

Solid Copy

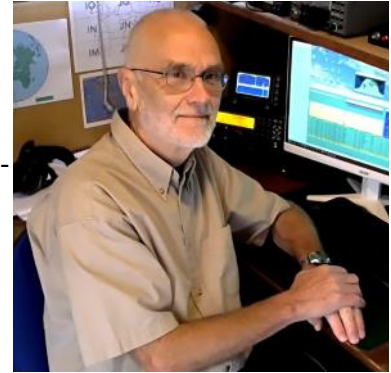


The CW Operators Club Newsletter
August 2024 — Issue 175

President's Message



Few if any would disagree that the ultimate aim of CWops is the promotion of CW operating on the amateur bands. In this we use a two pronged approach of encouraging existing devotees to get on the air, along with



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How We Were is a monthly flashback to fond memories of operating amateur radio. Page 9.

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, [N3JT](#)
Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)
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Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)
WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)
Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

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reaching out to new operators to become involved in our favourite mode and develop the skills of Morse code operating.

The first prong targets both members and non-members through such activities as the CWTs, our 'ragchewing' or QTX program and the annual CW Open contest, while the second is focussed on enthusing those that are yet to progress to a level that satisfies our membership criteria. Both approaches are highly successful; the inter-club rivalry of our member awards programs based on contacts with fellow members (ACA, CMA) as well as WAZ, DXCC, WAE, QTX etc create interest, are fun and encourage our members into the shack. Our outreach efforts based on the enthusiasm of individual members and of course the highly successful and widely acclaimed CWops Academy has for years played a major role in bringing new CW operators onto the bands (check out Page 40 of last month's Solid Copy - since the inception of CWA in 2011 there have been over 13000 student registrations of which ~70% have graduated successfully!)

When I joined CWops back in 2011 I felt I was joining a *project* – a project to support CW. Much of what CWops membership offers is available to anyone but for me I belong to be with others around the world who share my passion and commitment. Like a trade union it unites us in a common cause and strengthens our position in the diverse hobby of amateur radio. Our membership continues to grow so others clearly feel the same – *Membership of CWops is a Vote for CW..!* Who can say with any certainty how long amateur radio let alone CW will survive in its present form for future generations to enjoy. I'm just happy in the knowledge that being part of this club has made such a positive difference to the cause of CW and confounded the prophets of doom following the world wide introduction of 'No Code' licensing.

Having just been involved as a remote 'partner' with the GR2HQ headquarter team in the IARU HF Championship reminded me what a great mode for contesting CW is compared to SSB (in my opinion!). And so very popular too; previously quiet CW segments of our HF bands spring into life with the starting gun but often have minimal activity on contest free days; we see this around the CWTs each week. Personally I wouldn't like to see CW become a mainly contest mode and I do enjoy being able to send conversational CW using a real key rather than the normal keyboard sent contest exchanges. Please remember we have the CWops target frequencies ("on the 8's") listed under the 'About' tab on the website where we should be listening out for other members looking for a QSO. These are under-used so a good time to give it a go? And don't forget Fabian's (DJ5CW #1566) excellent 'CW Club RBN Spotter' at <https://rbn.telegraphy.de/> - select CWops and find where other members are operating in real time and boost your ACA totals!

And while on the subject of reminders I'll close this month with another. If you keep hearing the same call sending great morse and clearly very competent but find, when you check the Member Roster that s/he isn't a member, you may be tempted to fire off an email to ask if they're interested in joining CWops. But before you do please take a minute to check they haven't been asked previously and declined. We don't want to annoy and some folk have particular reasons for not wanting to join which we have to respect; maybe it's simply 'not their thing' or perhaps already members of other CW clubs. So please take a look at the list of those individuals that we have recorded as declining nomination; it's linked from the 'Nominate a New Member' section in the Members Only area of the website. And if you come across anyone who has indicated no interest

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in becoming a member please be sure to enter their details in this list for the benefit of others. Have a great month and have fun in the CW Open if you're entering.

****Stop Press**** - On August 7th I finally got to meet with Jim N3JT and his good wife Nina. Covid got in the way of the last attempt in Dublin. This time he was on a tour of Scotland with Nina, and Colin GM4JPZ had organised a meet up in Glasgow with a few other GM members and partners. I treated my wife to a 3 night city break which kicked off in style with a classic 'CWops pizza'. You can read Jim's account later in this issue along with a couple of photos. Thanks so much to Dick for squeezing this in way past the deadline...!

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

sc

Editor's Note: Odds 'n' Ends

Correction to last month's article about the CWops Plaques and Awards column by Craig Thompson, K9CT and me. Inadvertently, some information was duplicated in the CQ awards plaque program. If you downloaded that page for reference, please return to the [July issue of Solid Copy](#) and reprint that page with the accurate descriptions.

The N5J Jarvis Island DXpedition is underway. What's interesting is how many CWops members are operators either on the transport and [local operations](#) boat named "Magnet" or are [operating remotely](#). The CW operators are N1DG, KO8SCA, W1VE, CT1BOH, CT1ILT, KL9A, N6MJ, KL2A, K5GO/ZF9CW, KL7SB, JN1THL, SM6LRR, CE3CT, VE5MX, ZL3CW, E21EIC, KY7M, W2GD, DL6KVA, and WD6T. Only 5 CW operators are not CWops members. And the co-leader for this DXpedition is none other than Don Greenbaum, N1DG CWops #2. [DX Mentor](#) podcast and YouTube video featured Don in one of their episodes. Even if you're not chasing Jarvis Island, this specific episode reveals everything about preparing for a DXpedition in 2024: RIBs, battery consumption, antenna selection and deployment, equalizing the pile-up, and more. Hopefully, one or more of the team will provide an after-action report with photos and video for inclusion in an upcoming *Solid Copy*.

Bruce Meier, N1LN, is encouraging the formation of new teams for the CW Open (page 10) to introduce new members into the fray and broaden the competitive field. Having read Stew's article last month about [Flea Power Contesting](#) has inspired me to form a new team called "Mighty Mites" composed entirely of QRP operators. Stew and I are seeking other QRP ops to join us and have some fun no matter how fabulous or meager your antenna, whether at home or portable, if you have time for all three or only one of the sessions. Shoot me an email at MightyMitesQRP@gmail.com if you're interested in joining us. If QRP isn't your thing but you'd like to join a team, post your request on our [reflector/listserv/email exchange](#) facilitated by Groups.io.

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

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

Ops News and Notes

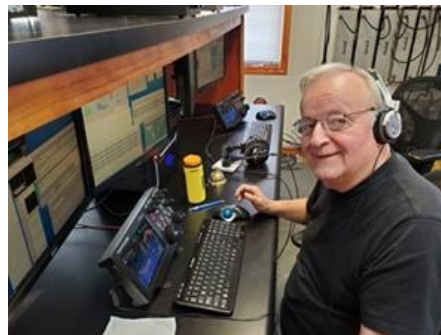
[Duncan \(Mac\) Fiskén, G3WZD](#)

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

Condolence cards have been sent on behalf of CWops.



Glenn O'Donnell, K3PP
#1787 on 29th July, 2024



Don Kerouac, K9NR
#1072 on 3rd August, 2024

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#), and my usual thanks for the contributions. Please 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 column is 23:59 UTC 1st September.

Ken, KN2D #3566 I'm pleased to report that I've recently reconnected with K1AR, John, whom I've known since he was WA2LQZ and I was WA2MSF back in the 1970's. John nominated me for CWops a few months ago, and I have been enjoying the ride since.

I've also become active again in various CW contests, and that's been fun. After being inactive for a long time, it's "great to be back" on the airwaves. Looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and connecting with new ones!



Bruce, K1DW #326 One of the benefits to advising in the CWA on ZOOM is to watch the young family children interrupt to kiss their parents good night. Recently a youngster did just that, and her father said that she could send her name in CW. At my prompting she did just that and sent EMMA with perfect character spacing. I asked her if she knew any other characters. Her reply was that she is only 5 years old and did not go to school yet. After complimenting her on her CW skills, my thoughts were with

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those who claim that CW is too difficult to learn. My hope is to work Emma on CW in the future when she goes to school and learns the rest of the alphabet.

More recently her father tells me Emma knows a handful of other letters and Odin, her 8-year-old brother, knows all letters/numbers now and can send/copy most simple words. There is a great future for CW!!!



Vit, OK5MM/OK5M #2499 A few CWops has met close to Czech Radioclub stall during 2024 hamfest in Friedrichshafen.



Operators from l. to r. AD5A, GM4ZUK, G3WGN, OK2IW, DK9PY & OK5MM

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Mike, VE3GFN #1119 took his new Hyundai Kona SUV over to the Milton (ON) hamfest in mid-July, trying out the E/W toll highway 407, which, living in the extreme south of the Toronto area, he has not used before.

It was a miraculous drive, taking less than an hour to cover the 50-odd miles, and enjoying 2M FM QSOs on the VE3YRA repeater (which has an amazing footprint!) enroute.

I met Norm, VE3CZI, whom I had not seen in years, and had chats with Tom, VE3RSA, and Steve, VE3SMA, both local area contesters. I then enjoyed lunch with Bert, VE3NR, another Toronto area contester, and Rob, VA3RTG.

The next ham expedition will be the annual Contest Club Ontario Barbecue in August, which is held at the QTH of VE3EJ, where we all goggle with amazement at John's huge antenna farm.

Cainan, N9FZ #3412 I've been working on a [website](#) to help POTA activators better visualize the POTA park boundaries using USGS data for the various United States parks. I only have 7 states left to do. Maybe this will help someone get out there and do a CW activation.

Chris, VK3QB #2949 is heading back to Vanuatu 20-27 August 2024. The team enjoyed the QTH and experience so much last time (April) they've decided to head back for a week. The team comprises four CW operators this time, three of whom aren't CW Ops members (so let's get them nominated guys & gals) ... as CW will be our main mode.

Olgierd, VK5XDX (Oly on CW) is a mad keen 6 metre buff so he'll have an ear open on the dedicated K3s station connected to a 4-element beam. The rest of the team, Luke VK3HJ, Patrick VK2PN and Chris VK3QB will be ready to support Oly with any magic band openings.

The rest of the time we'll be busy on the HF bands, only going as low as 40m. During downtimes we'll run an FT8 station to keep digital operators happy and get YJ band slots filled. We'll use a 40m doublet via a (soon to be collectable) MFJ962 balanced tuner, and about 50 metres away on the beach a DX-Commander, Expedition model, courtesy of Callum at DX Commander. This configuration proved very effective last time, with antenna separation and opposite polarisations minimising inter-station QRM.

If you're a CW Op member pls let us know and say g'day. We are always happy to stop for a quick chat (if the pileup isn't too crazy), but probably QRS a little. DXpedition speed will be 25-28WPM but our conversational copy is closer to 23-25WPM.



