

Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

March 2020 — Issue 122



Still Crazy



K5RC describes his 60-year ham radio journey and his excellent station. [See story page 15.](#)

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 June 10-11.

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"

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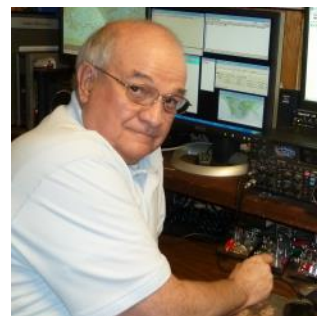
Director: Riki Kline [K7NJ](#)

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

President's Message

Some areas of the country are still dealing with Winter-like conditions while those on the southern fringe in the US are close to more Spring like conditions. I don't think anyone has escaped the impact of storms but soon we'll be able to get some antenna work done. There are still a lot of contest activities ahead and more ways to practice the art of CW in different forms.



One of those forms is weekly CWT sessions on Wednesdays. It really seems like there are more and more operators showing up to have fun during the sessions. The panadapter imag-

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es show that a lot more stations are squeezing into the empty frequencies to find a place to run. If and when Solar Cycle 25 opens more bands for our activities, we will be able to spread out again. Propagation is still irregular to various areas, so we work with what is available. Another point of view about the activity is that we have grown and keep on growing. All of this is good for CW and populating the ham bands with more operators which is our goal. I don't have any metrics to refer to but let's assume that the growth is coming from new members joining along with new member/operators who are graduating from the CW Academy.

It's that time of year when the first CW Academy semester closes after eight weeks of instruction for the students. There were four classifications of students now versus the original three. The four are named: Beginner, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. The biggest change is highlighted in the Basic class. Here the students who graduated the beginner level are following a well written training syllabus focused on ICR (Instant Character Recognition). The ICR applies to all forms of CW communications like call sign recognition, words, stories and ragchewing. I was an Advisor for one of the Basic classes and have to tell you how much I enjoyed it. The students all achieved their goals and are prepped to step into the Intermediate Class with a competence and confidence of reading CW (head copying). No one dropped out and you could feel their commitment to succeeding. This stage was missing in most of our previous Level 1 classes who needed additional training before beginning the former Level 2. I will be watching the future results as these new Basic students flow into the next Intermediate class. We have great Advisors working to help these students and we'll have to follow up later with further observations.

CW Academy always wants more Advisors to join the ranks. A plan is working to pair someone new with an existing Advisor so they can spend a semester observing the training and learning how to lead a class on their own. Following that they will be comfortable in a future assignment.

There are more improvements in store for the Academy. Pre-screening applicants, evaluating results against goals of the students and advisors helps improve our methods of training. The improvements we are experiencing are the results of our working groups and implementation by our managers. We have come a long way from the days of managing with just a spreadsheet. Growth has a way of testing a system for strengths and weaknesses and thankfully we have members who can apply former job skills to make operations more successful. We have used some of our funds to support the use of software. A very good investment for our organization's goals.

Some of the members have had experience as commercial radio officers in marine service, others have had Morse Code experience related to military service. I've always had an interest in the work or radiotelegraphy by the shore stations like KPH on the West Coast. There were other operations like this on the East Coast as well. A lot of messaging was necessary related to ship movements and cargo pick up and deliveries. Satellite technology and communication methods have displaced requirements for Morse today but the awareness and knowledge of history involving CW in those days is still shared among many of us. I recently followed a link to an Internet URL where one of our students, Bruce Pea, N9WKE, has podcasts available that relate to KPH and the old days of shipboard radiotelegraphy. There are other CW and ham radio podcasts available on this website also. Enjoy. Go to www.DitDit.fm

CW forever!

73,

Mac NN4K, President



From the [Editor](#)

Ode to an Antenna Tree

When hams get together, either in person or in our virtual world, we can't help but talk and brag about our radios and, if you are a CW person, we talk about our keys and paddles. Other items sometime make the list: antennas, amplifiers, etc. But rarely trees.

So, let's see a show of hands: how many of you have ever used a tree to hold up an antenna? OK, that's what I thought, nearly everyone. And how many of you with your hands up ever talk and brag about your favorite tree? OK, that's also what I thought, hardly anyone.

We almost always rely on a tree at some point in our ham radio careers, but we take our trees for granted. To paraphrase the late [American comic Rodney Dangerfield](#), "Trees don't get no respect."

In [my February column](#) I wrote about how well my multiband dipole performed one week in January despite the antenna lying on the roof of my house after one of its support ropes broke free from the walnut tree to which the rope was tied. That story had a happy ending.

There was a second tree involved with that antenna, a poplar tree on the *other* end of the dipole. That tree had not been in good health for many years, shedding large branches during high winds



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and developing worrisome decay in the middle of its trunk. The neighbors had started giving it the stink eye, especially the closest neighbor whose house and driveway were in the potential fall zone. And I was giving it the stink eye, too. It's hard to judge the health or safety of a tree that is standing, but prudence and an abundance of caution dictated we should take it down on our own terms rather than having to react to a disastrous fall while in crisis mode in the middle of a storm. February 4 was the chosen day and the deed was done in about four hours by an arborist crew with a crane.

As a child learning to read I was [captivated by the poem "Trees"](#) from the [American poet Joyce Kilmer](#), a poem I discovered in a dog-eared poetry book owned by my grandmother. The opening lines are arguably among some of the best known in the English language: "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." I was captivated by the fact that someone would name their son Joyce, captivated by the tragedy of his death in France during World War I, captivated by the ability of his words to outlive him, and captivated by the beauty of his words: simple enough that an eight-year-old could understand them, yet complex and rich enough that an adult could read the poem many times over and not grow tired of it. At the age of eight, long before my ham radio career, I already had a relationship with trees, having climbed them, hung from them and rested in their shade. I think it fair to say I felt a strong connection to the poem and to the author, if it's possible to do so at that age. And my love of trees has grown as I have come to use them as antenna supports.

Most days, I took my tree for granted, but now it's gone. So, here is an ode to my tree, in my best iambic tetrameter and my best channeling of Kilmer. Fair well, old friend.

Antenna Trees

I think that I shall never see
A wire support quite like a tree.

A tree whose branches lift on high
And put a gleam into my eye.

A tree with little else around
My arrow falls clean to the ground.

A tree that takes my length of rope
With bother not, it gives me hope.

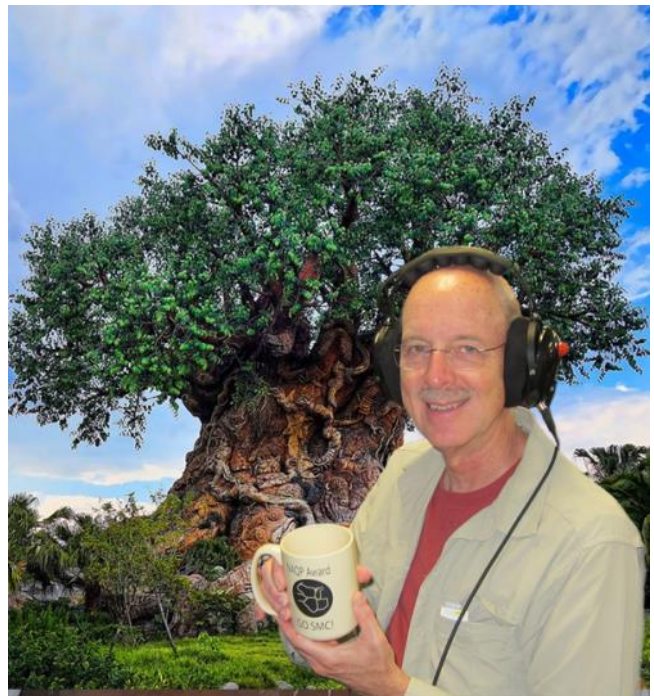
The seasons come, the seasons go
The DX booms, the QSOs flow.

Yet all must pass, all things we see
I mourn my loss, my friend, my tree.

73,

Tim K9WX Editor

([Background image: the Disney Tree of Life from Wikimedia.org.](#))



News and Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

Glenn, VE3GNA: Over the weekend I acquired a new (to me) chrome plated Vibroplex bug. The serial number, 158246 indicates a manufacturing date of 1948. The key is in nearly pristine condition, its only blemish being the fact that one of the weights is not original. Obtaining a replacement requires an expenditure of nearly half of the total cost of the key. Included is a picture of the key in front of my trusty ICOM IC-735 which is my main rig. I mounted it on a piece of left-over shelving material along with my ancient straight key.



Gary, N5PHT: Here are three CWops Members (NOAC Bill, W0FN Tom, N5PHT Gary) rounded up at the Perry Iowa Hamfest on leap day Feb 29.

Stew, GW0ETF: Thanks to G0AYD (member #2159) I now finally have an Elecraft K2. Way back around 12 years ago I decided I would buy one to replace my Heathkit SB101. When I finally loaded up the webpage to place the order, I was faced with a new splash page advertising the launch of the brand new K3! This threw a spanner in the works – do I go ahead with the K2 or take my chance with this impressive but unproven new radio? I chose the latter and became a de facto field gamma tester with K3 serial number 145 which is still going strong with a bunch of early mods and most options.



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The K2 is an early model (#03735) with no mods or extras. I've done the key shaping mod but still want to fit the serial comms board for logging, IF tap for the panadapter and amp keying circuit before I use it in anger (been on a road/river trip around Laos for most of February). On the scope the keying envelope looks much better now; the trailing edge still seems a bit steep though the corners look ok so if you hear me in the next couple of months with a signal that 'deserves comment' feel free to email – please. With a Gemini HF-1k amp that needs 10 W drive for 1 KW out I'm looking forward to see how it compares to the K3, and to check out reports from a couple of high profile testers over here that the K2 is even better at pulling out callsigns from mushy pile-ups.

During our 3 weeks in Laos we kept hearing of the continuous procession of storms crossing the UK and much of Europe. Our dog sitters would keep an eye on the house but a pile of tangled wires, fibre glass and aluminium in the field next door possibly wouldn't mean much to them. So, it was a relief to get back to find the only damage was a pole supporting one half of a 10m dipole had slipped out of the centre – even 2 verticals and their radials suspended in oak trees were still intact. One advantage of simple antennas I guess; I've heard several tales of damaged head units, twisted/bent upper tower sections etc., so it's a relief to be free of all that. Next storm due to-night (February 27th) so I'm keeping everything locked down for now.

John, K4BAI: I will be on Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, Caribbean March 3-10 as VP5/K4BAI. Also making the trip will be K4QPL, N9NB, and WU4V. In the ARRL DX SSB Contest, we will be QRV Multi Single Low Power as VP5M. I will be QRV outside the contest mainly on CW and I hope to be QRV in some of the CWTs on March 4.

Chuck, WS1L: The big news from here is that we have found the house we want for our upcoming move back to Massachusetts. In a few weeks we will close on a home in North Adams. It's about half-way up Savoy Mountain in the Berkshires, so propagation in some directions will be a bit of a challenge. In addition, it's a half-acre lot deeper than it is wide, so until I have time to walk it back and forth and lay out some measurements, I'm not yet sure where the best open space for a tower will be. Still, there are trees for wires, enough space for multiple antennas, no restrictions, and a killer view across the valley to Mount Greylock.

Meanwhile here in Mississippi we continue to pack - there are stacks of boxes in the spare bedroom and shack. A little each weekend and by the time July rolls around we should be living out of suitcases here...

The station here is still fully QRV but that will begin to change in April. Most of the existing antennas will be given away to local DX club members in exchange for their help dismantling it all. I'll keep one trap dipole up in the trees until the last possible moment, as well as the K3S and amp. That will let me keep my QTX activity at least going strong! If all goes well, I will be off the air for only a week or two at most. Could be even less. We are going to be in North Adams in May and if I have time I will get a wire up in the trees there and leave it for our July final move.

I hope to be at the Northeast Ham Exposition (used to be Boxboro) in late July, so hope to see some old friends (and make some new ones) there!

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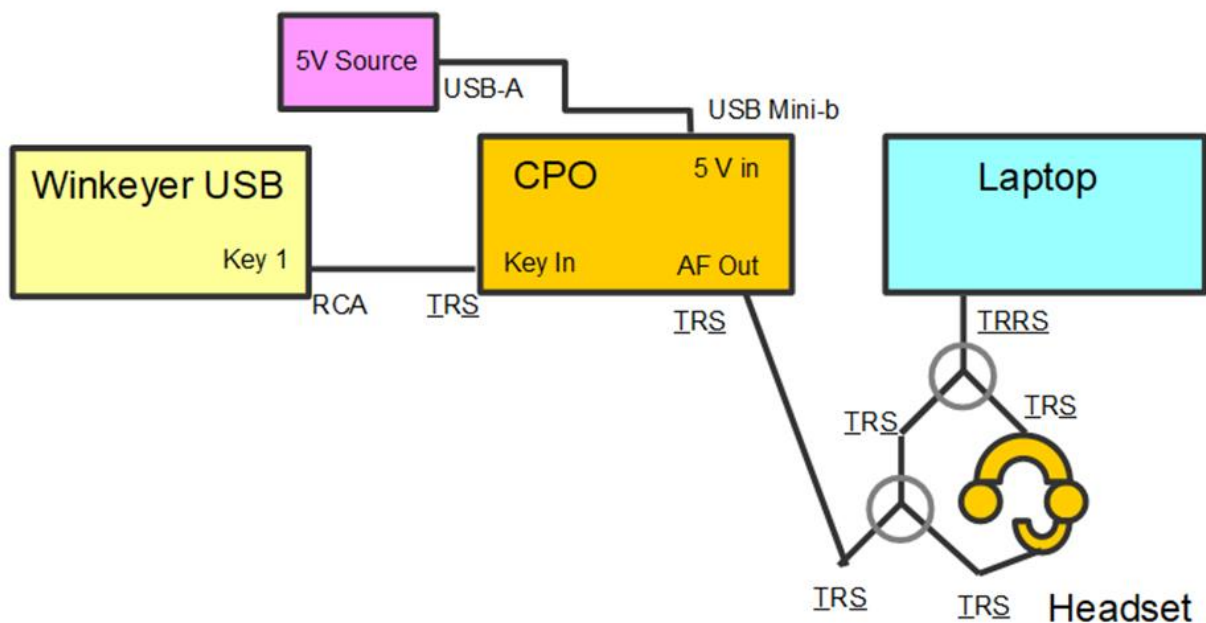
David, W8OV: New Code Practice Oscillator

K1EL Systems, of Winkeyer fame, has a redesigned CPO kit available since early February 2020, the CPO v2: <<https://www.k1elsystems.com/CPOX.html>>. I ordered the kit, and the day it arrived, I inventoried parts and read over the manual (available only online) that evening, assembled it the next morning, and checked its operation after lunch. The next day I used it with my CWA classes.

