



## President's Message



Innovative technology was key to landing and operating on Jarvis Island, N5J DXpedition. Pg 10.

The recent CW Open contest spawned a thread on our 'cwops.io' email reflector which ran throughout the following week discussing a suggestion that contesters routinely use a computer to send and receive high speed CW. How widespread this view may be



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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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- Vice President: John Glover, [W2QL](#)
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amongst non-contesters in particular is difficult to predict but I'd suggest it demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding especially when it comes to receiving.

Every contest logging program now has the ability to interface with the radio to send computer generated CW for simple messages such as 'CQ', callsign and serial numbers. Although many contesters like to use hand keying I would guess the majority take advantage of this facility as it improves operating efficiency. I've never used SO2R but I gather the **Single Operator 2 Radio** technique is unworkable without PC keying. So the suspicion about computers sending CW is true to an extent. What I and most responders disagree with is the impression that code readers are doing the job of reading the Morse and not our ears and brain. It is my understanding that code readers work on algorithms that require a clean CW signal free of interfering noise and other signals, fit exactly into the audio bandwidth of the decoder, and have perfect spacing and element timing. It will also require a finite time to calculate the code speed and begin decoding the received signal. It's possible that someone could operate a contest in *Search and Pounce* mode using a decoder. This would require precise tuning and waiting until the decoded morse appears; with the rapid fire nature of contest exchanges this could require several transmissions. It would be slow and unproductive. I've never tried but in my opinion it would be impossible to *Run* in a contest using a Morse decoder due to the brevity of the responses which will frequently be accompanied by other co-channel signals, and the fact they will vary in frequency within your audio passband. It would be obvious if someone was trying this; equally it will be evident by listening that nobody does it.

Conversational CW is a different ball game. You ragchew on a clear frequency and have plenty of time to synchronise the decoder. The usual limiting factor is the quality of the transmissions particularly if hand sent with erratic timing. Personally I don't have strong feelings against their use if it will help someone on their way to head copy. In the March 2022 *Solid Copy*, I mentioned W4BQF (SK) who was a renowned high speed CW ragchewer (QRQ). On his home page, which unfortunately appears no longer available, he discussed learning the techniques of operating CW beyond 70 wpm. I was interested when I read his comments on using a (Dvorak) keyboard to send, and recommending a code reader to build confidence in receiving. A salutary reminder not to be overly dismissive of code readers in all situations.

There was also a discussion about RIB operations following the heavy CWops 'presence' on the recent highly successful N5J Dxpeditio to Jarvis Island. Under deliberation was the relative merit of a RIB-type operation with at least some of the operators controlling the radios remotely, versus the self-contained situation with the whole team in situ in touching distance of the kit. Well the DXCC program doesn't distinguish so it probably comes down to how the individual views it as acceptable or not. Remote operating in contesting was a step change which we've got used to and it feels now like RIB operations have turned a corner in the world of DXpeditioning. I'll work them because my signal is being received by the radio at the DX location even though heard via the internet by someone thousands of miles away - or on a RIB moored nearby or even perhaps by someone sat by the radio....who knows? Whoever that may be then controls the radio to send a reply which I hear direct via an RF path. Everyone will be aware of the significant advantages of this approach and the fact that some rare entities will only be activated this way due to environmental and other restrictions, but I do find the possibility of working a remote DXpedition and then bumping into the operator in the supermarket a couple of hours later a bit weird. I think

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that's because while listening to the operator on a DXpedition I'm subconsciously imagining someone battling heat and flies on a tropical island or icy blizzards on a rock in the South Atlantic where now they could be sitting in the comfort of a home shack. At the end of the day, N5J was a huge success due in large part to CWops members and I was grateful for a last minute ATNO. Congratulations to all involved!

Finally a word of thanks to Dick our editor for doing an excellent job of gathering together a team of QRP operatives to do battle in the CW Open last month. This was my first Open with 5 watts and given the continuing solar grumblings I thought it all went quite well. It's a great contest with a unique format and I look forward to seeing the results and reading all the comments.

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

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## Editor's Note: Dits 'n' Dahs

Say what you will about Cycle 25, I'm captivated by the solar influences affecting our planet Earth. Working through unpredictable propagation yet being dazzled by the auroral display of the Northern Lights has made for an entertaining peak period of this solar cycle. I'll say this, Cycle 25 had been a real doozy, and an entertaining one at that. Consider...

Band drop-outs...hear one minute, gone the next.

Signals swelling...from a faint signal to S9 for hours on end.

Working DX past midnight...my favorite way to work the other side of the globe.

Auroral warbling...what you image a CW signal would sound like in a blender.

Breaking my 1,000 mile per watt record...always a thrill for a QRPer.

Northern Lights display...since my first witness as a kid, I've delighted in experiencing the dancing lights of the Aurora Borealis in images, videos, and of course in-person witnessing.

I'm still waiting for the day that 20 meters is open for 24 hours (as is often cited in propagation literature) and I can exhaust myself with non-stop, globe-trotting, CW contacts. Yet, having recently moved into a temporary apartment to help a nearby family member cope with a medical situation will test my ability to pursue that endeavor. Perhaps one of the antennas that Ed, N9EP, presented at W9DXCC, "Antennas for Little Pistols" appearing on page 17 will give me inspiration to continue my pursuit in the DX Marathon.

And still, aside from the unique propagation a solar cycle throws at us, I'm still intrigued by the non-sunspot cycle phenomena called Gray Line Propagation. I recently spoke with Carl, K9LA, who graciously provided some clarity on this. His explainer appears on page 21.

Enjoy this month's read. Pass it along to a friend. And many thanks to those who share their ideas in *Solid Copy*.

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

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



# Ops News and Notes

## [Duncan \(Mac\) Fisken, G3WZD](#)

We regret to report that the following member has become a Silent Key.

A condolence card has been sent on behalf of CWops.



**Cornel Topal, KK9DX, #256  
on September 13, 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 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Kat, JM8SMO, #3454** On September 22, 2024, we had the Hokkaido Amateur Radio Seminar 2024 in Sapporo, Japan. There were eight speeches, including my speech to introduce CW Operators. I showed a brief history as a ham, then started with a story on Ken's new members recruiting in Sapporo (See [Solid Copy 2023 December](#), pp. 17-19). I prepared a video clip of the actual CWT for the audience to feel how we enjoy CW. In the speech, I explained the key steps when I became a candidate, with the requirement to be a member, such as 25 wpm CW ability. I also figured out the contribution of CWops to N5J DXpedition as an example of our activities. The audience of about 50 people seemed interested in the story. Possibly, I expect new members from the CW enthusiasts who listened to my speech.



**Kat, JM8SML**

**Cainan, N9FZ, #3412** The weekend of Sept 21 saw about 35 hams descend upon Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae, GA. Many QSOs were made. Many burgers were eaten. A few marshmallows were burnt, and I had a great time camping and activating the park on CW. CWops members Aaron Ray, N4ARY, #2759, and Dave Probst, ND4K, #2945, were present along with several other CW operators. The meeting was to discuss and promote the GA State Parks on the air event that occurs the first weekend in April where GA operators try to activate all 50 State Parks in the state. See more [here](#).

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**Mike, VE3GFN, #1119** The ongoing saga of my hip replacements is almost as complex and lengthy as the agony I went through several years ago, solving intermittent high SWR with my tribander!

But - progress is being made - I've passed the "test" with the Joint Assessment group and had my first (finally!!!) appointment with the surgeon. Surgery will take place sometime (hopefully!) in the next few months. I'm now jumping through the hoops to gain access to the "respite" stay residence, where I hope to spend several weeks of recovery after surgery, before going home.

Meanwhile, hoping to minimize use of stairs during recovery, plans for an upstairs "shack" continue - I'll hook a temporary line through the house to the open - wire line that runs up my tower, just outside the bathroom window, and bring up one of my autotuners. A roll of wire looping around the living room will serve as my counterpoise (I hope!), and I might even have a 2m FM radio active, if the "gain vertical" I hope to use indoors will fit indoors! VE3NR has promised loan of an ICOM 7300, so I won't have to tear apart my downstairs shack.

My trusty laptop will serve for logging, and I might even be able to do some contesting!

**Josep, EA6BF, #3072** I am in the process of setting up my remote station again. Next week, I will try to start fixing the SpiderBeam antenna. A new mast section (3 in total) of 5m is added so hope it all works mechanically better than last year. Hopefully by mid-October, at most, it's all operative again. This year upgrades include a KPA500 + KAT500! See y' all from my remote soon.

**Gregg, N2PX, #1941** Just a note to say that I have changed callsigns effective 9/27/24 - from KE2SX to N2PX. See you on the bands.

**Glenn, VE1IJ, #457** I am one step closer to having a completed station. I just have to finish the

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shack. Shown is my 48-foot tower with a 6-element tribander atop it. In the foreground is a 4-el beam for six meters and a 10-el one for two meters. In the left background is my R-7 vertical which will be used primarily for digital operations using VARA. Also visible is my 3-band inverted vee for 80, 40 and 30.



**Ken, JN1THL, #161** On August 24 & 25, CWops had a booth at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2024.

E21EIC Champ brought many blue CWops Polo shirts and CWops badges. We JA members wore CWops shirts and promoted CWops.

**L to R: JF1UOX Misa, JJ1FXF Hiro, WA6URY Dan, E25KAE Bun, E20NKB JC, E21EIC Champ, JQ1LCW Lucy**



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Just before the HAM Fair the N5J DXpedition was finished. N1DG Don #2 (CWops Founding Member) and KO8SCA Adrian #2408, installed, maintained the remote stations. There were 6 RIBs and they could not sleep enough. They also operated the remote station from Jarvis. Many CWops members also participated as remote OPs. This was displayed at the CWops booth. *(ed. See story on page XX)*

In addition to that, we CWops were given the opportunity to give a presentation on N5J, and we were able to promote it very well.



DS1TUW Ji, attended the HAM fair from Korea. He was interested in CWops and I asked him to join. I nominated him and he was quickly accepted and received a very good membership number, CWops #3600.

He is the first Korean member; young and energetic. I expect that he will increase the number of Korean members in the future. He is also a remote op of 3D2Y Rotuma in November, so we can expect CW operations from there. I hope we have other Asian members from YB, BV, BY, 9M, and others,

**L to R: E21EIC #264, DS1TUW #3600, E20NKB**



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**Rudi, DK7PE, #2864** Announcing Caribbean DXpedition in November 2024.

In November 2024, I will be activating some Caribbean Islands e.g. VP2M, V47, ZF2 and PJ4. My trip will be a mixture of DXpedition, antenna experimenting and visiting some of the local radio amateurs. The chance to find an affordable HF location in the Caribbean is very limited, therefore, sometimes I will also be operating portable or even out of the car. It will be an old school DXpedition without any luxury. When on the air, I will be on CW with my 100 w ICOM IC 7000 plus ETM9C keyer and of course my wire antennas. Where possible I will use some of my directional wire antennas for the higher bands, for example the three element Backpack Delta Loop (see picture) or the Vertical J-pole Beam. Where possible, I will try the low bands and also 60m. I am looking forward to hearing you on the bands!



Until the next Ops News and Notes, QAC.

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

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org



# Officer and Directors Elections

It is election season again and the nominating committee is getting ready for the big event on December 1, 2024.

In 2024, we shall be electing the Vice President and Directors from Oceania, Europe and Africa. John, Bert and Raoul have expressed an interest in running to keep their seats. We need a new Director for Oceania and we have two members who have stepped forward. We wish to thank Barry, VK2BJ, for his service.

The pending slate is:

**Vice President:** John Glover, W2QL

**Directors:** Raoul Coetzee, [ZS1C](#)  
Africa

Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)  
Europe

Jacky Calvo, ZL3CW  
Open seat for Oceania

Allen Mason, VK2GR  
Open Seat for Oceania

Per our by-laws, the nominating committee hereby solicits anyone interested in the posts of Vice President (2 years) or Director (3 years) for Europe, Africa or Oceania.

Please send an email to [dongreenbaum@gmail.com](mailto:dongreenbaum@gmail.com) by November 30, 2024 if you are interested in nominating someone or yourself.

Don Greenbaum, N1DG  
Chair, Nominating Committee  
CWops #2



# How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

VK6LW, Kev Smith, CWops #3362



"I was first licensed as G4EHF back in 1975 at the age of 16. The RX was an R1155 from my SWL days. A good friend Peter, G4BVH lent me his Codar AT5 so I was up and running with 10w of CW on 80 and 160. The suburban back garden in Brighton was very narrow but long enough to put up some wire antennas. A couple of local school friends also got their callsigns around the same time so we had a lot of competitive fun with our simple equipment trying to work the world.