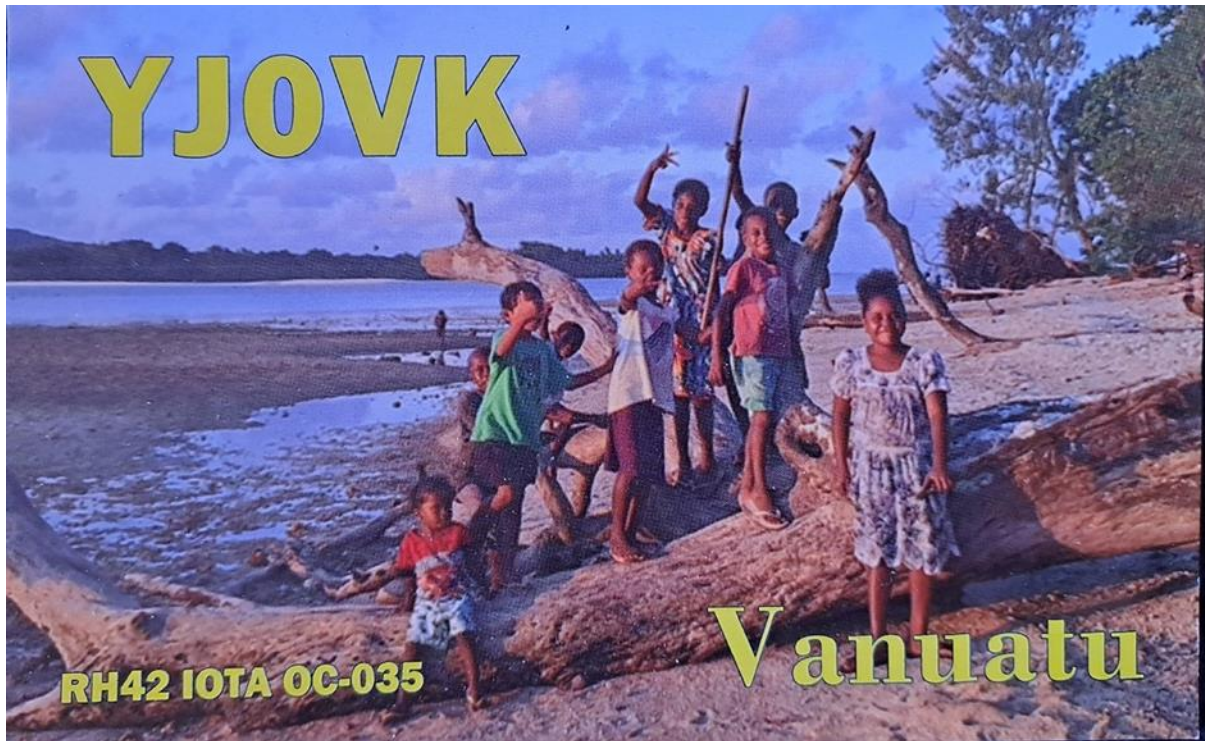
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We might even pop up during CWT to mix things up a bit. (Do I need to register YJ0VK with CW Ops for the credits?)

I look forward to hearing and logging as many CW Ops members as we can - even if you don't need YJ, pls give us a yell and say g'day.

More details on our [QRZ page](#) or follow us on [Facebook...](#)



Saul, W3WHK #1392 As usual, I enjoyed operating as WM3PEN, representing the City of Philadelphia, in the annual 13 Colonies special event 1-7 July. The WM3PEN callsign belongs to our local club (Holmesburg ARC), and we try to keep the name of William Penn (who founded Pennsylvania in 1682) on the air! Other CWops members who contributed on the CW side were WA3GM and NF3R. Non-members on CW were KA3TTT and the ubiquitous WK2G. If you need to know who operated when, I can look at the roster for you.

K3FI is another of our club calls, which we usually use on Field Day. Since we had no group FD this year, I used the call from home to operate Class 1D. Hurray for short callsigns!!

I enjoyed the IARU HF contest recently, and did quite well, considering half of my G5RV antenna has been down for a while. I'm amazed that I still work DX, let alone "get out" at all. My "antenna guy" (climber) assures me he'll have it repaired this month. I also plan to operate WA2DNI (Staten Island, NY) remotely, as available, for DX contests.

Roger, G3LDI #1843 I still have a full record of attendance in the CWTs, which I hope to maintain

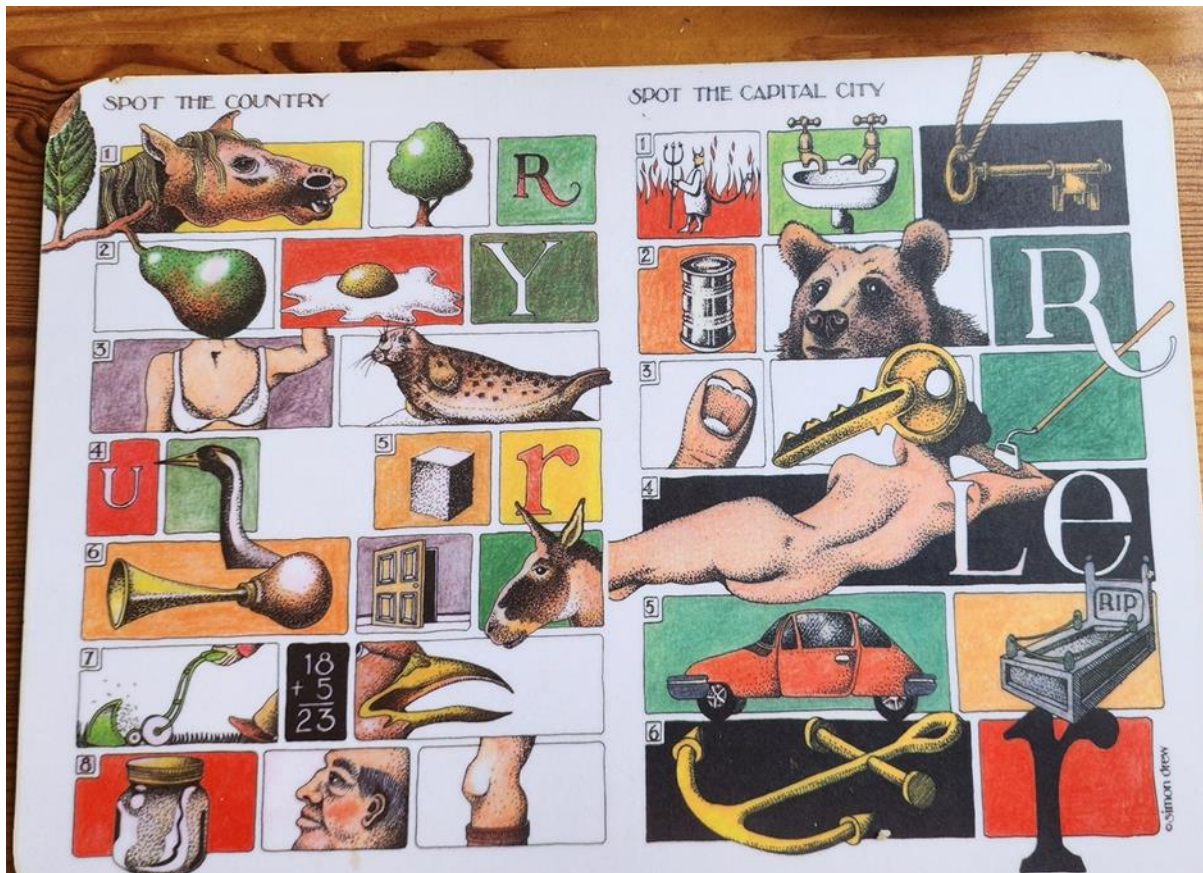
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again this year. My antenna situation is still the same. I am waiting for Chris GØDWV to come and climb the tower to ascertain the damage before proceeding any further. I cannot do anything until the main tower is back in the air. It's stuck at 40ft at the moment. I'm not really moaning though, lots would like a tower, let alone moan because it is only 40ft tall!

My entry in the CW Open will therefore be limited again this year.

Jim, N3JT #1 I was recently in Scotland in a small restaurant in Loch Carron where they have these curious placemats. Here is one for hams!!!



Dick, N9EEE #3113 I will be in Shrewsbury (UK) for my daughter's wedding which occurs the same weekend as the Telford (UK) Hamfest. I understand the G-QRP club will be meeting at the hamfest venue that weekend as well. Too bad I'll have to miss that. I asked my daughter to push the wedding to Monday, but she didn't go for it. If any CWops members will be in the area on Thursday 29th August or Friday 30th August, perhaps we could meet up. [Let me know.](#)

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

73, Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

Jean Mercier, F6JOE, CWops #1091



Aged 59, I have been a radio amateur since 1992 with the callsign F1JOE (phone) then F6JOE (telegraphy) in 1995. I learned telegraphy on my own using audio cassettes.

My first HF rig was an Icom IC751, then a Kenwood TS50 then a TS570 currently under repair. The TS50 has returned to service, the antenna is a G5RV. The paddle keys used are a Chevron and a Bencher Mercury as well as a straight key. Professionally transferred to Guadeloupe for six years in two periods (2011 - 2015 & 2019 - 2021) with the call FG8NY.

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)

The 2024 CW Open Contest - September 7

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

Get ready for one of the most TIME FLEXIBLE and fun CW contests of the year. The CW Open contest is comprised of three individual sessions, each four hours long. These sessions are all on September 7, and spread across a 24-hour period to level the propagation playing field globally. Here is the schedule for the three sessions.

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)



Below are a few of the contest details, but for a complete description go to: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/>

- **Each session is separately logged, checked and awarded. 3 separate contests!**
- **Who:** Open to all amateur radio operators, worldwide
- **Modes:** CW only
- **Operator categories:** Single operator
- **Power categories:** HP (more than 100 watts); LP (more than 5 watts up to 100 watts); QRP (5 watts of less)
- **Use of spotting:** No limitations on using clusters, RBN or skimmers, but please, no self-spotting.
- **Exchange:** QSO number + given name (e.g. 12 John).
- **Scoring:** 1 point per QSO per band (each session); 1 multiplier for callsign the first time it is worked (each session). Scores start at 0 for each session. Work someone once per band per session.
- **Reporting:** Separate logs for each session. Logs must be in Cabrillo format and may be submitted via <https://cwops.contesting.com/> Paper logs are NOT accepted!
- **Logging:** CW Open is supported by many logging programs. See <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/>
- **Teams:** Team competition is supported (see <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/#team> for signup). No geography limitations. **(PLEASE REGISTER YOUR TEAMS EARLY TO AVOID THE LAST-MINUTE RUSH!!)**
- **Awards will be provided to winners in the following categories:**
 - * High score, each session, each ITU Region (max of 9 awards)
 - * High combined score (all sessions), each ITU region (max of 3 awards)



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- * High score, each of HP, LP and QRP, each session, each ITU region (max of 27 awards)
- * If the same entrant wins multiple awards, the awards may be combined.
- * Minimum of 100 QSOs (after log checking) is required to qualify for and win an award in each session

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

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

sc

How Clean Is Your Signal?

[Stewart Rolfe](#), **GWØETF** (CWops #919)

When I wrote the words “*We all know how to check our transmissions...*” in my opening column last month I did wonder if I might be making a rod for my own back. So it wasn’t long before Dick our editor contacted me suggesting I expand on that statement in a short article for the next *Solid Copy*. Now I realise full well there are members far better qualified to explain this but it was difficult to decline gracefully so here goes with a quick and dirty guide from my own personal point of view.

First some background:

In days of old most rigs weren't sold but home-brew ruled the day,

With nerves a'twitch as you turned that switch, will the signal be OK?

(excuse the iambic rhyming) 😊

So home construction would have involved a routine of checks to see if the new transmitter was putting out an acceptable signal with a good tone, no chirp or drift and of course acceptable levels of harmonics and no key clicks. Since then we’ve moved into an era of buying high quality commercially produced transceivers in return for handing over significant amounts of cash. It would seem reasonable to assume that a radio that might have cost the equivalent of £3000 would put out a pristine signal but as we all know that doesn’t always follow. We hear that beautiful sidetone and somehow get drawn into believing that represents what is going out over the air. But we all know there are plenty of nasty signals out there particularly during contests. And it’s not me that is saying this. In my column a few months ago I mention a new initiative from the ARRL aimed at tackling the problems of dirty signals. Called the [Clean Signal Initiative](#) it involves some technical big hitters including a couple of our own members – if you haven’t come across it you can follow the links at <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-clean-signal-initiative> and watch the video

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from the 2024 ARRL Convention – if the video link doesn't work click here ['Enhancing Transmitter Performance'](#). There's lots of good information there and well worth a close look.