This new version requires power to a USB mini-b jack labeled PWR IN, with a possible source being a computer or charger having a powered USB output. The CPO v2 has an internal speaker but can also power an external speaker via its SPKR OUT jack. Other ports on the rear of the CPO are a KEY IN jack and an AF (line) OUT jack. Audio volume and pitch are adjustable with front panel knobs.

The CPO is not a keyer, so must be keyed by either a mechanical key or the output from a keyer. In my particular use, I use a Winkeyer. The Winkeyer can take its input from either a paddle or the keyboard option in my logging program. The Winkeyer output goes to the KEY IN jack in the CPO.

The audio output can be the internal speaker, an external speaker at the SPKR OUT jack, or the AF (line) OUT jack to an audio amplifier, etc., or directly into a computer. In my case, I use the latter, putting the audio into the one and only jack on my laptop, a 4-terminal jack that then disconnects the laptop's microphone and speakers. In order to be able to speak as well as send CW to my CW Academy advisees, I use a Y-adapter at the laptop input, and a second Y-connector lets me connect both the headset microphone and the CPO's audio output to the computer. A diagram may help:



Wrap Up: CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration

[Bud Trench AA3B](#)

“Great event. I had much fun meeting my very good CW friends all over the world every time I switched the radio on.”
Steve DL1NKS



10 Years
2010 - 2020

During the month of January 2020, the CW Operators Club (CWops) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a special operating event — the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration. The celebration was a full month of activity designed to promote CW activity while encouraging all amateurs to work CWops members.

In the spirit of celebrating the unique art form of Morse Code, over 113,000 CW QSOs were reported by members and non-members participating in the Celebration. Logs were received from 191 participants including 56 special event stations, 75 members using their personal calls, and 60 non-members.

The Club's efforts to celebrate CW were largely applauded by the participants. Here are some examples of the feedback that was provided:

- It was a great fun! - LZ1HW
- Thanks for the nice activity - OM5TZ
- In commemoration of my own 10 years CWops membership - EA8OM
- Many thanks to everyone who made this event possible - WA6URY
- Game very nice 73 from Roma - IK0NOJ
- Great event! Thanks for all the Qs - VE3PQ
- Did enjoy QSO with all these fine CW operators - HB9AJY
- Had a great time during the event. Also became member - NJ3K
- It was a pleasure to work CWops Stations celebrating the 10th Anniversary. Well done to all - G4NQQ
- Thanks for great fun all Jan 2020 - SQ9S
- Congrats with the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration! It was a pleasure to participate - ON6SAS
- Thank you for great fun...long live the CW - SQ3OPL
- Don't wait another ten years to do it again - K5QR
- Excellent month, thank you to all the CWops - G4SMB
- It was my pleasure can help to keeping alive the CW and celebrating with you the 10th anniversary. Long life to the CWops club - EA1WX
- Thanks for your activity in promoting the telegraph! - R3CO
- Best wishes from Ukraine to every one CW operator! - UR3QX

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- Thanks for the event, it was fun chasing the stations. I am very new to CW and still learning, but this got me out there trying hard to copy them - W1OPR
- Nice to take part in this CW-month as a CW-operator and fan of CW! - DL9GFB

Many of the participants have pursued memorabilia from the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration as evident from 230 Commemorative Certificate applications received from participants in 31 countries and 6 continents, as well as nearly 400 QSL requests.

Reminder about Awards

The rules for the awards program, as shown at [CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration](#), are as follows:

Continental Awards – CWops Members

Certificates will be awarded for achieving the top score or highest QSO total per continent in the following categories: Special Call Operations, CWops Member High Power (100W +), CWops Member Low Power (6 to 100W), CWops Member QRP (0 to 5W).

A CWops member can only win one continental certificate. In the event that a CWops member achieves both the highest score and highest total QSOs, then that member would receive the top score certificate and the member next in line would receive the highest total QSOs certificate.

Continental Awards – Non-Members

Certificates will be awarded to non-members achieving the top score per continent in each non-member category: Non-member High Power (100W+), Non-member Low Power (6 to 100W), Non-member QRP (0 to 5W).

The awards rules were intended to result in up to 2 awards per class on each continent for CWops member stations – one to the callsign earning the maximum points and one to the callsign making the most QSOs. However, one callsign cannot win both awards.

Special Callsign Station Results

One of the event highlights was the extraordinary efforts made by members to obtain and activate special callsigns. Many of these special callsign operations were staffed by multiple members. There was nearly an equal number of special callsign operations in Europe and North America.

The activity in Europe by the special callsign stations was impressive with several stations maintaining a near daily presence on the bands throughout the month. The leader in Europe for points earned was OL10CWO and the winner of the QSO certificate was EM10CWO.

In North America, KE2CWO achieved the highest point total, while the KK1CWO team, using a Wide Area Network to link multiple operators, achieved the highest number of QSOs.

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Table 1. Special Callsign Station Results

Call	Points	QSOs	Winner		Call	Points	QSOs	Winner	
			Points	QSOs				Points	QSOs
Europe - Special Callsign			X	X	NA - Special Callsign			X	X
OL10CWO	416	3842			KE2CWO	721	1050		
SF10CWO	409	3896			N1C	671	977		
DR10CWO	391	3671			KN8CWO	593	664		
GW2CWO	363	2193			W0C	498	803		
EM10CWO	355	4604		X	K8G	454	598		
LZ10CWO	302	2329			K5M	438	468		
DQ10CWO	286	3624			KK1CWO	436	1117		X
PG10CWO	266	1197			W4Y	422	594		
EG4CWO	241	2457			K3CWO	360	419		
SN10CWO	220	1408			K5A	331	407		
GI2CWO	145	216			N8W	321	509		
YL10CWO	123	2230			W4C	302	336		
GM2CWO	121	1396			W1C	285	478		
EG10CWO	116	1058			K1K	271	628		
TM6CWO	109	801			VC3CWO	263	921		
SD10CWO	101	1238			W0CWO	234	341		
IR9CWO	97	1061			N8C	229	334		
EG7CWO	86	662			K5N	197	313		
SM10CWO	70	1099			N5T	178	188		
SC10CWO	52	252			KX4CWO	175	201		
TM10CWO	44	430			K4O	140	204		
GB5CWO	34	194			W4O	104	123		
7S10CWO	33	570			W6CWO	103	211		
TM5CWO	29	361			K3M	98	216		
GB8CWO	22	69			K4T	88	98		
G2CWO	16	165			K8O	61	131		
					TO10CWO	56	302		
					W9O	41	97		

CWops Member Results

The CWT's are part of CWops culture, and their influence was very evident in the CWops member results. The top scores and QSO totals were achieved by regular CWT participants in the majority of the classes.

High Power: AA3B achieved the highest point total of any entrant in all classes, while N3JT took the QSO award for North America. Italy was the place to be in Europe with I2WIJ winning the certificate for highest point total, while IK0YVV achieved the highest number of QSOs. ZL/G3WZD

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was the sole entry from Oceania, as was JN1THL for Asia.

Low Power: G3LDI was the point leader in Europe and SQ9S earned the QSO certificate. K1VUT was the point winner in North America and W3KB took the QSO certificate. EA8OM represented Africa as did 4Z5DX for Asia.

Table 2. CWops Member Results

Call	Point s	QSO s	Winner		Call	Point s	QSO s	Winner	
			Point s	QSO s				Point s	QSOs
Asia - CWops Member High Power			X		NA - CWops Member High Power			X	X
JN1THL	5	8			AA3B	1374	3474		
					N3JT	858	1083		
Asia - CWops Member Low Power			X		VE3KI	670	734		
4Z4DX	28	43			KM0O	632	691		
					W1TO	615	692		
Africa - CWops Member Low Power			X		N4FP	611	682		
EA8OM	218	305			K6RB	555	635		
					W6SX	486	541		
Oceania - CWops Member High Power			X		K4WW	432	486		
ZL/G3WZD	2	11			N7WY	414	429		
					K1DJ	380	424		
Europe - CWops Member High Power			X	X	K1EBY	365	398		
I2WIJ	459	749			K7NJ	298	350		
IK0YVV	375	1055			WA8Y	283	466		
DL3DXX	259	363	W1RM	274	336				
DK5KK	242	381	K4BAI	240	417				
DL6KVA	235	286	WA5LXS	199	207				
IT9MUO	143	246	W6TN	197	206				
OK1RR	138	257	K4RUM	34	78				
I5ECW	135	258	K8JQ	21	42				
SD1A	97	133							
OH2BN	86	95							
ER/UW7LL	81	177							
SM1HEV	50	52							
EA1WX	29	109							
SM1TDE	28	57							
SP9FOW	10	114							
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Call	Points	QSOs	Winner		Call	Points	QSOs	Winner	
			Points	QSOs				Points	QSOs
Europe - CWops Member Low Power					NA - CWops Member Low Power				
G3LDI	201	244	X		K1VUT	645	713	X	
UR5MM	123	160			W3KB	496	534		X
HB9ARF	94	132			K9WX	483	531		
UX1HW/M	52	62			W2NRA	462	494		
F6CEL	50	104			VE3MV	455	489		
IN3FHE	47	50			KJ9C	406	445		
SQ9S	36	185		X	KB3AAY	390	426		
IK0NOJ	27	29			KM4FO	339	353		
IT9SSI	21	22			K4TZ	315	330		
					WA9LEY	314	328		
					W3WHK	311	349		
					KV8Q	284	326		
					KN7T	279	408		
					W0TG	245	257		
					K3ZGA	205	223		
					KE6K	191	203		
					AB7MP	179	186		
					W2AAB	170	180		
					W7ZRC	156	169		
					NJ3K	123	125		
					KI6OY	108	116		
					FG8NY	107	237		
					AA8TA	103	117		
					NJ4Q	55	81		
					N3SW	45	53		
					W4WF	26	41		
					K4JAZ	7	7		

Non - Member Results

Europe was the dominate source of logs from non-members and 9A1AA, in the High Power category, dominated the scoring from the continent. M0NGN took top honors in the Low Power category. W2XYZ, KC3BU and AB9BZ were the North American winners respectively in the High Power, Low Power and QRP categories. EA8DHA won the Low Power category from Africa and VU2BQN was the Low Power winner from Asia.

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Table 3. Non-Member Results

Call	Points	Call	Points
Europe - Non-Member High Power		Europe - Non-Member Low Power	
9A1AA	287	M0NGN	74
EA7AQR	92	OM3YCA	63
DL5YL	89	S55N	62
DL5YM	31	YL2TQ	61
LZ5IY	30	US2UM	58
F6FRR	28	YO6CFB	53
DK5LY	26	G0UYG	51
DL2SWU	21	SP5ITO	47
9A9XX	18	OM5TZ	46
		UT3RN	41
NA - Non-Member High Power		PA3BFH	39
W2XYZ	284	SV1CEI	38
K5QR	111	F8NUH	38
KE4I	28	DF2QZ	37
		ON4ON	35
NA - Non-Member Low Power		EA7EGU	35
KC3BU	257	UR5AW	32
N8FYL	139	IK0WDJ	30
KI8DU	30	PA5GU	30
WP4J	30	UR3QX	29
KA2IRQ	13	EA3NO	28
		ON6SAS	26
NA - Non-Member QRP		DL2HWI	26
AB9BZ	30	PA1CW	25
		RV6ANI	25
Africa - Non-Member Low Power		DL1SUS	23
EA8DHA	14	DH3SUP	22
		9A2SW	19
Asia - Non-Member Low Power		IU0ITX	18
VU2BQN	2	DM2RN	18
		R3CO	17
		DL3JXN	16
		DL2IE	15
		IK7TVE	15
		IU3LQY	14
		LZ1BY	12
		IK1YRA	9
		DL3MB	9
		TA1MK	4

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Certificate Winners

Congratulations to all the Certificate winners. Below is a recap of the winning results by continent and category.

Table 4. Certificate Winners

Call	Points	QSOs	Winner		Call	Points	QSOs	Winner	
			Points	QSOs				Points	QSOs
Europe - Special Callsign					NA - Special Callsign				
OL10CWO	416	3842	X		KE2CWO	721	1050	X	
EM10CWO	355	4604		X	KK1CWO	436	1117		X
Europe - CWops Member High Power					NA - CWops Member High Power				
I2WIJ	459	749	X		AA3B	1374	3474	X	
IK0YVV	375	1055		X	N3JT	858	1083		X
Europe - CWops Member Low Power					NA - CWops Member Low Power				
G3LDI	201	244	X		K1VUT	645	713	X	
SQ9S	36	185		X	W3KB	496	534		X
Europe - Non-Member High Power					NA - Non-Member High Power				
9A1AA	287		X		W2XYZ	284		X	
Europe - Non-Member Low Power					NA - Non-Member Low Power				
M0NGN	74		X		KC3BU	257		X	
Asia - CWops Member High Power					NA - Non-Member QRP				
JN1THL	5	8	X		AB9BZ	30		X	
Asia - CWops Member Low Power					Africa - CWops Member Low Power				
4Z4DX	28	43	X		EA8OM	218	305	X	
Asia - Non-Member Low Power					Africa - Non-Member Low Power				
VU2BQN	2		X		EA8DHA	14		X	
					Oceania - CWops Member High Power				
					ZL/G3WZD	2	11	X	

In Summary

CWops has come a long way in 10 years and continues to grow and thrive. The CWops 10th Anni-

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versary Celebration was an excellent example of encouraging all amateurs to engage in CW for fun, fulfillment and friendship. It's hard to predict the future, but it's a sure thing that CWops will continue to advance the art of CW and will hopefully have many more anniversary celebrations.

