

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter

December 2019 — Issue 119

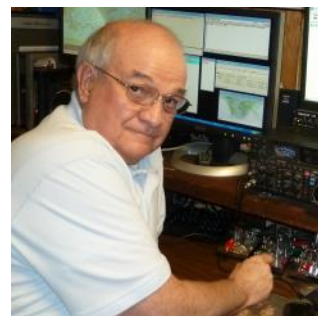
The WoodBug



Winner of the ARRL's 2019 Key Competition. See story by Gary NA6O on [page 13](#).

President's Message

Soon we will be closing this calendar year after seasonal celebrations. It will be time to start a new year and think about new goals, new challenges, new techniques, or maybe re-phrased as completing existing goals, challenges. Congratulations to all who have achieved new levels of performance in ham radio activities. To some like me, I find that continued efforts, planning and evaluating results helps my focus. I'd like to compete in more CW contests and beat my previous scores.



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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 March 11-12.

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](#)

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Next month we'll review some of CWops achievements in different areas. Those areas will include growth in membership, financial status, CWops CW Academy performance and other awards. The 10th Anniversary of CWops organization will be celebrated during January 2020. The celebration will be continuous from January 1st to the 31st. Some of our members will be using the special call signs that were created for such a use during 2019. Look for additional details during December via the groups.io reflector and the CWops website so you can participate in the January Celebration. You don't want to miss this, it's a big deal for all of us.

In the past month Atsu Taniguchi JE1TRV (CWops #141) has asked to be relieved of his status as CWops Ambassador to Japan. He was installed in the position by former president Rob Brownstein, K6RB. We appreciate all that Atsu has done in Japan for promotion of CWops organization and the development of an equivalent program to CW Academy. Atsu will be succeeded by Dai Nagakura JF2IWL (CWops #1286).

This succession of highly qualified individuals in positions our organization depends upon has been impressive and revealing. Impressive because our mem-

bership includes hams who have performed well in their professions/positions where they earned their income. Revealing because those skills are being applied to the needs of CWops. An example is the solution to the CW Academy student scheduling and assignments tasks that Joe Fischer AA8TA and Kate Hutton K6HTN have coped with using spreadsheets and other means. They performed a huge task and never failed to meet the needs of the Advisors in forming the semester classes. They were processing about 300 student applications every semester which is an enormous job. You may recall that a request for help was mentioned previously for someone within our membership to come forward and help apply more advanced means to improving the situa-

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JE1TRV (top) and JF2IWL (bottom). Images from QRZ.com.

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tion. That appeal was intercepted by Glenn Norman W4YES and Bob Carter WR7Q. Both have years of background experience in businesses related to data processing. In September/October, with a small investment in some software, Glenn and Bob adapted it to the requirements of CW Academy. It has been introduced to Joe and Kate plus the CW Advisors of Intermediate Level (formerly Level 2 and 2P). It appears that this will be very successful in meeting the scheduling needs that Joe and Kate administer with all levels of the Academy Advisors. It provides more automation, so the stress levels experienced by Joe and Kate ought to be reduced. Please read the article to be published in the January newsletter entitled, "CW Academy Phase II." The authors Glenn W4YES and Bob WR7Q detail the changes that are being implemented.

CW Academy has trained approximately 4,000 students in Morse Code through all levels in 10 years but the bulk of them are in the Beginner group. All the Advisors are invested in the success of their students and want them to grow through all the levels of development. We would like for all the students to meet and exceed the performance goals. We take all comers and do our very best to help them learn all the characters, numbers, common punctuation marks, common Q codes and Pro-signs. Can we do better? I am an Advisor and I think I could do better. How do we know the results of our training? We don't currently know but the work that Glenn and Bob have begun can be carried further by focusing on what they call 'Metrics.' I recently read a paper written to describe how the Army used to find and train Morse Code operators. They sorted the prospects by a battery of tests and assigned those with an aptitude to learn CW to further training. Those who were not chosen were given other duties. In our case, we haven't screened applicants as we've made it available for anyone with an interest and we will continue doing that. Recent changes to the CW Academy website are very helpful. Specifically, we now have a "Student Self -Assessment" application where one can gauge the class level to apply for. This app will help students evaluate where their training needs to start. I suspect all advisors have encountered differences in performance with their students and yet most students enjoy the experience and have gained an appreciation of cw. This app/tool ought to give Advisors a more uniform group of students to begin their semesters. Now we ought to look for ways to improve the results of our students. Anyone who takes on the responsibility of advising students is gratefully appreciated by the Academy. All the implied work and tasks will need more members to get engaged with the Academy and apply some of their learned skills to support the improvements that Glenn and Bob refer to at the end of their article.

A number of improvements have been made to our website, CWOPS.ORG, and if you haven't reviewed it lately let me encourage you to get familiar with it. The Webmasters are doing an excellent job.

I hope everyone will be spared from bad weather this winter. Contest season is definitely underway, and I hope all of you have great success. Meanwhile, Christmas and New Year's festivities with family and friends are just days away. May your Holidays be fun and safe.

73,

Mac NN4K, President

From the [Editor](#)

CWops DX; FT8 Again and Again

CWops has something for everyone. You like ragchewing? Check out the [QTX awards](#) and the [monthly column by Bruce K8UDH](#). You like contests? Check out [the CW Open](#), [the CWTs](#) and the [monthly column by Rich VE3KI](#).

You like chasing DX and other operating awards? Check out [the CWops Operating Awards](#) and [the monthly column by Bill W0TG](#). Gary N5PHT did something nice just before last months CQ WW CW contest. He compiled a list of CWops members who had announced plans to operate from various DX locations and under callsigns other than their own, to make it easier for CWops members to claim these QSOs for credit in the Operating Awards program. The table (right) is a list I compiled from both Gary's information and subsequent posting by other members to the CWops list. Use these to make sure you get proper credit if you are chasing operating awards; I was able to snag three new CWops DX countries thanks to Gary's list. Rob K6RB also provided a chart for the individual operating times of for PZ5W; [check this groups.io posting](#) to see which operator you worked based on band and time of day.

Ready for more on FT8? As I mentioned in [my November column](#), I received two separate "Point of View" essays written by two different CWops members which focus on FT8 in one aspect or another. Last month I gave my column space to Rob K6RB who asked if FT8 will kill ham radio, and this month I yield to Steph F5NZY, who recently decided to take a listen and see what all the fuss is about. As Point of View articles, please remember that they represent the opinions of their authors and not CWops or me.

Call	Operator
5T0AA	PE5O
6V7A	N5ZO (1st 6 hrs on 20 and 80)
9H3TX	DF4XX
BP2WW	AA7V
C56DF	G3XTT
HC0T	K0AV
HI3CC	N4YDU
HQ9M	N3AD
KP2M	KT3Y
KP3DX	NP4Z
MD4K	G3NKC
P40W	W2GD
PJ2T	KY7M, N5OT, VE3CX
PZ5W	K0TG, KM0O, K6RB, N6XI, N0AT, W0OR
TI7W	KL9A
TM7A	F5IJ
V47T	NWNT
XV9D	RM2D
ZF1A	N5MJ
ZF9CW	K5GO

FT8: I Gave It A Try

[Steph Collas F5NZY](#)

Not wanting to die an ignoramus, a few weeks ago I installed WSJT-X and did a little listening (it didn't last long). I took a big shot behind the head, because I feel like I'm not in tune with my time at all.

To be honest, I absolutely do not understand the excitement generated by this mode. Everything is automatic! The software decodes, we click on the left window (it goes on the right window), we click at the bottom right to exchange a report and a locator, and before we know it, the "QSO" is logged. No exchange, no personal effort, but a friend told me that's why this mode satisfies its

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audience, and I agree with this analysis.

I have already voiced my opinion on a mailing list to which I am subscribed. An OM replied that Ham Radio operators were "Experimenters" and that therefore FT8 was very good! He added that I had to be a Ham Radio Amateur stuck in the past, similar to prior years when CW operators criticized SSB when it was a new mode.

I don't see how the operator experiments with anything, clicking on two buttons on the interface of a computer program to blacken a Log line. A program, moreover, of which he has no understanding of how it works. The writing of such software is indeed a great success of invested effort in its writing and development. But its exploitation by this kind by an OM of which I speak above, does not require any technical ability, and I suppose that everyone takes his pleasure as he can, and according to his faculties!

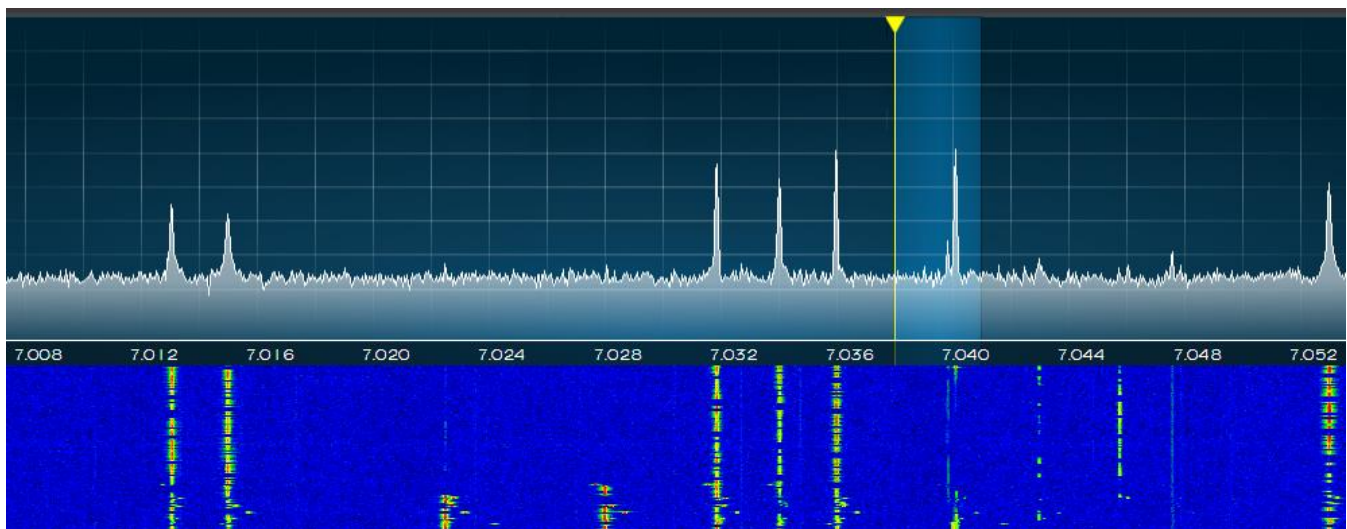
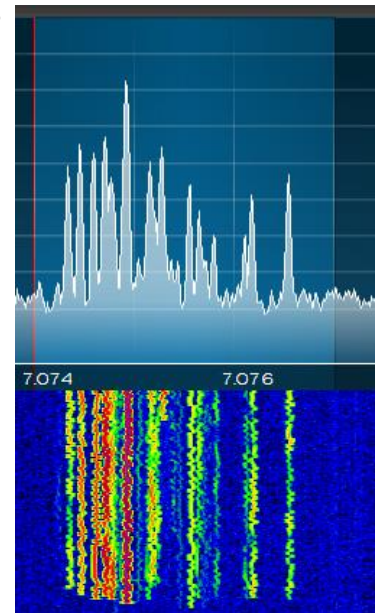
I noticed on the WSJT-X interface that there was a "DX-Pedition" mode, maybe it's not even necessary to click anymore, on these two buttons? (I didn't check). A true Experimenter is not a simple user who does not understand how his station works....

So I will, like a Ham Radio Amateur of the past, continue to hang onto my keys, practice my dear Telegraphy, with my ears, and continue my traffic.

Another of my friends told me that there was something for everyone, to each his own. An argument that I understand and accept.

Finally, I was never interested in collecting awards for my operations. Only the pleasure I take in exchanging is important to me.

I note, and personally regret that the Club Log statistics of current DX expeditions show that there are now, more often than not, more stations contacted in FT8, than in CW and SSB combined. Sad times....



