

Solid Copy



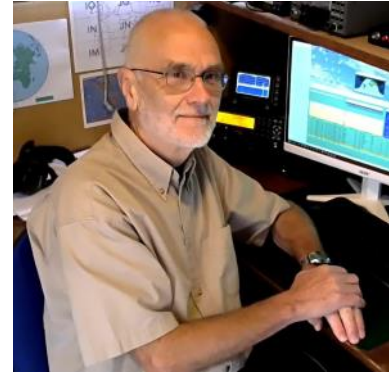
The CW Operators Club Newsletter
September 2024 — Issue 176

President's Message



Back on Vanuatu, Chris VK3QB and group return for another round of Island DX as YJØVK. Pg 14

These past weeks we've experienced the sun in an excitable mood! The 'potential aurora' app on my phone has frequently been beeping on consecutive days and the solar flare charts on Solarham have been compulsive viewing at times.



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

CWO Mini-club callsign web site:
<http://cwomc.org>

CWops "neighborhood": Look for CWops on 1.818, 3.528, 7.028, 10.118, 14.028, 18.078, 21.028, 24.908, 28.028, 50.098 "and up"

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- Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

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I'm still to witness a display of the northern lights though; I missed one opportunity through being asleep in my bed with my phone charging downstairs and clouds seem to have got in the way most other times. I've certainly felt the effects on the radio however like everyone else, with some tough times and occasional surprises. The CWTs in the week before my meet up with Jim in Glasgow was the worst in the 13 years I've been taking part and by a long way too. Then the following week was one of the best. Interesting times on the air.

I'm sometimes accused of having an active imagination. I found myself wondering if all the churning in the sun's mantle could be more than a harmless 11 year cycle of activity. What if it's the portent of its imminent demise and the earth is about to be freed of its influence to float away into deep space as a cold lifeless lump of rock? Will anyone make the movie? I doubt it as even Bruce Willis wouldn't be able to find a happy ending to that scenario. Fortunately I learn that the sun is a 'yellow dwarf' star with an estimated 5 billion years remaining before the hydrogen runs out so we're ok: I can put the lid on my imagination and continue to enjoy cycle 25.

Chris Chapman VK3QB who is our Ambassador for the Oceania region recently drew our attention to a review of the 40m Band Plan being undertaken by the Wireless Institute of Australia on behalf of IARU Region 3. It's still not clear to me whether this is aimed at R3 or globally so we should all probably take a look; unfortunately the cut off date to submit feedback to tac@wia.org.au was September 6 but it won't be presented to the IARU Region 3 Conference until October later this year. The document itself appears elsewhere in this issue and has been closely studied by Chris in respect to its possible repercussions on CW operating – his detailed analysis can be seen at <https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/message/65981>. Thanks Chris! I openly admit to being pretty clueless when it comes to the workings of the IARU: In my column of February 2022 I mentioned a 2021 review which proposed handing over the top 5kHz of the CW segment on both 17m and 12m to data. This was to be discussed at Friedrichshafen later in that year but I've not been able to find any mention or minutes of such a meeting. The current Region 1 Band Plan published on the RSGB website is dated 2024 but described as "*Effective from June 1st 2016*" and contains no change to the long standing 17m and 12m CW allocations. So how do these reviews progress and will the same thing happen to the current R3 40m review?

The last month or so my brain seems to have been on holiday on Mars when it comes to what's been happening on the bands. Despite seeing posts on our reflector about N5J and CWops participation it never registered with me until the final 2 days when its ATNO status registered with me. I checked DxSummit a couple of times but saw mainly FT8 which didn't interest me and I more or less admitted defeat. Then on August 19th I noticed a spot for 15m CW while in the shack putting stuff away from the International Lighthouse weekend. I tuned to the frequency and heard nothing though a small pile-up was evident just above. I moved the Hexbeam to the north and was convinced I could hear *something* but far too weak to decipher. Still defeated! I left it there while continuing my chores and realised after a while the signal was coming up ever so slightly. Eventually I could just about discern "CQ N5J" and realised they can't be that busy despite the lingering pile up so thought it worth a punt. I put the amp in line and sent my call once and was amazed to hear my call coming straight back to me! Next day I saw it was E21EIC (CWops #264) I had to thank for filling an empty ATNO slot. Thanks Champ – just made it...;-)

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I was very grateful to N9EEE our editor for squeezing in a couple of photos in last month's *Solid Copy* of my meet up in Glasgow with Jim N3JT, his partner Nina and a bunch of GM members despite this happening over a week after the submission deadline. He also included Jim's article describing the event. I never like overshooting deadlines but Dick was most gracious and amenable as he always is in accommodating this stop press news. Deadlines are there to give those involved in producing each edition a fair chance of getting the newsletter ready and polished on time while at the same time dealing with every day life and family, travel and even operating on the radio. Everyone will appreciate material arriving before the deadline and preferably not all in a last minute rush. Thanks to all who have sent in material for this edition and made it once again a great read. Enjoy...

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

sc

Editor's Note: Dits 'n' Dahs

This month's observations of member activity:

QRPers know how to contest...as in the CW Open. Go MightyMitesQRP!

Much ado about using "CW readers" during contests. CW keyboard senders take aim. Read about it on the ["reflector."](#)

Video circulating about amateur radio: [Univ of Montana](#) College of Arts and Media (2022) .

Much commentary on the reflector about band plan encroachment of the CW sub-bands in Australia. Also, much embellishment being offered, some overstating that the CW bands are "dead" except for contests and events like the CWTs. Folks, be careful how you frame your responses. They have the potential of becoming supporting quotes by detractors and band grabbers; remember those high-speed financial organizations who what our frequencies? Besides, the POTA, SOTA, SKCC, ragchewers, and multitude of Nets would likely disagree.

CWops member content appearing elsewhere...

Frank Donovan, W3LPL article in October QST: [What To Expect from the Cycle 25 Surge](#)

Craig Thompson, K9CT video interview: [Inside the Epic CY9C St. Paul Island DXpedition](#)

Dave Edmonds, WN4AFP video interview: [Inside the State QSO Party Challenge](#)

Chuck Cullian, KØRF and George Schultz, WØUA video interview: [Contesting from the Black Hole of Colorado](#)

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 \(Mac\) Fiskin, G3WZD](#)

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

Condolence cards have been sent on behalf of CWops.



**Monte "Ron" Stark, KU7Y
#1211 on 3rd September**



**Bob Nadolny, WB2YQH
#246 on 14th August, 2024**



**Larry Gauthier, K8UT #1672 on
13th 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 October

Errata; My apologies to Dallas, K1DW #326, who should have been credited with the note about Emma and Odin in last month's edition of Ops News and Notes.

Deepak, VU2CDP #3481 On Saturday 24th August, CW Ops' members Prasad VU2PTT (#615) and Deepak VU2CDP (#3481) met at the shack of Manoj VU2CPL (#3337) for lunch and a long chinwag.

I was in Bangalore for work and took the opportunity to meet Prasad and Manoj (hadn't met them after COVID so this meeting was long overdue!).



L to R:

VU2CDP, VU2CPL, VU2PTT

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Jim, K8MR #2533 Could you find a better place for some CW operating bike riders? K8MR and John, K3TN #245, getting in some miles on Sunday after the Ohio QSO Party. And thanks to all the CW Ops who worked us on Saturday!



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Chris, KOPF #3507 Here is a short story I wrote a few months ago for friends, explaining the significance of the new paddles gracing my shack. I hope many hams have read and enjoyed the book "Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel" in their youth and will find the story line familiar.

"Sam the Ham and his Begali" - Long ago, Sam the Ham learned CW at 5 WPM to earn his Novice license and used his straight key to work the Novice bands at a blistering 5 to 7 words per minute.

He practiced hard to learn the code, but he knew that if could send and receive faster he could earn more privileges and work new frequencies with a better class of license. Each day he would send a little faster and a little better, but his speed began to plateau with that J-38. Sam thought that with the right key, he could work as many stations in an hour as many hams could work in a weekend, but he was never quite sure this was true. In the SST mini contest, he was only up to 13 WPM.

Sam passed his General Class license and made time to get on the air, and his speed slowly improved. When he heard that the Extra Class license CW requirement was being reduced, Sam decided he just had to get that 20 WPM "Heavy Extra" before it was gone.

Sam took a CW class, and his instructors helped him overcome some bad habits (like writing everything on paper). With steady discipline and head copy he found his CW was faster and better. Sam also learned that paddles and keyers were the modern way to send CW, so he acquired a Kent paddle and a Curtis chip-based keyer, and sure enough, he soon could send a little faster and a little better, and he could now comfortably work the MST Contest.

But Sam still thought that someday he could work as many stations in an hour as many hams could work in a weekend, though he was never quite sure this was true.

When Sam passed the exam for Amateur Extra class, he earned more frequency privileges and decided to take on the CWT contest the following Wednesday. Man were these guys fast! He could just barely copy some of the callsigns, and only after hearing them several times did he work up the courage to call them. With practice he became a little faster and a little better, and he bought a new rig with a built-in keyer.

Sam had heard about the magic that came with certain special keys, the legendary Begali paddles with magnets instead of springs, with precision bearings and gold contacts. After he was nominated for membership in CWops and was issued his membership number, Sam decided the time had come to make the big jump to buy a Begali Key. Even the name held a mystique, and he knew there was Magic in those Magnets, so he sent off an order to Bruna and waited for the reply. He just knew that with a Real Begali Key, he would be able to send a little faster and a little better, and maybe make as many contacts in an hour as many hams could work in a weekend. But he was still not quite sure this was true.

The moment finally arrived. When the Begali was delivered Sam carefully opened the box, and there it was – heavy and gold and engraved with his call sign. He presented it to his operating position and carefully plugged the key into his little ICOM rig. Finding an open frequency Sam

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touched the paddles delicately, and as smooth as an angel's breath his call sign flowed out into the ether. Sam could hear a chorus of angel voices in his head and grew slightly dizzy as the speed and precision perfect Morse code passed around the world.

The Reverse Beacon Network lighted up announcing that his CQ had been reported in exotic and faraway places like Cleveland and Yonkers. This was a goal toward which Sam had worked for so many years because the CQ Worldwide CW contest was coming up.

The time zone clock on his wall ticked toward 0000 Zulu, and Sam jumped on the air and began to work even the fastest DX stations. As the minutes ticked by, he found he was working a little faster and a little better all the time. The sun was clear up in the sky, but suddenly the band went dead at just about 0100 hours. The sun had just popped an X-Class flare and a CME, wiping out the HF bands for a full 2 days.

When the logs were submitted and checked, Sam found he had worked as many stations as any SO stations during that first hour, and nobody had worked anyone for the next 47 hours of the contest. Sam had indeed worked as many stations in an hour as any ham had worked that weekend.

Now if you go visit Sam the Ham, you will find him there in his shack with the Begali, Sam in his operator's chair and The Begali next to him on the desk, warming up the airwaves with his many happy QSOs.

With acknowledgements to Virginia Lee Burton (see her children's book [Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel](#), 1939)

Bob, K4RLC #3042 Earlier this month, my YL Alanna K4AAC & I toured Cape Breton Island Nova Scotia. It was a bucket list trip for my 74th birthday to visit and operate both Marconi sites near Glace Bay.

Parks Canada operates a Marconi museum on the site of his 1902 transmitter station. Inside the museum, the Sydney (NS) Amateur Radio Club maintains a HF station, VE1VAS. The day I visited Michael VE1CYO, a former British Royal Navy CW operator, was on duty and graciously let me operate the station on 20m CW (TS-590SG, 40-10 Dipole and Moseley 3 EL Beam). I also set up the KX2 outside in the old antenna field that once had four 200-foot towers.

After driving the Cabot Trail around the island and activating National Historic Sites such as the wonderful Alexander Graham Bell Museum in Baddeck and Provincial Parks in the POTA system, we ended back in Sydney. From a chance encounter, I met the grandson of the person who bought the 1905 Marconi house in 1946. He was gracious enough to give Alanna and me a tour of the old transmitter building VAS and Marconi's workshop. I operated the KH1 from the front yard.

We're still reeling from a great trip to Cape Breton Island, a place with wonderful scenery, relaxed and nice people and great seafood.

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Alanna at the Marconi sign



L to R: K4RLC and VE1CYO/VA1RN at the VE1VAS Station

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Jim, WT8P #2456 I did several Parks on the Air (POTA) activations while vacationing in Iceland (TF/WT8P) and the Faroe Islands (OY/WT8P). I took my KX3, a Chelegance MC-750 vertical, Begali paddle, and a 6A LiPo battery. I went with a self-standing vertical because neither TF nor FO have a lot of trees. Everything packs down well. For scale:

Iceland currently has over 100 sites, many of which had never been activated.

I did lots of FT8 but also managed three CWT sessions.



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Stew, GW0ETF #919 Every year my local club, the Dragon Amateur Radio Club, operate GB2TD in the ILLW event that takes place over the 3rd weekend in August. This year I was the sole CW operator and was active on and off from Saturday around 1800z until a few hours from the end on Sunday.

The lighthouse at Trwyn Du (Black Point) is situated at the northeastern tip of the Island of Anglesey/Ynys Mon in North Wales IO73XH. It is 186 years old and normally inaccessible from the land. However, the local Coastguard allow us to set up in their lookout opposite complete with electric, toilet and mod cons like a fridge and Wi-Fi. Oh, and a great view! It is however limited for antenna space, and we normally run with a doublet and 100W.

