

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter
December 2021 — Issue 143

Mobile Contesting



The AD4EB 2000 Montana Van has been used in 30+ QSO parties and has almost 300K miles on it. [Story by Jim AD4EB on page 12.](#)

President's Message

There's a photo that's been doing the rounds on social media these past few months which features an op at a radio with his fingers on a Morse key and a caption that reads "CW - It's Like FT8 -



But For Men". It made it to the CW Academy Facebook page recently and got a few comments including one that pointed out that there are also women who are excellent CW ops, including some of our members - the writer for his

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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"

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Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)
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Newsletter Editor: Tim Gennett [K9WX](#)

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pains was accused of not seeing the funny side. FT8 has clearly divided ham radio these past few years but each time I see this sort of thing I wonder if there could be a better way of approaching it than poking fun.

I quite often see familiar 'CW calls' using FT8/4 on the clusters so obviously there are some who are happy to quietly mix the modes and stay away from social media. Anecdotally though, there seems to be many, probably newer licensees, who are on this mode due to the disappointments of poor results on HF phone with mediocre hardware and possibly a challenging location with high noise levels. For an hour or so of software set up they can be loading their logs with lots of juicy call signs on FT8 and they're happy - and why not? But I occasionally hear of some who eventually become bored with the monotonous unvarying nature of the exchanges once the initial flush of excitement has waned; what if we could get hold of these individuals and show them there is another 'chat mode' which for some outlay in effort will give them great satisfaction, a sense of achievement and a good few dB over SSB?

The most obvious way this approach could be made is through local clubs. So if you notice a disgruntled looking FT8er sulking in the corner, why not engage him or her and wow them with a few words about CW? It may even bear fruit but ridicule certainly never will. QRZ pages are one possible avenue too - it's a common reference for many after or during a QSO and I will deliberately make a few FT8 contacts occasionally confident that some will end up reading all about CW and CWops on my page. I don't mind doing this if it advertises CW and it's easy enough, even fun up to a point! I may not convert many but even if a small proportion of our significant membership did similar it could make a difference. As some 'official graffiti' I once saw on the wall of an Islamic school in Malaysia put it - *"A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins with a Single Step..."*

I'm just back from CQWW CW and an interesting visit to the Peak District moors where I was part of a small G6XX team hosted by Nick G4FAL. There was a big storm forecast for later Friday into Saturday but myself and fellow CWops member Paul G4PVM made it OK in time for a team of 3. Just before the start with now gale force winds both the 160 and 80 m antennas (verticals) got trashed, so we were left with just 40 m overnight



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which I volunteered for; that is until 0515 when we lost power. When I put on a head torch and ventured outside I found a huge dump of snow which was drifting alarmingly in the wind, no wonder 40 m and the 4-SQ had been doing weird things! Power didn't come on until after 2300 so we told our 4th team member G4RCD not to bother driving over from Yorkshire. He probably wouldn't have got there anyway and we'd already decided to downgrade the weekend into a more relaxed 'see what you can do' affair. Thanks to all the members who called us; you could have been working member 919 or 2413 and I'll try to work out a schedule as the intention to remain organised on this front got lost in the confusion of the storm.



Nick G4FAL left and Paul G4PVM right

relaxed 'see what you can do' affair. Thanks to all the members who called us; you could have been working member 919 or 2413 and I'll try to work out a schedule as the intention to remain organised on this front got lost in the confusion of the storm.

So we approach the end of another year with CWops undoubtedly in a good place with continuing success and many reasons to be cheerful and optimistic. Membership numbers have passed 3000 and continue to increase. The CW Academy has carried on the trend of last year with truly impressive numbers of students passing through the various levels. Many of the advanced graduates become our newest members and some enthusiastically join in our CWTs and help to set the bands alight with eye-catching bursts of activity each week. The recently introduced Thursday 0700 session becomes part of the awards program at the start of January and is part of the ongoing push to increase overall activity beyond the shores of North America. We've also moved further with the aims of supporting learners to get on the air with the weekly K1USN Slow Speed Contests and Giving Back program. None of this happens by magic and there is a small army of ordinary members who throw themselves headlong into making all this happen – and that includes of course *Solid Copy* which is the only reason you're reading this. I salute you all and wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a great 2022....!

73, Stew GW0ETF, President

From the Editor

Morse Code As A Plot Device

I get some interesting correspondence as the editor of *Solid Copy*. One email that arrived not too long ago came from Bob Houf, K7ZB. He's not a CWops member but his info merits sharing here. He writes:

"I am a CW operator from way back - first licensed in 1963 as WN8KEX and so on. Details in QRZ.com: <https://www.qrz.com/db/K7ZB>



"Currently I am in a condo and still figuring out how to get back on the air. In addition to my TS-570 I just bought a QCX+ and also build homebrew QRP gear.

"Most recently I operated CW Sweepstakes at a friend's QTH, AB7E.

"I was taught code as a Novice by a railroad lightning slinger, K8OUQ, copied TACAMO CW on a Polaris missile submarine during the Cold War, got out of the Navy, earned a BSEE at Ohio State, worked in electronics and kept my hand in on CW as years went by. Here's the TACAMO story: <https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/trailing-wire-antennas-tacamo-and-submarine-radio-shack-ops.597958/>

"I am good for 35 wpm (40+ on a good day).

"The reason for reaching out is that I have written a trilogy around telegraphy that your members may enjoy - free of charge and is available on the Internet Archive here: <https://archive.org/details/the-telegraphers-trilogy>

"It has been highlighted in a number of newsletters of other CW/Morse Code group's and I thought it might be of interest to yours."

We've had feature stories in *Solid Copy* about nearly every aspect of CW. But this is the first time we've had works of fiction where Morse code is a plot device. His stories are too long to include in the newsletter but I enjoyed reading them. He has found yet another way to enjoy CW.

73, Tim K9WX, Editor

News and Notes

[Jerry Weisskohl AC4BT](#)

We regret to report that George T. Daughters, K6GT, CWops #939, became a Silent Key on October 11.

Jim, N3JT, CWops Secretary: If you are not a life member and your membership expires this year, please submit your 2022 CWops club dues now (before the holiday expenses arrive!). Go to www.cwops.org and click on Membership, then Pay Dues. Life membership makes administration so much easier, and it alleviates the need to remember to pay dues ever again! Not sure about your membership expiration? Click on Membership and then Roster. On the left you'll see your membership status. Thanks!

Josep, EA6BF: To all US Operators working the 60m band.

I have a request about the working frequencies. Many times I have seen US stations spotted in the RBNs, and some of them I could hear very well, but I believe they weren't actively listening for EU stations trying to contact them on that band.

In my case, Spain doesn't have the allocated frequencies like in the US, so many times I call CQ on 5353 and then say "QSX CH xx", where xx is **1** for 5332, **2** for 5348, **3** for 5358.5, **4** for 5373 and **5** for 5405. I have never had the chance to QSO with any US station yet so I kindly request the US guys to check 5353KHz and see what QSX frequency we are using so we can maybe have a QSO.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide this information and I am looking forward to working some US stations on the 5Mhz band!

Glenn, VE3GNA: I would like to share the following e-mail I received from a fellow ham in Ohio after I sent him a congratulatory radiogram upon his completion of one level of CWA. In a nutshell it explains why I enjoy sending these messages so much.

Glenn,

This is Bud Kline, KD8RGW, in Westerville, OH.

I want to thank you for sending me an Amateur Radio Radiogram recently. It made its way through the system until Stan, KD8KBX finalized it. Stan resides in New Albany, OH, a Columbus suburb adjacent to Westerville where I am located. Stan took the time to print the radiogram and physically mailed it to me so I would have the hard copy of the radiogram.

I was elated to receive it, my first. It is going to be framed and placed on the wall of my shack. It meant a lot to receive the radiogram and your well wishes. So, thank you for taking the time to send it. Some of my fellow CWA classmates received radiograms as well but no one got an actual hard copy. It was special.

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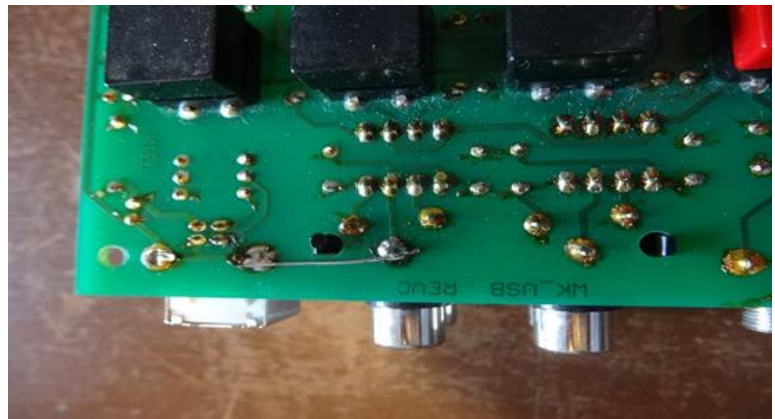
You may have sparked an interest for me in slow traffic nets. I am an older ham (75) attempting to learn Morse code. This really appeals to me, at least now, more than contesting. You may have also given me a new, close-by, CW buddy in Stan. 73 and enjoy the holidays. Hoping we will cross paths on the air sometime after I get more proficiency and confidence.

Bud Kline, KD8RGW, Westerville, Ohio

Bob, N4BP: I wrote the following for my own documentation and for a friend in Paris who uses my station via remote:

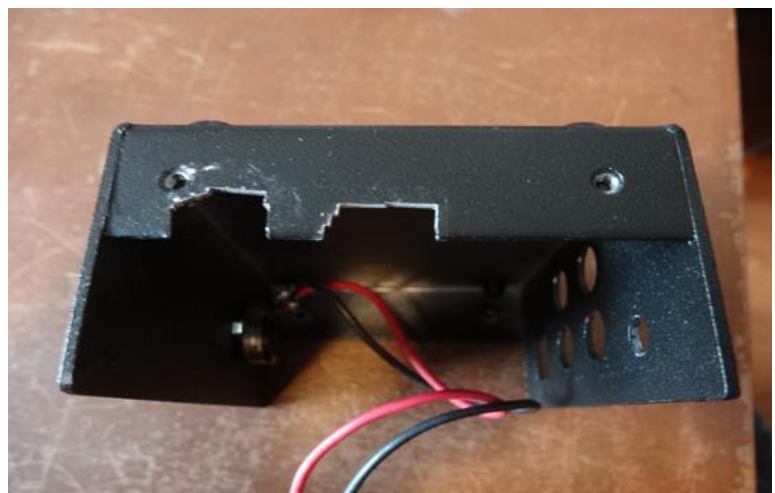
Due to latency, it is impossible to send CW by hand on the WinKeyer while listening to sidetone from a remote transmitter. This mod solves that problem by routing local WinKeyer sidetone to the headphones during transmit and remote audio during receive.