Top: The 3 kHz 40m FT8 sub band at 1400z on a Monday morning; Bottom: kHz of th 40m CW sub band at 1400z on the same Monday morning.

CW Operators' Club Tenth Anniversary Celebration

[Bill Gilliland W0TG](#)



10 Years

2010 - 2020

With less than a month until the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration begins, things have come together nicely, and excitement is building. As indicated in the list below, we have 54 special callsigns that will be active, and we expect more to be added before the Celebration starts. Despite the short time left, there's still time to acquire a special call sign for the event, especially for U.S. stations where it takes only one or two days to be approved. If you need help applying, contact cwops10th@w0tg.com.

Complete rules for the event, including QSL and awards information are on [the CWops Website Celebration page](#). There are a few minor rules changes since last month and a complete rewrite makes them all easier to understand. Please take time to review them prior to the event and if you have questions contact cwops10th@w0tg.com.

The committee and other volunteers have been very busy developing tools and resources to support the event. We have really cool QSL and certificate templates and lots of other cool stuff. Please refer to the article "[CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration Logging and Scoring Resources](#)" by Bud, AA3B, in this issue of *Solid Copy* for more information.

You have perhaps noticed publicity for the Celebration in various periodicals, newsletters, reflectors and public media groups. If you have access to one of these that has not yet featured Celebration publicity, we'd like for you to help us get the Celebration announcement posted. Please contact cwops10th@w0tg.com and we'll help you get it done.

As the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration approaches, remember that your best resource for all things event related is [the 10th Anniversary web page](#). It will always contain the most up to date information about rules, resources, awards, QSLs and special event callsigns. In addition, the special event callsign QRZ pages provide information about where they will be operating and who

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the operators will be.

It's going to be a really fun event with lots of participants. Please help us celebrate 10 years of CWops by being on the air as much as possible and identifying as a CWops member. And don't forget to send in your logs!

CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration Special Event Callsigns

Callsign	Contact	Callsign	Contact
DQ10CWO	DK5KK	N5A	KT5CWO
DR10CWO	DK5KK	N5T	W0TG
EG4CWO	EA4OR	N5W	N5WA
EM10CWO	CWops Members Ukraine	OL10CWO	OK1RR, OK1TN
G2CWO	CW Operators' Club England	PG10CWO	PG4I
GI2CWO	CW Operators' Club Northern Ireland	SD10CWO	SM6JWR/SD6F
GM2CWO	CW Operators' Club Scotland	SF10CWO	SM6CUK
GW2CWO	CW Operators' Club Wales	SM10CWO	SM1TDE
K1K	K1EBY	SN10CWO	SQ9S
K3CWO	Atlantic CWops Club	TM10CWO	F6ENO
K3M	N3FZ	TM5CWO	F5JVP
K4CWT	Southeast CWops Club	TM6CWO	F6CEL
K4T	WF7T	VA1CWO	VE1RM
K5A	W8OV	VC3CWO	VE3NNT
K5M	KA5M	W0C	N5PHT
K5N	KG5VK	W0CWO	Dakota CWops Club
K8G	KB8GAE	W1C	W1RM
KE2CWO	Hudson CWops Club	W1CWT	New England CWops Club
KE6CWO	Southwest CWops Club	W4A	N4AF
KK1CWO	Cape Cod CWops Club	W4O	WF7T
KN5CWO	Delta CWops Club	W4Y	W7IY
KN8CWO	Great Lakes CWops Club	W6CWO	Pacific CWops Club
KT5CWO	West Gulf CWops Club	W7C	W7SW
KX4CWO	Roanoke CWops Club	W7CWO	Northwest CWops Club
LZ10CWO	LZ1HW	W7F	W7SW (Fun ARC)
N0CWO	Midwest CWops Club	W9CWO	Central CWops Club
N1C	W1QK	WY7CWO	Rocky Mountain CWops Club



Election Results

[Don Greenbaum N1DG](#)

The election season for CWops is over and I am pleased to announce the following winners:

Vice President : Peter Butler, W1UU
Director: Stew Rolfe, GW0ETF

15% of the members exercised their right to vote. We advertised the election in 2 newsletters, 2 general emails and the front page of our website.

Thanks for participating in the governance of our club.

Don N1DG

Chair, Nominating Committee

Time To Pay Your 2020 Dues

If your CWops membership is scheduled to expire at the end of 2019 please do the following to renew: [Log onto the CWops website](#) (the password is morse8). It's that easy. Well, you also have to submit payment, typically by PayPal. Please use the "pay friend" rather than "for product or services" option as this saves us a commission charge. Or send a check to K9CT (use QRZ.COM address).

If you are wondering whether you want to renew, consider that CWops is the only club that has a CW Academy and teaches nearly a thousand students Morse Code every year, plus it sponsors awards for CW achievement, issues recognition for ragchewing, and supports weekly CWT activity sessions (and annual CWO events). More than all of this, it is an international fraternity of CW enthusiasts unlike any other, so you have good reason to be proud of being a member.

We urge those who are renewing to do so for 5 years or, even better, lifetime membership. Why? Because it makes administration so much easier, and it removes the need for you to ever worry about renewal again. Besides, on an annual basis it's relatively inexpensive. In fact, we guarantee you will live long enough to make it a long-term bargain, or your money back! More seriously, the life membership option is good for both you and the club.

Your Officers and Board

News and Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

Bill VE3XT: Became a silent key on Sunday after a battle with cancer. You may have met him on the air during CWTs, or perhaps in person at Dayton. Bill had served with distinction on the RAC Board of Directors and in other capacities both at RAC and in other organizations. His quick wit and dry sense of humor will be missed by his many friends. He is survived by his wife Rita.

Rick, N6XI: N6XI had fun in CQWW CW from PZ5W in an all-CWops team including N0AT, K6RB, KM0O, K0TG, and W0OR. K6RB will have a full report in the January issue of *Solid Copy*.

Ed, W2LCQ: At right is a picture of my shack with the new ICOM 7300 which replaced a 15-year-old 756 Pro III.

It was taken during the recent CQ WW DX CW contest. I'm using N1MM+ contest logging software with the Spectrum window. The paddle in the lower left is by N3ZN.

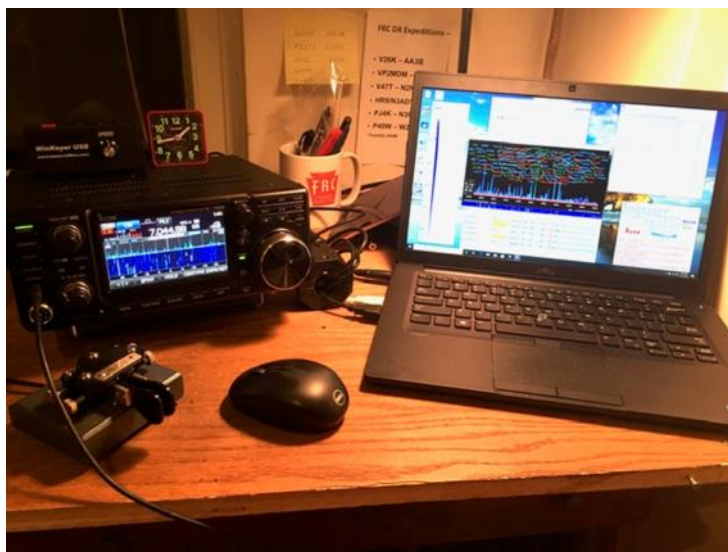
Doug K8PO: Has K8PO as a new vanity callsign. Former call was KY4F.

Duncan, ZL/G3WZD: QRV again from ZL!

I'm back in ZL for a time and QRV on 80/40/30/20 with the ICOM-706MIIG and a linked dipole from the beautiful Bay of Islands in the Far North District of New Zealand's North Island.

The Bay of Islands comprises 144 islands and is the location of the township of Russell, noted for being the location of The Swordfish Club, the second oldest game fishing club in the world, and The Duke of Marlborough, New Zealand's very first licensed pub. Visiting Russell now, a very popular tourist destination, it is really hard to believe that it was once known as The Hell Hole of The Pacific!

Deciding the conditions are such that I needed a little extra help, I brought an RMA 300W compact solid-state amp with me this time and, instead of coax, the linked dipole for 40/30/20m is fed with thin 75 Ohm twin, so less noise. The switchable balun at the shack end of the feeder allows me to strap the feeders & load the dipole as a Marconi-T on 80m.



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My host's 5-acre property is bordered on two sides (South and West) by extensive stands of tall bamboo; commonly used here as windbreaks around Avocado plantations, farmlets and vineyards. Beyond the bamboo are many tall Casuarina trees, some around 70' or so. The bamboo is ideal for the dipole support

Don't be fooled by the boom mic on the headset – operation is exclusively CW... By the way, I can highly recommend the new Heil BM-17 headset – very light & comfortable, and ideal for travelling unless space is at real premium.

Dipping in and out of 40m during the CQWW CW contest was fun. I heard some familiar calls including N3JT and NR4M but only managed one Q with a CWops member, Bill K2PO. The CWTs are still mostly barren with only one Q since I arrived here on 8th November; that was with Marv N5AW a couple of weeks ago during the 03:00z session.



Thirty-foot tall bamboo antenna pole.

Don, ZL3DMC, a graduate of my last CWA L1 class, introduced me to the daily NZART Traffic Net at 08:00z on 3.525 kHz and run by Net Controller, Neil ZL1NZ. I was delighted to learn that Don calls in regularly to get some on-air practice, in addition to making other QSOs. I've already called in and was made to feel very welcome.

1st December is the first day of the meteorological summer and the temperatures are already very pleasant, with daytime highs of around 25C. It is said that the Bay of Islands area is winterless with temperatures rarely getting down to low single digits. Frost is a rarity!



I can be found calling CQ 7.005 kHz +/- activity most days from about 19:30z and it would be great to work any CWops members.

Gary, AF8A: Despite the colder WX in Ohio, I am continuing to improve my 'CWT portable' capabilities (operating from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, south of Cleveland). I operated the 1300z session on 11/20 with my IC-706 powered by a 20Ah LiFePO4 battery.

Next challenge: Solar battery charging. Onwards and upwards, all in the name of 'off the grid' CW operation.

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I need to give some credit to Walt, KC8J. (#2085). He invited me over to do some antenna and battery testing a few weeks prior, when we both operated the 1900z session on 10/30 from his back garden. It was great to make the acquaintance of a local ham, especially since we have much in common: CWops, retired electrical engineers and Case Institute of Technology (W8EDU) alumni.

Dan, KB6NU: I'm working on one of the first courses in the ARRL's new Lifelong Learning program (<http://www.arrl.org/lifelong-learning>).

The course that they've hired me to develop is "Introduction to Amateur Radio Communications".

Chuck, NO5W: I'm not sure if members are aware but it should be noted that one of our young members, Bryant Rascol - KG5HVO, has recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and will be having his 'Court of Honor' in mid-December.

How often does CWops have the opportunity to celebrate one of our members reaching such an awesome goal! A round of internet applause and congratulations is certainly due to Bryant and his family.

Special Election Notice

Every CWops member has been sent an email regarding a Board proposal to expand the number of Directors of our Club to 7 from the current 3. By the time this issue of *Solid Copy* is published there will be voting on our website. The email contains the link that will allow you to vote. Didn't get an email? [Contact Jim N3JT](#).

Update Results: 2019 CW Open Team Scores

[Bruce Meier N1LN](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Team UK for bringing a reporting error in the published results to my attention. Not sure what happened but I managed to omit two Session 1 scores in the Team UK total. Specifically, I left out the scores for G2CWO (Duncan) and G3XLG (Ray). The following Team UK listing has been updated reflecting all the scores. Fortunately, the team standings were not affected by this oversight.

Thanks guys for letting me know!!!