Friday evening, we set up the doublet and radio which, with a fault on the usual IC-756 Pro3, was the ancient FT-990. Another member bagged the prime early morning Saturday slot for SSB before the RDA contest kicked off, so I returned around 1700z. I began by erecting a 15m elevated ground plane vertical behind the building away from the doublet; this band had been in fine shape recently and it would give me the opportunity to operate my spare K3 while the main SSB station was in operation. While doing this my phone pinged with a huge red aurora warning which suggested it was going to be a challenge on the HF bands that evening. That proved to be the case and sent me to my campervan bed for some sleep early. It was also cloudy so I would have missed any aurora light show anyway! (Penmon is a prime local aurora viewing point). Sunday morning, I began around 0330z, but conditions never really improved though 30m had its moments with some decent runs mainly into Europe.

The crew on the SSB radio tend to be 'office hour' types and wanted to pack up and leave by 4pm local time (1500z) on Sunday – that included the doublet and radio. My K3 has no ATU but I had brought my SO-TAbeams 20/30/40m Bandhopper antenna and mast which I erected in its place. I soldiered on valiantly battling the conditions but relented while there was just enough light to take down the Bandhopper and retreat to the camper-van for a good night sleep before driving home.



Thanks to all the CWops callsigns I recognised who called and those I didn't. Thanks also to HM Coastguard for allowing us the yearly access to the station; it's certainly a shack with a view!

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Duncan, G3WZD #1979 Over time I had noticed the 40m Moxon was increasingly slow to turn and occasionally became 'sticky' on several bearings. Having eliminated the motor, power feed and connections, I turned my attention to a possible mechanical problem, potentially eccentricity with the stub mast.

Realising the stub mast would need to be checked with the mast in the vertical position, and no longer prepared to spend time on a ladder working at height, I invested in a used industrial-grade scaffold tower with a working height of 7 metres; perfect for getting to the rotator and thrust bearing in safety (I still wore a safety harness attached to the top of the mast!).

The tower erection took about two hours with some occasional assistance from my partner's eldest grandchild, Jake; no, he wasn't really working up the tower, just passing me tower components with his feet safely on *terra firma*!

With the tower collapsed I was then able check the alignment of the stub mast and it was good.



However, with rotator/stub mast bolts slackened, I discovered it was really hard work to rotate the antenna by hand, so the only component left was the Yaesu GS-65 thrust bearing. I had never even suspected this as it's only two years old, and I've two other identical bearings that have been in service for many years with no problems. I separated the base plate & body, and to my surprise, the two ball bearing races were heavily corroded so clearly water had penetrated.

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There were no cracks evident so perhaps the base plate had not been properly bolted in place; maybe a "Friday afternoon" product?

Anyway, after applying copious amounts of penetrating fluid and carefully packing with grease (trying hard not to lose any of the bearings), the bearing was pretty much back to normal. Time to raise the mast back to working height. Then disaster struck; the mast had extended about two feet when the 8mm winch wire snapped just above the winch and mast came down hard. Fortunately, with only a very short distance to fall, there was no damage to the antenna or mast! Incidentally, I use a Bluetooth remote control for the winches and always stand well away from the mast when raising/lowering it.

The mast was extending normally with no sign of being stuck and, on examining the wire, it was clearly extensively corroded throughout, despite being in use for only two years from new. Being in close proximity to the Atlantic coast, I'd expected surface corrosion, but nothing as bad as this. I suspect it was sub-standard and poorly galvanized low-grade BY-origin wire supplied with the winch. I've since sourced replacement galvanized wire (UK origin and fully certified 8mm 6x19FC) and will fit it on my return from vacation. I will also replace the 8mm luffing winch wire and the two fixed 6mm wires which extend the upper two sections of the mast; "A stitch in time.....".



Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

73, Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

G4LPP, Phil Holt, CWops #2547



"My hobby started very young aged 4 when my uncle in Scotland, then a TV service engineer, set me loose on a pile of old TV chassis he had, with a screwdriver and some pliers. Despite my young age I was fascinated and determined to find out more. Crystal sets age 5, battery valve radios age 10, a simple transistor communications receiver age 12. Great fun learning the basics. I had met a local ham Edward G2ASL, he had a full Heathkit setup. I loved that he could talk to people all round the world from his upstairs shack. I took the Radio amateur's exam in 1973 and passed, getting my B licence in 1974 as G8IOE.

I have always tended to run an untidy shack as the attached photo demonstrates!"

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)

Gone Troppo Again

Four CW operators on a Tropical island

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

What happens when four committed CW operators go on a DXpedition to a tropical island?

Well, for starters, we'll admit that we didn't even unpack the microphones. In retrospect I don't think we ever intended to – for a committed CW operator the thought of yelling into a microphone for hours on end simply isn't appealing. And SSB pileups are far less easy to manage. Sideband operators keep others awake.

But, for the record, we aren't against SSB operators or the mode. It just isn't our "cup of tea".

We had planned to operate more FT8 but it just didn't work out. Most of us operated CW all the hours we wanted to be on-air, and then enjoyed some relaxation time, reading books, soaking up the warm weather, socialising and having a daily walk to the local Kava bar. There really wasn't much spare time for FT8 operation, and this is reflected in the statistics. We always said FT8 would be a soaker mode. It was also our "alert" mode for six metre propagation.



We were effectively on the air for six days. Here are the stats:

6,964 QSOs in total

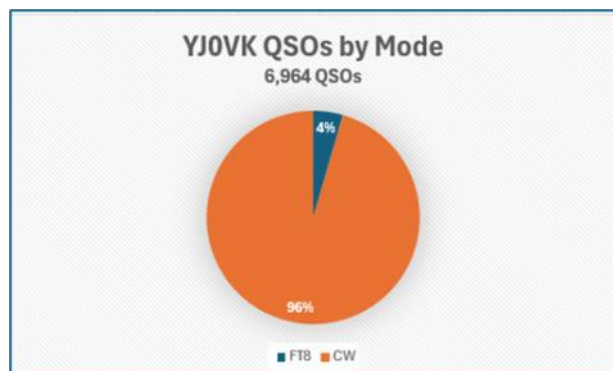
107 DXCC

106 DXCC on CW

10 DXCC on FT8

6,651 CW QSOs

313 FT8 QSOs



Overall conditions were good overnight but rather lack-lustre during the day. We enjoyed some very good runs on 20, 17 and 15 metres, with 12 and 10 only coming to life on occasion.

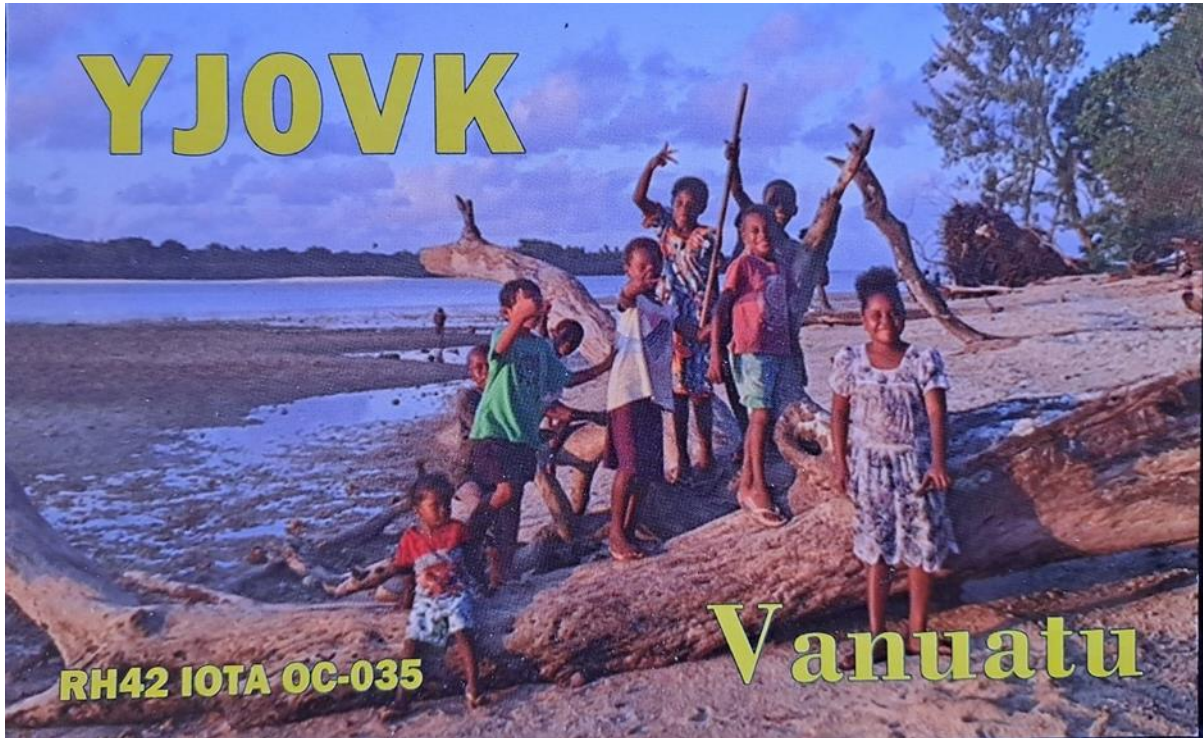
The weather was far more bearable in August than April with the temperatures being 23-28c and humidity at far more acceptable levels. During April the temperature was around 29c but the humidity was regularly into above 90% making conditions very oppressive and uncomfortable.

A few pictures follow. As they say, a picture tells a thousand words.

Oh, it would be remiss of me not to mention the thrill of working our esteemed editor, Dick N9EEE, on 15 metres on 23rd August – and Dick was QRP from Wisconsin too. A great QSO – thanks for the call Dick. (*ed: It was a long time coming and a thrill for me too!*)

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The YJOVK QSL Card



Patrick VK2PN, Luke VK3HJ and Chris VK3QB enjoying a bowl of Kava

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The Team: Patrick VK2PN, Janet (our hostess), Luke VK3HJ, Chris VK3QB and Olgierd VK5XDX



Olgierd VK5XDX and Luke VK3HJ putting the 6m beam together.



VK3QB on the paddle



YJØVK Shack – with 6m beam and 40m doublet

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Three days, Three islands, Three POTA (and Two Missed SOTA)

Enzo Nicosia, MØKTZ (CWops #3206)

The Aeolian Islands are a group of small-to-very-small volcanic islands off the northern coast of Sicily, which have been inhabited at least since 4000 BC. Named after Aeolus, the Greek god of winds, the archipelago is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the islands have been at the centre of the scene of Mediterranean life for centuries: first for the commerce of obsidian and other volcanic rocks before the Bronze Age, then as prosperous commercial sites under the Phoenicians, afterwards as strategic military outposts for Greeks and Romans, finally for the production

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of the famous Malvasia wine in modern times. If you haven't been there, you should definitely plan a visit. Perhaps avoiding the hottest summer months (July and August) though!

I spent three days on the islands with my family (the Field Marshall, our two boys, aged 11 and 7, and me), to visit Vulcano, Lipari, and Salina. Each of the seven main islands of the archipelago have at least a POTA reference, and several SOTA references as well. My original plan was to activate at least one reference on each of the three islands, as none of them had been activated on CW. Best of the show would have been Lipari, POTA IT-0397, which had never been activated before, on any mode. My whole kit had to occupy as little as possible, and to be as light as possible, as I had to carry it all the way through (not really an issue, as I am a CW-only QRP-only op HI). I had planned somehow all the activations, but several things got in the way requiring some minor (or major) amendments. Overall a great experience, but please read on...

Day 1: Vulcano and POTA IT-0322

We caught a hydrofoil from Milazzo, with my alpine rucksack being the only family luggage, and arrived on Vulcano on Monday 5th August, after a 50 minutes trip. The first planned POTA activation was POTA IT-0322, and started in Baia Negra, a fantastic black sand beach on the north-west side on the island. I decided to employ only self-sustained vertical antennas for this little expedition", with a 5m carbon fibre fishing pole strapped on top of an aluminium walking stick, which is in turn secured to a small carp-fishing tripod. This setup is enough for a Rybakov antenna, if you accept that the last 1m of the 7.4m radiator will hang from the top of the fishing pole. This has never been an issue for me, and the combo of fishing pole + walking stick + tripod weighs about 500 grams and is less than 36 cm long (about 1 feet). Ideal for backpacking, and very easy to set up.

I had very little time to make QSOs on the beach, as it was past 1300 local time and the temperature was over 35C. Luckily, my average station setup time is under 7 minutes HI. I made 5 contacts into central and northern Europe in about 10 minutes before folding, knowing that the best of the activation was going to happen in the afternoon. After a light lunch and nap at the residence we had booked for the night, I packed the necessaire in a smaller backpack and we ventured to climb the volcano on the Vulcano island (guess where the name "volcano" comes from?), whose top sits at 369m a.s.l. My original plan was to make it a double POTA/SOTA activation, as the volcano top is also SOTA I/SI-269. The climbing is not difficult, but it was demanding, especially for the kids, so we were not as fast as we had hoped, and arrived at 300m a.s.l. just before sunset. The SOTA dream was out of question, but the sunset from there was spectacular, and well worth the effort. I quickly set up my vertical and grabbed 6 more QSOs in about 13 minutes, which got me to a total of 11 QSOs in POTA IT-0322. I had completed my first POTA activation on the Aeolian islands, and we had just a couple more minutes to enjoy the colours of the sun disappearing into the sea, before descending to our apartment in Vulcano Porto.

