

# Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter

September 2021 — Issue 140



## King Kamehameha Day



Several CWops members were among those activating K6K in celebration of King Kamehameha Day. [See story page 10](#)

## President's Message

I've no reason to doubt that the age profile of CWops mirrors that of the general population of radio amateurs across the world. No doubt therefore that many of us are dealing with the



wear and tear of bodies that have celebrated too many birthdays and are increasingly experiencing creaking joints and aching muscles. We haven't descended to the phone habit of 80 m 'hernia nets' on a Sunday morning thank

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### **CWops "CWT" Every Wednesday**

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

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

**Avoid DX pileups!**

### **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](#)

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goodness but when keying arms, hands and fingers need attention we sometimes read posts on our Listserv or Facebook group apologising for being missing in action whilst some surgery or other treatment takes its course. In one instance recently one dedicated rag-chewer was bemoaning the fact he'd have to resort to the keyboard so he could maintain some sort of presence on the air while waiting for the plaster on his keying arm to be removed; was this a criticism of the keyboard as a means of sending CW or simply a lament at the temporary loss of the use of his key?

The testers amongst us are well accustomed to using the computer keyboard and macros for sending exchanges and CQs and is an accepted practice in the modern era of contesting. I can think of a number who I never hear outside of contests including some who admit to an aversion to conversational QSOs. These I have no doubt would be totally comfortable with a key in front of them and many including myself will always have a key on hand for fills, corrections or dropping in a personal greeting. But some leading testers I know are also accomplished touch typists and use free form typing for these ad hoc additions – far more efficient as the hands stay right where they are and a great addition to the contesting armoury. I'm still working on this but not sure I'll ever get there and fear I will remain stuck with the error prone (for me) jumping from keyboard to key.

No-one I'm sure would argue that the Morse key in all its wonderful varieties is not front and centre to the CW experience. Most of us have more than one, some own collections, and we treat them like good friends. For me there's no better feeling than finding yourself in a QSO when everything clicks and you're in that Zen like state where the thought processes and your Morse key are one and you are literally talking with your fingers. It can be an exhilarating feeling and not easy to convey to a learner. CW is like any skill that requires dedication and effort but which will provide a real sense of pride once mastered. To be able to communicate with a Morse key in this way provides immense satisfaction and is for me Amateur Radio at its very best.

I'm writing this a week before the CW Open contest so by the time this appears it will all be over and Bruce and his team will be crunching the logs – let's hope for a great turn out. My activity on the radio is still being impacted by the effects of COVID; people here are using the recent freedoms for grabbing holidays and visiting family and friends while seemingly keeping half an eye on the increasing infection rates wondering if we may suddenly be facing restrictions once again. Unfortunately the 'Open Weekend' sees us descended upon by family so my participation will be limited this year and I have relegated myself to the UK 'B' team in the hope I'll at least manage to escape to the shack occasionally. I missed CWTs, Giving Back and WAE in mid-August as we were house/cat sitting for son and daughter-in-law in Yorkshire (just up the road from the Bingley 'Five Rise' if there are any canal boat geeks lurking) who had found a last minute vacation opportunity and stocked the fridge with beer and wine for us. Determined not to lose out completely I packed my soldering iron and a few tools and took along the KAT2 ATU kit for my K2 which has been sitting on my bench for three months. It's now all soldered up and I'm looking forward to installing it in the radio and getting it set up. Ironical that the K2 is still very much alive and kicking while my K3 alongside it is now obsolete. Funny world..

**73, Stew GW0ETF, President**

## From the Editor

### Strays

Here are some strays that didn't seem to fit in anyplace else in this month's newsletter.

My August column on how to adjust the gap and tension on paddles generated an unusually high number of emails.

Two different writers shared the information that, while turning a paddle on its side as I did, using coins to make the tension adjustment, should work for most keys, this approach may not work for the Begali HST MK III. To quote from one email, "I tried using coins to adjust its tensions. I couldn't get the two tensions to match. Begali let me know the magnet changes position when the key is tipped from one side to the other."



Don NA6Z shared information about a reasonably priced dynamometer he purchased. He provided two references for those interested: the website of [Eliseo IK6BAK](#) and then a second link for eBay which, after a bit of additional clicking, [led to a current offer of sale](#).

Several correspondents pointed out that Gregg KA7MDM used bullets to adjust his paddles. [See his listserv post](#). [A video is available on YouTube](#).

And there was [yet another listserv thread on the "gap adjustments" topic](#) just before publication of this issue. This is clearly an important topic for those who love the art of CW.

In case you missed it, Doug KR2Q posted to the listserv that there will be five CWops members on the [2022 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition](#). Congratulations to Adrian KO8SCA, Axel DL7KVA, Ken LA7GIA, Laci HA0NAR and Mike AB5EB, we wish you the best of luck.

Jack AA0IZ shared that the 9A5N paddles can be purchased directly from 9A5N but perhaps without the



**Five CWops members are schedule to visit Bouvet Island as part of the 2022 3Y0J DXpedition**

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stainless steel base. See the web pages at <https://www.9a5n.eu/models.html> and at <https://www.9a5n.eu/modelss.html>

And finally, in case you missed it, Greg WA3GM [“apologized” on the listserv](#) for making only a modest effort in the CW Open. Just a minor matter of him being in a building (right) that was hit by an F2 tornado on September 1, and then having to operate the contest on battery when his home was without power for six days. Greg, I think you have met the standard for an excused absence from a contest commitment. Wishing you and your community a quick recovery.

**73, Tim** K9WX, Editor

Background image page 3 from [Wikimedia Commons](#).



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## News and Notes

### [Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

**We regret to report that W8OU, Andrew John (CWops #2771), became a SK on July 18, 2021.**

**We regret to report that N6RA, Thomas Gallagher (CWops #109), became a SK on September 1, 2021.**

**Bob, WB4SON:** I've always been interested in various CW keys and paddles from my first day as a novice back in 1970. I've used some fine custom-built devices from N3ZN and Begali, and some real garbage too. Mostly I like to try new things out.

As I have been looking for paddles to recommend to my future CWA students, I decided to investigate paddles from Yury, UR5CDX, which seemed to be high quality from the photographs and VERY reasonably priced -- about the same price with shipping to the US as a low-end Bencher.

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Since my first experience with UR5CDX, I've purchased three different paddles. I happen to be a fan of dual lever paddles, but did try one of the single lever paddles, and found it to be stable (the center point doesn't drift around). In all cases, after ordering the paddle, it arrived here in the US within a week in perfect condition. The fit and finish is excellent.

I use the CT73-MBL for POTA activations, and the larger CT73-MB for the CWT's at 0300Z. A photo of the CT73 MB-L on a DXEngineering "sticky pad" is shown below.

Yuri's website is: <https://www.ur5cdx.com/>

**Gary, A8FA:** After 58 years living in the same suburban neighborhood my spouse and I had a new home built, and we moved in on 2 August. It was a year-long process, but now we are the first residents in a brand new neighborhood in a suburb east of Cleveland, Ohio. The new development comes complete with antenna restrictions (but not an outright ban), so I will have to be both creative and convincing when I approach the local Association with my antenna plans.

In the meantime, I am operating PPOTA: Porch Portable On The Air. I am using the same flexible, quick to deploy vertical antenna system (from Wolf River Coils) that I've been practicing with in various parks for the past few summers. To date, I've operated a half-dozen CWTs and one SKCC event.

Thank goodness for CW, and CW operators with good receivers and good ears! My Omni VII and Begali paddles may be gathering dust, but my IC-706 and various 'beater' keys are seeing action in their stead!

**Jim, N3JT:** N3JT/XE2 and N3JT/W3

CWops #1 Jim N3JT sure gets around! As this issue of *Solid Copy* is published, Jim is in IT9. Look for a report in the October issue. Before he left he spent some time in XE2 and then a few days later he was tagged in Maryland at the annual W3LPL Open House, posing here with fellow CWops members Dave K1ZZ (center) and Dave N3XF (right). Photo by Marty AG3I.



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**John, AJ1DM:** A little over a year ago I started checking into the MARI (Massachusetts/Rhode Island) CW Net. The very first radiogram I relayed was a message from Kate K6HTN (CWops #1068) to a resident of the town next to mine welcoming him as a new ham. My call to deliver his radiogram resulted in a long conversation about ham radio. He had just retired and had set out to fulfill a life-long dream to become a ham. It wasn't long before my new friend came over for a tour of my shack, followed by lots of emails and phone calls to help him get his vhf rig set up.

Over the course of the winter my friend upgraded to General, which led to a whole new series of calls and emails to help him get an HF rig up and running. His initial attempts to use the new rig were unsuccessful, so it was my turn to visit his shack. Sure enough, he had a few settings out of whack. I helped him fix them, then he made his first HC QSO that day with me sitting alongside him. He was so excited!

Shortly afterwards my friend let me know he was having some medical problems. I continued to check in with him, but after a few weeks he stopped responding to my emails. When I followed up with a thinking-about-you card, his wife emailed to let me know that he had developed cancer and very quickly became a silent key. She told me emphatically that her husband "valued your friendship and enjoyed talking about all the help and advice you gave him for his Ham Shack." She ended with "Thank you for reaching out when he first got his license, it really made an impression....he was so excited to be acknowledged on the air with his new call sign for the first time". Though the story ends sadly, I will always treasure the moments I spent with my new friend.

There are a lot of people who feel message handling has little purpose in a world with email and cell phones. But my experience suggests traffic is an important component of ham radio, the original social network.

**Glenn, VE3GNA:** My wife and I were returning from running a few errands in our 15-year old minivan when the speedometer needle started jumping around frantically. I did not notice anything untoward with my speed, so I ignored it. Suddenly my transmission slipped into first gear and my RPM's shot up to about 4500. "This is not good" I thought to myself, so I slowed down to about 35 km/h and engaged my 4-way flashers. As I was limping along, I noticed the temperature gauge creeping up towards maximum. As soon as it reached max the computer flashed a message on my info window and the car began stopping. I quickly pulled over as far as I could on the highway. I shut the engine off and raised the hood, figuring that someone would stop to see if I needed help. Good luck with that during this pandemic! There had to be over 100 vehicles that passed by in both directions and no one stopped or even slowed down.

I switched on my 2-meter rig and sent out a plaintive Mayday call. After about the third call I was answered by another nearby ham Greg VE3PJ, who lives about 15 miles away from my current position. He asked what he could do. I asked him if he could call CAA and get me a tow truck. He agreed to do so and jotted down the particulars. A few minutes later he came back on the radio and told me he had contacted CAA and that a truck would be there in about 45 minutes. As I had mentioned asking the truck operator if he could drop my wife and I off home afterwards, he informed me that, due to COVID protocols that would not be possible. Greg then offered to meet me at my location, pick us both up, follow the tow truck to its destination, my local mechanic and

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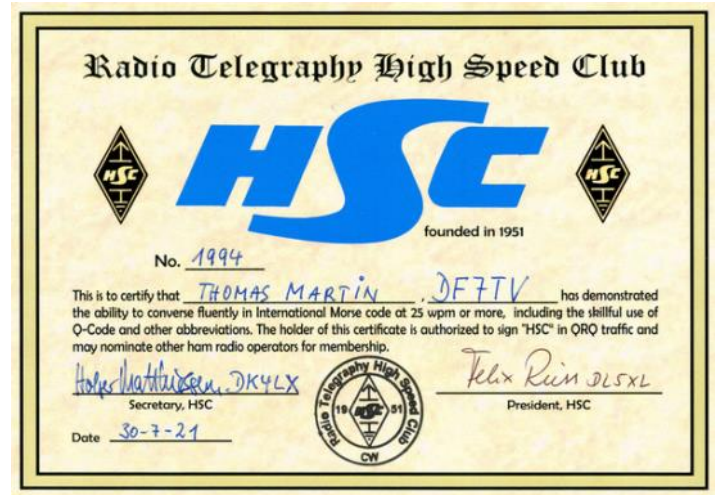
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then take us home.

I thought this was the kindest thing a total stranger could have done for us and that is why I am writing this little story. Despite coming from all walks of life and not knowing each other at all, we are linked by one common thread - amateur radio.

**Chuck, WS1L:** I'm now running barefoot as my amp is heading back to the factory for repairs. Something leaked from it into the auto tuner beneath it, and then the auto tuner started reading band changes where there were none, so it's taking the same trip. Fortunately, I do have mostly resonant antennas so I'm still QRV.

**Tom, DF7TV:** At the beginning of 2021 I started to train for higher accuracy and speed (25+ wpm) in CW. My continuing experiments are shown at: <https://www.qsl.net/df7tv/morse-code-training.html>. Thank you for any feedback on my ideas.