Special thanks are in order to the following for their numerous contributions to the organization and orchestration of the CWops 10th Anniversary Celebration:

- Celebration Committee: AA3B, W0TG, KE8G, KU7Y, GW0ETF, K1EBY, N4FP, NR3Z
- Advisors: N1DG, N3JT, W1UU, W1RM
- Lessons Learned: M0PCB
- N1MM Logger+ CWO10 Module Development, Test and Deployment: AA3B, G4OGB, G3WZD, KE6K, KC8J, KU7Y, VE2FK, W5LA, KA1IOR, K3CT
- Logo Design: K9WX, W0TG, N3JT
- Special Callsign Coordination: W0TG, W6TN
- Outreach: GW0ETF, W0TG
- Solid Copy Articles: W0TG, K9WX, AC4BT, AA3B
- Call History File Development: VE2FK
- Web Page Design and Implementation: KB6NU, N3JT, AA3B
- QSL Design and Requests: W0TG
- Commemorative Certificate Design and Requests: W0TG, VE3MA
- Scoring Application Development and Support: K6DGW, AA3B
- Log Checking: K6DGW, W0TG, AA3B
- Cabrillo Conversion Form Development: WA7BNM

Still Crazy After 60 Years on CW

[Tom Taormina K5RC](#)

Most of us started with a straight key, probably a DX-20 and, if you were lucky an SX-99. Technology has changed dramatically, but CW is still the classical music of ham radio.

I got my first electronic keyer in 1960. I finally wore out the ElKey paddle and replaced it with a Begali single lever in 2007. Everything else has evolved to state of the art.

My life story has taken me from New York to Texas and now to the final QTH, 10 Acres at 6,500' AMSL outside of Virginia City Nevada. When we moved here in 1997, my wife,

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K7AFO, suggested that two towers would be enough.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, becoming a member of The Northern California Contest



A drone view of the station, looking to the west at the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The centerpiece is a 3-element 80 m Yagi @ 175 feet

Club and with the influence of some of my Texas DX Society friends, megalomania set in. We went from two to four to six to eight towers and now have 35 antennas.

We started the Comstock Memorial Station in 2007 to create a venue for seasoned contesters and new contesters to have a world class station. We have lots of fun and have hosted W1AW/7 twice during the Centennial Year and this year in IARU Radiosport. We have a wall full of plaques and certificates, but the most gratifying outcome is the cadre of operators each getting to hone their operating skills and have fun being loud.

About four years ago, it became apparent that the station should be utilized for more than just contesting. We created an Elecraft-based remote and made the antennas and rotators available to the operators. Today, we host two remotes and are pleased that they have given operators in restricted neighborhoods and in condos access to the world via ham radio. Our motto is VOLA, Voice Over Large Arrays.

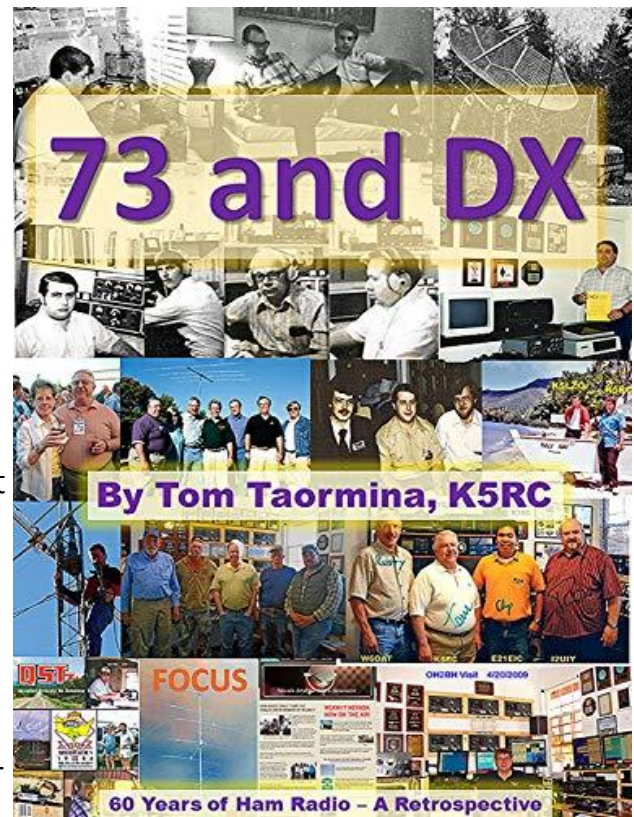
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Most of the users are CW enthusiasts with W1YL at the top of the list with more than 10,000 QSO's in the last four years. Other CWops members include K5VWW, K6NV, and K6DGW. The station is now a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit and is maintained by donations from the operators and remote users.

When the remotes are not in use, I typically get on for an hour in the evening and bust pileups and ragchew with other CW enthusiasts. I am at the Top of the Honor Roll with 374 mixed, so I wait for a new country, keep the station in repair and revel in the fun the remotes and the main station give other operators.

I wanted to share with other CWops what 60 years of CW insanity looks like in a photo collection. More details are on our W7RN page on QRZ.com. I have also just published a Kindle Book of my ham career, [73 and DX: 60 Years of Ham Radio - A Retrospective](#)



The station. With a few awards on the wall.

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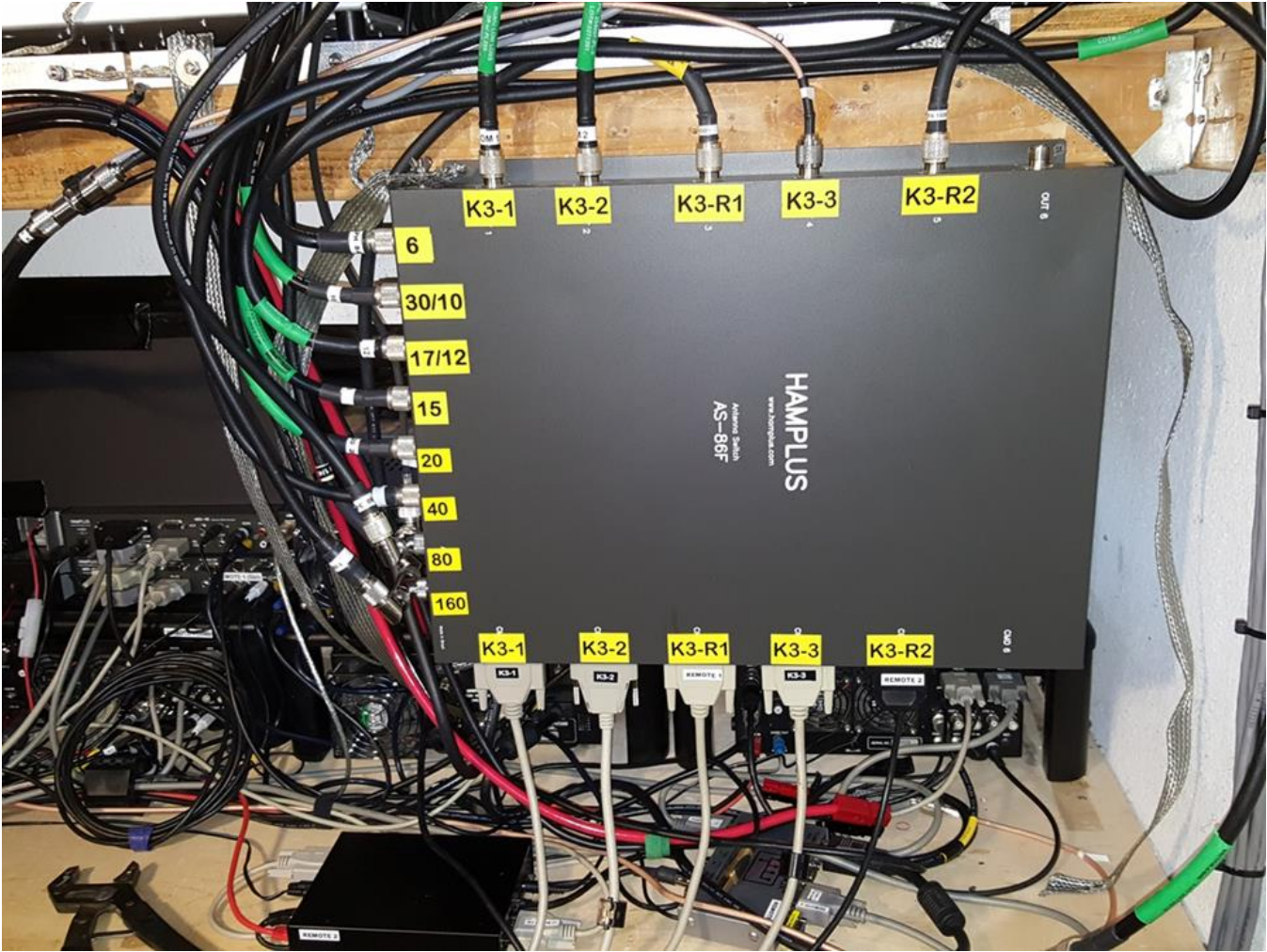
The Main SO3R Operating Position



The Remote Hosts

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Antenna to Radio Switching System

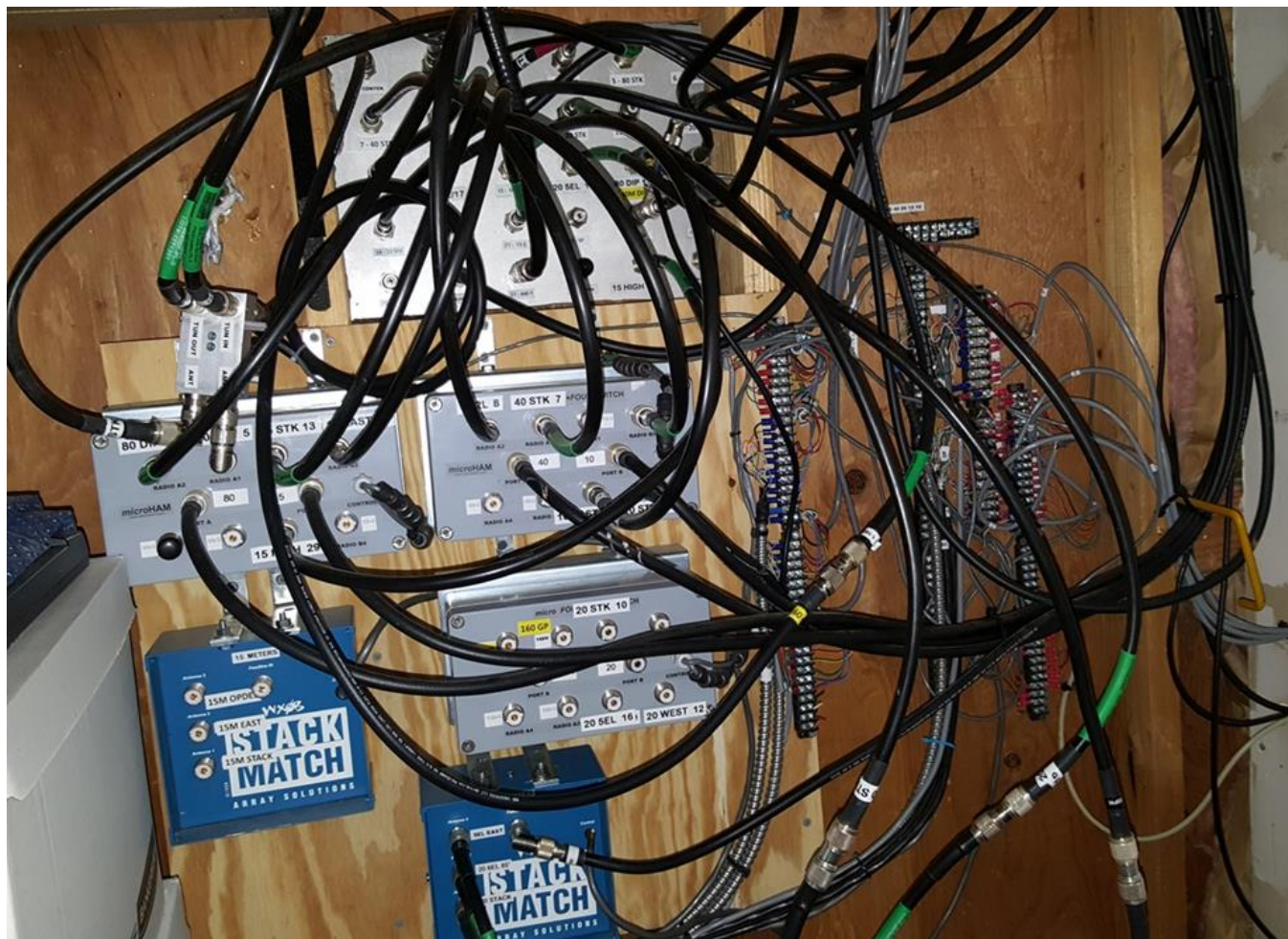


The Antenna Switching and Amplifier Control Screen

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Antenna Switching

Our Expedition to FS - AND Repairing Antennas on a Daily Basis!

[John Holmes W9ILY](#)

On December 3, 2019, our team of K9EL, K9NU, N9AOL and me, W9ILY, departed O'Hare airport at 0600 on our way to St. Martin in the beautiful Caribbean located east of Puerto Rico. After a successful change of flights in Miami, we proceeded on to the adventure of St. Martin. The administration of the island of Saint Martin is divided between two countries, the Netherlands where PJ7 is used for Sint Maarten, and France where FS is used for Saint Martin. Both are CEPT

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countries, but we had decided to use a special call of TO9W rather than FS appended to our own callsigns.

After claiming MOST of our baggage we proceeded on to our villa in (French) Saint Martin that overlooks the beautiful Atlantic Ocean and Orient Bay. The island of St. Barthelemy (FJ) was visible along with an IOTA island just offshore of St. Martin. One piece of our luggage missed the connection in Miami but was delivered to us late the following day. This caused us great concern as the missing piece held our 80 m antenna, our 160 m antenna, our SAL-20 receiving array and numerous other pieces and tools. Fortunately, all was well but our antenna duties were delayed.