	Ses 1	Ses 2	Ses 3	Total
11: Team UK				
G4ILW	256	1458	na	1714
G2CWO	1360	2703	3808	6511
G3LDI	1300	1040	3525	5865
G3XLG	3072	8316	8528	16844
G3YLA	1144	2898	4368	8410
GM2CWO	345	304	598	1247
GW2CWO	8880	17182	32683	58745
MODHP	945	2300	2668	5913
MORYB	1148	7315	5934	14397
M2D	2440	5355	10560	18355
				142,433

CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration

Logging and Scoring Resources

[Bud Trench AA3B](#)



10 Years

2010 - 2020

The CW Operators' Club (CWops) will celebrate its 10th anniversary during the month of January 2020 with an on-air event. The Celebration is open to all. The "exchange" is a signal report and any other information such as name, location, or membership number as desired. CWops members may work anyone and non-members may only work CWops members. To add to the fun, many special callsigns will be activated for the Celebration. Additional information on the Celebration, including the rules, a listing of the celebratory special callsigns, awards program overview and supporting resources is available at [Rules and Information](#).

The input to the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration log checking and scoring process is a Cabrillo 3.0 file. The Cabrillo 3.0 file header should include the following information:

- CALLSIGN: (the callsign used during the operation)
- CATEGORY-POWER: (High, Low, QRP)
- CATEGORY-MODE: CW
- CATEGORY-OPERATOR: (SINGLE-OP, MULTI-OP)
- EMAIL: (the email of the point of contact for the log)
- OPERATORS: (List of callsigns)
- All other Cabrillo 3.0 File header information is optional

The Cabrillo 3.0 file QSO lines should contain: Frequency, Mode, Date, UTC, Callsign used during the Operation, RST sent, Call worked, RST received. All other QSO line data is optional. Note: CWT QSOs do not need to include RST sent or RST received.

The above requirements can be readily satisfied by many logging programs. A typical approach would be to use the DX Expedition module that is included in most logging applications. If the DX Expedition module only produces an ADI file, then an ADIF to Cabrillo 3.0 converter could be employed to produce the required Cabrillo 3.0 file.

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An N1MM Logger+ User Defined Contest (UDC) module for the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration has been developed and tested. The UDC, along with supporting files and documentation, is available at [N1MM+ UDC](#). These same files are also available at the N1MM Logger+ website in the [UDC](#) folder. Key features of the UDC include:

- Automatic scoring
- Display of member number, name and miscellaneous information based on a call history file created and maintained by VE2FK
- Ability to add CWops member calls on the fly
- Identification of CWops member calls in the Check Log/Master window if an optional master_cwo.scp file is loaded
- Generation of a compliant Cabrillo 3.0 file

A single Cabrillo 3.0 file should be submitted per the instructions in the rules. Multiple log files that result from multi-operator efforts or from CWTs should be combined into one Cabrillo 3.0 file using a text editor, or the Log Scoring application discussed below.

For those operators that chose not to use the N1MM Logger+ UDC module, and / or create multiple logs during the event, scoring and creation of a compliant single log can be accomplished using a Log Scoring application developed by K6DGW. The inputs to the application are compliant Cabrillo 3.0 log(s) and the outputs are a summary of total QSOs worked / total members worked and a single Cabrillo 3.0 file for submittal to the log checking process. The Log Scoring application and supporting documentation is available at [Log Scoring Application](#).

The Traveling WoodBug

[Gary Johnson, NA6O](#)

This year, I had the honor of winning the ARRL Key Competition, which appeared in the October issue of QST ([see photo page 1](#)). My submission was the *WoodBug*, a semiautomatic key made almost entirely of wood. A detailed article was presented here in [Solid Copy in March, 2016](#) and there is more information including annotated photos of its [construction on my website](#). As a brief summary, here are the main features of this bug:

- Fabricated almost entirely of cocobolo wood. All components are handmade and finished with great care.
- Very low inertia mechanism. You can adjust it to feel like a high-performance iambic paddle, or like a traditional bug.
- Return forces supplied by magnets in attraction mode to provide crisp action.

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- Return force adjustments made via a novel rotary adjuster.
- Magnetic reed switch for the dot contact.
- Dot weighting is precisely adjustable while operating.
- No lock nuts are used for any adjustments.
- Extra-fine 56 TPI threads with an interference fit provide high-resolution positioning.
- Sealed ball bearing pivots with zero slop.
- Speed adjustment range 16 to 43 WPM.

I made the very first one for myself as a personal challenge, mostly to see if I could improve on over 100 years of bug-making. There have been hundreds of commercial designs with countless variations and inventions, as well as untold numbers of homebrew designs, [such as the incredible mechanisms of my friend Richard Meiss, WB9LPU](#). My particular approach leveraged my woodworking and precision machining skills with the goal of having very low operating forces similar to a fine modern paddle. In the end, I was very happy with the results. One question remained: Would anyone else appreciate this novel bug design?

Hello, Summer

A great many members of CWops knew Summer Hartzfeld, VE5SDH. She and I became good friends after a number of QSOs and many emails. Summer was blind from birth but was an exceptional CW operator, quickly gaining top-notch skills and was even invited to join FOC after only a few years on the air. Her bug fist and operating habits were exemplary to say the least. And (not everyone knew this) she was a Morse key collector, eventually amassing 79 different models and using many of them on the air at some time.



Detailing parts during construction

During one of our QSOs, I used my WoodBug and briefly described it to Summer. “Why don’t you make one for me hi hi?” she asked, jokingly. At that moment the wheels started turning. Now, I’m not much for manufacturing. Making more than one of anything is a rarity in my shop. But the thought of offering a handmade gift for a friend was something I couldn’t pass up.

After some design changes, I went ahead and did a run of five Model 2 WoodBugs. They’re not much different than my prototype but I made sure they were a bit more robust. The work took me about 250 hours. Serial number one went to Summer; it has her call there on the base in Braille ([see photo page 1](#)). The others were sold to KT5X, W9YA, NA6M, and IZ0KRC. (Sorry, I have no plans to make any more at this time.) Summer really enjoyed exploring her new key and

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called it “finger candy.”

Passing On

Sadly, Summer passed away from cancer in August 2018. This was a great personal loss to me as well as to CW operators everywhere. Her friend Gordon, VE5UJ, worked with members of FOC to disperse her ham equipment and wonderful key collection. He returned serial number one to me. Now the challenge was to find another worthy owner. A couple of candidates came up, but it didn't take long to decide. I heard the outstanding bug fist of Dave Hillebrandt, W4CI, and then found out that he, too, was a blind ham. Also, he had actually met Summer. This was a match made in heaven, so off it went.

On the Air Again

Dave is thrilled with his new bug and has been using it steadily on the air. If you get a chance to work W4CI, make sure Dave gives you a demonstration. He sounds so good on that bug that you might think it was a keyer but with some personality. W4CI, KT5X and I have had WoodBug-WoodBug QSOs which is kind of neat. Frankly I'm amazed at the positive comments I've received about this unusual key design. It has been a pleasure to hear it on the air in the hands of skilled operators.



Dave W4CI with WoodBug S.N. 1

QRP Radio with the Scouts

[George Burger W0PHX](#)

The [Vermilion Range Amateur Radio Club](#) (VRARC) in Ely, Minnesota, was approached by a Boy Scout to showcase Amateur Radio to the Order of the Arrow Section Conclave. The Conclave was held in September at the [Northern Tier Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base](#). During the Conclave, an outdoors expo was planned which would highlight many of the area's outfitters, lodges, guides, colleges, vendors, and organizations. I thought this would be a great opportunity to show scouts how amateur radio is still utilized in the outdoors in both hobby and emergency situations.

The Northern Tier Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base hosts thousands of Boy Scouts every

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year and has been doing so since 1941. The base offers expeditions from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Ely to the [Quetico Provincial Park](#) in Ontario, Canada. The base also has a winter camping program. Ely is located in the [Superior National Forest](#) and is known as the gateway to the



[Boundary Waters Canoe Area](#). The Boundary Waters Canoe Area, known as the BWCA, is a protected wilderness that includes over a million acres of forest, lakes, and streams. The BWCA is a popular destination for canoeing, hiking, camping, and fishing.

A big part of scouting is learning skills to be prepared and survive in less than ideal situations and that's why the area is the perfect area for the base. Ely Minnesota has the nickname "End of the Road" because once you venture out it's pure wilderness. Operating radio equipment outside of the shack has become popular in recent years. I am used to operating outside the confines of my home with low power. Aside from Mobile HF, I also participate in portable activities such as [World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio](#) (WWFF) and [Summits on the Air](#) (SOTA). While in Wyoming, my wife mentioned that even though we had no cellular service, because we had my portable HF setup, we'd be able to summon help if needed. I had to add that CW would guarantee we'd reach someone due to its reliability. With these experiences I knew I could keep the scouts interested as I talked about Amateur Radio and how useful it is in the outdoors.

During the drive to the base, I chatted over the KOVRC repeater to my friend in Arizona using Wires-X. A black bear ran in front of my Jeep. I arrived and started to set up my booth. My



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setup was an Elecraft KX3 and a Sotabeams linked dipole. I felt at home with the Ely Fire Department and US Border Patrol next to my booth. Both of those agencies participate in events where we exercise radio interoperability.

As I tuned around the bands for some background chatter, there was not much heard on SSB but as I ventured down into the CW portion, numerous signals were found. A couple quick QSOs to WWFF and SOTA ops were logged to give the visitors to the booth an idea as to my communication range. I explained that those operators were also portable and outside like myself.

I was surprised how many Scouts have been exposed to amateur radio. The Scouts were amazed when they saw how simple my setup was and that I was running the same amount of power as the portable radio the Fire Chief had slung around his shoulder. I overheard one Border Patrol Agent tell a Scout "his stuff works where ours won't". One Scout asked why Morse code was still used.

Aside from contests, I explained that it was reliable because the single frequency tone does not need the same bandwidth that a voice needs, using the example of a knife cutting through a cake. I also talked about how data can be passed to another using the International Space Station or how voice contacts can be made using satellites.

The CW Ops CW Open Contest came alive and I was able to demo how contesting works. I made a number of contest QSOs and then told the Scouts the locations of those I contacted. The Scouts were impressed that within minutes, I was able to exchange information to operators in both California, New Jersey, and Texas. Still amazed that I was only using 5 watts, a Scout asked if lower power could be used. I explained that using CW, I have had many QSOs into Europe using about 2.8 watts. Another question included why amateur radio could still work when there was no cellular service. My simple answer was that the different layers in the atmosphere and the sun play a big part in where our radio waves travel to. That Scout caught on quick and said, "that means radio waves are all



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around us". I was surprised when one Scout mentioned he experiments with AM radio and how he can hear stations in other states at night and this gave me the chance to talk about why certain bands are better at night than day.

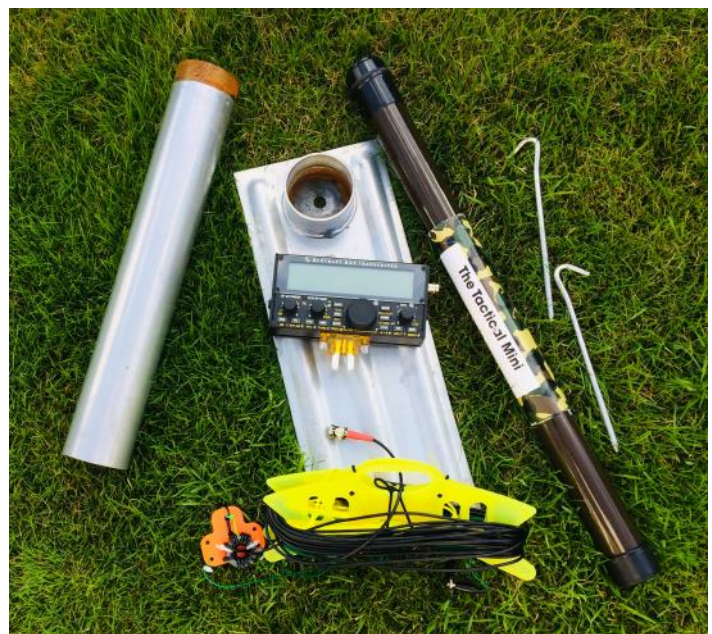
I enjoyed talking about the portability of QRP and how you can stow a small radio, a wire antenna, and a battery in a pack for travel. Using the BWCA as an example, I told the group that once camp is setup, I find a rock, tie some rope to it and sling it over a tree branch to hoist the wire in the air. Within minutes you can be on the air and chatting with someone across the country about your camping adventure or seeking out that DX station 5,000 miles away just to say you made a 1,000 mile per watt contact. I showed photos from different WWFF and SOTA adventures. A Scout's father came up to me after and said he used to be licensed and after hearing me talk about portable operating, it sparked an interest to renew the hobby for him.