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## 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 -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 (next page) is the current schedule:

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<b>Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local 40 meters 7.035-7.045 MHz and/or 80 meters 3.535-3.545</b>											
UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	UTC-4	UTC-5	UTC-6	UTC-7	Hawaii UTC-10
<b>Mon</b>											
JH2HTQ JO1DGE			ON5CFT		GM0EUL G2CWO		WA2AKV W2LCQ WB2LQF K1CHM W2XS WK4WC	K8UDH AG4CC	NS6W KE7VE	N6HCN	KH6LC
<b>Tues</b>											
JH2HTQ JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO G0POT		WE5P W2TE KW4WA AC0BQ N4TMM		K7NJ K0ES KE7VE	K6RB AA0IZ	
<b>Wed</b>											
JH2HTQ JS2AHG			ON5CFT		G0HKC G4XWJ	DF7TV	W4HXH K3ZGA WB1LLY NU2Q	K5XU K2MZ W2ITT	KU7Y K2MZ KE7VE		
<b>Thurs</b>											
JH2HTQ  TV			SV2BBK		G0POT		K1KHU K4LRC W2LCQ K8BMA		KE7VE WB7S		
<b>FRI</b>											
JH2HTQ JR1WYW			SV2BBK ON5CFT DL1LAF		GW2CWO MI0WWB		VE3FXX N2GSL		KE7VE	K6RB	
<b>Sat</b>											
JJ1FXF				LA1IO			VE3FXX		KE7VE		
<b>Sun</b>											
JS2AHG JJ1FXF				IZ8NXG			W5DT		KE7VE	K6RB	

Here are the results of last month's GB efforts:

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## **Volunteer: Stations Worked**

**AA0IZ:** AI3A, AI6QZ/P, K6CIM(2), K6TXE, KD6GBY, N8AFT(2), W7UJ, W9FMI, WA5M, WB6QQR, WB6RVP, WB6UBK, WJ0R, W7DLZ(2)

**AG4CC:** W5BQ

**DF7TV:** G0DOZ, G0OER, HA1BJ, IZ4IVK, SV3IRG

**E25JRP:** HS2DV(4), VU2NSK, HS3PHX, E20XMG, HS1OLQ, YB3BOA, K9PPY, BF3GRU, HS4QKN, VU2TMO, HS0GWL

**G0POT:** UR3VZ, F4HGU/P, I5VYP, LB4MI

**G2CWO:** PA2SQ, G0GSX, IU4LJK, IT9SKY, SV8CYR, EA7KHU, IK3CHI, PA3JD, OK1YR, HB9FUE, DL1DHM, F/HB8AXG, RA6AGR, IV3DDO

**GW2CWO:** UA3ALF, M0HTE, DM2YBL/P, G4NFR, 9A1CBM, PA3DAZ, OK1CJN, HB9DAL, OM1WX, G4TPJ, LZ15TIA, DL2FE, ON4KCY, IU1FOV, ON5VC, M0WDD, PA2MT, OE5HHP, OH100SRAL, F/HB9AXG/P, SM2CSX, DL1XKA, UA9WF, PA0Y, DL1SKK, LA1IO, OE1TKW

**IZ8NXG:** IZ8LHE, LA9BM, IZ1PON

**JH2HTQ:** JE0ERZ(7), JK1GHJ, JQ3AKE, JI3MPZ, JK1QYL, 7N2XZB(3), JM8POP, JA1MFT(3), JF7URV, JH1PZJ, JI1PRL, BG6GQE, JN1ULO, JA8EQZ

**JJ1FXF:** JM8QGN, MI4MBC, JK1ESR, JQ3AKE, RK0JT, JH4GUM, JL7XAF, JE0ERZ, JA3EBL, JA0IPT, JA6SFH

**JO1DGE:** 7N2XZB, DS5RLI, HL1ZIX, JA3EBL(2), JE0ERZ, JF3TBK, JF7URV(2), JF9NRX, JI1XJB, JJ4QGQ, JL7XAF, JN3CEL, JQ2NUD, JQ2UUI, JR1JWR, JR2IUB, JR4CXE, RC0LAR, W5ZR

**JR1WYW:** JE0ERZ(3), JM8QGN, JR0KXJ/1, JA3MDU, HL1ZIX, JA3EBL, JF7URV, 7N2XZB, JH4GUM

**JS2AHG:** K7HK, JM9QGN, WD4NKA, WA7HJV, JE0ERZ(2), BG3ILY, 7N2ZXB, JF7URV, KM6TMK, JO4KEF

**K3ZGA:** W4AWH, KB2IDY, K4IBZ, KC2DQV, K4ADL, KE4MKG, K4PQC, AA4TA, WA5LXS, KD4OS

**K6RB:** WA6JCH(2), W7AEH, K5DCC, WA1TGA, W7JAS(2), WB9FMC, W6QX, W0GUZ, N0KLC, NN6T

**K7NJ:** KD7FSH, KB4ZCR, WB4DKF, KG5TW, CL3OR, W0EXT, KD2TUD, KE0MCM, WA6VWW, N5URL, K8LSB, KD7ICW, AI7GT, WA1IGA, WA0USH, N8FDI, KI4FZ

**K8UDH:** WA7EM, K9RQ

**KE7VE:** N8CT, AC6YY, AH6V, K0ES, KG7VTO, N1LN, W6AYC, WJ9B, W1VE, WA7LNW, KB9RPG, N7BKV, KJ7NW, AI6QZ, K6GVG, WB5DRG, W0M, W6LFB, AJ9M, WB5KFP, K1EBY, KN6EZE(2), K7ONR, KE0VSZ, W9CWC, N9FGC, W1WJK, NA2CC, KI7NRI, WU0L, W9FMI, W7UJ, WB0SMZ, W0DQ, K9LWA, K3LU, NU6F, KE5HL, WA6OEF, W6VD, N6FMF, W0Y, N8AA, K8T, WJ8Y, W8RTJ, K8ES, K5OGX

**KH6LC:** W7ZDX, W1YL/7, VE1ASE, 9J2BO, W3EEK

KW4WA

**N2GSL:** MM0ZBH, KU4BB, WA3IGU, N2ANL(2), AC4BN, W1IK

N4TMM

**N6HCN:** WA8Y, W7JAS, K6RB, WA5PQL, KW7WP, NT4G

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**N8LR:** N4SNI, KA2KGP

**SV2BBK:** ON7DQ, OK3EE, IZ6TSJ

**W2ITT:** KB1WOD, KN4IXU, KP4YOB, W1SFY, K3ZGA, KB6NU, AC4BN, W2IW, TI2RDP, W4XHX, KO4CIM, WB1LLY, W8RTJ, AJ4YA

**W2LCQ:** AC8BN, KB4EE(2), K8PRG, W0KOM, VO1DR, VE1YYN, AD8WR, AA7ZZ, K1YYM, AE4YP

**W5DT:** K2TZ, N3IJA, N2ANL(2), N8AUI, AA4MC, W0OJW, W2PID, KB2PIZ, W3RJ, AA0JR

**W6JIM:** KK7XV, WA6VWW, NE1D, N0CW, AA0IZ, KB6VME, W7PAT, N0RNM, N7VS, W0GAS, W7OM, KG7YU, AA2IL, W7SW, N0TA, N7SU

**WB1LLY:** W4VN, KP4YO, WA2PCN, W5DT, N4KER, K7JHM, AA8CL, KA3LOC, W2IIT, KE4MKG, KA0SIX, W2ITT, I1MMR, K1YYM

**WE5P:** K1SEC, G3ZMC, K4ZNC, W2TE, K1LKP

**WK4WC:** N9IVI, AE4DT, KB9RPG, KC1FUU, AC4BN, K1YYM, W3AGE, WB3DKF, KF8DA, K4RKP

Those interested in working these folks and practicing should look for them at around 7 PM in each time zone. They will usually send a "CWA" just before signing after a CQ.

**73,**

**Rob K6RB,** Giving Back Manager

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## Kamehameha Day Special Event Station

### [Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC](#)

Whenever the opportunity has presented itself, I've always enjoyed operating as a Special Event station. Unlike a typical contest, there's no pressure to "keep the rate up" so it's just a great time working stations at a comfortable pace.

In early May I received an e-mail from Michael Miller KH6ML, a Community Emergency Coordinator on the island of Oahu. After hearing about the cancellation of all King Kamehameha Celebration parades statewide, Michael contacted active radio amateurs, local clubs, along with several folks on the King Kamehameha Cel-



**Lloyd, KH6LC**

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celebration Commission, to see if there was interest in making a Special Event happen.

The response was overwhelmingly yes!!! Michael then announced the creation of an On the Air Special Event honoring King Kamehameha Day in Hawaii signing K6K.

The operation was authorized by the [King Kamehameha Celebration Commission](#) as an official event. It's obvious that with the short lead time Michael had available, he and his team did an excellent job of advertising the event and getting the word out. Well done!!!

Kamehameha Day has always been a popular holiday in Hawaii. [Kamehameha I](#) conquered and unified the eight islands into the Kingdom of Hawaii with the unification being completed in 1810. Kamehameha I is known as the founder and first ruler of the Hawaiian Islands, known today as the State of Hawaii.

The Kamehameha Day Holiday was proclaimed by King Kamehameha I's grandson, Lot Kapuāiwa - King Kamehameha V, in 1871, followed by an inaugural celebration of events on June 11, 1872. Years later, in 1939, the Commission was formed under the Hawai'i Territorial Legislature.

When I received the preliminary K6K operating schedule I immediately noticed there was no CW operation listed. Lots of Digi and SSB but no CW. Can't let that happen! The first thing I did was contact the other guys who regularly operate here to see if they would be interested. The June 11th Special Event would be one 18 hour day, this year on a Friday. Both Stan AH6KO, CW Ops #1794, and Rob NH6V readily agreed. As luck would have it, I ran into Hilo resident Ken Brown N6KB and invited him to join us. That made four of us, all fully vaccinated. I then contacted Michael and offered to take the entire CW portion of the event if no one else volunteered. Michael was ecstatic.



**Left to right: KH6LC, NH6V, AH6KO. Ken N6KB was not available when the pictures illustrating this story were taken.**

On Friday June 11th at 6 AM HST (1600z) Rob and I started out on 20 and 40 meters. There was a solar flare in the morning which dulled our initial enthusiasm but conditions steadily improved as the day went on. Both Stan and Ken arrived mid-morning. The four of us kept two stations going the entire event and often three when 40, 20 and 15 were open simultaneously. The third station also spent time on 10 meters which yielded just a few contacts, one being West Virginia. As the day unfolded, conditions on 20 and 40 meters went from being mediocre to being quite good at this QTH, especially towards Asia.

Anyone who has operated here will tell you that we eat very well. I enjoy entertaining and like to cook. Like most multi-op stations, during the big contests we eat in shifts. Since we weren't in the hardcore contest mode, we decided to all sit down together and enjoy a nice leisurely dinner,

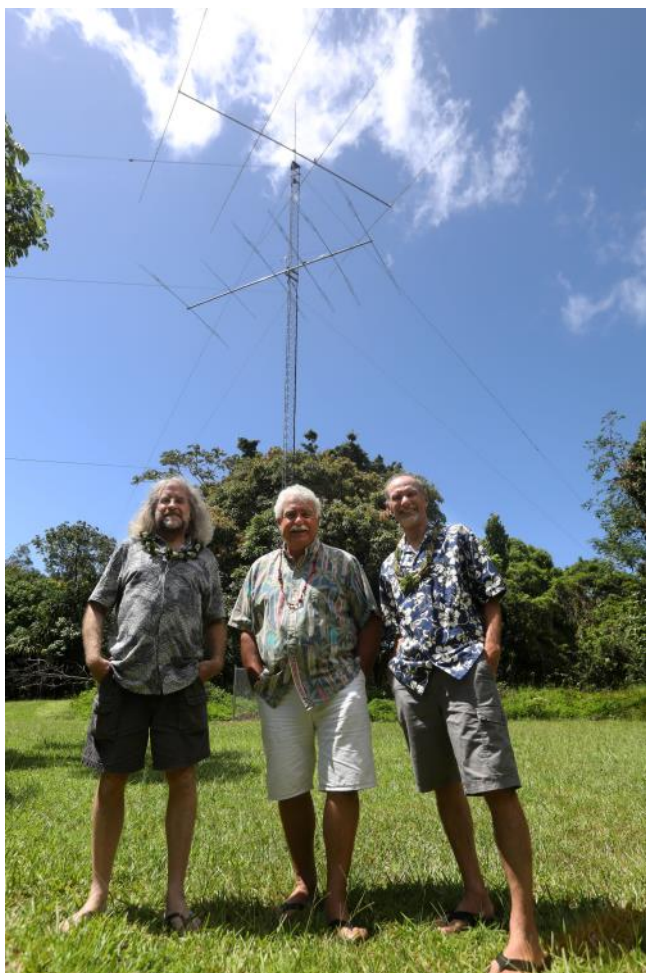
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including apple pie for dessert. For me, that hour spent sitting down with good friends, visiting and enjoying a nice meal was probably the highlight of my day. After dinner we returned to the shack. Somehow the apple pie (or more likely the whipped cream) ended up on all our fingers, paddles and keyboards. The result was a sticky gooey mess which made our CW "a little special" until everything and everybody received a good cleaning. Once we quit laughing, we finished out the evening with nice JA runs on 20 and 40. Someone even tried 80 meters for a few contacts. We stayed busy right up to the bell at 1000z, midnight for us in the mid-Pacific. It was a long day but we had fun.

