

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter
April 2025 — Issue 183

President's Message



Better-ICR practice. "Its so simple even a 3rd grader can do it." Page 26

As I indicated I would in last month's column I joined VK3QB's latest Zoom session in the series that Chris has recently set up to support CW 'down under'. There were a total



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

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

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

CWops Officers and Directors
 President: Stew Rolfe, [GWØETF](#)
 Vice President: John Glover, [W2QL](#)
 Secretary: Jim Talens, [N3IT](#)
 Treasurer: Craig Thompson, [K9CT](#)
 Director: Theo Mastakas, [SV2BBK](#)
 Director: Raoul Coetzee, [ZS1C](#)
 Director: James Brooks, [9V1YC](#)
 Director: Bert Banlier, [F6HKA](#)
 Director: Allan Mason, [VK2GR](#)
 Director: Riki Kline, [K7NJ](#)
 Director: Ken Tanuma, [JN1THL](#)
 WebGeek: Dan Romanchik [KB6NU](#)
 Newsletter Editor: Dick Strassburger, [N9EEE](#)

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of 15 from VK and ZL in attendance on March 17 plus myself as guest interviewee at my civilised local time of 0830. Given that Chris is CWops #2949 and our Ambassador for Oceania the topic of CWops and the CW Academy was a natural talking point. It's early days yet but these monthly sessions are clearly well received and should raise the profile of CW in the region. I was impressed and want to warmly thank Chris for his efforts.

I was amused to be introduced to the group as a 'celebrity'! I assume this was based on my CWops presidential title and not my CW prowess which I've never considered to be particularly notable compared to some including many in the present company. I'm a self-critical sort of individual and every sending mistake and contest bust is a source of annoyance. As I have my hearing aids fitted and cataracts fixed I wonder whether what prowess I might have could be diminishing with age, but I suspect not. I've always had my comfort speed copy limit and attention span; I've always found reading badly sent code and choppy CW a challenge. I get accustomed to feeling intensely irritated by the usual S/H, D/B, 2/3 errors in my contest log checking reports, aka UBNS, but at least I'm routinely on the good side of the global median which would otherwise be a serious concern. I know my limits but happily they exceed 25wpm as Pete W1RM must have realised when he sponsored me for this club all those years ago.

CWops is, and always has been, an international group of like-minded folk from every continent and all corners of the globe. We follow the de facto tradition of adopting the English language as our 'lingua franca' in common with ham radio more widely. It's probably a valid assumption that all CWops members can conduct a basic CW contact over the air using the 'English' morse code abbreviations and Q codes, and are able to make use of the widely available selection of translation software to read and understand the material on the website including the monthly *Solid Copy* newsletter. However, this may not be the case in a one-on-one situation where instant communication is required such as the CW Academy conference sessions. I know myself how this can lead to difficulties and discourage those lacking fluency in English from getting involved. As CWops has grown, the Academy has acquired a range of advisors with good linguistic skills and by responding to demand, the CWA has begun to spawn versions of the program in alternative languages. Japan led the way some time ago if my memory serves me correctly with the Beginner level. This was accompanied by the associated 'Practice and Homework Assignments' being made available in Japanese on the 'Student Resources' page (<https://cwops.org/cw-academy/cw-academy-student-resources/>). Subsequently all 4 levels became accessible in German including translations of all supporting material as can be seen at the above link. This has all happened through the efforts of members responding to a need in their own geographical areas and should be applauded. They don't appear on any lists and like other volunteers don't do it for recognition but rather a desire to promote CW - in this case by facilitating the process of outreach for those not comfortable in the subtleties of the English language.

But, and to quote that well used phrase....*Wait There's More!* Theo SV2BBK (#1976 and CWops Director) has passed the Board some great news about the efforts of an enthusiastic group of SV members who for the past 2 years have been working with the CW Academy to build classes in the Greek language. It has already graduated students and will run another Beginner course this coming May/June led by Yiannis SV1PMQ. Besides Yiannis we warmly appreciate the efforts of

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Theo, Manos SV1DAY (#3334) and all involved including Bob WR7Q and Roland K7OJL at CW Academy! A wonderful effort! *"Team work makes the Dream work."* 🤝

Following all the good news I'd like to send our good wishes to Rob K6RB for a speedy recovery following an accident on his tower at the end of February. He describes working on the rotator when the upper section slipped down, trapping his arm and crushing the ulna badly. He needed the fire people to free him and thankfully he's ok. The words "tower" and "accident" don't usually mix happily and Rob probably feels lucky. Let's all be vigilant and careful around our antennas....

Enjoy your month.

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

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Editor's Note: Dits and Dahs

Our series on Remote Radio continues in this issue, beginning on page 15, with four unique and noteworthy implementations that are well worth your time. It's truly fascinating—once you start peeling back the layers—to see just how many members are operating remotely, each with their own blend of creativity and technical variation.

One example that recently caught my eye is the North Shore Radio Club (NS9RC) in Northeastern Illinois. They've built a local network of six stations using Flex radios, all accessible for member use. As more hams find themselves in HOAs, senior living communities, or spending winters as snowbirds, I expect we'll see more clubs adopting this kind of shared remote setup.

We're also deep into "Hamfest season"—that magical time when hams emerge from hibernation to browse row upon row of tables piled high with radios, antennas, parts, accessories, and every kind of electronic oddity with a ham radio twist. If you're planning to sell gear at one of these events, consider renting an extra table next to yours to promote CWops. It's easy—and you'll find a quick how-to on page 33 to get you started.

And of course, no issue would be complete without antennas—we've got two great articles covering them in this edition.

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

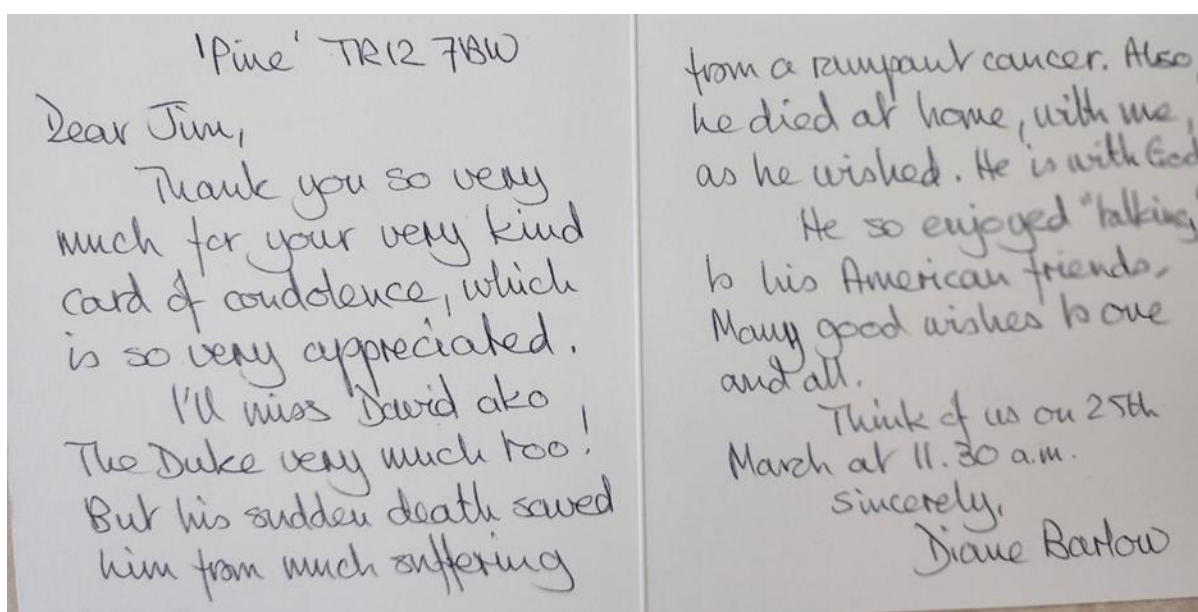
Editor, Solid Copy (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

Ops News and Notes

Duncan (Mac) Fisken, G3WZD

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#) and, as always, thanks for the contributions. Please do keep the submissions coming, and there's no need to wait until the Editor's monthly call for articles or my reminder (thank you to those who sent items early). Remember, a significant percentage of our membership do not subscribe to the cwops.io email reflector so, if you post something and think it might be suitable for Ops News and Notes, please send it to my [email](#) address.

Jim, N3JT #1 Duke Barlow, G3PLE (CWops #3365), passed away a few months ago. As you know, we send a condolence card to the family of any member who passes. Below is a lovely response to our card from Diane, Duke's widow.



Dan, KB6NU #1418 was once again awarded an [ARDC](#) grant to teach ham radio classes at tech events. The \$18,000 grant will allow him and a team of volunteer examiners organized by [Ham Radio Village](#) (HRV) to attend four or five events in 2025. Last year, Dan and the HRV team taught ham radio classes and administered tests at [Hackers on Planet Earth](#) in New York City, [DEFCON](#) in Las Vegas, and [JawnCon](#) in Philadelphia. As a result, more than 100 folks obtained their Technician Class licenses and many more were exposed to amateur radio.

This year, he hopes to teach a class at a STEM conference or two. If you know of any such events that might be amenable to this, please reach out to Dan. His email address is cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Fabian, DJ5CW #1566 The VP2VI DXpedition will be taking place in April with a strong CWops presence. At the time of going to press, the activation dates were not published so please check the [VP2VI QRZ](#) page for latest updates.

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Josep, EA6BF #3072 I had the pleasure to meet Ini EA6EJ (#3276) who came to spend the day together on 11 March.



EA6BF and EA6EJ

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Stew, GW0ETF #919 I'm lucky to be less than an hour's drive from Holy Island EU-124 (IO73pg). With no CW activity there I spent a few hours on March 20 in our Campervan with my K2/10, a small lead acid battery and a laptop for logging. The key is one of Peter's (GMØEUL #1899) minis which works very well. The antenna is a Sotabeams 40/30/20 linked dipole so 4 bands to play with.

South Stack lighthouse is visible in the distance on the left. Not great conditions but a fun few hours.



Tom, K7QA #1959 I was profiled in the recent edition of the ARRL NCJ magazine. When asked for my story, I told the editor I didn't deserve such attention, but he insisted I submit something.

(image created from the NCJ March/April 2025 issue. NCJ is a product of ARRL Magazines)

John Miller, W8MM / johnmiller@arrl.org
NCJ Profiles: Tom McGinley, K7QA

Here into an old-time radio, then was...
The Early Days
I was born in...
My first contact...
I started back to the hobby at...



large projects, but really had other...
I was born in...
I started back to the hobby at...
I was born in...
I started back to the hobby at...



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Guy, VA7GI #3256 There are 3 new hams in the world! My young students Soarin (14y-VA7SVO) and Christopher-Elliot (12y-VA7CII) and their mother Elsa (VA7EHV). are licensed as of March 29, 2025. Both boys earned Basic Honours HF privileges (limited to 250W input power) by passing a Morse code test (CW still counts in Canada). (CWops instructor: Phil Schechter NE0S, #2723)



Alan, AI3A #3053 I recently took my new SW-6B QRP rig and a short loaded-whip to Catalina State Park in Tucson, Arizona. I was amazed at the 20m contacts I was able to make, including AZ, CA, OR, ID, CT, TX, and even KR2Q in NJ!



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George, NE5A #3033 I worked Jenna, N4JEH in a recent SST; here is a [video](#) of that QSO with Jenna keying her rig with her left foot using a piano pedal!

Duncan, G3WZD #1979 With our Mini pretty much loaded to capacity, I didn't take a radio when Annie and I embarked on our recent 3,200 mile 5-week road trip around Spain and Portugal. Two sets of golf clubs, suitcases and picnic hampers took up almost all available space, plus we had to leave room for a couple of cases of excellent Spanish and Portuguese wine on the journey back home. Five whole weeks without touching a Morse key! One way or another, I must find space for a rig on next year's planned European travels.



G2CWO up in the hills above the Douro River, Portugal



Vat in one of Porto's Port Houses holding 12,000 litres of vintage port; anyone looking?

Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

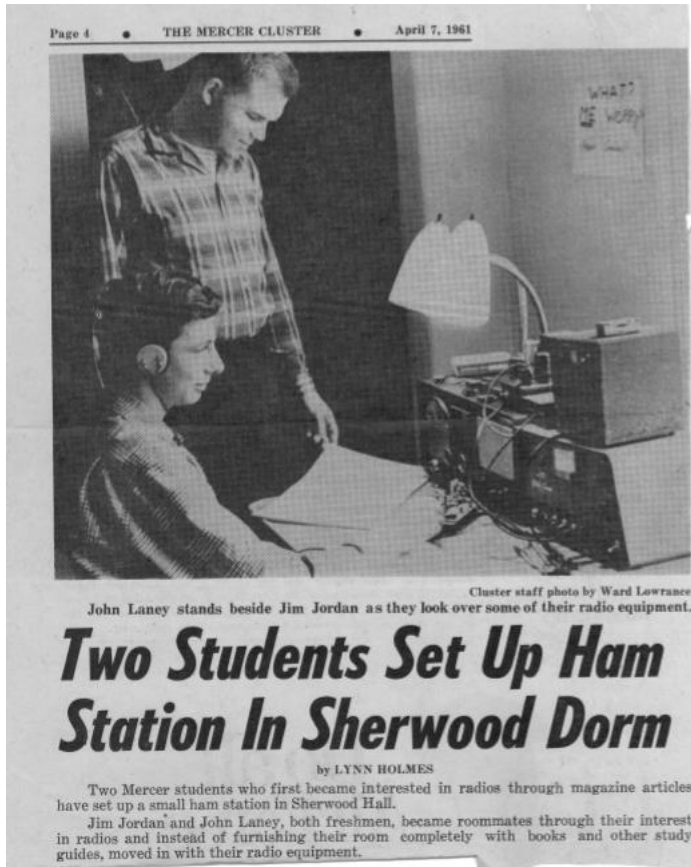
73, Duncan, G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

How We Were

[Ian Capon, GWØKRL](#)

K4QPL, Jim Jordan, CWops #244 & K4BAI, John Laney, CWops #76



With the window screen as their antenna, they have communicated with ham club stations at Michigan State University and Queens College in Canada and with people from many states as well as from other countries, including Haiti and Colombia in South America.

John became interested in amateur radio operating from reading about it in "Boy's Life." After devouring numerous articles from this magazine on the subject, he began to get information from a ham operator who worked at his father's office. With this information, his interest increased. In 1954 he obtained his license to operate.

Since receiving his license, he has made hundreds of contacts with people from all 50 states and 175 different countries. Once he had a conversation with Pewee Hunt; another time he spoke with a Liberian freighter. Again he talked with a man on an oil expedition in Libya.

John has also talked with friends who have gone overseas with the armed forces.

He has placed in the national contest sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League. In this contest, the object was to see who could contact the most stations in more states than anyone else. John has been first in Georgia four times and was once eighth in the nation.

