

Solid Copy



The CW Operators Club Newsletter
July 2025 — Issue 186

President's Message



What do POTA and CW Academy have in common? WR7Q explains on page 29.

I took my 12 words per minute Morse test at the Anglesey coast radio station GLV a couple of months before it closed at the end of 1986. During the passage of time, some of the details have faded



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

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

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

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but I do remember the format was based on sending and receiving blocks of 5 random character sequences, once for text and once for numbers. It may have been 15 sequences for a total of 75 characters but I can't be certain (any UK members remember?). The pass criteria limits are also a bit vague but 2 miscopies on receiving and 2 uncorrected sending errors ring a bell. The point is that it tested your ability in accurately receiving and sending random characters with no predictability to help. Not long afterwards in the increasing antipathy building toward the Morse test as a gateway to HF access, the format was changed to sample rubber stamp QSOs on the pretext of it being more applicable to the real life situation. This meant that for copying, candidates could rote learn the common "words" and Q-codes as well as be warned that, for example, "RST" would be followed by 3 numbers. Much of the element of randomness had been removed.

This got me wondering just how accurate I'm actually being when I'm operating CW. And I have to say I've found the exercise interesting and quite revealing. Take so-called ragchewing for example. The ultimate aim here is what we call "head copy" and is very different to writing down each letter as it is sent. I hardly ever write down or record any of the conversational elements of a QSO but just sit there listening to the meaning before grabbing the key and responding. Just like real life banter I may miss words or lose concentration but will fill in the gaps as I go along and still follow what is being discussed. In CW this can happen because of QRM, if I'm at the limit of my speed ability or struggling with poor sending. These data dropouts are seldom enough to interrupt the sense of the QSO. It will even happen during my Giving Back sessions at around 15-18 wpm when my focus wanders elsewhere! It seems ragchewing may not be a great way to judge one's ultimate copying ability after all? I'm sure I would struggle to write down every character as sent in a normal speed ragchew, but why would I even want to?

Copying a contest QSO on the other hand is very brief, sent just once usually fast and contains short random sequences: always a callsign and very often a number of up to 4 digits both of which must be copied exactly. Now we are back to the unpredictability of my Morse test with each random character having to be recorded in real time either at the keyboard or on paper. Shipboard operators passing telegrams and other messages word for word and letter by letter, though probably slower, could be considered comparable but sadly are now a thing of the past. Ham radio traffic handling using the ARRL National Traffic System still seems popular in North America but it's a mode I'm not that familiar with; I do though regularly receive appreciative messages from new CWops members via CW using this system. If this makes sense - it does to me - it implies we ought to show some flexibility in the way we judge an individuals' CW proficiency.

That's it for this month. A little shorter than usual due to a June spent mainly on a VW campervan road trip around Ireland enjoying the peace away from the world news, the Guinness and just thinking about stuff. I did though manage to visit the site of Marconi's early transmitting site near Clifden in Connemara and was very impressed with how well this extensive area has been preserved and documented by excellent information signage. Well worth a visit in a beautiful area.

73, Stew GWØETF, President (CWops #919)

Editor's Note: Thought Starters

Each month, I get some interesting stories of various topics, some of which are totally unrelated to CW or our hobby. It's usually easy to set aside the off-topic ones, though I always take a moment to kindly explain to the author why their trip to Aunt Matilda's summer home might not resonate with our readers.

I also receive random tidbits that aren't fleshed out enough to be a story but the idea is there; just missing some compelling facts or interesting visuals. Some of these spark my curiosity and send me down the rabbit hole of imagination; I begin to wonder if there is a story there worth pursuing.

So, I thought I'd share a few of those ideas with you. Maybe you've got a memory, photo, or experience that could bring one of them to life. If so, I'd love to hear from you. Let's see what we've got...

Late night CW under the stars...

Childhood friends sending Morse code over their old Midland CB walkie talkies...

Antenna modeling an EFHW octagonal loop 25 feet above ground...

Why doesn't dangling a radial in fresh water work as well as salt water...

The story behind the telegraph tuning fork.

That last one is an actual story that will appear in the August issue of *Solid Copy*. As for the rest—I need your help. I hope one of these prompts sparks your imagination, brings back a memory, or inspires a story worth sharing. If it does, send it along to **SolidCopy@cwops.org**.

I'm looking forward to seeing what you come up with!

Oh, and by the way—I'm still desperately seeking a *cartoonist* to join our merry band of monthly columnists. This is not a drill. This is a threat. If no one steps up soon, my stick figures—yes, *those*—will return. You've been warned. Nobody wants to see a CW operator that looks like a spaghetti noodle holding a coat hanger.

73, Dick N9EEE, (CWops #3113)

Editor, Solid Copy (SolidCopy@cwops.org)

Ops News and Notes

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

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

A condolence card has been sent on behalf of CWops.



**Ambrose "Tripp" Owens, III,
N4NTO #2821
on 4th July, 2025**

Welcome to another [Ops News and Notes](#) and, as always, thanks for the contributions. Please do keep the submissions coming, and there's no need to wait until the 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 may be suitable for Ops News and Notes, please copy it to my [email](#) address.

Mike, N4GU #737 On behalf of the team at AG4TT, we would like to thank CWops for sponsoring the Multi-single LP USA plaque in CQWW CW which we were fortunate to win.

Your sponsorship is much appreciated and we're happy to report that all members of the AG4TT team are CWops members and supportive of the activities of CWops.

This was the first CQWW plaque for the members of our team and we are all very proud to receive it. Sadly, we have to report that one of our team members, Tripp, N4NTO, has become a silent key due to a tragic accident during a POTA activation. He did not get to enjoy seeing the plaque before his accident, but we know that he was thrilled to know that we had received it. The plaque will hang proudly at AG4TT and be dedicated to his memory.

Again we thank CWops for their plaque sponsorship and all the other activities you engage in to promote and encourage cw activity. 73 Dave, N4CWZ #2407, Mike, N4GU #737, Tripp, N4NTO #2821(SK)

Chris, G5VZ #2877 When a group of radio operators begin calling "CQ International Dog Day" in August, they're not just looking for QSOs.

They are in search of people who have room in their hearts to help the abandoned, abused and homeless dogs around the world in whatever way they can. These dozen or so special event operators know the power of rescue because they've been deeply involved in it themselves.

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Hanz YL3JD and his wife opened their home – first in Holland, later in Latvia – and have given needy dogs a second chance at a new family. In Australia, and later in Germany, Ed DD5LP and his wife discovered, several times, that their household was incomplete without canine company. Many of the other operators' rescued dogs were adopted after hard lives on the street; others were at the pound, hours away from being euthanized.

International Dog Day (and in the US, National Dog Day) is August 26 every year. The tradition was created by US pet advocate Colleen Paige as a day to recognise the needs of society's unwanted and cast-off dogs and affirm the commitment to adopt, donate or raise awareness of their special needs.

Hanz, YL1JD, amplified the original message by adding an amateur radio component in 2022, taking the special-event callsign YL1DOG and operating as a single station. The following year he was joined by Chris, G5VZ, and David, G4YVM, in the UK. By 2024, a team of eight US rescue-dog advocates, operating as K2D, had come on board. This year is the biggest yet, as hams in Germany and Canada run with the pack. All operators will be looking to hear from dog-lovers and supporters in either CW or SSB on HF, on VHF/UHF simplex, or via DMR and EchoLink.

The international team has added incentive certificates, including special endorsements such as "Full Kennel," the equivalent of a clean sweep. Their [website](#) is updated regularly with the operators' special-event callsigns, their operating schedules, a chance to meet the dogs who inspired them and hear their stories.

In case you are wondering where the cats are – well, they're running ahead of the dogs! International Cat Day will be operating as a separate event, two weeks before the Dog Day operators get on the air – and they will be carrying a similar message for cat-rescue awareness. See [this link](#) for details.

For live updates of both events, to search for the different callsigns, to see the operators' schedules or to apply for and download award certificates visit these links to [International Dog Day](#) and [International Cat Day](#).

Meanwhile, be aware that all special-event operators will be working like dogs – and why not? – because they want to hear and share as many rescue stories as they can.

Hank, W6SX #61 Exuberant Half Million; actually, 500,074! I was off the air for eight years starting in 1998. Got back on in 2006 after finally retiring and moving to Mammoth Lakes. LoTW was invented while I was off the air.

I was back on the air just in time for CQP 2006 and uploaded the Q's to LoTW. After uploads yesterday, I now have 500,074 contacts on LoTW. All October 2006 and later. All with wire antenna 46 feet high. All contest contacts excepting maybe a couple hundred. Most are CW, followed by RTTY, SSB, and FT in that order. LoTW confirmations stand at 65.9%.

Thank you everyone for the contacts.

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Don, W4ZYT #55 The 2025 North American CW Weekend was held June 6-8. In contrast to past years, it was somewhat lightly attended, but participants for all or part of the Weekend included: N3JT and Nina, N3AM, WB4DNL, K9VEG, N4OO, NF8M, K1GU and Kathy, W2QL, WN7S, KR3E, NM4M, K7SV, AA4JJ, N4BA, and W4ZYT. A number of long-time regulars had conflicts which precluded their attendance.



L to R: Kathy KM4CMN, Pat K000, Fred N4BA, Jim N3JT, Don W4ZYT, Gary WB4DNL, Nina K4NML, Jeff K9VEG, Ed KR3E, Ned K1GU. Dick WN7S. John W2QL & John N3AM

An informal pizza dinner kicked off the weekend at the Italian Oven in McLean. Excellent pizza and a fine salad provided fuel for a pleasant evening of chat and storytelling. Some of the group continued the radio-based conversation at the Marriott Fairview Park headquarters hotel hospitality suite. Saturday morning, N3JT and Nina hosted a delightful brunch at their home in McLean. Coffee, bagels, and conversation stretched the morning well into the early afternoon.

Saturday evening the group convened at the Metro 29 Diner in Arlington, which again proved itself a venue for fine dining with an excellent menu of memorable dishes. The group enjoyed a warm and welcoming evening of good food, good conversation, and congenial company well into the evening before departing.

We are planning on a larger participation for the weekend in 2026, and hope may of you will be able to attend.

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Gator, N5RZ #1221 A special guest came to Texas. Super visit from an entergetic CW Op and hubby!



L to R: Sidik WH6FUS. Heather AH7RF (#3272), Gator N5RZ (#1221) & Deborah K5RZA

Heather, AH7RF #3272 You guys like end-feds, right? There's a way to make them much worse, use a string of Xmas lights (the incandescent type) for the main wire, sure does light up nicely, and you can 'see' the CW, but wow doesn't hear much of anything....

Bonus, it reboots your computer as well... ;-)

We did actually use this in Field Day, we did not make any contacts with it. Gee I wonder why....

Chris, KF7WX #3040 Best greetings fellow CW enthusiasts! The link will take you to a video of [Hamvention 2025](#) I produced for my Intermediate students. This was intended as a casual make-up for Session 5 which had to be postponed that week.

Kat, JM8SMO #3454 In the latest issue of the Japanese magazine, CQ Ham Radio, Morse communications were featured. Some of CWops members wrote interesting articles, including an invitation to CWops



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for Japanese readers.

Here I show my thanks to the authors, JE1TRV Atsu (#141), JH1JDI Mai (#1199), and JF3KNW Nobu (#394) for their contributions.

Stan, KN4A #3182 Got a new callsign today, KN4A. Was K5VBA. New one is consistent with my callsign region and license class. New [email](#) too, but old one works; just a forwarder.

Doug, KR2Q #438 Thanks to Andy, N2NT for sponsoring the trophy. Thanks to John, K1AR for running the CQWW Trophy program (now WWROF)

Terry, K3JT #1398 Support from my wife, she made me this "painted rock" as a craft item. After every CWT, she always asks me "how did you do?". If I only got 60 or fewer QSOs she assures me I can do better next time. If my total is 80-90, I get "great! Good score" from her.



Jean-Marc, F5SGI #2532 My Hexbeam was blocked by the branches of a tree and was therefore not turning properly. When I tried to unblock it, the ladder I'd climbed up fell down and so did I. The result was a brief loss of consciousness, a fractured left clavicle and some bruising. The good news is that I haven't forgotten the Morse code (deeply engraved in the brain)!! I took part in the Marconi Memorial CW contest shortly after the fall and the hospital visit. CW was a bit more laborious than usual.

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I'm getting to the age where you must forget about the great untamed beast I once was!!

Dick, N9EEE/C6A #3113 QRP in Paradise. A recent family vacation to Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas—celebrating my 50th wedding anniversary—gave me the perfect excuse to sneak in some beachside radio time. I packed an Elecraft KH1 ("the total station package"—radio, antenna, ATU, and key) for some under-the-palm-tree portable ops, with a planned POTA activation at Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve.

