

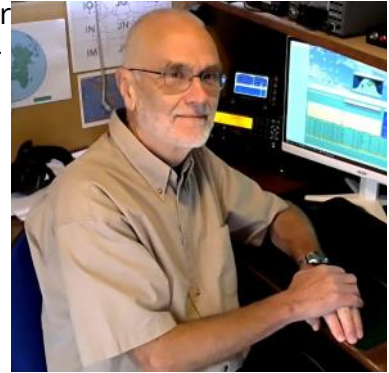


Rona Banquet Hall

CWops Dayton Dinner Reservations are now OPEN. Details on page 14.

President's Message

Who can remember what they were doing on New Year's Eve in 1999? I can remember as if it were last week the party and even the buzz of excitement surrounding the rumour of all the



(Continued on page 2)

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

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

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

CWops Officers and Directors

- President: Stew Rolfe, [GWØETF](#)
- Vice President: John Glover, [W2QL](#)
- Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3JT](#)
- Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)
- Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)
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- Director: James Brooks, [9V1YC](#)
- Director: Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)
- Director: Allan Mason, [VK2GR](#)
- Director: Riki Kline, [K7NJ](#)
- Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)
- WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)
- Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

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world's computers crashing, Cinderella like, at midnight. We celebrated then even though officially the 21st century (and 3rd millennium) began a year later on January 1st 2001. Notwithstanding calendrical definitions it feels to me like a quarter of the 21st century has already passed us by and I got to thinking about all that has happened in that time.

Some events have been (and remain) of global significance such as the unabated increase in global warming and the endless enthusiasm for waging war on each other despite the many lessons of history. We had a pandemic and artificial intelligence appeared and is set to affect the way we live. Even our cosy bubble of ham radio has seen significant developments over this period arguably dominated by FT8, and our own mode of CW certainly hasn't escaped the winds of change either...

In 2003 the World Radiocommunication Conference made Morse code an optional element in the amateur radio licence requirements. This opened the door for countries to remove Morse testing as part of the licensing process. The RSGB acted that year and the FCC completed its removal from all US licence classes by 2007. It appears a few countries retain vestiges of Morse testing but most of the world has now disposed of the obligatory Morse element. In the UK prior to 2003 the Full and Intermediate licence tiers were based on the same written exam (per tier) but a Morse test allowed HF access (A) while the Morse-free B licence was restricted to VHF and above. In the rumour mill leading up to WRC-03 this led to a social media frenzy of anti and pro Morse factions which polarised the UK amateur population – how does a Morse test per se make you a better HF phone operator? It was all very unseemly and I have to admit in the end I was relieved to see the Morse test disappear and the A and B licences combined. The vitriol was replaced briefly by gleeful postings prophesying the end of CW and the bottom of the bands being taken over by SSB; but of course that never happened and we CW ops simply carried on doing what we'd been doing all along. And in this more relaxed atmosphere where CW was just another mode to be judged on its merits and not an obstacle placed in the path of many, I remember coming across individuals who seemed to be 'trying it out' on air. Furthermore I was hearing of retirees dusting off Morse keys and de-rusting old CW brains with the aim of resurrecting the once learned skill. There *did* appear to be a sloooow resurgence of enthusiasm now that access was unfettered; the problem was much of the CW now being heard was the old guard banging away at speed and giving a somewhat disheartening impression to the curious. It was up to us to help, and many did.

Then in 2010 CWops appeared on the scene. Without a doubt it has given CW activity as a whole a significant boost and helped learners with the CW Academy right from day one. We should all be proud and thankful to the handful of individuals with their fingers on the CW pulse who had the idea and drive in 2009 to launch CWops. It is also heartening to know we're not alone either with many other clubs supporting CW; most are now members of the International CW Council and are listed at <https://internationalcwcouncil.org/member-organizations/>. CWops is one of the founder members.

But that wasn't all. In 2008 another major development affecting CW appeared on the scene – *CW Skimmer*. The implications for operating A1A were huge and it was initially surrounded by controversy particularly around the way it could change contesting. It is now part of our lives as the Reverse Beacon Network (of 'interconnected Skimmers') and there's no escaping its influ-

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ence; even when running 'Unassisted' in a contest with no internet or desire to see lists of stations and their frequencies in a bandmap window, your call will be posted around the RBN for all to see seconds after your first CQ. Whether you enjoy the attention that brings or not depends on how adept you are at handling zero beat pile-ups! For everyday CW and data operating it can provide so much more than manual DX cluster spots such as keying speed and signal strength, even identify club memberships – have a play with <https://rbn.telegraphy.de/> to see it action. There's a fascinating blow by blow commentary on the development of Skimmer and the RBN by those involved at <https://www.reversebeacon.net/pages/A+Short+History+29>.

All in all it has been an eventful beginning to the 21st century for CW! – I wonder what the next 25 years will bring?

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

sc

Editor's Note: Are You Working Remote?

A few months ago, I found myself in a difficult situation—my temporary residence was unsuitable for portable operations, and I needed a solution to get on the air. While I enjoy and am quite resourceful with equipment and antenna setups for POTA and other field operations, being limited to a single-band, south-facing fixed antenna for seven months in a rented condo wasn't going to cut it—especially at the peak of Cycle 25. I was already feeling the withdrawal, thinking about everything I was missing. The cold winter days in northern Illinois weren't exactly ideal for my style of picnic-table portable ops—certainly not on a daily basis.

I also had another challenge: in the summer months, I stay at a family lake home in Wisconsin, where the noise floor is S9 across the spectrum and seemingly unresolvable by the local power company. Surely, there had to be one solution for both problems, right? That's when I started thinking about those RIB-style DXpeditions and the impressive remote stations on the East Coast. Then it hit me—remote radio!

Could I create remote access to my IC-7300 and EFHW antenna back home, 70 miles away? The answer was a resounding yes. It took some research, as this isn't a widely covered topic in publications, but I found a couple of viable solutions—one of which has been working exceptionally well for me. Of course, CW operators face a unique challenge: how to use paddles without latency disrupting the fluidity and comfort of sending code. I found a solution for that, too!

In the March issue of *Solid Copy*, I'll share my setup and explain how you can implement affordable and reliable remote radio access for your home station based on my experience.

I know many of you CWops are also operating remotely to overcome unique challenges—whether you're away from home, working from the garage, upstairs while bedridden, or even sidestepping HOA restrictions by relocating your station. I'd love to expand our coverage with

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your experiences. What's your challenge? What's your solution? How did you implement it, and what's been your success?

If you'd like to contribute, write up your story (2500 words or less) and include some images of your local and remote setup. Send your submission to SolidCopy@cwops.org by March 1 for inclusion in the March 2025 issue. If you need more time, the deadline for each month's issue is the 1st of the month.

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

SC

The 2025 CWops Award for Advancing the Art of CW

CWops is pleased to announce that it is now accepting nominations for this prestigious award for the year 2025.

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that have made the greatest contribution(s) toward advancing the art or practice of radio communications by Morse code. Details about past recipients of this award can be seen at [CWops Award Winners – CWops](#).

Criteria - Candidates for the award may be one or more of the following:

- Authors of publications related to CW
- CW recruiters, trainers, mentors, coaches and instructors
- Public advocates of CW
- Organizers of CW activities
- Designers and inventors who advance the art or practice of CW
- Other contributors to the art or practice of CW

Note: The award is **not** limited to amateur radio operators or their organizations.

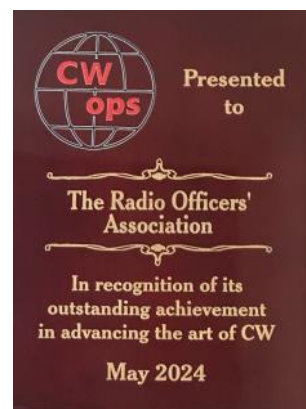
Nomination

Nominations may be made by anybody (not limited to CWops members). Nominations should be emailed to awards@cwops.org with a copy to secretary@cwops.org. An email confirmation will be sent acknowledging receipt of each nomination. In order to be considered, a nomination should be received by March 14, 2025 and include:

- Nominee's name, call sign (if applicable), and complete contact information including postal address, email address, and telephone number.
- A detailed explanation supporting the nominee's qualifications according to the above criteria.
- Complete contact information of the person submitting the nomination.

Presentation of Award - A plaque will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention. If a recipient is not present, it will be sent to them.

Riki, K7NJ (CWops #275)



Ops News and Notes

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

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#) and, as always, thanks for the contributions. Please do keep the submissions coming, and there's no need to wait until the monthly call for articles or reminder (thank you to those who sent items early). Deadline for the next column is 23:59 UTC 1st March.

Tom, K5RC #108

K5RC QRX, W7RN QRT: I have had an incredible 65 years of operating and contesting. If you are interested, I have an e-book on Amazon "73 and DX." Alas, all good things must come to an end. Unfortunately, my four-month battle with COVID has left permanent damage to my body. I cannot continue with my current workload. Midge, K7AFO, also has degenerating health issues. We've been forced to make the strategic decision to move back to Texas, where our 3 sons live, so we can have caretakers when it comes to that. Sometime this summer we will make the move. Before that, we must sunset W7RN. There are two options for that. First (and preferred) is to sell the house and station to another ham. It is listed on the QTH.com ham houses web site. This assumes that there precious few who could make such a life-changing commitment, so I am posting this before we make the decision to dismantle the station. Alternatively, we have a policy with Ham Estates to come dismantle the station and sell off the assets. Details are at <http://www.w7rn.com/w7rn-for-sale/>. Worst case scenario!

I will keep up my Club memberships and ham radio blogs, I have just stopped operating. I have many great friends in CWops who I will miss all of you.

For now, 73 and DX.

Roger, W5AL #2412 How W6LAX became W5AL. My wife and I had spent twenty-five years upgrading our Los Angeles home and preparing it for our retirement. We had added a room off the master bedroom for my radios, and my modest tower and antennas worked great for CWT and DX.

But as I turned 75 and led my final worship service at the church I had pastored for 28 years, we surprised everyone by abruptly putting our house on the market and buying 2-1/2 acres outside a small town east of San Antonio TX. The tower was hauled away by a local ham, radios packed, and an unbelievable number of accumulated household "valuables" hauled to Goodwill.

Among reasons for our unexpected move was the sudden need for us to help raise our two-year-old great-grandson.

It took more than a year to build our new house that my wife designed, which was way more expensive and a bigger undertaking than we'd imagined but it is uniquely designed for our needs. Besides the obvious like running ethernet cables into every room, I had Ufer ground concreted into our foundation, buried conduit to carry coax, hardline and other wires 100 feet to my new HDX 589 tower, and installed a series of ground rods to ensure proper grounding. And I changed my call from W6LAX (a great call for our former QTH) to W5AL.

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For the first year in our new home, I was limited to 100 watts and a low-hanging long wire that was not a great performer, but I was so busy working an unplanned job as pastor, finishing the house, and caring for our toddler that it didn't matter. Most CWT sessions, I only had time for 10 or 15 contacts. Meanwhile, my new tower rested on blocks in the backyard waiting to be raised.