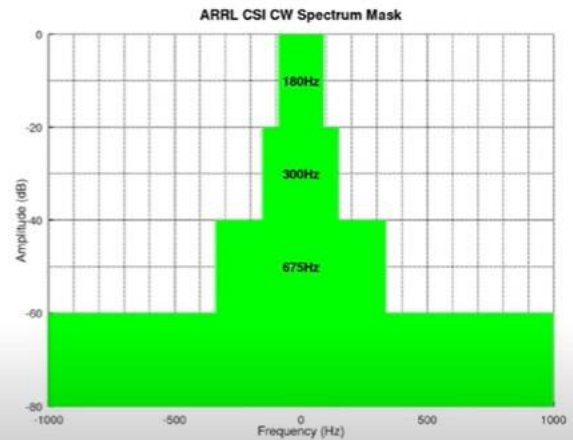
The CSI masks: CW Waveform

Mask values for a CW signal
(key clicks) being equal or
narrower than the following:

-20 dB 180 Hz

-40 dB 300 Hz

-60 dB 675 Hz



Screen shot from the *Enhancing Transmitter Performance: The ARRL Clean Signal Initiative* video.

The classic way of checking one's signal is on-air monitoring. This can be do-it-yourself with a second receiver in or near the shack but is likely to use low power transmissions to avoid damage to the front end of that second receiver. To check for overly wide and possibly clicky transmissions at high power would need a friendly neighbourhood ham who can listen in and pass judgment (I've never managed to do this using a remote SDR receiver). Most signals these days sound fine when tuned in so your buddy would have to tune up and down across your signal listening for synchronised noise/hiss or clicks and even distinct sidebands spreading out significantly from the zero beat frequency. S/He may be able to supply a panadapter grab or audio recording too. Due diligence would need to be exercised if the monitoring station was close to rule out RX overload (using attenuation). An oscilloscope is a great way of checking your CW signals for acceptable shape, rise/fall times and leading edge overshoot etc. Used analogue scopes can be found for £50 or less over here, and the major professional electronic suppliers are selling budget digital storage oscilloscopes such as Multicomp for £200-£300 now. While relatively basic they can be so useful in any shack and aren't that expensive in the grand scheme of what we spend on ham gear.

So what can you do if you discover your signal is not up to scratch, or you get told by someone on air that your signals are 'a bit clicky'? Most solid state transceivers today appear to use some variation of ALC loop controlled by software to set and limit output RF power, and with a variety of set up procedures for the different modes. So the first port of call has to be RTFM, and be prepared for having to change any default settings. A £3000 transceiver I bought recently suffered extremely shortened initial element rise times (only evident with a storage oscilloscope because the following dits and dahs were OK); this must have been causing key clicks in the rapid to and

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fro of a busy contest, and I was told so by a reliable source in its very first big contest. Some careful digging in the manual unearthed an obscure (to me!) ALC setting that had to be changed from the default and the clicks were cured. And while you're at it if you have a scope check your CW envelope rise and fall times; don't simply believe that if you dialled in 6ms in a menu that is what you've got!

Finally a reminder not to forget any amplifier in on-air tests and oscilloscope sampling. In addition there seems to be a continuing and often heated debate about amps that use ALC feedback to control the exciter drive level from your radio. Some recommend it while others claim it to be a potential source of poor signal quality. All amplifiers I've had have been free running. The solid state Gemini HF-1K I have at the moment has no ALC output and while it has what is clearly an effective overdrive cut-out it relies ultimately on the user knowing how to set drive levels and delay timings. Should poor signal quality be reported when using an amp relying on ALC feedback to control exciter drive I would hope it is possible to disconnect the ALC feed and change to free-running to compare.

As we all will know there will be times when design shortcomings result in less than ideal transmit performance leaving users with little choice but to wait in hope for fixes and firmware updates. But we can still take steps to ensure that our signals are as clean as possible. CWops prides itself in exemplifying good CW operating – let's do that while using signals we can be proud of too.

sc

N3JT in Glasgow

[Jim Talens](#), N3JT (CWops #1)

Nina (K4NML) and I began an 8-day tour of Scotland with Gate1 Travel in August 2023. It was to include a group dinner at the end of the trip with local hams in Glasgow arranged by Colin, GM4JPZ (#2537). Bilateral kidney stones saw fit to attack when we landed in Edinburgh, however. Six hours in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital were followed by our flying home the next morning for treatment. Two days later the issue was resolved through laser cystoscopy. Travel insurance paid for most of the tour cancellation costs and the hospital costs were covered by NHS Scotland. We reprised the trip for exactly a year later, August 2024.

We arrived in Edinburgh on August 1, coincidentally during the Fringe Festival, a massive array of entertainment events by several thousand singers, dancers, comedians, etc. at many small venues throughout the city. In our free time in Edinburgh, after our city tour (including Edinburgh Castle), we managed to see 3 rather interesting shows, so we were busy in that great city. Our group of 25 then continued by bus to visit the Singleton whisky [Scottish spelling] distillery, St. Andrews (golf course/university), Culloden Moor Battlefield, Inverness, Ft William, Stirling Castle,

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and lots of places in between. The last two days were in Glasgow.

Colin again arranged a gathering of CWops members in Glasgow. We met Colin and XYL Eileen at our Hilton hotel and headed together by taxi to an Italian restaurant about 15 minutes away. In addition to Colin and Eileen were MM0TWX, Pete (#3085), GW0ETF, Stew (#919) (with XYL Chrissy), Terry, GM3WUX (#2826), and GM0EUL, Peter (#1899).



Chrissy (XYL GW0ETF), Peter GM0EUL, Stew GW0ETF, Terry GM3WUX, Jim N3JT, Peter MM0TWX, Colin GM4JPZ, Eileen (XYL Colin), Nina (XYL Jim)

Our gathering started with great mirth, until I realized I no longer had my cell phone. Be assured that put a pall on the fun and caused an industrial-level release of adrenalin on my part. Pete, MM0TWX called our hotel to check the two specific locations where Nina, Colin, Eileen, and I had been sitting before heading off to dinner. Nothing found. With that information I knew it must have fallen out of my jacket in the taxi we took from to the restaurant. To confirm this, I used my recently installed Pebblebee trackers and Find Device app by linking Nina's cell phone to Pete's phone (hotspot). (Nina has the same app and list of active trackers, including the one attached to my phone, but her phone did not have overseas Internet access.) It showed my phone was about 4 miles away, in a place nowhere near where we had been. That confirmed it was in the

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taxi. Peter, GMØEUL, volunteered to chase down the taxi in his car, but first we tried calling the hotel to get the taxi company's information and then the taxi driver. Colin and I remembered the name of the taxi service and the 3-digit reservation number. With that, the taxi company was able to contact the taxi driver, who reported that he had my phone. Why he did not answer when we called it is not clear, though it may not have been audible through the partition separating the driver from the passenger compartment. The taxi driver came to our restaurant in about 20 minutes and handed me the phone. The fare was 12 pounds and I gave him 20, a bargain at that! The fun of our gathering could then resume in earnest!

What do 5 CWops members talk about over dinner? Well, it was not just the club or ham radio. We chatted about a variety of fun topics, some of them involving what each did or does for a living, life in Scotland, memorable ham radio experiences, antenna issues - and of course CW operating and ideas for the club. Interestingly, the first question asked of me was about my proposed candidacy for ARRL Roanoke Division Director. Of note is the grand time that Nina, Eileen, and Chrissy had together at the other end of the table! They seemed to do a lot more laughing than we did, but of course we hams are a serious bunch and focused on matters of universal truth and justice. Not!

It was getting late and our tour would resume quite early the next morning so we parted, sated from the meal with its accompanying lubrication -- and our eyeball ragchews. It is said that it is not how far you travel but how deeply you travel that mines the gold of experience in life, and this meeting certainly provided a great experience for all of us.



A Rock And A Hard Place

[Bill Salyers](#), AJ8B (CWops #1567)

After the recent outage at ARRL Headquarters, I felt like another opinion might be in order.

I am not an ARRL apologist nor am I someone who normally enters the fray just to be heard. However, after reviewing the comments in various locations such as groups.io forums, eHam forums, Facebook comments, and twitter information that has been spread, I felt it was time to at least provide some potential insight surrounding the recent ARRL situation. I have no inside information but quite a bit of knowledge can be gleaned from what was said and what was NOT said. Anyone who thinks that the ARRL took this lightly or were too casual about it doesn't realize what was at stake or the people involved. There are some folks at the league that I have not agreed with, but I never questioned their dedication to the league or the hobby.

I am not a White Hat hacker and not an expert. I have learned things the hard way and then spent considerable time and energy to learn after the fact. In 2019, our company suffered a Ransomware attack at one of our locations shutting down a district office for several days while we dealt with getting 20+ users back online in a way that we felt confident that we could safely move forward.

After putting in our layered defensive scheme, we have received a top rating from our Cyber Insurance provider, been asked to speak at several conferences, and to be a reference for some of the products that we use. If learning the hard way makes you a bit more of an expert, then I am the guy to share some information.

As soon as the ARRL announced that there was an issue with most of the services and systems, one had to conclude that this was a complex and wide-spread attack. As they listed most of the services that had been shut down, LoTW was not on that list. As a very active and popular service, I assumed that some sort of nefarious activity was ongoing such as Ransomware. The idea behind Ransomware is that your files are rendered useless when the attacker applies some sort of encryption to them. Often you can open them, but they are filled with gibberish. You are then contacted by the attackers, either via email or in a pop-up window when you attempt to open an infected file, to supply some sort of payment (typically bitcoin) and the attackers will supply the reverse encryption key. (You hope.)

When we suffered our attack, we immediately contacted our cyber insurance provider for guidance. We had already isolated the office from the rest of our network. Our provider directed us to contact the FBI who assigned a special agent. The first order of business was to minimize our exposure to the public. We were told not to use terms such as Cyber-attack or Ransomware even to our users. We notified our users that we had a network component failure. The FBI's reasoning was simple. The attackers would be less likely to negotiate if they knew the entire picture and knew that they had you "over a barrel."

Rock and a Hard place #1 - presumably the ARRL identified a Ransomware attack and had notified the FBI. I am confident that they were told not to mention anything about the severity of the attack. So, ARRL members wanted a full and accurate update and the ARRL *could not* provide one

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lest they compromise their bargaining position. When the ARRL did not give an LoTW update, wild speculation filled the void. Never helpful, but it happens.

The second step involves identifying the attack vector. Was it social engineering? (via email or a text message for instance) Was it a website drive by attack when someone visited a rogue website? Was it something brought in from the outside via a non-approved laptop, tablet, or a USB device? Perhaps a terminated employee was taking revenge!

There is a scarier situation than we have already discussed – what if something that was loaded on to a PC months ago was part of the objects that were backed up back then? Now when you restore from backup, you could be starting all over again.

Rock and a Hard place #2 – All of this takes time. The more time you take, the more frustrated the user community gets – I know, I have been there!

Assuming it is a Ransomware attack, while you are going through the evaluation of how you were attacked, the extent of the attack, and what the state of your backups are, you are also performing a business analysis. I have no idea if a demand was made or what it was, but the average starting demand in 2023 was approximately \$568,000.¹ So now, you are comparing your lost business, functionality, and risk versus the demand. You might set up a test environment and restore your backups to see how quickly you can get things up and running. How stale is the latest backup? Conducting a forced rebuilt is not the time to learn that you no longer have the correct tape drives, backup drives, software, or Code Words!

Rock and a Hard place #3 – Money! It always comes down to money. Most organizations don't have unlimited funds and I am sure that the ARRL is no exception. In fact, with all the anguish and gnashing of teeth that recently occurred during the membership dues increase, the thought of buying new hardware, cloud services, new software, Cyber Engineers etc. would be the last thing on the league's mind.

