

# Solid Copy



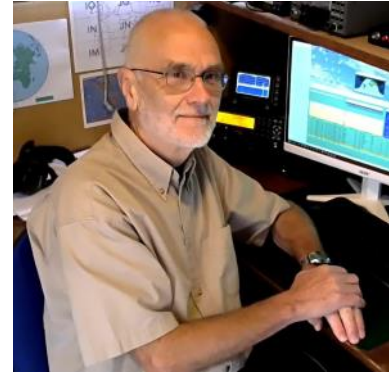
The CW Operators Club Newsletter  
September 2023 — Issue 164

## President's Message



Read the fascinating profiles of some of our new members, beginning on page 42.

This August we have been busy running an 'open house' for our extended family tribe from all over the UK who collectively decided to holiday in and around the Snowdonia national park and Island of Anglesey. It was great seeing



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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"

### CWops Officers and Directors

President: Stew Rolfe, [GWØETE](#)  
Vice President: Peter Butler, [W1UU](#)  
Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)  
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)  
Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)  
Director: Raoul Coetsee, [ZS1C](#)  
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Director: Barry Simpson, [VK2BJ](#)  
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Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

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everyone all together at various times but mega busy and my shack in the garden has largely remained locked and free for the spiders to enjoy. I did stay abreast of the CWops chatter on our listserv etc and in one lull found myself cogitating over a phrase that appears on our website and which tells us that CWops is a club that is *"Celebrating the unique art form of Morse Code"*.

Celebrate....unique....Morse Code – absolutely, but is it 'art'? The Oxford English Dictionary describes art as *"The expression or application of creative skill and imagination"* So I reckon that's close enough! Like learning a musical instrument there's probably a distinction to be made between practising an art and the process of developing it into its final form; watching a small child scratching on a violin is probably the same as the feeling we all had when taking the first steps in 'cracking the code'....painful and not particularly artistic! But once we reap the benefits it **can** feel artistic and is definitely something, an achievement, to celebrate. I have a sentence on my QRZ page - *"It's a skill once learned never forgotten. Once you reach the 'Zen' stage of sending from the head without thinking you are literally talking with your fingers. That still gives me a real buzz after all these years ."* This to me is the principal reason I enjoy CW and something I always emphasise to potential learners. CW sets its users apart in the Amateur Radio world and we alone now are charged with keeping the original wireless communication mode alive.

I've been looking at some photos posted by Ken-san JN1THL on our Facebook page from the Tokyo Ham Fair. It looked a lot of fun and was clearly very successful. Congratulations and thanks to all involved including the attendees from Thailand and others. You do a great job over there. CWops will once again have a stand at the RSGB Convention over the weekend of October 13/15<sup>th</sup> and we hope to welcome many members there. I was also invited to be a speaker and give a presentation on CWops; I'm not the most confident of public speakers but I readily agreed and it will follow on from a presentation given at last year's Convention by Duncan G3WZD on the CW Academy so we are certainly getting noticed. A club presence at gatherings like these does make a difference and is an enjoyable social event too. Get a few members together, grab a CWops banner, laptop, a couple of keys and some flyers for the table and make friends and influence people!

We are now into the September/October CW Academy semester. Good luck to all the students on their journey of learning or improving their 'Art of CW'. At times it'll feel tough but remember it's just a hobby and should be enjoyed and not turn into something to stress about. The good thing about the Academy is that you're never alone and the class can collectively support and encourage each other. Thanks to all the organisers and advisors, to those who donate their special skills translating course material into other languages (latest is Greek and German) and special appreciation for those for whom it's their first time leading a class. You are all playing a key part in keeping CW alive.

At the start of August I saw a copy of a letter from a UK QRP operator politely requesting that we maintain a clear window around the Region 1 QRP and FISTS 'centres of activity' on 40m during our CWTs (7027.0 – 7031.0 MHz). As with bone fide contests this is unrealistic but what we can do is request that everyone checks the frequency, any frequency, for ongoing activity of any sort before transmitting. In this particular case signals will naturally be weak and possibly inaudible outside UK and Europe but please be aware nevertheless. The CWTs are viewed as contests by many and some operating behaviour will inevitably provide welcome material for those with an

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anti-contest agenda. Even amongst CW users there are a variety of operating preferences and we have as much right as anyone to enjoy our CWTs within the parameters of empathetic co-existence. Confrontation normally achieves nothing. And by way of illustration, I checked a cluster spot for E51D at around 0900z, August 28<sup>th</sup> on 14023 kHz thinking I might be working a CWops member and found a weak E51D being continually DQRM'd. The signal from North Cook was very weak and it was difficult copy here though wasn't bothering whoever was operating who continued working streams of mainly JA callers. I have a couple of confirmed contacts with North Cook and it wasn't pleasant listening so I took the dog for a walk instead. Just a sad soul with an anti-Dxpedition agenda and too much time on their hands. Same time the following day this character had got bored or gone to annoy someone else and I got my contact in peace.

Have a peaceful month...

**73, Stew GWØETF**, President (CWops #919)

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## Editor's Notes:

### The Ballyhoo of E51D and VP6A!

Aside from a rare country appearing on the air, the next big news in the DX world is RIBexpeditions and remote operations. In the sailing world, a RIB is a Rigid Inflatable Boat that's large enough to carry people and gear yet can easily be deflated and stored on deck when not in use as a dinghy. In the Ham Radio world, a RIB is a remote base consisting of a "Rig In a Box" - one or more waterproof containers of radios and batteries - along with simple antennas that can be easily raised for a short period of time to activate an otherwise improbable location. As in the pictures I've seen of E51D, the RIB may be both, the nautical kind and the ham radio kind. RIBs are a creative solution to a long-time lingering problem of activating atolls with stringent governmental requirements protecting their environment. This solution is creative use of technology, or maybe its good old human problem-solving.

I have been seeking a first-hand account by those responsible for planning a RIBexpedition, or those transporting and setting up the equipment, and those remote operating VP6A or E51D - two recent RIBexpeditions - from their home locations. I know a few CWops are involved and hope one or more of them will come forth with their fascinating story. Fascinating indeed! One doesn't need to be an avid DXer to appreciate the uniqueness of this new technological problem solving. Hopefully, we'll be able to present you with the inside story.

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## Thanks Joe!

Joe Fischer, AA8TA, is stepping aside from being the columnist for CW Academy for personal and family reasons. His columns in each month's issue of *Solid Copy* were inspiring to students, uplifting to advisors, and informative to members on the progress of the CW Academy program. His charts, analysis, and insights honed in on the state-of-the-student acknowledging the challenges, and sometimes obstacles, to student enrollment and retainment. And of course, he was a champion for the program hailing its enviable successes. From this Editor, thanks Joe for your timeliness, punctuality, and giving us something to look forward to reading each month. Best wishes!

The other two stalwart members of the CW Academy triumvirate, Bob Carter, WR7Q, and Roland Smith, K7OJL, continue to administer and enhance the CW Academy and will report on its progress each month as evidenced in this month's column.

**73, Dick N9EEE**, (CWops #3113)

**Editor, *Solid Copy*** (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

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## Get Your Speed On!

In a previous article, it was noted that CWops members outnumbered non-members in the recent WRTC 2022 World Radiosport Championship. Where did they hone their proficiency and expertise? See below for the answer.

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



# News and Notes

## [Duncan \(Mac\) Fiskén, G3WZD](#)

We regret to report that the following Members have become Silent Key:

**Larry Card, W9CC #1082 on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2023**

A condolence card has been sent on behalf of CWops

*Thanks to our contributors for another varied selection of topics sent to this month's News and Notes mailbag. Please keep the submissions coming and don't wait until the monthly call for articles (deadline for the next issue is 1st October).*

**Bruce, N7RR #846** In the Northern Hemisphere, we're in the midst of a generally-hot summer. However, I also like to operate portable in the winter, so I want to mention my adaptation for cold-weather paddling.

My favorite portable paddles are the Begali Adventure Mono, the Begali Adventure Dual and the American Morse Equipment Mini-B. The big advantage of the latter is that the paddle is well armored in an Art Deco-style enclosure. All of these paddles have metal finger-pieces, which can get very cold in freezing weather. My solution is to cover each finger-piece with heat-shrink tubing. When properly heated, the tubing grips each finger-piece very tightly, but thermally insulating it. My winter paddling problems have disappeared!

**Roger, G3LDI #1843** I do have a piece of really good news from Swarsdeston! My main tower is back up in the air and I now have my 4-el Ultrabeam sitting at 110ft with the 2m colinear at the top. I have the crossbar for dipoles sitting just below the head unit and will be adding some inverted-V dipoles when the summer arrives - if it ever does! Wettest July for decades here and not very warm either!

However, I am more than chuffed with the tower, so I hope to work some DX once again. There is still the 40m beam on the other 80ft tower with the VHF/UHF beams to get fixed and then finally the Rhombic. I just hope we can get all that done before autumn. Go [here](#) if you would like to see a series of photos showing the day's work.



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**Jim, N3JT #1** My Failed Scotland Adventure! A week or so before Nina and I were to embark on August 16 for our Gate1 8-day tour of Scotland I noticed blood in my urine. To be sure, that is not a welcome sign though I had no other symptoms. A CT scan revealed multiple kidney stones, in both kidneys, likely the result of inadequate hydration over some years of regular 40-mile bicycle rides. My internist and two other physicians I know agreed that our Gate1 8-day tour likely would be okay to take. After all, there was no discomfort, the stones were not blocking the ureters (tubes between kidney and bladder), and they had presumably been there for some years. They were large, one 0.7 cm and the other big one 0.5 cm. They were too large to pass.

We especially looked forward to planned gatherings with Rob, GM3YTS, in Edinburgh, and Colin, GM3JPZ, and a bunch of other club members for dinner in Glasgow. We decided to proceed. My internist refused to prescribe Oxycodone or Percoset for use if the kidney stones caused pain during the 8 days. He insisted that Aleve and Tylenol would do just as well. He would only prescribe an opioid if I was in severe pain, which I was not. The American medical profession has perhaps swung too far in reacting to this opioid crisis. He was wrong in the end, but perhaps he had no choice. After all, I could become addicted or sell them in Scotland or even on the plane! I am anything but an addictive personality, which is why we still have Nina's old Oxycodone from years ago when she needed it following oral surgery.

Midway into the overseas flight I began experiencing some discomfort in my right kidney area, and intermittently more generally on that side of my body. We arrived at our hotel and chatted with our tour guide, Debbie. She herself had passed a kidney stone 2 years earlier so she understood the issue. Meanwhile, the pain worsened. We had Nina's leftover Oxycodone tablets, and it was a good thing we did. I ended up taking just one tablet; it definitely dulled the discomfort at a critical time.

A few hours after arriving at our hotel we headed to the local Edinburgh hospital where we waited 6 hours to see a physician. This young doctor gave me some strong Aleve-like medication, called Diclofenac, and advised that I should remain in Edinburgh for another CT scan and surgery. He was fearful of infection, sepsis, etc. I called Don, W4ZYT, one of my closest friends and a recently retired, luminary urologist, who then spoke with the attending physician. They agreed I could probably make it home, so we booked a flight early the next morning. The pain had diminished, fortunately. I preferred to be home for treatment because I had confidence in my urologist, and Medicare would not cover overseas medical expenses. The Scottish National Health Service did not charge for my emergency medical expense, and perhaps would have covered the treatment, but I wanted to be home and thought I could manage the trip. I let our GM friends know of the problem and of course they wished me well.

