

# Solid Copy



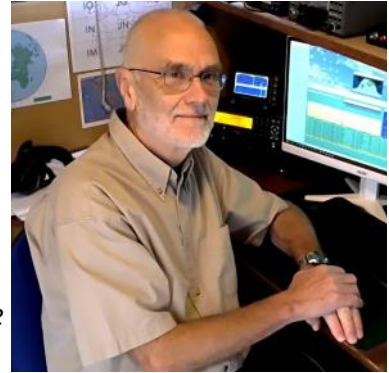
The CW Operators Club Newsletter  
July 2024 — Issue 174

## President's Message



Creativity abounds at Field Day such as operating from within a cargo container. Pg 20.

The 'About CWops' page on our website begins by stating that CWops is different to other CW clubs because "it advances the state of the art of operating across the full spectrum of CW



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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, [GWØETF](#)  
Vice President: John Glover, [W2QL](#)  
Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3IT](#)  
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)  
Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)  
Director: Raoul Coetzee, [ZS1C](#)  
Director: James Brooks, [9V1YC](#)  
Director: Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)  
Director: Barry Simpson, [VK2BJ](#)  
Director: Riki Kline, [K7NJ](#)  
Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)  
WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)  
Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEF](#)

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activities.” More on the ‘full spectrum’ later but what does this somewhat generalised statement mean in practice?

Well, our membership criteria include a requirement that potential new members can demonstrate that they have advanced their CW ‘competency’ to a level where they can comfortably communicate with Morse code at no less than 25 words per minute. This is explicit and well understood but to me it leaves the rest of that statement open to interpretation. I know in my own mind how it should be interpreted and I’m happy that the membership in general seems to concur with my own view. Here I’m talking about the wide range of CW operating *standards* in evidence across the bands; this involves both technique and how we show consideration to other users. I feel overall CWops members do a fine job at showing how it should be done and I’m sure the CW Academy is deserving of a degree of praise on that front. I’m proud that in many quarters CWops is looked on as a role model and paragon of good CW operating. We seem to attract a good calibre of operator beyond and above the 25 wpm speed requirement!

Recently there was a thread on our Listserv which caused me to think we should add something else to our ‘*state of the art of operating*’ list. The topic was contesting (again ;-)) and the discussion wandered somewhat to the the situation of a high power station with a state of the art receiver fitted with narrow brick wall DSP filters being able to squeeze into the tiniest of gaps of a crowded band and then showering his/her neighbours with clicks and IMD products. It seems generally accepted these days that, amongst the major manufacturers, advances in receiver technology haven’t been mirrored on the transmit side. Scott K9MA wrote this on our reflector recently - “*I think it is every contester's responsibility to make SURE your signal is clean. Do not just assume that, because your radio is new and cost a lot of money, that it must be clean. You have to actually test it*” And it doesn’t just apply to contesting! We probably all know infamous instances of expensive new radios being released with built in CW key clicks and overshoot etc and I experienced this very thing myself recently. We all know how to check our transmissions so hopefully CWops can set an example with signal quality too however you play your CW.

Returning to that phrase “*full spectrum of CW activities*” the sentence continues with the words “*early introduction, rag chewing, contesting, DXing, and awards chasing.*” So to emphasise, CWops encompasses all styles of CW operating without fear or favour. When our Listserv seemingly becomes taken over by contesting discussions it’s because contesters have something interesting to say which I, as a contester of sorts, generally find interesting and instructive. But this forum (main@cwops.groups.io) is for all members who have anything relevant and interesting to say about CW and the club; it can also serve as a useful channel for passing club information without the wait for the monthly newsletter. The last figures I’ve seen indicate about 20-25% of our membership are not subscribed to the Listserv. If you’re one of these, subscribing is easy by emailing main+subscribe@cwops.groups.io. Please join if you are able and enjoy the interesting chatter and avoid missing any club notices. And there are choices in how you read the postings – you can receive individual messages in an email, a daily email containing that day’s messages as a digest or even avoid anything filling your inbox completely by reading them on the web page at your leisure and a time of your choosing.

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



## Editor's Note: Filling These Pages

At the recent CWops dinner at Hamvention, *Solid Copy* was acknowledged as a high-quality newsletter for our club among peers in the hobby. My face flushed a bit because as custodian it was heartwarming to hear the applause and words of support. We have also received many favorable comments from other newsletter editors too, and you, our readers. Thank you. While it takes many hours to write articles and prepare, edit, and layout the publication from the myriad sources and formats received, it's gratifying to know that work is appreciated when we receive your feedback and comments. *Solid Copy* has evolved over the years thanks to the three very fine editors before me who each raised the bar of excellence with this publication. I think they would agree with me that the content of *Solid Copy* would be fairly "skinny" without the contributions of our monthly columnists and those of you who love to share experiences in the form of an article or pictorial. We rely on your expertise and insights gained from practice and experimentation. We count on you sharing your technical prowess and skill. We look forward to your operating experiences in the field or in the shack. And of course, we love to hear what's new in your ham radio life.

News And Notes is the conduit within *Solid Copy* where we learn about each other's ham shack improvements, travels, celebrations, moves, awards, call sign changes, breakthroughs, achievements, happy times, and sad times. Recently, that column has gotten a bit light in content and perhaps it's because it's overlooked in favor of the Groups.io reflector. Or maybe it's because the title of the column sounds too corporate. Duncan and I assure you this is the place for personal news and notes, not club announcements and perhaps changing the name slightly will make you feel more welcome submitting items. So, we came up with...Ops News and Notes. Not an earth-shattering change but it puts the focus on you and what you're up to. We'll accept your personal item of interest, along with an image if appropriate, at any time. Just know that the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month is the cut-off for that month's newsletter. Send them to [NewsAndNotes@cwops.org](mailto:NewsAndNotes@cwops.org).

And of course, our readers appreciate the variety of articles appearing in these pages each month. From swapfests to propagation to remote operating to contesting to DXing to historical perspectives to portable operations to "the better mousetrap," *Solid Copy* accepts articles that accentuate life in the world of Morse code via amateur radio. Feel free to submit your article to [SolidCopy@cwops.org](mailto:SolidCopy@cwops.org) at any time. Just know that if we receive it by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, there is a strong likelihood it will appear in that month's issue.

Thank you for reading *Solid Copy* and passing along your comments.

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

**Editor, *Solid Copy*** ([SolidCopy@cwops.org](mailto:SolidCopy@cwops.org))



# How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

Gary Mikitin, AF8A, CWops #2092



The photo was taken in mid-1976, a little more than a year before I was first licensed. Age: 13, shown with my first Heathkit, an SW-717 shortwave receiver I assembled myself. I spent many hours SWLing in those days, and also used that rig to copy W1AW code practice in preparation for my Novice exam (eventually becoming WD8MGP).

The Heathkit has been gathering dust ever since I obtained my Novice rig, a Drake TR4Cw, in June of 1977. I still own the SW-717. It is in the shack closet. Once in a while I get a romantic notion about repairing it (I believe the power supply cap has failed), but then something else distracts me.

So now it's your turn, do you have a picture to share accompanied by a brief paragraph description, of your early days in radio, experimenting, exploring or just "being a ham".

Please send it to [Ian Capon](#).

**73, Ian GWØKRL** (CWops #2896)

# Ops News and Notes

## Duncan (Mac) Fiskén, G3WZD

We regret to report that the following members have become Silent Keys:

**Cliff Ahrens, KØCA #903 on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

**Bob Ansell, K1WGM #2257 on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2024**

Condolence cards have been sent on behalf of CWops.

*Welcome to another News and Notes, albeit a slightly thin mailbag this month, and my usual thanks for the contributions. Do keep the submissions coming and there's no need to wait until the monthly call for articles or reminder (thank you to those who sent items early) Deadline for the next issue is 1<sup>st</sup> August.*

*Errata: Apologies to Allen, N2KW, for the error in his membership number in the June issue. Allen's membership number should, of course, have been shown as #421. N&N Editor read the wrong line in the Members Roster!*

This started with a post on the Groups.io reflector from WN4AFP #1208 with Dave sharing that this year marks 49 years as a licenced ham. That post sparked an interesting thread with several members noting their time since first becoming licenced, which I felt also warranted a mention. In decreasing order: Fred (Skip), K6DGW #142 for 71 years, Wes, N5WA #2418 for 69 years, Keith (Key), K7MOA #1594 and Jim, N3JT #1 both for 64 years, Paul, K2DB #686 for 61 years, Bob, NH6O #3234 for 50 years, Art, W2NRA #1955 for 45 years, and Dick, N9EEE #3113 for 40 years.

Congratulations to all and, should others be marking a notable anniversary in ham radio, please consider sharing with [Ops News and Notes!](#)

**Hans, YL3JD #2227** International Dog and Cat Day is getting closer. For the 3rd year there will be special event stations active to celebrate these events. The main goal beside enjoying our great hobby is that our pets, cats and dogs, get attention and that people get aware of the packed shelters. Hopefully we can bring a bit of relief in this, and that people may take a dog or cat from the shelter instead of buying one and donate money or become volunteer to help at the shelters.

Please consider becoming a special event station during these periods:

International Dog Day 26th August.

International Cat Day 8th August.

See [here](#) for more info on participating stations.

**Abet, YE4FNN #3510** 7E4C and 7E4K, Ketawai Island, OC-144. Indonesia. Bangka Belitung Team will join the IOTA Contest 2024 using callsign 7E4C, 27 to 28 July 2024. Bangka Belitung Team will do Expedition to Ketawai Island using callsign 7E4K, 25 to 29 July 2024.

These two events will be activated in Ketawai Island about 22 miles From Bangka Island.

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Ketawai Island was included in Bangka Belitung Islands with IOTA number OC-144. Indonesia.

All eQSL and QSL cards are handled by [YE4FNN](#). We will use LoTW, eQSL or via Bureau. Direct QSL Card to my address in QRZ.com. Any donation will be appreciated via PayPal to [ye4kieato-rari@gmail.com](mailto:ye4kieato-rari@gmail.com)

Please join our IOTA contest and expedition team to Ketawai Island as call signs mentioned above.



**Jim, N3JT #1** will be touring Scotland beginning August 1 for a week. Colin, GM4JPZ, and others will join Jim and Nina for a meal in Glasgow. Jim arrives in Edinburgh and will be there for 2 days. He was last there a year ago for 18 hours, the same tour truncated by kidney stones. And the time before that was 1968 when he was accidentally locked in the Edinburgh castle with an Australian woman he had met that day. The guard, Jim recalls vividly, was none too pleased.

**Glenn, VE1IJ #457** here is a [link](#) to my club's (the Halifax Amateur Radio Club) activities on Field Day 2024. This link is to the CTV News report on the day and includes a couple of shots of yours-truly operating the CW station.

**Dave, WN4AFP #1208** I just wanted to share that 49 years ago I received my amateur radio license. And for 10 of those 49 years, I've been active as a CWops member! What a wonderful adventure!

**Jeff, W7BRS** In 2011 or so, I got a wild hair to go on a DXpedition. But I had no idea how to do it. Then, I found a copy of KK6EK Bob Schmierer's book DX-Aku and his story enchanted me. I thought, why can't I do this? So, I began to plan a trip to a South Pacific Island (which shall remain nameless); I contacted Bob, and we had exchanges in email for a few months about how to plan such a trip. I wanted to talk to my DX-Aku and maybe I did have a few conversations with "him" in my car while I drove to work each day.

Work-life balance became unbalanced. There is not enough ferrite in the world to create a resilient "Work-Life Balun". The plan got shelved. But I had spent a fair number of hours in the University of Washington main library researching the island, the people the culture and had found the process really fun and interesting. It was an idea I couldn't completely forget about. Nevertheless, the notebook was on the shelf gathering dust.

Fast forward to 2024. Recently retired, I decided it was now or never, so I picked a different island, and began to write up my new Plan; 50 pages worth. I had it peer reviewed among folks from NCDXF and my local club, Western Washington DX Club, and used some guidance I received at Visalia IDXC and now it's happening.

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By the time this makes it into the newsletter for CWops, I will already be landed on Lord Howe Island and probably already setting up the vertical antennas and tuning the radio to work as much DX as I can from the LHI as [VK2/W7BRS](#) (see note below re the prefix). I'm going to figure out what I can do, and I'll learn soon enough what I need to improve. As my dad would say, "Learn by Doing".

Maybe not the perfect advice in all instances, but for me, in this instance, it's good enough. After LHI, I hope there is more opportunity to practice the art of DXpedition.

*(N&N Editor's Note: members might be expecting Lord Howe Island to have a VK9 prefix, but Jeff tells me the Australian licencing authorities abruptly decreed that LHI is no longer considered an External Territory, so cannot be VK9L. Instead, it is deemed part of New South Wales so the VK2 call area).*

**Duncan, G3WZD #1979** Early in April this year, I received an email from a Planning Enforcement Officer at my local authority informing me that a case was open against me, and asking I call them urgently. Speaking to said enforcement office, I learned sometime about 2 ½ years ago a complaint was made about my antenna masts; they clearly had a large backlog of complaints to deal with!

Since moving to my spacious and blissfully quiet rural QTH about seven years ago, I built a shack and progressively erected three masts: 2 x 18M heavy duty lattice masts supporting the Optibeam OB2-40M and OB9-5 beams, and a 10M telescopic steel box section mast supporting several monoband wire dipoles. The construction was on a couple of acres of unused agricultural pasture (part of my property) the other side of a stand of trees at the top of my garden.

OK, I **know** that I **should** have applied for planning permission from the outset, but figured since the masts and shack were not visible to my neighbours or from the public road about ½ mile distant (they can be seen on Google Earth!), all would be well, and I could get away without it. Nevertheless, I did have this nagging feeling that the lack of planning approval would ultimately catch up with me, which it surely did!

The enforcement officer told me that I needed to make a full planning application for retrospective approval, though she also suggested that gaining approval ought not to be a problem (but one never knows, and the thought of having to tear everything down was the stuff of nightmares).

Planning applications here in the UK can be very complex, especially when a material change of use of land is involved (from agricultural to hobby), so professional advice was required. I contacted the RSGB who offer specialist planning advice with a very informative booklet and, if necessary, one-to-one support from a member of the RSGB Planning Support Panel (the booklet and planning support services are only available to RSGB members).

I was lucky in having a retired architect friend nearby who specialised in planning applications, so was soon in possession of the necessary scale site location and block plans. I also remembered enough from my school days to produce the scale drawings of the masts and shack myself. The next three weeks were spent going through several iterations of filing the application and then

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correcting errors or submitting additional documentation (for instance, Bio-Diversity Net Gain statement and Wildlife Trigger Report!). Importantly, I also obtained written statements of support from two of my three neighbours and a promise of 'no objection' from the third. The Chair of RSGB Planning Advice wrote a very good letter in support of my application.