Finally, the day arrived when the tower was bolted to its base and raised to all its glory. I chose the JK Antennas' 1217 Jr WARC placed at 102' and their Mid-Tri-40 at 91'. In the next month or so I'll affix my old Skyhawk aimed at the west coast and Japan, and a 160/80 dipole that will be at about 60 feet. Switching is done by the Flex Antenna Genius which is installed in a KF7P utility box near the tower base along with lightning arresters for everything. It all integrates with my Flex 6600M and PGXL amp.



Roger with great-grandson Wyatt

I had never expected to find myself at nearly 78-years old rebuilding my life in a small Texas town where I knew no one, or being a primary caregiver for a four-year-old, but here we are, and it is wonderful. And, I now have more time for ham radio and the best antenna system I've ever had the pleasure of operating.

Jim, N3JT #1 CWops gratefully acknowledges a generous donation from Richard, WN7S #1945

Stew, GW0ETF #919 Every new member gets some sort of 'radio telegram' of welcome in the President's name. I still don't understand the mechanism, but I occasionally receive personal emails from a recipient thanking me, and Glenn VE1IJ #457 sent me this:

The following message for you was received by my station from DFØNTS at 1711 UTC on 20-meter CW. 73 Glenn VE1IJ

155 R DFØNTS 42 MOUXY FRA JAN 31

PLEASE PASS ALONG MY GRATITUDE TO STEW GW0ETF FOR HIS KIND WORDS AND WARM WELCOME TO CWOPS X IT IS AN HONOR TO BE PART OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION AND I LOOK FORWARD TO MANY CW QSOS WITH FELLOW MEMBERS X 73 CHRIS F5RQG

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Tom, DF7TV, #2613 Work Wake Island, KH7AL/KH9 in mode CW.



Recently Allen, KH7AL/KH9, could be worked successfully on the 12-mtr band in SSB to get a further entity for the DXCC of our club station DK0SU.

Now, Allen, KH7AL/KH9, announced to be QRV in CW:

17 Feb ~ 07:30z, 12m CW (QRS pse, 17wpm)

17 Feb ~ 19:30z, 10m CW (tentative, if I have the day off)

Please see [here](#) for up-to-date information on activities.

Roger, AE5EZ #3413 Having just completed 30 of the 31-day World Wide Award contest, I wanted to get some thoughts on paper. This was a month-long mixed or single mode contest held each month of January and had over 154 thousand participants.

First let me say that I am not a traditional contester. But WWA was downright fun, until it wasn't. Great opportunity to add countries to your WAC or DXCC list. One can operate as little or as much as your backside can stand the chair. The hamaward site, (<https://hamaward.cloud/wwa/award>), with real-time hamaward cloud logging, had the quickest and best synopsis of progress and status of any of the contesting sites I've seen. It was gratifying to see the scores of those close to you and "chase" their contact count for that next higher place. (Sidenote: Not too much experience here, so now putting on fireproof outer layer. Let me have it, if you know of a better one. Hopefully in an educational sort of way).

On the other side of the coin, I'll say that I ran across a fair amount of what I'll call un-sportsmanship like CW operation. Having never seen anything like this in ARRL, CQWW, WPX, or WAE contests, I was a bit dismayed. I'm talking about incessant blind calling until the activator calls on the station to get them out of the way. Some of the highly placed US stations were doing this or calling over and over right after another station had called. In addition, when the calling station asked for W4?, many stations such as N6.. and K0.. , K2... would call back and just step on the weaker station. If they could hear the caller in the first place, why would they answer a request for what was clearly not their call?

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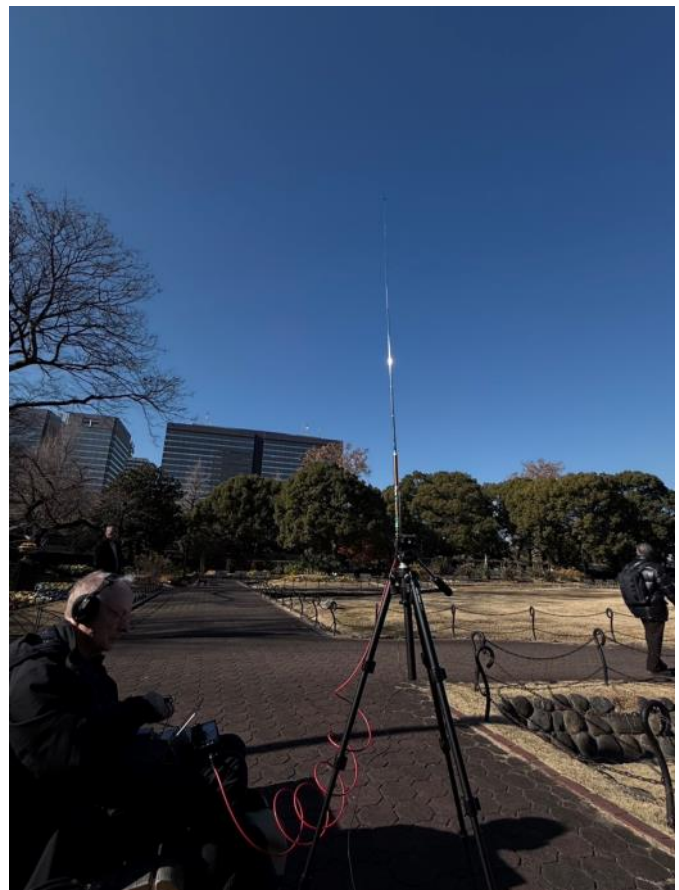
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There were several occasions where the activator, would just close up shop, because a number of stations were making it impossible to operate, by incessantly calling 4, 5 or more times back-to-back in hopes that they would be picked. 'If I make myself as big a nuisance as possible, maybe the station will call me to get rid of me'.

To counter such un-sportsmanlike conduct, CWA advisors and all US CW teaching clubs should include in their Intermediate or Advanced classes, examples of what not to do in a contest or even a POTA situation.

On a positive note, the US scored relatively well behind Germany's 409.8k contacts with 351.8k QSOs, even though there were only a little over 1400 US stations with more than 10 contacts.

Rich, K1DJ/JK1SQU #1556 A recent two-week visit to Japan to meet my new/first great-granddaughter Sana-chan included a brief POTA stop at Hibiya Koen (park) in Tokyo. With help -- and the loan of a tripod -- from my son-in-law Takashi, I managed my first successful Japanese POTA activation there! Proof photos show the primary purpose of the trip (Sana) plus me balancing my little POTA paddles attached to a KX3 running the maximum permitted 10 watts into the tiny Elecraft AX-1 vertical.



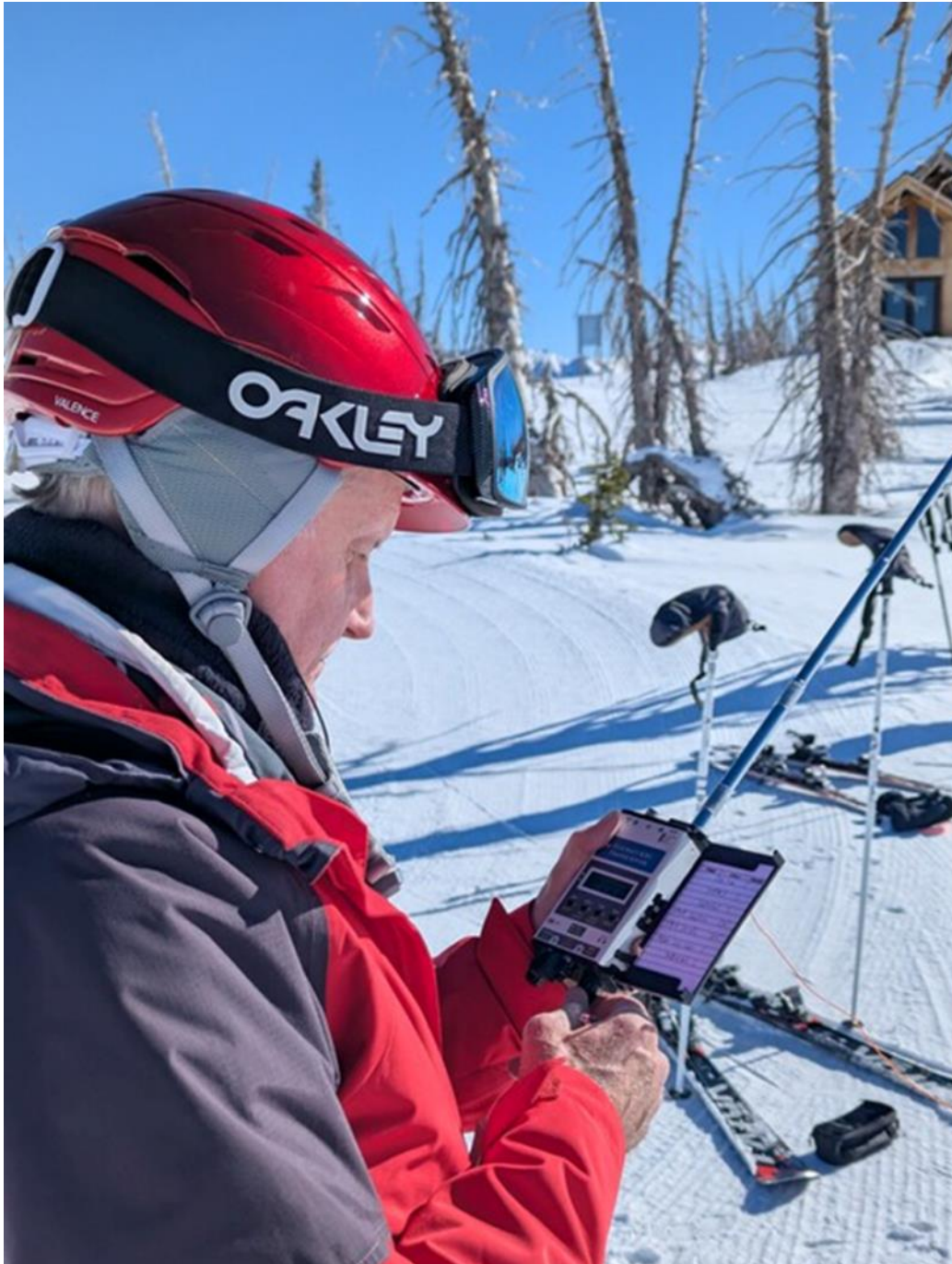
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Alan, N5NA #3354 This afternoon I operated the 1900z CWT with my Elecraft KH1. I operated from the top of the Treasure Stoke Chair Lift at Wolf Creek, CO. Elevation was about 11730 ft.

I started on 20m, but no one heard me. I switched to 15m and started making contacts. I made 8 contacts in 17 minutes then switched back to 20m and made 3 contacts before packing up and getting back to skiing.

Thanks to the following stations for hearing me! 15m - N4DW, K7RL, VE5GC, WA6URY, W6KC, WS7L, AH6KO, AND K5KU. 20m - K6NR, W6SX, and KC7V.