Like John, Jim got his interest in amateur radio operating from a magazine article. As his interest grew, his uncle, an electronics repairman, helped him to obtain parts and to start operating. He received his license in 1957.

Jim has talked with people from over the world, too, but this is not his principal interest.

He prefers to construct and experiment with radio equipment. In the station that the roommates have at school Jim made two of the important pieces.

Jim shows how practical hamming is by talking with his father often. He also talks with John when they are at home.

Both John and Jim, by their interest in radio, got their fathers so interested that the fathers became hams too.

The two say that hams are important in emergencies to keep up communications. Many famous people are ham operators, including Herbert Hoover, Jr. Even ex-President Eisenhower had a ham station on his train car.

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

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

73, Ian GWØKRL (CWops #2896)

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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 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



The WOOF Antenna

[Fred Jensen, K6DGW](#) (CWops #142)

We live in an HOA-managed community ... by choice, no need for commiseration or sympathy. Moving in, I petitioned the Architectural Review Committee for permission to erect a flagpole and an antenna. My antenna design was to be an end-fed 48 meter wire along the top of a wooden fence 2 meters high, fed through a 9:1 transformer. The flagpole [vertical, white powder-coated pole] was approved and limited to the U.S. and Nevada State flags. I fly the flags of our military branches on their birthdays and the POW-MIA flag on Memorial Day under the U.S. flag - nobody has complained.

My antenna plans were tentatively approved pending an inspection to assure it wasn't visible from the road. I installed it, invited the ARC over to inspect, explained my modest K3/100 station and made several off-shore CW QSOs for them. I was also operating W7RN remotely on occasion at the time and that demo widened a few eyes when they heard the signal, slightly delayed, on my K2/10. I showed them and explained my FCC-required RF Exposure Analysis in my station notebook. I had sold my KPA500 & KAT500 to avoid nuking the neighbors' dog in his run on the other side of the fence. The ARC approved my station and left, apparently pleased.

The antenna consists of RG-8 from the KAT3 tuner through a pipe Weatherhead that opens inside in an adjacent closet, under a row of pavers to the transformer on the fence. The wire is strung ~220 degrees on plastic electric fence insulators painted fence color for about 1/3 of its length and then ~130 degrees SE along the back fence. I ran it diagonally across the corner to avoid the sharp bend and held that diagonal part up with several Dacron ropes to the fence. I called it a WOOF ... Wire On Organic Fence, and I really hope ARRL and our Congress don't screw this contract up.



Nearly ten years pass. It's certainly not 5 over 5 over 5 at 45 meters, but it works quite well on 80, 40, 30, 20, 18, 15, 12, and 10. It will work on 160 passably but I flash a couple of touch-lamps in the bedroom on top-band so if you're looking for Washoe County NV on 160, I'll have to refer you to someone else. Rain and snow don't seem to bother it and the settings for each band in the KAT3 haven't needed recomputing until about two months ago when it began to appear that it was not remaining tuned, but would yield 1:1 VSWR with a quick ATU tune.

I finally went out to look it over after my wife mentioned that the wire seemed to be sagging quite a bit. I found that the wire had been parted as if literally pulled apart along the back fence, the Dacron ropes in the corner were broken and tangled up with the wire in a ball in the corner, and several plants in the corner showed unmistakable signs of a struggle. Now, we live in the high desert of NE Nevada at about 1,400 m (5,000 ft) elevation and we're right on the eastern edge of Sparks which is adjacent to Reno on the north side of the river. The area behind our house is an empty storm water retention basin and "The Big Empty*" begins a couple of blocks to our east and extends pretty much to Utah. It is populated by a wide variety of wildlife and one particular species (see thumbnail above) is common -- very smart, and very adaptable to human encroachment. We often see them trotting down the road seemingly carefree.

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My best guess, given the apparent scuffle that occurred in the corner, is that he/she vaulted over the fence (a piece of cake for Wile E. Coyote), encountered the Dacron ropes and wire, became entangled, and finally freed himself, departing back over the fence. There is no trace of any boxes marked "Acme." I replaced the antenna ... it's not expensive ... and all is back to normal. I ran it all the way to the corner to give Wile E. space on his next visit. As you might expect, Roadrunners are also part of the native wildlife here, I often see them at the mailbox.

The WOOF is an example of Tom Shiller's (N6BT) assertion, "Everything Works," when he worked all continents using a light bulb antenna on his deck ("The Illuminator"). If it's not buried or underwater and you can get RF current to flow in it, it will radiate. And, you can have a whole lot of fun and enjoyment with it. Antennas may be the final frontier of RF experimentation for hams these days.

* 85% of Nevada is owned by the Federal Government, nearly all devoid of people since much of it is used for Air Force/Navy weapons practice and weapons test ranges. Nevada's population density is about 0.10 people per hectare (26 people per sq mi). Locally, it is referred to as "The Big Empty."

sc

Stealthy Modest Antennas

[Ken Countess](#), KN2D (CWops #3566)

After growing up on Long Island (as WA2MSF) in the 70's and sporting a Yagi beam mounted on my Mom and Dad's roof (Dad was K2VYD), I've had to get creative living in a community with the HOA keeping watch over the neighborhood.

These 2 "stealthy" antennas – a reinforced G5RV and a Palomar dipole, both up about 50 feet – and a Yaesu FT-710 running 100 watts have worked fabulously, enabling me to work over 170 countries (with 91 countries QSLed) in just over a year.

I'm continually surprised how a modest shack can deliver such rewarding results.



VE3NNT Remote Operation

[Les Brown](#), VE3NNT (CWops #1701)

When I got back into ham radio in 2015, after a 40-year hiatus, I researched the latest and greatest radio gear and decided to go with a software defined radio from FlexRadio, the Flex 6500. I threw up dipoles for 10 and 40 meters, strung from trees in our backyard and I was on the air, but in a very modest way. Then I started thinking about where to set up a station that would allow me to be competitive in contests, something that I had enjoyed in my youth as VE3ABN. My wife and I live in Mississauga, a suburb of Toronto, and we have a summer cottage about half way between Toronto and Ottawa. I figured that one day, when we want to downsize, we'll sell the house, but we'll never sell the summer cottage, which will be passed down to our son. So, it made sense to set up the station at the cottage. Besides, it was a lot easier, from a regulatory perspective, to install a tower at the cottage. This decision then led to the obvious conclusion that I would need to be able to operate the station remotely during the winter months.

The cottage property had a lot of large pine and spruce trees. The first task was to determine what height of tower I would need to clear the top of the trees. Using a large helium filled balloon on a string, I measured the height of the tallest trees and determined that I needed a 90-foot tower. I decided that it should be a self-supporting tower since it would be difficult to run guy wires through all of the trees. In the fall of 2017, the tower (from MaxTower in Brantford, Ontario) was installed.

It was impossible to get a crane anywhere near the site with so many trees, so it had to be installed by hand, which was no easy feat (the bottom 10-foot section alone weighed 900 pounds).

As far as antennas were concerned, I went with the Optibeam OB17-4 to cover 10 through 40 meters, and an 80-meter inverted V. At the time, I either wasn't aware of or hadn't thought about SO2R operation. Had I done so, I might have made a different antenna selection.

At the time, I was using the Expert 2K-FA linear amplifier, which, beside giving me full legal limit power, provided me with automatic antenna/band selection, controlled by the Flex 6500, and a built-in antenna tuner.

Here is a view from the lake of our cottage property with the tower and OB17-4 installed. The Yagi is turned by a ProSis-Tel PST-71D.



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Now I had to figure out 2 things: how to operate the station remotely, and how to do SO2R.

I'll start with the initial set-up for remote operation. I was fortunate enough to make a deal with a local wireless Internet service provider who wanted to use my tower to offer service to the other cottagers on the lake. He put his dish antennas on my tower, and I got free internet.

The service I requested was for 20 Mbit/s downstream and 10 Mbit/s upstream, which was good enough for remote operation.



I have a Windows PC at the station and initially accessed it using TeamViewer, but later with the Windows built-in remote desktop (RDP) software.

For remote operation, I picked up a Flex Maestro, which gave me all the controls I needed for the radio and all the audio I needed from the radio, including the ability to use a paddle for CW along with audio for sidetone.

To control the rotator, I used PSTRotator running on the PC at the station, and for logging I used N1MM also running on the PC at the station. Now, with a remote set-up you want to be able to power the various gear on and off. I picked up a DLI Webswitch, which allowed me to independently control power to the Flex radio, rotator controller and power supplies.



One also has to be aware that on occasion an Ethernet switch or router can lose their minds and need to be reset. To address this, I picked up a 5Gstore remote power switch.

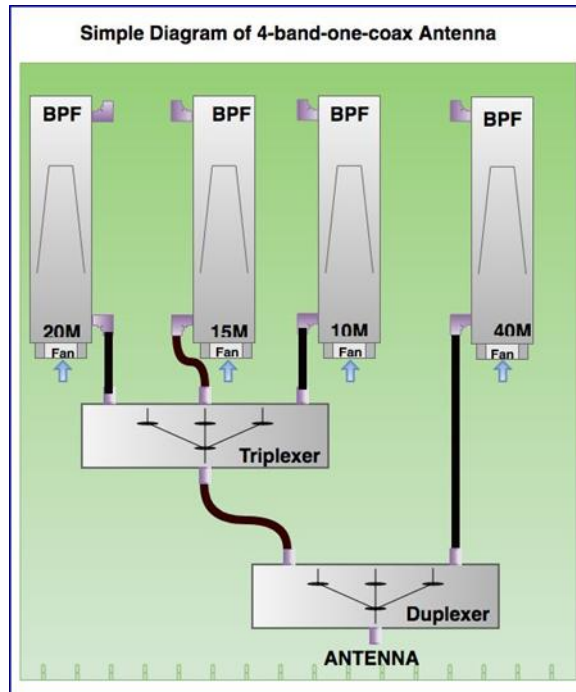
It's directly connected to the AC mains and the router and Ethernet switch are plugged into it for power. It constantly pings a selection of Internet sites and, if it doesn't receive any responses for a

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configured period of time, it toggles the power (off, then on) to the router and Ethernet switch. It also has a web interface for remote configuration/control. Finally, since utility power often goes out, I installed a UPS to address the short blackouts and brownouts. This was my initial remote set-up in 2017. It has evolved since then.

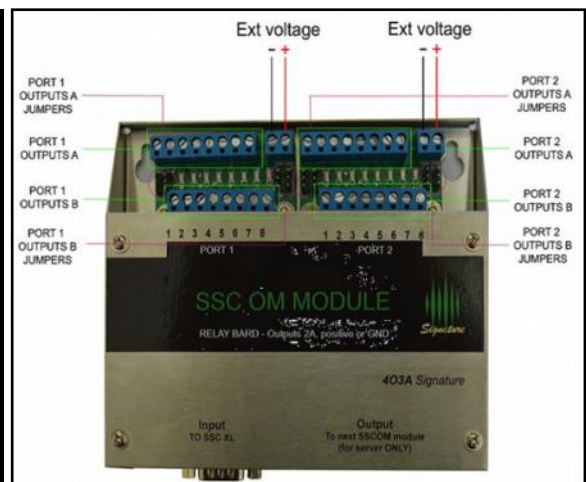
Now let's talk about how I sorted out SO2R. In 2019, I started to reconfigure the station for SO2R operation. This effort continued until 2021. Since the OB-17-4 has a single feedline, I had to separate the antenna into its 4 bands. For this, I picked up a duplexer, a triplexer and bandpass filters (all high power so I could run full legal limit) from Pavel, VA6AM, configured as shown below.



I also picked up high power filters for 80 meters and 160 meters.

I also had to replace my Flex 6500, which only has 1 spectral capture unit, with a Flex 6600M, which has 2 spectral capture units. Since the Expert 2K-FA really doesn't support SO2R, I replaced it with a Flex PGXL as soon as it was available. In addition, I picked up the Flex SO2R TGXL antenna tuner. For antenna switching, I picked up the 403A Antenna Genius with its 2 radio inputs and 8 antenna outputs.

It's controlled by the radio over Ethernet to switch both receivers to the correct antennas configured for the bands. The VA6AM boxes have cooling fans. To control these, I picked up the SSC OM module for the Antenna Genius, which is configured to



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turn on the fans only for the bands that are in use (minimizing the overall background noise).

I wanted to improve my performance on 80 meters, so I picked up the Optibeam OB2-80S shortened 2 element Yagi and installed it 11 feet above the OB17-4. I should mention that I replaced my original 20-foot 2 ½ inch OD DOM steel mast with a 22-foot 3-inch OD chromoly mast to support this 200-pound monster. To be able to install the 80-meter Yagi, I had to install steps on the mast. These, which are no longer available, I picked up from KF7P.



The 80-meter Yagi also needed power for the relays at the center of each of the 2 elements for changing the inductance for different band segments. For this I picked up a 26-volt DC supply from Acopian (A26NT125).



Below is a picture of the tower and antennas in 2021.



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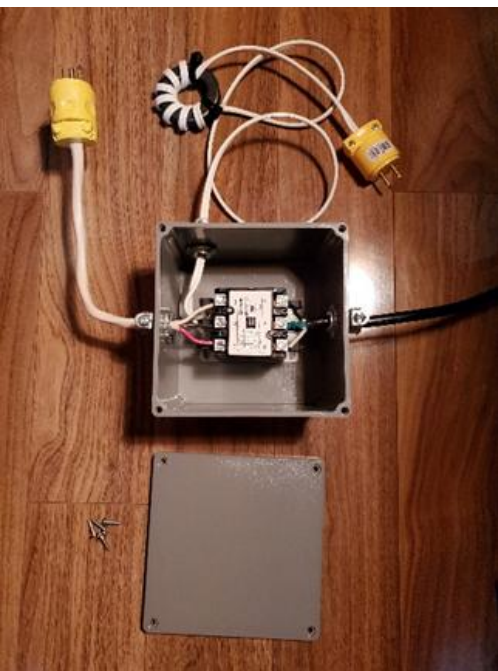
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With this new set-up, I needed relays to remotely enable/disable the DC voltage to various bits and pieces. For this, I picked up a couple of Microbit Webswitch 1216H's.



With these, I can control the 80-meter Yagi relays, control power to the Flex 6600M, the Antenna Genius and the TGXL, and restart the Windows PC.

The clamshell mast clamps that came with the PST-71D weren't up to the task of holding both big antennas without some slippage, so I replaced it with a mast clamp from Kurt Address, K7NV.



I also replaced the rotator controller with a 4O3A Rotator Genius, which I power with a 26-volt supply, and the directional sensor that I attached to the boom of the OB-17-4.

To be able to control power to the PGXL, I picked up a relay that is installed in the 240-volt AC line. The relay coil operates off 120 volts AC, which is connected to the DLI Web switch.

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All of this Flex and 4O3A gear communicates over Ethernet seamlessly, and has utilities for remote operation. Station cabling was significantly simplified; no more serial cables, USB cables or RCA PTT cables, and fewer coax cables. Here are the cables that were eliminated.