A practice that some companies employ, is to relegate old servers to the data center. In many cases, a large server running windows will do a fine job running UNIX even as the hardware ages. It allows companies to avoid the capital expense that would be needed and is a common practice in non-profit organizations. They are hoping that they will never be a critical point of failure. "If it isn't broke, don't fix it!" Once these servers are set aside for a specific task, they are often neglected. It is easy to see how any company might use old hardware to support a project and then forget about it. Suddenly, it becomes a liability that only shows up during an audit or an attack.

We had one such server that we had to physically remove from the network. The software that ran on it was used by our HR department and the last version of Windows server that it could run on was Server 2007! That is no longer supported and is a huge liability. Once we identified the issue, we took it completely off the network and mothballed it.

As I mentioned, I have no inside knowledge of what the league was facing. I do know that these problems are complex, difficult, and are not aided by sages and experts who seem to know better. As I mentioned, I am not an apologist but I thought another viewpoint my help clarify what

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the league may have been going through.

Your thoughts and input are appreciated via the CWops Groups.io, ARRL-Groups and LOTW-groups.

See you in the pileups. Bill, AJ8B.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1409510/ransom-payment-us-quarterly-amount/>



Congratulations

June 2024
QST Cover Plaque Award Winner

Joe Reisert, W1JR

In his article, "Simple, Small 2- and 6-Meter Yagis," Joe provides construction details for a remarkable Yagi antenna that has a proven design with a very simple match and outstanding performance.

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

www.arrl.org/cover-plaque-poll

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

Simple, Small 2- and 6-Meter Yagis

Gain, pattern, and an easy, wide-band match.

Joe Reisert, W1JR
Sometimes a ham needs a small, efficient handheld 2-meter antenna with moderate performance, especially for emergency communication. They may also need an entry-level 6-meter antenna, especially for chasing DX and utilizing F2 propagation as we approach the peak of Solar Cycle 25.

The basic Yagi is still a good choice for a compact and efficient antenna. Radiation pattern and impedance are determined by the number of elements, the length and diameter of the elements, and the spacing between the elements. Many trade-off studies were conducted 25 years ago on Yagis with 0.1 – 1.0-wavelength booms. The results, which you can read at www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth, were published in the winter 1998 issue of *Communications Quarterly*. For a visual representation of these concepts, see the sidebar, "Yagi Gain."

A three-element Yagi on a 0.35-wavelength boom can have a gain of 5 dBd. Inserting an additional director, and readjusting the element lengths and spacing, can improve the radiation pattern. A front-to-rear ratio greater than 20 dB is possible, and the gain will increase to about 6 dBd with a direct 50 Ω match increased bandwidth. The lead image shows this Yagi as built, and its radiation pattern is shown in Figure 1. It uses a 1/4 × 1/4-inch square boom that is at least 36 inches long, but similar round tubing can be used. Booms with square tubing tend to have improved symmetry and better, long-lasting contact between the elements and the boom.



The 2-meter Yagi mounted in the vertical polarization. (Joe Reisert, W1JR, photo)



Joe Reisert is CWops #249.

Reprint from the September 2024 issue of QST Magazine, published by the ARRL.



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>
3580	W7GE*	Sam	3582	KD9LSV*	Connor	3584	VK3VB	Phil
3581	N5OP*	Mark	3583	SV1ME	Manos			

* Lifetime member

As of August 3, 2024:

Need Sponsors: KE2BRV, W5HK, N4PF

Invitations Extended: LA7MFA, WM9C, K6SAL, N7VS, E70T, KW6SEA

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

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

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](#)

This month I will review the first five years of the history of the CWTs.

The CWops club came into existence in December 2009. The first on-air activity organized by the club was the CWTs, starting in January 2010. The announcement of the first CWTs can be found on the CWops reflector archive at groups.io (<https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/message/462>), posted by KZ5D on January 7, 2010. Initially, the CWTs were at 1100z, 1900z and 0300z on the second Wednesday and Thursday (UTC) of each month. The January 2010 CWTs had a more complicated exchange, but that was changed for the next month's CWTs to the simpler exchange we have been using ever since then.

Those first three CWTs were documented by KZ5D in his column on pages 2-3 of the first issue of the *Solid Copy* newsletter (<https://cwops.org/newsletter/2010/02scopy10feb.pdf>). That column gives a great description of how the CWTs came about and the thinking behind them.

For the first CWTs, the only score reporting was by posting claimed scores on the CWops reflector. That was supplemented for the next month and eventually superseded entirely by the still-current method of reporting claimed scores to 3830scores. Scores for the CWTs starting from February 2010 are archived at the <https://3830scores.com/> website. They can be found there by selecting the "Contest Summaries" link in the menu bar near the top of the page and then selecting the "CWops Test (CWT)" link partway down the page. As of August 2, there were 2064 CWT scores listed there, missing only the first three CWTs from January 2010.

For the first few years, the CWops club also maintained its own CWT score pages on the CWops website. Those score pages are no longer available from the CWops website, but they can still be recovered from the Wayback Machine archives at <https://web.archive.org/>. Looking at the scores for the very first CWTs in January 2010, I can see several callsigns that are still active in the 2024 CWTs.

From January 2010 until March 2011, the CWTs were held one day a month, at 1100z, 1900z and 0300z on the second Wednesday/Thursday of the month. Participation in these early CWTs fluctuated quite a bit with no clear trend over time, averaging around 33 reported scores at 1100z, 45 at 1900z and 53 at 0300z.

Starting in April 2011, the frequency was increased to twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. At the same time, the starting time for the first of the three CWTs was changed to 1300z. Participation in these twice monthly CWTs fluctuated around an average of 36 reported scores for all three sessions during the remainder of 2011 and 2012. During 2011 and into early 2012, there were also half a dozen experimental Saturday CWTs. The need to avoid interfering with CW contest weekends meant that the dates of these Saturday events were unpredictable. Because of this unpredictability, they depended on advance publicity which wasn't always successful, and the experiment was abandoned after January 2012.

The CWT participation awards were introduced by CWT Manager W6SX in an announcement on

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the CWops reflector on January 8, 2013 (<https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/message/8522>). That was followed by an immediate jump in participation to around 50 scores per session, followed by a steadily increasing trend for the rest of that year and beyond. These participation awards have been a prime motivator for many participants old and new, and are surely the single most important explanation for the continued growth in popularity of the CWTs ever since.

For 2013 and into the beginning of 2014, the CWTs continued to be twice a month, but in March 2014 it was decided to make the CWTs weekly events. After a couple of months for familiarization with the new schedule, participation began to take off again, and the CWTs have never looked back.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager



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



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 July results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

AA0YY	KM4YWT KI5ZND	KI5O EZ WI5ARD	KA4DQJ K2IWQ	N5DY	AF4PX	NFOR	K8MPH
AF4PX	AD0L AA0YY	K4NAX N2BA/M	KN4NTU WI5ARD	KS2H	K8MPH	KG5SSB	K8SNH
GW2CWO	M6GUY G3WZP PE1IKN	DL8ZAD 2E0CPF PA0HPV	G4FGJ EW1V G3RXA	DL2LFH PG7MYA LA1IO	PA3FAK HB9HBA CT1ABO	G3PQC DL8UKW F6IHJ	SP1JPM OM3CAZ
JJ1FXF	JG1BGT(4) JG7AJE	JA7KED JK1PIG	JA5ZZ/1 JN3VCX	JA4IJJ(3) JH2UNG	JL2SQK(3) JS2OVO	UA0CGN	JK1PWT
JK1QYL	7N2XZB JH2VEP JE2HSH	JG1BGT(6) JE2OUK JJ0SFV	JG7AJE(3) JR8IUH/1 JF0IUN	JJ2OXS(2) JP3CAO JS1QIZ	JK1WCW(3) JK6UPC RG0C	JA4IJJ(2) JO1UFB ZL3TK	JJ0XEQ J17KNV JA6BZH
JM4AOA	HL1MIM JK1MVC	JA6BZH JK1PIG	JA6QCG(2) JN1FAO	JA9AYV JG7AJE	JH2URW JR2SCZ	JJ0XEQ JR8IUH/1	JJ2KJN
JO1DGE	HL1MIM(2) JG6AXB JK1WCW(2) JQ2XOI	HL5JZ JG7AJE(3) JL2SQK(2) JQ6RZZ	JA2IND JH4PCD JL4CHP JR2BOE	JA5FGC JI1CJ JN1MET JR2SCZ(2)	JA6BZH JI1EHJ JO1UFB JS6SML	JG1BGT(10) JJ0XEQ(2) JO3XPH JS6THD	JF0IUN JJ1SPR(2) JP3CAO KE7LOY
K6RB	KD2KW	KK7XV (2)	N5TOO	AL7T	K0FYI	RW4K	DF7TV
K7NJ	WB4RZA KF9VV	KT4ZM	KN6EZE	KK6KL	W7AAZ	K6QER	KK7QIY
M0WDD	DF6IA G4NNJ M0NVQ	DL8ZAD G4YTL M0TJU	F6IJU GM4HGB M1JSC	G0DOZ GW3TYI M7GNO	G0UAD I5ECW MM0UMH	G4HJM M0KBJ PA3JD	G4JKO M0KCJ
N4TMM	W4OSS	AB8MR	K2GB	KA4KXX	N5OMK		
N5OT	EA3AR	PA1FP	VE6TL	VA6RCN	WW0SS	R7AW	
W7ZDX	K5KV	W1GF	W0UFC	N0GRA	KY4GS	NI4E	LU1AW

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7N2XZB JFORRH JA7KED JE6AJ0 JK1QYL HL1MIM(2) JJ20XS JR6SBI
 ROLIQ JK1PIG JO1UFB JK1WCW JH5QEE DS3QOL JN4VVU
 JM8SMO JE1DOF JQ3IXG

Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local October - April: 40m & 80m May - September: 40m & 20m Frequencies: 14.035 - 14.039, 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539 MHz JA - 7.028 +/-												
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
MON												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS	AAØYY			
TUE												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB										K6RB	
WED												
	JM4AOA								AF4PX			
THURS												
	JJ1VNV			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO MØWDD		N2GSL	AAØYY		K6RB	
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											



CW Academy

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



The 2024 May / June CW Academy semester is complete and preparations for the September / October semester are well underway. A total of 283 students graduated from classes in the May / June semester. The May / June semester was one of the smallest semesters in recent history.

