

# Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

March 2021 — Issue 134



## What Is It?



An antigravity drone? ET's latest device for phoning home? A 2m transmitter for fox hunting? [See story by VA7OM on page 10.](#)

## President's Message

Due to the pandemic restrictions I was able once again to have some fun in the ARRL DX CW contest last month. In recent years we've spent it away in different parts of world where February is the ideal time to travel; last year we just about managed to fit in a river/road trip through Laos and Northern Thailand before the world started to shut down beyond China.



*(Continued on page 2)*

### CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday

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

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

**Avoid DX pileups!**

### 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: Stew Rolfe, [GW0ETF](#)

Vice President: Peter Butler, [W1UU](#)

Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)

Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)

Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)

Director: Raoul Coetzee, [ZS1C](#)

Director: Matt Frey, [CE2LR](#)

Director: Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)

Director: Barry Simpson, [VK2BJ](#)

Director: Riki Kline, [K7NJ](#)

Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)

WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)

Newsletter Editor: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">President's Message</a> .....	1
<a href="#">From the Editor: CW is Sending</a> .....	3
<a href="#">News &amp; Notes</a> .....	5
<a href="#">K6RB: Giving Back Update</a> .....	8
<a href="#">W1UU: QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo</a> .....	9
<a href="#">K1DJ: The K1USN SST Success Story</a> .....	12
<a href="#">VA7OM: Foxhunting</a> .....	13
<a href="#">KE5C: The G4FON Sending Trainer</a> .....	16
<a href="#">G3WZD: Morse Neuroscience</a> .....	18
<a href="#">AF8A: Planning for the Inevitable</a> .....	21
<a href="#">CW Academy</a> .....	22
<a href="#">New Members</a> .....	25
<a href="#">CW Tests</a> .....	26
<a href="#">CWops Member Awards</a> .....	28
<a href="#">QTX Report</a> .....	36
<a href="#">My Story: New Member Biographies</a> .....	38

*(Continued from previous page)*

Google Photos, courtesy of the 'This Day 12 months Ago' gizmo, has been flashing up tantalising photos of the Mekong and the boulevards of Vientiane just to remind me how lucky we were to make it.

The contest itself was a fairly relaxed effort on 20m. It always amazes me how many QSOs can be made on a single band with a number of capable UK contesters reporting totals well over 1000 on this band – there certainly are a huge number of CW contesters on the continent of North America! Furthermore my logger has an 'Extra Information' window which can be fed with an edited CWops member list so any call being worked shows the name and number if a member. I can tell you that this window was very busy the whole time and a testament to our healthy level of both membership and activity throughout W/VE.

The January/February semester for CW Academy was extremely successful with a record number of students exceeding 500 which I think is quite remarkable. We are now on a month long break before the next semester in April/May but there's not much time for our 3 Academy supremos to relax; it looks like being even better attended with some new advisors on board following a request from Joe AA8TA. Thanks to all who came forward - the role of our advisors is crucial to satisfying the needs of ever increasing numbers of student sign-ups which in its turn is a key cog in the overall effort of keeping CW alive in years to come. More work is needed to widen out the profile of CWA beyond the shores of North America. It's a slow process but we are making some progress linking in with social media sites over here in Europe that deal with CW learners/QRS and who seem keen to hear about CWops, the Academy, K1USN and our Giving Back program.

The new K1USN Slow Speed Contest each Friday at 2000z got underway in February and is looking promising. I have been working learners and/or Academy students each week and have even had a couple of appreciative emails thanking us, plus some positive feedback on social media. Good support too from local CWops members and a fair number of QSOs are being made across the Pond on 40m. We can look forward to 20m remaining open soon which should add to the excitement for our beginners. In general I definitely get the sense of increasing interest from CW learners; I spent an hour in the RSGB 80m contest of February 25<sup>th</sup> up at the top end of the band which stipulates a 15wpm limit and was gratified to work probably 30 previously unknown calls who were clearly very new to CW and were giving me serials of 4 or less and requiring varying degrees of patience. The numbers are still small but they appreciate our efforts and we should all be willing to encourage them and help them on their CW journey. And not forgetting the conversational aspect, I have for the time being grabbed the empty Giving Back slot which precedes the SST so there is an opportunity for learners to have a QRS conversation followed by some relaxed contest fun each Friday.

CWops is now a member of the [International CW Council](#). This is the brainchild of Howard Bernstein WB2UZE (#1361) with the aim of bringing together all the different CW clubs and organisations around the world to provide a forum for discussing common aims and interests. Rob K6RB has helped put together a draft of 'Aims and Objectives' which will form the basis of how the Council operates. Some of these describe what CWops already does, and does well, but there will certainly be value in the interplay of ideas and coordinated approach to certain issues. It's early days and more details will no doubt follow in future editions of *Solid Copy*.

*(Continued on next page)*



And finally the QSO Today HamExpo which has been featured on our web page has come and gone by the time you read this *Solid Copy*. Thanks to Peter W1UU, CWops had a significant presence with a booth and talks by both Peter and Eric NM5M. The aim was to showcase CWops to a wide ham audience and provide the opportunity to question members manning the booth. As I write this at the end of February I'm intrigued to see how all this worked and very much look forward to finding out how it all went. I'm sure many more folk will know about CWops as a result.

**73, Stew GW0ETF**, President

---

## From the [Editor](#)

### CW is Sending

I was immediately drawn to CW when I was first licensed in 1993. All my early QSOs were CW QSOs and I still remember the sense of accomplishment I felt upon completing that very first one, most likely at 5 wpm, inexpertly keyed by hand with my newly-purchased Bencher paddles. I got better at hand sending but I never got very good at it.

It didn't take long, however, before I was lured into contesting, where speed is the operative word. The faster you go, the more QSOs you make, the higher your score, the better your standing when the contest results are published and the bigger your bragging rights when you rehash the contest with your friends. You do what you can to help you go as fast as you can and computer sending is one of the first station automation projects for new contesters. I figure I completed my last hand-sent CW QSO in 1995 and never touched my paddles for the next 150,000 QSOs other than to maybe send a dit dit after completing a contest QSO with a friend or send a lone "R" when a QSO partner asked me to confirm that my exchange had been copied correctly.



(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from previous page)*

Fast forward to 2020 and the [K1USN radio club started the weekly slow speed contest](#). What a great way to help those trying to learn CW or just improve their skills! Supporting the SST seemed very much in keeping with the teaching and mentoring mission of CWops and I was in. I couldn't always make the Sunday night schedule but by January of 2021 I had operated in a half dozen or so. All with computer sending on my end, although I noticed that, unlike most contest QSOs, many of the ops I logged were obviously sending by hand. Hmm. . . .

A conversation about the SSTs with local friend Dave K9FN got me thinking. He uses a Begali HST single-lever key and offered to let me borrow it to see if it would improve my hand keying. That sounded like a great idea but once I had his key sitting on my desk I realized I would have to send something other than dit dit or the letter R to test it. The January 25 SST became my moment of truth.

I prepared carefully. I practiced sending with the HST using just a sidetone, no RF. I was becoming very glad that the SSTs were just that: slow speed. I tried 20 wpm and that was a bit too fast for me. Sixteen wpm seemed a better match for my nascent sending skills. I experimented with the location of the paddle on my desktop. Do you key with your fingers or your wrist? Does my forearm rest on the desk or suspend in the air? Elbow tight to my body or held away?

As 0000z approached I was having doubts and some anxiety. I was as nervous as if I was about to make my first-ever CW QSO. I noticed how much dust was on the top of the desk and the equipment, so I dusted to dispel my nervous energy. I updated all the PC software for which I could find updates. I even brushed my teeth. Can't hurt, right?

An hour later, I had 49 new QSOs in the log, all made with hand sending. My sense of accomplishment was palpable and I've operate two other SSTs since then, sending by hand with similar results.

Did the HST key make me a better CW operator? Well, not really. I flubbed a lot of what I sent and I clearly have a lot of work to do. A single lever key would be the way to go if I was in the market for a new key. Begali and [CWops member Tony N3ZN](#) typically exhibit at the Dayton Hamvention, and hopefully they will be back in 2022. Something to look forward to.

But a different paddle was not an instant cure for poor sending, at least in my case. I recalled the article Dave W7FB wrote for the [April 2019 issue of Solid Copy](#), one of the articles I am most proud of during my now four-year tenure as editor. In "A Comment on Morse Code Structure" he wrote, "CW IS SENDING! Receiving is what you do when you're not doing CW! ... SENDING is the hard part for sure! I've learned to send over the years. Practice is the word!!"

So that's where I am, happy to get back to manual sending after a 25-year hiatus and glad for the opportunity for some sorely-needed slow speed practice. Tune in on Sunday nights and check to see if I am making any progress. My apologies in advance for all those errors you will hear.

**73, Tim K9WX**, Editor

(Background image, page 3, Jon Callow / [Wikimedia Commons](#).)





# News and Notes

## [Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

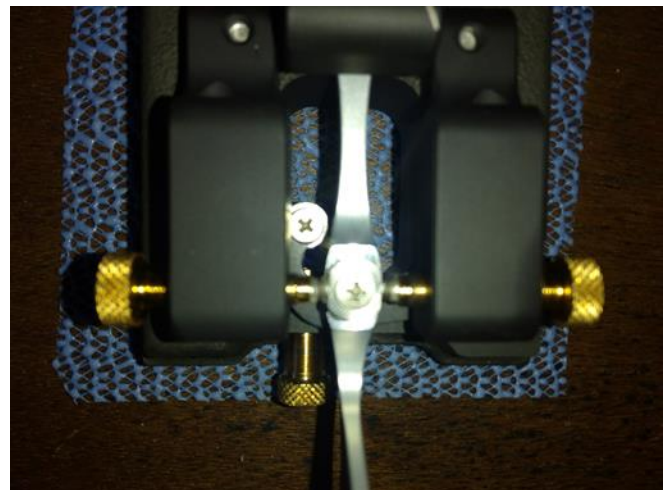
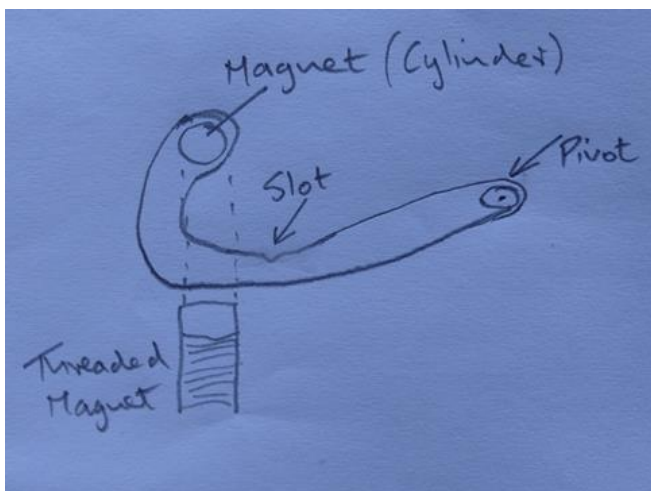
**We regret to report that KW3F, Robert C. Brown (CWops #1450), became a SK on Feb 11, 2021.**

**We regret to report that JF2IWL/ND1R, Dai Nagakura (CWops #1286), became a SK on Feb 17, 2021.**

**Stew, GW0ETF:** I've finally accepted my arthritic thumbs are probably affecting my squeeze keying! They've never been good after a couple of skiing injuries a few years ago – now I more and more suffer the embarrassment of screwing up the F in my own callsign. What's more I don't appear to be alone in my suffering after reading eHAM key reviews....

This is my second attempt to do something about it. For several years early on I happily used a Kent single paddle key. A couple of years ago I got hold of another but couldn't get used to it so went back to my twin paddles. From the start of using twin paddles I've been a squeezer and found the Kent impossible to un-learn the technique though I didn't really try very hard. So, I decided to call my bluff and fork out some serious money on a Begali HST 3 single paddle and it's seems to be turning into a positive experience.

I've been using the HST3 for a couple of weeks now and I'm still screwing up my R, F, Ls and punctuation occasionally but I'm getting really good vibes from this super smooth key. I feel confident my occasional lapses into quasi squeezing will soon go and my regular twin paddle is back in its box. It's quite a big key and nice and heavy; sat on a piece of that plastic drawer liner it never moves at all. It looks markedly different to any other Begali key and I'm intrigued by the design and engineering. The lateral tension is provided by a single repelling magnet pair one half of which sits on the left end of a curved arm that is pivoted at the opposite end – see my attempt at a rough sketch and the photo. A small roller bearing on the paddle arm sits in the slot keeping it centred. Moving the paddle left or right moves the roller bearing out of the slot and pivots the magnet pair closer. Removing the finger/thumb pressure allows the magnets to move apart and the bearing falls back into the slot thereby keeping the arm precisely centred and allowing for



*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

very small contact gaps to be used reliably. The clever bit as I see it is the shape of this cam arm which equalises the linear magnet motion and thereby dit and dah tension using a single magnet. This magnet is right by your fingers so can be adjusted even while sending when necessary.

Next decision is whether to go whole hog and sell my Begali Signature and BY1 iambic keys since my brain certainly won't be up to swapping back and forth!

**Jim, N3JT:** A flat spring broke in my Begali Stradavarius paddle. No parts are available from Begali, and Begali is many months behind in orders for new paddles because of COVID. My backup March paddle is now in place.

**Chris, G4BUE:** I went QRT on 24 February and have dismantled my station in readiness for my QTH move to Bexhill-on-Sea on 26 March.

**Chuck, WS1L:** We've finally had some weather above freezing and some of the snow is melting. Time to plan the spring antenna work.

I have an Alpha Delta trap dipole that is ruined for the upper end of 80M. There's no extra wire to drop the resonance down to the CW portion, so I am faced with either replacing the entire portion between the 40 and 80M traps or trying to add some kind of drooping extension to make the 80M portion longer. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone else who has successfully modified the resonance on a similar antenna.

I'm also planning an Inverted-L over ground radials for the lower bands. I have a legal-limit coil and capacitor from a previous installation but now I'm considering trying it out using the wide-ranging auto tuner in the shack. The ohmic loss for a mismatch of 10:1 is only about one dB even up to 30M. Again, if anyone has tried this, I'd like to hear how it went.

**Mark, K5GQ:** Here are some interesting CWops new membership number stats from one of my CW Academy students (Tony KX3H) who is getting close for me to nominate him for CWops membership:

**Tony KX3H:** I looked at the CWops newsletters, *Solid Copy*, where it lists the new members for that month. I've estimated when certain numbers might be granted if/when we get accepted for membership to guess when to apply.

Newsletters are here: <https://cwops.org/newsletters/> (free to read and full of good information).

CWops issued numbers:

Feb 2020 - 2429 to 2449 = 20

Mar 2020- 2450 to 2467 = 17

Apr 2020 - 2468 to 2537 = 69

May 2020 - 2538 to 2579 = 41

Jun 2020 - 2580 to 2632 = 52

Jul 2020 - 2633 to 2655 = 22

Aug 2020 - 2656 to 2670 = 13

(Continued on next page)



*(Continued from previous page)*

Sep 2020 - 2671 to 2687 = 16  
Oct 2020 - 2688 to 2702 = 14  
Nov 2020 - 2703 to 2736 = 33  
Dec 2020 - 2742 to 2758 = 16  
Jan 2021 - 2759 to 2781 = 22  
Feb 2021 - 2782 to 2805 = 23

Estimated new numbers (if trends follow last year):

Mar 2021 - 2806 to 2835  
Apr 2021 - 2836 to 2905  
May 2021 - 2906 to 2947  
Jun 2021 - 2948 to 3000

**John K1AR:** As manager of the CQ WW CW Contest, I received this really nice note from the winner of the 2019 CW Rookie CQWW plaque that CWops sponsors:

My name is Connor Dickey, KD9LSV, and I am honored to receive a plaque for CQWW CW Rookie North America Category for 2019. I am attending Bradley University as a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering. I operated on behalf of the Bradley University Amateur Radio Club (BUARC) (W9JWC) as a single op.

Throughout my life, I was involved in the Boy Scouts of America. This opportunity allowed for people to become aware of what Ham Radio has to offer. I obtained the Radio merit badge during JOTA-JOTI event back in 2013. Back then I had an interest but nothing sparked beyond that. I obtained the Eagle Scout Rank on 9/9/2018. Last Summer, I worked at a Scout BSA Summer Camp teaching young people about life skills around the world.

In the fall of 2018, I joined BUARC. In September of 2018, I obtained my Technician License. Three weeks later, I obtained my General Class License. At BUARC, I have participated in many contests, made antennas, and met people all over the world. I believe that if a prospective ham would get in touch with their local club, they would be more likely to get their ticket and be active.

In March of 2019, I was graciously offered the opportunity to operate in the CQ WPX SSB contest at the station of K9CT. Craig Thompson (K9CT) allowed me to see and operate with other like-minded people for 48 hours. During that event, we made approximately 4000 QSOs all around the world. That event allowed me to see how big the Amateur Radio community is.

In August 2019, I received my Extra Class License. This was a goal early on in my career in Amateur Radio. Also, I completed the CWops Level 1 Academy Class and currently at a code speed of around 17wpm.

For the past few months, I have been involved with the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio



*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

Group (GLAARG) helping with the implementation of amateur radio remote testing. Since I joined in April, I have helped over a thousand people receive a new license or an upgrade in the middle of a pandemic.

During COVID, I was gifted an HF rig and currently operate it from my home QTH due to being home and not able to operate from the W9JWC station. I try to get on the air and make QSOs when I can. I need to get more involved in CWTs and keep advancing my skills in CW.

As President of BUARC, I have plans to increase membership to the club, increase awareness of what amateur radio is, increase more community involvement using Amateur Radio as a medium. Once again I want to thank you for this wonderful opportunity for allowing me to be the recipient of your award.

---

## 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:

Those interested in working these folks and practicing should look for them at around 7 PM in

<b>Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local Time 7.035-7.045 MHz</b>										
	<b>UTC+3</b>	<b>UTC+2</b>	<b>UTC+1</b>	<b>UTC/BST</b>	<b>UTC-1</b>	<b>UTC-5</b>	<b>UTC-6</b>	<b>UTC-7</b>	<b>UTC-8</b>	<b>Hawaii UTC-10</b>
<b>Mon</b>				GM0EUL		AF8A	K8UDH	NS6W	N6HCN	KH6LC
<b>Tues</b>		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P		K7NJ	K6RB	
<b>Wed</b>				G0HKC	DF7TV	N4TMM	K5XU	KU7Y		
<b>Thurs</b>		SV2BBK		G2CWO			KQ0E			
<b>Fri</b>		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		VE3FXX	KG5U		K6RB	
<b>Sat</b>			LA1IO			VE3FXX	N8LR			

(Continued on next page)





*(Continued from previous page)*

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 January's GB efforts:

### **Volunteer: Stations Worked**

**AF8A:** WB5KHB, NJ3B

**G2CWO:** IU0AHC, S53OP, IT9RDG, EW2AR, EA1FL, OE6JTD, R2DGA, E77F, IK7UKF, IK5XCT, IZ3SOI, RZ3AEN, G3WGE, F5VBU

**GW2CWO:** I5ECW, M0MQV, HB9EPE, RV9FF, OK1FLK, OK2PAY, GM0PKF, G0VQW, RW1AI, R2DMW, G4KJS, 2E0KJC, SP3DGV, OZ8KWB, PA3ABR, M6ITH, HA3UH, UR5LEH, S52TW, OK2PRQ, RC7KB, HB9DAX, YU1ZH, YO3FFF

**K6RB:** K4JJW, N5CW, N2GG, W0GAS, N2UJ, W3WW, K5YZW, WA4PKL, W3CFE, KI6UP, NJ8D

**K7NJ:** KE8AQW, WB7BNE, KB0EDE, KD0APS, N2GG, PT2NP, K5SNA, W1LY, K8OIP, AC5P, K3JN, KJ4RMJ, KA0JRG, KO5SX, N9ITO, VA3NIR, KI4MZC, WB4DKF, W6GRT, K5CSK, K4JJW, K5DU, K9SSB, K0ODF, KB9GUX, KB5RCF, W7DRA, KB0HQD, KB9ZRP, K9QAG, W5FBQ, K2OHK, KI4IO, K9EW, KN4VCE, WA4JYX, N4UZZ, NP3V, N0KTB

**KH6LC:** XQ3SK/4, N1SNB, WA9GQT, W9KNI, KI6NTB, W3FE, K9FN, WA0USA, KC8UR

**N4TMM:** W9KMF, AE8EA, NR8M, K2ERG, K2MZ, N2ANL, W2CW, W1DV

**N8LR:** WA1EWQ, W3DET, AA8LF, N1HOG, W3TAS

**WE5P:** AE4GS, AJ6ET, KP4YO, LU8HIC, KF6BJJ, AD8EE, W4HXX, NU2J, K4IBZ, IZ1ASM, N5KB

**SV2BBK:** OK2PIM, YU2CW, IN3FUC, OK3EE, DG8AE, R4SA, DM7EE, IK3UMZ, F8CGY, DK2SG

---

## **Wrapup: CWops and the [QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo](#)**

### **[Peter Butler W1UU](#)**

Once finally implemented "on line", we were up and running. There were issues by the event organizer getting people properly registered and assigned priority levels for back stage setups. All persevered! The screenshots (next page) show the activity at our "virtual booth." As a point of comparison the top row shows activity at Elecraft's table, the next row shows activity at the FlexRadio tables, and the third row shows the CWops tables. Notice how many people visited our booth! Very gratifying! People could move from table to table and those on booth duty could answer questions!