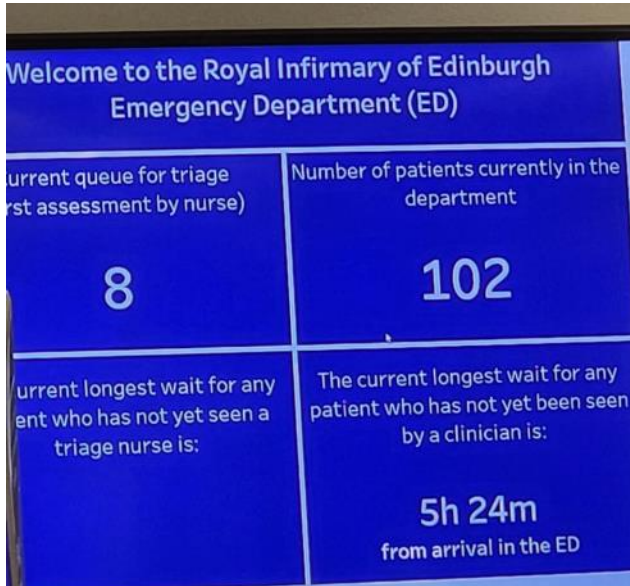
On our arrival at Dulles International Airport on Friday afternoon I called my urologist, who had already been contacted during the flight by Don, W4ZYT, to help pave the way. The cystoscopy was scheduled for Monday. Could I last until then? The pain so far was manageable. Fortunately, it remained that way.

We got a call early Monday that there had been a cancellation so my procedure was now in the morning rather than late in the afternoon. That was fine with me.

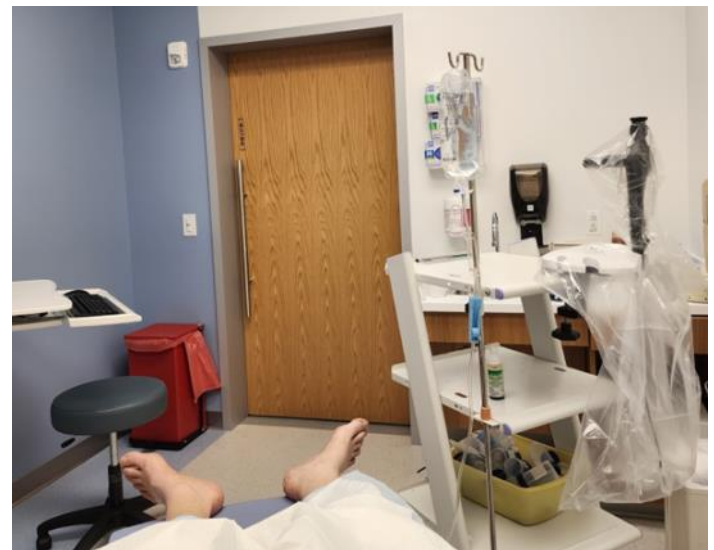
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Cystoscopy is a procedure that involves use of a laser at the end of a flexible instrument inserted into the urethra to break up the big stones in the kidneys. It includes a grabber of some kind to remove them. To be sure, I just love Propofol, the anaesthesia. Once I was told it was being introduced into the IV, I counted to five and at 6 they told me the procedure was finished and the stones had been removed.



The side effects of the surgery were not insignificant. Constipation from anaesthesia and narcotic painkillers; discomfort urinating because of two ureter stents (to assure urine flow out of the kidneys); and a minor respiratory infection from somewhere, though not COVID (the at-home test was clearly negative).

On Wednesday the stents, known as double-J catheters, were removed in the urologist's office. The first scope's grabber mechanism was not working so I waited on the table for an hour until a new one arrived and was thoroughly sterilized. The procedure was uncomfortable, with tolerable pain that felt like an extreme need to urinate. It took only a few minutes. A bit of bleeding, but nothing like before.

So now I am back to normal except my lifestyle is permanently changed. I will ingest three or four times the fluids I had habitually consumed on my bike rides, thirsty or not. Further, I will make sure my urine is at worst light yellow by consuming more water overall, and I will stop snacking on mixed nuts, which contain high levels of oxalates that contribute to the creation of calcium-oxalate kidney stones like mine. I sent a portal message to the urologist asking if I could have the stones, to make into a ring or lamp. There was no response, I am disappointed to report. But I got

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to ask him again while he removed the stents. The stones are sent to a lab and then discarded.

As I write this, my insurance claim for the failed trip is in process. We definitely will reprise the GM trip. Two lessons: Drink more fluids; buy travel insurance!

**Alan, KØAV (ex-WA6PMK) #1129** I recently received a LoTW QSL 55-1/2 years after QSO with TY2KG in the 1967 CQWW CW contest. The operator was Lloyd Colvin (SK December 1993). I guess it's never too late to catch up on your QSL'ing!

**Dick, N9EEE #3113** And it's never too late to say Thank you! A big thank you to Alan, KØAV for sharing his contest expedition to Mauritius (3B8M) at the annual dinner meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club. Just to show what a kind guy Alan is, he made himself available on a Saturday evening at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**Dan, KB6NU #1418** I've been teaching up a storm. In August, I taught a one-day Tech Class in Las Vegas at [DEFCON](#), the world's premiere hacking conference. The class helped more than 30 hackers get their amateur radio licenses.

I also taught a General Class course for students in the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Exploring the Electromagnetic Spectrum program. This online class helped three program participants upgrade to General.

And, on Saturday, September 30, 2023, I'll be teaching another one-day Tech class on the campus of the University of Michigan. If you know of someone who might be interested in taking this in-person class, send them [here](#) for more information.

**Peter, GMØEUL #1899** My news is that my UMPP-1 paddle has been reviewed in the August edition of Practical Wireless. I have sold almost 400 since they came out and there is a link to the review [here](#).

Also, I am going on holiday up North to Aberdeen next week (3rd to 10th Sept) so hope to catch some of you /P while I am away. I will be well equipped for QRP and it's a quiet site with hopefully good propagation.

**Jeff, W7BRS (CWA Student)** Caveat reader: Below is a short story and explanation. Some details are mixed with half-truths and down-right sarcasm because it helps tell the story in a humorous way. When that occurs and when it is not obvious that I'm making things up, I will insert a \* (asterisk) to represent HUMOR\_BIT=1

Now we begin.

In April, in the courtyard of the hotel at Visalia, Mark K6UFO and Rusty W6OAT pulled me aside. They showed me the secret handshake\* with respect to the ins and outs of becoming a DX'p role. Part of that involved their advice to do CWT as well as every single CW contest I could get. That was April 2023.

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In that time, I've been doing as many MST/CWT I could as well as every CW contest that I had spare weekends to work, and it has been great. I saw my average CWT Q count go from 10 to 15 to 30 and peak around 72 one time. A remarkable personal goal I had, but nowhere near the autobahn speeds of the regulars\*.

I think the regular CW Ops are fantastic. You know who you are, and if you're in doubt who they are just examine your Macro-File and look for a number rather than a State Prefix.

I think you're all fantastic and teach me a lot every time I press F1.

But the confession is that I have used decoders. I don't use a decoder to copy your call exactly, I use a decoder to make sure I copied it correctly. If I can copy it, I enter it in N1MM and use the process. But if I just cannot get it right, I do what seems logical and fair to YOU -- I use the decoder to just get the damn call right so YOU can move on -- I don't want to waste your time. That may seem hard to believe but I think in principle the Q is a two-way street. You want the contact so you can move on and I want the contact so I can move on. The decoder resolves the trouble I get into if I cannot copy the call on the first (or second) hearing. Believe me, I need all the help I can get with some of the bar-code scan speeds that go on -- don't let that be a admonishment --- keep cranking it out 35 wpm. It's not going to scare me off, I just have to rely on tools to make sure I get it right.

Partial Call Check and Call Histories are essential to make sure that the call I think I heard is the call that was sent. I don't see any other way.

But then, going back to Visalia and those folks who put me under their wing\* the fact is that I need to stop doing it that way. Now that I'm in the Fall Quarter Intermediate CW Academy class with KK6M I am starting to realize the truth that was in my face the whole time. Every time that I use a decoder, I'm robbing myself of the practice I need to copy calls at speed with accuracy.

Decoders are just too easy and that's the problem. Nothing is learned. No skill is enhanced, and frankly it is a personal embarrassment for me to even mention it

But I felt like I had to. Because....

From here on in CWT, I'm not going to use them; at all. And if I cannot copy your call, it'll just end up being an awkward situation. I will not hold it against you if you decide to abandon the QSO. Please, don't wait around on my account. If you got a score to reach, go reach it. Don't let me slow you down. But, if you do stick around for me to finally get it right, great. Thanks!

Hank W6SX #61 told me to essentially turn the dial up and challenge myself. I do and I will, but I will need to turn that dial a bit back ... 19? 20 maybe. In order to not waste your time and also give me a fighting chance to copy on first hearing.

That's my *mea culpa*. Thanks, and see you on the bands. *(N&N Editor: Way to go, Jeff. Good luck with the Intermediate class!)*

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**Duncan, G3WZD #1979** I claim no originality for the electrical design of this quick-deployment portable version of the Rybakov 806 7.6m multiband antenna. The antenna's design and name originated from Enrico, IV3SBE; full details are [here](#).

I understand the name is derived from the Russian language for 'fisherman', perhaps an allusion to the fibreglass fishing poles which are often used in antenna projects. I also believe the 806 refers to the lowest and highest bands on which it may be used.

Disliking the notion of taping the radiating wire up the outside of the telescopic tube, I prefer instead that it to be located up the inside of the tube. However, that can lead to a bit of a 'birds-nest' of wire, prone to tangles and kinks, when the antenna is collapsed for transportation. I looked at ways of making the antenna such that it could be quickly and simply deployed and collapsed, while also having the antenna completely pre-assembled with minimal risk of damage to the radiating wire.

The solution is a small (and inexpensive) fly-fishing reel that could accommodate the 7.6 metres of approx. 24 AWG 7/0.2mm stranded radiator wire (source [SOTAbams](#)) when the antenna is collapsed (the counterpoise can also be stored on the reel). Erection takes only a couple of minutes; with the spool in free-run mode, the telescopic sections are pulled out from the thinnest to the thickest, unrolling the radiator as they go. The radiator wire is fed into the tube through a 6mm hole in the base cap. The reel and required 4:1 UNUN are permanently attached to the base of the antenna.



**Antenna base with reel of radiator wire and 4:1 UNUN**

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The top of the radiating wire is secured to a short length of 3mm paracord, fitted with a toggle to prevent it being drawn down into the smallest section of tube as the mast is extended.

**Top of radiator with paracord draw-string and toggle**



**Antenna deployed awaiting connection of coax and counterpoise**

There is no residual wire on the fishing reel once the mast is fully extended, so no inductance.

While the antenna is clearly a compromise, requiring an antenna matching unit and either radials or a counterpoise, it does work in practice. With the antenna temporarily secured to my shack wall and using an ICOM IC-705 at 10W with a single 7.6m counterpoise, my first QSO yielded a 579 (both ways) report from John, K2VV #2292, on 15m – a great result! By the time this edition of *Solid Copy* goes to print, I will very likely be using this antenna during an Ioni-an sailing holiday as SV8/G3WZD, and I hope to work some CWops members. Report to follow in October's N&N.

Until the next News and Notes, as Theo's (PA3HEN #2481) email signature says, "Let your Fingers do the Talking" - dit dit.

**73, Duncan, G3WZD** (CWops #1979)

# QST Cover Plaque Award Winner

Frank Donovan, W3LPL (CWops #29)

## Congratulations

May 2023  
QST Cover Plaque Award Winner

*Frank Donovan,  
W3LPL*

In his article, "Experience the Wonders of Solar Cycle 25's Solar Maximum," Frank reports on the improving propagation forecasts for the next 4 years and explains what it means for DXing.

QST Cover Plaque Awards are given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue. You choose the winners by casting your vote online at

[www.arrl.org/cover-plaque-poll](http://www.arrl.org/cover-plaque-poll)

Log in now and choose your favorite article in this issue!



