

Solid Copy



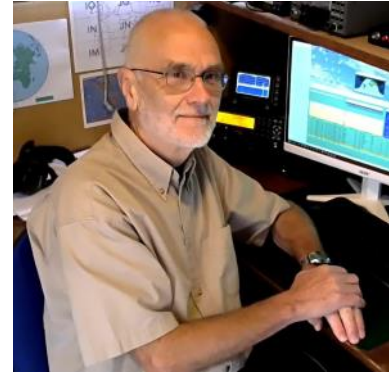
The CW Operators Club Newsletter
April 2023 — Issue 159

President's Message



Would you live here for 3 months? 6 months? CWTs from an oil rig. IK1YRA's story on page 12.

After 15 years with a K3, I've just bought a new shack radio. Learning how to operate an unfamiliar radio is something that taxes my brain at the best of times; guest operating can be a challenge and I'm definitely not some-



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CWops "CWT" 1 hour 'tests
Every Wednesday at 1300z and 1900z
Every Thursday at 0300z and 0700z
Exchange: name/number (members)
name/SPC (non-members)
Avoid DX Pileups!

CWO Mini-club 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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one who changes their kit every few months. The new transceiver, an IC-7610, is a totally different animal and has taken some getting used to. The current state of the economy and declining support for Elecraft in the UK has priced the K4 out of consideration so I decided it was time to move on. My ancient K3 which is showing its age remains, but is 'resting'.

The new radio arrived just over a week before the RSGB Commonwealth Contest. I had committed to operating the Welsh Headquarter station along with my chum GWØGEI and was faced with a dilemma - without the room for more than one operating position in my tiny shack do I hang onto the K3 for the contest and stay with the tried and trusted, or do I give into the urge to unpack the box and get this shiny new radio onto the bench and see how it performs? I chose the latter (who wouldn't?) knowing that by the Wednesday, after a couple of days of setting up and checking, I would have the opportunity to stress test the new station in the CWTs. It's been said many times that these weekly QSO parties mean different things to different people. For many they are an hour of high energy contesting while for some a challenge to see whether they can make 10 contacts with a rig-in-a-tin and a bit of wire on a mountain side or out in a national park. On this particular Wednesday they provided the ideal opportunity for me to check I'd got the setup right and avoid any nasty surprises at the weekend. We should be proud of the CWTs. They've long been established as a permanent fixture in the weekly activity calendar and are admired throughout the world for the way they liven up the bands. It's a unique feature of CWops and I admire the foresight of our founding members for the idea right back at the start. You can read all about it in the very first issue of *Solid Copy* and note how the original aims of KZ5D still very much apply today! The Commonwealth Contest itself couldn't feel more different to the present day CWTs. It's very much a modest tempo DX-fest and even low key UK stations will be hunted down by VK/ZL and rare prefixes all over Africa and beyond, as well as our numerous friends in VE. Winkling out those on 40 and 80m in the wee small hours is always fun and was a good test of this aspect of the new radio.

Late on in the contest, a G station mentioned we were 'clicky'. Strange no-one had mentioned anything before; we'd been on continuously using full legal power without a break and on several occasions had other signals moor up alongside so close that I never got the impression we had particularly broad or sharp elbows. But being a new rig I took a few minutes out to check a few things, monitor the signal on my K2 (but on lower power) and couldn't detect anything obvious. So I turned off full break-in and carried on and heard no further complaints. In the days after the contest I checked again and this time looked at the keying on my analogue 'scope and did find some slight overshoot which disappeared after tweaking the radio's drive gain setting. This got me thinking some more about what we do when we come across bad signals on the air. I'd like to think that we in CWops appreciate being told and accept the information in the spirit with which it is offered. Such messages have appeared on our reflector in the past along with offers to help track down the causes; no doubt others have been communicated via direct emails. Any advice has always been friendly and constructive and I would hope no-one would hesitate to let me know if my signal was causing problems. CWops should and does pride itself in high standards of CW and operating and I'd hope we would do the same with the quality of our transmitted signals.

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Dxpeditions have reappeared with a vengeance recently. Chasing them is great fun if you can avoid the worst of the appalling behaviour and DQRM that seems to follow them. It's beyond me why anyone hearing this type of operating can't realise the operator will be operating split. CYØS on Sable included several CWops members so I enjoyed that one and was impressed with the way the CW pile-ups never abated even remaining at 8-10kHz wide in the last couple of days. I've been waiting to get this one confirmed since 1997 when I never got a QSL from CYØDX but now have 6 bands on CW all from 3 members of CWops. Thanks for the fun, fellers!

I've been neglecting my duties somewhat lately. My wife does like escaping the dreary coldness of our mid-winter for some heat and that means long haul flights. I'm not keen on the flying but the heat is nice! So the end of January and most of February I was in southern Thailand in shorts and sandals and missed CWTs and Giving Back sessions. Then 2 weeks in, she tripped and fell heavily on her elbow while crossing a road. After seeing a local doctor and X-rays in the town clinic, we were shipped off to a large hospital in Phuket and a 4 hour operation to pin a double fracture and put everything back together the way it should be. The hospital experience was very positive, communicating with our insurers far less so, and we ended up initially footing the costs ourselves. This cost an arm and a leg (well an elbow I guess) but they eventually paid up. For over a month after arriving back home I've had to chauffeur her back and forth to activities she was determined to carry on with. Now on the last day of March the brace is off and we're getting back on track. Not your normal holiday memories!

Take care everyone and watch how you cross the road...;-)

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

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Editor's Notes: Sweating Bullets

by [Dick Strassburger](#), N9EEE

On April 1, I was sweating bullets...no articles to run this month; only the dependable columns written about CWops activities and a few announcements. There were some feelers put out to the POTA and SOTA activators in our club and a few other authors we like to hear from, but the inbox was dry as a bone. Then the spigot slowly turned open and in came an activity report from the VK9NT DXpedition (thanks to our friend Chris Chapman, VK3QB), an experiment with ChatGPT by Jack, W1WEF, a product announcement of the CW Hotline by Steve K1RF (*ed. love that call*), and an article I had hoped would appear and it did so with great fanfare and applause, CWT On An Oil Rig by Carlos, IK1YRA. Oh, and I wrote an article about RF Reverse Propagation just to round things out. Fortunately, I was not at the receiving end of an April Fool's joke.

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy (SolidCopy@cwops.org)



News and Notes

[Duncan \(Mac\) Fiskén, G3WZD](#)

Thanks to my contributors for another varied selection of topics sent to this month's News and Notes mailbag. Please keep the submissions coming (deadline for next issue is 1st May).

Ted, W3TB #2477 Check out page 58 of QST, April 2023. Last year while teaching the Beginner Level of CW Academy, I had a student who was very talented. I had mentioned about how learning CW is so much like musical rhythm and how musicians have a good lead on learning to copy.

One of my students worked out all the musical issues of Morse Code timing, then he put together an article. I encouraged him to submit it to QST, and so he did. Now he is a published author. Imagine the idea of sheet music in QST! He created a line of music for every letter. "C" and "W" at least appear on the top of the page.

VERY proud of my student!

Doug, KR2Q #438 For the 1st quarter of 2023, I made 13,134 QSOs, as shown in the small table below.

As you can see, I am still pretty rusty on phone.

<u>Mode</u>	<u>QSOs</u>	<u>Percent of all</u>
SSB	57	0.43%
CW	13,077	99.57%
ALL	13,134	

Glenn, VE1IJ #457 Just to let the membership know that my new QTH is completed to the point where I can officially move in and get out of the camper. Living in a camper through the winter was an interesting experience that I do not wish to duplicate. Thankfully the winters here in southwest Nova Scotia are not as harsh as they were when I was growing up here 60+ years ago. I am in the process of setting up a minimalist station with only my ICOM 735, Kenwood TS520SE and my Ameritron amp. The Kenwood will be barefoot while the ICOM will drive the amp to about 500 watts. Later this spring I am going to try to get my tower and beam skyward and start having fun again. As my daughter put it, I am suffering from withdrawal.

Frank, NF8M #1634 I recently spent a few weeks in Florida, trying out the "snowbird" thing as a recent retiree and visiting ham friends along the way. I still needed to get on the air for the weekly CWTs, though. Some of the sessions, like when I was at Walt Disney World, were done using the home station remotely, but I wanted to bring along some gear and operate from the beachfront condo on Longboat Key where I stayed for a week.

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Before the trip, I removed my Yaesu FT-891 from the car I'm selling and packed it up, along with a Bencher BY-1, a 12-volt 12 amp-hour gel cell, laptop computer, and a MFJ-2286 antenna. The MFJ consists of a 17-foot stainless collapsible whip and a loading coil which mount into any 3/8-24 base. The kit also includes a mounting bracket and 3/8-24 to SO-239 feedthrough, suitable for mast or pipe mounting. I had previously built a base out of Unistrut with a 3/8-24 mount for another antenna project, so I brought that as well. MFJ also provides 50 feet of hook-up wire with instructions to cut four 12-foot radials to use as a counterpoise. I added ring terminals to the cut wires and attached machine screws with wing nuts to the base for ease of assembly in the field.



I set everything up Monday evening at a tiki table near the swimming pool about 50 meters from the Gulf of Mexico. Using my NanoVNA, I adjusted the whip and coil for best match on 40 meters, and got on the air for the MST, making a half dozen quick easy QSOs. Tuning around further, I heard a faint station in Italy calling CQ. I called and he responded, and we had a short QSO. Satisfied that the setup would actually work, I took everything apart with plans to set up for the CWTs.

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Wednesday morning, I set up the antenna, rig, battery, key and laptop, but when I transmitted I noted a very high SWR. I tried a few things to try to get the antenna operational, but nothing seemed to work, so I remoted in to home and made a few Qs in the 1300z session. Investigation showed a short in the 3/8-24 mount. Fortunately, I had the mount that came with the antenna, so I used that for the 1900z and 0300z sessions.

I also used the setup for a short stint in the ARRL DX contest that weekend, making a handful of QSOs and just over seven thousand points.

The antenna performed about as expected. It's a quarter wave on 20 meters; sections of the whip are collapsed to obtain a match on higher frequency bands, and in these cases the base loading coil is shorted out. For 30 and 40 meters, the coil is tapped to obtain a match at the frequency of interest. With all turns of the coil active, the antenna tunes down to about 5 MHz, so as provided, it isn't suitable for 80 meters (it's advertised as covering 7-54 MHz). However, I suspect that attaching a top-loading wire will allow for its use on 80. I haven't tried that yet but I plan to experiment with it now that the weather is warming up here in Michigan.