Running QRP CW, I had no idea what to expect, so I prepared like I was rare DX. (Hey, a guy can dream!) I practiced pile-ups with RufZXP, packed extra batteries, and even made room for my new Spooltenna EFHW from Hamvention.



The outcome? Let's say it wasn't quite the pile-up I imagined from an island with no permanent hams. Sure, Eleuthera isn't exactly topping the Club Log Most Wanted list, but at #185, I figured I'd at least stir a little interest.

All told: less contacts than half an hour in the CWTs—a few from the beach, and even fewer from the POTA site. My first was KR2Q; Doug might've seen my self-spot on DX Summit. Then W5GL called in wanting a ragchew! Ten minutes later, he was in the log as an mQTX... logged from under a straw canopy by the surf.

The next day, I switched beaches (and palm trees) and made two more contacts. I was honestly surprised by how few signals I heard and how little action I generated on 20-meters, especially sitting right next to saltwater. On day one I used the Elecraft single radial, and on day two I tried three radials—no noticeable difference in signal strength or coverage.

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Then it was time for the real highlight: activating the only POTA site on Eleuthera, one previously activated only twice (both SSB). From atop a 25-foot-high, covered platform above the canopy at Leon Levy, space was tight—no room below for a 40-meter EFHW. So I improvised a loop around the octagonal structure and let the ATU sort it out.



Results? Just two contacts. I could hear NY, NJ, and even Colorado (go figure), but no Caribbean, no Europe, no 4-land. I switched to hunting—most couldn't hear me. So yes, the activation itself was a bust...but the idea of operating DX from a tropical island with a handheld transceiver and a cool beverage on the beach wasn't lost on me.

And then there were the anniversary activities spent with our family...that was amazing.



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Dave, WN4AFP #1208 50th Anniversary! Here's an article with picture that appeared in my home town newspaper, Williamston Journal, after I become a ham in 1975.

David Edmonds of Williamston, SC has a very interesting hobby – at the age of 12, he is a licensed ham radio operator, WN4AFP.

His interest in ham radio developed from earlier experiences with walkie-talkies and citizen's band radio. Bill Allen of Anderson helped him learn Morse code and study ham radio theory. "I wanted to hear somebody and just talk to them, with no wires or anything," David said about the beginning of his interest in ham radio. David is not sure if he is the youngest ham radio operator in the state, since the Federal Communications Commission does not require their ages printed on their licenses. He feels he is definitely the youngest "ham" in the Anderson Radio Club.



In order to operate his ham radio, David had to meet FCC requirements for a Novice license.

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To qualify, he had to be able to send and receive 5 words per minute in Morse code, in the presence of a licensed ham radio operator and a witness over the age of 21. After establishing his ability to use code, he had to take the FCC written test, administered by a licensed ham radio operator, again, in the presence of a witness 21 years of age or older. David's test consisted of 20 questions. He received his Novice license on July 3, 1975. A Novice license entitles David to send and receive messages in Morse code. Although he can hear others talk, he is not allowed to speak over the air until he earns his General license, which he hopes to do around the first of the year. He now sends and receives 11 words per minute, and is attending a code class in Anderson. To obtain his General license, David will have to take an FCC test in Atlanta.

With money he received for Christmas, David purchased his ham radio equipment. He got it second-hand from a friend for \$110, without an antenna. David tries to work with his radio every day. To begin a communication, he taps out "CQ" – calling all amateurs. Anyone who hears may respond and David quickly writes down each coded numbers or letter of the alphabet as he receives it.

Answers may come from down the street, or from another continent. One of David's most interesting communications was with a ham radio operator in Burnsville, NC. The operator told David about a 70 ft. motorized tower constructed by a friend of the Burnsville "ham."

David has exchanged messages with ham radio operators as far away as Mesa, CA, and Humacao, Puerto Rico. He is working toward a certificate from the American Radio Relay League, which is awarded to a "ham" who has communicated with operators in all 50 states. To prove that they have communicated, operators exchange QSL cards by mail. These cards bear the address and call number of the operator. So far, David has reached 10 states and Puerto Rico. The American Radio Relay League also gives awards to "hams" who communicate with 100 countries, and to those who reach all the continents. Generally, beginning ham radio operators try first for the 50 state certificate, David said.

Ham radio is a non-profit venture. David is not allowed to play records or attempt to sell anything over the air. Ham radio operators can, however, assist in emergency situations. David explained that some "hams" work with Civil Defense.

These operators, among other things, are instrumental in alerting citizens to threatening weather conditions, such as tornadoes. Ham radio operators can also be helpful in getting emergency medical aid to people in crisis situations. "Amateur radios save a lot of lives. If somebody calls an SOS, and I'm listening, I'll try to do something," David said.

A 7th grader at Palmetto Middle School, David is the son of Rev. and Mrs. C. Ellis Edmonds. His father is pastor of Beaverdam Baptist Church. David has one brother, Bill, age 15. Some of David's other interests are sports, playing the trumpet in the Palmetto band, and collections, particularly of objects that are old.

About her son's hobby, Mrs. Edmonds said, "I think it's fascinating. The first night he got on it was unbelievable. This activates the mind – we're proud he got into this kind of hobby." David finds his hobby exciting, commenting, "Amateur radio can talk all over the world." and "I've got a whole bunch of friends, already."

(This is a reprint of an article by Cindy Stone of The Williamston Journal July 1975)

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Until the next News and Notes, QAC.

73, Duncan G3WZD (CWops #1979)

NewsAndNotes@CWops.org

SC

CWops Dinner at Dayton - 2026

Our 2025 CWops dinner at the Dayton Hamvention was a terrific success, with great food and incomparable camaraderie. It was also by far the largest gathering we've had in the years these dinners have been held. Some 144 people were in attendance.

While the Rona facility can handle 190 people we definitely felt a bit squeezed, and the buffet meal line was slower than we would have preferred. The food was excellent, with multiple choices and sufficient quantity for even the most robust appetite! We also had an excellent program consisting of the Annual CWops Award, a fabulous presentation by KO8SCA, and an enlightening history of our club by N1DG. The evening culminated in award of some 45 door prizes, including paddles donated by Begali, N3ZN, Vibroplex, CT1ILT, UR5CDX and GM0EUL, plus lots of other fun and valuable prizes (including a dozen or so \$100 gift certificates). Everyone left the event most satisfied and looking forward to next year.

Since that evening we have worked hard to investigate options that will solve the crowding issue for next year. We are pleased to announce that we have a new 2026 venue: The Galleria. [Venue | The Galleria | Dayton](#) It is located at Route 35 and Woodman Drive, Dayton, and is only about some 12 minutes from Xenia and the Hope Hotel on Route 35. The facility is far larger than the Rona and will serve as a more comfortable and brighter venue for us going forward. Moreover, we were able to arrange for our excellent caterer (Rob) to provide another fabulous buffet meal for 2026, using two serving tables this time. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the event. Still, it is not a mistake to think about attending this dinner now. It really is the highlight of the CW operators' year and we now have room for even more attendees. Please mark your calendar for May 14, 2026 (Thursday, 7 pm).

The new venue, not surprisingly, will be more costly but with our increasing attendance we expect to add only a few dollars to the event pricing. We know that other dinners hosted for the Hamvention are in some cases over \$50/person for a sit-down that provides just a couple of average entrée choices. Ours will offer at least 4 excellent entrees, choice of beverage and desserts, salad, etc. With this quality and quantity everybody will again leave more than satisfied and happy! We also hope to extract even more door prizes, and a program of speakers that will be interesting and topical.

There is one issue I need to raise now. I've been involved in organizing this dinner now for some years and I think it's time for others to take over. It's not that hard but it does take a few hours. The hard work has been done because we now have a great new venue and our demonstrably excellent caterer. I ask for volunteers to work with W2QL and me this year, sort of watching over our shoulders, so they can take over in 2027. At this point it is largely formulaic, meaning it's not difficult! Please get in touch with me about this.

73, Jim Talens N3JT (CWops #1) n3jt@cwops.org

ANNOUNCING THE 2025 CW Open Contest

We seem to have at least one common global problem this summer. Yes, you guessed it. WOW – is it hot this summer!! So, how can you escape that heat for a few hours. Simple, spend 4 hours, or perhaps 12 hours, in your air-conditioned ham shack operating the CW Open.

The dates and times for the 2025 sessions are:

Session 1: Sept 6 (00:00 – 03:59 UTC)

Session 2: Sept 6 (12:00 – 15:59 UTC)

Session 3: Sept 6 (20:00 – 23:59 UTC)



**PRINCIPAL
AWARDS
SPONSOR**

Chances are you have a few ham buddies that are also complaining about the heat. Why not contact them and see if they would like to be part of a CW Open team? Registration is simple. Just click the link on the CWops / CW Open web page and fill out the Team Registration Form. Last year we only had 16 registered teams. Let's try to get closer to the 2023 team count of 24. The team rosters ranged from a full 10 member team down to 2 members. Talk to your ham buddies and sign up! The team rosters can be made up of CWops members and non-members. It is always more fun being part of a team and might just increase your BIC (Butt in Chair) time and score! Please register early and beat the September 4 and 5 rush!!

If you have not yet participated in the CW Open, you should give it a try! Each session is a standalone event and is only 4 hours long. With that flexibility you can operate as little or as much as you want. Unlike the weekly CWTs, the CW Open is more of a marathon and less of a sprint. You don't need tons of aluminum in the air and KWs of power. Low power and dipoles work just fine for this event.

Please note the change in the award qualifications starting this year. Trophies have been eliminated and qualifications for plaques has changed. For a complete explanation, please refer to the AWARDS section of the CW Open web site. Trophies and Certificates are awarded for all power classes.

While talking about plaques and certificates, I would like to thank ICOM America for their continued sponsoring of the plaques for the 2025 CW Open.

For additional information please refer to the CW Open website at the following URL: <https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/cw-open/> Look down the web page for the team sign-up link. It is lots of fun as a single op but even more fun to be part of a team. The team membership has NO GEOGRAPHIC RESTRICTIONS. It can be local, national, or international.

Hope to get you in my log for one or even better, all three sessions!

73, Bruce N1LN
CW Open Manager



How We Were

[Ian Capon](#), GWØKRL

NJ3K, Bruce Manning, CWops #2431



Here is a picture of me around 1975 or so. This wasn't my first station, which was a Heath Kit HR-10B and a Knight Kit TX-60. I had recently built the HW-101 shown here. A vast improvement over the first station. I was located on the second floor and the antenna was a random wire that started to my right in this picture. The antenna was about 50-60 feet long and ran from the second floor window to the clothes line pole in the back yard. RF Burns? Yes anytime I touched something metallic I got RF burns.

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)

Random Field Notes from Field Day 2025

Zack W9SZ #731: I thought I'd give a few anecdotes about past Field Days I've been on.

One year my local club at the time had a Field Day site on the top of a hill owned by a farmer quite a ways out of town. We went up to the top of the hill on Friday evening before Field Day to inspect it and there was a guy and a girl in a car at the top. They took off when we came up the hill. But they left a cooler behind. It had a few beers in it. The name "Willard Bumphrey" was on the cooler. We kept it and used it for several years. We dubbed it the "Willard Bumphrey Memorial Cooler." The hill had a barn at the top with a metal roof. We put up a 40 meter vertical at each end of the roof. We included a phasing network so we could change the direction of the pattern. That was a killer antenna on 40m!

One year on this same site, a couple guys brought an amp that had FOUR 4-1000's in it. It was probably good for 6 kW. I don't know how much power they were running, but it was an SSB station and every time someone spoke into the microphone, the generator would groan and slow down.

Some years later, that same club had Field Day in a park. One of the stations was quite a ways from the rest. It had a generator with a light bulb on it so we could see where it was at night, but someone forgot that the light would go out if it ran out of gas. It did run out of gas and we found ourselves in total darkness (no one remembered to bring a flashlight, either). We spent probably a half hour wandering around in darkness trying to find the generator. A couple of us ended up wandering around in a pond close by.

A handful of people I know did Field Day in a barn owned by another ham. The barn had been fixed up as a meeting place and was really nice. It had stained glass windows and a parquet floor. The site was in a low area and we did not make as many contacts as we expected. But I remember in the middle of Saturday night this huge wolf spider came walking across the barn floor. It must've been 3 or 4 inches long. We looked at it and said "Well, what do we do now?" One of the guys went over and stepped on it. So much for the spider.

The club I'm currently in used to have Field Day at a farm out of town. We used to have quite a crowd show up. I remember having a race with one guy up one of the towers we put up. The guy I raced won. Later, one of the members was making martinis for anyone who wanted it. Most of us got pretty tipsy. One member had driven a motorcycle up there. He decided to leave in the middle of the night (after the martinis) and somehow got his motorcycle interlocked with the bumper of a car. We couldn't figure out how to get it loose at the time, so he stayed all night.