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Day 2: Lipari and POTA IT-0397

On the second day we took another hydrofoil to Lipari, the largest of all the Aeolian islands, and the only one having a POTA reference which had never been activated before, POTA IT-0397. And I understood quickly why that was the case. The POTA reference covers almost any part of Lipari that is not inhabited. The problem is that whatever piece of land is not inhabited in Lipari, is so for a good reason: it is normally inaccessible, meaning that it must be very hard or almost impossible to access it without an aircraft HI. After all, the Liparians have been there for 6000 odd years, so they have had a hell of a lot of time to take advantage of literally any flat inch of land. Now I know what the well-informed experienced POTA-goers will say "hey you fool! That's a rookie mistake! You should plan ahead! Get on Google Maps, take Street View, and examine the place you want to activate before even venturing there!". If you are in that lot, then you must have not understood the meaning of "inaccessible", which means not just inaccessible by car, but mostly inaccessible by any means. This is what most of the POTA IT-0397 is like. There is no mapping web site that can help you there, as no Google cameras have ever been there. And to be honest, I believe that the Street View business is well beyond the spirit of POTA. I agree you should plan ahead as much as possible, but where is the fun in using military grade technology to have fun playing radio in a park? What amount of "adventure" is left if you know every inch of the activation site, including the exact branch of the exact tree where you will hang your end-fed, before letting up from your coach? Your mileage may vary here, but there is more fun in not knowing what it will be, than in knowing it in advance HI, and in this case, I really had no alternative option. So I made an approximate plan, saying to myself "we will figure it out once we are there".

It was clear to me that after the (great but tiring) ascent to the almost-top of Vulcano the day before, our troop couldn't really venture on any serious hiking on Lipari. Also the second SOTA reference I had planned for (Monte Mazzuni I/SI-283) was out of question, as there were some ongoing works to repair the trail leading there, and again, it was not at all easy to get there with two kids with a temperature around 36C.

We had rented a car, and we made a full car trip of Lipari, stopping at three fantastic beaches to enjoy the great day. No need to say that the beaches, although beautiful and spectacular, were well outside POTA IT-0397. Before the trip I had identified a possible activation site close to the old Geophysical Observatory, in the southern part of Lipari. In the afternoon we headed by car towards the observatory, only to find that the road access was blocked by some ongoing works, and we would have had to walk about 2.5 kilometres to get there (not really fun at 1600 local time, with a temperature just shy of 39C). And you know, the interesting fact about small islands like Lipari is that there are no alternative routes: when a road is blocked, anything that road leads to remains inaccessible by car.

It was 1700 local time by then, I had made no single QSO yet, and I had no concrete plan B. I had a quick look at the park map, and I identified three possible spots where the road that goes around the island intersects the POTA reference. The first two were just uninspiring stopping areas, with no special view or surrounding, so only to be used as a last resort. So we headed to the third one, and I was already despairing of being able to activate by the end of the day. The third-

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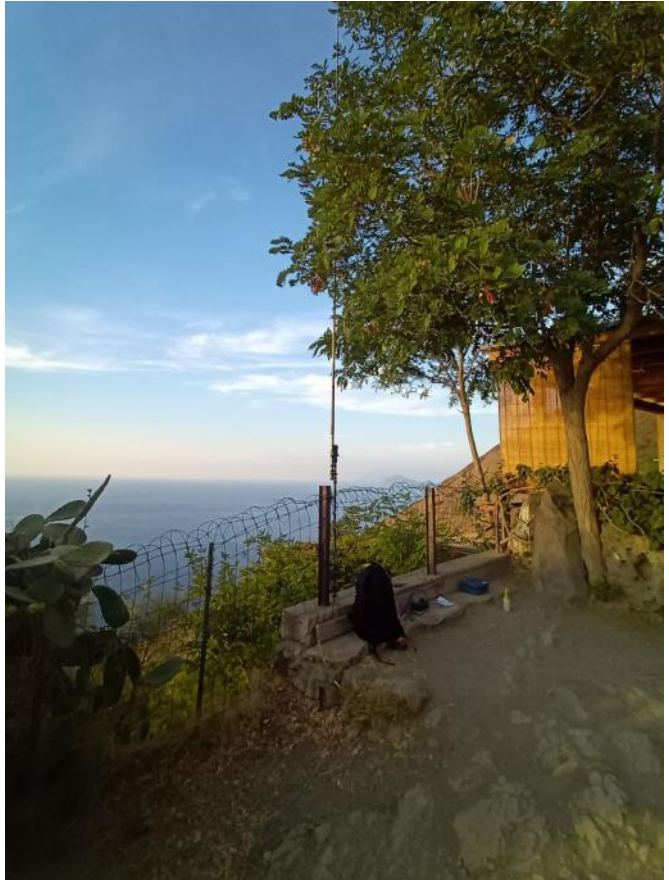
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point was just an unbelievable surprise. It is a small area right on top of a cliff, where a local family sells Aeolian crafts and soft drinks (in Sicily we call this kind of place a "chiosco"), which has a breadth-taking view on five of the other Aeolian Islands, namely Alicudi, Filicudi, Salina, Panarea, and Stromboli. After double- and triple-checking that I was well within the park boundaries, I quickly set up my antenna, and connected one of the counterpoise wires to a wire fence nearby. I tuned the antenna on 20m, hoping to make at least a few QSOs. But instead.... I got a modest pileup! The first QSO was at 1625 with DL4VM, and was a relief. I was clearly hitting central and northern Europe, with callers in OK, F, G, SP, DL, EA, SM, OH, ON, UR end even UA! The best QRB was about 2600km. I got 22 QSOs in about 50 minutes, including a 10 minutes break to move my car to a better spot, as it was partially obstructing the entrance to an adjacent trail (I had literally jumped off the car when I saw THAT VIEW!). I also had several relaxed ragchews in between, all with a stunning view of a sunset over the Aeolian islands. If I had stayed 30 minutes more I could have probably bagged a few more QSOs on 30m and 40m, but we had to return the rented car, so I called QRT at 1714z. POTA IT-0397 had been conquered, in the most unexpected way. The best part of it was to hear so many stations thanking me for their "ATNO", as that was the first activation ever of the reference, on any mode.



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Day 3: Salina and POTA IT-1538

We had planned to get to Salina on August 7th, and we arrived there around 1030 local time. The best way to move around the island is using a scooter, but the kids are not in their scooter age yet, so we opted for a car. We reached the south-most point of the island, Lingua, where there is a lighthouse and a salt lake adjacent to the seaside. My plan was to activate POTA IT-1538 from the salt lake, but before that we enjoyed the rocky beach and a fantastic lunch. I headed towards the salt lake alone while the rest of the troop was finishing their lunch. I set up a large sun umbrella first, and then the same antenna I had used in the previous activations. The carp-fishing tripod normally does an excellent job, but rocky beaches are not its forte, so I had to secure it to my backpack, for increased stability. I tuned up on 20m, and started calling. Conditions were not great, and all the signals from the stations coming back had serious QSB. I got 9 QSOs on 20m, including LZ/KN6BEZ (with a lot of fading, as well), and then could not hear any reply for minutes. The temperature was well above 38C, so I decided I would have finished the activation by S&P. I could not hear much else on 20m, so I quickly switched to 30m, and found F6HBI/P, which I had already contacted from Baia Negra in Vulcano. Before calling QRT, I made a couple more calls on 10119 kHz, and got a nice reply from Alvaro IK1RAG, whom I had not heard in a while. Overall, 11 QSO for the third and last of my POTA activation on the Aeolian Islands.



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Lessons Learned

1) Some (tiny) added weight is hardly an issue. I was tight on weight budget, but I decided to pack two rigs in my backpack, a Penntek TR-35 and a QRP-Labs QMX, low-bands version. I used the QMX only for the first five QSOs in Baia Negra, so I could have probably got away with the TR-35 alone. But I have been on a personal quest to make at least one CW QRP QSO a day, every day, and the streak has been going on since January 2022. I really can't afford to lose it due to a rig fault, so I try to always have a backup when I am far from QTH. The QMX weighs about 200 grams, so that's not really a major issue, and adds to my peace of mind. Both rigs performed great.

2) Log with pen and paper, and that's it. Following the suggestion of a friend, I had installed a quite popular mobile logging app, and decided to use it on the first activation in Vulcano. Bad decision, as the app stopped working all of a sudden (or maybe my mobile just folded up, due to the high temperatures, who knows?). Luckily, I had taken screenshots of the log, as I never trust a technology which is more complicated than a CW transceiver, HI, so I lost nothing. But I definitely reverted to pen-and-paper for the following activations, using pictures from the mobile phone as a backup.

3) Never plan too much. The adventure in Lipari clearly showed me that planning is everything, but it could easily spoil the pleasure of an activation. If I had to have everything planned and decided in advance about that activation, I would have never done it, as there is no feasible way of planning much in detail in a place where you only have approximative maps and no real "Street View" support. I really hope this is not the reason why the reference in Lipari had not been activated so far, as a bit of adventure and surprise is really what makes the POTA programme so much fun.

4) Choose the right kit, try it at home, but always bring duct tape! The fishing pole + walking stick + carp tripod combo worked great, in different situations. I had tried the combo in my garden already, but using it in the field was a slightly different story. I had planned to use Velcro-like fastening straps to stick the three elements together, but it turned out the straps did not work well to keep the fishing pole firmly on the walking stick. So I reverted to using ye gud auld rubber tape in the end.

Best piece of kit

Without doubts: the home-brew Z-match and the home-brew switchable 4:1/9:1/16:1 UN-UN, each in a separate Altoids can. The combination of the two (see photo on next page) allows to tune literally anything, and they weigh less than 100 grams in total.

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List of kit

TXR: Penntek TR-35, QRP-Labs QMX low band

Key: "Povero Christy" single-lever, by Valerio IK0XBA

Antenna: Rybakov vertical, spare 20m quarter wave, spare 13m random wire

Tuner: home-brew Z-match in Altoids tin can + home-brew switchable

4:1/9:1/16:1 UN-UN

Battery: TalentCell 11.1V/6Ah

Carbon fibre telescopic fishing pole 5m, retractable to 35cm.

Aluminium foldable walking stick, 38cm when folded

Carp-fishing mini-tripod

Velcro-like cable straps

Small lengths of RG-58 coax

Kite string

Regular earplugs

Standard A6 note book for logging



CW QSOs With A Twist

[Jean-Marc "Jean" Idee, F5SGI](#) (CWops #2532)

I don't know about you, but I like to start and/or end my CW QSOs with a few words in the language of my fellow interlocutor.

For me, it's a form of courtesy. For example, I appreciate it when a foreign ham sends me "MCI" or "BJR", even during contests.

So I've prepared a table showing the main expressions we often use in our QSOs, translated in several languages. I hope it'll be of some use to you. The nice thing about CW is that the accent isn't really a major problem!

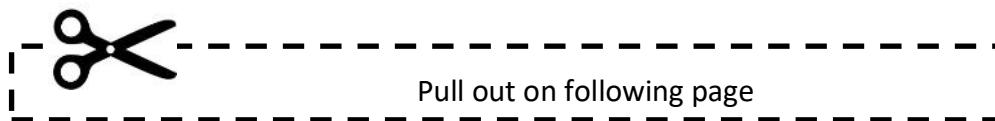
Of course, there is the problem of different alphabets (Cyrillic and Latin). As far as I'm concerned, experience shows that this doesn't pose major problems when transcribing from Cyrillic to Latin. There is also the problem of special characters (ä, ü, etc., in CW). Here, I confess I don't know... Some are very well known (the Spanish n with tilde, ñ, is "dah dah dit dah dah"), but not all (at least as far as I know). I assume we can keep the letter without the specific sign.

I hope you'll find the table below of some help, and that it'll be a useful addition to your QSOs with several European countries. Be careful with some languages, though. I remember saying "hello" in Polish to SP ham (a very nice guy, by the way!) and receiving a long message in that language in return, which made the continuation of our QSO a little more complex, but, in the end, quite fun!

A large number of our fellow European CW Ops members read *Solid Copy*. I sincerely hope they'll forgive my mistakes and that they can make corrections and additions (e.g. abbreviations frequently used in QSOs in their language). So please let me know of any corrections or additions you think would be useful!