Operating Abroad

[Will Bradley M0WWB](#)

One of the privileges of holding the full UK amateur radio license is the opportunity to transmit from foreign countries under the CEPT international agreement. I enjoy exercising this privilege, having operated in Norway and Canada and now in the Republic of Ireland when my callsign became EI/M0WWB.

My wife and I had a short break in County Donegal; we stayed in Dunfanaghy which served as our base. The locations from which I operated were Horn Head, a high point just outside Dunfanaghy, Cruit Island and Gweedore, both overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. These locations at the beginning of our stay in Donegal were extremely stormy and presented a real challenge in getting the dipole elevated and then keeping it elevated. Wind levels reduced later in the week and I revisited both Horn Head and Gweedore for further portable operation.



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On this trip my chosen band was 40m, a band at my home QTH which is exceptionally noisy. I think there is merit in sticking to one band in order to get to know its characteristics. Operating in these remote and wild locations where the electrical noise is zero is a real joy to work on 40m in these near perfect conditions. My operating times were usually late morning into the afternoon. I would liked to have undertaken more evening operations when 40m behaves differently, but the opportunity to do so only presented itself on the final evening of this trip when I noticed the band was much more active, as you would expect.



Signals during Monday through to Wednesday were generally strong, working stations in Germany and France, however most of the contacts came from English and Welsh stations. Although I did hear stations from the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy. Thursday presented more difficult conditions, signals heard were few and far between and only two English stations were worked. Friday was my last day of operation and proved equally demanding, nevertheless I



worked stations in England, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden. I was however surprised to be spotted on RBN in America.

The portable kit is simple, the rig is an Elecraft KX2 with a maximum power of 10 watts. The mast is a telescopic 7 metre fibreglass pole, used to support a simple dipole wire. A drive-on mast support is used to hold the mast and that is the total of the equipment required for portable operation.

With my meagre 10 watts I worked into seven entities; Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Wales. I didn't manage to cross the Atlantic Ocean, but I did notice that on

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RBN I was spotted by an American station. Short holiday breaks combine very well with amateur radio, there is something therapeutic about sitting in a remote location viewing spectacular scenery and far away from electronic noise and tapping away on a Morse key. I plan to do more of this!



CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

As of 1 December, we are approaching the finish line for the CWT participation medals.

You can see your “official” totals toward the awards in the topolist.txt file at the [CWops groups.io web site](http://CWops.groups.io/web_site). From now until the end of the year I will try to update this list more often than usual, but even so, most of the time it will likely be a week or more out of date. If you have participated in CWTs since the date at the top of the file and made at least 10 QSOs in each CWT (or at least 5 QSOs if you operated from Africa, Asia, Oceania or South America), then just add the number of those more recent CWTs to the total beside your call sign in the file to get your current total.

I have tried my best to make these counts as accurate as I can, but if you think I have missed something, let me know at ve3ki@rac.ca so I can update my records as needed.

The qualification levels for the three awards are as follows:

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- Gold: 120 CWTs for North American stations, 90 CWTs for stations in Europe, and 60 CWTs for stations in the rest of the world.
- Silver: 80 CWTs for North American stations, 60 CWTs for European stations, and 40 CWTs for stations in the rest of the world.
- Bronze: 50 CWTs for North American stations, 36 CWTs for European stations, and 24 CWTs for stations in the rest of the world.

As of December 1, there were 71 members who had already reached the gold medal level, 104 more who had already reached silver, and another 109 who had reached bronze. That's an impressive medal haul. In addition, quite a few of those who have already reached the silver or bronze levels will move up a level during December, and there will be several more just below the bronze level who will qualify by the end of the year. I'll try to get the final numbers crunched in time for the January issue of *Solid Copy*.

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](#)

We are very pleased to report the results from the September-October 2019 semester, another great set of classes. We had 269 students enrolled in one of our classes. For the entire year of 2019, we had 1,468 students sign up for a class and had 84 advisors lead at least one class.

You might notice some changes to the CW Academy have been made including changes to class names. Look for an article by Glenn W4YES and Bob WR7Q to explain these changes in the January newsletter. Our former Level 1 class is now called Beginner; Level 2 Prep is now Basic; Level 2 is now Intermediate and Level 3 is now Advanced.

For the Fall, 2019, semester:

Advisors leading four classes: K6HP.

Advisors leading three classes: AC6AC and K1DW.

Advisors leading two classes: AA8TA, G0HKC, K0MP, K5GQ, K6HTN, KK5NA, N7MU, N8LR, VE3FXX, WA9CW and WB7DKZ.

Advisors leading one class: 4X6GP, AA6MK, AA5W, AD6E, AJ1DM, G3WZD, GM0EUL, K0AD, K1BG, K1DJ, K1GU, K2SX, K4AFE, K7SV, KE6K, KK6M, KK6NVZ, KT5V, KU7Y, KV8Q, M0DHP, MI0WWB, N3HEE, N4TMM, N9EP, NN4K, NN7M, NS6W, NU7Y, W0PHX, W2OZB, W3PNM, W4ALF, W4IF,

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W7EEE, W8OV, W8TK, WA3AER, WB0JRH, WR7Q and YL3JD.

Students completing an Advanced class (21): W4MDV, N3BXZ, N4CWZ, NJ4V, WT3C, PA1REG, WF6F, K4EES, K6ZY, K6ZGW, VE2KM, K7III, WD5RS, AG5QX, KJ4ZN, AK4AT, N8HDT, N0TLW, KD2E, W1PY and N7ID.

Students completing an Intermediate class (58): KG7BAF, K7HO, N5AAS, AG7GP, NE0DA, G4VIW, K7MOZ, KG5SW, KC4WZB, KE8CTH, R2ATW, K7AMB, WA4JNP, N7JP, KN4IY, W7VQ, KN4IXU, IK1HGE, K7VP, K7AHR, K5UNX, KD2KW, G0UYG, K1APJ, M0NGN, N9TO, KC9VQB, M0TZX, AJ6CY, WT8P, N4CQD, KE5EN, N4KHZ, KR7F, N3HI, VE7KHI, W0RM, AC8SI, VU3RDD, N9OL, AD8WR, N3DJO, W2XYZ, KG5RXG, KM6DOV, VA3WHU, M0HQO, M0SKF, K6TTT, NG3P, KE8NAN, AA0GM, K9DLP, SV2BXA, K9EXY, K8BMA, AB9TE and WN3F.

Students completing a Basic class (18): N8RFY, N5RWF, W5LIF, AC2MV, AA0O, KV5W, AD4SB, NJ6Q, WR6D, W0GIN, W2HZ, VA7ETR, KF7UXS, K0ES, K8PR, NR5W, N0KLC and KB0JXR.

Students completing a Beginner class (138): KJ4ZBE, AJ6CU, KF5WJ, AI6IE, N2RKL, K5HEM, AA5CF, NN6B, KL3MM, N4PHL, AB8WN, W6HMN, KA5FTZ (Youth CW Academy), KE0OWG, KD6EOD, KI6GFS, KB9YWF, KN4QDE, N3RP, W7MN, K6ZX, N5ZKW, N5PBP, KC7MSU, KN4FDX, KA4WYC, K9WBZ, KG7ZOK, KN4GFS, AJ6CL, KK4VA, K6HZR, WD9EEK, AC0UV, NG7V, KN4TBY, KM4OOD, VA3ON, K7YEM, W5WEO, KD8CGH, WS2J, KI7TGX, N7JCT, KE7MTF, W4FAS, KI2N, AG7LY, WA4PAM, KB4LA, NG6W, KJ7BBN, KJ7BBO, K4OY, WQ0N, VO1IDX, M0RJC, W4EMW, N1NDN, KD2RVN, W9KKQ, K2FN, GI7INR, AD4UM, W4ZW, KE0PDE, KJ6RVK, ZL3DMC, AA9SN, KF9HE, K0HAA, KF7ECI, AC8KJ, AK7PM, WB0BEE, KA1YQC, K4PEW, W5SRS, KI6DC, W3RE, W2PLK, W0ASB, AC8ZE, EI6JG, N4GKM, NT1K, KN4ONH, W6QA, KE0WPF, VE7DCF, N0BTC, W6RQ, KF5OAS, KI7VZD, N9PUZ, KD0MQO, N0AF, KC8YRK, N3KQC, W6YAM, WW5SS, PA3BAS, KG5FZ, K2GAR, WA1MD, MM0XET, KA7MDM, DG6UAX, KI5AZX, K6SZ, AA3NA, K8WWS, W5SD, W5RRD, M0ROJ, N9OVQ, K1SU, W3KBG, W5SJR, N8LSA, K5LOD, N9STF, K4MCX, AG4TD, K5KB, ZS6ACC, K4AUU, KI3V, VK4ALE, K7ERR, NM7P, AG4CC, KA5FTZ, AF6XT, KK6IRC, K6MJF, W6INY and N6PK.

The following students from above are now members of CWops: W4MDV, NJ4V, WF6F, K4EES, K6ZY, K6ZGW, K7III, AG5QX, AK4AT, N9OL, N0TLW and SV2BXA.

CWops presents awards to advisors who complete 6 classes then 12 and multiples of 12 classes. Buzz, AC6AC, and Ron, VE3FXX, have earned awards for 12 classes advised. Al, K0AD, Peter, GM0EUL, and Chris, W4ALF, have earned awards for advising 6 classes.

The diligent reader might note that the Basic class numbers are low compared to the other classes; this is because this is the first time that we have formally allowed students to sign up for these classes and we are still building up advisors who are willing to lead one of these classes. We fully expect this class to have numbers between those of Beginner and Intermediate.

The success of these classes is the direct result of our many advisors who volunteer their time and put so much dedication and passion into helping students succeed. CWops and the greater CW community has benefitted greatly from the advisors listed here and all advisors who have led a class. One of the greatest thrills of leading a class is seeing a student begin to pick up on the material and get excited about learning a new skill.

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If you have not shared in this magic, either as a student or an advisor, we encourage you to contact Kate or me and explore what the CW Academy can do. It is a highly focused program that has been working for several years and has trained thousands of students. We can help you learn as a student and help you as an advisor to train our next generation of CW operators.

73,

Kate K6HTN and **Joe AA8TA**, CW Academy Managers

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

*Life Member

Current Nominees

CWops	Call	Name
2394	W4MDV*	Mike
2395	NJ4V*	Dan
2396	K1IG*	George
2397	N3SW*	Scott
2398	K1OJ*	OJ
2399	N0AT	Ron

CWops	Call	Name
2400	SV2BXA*	Alex
2401	AG5QX*	Mike
2402	WB9DLC	Mike
2403	WT3C*	Tom
2404	N4RT*	Ron
2405	K1AY*	Chris

CWops	Call	Name
2406	I2WIJ*	Bob
2407	N4CWZ*	Dave
2408	KO8SCA	Adrian
2409	N4KH	Jim
2410	W3RT*	Red

As of December 9, 2019

Need Sponsors: WS1L

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



Giving Back

[Rob Brownstein K6RB](#)

Beginning January 1, we will start rolling out the Giving Back program. Here is the first schedule of operators, days and times:

Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local Time Starting January 1, 2020									
	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC	EST	CST	MST	PST	UTC-11
Mon				GM0EUL		K8UDH			
Tues		SV2BBK		GW0ETF	WE5P	KK0ECT	K7NJ	K6RB KK6M	
Wed					N4TMM NS8O N4TMM	K5XU	KU7Y	K6DGW	
Thurs		SV2BBK				AC6ZM		WU6X	
Fri		SV2BBK			VE3FXX W2LCQ	AC6ZM	KU7Y	K6RB	
Sat					VE3FXX	AC6ZM			
Sun								K6RB	

I will be frequently updating this schedule (hopefully adding more calls in empty slots), and beginning in early February, I will be reporting activity by a list such as:

January 2020

- K6RB 11 QSOs - K2UMU, KG4GGX, AG5PG, ... VE3PGN
- SV2BBK 9 QSOs - DL3QK, F6GGB,...5B4AGG

and so on.