On December 4, we worked on erecting out 20 m rotating dipole, 40 m vertical, 17 m rotating dipole and 30 m dipole. We began construction of our 160 m vertical with the mast having been shipped before our arrival. Without the remaining pieces of the 160 m antenna that were in the missing luggage, we were at a standstill so....we went to dinner! And such a dinner it was. Fine French dining and great French wine. Our first meal was – you guessed it – pizza! And it was delicious. French style pizza is a world apart from USA pizza and is truly an experience.

On December 5 we continued our antenna construction and completed the 160 m vertical and 80 m full size dipole. We used Spiderbeam masts that had been stored after use on previous trips. We were finally able to get on the air! The SAL-20 receiving array had to wait yet another day before installation.



The villa with all antennas in place.

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Our plan was to have three complete high-power stations operating on three different bands simultaneously and we achieved that goal. We had brought virtually all of our equipment with us with the exception of coax, the Spider-beam masts and the new 160 m mast. We had three K3 transceivers with Microham II interfaces, two Expert 1.3K-FA amps for full KW output and one KPA500 amp. Laptops were networked and real-time QSO data was planned to be uploaded to Club Log. We had advertised that we would concentrate on the lower bands and we certainly did with our entry in the ARRL 160 Meter CW contest yielding over 500 QSOs.

Over the weekend one station stayed on 160 during the hours of darkness to operate in the 160 CW contest while the other stations were on different bands using CW and FT8. During the daytime the 160 m station operated in the FT8 Roundup contest. While using FT8 outside of the contest we found the "Fox and Hound" mode was the only practical way to operate with huge interest in FS (we were the Fox). Since the Fox can transmit up to five separate streams to work up to five stations simultaneously that seemed to be the best approach. As the number of streams increases the output power of each decreases so this was done on occasion but usually only two or three were used. This resulted in more QSOs, but we encountered one huge problem. We were using N1MM+ as our "master" PC from which all QSOs would be uploaded to Club Log on a real-time basis. However, we discovered that, when multiple QSOs are logged at the exact second, the N1MM+ network "master PC" did not receive data for every QSO! The QSO information was only available on the station actually making the contact. We reported this to the N1MM team and they responded quickly to this most unusual and unanticipated problem since having it occur on CW, SSB or RTTY would have been virtually impossible. Their response was really great but, until the problem was identified and resolved, we began uploading data to Club Log from each operating PC thus allowing real-time logging on Club Log to continue and the "master PC" was not used in that capacity. While FT8 was very popular and resulted in a great number of QSOs, we noticed that many of the calling stations did not recognize the importance of having their calling frequency (tone) set to at least 1,000 Hz above the actual radio frequency. The WSJT-X software will not allow callers who are below 1,000 Hz to be worked and thus are, in effect, ignored by the fox. This was a continuing problem.



Our view when operating from the FS villa.

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As I mentioned, there was huge interest from virtually every part of the world in a QSO with FS. The pileups were absolutely gigantic on CW, SSB and RTTY. The CW pileups in particular were quite difficult as many stations keep calling and calling and calling even though we had requested a specific call or part of a call. When calling for a DL1, that is the only station that will be acknowledged. The continuous calling made the QSO rate quite a bit lower than was hoped but the called station was finally put in the log. I can only imagine what a huge, major DXpedition to a rare location encounters. The continuous calling problem occurred on RTTY as well, but not to the same degree. I should also make mention of our propagation experiences. EU can be worked literally 24 hours a day on some band. There are great long path openings to Japan near their sunrise on 40, 30 and 20 and great openings to JA after our sunrise on 40 and 80. I must not overlook 30 meters as it was open all day during daylight. In all, propagation was terrific.



Our sad 20 m dipole after a wind storm .

So, what happened to our antennas? First, as I mentioned, one of our pieces of baggage containing the 160 and 80 antennas, the SAL-20 and other items was delayed one day. Therefore, antenna construction took three days rather than one day. Secondly, there was the weather! Yes, the Caribbean is noted for sun and sand but there is also wind and rain. The wind is always present and the rain with gusty winds made a frequent appearance. Our 80 m dipole was the ONLY antenna not to suffer some type of problem. The 20 m rotating dipole was knocked down by strong winds and the aluminum destroyed. It was replaced by a wire dipole that operated very well. The 40 m vertical broke and was repaired. The 30 m dipole was blown over several times by the wind

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and wound up in the pool. The 17 m rotating dipole needed to be relocated due to interference and was affected several times by the wind. The 160 m vertical suffered several problems on several days such as broken guy lines, frayed guy lines, a twisted vertical wire, wet tuning network and, on the second to last day, an overnight storm bent the pole 90 degrees and actually broke the thick-walled fiberglass tube. It was not repairable at that time so 160 was finished! The SAL-20 did not suffer.

We had planned to take a non-stop flight to Chicago O'Hare airport on Saturday but there was a political disturbance on the French side of Saint Martin and the borders were CLOSED! "Closed" really means blocked by rubbish and burned out cars! The airport is on the Dutch side, so it was essential to cross the border to that side of the island. The taxi had been arranged to take us back to the airport "was not coming" to the French side so K9EL was able to



W9ILY and K9EL hard at work with the pileups.

arrange another taxi to take us to the airport. Unfortunately, what normally takes about one hour turned out to be a very long and involved trip. We had to go through side streets, reverse direction several times to avoid closures, and finally wound up having to carry all of our baggage from the French side to the Dutch side past burned out cars, blocks of concrete, trash, sheets of metal and other general garbage to another taxi that was waiting for us on the Dutch side. We were finally able to reach the airport in time for our flight.

After an unexpected exciting exit from Saint Martin we were able to reflect on the past ten days and all the fun we had. It was truly an adventure, lots of fun, great food and wine, all with great friends. We all will have fine memories of Saint Martin for many years to come. Thanks to our pilot stations K9NB, W9MK and AA9A who offered great assistance to our FS team. QSLs have been received and are being distributed.

Giving Back Update

[Rob Brownstein K6RB](#)

CWops' Giving Back (GB) program is meant to provide on-air QSO experience and practice for anyone who wants it. It was initially intended as a way for our CW Academy students to get some on-air experience. We all know that when there is activity on the bands, these days, it's usually a DXpedition pileup or a contest. Today's CW aspirants have had little chance to work others who are skilled at CW, operate at moderate speed, and are committed to helping. That's the mission of Giving Back.

The GB volunteers get on the air at approximately 7 PM local time and seek out CQers, or call CQ, and engage in routine QSOs including some conversational tidbits.

Here is the current GB schedule:

Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local Time 40 m									
	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	UTC-10
Mon				GM0EUL	AF8A	K8UDH	NS6W	N6HCN	
Tues		SV2BBK		GW0ETF	WE5P		K7NJ	K6RB KK6M KK0ECT	
Wed				G0HKC	N4TMM	K5XU	KU7Y	K6DGW	
Thurs		SV2BBK				AC6ZM	NS6W	WU6X	
Fri		SV2BBK			VE3FXX W2LCQ	AC6ZM	KU7Y	K6RB	
Sat					VE3FXX	AC6ZM			
Sun						N9EP		K6RB	

Those interested in working these folks and practicing should look for them at around 7 PM in each time zone. They will usually send a "CWA" just before signing after a CQ. This identifies them as GB volunteers and lets others know these people are there to help.

Here are the results of February's GB efforts:

Stations Worked

- **GM0EUL:** IU0JGN, EA4W, F5RIJ, US5XD, EA1ANB
- **K6RB:** AC4WO/7, W2PIX, KP4/N5TOO, K3LU, AC2K, N7IV, W4EDE, W0ITT
- **K7NJ:** KD4MSR, WB7PNC, KF4GLG, WA4JYX
- **K8UDH:** WB4KTK, W0AEW, AC3EO, K4KUS
- **N4TMM:** K3KYR, N2CJO, KC3NLB, KC1BMD, K4OY, KB0HXL, W2LCQ, CO6DSP, K5TSK, WN7SIU
- **N6HCN:** AC2K, N9EVP

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- **N9EP:** N4SO, KY7AA, AA0O, W9YK, AA2MX, N2FQ, K7JKZ, AC9KT, WB7TLK, W7VB, W2PIX, W3CFE, NN0D
- **NS6W:** NE7EE, N7MOZ
- **SV2BBK:** DH3JQ
- **VE3FXX:** WE4SEL, KA0XIX, KE0KKT, KE0XIX
- **W2LCQ:** N4TMM
- **WE5P:** KN4IXU, W1SFR, K34CQ, WC7Q, IU3HPY
- **WU6X:** KN4VCE, W3KC, NN7RM, WB7TLK, WM4Q, W6DT, W7KB, AA6RS
- **WB5BKL:** N2DXC, V47T, VP5K, P44W, VP9I, NP4DX, XE2B, TI7W, 8P5S, ZF5T, ZF1A, PJ2T, NP2P, KB4AMNG

CWops and Friends Dayton Awards Dinner

[Dave Yockey K8CMO](#) and [Bill Perkins KC4D](#)

It is time to make plans to attend the 2020 Dayton Hamvention in Dayton/Xenia, Ohio. The Hamvention is scheduled for May 15-17, 2020. Once again, CWops will hold its annual dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse in downtown Dayton at 36 West Fifth Street, about two blocks west of the Crowne Plaza (the traditional home of K3LR's Contest University) on Thursday night, May 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.



We have reserved the restaurant's largest dining room although limited in capacity of about 100. Overflow space will be available in the Streetcar Dining Room, but you will want to get your reservation in early. We need name, call, and email address to secure your space. Please reference Dayton Spaghetti Dinner as topic so we don't miss it. Email to [Dave K8CMO](#) (davidyockey1@gmail.com) or [Bill KC4D](#) (wwbillperkins@comcast.net).

You will be asked to select from five (5) Spaghetti Warehouse favorites: Spaghetti with Meatballs, Incredible 15-layer lasagna, 4 cheese manicotti, Fettuccini Alfredo, Chicken Parmigiana, and Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. All these selections include a salad, bread, and non-alcoholic beverage. You may order any of the Five (5) Spaghetti Warehouse favorites with the associated sides, etc. for the fixed, all-inclusive price of about \$21 per person (including tax and gratuity).

You will receive individual bills, including your adult beverages, if any, before you depart. These should be paid individually at the front desk. Two of the selections are meatless, but if you have other special dietary needs, I suggest you call the restaurant at 937.461.3913 a few days in advance and explain your needs and they will try to comply where possible.

As always, everyone is welcome: CWops members, spouses, significant others, and friends.

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We look forward to greeting you on May 14, but it is important to get your reservation to us as soon as possible.

The registration list to date includes: Mac-NN4K, Jim - N3JT, Dave - K8CMO, Pat - (NO CALL), Bill - KC4D, Dan - AK4SQ, Don - K6ZO, Joe - AA8TA, Ed - N4EDT, Steve - N8BJQ, Rob - K6RB, Bruce - NJ3K, Jeff - WA1VQY, Andy - WB7DKZ, Brian - VE3MGY, Dave - W1CTN, Steve - K2KRG, Marty - NR3Z, Jim - N7US, Ken - NG2H, John - AJ1DM, Bill - W3PNM, John, K4BAI, Juan - AC6ZM, Adrian - KO8SCA, Steve - N2AJ, Jim - K4QPL, Jack - W1WEF, Dale - K3SEN - Gary - NC4S, John - N3AM, John - W2QL, Peter - W1UU, Tim - K9WX, Frank - NF8M, Rick - N6XI, Russ - K0VXU, David - G3WGN, Ted - WA3AER, Chuck - K3WJX, Bill - W2CQ, Randy - W8FN, Jim - KA3LXM, John - KM4CH, Dwight - KM4FO, Glenn K3PP, John - N8AA, Riki - K7NJ, Becki - (NO CALL), Steve - NY3B, Joe - AF1E, Bill K1ZJA, Wayne - N4FP, Marty - N4GL, Mark - K5GQ, Keith - NM5G, Guy - VE2BWL/VA2UR, George - W1EBI, Carl - W8WZ, Steve WA8Y, Madison - W5MJ, Mitch NWØM, Mike WB0SND, Joe - K7JOE, Max NG7M, Mike ND9G, Rus - K2UA, Dick - WN7S, Chuck - K4QS, Tony - N3ZN, Robin - (NO CALL), Jerry - W4WQ, Char - (NO CALL), Phil - WM6Y, Phil - WF6L, Bill - W3PNM, Judith - WW5C, Dan - K8RF/NP2J, Kenny - K2KW, Steve - WA8Y, Jim - KG9LB, Paula - KB9RUY, Bill - W4WV, Keith - KE4KDY, Tom - KA4EN, Gary - WB4DNL, Don - W4ZYT, Emmett - KD4OS, Bob - WR7Q, Gregg - W7GEM, Mike - NI4U, Lee - KY7M, Mike - NI4U

CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch VE3KI](#)

I reached a personal milestone on the morning of March 4: my 1000th CWT. My first CWT was on May 13, 2010, which is pretty close to the beginning. The first CWTs were on January 12, 2010, and my first one was the 15th CWT.

The first three CWTs are not in 3830scores.com, but the scores for all of the other CWTs starting in February 2010 are archived there. Looking at that list, I see that we passed our 1000th CWT session unnoticed in October, 2018. In our first 10 years (i.e. up to the end of 2019), we accumulated 1185 CWTs, and we're well over 1200 by now.

There are quite a few familiar call signs in my first CWT log, many of whom are still CWT regulars, so my 1000 CWT number is probably not quite at the top of the all-time participation list. In my 1000 CWT logs, there are a total of 79,476 QSOs, which is definitely not near the top of the list for that statistic.

The call sign that appears most often in my CWT logs is WJ9B. Will's call sign is in my CWT logs a total of 924 times. There are 30 different call signs that appear at least 500 times in my logs (logs plural because I have used more than one call sign).

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You don't need a superstation to enjoy the CWTs. I have entered a handful of CWTs operating other stations remotely, and a couple of dozen portable, but the great majority were from my home station. For the first year or so of my CWT career I was using 100 watts (or less – I occasionally operate QRP) to a ground-mounted trap vertical antenna. In mid-2011 we moved to our current QTH, and I upgraded to wire antennas at a moderate height (around 40 feet). I acquired a 500-watt amplifier a year after that, and graduated to the lofty category of “tribander with wires” in late 2014 (a TA-33 on a 50-foot tower).