### Frank Donovan, W3LPL

The last solar minimum occurred in December 2014, marking the beginning of the end of the longest period of spotless days (days without sunspots) since the beginning of the radio age. While most solar minima have 200 to 300 spotless days, the recent solar minimum produced nearly 1,000.

DXers have long hoped for a return of the seemingly endless days of 10- and 8-meter worldwide propagation that delighted them during the solar maxima of five of the six solar cycles from 1945 to 2003.

DXers' dreams came true starting in January 2023, thanks to a sudden onset of 12- and 10-meter DX propagation nearly every day through at least March. A major upsurge in 6-meter DX propagation is likely to begin just a few weeks after this article appears in print, and is forecast to occur during May and June (and possibly from November through February) for about the next 4 years. While the highest monthly sunspot number will likely occur in mid-2024, improved HF and 6-meter propagation will likely continue through about 2027.

This article focuses on significantly improved HF and 6-meter propagation for the next 4 years and offers practical guidance to help HF and 6-meter DXers make the most of their solar-maximum experience.

### Steadily Improving Propagation

The most important beneficial effect of solar maxima is the much more intensely ionized high-altitude (about 250 to 400 kilometers) F-region. Increased ionization greatly increases high-altitude F-region electron density, improving the reliability of long-distance 20- through

10-meter propagation during the day, and 40- through 15-meter propagation at night.

From May through early August in the Northern Hemisphere, thin highly reflective and very efficient (but relatively short-lived) sporadic-E ionization patches drift up in the ionosphere at an altitude of about 100 to 120 kilometers. Unlike F-region ionization, sporadic-E ionization is believed to be caused by the massive daily influx of high-velocity, dust-free coronal mass ejections from May to early August as they shed long-lived ions into the ionosphere as they burn up at high temperatures in the ionosphere's denser lower altitudes. Wind shears in high-altitude tidal winds, which are believed to compact the ions into dense sporadic-E patches with dawn morning and afternoon peak occurrence rates.

While sporadic-E propagation does not improve significantly during solar maxima, it plays a crucial role during the 4 years near solar maxima by providing additional ionospheric hops coupling into F-region propagation, especially on 6 meters.

Sporadic-F patches begin developing shortly after sunrise and continue to develop into the evening, mostly during May through early August in North America, and frequently during December through mid-January, and much less frequently during the rest of the year. Sporadic-E is crucial for 12-, 10-, and 8-meter DX propagation during the spring and summer because its high-efficiency reflections often support multi-hop propagation, extending to distances of 4,000 to 10,000 kilometers, and occasionally beyond. Sporadic-E patches are crucial for 6-meter DXers because they extend the range of F-region propagation by coupling sporadic-E

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# How We Were

AA9RK, Michael Falk, CWops #3173

I was first licensed at age 15 in Fall 1994 without taking a code test -- a fairly new concept then -- so my first radio was a VHF handheld. By Summer 1995, I had upgraded to Technician Plus and then General, but I had never been on HF, never heard CW or SSB on the air, and never transmitted with more than 5 watts output. At the West Allis (WI) Radio Amateur Club site for Field Day 1995, Lynn K9KR and Tom K9BTQ spent a lot of time introducing the new hams to HF. I remember learning how to tune stations in, and learning the rhythm of a contest-style QSO. The fun I had at this Field Day led to me setting up my first HF station within a month. I acquired a Ten-Tec Omni-D, an Astatic D-104 mic, a straight key, and an end-fed longwire, which I ran through my attic and which overloaded every television, telephone, and small appliance within 200 feet.



I am on the left in the photo logging on a DOS laptop with Jim, KB9K BK at the mic on the right. (appeared in CQ magazine in 1996)

How We Were is a flashback to a time in our amateur radio journey when we were novices in our early days of learning, experimenting, exploring, or just plain hamming it up. If you have a picture to share accompanied by a very brief paragraph setting the scene, please forward it to our new manager, [Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL.

Beginning next month, our new manager for How We Were makes his debut. Appropriately, the column will feature its new manager [Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL CWops #2896.

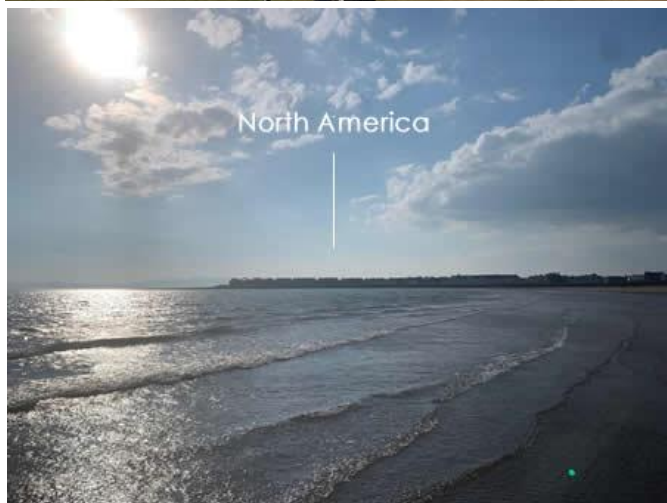
# RF Trouble in Paradise

[Pete Parisetti](#), MMØTWX (CWops #3085)

This short article is about a phenomenon which, for the last couple of years, has baffled myself and several other experienced DXers with whom I happened to discuss it. When I posted a description of it on a popular Facebook ham radio group, hoping to stimulate discussion and find possible explanations, all I got was poison about the use of web receivers and scorn for using the term "QSO" for contacts I made to test the extent of this weird phenomenon. That's social media for you. I hope fellow CWops will see this not as a chance to criticise but rather to discuss and understand something which I find difficult to explain.

I have been a passionate DXer for 40 years now, chasing DX from three different countries and making about a quarter of a million QSOs from various semi-rare DX spots. In terms of the vagaries of HF propagation, I thought I had seen it all. Think again...

About three years ago, my wife and I moved to an idyllic location on the West Coast of Scotland. Idyllic as a place to live and, I thought, as a place for ham radio activity. Close proximity to the sea, 360 degrees of open horizon and the likelihood of an "RF quiet" environment. Please have a look at [my QRZ.com page](#) to see for yourself.



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And, indeed, the comparison with my previous urban QTH in Glasgow was amazing. With the exception of the inevitable digital birdies here and there, HF bands sounded as quiet as I heard them in a very long time. Suffice to say that, with preamp 1 turned on, the S meter of my FTdx5000 practically never moves from the s0 position. Same thing on my second rig, a venerable TenTec Orion.

The problem, I quickly found out, is that S meters don't move for noise, but they rarely move for signals too. Most days, I can hear maybe only 20-30% of the stations spotted in Europe on the DX cluster. Several days per month (up to about 10, that's one day in three) it feels like I am under an iron dome. There are simply no signals to be heard on any band, whilst contacts are being made by stations in continental Europe and even in the South of the UK.

The easy explanation for that is my Northern location, possibly my relative proximity to the aurora oval. Out of curiosity, and to test this hypothesis, I started listening through a Web receiver located in the North-West of Ireland, only a couple hundred kilometers from me, and, critically, essentially at the same latitude. Lo and behold, any time I checked, whilst I was hearing nothing on the bands, the Irish receiver was hearing the world. A/B tests on hundreds of signals showed S0 or S1 noise at both locations, with stations perfectly copiable in Ireland and simply non-existent at my QTH.

The second logical explanation is that there is something wrong with my antenna system. So, almost as a joke, I tried once to answer a CQ call from a station I was hearing through the Web and not at all on my radio. The station came back to me, and I could make a contact which I will not call QSO not to offend the purists. Completely amazed, I tried again, and then again. Over the course of a couple of months, these experiments produced about 50 contacts at varying distances, in all continents, whereby the correspondent could hear me fine and I could hear nothing of him, despite having S0 noise.

I hope you will understand that I made these contacts as experiments, not as a means to "work" DX. Neither I nor several friends with whom I have discussed these findings begin to have an explanation. I'd be glad to hear from anyone with ideas and suggestions.

(Editor: situations like this can be frustrating when you've checked all the typical sources, including **the RF Gain**. May I suggest readers post their suggestions on the [reflector/listserv](#) from which I will post the replies next month.)



# Survey 2023 of Amateur Radio Operators among EMC Professionals

[Andy Hansen](#), HB9CVQ (DK2VQ, AK4IG,) (CWops #219)

Just back from the great annual IEEE EMC Symposium and Signal-Power-Integrity 2023 this time in Grand Rapids, MI, USA; [EMCS Symposiums](#) | [EMCS Symposiums \(emc2023.org\)](#). Here are some interesting numbers.

84 HAMs out of around 1300 Symposium attendees and additionally around 500 exhibitors were counted.

The batches carried call signs, again. Therefore, it all amounts to more than 6% HAM operators within the here present group of EMC (including wireless and related electromagnetic areas) professionals there.

According to Kimball Williams N8FNC NCE:

ARRL #1,247,589, FISTS #17,391, LICW #160, MIQRP #1,951, NAQCC # 10,610, QRP-ARCI #16,639, SKCC #22,177

IEEE EMCS Board of Directors at Large:

[emcs-radio-hams@listserv.ieee.org](mailto:emcs-radio-hams@listserv.ieee.org) Aug. 5, 2023 (only for registered persons) Quote:

"The total number of Hams in the EMC Society that we are aware of now total 84.

I just ran the vTools OUAalytics program to sweep in all the EMC-S members, and as of this date. The total is 3,340.

Doing the simple math:  $84 / 3340 = 2.5\%$  EMC-S members are Hams.

Running the same data for Hams in the USA >> 0.22%

Observations during many of the technical and operating committee meetings within the EMC-Society during the most recent Symposium tells me that Amateur Radio operators comprise 20 to 30 % of volunteers who sign up for responsible positions.

Understanding what the Ham Radio community does as part of its 'Service' in commitment to the principles embodied in our Amateur Radio licenses, I find the volunteering for leadership responsibilities understandable"



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(Update on HF Operating Feasibility in an EV, [October 2022](#))

We could successfully repeat the **EV automobile (FIAT 500E) de-noising** experiment from Oct 2022 (*Solid Copy* Oct. 2022 pages 24 to 28). This time we used a here developed , more sensitive current probe. Reduction resulted in around **20 to 30dB suppression of the self-generated EMI** into the 40m quarter wave vertical excited against the chassis (worst case).

Now we can receive wanted signals and operate HF-mobile- on the move- with reasonable SNR e.g., on the 40m band, in CW.

**Homemade HF-Current Probe -Snap on ferrite with attenuator on 12V Minus Support Battery Fiat500E**



**HF-De-Noise set-up**

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**K3-P3-NCC-1-RX set-up +0 to 30dB variable Preamp on Current Probe not shown**

PS: Personally, I got my HAM License (1968) before I started to study EE in Germany.

[HB9CVQ - Callsign Lookup by QRZ Ham Radio](#)

<https://www.euro-emc-service.com>

# The NCCC Sprint Ladder Competition, NS Ladder XXXVI, a Brief NS History and a Cartoon

[Bill Haddon, N6ZFO](#) (CWops #101)

As you read this note the 36<sup>th</sup> NCCC Sprint Ladder competition, NSL XXXVI, is just getting underway – 160-15m CW each Thursday night in NA 0230-0300Z Friday UTC, five sessions, Aug 31 – September 28, 2023, with the first two sessions comprising an excellent warm-up/practice for the September 10<sup>th</sup> NCJ CW Sprint. We encourage, but do not require, new participants to join the low-volume reflector [NCCC-Blue@groups.io](mailto:NCCC-Blue@groups.io) by registering at <https://groups.io/g/nccc-blue>. Mike, W9RE will see and approve your request. Tom, N3ZZ makes weekly NS contest announcements and Tim, N3QE writes the script, with Bruce WA7BNM, to list rankings in our several NS geographic areas. For NSL XXXVI, three of five weeks count toward final rankings, so there's time to fully compete in this round.

