

### Operating in the IARU



IT9VDQ and IB9T Contest Team operate IARU as IO9HQ. [Story page 14.](#)

#### CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday

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

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

#### Avoid DX pileups!

Next slow speed CWT is March 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"

#### CWops Officers and Directors

President: Mac McDonald [NN4K](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson [K9CT](#)

Director: Stew Rolfe [GW0ETF](#)

Director: Nodir Tursoon-Zade [EY8MM](#)

Director: Raoul Coetzee [ZS1C](#)

Director: Matt Frey [CE2LR](#)

Director: Bert Banlier [F6HKA](#)

Director: Barry Simpson [VK2BJ](#)

Director: Riki Kline [K7NJ](#)

WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)

Newsletter Editor: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

### President's Message

The Sept-Oct CW Academy semester has ended with many folks completing the training. The largest groups are in the Beginner and Basic classes. Congratulations are in order for all who



are gaining skills in CW operation. Also, it's nice to see more operators showing up during the sessions offered on the air in various forms like the Giving-back group, the new K1USN-SST ac-

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tivity on Sunday evenings and the individuals who pair up and practice. Make a note that Wednesday, November 11th some of the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced students will participate in the CWT Slow Speed Sessions (max 20 wpm) in order to gain a taste of the fun the regulars have by exchanging call, name and number (CWA for students and CWAA for advisors). The latter ID is subject to change and may be different. This is the last class for 2020 and I enjoyed being an Advisor to Beginner and Basic classes. My Basic class had one teenager and two pre-teens. Everyone made one or more on-the-air QSOs except for the pre-teen who isn't licensed yet. We made up an artificial callsign for him to use during our classes. He's without equipment so I helped him find and use the WebSDR.com resource so he can listen to CW signals and continue practice copying.

Contests are abundant for CW operators and other modes, so you are encouraged to stay active and exercise the brain. With the slowly emerging Solar Cycle 25 operating conditions on the higher bands, we may see some relief of the CWT congestion. Those who want to run should be able to find frequencies easier.

Starting in October, nominations were opened for candidates to hold certain positions in our organization. The election happens in November and by December the results are known for our future office holders. All of the details are available in the CWops.org website under the Bylaws section. The election will close my term of office as your President and the newly elected President will assume the duties beginning in January 2021. I have thoroughly enjoyed my four years and holding the high honor of the office. I look forward to helping the new President transition during December. To everyone in CWops I owe huge gratitude and respect for all that you have done and continue to do for our Club. Over the past four years very capable members have stepped up to offer their skills for the needs of our organization and we have benefitted greatly.

The Annual CW Open Contest also has benefitted by the work Bruce Meier, N1LN, puts into it. The planning and execution have rested on his shoulders for a few years now and it's no small task. He delegates well and has some experienced talent on his team. That's why he has consistently turned in excellent results for the contest and the contestants. The results [were posted in the October newsletter](#). Awards, [sponsored by Icom Corporation](#), have been or are being distributed. We certainly appreciate the value Icom contributes to the CWO. Remember to stop and thank them the next time you can attend a major hamfest like Dayton or Orlando or others. They like the feedback and also like when you purchase their products.



Older platforms have been out grown and new ones implemented that have really helped especially in the CW Academy. Who knew when it was started that using Excel spreadsheets for scheduling and recording would be overwhelmed by the demand for CW training? We experienced waiting lists/backlog of applicants for more than a year. Riding to the rescue were CWops members who were willing to get involved and become Academy Advisors. These unsung heroes soon overturned the problem of long waiting times and allowed many more students to be trained. We are currently in or close to a real-time application/assignment timeline. To resolve the spreadsheet issues, professional talent was offered by Glenn Norman, W4YES and Bob Carter, WR7Q. They devised new programs for training applicants and their work is backbone of our current program. I will always be grateful to them for all the work they have contributed in

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improving the workings of the Academy. Joe Fischer AA8TA and Kate Hutton K6HTN do the daily heavy lifting work to make the Academy function smoothly and we wouldn't function long without their dedication.

CWops is not just about CWT/CWO contests. Many members enjoy the art of conversational CW and Bruce Murdock K8UDH has been carrying on the record keeping for members who report monthly results of CW QSOs. Bruce took over the management of this important aspect from Gary N5PHT who preceded him. More activity is needed in this area.

Our newsletter, *Solid Copy*, has improved and expanded over time and we can thank Tim Genett, K9WX for that. His organization of materials makes it very readable. One of Tim's touches was the addition of member stories. Thanks for all you contribute Tim.

Our CWops.org website has been managed by Dan Romanchik KB6NU and Theo Mastakas SV2BBK who are showing their expertise in electronic graphic arts. I have over time gotten several ham's comment on how well our website and newsletter represent the quality of our organization. Drop them an email and let them know how you like their work. It only takes a few minutes and volunteers appreciate the recognition from those they serve.

There are several more I'd like to recognize, and I'll save them for the December issue of Solid Copy. Meanwhile, stay well and as CW active as possible.

CW Forever!

**73, Mac NN4K**, President

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## From the [Editor](#): A Random Act of Kindness

The [September issue of Solid Copy](#) included a story by Theo, SV2BBK, and his "other" hobby, watercolor painting. Early in the editing process, he provided scans of some of his works to illustrate the article, mostly scenes from Greece and the Netherlands. As the publication date neared, he provided one additional image, this one from Venice. I recognized it right away and it brought back a very pleasant memory.

I've only been to Venice once, traveling there with XYL Kathleen in 2016 as part of a packaged tour. We did the obligatory tourist stuff one morning: [the Doge's palace](#), [the Basilica of Saint Mark](#) and the [Piazza San Marco](#). We did these things elbow



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to elbow with thousands of other tourists. Venice in the spring is a very popular destination.

Looking for an experience a bit off the beaten path and less crowded, we took the vaporetto across the Grand Canal and, just as it started to rain, ducked into a church: [Santa Maria della Salute](#). It turned out to be a great spot to wait out the storm: looking at the art and architecture of the church, hearing the thunder echo outside while an organ and violin concert took place in the sanctuary. I have many pleasant memories of Venice but that one tops the list. So when I saw Theo's painting of the Salute, I had to share my Venice story with him.

Next thing I knew, Theo advised that the original painting was on its way to me from Greece. It took nearly two months to arrive, its transit no doubt slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It's now framed and hanging in a place of honor in our home.

Thanks, Theo, for your generosity and this random act of kindness. And thanks for the reminder that, while we are part of a great hobby which prides itself on technical excellence, it prizes friendships and fellowship above all else. Kathleen and I had talked about traveling to Greece but those plans, like so many others these days, are now on hold. Hopefully a day will come when I can say σας ευχαριστώ in person.

**73,**

**Tim K9WX** Editor



**Venice Cathedral by Theo, SV2BBK**

# News and Notes

## [Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

**Jim, N3JT:** N3JT has relocated for six months to Florida.

**Vic, 4X6GP:** One of the enjoyable aspects of the hobby that I've missed is SWLing.

With ham-band only receivers and resonant antennas, it's hard to fully appreciate the radio spectrum. For about US \$200, you can get a Software Defined Radio (SDR), that, in conjunction with the computer that you already have, makes a receiver as good or better than one that would have cost ten times as much a few years ago.

I've ordered an SDRPlay RSPDX which should arrive any day now, and I will connect it to my active loop antenna to cover the spectrum from 30 kHz to 30 MHz.

I am also building a discone antenna for VHF and UHF to 1300 MHz. I'm especially looking forward to listening to European LF broadcasting.

There's never an excuse to be bored!

**John, K4HQK:** My Cushcraft A540-3S, a 3-element 6-meter Yagi, had been supported by a pair of 10' steel pipes. Raising the Yagi atop this 20' pole was awkward and difficult. It actually bent in the middle, which I partially straightened by laying it on the ground on jumping up and down on it!

In October I decided to replace those steel pipes with a 25' telescoping fiberglass mast from DX Engineering, which consisted of seven 4' interlocking sections, snapped in place with cam lock clamps. Raising the Yagi was easy, done vertically while fastened to the fence—raise, clamp, raise, clamp. So far, so good.

When a heavy fog appeared the morning of October 22, I shot this atmospheric photo of the Yagi with its new mast amidst fall color. We live on a 110' hill. When the sky clears the main runway at National Airport becomes visible three miles away. Six-meter signals come in quite nicely, too!



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**Craig K9CT (CWops Treasurer):** I received an nice acknowledgement letter (right) from A41JT, the Chair of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society, thanking CWops for our plaque sponsorship in the 2018 CQ WW. The ROARS club station, A44A, took second place Asia and 13th place world in the Multi-Multi category. The 7-operator team included CWops members Don G3XTT, Mike K9NW and Prasad VU2PTT.

**Marty, NR3Z:** This summer I worked on my antennas. I replaced my old beam with a 6-band Hex beam, replaced the wire on my OCF dipole and added a 135 ft. End Fed long wire that gets me on 160m.

**Ed, AI6O:** This is big news for me! After 62 years of being a ham, I am getting a tower! I'm hoping the weather will cooperate for installation soon.

I'm really excited about being able to have a gain antenna on 20-10 meters and maybe 6 meters as well. Being able to better elevate my wires, maybe my CWTs will be a little more productive.

We just moved to Missouri on 3.88 acres and now I'm thinking "antenna farm" !

**Javan, W8UA:** With a nice chilly Sunday afternoon and nothing planned, my brother (KE8FAE) and I decided to head out to Portage Lakes State Park (K-1984) for a quick activation.

We hiked around the short trails and found a nice high place on the trail that happened to have a picnic table, so we dropped a pin on Maps and decided to bring the radio



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equipment back to that point. (In the pictures, you can see that there is a big drop of height down to the water.)

When we got back to the high point with our equipment, the snow started to pour down, but luckily our short antenna mast stayed up with no problem in the wind.

After hooking up the Hamstick dipole to the MFJ 9040 QRP transceiver, I was concerned that the antenna was damaged in some way, but no, I have just never operated so far away from all the noise sources I am used to. I was amazed to hear all the very weak signals on the band that I cannot hear at home with S5-7 noise.

After calling CQ POTA for a while with no responses, we checked RBN and sure enough,

I had lots of spots with pretty good signal strengths. After calling some more and receiving more RBN spots, we decided to spot our frequency on the State Parks on the Air website. Within a minute or so, I got a pretty big pileup and we quickly got to work. I brought a notebook to copy down the call signs on, but the wet snow made writing on paper almost impossible.

My brother quickly opened Notes on his phone, and I gave the callsigns to him as they came in so he could type it down. Since we were short on time and it was pretty cold out, we only stayed set up for thirteen QSO's, but had a bunch of fun and got to test my go-kit.



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Tearing down was not a problem either and even had some curious disk golfers nearby that questioned our activity. One of the guys even remembered seeing another ham do POTA there before.

This was a great way to spend my Sunday afternoon as I got to hike in a different park, play radio, hand out a state park to some chasers, and show off portable radio to my brother and the disk golfers!

**John, N6HCN:** I was on my "Giving Back" watch on 6 October and answered a call by Bill, W0BX/QRP who was 559 from a campground "near Dolores, CO" where he and Diane were starting a mountain biking trip. Now, Cap W0CCA (CWops #625) is a "regular" in my log, and he always tells me about the great mountain biking in his QTH of Dolores. So I tell W0BX that he should reach out to Cap.

Turns out Bill & Diane were camped 8 miles down the road from Cap's QTH. They met up, and from the photos Bill sent me, had a great trip biking through some very beautiful country. Which proves two things: (1) CW folk are some of the friendliest around, and (2) don't leave home without that QRP rig!

**Chuck, WS1L:** Fall has arrived here in the Berkshires, with the foliage putting on its usual awesome display. The day before Halloween brought snow, and there's more snow in the forecast as I write this. Not enough to try out my new snowblower, but it's time will come soon enough.



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After careful consideration, I walked the slope above the house and found a level spot big enough for a 40M four square. Though the slope continues above it, it's the best space I have.

So, yesterday I finished installing the first 40-meter monoband vertical over 40 ground radials. The SWR is good across the entire band, and once the warmer weather returns, I will add the second element to make a phased array, with hopes of going to a four square before next winter.

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## CWops Elections

**[Don Greenbaum N1DG](#)**

### **Chair of the Nominating Committee**

After a month of soliciting nominations, we are pleased to offer our slate of nominees and declare the elections are open.

In 2020, we shall be electing a President and the Directors from Asia and South America. Mac, NN4K, has decided not to run for another term so that position is open. Nodir, EY8MM, has also decided to pass on running for re-election. We thank both for their time and dedication to making CWops such a great and vibrant club.



The following slate is now ready for your vote:

President :        Stew, GW0ETF, unopposed

Asia Director:    Ken, JN1THL, unopposed

South American Director (Vote for one):  
                     Matt Acevedo Von Frey, CE2LR  
                     Juan Antonio Guiterrez, LU1AW

Voting is open until November 30. You can access our voting page here (you will need the CWops website password to vote):

<https://cwops.org/cwops-elections-2020/>

And on that page is a link to the voting form.



# 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 schedule:

<b>Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local Time 40 m</b>										
	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	EDT	CDT	MDT	PDT	UTC-10
<b>Mon</b>				GM0EUL		AF8A	K8UDH	NS6W	N6HCN	KH6LC
<b>Tues</b>		SV2BBK	PG4I	GW2CW		WE5P		K7NJ	K6RB	
<b>Wed</b>				G0HKC	DF7TV	N4TMM	K5XU	KU7Y		
<b>Thurs</b>		SV2BBK		G2CWO						AH6KO
<b>Fri</b>		SV2BBK				VE3FXX	KG5U		K6RB	
<b>Sat</b>			LA1IO			VE3FXX	N8LR			

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 July's GB efforts:

### Stations Worked

**AF8A:** WI1B, K0ZK

**AH6KO:** KF7Q, K6EE, W7UDH, KB1FGC, W6BOC, N7MOB/KH6, K2HZO, KE5C, K7SS, W0OJ, W6BRY, WU6X, CO2QU, W5HWU

**DF7TV:** DK8ND, DL1ROT, EA3BUU, G4SZE, KY9KYO, M5JPG, SV1HDE, YO7NSP

**G2CWO:** PA8ZB, OH2BFZ, SP1NQU, IW2OGY, DJ1DD, MM7RNF, 4O3RB, DM5WGL

**GM0EUL:** SA5LOW, UR4MDD, UN7AB, EA5JAB, DK3GP, OM3TBG, IU3KGO, OE8FBF

**GW2CWO:** UY5BQ, DK1CWM, SM6CWP, DL8RBR, OK1DN, OM3TGK, MW4PAM, R2SW, YU5T, EA1JCE, RC3KA, HB9DAX, JA7MBT, DF9ZV/P, RV6AVU, YO8DOH, IK2ZJR, RA3BY, DL2AWA, DL1NKS, HA7MG, LA0CX, DL2JES, HA5OKE, OM8VL, YU1ZH, IK5DVT, DK3GP, OK1VK, YO5ODT, OM3TGK, YO2KSD, LY2BBF, DJ5IZ, UA1ALY, UR5FA, UA3AHI, ON4CLF, GM4PVM, US7WA, UA1AJ, PA5GU, DL4AN, DL1VJL, OH5YU, DL8NAC, OK1YR, OH2BFZ, ON5JT, UR5EOA, OK1CAS, IW1DNE

**K6RB:** N8AI, K5TR, K8MP, WA7A, K0AF, K7CHM, WA6MOW, K5CM, W1AO, K0QLM, AC2K, NX6BC

**K7NJ:** KN4TFR, N4DIQ, KL7IUI/E, W4EDE, WP4IZQ, N5NF, KK4GFR, W5WTH, KY9I, KC8JR, WA4JYX, K9CJM, KB7TBC, KJ7OTZ, KM9YWT, W4DWS, KD6GBY, W3UY, NE4J, KT7IM, N3BEV, N5WA, WA0QZK, KE6JAC,

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KN4RBN, WA4PKL, AC0IU, K0VW

**K8UDH:** WA4QWN, KG5IEE, W9JJE

**KH6LC:** K7ULM, NM6IF, KH6FHI, W7VGZ, NU6F, WB6DJI, K5OGX, KE5C

**N4TMM:** KA9PQB, NR8M, K2HYD

**N6HCN:** N5CW, K5DX, KC1KUG, K8NY, WA6OUW

**PG4I:** IK0DMS, SM7R, IZ5PQT, OK2UKQ, I3PZI, IK6PRN, R1KA, EA7EM, EA1ASG

**SV2BBK:** DL6FAX, DH-MAX, RV6FQ, UA3QVC, G4LHI, UY5QR, I8PXT, OM3CAZ, DL1AH, DL8MCG

**VE3FXX:** AA4TFR, KA5JRX, K1MLP, WB4AQL, AB5X, W0DQ, VE2MFD, KC1BMD

**W8OV:** N3YWQ, K9ETC, K4NAX, WX9U, K3DY, WA2PCN, W0/E74ZH

**WE5P:** KP4Q, W1GF, W6GMT, W2CW, K2HZO, N7KM, KF5WJ, N4SNI

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## CWops Ambassador Program North American Territories

### [Peter Butler, W1UU – Vice President, CWops](#)

A revised Ambassador program has been created on October 4, 2020 to serve the interests of our CWops Membership. Starting in May, 2020, with a series of Zoom meetings in committee, we went ahead in a review to strengthen how CWops can continue to be a force in our wonderful amateur radio community and continue to grow as new members join our CWops ranks.