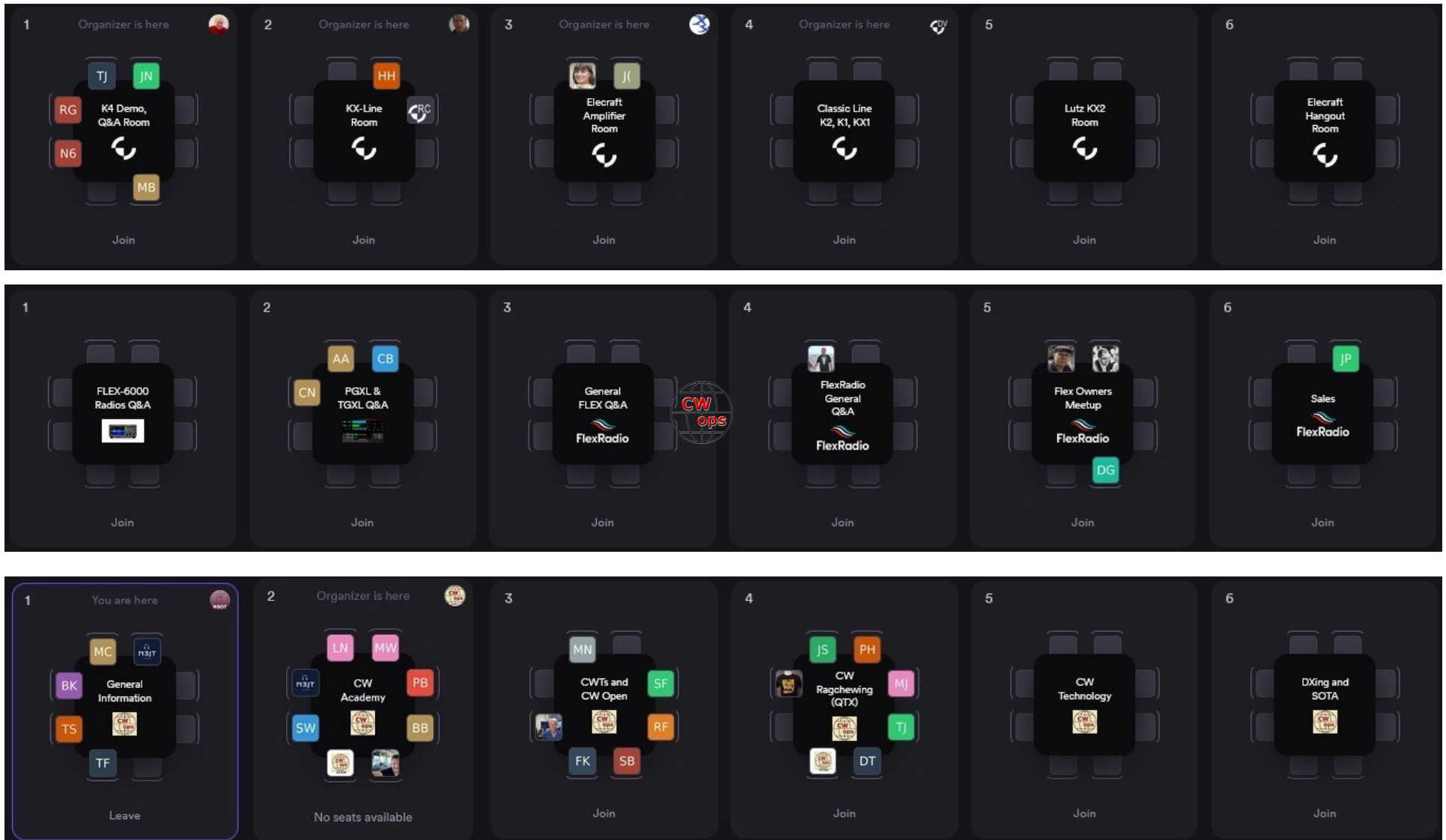
**Peter W1UU, CWops vice president**

Overnight, CWops set aside 20 tables of 8 seats, called the "Lounge" and much conversation was made on various tables to continue what we do best! Socializing! Our first visitor was from Spain!

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from previous page)

## Booth Activity at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo



Activity at the Elecraft booth (top row) the FlexRadio booth (center row) and the CWops booth (bottom row). The CWops booth was the hottest ticket in town.

(Continued on next page)

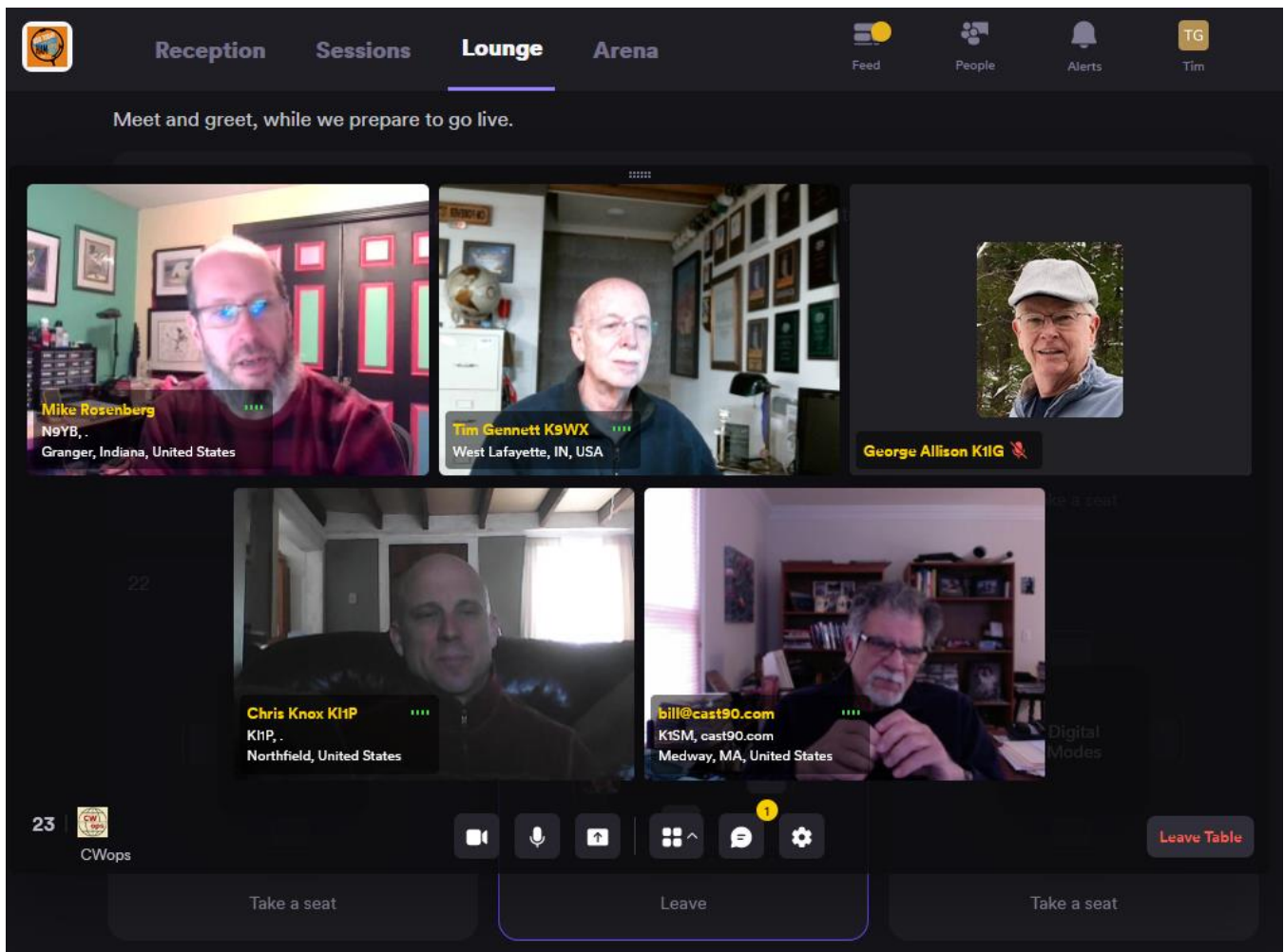
(Continued from previous page)

The next day, formal presentations were made by Eric NM5M on CW Academy and he confirmed that he had about 300 visitors and there were 40 signups! Many also went to the CWops booth to answer more questions!

The near last presentation of the day was given by W1UU on "The New Frontier of CW Operating." AA3B talked about CWT, W3LPL talked about new tools for DXing and propagation, K1JD talked about SOTA, 3D2AG talked about being "rare DX and how to work it, and K1ESE talked about the QTX program.

The presentations, both video or slides, were about 5-6 minutes long. That presentation was delayed about 2 hours, but we also had about 300 visitors. Both NM5M and W1UU fielded many questions, and after they came to the CWops booth to answer more questions!

Let's not forget one of the best parts: N5OT, Mark; W5LA, "Rags"; AC6ZM, Juan, and myself, W1UU as Inspirator-in-Chief worked tirelessly to make this event a fun one for all fielding a new way of showcasing CWops!



CWops members Tim K9WX, George K1IG and Bill K1SM chat with guests Mike N9YB and Chris K1P in the CWops booth.

# The K1USN SST Success Story

[Rich Hoffman, K1DJ](#)

In the nearly six months since its initial run in mid-September 2020, the K1USN SST (Slow Speed [con]Test) has drawn in many CWA students and other CW and CW contesting beginners with its more relaxed / less stressful 20 WPM maximum speeds and its friendly, less rushed, and more forgiving for-

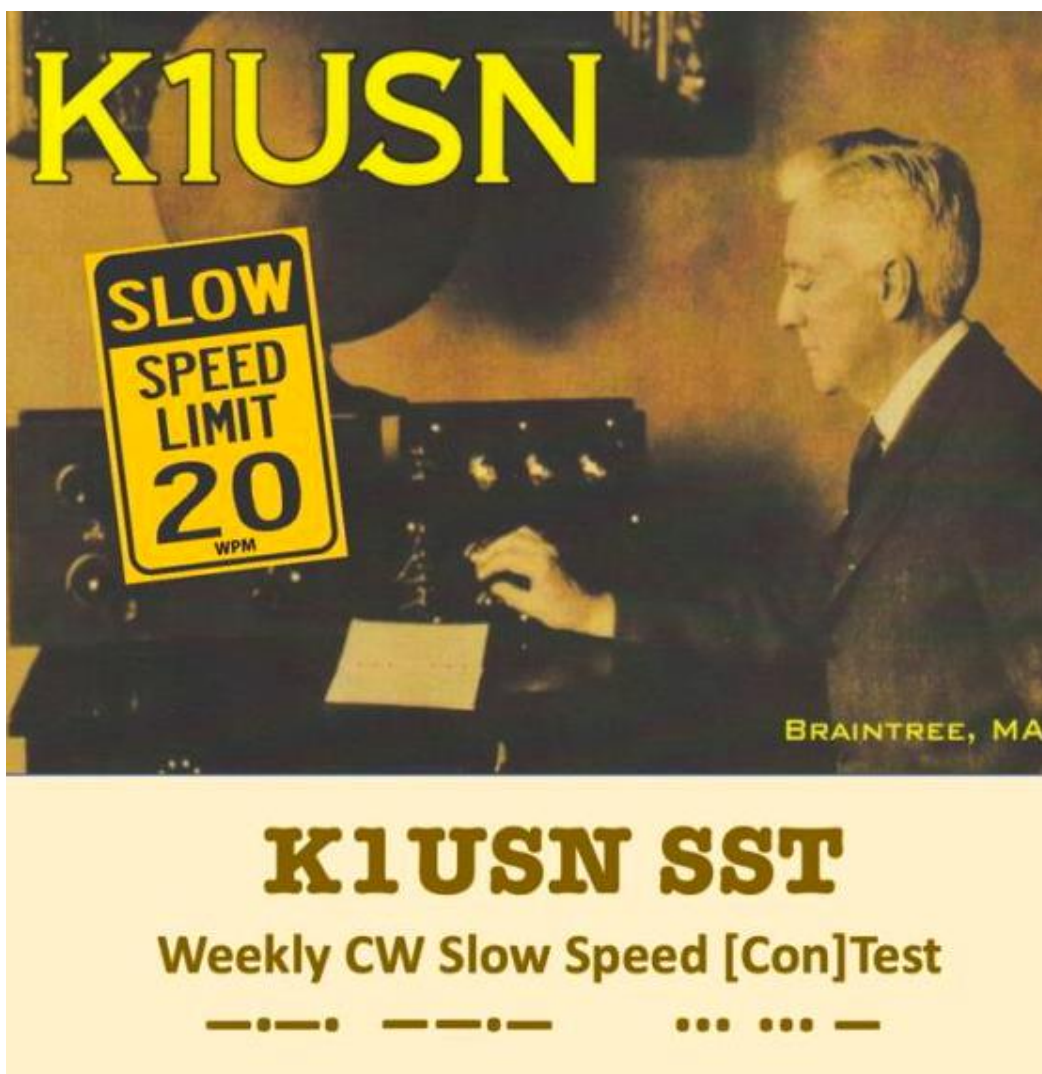
mat. The original 0000Z Monday (Sunday evening in the USA) sessions have been attracting 85 or more reported scores each week on 3830scores.com, while the more recently added 2000Z Friday (more EU-friendly) sessions have already grown to 73 reported scores as of Friday February 26th. And the indications are that numerous ops are participating but not yet reporting their scores.

Much of this success is due to the regular participation of you -- the CWA Advisors and other experienced CWops -- who have been putting in the time (and having fun!) as SST runners and S & P participants. Thanks!

Some stations run right at the 20 WPM maximum speed limit. That's fine because it provides good practice for intermediate students who have already developed the ability to jump in at that speed, and are using the SST as prep for the CWTs and other high speed contests.

Others, who have been very successful at drawing in newcomers, have chosen to run at lower speeds -- and are willing to drop to even slower speeds when needed to complete a QSO -- to accommodate and assist the newest arrivals to CW. Among the latter are several members of the K1USN Radio Club, who are keeping track of their first-time contacts in each session. Several of

*(Continued on next page)*





*(Continued from previous page)*

us have found a sweet spot for bringing in first-time callers by running at around 14-16 WPM, with slower repeats and fills as needed.

If you have not yet joined us in the SSTs, please do! All are welcome to participate as runners and S&P ops at 20 WPM or less, but we are especially looking for more ops willing to drop their running speeds below the max, at least on occasion, to help out our newest arrivals to the wonderful world of CW and CW contesting! Please give it a try!

Hoping to hear you tonight and in future SST sessions --

---

## Foxhunting: What is it?

[Les Tocko, VA7OM](#)

Chances are you have heard of foxhunting. It is also known as bunny hunting, transmitter hunting, radio orienteering or ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding).

ARDF is the official name and it is an activity where participants use radio direction finding techniques to locate one or more radio transmitters hidden within a designated search area. The sport originated in the late 1950's and has been most popular in Eastern Europe, Russia, and China. Other nations are catching up and the first world championship was held in 1980 in Poland. North America joined the world championship that was held in the former Czechoslovakia in 1990. [The first formal multi-national foxhunt in North America took place in 1991.](#)



**80m transmitters**

An ARDF competition takes place on foot in diverse wooded terrain where 5 low power transmit-

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

ters (less than 5 Watts) are hidden. All foxes transmit on the same frequency but operate in a five-minute cycle. So, the first fox comes on the air at the precise start of each five-minute period, transmits for one minute and then shuts down. At this point, number two starts up and sends for one minute and so on. Each identifies itself in Morse code with the letters MO followed by a number of dots, so the first sends MOE (one dot) and the subsequent ones send MOI, MOS, MOH and MO5 (which have 2, 3, 4 and 5 dots respectively). With this arrangement, the letters MO provide five dashes to facilitate taking a bearing and by counting the number of dots, the identity of the fox can be ascertained without the need for knowledge of Morse code.

Individuals are allowed to start at five-minute intervals so that everybody starts at the same point in the cycle. The objective is to find as many foxes as possible within an overall time limit – usually around two hours.

ARDF events usually have one day of competition using a 2-meter frequency (AM or FM modulation) and one day of competition using an 80-meter frequency (CW). The antennas used are omnidirectional, vertical wires on 80 meters and crossed dipoles on 2 meters.

The receivers carried by competitors use directional antennas. On 80 meters it is a ferrite or a small loop antenna and on 2 meters is a two or three element Yagi or HB9CV antenna. In addition to the radio equipment an ARDF competitor uses a topographic map and a magnetic compass for navigation.

The variations of ARDF are sprint and Fox Oring. Sprint events have shorter courses, use lower powered transmitters in the 80 meter band which transmit in sequence for only 12 seconds with the cycle repeating every minute. The expected winning time is 15 minutes.

[Fox Oring](#) is a variation of the sport that requires more orienteering skills. In a Fox Oring course, the radio transmitters put out very little power, and can be received over only very short distances.



**Bob, G3ORY at the 2m world championship in Croatia in 2010.**



**80m receiver**

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

es, often no more than 100 meters. The location of each transmitter will be indicated on the map with a circle. The transmitter does not need to be exactly at the circle's center, but one should be able to receive its transmissions everywhere within the area indicated by the circle. A competitor must use orienteering skills to navigate to the area of the circle on the map and only then use radio direction finding skills to locate the very low power transmitter.

But overall, ARDF is the pleasure of being in direct contact with nature, of breathing fresh air, of joining with friends from different amateur radio clubs and societies. This article can only give a brief description of this fascinating sport. Check out this YouTube video for more information.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl4HztSY8Mo&ab\\_channel=ARDF](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl4HztSY8Mo&ab_channel=ARDF)



**The author's daughter Andrea (L) and granddaughter Mi-kaela (R) foxhunting in 2014**



# G4FON Sending Trainer (within Morse Trainer)

[John Dvoracek, KE5C](#)

Various ideas circulate on how you can learn CW. Among the most recognizable is the Koch method. Multiple computer or device training aids exist based on this method but almost all are receiving trainers only. Another idea endorsed by several sources I have encountered is that sending practice improves not only your ability to send clean code, but also to copy better. This was endorsed and discussed in one of KK5NA's recent Advanced Academy Classes where we all could copy 25-30 wpm, but most of us had trouble sending much above 25 wpm. Please continue reading this even if you now conclude this would not apply to you since you are still working on slower code. I think it does apply to you.

Buying into the concept that sending improves copying, what should you send? Most commonly we send words we are trying to learn, or catchy text phrases with difficult and/or back to back characters, but with these we are sending what we are reading off a page or screen. Our class also noticed most of us could send 30 wpm doing this, but our QSO's fell apart anywhere near that speed. Why?

Learning CW involves training neural pathways. What if the pathways are different for reading to sending than thinking to sending? At least two posters suggested practice sending whatever thoughts come to mind and disavowed sending text from a page for this very reason. How much cross training exists between sending page text and thoughts? From experience, not enough.

There are suggestions and trainers that offer possible solutions to improve sending your thoughts as you would during a rag chew. One way to get an idea to send is to daydream. Another is to get an idea from hearing it. Some might say that is no different than sending what you read, but I can send what I read AND think about something else, so sending what I read somehow bypasses being fully in my conscious thoughts. There is some neural sight to hand movement path below full consciousness, some sleight of hand if you will.

Through sending practice, you will improve your copy increasing the benefits of your training time. Let's proceed to using the [G4FON Morse Trainer](#) in Sending Trainer mode. The Morserino-32 sends a word to you, and you send it back until correct, but those are sometimes not availa-

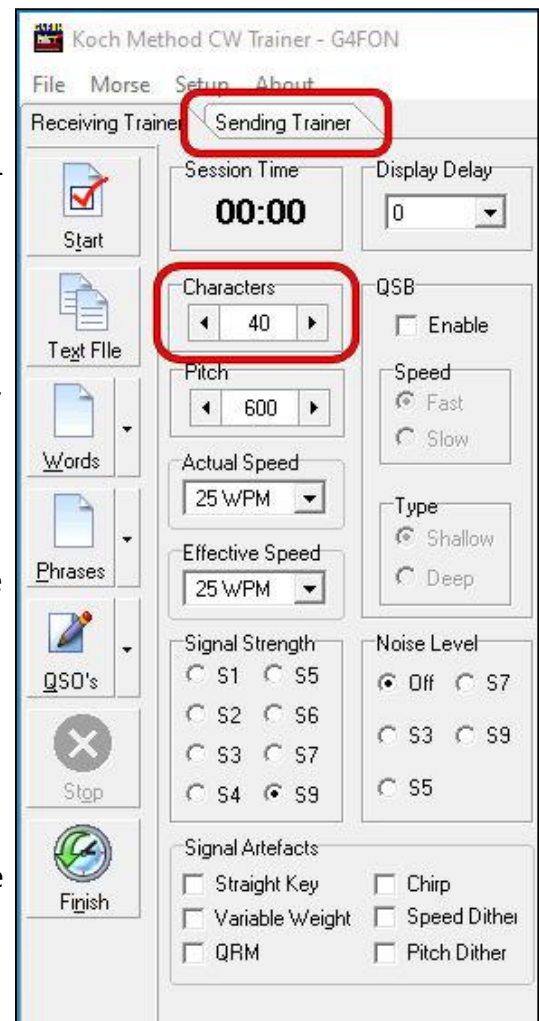


Figure 1

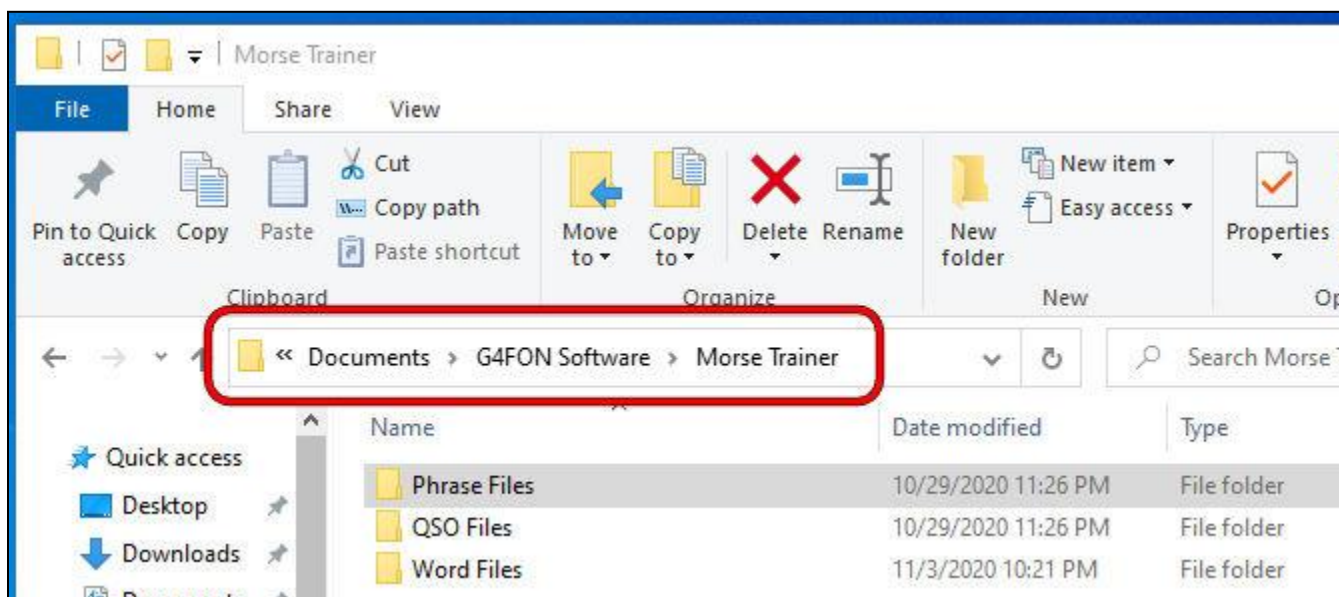
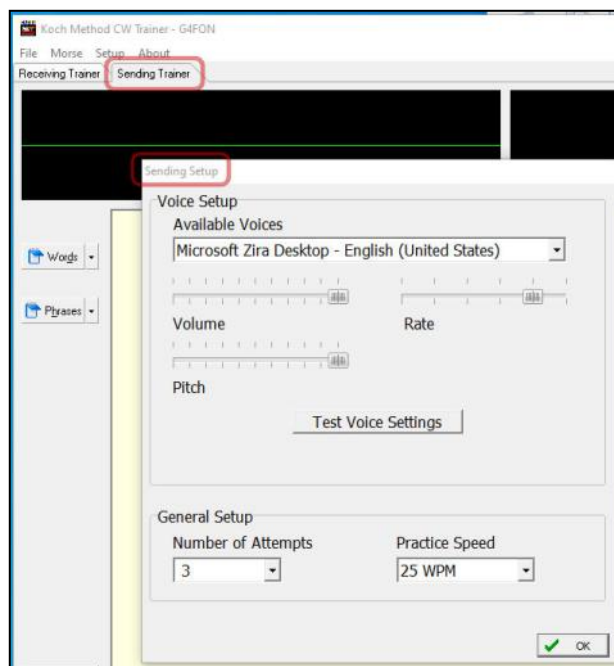
(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

ble. Moreover, G4FON requires no special devices and has other advantages. G4FON uses a synthesized voice to read you words or phrases to send from text files, then evaluates if you sent them correctly giving you a number of chances that you set. G4FON evaluates your sending using a Fast Fourier Transform of your PC's audio input device – usually your microphone or line in. Thus you need an audio signal of your sending. I used a code practice oscillator. You may need to adjust your audio level so that the peak signal in the right hand window almost fills the window.

