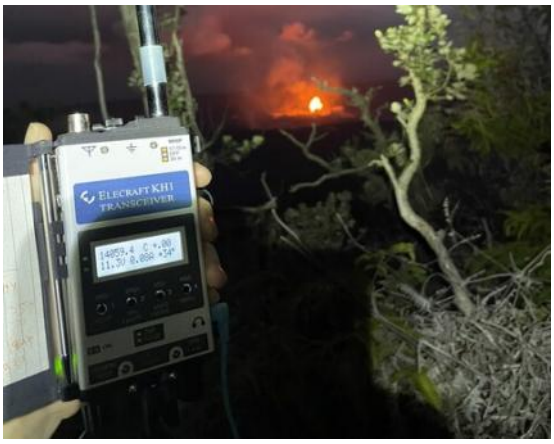
Solid Copy

The CW Operators Club Newsletter
March 2025 — Issue 182



AH7RF in the "hot seat" while operating portable. The volcano was not photoshopped.

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"

President's Message

When I gained my amateur radio licence in the mid 1980s I'd not long been married. We had a baby son and a first time mortgage on a small cottage. Naturally I didn't have

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Register NOW for the CWops Dayton Dinner!

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much cash to spend on luxuries and one of the nice transceivers gracing the pages of the ham radio 'comics' was out of the question. I already had a kit built receiver so a basic QRP transmitter was the ideal choice to get me on the air – CW to keep things simple and I was determined not to waste the effort I put into passing the 12 wpm Morse test to access the HF bands. The 80m transmitter I built on the kitchen worktop from a design by QRP supremo Rev George Dobbs G3RJV (SK) still sits on a shelf in my shack as a reminder of those early tentative days of CW operating.

My Morse teacher was ex marine radio op GW3VVC. He ended up ashore at the Anglesey Radio coast radio station ('GLV') where I took my Morse test shortly before it closed in 1986. John still calls me to give me a GW mult in the occasional contest but can't break the habit of coastal radio operating and sends simply 'VVC'. He's always been a renowned 'wheeler dealer' and one day telephoned me to say he'd acquired a nice Heathkit SB101 if I wanted to add a few more dBs to my signal; it was an offer I couldn't refuse (that's what he told me) and suddenly I not only had 100 watts of RF on all (non-WARC) bands but also a mic to try some SSB for the first time. With my only antenna at the time being a 100ft doublet fed via a home brew ATU with ladder line it wasn't long before I realised that CW was more effective at producing QSOs; and this was particularly true for 'DX' which given my new arrival on the HF bands was what excited me most (I still remember working my first split DXpedition. T22VU on 20m, by frantic back and forth spinning of the tuning knob!). Understanding the technical advantages of the CW mode as we all do, along with the less rigorous mental demands of deciphering an on-off audio tone compared to subtle language, this is not surprising. I'll try everything RF, even FT8 (so not D-Star, Wires-X etc!), but always come back to CW as the best and most effective mode to fill your logbook. That's why we're CWops…

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The weekly CWT mini-contests/QSO parties are one of the club's great successes. They were introduced at the birth of CWops 15 years ago when 3 one-hour events ran on the second Wednesday/Thursday of each month. The objective was to increase activity in whatever style participants chose: many grasped these events as quasi contests and continue to do so but the original intention of leaving participants free to approach them in different ways endures to this day (my recent QRP experimentation is an example). The voluntary reporting is based on QSO numbers only and the contest style exchange is never checked so could even be ignored. They were popular from the very start and soon increased in frequency to three sessions each week through the year. Mission accomplished…

The weekly 0700 CWT on Thursday morning was introduced midway through 2021 to satisfy some of us over here in Western Europe who were moaning about the anti-social 0300 session putting the medallion hunters at a disadvantage. In nearly 4 years it has developed its own distinctive and less frenetic personality with a loyal following. To our shame this includes many from the Eastern Seaboard and Midwest states of the US who regularly forgo sleep to join in and add to the interest. Overall it's a good time for DX from Europe and often coincides with the solar grey line and rapidly changing propagation; it's probably time for me to turn on the amp and be checking 80m for some ZL action! Notwithstanding the inconveniences that getting to work or packing off children to school will cause for some it would be great to have more support from

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Europe. Even my QRP regularly works VK and West Coast US so it really is a fun time to be on, and civilised too. Give it a go!

Finally I had an email from our Oceania ambassador Chris Chapman VK3QB about an initiative that he's trialling for 6 months to encourage more CW activity in VK/ZL. It revolves around monthly Zoom sessions for both new and experienced CW operators where all aspects of the mode can be discussed in a friendly and relaxed environment. Chris has set up a simple website/blog which can be seen at https://morsecodesessions.wordpress.com/ and if you click on 'Zoom Sessions' you will see the next session is March 17th and that Chris has persuaded me to be interviewed. 😉 Well done to Chris for thinking this up and let's hope it pays off with increased interest for CW in the Antipodes.

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

SC

Editor's Note: Are You CW Travel Ready?

Do you ever feel that twinge of dread when planning a trip, knowing it might disrupt your usual radio activities? It's time to turn that concern into excitement. I have two solutions that will either delight or challenge you — maybe even both!

Go Portable!

Since purchasing my IC-705 a few years ago, every trip has become a new adventure. This full-featured, versatile radio quickly became my go-to device, both at home and in the field. Pack an end-fed half-wave antenna, 25 feet of coax, and a key into a backpack, and you're ready to explore the airwaves from wherever you roam. If you're new to portable operations, consider yourself warned: it's incredibly addictive. We've got future articles coming up to provide that extra spark of inspiration to get you started. This month, check out NN5DE on page 36.

Go Remote Radio!

Take your shack with you through remote operation. This approach was new to me, though many operators are already racking up contacts as reported on platforms like 3830scores.com. I can't describe the thrill of accessing my IC-7300 from a condo 70 miles away, jumping into CWTs, POTA, ragchews, or anything else filled with dits and dahs. Reference materials providing how-to guidance on remote radio can be sparse or hard to track down, so we're compiling a series of articles from other CW ops members to guide you. While self-discovery is rewarding, expert reviews and insights can streamline your research and help you make informed choices.

Whether you choose to go portable or remote radio, stepping outside your shack might just reinvigorate your passion for ham radio — putting a new spring in your key, so to speak. Stick with us over the next couple of months as we explore ways to untether your CW activities at home and keep you engaged in ham radio, wherever you may be. It starts this month on page 16.

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 members have become Silent Keys.

Condolence cards have been sent on behalf of CWops.

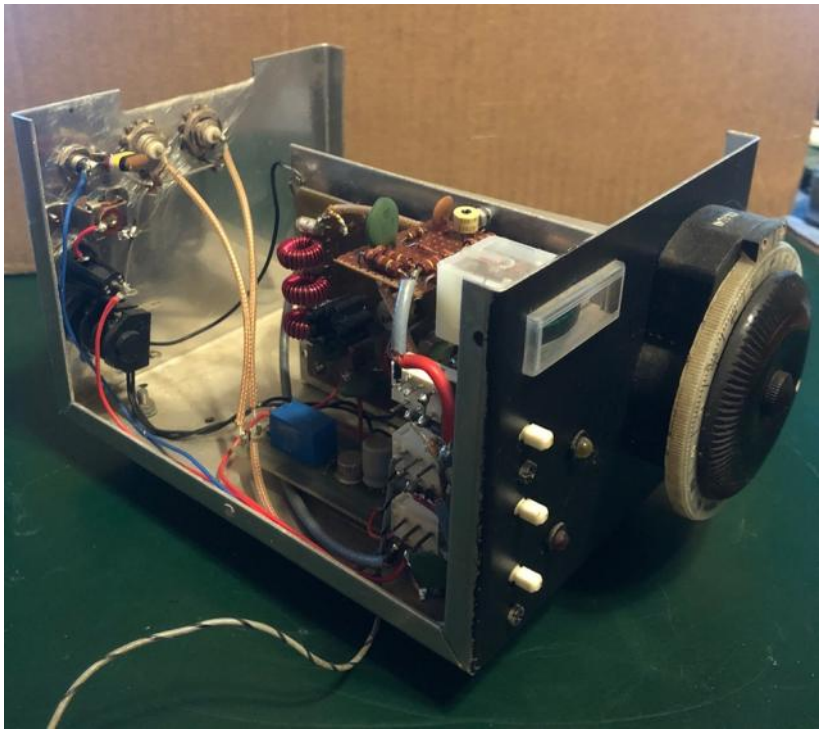
Bob Naumann, W5OV #1760 on 10th February, 2025

David (Duke) Barlow, G3PLE #3365 on 23rd February, 2025

Karen Huppert, DL8HK #2829 on 17th February, 2025

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 April.

Stew, GW0ETF #919 This is my first transmitter as featured in this month's President's Message. It produces around 5-7 watts of CW on 80m and was designed by the Rev George Dobbs G3RJV (SK). George was a QRP legend (and founder of the G-QRP Club) and knew his stuff, so being new to the game I decided to follow his layout as closely as I could. He named it the 'TX80' and described it in the 1986 March and April editions of the superb Short Wave Magazine. The link will open the March edition - swap the '03' at the end for '04' to load April which contains 'TX80 Pt2'. It's sufficiently small I've never gazed at it and thought I should 'move it on' and make some space - and it still works..."



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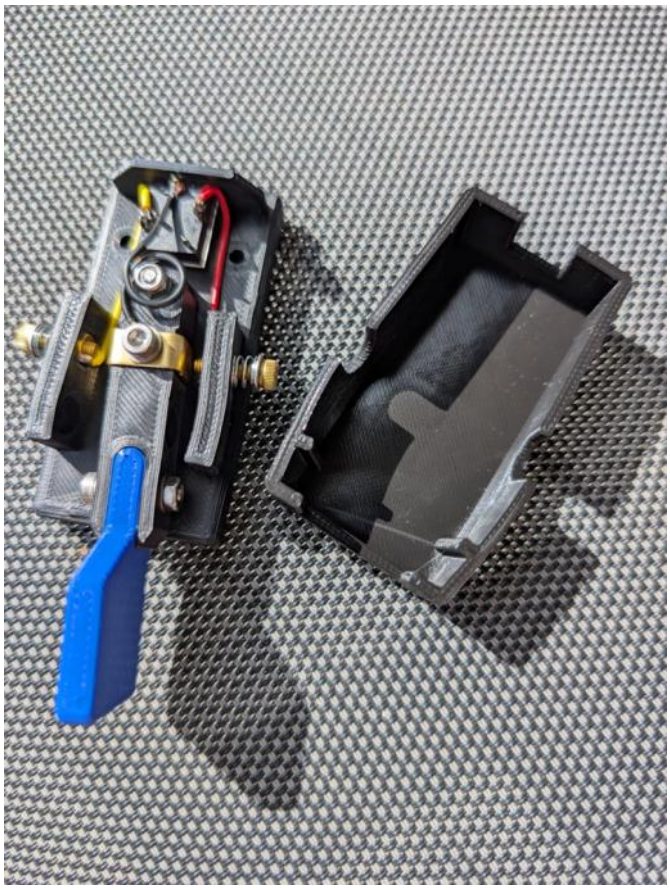
Tom, DG5CW #3243 Doing a road trip in VK-land I thought a lightweight paddle from cwmorse.us would be a good option.

However, I learned that this is absolutely not an option at all. The key did melt in the Australian summer on the second day while in my backpack in the car.

The lever springs simply pushed the warm (and soft) plastic away. So, these keys might be an option if you travel to Alaska or the North Pole, but please don't ever go south with it!

Please note that this is in no way meant to be a complaint against the manufacturer, rather a warning not to underestimate the very temperature that can be reached inside a car on a hot day! In fact, since contacting the manufacturer, I received the following email from them: *"You probably have an indoor version of the key. The indoor temp max would probably be about 80°. Usually it's best not to be left in a car, truck, etc. or it will warp. The outdoor would probably be roughly 95 -100° but it can also warp if left for extended periods of time."*

On top, I got a kind offer to send me a replacement outdoor key version for my melted key.



MARSHALL, K1SN #3690 I did want to specifically recognize my CWA instructor, Buzz Tarlow (AC6AC). Buzz paid a heavy price for his dedication to the students in our class. We were in the middle of our Advanced class when he received the evacuation order to leave his house, and again when he led CWA classes from his evacuation site in a hotel, and again after he suffered

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several medical incidents that landed him in the hospital. Through it all, he was there for us with biweekly classes and numerous practice sessions, despite the uncertainty, stress and physical discomfort he was in. He responded to every email, to every concern or request for guidance, and to everyone who needed a word of encouragement even when he did not know if he would have a house to return to. Such dedication, service and integrity is extraordinary in today's world, and it should be noticed and celebrated. Thank you, and well done, Buzz!

Ken, KN2D #3566 I reported in January News and Notes that I would be presenting at HamCation early February on the subject "How to Ramp Up Club Member Participation". Here is a link to a video of the presentation (video credit: Chris AA4CB) and my slides.

Marty, AG3I #2579 Here is a pic from the Elecraft booth at HamCation where NJ3T and K6RB are providing Eric Schwartz of Elecraft guidance on CW features and functions for the new K4/0 Remote control unit being demonstrated there. (Photo courtesy of AG3I)

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Dick, N9EEE #3113 Warren, KC9IL #3332 and I had a nice coffee before we departed on our separate ways to activate state parks in northern Illinois. I work Warren in the various mini-tests, NAQCC Sprints, and POTA activations so it was a pleasure to meet him and swap QRP experiences while I'm in the area at my temporary IL address. He's active in the North Shore Radio Club, NS9RC, which is a large and active club in the area. They caravan their way to Hamvention each year…imagine a dozen or more cars with floppy antennas jabbering on UHF down I-94/65/70. I think I'll join them or at least listen to the mayhem. I'm looking to connect with other CWops members while I'm in Arlington Heights through April.

Lar, K7SV #1004 In an earlier discussion I made mention of the Northern California Contest Club Sprint. Jim N3JT #1 asked me to address this to CWOPS membership. Also known as the NS Sprint, it runs for a half hour on Thursday evenings starting at 02:30Z. Power is limited to 100w (4 or 5 ops enter running QRP).

Like the North American Sprint there is the QSY rule. Most of the rules are the same as for NA Sprint. One difference is multipliers are counted per band rather than once for the contest. Another difference is how far one must move in frequency after a contact. Logs are not submitted. Scores are posted on 3830.

I like the Sprints because one cannot sit on a frequency and run stations. I feel that I am more competitive in Sprints when running low power, even in the NA event where high power is allowed, than I am in any other contest. I firmly believe that working Sprints will improve one's contest operating skills in general.

Typically, when the NS Sprint starts, everyone is on 15 and gradually they move to 20 and then gradually work down the bands until they finish the half hour on 160. We typically have 40 to 50 ops participate on most Thursday nights.

Go here to see the rules and further information on NS Sprint. If you like the NA Sprint, participation in NS Sprints will improve your Sprinting skills.

As far as I can remember all of the active Sprinters are CWops members. Two of the most recent individuals who have become NS Sprinters are Cathy W4CMG #2988 and Amanda KY4GS #3208.

We (NSSprinters) say and believe that NS Sprints are the finest and fastest half hour in radio!

If any of you have questions that are not addressed by the ncccsprint web page, I would be pleased to answer.

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Jim, N3JT #1 and DK9PY at the Orlando Ham-cation, February 8, 2025.

Heather, AH7RF #3272 According to all of Buzz's students. Short version, I took my KH1 on a hike, in volcanoes national park, and then the volcano started! I got 3 contacts with this view of the lava.

Bill, W5SJ #1980 operating on Spot Bay Cayman Brac with the call, ZF2EZ/QRP – QSO's made included those in 38 countries on four continents with a ¼ vertical for 10 meters placed right at the surf.. I was there to join the ZF5T team for the ARRL CW contest last month. They scored ~9,500,000 points in the M/M HP to take top honors.

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Mike, M0AGP #3246 A CW licence plate I'd love to have, but as I took the pic in central London, I probably wouldn't want the guy's QTH…

Duncan, G3WZD #1979 Having suffered a (thankfully) non-catastrophic failure on a raising wire rope on one of my two towers, I decided to replace all the raising and luffing wires with new, high-quality, wire rope. The failure was due to extreme corrosion over a short time, probably thanks to the dubious quality of Chinese-origin galvanised rope and my proximity to the Atlantic coast of North Cornwall. After some research, I liberally coated the wire and pully wheels with a waterproof synthetic grease, which will hopefully prolong the life of the wire.

Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

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

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
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, Fairborn, 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 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)

The 2025 North American CW Weekend

June 6 - 8, 2025

Yes, there will be a North American CW Weekend this year!

As in the past, the Weekend is primarily aimed at those amateur radio operators with a particular interest in Morse code (CW) operation - FOC, CWOPS, SKCC, FISTS - but anyone with an interest in Morse code communication is welcome.

After cancellations due to COVID restrictions, we had good get-togethers in 2022, 2023, and 2024. I think we are back on track again. We are delighted to welcome regulars back, and look forward to meeting some new players.

There is a nominal registration of $25 per couple or $15 per single person. This will help defray costs and fees. Any excess will be donated to the CWOPS Scholarship fund. Please send your check, made out to:

Don Lynch W4ZYT at
1517 West Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-4717

Questions/Inquiries? Email them to Don at: w4zyt.don@gmail.com

Event Summary:

North American CW Room Block
Start Date: Thursday, June 5, 2024
End Date: Monday, June 9, 2024
Last Day to Book at the Group Rate: Friday, May 16, 2024

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Hotel:

Fairview Park Marriott (This is the usual for the past several years)
3111 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, VA 22042
Phone: 703-849-9400
Reservations: 888-236-2427 (Event is: North American CW Weekend)
Rate: $ 124.00 plus taxes/night (Friday/Saturday)

Here is a reservation link. If you have problems with this link, please call the number above. Book your group rate for North American CW Room Block.