After about a year, the gear had been upgraded to a KW2000A, ETM4C keyer and FL2100 linear. A 3-el HF beam on scaffold poles was squeezed into the back garden which overhung the neighbour's properties on either side. I thought it looked fabulous but as I recall they were not too happy about this and even less happy when their television viewing was disrupted on a regular basis. After the dreaded knock on the door, I would be QRT for the evening."

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

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

**73, Ian GWØKRL** (CWops #2896)



## The 2024 DXpedition to Jarvis Island, N5J

[Don Greenbaum, N1DG](#) (CWops #2)

This trip to Jarvis really began eight years ago right after the successful Baker Island KH1/KH7Z DXpedition. On the way back to Fiji, George, AA7JV, said to me: "There has to be a better way." And so began a three-year process where the end result would be a remote system including a custom-made landing craft, software control systems, and custom designed shortened antennas. George's Radio-in-a-Box (RiB) system design was funded by the Northern California DX Foundation, our main sponsor.

The better way had to have several goals. Safety and comfort, cost reductions, and proof to conservation agencies around the world that minimally invasive ham radio activity is possible in environmentally sensitive areas. It had been 34 years since the USFWS has allowed ham radio activity on Jarvis. The need for KH5 DXCC credits put it at 18 on Club Log's most wanted list.

Since a Compatibility Determination (CD) was needed, in September 2022, I met in person with USFWS personnel in Honolulu to describe the RiB system and our minimally invasive methods. I emphasized that instead of 15 operators, 10 tents, 12 tall antennas, a toilet and seven generators as we used on Baker, we could replace that with an amphibious boat containing all the radios and generators, six or seven vertically shortened antenna height and no need to stay on the island. And, we could accommodate USFWS's need to have several biologists study the refuge. Finally, in January 2024, we received the good news of a positive determination. The CD empowered the Superintendent to issue the permit with the terms and dates of our trip. The date offered was August 2024 based on available USFWS personnel. While not great for propagation to Northern and Western Europe, it was what they offered and we accepted.

Jarvis Island is a National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM). The coral island is uninhabited, approximately 4.5 sq km in size, and located in the South Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Hawaii and the Cook Islands.

After securing the Special Use Permit in early 2024 we had little time to organize the DXpedition, raise funding for fuel and boat personnel and recruit remote operators. In 2023, the MV Magnet, owned by AA7JV, had already entered the Pacific and by June of 2024 we had successfully trained a core of remote operators with operations from FO, E5, VP6D, KH8S and KH8. The at-island team would be George, AA7JV; Tomi, HA7RY; Don, N1DG (CWops #2); Adrian, KO8SCA (CWops #2408), and Mike, KN4EEI.

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**AA7JV, George Wallner**



**N1DG, Don Greenbaum #2**



**HA7RY - Tamas Pekarik**



**KN4EEI, Michael Snow**



**KO8SCA, Adrian Ciuperca #2408**

QSOs with any of these ops would also count for IOTA and POTA credit, a big change from previous program rules. That is how rare Jarvis was, the award programs knew the restrictive USFWS rules prevented on island operators. Since we were operating in the island refuge, exceptions were made. Remote operators not in the refuge wouldn't count.

We organized the two remote teams (CWops number next to call) under AA7A (FT8) and W1VE (CW). Pilots were AA1V, JH8JWF and CT1FPQ. Remote ops were: W1UE, DL6KVA (1678), K6MM (11), WD6T (2079), AA7A, W7YED, CT1BOH (837), CT1ILT (2699), CT1EEB, E21EIC (264), PB8DX, N6MJ (2164), W8HC, F6EXV, K5GO (272), JK1KSB, KJ7KOJ (17 years old), W1VE (191), JE1CKA, KL2A (77), W1RM (8), JN1THL (161), E70T (3585), N7NR (2927), K6UFO, JH8JWF, E77DX, ZL3CW (3270), N1QV, KK7EXT (14 years old), KN4EEI, PY5EG (549), AA1V (53), KL7SB (1268), K6TD (81), CE3CT (2837), KY7M (84), HA2NA, NP4Z (350), DJ4MX (2497), ND2T (110), VE5MX (2540), W2GD (204), VK3GK, K1IR (73) and K4NHW.



**Team leader  
CW Team Leader  
W1VE, Gerry #191**

(Pictured below are the CWops remote team members whose pictures were available via the N5J website.)



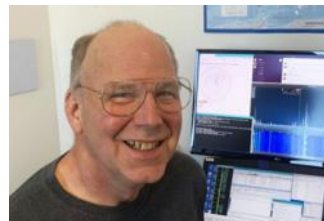
**AA1V, Don #53**



**CE3CT, Roberto #2837**



**CT1BOH, Jose #837**



**K6UFO, Mark #403**

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**CT1ILT, Filipe #2699**



**DL6KVA, Axel #1678**



**E21EIC, Champ #264**



**JN1THL, Ken #161**



**K5GO, Stan #272**



**K6MM, John #11**



**K6TD, Kevin #81**



**KL2A, Jon #77**



**N6MJ, Dan #2164**



**PY5EG, Atilano #549**



**VE5MX, Todd #2540**



**W1RM, Pete #8**



**W2GD, John #204**



**WD6T, David #2079**



**ZL3CW, Jacky #3270**

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All foreign remote operators (even those with US licenses) had to abide by FCC rules. Therefore, control of the radios on the island was in complete control of the at island operators. The remote laptops for CW and FT8 operating were air gapped to the stations on the island and the control of the radios was on notebooks not accessible by the remote teams.

On July 31st, the day arrived with the five-man team (already assembled from the K8R DXpedition) joined by the arrival of the three USFWS biologists. While we waited for optimal sailing weather, we were briefed by the USFWS personnel on island rules, and we had Magnet safety drills including jumping off the boat and climbing into a sea life raft

The RiB amphibious boat (built by George and Mike out of a lake pontoon boat) was fully loaded and made ready for fast deployment. This vital piece of the kit contained radios, amplifiers, generators, the 900 MHz link and most of the antennas.

On August 3rd, we started our close to 1,900 km journey (yes, Jarvis is a long distance away!). After our 3-day uneventful journey we arrived at Jarvis at around 0600 local time on August 6th. By 0700 the first tender was loaded with Beth and Meagan (two of our USFWS monitors), George, and some supplies and headed to the island.



***Arrival at Jarvis Island (6 August 2024)***

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The RiB boat was lowered and began to make its way to Jarvis piloted by Mike. By 0750 we were all on the island helping to position the RiB boat. See the video of the RiB boat heading to Jarvis here: <https://youtu.be/4W3Q9iUhesI>.

Within four hours of landing on the beach five radios were up and running, the link was established, and three antennas were guyed and tuned. It was time for a break, and we returned to the Magnet for lunch. George quickly made sure the ship's control PCs were all connected to the radios in the RiBs and let loose the first team of remote operators on three radios. Within four hours of the first landing on Jarvis, QSOs were appearing in the logs.



This is a drone view of what the complete remote station on the island looked like after day one: [https://youtu.be/L4bqsoHRLB4?si=L5wwucNQtmr\\_FgBM](https://youtu.be/L4bqsoHRLB4?si=L5wwucNQtmr_FgBM), In between QSOs, Mike assisted the USFWS biologists in repairing the sign. The poor sign looked like this:



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After cleaning off a decade of bird droppings they repainted it making it look great for our team picture:



**Team picture: L-to-R, Bottom row from USFWS – Meagan, Beth and Anna; Top row –Mike, KN4EEI; George, AA7JV; Adrian, KO8SCA; Don, N1DG, and Tomi, HA7RY.**

The three USFWS biologists were able to spend close to two weeks doing science on a remote island courtesy of the Amateur Radio Community. Our close work with the USFWS and their appreciative response will be essential in our efforts to activate more protected entities around the world. The refuge contains millions of Sooty Terns and 13 other species of birds.



Frigate birds and blue masked boobies with sooty terns in the background on Jarvis.

In conclusion, the RiB concept overcame permitting issues. Time at the island was 13 days 7 hours. 13 days were spent operating (See chart A). A team of 5 local operators set up six radios, eight antennas, and even made 25,300 QSOs. An incredible group of 46 remote operators worked to make this a team success.

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Total QSO count was close to 107,000 QSOs with over 21,000 unique calls. Clublog shows that over 14% of our QSOs resulted in a new country, and over 43% of those QSOs handed out a new band counter or mode to those in its database.

We found 790 CWops member callsigns among the unique calls in the CW log. Of the 43,526 CW QSOs in our log, the CWops members of the team (remote and at island) made 29,917 of them. So you had a 69% chance of working a fellow CWops member. Check Clublog for the operator you worked.

The 2024 Jarvis Island DXpedition wishes to thank the staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Hawaii for issuing a Special Use Permit to approve this minimally invasive operation on Jarvis Island NWR and within the PRIMNM. The PRIMNM encompasses approximately 490,000 square miles of open ocean, coral reef, and island habitats, making the total area of the PRIMNM nearly five times the size of all the U.S. National Parks combined and nearly twice the size of the state of Texas. Within the boundaries of the Monument rest seven national wildlife refuges: Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Johnston, Wake and Palmyra Atolls, and Kingman Reef.

|  | Baker         | Jarvis         |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Club Log's Most Wanted List ranking</b>   | 12            | 18             |
| <b>Number of QSOs / uniques</b>              | 69,000/18,091 | 106,892/21,298 |
| <b>Days on/at island</b>                     | 12            | 13,5           |
| <b>Days operating</b>                        | 9             | 13             |
| <b>People camping</b>                        | 11            | 0              |
| <b>Shower, toilet</b>                        | 2             | 0              |
| <b>Radios/amplifiers</b>                     | 6/6           | 6/3            |
| <b>Antennas</b>                              | 12            | 8              |
| <b>Tents with tables and chairs</b>          | 10            | 0              |
| <b>Generators</b>                            | 8             | 4              |
| <b>Gasoline used (gallons)</b>               | 300           | 120            |
| <b>Water used on island (gallons)</b>        | 400           | 1              |
| <b>Set up time before first QSOs (hours)</b> | 48            | 4              |
| <b>Time to tear down and pack up (hours)</b> | 24            | 3              |





# Antenna Options for the LITTLE PISTOL DXer

[Ed Picha](#), N9EP (CWops #991)

Many of us live with antenna restrictions. Restrictions might be due to lot size, HOA, local ordinance or zoning, XYL aesthetic issues or budget. The trick is to get SOMETHING in the air and still have fun with ham radio.

For this year's W9DXCC convention, a group of us (myself, Bill W9JJB, Jim WB9FLY and Lee WA9LEY) were asked to present our solutions for antenna-restricted QTHs that still let us get on the air and work DX. I wanted to share some of the solutions here. There's nothing especially new or novel, but these are solutions that have worked for us.

Bill W9JJB took the approach of joining the HOA board which resulted in him getting a bit more leeway to try some wire antennas. Bill took the approach of putting up a multi-band fan dipole with the center up at 34 ft. He also managed to get a 160m inverted L up. These antennas are not exactly stealthy, but Bill's work with the HOA earned him a bit of tolerance.

Jim WB9FLY chose a flagpole antenna for his restricted lot situation. He found a company called Greyline Performance Antennas ([greylineperformance.com](http://greylineperformance.com)). This flagpole antenna comes in several different sizes including 12-28 ft. It's basically a shortened off-center-fed dipole and if you go this route you will probably want a tuner mounted at the base of the antenna, which Jim cleverly hides with a landscaping "mock-rock". The nice thing about Jim's approach is that no radials are needed, and what HOA can say no to a flagpole?



**W9JJB 40m-6m fan dipole**



**WB9FLY stealthy flagpole antenna**

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Lee WA9LEY also went with the fan dipole approach but mounted them in his large attic. He also made good use of attic-mounted trapped dipoles. After resolving a few RFI issues (and most importantly keeping the XYL happy) he has had amazing DX and contest results including 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in CQ VHF, CQ 160 and ARRL DX contests. Lee also beats antenna restrictions by doing a lot of mobile and portable operating.

### ***WA9LEY attic antenna farm***



For my situation, I am really fortunate to live on a moderately large lot with many old, tall trees. My HOA is relatively cooperative but local code and zoning enforcement is not very antenna-friendly. I took the approach of hiding as much as I could in the trees. Antenna purists will shudder in horror at the idea of radiating elements of an antenna in contact with the trees, but this is definitely a case of do what you can with what you have and don't let Perfect be the enemy of Good Enough.



**Street view of N9EP's QTH**

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Overall, the design goal of stealth was accomplished. In the above picture, there are three antennas that are fairly stealthy and hard to see. There's a 160m inverted L that runs up in the branches of the big tree in the foreground about 60 ft and out over the house another 85 feet or so. On the very left edge of the picture, there's a Butternut HF6V vertical, and there's a Myantennas EFHW 8010 2KPLUS end fed that runs from the chimney to the back of the lot. The HF6V went in first, about 28 years ago. I had it hidden in a stand of tall poplar trees and it was absolutely invisible. Over the years, the poplars all died and so now the vertical sticks out a bit but so far so good, no complaints. I have also used attic antennas and have been know to load up my gutters on 160m. These antennas did work OK, but caused a lot of RFI headaches that caused me to buy ferrite cores in quantity.