CW Academy congratulates the following students:

Beginner Level Graduates (86 students):

Adamson, James (AC2ZI), Archer, Paul (M0PJA), Ashley, Colin (M0XCA), Bailey, Gary (KJ5AZT), Bates, James (K8OI), Berzinskas, William (WW1H), Bilokon, Alex (M7RDV), Bird, Rob (WD4IFT), Bither, Peter (AI1O), Bob, Nicolais (K1NLS), Boger, Martin (DG2MB), Bousquet, Paul (N1PEB), Bowser, Rob (KO4HUI), Brink, Jan (PA4J), Brockwell, Stephen (KC5TTY), Bruce, Neil (VU3EFZ), Bundschuh, Markus (DM6BU), Burkett, Loren (K3RFC), Carpenter, Wayne (KN2Z), Child, Greg (KE8ZGS), Cline, Lee (LEE), Crawford, Laura (KAYKAY), Cunnane, Mark (KU7O), Daniel, Bryan (KG2BAD), Denbow, Carl (N8VZ), Draghici, Dorin (DRAGHICI), Eversmeyer, Todd (NN4KW), Fischer, Andreas (DM5AF), Fischer, Hans (DL1PP), Fredette, Tim (N9WOF), Frericks, Ray (K6NOV), Fuchs-Rauhaus, Tobias (DL5ZAT), Garcia, Juan P (HJ4JPG), Golden, Quinn (KC1QBI), Gore, William (KC6DHS), Graham, Justin (KK4IMM), Greg, Burns (KC3TFW), Grinker, Rick (K9PFD), Harfst, Andreas (DL9HA), Harper, Clint (KX4MC), Heuser, Gerd (DL1NM), Higby, Kip (N7HIG), Hudson, Rowe (KO4PK), Inberg, Brian (KB5TWJ), Johnson, Reese (KN4NTU), Kernus, Victor (W2GSP), Kerr, Gary (G5TCP), Kestler, Hans (DF1KH), King, Roger (M0LKR), Kondratov, Illia (VA2UAC), Kühne, Stefan (DL8AI), Lauer, Robert (N8REL), Leonard, Peter (AA9UU), Lester, Ariella (KD2MJR), Lody, Joseph (W1ARA), Lorenz, Stefan (DC9CW), Lowe, Graham (M7LWE), Mandary, Ishwar S (3B8GL), Mehdian, Heva (N6PVM), Mitterdorfer, Alois (DC3RM), Nielsen, John (K7JTN), Pfeiffer, Martin (DL1MP), Redfern, Bruce (VE7KMG), Reid, Thomas (KQ4QKQ), Rommel, Keith (K1ORY), Sauerteig, Martin (DG6MS), Sawyer, Rich (KQ4LEA), Schmidt, Sven (DC9FD), Schneider, Fabian (DB7FS), Schubert, Dirk (DL5DGS), Segrest, Bob (KO2F), Silberhorn, Martin (DL8CQ), Staley, Leon (N1QL), Stegers, Bill (PD5BS), Swallow, John (K0DYY), Swearingen, Bryan (N4FBO), Tipton, Richard (W4RTN), Tom, Barrows (N1NEL), Tosh, Matt (AE0XR), Wagner, Franky (DJ1FK), Wayne, Kates (KB3HEO), WELCH, TIMOTHY (KA1VPU), Windsor, Terry (K18N), Youcef, Benchalel (F4IEH), Zabrowski, Rob (VA6VZ), Zimmermann, Bernhard (DG3BZ).

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Fundamental Level Graduates (77 students):

Adling, Markus (DO4AMN), Anderson, Todd (KB3VIS), Bates, Wayne (VA3FMB), Beer, Matthias (DC6ND), Bell, Ron (KG5CWH), Borkovec, Jiri (OK2JIQ), Brooks, Brian (2E0IER), Campbell, Jim (VE1KM), Chalfant, Les (KI5GTR), Cockerton, Marie-Louise (M7YRU), Cockerton, Steve (M0YRU), Cruz, Freddie (AA2QL), De Olaguibel, Juan Pablo (VA3JPI), Detmer, Kurt (KD9COP), Dougherty, Patrick (AB3IK), Eyschen, Pol (HB9IKL), Fajota, Peter (K6DL), Figueroa, Luis (KA6VVD), Filliman, Paul (AD9EG), Fisher, John (N5EDF), Frackman, David (KD2ZDZ), Garrett, Lewis (KF7HP), Gilberti, Paul (W1PAG), Giles-Clark, Justin (VK7TW), Hauser, Larry (AL7NS), Haywood, Peter (M0VPH), Heijns, Paul (DM7TW), Hill, Monte (W4MJH), Hinds, James (W5ATJ), Hoggard, Lucas (KI5ZND), Huseynov, Jay (KT5XL), Ives, Leah (K7IPT), Jackson, Robert (WN6AMS), Jappe, Eric (KA1RLD), Jeffrey, Cowan (WJ7V), Jensen, Adam (K7AMJ), Johnson, Mitchell (KN4ONH), Knipe, Ray (KNIPE), Krogstad, Martha (KE0TL), KRUTSKY, JOSEF (OK1FAN), LAND, LARRY (KI5OEZ), Little, Scott (KI5WLJ), Lonberg, Henry (KR7X), Maciej, Chmielewski (SP5IDC), Markkola, Kurt (KE7HEV), May, Robert (G7KFZ), Michele, Braga (IU2RNU), Murray, Bridgette (VK2BRE), Nolin, Mart (KJ5BNP), Paik, Steve (K1APS), Park, Andy (M0ITM), Pettit, Damian (PETTIT), Pitts, Ed (VA6EJP), Rauzi, Johnny (K7ZZQ), Redlinger, Mark (W3SR), Rice, Ericson (KO4DIT), Robertson, Laura (MM7BFL), Rodriguez, Daynah (KQ4JKO), Rodvold, Marv (AC9TO), Romagnano, Stefano (IV3JKE), Ruhl, Richard (W5GLD), Salisbury, Richard (KO4BVP), Schutz, Nick (W0YEM), Seiler, Ron (VA7VW), Smith, Jay (AH6JS), Tanzer, Jeremy (KI7BDP), Taylor, Greg (KX4GT), Taylor, Scott (WE5J), Trettin, Taylor (K6VOR), Turner, Butch (KA0WWT), Vincent, Tiffany (KC1NAF), Visich, Michael (NG1M), West, Judy (N7PGJ), Williams, Michael (N6MKW), Wilson, Doug (N1KB), Woodford, Denise (VA7YE), Wysocki, Adam (SP5GOF)

Intermediate Level Graduates (70 students):

Adam, Ziegler (KD9AIE), Alberto, Marchesini (IU4LDH), Alexandratos, Kostas (SV8SWF), Babler, Matthew (KQ4CCP), Baird, Edgar (KS4BG), Baker, Michael (N4LSP), Baker, Shane (KC1ONG), Blackett, Steve (KL7VX), Cahill, Tom (W9AAT), Cantin, Norm (WA1NLG), Charles, Seth (AC5M), Cheek, Jack (W6UA), Cowan, Alan (MM0VPM), Cunnington, Nick (MM0NJC), Dickenson, Drew (KE5UBO), Domenici, Eugene (AC4ZY), Dunaway, Kyle (N4EWD), Engley, Michael (KQ4DFV), FAGAN, MIKE (AE4MF), Faneros, Miltos (SV1SXV), Farnsworth, Dale (W7DA), Fernandez, Agustin (EA3ITU), Filewod, Garrick (VE3ONU), Flemmen, Henrik (LB5DH), Geist, Christian (DL1NCG), Griffin, John (M0CDL), Gulick, Jay (K1FJG), Habegger, Terry (W8UY), Howling, Gavin (G5HOW), Iler, Brian (NA6ER), Kern, Peter (DK3RN), Lappen, David (KO4OWS), Lawrence, Wes (KO4WJU), Leach, Robert G (K8VAN), Lewis, Charlene (K8XCO), Lewis, Tom (KO4TCL), LINDEN, Greg (K0VU), Luis, Fontana (EB7BYZ), Manolis, Konstantinos (SV8SXF), Mark, Bradley (KC6EOA), Marriner, Bruce (K3FBR), MARTSOUKAKIS, GIANNIS (SV1PMQ), McGuire, Duane (WA7PGE), McLuckie, Andrew (W3ZW), Mersky, David (K5TRT), Metty, Tom (AJ8X), Mickiewicz, Russ (N7QR), MORAIS, Victor (M7IBM), Olivier, Crouzet (PY2NEA), Penayo Schwarz, Bruno (DB6PS), Pleace, Eric (KO4ZSD), Policarpo, Paul (N3PP), Powell, James (WT5O), R, Katrina (VA7WBT), Reddy, Virat (VE6VIR), Rodgers, Joseph (N5WY), Rogers, Todd (W5MTN), Rollins, Jonathan (KC8HCF), Samios, Theodoros (SV1SYM), Santantonio, Giorgio (IZ0DIO), Saravate, Prasad (KB3MDD), Scott, Ralph (VA3EKR), Sewell, Alvin (N5SGQ), Shephard, Gordon (KI7MWA), Shields, Thomas (W9VN), Stephenson, Forrest (KI7QCF), Tegoli, Andrew (KW7AT), Van Dijk, Dennis (G5NLD), Weinbaum, Richard (KK4RR), Wendland, Karsten (DC2ZC).

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Advanced Level Graduates (50 Students):

Amirtharaj, Clement (VU2CWO), Ayers, Jeremy (NM5D), Bowman, Suzie (K5JZQ), Breden, Stephen (W5HK), Bromley, Sally (WQ5T), Chancy, Erik (LB1KJ), Commins, Joe (W4YDL), Conkin, Seth (N4XTT), Conry, Lance (VK7ZA), Cooper, Martin (M0KHX), Dahl, James (WI6X), Edson, Brusque (PP5OO), Ford, Ronald (W4RJF), Fox, Jasper (NK2Y), French, Lisa (AC3JX), Ganim, Rose (W1RBG), Guarino, Ross (WB2WJF), Hale, Tim (K5OHY), Imianowski, Andrew (G4KKU), Jaervinen, Samuli (W7GE), Jamison, Matt (KI5PGL), Keirn, Aaron (K3THS), Kelland, Gord (VO1KGZ), Knight, Jeff (VK6JK), Kuehnl, Martin (OE3KME), Larosee, Chris (KC1TSA), Lim, Mary (VE3INE), Lladó Sabater, Juan Francisco (EC6PG), Long, Ritchie (VE1RL), Lowe, Ian (G0PDZ), Luther, Charles (N8DD), MacGahan, Jon (W2ANZ), Meier, Nick (NI0CK), Moravec, Jim (N0COT), Olson, Adam (N1GVV), Perrin, Bill (JP3REM), Plyler, Russell (WI5ARD), Prisco, Andy (KJ7QBK), Scott, William (W7LC), Seghatoleslami, Saied (AD2CC), Sigler, Glenn (K8WS), Smith, George (YE1GXQ), Smith, Justin (KW6SEA), Steinhauer, Carl (W5CN), Taraba, Kurt (WB9TZY), Teklinski, Peter (WW2I), Van Lieburg, Aad (PA1AVL), Verrier, Hugh (KE2BRV), VOSHELL, JOHN VOSHELL (W3ZWN), Weber, Henry (KD5BPR).

CW Academy also thanks the following advisors for their service to their students and to CW Academy:

Ash, Michael (K1LHO), Blain, Bruce (K1BG), Bower, Danny (M0SDB), Bradley, Roger (MI0WWB), Brownstein, Rob (K6RB), Carter, Bob (WR7Q), Chalaris, Manos (SV1DAY), Eichel, Hans (DK1WB), Foster, John (N6FVY), Friend, Jack (AK7O), Fristad, A. Chris (KT9N), Godden, Roy (KK6M), Gutheil, Lutz (DM6EE), Hahn, Michael (DL7UGN), Hanschmann, Klaus-dieter (DL8TG), Harton, Marcus (N3VO), Hedgepeth, Kevin (NB7O), Herter, Christian (KF7WX), Hoffman, Rich (K1DJ), Hurley, Jenna (N4JEH), Koch, David (W8OV), Leahy, Bill (K0MP), Li, Nianfeng (WU6P), McArthur, David (M0WDD), McArthur, Gregg e (W7GEM), Merkel, John (AJ1DM), Mitchell, Ken (KD2KW), Robbs, Steven (WJ0C), Robinson, Gregg (KA7MDM), Rogers, Gunner (KK7DEU), Rubenstein, Bill (VE3MRX), Sammarco, Rich (KN4CQB), Schechter, Philip (NE0S), Severance, Carl (W4IF), Simone, Fabris (IU3QEZ), Smith, Roland (K7OJL), Spencer, Joseph (KK5NA), Tarlow, Buz (AC6AC), Tyler, Mark (K5GQ), Van de pol, Hanz (YL3JD), Welch, John (KE6K), Yergin, Mark (W8EWH), Zatopek, David (KT5V).