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Here is the program:

There will be a hospitality suite between 1800-2400 on Friday and Saturday with refreshments and snacks available, plus plenty of collegiality and good conversation.

Dinner (Pizza) - Friday Evening (6/6) at 1800
Italian Oven
6852 Old Dominion Dr,
McLean, VA 22101 .
Salad, beverage (non-alcoholic), unlimited pizza. Alcohol available.
Dress casual. Individual checks

Brunch – Saturday (6/7) from 0900 to 1200
Home of Nina Lane and Jim Talens (K4NML and N3JT)
6017 Woodley Road
McLean, VA 22101
Phone 703-241-1144

Dinner - Saturday Evening (6/7) from 1800 until…
Metro 29 Diner
4711 Lee Highway
Arlington, VA 22207
703-528-2454

Don' t be put off by the "Diner" moniker. Take a look at the menu at their website at https://metro29diner.com/ . This is an informal place with a class kitchen and a full selection of meal options which should suit every taste. Cocktails, beer, and wine available. Dress casual. Individual checks.

We are looking forward to a nice weekend and good participation. This is a nice time of year in the DC area, and there are plenty of shopping or other places of interest to visit in your free time.

Please stay safe and well, drive carefully, and come prepared for a good time.

73, Don, W4ZYT, CWops #55

Grids On The Air

Colin Hall, GM4JPZ (CWops #2537)

Grids On The Air Activity and Awards Programme Offers New Challenges to HF Enthusiasts

As of March 1, 2025, a new initiative, endorsed by various major ham radio organisations, will challenge short wave operators at any level of skills and equipment to engage in “the ultimate DX art of Grid Hunting”.

Grid Hunting consists of chasing grid squares in the World Wide Locators system (e.g., IO75 differentiated from KN78), much like the VHF and up operators have been doing for years. The difference with the new Grids On The Air (GOTA) programme is its focus on promoting activity on the HF bands and with Phone and CW modes (as a similar programme is already available for digital modes). GOTA aims to give DXers (experienced - and possibly jaded - as well as newcomers), all HF enthusiasts and SWLs a reason to engage in a satisfying "hunting" activity and have QSOs with stations from all world wide squares, near or far, important or not.

There are various reasons that make Grid Hunting unique and interesting. First, it is an open ended activity, as it is very unlikely that anybody will ever have a QSO with all the WW locator grids on the planet (there are 32,400 of them). Second, for a rather long initial period, every QSO counts, as a single DXCC country may have dozens or even hundreds of different squares and they all count towards the challenge. That in itself can be a great motivation to be on air and make a favourite ham activity even more fun. Third, Grid Hunting gets hams to learn more about their QSO partners and the country, region and continent they live in. When infected by this particular bug, one is likely to spend more time on the radio, and even more time on maps and atlases. Fourth, just like popular programmes such as SOTA or POTA, grid hunting opens up great DXpedition/activation possibilities. Semi-rare and rare squares abound everywhere, in any country and in the most exotic DX locations alike. Finally, success in this activity is much less dependent on operating conditions: focused effort, determination and skills – including understanding of HF propagation – count in Grid Hunting for much more than big power and antennas.

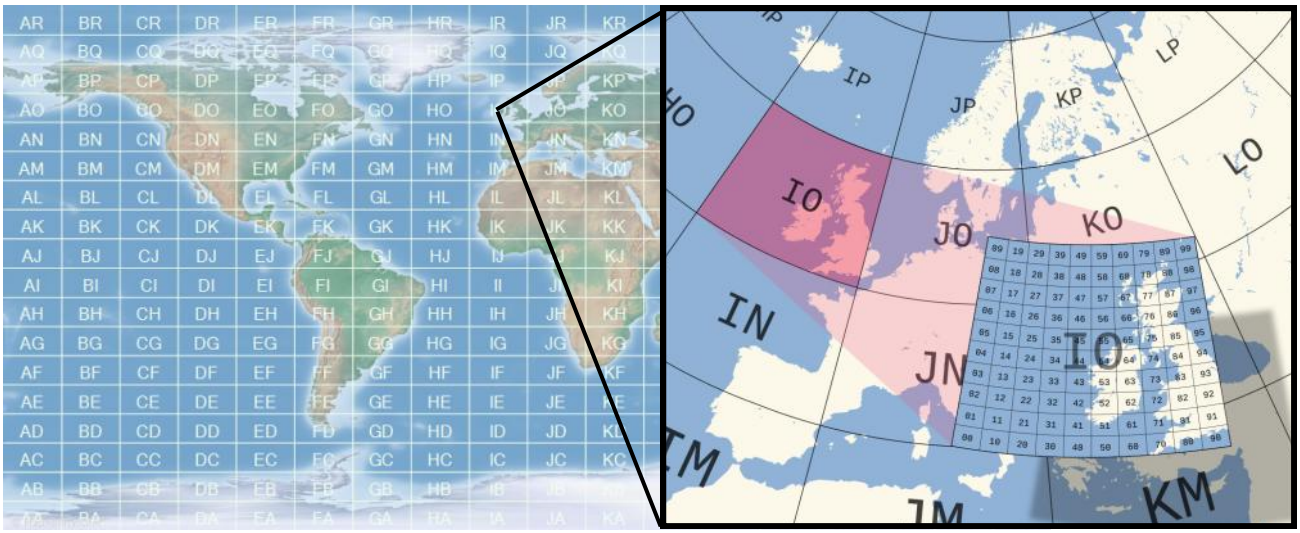
Participation in the GOTA programme is open to amateurs in any country whose licence includes HF privileges and is entirely free of charge. By simply uploading logs in ADIF format on the GOTA website, participants will automatically be placed on leaderboards according to the number of different grid squares worked in total, on different modes and bands, globally or by country. The GOTA programme counts QSOs starting on 1 January 2025 – the software running on the website automatically discards any QSO before that date. The website also offers GOTA activators the possibility of announcing their planned operations. Shortly after the official launch of the programme, a series of awards will also be announced recognising excellence based on confirmed grid squares.

The GOTA programme is an initiative of gridsontheair.com and is endorsed by CWops, ISWL, and GMDX, while recognition by the RSGB as a Special Interest Group has been applied for.

The GOTA Rules appear on the next page.

Grids On The Air (GOTA) Rules

1. The goal of the Grids On The Air programme is for licensed amateur radio operators worldwide to establish two-way communication (QSOs) with, or for Shortwave Listeners – SWLs – to hear, as many grid squares as possible as defined by the Maidenhead Locator System, and participate in Leaderboards and/or Awards as issued by GOTA.
2. There is no fee charged for participation in the GOTA programme.
3. Only QSOs made or heard after 1 January 2025 qualify for GOTA.
4. QSOs must be in Phone (SSB, AM or FM) or CW, using the internationally recognised HF amateur radio bands 160m, 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, and 10m.
5. Qualifying grids for GOTA consist of the Field and Square using the Maidenhead Locator System; that is, they consist of two letters (eg JO) and two numbers (eg 25), and the resulting grid square (in this example JO25) should be entered in the **Grid Square** field of the log to be uploaded in ADIF form. If the full, six-character locator is entered, the software will automatically edit it to the required four-character format. There are 32,400 such grid squares worldwide.
6. Participating operators first need to register on the GOTA website under Join at https://gridsontheair.com and verify their email address, which will not be used for any other purpose. Registering on the GOTA website explicitly confirms acceptance of these GOTA Rules.
7. To participate in the GOTA programme Leaderboards and eventually qualify for Awards, operators will need to upload their logs in ADIF format (.adi or .adif) using the Submit Logs feature on the website. Note: all QSOs before 1 January 2025 will be discarded and all qualifying QSOs will be tracked, regardless of whether they are confirmed or not. GOTA relies on the honour system and the tradition of Ham Spirit when calculating the Leaderboards.
8. Once the GOTA programme is established, a system of Awards will be initiated which will require participants to confirm qualifying QSOs using Logbook of the World (LotW) or other suitable systems recognised by the GOTA Management Committee.
9. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the GOTA Management Committee will be final.



How We Were

Ian Capon, GWØKRL

K5LN, Bill Sepulveda, CWops #1152

The picture is when I was a General class license holder in 1965 at 21 years old, when I lived in Hialeah, Florida, U.S.A. With the call at the time of WA4ZFP. The HF station consisted of a Heathkit DX-60 transmitter (90 Watts input and about 35 to 40 Watts output in today's terms), CW and AM, with a Heathkit HG-10 VFO, and the receiver was a 1955 Hallicrafters SX-71. The receiver was equipped with a Heathkit "Q" Multiplier for more selectivity, and an Ameco Nuvistor Cascade Pre-amplifier for a little more gain on the higher bands. I worked the world with this station back then with a Mosley TA-32, 2- element Yagi. Plus a simple inverted Vee on 40 meters. The bands were so good back then.

Since I'm left handed, and back then I was not aware of the availability of a left handed Bug, I used a right handed Bug with my left hand. Which was my first bug and the one I used as a Novice in 1963/64. It was either a Straight Key or a Bug back then. I opted for the Bug, as the Straight key was out of the question because of the speed. I Just couldn't match the speed of everyone back then with the Straight Key, plus the Bug was easier to send with. It was a time when everyone had a swing with their Bugs.

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)

Remote Radio

A compilation of articles by CWops members

You may have seen the designation “remote” on 3830scores.com adjacent to the individual CWT scores. You may have seen an article about someone casually referencing their winter home in Portugal yet operating their station stateside. Or maybe you’ve seen ads for Flex or Elecraft, thinking remote operation meant controlling your radio from another room, not another state. And rarely have you seen an article about how to easily and inexpensively set up remote radio for the CW operator.

So, what is “remote radio?” For this series of articles, we define it in the simplest, most inclusive terms: Remote radio is the ability to access and operate a radio from a distant location — distant meaning beyond direct physical connection. Typically, this access relies on an internet connection.

Whether you’re connecting from a hotel room, another state, or even across countries, remote radio bridges the gap to your home station. It’s an ideal solution for vacationing, business travel, or overcoming challenges like HOA restrictions or limited space for antennas.

The common thread among former remote operators was a shared sentiment: “You can’t do it from here.” But with remote radio, you can.

Remoting from A Loft

Dick Strassburger, N9EEE (CWops #3113)

MY SITUATION

If you’re faced with the choice of ham radio or no ham radio, the decision is clear — you find a way. That’s the unwritten amateur radio mantra: find a way. This mindset guided me when I temporarily relocated to a rented condo 70 miles from home to care for a family member undergoing aggressive cancer treatment over a seven-month period.

Situated on the second floor of a brick and steel building with retailers below, the noise floor was high, and installing an effective outdoor multi-band antenna was seemingly impossible even for me. It seemed like ham radio would be off the table, until I considered operating remotely. There had to be a way! As a QRP operator accustomed to overcoming obstacles in the field, the idea of remote access to my home station quickly shifted from a fleeting thought to a determined goal.

What surprised me was the scarcity of practical guides for average operators like myself, despite remote radio being around for years. (Had my head been buried in the sand?) It turns out that growing demand and technological advances have brought more accessible products to market, making remote operation feasible for budget-conscious CW enthusiasts. What heightened my interest? A browser-based application.

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My home station is simple: an ICOM IC-7300 running 5 watts into an End Fed Half Wave Antenna. I don't have a tower or a rotor, so my remote control needs are minimal. The antenna covers 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m, while the IC-7300's tuner extends my reach to 30m, 17m, and 12m. It all works seamlessly.

I'll admit, I'm one of those who hasn't yet mastered electronic logging while linked to my radio — but that's my New Year's resolution. So, integrating logging capabilities became a priority in my remote setup.

Ultimately, the journey to establish a remote station wasn't just about staying on the air; it was about preserving a sense of normalcy and connection during a challenging time. And in true ham spirit, when there's a will, there's always a way.

DOWN AND DIRTY RESEARCH

As I mentioned, I navigated my way through assembling my remote radio setup with some difficulty, largely due to the lack of comprehensive written articles on the subject, both in print and online. Instead, I relied on the advice of others, primarily through various ham radio "reflectors" where users shared random comments. Even then, I struggled to find complete answers that would lead me to a clear checklist or guide. Google became another resource, guiding me to a few potential solutions, though the associated websites often lacked the depth I needed, despite my relatively simple requirements. It quickly became apparent that this is a niche market.

The first application I tried was a complete failure. Although reportedly popular among Icom owners, it refused to function, and the developer was notably rude and unhelpful in resolving the issues. Fortunately, I was still within the trial period, so no money was lost. Eventually, I discovered RemoteTX, drawn not only by its specifications and positive user feedback but also by glowing reviews of the developer's accessibility and support. Calling Marcus's support "helpful" is an understatement; we've had many lengthy phone calls exploring various scenarios to optimize CW operation in RemoteTX, making the experience truly enjoyable.

MY REMOTE RADIO

Home: Pewaukee, WI (25 miles west of Milwaukee in southeast Wisconsin)

Station:

HF radio: ICOM IC-7300

Antenna: End-Fed Half-Wave antenna.

Internet: Local cable with 2.4 MHz and 5.0 MHz WiFi (note: both the Rpi and CW Hotline prefer 2.4 Mhz). Fiber is not available. 5G Air was attempted by discontinued due to high latency.

Raspberry Pi with control software and WiFi connection. USB cable with toroid connected to USB port on IC-7300.

CW Hotline with WiFi connection. 3.5mm connectors and cable to Key input on IC-7300

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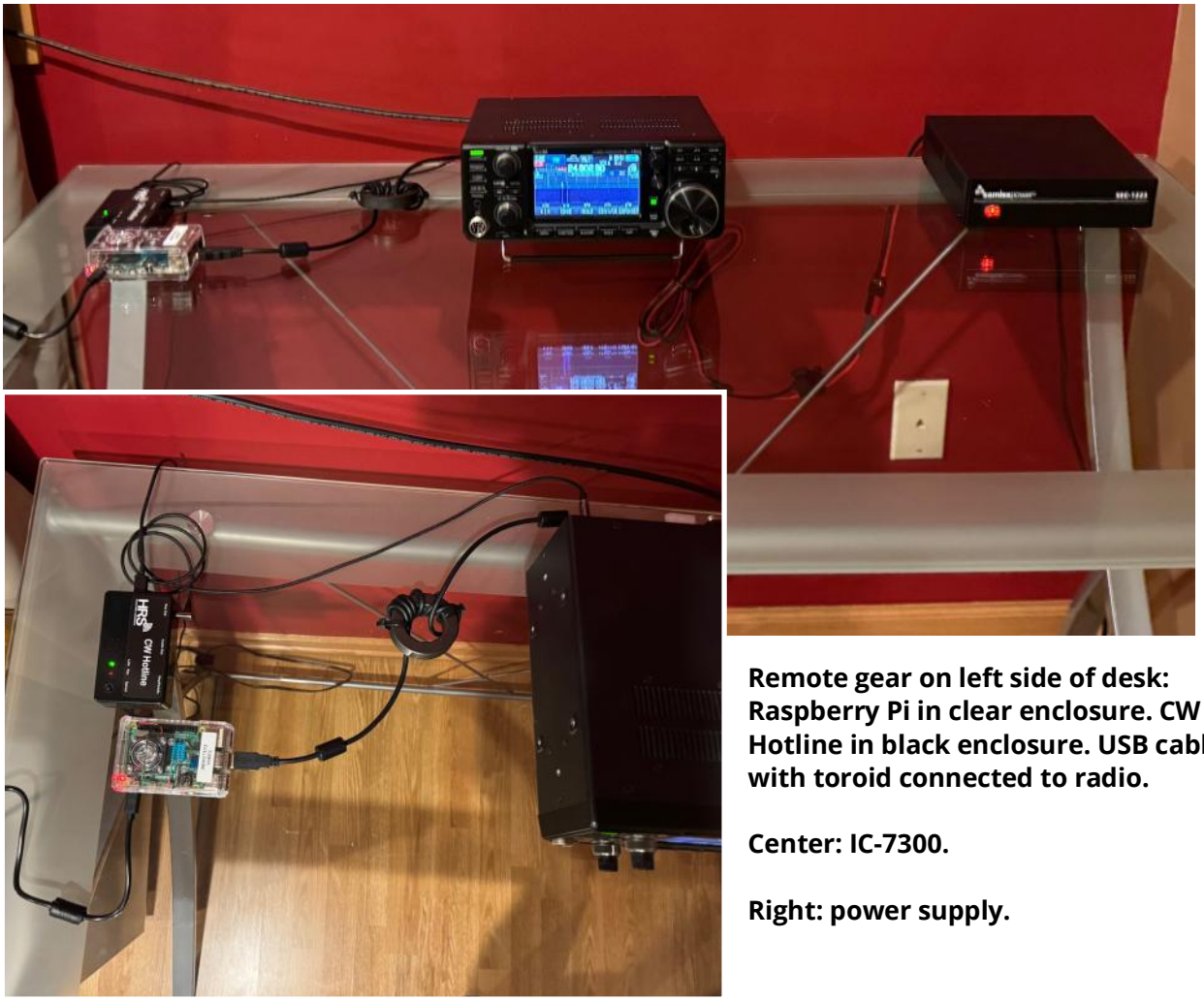

Remote gear on left side of desk: Raspberry Pi in clear enclosure. CW Hotline in black enclosure. USB cable with toroid connected to radio.

Center: IC-7300.

Right: power supply.