A bientôt, 73

Jean



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| Language | Good Morning (GM) | Hello | Good Morning (Morning) | Good Afternoon | Good Night | Thank you (very much) | Good bye | See You Soon |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bulgarian | Dobar den | - | Dobro utro | Dobar vecher | Leka nosht | Blagodarya | Dovizhdane | Skoro |
| Czech | Dobrý den | Ahoj | - | Dobrý večer | Dobrou noc | (Moc) děkuji | Sbohem | Uvidíme se brzy |
| Danish | God dag | Hej | God morgen | God aften | God nat | (Mange) tak | Farvel | Vi ses |
| Dutch | Goeden dag (Hallo) | Hoi | Goeden dag (Hallo) | Goedeavond | Goede nacht | (Hartelijk) dank | Tot ziens | Tot snel |
| Esperanto | Bonan tagon | Saluton | Bonan materon | Bonan vesperon | Bonan nokton | (Multan) dankon | Adiaŭ | ĝis baldaŭ |
| Finnish | Hyvää päivää | Hei | Hyvää huomenta | Hyvää iltaa | Hyvää yötä | Kiitos | Hyvästi | Nähdään pian |
| French | Bonjour (BJR) | Salut (SLT) | - | - | Bonne nuit | Merci (MCI) beaucoup (BCP) | Au revoir | A bientôt |
| German | Guten Tag | Hallo | Guten Morgen | Guten Abend | Gute Nacht | (Vielen) Dank | Auf Wiedersehen | Auf Wiederhoeren (AWDH) |
| Hungarian | Jo napot | Szia | Jó reggelt | Jó estét | Jó éjszakát | Köszönöm | Viszlát | Hamarosan találkozunk |
| Italian | Buongiorno (Ciao) | Ciao | Buongiorno (Ciao) | Buonasera | Buona notte | Grazie (mille) | Arrivederci (Ciao) | A presto |
| Norwegian | God dag | Hei | God morgen | God kveld | God natt | (Tusen) takk | Farvel | Vi ses snart |
| Polish | Dzien dobry | Cześć | - | Dobry wieczór | Dobranoc | (Bardzo) dziękuje | Do widzenia | Do zobaczenia |
| Portuguese | Bom dia (Olá) | Oi | - | Boa tarde | Boa noite | (Muito) obrigado | Adeus | Até breve |
| Romanian | Buna ziua | Hi | - | Bună seara | Noapte bună | Vă multumesc (foarte mult) | La revedere | Pe curând |
| Russian | Zdravstvuy (ZDR) | Privet | Dobroye utro | Dobryy vecher | Spokeynoy nochi | Spasibo (SPB) | Do svidaniya (DSW) or Poka | Do skorogo |
| Spanish | Buenos dias | Hola | Buenos dias | Buenas tardes | Buenas noches | (Muchas) Gracias (GRS) | Adios | Hasta pronto |
| Swedish | God dag | Hej | God morgon | God afton | God natt | Tack sa mycket | Adiö (farväl) | Vi ses snart |
| Ukrainian | Dobroho ranku | Prvyit | - | Dobryy vechir | Na dobranich | (Duzhe) dyakuyu | Do pobachennya | Do zustrichi |

Notes _____



CW Relegated to the Bottom 25 kHz on 40-Metres?

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

Band Plans. Notionally they are co-ordinated by the International Amateur Radio Union. In reality, individual countries define Band Plans, and they vary, in some cases quite a lot. For the most part this is transparent to many CW operators, but we are all aware that some countries and some licence levels are limited in what bands and frequency allocations they can use.

This is quite apparent on 40 metres. In many ways it is the “messiest” of the HF bands. There are also significant variations across not just the three IARU Regions, but across countries within the regions.

To this end, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is sponsoring a 40-Metre Band Plan review on behalf of IARU Region 3. The consultation period ended on 6th September and the WIA plans on taking their recommendations to the IARU Region 3 Conference in Bangkok in November. Just two short months away.

Many VK operators have responded to the WIA’s invitation for feedback, and to my knowledge most people are concerned with the direction the WIA is taking.

If the IARU/WIA proposal goes forward, ***CW will be relegated to the bottom 25 kHz of the 40 metre band. We could have data and voice down as low as 7025 kHz.***

The WIA has proposed three options.

Option A is most restrictive, essentially proposing CW operators worldwide be limited to just 25 kHz (7000 - 7025 kHz).

Options B & C only provide 25 kHz as primary, and then limited allocations which are shared with digital and voice modes

Clearly, all three options are highly prejudicial to CW operators. If adopted, these options will see confusion and conflict. Given Band Plans are voluntary "Gentlemen's Agreements", global harmonisation is unlikely.

We have been in email contact with the WIA TAC and in news just to hand (9th September) they have advised they’ve received about 100 submissions and that CW operators have made their feelings very clear.

The WIA TAC have conceded that the CW community was not consulted as this was not to be a “band wide review”. This detail was not included in the Consultation Papers nor in their news releases. We understand that the TAC will now review the responses and undertake another consultation cycle before taking any recommendations to IARU Region 3 in November. The timeline will be tight, and we’ve offered to assist them to speed up the process.

News may well change in the coming days and weeks. Rather than expand on news at this time,

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I'd refer readers to the website for the latest news. Graeme VK5GG, Barry VK2BJ and I have reached out to the WIA TAC requesting more information and offering to be a part of their review and consultation process. Clearly, the participation of three very active CW operators would be of benefit to the process.

A dedicated website has been established. Please visit it to learn more.

<https://www.save40metrescw.com/>

With the permission of the Editor my response to the WIA is published below. Please read it. I'll keep CW Ops updated via *Solid Copy*, Facebook, and our dedicated website.

Thanks for your support

Chris VK3QB #2949

CW Ops Ambassador OC

Reference : 40-metre Band Plan Harmonisation Challenges

[CONSULTATION 2024-2: 40m Band Plan Harmonisation Challenges \(wia.org.au\)](#)

Grant Willis, VK5GR, Chair, TAC

Scott Williams, VK3KJ, President, WIA

Copy: CW Ops President, Radio Amateur Society of Australia

Dear Grant, Scott & TAC,

I was a member of the WIA for over 30 years and have been a long-term supporter of the Institute and its objectives. Whilst I am no longer a member, I maintain a close interest in its activities.

It is positive to see the WIA take the initiative in seeking harmonisation of the 40-metre band, however there are some concerns with the methods utilised, proposed solutions, and lack of engagement with the CW community.

In your news release on 18 July 2024 you state:

"A final resolution may well still be 1-2 years away. Indeed, even the work to get to this stage has involved 3 years of research and meetings with many diverse groups (including the leading lights in the WSJT and Winlink communities as well as with ARRL, DARC, JARL and IARU Region 1 and 2)."

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Ref: [Update On WIA Technical Advisory Committee \(TAC\) Consultations](#)

Yet it appears that you have failed to engage with any CW clubs or enthusiasts, and this is reflected in your analysis and proposals. CW operators stand to lose the most from these proposals. Ours is a unique human operated mode, and its varied uses and protocols (and 40-metre propagation) must be properly understood when considering proposed changes to the Band Plan.

It would be in the best interest of all 40-metre users for the WIA and IARU to consider the significant role CW plays in our hobby. I invite the working group to reach out to well established and respected representative clubs (First Class CW Operators Club - FOC, CW Ops, Fists) and discuss these matters in more detail.

It is worth noting that many amateurs do not properly understand the Band Plans, their voluntary status and objectives, how they fit into the regulatory framework, and the fact that the Regulator (ACMA) plays no role in their creation or management. It would be useful for the WIA to undertake a public awareness campaign. QTC ran a good article in the September/October 2020 edition; I encourage you to read it and consider republishing in Amateur Radio magazine. (www.qtcmag.com)

As requested, I have answered the questions raised and provided additional commentary where necessary.

Q1. Do you agree that there is merit in seeking to globally harmonise the amateur service 40m band plan?

Yes. But it must be collaborative and simple. In my view, the WIA's method is flawed, and the options are too complex. Simplicity is the key to global (and local) harmony.

Is the WIA aware that the Australian Spectrum Plan includes Secondary access for Amateur Radio to 7200 – 7300kHz? None of your Options recognise this allocation. Ref:

[Australian Radiofrequency Spectrum Plan 2021_ Including general information.pdf \(acma.gov.au\)](#)

Is the WIA aware that some USA licence classes don't have access to 7000 – 7025kHz?

Neither of these important considerations are mentioned in your paper.

Q2. Do you agree with the way the different quantities of spectrum for different modes has been determined? If not, please suggest alternative models that can be considered for making the assessments.

No. Table 3 is non-representative, and the logic used to create this data is unrepresentative. The data does not align with typical usage. Especially for CW.

What was the analytical and statistical reasoning behind the methods employed for this analysis? There appears to be no assessment of actual CW activity, other than gross QSO counts.

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Counting QSOs does not provide an analysis of frequency spread or spectrum utilisation. Nor does it truly reflect the variation in CW QSO profiles or length of QSO/speed of QSO. This results in a misleading assessment of spectrum utilisation and user behaviour. A more useful measure would have been spectrum utilisation and profiling over time, as well as consultation with experienced CW operators.

Further, Clublog is hardly the biggest or most representative data source. Other online logging/award services/monitoring & reporting services have far greater user base than Clublog.

Comments:

Why didn't WIA TAC consult the ITU Spectrum Monitoring Handbook for industry standards. As this an IARU sponsored initiative, the documented method of a global professional body is more robust and holds greater credibility than one month of Clublog data.

WIA TAC should have consulted with key stakeholders – especially for CW. TAC could have consulted with CW Ops, FDU and FOC representatives before publishing this paper. All three clubs have very active members here in VK.

Experienced CW operators would have identified considerable existing CW activity above 7025. We have FDU and CW Ops calling frequency of 7028, POTA, WWFF and SOTA on 7030-7032 and various other groups (qrp, homebrew etc) up to 7036. Then there's the very popular CWTs from 7028-7043 every Wednesday and Thursday VK time. International CW Council Medium Speed Test 7015-7050 Tuesdays. Many of these groups/users are unlikely to move without proper consultation and justification. Then there are large international contests.

The bottom end of 40m is often polluted with unlicensed and unidentified stations on SSB coming out of Indonesia and SE Asia. This often renders large parts of 7000 - 7025 kHz unusable. What is the WIA and IARU doing to have these stations removed from our Primary 40m allocation?

Many CW operators don't use Clublog. Especially in VK. Clublog is not a credible data source for VK CW. Anecdotal feedback from CW Ops members indicates Clublog as an unreliable data source for CW activity.

There are more appropriate reports than blunt QSO counts to aid in measuring an understanding band utilisation, for example: A Band Occupancy Histogram with Signal Spectrogram or heat maps.

US Tech & Novice operators do not have access below 7025. Was this considered?

Feedback from Region 2, North America, advises considerable activity from QRP and soto/pota up as high as 7070 to avoid contests etc. Suggestions that digital could move up 10-15kHz – say 7070-7115kHz.

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Generally, CW operators are very flexible and best placed to adapt to local conditions. This is probably why the existing band plan allows CW across the entire band. CW operators are frequency agile, good listeners, and generally considerate of other spectrum users.

Q3. Do you agree that more should be done to protect EmComm frequencies particularly from contest activity?

No. It's simply not practical. At least here in VK and our region, Amateur Radio Emergency comms lacks formal national co-ordination. In Australia our professional emergency services have stepped up to the mark since the 2009 bushfires.

When and if required, Amateur Radio can still be used for Emergency Communications.

Q4. Do you agree that the proposals to separate out contesting and other traffic types are suitable and would be acceptable to contest organisers?

No. Contesters are competitive, and contesting is a very large part of Amateur Radio. To restrict their use would be prejudicial. They'll use the full spectrum and as much power as their amplifiers can deliver to get that extra QSO. Non-contesters have access to the WARC bands and/or can usually find clear space for non-contesting activity.

An informal poll was conducted with CW Ops club and 82% of respondents were against a non-contest segment on the 80 and 40 metre bands. This sample size can be regarded as statistically significant with a confidence level of 90%.



Q5. Do you see merit in separating DX SSB activity from local communications activity (including local nets) etc?

No... but you could promote 7200-7300kHz for local daytime nets. Generally, especially in the southern/eastern states, this segment is clear and only becomes busy after dark with the SE Asian BC stations.

Why is 7200-7300 not even mentioned?

Q6. Do you consider it appropriate to consider the "SSB" segment as a "Voice" segment, and thus in the future when digital voice modes become more prevalent, that they should rightly belong in the SSB segment alongside SSB operators, or is there a need to consider a separation of the "Voice" segment into analogue and digital voice?

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Yes. Bundle these under the “Voice” segment.

Q7. Do you think the band plan should be more or less prescriptive about individual sub-modes within an operating category? (i.e. should the band plan specifically separate/designate WSJT, PSK, RTTY, Winlink and other data communications types?) Or is sufficient to name it the data sub-band, perhaps with a couple of indicative centres of activity for core activities named?

Yes – more or less. Where appropriate specify calling or centre of activity (COA) frequencies. It's nice to know where the fishing spots are. It's a moot point for most digital modes anyway. WSJT sets the standards. Non-WSJT-X modes should have COA documented.

Q8. Is there anything else you would like to comment on regarding this discussion paper or other concepts or ideas that haven't been mentioned that you feel should be considered?

The proposed options are too complex – they will create more conflict than harmony. From commentary I have seen most people appear unsupportive.

Interestingly, most of the feedback I have seen is from CW operators and clubs. Other mode users (Digital and/or SSB) have either been indifferent, apathetic, or unaware of band plans.

Very little information is provided regarding the overall process, timeline, milestones and governance for these proposed changes. Would TAC/IARU please inform the community of these details.

I do hope the TAC and IARU take this onboard.

Option A – you won't get CW operators to comply. In spite of what your analysis tells you, 25kHz is insufficient for CW activity. Furthermore, there's way too much entrenched activity between 7025 – 7045. This option also excludes USA Tech & General operators who are not permitted below 7025 (as I understand it).

Option B – Too complex. Too many competing modes 7025 – 7070. This is inviting conflict and confusion.

Option C – This will be more problematic than Option B. Co-existence between CW Contests and Digital modes won't work. And Emergency comms? Way too much change. Impossible to implement. Lack of sound operating skills and the vagaries of propagation will render any sharing with Digital modes a failure. This option will result in confusion and conflict.

In addition, 40m propagation and varying reception and transmission capabilities mean many operators will stomp on others, or not hear others, something which happens today anyway. The best chance of success is to make the changes simple and minimalistic. IARU must remain aware that many (most) countries do not legislate the Band Plans – if operators don't support the IARU Band Plans then they won't be effective.

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My view:

7000-7050 (or even up as high as 7070 to account for R2 activity) for CW – respecting WSPR on 7038.6kHz

7050-7100 (or 7070-7115kHz to account for R2) for digital with COA frequencies by mode as appropriate

7100-7300 for voice. (SSB, AM, digi voice). Promote 7200-7300 during daylight hours.