With about six weeks before the next semester starts, just over 400 students have verified their availability to take a class starting in September. Fifty-nine classes are in the catalog. On average, three new students are signing up each day. We currently have a good balance between advisors and students.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please contact either Bob Carter WR7Q (kcgator@gmail.com) or Roland Smith K7OJL (rolandksmith@gmail.com)

73, Roland Smith, K7OJL CWA Co-manager and Advisor



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



Monthly Update

During July, fifteen additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 247.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2024 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 161 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month including a tie for sixth place are: (1) **KR2Q**, (2) **AA3B**, (3) **KY4GS**, (4) **N5RZ**, (5) **K3WW**, (6) **KC7V**, (6) **NA8V**, (7) **KO4VW**, (8) **K7QA**, (9) **N5ZO** and (10) **KG9X**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 593 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 794 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: (1) **AA3B**, (2) **KR2Q**, (3) **N5RZ**, (4) **KY4GS**, (5) **NA8V**, (6) **N5ZO**, (7) **DL6KVA**, (8) **K3WW**, (9) **KC7V** and (10) **K7QA**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1909 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of July 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3325 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 6157 QSOs.

The number of members who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities grew to 85 this month with the addition of **KY4GS**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **238** this month with the addition of **WN4AFF**.

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 August 5, 2024, we have 247 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 Over-

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view Table and selecting the desired year from the “Final scores:” list at the top of the page.

All scores categories on the page will then show the final scores and standings for the end of the selected year.

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

The CWops Award Tools website main page provides a means of printing your CWT Participation Certificate. You may request a downloadable certificate by clicking the “CWT certificate download” 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.

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ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1761
2	AA3B	1600
3	KY4GS	1458
4	N5RZ	1378
5	K3WW	1303
6	KC7V	1273
6	NA8V	1273
7	KO4VW	1249
8	K7QA	1213
9	N5ZO	1199
10	KG9X	1168
11	AA2IL	1167
12	DL6KVA	1145
13	F6HKA	1095
14	OM2VL	1092
15	K3QP	1080
16	N7US	1073
17	N5TJ	1050
18	K1VUT	1045
19	N5AW	1043
20	W4CMG	1035
21	K9WX	991
22	WN7S	990
23	NJ3K	986
24	VE3TM	985
25	WT9U	972
26	W0UO	959
27	K3WJV	957
28	EA6EJ	948
29	W8FN	937
30	K0WA	930
31	KM4FO	918
31	VK2GR	918
32	WT3K	913
33	N5KD	911
34	K1DJ	896
35	DM6EE	876
36	W9ILY	874
37	KW7Q	872
38	F5SGI	863
39	K3JT	856
40	NA4J	851
41	OZ3SM	850

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	5169
2	KR2Q	4375
3	N5RZ	4092
4	KY4GS	3614
5	NA8V	3432
6	N5ZO	3320
7	DL6KVA	3275
8	K3WW	3272
9	KC7V	3271
10	K7QA	3260
11	OM2VL	3133
12	KO4VW	2952
13	KG9X	2720
14	AA2IL	2623
15	K1VUT	2450
16	N5AW	2416
17	N7US	2334
18	N5TJ	2299
19	WN7S	2236
20	F6HKA	2198
21	K3WJV	2144
22	K9WX	2126
23	W0UO	2099
24	WT9U	2060
25	W8FN	2044
26	W4CMG	2025
27	VE3TM	1977
27	EA6EJ	1977
28	NJ3K	1914
29	WS7L	1896
30	KM4FO	1889
31	K0WA	1868
32	KW7Q	1863
33	OZ3SM	1839
34	K6NR	1836
35	K3QP	1832
36	VE3KI	1768
37	DM6EE	1732
38	W9ILY	1724
39	N5XE	1716
40	K1DJ	1702
41	NA4J	1701
42	W0VX	1683

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14219
2	K3WW	10894
3	N5RZ	10032
4	N5ZO	9891
5	KR2Q	9592
6	W1RM	9251
7	NA8V	9154
8	DL6KVA	8909
9	F6HKA	8396
10	K3WJV	8062
11	VE3KI	7939
12	OM2VL	7403
13	K7QA	7337
14	KG9X	7314
15	N5AW	7251
16	N7US	7156
17	KC7V	7144
18	W9ILY	6987
19	W0VX	6657
20	WT9U	6603
21	K1VUT	6480
22	K3JT	6421
23	N4DW	6255
24	K9WX	6231
25	K3PP	5902
26	N2UU	5783
27	K6NR	5772
28	K1DJ	5753
29	N1DC	5701
30	SM6CUK	5652
31	N5TJ	5533
32	W4WF	5435
33	WN7S	5434
34	WT3K	5431
35	9A1AA	5399
36	G4BUE	5289
37	KY4GS	5189
38	AA5JF	5104
39	W8FN	5097
40	W0UO	5053
41	VE3TM	4937
41	AC6ZM	4937
42	K1SM	4931

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ACA

42	WS7L	840
43	K6NR	838
44	K1AJ	834
44	VE3KI	834
45	9A1AA	818
46	N1DC	794
46	N9UNX	794
47	W1RM	787
48	AF5J	786
49	EA6BF	783
50	W0VX	773
51	K1SM	772
52	AC6ZM	753
52	N5XE	753
53	K4TZ	750
54	KW1X	749
55	AA5JF	748
56	KK0U	747
57	WA4JUK	743
58	K3ZA	728
59	N9FZ	710
60	N2UU	707
61	KV8Q	697
62	WS1L	691
63	N2EIM	686
64	WA9LEY	679
65	W3WHK	674
66	M0RYB	672
67	PA0INA	668
68	SP1D	666
69	K4GM	656
70	K4PQC	649
71	KT5V	645
72	VE9KK	644
73	N3CKI	638
74	K1RF	634
75	W8EWH	630
76	KR3E	628
77	W1AJT	618
78	VE3MV	615
79	VE3KIU	613
80	W2CDO	612
81	K0TC	608
81	WN4AFP	608
82	KY0Q	603
83	W9CF	590
84	SM0HEV	587
85	W2VM	580
86	OK1RR	576

ACMA

43	K3JT	1675
44	WT3K	1659
45	EA6BF	1633
46	N5KD	1629
47	F5SGI	1609
48	VK2GR	1603
49	K1AJ	1594
50	AF5J	1588
51	9A1AA	1576
52	N2UU	1497
53	W1RM	1480
54	N9UNX	1450
55	SP1D	1410
56	KK0U	1409
57	N1DC	1405
58	WS1L	1399
58	PA0INA	1399
59	M0RYB	1383
60	K4TZ	1341
61	AA5JF	1336
62	KW1X	1328
63	K4PQC	1319
64	AC6ZM	1307
65	WA9LEY	1304
66	VE3MV	1302
67	K4GM	1279
68	K1SM	1275
69	W0TG	1261
70	KV8Q	1257
71	WA4JUK	1253
72	SM0HEV	1245
73	W3WHK	1239
74	K1RF	1222
75	K3ZA	1216
76	OK1RR	1185
77	W2CDO	1160
78	KY0Q	1141
79	W9CF	1126
80	N9FZ	1102
80	VE9KK	1102
81	VE3KIU	1082
82	VE7KW	1081
83	N3CKI	1074
84	K0TC	1060
85	WN4AFP	1058
86	W8EWH	1054
87	W2VM	1050
88	W1AJT	1048
89	SM6CUK	1043

CMA

43	W1AJT	4764
44	NJ3K	4737
45	F6JOE	4733
46	WA9LEY	4685
47	GW0ETF	4664
48	AE1T	4592
49	NA4J	4545
50	WA4JUK	4528
51	N5XE	4520
52	K4GM	4405
53	OK1RR	4403
54	WN4AFP	4329
55	AA2IL	4310
56	WS7L	4261
57	K3QP	4257
58	KO4VW	4210
58	VE3MV	4210
59	I2WIJ	4172
60	KT5V	4153
61	W6AYC	4150
62	K1AJ	4107
63	OZ3SM	4087
64	K1EBY	3976
65	VK2GR	3921
66	KM4FO	3885
67	DJ5CW	3858
68	DF7TV	3806
69	N1EN	3802
70	W0TG	3766
71	KY0Q	3751
72	N5KD	3732
73	W3WHK	3727
74	K0TC	3723
75	WS1L	3722
76	AF5J	3624
77	K0WA	3614
78	DM6EE	3569
79	EA6BF	3546
79	KV8Q	3546
80	W2CDO	3515
81	KK0U	3510
82	F5SGI	3501
83	G4PVM	3481
84	AF8A	3403
85	AF4T	3402
86	K4TZ	3357
87	K9OZ	3311
88	SM0HEV	3306
89	W4CMG	3280

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ACA

87	W4WF	569
88	VA4ADM	563
89	W0GAS	562
90	K2YR	560
91	SM6CUK	558
92	NN4K	548
92	W7LG	548
93	KB4DE	547
93	W0TG	547
94	DJ5CW	542
95	WU6P	540
96	VE7KW	532
97	HB9ARF	530
98	N4LSJ	529
99	DF7TV	528
100	KC8J	521

ACMA

90	HB9ARF	1026
91	DJ5CW	1025
92	K2YR	1015
93	NN4K	1002
94	G3LDI	968
95	W7LG	965
96	W7ZDX	963
97	G4BUE	956
98	F6JOE	951
99	W4WF	950
100	WU6P	949

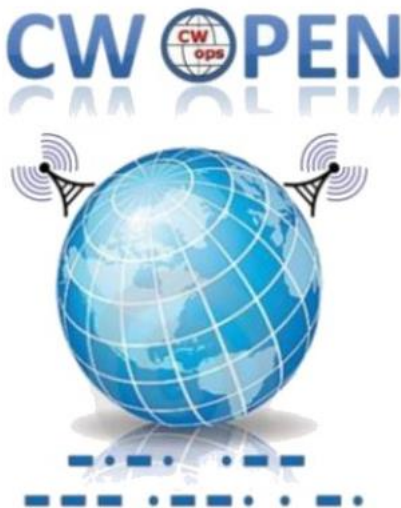
CMA

90	HB9ARF	3276
91	KW7Q	3274
92	KE4S	3261
93	M0RYB	3255
94	W0GAS	3249
95	NN4K	3148
96	WU6P	3129
97	K3ZA	3127
97	4X6GP	3127
98	K2YR	3080
99	N3CKI	3005
100	G3LDI	2980

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



SC



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)



QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

[Enzo, MØKTZ](#)

It is always mesmerizing to read through your soapbox comments, and to realise how much life is going on around our beloved hobby. For some of us July has been a “slow month”, while for some others it has been much better than before. I am glad to see again reports from some aficionados, including Jon G4IVV, who is a great chatting pal, and to welcome Tom DG5CW who has just joined the QTX/MQTX family, and has sent all his ragchewing scores since January. July was also a month of celebration for Jo PG4I, who has earned a QTX certificate for his ragchewing achievements. You know that you can print your own QTX certificate from our webpage <https://cwops.org/qtx-awards/>, whenever you reach 100, 500, or 1000 QTX QSOs. The main reason why those certificates are available for self-print is that, in the end, there is not much value in the sheer number of QSOs we log: the pleasure is in the chatting and discovering new worlds with like-minded fellows, using our beloved mode. There is no judging or adjudicating, as the amount of satisfaction we get out of CW ragchewing is a personal, intimate prize, that can be understood only by other passionate ragchewers HI.

During July I was QRV with a club callsign, using almost exclusively a sideswiper and a bug. It was funny to hear the reactions of the stations responding to my CQ calls, when they realised that they were not getting just a “599 TU”, but at least a 3-QTCs standard QSO (RST/NAME/QTH then WX/RIG/ANT then whatever suited our mood, if anything, or the final greetings and 73). As a matter of fact, most of those ops were oddly surprised by hearing a club station indulging into “long” QSOs HI, but it looks like many of them actually liked it, in the end. I enjoyed a lot of very interesting ragchews, including several during the FOC Bug Day on Saturday 20th July, where you could hear plenty of skilled bug ops on air. If you haven’t taken part to it, get ready for the next one, which will happen on the 1st of January 2025.

I have decided to send a friendly email reminder to all the QTX/MQTX folks around the 1st of the month, to make sure that we have another incentive to send our scores in time for the Solid Copy column. It looks like this has worked well this time, as I have received many reports before the 3rd of August.