A few years ago, this same club had a different FD site in a county park which we still use. But this one year, the site flooded and wasn't usable. So I took my FT-857D and a 6 meter beam to a hilltop and operated with battery power from the top of the hill on 6 meters only. I logged on paper. It was fun and was better than no Field Day.

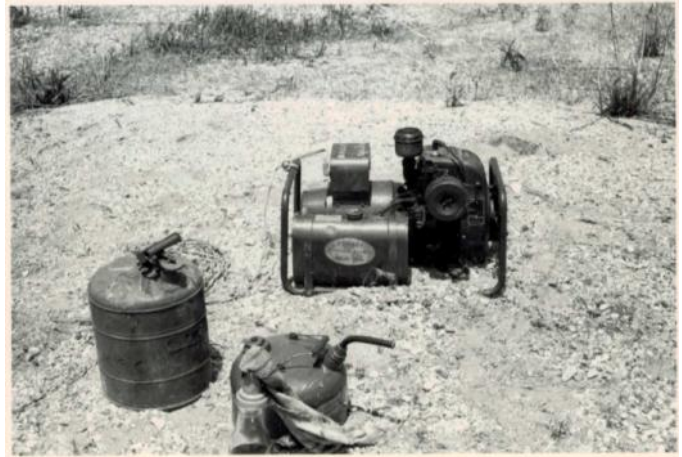
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Ken, KN2D #3566

The last time I actively participated in Field Day was with my high school club, K2TKE, in 1972 (the Ward Melville High School Club with that callsign is sk).



This was our FD station, set up on an island/sandbar off Long Island, NY.

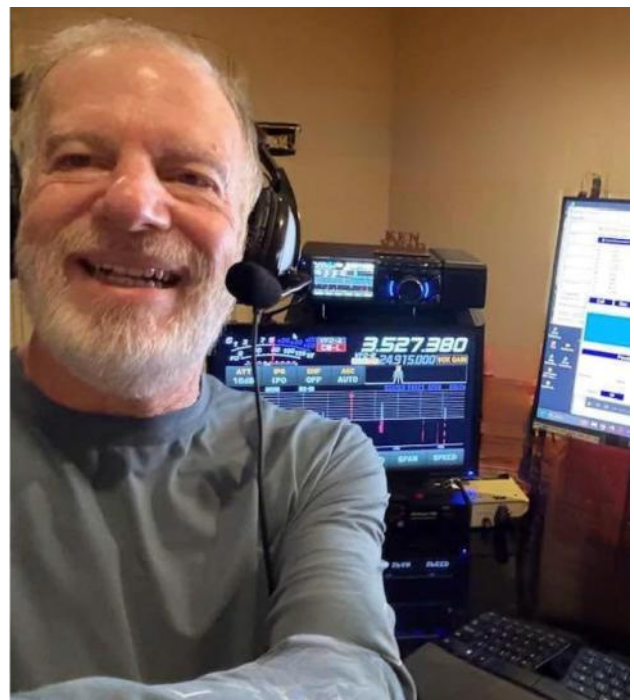
Notice the Tempo One and Swan 350C running off a generator, and TA-33 three-element beam up 50 feet.

The stories from that weekend live on with those of us who are still around and who joined in on the fun.



53 years later, this year I flew solo as 1D, racking up 114 CW contacts - 50 ARRL sections in 37 states with my Yaesu FT-710 and G5RV antenna.

It was great to hear/work fellow CW Ops members.



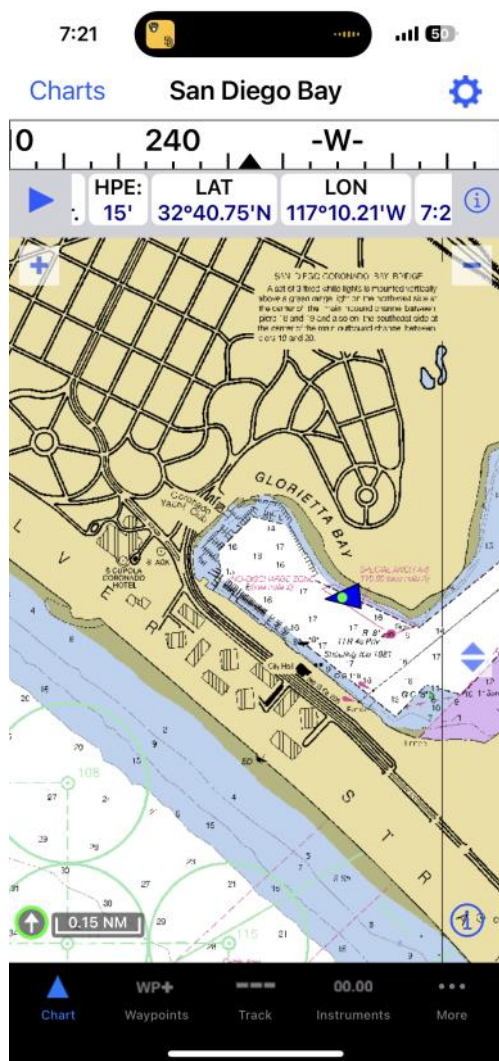
Field Day from Glorietta Bay (aboard Pisces)

[Steve Edenson](#), W6QX (CWops #2870)

I operated Field Day this year from Pisces, my 30-foot sailboat anchored in Glorietta Bay, San Diego. It was a fantastic experience—beautiful location, great weather, and about 400 QSOs logged.

My setup included an N6BT vertical mounted off the stern (covering 10m, 15m, 20m, and 40m), as well as a 40m dipole strung athwartships hanging under two telescoping poles. The rig was a Yaesu FTDX-10, powered by 150 amp-hours of LiFePO₄ batteries—more than enough to get me through the event at 100W.

A big thank-you to Patrick, W7TMT, who generously helped me with the dipole configuration. I'd seen his score from last year's Field Day and reached out to him afterward. He walked me through the steps to get a 66-foot antenna working on a 30-foot boat.



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I've already reserved my anchorage for next year—can't wait to do it all again!



A Three Element 20 Meter Vertical Beam

[Carl Davis](#), W8WZ (CWops #1660)

That costs less than \$300, Can be carried in one hand in a small duffle bag, is less than 3 feet long when taken down, can be installed and taken down in less than 10 minutes by one person, does not require guy ropes, can handle legal limit power, and offers more than 5 dB of gain.



John K4EB, Brantley K4CBW and I recently started a small contesting club we call the Pinecone Amateur Radio Club (N4BCJ). We enjoy operating together in contests and one of our favorite things to do is portable multi-multi operations. For instance, in the most recent Virginia QSO Party, we rented a cabin in the Old Dominion State and set up 2 Yaesu FTDX10's and wire antennas. One station ran SSB and the other CW. We came in second in our category. Inspired by that, we did a similar thing from a cabin in North Carolina last Field Day. We have a lot of fun. When we were at the Dayton Hamvention this May we were captivated by the "portable" hex beam antenna systems and spent a good while drooling over them and thinking about how nice it would be to have a beam in our modest portable contest setups. But towers, guy wires, masts, all seemed like too much work and cost to me. But John and Brantley both reminded me of how much FUN it would be. That got me to thinking about how to build a portable, inexpensive, easy to transport, install and take down, beam. Hmm.

That evening we went out to do a Parks On The Air (POTA) activation and we used my favorite POTA antenna. I use a 17 foot long vertical telescopic whip that mounts into a tent stake style

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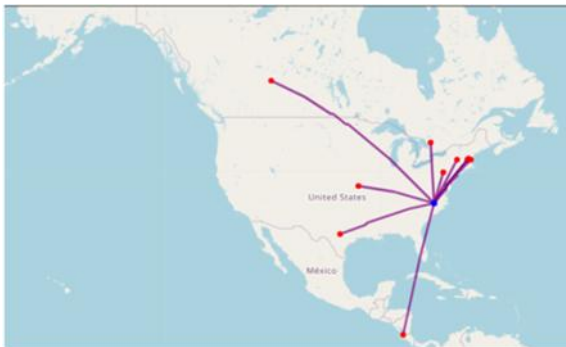
mount. The coax connects to the mount and so do 4 radials that slide onto the tent stake using a spade connector. I use this antenna frequently during my many POTA operations. It goes up and down in less than 5 minutes and requires no trees or ropes or guy lines. I got mine on e-bay and paid less than \$50 for the entire antenna system. As I looked at that antenna I had the idea of adding a director and reflector to it and making it into a 3 element beam. That should work! I thought. Because I like this antenna so much, I bought several spares, that way if one breaks, I am not off the air. Having 3 of these antennas also allowed me to make a 3 element beam by using one for the Director, one for the Driven Element and one for the Reflector.

I had never seen another ham do this, but I knew the idea couldn't be new, so a bit of internet searching was in order. I found a 1971 QST article by Jerry Sevick W2FMI entitled "The W2FMI 20-Meter Vertical Beam". I highly suggest that you read that article, which can be viewed on the ARRL webpage in the Periodicals Archive section. In this article Jerry describes doing exactly what I had envisioned. He didn't use telescopic whips, he used wires and built supports to hang them. However, electrically the antenna is the same as the one I envisioned. He measured 5.2 dB gain over a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical with his 3 element beam. He also discovered he had to use a 4:1 transformer at the feed point to match the impedance as the parasitic elements impacted feed point impedance. Armed with that knowledge I set out to see what I could do.

Following Jerry's instructions, which are the simple math for Yagi antenna element size and spacing, I made the Driven element 16 feet tall as I usually do. 12.5 feet to the West of that I placed the Director which I extended to 15 feet 8 inches. 12.5 feet East of the Driven Element I placed the Reflector which I extended to 17 feet 7 inches. The telescopic whip I was using is only 17 feet tall, so to get the extra 7 inches, I took a length of number 12 solid copper wire, soldered an alligator clip on one end, bent it at 90 degrees after the solder connection, and alligator clipped that wire to the top of the telescopic whip at a location that would make the total antenna length 17 feet 7 inches.

I then measured SWR. I had 2:1 on 20-meters. I added the 4:1 transformer mentioned in the article and the SWR was worse. I went out to adjust the element length. Then I decided to try matching SWR without the transformer. By simply shortening the driven element length several inches I was able to match the impedance and get a 1:1 SWR without the need for a transformer in the feedline. Having a modern antenna analyzer made this task much easier than it was in 1971 for W2FMI.

The next test was to see how the radiation pattern looked. Fortunately, I have Reverse Beacon Network whereas W2FMI had to rely on making lots of contacts and getting signal reports back in 1971. I simply called CQ a few times on 20-meter CW and looked at RBN.



The difference the beam made was drastic. Here is the antenna pattern with just the $\frac{1}{4}$ wave vertical antenna. As you can see, it is very omni directional.

There are no RBN hits in the Atlantic ocean so East doesn't show up much in this, but we can assume there is signal there, just no one to hear it.

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If we were to draw a line connecting the dots of each hit on this map it would make a circle shape (again allowing that there weren't stations in the Atlantic). This is what I would expect from a quarter wave vertical antenna.

Now look at the RBN hits when we used the beam pointing West from Raleigh, NC.



There were two hits off the side of the beam in New England, all the other hits were straight West of us. Stations in other directions that heard my signal before now did not hear it as they were not in the beam's path.

What does this show? Well, it shows you can make a relatively inexpensive, very portable, easy to put up, take down, and transport beam antenna that works fairly well at being a beam!

If you are going to build this and use it many times, here are a few hints:

- Get several colors of kite string. Use a different color string for each of the following items
- Cut two lengths of kite string to 12 feet 6 inches. Label them with masking tape as "Element Spacing"
- Cut one length of kite string 17'7" and label it with masking tape as "Reflector" and put an alligator clip on one end
- Cut one length of kite string 16 feet and label it with masking tape as "Driven Element" and put an alligator clip on one end
- Cut one length of kite string 15'6" and label it with masking tape as "Director" and put an alligator clip on it.

Now when you go to the field to install this antenna use the 12-1/2 foot strings you cut in item A to measure out the spacing between the elements. I suggest tying the string around the base of each element. That way if you want to "rotate" the beam, you leave the driven element in place, move the director on that string, keeping the 12.5 feet spacing, then move the reflector on its string, keeping the 12.5 feet spacing until it is in the same plane as the director. Doing that will rotate the beam's direction while keeping the spacing.

When you go to push up the elements, alligator clip the correctly labeled string to the top of your antenna, and slide the antenna up until your string shows you have it at the correct length. This will prevent you having to measure each element with a tape measure each time. Keep these strings from getting tangled by storing them on a wire winder.