Allocate 15kHz (or what-ever is deemed appropriate) above 7100 for Emergency comms.

The single biggest area of confusion and conflict between 7000-7100 are SSB transmissions. Many operators simply are not aware of the existing Band Plan or don't respect the Band Plan. It is not uncommon to hear comments like "I've been running my net on 7.0xx since 1980 and I'm not moving"...There are instances of SSB operators on top of existing FT8 signals, acknowledging the digital signals but continuing their QSOs.

This is a cultural issue that the WIA and other bodies needs to work collaboratively to change. It is rare for CW operators to knowingly interfere with digital or SSB signals between 7000-7050 in VK (with the exception of WSPR on 7038.6kHz). For the most part digital operators adhere to standard or documented band plans or documented COA.

The 40-metre WSPR frequency of 7038.6kHz is an anomaly. We either seek to have it moved to the Digital segment or create an appropriate slot at 7038.6kHz.

As the Oceania Ambassador for CW Ops (www.cwops.org) a global club of over 3,300 Morse Code enthusiasts, I consulted their feedback as well, much of which has been considered in this submission.

Whatever direction the WIA and IARU takes with this initiative, I believe a simple solution with minimal change is most likely to succeed. Further, it will be incumbent on the WIA and all associations, clubs and individuals to understand, promote and support the Band Plan. The IARU and National Bodies will need effective communications strategies should any changes be considered.

As an active CW operator and as the CW Ops Oceania Ambassador I will advocate to protect reasonable access to the 40-metre band for CW operators.

Thank-you for taking the initiative to consider updates to the 40m band plan.

Chris Chapman VK3QB

CW Ops #2949 & CW Ops Ambassador OC

FISTS Down Under #9085

SKCC #22351C

vk3qb@hotmail.com

6th September 2024



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> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3585 | E70T* | Vlado | 3592 | MONJW* | Nigel | 3598 | KQ4E* | Jim |
| 3586 | KW6SEA* | Justin | 3593 | NN3Q* | Russ | 3599 | N4TTU* | Tom |
| 3587 | W1ETI* | Chris | 3594 | PE2V* | Vin | 3600 | DS1TUW* | Ji |
| 3589 | OK1TRJ* | Michal | 3595 | KJ7DT* | Paul | 3601 | JE1PEN* | Ted |
| 3590 | KC3SJ* | Steve | 3596 | NA6JD | Vlad | 3602 | F5SNJ* | Will |
| 3591 | N7VS | Steve | 3597 | W5HK* | Steve | | | |

* Lifetime member

As of September 9, 2024:

Need Sponsors: KE2BRV, N4PF

Invitations Extended: K6SAL

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)

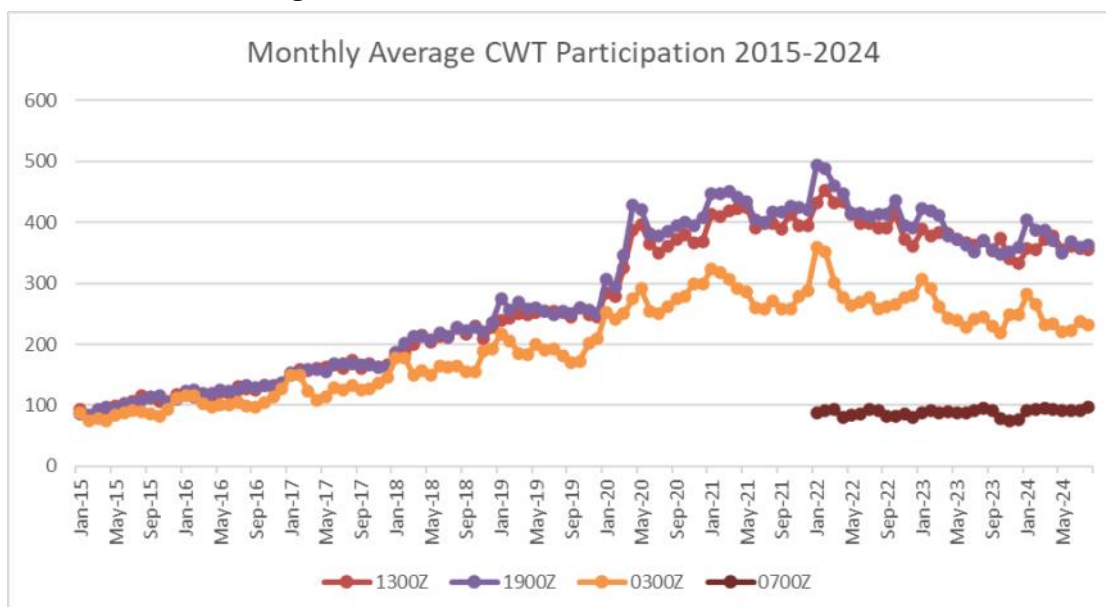
[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

In last month's column I went over the early history of the CWTs, up to the end of 2014. Since that time, the program structure has only undergone one change, when the 0700z CWT was added in 2022. So, the history of the CWTs since the beginning of 2015 relates primarily to changes in participation levels.

As of the beginning of 2015, there were three CWTs weekly, with around 90 participants in each session. Participation in all three sessions grew fairly steadily for several years. The first CWT to reach the 100 mark was the 1900Z CWT on March 25, 2015, followed a week later by the 1300Z CWT. Three months later, the 0300Z CWT reached 100 participants for the first time, and by the end of the year the typical weekly participation numbers for all three sessions were over 100.

Over the next few years, the 0300Z session grew somewhat more slowly than the other two and displayed stronger seasonal variability, corresponding to the switch between standard time and daylight savings time in North America. By the end of 2019, average participation in the 1300Z and 1900Z sessions had grown to about 250, while the 0300Z session was seeing close to 200 participants on average. The largest participation count before 2020 was 288, reached in the 1900Z session on January 30, 2019.

Then came 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the widespread adoption of stay-at-home protocols, participation in the CWTs enjoyed a massive increase in early 2020, followed by waves of further increases up to a maximum of 510 participants in the 1900Z CWT on January 26, 2022. Since that peak there has been a general downward trend, although current levels (around 350 in the 1300Z and 1900Z sessions and 225 in the 0300Z session) are still well above those at the beginning of 2020. Since its introduction in 2022, the 0700Z session has enjoyed fairly steady participation levels hovering close to the 100 participant level. The graph of monthly average participation below smooths out some of the week-to-week fluctuation but displays seasonal variation as well as long-term trends.



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It may be of some interest to see these participation numbers broken down geographically by continent. From the tabulated yearly averages in the tables, we can see that the 1300Z and 1900Z sessions are popular in both Europe and North America, while the 0300Z session is dominated by North American entries and the 0700Z session by European entries. The increase in participation from Asia in the 1300Z CWT session since 2022 corresponds with the introduction of the A1A Club's AWT at 1200Z-1300Z on Wednesdays.

| Yearly average participation in 1300Z CWTs | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Year | NA | EU | AS | AF | OC | SA | Total |
| 2015 | 81 | 20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 103 |
| 2016 | 102 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 |
| 2017 | 130 | 29 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 162 |
| 2018 | 174 | 33 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 210 |
| 2019 | 205 | 42 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 250 |
| 2020 | 284 | 67 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 353 |
| 2021 | 315 | 86 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 405 |
| 2022 | 316 | 83 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 407 |
| 2023 | 281 | 79 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 367 |
| 2024 | 269 | 85 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 361 |

| Yearly average participation in 1900Z CWTs | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Year | NA | EU | AS | AF | OC | SA | Total |
| 2015 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 101 |
| 2016 | 106 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 127 |
| 2017 | 133 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 162 |
| 2018 | 179 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 216 |
| 2019 | 212 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 258 |
| 2020 | 303 | 74 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 379 |
| 2021 | 333 | 91 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 427 |
| 2022 | 336 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 431 |
| 2023 | 291 | 82 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 375 |
| 2024 | 287 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 373 |

| Yearly average participation in 0300Z CWTs | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Year | NA | EU | AS | AF | OC | SA | Total |
| 2015 | 78 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 86 |
| 2016 | 98 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 106 |
| 2017 | 119 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 130 |
| 2018 | 153 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 166 |
| 2019 | 178 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 193 |
| 2020 | 247 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 269 |
| 2021 | 263 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 283 |
| 2022 | 261 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 286 |
| 2023 | 231 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 250 |
| 2024 | 219 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 241 |

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| Yearly average participation in 0700Z CWTs | | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Year | NA | EU | AS | AF | OC | SA | Total |
| 2022 | 27 | 57 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 87 |
| 2023 | 27 | 56 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 87 |
| 2024 | 27 | 63 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 93 |

As you can see from these tables, except perhaps for a handful of AWT participants staying on for the 1300Z CWT, participation in the CWTs from outside Europe and North America is dependent on a very few individuals. That hasn't changed a lot over the last 10 years or more; the growth of the CWTs has been almost all in North America and Europe.

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| AAØYY | KN6BAZ | NØXE | WKØB | KG5IEE | KØLRQ | KA2CMA | KJ7GV |
| AF4PX | AG5XU | KJ7GV | KD8ZM | N5ZO | | | |
| GW2CWO | YO5OSF MØMCL | GM4ZFS DF3SM | SM4TU DL7USW/P | EA1FGV | PA5Z | G4HPY | 2WØSUR |
| JJ1FXF | VK3OU JK1MVC | JL2SQK(2) JH2HTQ | JA6QCG(2) JA4IJ | JG6CNO | JG1BGT(2) | JK1WCW | JR2IEQ |
| JK1QYL | JK1WCW(2) JP7VLI | JG1BGT(6) JE6AJO | JN1NVQ JQ6DGR | JL2SQK(4) JK1CBW | JJØSFV JF2EVE | JA4IJ JG7AJE | JE1VQM JR1PYB |
| JM4AOA | HL1MIM JH2URW JL8TZJ/3 | JA2JXB JJØSFV JN1FAO | JA4IJ(3) JK1MVC JP3QYC | JA6BZH JK1WCW JR8IUH/1 | JG7AJE JK8TYW | JHØVZE JL2CPA | JH1LMG JL2SQK(3) |
| JO1DGE | 7J1ATG/2 JA5IVG(2) JH1EZO JK1WCW(2) JR7KGE | DS5TXS JA6BZH(3) JH1LRO JK8TYW JS2GYN | HL1MIM JE2OUK JH4UYB JL2SQK(4) JS2OVO | JA1IAZ JE6AJO JH5FVM JM1IPX JS6ULK | JA3EBL JE7WEB JI1QIZ/1 JN1FAO(2) | JA4BSX JG1BGT(8) JJØSFV JR2BOE | JA4IJ JG7AJE(2) JK1PWT JR6SBI(2) |
| K6RB | VA3CWT | WA4IAR | K6TOP | N7AKG | KØJVX | KD2FSH | W2AZZ |
| K7NJ | KD2FSH LU2DPW | VA3AWT | WJ9B | KN6CT | W6BOW | AH6EZ/W7 | KCØGIO |
| KV8Q | WA8VTD | N4WFO | K8MPH | | | | |
| MØWDD | DF6IA G4YTJ MØTJU | DL8ZAD GM4HBG M1JSC | GØDOZ GW3TYI M7GNO | GØUAD I5ECW MMØUMH | G4HJM MØKBU PA3JD | G4JKO MØKCJ | G4NNJ MØNVQ |
| N4TMM | KB4U | AA2YK | W2GIW | W4MCX | | | |
| W7ZDX | AA9H | KI7NRI | NØBF | WN7JT | W1XT | W7XP | K7UQH |
| 7N2XZB | JA2FEA JK8TYW JG7AJE | BG2HE JR8IUH DS4RXH | JG1BGT(2) JJ2KJN UAØCKD(2) | BS5TXS(3) JH2URW | JE6AJO JM1IPX | JA6BZH(2) HL1MIM | JJØXEQ RCØCD |

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| 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 | EDT UTC-4 | CDT UTC-5 | MDT UTC-6 | PDT UTC-7 | Hawaii UTC-9 |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | JG1UQD | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SUN | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | JJ1FXF | | | | | | | W5DT | | | | |
| | JM4AOA | | | | | | | | | | | |



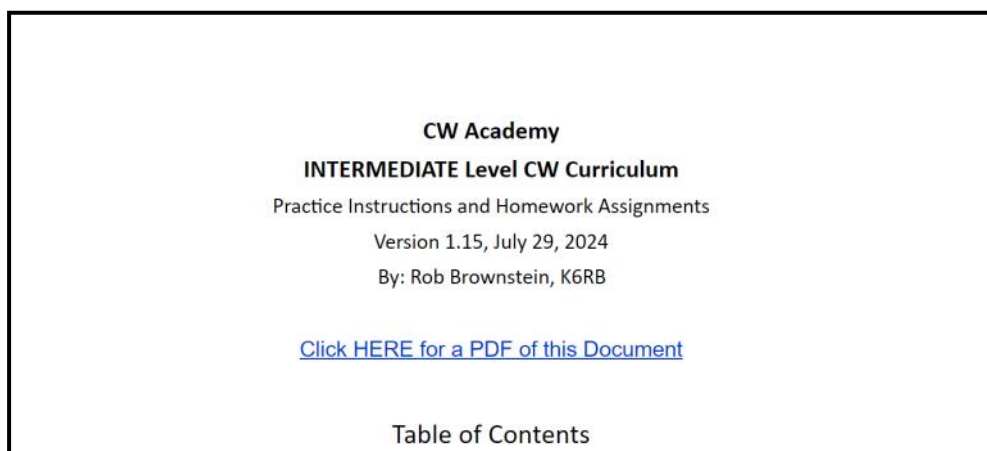
CW Academy

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

Curriculum Enhancement

The first of August, we alerted you that we were going update all the curriculums to be more accessible to the 'visually impaired' hams. This was accomplished and will be put online over the next few weeks. We also kept the current version online, so the advisors could have their students choose to use either one for the rest of this current semester. Starting around the first of November, the English version will revert to the new 'online' version which incorporated most of the features that will benefit those that are 'sight challenged'. That page will also include a PDF document that will be very similar to what you may be currently using.