Here is what's expected of volunteers. You get on at 7 PM and either answer a CQ or send CQ CWA de callsign. Keep speed at 20-25 wpm at first and QRS as needed. Spend up to an hour on the band. Keep track of date and callsigns worked. Email me a monthly total including callsigns. If you do not hear any CQers and have no luck getting a response to your CQ CWA, try for at least 10 minutes and then feel free to QRT. You might also listen for other volunteers in your time zone and make QSOs with them. The priority, though, is to work non-volunteers, first. That's it.

To volunteer, [please email me with header "giving back"](#) and give me day(s) and time zone info. Right now the list would be full if we have four volunteers per day/time zone. That would provide 28 hours of on-air practice per time zone per week!! But, let's start modestly and work up. We will begin the program on January 1. Thanks, in advance, for considering volunteering. Please pick a day when you know you will be able to make all or most of those commitments.



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland 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. [Use the new online tool to submit your data](#). It's easy! (Watch the tutorial if you have not used the online tool before.)

This table is a composite of scores from the old system and the new. Anyone who submitted logs via the new web page will see those submitted scores here. Those who have not adopted the new process will see scores they reported via the old system. Anyone who see errors in their scores should report them to cwopscam@w0tg.com.

In the table below, members whose call sign are in **RED** have achieved a milestone: 100 DX entities, 40 WAE entities, 50 states (WAS).

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
AA3B	1361	8918	W1RM	201	W9ILY	50	W1RM	57	UR5MM	39
K3WJV	1113	4452	F6HKA	181	NA8V	50	DL6KVA	55	W1RM	38
NA8V	1084	4804	W4VQ	152	N7US	50	F6HKA	53	OK1RR	38
N5AW	1029	2510	DL6KVA	148	N5IR	50	UR5MM	51	N8BJQ	38
K3WW	984	6498	N7WY	143	N2UU	50	OH2BN	51	F6HKA	38
F6HKA	979	5565	G4BUE	143	N2RC	50	VE3KI	49	AA3B	38
W1RM	978	6137	OK1RR	138	N1DC	50	OK1RR	49	W4VQ	37
N8BJQ	956	5858	UR5MM	135	KU7Y	50	G4BUE	47	VE3KI	37
K5CM	895	2740	VE3KI	134	KE4S	50	N8BJQ	45	G4BUE	37
VE3KI	875	5287	OH2BN	127	K8JQ	50	K3WW	45	N5PHT	36
K1VUT	872	2558	N8BJQ	121	K8AJS	50	DJ1YFK	45	K3WW	36
K4WW	859	2252	AA3B	119	K7QA	50	AA3B	45	DL6KVA	36
K8JQ	824	3359	K3WW	118	K5CM	50	IK0YVV	44	AC4CA	36
K8AJS	821	2798	AC4CA	118	K4GM	50	W4VQ	43	OH2BN	35
N5PHT	811	3832	K1ESE	117	K3WW	50	K1ESE	43	N5RR	35
DL6KVA	481	1390	EA8OM	111	K1EBY	50	I5EFO	43	W0VX	34
K7QA	806	2151	N5PHT	110	K0MP	50	W9ILY	42	IK0YVV	34
KG9X	801	2514	N5IR	110	IK0YVV	50	N5RR	42	4X6GP	34
WT9U	798	1984	K1SM	110	AE1T	50	N2UU	42	W9ILY	33
KE8G	789	2185	W9ILY	109	AC4CA	50	K3WJV	42	N5IR	33
K9WX	772	2803	N5RR	105	N5RR	50	EA8OM	42	I5EFO	33
W9ILY	771	4079	W0VX	104	W1RM	50	AC4CA	42	VK7CW	32
NA4J	746	1490	I5EFO	103	W4VQ	50	NA8V	41	NA8V	32
WT2P	741	2976	4X6GP	103	F6HKA	50	K1SM	41	N1EN	32
K1DJ	730	2499	IK0YVV	101	W1UU	50	G4HZV	41	K1SM	32
K1EBY	727	2229	AE1T	101	VE3KI	50	4X6GP	41	K1ESE	32
N2RC	725	3271	EA1WX	99	G4BUE	50	PG4I	40	I5IJ	32

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K1ESE	711	3865	NA8V	97	EA8OM	50	HB9ARF	39	NA6O	30
W0VX	699	3789	N2UU	95	W0EJ	50	AE1T	39	N7US	30
AE1T	678	3206	K3WJV	94	F6JOE	50	IT9VDQ	38	N2RC	30
N7US	671	3035	W1UU	91	W6KY	50	IT9MUO	38	KR3E	30
N1DC	671	2657	N7US	91	N1EN	50	G3LDI	38	RM2D	29
K4TZ	671	1338	VK7CW	90	N5PHT	50	DK1WI	38	K8AJS	29
IK0YVV	670	2958	N1EN	90	F5MNK	50	W0VX	37	IT9VDQ	29
N2UU	664	3954	IT9MUO	90	K5IX	50	SM5IMO	37	N5AW	28
NA6O	656	3132	N2RC	87	K3SEN	50	KR3E	37	N2UU	28
AC4CA	654	4479	F6JOE	87	AD1C	50	K3MD	37	KT5V	28
W2NRA	641	1608	KY7M	86	AA3B	50	G4ILW	37	K4GM	27
K4GM	623	2566	KR3E	86	K5AX	50	F6JOE	37	DJ1YFK	27
KV8Q	601	991	K8AJS	85	I5EFO	50	DL5DBY	37	WT2P	26
CM8NMN	597	1255	I5IYJ	83	VK7CW	50	N5IR	36	W1UU	26
W4WF	594	1402	AD1C	83	K0TC	50	EA1WX	36	N1ZX	26
W3WHK	592	1793	K4HQB	81	KY7M	50	W1UU	35	K4HQB	26
K2TW	591	1739	K1DJ	81	NA6O	50	SM0HEV	35	K3WJV	26
N2WK	587	2339	NA6O	79	K1DJ	50	N1EN	35	K2QB	26
W1UU	551	2818	K5AX	79	N8BJQ	50	M0RYB	35	V31MA	25
SM5IMO	546	1382	DL8PG	79	K9WX	50	IN3FHE	35	K5CM	25
N5IR	540	3421	N1ZX	77	WT2P	50	G4NVR	35	K1DJ	25
WN7S	521	1573	IT9VDQ	77	K1ESE	50	SM7IUN	34	DK1WI	25
W8OV	516	1168	DJ1YFK	77	K3WJV	50	RM2D	34	KU7Y	24
K4QS	510	2069	N1DC	76	K4WW	50	N5AW	34	K9WX	24
KB8GAE	506	895	K9WX	75	K2QB	50	N1DC	34	DL4FDM	24
K0MP	503	1431	K4GM	75	W7GF	50	MI0WWB	34	WT9U	23
K4HQB	491	2193	RM2D	73	WT9U	49	K8AJS	34	KE8G	23
K3SEN	479	1757	K2QB	73	WN7S	49	K4HQB	34	N2WK	22
K1SM	478	2566	WT2P	71	WA3GM	49	IK0NOJ	34	N1DC	22
KJ4M	473	981	KE4S	71	W4WF	49	DL4FDM	34	K8JQ	22
DJ1YFK	472	1491	DK1WI	71	W4ER	49	ON4VT	33	K7QA	22
KT5V	468	1831	N5AW	70	W3WHK	49	M0DHP	33	HB9ARF	22
UR5MM	467	2800	F5MNK	68	W2NRA	49	K1DJ	33	KE4S	21
G3LDI	467	1381	KE8G	67	W0VX	49	SQ9S	32	K6DGW	21
W0TG	463	1196	G4HZV	67	NU7Y	49	N2WK	32	K4WW	21
W2NO	462	961	N2WK	66	NA4J	49	N2RC	32	K3SEN	21
NN4K	444	1941	G3LDI	66	N5AW	49	KY7M	32	G4HZV	21
K4HR	436	1698	W2NRA	65	N2WK	49	I5IYJ	32	WN7S	20
NU7Y	436	1266	V31MA	65	N1ZX	49	F5MNK	32	W0TG	20
AA8TA	433	1583	HB9ARF	65	KT5V	49	F5IYJ	32	K1EBY	20

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K0TC	431	2358	SM5IMO	64	KG9X	49	W2NRA	31	JF2IWL	20
KK0ECT	428	589	WT9U	63	KE8G	49	V31MA	31	IN3FHE	20
OK1RR	424	2539	K3DMG	63	KE4RG	49	N1ZX	31	G3LDI	20
KE4S	412	1959	PG4I	62	K6RB	49	K5AX	31	W7GF	19
W2VM	408	1153	KT5V	61	K4TZ	49	DL8PG	31	W3WHK	19
K4AFE	403	1650	DL5DBY	61	K4HR	49	SV2BBK	30	W2NRA	19
WA3GM	394	1230	K4WW	60	K3MD	49	N7US	30	SM7IUN	19
HB9ARF	393	1382	DL4FDM	60	K1VUT	49	K4GM	30	KG9X	19
W8DN	391	861	K5CM	59	AA8TA	49	K1VUT	30	K4HR	19
K6NR	390	442	K3SEN	59	AB7MP	49	NA6O	29	F5IYJ	19
KE4RG	384	1034	K1EBY	59	DL6KVA	49	KE8G	29	WE5P	18
G4NVR	384	972	W3WHK	58	K6DGW	49	KE4S	29	WA3GM	18
K2QB	382	2023	F5IYJ	58	W8OV	48	K4QS	29	W4ER	18
KT4XN	381	949	K8JQ	57	W8DN	48	K2QB	29	NU7Y	18
W4VQ	368	2881	K4QS	57	UR5MM	48	N5PHT	28	NN4K	18
ON4VT	359	581	K0TC	57	NN4K	48	K4WW	28	K4AFE	18
N5RR	353	4223	W6KY	56	KR3E	48	AD1C	28	K1VUT	18
W4ER	351	1287	K6RB	56	KM4FO	48	W3WHK	27	IK0NOJ	18
KF8O	344	542	K1VUT	56	K4QS	48	VK7CW	27	SM5IMO	17
OH2BN	340	820	IN3FHE	56	K4HQK	48	K1EBY	27	PG4I	17
AB7MP	335	1103	G4NVR	56	K4AFE	48	G3WZD	27	ON4VT	17
N0PP	326	550	SM7IUN	55	K3DMG	48	K9WX	26	G4NVR	17
KB4DE	325	592	ON4VT	54	K2TW	48	K3SEN	26	G4DRS	17
G4BUE	318	3633	IK0NOJ	52	K1SM	48	K3DMG	26	CM8NMN	17
IT9MUO	317	1946	K7QA	51	IT9VDQ	48	G0MGM	26	NA4J	16
K6DGW	313	2122	K4HR	50	EA1WX	48	G0ELZ	25	KB8GAE	15
PG4I	313	464	G4ILW	50	DL8PG	48	EA4OR	25	K0MP	15
W7GF	312	823	NN4K	49	4X6GP	48	WT9U	24	G4ILW	15
G4HZV	306	1008	K4AFE	47	W2VM	47	WT2P	24	DL5DBY	15
WE5P	298	460	SM0HEV	46	W2NO	47	K8JQ	24	AB7MP	15
4X6GP	297	1649	M0RYB	46	W0TG	47	K6RB	24	W8OV	14
DL5DBY	295	823	KU7Y	45	VE1OP	47	G4DRS	23	W2VM	14
NG1R	295	424	KG9X	45	SM5IMO	47	NN4K	22	W2NO	14
K8RJW	294	440	G0MGM	45	OK1RR	47	K7QA	22	SQ9S	14
VE6JF	289	600	W0TG	44	KV8Q	47	K5CM	22	N0PP	14
W8XC	288	412	M0DHP	43	KT4XN	47	K2TW	21	KV8Q	14
AC3BU	285	417	W2VM	42	KK0ECT	47	JF2IWL	21	KT4XN	14
N1ZX	274	1348	WA3GM	41	KJ4M	47	F5PBL	21	KE6K	14
M0RYB	262	525	W4ER	41	KB4DE	47	K4HR	20	AA8TA	14
N1EN	259	2178	K3MD	41	IT9MUO	47	WN7S	19	W8DN	13