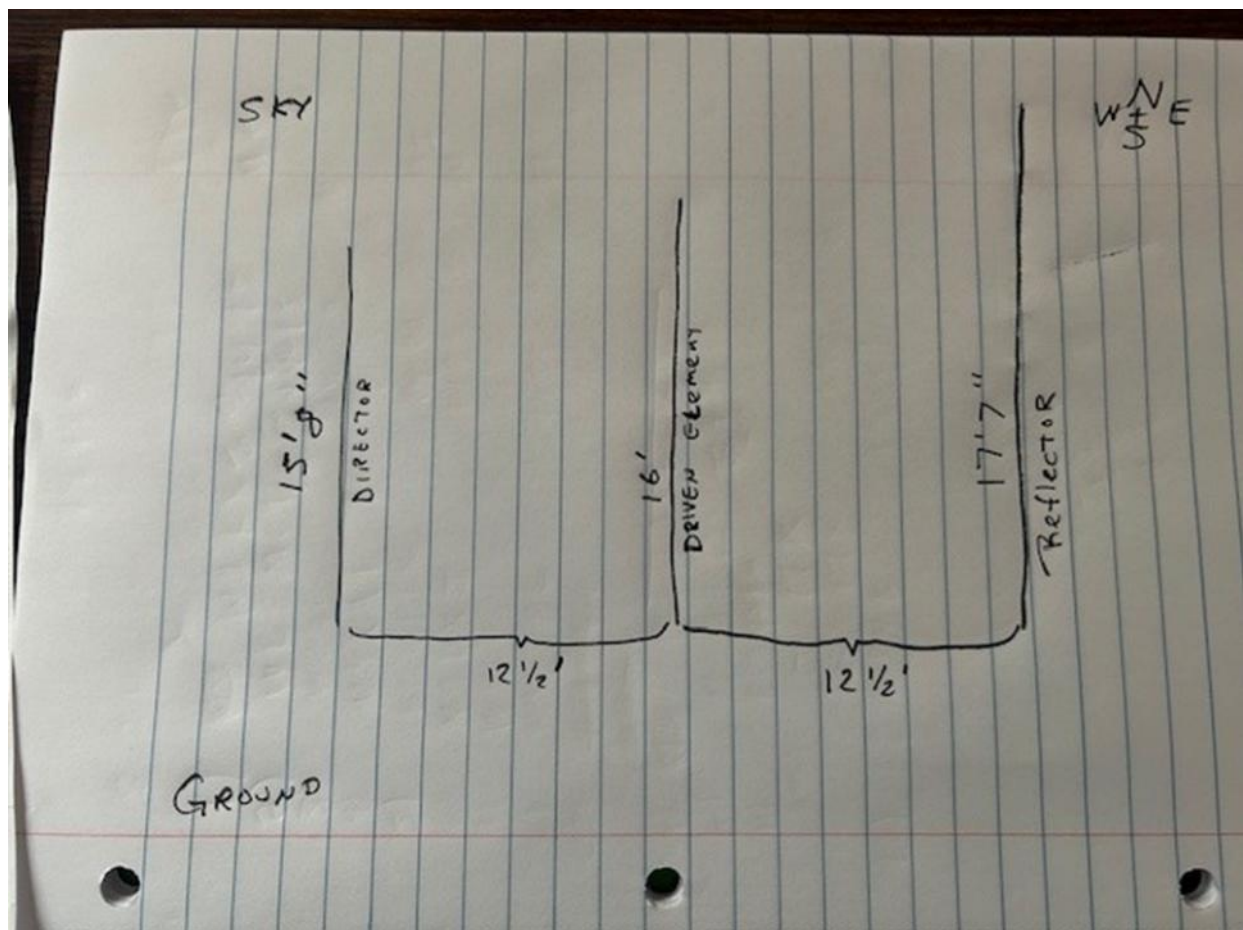
If you have an antenna analyzer you can use that to make final adjustments to the length of your driven element for lowest SWR. Or, you can use your radio's built in SWR meter, or just use the radio's built in antenna tuner to match the system if your radio has one. Or use an external tuner if needed.

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This will get you a beam on the air quickly. With any vertical antenna, you will need good ground radials if you are in an area without good soil conductivity. The more the better.

Of course, you don't always WANT a beam. When I am activating a park for POTA, I want to make as many contacts as possible in all directions, so I like the way a vertical antenna's omni directional pattern works. However, if we are in a contest and trying to work a specific part of the country, a beam is nice. Also, it can keep RF away from another antenna, thus reducing inter-station RFI in a multi-multi setting. So beams have their place, but so do less directional antennas. It is all about using the right tool for the job and it is nice to know that it is "easy" to get a tool that is a 3-element beam that doesn't break the bank, can be transported easily, installed and taken down quickly, and be a fun way to play radio in a park or other portable setting (or even at your home).



Schematic drawing of antenna

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How I added length to the reflector



How the radials connect

eBay Links to the antennas and parts used

[Antenna Carry Bag](#): \$21

[Tent stake ground mount SO-239 to M-10](#): \$38.00

[Telescopic Vertical Antenna](#): \$20

[Ground Radial Kit](#): \$40 (or make your own)

How Beginners Stay Fresh in the Summer: Work the SSTs

[Rich Hoffman](#), K1DJ (CWops #1556)

Now that another CW Academy semester has ended, I am putting out another plug for the K1USN SSTs (Slow Speed conTests)! As many of you know, the twice weekly SSTs are a great training tool for current and recent former CWA students. The exchange is very simple -- Name and State or Province (DX stations send Name and "DX"). Speeds are capped at a maximum of 20 WPM, and many of us, including members of the K1USN Radio Club, run (walk) at much lower speeds of 10-12 WPM or less to make ourselves more easily accessible to early-stage CWA students and other newer/slower CW operators. We have all had great experiences with folks reporting an SST contact as their very first CW QSO.

I have enjoyed advising CW Academy Beginners since April 2017, and do my best to encourage them to participate in the SSTs early and often. Please do the same with your students! And please jump in yourself when you can.

For those students who have made it to Fundamental, Intermediate, and Advanced classes, the SSTs also provide great opportunities to try calling CQ in CW contests en route to fame and glory in the MSTs, CWTs, and then "real" CW contests. We really appreciate those of you and your students and grads who have become regular slow runners in the SSTs!

We ask all SST participants, please, to report and then track their steadily improving SST scores on 3830scores.com.

Watch Your Speed

It has been a bit of a struggle from the start to persuade those running in the SSTs to send slowly enough for true beginners! We don't want to discourage the experienced ops who are willing to spend the time to participate in the SSTs, but we do need to keep asking them nicely to **SLOW DOWN**.

By K1USN Club policy, those operating with the club's callsign in the SSTs call CQ, and generally conduct SST QSOs entirely, at **10 WPM**.

Some members and others using their own calls have followed suit. Because I free-hand everything but the CQs in the SSTs, and find sending that slowly by hand difficult, I follow a different pattern. I typically send automatic CQs at 12 WPM via N1MM+, and then conduct SST QSOs free-hand with my keyer (character) speed set at 14 WPM and Farnsworth spacing as necessary for effective speeds between 10-14 WPM, and much slower when necessary.

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>
3742	W8H FY	David	3753	W4CCZ*	Ken	3764	KZ4KG	Jeff
3743	WB2KWC*	Ken	3754	KB4CL*	Bob	3765	EA5IYL	Mikel
3744	N1CEO*	Perer	3755	NK7Q	Gene	3766	IZ5CFN	Ale
3745	KD1MD*	Kirk	3756	K7EP*	Art	3767	S52CQ*	Jure
3746	K4EXA*	Andrew	3757	PD5BS*	Bill	3768	KC1SDD*	Devon
3747	G4NMD*	Graham	3758	KT3X*	Brian	3769	W4TM*	Roy
3748	KN6VQ*	Jac	3759	KC0DM*	Deb	3770	WG9P*	Roy
3749	WA1VEE*	Joe	3760	PA3GGX*	Dick	3771	KE8TBM*	Fred
3750	AC9XK*	Alexandra	3761	DL6FBN*	Frank	3772	AA3TZ*	Tom
3751	PE1PTS*	Michel	3762	SP9MUF*	Piotr			
3752	PA3GPX*	Rene	3763	EI4LF*	OB			

* Lifetime member

As of July 10 2025:

Need Sponsors: W7AQB, F5RDS, W8CS

Invitations Extended:

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

GW2CWO	GW4VDP	M0RPA	M0ZDM	M6MPC	LA9FG	EA8OI	
JG1UQD	JL2SQK JK6UPC	7K1TSV JR3RHI	JJ0SFV(2)	JS2OVO	JS1CII	JH6EZL	JK1XDX
JJ1FXF	JM1MKH(3) JS2OVO	JF6CYD VE7SZ	KE7LOY JL1DZP	JA3EBL JA1KGY	JA2KMC JA4OIN	JA2MBB VK2HAL	JJ0SFV
JK1QYL	JH1VMM JF0IUN JE1FMZ	JG1BGT(4) JA2VXZ RC0XC	JM8QGN JO4FER JL2SQK	JM1MKH(4) JS2NFB JJ0SFV	JA4IJJ JA5IVG	7N3WRE JK1WCW(2)	JL1DZP(2) JO7WDP
JM4AOA	7K1TSV JS2RLB	JE6JAO	JJ0SFV	JL2SQK	JM8SMO	JO7WDP	JQ3FRX(2)
JO1DGE	BG2KYH JA5FGC(2) JK1PWT JO7WDP	BG2TOS JA5FMT JK6UPC JS2NFB	DW1NKX JA5UYP JL1DZP KE7LOY(2)	HL0Y JF7ROD JL1FPA N6TI	HL5JZ JG1BGT(3) JL2SQK(2) RC0XC	JA2FWC JH6EZL JL3TII JM1MKH(3)	JA4IJJ JJ0SFV JN1MET
K7NJ	KK7SWV N2KW	N7QR KJ4HRH	NO6M N9EEE	WB4DKF N5ITG	KI4EZZ WA9RNE	W0GIB N8AI	KI5GTR KY4GS
K8UDH	NU0I	KE7LOY					
KV8Q	KC9YI						
M0WDD	DF4JY PA3BYW	DF8BB	DL1UNK	DL4VH	M0IYP	M0KTZ	M0TJU
W8OV	K9CDJ	KB0BWY	W4MCX	W4EDE	K4IBZ		
7N2XZB	HL1MIM(3) 7K1TSV(2) JK1PWT JR3RHI JO7WDP	JO3IVK JA6TSJ(2) JS2NFB DU9/M0PXY JK1PWT	JA8OXB BG5UND J11EHJ JA0KSB KE7LOY	BG2TFW JA4OIN JH6EZL JJ0SFV	JA6BZH(2) N6TI JL2SQK JO1ZZZ/1	JN3CEL JR0CWZ(2) JA4IJJ(2) JM1IPX	JF8JCO JM2LOF K3EST JH1APL
7L2VPN	JA4IJJ JL2SQK	JK1PWT	JS1CII	JQ3FRX	JM8QGN	JS6TMW	JJ0SFV

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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		K6RB	
						MØWDD						
SAT												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											
	JG1UQD											
SUN												
	JJ1FXF							W5DT				
	JM4AOA											



CW Academy

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



This May 2025, I attended the Dayton Hamvention for the first time after being encouraged and hosted by Buz Tarlow AC6AC and Tim Smith W7EEE, to join them this year, which was much appreciated.

In addition to the Hamvention, we went to the CWops Dinner, had a great time and met a lot people I have known for years but have only communicated by phone, email, CWT or other contests.

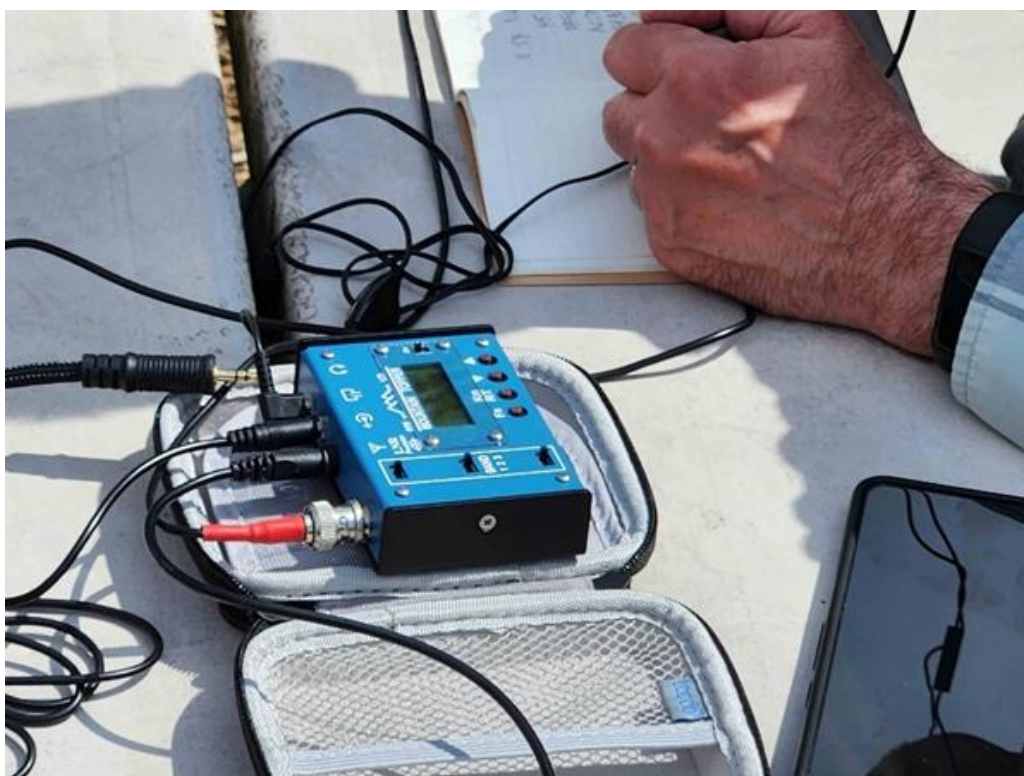
Here is a photo of Tim Smith, W7EEE and Dick Strassburger, N9EEE from the CWops dinner, who may be “related”...hi!