Finally, I picked up a Raspberry Pi and put together a Node Red program to control everything remotely. Remote access to the Raspberry Pi uses Tailscale for a secure connection (no need to forward ports).

So, now to operate my station remotely, I don't need to access the PC at the station. In fact, it could be turned off. I power on my Flex Maestro. On my local PC in Mississauga, I open up the Node Red web page to remotely power up the radio, PGXL and TGXL, then I start the PGXL, TGXL and Rotator Genius utilities, start the Flex CAT software to enable the radio to communicate with N1MM running on my local PC, and I'm off to the races. I can turn the antennas remotely with the Rotator Genius utility. I can change the tuning to optimize SWR with the TGXL utility. I can monitor the amplifier temperature and power output and SWR with the PGXL utility, although this functionality is now built into the Maestro. I can use N1MM to send canned messages or use the paddle to transmit. I use 2 keyboards for SO2R, one for each receiver, and am trying to get used to listening to the receivers in separate ears using OTRSP running through the Flex CAT software with N1MM. I still have a long way to go before I'll be comfortable with this, but I'm making progress.

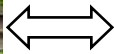
For a period of time a couple of years ago, the internet service to the cottage suffered from high jitter and packet loss. The service provider made some changes a year ago and it is now rock solid and they increased the speed to 60 Mbit/s down and 25 Mbit/s up.

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In 2022, a tornado struck our cottage property wiping out 25 large pine and spruce trees and destroyed one of our 2 sheds.

Although the 80m Yagi was damaged (now repaired), the tower was undamaged. It's a good thing I didn't use a tower with guy wires! The silver lining in the cloud is that I had the opportunity to replace the shed with a larger one, with 2 parts: a workshop and a new ham shack.



The shack was moved last summer from the cottage bunk room to the new shack.

The station location is ideal for working Europe and Africa. Here's a view from the top looking east.



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The work is never done. So, what's next? It's a small cottage property, which prevents me from installing any Beverage antennas for the low bands, but I will experiment with other receiving antennas for 160 meters. I picked up a 3-element shortened vertical active array to play with. For the time being, I just have an inverted vee for both transmit and receive. I still have interference between bands when operating SO2R. It would be nice to install a second tower and add some more antennas, perhaps fixed on Europe. This would give me better antenna separation for lower cross-band interference. It would also allow me to set up the station for multi-two contest operation.

sc

KØNM and N8AI Houston Remote

[Chris Norris, N8AI](#) (CWops #1934)

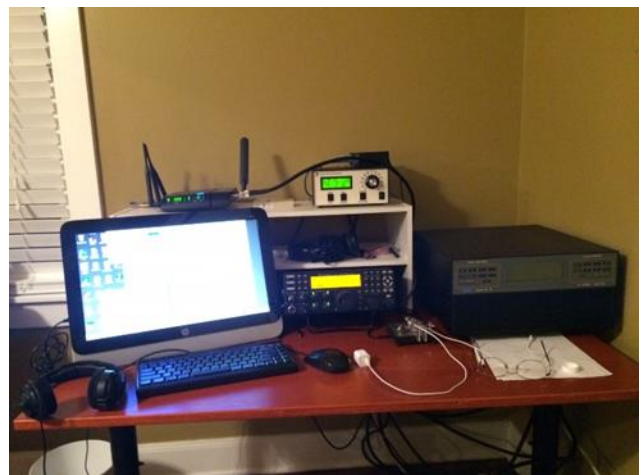
Almost ten years ago, Nizar KØNM sat down next to me on a bench outside a Remote Ham Radio presentation we both attended at the Houston Hamvention. I was having trouble with my HOA and a simple fan dipole, and he very generously offered me the use of his remote in Hungerford, TX. No charge, except I need to help him with some maintenance.

Hungerford is about a 45 minute drive from both of our homes in Sugar Land, TX. So it is close enough to operate occasionally "live" in front of the real radio, or drive down and fix any problem that arises with the remote.

Nizar is mostly a contester on CWT Wednesdays, and a few weekends. I am a pure ragchewer anywhere from 15 to 25 wpm, so we don't interfere much with each other. Every few Sunday evenings, I enter the K1USN SST and Nizar laughs at me.

The system that Nizar set up is based on the Swedish RemoteHam.com black boxes. We use K3/O mini control rigs at home, and a K3S, Expert 2K amp, and by far the most important ingredient, an Optibeam 12-4 on a 72 foot self supporting crank up tower. Oh, and an 80m rotary dipole above that. I get 30 over S9 reports running 500w all the time.

Figure 1
OB-12 Normally @60',
80m rot dip @'72'.
K3S, Expert 2K amp
and Green Heron Ro-
tor Control in ranch
house bedroom.



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You cannot overestimate the effect of strong signals on both contesting and ragchewing. I have noticed in my scant K1USN experience that when I search and pounce on this remote, all stations answer me every time on the first call. More important for me, a die hard ragchewer, is that my signal almost never drops below the noise during the QSO. So I am able to rack up a big score in the only contest where I ever make the Leader Board, QTX. Nobody ever says "SRI QSB 73" to me. But they might walk away because I am sending too long with my keyboard.

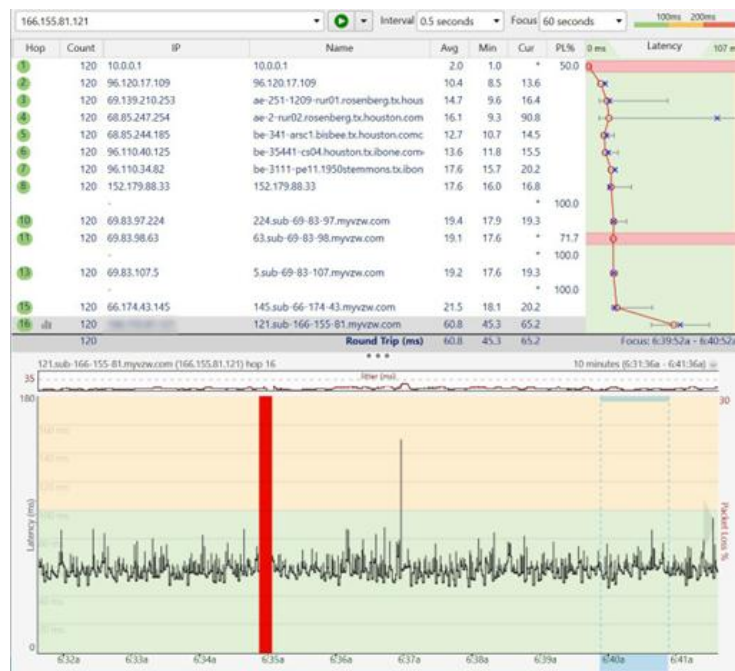
No matter what you do, this will never, ever happen on a small city lot under the thumb of a HOA.

But a remote is not exactly like sitting in front of a real radio sitting underneath a tower with a beam. The receiver audio is not quite as crisp, even if it is "only CW". There is a little delay. Meh.

The main problem when the Real Radio is in a rural location is that the Internet is weak. Maybe really weak. The final hop #16 from my house to Hungerford is an 8 mile Verizon 4G cell tower to a flat external cellular antenna on a pole at the little air conditioned house housing the radios.

The RemoteRig.com system excels at CW under this Internet constraint. Jitter and Latency are perfectly compensated, both by other station reports and when I listen on my home KX3.

But there are intermittent problems with the Internet link. When it is foggy, the 8 mile path to the nearest Verizon cell tower occasionally drops. Most other times there are no problems, but very intermittently there are short intervals when every hour or so the final cell tower leg has a complete 10 second packet loss (documented by a very good, \$35 program I used called PingPlotter). The local cellular data guru in the Wharton cell phone repair store says this occurs with all the



Up to 24hr of Data Saved and Displayed Every Half Second by Ping Plotter

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carriers when traffic is heavy. Here is something you will probably not find on the FCC license exam:

Nizar was fearful unto death that a solar farm being built nearby a couple of years ago would create so much RFI that our remote station would be unusable. I made his fear worse by driving to the same company's site south of Houston and listening on my KX3 and RM40 Hustler resonator. It was bad.

But that solar farm half a mile away from the Hungerford remote is fully operational now, and we can't even hear it when we turn the beam that way.

sc

Remote Operating at W1KM

[Greg Cronin](#), W1KM (CWops #1411)

In 1979, I was fortunate to find an excellent and affordable contesting/DX site on Buzzards Bay. For 4 years, I lived in a small (600 sq ft) cottage on the property and put up a few towers with a monobander and verticals in the saltmarsh. I was QRV every day. This changed in 1983 when I got married and we bought a house on Cape Cod, about 45 minutes away (or 2 hours in peak summer.) I didn't want to give up the radio site/antenna farm, so I built a genuine radio "shack" (360 sq ft) in the woods and rented out the small cottage. Over the years, I maintained the antenna farm and drove there to operate a few major contests every year (mostly CQWW CW). Upkeep with the antenna farm was thanks to the help of many generous hams (notably KA1GG, W1FJ, K3NA, K1XM). In the 90s and '00s we made some successful multi-op efforts, including a highlight of operating as NU1AW in the 2010 IARU. I had a simple antenna at home, but I was weak and couldn't hear well.

By the time I retired in 2010, commercial equipment enabling remote operation had become readily available. Initially, I used a single pair of K3 radios—one at the control site (my basement) and one at the remote site (the shack) with the radios connected using Microbit RRC-1258 boxes. Over the years that setup has evolved, thanks in large part to the technical help of KT1D, W1UE, and NN1C, so that now we have full SO2R QRO capabilities with remote control of all rotators and antenna switching. Dennis, W1UE, has been crucial in making improvements in the setup and we currently share use of the station.

Today, the setup still uses the Microbit RRC-1258's, with a pair of K3S radios and KPA1500s in the shack. I'm a big fan of the 1500s - the interface is great. They are reliable. Band changing is simple (a quick press of the tune button at <10W). They don't trip out unless something is really wrong. I'm not a fan of their whiny fan noise - not an issue of course when operating remotely. A YCCC SO2R box at the control site (my basement) is used in conjunction with N1MM+ for 2 radio control. I'm using a pair of K3 radios to control the radios at the shack. A dedicated computer at the remote site provides control of the rotors, antenna switching and amplifiers. The rotator controls include the Green Heron RT21 controllers for 10, 20 and 40, and N1MMRotor control and

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PSTRotator for the 15M beams. K1XM's MOAS is used for antenna selection and is wired in parallel with the manual switching used when operating in person. The MOAS also switches directions of the 4-squares on 40, 80 and 160, although 160 has been missing 2 of its legs for a while. A WXØB six-pack controlled by a TOP-Ten band decoder connects the desired antenna to either radio. The remote computer is connected to the home computer via Anydesk (free version) which has been reliable with the notable exception of the 2023 ARRL CW DX contest when it infamously went down in the middle of the contest. In my basement I have two computers - one for connecting to the remote computer, and one for logging (N1MM+) and the SO2R box. I still never seem to have enough screen space!

Any contest station is going to have its share of technical "challenges." Adding remote operation contributes a whole new set of problems. Difficulties encountered over the years have included failures connecting to the radios or to the computer, the remote computer crashing and not re-starting, interrupted audio, the rotators not connecting or not pointing where they should be (I can't look out my window to see where they're pointing!) etc. t's great to have Dennis to help problem-solve the routine issues. Most problems don't require a visit to the shack, and when they do, cables and plugs are usually involved. Our latest problem has been RFI causing audio and radio disconnects when transmitting on 10, 12, and 15. This started a few months ago and has made 2 radio remote operation on 10 and 15 impossible even with low power.

For relaxed operating and contesting, which is most of the operating I do, it's great to enjoy the comforts of home. It's also great to have my lovely XYL, Lois, nearby, although she might best be described as unenthusiastic about my life-long hobby. (She still won't acknowledge the difference between 10 and 160 meters, and it took many years for her to understand that yes, there is a major contest on the last weekend of November *every* year.) For serious contesting—IARU, CQWW CW-- I prefer operating at the shack with zero distractions, but at the same time without running water or warm meals, and *with* the fan noise. In addition to making it much easier to troubleshoot problems that inevitably crop up during the contest, operating in-person removes the source of many of those problems. The K3S radios at the shack are connected to P3 (SVGA) panadapters - a capability I sorely miss when operating remotely.

sc

Remote Radio Integrated with N1MM+

[Frank Maynard](#), NF8M (CWops #1634)

(Dick, N9EEE: the following feedback from Frank Maynard is being shared as an article because of the useful information he provides integrating N1MM Logger+ into remote radio operation)

I read with interest your article in [Solid Copy](#) (March 2025) and learned about Remote TX, which sounds like a great way to interface your gear without jumping through a lot of networking hoops or configuring.

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You mentioned needing to figure out a way to incorporate N1MM+ into your operation.

I'm doing it simply by using a remote desktop client to connect to the Windows computer running N1MM+ at the home station. I have created a bunch of buttons on the N1MM+ bandmap panel to perform various rig functions such as power on/off, power output, filter selection, antenna switching, etc., similar to the range of ASCII commands that RemoteTx supports. Since I have full access to the Windows desktop, I can also see the software panel of my LP-100A wattmeter and my WA4MCM 8x1 antenna switch, as well as call up the Kenwood rig control software if necessary. In fact, my windows computer runs headless and even in the shack I access it using RDP from my main computer which runs Fedora Linux.

Keying is done through N1MM+ with function keys and Ctrl-K to send by keyboard. I don't have a remote paddle setup. For audio, I use mumble, running the server locally but have also used W1VE's server. Your setup includes audio so that wouldn't be necessary. I rarely use SSB so I haven't incorporated any way of doing remote phone but it would be possible through mumble.

Of course you'd need a tunnel into your N1MM+ computer, but OpenVPN on either a commercial hardware solution or on any old RPi (with appropriate port forwarding in your firewall) or Anydesk are possible solutions there.

Certainly by RDPing to your shack computer, you could control various other local software such as fldigi, WSJTX or MMTTY.

I think I mentioned most of this in the item I submitted for News & Notes about a year ago about remote contesting from an Amtrak train, more of a proof of concept and a bit of dabbling than a serious effort since jitter and latency were big issues from a moving train. I've done CWTs from the train or waiting in the Great Hall at Union Station.

With so many options and ways of doing remote operations, that aspect of ham radio has gotten quite exciting.

73, Frank Maynard, NF8M

sc

Late Arrival

[David Koch, W8OV](#) (CWops #2006)

Background

The 2025 January - February CW Academy Beginner class began about as usual with the requested six students. In a few weeks one student dropped due to health problems. It is pretty standard for at least one drop out in my Beginner classes. So no concerns at this point. The students moved along well.

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In session two, I start Beginners working on instant character recognition (ICR) of the characters they have learned using Stephen Phillips' <morsecode.world> as specified in the Beginner Curriculum. Once they feel they have learned the characters, they are requested to use either one of two methods to improve their speed of character recognition.