The content and functionality will not change significantly, primarily the 'look', so it is more effective for them.



Here are several changes we put in to make this more usable:

- Consistent use of headings
- Font size 12 points or higher
- Most of the Fundamental tables removed for greatly improved experience with screen readers
- Eliminated right-justified text
- All images now have alt-text. Mandatory for screen readers
- Moved change logs to the end. Screen readers don't need that at the start
- Added small intro section for our blind students (Beginner and Fundamental)

As we continue to make enhancement to the curriculums, feel free to drop me a personal email: kcgator@gmail.com and let me know about any suggestions you may have. We always consider new options.

A big thanks goes to Gary Johnson NA6O for all his help in making the modifications to assist the 'visually impaired' students.

73, Bob WR7Q, (CWops #1423), CWA Admin



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



Monthly Update

During August, seven additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 254.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of August 2024 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 160 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month including a tie for seventh place are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) N5RZ, (5) N5ZO, (6) K3WW, (7) NA8V, (7) KC7V, (8) KO4VW, (9) K7QA** and **(10) KG9X**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 591 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of August 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 816 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) N5RZ, (4) KY4GS, (5) N5ZO, (6) NA8V, (7) K7QA, (8) DL6KVA, (9) K3WW** and **(10) KC7V**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1997 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of August 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3338 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 6195 QSOs.

The number of members who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities grew to 86 this month with the addition of **DL5AXX**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **243** this month with the addition of **I2WIJ, AD4SA, K4IU, DL5AXX, WE5P**.

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 September 5, 2024, we have 254 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.

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You can see the final 2023 scores or final scores for any other year by going to the Score Overview Table and selecting the desired year from the "Final scores:" list at the top of the page.

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 | 1794 |
| 2 | AA3B | 1634 |
| 3 | KY4GS | 1500 |
| 4 | N5RZ | 1419 |
| 5 | N5ZO | 1345 |
| 6 | K3WW | 1332 |
| 7 | NA8V | 1299 |
| 7 | KC7V | 1299 |
| 8 | KO4VW | 1297 |
| 9 | K7QA | 1272 |
| 10 | KG9X | 1203 |
| 11 | AA2IL | 1192 |
| 12 | N5AW | 1190 |
| 13 | DL6KVA | 1174 |
| 14 | F6HKA | 1139 |
| 15 | OM2VL | 1132 |
| 16 | EA1X | 1108 |
| 17 | N5TJ | 1096 |
| 18 | K3QP | 1094 |
| 19 | N7US | 1073 |
| 20 | W4CMG | 1069 |
| 21 | K1VUT | 1054 |
| 22 | K9WX | 1019 |
| 23 | NJ3K | 1012 |
| 24 | VE3TM | 1010 |
| 25 | WN7S | 999 |
| 26 | EA6EJ | 997 |
| 27 | WT9U | 983 |
| 28 | N5KD | 967 |
| 29 | W0UO | 964 |
| 30 | WT3K | 957 |
| 30 | K3WJV | 957 |
| 31 | K0WA | 947 |
| 32 | VK2GR | 945 |
| 33 | KM4FO | 942 |
| 34 | W8FN | 937 |
| 35 | K1DJ | 923 |
| 36 | K6NR | 920 |
| 37 | KW7Q | 912 |
| 37 | F5SGI | 912 |
| 38 | W9ILY | 895 |
| 38 | K4IU | 895 |
| 39 | AC6ZM | 887 |

ACMA

| Rank | Call | ACMA |
|------|--------|------|
| 1 | AA3B | 5332 |
| 2 | KR2Q | 4516 |
| 3 | N5RZ | 4278 |
| 4 | KY4GS | 3768 |
| 5 | N5ZO | 3763 |
| 6 | NA8V | 3618 |
| 7 | K7QA | 3460 |
| 8 | DL6KVA | 3418 |
| 9 | K3WW | 3352 |
| 10 | KC7V | 3335 |
| 11 | OM2VL | 3299 |
| 12 | KO4VW | 3067 |
| 13 | N5AW | 2830 |
| 14 | KG9X | 2818 |
| 15 | EA1X | 2775 |
| 16 | AA2IL | 2695 |
| 17 | K1VUT | 2484 |
| 18 | N5TJ | 2428 |
| 19 | N7US | 2334 |
| 20 | F6HKA | 2308 |
| 21 | WN7S | 2257 |
| 22 | K9WX | 2191 |
| 23 | K3WJV | 2145 |
| 24 | W0UO | 2114 |
| 25 | WT9U | 2094 |
| 26 | EA6EJ | 2092 |
| 27 | W4CMG | 2088 |
| 28 | K6NR | 2084 |
| 29 | W8FN | 2044 |
| 30 | VE3TM | 2032 |
| 31 | NJ3K | 1979 |
| 32 | WS7L | 1970 |
| 33 | KW7Q | 1959 |
| 34 | K0WA | 1947 |
| 35 | KM4FO | 1941 |
| 36 | K4IU | 1901 |
| 37 | OZ3SM | 1900 |
| 38 | K3QP | 1879 |
| 39 | N5XE | 1868 |
| 40 | VE3KI | 1852 |
| 41 | W9ILY | 1770 |
| 42 | WT3K | 1767 |
| 43 | K1DJ | 1748 |

CMA

| Rank | Call | CMA |
|------|--------|-------|
| 1 | AA3B | 14257 |
| 2 | K3WW | 10919 |
| 3 | N5RZ | 10068 |
| 4 | N5ZO | 10023 |
| 5 | KR2Q | 9635 |
| 6 | W1RM | 9275 |
| 7 | NA8V | 9188 |
| 8 | DL6KVA | 8945 |
| 9 | F6HKA | 8432 |
| 10 | K3WJV | 8062 |
| 11 | VE3KI | 7962 |
| 12 | OM2VL | 7433 |
| 13 | K7QA | 7384 |
| 14 | KG9X | 7348 |
| 15 | N5AW | 7345 |
| 16 | KC7V | 7176 |
| 17 | N7US | 7156 |
| 18 | W9ILY | 6997 |
| 19 | W0VX | 6658 |
| 20 | WT9U | 6612 |
| 21 | K1VUT | 6487 |
| 22 | K3JT | 6439 |
| 23 | N4DW | 6255 |
| 24 | K9WX | 6252 |
| 25 | K3PP | 5902 |
| 26 | K6NR | 5821 |
| 27 | N2UU | 5799 |
| 28 | K1DJ | 5767 |
| 29 | K4IU | 5756 |
| 30 | N1DC | 5715 |
| 31 | SM6CUK | 5652 |
| 32 | N5TJ | 5581 |
| 33 | W4WF | 5517 |
| 34 | WT3K | 5461 |
| 35 | WN7S | 5440 |
| 36 | 9A1AA | 5420 |
| 37 | KY4GS | 5300 |
| 38 | G4BUE | 5289 |
| 39 | AA5JF | 5130 |
| 40 | W8FN | 5097 |
| 41 | W0UO | 5057 |
| 42 | AC6ZM | 5030 |
| 43 | K1SM | 4955 |

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ACA

| | | |
|----|--------|-----|
| 40 | VE3KI | 878 |
| 40 | K3JT | 878 |
| 41 | DM6EE | 876 |
| 42 | WS7L | 871 |
| 43 | OZ3SM | 870 |
| 44 | NA4J | 851 |
| 45 | 9A1AA | 843 |
| 46 | W1RM | 838 |
| 47 | K1AJ | 834 |
| 48 | N1DC | 824 |
| 49 | N9UNX | 819 |
| 50 | EA6BF | 816 |
| 51 | K1SM | 811 |
| 52 | AF5J | 808 |
| 53 | N5XE | 804 |
| 54 | KK0U | 802 |
| 55 | N9FZ | 792 |
| 56 | KW1X | 791 |
| 57 | K4TZ | 783 |
| 58 | W0VX | 774 |
| 59 | AA5JF | 773 |
| 60 | K3ZA | 757 |
| 61 | WU6P | 746 |
| 62 | N2UU | 744 |
| 63 | WA4JUK | 743 |
| 64 | K4GM | 719 |
| 65 | N2EIM | 718 |
| 66 | KV8Q | 715 |
| 67 | SP1D | 713 |
| 67 | KY0Q | 713 |
| 68 | KT5V | 709 |
| 69 | W4WF | 705 |
| 70 | WS1L | 693 |
| 71 | VE3MV | 690 |
| 72 | M0RYB | 688 |
| 73 | WA9LEY | 679 |
| 74 | W3WHK | 674 |
| 75 | PA0INA | 668 |
| 76 | VE3KIU | 659 |
| 76 | N3CKI | 659 |
| 77 | VE9KK | 657 |
| 78 | KR3E | 654 |
| 79 | W8EWH | 651 |
| 80 | K4PQC | 649 |
| 81 | W9CF | 646 |
| 82 | K1RF | 645 |
| 83 | DJ5CW | 641 |
| 84 | OK1RR | 638 |
| 85 | EA3FZT | 634 |

ACMA

| | | |
|----|--------|------|
| 44 | N5KD | 1734 |
| 45 | DM6EE | 1732 |
| 46 | K3JT | 1727 |
| 47 | EA6BF | 1703 |
| 48 | NA4J | 1701 |
| 49 | F5SGI | 1693 |
| 50 | W0VX | 1688 |
| 51 | AC6ZM | 1682 |
| 52 | AF5J | 1667 |
| 53 | VK2GR | 1654 |
| 54 | 9A1AA | 1620 |
| 55 | K1AJ | 1594 |
| 56 | W1RM | 1585 |
| 57 | N2UU | 1575 |
| 58 | SP1D | 1556 |
| 59 | KK0U | 1537 |
| 59 | VE3MV | 1537 |
| 60 | WU6P | 1523 |
| 61 | N9UNX | 1504 |
| 62 | N1DC | 1470 |
| 63 | M0RYB | 1411 |
| 64 | K4GM | 1407 |
| 64 | W0TG | 1407 |
| 65 | KY0Q | 1405 |
| 65 | WS1L | 1405 |
| 66 | PA0INA | 1399 |
| 67 | KW1X | 1398 |
| 68 | K4TZ | 1395 |
| 69 | AA5JF | 1383 |
| 70 | OK1RR | 1352 |
| 71 | K1SM | 1344 |
| 72 | K4PQC | 1319 |
| 73 | W4WF | 1313 |
| 74 | WA9LEY | 1304 |
| 75 | SM0HEV | 1299 |
| 76 | W9CF | 1293 |
| 77 | K3ZA | 1285 |
| 78 | KV8Q | 1284 |
| 79 | N9FZ | 1276 |
| 80 | DJ5CW | 1274 |
| 81 | WA4JUK | 1253 |
| 82 | K1RF | 1240 |
| 83 | W3WHK | 1239 |
| 84 | VE3KIU | 1183 |
| 85 | W2CDO | 1170 |
| 86 | HB9ARF | 1159 |
| 87 | EA3FZT | 1142 |
| 88 | VE9KK | 1126 |
| 89 | N3CKI | 1108 |

CMA

| | | |
|----|--------|------|
| 44 | VE3TM | 4954 |
| 45 | EA1X | 4866 |
| 46 | DL5AXX | 4841 |
| 47 | W1AJT | 4764 |
| 48 | NJ3K | 4762 |
| 49 | F6JOE | 4739 |
| 50 | WA9LEY | 4685 |
| 51 | GW0ETF | 4664 |
| 52 | AE1T | 4592 |
| 53 | N5XE | 4574 |
| 54 | NA4J | 4545 |
| 55 | WA4JUK | 4528 |
| 56 | OK1RR | 4459 |
| 57 | K4GM | 4450 |
| 58 | AA2IL | 4344 |
| 59 | WN4AFP | 4329 |
| 60 | WS7L | 4289 |
| 61 | I2WIJ | 4285 |
| 62 | KO4VW | 4281 |
| 63 | K3QP | 4265 |
| 64 | VE3MV | 4260 |
| 65 | KT5V | 4183 |
| 66 | W6AYC | 4150 |
| 67 | OZ3SM | 4114 |
| 68 | K1AJ | 4107 |
| 69 | K1EBY | 3976 |
| 70 | DJ5CW | 3953 |
| 71 | VK2GR | 3939 |
| 72 | KM4FO | 3902 |
| 73 | KY0Q | 3835 |
| 74 | DF7TV | 3828 |
| 75 | N1EN | 3807 |
| 76 | W0TG | 3806 |
| 77 | N5KD | 3766 |
| 78 | K0TC | 3735 |
| 79 | W3WHK | 3727 |
| 80 | WS1L | 3725 |
| 81 | AF5J | 3657 |
| 82 | K0WA | 3654 |
| 83 | EA6BF | 3578 |
| 84 | DM6EE | 3569 |
| 85 | KV8Q | 3551 |
| 86 | KK0U | 3547 |
| 87 | F5SGI | 3542 |
| 88 | W2CDO | 3516 |
| 89 | G4PVM | 3484 |
| 90 | AF4T | 3431 |
| 91 | AF8A | 3403 |
| 92 | K4TZ | 3385 |