I rely on computer logging and I let the computer send CW for me too. I also make use of “call history” files and a spectrum/waterfall display integrated into my logging program. I sometimes use spots from CW skimmers in the Reverse Beacon Network, but more often than not I don't bother. The experience is a lot different from casual CW ragchewing, but I (and many others from what I can tell) enjoy it. On the other hand, there certainly are plenty of people doing the CWTs differently from the way I do it, and why not?

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](#) [Joe Fischer AA8TA](#)
[Bob Carter WR7Q](#) [Glenn Norman W4YES](#)

We are very pleased to announce the results of the January-February 2020 CW Academy session. As usual, we saw many students sign up for a class and 268 successfully completed a class. This is an incredible achievement by our talented and dedicated advisors.

For this just-completed semester, we had 60 advisors lead classes.

Advisors leading three classes: Buzz, AC6AC and Ed, K6HP.

Advisors leading two classes: Joe, AA8TA; Bill, K0MP; Dallas, K1DW; Mark, K5GQ; Kate, K6HTN; Rob, K6RB; Bruce, K8UDH; Joe, KK5NA; Ron, KU7Y; Mac, NN4K; Bill, W3PNM; David, W8OV and Andy, WB7DKZ.

Advisors leading one class: Jim, AA5W; Mike, AA6M; Alan, AD6E; Bill, AG4EA; Mike, AG5QX; John, AJ1DM; Keith, G0HKC; Duncan, G3WZD; Al, K0AD; Bruce, K1BG (youth); Rich, K1DJ; Dennis, K2SX; Scott, KF7GGN; Mike, KI7OMH; Patrick, KI9T; David, KK6M; David, KT5V; Tom, KV8Q; Will, MI0WWB; Bryan, N3FZ; Mike, N7ID; Jim, N7MU; John, N8AA; Gary, N8LR; Ed, N9EP; George, NG7A;

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Eric, NM5M; Ryan, NN7M; Serge, NS6W; Quinton, NU7Y; Carole, VA7QCE; Ron, VE3FXX; James, VK4TJF; Bill, W0EJ; Tom, W0FN; George, W0PHX; Phil, W2OZB; Carl, W4IF; Tim, W7EEE; Ted, WA3AER; Tom, WA9CW; Terry, WB0JRH; Kenneth, WF6F; Bob, WR7Q and Hanz, YL3JD.

We are ever so thankful for these advisors who take the time to help people learn Morse code and improve their CW skills. They also share their passion for our favorite mode.

The students who completed their classes are as follows.

Beginner (126 students): KD9EYA, KI5DDO, KN4UDT, W0JCB, K8WAM, KN4TWD, KX4TI, WB3EYB, KB2YSI, KB9ML, KC1JQJ, AC8VM, AL7BA, KJ4PPK, KN4YRM, VA2VEC, G6TDR, CR7AWB, LB1FI, M0TIZ, KA4TKQ, KD0MVB, KE8LTD, K4RXH, WX8YZ, AK6MM, KM4WYO, N5RTR, W4KTX, K7AEM, KI5GDZ, AJ0V, KC5HWP, AG5NM, W1MCX, WL7CVD, AC1EV, AJ4NO, KB2MXI, W1TTL, KD9LNH, AI6HH, W6RWS, K7JRO, KF7GND, KM6QLF, NF6N, W6ZDQ, K0RNN, KE5URU, KG5JKU, KM4SJZ, AA4TG, AJ6AN, K6WHP, N6LKA, N6WT, W6VT, K0MJG, N0WWA, WZ5L, KP2RH, VA2SOB, WB4IR, WB8YHD, M0VPH, AB1GS, K0RGI, W2UZ, K6VN, KD5GOB, KM6ZMZ, W7KAS, AG7TX, KM6CXQ, VA7KBM, VA7RPE, VE7XPW, WA7KJ, WM5D, 4I1MXJ, K3ROG, K7HVN, K7TAB, KE0OIR, KJ7JC, KF5VO, KG5SQJ, N0IIL, NE5ET, AE5EZ, K2BEW, W8AT, WP4QZH, KN6EQQ, KJ7KVD, NC3C, W0BSF, VE6TMJ, NC7BC, K0BE, KB9TIM, KD9NMN, N9TCA, AE0DI, K5RCX, KV4JW, AJ6DQ, WH6FXJ, KG5CQO, K5ALA, KD6SIR, KC0PLO, KC5UNL, KC9CSC, N2UD, N4EWF, N9FC, NQ2B, W8DTB, K6LP, N6QAD, KJ7BLE, IW2EVH, PA2ST and SP1MM.

Basic (59 students): AE8AT, AK4IC, KA9OUT, KD2CQ, W7GEM, AE7VW, KF6COZ, NN6B, NR5W, KC1LZX, NA7SN, AG7WI, AE7EU, N6JFD, NJ6Q, W6QA, KD0MQO, N9PUZ, W5SD, KE3KK, KI2N, W3VN, KW7A, N7ACI, N1CK, WB7BWZ, NC4TS, W4MSL, WA4LXU, N3JUY, K9TA, N1ILZ, N4GKM, N9DXP, W9KKQ, K0HAA, KI7WNS, KB7QHL, KE0SSV, KG5GTE, KG5IEE, N4PHL, N9OVQ, AG5UT, K5ECO, KC9JLE, NG0C, W9VOX, K4MCX, KA1YQC, VO1IDX, WA1MD, W4EMW, WB0BEE, N8RQJ, AG4CC, KF5WJ, N9STF and W5SRS.

Intermediate (46 students): AJ6CL, K6HZR, K7YEM, KL3MM, N7JCT, VA7ETR, K2HZO, AA0O, AB1DQ, AC2SG, DG6UAX, PA3HEN, W6ZDR, K7FOP, K0EMG, K0VD, KA7MDM, N7JP, K5KB, KG6NRV, WA6L, WR6D, KC9JVB, KI7MNW, KL0NP, W7GE, K7CLR, N0DNF, WA7BKD, AD5MT, KG6O, KI6UJH, AD4UM, K1LHO, K3GBB, K8WWS, N3JET, AA9SN, K2FN, KX4FZ, W3RE, WK1V, VE3WNS, N8ND, WQ0N and K7OJL.

Advanced (37 students): AJ6GI, K7AHR, KH6FHI, KL7IXW, VE7KHI, W7MP, WT8P, G0UYG, G4USI, M0NGN, M0TZX, R5AF, K1OKD, K4RLC, N4KHZ, K1APJ, K4OY, K6PB, KI7OMH, W2PIX, W6SMF, W7VQ, W6RR, AC6ZM, AC8SI, AK4SQ, KN4IY, W2XYZ, WW5C, AB9TE, KD2KW, KE5EN, KA9BHD, AJ6CY, K7MOZ, K8PK and VU3RDD.

Of the above students, the following are members of CWops: AC6ZM, AJ6GI, AK4SQ, G0UYG, K4OY, K7AHR, K8PK, KA9BHD, KH6FHI, KI7OMH, KL7IXW, KP4/AC6ZM, M0NGN, M0TZX, W7MP, W7VQ and WT8P.

We have a short break to catch our breath a bit before we start another semester in April. We have room for anybody who would like to help some of our many students learn or improve their

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CW skills. It takes a few hours a week and the rewards of watching students succeed is wonderful. Besides some time, all you really need is the desire to share your passion for this hobby and mode and to want to help ensure that we have future generations of CW operators.

73,

**Kate K6HTN, Joe AA8TA,
Bob WR7Q, Glenn W4YES**
CW Academy Managers

New Members

Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
2450	K6KM*	Rob
2451	G0CKP/M1X*	Steve
2452	KF9VV*	Jim
2453	G0UYG*	Andy
2454	WA7LNW/W7CXX*	Jack
2455	NA2U	Fred

CWops	Call	Name
2456	WT8P*	Jim
2457	KL7IXW*	Ward
2458	KH6FHI*	Joe
2459	M0NGN*	Nige
2460	K7AHR*	Andy
2461	W7MP	Adam

CWops	Call	Name
2462	M0TZX*	Ed
2463	N4BP*	BP
2464	K4OY*	Greg
2465	AJ6GI*	Jaime
2466	K1APJ*	Andrew
2467	W6SMF*	Stan

*Life Member

Current Nominees

As of March 8, 2020

Need Sponsors: K3PID, KA4DXP, K8EK, K8VA, KI5IO, G4USI, R5AF, PA3HEN

Invitations Extended: VE7KHI, W6RR, N2WF, K6PB

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 Manager



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	992	9165	W1RM	205	W9ILY	50	UR5MM	58	UR5MM	39
K3WJV	766	4697	F6HKA	186	NU7Y	50	W1RM	57	W1RM	38
NA8V	758	5049	DL6KVA	155	NA8V	50	DL6KVA	56	OK1RR	38
F6HKA	719	5763	W4VQ	153	N7US	50	OH2BN	55	OH2BN	38
N8BJQ	682	6001	UR5MM	152	N5IR	50	F6HKA	53	N8BJQ	38
VE3KI	637	5441	OH2BN	147	N2UU	50	VE3KI	50	F6HKA	38
KG9X	632	2750	G4BUE	145	N2RC	50	OK1RR	49	AA3B	38
K1VUT	630	2839	OK1RR	138	N1DC	50	9A1AA	48	9A1AA	38
WT9U	623	3325	VE3KI	134	KU7Y	50	G4BUE	47	W4VQ	37
K4WW	611	2530	N8BJQ	124	KE4S	50	N8BJQ	46	VE3KI	37
W1RM	606	6317	AA3B	121	K8JQ	50	DJ1YFK	46	G4BUE	37
K7QA	601	2544	K3WW	120	K8AJS	50	PG4I	45	W0VX	36
K0VBU	595	4266	K1ESE	118	K7QA	50	K3WW	45	N5PHT	36
DL6KVA	565	3531	AC4CA	118	K5CM	50	AA3B	45	K3WW	36
I2WIJ	531	963	9A1AA	116	K4GM	50	IK0YVV	44	DL6KVA	36
K8JQ	516	3503	W0VX	115	K3WW	50	W4VQ	43	AC4CA	36
NA4J	490	1663	N5PHT	112	K1EBY	50	K3WJV	43	N5RR	35
N5PHT	472	3943	EA8OM	111	K0VBU	50	K1ESE	43	IK0YVV	34
WN7S	469	1700	W9ILY	110	K0MP	50	I5EFO	43	4X6GP	34
K9WX	465	2914	N5IR	110	IK0YVV	50	G4HZV	43	W9ILY	33
N2UU	464	4084	K1SM	110	AE1T	50	W9ILY	42	VK7CW	33
W9ILY	449	4162	N5RR	105	AC4CA	50	NA8V	42	N5IR	33
W4WF	447	1683	4X6GP	105	N5RR	50	N5RR	42	K1ESE	33
K1EBY	438	2364	VK7CW	104	W1RM	50	N2UU	42	K0VBU	33
K6NR	407	1113	I5EFO	103	W4VQ	50	EA8OM	42	I5EFO	33
CO8NMN	402	1543	K3WJV	101	F6HKA	50	AC4CA	42	NA8V	32
K5ZD	400	2156	IK0YVV	101	W1UU	50	4X6GP	42	N1EN	32

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K2TW	382	1897	AE1T	101	VE3KI	50	K1SM	41	K1SM	32
K1DJ	376	2611	NA8V	99	G4BUE	50	SM0HEV	39	I5IYJ	32
VE3MV	369	1899	EA1WX	99	EA8OM	50	HB9ARF	39	OK1RP	30
K1ESE	364	4058	K0VBU	98	W0EJ	50	G3LDI	39	NA6O	30
KB8GAE	363	1106	N2UU	95	F6JOE	50	AE1T	39	N7US	30
N7US	359	3271	W1UU	93	W6KY	50	W0VX	38	N2RC	30
W1UU	357	2912	N7US	93	N1EN	50	IT9VDQ	38	KR3E	30
KV8Q	353	1165	N1EN	92	N5PHT	50	IT9MUO	38	K3WJV	30
KE4S	347	2081	K8AJS	90	F5MNK	50	DL5DBY	38	RM2D	29
K4GM	345	2661	IT9MUO	90	K5IX	50	DK1WI	38	K8AJS	29
K0TC	343	1603	N2RC	87	K3SEN	50	SM5IMO	37	IT9VDQ	29
K4TZ	334	1396	F6JOE	87	AD1C	50	KR3E	37	N5AW	28
W0VX	331	3956	KY7M	86	AB7MP	50	K8AJS	37	N2UU	28
W3WHK	331	1865	KR3E	86	AA3B	50	K3MD	37	KT5V	28
K8AJS	326	2930	K1DJ	86	K5AX	50	G4ILW	37	WT9U	27
VA7ST	322	2579	WT9U	85	I5EFO	50	F6JOE	37	K4GM	27
W8OV	316	1286	I5IYJ	83	VK7CW	50	W1UU	36	DJ1YFK	27
UR5MM	314	2906	AD1C	83	KY7M	50	N5IR	36	WT2P	26
N4FP	307	0	K4HQB	81	NA6O	50	M0RYB	36	W1UU	26
N4CWZ	305	448	NA6O	80	N8BJQ	50	K1DJ	36	N1ZX	26
AC6ZM	304	367	K5AX	79	K9WX	50	G4NVR	36	KU7Y	26
N1DC	303	2768	DL8PG	79	WT2P	50	EA1WX	36	K5ZD	26
W2NRA	303	1730	DJ1YFK	79	K1ESE	50	SM7IUN	35	K5CM	26
AC3BU	301	1024	N1DC	78	K3WJV	50	N1EN	35	K4HQB	26
K0MP	300	1525	K9WX	78	K1DJ	50	MI0WWB	35	K2QB	26
N5IR	298	3539	N1ZX	77	K4WW	50	K0VBU	35	V31MA	25
AG4EA	295	621	IT9VDQ	77	K2QB	50	IN3FHE	35	K9WX	25
WS1L	288	540	K4GM	76	W7GF	50	RM2D	34	K1DJ	25
W2VM	285	1334	RM2D	73	WT9U	49	N5AW	34	DK1WI	25
G4BUE	284	3715	KE4S	73	WN7S	49	N1DC	34	K4WW	24
NR3Z	281	542	K2QB	73	WB5BKL	49	K5ZD	34	DL4FDM	24
KC8J	273	703	WT2P	71	WA3GM	49	K4HQB	34	N1DC	23
KF8O	268	689	PG4I	71	W4WF	49	IK0NOJ	34	KE8G	23
KT4XN	253	1065	DK1WI	71	W4ER	49	DL4FDM	34	K8JQ	23
W4VQ	248	2950	N5AW	70	W3WHK	49	W2NRA	33	K7QA	23
KK0ECT	243	662	K5ZD	70	W2NRA	49	SQ9S	33	WE5P	22
HB9ARF	237	1476	G4HZV	70	W0VX	49	ON4VT	33	N2WK	22
W0TG	234	1249	G3LDI	70	VE3MV	49	M0DHP	33	KE4S	22
K3SEN	233	1795	W2NRA	69	VA7ST	49	N2WK	32	HB9ARF	22
K4AFE	232	1721	N7WY	68	NN4K	49	N2RC	32	KG9X	21