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
F5IYJ	252	634	K2TW	41	I5IYJ	47	W2VM	19	N7MU	13
VK7CW	250	1672	CM8NMN	41	HB9ARF	47	KT5V	19	M0DHP	13
IN3FHE	245	769	SQ9S	40	DK1WI	47	WA3GM	18	K2TW	13
AG4EA	241	356	MI0WWB	40	V31MA	46	W6KY	18	W8XC	12
SQ9S	239	377	WN7S	39	N0PP	46	W2NO	18	W4WF	12
W0PHX	233	426	NA4J	39	KE6K	46	VE1OP	18	SM0HEV	12
N7SU	233	327	G4DRS	38	JF2IWL	46	K0TC	18	MI0WWB	12
F6JOE	230	3002	K6DGW	37	DL5DBY	46	G4RCG	18	KE4RG	12
N7MU	227	355	W0EJ	36	VE6JF	46	CM8NMN	18	K4TZ	12
I5EFO	220	1330	SV2BBK	36	W8XC	45	NG1R	17	G3WZD	12
V31MA	218	1520	KB8GAE	36	W0PHX	45	NA4J	17	W0PHX	11
SM0HEV	215	398	WE5P	35	OH2BN	45	KG9X	16	VE6JF	11
SM7IUN	212	425	W2NO	35	KB8GAE	45	K4AFE	16	NR3Z	11
G4ILW	202	657	JF2IWL	35	K6NR	45	W4ER	15	NG1R	11
M0DHP	197	370	G3WZD	35	G3LDI	45	W4WF	14	M0RYB	11
KM4FO	186	1029	AA8TA	35	CM8NMN	45	W0TG	14	KM4FO	11
IK0NOJ	182	366	W8OV	33	AC3BU	45	KU7Y	14	KJ4M	11
N7ID	178	275	KT4XN	33	RM2D	44	W8OV	13		
DK1WI	167	908	VE1OP	32	NG1R	44	W8XC	13		
G3WZD	166	308	KV8Q	32	KF8O	44	KB8GAE	13		
EA4OR	165	210	W8DN	31	K8RJW	44	K8RJW	12		
MI0WWB	164	333	W4WF	30	G4NVR	44	K6DGW	12		
NA1VT	160	306	W8XC	29	G4HZV	44	AJ1DM	12		
W9KM	160	236	NU7Y	29	AJ1DM	44	W8DN	11		
NR3Z	144	186	G0ELZ	29	ON4VT	43	NR3Z	11		
KR3E	140	1602	EA4OR	29	N7SU	43	KT4XN	11		
EA1WX	138	1961	KM4FO	27	F5IYJ	43	K0MP	11		
SV2BBK	135	229	N0PP	26	DJ1YFK	43	AA8TA	11		
W4MDV	133	225	F5PBL	26	N7MU	42	W0EJ	10		
G4RCG	129	131	NG1R	25	N5KW	42	NA1VT	10		
AJ1DM	127	493	W7GF	24	AG4EA	42	N5KW	10		
KU7Y	124	1539	KE4RG	24	WE5P	41	KV8Q	10		
KB8PGW	113	284	K5IX	24	W3RZ	41	KE4RG	10		
KE6K	111	722	AB7MP	24	N7ID	41	KM4FO	9		
N5KW	103	616	K0MP	23	DL4FDM	41	KB4DE	9		
W6GMT	100	118	G4RCG	22	NA1VT	40	WE5P	8		
IT9VDQ	90	1618	AJ1DM	22	G4DRS	40	SM7CIL	8		
F5PBL	88	134	NR3Z	21	IN3FHE	39	N0PP	8		
G0ELZ	75	150	K4TZ	21	W4MDV	38	K5IX	8		
DL4FDM	70	646	K8RJW	19	W9KM	37	KJ4M	7		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W3RZ	69	267	KB4DE	18	PG4I	37	NU7Y	5	AF9W	3
I5IYJ	64	837	W0PHX	17	KB8PGW	37	KK0ECT	5		
G4DRS	61	410	KJ4M	17	IK0NOJ	37	KF8O	5		
AF9W	35	59	W3RZ	16	NR3Z	35	K4TZ	5		
SM7CIL	34	35	N7MU	15	M0RYB	35	AC3BU	5		
K1OJ	20	29	NA1VT	14	G0MGM	35	AB7MP	5		
JF2IWL	18	674	N5KW	14	G3WZD	34	W3RZ	4		
K1IG	9	13	KF8O	14	W6GMT	31	VE6JF	4		
K6RB	0	4032	KE6K	14	MI0WWB	31	W0PHX	3		
K5AX	0	3634	AC3BU	13	SM7IUN	30	N7MU	2		
KY7M	0	3252	VE6JF	12	G4ILW	30	N7ID	2		
EA8OM	0	2758	SM7CIL	11	SQ9S	29	KB8PGW	2		
AD1C	0	2101	KK0ECT	11	G4RCG	28	K1IG	2		
W6KY	0	2088	K1OJ	11	M0DHP	27	AG4EA	2		
N7WY	0	1838	N7ID	9	SM0HEV	26	W9KM	1		
DL8PG	0	1789	K1IG	9	EA4OR	24	W7GF	1		
K3DMG	0	1773	W4MDV	8	AF9W	23	W6GMT	1		
K3MD	0	1734	W6GMT	6	SV2BBK	18	W4MDV	1		
RM2D	0	1182	N7SU	6	G0ELZ	18	N7SU	1		
F5MNK	0	1111	AG4EA	6	SM7CIL	13	KE6K	1		
K5IX	0	892	KB8PGW	5	F5PBL	13	K6NR	1		
VE1OP	0	768	K6NR	5	K1OJ	3	K1OJ	1		
W0EJ	0	754	W9KM	4	K1IG	1				
G0MGM	0	495								

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Bruce Murdock K8UDH

I'm glad that someone before me thought of the creative subtitle for the QTX Report – "Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW." It really is an art form. I didn't think of it that way many years ago or appreciate the rich history of CW. It was just fun, and it still is, no matter how you use CW. It truly is a very unique and special mode of communication.

This column is dedicated to those who enjoy Conversational CW QSOs. So, here's the QTX Report for November.

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Comments from QTX submissions

G3WZD: My November QSOs have all been as ZL/G3WZD from the stunning Bay of Islands in the Far North District of New Zealand's North Island. Propagation has been good into Northern and Eastern Europe most days around 08:00z on 40m.

K6DGW: Got involved in the 10th Anniversary Celebration event which cut into opr time a little

MI0WWB: A straight key has been used for some QSOs, this lengthens the contact.

N6HCN: Got Steve W7QC's recipe for deep fried standing rib roast and fries. And no less than 5 QTX with K6PBQ, N6KIX, WA7AXT, K7FD, and K5KV during Bug Roundup. A good ragchew (they're all good) in a snug shack is a perfect way to relax during the holidays.

W9EBE: I enjoyed a number of really good QSOs this month. My longest was with Dan/W3DF. We chewed the rag for 1 hour, 27 minutes. During that QSO, I used my paddles, my bug, and even my cootie. Great fun! Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone. ~ZUT~

N5IR: I have rag chewed with Chuck, W5UXH since the early 80s. He nominated me for CWops, He has been QRT for awhile, but he called me out of the blue over Thanksgiving weekend. I couldn't believe my ears. It took us over an hour to catch up about rigs and family.

WB6TOU: Resonated my new rain gutter on 160 and was delighted to have two good rag chews on the first two tries. RF rated rain gutter is the only way to go. Otherwise, I took it easy

KB6NU: I collect QSL card from stations whose calls spell words, so this month, I was pleased to have ragchews with both W8HOG and K3SEW. Another ragchew of note was with our very own N3JT, who I gather is not a big ragchewer. So, I think that's a feather in my cap.

K2KRG: Lots of great rag chews this month with members N8AI, K8CIT, W4TJE, WB2KAO, AJ1DM and W3PNM.

KR4TH: We moved a year ago and I just got back on the air. I had only one QSO at the end of the month. HOA - no outdoor antennas so I drive one mile to a high overlook and operate with my FT818 at 5 watts and a 20 meter hamstick. When the weather is warmer I can set up a better antenna. It is good to be back on cw again

N8AI: In 18 minute 30m QSO, learned that K4WOP Jim plays Carillon outdoor bells every Sunday in Mercer, PA just like the ones in Dayton, OH.

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

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Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs

At the end of November, we had four Gold earners: N5IR (526), N5PHT (489), K2KRG (466), and N8AI (464). There are now five Silver earners so far: W9EBE (368), KC0VKN (343), K8CIT (325), I5EFO (306), and K1ESE (303). We also have two Bronze medal earners: KB6NU (244) and F5IYJ (217). Congratulations to all.

QTX for November 2019

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
K8CIT	112	KB6NU	27	K5YQF	9	K8UDH	2
N5IR	64	I5EFO	25	N4DT	8	N5LB	2
N5PHT	57	K1ESE	24	K6DGW	6	AB7MP	1
KC0VKN	41	F5IYJ	18	W3WHK	6	K0DTJ	1
N8AI	40	N6HCN	16	KB8GAE	4	KR4TH	1
W9EBE	37	K4AHO	15	SV2BBK	3		
K2KRG	32	AG4EA	9	WB6TOU	3		

MQTX for November 2019

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	81	MI0WWB	18	AG4EA	9	K4AHO	3
K2KRG	32	K1ESE	16	G3WZD	9	WB6TOU	3
N5PHT	28	I5EFO	15	KB8GAE	8	AB7MP	2
K8CIT	24	K6DGW	15	N6HCN	4	K5YQF	2
SV2BBK	23	W9EBE	14	W3WHK	4		

2019 Totals for QTX:

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
N5IR	526	N6HCN	157	KB8GAE	38	N9SE	7
N5PHT	489	K4AHO	132	AJ1DM	36	W5LA	5
K2KRG	466	K5YQF	78	AG4EA	35	WN7S	5
N8AI	464	W0ITT	59	K0DTJ	30	WA8IWK	4
W9EBE	368	N4DT	58	SV2BBK	29	AB7MP	3
KC0VKN	343	WB6TOU	57	N4PIR	24	G3WZD	3
K8CIT	325	K8UDH	57	GM0EUL	16	KG4Q	3
I5EFO	306	K6DGW	50	W3PNM	15	N7MQ	3
K1ESE	303	W3WHK	43	N3FZ	12	KR4TH	1
KB6NU	244	DL5DBY	39	N5LB	7	K3GHH	1
F5IYJ	217	HB9CVQ	39	MI0WWB	7	K3WJV	1

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2019 Totals for MQTX:

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	569	K6DGW	106	KB6NU	42	W3PNM	10
K2KRG	406	K4AHO	70	K8UDH	40	N9SE	6
W9EBE	294	W0ITT	65	W3WHK	29	AJ1DM	4
SV2BBK	240	K8CIT	64	WB6TOU	24	KG4Q	3
N5PHT	220	GM0EUL	59	G3WZD	20	N7MQ	3
MI0WWB	216	HB9CVQ	55	AG4EA	19	W5LA	3
I5EFO	211	KB8GAE	51	N3FZ	15	N5LB	2
K1ESE	169	N6HCN	46	K5YQF	14	WA8IWK	2
DL5DBY	113	N4PIR	44	AB7MP	12	K3WJV	1

I encourage you to take some time to have some Conversational QSOs, just for the fun of it. Then submit your ragchew QSO info via the QTX area of the CWops website for the newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

73,

Bruce K8UDH, QTX Manager

My Story: New Member Biographies

Michael Veltman W4MDV

I would like to start by thanking my CWA Level 3 advisor, and CWops membership nominator Joe Spencer, KK5NA, and my CWA Level 2 advisor Andy Barkley, WB7DKZ. After accomplishing these two courses, I have nearly tripled my speed on CW. I very much enjoyed the CWA and the dedication the advisors have to making each student better at CW and general radio operations.