As far as results, how do we do? Well, we are usually not the first ones in the DX station's log, but at the end of the day we're usually in the log just like the big guns, it all counts the same. Of course, using the right tools and modes like CW makes a big difference too. I thought it was interesting to note that as we prepared our presentation, we compared notes about our DXCC progress. All four of us are within shouting distance of Honor Roll with mixed DXCC totals between 313 and 329 entities worked. You CAN have fun with small antennas!

By the way, if you have an interest in DXing please join us for the 2025 W9DXCC convention, 12-13 September at the Marriott in Naperville, IL. It is also a great chance to get together with friends from CWops, as many in attendance are members. I hope to see you there.

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## Thoughts on Learning Morse Code

[Mark Schacter](#), VE3BXG (CWops #2786)

I've had the pleasure of teaching morse code in the [CW Academy](#). Apart from being fun and rewarding, the experience caused me to reflect on what I've learned about building morse code skills. Here are some personal takeaways I hope will be valuable to learners.

1. There's a common tendency among learners to tense up when using morse code, especially when copying. Tension is the enemy! Try to relax your mind. I advise students to let the sounds of morse code wash over them and trust their brains to make sense of the music.
2. You don't need to understand every character and word in order to have a successful QSO. The key is to get the general sense of what is being sent. So don't panic if you miss something. Your brain stops working when that happens. Again, the key is to relax. The world will not end if you don't understand every bit of what the person at the other end is sending.
3. If your brain locks up (due to nerves or something else) and you can't copy anything in a QSO, it's OK to just back out. Send something like "having trouble copying; thanks and 73". The other person will understand.

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4. Proficient copying is less about recognizing individual dits and dahs and more about hearing complete patterns of sound. For example, when you hear '73' or 'CQ', you're probably not hearing '7' followed by '3' or 'C' followed by 'Q'. You're hearing '73' and 'CQ' as complete patterns of sound. As you become increasingly skillful, this will apply to more and more of the most commonly used words, Q-codes and phrases.

5. Ditch the pencil as soon as possible and start trying to head copy. If your goal is to progress beyond relatively slow morse code, the pencil will get in your way.

6. There's no practice like on-air practice. Yes, learning tools like [lcwo.net](http://lcwo.net) and morse code apps for smart phones are great and I urge you to use them. But to accelerate your learning you need the experience of real on-air operating.

7. When using apps or online learning tools, get out of your comfort zone by trying to copy at speeds currently too fast for you. (For example, if you're comfortable at 20 WPM, try copying at 25.) You won't (at first) copy everything, but you'll copy something. Learning and confidence building will happen this way. And when you ratchet the WPM back down to what you thought was your maximum speed, it will sound slow!

8. It's easy and natural to get frustrated after a bad practice session or a QSO where you had difficulty copying. Don't let those feelings drag you down. Trust the process. As is the case with many learned skills, building morse code proficiency is a question of time and repetition, and of learning through occasional failure. You're not going to become masterful overnight but if you keep at it progress will follow.

9. A lot of emphasis is put, understandably, on learning to copy morse code. But don't neglect the importance of sending skills. Too often I am in QSOs with operators who are obviously very experienced but whose sending – with irregular rhythms and spacing – is difficult to copy. Assume

Most of all, have fun. Using Morse code on air is a unique kind of pleasure you won't find anywhere else in amateur radio.

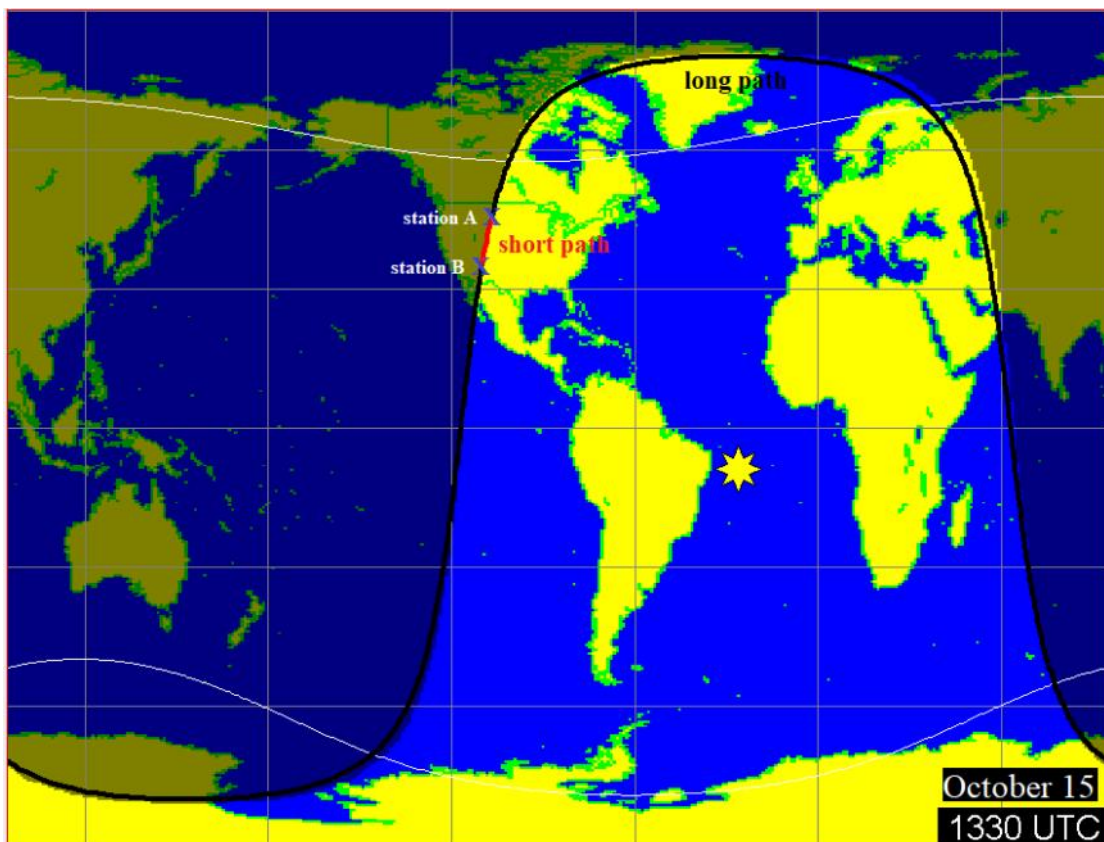
About Mark: At age 60, I decided to get my amateur radio license. After operating SSB for a few months I decided to tackle the challenge of learning Morse code. With the aid of online learning resources and some oddly obsessive behavior (when driving my car I would convert every license plate I saw into code) I was ready to go on the air in about a month's time. CW quickly became my favorite mode, and for many years now it has been the only mode I use.

My CW Journey: After becoming a member of CWops, the move into becoming a CW Academy Advisor was natural for me. I love teaching and get a lot of satisfaction from playing a role, however small, in helping people develop skills. My volunteering with CW Academy has allowed me to meet a great group of enthusiastic and committed CW operators. Their enjoyment of amateur radio and CW is infectious! I mostly operate in contests and DXing at 28 wpm on N3ZN paddles.

# Gray Line Propagation and the CWTs

[Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA](#) (CWops #920)

At the HRO Superfest in Milwaukee in September, Dick N9EEE (the Editor of the CWops Newsletter) and I discussed gray line propagation. An obvious question surfaced – does gray line propagation affect the CWT North American QSOs on the low bands (the low bands are where gray line effects are most prominent). An example of a gray path during a CWT is shown in Figure 1 (from the mapping feature in W6ELProp) between station A and station B for October 15 at 1330 UTC, which is in the 1300-1400 UTC CWT time slot. As a refresher, a gray line path is a path that entirely falls on (aligns with) the terminator – or at least it is very near the terminator.



**Figure 1 – A gray line short path during a CWT time slot**

My answer to the obvious question would be MAYBE, and the reason is that it has to be tempered by the fact that the CWTs are only one hour long (1300-1400 UTC, 1900-2000 UTC, 0300-0400 UTC and 0700-0800 UTC). That means there are 208 one-hour time slots in the year (4 time slots per week times 52 weeks) that could be affected. Using the mapping feature in W6ELProp, I looked at where the terminator was for all twelve months and compared that to the CWT time slots.

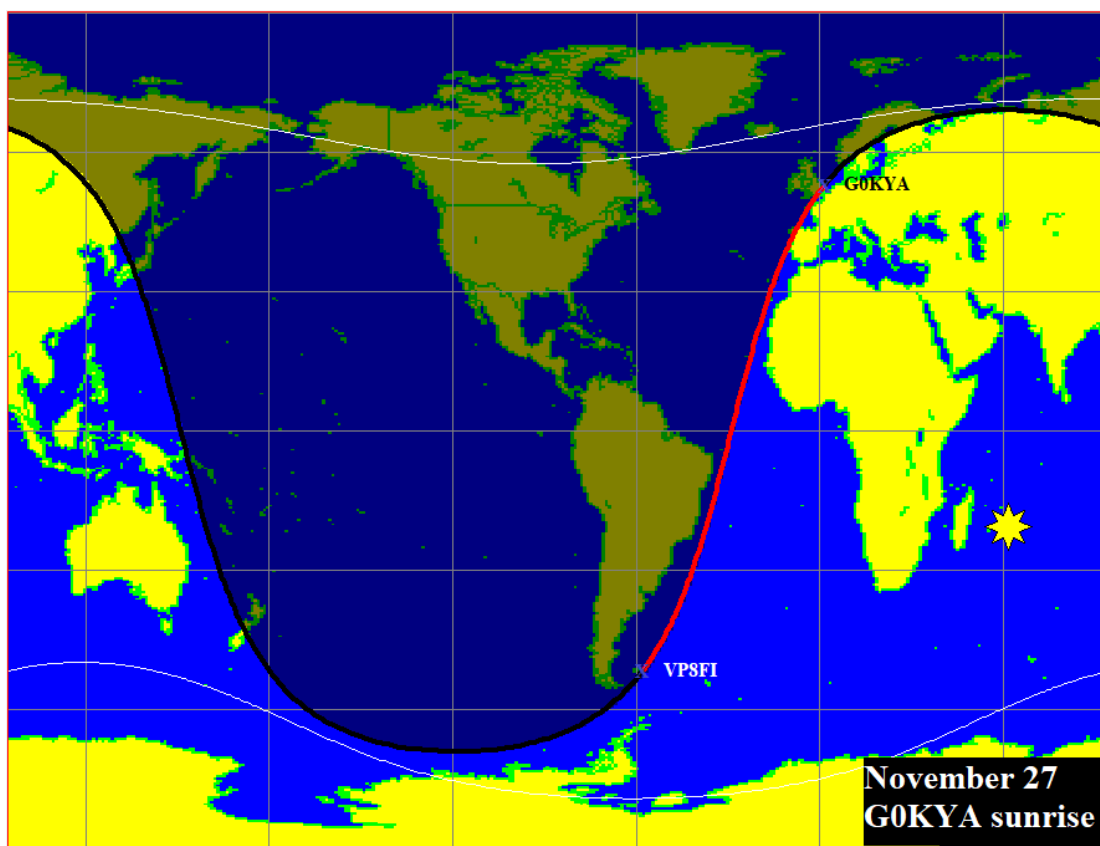
The result of that investigation gave only thirty two time slots (out of 208) that could have gray line paths between North American participants (of course, Figure 1 is one of those).

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They were all in the 1300-1400 UTC CWT time slot for the months of January, February, March, September, October, November and December.

Now the question is “How much enhancement in signal strength could be expected for the CWTs?” That’s a tough question to answer as we don’t have a lot of data and observations with respect to gray line propagation on the short path (as in Figure 1) compared to gray line propagation on the long path. The only short path data I’m aware of is from Steve Nichols GØKYA (see his article titled “The Twilight Zone revisited – recent grey-line research” in the RSGB’s Radio Communications, May 2006). GØKYA monitored the VP8FI beacon set up by VP8NO. See Figure 2 for this path.



**Figure 2 – GØKYA to VP8FI**

This is a 12,740 km gray line path, much longer than any CWT contact within North America. On 40m and 80m (no measurements on any other bands), GØKYA reported that he saw typical enhancements of a few dB when both ends of the path were at sunrise (remember this is a short path gray line). Will this amount of enhancement translate to the much shorter CWT paths? I don’t know. Anyway, an operator in the CWTs isn’t monitoring the same station for a long period of time. In summary, any enhancement may be there – but it may go unnoticed.