## A Brief History of the NS Ladder Competition

I joined the NCCC in 2002 with a mission and an idea, noting that usually one participates in a contest, gains some experience, and then waits, typically a year, before that experience can be directly applied. At that time there was no ladder and few and few, if any, weekly competitions. The NCCC Sprint Ladder offered two major radio-sport innovations: one being the concept of a ladder, and the second a mid-week contest, of which there were few. The ladders, originally just held among NCCC members, soon expanded to the contesting community, and expanded from the multi-week ladder to weekly sessions, now involving 35-40 avid CW ops.

I competed for quite a few years in running events in Marin County, CA. as a member of the Tamalpa Runners club. Tamalpa RC sponsored a ladder competition in which club members challenge each other in a series of 6-8 cross country runs, over sometimes difficult terrain. The winner received 100 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher 99 points, and so on. So those who compete are rewarded both for effort and for dedication. Radiosport had no comparable event despite the popularity of ladder competitions in bridge and chess playing.

NCCC President Rick, N6XI, almost immediately nominated Bill for the Vice President/Contest Chair position in NCCC. Part of that assignment was running the Thursday night NCCC Contest Net on 80m SSB. That venue was the basis for extended ladder discussions with Ken, N6RO, Kurt K7NV (SK), The Locust, K6VVA and others, who expressed major interest in a weekly sprint-like contest. In the original NS format, few 160 and 80m QSO's were made. K7NV solved that issue with his proposal to adopt band-multipliers. Thus the NS is an amalgam of NCJ Sprint and NAQP multiplier and band concepts. Kurt also encouraged the "summer fun" aspect of NS by not requiring log submission.

The first Ladder competition, now called NCCC Sprint Ladder I (NSL-I) - you can see the sports analogy developing a little further - was held in 2002 as an intra-NCCC event in which about 25 stations competed. Rick, the Locust, K6VVA and Bob K6XX came out on top. As an award NCCC club president Tom, ND2T, gave each a copy of the book 'How to Overcome Your Addictions'.

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N6RO suggested we conduct NS on a weekly basis and that we give wine awards, sponsored by WØYK and the Muns Vineyard. Interestingly, when we dropped wine (or See's candy) awards, there was no decrease in participation

For NSL-I Bill used the rules of an old competition originated by Tree, N6TR, called the Internet Sprint - not held on the internet, but rather scores were reported over the internet, an unusual feature then. Initially we used the Internet Sprint idea of allowing duplicate contacts to increase rate thus making our NCCC Sprint more like a real runner's sprint. QSO rates were a breathtaking 120 per hour for top competitors. The NS QSY rule is the invention of NCCC member/founder Rusty, W6OAT. Dupes were dropped early on as participation made that generally unpopular concept unnecessary. Over the years other contests have mimicked our mid-week format for example your popular Wednesday CWT with Rob K6RB playing a leading design role, initially.

### **Additional Thursday Night NCCC Contests**

N6RO suggested we hold a weekly RTTY NS, now ably managed by Ed, AJ6V and formerly by Ken, K6MR. I know FT4 may be a little "on the edge" for the CWops group, but after being approached, flatteringly, by Peter, VE7AB and Dennis, W1UE we began, in May 2023, an FT4-NS, held weekly from 0100 to 0130 Friday UTC, Thursday nights in NA). VE7AB played a major role in establishing the two popular RAC (Canadian) contests. See <https://ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html>

In NSL III, the contest caught the attention of NCCC's Webmaster Ed, WØYK and a full set of NCCC Sprint web pages evolved rapidly at [www.ncccsprint.com](http://www.ncccsprint.com). John, K6MM is now the resourceful manager of the NCCC Web pages, and it was John who coined the term "Contesting on the Edge" to describe our NS events.

Tim, N3QE, following work by Matt, NQ6N, wrote the current script for transferring [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) results into the multi-week cumulative score table, arranged by NS division.

### **The NS Ladder Advisory Group**

I run the NS family of contests with an Advisory Group whose original members were K4BAI, N3BB, W9RE, N4AF and K3STX and N6ZFO. These folks were chosen for various reasons: Bill and Mike (ZFO and RE), both Purdue graduates, provide a kind of analytic focus to the NS Ladder. Howie, N4AF had the experience of organizing his own "N4AF Sprint," a low power version of the NCJ NA CW Sprint. N3BB brings great contesting experience and intuition to the group and John K4BAI contributes words of wisdom and judgment, as one might expect, serving as a sort of referee for the contest. K3STX, Paul, contributed the focus of the "family-friendly" aspect of NS and NS Ladder - intense, fun contesting with not too much time invested. When Paul left the NSL advisory group we added Ted, W4NZ. Subsequent additional members: K6UFO, Mark, WØBH, Bob, and VE3YT, Vic. Ken KE3X assisted with the WØYK-supplied wine awards and was an actual European participant from his days in Geneva, Switzerland.

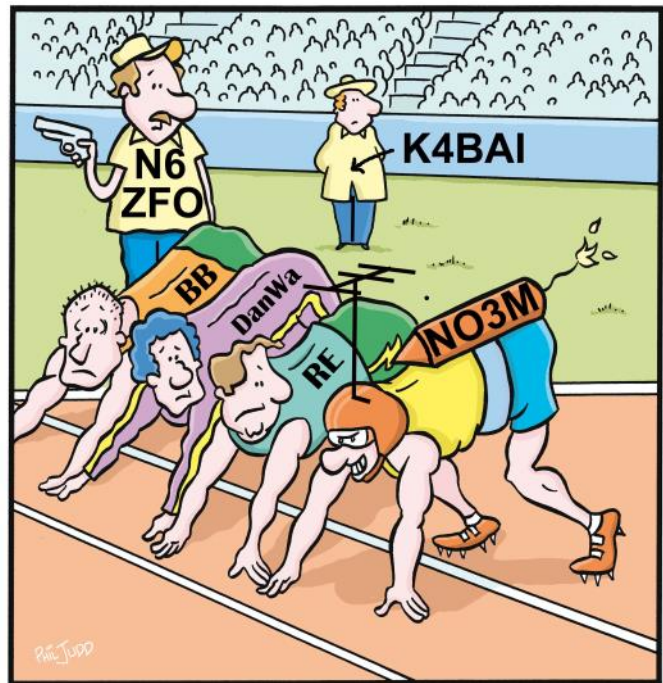
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## The NS Ladder Cartoon

We may be the only contest group with its own cartoon - we even paid for permission to use it. Note the roles played by N6ZFO as the "Starter" and by John, K4BAI as "Referee," a role he actually plays in the real NS, for example, by monitoring the adherence to timing. The NS/NSL score increase is exponential and the contest is of short duration, the exact timing has extraordinary importance. "DanWa." in the cartoon is, of course K7SS. Somehow Danny finds time to participate while owning and running his famous "Big Shoe Museum" in Seattle's Pike Place Market. Quoting from the [website](#), "The so-called museum is based on the giant shoe collection of one Danny Eskenazi. Eskenazi became fascinated with collecting colossal shoes after discovering that his grandfather had once owned a shoe that had belonged to the World's Tallest Man, Robert Wadlow. A bounty of \$1,000 was offered to find the missing shoe; still yet to be recovered." NO3M, a former NS addict, consistently scored highest in the NS and NS Ladder competitions.



We hope that you will give NS Ladder and then NS a try. Questions will be quickly answered on the reflector or by any of the NS Advisory Group members.

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## It started with a Dit

[Shirley Park](#), MØWXG (CWA student)

Here is the journey being undertaken by Shirley MØWXG (FISTS 16916) on the CW path so far. Published here as hopefully an entertaining read and also as an inspiration to those seeking to or commencing their own journey.

I started with Callington Radio Club (Cornwall), 13 years ago where under the expert tuition of Keith G1FMU and fellow members I successfully obtained my Full Licence. The path then enticed me to learn CW and with the tremendous help of John G4PBN who put on a Club Course and the G4FON app the first steps were taken. The pace then quickened with FISTS putting on a CW Improvers Course over Zoom rum by Roger M1ØWWB and John MØCDL in April / May 2022.

Starting to go a bit further now with CWops' CW Academy Fundamental course with Roland

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K7OJL Jan/Feb 2023. Followed by the Intermediate course with Buzz AC6AC in May/June 2023.

Following successful graduation from these I am currently in the Advanced course with Buzz with the aim of being sponsored and admitted to CWops as a full member. Hopefully to graduate in December. *(Ed - sending and receiving International Morse Code at 25 wpm as determined by nominator and sponsors)*

I cannot speak too highly of the structure, content and instruction provided by CW Academy which is the Training arm of CWops. The tremendous amount of time all the advisors put in voluntarily is really amazing.



So how has the journey been so far, frustrating, humorous and great fun in all parts? The Academy attracts a worldwide selection of students all wishing to further their ability at CW. This leads to some really challenging copy. From Intermediate level onwards head copy is encouraged and topics sent by CW are varied and sometimes beyond the comprehension of those in the UK. For example, ingredients in a meal or a make of car in say India are sometimes things not heard of in the UK. This highlights the message from the tutors *(Ed - aka advisors)* to trust your ears, not to assume what is coming next because if you do you and get it wrong you are thrown off course and miss the rest.

3 pieces of advices are offered by Buzz:

1. Do what you can when you can.
2. Follow the course timetable of 2 sessions per week plus the homework
3. The head banging version, nothing else will matter in your life for the next 3 Months with CW practice at all levels on Sundays, pre-course classes before the actual course starts. CWT Tuesday / Wednesday sessions. The Actual Course 2 x 2hour sessions twice a week.

I chose the head banging version.

For those unaware CWT is practice for high speed contesting. And for normal ears when first hearing this, it sounds like machine gun fire. With a lot of practice (where have you heard that before?) it does become clearer and eventually you can understand (at times) what is being sent.

CWT is live on air at set times. Academy instruction is on Zoom with students put into small

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groups to practice send and receive techniques. A major part of the earlier courses involve setting up of rigs and understanding the mechanics of tuning / filtering and how to send.

I started my journey with a straight key progressed to Twin paddles and now use a Single Lever which works best for me

The joy of learning with others is that you rapidly become friends; no question is too simple; and you all make mistakes together. This was a major part in building my confidence.

All Courses are totally free.

A phrase of Roland's springs to mind: 'There is no comfort in the learning zone'. You get out what you put in.

From my QTH I work mostly 20 /40. If you hear me please be patient with me as it still does not always go according to the plan.

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SC

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## A Sailing Alternative

[Michael Goldstein](#), VE3GFN (CWops #1119)

When the lake freezes over, and the flags stand out straight, what do you do? Retire to your sailing books and dream? Make reservations for Barbados, and hope the Sunfish are still on the Holiday Inn beach? Or perhaps you "... look to your ship in its winter quarters, pitch her sides and go over her cable ..."? I talk to the world.



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Let's face it. You can't sail the whole year 'round. At least, not in this Toronto climate, you can't. Even the keen types in the Ashbridges Bay Optimist Club, who brave the keen winds and freezing waters at the end of November, know when to call it a day. (I spent an hour photographing them recently, and almost froze to death!)

When the lake freezes over, and the flags stand out straight, what do you do? Retire to your sailing books and dream? Make reservations for Barbados, and hope the Sunfish are still on the Holiday Inn beach? Or perhaps you "... look to your ship in its winter quarters, pitch her sides and go over her cable ..."? I talk to the world. I have an antenna that rotates on a forty foot tower, and a plethora of short - wave radio equipment in my basement. A small room is my "radio shack." Its walls are lined with callsign postcards, confirming radio contact with about seventy countries around the world. That's about one - quarter of the countries with which I've spoken, over the past sixty-seven years.