**OB2-40M**

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***Shack and Tennamast***

The application was finally accepted as valid on 24<sup>th</sup> May. Nearly five nail-biting weeks then passed with the application showing on the planning portal as 'Awaiting Decision'.

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Then, on 28<sup>th</sup> June, I received an email from the planners; my application was approved and without any restrictions or modifications being required to the build. The only attached condition is that the masts need to be removed when no longer required. Phew; much relief in the G3WZD shack!

I can certainly commend the RSGB planning advice service to any members who may be considering planning applications in the UK; and the service is free!

Until the next Ops News and Notes, QAC...

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

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

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## Nomination For Membership Process

Nominating another amateur radio operator to membership in The CW Operators Club (CWops) is a privilege that is regulated by simple criteria and a simple process.

As you encounter other CW operators during ragchews, contests, or social functions, talk up the club and ask them if they would be interested in membership. If you've worked them 2x in the past year at 25 wpm or more, they are qualified for membership and nomination. When they respond in the affirmative, become familiar with the process. If they decline, follow the process below to place them on the "declined" list so others do not approach them. There is no harm in continuing your dialogue with them and approaching them again in the future.

Excerpts taken from our [website](#):

### **NOMINATING & SPONSORING NEW MEMBERS**

#### **Nominees and Invitees Status**

To check the status of current nominees, [click here](#).

#### **Nominate a new member**

To nominate a new member, fill out the [new member nomination form](#).

Before using the form, however, please check the [list of operators](#) who have stated that they do not want to be CWops members. If the operator is not on that list, please contact the operator to confirm that s/he is interested in joining our club. In your communication (via the email address

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from QRZ.COM, typically), you may want to include some or all of the following: (1) Refer your nominee to the [ByLaws](#) and [Articles of Incorporation](#). ; (2) say that our club is unique in that it teaches hundreds of people CW through the CW Academy every year; (3) note that CWops encourages CW activity through on-air activities and awards; (4) add that it is internationally managed and supports CW education through donations; and (5) state that CWops funds scholarships administered by the ARRL Foundation for those who have an interest in CW.

Feel free to advise your nominee that s/he is welcome to consult the "[Member Roster](#)" to identify and contact other possible sponsors, make schedules, etc.

When you have received the nominee's approval, go ahead with the nomination form.

**If there is a negative response to your membership communication, please fill out the "[declining membership](#)" form so others know not to contact this operator.**

### **Sponsor an existing nominee**

First, [check the New Member Status Chart](#). Then, if you want to add your sponsorship support for a particular nominee, fill out the [new member sponsorship form](#)

**Reiterating an important point, if you receive a decline from a potential member, please fill out the "[declining membership](#)" form so others know not to contact this operator.**

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## **Announcing The 2024 CW Open Contest**

**[Bruce Meier, N1LN](#) (CWops #1141)**

Now that summer is here, at least for those of us in the northern hemisphere, the weather is getting warmer and often just plain HOT! In less than two months September will here and with it, the annual running of the CW Open. So, no time like the present to stay in your air-conditioned ham shack and get your rigs warmed up, and antennas and logging software tested.

The dates and times for the 2024 sessions are:

Session 1: Sept 7 (00:00 – 03:59 UTC)

Session 2: Sept 7 (12:00 – 15:59 UTC)

Session 3: Sept 7 (20:00 – 23:59 UTC)

It is also an excellent time to start to organize your team and get it registered.



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Last year there were 24 registered teams with representation from all three ITU regions. The team rosters ranged from a full 10 member team down to 3 members. Talk to your ham buddies and sign up! They do not need to be CWops members to be on a team. It is always more fun being part of a team and might just increase your BIC (Butt in Chair) time and score! Please register early and beat the September 5 and 6 rush!!

If you have not yet participated in the CW Open, you should give it a try! Each session is a standalone event and is only 4 hours long. With that flexibility you can operate as little or as much as you want. You can even win an award by only participating in one session. Unlike the weekly CWTs, the CW Open is more of a contest and less of a sprint. You don't need tons of aluminum in the air and KWs of power. Low power and dipoles work just fine for this event. Plaques and Trophies are awarded for all power classes.

While talking about plaques and awards, I would like to thank ICOM America for their continued sponsoring of the trophies and plaques for the 2024 CW Open.



For additional information please refer to the CW Open website at the following URL: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/> Look down the web page for the team sign-up link. It is lots of fun as a single op but even more fun to be part of a team. The team membership has NO GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS. It can be local, national, or international.

Hope to get you in my log for one or even better, all three sessions!

73, Bruce N1LN (CWops #1141)  
CW Open Manager

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## **CWops Contest Plaque Program**

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

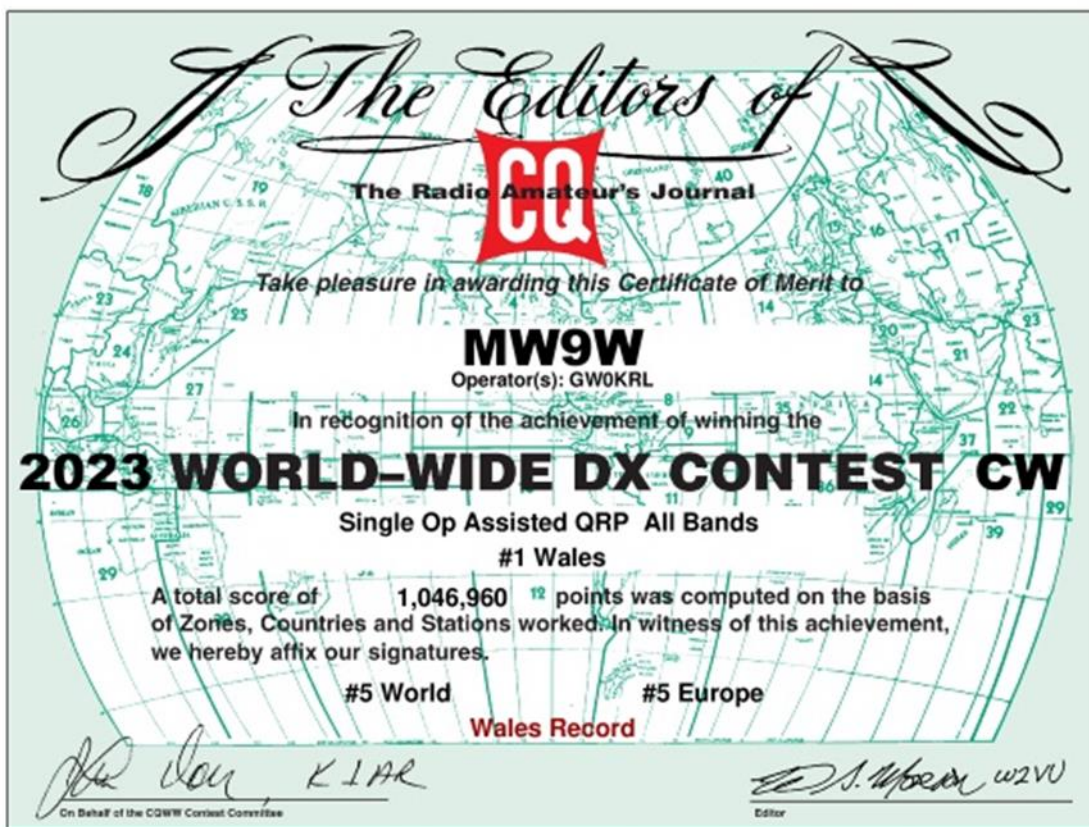
**Craig Thompson, K9CT (CWops #276)**

Our club supports many activities and events to nurture, acknowledge, and reward those actively involved in the CW aspect of our amateur radio hobby. One of those very public ways is by supporting award programs of the major contest organizers through sponsoring plaques to those who are being acknowledged for outstanding performance in their operating category. The depth of involvement by CWops is very impressive when you look at the full list and you realize just how committed CWops is to contesting. Not that contesting needs any further explanation, but when you hear the stories of preparation and determination by those who emerge at the top of the list, it parallels the training and endurance of an athlete who focuses on stellar performance and you begin to understand their commitment to proficiency of CW operation as well as the strategic plan utilizing the variables and dynamics necessary to maximize contacts. On the next few pages, I hope you'll appreciate the level of support CWops provides to the various international as well as internal competitions.

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### [CQ WW DX Contest \(WWROF\)](#)

<u>Plaque#</u>	<u>Plaque</u>	<u>Category</u>
3	W/VE	Single Operator High Power 3.5 MHz CW
5	W/VE	Single Operator High Power 14 MHz CW
8	W/VE	Single Operator Low Power CW
12	W/VE	Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power CW
13	W/VE	Multioperator Two Transmitter CW
29	Africa	Single Operator CW
30	Asia	Single Operator High Power CW
33	Oceania	Single Operator CW
34	South America	Single Operator CW
37	World	Single Operator High Power 7 MHz CW
41	World	Single Operator Low Power CW
42	World	Single Operator QRP CW
43	World	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power CW

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47	Europe	Multioperator Single Transmitter CW
49	North America	Multioperator Single Transmitter CW
54	Europe	Multioperator Two Transmitter CW
61	North America	Multioperator Unlimited CW
111	Japan	Single Operator Low Power CW
188	North America	Single Operator QRP CW
189	Europe	Single Operator QRP CW
215	Europe	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power CW
216	World	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power CW

### [ARRL International DX CW Contest](#)

<u>Plaque</u>	<u>Category</u>
W/VE	Single Operator High Power 3.5 MHz CW
W/VE	Single Operator High Power 14 MHz CW
W/VE	Single Operator Low Power CW
W/VE	Multioperator Single Transmitter High Power CW
W/VE	Multioperator Two Transmitter CW
Africa	Single Operator CW
Asia	Single Operator High Power CW
Oceania	Single Operator CW
South America	Single Operator CW
World	Single Operator High Power 7 MHz CW
World	Single Operator Low Power CW
World	Single Operator QRP CW
World	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power CW
Europe	Multioperator Single Transmitter CW
North America	Multioperator Single Transmitter CW
Europe	Multioperator Two Transmitter CW
North America	Multioperator Unlimited CW
Japan	Single Operator Low Power CW
North America	Single Operator QRP CW
Europe	Single Operator QRP CW
Europe	Single Operator Unlimited, High Power CW
World	Single Operator Unlimited, Low Power CW

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## [Worked All Europe DX Contest \(CW\)](#)

<u>Plaque</u>	<u>Category</u>
North America	Single Operator, Low Power
North America	Single Operator, High Power
North America	Multioperator
South America	Single Operator, Low Power
South America	Single Operator, High Power
South America	Multioperator
Oceania	Single Operator, Low Power
Oceania	Single Operator, High Power
Oceania	Multioperator
Europe	Single Operator, Low Power
Europe	Single Operator, High Power
Europe	Multioperator
Asia	Single Operator, Low Power
Asia	Single Operator, High Power
Asia	Multioperator
Africa	Single Operator, Low Power
Africa	Single Operator, High Power
Africa	Multioperator

## [CW Open \(CWops\)](#)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Category</u>
Trophy	high score, each session (3), each ITU Region (3) - 9 trophies
Trophy	high combined score (all sessions), each ITU region (3) - 3 trophies
Plaque	high score, HP, each session (3) , each ITU region (3) - 9 plaques
Plaque	high score, LP, each session (3) , each ITU region (3) - 9 plaques
Plaque	high score, QRP, each session (3) , each ITU region (3) - 9 plaques

## [North American QSO Party \(NAQP\) CW Team Plaque](#)

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## Non-contest plaques, certificates, medallions

CWops also recognizes achievement in personal and team performance as well as meaningful contribution to the club and furthering the use of Morse code in the hobby through a variety of awards (plaques, trophies, medallions, and certificates).

### [DX Marathon CWops Plaque](#)

### [CWops Operating Awards](#) (Trophies, Medallions, and Certificates)

[CWTs](#): gold silver, or bronze medallion based on the number of qualified CWT sessions

[QTX](#): Plaque awarded to the station with the highest number of QTX (ragchews). Medallions and certificates are awarded based on the cumulative number of QTX in a year.

### [CWops Member Awards](#)

Worked All States Award

Worked All Europe Award

Worked All Zones Award

DXCC Award

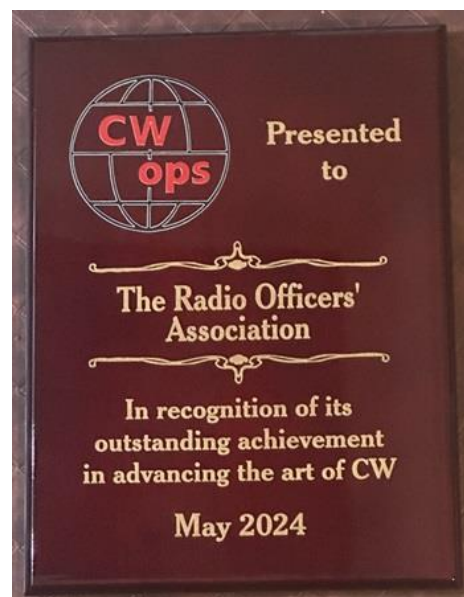
Annual Competition Award

Cumulative Membership Award

Annual Cumulative Membership Award

## Industry Recognition

### [CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW](#)



# Lewisville ARA Field Day

[Roger Carver, AE5EZ](#) (CWops #3413)

Lewisville Amateur Radio Association, W5LVC, held their 2024 Field Day at the Troop 771 Scout Barn in Flower Mound, TX. We had 24 in attendance and 3 CWops operators running. They were Steve Kline, W5JK #2253, Colin Buckup, N5GG #3364, and Roger Carver, AE5EZ #3413. Good time had by all.