Remember that the GØKYA-to-VP8FI path was a gray line short path and not a gray line long path. The reports of significant gray line enhancement (the signal came out of the noise for several minutes) are numerous on the gray line long path, when one station is around sunrise and

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the other station is around sunset.

I realize that the CWTs are not just QSOs between North Americans. It would be interesting to look at possible gray line enhancements between North Americans and overseas operators on the low bands.

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## Summer's Legacy

[Gary Johnson](#), NA6O (CWops #1345)

Many of you longtime CWops members remember Summer Hartzfeld, VE5SDH. She exploded onto the CW scene in 2015, quickly joined CWops and only a year later was elected a member of FOC. Her bug fist was fabulous and you could catch her on the air anytime whether it was during a CWT, a contest, or a long ragchew. We became friends and chatted often including many long emails. Notably, Summer was blind and actually was the first blind person I had ever known. She patiently answered my questions about her life experiences and I found it fascinating and enlightening.

Summer was a prolific key collector and it so happens that I was making a short run of a novel bug made entirely of wood, appropriately called the Woodbug (see *Solid Copy*, March 2016). It included her call in Braille and its unique feel led her to calling it "finger candy." Sadly, she passed away from cancer in August of 2018 at just 44. I was crestfallen, having lost my one and only blind friend. But it turns out this was only the beginning.

Her friend Gordon, VE5UJ, took responsibility for Summer's estate and he eventually sent her Woodbug back to me. Now it needed a good home. After a bit searching, I heard the excellent bug fist of Dave, W4CI, and then found out that not only was he an FOC member, he was also blind and had actually met Summer. This was a match made in heaven, so I sent the key off to him and we quickly became good friends. Once again, I had someone who could I talk to about the world of blind and visually-impaired (BVI) hams.

I've made several important discoveries over the years, especially that the BVI community is larger and far more capable than one might expect. Also, technology has made life a bit easier with things like sophisticated screen readers such as JAWS, an arsenal of specialized smartphone apps, and of course online blind-oriented groups covering every imaginable topic. Higher education is also well within reach. Still, there remains reluctance among employers to hire those with limited vision and so we may find some blind hams a bit down on their luck.



Summer with her guide dog, Lake

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A couple of years ago, I had a Kenwood TS-590S that was just sitting around. It turns out that Kenwood is the number one manufacturer of *accessible* radios. By accessible, we mean usable by a blind person. Kenwood offers their Voice Guide system in many radios, including the TS-590, making it the most popular and affordable HF rig on the market for the blind. So I asked W4CI if he might know of a blind ham who could use it, and indeed he did: Tom, KF4YEY, who happened to live nearby. I decided to gift my radio to Tom. Dave helped him set it up and eventually they even did Field Day together as a CW multi-op with the help of their club. You can see them in action with interviews on a news video at <https://www.wesh.com/article/central-florida-radio-operators-contest/40419505>

I found this a rewarding experience, and started learning even more about the BVI life, including learning a bit of Braille, trying out my iPhone in full accessibility mode, joining a blind hams online group, and reading an excellent new book, "The Country of the Blind" by Andrew Leland. At last, I know who those guys are in NAQP CW who form a team and sign the name BRAILLE. All this information could be useful one day. As we get older, it's not unusual for our vision to diminish and it's comforting to know that even being fully blind is not a great dark abyss after all.

To further help those who are down on their luck, I've been buying used TS-590 rigs, getting them checked out and preconfigured, and donating them to blind hams around the country. They often rely on local clubs for some help, such as antenna erection, but generally are able to get the radio on the air with information from me and the online groups. This all harkens back to my teenage years when all those generous Elmers helped me get started in ham radio, setting me up with equipment and plenty of good advice.

My next little crusade is to reformat the CW Academy documents to make them accessible. Formatting a document for compatibility with screen readers isn't hard, but certain standards need to be followed and now I'm up to speed on that. I'm getting guidance from several blind hams including Jenna, N4JEH and Earl, KG7UKW. This is truly a case of the blind leading the sighted, which is more common than you might imagine. And it's all part of Summer's legacy.

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## Ohio QSO Party

**Tom Hain, KV8Q** (CWops #2175)

It all started in the beginning of March, 2008. I had been a ham for 47 years and always enjoyed the CW contests. After running phone patches from Puerto Rico for almost four years in the 60's, I was tired of SSB so I became a CW op exclusively. I enjoyed participating in contests. I didn't expect to be the winner but I enjoyed the excitement of the competition. Back to 2008, we had planned to go to Louisiana that Saturday; however, Mother Nature had other plans. She dumped 20" of snow on us Friday night and our trip was cancelled. We tried to find something else to do but came up with nothing. I found that the Wisconsin QSO Party was going to be the next day. I had never operated in one of those "parties" before but it sounded better than stuck in the house. The wife agreed so Sunday morning I fired up my TenTec Jupiter with my G5RV at 40' and

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had at it. I had a ton of fun and ended up receiving a first place plaque. Not only that but I ended up completing all my needed counties in Wisconsin. I was like a little kid again. I found that not only are these QSO parties fun events, they will help me in my Worked All Counties quest. I was bit with the bug.

If I could operate a state QSO party and there was nothing else on the calendar, I was there. I have collected plaques from WI, NY, TX, OK, KS, 7Q, GA, NC, TN, PA and MS. My county total has drastically increased and I only need 134 more to get all 3077. I am now in a condo with indoor antennas but still have lots of fun in the contests, big or small. Along the way, I have worked many folks over and over again. I could list the calls but I don't want to miss anyone. You know who you are! When I am at the Dayton Hamvention, I am always on the lookout for folks that I have worked but never met. This past May, I bumped into Jim, AD4EB. If you ever get into a CW contest, you know the call. He is always putting in a strong signal, especially as a mobile in the state QSO parties. He is usually the strongest signal of the mobiles. We chatted a few minutes and I told him that if he ever came to Ohio to operate the state QSO party, I would drive for him. He seemed to be receptive to that idea and we agreed to give it some thought. We exchanged emails the following week and before you know it, I was going to get the chance to operate the OQP from AD4EB's great mobile setup! Yes, I felt like a kid once again. My wife and I took a trip out West at the end of May and almost all of June so no practice during that time. Yes, we had a wonderful vacation seeing our last five states to complete the lower 48. We still have AK and HI to officially get them all.



**Jim, AD4EB and Tom, KV8Q**

Once back from vacation, I started practicing my pileup skills with MorseRunner. Jim gave me some tips on using MorseRunner as a practice tool to prepare for the contest. He sent me some files with calls from FL, TX and OH QSO parties in them. They were very helpful getting me to recognize common calls in the pileups. On July 1, I ran MorseRunner at 40 wpm with activity level set at 2. After a few days, I cranked up the activity level to 3 and then increased the speed. I ended up with the speed at 44 and the activity set at 6. Yes - it was great practice to be able to pull calls out of the pileups in MorseRunner. In the meantime, Jim talked to his nephew, Tim, who agreed to do the driving for us. During this time, Jim kept working on our route. He had developed a map and had it loaded into his GPS. The route looked good on paper and we would be covering 32 of the 88 Ohio counties. He shipped me the GPS and I spent July 26 driving the route. I only got 75% of the route done that day, but that was a very beneficial ride. We found that we were going over too many railroad crossings. During that drive, I found myself waiting a total of 45 minutes for trains. Jim re-worked the route and eliminated a bunch of crossings which reduced our odds of getting stuck by a train. During the contest, we just got to a crossing to see the end of a train. The train gods were watching us apparently. The following Thursday, I finished up the last 25% of

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the route and found some bridges that weren't quite high enough for Jim's antenna system, two Hustler's on top of the Kia van. Once again, Jim quickly found a solution and re-did the map. A week later, Tim drove the last 25% of the route with me to get familiar with the GPS and the route. In the contest, he would be driving this portion of the route in the dark which would make quite a difference. It didn't take him long to pick up the use of the GPS.

Everything was in order and the date for the OQP, August 24th, was getting closer. I was getting excited and nervous. Jim drove up from his home in TN, a 6 1/2-hour ride, on Thursday. He spent the night with his relatives and really enjoyed visiting with them. He drove over my place on Friday morning and he got to see my antenna system and shack. We then mounted the antennas and he verified the rig worked properly. With my wife joining us, we grabbed a lunch and then Jim showed me his setup. He uses a ton of hotkeys with N1MM+ and he made me familiar with them. He has N1MM+ all setup up for his ICOM 7610. Boy, my TenTec Eagle is a fine radio but it doesn't compare to that rig of Jim's. And, his mobile antenna system is better than my permanent system. Anyway, we were as ready as we could be.

Tim, our driver, and Jim arrived around 10-ish on Saturday morning, the day of the big event. We headed out to our starting point and grabbed a quick lunch. Jim began operating at Noon, contest start time, from Franklin county. We headed over to Licking county after 12 minutes but the rate was really slow. We switched operators after 30 minutes or so and headed over to Knox county. Once we got to Delaware county, the rate picked up a bit but we only had 62 Q's that first hour. After a couple of hours, Jim slipped in a couple of SSB Q's to get us a few new multipliers. He continued to do that when the situation presented itself. Jim took over the operating position around 3 pm. The conditions really picked up around 4 pm and we saw our numbers go up. We continued switching operators every 2 or 3 hours. Jim operated when it got dark since he is a touch typist and didn't need the light to see the keyboard like me. Our best hour was 193 Q's/hour. We ended up with 1252 total QSO's, 30 on SSB (19 of which were mults), and 109 mults which gave us a score of 269,666. We were 10K below the record for the contest but the smiles on our faces said we were champs, not chumps!

Sunday morning, the three of us met with Jim, K8MR, John, K3TN, and Barney, K3LA, for breakfast. That was another nice treat for me. I got to meet a couple of new friends, visit with Jim, K8MR a bit and I got to see his fine mobile setup. Barney was Jim's



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driver and they also produced a very impressive score as well. John, K3TN, was a single mobile op doing his own driving but, from the sound of it, he still had lots of fun.

Our driver, Tim, was the best!!! Being a non-ham, he sure took an interest in how we were doing. Our CW just sounded like noise to him but he didn't care. He kept asking, "Am I doing okay?" He didn't have to ask because he was doing great. He kept us on schedule and on the route. I can't say enough about Jim. He was very patient with me and was always encouraging me. I never heard "Is that the best you can do?" All I ever heard from Jim was "Great job" and a pat on the back. It was a wonderful experience for me - one that I will never forget.



***After 12 hours***



***The Night Shift***

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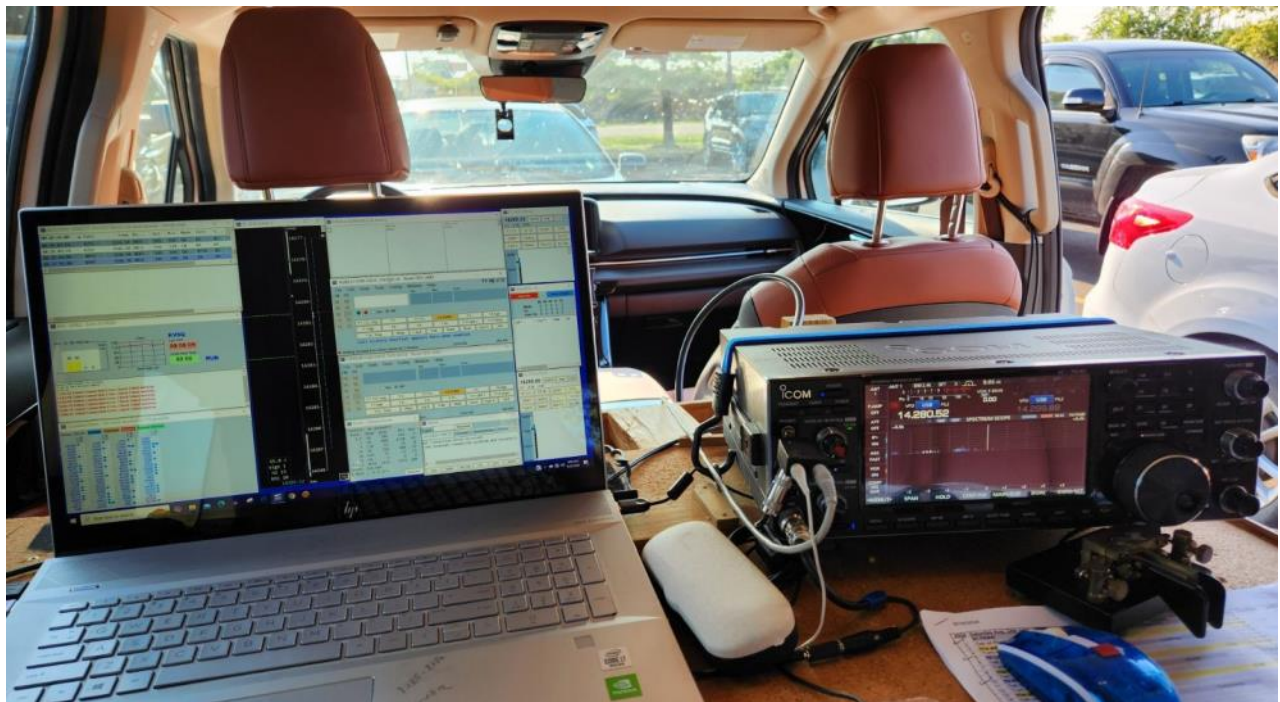




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***Tim (the driver), Jim, AD4EB, and Tom, KV8Q***



***The set-up***





# 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> |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3603         | VE7ZO*      | Jim         | 3606         | ON6AB*      | Bruno       | 3609         | DM3ZM*      | Hal         |
| 3604         | VE3JM*      | Vlad        | 3607         | KW4NJA*     | Scott       |              |             |             |
| 3605         | N8KR        | Ken         | 3608         | KF9LI*      | Nate        |              |             |             |

\* Lifetime member

As of October 8 2024:

**Need Sponsors:** KE2BRV, N4PF, EA1CBX, KM6ZX

**Invitations Extended:** W6IZT, N1IA

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

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

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

Did your **CALL SIGN** change recently?