My secret vice is Amateur Radio. "Oh, yes," you smile knowingly. "I used to have one of those CB sets years ago!." No, you don't know. CB, this ain't. CB-ers talk with radiotelephone, using powers of up to five watts, if they're legal. They can use frequencies in the 27 MHz band.

Radio amateurs use radiotelephone, radioteletype, television, Morse code, satellites, repeaters, and remote stations. We can operate from our homes, cars, ships, planes, bicycles, rollerskates, and hiking boots. We can use transmitting powers of up to 1000 watts, on frequencies from as low as 1.8 MHz to those up in the microwave oven region.

We build our own radio equipment; Guglielmo Marconi once claimed to be "only a radio amateur." We invented the stuff.

I chat with amateurs in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, while drinking my morning coffee. Before supper, I look for rare Asian contacts coming in over the Pole, and I watch for the South Pacific stations before going to bed. Most people, before travelling, go over their Christmas card list, for foreign acquaintances. I read the back pages of my radio logbook, and go through my card files.

Lots of sailors are radio amateurs. There is a "Caribbean Net", which meets daily, so cruising sailboats can exchange news and weather. The "Tilley Endurable," of recent fame, is manned by



**VE3GFN awaits spring, and the sailing season, in his well equipped radio shack**

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a ham operator, and we tracked her progress across the Atlantic on her maiden voyage. When her generator broke down, and she missed her radio schedules, we sweated.

I used to teach amateur radio classes to sailors. Bob, one of my students, went for a little three - year cruise in the Caribbean, and I kept in touch with him daily. One day, his radio developed problems, and he invited me down to fix it. The sailing weather was superb in the Bahamas that winter, and it took me a week to find the defective component! I remember that his whole family gathered in my Toronto basement, to talk with him on Christmas Day that year. One of my best memories in Amateur Radio is of the tears in the eyes of Bob's old mother, when she first heard his voice, coming in from Venezuela.

Remember the 1979 Mississauga, Ontario evacuation? All the Red Cross shelters were linked by Amateur Radio, together with the railroad spill site, and Red Cross headquarters. We gathered 250 strong for that operation, and I didn't go to work for three days.

When another train derailed in the same place, ten years later, we were ready to go back and do the whole thing again! I've passed messages from earthquake-stricken Nicaragua and Mexico, served as communications officer during ice storms in Nova Scotia, and helped with road racing organizations between Toronto and Ottawa, at night, in February.

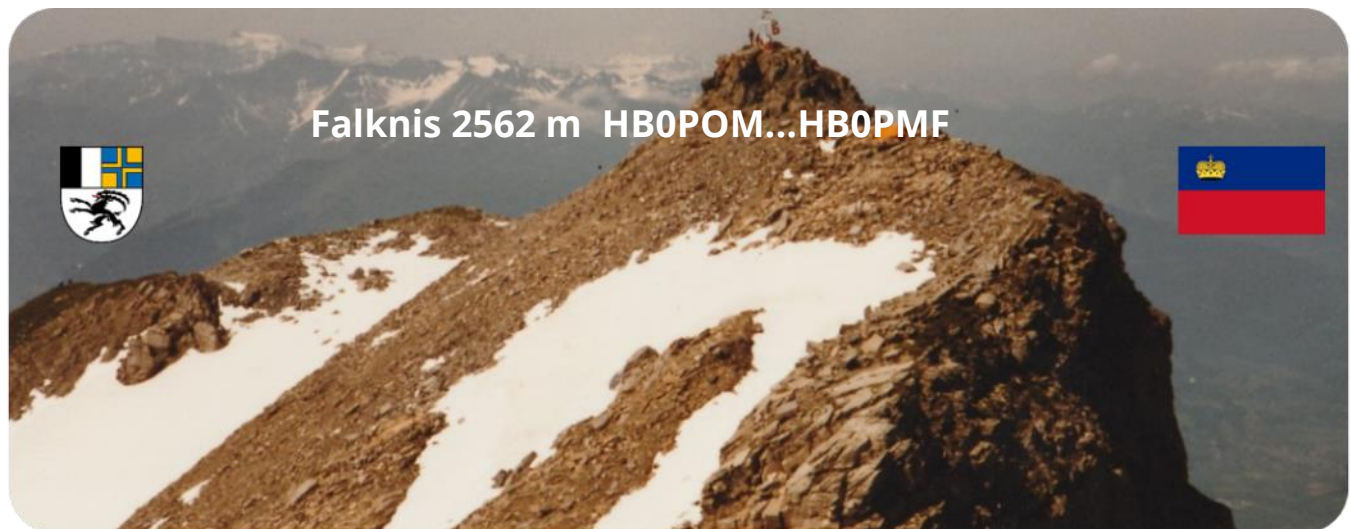
Well, you have to do something, to pass the time until the sailing season comes 'round again!

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## Flashback: QRP Summit on The Falknis

[Fred Eisel](#), HB9DAX (CWops #687)



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## Expedition from HB9POM-HB9PMF on 30.07-01.08.1981

### VHF UHF QRP



HB9PMF



Equipment



HB9POM

**The ascent to the summit FALKNIS took 4,5 hours with all our equipments**

Rig: 2x Icom 202, 2x Icom 402, Ant: 2x 10 El. 2m, 2x 19 El. 70 cm, Battery 2x 8 ampere

Summits on the SOTA 1981 by HB9 and HB0, SOTA was founded 03.2002 by UK. 3 nice wonderful days with ODX on 2m, over 1600 km, and 70 cm, over 900 km, all in QRP. Simply fantastic from Fred HB9POM and HB9PMF Hansjöerg. I'm since 1985 on short wave HB9DAX. Location: Falknis border HB9/HB0. The ant. showed with director to HB0 and reflector to HB9/GR. A QSO across 2 countrys. Greetings from Falknis 2562 m.



HB9POM



# 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>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>
3403	EI7LC	Eamo	3406	K5JR*	Mike	3409	W3RGA*	Pat
3404	F5PXP*	Jean Louis	3407	N5MI*	Mark			
3405	YO3HEX*	Dex	3408	K0XF*	Max			

\* Lifetime member

As of September 8, 2023:

**Need Sponsors:** WB8XAL, N3RA

**Invitations Extended:** R2BW, WB4AJL

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

**73, Trung W6TN** (CWops #1707) Membership Manager

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**SC**

Did your **CALL SIGN** change recently?

Did you move to a **NEW ADDRESS** or change your **NAME** ?

Congratulations!

Help us keep our **DATABASE UP-TO-DATE**

Click [HERE](#) to update your contact information.

# 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 August results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

<b>AA0YY</b>	KC4KNN KN4ZQ	KA2BKG KY5VAR	K3HWH	KB0HP	AE8EA	KI5EGH	WA9TGT
<b>E25JRP</b>	HS0ZNO E27DPX	HS3OY (3) HS4QKN	HS0DJU HS5TXB	HS3PHX E24ZST	E25HGQ (2) E29TGW	E20MWE	HS5AES
<b>GW2CWO</b>	PA2PIM DF2RQ	PA3BJK SV3RG	G4RJA OK1LV	OE5WLL YL2IR	OK2BZ IW2IRP	PI4CC YT7WK	MI0WWB PA/ZL2GVA
<b>JJ1FXF</b>	JA4IJ(2) JI7KNV JI1ORE	JR2FBM JA3EBL	VK2GBR 7N1OEX	JG1BGT(3) KE7LOY	JJ0SFV JK1MVC	JM4RRC JS2IMR	JQ3FRX JK1BET
<b>JM4AOA</b>	7N1OEX(2) JG1BGT(3) JJ1IZY JL1RAP(2) JR3MVF	BH4FRW JG3QBJ/3 JJ1VNV/6 JM4RRC(4) JS2LOG	JA0SFE JG7EDQ JK1AZX JN1FAO JS2OCY	JA7TJ JH1VIG JK1FYU JQ3FRX(3) WH6GVN	JF0IUN JH4WAW JK1MVC(3) JR1DTN	JF1JDG JI0XWS/0 JK1QYL JR1JWR	JF5XPJ(5) JJ0SFV(3) JL1NJM JR2FBM(5)
<b>JO1DGE</b>	JA6RDG JG1BGT (14) JL1RAP (8)	JA7KED JJG5POO/5 JM4RRC (3)	JE7RMT JH1USR JN1FAO	JE7WEB JI7KNV JO7GQF	JF5XPJ (4) JJ0SFV (2) JR2FBM (3)	JF7DJG JJ1VNV JS2OIA	JF9GDP JK1MVC KE7LOY (2)
<b>K6RB</b>	KD2FSH WB0ZBE GW0FZY	NN2X (2) WA2PAY K9PMM	WA4IAR WA2SWI WZ9Y	K4FN VA7HA KD0UN	W3WW KO9Z VE3GFN	KD5TXX WU6H N5CW	W1PID N9OL W4EDE
<b>K7NJ</b>	W2LVP PY2BOA KC3RYH	AJ6FN W2CW W9BZ	K2OHK WA6RSV	KG8ZQ NG7V	W0NV PY2EME	WA4JYX KD4DIW	AA4ET WD8IOL
<b>KV8Q</b>	KM4ZZ						
<b>N5OT</b>	W5OMR	OA4DX	N7ET/DU7	W4YAS	HA5MK		
<b>W5DT</b>	KG8DA	N9FGC	N3EMZ				
<b>W7ZDX</b>	K3EW	VE3KZ	A16QZ/P	KC9UPP	A15EZ	AA6GA	W4MCX
<b>W8OV</b>	KA1RVM	W1AW/4	KE0ZUW	KA1F	NS8V	K15PGL	K4NAX
<b>7N2XZB</b>	JR2FBM(3) JL1RAP	JQ3FRX(3) JK1MVC	JF5XPJ(2) 7N1OEX	JG1BGT(7) JM4RRC	JK1QYL JJ0SFV	JJ1VNV	JN1FAO

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## Giving Back Update

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

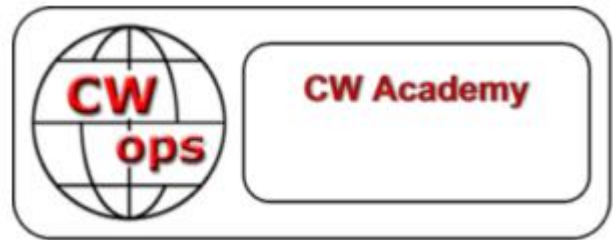
Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local											
October - April: 40m & 80m   May - September: 40m & 20m											
Frequencies: 14.035 - 14.039, 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539 MHz											
UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	EST UTC-4	CST UTC-5	MST UTC-6	PST UTC-7	Hawaii UTC-9
<b>MON</b>											
JO1DGE							W2XS	AAØYY			
<b>TUE</b>											
JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P		K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB									K6RB	
<b>WED</b>											
JM4AOA											
<b>THURS</b>											
JJ1VNV			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
<b>FRI</b>											
JR1WYW			SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N2GSL	AAØYY		K6RB	
<b>SAT</b>											
JJ1FXF											
JM4AOA											
<b>SUN</b>											
JJ1FXF							W5DT			K6RB	
JM4AOA											



# CW Academy

[Bob Carter, WR7Q](#) and [Roland Smith, K7OJL](#)

As many of you may recall, not too many years ago all the advisors had to get involved with the dreaded 'student chase.' This is where students would get assigned to an advisor, after which they were 'eventually' contacted and then the student told them they were no longer interested in taking the class. The advisor would have to come back to CWA



Admin and ask for another student and go through the same drill again. At that time, we were having about 40% drop-out rate in Beginner and somewhat less for each successive level.