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KM4FO	227	1283	K4WW	68	NA4J	49	KY7M	32	K6DGW	21
KT5V	226	1916	F5MNM	68	N5AW	49	K1VUT	32	K3SEN	21
KB4DE	226	682	KE8G	67	N2WK	49	I5IYJ	32	G4HZV	21
G4HZV	223	1063	N2WK	66	N1ZX	49	F5MNM	32	W2NRA	20
NN4K	218	1998	HB9ARF	66	KT5V	49	F5IYJ	32	W0TG	20
WA2USA	217	626	V31MA	65	KM4FO	49	V31MA	31	VA7ST	20
W8DN	214	958	OK1RP	65	KG9X	49	SV2BBK	31	K1EBY	20
SM0HEV	213	603	SM5IMO	64	KE8G	49	OK1RP	31	JF2IWL	20
PG4I	212	616	K3DMG	63	KE4RG	49	N1ZX	31	IN3FHE	20
M0RYB	206	675	K1EBY	63	K6RB	49	K5AX	31	G3LDI	20
KE4RG	201	1071	DL5DBY	63	K4TZ	49	K4GM	31	W7GF	19
K8RJW	191	561	VA7ST	62	K4HR	49	DL8PG	31	W4ER	19
WE5P	190	778	KT5V	61	K3MD	49	WT9U	30	W3WHK	19
DJ1YFK	182	1583	K5CM	61	K1VUT	49	VK7CW	30	VE3MV	19
G4NVR	176	1036	W3WHK	60	AA8TA	49	NA6O	30	SM7IUN	19
W8XC	176	517	VE3MV	60	DL6KVA	49	N7US	30	NA4J	19
N1EN	171	2255	K7QA	60	K0TC	49	KE4S	30	KB8GAE	19
OH2BN	171	1251	K1VUT	60	K6DGW	49	K4WW	30	K6NR	19
NA6O	167	3300	DL4FDM	60	W8OV	48	K1EBY	30	K4HR	19
AA8TA	166	1627	SM7IUN	59	W8DN	48	KE8G	29	F5IYJ	19
K4EES	166	334	SM0HEV	59	W0TG	48	K4QS	29	WN7S	18
W6TN	161	807	K3SEN	59	UR5MM	48	K2QB	29	WA3GM	18
OK1RR	160	2582	G4NVR	59	N7WY	48	I2WIJ	29	NU7Y	18
G3LDI	159	1430	K8JQ	58	KV8Q	48	N5PHT	28	NN4K	18
KA9BHD	157	755	F5IYJ	58	KR3E	48	G3WZD	28	K4AFE	18
AB7MP	156	1148	K4QS	57	KA9BHD	48	AD1C	28	K1VUT	18
KJ4M	156	1033	W6KY	56	K6NR	48	W3WHK	27	K0TC	18
W6GMT	151	311	K6RB	56	K5ZD	48	VA7ST	27	IK0NOJ	18
KG5VK	147	163	IN3FHE	56	K4QS	48	K9WX	27	CO8NMN	18
OK1RP	136	701	ON4VT	55	K4HQB	48	K7QA	27	AC3BU	18
MI0WWB	131	420	KG9X	53	K4AFE	48	EA4OR	27	WB5BKL	17
VE6JF	121	692	WE5P	52	K3DMG	48	VE3MV	26	SM5IMO	17
G3WZD	120	406	NN4K	52	K2TW	48	K3SEN	26	SM0HEV	17
NU7Y	118	1314	IK0NOJ	52	K1SM	48	K3DMG	26	PG4I	17
SM7IUN	117	521	G4ILW	52	IT9VDQ	48	G0MGM	26	ON4VT	17
AF3K	116	618	M0RYB	51	EA1WX	48	G0ELZ	26	G4NVR	17
AJ1DM	116	607	KU7Y	50	DL8PG	48	NN4K	25	G4DRS	17
4X6GP	100	1675	K4HR	50	AC3BU	48	WT2P	24	W6TN	16
W7GF	98	870	W2VM	48	9A1AA	48	K8JQ	24	KV8Q	16
SQ9S	98	425	NA4J	47	4X6GP	48	K6RB	24	K0MP	16

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KU7Y	95	1630	K4AFE	47	W6TN	47	W2VM	23	W8OV	15
NJ3K	88	101	WN7S	45	W2VM	47	K5CM	23	W4WF	15
K6KM	86	104	W0TG	45	W2NO	47	G4DRS	23	W2VM	15
WB5BKL	85	1163	M0DHP	45	VE1OP	47	K2TW	22	KT4XN	15
9A1AA	82	2551	G0MGM	45	SM5IMO	47	AC3BU	22	G4ILW	15
WT8P	66	280	W4ER	44	OK1RR	47	JF2IWL	21	DL5DBY	15
W1EQ	65	68	AC3BU	44	OH2BN	47	F5PBL	21	AB7MP	15
G4ILW	59	693	CO8NMN	43	KT4XN	47	WN7S	20	W8XC	14
EA4OR	52	226	SQ9S	42	KK0ECT	47	NA4J	20	W2NO	14
SV2BBK	48	242	MI0WWB	42	KJ4M	47	K4HR	20	VE6JF	14
N7MU	45	393	K2TW	42	KB4DE	47	KT5V	19	SQ9S	14
M0DHP	43	386	I2WIJ	42	IT9MUO	47	KG9X	19	NR3Z	14
G0ELZ	34	171	WA3GM	41	I5IYJ	47	CO8NMN	19	N7MU	14
I5EFO	30	1395	KB8GAE	41	HB9ARF	47	WB5BKL	18	N0PP	14
VK7CW	11	1800	K3MD	41	DK1WI	47	WA3GM	18	M0RYB	14
F5IYJ	5	644	WB5BKL	40	CO8NMN	47	W6KY	18	M0DHP	14
K3WW	0	6760	W8XC	39	W8XC	46	W2NO	18	KM4FO	14
AC4CA	0	4479	SV2BBK	38	VE6JF	46	VE1OP	18	KE6K	14
N5RR	0	4223	KV8Q	38	V31MA	46	G4RCG	18	KE4RG	14
K6RB	0	4032	K0TC	38	N0PP	46	WE5P	17	KB4DE	14
K5AX	0	3634	G4DRS	38	KE6K	46	W8XC	17	AJ1DM	14
N2RC	0	3271	W8DN	37	KB8GAE	46	NG1R	17	AA8TA	14
KY7M	0	3252	K6DGW	37	K8RJW	46	W4WF	16	W8DN	13
AE1T	0	3206	G3WZD	37	JF2IWL	46	W4ER	16	KC8J	13
F6JOE	0	3002	W0EJ	36	DL5DBY	46	NR3Z	16	K2TW	13
WT2P	0	2976	KT4XN	36	W0PHX	45	K4AFE	16	I2WIJ	13
IK0YVV	0	2958	AA8TA	36	KF8O	45	W0TG	15	G3WZD	13
K5CM	0	2866	W8OV	35	KC8J	45	KB8GAE	15	MI0WWB	12
EA8OM	0	2758	W4WF	35	G3LDI	45	KU7Y	14	KJ4M	12
K1SM	0	2566	W2NO	35	AJ1DM	45	K8RJW	14	KF8O	12
N5AW	0	2510	JF2IWL	35	AF3K	45	W8OV	13	KA9BHD	12
N2WK	0	2339	NR3Z	34	RM2D	44	W8DN	13	K6KM	12
N7WY	0	2303	VE1OP	32	NG1R	44	KV8Q	13	K4TZ	12
K4HQB	0	2193	KM4FO	31	N4CWZ	44	KT4XN	13	W0PHX	11
KE8G	0	2185	EA4OR	31	I2WIJ	44	AJ1DM	13	SV2BBK	11
K6DGW	0	2122	G0ELZ	30	G4NVR	44	K6DGW	12	NG1R	11
AD1C	0	2101	NU7Y	29	G4HZV	44	AA8TA	12	K8RJW	11
W6KY	0	2088	KA9BHD	28	DJ1YFK	44	KE4RG	11	AG4EA	11
K4QS	0	2069	K6NR	28	AG4EA	44	KB4DE	11	AF3K	11
K2QB	0	2023	W7GF	27	AC6ZM	44	KA9BHD	11	WA2USA	10

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
EA1WX	0	1961	N0PP	26	WS1L	43	K0MP	11	K1OJ	10
IT9MUO	0	1946	KE4RG	26	WE5P	43	WA2USA	10	G0ELZ	10
DL8PG	0	1789	KB4DE	26	ON4VT	43	W0EJ	10	AC6ZM	10
K3DMG	0	1773	F5PBL	26	NR3Z	43	NA1VT	10	WS1L	9
K3MD	0	1734	W6TN	25	N7SU	43	N5KW	10	N7ID	9
K4HR	0	1698	NG1R	25	N5KW	43	KM4FO	10	KK0ECT	9
IT9VDQ	0	1618	AJ1DM	25	F5IYJ	43	KC8J	10	KG5VK	9
KR3E	0	1602	KC8J	24	WT8P	42	SM7CIL	8	K4EES	9
V31MA	0	1520	K8RJW	24	WA2USA	42	N0PP	8	F5PBL	9
SM5IMO	0	1382	K5IX	24	N7MU	42	KJ4M	8	EA4OR	9
N1ZX	0	1348	K0MP	24	N7ID	42	K5IX	8	WX5CW	8
W4ER	0	1311	AB7MP	24	K4EES	42	KG5VK	7	WT8P	8
WA3GM	0	1230	K4TZ	22	W3RZ	41	KF8O	7	W6GMT	8
RM2D	0	1182	G4RCG	22	DL4FDM	41	K6NR	7	W4MDV	8
F5MNK	0	1111	KF8O	19	NA1VT	40	K0TC	7	NA1VT	8
W2NO	0	961	AF3K	19	G4DRS	40	AF3K	7	G4RCG	8
DK1WI	0	908	KJ4M	18	W6GMT	39	AC6ZM	7	SM7CIL	7
K5IX	0	892	WA2USA	17	IN3FHE	39	AG4EA	6	N7SU	7
DL5DBY	0	882	W0PHX	17	W4MDV	38	WS1L	5	N5KW	7
I5IYJ	0	837	VE6JF	17	M0RYB	38	W6TN	5	K1IG	6
IN3FHE	0	769	W3RZ	16	G3WZD	38	VE6JF	5	W9KM	5
VE1OP	0	768	N7MU	16	W9KM	37	NU7Y	5	W1EQ	5
W0EJ	0	754	K6KM	16	PG4I	37	KK0ECT	5	NJ3K	5
KE6K	0	722	AC6ZM	15	KB8PGW	37	K4TZ	5	N4CWZ	5
KE6K	0	722	AC6ZM	15	KB8PGW	37	K4TZ	5	N4CWZ	5
DL4FDM	0	646	NA1VT	14	SM0HEV	35	W3RZ	4		
N5KW	0	639	N5KW	14	OK1RP	35	W1EQ	3		
ON4VT	0	592	KE6K	14	MI0WWB	35	W0PHX	3		
N0PP	0	550	AG4EA	14	G0MGM	35	K6KM	3		
G0MGM	0	495	KK0ECT	13	SM7IUN	34	NJ3K	2		
W0PHX	0	426	SM7CIL	11	NJ3K	33	N7MU	2		
NG1R	0	424	KG5VK	11	KG5VK	33	N7ID	2		
G4DRS	0	410	K4EES	11	SQ9S	30	N4CWZ	2		
IK0NOJ	0	366	K1OJ	11	K6KM	30	KB8PGW	2		
N7SU	0	327	WX5CW	10	G4ILW	30	K4EES	2		
N7ID	0	311	N7ID	9	M0DHP	28	K1IG	2		
NA1VT	0	306	K1IG	9	G4RCG	28	WX5CW	1		
KB8PGW	0	284	W4MDV	8	W1EQ	26	WT8P	1		
W3RZ	0	267	WT8P	7	EA4OR	24	W9KM	1		
W9KM	0	236	W6GMT	7	AF9W	23	W7GF	1		

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W4MDV	0	225	W1EQ	6	WX5CW	20	W6GMT	1		
F5PBL	0	134	N7SU	6	SV2BBK	19	W4MDV	1		
G4RCG	0	131	KB8PGW	5	G0ELZ	19	N7SU	1		
AF9W	0	59	W9KM	4	SM7CIL	13	KE6K	1		
WX5CW	0	49	NJ3K	4	F5PBL	13	K1OJ	1		
SM7CIL	0	35	N4CWZ	4	K1OJ	3				
K1OJ	0	29	AF9W	2	K1IG	1				
K1IG	0	13								

New to Member Awards?

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

QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Bruce Murdock K8UDH](#)

I have CW QSOs with many hams who are not CWops members. That's true for all of us. Calling CQ is a lot like fishing. You never know what fish will take your bait or who will respond to your CQ. If they're not a CWops member, we have an opportunity to tell them about CWops and invite them to participate in our on-air activities, like CWTs and the CW Open. Everyone is welcome to participate and submit their results. Both events are good opportunities for interested non-members to garner the required nominations for membership.

The same is true for QTX. Ragchew QSOs offer another opportunity to welcome and encourage CW fans who may be interested in CWops membership. They can join the fun by submitting their ragchew QSO information for each month to the QTX area of the CWops website and their results will be included in the QTX column in the newsletter. Membership by the end of the year is required in order to qualify for an award.

Conversational CW is one more way to help our club grow. Here are the QTX results for February.