When the trainer first starts, go to the “Characters” dialog box and set that to 40 (**Figure 1**). You will notice the “Sending Trainer” tab can now be selected. Once there, go to the Setup Menu Item and select the voice, speed and repeats you like (**Figure 2**). I



**Figures 2 (top) and 3 (bottom)**

understand the female synthesized voice better. An additional aid to help understand the voice is to select phrases rather than just words. If you don't get one word, you can often guess it from other words in the phrase. The phrase files are fabulous in my opinion. If you use the included word or phrase files, you will encounter British spellings, so if you prefer American spellings, you will need to edit those files first. Best of all, you can load your own words and phrases. Go to your Documents>G4FON Software>Morse Trainer directory and you will see subdirectories for the Phrase, QSO and Word files (**Figure 3**). You may need to adjust your audio level so that the peak signal in the right hand window almost fills the window (**Figure 4**). When practicing, note the controls at the bottom of the sending trainer. You send the “?” or “/” with your key when you need to repeat a word or phrase or to advance if you are stuck. Your inter-character and word spaces do

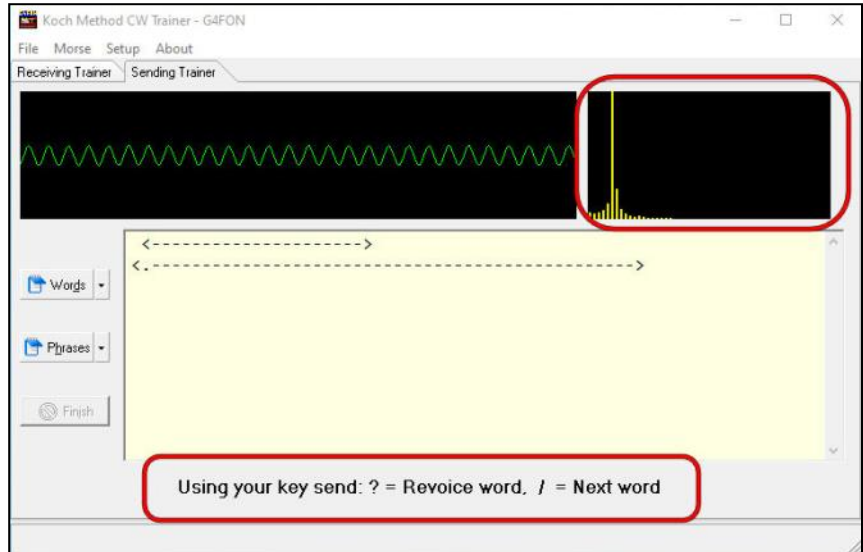
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

matter, so pay attention to those.

[Here is a short example, a six word run of words I uploaded.](#) The voiced third word sounded like "gave" but that wasn't accepted. Then I tried "game" which was correct.

Good luck!



## Copying Morse Without Really Trying!

### [Duncan Fiskén, G3WZD](#)

The following article had its genesis in a recent thread on the FISTS reflector, sparked off by a comment I posted to the effect that I realised I had been unconsciously copying CW in the background while doing something else. I often have the rig on in the background, tuned to one of the CW 'watering holes', while working on another project in the shack. This time however, the 'light-bulb' moment came when I was doing a newspaper crossword puzzle with a Morse tutor running in the background. The tutor was sending random callsigns at 30wpm and 25wpm Farnsworth (I am working on my contesting skills!), and it suddenly dawned on me that I had been copying quite a few of the calls without really trying, at speeds somewhat beyond my comfort zone.

The following has been authored by Chris Pearson, G5VZ a practicing Neuropsychologist and enthusiastic CW operator. Chris kindly gave his blessing to my suggestion that I submit it for publication in *Solid Copy*. I hope it is of interest to the membership at large and the Advisor community in par-



G3WZD

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

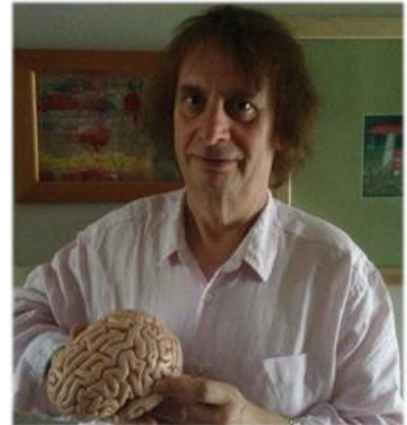
ticular; it certainly interested me!

## The Neuroscience of Copying Morse

**Chris Pearson, G5VZ**

A great deal of what we do in life is achieved through non-conscious processing. What is often called the subconscious mind. That applies to driving sometimes: how often does someone arrive at their destination and realise they have no real, conscious memory of the journey? But driving, generally, is done without conscious thought – working those pedals, and steering wheel and all that, would be overwhelming if you actually thought about it all the time.

There are two types of memory: **explicit memory** consists of event memories – autobiographical memory – and facts you learn. Knowing the capital cities of all the countries of the world is an achievement of explicit memory. Knowing that PARIS represents a 50-unit, conveniently standard Morse word is an explicit memory.



**G5VZ**

**Implicit memories** are neural networks that are activated without thinking *about* them. Some things, like riding a bike, begin in the conscious domain and often seem very clumsy before they become implicit.

When you hear 'Paris' accurately in Morse characters received at 30 wpm, that's an achievement of implicit memory. These are the learned skills promoted by many of the old telegraphy texts.

Until really quite recently it was thought that this process happened in younger people: the brain reached a point when it had achieved all it could and, from then on, it was a slow, inexorable decline. Research since the mid-nineties has clearly shown that neuroplastic activity occurs in the brain from well before birth until the moment a person breathes their final breath.

It can be convenient to think about explicit memory as being something that happens in our conscious mind while implicit activity is subconscious. Subcortical parts of the brain that process sensory information and respond implicitly are incredibly rapid – these are structures within the brain that are essential for many survival responses.

It is said that 'the subconscious is always listening' and that is true. The subconscious continues to be active even when we are sound asleep – what would hear the alarm clock if it wasn't?

So we can be confident that a part of our brain is hearing Morse and recognising those patterns of sensory information whatever we're doing. There's a picture of the human brain, divided into three evolutionary parts by Paul MacLean who developed the *Triune Brain Model*. We do all our thinking in the cortex which is the most recently evolved part of the brain and, slow as it is, allows sophisticated thought. Paleomammalian and reptilian complexes evolved much earlier and are rapid, and survival-enhancing.

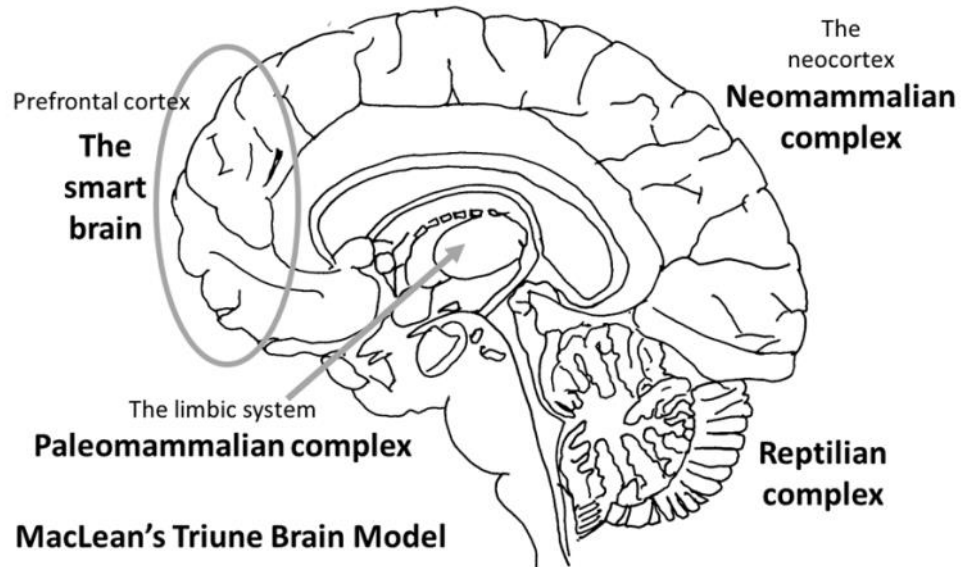
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

The tricky part with Morse is having your cortical brain (often called the neocortex or the neo-mammalian brain) keep up. The non-conscious, limbic structures in the brain are activated and respond in millisecond timescales. The cortical brain takes almost half a second - everything we think of as 'now' is, in fact, about half a second ago. Our mind stitches together neurological events that make us think it's all happening now and that we exercise some kind of choice or control over many things that happen without conscious intervention.

Catching a ball is a classic example. It happens faster than our 'smart brain' can process events. But we have non-conscious processes that we practice and develop that make it possible. Try throwing a ball at a baby who hasn't developed this response. Same with riding a bike - our nervous

system and musculature must respond for balance much more quickly than we can think. I've had conversations with typists as they bash out documents at unbelievable speeds and, on one occasion, asked one typist what she was typing: "Oh, I'm not reading it - I'm typing it." Just like those telegraphists who could (can?) hold a conversation and copy code simultaneously, the activity doesn't even need to touch their conscious mind.



Copying Morse is the same as many other neurological activities. It's not the receiving the characters that's an issue, it's transferring their information content to the cortex that is the trick!

That's exactly why you may notice that distracting your cortex makes it easier. Because your cortex believes you are NOT able to copy that code. If it doesn't notice that you are, then it won't get in the way. Making the experience fun helps a lot, too!

If you are, say, *thinking* that you're comfortable at 15 wpm and you want to improve, start every practice session at 40 wpm.

You'll probably copy little accurately. Drop down to maybe 30 wpm and notice how you pick up more. Then at 25 wpm you may well be accurately copying a lot. And you will probably be surprised at how easy it seems. (I say, 'seems' because in reality, it 'is.' If someone can do it then, generally speaking, anyone can do it.)

Every time you do this - every time the particular neural network is activated - tiny cells called glial cells arrive at the synapses between the activated neurons. These cells have many functions - including the processing of neurotransmitters - but they also physically glue the neurons together - axon terminal of one neuron to a dendrite of the next - making the circuit through the

(Continued on next page)



*(Continued from previous page)*

network both biochemically and electrically more efficient. And faster.

Most practice starts slow and speeds up - in exactly the opposite way to the way brains work.

I learnt all this, by the way, not from a radio ham but a professor of neuroscience who had a great deal of theory to pass on and some functional MRI scans to prove it.

**Biographical Note:** Chris Pearson became interested in amateur radio around the age of 12. He moved from London to Northfleet in Kent and spent many hours in the shack with Bill, G5VZ. He was taught Morse by Bob, G3ORC (SK) who had been a RN telegraphist and, after marriage and children, came back to amateur radio and was licenced MOJRQ. You may have seen the call on the G-QRP Antenna Handbook and other publications, including compilations of Drew Diamond's Radio Projects. Having the opportunity to honour Bill and keep the call G5VZ on the air, Chris is now 100% CW. Although in later years, Bill was not a fan of the key.

As a psychotherapist, Chris gained Clinical Neuropsychotherapy certification at CDSC at Brisbane Royal and Women's Hospital, then a post-graduate degree in Neuropsychotherapy in Queensland, Australia in 2018. He works as a Neuropsychotherapist.

---

## Planning Ahead for the Inevitable

[Gary Mikitin, AF8A](#)

Nothing is as sure as death and taxes. While we might be able to influence the latter, the former is inevitable. How we prepare for that difficult day will make a difference to those left behind. As for myself, I do not want to burden my family with a pile of incomprehensible electronics after I shuffle off this mortal coil.

### **A first for me: Disposing of SK estates**

In 2019, I offered to help the family of a dear friend who passed on with no warning, eventually selling all of his gear on [QRZ.com](#); the proceeds went to his family. It took a few months, and the sales went smoothly. Further, his antenna 'farm' consisted of a few low dipoles, easily removed from his home.

In 2020, a good friend of my wife lost an acquaintance in an auto crash. I didn't know the ham, but my wife's friend was aware of my long time hobby and came to me, stating the family needed help with antenna removal (not difficult, as they were indoor antennas, an attic installation) and in finding a worthwhile person or cause to which the equipment could be donated. After a half-dozen postings to [QRZ.com](#), all was sold and I had significant funds which I donated, after getting the family's approval, to the Youth On The Air organization.

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

## Lessons Learned

At the very least, have a discussion with one more or of your ham contemporaries, and ask if they would guide your family in disposing of your station. Discuss what your preferences might be. Offer to reciprocate. And, if you own some valuable gear, or if you have antennas that would require professional disassembly, seriously consider putting your wishes in writing. While I am not qualified to discuss legal options such as wills and last testaments, common sense suggests that anyone who suspects their estate might benefit from written instructions should follow through with a legal professional.



***The Death of Socrates by Jacques-Louis David. Rumor has it that Socrates had very little ham radio gear to dispose of.***

Bottom line, doing nothing is a very poor option. It doesn't seem right to burden those who put up with our 'beautiful' antennas, the chirps and chatter from our rigs, solder burns on the furniture, etc., with a task for which they are undoubtedly unprepared. Make a plan, discuss it with all concerned, and lastly, consider putting your wishes in writing.

If you need an 'ice breaker' to start such a conversation, this article might do the trick.

---

## CW Academy

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

The January-February 2021 CW Academy class is complete and the report of this semester follows. This was a busy semester with 818 students initially signed up, 616 students verified for a class, 500 students who completed a class and 424 students who met the final goals of a class. This represents one of the largest classes we have ever had.

We are deeply indebted to the following advisors who volunteered their time and efforts to assist all of these students.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

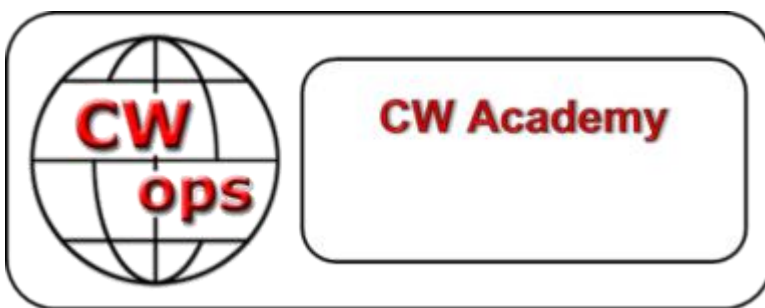
**Advisors who led three classes:** AC6AC and K6HP.

**Advisors who led two classes:**

AA8TA, K1DW, K5GQ, K6HTN, KA7MDM, KI7OMH, KK5NA, KK6M, N5KB, VE2KM, W0FN, W7VQ and WR7Q.

**Advisors who led one class:**

AA5CF, AC5EZ, AD7KG, AG4EA, AJ1DM, AK4SQ, AK7O, G0HKC, G0IBN, G3WZD, IK1HGE, K0ES, K0MP, K0VD, K1BG, K1CHM, K1DJ, K1LHO, K2CYS, K6PB, K6RB, K7MOZ, K7OJL, K9CPO, K9DLP, K9OZ, KD2KW, KG5FZ, KI2N, KI7WNS, KK7RR, KT5V, KV8Q, MI0WWB, N0DNF, N3EE, N4ARY, N5AAS, N5TOO, N5WNG, N6JFD, N7ID, N7JP, N7MU, N8AI, N8LR, N9EP, NJ8M, NN4K, NN7M, NU7Y, VE3FXX, W0EJ, W0OJ, W3PNM, W4IF, W6RR, W7EEE, W8EWH, W8OV, WA3AER, WA6L, WA9CW, WB0JRH, WB7DKZ, WT8P, WU6P and YL3JD.



## **Congratulations to the following students**

**Students who completed an advanced class (61 students):**

AE7EU, AG4CC, AG7TX, AJ6AN, AJ6CU, K6AUR, K8OIP, KA7GPP, KQ0E, WA7KJ, AD8WR, G0GPH, G0ODP, G4DMG, G4XWJ, M0MUI, PA3HEN, N4DXI, VE9CD, WF4I, WR4T, AI6IE, KE6JAC, KI6M, VE7PS, KI6NTB, N2GG, VE7XT, W0GAS, WT6K, AA0YY, AA2GF, AA4BI, AC8RG, K4DME, KB3SAR, KF5WJ, KO4AXD, N2DA, N2MA, N9YB, NE5ET, VA3DKL, W0HY, W2NWU, W4LRB, WB1LLY, K4KO, K9PLX, KB9LLD, N4UZZ, K1ARR, K1RID, KC3FQF, KW4WA, K7VW, KB6VME, KJ5R, N5CWW, NJ6Q and WB7GR.

**Students who completed an intermediate class (89 students):**

AG7WI, AK7PM, K6GRH, K6NF, K6VN, KC9MJA, KD2QDD, KF6COZ, KN4YRM, KN6IPE, N4HOE, WB6POT, KA9OUT, KJ4CC, N2UD, VE3DPC, LB5DI, PF0X, SP6SUD, NF6N, W4MSL, W5HPQ, AB5XS, AI6VM, K5LNR, KE0SSV, KI4POV, KJ5T, KX3H, N7PHI, W5DL, KA1NP, NI3V, VE2VAB, KC1EJD, KD2RKN, N4ELC, KI5LOV, N9EEE, AD5CQ, N5EP, W0RLY, W9TD, WR5O, AA0IZ, AA7AZ, KI7TGX, KM6TVJ, KI7VEM, KM6QYV, KM6VPJ, KN7A, W2AFE, W6HMN, K1ECU, NI4U, WB8YHD, WD9CUU, AF7MM, N6EFF, VA7KBM, VA7RPE, W7GFW, AA6TQ, AJ6ET, KF7QNS, NE6G, WB6ADC, WM7X, K5HEM, KC2BE, KN4CQB, W5SD, KD8OOK, KE8BWA, W1RBG, WA3GPP, WQ8P, W6TC, K0FUZ, N9DXP, VE4SF, N5DCH, NN0G, VE6GL, W3KK, CR7AWB, IV3IFZ and SV1DAY.

**Students who completed a basic class (96 students):** K0LAR, K5WRL, KN4UDT, KO4ALY, W0JCB, W9JRM, AB4DM, JJ1TBK, K1KL, K4BLB, K4JSK, K4PZ, KA2TQV, KA9LWK, KD8VCB, W0VK, AA6PM, AB1GS, AC0VM, K4CBW, K6JSC, W1SAV, W5EAL, AC0MG, K0WET, K7PKA, KC9AD, KG7MLL, 9A6ZE, CT7AUP, PA2G, S55AC, KG4FUU, N0RPM, WB8BCU, K3KZU, KC1OAV, N1NS, W8QE, WB7WEA, AA4HV, N5EKO, W0ARK, KC3OVA, KD4IZ, KW4WL, W3KCK, KI7VUX, N6FP, W2RY, AD5RX, AG7XI, KM6ZMZ, KM6ZNZ, W7JRD, KD2JWH, KT9N, W1AGE, WA3KD, WY4G, K7MNF, KN6KJK, VA7STQ,



W6OLI, AB7HA, K0LUM, K0BRE, K6ABM, KB1NO, KB8M, KD0FGD, KJ4J, KQ3S, OA4DVG, WA9OTA, G8HKS, G8RWG, LZ1DAF, M0NOM, M0STQ, SA3IEI, KA5DAQ, KC9YJP, KE0EKF, KF0BIW, KØEED, N1AOK, N9JHZ, KS6PKY, N6EO, WM6T, AJ6EE, KJ7IZT, KK6KOI, KM6NEP and W7PEZ.