To accomplish this, a 5VDC SPDT relay is installed in the WinKeyer and is controlled by the PTT line. I used hot glue to mount the relay on the top of the WK board between the PIC chip and one of the opto-isolator chips. One side of the coil is wired to the PTT1 line and the other to the filtered side of L1 for +5VDC. Since the PTT1 line is floating (opto-isolator), it is necessary to jumper the return side of the PTT1 line to system ground. The photo shows the position of the jumper on the back of the board (right).



To prepare the WinKeyer cabinet:

Mount a 1/8" stereo jack on the left side of the box. The jack should be centered L/R and as close to the PC board as possible. Carefully measure the location to drill a hole for access to the trimpot with a pocket screwdriver. Err toward the PC board to help with clam shell fit later and enlarge the hole enough to fit a small grommet. A third hole is drilled to fit a grommet for entry of the sound card stereo cable, also as close to the PC board as possible. It will be necessary to nibble some aluminum from the bottom part of the clamshell for it to fit. Nibble aluminum where the bottom runs into the 1/8" jack. Nibble aluminum where the bottom runs into the grommet opposite the trimpot. The grommet for the soundcard cable should be in the clear. These two locations are hidden when the cabinet is reassembled (right).



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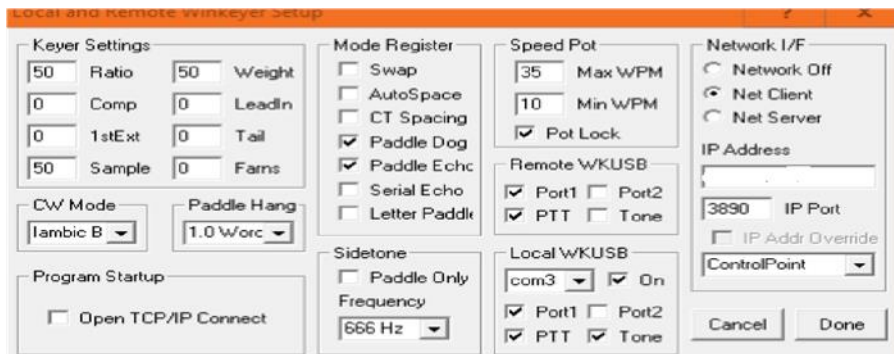
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To extract sidetone from the WK, I removed the piezo speaker and installed a 100 ohm trimpot in its place. The arm of the trimpot is connected to the NO side of the SPDT relay. Access to the trimpot is through the grommet mounted on the side of the WK. The other audio source being from the computer soundcard, I hardwired a stereo audio cable through the grommet on the same side of the WK and wired both channels to the NC contact on the relay. I put a bead of hot glue on the back side of the grommet to act as a strain relief. For the headphones (or earbuds), the COMM contact of the relay is connected to the 1/8" phone jack mounted on the same side with the two channels tied together (right).



I use WKremote v1.5 for my server and client WinKeyers. All it takes to make audio work with my modification are three mouse clicks.

In the Local WKUSB box (bottom center), check "PTT", "Port1", and "Tone". The delay defaults to "1.0Word" which is the shortest available and acceptable to me. If you want a longer hang time, select it from "Paddle Hang" toward the left of the display. You can also select the pitch of the sidetone from the "Frequency" window, bottom center.



Use whatever relay you have. In my case, I ordered a 4-channel relay module from ICStation some time ago but found it useless due to a counterfeit Prolific USB to Serial adapter. The price was only about \$6 and gave me four of the type relay used for this mod.

My Source:

<http://www.icstation.com/icstation-micro-channel-relay-module-control-relay-module-icse012a-p-4012.html>

Chuck, WS1L: I've been trying to use my old Yaesu FT-101ZD more and recently I tried it out on SSB for one of the very few times since I bought it at a hamfest flea market in Slidell, Louisiana at least ten years ago. I had owned one as my first HF transceiver in the 1980's and couldn't resist the pull of nostalgia. Unfortunately, my recent check-in to a Sunday morning net with friends was met with an observation that I was transmitting double sidebands with a carrier... AM, in oth-

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er words.

I already knew this rig had been modified for 11-meter CB use because there were 11-meter crystals in three of the four 10-meter band positions. I had scrounged up the original crystals and meant to swap them in and re-align things but without much Solar Flux incentive I kept putting it off. The rig worked great on CW, and I enjoyed using it. But this was something that needed fixing!

A look at the IF board showed a 6 kHz AM filter in place of the CW narrow filter. Changing that to a 300 Hz CW filter had a very odd result - the rig was receiving with a 300-Hz bandwidth on every mode EXCEPT for the proper CW-Narrow one. That mode was receiving through the stock 2.4 kHz SSB filter. Somehow the rig was using the CW Narrow filter when it was supposed to be using the SSB filter, and vice versa.

After much perusal of the schematics and the service manual, I figured out that the control lines that apply 12 volts to the proper diodes were swapped where they entered the IF board. My first thought was the mode selector switch had been re-wired, but that switch must have had two dozen wires hanging off it, and nothing looked like it had been modified.

My next thought was "well, if I just swap those two pins on the plugs going into the IF board jacks, then it should work correctly." So, I dug out my magnifying glass and a tiny screwdriver and went to see if I could pry the pins out to swap them. The first thing I saw were the pry marks a previous owner had made when they swapped the pins in the first place - to allow a full 6kHz AM signal, they needed to be able to select the CW filter while in AM mode, and the simplest way to do that was to change the default filter from the SSB slot to the CW slot.

Now the old rig works great on SSB, and my signal is a nice clean 2400 Hz wide. I think the reason I never noticed the odd filter while operating CW was that my first 101ZD never had the CW filter, so I was expecting the 2.4 kHz bandwidth and hadn't looked further. I've since added the companion FV-901DM VFO, the YO-901 bandscope and an AL-80B amp to this line-up so it makes for a great trip down memory lane when I fire it up. I still like my K3S/KPA-500 combo but there is something about using old gear that can't be beat!



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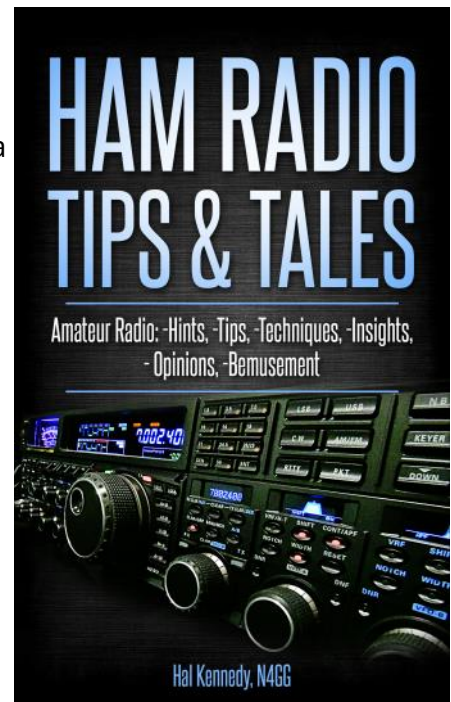
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Hal, N4GG: My book, *Ham Radio Tips and Tales*, was [recently published and is available on Amazon](#). Editor's note: Hal will be writing a feature story on the writing and publication of his book for a future issue of *Solid Copy*.

Jim, N3JT, CWops Secretary: CWops has donated \$200 to Bruce Horn, who runs 3830scores.com. He sends this note in thanks: "Please relay my thanks to the officers of the CW Operators Club for the club's very generous donation. Not surprisingly there are more posts for the CWops mini tests throughout the year than any other contest."

Joe, AA8TA: Yours truly was interviewed the *Red Summit RF* show that seems to focus on portable operating; recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iOEo3waDKg>. Lot of good questions about CWops, the CW Academy and how to learn Morse code. As usual, I am amazed at how many people "out there" think that CWops and CW Academy are synonymous.

Ward, N0AX recently submitted an interesting item to the ARRL's November 24 *Contest Update*: "Here's an 1844 quote sent by postal mail from Samuel Morse to his partner, Alfred Vail, regarding telegraphy: '... there is one defect in your writing [sending] which I wish you would pay particular attention to - Make a longer space between each letter, & a still longer space between each word, The letters and words are often confounded for want of this simple attention.' Even at the beginning, nearly 180 years ago, running characters together was a problem!" Reprinted with permission.