Our CWA program continues to be strong, and well organized. Modern technologies, such as Zoom for remote learning all over the globe, show how CWops has been adaptable, especially with COVID issues still causing challenges. New youth interest in technology and organizational interests will certainly be inspirational to many of our members. Many of us desire to get together socially to relive our challenges.

During the period of May through the end of August, all the members in the Territories of USA and Canada were polled to ask if they wished to be considered as an Ambassador for CWops. We plan to revise the program for other geographic areas in a second phase.

For those who responded, we gave them the detailed job description and listed several ideas of Forums of interest:

### **Ambassador Duties**

The Ambassador is the representative of CWops and speaks for CWops where appropriate. A geographical area is assigned.

- The Ambassador must be capable of answering questions about the various aspects of CWops membership activities.

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- The Ambassador will identify forums of interest for consideration of participation by CWops.
- The Ambassador shall be the point of contact with the forum of interest and develop a plan of participation that will include budgets and personnel involvement needed.
- The Ambassador will seek the support and delegation of other members in the geographical area for the development of forum participation.
- The Ambassador will communicate activities to the Ambassador Committee Chairman of CWops and regularly provide a summary of territory activity.

### **Suggested Forums of Interest**

#### **Established amateur radio clubs that wish to learn of CWops**

- Groups that wish to learn and practice the art of CW
- Participation in CWAcademy
- Technical development of CW equipment and operations
- Youth participation in CW activities
- Manufacturers of equipment seeking advice from CWops
- Organizations that teach Morse Code
- Exhibits of amateur radio technology and equipment
- Participation in regional amateur radio shows and exhibits
- Participation in “virtual meetings” including Zoom technologies
- Participation in science fairs for educational development

Throughout September, our committee evaluated the responses and supplied recommendations to our Board of Directors and for approval by the President of CWops. The following were selected:



New England USA:  
K1BG, Bruce Blain  
bruce.blain@charter.net



Northern Mid-Atlantic USA:  
K3MD, John Thompson  
k3md009@gmail.com



South East USA:  
AC6ZM, Juan Lopez  
jloz34@hotmail.com

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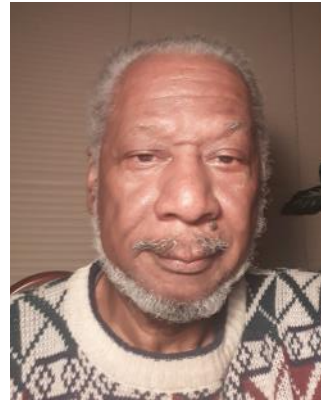
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North Central USA:  
N0CVW, Charlie Van Way  
cvanway@kc.rr.com



South Central USA:  
NM5G, Keith Dutson  
kdutson@sbcglobal.net



North West USA:  
WJ9B, Willie Baber  
wlbaber@bellsouth.net



South West USA:  
NU6N, Arkady Ten  
nu6n@yahoo.com



Eastern Canada:  
VA3SB, Serge Bertuzzo  
smbertuzzo@bell.net



Western Canada:  
VA7QCE, Carole Eng  
va7qce@hotmail.com

The Ambassadors report to the Ambassador Committee Chairman, Peter Butler, W1UU (photo, right) who also serves as Vice President of CWops.

While membership in CWops has grown throughout the rest of the world, our committee will be evaluating Ambassadors to those territories. Our resources will be properly budgeted. Our web site will be updated as conditions change and added information will be shared.

Please welcome our Ambassadors, and if you wish to be a helper or know of a potential Forum for CWops participation, please let your territory Ambassador know of your interest!



# IO9HQ in the 2020 IARU HF World Championship from IB9T

[Giu Giunta, IT9VDQ](#)

Four of us met on Saturday morning to represent Italy as an "HQ" station, with the special call IO9HQ.

The operators: Joe IT9BLB, Alf IT9MUO, Joe IT9RZU and Giù IT9VDQ, all CWops except RZU. Given that our position is very south and that Italy is very "narrow and long", we have been entrusted, for several years now, with the "high bands" of 10m and 15m, where the low latitude in these years of low propagation it pays a lot, in our usual "CW mode"; IB9T is located on mount Pellegrino, JM68QE, about 425m a.s.l. with a good take off on the horizon.

Antennas:

- 21 MHz: Hy-Gain LJ-155CA 5-el @ 22m
- 28 MHz: J-pole @ 5m, Hy-Gain LJ-103BA 3el fixed on Europe @ 10m, H.M. OWA 6-el rotary press @ 18m.

As equipment a K3, an FT-1000D and an FTDX 5000.

We were very surprised by a good propagation on 10m, with an excellent E-skip at times, and by the many DX like UA9/0, JA, USA/VE, KH6, VK/ZL that hadn't felt so good for a long time; the various DX openings were often also late at night, as in the old days of the "good propagation," and 15m never stopped working local stations or DX even at night.

Sandwiches, beers and desserts cheered the 24 hours of contest!



Joe IT9RZU photographs Joe IT9BLB who was destroyed by a long night on 10m.



Alf IT9MUO

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We believe we have done a good job from the result completed in CW by our station: 1,457 QSOs 21 MHz CW and 1,252 QSOs 28 MHz CW; in absolute they are not an exceptionally large number of QSOs but, comparing them with those made by our team mates who had the HQ in the same bands in SSB, 1,030 QSOs 21 MHz SSB and 752 QSOs 28 MHz SSB, we are truly satisfied by a +427 QSOs in 21 MHz and a +500 QSOs in 28 MHz made!



**IB9T**

Many friends of the radio and many Friends of the CWops called us, which whenever possible we always greeted with a "hej" or with a "hello"!

Thank you all for the many QSOs and we will listen again next year!

73, Joe, Alf, Joe & Giù

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## My Montserrat Story

[George Briggs K2DM / VP2MDM](#)

### Why Montserrat?

Montserrat: The Emerald Isle of the Caribbean. I first saw Montserrat at a distance of 38 miles across the Caribbean from the island of Nevis (V4). I operated in the CQWW DX SSB contest from Nevis in 2002 and 2003, and I delighted in sitting on the porch of our guest house looking at our island neighbor. My brother, Peter (K3ZM), was the initiator of the Nevis operations, and he too developed an affinity for Montserrat. We knew a bit about Montserrat because it had been home to an active contester and DXer, Chod Harris, WB2CHO/VP2ML (SK) from the late 1970s to the early 1980s. We decided that a visit was in order. So, in February of 2004, after we operated in the ARRL DX CW contest from Antigua (V2), we took a day trip to Montserrat for a guided bus tour. The Montserrat that we toured was a vastly different place from what it was some twenty years earlier when Chod lived there. Back then, Montserrat was a fairly common DX entity. However, that was about to change.

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## **Hurricane Hugo and the Soufriere Hills Volcano**

In September 1989 Hurricane Hugo punished Montserrat. The storm packed 140 MPH winds, and the eye passed right over Montserrat, lashing the island for fourteen hours. When it was over, ten people had been killed, twenty percent of the island's buildings were totally destroyed, and fifty percent were partially destroyed. Infrastructure was devastated, and for a while the only communication in and out of the island was via ham radio. A scant six years later, in a cruel combination blow, the Soufriere Hills volcano, which had been quiet for decades, began to erupt.



**The former airport.**

A series of eruptions between July 1995 and June 1997 buried the capital city, Plymouth, the cruise ship pier and the airport. The 1997 eruption killed nineteen people. The southern half of the island was declared an exclusion zone and has restricted entry even to this day.

Since there was no airport in 2004, our day trip to Montserrat was via ferry. We were amazed by the devastation that had been caused by the volcano's eruption. The airport, on the east side of the island, was buried to the point where all we could see were the numbers at the end of the runway. All that remained of Plymouth, on the west side of the island, were the very tops of a

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**Only building tops remain visible.**

few buildings. Everything else had been buried by ash and pyroclastic flows. Of the roughly 15,000 residents before the eruptions, only about 5,000 remained, and these were all located in the northern half of the island. Some 5,000 residents relocated to other islands, and the remainder moved to the UK (Montserrat is a British Crown Colony). Peter and I decided that we wanted to return later that year for CQWW DX CW. We hoped to make Montserrat a little less rare in the DX community.

### **Providence Estate**

Back home, Peter set about renting a ham-friendly villa for us. This turned out to be relatively easy since the realtor's husband was a ham, so we rented a villa named Providence Estate. We were told that Sir Paul McCartney had stayed there a number of years ago. The realtor also hooked us up with Keith (VP2MEG, now VP2EKG), who helped us get licenses. We lugged down two transceivers, power supplies, one amplifier, a TA-33 reconfigured to fit in a hard-shell golf case, dipoles for 160-40, laptops and paddles. Peter was issued VP2MZM, and we used his call during the contest. I was issued VP2MDG because VP2MDM was not available.

We discovered that within sight of our villa was another guest house, Gingerbread Hill, where

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Trond (LA9VDA) was also planning to operate in CQWW. Trond very generously curtailed his contest operating leaving the bands wide open for Peter and me, and we made 5,792 contacts in a multi-single effort. Our antennas were the TA-33 at about 20 feet, a 40M/80M fan dipole at 25 feet on a fiberglass mast, and a 160M dipole at about 20 feet. Despite the very modest antennas, we succeeded in making Montserrat a little less rare.



After the contest we invited Trond to our post-contest feast, and we later visited him at Gingerbread Hill. There we met the owners, David and Clover Lea. They told us of their plans to add a third story to the guest house, and they were very open to future ham operations. They were also willing to store equipment in the guest house for future use. The rest, as they say, is history. The picture shows the guest house before the Heavenly Suite and rooftop deck were added.



### **The Gingerbread Hill Era**

By 2006, David and Clover had added the third story to the guest house along with a roof-top deck.

They call the third-story unit the Heavenly Suite. I call it MY room. It is like a small one-bedroom apartment with private access. In addition, it is the only unit with access (via a spiral staircase) to the roof-top deck. It is perfect for ham radio! I booked the Heavenly Suite for CQWW DX CW in

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November 2006.

Now I had to decide what equipment to use for my operation. Although Montserrat's new airport had opened in 2005, its 1900-foot runway only accommodates small planes. Early flights into and out of the airport were 19-seat twin Otter aircraft. Shortly thereafter the 8-passenger Britten-Norman Islander took over. Baggage is quite limited. Therefore, I shipped most of the equipment that I would need down to Montserrat in advance. This included a Mosley CL-33 Yagi, an amplifier, a Kenwood TS-850s and some other items. Back then I used Tropical Shipping. It was SO easy and inexpensive. I simply drove to Tropical Shipping's warehouse in Kearney, NJ and dropped off the boxes of equipment. My new ham 'angel' on Montserrat, Tyghar (VP2MNI), had them waiting for me at Gingerbread Hill when I arrived. I set it all up the day before the contest and took it all down the day after. David and Clover stored most of it for my next visit. Everything except the CL-33 was stored in Pelican cases, and it has all held up very well over the years.



My antennas that first year were quite modest. The CL-33 was mounted about seven feet above the rooftop deck. Dipoles for 160-40 were also seven feet above the deck and running out to the front and rear yards. Still, I managed just over 4,000 contacts and 360 countries in 123 zones. The height of seven feet above the rooftop deck was no accident. There is a railing around the deck with concrete pillars at the corners. David had installed a galvanized pipe in each of the corner pillars, and he had two smaller-diameter pipes of eight-foot length that slid into the pillars. I installed the CL-33 in one corner and the dipoles in another. I turned the CL-33 with a guide rope.

I have returned to Montserrat nearly every year since then, sometimes alone and sometimes

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with friends. Not counting non-contest QSOs, VP2MDG/VP2MDM has made more than 75,000 contacts from 2006 through 2019.

## Station Improvements

With David's blessing, I shipped a 55-foot motorized crank-up tower with a rotator and a Hy-Gain TH6DXX Yagi to Montserrat in 2009. This shipment was trucked to Miami to go out via Carib Trans. David and some friends picked it up at Montserrat's small port and somehow lugged it to Gingerbread Hill and installed it on the side of the guest house. When the tower is cranked down, the top is just a few feet above the rooftop deck. This makes it very easy to install and remove antennas on the tower.



Setting up begins bright and early the morning after arrival. First, we fetch the Yagis from storage, where they are hung partially assembled. For the first few years the antennas were stored



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in a container on the property. We had to truck them up the driveway to the guest house. Then David moved them to hangers in the carport next to the main house so we could collect them and carry them a short way down the driveway to the guest house. We pass them through the Heavenly Suite and up to the rooftop deck where we complete assembly on the tower. Dipoles are hung from the tower and run out to convenient trees. The stations are set up on tables inside the Heavenly Suite. If everything goes smoothly, setting up will be finished by mid- to late afternoon. (I just heard from David that he has moved the stored Yagis to hangers attached to the side of the guest house right by the Heavenly Suite. We will not have to carry them 300 feet from the main house to the guest house any longer.)

2009 was also noteworthy because my team experienced a significant volcanic ash fall brought to us by southerly winds. About a



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half an inch covered everything afterwards. (The ash is a lot farther away than it looks in the picture. We were safely inside long before the ash cloud reached our area.)

The tower, TH6DXX and rotator made a huge difference. Every antenna was now 20-25 feet higher above ground, and we were able to use the CL-33 in one of the corner posts for a second station.

My next big shipment to Montserrat was in 2011, when I sent down a clone of the Cushcraft 40-2CD antenna and a heavy-duty mast. With the 40M Yagi at near 55 feet, and the TH6 at about 49 feet, the station was getting to be competitive, especially as a single-op station. I was joined that year by K3ZM, Jim (AD4J), Glen (W4GKA) and also my nephew Patrick (KK6ZM) to break in the new 40M Yagi.



The following year I teamed up with David (G3NKC), Martin (G4XUM) and Stewart (GM4AFF) for a multi-two effort in CQWW DX SSB, and we did quite well, finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the world. As a side benefit, I learned a few new English words.

2013 was slated to be a special year. I finally got agreement from all of the ZM Briggs hams to join me on Montserrat for an all-Briggs entry in CQWW DX SSB. Just prior to traveling, I decided

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not to go because my wife's cancer returned. Peter got sick on the way down and was not up to a big effort, so Jeff (K1ZM/VY2ZM) decided to have some 160M fun. He strung up a beverage and managed to work Japan. He was quite popular in Asia.

Through the years, the amplifiers used at VP2MDG/VP2MDM have changed. Early on we used a Dentron Clipperton-L. It gave up the ghost in the middle of the night in a CQWW contest, but we were able to borrow an Ameritron AL-82 from VP2MNI. Next, I shipped down an Ameritron AL-80A, and then another one. One of them had to be lugged home to be repaired, and the other was later repaired on site by Frank (DL7UFR), who was part of DL7DF's team in 2017. (Frank also replaced the hoist cable on the tower. I had carried down repair parts earlier in the year.) Now there is an Expert Systems 1.0 KFA and one of the AL-80As. I have yet to take down one of my Elecraft KPA500s, but that might happen soon. Here is what my single-op station looked like in 2017.



Rigs have varied over the years also. The first transceiver I shipped down in 2006 was a Kenwood TS-850S for CQWW CW. The amp keying circuit failed early Friday, and my only recourse was to fashion a hand-operated pushbutton switch to key the amp for every transmission. Next was a Kenwood TS-570SG, which I left on Montserrat for any visiting ham to use. For years now we have used Elecraft K3s that we carry down and back each time.

CQWW DX SSB in 2018 was an ambitious contest for VP2MDG. Three of my friends from The Villages Amateur Radio Club joined me for a multi-single effort. Frank (KA1AF), Jim (AL7BA), Dennis (N0SMX) and I carried down two K3s, an Expert Amplifier, and a high-power triplexer with three high power bandpass filters. We did not have automatic switching, so there was a lot of manual moving of coax involved, but everything held together very well. One thing we learned, though, was that we were much better generating pileups with the run station than busting pileups with the multiplier station.

The picture shows the RUN station with the triplexer and high-power bandpass filters for 10/15 20. The rig was a K3 driving an Expert 1.3KFA amplifier. The switchable bandpass filter on top of the amplifier was used for 40/80/160. Since it is a low power unit, it had to be placed between the K3 and the amplifier. Despite the fact that there was a lot of switching going on, we did not mess up once during the contest.