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Howie, K1TZQ #2822 Here's an oldie dating back to 1957, titled "AND IN THE BEGINNING". That's me on the left and my next-door neighbor who never got into ham radio. That's a Heathkit AR3 with a piece of wire hanging out my bedroom window that led to me down the road to getting my Novice license in 1959.



U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., on February 6 reintroduced the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, which would give amateur radio operators the right to install amateur radio antennas and serve their communities. Many homeowner associations prevent amateur radio operators from installing outdoor antennas on residential properties. However, this communication method has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters, such as hurricanes.

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Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that prevent or ban amateur radio antennas
- Clarify the approval process for installing amateur radio antennas
- Give amateur radio operators a private right of action

The full text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

Their press release can be found [here](#).

N3JT #1 and DK9PY #2062 at Hamcation , February 8, 2025



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Duncan, G3WZD/M3F #1979 Having read many glowing reviews of the [9A5N solid-state paddle](#), I couldn't resist treating myself to a 'Christmas Pressie'. The paddle arrived towards the end of January, and I am absolutely delighted. I experimented with the sensitivity adjustment, but ended up back at the 10gm maximum sensitivity (factory default) setting, which feels just perfect for me.



Weighing 1.8kg (3½ lbs), the paddle is rock solid on my operating desk and an absolute joy to use.

Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

73, Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

N5OT, Mark Beckwith, CWops #2198 (UAND)



WN6OTU (now N5OT) operating the novice station at W6KA - ARRL Field Day in June 1972. 14 years old.

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)

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2025 DAYTON HAMVENTION CWOPS ANNUAL DINNER THURSDAY, MAY 15 AT 7 PM

This year we return to the Rona Banquet Hall near Xenia, Ohio, for our annual CWops Hamvention dinner extravaganza. For many years we held it at the Spaghetti House in downtown Dayton, but our need for more space necessitated a new approach. The Rona is located at 1043 Rona Parkway Drive, Fairlawn, OH 45324, close to the Hope Hotel and Conference Center. It can accommodate 150 people with plenty of parking, and we will have our own caterer. Those who have attended the CWops Hamvention dinner at the Rona before have found it to be nothing short of excellent, and we expect this year it will be even better! Following dinner, we will feature interesting speakers and then, at the end the evening, we will conduct our fabulous door prize presentations, thanks to donations from CWops members, manufacturers and dealers. The CWops Hamvention dinner at the Rona is the CWops social event of the year!

The Rona Banquet Hall is ours from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Thursday, May 15. Those of us involved in the setup will be busy Thursday organizing the facility, shopping for beverages, working with the caterer, setting up the door prizes, etc. Our buffet dinner will commence at about 7 p.m. (No alcoholic beverages will be available at the event, though folks may bring their own wine or whatever.). Soft drinks and water will be available with a donation request of \$1 each (via a basket that will be placed next to the beverages.)

The cost of the dinner is \$45 per person. You may make your reservation by clicking on <https://buy.stripe.com/dR6aI54jCbVt1PO005>. You will see we are using Stripe rather than PayPal because it is vastly easier, handles credit cards and provides payment tracking. Gerry, W1VE, will maintain the list of attendees. While not preferred, PayPal can be used but please select "family and friends" when making your payment. Send payment to paypal@cwops.org.

Here is our buffet dinner menu, which is even more expansive than last year:

- Mixed Green Salad w/ Dressings
- Chicken Parmesan; Roasted Chicken Breast with Marsala Sauce; Roasted Chicken Breast with Lemon/Caper Piccata Sauce
- Vegetable Lasagna; Vegetable Pasta Alfredo; Penne and Meatball Bake
- Vegetable Medley
- Dinner Rolls and Butter; Assorted Pies

At the dinner we will have a list of those who have paid. There can be no refunds because we will be giving the caterer an attendance number that will be the basis for our club payment.

It is not too early to reserve your spot for the 2025 CWops dinner! See you there!

73,

John Glover, W2QL (CWops #2331)
Jim Talens, N3JT (CWops #1)



CWops Scholarship Winner - 2024

[Javan Miller](#), W8UA CWops #2662

I have always had a passion for technology, so I decided to pursue a major in Computer Science at the University of Akron where I am currently in my final semester. Although I have stayed busy with my studies, I have also been quite active on the air in various capacities. I have been involved with different on-air club nets and activities, but I especially enjoy operating CW in ragchews and contests when I have free time!

Throughout my education, I have been able to learn about a number of different technologies relevant in this space. Because of my interest in amateur radio, I chose my Computer Science senior project to utilize the open-source Meshtastic project. My focus involves adding additional functionality by adding a gateway to bridge the gap between the Meshtastic radio network and the rest of the world. This project allows me to utilize the skills that I have acquired in my education as well as in the amateur radio community.



I am extremely appreciative of this scholarship as it will help me to continue my education goals! I am very thankful to all that made this possible!

Here's a bit of my background:

I was originally licensed in 2018 and quickly became active on the air first on VHF/UHF and later on HF. Soon after I got my first HF radio in the middle of 2019, I began the process of learning Morse Code. The method that I used for learning certainly wasn't optimal, and I used the way that I thought would be the easiest, which was the famous chart method! After a lot of training, I was eventually able to properly learn the characters by their sound rather than the visual aspect of them. I am now able to copy comfortably around 30-40 wpm in contest exchanges and 40-50 wpm in more casual ragchew conversations.

For over four years, I enjoyed being the net control operator of the Barometer Net every Saturday morning on the W8WKY 147.390+ repeater. This net has been active on our repeater every day Monday through Saturday for over thirty years, so I appreciated the opportunity to be one of the net control operators. I was also on the schedule rotation for the club's weekly radio net for an extended period of time.

I was also able to become active in a number of different radio club events throughout the years.

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This allowed me to get integrated with highly skilled individuals that were willing to share their wealth of knowledge with me. This was extremely helpful in allowing me to learn a lot in the amateur radio space.

For more information about the CWops Scholarship Program (administered by ARRL Foundation), visit: <https://cwops.org/cwops-scholarship-fund/>

SC

Congratulations

November 2024
QST Cover Plaque Award Winner

Scott Wright KØMD

In his article, "Healthy Contesting Habits," Scott suggests some healthy approaches to contesting that will help minimize the physical and mental demands of contesting, and some unhealthy habits to avoid.

QST Cover Plaque Awards are given to the author or authors of the most popular article in each issue. You choose the winners by casting your vote online at www.arrl.org/cover-plaque-poll

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

Healthy Contesting Habits

Minimize the physical demands of contesting with these tips.

Scott Wright, KØMD
Amateur radio contesting is a fun and competitive activity that's growing in popularity among ham radio operators of all ages.

Contesting is physically demanding, and big contests, such as the ARRL International DX CW and phone contests, require a commitment of up to 48 hours. This is equivalent to working a full-time job, all within the confines of a weekend (typically a Friday night through a Sunday night). It's no wonder so many contesters are exhausted by the time they return to work on Monday.

Let's review some healthy practices to consider while contesting (see the sidebar "Healthy and Unhealthy Approaches to Contesting" for more information).

Eat a Nutritious Diet
Stick to eating healthful foods before, during, and after a contest. There are no data to suggest that carbohydrate loading, something frequently done by marathon runners, has any benefit with ham radio contesting. In fact, you may want to consume fewer calories during a contest weekend because you'll be more sedentary than usual. Keep some fresh vegetables available to snack on — carrots, radishes, broccoli, cauliflower, and small quantities of nuts are likely your best options. Of course, you should stay hydrated as well. Drink plenty of water and/or non-caffeinated, sugarless beverages to counter any dehydration induced by the heat from your shack lighting and the warmth of your tube amplifier. Allow yourself to take bathroom breaks to avoid any risks to your kidneys.

Get Sufficient Sleep
Try to get enough sleep during the week leading up to the event. If you have difficulty sleeping, talk with your healthcare provider to see if you might have a sleep disorder. Much of the insomnia we see today is due to too much screen time after 6:00 PM and/or the consumption of too much caffeine after dinner.

Being well rested allows for alertness and freshness of mind, preventing common mistakes that can lead to missed information and score reductions. You may want to take a half day off work on the Friday before a major contest weekend to spend the afternoon getting some sleep. Having a 1- to 2-hour nap ahead of time will often prevent early fatigue during the first night.

I believe it's important to go to bed when you're tired during a contest weekend. Sleep deprivation and the use of stimulants to stay awake do not improve your accuracy and may lead to health consequences such as cardiovascular disease and early-onset type 2 diabetes mellitus. The use of stimulants such as highly caffeinated beverages can cause a heart attack and sudden cardiac death, especially among individuals younger than 50 years old. Use of these aids to stay awake while contesting may lead to premature health problems, or worse. No top contest score is worth this cost.

Set Up an Ergonomic Station
Design your station to minimize the damage from injuries associated with repetitive motion. Adjust the table so that the keyboard and computer monitor(s) are at appropriate heights for your arms and head to avoid straining your neck, back, or wrists and arms. I experienced significant neck strain one contest season until I realized my wall-mounted monitors were several inches too high for my height. Now I use a desk-mounted monitor that prevents such strain. Find a comfortable chair that supports your lower back; I typically recommend gaming chairs. I also operate standing for periods of time while contesting, because it allows me to stretch my back and legs, restores circulation to my lower extremities, and combats fatigue. Because of this, I use wireless keyboards that I can move to a shelf on my operating desk when I want to stand. Someday, I hope to try a walking treadmill desk or stationary bicycle while contesting.

Take Regular Breaks
Most contest advice focuses on keeping your body in the chair to maximize your score. This advice is good, but like all things, it becomes a

Scott Wright, KØMD is CWops #305

Award reprinted from the March 2025 issue of QST magazine, published by the ARRL.

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It's not a Begali, but....

[Dan Romanchik](#), KB6NU CWops #1418

I often get asked by ham friends what key they should buy to get into CW. They are often confused by the wide range of keys out there, and they usually don't want to spend a lot of money. In the past, I would scour hamfests looking for used Bencher BY-1s to pass along to them. You used to be able to get them for around \$60, but the price has gone up and supply seems to have dried up.

I may have found a good alternate, though, the Putikeeg Auto Morse Keyer Double Oars Telegraph Key CW key (at least that's what they call it on AliExpress). It's a decent quality key for beginners—dare I say that it's better than a BY-1?—and it's only \$80 on Amazon and \$73.20 on AliExpress.

The manufacturing quality is excellent. The base and other parts are made from machined aluminum and then anodized. The key is available with blue, red, or brown anodizing. The contacts are brass, and provide a low-resistance contact.

The key comes with a 3.5 mm, three-conductor audio cable, and there is a three-conductor jack on the back of the key. All I had to do to get it working was unplug the cable from my Begali Magnetic Pro and plug it into the Putikeeg.

The key also comes with two sets of finger pieces: aluminum and plastic. The aluminum finger pieces are a little chintzy, but definitely usable. I don't like plastic finger pieces, so I didn't try them out.

Being made mostly from aluminum, the key is fairly light: 14 ounces. Even so, it didn't move around at all when I placed it on the silicone mat that I use for my keys. If you don't have a silicone mat, you could put it on a metal surface and the four magnets in the base should hold it in place. Or, you might want to get a hunk of metal to attach it to. Amazon has a bunch of 4x4 jeweler's blocks that probably would work. The [cheapest one](#) is \$16, and there are quite a few around \$20.