One method, organized by Bill, KØMP <[CW Player for ICR](http://CW_Player_for_ICR)>, uses *CW Player* by Gabriel Rivat, F6DQM, which students can download at <<http://f6dqm.free.fr/>>. It was Bill's recommendation to start Beginners in session two, when they have enough characters to make a meaningful practice at moving toward ICR. This method requires students to type, as quickly as possible, each character sent randomly. The time between the sent character and the typed character is measured by the program. The default starting time is 5000 ms, which can be reduced as students become faster. After a specified number of times characters are sent, the program shows students the characters they should practice more, and additional cycles can follow.

After a "teaser" mention of a different method, by Tony Pattinson, VE2KM (#2424), in his February 2024 article in *Solid Copy* (pp. 21-27), I became intrigued about the new approach. All was revealed in *Better-ICR*, pp. 16-21, by John Merkel, AJ1DM (#1973), in the March 2024 issue of *Solid Copy*. The unique feature of Better-ICR <Better-ICR> is that the time between a sent character and a student's voicing of it is measured. No typing. Just head-copy. Further, John determined that it takes about 600 ms for someone to vocalize a character heard. So it is suggested that 600 ms is a measure of ICR using this system. Another feature is that an array of bar graphs is shown for each character being practiced. Initially red, as a student acquires a weighted moving average faster than 2000 ms for a character, its bar becomes yellow. When the character is recognized in 600 ms (or less), the bar is green. One student mentioned this makes it seem like a video game.

I encourage students to give both approaches a try before deciding on one. In that class, two of the six class members used CW Player as configured by Bill, KØMP, and did exceptionally well. The others used Better-ICR. In the after-class comments, two students replied about the applications they used:

"Better ICR. I honestly used Morse Code Trainer and Better ICR more than any other apps/ programs. Between these two, they provided everything (and more) to learn CW. The curriculum is outstanding. The class meetings were absolute key in the learning process!"

"Better ICR, introduced to us by Dave turned out to be the best tool for me. I was struggling to recognize the characters and with the help of Better ICR, I kept improving. I will continue to keep using this until I am comfortably fast enough recognizing each character."

Late Arrival

One student had an 8-year old daughter, Olivia, who initially sat next to him on a couch, and was present at every session. There was indication Olivia was learning some characters. Eventually, I began asking her an occasional sent character and she knew it. I then added her to the pseudo-random list of students I used to call on when sending copying practice. At first I tried to avoid calling on Olivia when a particularly difficult character was sent. But, she always knew the letter, number, or punctuation. So I continued calling on her in random rotation, regardless of character. She still had the sound interpreted correctly.

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Then, as we practiced 3-letter “words” one session, Olivia still got them correct. It was time for a decision.

With the permission of Bob Carter, WR7Q, one of the CWA Administrators, Olivia registered on February 8 for the next session of CW Academy, then was transferred to my class for the last 3 weeks of the current session. That was not a lot of time to make up for missing sending practice and ICR practice. But her dad set up a separate computer and practice station for her, and Olivia took up the challenge. Her initial attempt at sending was much slower than the 5 adult students, but when she made a mistake she knew it and corrected it. I knew then she would eventually be a very good sender of code because, unlike some of the adults, she listened to what she was sending, a very good sign. As for ICR practice, no student responded as did Olivia. I asked them to send me an ICR report or screen-shot once a week. Olivia sent as many as 3 per day!



Fig. 1. Olivia practicing ICR at the Better-ICR web site. (Photo- Olivia's dad)

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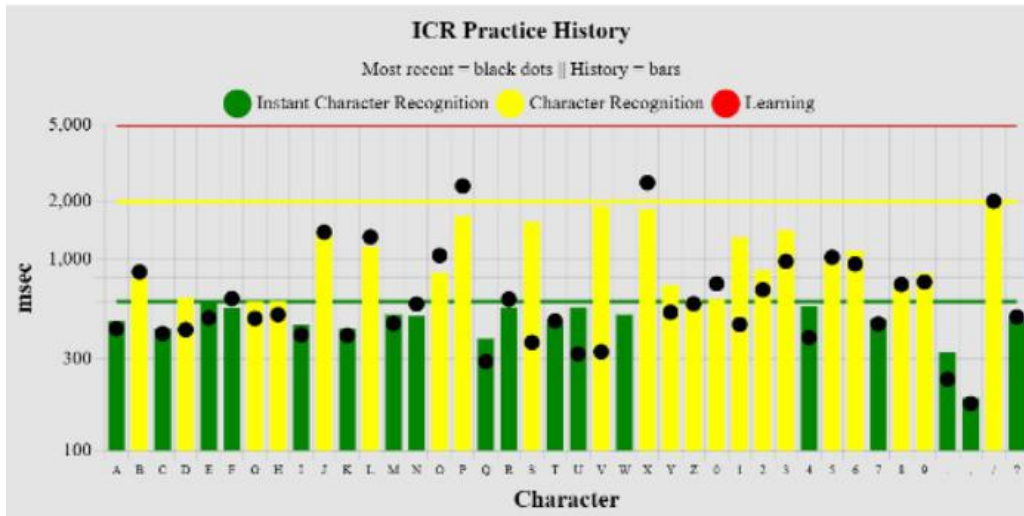


Fig. 2. Olivia's most recent report from Better-ICR. She copied 18 characters in 600 ms or less, and she's really fast at the comma!

So, what does Olivia, a 3rd grader, think about all this? I asked her several questions, and she replied in the thoughtful and succinct manner of an 8-year old:

How did you become interested in learning Morse code? "Dad."

What was the most fun or easiest part of learning code? "Letters."

What was the most challenging (hardest) part of learning code? "Numbers."

Why numbers? "Longer."

Have you shared what you've been doing with any friends or others, at school? "A friend."

Are any of them interested in learning code and joining you on Vband? "?" (not sure)

Can you copy Morse code as fast as your dad? "Faster."

How is your sending coming along? "Good."

Are you planning on getting an amateur radio license some day? "I hope so."

How did it make you feel being invited to join a group of adults in class? "Happy."

Would you like to tell readers anything else about your CW Academy experience? "Fun."

What does it take to become a good code operator? "Not give up."

Let this put to rest any hesitation to begin ICR practice early in a Beginner class. It's so simple even a 3rd grader can do it.

(Note: CW Academy offers three cohort-based training sessions each year—January-February, May-June, and September-October—at four distinct skill levels. If you know someone interested in learning Morse code for amateur radio or enhancing their existing skills, encourage them to visit the CW Academy website to assess their level and register for a class.)

Bugging The RandomGram

[Jim Smith](#), KKØU (CWops #3067)

My excuse is that I wanted the practice.

After thirty plus years of operating iambic paddles with my non-dominant left hand, I decided to dive into getting and using a bug. Whether it's old age, morbid curiosity or just plain stubbornness (smart money's on the latter), something in me yearned to master the semi-automatic key. I also realized that CW decoders have an especially hard time deciphering straight keys and bugs, something that might come in handy at some point.

So, I put out a call to my local club – the *St. Louis QRP Society* – and Derek WBØTUA, respected and renounced bug aficionado, loaned me a left-handed bug. It was interesting, I had fun with it, but I also noticed that my iambic sending degraded dramatically as I struggled with the switch from one to the other.

So again I queried the good folks of *SLQS* and Bob KØFHG brought me a 60s era Vibroplex Lightning Bug at our next meeting. Not only is Bob our Field Day Grill master (come for the pork steaks, stay for the mosquitoes and heat), but he knows how to set up a bug – this one was adjusted properly and ready to go.

As I practiced with a code oscillator to hone my dot/dash ratio, I realized I needed a baptism by fire to make it stick in both my muscle and cerebral memory – something along the lines of “if you want to learn CW, run the CW station at Field Day.”

Enter the RandomGram.

The [RandomGram](#) is the brainchild of Drew AF2Z. It's a contest that occurs in several different formats, but at its core it involves sending and receiving random groups of either letters or combined letters and numbers. Each participant is assigned their list of random 5-letter groups, and that (along with an RST) forms the exchange. What makes it particularly interesting is that one never sends or receives the same 5-letter group twice (there are exceptions to this rule, depending upon the event). Once an event is over, those 5-letter groups will not be used again – one needs to be issued a new set of 5-letter groups for every event.

As I've entered a few of these in the past, this seemed like the perfect opportunity to sink or swim with my developing bug-like tendencies. So, on 23 March I entered into RG #30 – a 24-hour long event starting at 0000Z, with only one 5-letter group sent per QSO, and no reuse of 5-letter groups.

I wasn't able to dive in until around 1900Z, but with my 100 5-letter groups printed out, I dove in. Folks seemed to copy my sending without too much trouble, or repeat requests. I initially had the bug set up for about 25 wpm, then slowed it down after awhile to around 20 wpm as I began to tire out.

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W3NP NASLU ACZC KN4HAR	WD4DX KLO1 Jack ND9M Jim WASZEG m	1/80NA WADLN WIZX No. 1 WTHU	9DLWPEJTZ KORO	KF8TIK NSDCH	NG8F UG8T N9FBC JAKE 2308 WADLN WA2QOF 2320 WB8EJN 46M WDAHY
KLGRD 9M RMWGG OGKWT RVELZ SACDI TJVIA GQTOX OBEBA KTZWJ MHHRN XOHDJ 50AW CGSIN SETGE KQDEX XHLW ZKNDW HGWRZ PHMZC IJCIF QXGJF KWPME FMLYN WGHGU EJHKF ATVVT VXQBC XDWMQ MAFTX GLTAS	YCEZX UTIQW PSQJD PTR MDAPY NEIPA FDTVH JZVKT CBRTW OQEJK ZDHZZ GVBCV WQMX DMNPE SNAHB DAMYD IXAGJ BKXDQ LUUOS IUUHP CSAOL MXINX IIXTD YSWBU ZFDXG IMTGW TWRXM JLNJX JDKLY FIJOG OLXPU	YEBDG VZCUD AZUSV SCXEN DDKRV BQEVK EGFYM OZRIO WPQWS SGRBD SLGVX VHGPR ZDGEV WTLBR ECCJ HELVT IDCAL LEIYA EQEMO GXDFZ HHABN PHNAB GDAQP HXRRJ OKJWO OVDVS EGDIC ELATF ACBYD EFWKZ UDUNH TLNSR	HUIWF DPNxA XVKJQ BHUWH FHTLS YSAJQ PABNC VLAGG WIZJB WWZMU HIIJU QDSLY MGHKA REKTC HJPKS HCBNS FTCFE NLKDK TSBRK PQGZY FPTBM JCUOC IXHTV PCTZR MBGXV XKCOM LNTOS XCBTZ ITMTW LPLYF UDUNH RRSTA	NNWQP RCKFJ NIXEW AGQJE PMVID NZRZU DETUE XFEAB ARJQV KWQFJY AGAMGG SILZU IEQWD ACRIB QRSVJ LEINP ULRTD IABNT HGTLG RZOKJ TQSDX EKFTJ IKUPG HQCVG DFZRV QUIXR PDQPJ KWQMC RONCQ KWBBR VTDBK VHJFT	HEZEG XTSNT EYBCI HKRBR DSJYR DRBLP IXUGJ WZFEK TCL XY TUZNP ZNEJL VACEM XLPRG YSAJQ YVIEA XPMAN SNCRX ZAEY VZWRN IQMOY VPHMR AOPGJ JMDIT ZEOIV MACOW RCJWS QRWMP J6YJA ILBCU IPYPR LAQXM SHBQC XLAOK BZQWQ VBNLU W4EDN

KI
 50AW
 W4
 AE
 30W
 K1
 46GK
 W4
 SW
 STEVE
 606
 N9EP
 NASLU
 79 sent
 237
 K15 PED
 K7SHR
 237
 79+
 25
 104
 441

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One more interesting facet of the RandomGram is that the log you turn in consists only of the 5-letter groups you copied. No times, bands, callsigns or other distractions. You can see by my log that I copy down calls, 5-letter groups, and that's it.

You can work another station as many times as you want, as each QSO is unique because of the random 5-letter groups. Mike N8DNA #1743 and I exchanged probably 25 groups or so, and we fell into a nice rhythm of exchanges (there are some provisos to this, so check the rules carefully).

So, how'd I do? I ran the last four hours minus a break or two to stretch or grab more water. In the end, of the 79 5-letter groups I sent, 76 were copied correctly, which (very loosely) correlates to a 96% "accuracy" rate. I'm sure QSB/QRN/QRM or sloppy sending mangled the three that were missed.

Springing off my legendary performance (in my own mind) in the RandomGram, I also operated in the SKCC monthly sprint on 27 March. This event was a little less fun than the RandomGram, as one sends the same exchange with each QSO.

I found that I really have to listen to my dashes, to ensure that I get their length and timing right. All that time in marching band in high school is finally paying off! I usually send myself a string of dits with my transmitter disabled, to get the speed locked into my brain. Then I'm pretty well set to start sending.

In discussing bugs with Derek WBØTUA, I learned that American Morse is more dit heavy than International Morse. That's interesting, as the things I struggle with on the bug are some of the common combinations, like CQ and CWT. While I have not had the courage to run a CWT with the bug, I am keeping my ear open for those "bugsters" who cruise those contests with their semi-automatic keys.

I've also discovered that for me, the good old Vibroplex lightning bug or standard just "feels right." The extended thumb piece (naturally), the width between the thumb and finger piece, and the height of the instrument all works for my fist. To be sure, Vibroplex could modernize their bugs with finer screw threads, different screw locking approaches, etc., but they got the basics right over 100 years ago.

In the end, much like anything else new I take on as I get older, I'm going to need to practice this just about every day. And, as long as I don't get into collecting the darned things, this bug thing will be fine. So watch out Danny K7SS, Tree N6TR and Stu N7ZZ...I'm coming for you in the next CWT.

(Postscript: in the 0300Z CWT of 3 April, I worked all three of them using my bug. It was sometimes very ugly, but I got it done!)

Your Own CWops Hamfest Display

[Dick Strassburger](#), N9EEE (CWops #3113)

There may come a time when the opportunity to host a Hamfest table becomes available. When that happens, consider promoting your CWops club. In the marketing world, the axiom is true: "word-of-mouth is the most effective form of advertising." The Tri-County ARC (Jefferson, WI) offered a free table to any local club in their Club Corner for their recent Hamfest so I grabbed one for my local club and an adjacent one for CWops. I'm a retired marketing guy, so I applied some of that skill set to pre-planning a meaningful display table that represented all aspects of CWops. It resulted in quite a few interactions, joyful passerby comments, and brand building. I also downloaded the membership list, culled it to just those in southern Wisconsin, and emailed an invitation to them to join me or stop by the display. Follow my story and you can do it too with minimal work. I've posted the materials on the Groups.io reflector in a folder labeled [Hamfest Materials](#). Feel free to personalize the materials to your specific needs.