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After years of waiting for VP2MDM to become available, I was finally granted that call sign for 2019. Three different friends from The Villages Amateur Radio Club joined me for CQWW DX CW in 2019. These included Wayne (N4FP), Pete (K2PS) and Ed (K2TE). We decided to do a multi-two entry, but we did not carry down the triplexer or high-power band-pass filters. Still, using the CL-33 at 28 feet for one station and the TH6 at 50 feet for the other station, we made 7,998 contacts and finished 10<sup>th</sup> in



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the world. Oh, and we were 1<sup>st</sup> place in Montserrat!

We flew down on a Wednesday. We know how Wayne hates to miss any CWTs, so upon arrival we set up a station and a 40M dipole for him (in the dark). While he operated in the evening CWT, the rest of us turned in. But the BIG thrill for Wayne, a retired Air Force fighter pilot, was sitting in the co-pilot's seat on the trip back from Montserrat to Antigua.

When I operate single-op from Montserrat nowadays I save myself a lot of time and effort setting up the antennas by mounting the two 40M elements on the same boom as the TH6 elements. I figure that if I mounted the 40M elements on their own boom, I could only push it up about five feet above the TH6. Conventional wisdom is that the antennas should be separated by about twice that much. Since I could not attain that separation, I threw caution to the wind and simply positioned the elements on the TH6 boom. No modeling was involved. Perhaps it is the "VP2M" amplification factor, but I seem to have an excellent signal on all four bands involved. Here is a picture.



I generally hang an 80M dipole from the upper coax standoff on the tower and run one leg into the back yard and the other end into the front yard. This makes the antenna broadside to Europe (sort of). I hang a 160M dipole a few feet below the 80M dipole and run one leg out front to a utility pole and the other leg out into the back yard. Others have put up inverted Ls, but I have stayed with the dipoles.

### **Equipment Available at Gingerbread Hill**

The primary equipment that is available for any visiting operator to use at Gingerbread Hill starts with the tower and rotator. Antennas that can be installed on the tower include the Mosley CL-33 and dipoles for 160/80/40M and the WARC bands. There is plenty of coax, at least two 12VDC power supplies, CW paddles, an antenna tuner and a Kenwood TS-570SG transceiver. The TH6DXX, the 40-2CD and the Expert amplifier are reserved for my use only. I need to know that they are in working condition when I travel down for a contest.

Over the years I have carried down a number of small pieces of equipment and left them in storage in the Heavenly Suite. Other visiting operators have also left small items behind. I am not

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sure that I even know of everything that is available anymore, but I know there are tools, rotator repair parts, antenna hardware, a spare rotator, an extra rotator control box, coax switches, a couple of CW paddles, an antenna tuner, an antenna analyzer, a switchable bandpass filter, wire, rope, a compass, etc. One group even left behind a partially-working Clipperton-L amplifier a number of years ago. Oh, and there is a 3-el Cushcraft 6 m Yagi and a Hustler 6-BTV vertical. I shipped the vertical down early on for us to use as a multiplier antenna. We set it up in a small field next to the driveway and laid about a dozen radials on the ground. The radials did not make it through the night because a herd of wild goats tromped through the field and bunched up all the wire.



I have three basic agreements with David and Clover relative to the equipment. First, everything would be available for other ham guests to use except for the 40M Yagi, the TH6 and my amplifier. Guests are welcome to use the equipment at no extra charge. Secondly, all antennas have to be removed from the tower before the ham guest departs. This is both for aesthetic reasons and for the safety of the following guests who stay in the Heavenly Suite. Finally, I have the right of first refusal for CQWW DX SSB every year.

There have been many casual ham guests who have availed themselves of the equipment stored

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at Gingerbread Hill. There have also been a number of contesters who have competed from Gingerbread Hill, including K1XX, N3AD, K1DG, N5OT, W9RE, K5KG, K1QX, AA4NC, K3SW. K1XX has gone to Montserrat for the ARRL DX SSB contest since 2014, and he has won the low power category four times!

### **Thinking About Operating from Montserrat?**

A few things you should know. Licensing is easy. The Montserrat Info-Communications Authority ([www.mica.ms](http://www.mica.ms)) is responsible for licensing. Go to their website, find the application for an Amateur Radio License, and follow the instructions. If you have any questions email [secretary@mica.ms](mailto:secretary@mica.ms). The secretary is very efficient and understands our needs and desires (like for special call signs). I make it a point to stop by the MICA office on every trip to say hello!

The second thing to know is that Montserrat is not a vacationer's paradise. There are no luxury hotels with white sand beaches and palm trees and swim-up bars. There are a number of small restaurants, but some of them have irregular hours of operation. Check before you go out for a meal. There are a couple of nightspots for evening entertainment. Gingerbread Hill has a pool. There are a few grocery stores – I would not call them supermarkets, but they have a reasonable selection. You will not starve. In addition, there is a store that has a modest supply of electronics items. I have bought coax connectors, switches and 220V plugs there.

Thirdly, getting to Montserrat can be a grind. You have to fly to Antigua, then you take the 8-seater for the 20-minute flight to Montserrat. For me, starting in central Florida, it is Orlando to Miami, Miami to Antigua, Antigua to Montserrat. I leave my home at oh-dark-thirty and finally get to Gingerbread Hill after dark with a stop at the police station for a driver's license and at a grocery store for supplies.

Finally, for the longest time Montserrat has had a reputation for being a very friendly, crime-free country. Sadly, Gingerbread Hill has had some intrusions and thefts in the last few years. If you go, lock your valuables in the safes provided in each room, and lock your doors at night and when you are out.

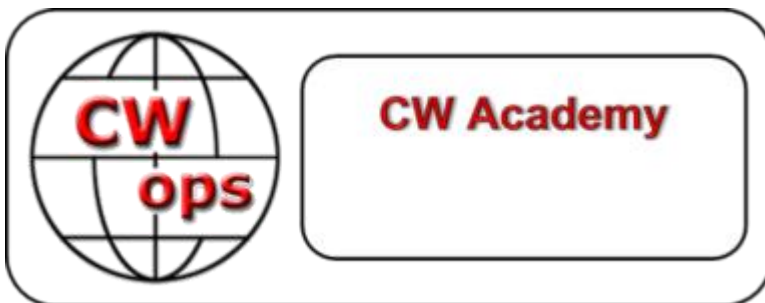
I cannot wait to go back. As soon as I feel safe traveling, I am booking my reservations.



# CW Academy

[Kate Hutton K6HTN](#) [Joe Fischer AA8TA](#) [Bob Carter WR7Q](#)

The September-October 2020 CW Academy class just recently finished and we are still waiting to gather all advisor evaluations of their students so a full report will be available next month.



We get some great feedback from students who have taken a class which highlights how dedicated our advisors are and the commitment that they make to help students learn. This also shows that if a student is willing to commit to practicing and trying to improve, they can realize a lot of success. Here are some examples (names and call signs removed):

"I just finished the course for beginners and this was a great experience for me and I am still amazed that in two months I can now do a QSO in CW on the HF bands. And have already done this a few times on 80M and 40M."

"Most of all he (the advisor) was very sincere in trying to help each of us in the class learn CW. He put a lot of effort into the class sending us many practice files and information on different aspects of CW: keyers, WinKeyer, N1MM, CW Player, QRQ, RufzXP etc etc. All this extra effort was really appreciated and helped me build my skills. (The advisor) is very generous with his time and we often went way over time discussing CW and other aspects of ham radio.

"Thank you to the entire CWops organization for helping me and other advance CW skills."

"Looking forward to the advanced class."

"I have just completed the CW Academy Beginner class, and I want to thank the CWops group for providing me the opportunity! I now have signed up for the Basic level course that begins in January, and I'm looking forward to improving my CW skills.

"I feel fortunate to have had (the advisor) as my advisor. The sessions were full of useful exercises, tips, and other information, but most importantly to me, they were low stress and relaxed. (the advisor) provided us with encouragement, and the accountability of knowing he would ask us to demonstrate our progress kept me focused and moving between class meetings. I feel I made a lot of progress over the course, more quickly than I would have on my own. I already have been suggesting to my friends that they check out CW Academy."

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We could go on but it shows that many people are able to complete a class and go on to practice what they have learned and enjoy our favorite mode. More importantly, these students are helping to support CWops' mission of keeping CW alive on the air.

January 2021 is rapidly approaching and we anticipate another active session. As usual, the assistance of experienced CW operators to help lead our classes is greatly appreciated. We would especially like to invite people in North America, or perhaps Europe, who could consider helping us out with advising students in Asia. This could mean leading a class in the advisor's early morning or some other time so that students would be meeting in their early evenings. We do have a lot of interest building in Asia and it is hard to tell them that we do not have advisors in their areas.

Also, it is important that anybody can help encourage new CW operators by looking for slower code on the air, perhaps somebody making a few mistakes, and work them. Many advisors have probably had the experience of a student coming into a class session in a very excited mood because somebody slowed down and helped them through a, perhaps, less-than-ideal QSO. A few minutes spent helping a student in this way can lead to an enthusiastic future CW fan.

**73,**

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

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## CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

As of the end of October, we have completed 132 out of the 159 CWTs this year (there are 159 because this year is a leap year that starts on a Wednesday, to there is an entire extra set of 3 CWTs this year). We're into the home stretch for the CWT participation awards chase.

As of November 1, there were 68 CWops members who had already qualified for a gold medal for CWT participation in 2020. 10 of them had entered in all 132 sessions so far. There were another 153 who had already reached the silver medal level. I am expecting about half of these folks to reach the gold medal level by the end of the year. There were yet another 135 who had reached the bronze medal level by the end of October.

All in all, I am expecting a bumper medal crop this year, probably more than 400 medals in total. The pandemic had something to do with that – more people at home able to make time to participate on a weekday. We have had several CWT sessions with more than 400 participants as indicated by the claimed scores at 3830scores.com. Overall, the 1300Z session has been averaging

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about 350 entrants and the 1900Z session averages about 375. The 0300Z session is a bit less popular, with around 265 entrants on average.

In the first ten months of 2020, there have been over 43000 scores reported to 3830scores, by over 1300 different participants. More than 1.2 million CWT QSOs took place during the first 10 months of 2020 – on average, over 9000 QSOs in each one-hour session. If we assume each QSO takes 15 or 20 seconds to complete, that works out to an average of 40 or 50 QSOs all taking place at any moment during each CWT. Add to that a comparable number of CQ calls taking place at the same time, and it's no wonder the 20 kHz or so segment we use of each open band is so crowded.



That crowding is most severe in North America, and maybe to a lesser extent in Europe. Of the 726 operators who have submitted 10 or more CWT scores so far this year, 585 are from North America, 135 from Europe, and 6 from the rest of the world. With that much congestion on the bands, there are bound to be collisions and overlaps; we all need to show a little consideration for one another. It's only a CWT; we're not fighting for prizes or berths in the next WRTC.

**73,**

**Rich, VE3KI**

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In the December issue of *Solid Copy*: Bill N0AC re-counts his mobile operation in the 2020 Kansas QSO Party.





# New Members

## Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
2703	KY0Q*	Rick	2715	WU6P	Nian	2727	NA6Z*	Don
2704	I2ITF*	John	2716	W2TT*	Ross	2728	VE3WNS*	Norm
2705	N2GG*	Gil	2717	K4LW*	Bob	2729	WA7KVI*	Wes
2706	RT5P/R3PAE	Gene	2718	KA1YQC*	Mark	2730	KI2N*	Mark
2707	DF4ZL*	Paul	2719	W3YR*	Ted	2731	KI7WNS	Jacob
2708	KI7RS*	Ryan	2720	KA7GPP	Dan	2732	K6TOR*	Rick
2709	NN6B*	Joe	2721	K4JC*	Vic	2733	KG5IEE*	Randal
2710	N1CCK	Nick	2722	NR5W*	Doug	2734	K1OKD*	OKDoty
2711	KD2ST*	Al	2723	W0OJ*	Phil	2735	DL2OE*	Mike
2712	AG4CC*	Karen	2724	WR7T*	Phil	2736	ON6PJ	Jelle
2713	NI1L*	Les	2725	AE7EU*	Martin			
2714	VA6CA*	Kam	2726	N8HZM*	Marv			

\*Life Member

## Current Nominees

As of November 8, 2020:

**Need Sponsors:** W2DWL, VA3WHU, VK2IOW, AD4UM, KD4Q, KO4AXD, AF4QK, M0RJC, YU6DX

**Invitations Extended:** W0ECS, EU8F, W0CD, VE1VEI

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](mailto:membership@cwops.org) so I can add it to the roster. Vice versa, if your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

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](mailto:cwopscam@w0tg.com).

Members whose call signs 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	1597	10062	W1RM	208	WT9U	50	W1RM	59	UR5MM	39
K3WW	1449	7624	F6HKA	192	WT2P	50	UR5MM	58	W1RM	38
N5RZ	1383	5892	DL6KVA	162	WA9LEY	50	DL6KVA	58	OK1RR	38
K3WJV	1339	5365	W4VQ	155	WA4JUK	50	OH2BN	55	OH2BN	38
W1RM	1264	6866	UR5MM	152	W9ILY	50	F6HKA	54	N8BJQ	38
NA8V	1255	5752	G4BUE	149	W7GF	50	VE3KI	50	F6HKA	38
F6HKA	1205	6186	OH2BN	148	W6KY	50	OK1RR	49	AA3B	38
N8BJQ	1182	6507	OK1RR	141	W4VQ	50	DJ1YFK	49	9A1AA	38
WT9U	1167	4072	VE3KI	134	W1UU	50	9A1AA	49	W4VQ	37
K4WW	1128	3113	W9ILY	126	W1RM	50	G4BUE	47	VE3KI	37
K7QA	1117	3312	N8BJQ	126	W0EJ	50	AA3B	47	G4BUE	37
VE3KI	1102	5913	K3WW	125	VK7CW	50	N8BJQ	46	W9ILY	36
K3JT	1083	3658	AA3B	125	VE3KI	50	K3WW	46	W0VX	36
K1VUT	1082	3407	K1ESE	120	NU7Y	50	G4HZV	46	N5RZ	36
KG9X	1068	3559	9A1AA	119	NA8V	50	W9ILY	45	N5PHT	36
I2WIJ	1064	2287	W0VX	118	NA6O	50	PG4I	45	K3WW	36
N7US	1060	4034	AC4CA	118	N8BJQ	50	K3WJV	45	DL6KVA	36
W4PM	1038	2122	N5IR	116	N7US	50	W4VQ	44	AC4CA	36
W9ILY	1015	4771	N5PHT	114	N5RZ	50	SM0HEV	44	N5RR	35
AC6ZM	1015	1895	EA8OM	111	N5RR	50	NA8V	44	ON4CAS	34
DL6KVA	972	4307	K1SM	110	N5PHT	50	IK0YVV	44	N1EN	34
K6NR	967	2267	N5RZ	109	N5IR	50	K1ESE	43	K1ESE	34
K9WX	962	3352	N1EN	109	N4ZR	50	I5EFO	43	IK0YVV	34
W4WF	946	2436	4X6GP	106	N2UU	50	4X6GP	43	4X6GP	34
N4ZR	939	3122	VK7CW	105	N2RC	50	N5RR	42	VK7CW	33
AC3BU	938	2118	N5RR	105	N1EN	50	N2UU	42	NA8V	33
KE8G	937	2700	K3WJV	105	N1DC	50	M0RYB	42	N5IR	33