My overall assessment is that the MFJ antenna performs at least as well as a Hamstick-type antenna and probably a bit better. It's lightweight and mechanically well-designed, easy to pack and carry, and would be useful in a variety of portable applications. Instead of the base that I built, one could also use a piece of pipe, such as a section of mast, driven into the ground, with the included mounting bracket. On sandy soil, a screw-in beach umbrella base would work too.

Mark, AB7MP #1350 I will be one of the first to admit that operating from a hotel room is a challenge. Two of the most challenging hurdles to overcome are noise and antenna. When confined to the room, noise doesn't seem to succumb to my most valiant efforts. The one exception was a hotel room with an outdoor patio and a nice big tree. That was my best setup because I could get my antenna further from the noise sources and make it higher and longer.

For antennas, I usually pack some fine wire (24 ga), some 3M damage-free hangers, a variety of baluns, 300-ohm feed line, extra wire, and an Elecraft AX1. My first option is to use the 3M hangers and put up a horizontal loop which I feed with the 300 ohm line. That has worked at times and allowed me to operate 80-10. With an extremely compromised antenna setup, I generally look for "low hanging fruit" – nice strong signals that cut through the room noise and hopefully will hear my weak signal.

My most recent hotel adventure proved disastrous for the horizontal loop. I had problems getting the hangers to stick to the wall but, eventually was successful. I did wake up, though, in the middle of the night with 24 ga wire laying across the bed (the hangers failed me!) I don't know if it was the finish of the walls or if it was the cleaning solution used by the hotel that kept the hangers from sticking but I ended up just rolling up the loop and deploying the AX1.

The AX1 (and radials) worked and I was able to make a few contacts in CWT (1300 and 0300) – low hanging fruit only. Even though I was unable to get my 10 contacts to make the session count for a medal, I was happy to get something in the log.

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With my Elecraft KX2 and antenna options, I'll keep packing the rig – two contacts are better than no contacts. But, when operating from home, I won't give up on weak signals without at least trying. They might be right down the road from me and I might be the only "low hanging fruit" that they get to pick.



Hans, K0HB #231 New sticker for my DXCC

(News and Notes Editor's Comment: Congratulations, Hans!)

Steve, K1RF #3003 Interesting CW Practice tool for newcomers to CW: Several hams in the [Housatonic ARC](#) in Westport CT have been experimenting with a novel, non-threatening piece of low cost CW practice equipment called the [CW Hotline](#), sold by [Ham Radio Solutions](#). It's essentially an iambic keyer and straight key oscillator that can key a remote CW station or create a private practice channel over the internet with no radio required. Their website links to an article by Sean Klechak in the [February 2023 issue of QST magazine](#). It can be built with a straight key or paddle option and can also accept an external key or paddle. The folks in the Housatonic club who are using it generally had positive comments on the unit but passed along the following recommendations:

1. Unless you are an experienced kit builder, you may want to purchase the pre-built unit. The kit requires drilling holes in the box from a template and has some tight-fitting components.

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2. The USB connector on its ESP8266 PCB is rather delicate and you probably want to keep the USB cable always plugged in and unplug the other end if you need to unplug it. The kit costs \$50 plus shipping. The pre-built unit cost \$100 plus shipping.

Rich, AD0SN CWA Student We had Rob Sherwood as a guest speaker at our monthly meeting this past Saturday. I thought you, as a fellow contester, might be interested in his [presentation](#) on transceiver performance.

Also, FWIW, I returned the Bencher paddle I was loaned for the course and bought my own paddle. (*News and Notes Editor's Comment: Rich was a star student on my last CWA Beginner course*)



Rich's new ZN9+ paddle pictured with the Phoenix Kits uCPO

Until the next News and Notes, dit dit

73, Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CWOPS ANNUAL DINNER ON MAY 18 AT THE DAYTON HAMVENTION 2023

For many years our annual Hamvention CWops dinner was held at the familiar Spaghetti House in Dayton, but we have now changed the venue. It will be held instead at the conveniently located Rona Banquet Hall, 1043 Rona Parkway Drive, Fairborn, OH 45324. The new location is only a few minutes from the Hope Hotel and Conference Center. By this change we will have more indoor space, easier parking and our own food caterer. During dinner, we will have our usual interesting presentations and updates, with lots of opportunities for chatting and shaking hands with folks you have only met on the air. It is the CWops social event of the year!



Note that the Rona Banquet Hall will be ours from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, meaning we will have an opportunity to hold meetings, discussions and even just hang-out before the dinner. Our buffet dinner will commence at about 7 p.m. (No alcoholic beverages will be available.) W1UU will orchestrate the pre-dinner meetings and discussions. Anyone with ideas on topics should contact Peter, W1UU.

The cost of the dinner is \$36/person, inclusive of the buffet meal, facility rental and soft drinks, well below the meal charge at the Hope Hotel.

You may make your reservation now by going to <https://cwops.org/contact-us/events/cwops-2023-hamvention-dinner/#dinpay> to submit your payment. W1VE, Gerry, will manage the list of attendees and track payments.

Are you on the registration list? Click [HERE](#) for updates.

It is not too early to reserve your seat at this great event!

See you at Dayton!

73, Peter Butler, W1UU (CWops #91)

Jim Talens, N3JT (CWops #1)

North American (DC) CW Weekend

June 9 - 11, 2023

This year's North American CW Weekend is on, scheduled for June 9 -11, 2023.

As in the past, the Weekend is primarily aimed at those amateur radio operators with a particular interest in Morse code (CW) operation - FOC, CWOPS, SKCC, FISTS - but anyone with an interest in Morse code communication is welcome. After two years of cancellations due to COVID restrictions, we had a good 2022 weekend, and are pleased to welcome regulars back, and look forward to meeting some new players.

Although COVID-19 increasingly appears to be in the rearview mirror, we are asking participants to be vaccinated and to use good sense with respect to any recommendations about COVID in force at the time of the weekend. At this point, masks are not required, and there are no other special precautions.

Here's the hotel information (our usual place):

There will be a hospitality suite between 1800z-2400z on Friday and Saturday. Refreshments and snacks will be available, plus plenty of collegiality and good conversation.

There is a nominal registration of \$ 25 per couple or \$ 15 per single person. This will help defray costs and fees. Any excess will be donated to the CWops Scholarship fund. Please send your check, payable to "Don Lynch W4ZYT" with your call sign in the memo line, and mail it to:

Don Lynch, W4ZYT
1517 West Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717

We are looking forward to a nice weekend and good participation. Please stay safe and well, drive carefully, and come prepared for a good time. For more information: w4zyt.don@gmail.com

Fairview Park Marriott

3111 Fairview Park Drive

Falls Church, VA 22042

Phone: 703-849-9400

Reservations: 800-507-8235

[Reservation link](#)

Last day to book: May 12, 2023

Block ID: "North American CW Weekend"

Start: Thursday, June 8, 2023

End date: Monday, June 12, 2023

UPDATED INFO: Rate: \$109.00 plus taxes/night (Friday/Saturday). Rate is good from June 8 through June 12. Taxes and fees not included.

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Friday Evening: Pizza Night - 6:00 pm

[The Italian Oven](#)

6852 Old Dominion Dr
McLean, VA 22101

Salad, beverage (non-alcoholic), unlimited pizza. Dress casual. Individual checks

Saturday Brunch: 9:00am - 12:00pm

Nina Lane (K4NML) and Jim Talens (N3JT)
6017 Woodley Road
McLean, VA 22101
Phone 703-241-1144

Saturday Dinner: 6:00 pm

Metro 29 Diner
4711 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
703-528-2454

Menu: Metro29Diner.com

This was our dinner venue last year and proved to be a good choice. Don't be put off by the "Diner" moniker- take a look at the menu on the web site.

This is an informal place with a class kitchen and a full selection of meal options which should suit every taste.

Cocktails, beer, and wine available. Dress casual. Individual checks

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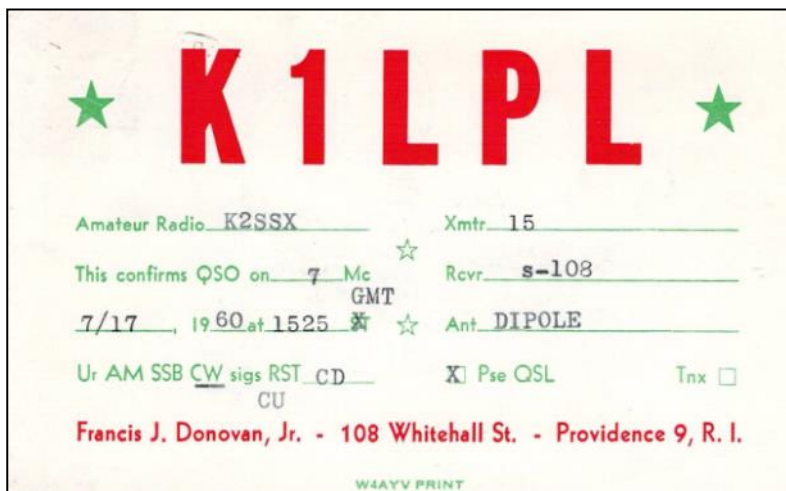
How We Were

[Hank Garretson, W6SX](#)

W3LPL, Frank Donovan, CWops # 29

Back in days before CWops, Slow Speed, and Medium Speed Tests, many of us cut our contesting teeth in the CD Parties. Quarterly ARRL Communications Department "parties" were open to League appointees. Frank and I were both traffic-handling Official Relay Stations.

In the 1990s, CD Parties were discontinued by the League, which led to today's National Contest Journal North American QSO Parties.



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

CW Exuberantly, **73, Hank W6SX** (CWops #61)



CWT from an Oil & Gas Rig

[Carlos Wenzel](#), IK1YRA (CWops #2866)

I don't know if it only happens to me, but when I'm far from home I miss my radios a lot. (Fortunately, my YL doesn't read *Solid Copy*... hi). I have been travelling a lot due to my telecoms job and it doesn't matter if I am working, on my days-off or on holiday, I always take a mini-rig or at least a receiver with me.

I love my KX1 if I need to be "light weight" when the destination is a mountain location or my FT-817 because I need an all bander in a sunny beach. For European city trips by car, my K2/100 and tuner from a hotel window is a must. Outside EU, there are a lot of countries where ham activity is not permitted, so I take a my Belka-DSP receiver to listen for CW or a local broadcast news/weather station. In some foreign countries carrying a radio is considered like carrying a weapon; so better to pay attention to local laws.

Until now my working and traveling duty was not more than a week at a time, but this last year I was engaged in the biggest European offshore Gas Project, Tyra. The location is 220Km from the OZ shore on the North Sea. I stay there three weeks at a time, away from my family, neighbours and my radio shack.