2024 Total Number of Hours Worked: 1742

(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	296	K9OZ	58.3	MMØUMH	17.3	DG5CW	10.3	G4IVV	2
KY4GS	149	F5IYJ	52	MØSDB	16.7	KF6NCX	9.8	ABØWW	2
VE3WH	140	KG5IEE	40	N2DA	16	IU3QEZ	9.3	K7VM	1.5
MØKTZ	117	MØMZB	39	AJ1DM	16	GWØETF	9.3	WT9Q	1.3
ND4K	115	AF4PX	37.8	KG5SSB	15.7	VK3QB	8.2	N7BAS	1.3
WB4IT	81	N7HCN	31.7	K6DGW	14.8	W3WHK	6	AD4SA	1
AAØYY	74.7	PG4I	27.3	N1ZX	11.7	N5LB	5.3	JS2AHG	0.8
N8AI	69.5	KCØVKN	24.3	K8UDH	11.2	KE4I	3.7	GWØKRL	0.7
KR2Q	66.3	YL3JD	23.3	N9EEE	10.8	GØDJA	2.7		
KB6NU	61.3	DF7TV	21.5	MIØWWB	10.8	W9EBE	2.3		

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KØOZ: The sporadic band conditions haven't helped much this summer. I'm finding it hard to find a good ragchew some days.

DG5CW: longest QSO this month: 14/07 05:02-05:38 with IKØPHU (Tony) on 10.123 MHz.

VE3WH: In July I got to meet Dick K2YZ. What was special about this contact is I have had a weekly QSO with his son Bruce VE3GND for a year and a bit. Bruce often mentioned how he would like to have his Dad join us. Because Bruce and I chat so often it was like I already knew K2YZ. It was a wonderful way to rap up the month.

W3WHK: One op was calling CQ for a short contact, but when he heard my biblical name (Saul), he wouldn't stop preaching Christianity to me. I don't mind talking about religion, but I wasn't in the mood to be converted that night, especially at 18wpm. When I told him I'm a *kosher* ham, it only encouraged him, of course. Let's call this one an "accidental QTX"!

YL3JD: Thanks Enzo for the nice cootie QSO. I just finished my cootie called "Rebar"; it is a torsion bar cootie. Details on my QRZ page. August and September there will be a lot of Dog and Cat SES active to celebrate international dog day and cat day. Via YL1DOG on QRZ you can find the details also a link to our main site <https://www.dogdayradio.org/>

KR2Q: July was a slow month for me. I had a near lightning hit which knocked out the controller for my SteppIR Yagi and I lost the USB port on my 7610 which is needed for rig control. But I am still QRV, just with a few added obstacles now.

MØSDB: July was a much better month. I feel I have my mojo back a little and was thoroughly enjoying CW again. Need to keep the momentum up and continue to have a solid second half of the year...

N8AI: Nice 26 minute chat with neighbor to the south XE1YZ Pete in Queretaro 599 off my little Mazzoni Baby Loop in the back yard.

AAØYY: ND4K Dave gets my biggest chuckle award. He has RFI issues with his daughter's automatic cat feeder. Great QSO and fist.

KG5IEE: Several really fun ragchews this month. Notable were KA8WNA who was using a 1924 Vibroplex bug and KQ4BOU who has only been a ham two years. Both had great fists.

KB6NU: Didn't come close to my goal this month. One reason for this is that I spent some time in New York City, speaking about ham radio and teaching a ham radio class at a hacker conference. Plus, I managed to catch Covid while I was there, which kept me off the air for nearly a week.

KG5SSB: I worked a station who said I was his first QSO in a year. It's great that he is back on the air and on CW.

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VK3QB: I enjoyed a particularly busy month on-air both having conversations and also CWT. It was also great to sponsor a long-time friend Phil VK3VB (#3584) who joined our ranks in July. He's already started CWT but I know he's keen to QTX as well. Give him a call and have a chat if you hear him.

N7HCN: Work was impacting my QTX scores so I retired. Sometimes a guy has to hit bottom to realize how messed up his priorities had been. Now I've got it right though... dit dit.

G4IVV: Been battling dyslexia impacting my sending the last few months for chatty QSOs, its really frustrating when you reach a block and can't spell words! Although been very active using CW on air in contests and short QSOs, I'm working on trying to get back to longer, non-template, QSOs.

AJ1DM: In spite of heavy travel and other non-radio activities, I was still able to have nice rag-chews with K1CHM, N2DA, WA3JJT, and K2KRG. Always a pleasure to chat with those guys! 73 de AJ1DM.

N9EEE: RFI at the summer QTH has bested me, so very little radio activity this past month other than POTA and a couple of QSOs from the field.

72/73 de Enzo, MØKTZ (CWops #3206)

Awards and Medals for 2024

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs



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QTX - July 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	115	KY4GS	19	DG5CW	7	KG5SSB	4	VK3QB	1
VE3WH	65	KB6NU	19	KR2Q	6	K8UDH	4	M0SDB	1
N8AI	31	K9OZ	19	AJ1DM	6	N9EEE	3	GW0ETF	1
M0KTZ	28	F5IYJ	17	N5LB	5	YL3JD	2	DF7TV	1
ND4K	25	PG4I	9	MM0UMH	5	WB4IT	1		
AA0YY	24	KG5IEE	7	AF4PX	5	W3WHK	1		

MQTX - July 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>	<u>Call</u>	<u>MQTX</u>
KY4GS	68	AA0YY	27	DG5CW	14	AF4PX	7	K8UDH	2
M0KTZ	59	DF7TV	26	ND4K	13	MM0UMH	6	G4IVV	1
WA4IAR	40	KG5IEE	19	VK3QB	12	AJ1DM	5		
YL3JD	29	M0SDB	15	KR2Q	12	KG5SSB	4		
N8AI	29	VE3WH	14	GW0ETF	11	W3WHK	2		

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	760	AA0YY	150	MM0UMH	34	W3WHK	12	N7BAS	3
VE3WH	344	KR2Q	127	M10WWB	27	IU3QEZ	12	K7VM	3
ND4K	284	N7HCN	88	K8UDH	26	DF7TV	12	G4IVV	3
KY4GS	221	AF4PX	82	KG5SSB	25	DG5CW	11	G0DJA	2
WB4IT	205	KC0VKN	73	N9EEE	23	KE4I	8	AD4SA	1
KB6NU	184	M0MZB	70	K6DGW	18	W9EBE	5	AB0WW	1
K9OZ	175	PG4I	55	N1ZX	17	GW0ETF	5		
M0KTZ	159	KG5IEE	55	KF6NCX	17	YL3JD	4		
F5IYJ	156	N2DA	48	N5LB	16	WT9Q	4		
N8AI	152	AJ1DM	41	M0SDB	14	VK3QB	4		

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>
KY4GS	449	N8AI	113	KG5SSB	44	N7HCN	14	W9EBE	4
M0KTZ	384	DF7TV	105	VK3QB	41	AJ1DM	14	GW0KRL	4
WA4IAR	254	M0MZB	94	DG5CW	40	W3WHK	12	AD4SA	4
VE3WH	149	WB4IT	76	N1ZX	36	G0DJA	12	K7VM	3
AA0YY	148	M0SDB	72	MM0UMH	36	M10WWB	11	N7BAS	2
KR2Q	144	AF4PX	63	IU3QEZ	32	AB0WW	10		
YL3JD	132	PG4I	54	KF6NCX	25	KE4I	6		
KG5IEE	130	K6DGW	53	N9EEE	19	G4IVV	6		
ND4K	122	GW0ETF	46	K8UDH	15	JS2AHG	5		



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Pablo Lewin, WA6RSV, CWops #3578

First Licensed 1975 as LU4CAR then in 1977 as WA6RSV. Life member of Long Island CW Club and now CWops (love CW and also QRQ). I explore all facets of ham radio from CW QRP to SAT ops and eventually EME (in progress).

I usually work 80, 40, 20, 17, 15, 10, 6, 2, 70 cm satellite ops, CW/SSB/FT8 and all digital modes. SKCC #1526, TenTen #37674, North American QRP CW Club #2768, QWCA #38976, LICW CW Instructor.

Retired TWA/AA Pilot (instructed and flown commercially since age 18), used to sail, hike and now I enjoy filmmaking, acting, and most of all stand-up comedy as a hobby (comedians are the ultimate truth tellers) . . . <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1177126/>

Avid citizen scientist astronomer with research level backyard roll off roof observatory. Member of the TESS Follow-up Observing Program (TFOP) Working Group (WG) providing follow-up observations of exoplanets also a member of the NASA/JPL Exoplanet watch. I also continually search the sky for Near Earth Objects and report to the The Minor Planet Center which is the official body for observing and reporting on minor planets under the auspices of the International Astronomical Union. Founded in 1947, it operates at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0828-6368>



Iain Robertson, GM4HBG, CWops #3577

Thanks for the support guys, Stew GWØETF, Stuart GDØUD, Dan SM5IMO and Ken JN1THL. I hope I do you proud!

My name is Iain (the Gaelic for John), I am a passionate ham radio operator who loves using the bands to chase DX, contest and rag-chew using CW as a means to communicate. Now in my early seventies and still very active, with a body of that vintage but a mind of a twenty year old.

As far as I can recall, I have always been technically curious and have a strong passion to understand how things work, which has lead me into a variety of hobbies, from reading, collecting Morse keys, to restoring cars, vintage photography especially black/white and Ansel Adams. Music is always in the air and assists to focus the



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mind while reading or out on the hills trudging thru' peat bogs.

Discovering radio as a teenager, with hands on ex-military equipment and trying to resolve SSB/CW, was the catalyst to kick start a career in radio and on paths which would take me most of my adult life. I was hooked!!!

I passed the RAE (Radio Amateurs Exam) in March '72, while attending Nautical College for a career in maritime electronics and ship to shore communications, including the required Morse examination of 25 wpm.

It was not until I had sailed the seven seas, discovered women and settled down that I had the urge to get licenced, becoming a reality in '77. During my early years of everything radio as a pas-time, there was a family with needs to support, a house to develop and a career to map out.

Radio had become 'me time' to develop my interests and discover how things worked, and from the start CW was my means to the outside world, while carrying out the necessary improvements to better my self on the air. Yes, I have built many a rig using valves, transistors and ICs, and can remember the joy of someone coming back to the call, while holding on to the VFO with a pencil mark for guidance and a faint warm orange flickering glow from the final.

There was a period of 25 years, in which I was absent from ham radio due to family issues, work projects in foreign countries, and supporting our armed forces, but I was an observer, a listener and a discoverer as to what was happening in the amateur world.

Now in my seventies, and back in the land of my birth, retirement has given me the space to put up decent antennas, operate fabulous communication equipment while exercising a skill I thought I would never use again.

Oh! the art of Morse telegraphy and the best filters you can own, your ears!

Hope to catch you on the air!

J. Carl Jackson Jr., WB4ABY, CWops #3574

I am honored and excited to be a member of CWops. I want to thank KM4FO, K1DJ, K4TZ, KR2Q and K5UV for their support. Steve Randall, KO4VW, has been a true inspiration as I have watched him mentor and encourage hams to become proficient in the art of CW. I cannot wait to contribute alongside these dedicated members.

I was first licensed as WN4ABY as a high school sophomore in 1972. My dad, W4UHP (SK), introduced me to the hobby and served as my "Elmer" as I got started. As a Novice in the early 1970s, I only had CW available and learned to enjoy it. I almost wore out an old Navy J-38 key chasing DX and talking with

friends. During that time, I served as a net control station for the Georgia Training Net on 80 me-

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ters. I met many ham friends who were members of the net, and I am still friends with many of them today. We all met on CW long before we met each other in person.