Adjustments were easy enough to make. The screws for adjusting the contact spacing have a fine enough thread that setting the contact spacing was easy. I didn't have to adjust the magnetic tension (yes, this key has magnetic return) at all, but it seems as though it would be easy enough to do.



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Having said all that, the real question is how well does it work in actual operation? My answer is, not bad at all. After getting it all set up, I made a couple of contacts on 40 meters at 25 wpm, with no real snags. I have no complaints at all, except perhaps for the feel of the metal finger pieces. Most beginners aren't going to be quite so fussy, so that's not a big drawback.

In conclusion, the Putikeeg Auto Morse Keyer Double Oars Telegraph Key CW key is not a Begali, but it would be a good choice for someone just starting out in CW. It's very usable and the price is less than half the price of a new Bencher BY-1 or Begali Simplex. That's the right combination for a new ham starting their CW journey.

sc

A Private Telegraph

[Roger Jollis](#), K8YX CWops #3520

The year was 1969. I was 11 going on 12. The war in Vietnam was in full swing on the evening news. While many of my friends were playing with plastic army figures or playing war games with air rifles in the woods, it was radios and electronics that intrigued me. My father's shortwave radio was an endless source of adventure for me, especially at night. Sometimes my Dad and I would hunt the bands together.

For the previous Christmas, my parents had given me a GE Walkie Talkie Base Station to go along with the small collection of 100mW walkie talkies that I had received for previous birthdays. The base station opened a new world for me. Morse code. It had a built in Morse key that would transmit on CB Channel 14. As the Summer of '69 began, I met some of the neighbor kids from the next street who, like me, also played with walkie talkies. Using the built in Morse keys, we were able to send coded messages to one another. The process was slow because we copied the dits and dahs and then decoded them. Soon enough, we could decode the messages without writing down the code. But the radio still needed to be turned on to receive the messages.



One of my new friends, Tom, who was one of six boys who lived on the next street, had a great idea. "Why don't we make a telegraph between our bedrooms", he suggested. Tom and his brothers were a brilliant bunch that liked to play with gadgets. They were always building something. Tom took the lead.

The local Radio Shack was a short 2 ½ miles away by bike, a distance that seemed much further to an 11-year-old. But Tom and I hopped on our bikes and made the trip there many times. Radio Shack was a treasure trove. They had all the parts that we would need to build our telegraph: a

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code practice oscillator module (CPO) for 98-cents, a bag of five 100-foot coils of solid copper bell wire for \$3.49; a Morse key for 69-cents; and tiny transistor radio speaker for 98-cents. We returned with our booties of treasure, including two free Radio Shack batteries provided by a monthly free battery card.



At each bedroom terminal, a pine wood plank served as a base for the key, the CPO, a speaker and battery. The key lines were connected in parallel with 250 feet of copper wire. When either key was pressed, both oscillators would sound. Tom had the brilliant idea of twisting two wires together with an electric drill and a screw eye. We ran the twisted pair along the fence-line under the lawn and up the wall. The length of twisted wires would just fit.

For the rest of the summer, Tom & Roger's private telegraph beeped out coded messages, especially at nighttime when we were both supposed to be sleeping. By the time the next school year started, the two of us were able to copy code without writing it down and decoding it.

The summer of '69 passed quickly. That September, Tom's older brother, Mark, started high school and he joined the school's amateur radio club. By the winter of 1970, Mark became a licensed ham, WN8FXK. One spring evening, just before the next summer break, Mark invited Tom and I to visit the high school radio club for its weekly evening meeting. The club advisor, Herman Vogeler (WA8ONS SK), having been told that Tom and I could copy Morse code, offered to administer a Novice code test. We both passed without any preparation. The theory test came next. Ohm's law. Rules and Regs. Basic radio theory. For me, theory was always more challenging. By the middle of the summer of 1970, Tom had taken his theory test and passed. I would have to wait because of the annual family vacation. Tom received his Novice license and callsign before me: WN8HRU. When I returned from vacation, just before my 13th birthday, I took the theory test and to my surprise, passed the first time. My license came in the mail in early August. Before I could open it, Tom already knew my new call letters. "It's WN8HUP!" he said with great confidence and excitement. He had chased the mailman as soon as he saw the truck enter the neighborhood and intercepted my letter from the FCC.



Over the next 20-years, radios, particularly CW, would become an obsession. Regular participation in the National Traffic System CW nets, contests and DX hunting would help to build my code skills. Along with it, I upgraded first to General, then to Advanced and finally to Amateur Extra Class. In 1994 I took time off from my radio hobby to focus on career and family. But I never stopped listening to Morse code. A small Sony shortwave radio was a constant companion on my

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frequent business trips abroad. When I started back up in 2023, I had barely lost any proficiency.

Our private telegraph, that walkie talkie base station and the local Radio Shack store, where I would eventually work during high school and college, opened many doors for me. My amateur radio hobby led me to a degree in Electrical Engineering and a 43-year career in the tech sector. Today, CW continues to be my favorite mode of communication. It relaxes me in the same way that music relaxes others. It's been 55 years since Tom and I built our telegraph. Now 67 and recently retired, I have had time to reengage in my CW hobby. Most evenings, you will find me at the bottom of the 40- or 20-meter bands enjoying a ragchew, a quick DX contact or a run at CWT.



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>
3658	K4MW*	Peter	3664	N4EWD*	Kyle	3670	KE4CR*	Craig
3659	DL8LAS*	Andy	3665	G7KFZ	Bob	3671	VE2ZDX*	Andre
3660	AE7EF*	Dave	3666	N8JTR*	Jay	3672	SM7GIB*	Mats
3661	F5RQG*	Chris	3667	KZ5H*	Seth	3673	N1BS*	Brian
3662	KC0ZPS*	Ron	3668	K7NX*	Lloyd			
3663	N3XL	Bill	3669	M0ITM*	Andy			

* Lifetime member

As of February 8, 2025:

Need Sponsors: KI4AMD, WA8YWG, K1PN, LZ3AW

Invitations Extended: (none at this time)

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

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

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



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

GW2CWO	F5OCP EW3DI IK1LBL	IU4KPG YU7MO SA2OLM	IW2MXE SA2OLM IK1ZYO	M0WDD SP2MDS DJ3GS	G3MVE OK1FND I5ECW	EA3EYC IZ1KFE DL1GCT	RK7F 9A2UU SP1NQU
JG1UQD	JH4COC	JR1FVV					
JJ1FXF	JL2SQK(3) VK1PWE BG2GKM/QRP VK2GR	JA4IJ JK6UPC	VK5AV(2) BG2TFW ZL3TK	VK3OU JJ0SFV JH5ASR	BI4JAD JN1FAO JG7FYG	JA7MBT JQ3FRX N6KZ	JJ8PLY(2) JS2RLB JN7DOR
JK1QYL	JL2SQK(2) JL3TII(2) JH8GYV JK6UPC JS6THD	JA5FGC JJ8PLY(3) JF6CYD JK3LXS	JA9RGU(2) JJ2ALV JA0SFE JJ0PFZ	JE9MYD JH6MSC JA7KED JS1CII	VK2GR JA4IJ(2) HL1MIM(2) 6L5TAL	BG2FKP(2) JA6JQZ/6 JF3AUB JS2RLB	JR6SBI JG3SGO JS2NFB BG2TFW
JM4AOA	BG2FKP JN7DOR	HL1MIM JR1JWR	JA2JXB JR2AWS	JA4IJ JR6SBI	JG7AJE JS1CII	JJ2KJN JS2AHG	JN1FAO
JO1DGE	7M1ANM JH7OUW	JA0BXO JJ8PLY	JA1IE JJ0USR	JA7KED JJ2ALV	JA7XVZ JK1WCW	JE1TSD JL1RAP	JE6AJO JL2SQK
K6RB	KG6PHD	W4MY					
K7NJ	KA5HRF N0IQM	K5VQU W0AEW	KF6FO	W2AZZ	KB0W	NN2X	AC3WM
K8UDH	KO4JKV	NU0I	KB5YRB				
M0WDD	9A2UU G3WZP	DJ8UL HA6OD	EA3EYC LB8VA	EI9EZ M0IYP	F5SSI M0KCJ	G0UBE OK1LNC	G0WUY
W2XS	K4ZDH	AC4KS	W3BZN				
7N2XZB	JE1TCE JK1QYL	HL1MIM JQ3FRX	JHFVM BI6PPC	HL1IWD	JJ8PLY	JJ0SFV	JK1WCW

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Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local October - April: 40m & 80m May - September: 40m & 20m Frequencies: 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539, 14.035 - 14.039 MHz JA - 7.028 +/-												
UTC+11	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	EST UTC-6	CST UTC-5	MST UTC-6	PST UTC-7	Hawaii UTC-9
MON												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS				
TUE												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB										K6RB	
WED												
								N8DD				
THURS												
	JJ1VNV			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N2GSL	AAØYY		K6RB	
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											



CW Academy

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

As this is being written, the January – February semester is well underway with 70+ classes and around 450 students. CW Academy moved from spreadsheets to a database system for managing students, advisors, and classes starting with the January – February 2020 semester. From then through the September – October 2024 semester, 10,000 students have enrolled and more than 5,000 have been promoted.

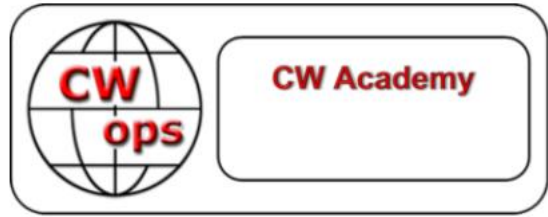
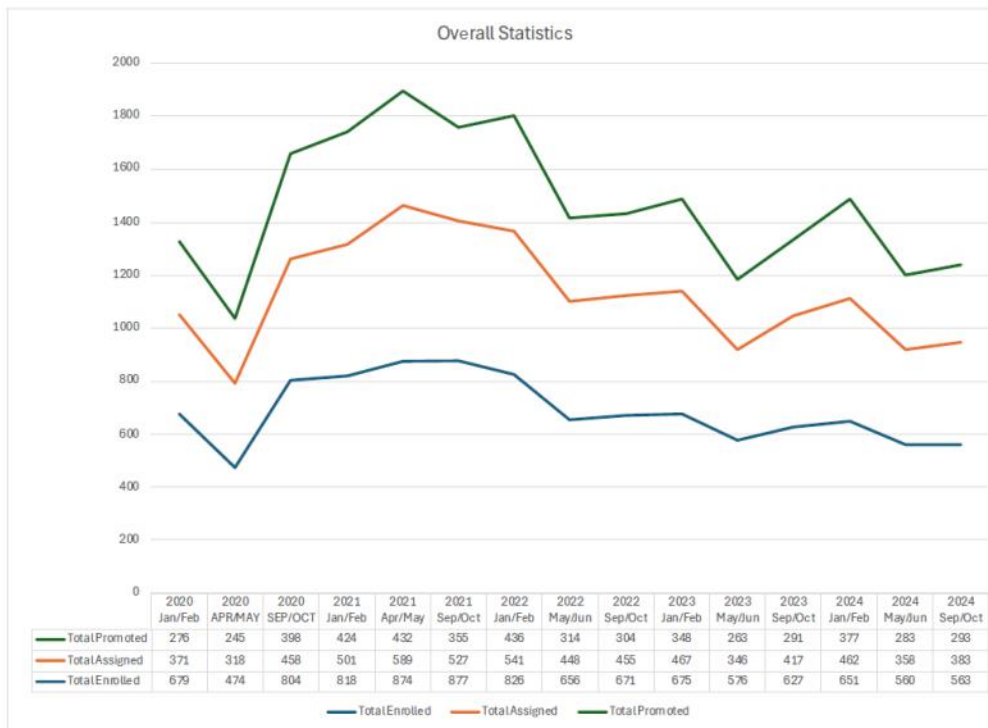


Chart #1 shows by semester the number of students enrolled for the semester, the number of students assigned to classes, and the number of students who were promoted. As an aside, the April – May semesters were historically the smallest semesters. In 2021 CW Academy changed the schedule, dropping the April – May semester and moving it to May – June.