In the past I have worked on offshore platforms on Radio, PA and safety systems for several days, but never as long as 3 weeks on and 3 weeks off. During a year, this means half of my year is spent offshore. I needed to find the way to operate CW from the rig, otherwise I would go crazy. HI HI.

While on the rig, we don't have much free time as we work 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week. Because of my addiction (CW op), though, I found how to dedicate some time to the radio. At first, I was listening with WEB-SDR but that was not for me. Ops were calling CWT Wednesday night in front of me and I didn't have any way to answer "carl 2866 tu" ...it blows me up!!! But what can I do.... The oil rig is a very dangerous environment. There is always the risk of gas leaks and explosions, so nothing that can potentially make a spark is permitted. We use special tools for every task. Mobile phones, smart watches and radios are not allowed to be used. All devices are protected under the Atex protocol. Living quarters are under pressure; no open windows, almost like a space station. So, you can imagine, a heavy metal house without any windows means there is no way to install any outdoor antennas. Of course, an internal antenna is impossible because of being enclosed in the heavy iron ship. I live in a faraday cage! But what about a remote system? No radios on board, just a PC, tablet and smartphone. Can they be enough?



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I got busy looking for a remote solution that would work on the rig but there are many available and I didn't have experience with any of them. I was concerned about network firewalls and latency on the rig as I didn't have control over that and would not be able to make any network firewall changes. The only way to answer these questions was to experiment. It was also important that the cost of the solution be reasonable.

My first idea was to investigate one of the systems that works with a radio that has a "front removable panel". These include the Elecraft K3/0 and Yaesu FT-857 and allow you to take the front panel of the radio with you to the remote location. I have both an Elecraft K3 and a Yaesu FT-857. My thought was to try this approach, but then I realized I would need to invest in special hardware in addition to the radio front panel to install at both the radio location and my remote operating location. I decided to keep looking.

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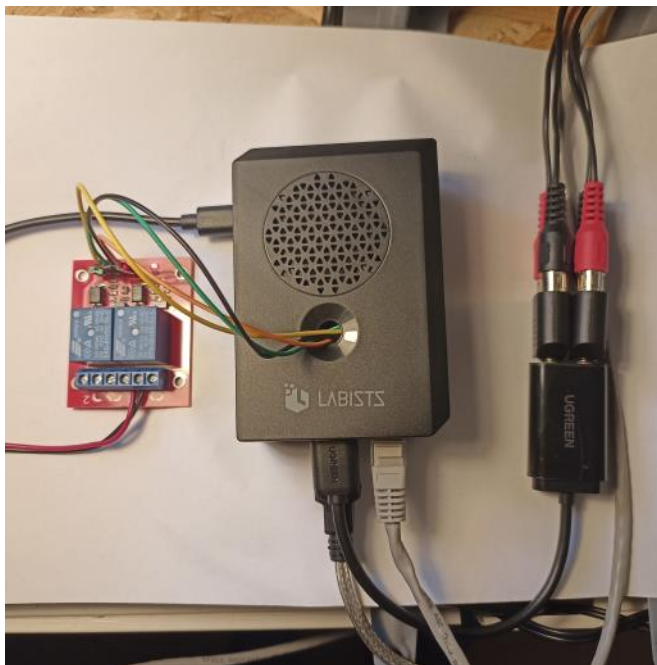
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Then, I found a solution that only requires an audio dongle and a Raspberry Pi connected to my Elecraft K3 radio at home and a PC or tablet with an internet browser at the remote location. The solution is a cloud service called RemoteTx.net. I already had all hardware at home, so I made some cables between K3 and Raspberry Pi, then I contacted Marcus, AK7MG, from RemoteTx that supplies the cloud service, and signed up for a 30-day free trial account. The next day I received the credentials and instructions to setup the Raspberry Pi, so everything was ready to go. A very cheap and simple system to control my radio from an Android/IOs smartphone or a PC and if it doesn't work it will be a no big loss because no money or time has been spent. Great!

I followed the directions and setup of the system, set-up my phone and everything was working on the first try. After a bit of adjusting the audio control I started tuning around looking for a station to contact. I found a local friend, IK1YOA, and answered him with a "ciao" and some short words as usual, then a 73 Perfect.! I was happy as a kid. I then tried it on my W10 PC and on my Android Phone, from my Wi-Fi network and the following days from a location 50 km away and had no problems at all.

I made some CW and SSB QSO's during the next several days and I realised that there were some mods to be made before going offshore for 21 days. Radio control via CAT and audio was working fine, but I needed to add some additional remote power control. The RemoteTx system can turn the K3 On and Off remotely with the addition of a relay attached to the Raspberry Pi, I purchased one and wired it up. Next, I wanted to remotely switch the 220v radio power supply on and off, so I got a Wi-Fi controlled 220v outlet socket. It is also integrated with Alexa.

So, the procedure is.... Say to Alexa to turn on the 220V socket that turns on the RPi and the power supply, then open the browser software to the RemoteTx.net web site to control the radio and audio dongle, click to connect the RPi to the radio, then another click to turn on the K3 and that's it.



L-R: 2 relays Raspberry controlled , Raspberry, audio dongle



WiFi controlled socket to turn off-on the radio and raspberry power supply

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The local test was done and the system worked perfectly. No issues with the router, ports, static or dynamic IP addresses, plugins, software or driver installs. The configuration was super easy and as we all know, simple is always good. The latency was only 40 to 50 mS. Very low from my point of view; not to work CW in QSK but fast enough to make QSOs at 25 wpm without problems. But what about my real remote conditions? I will be far away from my internet home network, in the middle of the North Sea (JO25) and my radio is in Italy (JN35). Will latency keep the same value? Will the network firewalls on the oil rig allow my ham radio traffic through? Again, I didn't have the answer, the only option was to try it out.

My travel day arrives. One bag, one backpack and inside the illusion to have my K3 and my antennas with me. I couldn't wait any longer; on my German stop before my last flight to OZ, I close the Facebook page on the smartphone and open the web browser to my remote control site. I hold my breath, tune the radio to 14028 kHz and Shhhh.... I hear the sound of the band. It works!

I was very apprehensive at first to try some other clicks. What if something goes wrong? What if the radio remains on, transmitting and I cannot turn it off? But after a while, I courageously started to play with it, and listening on 40m with my BT headphones was a pleasure. I pushed the PTT and talked on the headphones like a phone call. The power and ALC bars moved which means that I'm on air. Latency 50 is 60 ms; almost the same that I measured when at home.

Then the last flight and an evening at the hotel listening to the 40m band and then to bed. Early the next morning I take a 75-minute chopper flight to the rig where I unpack in my assigned cabin and then start work. I was too tired to test my radio that night, but the next night I start playing with my rig one hour before the Wednesday CWT starts. Would everything be OK? My great worry was the delay and the network protection, but the connection was fluid and fast. No problems. The latency was 40 to 70 ms. I setup the keyer at low speed (25wpm), setup the macros, set the band on 40m and grabbed some paper and a pencil to be ready to go.

I finished the session with 26 contacts on 40 and 20, I had no issue with 25wpm speed. I didn't call. I always answer others calling. Occasionally, I would lose the first letter because they were at faster speeds than mine. Anyway, one goal achieved. It is possible to participate on my favourite CWTest from very unexpected sites like this one. I didn't set a new record but had fun hearing everyone on the air.

Now I'm using the system every evening before I go to sleep. There is only one thing that I miss, my key. The RemoteTx works on CW with macros or direct typing on the keyboard but it's not enough for me.

I'm making plans for some mods and if they work, I will let you know.



The Other Magic Band – 17 metres

[Chris Chapman](#), VK3QB (CWops #2949)

Norfolk Island, 19 March. 0927UTC, local time +12 hours, 17m

Following a late dinner I settled in behind the Elecraft K4 – my first real VK9NT session and 17 metres appeared to be showing some life. CW was the mode. Begali Adventurer was the paddle. Scotch and ice was the drink.

My K4D arrived about 10 days before we left, so other than some basic orientation, I hadn't really used it in anger.

I had a great run over seven hours with two 30 minute breaks. Almost 600 QSOs. Starting at 0927utc (2127 local time) with G4HVC.

The run was mostly EU with some NA at random intervals. There was also two 5-10 minutes period where I thought the band had closed... and then without warning, another wave of callers marched across the horizon and into my band pass. I tried to maintain a rate of

between two to three QSOs per minute at 23-27WPM. Nothing earth shattering but steady enough to maintain control and accuracy. Now and then a familiar callsign and a quick exchange of pleasantries. A nice variation to the standard "<callsign> 599 tu" format.

With no apparent rhyme or reason there would be a short opening into NA., then back to EU. As expected, a few VK but only one solitary ZL peppered the log. Conditions were good. Even with some polar flutter, I rarely needed to seek clarification of callsigns.

No AF other than EA8 and only four into SA – both tricky paths from Norfolk Isl.

Constant. Consistent. And the pileups were manageable. The waves were quite measured – there wasn't too much of a frenzy. I was surprised that I was able to maintain a reasonable rate over an extended period.

1127utc. 30min break

Some observations about the K4.

Lovely tight filters. Very sensitive. Very nice audio and even with the filters closed tight there wasn't the inherent ringing that I hear in other popular amateur receivers. The silent tx/rx switching reduces operator fatigue. The user interface intuitive and easy to use. All the knobs and buttons are well laid out. Backlit keys would be nice. A small LED bar-lamp sufficed.



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Patrick VK2PN brought his K3 and K-Pod... he was asleep so I borrowed the K-Pod – nice. Now I've ordered one.

Back at 1203utc and EU continued.

By 1350utc I started getting JA and more stations to the east, but still plenty of EU.

I finished at 1628utc (4.28 am local time); conditions were finally waning. Alan VK6CQ was still hammering away on the FT8 station.

I had a bit of a chat and debrief with Alan for an hour to decompress and hit the sack just before sunrise.

Don't discount a resonant vertical with 24 radials. If you worked us on 17 metres, that's what we were using. It worked really well.

Next month I'll report on our 6m operation and describe a little more about our approach to DX'peditioning. 73, Chris VK3QB



sc

RF Reverse Path Propagation

Dick Strassburger, N9EEE (CWops #3113)

A significant discovery was realized in the moments following a CWT last Fall in which I was running QRP through a compromised antenna and made several selective contacts. By selective contacts, I mean contacts that were laser-like, point-to-point bolts of RF energy contained within the pathway of the two stations while other nearby stations on either side of that propagation pathway were unaware of what was happening. This is occurring pre-Cycle 25 when we're all still grumbling and, in the doldrums, and the bands are flaky weird. Have I discovered a new form of propagation?