For our part, we made 1575 CW contacts, including all 50 states and 61 countries. CW was by far the most popular mode. If you're in the log, beginning in mid-July you'll be eligible to download a beautiful Kamehameha Day Certificate. [Browse to this web page to find a full breakdown.](#)

CW is alive and well on the Big Island of Hawaii. From Rob NH6V, Stan AH6KO, Ken N6KB and myself, a big Mahalo to all those who checked in.



NH6V, KH6LC, and AH6KO.

## K6K STATS

Σ QSOs	2936
CW	1608
Phone	443
Digi	885

Band	QSO	CW	Phone	Digi
80m	23	3	13	7
40m	550	325	87	138
20m	1658	937	335	386
17m	208	0	1	207
15m	340	340	0	0
12m	16	0	0	16
10m	14	3	7	4
2m	123	0	0	123



# A Quick Disconnect for Wire Verticals

[Jack Schuster, W1WEF](#)

I just came in from disconnecting my vertical wires on a very gusty afternoon. I currently have an 80M 4 square consisting of vertical wires in trees, and an Inverted L on 160 supported at the far end in a tree. When the wind blows hard, the trees sway and the wires are stressed even though I have plenty of slack in all of them. I have had my share of broken wires and other damage at the base through the years, so I thought I'd share my solution that has been working out OK.

After using many schemes for handling radials, I decided on the cake pan approach in the attached photo. I use an inverted ten inch aluminum cake pan with an SO239 on the side and another on the top. The two SO239s are connected together underneath the pan with a 14 gage copper wire. The feedline connects on the side and the vertical wire on top through a PL259. My radials are connected around the circumference with stainless sheet metal screws and ring terminals.

The cake pan is mounted on a short 4x4 in the ground with the top cut on a slight angle to let water runoff. I know this is more elaborate than what many do, just clamping the radials and coax shield together somehow, but this gives me a way to connect radially and disconnect the antenna easily.



**The cake pan radial plate with the vertical wire disconnected. The SO239 connector has been covered with a PVC end cap.**

The first three feet of the verticals are put together on the workbench rather than soldering outdoors. I first soldered a 14 ga stranded copper wire into the PL259 center pin. Next I inserted a 3/8 rubber grommet with the wire going through it into the 259 about a quarter inch in, to hold the wire in the center. I then filled the 259 above the grommet with a 2 part epoxy and let it set over night. I wanted a rigid epoxy that would ensure that the wire would not pull out, rather than use something like silicon RTV.

To connect the three foot wire to the vertical antenna wire, I use a split bolt copper connector (available at Home Depot). My original plan was to just snug up the split bolt connector enough so the wire could separate if it was yanked hard enough, but after losing a split bolt connector,

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and having a wire get caught high in a tree branch , I decided it best to disconnect the 259 when high winds were expected, as my buddy K1RM suggested.

When I disconnect, I coil up the wire and hold the coil with a small spring clamp. So far, I have not had to recover one from a tree. To keep rain out of the SO239, I cap it with a PVC end cap that is slightly too large for a snug fit, so I first put a small square of plastic baggie over the connector.

If the winds are forecast over a contest weekend...I take my chances!



**The disconnect vertical wire coil held in place with a spring clamp, ready for wind gusts.**

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## RV Portable Ops

[Dennis Gregory, WU6X](#)

There have been many articles written about operating portable from a recreational vehicle, and many who read this will wonder why I did, or didn't do, something this way or that ... What any portable radio system eventually comes down to is meeting a design criteria and selecting the appropriate variables, which will change with each installation.

In my case, I've developed two different installations that meet my typical portable ops scenario while traveling in a 34-foot class-A Winnebago bus. That's not to say I haven't tried many other different installation options; these work and work well!

### Operating Criteria

1. All-bands, at least 40m thru 10m including WARC
2. Easy to store in available compartments
3. Fast and easy to erect
4. Low cost
5. Minimal components

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## Antennas

Likely one of the most important parts of portable ops is a good antenna system. A quick and relatively easy system would be to use a screwdriver antenna. I have friends that use these with excellent results. The problem is screwdriver antennas deny criteria #4; they are not inexpensive!

**Antenna System #1:** The need was to meet all the criteria using a wire antenna that could be self-contained within the footprint of the RV while parked. To accomplish this, my friend Jonathan AI6NA computer-designed a non-resonant, 40-foot wire antenna that could be erected in an “inverted-L” configuration using my push-up 25-foot, rectangular, fiberglass surveyor’s pole (photo, right). These poles are available from different sources for \$100 or less. And, the rectangular construction makes them much stiffer than round poles; they collapse to about 5 feet.



The antenna is fed at roof level from an MFJ-993BRT (see <https://www.hamradio.com/>) weatherproof auto-tuner that is fastened to the roof with heavy-duty Velcro. The wire extends vertically for about 16 feet, then slopes downwards to one of the mirrors on my RV, secured with an egg insulator at antenna end, and twine for the remaining distance to the mirror. Two, 20-foot counterpoise wires are also connected from the ground on the tuner, one each laying across the roof either side, and resting loose on the ground.

This system works remarkably well and has a very useable “donut” propagation pattern in all directions, somewhat favoring the direction towards the front of the RV.

**Antenna System #2:** This system also meets all my criteria and has become my go-to system when I can run a longer wire to an available tree outside the footprint of the RV. I add 24-feet to the Antenna #1 system, again in the “inverted-L” configuration. The complete system uses a 64-foot wire fed at roof-level with a homebrew 64:1 transformer, bypassing the MFJ auto-tuner. Complete, easy-to-build specs for the transformer are available at my QRZ site (<https://www.qrz.com/db/wu6x>), about \$25.

The advantages of this system are no tuner or counterpoise wires are required. The design is es-

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essentially a halfwave wire and will operate on all bands above the halfwave length. Complete, similar transformer-fed antennas are available commercially for a reasonable cost for those not wanting to construct the 64:1 toroid transformer (see <http://myantennas.com>).

This system works very well but requires a tie-off for the end of the antenna, typically a tree or bush some distance away and outside of the footprint of the RV. Again, I use an egg insulator at the end of the antenna, and twine to the tie-off point. Tip: If you are a fisherman, consider tossing a 2 oz. bullet sinker over a limb to pull the twine up. Note: this will draw a considerable amount of attention from other campers ... quite fun!



**Portable Radios:** My go-to radio of choice for the past 8 years is the Elecraft KX3 and KXPA100, 100-watt amplifier with built-in tuner. I have a Kenwood TS-480HX radio as well, and this radio is currently used to connect to my home QTH using a RemoteRig setup w/wireless option, giving me the best of both operating worlds; “portable-local” or “portable-remote” when I can’t put up an antenna or for short, over-night stops. The RemoteRig setup requires an Internet connection and I use my iPhone as a hotspot (see [https://www.remoterig.com/wp/?page\\_id=20](https://www.remoterig.com/wp/?page_id=20)).

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Fortunately, the Winnebago has a deep, flat dash (and a forgiving XYL) allowing for the mess of cables this installation requires. Remember, this is “portable ops” not a mobile installation, so it gets taken down and stowed when it’s time to move to a new campground. It’s not pretty ... but it works very well! Two other ham friends of mine switched to ICOM IC-7300’s for their portable installations. These are great radios and require far less cables to setup. In my personal opinion, it’s hard to beat the size, receive sensitivity and big-radio features of the Elecraft KX3.

The TS-480 control head and RemoteRig control box is visible just behind the KX3 in the picture. The remote system works very well, using a 130-foot sloping wire to the top of a 60-foot pine tree, fed with an MFJ-993BRT at the low-end feed point; like sitting in my shack at home.



## NOTES:

**Power Supplies:** I use Powerwerx SS-30DV solid-state, 30amp, switching power supplies at both ends. These are small form factor, make no noticeable noise, and provide more than adequate power for the radios at each end; the TS-480HX home-end is run at 150w out (see <https://www.hamradio.com/>).

**Push-up Mast:** The specific push-up mast I use is available from various online retailers, including Amazon (see <https://www.tigersupplies.com/>). The surveyor’s mast is secured to the RV ladder with large zip ties. I’ve begun using a piece of rubber cut from a tire innertube to quiet the “creaking” noise that can happen if the wind comes up while you are sleeping. In this manner, the surveyor’s pole can also be mounted further up the ladder to achieve an additional 5-feet of antenna height above the RV roof (photo, right).

**Coax:** Two, 50-foot runs of RG-8X are run from the firewall area of the RV, through the frame, to the bottom of the ladder. Any



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excess length is coiled and tied to the tow bar when not in use, and is available to reach to the top of the roof feed point.

I also use two clamp-on common mode chokes at the KXPA100 amplifier to minimize any RF getting back to the radio. The MFJ-993BRT auto-tuner is powered through the coax via a bias-T, tuner bypass switch included by MFJ with the tuner.

**Antenna Wire:** I use #532, 18 AWG copper-clad, steel stranded, HDPE jacketed antenna wire available from The Wireman (see <https://thewireman.com/>). If you have both the 40 and 64-foot lengths pre-cut, you are prepared for either antenna installation scenario.

I certainly hope you've enjoyed reading this and, if nothing else, are equipped with new ideas on operating portable while traveling in an RV. Please send email with any questions and I'll do my best to answer.

## CW Academy

[Kate Hutton, K6HTN](#) [Joe Fischer, AA8TA](#)  
[Bob Carter, WR7Q](#) [Roland Smith, K7OJL](#)

The CW Academy beginner class is designed for people who wish to learn Morse code with no prior experience, or limited experience, with Morse code. The goal is to learn and get comfortable with the sounds of approximately 40 characters and gain skills needed to make CW QSOs.

Some people learn Morse code on their own or through other means. This group of people, along with the CW Academy beginner group, may feel that they are not able to comfortably copy characters without a lot of effort. What they are lacking is a skill called instant character recognition (ICR).

In days of old, perhaps more than 20 or so years ago, people gained ICR skills by tuning around for CW signals – perhaps an on-going CW QSO or a contest – and listened and tried to pick up what they could. By doing this many times, things got more comfortable. Similarly, engaging in CW QSOs, even with fumbled exchanges and messing up some characters, eventually things got better.

Sometimes, messages pop in the SKCC group from new CW fans wanting to know how to get past the initial, scary point they are at where they know Morse code characters but have a lot of fear or trouble when they hear CW at almost any speed. Many other people may share that sentiment.

Today, there are many training aids available that can help a person get more comfortable with

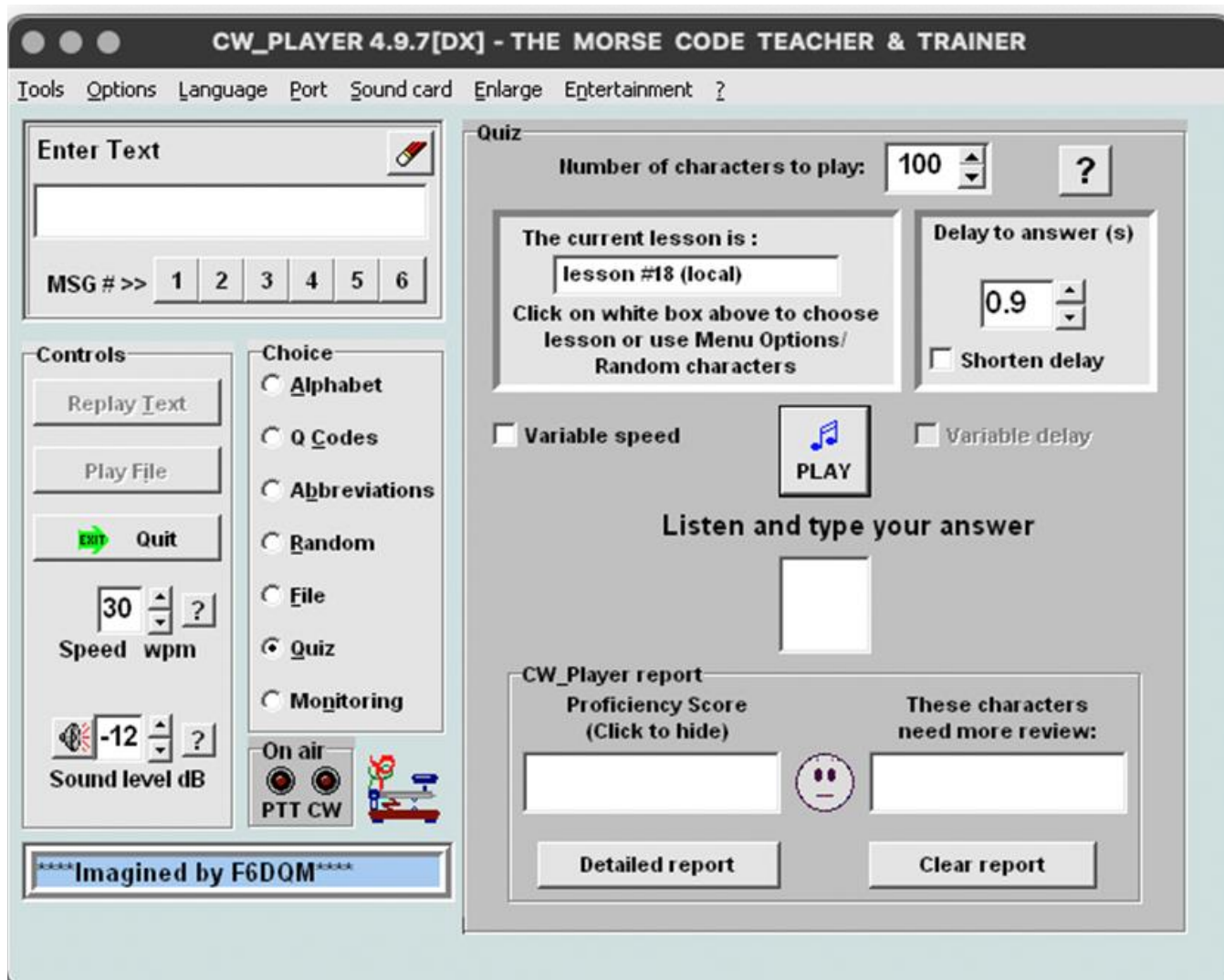
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the ICR concept. By making the transition from much mental effort in decoding CW to a relaxed subconscious hearing style, engaging in CW events is so much easier and fun. Of course, listening on the air and trying QSOs no matter how rough they may be is still a good thing to do.