The morning before the dinner a few of us went to Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area (US-9446) where Tim quickly put together a QRP setup and was able to activate (with a minimum of 10 QSOs) the POTA park in less than an hour. Both Buz and I were very impressed and motivated to go home and start doing POTA activations ourselves.

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Back in Utah, on Memorial Day Weekend, I went to East Canyon State Park (US-3068) and tried to do my first activation. I used my Hendricks PFR-3 QRP rig and homebrew BuddyStick. I did manage to get 10 QSOs, but not on the same day as the UTC rolled over on me. So, not a valid activation...bummer. Then the CQ WW WPX contest came on and I could no longer comfortably work 20-meters. As my QRP rig only does 20m, 30m and 40m and I didn't have an antenna for 30m and 40m...I was toast. While my antenna would do 15m and 17m, my rig would not.

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Over the next week, I spent a good four hours looking at many options and ultimately decided on the new Elecraft KH1 (\$600) without the auto tuner and internal battery, did my own homebrew set up for \$50, instead of the \$500 plus they wanted.

Now with my new rig, my next try at an activation was at Wolf Creek Pass in Utah where we are going to do Field Day again this year. It is 10,000 feet and has a great view both east and west.



After we got set up, I was able to make 17 contacts on 20m and 3 more on 17m. It was great and I was happy. I now have half a dozen activations under my belt and am going strong.

You may be wondering by now what all this has to do with CW Academy.

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As some of you know I have been teaching for CW Academy for many years. My first Beginner session was in October 2015. Over the many classes I have advised, there were a number of students mentioned that one of the reason they wanted to get better at Morse Code was so they could be more effective at working POTA and/or SOTA. While I had activated a few summits on SOTA, I had never attempted to active a park aside from the ARRL's NPOTA 100-year anniversary celebration of the National Park Service in 2016, which was the "mother" of all park activations.

You may know that hunting POTA parks is quite easy and as one of my recent student said, "pretty lame". Well, I tend to agree with him. But just like FT8 has made a huge impact on ham radio, POTA is doing the same and utilizing CW is even more exciting for the activators. I can tell you from personal experience when you are calling CQ and working the hunters, it gets quite exciting and challenging. As stated in previous *Solid Copy* articles, we now have Short POTA practice files to listen to and recently we added a POTA practice sending document similar to Daily Scales. This can be found in the same area and here is a link to go to it directly: <https://cwa.cwops.org/wp-content/uploads/potaExercise.pdf>

We highly encourage you to get more of your students and friends to start activating POTA parks and SOTA summits using Morse Code and let keep growing the hobby.

73, Bob WR7Q, #1423



CWops Tests (CWTs)

[Rich Ferch, VE3KI](#)

As of July 1, we had completed 104 of this year's 210 CWT sessions. The only member who has reported scores in all of the CWTs so far is WF4I.

In total, there were 25,430 claimed CWT scores reported to 3830scores.com in the first half of this year, with a total of 1,489,829 reported QSOs (of course, most QSOs were reported twice). The median score is 45 QSOs, while the arithmetic average of all submitted scores is 58.6 QSOs.

The most popular of the four CWT sessions continues to be the 1900z session, with an average of 350 participants in each 1900z CWT. The 1300z session is next with an average so far this year of 327.5 participants. The 0300z session is considerably less popular, with an average of 219 participants and decreasing, while the 0700z session has had an average participation so far this year of 81.

The monthly average numbers for the first six months for each session are tabulated below (the April numbers include the 0330z and 0700z sessions on May 1). The numbers in parentheses are the year-over-year percentage changes from last year's numbers.

	1300z	1900z	0300z	0700z
January 2025	326 (-9%)	360 (-11%)	256 (-9%)	80 (-13%)
February 2025	340 (-5%)	384 (-1%)	253 (-5%)	83 (-12%)
March 2025	335 (-10%)	356 (-8%)	215 (-8%)	82 (-14%)
April 2025	316 (-16%)	327 (-12%)	194 (-17%)	80 (-14%)
May 2025	322 (-9%)	338 (-4%)	194 (-12%)	85 (-7%)
June 2025	329 (-9%)	340 (-8%)	200 (-10%)	79 (-13%)

Enjoy the CWTs and keep those reported scores coming!

73, Rich VE3KI (CWops #783)
CWT Manager



CWops Member Awards

[Bill Gilliland](#), WØTG



Monthly Update

During June, eight additional members submitted logs and the number of active participants in the awards program is currently 214.

The **ACA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jun 2025 have **KR2Q** in first place and leading second place **AA3B** by 217 QSOs. The top ten ACA totals this month are: (1) **KR2Q**, (2) **AA3B**, (3) **KY4GS**, (4) **N5RZ**, (5) **K3WW**, (6) **KC7V**, (7) **N5TJ**, (8) **KO4VW**, (9) **OM2VL**, and (10) **NA8V**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 549 QSOs.

The **ACMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jun 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **KR2Q** by 404 QSOs. The top ten ACMA totals this month are: (1) **AA3B**, (2) **KR2Q**, (3) **N5RZ**, (4) **KY4GS**, (5) **K3WW**, (6) **OM2VL**, (7) **N5TJ**, (8) **KC7V**, (9) **K7QA** and (10) **NA8V**. The separation between first place and tenth place is 1822 QSOs.

The **CMA** QSO totals and rankings for the end of Jun 2025 have **AA3B** in first place and leading second place **K3WW** by 3496 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 6588 QSOs.

The number of participants who have contacted CWops members in 100 or more DXCC entities increased to 93 this month with the addition of **KW7Q**.

The number of participants who have accomplished CWops WAS remained unchanged this month at **269**.

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 Jul 1, 2025, we have 214 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 July 1, 2025.

ACA

Rank	Call	ACA
1	KR2Q	1649
2	AA3B	1432
3	KY4GS	1387
4	N5RZ	1243
5	K3WW	1214
6	KC7V	1147
7	N5TJ	1133
8	KO4VW	1121
9	OM2VL	1107
10	NA8V	1100
11	K7QA	1087
12	KG9X	1086
13	AA2IL	1066
14	N7US	1009
15	W4CMG	1003
16	WT9U	957
17	F6HKA	954
18	K1VUT	952
19	DL6KVA	907
20	NJ3K	883
21	VE3TM	875
22	WT3K	869
23	W8FN	860
24	K9WX	859
25	K1DJ	832
26	W9ILY	829
27	KC3M	820
28	N4DW	818
29	K1SM	815
30	EA6BF	803
31	K6NR	795
32	N5KD	790
33	WN7S	788
34	KM4FO	785
35	K3QP	781
36	KW1X	740
37	W0UO	739
38	N9FZ	735
39	F5SGI	725
40	AC6ZM	720
40	WU6P	720
41	K3ZA	719
42	W5AL	707

ACMA

Rank	Call	ACMA
1	AA3B	4623
2	KR2Q	4219
3	N5RZ	3543
4	KY4GS	3316
5	K3WW	3256
6	OM2VL	3138
7	N5TJ	2899
8	KC7V	2874
9	K7QA	2802
10	NA8V	2801
11	KO4VW	2617
12	KG9X	2461
13	DL6KVA	2331
14	WT9U	2203
15	K1VUT	2167
16	AA2IL	2132
17	N7US	2100
18	W4CMG	2039
19	F6HKA	1913
20	EA6BF	1786
21	K9WX	1782
22	W8FN	1781
23	N4DW	1761
24	NJ3K	1678
25	VE3TM	1605
26	WN7S	1597
27	WS7L	1596
28	K6NR	1595
29	N5KD	1582
30	W9ILY	1580
31	K1DJ	1562
32	N5XE	1540
33	KM4FO	1506
34	K1AJ	1498
35	WT3K	1470
36	KC3M	1455
36	KW7Q	1455
37	KW1X	1425
38	N2UU	1414
39	K1SM	1403
40	W0UO	1384
41	SM6CUK	1383
42	WU6P	1379

CMA

Rank	Call	CMA
1	AA3B	14865
2	K3WW	11369
3	N5RZ	10576
4	KR2Q	10418
5	N5ZO	10203
6	DL6KVA	9666
7	NA8V	9654
8	W1RM	9459
9	F6HKA	9014
10	VE3KI	8277
11	K3WJV	8228
12	OM2VL	8074
13	K7QA	7891
14	KG9X	7850
15	KC7V	7760
16	N7US	7698
17	W9ILY	7433
18	WT9U	7107
19	K1VUT	6982
20	W0VX	6896
21	N4DW	6895
22	K3JT	6720
23	K9WX	6666
24	KY4GS	6612
25	N5TJ	6478
26	K6NR	6219
27	K1DJ	6126
28	SM6CUK	6082
29	WT3K	6072
30	N1DC	6069
31	N2UU	6035
32	W4WF	6014
33	K4IU	5971
34	WN7S	5836
35	9A1AA	5665
36	AA5JF	5531
37	W8FN	5516
38	G4BUE	5468
39	AC6ZM	5431
40	W0UO	5372
41	VE3TM	5339
42	KO4VW	5327
43	K1SM	5301

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ACA

43	WS7L	705
44	KW7Q	698
45	K1AJ	697
46	K0WA	695
47	VK2GR	693
48	W1RM	692
49	N3CKI	689
50	KV8Q	680
51	K3JT	678
51	VE3KI	678
52	NA4J	668
53	AA5JF	667
54	KR3E	664
55	N5XE	661
56	N1DC	656
57	EA6EJ	650
58	N2UU	649
59	KT5V	647
60	AF5J	640
61	DL5XL	617
61	SM6CUK	617
62	N9UNX	608
63	ND9M	607
64	W0VX	606
65	K4TZ	604
66	K5OHY	592
66	N2EIM	592
67	W4WF	583
68	WE4AUB	580
69	K4IU	579
70	DF7TV	578
71	W9CF	571
72	VE9KK	569
73	NE5A	566
74	M0RYB	544
75	VE3INE	540
76	VE3MV	534
77	K4GM	530
78	DJ5CW	527
79	KB8GAE	524
80	OZ3SM	521
81	G4PVM	519
82	W3WHK	512
83	KY0Q	511
84	KT4XN	499
85	WN4AFP	494
86	AF4T	488
86	K9CPO	488
86	VE3KIU	488

ACMA

43	W0VX	1372
44	W5AL	1370
45	EA6EJ	1349
46	VE3KI	1331
47	AF5J	1297
48	F5SGI	1292
49	K3JT	1268
49	NA4J	1268
50	AC6ZM	1250
51	W1RM	1239
52	N3CKI	1215
53	AA5JF	1207
54	DL5XL	1197
55	N9FZ	1177
56	K3ZA	1155
57	M0RYB	1150
58	W4WF	1144
59	KV8Q	1140
60	K4IU	1139
60	DJ5CW	1139
61	VK2GR	1113
62	W9CF	1107
63	K3QP	1105
64	ND9M	1097
65	N1DC	1078
66	OZ3SM	1071
67	VE3MV	1061
68	W0TG	1050
69	G4PVM	1043
70	N9UNX	1025
71	WS1L	1018
72	K4TZ	1011
73	K4GM	1006
74	WE4AUB	994
75	G3NKC	960
76	KY0Q	955
77	KR3E	931
77	KT5V	931
78	DF7TV	924
79	W3WHK	922
80	K0WA	920
81	WB5N	914
82	VE3INE	906
83	K5OHY	905
84	VE9KK	899
85	AF4T	890
86	WN4AFP	856
87	K9CW	844
88	K1RF	835