To understand this new propagation phenomena, one must understand this could only have been witnessed from a compromised situation, a heavily wooded hillside lot within an HOA on an inland lake in Wisconsin with 5 watts and a wire. It's a beautiful location, looking at blue skies,

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azure waters, and lush greenery. But my only antenna option is an EFHW cut for 40m strung out into the trees in a sloping Inverted-L, starting at 15ft above ground and extending straight out to a tree limb situated on a downward sloping hill with the remaining vertical section dropping straight down to about 6ft off the ground. So, yeah, it's very much a compromise antenna. I like a challenge, let's go!

My first contact was with W7SW in AZ, you know who I mean. A SOHP station with a strong S9+ signal and it takes me only two tries to work him. I searched for another station just down the dial, also in the Phoenix area, but he's only a SOLP station spitting out an S5. After 10 attempts, I gave up on him. I came across KR2Q, you know him too, another SOHP station with a monstrous S9+ signal booming in and worked him within two tries with my QRP signal. Moving further down the band to another SOLP NY station, I get a disappointing "SRI" from that op. And so goes my CWT. SOHP stations blazing the ionosphere yield quick results for me, and the SOLP stations are, meh.

I've repeated this scenario many times in various CWTs with the same results and have postulated that powerful signals ionize a pathway independent or in conjunction with the current ionospheric layers and greatly enhance their properties for the receiving station and its ability to return a weak signal with greater strength than without that additional ionization. Meaning, in this example, W7SW blazed an RF trail such that my return signal could ride that highly ionized trail back to his receiver, even beat out others in the pile-up with my measly 5 watts. I call this phenomena **RF Reverse Path Propagation**.

The only reasonable conclusion is that High Power stations emit enough RF for their signal to supercharge the ionosphere leaving enough remnant energy for my QRP signal to benefit on the reverse path. SOLP just doesn't cut it. Hence, High Power **RF Reverse Path Propagation**.

I'm not a scientist, so I contacted two preeminent authorities on RF propagation to see if I was on track with my thinking.

Tomas Hood, NW7US (contributing editor, propagation and space weather for *CQ Amateur Radio Magazine*, *The Spectrum Monitor*): "Everyone who knows anything about HF propagation knows that when a contest weekend arrives, the previously-dead HF bands are suddenly bursting with signals. We know this to be due to the intensity of so many strong contest signals ionizing the ionosphere above and beyond that level that we get from the daily sunshine. In a like way, it is certainly plausible that a nearby 1.5 kW signal will help the QRPer on a similar radio path between the QRPer and the distant stations, so long as the nearby strong station is also in context with someone at the same time at the remote location, within a reasonable distance of the other station to which the QRP station is communicating."

Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA (author of *The CQ Shortwave Propagation Handbook* and several publications, columns, and presentations): "N9EEE's observations of RF Reverse Path Propagation have set the physics world afire. Not only does this explain one-way propagation, but it will also allow 160-meter long path at local noon. Further, back-of-the envelope calculations suggest that dark energy and dark matter are involved, and that the equation for the relationship between dark energy and dark matter is $E = mc^3$. NASA physicist and inventor Doctor Zephram Edark Cochrane now claims that warp speed is on the horizon.

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Fully satisfied that I am onto something, and possibly full of something, and my hypothesis validated, I have adopted a new search & pounce strategy for the CWTs this summer; work the SOHP stations with S9+ signals, then sit back with a cold one and enjoy the eagles flying above and the fish jumping below.

73, Dick Strassburger, N9EEE CWops #3113

sc

Poetry Corner with ChatGPT

Sparked by [Jack Schuster](#), W1WEF (CWops #48)

In the world of ham radio, there are few
Whose skill at CW shines bright and true
With fingers flying over keys
They send messages with ease

But the greatest of them all
Are the operators who never fall
Who can send with lightning speed
And never once make a mistake, indeed

They tap out phrases like a drum
Their code clear, their rhythm hums
And even when the words are tough
They never falter, they never bluff

So let us praise those who excel
At the art of CW, who can tell
That "Tennessee Sissies are Sissier than Mississippi Sissies"
Without a stutter, without a hissies

For they are the masters of Morse
Whose skill we all should endorse
And though their talent may seem rare
We're grateful that they're out there.



Giving Back Update

[Rob Brownstein](#), **K6RB** (CWops #3)

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. The operators' schedule appears on the next page.

Here are the March results:

AAØYY: KA5GCB, AA5XX, N5MCA, W1AW/4, W8BO, K4JTP, WA7WKY, W9GKM, WB8APR

GW2CWO: M3DFW, LZ1RZR, UR7VB, MØEAS, US7WA, G5LP, RU3TA, DL1KGT, YO7ZG, US6EM, PA0HTT, ON7VM, R9MCJ, DJ7ZZ, DL1KGT, UA3WBC, R6PAP, EA4BNS, MØNJW, EW1V, HA1DW, PA3EWG, PA1SJP, SP8ULA, IK1NPG

JJ1FXF: JN1FAO, JH6SIZ, V63JB, JG1BGT(3), JJ1VNV/6, JI8PLY(2), JR2MCN, JK1FYU, JI1CSQ, JJØSFV, JM8NSW/8, JS2LOG, JF2LNC, JR2AWS, YE4FNN, JS6THD

JJ1VNV: JS2FOG, JH1ASG, JH6SIZ

JM4AOA: BV5OQ, DS1TWL, JA4IJ, JA6BZH, JF3TBK, JG1UQD, JH1ASG, JI1CHQ, JI7KNV, JI8PLY(2), JJØGML, JJØSFV, JJ1HWM, JJ1IZY(7), JJ5QLV, JJ7LGY, JJEIUS, JK1FYU(13), JK1NIF, JK4GDB, JM8NSW/8, JN1FAO, JR2AWS(2), JR2BOE, JS2LOG, JS2OHB

JO1DGE: 7N2XZB, HL5BLF, JA4IJ, JG1BGT(6), JH1ASG, JH1IEM, JH6SIZ, JI1CSQ, JI7KNV, JI8PLY(4), JJØSFV, JJ1VNV/6, JK1FYU(5), JK1MVC, JK1NIF, JR2AWS, JS2LOG, JS2OCY, JS2OHB

JR1WYW: JN1FAO, JG2AZS, JS2OCY, JK1MVC, JH1FRU, VK2NA, JI8PLY, JG1BGT

K6RB: WB6ZFG, WA7MLH, KJ7NRI, W7AAZ, VE7BGJ, WZ6T, KF6NCX, KA9S, NX6BC, AG6VT, K7JPF, W7AQK, WA6OUW, NØIK

K7NJ: KB8LAK, WB5HOW, WA9SWW, HA9RP, K8EHE, W8FJ, WG3F, K3ZD, W2LVP, NI5MB, KU4RN, KF9VV, K7OO, K7XU, WA6VWW, W4SXZ, KD9REA, AC5P, N5NF, AC4BT, KE4I, KE7LOY, WB6ZFG, WD6BNR, WB4DKF, AC6OX, W7AIT, KN6QER, NØIK, VA2DFD, W7FY, K9UCX, WA4EDE, WØDQ/7, W7ZDX, K7NNR, LU4KED, KG8DA, W2SH, KN6QER, W7RCS, WB6RVP, N2DA, KD7ZNC, W5SG, W8DXU, W7NNR, WØKOM, N2FJR

KV8Q: K8MPH, WØKOM, AJ4YA, WD3DX, KA1RVM

N4TMM: N5OMK, K2HT, KD5GCX, K2GB, AB8MR

N6HCN: N9RD, WB4IT, WA5PFJ

W2ITT: N8DD, KY4FG, WZ9Y, KD2WYO, N3HNA

W5DT: K2VS, N9FGC, K4NMR, KG2RG, AE4GS, NØEK

W7ZDX: VA7KEO, N6CUQ, AA6GA/7, WA6OUW, VE6VIC

7N2XZB: RØLPG, JG1BGT, JQ2NUD, 7M1JXA, JJØGML, DS4NVF, JS2LOG

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Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local

October - April: 20m & 40m | May - September: 40m & 80m
Frequencies: 14.035 - 14.039, 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539 MHz

UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	EST UTC-4	CST UTC-5	MST UTC-6	PST UTC-7	Hawaii UTC-9
MON											
					G2CWO		W2XS	AA0YY		N6HCN	
							WK4WC				
TUE											
JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N4TMM	W8OV	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB						WE5P			K6RB	
WED											
	JM4AOA							W2ITT			
THURS											
	JJ1VNV		SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
FRI											
	JR1WYW		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N2GSL	AA0YY		K6RB	
SAT											
	JJ1FXF										
	JM4AOA										
SUN											
	JJ1FXF						W5DT			K6RB	
	JM4AOA										



CW Academy

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

A short column this month. By the time this article is published, student-advisor assignments will be completed and advisors should be contacting their students and getting ready for our next semester which starts in May.



A few statistics to note about the upcoming semester based on information available in early April. There are 422 students who are in the “ready to be assigned” pool (we cannot guarantee that they all will be, however). These include 42 advanced students, 132 intermediate students, 95 fundamental students and 152 beginner students.

This is a rare time when the number of intermediate students exceeds the number of fundamental students by a good margin. We also have far fewer students than we became used to during the first year of the COVID pandemic.

We have 345 students from North America, 60 from Europe, 8 from Asia, 6 from Australia and 2 from the Pacific area. We hope that we can continue to grow our presence in areas outside of North America and Europe.

Did you know that we have a youth CW Academy for beginner students? We do! This was started several years ago by Rob K6RB but has not had as many youth students as we would like. Do you have a young daughter or son or grandchild who might like to learn Morse code? Then sign them up!

The youth CW Academy program is the same beginner class as the traditional adult-based classes but is made up entirely of youth (19 years old or younger), except for the advisor. The intent is to allow the young people to not feel intimidated by being in a class with adults. Parents are welcome and encouraged to monitor these classes and help their children with the assignments but the kids should do all of the work themselves, just like we expect adult students to do. Occasionally, a parent would like to take a CW Academy class and include their child in the same class. This is possible and they would be assigned together in an adult class.

As always, we hope that you can talk up the CW Academy and encourage others (adult or youth) to sign up for a class.

73, Joe AA8TA (CWops #1821)

CWA co-Manager

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New Members

[Trung Nguyen, W6TN](#)

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

<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>
3337	VU2CPL*	Manoj	3345	VA3TMV	Tim
3338	W4MA*	Bill	3346	PA2A*	Steve
3339	KIØF*	Roger	3347	ND2O	Bob
3340	KP4DX*	Luis	3348	VA3IJK	John
3341	WØXM*	Bob	3349	N4EL	Nat
3342	K7MK*	Jim	3350	WB5N	Dave
3343	VA3IK*	Brian	3351	N8RZO	Ken
3344	VK3GQ/W6MI*	Peter			

* Life Member.