Training aids are available for various computer types, from desktops to laptops to portable devices. Let's look at two that are Microsoft Windows applications. The first is CW Player available from [F6DQM](http://F6DQM.com).



This includes selections under "Choice" to review letters, numerals, Q-codes, common abbreviations, etc. The Quiz mode is very effective by setting the character speed and the Delay time to values that are challenging. Character speed should always be higher than 20 WPM in order to hear character sounds. If counting dits and dahs is a problem, then a character speed of at least 25 WPM should be used.

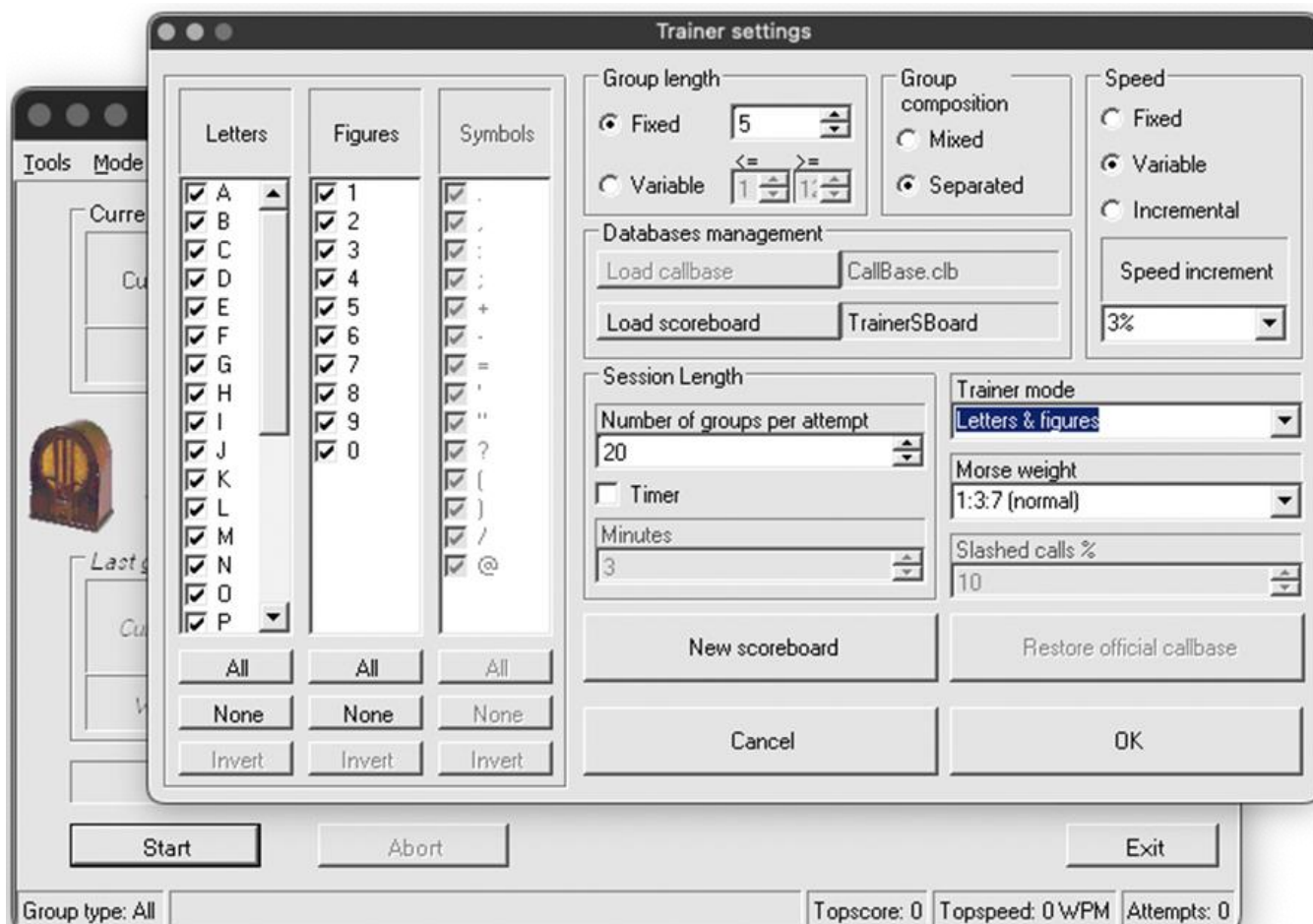
Quiz mode sends a character at random from the selection listed in "current lesson." It will wait for the selected delay then move on whether a response was received or not. This can help to force quick thinking and not spending time deciding what was heard and just going with what the

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subconscious heard, which is frequently correct, if one would learn to trust it. Doing these exercises can be addicting in trying to beat the last score and continue to get better.

Another popular program is [RufzXP](#).



By selecting Trainer from the Mode menu, then selecting Settings, one can select “Letters and figures” and gain skills learning to recognize multi-character and word sounds. Doing this also develops subconscious hearing skills.

Some documents that explain these settings are in the student resources areas on the CW Academy web site or by contacting one of us or your advisor, if you are in a CW Academy class. Much of what the CW Academy emphasizes is the subconscious copying of CW. Developing ICR skills and using one’s subconscious mind makes copying CW simple, easy and effortless. This is useful at any speed or situation from an outing at a park, a casual chat with somebody during the evening, a contest or any other CW event.

The best thing to do is to relax, push yourself a bit further than what you think you can do, have fun and new skills will quickly follow.

73,

**Kate K6HTN, Joe AA8TA, Bob WR7Q, Roland K7OJL**  
CW Academy Managers



# CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)

Several operating awards are available for contacting CWops members. These include Annual Competition Award (ACA) recognizing the total number of CWops members contacted in a single year, Cumulative Membership Award (CMA) recognizing the total number of members contacted on each amateur band since January 3, 2010, CWops WAS Award for contacting members in all 50 states, CWops DXCC Award for contacting members in countries on the ARRL DXCC list, CWops WAE Award for contacting members in Europe, and CWops WAZ Award for contacting members in each of the 40 CQ



zones. All contacts must be via CW and with current CWops members. To qualify for these awards, you must submit your logs via the tool at the CWops Award Tools website <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/>. You can also print out your awards certificates at that same website.

A set of tools for managing your awards status is provided on the CWops Award Tools website and if you regularly upload your logs your awards will be automatically tracked for you. To view complete data for all currently active participants and see where you and others rank among active participants in the awards program, use the tools at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores-by-call>. For more details on the tools provided, see the August 2021 Solid Copy article.

Fabian, DJ1YFK, who created the website and the tools, made it extremely easy to participate in the awards program. If you are not among the 227 CWops members who are currently participating, please join us! It adds a lot of friendly competition and fun to your operating.

As always, there was a lot of movement in the ACA rankings this month, but AA3B remains atop the rankings where he has been all year, with K3WW and N5RZ in the next two positions. Thirty-one members have contacted 100 DXCC entities and 84 members have completed CWops WAS by contacting members in all 50 states. Currently, there are active CWops members in all 50 states, so each passing month should bring new CWops WAS awards.

For more information on the CWops Awards Program, please go to <https://cwops.org/contact-us/awards/>, and address any questions or comments to [cwopscam@w0tg.com](mailto:cwopscam@w0tg.com).

Here are the rankings for the top 100 ACA scores as of the first week of September 2021.

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RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
1	AA3B	1611	11093	126	50	47	38
2	K3WW	1459	8532	126	50	46	36
3	N5RZ	1389	6909	116	50	43	36
4	NA8V	1300	6697	107	50	44	34
5	K3WJV	1278	6178	108	50	46	30
6	KR2Q	1264	3944	125	50	49	36
7	K3JT	1176	4586	91	50	42	29
8	W1RM	1173	7516	209	50	60	38
9	K7QA	1136	4198	79	50	36	28
10	K4WW	1135	4069	81	50	35	29
11	K1VUT	1134	4257	71	50	37	22
12	N7US	1132	5078	104	50	35	32
13	KG9X	1129	4620	75	50	34	24
14	W4WF	1109	3809	77	50	37	29
15	AC6ZM	1089	3458	58	50	33	21
16	W0UO	1078	2797	49	50	28	19
17	WT9U	1054	4779	98	50	38	29
18	WT3K	1049	3261	70	49	39	24
19	K3PP	1042	4401	100	50	44	27
20	N8BJQ	1036	6996	128	50	46	38
21	VE3KI	1027	6486	135	50	50	37
22	F6HKA	1022	6828	198	50	57	38
23	K8AJS	992	3899	100	50	42	30
24	NA4J	990	3089	68	49	31	24
25	W9ILY	985	5396	129	50	45	36
26	N1DC	982	4173	84	50	38	24
27	WN7S	971	3329	62	49	30	21
28	K6NR	968	3339	60	50	28	28
29	K9WX	964	4138	86	50	33	26
30	AA5JF	934	2217	64	49	33	25
31	DL6KVA	915	4878	166	50	59	36
32	VE3TM	913	2381	69	50	37	23
33	K8PK	888	3177	80	50	38	30
34	WS1L	875	2184	57	49	34	19
35	W8FN	867	3188	54	49	28	18
36	KC7V	863	4462	87	50	34	32
37	N2UU	862	4841	108	50	44	31
38	K3ZA	856	1679	33	50	22	14

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RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
39	NJ3K	850	2546	58	49	36	19
40	I2WIJ	835	2973	78	48	40	29
41	KE8G	834	3013	77	49	35	25
42	K1DJ	828	3628	92	50	40	26
43	K2TW	814	2943	56	49	30	20
44	W2CDO	803	1879	50	48	33	18
45	KT5V	800	2873	73	50	26	29
46	K1ESE	791	4829	123	50	44	35
47	EA4OR	782	1743	71	49	42	26
48	AF4T	780	1956	54	50	31	23
49	WA4JUK	779	3184	80	50	38	26
50	K4TZ	775	2300	35	50	15	15
51	DF7TV	774	1655	79	47	43	31
52	KC4WQ	761	2325	43	50	23	18
53	N4ZR	758	3857	93	50	40	29
54	W3WHK	751	2638	71	49	32	21
55	W0VX	750	4885	122	49	42	36
56	CO8NMN	748	2800	66	47	33	22
57	OZ3SM	738	2148	85	47	41	31
58	KV8Q	736	2305	54	49	25	20
59	LB6GG	729	2147	79	44	45	25
60	KM4FO	728	2082	40	49	14	16
61	K8JQ	724	4222	62	50	28	23
62	NR3Z	717	1985	63	48	32	22
63	NE2V	715	1219	45	49	25	16
64	N4FP	706	1964	48	49	28	18
65	NF8M	705	1852	38	48	20	16
66	W2NRA	700	2422	71	50	34	22
67	K1SM	699	3488	128	49	43	36
68	9A1AA	698	3619	121	49	49	38
69	W6LAX	697	1692	34	49	13	18
70	W1UU	686	3757	107	50	37	32
71	NK4O	685	1435	56	46	26	22
72	W1AJT	675	1302	48	49	32	19
73	AF5J	665	1380	36	50	17	17
74	GW0ETF	664	3436	109	50	46	35
75	N4DW	664	5316	117	50	42	35
76	K4GM	658	3327	77	50	32	27
77	VE3MV	644	2722	71	49	34	20

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RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
78	K0TC	640	2565	56	49	24	19
79	WW3S	632	1189	53	48	30	23
80	K2YR	617	1571	39	47	25	16
81	KA1YQC	612	1161	46	48	30	16
82	DK3WW	603	1556	71	49	41	25
83	W0TG	600	2329	58	50	23	25
84	G3XTT	598	1975	78	46	41	27
85	KT4XN	593	1830	53	48	24	17
86	AG4EA	586	1414	42	47	25	16
87	G3WZD	585	1275	77	46	39	27
88	N5XE	584	2026	57	49	29	20
89	WA2USA	581	1575	39	50	24	16
90	K1EBY	579	3168	78	50	34	26
91	K6KM	575	1694	41	50	16	22
92	SM0HEV	574	1727	93	47	45	31
93	F5SGI	566	1119	70	43	44	23
94	WA5LXS	543	1712	44	49	17	16
95	W2VM	540	2020	56	49	28	17
96	AD5A	529	5080	104	50	39	33
97	N5IR	529	4114	118	50	43	33
98	W8OV	526	1882	46	48	20	18
99	N2WK	509	3059	78	49	36	24
100	N1EN	507	2826	114	50	41	34

## CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

As of the end of August, we are almost two-thirds of the way through 2021 – 34 weeks out of 52. Looking at the list of CWT participation scores for this year so far (posted at <https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/files/topslist.txt>), there are nearly 1300 amateurs who have taken part in at least one CWT so far in 2021. Of these, 450 have participated in 34 or more CWTs, i.e. at least one per week. There are 14 amateurs (all CWops members, and all in North America) who have reported a score for every one of the 102 CWTs so far this year.