We then developed an on-line registration system and email verification process that notified the students 45 days prior to the start of the new semester to see if they still wanted to take the class. Based on their response we were able to end up with a much more desirable pool of students. This dramatically dropped the 'student chase' issue and our drop-out rate is now less than 15%. These advisors can now choose to keep, drop and/or replace their students, which many times happens automatically the next day.

We also changed the registration system to allow more foreign students to participate in classes regardless of where they are in the world. The first iteration was based on 'time-zone' locations for the students and the advisors. That worked 'ok' but did not give us the flexibility and accuracy we needed. We then changed to using the UTC time, based on the location where the student would be taking the class. This has proven to work very well.

We also came to realize that we have been confusing some of the students by giving them a 'pseudo' advisor catalog prior to the actual semester catalog (45 days before the start of the semester). This catalog was created by looking at the last few semesters that the advisors were choosing for classes and then making a 'best guess' on what would happen in the future. Unfortunately, it didn't always work that way. Some advisors chose not to teach the next semester or at different levels or times. Consequently, the class the student signed up for may have disappeared, and the student didn't get what they wanted or nothing at all.

Additionally, one of the challenges we still had, we were not able to find out if the students could be more flexible in their days or times.

We have again updated this process and will be giving them better choices in the interim with more accurate selections when the new catalog comes out. The students will be able to choose between any and all of the selections.

Indicate your preferences. Multiple selections can be made.

Classes held on <b>Monday and Thursday</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mornings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Afternoons	<input type="checkbox"/> Evenings
Classes held on <b>Tuesdays and Fridays</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mornings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Afternoons	<input type="checkbox"/> Evenings
Classes held on <b>Sundays and Wednesdays</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mornings	<input type="checkbox"/> Afternoons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evenings
Classes held on <b>Sundays and Thursdays</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Mornings	<input type="checkbox"/> Afternoons	<input type="checkbox"/> Evenings
<input type="checkbox"/> Any and All of the Above		

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Then 45 days before the start of the next semester, we will send the 'verification' email to the student to not only indicate that they are still interested in a class but have them now go in and make selections based on what classes will actually exist. We will show them the selections they made previously to be used as a guide to help them in their decisions. They will also be able

to make any changes they desire, up to the date we make the class assignments (20 days before the start of the new semester). This will give us the ability to make better class replacements after the assignments based on the choices the students gave us when they registered.

The new registration system is now online and available for any students that are not currently in a class.

Local Time	UTC Time	Classes
0900 Tuesday, Friday	1600 Tuesday, Friday	1
1100 Monday, Thursday	1800 Monday, Thursday	3
1200 Monday, Thursday	1900 Monday, Thursday	2
1500 Monday, Thursday	2200 Monday, Thursday	1
1600 Monday, Thursday	2300 Monday, Thursday	2
1700 Monday, Thursday	0000 Tuesday, Friday	2
1800 Monday, Thursday	0100 Tuesday, Friday	3
1900 Monday, Thursday	0200 Tuesday, Friday	2
2000 Monday, Thursday	0300 Tuesday, Friday	1
Number of Intermediate classes: 17		

2023 Sep/Oct

Class Statistics

58 Advisors

73 Classes

33 Beginner    14 Fundamental    17 Intermediate    9 Advanced

623 Students Registered

536 Verified

87 did not verify, refused the class or dropped out

446 Assigned Students

192 Beginner    95 Fundamental    112 Intermediate    47 Advanced

8 Unassigned Students

7 Beginner    1 Fundamental

**73, Bob WR7Q** (CWops #1423)





# CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

In my last column, along with the numbers of reported claimed scores I also quoted some figures for average scores, for which I was quite rightly taken to task by Doug, KR2Q. The average scores were trivially easy to compute (divide the total number of QSOs by the number of claimed scores). However, they are not necessarily representative of a typical participant's score. This is because the distribution of claimed scores is heavily skewed, with many reported scores clustering at or just above the magic 10 QSOs level, and a long-drawn-out tail representing a small number of very high scores.

So, this time I will try to report a few hopefully more meaningful measures of individual score performance:

	# Scores	# QSOs	Mode	Q1	Median	Q3	Maximum
Total	38,774	2,283,942	10	23	45	81	298

The mode is the most frequently reported score: 10 QSOs! Evidently a lot of people are recording just enough QSOs to qualify for a participation point (10 QSOs in North America and Europe) and stopping there, perhaps because they cannot afford to take the time to rack up more QSOs.

The median is the middle score: half of the reported scores are above (or equal to) the median, and half are below (or equal to) the median. In other words, if you are able to stick around for long enough to make 45 QSOs, most of the time you will be right in the middle of the pack. The Q1 and Q3 columns are the first and third quartile scores (25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 75<sup>th</sup> percentile respectively).

The figures above are aggregated over all 140 CWTs in the first eight months of this year, and including participants from all over the world. What happens if we break the numbers out by continent? Here they are:

Continent	# Scores	# QSOs	Mode	Q1	Median	Q3	Maximum
NA	29,636	1,887,131	10	25	49	91	298
EU	8,421	372,708	20	20	38	61	244
OC	305	14,580	5	10	36	82	141
AS	334	8,777	2	4	10	27	151
SA	39	1,901	29	20	33	56	165
AF	38	1,845	43	24	43	52	179

The figures for continents other than NA and EU need to be interpreted carefully because of the small numbers of scores they represent. In the case of Asia, there are really two groups: 4X6GP, who is near enough to Europe to run up QSO counts that not totally out of line with those in Europe; and the rest. Many of our Asian participants, most notably those in Japan, are so far away

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from the rest of the CWT population that they have difficulty even reaching the qualification level of 5 QSOs, as can be seen from the Mode and Q1 figures. The Oceania data are dominated to a significant extent by scores from one or two stations (AH6KO and VK2GR). As for the figures for South America and Africa, they represent barely more than one reported score per week, and are also dominated by scores from individual stations (PY4XX and EA8OM respectively).

Kudos to the intrepid souls from all of these less well-represented areas for joining in despite in most cases being handicapped by their great distances from the majority of the CWT population!

For a different view on the data, let's break the numbers out by CWT session:

Session	# Scores	# QSOs	Mode	Q1	Median	Q3	Maximum
1300Z	13,139	769,003	20	23	44	81	295
1900Z	13,505	816,687	10	25	48	82	298
0300Z	8,972	585,015	10	25	52	95	279
0700Z	3,158	113,237	10	16	29	52	146

In the table above, the newest CWT session at 0700Z displays figures that are out of line with the other three sessions. This is likely due to the significantly lower participation levels, which are limiting the scores. In comparison, note that despite the somewhat lower participation at 0300Z compared to 1300Z and 1900Z, the typical scores do not appear to be any lower than in the other two sessions. In fact, as measured by the median and Q3 scores they seem to be somewhat higher.

I am in the process of rewriting the software I use to collect and report on CWT scores based on the 3830scores.com data. The first priority, of course, is on generating the lists of medal and certificate winners at the end of the year, as well as the toplist.txt file for a running view of the awards chase, but the data can also support other kinds of reporting. If this kind of analysis is of interest to the CWT community, I can work on getting my software to report figures like these automatically, instead of by exporting the raw data to a spreadsheet and manipulating it there as I did for this month's column. Is there any interest, or in other words, is it worth my while spending the time to develop this kind (or some other kind!) of reporting on an ongoing basis?

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

**73, Rich VE3KI** CWops #783)

SC



# CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)

## Monthly Update

During August, additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program increased to 236 participants. The QSO totals and rankings for the first week of September 2023 have the same familiar calls in the top six positions with **KR2Q** remaining in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 217 QSOs. The changes in the top ten rankings this month have **K7QA** moving into sixth place followed by **NA8V**, **N5TJ**, **KY4GS** and **N5ZO** in seventh through tenth place. The top ten this month are **KR2Q**, **AA3B**, **K3WW**, **N5RZ**, **KG9X**, **K7QA**, **NA8V**, **N5TJ**, **KY4GS** and **N5ZO**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 537 QSOs.

With the addition of **KG9X** and **RM2D** the number of members who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities grew to **70**. The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **200** this month with the addition of **K4PQC**, **KO4VW**, **KW7Q**, **NJ8J**, **RM2D** and **WB5BKL**. 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 September 5, 2023, we have 236 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](mailto:cwopscam@w0tg.com).

Online listing of the current [Top 100](#) for all award categories.

Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ	Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ
1	KR2Q	1777	8608	172	50	59	37	13	OM2VL	1195	6700	101	50	44	33
2	AA3B	1560	13291	132	50	49	38	14	K1VUT	1136	5884	81	50	41	26
3	K3WW	1490	10524	135	50	50	38	15	AA2IL	1126	3197	73	50	29	27
4	N5RZ	1424	9256	129	50	47	37	16	K3WJV	1110	7628	117	50	49	32
5	KG9X	1353	6684	100	50	43	31	17	K9WX	1106	5645	110	50	44	33
6	K7QA	1309	6615	90	50	39	31	18	W1RM	1095	8868	219	50	62	38
7	NA8V	1306	8515	113	50	47	35	19	W0UO	1078	4518	73	50	39	26
8	N5TJ	1254	4529	87	50	43	31	20	DL6KVA	1059	7507	195	50	66	38
9	KY4GS	1249	3405	71	50	35	23	21	K1DJ	1055	5268	114	50	46	31
10	N5ZO	1240	9056	114	50	47	35	22	K3JT	1039	6018	104	50	46	31
11	KC7V	1232	6281	94	50	38	33	23	K4WW	1036	5546	85	50	39	29
12	N7US	1209	6596	115	50	44	34	24	N5AW	1024	6461	104	50	48	34