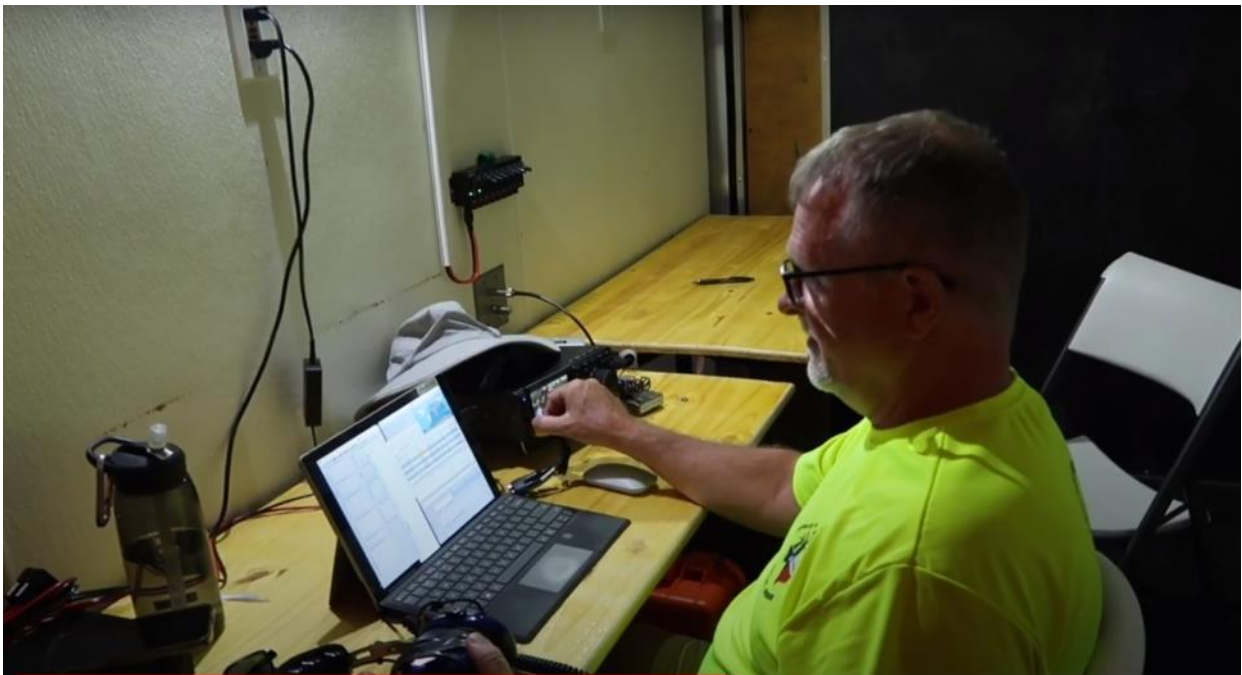
Just a bit of explanation regarding the pictures with the green mile of duckweed in the background. All the lakes in the area were beyond 100% full pool with our Lake Grapevine at 19 feet over full pool. All of the Denton County clubs had been displaced from the areas we had negotiated to operate FD due to high water. The LARA club was able to find the Troop 771 Scout Barn and secure an agreement to operate even though some of the area had been flooded by backup from Lake Grapevine. The duckweed was on White Branch which was on the East side of the property and



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# Cargo Container Field Day in Wisconsin

[Tony Casciota KX3H](#), (CWops #2900)

Pictured below are Noah, NI9F #3422 (foreground) and Tony, KX3H #2900 operating the two CW positions at N9GMT (9E WI) this past weekend. Noah achieved 572 contacts and Tony 528 (an all time high for me). We operated out of a once cargo shipping container that was improved with insulation, plywood walls/ceiling and air conditioning along with operating desks and computers as part of the new N9GMT contest station in Green Lake County, WI. The phone ops were in a different building 950 feet away per the FD rules and for same-band separation.

Our antennas were a rotatable dipole "kit" for 10/15/20 (nicknamed the seagull since it flapped in the wind a little) and an 80/40 homebrew inverted vee on a flagpole at 38 feet run through bandpass filters and shared with the two Digital FT-8 stations in the same room. Our K3's also shared a Loop on Ground (LOG) antenna for RX, which worked out really nice for us.



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## Portland ARC Field Day

**[Kat Kerns, K7KER](#)** (CWops #3188)

This is from Portland Amateur Radio Club's 2 CW stations for FD 2024 in North Plains, OR. We ran 100% QRP for the full 24 hours (with some napping on site during the wee hours of the morning for the CW folks).

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## Flea Power Contesting

[Stew Rolfe](#), **GWØETF / GW4J** (CWops #919)

Seventeen years ago I opened up my laptop one morning to order a K2 kit from Elecraft. This was a decision reached after weeks of cogitation so imagine my dismay when a brand new flash page came up featuring the brand new K3. More lengthy cogitation followed before I ticked the K3 box instead and duly received #145 which I'm still using. Deep down though I still hankered after a K2 and a couple of years ago I bought a bare bones Elecraft K2 off a local UK ham and began to upgrade it bit by bit to what I'd describe now as 'contest ready'. At first I used it driving an amp but with what I consider to be a ground breaking and now classic 10



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watt CW radio it felt like I was being a bit of a fraud – so I decided it was time to reacquaint myself with the world of QRP. Herein lies a few of my thoughts and tips on contesting at 5 watts from my own personal viewpoint. My situation is better than some with an RF quiet location on a slightly elevated ridge and just one Luddite close neighbour with no fancy electronics. To emphasise the 'personal' I'll write this in the first person. Other perspectives are of course available!

So in no particular order:-

I follow the maxim "*Operate small but think big*". I don't seek preference or pity with a /QRP callsign qualifier. The other end just needs my call and superfluous characters wastes time and can confuse especially when my signal may be marginal. I strut around the bands like I'm running an OM4000. I complain if someone steals my run frequency - not for long, though I have been known to win the occasional frequency fight which makes me smile. Nobody will know I'm QRP until after the contest.

I try to remember the heavy lifting in a QRO/QRP contact will most often be done by the QRO op. If I get more than a couple of repeat requests when calling someone I consider bowing out gracefully to avoid wasting their time unless they seem keen to persist (maybe I'm a mult).

As a rule the high bands like 20 and 15 metres will open later and close sooner for QRP. In the morning there will be many loud signals that just don't hear me at first. I used to get frustrated but now I set the alarm later or linger over a relaxed breakfast or the low bands. Reverse happens at the end of the day.

Many claim QRP contesting is a game of only Search and Pounce (S&P) and never attempt to run a frequency. This is partly true but in the 'big contests' like this year's CQ WPX I often experience a sweet spot on the high bands around late afternoon and early evening when I start getting replies and even pile-ups. May only last an hour or two but will do wonders for the QSO count and re-charge my enthusiasm batteries. My habit is to cruise the bands S&P but try a quick CQ when I come across a clear frequency and move on if no takers. There'll always be surprises.

Best response rate while S&P is when the target is loud and alone. There are always exceptions such as the 0700 CWTs when Allan VK2GR regularly picks out my 5 watts on 20m amongst his usual flurry of other callers. Something else that makes me smile...

In S&P with multiple callers timing can be key. I listen out for the slightest of pauses and slip in my call just once and fast. QSK will be always be on so I know **exactly** if and when the target has begun transmitting and therefore when s/he will be listening again. Many callers will be zero beat on a cluster spot and a few Herz off to the side with the often underused XIT control may help the target station pick out my call.

Contesting in the QRP section is more challenging (obviously) and requires a different mental approach. It will be frustrating at times but the sense of satisfaction can be the reward. If the frustration levels are consistently overwhelming stick to the OM4000 ;-)

# Training Young

[Mark Tyler K5GQ](#), (CWops #672)

I spend a lot of time on vband; <https://hamradio.solutions/vband/>

One operator asked if he could be in my class. We had a zoom meeting; he is 12 years old. My course is most effective if you know how to type, he did not. I made up instruction on learning to use the keyboard. You would need to do that as part of your homework. Each lesson was very short, so one could do it over and over until you got 100%. He was introduced to Morse Runner using a 3 character callsigns.

During class he participated as one of the other students. During class each student sends to another student. He did a excellent job in sending and receiving.

I have attached the certificate of completion, even though he is planning to take the course again in September.

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## *CW Academy Certificate of Completion*

**Isaiah Russell, KJ5CMP**

**He has successfully completed Intermediate, an 8-week/16-session program in Morse Code sending and receiving. His accomplishments are:**

- Learned to hold a 3 letter callsign in head then type.
- Learning the keyboard while learning to hold two letters then TYPE!
- Achieved 216 Qs/hour on Morse Runner with the 3 character callsigns.
- Improved copying to over 20 wpm.
- Learned to track progress.

*Mark Tyler*  
Mark Tyler, K5GQ  
CW Academy advisor  
*John Fiorino, N4KHZ*  
CWA Associate advisor



June 2024

*Roland K Smith*  
R Carter  
**Roland K Smith – K7OJL**  
**Bob Carter – WR7Q**  
CW Academy Managers

# Florida QSO Party Multi-Multi-Mobile: The Installation Behind the Operation

[Chris Blake](#) **NX4N**, (CWops #1917)

Since 2014, I have led teams in the Florida QSO Party (FQP) operating Multi-Multi-Mobile using the call K4OJ. Imagine 2, 3 or even 4 stations in an SUV with 2-4 ops plus driver operating 40-10m simultaneously. I call it an overstuffed calzone of humanity and equipment - but boy do we have fun! Over our 10 annual outings we have worked 3000 to nearly 5000 QSO's during each 20 hour FQP operating period (please see the FQP website [here](#)). Many thanks to all of you who have worked us over the years!

A while back I wrote an article in NCJ describing some of our adventures, stations and setups in the July 2015 issue of NCJ, page 12. This follow up article describes the installation approach and tasks required to make the K4OJ/m stations work. Though brief it hopefully will provide some insight into the process. Let's get started...

I've always prioritized station design, installation and testing in this order:

- 1. Safety**
- 2. Functionality and Performance**
- 3. Reliability, Repeatability and Reproducibility**
- 4. Ergonomics**

It is important to adhere to this order to ensure that the team is, simply, staying safe and having fun. Engineers are well known for endless 'polishing the apple' of their designs - given this is a hobby I try to apply some good principles in a practical way - i.e. perfection is the enemy of 'good enough.' My design, build and test approach to each priority reflects this.

## **Safety:**

An example of safety considerations is identifying where the airbags are and avoiding placement of potential 'projectiles' such as radios, laptops or paddles. I also try to strap down as much equipment as possible, but it is not 100% feasible in temporary installations. Whatever doesn't need to be touched (ex: RFI resistant AC power strips) are placed under the seats.

Accidents can cause big problems with this much humanity and equipment. One way I mitigate safety risks is to ensure that there is - at all times - a dedicated driver. Generally that is me since I am most familiar with my own vehicle, creating/driving the same FQP routes for the past 12 years and ensuring that prior to FQP I have a complete vehicle inspection performed by a certified mechanic. Everything is in good working condition. Likewise I ensure there are no undue driver distractions - I do not listen to the radios other than the pile ups that crackle out of the operators' headphones (which is sooo fun to listen to!). The driver's seat and immediate area is clear of any ham radio encroachment.

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## Functionality:

This is where the fun begins; I \*love\* building the stations! I usually start in February in the early morning while it is still cool here in sunny FLA. You will often find me in my driveway listening to Brazilian samba and bossa nova (love that smooth style) while working on the vehicle. Most of us well know what it takes to put together an HF contest station (including a mobile station) and it is generally a similar task for the K4OJ mobile...to a point. Installing multiple stations comes with many additional obstacles including:

a) The vehicle is a poor source of clean, stable DC power for multiple RF stations including radios, laptops and powered accessories. I use a Honda sine wave AC generator for this very reason - it's been a solid source of reliable power for 10 years now with a small noise profile and it's stingy on gas usage.

b) The antennas are all vertically polarized and within 1-4 ft of one another, electrically short, with compromised counterpoises and very poor paths to mother earth ground - and they \*must\* play nicely with each other *at the same time*. There are interactions of several different kinds with such installation since more than one antenna is used simultaneously. Such interactions include SWRs, stray RF paths entering the gear in the cabin, ground differences between antennas and stations, and much more. I start my installation with some antenna basics:

Mechanical integrity compromises of the antennas and the stations also can exist and must be addressed. For example, every year I start my FQP build with a low, medium and highway-speed mechanical test with an observation vehicle looking for antenna resonant motion, touching of antennas (bad!) and mounting platform instability. These must be tested under different driving conditions, like what happens to the antennas and mounts during a hard stop?

Then electrical testing ensues. With no station installed, I perform what I call a 'SWR stability test'. You can sit in the driveway and have all your SWRs look FB. But that's not how you will use them - antennas swaying in the wind will affect their own and each other's SWRs - I've seen 40m SWRs sway from 1.1 to over 3 during such tests. Hint: The likely source of such variation is usually an insufficient RF ground connection to the vehicle roof. You can get away with much of this with a single station but with multiple ones it becomes a bigger factor.

c) Complex station build-out and radio/pc/accessories/antenna integration is a step by step process. Cable management is often overlooked but of significant importance. Each of the 4 ham bands in FQP is color coded - and every single cable has a colored zip tie on each end from ac and dc power, to keyboard/mouse/paddle/usb, and of course all coax cables. This is very tedious at first but the payoff comes later when you have a problem and you have to sort through seemingly miles of cables to get to the one you want for connection, disconnection and replacement.

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#### STATION BUILD:

This starts with AC cables, then DC cables, control cables (paddle, USB, amp relay, etc) and finally RF cables. I have a specific cable count for connection to each radio to ensure I haven't overlooked a needed cable - and each station can be different. It does help to have identical radios so the connectors are all identical (remember color coding will keep you from plugging a cable to the wrong radio - in my case, blue has always been 40m, orange 20m, yellow 15m and green 10m). Even the antennas and their mounts have matching color bands.

Finally, it's time to install radios; this is another tedious process to ensure each is secure and in the right place for easy access to the operator. I won't detail this further but the old saying, 'measure twice, cut once' applies!

#### TESTING:

I start with the RF - does a radio and dc power supply powered with AC mains power drive its antenna(s) properly? Good SWR? Any RF-related operational issues with the radio? Don't forget the receiver - any vehicle noise or whine that raises the Rx noise floor? Then add a keyer or mic, pc and other station accessories and continue testing for functionality hiccups - is everything playing nice in the sandbox together? If not I stop integration on that station until the issue is resolved or mitigated. Switch over to the vehicle/generator power and repeat these tests. Rinse and Repeat as you add a station, and the next ones...

Then it's time for:

#### LET'S PLAY RFI JEOPARDY!

This is usually where the RF and antenna compromises show themselves. One station is a relative cinch, but with each added station the problems multiply many times over. Resolving inter-station interference is the single hardest obstacle in a multi-station mobile setup to overcome. I have spent easily more than 1000 hours both with my teammates and on my own fighting the RFI. There is no way to model this interaction; it is brute force, empirical trial by error testing. I have blown up a K3 front end and many more have cried for mercy.

After 10 years, the 2024 FQP was the first where it was fully acceptable to my ears for contesting. Typical QRM from another station was limited to S0-S3 depending on the offender band(s) and victim band. Often we have nil interaction until a 2nd station starts transmitting as well - weird stuff! There were many early years when it was just u-g-l-y and my brave operators/soldiers left their ears and sanity on the battlefield while making thousands of QSOs. I have really appreciated my operator's willingness to work as a team by QRX when someone is digging a QRP from the noise, etc.- human technology is still superior!