Our busiest CWT session was the 1900Z CWT on January 27. There were 478 scores reported to 3830scores.com for this one, and participant counts over 400 have been common this year for

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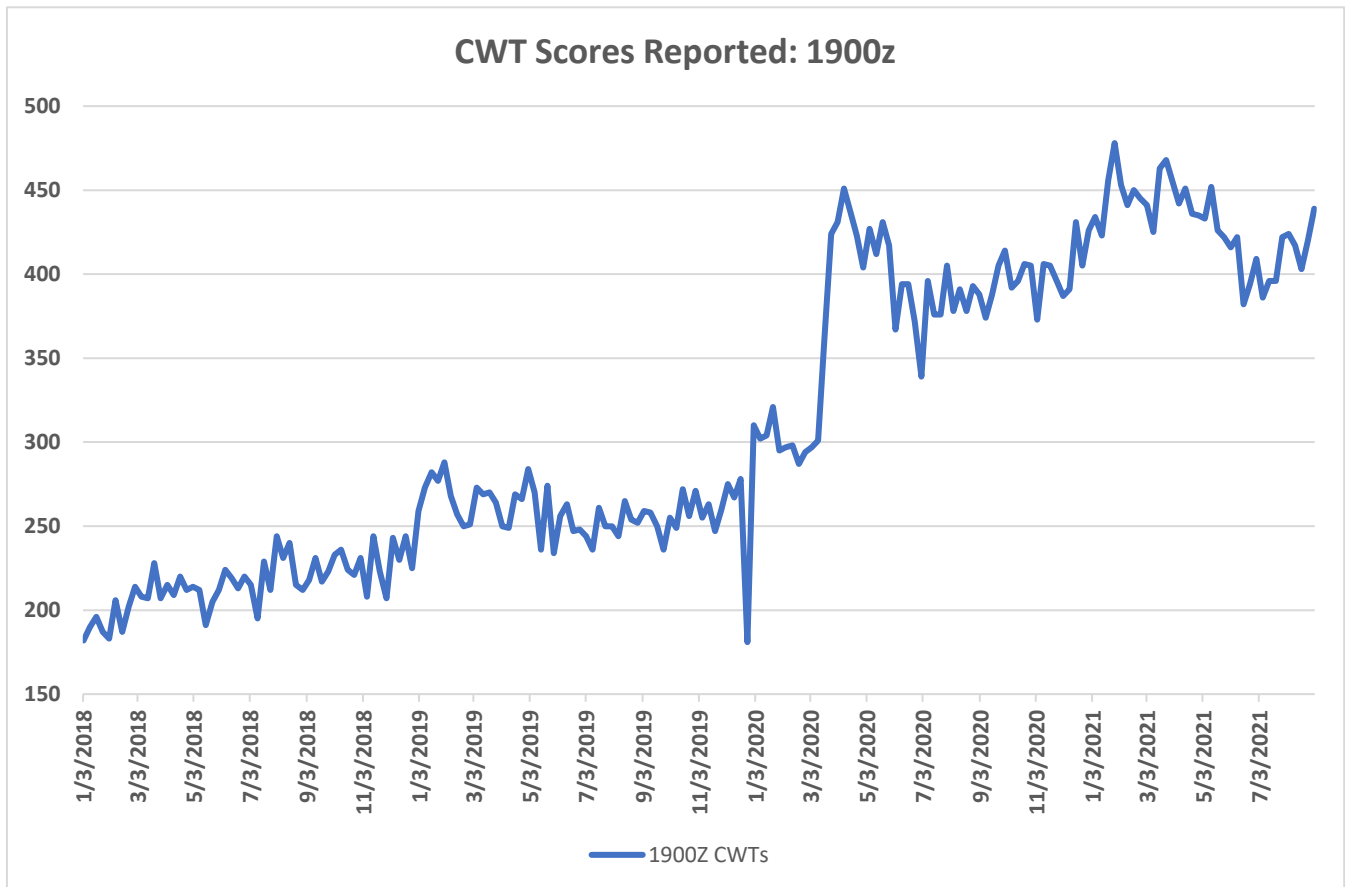




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both the 1300Z and 1900Z CWTs. The graph below shows participation (reported scores) in the 1900Z session over the past few years.

The downward spike near the end of 2019 is on December 25. Despite the fact that Christmas fell on a Wednesday that year, there were still plenty of people on the air at least briefly during that session. The big jump upwards in March 2020 coincides with the lockdown measures imposed in many places as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that increased participation is still with us.



Participation in the 1300Z session is quite similar, just slightly below that at 1900Z. The 0300Z session is not as popular, with numbers of participants mostly in the upper 200s except for a few months from November 2020 to March 2021 when the count rose above 300.

While the new 0700Z session does not yet count towards participation awards, and so is still “unofficial”, I have been keeping track of it as well. The biggest one was the second one on July 8, with 47 entries. Since then, the attendance has gradually dropped off, to about two dozen regulars from Europe, a couple of JA stations, and the occasional North American. Once this session starts counting towards the awards in 2022, I expect that we will see it become more popular. The fall time change and improving propagation will likely factor in as well.

# New Members

## Trung Nguyen W6TN

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

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
2981	EA4BB*	Nando	2991	K1BX	Art	3001	W7PEZ*	Paul
2982	KB3FW*	Harv	2992	K9WO*	Steven	3002	S58MU	Milan
2983	N1RBD*	Richard	2993	W7JET*	BB	3003	K1RF*	Steve
2984	K8RGI*	Bob	2994	W7JRD*	JR	3004	WA7CPA*	Robin
2985	M0BEW	Tim	2995	KT4O	Ben	3005	NE5DL*	Dave
2986	LU5DX*	Martin	2996	KG7YU*	Gordo	3006	WB8BZK*	Mike
2987	G4KQY*	Mike	2997	WJ0C*	Steve	3007	NS3L	Steve
2988	W4CMG*	Cathy	2998	W9TD*	Gary	3008	W0NF*	Pam
2989	AC5XK*	Don	2999	N9EXL	Lyndel			
2990	K0AF*	Andy	3000	K5DP*	Mark			

\*Life Member

## Current Nominees

As of September 8: **Need Sponsors:** KE5EN, N6HI, NM2A, JF1UOX  
**Invitations Extended:** SP1NY

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

For information about joining CWops, check the "Membership" page on the website: <http://www.cwops.org>

### Notes:

- If you have updated your personal info, e.g., new QTH, new callsign, or additional callsign, please send it to [membership@cwops.org](mailto:membership@cwops.org) so I can add it to the roster.
- Vice versa, if your callsign becomes inactive I can remove it, too. Then the roster will be accurate and current for our usage.

73,

**Trung W6TN**, Membership Manager



# QTX Report

## Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Bruce Murdock, K8UDH](#)

After a Sunday evening SST I called CQ and was surprised by the reply. It wasn't because I recognized his call. We had never worked each other before. I was surprised because he was sending so much slower than I was. So, I slowed down and answered him at his sending speed. It was challenging for me. Sometimes it's really hard for me to make dramatic speed changes and send well with my paddle. I guess it takes a while for our minds and hands to adjust.

At first, I was picturing how many CW Academy students sound when they first get on the air. He seemed nervous, made lots of mistakes, and didn't know what to say, much like some of the stations I work in the Giving Back Program. But the key is, he was on-the-air. After a bit he told me he was very new to CW and I was only his second CW QSO. We had a great ragchew QSO at about 13 wpm character speed with a little bit of extra Farnsworth spacing thrown in.

This QSO was a reminder to me how important it is to slow down sometimes and talk with our new CW operators. They will be thrilled and you may be too. After all, we were all new CW operators just like them once upon a time. My suggestion is, help someone learn to enjoy CW.

Let's take a look at the variety of interesting comments from our QTX ops.

### Comments from QTX Submissions

**K9OZ:** On vacation last two weeks of July so my numbers are slipping.

**K6DGW:** Very little radio time in Aug, and very few opportunities for a rag chew when I could get on. I have to learn to say "No" when folks are looking for volunteers ... You'd think 10 years in the Military would have taught me that.

**G3WZD:** Not a particularly busy month but one QSO was especially enjoyable and memorable.

I was asked by Theo PA3HEN if I would help out a fellow CWops member, Jo PG4I, with a 30 minute ragchew for an SKCC award. I happily offered my services but then it dawned on me that I might also need to be use a straight key. That really worried me as I had not used a straight key for a long time and certainly did not want to come across as a LID.

Anyway, I selected my trusty British NATO 3 1/2 lb 'brick' from my modest key collection and sent a few test calls to see if RBN would spot my callsign. Happily, it did so at least I managed to send my call correctly!

Jo and I duly met on 40m one August Sunday morning and set to it. Well, by the time we finished we'd been nattering for around 40 minutes and exchanged all kinds of interesting info. Jo also switched to his bug and cootie for a spell.

The sked concluded and, knowing that it had been many years since my last straight key QSO, I

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decided to look through my log books to see just how long ago it was. Amazingly, my last straight key QSO was late June 1979, over 42 years ago.

Even more remarkable is that it was using the exact same key as I have owned it since new in 1975, and it was my only key back then! So, two consecutive QSOs on the same key, 42 years apart!

I left for Singapore a week later and stupidly never touched a key for the next 23 years; such a wasted opportunity as 9V1UG, but that's another story!

**WS1L:** Earlier this year I decided to try to average 3 QTX QSO's a day, and this month I finally managed to reach that number.

**AA5AD:** lots of strange propagation this month, but managed several nice rag chews, I especially enjoyed running into a friend from the Waterway CW Net, Lee, W4EDE, from Miami.

**W9EBE:** It's always great having lengthy QSOs with old friends, and making new friends along the way who enjoy doing the same!

**N6HCN:** QTX with Steve, WA8Y was like a disaster novel as he told me the story of a 2-dam failure last summer near his QTH of Midland, MI that drained a beautiful lake and washed an adjacent town away.

**N2DA:** Mostly sked QSOs. It was nice to make contact with KG5IEE and K8UDH on 40, though conditions were poor.

**AA0IZ:** Hello Bruce and Team,

This is my first entry for the QTX. I started rag chewing in earnest in July, but I didn't enter my numbers for those contacts.

I know the awards go for a calendar year, but I want to build this habit of submitting my numbers and keep up my motivation for QTX's. I truly enjoy conversational CW!

Many thanks for all that you do to support this program!

**F5IYJ:** I will operate SV9/F5IYJ for 2 weeks this month and hopefully will have nice chats with CWOps members (or not yet members) from there.

**K9OZ:** Another light month as I was on the road for four weeks on extended SOTA trip. I made 500 SOTA contacts over 3 weeks, so the fist didn't get rusty,

**AJ1DM:** A few family-related distractions this month (all good ones) kept me from getting on the rig quite so much. That makes me all the more thankful for the folks I rag-chew with regularly. Having fun with cw on the air!

**N5IR:** Six 1-hour QTXs this month. OTs telling each other war stories. A CW cracker barrel.

**AC8RG:** I enjoyed all of the great rag chews I had this month with some very good operators.

**AA0YY:** Hi Bruce, nothing real interesting this month but I do seem to be working more station out west, especially AZ.

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**W3WHK:** It was nice to have a short CW ragchew with Zen VA3SZ, whom I had contacted several times previously on phone. He is a very friendly chap, who seems genuinely excited at having a contact with you. He lives in London, Ontario, and knows me as the guy who always reminds him that I used to perform often at the Home County Folk Festival in London's Victoria Park.

**N8AI:** Installed new Mazzoni in back yard mid-month. Only started making long QSOs again after borrowing KPA500. Fantastic receive antenna, fair transmit.

**VA3DKL:** Some great ragchews this month. One ended up turning into an SKCC marathon QSO! 86 minutes. Could have chatted a while longer, but had to go QRT. Looking forward to more chats in September.

**N0BM:** Pretty good month despite poor propagation. Worked one member and we compared his signal strength on one new antenna vs. 2 established ones. Nice QSO.