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

Congratulations!

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

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



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

|                 |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |
|-----------------|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>AAØYY</b>    | KT9T<br>KQ4PXA  | WB6OW<br>K0LRQ                                   | WB6ZFG  | N4QYO  | WØJOP   | WD4ERM   | AF4PX   |
| <b>GW2CWO</b>   | IK3/UY7L<br>I2EAY<br>G3RXA                              | DL1OKE<br>SM4AIQ                                 | PA2WDF<br>DF3SM                                   | ON4ANE<br>G3WGE/P                                | R1CCV<br>DF1RE                                      | 2E1OCT<br>MØKBJ                                      | MØMCL<br>G3WPD  |
| <b>JG1UQD</b>   | JQ3IXG  | JA2KMC   | JG7AJE  | JL3KJY   | JG1BGT(2)   | JS1CII   | JK1WCW  |
| <b>JJ1FXF</b>   | JJØSFV<br>JR8IUH/1                                      | JL2SQK(5)<br>JM8NSW/8                            | JO1ZZZ/1<br>JS1CII(2)                             | JG1BGT(4)<br>VK3TBR                              | BI3RCY<br>JK1WCW                                    | JA4IJJ(3)<br>JK1KDH                                  | JG7AJE<br>JAØXLI                                      |
| <b>JK1QYL</b>   | JF2OAI<br>JA5IVG<br>JL3KJY<br>JA3LCH<br>BG2HE<br>JE1TRV | JS6BOA<br>JH6GFY/6<br>JM1IPX<br>JL1STV<br>JN1OCN | JP2HYX<br>JH2HTQ<br>JL2SQK(2)<br>JK1WCW<br>JL1RAP | KE7LOY<br>JA2KMC<br>7L1AOK<br>JA2MBB<br>JG5POO/5 | JG1BGT(9)<br>JJ2OXS<br>JF6UZS/6<br>JS1CII<br>JJØSFV | JS2OVO(2)<br>BG2WSS<br>JA4IJJ(2)<br>JK2QHO<br>JH1SBJ | JF5CXK(2)<br>JK8TYW<br>JQ3FRX<br>JN1FAO<br>JG7AJE     |
| <b>JO1DGE</b>   | JA3LCH/4<br>JL3KJY                                      | JA5FGC<br>JM8NSW/8                               | JA6BZH<br>JR2AWS                                  | JE1TRV<br>JR6SBI                                 | JG1BGT(9)<br>JR7WIS                                 | JJØSFV<br>JK1WCW(2)                                  | JL2SQK<br>KE7LOY                                      |
| <b>JO1ZZZ/1</b> | HL5JZ<br>JN1FAO   | JA6BZH<br>JR1CPB                                 | JF7URV<br>KE7LOY                                  | JG1BGT   | JG7AJE  | JJ1FXF   | JJ3LXM  |
| <b>K6RB</b>     | WB9YLZ  |  |   |  |   |  |   |
| <b>K7NJ</b>     | K6SK<br>K6KWV<br>WB4YHJ                                 | WB2KMR<br>KGØTS<br>K5KB                          | W8HOM<br>WB2RFV<br>VE3XT                          | K7DE<br>W4BOS<br>WA2USA/Ø                        | KJ5BDC<br>WØQA                                      | KB1FN<br>WØJSL                                       | AA2YK<br>LU3VED                                       |
| <b>MØWDD</b>    | 2EØIHM<br>GØLLU<br>MØKBJ                                | 9A3DU<br>GØWZX<br>MØKCJ                          | DH1TL<br>G3SHF<br>MØTJU                           | DJ2GS<br>G3ZIC<br>M7GNO                          | DJ8RQ<br>G4FZC<br>PI4VAD                            | DL2YBF<br>G4ITU<br>GØLLU                             | GØEQC<br>G4NNJ  |
| <b>W5DT</b>     | KE8UEX<br>KC8MFF  | NM2L/4<br>KD2EPM                                 | KC1CQY<br>WB9CHK                                  | WB2ZIY<br>N9RJR                                  | KA3UAW  | KE4CR  | WA9CTH  |
| <b>7N2XZB</b>   | JA6BZH(2)<br>JR2OIJ                                     | HL5BLF<br>JN1MET                                 | JF7URV<br>JL3KJY                                  | HL5JZB<br>JJØSFV                                 | JN7DOR<br>JA4IJJ                                    | JG1BGT(2)<br>JK1PWT                                  | HL1MIM<br>JK6SBI77<br><i>(Continued on next page)</i> |



(Continued from previous page)

7N2XZB    BG2HE    JL1STV    JS1CII    HL5JZ    JA3LCH    JL2SQK(2)    JA5FGC

| 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<br>UTC-4 | CDT<br>UTC-5 | MDT<br>UTC-6 | PDT<br>UTC-7 | Hawaii<br>UTC-9 |
| <b>MON</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
| VK1CWO  | JØ1DGE           |        |       |        |       |                 |       | W2XS         | AAØYY        |              |              |                 |
| <b>TUE</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JR1WYW           | E25JRP |       | SV2BBK |       | GW2CWO          |       | WE5P         | K8UDH        | K7NJ         | W7ZDX        |                 |
|   | 7N2XZB           |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              | K6RB         |                 |
| <b>WED</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JM4AOA           |        |       |        |       |                 |       | AF4PX        |              |              |              |                 |
| <b>THURS</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JJ1VNV           |        |       | SV2BBK |       |                 |       | KV8Q         | N5OT         | K7NJ         | W7ZDX        |                 |
| <b>FRI</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JK1QYL           |        |       | SV2BBK |       | GW2CWO<br>MØWDD |       | N2GSL        | AAØYY        |              | K6RB         |                 |
| <b>SAT</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JJ1FXF           |        |       |        |       |                 |       | W5DT         |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JM4AOA<br>JG1UQD |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
| <b>SUN</b>  |                  |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JJ1FXF           |        |       |        |       |                 |       | W5DT         |              |              |              |                 |
|   | JM4AOA           |        |       |        |       |                 |       |              |              |              |              |                 |



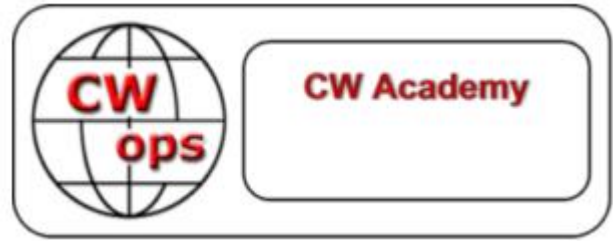


# CW Academy

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

## CW Academy Update: Fall Semester & Website Enhancements

The September/October semester at CW Academy is nearing its end. With 414 students enrolled in 69 classes led by 51 advisors, this semester has been active. Full statistics will be available in the November issue of Solid Copy.



## Website Upgrade: Improved User Experience and Data Management

The CW Academy website is undergoing an upgrade. A key change has been made possible by the introduction of login credentials to access information on the website.

Previously, every time an advisor or student signed up for a class, their personal details (call sign, name, address, etc.) were collected and stored as a new record. This led to redundant data. For instance, there were over 1,000 advisor sign-up records, even though there are only about 240 advisors.

The new system will streamline this. Personal information will be collected once when a user creates a username and password. This information will be stored in a single "master" record per person, which can be updated as needed (including call sign changes) and used throughout the system. For example:

| Advisor Portal for K7OJL             |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Reminders and Actions Requested      |  |  | Date Created                           |
| <b>Advisor Master Data</b>           |  |  |  |
| <b>Callsign</b><br>K7OJL             | <b>Name</b><br>Smith, Roland               | <b>Phone</b><br>+1 4358491946              | <b>Email</b><br>rolandksmith@gmail.com |
| <b>City</b><br>Tooele                | <b>State</b><br>Utah                       | <b>Zip Code</b><br>84074                   | <b>Country</b><br>United States        |
| <b>WhatsApp</b><br>+14358491946      | <b>Telegram</b><br>@rsmith                 | <b>Signal</b><br>@4358491946               | <b>Messenger</b><br>rolandksmith       |
| <b>Timezone ID</b><br>America/Denver | <b>Date Created</b><br>2024-09-25 01:28:02 | <b>Date Updated</b><br>2024-09-25 01:28:02 |  |

Click [HERE](#) to update the advisor Master Data

We expect these database and website changes to be completed around the third week of October. These changes should not disrupt your experience on the site.



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As always, if you encounter any issues or have suggestions for website improvements, please contact Roland K7OJL ([rolandksmith@gmail.com](mailto:rolandksmith@gmail.com)) or Bob WR7Q ([kcgator@gmail.com](mailto:kcgator@gmail.com)).

We appreciate your patience and feedback as we work to make the CW Academy website even better.

**73, Roland K7OJL** CWA Admin

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## CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch](#), VE3KI

This month I am going to describe a new development in contesting that is making use of the CWTs for testing. There is no change to the CWTs themselves, but the new test project provides an optional add-on activity that you can choose to participate in. Not everyone in the CWTs is a dedicated contester, but many of us are. If you are a contester, or if you are not yet a contester but you use the CWTs as a way to familiarize yourself with contesting as an activity, this test project might add to your CWT fun.

First, some background. Many of us are familiar with the idea of contest online scoreboards. Indeed, a number of CWTers are using them regularly in the CWTs. In a nutshell, many contest logging programs can be configured to upload score summary data (the same kind of data that you upload to [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com)) every few minutes during the contest, to a website that reports these interim claimed scores in (almost) real time. By visiting [this website](#) or one like it (there's more than one; they share data with one another), you can see how you are doing relative to others while the contest is still under way. This has been described in detail by K9CT, NØAX and AB9YC in a feature article in [the May 2020 issue of Solid Copy](#).

The next stage in the development of this concept is real-time contest (RTC) scoring. For those who participate, the uploads to the RTC server at [hamscore.com](http://hamscore.com) include not only score summary data, but also actual QSO data (the same kind of data that appears in Cabrillo files). The QSO data is not made public, and during the contest itself only the score summary data is displayed. In other words, during the contest the RTC website looks very similar to the contest online scoreboard website. In fact, the summary part of the data uploaded to the RTC website is forwarded automatically to the existing [contest online scoreboard](#) website and displayed there.

Where the magic comes in is at the end of the contest (or for the CWTs, at the end of the CWT session). Within a couple of minutes or so, the RTC website assembles the QSO data into an annotated Cabrillo log file for each participating station and cross-checks the contacts in those logs to come up with adjudicated scores. Participants can login to the RTC website and view their personal Cabrillo file and a personal log checking report (LCR). Instead of waiting for weeks or

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months to get the final results, participants can see their results and the reasons for score deductions within a few minutes after the end of the event.

But wait a minute, you say – the CWTs are not adjudicated events! Yes, you are right about that. This has not changed, nor has the process of uploading your claimed score to 3830scores.com. If you don't take part in the RTC tests, you won't notice any difference. However, if you do take part, besides contributing to the testing of this new development you also get to benefit from the information in the log checking report. This information can help you improve your contesting and logging skills.

## **Using your LCR**

Leaving aside the score reduction part of the LCR, which is not really relevant to the CWTs, the bottom part of the report lists QSOs from your log that the cross-checking software has identified and flagged in various categories.

The first such category is for "Not In Log" QSOs. These are QSOs with other RTC participants that are in your log but not in the other station's log. This might be because you copied the callsign incorrectly. It might be because you were one of several callers responding to a CQ, the CQing station replied to someone else, and you thought they were replying to you but they weren't so you are not in their log. Or it might be because the other station failed to log an otherwise good contact. If it was either of the first two, that might help you identify an aspect of your operating skills that is a candidate for improvement.

