.

The picture is of me in the radio room of the submarine USS Razorback (SS-394) on museum ships weekend in 2017. Greg and I did an all-CW shift and made many contacts--one of my favorite ham radio experiences to date.

I am really excited to be a member of CW Ops and hope to have many great contacts with you all.

Mike Beaubouchez F5PLC

First a big thank you to Raoul, ZS1C who nominated me and to K7SV, K1EBY and F5IYJ who supported my nomination,

I was authorized as FD1PLC in 1990 at the age of 39, and I had learned CW for the license, mainly with audio cassettes at home or in the car radio, only for access to the HF bands in order to make mostly DX contacts.

After a few months of QSO SSB I did not really feel radio amateur if I did not practice the CW, so it was a new learning and training to achieve standard QSO and understand what was happening in the competitions and DX. It was very fast, far too fast. . . but by dint of listening and perseverance I improved.

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I discovered CW in QRPp during my summer holidays 1992 with a homemade TRX delivering 600mw on 20m in a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave antenna made on a fishing rod. It was a revelation because I did not think the DX was so easy with such small means. 55 DXCC including VK, C9, VE USA, EA9, 5A. in 3 weeks. What encouraged me, after the holidays, to make an antenna of 2.15m to make QSO rolling on the way to work. Less easily than at the seaside, but it allowed me to progress by giving up the pencil and the paper. Now I do not do CW while riding, my wife does not want.



The discovery of the RUFZ program allowed me to improve my speed.

In 1993 I got the call F5PLC

From 1990 to 1998 I also used a TS520 and since 1998 I use a TS850S. Having started with dipoles on 10 and 20m, I then used a Windom and since 1994 a 4 elements triband and various verticals home made for 30 to 80m bands and 78m long wire.

My power is usually 50W with the TS850, 100W in competition or hunting new DXCC, but also from 100mw to 5W with a small K2 or 1.5W to 3W with a KX1 when I'm in a laptop.

I participate in some competitions for fun and sometimes a little more seriously either as a single operator or multi-operators at the Marconi VHF or with my friend Mario FR4QT when I'm on vacation at my daughter in Réunion island

I'm trying to convince Mario to use the CW, and also his girl to learn it as well as my friends forgetting the CW by preferring SSB or digital modes.

My second hobby is also watching and photographing birds.

I still have a lot to say, it would be long.

Looking forward to meeting you on the air and thank you again for the honor you make me.