Remote location: Arlington Heights, IL (70 miles due south, northwest suburb of Chicago in northeast Illinois)

Table-top station: quite simple,

Laptop: Windows 11 OS. Chrome browser with link to RemoteTx server.

CW Hotline: duplicate local keyer with WiFi connection. Links to the CW Hotline keyer at home via a separate server.

Headphone amplifier: adjusts the output volume of the CW Hotline keyer.

Y-cable and noise isolators: combining two different audio sources to feed my headphones (keyer and computer audio) introduced a ground loop with annoying static.

Earbuds/headphones: an obvious need in shared space.

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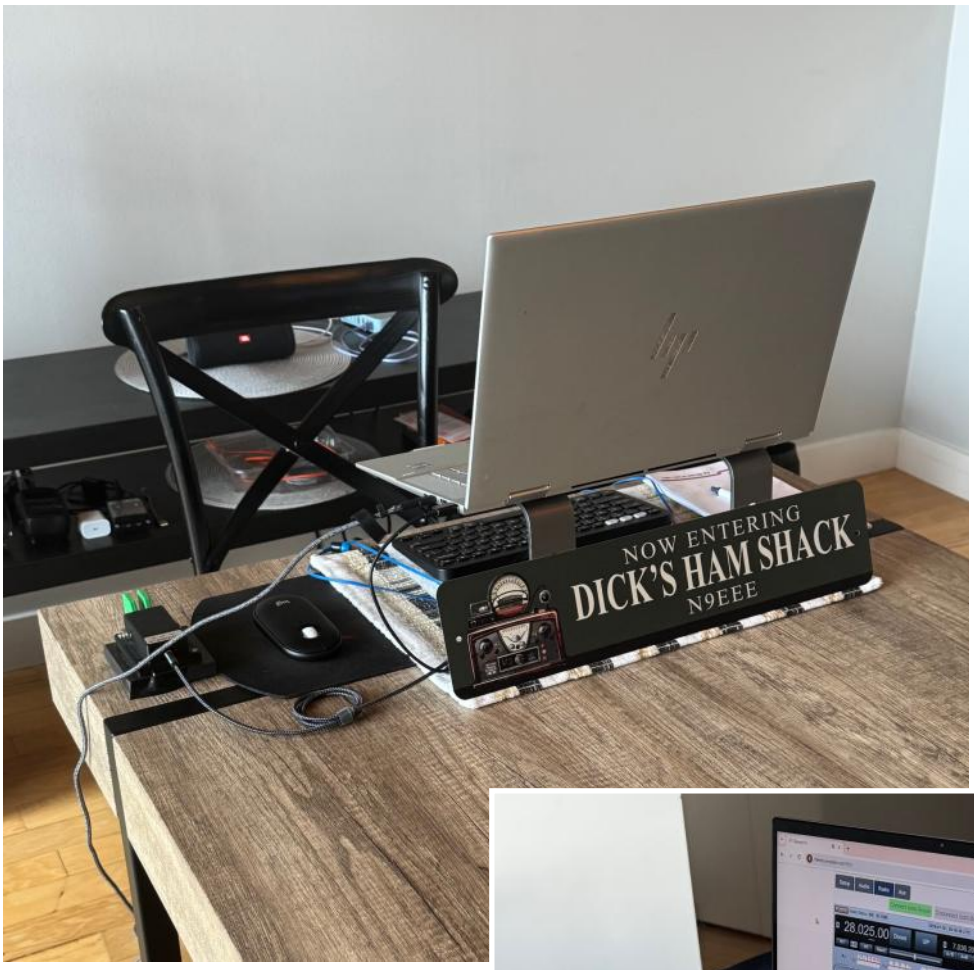

Welcome to

Dick's Remote Ham Shack.

Center: laptop with RemoteTX running.

Beneath the stand is a keyboard, CW Hotliine, portable headphone amplifier, and Y-cables with noise isolators.

The stand and sign neaten up the accessories on the dining table. The XYL is pleased and so am I.

Right: CW Morse key

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Equipment Used

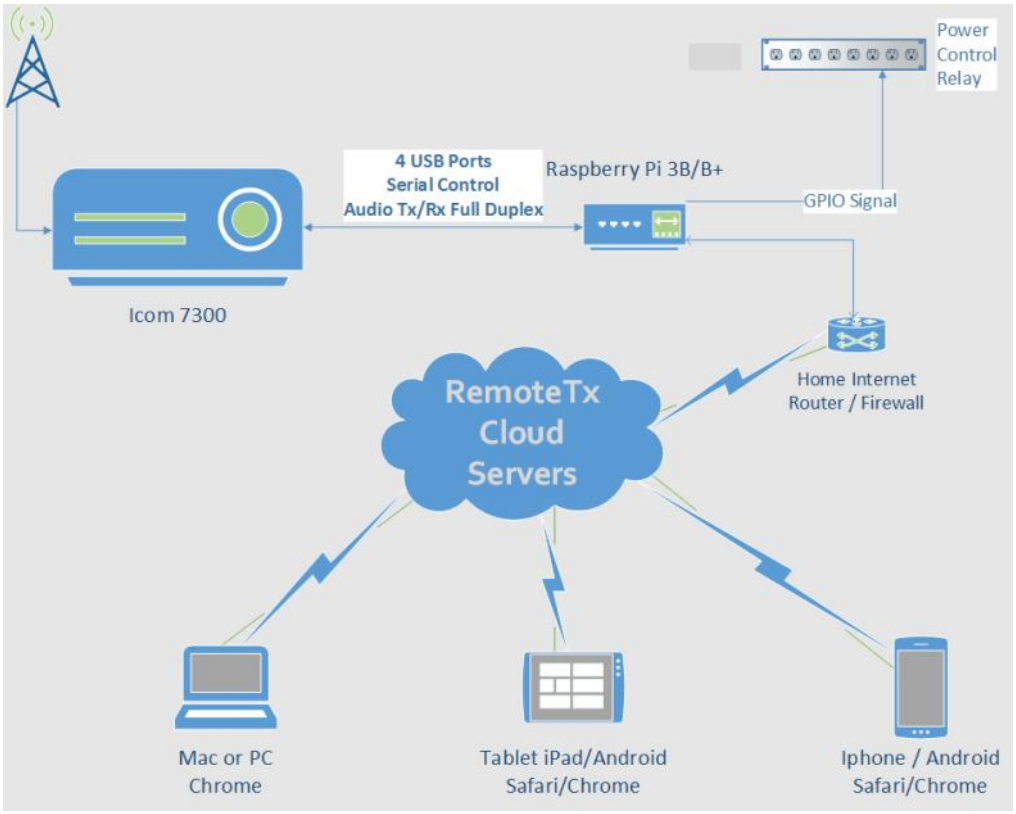
Remote TX: is a browser-based application that engages with your radio via an internet server and a Raspberry Pi situated alongside your radio. The output of the Raspberry Pi is a USB cable to the radio's USB port. It can be accessed with a smartphone, tablet, PC or Mac. There are three main parts to the system:

AT HOME: Raspberry Pi 4B running Remote Tx software (free) at the home station connected to the radio via USB cable and Internet (WiFi or ethernet). You can opt to provide your own Rpi or buy one. Mine came in a nice durable plastic case, heatsink, and fan for $80 with the purchase of the subscription.

REMOTE LOCATION: A remote control client using a mobile phone, laptop or tablet running a compatible Internet browser with broadband or LTE cellular Internet access. I've used my smartphone's mobile hotspot in conjunction with my laptop and it has performed very well.

SUBSCRIPTION: 6-month or 12-month access to the Remote Tx server linked with your callsign. This connects the radio and remote operator. There is a cost associated with the subscription based on your desired length of contract. 6 months at $40 and 12 months at $70 at the time this article was published.

I opted for a 12-month program and purchased their Raspberry Pi 4B with the software installed and configured. It came with a power cable and wall-wart. I purchased the USB cable and a toroid to eliminate any potential RFI creeping into the cable.



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How it Works:

In their words, "The RemoteTx® cloud service acts as a central connection point on the Internet that allows radio stations to be controlled by their owners remotely with minimal configuration. The service handles radio control signaling and manages audio call setup and monitoring. All control and audio network traffic is secured and encrypted. Remote operating is accomplished using compatible Internet browsers (Google Chrome, Apple Safari) on a variety of device platforms without installing plugins or additional software. In general, no special network or firewall configuration is necessary at either the station or the remote operator network location.

- There is no need to install and manage additional audio software such as Mumble etc. Both 2-way audio and radio control are achieved from within the browser of the device being used to control the radio.
- No ports need to be exposed to the internet with port forwarding and a dedicated IP address is not needed. RemoteTx will adjust without user intervention if the station ip address changes. No dynamic DNS needs to be configured.
- The Icom 7300 has a USB port that allows both CI-V radio control as well as sound control. It also supports turning the radio on and off while power is continuously supplied to the radio."

Raspberry PI

The RPi runs a custom software image that is a free download from Remote Tx**.** The operator is issued a unique callsign key from RemoteTx that is installed on the custom image. This allows the RPi to establish a secure encrypted connection to the RemoteTx Internet cloud servers when it boots. This connection is unique to the station call sign and remains established as long as the Rpi is powered on and the Internet connection is functioning. If there is an Internet disruption it will re-connect automatically once the disruption is resolved. This connection is used by RemoteTx to control radios and sound cards connected to the Rpi.

RemoteTx Cloud Service

The RemoteTx® cloud service is provisioned nearest to the global location of the operator's radio station. This ensures minimum latency and optimum network performance regardless of which world region the station is in.

Internet Remote Device

Remote operation of the station is initiated by opening an Internet browser on a laptop or mobile device and going to a unique URL. This initiates a secure ssl connection and the user will be prompted for a username and password and then be granted access to the radio control interface which is delivered from the RemoteTx cloud servers. The first time the user connects to RemoteTx, the browser will prompt the user to allow access to use the microphone of the device. This allows bi-directional audio to be managed within the browser without installing plugins or extra software.

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Audio

The operator has full control of the audio settings at both ends of the connection. To initiate an audio connection in the Audio tab, the operator starts the audio process on the RPi choosing the USB sound card that is connected to the desired radio. Within about 5 seconds the 'Call Radio' button will appear. Clicking on the 'Call Radio' button will establish a full duplex audio connection between the operator's browser device and the remote radio. During call setup, the RemoteTx system will evaluate the network between the station and the browser device and automatically choose the most direct network connection. If the underlying networks are reliable, the audio will stay connected indefinitely until the operator hangs up the connection. If there is network disruption, RemoteTx will attempt to automatically reconnect the audio.

Station Control Interface

The Station Control Interface is neatly laid out and organized according to function. The display shows many of the features on the face of the IC-7300 to provide consistency and familiarity with the operation of the radio. The Interface interacts via C-IV and therefore most of the features on the front panel are available and some of those in the menu are available as well. Something I was very concerned about was put to rest almost immediately – the Power On/Off button. Yes, I have that control and it works!

If a function doesn't have an ASCII command attached to it, it will not appear on the Station Control Interface. Some of the missing functions are:

- Zero beating
- Sidetone frequency cannot be adjusted remotely
- No notch filter
- No recording capability
- XIT/RIT adjusts in non-linear steps
- No FM mode (don't really care)

It should be noted that the station control interface supports keyboard keying only – no external keys – and includes the use of 10 text memories. I overcame the lack of supporting a key with CW Hotline (see below). A third party makes a keyer to computer conversion kit that converts dits and dahs to its corresponding letter. The downside is that a character is sent only when all dits and dahs composing that letter have been received by the interface. So, imagine the delays and odd spacing such as experienced when sending my call, N9EEE: dah-dit dah-dah-dah-dah-dit dit dit dit would sound like N -----9 E E E.

Getting used to computer vs hand control was a bit of a learning curve for me, but like anything new, I acclimated well and am now adept at the smart buttons and the other controls. For example, using the VFO is a breeze when you've mastered the arrow keys on the keyboard. However, after using any other function on the interface you must re-select one of the commands at the frequency display in order to activate use of the keyboard arrow keys.

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Sidetone: This is intended for listening to characters generated by the interface – keyboard keying. The sidetone is not generated at the computer but rather a response from the radio upstream to the computer. It's quite responsive and has the option to type characters or words. One important point that I learned is that when using CW Hotline – or any third party keyer using its own server – its easy to be fooled into thinking the sidetone in the interface is responsive to the keyer. It is not. It is responsive to the radio. Again, we are using two different internet streams – one for rig control and one for keyer – so there may be some delay in hearing the keying coming back from the radio vs the instantaneous sound of a local keyer. A sidenote on the sidetone is that the tone must be adjusted at the radio and is not a feature of the interface.

Filters: Just like on the radio, Wide (1), Med (2), and Nar (3) were easily selected. Nicely positioned slider controls allow for redefining the width and shape of each filter which gets really handy in contest environments when tweaking filters is often necessary.

Sound quality: Because the sound is coming from the consumer-oriented amplifier inside the computer than the communications-oriented settings in the radio, the frequency response and tonality will sound more stereophonic. If I had an equalizer in my laptop, a custom sound shape might make for an interesting way to discern signals in a tight bandwidth. I found the thumping of nearby CW signals can get disturbing unless you put filter 3 in use.

Split: Running split was a breeze and may be easier to set-up than on the radio. As always, remember to turn off Split when you're done using it. Ask me how I know.

Waterfall: This has very nice control of the waterfall display. The pre-defined widths each step mirrors the radio. Though not as robust as the radio, the feature-set of the waterfall display is quite acceptable and offers many useful features.

Integrations: N1MM+ and other logging programs can be integrated. I haven't gotten that far but it's on my bucket list.

CW HOTLINE

CW Hotline from Ham Radio Solutions is the only keyer I found on the market specifically designed to connect two units for remote operation. According to Ham Radio Solutions, CW Hotline is "an internet WiFi-connected CW keyer that provides a private Morse code link between friends, enables remote keying of a CW transceiver, functions as a stand-alone Morse code iambic keyer, and serves as a latency-free interface for HamRadio.Solutions VBand service."

For remote operation, the idea is to purchase two CW Hotline units and link them via their remote server, with one unit connected to the radio's key input. I opted for the kit version at $50 each, as I enjoy assembling kits, and this build was straightforward—completed in just 30 minutes.

I tested the units in different parts of the house using two separate internet connections and was impressed by the nearly instantaneous response. While some latency was present due to internet connectivity, it was only noticeable when the units were side by side. A standout feature is the LED indicators, which show when the unit is connected to the network and when both units de-

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tect each other.

One limitation is the sidetone, which is loud and lacks volume control—it's either on or off. This wasn't an issue at the radio end, where I simply turned it off. At my remote location, I listened to the local keyer through a headphone amplifier which can adjust the audio level according to the ambient noise in the room.

While assembling my Remote Radio system, I had the opportunity to speak with the developers at Ham Radio Solutions, who were incredibly responsive and helpful. It feels like a rare privilege to have direct access to the developers of both RemoteTX and CW Hotline to assist in resolving any compatibility issues between the two systems.

How It Works

The CW Hotline unit is WiFi-connected to one of their servers using a unique identifier for that unit. All settings (speed, SSID, password, link key, call sign, local tone (freq) and WPM) are configured while connected to the server. Though the units may be powered independently, when connected through your computer you are able to alter those settings. Two units are connected when using the same link key. This feels safe to me, so I leave the units running indefinitely. Since the radio is controlled through RemoteTx, there is no chance of rogue operation in CW.

There is some latency involved when sending CW through the CW Hotline servers and hearing the resulting code through the RemoteTx servers. It's enough to be a serious irritant and impede operation, so I have figured out a simple solution – turn off the sidetone in RemoteTx.

Latency

Latency refers to the time delay for a packet of data to travel from its source to its destination. It is typically measured in milliseconds. Even a latency as low as 90 milliseconds—less than one-tenth of a second—can significantly affect network and application performance.

Is latency important for CW operators of remote radios?

Yes, latency is important, especially for contesters or operators who need quick, precise responses. If you're an avid contester who needs to be the first to be heard after an exchange or if you use a key or paddles, latency becomes crucial.

For contesters and DX chasers who depend on instant response, any latency higher than 50ms can be the difference between being heard and being lost in a pile-up. If timing is a key part of your strategy, excessive latency can disrupt your plan.

For CW operators using a keyboard, latency is usually less noticeable since the characters are sent through the Station Control Interface. The sidetone from the interface provides can be heard as each character is transmitted, creating a typical QSO experience.

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However, for CW operators using a key or paddles, latency can create confusion, particularly when listening to two sidetones: the immediate one from the local oscillator and the delayed one from the Station Control Interface. Even a 50ms delay can be noticeable. As noted earlier, the sidetone from the interface is heard only after the radio sends it back to the interface, thereby introducing a built-in latency potential. Any delay would cause a mismatch, such as hearing 'M' when you intended to send 'T' or, in worse cases, an echo – the audio version of double vision.

This issue could be exacerbated if both streams have high latency, potentially adding the delays together. Fortunately, I have not personally encountered this problem. By aiming for a high-quality connection, latency can be minimized and, in many cases, become imperceptible.

My Remote Radio Experience

My contesting style revolves around Search & Pounce. I attempted running a frequency in the SST as a trial, but prioritizing my laptop screen made it challenging to use the keyboard and macros for sending, while simultaneously logging the call sign and exchange. Constantly switching between tabs proved inefficient, reinforcing the need to integrate N1MM+ for a smoother experience. For now, I'm content with S&P — after all, operating QRP has made me accustomed to this approach.

As previously mentioned, I enjoy using my CW paddles, though two significant issues need addressing. First, simultaneous usage of sidetone in both the Station Control Interface and the CW Hotline keyer can be problematic, as discussed previously. The latency disparity between these two sources affects timing, making sending sound erratic or unintelligible.