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Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ	Rank	Call	ACA	CMA	DX	WAS	WAE	WAZ
25	VK2GR	1020	3124	81	50	40	31	63	N1DC	725	5212	91	50	40	26
26	VE3TM	1019	4350	97	50	46	29	64	KY0Q	723	3309	68	50	31	28
27	WT9U	1007	6085	103	50	41	30	65	KM4FO	713	3288	48	50	19	18
28	AA5JF	1006	4562	98	50	44	31	66	N2UU	712	5532	112	50	46	31
29	K3QP	1002	3578	82	50	40	26	67	K3PP	711	5678	109	50	45	31
30	KO4VW	1001	2904	64	50	34	24	68	SM0HEV	705	2923	116	50	50	35
31	K6NR	990	5250	71	50	35	29	69	W4WF	703	5061	97	50	44	32
32	NJ3K	975	4074	80	50	41	28	70	NA4J	701	3890	78	50	37	24
33	N5KD	965	3116	94	50	43	33	71	N2EIM	692	915	46	48	30	18
34	WS7L	958	3579	67	50	30	28	72	WU6P	688	2274	43	50	23	19
35	CO8NMN	956	4816	77	50	36	25	73	AF4T	683	3270	74	50	37	28
35	WN7S	956	4825	81	50	39	27	74	KC4WQ	679	3646	62	50	29	25
36	W8FN	948	4608	76	50	38	24	75	VE3KIU	676	1873	42	49	28	18
37	WT3K	918	4842	87	50	42	28	76	EA3FZT	664	2746	82	50	45	30
38	VE3KI	911	7630	143	50	53	37	77	K1RF	662	1621	43	50	26	15
39	K0WA	908	3089	48	50	24	19	78	VE3MV	660	3926	89	50	41	27
40	KW7Q	898	2441	77	50	35	30	79	K5VG	655	1260	48	47	27	16
41	KK0U	881	2980	60	50	32	23	80	OK1RR	651	4164	150	50	52	38
41	SM6CUK	881	5247	160	50	57	38	81	W2CDO	642	3046	68	50	38	24
41	W0VX	881	6228	131	50	46	37	82	W0GAS	641	2474	49	50	22	22
42	WA4JUK	880	4257	87	50	42	27	83	M0RYB	637	2709	88	49	47	29
43	OZ3SM	842	3447	108	49	51	36	84	VE7KW	631	2199	37	50	18	19
44	KT5V	840	3727	83	50	33	29	84	W1UU	631	4621	115	50	41	33
45	DF7TV	835	3371	111	50	50	34	85	W3WHK	612	3337	76	50	37	21
46	F5SGI	834	2810	106	50	52	33	86	W1AJT	610	4184	98	50	45	33
47	KV8Q	829	3257	70	50	35	23	87	K0TC	607	3356	64	50	29	22
47	KW1X	829	1548	45	50	28	15	87	W0TG	607	3434	70	50	31	26
48	EA6BF	826	2734	82	50	43	30	88	DJ5CW	601	3488	104	48	54	35
49	W4CMG	817	2392	49	50	24	20	89	N8BJQ	595	7630	133	50	48	39
50	K1SM	814	4518	133	50	46	37	90	W8EWH	589	1393	45	50	24	21
50	N3CKI	814	2579	57	50	31	18	91	K4GM	587	4132	85	50	37	28
51	N9UNX	813	1764	29	50	16	12	92	G4PVM	578	3059	108	50	50	34
52	K3ZA	809	2858	55	50	34	21	93	NJ8J	571	2531	54	50	27	18
53	W9ILY	798	6504	136	50	45	37	94	HB9ARF	570	2924	89	48	47	28
54	9A1AA	789	4722	127	49	52	38	94	W2VM	570	2609	64	50	33	20
54	N4CWZ	789	3611	63	50	34	23	95	EA4OR	569	3101	90	50	47	31
55	N5XE	783	3907	82	50	37	31	96	F6HKA	558	7468	202	50	58	38
56	K4PQC	770	1696	46	50	24	20	97	G3LHJ	556	1567	64	44	41	20
57	AC6ZM	768	4550	70	50	38	25	97	W9CF	556	1906	30	50	13	17
58	K8JQ	764	5405	70	50	35	23	98	N1EN	548	3642	129	50	47	35
59	W6AYC	759	3953	59	50	27	26	98	VE3NRT	548	2280	63	50	35	24
60	AF5J	757	3088	64	50	26	24	99	K3ZGA	529	2408	61	50	33	19
61	N4FP	750	3095	61	50	33	20	99	KT4XN	529	2583	68	50	29	21
62	K4TZ	742	3016	43	50	20	16	100	KB4DE	527	1992	54	50	29	18

**73, Bill WØTG** (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards



# QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Enzo, MØKTZ](#)

I am sure you know that the QTX programme bestows awards and achievement medallions to its participants, in recognition of their commitment in keeping the bands alive with quality discussions and friendly QSOs. Certificates are available upon reaching 100, 500, or 1000 QTX QSOs in a lifetime, while Annual Achievements Medallions are available to members who score 200 (Bronze), 300 (Silver), or 400 (Gold) QTX points in a year. As you can see from the results shown at the end of this column, several QTX participants have already earned sufficient points to request a medallion, and I am sure that many more will get there by the end of the year. More detail about the procedure of requesting those achievements awards will be posted here before the end of the year.

The great news in this direction is that we have decided to introduce a similar award scheme for our members who are active on Mini QTX as well, and we are currently setting up the details for that. I believe this is an important step forward, as it recognizes the ability and commitment of many members who, for several reasons, cannot always afford to pack many QTX QSOs in a month, but who are nevertheless very active on the bands with conversational CW in intermediate-length QSOs. So stay and watch this space.

I have little to report on my side, except for the fact that I spent a couple of weeks of holiday + work in Italy. You would suppose that being on holiday means having more time for radio, but that is not always the case HI. Nevertheless, I have managed to keep alive my personal streak of "one CW QRP QSO a day" (which has been running since January 2022) and had some very pleasant ragchewing sessions, including a couple of longer QSOs with Robin I/G4DNP (who was also in Italy on vacation), and with several Italian friends, including Fabio IKØIXI, Vlado IUØHMB, Luigi IZ8VKW and Sal IK1OJM/7. All good fun!

This month we welcome Eamo EI7LC in our ragchewing family. Eamo is a new CWops member (#3403) and the initiator of the [Nervous Novices CW Net](#), a weekly initiative aiming at providing a welcome place to CW operators of all abilities, with a special focus on beginners and newcomers. The rule of the Net is the usual "QRS to the slowest operator", which stresses the fact that conversational CW must be a pleasant and relaxing activity.

Please read through our soapbox comments and discover what our fellow ragchewers have been up to this summer. Get on the air, have fun, and CW Forever.

72/73 de Enzo MØKTZ (CWops #3206)

**KG5SSB:** I had four Marathon QSO's this month and a nice QTX with a station in England.

**K8UDH:** I didn't have a lot of ragchew QSOs in August but I thoroughly enjoyed them all.

**AJ1DM:** Another slow month, but another in which I was happy to have a mini-qtx with a former CWA student - our first QSO. 73 de John AJ1DM

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**WA4IAR (July 2023):** Lots of interesting QSOs. I guess the most interesting is with guys that have the same interests as I do like flying and riding motorcycles.

**W8OV:** Both QTX QSOs were just over 30 mins. and were with operators working on improving their CW speed and operation.

**AF4PX:** Calling CQ is like a box of chocolates, ya never know what you're gonna get! FB rag-chew 30m DF7TV.

**VE3WH:** I was very fortunate to find a rare WWII R.C.A.F. bug this month. Many QSOs turned into QTX s with conversations about key collections. It really is not that hard to spark a conversation past the weather and what rig you are using. We all have some kind of project on the go that needs to be told.

**YL3JD:** PG4I Jo thanks for intrepid-2-intrepid qso.

**PG4I:** First QSO's made with a brand new Begali Intrepid bug. This key is great for rag chewing. 2 QTX contacts worth mentioning: SV8ANW, just a few days after I got my Intrepid. He makes video recordings of his QSO's, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh5HUmSaF3o> and a 20 minute 2-way Intrepid QSO on 40 meters with Ignacio EA4OR, also a CWOPS member.

**WS1L:** It's been a busy month with lots of QTX for me. The bands are definitely showing signs of improvement as we near the equinox.

**KR2Q:** August turned out to be a busy month for QTX and mQTX. 33% of my total QTXs and 36% of my mQTX, in just one month. Of course, I only started keeping track in April, 2023, but still, much more, always enjoyable, ragchews in August.

**GW0ETF:** A good 2 weeks this month taken up with a mega family invasion!

**N7HCN:** Was QRT for 2 weeks for trip to So. California for daughter's wedding. Sure great to be back on the air, even some QTX into EU on 20m after dark.

**AA0YY:** worked NN2X Tom, who's son is a gifted/genius. At age 13 he is going to college and has a huge write up on QRZ. Very proud papa as he should be.

**WB4IT:** Not much time for radio this month, but still got in a few.

**F5IYJ:** Just bought from a friend a nice semi-automatic Lionel key type J-36 from the 1940's and still working like a charm. Rag-chewing with this key is a rare pleasure.

**KG5IEE:** It was hot in Texas last month, so spent a good amount of time indoors on the air in the air conditioning. Called CQ more and got a lot more ragchews. Very enjoyable QSOs.

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**WA4IAR:** Was kind of busy in August out of town for a couple trips but did manage some radio time.

**W3WHK:** Nice QSOs with DJ7PW(which allowed me to practice my German), with Vic K9UIY (always fun), and with K3PI(we found we had music in common).

**WT9Q:** There is a new ham in my county and he wants to get better at cw so we have been meeting on the air 2x per week

**N9EEE:** the S9+ buzzsaw from my uncooperative neighbors at the lake home continued across all bands this Summer. Glad to now be back home - though I had to install a new feedline thanks to an aggressive landscaper (man vs squirrel).

**73, Enzo MØKTZ** (CWops # 3206)

### Awards and Medals for 2023

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs



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### QTX for August 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>
WS1L	65	KB6NU	23	W9EBE	7	WT9Q	3
WA4IAR	58	AA0YY	22	K5YQF	7	W3WHK	3
VE3WH	46	KG5IEE	18	M0KTZ	6	W8OV	2
KY4GS	35	ND4K	13	AJ1DM	6	PG4I	2
F5IJ	35	KG5SSB	12	N1ZX	4	K5KXJ	2
K9OZ	31	WB4IT	9	K8UDH	4	AF4PX	2
KR2Q	26	N7HCN	9	DF7TV	4		

### MQTX for August 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	67	KR2Q	20	W9EBE	8	WB4IT	3
WS1L	38	KG5SSB	19	SV2BBK	8	W8OV	3
WA4IAR	37	AF4PX	18	GW0ETF	7	K8UDH	3
KG5IEE	34	VE3WH	14	WT9Q	5	N7HCN	1
AA0YY	28	N1ZX	14	ND4K	5		
M0KTZ	24	DF7TV	13	K5YQF	5		
YL3JD	23	PG4I	11	AJ1DM	4		

### QTX Totals for 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	403	ND4K	118	W9EBE	37	NE0S	10
WS1L	311	K5YQF	94	EI7LC	31	GW0ETF	10
KY4GS	284	KG5IEE	89	KF6NCX	29	W7JRD	9
K9OZ	274	M0KTZ	84	KK6CN	22	N1ZX	8
KB6NU	194	KR2Q	79	W0GAS	20	YL3JD	7
WB4IT	191	AJ1DM	68	K5KXJ	19	WT9Q	6
KC0VKN	187	N2DA	61	PG4I	16	AB4PP	4
WA4IAR	181	K0ALT	57	K4AHO	15	WA9ZZ	3
F5IJ	181	KG5SSB	52	WA2USA	14	SV2BBK	2
N5IR	144	K8UDH	51	W8OV	14	N0BM	2
AA0YY	142	N9EEE	48	DF7TV	14	AF4PX	2
N7HCN	133	K6DGW	42	W3WHK	11	AB7MP	1

### MQTX Totals for 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	360	KG5SSB	100	AF4PX	30	KK6CN	9
M0KTZ	309	PG4I	78	N7HCN	26	N9EEE	6
AA0YY	207	SV2BBK	75	K8UDH	24	WT9Q	5
EI7LC	170	W9EBE	64	KF6NCX	21	W3WHK	5
KG5IEE	169	ND4K	64	SV1DAY	20	K4AHO	5
VE3WH	165	KR2Q	55	N1ZX	18	G3WZD	4
WB4IT	161	GW0ETF	49	W8OV	17	W7JRD	2
WA4IAR	151	DF7TV	41	K6DGW	17	NE0S	2
YL3JD	137	AJ1DM	39	AB7MP	13	K5KXJ	2
WS1L	130	K5YQF	32	W0GAS	12	N0BM	1



# My Story: New Member Biographies

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

## Eamo Gannon, EI7LC #3403

First off, thanks to Theo PA3HEN for nominating me, along with Rafal EI6LA, Danny MØSDB and Megan EI5LA, aka Mach 1 Megan for sponsoring my membership in CWops.

I had learned a little Morse during my time with Scouts, several hundred years ago, but never really progressed beyond spamming "ditditdit dahdahdah ditditdit" on kid's handi-talkie sets. The interest was reawakened in 2021, however, when I found myself at home recuperating from illness and climbing the walls with boredom. I ventured down a YouTube rabbit hole on the topic of Morse code and the next thing was I found myself downloading Morse apps to my phone.



I soon realised that Morse code and amateur radio go hand in hand, and thus opened up another rabbit hole (I really need to do something about those rabbits). I joined the National Short Wave Listeners Club here in EI-land and enrolled in one of their online HAREC courses. I passed my Morse test in April of 2022 (it's no-longer a mandatory requirement but here in EI it does grant a 2-letter call sign suffix) and went on to get my Class 1 ticket in July of 2022.