There is *\*way\** too much material in the do's and don'ts to detail here but I recommend the following *\*wonderful\** website to all ops thinking of going mobile of any kind: <http://k0bg.com>

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Alan's website addresses nearly every aspect of mobile ham radio. Even very experienced mobile and expedition ops should examine this site in detail - I've learned a lot and you will too.

Performance of a mobile contest station is a mirage - ignore the drive for perfection...

'Mobile performance' is an oxymoron; for example, mobile antennas are compromised and plus/minus a dB or two there's not much to do about it. Radio-wise, when having 2-4 stations/antennas co-located it is important to have clean transmitters and robust receivers (Blocking dynamic range). You also need radios that are small, lightweight and easy to operate while bouncing down the road. In my opinion the Elecraft K3 and K3S punch above their weight class in all the categories. They are the only radios I use, or perhaps a KX3 if space is tight. There are other radios and we've used them over the years, but RFI plays such a big factor that I stick with these radios. Instead of maximizing performance, I focus on maximizing...

### **Reliability:**

If a team has a single mobile station that is *well-tested in advance*, there usually is only a minimal amount of issues. RFI to both radio and pc, and stable power are usually the weak points that should be tested and mitigated in advance.

With each station addition you add an additional layer of reliability issues. The impact is lost time - if one station has an unresolved issue that is significant, then we must pull over and triage and repair/replace it. But what about the other stations? They will also be impacted greatly for each additional minute of delay before the next county. In QSO Parties experience says that after about 30 minutes in a county you can hear the 'crickets' responding to your CQ's. With a M/3 set-up, *\*two\** other stations are impacted while you repair the first. Tick, tock, tick, tock...

I approach station reliability in a couple of different ways. The first is the installation design. I am a fan of simplicity - if you can key the radio directly via USB port then why add a WinKey. A paddle is used with a separate cable to the radio. I do not utilize headphone audio devices like splitters, amps, external equalizers, speakers, etc - in fact we tried and found a defective splitter cable on our 15m station this year. Into the trash it went. Each piece of hardware and software and associated cables adds complexity that can affect reliability. My setups do not use the latest technology; for example, the laptops are older Lenovo Thinkpad T530's - nothing fancy but I have had zero RFI into the stations or into the pc's. And I never network the laptops in such a high RFI environment.

The next step is to test for Reliability; that involves hours of day and night testing in different weather conditions. First is driveway testing; once that is proved very stable then it's on to the all-important road testing. In 2022 my friend AJ NK4O and I found an intermittent coax cable - into the trash it went. I now only buy high quality American-made (or EU) 100% shielded coax. Cheap foreign generics - at least for this critical reliability need - are not worth the money savings. I imagine our tower climbers out there feel the same.

A final set of tests involve R&R - Repeatability and Reproducibility. Repeatability means a single operator can use their station reliably over and over again - including testing over different envi-

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ronments (hot, cool, dry, rainy, etc.). Reproducibility means that different operators can sit down at that same station and still produce the same reliable results as the first operator. That brings us to our last section:

Even with Reliability measures in place, equipment (especially mechanical, pc and RFI related) can happen. I have three words that cover it all - Spares, Spares, Spares. I have an entire station of spare equipment, cables, connectors and antennas along for the ride, along with the tools needed for quickly swapping them out. This is often how the US military does. There is time \*after the contest\* for debugging.

One final comment - each operator is responsible for observing their station and to bring any anomaly to the attention of the station engineer (me). They are also responsible for making quick fixes that can be done in place; for example, adding a ferrite choke to a radio or accessory. I keep an in-cabin operators' toolbox with simple items and tools for quick solutions with no road stops.

### **Ergonomics:**

When operators sit at their station (and sometimes the other stations as well) for 10 hours/day during FQP, they must be able to use those stations comfortably. Attention must be paid to natural sitting, typing, reading and CW sending body positions. Even a slight head turn that must be maintained for hours will make for a stiff neck and a grumpy operator. Butts must be comfy with no 'saddle sores', and so on. Each part of the body must be examined for the functions that must be performed. Even just reaching for a water bottle must not compromise the body's relaxed position.

Last year, Red KØLUZ joked, "Can I get carpal tunnel syndrome after just 6 hours?" While our team busted out laughing there is an element of truth. The individual operator's needs must be addressed to maximize their comfort and in return they will give their best effort.

Left vs. Right handedness, operator eyesight during day and night, operator ingress and egress from the vehicle, etc all must be addressed. My teams typically have lap trays with backlit keyboards, paddles placed near armrests, pc monitors at eye level directly in front, etc. - every station is designed, built and then human-tested repeatedly to ensure comfort over long periods of time. Even the vehicle I chose (Toyota Sequoia) is known for a smooth ride; and I chose cloth seats which I feel breath and support the body better than leather.

In the end, we end up with a safe, functional, reliable and ergonomic ride so my VFB operators can focus on the fun of our famous FQP pileups. I encourage you to please consider trying a mobile or expedition effort in next year's FQP or your own state QP - it is a wild ride you will not forget! A single station is easy to pull together and if you take just a bit of time to pre-test it then you should be able to hit the road and have loads of fun. If you have any questions or need some guidance I'd be happy to provide it. Some fun photos are shown below.

Happy Trails!

Chris, NX4N

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**1st year - 2014 FQP (4 stations), L-R: NX4N, W4LT, N4KM, N4BP, K0LUZ**



**10th year - 2024 FQP (3 stations), L-R: NX4N, W4WF, N4KM and NK4O):**



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SPEED	XST	DAY	TIME (UTC)	EXCHANGE	SPONSOR LINK
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1300 - 1400z	Name + QSO serial number	<a href="#">International CW Coun-</a>
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1900 - 2000z	Name + QSO serial number	<a href="#">International CW Coun-</a>
20 - 25	MST	Tuesday	0300 - 0400z	Name + QSO serial number	<a href="#">International CW Coun-</a>
10+ wpm	AWT	Wednesday	1200 - 1300z	RST + Name	<a href="#">A1Club</a>
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1300 - 1400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	<a href="#">CWops</a>
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1900 - 2000z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	<a href="#">CWops</a>
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0300 - 0400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	<a href="#">CWops</a>
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0700 - 0800z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	<a href="#">CWops</a>
< 20 wpm	SST	Friday	2000 - 2100z	Name + S/P/C	<a href="#">K1USN</a>
< 20 wpm	SST	Monday	0000 - 0100z	Name + S/P/C	<a href="#">K1USN</a>



# 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>
3546	WD4MSM	Barry	3558	WB2WJF*	Ross	3570	N4XTT*	Mike
3547	AD2CC*	Saied	3559	AC3JX*	Lisa	3571	NK2Y*	Jay
3548	W4RJF*	Ron	3560	YE1GXQ*	Geo	3572	KI5PGL	Matt
3549	W7LC*	Bill	3561	WW2I*	Pete	3573	K5OHY*	Tim
3550	NIØCK*	Nick	3562	G4KKU*	Andy	3574	WB4ABY*	Carl
3551	LB1KJ*	Erik	3563	VU2CWO	Clement	3575	VK7ZA*	Lance
3552	VO1KGZ*	Gord	3564	NØCOT*	Jim	3576	PG5M	Gerben
3553	K8WS*	Glenn	3565	SV4SUR	Helena	3577	GM4HBG*	Ian
3554	WQ5T*	Sally	3566	KN2D	Ken	3578	WA6RSV*	Pablo
3555	EC6PG*	Xisco	3567	K3LB*	Larry	3579	W5CN*	Carl
3556	GØPDZ*	Ian	3568	NA2MM*	Owen			
3557	OE3KME*	Martin	3569	WU8T*	Tom			

\* Lifetime member

As of July 8, 2024:

**Need Sponsors:** K6SAL, N5OP, KE2BRV, W5HK

**Invitations Extended:**

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

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.



# CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

Here are some statistics on the CWTs so far this year.

There have been 104 one-hour CWT sessions in the first six months of 2024. There were 27,975 claimed scores reported, with a total of 1,685,427 claimed QSOs (of course, most of the QSOs were reported twice, once by each participant).

This is broken down in detail by operating series (i.e. start time) below. Note that participation in the 0300Z CWT series varies significantly between Daylight Savings Time and Standard Time in eastern North America. There are also seasonal trends in the number of QSOs reported in individual scores, which may be related to seasonal changes in propagation conditions.

1300Z CWTs:

The number of scores reported varied from 338 to 386 per session (average value 362.5), for a total of 9,426 reported scores in 26 sessions.

By continent: 75% North America, 23.5% Europe, 1.3% Asia, 0.2% elsewhere.

Total number of QSOs claimed: 17,053 - 24,176 per session, for a total of 568,138 and an average of 21,851 claimed QSOs per one-hour session.

Individual QSO counts claimed ranged up to 296, with a mean of 63.4 and a median of 51 before March 10 as compared with a mean of 58.3 and a median of 44 after March 10.

1900Z CWTs:

The number of scores reported varied from 326 to 415 per session (average value 377.7), for a total of 9,820 reported scores in 26 sessions.

By continent: 77% North America, 22% Europe, 0.8% elsewhere.

Total number of QSOs claimed: 17,432 - 26,142 per session, for a total of 602,899 and an average of 23,188 claimed QSOs per session.

Individual QSO counts claimed ranged up to 316, with a mean of 63.4 and a median of 52 before March 10 as compared with a mean of 60.0 and a median of 48 after March 10.

0300Z CWTs before March 10:

The number of scores reported varied from 256 to 296 per session (average value 273), for a total of 2,730 reported scores in 10 sessions.

By continent: 94% North America, 4.4% Europe, 1.4% elsewhere.

Total number of QSOs claimed: 16,956-20,260 per session, for a total of 185,390 and an average of 18,539 claimed QSOs per session.

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Individual QSO counts claimed ranged up to 271, with a mean of 67.9 and a median of 53.

0300Z CWTs after March 10:

The number of scores reported varied from 198 to 247 per session (average value 224.8), for a total of 3,596 reported scores in 16 sessions.

By continent: 89% North America, 9% Europe, 1.7% elsewhere.

Total number of QSOs claimed: 10,536-17,285 per session, for a total of 234,285 and an average of 14,643 claimed QSOs per session.

Individual QSO counts claimed ranged up to 281, with a mean of 65.2 and a median of 51.

0700Z CWTs:

The number of scores reported varied from 78 to 102 per session (average value 92.4), for a total of 2,403 reported scores in 26 sessions.

By continent: 66% Europe, 30% North America, 3% Oceania, 1% Asia, 0 elsewhere.

Total number of QSOs claimed: 2,306 - 4,763 per session, for a total of 94,715 and an average of 3,643 claimed QSOs per session.

Individual QSO counts claimed ranged up to 161, with a mean of 41.1 and a median of 35 before March 10 as compared with a mean of 38.3 and a median of 31 after March 10.

The large difference in participation numbers in the 0300Z series between the earlier part of the year (before March 10) and later (after March 10) is mainly a result of lower participation from North America. This is most likely due to the lateness of the hour in the EDT vs EST time zone in eastern North America, where participation is concentrated most heavily. The other three series did not show significant trends in participation over the six-month period.

On the other hand, there is a noticeable drop in individual claimed scores in all series, as measured both by the average numbers of QSOs claimed and by the median QSO scores before and after March 10. This does not appear to be due to changes in participation. Instead, it is probably most heavily influenced by seasonal changes in propagation. Assuming this to be the cause, we can expect typical individual claimed CWT scores to continue to be somewhat lower over the next few months before they start to rise again in the last few months of the year.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

**73, Rich VE3KI** (CWops #783)  
CWT Manager



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

<b>AAØYY</b>	WBØTUA KFØDQU	WA9TGT K7DV	AE8EA W8HOM	WØTT WB9UDL	N5MSY K4LJB	AF4PX PT7BT	KI4EZC
<b>AF4PX</b>	NS7E	KG2B	K8SNH	AD6HD	K8SHN	KC5AAV	
<b>GW2CWO</b>	GM4HBG	MM0VPM	GMØGHN	EI5EM	G1VRJ	DL3LMN	DL5SU
<b>JG1UQD</b>	JK1QYL	JA4IJ					
<b>JJ1FXF</b>	JA4IJ(2) JR1TUE JO1XGM/3	JO1UFB VK4TJ JL2SQK(2)	JS1CII JG1BGT(2) JE6XFK	JA4DCS JK1PWT JA2IND	JS2ØVO(2) JS6THD 7N1OEX	JE2OUK(2) JQ3FRX JE1DOF	JK1WCW KE7LOY
<b>JM4AOA</b>	7N1OEX JE2OUK JM8NSW R0LIQ	HL1MIM JI2OJV JN1FAO	JA2VXZ JJØXEQ(2) JN1MET	JA4DCS JK1QYL JQ2XOI	JA5DTR/3 JK1WCW(2) JQ3FRX(2)	JA6GLB JL2SQK(2) JRØCWZ/QRP	JA6JQZ JM4RRC JS1CII
<b>JO1DGE</b>	7K1BNL JA4IJ JG1BGT(11) JK1QYL JO1XGM/3	7M1JXA JA5FGC JG7AJE JK1WCW(5) JQ3FRX	BA4II JA5IVG JH2HTQ JK2IMG JR2AWS(3)	DS1UFX JA6BZH(2) JI7KNV JL2SQK(4) JR5FGP	HL1MIM JA6UVF JJØSFV JN1FAO JS2OVO	JA1YYE JE6AJO JK1MVC JN6ILN R0LIQ	JA4BSX JE7HDJ JK1PWT
<b>K6RB</b>	KP3J K7DRQ	W4BOS NA7DO	N8NA N7HCN	W8FJ WAØRSX	N9EP N8DXZ	KG7MVH	VY1CO
<b>MØWDD</b>	DF6IA G7KSE	DL4EDB M0IYP	F4ISS MØ0KCJ	G3SES MØRZE	G3SHF M7EAH	G4PVB M7WGF	G4YTK
<b>N5OT</b>	8P6ER 9A4WY	CE5HGE IZ5FDE	G4LRG	YB1JCD	PY5ZW	R7KZ	SM4OTI
<b>W2XS</b>	K1SWL WI5ARD	VE3GXU	W8OP	WA8KAN	WB8LZR	WJ2L	W4AUV
<b>7N2XZB</b>	JK1QYL(2) JK1WCW(2)	JQ3BSO JA5FGC	JJØSFV(2) JO1XGM	JA4IJ(2)	JN1MET	JFØ0IUN	JG1BGT

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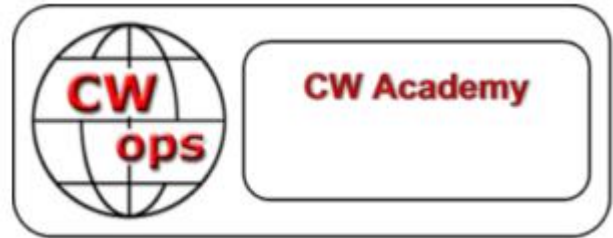
<b>Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local</b> <b>October - April: 40m &amp; 80m   May - September: 40m &amp; 20m</b> <b>Frequencies: 14.035 - 14.039, 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539 MHz   JA - 7.028 +/-</b>												
UTC+11	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	EST UTC-5	CST UTC-6	MST UTC-7	PST UTC-8	Hawaii UTC-10
<b>MON</b>												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS	AAØYY			
<b>TUE</b>												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB										K6RB	
<b>WED</b>												
	JM4AOA								AF4PX			
<b>THURS</b>												
	JJ1VNV			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
<b>FRI</b>												
	JR1WYW			SV2BBK		GW2CWO MØWDD		N2GSL	AAØYY		K6RB	
<b>SAT</b>												
	JJ1FXF											
	JM4AOA JG1UQD											
<b>SUN</b>												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											



# CW Academy

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

After CWops started in December 2009, a concept was kicked around to create an opportunity for people to better learn Morse Code, with a few ideas being tried. In May of 2011, CW Academy was conceived and implemented by Jay Temple W5JQ, Rob Brownstein K6RB and Jack Ritter WØUCE (sadly, in February of 2016, WØUCE became a Silent Key. He was very instrumental in helping develop the curriculums). It officially launched in August that year, with an 'Intermediate' class of 47 students and 11 advisors. After that, there was a lot of promoting of this program at most of the conventions in the US and slowly other areas of the world.