**KB6NU:** Almost the 1 per day mark. Maybe in September.

**K8UDH:** Another crazy busy month. Some great ragchew QSOs but not nearly as many as I would like to have. Maybe things will settle down as we get into the fall.

### **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

John K1ESE is in the lead with 487 QTX QSOs and Chuck WS1L is close behind with 467 QTX QSOs. John and Chuck have both qualified for a gold medal. Chris N8AI with 351 QTX QSOs, Bill N5IR with 334, Joe KC0VKN with 316, and Bruce K9OZ with 303 have qualified for a silver medal. Phil F5IYJ with 261, Dennis WA2USA with 226, and Dan KB6NU with 206 QTX QSOs have qualified for a bronze medal. Congratulations to all of you.

### **QTX for August 2021**

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WS1L	98	KC0VKN	19	AA0YY	8	G3WZD	2
K1ESE	61	AA0IZ	17	AJ1DM	8	GW0ETF	2
F5IYJ	44	N6HCN	16	AA5AD	6	K6DGW	2
N5IR	43	WA2USA	16	AC8RG	6		
K9OZ	37	N2DA	14	SV2BBK	4		
W9EBE	31	K4AHO	12	VA3DKL	4		
N8AI	28	K8UDH	11	K5YQF	3		
KB6NU	26	KG5IEE	9	N0BM	3		

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## MQTX for August 2021

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	49	GW0ETF	10	KG5IEE	5	VA3DKL	4
WS1L	37	AA0IZ	6	N0BM	5	G3WZD	3
SV2BBK	28	K6DGW	6	AC8RG	4	AJ1DM	2
K1ESE	25	AA0YY	5	K4AHO	4	N6HCN	2
W9EBE	15	AA5AD	5	K8UDH	4	W3WHK	2

## 2021 Totals for QTX

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
K1ESE	487	K4AHO	104	K6DGW	21	W8UA	8
WS1L	467	KG5IEE	98	AA0IZ	17	GW0ETF	7
N8AI	351	N2DA	89	SV2BBK	17	KF9VV	7
N5IR	334	AJ1DM	87	GW4VXE	17	M0MUI	7
KC0VKN	316	K8UDH	82	N5LB	17	KK5NA	5
K9OZ	303	K5YQF	76	K7TRT	15	N3FZ	4
F5IYJ	261	AA0YY	67	W3WHK	15	N5PHT	4
WA2USA	226	AA5AD	50	N0BM	14	W1AJT	3
KB6NU	206	AC8RG	48	G3WZD	11	K1BZ	2
W9EBE	187	NN0TE	40	VA3DKL	10	MI0WWB	2
N6HCN	149	W0OJ	31	EA2AJB	10	W3PNM	2

## 2021 Totals for MQTX

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	423	K4AHO	65	K8UDH	15	K1BZ	7
SV2BBK	195	AC8RG	55	K7TRT	15	AA0IZ	6
WS1L	170	G3WZD	55	AJ1DM	14	NN0TE	5
W9EBE	144	W2USA	55	N0BM	13	N3FZ	4
K1ESE	142	GW0ETF	52	K5YQF	12	AB7MP	2
KG5IEE	93	N6HCN	36	VA3DKL	10	N5PHT	2
AA0YY	85	GW4VXE	36	KF9VV	8	W0OJ	2
K6DGW	78	MI0WWB	32	M0MUI	8	W8UA	2
AA5AD	76	W3WHK	18	W1AJT	8		

We have a variety of ways to enjoy CW. For many of us ragchewing is our favorite way.

73,

**Bruce K8UDH**, QTX Manager



# My Story: New Member Biographies

## Gordo Anderson, KG7YU

It is my honor to be a member of CWops and I would like to thank Walt KC8J for the nomination and my sponsors; N3JT, KR2Q, W6SX, WS1L, K6RB, N7US and KC7V.

I grew up in Sunnyside, Washington, located in the south east corner of the state and later moved to the Tri-Cities area. My dad worked full time on the Hanford project and also ran a model airplane hobby shop in a small building behind our house. In the 60s the radio control electronics was not as sophisticated as today and required a lot of "tweaking". I was always fascinated by radio control and fell in love with electronics at a very young age. My dad would buy ARRL books for me to read to learn more about radio. I would spend hours looking at and studying all the wonderful projects.



This early exposure to radio had a profound impact on my life and career. I went to college and earned an electrical engineering degree and then spent most of my career at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory supporting mass spec research by developing specialized instrumentation. I retired early and now run a product development company building instruments that support research with mass spectrometers.

In my youth I never had an amateur radio Elmer so it was not until the early 90s that I finally decided to get my license. KG7YU is my first and only call sign, I was licensed with an Advanced class license in early 1992 and upgraded to Extra a few months later. I have always loved CW: It's not easy for me and I really have to work at it, I think that is why I love it! Most of my experience is CW. It's a bit magical that you can carry on a conversation by just making and breaking contacts!

Like many amateur radio operators', life interrupted my hobby for a number of years and in 2019, in the middle of COVID-19, I re-energized my interest. I met Rob, K6RB, on the air and he told me about the CWops academy. Following his recommendation I enrolled in the Intermediate class. This was pivotal for me, the instructor Roy (KK6M) did a great job and was also a great mentor. Through this class I learned how to contest. I am now active in CW contests. I also found the SKCC group, bought a BUG and spend as much time as I can on the air with a mechanical key.

I support as many amateur radio and CW organization as I can, the impact of radio is much more than just making contacts, in my case it helped me focus my life's goals. I am proud to be a member of CWops and support their mission advancing the art of CW. I have found lots of very knowledgeable radio operators to help me on my journey, and many great organizations working tirelessly to advance radio and CW!

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## **Dani Perez, EA5M**

Thanks to EA4M, and my sponsors 9A1AA, EA1X and EA4OR. It is a real pleasure to be in this great group.

I started in ham radio at the age of 11. A German ham radio neighbor introduced me to the ham radio "virus." When I was 12 I set up my first radio. A kit, with four quartz crystal channels, for the citizen band (CB) and 3 W. This kit was from the Spanish company SalesKit which I keep with great affection, now it is 45 years old and still working !!!



With this Kit and a resonant dipole attached with rods to the roof of my house, I began my first steps into the world of ham radio. At the age of 18 I started practicing CW and got my first ham radio license EB5GMS; followed by EA5GCT, EA5FV and currently EA5M. My godfather was EA3PI, Juan Aliaga Arque (Silent Key), great promoter of Spanish amateur radio, through his innumerable publications in the *CQ RadioAmateur* in Spanish language and his books dedicated to amateur radio. He was a great visionary of his time. Once he told me "The future of amateur radio is contesting and never put Morse code aside." I always believed him, and here I am.

So my interests throughout my entire career as a radio amateur has always been CW mode and contests. I live on the outskirts of the city, in a natural environment and surrounded by mountains. Outside of competition, I like being in contact with nature and activating SOTA references. My favorite sport is MTB (Mountain bike). I am an electronic technician, this has helped me a lot to develop my radio station that was a great advantage. However, despite living on the outskirts of the city, my location sometimes is noisy to US and EU paths. What a pity !!! But I'll always be there, trying to get your signal out of the noise.

## **Brian Betz, W7JET**

I am honored to become a member of CWops and I would like to thank Jim N7US for nominating me for membership and the members who sponsored me. I have had the pleasure of working so many fantastic ops over the last few months on the CWTs

I first got my amateur radio ticket in New Jersey back in October 1989, during my sophomore year of high school. My first call sign was KB2ICB; I then opted for a change to N2KAF when I got my Tech ticket. As the years went by, I got busy with a career change and moving and let my tick-

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et lapse. I got back into the hobby in 2012. I studied for and took Tech, General, and Extra. I passed all of them. When I first got my ticket in 1989 10 meters was wide open, I was working stations all over the place with only 25 watts SSB and a J3 CW Key on a RadioShack HTX-100. My antenna was a homemade dipole. It was the coolest thing in the world for me.

Currently I enjoy HF and Hiking which dovetails well with SOTA Summits on the Air. I mainly focus on activating peaks especially remote ones that have not been activated by a ham

radio operator. Most of the peaks involve off-trail hiking with lots of research and route planning to reach the Summit to put it on the air. My SOTA station consists of a Yaesu FT-817 or my Youkits HB-1B, palm radio Pico paddle and a Linked dipole antenna cut for 20/30/40. On summits the only phone I do is FM on 2m or 23 cm, all my HF work is CW. I enjoy CW so much and encourage people to learn and become proficient.



The home Station consists of a Kenwood TS-890s which replaced my trusty Kenwood TS-480 last November. My key in the shack is a ZN-9RZ. I am active with the Central Arizona DX Association, Superstition ARC, Cactus Intertie and LICW Club. I also did a 5-part educational series on SOTA for the ARRL Learning Network. I work in Aviation as a Commercial Pilot flying Corporate currently in the King Air. I also hold an A&P license with Inspection Authorization. My XYL Eve is a ham also. Her call is W7EVE and she recently upgraded to General. She is casually studying for Extra and may pick up CW.

I am excited to hone my operating skills with this amazing group of operators and the Academy Advisors.

### **Don Perese, AC5XK**

What a thrill to be nominated by Jim N7US and sponsored by WSIL, N3JT, and KG9X. Thank you all, and I hope to return your kindness some day.

Over the years I'd been impressed by the CWops website, Solid Copy newsletter, and hearing CWops members in the CWT and other contests. What a pleasant surprise to be invited to join! I'm now a life member.

I became a ham in 2020, thanks to prompting from Bill KS5Y. Thanks to Doug NA5YO, I became involved with the National Traffic System (CW) and enjoyed the skeds and skills required to keep up with the operators at the various levels of the systems. Soon after joining CWops, it was great

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to receive a radiogram from our president, Stew GW0ETF!

I live and work in Washington, DC and in Orleans, MA. In DC, my home is a three story row house built in 1890. My photo is of me in my "antenna farm" in DC. It consists of wire antennas generally held up in the center by a fiberglass telescoping pole clamped to a tall pipe coming out of the second floor roof with the base of the pole about 25 feet above ground and the top about 25 feet higher. To reach that part of the roof, I have to climb out a window. The support ropes run to a tall tree in the alley and a chimney in the front. In Massachusetts, I'm on Cape Cod, a mile from the Atlantic, and my antennas are held up by tall cedar, oak and maple trees. I can even hear the ocean from the house -- when I'm not wearing headphones.

CW is my preferred mode, and I operate anywhere from QRP up to 100 W. My Elecraft KX2 comes in handy for Parks on the Air and other outdoor activities. My base station is an Icom 7610. Keys are all Begali. Bruna Begali was very helpful in tracking down a Signature I'd ordered and was lost for a while in transit in DC.

More and more my free time is being planned around CW contests. I'm also a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club, and their activities help keep me motivated to try new contests.

I have five children, two of whom got their Technician licenses as teenagers, and two grandchildren. I look forward to meeting all of you on the air and hopefully someday in person.

### **Cathy Goodrich, W4CMG**

Many thanks to Jim (N7US) who nominated me, and to Rob(K6RB), Fred (KG9X) and Hank (W6SX), who sponsored me for membership in CWops! Thanks to all who helped me on my way, including my CW Academy Instructor Mark Tyler (K5GQ) and Advisor Tom Waits (WA9CW).

I first became a ham radio operator in 2012, and have my OM, Jim, WA4VGZ to thank for introducing me to amateur radio and supporting all my ham radio endeavors. Working 2 ops, 2 rigs and one antenna on our small lot does make it interesting sometimes. My station includes a Yaesu FT-857D, and a Ten-Tec Bencher and a W1SFR Horizontal Torsion Bar Straight Key, G5RV up 35 feet, running between 5 and 100 Watts.



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I retired from a career as a Sr. IT Project Manager in 2020. I am still actively involved as a project management mentor and instructor. I became an American Red Cross Volunteer with the intention of working only as a Communications volunteer but quickly learned that there is so much more that is needed. I have taken on several Red Cross Disaster Support and Instructor roles. I love hiking (and POTA) and can't wait for slightly cooler weather to get back into the woods!

I started studying CW in earnest in 2019 by participating in CW Academy - Level II, then work and family circumstances put my CW training on pause until I retired. I joined the Long Island



CW Club (LICW) when I retired in September 2020 and got the confidence-boost I needed to get on the air with CW and am now on the air daily. I recently started teaching the LICW "Reaching Your CW Goals with W4CMG" class, where we focus on tools and techniques to help our Intermediate CW level class members reach their goals.

I am a Life Member of the ARRL and Volunteer Examiner for both ARRL and CAVEC. I served as TN Section Public Information Coordinator for several years. I enjoy DXing and contesting and am involved in several CW clubs and groups in addition to CWops, including the Tennessee Contest Group (Secretary/ Newsletter writer), Long Island CW Club, YLRL, SKCC, FISTS, NAQCC and Ten-Ten. I also enjoy QRP activities and participate in QRP Foxhunts and special QRP activities such ZOMBIE Shuffle, Skeeter Hunt and Sasquatch Stomp.

Looking forward to seeing you on the bands!