IT STARTS WITH A PURPOSE

My goal was simple: build the brand and grow its membership by increasing the awareness of CWops, and more specifically its programs, based on the current Morse code skills of whomever I was talking to. For those who never learned the code or had forgotten it, my patter was around the CW Academy...*"and did you know its FREE?"* For those who are into contesting, I interested them in the CW Open as well as our weekly tune-ups...the CWTs. And I talked about ragchewing to those who were tired of FT8. So, the display area had to accommodate all that, but first, they had to find us. And that was done with an inexpensive flag that could be visible anywhere in the Hamfest hall.



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WHAT PEOPLE SAW AND EXPERIENCED

Display area: 8' table - clean and uncluttered.

Flag (5' x 3') suspended by a PVC banner stand. (My local club's banner was on the opposite side, so the banner stand served double-duty). The flag design was prepared by me and purchased online for \$25 including shipping and tax through [HypeFlags](#).

PowerPoint slide show (on folding laptop) promoting each of the CWops programs along with images related to each of the programs. Who we are, What we do, Educate, Reward, Share, Camaraderie are the pillars that were communicated.

Business cards for CW Academy featuring a QR Code that directs to the CWA web page. I also included an unofficial tagline that received much praise, "Have Morse Fun".

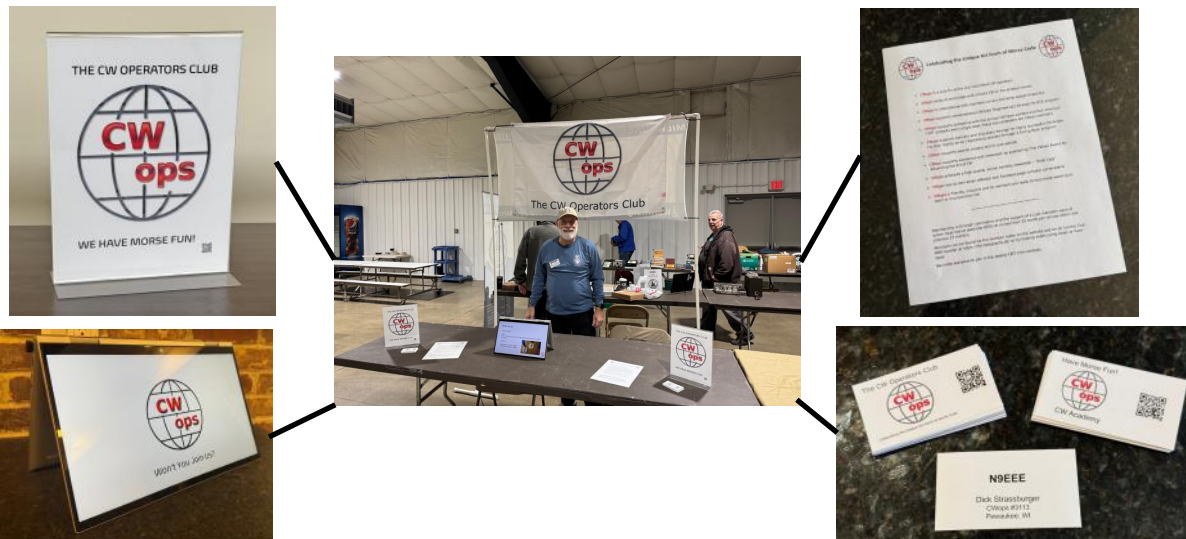
Business cards for CWops featuring a QR code that directs to the CWops membership page. The cards prominently display the official tagline, "Celebrating the Unique Art of Morse Code." On the reverse side of both business cards, I included my call sign, name, CWops number, and QTH. The business cards were made using Avery Business Card stock.

Tabletop Placards: CWops logo and tagline.

Flyers with bullet points promoting the benefits of membership and activities and programs in CWops.

Prop (not shown): my local club was selling SK gear and I spotted an old Heathkit keyer to put on the CWops table to generate interest and a conversation. Unfortunately, there was no electricity nearby of I would have turned this into a learning experience.

I wore a CWops name badge because I do not own a CWops shirt. And, I was obligated to wear my local club's shirt since I'm the President and had cajoled some of my fellow members into getting out of bed on a Sunday morning and drive 45 minutes to help staff our local club's branding table and the equipment sales table.



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THE TAKEAWAY

What an interesting day talking about CW to older hams that learned it to pass the FCC test many years ago, to those new to the hobby and curious about the mystique of a mode and language they didn't understand, and to the passersby wondering what they were missing. One dad pushed his middle school kid towards me and said, "he wants to learn Morse code." I said, "will this be a father and son experience?" to which the kid looked at his dad and said, "it most certainly will be." We talked for 45 minutes...they're in. Both intend to register in the CW Academy. A few members strolled by for a photo op and swapped some stories about their experiences in the club. And a few CW operators who were not in the club watched the PowerPoint slides, asked questions and grabbed flyers. It was gratifying to spend my time talking about Morse code and CWops with so many hams that were truly interested in this aspect of the hobby...the experienced as well as those curious about the mode. What a fabulous opportunity to bring CW to the forefront of people's minds – hamfests are a terrific opportunity for brand-building CWops.



Dick, N9EEE with Steve, K9WO #2992



Paul, WA9PWP #3401 with Dick, N9EEE

NEXT TIME

I'm considering bringing a battery-operated keyer and paddles so visitors can try sending a few characters—maybe even their name and call sign. Those with smartphones could record themselves and play it back later to impress friends and family and club members—or at least spark some curiosity about learning the rest of the Morse code alphabet and numbers with CWops.

Also on the to-do list: buy myself a CWops logo golf shirt.

If you've exhibited a brand-building display promoting CWops at a Hamfest, please consider sharing your experience as a future article in *Solid Copy*. Chris, KF7WX, will share his experience in the May issue of *Solid Copy*.

New Members

[Trung Nguyen, W6TN](#)

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

<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CWops</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>
3710	KFØPQR*	Jeff	3714	AE4GS*	Gary	3718	WW8L*	Tim
3711	AK4R*	Steve	3715	DM7TW*	Paul	3719	SV1RUX	Dave
3712	IZ8JAI*	Dom	3716	KC3MAL*	Stu			
3713	N7DZ*	Bill	3717	KØII	Benny			

* Lifetime member

As of April 7, 2025:

Need Sponsors: WA8YWG, K3UZ, W2ANZ, WS4K

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 March 2025 results (GB hosts are shown in **bold**):

GW2CWO	RA6AGR IK3EER	DK6MV M0MCL	I5ECW HA1DW	UF3VZ	HB9HFD	EA5AKM	RV9CAJ
JG1UQD	JA4IJ JG1BGT	JH5FVM JJ2KJN	HL1MIM J11BXM	JM8QGN	JM2LOF	JN7DOR	JR8IUH
JJ1FXF	7K1TSV JS2KZM(2) JL1STV	JG1BGT(6) JA3EBL JO1UFB	JS6THD JA3GLA JL1EFV/5	HL1MIM JE6JAO JL3TII	JH2ACP DU1UAR JL2SQK	JA1AMD/M JG7AJE(2)	JA4IJ(3) J11WGS
JK1QYL	JQ2NUD JK1MVC JM8QGN JN1FAO	JR8KQS JE6JAO N6TI 7K2BCT	7K1TSV(2) JG1BGT(4) JQ1QHL(3)	JA4IJ JA3EBL JO1UFB	JL2SQK(2) JO1XGM/3 JS2NFB	JR2FBM JO4FER(2) JQ3FRX	JG7AJE JS2KZM JS2IMR
JM4AOA	7K1TSV JL2SQK JR3FOX	7L2VPL JM8QGN JS2DJM	BD4WQZ JN4FZS JS2NFB(2)	HL1MIM JN7DOR	JA5IVG JO4FER	JJ2KJN JQ3FRX(2)	JL1CNV JQ7CWD
JO1DGE	7L2VPL JF1OLT JN4FZS JR2MCN	HL1MIM(2) JG1BGT(3) JN7DOR JS2PNZ	JA3AVO JH2URW JO1MAY JS2RLB	JA5IVG JH5FVM JO1UFB KE7LOY	JA6KDW JJ2ALV JO4FER	JE1VQM JL2SQK(2) JQ3FRX	JE8MDA JM8QGN JQ7CWD
JS2PNZ	JG7AJE (2) 7L2VPL	JJ2ALV JS2RLB	JH2ACP JN1FAO	JH1BSK JO1DGE	JE1LGY JS1CII	JN7DOR JK1VXU	JA4IJ
K8UDH	K0JSB	NN0D	NU0 (2)	WA0JLY	WA5WB		
M0WDD	DF3BS G3SHF M7GNO	DH8RD G3UDI MM0CIN	DL1HR G4GON MM0NJC	DL9DBI IK1LBL OH6CW	EC1CNW M0KCJ PA2PWM	G0LLU M0MTJ PA3JD	G0UBE M0TJU SA6NAN
W5DT	KD9WCE	N3JJT	N7KRIU	WA2AKV	W0ITT	KD1MD	KE7LOY
W8OV	WA1GXC	K6JJR	K0DCR	KV5V			
7N2XZB	JM2LOF(8) JA1DVD JO4FER	JS2OVO JO1XGM JN1MET	JJ0SFV JQ3FRX HL1MIM(2)	JN1FAO BG2KZP JQ1QHL	JL2SQK(2) J11GQQ 7L2VPL	JA4IJ(3) JK1WCW	JO4ODA 7N1OEX

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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 UTC-4	Chicago UTC-5	Denver UTC-6	Los Angeles UTC-7	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	
								W7IY				
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](#)

This month we have three topics: (1) answers to some student and advisor questions, (2) curriculum updates, and (3) congratulations to the students successfully completing the 2025 January / February semester classes.



Call Sign Updates

The CW Academy database links all information using student or advisor call signs. To accommodate call sign changes, both the Advisor and Student Portals feature an "Update Callsign" tool. This tool updates the call sign within the database tables and simultaneously modifies the user's login credentials for the CW Academy website.

Action Reminders

When a student or advisor needs to complete a task, the system sends an email notification prompting them to log into the CW Academy website.

Detailed instructions for the required action are displayed at the top of the Portal, along with a link to the relevant tool. Each reminder includes an expiration date. The reminder will remain visible on the portal until the action is completed or the reminder expires. If a reminder disappears, please contact Roland or Bob for reinstatement.

CW Academy Procedures for Students Marked as Not Promotable or Withdrew

Following semester completion and advisor promotability updates, students may register for subsequent courses. The system verifies a recent Morse code assessment for the requested level during enrollment. If an assessment is not found, the student must complete one. A score of 80% or higher allows enrollment in the desired level. Scores below 80% result in a recommendation for a lower level, though students may override this and proceed with their chosen level.

Approximately twenty days prior to semester commencement, class assignments are processed. The system initially determines automatic assignment eligibility based on promotability and requested level.

Promotable Students: Students marked "promotable" requesting a higher level are automatically assigned.

Non-Promotable or Withdrawn Students Requesting Higher Level: Students marked "not promotable" or "withdrew" requesting a higher level are placed on administrative hold. Administrators review Morse code assessments, may require a new assessment, and conduct student consultations (potentially including the previous advisor). If sufficient progress is demonstrated,

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the hold is overridden, and the student is assigned to the requested level. Otherwise, the student is asked to repeat the previous level.

Non-Promotable or Withdrawn Students Repeating Level: Students marked "not promotable" or "withdrew" repeating the same level are automatically assigned to a different advisor.

Promotable Students Repeating Level: Students marked "promotable" repeating the same level are placed on administrative hold. Administrators review Morse code assessments and consult with the student to determine appropriate placement.

Advisor Review and Acceptance: Advisors receive a roster of their assigned students following class assignments. Advisors can then review each student's Morse code assessments and determine if the student meets their specific criteria. Based on this review, advisors can either accept or decline a student's placement in their class.

New Curriculums for Fundamental, Intermediate and Advanced

As has been previously mentioned, we have modified these three curriculums to put more emphasis on listening to the sounds of words, and less on typing. We have added four new sets of files for the students to practice listening: "Short File" containing Words, Phrases, QSOS and PO-TA, and two new sets of the eight or more of the most common Suffixes and Prefixes. Over 2,000 of the new files are populated on the website along with all the previous ones.

What started out to be a minor modification turned out to be a major rewrite. Consequently, the three versions are now 2.0. It has taken a tremendous amount of work on the part of Roland Smith – K7OJL, Joe Spencer – KK5NA and Bob Carter – WR7Q, to complete this process. We thank them for their effort.

We would have loved to have had it done a few weeks sooner, but it turned out to be a bigger project than originally anticipated. To help the advisors that are already planning on using the current version, we will be keeping both the new one and previous version on the website for the upcoming semester.

Because there have been so many changes, undoubtedly you may find typos or other errors, which we will correct shortly after we are notified about them. Please send all corrections and suggestions **directly** to Bob Carter – WR7Q at **kcgator@gmail.com** and **NOT** to groups.io CwaAdvisors.

We hope this is more effective in helping the students get better at ICR, ICW and "head copying" code.

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

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Congratulations to the 2025 January / February Semester Graduates!