Second, using CW paddles alongside the keyboard or text macros simultaneously is impractical. This setup requires activating sidetone from both sources, creating a chaotic experience. Even with interface sidetone turned off, switching between the keyboard, paddles, mouse, and back is mentally taxing. Perhaps more practice will breed familiarity, but for now, the workflow remains cumbersome.

Since my laptop serves as my radio interface, I juggle multiple applications like AC Log, DX Summit, POTA spots, SOTA Watch, and other ham apps while maintaining focus on RemoteTx. A second laptop would alleviate this burden, though practice might improve efficiency. I'm curious to learn how others manage this dynamic setup.

Reliable internet service is paramount for remote radio operations. Connectivity issues like dropouts, jitters, and packet loss disrupt the experience, so securing the best possible connection is essential. Living in a rural area without fiber access, I initially tried AT&T Air (5G home service), but its 300 ms latency was unacceptable. Returning to my local cable provider improved stability, though occasional anomalies persist. I'm hoping fiber is an option, soon. I'm uncertain whether Starlink would offer a stable, budget-friendly alternative.

After addressing these challenges, I'm thrilled to operate remotely with the system I've assem-

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bled, which aligns well with my style. The ability to chase DX, work POTA stations, participate in MSTs or CWTs, and enjoy ragchewing keeps me motivated. Operating 100% CW on HF makes it even more crucial for everything to function seamlessly. Even with the challenges of a being a QRP operator, working Remote Radio just adds to the excitement of being on the air. Overall, I'm satisfied with the Remote Radio station I've assembled and look forward to more time on the air than I otherwise would have.

SC

Remote Operation at SO5CW

Fabian Kurz, DJ5CW / SO5CW (CWops #1566)

As an apartment dweller in central Munich, I am very lucky to have a station at home at all, but my dream to be able to operate from a quiet location with good antennas at any time came true a few months ago, when I added remote capability to my station in Poland: SO5CW. Inspired by the call for articles on this topic by our editor Dick, N9EEE, I decided to write a few words about my setup.

The station is located in a rural area about 35 km south of Warsaw, at an abandoned farm and thus has a low local noise level and little danger of TVI issues. There are currently only a few wire antennas for the low bands and a triband Yagi on a crank-up tower (which is cranked down to 8m when I am not at the site), so it is still in the „little pistol" category, but beats what I have at home in every respect.

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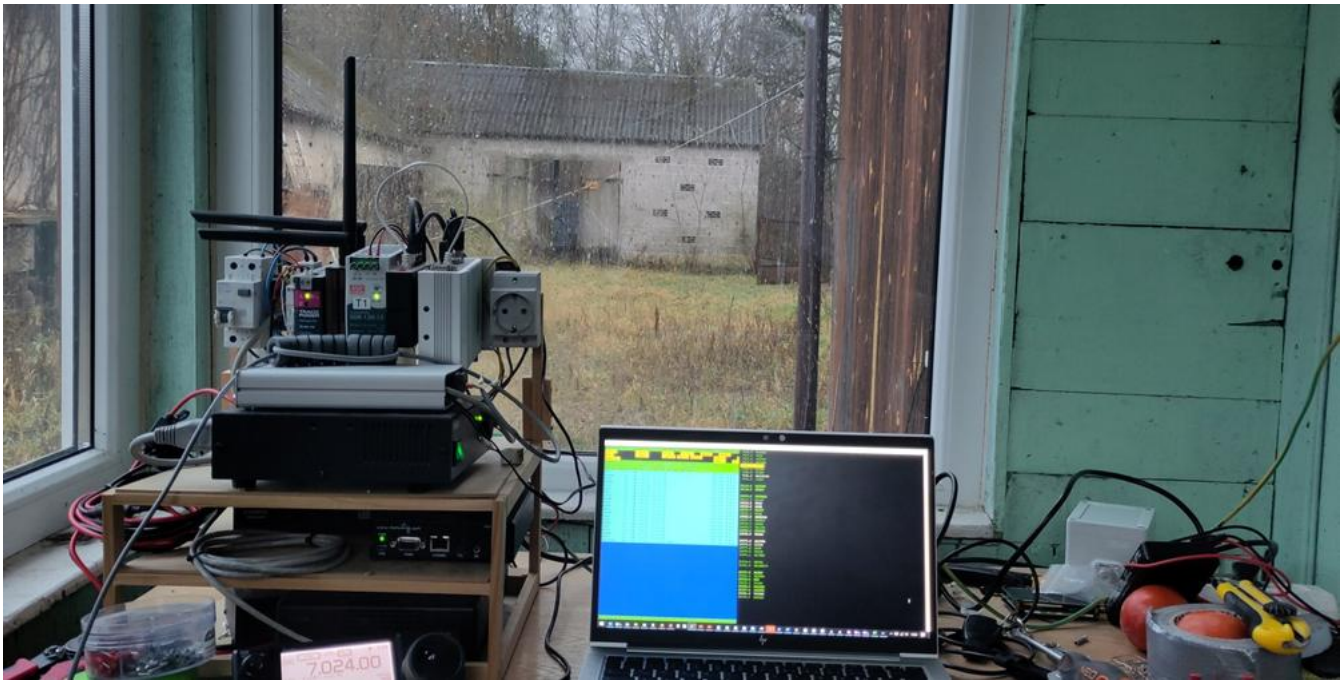
The place has reasonably reliable grid power, but currently no wired“ internet service. Fortunately, mobile coverage is very good, so a small wireless router (Teltonika RUT-240) is used for connectivity. The router connects to my personal VPN server and I effectively join my home network with the local network at the remote site, so I don't have to fight with port forwarding or firewalls at all. The router has built-in I/O ports which allow me to switch on and off the rest of the station with a relay – when I am not operating only the router itself is running, which helps keeping the power bill low.

The radio is an ICOM IC-7100 which has a detachable control head. The connection between the control head and the radio itself carries a few analog signals (RX and TX audio), PTT and keying lines, and a serial interface. While originally designed to be used with a short cable between the two units (a few meters), with the help of the RemoteRig RRC-1258MkII boxes (by SM2O), you can bridge any distance by means of an IP connection – ideal for remote, including a very well engineered remote keying interface that allows you to use a paddle via remote. Effectively, the RemoteRig boxes allow you to use the radio as if you were sitting in front of it.

I deliberately tried to keep the complexity of the station setup as low as possible. There is one antenna per band, and switching is done automatically by a homemade band decoder that reads the band voltage output of the radio and selects the correct antenna relay. When the radio is off, none of the antenna relays is energized and as an additional measure against excessive voltages from lightning, an extra relay shorts the antenna input to ground. At the moment, my Yagi antenna is fixed to NW, which means I am always beaming across Europe and to North America – the rotator can currently not be controlled remotely.

The setup at the remote site is shown below, but during on-site operation. When I am at the site, I just have to plug in the radio's control panel and everything else works just like when I am using it via remote.



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The components are currently built into a small wooden rack with a DIN rail holding power supplies, the router, a network switch and a few other components, but eventually I will built everything into a proper cabinet, which may be installed at the tower base.

In the six months that this remote is on the air now, I have only experienced a few very short outages that lasted a few minutes, caused by either power cuts or unstable mobile connectivity – otherwise it's rock solid and although there is no heating in the building, temperatures well below the freezing point did not appear to cause any trouble so far. Although I still keep my station at home up and running, my operating habits have shifted over the last months, with most of my contacts being on the remote now. As happy as I already am, for 2025 there are plans to build a new 14 m tower which will allow remote rotating of the antenna(s), and in addition I will add some antennas for VHF and the WARC bands.

N3JT Remote Operation

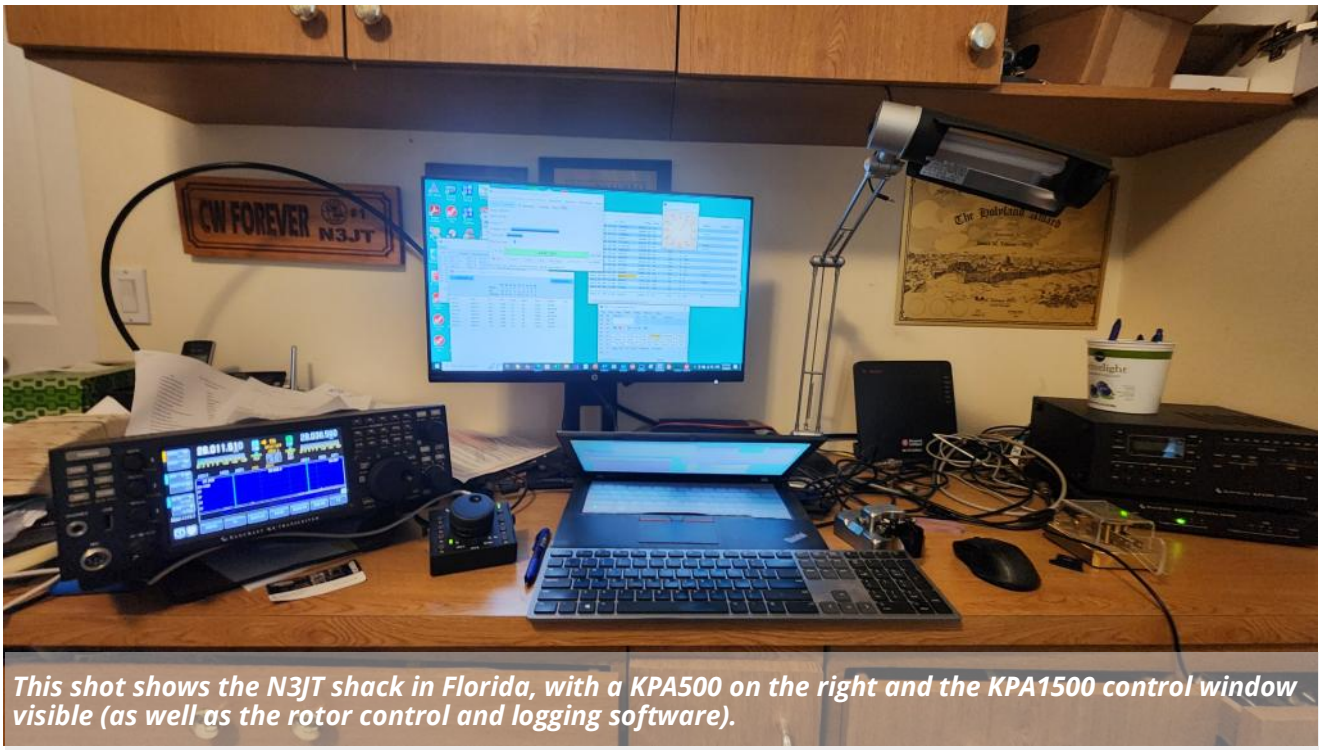
Jim Talens, N3JT (CWops #1)

For some years I have been remotely operating my Virginia station from Florida during winters. AC power is switched on in the Virginia shack using a web-based power switch that is straightforward to set up. Pro Switch – Digital Loggers Direct. Entering the Virginia IP address of the switch into a browser in Florida spawns a login window that then allows all circuits (amplifier, radio, port server, etc.) to be turned on or off in Virginia.

The heart of the radio system when I used a K3S and K3/0 was the RemoteRig box, which served as the Internet interface at both ends. Reliability was generally good, but often enough there were issues, especially with software used to control the Acom 2000A amplifier. Use of a two-port server (that essentially converts RS232 to Ethernet for connection to the router), the rotor and amplifier could be controlled and displayed on my laptop screen in Florida.

I need to interject here one of my remote-based thrills in ham radio. During a 6m opening I was able to talk with myself in Virginia from Florida (and vice versa). I know, weird.

A few years ago, I upgraded to a K4D and KPA1500 as my primary Virginia station gear, though I still used the K3S and K3/0 system for remote operation, using the K4D for local operation in Florida. Last year I acquired a second, pre-owned K4D, which allowed me to replace the K3S and K3/0 because remote operation between two K4D radios requires merely connecting each to its local router (and installing a port forwarding instruction at the server end, i.e., in the Virginia router). I sold the RemoteRig boxes, which are no longer made or supported but still can serve as an excellent means for remoting when using a K3S or other radios.



This shot shows the N3JT shack in Florida, with a KPA500 on the right and the KPA1500 control window visible (as well as the rotor control and logging software).

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But now, with mere insertion of a DDNS address into the K4D at the station end, the K4D in Florida links instantly and reliably to the Virginia K4D. In fact, anyone with my DDNS address and my password can operate my K4D from anywhere in the world.

The KPA1500 software is very stable, though occasionally I need to restart the K4D to retrigger the amplifier, but this occurs only monthly and seems to follow installation of a PC Windows update or reboot of the PC. The Virginia K4D is activated when the shack power supply is turned on, thanks to a handy little device sold by N6TV that "sees" the power supply's 12-v and boots the radio. (K-ON plug-in for K3 and K4). The K4D has a 12-v output that is used to turn on the KPA1500 so when the K4D boots up the amplifier follows. I know when this happens because the KPA1500 remote software shows "ON" on my PC screen.

There are always anomalies when using the Internet and of course they occur at inconvenient moments. On a few occasions the Internet in Virginia was apparently completely disabled, because I could not connect to the radio or to my videocams. In an hour or two Verizon apparently restored service and everything worked again. But those occurrences are unnerving and upsetting. More frequent is the unpredictable loss of packets, characterized by choppy receive and possibly character distortions on my outgoing CW, though I am told this should not happen because the characters are generated at the Virginia side of the link. Again, those issues seem to self-correct in minutes.

I also have a Cushcraft R9 vertical in Florida that supports as an alternate station. The benefit of the second K4D is that it can operate as my local transceiver in conjunction with a KPA500, independently of the remote mode. Soon, Elecraft will market its VK4 software that will allow remote control of a K4D via a computer screen on a PC located anywhere there is Internet service. Paddle-generated CW will require modification of an existing K-Pod, or purchase of a V-Pod.

My most common error (and there are always pilot mistakes!) is forgetting to tap the Florida K4D remote-connect button to link with the Virginia K4D. I don't immediately realize this is happening because I hear lots of stations since the K4D is connected to my R9 antenna. When I attempt to run higher power the amplifier remains non-responsive on the PC display. Of course, tapping the K4D remote-link button cures that problem instantly. Shutting down the K4D in Virginia is accomplished with a command triggered in my case by tapping F7 on my K-Pod.

My radio activity would be vastly reduced were it not for this kind of remote capability. For all intents and purposes, I am in my Virginia station even when I am sitting in my Florida shack. Yes, all this is a bit complex but gets easier all the time. It is a main component of the new ham radio hobby that increasingly relies on computer operation and networking.

SC

K4FN Remote Operation

Dan Downard, K4FN (CWops #1639)

My wife and I enjoy travel and after retirement we would spend a month or two in Florida during the winter. I had a semi-competitive station at my home in Kentucky and didn't want to give up contesting when I was away. The Internet made remote operation a reality.

I used N1MM+ for logging and a WinKey for CW. I had a homebrew controller and HMI software for antenna selection. Little did I realize that a laptop was all I needed for a complete remote station. I used TightVNC remote desktop and REMaudio for sound. Later I discovered that Splashtop would do both video and audio. The only real issue is latency. The internet speed at both ends has to be reliable and fast. One item that comes up especially when you are in a rental property is router access. A call to the rental agent or owner will usually solve any firewall restraints. Another must is setting your BIOS so that your host computer automatically re-boots on a power failure.

Over the last few years we decided to downsize. At first, we moved into a retirement community with no access to antennas, then into an apartment with restricted access e.g. dipole in attic. At the same time we sold our home I contacted KC4WQ who had a hunting cabin on a 16 acres rural site with facilities including Internet access. We discussed my remote operation and Buddy agreed to allow me use of the Farm. I moved all of my equipment and stored all of the antennas in a barn on the property. Due to my experience with remote operation from Florida I didn't have a learning curve and I was on the air in no-time-flat. I bought a computer server cabinet for the radios, power supplies and host computer. Everything fits in the cabinet in the corner of a bedroom. There are some definite advantages to a remote site. The noise level is unbelievable and I have yet to get a phone call in the middle of the night telling me that "You are interfering with my TV! "

One disadvantage of my remote QTH is limited Internet bandwidth. Due to the rural QTH, only DSL is available. My Internet speeds are 2 MB upload and 20 MB download, the reverse of what I need. The present limited bandwidth is barely acceptable for my current SO2R configuration. I tried a FLEX radio but I didn't have enough bandwidth. I have heard from Elecraft K4 users that remote operation is great but I can't justify the costs of four new radios! I am also unsure of the necessary bandwidth. Remote K4 software is in the works from Elecraft but that will still require two new radios and possibly faster Internet.