**Students who completed a beginner class (177 students):**

AB9MZ, KG5VQZ, KN4KFH, W4SSF, KD2EMW, N1DUC, N1PKA, VA3CN, N4PMK, N0JJW, K7ESC, W0FFC, CR7AUS, M1JSC, K0SEC, KB0VHA, N0OHL, WY8V, Y2DP, K8OOF, KC1OOF, N0TO, Maria Pol-yanska, Kassandra Spalding, KF4HAW, KM4DLF, KO4ECD, K7MAS, KD4YSJ, KJ7GIE, KK6AMY, W2TAR, KA2LAC, KB4MIS, K0CSL, KE3GK, AG5GN, KE0OZJ, KF5UCO, N5QH, W4SQ, AG6LK, AI7BL, KL2ZZ, NB7O, W6KX, K3DEX, K9CFA, K9STM, KG5MEL, K2WLD, K8IG, KB9JMU, KC1AQQ, WD9GYM, AC6PC, K6KMH, K7SFQ, K5BEZ, Trevor Best, K0MOS, KK4ETS, KB1EHX, KB3YZX, KN4BHO, KN4QPA, KK7RK, KN6EY, N7COT, K7PGR, N6KZW, NF7X, W1TKR, W7LRM, KC5ONZ, KO4GPB, KA3BEN, KB9YOJ, KD2RNN, W6WGT, M5OTA, MW0OWM, KD5IRL, KK4SNO, XE1HG, KM4OPN, N2EMK, VE7SGD, AD2BE, AD8FA, KJ7JKL, KO4AIE, KW4CZ, KE4CON, KT5P, AE4JB, AJ6KX, KG7DTN, KN6HGG, KK2Z, W9SSN, KC1NBE, KO4FPJ, N4NMN, N4PSW, N8MKG, VY2NA, W2JTR, W2JVO, K5ENL, NG1H, K8NPA, KC5QFG, KD9LTN, N3VXM, VE4HAZ, AG8NT, AK3B, N4SRN, N9MGK, WB3HUS, K5JF, K5LB, K9HOU, KE0LUA, VE9SC, W1EZE, IU1JVO, IZ7VLL, PA1BBO, SP5GDX, SQ5TK, AA0KU, K6HDX, KJ6WKT, KJ7LAN, K5NEC, K7BEZ, K7OED, K9POL, KE0AHD, KK7FW, N0OLD, NE7TS, Christopher Bentley, WA6MOK, K5BKW, KA1TE, KM8V, KP4LCC, VE1GWE, KG5MCN, N2RSC, NR5TX, W9WLX, AG7SH, K6ASN, K6SUD, VE7LF, WA0ZAW, K5AEB, KI0KE, N9AEP, W5EJD, WE1SER, WH6FJR, KC1MII, KE8HXE, N3NBM, NT3U, S56VHA, KF6YXK, KN6IUF, KN6KAF, N7FNA, Tim OBoyle and WA7VFQ.

**Of the students listed above, these have become members of CWops since January 1, 2021:**

AA0YY, AA4BI, AC8RG, AD8WR, AE7EU, AG4CC, AG7TX, AJ6AN, K0FUZ, K1ARR, K1ECU, K1RID, K4DME, K4KO, K8OIP, K9PLX, KA7GPP, KB6VME, KB9LLD, KC3FQF, KI6M, KJ5R, KO4AXD, KQ0E, KW4WA, M0MUI, N2DA, N2GG, N2MA, N4UZZ, N5CWW, NI4U, NJ6Q, PA3HEN, VA3DKL, VE7XT, W0GAS, W4LRB, WA7KJ, WB1LLY, WB7GR and WT6K.

If you are a CWops member, please check the potential member status page to see if any more deserving students might be sponsored.

We extend our most sincere congratulations to all students who found success in one of our classes. We are looking at another busy semester coming up and plans are well under way to get started in April.

**73,**

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



# New Members

## Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name
2806	N2DA*	Craig
2807	K9XW*	John
2808	N2GM*	George
2809	AA0YY*	Mark
2810	NE2V*	Justin
2811	EI6FR	Declan
2812	NK1N*	Glen
2813	KT9X*	Flip
2814	K4KO*	Greg
2815	K4DME*	Dave
2816	K1ECU*	Chas
2817	N1CC*	Mike
2818	F6BCW*	Dider
2819	KE7LOY	Brian
2820	NI4U*	Mike
2821	N4NTO*	Tripp
2822	K1TZQ*	Howie
2823	W4LJ*	Doug
2824	LZ1ZF	Georgi
2825	W0PR	Larry

CWops	Call	Name
2826	GM3WUX*	Terry
2827	N2MA	Al
2828	US2YW	Slava
2829	DL8HK*	Karen
2830	OK1FCJ/OL8R*	Petrasco
2831	VE7XT*	Richard
2832	WT6K*	Al
2833	WB7GR*	Greg
2834	KF6C*	Brian
2835	NE6ET	Shin
2836	K0TI*	Dan
2837	CE3CT*	Roberto
2838	N4UZZ*	Otto
2839	K9PLX*	Chuck
2840	KB9LLD	Tony
2841	EA2EFI	Nol
2843	AC8RG*	Walter
2844	K1ARR	ArtK
2845	EA2KV	Jose
2846	K1RID	Ed

CWops	Call	Name
2847	VA3DKL*	Dave
2848	K5WSN*	Bill
2849	KW4WA*	Julio
2850	W4ZGR*	Peter
2851	WB1LLY	Billy
2852	W4LRB*	Ben
2853	N5CWW*	Charlie
2854	WD9CUU*	Pat
2855	M0MUI*	Mui
2856	NE4EI*	Dave
2857	AD8WR*	Dave
2858	K8OIP*	Scott
2859	KQ0E*	Ron
2860	AJ6AN*	Rowdy
2861	AG7TX*	Dave
2862	M0HDF/M8A	Angel Luis
2863	WA7KJ	Ken
2864	DK7PE*	Rudi

\*Life Member

## Current Nominees

As of March 8, 2021:

**Need Sponsors:** WB8YHD, K7ENH, KB6VME, K7VW, KJ5R, AA4BI

**Invitations Extended:** AB3AH

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

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

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 Tests

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

In view of the continuing growth in membership of CWops, and the ongoing influx of new participants in the CWTs, a brief retrospective of the history of the CWTs may be of interest, especially to newer members.

The CWTs were one of the first activities organized by the CWops club. The first CWTs were held in January 2010. There were 21 scores reported for the first CWT at 1100z on January 12, 34 scores for the 1900z CWT later that day, and 42 in the first 0300z session on January 13. There is a [brief writeup on the January 2010 CWTs in the first \(February 2010\) issue](#) of *Solid Copy*.

Beginning with the February 10-11, 2010 CWTs, all of the reported scores can be found at [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com). The February 2010 CWTs were also the first to use the current exchange format, so basically the CWTs as we know them today began with these February 2010 sessions.

At first, there was one monthly set of CWTs on the second Wednesday of the month at 1100z, 1900z and 0300z (Thursday UTC). The original intention had been that each of these sessions would cater to a different geographical area (Asia/Pacific at 1100z, Europe/Africa at 1900z and the Americas at 0300z), but from the beginning there were participants taking part in all three sessions without regard for the intended target area.

The first changes to the CWT schedule came in April 2011. The first session starting time was changed from 1100z to 1300z, primarily to make it a more favorable start time for Japan, but this also had the effect of making it easier for North American participants. As well, the frequency of the events was doubled to twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

A further experiment was the scheduling of some Saturday CWTs, in hopes of making the events more accessible to participants whose work made it difficult to participate on weekdays. There were Saturday CWTs in June, July, September and November of 2011 and in January 2012, but this experiment was not very successful. Because of the difficulty of finding open weekends where the CWTs would not conflict with major CW contests, it was not easy for potential participants to be sure whether or when the next Saturday CWTs would take place, and as a result participation was not as good as had been hoped. Predictability is an important success factor for events like these.

One of the biggest incentives for taking part in the CWTs has been the gold, silver and bronze medal participation awards. These were first announced by CWT manager W6SX in June 2013, and the first awards for participation in 2013 were delivered in early 2014. Ever since, the participation awards chase has played an important role in keeping interest in the CWTs alive, and participation has grown rapidly since then.

By March 2014, the CWTs had become popular enough to try putting them on every week. The first two added CWTs inserted into the schedule, in the first and third weeks of March, were also the first slow-speed CWTs, and were intended to welcome new CW Academy graduates. These were followed by regular CWTs every week in April, and these were so popular that the weekly format quickly became permanent.



From June 2014 until November 2020, another feature of the CWT schedule was the special slow-speed CWTs on the second Wednesday of March, June and November each year to commemorate the graduating class of CW Academy students. These came to an end in November 2020, in large part because of the success of the [K1USN SSTs \(Slow-Speed Tests\)](#). Starting in September 2020, the weekly SSTs (twice weekly since February 2021) have been a hit with newcomers who are not yet quite ready for the full-out battles in the regular CWTs.

Participation has increased steadily over the years, with a big jump in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic. In the first two months of 2021, the average participation in the 1300z sessions has been close to 425 entrants, an average of close to 450 scores were reported in the 1900z sessions, and the 0300z sessions are averaging over 320 participants. Our highest participation count ever was 478 scores reported on January 27 at 1900z, and the target of 500 reported scores in a single session appears to be within reach. As recently as 2017, a total of 500 scores reported in all three CWTs would have been a cause for celebration, and now we are approaching that level for a single session!

Stay safe, and keep enjoying the CWTs!

**73,**

**Rich, VE3KI**

# 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	1194	10516	W1RM	208	WT9U	50	W1RM	59	UR5MM	39
K3WW	1118	8108	F6HKA	194	WT2P	50	UR5MM	59	W1RM	38
NA8V	928	6235	DL6KVA	165	WF7T	50	DL6KVA	58	OK1RR	38
K3WJV	921	5821	W4VQ	157	WA9LEY	50	OH2BN	55	OH2BN	38
K1VUT	833	3949	UR5MM	154	WA4JUK	50	F6HKA	54	N8BJQ	38
KG9X	826	4195	G4BUE	149	W9ILY	50	VE3KI	50	F6HKA	38
WT9U	801	4537	OH2BN	148	W7GF	50	OK1RR	49	AA3B	38
VE3KI	794	6304	OK1RR	143	W6KY	50	DJ1YFK	49	9A1AA	38
AC6ZM	784	3087	VE3KI	134	W4VQ	50	9A1AA	49	W4VQ	37
K3JT	779	4102	W9ILY	129	W1UU	50	G4BUE	47	VE3KI	37
N7US	768	4634	K1SM	128	W1RM	50	AA3B	47	G4BUE	37
N8BJQ	720	6745	N8BJQ	127	W0EJ	50	N8BJQ	46	W9ILY	36
K3PP	718	4028	AA3B	126	VK7CW	50	K3WW	46	W0VX	36
K4WW	709	3614	K3WW	125	VE3KI	50	G4HZV	46	N6WM	36
NA4J	707	2675	K1ESE	123	NU7Y	50	W9ILY	45	N5RZ	36
K7QA	698	3803	9A1AA	119	NA8V	50	SM0HEV	45	N5PHT	36
K6NR	697	3042	W0VX	118	NA6O	50	PG4I	45	K3WW	36
W4WF	696	3126	AC4CA	118	N8BJQ	50	K3WJV	45	K1SM	36
I2WIJ	696	2708	N5IR	117	N7WY	50	IN3FHE	45	DL6KVA	36
AC3BU	692	2863	N5RZ	114	N7US	50	W4VQ	44	AC4CA	36
N5RZ	689	6314	N5PHT	114	N5RZ	50	NA8V	44	N5RR	35
N1DC	683	3855	N1EN	112	N5RR	50	K3PP	44	K1ESE	35
W1RM	668	7193	EA8OM	111	N5PHT	50	K1ESE	44	UT3UZ	34
K8AJS	667	3657	K3WJV	107	N5IR	50	IK0YVV	44	ON4CAS	34
DL6KVA	631	4602	W1UU	106	N4ZR	50	N2UU	43	NA8V	34
K9WX	620	3708	4X6GP	106	N2UU	50	M0RYB	43	N1EN	34
AA5JF	620	1454	VK7CW	105	N2RC	50	K1SM	43	IK0YVV	34

(Continued on next page)





(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
N2UU	602	4640	NA8V	105	N1EN	50	I5EFO	43	4X6GP	34
WW3S	583	1070	N5RR	105	N1DC	50	G3LDI	43	VK7CW	33
K1EBY	579	3168	N2UU	105	KY7M	50	DL5DBY	43	N5IR	33
WN7S	577	2795	N7US	103	KU7Y	50	DK9PY	43	K0VBU	33
AF4T	556	1576	I5EFO	103	KE4S	50	4X6GP	43	I5EFO	33
KC7V	541	4251	IK0YVV	101	KC7V	50	SM7IUN	42	W1UU	32
K1DJ	539	3388	AE1T	101	K9WX	50	N5RZ	42	KC7V	32
WA4JUK	534	2942	K3PP	100	K9OZ	50	N5RR	42	I5IJ	32
K2TW	534	2753	ON4CAS	99	K8JQ	50	N5IR	42	DK9PY	32
K3ZA	533	1145	K8AJS	99	K8AJS	50	K8AJS	42	WA9LEY	31
NJ3K	531	2116	EA1WX	99	K7QA	50	G3YLA	42	RM2D	31
F6HKA	527	6560	WT9U	98	K6NR	50	EA8OM	42	NG7M	31
VE3TM	506	1824	UT3UZ	98	K5IX	50	AC4CA	42	N7US	31
K6KM	504	1613	K0VBU	98	K5CM	50	OZ3SM	41	N2UU	31
K1ESE	495	4683	N6WM	96	K5AX	50	LB6GG	41	OK1RP	30
NR3Z	495	1762	WA9LEY	95	K4WW	50	K3JT	41	NA6O	30
K8JQ	493	4107	IN3FHE	92	K4GM	50	HB9ARF	41	N7RD	30
LB6GG	481	1721	K1DJ	91	K3WW	50	EA4OR	41	N2RC	30
W1AJT	480	1132	DK9PY	91	K3WJV	50	UW7LL	40	KR3E	30
KV8Q	478	2031	N4ZR	90	K3SEN	50	SQ9S	40	K8AJS	30
KT5V	475	2674	K3JT	89	K3JT	50	RM2D	40	K3WJV	30
W6LAX	473	1509	K1DW	89	K2QB	50	N1EN	40	WT9U	29
K1SM	471	3350	NG7M	88	K1ESE	50	MI0WWB	40	WF7T	29
W3WHK	464	2401	N7WY	88	K1EBY	50	M0DHP	40	SM0HEV	29
N4FP	459	1685	N2RC	87	K1DW	50	K1DJ	40	OZ3SM	29
OZ3SM	449	1792	F6JOE	87	K1DJ	50	I2WIJ	40	N4ZR	29
WS1L	446	1736	SM0HEV	86	K0VBU	50	G4NVR	40	KT5V	29
NF8M	442	1342	N7RD	86	K0MP	50	G4ILW	40	K3JT	29
VE3MV	441	2534	KY7M	86	IK0YVV	50	G4DRS	40	K1DW	29
K4TZ	440	1999	KR3E	86	I5EFO	50	W0VX	39	IT9VDQ	29
KE8G	433	2860	KC7V	86	G4BUE	50	SP2R	39	9A2AJ	29
W0TG	425	2128	DJ1YFK	86	F6JOE	50	SM2CEW	39	N5AW	28
9A1AA	420	3390	RM2D	85	F6HKA	50	PA3HEN	39	K7QA	28
W2NRA	418	2187	CT1DRB	85	F5MNK	50	N4ZR	39	K6NR	28
EA4OR	417	1394	PG4I	84	EA8OM	50	LA8OM	39	K5ZD	28
AF5J	404	843	N1DC	84	DL6KVA	50	K5ZD	39	I2WIJ	28
K2YR	403	1282	I5IJ	83	DK9PY	50	IT9MUO	39	DJ1YFK	28
K0TC	397	2391	AD1C	83	AE1T	50	G3WZD	39	WE5P	27
WA2USA	397	1408	K5ZD	82	AD1C	50	DF7TV	39	N7WY	27
W1EQ	397	1276	G3LDI	82	AC4CA	50	AE1T	39	KJ9C	27

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
KA1YQC	395	705	K4HQB	81	AB7MP	50	WT9U	38	K4GM	27
KT4XN	390	1648	WA4JUK	80	AA8TA	50	WA4JUK	38	K3PP	27
W2VM	374	1903	OZ3SM	80	AA3B	50	UT3UZ	38	IN3FHE	27
KB4DE	358	1269	NA6O	80	WN7S	49	N1DC	38	WT2P	26
SM0HEV	356	1512	K9WX	80	WB5BKL	49	IT9VDQ	38	WA4JUK	26
K5YZW	349	985	K5AX	79	WA5LXS	49	EA3FZT	38	W4WF	26
W4NBS	336	1762	DL8PG	79	WA3GM	49	DM6EE	38	PG4I	26
DK9PY	335	2910	KJ9C	78	W8XC	49	DK1WI	38	N1ZX	26
M0RYB	335	1409	K1EBY	78	W8FN	49	CT1DRB	38	KU7Y	26
UR5MM	327	3122	N1ZX	77	W8DN	49	AC3BU	38	K9WX	26
K5HEM	325	728	K4GM	77	W4WF	49	SV2BBK	37	K9OZ	26
W8OV	323	1742	IT9VDQ	77	W4PM	49	SM5IMO	37	K5CM	26
K4GM	322	3050	DL5DBY	77	W4NBS	49	RT5P	37	K4HQB	26
N4CWZ	322	929	WT2P	76	W4ER	49	PA3BFH	37	K2QB	26
K9OZ	313	2831	WF7T	76	W3WHK	49	KR3E	37	K1EBY	26
WA5LXS	295	1548	KE4S	76	W2NRA	49	K3MD	37	K1DJ	26
N5IR	288	3973	K7QA	76	W0VX	49	K1VUT	37	G4DRS	26
K5QR	280	1456	I2WIJ	76	VE3TM	49	K1DW	37	CT1DRB	26
AA8R	279	1184	G4HZV	75	VE3MV	49	F6JOE	37	V31MA	25
KM4FO	272	1605	LA8OM	74	VA7ST	49	DL4KG	37	UW7LL	25
F5SGI	269	384	KE8G	74	OK1RR	49	W1UU	36	SM2CEW	25
AG4EA	268	1202	K4WW	74	NN4K	49	SP1D	36	LA8OM	25
K9CPO	266	683	HB9ARF	74	NJ3K	49	PF5X	36	KE8G	25
HB9ARF	263	1909	SM7IUN	73	NG7M	49	ON4VT	36	K4WW	25
G3SZU	263	361	K2QB	73	NA4J	49	F5IYJ	36	IT9MUO	25
W1UU	262	3462	IT9MUO	73	N7RD	49	EA1WX	36	HB9ARF	25
AI60	262	2012	KG9X	72	N6WM	49	9A2AJ	36	DK1WI	25
W4VQ	256	3163	WE5P	71	N5AW	49	PA7RA	35	W0TG	24
OK1RR	253	3000	K4HR	71	N2WK	49	ON4CAS	35	SM7IUN	24
KE6K	253	1090	G4NVR	71	N1ZX	49	N7WY	35	PY4XX	24
K3SEN	250	2181	DK1WI	71	KV8Q	49	N7US	35	NA4J	24
K4EES	249	919	W2NRA	70	KT5V	49	K0VBU	35	N1DC	24
NN4K	248	2281	N5AW	70	KM4FO	49	G4LPP	35	KG9X	24
KF8O	246	1155	M0RYB	70	KK0ECT	49	EA5IUY	35	G3LDI	24
G3LDI	238	1809	KT5V	70	KJ9C	49	DD7CW	35	DL4FDM	24
EA3FZT	230	921	K1VUT	70	KG9X	49	VE3MV	34	DF7TV	24
W2XYZ	221	901	G4DRS	70	KE8G	49	N5AW	34	WW3S	23
W2CDO	216	907	LB6GG	69	KE4RG	49	M0NGN	34	KE4S	23
PF5X	216	635	VE3MV	68	KC8J	49	K7QA	34	K8JQ	23
KC8J	214	1266	SM2CEW	68	KB4DE	49	K4HQB	34	K4HR	23

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G3WZD	207	893	F5MKN	68	K6RB	49	K1EBY	34	G4NVR	23
WA5PFJ	205	839	W4WF	67	K6KM	49	IK0NOJ	34	G4HZV	23
W7GF	202	1209	W3WHK	67	K6DGW	49	DL4FDM	34	EA4OR	23
RT5P	200	464	UW7LL	67	K5ZD	49	W4WF	33	AC3BU	23
AA8TA	196	1986	SQ9S	67	K5QR	49	W4PM	33	AA5JF	23
N5XE	195	1635	AC3BU	67	K4TZ	49	W2NRA	33	W7GF	22
KB8GAE	195	1407	9A2AJ	67	K4HR	49	VE3TM	33	W2NRA	22
KE4S	194	2437	N2WK	66	K4EES	49	PY4XX	33	SQ9S	22
W8XC	193	834	EA4OR	66	K4AFE	49	N6WM	33	N2WK	22
W9ILY	189	5049	VA7ST	65	K3PP	49	KG9X	33	LB6GG	22
W6TN	188	1034	V31MA	65	K3MD	49	KC7V	33	KO8SCA	22
EA5IUY	186	734	OK1RP	65	K2TW	49	K4WW	33	K6KM	22
KE4RG	184	1209	NA4J	65	K1VUT	49	NR3Z	32	K5QR	22
W8DN	182	1495	SM5IMO	64	K1SM	49	NJ3K	32	DL4KG	22
PA3HEN	182	503	K9OZ	64	K0TC	49	N2WK	32	AF4T	22
N7SU	180	650	F5IYJ	64	EA4OR	49	N2RC	32	AA8R	22
M0NGN	173	370	K3SEN	63	AI60	49	KY7M	32	WN7S	21
AB7MP	172	1362	K3DMG	63	AF4T	49	KJ9C	32	W4PM	21
G4NVR	164	1388	G3WZD	63	AC6ZM	49	KE8G	32	W4NBS	21
SQ9S	164	976	DF7TV	63	AC3BU	49	KE4S	32	VE3TM	21
F5IYJ	162	808	CO8NMN	63	9A1AA	49	K5QR	32	VA7ST	21
NU7Y	149	1621	M0DHP	62	WM6Y	48	K4GM	32	SP1D	21
G4LPP	142	689	K8JQ	62	W8OV	48	I5IYJ	32	PA7RA	21
K8RJW	136	748	AA8R	62	W6LAX	48	F5MKN	32	NR3Z	21
N7RD	133	1478	ON4VT	61	W2VM	48	DK3WW	32	NN4K	21
W2TT	132	574	K5CM	61	W0TG	48	CO8NMN	32	M0RYB	21
NG7M	128	3923	WN7S	60	UR5MM	48	W3WHK	31	K6DGW	21
SP1D	124	1021	W4PM	60	N5XE	48	VK7CW	31	K3SEN	21
G4HZV	121	1394	DM6EE	60	N4FP	48	V31MA	31	K1VUT	21
MI0WWB	121	630	DL4FDM	60	KT4XN	48	OK1RP	31	G3WZD	21
KJ4M	117	1265	W4NBS	59	KR3E	48	N1ZX	31	DM6EE	21
DJ1YFK	109	1996	NR3Z	59	KO8SCA	48	KO8SCA	31	DL5DBY	21
DL4KG	99	490	KO8SCA	59	KE6K	48	K5AX	31	CO8NMN	21
WB5BKL	95	1477	G4ILW	59	KB8GAE	48	F5SGI	31	AC6ZM	21
VE6JF	94	965	PY4XX	58	KA9BHD	48	DL8PG	31	W4ER	20
SV2BBK	93	424	PA7RA	58	K4QS	48	DL1NKB	31	W3WHK	20
M0DHP	91	648	NN4K	58	K4HQK	48	DF4ZL	31	M0DHP	20
K1IG	85	322	K4QS	57	K3DMG	48	AA5JF	31	JF2IWL	20
DM6EE	84	855	W6KY	56	IT9VDQ	48	WS1L	30	F5IYJ	20
DF7TV	79	1014	VE3TM	56	IT9MUO	48	WA9LEY	30	AI60	20