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K1ESE	936	4430	N2UU	104	KY7M	50	EA8OM	42	K0VBU	33
K8JQ	934	3852	W1UU	103	KU7Y	50	DL5DBY	42	I5EFO	33
WA4JUK	928	2617	NA8V	103	KE4S	50	AC4CA	42	K1SM	32
N1DC	921	3467	I5EFO	103	K9WX	50	N5IR	41	I5IYJ	32
NA4J	916	2070	N7US	101	K8JQ	50	K1SM	41	WA9LEY	31
K1DW	896	3987	IK0YVV	101	K8AJS	50	HB9ARF	41	RM2D	31
K1DJ	889	3101	AE1T	101	K7QA	50	G3LDI	41	N7US	31
K8AJS	869	3331	ON4CAS	99	K6NR	50	SM7IUN	40	N2UU	31
WN7S	862	2315	EA1WX	99	K5IX	50	RM2D	40	W1UU	30
KO8SCA	859	1556	K0VBU	98	K5CM	50	LB6GG	40	OK1RP	30
KV8Q	851	1816	K8AJS	96	K5AX	50	K8AJS	40	NA6O	30
N5PHT	846	4257	WA9LEY	95	K4WW	50	K1DJ	40	N7RD	30
9A1AA	834	3290	WT9U	93	K4GM	50	W0VX	39	N2RC	30
W0VX	833	4522	K1DJ	91	K3WW	50	N4ZR	39	KR3E	30
KT5V	832	2439	N4ZR	90	K3WJV	50	N1EN	39	K8AJS	30
N2UU	827	4402	K1DW	88	K3SEN	50	LA8OM	39	K3WJV	30
K2TW	825	2368	N2RC	87	K3JT	50	IT9MUO	39	N4ZR	29
NJ3K	816	1494	F6JOE	87	K2QB	50	I2WIJ	39	K3JT	29
WS1L	799	1429	KY7M	86	K1ESE	50	G4NVR	39	IT9VDQ	29
WT2P	786	3467	KR3E	86	K1EBY	50	AE1T	39	WT9U	28
NR3Z	782	1349	DJ1YFK	86	K1DW	50	SQ9S	38	N5AW	28
CO8NMN	781	2042	RM2D	85	K1DJ	50	N5RZ	38	KT5V	28
K4TZ	781	1804	N7RD	85	K0VBU	50	MI0WWB	38	K1DW	28
W6LAX	776	1313	K3JT	85	K0MP	50	M0DHP	38	DJ1YFK	28
W3WHK	770	2208	CT1DRB	85	IK0YVV	50	K3JT	38	K7QA	27
N4FP	767	1427	I5IYJ	83	I5EFO	50	IT9VDQ	38	K4GM	27
VE3TM	730	1181	AD1C	83	G4BUE	50	DK1WI	38	I2WIJ	27
VE3MV	705	2239	K4HQB	81	F6JOE	50	DF7TV	38	WT2P	26
K0TC	705	2159	PG4I	80	F6HKA	50	CT1DRB	38	SM0HEV	26
W1UU	663	3227	NA6O	80	F5MNK	50	SM5IMO	37	N1ZX	26
DF7TV	662	967	K9WX	80	EA8OM	50	PA3BFH	37	KU7Y	26
WA9LEY	644	2990	N1DC	79	AE1T	50	OZ3SM	37	K9WX	26
KK0ECT	640	1275	K5AX	79	AD1C	50	KR3E	37	K5ZD	26
N5IR	637	3805	DL8PG	79	AC4CA	50	K3MD	37	K5CM	26
K3SEN	637	2075	SM0HEV	78	AB7MP	50	K1DW	37	K4HQB	26
AG4EA	630	1101	N1ZX	77	AA8TA	50	G4ILW	37	K2QB	26
W2NRA	627	2003	K4GM	77	AA3B	50	F6JOE	37	K1DJ	26
WA2USA	614	1198	IT9VDQ	77	WN7S	49	W1UU	36	CT1DRB	26
K4GM	612	2883	WA4JUK	76	WB5BKL	49	SV2BBK	36	WA4JUK	25
K0MP	609	1720	G3LDI	76	WA5LXS	49	PA3HEN	36	V31MA	25

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
WA5LXS	606	1398	WT2P	75	WA3GM	49	ON4VT	36	LA8OM	25
KB4DE	599	1135	K1EBY	75	W4WF	49	G4DRS	36	KE8G	25
KT4XN	598	1414	G4HZV	75	W4PM	49	F5IYJ	36	K1EBY	25
IT9MUO	597	1924	LA8OM	74	W4ER	49	EA1WX	36	IT9MUO	25
K0VBU	595	4266	KE4S	74	W3WHK	49	WA4JUK	35	HB9ARF	25
W2VM	593	1636	HB9ARF	74	W2NRA	49	ON4CAS	35	DK1WI	25
K6KM	593	1019	K7QA	73	W0VX	49	N7US	35	K4WW	24
LB6GG	588	1226	K2QB	73	VE3MV	49	N1DC	35	DL4FDM	24
W8DN	585	1349	IT9MUO	73	VA7ST	49	K5ZD	35	DF7TV	24
W8OV	576	1532	I2WIJ	72	NN4K	49	K0VBU	35	PG4I	23
W1EQ	576	963	KE8G	71	NA4J	49	IN3FHE	35	NA4J	23
W0TG	574	1624	K5ZD	71	N7RD	49	EA5IUY	35	N1DC	23
SM0HEV	574	1201	DL5DBY	71	N5AW	49	EA3FZT	35	KG9X	23
KE4S	573	2294	DK1WI	71	N2WK	49	WT9U	34	K8JQ	23
KB8GAE	571	1314	N5AW	70	N1ZX	49	N5AW	34	K6NR	23
OZ3SM	557	1115	K4WW	70	KV8Q	49	K4HQB	34	G4HZV	23
K5ZD	550	2306	W2NRA	69	KT5V	49	K1VUT	34	G3LDI	23
NN4K	545	2227	SM7IUN	69	KM4FO	49	K1EBY	34	WE5P	22
KC8J	545	1099	N7WY	68	KK0ECT	49	IK0NOJ	34	N2WK	22
KF8O	537	1033	F5MKN	68	KG9X	49	G3WZD	34	KO8SCA	22
W2CDO	537	758	OZ3SM	67	KE8G	49	DL4FDM	34	KE4S	22
AA8TA	534	1869	KG9X	67	KE4RG	49	W4PM	33	W7GF	21
M0RYB	529	1125	G4NVR	67	KC8J	49	W2NRA	33	W4PM	21
W1AJT	502	647	N2WK	66	K6RB	49	SP1D	33	W2NRA	21
N7RD	500	1437	VE3MV	65	K6KM	49	K7QA	33	W0TG	21
W4VQ	498	3090	V31MA	65	K6DGW	49	DL4KG	33	SM7IUN	21
K2YR	496	779	OK1RP	65	K4TZ	49	N2WK	32	OZ3SM	21
N3FZ	486	1143	M0RYB	65	K4HR	49	N2RC	32	K6DGW	21
K4AFE	459	1906	KT5V	65	K4AFE	49	KY7M	32	K3SEN	21
W2XYZ	459	658	W3WHK	64	K3MD	49	K4GM	32	G4NVR	21
SQ9S	457	862	SM5IMO	64	K2TW	49	I5IYJ	32	G4DRS	21
K1EBY	455	2380	F5IYJ	64	K1VUT	49	F5MKN	32	W4WF	20
KC4WQ	454	694	K3DMG	63	K0TC	49	EA4OR	32	VA7ST	20
HB9ARF	453	1741	VA7ST	62	DL6KVA	49	DK3WW	32	SQ9S	20
W8FN	450	2055	SQ9S	62	AC6ZM	49	CO8NMN	32	NN4K	20
K5QR	445	674	K1VUT	62	AC3BU	49	VK7CW	31	JF2IWL	20
CT1DRB	444	1146	DF7TV	62	9A1AA	49	VE3MV	31	IN3FHE	20
NU7Y	438	1547	ON4VT	61	W8OV	48	V31MA	31	F5IYJ	20
AA8R	438	965	NA4J	61	W8FN	48	OK1RP	31	CO8NMN	20
OK1RR	437	2806	K8JQ	61	W8DN	48	N1ZX	31	AC3BU	20

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KM4FO	436	1482	K5CM	61	W6LAX	48	KO8SCA	31	AA8R	20
N4CWZ	434	663	K3SEN	61	W2VM	48	KG9X	31	W4ER	19
G4BUE	424	3816	G4DRS	61	W0TG	48	KE4S	31	W3WHK	19
G3LDI	421	1704	CO8NMN	61	VE3TM	48	K5AX	31	VE3MV	19
G4NVR	421	1306	W4PM	60	UR5MM	48	K4WW	31	M0RYB	19
NG1R	413	828	LB6GG	60	OK1RR	48	DL8PG	31	M0DHP	19
DJ1YFK	410	1911	DL4FDM	60	NJ3K	48	DD7CW	31	KB8GAE	19
SP1D	409	701	KO8SCA	59	N7WY	48	WA9LEY	30	K6KM	19
G4HZV	388	1303	M0DHP	57	KT4XN	48	W4WF	30	K4HR	19
KJ4M	386	1176	K4QS	57	KR3E	48	W3WHK	30	K1VUT	19
K4EES	377	678	W6KY	56	KO8SCA	48	NA6O	30	K0TC	19
RM2D	375	1332	NN4K	56	KE6K	48	N5PHT	30	WN7S	18
N1RM	367	490	K6RB	56	KB8GAE	48	KE8G	30	WB5BKL	18
WB5BKL	366	1361	IN3FHE	56	KB4DE	48	DL5JQ	30	WA3GM	18
WA5PFJ	360	756	AC3BU	56	KA9BHD	48	PF5X	29	W8FN	18
SM7IUN	356	828	WE5P	55	K5ZD	48	N7RD	29	SP1D	18
K8RJW	351	708	W4WF	55	K4QS	48	K4QS	29	ON4VT	18
W6TN	347	977	K0TC	54	K4HQB	48	K2QB	29	NU7Y	18
PG4I	347	744	WN7S	52	K3DMG	48	G0ELZ	29	LB6GG	18
EA5IUY	344	455	K2TW	52	K1SM	48	AC3BU	29	KE6K	18
UR5MM	340	2920	IK0NOJ	52	IT9VDQ	48	NN4K	28	K4AFE	18
W8XC	331	665	G4ILW	52	IT9MUO	48	K9WX	28	K2TW	18
G3WZD	328	614	AA8R	52	I2WIJ	48	K3SEN	28	IK0NOJ	18
EA3FZT	328	500	W2VM	51	EA1WX	48	K2TW	28	DL4KG	18
G4DRS	324	955	W0TG	51	DL8PG	48	DL1NKB	28	W8OV	17
KE4RG	323	1156	KU7Y	51	4X6GP	48	AD1C	28	W2VM	17
VA7ST	322	2579	K4AFE	51	WT8P	47	WT2P	27	SM5IMO	17
WE5P	322	917	K4HR	50	WS1L	47	VA7ST	27	NR3Z	17
VE6JF	320	870	W8DN	49	WA2USA	47	NJ3K	27	KV8Q	17
NA6O	319	3352	MI0WWB	49	W8XC	47	NA4J	27	KT4XN	17
OH2BN	317	1313	SP1D	47	W6TN	47	M0NGN	27	KK0ECT	17
AB7MP	313	1259	NR3Z	47	W2NO	47	K8JQ	27	K0MP	17
DK3WW	311	491	N3FZ	47	VE1OP	47	WN7S	26	DK3WW	17
KD2KW	294	413	K6NR	47	SM5IMO	47	VE3TM	26	W8DN	16
AJ1DM	292	787	DL4KG	47	ON4CAS	47	NR3Z	26	W6TN	16
4X6GP	286	1789	G3WZD	46	OH2BN	47	K3DMG	26	VE3TM	16
PA3BFH	286	477	DK3WW	46	NR3Z	47	GW4MVA	26	NJ3K	16
W7GF	282	999	SV2BBK	45	N4FP	47	G0MGM	26	N3FZ	16
AA0O	282	375	PA3BFH	45	LA8OM	47	W2VM	25	MI0WWB	16
W3RZ	278	478	KT4XN	45	KJ4M	47	RT5P	25	KM4FO	16

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
WT8P	271	517	G0MGM	45	KF8O	47	PA0INA	25	G3WZD	16
N1EN	270	2452	EA3FZT	45	K4EES	47	G4LPP	25	DL5DBY	16
DL5JQ	266	381	W4ER	44	I5IYJ	47	N4FP	24	WS1L	15
N7SU	264	521	NJ3K	44	HB9ARF	47	N1RM	24	W8XC	15
DL5DBY	261	1123	KV8Q	44	DK1WI	47	K6RB	24	VE6JF	15
EA4OR	257	414	KB8GAE	44	CO8NMN	47	WS1L	23	SV2BBK	15
KE6K	244	946	W8XC	42	AG4EA	47	W8DN	23	NG1R	15
PF5X	242	323	W8FN	42	AA8R	47	N3FZ	23	N4FP	15
DD7CW	235	325	PA3HEN	42	WE5P	46	K5QR	23	KE4RG	15
AF4T	233	312	KK0ECT	42	WA5PFJ	46	K5CM	23	KC8J	15
DL4KG	230	328	WB5BKL	41	W2CDO	46	K0TC	23	KB4DE	15
PA3HEN	227	341	WA3GM	41	W1AJT	46	EA1DP	23	G4ILW	15
K9CPO	223	277	W8OV	41	VE6JF	46	AA8R	23	AJ1DM	15
N7MU	219	536	K3MD	41	V31MA	46	W2CDO	22	AG4EA	15
M0WWB	219	523	EA5IUY	41	SM0HEV	46	W1EQ	22	AC6ZM	15
M0DHP	208	536	VE3TM	40	RM2D	46	SP2R	22	AB7MP	15
W6GMT	198	391	PF5X	40	N7SU	46	NG1R	22	WA5LXS	14
NF5KF	198	289	DL5JQ	40	N4CWZ	46	K6NR	22	WA2USA	14
KI3F	197	308	WA5LXS	39	N3FZ	46	DL8BH	22	W2NO	14
KR4WI	197	255	NG1R	39	N0PP	46	AC6ZM	22	PF5X	14
K1IG	187	237	DD7CW	39	KC4WQ	46	W0TG	21	N7MU	14
GD4EIP	184	199	WS1L	38	K8RJW	46	KT5V	21	N0PP	14
ON4VT	182	719	N4FP	38	K5QR	46	JF2IWL	21	KJ4M	14
SV2BBK	177	365	EA4OR	38	K2YR	46	GD4EIP	21	KF8O	14
F5IYJ	166	716	AA8TA	38	JF2IWL	46	F5PBL	21	K5QR	14
KA9BHD	157	755	K6DGW	37	G4HZV	46	AG4EA	21	EA3FZT	14
KU7Y	154	1674	W0EJ	36	G3LDI	46	WA2USA	20	AA8TA	14
GW4MVA	147	192	AC6ZM	36	DL5DBY	46	K4HR	20	W6LAX	13
KG5VK	147	163	W2NO	35	CT1DRB	46	K4AFE	20	W3RZ	13
OK1RP	136	701	KM4FO	35	AJ1DM	46	WE5P	19	PA3BFH	13
G4LPP	131	183	JF2IWL	35	W1EQ	45	W8XC	19	K4TZ	13
W8EH	130	149	M0NGN	34	W0PHX	45	W1AJT	19	K4EES	13
M0NGN	117	138	KB4DE	34	OZ3SM	45	KT4XN	19	WA5PFJ	12
AF3K	116	618	AG4EA	34	ON4VT	45	WB5BKL	18	KA9BHD	12
DL1NKB	116	146	G0ELZ	33	NG1R	45	WA3GM	18	K2YR	12
G0ELZ	104	214	WA2USA	32	G4NVR	45	W8OV	18	DD7CW	12
EA1DP	104	131	W7GF	32	F5IYJ	45	W6KY	18	W2XYZ	11
RT5P	90	127	VE1OP	32	DF7TV	45	W2NO	18	W1EQ	11
KG5U	84	93	K6KM	32	AF3K	45	VE1OP	18	W0PHX	11
K8MP	84	89	K5QR	32	AA0O	45	KV8Q	18	M0NGN	11

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
DL8BH	81	115	DL1NKB	32	W3RZ	44	KB8GAE	18	KC4WQ	11
KA1YQC	72	79	W6TN	30	W2XYZ	44	KB4DE	18	K8RJW	11
PA0INA	68	86	NU7Y	30	PG4I	44	G4RCG	18	EA5IUY	11
SP2R	65	90	KE4RG	30	N7MU	44	WA5PFJ	17	EA4OR	11
G4ILW	59	693	KC8J	30	KD2KW	44	W8FN	17	AF3K	11
LA8OM	54	1370	W1EQ	29	G4DRS	44	W2XYZ	17	W2CDO	10
I5EFO	52	1447	KF8O	29	SM7IUN	43	PA0VLD	17	PA3HEN	10
ON4CAS	39	1131	K4TZ	29	N5KW	43	K8RJW	17	N7SU	10
OK4MM	37	40	AJ1DM	29	N1RM	43	W4ER	16	KI3F	10
K4NE	32	80	RT5P	28	KI3F	43	KF8O	16	K1OJ	10
KM3A	28	33	KA9BHD	28	DJ1YFK	43	K9CPO	16	K1IG	10
KI7RS	27	27	GW4MVA	28	W6GMT	42	AF4T	16	GD4EIP	10
VK7CW	20	1809	G4LPP	28	N7ID	42	KU7Y	15	G0ELZ	10
PA0VLD	20	37	EA1DP	28	K9CPO	42	KE4RG	15	DL8BH	10
DD5KG	17	18	WA5PFJ	27	SQ9S	41	K2YR	14	DL5JQ	10
AC4CA	0	4479	W3RZ	27	M0RYB	41	AJ1DM	14	DL1NKB	10
N5RR	0	4223	KE6K	27	LB6GG	41	AA8TA	14	AF4T	10
K6RB	0	4032	K8RJW	27	DL4FDM	41	WA5LXS	13	WT8P	9
K5AX	0	3634	DL8BH	27	AF4T	41	KC8J	13	W6GMT	9
N2RC	0	3271	W6LAX	26	NA1VT	40	K0MP	13	W1AJT	9
KY7M	0	3252	PA0INA	26	KR4WI	40	W6LAX	12	N7ID	9
AE1T	0	3206	N1RM	26	G3WZD	40	KM4FO	12	N1RM	9
F6JOE	0	3002	N0PP	26	SP1D	39	KK0ECT	12	KG5VK	9
IK0YVV	0	2958	K0MP	26	K1IG	39	KI3F	12	G4LPP	9
K5CM	0	2866	GD4EIP	26	IN3FHE	39	K6KM	12	F5PBL	9
EA8OM	0	2758	F5PBL	26	W4MDV	38	K6DGW	12	WX5CW	8
K1SM	0	2566	W2CDO	25	W9KM	37	KA9BHD	11	W4MDV	8
N5AW	0	2510	W2XYZ	24	NF5KF	37	K4TZ	11	RT5P	8
N2WK	0	2339	K5IX	24	KB8PGW	37	W3RZ	10	NA1VT	8
N7WY	0	2303	K2YR	24	IK0NOJ	37	W0EJ	10	KD2KW	8
K4HQB	0	2193	AB7MP	24	DK3WW	36	NF5KF	10	K9CPO	8
K6DGW	0	2122	W1AJT	23	OK1RP	35	NA1VT	10	G4RCG	8
AD1C	0	2101	SP2R	23	MI0WWB	35	N5KW	10	EA1DP	8
W6KY	0	2088	NF5KF	22	GD4EIP	35	K1IG	10	AA0O	8
K4QS	0	2069	G4RCG	22	G0MGM	35	KJ4M	9	SP2R	7
K2QB	0	2023	AF4T	22	W8EH	34	W6TN	8	SM7CIL	7
EA1WX	0	1961	K4EES	21	M0DHP	34	SM7CIL	8	OK4MM	7
DL8PG	0	1789	KJ4M	20	PF5X	33	N0PP	8	N5KW	7
K3DMG	0	1773	K9CPO	20	KG5VK	33	KD2KW	8	GW4MV A	7
K3MD	0	1734	VE6JF	19	DL4KG	33	K5IX	8	PA0INA	6