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Comments from QTX submissions

WS1L: I had to travel for a week, but still managed to improve my score from January. My most interesting QSO was with VE3CWM, a museum station in an old Cold War bunker 25 feet underground, somewhere near Ottawa, Canada. They are using some of the original Yaesu equipment from the 1980's there. It was a mini-QTX as it was volunteer night at the museum and the op, VE3BBM, had other duties. Still, one of the more memorable QSO's in the log. Check out their QRZ.com page for more info.

AJ1DM: Really enjoy rag-chewing with my friends. 73!

KU7Y: WA6JJM was my first QSO with my new KX3 back in 2012 and was just my 2nd QSO with my new Vizkey Vertical Bug in 2020. And these 2 QSOs are the only time we have worked! K6ELQ was the 1st QSO with the new bug for a 12 min contact.

KC0VKN: Really nice month, a few very cold weekends so no reason to leave the shack!

W3PNM: NT9N - my first caboose mobile!

KB6NU: Started off slow, but picked up the pace at the end of the month.

W9EBE: February. FB Ragchews. Priceless. ~ZUT~

N6HCN: "New Ones": Don, W3DF and Leo, KA0SIX. One QTX during a corporate web call, CW in one ear and the call in the other. Apparently the buzzword center of the brain does not interfere with CW copy.

AA5AD: just began tracking my rag-chews--looking forward to a year full of QTX!

W3WHK: Had a difficult but interesting conversation with José CT7AFI, he running 50w and I 100w, followed by a friendly e-mail exchange.

Awards and Medals for 2020

Medals are awarded for 2020 for three different levels in QTX.

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

Art (K8CIT) is already off to fast start in January with 257 QTX QSOs.

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QTX for February 2020

Call	QTX
K8CIT	122
KC0VKN	85
N5IR	58
N5PHT	57
W9EBE	42
N8AI	36

Call	QTX
WS1L	28
K2KRG	22
KB6NU	19
F5IYJ	16
K4AHO	14
N6HCN	13

Call	QTX
K8UDH	12
AG4EA	9
W3PNM	8
WB6TOU	7
K5YQF	6
AJ1DM	5

Call	QTX
KU7Y	2
SV2BBK	1
W3WHK	1
AA5AD	1

MQTX for February 2020

Call	MQTX
N8AI	71
W9EBE	31
SV2BBK	26
K2KRG	25
N5PHT	21

Call	MQTX
WS1L	20
K8CIT	12
N6HCN	9
K4AHO	8
AG4EA	7

Call	MQTX
K8UDH	7
AA5AD	6
K5YQF	3
W3WHK	3
AJ1DM	2

Call	MQTX
WB6TOU	2
KU7Y	1

QTX for 2020

Call	QTX
K8CIT	257
KC0VKN	150
N5PHT	113
N5IR	106
N8AI	96
W9EBE	84
WS1L	43

Call	QTX
KB6NU	41
K2KRG	40
K1ESE	34
K4AHO	30
N6HCN	25
AG4EA	22
AJ1DM	19

Call	QTX
F5IYJ	16
W3PNM	16
EW6BS	15
K5YQF	14
W3WHK	14
K8UDH	13
WB6TOU	9

Call	QTX
KU7Y	3
SV2BBK	2
AB7MP	2
AA5AD	1
G3WZD	1

MQTX for 2020

Call	MQTX
N8AI	144
W9EBE	66
K2KRG	52
SV2BBK	44
N5PHT	40
WS1L	37

Call	MQTX
K8CIT	28
N6HCN	24
K4AHO	19
K1ESE	14
AG4EA	12
G3WZD	9

Call	MQTX
K8UDH	8
W3WHK	7
M10WWB	7
W3PNM	7
AA5AD	6
KU7Y	5

Call	MQTX
K5YQF	4
WB6TOU	4
AB7MP	4
AJ1DM	2

Thanks for submitting your QTX reports for February. We're off to a good start in 2020.

73,

Bruce K8UDH, QTX Manager



My Story: New Member Biographies

Nigel Green M0NGN

I have an interest in electronics and amateur radio spanning over 40 years, ignited by a Christmas gift of a Phillips Radionic X40 kit at the age of 7 which involved building crystal radios and a myriad of electronic projects with my Dad. Tuning the radios, I built to the police frequencies and listening around mysterious and magical sounds of dits and dahs and films such as The Dambusters and listening to the moon landings also fueled my appetite for the hobby and mode of CW. I have latterly developed this interest into a serious hobby.

I spent 12 years in the armed forces, heavily involved in vehicles and logistics and although this allowed me to work around the periphery of sophisticated communication systems, I travelled too far and too often to become deeply involved. I am currently 20 years serving police officer, and similarly, my work pattern would not support me in developing my fascination with radio to the fullest.

Some 4 years ago, and with the prospect of retirement from the police approaching, and my hobby of long distance running no longer viable, I began to invest in basic equipment to pursue my hobby. After joining the RSGB in 2017, I passed Foundation, Intermediate and Full License qualifications, and in the same year decided to try the mode of CW.

This is when I discovered my real passion and have gone through the learning curve without once losing motivation. This has only been possible with the support of my partner, Wendy, and long walks with our Old English Sheepdog Syd (named after Syd Barratt of Pink Floyd fame!).

The Advisors to whom I owe a debt of great thanks showed unstinting support and were determined to help us all through the courses to succeed.

I have made a number of friends and many contacts along the way. I've completed the first leg of the journey, culminating in my delight at being invited to be a member of CWops. There is so much yet to discover and I look forward to continuing to the next chapter: improving my CW

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speed and being involved in contesting and ragchewing. My aim is to have CW as a second language. I would like to become an active member as possible within the CWops, including taking the role of advisor once retirement from the police service frees up my time.

Fred NA2U Hoffert

First of all, I want to thank KY7M for nominating me for membership and K9GS, WA4PGM, K3WW, W2NRA, N5OT, W2GD, W3KB, and WN7S for sponsoring me!

I was first licensed as WN0NTB in November 1965, in St. Louis. I had a DX-60 and a Hallicrafters SX-117. I passed my General exam the day after my Novice expired. I got my General in January, 1967...WA0QOA.

Early years were mostly CW ragchewing. After seven years in Chicago and a total of ten years off the air I got back into radio in northern New Jersey. After simple antennas I ended up with a tower and Yagis. Lots of DXing and I got into contesting in the early 90s. Contesting with the WA0QOA call sign was cumbersome so when vanity licensing opened up again I changed to NA2U 1996. I always wanted a 1x2 call but I saw NA2U available, sent it a few times and loved the sound on CW. Operating from NJ for over 15 years as a contester and DXer was unbelievable.



Contesting is my favorite activity. I prefer CW contesting, but that doesn't keep me from other modes. Retirement in 2013 has allowed me to contest from the DX side from KH6 and PJ2. Retirement has me in Phoenix, AZ in a HOA antenna-restricted home. I have Inv-Vees for 40m/20m/15m/10m at ~18'. Most of my operating for the last two years has been remote operation of NA7TB in southeast AZ. Real antennas including an 8-circle transmit/receive array on 160m. That helps take the sting out of the HOA restriction.

We will be married fifty years this September. I want to thank my XYL, Liz, again for supporting me and this hobby I love so much.

Thanks to the club for having me as a member.

Ward Merdes KL7IXW

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska – the cold/dark part. At eleven years old, my older sister's visiting fiancé mentioned "Ham Radio" and "talking around the world." He suggested I study up and get my novice license. At that same time, my father happened to buy a cabin at a nearby lake. By amazing coincident, the cabin had a 70' tower, 4 element beam antenna and (from what I recall) a complete Collins radio setup: KL7CKC.

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I used to sneak downstairs when we visited the lake. I'd turn on the radio, slowly spin the knob, listening to whatever was on the air. Before long, I was hooked. Shortly thereafter, I passed my Novice test. I then passed my Technician and General tests and camped out on the bottom of 15 meters, enjoying CW. I spoke with Jonestown Guyana South America (the day before they drank the Kool-Aid). I spoke with the South Pole. I worked all States on 15m CW.

I then discovered girls and promptly forgot about Ham Radio until my 30's. Life has a way of doing that to us, doesn't it?

College, Law School and marriage further postponed Amateur Radio activity. Not until my late 30's did I again feel the need to dive into Amateur Radio. I passed my Advanced and Extra exams, along with 20 WPM code. I then again went dormant and struggled through a divorce.



In my early 50's, I was again married, this time to the love-of-my life. Yet, my CW speed was stuck in the teens. Furthermore, my brain's ability to process CW had obviously deteriorated with age. To make matters worse, my old Heathkit SB-104A smoked when I plugged it into the wall after 20+ years.

At the same time, my wife gave me an IC 7300 as a Christmas present. My tower was still standing in the yard, with an ancient Mosely TA-33 tribander, shining in the sun. It just needed coax and a rotor control line.

The biggest hurdle was discomfort with CW. Try as I might, I just wasn't "getting" CW as when I was a teenager. I worked and worked, listening to ARRL MP3 files and got on the air as much as possible. I was able to get a bit over 20 WPM, but still struggled.

I then ran across the CW Academy. On a whim, I signed up. Then, nothing happened. Nothing. No call. No email. Nothing.

Months later, CW Academy instructor Buzz Tarlow (AC6AC) phoned out of the blue, apologizing because my CW Academy application had apparently "fallen through the cracks." Buzz invited me to his advanced class for Jan/Feb of 2020.

Joining the CW Academy turned out to be the best decision I've made in years. The class was eight guys, from across the country - all struggling with CW. We met via Zoom. We studied, worked and fought our way through Buzz' classes. It was difficult, anxiety producing, and downright fun.

I enjoy CW again.

I am proud to be a member of CWops. I again look forward to lurking the bottom of 15 meters when the sunspots return and hope to work each of you.

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Ed O'Neill M0TZX

I was first licensed in 2016 with the UK Foundation call sign M16IGA. I then operated with the Intermediate call sign 2E0HRB. I passed the UK Full exam in 2017 and took the call sign M0TZX.

This year I am 39 years old and live in the center of England in a town called Market Harborough. I am originally from Northern Ireland but relocated to England 15 years ago.

I have been interested in radio communication since I was very young. My grandfather used to build receivers as a hobby, and this fueled my fascination and enthusiasm for radio.



I started teaching myself Morse Code in 2017 but made slow progress at the start. I made the classic mistake of learning a reference table of dits and dahs to begin with. In the summer of that year a new member joined the radio club that I attend and began offering Morse classes. The group of learners that I was in originally had five members but one by one these all dropped out until it was just me left. These classes helped to straighten out my previous errors and set me on the right path.

I fell in love with The Code and started to read all that could about it. This research led me to CWops and I was lucky enough to attend the Intermediate course in late 2019 and the Advanced course at the start of 2020. By working with CWops, I made rapid progress and proficiency followed.

In my spare time I teach radio twice a week at my local radio club. I also enjoy music, particularly blues, and play guitar, harmonica and piano. My other big passion is cooking. I hand make all of my own dishes and try to avoid anything pre-prepared.

I will be eternally grateful to the amazing guys that trained me. I will not mention names here so as not embarrass anyone, but you know who you are.

Jim Carson WT8P

I'm a relative newcomer to ham radio, having earned my license in late 2015. For my first two years, I was primarily on VHF/UHF to support local events for the Eastside Fire Corps.

I picked up an Elecraft KX3 and soon realized I had a lot more to learn about antennas, propagation, and general use of a radio. The antenna proved the most vexing as I'm in an HOA. Fortunately, my neighbors were indifferent to coax running from my deck into the trees abutting a pipeline right-of-way.

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About this time, FT8's first release came out. For a KX3 QRP rig owner in an HOA, FT8 is not just another TLA, it's an opportunity to get on the air with a limited set-up. I don't remember how long it took me to get the right settings before making my first QSO... to Venezuela. I was hooked.

Since I am frequently outdoors geocaching, hiking, biking, a friend suggested I explore SOTA (Summits on the Air). From my research, it was nearly universal that CW would be the best path to successful activations. Thank you, [Paula K9IR](#), for the fantastic article in the March 2019 Solid Copy.

I had a few false starts with online CW tools, but made it through a phone application called Morse Toad I played on the bus commute to and from work. At a Redmond Radio Club meeting, I overheard someone mentioning he was participating in CW Academy. I was fortunate to get into Buz's AC6AC beginner class last January and recently completed the advanced class last month. A big thanks to instructors Buz AC6AC, Rich N4DPM and Mike N7ID; my excellent classmates for making this a fun endeavor and reducing my on-air anxiety.



I am excited about joining CWops and appreciate the overwhelmingly positive encouragement I've received as I've dabbled in CWT and contests. I look forward to contributing more towards helping CW Academy this year.

Bob Patten, N4BP

Electricity and radios got me into a lot of trouble during my pre-teen years. My father was a private pilot and had an aircraft radio in his upstairs office at home. I had fun playing with that radio, but somehow managed to connect the 45 volt "B" battery across the 1.5-volt filament line. It took several weeks of my paper route proceeds to pay for that escapade.

As a pilot, my Dad was friends with the local crop duster, Les Holmes, who also happened to be W1VFY. To channel my curiosity into less destructive areas, he arranged for me to meet with Mr. Holmes at his house in Pinehurst, MA. Les got me hooked on the prospect of getting a license and tutored me in theory and operating. While these weekly meetings went on, my mother taught me Morse code. She never learned it herself but was able to tap out messages to me using a sheet of paper with the dots and dashes for each letter and number as her guide. Eventually I got my speed up to the required 5 WPM and Les administered the Novice exam at his house. Not long after in June of 1955, I received my non-renewable one-year license as WN1GIV.