Four hundred ninety-six students were enrolled in CW Academy classes for the 2025 January / February semester. Two hundred ninety-five students successfully completed the class. CW Academy congratulates the following students:

BEGINNER LEVEL (104)

Alsdorff, Robert (DL8ROB)	Freyer, Jonathan (N8PMR)	Puppo, KC (K1ZMA)
Amedio, Dominick (KE2EBN)	Geis, Lutz (DB9LG)	Rasmussen, Dirk (W0SNO)
Ang, Paris (VE3BNO)	Gindele, Gabe (KO6EQN)	Reeves, Cary (WI2I)
Antion, Bob (ND4P)	Grant, Connor (KC1UXI)	Robieson, Timothy (KD9ZMW)
Bartley, Neil (G7UFO)	Hajek, Torsten (DL7ZO)	Sachnowski, Tomek (SP5BOM)
Baruschke, Axel (DO1DPL)	Hartwig, Carsten (CARSTEN)	Salazar, Arthur (KO6ETV)
Bieder, Juergen (DL4RBR)	Hedgepeth, Michelle (K7MGO)	Sanderson, Mark (KE5BAY)
Bierkens, Ivo (KO6BKX)	Heiman, David (KN6WNN)	Schröder, Carsten (DL1CSB)
Black, Cliff (K4JIP)	Higgins, Dan (KD4YHC)	Scroggins, Garrett (KC1VMR)
Booth, Jane (2M0IZS)	Hitzler, Andreas (DB2HA)	Shepard, John (KK7NYB)
Bradley, Michael (M0XRY)	Holland, Hank (N4ABQ)	Shin, Nathan (KC3GRO)
Bradshaw, Andrew (W4BEE)	Hollifield, Brett (KE9BOS)	Sisco, Paul (KF4RPJ)
Buetow, Kevin (WA9MTY)	Holmes, Lyle (KK4REW)	Smith, Robert (N0OM)
Burls, Clive (M0KNP)	Howard, Loren (AB8ZZ)	Stewart, Bob (N4JV)
Butch, Matthew (KV3JGB)	Hunt, Chris (K2MMT)	Stummer, Peter (HB9EPS)
Cahill, John (KE8OKY)	Johannsen, Randi (N7OLE)	Swallow, John (K0DYY)
Capewell, Brian (2E0HZQ)	Jones, Jenni (M0HZT)	van Deursen, Albert (PA5OXW)
Carley, Jason (KJ7DMI)	Kish, JD (KF0NWC)	van Eckert-Schoof, Johanna (DJ5YL)
Caviezel, Chris (WX7EMT)	Klimis, Panagiotis (SV8PMM)	van Geest, Arthur (PD4AVG)
Chtchepotko, Alexander (DD1ADZ)	Koehl, Jaclyn (AD9DZ)	Velayutham, "Sivasakthi Murugan" (KF0SM)
Cieślak, Peter (SO5ET)	Kress, Sebastian (DL5SKH)	Villano, Jim (WB4JIM)
Clark, Richard (AE5GF)	Lange, Christoph (DL8CL)	Walk, Geroge (NG1W)
Critchfield Jr., John (N0GMD)	Leitch, Will (G16HKE)	Webb, Katrina (KJ5HRI)
Davis, Jerry (WF5W)	Lentz, Deanna (N9ASN)	Weng, Jason (KG6HZZ)
de Wolf, Frank (PE1ODM)	Leonard, Paul (WA5GLS)	Weng, Olivia (OLIVIAWENG)
Denham, Robert (KE7FTF)	Lindsay, Keenan (KO6BRZ)	Wojtysiak, David (AI7VM)
Dixon, Christopher (K1PRD)	Loopstra, Marv (KF0INU)	Wolf, Axel (DL5FE)
Donahue, Patti (KE7IR)	Luhowy, Paul (VA7PGL)	Zabrowski, Rob (VA6VZ)
Dunsford, Mark (M7OIW)	Martin, Andrew (AJ7CM)	Zamor, Josh (N7SWE)
Elawar, Munir (N3PQ)	McGuire, Russell (KU4UK)	Zangenberg, Harald (DJ7HZ)
Emmerling, Patti (K9DWG)	McKee, Stephen (KE0RSI)	
Favorite, Carey (AD0M)	McMahon, Laura (LAURAMC)	
Fernandez, Roberto (KQ4RFT)	Morgan, Jeffrey (KM6RGO)	
Flores, Allan (KC9PVH)	Morrison, Todd (W4CW)	
Flores, Chantel (KG5OCI)	Mullins, Robert (VA6RBT)	
Foster, Grace (W6ULW)	Nayak, Arvind (AJ7AY)	
	Pereira, Joe (KD9HYG)	
	Petithomme, Bob (K1RLP)	

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FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL (72)

Abramson, Chuck (K9CFA)
Adling, Markus (DO4AMN)
Andrews, David (KQ4EFU)
Bates, Ken (W0BD)
Biernacki, Mark (KB5ZY)
Bragg, R.J. (WY7AA)
Breitbarth, Christian (AI0H)
Brink, Jan (PA4J)
Brinkrolf, Markus (HB9TMM)
Campbell, Peter (KC1RTO)
Cane, David (AI6XX)
Cline, Lee (KC4IGO)
Consorti, Jean (AD2EK)
Danner, John (KY4WW)
Dobkowski, Andrzej (SQ2HZ)
Drawdy, Glenn (KZ4GK)
Drukker, Bridget (MW6BNE)
Dunbar, Logan (N5RLD)
Dykier, Tomasz (N6SRN)
Erwin, Bill (NB8M)
Frericks, Ray (K6NOV)
Gentry, Dale (N5LIG)
Greco, Cosmo (AK6DL)
Harvey, Tim (VA3UZ)

Henze, Dirk (DH5NZE)
Kapadia, Simon (M0GZP)
Klein, Robert (NZ5E)
Law, Zak (KJ7ZTE)
Mauro, Ronaldo (RDMAUR)
McDermott, Bob (G6TDR)
McDonley, Alan (WB0ZJJ)
McElhannon, Matt (WM4TT)
Meany, Phil (KC7EXN)
Mennema, Jan (PA3MM)
Meyer, Juergen (DL2NJM)
Meyers, Paul (W5NWT)
Moore, Alastair (2E0UOE)
Müller, Andreas (DL5OBR)
Nevins, Byron (NB6D)
Nicholls, Bradley (M7GNO)
Papciak, Doug (KI4VDU)
Pascal, Greg (W6DHQ)
Pavlovski, Misel (Z31PM)
Peavey, Jim (AC1MT)
Peters, Art (K0ACP)
Peters, Paul (VA3HYM)
Ransome, Dorn (M0IAO)
Rapp, Sherri (WB4OSU)
Rice, Chris (N7NAV)

Rosson, Aaron (W7AEW)
Rüdiger, Andreas (DK6EE)
Sauerteig, Martin (DG6MS)
Schauff, Ralf (DL1RS)
Schubert, Dirk (DL5DGS)
Secrist, Brad (K4OLS)
Semens, James (VK7JZ)
Shaw, David (G4NOW)
Smith, Mark (2E0IQP)
Smith, Shawn (WS0SWV)
Stinson, Timothy (AI5BE)
Stoltenburg, Jason (KD9ZHF)
Summers, Stacy (N4UAV)
Thomas, Daniel (HS0ZQP)
Tiwari, Manish (VU2EH)
Uludag, Fahrettin (TA1HAM)
Van Cleve, Gib (KE0PRK)
Ward, Jonathan (G8GD)
Warunek, Anthony (W2ASX)
Wetzel, Robert C. (N5ORO)
Williams, Shaie (W3DSW)
Worzel, Skip (K8HWK)
Yosua, Dave (AD8LM)

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (59)

Abdo, Mike (KE7KVR)
Auvinen, Alexandra (AC9XK)
Barton, Ronald (KJ7VRI)
Bayani, Brian (KT3X)
Behar, Jacques (KN6VQ)
Benesh, Andrew (KM4CAJ)
Bilokon, Alex (M7RDV)
Boger, Martin (DG2MB)
Borkovec, Jiri (OK2JIQ)
Bundschuh, Markus (DM6BU)
Cahill, Tom (W9AAT)
Cook, Jeffrey (KZ4KG)
Cupal, Thomas (WW8LA)
CURLEY, James (KE8EON)
Dabos, Peter (N1CEO)
De Olaguibel, JP (VA3JPI)
Dewar, Andrew (K4EXA)
DiGeorge, Tony (KU4NY)
Dreyer, Gaby (DF9TM)

Ellis, Matthew (WA8SE)
Fisher, Tom (VE3TEF)
Francis, Devon (KC1SDD)
Fulda, Martin (G8IQL)
Goerg, Michael (DL3DCM)
Goodman, Mark (NE5F)
Hoeffken, Christian (DK5CH)
Holtz, Hans (VK4ANS)
Jensen, Adam (K7AMJ)
Könz, Flurin (LB8TJ)
Krahn, Juergen (DL2JHK)
La Farina, Alessandro (IZ5CFN)
Lebegern, Uli (DG4SFS)
Lohr, Andreas (DB7AL)
Main, "Robert (Bob)" (KB4CL)
Mars, Dexter (KJ5IGQ)
Mayberry, William (VE4WJM)
McCarty, Ericka (KB4TJJ)
Mikeln, Jure (S52CQ)
Mis, Piotr (SP9MUF)
Mitchell, Deb (KC0DM)

Niikura, Yuuichiro (JK1SFP)
O'Briain, Diarmuid (EI4LF)
Palugniok, Ryszard (M0RPA)
Pfeiffer, Martin (DL1MP)
Pikkaart, Michel (PE1PTS)
Reams, David (KJ4DE)
Robertson, George (KG5KUQ)
Romagnano, Stefano (IV3JKE)
Rupert, William (KI5JWV)
Russell, Josiah (WD5JR)
Sawyer, Rich (KQ4LEA)
Sikachev, Evgenii (NK7Q)
Smith, Graham J. (G4NMD)
Stegers, Bill (PD5BS)
Styles, Nobby (G0VJG)
Talkington, David (KE7EOG)
Taylor, Axel (2E0DIG)
Tosh, Matt (AE0XR)
Vickers, Daniel (K4TWT)

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ADVANCED (60)

Ayers, Jeremy (NM5D)
Bennett, Bill (N7DZ)
Berzinskas, Bill (WW1H)
Brasse, Jean-Jacques (F5IJ0)
Bromley, Sally (WQ5T)
Brooks, Brian (2E0IER)
Bunn, Robert (VK2COS)
Cockerton, Marie-Louise (M7YRU)
Cockerton, Steve (M0YRU)
Commins, Joe (W4YDL)
Conley, Mike (N3JMC)
Cowan, Jeffrey (WJ7V)
Domenici, Eugene (KD4Y)
Doty, Jerry (K1OKD)
Dunlap, Ronald (K0LRQ)
Faneros, Miltiadis (SV8SXV)
Gause, Thomas (W4YGT)
Geist, Christian (DL1NCG)
Habegger, Terry (W8UY)

Hall, Jeffrey (KF0PQR)
Harden, John (VE3VGI)
Haywood, Peter (M0VPH)
Heijns, Paul (DM7TW)
Hughey, Stephen (AK4R)
James, Cathy (NQ1B)
Johnson, Lloyd (K7NX)
Kelley, Mike (K6AJ)
Klimenko, Nikita (SV1SYY)
Kühnl, Martin (OE3KME)
Leach, Robert (K8VAN)
Lim, Mary (VE3INE)
Loper, Ben (KJ4CC)
Lurie, Seth (KZ5H)
Manolis, Konstantinos (SV8SXF)
Martin, Dennis (WA2USA)
Martsoukakis, Giannis (SV1PMQ)
Merino, Eduardo (CE7EMU)
Myers, Steven (AI7OL)
Naughton, Jim (K4SSN)
Nolte, Andreas (DL6DAE)

Nute, Marshall (K1SN)
Padilla, Alberto (EA3GNU)
Perrin, Bill (JP3REM)
Pleace, Eric (KO4ZSD)
Policarpo, Paul (N3PP)
Prisco, Andy (KJ7QBK)
Rader, Craig (KE4CR)
Robertson, Laura (MM7BFL)
Samios, Theodoros (SV1SYM)
Samothrakis, Antonios (SV1ABA)
Sattler, Jay (N8JTR)
Shelton, David (N4IN)
Smith, Barbara (N7BAS)
Spears, C. WALT (WB7UOF)
Troupe, John (KM4JTE)
Vrublevskiy, Yuriy (UR8UO)
White, Brandon (NB5E)
Wilson, Doug (N1KB)
Wooten, Scott (KW4NJA)
Young, Alan (AG6ZE)

73,

Bob WR7Q (CWops #1423) and **Roland K7OJL**, CWA Admins

SC

Announcing the QTX-30

For Ragchewers by Ragchewers

When: May 1 - 31, 2025

What: Learn and explore 30-meters propagation. Make as many QTX and mQTX QSOs as you can in the month of May. Work a minimum of 30 combined QTX and mQTX QSOs to earn a special certificate. All QTX-30 QSOs count double in your May and annual total.

QTX = 20+ minute ragchew

mQTX = 10 - 20 minute ragchew

Logging: Report your QTX-30 QSO score on the QTX [web page](#).



CWops Tests (CWTs)

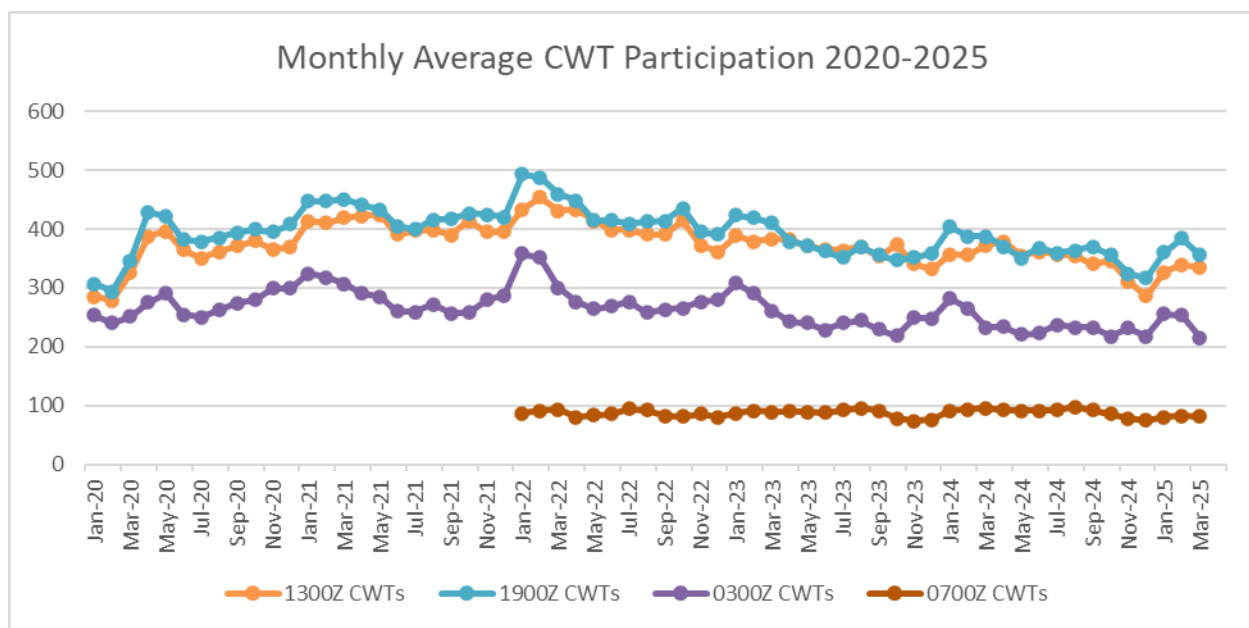
[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

With the first quarter of 2025 behind us, here is a report on this year's CWTs so far. As of April 1, we had completed 52 of this year's 210 CWT sessions. There are three members who have reported scores in all 52 CWTs so far: K4PQC, KO4VW and WF4I.

In total, there have been 13,295 claimed CWT scores reported to 3830scores.com this year, with a total of 816,152 reported QSOs. The median and average QSO score reported is up somewhat from last year: the median score is 50 QSOs, while the arithmetic average of all submitted scores is 62 QSOs. The most popular claimed QSO score is still 20 QSOs, followed closely by scores of 10, 12 and 15 QSOs. The highest reported scores in each of the 1300z, 1900z and 0300z sessions are all usually between 230 and 290 QSOs.

As usual, the most popular of the four CWT sessions has been the 1900z session, with 4,760 scores reported so far, but the 1300z session is close behind at 4,327 reported scores. That's an average of 366 participants in each 1900z CWT and 332 participants at 1300z. The 0300z session is considerably less popular, with 3,151 reported scores for an average of 242 participants, while the 0700z session has had an average participation so far this year of 81.