As of April 8, 2023

Need Sponsors: ZS5PG, KP4PI, W4DL, ABØWW

Invitations Extended: GMØOPS

For more details about nominees and up-to-date status, check the ["Members only"](#) page on the website.

For information about joining CWops, check the ["Membership"](#) page on the website.

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.

Thank you.

73, Trung W6TN (CWops #1707)

Membership Manager

CWops Tests

[Rich Ferch](#), VE3KI

Three months into the year, it is apparent that participation in the CWTs has eased off somewhat compared with the peaks we saw in January and February 2022. On average the numbers are a bit lower, and the highest participation number so far in 2023 is 440 reported scores as compared with the high of 510 last year.

Session by session: The 1300Z session participation has ranged between 370 and 397 so far this year, with the peak of 397 coming on March 29. The range last year was 347 to 472 with an average of 407, so this year's participation numbers are slightly lower on average but still well within the range observed last year.

Oddly, although March 29 saw the highest participation at 1300Z, the same date had the lowest participation number for the 1900Z session so far this year: 395 reported scores. The peak number was 440 on January 25. Last year's range was from 374 to 510, with an average of 431, so again this year's numbers are a bit lower on average, but well within last year's range.

The 0300Z session is smaller than the first two, with a significant seasonal variation due mainly to the change between standard time and Daylight Saving time in eastern North America. During the summer, this session is at 11 pm local time in the Eastern time zone as compared with 10 pm local time in the winter, and this makes a noticeable difference to participation. The high so far this year was 314 in the first 0300Z CWT on January 5, dropping to a low of 228 on March 23. Last year's high and low numbers for the 0300Z session were 378 and 241, with an average of 286, so this year's numbers are down in comparison to last year's.

The newest 0700Z session has varied between 73 (March 23) and 99 (February 9) participants this year. Last year's range was 71 to 107, with an average of 87, so there does not seem to be much difference there.

Overall, some drop off in participation is probably to be expected as Covid restrictions ease and competition from other activities increases. Looking first at amateur radio activities, there were quite a few DXpeditions this last winter season, many more than in the past couple of years. I wonder how many potential participants gave one or more CWT sessions a pass while they chased DX? As we progress into warmer weather in the Northern hemisphere where most of our members live, competition for time from non-radio-related activities will probably increase, so it will be interesting to see how well CWT participation holds up over the summer.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)

Monthly Update

During March, additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program increased to 206 participants. The QSO totals and rankings for the first week of April 2023 have the same familiar calls in the top six positions with **KR2Q** remaining in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 175 QSOs. The changes in the top ten rankings this month are **N5AW** moving into seventh place followed by **K7QA**, **N5TJ**, and **N7US** in eighth through tenth place. The top ten this month are **KR2Q**, **AA3B**, **K3WW**, **N5RZ**, **NA8V**, **KG9X**, **N5AW**, **K7QA**, **N5TJ** and **N7US**.

With the addition this month of **K1EBY**, **NG7M**, **OM2VL**, and **W7CT**, sixty-seven members have now contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities. The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to 186 this month with the addition of **G3WZD**, **KK7A**, **N5TJ**, **NG7M**, **OM2VL** and **W7CT**. You can see complete rankings for all award categories at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores>.

CWops Award Tools Participation

The Top 100 ACA scores reported in Solid Copy represent **active** participants only, meaning you must have submitted a log in the current year. Since ACA scores reset to zero at the beginning of each year, active participants are those shown with a non-zero ACA score.

At the end of 2022 we had 289 active participants in the Member Awards Program. As of March 5, 2023, we have 181 active participants. If you have not yet submitted any logs for 2023, please do so soon, and we can include your score among the participants.

Inactive participants previously achieved scores in categories other than ACA that are not shown in the Searchable and Sortable Scores Table. To see rankings and scores for both active and inactive participants please use the Score Overview Table where inactive participants are listed with ACA scores of zero, but their scores in other categories are listed at the highest level that was previously submitted.

You can see the final 2022 scores or final scores for any other year by going to the Score Overview Table and selecting the desired year from the "Final scores:" list at the top of the page. All scores categories on the page will then show the final scores and standings for the end of the selected year.

The Searchable and Sortable Table can graph your current year's ACA scores by date and allows you to compare your progression to that of others. Check the Plot button for the calls you wish to see plotted and they will all appear on the same graph.

The CWops Award Tools [website](#) main page provides a means of printing your CWT Participation Certificate. You may request a downloadable certificate by clicking the "CWT certificate download"

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selection at the top of the page. View this webpage for more information about [CWT Participation Awards](#).

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 between current CWops members. To qualify for these awards, you must submit your logs via the tool at the CWops Award Tools [website](#). 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 [online tools](#). For more details on the tools provided, see the August 2021 Solid Copy article.

Please Join Us!

Fabian, DJ5CW, who created the website and the tools, made it extremely easy to participate in the awards program. If you are not among the CWops members who are currently participating, please join us! It adds a lot of friendly competition and fun to your operating.

More Information

View our website for more information on the [CWops Awards Program](#). Send your feedback, questions or comments to cwopscam@w0tg.com.

Current ACA Top 100 as of April 5, 2023:

Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ	Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ
1	KR2Q	1475	8263	168	50	57	37	12	OM2VL	928	6504	101	50	44	33
2	AA3B	1300	13104	131	50	49	38	13	K3WJV	912	7518	116	50	49	32
3	K3WW	1275	10306	134	50	50	38	14	K9WX	911	5455	108	50	44	32
4	N5RZ	1137	8979	127	50	46	37	15	K1VUT	869	5685	80	50	41	25
5	NA8V	1089	8320	113	50	47	35	16	W8FN	854	4546	75	50	38	24
6	KG9X	1073	6436	96	50	42	30	17	W0UO	851	4256	70	50	38	24
7	N5AW	1016	6458	103	50	48	33	18	K3QP	842	3483	80	50	39	26
8	K7QA	996	6368	88	50	39	30	19	AA2IL	811	2733	60	50	25	27
9	N5TJ	959	3902	84	50	42	30	20	W1RM	806	8753	219	50	62	38
10	N7US	958	6404	114	50	43	34	21	WT9U	784	5928	103	50	41	30
11	KY4GS	938	2737	61	50	31	22	22	N5KD	749	2908	92	50	42	33
12	KC7V	928	6053	92	50	38	32	23	K6NR	744	5065	70	50	34	29

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Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ	Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ
24	K1DJ	742	5042	111	50	46	30	61	W1AJT	526	4141	98	50	45	33
25	AA5JF	739	4378	94	50	44	31	62	NA4J	519	3811	75	50	34	24
26	CO8NMN	735	4644	74	50	35	24	63	MORYB	514	2591	86	48	46	28
27	K0WA	724	2993	45	50	21	19	64	K2YR	504	2601	53	49	32	19
28	WN7S	717	4620	80	50	39	26	65	AF4T	500	3141	72	50	36	26
29	VE3KI	707	7504	141	50	53	37	66	K1RF	499	1468	43	50	26	15
29	WA4JUK	707	4180	85	50	42	26	67	SMOHEV	498	2755	112	50	49	33
30	VE3TM	703	4089	93	50	44	28	68	PA0INA	497	2388	91	49	44	31
31	KK0U	699	2748	56	50	29	23	68	VE7KW	497	2124	31	50	13	17
32	K4WW	679	5372	84	50	38	29	69	VE3MV	495	3844	86	50	41	25
33	NJ3K	677	3839	73	50	40	25	70	W0TG	486	3344	70	50	31	25
34	VK2GR	674	2770	78	50	40	30	71	N2UU	481	5443	112	50	46	31
35	WS7L	664	3222	62	50	27	26	72	KW1X	478	835	17	48	9	9
36	N4CWZ	658	3522	61	50	34	21	73	N2EIM	472	637	40	47	26	16
37	K3ZA	654	2769	54	50	34	20	74	EA3FZT	463	2565	81	48	45	28
38	K3JT	652	5826	104	50	46	31	75	W4WF	460	4934	94	50	43	32
39	N5XE	632	3725	81	50	37	29	76	W4CMG	453	2060	48	50	24	19
40	W1UU	631	4616	115	50	41	33	77	N8BJQ	450	7577	133	50	48	39
41	W0VX	623	6043	129	50	46	36	78	K3ZGA	447	2357	60	50	32	19
42	N4FP	614	2978	60	50	32	20	79	K0TC	445	3270	62	50	27	22
43	WT3K	612	4539	84	50	42	27	80	K4GM	435	4051	85	50	37	27
44	K3PP	607	5648	106	50	45	30	81	HB9ARF	434	2815	88	48	47	27
45	W9ILY	600	6411	135	50	45	36	82	G4PVM	433	2917	103	50	48	33
46	DF7TV	598	3166	103	50	48	34	83	AB7MP	430	2292	38	50	13	18
46	N3CKI	598	2319	53	50	30	16	84	G4LPP	428	2345	90	49	46	31
47	OZ3SM	595	3225	105	49	50	35	85	N1EN	424	3549	129	50	47	35
48	K1SM	594	4394	132	50	46	36	86	KC4WQ	410	3502	62	50	29	25
49	WU6P	593	2128	39	50	20	18	87	W2VM	408	2515	63	50	33	18
50	KT5V	580	3606	81	50	31	29	88	KB8GAE	395	2035	58	50	26	24
51	KV8Q	575	3077	69	50	35	23	89	SP4JFR	387	1058	53	40	36	19
52	EA6BF	559	2383	76	47	43	29	90	W0NF	383	1737	29	50	12	16
53	K4TZ	557	2927	43	50	20	16	91	OK1RR	381	3951	149	50	52	38
54	DL6KVA	548	7223	188	50	62	37	92	W8EWH	378	1144	41	50	23	19
54	VE3NRT	548	2280	63	50	35	24	93	DJ5CW	374	3302	101	48	53	34
55	W6AYC	547	3037	49	50	22	22	93	W2CDO	374	2884	66	50	37	22
56	AC6ZM	543	4373	66	50	36	22	93	W7LG	374	1223	35	46	25	13
56	N9UNX	543	1361	21	50	10	12	94	G3WZD	373	2050	90	50	44	31
57	KM4FO	538	3172	48	50	19	17	95	NG7M	371	5310	102	50	39	33
57	W0GAS	538	2416	48	50	21	22	96	VE3KIU	367	1577	41	49	28	16
58	9A1AA	537	4583	127	49	52	38	97	W8OV	361	2532	55	50	23	21
59	SM6CUK	536	4960	157	50	57	38	98	N5IR	360	4654	122	50	45	34
60	AF5J	533	2937	60	50	24	23	99	IN3FHE	356	2284	110	47	48	32
60	F5SGI	533	2547	98	50	49	31	100	G3LDI	341	2527	98	47	48	29

73, Bill WØTG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards



QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Enzo, MØKTZ](#)

I have the impression that many people get interested in CW because it is as close as you can get to telepathy, i.e., the direct transfer of your own thoughts to another mind. Well, this is actually what we experience every day in conversational CW: while you are in a QSO, you often forget that there is a key, a rig, a headset, and an antenna through which the dits and dahs that compose each single character travel to and fro. You have just the impression (which is indeed very real and concrete, especially over longer, informal chats) that your thoughts are transferred to the brain of the correspondent, and theirs just pop up in yours.