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ACA

| | | |
|-----|--------|-----|
| 86 | K0TC | 628 |
| 87 | W1AJT | 618 |
| 88 | W2CDO | 615 |
| 89 | SM0HEV | 611 |
| 90 | WN4AFP | 608 |
| 91 | W0TG | 591 |
| 92 | W2VM | 590 |
| 93 | HB9ARF | 577 |
| 94 | DF7TV | 572 |
| 95 | VA4ADM | 563 |
| 95 | NN4K | 563 |
| 96 | W0GAS | 562 |
| 97 | K2YR | 560 |
| 98 | SM6CUK | 558 |
| 98 | KB4DE | 558 |
| 99 | W7LG | 554 |
| 100 | N5ER | 548 |

ACMA

| | | |
|-----|--------|------|
| 90 | K0TC | 1106 |
| 91 | W8EWH | 1090 |
| 92 | VE7KW | 1081 |
| 93 | W2VM | 1069 |
| 94 | WN4AFP | 1058 |
| 95 | W1AJT | 1048 |
| 96 | SM6CUK | 1043 |
| 97 | NN4K | 1029 |
| 98 | K2YR | 1015 |
| 99 | KT5V | 1002 |
| 100 | G3LDI | 995 |

CMA

| | | |
|-----|--------|------|
| 93 | WU6P | 3350 |
| 94 | SM0HEV | 3329 |
| 95 | W4CMG | 3327 |
| 96 | KW7Q | 3313 |
| 97 | K9OZ | 3311 |
| 98 | HB9ARF | 3310 |
| 99 | M0RYB | 3269 |
| 100 | KE4S | 3261 |



73, Bill W0TG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards

SC

QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Enzo, M0KTZ

I often receive emails from members who ask how they can find more ragchew QSOs, and my suggestions are normally along the lines of the article "Ragchewing aka The Magic Side of CW" that was published in the October 2023 issue of *Solid Copy*. This month I have yet another suggestion that I have personally tried on air with some success.

I am pretty sure all of the participants to the QTX/MQTX programme know why this activity is called "QTX", right? For those who do not, we will just say that QTX is quite obviously a Q-code, i.e., one of those three-letter sequences that are assigned a special meaning in radio communications. We use Q-codes everyday in our on-air ham radio activity. Well-known examples are QSO ("I can/have had a duplex contact with"), QSL ("I acknowledge receipt"), QRM ("I am being interfered by..."), QRA ("my call sign is..."), QTH ("my location is...."), QSY ("Move to transmission on another frequency/on"), and so on. The code "QTX" belongs to the same set, although it is honestly not heard much on air. The standard meaning of QTX is "I will keep my station open for further communication with you until further notice", which is exactly what ragchewers intend to

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do after the first QTC! This explains why this activity is called "QTX".

To be honest, I don't know if "QTX" has ever been used extensively in ham radio to signal the rag-chewing intentions of a station. I have recently started sending "QTX" at the end of the first over of a new QSO, like in "...QTH LONDON LONDON = HW? **QTX** <AR> AB5DEF DE MØKTZ <KN>". I also append it after the following over, which normally includes a bit more info (WX/RIG/ANT/KEY). I am not sure if all my correspondents know the meaning of QTX, but it is worth a try. I assume that whenever one hears something new or unusual on air he/she is tempted to check what is the meaning of the "new" or unusual word. And looking on the interwebs for QTX is not difficult and will immediately lead them in the correct direction. I don't know if it has been working, or if it has increased the chance of having longer QSOs, but I have embedded it routinely in my QSOs, in the hope that it gets used (again?) as a way to indicate that I am available for a longer chat, if the correspondents wants to go for it.

I suggest we can actually try to use "QTX" in our QSOs in a more consistent way. This might easily become a mark of ragchewers, and it actually might help getting more chatty QSOs. I believe it is worth a try, at least.

This month we welcome Steve W6QX to the QTX/MQTX gang. Your comments in the soapbox suggest that August was a slow month for many, which is not unusual, as the better WX pushes us more out of the shack. But no worries: ragchewers are there on the air, and they will be waiting for you as soon as you are back at the key HI.

Please send your September monthly scores by the 1st of October.

Looking forward to CU ON AIR SN

72/73 de Enzo, MØKTZ (CWops #3206)

2024 Total Number of Hours Worked: 1954.8

(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 | 335.2 | K9OZ | 61.7 | N2DA | 20.7 | MI0WWB | 10.8 | W9EBE | 2.3 |
| KY4GS | 166 | F5IYJ | 56 | AJ1DM | 19.7 | GW0ETF | 10 | AB0WW | 2 |
| VE3WH | 160.2 | M0MZB | 49.2 | MM0UMH | 18.8 | KF6NCX | 9.8 | K7VM | 1.5 |
| ND4K | 128 | KG5IEE | 46.5 | M0SDB | 16.7 | IU3QEZ | 9.3 | WT9Q | 1.3 |
| M0KTZ | 126.8 | N7HCN | 39.5 | KG5SSB | 16.7 | VK3QB | 8.3 | N7BAS | 1.3 |
| N8AI | 90.7 | AF4PX | 39.5 | K6DGW | 14.8 | N5LB | 7.3 | AD4SA | 1 |
| AA0YY | 85.2 | PG4I | 29 | DG5CW | 13.8 | W3WHK | 7 | JS2AHG | 0.8 |
| WB4IT | 81 | KC0VKN | 24.3 | K8UDH | 13 | KE4I | 3.7 | GW0KRL | 0.7 |
| KR2Q | 78.5 | YL3JD | 24 | N1ZX | 11.7 | G4IVV | 3.3 | W6QX | 0.3 |
| KB6NU | 70.7 | DF7TV | 22.7 | N9EEE | 10.8 | G0DJA | 2.7 | | |

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GW0ETF: Holiday month and lousy conditions...

W3WHK: Interesting to talk about Manitoba, where I had spent some time, with VE4ACM. KØNK was getting ready to operate event station from the Pony Express Festival there in KS.

VK3QB: A slow month - but I was on Vanuatu for 7 days as YJØVK.

DF7TV: My first two-way QRP QTX QSO took place with Wang, DK4AN on the 40m band in August this year. The power output of our club station's TS-590S can't be set to lower than 5 watt. But Wang, during the QSO, went down to levels well below 1 watt and could still be copied 100% with a dipole antenna. So - that has been an interesting experience, showing one of the advantages of CW!

DG5CW: Since I was primarily active outdoors during this month, I limited long-duration QSOs to conserve battery power :-)) and it's anyway clear that I won't achieve an award here by the end of the year, so I'm simply enjoying the ragchewing for its own sake. 73!

N8AI: Almost 17 minutes at 20 wpm with Barry VK2BJ using my Mazzoni Baby Loop 5 feet above the grass blades in my Houston back yard. 200 watts, Armstrong Rotor.

KR2Q: Lots of good conversations. The beginning of the month was slow. For QTX 22 of 26 Qs were after mid-month. And for mQTX 17 of 21 were after mid-month. Ragchews are FUN!

KG5SSB: Only one QTX this month.

KG5IEE: Another month of fun ragchew QSOs.

W6QX: Thanks to Enzo for an encouraging email. Will try to up my QTX operation going forward.

MØMZB: Good chat with OK1RR talking about the very poor weather we have had in the UK over the last couple of weeks of August. Enjoyed several nice ragchews while operating portable in Scotland with an FT818 and EFHW and just 5W.

WA4IAR: Had a pretty good month. One thing I have noticed is it is getting hard to work someone new. But one good thing about being old, I don't remember what we talked about so get to just start over. I have to Thank my friend Dave ND4K for telling me about the QTX program its a lot of fun and gives a purpose to accumulating QSOs.

AAØYY: KØLRQ, Ron, I have worked him several times over the past year and his CW has come a long way and doing FB. He has taken a few CWA classes now and really enjoying CW and CWA

G4IVV: A couple of very enjoyable QTX chats this month, including 3w from a KX1 I recently finished restoring.

AJ1DM: Another month of fun ragchews with my friends! 73 de John AJ1DM

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PG4I: It's that time of the year where everything is interfering with ragchewing: long holidays without radio equipment and plenty of jobs around the house. So only 5 QTX this month. Things might improve in September, taking along my Ten Tec Corsair to the beach house near Flushing. Will stay there for 2 weeks.

N2DA: Nice ragchew with David ND4K. Enjoyed the CW skeds with John AJ1DM, Steve WA3JJT, Mike WA3PYU, Bruce WA3SWJ, and Frank W4TG.

N7HCN: I've been enjoying the outdoor work of trenching for coax and getting the antenna farm ready for winter QSOs by the fire.

KB6NU: I finished the month strong, but I still failed to meet my goal of one QTX QSO per day.

YL3JD: Not much been very busy with International Dog Day YL1DOG.

N9EEE: Attending two weddings (including my daughter's in the UK), a kayak trip, and chasing DX cut into my ragchewing. It's not going to be much better for the next 6 months as I move into an apartment out of town to aid a family member. Back to devising a stealth antenna and hoping for the best.

Awards and Medals for 2024

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs



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QTX - August 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 | 109 | KR2Q | 26 | KG5IEE | 10 | DG5CW | 5 | KG5SSB | 1 |
| VE3WH | 53 | N7HCN | 23 | K9OZ | 10 | K8UDH | 5 | GW0ETF | 1 |
| N8AI | 46 | M0KTZ | 21 | AJ1DM | 9 | W3WHK | 3 | DF7TV | 1 |
| ND4K | 33 | AA0YY | 19 | PG4I | 5 | AF4PX | 3 | | |
| KB6NU | 28 | N2DA | 14 | N5LB | 5 | MM0UMH | 2 | | |
| KY4GS | 27 | F5IYJ | 12 | M0MZB | 5 | G4IVV | 2 | | |

MQTX - August 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 | 51 | KG5IEE | 19 | DG5CW | 11 | G4IVV | 4 | GW0ETF | 2 |
| N8AI | 35 | VE3WH | 18 | MM0UMH | 5 | AJ1DM | 4 | VK3QB | 1 |
| AA0YY | 25 | M0KTZ | 17 | DF7TV | 5 | AF4PX | 4 | N7HCN | 1 |
| KR2Q | 21 | M0MZB | 13 | YL3JD | 4 | W6QX | 2 | K8UDH | 1 |
| WA4IAR | 19 | ND4K | 12 | KG5SSB | 4 | N5LB | 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 | 869 | F5IYJ | 168 | MM0UMH | 36 | W3WHK | 15 | VK3QB | 4 |
| VE3WH | 397 | KR2Q | 153 | K8UDH | 31 | M0SDB | 14 | N7BAS | 3 |
| ND4K | 317 | N7HCN | 111 | MI0WWB | 27 | DF7TV | 13 | K7VM | 3 |
| KY4GS | 248 | M0MZB | 86 | KG5SSB | 26 | IU3QEZ | 12 | G0DJA | 2 |
| KB6NU | 212 | AF4PX | 85 | N9EEE | 23 | KE4I | 8 | AD4SA | 1 |
| WB4IT | 205 | KC0VKN | 73 | N5LB | 21 | GW0ETF | 6 | AB0WW | 1 |
| N8AI | 198 | KG5IEE | 65 | K6DGW | 18 | W9EBE | 5 | | |
| K9OZ | 185 | N2DA | 62 | N1ZX | 17 | G4IVV | 5 | | |
| M0KTZ | 180 | PG4I | 60 | KF6NCX | 17 | YL3JD | 4 | | |
| AA0YY | 169 | AJ1DM | 50 | DG5CW | 16 | WT9Q | 4 | | |

MQTX - Totals 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 | 500 | ND4K | 134 | KG5SSB | 48 | K8UDH | 16 | W9EBE | 4 |
| M0KTZ | 401 | M0MZB | 123 | GW0ETF | 48 | N7HCN | 15 | GW0KRL | 4 |
| WA4IAR | 273 | DF7TV | 110 | VK3QB | 42 | W3WHK | 12 | AD4SA | 4 |
| AA0YY | 173 | WB4IT | 76 | MM0UMH | 41 | G0DJA | 12 | K7VM | 3 |
| VE3WH | 167 | M0SDB | 72 | N1ZX | 36 | MI0WWB | 11 | W6QX | 2 |
| KR2Q | 165 | AF4PX | 67 | IU3QEZ | 32 | G4IVV | 10 | N7BAS | 2 |
| KG5IEE | 149 | PG4I | 54 | KF6NCX | 25 | AB0WW | 10 | N5LB | 2 |
| N8AI | 148 | K6DGW | 53 | N9EEE | 19 | KE4I | 6 | | |
| YL3JD | 136 | DG5CW | 51 | AJ1DM | 18 | JS2AHG | 5 | | |



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Justin Smith, KW6SEA CWops #3586

I am a biologist with no background in electronics. I became licensed recently (2020). I enjoy kit building and homebrewing simple circuits and antennas. I became interested in SOTA and very impressed by the simplicity and effectiveness of CW.

I have 2 young kids and little spare time to pursue my hobbies. In the last 2 years I have spent nearly all my free time learning CW. I tried, but was unable to learn on my own. I have now taken Beginner through Advanced classes in the CW Academy. My advisors were Mike Curry, KI7OMH and Joe Spencer, KK5NA. I am indebted to them and CWops.