Giving Back Update

Rob Brownstein K6RB

CWops' Giving Back (GB) program is meant to provide on-air QSO experience and practice for anyone who wants it. It was initially intended as a way for our CW Academy students to get some on-air experience. We all know that when there is activity on the bands, these days, it's usually a DXpedition pileup or a contest. Today's CW aspirants have had little chance to work others who are skilled at CW, operate at moderate speed, and are committed to helping. That's the mission of Giving Back. The GB volunteers get on the air at approximately 7 PM local time and seek out CQers, or call CQ, and engage in routine QSOs including some conversational tidbits. Here (next page) is the current schedule:

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Giving Back Operating Schedule 7 PM Local 40 meters 7.035-7.045 MHz and/or 80 meters 3.535-3.545											
UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/ BST	UTC-1	UTC-5	UTC-6	UTC-7	UTC-8	Hawaii UTC-10
Mon											
JH2HTQ JO1DGE					G2CWO		W2XS WK4WC		KE7VE	N6HCN	KH6LC
JH2HTQ JR1WY W	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CW		N4TMM		K7NJ K0ES KE7VE	K6RB AA0IZ	
Wed											
JH2HTQ JS2AHG							K3ZGA WB1LLY	W2ITT	KE7VE		
Thurs											
JH2HTQ			SV2BBK						KE7VE K7NJ		
FRI											
JH2HTQ JR1WY W			SV2BBK		GW2CW		N2GSL		KE7VE WB7S	K6RB	
Sat											
JJ1FXF									KE7VE		
Sun											
JS2AHG JJ1FXF				IZ8NXG			W5DT		KE7VE	K6RB	

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

Volunteer: Stations Worked

AA0IZ: K6TXE, K6ZGN, K7CLA, K7DWS, K7NJ, KJ7RIE, KN6KNE, N5NLP, NT9L, VA3RXB, WA7SDV, WB6WYF, WL7WH

E25JRP: HS2KWO, HS5NMF(2), VU2EEI, VU3CTA, YB1MIG, E21HYR, HS0GWL, VU2TMP, HS?PHX, HS7JEN

GW2CWO: OK2JOW, OH8UBJ, EA8CN, OK2YH, F6HZF, UT3UGI, F5OKB, LZ1ON, DC5YJ, SQ9JNX, S53KS

IZ8NXG: IK5LPN, G3UKI, G0TFL, RK3AGG, UT2IY: , I1BPU, S57V, E73KW, W3ICM, OH2ENW, DJ3GS

JH2HTQ: JJ1VCU, 7N2XZB(2), JH2VEP

JJ1FXF: 7N2XZB(2), JQ6RZZ, JJ1EJD, JR6SBI, JJ2JVU, JK1QYL, JF6JYS, JA9AYV, JJ1XTG, JF7URV, JJ1VCU

JO1DGE: JR3MWP, JM8QGN(2), JJ1VCU, JJ2JVU, JR1JWR(2), JR1DTN, JJ1XTG, R0CDP

JR1WYW: JM8QGN, JA5EWQ, JE0ERZ, JK1XDX, JJ2JYU, JS2HBX

K3ZGA: K9FW, K3XI(2), K1PUG, KS6KCC, W6JIM, WB9ICH, K8MPH, W2SUV, N3RT, W1ZAH, WB2FQL

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K6RB: VE7RIE, KA9FON, KQ3S, W7KB, N5IR

K7NJ: N1ZUC, K1CDX, AD5A, NB3W, CL3OR, KB9W, KF9JA, N9DDC, VA3IIF, WA5OBV, WU7X, AA0IZ, K4WNY, KI5AL, N9AK, WF5K, NP3K, K5SLO, W4SKB, G4RMV, W1AAF, W5FKW, AC4GX, K3UT, WK0B, KA8WWA, VA3BUF, N3AML, WC9D, WA3RSR, K5KV, K3TW, V21C, K4FET, KA2BKG, AI5DD, WB2KMR, KE9IX

KE7VE: AC2K(3), K0GLT, KB1CKT, JN1THL, W5OBT, K6DDS, WD0ETG, KJ4KPW, KE0ZAR, W1EQ, VE3KI, K2DFC, K0LUZ, N3JT, AL7LO, N8KH, K3YDX, N2NI, WJ8Y, K8MFO, KE4S, N8CPA, AA3B, K6TJ, KF6I, WA6O, K5GN, N7IR, W9RE, KA3LOC, NE6ET, KC9YI, K6VVK, VE7JBX, W3TOP, KZ3W, AC2SG, KA3LNA, KH6AQ, WN7S, AC5XK, K4IBZ(2), W4NPX, WA9VDW, K4PQC, WD0FHK, N7JMP, KV0I, WD6T, NE9XX, AA0IZ, AB6BR, K1USN, W4BA, N5KB, K3PP, K3EYJ, KN4YHP, NA4A, WM4Q, WA6LJW, WA6TQJ, KD5VGJ, WB5HOW, WW5W, K1LGQ, W7DLZ, K4ZDH, KE4COH, KR2Q, WB2ERJ, KK6KL, WD9DWE, NN2X, WA6LJW, KJ4RMJ, K7HZ, W1WE, W8FJ, W6IX, W1GU, WS7L, WI9V, W9UIY, K5CM, K1EBY, W9MA, WX5T, W7EVC, KB3NSK, KC0QWE

KH6LC: RN3CT, WX7V, K2JVB, K7WDA, K2HZO, NX2E, W6OYW, K6RC

N2GSL: W0RJW, KC2KC, WB4IT

N4TMM: K8MPH, N9DDC, KB5RCF, N8AFT, KB1DC, AA5KV

N6HCN: N0FU, K6JJR, KI7NRI, N5NLP, K7HZ, W5CUB, WB5OSD

SV2BBK: DK1QG, SV2HSZ, F5IND, R3LAI, DM2PR, IK1YEN

W2ITT: N5EP

W2XS: W1AU, W1WAV(2), WA4NLF, N2JPR

W5DT: K0ES, K1LKD

WB1LLY: N8LAG, AF4PD, K0WHW(2), K8DSS, KA9KWR, N5URL, KD5RDD, N2TQT, KF8R, KJ6HYJ, W5WTH, WB8APR, W6JJZ, KF9GI, WB0POQ, K7BNY, K0WVL, WB4RDG, KD9MFA, N3JJT

WB7S: K4CAB, AF4PD, KN6IPE, WX5T, N2WBJ, KY4ID
WK4WC: WB8CCR, W9MET, VE2GDI, K3PR

How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

W1RM, Pete Chamalian, CWops # 8

Pete has been a ham for sixty-five years. He worked at ARRL Headquarters. He was CWops Founding President. He is a super contest operator with many victories and plaques to his credit. He is the consummate CW operator.

A not well-known story. For many, many months Pete was at the top of Brass Pounders League standings, often beating out the legendary Mae Burke, W3CUL for top spot. I have great memories of high-speed traffic handling with Pete on the New York State Net in the late fifties.



Pete as K2UTV in 1958

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Pete says, "One of my fondest memories was a early morning session of Morning Watch (remember that) where W2RUF and W3CUL both checked in. They swapped some traffic and man were the dits and dahs flying fast and furious! It was a thing to hear."

Please send your How We Were picture(s) and story to w6sx@arrl.net. Then-and-now pictures particularly welcome.

CW Exuberantly! Hank, W6SX

Mobile HF Contesting in State QSO Parties

[Jim Hall, AD4EB](#)

I recently gave a presentation about HF Mobile Contesting to our local ARES group in Williamson County, TN (WCARES). The focus of the presentation was on the setup and preparation needed to operate competitively as a mobile station in State QSO Parties. One of the goals was to encourage members to participate in upcoming QSO parties, and to perhaps consider trying their hand at operating mobile in one of these contests. The presentation was recorded by one of our group members, Cliff Batson, [which he made available on YouTube](#).



My interest in mobile contesting began in 2009 with encouragement from Ted W4NZ and Don N4ZZ, both are fellow CWops and TCG testers. They said if I would get my van set up and give it a shot, I would see how much fun it was. Well they were right, it has been a blast and my favorite ham radio activity. Thanks to the incredible support of my wife Melody KI4HVY, who is the driver/navigator on these excursions, we have now done over 30 QSO parties as mobile. These have been multi-op with Don N4ZZ and Melody in AL, TN, and GA, and single-op in TX, FL and IL with Melody doing all the driving.

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The presentation begins with explaining what state QSO parties are all about, how they are scored, and the special advantages provided to those that choose to compete as mobiles. I describe how it is like being a “rare DX” station as you enter each county. Information is then presented on how the Montana van is outfitted for mobile contest operation. Included are details about the antennas, grounding, power distribution, software, GPS, and ARPS.

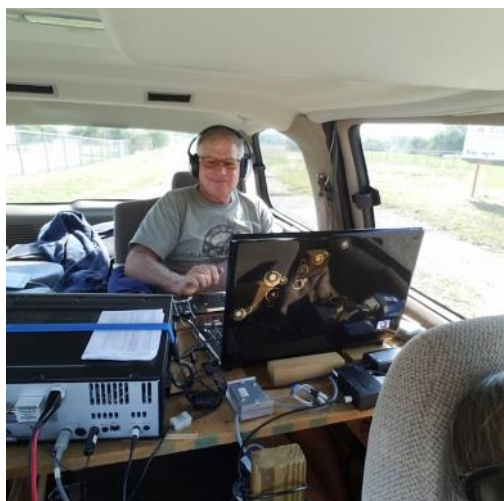
I have found that one key to our success in this type of radiosport can be attributed to extensive preparation before the contest. The preparation includes planning the route, which can take many days to come up with the “perfect” route. In the presentation, I discuss in detail steps taken to come up with our 2021 Florida QSO Party route, and how the route information is utilized. For example, on my QRZ.com webpage I provide useful information for the contest participants. This includes a map of our route, estimated county line crossing times, and a link to APRS.fi which shows live our current location in each county along the route.

The 2021 FLQP turned out to be the best performance Melody and I have had thus far, ending up with 3,431 QSOs in the 20-hour long contest.

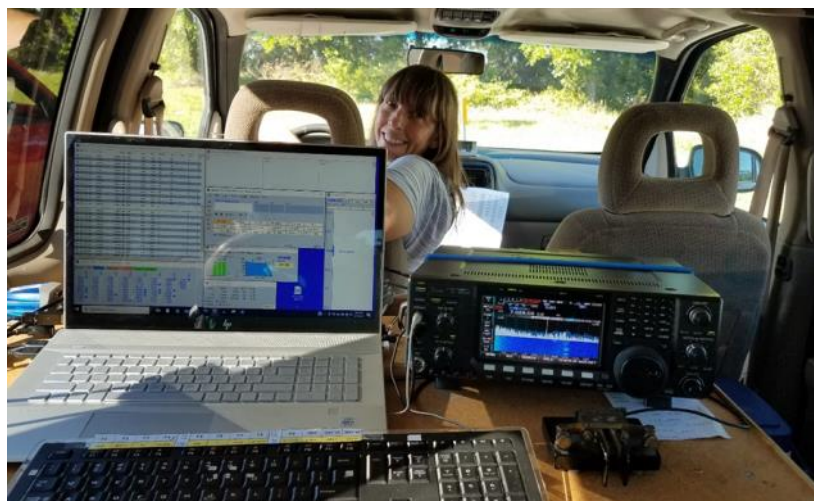
I hope you enjoy the YouTube presentation, and look forward to working you in one of these exciting mobile QSO Party contests.



Getting set to leave for the 2011 Georgia QSO Party, L to R – Jim AD4EB, Melody KI4HVV, Don N4ZZ entered as multi-op.



AD4EB operating in the 2019 Texas QSO Party. The radio is an IC-7600 along with an HP laptop PC running N1MM Logger Plus.