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
G4DRS	78	1353	PF5X	56	I2WIJ	48	W1AJT	30	VE3MV	19
4X6GP	75	1841	K6RB	56	EA1WX	48	NG7M	30	PF5X	19
K0MP	72	1781	K6NR	56	DL8PG	48	NA6O	30	NJ3K	19
G4BUE	70	3876	G3YLA	56	AG4EA	48	N5PHT	30	N5XE	19
PG4I	67	849	W2VM	55	AF5J	48	K3SEN	30	KV8Q	19
DL1NKB	65	186	W0TG	55	AF3K	48	DL5JQ	30	KB8GAE	19
OH2BN	42	1321	SP1D	55	AA5JF	48	AC6ZM	30	K2TW	19
SP2R	42	555	K0TC	55	4X6GP	48	WN7S	29	K0TC	19
G0ELZ	34	229	AA5JF	55	WW3S	47	NA4J	29	WM6Y	18
WT8P	30	542	M0NGN	54	WT8P	47	N7RD	29	WB5BKL	18
G4ILW	22	815	K5QR	54	WS1L	47	K4QS	29	WA3GM	18
N1EN	17	2493	K2TW	54	WE5P	47	K2TW	29	W8OV	18
WE5P	15	1216	EA3FZT	54	WA2USA	47	K2QB	29	W8FN	18
VA3DKL	15	16	DL4KG	54	W6TN	47	G3SZU	29	ON4VT	18
AA0O	7	487	AC6ZM	54	W2NO	47	G0ELZ	29	NU7Y	18
K4NE	6	90	W8DN	53	W1EQ	47	AA8R	29	KE6K	18
AJ1DM	5	896	NJ3K	53	W1AJT	47	WT2P	28	K4AFE	18
LB2TB	4	4	MI0WWB	53	VE6JF	47	WF7T	28	IK0NOJ	18
G0DJA	2	31	W8XC	52	VE1OP	47	SV9RNG	28	EA3FZT	18
W0VX	0	4522	IK0NOJ	52	SM5IMO	47	PA5KT	28	W8XC	17
AC4CA	0	4479	KV8Q	51	PY4XX	47	NN4K	28	W8DN	17
N5PHT	0	4303	KU7Y	51	ON4CAS	47	K9WX	28	W2VM	17
K0VBU	0	4266	KT4XN	51	OH2BN	47	K8JQ	28	SV2BBK	17
K1DW	0	4250	K4AFE	51	NR3Z	47	K4HR	28	SM5IMO	17
N5RR	0	4223	AF4T	50	NF8M	47	AF4T	28	N4FP	17
K6RB	0	4032	W8FN	49	LA8OM	47	AD1C	28	MI0WWB	17
KJ9C	0	3968	WW3S	48	KY0Q	47	WW3S	27	M0NGN	17
K5AX	0	3634	SV2BBK	48	KJ4M	47	WE5P	27	KT4XN	17
WT2P	0	3586	WS1L	47	KF8O	47	W2VM	27	KP4AF	17
NA6O	0	3352	N3FZ	47	K2YR	47	VA7ST	27	KK0ECT	17
N2RC	0	3271	KB8GAE	47	I5IYJ	47	SV2BXA	27	K0MP	17
KY7M	0	3252	G4LPP	47	HB9ARF	47	KA1YQC	27	G4ILW	17
K5ZD	0	3210	W8OV	46	DK1WI	47	W8DN	26	DK3WW	17
AE1T	0	3206	RT5P	46	CO8NMN	47	W2CDO	26	AF3K	17
N4ZR	0	3122	PA3HEN	46	AJ1DM	47	W1EQ	26	WS1L	16
VA7ST	0	3088	N5XE	46	AA8R	47	N4FP	26	WA5LXS	16
WF7T	0	3060	DK3WW	46	WA5PFJ	46	K3DMG	26	WA2USA	16
N7WY	0	3045	AI60	46	W2XYZ	46	GW4MVA	26	W6TN	16
F6JOE	0	3002	W4ER	45	W2CDO	46	G0MGM	26	VE6JF	16
WA9LEY	0	2990	PA3BFH	45	V31MA	46	PA0INA	25	PA5KT	16

(Continued on next page)





(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
IK0YVV	0	2958	G0MGM	45	UW7LL	46	K6NR	25	NF8M	16
K5CM	0	2866	AF3K	45	SP1D	46	W8FN	24	N3FZ	16
EA8OM	0	2758	SP2R	44	SM0HEV	46	N1RM	24	KM4FO	16
W8FN	0	2707	PA5KT	44	RM2D	46	K6RB	24	KB4DE	16
N5AW	0	2510	N4FP	44	OZ3SM	46	AF3K	24	K5YZW	16
CO8NMN	0	2440	EA5IUY	44	N7SU	46	N3FZ	23	W1AJT	15
N2WK	0	2339	DD7CW	44	N4CWZ	46	KV8Q	23	NG1R	15
N6WM	0	2273	WA5LXS	42	N3FZ	46	KT5V	23	KJ4M	15
K4HR	0	2212	W1AJT	42	N0PP	46	KT4XN	23	KE4RG	15
K4HQB	0	2193	KK0ECT	42	KC4WQ	46	KB4DE	23	KC8J	15
W4PM	0	2122	WB5BKL	41	K8RJW	46	K9OZ	23	KA1YQC	15
K6DGW	0	2122	WA3GM	41	K5HEM	46	K5CM	23	K9CPO	15
AD1C	0	2101	KB4DE	41	K3ZA	46	K0TC	23	G4LPP	15
W6KY	0	2088	K6KM	41	JF2IWL	46	EA1DP	23	AJ1DM	15
K4QS	0	2069	K3MD	41	G4HZV	46	W4NBS	22	AG4EA	15
K2QB	0	2023	DL5JQ	40	G4DRS	46	W0TG	22	AF5J	15
EA1WX	0	1961	NG1R	39	G3LDI	46	NG1R	22	AB7MP	15
IT9MUO	0	1924	KA1YQC	39	DL5DBY	46	N5XE	22	W6LAX	14
K4AFE	0	1909	AA8TA	39	CT1DRB	46	DL8BH	22	W2XYZ	14
VK7CW	0	1809	W1EQ	38	AA0O	46	W8XC	21	W2TT	14
DL8PG	0	1789	W7GF	37	W0PHX	45	KB8GAE	21	W2NO	14
K3DMG	0	1773	K6DGW	37	ON4VT	45	JF2IWL	21	W1EQ	14
K3MD	0	1734	W0EJ	36	NG1R	45	GD4EIP	21	RT5P	14
KU7Y	0	1674	KM4FO	36	KA1YQC	45	F5PBL	21	N7MU	14
IT9VDQ	0	1618	WA2USA	35	K5YZW	45	AG4EA	21	N0PP	14
KR3E	0	1602	W2NO	35	G4NVR	45	WA2USA	20	KF8O	14
W4ER	0	1582	JF2IWL	35	F5IYJ	45	W8OV	20	K5HEM	14
KO8SCA	0	1556	F5SGI	35	DF7TV	45	K4AFE	20	K4TZ	14
V31MA	0	1520	DL1NKB	35	AB7RW	45	W2XYZ	19	K4EES	14
I5EFO	0	1447	NF8M	34	9A2AJ	45	K9CPO	19	K2YR	14
DL5DBY	0	1417	AJ1DM	34	W3RZ	44	K2YR	19	G3YLA	14
SM5IMO	0	1382	AG4EA	34	SM7IUN	44	WB5BKL	18	EA5IUY	14
LA8OM	0	1370	SV9RNG	33	SM2CEW	44	WA5PFJ	18	AA8TA	14
UW7LL	0	1362	KP4AF	33	PG4I	44	WA3GM	18	W3RZ	13
N1ZX	0	1348	K4TZ	33	PA5KT	44	W6KY	18	PA3BFH	13
RM2D	0	1332	G0ELZ	33	N7MU	44	W2NO	18	KH6TU	13
WM6Y	0	1308	WM6Y	32	N4GL	44	VE1OP	18	K8RJW	13
KK0ECT	0	1275	W6TN	32	M0RYB	44	NF8M	18	DD7CW	13
IN3FHE	0	1253	W2TT	32	LB6GG	44	G4RCG	18	AB7RW	13
WA3GM	0	1230	W2CDO	32	KH6TU	44	AJ1DM	18	WT8P	12

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
CT1DRB	0	1146	VE1OP	32	KD2KW	44	PA0VLD	17	WA5PFJ	12
N3FZ	0	1143	KF8O	32	SQ9S	43	N4GL	17	W2CDO	12
ON4CAS	0	1131	K5YZW	32	N5KW	43	KF8O	17	PA3HEN	12
SM2CEW	0	1114	K4EES	32	N1RM	43	K8RJW	17	KA9BHD	12
F5MNK	0	1111	G3SZU	32	KI3F	43	W4ER	16	K3ZA	12
UT3UZ	0	1035	DF4ZL	32	K9CPO	43	W2TT	16	AA0O	12
AF3K	0	983	NU7Y	31	DJ1YFK	43	K6KM	16	W0PHX	11
W2NO	0	961	K2YR	31	WU6P	42	K5YZW	16	SP2R	11
SM7IUN	0	918	SV2BXA	30	W6GMT	42	WA5LXS	15	N4GL	11
DK1WI	0	908	KE4RG	30	UT3UZ	42	KU7Y	15	KY0Q	11
K5IX	0	892	KC8J	30	N7ID	42	KE4RG	15	KC4WQ	11
G3YLA	0	884	K9CPO	30	K1IG	42	AA8TA	15	K1IG	11
PY4XX	0	861	W2XYZ	29	IN3FHE	42	K4TZ	14	G3SZU	11
9A2AJ	0	841	WA5PFJ	28	G3WZD	42	K4EES	14	F5SGI	11
I5IYJ	0	837	W6LAX	28	W2TT	41	K0MP	14	WU6P	10
NG1R	0	828	N4GL	28	G3YLA	41	KM4FO	13	SV9RNG	10
VE1OP	0	768	KE6K	28	DL4FDM	41	KC8J	13	N7SU	10
KA9BHD	0	755	KA9BHD	28	PF5X	40	AF5J	13	KI3F	10
W0EJ	0	754	K8RJW	28	NA1VT	40	WM6Y	12	K1OJ	10
KY0Q	0	752	GW4MVA	28	KR4WI	40	W6LAX	12	GD4EIP	10
ON4VT	0	719	EA1DP	28	EA3FZT	40	KP4AF	12	G0ELZ	10
PA5KT	0	707	AF5J	28	WA5BDU	39	KK0ECT	12	DL8BH	10
OK1RP	0	701	W3RZ	27	DM6EE	39	KI3F	12	DL5JQ	10
KC4WQ	0	694	K0MP	27	W4MDV	38	K6DGW	12	DL1NKB	10
JF2IWL	0	674	DL8BH	27	K1LHO	38	AA0O	12	W6GMT	9
DL4FDM	0	646	PA0INA	26	WB4OMM	37	ON6PJ	11	SV2BXA	9
N5KW	0	639	N1RM	26	W9KM	37	KJ4M	11	N7ID	9
KH6TU	0	631	N0PP	26	PA7RA	37	KA9BHD	11	N1RM	9
N4GL	0	574	GD4EIP	26	NF5KF	37	K5HEM	11	KG5VK	9
N0PP	0	550	F5PBL	26	KB8PGW	37	K3ZA	11	F5PBL	9
N7MU	0	536	K5IX	24	IK0NOJ	37	K1IG	11	WX5CW	8
PA7RA	0	518	AB7MP	24	EA5IUY	37	G0DJA	11	WB4OMM	8
G0MGM	0	495	K5HEM	23	DL4KG	37	W6TN	10	W4MDV	8
DK3WW	0	491	VE6JF	22	DD7CW	37	W3RZ	10	NA1VT	8
N1RM	0	490	NF5KF	22	M0DHP	36	W0EJ	10	KD2KW	8
W3RZ	0	478	KJ4M	22	DK3WW	36	NF5KF	10	G4RCG	8
PA3BFH	0	477	G4RCG	22	OK1RP	35	NA1VT	10	EA1DP	8
DD7CW	0	472	AA0O	21	MI0WWB	35	N5KW	10	SM7CIL	7
W0PHX	0	426	K1IG	20	GD4EIP	35	VE6JF	8		
KD2KW	0	413	KI3F	18	G0MGM	35	SM7CIL	8		

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

Call	ACA	CMA	Call	DX	Call	WAS	Call	WAE	Call	WAZ
W6GMT	0	391	KC4WQ	18	F5SGI	35	N0PP	8	KI7RS	7
DL5JQ	0	381	K3ZA	18	W8EH	34	KD2KW	8	GW4MVA	7
IK0NOJ	0	366	W0PHX	17	G4LPP	34	K5IX	8	PA0INA	6
N7ID	0	311	PA0VLD	17	KI7RS	33	AI60	8	N4CWZ	6
KI3F	0	308	N7MU	16	KG5VK	33	W7GF	7	KR4WI	6
NA1VT	0	306	AB7RW	16	G4ILW	33	NU7Y	7	K4NE	6
AB7RW	0	302	NA1VT	14	M0NGN	32	KG5VK	7	G0DJA	6
NF5KF	0	289	N5KW	14	SV2BBK	29	OK4MM	6	DF4ZL	6
KB8PGW	0	284	G0DJA	14	PA3BFH	29	K1LHO	6	WA5BDU	5
KR4WI	0	255	KY0Q	13	K8MP	29	N4CWZ	5	W9KM	5
WA5BDU	0	243	KH6TU	13	G3SZU	29	KE6K	5	PA0VLD	5
W9KM	0	236	ON6PJ	12	KG5U	28	KC4WQ	5	K1LHO	5
WU6P	0	234	KD2KW	12	K4NE	28	AB7MP	5	W8EH	4
W4MDV	0	225	WT8P	11	G4RCG	28	W6GMT	4	ON6PJ	4
SV2BXA	0	211	SM7CIL	11	SP2R	27	LB2TB	4	KM3A	4
GD4EIP	0	199	N7SU	11	PA3HEN	27	AB7RW	4	LB2TB	3
K1LHO	0	192	KG5VK	11	DL5JQ	27	W0PHX	3	KG5U	3
GW4MVA	0	192	K1OJ	11	SV9RNG	23	N7SU	3	K8MP	3
DF4ZL	0	177	WX5CW	10	G0ELZ	23	KY0Q	3	DD5KG	3
WB4OMM	0	169	WB4OMM	10	AF9W	23	KR4WI	3	AF9W	3
SV9RNG	0	164	W6GMT	10	KP4AF	22	WT8P	2	VA3DKL	2
KG5VK	0	163	OK4MM	10	DL1NKB	21	N7MU	2		
W8EH	0	149	WU6P	9	WX5CW	20	N7ID	2		
F5PBL	0	134	N7ID	9	RT5P	18	KB8PGW	2		
G4RCG	0	131	N4CWZ	9	GW4MVA	18	K4NE	2		
EA1DP	0	131	W4MDV	8	KM3A	17	DD5KG	2		
DL8BH	0	115	K1LHO	8	SV2BXA	13	WX5CW	1		
KI7RS	0	110	KR4WI	6	SM7CIL	13	WU6P	1		
KG5U	0	93	KI7RS	6	OK4MM	13	WA5BDU	1		
K8MP	0	89	K4NE	6	F5PBL	13	W9KM	1		
KP4AF	0	88	KB8PGW	5	EA1DP	13	W4MDV	1		
PA0INA	0	86	W9KM	4	DL8BH	11	KM3A	1		
AF9W	0	59	LB2TB	4	DD5KG	10	K1OJ	1		
WX5CW	0	49	DD5KG	4	G0DJA	7				
OK4MM	0	40	WA5BDU	3	DF4ZL	7				
PA0VLD	0	37	W8EH	3	VA3DKL	5				
SM7CIL	0	35	KM3A	2	PA0INA	3				
KM3A	0	33	KG5U	2	K1OJ	3				
K1OJ	0	29	K8MP	2	PA0VLD	2				
ON6PJ	0	21	AF9W	2	ON6PJ	2				
DD5KG	0	18	VA3DKL	1						



# QTX Report

## Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

**Bruce Murdock K8UDH**

In today's Ham Radio world, we have a many different modes of communication that were unheard of not too long ago. So why is CW our favorite mode? Rob K6RB gives us some insight in his Editorial "Sailing and Morse – Two Peas in a Pod" in the very first issue of Solid Copy February 2010. <http://cwops.org/newsletter/2010/02scopy10feb.pdf> It's definitely worth taking the time to read.

Because we love CW, we support the work of CW Academy. Every CW Academy Advisor at all levels wants to see their students continue to improve their CW proficiency and get on-the-air, but many are reluctant. It takes coaching and mentoring to show them the way, and that's what many CWops are doing. A calendar full of skeds with former CW students at all levels is a good thing. They're learning how to have conversational CW QSOs and enjoying CW.

CW is great!! If it's CW it's all good.

Comments from QTX Submissions

**AB7MP:** Most recent QSO lasted 17 minutes with a ham in his third year of CW. We were pretty slow, but he was doing a great job. Could have gone longer but had to call a traffic net...

**K6DGW:** Somehow, I found more time in Feb for radio than usual. One of the QTX's was almost an hour with an old friend from a gazillion years ago

**N6HCN:** Added an amp to my station in hopes of making copy easier on the other end. Enjoyed roundtable with Vic WA6MCL & Don W6JL. Great QTX with Brian K0DTJ and Rob N6KIX, whose career(s) would make for a good book.

**KC0VKN:** Had a couple of wonderful chats with some folks I haven't QSOd in a while!

**W1AJT / VE3UTT:** Both DX but will increase activity in March.

**WA2USA:** I had a QSO with a gentleman who will turn 100 years old this year. He's been pounding brass since 1933. How about that!

**W9EBE:** My longest ragchew this month was with my good friend, Jim/N5NSN with a 57 minute gab fest. We've had some great CW conversations through the years. Thanks, Jim!

**KB6NU:** I collect QSLs from stations whose call signs spell words. Well, this month, I had ragchews with N1HOG and W1EAT!

**AJ1DM:** I'm grateful for my many friends, in and out of CWops, who make rag-chewing fun and rewarding. 73

*(Continued on next page)*





(Continued from previous page)

**F5IYJ:** Some nice openings on 17m which allowed me some good chats with CWops members from the Mid-West and West coast.

**KG5IEE:** Had a fun ragchew with Don, W8DEA. Turns out he used to live in the small town in TX that I live in and he belonged to the ham club that I am a member of. Many of the members are still active from when Don lived here and were happy to hear about my QSO. Small world

**N8AI:** I got Del W8KJP to tell me the full story of how he met his wife in Naples, Italy. 48 minutes of great entertainment, including a dressing-down by her Colonel father for failing to salute him on the street.

**K8UDH:** During February, and continuing on, I'm enjoying ragchew QSOs with quite a few CW students who completed their Advanced CW Class in February. It's very rewarding to help them learn and enjoy conversational CW.

### Awards and Medals for 2021

Medals for 2021 are awarded for three different levels in QTX.

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs

Joe KC0VKN is in the lead with 154 QTX QSOs. John K1ESE is close behind with 146 QSOs.

### QTX for February 2021

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WS1L	74	WA2USA	30	AJ1DM	15	N5LB	4
KC0VKN	69	F5IYJ	29	K8UDH	14	AC8RG	4
K1ESE	67	KB6NU	26	K4AHO	11	W3WHK	3
K9OZ	62	W9EBE	24	KG5IEE	11	W3PNM	2
N8AI	49	K5YQF	22	K6DGW	6	K1BZ	1
N5IR	46	N6HCN	16	AA5AD	5	W1AJT	1

### MQTX for February 2021

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	67	K6DGW	15	AC8RG	10	K1BZ	3
WS1L	38	W9EBE	14	MI0WWB	8	W3WHK	3
K1ESE	28	K4AHO	12	N6HCN	5	AB7MP	2
SV2BBK	23	KG5IEE	12	G3WZD	4	K8UDH	2
AA5AD	19	W2USA	12	K5YQF	4	W1AJT	1

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

## 2021 Totals for QTX

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
KC0VKN	154	KB6NU	58	AA5AD	13	N5PHT	4
K1ESE	146	W9EBE	52	EA2AJB	10	N0BM	3
K9OZ	124	N6HCN	34	K6DGW	8	G3WZD	2
N8AI	101	K4AHO	33	N5LB	8	K1BZ	2
WS1L	93	KG5IEE	32	W3WHK	8	W1AJT	2
N5IR	83	K5YQF	30	KF9VV	7	W3PNM	2
WA2USA	65	AJ1DM	20	AC8RG	4	MI0WWB	1
F5IYJ	61	K8UDH	18	N3FZ	4	SV2BBK	1

## 2021 Totals for MQTX

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	134	K6DGW	27	W3WHK	8	N0BM	3
SV2BBK	54	KG5IEE	27	KF9VV	8	AB7MP	2
WS1L	42	K4AHO	20	K1BZ	7	AJ1DM	2
W9EBE	34	MI0WWB	14	K5YQF	5	N5PHT	2
W2USA	32	G3WZD	13	W1AJT	5		
AA5AD	31	AC8RG	10	N3FZ	4		
K1ESE	28	N6HCN	8	K8UDH	3		

Thanks for supporting the CWops QTX Program. I hope you thoroughly enjoy CW in whatever ways you like to do it.

73,

**Bruce K8UDH**, QTX Manager

## My Story: New Member Biographies

### Glen Johnstone, NK1N

First, I would like to thank the Academy...Wow! That works in this context!

The real thanks go out to my sponsors: Dave K1VUT, Greg WA3GM, Joe KK5NA, Chuck WS1L and Steve WX2S. I am very pleased to be a part of CWops.