The second category is titled "Incorrect Exchange". Perhaps you simply copied the exchange incorrectly, or made a typo in entering it. Perhaps you were using a Call History file and relying on it too heavily instead of copying what was sent. Perhaps one or the other of you entered cut number abbreviations in place of the actual numbers in your log, resulting in a mismatch. Or, perhaps the other station entered their sent exchange incorrectly. If the "correct" exchange is listed as "Name Exch", that's a giveaway that they did not fill in the Sent Exchange box in their logging program.

An aside regarding cut numbers: it is best to log cut numbers as the numbers they represent, not as the letters the Morse code used for them also stand for. After all, in a phone contest, regardless of whether the other station identified their state in a contest exchange as "Connecticut" or "Charlie Tango", you would enter it in your log as CT. The same applies to cut number abbreviations in a numeric field in a CW contest. Some cut number abbreviations are not widely recognized, and if your goal is effective and accurate communication it would be better not to use the less common shortcuts, but the most common ones (T for 0, N for 9 and A for 1) should be part of every CW contester's Morse code vocabulary. You will hear all three of these many times in a CWT session.

When you are filling in the Sent Exchange in your logging program, if you are sending your membership number you should enter it as a number there even if you intend to include cut number abbreviations in your sent exchange. To send cut numbers, instead of falling back on the {EXCH} macro you can edit your exchange function key messages to contain your exchange in the form

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you want to send it in. Likewise, if you want to insert extra spaces or half spaces or CW speed changes in your callsign or your exchange, do that in your function key messages, not in the places where you tell the program what your callsign and your sent exchange are.

The third group in the LCR is for Duplicates. Again, this is self-explanatory. Even in adjudicated contests, these are simply removed from your log without penalty. If you have a lot of these, is it because you were calling other stations while searching and pouncing before your logging software could tell you whether they were duplicates, or is it because you were calling CQ and your callsign was mis-spotted so it looked like a new callsign that attracted point-and-click operators? There might not be a lot you can do about the second, but the first is within your control.

Callsigns in the following section, called Offtime, can result from either of two causes. One is a discrepancy of more than two minutes between the times in the two logs. If your computer's clock is accurate, this should only happen rarely, if at all. The other is from contacts that were logged after the end time. Those contacts are not credited in contests; contest contacts must be completed and logged within the contest start and end times to be included in your final score.

Finally, there is a section called Uniques. These are callsigns that appear in your log but not in any of the other RTC logs. If only a small proportion of the participants in the contest are also uploading to the RTC website, the chances are high that there will be some callsigns that only appear in one RTC log and are flagged as "Unique" even though they actually made many contacts. If you see that a callsign flagged as "Unique" is a regular CWT participant, you can probably chalk that up to the workings of random chance. On the other hand, an unfamiliar callsign here might actually be a miscopied call. Check the scores at [3830scores.com](http://3830scores.com) to see whether that unfamiliar callsign appears in that CWT session, and if not, take a closer look to see whether perhaps you copied another call incorrectly. If this last possibility happens to you often, you know what you need to work on.

For a more detailed discussion of LCRs and how to use them, see K1DG's [NCJ feature article](#) on "What you can learn from your log-checking report".

OK you say, I'm sold on the idea; how can I get in on it? The first place to go is to the [RTC project description](#) in the contest online score blog. This includes basic instructions on how to configure several logging programs (including N1MM+ and DXlog) to upload QSO data to the RTC website. The RTC project organizers are hoping to get other contest logging software developers to join in. If your software does not support this feature yet, you can help the RTC team by asking the developers of your logging software to add it.

Once your logging software is configured to upload data to the RTC website and has been used during a CWT, you can see your annotated Cabrillo log and log checking report after the end of the session by logging in to the website with your browser, clicking on the "Profile" link near the top of the page (where the "Login" link was before you logged in), and then clicking on the link for your log or for your log check report.

Why are these tests being done in the CWTs anyway, since the CWTs are not adjudicated contests? Basically, this is because the CWTs are a great testbed. They happen often instead of only

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once or twice a year like traditional contests, and the number of participants in a typical CWT is large enough to support meaningful testing. There is also a significant subset of the CWT population that has interests in contesting and improving adjudication procedures in contests generally, and this is a way for them to be a part of the project.

You don't have to participate in the RTC testing to enjoy the CWTs (the CWT itself is unchanged, this is just an add-on), but why not give it a try to see whether it adds to the fun? In addition to potentially helping you improve your operating, taking part in the early testing gets you in on the ground floor of a new development, dare I say the next wave, in contesting. If you do participate, don't forget to also upload your claimed score to 3830scores.com as always.

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



# CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



## Monthly Update

During September, seven additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 258.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of September 2024 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 175 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) N5RZ, (5) N5ZO, (6) K3WW, (7) KC7V, (8) KO4VW, (9) NA8V** and **(10) K7QA**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 524 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of September 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 709 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) KC7V** and **(10) K3WW**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 2169 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of September 2024 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3403 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 6255 QSOs.

During September, no additional members have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities and the number of members who have accomplished CWops DXCC remains at **86**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **247** this month with the addition of **EA6EJ, NE5A, WB5N** and **VE3INE**.

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 258 active participants. If you have not yet submitted any logs for 2024, please do so soon, and we can include your score among the participants.

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

You can see the final 2023 scores or final scores for any other year by going to the Score Over-

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

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

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

The CWops Award Tools website main page provides a means of printing your CWT Participation Certificate. You may request a downloadable certificate by clicking the “CWT certificate download” selection at the top of the page. For more information about CWT Participation Awards, please go to <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/>.

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

Several operating awards are available for contacting CWops members. These include **Annual Competition Award (ACA)** recognizing the total number of CWops members contacted during the current year, **Annual Cumulative Membership Award (ACMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per band) during the current year, **Cumulative Membership Award (CMA)** counting QSOs with members on all bands (once per band) since January 3, 2010, **CWops WAS** award for contacting members in all 50 states, **CWops DXCC** award for contacting members in countries on the ARRL DXCC list, **CWops WAE** award for contacting members in Europe, and **CWops WAZ** award for contacting members in each of the 40 CQ zones. All contacts must be via CW and between current CWops members. To qualify for these awards, you must submit your logs via the tool at the CWops Award Tools [website](#) . You can also print out your awards certificates at that same website.

A set of tools for managing your awards status is provided on the CWops Award Tools website and if you regularly upload your logs your awards will be automatically tracked for you. To view complete data for all currently active participants and see where you and others rank among active participants in the awards program, use the [online tools](#). For more details on the tools provided, see the [August 2021 Solid Copy](#) article.

### **Please Join Us!**

Fabian, DJ5CW, who created the website and the tools, made it extremely easy to participate in the awards program.

If you are not among the CWops members who are currently participating, please join us! It adds a lot of friendly competition and fun to your operating.

### **More Information**

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

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

#### ACA

| Rank | Call   | ACA  |
|------|--------|------|
| 1    | KR2Q   | 1832 |
| 2    | AA3B   | 1657 |
| 3    | KY4GS  | 1555 |
| 4    | N5RZ   | 1478 |
| 5    | N5ZO   | 1366 |
| 6    | K3WW   | 1355 |
| 7    | KC7V   | 1345 |
| 8    | KO4VW  | 1338 |
| 9    | NA8V   | 1326 |
| 10   | K7QA   | 1308 |
| 11   | AA2IL  | 1260 |
| 12   | KG9X   | 1226 |
| 13   | DL6KVA | 1207 |
| 14   | N5TJ   | 1197 |
| 15   | F6HKA  | 1193 |
| 16   | N5AW   | 1190 |
| 17   | N7US   | 1165 |
| 18   | OM2VL  | 1153 |
| 19   | K3QP   | 1139 |
| 20   | EA1X   | 1108 |
| 21   | NE5A   | 1107 |
| 22   | W4CMG  | 1098 |
| 23   | K1VUT  | 1079 |
| 24   | NJ3K   | 1055 |
| 25   | K9WX   | 1049 |
| 25   | WT9U   | 1049 |
| 26   | VE3TM  | 1046 |
| 27   | WN7S   | 1045 |
| 28   | EA6EJ  | 1040 |
| 29   | N5KD   | 1022 |
| 30   | VK2GR  | 1011 |
| 31   | WT3K   | 1009 |
| 32   | F5SGI  | 990  |
| 33   | K3WJV  | 988  |
| 34   | KM4FO  | 984  |
| 35   | W0UO   | 976  |
| 36   | K0WA   | 967  |
| 37   | 9A1AA  | 963  |
| 38   | KW7Q   | 959  |
| 39   | K1DJ   | 945  |
| 40   | K6NR   | 943  |
| 41   | W8FN   | 937  |
| 42   | WS7L   | 922  |

#### ACMA

| Rank | Call   | ACMA |
|------|--------|------|
| 1    | AA3B   | 5590 |
| 2    | KR2Q   | 4881 |
| 3    | N5RZ   | 4591 |
| 4    | KY4GS  | 4011 |
| 5    | N5ZO   | 3914 |
| 6    | NA8V   | 3749 |
| 7    | K7QA   | 3686 |
| 8    | DL6KVA | 3580 |
| 9    | KC7V   | 3549 |
| 10   | K3WW   | 3421 |
| 11   | OM2VL  | 3372 |
| 12   | KO4VW  | 3216 |
| 13   | AA2IL  | 2957 |
| 14   | KG9X   | 2882 |
| 15   | N5AW   | 2830 |
| 16   | N5TJ   | 2793 |
| 17   | EA1X   | 2775 |
| 18   | N7US   | 2654 |
| 19   | K1VUT  | 2567 |
| 20   | F6HKA  | 2498 |
| 21   | WN7S   | 2414 |
| 22   | K9WX   | 2316 |
| 23   | WT9U   | 2290 |
| 24   | EA6EJ  | 2251 |
| 25   | K3WJV  | 2240 |
| 26   | W4CMG  | 2199 |
| 27   | NJ3K   | 2175 |
| 28   | WS7L   | 2167 |
| 29   | K6NR   | 2153 |
| 30   | VE3TM  | 2141 |
| 31   | W0UO   | 2137 |
| 32   | KW7Q   | 2092 |
| 33   | KM4FO  | 2070 |
| 34   | K3QP   | 2044 |
| 34   | W8FN   | 2044 |
| 35   | 9A1AA  | 2012 |
| 36   | K0WA   | 2005 |
| 37   | NE5A   | 2000 |
| 38   | WT3K   | 1992 |
| 39   | N5XE   | 1968 |
| 40   | K4IU   | 1950 |
| 41   | OZ3SM  | 1918 |
| 42   | VE3KI  | 1914 |

#### CMA

| Rank | Call   | CMA   |
|------|--------|-------|
| 1    | AA3B   | 14341 |
| 2    | K3WW   | 10938 |
| 3    | N5RZ   | 10142 |
| 4    | N5ZO   | 10067 |
| 5    | KR2Q   | 9743  |
| 6    | W1RM   | 9296  |
| 7    | NA8V   | 9229  |
| 8    | DL6KVA | 8996  |
| 9    | F6HKA  | 8516  |
| 10   | K3WJV  | 8086  |
| 11   | VE3KI  | 7980  |
| 12   | K7QA   | 7475  |
| 13   | OM2VL  | 7454  |
| 14   | KG9X   | 7377  |
| 15   | N5AW   | 7345  |
| 16   | KC7V   | 7250  |
| 17   | N7US   | 7244  |
| 18   | W9ILY  | 7008  |
| 19   | W0VX   | 6677  |
| 20   | WT9U   | 6673  |
| 21   | K1VUT  | 6524  |
| 22   | K3JT   | 6457  |
| 23   | K9WX   | 6291  |
| 24   | N4DW   | 6255  |
| 25   | K3PP   | 5902  |
| 26   | K6NR   | 5848  |
| 27   | N2UU   | 5827  |
| 28   | SM6CUK | 5810  |
| 29   | K1DJ   | 5793  |
| 30   | K4IU   | 5776  |
| 31   | N1DC   | 5721  |
| 32   | N5TJ   | 5701  |
| 33   | W4WF   | 5647  |
| 34   | 9A1AA  | 5560  |
| 35   | WT3K   | 5526  |
| 36   | WN7S   | 5483  |
| 37   | KY4GS  | 5451  |
| 38   | G4BUE  | 5321  |
| 39   | AA5JF  | 5155  |
| 40   | W8FN   | 5097  |
| 41   | W0UO   | 5066  |
| 42   | AC6ZM  | 5051  |
| 43   | K1SM   | 4996  |