Melody KI4HVV after driving the 1,006-mile route in the 2021 Florida QSO Party. She is the real key to our success.

The CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

[Riki Kline, K7NJ](#)

CWops is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award for the year 2022.

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code.



Criteria:

Candidates for the award may be one or more of the following:

- Authors of publications related to CW
- CW recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches and instructors
- Public advocates of CW
- Organizers of CW activities
- Designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW
- Other contributors to the art or practice of CW

Note: The award is not limited to amateur radio operators or their organizations.

Nomination

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to <awards@cwops.org> with a copy to <secretary@cwops.org>. An email confirmation will be sent acknowledging receipt of each nomination. In order to be considered, a nomination should be received by March 18, 2022 and include:

- A detailed explanation supporting nominee qualifications according to the above criteria.
- Name(s) and call sign(s) (if applicable) of nominee(s), and contact information including their postal address(es), email address(es), and telephone number (s).
- Name, telephone number, email address, and call sign (if applicable) of the person submitting the nomination.

Presentation of Award

A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention. If the recipients are not present, it will be sent to them.



Remote Operating

[Giu Giunta, IT9VDQ](#)

For many years I have been hearing about the possibility to use a "remote" radio station and I've always been curious about it; as in all things, there are very good comments but also very bad, given that on many occasions there have been episodes of radio amateurs who have used remote stations in an "unclear" way.

As in my new house I can only mount small antennas on the balcony on the eleventh floor and I cannot always be present in the IB9T contest station, with the help of Gabriele IT9RGY I started to take some timid steps in the "remote "; I must say that for an "old Telegraphist" I am not very familiar with PCs, modems and all the modern things present in our radio stations today, but I was positively surprised by the speed Gabry set everything up, with a video call on WhatsApp, on my home PC; He worked for some months in setting up his remote station, so i had easy access to his station.

IT9RGY's remote station in Palermo city (about one kilometer from my house):

- PC, Internet fiber, TS590sg, Spiderbeam, 40m dipole, 80-160 CW dipole

IT9VDQ home station:

- PC, internet fiber and... that's it!

As said before, a short video call was enough to make Gabry fix everything on my PC: AnyDesk for the remote connection, ARCP-590G to control the TS590SG transceiver by PC, a VSPE for COM ports, "Remaud client" to stream the audio, "ERC" to turn the antenna and lastly QARtest an exceptional contest software, simple, intuitive and very powerful (also in English). He also made me add the "Webswitch" App to my mobile phone, to turn on/off the PC at home with one click.

Having done everything, it is time to "go on the air" and here the troubles have begun! For a "differently young" OM like me, not having a transceiver in front of you to tinker with my faithful Bencher, to greet some friends with "hello" or "hey" and having to control everything via a keyboard is not that easy! The first experience was some QSOs in S&P and then slowly melting down a bit, running at low speed. One Sunday I also tried to run the Marconi-Memorial, making even more than three hundred QSOs! I must say that as you get to know more and more the various management software, you become familiar with "Ctrl+K" and remember the various messages of the memories, everything becomes easier, focusing again on receiving the correspondents. Every now and then some "freezing" occurs and it is immediately panic, but if you reflect a little on it, the problem is solved



[QARtest](#) by IK3QAR

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within a few seconds; I also did a low speed CWT due to some very small internet delay still to be fixed and it was nice when some CWops friends greeted me with "tnx remote qso"!

I have to say that as a first experience I really enjoyed it, obviously without reaching that performance of speed and concentration in the QSOs of the "not remote" station of all time; I hope that slowly, by using this "way of operating" more and being able to implement it with N1MM+ and other useful software, even a "differently young" CW Operator like me (who cannot mount antennas on the roof of the house), can make the most of that progress makes available to us.

Netherlands Telegraphy Club (NTC)

[Theo Kindts, PA3HEN](#)

A new Telegraphy club in the Netherlands? Yes, you are correct! Apart from the well known "Benelux QRP Club" and "VHSC", there are no CW clubs in the Netherlands; the founders of NTC (PA7RA, PG4I & PA3HEN) would like to change this.

What is the goal of the NTC? Quite simply, we wish to promote Morse Code by reaching as many Telegraphy operators as possible in order to promote more CW activity on the bands and to reach operators who use other modes and help them to explore Morse Code. Encouraging inter-Club CW cooperation, joint activities with clubs in countries around the Netherlands in order to increase the CW activity in general and to enjoy our nice hobby and mode together. NTC wants to be there for all kinds of CW operators, newbies, slow ops, high speed devils and everyone in between. Let's keep CW alive together, preserve and promote our heritage.



Meanwhile, NTC has been accepted as a member of "EUCW" and "International CW Council".

Because NTC aims to be inclusive for all Telegraphy operators we have a very simple "low level access rule". Only two active NTC members need to be contacted to complete a membership application. The membership application form can be found on our website; download, complete and forward it by email. Membership is completely free.

Our activity program includes;

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- Work NTC Members (W-NTC-M) award
- Monthly QSO party
- The development of a second award is in progress

Find out more by visiting our website (also still work-in-progress) or send a message to: net-telclub@outlook.com

You can also check directly if you have already worked some NTC members or start with this directly. Check the website (www.qsl.net/ntc) for the membership list. Our members are also listed in the CW Club RBN Spotter.

Non-NTC members are also welcome to participate in NTC activities. We look forward to meeting you on the bands.

Loudspeaker Design Considerations for CW

[Steve Dick, K1RF](#)

What drove me to write this article was the high cost of speakers sold by the big three with minimal specifications and finding “good” speakers only by reviews or word of mouth. I wanted to provide some information on what’s important in amateur radio speakers, especially for CW reception. Fortunately one of my sons is an acoustical engineer and I learned a lot from him and even built/tested several home-brew speakers in an acoustical lab. I hope to convey what’s important if you want to purchase one or build your own.

If you’ve ever operated in a lengthy CW contest such as Field Day, you are certainly familiar with listener fatigue. It’s a phenomenon that occurs after prolonged exposure to an auditory stimulus which includes tiredness, discomfort, pain, and loss of sensitivity. Some causes of listener fatigue in amateur radio include:

- Receiver contributions to audio distortion (oscillator phase noise, demodulation process, audio amplifier)
- Listening to weak/noisy signals for long periods of time
- Repetitive noise sources (Noise from appliances such as plasma T.V.s, computer switching power supplies, CFL and LED light bulbs, etc)

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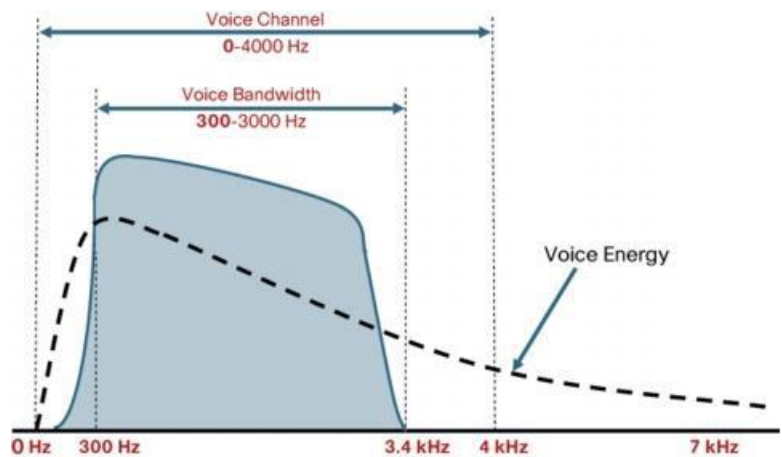
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- “Communications quality” audio in voice modes, resulting in missing important speech components, due to narrow-band filtering
- Speech compression due to its unnatural sound
- Listening to CW amidst key clicks from nearby signals.
- Use of narrow receiver filters which produce CW ringing, mainly a problem in older rigs.
- Poor performance of many transceiver built-in speakers.

Let’s try to establish a set of ground rules for amateur radio speakers to minimize listener fatigue. I’m assuming the speaker must accommodate not only CW, but good quality voice. I’m also assuming it is a passive speaker.

What is the required bandwidth for a good amateur radio speaker?

In telephony, the usable [voice frequency](#) band ranges from approximately 300 Hz to 3400 Hz. The voiced speech of a typical adult male has a fundamental frequency from 85 to 180 Hz, and that of a typical adult female from 165 to 255 Hz. Thus, the fundamental frequency of most speech falls below the bottom of the "voice frequency" band as defined above. However, enough of the harmonic series will be present for the brain to fill in the blanks though the missing fundamental, but it doesn't sound natural and adds to fatigue.



“Hi-fi” voice energy falls in the region 100 Hz to about 7 kHz so let’s use that as our baseline. Energy above and below this range should be discarded as it contains unnecessary noise and adds to fatigue.

The easiest way to make a homebrew speaker is to use what is known as a full range driver, which can produce most of the audio frequencies found in high quality voice and is used in many commercial ham speakers. Multiple drivers, such as a woofer and tweeter, use the sweet spot of each driver, but cost more and require crossover networks which increase complexity and losses. It is also difficult to match their sensitivities, and the crossover network adds additional delays and phase shifts.

What is the main limitation of a full range driver? At higher frequencies the speaker becomes more directional, and its cone starts to develop bending modes, referred to as 'breakup'. If the rig has a receiver equalizer, adjust the upper limit to stay within the specified driver range or lower.

Unlike hi-fi amplifiers, a typical rig can only put out about 2-3 watts before distortion sets in, so

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it's important to have an efficient driver. Efficiency is measured in SPL, or Sound Pressure Level at 1 watt/1 meter. In my experience, drivers for radios should have at least an 85 dB SPL. 90dB is better. If you're building your own, their [Thiele-Small Parameters](#), first commonly used in the 1970s, should be specified. These define their electrical and mechanical properties at low frequencies and allow the right enclosure volume to be used for optimum settling time and low frequency response. A good place to start is [parts-express.com/](#) for drivers. They often have low cost clearance items but with specified T/S parameters, along with recommended enclosure volume.

There are also on-line calculators to compute volume from these parameters.