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Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
K4HR	0	1698	AF3K	19	EA3FZT	32	VE6JF	7	N4CWZ	6
IT9VDQ	0	1618	KI3F	18	G4ILW	30	KG5VK	7	KR4WI	6
KR3E	0	1602	KC4WQ	18	EA5IUY	30	K4EES	7	W9KM	5
V31MA	0	1520	K1IG	18	EA4OR	30	AF3K	7	PA0VLD	5
SM5IMO	0	1382	W0PHX	17	PA3BFH	29	OK4MM	6	W8EH	4
N1ZX	0	1348	PA0VLD	17	K8MP	29	NU7Y	6	KM3A	4
W4ER	0	1311	N7MU	16	KG5U	28	AA0O	6	KA1YQC	4
WA3GM	0	1230	NA1VT	14	KA1YQC	28	KC4WQ	5	K4NE	4
F5MNK	0	1111	N5KW	14	G4RCG	28	AB7MP	5	KI7RS	3
W2NO	0	961	KD2KW	12	K4NE	27	W7GF	4	KG5U	3
DK1WI	0	908	AA0O	12	DL5JQ	27	W6GMT	4	K8MP	3
K5IX	0	892	SM7CIL	11	SV2BBK	24	KE6K	4	DD5KG	3
I5IYJ	0	837	KG5VK	11	PA3HEN	23	W0PHX	3	AF9W	3
IN3FHE	0	769	K1OJ	11	G0ELZ	23	N7SU	3		
VE1OP	0	768	WX5CW	10	DD7CW	23	N4CWZ	3		
W0EJ	0	754	W6GMT	10	AF9W	23	KR4WI	3		
JF2IWL	0	674	OK4MM	10	WX5CW	20	WT8P	2		
DL4FDM	0	646	N7SU	10	G4LPP	19	N7MU	2		
N5KW	0	639	N7ID	9	M0NGN	18	N7ID	2		
N0PP	0	550	WT8P	8	GW4MVA	18	KB8PGW	2		
G0MGM	0	495	W4MDV	8	DL1NKB	18	DD5KG	2		
W0PHX	0	426	N4CWZ	7	KM3A	17	WX5CW	1		
IK0NOJ	0	366	KR4WI	6	KI7RS	15	W9KM	1		
N7ID	0	311	KB8PGW	5	SM7CIL	13	W4MDV	1		
NA1VT	0	306	W9KM	4	OK4MM	13	KM3A	1		
KB8PGW	0	284	DD5KG	4	F5PBL	13	KA1YQC	1		
W9KM	0	236	W8EH	3	EA1DP	13	K1OJ	1		
W4MDV	0	225	KA1YQC	3	DL8BH	11				
F5PBL	0	134	K4NE	3	RT5P	10				
G4RCG	0	131	KM3A	2	DD5KG	10				
AF9W	0	59	KI7RS	2	SP2R	3				
WX5CW	0	49	KG5U	2	PA0INA	3				
SM7CIL	0	35	K8MP	2	K1OJ	3				
K1OJ	0	29	AF9W	2	PA0VLD	2				

## 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](#)

*Solid Copy* newsletters are full of interesting information that appeals to anyone with an interest in CW. One of the most enjoyable areas in *Solid Copy* is the New Members section. It's really fascinating to learn about the CW journey that brought our new members to the point in time when they join CWops. I'm interested in the life experiences that led them to ham radio? How then did they learn CW? What have they done with CW in their lifetime and what is their favorite way to use CW today? Many new members give us these kinds of details.

Every once in a while, I receive an email from someone who is a good contest operator but never learned how to have conversational CW QSOs or they lost their ability to do that over the years. Now they want to relearn how to send well with their paddle and copy CW conversation. Here's an example of an email I received recently.

"I saw your article in the Aug issue of *Solid Copy*. I'm sending this directly instead of using the CWops groups.io because I'm a little embarrassed.

"I'm a new member. I call CQ during contests between 22 and 28 wpm depending on conditions, etc. I do the CWTs at 28 and sometimes have to ask for repeats. But I can't copy rag chew. I can't even copy when a friend says hello during a contest. I have difficulty sending with my bench keyer.

"I want to improve my coping skills and make a few friends for rag chews. Can you make a recommendation or introduction? I might have to start at 15wpm."

Every CW operator is unique, we all have different challenges, and most of us want to improve. The story is different for everyone and I'm more than willing to help someone learn CW. The bottom line is -- It's never too late to learn a new CW skill, or to reacquire a skill that you used to be able to do. If it's learning CW, it's all good.

Next, we have the comments and reports from our group of ragchewers.

### Comments from QTX Submissions

**K6DGW:** Oct did not present much time for radio for various reasons. Nov will be cold, possibly a good omen for key time

**G3WZD:** Very nice to note that two of the MQTX this month were with former CWA students of mine!

**W3WHK:** Interesting chats with France & Italy. 73, Saul

**WS1L:** The longest QSO of the month was with Art, K8CIT at 38 minutes. Tom, W0KOM came in

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second with his 10W TenTec holding the path for 31 minutes.

**F5IYJ:** I finally found the time to get my 80m antenna repaired so I will be more active in chatting **with European ops at night.**

**WA2USA:** I had a Q with a ham who unbeknownst to me worked at the same company I did 49 years ago. We both knew a few people who worked in the main office building of the Ohio Power Company in Canton Ohio. Small world. We called it quits after 54 minutes, both of us had errands. Will catch him later!

**N6HCN:** All QTX with disco-era TS520S. Bands a bit better. Good to hear from Ken K5WK, Kevin WA7VTD, Dave W8DLW, Brian KE7LOY, and Dan W7RF/0 in Spearfish, SD. Working from home, squeaked a QTX with Steve KW7Q between two business meetings.

**KB6NU:** Ragchews this month included contacts with prominent CWops ragchewers N8AI and N5PHT!

**N5IR:** I lost a week to the flu (COVID negative) and I had a senior flu shot last month.

**W9EBE:** My station computer crashed early this month. Good thing I back-up my log regularly! Although it was kind of fun going back to old-school logging and rig control, I'm looking forward to a PC running the show again.

**N8AI:** 21 MINUTES RIDING ALONG WITH W1DV/M FROM CANANDIGUA, NY WHO HAS BEEN A SUBMARINER, PASTOR AND MUSICIAN.

**K8UDH:** I'm actually looking forward to the colder winter months. Winter usually means more time in the hamshack and more ragchew QSOs.

## **Awards and Medals for 2020**

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

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

The Gold Medals earned through October 31st are Art (K8CIT) with 1259 QTX QSOs, Bill (N5IR) with 646 QSOs, Joe (KC0VKN) with 629 QSOs, Gary (N5PHT) with 419 QSOs, and Chris (N8AI) with 401 QSOs.

Chip (W9EBE) with 374 QSOs, John (K1ESE) with 371 QSOs, and Tom (DL5DBY) with 358 QSOs have qualified for Silver Medals.

Our Bronze Medal earners are Chuck (WS1L) with 270 QSOs, Dan (KB6NU) with 236 QSOs, and Cecil (K5YQF) with 201 QSOs.

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### QTX for October 2020

Call	QTX
K8CIT	123
K1ESE	74
N5IR	53
N8AI	50
N5PHT	31

Call	QTX
F5IYJ	27
KB6NU	26
W9EBE	24
WS1L	20
WA2USA	16

Call	QTX
N6HCN	14
K4AHO	12
AA5AD	8
K5YQF	5
KG5IEE	5

Call	QTX
K8UDH	4
N5LB	3
SV2BBK	2
W3WHK	1
G3WZD	1

### MQTX for October 2020

Call	MQTX
SV2BBK	39
N8AI	28
KG5IEE	20
K8CIT	18
K1ESE	17

Call	MQTX
W9EBE	13
AA5AD	11
WS1L	11
N6HCN	8
K4AHO	7

Call	MQTX
G3WZD	5
K8UDH	5
W3WHK	5
N5PHT	4
W2USA	3

Call	MQTX
K6DGW	2
K5YQF	1

### QTX for 2020

Call	QTX
K8CIT	1259
N5IR	646
KC0VKN	629
N5PHT	419
N8AI	401
W9EBE	374
K1ESE	371
DL5DBY	358
WS1L	270

Call	QTX
KB6NU	236
K5YQF	201
F5IYJ	187
N6HCN	154
K4AHO	145
K2KRG	111
AJ1DM	91
K8UDH	72
AA5AD	57

Call	QTX
KG5IEE	56
AG4EA	50
W3PNM	45
SV2BBK	27
W3WHK	25
WA2USA	25
WB6TOU	23
IK0IXI	22
EW6BS	15

Call	QTX
N5LB	12
K6DGW	9
W5LA	5
AB7MP	4
G3WZD	4
KU7Y	3
KR4TH	1

### MQTX for 2020

Call	MQTX
DL5DBY	684
N8AI	492
W9EBE	282
SV2BBK	257
WS1L	179
K2KRG	134
N5PHT	127
K8CIT	125

Call	MQTX
K1ESE	117
AA5AD	117
KG5IEE	87
K4AHO	68
N6HCN	65
G3WZD	59
K5YQF	49
MI0WWB	47

Call	MQTX
W3PNM	29
K8UDH	28
K6DGW	28
AG4EA	22
W3WHK	18
AJ1DM	17
WB6TOU	11
AB7MP	9

Call	MQTX
W2USA	6
KU7Y	5
W5LA	5
N5LB	3
KR4TH	1

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Everyone is welcome to submit their ragchew QSO data. You don't have to be a member of CWops to join the fun. Please let me know if you spot any errors or omissions. You can submit any missing ragchew QSOs for any month in 2020 at any time. Just make a separate report for the month via the QTX Submission Form on the CWops website. Your ragchew QSOs totals will then be up to date in *Solid Copy*.

Thanks for participating in CWops ragchewing.

**73,**

**Bruce K8UDH**, QTX Manager

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## My Story: New Member Biographies

### Giovanni (John) Ceroni, I2IFT

I was born in 1958.

I want to thank my dear friend Helga, IN3FHE, for appointing me to CWops, and also all the friends who sponsored me K1DJ, WT9U, IK1HGE and I2WIJ. It is an honor to have been admitted to the CWops.

I started as a CB in 1971, but I immediately realized that it wasn't enough for me. SWL only after a few months and for almost three years, thanks to military receivers donated by my first teacher I3ZIA (SK), I did hundreds of hours of listening both in phone and CW and I thank my telegraphy teacher I3ZRL (SK) which immediately made me appreciate and love the CW. In 1974 my first special license and finally in 1977 my call I3IFT, which later became I2IFT in 1990.



Unfortunately for both work and family reasons my radio activity was very discontinuous and with long periods of inactivity until 2015. From the 1st of February 2015 I have continuously restarted my radio activity exclusively in CW, dedicating myself to contests and DX and logging in this last period about 80k QSOs. Both in the past and in recent years I have participated in numerous contests as a single operator with good results. I had the pleasure of having been for some years in the team IO2A and from 2000 to 2005 I had the honor of being in the international team of IH9P from Pantelleria island, with which we won four consecutive world victories in MM-

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M2-MS phone and CW (2002-2003-2004-2005), a record never equaled. I was included in the team as a 160m operator and multiplier hunting specialist as well as responsible for the team's race strategies.

In recent years I have achieved good results in the numerous international contests (always and only in CW) and I hold some Italian records both in the CQWDX and in the CQWPX and a world record in the CQWPX always and only in the 40m band, a band that together with the 80m I love particularly.

My station is very simple and basic and consists of an old Yaesu FT1000D with the support of an OM Power PA. At the moment there are only two antennas, a dynamic vertical 40-6m, installed on the ground, with 1300 meters of underground radials and an inverted V dipole for 80m. Unfortunately, I live in an urban center surrounded by numerous sources of strong and continuous noise, try to be patient if sometimes I make you repeat the report!!!!

My profession was a geologist and since the 1st of October this year I am retired. When I'm not on the radio I love to read, travel, go to the mountains and cultivate my vegetable garden and take care of my laying hens. I have a daughter, a modern dance teacher, and I share life with Laura, my great Love.

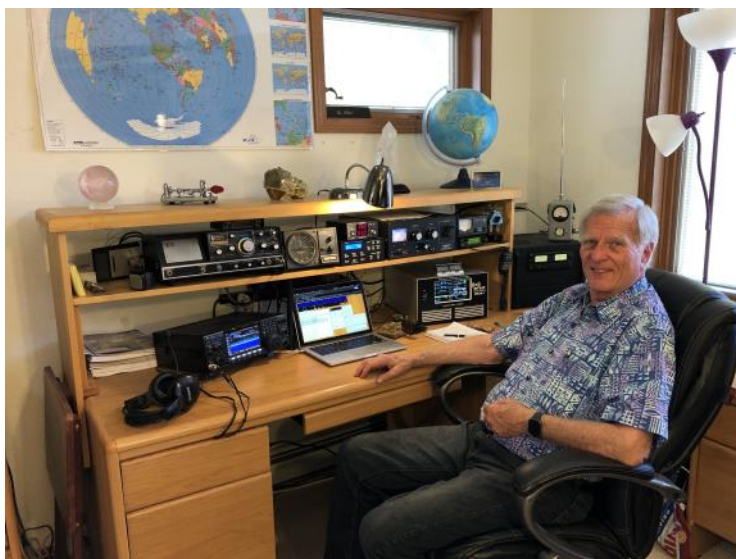
## **Gil Gray, N2GG**

First, I am in gratitude to Bill Leahy, KOMP, for his support and guidance in my intermediate CWA class, also, for nominating me to join CWops. What an honor. Also, thank you to those of you sponsoring me.

I grew up in southern California, with an active interest in electronics. I built my first crystal set at age 12. I got interested in Ham Radio soon after that. My novice class ham ticket came in September of 1958, at age 15. My first rig was a kit, running 6SN7 twin triode, super regenerative receiver, and a 6L6, 25-Watt transmitter.

When I upgraded to General class, I built a modulator for my CW rig and went on AM with about 20 watts, crystal controlled. Later on, when I could afford it, I purchased a used Hallicrafters HT-37 SSB transmitter, and a Drake 2B receiver, with QF-1.

In 1961 I began working for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, while still a senior in High school. I continued working while going to college and starting a family. After graduating from college, I was promoted to engineering and spent most of my career in Telephone Company technical training and engineering. In 1984 I was asked to go to Morristown, New Jersey, to work for Bell Communications Research (formally Bell Labs). This was to provide technical support to the Bell Operating Companies. Following divestiture from AT&T. While there, I got the DX



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bug. I worked over 300 countries and learned to love communicating with other hams all over the world. I recognized the importance of CW in DX chasing. One of the most fun projects at the Labs was engineering an HF Radio System for the Bell Operating Companies. The purpose was for use restoring the National telephone network, in event of catastrophic failure.

At the end of 1987 I was offered an opportunity to take early retirement. With much thought, I took it and moved back to California. I then began exploring spirituality and metaphysics. This led to a new career as owner of a wholesale business providing products, such as, semi-precious stone jewelry, crystals and stone specimens to stores around the country. In 2000, my wife Danna Loori (K2JOY) and I, moved to a small farm in the middle Rio Grande Valley, south of Albuquerque, NM. We worked together at our business, "Happy Heart Enterprises LLC," until 2018, when our son and daughter-in-law took it over.