Before the start of each semester, students who signed up to take a class are requested to verify that they would be available to take a class in the upcoming semester. About 35% of the enrolled students either decline or don't respond. The rest are assigned to classes.

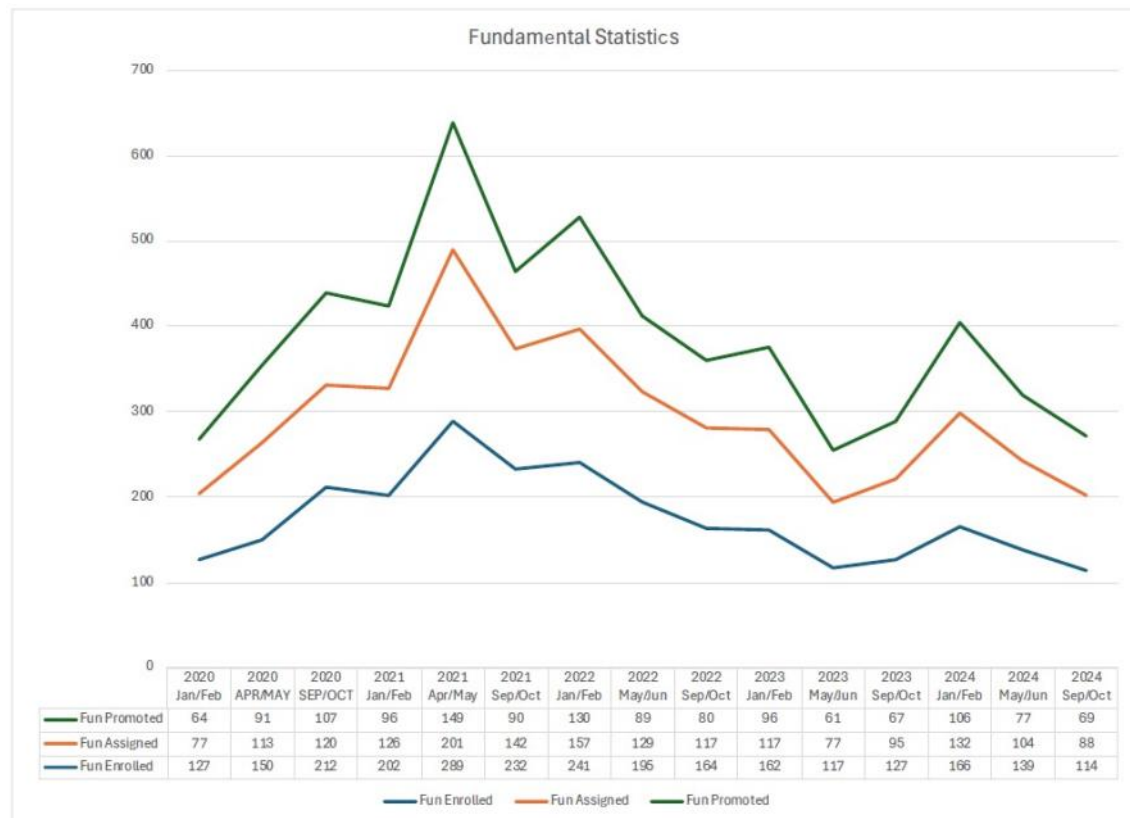
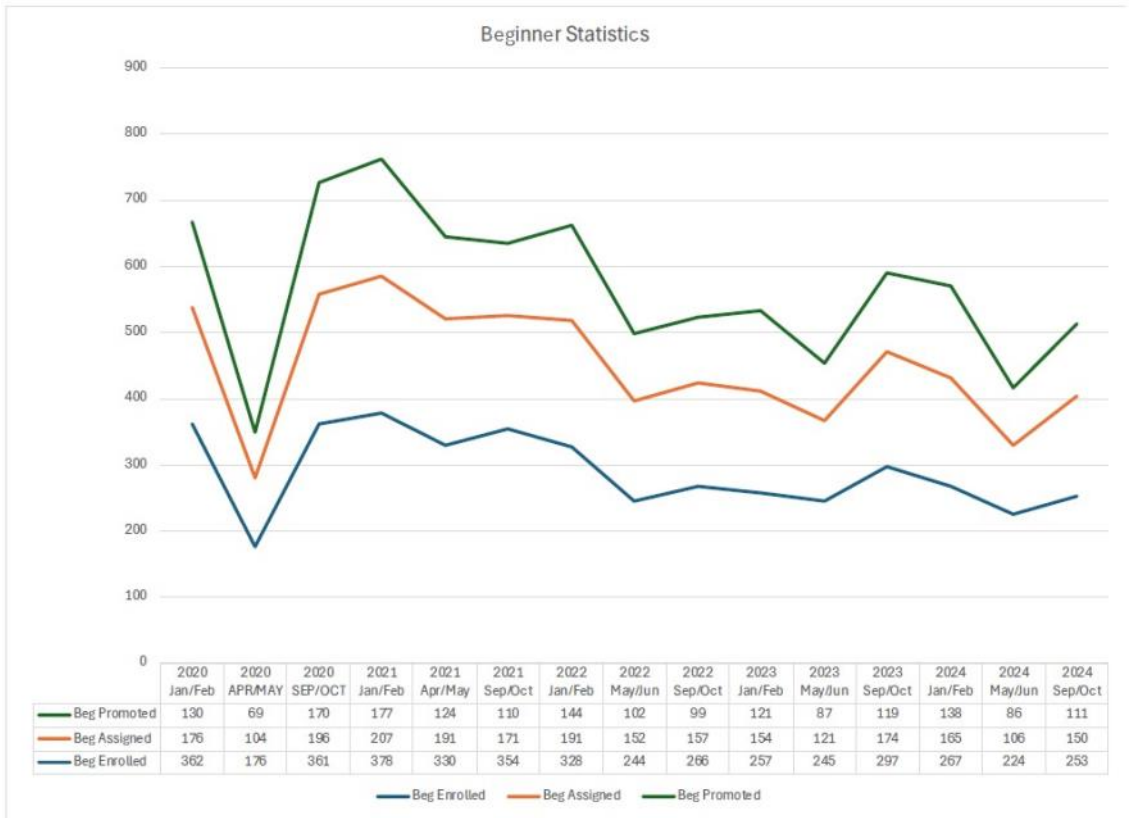
About 75% of the students assigned to a class are marked as 'Promotable' by their advisors.

The enrollment rates and promoted rates vary by class level. Chart #2 shows the data for Beginner Level students. Chart #3 shows the data for Fundamental Level students, Chart #4 shows the same for Intermediate Level students, and chart #5 shows the data for Advanced Level students.

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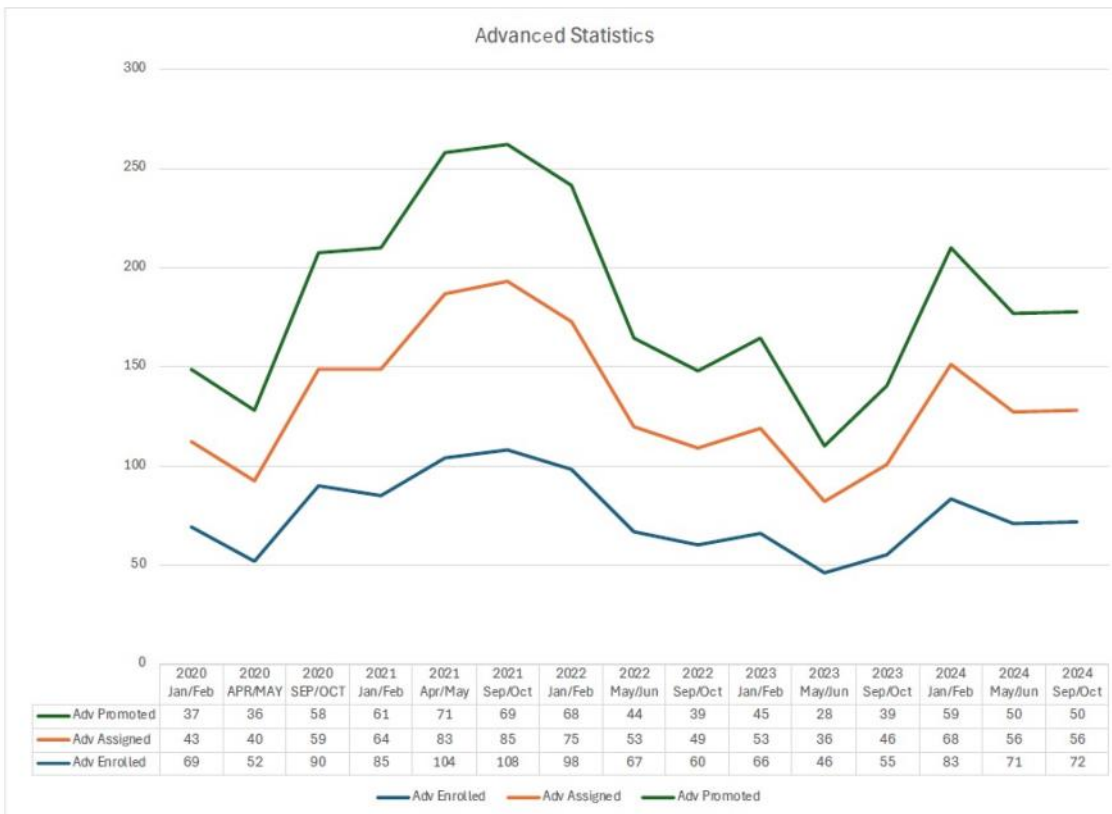
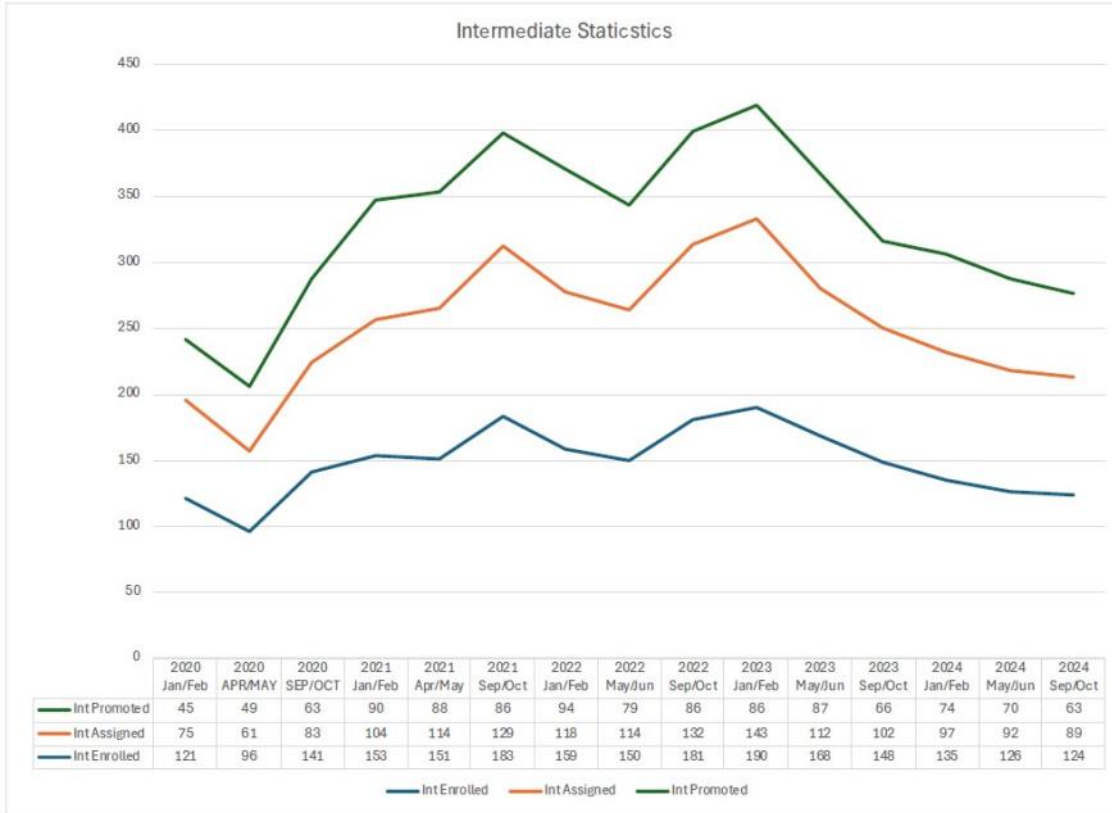
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Student Performance and Trends at CW Academy