CMA

44	NJ3K	5242
45	GW0ETF	5078
46	N5XE	5066
47	NA4J	5000
48	AA2IL	4992
49	F6JOE	4886
50	WA4JUK	4775
51	OK1RR	4750
52	WS7L	4724
53	K4GM	4703
53	K3QP	4703
54	KT5V	4632
55	WN4AFP	4593
56	K1AJ	4577
57	VE3MV	4494
58	VK2GR	4454
59	OZ3SM	4420
60	EA6BF	4411
61	I2WIJ	4406
61	DJ5CW	4406
62	DF7TV	4364
63	W6AYC	4276
64	K0WA	4254
65	KM4FO	4249
66	N5KD	4209
67	KY0Q	4128
68	F5SGI	4073
69	W4CMG	4069
70	DM6EE	4057
71	W0TG	4034
72	WS1L	4032
73	AF5J	3990
74	G4PVM	3988
75	K0TC	3966
76	NE5A	3962
77	N1EN	3955
78	W3WHK	3945
79	WU6P	3918
80	KV8Q	3917
81	ND9M	3841
82	KK0U	3827
83	M0RYB	3818
84	W2CDO	3786
85	KW7Q	3775
86	AF4T	3680
87	SM0HEV	3616
88	EA6EJ	3597
89	K4TZ	3566
90	HB9ARF	3564

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ACA

87	WB5N	478
88	AH7RF	468
89	GW0ETF	465
90	K1RF	460
91	NB7O	459
92	W0TG	457
93	KE4CR	455
94	G3LDI	447
94	WS1L	447
95	N5ER	442
96	DM6EE	437
96	KQ4E	437
97	G3NKC	432
98	K9CW	431
98	WA5PFJ	431
99	AC3RA	423
100	LY2MM	422

ACMA

89	N5ER	831
90	NE5A	823
91	KB8GAE	820
92	DM6EE	817
93	LY2MM	815
94	G3LDI	814
95	KT4XN	805
96	NB7O	801
97	VE3KIU	781
98	SM0HEV	778
99	K9CPO	766
100	G3LHJ	753

CMA

91	N3CKI	3499
92	KR3E	3440
93	K3ZA	3407
94	4X6GP	3291
95	NN4K	3245
96	K2YR	3239
97	G3LDI	3218
98	W7GF	3108
99	KW1X	3097
100	W2VM	3096

73, Bill W0TG (CWops #1873)

CWops Operating Awards

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



QTX Report: Enjoying the Art of Conversational CW

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this column will not appear this month. Month-to-date and Year-to-date rankings will be updated next month. Soapbox comments from June and July will appear in August *Solid Copy*.

QTX - Total 2025 (as of June 1, 2025)

<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>QTX</u>
WA4IAR	381	K9OZ	131	AJ1DM	47	ABØWW	11	W3WHK	3
VE3WH	319	MØMZB	130	F5IJ	38	MØSDB	8	SV2BBK	3
WS1L	261	AAØYY	127	N9EEE	29	KE4I	8	PG4I	2
N8AI	190	DK9HE	107	N9FZ	24	W6QX	7	MMØUMH	1
KY4GS	181	KR2Q	101	DL5XL	19	K4LFL	7	DF7TV	1
N7HCN	165	KG5IEE	80	NØBM	16	PE2V	6		
KCØVKN	162	N2DA	67	N5LB	14	VK3QB	5		
MØKTZ	139	GØFOZ	52	AE4GS	14	K7VM	4		
KB6NU	139	K8UDH	47	W8OV	12	GWØETF	4		

mQTX - Total 2025 (as of June 1, 2025)

<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>mQTX</u>
KY4GS	313	KR2Q	113	K8UDH	28	N9EEE	21	K4LFL	9
MØKTZ	252	MØMZB	111	ABØWW	27	KB4DE	19	KE4I	7
WS1L	179	KB6NU	94	SV2BBK	26	PE2V	17	W6QX	5
WA4IAR	165	KG5IEE	84	N9FZ	25	MØSDB	14	K7VM	3
GØFOZ	162	DL5XL	42	N7HCN	24	DF7TV	14	W3WHK	2
N8AI	159	VK3QB	36	AJ1DM	24	AE4GS	14		
VE3WH	148	GWØETF	36	PG4I	23	W8OV	13		
AAØYY	116	DK9HE	33	NØBM	23	MMØUMH	13		



My Story: New Member Introductions

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

Skip Kazmarek, K4EAK CWops #3734

Greetings to my (new) CWops friends. I'm honored to be a member of this fine organization.

I'm 75 years old and have been doing CW for only 3 years. Some people say that learning CW is like learning a new language. Well, I was never very good at languages, and learning any new language in your 70s is no small feat. I started with the CWA Beginner course in 2022, but found CW much harder than I hoped for. Nevertheless, my first CWA instructor, Tom KV8Q, persuaded me to stick with it. Indeed, a big inspiration occurred in 2022 during the Beginner course when I was visiting my younger son stationed in Tampa, Florida. Tom set up an on-air sked and, sitting with my 12-year-old grandson sitting at my side, Tom gave me my first-ever on-the-air CW contact. That was it--I definitely got the bug (no pun intended ... it was a paddle). And the rest, as they say, is history.



I've been married to my wonderful wife, Wendy, for 52 years. She completely supports my ham radio activities, although she thinks Morse code is called "SOS." When we have friends over and they ask where I am, she'll say, "He's down in the basement sending SOS." Oh well ... after 52 years she gets to call it whatever she wants.

My main ham radio activity is doing Parks On the Air activations, almost exclusively QRP. As of June 1, 2025, I have 417 activations at 200 unique parks, with over 9200 CW contacts. My wife and I enjoy traveling around in our small RV. Camping and POTA activity seem to go together so naturally. I been able to activate numerous state and federal parks while camping, including Yellowstone National Park shown in the picture at right. *(And yes, that is bear spray on the table next to me ... I'm trying to avoid getting the award for "First Activator Eaten by Grizzly.")*

I'm an Army veteran, having done two tours in Vietnam. Besides ham radio, I enjoy photography, hunting, fishing, hiking, and pretty much anything outdoors.

Nowadays, in my "golden years," I often reflect on how many of the best things in life depend on volunteers. I try to do my part. But my experience with CWA volunteers has impressed me the most. I've benefited from so many CWops instructors and assistants, including not only Tom KV8Q initially, but up through Buz AC6AC, my most recent Advanced class advisor. As a result, I'd really like to return the favor. I'd like to do for others what all the great CWops guys have done for me. I'll soon sign up to be a CWA advisor (initially probably only for the Beginner or Fundamental courses) and hope that I can, as they say, pass it along. Thanks to you all you guys. You're the best.

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Kenneth R. Goodwin, K5RG CWops #3741

- Houston, Texas
- Extra Class Amateur Radio License K5RG (licensed May 9, 1960, previous calls K1ONW, W4VLH, W5UGE, 9N7RG)
- FCC General Radiotelephone Operator's License with Radar Endorsement
- Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate
- American Radio Relay League (Life Member, Charter Member Diamond Club, member Maxim Society)
- A-1 Operator Club
- Chairman and Member-at-Large National Traffic System Central Area Staff (1982 - 1986)
- BPL Medallion 1963
- CAN Cycle 4 NCS since 1970, TCC Appointment since 1970, NTS participant since 1961
- Operate all modes from 1.8 – 1290 MHz including digital modes Pactor 1-3, VARA, Packet & Telnet, FT8/FT4
- Quarter Century Wireless Association (Life Member)
- Old Old Timers Club (OOTC – Life Member)
- Route Manager South Texas (1975 – 1978)
- NASA Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club Officer (President, Treasurer-Secretary, Member since 1968)
- 2021 Pfeiffer Pfist Award (TEX CW Net)



Jamie, MØSDV CWops #3738

I'm Jamie, a 24-year-old amateur radio enthusiast from Staffordshire, England. Over the past decade, I've built a self declared "impressive" resume in the world of amateur radio. My journey began in 2015, and since then, I've immersed myself in various aspects of the hobby, including contesting and DXpeditioning. My passion for amateur radio has led me to collaborate with some of the most renowned teams in the field, allowing me to gain invaluable experience and skills along the way.

In 2017, my adventures took a significant turn when I traveled to Munich, where I met Philipp, known by his callsign DK6SP. This meeting marked the beginning of a long-lasting friendship, and together we've explored the world, participating in numerous amateur radio events and expeditions.

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Throughout my career, I've operated under several callsigns, showcasing my versatility and commitment to the hobby. Notable call signs include PJ2/MØSDV, PJ4V, 5V7EI, 3B8M, 8R7X, 3D2Y and M6T. Each of these callsigns represents a unique experience and a different facet of my amateur radio journey.

One of my significant achievements was being part of Youth Team #2 at the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) 2023 held in Bologna, Italy. During this prestigious event, I operated as I47B alongside my teammate DK6SP, which further solidified my reputation in the amateur radio community.

I take pride in my operating skills; I'm proficient in both Single Sideband (SSB) and Continuous Wave (CW) modes, with a strong preference for CW. My experience in pileup management has equipped me to handle high-pressure situations effectively, making me an effective operator during contests and expeditions.

Thanks to the generous support of my sponsors and my involvement with CWops, I am excited to further contribute to the amateur radio community through my passion for CW operation. I believe that CW is not just a mode of operation; it's a rich tradition within amateur radio that fosters a sense of camaraderie and skill development.

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Kirk Dyer, KD1MD CWops #3745

I am honored to be nominated and sponsored as a CWops member and hope to live up to the expectations of this fine group.

Back in 1992, I was Elmered into the hobby by a friend at work, Dave, KA1WIP, as a no-code Tech with the call N1LEA. Later in 1992 I passed my General class exam and 5 wpm code. Dave and another operator, now silent key "Buzz" KA1NJX, in the early days of my HF operating would spend some nights trying to practice CW on 10 meters when we could hear one another. I also practiced using a program on a 5-1/4 Floppy disc and cassette tapes. In August of 1994 I passed my 13 wpm test and the Advanced class exam, to my delight and now I am grateful I did not take the Extra...as I like being in a "dinosaur" class.

As I am not an electronics guy at all, theory was hard for me, but I found CW was easier for me to comprehend. I was drawn to radio, because I like communication and making friends. Ham radio is great for both.

Somewhere about 2009 due to family responsibilities and moves, I went QRT. In 2019 I was remarried, and my lovely bride, Melanie, encouraged me to take the radios out of the boxes and get back on the air. Finally in January 2024 I applied for and received the new call KD1MD, no, I am not a doctor...this is a combination of mine and Melanie's initials and seems a fitting tribute for her encouragement.

When I found out about CWops, I was determined to become part of what I consider to be an elite group of operators. I immediately enrolled in CWA and my advisor "Buzz" AC6AC, and Co-Advisors Dale N5SGQ, Marv W5DT, Laura MM7BFL, and Gene KD4Y elmered us as a group to apprehend the possibilities and art of CW. Since I am a far cry from where I would like to be my hope is to continue through the classes and one day be a Co-Advisor.

Other interests radio aside, I collect license plates, and in fact since learning Morse Code, to this day I copy code in my head of the alpha numeric plate digits on the cars I follow. We also dance at any opportunity after taking years of ballroom dance lessons, we restore antique cars together and we designed and built a shed together as well as caring for 13 grand babies and counting keeping us very busy!

Professionally I have worked at the same facility over 35 years, I am a Maintenance Planner for a Biotech Pharmaceutical operation.



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Diarmuid Ó Briain, EI4LF CWops #3763

I joined the Irish Defence Forces straight out of secondary school and was assigned to the Signal Corps. My initial training as a Wireless Telegraphy Operator (WTOpr) covered radio, CW, aerals, and military communications. I gained experience as a signals detachment commander in radio, line, and aerial rigging during three tours of duty in Lebanon.

After leaving the Defence Forces, I spent many years working for US multinationals on Internet delivery, before becoming CTO at an Irish ISP. In 2015, my wife and I moved to Uganda, where I lectured in wireless, networking, and cybersecurity at Makerere University.

I returned to Ireland in 2019 and took up lecturing roles, eventually becoming Head of Electronic Engineering & Communications at South East Technological University (SETU).

I'm married to Áine and have two grown-up sons and a granddaughter. My interests also include Rugby, Hurling, and Sailing.



Alex Auvinen, AC9XK CWops #3750

I'm a third-generation ham and the first YL operator in my family. My grandfather, VE4XC, was a radio officer in the Canadian Navy, and my father, N3EEF, was an active CW operator. Both passed down a love for Morse code, and that mode has remained central to my own amateur radio experience.

I've completed all four levels of CW Academy—Beginner, Fundamental, Intermediate, and Advanced—with the last three courses under the expert guidance of Buzz, AC6AC, and his co-advisors. The structure, mentorship, and support through CW Academy have been invaluable, and I'm deeply grateful for the experience and the friendships I've made along the way.