We love to travel. We spend several months a year traveling in a 40' class "A", Alfa Gold RV. We tow a 21' car hauler trailer. In the RV, I run a Kenwood TS-480HX at 200W. Fortunately for me, Danna loves to drive the RV. (She used to be an Orange County, CA, Transit Bus driver). I use an SG-230 auto tuner mounted on the rear roof of the RV and feed various antennas, depending on if we are in motion or not. While in motion, I use a 22' trailing wire antenna from the top of the ladder to a pole on the rear corner of the car hauler trailer. I have worked a lot of DX rolling down the road.

Speaking of travel, I have operated vacation style from The Grand Bahama Island as C6AEE, Grand Cayman Island as ZF2AE, and numerous times /KH6. Last fall we travelled to VK land and met many of the hams I had previously met on the radio. This was a real treat.

The home HF station is an ICOM 7600, a PW-1 or RF2K+ amp, feeding a SteppIR, DB-18 at 60'. This gives me 6 thru 40 meters with gain. I use a 160-meter inverted V, fed with balanced line, to cover everything else. I have several keys. My favorite is a Begali.

I am a Life Member of the ARRL, Member of the Albuquerque DX Association and the Valencia County Amateur Radio Association.

Historically, I have spent more time on phone than CW. Now I'm looking forward more time on CW and CW Contesting.

Other interests include: 5-string banjo, folk guitar, experimenting with different ham radio antennas, and solar power. To this end, we installed a 7.4 KW solar power plant on our barn.

I appreciate the effort CWops is doing to stimulate growth in CW activity.

## **Norbert Stepien, VE3WNS**

I've been a licensed Ham since 1991 and issued Canadian callsign VE3WNS Advanced. Joined Cathay Pacific in 1997 as 747 flight crew based in UK. Issued UK callsign M0CEL. Now retired and

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splitting my time between Toronto and the UK. I'm enjoying getting back up to speed in ham radio after a long hiatus with main interest being CW.

Toronto equipment: Icom 7300, Yaesu FT 891. Amp Supply linear amplifier. Antennas include MFJ 1775 rotatable dipole and HyEnd wire antennas mounted on 8th floor condo balcony in downtown Toronto. Keys, Begali Sculpture and Simplex iambic and Begali HST single paddle.

UK equipment: Yaesu FT 1000D, Kenwood 940, Command Technologies HF 2500 linear, Heathkit SB1000 linear (assembled by me in 1991). Current antennas inverted V for 40m and a 20m delta loop. I am planning on installing a 2-element cubical quad on my 40 foot tower in near future. I've had a Lightning Bolt 2 element cubical quad in the past and it was an excellent performer.



Just completed CWOPS Advanced CW course which was excellent.

### **Jacob Miller, KI7WNS**

Licensed as a Technician in 2018, I have only recently begun to explore the exciting world of CW. After receiving my Technician license, I made it a point to join the local Ham Radio Club where I met a few individuals who used CW, one of whom recommended that I look into CWA. Having been a student with CWA in the Basic, L2, Intermediate, and Advanced class, I can say with confidence that the curriculum works; furthermore, the CWA curriculum not only works, but attracts strong students and excellent teachers.

CWT has been an excellent opportunity for me to practice my contesting skills - which I enjoy - but I have also found great experiences through assisting with various non-profit races, and emergency services. Having completed the prerequisite training, I was fortunate enough to assist with the Museum Fire in 2019 at our local Emergency Operations Center which was a great experience. Throughout the process, I could see the desire of hams to help their community.



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Recently, I received my General license which I have been making good use of on 20m. As a new ham I admittedly still have a way to go with acquiring equipment. Currently I am running a 15m end fed half wave through a MFJ-949E into an Alinco DX-SR8T with a MFJ-403 keyer/paddle - basic but works for now.

Being a part of CWops is very exciting. I am looking forward to more CWT, ragchews, and the many opportunities that CWops holds.

## **Mark Hill, KI2N**

First, I would like to thank my fine CWA Instructors: Gary Johnson (N8LR), Dennis McAlpine(K2SX), Bill Devore(W3PNM) and Buzz Tarlow (AC6AC) who took me from zero CW experience to almost being competent! I would also like to thank all of the Practice Session leaders and the other students who participated in the sessions with me.

I was trained as an Electrical and Computer Engineer (MSEE) and later added an MBA. I first worked at GE where I developed Sonar and Radar electronics for the US and UK. It was very interesting and technical work but the products I designed were only built in 10 to 100 quantities and were very expensive. While working on my MBA, I switched to the commercial side and joined UTC-Carrier where I designed electronics for residential A/C and heating systems as well as commercial and transport A/C and refrigeration systems. I enjoyed this as Carrier is very international and the products I designed sold in the 10,000 to 1,000,000 units/year range. Costs, manufacturability, and customer requirements made this interesting. I moved into management (my downfall?) but then left UTC-Carrier and opened a consulting business where I was able to work on many interesting projects like medical, automotive, and low power wireless electronics. This was nice as I only worked on things that interested me. I have now (almost) retired and spend my time with various hobbies.

Ironically, I am a rather new ham, only being licensed in 2018. I was simply too busy. I will also admit that I had a huge aversion to learning CW back in the days when it was required. Stupid me! CW is the mode I use almost exclusively! Why? I don't know, maybe because it is magical to communicate with someone far away using almost no power and simple electronics if you choose to. Or ramp up the power and gear and talk to the world. Contesting is fun but communi-

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cating is also interesting.

I enjoy CW contesting (newbie), DX, and rag chewing. I also like building electronics and antennas. I do like QRP when I'm not being lazy, it's hard sometimes!

Other interests I have are sailing, fishing/power boats, running, scuba, music-guitar and piano, woodworking, remodeling, travel...

I look forward to meeting you all on the air. I also hope to give back a little by volunteering to teach a bit.

### **Michael (Mike) Luedemann, DL2OE**

I was born in April 1953 in the eastern part of Berlin. I am married and have two children and 3 grandchildren.

My first CW signals I listen when I was 4 and a half year old in October 1957. My father DM2BCO (last call DL8WPM sk) listen to the signals from the Russian Sputnik 1 satellite with his homemade ham radio receiver on abt. 20 Mc. It was a slow „dit dit dit....“ serie. No more, but very interesting for me. I was also interested on all electric and electronic things. I hunting old defective radios for repair and obtaining spare parts.

With an age of ten I was a member of the clubstation DM3OE nearby my home. My father was the chief of the station and every Tuesday at 6pm the Morse training began. So I received my first SWL licence DM4741/E in 1967 and the DM3YOE call in 1970. We only worked in CW and a bit in AM with only 20 Watts. Since this time I'm a CW fan. Over the years I changed the callsigns for higher classes to Y35YE, Y25OE and after the reunification of Eastern- and Western Germany I came over DL2BWW to my, I hope last, actually call DL2OE.

I'm an retired electronic engineer. In my East German career I was a service engineer for radio equipment from a factory for comercial short wave receivers and transmitters. In this time I had to work all over the world to repair such equipment. Mostly in Africa and Central America. I was 3 years with my family in Nicaragua and was very activ as YN3EO (1986 to 1988). After 1989 in the new united Germany nobody needs the East German electronic and I must searching for a new job. Since 1991 I worked in a firma for medical X-Ray equipment and from 1997 in my own company also in medical X-ray until 2018. In December 2018 I go into retirement.



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My interest in ham radio are DX, IOTA hunting, mostly CW but also SSB and RTTY, DXpeditioning, contesting, electronic and computer technique and homebrew equipment.

I have the mixed DXCC honor roll #1 and need only P5 for honor roll #1 in CW.

Also WAZ 160m in CW with all 40 zones and the WAE Trophy are on my shack wall and with today I have 3014 Challenge points in LoTW.

I am member of DARC, ARRL, BCC, TBDXC, RRC and hold also the extra class US call AI6CF (tnx to my host Mike, WA6O CWops #46).

In the present time my rig consist of ICOM IC7610, IC705, Expert 1K3FA and also very old Russian surplus amps. The antennas are dipole for the lower bands and an Optibeam OB16-5 for the higher frequencies.

Thank you Axel DL6KVA for nominate me for CWops and each of my sponsors, I look forward to working you soon with my brand new CWops #2735.

### **Randal Mays, KG5IEE**

Let me start by thanking Bruce K8UDH for nominating me for CWops and to my sponsors: Tom W0FN, Tom WA9CW, Steve WD4CFN, and Joe KK5NA. All of these were my CW Academy Advisors. Bruce was advisor for my Beginner class about 1 ½ years ago.

I grew up in a really small town in North Louisiana and graduated from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La. After school, I had a very rewarding 35-year career with Junior Achievement, an education non-profit organization. The last 20 years were in Fort Worth, Texas running the Chisholm Trail Region. In 2018 I retired, and being a country boy at heart, I was ready to get out of the big city. I moved to Marshall, Texas, which is a small town in East Texas close to the Louisiana line. Got me closer to friends and family. I bought a place out of town on 15 heavily wooded acres. Peaceful, low noise floor, and no neighbors or HOA.



My early interest in radio came from my dad, who was the radio dispatcher for a small, rural

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sheriff's department in North Louisiana. These were the good old days when his four-year old son could come to the radio room and hang out during his 3:30 to midnight shift. I remember the old Motorola radio and the big desk mic. Not much traffic came over it, but it was exciting when my dad reached over and gave a 10-4 to someone. At midnight, my dad turned off the radio, turned out the lights, and locked the door. The sheriff's office was closed till 6:00 a.m. Those were the days!

I had always maintained a fascination with radio communications, so in 2015 I decided to get my HAM license. At the time, my interest lay in SSB communications and I really enjoyed the first few years. But I wanted a new challenge, and I noticed that the CW operators at Field Day seemed to be special. So, when I retired, I signed up for CW Academy. I progressed through Beginner, Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. I found CW to be a challenge but also a very rewarding adventure.

I reconnected with my Beginner Advisor, Bruce K8UDH, when I came across him working the Giving Back program. We had a nice QSO and that led to a weekly SKED. This fall Bruce asked me to serve as Associate Advisor for his Beginner Class. I realized early on that I wanted to be a CWA advisor and help new CW operators get started on their journey. I found CWA to be a great group of HAMS and I have made lifelong friends. I still do a SKED three times a week with two of the other students from my CWA Beginner Class, Bob KD5NDQ and Dan KE0SSV.

I look forward to working many of you on the bands, when the sun finally wakes up again.

## **Ryan Sachs, KI7RS**

I would like to thank Serge NS6W for nominating me, and also my former advisors John AC4CA and Quinton NU7Y.

I'm a relative newcomer to the world of ham radio and CW. I was first licensed in June of 2018 as KI7YWE, but I had no idea what I wanted to do with amateur radio. I would never have imagined I'd be learning CW. One of the members of my local club told me to register for the fall CW Academy. I ended up completing both levels one and two in back to back sessions. My first real operating experience was a SOTA summit with NU7Y



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helping me work my first pile up.

I struggled breaking through the 20 WPM level, so I signed up for the Advanced level class. I've found having to attend class twice a week really helps you commit to practicing.

I enjoy tinkering in my garage/shack and CW has opened a whole new area. I have a collection of various paddles, bugs, and keys. I've 3D printed quite a few, and I'm currently learning how to use a single lever paddle which started life as a sideswiper.

My current shack is an IC-7300, Xiegu G90, and a KX2 for SOTA work. My keys are a Magnakeyer, Brown Bros combo straight key and paddle, Vibroplex bug, a smattering of cheaper straight keys, and 3D printed paddles. My current antenna is a 40m-20m fan dipole; its height is limited by my HOA. In the future I would like to do more contesting, but my work schedule has me working weekends.

Thanks again for allowing me to join.

### **Robert Higgins, K4LW**

First thanks to Buz, AC6AC, for nominating me, and to my sponsors.

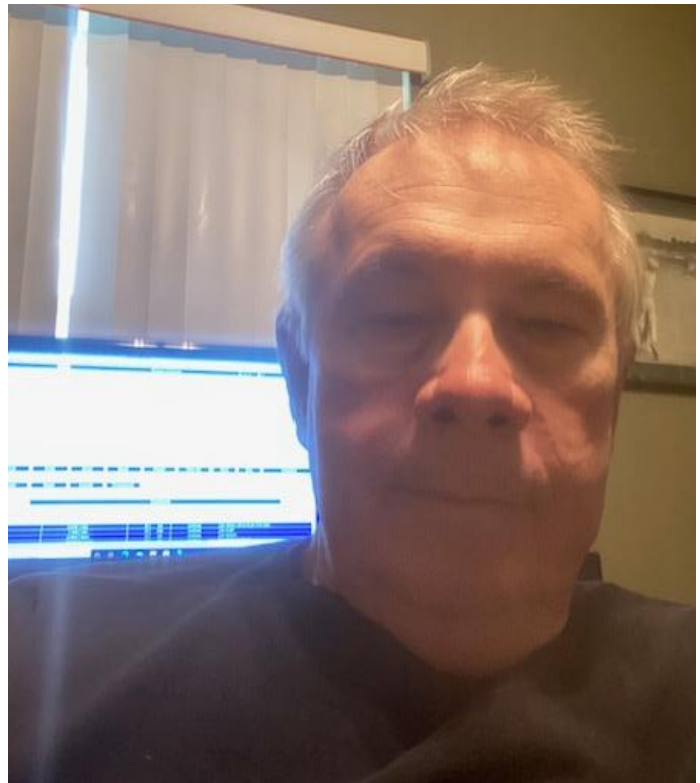
I first heard about ham radio at the age of 13 when I got a book from the school library called "SOS at Midnight" written by Walker Tompkins, K6ATX. It was a story about a high school age ham operator and his adventures. The idea of talking to people all over the world on the radio fascinated me. Soon after my best friend came up with the idea of each of us getting CB radios. I said ham radio sounded even better. We studied the ARRL license manual and practiced the code and got our Novice licenses. My call was WV2KJV. A few months later I upgraded to general and my call changed to WA2KJV.

As a Novice I was limited to CW, mostly on 40m with my crystal controlled Globe Chief 90, and I was hooked. Handling CW traffic was a favorite. Remember "Radiograms via Amateur Radio" and the Brass Pounders League?

Then came college. No time for ham radio. The 5-year term of my license expired. Then came starting a career, marriage, raising a family. Again, no time for ham radio.

Then in 2000 the bug bit me again. I was relicensed as KG4LDO. Wanting a shorter call for CW I got the vanity call KO4E. That call just didn't work out. The single dit at the end kept getting lost at

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the receiving end and I got many "KO4?" return calls. That's how I came to be K4LW.

Although my station is HOA impaired I still have fun. I enjoy DX and contesting, almost all on CW. CWT is a highlight of my ham radio week. I look forward to meeting more CWops on the air, both in CWT and for rag chews.

## **Ross Lambert, W2TT**

First, thanks to my sponsor and CW OPS Academy teacher Buz, AC6AC and Assistant Instructor Tamara VA7ETR. Their mentorship and support I am eternally grateful for. Also, many thanks to my fellow classmates who all worked together and encouraged each other to succeed. The Academy is a great tool and I highly recommend it to even experienced ops who wish to improve their CW. I am looking forward to participating and hope to help others.

I have been all over the map in ham radio. My beginnings are kind of an interesting story. In October of 1962, the east coast had a devastating Nor'easter. The US Coast Guard sent the [lightship Barnegat \(LV-79\)](#) up the Hudson River and anchored off Spuyten Duyvil, about 5 miles north of the GW Bridge, in the Bronx, to escape the storm. We lived on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of a 12-story apartment building overlooking the river with a magnificent view.



So here I am as an 11year old fascinated with this ship. My dad had been a commander in the US Navy during WWII and got the brainy idea that we should communicate with the ship with a flashlight. He was not a ham but was of course proficient in Morse code from the Navy. He knew they would answer and indeed they did, with one of those large shutter type signal lights. Blinding even at a mile. My dad wrote down what I should send with the push button flashlight and a 2-hour QSO ensued. I sent, he copied. Probably less than 5 WPM. Wow! This went on for several evenings until one morning the ship was gone. Back to its post off of Barnegat Light, NJ, lighting the way for ships heading for New York Harbor as it had done since 1924. The ship was decommissioned in 1967.

Come the holidays and under the tree for me was a Heathkit GR-91 receiver kit. We built it and it worked! The resistors, the capacitors, the color codes, the coils. The bug bit me. I listened to

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shortwave and aircraft and hmm, some guys talking back and forth to each other. Hams! My dad found me an Elmer, Dave, K2AGZ (SK). He was the official White House Pianist and song writer for Bobby Vinton. I didn't know that then. He was just Dave, my mentor. I got my novice ticket, WN2UIG which was good for 1 year. I built an Ameco AC-1 and was on the air with a long wire hanging out the 11<sup>th</sup> story window. I made 1 contact ..... in a year. In 1965 via the school radio club, I studied for and passed the Technician test at the FCC in downtown Manhattan. An intimidating experience. I became an avid VHFer and 44 elements on top of our 12-story apartment building wasn't too shabby, mostly on AM! I upgraded to General the following year. Off to Lafayette College in 1969 to study Electrical Engineering. Got additional station license WA3VJJ and set up a station in my rental house off campus. Drake Twins. W3YR was the college station which has since disappeared and by sheer coincidence my fellow CWA classmate Ted, has the call. I couldn't believe he has it and that the college station ever gave it up. Great call Ted!