Rather than go through several equipment iterations I will describe my current configuration with a few comments. I have two identical Elecraft K3 and K3/0 radios using RemoteRig internet hardware. I consider this the top-line of remote control. I do all of my logging, keying and audio controls on the client. Since the RemoteRig handles all CAT and audio the only software that runs on the remote host is antenna switching. I have a DX Engineering 2 X 8 antenna switch with an EA4TX

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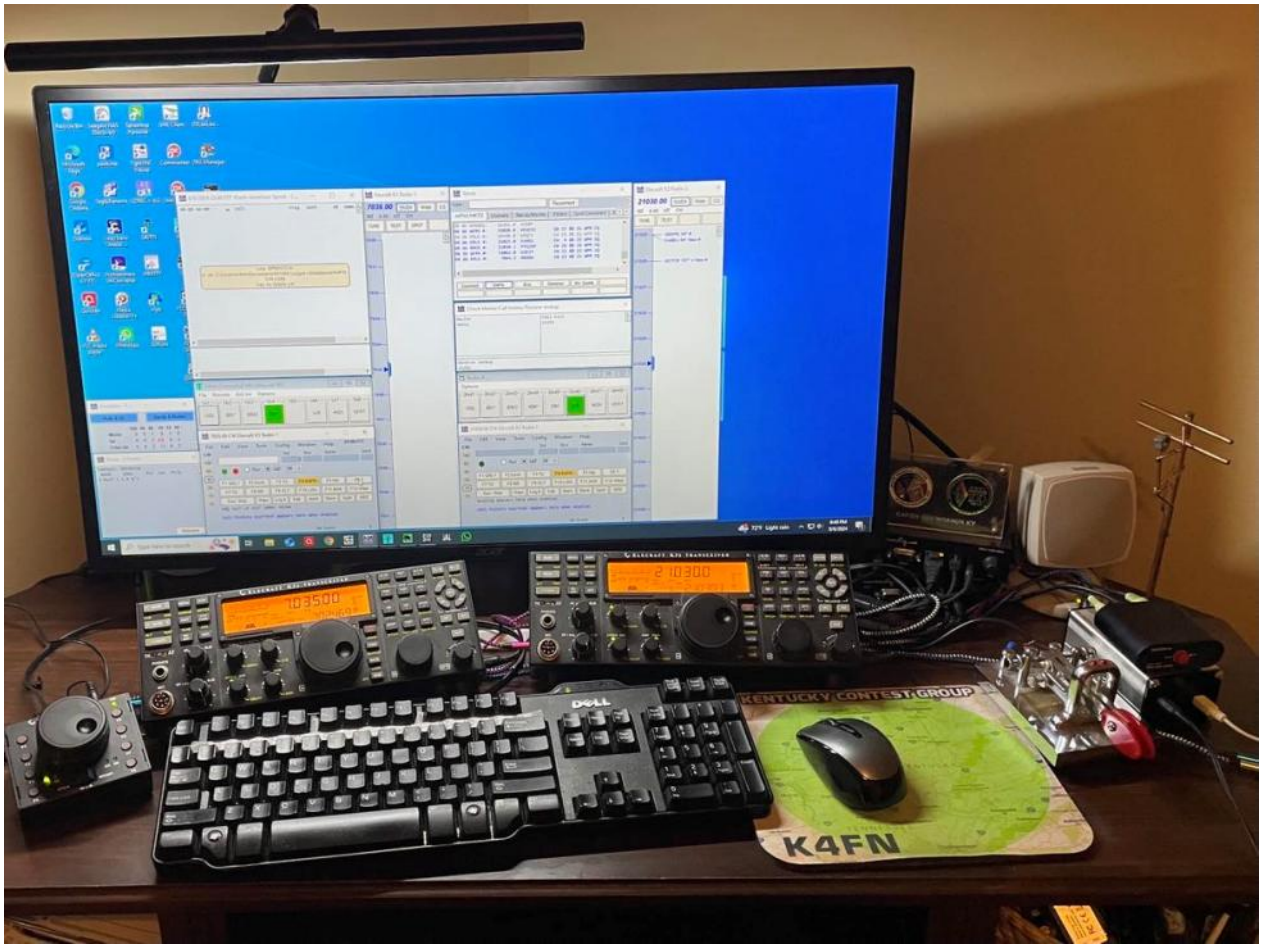
controller. A Raspberry Pi provides a TCP/IP server allowing remote access. The EA4TX Controller uses OmniRig to sense band data so it is not dependent on logging software. Another controller I have used as an alternative to the EA4TX system is a YCCC MOAS II. Either controller is fine but if my configuration was more complex the MOAS would be a clear winner.

In my apartment I have a Dell Windows 10 computer running N1MM+ and the EA4TX client. Additional hardware is a NN1C SO2R Mini allowing for keyboard control of audio and CW. The SO2R mini includes a Winkey. The K3/0's nestle in front of the 30” monitor to make a nice compact operator console. For several reasons I keep all software on the client, especially logging. The Farm is 80 miles from my apartment, not a quick trip for repairs.



The Farm is located on a ridge favoring the North and Northeast which is a big plus! There are abundant trees for antenna supports. At first there were dreams of multi towers and stacks but reality proved that they are really not necessary for domestic contesting. I have the ability to select one of eight antennas for each radio.

160M	Inverted L with an FCP.
80M	Inverted V

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40M	Two inverted delta loops, one NE/SW and one E/W.
20/15/10M	3 el wire tribander fixed West and a 20M Moxon fixed on EU/NE.
20-6M	R6000 vertical

A BOG from my old station is on the to do list. The 40m loops can also be used on the higher bands. One thing of note is the separation of the antennas. I have been lucky that inter-station interference is acceptable without band pass filters. One of the 40m loops and the 20m Moxon have stubs. I can always find a combination of antennas with the ability to use two bands at once, a must for successful SO2R. Another thing that helps is I only run low power.

I operate SO2R in the CWTs using all of the station design considerations previously mentioned. SO2R has been a culmination of years of practice and depends more on operator ability than hardware. I'm still not as proficient as I would like. I usually RUN on one radio and S&P on the other. Second radio QSOs are anywhere from 10-20% of my totals. I have yet to master the art of 2BSIQ.

Recently I have been joining N4QS for DX contests. Dave has a great station in Western Kentucky with several K3 transceivers with RemoteRig controllers. We have been moderately successful in the M/S category. This, with the combination of my station for domestic contests, means any towers and beams are on the back burner for now.

All from the corner of one bedroom in an apartment!

SC

It's All Greek to Me

Manos Chalaris, SV1DAY (CWops #3334)

In the spring of 2023, Costas (SV1DPI), a prominent member of SZ1A, highlighted the significant demand for CW lessons among Greek radio amateurs, during a visit of mine to SZ1A for a contest. Due to language barriers, many individuals were unable to benefit from the CW Academy. Consequently, Costas inquired if I could arrange CW Academy lessons in Greek. I subsequently contacted Bob (WR7Q), Roland (K7OJL), and my mentor Fanis (SV2BBK) to explore the feasibility of conducting these lessons in Greek and translating the relevant curriculum.

We received authorization and encouragement to proceed, leading to the inaugural presentation on CW Academy offerings for prospective students in May 2023. The Beginners class commenced in the September/October 2023 semester, during which Greek amateur radio enthusiasts have been diligently studying Morse code. Despite having only met virtually over the years, we convened in person for the first time in February at the annual RAAG (raag.org) award ceremony (see photo next page).

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Left to right: Demetris, (SV8LMQ, student in Fundamental), Theo, (SV1SYM, Advanced), Manos (SV1DAY, Advisor), Giannis (SV1PMQ, Advanced), Kostas (SV8SXF, Advanced and co-Advisor), Nikita (SV1SYY, Advanced). Miltos (SV8SXV, Advanced) did not manage to come from Tinos Island, in Cyclades, where he lives

At the initial presentation of CW Academy in May 2023, there were 17 participants. Three of them already possessed some CW skills, and the self-assessment test classified them as Fundamental, like Helena (SV4SUR, now CWops# 3565) and Giorgos (SV1ELF, now SK unfortunately…). These three hams had a good command of English and chose to continue independently in the standard CW Academy classes. The remaining participants, all at the Beginner level, were informed about the necessary homework and their commitment to one hour of daily home study. This resulted in only seven Beginner students in the Sep/Oct 2023 semester.

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The Beginners class concluded successfully with seven graduates. However, Mariza (SV8OVH) faced significant family obligations that prevented her from attending all sessions and ultimately hindered her progression to the next class.

In the January/February 2024 semester, Mariza was unable to continue with the Fundamental class. However, we were joined by Babis (SV1UH), a seasoned operator who wanted to improve his CW skills, and Kostas (SV8SXF, now CWops #3645), whom I met randomly on the air while he was CQing. After our QSO, we had a discussion about CW Academy, and he chose to register. Out of these eight participants, all graduated except for Demetris (SV8LMQ), who left the course midway.

Babis (SV1UH), decided to stop, so the team of 6 students progressed to the Intermediate level, in May/June 2024 semester, but both John (SV2SZS) and Andreas (SV3SPD) were unable to continue attending the sessions due to professional commitments. Andreas, in particular, is a fire-fighter, and the summer season demands significant attention due to the prevalence of wildfires.

The team decided to take a break and not continue in the September/October 2024 semester. However, Kostas (SV8SXF), who has a good command of English, has registered for a standard CW Academy Advanced class.

Ultimately, the team resolved to continue in the Advanced class for the January/February 2025 semester. Additionally, Nikita (SV1SYY) joined the team, as did Kostas (SV8SXF), who, although already an Advanced graduate, joined both to engage with the team and have fun and to provide coverage in the event of my potential absence due to my recent QRL assignment abroad.

Throughout our bi-weekly meetings all these semesters, we utilized JITSI for teleconferencing, which we found to be highly convenient and efficient.

By late February 2025, the first class of purely Greek radio amateurs graduated from the Advanced level of CW Academy. Congratulations to all the graduates. Appreciation is extended to Fanis, SV2BBK, for his enthusiastic support; Bob, WR7Q, and Roland, K7OJL, for their excellent administration of CW Academy; Fabian, DJ5CW, for effectively assisting with including Greek proverbs in Plain Text Training (https://lcwo.net/plaintext); and Stephen C. Phillips (https://morsecode.world/) for valuably aiding in Latin to Greek transliteration through CW Generator for short texts in the Intermediate curriculum (pages 27-30 of the Greek translation). Acknowledgment is given to Costas, SV1DPI, for his brilliant idea.

More...Although I know that the above "is all Greek to you", I am thrilled to inform you, that SZ1A is announcing a new circle of CW lessons with CW Academy method, by Giannis, SV1PMQ, of students of mine! I believe that the seed we planted together grew into a big tree! Thank you very much all for your support and enthusiasm! Go Giannis, go! I will support you as far as I can and my QRL permits me!

Parks on the Air (POTA)

Dave Lear, NN5DE (CWops #3005)

I'm sure many of you are aware of the POTA organization and its goals. It was inspired by WWFF which began in Europe, and is a direct outgrowth of the ARRL National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) year-long event that was held in 2016. POTA is managed by the non-profit Parks on the Air, Inc. and is now extremely popular worldwide.

In POTA, the goal is to operate from a state or national park or other designated public land at any power level with any mode and make at least 10 contacts. This constitutes an "activation" of that park. The responders to that activator are called hunters. There is a capability on the website https://parksontheair.com/ to spot an activation so that hunters can see which parks are currently active. The POTA organization maintains individual park registration numbers which are available and mapped on the website along with lots of other POTA information. My operating preference is CW and I have about 260 hunter contacts which is trivial compared to many ops who have made thousands of hunter contacts.

So before getting in more details, a little background first. My wife and I live in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in TX. I am associated with a group of amateurs who are QRP enthusiasts. Many of them operate portable.

Several years ago, my daughter who lives Upstate NY invited us to go whale watching in MA. So, we flew up there and she drove us to Rockport MA. I took along my Elecraft KX2, which includes internal batteries, and operated Maritime Mobile with the rig handheld at 5 watts. The arrangement included a whip antenna, trailing a 13ft counterpoise and Palm Pico paddles. The action is now my QRZ profile picture. I made a DX contact to Brazil and to several U.S. western states, verifying the ocean is a superior ground plane. On the trip I also made several DX contacts pedestrian mobile, thereby achieving a couple of bucket list items.

Recently, I decided to activate, and in the first week in February with a warmup of the weather, I took the plunge. This being Texas, the temperature that day equaled a record of 84 degrees F and on the next day it was 44 degrees.

The rig in the picture is an Elecraft KH1 which was designed as an HF CW only hand held transceiver operating on five bands. It is probably unique in the world with that specification and can be acquired "bare bones" at a reasonable price. My version is loaded with a battery and

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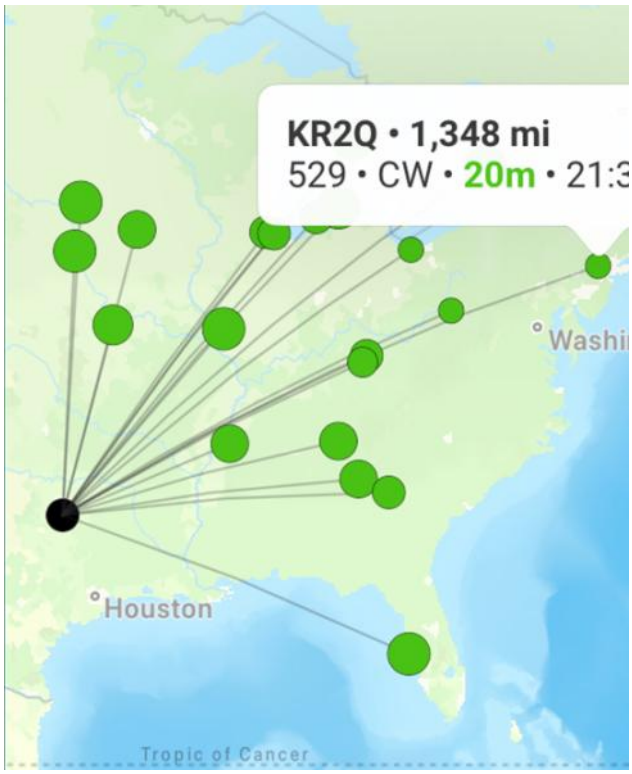
built in charger, tuner, whip antenna and coils, and Elecraft paddles. This includes 8 message memories all for a price about double the base model. Normally the transceiver includes a covering flap with paper for logging purposes. In the picture, I removed the flap and notebook log The rig does contain basic internal logging software capable of recording ongoing transmissions. The whip antenna in the picture is used for 20m operation, is one of a set available for 8 bands of operation, and was acquired from WIMA in Germany.

The state park that I chose is near Dallas and is called Cedar Hill park (designated as US-2996). The area is one of the high points in the park and used for Scouting America activities. The area includes metal pavilions but I decided to operate from a wooden structure shielded from the sun.



Shown below is a map of the contacts I made. One of them is none other than Doug KR2Q in NJ, graciously operating at my speed of 20 wpm. CWops N4GO is also one of the contacts. The distribution surprised me considering the 5 watts and a whip antenna but does indicate the hunters who were listening.The RBN showed a few Westerm hits but I guess there were no hunters out there.

Now I'm hyped to activate the next park and wait for warmer weather. The nearest park is a good hour's drive from my location. By the way, operators up North activate in freezing, snowy weather. Think about paddles and cold fingers. Not for this old geezer.

SC

CWTs Down Under

Intro by Dick Strassburger, N9EEE

Perspectives by Chris Chapman, VK3QB; Phil Pavey VK3VB; Allan Mason, VK2GR, Graeme Morgan, VK5GG

Operating in the CWTs from Australia: A "Down Under" Perspective

What's it like to participate in the CWTs from Australia? With several VK operators regularly joining the events, I wondered if there was a story to tell — the CWTs as experienced from CWops who live it in Australia.

In the U.S., the 1300z CWT can be packed with activity, while the 1900z session is even more

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popular, spanning across 20 meters and often extending to either 15 or 40 meters. But what's the experience like for operators in Australia? What do they hear, and who do they work?

To find out, I reached out to VK stations who frequently appear in the weekly summaries on 3830scores.com. VK3QB, VK5GG, VK2GR, and VK3VB kindly shared their insights. You may already know them — they're active CWops members, familiar faces in *Solid Copy*, and leaders within the community. In fact, one serves as an Ambassador, and another as a Director.

Here's what they had to say:

Although the CWT is a global operating event, the majority of ops reside in the USA. Certainly, geography plays a role, but to what degree does it affect your ability to make contacts? Are you chasing US ops or are there ops in other geographies that you chase? Do you have a strategy relative to your location?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: 1300 session is midnight for me. Tends to be mostly USA SP and mostly 20m, but 40m too. 0700z is 6pm for me... 20m LP into EU when its open. The usual 20m LP into EU in the afternoon has been very poor lately. Of course, from VK we are competing with USA stations working each other - a beam and amp helps from our end. But now I am 100W and a longwire - and its hard work. Most sessions I am able to get the required 5 QSOs for a CWT Credit. If the local lads are about, I grab them and we QSY to another band - which helps. VK5GG, VK3VB, VK2GR.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: Not so much a matter of 'chasing' but more who I can hear during the CWT. I work full-time so the only CWT session that is practical for me is the 0700 UTC Thursday session (1730 local time Thursday here in Adelaide). An example of how bad it can be, last week I think I only heard 2 or 3 European ops. I worked those I heard but didn't even make the minimum 5 to qualify. When the propagation is good we do hear US ops during the 0700 UTC session. Ken, JN1THL, is another station that we hear down here. It's not uncommon lately to only hear a few stations during the session, unfortunately. My strategy is to work those I can hear in my location and if I'm lucky I get the required 5 contacts to qualify.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: At the start of a CWT, I attempt to call other stations, although it is often hard to be heard. Later in a CWT event or if conditions are good, I try to run a frequency.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: Realistically, I struggle to get 5 contacts most sessions so work everyone I can hear.

What other geographies are you able to work in the CWT?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: Mostly USA and EU. And of course, VK. It would be nice to get some more VK and ZL. Be nice to work some more JA too. But my antenna lets me down at the moment.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: During the 0700 UTC session I hear Europe if the LP is open. Ken, JN1THL, is heard here from time to time. If the path is open US ops will be heard via the SP.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: AS, EU and NA for the 1900z and 0700z events There are very few OC regular participants

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Phil Pavey, VK3VB: VE is sometimes on 40m. In the first session sometimes get short opening to EU.