This is exactly what I experienced in two special QSOs in March, where the people at the other end were able to convey to me not just words, but concrete and vivid *images*. And obviously, via CW! The first one was a QSO with Rolf SM3FZL, who lives in Helgum, a minuscule town of about 140 people, some 500km north of Stockholm. Thanks to Rolf's description during our QSO, I *saw* the small and silent town of Helgum, under some half-a-meter of snow, I *heard* the strong wind that shattered the little village, which was still peacefully immersed in that vast plain, ready to re-emerge from one of the strangest winters we have seen so far. Rolf is a very good operator and a fantastic person to have a chat with.

The other QSO was with Klaas OZ/DL4LBK, early in the morning. Klaas was playing radio on the windy beach of Hvide Sande, a tiny Danish town in the Holmsland Dunes, a strip of sand that separates Ringkøbing Fjord from the North Sea. He was on vacation there and was calling CQ before preparing breakfast. During the QSO I *saw* the white dunes of Hvide Sande just a few meters from the sea, I *witnessed* the wind transporting myriads of tiny sand grains and making Klaas' antenna swing violently on the beach. I *heard* the waves smashing on that tiny strip of land, I *spotted* the few houses in the distance that Klaas was describing, and I could *smell* the breakfast he was about to prepare (he still had to go to the village to buy some milk, a short walk from there, apparently). I told Klaas he should really consider a career as a novelist, as his descriptions were so vivid and detailed that it truly felt as I was there to his side, and not in a residential area in London.

For the next month, I would really like to see in your comments a short description of the best "image" you have received in CW during your ragchews. I am pretty sure you will see many of them HI. I mentioned the QTX/MQTX programme to Rolf and Klaas during our QSOs, and they will both receive this issue of *Solid Copy*, in the hope they will join the fun in the future. This is something you might consider doing with your correspondents.

A special warm welcome to Kat KK6CN, Doug KR2Q, Joop PG4I, Hanz YL3JD, who have recently joined us in this chit-chatting adventure!

Now to the comments from your submissions, which are always entertaining and most pleasant to read.

G3WZD: March was a very quiet month; hopefully April will be better.

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W8OV: Welcome to the helm, Enzo. Interesting QSO was with Dan, KB6NU who was featured in *Solid Copy* recently. Longest QSO was 49 min. with Steve, K2FW.

KR2Q: Longest QSO in March was with Amanda, KY4GS, around 42 minutes on 30m (3/18). Next longest was with W8KJP on 3/20, lasting 37 minutes, on 40m. QSOs last as long as they do...not trying to extend any.

K6DGW: It's a lot easier to find Q's when the Sun is spotty

W9EBE: I enjoyed a nice ragchew with Amanda/KY4GS during which I discovered that she, as did I, played the baritone horn at one time! 73 es ZUT

YL3JD: This month quite some ragchews and one for 1 hour for the SKCC marathon. All made with the Blue Racer from 1963.

PG4I: Made the first QTX QSO's of the year, a 24 minute QSO with MØKTZ among them, thanks Enzo! 60 meters proves to be a very productive band this month with many operators taking time to do a bit of ragchewing. Great band!

VE3WH: Very encouraged by comments from other operators regarding ragchews. "This was a very rewarding and significant step in my CW journey", "There is a huge range of other interests among the hams", "It certainly was fun, not as difficult as I had thought." Keep the conversation going!

GWØETF: Welcome Enzo..!

AJ1DM: My ragchewing was a bit inhibited this month by travel and a major home-improvement project. But did well outside of those events, with a nice mix of old pals and new acquaintances. 73 and gud QTX to all de John AJ1DM

KB6NU: I couldn't have hit 31 without the QSOs I had with CWops members, including WB4IT, NI4E, N8AI, W4MQC, and WS1L. Thanks!

KK6CN: Yay, I've finally started ragchewing! A sked page in LICW really helped.

WB4IT: Lots of good ragchews this month. Several near the 1 hour mark.

AAØYY: Thanks Enzo for stepping in Bruce's shoes. I hope you enjoy doing it as much as he did.

N9EEE: QSO Buddies are the best.

KG5SSB: A lot of nice QSO's this month. Several were with fellow CWops Members.

KG5IEE: A lot of fun mini-QTX using vintage rigs in the Classic Exchange. But the highlight was giving one of our CW Academy Beginner students, WØADL, his first real CW ragchew QSO.

K8UDH: Most of my QSOs were during the Novice Rig Roundup. Using our crystal controlled vintage rigs made it really fun. Many of the folks we worked truly enjoyed ragchewing, like we did as Novices.

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KF6NCX: My most interesting QTX QSO last month came on March 19. I was on the 10-meter band when I heard an unusual call sign: 9W2AIX. The op was calling CQ. So I responded. We could hear each other well and had a nice little chat. His name is Idris and he lives in Malaysia. I think it was my first time to work that entity.

W3WHK: Interesting QTX QSO with XE3ARV, who lives on the Yucatan Peninsula. We discussed all the towns and Mayan ruins I had visited there years ago.

N6HCN: With the rain in CA, there were lots of good afternoons for QTX.

Awards and Medals for 2023

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs

QTX for March 2023

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
VE3WH	64	F5IYJ	29	KR2Q	12	KG5SSB	5
K9OZ	47	N6HCN	22	KG5IEE	11	YL3JD	3
KY4GS	44	N2DA	21	K0ALT	10	W7JRD	3
N5IR	43	MØKTZ	20	K8UDH	9	PG4I	3
WB4IT	35	AAØYY	19	AJ1DM	8	K5KXJ	3
KCØVKN	35	N9EEE	15	W9EBE	6	W3WHK	2
KB6NU	31	K5YQF	15	W8OV	6	AB7MP	1
WS1L	30	K6DGW	13	KF6NCX	6		

MQTX for March 2023

<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>
KY4GS	71	KG5SSB	19	WS1L	6	KF6NCX	3
MØKTZ	60	AAØYY	16	W9EBE	6	AB7MP	2
WB4IT	36	GWØETF	12	K5YQF	5	N9EEE	1
VE3WH	30	SV2BBK	11	W8OV	4	KR2Q	1
KG5IEE	25	K8UDH	11	N6HCN	4	G3WZD	1
YL3JD	21	AJ1DM	8	W3WHK	3		
PG4I	20	K6DGW	7	KK6CN	3		

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QTX Totals for 2023

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
VE3WH	178	N2DA	61	KF6NCX	23	W8OV	6
K9OZ	131	AAØYY	61	W9EBE	19	W3WHK	6
KY4GS	124	N6HCN	60	KR2Q	19	YL3JD	3
N5IR	108	KG5IEE	39	K4AHO	15	WA9ZZ	3
WS1L	103	K6DGW	37	WA2USA	14	W7JRD	3
KCØVKN	103	MØKTZ	35	WØGAS	12	PG4I	3
F5IJ	93	N9EEE	30	KK6CN	12	NØBM	2
KB6NU	91	KØALT	30	NEØS	10	SV2BBK	1
WB4IT	75	K8UDH	29	KG5SSB	10	GWØETF	1
K5YQF	66	AJ1DM	26	K5KXJ	10	AB7MP	1

MQTX Totals for 2023

Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX	Call	MQTX
MØKTZ	142	SV2BBK	41	WS1L	14	N9EEE	3
KY4GS	133	PG4I	26	K6DGW	14	KK6CN	3
WB4IT	89	AJ1DM	26	AB7MP	12	NEØS	2
AAØYY	68	W9EBE	21	N6HCN	9	KR2Q	2
VE3WH	67	K5YQF	21	WØGAS	7	NØBM	1
KG5IEE	61	GWØETF	19	W3WHK	5	G3WZD	1
YL3JD	48	K8UDH	16	K4AHO	5		
KG5SSB	42	KF6NCX	15	W8OV	4		

73, Enzo MØKTZ (CWops # 3206)

SPEED	XXT	DAY	TIME (UTC)	EXCHANGE	SPONSOR LINK
20 - 25 wpm	MST	Monday	1300 - 1400z	Name and QSO serial number	International CW Council
20 - 25 wpm	MST	Monday	1900 - 2000z	Name and QSO serial number	International CW Council
20 - 25 wpm	MST	Tuesday	0300 - 0400z	Name and QSO serial number	International CW Council
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1300 - 1400z	Name and CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1900 - 2000z	Name and CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0300 - 0400z	Name and CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0700 - 0800z	Name and CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
< 20 wpm	SST	Friday	2000 - 2100z	Name and S/P/C	K1USN
< 20 wpm	SST	Monday	0000 - 0100z	Name and S/P/C	K1USN



My Story: New Member Biographies

Compiled by [Tim Gennett](#), K9WX (CWops #1462)

Manos Chalaris, SV1DAY #3334

Licensed in 1994, when CW skills were a mandatory requirement.

I got my first HF radio in 1999 and I was eager to work CW, but I was rusty due to no inactivity all these five years. One day, I replied to a CQing G-land station, but my anxiety and nervousness did not permit me to have a normal QSO. Instead, it was a complete failure. I was so embarrassed that I sent him a regular, paper letter apologizing for my incompetence.

Since then, I did not touch the key again. The last years though, the last several years, I was struggling to polish my CW skills on my own, but in vain. I could not get into the air! I was asking other hams for assistance, but I was told, "Why you need this? CW is dead now, even commercial ships have abandoned it, you need only to copy your callsign, What will you do with this mutephone (an invented, derogatory wording, to contrast with microphone)."

I was lucky enough to meet Fanis, SV2BBK once, who told me about CW Academy, when I explained to him my drama. I did not know about CW Academy until then! So, I attended Fundamental to Advanced classes and only then I could be on the air! I wish to give back to the community the merits and the satisfaction I enjoy now by operating in CW. That is why I was Advisor as well, in Spring 2022, but my QRL demands to travel abroad frequently. It was quite challenging to Advise two classes from a hotel or to replace the cancelled weekly lesson, due to my return flight was exactly at the time of the lesson! In 9H or LZ, I could and can have hotel operation, but in SU, no way! I need a permanent address there, I have need told. So, I plan to be back in Advising when my QRL obligations set me free, hopefully shortly!