Professionally, I work in the medical diagnostics field supporting chemistry analyzers and lab automation systems used in hospitals and clinical laboratories. It's a field that keeps me learning

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every day and gives me the chance to help labs deliver critical results that impact patient care.

I'm actively involved in emergency communications and currently serve as the Communications Group Radio Team Lead for Hamilton County Emergency Management in Indiana. I volunteer with both RACES and ARES, and I value the opportunity to contribute to our county's readiness and resilience.

One of my favorite areas of this hobby is Parks on the Air. I love hiking and exploring Indiana's beautiful state parks, and POTA provides the perfect blend of outdoor adventure and radio.

I also co-founded a local club called The Piglets (N9BCN—short for N9-BACON) and served as Vice President from '22 to '23. The group formed out of a shared interest in CW, and many of us got our start assembling a Morserino. Several members have gone through CW Academy, and the club's mission is to encourage learning, experimentation, and connection through amateur radio.

I currently live in Noblesville, Indiana, with my husband and our 12-year-old dog, Ghost. CW has brought me a sense of community, challenge, and connection like nothing else in the hobby. I'm honored to be a part of CWops and excited to keep learning and improving.

Graham Smith, G4NMD/N4GJS CWops #3747

My having been elected to CWops is a great privilege and a testimony to the hard work of those who manage and volunteer with the CW Academy. My early course was with Peter GMØEUL and subsequently with Bob WR7Q followed by Buzz AC6AC.

I was first licenced in 1974 with a no-code "B" Licence with the call G8KVU and it was in 1981 that after some pressure from local hams I undertook to learn CW to take the 12 wpm test to get the full G4NMD call. As a result of a bad on-air experience I gave up on CW until 1988 when I helped another ham to pass his 12 wpm test. But I still did not venture on the air with CW.



My interest in radio was sparked at a young age when I learned about and built some crystal sets. Big old valve receivers were donated to me and I explored the shortwave bands before setting out to get that first B licence. In the late 1970s I joined the Royal Navy as an engineer and specialised in communications engineering particularly in worldwide HF and VLF systems.

In the late 1980s life took an interesting turn when I ended up training as a minister in the Church of England and it was while being a parish priest in Portsmouth in 2002 that I was approached to host an ARRL VE session for the US Licence exams. The VEs persuaded me to have a go at the tests and somehow at the end of the day I had managed to demonstrate enough technical knowledge and scrape enough copied code to get the extra class pass and obtained the call AI4BL which I subsequently changed to N4GJS.

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Life again caused a change of career, and I ended up in emergency medicine and care so ham radio provided a great stress relief and something different to high octane days of EMS. But still no actual CW operating and yet I was regularly building QRP CW rigs that once proved to work were put on display on the shack shelves.

More recently at a regional hamfest and the G-QRP conference I was challenged by an old friend to re-learn CW and get on the air. Weekly zoom practices led to me re-signing up with CW Academy at intermediate level. Homework instructions to make a QSO everyday led to more than just a QSO a day and suddenly my club log timeline showed a dramatic change from 1.6% per year CW contacts 3 years ago to 77% so far this year.

Am I a fully formed CW Op? Absolutely not! I have much to learn and still room to improve on accuracy, consistency and the ability to head copy and ragchew. Do I intend to try to make those improvements? You bet I do! So, thanks to CWA thanks to my nominator and sponsors and thanks to CWops for the welcome.

René Voortwist, PA3GPX CWops #3752.

Around 1980, my older brother bought himself a CB radio. He fiddled around with it for a year or so and got bored with it. Not me, I was hooked.

A fellow CB enthusiast had a shortwave receiver and got me interested in shortwave listening. That's when I first found out about licensed radio amateurs. I immediately knew I wanted a license too.

So, in 1987 I got my very first ham radio novice license. PD0PHN. In 1991 I upgraded that to PE1OFD for 144 MHz and up. Finally in 1994 I got my full license and the callsign I still use today, PA3GPX. It took six months of daily practise from cassette tapes to pass the required 12 wpm CW exam.

I've been a very active DXer and contester for years. CW only. I got involved in the local ham radio club BRAC (PI4SHB) for which I was secretary for a while. We entered contests on HF and VHF and I took part in the JOTA at a local scouting club every year.

And then, around 2000, work and family got in the way and I lost interest in radio. I sold all my stuff, removed my antennas and was inactive for a good twenty years. About two years ago, the bug bit me again. Or maybe it reignited an old love. And now I'm CWing again. Feels great!

I'm currently studying CW with the CWops academy under the guidance of the inimitable Buzz, AC6AC. Who could have thought that studying CW could be that much fun. I love the way he leads the course. I'm a freelance trainer and I know how hard it is to keep people engaged in online training. He does a great job! In June I got my CWops membership number #3752. Thanks a million Buzz!



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Bob Main, KB4CL CWops #3754

I'm 77 years old and retired back in 2011. I learned Morse code using a tape where the characters were sent at 25 wpm back in the mid '70s. When I worked for Kodak, a couple of the people I worked with were hams. One of them gave me my code exam for my Novice in late 1977. After I passed that code test the ham giving me the test discovered that I could solid copy 10 wpm.



My first CW key/paddle was two straight keys from Radio Shack mounted bottom to bottom on a piece of plexiglass. My first radio was a Heathkit HW-101 with a convert-to-15m 5-element CB beam. I got my Novice license, WD4NVM, in the mail December 24, 1977 and made my first contact on Christmas Day 1977 - Merry Christmas to me!

In May 1978 I upgraded to General and Advanced on the same day and got KB4CL on June 30th. The hams "raised" me to chase DX and they were AA4V (Steve, #1867), K4AVU (Paul, SK) and K4CNW (Jack, SK). So, I did and got DXCC in Phone in July 1979. We moved and I was off the air from 1987 until 2000. I upgrade to Extra in April 2000, right after they dropped the code requirement. Even with that I was still interested in CW off and on. I joined FISTS #10355 late 2003 and in March 2004 I ordered a March magnetic paddle. In late 2004 I had two Elmers AAØYY (Mark #2809) and N9BOR (Mike #312) and I got to where we could rag chew at 18 wpm. In November 2005 I finally received my March paddle #370, but after I wired it I put it back in its box and continued using my Bencher.

When I retired in 2011, I wanted to build up my ham station to where I could get on with my DX chasing. I replaced my 54 ft tower with a 72 ft crank-up tower with an 11-element log periodic on top and a 2-element 40 m Yagi above that. I have two radios, a Kenwood TS-870S and a Yaesu Ft-1000MP Mark V (200W). I also have an Alpha 8410 amp and Palstar AT4K antenna tuner. Now I have 343 countries. I also have Honor Roll (Phone and Mixed); 7BDXCC (Phone), 5BWAZ (Phone). In November 2016 I got my CW DXCC and now have 217 countries.

In September 2024 I heard about CW Academy and signed up for a class. In late December I got an email and I got into the Intermediate class with Buzz (AC6AC). Now I have completed the Advanced class and am a CWops member. Thanks to Buzz, Dale, David, Char and others for all the help. There were times I wasn't sure in myself, especially at this age, but with their help I hung in there. Oh, by the way, after almost 20 years I finally removed the March paddle from its box and have retired the Bencher.

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Joe DeMarco, WA1VEE CWops #3749

My adventure into amateur radio began in the late '50s when I joined a high school radio club. Going from Novice to General class required copying 13 wpm, and a trip to Boston. Not wanting to fail, I focused on CW and by the time I went to college, was copying 30 wpm.

My first station was in the basement of my parents' house, under my parents' bedroom. I would be up late at night looking for DX with headphones on, my little home brew single tube crystal-controlled transmitter running a whopping 8 watts, and relegated to CW. Unable to write fast enough, I learned to head copy.



An engineering degree from the University of Rhode Island provided background in inferential statistics and probability theory which led to jobs troubleshooting manufacturing quality problems and eventually management of quality organizations. Masters' degrees in business and computer science resulted in management of information technology departments. The challenging work and family left little time for radio.

Now retired, a friend talking about amateur radio got me interested, and last November I got my technician license, bought equipment, and set up a station. Always a CW guy, it continues to be my focus.

I feel like Rip Van Winkle. So much has changed in the last 60 years. There are digital modes, and amateur bands I never heard of, and if you can believe it, no CW requirement to get a license.

In the last six months I passed my Amateur Extra exam, brought my copy speed back to about 25 wpm from 5 wpm, participated in Winter Field Day (my first contest), and on advice from club members who belong to the academy, joined CW Academy to improve my fist. What I've learned is that improving CW is a journey, and CW Academy has put me on the right path.

Mikel L. Forcada, EA5IYL CWops #3765

My name is Mikel L. Forcada and I was born in Caracas (Venezuela) in 1963. I'm married and have two children.

I retired early in February 2024 from my position as a full professor of Computer Languages and Systems at the University of Alacant. There, my teaching and research primarily focused on translation technologies. I also founded a small company, Prompsit Language Engineering,

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where I serve as Chief Research Officer. I previously served as president and am now the treasurer of the European Association for Machine Translation. I speak Spanish, English, Catalan, Basque, Italian, Portuguese, and some French.

My passion for radio is second only to my love for languages—a bug I likely caught from my dad. A SWL since childhood, I got my first CB radio when I was 14, which was considered pirate radio in Spain back in 1978. I built my own antenna and learned a lot but then lost interest. I re-engaged with the hobby in 2019 after informing my son he'd need a license for his new Chinese HT. My interest was rekindled, and I took the (easy) Spanish exam (my son later took it and is now EA5IYY).



I started learning Morse code in 2020, initially on my own using a Koch method website, and then with LCWO. After joining an Italian CW QRS Telegram group, who encouraged me to get on the air as soon as possible, my first CW QSO was with ISØHNN in August 2020. In October, I began my main ham radio activity: Summits on the Air (SOTA). I started doing CW on SOTA in January 2021, which is when I truly committed to CW. It allowed me to activate summits with more frugal radios, and my back thanks me for that! As they say, "SOTA is a gateway drug to CW," and that perfectly describes my case.

It wasn't until 2024 that I learned about CW Academy, and I was immediately interested. I was placed in the Intermediate course with Bob Carter, WR7Q, and then promoted to the Advanced course with Buzz Tarlow, AC6AC. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been taught by these two top-notch instructors; their lectures and homework have profoundly benefited me. My heartfelt gratitude goes to them. I also especially thank AC6AC for nominating me and DM7TW, KO4OWS, and N1KB for sponsoring me to become CWops member #3765. I am honored and humbled, knowing how much I still have to learn to truly deserve such a membership and to uphold the trust placed in me.

ure Mikeln, S52CQ CWops #3767

Why and how did I start with CW? It started in 1986, when received A Class of YU ham radio organisation. At that time I was studying and hence there was not much time devoted to ham radio nor CW. Later on I started my professional career, got married and moved to our house. For the next 30 years or so ham radio was a sleeping beauty waiting to wake up when children grow up.

As such I have returned to ham radio in 2014. I prefer working QRP to paraphrase President Kennedy "Not because QRP is easy but because it's hard". Also, I love building all kind of ham radio related devices, from transceivers to filters and antennas.

I have designed "The Weekender" VHF or UHF FM transceiver which is a transceiver that is intended for newbies in ham radio and can be built in one weekend – hence its name.

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Why I have entered CWops? As mentioned in my bio I also organise RIS conference for S5 ham radio operators. At the 2022 RIS conference we had a nice presentation of Co-Advisor Dusan, S55AC, who presented how CWops is teaching and perfecting CW skills. Since then a wish to improve CW was glowing inside of me for 2 years and finally I have decided to enter Intermediate course by the end of the 2024. At introduction to our course Bob WR7Q had promised to attendants that we will improve our CW providing that we stick to the course with making homework. At that time I had a serious doubt that a man of my age, who can't remember two consecutively received CW characters, can get better in 2 months time. Sure enough I have graduated Intermediate class, signed for Advanced class and so here I am, a member of CWops with a great help and leadership of Buzz, AC6AC. I cannot say that I am perfect at receiving/sending CW – there is a lot of space to improve that. But with all the tools and ideas we received at both courses I am on the right path for getting better in CW.



Below is my bio.

Jure (Jurij) Mikelc received his B.Sc.EE at Fakulteta za Elektrotehniko in Ljubljana. Since then he worked in Metrel, later at Institute for Electronics and Vacuum techniques and finally in AX Elektronika, where he runs Svet elektronike magazine for more than 30 years.

Jure is author and co-author of many books covering MCU programming and general electronics. Along with many little electronics gadgets he designed MegaPin and MiniPin development boards for AVR microcontrollers and Brutus family of audio amplifier boards.