Is the timing of the CWT sessions favorable to your time zone?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: yeah. I'm a night owl anyway. I love the 1300z session - my midnight. I don't like the 1700z session - my 6am! You can't please all the people all the time.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: Timing isn't an issue, work and sleep gets in the way for me.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: The 0300 and 0700 sessions are good for east VK. The 1900 session is early but OK in our summer. The 1300 session is too late for me but sometimes conditions to EU can be good on 20m at this time.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: No - but that's part of challenge. Here locally it's midnight, 6am, 2pm, 6pm. I still work so you can see the challenge.

What is your operating strategy (Running, Search & Pounce)?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: No chance of running... I S&P. Alan VK2GR is the only VK who has success running. But he has a beam ... makes ALL the difference.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: If conditions are good and there are stations being heard S&P works fine, if not I will be calling.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: A mix of both. I like to run if band conditions are good. The 20m band and next the 40m band are my best CWT bands for NA and EU.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: Preference is S&P, but if no stations heard, or not at 5 QSO minimum, I will CQ as sometimes local VK may be seen on CW RBN and answer.

What other challenges do you face when "competing" in the CWTs?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: Being heard, and very average conditions the last few months. I'm really limited to 40 and 20m for DX. Sometimes I get 1 or 2 locals on 80 and 160, but that's really the exception. The biggest challenge is being heard over "local" strong stations in the USA.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: Nothing CWT specific, but Australian amateurs face challenges that amateurs in other countries don't, so I'm just sharing for info. 1. Our highest level amateur licence in Australia (the Advanced licence) authorises a maximum legal power limit of only 120W Py or CW. 2. Under Federal regulation in Australia amateur licensees can erect antennas up to 10m above

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ground without planning approval.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: At the currently good DX band conditions, my only issue is with non-CWT stations calling and wanting to exchange RTS, Name, QTH etc like a normal QSO; this frequently occurs from EU. I occasionally work a QRP station in a CWT.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: Motivation after a few sessions with zero or less than 5. My noise during day can be over S9 Often as we are weaker sig than NA spend fair amount of time to break through and get QSO.

Describe your equipment and location?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: Elecraft K4D, into a vertical or Long wire. I am in a town called Korumburra, about 110km southeast of Melbourne.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: Icom IC-7300 with 100w to a vertical antenna, 10m in height, in a suburban backyard. QTH is Adelaide, South Australia.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: VK2GR is a very quiet, rural QTH. It is an excellent hilltop location 6km from the Pacific Ocean. Kenwood TS-990S and a 400W amp. Antennas; 80m 2 element wire Yagi to EU, 40m 4SQ with elevated radials, 4el 20m monoband Yagi at 15m, 4el 15m monoband Yagi at 15m and 3el 10m monoband Yagi at 17m.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: FTDX101D at 100w (VK limited to 120w CW), wire antennas. Located about 50km SE of Melbourne

From your perspective, what would make the CWTs more exciting and interesting to you?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: If we could get more VK and ZL to participate, and if I had my beam working again and the amplifier.

Graeme Morgan, VK5GG: I enjoy the CWT's, particularly being able to say hello to the regulars. Better propagation would be nice, but CWops can't fix that. I'm looking forward to the solar peak being over. With the 0700 UTC CWT session being in our daylight hours it's often near hopeless with the current conditions.

Allan Mason, VK2GR: More EU and AS activity

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: More of the stations from VK, ZL and Oceania joining sessions.

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What additional information would you like to add?

Chris Chapman, VK3QB: 12 months ago I wasn't interested in CWT - I just didn't think I had the skill. Now I love the challenge and really look forward to Wednesday night/Thursday local time. Don't get me wrong… I still S&P and sometimes I listen to a QRQ op for a few minutes to make sure I have his callsign, name and number before calling him. It's a great learning environment. And fun!

Allan Mason, VK2GR: A idea to consider; dedicate a small frequency band to DX other than EU and NA eg; 14035 - 14040 and similar for other bands. This could allow for DX, low power and QRP to run a frequency. The idea would be similar to the 3500 to 3510 DX slot in EU; this really works for me on 80m most mornings at my sunrise.

Phil Pavey, VK3VB: Despite the above, I absolutely love the CWT sessions and try to plan each week to be able to join at least 2 per week.

Thank you to my VK friends Chris, Phil, Allan, and Graeme for satisfying my curiosity. - N9EEE

New Members

Trung Nguyen, W6TN

With great pleasure we welcome the following new members to CWops:

CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name	CWops	Call	Name
3674	LZ3AW	Toti	3686	K8VAN*	Bob	3698	DL7PIA*	Pia
3675	XE1AY*	Isma	3687	W7LHT*	Zach	3699	WD5JR*	Si
3676	WW1H*	Bill	3688	M7YRU*	Marie	3700	WJ7V*	Jeff
3677	N4IN*	Dave/Des	3689	MØVPH*	Pete	3701	VK2COS*	Rob
3678	N1XV	Julia	3690	K1SN*	Max	3702	2EØIER*	Brian
3679	N1KB*	Doug	3691	N3JMC	John	3703	DL1NCG*	Kit
3680	F5IJO*	JJ	3692	NQ1B	Cathy	3704	DL6DAE*	Andreas
3681	MM7BFL*	Laura	3693	MØYRU*	Steve	3705	IU2OZV*	Luca
3682	WZ2J	Vin	3694	KD4Y*	Gene	3706	K4CBW*	Brant
3683	KM4JTE*	John	3695	UR8UO*	Yuriy	3707	KE8EON*	James
3684	K6AJ*	Mike	3696	K1PN*	Rex	3708	KB9RPG*	Steve
3685	KØLRQ*	Ron	3697	SV1ABA*	Tony	3709	WV4AM	Jake

* Lifetime member

As of March 6, 2025:

Need Sponsors: WA8YWG, IZ8JAI

Invitations Extended: KI4AMD

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

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

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

Did your **CALL SIGN** change recently?

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

Congratulations!

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

Click HERE to update your contact information.

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

GW2CWO	SV3GHZ HB9DAX (2) EA1FGV	DJ3GS OE3CGR SM4UOS	UR3QX HB9HFD F6KKH	OH3CW EA4IIF 2MØYMA	RU3II IT9EJE	OK1FHD GW4ZVL	G3MVE MØKTZ
JG1UQD	JN4FZS	JA4IIJ	JQ2XOI	JK1WCW	JR1LQK	JH5FVM	JE8LRI
JJ1FXF	JIØDRC/1 JG7FYG JP1UWF	JA4IIJ(5) JM4AOA JR2BOE	JL3TII KY7M JL2SQK	JJØSFV W7VJ JK8TYW	K7HK KØRF JE4ADE	HL1MIM(2) WB6CIA JN7DOR	JA1BJT JG1BGT JK1WCW
JK1QYL	JG1BGT(4) JJØSFV JA9NIL JH7HVF	JA6BZH JA4MRL JJ1VNV 7K1TSV	JQ2XOI JA4IIJ JL2SQK	JQ3FRX JH5ASR JN7DOR	K7HK(2) JG7FYG JA7BWV	JK1WCW(2) JG7EDQ JE6JAO	JK1MVC JN4FZS(2) HL1MIM
JM4AOA	HL1MIM JM4RRC	JA4MRL JQ2XOI	JG2AZS JQ3FRX	JG7EDQ(2) JQ7CKC	JH5FVM	JJ2KJN(2)	JK2IMG
JO1DGE	7K1TSV JL1BWK	HL1MIM(2) JN4FZS	JA6BZH JN7DOR	JG1BGT JO4ODA(3)	JH5FVM JQ3FRX	JK1KDH JR2AWS	JK1PIG
JS2PNZ	7N2XZB JE6AJO	JH1QKG JJØSFV	JL1STV JE1TRV	JH4LGA	JA4MRL	JA1SJR（2）	JE2HSH
K7NJ	W4AUV N9GUN	KD2FSH AE7I	WU6X W6BOW	KØCDJ	K4IBZ	N4DR	ZS1CF
K8UDH	W2QXR NP3K	WA0JLY	K5FC	NUØI (2)	KE9BHR	WB5KJE	KF4CLO
MØWDD	9A1CHI F6FLH MØKCJ	DF4DJ GØISO MØRZE	DK9TZ GØLLU MØTJU	DL5TT GØUBE M7TSM	DL9CM G4FOC OK1AY	EA7BW/A LX1KM YL3JD	EU1IA MØIYP
W5DT	KC1V	KZ4KG	KØCDJ	KC3WNX	KA9OUT	KE1ZLG	
7N2XZB	JA1IIJ JA6GAO JS2PNZ JJ3LXM	JL2SQK JM2LOF(2) JK1WCW JA4MRL	JN7DOR(3) JJØSFV JG7EDQ	JJØPFZ JI1WGS JG1BGT(2)	HL1MIM(4) JQ7CWD JK1PIG	JHØOXS JI2TFZ BD4WQZ	JA3EBL JN1FAO BH3OQQ

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Giving Back Operating Schedule - 7 PM Local

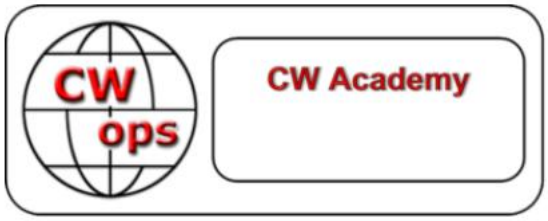
October - April: 40m & 80m | May - September: 40m & 20m

Frequencies: 7.035 - 7.039, 3.535 - 3.539, 14.035 - 14.039 MHz | JA - 7.028 +/-

UTC+10	UTC+9	UTC+7	UTC+3	UTC+2	UTC+1	UTC/BST	UTC-1	New York	Chicago UTC-5	Denver UTC-6	Los Angeles	Hawaii UTC-10
MON												
VK1CWO	JØ1DGE							W2XS				
TUE												
	JR1WYW	E25JRP		SV2BBK		GW2CWO		WE5P	K8UDH	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
	7N2XZB								W8OV			
WED												
	7J1ATG							N8DD				
THURS												
	JJ1VNV			SV2BBK				KV8Q	N5OT	K7NJ	W7ZDX	
FRI												
	JK1QYL			SV2BBK		GW2CWO		N2GSL	AAØYY			
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											

CW Academy

Bob Carter, WR7Q and Roland Smith, K7OJL



CW Academy has been evolving for more than ten years. We are always finding new tools, or receiving suggestions on others that will assist in our effort to help people improve their CW skills. As usual, some have been great and others not so much. Recently we have discussed our efforts shifting away teaching 'typing' to putting more effort into 'hearing the sounds' of Morse code. We are not totally getting away from typing, there are still several effective programs that utilize that process. I thought it might be interesting to make you aware of most of the ones we use, a bit about how they work for us, and without going into a lot of detail about each of them…here is a quick overview.

Scales - Daily Morse Code 'Scales' Sending Warm Up – This helps you get your finger 'lubricated' and learn to get better at sending correctly.

Morse Code World – A UK written program by Stephen C Phillips in concert with CWA to provide Web base training for learning morse code.

MCT – Morse Code Trainer – Developed specifically to help the Beginner students utilize this tool to fit our curriculum

QSO – Generates very good practice QSO's

Word List – Random words base on the length you desire

ICR – Instant Character Recognition of specific or random letters, numbers or Prosigns

Headlines – Latest headlines from UK, US or International using Fox, CNN or BBC

LCWO – Learn CW Online – A German program written by Fabian Kurz – DJ5CW, provides online testing of ICR and ICW recognition. Utilizes phrases, code groups, word and call sign training. Can also convert 'text' to CW mp3 files.

⇒ Characters
⇒ Words
⇒ Numbers
⇒ Custom Characters
⇒ Call Signs

Morse Code Ninja - Kurt Zoglmann, AD0WE, has developed numerous practice files to assist in all levels of learning for 15 – 50 wpm. Literally thousands of files to choose from, allowing you to improve your copying skills.

⇒ Sentences
⇒ Phrases

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⇒ Speed-Racing
⇒ Prefixes and Suffixes
⇒ Top 100 Words
⇒ Call Signs

On Air QSOS – We encourage all of students to get on the air as soon as possible to break-the-ice and get comfortable sending and receiving code. Giving Back is a CWops program created to help students with on-air practice. It is available every night at 7 pm local time.

Short Files – two to five words in length
⇒ Words – one to five characters in length
⇒ Phrases – one to five characters in length
⇒ QSOS – simple to lengthy
⇒ POTA – simple to more complex exchanges

Morse Runner – A very popular contesting practice program with macro commands similar to N1MM+. This is used to help the students decode call signs and exchanges in a very 'real-time' environment. I really enjoy this program and have used it more than 10,000 times in the last 15 years.

mini-Contests

- SST - Weekly one-hour slow speed contest sponsored by K1USN Radio Club. They are held every Monday starting at 0000z (Sunday 7 pm EST) and Fridays at 2000z
- MST - Is a medium-speed (20-25 wpm) contest-like event held each Monday/Tuesday at 1300z, 1900z & 0300z
- CWT - is 60 minutes in duration and held on every Wednesday at 1300z and 1900z, and every Thursday at 0300z and 0700z. Speed varies between 25wpm to 45wpm

Morsle - A fun and popular daily online program like 'Wordle'. There is a new five-character word sent daily at a starting speed of 40 wpm, after three tries, decrements by 5 wpm until you get it correct.

CWA Practice Files
⇒ Short Stories – longer versions for more in depth practice of words
⇒ QSOS – longer versions for more in depth practice of call sign and exchanges

RufzXP – Written and maintained by Mathis Kolpe – DL4MM – This is a 'listening to callsigns' program. Allows people to practice leading from 'high to ultra-high' speed copy. Current record is a 12-year-old boy from Tunisia who was able to correctly copy a single call sign at 225 words per minute. Lot of students have used this and have a 'love-hate' relationship with it…which becomes obvious when it is used.

There are also many other resources to choose from on the CWops Resources page.

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

mini-'Test 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

CWops Member Awards

Bill Gilliland, WØTG

Monthly Update

During February, 21 additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 177.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of February 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 192 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1**) **KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) N5RZ, (5) K3WW, (6) N5TJ, (7) NA8V, (8) KO4VW, (9) KC7V,** and **(10) K7QA.** The separation between first place and tenth place is 532 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of February 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 414 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1**) **AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) N5RZ, (4) K3WW, (5) OM2VL, (6) KY4GS, (7) N5TJ, (8) NA8V, (9) K7QA** and **(10) KC7V.** The separation between first place and tenth place is 1693 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of February 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) KR2Q, (5) N5ZO, (6) DL6KVA, (7) NA8V, (8) W1RM, (9) F6HKA** and **(10) OM2VL**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 6810 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities remained unchanged this month at **92**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS grew to **266** this month with the addition of **WV4AM.**

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 March 1, 2025, we have 177 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.

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.

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

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

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

CWops Member Awards Program Overview

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

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

Please Join Us!

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

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

More Information

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

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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	1392
2	AA3B	1200
3	KY4GS	1070
4	N5RZ	997
5	K3WW	967
6	N5TJ	935
7	NA8V	909
8	KO4VW	897
9	KC7V	881
10	K7QA	860
11	KG9X	836
12	OM2VL	821
13	WT9U	787
14	AA2IL	777
15	K1VUT	775
16	N7US	767
17	W4CMG	762
18	NJ3K	714
19	K9WX	695
20	DL6KVA	687
21	W9ILY	646
22	N5KD	629
23	KC3M	625
24	F6HKA	603
25	EA6BF	583
26	WN7S	573
27	K1SM	570
28	K6NR	562
29	N9UNX	559
30	K0WA	556
31	N5XE	552
32	VE3TM	551
33	K3ZA	550
34	KM4FO	545
35	KW1X	536
36	WT3K	527
37	K3QP	522
38	W0UO	518
39	WE4AUB	515
40	W0VX	510
41	W5AL	505
42	K1DJ	502
43	AA5JF	492

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	3720
2	KR2Q	3306
3	N5RZ	2796
4	K3WW	2432
5	OM2VL	2397
6	KY4GS	2354
7	N5TJ	2216
8	NA8V	2166
9	K7QA	2151
10	KC7V	2027
11	KO4VW	1973
12	KG9X	1784
13	WT9U	1707
14	DL6KVA	1702
15	K1VUT	1663
16	N7US	1496
17	W4CMG	1470
18	AA2IL	1442
19	K9WX	1378
20	EA6BF	1289
21	NJ3K	1270
22	N5XE	1222
23	N5KD	1216
24	W0VX	1133
25	KC3M	1129
26	WN7S	1098
27	F6HKA	1073
28	W9ILY	1059
29	KM4FO	1035
30	K6NR	1009
31	KW1X	1006
32	N2UU	996
33	WS7L	984
34	VE3TM	961
35	G3NKC	960
36	K1SM	953
37	N9UNX	918
38	K1DJ	898
39	K3ZA	864
40	KW7Q	860
41	AA5JF	857
42	WE4AUB	851
43	OZ3SM	845

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14734
2	K3WW	11248
3	N5RZ	10454
4	KR2Q	10239
5	N5ZO	10203
6	DL6KVA	9591
7	NA8V	9578
8	W1RM	9424
9	F6HKA	8883
10	OM2VL	7924
11	K7QA	7781
12	KG9X	7721
13	KC7V	7619
14	N7US	7595
15	W9ILY	7378
16	WT9U	7010
17	K1VUT	6908
18	W0VX	6855
19	K3JT	6651
20	K9WX	6610
21	KY4GS	6338
22	N5TJ	6284
23	K6NR	6130
24	K1DJ	6014
25	N2UU	5981
25	W4WF	5981
26	K4IU	5922
27	WT3K	5902
28	WN7S	5762
29	9A1AA	5640
30	AA5JF	5454
31	G4BUE	5442
32	W0UO	5325
33	AC6ZM	5248
34	VE3TM	5226
35	K1SM	5207
36	KO4VW	5179
37	NJ3K	5162
38	GW0ETF	5034
39	N5XE	5008
40	NA4J	4892
41	F6JOE	4860
42	AA2IL	4822