By the end of 2012, we had over 200 students come through the course, and in 2013 we had more than 300. In April of 2013, we added two more levels: 'Beginner' and 'Advanced'. May 2018, the 'Fundamental' class was added, giving us the current four levels. To this day, the course is free and supported by an all-volunteer organization.

The first few years of welcoming Beginner students, we found that many of them were just 'tire-kickers'. Consequently, we were having around a 40% drop-out rate, which was incredibly frustrating. We then initiated a verification process cutting this down to less than 20%. The other levels improved as well.

As of July 2024, we have registered more than 13,000 students and graduated more than 70% of them.

A big thanks to all the advisors and many others that have helped this organization grow and succeed over the last 13 years.

Currently CW Academy is being managed and supported by Bob Carter – WR7Q, Roland Smith – K7OJL and Andrew Bunker – N7AST.

**73, Bob Carter, WR7Q** CWA Co-manager and Advisor (CWops #1423)

Date	Advisors	Registered	Graduate
2011	11	30	27
2012	15	264	210
2013	17	394	303
2014	24	501	385
2015	33	553	410
2016	50	720	594
2017	63	520	468
2018	59	505	454
2019	55	551	476
2020	62	1475	1133
2021	79	2569	1613
2022	68	2134	1440
2023	60	1878	1195
2024	65	1213	809
Total		13,307	9517



# CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



## Monthly Update

During June, eleven additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 232.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of June 2024 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 244 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) N5RZ, (5) K3WW, (6) KC7V, (7) NA8V, (8) K7QA, (9) KO4VW** and **(10) AA2IL**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 593 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of June 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 625 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) N5RZ, (4) KY4GS, (5) NA8V, (6) KC7V, (7) K7QA, (8) DL6KVA, (9) OM2VL** and **(10) K3WW**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1681 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of June 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3175 QSOs. The top ten CMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) K3WW, (3) N5RZ, (4) N5ZO, (5) KR2Q, (6) W1RM, (7) NA8V, (8) DL6KVA, (9) F6HKA** and **(10) K3WJV**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 5978 QSOs.

The number of members who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities grew to 84 this month with the addition of **W4WF**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **237** this month with the addition of **ON4VT** and **N4NM**.

You can see complete rankings for all award categories at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/scores>.

## CWops Award Tools Participation

At the end of 2023 we had 271 active participants in the Member Awards Program. As of July 5, 2024, we have 232 active participants. If you have not yet submitted any logs for 2024, please do so soon, and we can include your score among the participants.

The Top 100 and the Searchable and Sortable Scores Table show rankings and scores for active participants only. To be an active participant and be included in awards scoring including the ACA, ACMA and CMA competitions, you must have submitted a log during the current year. To see rankings and scores for both active and inactive participants please use the Score Overview Table where inactive participants are listed with ACA and ACMA scores of zero, but their scores in other categories are listed at the highest level that was previously submitted.

You can see the final 2023 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.

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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" selection at the top of the page. For more information about CWT Participation Awards, please go to <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>.

### **CWops Member Awards Program Overview**

Several operating awards are available for contacting CWops members. These include **Annual Competition Award (ACA)** recognizing the total number of CWops members contacted during the current year, **Annual Cumulative Membership Award (ACMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per band) during the current year, **Cumulative Membership Award (CMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per 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).

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Here are the Top 100 ACA, ACMA and CMA QSO totals as of July 5, 2024.

**ACA**

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1710
2	AA3B	1466
3	KY4GS	1394
4	N5RZ	1318
5	K3WW	1240
6	KC7V	1237
7	NA8V	1227
8	K7QA	1166
9	KO4VW	1155
10	AA2IL	1117
11	KG9X	1115
12	DL6KVA	1097
13	OM2VL	1076
14	F6HKA	1066
15	N5AW	1043
16	N7US	1037
17	N5TJ	1020
18	K3QP	1019
19	K1VUT	1001
20	W4CMG	975
21	K3WJV	957
22	NJ3K	953
23	K9WX	940
24	W8FN	937
25	N5ZO	932
26	WT9U	925
27	WN7S	920
28	VE3TM	912
29	W0UO	892
30	VK2GR	889
31	EA6EJ	884
32	DM6EE	876
33	N5KD	863
34	K1DJ	860
35	K0WA	859
36	KM4FO	852
37	WT3K	850
38	KW7Q	837
39	NA4J	836
40	K1AJ	834
41	K6NR	817
42	W9ILY	814
43	F5SGI	810

**ACMA**

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4706
2	KR2Q	4081
3	N5RZ	3848
4	KY4GS	3323
5	NA8V	3193
6	KC7V	3156
7	K7QA	3113
8	DL6KVA	3096
9	OM2VL	3085
10	K3WW	3025
11	KO4VW	2638
12	KG9X	2466
13	AA2IL	2435
14	N5AW	2416
15	N5ZO	2307
16	K1VUT	2306
17	N7US	2247
18	N5TJ	2191
19	F6HKA	2144
19	K3WJV	2144
20	W8FN	2044
21	WN7S	2002
22	K9WX	1953
23	WT9U	1925
24	W4CMG	1870
25	EA6EJ	1840
26	NJ3K	1821
27	K6NR	1788
28	W0UO	1784
29	KW7Q	1778
30	VE3TM	1775
31	K3QP	1752
32	DM6EE	1732
33	WS7L	1709
34	OZ3SM	1698
35	KM4FO	1691
36	VE3KI	1685
37	NA4J	1663
38	K0WA	1645
39	K1DJ	1631
40	N5XE	1597
41	K1AJ	1594
42	W9ILY	1576

**CMA**

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14040
2	K3WW	10865
3	N5RZ	9990
4	N5ZO	9726
5	KR2Q	9528
6	W1RM	9240
7	NA8V	9104
8	DL6KVA	8865
9	F6HKA	8383
10	K3WJV	8062
11	VE3KI	7923
12	OM2VL	7381
13	K7QA	7308
14	KG9X	7275
15	N5AW	7251
16	N7US	7131
17	KC7V	7103
18	W9ILY	6944
19	W0VX	6615
20	WT9U	6588
21	K1VUT	6436
22	K3JT	6397
23	N4DW	6255
24	K9WX	6200
25	K3PP	5902
26	N2UU	5767
27	K6NR	5754
28	K1DJ	5730
29	N1DC	5658
30	SM6CUK	5652
31	N5TJ	5492
32	W4WF	5435
33	WT3K	5389
34	WN7S	5379
35	9A1AA	5353
36	G4BUE	5239
37	W8FN	5097
38	AA5JF	5049
39	KY4GS	5022
40	W0UO	4959
41	K1SM	4908
42	AC6ZM	4898
43	VE3TM	4887

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**ACA**

44	VE3KI	800
45	K3JT	796
46	OZ3SM	784
47	W1RM	772
48	N9UNX	757
49	WS7L	751
50	AF5J	736
51	EA6BF	731
52	N1DC	728
53	K1SM	724
54	9A1AA	719
55	KK0U	717
56	K3ZA	712
57	N5XE	710
58	AC6ZM	708
59	W0VX	706
60	KW1X	686
61	N2UU	679
62	PA0INA	668
63	WA4JUK	667
64	SP1D	666
65	K4TZ	664
66	N2EIM	652
67	K4PQC	649
68	KT5V	645
69	AA5JF	637
70	M0RYB	634
71	KV8Q	633
72	N9FZ	630
73	K4GM	629
74	N3CKI	626
75	KR3E	625
76	WS1L	621
77	W1AJT	618
78	W8EWH	616
79	VE3MV	615
80	W3WHK	612
81	K1RF	608
82	KY0Q	603
83	W2CDO	597
84	VE9KK	594
85	W9CF	577
86	W4WF	569
86	K0TC	569
87	VA4ADM	563
88	W0GAS	562
89	W2VM	559
90	SM6CUK	558
91	DJ5CW	542

**ACMA**

43	K3JT	1564
44	N5KD	1555
45	VK2GR	1526
46	EA6BF	1521
47	F5SGI	1518
48	WT3K	1485
49	AF5J	1483
50	W0VX	1464
51	W1RM	1441
52	N2UU	1428
53	SP1D	1410
54	PA0INA	1399
55	9A1AA	1382
56	KK0U	1366
57	N9UNX	1362
58	K4PQC	1319
59	M0RYB	1303
60	VE3MV	1302
61	WS1L	1271
62	K4GM	1246
63	AC6ZM	1220
64	W0TG	1200
65	N1DC	1195
66	K1SM	1189
66	K3ZA	1189
67	K4TZ	1172
68	K1RF	1163
69	KW1X	1161
70	KY0Q	1141
71	W2CDO	1132
72	SM0HEV	1121
73	W3WHK	1119
74	KV8Q	1103
75	W9CF	1101
76	VE7KW	1081
77	WA4JUK	1073
78	AA5JF	1053
79	N3CKI	1050
80	W1AJT	1048
81	SM6CUK	1043
82	OK1RR	1041
83	W8EWH	1037
84	DJ5CW	1025
85	VE9KK	1011
86	W2VM	1003
87	NN4K	964
88	W7ZDX	963
86	K0TC	961
87	W4WF	950

**CMA**

44	W1AJT	4764
45	F6JOE	4732
46	NJ3K	4705
47	GW0ETF	4653
48	AE1T	4592
49	NA4J	4533
50	N5XE	4486
51	WA4JUK	4484
52	K4GM	4390
53	OK1RR	4357
54	AA2IL	4247
55	K3QP	4228
56	VE3MV	4210
57	WS7L	4188
58	I2WIJ	4172
59	KT5V	4153
60	W6AYC	4150
61	K1AJ	4107
62	OZ3SM	4038
63	KO4VW	4012
64	K1EBY	3976
65	VK2GR	3890
66	DJ5CW	3858
67	KM4FO	3820
68	N1EN	3802
69	DF7TV	3785
70	W0TG	3753
71	KY0Q	3751
72	W3WHK	3704
73	N5KD	3703
74	K0TC	3696
75	WS1L	3668
76	AF5J	3595
77	DM6EE	3569
78	K0WA	3528
79	EA6BF	3515
80	KV8Q	3513
81	W2CDO	3507
82	KK0U	3492
83	F5SGI	3467
84	G4PVM	3463
85	AF4T	3375
86	AF8A	3345
87	K9OZ	3311
88	K4TZ	3282
89	KE4S	3261
90	SM0HEV	3255
91	KW7Q	3252
92	W0GAS	3249

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**ACA**

92	WU6P	540
93	W7LG	533
94	VE7KW	532
95	VE3KIU	530
96	N4LSJ	529
97	SM0HEV	527
98	NN4K	526
99	W0TG	519
100	AE1T	508

**ACMA**

88	WU6P	949
89	G3LDI	945
89	F6JOE	945
90	N9FZ	937
91	W0GAS	929
92	W7LG	927
93	KR3E	924
94	VE3KIU	917
95	N4LSJ	916
96	KT5V	893
97	KC8J	888
97	GW4MM	888
98	HB9ARF	870
99	VA4ADM	830
100	VE3WH	829

**CMA**

93	HB9ARF	3242
94	M0RYB	3218
95	W4CMG	3211
96	NN4K	3138
97	WU6P	3129
98	K3ZA	3116
99	4X6GP	3114
100	K2YR	3017

**73, Bill W0TG** (CWops #1873)  
CWops Operating Awards



**SC**

## QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

**Enzo, M0KTZ**

I owe you all some apologies for having missed the June issue with our QTX report. Sometimes life just gets in the way, and May and June were two very busy months at work for me, so I did not find the time to get the column together. I am very sorry for that.

You might argue that I have been spotted by RBN in May and June anyway, so you could rightly say "Hang on there: how comes you find time to call CQ and you can't cobble together two pages for Solid Copy? Are you kidding me, mate?". No, really, I am not kidding you, and I explain here how that happened. Putting together this column requires about three hours of work in a month, so nothing really heavy-duty. But those three hours must be squeezed between the time you start/end sending your QTX reports in, and the internal editorial deadline set by our good friend Dick. This window is normally about 48 hours (provided that you send your reports by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month!), and Dick is usually **very** understanding and accommodating for any delay that

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comes from my end (thanks mate!). But this time round I ended up having no 3 hours in a row in that slot (again, very busy at work, with a deadline that left me many fewer hours of sleep that I had hoped for), or in any of the days before the June issue was due to be published. This somehow speaks for the importance of having your reports in as early as possible, but in all earnest, even if I had received all your reports by the first of June, I was set to miss that deadline anyway, and there was really little I could do about that. This taught me that I can't always be as good and as efficient as I want to be, and I must live with that.

Now about the reason why I had some radio activity anyway in May and June, oh surely I did! It happened very frequently in those hectic busy days of May and June that any small amount of time I had to spare in a day, being it 10 or 20 minutes, was dedicated to CW on air. That is for me the best way of clearing my mind after a hard day at work. CW is for me the place where all the thoughts disappear. While I am at the key, I am just focused on my activity and on my correspondent, that's it. No external preoccupation gets into a QSO, and I quite regularly find more than one opportunity to have a chuckle during or after a QSO. Those 10 or 20 minutes of CW activity have become a sacred place to me, and have allowed me to carry on irrespective of how high stress levels were. As the late George Dobbs G3RJV (SK) used to say, we must always "manage to do one totally pointless thing every day" as that's really what makes our lives meaningful.