What about sealed enclosures vs. ported enclosures? For amateur radio use, stick with a sealed enclosure. You don't need the added low frequency response of a ported enclosure typical in hi-fi applications, and a sealed enclosure requires less volume, a simpler enclosure design, a quicker settling response by roughly a factor of 3, and at the low end, smoother roll-off, smoother phase response, and a better controlled cone excursion.

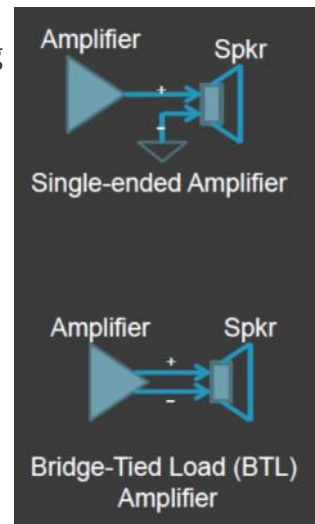
How can we maximize power to the speaker before distortion starts setting in?

- If the rig permits, use a 4 ohm speaker instead of an 8 ohm speaker. You will get twice the power into the speaker for a given input voltage rail.
- For homebrew rigs, use a bridge-tied load output stage instead of a single ended output stage (See figure, top right.) This provides FOUR TIMES the power output capability compared to a single-ended output because it essentially provides twice the voltage swing to the speaker. So instead of being roughly 12 volts, it looks like 24 volts.

More details on speakers for amateur radio can be [found at this web page](#).

One of the author's homebrew speakers is shown in the photo (bottom, right). If you want to purchase a ready-made speaker, I would recommend a sealed center-channel speaker, optimized for voice. One I have used, and several hams have had good results with, is the [BIC Venturi DV32CLR](#) which is a sealed speaker with 90dB SPL for about \$46.00.

Some CW enthusiasts swear by resonant speakers. They are basically a driver mounted in a resonant cavity such as a PVC tube, a can, or specially designed cabinet. Compared to a standard speaker, they improve weak signal reception, help to reject nearby interfering signals, and reduce noise above and below their resonant frequency. They are very efficient at their resonant frequency, which helps to reduce distortion from the relatively low power output stage of a rig. They may require experimenting with the best placement as they have a rela-



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tively narrow acoustical beam width. They also make a unique conversation piece for visiting CW ops. Some examples of resonant speakers:

- [Resonant speaker](#) by Steve Ellington, N4LQ
- Also by N4LQ – adding a [resonant sound tube](#) to an IC-7300 speaker.
- One more [resonant speaker](#) by David E Hassell Sr., N5IW.
- Scroll down on [Phil VK6GX's QRZ.com](#) web page for an example of a can speaker.

My Other Hobby

[Jim Talens, N3JT](#)

A non-radio hobby I enjoy when in Florida is flying radio-controlled airplanes. I cannot do that when in Virginia because we live within a restricted flight area, not far from downtown Washington, DC. While I am not an expert pilot, I do find successfully controlling the planes through loops and rolls and ultimately landing them in one piece satisfying.

Most of the folks in my area who fly RC planes fly at the West Delray field in Florida. This is in the same park, though half a mile away, where the Boca Raton Amateur Radio Association has its club station with towers and beams. I fly in the early morning when the air is relatively calm. The planes we all fly at that hour are electrics, not gas-powered planes. Gasoline planes are becoming the minority these days, in fact. One of my planes, called a VisionAire, is essentially a stunt plane, which means it has a lot of control surfaces that are used to allow the plane to respond quickly and severely to even minor attitude adjustments. I minimize the extent to which those surfaces (like the ailerons) can move during flight, but still a great care is required, unlike my other two planes that are more forgiving overall. A split-second error in attitude control can mean an almost instantaneous crash for the VisionAire, unless I am flying it at least “two mistakes high,” a term that is understood to mean high enough to allow time to maybe correct one such error.

Of course, at any lower altitude the risk of crashing is vastly higher. Because of the sensitivity of this plane and my limited experience in the hobby, I have crashed the VisonAire many times, even a few times when I am positive the receiver did not respond to my commands! That does happen on occasion for unknown reasons. Crashes with these high-speed planes tend to result in a significant amount of damage to the foam structure, a broken propeller, fractured fuselage,

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distorted motor mount, etc. And my VisionAire has experienced all of these! Still, I am committed to keeping this plane flying. It now weighs twice what it did originally thanks to so many layers of epoxy, my preferred way to implement repairs, Sure, I could replace parts but why pay for



the plane over and over again! Its takeoffs are iffy and doing a loop requires full throttle. In fact, keeping it in the air requires at least $\frac{3}{4}$ throttle, which is a lot! Flight time is down to a few minutes even with a hefty battery (3000 mAh 30C LiPo).

Landing, too, is harder because considerably more speed is needed to keep it aloft during landing approach. This plane has been repaired so many times and looks so weird from the epoxy and rubber bands keeping to together that the other guys with whom I fly suggested I send photos of it to *Model Aviation*, the magazine published by the [Academy of Model Aeronautics \(AMA\)](#). The AMA is a trade association that provides, among other things, liability insurance. Everyone who flies must be a member of AMA. To my surprise, they included the picture in the August 2021 issue of their *Model Aviation* magazine.

And now too the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires registration of the planes, and recently imposed a written (online) test for authorization to fly at all. Under FAA rules, all planes are classified as "drones" and are limited in where they can be flown, how high, etc. Even flying a drone on your own property is a violation if the area is not considered approved by the FAA.

Regulatory issues aside, for those who are really into this hobby there is no limit to the kinds and styles of planes that can be bought or built and flown. The costliest are the jets, which run on real

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jet fuel and both sound and fly like real jets, meaning very fast and very loud! They also go for upwards of \$10,000 so if you crash one of those it's a major financial setback. But like most hobbies, there are some people who go the extreme. Not me. I'm happy to fly around in circles and land safely, chat with the other guys (who, like hams, invariably have interesting stories to share about just about everything), and go home with my planes intact!

Just as there is the adage in ham radio that if your antenna didn't come down in a storm it wasn't big enough, the model flyers say that if you haven't crashed your plane you haven't flown it enough yet. One other way of losing a plane is not keeping your eyes fixed on it in flight. I've seen guys turn around for just a second to respond to a question or glance sideways at something only to then lose sight of their plane as it disappears over the trees into the Everglades never to be recovered. There are lots of planes out there for the alligators to nibble on.

The nice thing about flying at the West Delray Park is that, after flying, I can always wander down the road to the [Boca ARA](#) club station and see what's on the air!

CW Academy

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

Let's take a look at the 2021 CW Academy progress, and start with numbers.

January-February semester:

- Total registered students: 818.
- Number of students who verified: 616 (75% of total registered).
- Number of students who completed a class: 500 (61% of verified).
- Number of students promotable: 424 (84% of completed).
- Beginner graduates: 177.
- Basic graduates: 96.
- Intermediate graduates: 90.
- Advanced graduates: 61.
- Number of advisors: 83.

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- Number of classes: 95.

This continued our trend of growth that we experienced through 2020; was it because of the pandemic? Seems like it, but we experienced a big increase in student signups in starting in 2020. The basic class continued in its popularity.

April-May semester:

- Total registered students: 874.
- Number of students who verified: 672 (77% of total registered).
- Number of students who completed a class: 518 (59% of verified).
- Number of students promotable: 431 (83% of completed).
- Beginner graduates: 124.
- Basic graduates: 148.
- Intermediate graduates: 88.
- Advanced graduates: 71.
- Number of advisors: 80.
- Number of classes: 97.

More basic graduates than beginner – first time that has happened. Continued growth; note that many students here are students who have taken a class previously; either they are taking the next level up or repeating a class. A concern to me is the gap between basic and intermediate.

September-October semester:

- Total registered students: 877
- Number of students who verified: 549 (63% of total registered).
- Number of students who completed a class: 434 (50% of verified).
- Number of students promotable: 352 (81% of completed).
- Beginner graduates: 108.
- Basic graduates: 90.
- Intermediate graduates: 85.
- Advanced graduates: 69.
- Number of advisors: 73.
- Number of classes: 94.

Why the huge number of students who signed up for a class but declined to commit to a class? Beginners back to being the most popular group. Basic and intermediate almost lined up. Note that we are graduating many more advanced students than we used to. Number of advisors around 80, more or less. Number of classes approaching 100.

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All of 2021:

- Total registered students: 2,569
- Number of students who verified: 1,837.
- Number of students who completed a class: 1,452.
- Number of students promotable: 1,207.
- Beginner graduates: 409.
- Basic graduates: 334.
- Intermediate graduates: 263.
- Advanced graduates: 201.
- Average number of advisors: 79.
- Average number of classes: 95.

A BIG year, we were busy.

It is not possible to emphasize enough the passion and dedication of the advisors we have. As you can see, many are leading more than one class per semester and a few are leading fairly large classes, usually with the assistance of associate advisors.

These advisors really care about helping their students and sometimes take their student success, or lack of, too personally. We hear praise from students about their advisor and their class. You can read that yourself by perusing the new member biographies in *Solid Copy*; many of those new members are CW Academy graduates. Several become members during their class.

We are now about to begin 2022 with more CW Academy classes starting in early January.

73,

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



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)

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 **KR2Q** in second place and **K3WW** very close behind at number three. **NA8V** moved into sole possession of sixth position and **K1VUT** entered the top ten at tenth position. Forty members have contacted 100 DXCC entities, and 103 members have now completed CWops WAS by contacting members in all 50 states. **IT9VDQ, KT4XN, N4CWZ, NA4J, VE7KW, W2VM and W3WHK** are newly reported WAS awards this month. At this time, we have active CWops members in all 50 states, so each passing month should bring new CWops WAS awards. [You can see complete rankings for all award categories here.](#)

Please remember that ACA scores will reset to zero at the beginning of 2022 and the January column will show final rankings for 2021. Please upload your scores for December 2021 prior to January 3, 2022.

About the CWops Member Awards Program

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.

Please Join Us! 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 235 CWops members who are currently participating, please join us! It adds a lot of friendly competition and fun to your operating. 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.