While there are seasonal variations during the year, there has been an overall trend of slowly decreasing participation since the peak in early 2022. The following graph of monthly average participation numbers illustrates the trend.



The numbers in the 1300z and 1900z sessions are still well above pre-pandemic levels, but participation in the 0300z session has now dropped back to levels comparable to those in 2019. Since it became part of the regular program in 2022, the 0700z session has had a fairly constant level

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of participation, with no significant signs of seasonal fluctuations.

The 1900z and 0300z sessions, on the other hand, clearly enjoy their highest seasonal participation during the Northern hemisphere winter.

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager

SC

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 March, 14 additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 191.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 188 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: **(1) KR2Q, (2) AA3B, (3) KY4GS, (4) K3WW, (5) N5RZ, (6) N5TJ, (7) NA8V, (8) KO4VW, (9) KC7V, and (10) K7QA**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 546 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 394 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: **(1) AA3B, (2) KR2Q, (3) N5RZ, (4) K3WW, (5) KY4GS, (6) OM2VL, (7) N5TJ, (8) NA8V, (9) K7QA and (10) KC7V**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1793 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of March 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3489 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) VE3KI**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 6531 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 **268** this month with the addition of **W7EEE**.

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 April 1, 2025, we have 191 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	1465
2	AA3B	1277
3	KY4GS	1173
4	K3WW	1061
5	N5RZ	1057
6	N5TJ	979
7	NA8V	963
8	KO4VW	957
9	KC7V	934
10	K7QA	919
11	KG9X	912
12	OM2VL	876
13	W4CMG	844
14	AA2IL	842
15	K1VUT	818
16	WT9U	815
17	N7US	767
18	W8FN	761
19	DL6KVA	747
20	NJ3K	734
21	K9WX	730
22	W9ILY	711
23	F6HKA	702
24	EA6BF	698
25	K1AJ	697
26	KC3M	688
27	N5KD	629
28	N9FZ	626
29	WN7S	622
30	KW1X	618
31	KM4FO	612
32	K1SM	611
33	K3QP	606
33	K3ZA	606
34	VE3TM	601
35	W5AL	597
36	K1DJ	595
37	WT3K	593
38	N5XE	587
39	K0WA	577
39	VE3KI	577
40	W1RM	567
41	WS7L	566

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4032
2	KR2Q	3638
3	N5RZ	3003
4	K3WW	2702
5	KY4GS	2701
6	OM2VL	2575
7	N5TJ	2377
8	NA8V	2350
9	K7QA	2328
10	KC7V	2239
11	KO4VW	2141
12	KG9X	1957
13	DL6KVA	1911
14	WT9U	1814
15	K1VUT	1774
16	W4CMG	1681
17	AA2IL	1635
18	W8FN	1590
19	EA6BF	1539
20	K1AJ	1498
21	N7US	1496
22	K9WX	1454
23	F6HKA	1355
24	N5XE	1334
25	NJ3K	1329
26	W9ILY	1278
27	WS7L	1262
28	KC3M	1251
29	N5KD	1216
30	WN7S	1201
31	KM4FO	1170
32	W0VX	1165
33	KW1X	1164
34	N2UU	1155
35	SM6CUK	1124
36	VE3KI	1095
37	K1DJ	1092
38	VE3TM	1080
39	EA6EJ	1073
40	W5AL	1069
41	K1SM	1025
42	K6NR	1009
43	W1RM	1008

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14783
2	K3WW	11294
3	N5RZ	10486
4	KR2Q	10285
5	N5ZO	10203
6	DL6KVA	9611
7	NA8V	9590
8	W1RM	9435
9	F6HKA	8917
10	VE3KI	8252
11	OM2VL	7948
12	K7QA	7807
13	KG9X	7760
14	KC7V	7644
15	N7US	7595
16	W9ILY	7394
17	WT9U	7026
18	K1VUT	6924
19	W0VX	6859
20	K3JT	6673
21	K9WX	6621
22	KY4GS	6425
23	N5TJ	6308
24	K6NR	6130
25	SM6CUK	6045
26	K1DJ	6041
27	N2UU	5997
28	W4WF	5981
29	K4IU	5932
30	WT3K	5919
31	WN7S	5774
32	9A1AA	5640
33	W8FN	5483
34	AA5JF	5461
35	G4BUE	5442
36	W0UO	5325
37	AC6ZM	5251
38	VE3TM	5237
39	K1SM	5221
40	KO4VW	5218
41	NJ3K	5171
42	GW0ETF	5072

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ACA

42	K6NR	562
43	N9UNX	559
44	N2UU	541
45	F5SGI	540
46	EA6EJ	539
47	N3CKI	530
48	VK2GR	525
49	K4TZ	523
50	W0VX	519
51	W0UO	518
52	WE4AUB	515
53	AF5J	514
54	AA5JF	509
55	DL5XL	505
56	VE9KK	502
57	SM6CUK	497
58	KV8Q	496
59	W9CF	494
60	K3JT	493
61	K4IU	485
62	W4WF	471
63	G4PVM	470
64	N2EIM	462
65	VE3MV	459
66	M0RYB	457
67	K4GM	451
67	NE5A	451
68	KW7Q	449
69	OZ3SM	445
69	VE3KIU	445
70	KB8GAE	440
70	KT5V	440
71	DM6EE	437
72	KT4XN	436
73	G3NKC	432
74	K1RF	431
75	GW0ETF	430
76	DF7TV	429
77	AF4T	422
77	KY0Q	422
78	NA4J	421
79	W0TG	418
80	WU6P	408
81	W3WHK	397
82	K9CW	389
83	WB5N	386
84	G3LDI	382
85	WV4AM	371
86	N5ZO	370

ACMA

44	AF5J	982
45	K3ZA	964
46	G3NKC	960
47	M0RYB	957
48	DL5XL	947
49	N9FZ	944
50	F5SGI	941
51	G4PVM	938
52	WT3K	932
53	N9UNX	918
54	W9CF	915
55	OZ3SM	914
56	VE3MV	898
57	W0TG	894
58	AA5JF	892
59	K4IU	877
60	K3JT	875
61	K3QP	873
62	K4TZ	863
63	KW7Q	860
64	N3CKI	852
65	WE4AUB	851
66	VK2GR	842
67	W4WF	830
68	W0UO	822
69	KV8Q	819
70	DM6EE	817
71	KY0Q	809
72	K4GM	807
73	K0WA	792
74	VE9KK	789
75	AF4T	782
76	K1RF	763
77	WS1L	748
78	K9CW	741
79	W3WHK	711
80	N5ER	690
81	KB8GAE	682
82	WB5N	681
83	VE3KIU	676
84	NE5A	672
85	KT4XN	670
86	DF7TV	668
86	G3LDI	668
87	NA4J	653
88	OK1RR	634
89	NB7O	631
90	GW0ETF	618
91	N5ZO	607

CMA

43	N5XE	5027
44	NA4J	4892
45	F6JOE	4871
46	AA2IL	4864
47	OK1RR	4736
48	K4GM	4674
49	K3QP	4661
50	WS7L	4658
51	K1AJ	4577
52	KT5V	4546
53	VE3MV	4462
54	OZ3SM	4396
55	VK2GR	4390
56	I2WIJ	4383
57	EA6BF	4348
58	DJ5CW	4280
59	W6AYC	4276
60	K0WA	4234
61	KM4FO	4179
62	N5KD	4129
63	KY0Q	4098
64	DF7TV	4082
65	DM6EE	4057
66	W0TG	4011
67	F5SGI	3997
68	WS1L	3978
69	G4PVM	3969
70	W4CMG	3963
71	N1EN	3943
72	NE5A	3939
73	AF5J	3926
74	K0TC	3917
75	W3WHK	3910
76	KV8Q	3865
77	KK0U	3815
78	W2CDO	3785
79	M0RYB	3767
80	WU6P	3732
81	AF4T	3659
82	KW7Q	3624
83	SM0HEV	3572
84	K4TZ	3544
85	HB9ARF	3541
86	EA6EJ	3517
87	N3CKI	3403
88	K3ZA	3373
89	4X6GP	3256
90	NN4K	3234
91	K2YR	3212

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ACA

87	N5ER	364
87	NB7O	364
88	KK0U	360
89	W2VM	358
90	AC6ZM	352
91	AC3RA	344
91	HB9ARF	344
92	KQ4E	336
93	K2YR	333
94	WA5LXS	330
95	KE4CR	327
96	K9CPO	324
96	OK1RR	324
97	NN7O	323
98	W8EWH	322
99	LY2MM	319
99	N1EN	319
100	W8OV	314

ACMA

91	HB9ARF	607
92	WU6P	596
93	KT5V	578
94	LY2MM	566
95	SM0HEV	559
96	W8OV	553
97	W2VM	552
98	WV4AM	542
99	AC6ZM	535
100	KK0U	533

CMA

92	G3LDI	3189
93	KR3E	3182
94	W7GF	3086
95	W2VM	3079
96	W8OV	3060
97	KW1X	3013
98	IT9VDQ	2956
99	KC8J	2914
100	KT4XN	2900

73, Bill WØTG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards



QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Enzo, MØKTZ

"Thanks for handling the QTX column. It's an oasis for non-contesters".

The one above is a quote from an email I received this month from one of our QTX/mQTX fellows. I must admit that thinking that "non-contesters," (i.e., those hams who are not especially interested in contests) would need a dedicated "oasis" makes me chuckle. I picture myself dressed in a flamingo suit, trying to send "QRZ? PSE QRA AGN? PSE QRA AGN DE MØKTZ <KN>" while I am balancing on my left foot, dodging the bites of the two hungry hyenas who have been following me all day long .HI HI. But it is true that ragchewers normally tend to steer away from the "usual" HF bands every time a popular contest is on. This is why I really liked the proposal sent to me by our *Solid Copy* editor and QTX friend Dick N9EEE:

"It's called the 'QTX-30' which would be a month-long ragchewing marathon to record the most number of QTX and mQTX QSOs made on 30-meters in the month of May. That's it...nice and simple and puts a focus on 30-meters, a band devoted to CW (and a few digital :) transmissions, and a band that could use a boost in usage though I think 30m is more popular in EU than the USA.

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I think it would be fun for the QTXers to have their own operating event and if successful in 2025 it could be a staple for future years."

I think Dick's idea is just great. In fact, 30m is already one of the bands of choice for ragchewing anyway, as it shares many characteristics of both 40m and 20m, and is normally quieter than 40m and devoid from contest activity altogether. Hence, **I hereby propose that we celebrate the first "QTX-30" event in May 2025**. There is nothing special to do: we just keep ragchewing as usual, but with a particular focus on 30m. There will be a **special certificate** awarded to the stations that work 30 or more combined QTX and mQTX QSOs on 30m during May 2025. Moreover, **you can count all the QTX and mQTX points gained on 30m during May 2025 as double points** in your usual QTX/mQTX submission. This is a great way for all of us to (re-)discover the beauty of 30m as an "oasis" for those flamingo-hams who enjoy slow-paced and friendly QSOs.

This month we congratulate Rick WA4IAR who has finally obtained the much-sought-after plaque that recognises his outstanding ragchewing activity in 2024. Rick totalled an astonishing 1313 QTX QSOs last year, which is an average of 3.6 QTX QSOs per day, every day! Well done Rick!

A special thank goes to our excellent friend Bruce K8UDH, who has kindly offered to arrange the production and shipping of the plaque to Rick. Thanks buddy!

This month we welcome two new members to the QTX/mQTX family, namely Vin PE2V and Gary AE4GS, who have posted their first QTX/mQTX scores. May you enjoy thousands of pleasant and entertaining chats, using the only mode that speaks our mind and our heart all the way through!

Please read through the soapbox, as it contains quite interesting stories (as usual!) and do not forget to send in your reports by the 3rd of next month.

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

72/73 de Enzo, MØKTZ (CWops #3206)



PE2V: After my first semester (Jan/Feb) as an Advisor for the CW Academy, I threw myself into QTX QSOs. This is fairly new to me but I already know it is addictive. The most beautiful and dearest this month was a QTX QSO with a 93-year-old OP!

WA4IAR: Thanks for all the work on running the QTX program. Its a lot of fun, Its inspired me to operate more and longer QSOs. Rick.

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GØFOZ: There are always some interesting discussions. It is amazing how you can shift a template QSO to a ragchew just by adding in a bit more info to the "standard" exchange. 73 Simon GØFOZ

KR2Q: Ragchews are such a great way to learn about other people: enjoyable, relaxing, and interesting. And, certainly, a nice way to catch up.

NØBM: Another enjoyable month of QSOs. Always amazed at the backgrounds and skills of others.

N8AI: BLA350 has been at Island Amplifier in Placentia, CA 2 two months now waiting on repair. 30m on Mazzoni Baby Loop with KX3 barefoot is a drag.

WS1L: In addition to the daily 3527 morning roundtables I had a very enjoyable chat with Pete, K4EWG as we did some A/B antenna tests and caught up with Amanda, KY4GS.

W8OV: Have to admit one QTX was 22 mins. at 6-8 wpm. But KØDCR copied and sent well, so told him about CW Academy.

N2DA: Enjoyed the ragchews with sked friends. Lots of spring WX, ANT, and yard work discussions!

N9FZ: Another fun month. Lots of good conversations. Made good use of qsofinder.com which would benefit from more members putting out spots and finding operators of various skill levels to work.

KG5IEE: A good month for QTX ragchews. Always interesting to meet new hams and learn a bit more about them. I enjoy looking at their QRZ pages while in QSO. Often find something interesting to talk about on CW.

AAØYY: one of my memorable QSOs was with Jason K5JJD. He said he had only been doing CW 7 months and both his sending and copying were great. QSO was almost an hour long. Way to hang, Jason. I think we will see him in our membership soon, if not already!

VK3QB: Another very enjoyable month, mostly on 40m. Whilst dealing with some health issues, HF and CW provided a wonderful escape and opportunity to relax. I had a lot of really enjoyable mini-QTXs and a few QTXs that were relaxing and rewarding - of note using my TS-520S and Intrepid Bug at about 23 wpm, mostly.

N5LB: Longest was a 62-minute QSO discussing station equipment and antennas. On the underused 30m band.

N7HCN: Enjoyed a DX QTX with Max VK2ARZ in Sydney, who related a cyclone event that deposited 31.5 inches of rain in 24 hours. Max is well traveled and had visited one of the farm towns near me with a population under 500. CW makes our small world even smaller!

AJ1DM: Thanks to all my friends for the fun ragchews! 73 de John AJ1DM

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MØMZB: Have had a great time in March learning to use a bug key - I obtained a 1977 Vibroplex Original that is proving fun to learn. Pleasantly surprised at being able to hold ragchews with the bug, and had some great long bug to bug QSOs

DK9HE: More and more fun. The highlights this month was a QTX with QTX-boss Enzo MØKTZ and some QTX with double lengths, too.

N9EEE: Good to have my QSO buddy, AE4GS, now a CWops member. This opens up more content to discuss in our QSOs. And good to chat with my other long-time QSO buddy WØFN. Remote Radio has allowed me to continue to enjoy this aspect of the hobby while away from home.