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ACA

43	K4TZ	492
44	F5SGI	490
44	KV8Q	490
45	W1RM	485
46	WS7L	483
47	N9FZ	482
48	N2UU	476
49	W4WF	471
50	W9CF	467
51	VE9KK	463
52	AF5J	460
53	N3CKI	455
54	KW7Q	449
55	K4IU	446
56	DL5XL	440
57	VE3MV	435
58	EA6EJ	432
58	G3NKC	432
59	NE5A	431
60	DF7TV	424
61	VE3KIU	423
62	KY0Q	422
63	K1RF	421
63	NA4J	421
64	VK2GR	416
65	KB8GAE	415
66	OZ3SM	414
67	WU6P	408
68	N2EIM	397
69	AF4T	395
70	KT4XN	389
71	WB5N	383
72	M0RYB	372
73	W0TG	371
73	WV4AM	371
74	N5ZO	370
75	K3JT	363
76	K4GM	361
77	GW0ETF	360
78	K9CW	358
79	W3WHK	350
80	AC6ZM	334
81	N5ER	323
82	HB9ARF	319
82	LY2MM	319
83	AC3RA	314
84	N1EN	310
85	KK0U	304
85	W2VM	304

ACMA

44	W1RM	838
45	F5SGI	837
46	VE3MV	835
47	W4WF	830
48	W9CF	829
49	AF5J	825
50	W0UO	822
51	W5AL	821
52	KV8Q	813
53	KY0Q	809
54	EA6EJ	800
55	WT3K	796
55	K4TZ	796
56	K4IU	776
57	M0RYB	775
58	K0WA	766
59	W0TG	760
60	K3QP	753
61	DL5XL	749
62	K1RF	736
63	VE9KK	722
64	AF4T	708
65	N3CKI	687
66	N9FZ	679
67	K9CW	674
68	WS1L	673
69	WB5N	668
70	DF7TV	661
71	NA4J	653
72	KB8GAE	644
73	VE3KIU	627
74	VK2GR	621
75	W3WHK	620
76	NE5A	619
77	K4GM	608
78	N5ZO	607
79	WU6P	596
80	N5ER	595
81	K3JT	581
82	LY2MM	566
83	KT4XN	564
84	OK1RR	563
85	WV4AM	542
85	HB9ARF	542
86	G3LDI	528
87	N1EN	503
88	AC6ZM	496
89	W8OV	493
90	AC3RA	472

CMA

43	OK1RR	4728
44	K4GM	4646
45	K3QP	4642
46	WS7L	4627
47	VE3MV	4453
48	OZ3SM	4388
49	I2WIJ	4383
50	VK2GR	4354
51	EA6BF	4291
52	DJ5CW	4280
53	W6AYC	4264
54	K0WA	4230
55	KM4FO	4162
56	N5KD	4129
57	KY0Q	4098
58	DF7TV	4075
59	W0TG	3998
60	F5SGI	3980
61	DM6EE	3965
62	WS1L	3956
63	N1EN	3941
64	NE5A	3932
65	K0TC	3915
66	W4CMG	3907
67	W3WHK	3904
68	AF5J	3899
69	KV8Q	3864
70	KK0U	3803
71	W2CDO	3783
72	WU6P	3732
73	M0RYB	3723
74	AF4T	3656
75	KW7Q	3624
76	SM0HEV	3563
77	HB9ARF	3536
78	K4TZ	3534
79	EA6EJ	3457
80	N3CKI	3391
81	K3ZA	3354
82	K2YR	3203
83	KR3E	3164
84	G3LDI	3160
85	W7GF	3086
86	W2VM	3069
87	W8OV	3054
88	KW1X	2980
89	IT9VDQ	2956
90	KC8J	2906
91	N9UNX	2884

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ACA

86	G3LDI	302
87	KQ4E	296
88	K2YR	290
89	WW3S	289
90	OK1RR	286
91	W8OV	285
92	W8EWH	284
93	DM6EE	280
94	NN7O	278
95	K9CPO	274
96	W2CDO	270
97	DJ5CW	265
98	VE6JF	263
98	WA2USA	263
99	SM0HEV	258
99	SP4JFR	258
100	AD7N	252

ACMA

91	W2VM	470
92	SM0HEV	466
93	G4BUE	461
94	G4BUE	460
95	DM6EE	454
95	IN3FHE	454
96	GW0ETF	443
97	KQ4E	432
98	W8EWH	430
99	KK0U	425
99	SP4JFR	425
100	N2EIM	418

CMA

92	IN3FHE	2882
93	KT4XN	2881
94	G4LPP	2870
95	G3NKC	2851
96	KC3M	2828
97	KB8GAE	2826
98	W9CF	2809
99	W5AL	2762
100	WA5LXS	2758

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

SC

CWops Tests (CWTs)

Rich Ferch, VE3KI

No report for March. See you next month…

***73, Rich* VE3KI**

QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Enzo, MØKTZ

We often complain about not having enough time. Time for doing a specific thing. Time for doing more things. Time for doing different things. Time for relaxing and chilling out. Time for this and that and that other stuff. But when we read through the QTX/mQTX soapbox (and please do, as it is a rich trove of personal expeciences!), it is great to see how each member of our gang spends the time they manage to spare for playing radio: having relaxed, chilled out, long chats; discovering new people with different stories and unheard-of hobbies; putting back on air old xtal-controlled rigs for a Novice-time QSO; trying out new keys and learning new skills the hard way; giving back to the ham family, by helping other fellows moving their first steps in conversational CW, with slow-paced exchanges and a super-friendly attitude.

In short: the main thing we all do with the time we manage to spend in the shack is trying to slow it down a bit, deciding how to let it flow, without external pressures forcing us to do things "efficiently and fast". By playing radio in conversational CW, we get back in control of our own time, our own way, and we are allowed to use our time to help others enjoying the hobby as well. I would really like to shout out to (and congratulate) all those who make an effort to slow down. The most notable example is our friendly "boss" Stew GWØETF, who is one of the many fellows responsible for the CWops Giving Back (GB) programme: a bunch of experienced CWops operators spending a couple of hours on air every week to help newcomers getting their feet wet in standard (and conversational) QSOs. I had the chance of calling Stew as GW2CWO towards the end of one of his sessions, and I was very grateful to him for not speeding up after my call. We could have had a chat at 25-28wpm or more, but we deliberately decided to enjoy a slow-paced QSO at 17-18wpm, a short conversation that any hesitant fellow could easily follow, and which would told them loud and clear: "Hey! You don't need to speed-up to enjoy this mode, you see? CW speaks your heart and soul at every step, at any speed! Take the plunge, and have fun!".

I personally make it a point of not getting to the end of a week without having had at least one (but possibly more!) proper, slow-paced (12-14wpm) QSO. This is very important to newcomers and to fellows who are getting back to the hobby, as they must be able to find on the bands QSO companions that are willing to walk at their same speed. And this is also important for myself, as it reminds me that slowing down is the best way of showing that I am the owner of my own hard-earned spare time, and as such, I can decide to use it as it pleases me HI. This month we welcome to the QTX/mQTX family two new fellows, namely Mark K4LFL and Andy DK9HE. I wish they will have hours after hours of pleasant chats to report about. I have had many nice chats with Andy in the past few years, and I am very happy to welcome him here.

Keep chatting, enjoy the time you spend on the bands, make connections with new fellow hams, show in each QSO that you are the owner of your own time, and make sure that each chat creates a positive memory for both correspondents.

Please send in your reports by the 3rd of the next month.

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

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2025 Total Number of Hours Worked: 561

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

Call	Hrs	Call	Hrs	Call	Hrs	Call	Hrs	Call	Hrs
WA4IAR	68	KB6NU	27	K8UDH	8.5	DF7TV	2.7	KB4DE	0.7
KY4GS	57	K9OZ	26	AJ1DM	8.3	VK3QB	2.5	ABØWW	0.7
WS1L	54	AAØYY	23	DK9HE	6.7	N9FZ	2.3	PG4I	0.5
VE3WH	43	N7HCN	23	NØBM	5	MMØUMH	2.3		
M0KTZ	34	KG5IEE	19	MØSDB	5	K4LFL	2		
KR2Q	31	MØMZB	15	KE4I	3.8	N9EEE	1.8		
N8AI	30	GØFOZ	14	SV2BBK	3	W8OV	1.7		
KCØVKN	27	N2DA	9	GWØETF	2.7	W3WHK	1		

NØBM: Created an alternative reality with KEØLOY--both named Brian, both operating the same rig, both with end-fed antennas, him living in Twin Falls and me in the Twin Cities. Gave us a good chuckle as well as a good QSO.

F5IYJ: Got a new key (Lionel Signal Corps J-36) which was used to ragchew this month. Very smooth to use, I really enjoyed it. Thank you all for the very pleasant chats this month and looking forward to copying you soon.

GØFOZ: Always a pleasure to chat. Some great long chats this month about keys, old radios, the state of various joints and switching mid-QSO between keys :-)

WS1L: Nice ragchews with W4MQC about his TenTec Argonaut, KF7E and W4FOA, both of whom had careers that took them all over the world, W3FSA about restoring his DX40 Novice rig, N1CT once again QRV after many years QRT, and KB7RYU, using a Xiegu G90 and an indoor antenna on a break from work.

K9OZ: Had a marathon QSO (over 60 minutes) bug-to-bug with AC5P. Second month in a row with a 60+ minute QSO.

N9EEE: I'm still learning the dynamics of using Remote Radio software and paddles. I had a few nice QSOs to validate everything is working. Being in a different location (out-of-state) than the radio makes the QSO kinda weird when I'm in the state that I'm talking to but not really.

N2DA: Nice CW ragchews with 'the usual sked gang' - AJ1DM, WA3JJT, W4TG, WA3PYU. Hopefully the snow and ice part of our discussions will taper off in March!

N7HCN: I am noticing that more than half my QSOs with ops I have not worked before, or not worked for a month or more, run to over 20 min. Many are nearly an hour, or more. I'm especial-

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ly grateful for the gift of time that represents by the other op. Maybe we're all less busy in winter.

VE3WH: After a QSO it is intriguing to read the biographies of other operators. There is so much to share be it technical or operational in nature. We have the best Hobby.

DF7TV: For sure, I like to thank Tord, SM3EVR for our interesting 32-minutes QTX QSO in February. We talked about antennas and remote operation. But I would like to mention KH7AL/KH9 Allen as well. No QTX/mQTX QSO possible with an high-ranked entity like Wake Island. But when I worked Allen in SSB about one week before our CW QSO on 12 mtr, I already had the impression, that he is a very friendly ham. Then during the CW QSO, I found it really surprising and unusual for a QSO to a rare entity, that he found the time to exchange some nice words and 73. Allen is not a high-speed guy (so far) -- so please try to work him at about 18 wpm. https://kh7al.site/kh9-upcoming-activity/

MØSDB: The year started off slowly with only 2 mQTX in January (included in these figures) however February has seen more success. I have become quite the cootie addict so the vast majority of these QSO's have been on my fabulous W1SFR Fat Boy.

N8AI: BLA350 amp in the shop all month, only 15 watts on 30m really put a dent in QTX.

KG5IEE: Another fun month of ragchewing. Always interesting to hear about everyone's setup and some of their activities. Didn't watch the Super Bowl but got on the air and made QSOs. That was more fun than watching the Super Bowl.

GWØETF: My sole QTX contact this month was followed by a QSO with 'the boss' MØKTZ ;-)

W8OV: Had nice 30min. QSO with Mark, KB5RXL, but was busy with CWA class rest of month.

KB6NU: It's always a good month when I hit my goal of 1 QTX/day!

AJ1DM: Thanks to my friends for the many pleasant hours spent rag chewing!73 de John AJ1DM.

K4LFL: Nice long chat with Amanda, KY4GS.

K8UDH: I recently put my vintage Drake 2-C receiver and the companion Drake 2-NT transmitter on the air and had a very fun QSO with Alan, NNØD. We were crystal controlled, just like the Novice days in 1963. You never know what's going to happen when you go to the hamshack and get on-the-air. It's always a surprise. CW ragchewing never disappoints.

DK9HE: something new, it makes much fun to ragchew for 20min and more.

MØMZB: Some great chats across the pond, with a WB6BEE, AA7FV and W8WGR, the end of January included a 40 minute chat with KR2Q. I've had a couple of summit-top camps in February, one of which included a good ragchew. The other big news is that I now have a bug key, and uses it as part of a QTX QSO on 1 March (so will count to next months figures). After only a day of using bug I'm already hooked! **KE4I**: I don't know how to get my lifetime totals.

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QTX - February 2025

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WA4IAR	68	N8AI	28	KR2Q	17	M0SDB	8	SV2BBK	2
WS1L	67	KB6NU	28	M0MZB	16	DK9HE	7	K4LFL	2
VE3WH	49	N7HCN	27	K8UDH	13	KE4I	5	W8OV	1
KY4GS	45	AA0YY	21	N2DA	10	N9EEE	4	GW0ETF	1
KC0VKN	40	M0KTZ	19	AJ1DM	10	N0BM	3	DF7TV	1
K9OZ	39	KG5IEE	19	G0FOZ	9	VK3QB	2		

mQTX - February 2025

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	58	VE3WH	22	KG5IEE	17	VK3QB	11	N0BM	4
M0KTZ	40	N8AI	20	SV2BBK	14	MM0UMH	9	N9EEE	3
G0FOZ	37	KB6NU	20	M0SDB	14	KE4I	5	N7HCN	2
WS1L	32	KR2Q	19	DF7TV	14	K8UDH	5	K4LFL	2
WA4IAR	29	M0MZB	17	AA0YY	12	GW0ETF	5	AJ1DM	2

QTX - Total 2025

Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX	Call	QTX
WA4IAR	171	N7HCN	65	N2DA	27	N0BM	7	GW0ETF	2
WS1L	129	KR2Q	60	K8UDH	20	N9EEE	4	N9FZ	1
VE3WH	106	KB6NU	55	DK9HE	20	K4LFL	4	MM0UMH	1
KY4GS	96	M0KTZ	54	AJ1DM	20	W8OV	2	DF7TV	1
KC0VKN	81	AA0YY	47	G0FOZ	17	W3WHK	2	AB0WW	1
K9OZ	79	KG5IEE	36	M0SDB	8	VK3QB	2		
N8AI	69	M0MZB	30	KE4I	8	SV2BBK	2		

mQTX - Total 2025

Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX	Call	mQTX
KY4GS	149	VE3WH	44	M0SDB	14	AJ1DM	10	N9EEE	3
M0KTZ	96	N8AI	43	DF7TV	14	KE4I	7	W3WHK	2
WS1L	67	KG5IEE	43	N9FZ	12	W8OV	6	AB0WW	2
WA4IAR	66	AA0YY	43	MM0UMH	12	N7HCN	6		
KR2Q	64	M0MZB	31	GW0ETF	12	KB4DE	4		
KB6NU	50	N0BM	16	VK3QB	11	K4LFL	4		
G0FOZ	50	SV2BBK	14	K8UDH	11	PG4I	3		

My Story: New Member Introductions

Compiled by Tim Gennett, K9WX (CWops #1462)

Ron Kinney, KCØZPS CWops #3662

I've known about amateur radio since the early '90s. One of my friend's parents was involved in it and remains very active today. It wasn't until 2007 that I decided to get my amateur radio license—and the elimination of the Morse code requirement had nothing to do with that decision. I'm not sure what initially sparked my interest in getting a license. I earned my Technician license in February 2007, followed by my General license the next month. I wanted to get my Extra Class license right away but struggled with it. Over the next decade, I must have tried at least half a dozen times before finally earning my Extra Class license in March 2022.

When I first got licensed, I had no idea what I wanted to do with it. I pursued various awards and regularly checked into the OMISS net. Around 2015, I lost interest in amateur radio and stopped using it, though I kept my license renewed to prevent it from expiring. At the beginning of 2022, my interest in amateur radio was reignited. I hadn't kept up with new developments in the hobby, but when I monitored HF frequencies, I kept hearing people call out "CQ POTA." As an avid geocacher, the concept of "Parks on the Air" immediately appealed to me. In fact, POTA has largely replaced geocaching as my main outdoor activity.

Now, onto my Morse code journey. When I first got my amateur radio license, I had no desire to learn Morse code. When I started operating POTA, I tried FT8. After a few weeks, I found it boring. Binge-watching Netflix while making contacts via computer just didn't appeal to me. I switched to SSB but struggled—I was limited to 10 watts of power, and calling CQ for 10–20 minutes just to make a single contact became frustrating. The SSB portions of the bands also filled up quickly, making it even more difficult. At that point, I decided to give Morse code a try.

I spent the summer of 2022 learning CW using LCWO.net, ARRL code bulletins, and ARRL code proficiency tests. By October 12, 2022, I had earned the W1AW 10 WPM Code Proficiency certificate. Around the same time, I started hunting POTA CW contacts, with the plan to attempt my first Morse code activation in early 2023.