Well I got the EE degree but off to Dental School and Philly! I upgraded to Amateur Extra and got the call AK3M. I tried to time it perfectly to get KA3A, but I went a couple of weeks too early. I never liked the AK3M call. Two meter FM was huge in the early 70s and it wasn't long before myself and some buds put up the first repeater in Delaware County on 147.360. It was a big hit and it's still on the air. I put up several more on 2m and 70cm and improved and maintained them for over 20 years. Vanity calls became available and I grabbed K3HR (Harold Ross Lambert is my name) which I loved and held until I moved to NJ in 2016. DX, RTTY, PSK, contesting, packet, moonbounce, satellite, meteor scatter, DMR, Fusion, D-Star. I love it all. What a hobby! No lack of stuff to keep you interested. I am active on 6m MSK so look for me!

I moved to Long Beach Island, New Jersey in 2016. Oddly enough just 3 miles from Barnegat Light Coast Guard Station where the lightship was based. I'm old fashioned and I never liked it when the FCC changed the rules so that you could hold a call not from your district. I got tired of explaining my K3HR call when I was in NJ. W2TT became available and I grabbed it. Good for CW indeed.

As I have gotten older the contests just seem to be more and more fun and I have been bitten by the CW bug (or paddle). Of course, I had to do 20wpm for the Extra, but I never was a rag chewer on CW so didn't use it much. Just for contesting really.

My good friend of 40 years John, AF3K (CW Ops # 2186) was really the instigator for me as far as CW is concerned. He was always a great CW op. We hung out regularly when we lived in Pennsylvania. We started DX-Cationing together in 2016. We have been VP5P for CQWW WPX SSB and have won North America twice. (See VP5P.com.) While we are there and when the contest is not on John is always busy on CW. It fascinates me and I knew I had to learn to do better. Then when John performed at the CWops booth at Orlando last year I decided I had to go for it. How does he do it? I started my classes in September with the CWA and it all came back quickly. It's all about the practice folks. I'll never catch John though!

I'll be a regular on CWT and look forward to giving back to the organization.

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## **Marv Stasak, N8HZM**

My CWOPs membership has been a journey for me and something of an unintentional result of a decision I made two years ago to improve my rag chewing skills.

I had been first licensed as a novice in 1986 with the call sign KA8ZZG having achieved the lofty ability to copy and send code at 5 wpm. A year later, some study of theory and code practice both on and off the air brought me a new General license, the call sign N8HZM, and a much improved code speed of around 15 wpm. For a while, I was quite happy with that, doing some rag chewing and chasing DX. Chasing DX got me looking at the lower ends of the bands where there was a lot activity that my General license didn't let me access. If I was going to get off the porch and play with the big dogs down there, I had to improve my code speed and get the Extra class endorsement. In 1990, I passed the Extra class exam and my code speed had improved to around 20 wpm. About this time, my life began to change in other areas.



In 1991, I moved to another house. My work life also changed. My work as a quality control manager at an auto supplier had always been challenging but the increasing adversarial relations and competition within the auto industry as time went by made the work ever more challenging. I was working more and more hours and had less and less time to pursue ham radio activities. Coupled with that was another pastime I dearly loved and that was sailing. Sailing got me outdoors, gave me much needed exercise, and took my mind off work pressures like even ham radio couldn't do.

Fast forward to 2018, I was now retired. I had been in and out of really active amateur radio for years but still retained my license and a 2m radio. The boat had been sold. I had sailed for 35 years in the Great Lakes, even taken the boat out to Nova Scotia where I sailed for 3 summers before bringing the boat back. My wife was not interested in sailing, so I decided it was time to move on. Time to refocus on radio.

In the Spring of 2018, I bought a Yaesu FTDX1200, put up an end fed antenna, and found my CW skills were now terrible, back to around 15 wpm at best. I had to do something about that and on-the-air QSOs weren't giving much meaningful improvement. I looked around and liked the

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structure of the CW Academy courses. I signed up for the Intermediate class with the goal of getting back to 20 wpm. With the guidance of James Fleming, K8UP, I did get back to the 20 wpm but the rag chewing skills were still lacking. So, I signed up for the Advanced class and, suddenly, that original goal of 20 wpm was moving out to 25 wpm! With the encouragement and guidance of Buzz, AC6AC, I was moving well beyond 20 wpm, eventually doing Wednesday CWT sessions and having a great time. I guess it is possible for an 82-year-old dog to learn new tricks.

My code skills had improved markedly but membership still wasn't something I was thinking much about when Buzz told us in the last week of the course that he would be nominating all of us for membership! A total surprise and something for which I will always be grateful. All those fun Wednesday CWT sessions really paid off because my nomination by Buzz was quickly followed by sponsorships from Bud AA3B, Tom K4TZ, and Gary N5PHT without my even asking. I am now member # 2726 and grateful to the CW Academy for its teaching tools and structure and for volunteers like James and Buzz that help make it all happen for guys like me.

## **Al Ziegler, KD2ST**

I would like to thank Buz, AC6AC, my CWA Advanced class advisor for nominating me to this great organization. I would also like to thank my sponsors: Chas, K3WW; Steve, K8BZ; Bud, AA3B; Jim, KE8G and Serge, VA3SB.

My older brother, Warren, K2ORS was licensed in the 1970's when he was a teenager, and he was my initial introduction to amateur radio. However, I did not obtain a license at that time- interestingly the Morse code requirement was the barrier that prevented me from getting licensed.

Finally, after college, career and raising a family (two grown daughters) I received my General license in May 2016 and Amateur Extra in March 2018.

I discovered the CW Academy in late 2018 and signed up for the January 2019 Basic Class. My advisor was Glenn, W4YES and Associate Advisor Phil, W2OZB. I followed up with the Intermediate level class lead by Bill, KC4D and this September/October, I completed the Advanced level with Buz, AC6AC and Tamara, VA7ETR, Associate Advisor. After going through three classes, I can say that the CW Academy is a fantastic program, and I was fortunate to have outstanding mentors for all the classes. Their encouragement and enthusiasm for Morse code and helping students is very motivating. I would like to thank all that volunteer in the CWA program for providing a great service to the ham radio community.

I have a modest station using an IC-7410 as my main rig and a FT-991A for digital and traveling.



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Antennas are a ground mounted Hustler 6BTV and a ladder line fed doublet. I recently found an interest in QRP operations and set up in the backyard or local parks with either a Yaesu FT-818, YouKits HB-1B or when I need a little more power, a Xiegu G-90.

I enjoy CW ragchews and participating in CWTs since I started the advanced class. I am also active in SKCC events and enjoy state QSO Parties and working special events stations. I am usually on 80-15m with two thirds of my QSO's being CW and the balance a mix of sideband, RTTY, and digital.

I have a bachelor and master's degree in mechanical engineering and am a licensed professional engineer in several states. I am retiring at the end of this year after a forty-year career in engineering design, consulting, and management in several fields. My career began with oil refinery process design then going on to project management and consulting for several manufacturing plants. The last twenty years I was involved in designing and managing projects for pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities. I am looking forward to enjoying ham radio, traveling, and spending time with family in retirement.

Other hobbies include photography (digital and B&W film), wood and metal working, cooking (especially BBQ), reading and hiking.

I am a proud member of the following organizations: ARRL, FISTS, Long Island CW Club, and the NAQCC. My local club is the South Jersey Radio Association where I am the newsletter editor and active with their Field Day Operation.

I am excited and honored to be part of CWops and looking forward to being an active CWops member. Thank you all for accepting me into this club and I hope to catch you on the air.

### **Nian Li, WU6P**

First, a great thank you to CWA advisors, and specially to Rob, K6RB, #3, whom helped me fighting the 25WPM QSOs barriers.

I was exposed to radio when I was young (my parents worked in related industry), and I got to study radio and EE as my bachelor and DSP as my master. However, I never registered to amateur radio in early days, as, to put it short, China is not that much encouraging the personal radio communication in old days.

About 3 years back, when I was working on a hobby project involving FPGA and SDR, I thought it should be a good idea to grant myself some Tx rights along



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the way, and after some study, I got my license (Extra in a day).

I jump into the hobby in digital mode first (yes, FT8). It is amazing to watch how good its performance is, and with digital modes, there are so many tools can be used to study the signal propagation and antenna performance in real time.

Right before I reach WAS (missing Delaware), I seized my digital operation, and want to show my respect to ham tradition, the CW mode. I want to connect my last state in CW first (and thanks to Chick, NW3Y, #2185, I did so).

I did "learn" Morse code some years ago, through an article talking about "smart ways" to remember hard things ... I still remember, "a" is linked to "at", "b" to "bean" ... basically, a Dit is a short character and a Dash is a taller character. So, I guess the method technically "works." Fortunately, now days, all the web/software tools point the serious learner to the right direction.

I think now is the great time for anyone to get into CW. Radio's performance are so good (and size are so small), we are very lucky here.

I am honored to become a member of CWops and celebrating the unique art form of Morse code with you together. Hope to work everyone on air soon.

### **Les Tocko, VA7OM**

First of all, I would like to thank Keith VE7KW for nominating me for CWops membership.

I was born in Slovakia, part of the former Czechoslovakia. In the early sixties I built a small BFO and stuck it to my dad's radio so I could listen to CW on short waves. In 1966 I joined the local club OK3KAG and in 1969 I got my own call OK3ZAX. Then in 1981 I, my wife and our 2 kids moved to Canada because we were fed up with the Communist domination. We lived a few years in Winnipeg, MB (VE4AMW), then in Edmonton, AB (VE6AWA) and finally in British Columbia just east of Vancouver (VA7OM).

In retirement since 2013, I now have more time for my hobbies: DXing, contesting, building ham stuff and foxhunting. Some of my ham projects are a 250 watt solid state HF amplifier, full power tube HF linear, high power triplexer, duplexer and band pass filters for Surrey radio club and foxhunting receivers and transmitters for local clubs.



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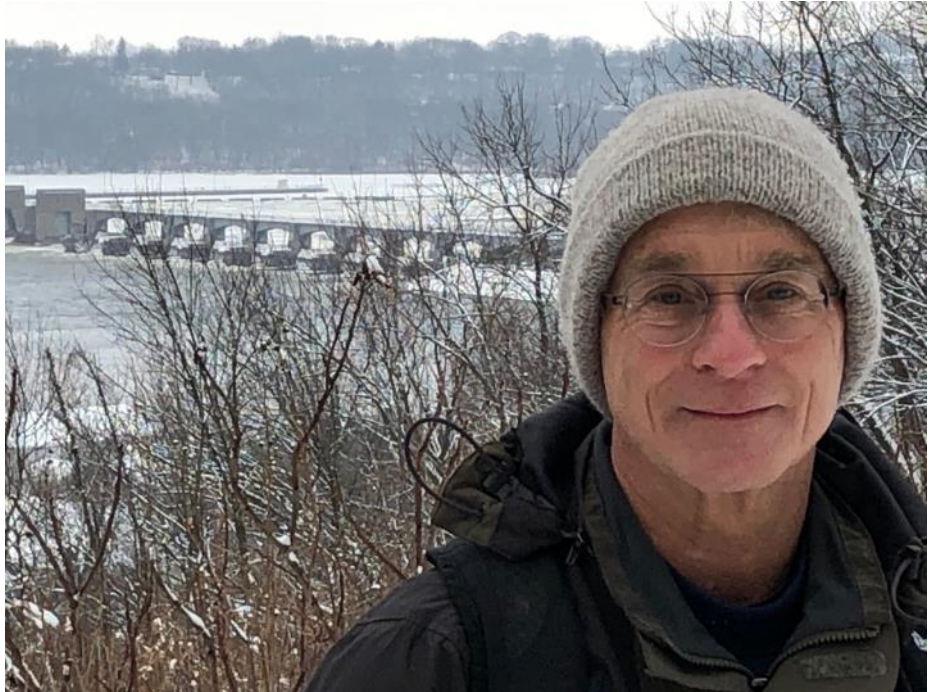
My setup is currently as follows: K3, home built kilowatt amplifier, Optibeam 40-20-15-10m beam on 80 ft Trylon tower.

I am honored to join such a highly esteemed group of CW operators and I look forward to working you soon.

### **Rick Dickens, KY0Q**

I want to thank Jim, N7US for my nomination and my sponsors for their support.

I was born in 1952 and about the time I was ten or eleven years old, an Aunt and Uncle dropped off a small, AC/DC 4 tube radio at our house for some unknown reason. I thought it looked interesting as the dial was covered with the names of cities from all over the world. So, I started to listen to it. I found by trial and error that turning the panel switch to SW opened up the world. Like many



hams of a similar age, I started out in the radio hobbies as an SWL. There was no BFO but there were still a fair number of hams on AM back then and I found I really enjoyed listening to them chat.

My dad was WWII Signal Corp veteran, so he understood radios and antennas and was always supportive of my interest in radio and electronics. He took me to an Iowa City ARC Field Day in about 1966 and that really lit the fire to get my Novice license. Their CW and theory classes helped me earn my Novice license WN0UVG in 1968. Mowing lawns and a paper route and I had the money to buy an Eico 720 transmitter kit and a Hammarlund HQ-140X receiver and I was off and running.

I found I liked the radio and electronics theory part of amateur radio so when it came time to decide what to do for college, there wasn't any doubt in my mind that I wanted to be an EE. Off to Iowa State University and a few years later I had the BSEE degree. This led to a lifetime of employment working as an EE in the Chicago area at a number of good companies - Motorola, Northrop Grumman and Cobra Electronics. After always working in the radio/RF area, I finished off my career in 2018 with 3 ½ years at Electromotive Diesel, working on locomotive electronics. That was a hoot! Huge machines.

I met my wife at Motorola, so amateur radio directly led to a career, family, many friends and a

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lifetime hobby. I feel lucky to have been able to participate in this hobby for so many years.

But this is CWops so where does CW fit in? I've always had a small station – QRP to 100w, low wires in trees and ground mounted trap HF verticals. It didn't take me long to find out that CW just works better from a station like that. I've always been predominately a CW op. Besides working better it's a skill that you can acquire and work on continuously, trying to get better at it. I'm a long way from perfection!

Thanks for the invitation to join your wonderful organization.

### **Paul Schimanski, DF4ZL**

I started my ham career in 1976 when I was 19 years old. My first license was for 144MHz and higher only. One year later I started to learn Morse code from vinyl records, got the HF-license (12 WPM) and became DF4ZL.

The first 3 or 4 years I worked SSB only and "forgot CW," but at the beginning of the 80s I listened often to US novice stations (WN, KN) on 21 Mc in slow CW. I have made hundreds of QSO with them and since that switched my activity to CW

(95%). My main activity are CW-Contests but I'm also active in some DARC SSB Contests to support my local Club in the DARC championship.



I have been working as an electrical engineer for 40 years at T-Mobile Germany (it is not unusual in DL), have been married to Anne for 34 years and have two grown daughters. In the past 30 years my family and me made over 50 poor man DX-peditions to "rare spots" like: CU, 9H1, OZ, OE, LX, GM, GW, GI, ES0, LA, SM, OH0 and many others, mainly for WWDX, WPX- SAC- and IOTA-contests.

I live in the Rhein-Main area very close to the Frankfurt international airport and the space for antennas here is very limited, so I am using Verticals and wire antennas. In the major contests I operate from a local club station with a triband Yagi and dipoles. Few years ago I change my rig to K3 after using Ten-Tec for 30 years.

I am the DARC contest director. My team and I organize over 30 contests like WAE, WAG, Field Days and many others. For over 14 years I have been writing the monthly contest column in the CQDL magazine and editing the DARC contest-calendar in the internet. I'm member of the AGCW (DL CW club) and the Ukrainian Contest Club. My other hobbies are my family, travelling with my wife for contests and I love QSLing. I mean the true QSLing: in 2006 I have managed almost 1.000.000 paper QSL-cards for the 36 special stations (DQ/DR2006.) operated during the Football World Cup 2006.