I first became a Ham in 1996 at age 14 with my No-Code Tech, KC5WMM, after my introduction into radio communications through Civil Air Patrol. I attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor's in Science in Aerospace Engineering. I commissioned into the United States Air Force and attended pilot training, where I currently fly HH-60G's for



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Combat Search and Rescue. I fell out of the hobby for many years until 2017 where I upgraded to General and Extra. Immediately following my Extra exam, I started to learn CW. After about two weeks of practicing on my own, I started to get on the air and making my first QSO's on CW. I have always appreciated the CW community with their patience and willingness to help provide feedback for improvement (normally through follow up emails). After about a year of being on the air with CW, I received an email from KC4D, Bill Perkins, in April of 2018, who told me about CWA, which I promptly signed up for Level 2. Since then I have not plugged my microphone into my radio and enjoy only CW with a very occasional FT8 (when bands are quite).

My primary rig is a KX3/PX3/KXPA100 attached to a Cushcraft R9 Vert and G5RV. My other rigs include a TS-850S, TS-530S, HW-100, HW-7, HW-9, and a Ten-Tec Century 21. As you can tell, I enjoy old rigs and getting them back on the air. I have recently been trying out SOTA operations and also enjoy QRP ops with a Buddipole or Elecraft AX1.

My other hobbies include ultramarathon running (normally 100 and 50 mile distances), flying, motorcycle riding, and Triathlon/Ironman distance races.

It has been great getting to know the CWOps members I have had the pleasure to QSO with in the past and am very excited to meet more members on the air!

Alex Vasileiou SV2BXA

Thanks to all my sponsors for making it possible to join CWops. Especially my nominator and teacher Vic 4X6GP.

My interest in radio started in 1992 when I was forced to have a radio amateur license. I was arrested by the police for using a portable VHF in order to communicate with my office. I am an active contractor / civil engineer and most of the time I am far away from my office. So, I took the license and I was found "not guilty" at the court. I already had my first award from Spain Barcelona 1992 special calls AO25. But the big surprise was that I liked the hobby!!!

My first favorite mode was Packet Radio (this stopped) and RTTY (till now). I am a specialist in RTTY after all these years and I think I covered everything in this mode.

I was first licensed in 1992 and I had to pass a 12 wpm Morse test to get my "A" class license which gave you HF access, so I learned slow CW. I had a Morse Code Test at the ministry.



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I passed at first time and got the call SV2BXA and also received my contest call J42P which I use in all the major contests that I take part in.

My Interest in radio is only HF (CW or RTTY). I hate FT8! No SSB, my transceivers are without a microphone.

I had quit from the hobby from 2004 until 2015, when I started again

I have a nice station with 2 towers and antennas for 80-6m; if you would like to see them go to my QRZ.COM page. My radios are a pair of Elecraft K3S fully equipped.

Mike Barrell - WB9DLC

First, let me thank my nominating member Jim AC9EZ and those that saw fit to sponsor me. I'm not exactly sure who they were but I have an idea. THANK YOU!

Much of my ham radio information is documented on my website: wb9dlc.com.

I got into amateur radio via the SWL (shortwave listener) route in the late 60's. What an interesting time for a SWL - many high-power broadcast stations around the world transmitting their versions of what was going on in the world.



I grew up in South Bend, Indiana about 1 mile from The University of Notre Dame.

I was first licensed in 1970 as WN9DLC and did most of my Novice work with a Globe Scout 680A and a National NC173 Receiver. Those were great times!

After upgrading to General about a year later, I bought a used Heathkit HW-100 from a friend. I had helped him build it a couple of years earlier.

I have typically been very active, except for an 8-year QRT from about 1996 till December of 2003: Sometimes life gets in the way of Ham Radio!! This included running RTTY with a Model 15 Teletype machine and an Electrocom FSC-250 converter made by South Bend native Burt Jaffe - W9BJ (SK). In 1980 I interfaced a Commodore Pet Computer for RTTY - one of the first computer based RTTY setups.

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I operated a lot of packet before the nationwide packet network became somewhat obsoleted by the internet. Since December 2003, I'm active on HF and 2 meters again and having a blast. At the present time I operate mostly CW at both QRO and QRP levels. I also operate some FT-8 and PSK31 and occasionally some SSB.

For a period of time I was operating a lot with vintage gear and had a good time with that. I have a small collection of vintage gear, but I need to pass it on to others who can enjoy it.



I am having fun with some QRP activities. The most fun is to operate portable in a park, or even just out on my deck during the summer.

The current main rig is a Ten-Tec Omni VII. A great CW rig. It's getting a little old, now. I have started thinking about what the next rig might be.

Another main hobby is amateur astronomy. I have a Celestron Nexstar 8i computer-controlled telescope. My telescope setup is fairly portable, and I enjoy taking it to truly dark sites. I enjoy visual astronomy (looking through the eyepiece and locating and enjoying the wonders in the sky). Part of my website (wb9dlc.com) is dedicated to my astronomy hobby.

I've been married to my wonderful wife Carol since 1975 and have 2 grown sons, a wonderful daughter-in-law, a future daughter-in-law, and a couple of grand children that I just cannot get enough of.

I am excited to participate in CWops activities. I am now proudly CWOPS Member #2402.

Bill Etter AG4EA

Many thanks to John K4BAI for nominating me for membership and to Dave K1VUT, Jim N3JT, Hank W6SX and Mike N8DNA for sponsoring me. It is an honor to be a member of CWops.

My start in this great hobby was in the early 70s while still in high school in NY. First as a Novice, then progressing to General and finally to Advanced class before graduating. In the mid-80s, after graduating from college and settling down in upstate NY, I went QRT for a bit as my career and marriage began to take over my time. In 2000 I was able to become active again as AG4EA while living in NC and finally moving to SC, my current QTH.

I have always been a casual CW operator, preferring to rag chew more than anything else. Since I traveled quite a bit for my job, I also operated a lot of QRP CW, both mobile and portable from

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parking lots. I especially enjoyed operating portable on vacations and from our camper at the lake.

After I retired at the end of last year, I decided I would try to improve my CW skills. Up until this point, although I was CW only, my comfort level was at 20 wpm and primarily with rag chew QSOs using a bug. I discovered the CW Academy and the online lesson plans. So, I self-studied the Level III class by following the plan and also added a set of paddles to the shack. About 8 weeks later, by following the lesson plans step by step, I was pleasantly surprised to



find that I could now operate comfortably at 25 wpm and a bit higher if I stretched. I had also discovered the weekly CWTs and since the lesson plans told me to participate in them, I did. At first, I resisted since I never have been much of a contest operator. But I started with a single session and survived, even though most of the code was so fast it was a blur. But over time I found that my CW skills did improve, and the CWTs are so much fun that I quickly moved to participating in all of them each week (gotta love retirement!).

These days, I still prefer a good rag chew more than anything else. I am also trying to continually improve my CW skills and participate in as many CWTs as possible each week. I enjoy being able to choose between using my bug, paddles or even a straight key for QSOs. I like helping others learn CW and improve their skills, so I try to participate in many of the SKCC events as well. Now as a member of CWops, I am also looking forward to helping out in the CWA as an advisor.

Dave Collins N4CWZ

I would like to introduce myself and say a huge thanks to everyone that had a part in nominating and sponsored me for membership into CWOPS. It is really an honor that I don't take lightly. Thanks everyone very much.

Quick history: somewhere in my mid-teens I got a book from my middle school on ham radio. I had an interest in it after watching the radio op on the TV show Hogan's Heros. Taking the book home, my Dad had a look at it and said that it was something he always had wanted to do. Growing up in the Depression in the Midwest, it was a dream of his that had never achieved, but this book sparked his interest again.

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Dad set out to learn code and grabbed the code tapes from the ARRL and away he went. Being young, I tried to “hang with him” and I actually had an easier time learning it than he did. The hook was “set!”

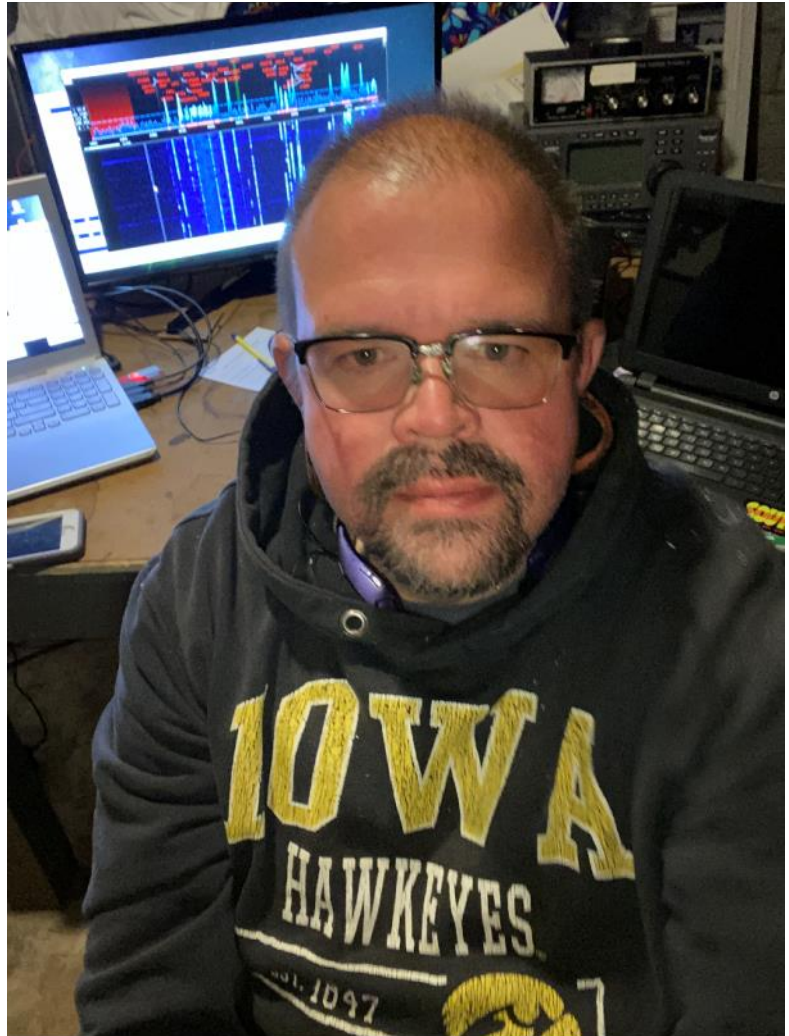
Dad went on to get his ticket first as WD4KZT. Becoming proficient in CW my dad would be control op for me and I started “pounding brass.” Shortly after operating and having a ball I decided to get my own call: KB4BZZ. That was in 82. Dad became a SK in 84. I became inactive for awhile in my early 20’s but received my second call, KE4IAF in the early 90’s. As a Novice and was happy with that. Being CW only, I really had no “want” to upgrade. Then several years later got the bug to get on 20m, got the General and then wanted the extra lower 25 kc on the bands and got Extra.

Always had seen the CWTs in the 8-day contest calendar but never really knew anything about them. Had a QSO with a fellow that had gone thru all 3 sessions of CWA and we started emailing. He was telling me about how well it worked and I said, “I’m going to give it a try.” Head copy had always been my nemesis. I can’t write as fast as I can copy. So away I went

I had an awesome advisor (Chris W4ALF) which taught me a ton and gave me the “tools” to achieve my personal goals and that is how I got here. I still practice head copy at least five days a week as I’m driving between sites. I work as a General Contractor so there is ample driving time and it’s great for practice. I keep telling my wife I’m going to start working HF mobile CW but she says my driving isn’t good enough! She’s got a point, but one day I’m going to give it a shot!