I have been continuously licensed since 1974 when I received my Novice callsign, WN8SIV. After three trips to Detroit's FCC Office, I upgraded to Advanced in the summer of 1975 (WB8SIV). Now that I had phone privileges, CW was left in the dust. Time passed as it likes to do. Moving to Con-

(Continued on next page)



*(Continued from previous page)*

necticut in 1986 put me in touch with a couple of real CW operators: WB4FCC and KY1F. They inspired me to break through my 15 WPM wall and earn my Extra. Now being a fan of CW, I wanted a shorter callsign. The FCC acquiesced with NK1N in 1987.

During my 47 years as a ham, I have chased my IT career from the 8th (MI) to the 1st (CT), 5th (TX), 9th (IN, IL), 3rd (PA) and 2nd (NY, NJ) call areas. I have been a Life Member of the ARRL since 1978 and participated in a bit of every-

thing ham radio has to offer. Since moving to NJ, I have focused on new activities. Well, new to me. These include: QRP, Pedestrian Mobile, Satellites, Fox Hunting and QRQ CW.



One Wednesday morning, I was trolling the band wondering about all those spikes that popped up on my panadapter. "What in the world is CQ CWT", I thought. A quick Google search uncovered CWops - along with 10,000 other things. I tried my hand, literally, during a couple of CWTs only to realize my CW skills had waned over the years. CWA was there to fix that problem. CWA not only fixed that problem but introduced me to a group of very interesting people. During the two months of instruction where we practiced head copy and laughed more that I have in years, I learned that CWops is **way** more than a bunch of speedy hams. A few of my CWA classmates and I continue to meet weekly to laugh and practice. Yes, in that order.

This, of course, is all made possible by my loving and supporting XYL, Andrea.

I look forward to chatting on the air.

### **David Edmonds, K4DME**

Many thanks to Joe KK5NA for being our CWA adviser and for nominating me. The advanced level class was fun and interesting with great classmates. What a fine service CWops provides to the world of CW.

I was first licensed in 1968. It has been an interesting hobby over the years. In addition to my K3s I have a few vintage and QRP radios which are all fun to operate. Other interests include flying classic airplanes, working on old cars, and tinkering in my garage.



I have been retired from the electrical construction industry now for 21 years. My wife and I enjoy camping and hiking in the mountains and we travel as much as possible.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

I have 3 children, none of whom are interested in Ham Radio, but they have given me 8 grandkids and so far 2 great grandkids.

Thanks to all for helping me get here and I'm looking forward to meeting you on the bands.

### **Charles Estabrooks, K1ECU**

Originally licensed in 2015, Charles Estabrooks is a graduate of the RPI School of Architecture in Troy, NY.

Upon graduation, he teamed up with three other RPI alumni to launch Image Systems Technology, a startup venture developing software for the architecture and engineering market. This proved to be nearly as much fun as college and much more lucrative. Some small remnant of his code may still be embedded in the depths of AutoCAD Raster Design (Formerly CAD Overlay).



His childhood passion for black and white photography gradually "developed" into a rewarding career as Estabrooks began shooting for fellow alumni who had gone on to become architects. In 1994, Estabrooks left Image Systems to pursue photography full-time. This proved to be even more fun than the software business. Always interested in expanding his skills, Estabrooks spent two years as Staff Photographer at Blass Communications in Old Chatham, NY where he studied under renowned industrial photographer Tracy Woodworth.

In 1996, Estabrooks relocated his family to the beautiful Ocean State of Rhode Island in order to avoid the harsh Upstate New York winters and take advantage of more favorable sailing conditions. Providing commercial photography and digital imaging services kept Estabrooks on a reasonably straight and narrow path for the next dozen years. In 2001, Estabrooks and his family moved a stone's throw across the river to Pawcatuck, CT.

In 2008, Estabrooks was appointed as Stonington Deputy Harbormaster by Governor Rell which provided another excuse for spending time out on the water. Eventually, Estabrooks decided to join the family business and obtained his Connecticut teaching certification. Since 2011, Estabrooks has been teaching computer science, electronics, and engineering at Ledyard High School where he also serves as the faculty advisor for the school's FIRST Robotics team. On windy days between May and October, he can usually be found somewhere out on Fisher's Island Sound attempting to avoid the rocks.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

## **Doug White, W4LJ**

It is an honor for me to be a member of CWops. It is also humbling for me to be in the same group with such great CW operators.

Thank you to JJ, WA3NZR for nominating me and to Bud, AA3B; John, K4BAI and Scott, K0MD for sponsoring me!

I was born and raised in the little town of Marion, Ohio into a family with two hams. My dad was K8JVG and my grandfather was W8JYO. It was by watching and listening to them that I became interested in amateur radio. I look back on that now and consider myself as very fortunate for the experience. However, it wasn't until 1972, at the age of 16, that I took my Novice test and received my license (WN8NYK). I took the ARRL Handbook to school and read it through when I should've been studying school work (oops!). Oh well, I made it through high school anyway. My grandfather took me to the FCC examination in Cleveland in 1973 for the General test (13 wpm CW and written exam) and to Columbus for the Advanced exam. I became WB8NYK. My interest in amateur radio enabled me to qualify for Ground Radio training in the Air Force after high school and I learned a lot more.



After my 4 years in the service, I attended The Ohio State University and completed my BSEE. I passed my Extra Class exam in 1985. After college, I worked at Delco Electronics and Honeywell for a number of years and am now retired and living in South Carolina (less cold weather but hotter in summer). I elected to apply for a "4" call and am now W4LJ.

I have always liked CW and have participated in many contests. I typically just search and pounce and then turn in a check log. Still, I have a lot of fun doing it. I wanted to improve my proficiency and fortunately CWops exists and is really helping me achieve my goal.

I am also a member of the SKCC and FISTS.

I have been married to a lovely lady named Sheryl for 40 years. She is also a ham (N4PDM). We have 1 son and 1 grandson who also live in South Carolina.

My station consists of a TS-590SG a 3 element beam at 11 meters and some wire dipoles.

Thank you again for inviting me to join CWops. I really enjoy the CWTs.

## **Larry Menzel, W0PR**

Ahh...the magic of ham radio. I was bit hard and early, but with a twist. The year was 1956, I was 10 years old.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

My neighbor across the street was an Army officer stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco. He was a ham and had a bunch of military surplus gear in his garage. He invited me to listen and actually let me talk to another station that happened to be in Sioux Ste. Marie, MI. I still remember my first QSO and I was hooked! He offered to help me get my Novice license and we sent away for the stuff from ARRL. Back in the days of snail mail, it took a couple weeks, but by the time the material showed up, he'd been transferred and was GONE! I knew not another ham, so I languished and the fire went out.



Fast forward twenty some years, I had quit my job as a high school teacher and was making some actual money as a truck driver. CB was huge in the late 70's so I started there. I soon got back interested in amateur radio, picked up a Yaesu FT301D, and installed it in the truck. Pretty soon, thanks to daily W1AW code practice, I was copying CW in my head at 30 wpm and sending with a Bencher strapped to my leg! N0CIB/m was on the air. I finally got licensed in 1980, so I like to say it took me 25 years to learn CW...HI

I got my Extra within the first year or so, and spent the next several years happily running mobile from the 18 wheeler. I quit driving in 1983 and got a job in sales. I began to plan and build my first station from home. I live on a 10 acre hobby farm to this day, and have lots of room for antennas. I put up my first tower, a second (third-fourth) hand Rohn 20 tower and Mosely TA33. My shack was really a shack, a small room I built in the upstairs of an old granary on my little farm. It was cozy but I feared bringing people up the rickety stairs to get there. Needless to say, that was not enough tower. So I soon acquired an 80' Rohn 45 tower, IIX climbable mast and TH7. That was big step up, and eventually upgraded to a TH-11 and a HyGain Explorer 7-3, three-element Yagi.

I went through many radios and amplifiers over the years, and I upgraded that dusty old shack for a 12x12 heated and air conditioned room, purpose-built for ham radio in a 30x60 pole building (two car garage and woodworking shop) with two separate 220 circuits and four 120 lines. Lots of power for amps and rigs. I'm currently running a new Icom IC7610 and an IC7300. Backed them up with an Alpha 91b and ACOM 1000. I'm active chasing DX, contesting and tinkering. CW is, of course, my favorite mode with 310 confirmed on CW. Too bad the propagation is so poor...and DXpeditions are so few.

In the intervening years I worked in various sales jobs and spent the last 25 years in the financial

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

services industry. First as a life insurance/securities representative, and for the last 15 years of my career as a regional pension plan consultant for several major insurance companies. While on the road I always had a mobile setup running an IC706MkII G and a HiQ screwdriver antenna and an SGC SG500 solid state amp. I continued my CW mobile experience with hundreds of QSOs, DXCC/m, and county hunting . (I got real popular when I'd get to some rare counties in rural SD or ND from time to time.) Great fun.

My sincere thanks to Hans, K0HB, Scott, K0MD, Bill, W0OR and Fred K4IU for their friendship, support and sponsorship. I will strive to be a worthy ambassador for our favorite mode.

## **Brian Comer KF6C**

Introduced to ham radio by Sid, G2AXI ,at age 15, when he showed me his 2 m rig, an Eddystone 358 and home brew TX. My first 2 m receiver was a concoction of WWII stuff and a broadcast receiver. I progressed though home brew converters, tube and solid state and a BC342N, which I converted to solid state.

Serious bicycle racing for 5 years meant no ham radio. After that I worked at Plessey semiconductors managing test and calibration. From the first communications radio specific integrated circuits of the production line, I built a 2 m SSB transceiver when SSB was new on the band. A 30 watt, high dynamic range, digital readout transceiver 4 x 6 x 10 inches, when an FT101 or tube transceiver was the norm, a serious advantage for mountain topping. My home brew was tested by Plessey and I was transferred to applications.

Sent to the USA when CB was all the rage. I was working on a transceiver for Hallicrafters but they could not resolve their financial situation. A difficult time for USA ham radio manufacturers, I ended doing too many designs that went nowhere including the Palomar PTR130, and Dymec DR333.



**KF6C and son Andrew KK6EME. They have ridden their mountain bikes to the top of Cuyamaca Peak 6484ft a climb of 1600ft, for the 10 Ghz and up contest.**

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

I did communication radio design for 35 years and was a consultant for front end design and antennas for medically implanted devices for 15 years.

My wife and I have 6 children, 2 biological and four adopted. I spent a lot of time with them bicycle racing, two of the girls gaining 3 national and 36 state titles. Two of the boys are licensed; Alan KA6PPC and Andrew KK6EME. Alan wrote radio firmware for our company since 14 years of age and SDR software with no more than a mathematical outline from me in 1993. Andrew has helped with the renovation of many boat anchors, built many Elecraft radios including a K2/100 at age 6 and helped with many 10 GHz HB transverters.

Extremely disappointed in west coast VHF contesting, I did little beyond testing radios for many years. I am competitive but other than 10 GHz found little interest in other contests except for SKCC WES events. I started working them with Andrew, both had great fun.

I struggled with my difficulties in stopping my mind lock onto decoding CW by counting, it has been difficult, and still is at times, to think of a character's sound not its make up. I may have put Andrew off by insisting he learn the code using modern methods. He is bright and the code may have come to him with little effort. His greatest delight a CW QSO in a 10 GHz contest, it was not that slow.

Only in the last few weeks have found three ways of finally breaking my counting habit:

Listing to limited groups of words at above 30 wpm.

Using a [Morserino](#) in the echo mode.

Touch typing the received code combined with head copy while looking away from the screen.

My story is all radios, bicycles and family. As the radio part is both work and play, it is quite long.

## **Greg Rix, WB7GR**

First and foremost, thank you to BOTH the CWA advisors and fellow students. Their time and encouragement along with the CWT operators, is the sole reason for my current capabilities. I hope to pay it forward.

I am located in the southeast corner of Wyoming, just east of Cheyenne. The military brought me to WY in 1989 and I retired from the US Air Force in 1992 and decided to stay in Cheyenne, WY.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

Then in 2003 I moved to Gering, NE to work in a Motorola service shop. There, I did everything from painting to payroll and still climb towers for myself and friends.

Seven years later I moved back to Wyoming where I bought a small home with enough acreage to grow some antennas. I did a little of this and some of that for a while and then retired from the county public works department in September of 2019.

I was first licensed in 1991 and quickly moved up to extra class. However, I immediately forgot CW when I left the test facility. Almost 30 years later, I found a renewed interest in CW. My current station consists of a Yaesu FTdx-3000 usually connected to a 43 ft Vertical. I also use an OCF dipole for 80M, 3element tribander, and a dipole for 160M. I also have an IC-7300 in my workshop where I seem to spend most of my time.

Thank you for the nomination, sponsorship and opportunity to participate as a member of CWops.

### **Garmendia Imanol, EA2EFI**

A warm greeting to all the members of the community and a special mention to my mentor and supporters (Jose, Raul, Felipe and Stuart).

My operator name is "NOL" and I practice CW around the QRP calling frequencies, with my older and simpler equipment. Think of me as intrepid birdman: [\*Those Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines\*](#). My approach to the hobby is shared and collaborative but not competitive, so I am not a tester. On the net you can find additional information about it, my QTH & Shack.

I am very excited about this group and hope to learn from all your experiences and wisdom... tips, tricks, etc. about telegraphy and radio. It is a distinction and a responsibility for me to wear the club's logo.

I've been practicing CW for years and I have a special preference for manual sending: Vibroplex and semi-automatic machines.

Anyway if you come near my QTH and you have the opportunity... don't forget to knock on the door. It is Already open!



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

## **George “Dody” Mainescu N2GM**

My journey into ham radio started in the '70s, when I was in elementary school back in my native country of Romania. At that time, there were certain state-organized activities and clubs for young kids, which were called “pioneers clubs,” a concept similar to boy and girl scouts in the United States, but with a much wider range of activities that were all oriented towards children.

One day, I opened the door of such a club. It was the “Electronics and Ham Radio” club. I still remember today how



impressed I was hearing from a speaker for the first time that music of dits and dahs. I immediately learned that the operator was in a QSO with somebody abroad, and I became fascinated by

Morse code and by the fact that you were able to communicate with the outside world – something that was not to be taken for granted at that time in Eastern European countries.

Lucky for me, the professor in charge of that club was YO3ND, one of the best-known instructors in the country. He became my first Elmer, and I've maintained a lifelong friendship with him – even now after so many years. Morse classes were every week, and I don't think I ever missed a single one. Slowly but surely, my ears started to differentiate between a “S” and a “H” and between a “H” and a “5” – Hi!

I was driven by my wish to learn the code. As a funny anecdote, I remember carrying an old tape recorder that weighed about 15-20 pounds from my home to the club building – a distance of 4-5 miles – for each of these early Morse classes. I would use the tape recorder to record the class, and then once I was back home, I would practice reception. It makes me smile now thinking about it. Today, with Morse Runner, Rufz, etc., we are spoiled now!

At the club, I also became hooked on contesting. The club was very active in contesting using their special call sign YP3A. I spent endless hours filling out pages and pages of calls and checking for dupes. Some of us may still remember that process...no N1MM at that time, Hi!

At that same club I encountered for the first time the world of electronics. I learned to read the color code on resistors and capacitors, to solder, to work with transistors and to build radio receivers. The club offered all kinds of easy kits for kids who were interested, and the instructor was always there to help.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

When I turned 18 – the minimum age to be licensed – I registered for the licensing exam and passed. After a while, I got my license in the mail, with the call sign YO3MS.

Opening the door of the Electronics and Ham Radio club that day so many years ago ultimately defined the path of my professional future. I became hooked on electronics, and years later, I became a student at the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest with a major in Electrical Engineering. In college, I had my second great Elmer. A professor teaching some of the RF courses was a well-known ham, YO3EM, and I became one of his students. During my time in college, under his supervision I built all kinds of ham radio equipment and accessories, all from scratch. In that part of the world, at that time, there were no kits available for purchase on the market. But the silver lining was that I learned how to calculate and build receivers and transmitters, how to use equipment to crosscheck theoretical results with empirical ones, and how to tune and troubleshoot that same equipments when needed. Building my own valve power amplifiers was yet another fun chapter of my time in college. Learning about PA operating classes, biases, filters, and working with high voltages – everything had its own appeal.

And sure enough, with YO3EM's mentorship, I developed my final project for graduating the engineering program, which was a "Solid State Ham Radio Multimode-Multiband Transceiver". It's been in service at the School's club station, YO3KWU for a while. We, too, have enjoyed a lifelong friendship.

This hobby really stuck with me. Even after relocating to the US, I of course had to become "radio-active!"

After arriving in the US, I got involved with the ham radio clubs in my area – Bergen ARA and Fairlawn ARC in New Jersey. At the first opportunity, I went to an exam session, and as I had a ham radio background, it was not much of an issue to pass the licensing levels all the way up to Extra in one session – including the Morse test at 20 wpm (at that time). A few days later I got my first US call sign, AA2WZ. When the vanity call gates opened, I changed the call sign to N2GM, which I continue to hold today.

Within our hobby, my main interests are related to constructions, DXing and HF contesting.

In terms of wishes, I (like many of us) would like to have a larger property to accommodate more and larger antennas, but living in New Jersey, in a suburb of New York City, I know that this will probably always be on my wish list. My contesting performance is thus limited from this point of view, but the most important thing is to have fun and achieve personal satisfaction. From the DXCC point of view, I am on the Honor Roll, still waiting for the last 4 to make it to the top.

I am a member of ARRL, NJDXA, Bergen ARA, Fairlawn ARC, North Jersey Contest Club, YO and Friends RC and Columbia University ARC, where I am trying to help welcome newcomers into our hobby. In fact, lately there has been quite a bit of interest among the undergraduate students, which is very encouraging.

Professionally, I am an Electrical Engineer working for a company that manufactures electronic test equipment for the utilities industry.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

I've been married for 30+ years to my lovely wife, Diana, who, happily, has an understanding and acceptance for my hobby, as well as for those contest weekends and DX nights! I also have a grown daughter, who at one point showed some interest in learning Morse code...though it did not last long, ha ha. C'est la vie!

Apart from ham radio, my other interests include skiing, playing tennis, biking, a bit of hiking and a more recently developed interest in sailing.

And last but not least, I would like to thank both Jim (N3JT) for nominating me, and my sponsors. I am proud and honored to be accepted as a club member.

See you in one of the next CWTs!

### **Walt Joynes, AC8RG**

I am excited to be a member of this group and look forward to participating in the activities that are offered. A big Thank You to the folks who nominated me for membership. It is greatly appreciated.

I've been active, on again, off again, since the very early 80's and 99.99% of all of my contacts have been CW. I've actively worked CW over the years from Mississippi and Guam while serving in the US Air Force, and now Ohio. I retired from the Air Force after a 22 year career. I spent 15 years in aircraft electronic and avionics maintenance. My last seven years I served as a First Sergeant in two large Fighter Squadrons, a Communications Squadron and a Mobile Ground Radar Squadron. It was a great way to serve. I am currently working as a contractor as an electronic technician in a USAF laboratory. I call it my retirement job.

My QTH rig is an Icom IC-7300 and my antenna is an end fed long wire about 25 feet off the ground. My antenna is nothing special but it works well when the RF gods are pleased. My Parks on the Air and back yard rig is a KX3. I made a portable 33 foot vertical antenna with a MFJ-1910 fiberglass mast. It works great on all bands with the excellent tuner built into the KX3.

I am a casual operator who enjoys a good rag chew so I will be submitting MQTX and QTX QSOs. (I just realized ham radio is 2nd only to the military for loving acronyms and abbreviations). If you hear me calling CQ please stop for a chat.

Again, I am excited to be a member of this group and I look forward to chatting with you all.

Have fun.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

## **Otto Arnoscht, N4UZZ**

Thank you for helping me become a member of this illustrious organization. I am humbled and inspired. My special thanks go to Serge KK7RR, whose guidance and encouragement have been invaluable. I also want to thank W0PHX, George, my CWA Beginner instructor who gave me a wonderful start with CW Academy.



I was born in 1947 and raised in Vienna, Austria. When I was 14 years old, I decided that I would emigrate to the United States for all the old-fashioned reasons: freedom, opportunity, and admiration for a nation that – for the first time in history – did not vanquish and destroy the enemy after winning a war but rebuilt them to make them business partners. I was truly lucky being born into and growing up in Pax Americana. I came to the US in 1967 on a scholarship and never left.

I studied in Portland, Oregon, and Los Angeles, CA, and came to Auburn University in Alabama for my Ph.D. in clinical psychology, then settling in Montgomery, Alabama. I am a psychologist on the hard science end of the discipline where I have a lot in common with my engineer friends. And fellow hams. I design and supervise behavior management systems for nursing homes that have residents with dementia and behavior problems. I love my work and won't retire until I have to. My wife Tara, a blue-eyed curly-haired Irish girl from Connecticut, and I live in Montgomery with a German Shepherd and a Chihuahua. We have scaled down. We used to have seven big dogs: Shepherds, Great Danes, Irish Wolfhounds. We love dog obedience training. All our dogs had obedience titles. I play tennis and I am an instrument rated private pilot. Life is busy. I visit Vienna every other year to see old friends.

In radio I started as SWL at around age eight, growing up with the Voice of America and the United States Armed Forces Radio and Television Service in Europe (AFRTS). I was licensed in 1976 with 13-wpm code (call was WA6RMX). Then career and family life took over and I was inactive for years and let my license lapse. In the 1980s I was assigned N4UZZ and advanced to Extra class. Despite all efforts I could not get better in CW. By November of 2019 I could not even copy 5 wpm. I started Beginner class in January 2020.

I am net manager for Central Alabama Skywarn. I design, build, and install wire antennas. Now I have a new direction of interest in ham radio: activating POTAs and SOTAs in CW mode.

At home my station is an Icom IC-7610, an Elecraft KPA-500 amplifier, and an endfed wire up 20 feet. That is the best I can do because it must stay hidden from the HOA. I have a Vibroplex keyer and run N1MM. My activity these days is almost exclusively HF CW, mostly on 40 m. I will get on local FM when severe weather threatens. Look for me during CWTs.

## **Martin Held, AE7EU**

I have been learning CW off and on for nearly 10 years, doing all the wrong things. After joining CW Academy classes, it was a long slog for me to unlearn all the bad habits of counting, charts,

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

etc. I have been very grateful to all the instructors in my various classes who have put up with me and helped me along.

I got into ham radio originally as part of being an electrical engineer nearly my entire life. I have been involved with electronics since I was 6, and have gotten involved in Ham radio to have some additional fun with System /PCB design. After getting my ticket in 2009 I started trying various / homebrew radio designs, and CW has locked in my mind as a simpler way of /doing things for someone who is used to a totally different subset of /electrical engineering.