Beginner Level students demonstrate the lowest promotability rate among enrolled students, with only about 45% continuing through the semester and ultimately being promoted. Furthermore, approximately 30% of Beginner Level students assigned to a class withdraw before the semester concludes.

In contrast, Advanced Level students exhibit a significantly higher promotability rate, with around 70% being promotable by the end of the semester. Withdrawal rates are also considerably lower for this group, at less than 10%.

Withdrawal rates for Fundamental and Intermediate Level students fall between these extremes, at approximately 25% and 20%, respectively.

Key Trends:

1. **Post-COVID Enrollment:** Enrollment rates have decreased somewhat compared to pre-pandemic levels.
2. **Declining Enrollment:** Overall enrollment is declining, particularly in the Intermediate and Advanced Levels.
3. **Beginner Level Churn:** Beginner Level advisors experience significant student turnover, especially during the week preceding the semester's start and the first ten days of classes.

Improving Promotability: Promotability rates at the end of the semester are improving for students in Fundamental, Intermediate, and Advanced Level classes.

Strategic Advisory Committee

CW Academy's Strategic Advisory Committee, comprised of advisors from each level, monitors these trends and recommends program improvements. Committee members serve approximately eighteen months, with rotations occurring regularly. Following each semester, the committee reviews student performance data, considers feedback from students and advisors, and formulates recommendations for the CW Academy program.

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

73, Roland K7OJL

CWA Admin



CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

This column is a reminder about the certificates and medallions for the 2024 CWTs.

First, the certificates. If you submitted at least one qualifying claimed score for a CWT in 2024 (10 or more QSOs for participants in North America and Europe, 5 or more QSOs for participants in other parts of the world), then regardless of whether you were a CWops member or not you can download a personal certificate from DJ5CW's website at <https://cwops.telegraphy.de/certificate/>. Just enter your callsign into the box and click on the button, and your personalized certificate will be generated as a PDF file ready for you to download it. If you were a CWops member in good standing at the end of 2024 and you reached the gold, silver or bronze medal participation level, your certificate will be a gold, silver or bronze certificate. If you were not a CWops member or if you did not reach the bronze participation level, your certificate will be a grayscale participation certificate.

CWops members in good standing as of the end of 2024 who reached the gold, silver or bronze medal participation level are eligible to order a medallion. There is a \$15 USD charge for each medallion as a partial contribution towards procurement and mailing costs. First, check whether you qualified for a medallion, either by checking at the certificates website, by looking for your callsign in the lists published in the January 2025 issue of *Solid Copy*, or by consulting the list in the files area for the CWops group at the groups.io website at <https://cwops.groups.io/g/main/files/CWTmedals2024.txt>. If your callsign is on the gold, silver or bronze medal list, you can order your medallion through the CWT page on the CWops website at <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/> (near the bottom of the page). After entering your callsign, clicking on the "Add to Cart" button will take you to a payment processing page provided by PayPal. You do not need to have a PayPal account to order a medallion; PayPal accepts major credit cards and acts as the payment processor.

The deadline for ordering medallions is the end of February. After February 28, the order list will be frozen and Rob K6RB will order the medallions from the supplier. Once the procurement order has been sent at the beginning of March, it will no longer be possible to add to the order, so you will need to get your orders in on time. Delivery of the medallions will be by post, as in previous years, in late spring or early summer. Rob posts medallions to US addresses directly; medallions for members in Canada, the UK and the rest of the world are distributed by other volunteers.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming! Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager

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XXT Schedule

SPEED	XST	DAY	TIME (UTC)	EXCHANGE	SPONSOR LINK
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1300 - 1400z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
20 - 25	MST	Monday	1900 - 2000z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
20 - 25	MST	Tuesday	0300 - 0400z	Name + QSO serial number	International CW Coun-
QRS	AWT	Wednesday	1145 - 1200z	RST + Name	A1Club
20+ wpm	AWT	Wednesday	1200 - 1300z	RST + Name	A1Club
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1300 - 1400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Wednesday	1900 - 2000z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0300 - 0400z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
25+ wpm	CWT	Thursday	0700 - 0800z	Name + CWops # (or S/P/C)	CWops
< 20 wpm	SST	Friday	2000 - 2100z	Name + S/P/C	K1USN
< 20 wpm	SST	Monday	0000 - 0100z	Name + S/P/C	K1USN

Did your **CALL SIGN** change recently?
 Did you move to a **NEW ADDRESS** or change your **NAME** ?
 Congratulations!
 Help us keep our **DATABASE UP-TO-DATE**
 Click [HERE](#) to update your contact information.



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland, WØTG](#)



Monthly Update

During January, 156 members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 156. On Jan 1, 2025, ACA and ACMA totals reset to zero to begin the new year. This month's totals and the Top 100 reflect the January 2025 totals. All other score categories are perpetual and are continued from the final 2024 scores.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of January 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 145 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) N5TJ, (5) K3WW, (6) KC7V, (7) NA8V, (8) KO4VW, (9) N7US, and (10) N5RZ**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 515 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of January 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 407 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) K3WW, (4) N5TJ, (5) KY4GS, (6) KC7V, (7) NA8V, (8) KO4VW, (9) K7QA and (10) N5RZ**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1619 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of January 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3486 QSOs. The top ten CMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) K3WW, (3) N5RZ, (4) N5ZO, (5) KR2Q, (6) NA8V, (7) DL6KVA, (8) W1RM, (9) F6HKA and (10) OM2VL**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 6885 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities grew to **93** this month with the addition of **VE3MV** and **ZS1C**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **265** this month with the addition of **ZS1C, W2TT, KC3M** and **WE4AUB**.

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

CWops Award Tools Participation

At the end of 2024 we had 280 active participants in the Member Awards Program. As of February 1, 2025, we have 156 active participants. If you have not yet submitted any logs for 2025, please do so soon, and we can include your score among the participants.

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

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You can see the final 2024 scores or final scores for any other year by going to the Score Overview Table and selecting the desired year from the "Final scores:" list at the top of the page.

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

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

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

CWops Member Awards Program Overview

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

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

Please Join Us!

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

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

More Information

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

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Here are the Top 100 ACA, ACMA and CMA QSO totals as of January 1, 2025.

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1197
2	AA3B	1052
3	KY4GS	859
4	N5TJ	808
5	K3WW	802
6	KC7V	767
7	NA8V	761
8	KO4VW	756
9	N7US	693
10	N5RZ	682
11	KG9X	681
12	K7QA	671
13	AA2IL	640
14	K1VUT	638
15	WT9U	634
16	W4CMG	628
17	NJ3K	588
18	K9WX	576
19	N9UNX	530
20	WN7S	518
21	WE4AUB	515
22	K0WA	501
23	VE3TM	492
24	KM4FO	485
25	W0VX	473
26	KC3M	456
27	W0UO	454
28	KW1X	452
29	EA6BF	446
30	OM2VL	444
31	K3ZA	440
32	KV8Q	437
33	K1SM	428
34	NA4J	421
35	VE9KK	420
35	W5AL	420
36	K6NR	418
36	W9ILY	418
37	DL6KVA	417
37	K4TZ	417
38	W9CF	414
39	WT3K	409
40	N5XE	405

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	3140
2	KR2Q	2733
3	K3WW	1941
4	N5TJ	1861
5	KY4GS	1741
6	KC7V	1724
7	NA8V	1679
8	KO4VW	1623
9	K7QA	1614
10	N5RZ	1521
11	KG9X	1460
12	N7US	1335
13	WT9U	1320
14	K1VUT	1290
15	OM2VL	1225
16	W4CMG	1183
17	AA2IL	1162
18	K9WX	1084
19	DL6KVA	1074
20	W0VX	1073
21	EA6BF	1055
22	NJ3K	1007
23	WN7S	957
24	KM4FO	899
25	N9UNX	876
26	VE3TM	866
27	WE4AUB	851
28	KW1X	849
29	N5XE	813
30	KC3M	759
31	W0UO	755
32	KV8Q	713
33	W9CF	711
34	AA5JF	710
35	K0WA	699
36	W1RM	686
37	K6NR	683
38	K1SM	677
39	K3ZA	661
40	W9ILY	658
41	K1RF	656
41	VE3MV	656
42	W4WF	655