I actually had yet another extremely good reason to stay on air as much as possible: at the beginning of June I was delivered a beautiful sideswiper, built by the great handcraftsman and master CW operator Sal IK1OJM. The key is a masterpiece of mechanical precision, and I was determined to get better at sideswiping, as I had no excuses left for not doing that. The sideswiper (or cootie) is a really special kind of key, which many skilled CW operators find very difficult or impossible to use, even at modest speeds. Many other operators swear that cooties are the hardest keys of all to copy on air. That's not just because the operator has to compose each single element manually (dits, dahs, and all the pauses in between): indeed, the cootie is famous for its propensity to produce "muffled" code, where lines are exceedingly long, dits are irregular at best, and spaces between the elements of a character are normally short, sketchy, iffy, inconsistent. Obviously, it is not the cootie that produces muffled code on its own HI HI It is just that cooties expose our deep relation with the code in the most powerful and effective way possible. There is nowhere to hide with a cootie, as the key does exactly and precisely what we ask it to do, nothing less, nothing more. When you are on a cootie, your CW is as naked and bare as a newborn baby.

I personally think that the only way to produce some decent code on a sideswiper is by stopping thinking altogether, and letting the code be. You cannot stare at the key and ponder which way should the fingers go every time you want to get a "C" or a "?". You just really have to forget that you have fingers, and focus on the sound of "C", while your muscles try to match that sound as best as they can. This obviously requires a good deal of practice, but I found that the least thinking you put into it, the better you get. You have basically little or no conscious control on this process: it's just a matter of your arm, wrist, and finger muscles working together to learn the same patterns that your brain already knows well: "a dah is long three dits, the space between elements of a character is one dit, the space between characters is a dah and the space between words is an M". Only, there is no keyer that helps with spacing, there is no rest for your fingers, there is no time at all to mess up with thinking.

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As your muscles get better at synchronizing their actions with the mental image of each CW sound, you can forget that they exist altogether, and really let the code be. If you haven't tried sideswiping, well, you definitely should.

We welcome our new QTX friend Dave G0DJA, who has sent his first QTX reports. Please read through the soapbox section, which also includes the comments you sent for the June issue of Solid Copy. And please do not forget to send in your QTX reports as soon as possible at the beginning of each month, and in any case not after the 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**Total hours ragchewing this year so far:** not less than **1488**.

**W3WHK:** Always nice to run into and chat with Mike VE3GFN. Met NY3J, who lives close by and knows me from local clubs; he is a fellow Vietnam vet.

**GWØETF:** This is for May and June. Nice QTX with GM4HBG who was a new member within the week ;-)

**N7HCN:** Spent June moving to new home but managed a few QTX with a 93 foot wire only 6 feet off the ground. Zero trees for wire supports at new QTH, so ran between patio post and a stake in a pile of fill dirt. New antennas coming...

**VE3WH:** (June) Most of my ragchews I used a newly restored SpeedX 500 Les Logan that I returned to the airwaves May 1st. It was in poor shape and I had to fabricate some parts. The paddles have a nice fiber feel to them. It was a good month for conversational CW.

**KG5IEE:** A lot of enjoyable QSOs again this month. Of note was a nice QTX with W8SCS who has only been a ham 4 years. He was using his grandfather's J-38. I was on my J-38 as well.

(June) Nice month for rag chews. Probably because I called CQ more often.

**AAØYY:** I want to wish everyone a happy 4th of July.

(June) I worked AH6EZ, Dick. He is 72 years old and still races motorcycles in 4 different classes. He is my new hero!

**KR2Q:** (June) May was a low activity month for me in terms of QTX contacts. In fact, I did not have any ragchews after May 14. I was very busy with work. Food on the table is higher priority than radio. My one splurge in May was the WPX CW context (no QTX there). LOL

**MØMZB:** Better conditions than May prompted a few more QTS QSOs. A good chat with GMØHKS which included some practice at 35 wpm. I was interested to hear he used Clansman PRC 320 during his service years since I have one in my shack. A good chat with SM7RME who is travelling around Sweden in a camper van. Also a nice chat with CT1BQH. I had a few QSOs on 6m into Europe and Scandinavia but none of them lasted long enough to claim as part of QTX. I will keep trying.

(June) A slower month from a QTX perspective, due to poor band conditions combined with

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spending a large amount of time operating portable while out wild camping in Scotland and the English lakes. Highlight was QTX with N6NT on 17m (a band I should make more use of) and a couple of QSOs on 2m CW.

**WA4IAR:** Operating time was down this month as we were on vacation for two full weeks. Also it seemed there were a lot of days conditions were not that good at my QTH. As always, lots of interesting conversations with old and new friends.

(June) So far the best month I've had. I am now keeping a running total during the month so I am encouraged to try harder if I get behind. As usual lots of great QSOs I really like talking to someone long enough to find out what other hobbies, job and family they have. Almost always able to find conversation topics we have in common.

**N9EEE:** S9 noise levels at our summer home are killing my on-air time. My only ragchews are during POTA outings, or the occasional trip home.

(June) Nice MQTX with CE2JXO on 12 meters.

**ND4K:** As always, thanks for all the QSO's, especially those who are in my log multiple times!

(June) I wasn't on the air as much this month, but had a good time and continue to appreciate the QSOs.

**MØSDB:** (June) Life has gotten in the way a little bit last couple of months so I have not been having the number of QTXs I would like. But, things seem to have calmed down now so I am hoping to be back on it for June and for the rest of the year.

**KB6NU:** Only 21 this month, but they were good ones, including Qs with CWops NI4E, WS1I, ND4K, K9HIM, and WA4IAR.

(June) Had a lot of nice QSOs with CWops this month, including N8AI, N4LSJ, ND4K, and K8SK.

**AJ1DM:** (June) Always a pleasure to ragchew with my good friends!

**N8AI:** Had (4) long QSOs with KO5Q on 30m. Surely it was more? Roger caught a lot more QSO than fish from his cabin in Wisconsin.

(June) 22 min QSO @ 18 wpm, KF5JC Jim was on a government ship using Starlink to operate his home Flex station (6600, Tuner, Amp!) in Crescent, OK. I worked WA4IAR 8 times.

**AF4PX:** (June) Had some really good QSOs while portable in Pensacola, FL. Sometimes it was difficult to get CW time in between family activities. Thanks to all I was able to work!

**PG4I:** Despite being on holiday most of the month, I finally got 100 QTX QSO's together. Thanks for all the fun!

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(June) Some pleasant ragchews this month, but most QSOs only qualified for MQTX. Activity seems a bit low with all the solar storms going on. Hope to get at 100 QTX soon!

**KG5SSB:** Three of my Mini QTX QSO's needed one more minute to count as a full QTX. A bit frustrating, but still fun!

(June) I made one QTX during the W6SFM Bug Roundup.

**WB4IT:** Not much time for radio during the summer months.

### 72/73 de Enzo MØKTZ

#### Awards and Medals for 2024

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs

#### 2024 Total Number of Hours Worked: 1487.5

(based on avg 20 min QTX, 10 min MQTX)

<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>
WA4IAR	251	N8AI	54.3	DF7TV	16.8	YL3JD	10.2	N5LB	3
VE3WH	116	K9OZ	52	N2DA	16	N9EEE	9.8	GØDJA	2.7
KY4GS	109	F5IYJ	46.3	K6DGW	14.8	KF6NCX	9.8	W9EBE	2.3
ND4K	105	MØMZB	39	MMØUMH	14.7	K8UDH	9.5	ABØWW	2
MØKTZ	97.8	AF4PX	35	KG5SSB	13.7	IU3QEZ	9.3	G4IIV	1.8
WB4IT	80.7	KG5IEE	34.5	AJ1DM	13.2	GWØETF	7.2	K7VM	1.5
AAØYY	62.2	N7HCN	31.7	MØSDB	12.3	VK3QB	5.8	WT9Q	1.3
KR2Q	58.7	PG4I	24.3	N1ZX	11.7	W3WHK	4.8	N7BAS	1.3
KB6NU	55	KCØVKN	24.3	MIØWWB	10.8	KE4I	3.7	AD4SA	1

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### QTX - June 2024

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	76	K9OZ	22	M0KTZ	11	F5IYJ	7	WB4IT	2
VE3WH	62	KB6NU	21	N7HCN	10	W3WHK	5	N9EEE	1
ND4K	53	AA0YY	21	AF4PX	8	PG4I	4	GW0ETF	1
N8AI	34	M0MZB	11	KG5IEE	7	KG5SSB	3	DF7TV	1

### MQTX - June 2024

<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>
M0KTZ	39	M0MZB	20	KG5SSB	8	N7HCN	3
ND4K	38	KG5IEE	20	GW0ETF	6	W3WHK	3
N8AI	32	WA4IAR	14	AF4PX	6	N9EEE	2
VE3WH	27	AA0YY	13	DF7TV	5	PG4I	1

### QTX - Totals 2024

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	645	AA0YY	126	PG4I	46	KF6NCX	17	GW0ETF	4
VE3WH	279	N8AI	121	AJ1DM	35	IU3QEZ	12	VK3QB	3
ND4K	259	KR2Q	115	MM0UMH	29	W3WHK	11	N7BAS	3
WB4IT	204	N7HCN	88	MI0WWB	27	M0SDB	11	K7VM	3
KY4GS	168	AF4PX	77	K8UDH	22	DF7TV	11	G4IVV	3
KB6NU	165	KC0VKN	73	KG5SSB	21	N5LB	9	YL3JD	2
K9OZ	156	M0MZB	70	N9EEE	20	KE4I	8	G0DJA	2
F5IYJ	139	N2DA	48	K6DGW	18	W9EBE	5	AD4SA	1
M0KTZ	131	KG5IEE	48	N1ZX	17	WT9Q	4	AB0WW	1

### MQTX - Totals 2024

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
M0KTZ	325	M0MZB	94	M0SDB	52	N9EEE	19	KE4I	6
KY4GS	315	N8AI	84	KG5SSB	40	N7HCN	14	JS2AHG	5
WA4IAR	214	DF7TV	79	N1ZX	36	K8UDH	13	G4IVV	5
VE3WH	135	WB4IT	76	GW0ETF	35	G0DJA	12	W9EBE	4
KR2Q	122	YL3JD	57	IU3QEZ	32	MI0WWB	11	GW0KRL	4
AA0YY	121	AF4PX	56	MM0UMH	30	AB0WW	10	AD4SA	4
KG5IEE	111	PG4I	54	VK3QB	29	W3WHK	10	K7VM	3
ND4K	109	K6DGW	53	KF6NCX	25	AJ1DM	9	N7BAS	2



# My Story: New Member Introductions

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

## Martin Cooper, MØKHX #3544

As a boy in the 60s I used to listen to ham signals using an army-surplus No 19 set, then with a series of home-built receivers. I started to learn Morse code and tried to improve using a record played at different speeds.

In those days, the Morse test was administered by the General Post Office. I never felt ready for the test, but when the opportunity to apply for a GPO "student apprenticeship" came along I jumped at it. I thought that I would learn about valves (vacuum tubes) but they were being replaced by transistors and dropped from the syllabus!

There followed a long gap in my ham radio history, filled with marriage, children, work in telecoms Human Factors and project management, judo, running, the game of Go and learning French and Spanish.

I retired around the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and filled my days with macro photography, mycology and entomology. In 2023 during the Covid lock-down my interest in ham radio resurfaced. I passed the UK licence exams and became, at last, a radio ham.

My first transceiver was a Xiegu X6100. After a brief foray into digital modes I caught the CW bug. I first heard about CWops from Danny MØSDB, a tireless advocate for CW on Facebook. I enrolled in CWA and was guided first by Lorenzo EA3IEB and then Hanz YL3JD. Both showed the patience and persistence needed to get the best from their students.

I am now 100% CW with an ICOM IC-7300 and an EFHW wire tuned to 20 m. My limited garden space and my XYL's aesthetic tastes rather limit my scope for antennas. However, I have plans for a random wire antenna to allow me to explore other bands. My CW has improved and hopefully will continue to do so. I have started to try some contests and do the CWTs whenever I can.

I still have a touch of the imposter syndrome but expect that with continued practice I will do justice to the great traditions of the CWops. My thanks to my proposer and sponsors: Eric SM1TDE, Ivo 9A1AA, Kare SM5GRD and Ben SM6OEF and especially to Hanz YL3JD for his infection enthusiasm as a CWA adviser during my Intermediate and Advanced classes.



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### **Ian Lowe, GØPDZ (AG5XD) CWops #3556.**

I'm amazed that it was only August 2023 when I joined the Fundamental pre-class sessions of Buzz AC6AC. I had only booked on a whim after seeing a reference to CWA on a Facebook post. Thanks go to Buzz & his fantastic cohort of co-advisors who led me towards nomination & acceptance to CWops.

I was first licenced in 1990 as G7HTI, becoming GØPDZ in 1991 after passing the 12 wpm Morse test. I also hold the US call AG5XD obtained in 2019, passing all three exams in one sitting.

I live in the Southeast of England in the town of Margate on the North Kent coast on the Isle of Thanet.

Sometime member, of the North Kent Radio Society, Clifton Amateur Radio Society and now a member of and secretary for the Hilderstone RS, GØHRS / G7HTI (I gifted the club my old call for 'Hilderstone training & instruction'.)

Interests include QRP, portable operating, special event stations, contesting & supporting my local club activities.

After an absence from the hobby from the late 1990s through to a return in 2011, with occasional activity in the 'quiet' years, I now have again established a station at home.

I contest both with GØHRS & as a member of the Invicta Contest Group, M5IC.

I was a keen CW operator from 1991 when I passed my 12 wpm test but was never confident & struggled to get my speed above 14 wpm as a straight key operator. CWA & twin paddle has really moved that on!

I am a divorced father of five now adult children but remain on good terms with their mother. I am a grandfather of five from two of my children.

Almost my entire working life was spent working as a police officer with London's Metropolitan Police. After my early years in uniform in Southeast London I transferred to Royalty Protection initially in uniform protection duties before moving onto other roles in that department. My final few years were as a Detective preparing for the London 2012 Olympics. I retired from the Police in 2011 to work directly for the London Olympics, at the close of which I retired completely.

I was a keen yacht & dinghy sailor. Sailing & radio took up much of my time in my early retirement years, both of which led me to taking up volunteering roles with club committees. I then volunteered in a management role at my local RNLI lifeboat station liaising with the Coastguard on lifeboat launches on service. I stood down when the all-weather lifeboat was removed from service.



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I am currently the Group Lead Volunteer with my local Scout Group, a management role supervising all the uniformed & support volunteers. I jest that as I move towards my second childhood, I enjoy the company of those enjoying their first.

I post an occasional blog on my website <https://g0pdz.uk>

Hopefully meet you all on the air.