Current ACA Top 100: Here are the rankings for the top 100 ACA scores as of the first week of December 2021:

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CWops Member Awards Standings							
RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
1	AA3B	1736	11448	127	50	47	38
2	KR2Q	1635	4610	145	50	52	37
3	K3WW	1603	8779	129	50	48	37
4	N5RZ	1506	7140	117	50	43	36
5	K3WJV	1440	6418	109	50	47	30
6	NA8V	1378	6841	107	50	44	34
7	N5AW	1326	4229	83	50	39	31
8	K7QA	1283	4510	81	50	37	29
9	W1RM	1268	7637	212	50	61	38
10	K1VUT	1263	4451	74	50	40	22
11	K3JT	1256	4730	92	50	43	29
12	N7US	1251	5264	108	50	38	33
13	K4WW	1248	4215	81	50	35	29
14	VE3KI	1221	6661	137	50	52	37
15	KG9X	1208	4774	75	50	34	24
16	WT3K	1193	3495	74	50	41	24
17	K3PP	1170	4631	102	50	45	27
17	W4WF	1170	3928	79	50	38	29
18	WT9U	1169	4937	101	50	40	30
19	W0UO	1153	2953	55	50	31	20
20	N8BJQ	1147	7130	132	50	47	39
21	AC6ZM	1132	3542	59	50	33	21
22	DL6KVA	1127	5291	172	50	60	36
23	W9ILY	1121	5556	131	50	45	36
24	K9WX	1115	4347	91	50	35	29
25	F6HKA	1113	6956	199	50	58	38
25	K8AJS	1113	3990	101	50	43	30
26	NA4J	1102	3239	69	50	32	24
27	K6NR	1100	3555	60	50	28	28
28	AA5JF	1057	2547	71	50	35	26
29	N1DC	1054	4264	84	50	38	24
30	WN7S	1045	3440	67	49	33	22
31	W8FN	1032	3369	55	49	29	18
32	VE3TM	1026	2627	74	50	40	23
33	K1DJ	1006	3843	93	50	40	27
34	NJ3K	998	2731	58	49	36	19
35	KG5U	972	4056	81	50	29	28
36	N2UU	963	4953	109	50	45	31

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CWops Member Awards Standings							
RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
37	K3ZA	957	1860	37	50	26	14
37	KE8G	957	3107	78	49	35	25
38	KC7V	956	4569	87	50	34	32
39	WS1L	946	2302	58	49	35	19
40	CO8NMN	937	3098	67	48	34	22
41	K1ESE	920	4996	127	50	47	35
42	DJ4MX	901	1889	69	49	39	25
43	DF7TV	895	1927	85	49	45	33
44	W2CDO	894	2052	55	50	35	20
45	W0VX	892	5047	125	49	43	36
46	AF4T	891	2149	60	50	34	24
47	I2WIJ	888	3066	79	49	41	29
47	K8PK	888	3177	80	50	38	30
48	K4TZ	887	2431	36	50	16	16
49	K2TW	886	3056	56	49	30	20
50	9A1AA	881	3784	121	49	50	38
51	K1SM	858	3637	130	49	45	36
52	KV8Q	857	2402	55	50	26	20
53	KM4FO	856	2293	41	50	15	16
54	W3WHK	845	2754	72	50	33	21
55	LB6GG	843	2468	86	45	48	28
56	NK4O	840	1735	60	47	29	23
57	K8JQ	828	4321	62	50	28	23
58	NE2V	817	1473	46	49	26	16
58	NR3Z	817	2130	63	48	32	22
59	EA4OR	812	1849	72	49	43	26
60	OZ3SM	811	2261	90	47	44	33
61	W6LAX	808	1828	34	49	13	18
62	KT5V	800	2873	73	50	26	29
63	AF5J	795	1623	40	50	18	17
64	N5XE	785	2334	66	50	33	24
65	WA4JUK	779	3184	80	50	38	26
66	N4CWZ	777	1930	38	50	21	17
67	N4FP	772	2092	50	49	28	18
68	W2NRA	771	2514	73	50	36	22
69	W1UU	767	3835	108	50	38	32
70	K4GM	765	3419	80	50	33	27
71	KC4WQ	761	2325	43	50	23	18

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CWops Member Awards Standings							
RANK	CALL	ACA	CMA	DXCC	WAS	WAE	WAZ
72	N4ZR	758	3857	93	50	40	29
72	VE3MV	758	2862	76	49	39	20
73	W1AJT	740	1393	51	49	32	20
74	NF8M	734	1903	39	49	20	17
75	GW0ETF	727	3513	110	50	48	35
76	K0TC	717	2633	57	50	25	19
77	KT4XN	680	1924	56	50	26	18
78	WW3S	673	1299	59	48	33	24
79	AA8R	672	1638	72	49	36	24
80	SM0HEV	671	1873	97	47	46	32
81	K3ZGA	665	1041	32	49	22	13
82	N4DW	664	5316	117	50	42	35
83	VE7KW	662	986	22	50	9	13
84	N5IR	656	4215	120	50	45	33
85	KA1YQC	654	1254	48	49	30	16
86	F5SGI	653	1327	74	45	45	24
87	W0TG	651	2422	58	50	23	25
88	AG4EA	649	1491	43	47	26	16
89	G3WZD	647	1401	79	46	40	27
90	F6JOE	640	4059	110	50	48	33
91	K2YR	617	1571	39	47	25	16
92	EA3FZT	615	1421	65	45	41	21
92	W8OV	615	1988	48	49	22	18
93	KE4S	608	2832	103	50	44	28
94	DK3WW	603	1556	71	49	41	25
95	WA5LXS	602	1770	45	49	17	17
96	OK1RR	599	3299	146	50	51	38
97	G3XTT	598	1975	78	46	41	27
97	WA2USA	598	1597	39	50	24	16
98	G4LPP	597	1249	62	44	39	20
99	N1EN	592	2953	122	50	45	34
99	W2VM	592	2081	58	50	30	17
100	K4EES	591	1308	37	50	18	16



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
3066	KW0J	Gary	3070	KC9YL*	Anne	3074	W3SA*	John
3067	KK0U*	Jim	3071	KP4JRS*	Jose	3075	N2MG*	Mike
3068	VE6RST*	Max	3072	EA6BF*	Josep	3076	ZA1EM	Elvira
3069	W3ZF*	Danny	3073	G4HLN*	Larry	3077	VE3KIU*	Dave

*Life Member

Current Nominees

As of December 8: **Need Sponsors:** KA1EFO
Invitations Extended: W0ZP

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

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

Notes:

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

73,

Trung W6TN, Membership Manager



QTX Report

Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Bruce Murdock, K8UDH](#)

Here's something to ponder. Why do we do what we do? Since we are ham radio operators, I would look at it another way. Why do we "do" CW and why do many of us say that CW is our favorite mode? We have many more ways to communicate today than we had just a few years ago. Maybe the answers are obvious. I believe we choose to be a CW operators because we enjoy CW.

All of us have things we need to do, have to do, should do, must do, would like to do, and want to do. The want to dos always seems to fall to the bottom of the list. Many of our ragchewers have commented about all the things going on in their lives right now, often to the exclusion of ham radio and CW. That's certainly been true for me. I know things will change in the future. They always do. We'll see what the future has in store for us.

So, I hope you have the time to do what you love to do. For me it's CW ragchewing. Whatever you enjoy with CW is great. If it's CW it's all good.

Now let's take a look at the variety of interesting comments from our QTX operators.

Comments from QTX Submission

K6DGW: Pretty thin on the QTX in Nov but ... one was another 3-way for 85 mins! Almost to the point where I'd have had to break for the bathroom. All of the mini's were answering CQ's and ended by the other guy.

AC8RG: Had some enjoyable rag chews this month with some great folks. What a great hobby.

W9EBE: I enjoyed some very nice QSOs this month. One of the nicest (and longest) was with Sam, VE3WH. We happily ragchewed for over an hour. Thanks, Sam, and welcome to CWops!

AA0IZ: The bands were tough this month, but despite all that I managed some good QTX time. I worked a friend's brand-new call sign "NT0D" and I got that broken in nicely!

AA0YY: Even worked a little DX this month with two new entities for me.

N0BM: Had two enjoyable chats, one with an Italian ham on 30, who was all bug, all the time. I was not familiar with the manufacturer of his bug, so I need to do some research. The second was with an OT who was using a 1947 Vibroplex Original (my first bug). we discovered that we both had some of the same keys on our shelves. We both had the old Lafayette bug with the plastic cover. Had a chuckle reminiscing about calling them "coffin Keys".

K5YQF: Another good month. Enjoyed openings on 17 m (8) and 15 m (2).

WA2USA: Two QSOs come to mind with several comments about the Elecraft K4D performance

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and the performance of the KPA1500 amplifier. I enjoy hearing what hams have to say about equipment, especially equipment I am interested in. Both Q's were lengthy and detailed.

Another Q, on 40 m, was with a ham running both receivers of his FTdx101D with an horizontal antenna connected to receiver #1 and a vertical antenna connected to receiver #2. Both receivers synced to the same frequency.

W3WHK: Got to know fellow CWop N9EP, also nice QSO with K6RB. The most exciting was: W3GC called me from Florida....our first QSO in over 50 years, though we had made contact via Facebook in recent years. He was W3ZSX back in the 1950s and we, along with the late Doug ZP6CW (then K4EZL), hung out on the Eastern States Net (7080 kcs). We even attended an ARRL national convention together in northern VA. So it was quite a thrill to work him again!

N6HCN: Discovered that Jim, K7HZ is an atmospheric scientist and worked with my graduate advisor during the discovery of the ozone hole. Never expected to discuss climate research on CW!

AJ1DM: Continuing to have rag chews with a nice mix of old friends and new acquaintances. 73 es tnx QSO om de John AJ1DM

N2DA: Limited time on the air due to Thanksgiving festivities! Nice ragchews with CW sked buddies.

KG5IEE: Always enjoy my regular SKEDs with Bruce K8UDH, Dan KE0SSV, and Bob KD5NDQ. We were all in CWA Beginner class over two years ago. Bruce was the advisor and Dan, Bob, and I the students. Also fun to randomly run across other friends from CWA calling CQ, such as Mark AA0YY.

AA5AD: got distracted chasing DX this month, will have more rag chews in December, promise!

KC0VKN: Had a nice month, lots more lowband ragchews!

KB6NU: My favorite QTX this month was with Don, W2LID. Don is 99 years old, and has had his call sign for more than 80 years!

K8UDH: Several of my QTX QSOs were with new CWops members, Anne WA9ZZ and Walt KA1NP. Both are CW Academy graduates from the fall semester. Joe KK5NA, was their Advanced Class Advisor.