### **Mark Miller, K5DP**

In 1970 I was licensed and began operating as WN5CKQ and became WB5CKQ when I upgraded to general. I learned to use a bug at W5YJ at Oklahoma State University where I spent way too much time operating but still managing to earn a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. I upgraded to Extra class my Junior year at OSU and obtained my present call in 1977.

CW was and has remained my main interest in Ham Radio. I spent 25 years operating exclusively QRP with an HW-9, 40 meter loop, bug, and paper logs. During that time I was top scorer for Ok-

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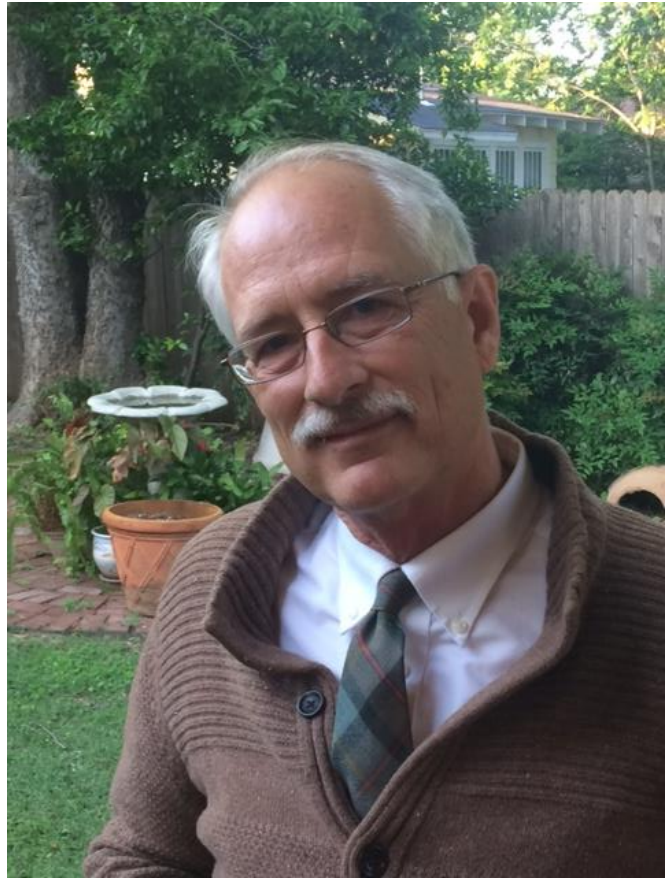


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lahoma in the Sweepstakes QRP class several times. I am not a DXer but did manage a QRP WAC, WAS, and 40 or so countries with that little station.

In 2009 I “upgraded” my station to include an IC-718 which is the best radio that I have ever owned. (The bar was set pretty low early on). I still prefer to use the old bug but do have a memory keyer that I use occasionally. There is no computer in the shack except for a very old iPad and I still use paper logs. I have maintained a philosophy that sometimes less IS more. That being said, I now almost always run 100 watts while transmitting.

I am happily married to my college sweetheart and both of us have retired from our careers. We have two grown children and two grandchildren evenly divided between Oklahoma and Northern California. There are now two rather large dogs that live with us and a matched set of orange cats to explain the rules of the house when necessary.



My degree in engineering lead to an enjoyable career which began in a power plant. After almost 4 years of very long hours, I changed jobs and began doing construction engineering on multi-story office buildings. After 3 years of construction, I went to work for the Federal Government as a facilities design engineer. I retired from the Army Corps of Engineers and now apply my engineering and maintenance experience to restoring our 95 year old home and trying to help maintain the 60 year old church building where we attend.

I have been very fortunate and life has been good. I spent 19 years as a Boy Scout leader and now participate in an after school program teaching 5th grade students to safely ride bikes. Some of my other diversions are home winemaking, gardening, backpacking, and bicycling. I am a late in life musician which has given me a really appreciation as to what late in life Morse learners might be up against. I play in a small group focusing on the folk music of the British Isles. My instruments are Bodhran (Irish hand drum) and low whistle.

My motto: Stay curious!

### **Steve Dick, K1RF**

First, I'll say that I am honored and humbled to become a CWops member. Thank you Jim, N7US for nominating me and to all my sponsors.

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I started my ham journey around 1963 with Previous calls WN2EGR(Novice), and WB2EGR(General). I passed my Extra exam at an FCC office in New York City while in High School. I still remember the stern examiner and the machine sending the 25 wpm CW. My wife and best friend Roberta is also a ham, KB1YOZ (Technician). My hobby led me into a career in electrical engineering, retiring from Northrop Grumman in 2012 as an Engineering Manager. I managed a digital design functional group primarily doing complex FPGA firmware and PC board designs. I also was a project manager on several advanced technology programs. Upon retiring, I finally had some available time to devote to amateur radio.



I always enjoyed CW, but had minimal available operating time during my busy career. My CW skills had become quite rusty with disuse. I stumbled across the CWops website and was intrigued by the weekly CWops 1 hour contests. I got up the courage to participate in one and I was definitely over my head in deep water, but I persevered, and slowly, week after week, my CW skills gradually improved. As of today I'm happy with my progress to date. In the past Field Day, using only quickly set up wire antennas and 100 watt rigs, I was able to make over 500 contacts in 10 hours of operating, my best personal performance by far, thanks to the CWops weekly contests.

My interests include amateur radio circuit design and construction, kit construction, low band operating (primarily on CW), QRP, and most recently, low cost and effective wire antenna designs. I've recently learned the antenna simulation tool EZNEC and the RF design tool SimSmith. They work well together.

I'm active in the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club, GNARC.org. You can find some of my presentations on their website at: <http://gnarc.org/category/presentations/>

My favorites include:

- The Endfed Half-Wave Antenna
- Loudspeaker Design Considerations for Amateur Radio
- Software Defined Radio overview

More info is available on my QRZ.COM webpage.

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Looking forward to participating in additional CWops activities and thinking about ways to give back to this talented community and help to promote CW.

## **Gary Kaatz, W9TD**

I have lived in Lake Villa, Illinois for three years. I am originally from Michigan, but have been in Illinois since I joined Motorola in 1973. There, I was on the team that developed the first portable cellular phone and I also designed the receiver IC used in it. For the rest of my career, I continued designing and then managing the development of RF and IF ICs for cellular phones.



I was first licensed in 1966 as a Novice with call WN8TDR. My first rig were two kits, a Heathkit DX-60B transmitter and a Lafayette KT-340 receiver. The antenna was a roof-mounted Hy-Gain 14AVQ vertical. I co-founded the Shores Amateur Radio Club with other teenage hams. Upgraded to General, Advanced and then Extra before 1970 and built a Heathkit SB-101 transceiver. I have operated on most bands 160-2 meters and 70 cm but never on 80 or 6 until recently. My new rig, an Icom IC-7610, is the first that includes 6. I currently operate 40-6 mostly on CW or digital modes using an attic fan dipole and have plans to build a loop antenna covering 160, 80 and maybe 60. For 2 meters I use a MOCOM 70 Console base station that I added a synthesizer to and a 2m/70cm antenna in the attic. I have achieved WAC, DXCC and almost 8-band WAS using FT8. I still need Alaska and Hawaii on a couple of bands.

In the mid-80s, I was part of the Illinois group of TAPR packet TNC beta testers. I ran HF packet propagation tests on 30 with Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, of more recent APRS fame, shortly after the band became available. I was using the Drake twins, an R4-B and a T4X-C. This experience motivated me to ditch vacuum tube radios and get a synthesized rig for stability, an Icom 751, which I used for more than 30 years. In the mid-2000s, I became interested in software defined radio and used QRP SDR kit transceivers (Softrock) mostly on PSK31. I have also been involved with home computers since I wire-wrapped an 8080-based computer with 4k of memory in 1977. I currently dabble with single-board microcontrollers like the ESP8266, ESP32 and Arduino.

I am the Secretary of the McHenry County Wireless Association and have made a series of presentations covering inexpensive test equipment for hams. I also participated in this year's Field Day with the club. My previous Field Day was 50 years ago in Michigan. I am also a member of the North Shore Radio Club.

In order to prepare for Field Day, I took the Intermediate CW Academy course guided by Bruce Plantz, K9OZ. I participate in the CWT and SST sessions almost weekly. I am not as good with head copy as I would like. I would like to thank Andy Goss, AA5JF for nominating me to CWops.

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## **Robin Amundson, WA7CPA**

Thank you to my dear buddy Sam, WC7Q, who nominated me into CWops and to my other kind sponsors, N7US, W6SX, WT8P, and K9CT. The peer pressure of being a member will be a big motivation to me for improving my CW skills! Thank you for your confidence in my ability to grow as a CW operator. I enjoy the Wednesday sessions very much!

Yes, I am a CPA licensed in the state of Washington. It seemed like a cute idea at the time, maybe even memorable to some who work me; however, my vanity call sign wasn't my best decision as a CW op!

I learned Morse Code as a kid and got licensed as a novice around age 11 or so. My father got me started learning the code, though he was never a ham. He learned code from his future father-in-law, in a class my grandfather taught to airmen in training during WWII. My older brother was the ham in the family and when he went off to UC Berkeley with the intention of joining its ham club, he suggested we could have QSOs in Morse code. What younger sister could turn that down? I used my brother's left-behind ham station and rag-chewed all over the country, Japan, and South America, collecting QSL cards. It was a great hobby for a little girl. Meanwhile, I also became a flute player, enjoyed performing, and had a small studio of students by age 16.

I continued in the hobby until I was 16 or 17, then left it behind when I left home. In 2016 I discovered the ham radio floor of the Spark Museum in Bellingham, Washington. I loved the smell of the old radios! It "sparked" the idea that I could be a ham again. I got re-licensed in January 2017, bought a used KX3 from a club member, and a club antenna team of Elmers came over to shoot my first wire dipole into my trees.

Fast forward to now, I have my extra license, IC-7300 to a KPA1500 into a Big SteppIR vertical on my little hill with a sweet downslope takeoff. My Elecraft K4HD is on order. I have a new secondary QTH under development near water in Port Townsend, Washington using my KX3/KXPA100/KPA500 for now into a small SteppIR vertical mounted through the attic, over a metal roof. My daily thoughts are of more antennas, more antennas. I will get there.

I enjoy belonging to several clubs including the Western Washington DX Club, whose purpose aligns with what I enjoy most about ham radio, DX and contesting. However, I am also an active member of my local Snoqualmie Valley Amateur Radio Club and part of a team of seven ham-licensed disaster service volunteers badged and training for emergency communications use by our local Duvall fire station.

Long live CW!



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## **Richard Dervan, N1RBD**

First, I just want to say that I am honored to be a part of this great organization. Many thanks to W6LEN for sponsoring me!

My ham radio journey began when I joined a wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR) team which uses HTs for communications during call-outs. I do a lot of hiking and backpacking in the North Georgia Mountains and on the Appalachian Trail, so I felt my knowledge of the area could be helpful. I tested for my Technician license, missing just one question. So, at this point I had my license which was required for SAR work. No need to go any further, right?

A few days later I'm talking to a friend I've known since high school and he mentions something called SOTA. "What is SOTA?" I asked. Summits on the Air. Summits? Now you have my attention. He explained the concept and I was instantly intrigued. I can use this shiny new license while out hiking!

I activated a few SOTA summits with VHF, amazed at how far I could get from the summit of a 3000ft mountain running 5 watts. I then discovered Parks on the Air (POTA). Living 7 minutes from a POTA park, I tried some VHF activations with no success. Apparently, there is a huge difference between getting 4 QSOs from a summit vs 10 QSOs from a low-lying park when running VHF!

I tested for my General a month after my Technician test and passed. SSB to the rescue! I purchased an FT818 for SOTA, an FT891 for POTA, and did numerous POTA and SOTA activations with those rigs. Life was good, but my back and legs were not appreciating having to lug 7lbs of equipment to a summit.

In Dec 2019 while on a SOTA expedition with my SOTA team, one of the guys brought along his MTR3b. What is this? A tiny radio, with an even tinier battery? Oh, it only works CW using Morse Code? I guess I need to learn it.

I started my CW journey in January of 2020 using online resources and apps. My first CW QSO was on March 3, 2020 using a CW Morse Nano straight key to chase a POTA operator for a park to park contact. A few months later, I finally worked up the nerve to attempt a CW SOTA activation. On July 4, I garnered 15 CW QSOs, including my Elmer! At this point, I was officially hooked on CW.



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I originally thought CW would augment my portable ops, but I fell in love and now operate almost 100% CW. My complete SOTA rig is down to 29oz, with my primary radio being an MTR3b. I also have kit built 17m and 60m QCX Minis which will sometimes go into the field with me as well. My longest DX was with the 17m QCX Mini during a SOTA activation of Coosa Bald in North Georgia. The first person to come back to me sounded like "ZL." No way, really? I asked for a repeat and it was, indeed, ZL2IFB from New Zealand. 8400 miles with 4.2w!

I continue to hone my CW skills and hope to be on the air more from my QTH later this year when I get moved out of my current apartment. I look forward to learning from and working many other CWops members in the future!