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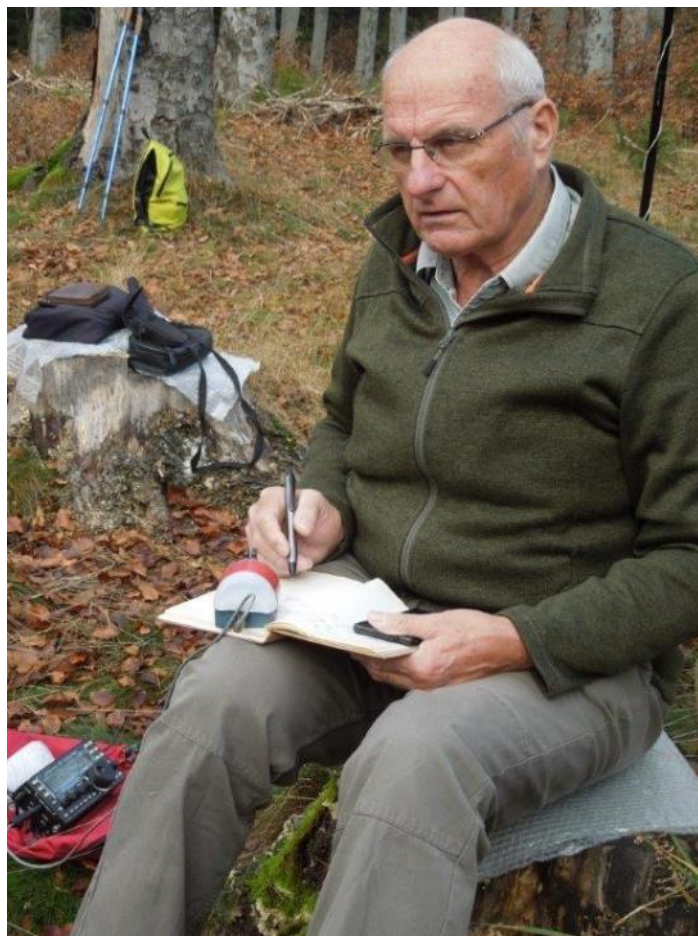
## **Jiří Klimeš, OK2NAJ**

They taught CW in the army in 3 months in 1970. I was fascinated by the fact that in the same year I joined the OK1KVK radio club and under the supervision of Tonda OK1GZ (SK), I further improved.

From 1972 to 2003 I was not active in the ham community, I maintained my knowledge of CW by listening on ham bands.

In 2003, I changed employers and moved back to my hometown. That year I passed the exams and got the OK2NAJ call. JAN OK1NR (SK) and JARDA OK2NO helped me a lot with further development and persuaded me to CW racing on the bands.

My other hobby is fishing, both freshwater and marine. I go fishing to LA every year, and since 2011 I have been carrying radio equipment on that occasion. This year, for well-known reasons, it did not work out. IOTA was activated twice, namely Soroya Island EU-044 in 2014 and Svinvika Island EU-036 in 2018. Another HAM activity is the SOTA program.



Throughout my life, I have worked in the freshwater fishing industry as a fish mister. I live in the north of Moravia (county HOL) in the town of Šternberk in a family house on a small plot. My XYL Jarmila has a great understanding of my hobbies and so activates SOTA tops with me.

## **Phil Deaver, WR7T**

I want to thank my CWA instructor, Rob K6RB, for the great class instruction. His guidance and expertise, and cheerleading, were a great help. I also want to thank, Van N5TOO, who co-nominated me, and thank Frank K1EBY, Eric KK0ECT and Carl WS7L as sponsors.

When I was 14, I tried listening to CW on a shortwave radio and I just couldn't detect individual letters. Shortly thereafter I went on a trip on a Norwegian freighter. Since there were only 7 other passengers on the ship and I was decades younger than the rest of the passengers, I chose to hang out in the radio room with the radio operator. He used to receive speed skating results from Norway in Morse code. The ship's callsign had one letter repeated three times. (I can't recall the exact callsign but maybe like NKKK). During one of those calls from Norway, I finally heard the repeated pattern in the ships callsign. I nearly jumped out of my chair. I had the radio operator quickly write down the Morse code for me and I practiced memorizing it while we were still

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traveling. I think he had one letter incorrect, so I had to unlearn that one!

I studied for my Novice test shortly thereafter and received the call WN6QLZ in 1965. I worked on my CW speed and finally passed my general test and code test, getting the call WB6QLZ. I was always fascinated in



contacting DX stations and slowly improved the station to be able to work enough countries to get DXCC and join the Northern California DX Club.

Being on the west coast (I operated from Hayward, CA). I would run phone patches for servicemen during the late 60's. Most couldn't say where they were located but they enjoyed good conversations back home.

Away at college I operated some from W6YL at San Jose State University. After college I was busy getting married, raising a family and starting a career in Electrical Engineering, so ham radio took about a 40-year break. During that time, I did change my call to KB6MW. Once we moved to Portland, Oregon to be close to my daughter and grandkids, I connected with our city's CERT preparedness group and started using VHF/UHF on the local repeaters.

Last year I bought an HF rig (my original equipment was given away or destroyed in the Bay Area earthquake of 1987) and put up a dipole. That got me on the air again and I started practicing my CW. A few months ago, I applied for several vanity callsigns and received my current call, WR7T. I've been active in CWT-minis, enjoy hunting for DX and operating from a contest station at K7ZS's QTH.

I'm involved with the Willamette Valley DX Club, the Washington County ARES group and Tigard CERT programs. CWops has been an inspiration for me to enjoy CW again.

## **Mark Hofstra, KA1YQC**

First I would like to thank Buz, AC6AC, for nominating me for CWops membership as well as doing an amazing job as my advanced CW Academy advisor. Also I would like to thank Ed, K6HP, my Level 1(beginner) advisor who encouraged me at the start to stick with it and reap the bene-

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fits of this amazing mode. One last thank you to Bill, W3PNM, who had to put up with me for not only my Basic class but also my Intermediate class as well. All the advisors that helped me along the way were patient, encouraging and amazing. What an awesome experience CW Academy has been for me with not only the advisors but the students as well. I started the academy in September of 2019 and finished in November of 2020 having graduated all four levels.

I was first introduced to ham radio after watching my uncle Dave, W1DWF (formally WB1FCV), make contacts all over the world having no more than a wire antenna. I was probably 10 or 11 years old and hooked from the start. In 1991 I managed to struggle through the 5 wpm to obtain my Novice ticket. At the time, that's where my CW journey started and ended. Pretty soon after beating the phone and digital modes into the ground I sort of lost interest in ham radio. I always wanted to be a CW operator but always got frustrated when I maxed out at around 8-10WPM. Enter CW Academy!

I am married and have two wonderful children who show absolutely no interest in ham radio, as much as I have tried. It's tough to compete with cell phones and video games. I am a licensed electrician and have had my own business for the past 10 years but have been in the business for around 30. I am also involved in Scouting with both my daughter and son.

I enjoy contesting, award chasing, DXing and portable operation from my campground in southern Rhode Island. Adding morse code as my now primary mode has been awesome and again, I

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can't thank all the advisors enough that helped me along the way.

Lastly, I would like to thank the hams that sponsored me so that I could be a member in this elite and prestigious club. I look forward to the CWTs every Wednesday and hope to work as many members as possible.

### **Rick Ellis, K6TOR**

Thank-you Rob Brownstein K6RB for nominating me for membership. Your class was really inspiring. Thank-you Van N5TOO, John N0TA, Eric KK0ECT. I really appreciate you taking the time to sponsor me!

I was first licensed at age 13 in 1967 as a novice in Illinois. I moved up to Advanced class the next year operating only CW with a Heathkit DX-60B, Drake 2C and an 80m doublet. I was thrilled to work England and France on 15 meters from Chicago but stopped operating soon after that about 1970.

I am back on the air as of May 2020 after 50 years away. My initial motivation was emergency communication for the city of San Francisco for a future earthquake.



Listening to the International DX CW contest on a WebSDR confirmed that CW was alive and well. Technology has changed a bit since the 1960s! Studied for the Extra exam and got a 20-watt rig to get started. RFI is strong here in the city of San Francisco so my focus is POTA and SOTA where I can hear.

The CWops Advanced Class was fantastic. I am amazed that in just a few months I have gone from 7 wpm to much higher speeds to participate in CWTs. I could copy on paper at 18 to 20 wpm before joining the class but headcopy was entirely new.

I was the CW op for the San Francisco Radio Club special event, call sign W6P, on Mount Livermore on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay on November 7th. They drafted me as I was the only CW operator and I had recently had experience activating Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks. Worked Finland and New Zealand from San Francisco Bay with 20 watts and a wire. That was great fun and a thrill for a new ham that has little DX and is just getting back into CW.

I am very happy to be a new member of CWops and look forward to improving my skills and helping other Hams learn CW.

### **Leszek "Les" Lechowicz NI1L, VK9LN, ex AA1TK SP2OVL**

First of all, I would like to thank Buz AC6AC for his nomination. I enjoyed Buz's Advanced Class immensely, he is a wonderful teacher and a great asset to CWops.

My adventure with amateur radio started back in Poland where I grew up. I joined SP2KKB radio

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club in high school and I credit Stan SP2FLE with encouraging (or I should say making) students learn CW. I was also active from SP2KAE club, where I got a lot of support and encouragement from Andy SP2BLC. I got my own callsign SP2OVL in 1986 when I was 17 years old. My home station initially consisted of an OCF dipole and a surplus RBM-1 military radio. I later homebrewed a 5W QRP transceiver for 80m and a 50W power amplifier.



Ham radio activities took a long hiatus during my years at Gdansk University of Technology where I earned two master's degrees – in electrical engineering and computer science. In February 1997 I visited the US on a business trip for the first time. After accepting a job offer, I moved to the US permanently in November 1997, becoming a citizen in 2007.

Shortly after my move I started thinking about getting a license, so I attended a VEC session in April 1998 and passed all 5 exams and the 20 wpm test in one shot. I got my first US call AA1TK shortly thereafter. Since I lived in an apartment at the time, my activities were limited to CW running 5W into a wire loop around the ceiling. Still, I managed to work 80+ DXCC. Ham activities unfortunately took another long hiatus when I was working part-time on my dissertation at Northeastern University while holding a full-time job at the same time.

My very modest home station currently consists of a K3 and Expert 1.3k-FA. The antennas are a Big-IR vertical and a rather low hanging inverted-V for 80/160m. While obviously with these antennas I cannot be competitive from home, I still enjoy working in CW contests. I also enjoy working in multi-op operations from big-gun stations (K1TTT, W1KM, K2LE, K1IR).

I love DXing – on both sides of the pileup. I was fortunate to go on a few DX-peditions – XR0Y in 2009, JX5O in 2011 and VK9LN in 2015 and 2016. Working full time makes it exceedingly difficult to take significant time off to travel around the world but I would love to go on many more expeditions in the future.

My big passion are mountains. I'm an experienced 4-season hiker and an aspiring mountaineer so it is only fitting that SOTA activations have been my obsession in the past few years. KX2 is the radio in the backpack and White Mountains in NH my stomping ground.

My other passions include sailing, running, reading and single-malt whiskies from Isle of Islay. Slainte!

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Thank you all for welcoming me in the club. Stay safe and healthy!

### **Scott Campbell, AB5M**

I'm honored and delighted to be given the opportunity to join CWops. I appreciate Joe Spencer KK5NA for my nomination and Bruce Murdock K8UDH, Lane Dossett N5AAS, and Randal Mays KG5IEE for their sponsorships. I'm especially grateful for the excellent coaching and advice from my Basic instructor, Phil Bartash W2OZB who reintroduced me to the joy of CW.

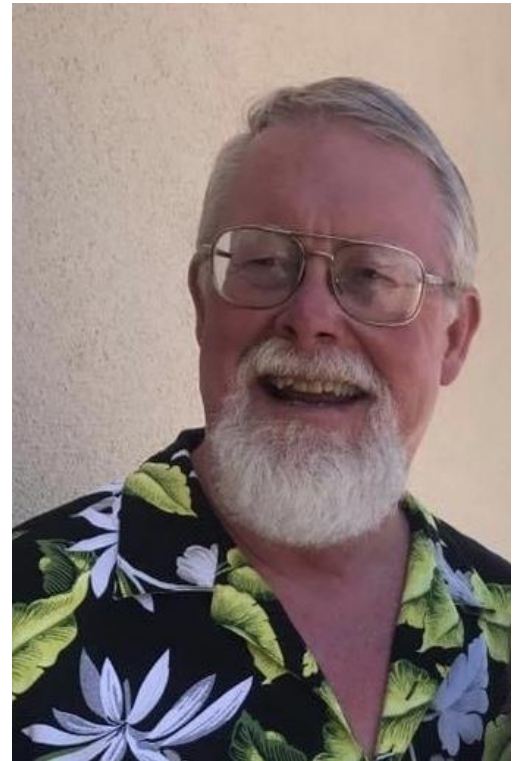
I first became a ham operator when I was in high school in the early 1970s. I started as a novice, WN5IQA, then earned my General and Advanced licenses as WB5IQA. I was drawn to CW and enjoyed QSOs with a straight key and pencil copy of about 15 wpm. Unfortunately, college and life got in the way and I ultimately let my license expire.

I'm now in the final few years of an exciting engineering career. I first began as a designer of residential telephone equipment for Bell Laboratories just before the Bell system split apart. That was where I got my first taste of computer aided design (CAD). From there I worked in the disk drive industry in Silicon Valley, helping usher in their use of CAD. I then joined a laser manufacturer and helped develop several supermarket and retail bar code scanners. This was very satisfying work and I'm proud that my team and I earned several patents.

Around 1990 I came home to Oklahoma to help my parents deal with health issues. I finally realized that my main professional passion was software engineering. After a variety of positions, I've ended up in the oil and gas industry developing mobile and web applications to assist field technicians. I discovered that I enjoy teaching and mentoring younger engineers and developers as they begin their careers.

I also met my wife, Bernadean, in Oklahoma. We both have a passion for animals and were driven out of town when our dog and cat population exceeded eight. We ended up on our 33-acre farm about 15 years ago. Over the years we've had many dogs, cats, chickens, ducks, and geese. We're considering trying goats and horses someday.

About a year ago I began to think about getting licensed as a ham again and passed the exams. I even convinced my wife to come along as K5BNL. I never really forgot CW. Over the years I remember looking at road signs and sounding the Morse code in my head. However, this time I wanted to do better than I had 50 years ago. I found the CWops Academy and am very pleasantly surprised by my progress. Eventually, I would like to teach. For me, teaching has always been a good way for me to continue improving my personal skills and knowledge.



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I'm still learning just how far ham technology has progressed in my 50-year absence. My project list grows faster than I can ever handle. I've always been intrigued with antennas and I now have plenty of room to build a proper rhombic ranch (<http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/wieser/rhombic.htm>). I've browsed through the ARRL QST archives reading about interesting wooden towers built in the 1930s. I'm beginning to be intrigued with QRP and portable operation. One day I would like to bounce a signal off the moon. And all of this exclusively done with CW. I'm not sure if I can even find my microphone anymore!

## **Neil King, VA7DX**

Many thanks to Keith VE7KW for nominating me and to the sponsors who supported the nomination.

I was born and raised on the West Coast of Canada and have worked in the Information Technology sector for over 50 years, the last 20 as an IT consultant specializing in interim management, leadership skills and coaching, strategic planning and outsourcing.

Since 2010 I have primarily worked overseas in fascinating places such Beijing, Ulaanbaatar, Singapore, London, Johannesburg SA and DR Congo.

I'm a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada (Assistant Section Manager BC), ARES, Coquitlam Amateur Radio and Emergency Services Society, Orca DX and Contest Club, BCFMCA, INDEXA and the Northern California DX Foundation.

I'm also actively involved in the British Columbia Wireless Amateur Radio Network (BCWARN), the organization responsible for implementing Western Canada's first WINLINK EMCOMM PMBO and the creation and deployment of a high speed (50mbs+) multi-node Wi-Fi network backbone roughly 200km in length. In the event of failure of conventional telecom services during a major disaster, this backbone connects participating amateur radio clubs, EOC's and community emergency social services locations in South Western British Columbia with digital data, VOIP, video, worldwide email and internet access services.

Hobbies also include skiing, SCUBA diving, sailing, travel, bike riding, photography and video (including underwater).

I was first licensed in 1979 as VE7CVM, attained my advanced certification in 1980 and acquired the call VA7DX in late 1999.



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As an avid HF, VHF and UHF contester, preferring DX to sleep and CW to SSB, I've has also dabbled in meteor scatter, EME, tropo and satellite operation from VE7 as well as DX locations such as 7P8 and 3DAØ.

Relatively new to DXpeditions, I have had the opportunity to visit and operate from the following locations:

- Swaziland - 3DAØWC
- Lesotho - 7P8NK
- Republic of South Africa – ZS6/VA7DX
- Geneva, Switzerland - 4U1ITU
- Lakshadweep Islands, India - VU7RG
- Clipperton Island - TX5C
- Mongolia – JT1RF
- Desecheo Island – K5D
- Malpelo Island – HK0NA
- Mozambique – C82DX
- Botswana – A25DX
- Amsterdam Island – FT5ZM
- Malawi – 7QAA
- Tonga – A35T
- Australs (Feb 2017) – TX5T
- Marquesas – Hiva Oa (Nov 2019)– TX7T