Over the past 52 years, I have had several ARRL appointments including local Emergency Coordinator in the northern suburbs of Atlanta as well as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Georgia Section. I also served as Vice President of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League during the 1980s.

Although I have been active throughout the years, I have had more time to enjoy the hobby since retiring in 2019. Prior to retirement, I served as a teacher, assistant principal and middle school principal over a 17-year career. Before my career in education, I spent 23 years in the telecommunications industry, serving as Product Manager for Emergency Services at BellSouth, as well as Senior Director of Industry Policy for Intermedia Communications. Upon graduation from Georgia State University in 1978, I worked as a producer for WSB Radio in Atlanta.



My interests in our hobby include DXing, contesting and antenna building. I enjoy a variety of modes including CW, FT8 and phone. I enjoy sending and receiving QSL cards but enjoy the convenience of LOTW. I am a member of the ARRL, Ten Ten International and the North Fulton Amateur Radio League.

I have been married to my beautiful wife Sheryl for 46 years, and she has supported my ham radio obsession as well my other hobbies including long distance bicycling, hiking and genealogy. We have two wonderful sons, Justin and Adam.

I look forward to being an active member of CWops.

Kimberly "Kim" L. Elmore, N5OP, CWops #3581

I was born in 1956 in Tulsa, OK, and grew up there. My Dad was a ham (W5JHJ, SK in 2007), a broadcast engineer, and later an aerospace instrumentation physicist. He taught me most of my theory. I was first licensed in 1970 as a Novice with call WN5CLC. As a Novice and up to leaving for college, I used his station, which consisted of a World Radio Labs Globe Champion 350 transmitter, a Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver and a 10-80 HyGain 18AVQ trapped quarter-wave vertical in the back yard.

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I now have those rigs as part of my ham shack; they are fully operational.

In 1972 I passed the General exam becoming WB5CLC and about a year later, passed my Advanced. A year after that, I went to Dallas and passed the Amateur Extra at the FCC office there because I was ready, and I wanted to strike while the iron was hot. A couple of years later, I requested and obtained N5OP during a brief period when Extra class licensees could choose call signs if they had been licensed as Extras for something like two years; N5OP was my last choice (out of 10) because I liked the CW rhythm it has. I also have my Second Class Radiotelegraph license and General Radiotelephone Operators License (GROL) both with radar endorsements.



I attended the University of Tulsa for two years as an Engineering Physics major, then transferred to the University of Oklahoma where I earned my B.S. and M.S. in meteorology. I then worked at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO. I was there from 1982 to 1995, then moved to Norman, OK, to work at the National Severe Storms Laboratory. I earned my Ph.D. in meteorology in 2000 and continue to work for the Cooperative Institute for Severe and High-Impact Weather Research and Operations (CIWRO) at National Severe Storms Laboratory as a Research Meteorologist. I've been on numerous field projects to capture tornadic and severe storms in a mobile radar and on the NOAA P-3 aircraft.

Among my research projects is the Meteorological Phenomena Identification Near the Ground (mPING) project for which I'm the project scientist. You can learn more about it at <https://mping.ou.edu>. It is global in scope, so anyone can submit observations using their smart phone from anywhere on the globe.

I'm interested in just about anything radio but particularly like CW, with which I enjoy DXing, rag chewing (especially with DX), and contesting. My station consists of a TenTec Orion II, a TS-930S, a modified AL-1200 (higher B+ for easier drive), and a Yeasu FT-8800 (FM). I use the Globe Champ and Hammarlund for occasional AM QSOs.

Antennas consist of a KLM KT34A at 56 ft, a Cushcraft DW-3 at 52 ft, a Cushcraft 40-CD2 2 el 40 m Yagi at 50 ft, a Force 12 Sigma 80 OCF vertical dipole for 80 m, an inverted-V for 75-80 m, and a K9AY loop array for a low-band receive antenna. I shunt feed my tower for 160 m using a remotely tuned home-brew L match at the base. Finally, I have a discone for 100-1000 MHz at 57 ft and an Arrow Antennas CR 148/450 corner reflector for 2 m/70 cm at 52 ft. My DXCC CW totals are 292 current and 298 total. For me, there is nothing quite like a cold winter's night, a faint whiff of wood smoke, and the air perfumed with Morse.

My other interests include aviation: we own a 1946 Cessna 140 and I have about 1200 h in total time all in light planes. I have my private pilot single and multi-engine ratings, my glider rating, and my UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) license. My Mom had her degree in piano perfor-

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mance and she nurtured my interest in music. I'm an amateur violinist, the Principal Second violin in the University's community orchestra, and also the second violin in the string quartet that springs from the principal string players in the orchestra.

Manos Sklivanos, SV1ME, CWops #3583

Born in 1953 in Athens.. 20 years later first radio bite in army as radioteletype op. After the army, decided to go to the sea as R/O in merchant marine but as I was ending my radio officer education, I was employed in the national coastal station ATHINAIRADIO/SVA in 1977. One year later got my license.

During my working years I was partly involved in amateur radio.

In 2000 SVA went QRT. Six more years worked as telecommunication advisor in the same organization and so 2006 retired. For 18 years now amateur radio is my only hobby that fills my free time.



I used to make wire antennas but now contesting and DX hunting is my only interest.

Other hobbies that I used to, but not now because the age not allowed, were diving fishing, basketball, volleyball. But still I play my tubeleki (little drum playing by heads) when my wife (by the way SV1DKQ) sings with her bouzouki group.. Lately I discovered I have a

DJ talent, where I found big satisfaction entertaining people.. My location is Artemis, 25 km east of Athens, a sea side place that becomes rapidly to a resort. Two element quad, IC-7300 and 500 w linear is my main equipment.

Some more info can found in my QRZ page. See you on the air.

Lance Conry, VK7ZA, CWops #3575

I'm a relative late comer to Amateur Radio, though I have two enduring memories of from my primary school years. As a young cub scout, Mr. Brown, a local amateur, helped me build a crystal set for my radio badge. After my dad and I strung a length of copper wire across our garden, I would fall asleep at night with the tiny speaker tucked into my pillow slip. The other was my best friend's dad's voice emanating from the TV when it was his turn to read the local amateur news. Fast forward about thirty years, and a protracted recovery from an injury left me with an plenty of time and a restless mind; the perfect ingredients to study for my amateur radio license.

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Buying my first HF radio, a TS-590, exhausted the “toys” budget, but I had a strong interest in portable operating. I was enticed by the low cost of QRP CW only rigs, and so my CW journey began. With the help of LCWO I learned the standard 40-character set. As soon as I knew the characters, taking a big leap, I packed my straight key, headed for my closest WWFF site and had a thoroughly rewarding session. Working more DX to North America and Europe with five watts than I’d ever managed at home with SSB and a hundred watts was a revelation.



It quickly became clear that despite achieving my goal of being able to activate summits and parks, there was so much more that CW had to offer.

And so began my journey toward the ultimate expression of CW, the ragchew.

I tried a range of self-guided tools to increase my speeds and comprehension, but felt I was going around in circles. Enter CW Academy. I signed up for the Standard course with Tom K7MOZ, who’s enthusiasm for CW and encouragement really lit the fire within, despite feeling that I was barely keeping my head above water the whole time. The results however were self-evident. Twelve months later I signed up for the Advanced course under Phil NE0S’s tutelage. The gap between courses with plenty of operating and copy practice really helped consolidate what I knew, and so the Advanced class, whilst still like drinking from a fire hydrant, was a little easier. At the conclusion of those eight weeks, I once again marveled at the progress made. Was I really copying half sentences at 35 wpm?

I’d like to thank those who have guided and supported my journey, from my CWA facilitators and class mates to the QSO partners who, from my earliest attempts on the air, persisted with the contact despite my faltering CW. To have achieved the milestone of CWops membership is indeed something I am immensely proud of.

I am a software engineer by profession, whilst enjoying white water kayaking and woodworking outside of the shack.

Kind regards from Under Down-Under.

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Helena Key, SV4SUR, CWops # 3565

I live in the town of Volos, at the foot of Mount Pelion, the place of Centaurs according to Greek mythology, in Thessaly, central Greece. I am a musicologist, working as a music teacher in schools in the Volos vicinity, married and have two children.

As a young child, I was mesmerized by the stories of my grandma. I would listen to her with my mouth and eyes wide open, excited and thrilled by her tales of her exploits when she was a CW operator during the Greek Civil War, just after World War II. My grandpa would carry the heavy radio for her with donkeys or mules on the Greek mountains. Since my childhood, I have been hooked on the idea of CW.



I had such a thirst for radio listening that I would listen as an SWL to the websdr of the University of Twente, Enschede, NL, and I even kept a book with the callsigns I copied, but only in SSB then. I was informed about the amateur radio hobby and licensing by some acquaintances of the family, and I immediately decided to sit for the radio amateur exams. I got my license in 2021, while the COVID pandemic was ongoing. CW was not a mandatory skill for an amateur radio license in those days, but it was always my keen desire.

In 2022, SZ1A announced an initiative for CW lessons with CW Academy, in Greek for Greek radio amateurs with limited command of English. I instantly applied. My English is quite good, though, so I was registered in an ordinary class in English.

During my CW journey with CW Academy, I experienced a lot of excitement and satisfaction. I recall my very first listening to CWT, when I said to myself, "No way! I will never manage to do this." However, after the Advanced class, not only was I able to copy and send in CWT, but now I enjoy it a lot and am frankly happy when I run a CWT. My next target is to improve my ragchewing skills.

I must thank my advisor Buz AC6AC not only for his advising and support during my CW Academy courses but also for nominating me for CWops membership. I also express my gratitude to my co-advisors John W7JKC, Tracy WM6T, Jim KO4LAO, Heather AH7RF, Marv W5DT, Shirley MØWXG, Rich N4DPM and all those who supported my nomination, and more specifically Rich, Shirley, Jim WI6X and Manos SV1DAY.↔↔

Hopefully meet you all on the air

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Carl Steinhauser, W5CN, CWops #3579

My ham career began in 1958 at the age of 13 when I obtained my Novice license, KNØPNC. My first rig consisted of a National NC-98 receiver and a homebrew 15-watt crystal-controlled transmitter inside a cigar box. The following year I upgraded to General Class and also upgraded to a Heathkit DX-40, a 3-element 10 meter beam, and a homebrew 600 watt amplifier. Unfortunately, life activities and a heavy work schedule edged out ham radio and I let my license expire in 1985.



Retiring early I began a ten-year adventure in Ecuador followed by another ten years in Mexico. While in Mexico, my neighbor, a fellow ham, rekindled my interest in the hobby. Unfortunately, it was not possible to obtain the government's permission to operate in Mexico. It was only when I moved to New Mexico in 2019 that I was able to get on the air again.

CW ragchewing has always been my mode of choice but I soon found out that my my CW skills needed serious improvement. I enrolled in the CWops CW Academy which was a big help and allowed me regain acceptable proficiency and confidence. Enrolling in the Academy also led to the weekly CWTs which have become an unexpected pleasure and introduced me to the world of contesting.

Currently, my station consists of a Kenwood TS-890S, a SunSdr2 DX, and a Hermes Lite with a Hardrock 50-watt amplifier. I am working to upgrade my 40-meter end-fed half-wave antenna later this year.

It is important to me to keep physically active and participate in a variety of sports as well as being an avid runner. Even though I seem to run slower with every passing year, I still manage to get in 20 to 30 miles each week. Most of the time I am listening to literary classics in CW on those runs.

I am incredibly grateful to Hanz, YL3JD (AKA YI1DOG -- see his qrz.com page), for being my CW Academy advisor and nominating me for membership; to Mary, VE3INE, who sponsored me and provided inspiration to get my feet wet in the CWTs. And, of course, special thanks to Doug, KR2Q, and Will, WJ9B, for their sponsorship.

I'm thrilled to be a part of the CWops community and excited to see where this renewed passion for ham radio will lead!

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