### **Bill Scott, W7LC #3549**

Growing up with a father who was a lifelong active ham (and a grandfather I never knew who operated in the spark-gap days), I learned Morse code and became a ham under his tutelage. My first callsign in 1958 was KNØSDX. Although life intervened and I let the Novice license lapse, I never lost my interest in electronics and radio technology, and I worked in numerous tech jobs over the years.

Finally, I went for the 13 wpm Advanced code test, and was re-licensed in 1981 as KD7MT, while operating my own radio-TV repair shop in Teton, Idaho. My primary activity was keeping a daily SSB sked on 40m and 20m with my Dad, WØQIH (SK).

My main interests had always taken more of an adventurous tilt, and I spent most of my career as a mountaineering guide, river guide, motorcycle adventurer, bicycle racer, part-time musician, etc. Along the way, I worked as a newspaper reporter for several papers and editor of the Driggs, Idaho Teton Valley News, engineering tech for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, electronics tech for Dresser-Atlas wireline services, Executive Director of the Idaho Falls Symphony, electrician, roofer, and a few odd jobs besides.

After retiring and putting a station together in the basement of my music studio, I again took a few stabs at CW, finally signing up for Buzz's AC6AC's intermediate and advanced CWA classes, which I just completed. Thanks to Buzz and his co-advisors Heather AH7RF, Marv W5DT, Tracy WM6T, Rich W4DPM, and Shirley MØWXG, and the many hours of teaching, advice, and fun they gave us, I stuck with it and finally have a good start on my CW journey. I have made many good friends along the way.

Thanks also to my sponsors Rob K6RB, John NØTA, and Kirk K4RO, and the many other CWops members I have had the pleasure of contacting on the air, I am proud to be a member of this

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great club.

Aside from ham radio, my other interests are playing classical piano, hiking with my wonderful wife Karen, riding my Triumph Bonneville motorcycle, shooting pistols, bullet casting and reloading, and generally wrenching on things in my shop.

I live with my wife Karen in lovely Idaho Falls, Idaho, the gateway to Yellowstone and the Tetons, and serve on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.

### **Martin Kühnl, OE3KME #3557**

Licensed in 2019, just before the pandemic, I got hooked on CW shortly after a few SSB QSOs. Studied with the Austrian Graz CW School, with another USA CW club and finally found my way to the CW Academy. It was good fortune to get into Buzz Tarlow's class and with all the support, feedback and inspiration from him and his co-advisors I learned to communicate in CW. As they say, it's a journey and it feels like the real learning has just started!

Born in Austria in 1964 I studied German literature and Philosophy and have been teaching those subjects at high school and partly at university since graduation. I am also involved in some teacher training programs and enjoy the work with students.

I am the proud father of a grown up daughter who is a successful medical doctor. I live on a farm in lower Austria near the Danube/Wachau with my YL.



In the Ham section of hobbies I enjoy SOTA and homebrewing kits like the QCX. I use a K3 in my shack with an end-fed halfwave antenna, which will be substituted by a ladder fed doublet soon. For SOTA I use a KX2, an IC 775 is still around as a backup.

Besides putting the patience of my wife to the test with CW I enjoy flying gliders, sailing and opera. For my 60th birthday I got tickets for Bayreuth, Wagner rules ;-)

CWops to me is a unique club of people enthusiastic about something utterly useless, but nevertheless extremely fulfilling.

Playing for its own sake is something very human, and it feels good to be in the company of enthusiasts playing the game of CW.

I want to thank SM5GRD, N4DPM and MØWXG for sponsoring me and the members of my class

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for all the friendship, support and patience.

### **Andy Imianowski, G4KKU #3562**

First, I want to say a massive thank you to Buzz AC6AC, my Academy advisor, for the intermediate and advanced courses and for the nomination. Also, a massive thank you to my sponsors Shirley MØWXG, Rich N4DPM and John G4PFZ.



The roots of my radio journey started with my uncle and his passing interest in electronics. This sparked an interest in electronics with my brother, and I followed. We used to get the *Practical Wireless* magazine and in the September 1977 edition they started a series "So you want to pass the R.A.E?" Following that, we found a course running near where we lived. I was still at school, just about to start 6th form, when the course started. As this was an adult education course and I was at school, I had to get permission from the headmaster to attend! This was granted, course completed and in September 1979 I became licensed. The following year, having passed the 12 wpm Morse test, I obtained my current callsign. It later transpired that the headmaster, his son and the Head of Science all became hams too!

I was quite active through the 1980s and most of the 1990s, both mobile and home where Top Band was my main interest. I did use CW a bit, but not often. I studied with the Open University for several years, until our daughters were born. Both amateur radio and studying ceased for a while. In September 2022, after 42 years in IT for BT, I retired. I needed to have a plan and part of that was to get back into radio.

In 2023 I decided to resurrect my CW to see how far I could take it. The Farnsworth trainer got me so far, but I plateaued. I had seen CWops, but the requirements for membership were way out of my reach, so I didn't follow up. It must have been nagging at me because in December I applied. The entry test suggested I go to Advanced, but I thought "no way!". Instead, I applied for Intermediate. I assumed I would not get into the January semester, as it was so close, but I received an email from Buzz offering January and to act quickly. No time to think, "yes please!"

Buzz, the co-advisors Marv W5DT, Heather AH7RF and Tracy WM6T and classmates were so supportive. I struggled a bit at first but then, because it's a safe space, we all made progress. I was staggered to find Advanced was a possibility. Again, Buzz, the co-advisors Shirley MØWXG and Rich N4DPM and classmates were brilliant. The camaraderie we had, and still have, helped keep me motivated. Now I am proud member #3562. What I thought was not achievable has been! However, this is just the start – there is more to do to keep improving. As a class we have become friends and will, I hope, continue to help and support each other – an unexpected, but very welcome, bonus.

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I am a member of the Shirehampton Amateur Radio Club (SARC). I joined straight after the RAE course but stopped going for a while due to family commitments and work. However, I re-joined just before retiring. Through the enthusiasm of our chairman, I became interested in the English Castle and English Lighthouse awards. It's not something I chase avidly, but it is fun, and I have managed to get a couple of awards. I also took part in a couple of 80 m club contests and have become associated with the Bristol Contest Group.

My wife, Hilary, and I have 2 daughters, Charlotte and Rachel. Charlotte is currently working in Pittsburgh in the Vignali Lab, associated with the University of Pittsburgh, carrying out cancer and immunology research. Rachel lives with us. She went to university, but it didn't suit her, and it took a while to recover from the experience. She has had several part time jobs but was recently made redundant. She has now started a new full-time job and we hope this leads to other things, as there are opportunities to learn about sales and finance.

### **Saied Seghatoleslami , AD2CC #3547**

I started playing with radios in high school, building plate modulated vacuum tube transmitters that I tuned by the brightness of a lightbulb. That led to BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

I started as a test engineer on the Space Shuttle working for Bendix Corporation. I joined a startup in the mid-70s making word processing machines, but the introduction of the IBM PC and word processing software put an end to that. I spent the next 20 years at Bell Labs as a chip designer, supervisor, and department head. I also spent a few years in manufacturing process research and attended Harvard Business School Advanced Management Program.

When Lucent spun out its enterprise business (Avaya), I joined that business and until retirement in 2013, I had various roles as VP of product management, business unit general manager, VP of quality assurance and customer advocacy...etc. After "retirement", I have done stints as president of a startup, executive chairman of a different startup, and a whole bunch of private equity business consulting.

But now, I have a much simpler life. I am a father of three adults, widower, runner, retired engineer, tinkerer, a member of Delaware Valley Radio Association (W2ZQ) and CW Operators Club and a fan of the NY Giants, Yankees, and the Grateful Dead, and I like it. I still write code and build circuits for my radio station. If interested, check them out at: [Saied74 \(Saied Seghatoleslami\) · GitHub](#) and <https://ad2cc.blogspot.com/>

And most importantly, I would like to thank all who have helped me get here: Glen Johnstone, NK1N, who suggested I enroll in the CW Academy and was one of my sponsors, Joe Spencer,

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KK5NA my intermediate CW Academy advisor who introduced me to the idea of sending everything that I can to hone my CW skills, Buzz Tarlow, AC6AC, my advanced CW Academy advisor and his challenging, motivating and empowering style that paved my way into the CW Operators Club and the Advanced class co-advisors Shirley Park, MØWXG and Rich Giardin, N4DPM, who made the advanced class fun and enjoyable and all three for nominating and sponsoring me into the CW Operators Club. And of course all my classmates in the intermediate and advanced class.

### **Larry Bostic, K3LB #3567**

I was born on a farm in South Georgia and grew up working in the fields harvesting corn, peanuts, cotton, and tobacco.

I was introduced to ham radio by WA4BBD (SK), an avid CW Op, in 1959 and got my Novice license that year.

After studying Math and Physics in College, I reported to Pensacola, FL for Naval Aviator training. After thirty years of flying P-3 Orion aircraft in the US Navy, I worked as a Systems Engineer in Saudi Arabia and California for 15 additional years.

Now I am retired and have the station I have always wanted: an Icom 7700, and an OptiBeam antenna 100 ft up that covers 40m, 20m, 17m, and 15m.

I really enjoy a good ragchew QSO as well as the battle for an ATNO in a big pileup.

I also enjoy reading, hiking, and swapping sea stories with other military veterans.

If you hear me, please call me; I love making new ham radio friends.



### **Ross Guarino, WB2WJF #3558**

As far back as I can remember I had always been inquisitive about things mechanical and electrical. I think I destroyed many of my parents radios while trying to “fix” them. Before my teens I built a crystal set that I could use to listen to the *Grand Ole Opry* using a piece of wire tossed out of a window. Living near Buffalo, New York I thought that was fantastic.

During my second year of high school, circa 1954, I learned that the Prefect of Discipline, a Jesuit priest named John Sturm, was a ham with the call K2JS (SK). He was my Elmer and I got my Novice license with the call KN2SQQ. Due to other commitments I was not active and that license lapsed.

I never lost interest and I kept trying to relearn CW so I could be relicensed. I don't know how

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many different code courses and tape lessons I went through. During college I also built some equipment for my future station, mostly Heathkit.

In my last year of college I found that I would be going to medical school so I had to get a license before that. I worked very hard at CW and theory and was able to earn my extra license with the call WB2WJF.

I tried CW on the air and decided it was not for me. Because of many life factors including school, cardiac surgical residency, children (4 boys}, and military service (Vietnam} I only operated intermittently. Despite that I worked lots of DX, ran innumerable phone patches for the overseas deployed and was net control for many traffic nets.



In 2023 while in a Zoom room with some locals I lamented that after all these years I was still no good at copying CW. Someone mentioned that he was in a CWA class and he thought I should give it a try. I took his advice and applied .

I was accepted for the fundamental class starting in Sep. 2023. My advisor was Buzz, AC6AC. Pre-class sessions began in August. and since Buzz was on vacation he arranged for co-advisors John W7JKC and Tracy WM6T to handle the festivities. Myself and several of the students that started in that class have recently been assigned CWops membership numbers.

Buzz and his co-advisors have been nothing but fantastic in their ability and dedication to helping us to become CWops. Since a lot of our group has been in fundamental, intermediate and advanced class together we have become friends. Buzz and the co-advisors have nurtured us and encouraged us in this entire journey. They should all be applauded: Buzz, AC6AC; John, WK7JKC; Tracy, WM6T; Marv, W5DT; Heather, AH7RF; Shirley, MØWXG; Rich, N4DPM. What a fantastic group!!!!

Other interests: Ocean fishing, hunting, sporting clays and trap shooting, small bore marksmanship, scuba diving, flying (instrument pilot), skiing and I'm still married to the girl I dated in high school. Some of these are now only in my mind. I'm getting on to my rocking chair days when ham radio will be front and center.

### **Tim Hale, K5OHY #3573**

I first became interested in amateur radio in 1993 at the age of 13. My father and I studied for our licenses together and learned Morse code using Gordon West's cassette tapes. I was active for a few years, primarily using CW with my original callsign, KC5OHY, but by high school, I had moved on to other hobbies.

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I re-engaged with amateur radio in 2003 while serving as a guitar player for the 2nd Marine Air Wing band at Cherry Point North Carolina, primarily operating QRP CW with an FT-817. After completing my military service, I sold my radio equipment to focus on my career and family. I worked as a trauma nurse in Fort Worth before returning to school to become a nurse anesthetist. I moved to West Texas in 2013 after completing my training.



After 21 years off the air, in December 2023, a colleague's mention of getting his license reignited my interest in radio. Since my previous license had expired, I had to retake the Technician exam in January of 2024. I have been actively involved in Parks on the Air (POTA) and Summits on the Air (SOTA), enjoying a renewed passion for CW operations. My youngest son Evan is in the picture with me. He joined me on a few POTA activations recently.

My home station includes an FTdx10 and several wire antennas. For portable operations, I use a variety of radios, including a Xiegu G90 and an FT-891, along with a few other QRP radios.

I recently completed the CWops advanced course, thanks to my instructor YL3JD. I would also like to thank N5NA for nominating me and W5LXS, K5UV, NM5G, KJ5T, KG5SSB, and KN2D for sponsoring me. Both N5NA and W5LXS have been excellent CW mentors at the Midland Amateur Radio Club.

### **Erik Chancy, LB1KJ #3551**

I've had an interest in radio from a young age, though it was not developed further. My grandfather had a long career working with radio, but it was not until a few years after his passing I developed my interest into a passion with amateur radio.

I received my license in 2021 through a class run by my local club, the Bergen Group of NRRL, where I am now a board member. Even before receiving my license, I started getting a feeling that CW was the mode for me and tried learning a bit on and off. The summer of 2023 I got serious with attempting getting on the air with CW, and after getting on the air I KNEW that CW was my mode and I signed up for CW Academy to really develop my skills. I feel very privileged to have been able to take the CW Academy



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course with Buzz AC6AC, first in Intermediate with Heather AH7RF, Marv W5DT, and WM6T as co-advisors, and then advance with Shirley MØWXG and N4DPM as co-advisors. I express my sincere gratitude towards them all and the rest of the CW Academy for lending so much of their time to help CW ops develop their skills and help keep Morse code alive.

For work I am a software engineer working mostly with 3D graphics. Like many other software engineers, I like tinkering with programming in my free time, and I also play around with some early microprocessors for some homebrew computing.

A big thanks to Buzz AC6AC for nominating me, and to MØWXG, N4DPM, SM1TDE, AA3B, and SM5ACQ for being willing to sponsor me.

### **Ken Countess, KN2D #3566**

I'm Ken, KN2D - a ham for over 50 years. (My previous callsigns were WN2MSF and WA2MSF.)

My Dad was a ham, licensed in 1957 as K2VYD. My son now has his callsign.