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

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

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Chuck WS1L is in the lead with 755 QTX QSOs followed by John K1ESE with 635 QTX QSOs, Bill N5IR with 476, Bruce K9OZ with 475, Chris N8AI with 469, and Joe KC0VKN with 401 QTX QSOs. All of them have earned a gold medal. Phil F5IYJ with 345 QTX QSOs has qualified for a silver medal. Dennis WA2USA with 290, Dan KB6NU with 274, Chip W9EBE with 271, and Cecil K5YQF with 261 QTX QSOs have qualified for bronze medals. Congratulations to all of you.

QTX for November 2021

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WS1L	97	KC0VKN	33	W7JRD	12	NT0D	4
K5YQF	77	N8AI	30	AJ1DM	11	AC8RG	3
N5IR	47	W9EBE	24	AA0YY	9	W0GAS	3
K1ESE	43	KB6NU	23	K4AHO	9	AA5AD	2
K9OZ	42	AA0IZ	13	K8UDH	7	K6DGW	2
WA2USA	40	N6HCN	13	W3WHK	7	N0BM	1
F5IYJ	39	KG5IEE	12	N2DA	6	SV2BBK	1

MQTX for November 2021

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	47	K6DGW	13	W7JRD	8	K4AHO	4
WS1L	29	KG5IEE	13	AJ1DM	6	N0BM	3
W9EBE	23	SV2BBK	13	W3WHK	6	NT0D	1
K1ESE	22	AA0IZ	11	AA5AD	5		
AA0YY	19	N6HCN	11	AC8RG	5		
K5YQF	15	GW0ETF	8	K8UDH	5		

2021 Totals for QTX

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WS1L	755	KG5IEE	133	W3WHK	27	KF9VV	7
K1ESE	635	AJ1DM	119	SV2BBK	22	M0MUI	7
N5IR	476	K8UDH	117	GW4VXE	17	KK5NA	5
K9OZ	475	N2DA	117	N5LB	17	NT0D	4
N8AI	469	AA0YY	87	N0BM	15	W0GAS	4
KC0VKN	401	AA5AD	61	WT9Q	13	N3FZ	4
F5IYJ	345	W0OJ	59	W7JRD	12	N5PHT	4
WA2USA	290	AC8RG	56	VA3DKL	12	W1AJT	3
KB6NU	274	AA0IZ	51	G3WZD	11	AB7MP	2
W9EBE	271	NN0TE	40	EA2AJB	10	K1BZ	2
K5YQF	261	PU5DGS	40	W0HY	10	M10WWB	2
N6HCN	190	K7TRT	32	W8UA	8	W3PNM	2
K4AHO	143	K6DGW	29	GW0ETF	7	K1PJS	1

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2021 Totals for MQTX

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
N8AI	544	GW0ETF	67	AJ1DM	29	K1BZ	7
WS1L	257	AC8RG	63	W3WHK	26	W0OJ	7
K1ESE	249	G3WZD	60	K8UDH	25	NN0TE	5
SV2BBK	248	N6HCN	56	N0BM	16	N3FZ	4
W9EBE	194	W2USA	55	VA3DKL	13	N5PHT	2
KG5IEE	132	K5YQF	52	AB7MP	9	W0HY	2
AA0YY	118	AA0IZ	44	W7JRD	8	W8UA	2
K6DGW	103	K7TRT	38	KF9VV	8	WT9Q	2
AA5AD	90	GW4VXE	36	M0MUI	8	NT0D	1
K4AHO	87	MI0WVB	32	W1AJT	8	K1PJS	1

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

73,

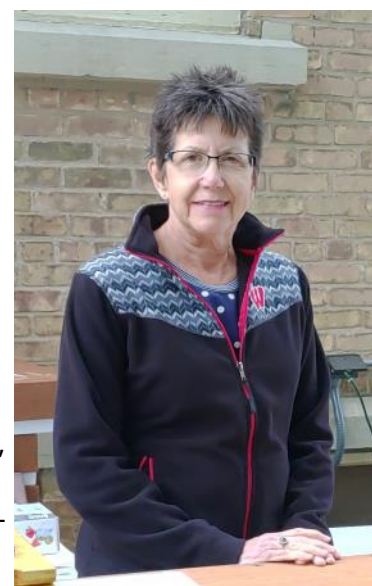
Bruce K8UDH, QTX Manager

My Story: New Member Biographies

Anne Dirkman, KC9YL

First of all, I'd like to give a big thank you to Bud AA3B for nominating me and to Anthony AB9YC, Jim N3JT, Anne N1YL and Max VE6RST for sponsoring me.

I am a late bloomer to amateur radio, first licensed at the age of 57, after a friend - Mike KE8IL - suggested I give amateur radio a try. Growing up in Northeast Wisconsin, my "spare time" growing up was spent baling hay and feeding the cows. I didn't know that ham radio was still a *thing*! I was looking for a hobby to ease myself into retirement and keep my brain busy. Amateur radio has certainly done that, and CW - while challenging - has given me opportunities to compete against myself - and others - and strive to improve my operating techniques.



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My CW journey started on a Thursday Echolink YL Op Net when Ruth KM4LAO mentioned that, after taking several CW Academy classes, CW was her favorite mode. I was looking to expand my amateur radio horizons, so I signed up for Level I with Dallas K1DW, followed by Level II classes with Mark K5GQ and Al K0AD. I then went on a bit of a CW *hiatus* since I was completing my 2nd round of Level II in the midst of retiring and training a replacement for my position as Bookkeeper/Payroll & HR Specialist at our local public school district.

In June 2020, I was a guest on HamNation Episode 456 – Hams Gone YL'd 3.0. Fellow guest was Leann W4LEA, who spoke about the Long Island CW Club. I joined LICW and took in a few classes at the intermediate level, since I had a good base from the CW Academy instruction. We were encouraged to GET ON THE AIR so I became more conscientious about doing just that. I warmed up a bit with K1USN's SSTs, tested the waters in the CWTs and found I really enjoyed the faster pace. Also keeping me motivated are my weekly practice sessions with (fellow!) CWops members Tom WA9CW and Cathy W4CMG. I have recently started participating in QRP events and enjoy the challenge of chasing Foxes and Zombies at 5 watts.

I belong to several amateur radio clubs, including SMC (Society of Midwest Contesters), Long Island CW Club where I lead a Monday night YL *Open House* and YLRL (Young Ladies Radio League) where I serve as DX Treasurer. I enjoy operating special event stations – NB9QV aboard the USS Cobia WW2 submarine docked at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc and W9ZL at the EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. In my spare time, I enjoy playing Mah Jongg and ukelele, running, and pickleball. I am looking forward to my next HamVention where I will be adding to my CW key collection! Hope to see you all there!

Gary Huff, KW0J

Thanks go out to Joe KK5NA for a nomination to be a member of CWops, and to John K0HD, Tony KB9LLD, and Frank K1EBY for sponsoring. I enjoyed the classes Joe gave. I'm proud to be part of a group of dedicated Hams keeping the heritage of CW communications alive.

A high school buddy who started listening to the shortwave bands opened my eyes to radio in 1969, showing me around the high school radio club. I assembled a Knight Kit Span Master short wave receiver (\$25.00 mail order kit). With tapes and the radio I learned the code (probably improperly) and one evening I copied my first CW exchange of a ham radio station. This was so exciting! Months later my friend got his Novice license and I had to get licensed! A gentleman named Dave K0AGJ (SK) mentored and tested me. He was a retired Army Signal Corps Officer who emphasized proper CW protocols and on air operating rules. He had a Collins S-Line and wow he let me oper-



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ate it as a Novice! My first call was WN0UZG and as a novice I built a five watt cathode keyed transmitter and got a Hammarlund HQ-170A receiver to get on the air. I made plenty of Q's on 40 meters. My parents gave me the evil eye due to TVI on TVs and telephones occasionally but always supported me in the hobby, letting me erect antennas around the house.

I entered the Navy in 1972 becoming a Radioman, also they sent me to "Submariners' Morse code operators school" but was never assigned to a sub. After 4 years enlistment I graduated from college with a degree in electronics. I changed careers after 3 years and excepted an offer of a 4 year apprenticeship for journeyman electrician. I worked in heavy industrial for 30 years. It was interesting, varied and challenging work, always requiring more training. I'm retired now for three years and totally enjoying retirement with my wife Barb, Ham Radio, my Corvette Coupe, and many grand kids.

I enjoy CW DXing, rag chews, RTTY, and a few contests on the HF Bands. I operate on 2 meters - 160 meters now. Occasionally we're in a CW contest and I'm always on the lookout for another DXCC credit. I think POTA sounds interesting too. I normally operate my TenTec Orion II for CW and FSK but I like to fire up the tubes in my Drake C-Line from the 80s too.

I'm a member of a couple of ARRL ham clubs locally. EIDXA (Eastern Iowa DX Association) and RBWOC (River Bend Wireless Operators Club). I'm active also in a local Corvette owner's club. A road filled with curves is like a nice RF sign wave! Incidentally when we had a boating hobby, we named our cruiser "Continuous Wave".

I am looking forward to working members of CWops on the bands and further refining my head copy skills.

Larry Bennett, G4HLN

I was born in the City of Bristol, South-West England, in 1959. From the age of 13 I discovered short-wave radio, and took a keen interest in broadcast band DXing, which served as a useful radio apprenticeship.

I attended radio college in Bristol between 1976 and 1979, obtaining all my R/O qualifications in electronics and commercial working, as well as radar maintenance. In 1979 I joined the BBC Monitoring Service as an electronics technician, but in early 1980 I was offered the post as a Radio Officer at Portishead Radio/GKA, where I stayed until the station closed in 2000. Part of my duties involved being an examiner for radio amateur Morse tests, which I



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undertook until 1985. I subsequently worked for BT Satellite Services, allocating Inmarsat numbers for UK-registered ships and land mobile terminals.

When BT sold the Aeronautical and Maritime service in 2001, I joined the UK Hydrographic Office as editor of the Admiralty List of Radio Signals (ALRS), subsequently becoming manager of the ALRS team in 2011.

I served on various Maritime Safety Information (MSI) committees worldwide, and was secretary and then chairman of the IMO NAVTEX Coordinating Panel, overseeing the installation and operation of NAVTEX stations worldwide.