K8UDH: March was a fun month. Several of my QTX QSOs were with hams who enjoy collecting and using vintage gear, like the Kenwood TS 511-S and the Drake TR-4. They are fun to operate, plus they often bring back memories of a time when we were MUCH younger. hi hi

AE4GS: My first QTX was with Dick N9EEE. We were classmates in a CICR CW class in 2023.

2025 Total Number of Hours Worked: 865

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

<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Hrs</u>
WA4IAR	100	KCØVKN	37	N2DA	13	MØSDB	5	DF7TV	2.7
KY4GS	82	K9OZ	37	K8UDH	12	N9EEE	4.8	MMØUMH	2.3
WS1L	77	AAØYY	34	AJ1DM	12	AE4GS	4.2	PG4I	2.2
VE3WH	69	N7HCN	34	N9FZ	9.7	ABØWW	4.2	PE2V	2
MØKTZ	51	KG5IEE	29	VK3QB	6.5	KE4I	3.8	KB4DE	1.8
N8AI	46	GØFOZ	26	NØBM	6.5	GWØETF	3.5	N5LB	1.3
KB6NU	41	MØMZB	25	F5IYJ	5.7	W8OV	3.2	W3WHK	1
KR2Q	40	DK9HE	23	SV2BBK	5.3	K4LFL	3		

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QTX - March 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	77	K9OZ	32	KR2Q	18	N9EEE	7
VE3WH	59	N7HCN	31	G0FOZ	17	AE4GS	6
WS1L	49	KC0VKN	31	F5IJ	17	W8OV	4
DK9HE	44	M0KTZ	26	M0MZB	15	PE2V	4
KY4GS	36	AA0YY	23	N2DA	13	N5LB	4
N8AI	33	KG5IEE	21	K8UDH	9	VK3QB	3
KB6NU	32	N9FZ	18	AJ1DM	8	N0BM	3
						AB0WW	2
						SV2BBK	1
						PG4I	1
						K4LFL	1

mQTX - March 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
KY4GS	76	N8AI	30	KG5IEE	17	K8UDH	5
M0KTZ	49	M0MZB	26	SV2BBK	12	GW0ETF	5
WS1L	41	AA0YY	23	DK9HE	9	AJ1DM	5
G0FOZ	39	KB6NU	19	PG4I	8	AB0WW	5
WA4IAR	37	VK3QB	18	N9FZ	8	PE2V	4
VE3WH	37	KR2Q	18	KB4DE	7	N9EEE	4
						K4LFL	4
						N7HCN	3
						N0BM	3
						AE4GS	3
						W8OV	1

QTX - Total 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	248	KB6NU	87	G0FOZ	34	KE4I	8
WS1L	178	M0KTZ	80	K8UDH	29	AE4GS	8
VE3WH	165	KR2Q	78	AJ1DM	28	W8OV	6
KY4GS	132	AA0YY	70	N9FZ	19	VK3QB	5
KC0VKN	112	DK9HE	64	F5IJ	17	K4LFL	5
K9OZ	111	KG5IEE	57	N9EEE	11	AB0WW	5
N8AI	102	M0MZB	45	N0BM	10	PE2V	4
N7HCN	96	N2DA	40	M0SDB	8	N5LB	4
						SV2BBK	3
						W3WHK	2
						GW0ETF	2
						PG4I	1
						MM0UMH	1
						DF7TV	1

mQTX - Total 2025

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
KY4GS	225	N8AI	73	N9FZ	20	DF7TV	14
M0KTZ	145	KB6NU	69	N0BM	19	MM0UMH	12
WS1L	108	AA0YY	66	GW0ETF	17	PG4I	11
WA4IAR	103	KG5IEE	60	K8UDH	16	KB4DE	11
G0FOZ	89	M0MZB	57	AJ1DM	15	N7HCN	9
KR2Q	82	VK3QB	29	AB0WW	15	DK9HE	9
VE3WH	81	SV2BBK	26	M0SDB	14	AE4GS	9
						K4LFL	8
						W8OV	7
						N9EEE	7
						KE4I	7
						PE2V	4
						W3WHK	2



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

James Curley, KE8EON CWops #3707

Let me start by saying, what an honor it is to have become a member of CWops. I want to personally thank Jay Sattler N8JTR for nominating me. I would also like to personally thank my sponsors George Randolph NE5A, James Vaughan WBØRLJ and Cathy Goodrich W4CMG for believing in me, and I cannot forget, Leon Novak S55AC, Roland Smith K7OJL, Randal Horn N1SP and Michael Ihry N5KB (my CW Academy Instructors), along with Jean Consorti AD2EK my study partner.

I am a late starter to ham radio. I passed my Technician test on June 20th, 2016, and my General test on April 17th of 2017. Unfortunately, I took a several year break from the hobby, but starting 1-1-2023 I jumped back in with both feet. I am loving this hobby. March 14th, 2023, I passed my Extra exam and became a Laurel VE.

I started the Beginners CW Course through CW Academy in May of 2023 and made my first CW QSO 5/25/2023 with a POTA station in Iowa. It was sloppy but it was a confirmed QSO. I completed the Beginners course with CW Academy June of 2023, The Fundamental course in October 2023 and the Intermediate course in February of 2024. I decided to retake the Intermediate course and completed it in February 2025 and am planning to take the Advanced course this next semester.

CW is definitely my mode of choice, but I will work SSB on occasion.

I am an active member in RCARA (River Cities Amateur Radio Association in Ashland, Kentucky) and SOARA (Southern Ohio Amateur Radio Association in Ironton Ohio).

My shack radios include an Icom IC-746 and a Elecraft KX3 (this is also my main POTA radio). For antennas I use an Eagle 1 vertical Antenna, a G5RV Junior. and I also use an EFRW antenna for POTA. My favorite CW paddle is a Begali Pearl and my favorite Straight key is a 1950s Czech Military RM-31 Straight Key. I do own several other radios and keys not listed here.

One of my favorite parts of the hobby so far has been collecting QSL cards. I LOVE paper QSL Cards. Let's keep this tradition alive.

In 2024, I completed my WAS (Worked all States) award, all 50 States, all confirmed by QSL cards and all with CW as my mode. In 2024 I also got my 13 Colonies Clean Sweep plus all 3 bonus stations, all CW. After these two achievements, I knew I was hooked on CW.



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Outside of ham radio, I am an Apostolic Pentecostal preacher. My wife and I preach every Saturday at the Boyd County Jail in Catlettsburg, Kentucky and when I do get a little free time, I love metal detecting and treasure hunting. I am also a supervisor for Cintas in Ashland, Kentucky

Most of my life I was a professional musician focusing mainly on traditional music of the Appalachian Mountains, playing a variety of traditional instruments: mountain dulcimer, hand saw, clawhammer banjo, spoons, etc. (the list goes on and on). but If you are interested in this type of music, please check out my YouTube channel at: [Jim Curley - YouTube](#)

I grew up in Kansas. Born and raised in Topeka, moved to Shawnee (suburb of Kansas City) when I was 20 years old and then moved to Ironton, Ohio in 2010. I live right where Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia touch.

Hope to meet you on the air. See You in The CWTs.

Luca Pietrafuso, IU2OZV CWops # 3705

Hello to all club members and friends, I am happy and honored to be part of CWops!

Many thanks to those who nominated and sponsored me: Simone IU3QEZ, Stefano IK5LSR, Gert PA3AAV, and Martin OE3KME.

54 years old, married to Alessia, and two daughters, Gaia and Letizia, adorable and challenging teenagers. I graduated in Economics in the mid-90s and have been working as an Information Technology professional ever since. Today, I am mainly involved in IT coordination, governance, and compliance activities.

My passion for radio began in the 1980s when I started learning the basics of electronics and having fun on the "City Band" with an AM-SSB station and a small boomerang antenna mounted on the balcony of my house. A few years later, however, I had to put my hobbies aside due to the commitments required by studies and work. Only in recent years, after (and because of) the pandemic, I decided to revive the interests of my adolescence.

In November 2021, I passed the amateur radio exam, and one year later, I decided to attend a CW course technically managed by Ben I8QFK, under the aegis of the Telegram CW QRS group. Ben laid a solid foundation for my CW knowledge.



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Between the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, I attended the CWA Intermediate course managed by Bob WR7Q (where I met Simone IU3QEZ) and the advanced course held by Hanz YL3JD. With Bob, among other things, I learnt to use Morse Runner, a very realistic application that I found very engaging and that is strictly related to my current CW activities. With Hanz, I had a truly useful and fun experience practicing CW questions & answers and dialogues with course fellows.

Today, I am mainly focused on CW contesting and high-speed telegraphy training (HST). The good results achieved at the Italian HST championships in March and September 2024 led me to face, together with friends Ben I8QFK and Sandro IW2EAB, the adventure of the 20th HST World Championship, held in Hammamet (Tunisia). It was truly a unique experience, which I recommend to any HST enthusiast. New friendships and a strong desire to improve are the gifts I brought home from this experience. And this is not all.

My wife Alessia came with me to Tunisia with the idea of taking a small vacation. In the end, she came back with the desire to learn the code, a task she has already accomplished, and today she is a SWL with the goal of passing the ham radio exam. Great job Alessia, ad majora!

CW forever dear friends!

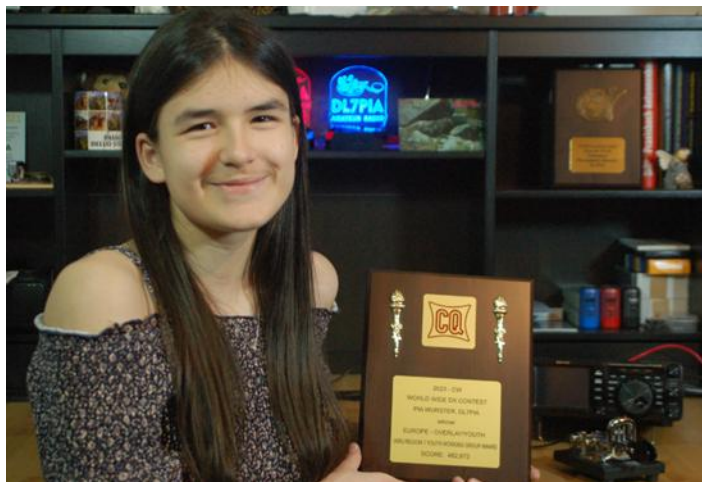
Pia Wurster, DL7PIA CWops #3698

I just turned 18 in January, and I am living in the southwestern part of Germany, about 40 km southwest of Stuttgart at the edge of the Black Forest.

I am very grateful to have been accepted into this fantastic and awesome organization. It's a great pleasure for me to be now a CWops member. Many thanks to my sponsors Bill W2CQ, who initially nominated me and to Bruce NJ3K, Heijo DJ1OJ and Lutz DM6EE.

My amazing journey in amateur radio began in 2018 when I had the opportunity to make my first QSO with the educational call sign DN1PIA. After this QSO I was 100% sure that I want to make my amateur radio exam as soon as possible. I started to study for the exam in spring 2019 and already three months later I passed the Extra Class Exam in July 2019 at the age of 12. At this time, I was the youngest radio amateur in Germany holding an Extra Class license. From the very first moment on I was fascinated by this unique hobby and this way of communication. It's not only a hobby, it's my passion.

Looking back I have to say, that my love for Amateur Radio and especially for CW, my favorite



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mode, started much earlier. At the age of 5 I watched a documentary about the Morse code and the life of Samuel Finley B. Morse on television. I was impressed and amazed by the Morse code and I wanted to learn it. I asked a family member to write down the whole Morse code for me, and that was the beginning of my endless love for CW. When I am operating in CW it's like to be in another world and it's like beautiful music in my ears.

I am very active in amateur radio and I enjoy the versatility of our beautiful hobby. The whole world is just one call away and you can learn so many different things about geography, cultures, technical aspects and languages. At the moment I am speaking 6 languages and I am still curious to learn some more. In a certain way everything is special in amateur radio, but the really special things in my opinion are the conversations and the friendships that develop all over the world. It's great to have so many wonderful friends and there are already so many special moments for me that I will never forget in my life.

If I have the opportunity, I also love to work portable from different places (POTA, COTA, SOTA). Beside that, I am also very active every year in the December YOTA month and in the YOTA contests throughout the year. I like contesting and DXing. Whether contesting or "normal" operating, everything happens from my little station at home. I am working with a Yaesu FT-991A and all my antennas are homemade wire antennas (dipole, delta loop...). It's great fun to build my own antennas. For me it's pretty cool to see what's possible also with simple equipment and sometimes to win a contest.

This year I have also a special project. My small village, Haslach, where I am living, is celebrating its 1250th anniversary, and I applied for a special event call sign (DA1250HAS). With different activities, I want to reach more people and get them interested in our hobby.

Besides amateur radio my second great passion is music. I started to play the piano at the age of 6 and a half year later I started also with playing the violin and I still do. I am also very interested in geophysics, astronomy, astrophysics, weather and glaciers.

I have never regretted to make my amateur radio license. It has enriched my life and brings me great joy every day. I hope that I will have a long and exciting journey ahead of me in amateur radio and I will try to do everything I can do, to keep this wonderful hobby and especially CW alive. Otherwise the world would be missing something great!!

Gary Stephan, AE4GS CWops #3714

I was first licensed in 1991, and two years later I made Extra. Soon after, life took over and the radios were boxed up and stored in the closet. I had the welcome distraction of marriage and starting a business get in the way. Much time was spent starting my Litigation Support business. Investigating, creating presentations, aerial photography, and courtroom audiovisual mostly.

My wife passed away in 2014 and I didn't feel like working anymore, so I sold the business, re-tired and pulled the radios out of the closet. For two years I spent Spring and Fall traveling in my

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RV. In 2016 I enjoyed doing NPOTA while traveling, and I activated 63 National Parks in 22 states.

Living in the house where I had so much happiness with my wife, was not the same after her passing, so I sold the house and bought a boat to do the "Great Loop". In 2018 I departed from Fort Lauderdale in my 36-foot Monk trawler and spent two years on the boat before I "crossed my wake" in Stuart Florida. 7000 miles and 140 locks. My only regret was I did it solo without having my wife with me.



After selling the boat I decided to buy a house in Cleveland, Tennessee. One reason was that Cleveland had the best Amateur Radio Club I've ever seen, and a great group of fellow hams.

I have a Commercial pilot's certificate with instrument, multi-engine, and sea plane ratings and own a 1977 Turbo-Normalized Cessna Cardinal 177RG.

Lastly, I'm a POTA addict. I enjoy traveling and activating parks and plan to head towards Alaska after Dayton this year, activating parks along the way.

I want to thank the CWops instructors I had in my 3 CWA classes and all the fine folks who sponsored me. I'm truly honored and excited to be part of CWops and I'm eager to contribute and learn from all the very experienced Ops that are part of this great organization.



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