I love HF contesting and DXing and have just returned to the air after about 20 years of being inactive - now equipped with a Yaesu FT-710 and a G5RV antenna and a triband dipole.

I'm also getting acquainted with FT8 and DMR.

Primarily, I've been tweaking my antennas and working on getting my CW speed back to 50 wpm, where it was when I was a teen.

I am a VE (Volunteer Examiner) and a member of QCWA.

Professionally, over 25+ years, I held executive positions at Motorola, Marriott and Caremark and was a senior partner at a 35-person marketing agency.

Today, I'm an award-winning marketer, public speaker and coach/trainer and an internationally recognized, accredited expert on Email Marketing and Social Media Marketing. (I coach businesses how to make more money with email marketing.)

I'm Constant Contact's top worldwide partner/trainer, a certified email marketing expert, and am a frequent speaker at trade shows, workshops, and online.

In the ham world, I was recently a speaker at HamCation, teaching attendees how to grow their ham club. You can find a studio replay of the presentation at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybi4CPw\\_-s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ybi4CPw_-s)



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### **George M. Smith, AG5XQ #3560**

I was licensed as a Novice in 1968 (WL7GRL) and after the required 1 year operating as a Novice, I upgraded to General Class (KL7GRL). The Novice license required 5 wpm code proficiency and I was restricted to CW operation, 75 watts, and crystal control for the 1-year period. I qualified for the General license with 13 wpm code proficiency as witnessed by the local FCC office in Anchorage, Alaska. My Sponsor and Proctor for the Novice Test was Al Bianco, KL7FKO (SK) (if anyone is old enough to have him in your log!). Naturally I embraced the new band privileges as well as SSB operation but continued to use CW for several years. I reckon that I was fairly proficient at 20 wpm at the time.



As life happened, I was in and out of the hobby several times through the years; setting up a station whenever I could. I was active in AMSAT, Packet, and Amtor in the late 70s and early 80s. My career took me all over the world including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. During my stay in China for 4 years, my KL7GRL license expired and I was unable to renew it in time. Once I returned to the USA for a position in headquarters in Houston, TX, I took all the tests and passed the Amateur Extra to obtain my AG5XQ call.

During my stay in Asia, I met my wife who has traveled with me from Indonesia to China, Singapore, Australia, and the USA. We have always planned to retire in Indonesia so that explains why I am here now. Indonesia was good enough to award me with their Amateur Extra license as YE1GXQ acknowledging my USA license.

I love DXing and contesting so I was compelled to brush up my CW skills. Amazing how the cobwebs grow over time so I hit the code hard for a couple of months. When I got here to Indonesia I amassed over 200 DXCC entities with my new YE1GXQ call. I was very impressed by the quality of many of the CW operators I encountered during that effort and when I looked them up on QRZ I noticed many of them were members of CWops. This is what led me to apply for the CWA Advanced Class. Having knocked most of the cobwebs out and become fairly proficient at 20+ wpm for the DXing and contesting, I was able to pass the entrance test on the CWA website for 20 wpm.

Not expecting word so soon, I received a notice from Buzz Tarlow saying I was invited to enroll in his Advanced class. Naturally I accepted. I was hopeful of getting a boost to reach 30 to 35 wpm.

Here I will interject my praise of Buzz Tarlow as well as his entourage of co- advisors, notably Rich Giardin and Shirley Park. A well-organized class even via the limitations of Zoom, Buzz has skillfully structured around the CWA curriculum a very effective learning environment that I am very for-

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tunate to have benefited from. I have met my goals of proficiency for DXing and contesting but have come away with an additional goal. I will continue to work on my ragchewing proficiency with CW now that I have been duly influenced by Buzz! I heartily recommend CWA and Buzz's classes. He genuinely has your individual needs in mind with his classes and his co-advisors share his enthusiasm.

Currently, I have been nominated, sponsored, and accepted as a member of CWops (#3560). My sincere thanks to Buzz (AC6AC), Rich (N4DPM), Shirley (MØWXG), and Bud (AA3B) for this. My thanks also to Alan (N5NA), Hank (W6SX), and Kevin (VK6LW/VK6T) who attempted to sponsor but I had already been approved.

And to all my classmates (members #3547 – #3565) who made my time so enjoyable, I also thank heartily. I look forward to meeting all the CWops club members and will see you on the CWTs!

### **Nick H. Meier, NIOCK # 3550**

My journey in Amateur Radio began back in 1984. A friend, who was a meteorology major, introduced me to the world of storm chasing. During one semester, a professor encouraged students to explore storm chasing, and the storm chasers communicated via amateur radio weather nets on 2m FM. My friend suggested we both get Technician licenses, and I agreed. We embarked on a storm-chasing adventure, but unfortunately, nothing eventful happened. The following semester, his professors changed, and storm chasing fell by the wayside. Although I occasionally checked into local VHF/UHF nets, I didn't fully utilize my license.



Fast forward to 2015, when I discovered SOTA. As someone who enjoys backpacking and hiking, the idea of carrying simple gear to a summit for radio contacts intrigued me. However, CW was the preferred mode for SOTA, and despite several attempts at self-study to learn Morse code, I lost interest whenever progress stalled.

Then I learned about the Long Island CW Club and decided to join. After a few months, I became comfortable making on-air canned QSOs, but my CW progress still faced setbacks. Just when I considered giving up, I discovered the CWops Academy. I researched the organization, took the entrance exam, and found myself in Buzz Tarlow's Intermediate class. His approach emphasized having fun, making friends, and learning CW along the way. Surprisingly, I enjoyed the process, made many friends, and even ended the Intermediate class with a handful of successful CWT contacts.

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During the break between semesters, my classmates and I continued meeting twice weekly to simulate the CWA experience. When the Advanced class began, the CWTs no longer felt as daunting. Although I encountered learning plateaus, the CWA curriculum helped to overcome them more efficiently. My progress continued, my CWT contacts multiplied, and eventually, I received a nomination for CWops membership. After reviewing my CWT logs, I reached out to four sponsors, and their overwhelmingly positive responses left me grateful and motivated.

My CW journey began with the goal of activating a summit. Unfortunately, I have not achieved that goal yet. However, the required CWT homework revealed that contesting is surprisingly enjoyable. Now, with my CWops membership, I've set some new CW goals: POTAs, SOTAs, and of course, continue with CWT.

I owe immense gratitude to several individuals who supported me along this journey. Buzz AC6AC and his co-advisors from the Intermediate and Advanced classes: Heather AH7RF, Tracy WM6T, Marv W5DT, Rich N4DPM, and Shirley M0WXG, have been instrumental. Additionally, my sponsors, Rich N4DPM, Shirley M0WXG, Jim N3JT, Stan AH6KO, and Nian WU6P, deserve heartfelt thanks.

When I'm not on the radio, I enjoy golf, hiking, backpacking, and photography. Staying in touch with my classmates will be added to that list!

### **Sally Bromley, WQ5T CWops #3554**

My journey as an amateur radio operator began in 1998 when I started hanging out with the guy next door, Jay Bromley, W5JAY. Jay helped organize and sponsor ArkieCon, a QRP event involving a full day of speakers in Ft. Smith, AR. I met many hams including Chuck Adams K5FO/K7QO, who casually asked me if I wanted to become a ham. I said sure, that is when the journey began. Chuck sent me "Learning the Code" CD's. That along with studying the question pool, I went from no call to Extra Class in about 30 days in 2000. I only had to learn the code at 5 wpm. Jay and I were married in September 2001.



Jay was the Ham; I was pretty much name only when it came to being on the air. I only used CW by using a memory keyer for chasing DX and only when Jay was in the shack. Same thing for SSB and digital. But I had other attributes that were useful in the ham radio field and that was organization and being a people person. Because of that, I was asked to serve as vice present of QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRP ARCI) by a dear friend Ken Evans W4DU. Ken said he had the technical knowledge but needed my other skills. I served in that capacity for several terms and worked Four Days in May (FDIM) every year during Hamvention. I met so many hams, many of whom are now silent keys such as the Rev. George Dobbs GERJV, Hank Kohl K8DD and Vern

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Wright W6MMA and many who are not just acquaintances but have become lifelong friends.

I retired in 2021 as the chemistry supervisor from the local VA Hospital. Being a people person in retirement is difficult during COVID. A friend Danny Bryant W5CI, gave me a membership to LICW in Jan. 2023. I loved the interaction of Zoom sessions and started learning the code again. Later, one of my LICW instructors Eric Kennard WS4K suggested I sign up for John Merkel AJ1DM's CWA Intermediate class with himself and John Comella N8AA as co-advisors. I progressed so much in John's class but after graduation, decided to take Intermediate again. Tony Pattinson VE2KM became my advisor. I gained more confidence and registered for Advanced. Buzz Tarlow, AC6AC became my advisor with Rich Girardin N4DPM and Shirley Park MØWSG as co-advisors. Buzz's class is intense because of the extra practice sessions and extra homework outside of the CWA curriculum or maybe it was because it was Advanced, but it was worth it. Buzz is so supportive and I had so much fun and gained a whole new family. By now, I was taking over my husband's shack. I learned so much from my advisors and co-advisors. All of my classes and classmates helped me to become the CW operator I am today but the journey continues.

Thank you Buzz for the nomination and thank you Mike, KC7V, John NØTA, Terry K3JT, Rich and Shirley for your sponsorship.

I love the outdoors and hope to do some POTA, SOTA and of course work as many CWops members as I can.

### **Matt Jamison KI5PGL #3572**

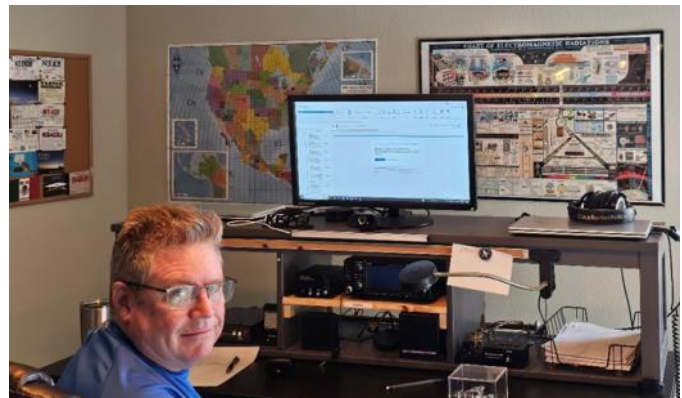
I became a Technician in 2021 as I had decided to make ham radio my "COVID hobby." At first I was interested in the prepper/EMCOMM angle but quickly became hooked by the technical complexities of antennas, propagation and so on. I heard that there used to be a code requirement and I asked myself, how hard could Morse code be?

I discovered the Long Island CW Club and then Morse Code Ninja and found that I really enjoyed learning and practicing CW. Listening to Kurt Zoglmann's sentences on my daily commute, I found it to be a pleasant mental challenge, like an aural Sudoku or Wheel of Fortune puzzle.

I met Dallas Ward K1DW #326 at the Sachse (TX) Amateur Radio Association and he urged me to invest in a paddle and strongly urged me to enroll in his CW Academy Fundamentals class. I recently completed the CWA Advanced class and I'm grateful for the work of Dallas and my other advisors: Frank Collins K1EBY #1593, Jason Poplaski KB3SAR #2875, Mark Tyler K5GQ #672 and Phil Schecter NE0S #2723.

I set a personal goal of CWops membership because it would be objective evidence that I had be-

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come a capable CW operator. Becoming a member is very gratifying. My primary station is an IC-7300 with an MFJ automatic tuner feeding 100 watts to a RadioWavz 40m off-center fed dipole stealthily draped across the roof. My Bencher paddle works perfectly but I am susceptible to Bengali envy. I'm dreaming about buying a piece of land in the Texas countryside where I can start putting some real hardware up in the air. I'm also studying for my Extra ticket because contesting on General is like boxing with one arm tied behind my back. Also I hope to get a pithy vanity call so others don't struggle to copy the horrible dit string of "i5."

In 2024, I decided to apply myself to contesting, using the weekly CWT, in particular, to benchmark my improvement. I believe that HF/CW communication and contesting is going to be a life-long hobby and I look forward to continually improving my skills and my station.

I work as a systems administrator at Murata Electronics, a manufacturer of components such as capacitors and filters for a wide range of applications. My wife and I have a 16-year-old daughter who is working towards her Tech ticket and a 10-year-old son. I also enjoy cycling, reading and being active in our Lutheran church.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me on this journey so far! If I'm not in your logbook, I hope to be soon.

### **Thomas Sommers, WU8T Bio # 3569**

I earned and received my Novice ticket on January 2, 1968, becoming WN8ZNC. Passed my General test in May 1968 becoming WA8ZNC which I held until this year in January 2024 to become WU8T. Never wanted to change my call as it was like my name but also was frustrated using WA8ZNC in contests. Finally, over the Christmas holiday, decided to be like Nike and, "Just Do It". My dad was a ham also, WA8ZBA (SK) and when I got on the air, I wanted nothing to do with CW as I told my dad I wanted to get on SSB when I got my General class. He reluctantly agreed to let me upgrade our rig from a Drake 2NT/2C to a Drake TR-4 but I had to trade them in and pay the difference. (He told me he was trying to discourage me as I was a freshman in high school and didn't want me to take ham radio as a fancy short stint. But I was stubborn and agreed to this.) After six months as a General and spending all my time on 80m SSB at night, I went back to CW and really never went back to SSB. Dad thought this was hilarious as he said I should have kept the 2NT/2C.



I grew up in east Ohio across the river from Wheeling, West Virginia. I am a retired hospital CEO/CFO and have a MBA from the University of Texas at Tyler and a BS in accounting from Wheeling University, Wheeling WV.

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My ham radio career was disrupted by my career in 2004 and I never expected to get back on, though I kept my call active. After retirement, we moved to Washington State in 2020 and my wife encouraged me to get back on the air since the home we purchased has two plus acres, trees and a shop with an office that I use as my shack. When I got back on the air in 2020, I can honestly say that my CW was atrocious and I swear I could hear everyone either cry or cuss when I got on the air. Well, I got my CW back as well as my speed and want to thank Joe, AA2IL as well as K1EBY, K4RUM and W6SX for nominating me for CWops. There is also one more, Chad N9UNX, who tried when we were at the Dayton Hamvention during the Contest Super Suite to get me interested in CWops, but I kept putting him off. When Joe asked me if I would like to join, I said yes, apparently that was two guys inviting me and I had to say yes.

My main interests today are contests and primarily CW, I will work SSB for contests, but love the CW tests, MST and SSTs. I also have a daughter who is also a ham, KB5OHG, who keeps buying me tee shirts with ham sayings on them.

I want to finally thank my wife for encouraging me to get back in the hobby and supporting my contest activities.



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