I took early retirement in 2019, and have been using my time researching maritime radio history. I have had two books published; the first one about the [history of Portishead Radio was published in 2020](#), and my latest one about [the history of the UK Coast Radio Station network](#) was published in 2021.

I was initially active in amateur radio between 1977 and 1982, returning to the hobby in 2010. I enjoy CW, operating with my ex-Portishead Radio Morse keys, and operate from my home QTH with a Kenwood TS570D into a 4BTV vertical antenna.

I also enjoy QRP operating and playing with antennas – my garden is very small so I do not have enough room for a large antenna system!

Other hobbies include family history research, model railways, local history, amateur dramatics, playing my guitar, collecting records and following my local football team – Bristol Rovers.

I live in Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, very close to the former Portishead Radio site, with partner Wendy. I have 3 grown-up children (all boys) from a previous marriage, but sadly they have no interest in amateur radio.

I hope to work many of you during CWT.

Josep Torres, EA6BF

I am from Ibiza Island in the Balearic Islands.

I was introduced to radio starting with CB for a couple of years, making mainly DX contacts. Soon after I get my first ham radio license as a Novice in 1991, EC6QZ, and a year after my general class. My callsign was EA6ACC, but doing some contest at that time, I thought a shorter callsign would be better, so I applied for EA6BF in 2003 and get it, so since then I am the owner for this callsign.

Interested always in CW, (in fact, my radios don't have a microphone attached!), I have done contests, ragchewing and specially DX. Regarding DX, I was very active on Top-



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band, were I have achieved a total of #239 countries right now.

Have been a proud member of FOC for 15 years, from 1999 to 2016, then I stayed several years off of the radio due to personal issues, and last year 2020 I started again with a lot of strength.! Happy to have joined CWops Club and also have been nominated for FOC again, so I guess to be in the FOC by December.

Made good friends over the years, so CW a is a real family I am happy to be part of!

Jim Smith, KK0U

I started in ham radio in 1991 at the tender age of 27. I passed my Novice, Tech and 5 wpm in one go, and N0OCT was on the air!

My first rig was a second-hand Kenwood TS-820S (a great rig), purchased from Don KE0FX (SK). My first QSO was on 10 m SSB, with CX4PA Carlos. Pretty soon I worked a local, Corey KB0HOB (now KF0U). He and I became fast friends, and we pushed each other to quickly advance our knowledge, skills and license class. By December we had both passed our Extra exams and the 20 wpm code requirement. Corey also spurred us both to get our General Radiotelephone tickets. The test at that time was based largely on the Extra Class ham radio exam, so why not?



We worked Field Days together, did some SSB contesting, and had a lot of fun working RS-12/13 satellite contacts, 15 m up, 10 m down. I can remember working a late night bird pass in the 90s, twisting the BFO knob on my R-390A to adjust for the Doppler shift, and having folks come back to me simplex on 15 m. Hard to explain in the middle of a fast-paced satellite QSO that you're not listening on 15 m. Hope those sunspots come back!

I soon fell in with the St. Louis QRP Society -- an active group of folks keenly interested in building flea-powered gear, original projects, antenna experimentation and operating. They're still a great bunch, and I owe a debt of gratitude to Dave NF0R, Keith KC0PP, Jeff N0MII, Matt W0MJ, Walter K5EST, Stan AK0B (SK) and Randy WA0OUI (SK) for encouraging me to experiment, contest at QRP levels, and continuing to learn.

Life presented bigger priorities, and ham radio took a back burner for a while.

In 2019, I decided to give CW Sweepstakes another shot. It had been 10 years since I did any contesting, and 13 since I'd done SS. That was a real eye-opener. I was still using my trusty old TR7, manual tuner, TLF contest software (a great program for Linux) and my 40 m dipole. My CW skills were not what they once were, and clearly my shack set up was not as frequency agile as it could be. So, I set myself a course to improve my skills and my station. First, I changed my call sign

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from N0OCT to KK0U -- shorter, sweeter and sounds good on CW.

Next I bought a KX3. In November of 2020 I started dipping my toe into the weekly CWTs. That was intimidating -- I'd have to listen to exchanges 3, 4 or 5 times to get solid copy in my head, and get it all down on paper.

Humbled but undaunted, using the guidance of the CW Academy courses, I set about improving my speed. I went from 11 QSOs in the first CWT hour I reported in November 2020 to 51 by February, all QRP. I quickly upgraded to 100 Watts. By September I hit my first 100 QSOs/10k score, and was having a ball doing it. (I would have gotten there sooner, but there was a 3-month stint QRP as DL/KK0U while my wife and I helped out with our first grandchild).

I have other hobbies that I enjoy apart from ham radio -- sailing, cycling, shooting, sewing gear for all my other hobbies and homebrewing -- both beer & radio bits. SOTA is a natural fit, as I enjoy operating outside and hiking. I'm a chemist by training, and have worked at the same small industrial detergent company for over 25 years.

When Dwight KM4FO asked if I'd like to be nominated to join CWops, I jumped at the chance. Thanks to Andy AA5JF, Shelby K4WW, Doug KR2Q, Jim N7US, Bill W0TG and Hank W6SX for sponsoring me. Thanks to all who make CWops happen, who keep the art of CW alive and well, and who encourage hams new and seasoned to give CW a shot.

I also have to thank my wife Jeanne, for being tolerant and even encouraging in all my hobbies. She makes sure that this ham stays 'balanced.'

Hope to work you on the air!

John Eigenbrode, W3SA

First I would like to thank Jim N7US and those who sponsored me for membership. For me it's an honor after 58 years in amateur radio to finally get my CW skills up to a decent level, now to keep going.

I have been tinkering with radios since about age 10 but was first licensed on March 1, 1962 as KN3SKB thanks to my Elmer Bill Myers W3DXA now a silent key. Started out with a Hallicrafters S20R Sky Champion and a second hand Heathkit DX-25 tuning for max glow in a neon lamp on the antenna.



Built and operated lots of Heathkits from Twoers, Sixers, HW-101, SB-200 and eventually settled mostly on Kenwood equipment.

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Served several enlistments in the US Navy as an Electronic Technician before moving into the civilian world where I have been a communication technician for Los Angeles County, a production test technician and test engineer at Hughes Aircraft Radar Systems, test engineer at General Dynamics and network and operations manager for Crown Castle retiring in 2010.

I was involved in the special temporary authorization for HF packet radio in the 80s, operating an HF BBS as KD6SQ in Rancho Cucamonga, California. I have since move coast to coast 3 times and finally settled in Indian Trail, North Carolina, a suburb of Charlotte.

I am a casual contester for CW and RTTY contests, not much for SSB contests.

When I retired, one of my goals was to get back to operating CW and it has been an enjoyable journey but I still have much to improve. It's also a good way to keep the grey matter in good shape as you age.

I also enjoy the experimenting with small microcomputers such as Raspberry Pi and Arduino and wood carving which I find very relaxing.

Looking forward to working the CWTs as a member.

Dee Hester, K7UD

Most folks in the ham community call me Uncle Dee. I thank you for the warm welcome to CWops.

Let me take this opportunity, first and foremost, to express my gratitude to those who helped me get here: Both of my CWops advisors, Mark Tyler (K5GQ) and Phil Schechter (W0OJ), my friend Fr. David Probst (ND4K), and all those sponsors who jumped in after Phil's nominating me.

I've been licensed since 1972. My dad, who was not a ham, fostered my curiosity about electronics and radio from an early age. We built a crystal set together, using an actual crystal and cat's whisker along with a hand-wound coil. He and a colleague of his (who was a ham), encouraged me to study theory, learn Morse code, and get the regulations down pat. I finally put it all together and passed the Novice exam earning my first call WN2JLO. Very few years later, while attending Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, I made a trip to the FCC in San Francisco where I passed the General and Advanced exams. I was granted the call N6BQR. Upgraded to extra over 25 years ago and the vanity program helped me capture my present call of K7UD.

I've earned a living in news writing, technical writing, radio reporting, engineering, marketing, sales, and finance. Ham radio has been a terrific hobby and constant companion throughout my many vocational journeys. Last year, my bride of 38 years, Miss Kitty, and I retired to a home we built in the Hill Country of central Texas. Been spending time in our new home finishing all the

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custom woodwork as well as building the latest K7UD station installation.

I enjoy building kit radios and antennas – mostly wire types. I'm a big fan of Elecraft radios. In addition, I'm an avid shooter, handloader, and reader.

Dave Hamilton, VE3KIU

Ham radio has been a lifelong hobby for me, and I'm thrilled to be part of the CWops club. Thanks to Jim, N3JT, for nominating me, and to F6HKA, K5UV, and K3WJV for their sponsorship.

My brother and I were introduced to the hobby through our grandfather VE2UE (SK) in the 1970s and I got my ticket in 1978. From the very beginning, Morse code was my favourite mode. I remember sitting in my grandfather's shack as he'd work someone with the bug, then show me what the other fellow sent, teaching me the abbreviations, the intro and extro to an exchange, and so on. It wasn't long before I recognized the sound of his call without knowing the letters/number, and it struck me then that the code was very similar to music.



I went on to study geology and physics at Laurentian University and while there, I set up a Heath-kit SB-102 and a dipole and had daily skeds with my grandfather and his pals. From there, I went on to graduate studies at the University of Western Ontario in geophysics where my brother VE3SIF and I had regular QSOs. I eventually landed in Ottawa working for the federal government. The next few years were a bit of a blur, with raising a family and doing all those family type things which, for us, was primarily baseball 24/7.

I left my government work in 2010 and taught English Literature at Carleton University until 2018. Now, I'm a full-time fiction writer and writing coach where I help aspiring novelists to realize their dream of writing a book. My novels are primarily science fiction and most of them have some link with ham radio, and [they are all available on Amazon](#).

The radio bug bit me hard again in 2019 when my brother (VE3SIF) and best friend (VE2USM) and I went out to the bush and brought along an old HW-7 to play around with. There's something magical about hearing CW echoing through the woods on a quiet, star-filled evening. From there,

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I discovered the SKCC and eventually CWops. I try to be active in as many CW events as I can, time permitting, and really enjoy the rush of high-speed code and contesting. Not only is it the most reliable mode, in my opinion, but it's also the most fun!

Other than radio, I enjoy long-distance cycling, reading, painting, and model railroading.

I look forward to meeting you all on the air!