While the code and theory study were going on, I built a 6AG7/6L6 MOPA and put together a Heathkit AR-2 receiver. I strung a wire from the roof of our house to the barn in the back yard about 120 feet away and was ready when the Novice ticket arrived. The homebrew transmitter was single band 80 m and I never discovered any other band during my Novice term. While still

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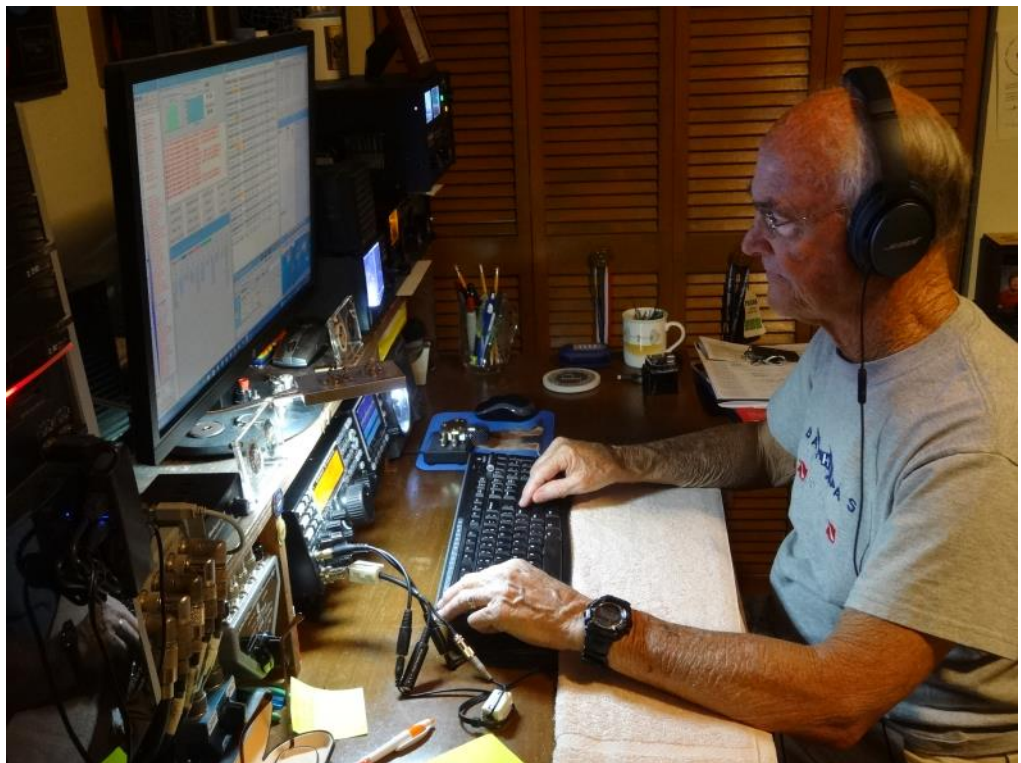
in high school, I took a fifty-mile train ride to Boston and passed the General exam at the old Federal Building, which was walking distance from the train station. My station was upgraded to a WRL Globe Chief, Heathkit VF-1 VFO, and Hallicrafters S-53A receiver.

In 1961, I was out of work, newly married, and pretty much broke. Somehow, I managed to get a job interview with the Vice President in charge of engineering at WWLP-TV in Springfield, MA. George Townsend hired me with my only credentials being my ham license, but with the requirement that I obtain a First Class Radiotelephone license within a year or I would be out the door. I breezed through the First and as a bonus passed the Amateur Extra exam.

I finally set up my first "real" ham station, a Yaesu FT-101B, chimney mounted homebrew 3el 10 m Yagi, and 40/80 vertical with relay switching of base loading coil taps. In 1967 following an earlier job interview, I was offered an engineering position at WLBW-TV in Miami (later to be bought by Washington Post and become WPLG-TV). We bought a small three bedroom, two-bath house in Miramar for \$18K and I confiscated one of the bedrooms for my ham shack. I put up my first tower complete with tri-band Yagi, obtained a Heathkit Chippewa amplifier from a co-worker at the TV station, and got deeper into contesting. For the low bands, I had a 40 m quarter wave vertical with Hustler 80 m "Super" resonator atop. This was to be my ham station for the next twenty-five years, certainly not a competitive station, but enough to heighten my interest in contesting. It did earn my 5BWAS and 5BDXCC shortly after those awards were made available.

In 1989, I sold the Miramar house and bought a three-bedroom home in Plantation on 1/3 acre of land and - important - with a vacant full acre parcel adjoining our back yard. I attribute that vacant lot for assisting any contest successes over the next several years. It provided the space I

needed to string out a 110-foot 40/80 trap dipole as well as the horizontal portion of a 160 m inverted-L. My 65 feet of Rohn 25 tower has survived several hurricanes and at present supports a Cushcraft A4S trib-ander at 65 feet with an A505S 5el 6 m beam five feet above it. The 40/80 coax trap dipole (with my homebrew "Sewper Armadillo" traps) is supported at 62 feet on a tower crossarm. The other side of that crossarm supports the 160 m



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inverted-L with 80 feet of wire stretched out over the vacant lot. The current station consists of an Elecraft K3, P3 panadaptor and a KPA1500 amp.

In contesting, I've done a number of CW Sweepstakes from NP2B and quite a few ARRL DXCW and CQWW DXCW contests as C6AKQ. I've also operated briefly from VP9 and ZF2.

I feel honored to be accepted into the CWops and I thank N3JT for nominating me and several members for sponsoring me.

Greg Waits K4OY

I have been licensed since 1990. My ham activity began on the Novice bands like everyone in those days, CW only with a Nye straight key counting dits, and a Yaesu FT980 to a fan dipole. I had my first QSO ten minutes after my ticket (KC4TFC) arrived in the mail. I worked Mike KA2PQY in NJ all the way from Georgia. It looks like he has moved now. Thanks Mike.



I became interested in DX work and applied myself to that for several years. That and some limited contesting consumed most of my time in the hobby. I think it also slowed any CW progress, and made me realize I wanted to be better. After 20 years of raising a family and growing a business, I retired in 2016 and got back into ham radio. This time, I was more interested in day to day radio work of all kinds, but particularly wanted to improve my CW ability. And I wanted to ragchew. Working at it helped, but progress was not fast.

At the Shelby, NC hamfest in 2019, I ran into Van N5TOO, who explained CWops to me and encouraged me to try it, so I did. My Level One advisor was another very strong encourager, Jim N4TMM (notice the similarity in these two call signs). Jim moved me to Level Two and into Ed's N9EP class. Yet another very encouraging influence on me. Lastly, I have just completed Level Three with Ed K6HP. The encouragers just keep coming! Thank you fellows for the nomination and the sponsorships, as I joined the day after my first CWT.

Everyone involved, and the entire program have just had such a positive influence on me. Knowing this is volunteer work in volumes, their generosity with their time is amazing to me. I have stayed in touch with and had on air QSOs with my instructors and hope to make many more friends in CWops on the CW bands.

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Joseph Tabrah KH6FHI

I was raised in Hawaii and graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1971 with a degree in Tropical Agriculture.

I got my Novice license in 1971 and operated for about a year and a half. I then began farming, got married, had five kids, and had no time for radio.

After a 45-year career as a shrimp and fish farmer in Ecuador, Honduras, and Hawaii, I retired in 2017 and then with the free time was able to get my General, followed shortly after by my Extra licenses.



I felt like a sham holding an Extra license and only being able to copy about 8 WPM. I signed up with CW Academy a little over a year ago, and thanks to great mentoring from 3 different instructors, passed the Advanced course at the end of February 2020.

I am still building CW confidence but thoroughly enjoy leisurely contesting and rag chewing from my QTH in Honolulu, Hawaii. Aloha!

Stan Fleener W6SMF

First off, thanks to my sponsors; Rob K6RB, Buz AC6AC, Hank W6SX, Jim WT8P, and Jim WT9U. Thanks guys!

The seed for my current Ham hobby started in 8th grade, 1957. I was 13 years old and a buddy and I signed up for Mr. Miller's Novice Ham class. My Novice call was WV6BCO. That Christmas, my father surprised me with a fairly new/used Hallicrafters SX-71 radio. Now that "should have" started me on a long ham journey and career with, say an EE degree or such. But, fate would have me merely dabbling with the radio, never truly making a QSO contact, and becoming more interested in playing saxophone, meeting girls and high school sports.

College got me interested in languages, resulting in a couple of years at the University of Madrid, Spain in 1964-66. I got my BA in Spanish from UCLA in 1967. My plans to be a teacher were side-tracked by the Draft. I enlisted in the USAF pilot training program. I flew mostly heavy cargo jets; C-141's and C-5's, except for a year in a C-123K, at Phan Rang AB, Vietnam.

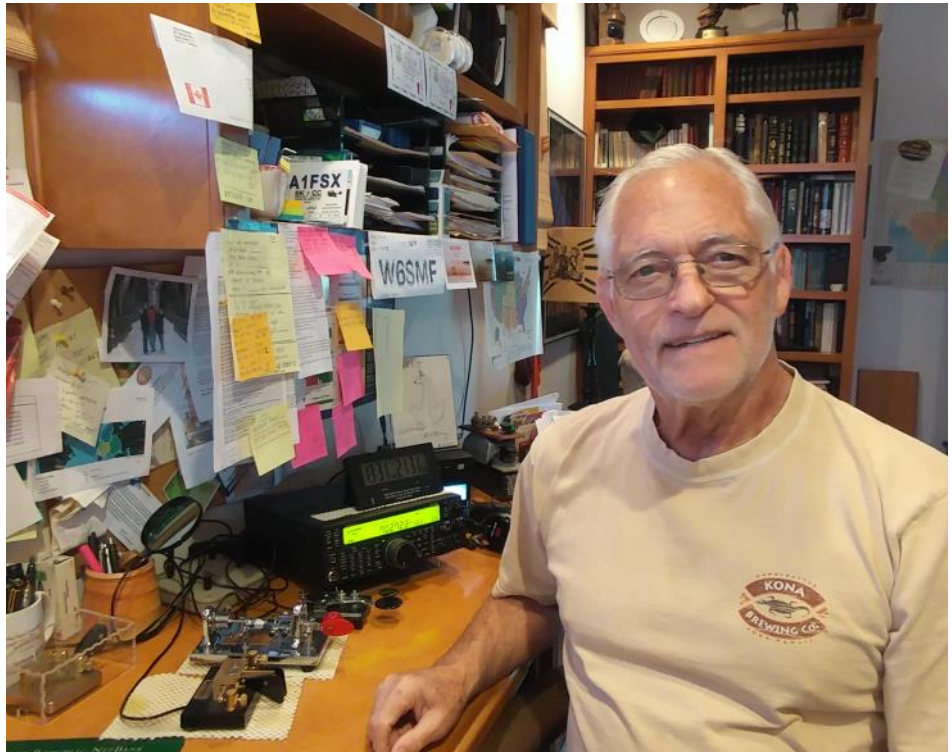
The best part about the military was meeting my future wife, Robbie, while at pilot training in

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Lubbock, Texas in 1968. I'm a Southern California native and never dreamed I'd find my life mate in western Texas, but 47 years of marriage and one daughter later, enlisting in pilot training was one of the best decisions I ever made.

I was lucky to be discharged from USAF when the airlines were starting to hire. In 1973 I was hired at American Airlines for my final last work "job". I spent 30 years at American flying B707's, B727's, DC-10's, MD-80's, B757's, B767's, finishing my final 5 years on the B-777 flying from LAX to London.



I retired in 2003 from flying and here I am in the big 'ol circle of life, coming back to something that intrigued me some 60+ years ago.

I passed the Tech exam in May 2018, General in July 2018, then started to learn the code again. I discovered CWops and these past 18 months have been a blur of code classes. I've taken four in all and want to thank my Advisors; Buz AC6AC, Alex PA1FOX, and Rob K6RB for their dedication to making learning fun and enjoyable. Bottom line for me is I feel like someone who just got out of class with lots of "book learning" and not much practical experience. I'm jealous of you former military radio operators! I hope to take part regularly in CWT, DXing, eventually getting proficient enough to rag chew and signing up as an Advisor.

See you on the bands.

Gabor Kottra DD5KG & HA5NR

I would like to thank Bud, AA3B for nominating and to DL6KVA, SM5IMO, SQ9S and DJ1OJ for sponsoring me.

My first contact with ham radio was in 1965 at the club station HA1KSA with the chief operator Fred (licensed in 1937, later HA5KF, SK 2003). Fred became my mentor and I learned DX code of conduct from him far before it was spread over the internet.

I got my first personal call sign HA1SY in 1966, but only one year later I moved to Ilmenau, East Germany for university studies (Biomedical technics and Bionics). There I met in 1970 DM2AYK

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Gunter and DM2CEK Horst, who just started to set up together a contest station. I joined them and now feel proud to have assisted the birth of the German headquarter station DF0HQ. For a short period of time I had the call sign DM9AAK, but in 1972 I returned to Hungary and got my present call sign HA5NR.

I married in 1980 and our daughter and son were born in 1982 and 1984, respectively. In 1987 we moved to Germany and I started to work first at the University of Frankfurt and from 1999 on at the University of Munich. In these years I was inactive, my work as a scientist and the three children (1989) did not let me too much free time.

I got on the air again with my new call sign DD5KG in 2007, when the children left the house. Since I stopped activity in pre-computer times, I had to learn some new techniques, but since Morse code remained unchanged, I caught up fast and enjoy activity ever since.

Since my retirement in 2012 we spend with my wife the summer months in Budapest and the rest of the year in Munich. My HAM activities are limited by the fact, that in Munich I'm living in an apartment house and can use only LP and a vertical antenna on the balcony. In Budapest I have a PA with 600W and a multiband-dipole antenna.



Mike Malone N5WNG

Thank you CWops for inclusion into the group.

I was first licensed at age 15 in 1960 as WV6KRT and shortly after upgraded to a general license. Two years later I joined the Navy reserves and became a Petty Officer Third class radioman, and eventually was certified at 35 WPM.

I married, applied for an active duty deferment in order to attend college, and after college received my officer commission and remained on active duty until the end of the Vietnam War. During my active duty time I



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flew on/off both the U.S. Saratoga and the U.S. John F. Kennedy aircraft carriers as a Naval aviator.

As a result of military time, marriage, and just life, I lost interest in the hobby and remained off the air until 1991 when I relicensed as N5WNG. For the next 20-25 years I seldom worked CW. Needless to say, my CW skills had significantly deteriorated.

A few years ago, my CW interest rekindled, but I found I was limited to about 10 WPM and a straight key. Determined to get my skill level back up, I discovered the CWops CWT activities. The CWT was exactly what I needed, good operators and speeds that really pushed me. I am not back to where I want to be, but thanks to CWops, I am getting there.

I look forward to the camaraderie.