### **Pam Leahy, W0NF**

I want to thank my OM, Bill K0MP for teaching me Morse code again, after many years off the air. Bill is a CWA advisor and I audited his Beginning and Intermediate classes, quietly listening in the same room as he was running classes and doing the same studies as the students. Bill is always encouraging me to get on the air and practice.

I am pleased that Hank, W6SX encouraged me to listen and join in CWTs after working him several times in the SST contests. I want to also thank Rob, K6RB for one great rag chew while participating in the "Giving Back" program of CWops. Thanks also go to N7US, Jim for nominating me and sponsors: K6RB, K5UV and K1EBY. I am honored to join such a wonderful club. I appreciate each and every contact I make.

My interest in amateur radio started when I was dating Bill. We married and we lived in an apartment and I saw Bill working a gentleman in MI on a wire hanging out the second story apartment window. They were having so much fun that I told him I wanted to learn too. He found a class for me at a local high school which taught beginning amateur radio. Many years later, we moved to Denver and I joined the Mile High DX Club. We had a much larger station then and I got interested in DXing and we went to Christmas Is (T32) for a DXpedition. At the current time I have 281 countries confirmed, the latest being Heard Is. I also have a WAS certificate.

We now live in Tucson, AZ in a HOA so are limited in the antennas we can inconspicuously erect. My other interests are reading, swimming and gardening.

Thanks again for everyone's encouragement and I hope to improve my skills further by working many of you on the air!



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## **James “J.R.” R. Davis, W7JRD**

First, a big thank you to CWops for providing the tools and inspiration to become a better CW operator. A special thanks to Jim McDonald N7US for the nomination to CWops. And thank you to all who added their sponsorships to my nomination. I am greatly honored.



In 1964 I received a novice callsign WN6JJB. I enjoyed CW QSOs. I had a Hallicrafters S-76, Allied Radio T-60 transmitter, and an inverted V for 80 and 40 meters. I built a regenerative pre-amp in high school electronics class which really helped with weak signals.

After high school, I attended California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. My major was Physics and I joined Army ROTC. To pay for college, I became a reserve deputy sheriff and dispatcher for San Luis Obispo County.

Upon graduation, I received a commission in the US Army. I went to Infantry Officers Basic course at Fort Benning, Georgia and then to Fort Huachuca, Arizona for Military Intelligence. I spent a year Los Angeles, CA and then 18 months in South Korea, and released from active duty upon return to the U.S.

My job as a deputy sheriff was waiting for me, and I served almost 14 years. I like technical challenges and was fascinated with the emergence of personal computers. I went back to Cal Poly to study Computer Science. I had another 20 years with the county retiring as a senior network engineer.

I purchased a 1948 Stinson 108-3 Voyager in 1992 and fixed it up to fly in the back country. My wife and I flew to the back country airstrips in central Idaho. We knew when we retired, we would head for Idaho.

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So, upon retiring in 2004, we moved to Hope, Idaho overlooking Lake Pend Oreille. I flew less and less, and in 2017 I sold the Stinson.

In August 2017 I went the North Idaho Fair in Coeur d'Alene, where the Kootenai County Amateur Radio Club had a demonstration station set up. I knew I had to get back into ham radio. On November 3rd, 2017, I passed the Extra License test administered by Boundary County Amateur Radio Club in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

By December 2017, I had a new Elecraft K3s, P3, KPA500, and EFHW set up and I was talking on the air. SSB was fun and a very new experience for me. In addition to SSB, I tried PSK31 and FT8, but my experience on CW as a novice kept calling to me. I was struggling with CW and made many searches for CW training material on the net. I found CWops as part of those searches. I took the Basic class in January 2021 and the Intermediate class in spring 2021. My Intermediate class instructor, Roy Godden, put a lot of emphasis on the CWTs. I never thought CW contesting would interest me. CWops provided the encouragement to try. I started with the SSTs and then ventured into the CWTs and I was hooked.

My other interests are sculpting, wood carving, and furniture building.

I know there is so much more to learn, and I am confident I will find the support I need with CWops.

### **Harve Hnatiuk KB3FW**

It was quite a thrill to have John Laney, K4BAI, nominate me to be a member of the CWops Club and have other great CW ops support my nomination. I am very happy to be a member of this club as CW has always been my favorite mode of ham radio communication.

I learned CW when I studied for and passed my novice test in 1965. I used one of those buzzer keys and a 33 1/3 RPM vinyl record that I am sure drove my parents nuts. I was WN2AOR back then.

A year later, I went back to NYC and passed my general. WB2FWW became my call sign.

All my novice station's equipment was purchased using the money I made delivering newspapers. My parents helped me with a loan for my first "big rig", a SWAN-500C! I had WAC, WAS and DXCC before I graduated high school.



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I was fortunate to get a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania and received a BSEE with honors in 1974. While at Penn, I enjoyed operating W3ABT and did public service work on CW on the EPA and 3RN nets. I recall making many phone calls to deliver messages to Philadelphia-area families of Marines who had made it to Parris Island and San Diego for basic training. I was president of the club for 2 years. Jim Talens, N3JT, was our club's trustee! Still is the club's trustee (thanks, Jim!).

During my senior year at Penn, I passed my Advanced Class test. I will study for the Extra during my upcoming retirement from work. Somewhere along the line, I was given a new call sign... KB3FW!

NTS was my major ham radio activity for many years...operating on CW in local, regional and area nets as well as doing an occasional TCC assignment.

I am a registered professional engineer in 13 states. I've completed projects from the east coast to the west coast. Several projects were upgrades to the tram systems at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis...highlights of my professional career for sure. The Arch remains one of my favorite places!

I remain very engaged with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE). I was national president in 2014-15 and currently am president of the NSPE Education Foundation.

Also, I am a Life Member of IEEE and a member of TOBA as I am a minor partner in several thoroughbred racehorse partnerships.

Other interests include astronomy and writing but my interests comprise a long list. I'm also active in alumni activities at Penn, currently serving as co-president of my Class of 1974 as we head toward our 50th Reunion.

I have IMO the greatest wife in the world. She and I moved from the Philadelphia suburbs to SC in early 2020. Local hams and our community's ARC motivated and helped me to get back on the air in late July 2020 after a 15-year hiatus. Getting back into the 21st century of ham radio has been a challenge, but I continue to make the transition while enjoying the journey!

My station is very modest...ICOM-7300 to a SuperAntenna outside my office window and sitting on the ground in my backyard. In my dreams, I have a tri-bander up about 80 feet and great 40 m and 80 m dipoles strung across a great plot of land. Maybe next lifetime! That being said, I am very happy for what I do have and enjoy getting the most out of it.

I have one daughter, who is a partner in an architectural firm in Philadelphia, and two grandchildren on their way to being successful and productive citizens of our great nation. What a blessing that is!

Very grateful to so many people who have helped me through the years and I'll continue to work to pay it forward.

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## **Robert Robbins, K8RGI**

My first experience with amateur radio came when I was nine years old and a group of men set up radio stations in our local park in Columbus, Ohio. My brother and I were allowed to carry soda from the main operation to the other stations both Saturday and Sunday. I found out later that this operation was Field Day.

I have always been interested in electronics from an early age. This included tearing apart old radios from Goodwill and rebuilding them and even building a spark gap transmitter using an ignition coil and an antenna. I would key the transmitter and my brother would walk around the neighborhood with an AM radio to see how far away he could hear it. I think the statute of limitations for operating an illegal transmitter has run out by now.



There were several Elmer's who helped me get my Novice license and build my first station somewhere around 1962. My Novice call was KN8RGI. I don't remember taking my Novice test, but I do remember sitting before the FCC examiner in the Federal Building in downtown Columbus, Ohio to take my General exam and code test and my call became K8RGI.

My first station consisted of a Hallicrafters S-40 receiver and a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter with a dipole antenna. While I enjoyed operating CW on the lower bands, most of the local hams were on six meters phone. I was able to obtain a six meter beam and put it on a small chimney on the back of our house. After that blew down, taking the chimney with it, I moved the beam to the much larger chimney for our fireplace. After that blew down, taking the chimney with it, my dad let me put up a tower attached to the side of the house.

While I enjoyed being on the air, my real passion was designing and building things. I built quite a few one tube transmitters for other people and power supplies. I was very active in our high school and college radio clubs. I also participated in Field Day every year. Field Day is still one of my favorite events.

After college, work and family became a priority and I dropped out of the hobby for almost 30 years letting my license lapse. After I retired in 2010 I found out my old call was still available. I studied over a weekend and was able to pass my Extra exam and eventually get my old call back.

Things had really changed in 30 years with everything being computerized. After receiving my license back again my first transceiver was an Icom IC-7300 which I then upgraded to an Icom IC-7610. My main antenna is a long wire with tuner which I use on all HF bands. I have added a receive loop, 2 meter vertical and cobweb antennas.

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I enjoy operating CW and digital modes and participating in weekend contests.

## **Dave Sippel, N3CKI**

Hello to the CWops community. It's great to finally become a member. I remember listening to the CWTs and other CWops events and thought I could never be that good. But I kept listening and practicing and finally started to participate in the summer of 2020 and I haven't stopped. I want to thank the many CWops members that offered to sponsor me in the past. I finally decided to join and hopefully I can contribute in some meaningful way to the CWops programs.

I am married and have two grown children. I retired in 2015 and moved to Calabash, NC in 2017. My main hobbies other than ham radio are kayak fishing, reading, listening to music and select podcasts, and trying to spend time with the kids.

I was introduced to CW in 1975 when I entered the U.S. Navy as a CTR (Communications Technician - Collection) and was sent to Pensacola, FL where I learned CW and spent the rest of my enlistment in Maine and Okinawa. After leaving the Navy I spent the next two years learning basic electronics and radio communications theory at a technical school in Pittsburg, Pa. These two skillsets plus my CTR background helped me get a telecommunications job with the federal government in 1983.

During my 32 year career I did ham radio on and off, mostly CW ragchewing. The job and its traveling requirements and family commitments took precedence. In 2004 when I no longer had to travel I really started getting active. I purchased an ICOM IC-718 and a SignalLink USB and started playing more with CW and the digital modes. Then I started participating in contests and joined some clubs where I continue to be active. I have been very active in contesting since retiring in 2015 and became a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club earlier this year.

Currently I am studying for my Extra Class license and trying to upgrade my antennas. I built a 6 m and 10 m Moxon antenna and am in the process of building a 20 m Moxon. Since I live in an HOA community I have to be as stealthy as possible. I recently bought a 25 foot carbon fiber mast and tripod so I can quickly put my antennas up and take them down.

I am also a member of the Town Of Calabash Emergency Management staff. I helped our small group of hams establish HF communications capabilities at our two local Emergency Operations Centers.

I hope everyone stays safe and healthy and see you all on the bands.



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## **Eric Neilson, KE5EN**

I first got into CW while at a meeting of the Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub (LAARK) in 2018. Ken Rainey AC5EZ was trying to recruit new students to the upcoming CW Academy class that he was assisting in. I had always wanted to learn CW, and the regular rhythm of classes and practice sessions kept me focused. I ended up taking all three course levels. I had three



outstanding instructors: Eric Silverthorn NM5M, Mark Tyler K5GQ, and Joe Spencer KK5NA. It was Eric who eventually nominated me for CWops.

My entry into ham radio had started a year earlier in 2017 to help out a friend in need. I was sitting in my office one morning when a friend of mine, who is now WE5TR, came in and told me about his 18-yr old son who had just passed his Technicians and General licenses exams and was getting on the air. Knowing his son was at the age where you disavow your parents, Tod saw this an opportunity to connect with his son, but he didn't want to dive into this hobby alone. He wanted to take me with him. I am pretty sure it was for moral support.

Before I moved to Dallas, Texas, I started my career as an electrical engineer at Motorola in Arizona designing radios. My mentor at Motorola was actually a ham and used to regale us with stories about the hobby. That was when my interest in amateur radio started, but it would be 20 years before I would jump in. As I write this, I am starting to suspect that the first radio I designed for him (related to detecting sporadic E-layer propagation) might have been a pet project. Wherever you are Ken, thanks for inspiring me!

I still work in the wireless industry, but these days I get my engineering "fix" through my hobbies. My two passions are ham radio and amateur astronomy. I love doing portable radio ops, and my favorite thing to do is to take both my telescope and radio gear out into the field. While the telescope is running automated imaging sessions, I throw a random wire antenna into the trees and do CW QSOs throughout the night. I keep it simple with just a radio, antenna and logbook. I also mentor high school students for astronomical science projects. The most recent project was related to exo-planet detection using amateur astronomical equipment. For future science pro-

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jects, I am looking at merging both hobbies with amateur radio astronomy.

When I want to get away from technology, I also like to do long and interesting hikes. One of my favorite hikes was in Wales where I spent the night on the summit of Cadair Idris in Snowdonia National Park. The legend is that anyone who spends the night on top of the mountain will awake either mad or a poet. I will have to let other people be the judge of which one I became.

I am very excited to be part of CWops and I am looking forward to sharing the hobby with others and meeting more CWops members, both in person and on the air.