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14677
2	K3WW	11183
3	N5RZ	10397
4	N5ZO	10203
5	KR2Q	10171
6	NA8V	9535
7	DL6KVA	9528
8	W1RM	9404
9	F6HKA	8840
10	OM2VL	7792
11	K7QA	7724
12	KG9X	7666
13	N7US	7573
14	KC7V	7572
15	W9ILY	7330
16	WT9U	6956
17	K1VUT	6848
18	W0VX	6842
19	K3JT	6641
20	K9WX	6568
21	N5TJ	6218
22	KY4GS	6187
23	K6NR	6092
24	K1DJ	5973
25	N2UU	5949
26	W4WF	5918
27	K4IU	5889
28	WT3K	5870
29	WN7S	5751
30	G4BUE	5405
31	AA5JF	5395
32	W0UO	5292
33	VE3TM	5214
34	AC6ZM	5210
35	K1SM	5163
36	NJ3K	5115
37	KO4VW	5101
38	GW0ETF	4971
39	N5XE	4938
40	NA4J	4892
41	F6JOE	4839
42	AA2IL	4775
43	OK1RR	4725

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ACA

41	N3CKI	394
41	W1RM	394
42	AA5JF	389
43	K1RF	385
44	N5ZO	370
45	AF5J	367
45	KB8GAE	367
45	W4WF	367
46	K4IU	360
47	VE3MV	359
48	F6HKA	354
49	WS7L	353
50	K1DJ	341
51	NE5A	340
52	DL5XL	336
53	K3QP	330
53	N2EIM	330
54	W0TG	324
55	EA6EJ	315
56	VE3KIU	310
57	KT4XN	307
58	N2UU	300
59	K4GM	299
60	W3WHK	291
61	VK2GR	289
62	N5ER	287
63	AF4T	279
64	WB5N	269
65	OK1RR	264
66	K3JT	254
67	K9CW	253
68	AD7N	252
69	AC3RA	251
70	M0RYB	248
71	N9FZ	246
71	W2VM	246
72	W8OV	231
73	KW7Q	230
73	OZ3SM	230
73	W8EWH	230
74	K9CPO	228
75	WA5LXS	227
76	F5SGI	222
77	K2YR	217
78	KK0U	215
79	K0TC	214
80	G3LDI	210
81	KQ4E	207
82	AC6ZM	200

ACMA

43	NA4J	653
44	F6HKA	650
45	EA6EJ	638
46	W0TG	631
47	VE9KK	628
48	W5AL	623
49	AF5J	621
50	N5ZO	607
51	K4TZ	606
52	WS7L	599
53	N3CKI	594
54	K4IU	578
55	KB8GAE	560
56	K1DJ	549
57	WT3K	543
58	DL5XL	541
59	N2UU	528
60	OK1RR	527
61	N5ER	496
62	M0RYB	495
63	WS1L	488
64	W3WHK	482
65	K4GM	480
66	AF4T	464
67	VE3KIU	454
67	OZ3SM	454
68	NE5A	447
69	K9CW	442
70	WB5N	440
71	VK2GR	438
72	KT4XN	425
73	K3QP	415
74	K3JT	393
75	W2VM	382
76	AC3RA	370
77	G3LDI	357
78	AD7N	349
79	LY2MM	347
80	W8OV	345
81	W8EWH	341
82	N2EIM	330
83	F5SGI	325
84	K9CPO	313
85	KW7Q	306
85	WA5LXS	306
85	K0TC	306
86	SM0HEV	294
87	KQ4E	286
88	N9FZ	275

CMA

44	K4GM	4632
45	WS7L	4593
46	K3QP	4591
47	VE3MV	4427
48	I2WIJ	4383
49	OZ3SM	4336
50	VK2GR	4327
51	EA6BF	4249
52	DJ5CW	4237
53	K0WA	4224
54	KM4FO	4140
55	W0TG	3985
56	NE5A	3911
57	WS1L	3908
58	K0TC	3904
59	N1EN	3898
60	W3WHK	3896
60	F5SGI	3896
61	DF7TV	3884
62	AF5J	3865
63	KV8Q	3847
64	W4CMG	3835
65	KK0U	3788
66	W2CDO	3752
67	M0RYB	3691
68	AF4T	3636
69	KW7Q	3566
70	SM0HEV	3554
71	K4TZ	3507
72	HB9ARF	3472
73	EA6EJ	3406
74	N3CKI	3370
75	K3ZA	3321
76	K2YR	3191
77	G3LDI	3131
78	KR3E	3098
79	W7GF	3076
80	W2VM	3045
81	W8OV	3037
82	IT9VDQ	2954
83	KW1X	2948
84	KC8J	2892
85	N9UNX	2877
86	G4LPP	2870
87	KT4XN	2843
88	KB8GAE	2804
89	W9CF	2773
90	WA5LXS	2758
91	W5AL	2714

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ACA

83	KF9LI	196
83	W2CDO	196
84	WS1L	195
85	NN7O	190
86	KC8J	182
86	LY2MM	182
87	SM0HEV	181
88	AD4SA	180
89	VE6JF	179
90	N1EN	176
91	WT8P	173
92	KB4DE	172
93	W4NBS	159
94	SP4JFR	151
95	SP7OGP	147
96	I5EFO	146
97	W7GF	142
98	W0LPF	140
99	HB9ARF	136
99	WW3S	136
100	I2WIJ	135
100	WA5PFJ	135

ACMA

89	KK0U	274
90	K2YR	267
91	KF9LI	261
91	SP4JFR	261
92	NN7O	260
93	AC6ZM	255
94	VE6JF	254
95	KC8J	247
96	WT8P	240
96	SP7OGP	240
97	I2WIJ	238
98	N1EN	231
99	KB4DE	229
99	I5EFO	229
100	W2CDO	218

CMA

92	VE9KK	2702
93	WW3S	2576
94	W4NBS	2573
95	VE3KIU	2545
96	WA2USA	2396
97	KC3M	2378
98	I5EFO	2342
99	ZS1C	2310
100	KB4DE	2293



73, Bill WØTG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards

SC

QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Enzo, MØKTZ

It looks like the new year has started with great enthusiasm and lots of wonderful ragchewing. For many of our fellows, January has been the time to reconnect with friends, and to rediscover the pleasure of a chat on the bands. Barbara N7BAS asked whether her skeds/roundtable can be considered for QTX, possibly as a distinct category. I believe a distinct category is not really needed in this case, as a roundtable is a great listening/sending exercise, and a very good way of making new friends, especially if each fixture has a topic and participants manage to share something interesting. So please, do not be shy to include also roundtables or nets in your reports, as long as those are proper chats and not just a simple "check-in/check-out" stuff.

Several members have reported taking part to the Straight Key Night or to the SKCC Straight Key Month, two events that are focused on using straight key (!) and on conversational QSOs. Personally, I think it is very good to see so many fellows getting busy with putting on air manual keys. I love using all kinds of keys, but manual keying still has a peculiar fascination, as it quite often relies heavily on the personality and mood of the operator, and lets them transpire to the correspondent much more than an electronic keyer.

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I had several really nice and long chats this month, but one was especially noteworthy, and it was on straight key and cootie. I finally managed to have a chat with John GØUBE, a gentle operator who has recently returned to CW after many years of inactivity, and amidst a lot of issues including high neighbourhood QRM, low-performance antennas, and a general lack of luck in getting as many CW QSOs as he would like to, despite the amount of time he spends on the air and the amount of CW practice he does off-air. John has routinely shared his frustrations on the FISTS reflector, and I have been trying to get him in the log for a long time. I was glad to hear John calling on 40m one early evening, and we had a very pleasant chat. That counted abundantly towards my QTX total for January, but more importantly, confirmed to John that he is being heard, and there are still fellows that are happy to have a chat with him, at his own pace. He also ended up decreasing power to QRP levels, and we plugged along for some 20 minutes more, for a memorable 2-way QRP QSO. I love QRQ CW, but I also enjoy slow-paced QSOs, on a straight key or a cootie, with fellow ham friends who share the same passion and fascination for this fantastic mode. After all, CW also is pretty much about feelings, not just about scores.

It was good to see that one of our fellows, Cainan N9FZ, had a nice 2-way Bug QSO with Jim SV8ANW, a Greek operator and a friend with whom I share the joy of using bugs. You also find the link to the recording of their QSO in the soapbox comments. Check it out!

I am delighted to welcome Simon GØFOZ to the QTX fellowship. Simon is a great CW operator, who has just recently joined CWops as well. I was lucky to meet Simon in one of the CW Academy Advanced classes I recently advised, after having had several chats on the bands with him. It is always good to see that more and more operators are interested in pursuing CW ragchewing, and in taking pleasure from the daily practice of the communication more that most closely resembles telepathy HI.

Please read through the Soapbox comments, which contain many fascinating stories and reports of exciting chats. If, by any chance, you forgot sending in your QTX/mQTX scores for January, just send them to me at your earliest convenience, to get them counted towards your yearly total.

Until next month.

72/73 de Enzo, MØKTZ (CWops #3206)

2025 Total Number of Hours Worked: 193

(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>
WS1L	26.5	AAØYY	13.8	N2DA	5.7	GØFOC	2.2	MMØUMH	0.8
VE3WH	22.7	KCØVKN	13.7	NØBM	3.3	GWØETF	1.5	KB4DE	0.7
MØKTZ	21	N7HCN	13.3	K8UDH	3.3	W8OV	1.3	ABØWW	0.7
N8AI	17.5	K9OZ	13.3	GØFOZ	2.7	KE4I	1.3	PG4I	0.5
KB6NU	14	KG5IEE	10	N9FZ	2.3	W3WHK	1		

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GWØETF: Two mQTX QSOs on 40m with SA2OLM just south of the Arctic Circle, both times with heavy polar flutter, making him sound like a KL7 or KH6 ;-)

KCØVKN: Great month for some ragchewing! Winter was in full effect here in MI.

N2DA: Started out the year with a number of FB CW sked QSOs with John AJ1DM, Steve WA3JIT, Frank W4TG, Mike WA3PYU, and Bruce WA3SWJ. Also had a very nice CW ragchew with Rob, KT4RE.

KB6NU: My score this month was helped by Straight Key Night. 5/10 of my SKN QSOs were mini-QTX QSOs.

WS1L: Nice chats this month with Sam, NR4A, discussing our holidays, Amanda, KY4GS, Don, WB6BEE chatting about bugs, Dan, KB6NU talking about the Tech class he is teaching, Pete, K4EWG with snow in Georgia, and Benny, K5KV talking about different types of keys. Thanks everyone!

GØFOZ: The first entry from me (new CWOps member). It's a slow month as I've been catching some winter sun. 73 Simon

N8AI: Nice 40 minute chat with Vern W5JQ in CO who was former member Texas DX Society, helped start the CW Academy and made it all the way to the Triple A farm team of the Phillies in OKC while getting his masters in Geology. Wow

N7HCN: The majority of my January QSOs were QTX! I would be very interested in QTX above 30WPM if others are looking, too.

K8UDH: Many of my QSOs were with hams who enjoy operating vintage rigs, like I do. So I've concluded -- tubes are alive and doing well. HI HI

PG4I: Been very active in the SKCC Straight Key Month, mostly on 10 and 12 meters. So not much time for the low bands, where most of the rag chewing takes place.