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**ACA**

|    |        |     |
|----|--------|-----|
| 43 | K4IU   | 913 |
| 44 | AC6ZM  | 912 |
| 44 | W9ILY  | 912 |
| 45 | K3JT   | 910 |
| 46 | VE3KI  | 901 |
| 47 | OZ3SM  | 879 |
| 48 | DM6EE  | 876 |
| 49 | W1RM   | 872 |
| 50 | EA6BF  | 868 |
| 51 | KK0U   | 866 |
| 52 | AF5J   | 856 |
| 53 | K1SM   | 853 |
| 54 | NA4J   | 851 |
| 55 | N9UNX  | 847 |
| 56 | N5XE   | 837 |
| 57 | K1AJ   | 834 |
| 57 | KW1X   | 834 |
| 58 | N1DC   | 833 |
| 59 | SM6CUK | 823 |
| 60 | K4TZ   | 816 |
| 60 | W4WF   | 816 |
| 61 | AA5JF  | 811 |
| 62 | WA4JUK | 810 |
| 63 | W0VX   | 801 |
| 64 | SP1D   | 799 |
| 65 | N9FZ   | 792 |
| 66 | N2UU   | 786 |
| 67 | K3ZA   | 785 |
| 68 | N2EIM  | 770 |
| 69 | KC4WQ  | 763 |
| 70 | K4GM   | 762 |
| 71 | KV8Q   | 760 |
| 72 | WU6P   | 746 |
| 73 | W3WHK  | 733 |
| 74 | KR3E   | 727 |
| 75 | M0RYB  | 721 |
| 76 | KY0Q   | 713 |
| 77 | KT5V   | 709 |
| 78 | DJ5CW  | 701 |
| 78 | N3CKI  | 701 |
| 78 | WS1L   | 701 |
| 79 | VE9KK  | 691 |
| 80 | VE3MV  | 690 |
| 81 | VE3KIU | 684 |
| 82 | SM0HEV | 682 |
| 83 | VA4ADM | 680 |
| 84 | WA9LEY | 679 |
| 85 | W8EWH  | 674 |
| 86 | PA0INA | 668 |

**ACMA**

|    |        |      |
|----|--------|------|
| 43 | EA6BF  | 1883 |
| 44 | N5KD   | 1880 |
| 45 | F5SGI  | 1857 |
| 46 | SP1D   | 1848 |
| 47 | W0VX   | 1804 |
| 48 | W9ILY  | 1802 |
| 49 | VK2GR  | 1799 |
| 50 | K1DJ   | 1795 |
| 51 | K3JT   | 1783 |
| 52 | AF5J   | 1768 |
| 53 | W4WF   | 1746 |
| 54 | AC6ZM  | 1742 |
| 55 | DM6EE  | 1732 |
| 56 | KK0U   | 1722 |
| 57 | W1RM   | 1715 |
| 58 | NA4J   | 1701 |
| 59 | SM6CUK | 1681 |
| 60 | N2UU   | 1650 |
| 61 | K1AJ   | 1594 |
| 62 | G4PVM  | 1574 |
| 63 | N9UNX  | 1571 |
| 64 | VE3MV  | 1537 |
| 65 | WU6P   | 1523 |
| 66 | M0RYB  | 1521 |
| 67 | KW1X   | 1515 |
| 68 | K4GM   | 1508 |
| 69 | AA5JF  | 1503 |
| 70 | SM0HEV | 1498 |
| 71 | N1DC   | 1484 |
| 72 | K4TZ   | 1461 |
| 73 | W0TG   | 1446 |
| 74 | K1SM   | 1443 |
| 75 | WS1L   | 1435 |
| 76 | WA4JUK | 1434 |
| 77 | DJ5CW  | 1420 |
| 78 | KY0Q   | 1405 |
| 79 | PA0INA | 1399 |
| 80 | KV8Q   | 1386 |
| 81 | K3ZA   | 1384 |
| 81 | OK1RR  | 1384 |
| 82 | W9CF   | 1382 |
| 83 | W3WHK  | 1378 |
| 84 | K4PQC  | 1319 |
| 85 | WA9LEY | 1304 |
| 86 | K1RF   | 1295 |
| 87 | N9FZ   | 1276 |
| 87 | HB9ARF | 1276 |
| 88 | KC4WQ  | 1268 |
| 89 | VE3KIU | 1239 |

**CMA**

|    |        |      |
|----|--------|------|
| 44 | VE3TM  | 4988 |
| 45 | EA1X   | 4866 |
| 46 | DL5AXX | 4841 |
| 47 | NJ3K   | 4830 |
| 48 | W1AJT  | 4764 |
| 49 | F6JOE  | 4746 |
| 50 | GW0ETF | 4702 |
| 51 | WA9LEY | 4685 |
| 52 | N5XE   | 4608 |
| 53 | AE1T   | 4592 |
| 54 | WA4JUK | 4582 |
| 55 | NA4J   | 4545 |
| 56 | K4GM   | 4499 |
| 57 | OK1RR  | 4474 |
| 58 | AA2IL  | 4458 |
| 59 | KO4VW  | 4376 |
| 60 | WS7L   | 4348 |
| 61 | WN4AFP | 4329 |
| 62 | K3QP   | 4308 |
| 63 | I2WIJ  | 4285 |
| 64 | VE3MV  | 4260 |
| 65 | KT5V   | 4183 |
| 66 | W6AYC  | 4150 |
| 67 | KC4WQ  | 4127 |
| 68 | OZ3SM  | 4125 |
| 69 | K1AJ   | 4107 |
| 70 | DJ5CW  | 4031 |
| 71 | VK2GR  | 3998 |
| 72 | K1EBY  | 3976 |
| 73 | KM4FO  | 3948 |
| 74 | NE5A   | 3856 |
| 75 | DF7TV  | 3841 |
| 76 | KY0Q   | 3835 |
| 77 | N5KD   | 3827 |
| 77 | W0TG   | 3827 |
| 78 | N1EN   | 3812 |
| 79 | W3WHK  | 3779 |
| 80 | K0TC   | 3747 |
| 81 | WS1L   | 3737 |
| 82 | AF5J   | 3706 |
| 83 | G4PVM  | 3702 |
| 84 | K0WA   | 3684 |
| 85 | EA6BF  | 3654 |
| 86 | F5SGI  | 3633 |
| 87 | KK0U   | 3617 |
| 88 | KV8Q   | 3599 |
| 89 | DM6EE  | 3569 |
| 90 | W2CDO  | 3533 |
| 91 | AF4T   | 3469 |

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**ACA**

|     |        |     |
|-----|--------|-----|
| 87  | K1RF   | 667 |
| 88  | G4PVM  | 665 |
| 89  | W9CF   | 663 |
| 90  | OK1RR  | 652 |
| 91  | K4PQC  | 649 |
| 92  | K0TC   | 646 |
| 93  | W2CDO  | 642 |
| 94  | EA3FZT | 634 |
| 95  | HB9ARF | 627 |
| 96  | W1AJT  | 618 |
| 97  | W0TG   | 608 |
| 97  | WN4AFP | 608 |
| 98  | W2VM   | 601 |
| 99  | N5ER   | 598 |
| 100 | NN4K   | 579 |

**ACMA**

|     |        |      |
|-----|--------|------|
| 90  | W2CDO  | 1225 |
| 91  | VE9KK  | 1209 |
| 92  | N3CKI  | 1202 |
| 93  | KR3E   | 1163 |
| 94  | EA3FZT | 1142 |
| 95  | W8EWH  | 1136 |
| 96  | K0TC   | 1135 |
| 97  | W2VM   | 1089 |
| 98  | G4BUE  | 1083 |
| 99  | VE7KW  | 1081 |
| 100 | NN4K   | 1064 |
| 100 | G3LDI  | 1064 |

**CMA**

|     |        |      |
|-----|--------|------|
| 92  | SM0HEV | 3428 |
| 93  | K4TZ   | 3406 |
| 94  | AF8A   | 3403 |
| 95  | W4CMG  | 3392 |
| 96  | KW7Q   | 3386 |
| 97  | HB9ARF | 3356 |
| 98  | WU6P   | 3350 |
| 99  | M0RYB  | 3323 |
| 100 | K9OZ   | 3311 |



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

**SC**

## QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

**Enzo, M0KTZ**

September was quite a busy month for many in the QTX/MQTX family. Our dear fellow Bruce K8UDH was busy arranging the order and delivery of a well-deserved (and much-delayed) QTX Plaque to Sam VE3WH. Such a plaque is awarded every year to the OM who has amassed the largest number of QTX QSOs. Sam managed to tally 666 QTX QSOs in 2023, and he was still waiting to receive his plaque (my fault only, SRI!). The plaque was finally delivered in September, thanks to the efforts of Bruce K8UDH who handled the whole operation in a wonderful manne

Sam was delighted to eventually receive this little recognition of his rag-chewing efforts. He commented: "When I returned home, the QTX plaque was waiting for me at the door. QTX is a meaningful and rewarding CW event. Unlike conventional contesting, it allows you to make friends along the way. I regularly make a general CQ call on the HF bands and am surprised by how connected we all can be. Thank you for this wonderful recognition."



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We are really happy about Sam’s achievement, and I know you join me in congratulating him. We know very well that the whole point of ragchewing is not just about collecting ragchewing points (!). But looking back at your own ragchewing activity throughout one year, and seeing how much joyful time you have spent on the air, making and reinforcing friendships all along, is a definitely rewarding feeling.

Please remember that the QTX/MQTX programme has a variety of awards available for you to achieve. Just have a look at <https://cwops.org/qtx-awards/> and get on the bands: you might well be the next one getting a great QTX plaque!

September has seen a slight increase in the average number of QTX and MQTX QSOs per participant, indicating that we are indeed spending more time in the shack HI. I have had many entertaining ragchews this past month, also while operating the G-QRP Club callsign G5LOW, during the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Club. The G-QRP Club, which is dedicated to low-power communication, construction, and experimentation, was initiated by George Dobbs G3RJV (SK) in 1974. The Club has been very active in the last 50 years, especially with its quarterly publication “SPRAT”, and the overwhelming majority of its members are active on the bands on CW (as, obviously, building from scratch your own homebrew CW rig is quite easy, and fun, and entertaining, and did I say fun? HI). Today G-QRP counts a membership in excess of 4000 OMs and XYLs, from all around the world. One of my favourite quotes of the late George G3RJV is: “Managing to do one totally pointless thing every day is what makes life meaningful.” I think that this quote works perfectly for ragchewers, as in many way ragchewing is often perceived as pointless and meaningless from the outside. Well, but if we remove all the “useless” stuff, of which most of our own entertainment and joy consists, what remains of valuable and memorable in this life? HI Please read through the soapbox comments, which contain interesting gems, as always. Get on the bands, have fun chatting with other human beings, and do not forget to report your QTX/MQTX scores by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, for them to be included in the next *Solid Copy*.

**72/73 de Enzo, MØKTZ** (CWops #3206)

**2024 Total Number of Hours Worked: 2183**

(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      | 374        | K9OZ        | 66.7       | AJ1DM       | 22.2       | N9EEE       | 10.8       | AB0WW       | 2.7        |
| VE3WH       | 186        | F5IYJ       | 64         | MM0UMH      | 21.5       | MI0WWB      | 10.8       | W9EBE       | 2.3        |
| KY4GS       | 180        | M0MZB       | 57.3       | N2DA        | 20.7       | KF6NCX      | 9.8        | K7VM        | 1.5        |
| ND4K        | 145        | KG5IEE      | 56.7       | DG5CW       | 19.8       | IU3QEZ      | 9.3        | WT9Q        | 1.3        |
| M0KTZ       | 144        | AF4PX       | 42.7       | M0SDB       | 16.7       | VK3QB       | 8.3        | N7BAS       | 1.3        |
| N8AI        | 108        | N7HCN       | 42.3       | KG5SSB      | 16.7       | W3WHK       | 7.7        | AD4SA       | 1          |
| AA0YY       | 99.8       | PG4I        | 29.8       | K6DGW       | 14.8       | N5LB        | 7.7        | JS2AHG      | 0.8        |
| KR2Q        | 94         | YL3JD       | 26.8       | K8UDH       | 14.3       | G4IVV       | 4.2        | GW0KRL      | 0.7        |
| KB6NU       | 81.8       | KC0VKN      | 24.3       | N1ZX        | 11.7       | KE4I        | 3.7        | W6QX        | 0.3        |
| WB4IT       | 81         | DF7TV       | 22.7       | GW0ETF      | 11.3       | G0DJA       | 2.7        |             |            |

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**DG5CW:** The most interesting QSO I had this September was with N2OTG (Bob) on 15-meters in fb stable condx. It lasted 34 min, making it the third longest QSO of the month. While I was using my J-36 Bug, Bob explained how he plays a Begali in Cootie mode on his end. Our conversation was very inspiring, as I started using a Cootie myself the next day. :-)

**KG5IEE:** Great month with a lot of ragchews. Most memorable is KD6JUI who was operating kayak mobile from Lake Folsom, CA on 10 watts and a small loop. His buddy was fishing!