The 2022 Worldwide DX contest fast-tracked my first CW activation. During that time, I traveled to Zionsville, Indiana, to visit a friend. I brought my Parks on the Air gear, intending to activate a new state. At Fort Harrison State Park, I set up my equipment, but I couldn't find an open frequency on FT8 or SSB to save my life. Fortunately, I had brought my Morse code paddle. I decided to give it a shot, sending slowly, making plenty of mistakes, and using lots of question marks—but I did it! I logged 18 CW contacts. It was easier than I had expected. That activation

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marked the last time I operated on HF using SSB or FT8. I am now strictly CW, with no desire to go back.

Craig Rader, KE4CR CWops #3670

I am a registered architect and have worked in healthcare facility design and construction for over 50 years. I'm now retired and enjoy ham radio and my other hobbies whenever it suits me.

My journey in radio began in 1980 as a private pilot and member of the Florida Civil Air Patrol. I got the RF bug using the air band and CAP frequencies. My first amateur radio rig was an IC-27a which was used for 2m packet. My Elmer, Sam W4KUM (SK), helped me homebrew packet modems for the Commodore 64 using XR2211/2206 chips. I later built a TCM3105 modem for Digicom64 which was published in the February 1989 issue of 73 Magazine. Back in those days, we had daily QSOs on 2m packet.

I soon wondered, "What more is there to ham radio?" which led to the General ticket in 1984. I picked up a used HW-101 at the Orlando Hamfest. A 4BTV got mounted on the roof and I was soon making CW contacts all over the world.

Retirement in 2023 allowed me time to study for and pass the Extra exam. The CWops classes were a lot of fun and really helped me increase my CW skills. I use the N1MM+ logger to participate weekly in SST, MST and CWT contests. I like QRP and am the NCS for the weekly NAQCC East Coast QRP/QRS Net. I also run Winlink, VARAC and PSK.

My other hobbies include motorcycle touring, kayaking and playing the saxophone. My wife, Nancy, and I live in a wooded community about 25 miles south of Richmond, VA. We enjoy visiting with our kids and grandkids.

Lloyd Johnson, K7NX CWops #3668

My name is Lloyd and after just a few sessions of CWT I'm thinking of changing it to Ed!

I learned the Morse code in Boy Scouts when I was 8 years old. Before we had a television, I listened to an old RCA console radio that had foreign broadcast bands. Since it was AM only, I soon learned how to put another radio close to it which acted like a BFO and I could finally hear CW. That started my lifelong hobby of ham radio.

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First licensed in 1962 with the Novice call WNØDOH, I soon had a 75-watt CW station. My first DX contest QSO was Lloyd Colvin, KV4AA. College and the military stopped my operation for several years, but in the late 70s I met KØLUZ (CWops member #956). Red was my contest mentor and he taught me the joys of CW contesting with power and big antennas.

I spent 30 years working for the IBM Corp. and found many ham friends. I've always had a ham shack no matter where I've lived. Over 63 years I have enjoyed the many facets of ham radio. Most recently, I'm involved with a contest special interest group with our local club, The Radio Society of Tucson where we introduce the fun of contesting to new members. I do enjoy other hobbies like QRP kit building, CNC circuit board milling, and camping. Of course, all are related to ham radio!

Having just completed the CW Academy (Thank-you Joe AA2IL), I have a renewed interest in CW. The class got me well past the 20 wpm hurdle. I look forward to working you in the upcoming contests.

Todor "Toti" Sokolov, LZ3AW CWops #3674

I'm 49 years old ham radio operator. I got my license in 1989, when I was 13 years old, and have been the youngest boy with call sign issued in Bulgaria. The passion to the radio is thanks to my father Nick LZ1SW, who took me to LZ1KSV radio club, where I learned Morse.

When I joined the army to complete my regular military service, I stopped doing the hobby. After many years of interruption, busy with work and family commitments, in 2022 I resumed Ham Radio activity. I thought I should learn Morse code again, but... it's like riding a bike - you never forget. The process of getting back into shape was very quick.

I currently work for ACOM Ltd, company that manufactures HF Amplifiers.

My favorite operation mode is, of course, CW. My greatest pleasure is to do SOTA/POTA/WWFF activities with my

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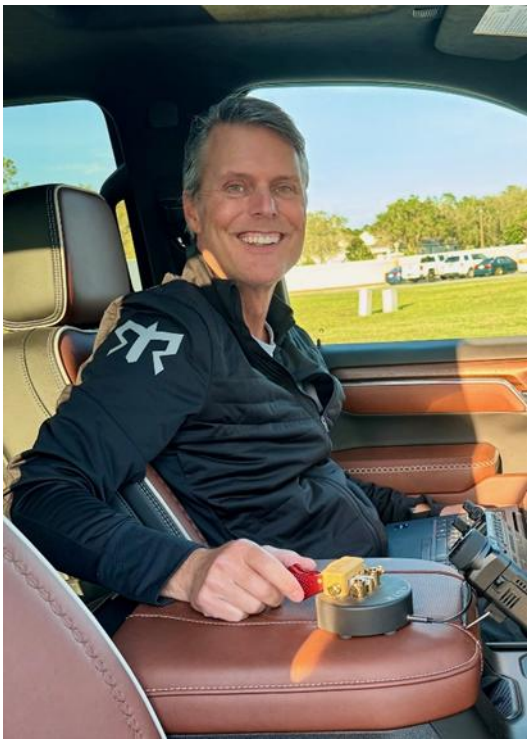
XIEGU X6200 QRP transceiver, MC-750 vertical antenna and TinyPaddle by N6ARA. This gives me the opportunity to be in nature and maintain good physical shape. Surprisingly, I achieve very good results with this setup. Very pleasant pile ups are obtained.

Also, I like to participate in contests and chase awards. For the purpose I use Kenwood TS-480SAT transceiver, Cobweb, Inverted V antennas and Bencher BY-2 paddle. All the equipment in my shack, which is located in a quiet place (Dragoman city – 35 km west from Sofia) is worldwide remote accessible, implemented with Remote Rig interface and RCForb – Remote Hams platform. This allows me to enjoy the hobby whenever I have time.

Finally, I want to thank VE3EJ John, EA6BF Josep, I2WIJ Roberto, PA7RA Rien and SM5AJV Ingemar, who made my membership in this great club possible. I'm really glad for being a part of CWops.

Jay Sattler, N8JTR/ V47TT CWops #3666



I was originally licensed as KA8YHB in the mid-80s. I credit my Elmer, Morgan NJ8M (CWops #1590) for instilling the CW bug in me. I was fascinated listening to the rhythmic sounds and then being told, that station is in Germany or Japan or perhaps someplace else I had never heard of. Once I was licensed, I tried a number of the various digital HF modes available at the time. They were all interesting but I kept working my way back to CW. I stepped away from the hobby for a number of years but each time I returned, I would go back to CW. I was always amazed how quickly it came back.

My latest return was during COVID. I had missed the early years of FT8 and took it up upon return. It's a great mode but it's really just pressing buttons. So, of course, I found myself back on the key and it was about that time I discovered POTA. POTA was a great way for me to get my CW skills refreshed and I really liked Hunting the various stations. I learned about CWops and CW Academy from a great POTA Activator, Jim WBØRLJ (#3312). Jim told me if I really wanted to enhance my CW skills, I should consider taking the CWA classes. I enrolled in Intermediate and then later, the Advanced course. It was really eye opening. I hadn't imagined myself working the CWTs, but soon I was. I'd like to thank Intermediate Advisor, Randy N1SP (#3026), for nominating me. I'd also like to thank my Advanced Advisor, George NE5A (#3033) and all the other folks who sponsored me.

I'm fond of tubes, especially when it relates to audio. I have designed and built a series of Class A amplifiers complete with tube rectified power supplies. Although I don't have any tube-based transceivers, I have restored a Heathkit SB-200 and an Ameritron AL-800H linear amplifier.

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I've always liked kit building so I have cranked out a number of QRP Labs kits.

In addition to my POTA activities, I am a Volunteer Examiner, Treasurer on my Club (ARAHH) as well as Associate Repeater Trustee. I also spend time on the Linear Satellites – both SSB and CW. In fact, my VHF/UHF rig is my only rig that has a microphone attached. I now live in a rural area and finally have property to put up a decent tower with an HF Yagi. I look forward to giving back to CWA by volunteering to be an Advisor starting Fall 2025.

Julia Diehl, N1XV CWops #3678

Hello! I'm 58 years old and my QTH is Montague, New Jersey. Montague is located in the extreme northwestern corner of the state. We are local to Milford, Pennsylvania and Port Jervis, New York.

It's an honor and a privilege to be amongst all of you. I am humbled to have been chosen for this fantastic group of CW enthusiasts!

I began my ham radio journey in 1996 in Helena, Montana. After much study I obtained my Extra class ticket almost a year to the day in 1997. During that time, it was required that you pass a 12 wpm code test for the general license and 20 wpm test for the Extra class license. As I was learning code I found out I had a real knack and a strong love for it. I passed both the 12 and the 20 wpm code tests in the same exam session.

After a short while I began teaching code to new hams for our local club in Helena. I also became a volunteer examiner during that time.

My main focus for amateur radio is CW. Occasionally you'll also find me on SSB. I work almost exclusively Parks On The Air (POTA) stations but will also work in POTA DX as well. I also collect vintage radios as well as vintage telephones.

Thank you again for the privilege to be amongst all of you in this wonderful club!

Ismael Martinez, XE1AY CWops #3675

My name is Ismael Martínez Vizcarra. I started in radio, because as a child I listened to a shortwave radio that my father had, stations different from the local ones, and as a university student I bought a Sony radio with 10 bands and so I started as a DXer, sending the SINPO to

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different stations and receiving information and small gifts. One time I moved the VFO lever of the radio and I heard voices with code that I did not understand, someone told me later that they were amateur radio.

After so much listening I was interested in being able to talk on the radio and I met friends who transmitted in the civil band and I was like that for about 2 years until, at an annual fair in my state, I found a stand where they were exhibiting amateur radio There they explained and showed me the equipment and recommended which ones to buy.

Then I took class II exam and CW was a requirement, I failed, but it was because later they explained to me that the exam had been for radio telegraph operator and not for radio operator. I returned after a month with my straight key, which they did not know and the one who applied the exam had to practice and later I was approved and they gave me the callsign XE1AVM in 1989.

In 1992, to obtain class I, I had previously practiced listening to coastal stations, but this time they sent me to a local coastal station and there when I arrived I heard what they transmitted, I told the operator and I told him that I was going for a CW test and he told me that it was not necessary, since what I had told him of what they transmitted was correct and he only signed me and did not examine me, he even told me that they needed operators that I could work there, but I told him no, because I already had a job.

Then I became more interested in CW contests that I got another shorter callsign which was XE1AY since 2004 on January 12

Then I was acquiring knowledge of amateur radio reading QST, CQ and 73 Amateur Radio, and doing QSOs in CW. This enthusiasm and dedication to this mode has helped me to be invited to national and international expeditions (17 to date, in Mexico, Belize and the Dominican Republic), as well as to participate in international competitions in 2 large superstations 6Y1V in Montego Bay, Jamaica and in HI1LT La Loma del Toro in Santiago de Los Caballeros, Dominican Republic. Both in the exhibitions and in the contests the participation was in CW. And at the same time make good friends

After all that I have been very interested in DX, contests, 6m and satellite communication.

My other hobbies are: playing tennis, collecting stamps and QSL and studying languages, currently I can communicate in English, French, Italian and a little German. I am studying Mandarin Chinese which is a challenge for me since it is not easy, but I know that I will achieve it, as well as I learned the CW language.

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Mats Olofsson SM7GIB/ SC7DX CWops #3672

I came in contact with amateur radio through a Swedish TV program called, "Vägen till C - certifikatet" around 1970. At that time I was 12 years old and had no contact with any radio club in Falun where I grew up. However, I started DXing and listening to foreign radio stations. After visiting Falun's library, I found literature to read about amateur radio and DXing and there was information that there was a local amateur radio club, Falu Radioklubb that had courses to take certificates. I joined a course in the fall of 1972 and in the fall of 1973 I got my C - certificate. The minimum certificate was 80, 40 and 15 meters CW, crystal controlled and 10W. 1976 in August I had upgraded to the highest license class in Sweden A - certificate.

After finishing high school in 1978 I was not very active, here followed military service and further studies and moved to southern Sweden and Malmö for studies at Lund University - Malmö College of Music.

Around 1986 I started sporadically to be active on radio again, and this from central Malmö and with a wire antenna and a vertical. Another period followed with family and children and 1998 was the year when the family moved outside Malmö and here I had much better opportunities to set up a mast and the radio driving became more serious.

After the children moved out and we had the opportunity to move more into the countryside and for my wife Liselotte to have better opportunities with her hobby, Icelandic horses and I with radio, we built a smaller horse farm outside Svedala east of Malmö in a beautiful hilly landscape that is relatively high. Here I also had the opportunity to develop my ability to set up more masts and, above all, listening antennas for the lower frequencies.

Here I have built up a small contest station that I use more frequently today with invited friends for radio competitions with small resources compared to the big guns.

My professional career is a freelance musician, conductor, teacher and cultural school director with degrees from Malmö Music Academy and Karlstad University.

Today I am semi-retired and have more opportunity to use my fantastic hobby that I have been doing for about 52 years and our family consists of three adult children and two grandchildren.

Bill Berzinskas, WW1H CWops #3676

I'm a relatively new CW operator and ham, having acquired my license in 2023. To say I've been hooked ever since would be quite the understatement! I am 45 years old, live in North Carolina

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with my wife and two children, and work in cloud computing.

My dad was a ham but I didn't take interest until later in life when my son KQ4GOB, then 9, got interested. Together we were both able to upgrade to Extra, especially with the strong foundational background in electronics that my dad bestowed upon me. For most of my teenage and young adult years, I spent my time building electronics like analog synthesizers, audio effects processors and later 3D Printers and CNC machines. The urge to build has always been present, and amateur radio has offered a natural extension. Today, I can often be found working on boat anchors and vintage tube projects, building antennas or doing POTA.

For arguably way too long I had been trying to learn CW with mobile apps and LICW, but I didn't feel like I was making significant progress. At the recommendation of a friend, I decided to check out CWops CW Academy. Roy KK6M was my advisor for beginners' level and I was captivated by how such a simple concept could express complex communication. Amazed by what my own mushy brain could do, I had to keep going! I had the pleasure of attending Joe KK5NA's classes for both intermediate and advanced levels. I was humbled when he asked if I'd be interested in joining CWops. Special thanks to Carl W8WZ, Scott KW4NJA, Jim WB0RLJ, Jerry K1OKD for sponsoring my nomination, you guys are the best - THANK YOU for the support!

I look forward to being a part of this community and remain committed to continuing my CW journey for many, many years to come.

Jean-Jacques "JJ" Brasse F5IJO CWops #3680

When I was born, in 1948, my dad had been pounding on his Junker key for many years, he must have given me the virus then! From a young age, I remember always being attracted to anything mechanical, so, I trained to become a mechanical engineer.

I am married to Isabelle and in 2004 we decided we'd to move to the south of France to enjoy the Med and better climate.

I made a career in the auto industry and my job gave me the opportunity of a position in the Detroit, MI area where I lived for 6 years. Other assignments also led me to live in London and Birmingham (UK) for 3 years.

My interest in radio and CW started to surface while living in Michigan, but never really material-

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ized because of a too demanding job.

I got my first radio license in '93 after my return to the home country. I was VHF limited then, as to access HF, the CW test was still a requirement. Thanks to a group of friends running training sessions on VHF, I managed to pass the 12 wpm test in 2002. Progress has been slow after for various reasons, so in 2023, I applied for an Intermediate course at CWA. Bruce, K9OZ, ran the course Jan, Feb '24 and I was hooked again. Just after completion, I applied for the Advanced...

Buzz's class has been a formidable experience, pulling us forward outside our comfort zone, only then you progress! I particularly enjoyed being in a large group, an asset to build confidence in front of others and you also make many more friends!

The unexpected bonus at graduation was the nomination to CWops, a motivation to seek more friends by participating in CWT. And here, a big thanks to my sponsors, PA7RA, G4KKU, F6JOE, M6NGN, GØTRT.

Now retired, and having the space, I built my workshop with enough machines to fulfill the needs of other hobbies. I have been into motorcycling since my twenties when I bought my first bike, an ex-police, with which I ran several hundred thousand km. I have now completely rebuilt it and still use it today on a regular basis.

I also take pleasure in designing and building my own paddle keyers, they are shown on my QRZ page.

When the weather is warmer, I go scuba diving; the Med is only 15 minutes away. I have been an instructor for 20 years, but now I only go for pleasure with wife and friends.

Now, I'm looking forward to integrating the CWops community as a way to develop my skills further and also helping newcomers whenever I can.

Josiah "Si" Russell, WD5JR. CWops #3699

Being a fourth-generation ham has been an honor and a privilege.

I first obtained my ticket in February of 2022 at the age of 14. After upgrading to Amateur Extra

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in May of 2023, I decided I would like to tackle the challenge of learning CW. I began in the Long Island CW (LICW) youth classes and participated in the course off and on for a few months but lost interest. I started practicing on my own until my brother (KJ5CMP) started CWA courses with Mark (K5GQ). I joined the classes and was hooked on CW! I went from being able to barely copy callsigns at 18 wpm to contesting at 35 wpm! I greatly appreciate Mark Tyler (K5GQ), who is my instructor and CW mentor. I also greatly appreciate him for nominating me and his continued support in my CW career.

A big thank you to Les (KI5GTR) and my brother Isaiah (KJ5CMP) for spending countless hours helping me practice and prepare for becoming a member. Thanks to Tom (N4TTU), Hank (W6SX), and John (N4KHZ) for sponsoring me. I enjoy activating and chasing POTA and traveling with my parents (N5VOF and KJ5CMS).

I am grateful for all the great people I have met on this journey and look forward to meeting many more!

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