I am deeply convinced that CW Academy is a precious asset of CWops and International Amateur radio community. Challenges lie for those who wish to register at CW Academy, but English still is a language barrier for them, but we are working on it... I thank Hanz, YL3JD for his advising and genuine support, John, 9H1XT, who hosted me several evenings at his shack, for my CWT training during the Advanced class, (I had no antenna at the hotel then), Helga, IN3FHE, Zaba, OH1ZAA, and Gerald, PA2G who supported my nomination by Fanis, SV2BBK! Thanks Fanis!

Let me paraphrase a saying a Director at QRL told me once, as "Those who can, CW, those who can't, either SSB or Digital."



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Manoj Ramawarrier, VU2CPL #3337

Born 1975, Licensed 1993 as VU2CPL. I started operations in Thrissur, Kerala with a simple homebrew QRP following VU2VWN OM Vasanth (SK) circuit which was the most popular one during those days. Later on graduated to SSB with the help of an old exciter which was originally made by VU2UCY OM Bhasi (SK). Went through different iterations of 807 tube QRO and some military surplus (Redifone GR 345) during 1990s.

Was introduced to CW seriously by old timer Krishnan VU2KMK (SK) who was a keen QRQ OP and used to rag chew with friends from US on a daily basis during 80s. As a teenager who went to Krishnan to learn C language, I got attracted to Krishnan's philosophy about CW and decided to become more proficient in the code.

Shifted to Bangalore in early 2003. Got my DXCC in 2015 and then 5BDXCC in 2017. 160m DXCC was issued in January 2019.



I stay with my wife and 2 kids near the Bangalore International Airport. It's a semi-rural setting with noise levels lower than city and suitable for low band activity. I am using a Flex 6600M, RGO one and various other home brew radios. Antennas are Inverted Vee for 80/40 m, inverted L for 160 m and 60 m, Hex beam for 20-6 m and a 3 element LFA Yagi for 6 m. For Rx, I use Beverages and various loops like K9AY N6RK loop.

I operate all 3 modes phone, data and CW, but love to operate CW. Was leading VU7MS and VU7T and was part of AT5P operation. Other interests are travel, electronics, and computers. An airline pilot by profession.

Post 2019, I am using a Flex radio which is being operated remotely while I travel. Operating CW was tough on remote due to latency and inability to hear a sidetone. Recently I have figured out I can use CW from remote location WITH a sidetone which has enabled me to get back to my favourite mode.

Life Member of Amateur Radio society of India, member of local VU DX and Contest groups, IN-DEXA, CDXC and now CWops #3337.

Pat Roberson, W7PAT #3325

I was 5 when I got my first transistor radio for Christmas and I have had a strong interest in radio ever since. I marveled at receiving stations from all over at night. Later, the interest expanded to listening to shortwave, scanner, and CB. I joined the CB craze just before it got popular. I knew about ham radio, but never thought I would be able to do code. My high school

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electronics teach (later a mentor) was a ham, and occasionally brought his 2 meter radio into the classroom. More than 10 years after that, I finally decided that I would try to get my Novice license and took a class sponsored by a local club. I was second to last in finally passing the 5 wpm test. I was so surprised, that I hadn't studied for the written test. I took the test and aced it.

I received my Novice in 1986, shortly after, I studied for the Advanced and passed that, then went for the 13 wpm General license. That took a little more time but I passed that a couple of years later. I studied and got my Advanced class, but I stopped there, and stayed an Advance class operator for years. I never thought that I could get 20 wpm code, and really had no interest in code at that time. In 2012, I finally decided to get the no-code Extra license.

When the pandemic hit a couple of years ago, I decided that CW might be a fun thing to try again. I joined CWA, started taking classes and practicing with friends. I look forward to trying to do POTA sometime soon.

During my 37 years as a ham, I have served in a lot of club and public service events. I am currently the Emergency Coordinator for Washington County, Oregon ARES, an ARRL VE, Net Control on two traffic nets, and am Vice President for Chapter 108 of QCWA.

Roger Wise, KIØF #3339

How did this wonderful hobby start? On a rainy Saturday afternoon one of my buddies helped me clean out the attic, and we found an old AM shortwave radio. As some of you have been down this road before, you know the rest. I started to earn my Novice back in 1962 by driving 60 miles after work to code class. Morse was very hard for me. The entire class was taking their 5 wpm test and I still was working on getting all of the letters down. I struggled through my Novice days and worked up to 20 wpm for my Extra.

From that point on, I made a commitment never to let CW go. I stayed at 20 wpm all these years, even with working tons of CW contests. This past January, that limit made a breakthrough, thanks to CW Academy.

My lovely wife Jan and I have been married for 55 years. We have 3 children, 7 grandchildren

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and 1 great grandchild. I was self-employed all my life as a barber. I had my one chair barbershop here in Wabasha, MN (home of Grumpy Old Men movies), for 43 years and retired 12 years ago. Other hobbies include raising giant pumpkins, singing barbershop quartet harmony for 12 years, playing golf every chance I get. I also work with our local hospital in emergency communications. We live out in the country on 4 acres of lawn to cut, along with a natural prairie grass that we started many years ago.

I want to thank Fulvio HB9DHG for his patience with this 80-year-old in getting past that 20 wpm threshold. I also want to thank my good friend, Mark KB9S, for the nomination. We go back many years working with our good friend, Paul W0AIH (SK) at his contest station in WI.

This is a wonderful hobby and, after CW Academy, it has even gotten better. Knowing this group of Ops is top-notch in my book. I am very grateful to be a part of it.



Warren Pugh, KC9IL #3332

Born and raised in the Chicago area, I got interested in radio and electronics back in grade school and high school. I received my ham license in 1976, partially at the urging of my girlfriend's (now wife) grandfather, who was licensed back in the 1920's. In the early days I sampled as much as ham radio had to offer, including HF, 6 meters, repeaters, packet radio and early digital modes like PSK31. I've held a "know code" Extra license since 1987.

In 2001 I bought a Yaesu FT-817 at Dayton and became enchanted with QRP and portable operation. Being an avid bicycle rider, operating QRP portable just seemed to be a natural fit. I was traveling for work quite a bit in the 2000s so the '817 became a trusted travel partner for those nights on the road. I even took it along on a family vacation to Aruba in 2003, and had a blast working beach portable as P4ØWP.



My interest in CW was reignited in 2013 and I discovered the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) in January 2014. This really got me interested in CW on-air events. Later that year I joined the NAQCC.

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During the pandemic in 2021, as I was transitioning into retirement, I found I had more time to devote to CW study and practice. I took the Intermediate class in winter 2022 and really enjoyed it. Moreover, my skills improved dramatically. I kept at it during 2022 and signed up for the Advanced class in winter 2023. Along the way, Jim, N7US, encouraged me to do the MSTs and CWTs, which also helped my on-air skills.

My interests in ham radio remain diverse, including straight key CW, occasional contesting, digital modes, including FT-8, FSQCall and WinLink, as well as repeaters, both analog and digital (D-Star, DMR and Yaesu Fusion). My favorite activities remain the various weekly/monthly CW sprints and POTA hunting and activating, mostly on CW. I can easily fit in a 1–2-hour activity as opposed to an entire weekend for some other events.

As far as awards, I have ARRL DXCC and Triple Play WAS but the one I am most proud of is being on the top of the list for SKCC “miles per watt”, which I achieved by working a ham in Pennsylvania with just 2.5 milliwatts for a total of 213,757 miles per watt. Good conditions, but great ears on his part made it possible.

My other hobbies include bicycling, senior softball, astronomy, photography, and golf. With all these interests, I’m looking forward to being able to spend more time enjoying them.

Professionally, I am a retired Chief Financial Officer and pleased that I can spend more time with family and enjoy the many hobbies I’ve accumulated. Not surprisingly, I was also the treasurer of my highly active local radio club in the Chicago area for ten years. I have been married for 45 years to the girl I met on CB radio 49 years ago, have two daughters, two sons-in-law, two grandchildren and three grand-puppies.

Many thanks to my instructors, Ed, K6HP and Serge, KK7RR, as well as my classmates N1CFO and W4CWA for their patience and support. I look forward to meeting up with you on the air.

Jakub “Kuba” Rusiecki, SP5NZF #3315

It is great to be here!

My ham adventure started ca. 1977 in Belgrade where I became member of YU1AHI club, got licensed and started CW/SSB operation. After moving to Warsaw in late 80s I found SP5KVP club and got my current SP5NZF call. I got MsC in software engineering and went QRT again – this time for 30 years. In 2021 I spotted an article on SDR thinking initially it was sort of SDN, SDI, IaaS... Soon I learned more about it, bought SDR radio (20vW Xiegu G90), reactivated my license and found yet another great club: SP5POT. In a



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year I had WAC and 100 DXCC on the wall (20 W SSB/CW). I operate 20 W CW or SSB only into excellent GP7dx by SP7GXP for 40 m+, home-brew EFHW for 80/40 or recently home-brew FCP shortened vertical for top band.

Ham radio was to me always about meeting friends – both those great supportive and inclusive people in the clubs I've been fortunate to find and on the bands. In the 80s the charm of ham radio for me was being able to talk to OPs far away and practicing foreign languages daily. In the internet era I do more and more CW, home-brew hardware and software for my shack, participate in contests only to chase new countries and recently trying QRP POTA.

Talking about copying CW a friend suggested learning head copy with CWA and Buzz. So, I did. I want to thank Buzz AC6AC for not only teaching us head-copy in CWA classes, but most importantly, inspiring CWA students to organize self-running groups building CW proficiency and friendship that extends well beyond CW. Many thanks to all the co-advisors, CWA Students and Buzz's Advanced II students with whom I improve my CW and have great time. Thanks to CWT participants – both those that did slow down to greet CWA student and to those that did not slow down.

Believe it or not, there are other hobbies aside radio shack too – family, job, photography, traveling, kitesurfing, snowboarding, squash to name a few.

Luis Diaz, KP4DX #3340

I started in Amateur Radio in 1970 in the city of Ponce, PR. My teacher for CW was an old AMECO, 33 1/3 rpm record I ordered from Allied Radio. My original callsign was WP4DHW which I held for one year. After the year and a 4 hour bus ride through the mountains of Puerto Rico, I went for my General class license test in the Federal building in Old San Juan. I passed the test and knew I was now KP4DHW, so the ride back to my town was a pleasant one.