I enjoy operating portable and getting away from the city noise. For the last 10 years a favorite haunt of mine has been an area I found off the Lake Klamath border [for the 7QP](#). The noise levels there are spectacularly low, and with a simple dipole and 100W I can pretty much work all around the world. More power doesn't hurt though! The area has 100 ft tall ponderosa pines, so hanging a dipole up high is really easy. I have also done a few SOTA activations, and CW makes the range so much more bearable.



I am currently working on various amplifier and SDR based designs, and hope to eventually release some to the world for sale.

Professionally I am an electrical engineer with many years of experience in a variety of areas. I am currently a senior engineer for a teeny tiny company where we make things like ISM-band RF power modules, linear mosfets for MRIs, and other discrete devices as a part of a larger teeny tiny company that makes just about every semiconductor known. Previously I was a self-employed contractor, doing all the above, and before that doing much of the above at a solar start up. My first foray into the industry was with Tektronix doing broadband (DC->40Ghz) ASIC design, as well as some mixed signal/verilog/VHDL stuff.

I also joined with several friends to start a non-profit volunteer organization in my area supporting the forest service in the back country wilderness, where I do campsite restoration, track cleanup, trail education and other things to help protect our local wild areas. Other hobbies include cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, swimming and the occasional video game.

Thank you to all who have put up with my slow(ly) developing CW abilities!

### **Gosho Vodenicharov, LZ1ZF CWops**

I was born in 1955 in Karlovo, Bulgaria. I started to work CW on HF bands in 1969 in the Radio club LZ1KCP in Karlovo.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

In 1975 became member of city student radio club LZ1KDP in Sofia and actively participated in many HF contests.

During the period 1983-2001 I've been responsible for training voluntarily more than 250 young



radio amateurs in the Radio club LZ1KVZ of The Technical College "Vladimir Zaimov" in Sopot. Most of them are still active licensed radio amateurs – contesters and CW operators.

I'm also keen on Amateur Radio Direction Finding (Fox Hunting) and have 32 medals in international competitions with highest scores: World vice-champion Category M21 in 1984 (Norway), 3rd in the World Category M40 in 1997 (Germany), 3rd in the World Category M50 in 2006 (Bulgaria), Balkan champion Category M50 in 2007 (Macedonia), in 2008 (Serbia), in 2009 (Romania) and second place in 2010 (Moldova), one gold and two silver medals in European Black Sea Cup 2015 in category M60. I'm IARU international class ARDF referee # 79.

Since 1969 I've worked with more than 150 special event callsigns and till now I've written only manually and sent over 1,500,000 paper QSL cards. I prefer to participate in contests in M/S and M/M category – last 20 years from LZ9W, LZ6C and LZ5R.

Attended two IARU-R1 Conferences as a representative of BFRA: 1990 in Torremolinos, Spain and 1993 in De Haan, Belgium. Actively participate in IARU-R1 ARDF working group.

I've been retired in November 2020. Now live in a villa NE from the city of Stara Zagora (QTH locator KN22TL) and try to build good antenna farm.

Equipment: Elecraft K3, FT897D, FT857D, ACOM1000 and ACOM2000A.

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

Antennas: A small log periodic LS86, GP, Dipoles and beverages.

Photo is made in LZ5R shack in February 2019.

## Greg Tomerlin, K4KO

First things first. Thank you Skip Arey, N2EI for nominating me for membership. And thank you Joe AA8TA, Don N4ZZ, Kirk K4RO, Jim AD4EB, Steve WD4CFN, and Tom WA9CW for sponsoring me.

To borrow a page from W0GAS Greg's bio in last month's issue of *Solid Copy*—Born 1963 Lebanon TN, licensed 2001. BK

When I graduated high school in 1982, I thought I was going to be a cabinetmaker after working evenings and weekends at a local cabinet shop my last two years of school. The summer after graduation I got a second job at night building and painting fiberglass bass boats, so then thought I might make a boat builder. Working two jobs turned out to be 1 ½ too many jobs for someone who enjoyed fishing and hunting, so I applied for a position with Square D Company in nearby Smyrna, and in June 1983 was hired to build low-voltage switchgear. The job was fun, the pay was good, I had paid vacations and health insurance, and best of all it required only 40 or 50 hours of my time each week. That settled it. I was going to be an electrical switchgear builder. I got married, bought a house, got into beekeeping, and continued to enjoy fishing and hunting.

In August 1987, after spending a week vacationing in central Florida where I discovered the orange groves and commercial beekeeping, I came back to Tennessee dreaming of moving to Florida and becoming a commercial beekeeper. One week later a diving accident put a halt to my future beekeeping career, and I wound up spending the next four months in the spinal cord injury unit at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. Suddenly I found myself wanting to be a cabinetmaker or boat builder or switchgear builder again. In fact, I would have settled for pretty much any job that involved working with my hands, but that was not to be. The injury to my spinal cord at the C4 & C5 vertebrae left me paralyzed from the shoulders down. That was 33+ years ago and occasionally I still wake up thinking it was all just a bad dream. If it were a dream, it would certainly be a hellish nightmare, but the truth is I consider myself lucky to have survived



(Continued on next page)



(Continued from previous page)

this long post-injury. And even more lucky to have such a wonderful mother who was there for me when I left the hospital and continues to be there for me today. The truth is, I have led a charmed life and I appreciate every minute I get on this earth, or most of them anyway.

In 1989 I enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University, studied accounting and business administration, and graduated with degrees in those fields. My hobbies include chess, gardening, bee-keeping, birdwatching, and of course amateur radio. After getting my license in July 2001, amateur radio quickly took over my life. It's all I thought about day and night. When not on the air I was either reading about radio, working on activities for our local ARC, or looking for ways to upgrade my station. Those first couple years were pretty much all phone, but once I caught the contesting bug (thank you Tennessee Contest Group), and a little later the DX bug, I realized CW was where it's at. I also realized my ability to copy at 5 wpm was not going to cut it. Moreover, my inability to send CW with a traditional key posed a problem. In 2003 I discovered computer-generated CW and soon after started using it on VHF and in HF contests. A year later and much to my great fortune, an article by Gary Gordon K6KV appeared in the [March 2004 issue of QST](#) featuring plans for a puff-and-sip keying device. My dear friend and Elmer, Sam Shields, WB4CSG (SK) saw the article, ordered the parts, assembled the device, then surprised me with it just a few days later. It took several minutes, or hours, or maybe days, to get the hang of it, but soon I was sending my call sign and a few short phrases. A couple days later I logged my first "manually" sent CW QSOs in the 2004 Russian DX Contest. My 3830scores.com entry shows I logged 8 QSOs in that contest, but it was a start.

### ***Editor's Note:***

Gret has volunteered to write a feature-length article with more details about his puff and sip keyer. Look for it this summer in *Solid Copy*.

Once I got a taste of CW, it quickly became my mode of choice. In time, I got better but I never got good at copying anything other than call signs and short contest exchanges. Then last summer while playing in the IARU contest and struggling to copy many of the exchanges, I decided it was time to improve my skills. That Saturday night I downloaded G4FON Morse Trainer, installed it on my computer, and started listening to 100 common words at 25 wpm. I was embarrassed at how poorly I could copy even the shortest words and immediately thought maybe I wasn't capable of copying any faster or better. After 18 years of use, maybe I was as good as I would ever be.

The very next morning a message appeared in my inbox with the subject *How to Improve Your CW*. It was from Pete W1RM, who I had worked a week earlier in the 13 Colonies special event. In the email Pete claimed that of the 2000+ stations he worked during the event, I was the absolute worst he had heard, and he recommended I enroll in CW Academy immediately or consider giving up my license. Well, those were not his exact words but I logged on to the CWops website and signed up for the Intermediate class anyway. That was seven months ago, and just this past week I completed the Advanced class.

CW Academy was a wonderful experience for me. In addition to improved CW skills, I met and befriended nine of the funniest and most interesting people in the hobby. My Intermediate advisor Tom Waits, WA9CW and his assistant Steve Ghertner, WD4CFN, were instrumental in my improvement. They are so good at what they do and so dedicated to helping others improve their

(Continued on next page)



*(Continued from previous page)*

CW, that our class met three nights every week, the third night on the air to practice sending and receiving. Moreover, after the 8-week class ended in October we continued meeting online once a week for the next two months, right up until the next session started. In addition to Tom and Steve, my fellow classmates helped improve my CW skills and made the class fun. Thank you Al KE6JAC, Chuck K9PLX, Dick K7ULM, Perry NE5ET, and Tony KB9LLD. Finally, two of my Intermediate classmates and I, along with Otto N4UZZ, were lucky to be placed in Serge Nikiforov KK7RR's Advanced class. Thank you Serge for your dedication to high-speed telegraphy, for getting me to the next level, and for showing me where to find the one after that. And thank you Otto for the inspiration and practice these last eight weeks.

I am thrilled to be a member of CWops. I look forward to improving my scores in the CWTs and to further improvement of my CW skills. And I look forward to giving back to CWops and CW Academy. Thanks again to the CWops organization and to CW Academy.

### **Mike Hollock, NI4U**

Hello! I'm a former process engineer turned Air Force officer who loves tinkering in electronics, learning new things, and spending time outdoors with my wife and dog.

After SDR dongles piqued my interest in 2015, I went from zero amateur radio experience to no-code Extra in 3 months. I probably would have quit ham radio, if not for discovering this CW thing through my mentor and finding CWops. SSB isn't my jam and the fascination with digital modes faded quickly. I graduated the Basic course in 2016, Beginner in 2020, and Intermediate in 2021. Next up, Advanced in April!

I'd describe my station, but I'm constantly churning through radios and antennas trying to discover the right combination for my ham-unfriendly QTH. Part of the fun is trying new things! As of this writing, I just sold my IC-7300 and bought a used K3S. I also own a few QRP rigs, including a KX2 and MTR3b. I'd like to transition from POTA hunter to activator soon.

Outside of amateur radio, I enjoy sailing the Chesapeake Bay, hiking the Blue Ridge Mountains, travelling the world, fly fishing in the Shenandoahs, and sipping a nice dram of peaty Islay scotch. I'm also the commander of a local Civil Air Patrol squadron.

For an adult, learning this CW business is downright hard. So I'm ever grateful to the CWops community and its volunteer advisors. You guys and gals turned my frustrations into joy over the past six years. Thanks to Bruce, K8UDH, for teaching me dits and dahs in basic class. Thanks to



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

John, A1JDM, for kicking me out of your Intermediate class and challenging me to focus on improvement. Thanks to John, N8AA, for helping me learn instant character recognition in our Beginner class. Thanks to Mike, N5KB, for building my contesting skills in the Intermediate class. Thanks to Kurt, AD0WE, for all your Morse Ninja resources that improved every aspect of my CW skills ([see page 15 in the February 2020 issue of Solid Copy](#)). And finally, thanks to Tom, K4AEN, for being my Elmer throughout this journey.

I look forward to seeing you on the air and becoming a CWOps advisor in the future.

### **Peter Archibald, W4ZGR**

First, let me thank, Hank W6SX, for nominating me. I have worked a lot of the members, in contest etc. Glad to be a member, and when time permits, the Wednesday runs are fun. And some contesting to give out points. Belong to ARRL, AMSAT, Florida Contest Group.

Got my License in 1959. First transmitter was an ARC 5. Made a transmitter with a single tube. Just a dipole in the pine trees.

Had a couple of Heath Kit transmitters and receivers. While in the service I operated from Vietnam, Guam, Philippines, Okinawa, The Island of Shimi Island, off the coast of Alaska. The Hospital Ship USS REPOSE in the South China Sea. And Guantanamo Base, Cuba. And a lot of state side bases. Was in the U.S.M.C. for six years. Used the PRC 25 in Vietnam 65-66 on six meters. Made a straight key. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Lima Company, 1st platoon. Flew the TA-33 jet trainer and F4 Phantom for a couple of years. In civilian life flew, Cessnas, and Piper Arrow, PA28R.

Worked in electronics for E.G.G. Made parts for the star navigation system, for the astronauts. Also did reverse engineering. Worked for Transitron Design and Manufacturing of linear and digital circuits. Worked for a cable company in Battle Creek, Michigan and Scarborough, Maine. Last twenty-five years work for a school department, repairing AV, radios, televisions, alarm systems, phones. CATV.

Returned to my home state of Florida. The family has moved so often, I have to check the newspaper, to see where we are.

We built a house in an HOA community, Palm City, FL. That was twenty years ago. Now going to move to a small ranch in Port Saint Lucie. Has some land, and no HOA or Association. Do not climb any more so plan to put verticals, and a couple of dipoles.



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

ALL EQUIPMENT RUN ON BATTERIES ;

- HF Elecraft K3, KAT500 Antenna Tuner, KPA500 amp.
- 40/20 DIPOLE,
- 3EL WIRE 20M BEAM AIMING NORTH.
- ALL ANTENNAS IN ATTIC

## **Howie Naugle, K1TZQ**

Many thanks to Peter (W1UU) for the nomination and to Jim (N3JT), Gert (PA3AAV) and Hank (W6SX) for sponsoring and giving me the opportunity to be included in this great group of operators and outstanding organization.

My dad was my Elmer. He got me started with a cat's whisker crystal set and taught me the basics. In 1959, at age 13, he took me to the Custom House in Boston where I overcame a severe case of nerves and managed to pass the Novice

Class license exam. Some of the highlights of that first year on the air included working EP2BK and 80+ countries on 15 m with a crystal control QRO DX-20, an SX-28 "boat anchor" and a ¼ wave dipole at 17 feet: there were sunspots back then.

In addition to ham radio, I played on the high school baseball and football teams and later on the college golf team. I graduated from Merrimack College in 1968 with a BSEE and went on to work for Raytheon Co. for 39 years in engineering and program management before retiring. I have been married for 47 years to my wife Judy, a wonderful, caring and most patient person (lucky for me!). We currently live on the east shore of Aquidneck Island in Portsmouth, RI which has a clear shot to Europe and beyond (nice!).

I did some multi-multi and single op contesting in the 60's, 70's and early 80's. In 1985 we moved, and with the exception of some FD CW operation with the Newport County Radio Club, I was QRT for 35 years. I got back on the air this past summer and operation is almost exclusively CW. I enjoy chasing DX, "toy gun" contesting and rag chewing. The shack includes a Yaesu FTdx101MP, Elecraft KPA1500 and a 5BTW with 60 radials. DXCC is at 314 Mixed/299 CW and 5BDXCC is in the works.

Other than ham radio, my interest in sports continues as a fan and golfer and for the past 13 years I've been an active volunteer and presently serve on the board of a local animal rescue organization.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

My dreams are to make the CW Honor Roll, to be on the “other side” of a pileup in some warm exotic place and to have a QTH with an antenna farm the likes of W3LPL. But most of that won't happen, so I'll be very happy and having fun renewing acquaintances from many years ago, meeting new folks, working new countries and being involved in CWops activities and programs.

### **Shin I. Yamasaki, NE6ET**

I would like to thank Rob K6RB, my advisor/teacher for my class for the past 8 weeks. I was motivated to keep practicing, and I was encouraged by the comments he made on my progress. He is the best CW influencer ever in my short ham radio life.

I have been a ham for over 10 years, but as all of you know, condition has been pretty sad. On top of that, I have been a devoted QRP'er, so my on air activity has been low but when the contest is on, I have tried to make contacts. I almost preferred that “599 TU” because it is hard to carry ragchews if you don't copy all the words from other Op... I learned Morse on my own (via on line) and developed a bad habit of writing everything on paper. To break the habit, I tried few things, but I realized that I need to “head copy.” So, enrolling in the CW Academy and improving my skill was really a great thing for me. I am still struggling at times but if it is a conventional QSO, I am pretty comfortable up to 25 wpm & I no longer take notes outside of call sign. I couldn't even imagine that 8 weeks ago!



I wish I started ham radio long ago, but I never got licensed while I lived in Japan. Back in 80's SWLing was very popular (So popular that they had a TV commercial!) and I was into it, but I lost interest at some point and moved on to other things. I wish I still had that Yaesu FRG-7, but it became my mom's steamy kitchen radio for MW listening and broke after a decade or so.

After college, I got a job at a trading company and I hoped that they can send me to the USA, but I ended up in Singapore. When I had an order to relocate to Hong Kong, I decided to quit and came here. That was 1995. Then, around 2000, I discovered Google search and was back to SWL. Then I realized that there are very few radio station broadcasting in Japanese program anymore, but I discovered CW and SSB signals. That's how I ended up taking the test and became a licensed amateur. All those are via Internet, so I didn't have a friend or Elmer to show / teach me things in the Ham world.

The academy was my first interactive event as a ham, and it was very enjoyable. At weekly SST or

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

CWT, I was excited to make contacts with my advisor and class buddies.

I am not retired as of yet, and the business environment has been pretty rough the last few years, so I am not sure if I can ever retire, but I am still not giving up hope! In a perfect world, I will move to somewhere where I can have land to put up a tall tower!

I am happily married with my wife Lisa, who is originally from Kansas City, MO and we are blessed with 2 beautiful girls who are both in college now. I tried to get them into radio, but it didn't work. At least they still can decode CQ, SOS & my original callsign.

Thanks again for supporting me to become a member, and I am looking forward to having many QSOs with all of you!

### **José Antonio Cano Cabrera, EA2KV**

Greetings from Spain.

This is José EA2KV, born in 1971 at Zaragoza city and currently living at Villamayor de Gállego, small town 5 km away from the city, countryside, where I'm the only ham.

Glad to join the CWops club and thanks to SQ9S for nomination as well as the sponsors.

Started my interest on radio on the late 80s and finally licensed in 1992 when CW learning was still required. I have always been a CW guy but not leaving some SSB, and occasionally digitals. Loving DXing, contesting, building kits and wire antennas.

At present, my station setup is as follow:

- Antennas Hexbeam + EFHW wire for 80 M + V/UHF.
- Transceiver Yaesu FTdx101D
- PA Henry 2K Classic, floor desk (aka washing machine, old piece but never let me down)

Nothing fancy in shack but fun enough.

About keys, I have been running vertical, bugs, iambic but the one I like the most is my Begali Sculpture.

I'm member of URE and just landed to CWops, also member of EMCOM Spain, and member of the Scout group of my town sharing with the kids the radio spirit and being on the air during JO-TA events.

Apart from radio, my interests are mountain biking, mountaineering and socializing.



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

## **Ed Ridolfi, K1RID**

So excited to be a CWops member and a proud know-code Extra!

My grandfather was a radio/tv repairman from the 1930s until the 1970s. He built me a XTAL set when I was 6. Later on I sat next to him as he built a Tandy Globe Patrol regen receiver with a Weller pistol soldering iron in one hand a cigarette in the other. Later I picked up a Hallicrafters S120. I was all SWL, collecting QSL cards from Radio Tirana, Moscow etc. until I got a CB license in the late 70s. I'm not sure why my grandfather never got his ham ticket.



In 2014, a former ham buddy's daughter joined a Morse code club at school which led them and me & my 13 year old son to get licensed again. The 4 of us formed the Newburyport Electronics & Radio Society, aka NERDS (licensed as K1YRD). We built Rockmite 40s and played with CW across town at maybe 500mw.

One day I was practicing calling CQ with the Rockmite feeding a quarter wave piece of wire strung around my apartment when KN1O came back to me. I must have asked him to repeat his call 3 times and was sweating bullets trying to copy K N 1 O. The op lived a few streets away and became my 1st QSO and my 1st mentor.

I purchased a NORCAL40 kit and took it everywhere and made my 1st DX contact with DJ6ZM using that rig and a low inverted V wire. Of course he had a beam mounted atop his 3 story building but I have the QSL card!

I really enjoy operating outdoors, next to my firepit, on the beach or activating a SOTA summit. My latest kit was a KX1 which taxed my meager kit building chops. I love that rig. I either use that or my fancy FT818 for summit activations.

For me, CW is the best mode. I love CW operators and appreciate their patience with new ops. There's something about a CW ragchew that is so much fun.

Al, KN1O and a small group of newish CW ops have been maintaining a slow speed, learning sked for about 3 years under the NERDS moniker and we have brought a few former hams back to the hobby and to CW as well as a couple of newbies.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

CW Academy has been instrumental in teaching me how to use paddles and to head copy. I feel like there's more progress to make, but I love the confidence it has given me to enjoy ragchews that go beyond sweating out a quick signal report exchange.

### **Al Houston, N2MA**

A recent graduate of CWA, and now a proud member of CWops #2827. My main passion for CW is chasing DX and contesting. After the 13 Colonies event last year I received an email from Pete W1RM suggesting that I might benefit from CWA. I didn't realize how much better I would be after taking a class with KK5NA, or how much more I aim to do. Thank you Pete, Joe, Bruce and my classmates. It has been fun!



**N2MA with XYL Jeane (L) and Piero Begali I2RTF (C) at his factory**

First licensed in 1963 as WN2LWE then WB2LWE, the Army gave me an opportunity to operate AB8AAK in Quang Tri Vietnam. Returning I acquired WB6OID. Back in NY I passed my Extra and became N2MA. Jeane & I have traveled quite a bit scuba diving and have spent a fair amount of time in the saddle of a Harley. My career has been in sales & photography having my own custom frame shop for 13 years.

Work brought me to Pittsburgh in 1981 and currently live in Mars PA with my wife Jeane. I am a member of Skyview Radio Society and participate in their multi-multi contests. I am also the Activities Director for the North Hills ARC and participate in their activities. Events such as 13 Colonies and last year the 100th Anniversary of the first commercial radio broadcast from KDKA.

My station consists of Icom IC-7610, IC-7300 and ID-4100. Antennas Butternut HF-9V & HF-2V. & a TA-34XL beam

### **Craig Szczutkowski, N2DA**

It's an honor to be a member of CWops - many thanks to my CWA Intermediate Advisor, John, AJ1DM, and my CWA Advanced Advisor Joe, KK5NA. Thanks to both of them and CWA I have gotten back to really enjoying CW.

I've been a ham since 1970 - WN3OWX, then WA3OWX in PA, before getting my Extra and current callsign while living in Syracuse, NY in 1977. Though I worked a lot of CW in my early days, my time on the air lapsed soon after my college years. I had fun working in military electronics and public safety mobile communications engineering, product development, and later, in marketing and international sales. I kept my license and a station on the air, but was fairly inactive until about 10 years ago.