I have more fun “than should be allowed by law,” working the CWTs each week. I’ve met a lot of great ops and made new friends working them.

Once again I would like to thank everyone that had a part in my nomination and sponsorship as well as all the ops I have worked during the CWTs. This is a great group and I can only hope I can contribute as much as I have already received from the group moving forward.



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George Allison K1IG

I'd like to first thank Steve, WB7DND, a college fraternity brother, for getting me interested in joining CWops – it's something I should have done a long time ago. Steve convinced me that it's a great group to hang around with, and that it's helping to raise the standards for CW on the bands. I also need to acknowledge and thank Marv, N5AW, for nominating me and persuading two others to join him in sponsorship.

I was licensed at the age of 14 in 1962 as a General class with the call sign WB2BEF. My first station was a used Heathkit DX-100 and a Hallicrafters SX-110, which were soon replaced by a Johnson Ranger II and SX-111

(both of which I still have). Although my General license gave me full phone privileges, I operated mostly on CW because of the range advantage, and also because it made it much harder for the neighbors to identify the source of their TVI.

I studied electrical engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, where I operated the club station W3ABT, and after college, I joined the Navy and became a communications officer. I installed and operated several MARS (Military Affiliate Radio Service) stations on the ships on which I was stationed, and while traveling ashore I stayed active on the bands with a Heathkit HW-8 that I was able to carry around in a suitcase with a coil of wire to throw out the window for an antenna.

In the Navy I specialized in fleet communications and over the course of my career, I was communications officer for the Third Fleet, ran the U.S. Navy communications station on Guam, and finished up in charge of all the Navy's communications stations and infrastructure. I definitely "saw the world" in the Navy, and operated from Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Australia, the South Pole, and while stationed in Turkey for two years, I held the call signs TA2H and TA2ZH.

Since retiring from the Navy in 2000, I've finally been able to set up a permanent station in north-eastern Massachusetts but living in a condo with its attendant HOA restrictions has limited my antenna choices. The photo shows me with my formidable antenna farm – a Buddipole with an



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extendable mast on a second-floor balcony (it's lowered for maintenance in the photo). With the Buddipole and a K3, I've managed to attain DXCC on four bands, WAC on seven (including 80 meters), and a WAS Triple Play. My wife Annette is KB1LSH.

My interest in CW has continued, and I wrote the article "Increase Your CW Speed with Wordsworth" that was published in the May 2017 issue of QST.

Earlier this year I was honored to be interviewed by Eric, 4Z1UG, on his "QSO Today" podcast. If you want to listen to it and see a few more pictures, my interview is at: <https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/K11G>.

Adrian Ciuperca KO8SCA

Adrian has been licensed since 1990, when he was still in high school, as YO8SCA. After finishing his university studies in Computer Science he moved to the United States where he obtained the vanity call KO8SCA. He currently lives in New York City where he works as an IT consultant.

Adrian is a keen DXer with DXCC 316, 9BDXCC, IOTA, as well as being a passionate contester. He also competed in WRTC 2018 in Wittenberg, Germany. He usually operates in the large contests as a guest operator from various super-stations such as K1LZ, LZ5R, K2LE, K1TTT and NR4M.

During Field Day, Adrian is part of the WECA radio club team using the N2SF callsign.

Adrian has taken part in DXpeditions to destinations including A5, ZK3, V8, TX0M/TX0A, 6O, 9M0, FJ, FM, J3, J8, VK9C, VK9X, VP5, VP9, and Z2. Recently he has been a guest operator at 4U1UN and HV0A. Adrian operated from some new and rare IOTAs, such as NA-211, EU-191, 183, OC-113, 297.

His preferred operating mode is CW, but he is also active in SSB and digital modes. Adrian is a member of several amateur radio DX and contesting clubs, namely, NCDXF, INDEXA, YCCC, LIDXA, Order of Boiled Owls of New York, LICWC, FOC, NYCDXA, WECA, Araucária DX Group, RRC. He also spends many weekends at WE2OEM (The Barn), where he is giving back to his ham radio hobby by being a VE Examiner.



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The technical aspect of ham radio and the lure of the DX expeditions are what first attracted Adrian to the hobby, and now he is able to travel extensively and, at the same time whenever possible, to indulge his love for ham radio.

Roberto (Bob) Soro, I2WIJ

I was born in 1951.

I discovered the radio and the hams during my college in 1970. I got my SWL call in 1971 and my license in December 1973 as I1WIJ. Two days later I entered my first contest! (Italian 40/80 which, few years later, I won twice in the SO CW Category).

Contester by nature I try to be competitive all around. I love also DXing and working DXpeditions, these days mainly with focus on 160M.

About the early days I remember my first TX (Geloso G223, 75W, CW/AM) and the first ARRL contest, with my straight key, paper logs (which I still keep) and the home made dupe-sheets for the fast, manual, DUPE checking! W2PV and W3LPL are the calls I clearly remember from those early contest days!

After a long break due to work and family commitments I restarted seriously in 1999, entering the IOTA contest during summer holidays, with the 2000 and 2001 world wins from the Greece Islands of Kos and Crete as J45W and J49R respectively.

From 2002 to 2005 with IK8UND and IK8HCG, as J49Z, we entered the CQWW SSB in the MS category, where we were awarded the CQ Plaque for the Best DXpedition in 2005.

From 2006 I was honored to be part of the big Contest Team at CN3A, with the 3 world wins in a row in 2007-2009 in the MS category. Actually, I continue to operate from that great station mainly in CW Multi-Multi operations.

In 2006 I was a Referee at the WRTC in Brazil, (Referee of KH6ND/N6AA, PT5K), and then I have been a competitor in WRTC 2010 in Moscow as a Team Leader of one of the two Italian teams (R37P) and our Referee was W5ZL (SK). In 2018 I was Referee again at WRTC in Germany (Referee of N5AW/K5WA, Y83P).



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From 2011 to 2015 I have been the ARI HF Contest Manager, while I also have been appointed ARI General Secretary from 2013-2015.

After my retirement I have built a Contest Station in the countryside from where I currently enjoy operating during contests.

I am an Electronic Engineer and have mainly worked in networking while I have been the Operations Manager for almost 10 years of the Italian Interbanking Network.

Proudly married since 1977 with Maria Pia, we both like dancing and we also used to participate in dancing contests, with some great performance and wins! Father of one son, Maurizio, which is a Mechanical Engineer working in the Racing Cars field, actually Technical Director at Hexathron Racing Systems, developing cars for the Chinese CTCC Championship and recently also for the new ETCR Championship.

I have been very honored to be nominated for the Membership of the CWOps Club by my great friend John, K4BAI, and, in a few hours, having received 4 more sponsorship (thanks to N3JT, SQ9S, K1VUT, VE9AA): as you use to say, "you made my day"!

CU on the air!

Ken Bell K4ESS

I'm a retired oilfield engineer, originally from Alabama, but I've worked all over the world. We sold our house Colorado in September 2016 and we spent 13 months in a 36' Teton 5th Wheel checking out this beautiful country of ours, one park at a time. Recently, we've bought a house in Orange Beach, AL and are enjoying the retired lifestyle at the beach.

During the year in the RV, I decided to try to get my Tech license. I succeeded and a couple of months later we went to the ham convention in Huntsville, AL. I took the general and passed it and headed straight to HRO to buy my first HF Radio.

Later that year I became interested in CW and began studying to try to learn enough to be able to communicate with Morse.



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My main rig is an IC-7300 with a G5RV antenna strung through the trees here at our new home and have it tuned with an MFJ-993 tuner. I have an AL-80B amp but have found that the propagation is so good (near the saltwater?) that I haven't yet hooked it back up. I've bought an Elecraft KX2 and am enjoying some QRP.

I heard about CW Academy and signed up for the first level. I completed Levels 1, 2, and 3 and was asked to join CW Ops. My CWOps ID is 2389. Our class stayed together for levels 2 and 3 and we became great friends through our study and practice. We challenge each other weekly through the CWTs. You can catch me trying to work the CWT on Wednesday at 1300 or 1900 UTC. I've decided to try to give back by being an associate instructor for Level 1 students.

In addition to ham radio, my hobbies include flying my Cessna 182, fishing in the gulf and scuba diving.

Chuck Chandler WS1L

Thank you to Tom, AB6Z, for my nomination and to K1VUT (just down the road from my brother!), VE2FK and N7SV for sponsoring me.

I've been a ham since 1983... since Dick Bell, KB1AN, showed me his 2-meter HT at Plymouth Beach where we were both working as summer police officers. When I heard the 145.23- repeater spell out RED CROSS in CW I was hooked. My Dad had been in his high school radio club (W1KMU) but never got his ticket until long after me despite a career in the US Army Signal Corps, and as a disc jockey and engineer at commercial radio stations.

What really made me get serious about CW was a love of DXing - Bob Lochner, W9KNI's book "The Complete DXer" was a huge influence on me. It became clear pretty early on that much of the good stuff was on CW, near the bottom of the band. That led me to get my speed up to 20 WPM and get my Extra class ticket.

One day my friend Wes, N1WH, asked me to come over and take a look at a CW key he had been given. He thought it had come from the Boston Fire Department. It didn't look like much... dirty, worn out and the red paint was flaking off the base, but I knew it was a Vibroplex bug... I was able to figure out how to adjust it, and even though the con-



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tacts were worn down to bare metal I managed a QSO or two with it before I gave it back. But I realized from the moment I made CW with it that **THAT** was the way I wanted to send from that moment on. I bought my first bug online within a few days and have gone on to pick up a few more here and there over the years.

After quite a good bit of effort I finally wound up on Honor Roll. Which was followed by the realization that my DX bell hadn't been rung in a good while. Looking at the bulletins it became clear that I once again needed to take W9KNI's advice: Have something else to keep your interest up, another challenge to keep you QRV and having fun while you wait for the elusive New One to appear.

The CQ Marathon held my interest for a few years but after a few semi-serious efforts I began looking for something more. I had recently begun cleaning up and using an old Yaesu FT-101ZD, a near-copy of my first transceiver. I started using that for rag chewing, mostly on CW, and realized I was having a lot of fun just enjoying a longer conversation with other ops.

Those QSO's usually took place in the mornings before work - the one time I knew I had free all day. Then one Wednesday I had the rig on a few minutes later than normal... after 1300Z the 40m band filled with signals. I only had time to figure out it was a CWT before I shut down. A Google search led me to the CW Ops website, and the roster revealed a few fellows I knew.

The next Wednesday I didn't have to work so I entered the 13Z and 19Z CWT's, logging with paper and pencil and sending with my bug. What fun! I had entered some contests before but never one that only lasted an hour. I was hooked from the start. Now I just plan on coming in to work late on Wednesdays.

My wife Stacie is a retired librarian, and I've been in police work all my adult life - first 25 years with the Plymouth, Massachusetts Police Department, then a move to Mississippi and a second career with the University of Southern Mississippi Police Department, where I am Assistant Chief of Police. Currently I plan on retiring (again... maybe this time it will stick...) in 2021. We hope to move back up north, perhaps to the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

Current rigs are an Elecraft K3S and KPA500 amplifier on one side of the desk, the trusty Yaesu FT-101ZD on the other. There's an Eico 720 and my Dad's last shortwave receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-110, on the shelf I hope to have QRV for Straight Key Night and the Novice Rig Roundup. Antennas range from an Inverted-L for Top Band, a Butternut HF9V for 80-10, a dipole for 80/40/20/15/10, a small Log Periodic for 20-10, a 3-element Yagi for 6 meters and a set of K9AY loops for low-band receiving.

I'm also a member of the 599 DX Association, the ARRL, FISTS, SKCC, BUG Users Group, and the A-1 Operators Club.

Once again, many thanks to Tom and my sponsors, as well as to all who have worked me in the CWT's!