Most of my activity on the radio has been CW. Because of that, I wanted to get the extra small pieces of band allowed to Extra Class licensed hams. Two years after my General test, I went for my Extra Class test. This meant another 4 hour ride through the mountains to the Federal building. There, I had to pass the 20 wpm CW test, both receiving and sending with straight key. No bugs allowed. After passing that, then came the Advance class written test and then the Extra class written test. Made it fine though all the testing. Again, a pleasant ride back to Ponce.

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It was quite hard for me to get my ham tickets, mainly because of limited Elmers on the island at that time. Because of this, I decided to start some CW and theory classes at the Ponce Institute of Technology with the help of my friend Pedro, NP4A (at that time, KP4AST). We did this for about 6 years and it was a very successful activity. An average of 30 students received their license every year.

I lived in California for 30 years and after retiring 9 years ago, we decided to move back to KP4 land. We were fortunate to find a very nice QTH for putting up my dipoles. I invite you to take a look at my QRZ page. My XYL is NP4GP. We have two sons living in California and two daughters living in Wisconsin. The two boys, along with the oldest girl, are CW licensed ham radio operators. They still maintain their license active but they are not active in radio. They passed their CW test in California when they were 11, 9 and 8 years old!

In summary, as of 2013, I am 72 years old. I have been a ham for 53 years and have held my call, KP4DX for 45 years now. I hold the #22 Extra Class license Certificate in Puerto Rico.

Joe Luizzi, WØWL #3327

I am relatively new to the hobby; obtaining my Technician's license in 2020, (KJ7OAG) and my General, and Extra in 2021. My current rigs include an IC 7300, IC-9700, IC-705 and a Yaesu FTM-400. My keys include a Benchner, Kent Twin Paddle, Vibroplex Chrome Warrior Jr., and an American Morse, Ultra Porta Paddle. I also recently built a Bayou Jumper Paraset.

I became interested in CW, because of its "reach," having low power radios for my base station, and QRP for field work. I also appreciate the concise nature of QSOs.



In addition to CW, my other radio interests include DX, satellites, POTA and EmComm. I am trained as a CERT, and volunteer for our community Fire & Rescue.

My wife, Jackie and I have been married for thirty-seven years and have three adult children, and three grandchildren. We currently live in the Seattle suburb of Sammamish, Washington.

I am a polymer scientist by training and am currently a Director of Technology for Microsoft, working in Hardware Development, and hold several patents. My expertise is in the field of adhesive and adhesion technology, where I hold several patents.

I am fortunate to have taken the CW Academy right from the start. Beginning with the Beginner

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Class, in January 2022, up through and completing the Advanced, this past session. I owe those Instructors and the program a great deal, for providing a powerful framework for learning and helping me to advance and learn.

Sergio Roldán Mejide, EA3IGR #3310

Four years ago I sent my first CQ call. At that time, I was operating in SSB and even without my own callsign! My father showed me that there is the kids' ham radio day in which kids without a callsign can do their first QSOs with a special one. So, when the day ended, I had a bunch of QSOs with people from other countries and I loved the experience. That encouraged me to study and to get my ham radio license just after my eleventh birthday. In August of 2019, I did my first QSO with my callsign, in SSB too. My father and I were using a maritime radio installed in his sailing boat, so every time we wanted to do QSOs, we had to go to the boat. A few months before the lockdown, my father bought an IC-7300 for us and I loved it, because it was way easier to tune the radio and to understand all the functions.



When the lockdown arrived, I was happy because that meant I would have more time to do QSO's and whatever I wanted to do. So, my father and I started doing a CW beginner course with EA3BA as the teacher (SK). I learnt all the basics of CW with him, he was a very nice person. By the time I finished the Morse course, I was doing QSOs in CW only because I could reach further away than with the SSB signal. I have always loved doing DX and in CW it was easier to find rare stations than in SSB!

I was on the air as much as I could during lockdown. When it finalized, I could resume my favorite hobby, dinghy sailing. So, I sailed all summer and trained for the next season. My other hobby is playing the piano and I take lessons every week since I was eight years old.

Just before the next summer arrived, my father discovered CWops and joined the fundamental course. When I finished my school lessons, I also wanted to join CWops, so I took the intermediate course. Since then, AC6AC Buzz has been my advisor. I love the way he teaches and, thanks to him, now I do not use pencil and paper anymore. I feel like I'm in a family when I'm in his class with my classmates.

Thank you Buzz for teaching me and helping me achieve my graduation from CWA and becoming a CWops!

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William W. Burnette, W4MA #3338

I'm pleased to be a new member. I retired in 2004 as a corporate pilot from a major US corporation with 22,000+ flight hours logged in various corporate jets to include the Gulfstream G-IV SP. My residence is 15 miles east of Ellijay, GA with property bordering the Chattahoochee National Forest. My other hobbies include restoring older radios, gardening, home improvements and enjoying life with my family and friends. I am married with one daughter and my XYL Sherry was licensed in 1995 under the code requirements but is seldom active.



My first interest in radio was with a crystal radio set that I received as a Christmas gift at an early age. My father was an SWL and I occasionally used his old Hallicrafters to tune around for aircraft which it did not receive. I learned Morse code while in the Boy Scouts from my scout master who was a Korean war veteran in the signal corp. The code was taught to me from a chalkboard which is not the best way to learn Morse code. My musical training as a teenager has definitely been a benefit to my code proficiency. Never thought much about amateur radio until I met Ken, K4TEA in high school. In 1960 at the age of 16, I acquired my Novice license and upgraded to Technician class a year later. My license expired while attending college and was re-licensed in the mid-70s after my military service. I was not very active in the hobby until the late 80s when I joined the Southeastern DX Club in 1991. My main interest is CW with occasional digital and phone contacts. All my CW contacts are manual and I do not use a keyboard and definitely do not use CW decoding software. I am on the ARRL Honor Roll and have a total 347 countries confirmed of which 335 are of the present country list. My total country count on CW is 332 with 8 Band DXCC. I was a Volunteer Examiner until the FCC dropped the Morse code requirement. Being a supporter of the use of Morse code, I did not enjoy being a VE after the FCC's decision. I honor most CW operators and take the time to have a QSO with operators desiring to use this useful mode. My plans are to be active on the bands with CW, chase DX and hopefully participate in the weekly CWT.

My present shack consists of an ICOM IC-7610, Yaesu FT-2000, Nye Viking MB-V-A tuner, Alpha 91B, Collins 30L-1, Drake C-Line, Kenwood TS-830S, Collins 75A-4, Hallicrafters SX-100 MKII, Johnson Viking Ranger, Johnson Courier amplifier, Johnson Viking 1, Heathkit DX-40 & Hallicrafters SX-110 which was my Novice station. I use an Idiom Logikey with N3ZN 9+, Begali Signature and Kent iambic paddles. Occasionally I will dust off an old McElroy or Vibroplex bug just for nostalgia. My days of operating with a tower with multiple antennas are behind me. Today my antenna setup consists of a vertical 80 meter Delta Loop and a 80 meter Off Center Fed dipole. Life is

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still good on the air.

I would like to give special thanks to W4NU, K4OY, KB4WLF and K4PI for their encouragement and sponsoring me to be a part of the special group of CW operators.

Jason Godfrey, NØRPM #3329

I first learned about ham radio as a young Boy Scout, reading about it in *Boys' Life* magazine. I immediately knew this was something I wanted to do and started studying. Unfortunately, the ARRL code CDs never worked for me, and it wasn't until the no-code Technician first became available a few years later that I finally got my license.

I later (barely) passed my 5 wpm code exam, and would even go on to make a handful of CW contacts during VHF contests, but CW was always the elusive skill that I couldn't manage. CW Academy finally broke my streak of failure. The curriculum, advice, accountability, and camaraderie finally helped me make progress that I never thought was possible.

My work validating the design of high performance computer network chips and other activities (such as role playing and board games) put a limit on my on-air time. I volunteer as the organizer for net control for the Minnesota MS 150 and the Twin Cities Ride for the MS Society. On HF I am pursuing the Worked All States Triple Play (38 confirmed so far in CW) and have been enjoying the CWTs and SSTs when I can operate them. I am hoping to focus more on ragchews, so maybe I'll have some QTXs to report in the future.

Attaining CWops membership looked to be an unattainable goal for me when I started CW Academy. I'd like to thank all my advisors and classmates for helping me along the way. I'd also like to thank my wife, Jenn, who was very supportive of me taking the time for practice and class. And finally thank you to those who sponsored my membership. I look forward to being part of this great community and improving my CW skills.

Bob Seidel, ND2O #3347

I am 76 years old, long retired. In 1962 I joined the radio club at my high school in Passaic, NJ which led to the local CD/RACES group and the Knight Raiders VHF Club. We did a lot of VHF contesting, although back then it was 6 m and 2 m AM (Clegg and Gonset)! I got my General Class license as WB2CRV a year later.

After toying with surplus stuff, I realized that I needed a better RX and bought a new Drake 2B.



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All my gear in the 60s was home built except for a kit Eico 722 VFO: three AM/CW transmitters, two keyers, a 2 m to 10 m downconverter and other stuff. I was mostly a CW op back then. My keyer paddle was two micro-switches mounted horizontally; I would key using two fingers – crude, but it worked.

I received a BSEE from Newark College of Engineering, and then MSCE (Computer Engineering) from Syracuse.

In the 70s I worked for IBM in the Kingston NY area. My station was the Drake C-Line separates and a Heath SB-200 amp to a Mosley TA-33 at 40'. This was a great station, and I worked a lot of DX. In the 80s due to job considerations, I got out of HF but continued VHF work and got involved in the local 2-meter FM Packet Cluster. I developed my own cluster client software, FlexPac, which I marketed through the middle 90s – I even had an ad in the NCJ!

Incentive licensing caused me to get my Amateur Extra Class license in 1978 and I got the call ND2O. It's a bit of a tongue twister on phone, but has a nice rhythm on CW. I am proud to say that I am a true "20 WPM at the FCC office" Extra!

In 1992 I took a transfer to Raleigh, NC and retired in 1999. My wife and I moved to "the beach" in Oak Island, NC and have lived here ever since, enjoying the good beach life. I have two daughters and five grandchildren, no hams though.

My current station is an IC-7610, Elecraft KPA500 and a ZeroFive vertical. My key is a Begali Pearl. My QTH is on an island and surrounded by salt water with a great shot directly over water to EU and SA. I also have a Xiegu G90 that I use portable on my golf cart at island parks. We enjoy bicycling the island and walking the beach.

I have always been an active CW op, about 75% of my QSOs now. I enjoy ragchewing and will always take the time to work any station and slow down my CW when needed. I rarely do FT8, mostly when needed for new DX.

I just want to comment on how important the amateur radio hobby has been to me. Learning technical skills and making local and DX friends was a foundation for my life. And now I have a new group of CWops friends!



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