N9FZ: Did a lot of SKCC stuff for the January event using my new-to-me Vibroplex Original. Coolest one was a OP in Greece who recorded his side for Youtube. Had it uploaded about 20minutes after we finished. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7-HAMsoDkrs>

N7BAS: Continue to do the regular Thursday night roundtable on 28.450 at 8:30pm to 9:30pm with N7JI, AA7LO, W7UUE, AG7TH. We have a theme and then an exercise. Does that fit into any category???

KE4I: I don't know how to get my lifetime totals.

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NØBM: Between family, NCS, CWT and local club responsibilities, longer Qs are a place to re-connect with fellow hams. This month, for me, featured 3Qs with Ves, alternatively sending with a Blue Racer, a champion and original Vibroplexes. Most enjoyable Q with G0/mm, who was operating QRP in the Grenadines, headed to Curacao. He and spouse on the Spirit of Discovery, enjoying the tropics before headed back to England.

K9OZ: Good start to the month and some excellent ragchews. One lasted over an hour with K5KV with us both pushing our bugs at 28 wpm or so.

KG5IEE: Another fun month of ragchewing. In looking at my log I am amazed at how many hams I work with over 50 years as a ham. What a wealth of experience.

W8OV: Had a nice chat with Mike, WB4AQL.

QTX - January 2025

<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>
WS1L	62	N7HCN	38	KG5IEE	17	W3WHK	2	ABØWW	1
VE3WH	57	MØKTZ	35	GØFOZ	8	W8OV	1		
N8AI	41	KB6NU	27	K8UDH	7	N9FZ	1		
KCØVKN	41	AAØYY	26	NØBM	4	MMØUMH	1		
K9OZ	40	N2DA	17	KE4I	3	GWØETF	1		

mQTX - January 2025

<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>
MØKTZ	56	KG5IEE	26	N9FZ	12	K8UDH	6	MMØUMH	3
WS1L	35	N8AI	23	NØBM	12	N7HCN	4	W3WHK	2
AAØYY	31	VE3WH	22	GWØETF	7	KB4DE	4	KE4I	2
KB6NU	30	GØFOC	13	W8OV	6	PG4I	3	ABØWW	2



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Jules Benkemoun, F4IEY (K4IEY G4IEY OK8IEY VA3IEY 3D2IEY) CWops #3656

I'm Jules F4IEY, French 24-year-old, passionate CW operator and deeply involved in amateur radio. I am currently working as an aerospace system engineer since 2023. My obsession for getting callsigns started with my first licence, F4IEY in 2018, followed by K4IEY in 2021 and the list keeps growing day after day!



I discovered the art of CW back when I was a kid thanks to my grandpa's experience as a military operator in Bamako in the '60s. He was the one giving me the spark. I regularly run CW on a daily basis thanks to the [RemoteHamRadio Youth Network](#) as I cannot have a station at home. I

also run from my local and international radio clubs (F6KGL, F6KOP, F5KTR, F4KKX, F4KLO, ON4MSF, EA4RCT, S59VEG) on most HF bands, QO-100 and 1296 EME with Paris radio telescope, from which I had the opportunity to run the ARRL EME contest as FX1A.

I used to struggle a lot for my first QSOs as I became a ham, it was hard to go past 17 wpm, until I could finally lock in and was able to "hear the music" during my first CQ WW CW in 2019.

Since I started my ham journey, I've had the privilege of participating in some of the French "big gun" stations. These include operating under callsigns TM1A, TM6M, and TM4Y as part of my quest for WRTC2026 qualification. Contests not only test our technical skills but also unite operators worldwide, crossing antennas with international friends.

A cornerstone of my involvement is mentoring young operators and promoting amateur radio. As the France National Youth Coordinator for REF and Vice President of two radio clubs (F6KGL and F6KOP), I have organized workshops and participated in events such as national science fairs, fostering curiosity and hands-on learning.

I am also a VE team leader for Laurel Amateur Radio Club to help the youth community getting licensed in Europe during YOTA events.

Additionally, I am proud to contribute to the YOTA (Youngsters on the Air) project in Region 1, representing the initiative at fairs like HAMEXPO (France), La Louvière (Belgium), Iberradio (Spain) and Friedrischafen (Germany). Through these engagements, I've promoted the vibrant energy of youth participation in amateur radio, both as a booth speaker and an event organizer.

International Conferences and Collaborations this year have been especially dynamic, with high-

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lights including attending the Istra Contest Conference in Porec, Croatia, presenting at the IARU Spectrum24 conference in Paris, and participating in IARU VHF and Marconi Memorial CW contests as OE1W. Each experience has broadened my perspective and strengthened my commitment to advancing our shared hobby. Moreover, I also attended FOSDEM in February, contributing to the amateur radio devroom, and I am actively working on the organization for the 100th REF & IARU Anniversary celebrations.

My journey with YOTA has taken me to R1 Subregional Camps in Spain, Summer camps in Hungary and Canada, and even maintaining the December YOTA Month event since 2019. This year, operating from multiple countries, I've been proud to run callsigns such as TM(2)4YOTA, OQ24YOTA, 9A0YOTA, VC3YOTA, AO24YOTA, and many others. As an active member of the IARU R1 Youth Working Group and the main organizer for the upcoming YOTA Camp R1 2025, I am committed to creating opportunities for young operators to thrive in the amateur radio world.



Outside ham radio, I enjoy longboarding and any freeride sport. Also playing many rock instruments from guitar to bass, piano, drums and even a bit of harmonica and ukulele during portable operations!

As I continue this incredible journey, I look forward to connecting with more operators, exploring new technologies, and contributing to the global amateur radio community. You can follow my adventures on Instagram at @jules_f4iey.



Andy Schanko, DL8LAS/ DR5X CWops #3659

I'm 60 years old, living in Northwest Germany near Kiel and I've been licensed since 1980. My first callsign was DG3LAB. My preferred modes are CW, followed by SSB and digital modes.

For several years now I have been mainly on 160m QRV, which is my favorite band. In addition to my property, I have the opportunity to set up beverage antennas and a HI-Z 8-circle RX array.

In addition to normal daily operations, I am QRV in the larger contests. I am also or was a contest operator at: DR5X, DR1A, DFØHQ, DR4A, DKØPC, DM5W, DLØCS, DMØW, DAØHQ, LX7I, TM6M, OV3W, KC1XX.

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My last DXpeditions as participant: VK9CD, VK9XW, VP6DX, ZL8X, T2C, C21MM and smaller expeditions J3, 8Q7, SV3, SM, OZ, EA6, EA8.

I also run several CW and FT8 skimmers and two KIWI SDRs.

My station:

IC-7851
FTdx10
IC-7300
Hilberling PA HPA-8000B
OM Power PA

Antennas:

Optibeam OB12-6, 10-40
Dipoles 30m, 60m, 80m
Shunt-fed Tower 80m

I am happy that I can be a new member of the CWops.



More information about me and my station: www.dl8las.com

Dave Barnard, AE7EF CWops #3660

I am grateful for the invitation to join CWops. Thanks to my Advanced Class advisor, Phil NEØS, who initially nominated me and kept our class challenging and fun. Thanks to my classmates who put up with my sending and to all who supported me.

This is a comeback for me. Amateur radio had slipped from my activities despite being a constant throughout much of my life. I received my Novice license in 1956.

Fearful of losing my license by failing to upgrade within the required 1 year, I furiously studied Morse and electronics to be ready for the next step. I took my General exam at the FCC office in St. Paul, MN. I remember it and the anxiety I had!



I noticed an older fellow also in the room taking the same exam. I noticed how much older he

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looked, with thinning gray hair and bifocals. I thought it amazing because we were led to believe that “old people” don’t learn new things so well. Hmm?

I passed, and I began high school with my general, who became KØHIW. That was 1957, and I was 15 years old. Although we moved around, Ham Radio helped me keep in touch with old friends while making new ones.

The years became a blur between the University of Minnesota and EE school and working for tuition and books.

After starting a career, a fellow ham (KØRC) introduced me to my future wife. This contact has endured.

CW was a refuge where I went after a long day at the office with international and U.S. contacts with questions and issues. Something was soothing about a nice QSO in Morse. As one of my sponsors, W4SPR, said, “It’s my happy place.”

In 1993, we moved, and we packed the ham station away. Raising horses, tending to a small farm, and working 40+ hours per week left too little time. A family death in 1995 turned it all upside down. I became chief mogul, cook and dishwasher, and provider for two children still living at home and one who’d left the roost.

In 2024, I looked into CW Academy. I’m glad I restarted in 2024. I’ve never been this good at Morse before. I’m still learning and feel as though this is another beginning.

I have many interests: Photography (exhibited), writing (published), history, genealogy, and historical societies (*Mayflower* Descendants and others). The telegraph has a significant place in history.

Ham radio, although it’s been constantly changing with technology, has been a constant in my life. Remember that “old guy” I ran into at the FCC office? Yes, that was 68 years ago!

Now, I am that old guy. I’m a VE (Volunteer Examiner). I enjoy talking to those who just passed their first test. I remember what it felt like.

I ask when they pass the Tech: “Want to take another? We have time! You might pass the General too, in one day. Even if you don’t feel up to it, don’t feel you’re settling with a Technician class. 10 meters is hot. Do you know, ISS is up and listening! It’s on your bands! And if you learn Morse there’s more. What if the world suddenly lost telephones and the internet? It would still be there, within reach of your fingertips. Welcome to Morse.”

Chris Certoux, F5RQG CWops #3661

My first encounter with the mesmerizing sound of CW happened around the age of 17 while listening to a galena receiver I had just built. The rhythmic patterns immediately caught my curiosi-

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ty! This early spark led my parents to enroll me in the local radio club, where experienced operators introduced me to amateur radio.

I was licensed as FD1RQG in 1991. My first station consisted of a borrowed Yaesu FT-101ZD and a Lévy antenna. However, my early transmissions caused unexpected issues—I ended up interfering with televisions in the neighborhood! This experience led me to explore QRP operation, which quickly became my passion.

A local CW enthusiast introduced me to Morse code and low power homebrewing, shaping my approach to radio for years to come. Over time, I built and operated several QRP rigs, including a Howes TRX (20m), Small Wonder Labs kits (20m & 40m), and a K1BQT (20m). I also experimented with homebrew designs inspired by Sprat magazine and owned an HW-7 and QRP Plus from Index Laboratories.



For decades, my operating style remained minimalist and field oriented. I used simple but efficient portable setups. Since August 2023, I have been operating from my first fixed station, using an IC-705.

While operating CW with Fred, G4HOM, I first heard about the RGO ONE transceiver. Over time, I studied its design and read feedback from operators, which convinced me that it aligned perfectly with my operating style. Designed by Boris, LZ2JR, the RGO ONE is a modern transceiver that preserves the legendary Ten-Tec spirit, offering excellent CW filtering, full QSK, and direct access to operational settings. My unit is currently in production, and I look forward to using it soon!

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the four CWops members who made it possible for me to join this wonderful club: Caen OY1CT, John G4RCG, Nigel MØNGN, Steve G4YTK and Anthony VP5/K2NV. Thank you so much for kindly agreeing to sponsor me at my request during our QSOs. It is an honor to be part of this community, and I look forward to many more CW contacts with fellow members.

SC

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