There is still much room for improvement in my code. Eventually I would like to ragchew without it feeling difficult.

Previous hobbies that I rarely have time to participate in are diving and spearfishing, hunting, steelhead fishing, backpacking, bushcraft, and prehistoric skills.



Vincent "Vin" Volmer, PE2V CWops #3594

Born in 1971, married to Anita, and we have a 19-year-old son. I've been a ham radio operator since 1997. On June 24, 2023 (at 3:00 PM to be precise), I decided that it was time to learn CW. I had a clear goal in mind: to go portable and enjoy going out into the field to make radio contacts using CW, away from interference sources that cause noise and disruption on our radio frequencies.

I started with LCWO (Learn CW Online) and completed all 40 lessons. But then I hit a roadblock... what to do next?

Whether it was meant to be or not, around that time, Daniel MØSDB (CWops Advisor) posted a message on Facebook, offering to help beginners with CW. I sent him a message (in September 2023) and started the CWops Fundamentals course as self-study. I often bothered Daniel with questions and comments whenever I got stuck. Daniel always managed to motivate me to keep going. After completing CWA Fundamen-



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tals, I once again felt that "what now?" feeling. I still wasn't on-air with CW and didn't feel ready for it. So, I decided to sign up for the CWA Intermediate class. For the last lesson of Fundamentals, you really had to get on-air, and that was also my first CW QSO with Daniel MØSDB.

Finally, in January 2024, it was time for the CWA Intermediate Class. Bruce K9OZ was our Advisor, and during these two months, I invested a lot of time in the homework (sometimes almost 2-1/2 hours per day), trying to get the most out of it. It was tough, but I managed to succeed

From that moment on, things progressed quickly. I participated in SST, MST, CWT, and filled my log with CW QSOs. I joined various CW clubs, including the FISTS Club and the NTC (Netherlands Telegraphy Club).

My the next goal was: to become a CWops member, purely because CWops has given me so much!

Unfortunately, in April 2024, I started suffering from tinnitus—a loud, high-pitched noise in my ears. My CW world did crumble a bit. By talking about it a lot and reading about the experiences of other CW operators (I'm 'lucky' not to be the only one), I managed to pull myself out of it. Although the tinnitus didn't change... After cautiously and gradually getting back into CW, I finally prepared myself for CWops membership with Daniel MØSDB. Alongside my very first CW QSO, he also nominated me for CWops membership. Thank you, Daniel.

I'm super happy to be part of the CWops community!

Ji Hojoong, DS1TUW CWops #3600

First of all, I would like to thank Ken (JN1THL) for nominating me, and to AD6E, KR2Q, JJ1FXF, JF1UOX who sponsored my membership. Also I am happy to get a very lucky number #3600, which will be an easy one to copy on CWT.

I am a young man who is about to get married, and a Ph.D. student who works on environmental engineering. Before knowing the existence of amateur radio, I was just a boy who liked to play baseball (once played in the Little Leagues), to hit the gym to gain muscles to get some attention from the girls (I think it worked out - I now have a fiancé), and to go out for distance running regularly to maintain my cardio even after getting discharged from the Army.

I am very new to the ham radio society - only licensed for 3 years since 2021. But before that, I still had experiences with radio transceivers during my military service as a scout. I enjoyed call-



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ing for artillery fires and attack helicopter airstrikes with the radio that my buddy carried with. Even going farther, I remember myself playing with walkie-talkies in my young years. So radio was still something very familiar to me.

My journey with amateur radio began with a Baofeng walkie-talkie just like any new ham nowadays. But I wanted something new that I haven't tried, so I delved into QRP HF somehow and practiced CW to get more DX contacts easily.

The SOTA and POTA programs were the ones that made me get used to easy CW pileups, and soon it led me to the CW contests. HL is often still not a very common entity in the contests and within a good range for JA participants, so sometimes I can have some fun with the pileups even with my low gain balcony antenna. I kept enjoying it and now trying hard for some HL record breaks.

IOTA activations are the ones I have begun recently, and the ones I am really drawn into. Starting from AS-090 as DS1TUW/2 to the most recent activation of AS-093 as D93H, I was very happy to host many chasers to give them new IOTA references. Throughout the journey, CW pileups were the ones that I enjoyed the most - It was such a challenging and enjoyable game-like moment to pick up the weak signals out of the noise, put them in the log, whilst maintaining high QSO rate during the limited opening to DX.

I now have plans to go more serious as a DXpeditioner and contests, but now laying low as a student. After writing some journal papers and finishing my Ph.D. thesis, soon one day I hope you will find my callsign again in a rare entity among the operator lists. Until then, I will keep screaming (but of course on CW mode) with my home callsign on the spectrum waiting for your call!

Paul Smith, KJ7DT CWops #3595

I was born and raised on family homestead farms in Western Idaho. After 35 years in the construction industry, the last several of which were spent in manufacturing facility programming/engineering in Asia, we returned to Idaho from Singapore and started a cattle ranch in the Central Idaho Mountains and sold breeding stock around the region. We are now fully retired and live in Weiser, Idaho, a small town on the Snake River.

I wish that I could say that I had bounced around ham radio for several decades, but ... life happens. Other than messing around with the crystal radio set that seemed to be ubiquitous when I was a kid, and some exposure to a ham station when in high school, radio did not play a role in my life until after retirement.

I passed my ham exams in mid-2021 and hung out on the SSB portion of the bands for the rest of that year. I researched the CWops program after a random exchange with an OP that was a member of the program. I apologize for forgetting his call, but I did not forget his advice. I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the Basic module in Jan 2022, and before that class was completed, I was hooked. I have been operating 99.9% of my on-air time in CW. I love the mode. Sometimes, the most fanatical are the newly converted!

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I have a great deal of appreciation for my CW Academy advisors for their professionalism, dedication, and patience, starting with Kate K6HTN, Roland K7OJL, Bill W3PNM, Serge KK7RR, Randy N1SP, and ending with Chris GØJPS. I thank Jim WBØRLJ for nominating me, and K7AZT, W8TK, and N4GO for sponsoring me. The real bonus is truly all the friends and acquaintances made through this wonderful hobby.

Currently, my Base station consists of a KX3, and a Kenwood TS-890S. My home antennas are a hex beam and G5RV. When portable, I use a KX2, IC-705, or FT-891 usually run to a 40m LEFS. Great fun!

I have been married to my beautiful wife, Paula, for 53 years, and she is definitely the better half. She is very supportive of my Ham Radio / CW obsession, and always accompanies me on my portable activations. Other activities in our retirement are wood-working / furniture building, sporting clays, long range rifle, and UTV off-roading.



Nigel Wears, M0NJW CWops #3592

I have always been intrigued by radio. I remember I was around 9 years old when I first sat cross-legged listening to a short wave receiver owned by the father of a school friend of mine.

Skip forward to the age of 16 when I bought my own Grundig. I would tune around the bands not having a clue about what I was listening to but I was enchanted by it all the same.

Skip forward to the age of 21. I had just graduated from Leeds College of Music and bought myself an RAE licence manual. Not knowing how to proceed with this, I quickly shelved it.

Just a few years later an Internet search led me to discovering a weekend course run by Keighley Amateur Radio Society where I gained a Foundation licence. I had no clue that only 2 miles away from my house there was a thriving club, namely the North Wakefield Radio Club, now defunct. I went to my first meeting armed with my 10 watt licence and a dual band handheld. The shack was silent and on the key was John G4RCG. The silence was punctuated by some old-timers calling out what they had head copied. At last I had found a group of people who were just as enchanted by the magic as I was and I wanted to be a part of that. It wasn't until lockdown time that I had the time needed to concentrate on honing my own CW skills.

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A feature of my amateur radio activity has been operating portable from some of the wonderful islands around the coast of the UK, namely the Farne Islands, St Kilda, Hilbre, Le Minquiers and Caldey to name but a few. It is my hope that I have helped to raise awareness of these remote, special places as well as having had fun generating a pile up. I'm also an occasional SOTA/POTA participant.

Perhaps the most important work I have done in the hobby was to run an amateur radio club in the school where I taught piano. The Silcoates School ARC (MXØSSW) was active in Wakefield for 11 years and in that time around 60 pupils gained Foundation and Intermediate licences. We were the winners of the Multi-multi class of the King of Spain contest one year and how we did that with a team comprised of a group of 13 to 15 year olds is still a mystery!

I now work as a pianist playing in restaurants and for functions and I also work for a charity, "Lost Chord UK," that puts musicians into settings to stimulate people living with dementia.



Back to my own first meeting with John G4RCG and 25 years later I have him to thank for asking me if I would like to be nominated for membership of the CWops club.

I am most grateful to my sponsors: Ruda OK2QA, Ini EA6EJ, Jon G4IVV and Chris G5VZ. I am looking forward to the friendship and camaraderie I know I will experience with you all, both on air and in person. My membership of the club is greatly cherished.

Tatsuo (Ted) Yamamoto, WC2A and JE1PEN CWops #3601

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to K6AR, James Noe, for the nomination, and to my sponsors: W6SX, Hank Garetson; W8XAL, David Johnston; and WA0I, Randy Ebers. I also like to thank JN1THL, Ken Tanuma, for encouraging me to join CWops at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2024 booth in August.

My journey into amateur radio began in 1969 when I was 13 years old. Back then, I was a passionate young "radio boy," making weekly trips to Akihabara with my fellow enthusiasts. My particular interest in CW led me to forge friendships with many DX hams, in-



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cluding WA6IVM, Ray, who provided invaluable career advice and encouragement. As I neared the end of middle school, a Self-Defense Forces CW instructor, who had been monitoring my CW activities, reached out and suggested that I skip high school and join the military. Although I declined the offer, I vividly recall being taken to the communications headquarters and being astonished by the cutting-edge radio equipment of that time.

My professional life took me to Florida and Texas with IBM in 1993, and then to the Bay Area in 1996, where we started up an online gaming company with IBM fellows. My passion for amateur radio was rekindled in 2020, right in the midst of the COVID pandemic. In 2022, I passed the Technician, General, and Extra exams in the U.S. all in one day, and in 2023, I obtained my Class 1 Amateur License in Japan. Currently, I manage a fabless semiconductor company in Tokyo, specializing in GPU chip and AI inference processor design.

I now split my time between Tokyo and California, where my family resides. In Tokyo, I live in an apartment and operate using a whip antenna installed on my balcony. Despite the rarity of having a 1KW license in a Japanese apartment, I also enjoy QRP operations. I operate from San Mateo in the United States. Recently, I had a fantastic experience conducting a POTA activation with my Elecraft KX1 from San Bruno State Park.

Steve Brandt, N7VS CWops #3591

This photograph was taken by my wife Caroline, AD7UP, during the 2019 Washington State Salmon Run at County Line Park. This park overlooks the Columbia River on the border of Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties before Parks On the Air.

Amateur radio has been good to many of us and we owe much to it, myself included. But if amateur radio were just a hobby, or a sport, we would be unable to justify our priceless frequencies. Predators lurk, waiting to pounce, at every opportunity. We must all give back to amateur radio whenever we can. Caroline, and I try to do our part by participating in local public service events and helping newbies. One way I do this is by providing contacts to beginning contesters in the slow speed test whenever I can.



I would like to recognize three people who helped me become a radio amateur. My uncle Brooks, W6CKT (SK), who started teaching me code when I was in middle school and my neighbors Bill Schellbach, W6JQS (SK), and Robert Brucker, W6LFO. About this same time I started hearing unfamiliar AM broadcast stations on my mother's Zenith kitchen radio. The first stations were in San Diego and the San Francisco Bay area. Soon I was hearing stations in the Midwest and all over

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the world on another radio that my parents owned. This radio also included a shortwave band. Incidentally, my Uncle Brooks contacted the Byrd expedition to Antarctica in the 1930s.

In 1965 with the help of the Crescenta Valley, CA. Amateur Radio Club I passed my Novice exam and became WN6QYP. In those days one had to upgrade to General in one year or go off the air. I was in high school at the time. My operating time was limited so I needed 18 months to pass the 13 wpm code test and become WB6VVS which I held for about 30 years.

I started with two World War II navy surplus "Command Sets" and a dipole on 40 meters. Eventually I upgraded to a Heathkit DX 60, with matching VFO, and Drake 2B receiver. My first transceiver was a Heathkit SB100 for \$300. This was one of my first major purchases after graduating from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. Since then I have owned a wide variety of equipment made by Drake, Heath, ICOM, Kenwood and Yaesu. I have almost always used wire antennas.

Although learning code has always been hard for me, my favorite mode is CW which I feel has more bang for your money than most other modes. The equipment is also simpler and cheaper. When I was in school a CW rig was all I could afford. I consider myself fortunate because many of my friends had to sell their equipment to finance their education. My favorite activities are contesting, county hunting, museum ships and lighthouses. I would also like to try Parks On The Air, POTA, soon. I am also active on phone and RTTY but I prefer CW. While I work mostly the high frequency bands I can sometimes be found on VHF and UHF.

I am 76 years old and was "put out to pasture" in the crash of 2008. I was not able to "retire." I was born, grew up and educated in Southern California. In 1991 I moved to Portland, Oregon after my company moved to Florida. I became N7VS at that time. Most of my working career was spent in electronics manufacturing. I also spent some time in customer service and electromagnetic compatibility. Companies that I have worked for include Tektronix and Hewlett Packard.

I married my wife Caroline in 1994. Our pets are our children. I also enjoy philately and photography. I feel honored and look forward to making new friends in the CWops group. I would like to thank all who nominated me for membership in this organization.



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