After some good-natured prodding from my college-era ham buddies to get back on the air, I

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

joined their sideband sked, and less often, their CW sked. But my CW was rusty and I struggled to keep up at 15 WPM. Luckily, one of them (John, AJ1DM) is a CWops Member and Advisor who, each time a new semester rolled around, invited me to sign up. While I passed on his initial invites, after COVID-19 hit I felt the time was right. I completed his Intermediate class in May



2020, and Joe's (KK5NA) Advanced class this February. Boy, what a difference the two classes have made - I'm back to really enjoying CW and am more proficient than I had ever been in my younger days. I enjoy CW ragchewing, occasional contesting, QRP'ing, and DX'ing. I also enjoy restoring old tube and transistor radios.

Until a few years ago, my main rig was the HW-100 I built while in high school in 1970. I picked up an 'old' Drake TR7 from a ham friend in 2013. Felt like I entered the modern era, with solid state and the 100 Hz digital readout! Been using a Kenwood TS-590SG since 2017. I also have a Ten-Tec PM2B QRP rig which I just put on the air after about 40 years. I still have my novice receiver, a BC348-Q (recently rebuilt the power supply) and recently bought an old Knight T-60, which was my novice transmitter back in 1970. I tend to mainly work 80, 40, and 20 Meters with the TS-590SG, but am looking forward to 15 and 10 opening up again.

My antenna is a 130 ft center fed (ladder line) multiband dipole strung to fit in the attic. With a Dentron Jr tuner, it loads up pretty well on 80 through 10 Meters, and I don't have to worry about windstorms and falling tree branches!

My wonderful wife of 23 years, Laurie, enjoys quilting as much as I enjoy radio. Fortunately, the pandemic has been conducive to both of our hobbies! We love travelling and visiting with friends and family – hope to be able to get back into it soon.

I look forward to meeting more CWops members on the air, as well as encouraging other hams' use of CW.

### **Mui Tsun, M0MUI**

A big thank you to my CW Academy advisor Keith G0HKC for nominating me, and to my sponsors Roger G3LDI, Peter M0RYB, Keith G3SZU and Gert PA3AAV. It's an honour to be part of CWops.

I'm originally from Hong Kong but have lived in the UK since 1985.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

I'm relatively new to the world of amateur radio and CW. I had of course heard of Morse code before (who hasn't?) but knew nothing more beyond associating it with sending SOS. It was by chance that I became, as my partner Mark M0UMG puts it, a bit obsessed. (Surely I can't be the only one who takes their Morse keyer to bed?

One day in early 2018, I happened to be walking by when Mark was watching someone sending Morse on YouTube. I thought, "Oh, what's that? What is it saying?" There and then, I was hooked!

Soon after that the whole family, including our then 14-year-old son James M0XUI, joined the local Norfolk ARC and went on to obtain our full licences.



With the help of the on-air CW lessons provided by some of the club members, I have been able to improve my CW steadily since then. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jim G3YLA, Roger G3LDI and Malcolm G3PDH for their support and encouragement for my CW in the past 3 years.

I can't really put my finger on why I'm so fascinated by CW. If I have to analyse it, it is its strangely hypnotic and musical quality. Also, copying CW appeals to that part of me that enjoys solving cryptic crosswords. It's hugely satisfying!

My goal now is to develop my skills and become more proficient in conversational CW, to the point where I can chat without having to think too much about it. Just like learning any new language really.

Other things I enjoy include photography, watercolour painting, music (from operas to heavy metal), puzzles/crosswords, world cinema and travelling with my family to remote places.

I look forward to meeting you all on the bands.

### **Richard Thompson, VE7XT**

I would like to thank Gil N2GG for the nomination and Rob K6RB for the tremendous mentorship during our Academy program. Thanks to all my sponsors and the great CW operators from the CWTs.

My interest in radio started at an early age with a transistor radio given to me one Christmas. That radio led to hours of late night listening to broadcast stations from around North America. My father recognized my interest in radio and was always very supportive. The following Christmas I received a Radio Shack DX-160 shortwave receiver. With some wires strung between the trees I became an avid shortwave listener and quickly found the ham bands. Thanks to the Maple Ridge Club and their amateur radio course, I was successful in obtaining my amateur license in 1976. At that time the Canadian license required you to pass a 10 wpm code exam and then

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

operate for a full year on CW before you could write your Advanced License. I filled several logbooks with CW contacts over that year and had no problem with the 15 wpm requirement that was part of the Advanced license exam. That year of required CW operation was successful in making Morse code a permanent part of my ham radio experience.

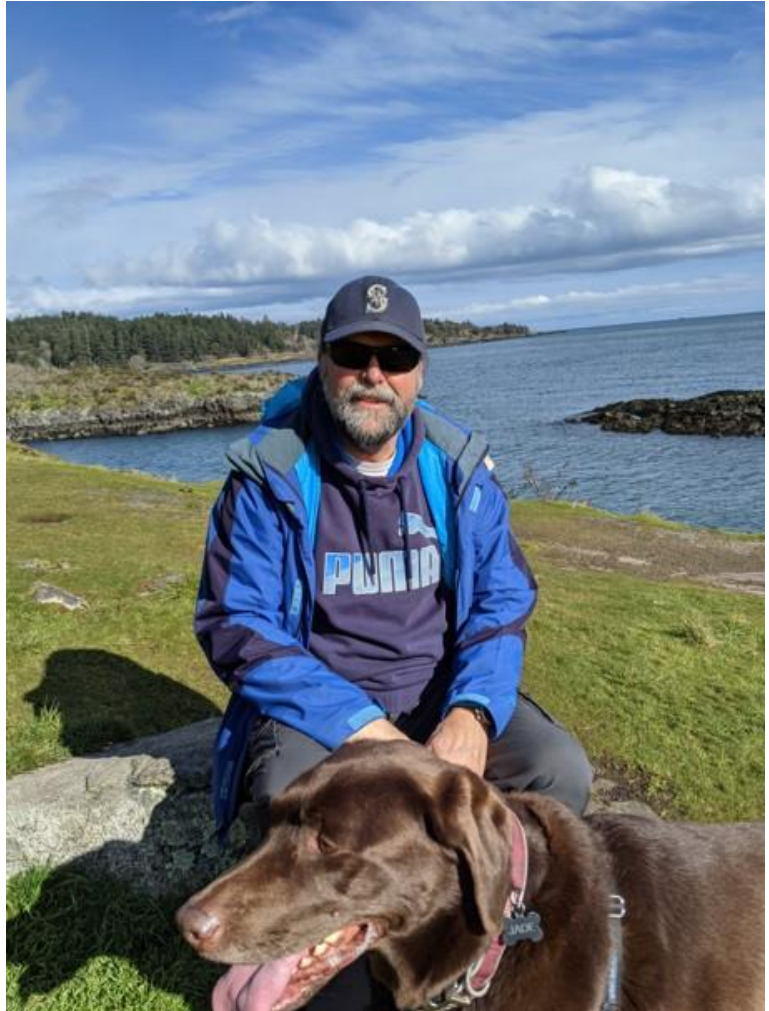
I had a great group of high school friends who all got their amateur radio licenses around the same time. We played in contests, did Field Days and experimented with equipment and antennas. We were all lucky to have had a great group of local experienced hams as mentors including Lee VE7CC who introduced us to CW contesting.

In the early 80s I was at the University of BC (UBC) studying Ecology and Fisheries Forestry management. Although university reduced the amount of time available to play on the radio, I was still able to have fun at the UBC club station (VE7UBC). Many of the UBC hams spent their breaks visiting in the shack or in front of the Collins S line making contacts. We tried to operate most of the major contests from the club station.

Amateur radio has been a great hobby with new things to try and skills to practice and improve. I still enjoy chasing DX, and have earned DXCC Honor Roll, 5 band DXCC, and DXCC Challenge. The challenge of the chase, especially working that rare DX on CW, is still exciting. Hopefully once COVID has passed, people will get back to DXpeditions and the remaining DXCC entities I need will be activated. I can dream. 3Y, P5 anyone?

I spent most of my working life as an Aquatic Habitat Biologist for the BC Provincial Government. My wife and I both retired in 2019 and plan to spend some of our retirement traveling and camping. My KX3 is always ready to go. Dayton and Friedrichshafen are travel destinations on the list. I hope I get a chance to meet some of the CWops members during our travels.

Like so many things in life, there is always room for improvement. I continue to work on my CW proficiency. More CWTs, contests, and DXing I hope will contribute to improvements in my CW skill.



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

I am honored to be part of the CWops organization, a group of Amateurs dedicated to CW. Thanks. See you on Wednesday.

### **Ben Cuperman, W4LRB**

I am so happy to be a new CWop. Thank you all. I know there is much for me to learn and am hoping that my membership will help me in my journey and help many others as well. When I was asked to write an intro, I first hesitated as Tim K9WX will confirm. In fact this submission is being made at the last minute. My sincere apologies to the editors.

The first place we look for info on a fellow ham is the QRZ page. Mine, as you can see, includes basic information and background with a few photos. Truth be told, many hams are private and prefer not to share and I respect that. At the same time, when I took a look at the bios for the new CWops, I was amazed at the details being shared. So I will try to complement my QRZ page as well. English is not my first language (actually my third...) so I hope you take that into account as you read this.



My first dive into HF was in my teens, but not in the terms of a novice getting his first rig and key. Today I am discovering that many hams started as novices. In fact as an immigrant to Canada in the 60s this was foreign to me. I had no clue about ham radio.

As a young child in Israel in the 50s I remember listening to the Wizard of Oz on a big radio. Growing up in Montreal in the 60s I missed my country of birth and somehow stumbled into shortwave radio, specifically the Kol Israel broadcasts on 9 MHz. It was then that a spark occurred and I started reading about ham radio. In fact I put together multiple dipoles, or so I thought, on our roof in Montreal so I can better receive the signal from Israel. Having no Elmers and no YouTube times were different for me then. So you can imagine the contraption that I put together. Dr. Emmett Brown from Back to the Future would be proud. LOL

Moving forward to 1985 I decided to become a ham. By that time I had graduated with a physics degree so I had some technological background which must have prompted me get serious with the hobby and take the classes. One of my CW teachers was Tony VE2KM. I passed the Regular and Advanced code and theory and the rest is history. As VE2LRB I filled my paper logbook with DX and was active with CW but never got to head copy. Tony and I lost touch after I moved to the States in 2001 but we recently met on an SKCC Sked page. At the same time I was in the Advanced CWops class and Tony helped me again to move forward with this hobby. Thank you Tony for the nomination and thanks as well to my sponsors.

*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

As I said, my station details, etc are on QRZ and you can find me often on the SKCC Sked page pursuing Marathons and chasing C, T and S. I am also slowly getting involved with CWT so you might hear me there from time to time. Oh yes, I applied to take the CWops advanced class again as I feel I have more to learn.

I hope you know me better now and please say hello on the air when you hear me.

## **Chuck Hopper, K9PLX**

As a newly minted member of CWops, I'm extremely grateful to Tom WA9CW and Steve WD4CFN for their help in the CWA Intermediate class last fall; they helped me get my speed up to 25 wpm after years of 15 – 20 wpm CW-ing (is that a word?). I followed that up with an Advanced class with Serge KK7RR. Serge pushed me further than I would have believed possible, to a fairly steady 35 wpm and aspirations to 40. I appreciate everything these fine amateurs have done for me.



I grew up in west central Illinois, about 90 miles north of St Louis. Radio first got my interest when I was at Boy Scout camp and one of the counselors had a shortwave radio that he let us listen to. Not too long after that one of my junior high school teachers, Ed Ahlquist W9FOH (SK) set up a station in a corner of the classroom and I was a goner. Ed had classes after school for anyone who was interested and a few months later Jacksonville had 10 or 12 new teenage hams. I got my Novice ticket in 1959 and my General a year later, but it wasn't until 2002 that I upgraded to Extra. Life kind of got in the way for a while.

I spent 35 years in middle schools in the same school district in west suburban Chicago, first as a teacher and finally as Assistant Principal. I also taught at Concordia University in River Forest for quite a number of years, teaching computer science classes in the evenings and summers. I loved the work but it didn't leave much time for playing radio. Finally in 2002, a year before I retired, I got some new gear, threw up some wire and a 6 meter Yagi, and haven't looked back yet.

Most of my work has been CW, although I also have a fair number of Qs using nearly every digital mode known to man (including Throb – have you ever heard Throb? Beautiful). Since starting in the CWA I have really enjoyed the weekly CWTs and have become almost exclusively a CW operator. I have never enjoyed phone contacts much so there aren't too many of them in my log.

I'm looking forward to working you soon!

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

## **Dave Lahn, VA3DKL**

First, thank you for accepting me into CWops. It is a great honour. Thanks to Vic VE3YT for nominating me, and for those who sponsored me. I'd also like to thank my CW Academy Intermediate advisor John AJ1DM, and my Advanced advisor, Joe KK5NA, for playing a big part in advancing my CW skills.

I currently work as a Software Developer for a large digital marketing agency, managing the infrastructure of their big data activities.

I had an interest in ham radio for quite some time, but only recently got my license in 2018. I was living abroad in Amsterdam and London for a number of years, and my living situation wasn't conducive to antennas. My wife and I moved back to Canada in 2018, and that was a perfect time to get started.

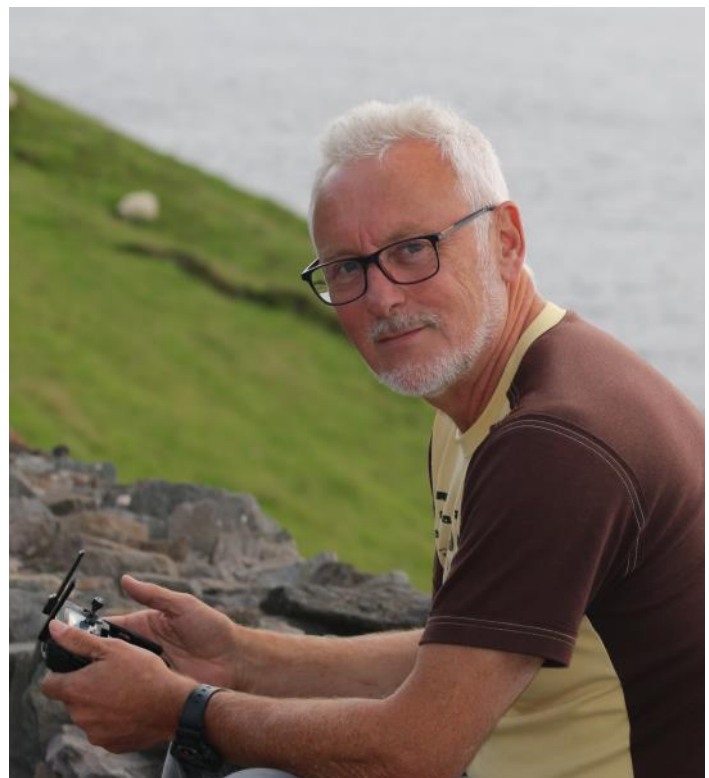
My local club started a CW class (led by Vic VE3YT) in 2019. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to join, as my daughter was born a couple months prior, however, I credit this class in sparking my interest in CW. I started self-studying in March 2020, and I've never looked back.

You will find me in most of the major CW contests, as well as ragchewing. I hope to see you on the air!

## **Rudi Klos, DK7PE**

I want to say thank you to Ken (G4RWD), James (WW3S), Axel (DL6KVA) and Dirk (DJ7UC) who nominated and sponsored my membership to CWops. I'm honored to be a new member of CWops Club and I look forward to many nice CW ragchew QSOs.

Amateur Radio has been my hobby for over 50 years now. I started as a shortwave listener with a used DRAKE 2-B receiver when I was fifteen. Learning Morse code was easy and, at the age of 16, I passed my ham radio examination. From the first day of my license in 1973 I have been active on CW. Eventually, a Morse key became like a music instrument to me.



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

Working DX was exciting, but I was eager to see those exotic places and different cultures myself. As a student I could only afford low budget trips. By train, hitchhiking and boat I made it to Egypt back in 1978. I visited VO1LX/SU at the UN-Camp in Ismailia and for a few hours I was allowed to use this famous station. The pile-up was huge!

In 1981 I completed my studies at the University of Applied Sciences in Wiesbaden as an Engineer in Communications. After a job at German Television (SWF and ZDF) and Deutsche Telekom I moved into the Airline Communications field for the remaining 37 years. During my spare time, I traveled the world with my radio and activated many of the DXCC entities I have worked from my home station. My last operation was from Bolivia in March 2020, where I left just before they closed the border... This was DXpedition entity #159. Besides amateur radio, I am interested in astronomy, photography, producing videos, hiking and riding my bicycle together with the family. With all these hobbies and our little grandson, the second one is already on the way, a 24-hour day is not long enough...

We live in a suburb of Mainz (the Gutenberg town) and the QRN noise here is heavy. The high bands are quite ok, but the low bands are a bit difficult sometimes. I retired last year and now would have more time to travel, but I guess it will take a while to activate a new one...

So I wait for my next DX-pedition to come. See you on the bands!

### **Rowdy Ratts, AJ6AN**

Thank you so much to CW Academy and to my instructors, David Roy Godden, KK6M and Buz Tarlow, AC6AC for their mentorship, guidance, and encouragement in learning CW. Unlike my first time around learning code, my instructors made the learning environment fun and entertaining. The CWA curriculum and tools worked wonders on my head-copy and sending abilities, while the regular Zoom meetings kept me engaged and motivated to continue. One of the activities Buz assigned our class was to write a CW themed haiku, to be sent to classmates during a class meeting. I had a ball writing haiku's, this one being my favorite (which I'm probably more proud of than I should be...):

"My message to you  
Three dits, three dahs, and three dits  
My boat is sinking"

I was born and raised in north-east Kansas. My family moved out of state several times, but always ended up back in Kansas. I've lived in Kansas, Arizona, Oregon, Texas and California. I do miss the regular seasons, but living on Mt Laguna, CA at least gives me a decent winter season, not to mention lots of tall pine trees as antenna supports. I run an ICOM IC-7300 to a 10-40m OCF dipole at 40-50'. Soon I plan to add a 2nd wire antenna,



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

perpendicular to the OCF.

I work as a field technician servicing cash and coin sorting machines in banks, vaults & casinos etc. It's fun playing with loads of money to test machines. At the end of the day, though, it's just paper I can't take home...

I was first licensed in May 1999 (KF6WJB) after passing my Tech+ exam and 5wpm code test. Earlier that year I discovered amateur radio as a suitable emergency communications system for a remote private school north of Los Angeles. That station featured a 2 meter mobile base station with a 15-element beam and did a great job getting a signal out of the valley. About 6 months later I upgraded to General class, passing the 13wpm code test with some difficulty.

Eventually I bought and assembled a 40 meter Ten-Tec QRP CW kit and nervously made a few contacts with a straight key & wire antenna. Unfortunately, I did not know anyone else active in amateur radio and became inactive for quite some time. I did manage to keep my license active though.

CW now comprises about 90% of my amateur radio activity. I hope to work you all in the next CWT.

### **Scott Teague, K8OIP**

I am honored to be joining the ranks of CWops. I never would have made it without my instructors. Some of those who helped along the way were:

- Quinton Gleason, NU7Y who took us level 1 student and taught us to head copy the characters and some of the possibilities for fun things to do with CW.

- Ron Stark KU7Y who got us Intermediate students to send words to each other in a semi-coherent fashion so that we could actually converse and taught us quite a lot from his vast experience

- Buz Tarlow AC6AC



*(Continued on next page)*



*(Continued from previous page)*

who got us barely literate folk in Intermediate and advanced up to a more reasonable speed and error rate, and works extremely hard to elevate everyone to their best potential

- Several others who helped with practicing such as Gerbux W6BUX and Joe KH6FHI and others.
- Anyone who has suffered through any of my failed attempts to send (or copy) well or my low signal due to low power and low antenna.

I got into this hobby as sort of a happy accident. I grew up in Central Florida and would sometimes listen to the funny sounds on shortwave and wonder what they were and what was being said. I used to take (far too many) things apart to figure out how they worked. I eventually went into the Marines and did Electro-Optical Ordnance repair in 1st Tank Battalion and loved soldering or playing with oscilloscopes much of the day, and would fiddle with computers in my spare time.

When I got out of the military I did some schooling, met my future XYL, and found myself with the best daughter in the world and her very excellent brother to inspire me to be a better person. I soon got into fiddling with computers for a job, and now I have an excuse to sling some solder again in my spare time. Building QRP kits and a few simple homebrew things is greatly enhanced when I can actually use them to reach out and say hello to folks. I'm still not sure if it is more like magic, or more like a puzzle that can do useful things (or go up in smoke, as sometimes happens).

Either way it's great fun, thanks for helping me along and I hope to see y'all out there on the bands!

### **Carlos Erwin Wenzel- IK1YRA**

First, I want you to know that I feel proud to be part of CWops and to have friends as IN3HFE Helga, I2WIJ Bob, IK7UKF Sal and I8QFK Ben they made it possible. I've always seen CWops membership as a far and hard target to reach..... thing happens that you never expect. Thanks.

I am a ham model 1961, born in Argentina where I grew up. I was a child when I started shortwave listening on my grandma's radio, it was like traveling all over the world while seated at home. So many different languages, music, familiar talks and "strange noises" ...., I didn't know but I discover the Morse code, listening and listening I could learn some letters and words from the local weather station on 500khz with the help of my friend's father



*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

LU4DAV (sk). My CW disease began in that way....

Then my first license when I was 16, to get it required, a 5wpm and technical test and then, LU6EON, a few bands to operate mostly CW, a homemade 6L6 tube TX and the grandma's (practically mine) receiver.

Later, LU1CJY, LU4AE, IK2YRA, N4WEN. My QSOs are CW 99% on all HF bands, I also join some local Telegram and Whatsapp CW groups helping the "new ones" to see the Morse code as song to sing....

Today IK1YRA, not too much room to place antennas, mostly "short wires" and tuners, Elecraft and Yaesu (tubes too) are my radios, Begali ad Kent my keys.

In the meanwhile, I been working in my new host land, Italy as Telecom Dipl. Eng., broadcasting antennas designer, and telecom field engineer in several countries.

I get married twice and we have two "kids" Klaus and Sofia, she gave me Emma, a sweet, smart and tiny girl, my only granddaughter....

My hobbies are sailing, I am a sailing Instructor and racing judge. And mountain tracking (SOTA). But because the inexorable life still running thru, the main hobby remains CW ham on a comfortable and soft chair.

Now I am glad to be "on board" to the CWops club, I am sure it will help me to look forward making Morse code as great as it was in the early days....

Hope to QSO with you all, in the low side of the bands of course! Thanks for the warm welcoming.