In 2013 he started publishing Svet Mehatronike magazine, that covers topics from mechatronics, robotics, automation and engineering. In 2018 he started IKTEM conference, that covers ICT, electronics & mechatronics. He regularly writes articles for Svet Elektronike and other magazines covering electronics.

Besides being Editor in Chief for Svet Elektronike and Svet Mehatronike, he is also pro-bono Editor in Chief of CQ ZRS magazine that is published by Radio-amateur Society of Slovenia (ZRS). For ZRS he also organises RIS conference from 2018 onward.

Jure speaks Slovenian as a native speaker while also fluently speaks English and Serbo-Croatian. He can also communicate in Italian and German, while he can understand Russian briefly.

His interests – beside electronics, are table-tennis, ham radio and acro-flying with drones for which he's holder of official certificate for a drone pilot. He is also active in Scout organisation

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currently being a co-leader with his wife Cirila. With Scouts he walked St. Jacob's path across Slovenia in length of over 800 km.

Brian A. Bayani, KT3X CWops #3758

I initially applied for my FCC FRN in December 2003 but never followed through with licensing—and honestly forgot about amateur radio altogether. That changed in 2021 when I received an email about a tech prep course through work. It reignited my interest, and I passed my Technician exam on July 15. Not being one to appreciate restrictions (and fueled by a likely-unreasonable amount of caffeine), I crammed and passed my General on July 16, and Amateur Extra on July 20.

My first call was KI5QXL, and I later operated as KT3X and then W5BAY before returning to my current call sign, KT3X. I was content as a no-code extra until 2024 when I decided I wanted to play POTA during an upcoming vacation. Constrained by equipment restrictions, I taught myself enough CW in four weeks to activate two parks using 5 watts and a wire as KT3X/VP9. I am now primarily a CW operator.



Originally from New Jersey and now living in Texas, I've always enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together just to understand how they work (and occasionally blowing out circuit breakers). Ham radio has been a natural fit—I especially enjoy QRP operating and experimenting with minimalist field setups. I also enjoy contesting and chasing DX.

Professionally, I am an emergency services administrator and hold adjunct faculty positions in public administration and leadership. CW has become both a personal passion and a technical outlet I truly value.

I'm grateful to CW Academy and especially want to thank Joe, K5NA, my Intermediate advisor, and Buzz, AC6AC, my Advanced advisor, for their time and guidance. It's an honor to join CWops, and I look forward to many CW contacts with fellow members around the world.

Dick Stada, PA3GGX CWops #3760

I'm grateful to have been accepted into this amazing club. It's a great pleasure to now be a CWops member. Many thanks to my nominator Buzz Bill (AC6AC), and to my sponsors SM5IMO, PA0INA, PA3DBS, and LB8IJ. I also want to thank my fantastic co-advisors. Buzz and his team made me feel it's truly worth continuing to practice – and that CW is something to enjoy for the rest of your life.

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Although I wasn't the best pupil, I always felt welcome and part of the group. I also realize that this learning journey is far from over – and I plan to keep practicing for a long time to come.

My radio journey started when I was about ten years old, listening to distant stations and requesting their QSL cards. My father gave me an old little book about Morse code, and we visited the fascinating shack of one of his co-workers. I'll never forget how impressed I was.

During my military service in the Signal Corps, I joined the base radio club and made my first QSOs. In my late twenties, I passed my license exams and started with a borrowed VHF/UHF transceiver – though it wasn't exactly what I was looking for. Soon after, I bought a second-hand Yaesu FT-101Z and really started having fun, mainly in CW, always chasing exotic stations.

After a few active years, other things in life took priority. The transceiver went into the attic, where it remained for more than 30 years. Then, last year, while camping in Switzerland, I met a Dutch ham who had set up an interesting antenna. That encounter rekindled my enthusiasm. I sold the FT-101, bought new gear, started brushing up my rusty CW skills, and signed up for the CWops class. It was 16 weeks of hard work, but I learned far more than I ever could have on my own.

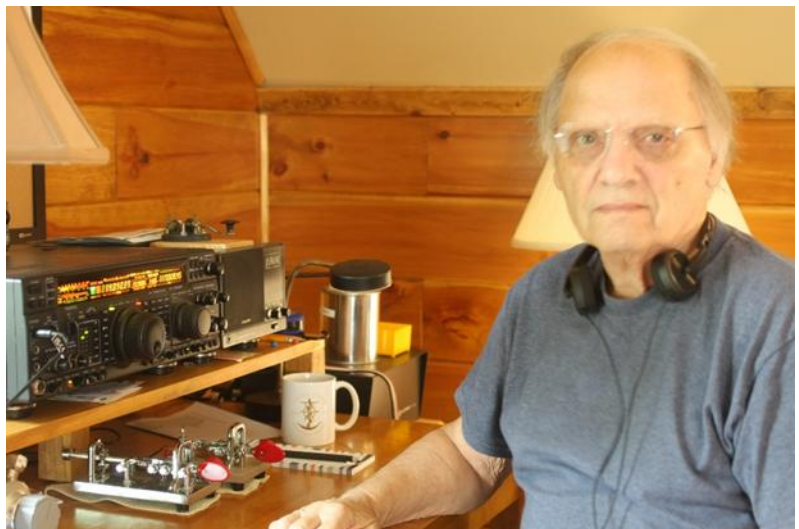
I enjoy nearly every aspect of ham radio – for example, POTA, which I usually do from my electric campervan. I live in the northern part of the Netherlands and work as an IT field service engineer at a flower auction.

My hobbies include long-distance running, climbing, gardening and translating. I'm married and have two grown-up children, both biologists.

Nick Pellecchia, N3KI CWops #3735

I wish to thank a very fine friend, Eric Hudson WG3J, for nominating me for entrance into the CWops fraternity. My thankfulness also extends to PA3AAV, WAØI, and N3JT.

Raised in upstate NY, I spent some of my idle teenage years captivated with radio. My parents bought my first shortwave radio kit (Lafayette) for my birthday. Dad threw up the antenna in the backyard, perhaps 15 feet off the ground, after which I spent hours in the basement absorbed with listening to radio stations from all over the world. That was also the first time I had ever heard Morse code. At that time, I had no interest in



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the jumbling of dits and dahs. Unfortunately, a lighting strike fried the outdoor antenna, ending the life of my first radio. Nevertheless, a good start for a young boy's future in radio.

Advancing a bit, I attended RCA technical institute in NYC for electronic tech training and into the US Navy as a radioman. Learning to type on a mill and the ability to copy what I recall was 15 wpm enabled me to graduate. I was then sent to the communication station at Keflavik, Iceland. No code necessary. The next stop was a destroyer escort out of Charleston SC. Again, no code, just secure teletype. The knowledge of Morse code was only necessary to monitor the maritime distress frequency of 500 khz. Four years of military service, then honorably discharged to re-enter civilian life.

I have been married for 55 pleasant years. We have two talented children who have done well in life. We made our home on Long Island NY, later moving to central NJ, and finally to retirement in Delaware.

A brief overview of my work experience: I spent a few years after the service doing odds and ends jobs. On one particular day I was prompted to read through the obituaries of the local paper, which is something I had never done. The paper reported that a marine radio telegraph operator working at WSL Amagansett radio had died. I will gloss over an awful lot and just add that I blindly applied for an opening at WSL (Worldcomm/ITT) and was accepted for the job. My naval training was invaluable!!! Within a short period, I had a good handle on ship to shore CW traffic handling. It was a great career that lasted for years. However, because of the advent of satellite communication, CW ship/shore stations would start to play a much smaller role in marine traffic. WSL eventually shutdown operation. Shortly thereafter I was hired to work as a marine telegrapher at Tuckerton radio WSC, NJ. I spent a couple of years at WSC and then entered into the U.S. Merchant Marine as a radio officer. I spent many busy years on various ships performing CW message handling along with radio/radar maintenance. Telegraph work was still required and necessary. Additionally, 500 kHz distress watch keeping was still required up until 2010. Unfortunately for the radio officers, digital based GMDSS system were installed on many US flag vessels allowing the permanent dismissal of the radio officer.

My next job was with the New Jersey state police as a radio technician. I remained with the state for a few years calling it quits at age 60. We moved to Delaware, and I went back to work for an additional 2 years as communication tech for a Maryland county, finalizing my active working years.

As a ham, I was first licensed Novice amateur operator WB2LIK in 1977. Within the following few years obtained my Advanced license while enjoying the art of Morse communication and even more so the technical side of the hobby. A home brew power supply, transmitter and receiver became part of the total picture of my small hand-built ham station. I later became an appliance op and purchased my first store bought rig, a Tempo1 transceiver. The responsibilities of life pulled me away from the hobby for a good number of years. I regained my ham license twice during the many years to come, becoming active again in early 2024. I am essentially as you would guess a Morse operator. A little rag chewing along with staying active with the many CW contests. Planning my next antenna projects helps to keep the hours busy. It can be a very satis-

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fying hobby. I have assigned the longtime use of my Vibroplex bug for SKCC events only. The electronic keyer has become my prime choice. My total licensed years as an amateur operator would be just about 29 yrs. Active years, substantially less.

My other hobbies would include scroll saw woodworking. Creating an assortment of animal jigsaw puzzles for the many children at church and for my family.

I also have a liking for the older Volvo wagons cars, having had a 240 wagon and more recently a 1993 940 wagon. The upkeep and care of these older cars can occupy quite a bit of time.

I also stay active with my Church. I am a devout Christian. A God bless will always be exchanged with an "in Christ."

My wife and I have also enjoyed glamping for the past 30 years. We recently decided to sell our travel trailer and say goodbye to the world of travel. Medical issues can put a damper on life.

Glad to say, "Good to be aboard."

Andrew DEWAR, K4EXA CWops #3746

It was during my first SOTA activation in Colorado on Mt. Herman (W0C/FR-063) that I decided to pursue learning CW. Due to an uncanny amount of good fortune, I happened to be on Mt. Herman's summit at the same time as 80-year-old SOTA legend Steve WGØAT!

I had lugged a Yaesu FT-891 to the peak, and he was there with a tiny QRP rig and random wire antenna strung across branches. My furthest contact at 100 w SSB was the US coasts and bits of Canada, and he, with 5 w CW, proudly announced contacts in France and Belgium – I was hooked! Steve encouraged me to learn CW, and I'm thankful he has continued to be my "SOTA Elmer" - thanks, Steve!



I mostly enjoy QRP CW field operations after a long hike or trail run. As a lifelong outdoorsman, backpacker, mountaineer, and wilderness skills practitioner, I am active in POTA and SOTA, combining these interests.

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In the past year of my CW studies, I have taken classes with the CWops CW Academy and the Long Island CW Club (LICW). Big thanks to my instructors Buzz AC6AC #1911 (CWA) and Don KCØDWZ (LICW), as well as my CWA Co-Advisors and classmates, who continually inspire me to practice and learn more.

Outside of amateur radio, I am a composer/musician (soprano saxophonist and electronic musician) and Professor of Music, so it may come as no surprise that one of the things that drew me to CW is its musicality - the sound and rhythm. I especially love the "swing" of a well-tuned bug, though I don't yet have one myself (I'm a lefty, and southpaw bugs seem hard to come by).

I am grateful to become a member of CWops, and I hope to catch you on the air. Please keep your eyes peeled for me on POTA, SOTA, and WWFF!

Alessandro La Farina, IZ5CFN CWops #3766

I got my first CB radio when I was 12. After high school, I studied geology at university, but after completing my military service, I began working for the government, where I still work today.

I earned my amateur radio license in 1989, at the age of 27, with the callsign IT9XRV.

At that time in Italy, there were two types of licenses: the full license, which required passing a 12 wpm Morse code test and granted access to all bands, and a special license that did not require a CW test but limited access to VHF and higher frequencies. I was more interested in HF, so I chose the full license.

In the beginning, for various reasons, I was mainly active on VHF and packet radio.

In 1997, I moved from Sicily to Tuscany and received a new callsign, IZ5CFN. I became more active on HF, but in recent years I lost interest in SSB traffic, and my activity gradually declined.

At the end of 2024, in a moment of serendipity, I stumbled upon the CW Academy website and qualified for the Intermediate class. In fact, I had been trying to relearn Morse code on my own for years, but with little success.

I was really excited, as I always am at the beginning of a new adventure, but after the first lesson, I felt very discouraged. I realized I had greatly overestimated my knowledge of CW and, more importantly, my understanding of English.

I immediately thought about giving up, but something unknown kept me going. Now I know what it was: the friendly and supportive environment in the class.



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Above all, it was the charisma of my advisor, Buzz (AC6AC), and his ability to make everyone feel truly welcome. I see him as a mentor, not only for his knowledge, but especially for his human qualities.

CW Academy is a fantastic resource from CWops, and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to learn or improve their CW skills.

Outside of radio, I enjoy continuous learning, exploring new interests and personal growth.



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