**YL3JD:** 11th of October I organise for the 7th time the Mechanical Key Activity on 80-meters. Mechanical key ops are mostly also ragchewers. Definitely there is a correlation. This announcement is too late but in December there will be an other one. <https://yl3jd.fizioikskile.lv/mkey/>

**AB0WW:** I had two QTX and no MQTX in September. Many family members and friends visiting; perhaps I'll get more time on the air in October.

**AA0YY:** KD6JUI/MM Bil, spelled with one L, was operating from a kayak non the less. Nice job Bil.

**VE3WH:** I'm very grateful for the many friends I have made through ragchewing. Conversational CW has always been easy for me. It never dawned on me that it could be difficult even for those who are proficient with Morse code. My best advice is to stay relaxed, ask questions, and make comments on what has been sent to you. I often get comments like, "I can't believe I've chatted so long." It is a rewarding skill.

**M0MZB:** Had a couple of 40 minute QSOs, one with EI7LC (CWop # 3403) and another with DL3YM (CWops # 2520), and spent around 50 minutes chatting with G0KPE. Was pleased to manage a 20 minute QSO with WB6BEE. My September QTX tally includes a QSO on 80m harking the return of darker evenings in the autumn. Spent two nights (on separate weekends) camping at 700 m atop Seatallan in the English Lake District and made a good number of contacts - but haven't managed a 20-minute QSO yet from the summit.

**KR2Q:** This was a great ragchew month for me. My actual total times: QTX = 13.86 hours and mQTX = 8.45 hours. My average QTX duration was 30.8 minutes (max = 52 minutes). What a FUN month!! And Enzo...thank you for the reminder email :-)

**G4IVV:** Enjoyed a nice QRP QTX with Chris G3XIZ on 60m, must remember to use 60m more often!

**N8AI:** Had 17 minute ragchew with Vince K8UCE in MI, 48 yr old new ham on air only 2 yr excellent 15 wpm SK fist.

**AJ1DM:** Ragchewing time limited by travel this month, but every minute was FB! 73 de John AJ1DM

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**N7HCN:** I was QRT for a road trip in September. Glad to be QRV for Fall ragchewing from home now!

**W3WHK:** Nice QSOs with old CWT friend Bill KC4D, and with CW denizen Mike WØVTT.

**KB6NU:** Lots of great ragchews this month. Thanks everyone!

**PG4I:** Just one QTX QSO this month but worth mentioning: a 25 minute QSO on 40 meters with PAOLCE, 91 years old!

**N9EEE:** QTX will be on hold for a while...mQTX may still be in play. I have a change in operating conditions that will affect my participation. I'm counting on you guys picking up my slack.

### Awards and Medals for 2024

Gold – 400 QTX QSOs

Silver Medal – 300 QTX QSOs

Bronze – 200 QTX QSOs



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### QTX - September 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      | 106        | KB6NU       | 31         | MØMZB       | 14         | MMØUMH      | 3          | GWØETF      | 1          |
| VE3WH       | 65         | KR2Q        | 27         | N7HCN       | 8          | YL3JD       | 2          | G4IVV       | 1          |
| ND4K        | 42         | KY4GS       | 24         | DG5CW       | 8          | W3WHK       | 2          |             |            |
| N8AI        | 37         | F5IJ        | 24         | AJ1DM       | 7          | ABØWW       | 2          |             |            |
| AAØYY       | 36         | KG5IEE      | 17         | AF4PX       | 7          | PG4I        | 1          |             |            |
| MØKTZ       | 33         | K9OZ        | 15         | K8UDH       | 4          | N5LB        | 1          |             |            |

### MQTX - September 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> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| KR2Q        | 39          | WA4IAR      | 22          | AAØYY       | 16          | AF4PX       | 5           |
| KY4GS       | 37          | VE3WH       | 22          | YL3JD       | 13          | PG4I        | 3           |
| MØKTZ       | 34          | MØMZB       | 21          | MMØUMH      | 10          | G4IVV       | 3           |
| N8AI        | 29          | DG5CW       | 20          | GWØETF      | 6           | N7HCN       | 1           |
| KG5IEE      | 27          | ND4K        | 19          | KB6NU       | 5           | AJ1DM       | 1           |

### QTX - Totals 2024

| <u>Call</u> | <u>QTX</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>QTX</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>QTX</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>QTX</u> | <u>Call</u> | <u>QTX</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| WA4IAR      | 975        | F5IJ        | 192        | MMØUMH      | 39         | KF6NCX      | 17         | VK3QB       | 4          |
| VE3WH       | 462        | KR2Q        | 180        | K8UDH       | 35         | MØSDB       | 14         | N7BAS       | 3          |
| ND4K        | 359        | N7HCN       | 119        | MIØWWB      | 27         | DF7TV       | 13         | K7VM        | 3          |
| KY4GS       | 272        | MØMZB       | 100        | KG5SSB      | 26         | IU3QEZ      | 12         | ABØWW       | 3          |
| KB6NU       | 243        | AF4PX       | 92         | DG5CW       | 24         | KE4I        | 8          | GØDJA       | 2          |
| N8AI        | 235        | KG5IEE      | 82         | N9EEE       | 23         | GWØETF      | 7          | AD4SA       | 1          |
| MØKTZ       | 213        | KCØVKN      | 73         | N5LB        | 22         | YL3JD       | 6          |             |            |
| WB4IT       | 205        | N2DA        | 62         | K6DGW       | 18         | G4IVV       | 6          |             |            |
| AAØYY       | 205        | PG4I        | 61         | W3WHK       | 17         | W9EBE       | 5          |             |            |
| K9OZ        | 200        | AJ1DM       | 57         | N1ZX        | 17         | 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       | 537         | YL3JD       | 149         | K6DGW       | 53          | N7HCN       | 16          | JS2AHG      | 5           |
| MØKTZ       | 435         | MØMZB       | 144         | MMØUMH      | 51          | K8UDH       | 16          | W9EBE       | 4           |
| WA4IAR      | 295         | DF7TV       | 110         | KG5SSB      | 48          | G4IVV       | 13          | GWØKRL      | 4           |
| KR2Q        | 204         | WB4IT       | 76          | VK3QB       | 42          | W3WHK       | 12          | AD4SA       | 4           |
| VE3WH       | 189         | MØSDB       | 72          | N1ZX        | 36          | GØDJA       | 12          | K7VM        | 3           |
| AAØYY       | 189         | AF4PX       | 72          | IU3QEZ      | 32          | MIØWWB      | 11          | W6QX        | 2           |
| N8AI        | 177         | DG5CW       | 71          | KF6NCX      | 25          | ABØWW       | 10          | N7BAS       | 2           |
| KG5IEE      | 176         | PG4I        | 57          | N9EEE       | 19          | KE4I        | 6           | N5LB        | 2           |
| ND4K        | 153         | GWØETF      | 54          | AJ1DM       | 19          | KB6NU       | 5           |             |             |



# My Story: New Member Introductions

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

## Vladimir Milutinovic, VE3JM CWops #3604

I need to thank my neighbour Predrag Cvetkovic, YU1YP, who talked me into taking amateur radio classes in 1980 at the age of 14. From then on I operated from a local radio club YU1IMN in my hometown in Central Serbia, mostly HF and CW. Later under Predrag's influence I decided to go study electrical engineering at the University of Belgrade, where I joined the university radio club YU1EXY. This is where I learnt the basics of contesting and how a station can be built on a larger scale. I had the honour of meeting and operating with some amazing contest operators. My personal call used to be YU1JJ.

After graduating from electrical engineering at the department of Electronics and Telecommunications, I worked for 4 years at the national telecommunications company in Belgrade as a system RF engineer. I moved to Canada with my wife Marija and our son in 1995. We moved to Ottawa since it was a large hi-tech centre, and we stayed in Ottawa until today. In Canada I have been working for various hi-tech companies as a software developer.



I passed the Canadian Advanced amateur radio class in 1997 and obtained the call VE3ANX. In 1999 I got on the air again after putting up a small tower in the backyard of our house. In Canada you had to wait for 5 years in order to apply for a 2-letter call, so in 2003 I obtained callsign VE3JM. I operated from home and from my friends' places, most often from VE3RM. Don Dashney, VE3RM, was also my technical mentor.

But thanks to the influence from the YU1EXY gang, I always wanted to build my own contest station. In 2010 we bought a property outside of Ottawa, where I started building my station. The station is giving me immense joy. I feel blessed that I have an opportunity to enjoy ham radio and that Marija and our 2 children, who are now adults, are supporting me. I am slowing down on the work front and am spending more time with the family, enjoying a dream hobby called ham radio and still playing soccer. I cannot ask for more!

I would like to thank VE3NNT, N3JT, W8XAL, VE6RST and KA7MDM for sponsoring me. See you on the air.

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### **Stephen Breden, W5HK CWops #3597**

In the summer of 1958, my brother and I were walking near the flightline at Sembach AFB in West Germany, and we stumbled across the AF Mars station in operation. Two airmen were talking to a guy in Italy; a moment of magic as an 8-year-old I will never forget.

By 1963 I was issued WN5GDS and I operated 40-meter CW throughout my one year of eligibility before having to upgrade, or else.... I upgraded to Conditional General and immediately parked my straight key and started enjoying 40-meter AM phone.

I maintained a quiet interest in CW, to the extent I eventually upgraded to Extra in 1973, which involved a memorable trip to the FCC in Washington, DC, a 20 wpm code test, and a difficult theory exam. That same month I passed the FCC First Class Radiotelephone with Ship Radar Endorsement and have always cherished these FCC licenses and what they represented at the time.



The late 70s and early 80s I worked in Chicagoland. I was also active at that time on HF SSB and UHF FM and operated heavily on a system in Chicagoland, along with my wife WB5MRR, who was licensed shortly after our marriage in 1974.

During those years I also traveled extensively in South America and had some memorable visits with ham radio friends in Bolivia, Chile, the Panama Canal Zone, and operated from Guyana and The Galapagos. In 1983 we moved from Chicagoland to the San Francisco Bay Area, where amateur radio became a very occasional hobby for the next three decades. In the late 1980s I changed careers into the mortgage industry where I became a broker and later a trainer and consultant on technology – which I still do today as I near retirement.

We moved to Tarrant County, Texas in 1996 where in 2010 I bought a Kenwood TS570S and reinvigorated my interest. I credit the DFW 10-meter FM repeater with really invoking my interest in getting active again, and I also became highly active in the burgeoning DMR side of amateur radio in 2014.

In 2015 I joined a fine group of individuals in Hurst, Texas whom I researched on the internet before joining the Hurst Amateur Radio Club. Although I now live near Austin, I remain a member of this club.

Participating in Field Day the last few years, the CW bug hit me good, and in early 2024 I joined

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the CW Academy to see if I could get myself ready for actively operating CW in the 2024 Field Day. By June I was ready to go at 25 wpm and watched two other club members eye the CW operation with great interest; we now have about five members who are serious at CW.

I also thank Sam NM5N for getting me interested again. And I was incredibly fortunate to get into the Advanced CWA class under Rob, K6RB, who really encouraged us and successfully shepherded us up towards copying 30 wpm (at least with contest exchanges).

There is something about CW that is both intellectually satisfying while being totally “retro cool.” I doubt I will ever return to the microphone on HF. I am proud to have joined and to be a part of this community as I move into retirement. I will be on as often as I can moving forward, and really look forward to the OTC sessions when I can make them.

### **Will Barker, W3WM CWops #3602**

Thank you for accepting me as a member of this esteemed club! I am very grateful to Sven DJ4MX for sponsoring me initially, and to W6SX, DJ2MX and DK6SP who added their endorsement to Sven's.

My family moved to Europe from Rochester, NY, in the 1970s. As a consequence, I have lived abroad in various European countries since then (the UK, France and Italy, among others). As an expatriate, my dad was always listening to shortwave radio, and this eventually got me interested in ham radio.

Initially, I didn't operate any CW (my Elmer did not really do CW and I liked phone too much!) but I am glad that CW was mandatory for full access to HF, because despite not practicing, I never forgot the code. Having been on and off the air over the years depending on locations and life, a couple of years ago I got back to being more regularly active, not least thanks to the possibility of remote operation, and in particular my old friend Richard 9A1TT, who owns a more than decent (and remotable!) station.

Whilst living in France in the 1990s I got the call F5SNJ, which I still hold. There, I was often a participant in serious multi-single contest efforts from various stations, particularly F6CTT and F6BEE, often with F6ARC who has been a long-standing friend and influence on my radio activities.

Getting more proficient at CW has been a big part of my activity in recent years, and I think I've reached the point that I actually prefer it to SSB (although I am still quite active on phone too). I try to participate, more or less casually (depending), in CW contests as time permits, and in this regard, I find the weekly CWT events both challenging and fun.

Thank again to all for welcoming me, especially to the those who have called me many times already in the CWT contests!



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