In January of 2023 I took an Intermediate CWA class under the tutelage of Bob WR7Q, and while I'm not a contester, I love to chew the rag in CW. I also run a QRS net on Wednesday evenings called "The Nervous Novices CW Net", aimed at getting (you've guessed it) nervous beginners and those still finding their CW chops to get on the air and make QSOs in a friendly environment. In the short time I've been a licensed amateur, I've fallen in love with this hobby, and in particular this wonderful mode of communication, so it's mainly for selfish reasons I'd love to see more people get into CW, as it means more people to QSO with. As well as that, net procedure in any mode is an area of radio that interests me greatly.

Having two small boys, 7 and 5 years old means I don't get to spend as much time between headphones as I'd like (let's be honest here though, who of us really does get as much time on the key as we'd really like), but I'm blessed with a very patient XYL named Lorraine who really doesn't understand this hobby but still sticks around.

Outside of radio, my other hobbies include sailing, (I keep a Hurley 22, a 22-ft fin-keeler which

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really hasn't seen much salt-water since the kids arrived), gardening and choral/harmony singing and for my bread-and-butter I work in healthcare.

Thanks again for accepting me as a member of CWops. I hope to work many of you down log.

### **Rick Niswander, K7GM #3402**

Well, after a ham lifetime of being a CW guy I finally got my act together and joined the CWops family. Better late than never and I am looking forward to the ride.

I was originally licensed in Michigan as WN8VRB in 1967. Passed my General and later Extra at the FCC office in downtown Detroit. After basically flunking out of my freshman year at Michigan State (who knew that going to class was important?) I moved to Newington to work at the League as a DXCC assistant and then contest manager in the early 1970s. WA1PID then. Went back to school at Idaho State and lived in the basement of K7NHV on the top of a 6000-foot mountain. WA7WXY then. Got K7GM at the start of incentive licensing. Graduated with an accounting degree, moved to Arizona, took and passed the CPA exam, and got married all in a 5-day span.



I was very active in contesting and DXing, 90% CW, from about 1971 to 1994 with lots and lots of top 10s in CD Party's (remember those?), SS, CQWW, and ARRL DX, in particular. Then work got in the way and I was inactive for about 15 years other than a few single ops and multi-ops at N4AF. About 5 years ago, I found Remote Ham Radio and started to spend more time on the radio again. We live in a highly restricted neighborhood and remote is my only option, unfortunately.

Professionally, I have been a CPA for over 40 years and have been very active in volunteer roles at the AICPA including as a Board member and currently the Treasurer of the AICPA Foundation. At the beginning of my career, I worked at Deloitte and at a large private real estate company in Phoenix. In 1990 I chucked it all and got an accounting PhD at Texas A&M which led to my first and only academic posting at East Carolina University, a 28,000-student school in Greenville NC that is part of the UNC System. I started as a faculty member, became dean of the College of Business for about 6 years, and then the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (sort of like a combo CFO plus COO for non-academic operations) for almost 7 years. I retired in August 2022.

In addition to my AICPA volunteer work, I was the ARRL Treasurer for 10 years, stepping down in May 2022.

Retirement is wonderful. Right now my wife and I are in the final weeks of living a full year in

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Australia. The picture is my K3/0 remote setup in a Bondi Junction apartment with 16th floor stunning views of Sydney and the harbor, bridge, and opera house. By the time you read this, we will have moved over to New Zealand for another 9 months. If you have never been to either country, I can assure you that it is an extraordinary experience. If you decide to go, get in touch for ideas as we have been to both countries 4 or 5 times and have it pretty well scoped out. When here (and when home in Greenville), I use RHR back to stations in New York and Maine.

### **GABRIEL "DEX" TUDORAN, YO3HEX(YP3X) #3405**

My first connection with ham radio was back in 1986, or so. I was part of a public club YO9KPP. Because I didn't like CW at all I was not able to get my license and I've abandoned the whole thing.

Then life happened. I left my hometown to attend university and graduated with a degree in computer science, got married and had my first son. After that I've decided to give it one more try and I've taken the exam in 2021 (it was full blown pandemic time and I had to wait quite some time to be able to attend).



And that was it. I was forever hooked. My initial setup was ICOM 7300 and a Hustler 4BTV vertical antenna with which I've managed to perform my first DXCC in SSB. Took me one night to decide that I was going to give CW one more try and I've started from scratch. Took me 6 months to go from 0 to 35 wpm by having at least a total of 3 hours training divided in couple of smaller session - I was on the bus, my headphones were on, I was on the plane, well headphones one - anyway you get the idea and I was forever sold to CW and continued my training in the same manner until today. And so I was able to reach 55-60 wpm in contest mode (yes I know that is useless but for me was a personal challenge).

Now because of my sudden love for CW I was able to earn DXCC for SSB, MIX, CW and single bands for 20m and 15m (at the moment working on my 10m and 40m DXCC) - more than that I've started to participate in almost every medium / big contest and I was able to get some decent results for a low power station. But the story does not stop here - I've started to document myself about SO2R and later about SO3R and using my modest antennas (only verticals because of my QTH limitations) I've designed and built myself a low power SO2R station (yes the SO2R controller is designed and built by yours truly) with which I was able to boost my scores quite a lot in CW competitions. For more than one year now I've been operating almost exclusively CW (there are some local nets on which I'm attending on SSB during evenings on 80m band).

Right now I'm running my station from our flat that is composed of: 2 x Icom 7300, 2 x Filtermax III bandpass filters , 1 x SO2R interface (YO3HEX personal design), 1 x VA6AM Low power triplexer (20 15 10), 1 x Antenna Genius 2x8 from 4O3A, 2 x RSP1A SDRs which are used for CW Skim-

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mers to populate my bandmaps during contests, 1 x 12m multiband vertical antenna, 1 x Hustler 4BTV and 1 x Hexbeam with Yaesu G450CDC rotor

As for my personal life, I'm married and I have two sons 5 years and 8 months; my wife is also an electrical engineer graduate. I'm working as a Biometric System Architect at THALES designing various biometric identification systems.

Other than my radio hobby, well there are quite some other things like rock climbing, dirt bikes and generally speaking anything that involves adrenaline and risky situations (I call it calculated risks).

See you all on CWT and on the bands!

### **Mark Ingram, N5MI #3407**

I live in Odessa, Texas, about half-way between El Paso and Fort Worth on I-20. I have lived in Odessa for 48 years and worked in the Oil Industry since 1973. I have a son in Portland, Oregon (US Navy retired), and two daughters, both of Odessa, 4 grandsons, and 2 granddaughters. Oldest grandson is with the Odessa Fire Dept. My wife, Tamera and I have been married for 20 years. I retired from an independent oil company, Endeavor Energy Resources, in the gas measurement dept. in April 2021.



In 1980 I went to work for Kerr McGee Corp. Oil & Gas Div. where I met Joe Melton KB5MM. Listening to Joe, I became very interested in ham radio, so in the fall of 1982, I attended Novice classes that were under the direction of Joe, a couple of other Hams, and "Tune In The World With Ham Radio." Joe was an excellent Elmer. I passed the Novice exam and 5 wpm, and got my license KA5PVS in January 1983. I had already bought a MFJ-422-X keyer and Bencher BY-1 paddles combination set, and had been practicing sending CW when I got my first radio, a Kenwood TS-530S. I built some half wave inverted vees and don't remember when my first contact was, but it was on 40 meters with a Louisiana station. How thrilling! As I made more and more contacts, I set my sights on WAS with a CW endorsement which I got in 1986. I got first place in North Texas in the 1984 Novice Roundup. I upgraded to General in 1986 and changed my call to N5JAU. In 1990 I upgraded to Advanced and got KI5ER. In 1995 I upgraded to Extra (w/20 wpm), but kept KI5ER (didn't want a 2x2 "A" call). In 1996 I had my Vanity Application filled out, (with only 3 choices) waiting for the day to mail it in. In November I got my new license in the mail box with N5MI on it!

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I have dabbled in SSTV, Feld Hell, and a few other digital modes including one RTTY DX QSO with VP6D Ducie Island in 2018. After being away from ham radio for 15 years (2000 - 2015), I bought a new Yaesu FTDX-1200 and became interested in FT8, which was very addicting to me and received WAS FT8 and FT4, and later DXCC Digital. I am presently at 254 Mixed, 217 Digital, 133 CW, and 38 SSB.

In 2008 I took some instructions from a friend who is a member of the "Knife Makers Guild". Since then I have made 140 fixed blade knives. In my photo I am holding a 12 inch "Bowie" knife that I made. The handle is "Hippo" ivory given to me from another local ham.

Many thanks to Hank W6SX for his nomination, and to the 12 others who sponsored me.

### **Max Floyd, K0XF #3408**

I was first licensed in March 1971 at the age of 15 as WN4UKA. Early on, my major interests in ham radio became DXing and contesting. I quickly progressed to General as WB4UKA and joined the Potomac Valley Radio Club. I met lots of great hams in the PVRC and became the 20m operator at the W4BVV contest station. Soon I was off to college at the Virginia Military Institute and operated VMI radio station W4COP. I then graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and spent a short stint in the US Army Signal Corps.



I was fascinated with various countries and cultures at an early age and my Dad said that I told him many times, even before I was 10, that I wanted to travel and live in another country. Working DX improved my geography and opened up the world to me. I thought it was so cool to contact Russian hams during the 70s and 80s along with many others around the world! I moved to the Houston area (KE5JA) and spent the next 25 years as a Senior Electrical Design Engineer for an E&C company working mainly for major oil & chemical companies. When the price of oil shot up to \$150 / barrel, I jumped at the opportunity to move over to a major international oil company. This finally gave me a good chance for international travel.

It wasn't long before I volunteered for an assignment in Sakhalin Island, Russia. Before I left, I could not find any info about getting licensed in Russia, so I just brought along a FLEX 5000 SDR radio to SWL. Once in Russia, I immediately contacted Yuri, RM0F (then RA0FU) who jumped at the chance to help me and within two weeks, I was licensed as R0/KE5JA. This later changed to RA/KE5JA to my dismay when I renewed my license. How confusing trying to tell hams where I was located. It did not take long before I met Igor, RU0FM (now RT0F), and was invited to be an operator at his RT0F super contest station. I was in heaven. I also had a small station at my oil company compound because outdoor antennas were not allowed (I secretly put up an OCF dipole) until my last year when I finally received permission to put up a small tower and hex beam.

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I had a great five years in Russia and was always welcomed and very well accepted by all locals and Sakhalin hams.

I next volunteered for an assignment in Saudi Arabia. It seemed I always wanted to go to the "hardship" locations that none of my colleagues were interested in. My company gave me a big house in Bahrain where my wife stayed as I worked for 5 days / week in Jubail, Saudi Arabia and spent the weekends & holidays in Bahrain. It took me about six months to get my 7Z1JA license in Saudi Arabia and nine months to get my A93JA license in Bahrain. What a blast having two stations at the same time and operating from both countries! My best station was in Bahrain and I still hold the all-time contest records for every contest and category I entered from Bahrain. There were even several contests where I worked the first day from A93JA and next from 7Z1JA. I was on the air for a little over two years and made over 74,000 QSO's from Bahrain and 29,000 from Saudi Arabia, mostly CW.

My last assignment was in Calgary, Alberta, Canada where I was the Head Electrical and HVAC engineer for the multi-billion dollar LNG Canada Project. I only had a small condo station so I became a regular operator at the super VE6SV contest station. I am now retired in Colorado as KØXF and enjoy hiking and local craft beers.

I feel very fortunate to have lived and operated in several excellent DX countries and to have visited 68 countries in my travels. Ham radio really opened up my horizons and if possible, I am still interested in joining a DXpedition or two. I mainly operate CW and only go to SSB for a rare DX station and/or SSB contest.

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